

THE CULTURAL SITES OF AL AIN WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION

BRIEFING FOR STAKEHOLDERS
September 2010



أبوظبي للثقافة والتراث
ABU DHABI CULTURE & HERITAGE

CONTENTS

- Introduction:
 - What WHS means
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- Factors affecting Authenticity/ Integrity of the Sites
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INTRODUCTION: WHAT WHS MEANS

WHS listing is the most prestigious international recognition of a heritage site today

- Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to **future generations**. Our cultural and natural heritage are both **irreplaceable** sources of life and inspiration.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world that is of outstanding value to humanity.
- This is embodied in the **World Heritage Convention**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, and ratified by 187 States as of June 2010.
- The **World Heritage List** includes **911 properties** forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee (WHC) considers as having outstanding universal value. These include 704 cultural , 180 natural and 27 mixed properties in 151 States Parties.
- Website link: <http://whc.unesco.org>.



INTRODUCTION: FAMOUS WHS EXAMPLES



Egypt: Memphis & Necropolis –Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur.



Turkey: Historic Areas of Istanbul.



INTRODUCTION: FAMOUS WHS EXAMPLES



Oman: Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman.



China: The Great Wall.



INTRODUCTION: FAMOUS WHS EXAMPLES



UK: Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites.



Oman: Archaeological Sites of Bat, Al-Khutm and Al-Ayn.



INTRODUCTION: WHS UAE & ABU DHABI

- The United Arab Emirates is a **State Party** to the World Heritage Convention (date of accession May 11, 2001)
- The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) has submitted and achieved **tentative nomination** for **Al Ain**, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development of the UAE (February 5, 2008) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5266/>)
- The process for **full nomination** for **The Cultural Sites of Al Ain** is currently underway.

If successful, this will be the first site from the UAE on the World Heritage List



COMPONENTS OF THE CULTURAL SITES OF AL AIN

SITE NO.	COMPONENT CODE	COMPONENT NAME	COORD. EAST	COORD. NORTH
	Component Group 1	Hafit Assemblage		
001	Component 1.1	Jebel Hafit Desert Park	378679	2662265
002	Component 1.2	Jebel Hafit North Tombs	374030	2672186
003	Component 1.3	Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs	373000	2674623
004	Component 1.4	West Ridge Hafit Tombs	372846	2675984
005	Component 1.5	Al Naqfa Ridge	374951	2678315
	Component Group 2	Hili Assemblage		
006	Component 2.1	Hili Archaeological Park	377195	2687187
007	Component 2.2	Hili 2	376128	2686986
008	Component 2.3	Hili North Tomb A	377134	2688791
009	Component 2.4	Hili North Tomb B	377197	2688511
010	Component 2.5	Rumailah Site	374073	2685476
	Component Group 3	Bidaa Bint Saud		
011	Component 3.1	Bidaa Bint Saud	369749	2697151
	Component Group 4	Oases		
012	Component 4.1	Al Ain Oasis	374792	2678852
013	Component 4.2	Hili Oasis	375139	2685901
014	Component 4.3	Al Jimi Oasis	372593	2683241
015	Component 4.4	Al Qattara Oasis	373195	2684088
016	Component 4.5	Mutaredh Oasis	372247	2678788
017	Component 4.6	Al Muwaiji Oasis	370653	2679845



SIGNIFICANCE: OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV)

The Cultural Sites of Al Ain are:

- Reminiscent of the **cultures of Hafit and Umm an-Nar** (Bronze and Iron Age)
- Set together in a landscape characterized by oasis, desert and mountain

This assemblage of sites is of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), because they

- bear witness to **unique cultural traditions**, which developed on the crossroads of ancient routes
- are remaining representatives of a vanished culture which manifested itself through unique and distinctive technological developments:
 - **Falaj system**
 - **Architectural traditions** (e.g. circular fortified settlements, Hili)
 - **Funerary traditions** (e.g. Hafit, Hili Grand Tomb)

