

Search and rescue briefing — Rasuwa / Nuwakot

26 August 2026 · EMSR927 · GPS: latitude °N, longitude °E

On 26 August 2026 a flood and debris flow ran down the Trishuli valley north of Kathmandu. Satellite grading afterwards covered three settlements: Bidur in Nuwakot, then Syapru Besi, then Timure at the Rasuwa border.

About **1,260 people** may still be in standing houses that a vehicle cannot reach. That is an estimate — 4.4 people per standing cut-off house — not a headcount.

Red wash is debris. The orange dashed line is 100 m from that debris. Yellow dots are standing houses cut off from the road. Green dots are standing houses not flagged as cut off. Grey dots are destroyed. A red X is a closed bridge. A blue triangle is a helicopter pad. An orange square is the last place a vehicle can go.

Table 1. The three places. 684 standing houses sit within 100 m of the red debris (515 Bidur, 110 Syapru Besi, 59 Timure).

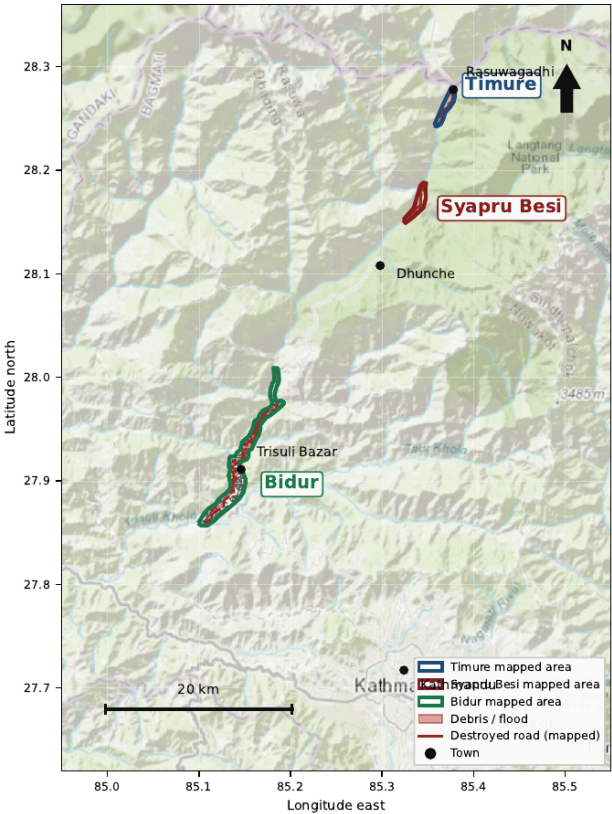
Place	Why it is cut off	Standing houses to search	People (est.)
Bidur (six pockets)	Trishuli crossings gone; long washouts	181 / 237	797 / ~1,040
Syapru Besi south	Bridges on the valley road gone	47	207
Timure	Almost every road and trail destroyed	59	260

1. Where the three places sit

Kathmandu is the black dot at the bottom. Bidur is the green outline, about 25 km northwest, on the Trishuli. Syapru Besi is the red outline further north. Timure is the blue outline at the top, next to Rasuwagadhi. They are three separate areas. There is no through-drive between them.

Where the three mapped places sit

Bidur is about 25 km northwest of Kathmandu, on the Trishuli. Syapru Besi and Timure sit further north, toward the China border.



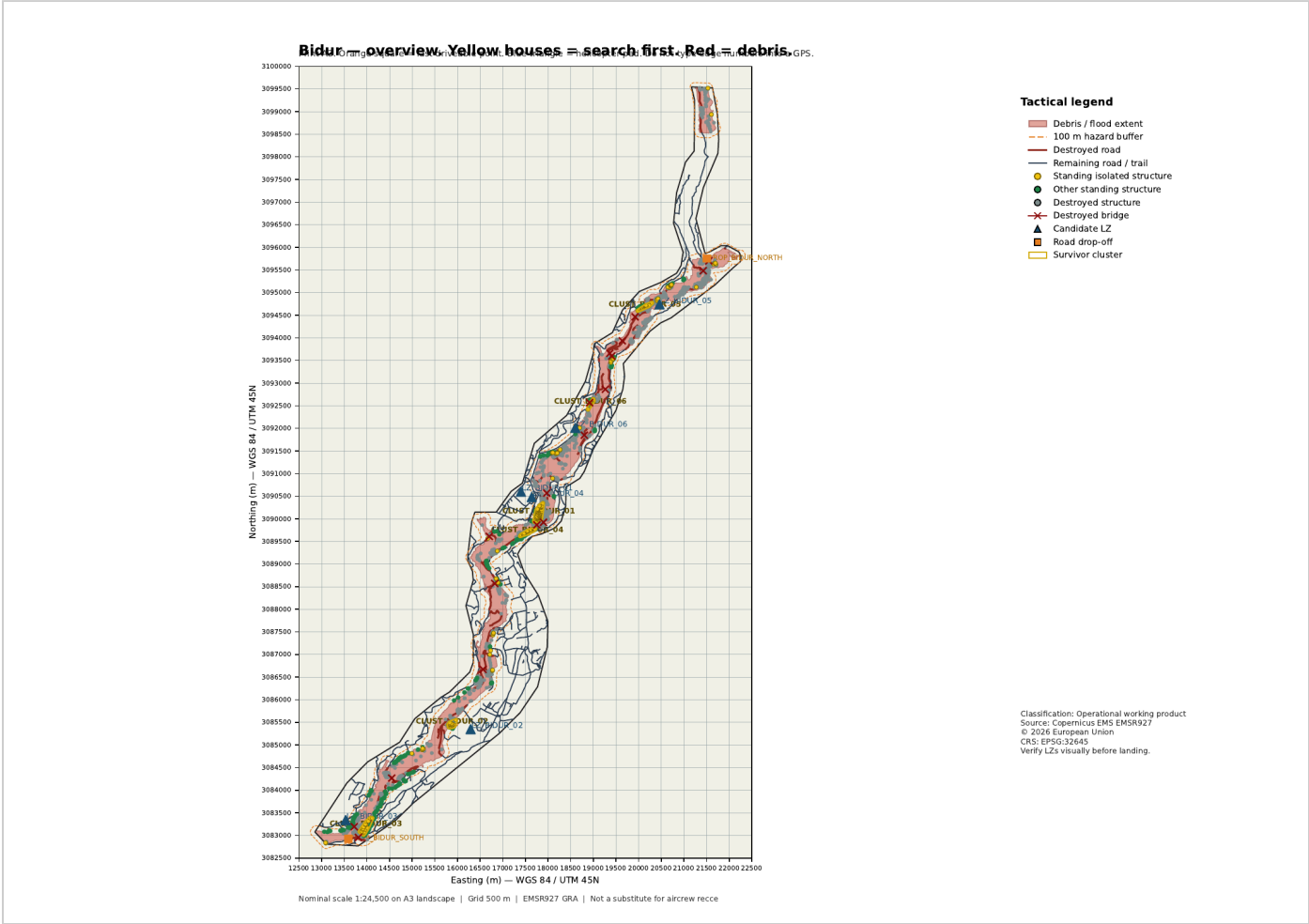
Map 00 | EMSR927 | WGS 84 | Red wash = debris | Basemap: Esri World Topo | Roads from Copernicus grading

Map 00. Bidur, Syapru Besi and Timure.

