

CONSERVATION REPORT OF MOIDAM 77: 2020-23

Name of the Site: Moidam 77, Charaideo Archaeological Site

Location: Sukafa Nagar, Charaideo

Geo-Coordinates: 94° 52' 38.288" E ; 26° 56' 22.737" N

Introduction:

Moidam77, situated at the Charaideo Moidams Archaeological Site, is one of the Royal Ahom Mound-Burials of the Ahom Dynasty. This is the only Moidam known so far to have a circular dwarf outer wall rather than the octagonal wall found in medium and large-sized Moidams. Height of this Moidam is 7.50 m, diameter is 33.30 m, Circumference, average width and height of the circular brick dwarf wall is 115.00 m, 0.80 m and 0.47 m respectively.

Methodology of Conservation :

▪ Documentation :

- The conservation of the Moidam77 was undertaken in the year 2020-23 as per the provisions laid in the National Conservation Policy 2014 of ASI.
- 3D Laser scan of the entire Moidam was completed before taking up the conservation work, and also after completion of the work. Detailed line drawings, photographic documentation was also been done of the Moidam to record each and every archaeological feature of the mound-burial.
- In conservation, principal of anastylosis was followed. Following the process, each and every brick of the circular dwarf wall was numbered and documented along with its conservation status.
- While restoring the brickwork, the documented/numbered bricks were placed to their respective original positions to the extent it was possible.

- **Scientific Clearance:** The debris lying above the circular dwarf walls of Moidam 77 was cleared carefully and the original working level of the Moidam was determined and exposed for record and carrying out the conservation works.

- **Mechanical/Cleaning of the Structure :** After debris clearance of the dwarf wall, and

other parts of the Moidam, the exposed parts of structures were cleaned manually with soft brush and soft detergents.

- **Dismantling of the old decayed bricks :** The old decayed bricks of the circular dwarf

wall was removed carefully while following the anastylosis method of conservation and were kept in sequence so that that were put back to their respective original location.

- **Restoration of the ancient brickwork :** After carefully dismantling the old decayed bricks, the brickwork of the circular dwarf walls was restored in the original shape and size with *mud-mortar* in the ratio and in *lime-surkhi* mortar at the top layer to protect the wall from the vagaries of extreme environmental conditions at the site, such as excessive and heavy rains.

- **Pointing of ancient brick walls** : Pointing on ancient brickwork (with the help of special- Sized brick) was completed using lime-surkhi mortar mixed with organic ingredients as per specified proportion.

Conservation measures taken :

- Conservation of dwarf wall/rampart is complete now in terms of its wild vegetation clearance, excavation, documentation, pointing wherever necessary and brickwork restoration.
- Regular maintenance of Moidam by cleaning of unwanted vegetation, periodic conservation work etc, in ongoing process.
- The installation of an apron, the preservation of the garh's original weep-holes all around the Moidam, and the facilitation of tourists' access to the Moidam are completed.
- Above Moidam 77, a shed made of locally available materials (bamboo, thatch, cane, etc.) is provided to prevent rainfall seepage.
- Signage and interpretation boards are provided at the Moidam.



Before conservation



During conservation



After conservation