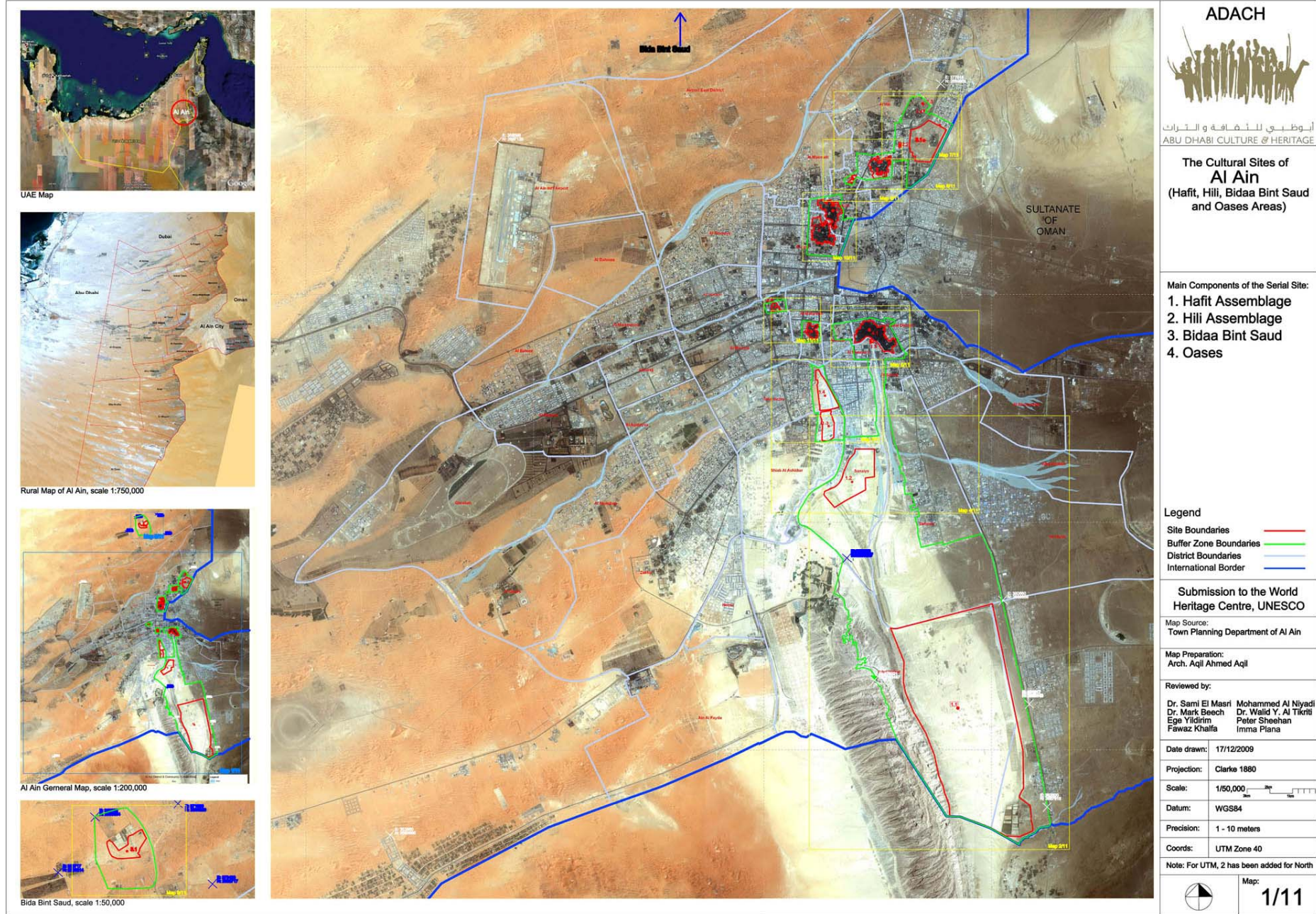


SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED

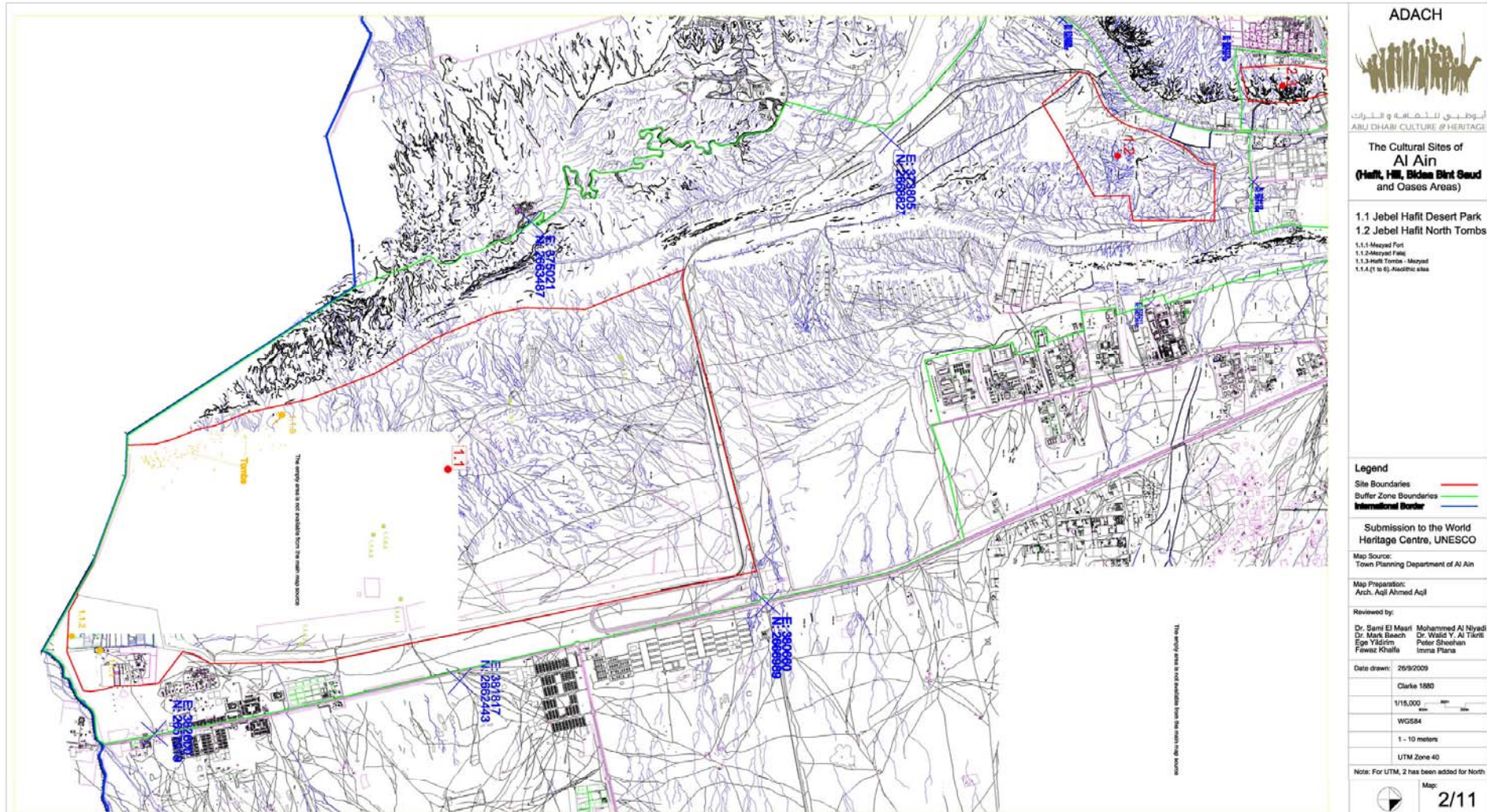
- (i) Represent a masterpiece of **human creative genius**.
- (iii) Bear a **unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition** or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared
- (iv) Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) **significant stage(s) in human history**
- (v) Outstanding example of a **traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture** (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become **vulnerable** under the impact of irreversible change