2. Bidur — closest to Kathmandu, most standing houses

Bidur is a long town along the Trishuli. Of 2,343 mapped houses, 517 are still standing and 1,826 are destroyed. Eighteen bridges are closed. About 36 km of road is washed out. Houses on one bank cannot reach the other. Six yellow pockets hold about 181 standing houses — roughly 800 people. Across the town, 237 standing houses are isolated.

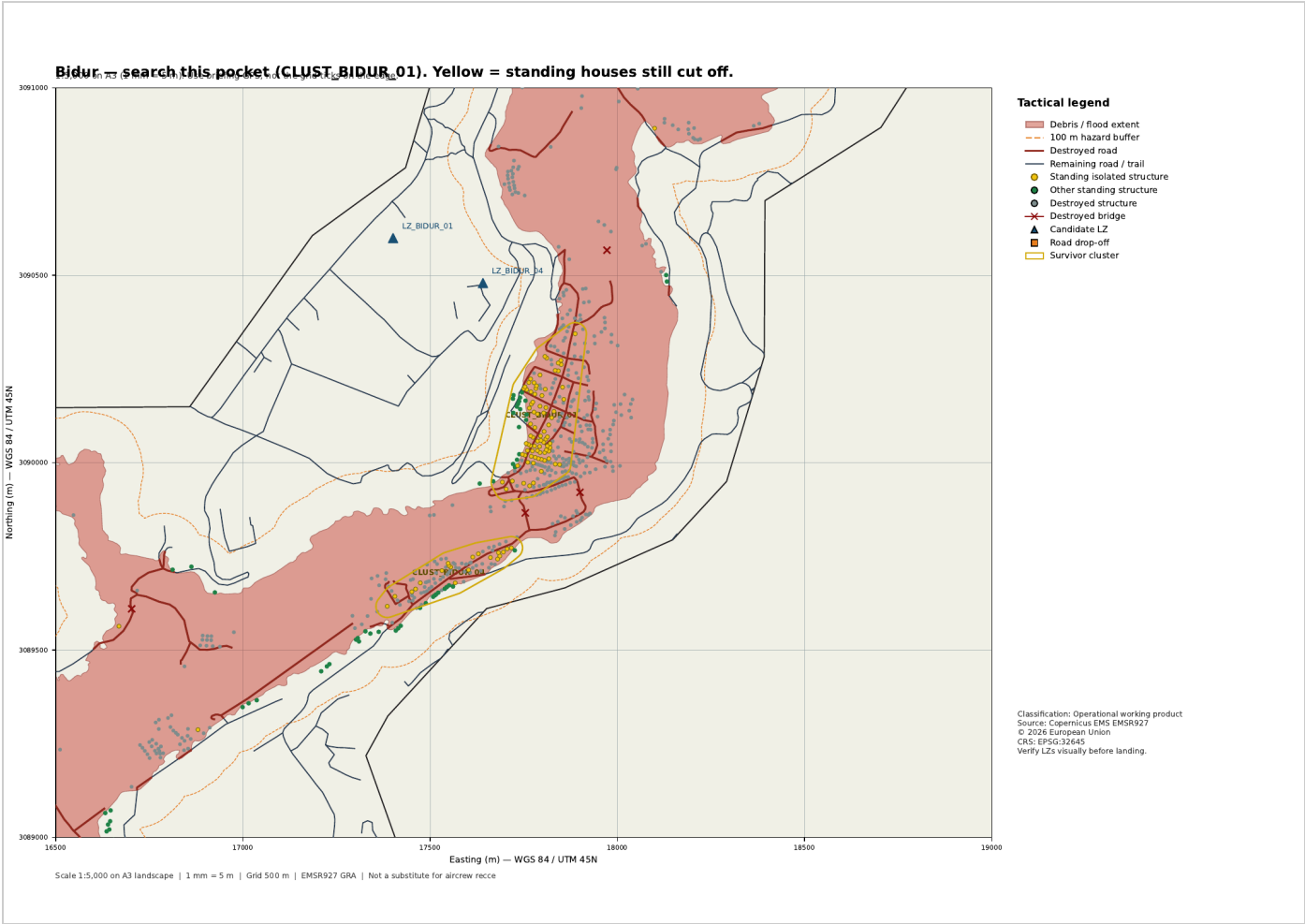
Vehicles stop at 27.974926°N, 85.185184°E from the north, and at 27.858132°N, 85.106819°E from the south. Six pads meet a 5° slope, all under 2°. The old airfield is destroyed.



Map 05. Whole Bidur area.

Bidur north — the largest pocket

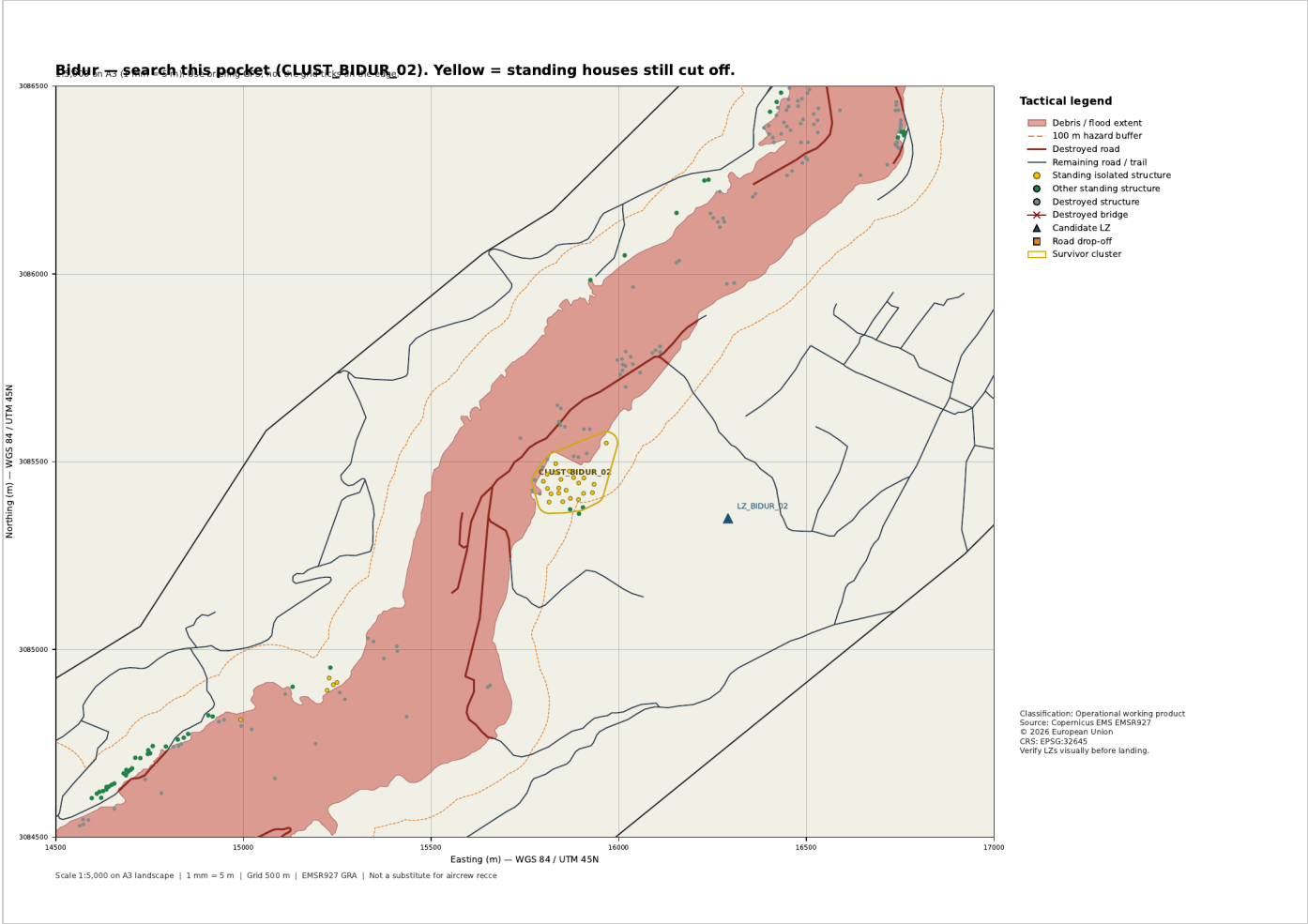
Eighty standing houses, about 352 people, surrounded by debris. Nearest pad LZ_BIDUR_04, 390 m walk (about 450 m on the ground). LZ_BIDUR_05 is closer to the smaller northern pockets.



Map 06. Bidur north, largest search pocket. 1:5,000.

Bidur south A

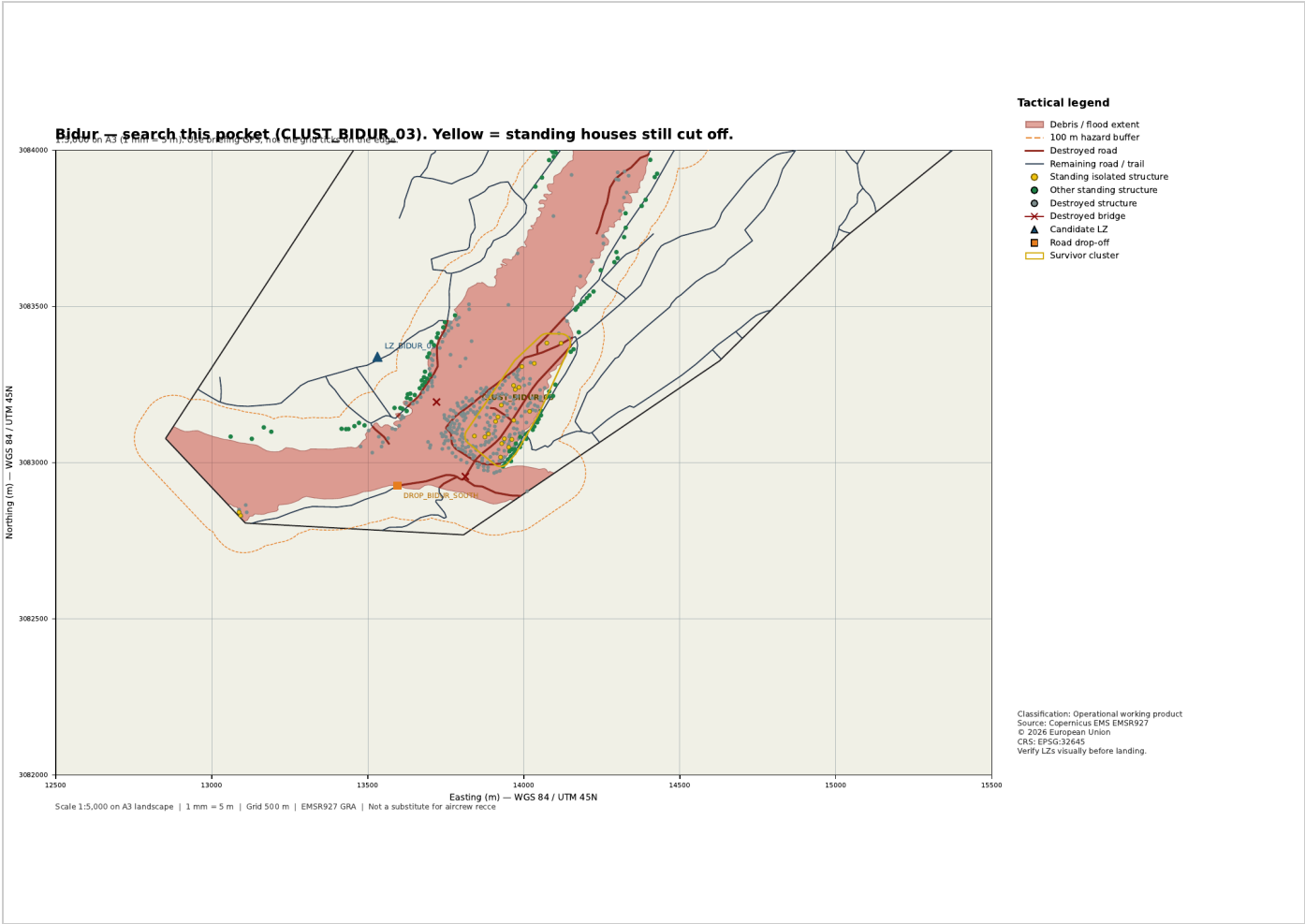
Twenty-two standing houses, about 97 people. The bridges that served this bank are gone. LZ_BIDUR_02 is 420 m away (about 490 m on the ground).