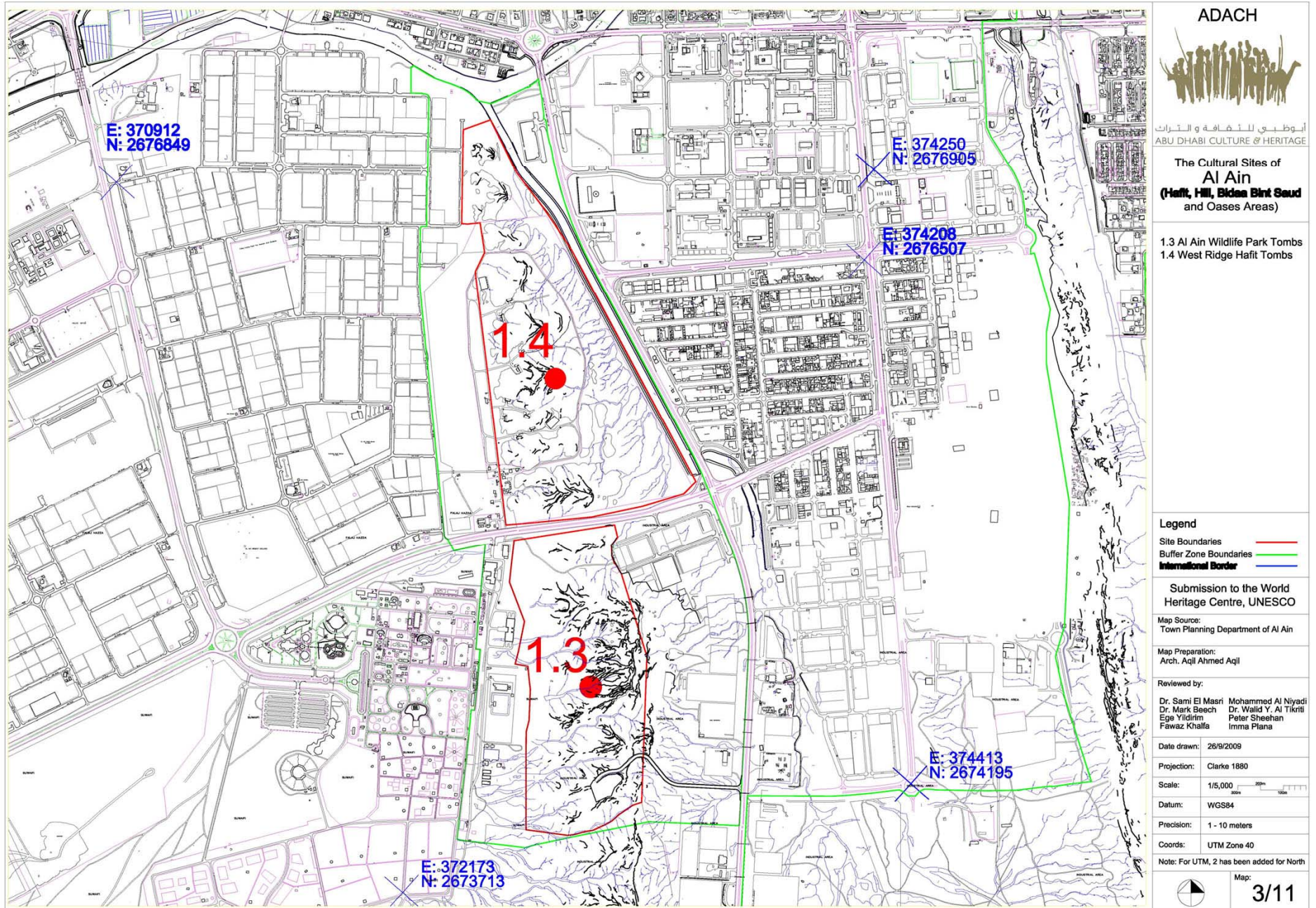
Map 1: General Map of Nominated Property