Map 07. Bidur south A. 1:5,000.

Bidur south B

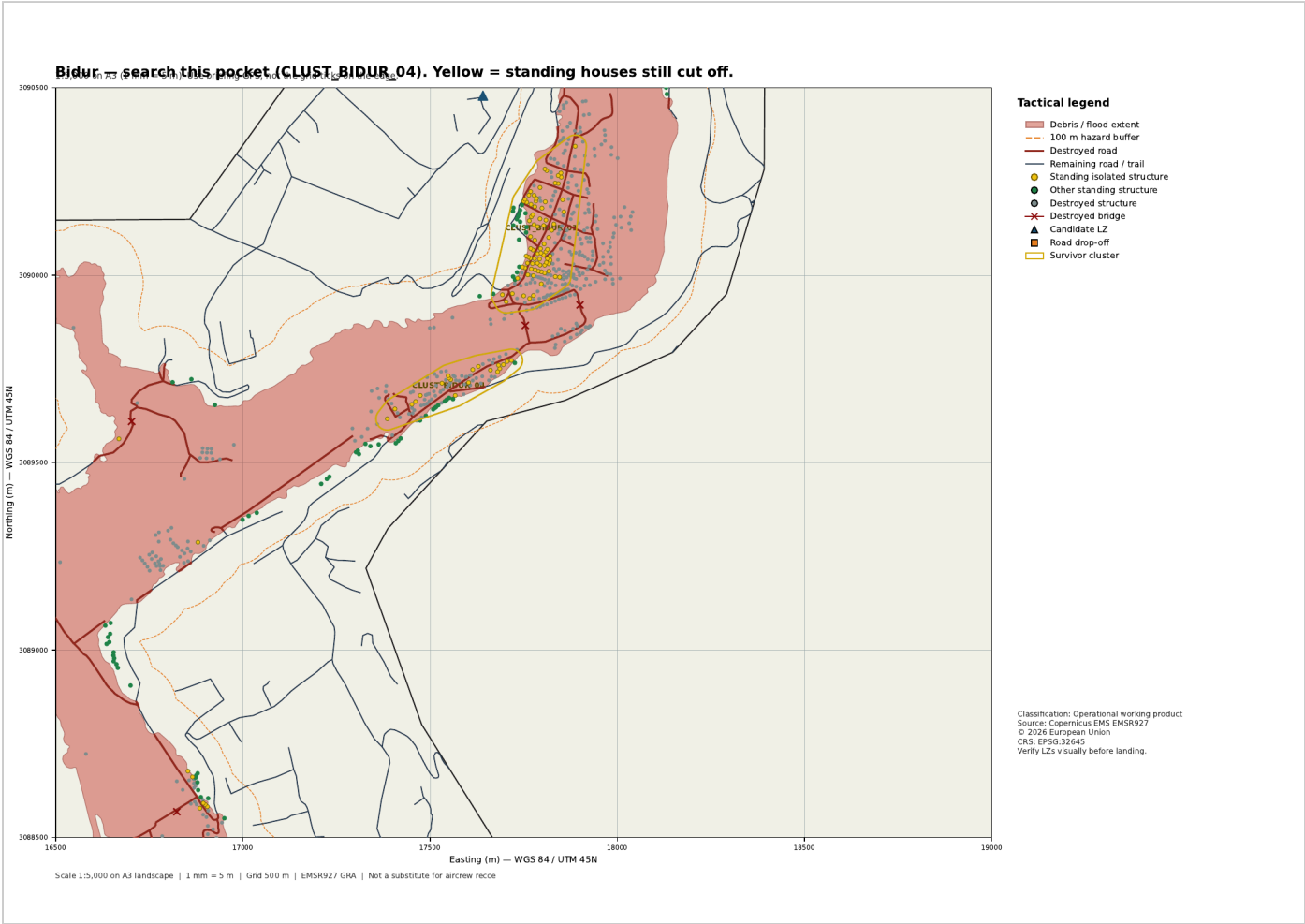
Twenty standing houses, about 88 people, surrounded by debris. LZ_BIDUR_03 is 470 m away (about 540 m on the ground).



Map 08. Bidur south B. 1:5,000.

Bidur south C

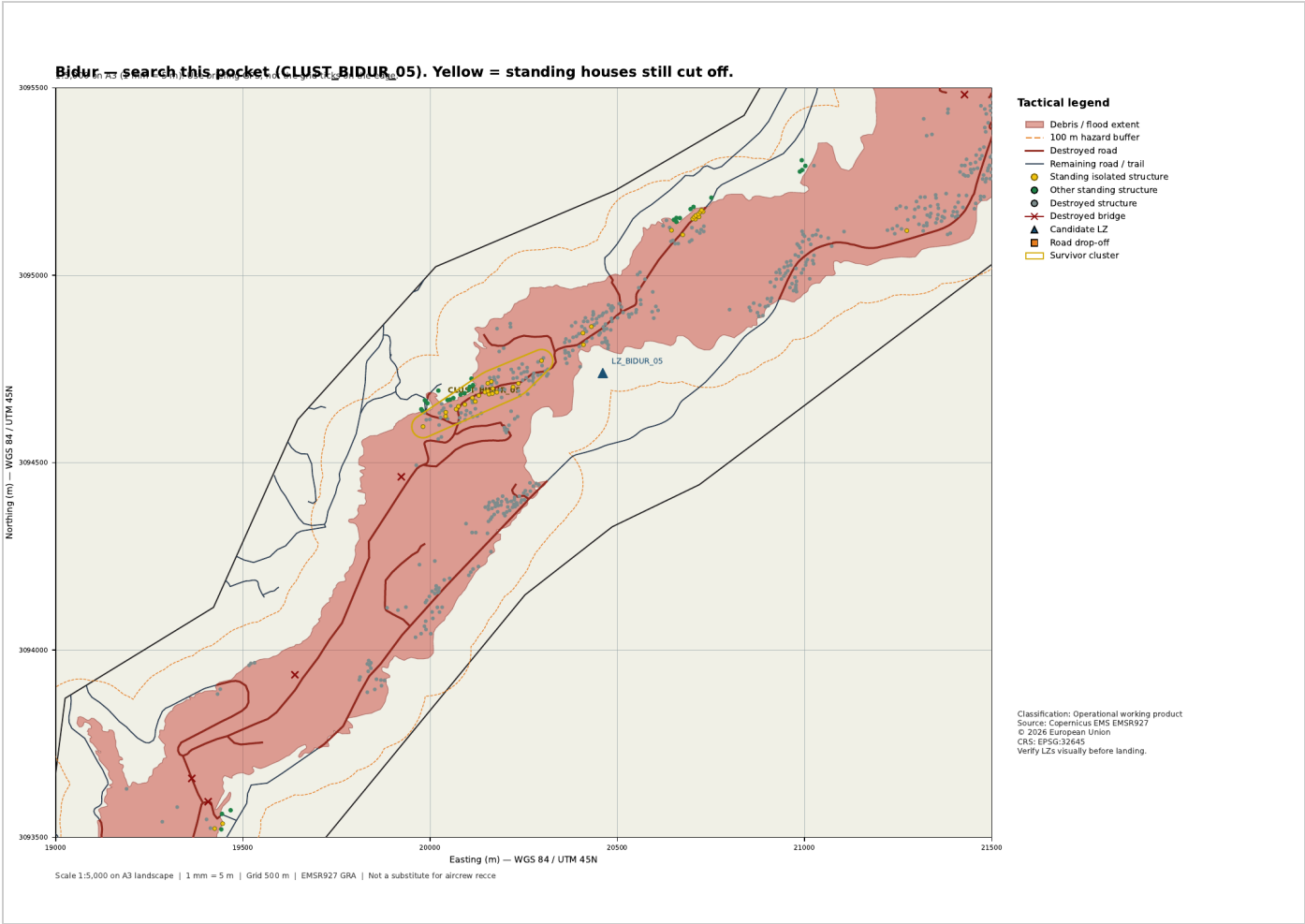
Twenty standing houses, about 88 people, surrounded by debris. Walk from LZ_BIDUR_04 is 790 m straight, about 900 m on the ground.



Map 09. Bidur south C. 1:5,000.

Bidur north B

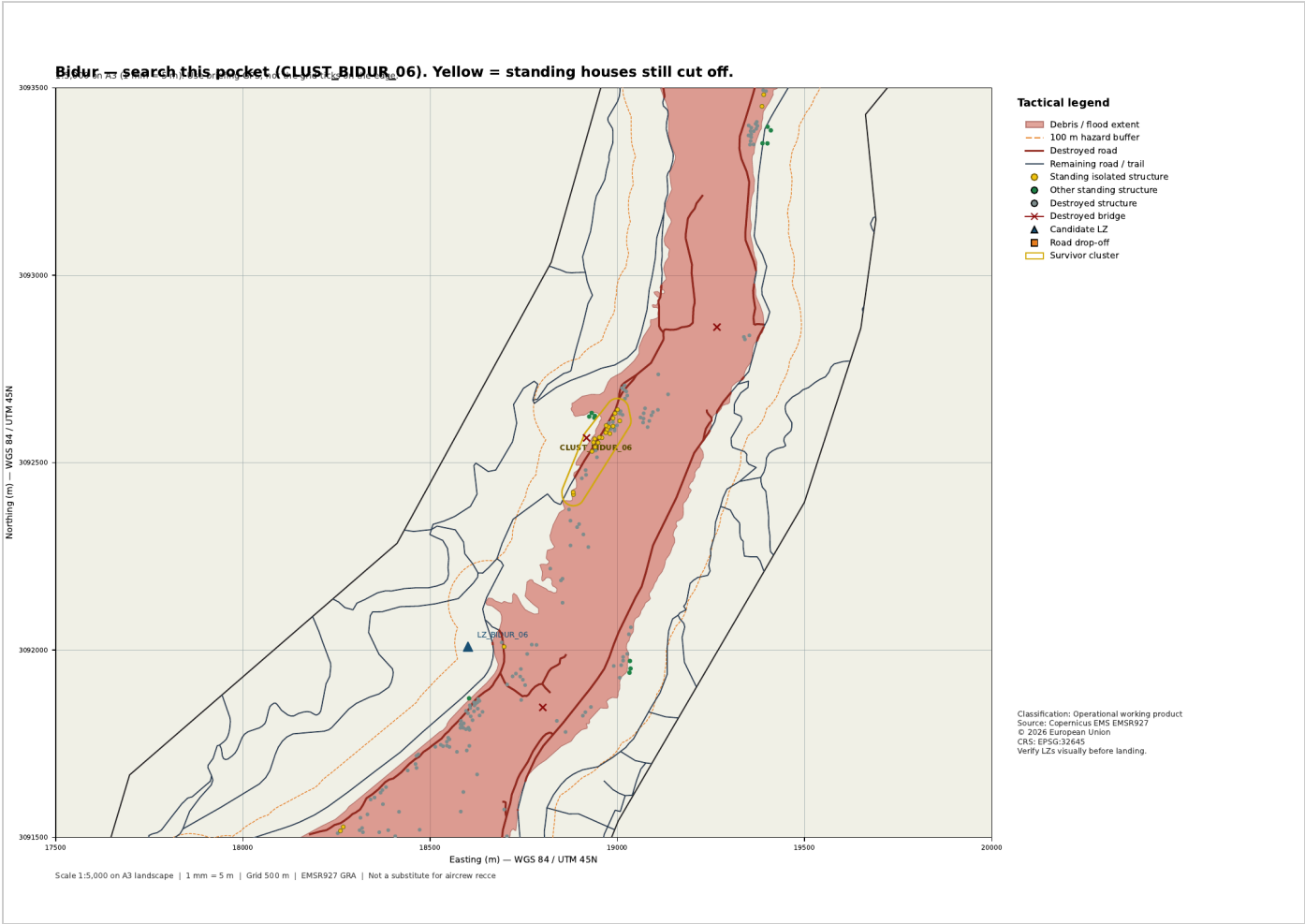
Twenty standing houses, about 88 people. LZ_BIDUR_05 is the closest pad: 320 m straight, about 370 m on the ground. Slope 1.2°.



Map 10. Bidur north B. 1:5,000.

Bidur north C

Nineteen standing houses, about 84 people, surrounded by debris. LZ_BIDUR_06 is 630 m away (about 720 m on the ground).



Map 11. Bidur north C. 1:5,000.

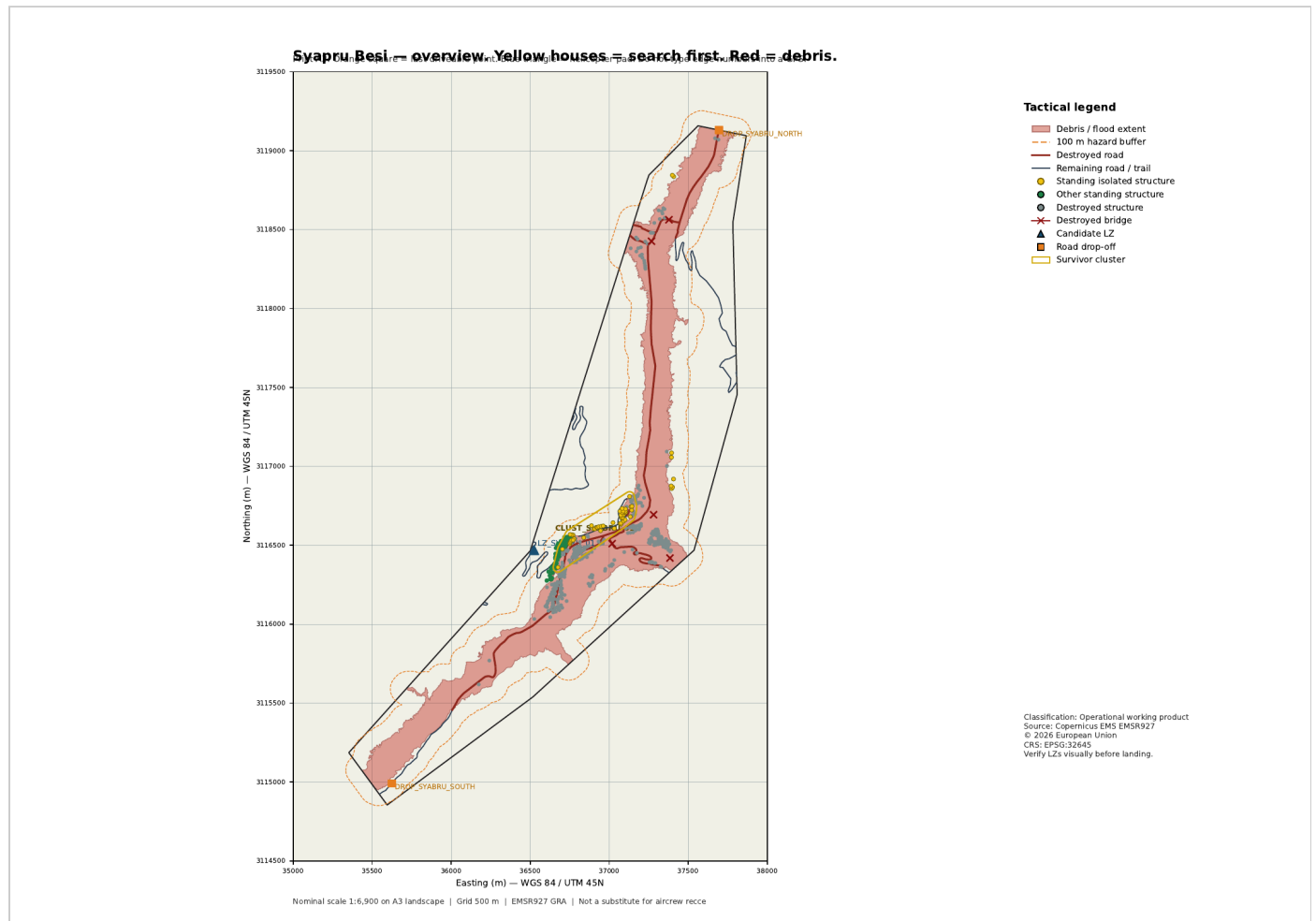
Table 2. Bidur landing pads. All six are candidates (slope under 5°).

ID	GPS	Height	Slope	Serves	Walk (ground ≈)
LZ_BIDUR_05	27.96565°N, 85.17473°E	594 m	1.2°	North	370 m
LZ_BIDUR_02	27.88036°N, 85.13381°E	505 m	0.0°	South	490 m
LZ_BIDUR_03	27.86184°N, 85.10610°E	491 m	0.1°	South	540 m
LZ_BIDUR_01	27.92788°N, 85.14427°E	597 m	0.1°	North	720 m
LZ_BIDUR_06	27.94077°N, 85.15625°E	574 m	0.0°	North	720 m
LZ_BIDUR_04	27.92683°N, 85.14673°E	594 m	0.2°	South / north	900 m

3. Syapru Besi — the valley settlement in the middle

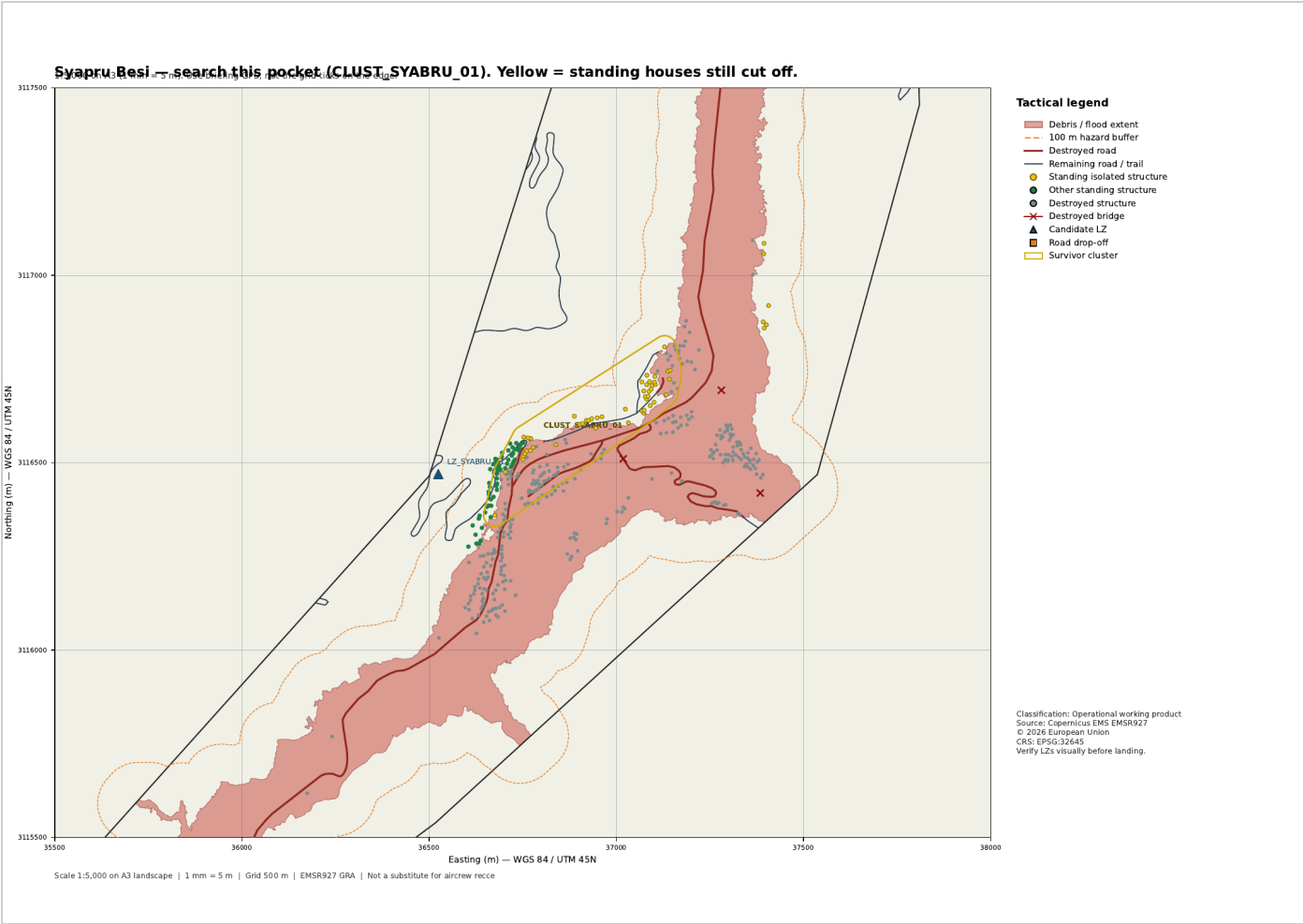
Syapru Besi sits in a narrow valley. Debris ran through the floor of that valley. Of 433 mapped houses, 110 are still standing and 323 are destroyed. Five bridges are closed. About 6 km of road is washed out. The south pocket is 47 standing houses — about 207 people — with no road out.

No pad near those houses meets a 5° slope. LZ_SYABRU_01 is 17.9°: hover and recce only, 410 m straight (about 470 m on the ground). Vehicles stop at 28.187955°N, 85.346520°E from the north, and at 28.150354°N, 85.325997°E from the south. The mapped airfield is destroyed.



Map 03. Whole Syapru Besi area.

South search pocket. Pad: LZ_SYABRU_01 · 28.16381°N, 85.33496°E · 1549 m · 17.9° · hover / recce only.



Map 04. South search pocket. 1:5,000.

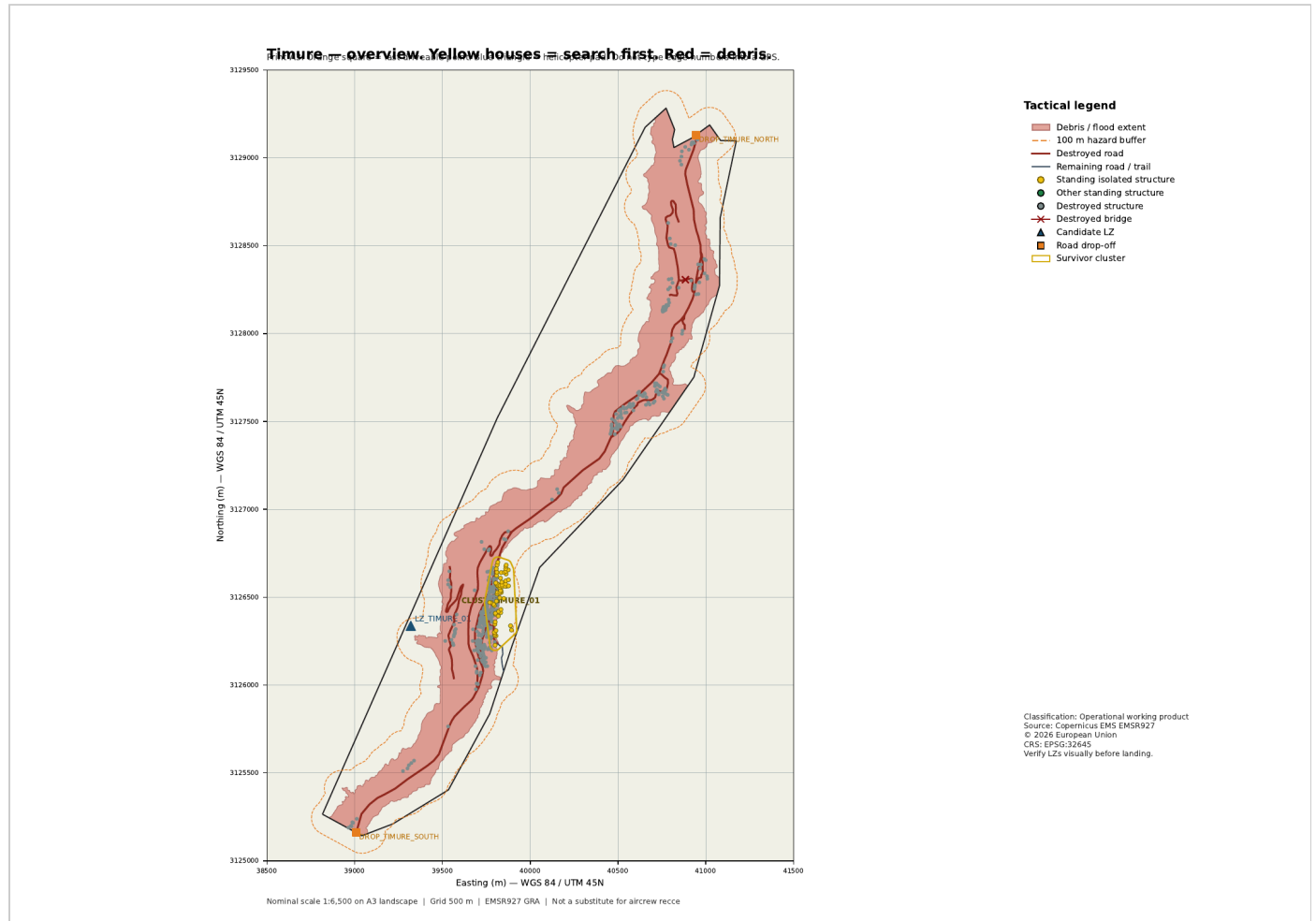
Table 3. Syapru Besi closed bridges.

GPS
28.163455°N, 85.343722°E
28.164235°N, 85.339983°E
28.165918°N, 85.342627°E
28.181551°N, 85.342254°E
28.182794°N, 85.343360°E

4. Timure — the northern settlement, fully cut off

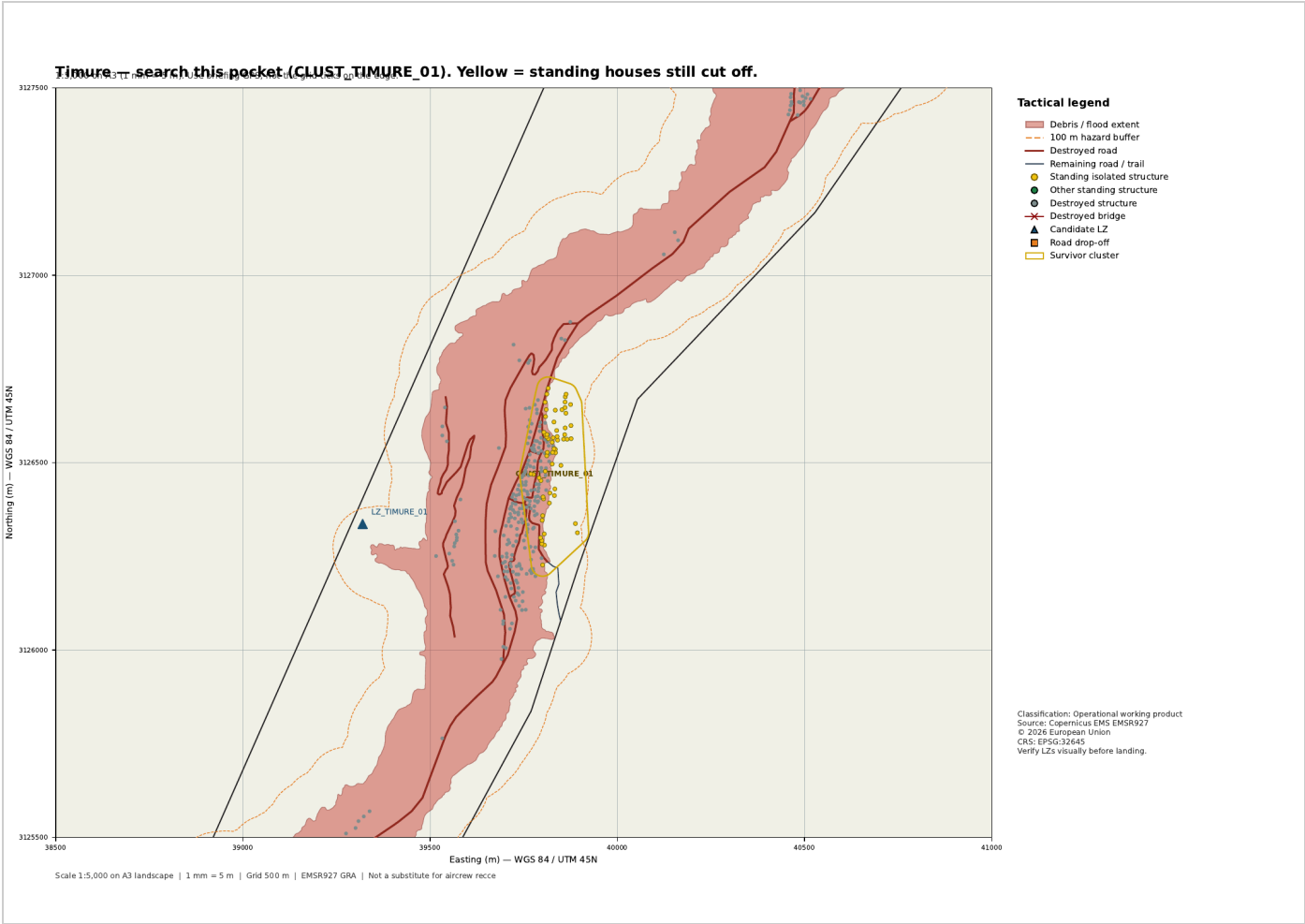
Timure is the last mapped place before the border. Of 431 houses, 59 are still standing and 372 are destroyed. Fourteen of fifteen road pieces are gone. About 9.5 km of road is washed out. One bridge is closed, at 28.271150°N, 85.377733°E. The whole settlement is isolated. All 59 standing houses — about 260 people — sit in one yellow pocket, and all sit within 100 m of the debris.

No pad near the houses meets a 5° slope. LZ_TIMURE_01 is 23.6°: hover and recce only, 530 m straight (about 610 m on the ground). Vehicles stop at 28.278592°N, 85.378238°E from the north, and at 28.242529°N, 85.359058°E from the south.



Map 01. Whole Timure area.

Pad: LZ_TIMURE_01 · 28.25318°N, 85.36206°E · 1783 m · 23.6° · hover / recce only.



Map 02. Timure search pocket. 1:5,000.

5. Helicopter pads

A candidate pad is 5° or flatter, 30 m clear, and outside the debris. The elevation model is 30 m, so a “flat” cell can hide rocks, wires or a terrace wall. Ground walks are about 15% longer than the straight line. Bidur has six candidates. Syapru Besi and Timure have none that meet 5° next to the houses.

Table 4. All pads.

Status	ID	GPS	Height	Slope	Serves	Walk ≈
Hover / recce	LZ_SYABRU_01	28.16381°N, 85.33496°E	1549 m	17.9°	Syapru Besi south	470 m
Hover / recce	LZ_TIMURE_01	28.25318°N, 85.36206°E	1783 m	23.6°	Timure	610 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_05	27.96565°N, 85.17473°E	594 m	1.2°	Bidur north	370 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_02	27.88036°N, 85.13381°E	505 m	0.0°	Bidur south	490 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_03	27.86184°N, 85.10610°E	491 m	0.1°	Bidur south	540 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_01	27.92788°N, 85.14427°E	597 m	0.1°	Bidur north	720 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_06	27.94077°N, 85.15625°E	574 m	0.0°	Bidur north	720 m
Candidate	LZ_BIDUR_04	27.92683°N, 85.14673°E	594 m	0.2°	Bidur south / north	900 m

6. Where the road stops

All 24 mapped bridges are destroyed or possibly damaged. Crossings in the debris belt are closed. About 51 km of road cannot take a vehicle: 36 km at Bidur, 9.5 km at Timure, 6 km at Syapru Besi. There is no through-drive between the drop-offs.

Table 5. Last driveable points.

Place	From the north	From the south
Bidur	27.974926°N, 85.185184°E	27.858132°N, 85.106819°E
Syapru Besi	28.187955°N, 85.346520°E	28.150354°N, 85.325997°E
Timure	28.278592°N, 85.378238°E	28.242529°N, 85.359058°E

Table 6. Bridges.

Place	Destroyed	Passable
Bidur (Trishuli)	18	0
Syapru Besi	5	0
Timure	1	0

7. House counts

Table 7. “Cut off” and “within 100 m” are standing houses only. People = cut-off houses × 4.4.

Place	Mapped	Standing	Destroyed	Cut off	Within 100 m
Bidur	2,343	517	1,826	237	515
Syapru Besi	433	110	323	55	110
Timure	431	59	372	59	59

People figures are standing cut-off houses × 4.4. That 4.4 is Nepal’s 2021 census average household size (4.37, rounded). It is applied to each mapped standing building, not to a census household list, so it is a scale estimate, not a headcount.