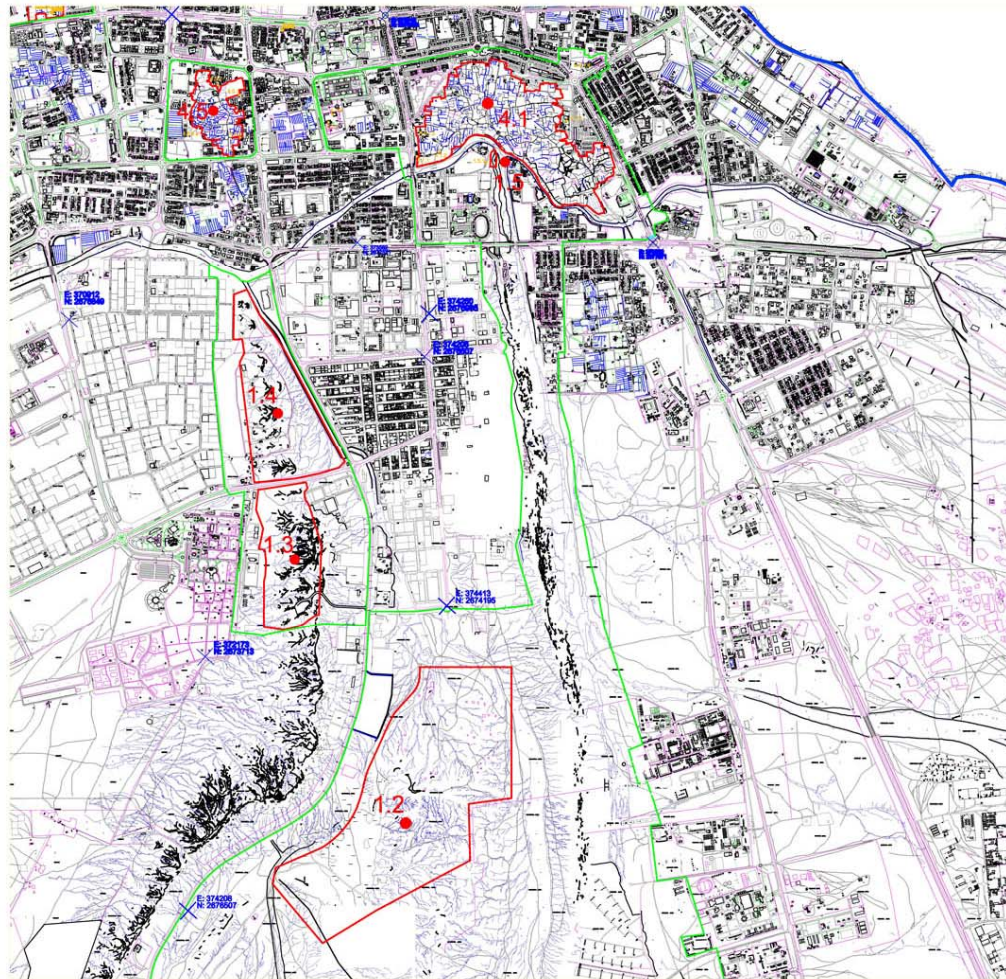
Map 2: Hafit Assemblage (Jebel Hafit Desert Park and North Tombs)



Map 3: Hafit Assemblage (Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs and West Ridge Hafit Tombs)



Map 4: Hafit Assemblage (Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs, Jebel Hafit North Tombs, West Ridge Tombs) and Oases (Al Ain Oasis, Mutarehd Oasis)



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The Cultural Sites of
Al Ain
(Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud
and Oases Areas)

- 1.2 Jebel Hafit North Tombs
- 1.3 Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs
- 1.4 West Ridge Hafit Tombs
- 1.5 Al Naqfa Ridge
- 4.1 Al Ain Oasis

- 1.5.1-Naqfa Fort
- 4.1.1-Rashed Bin Mutawaa Al Dhahiri Mosque
- 4.1.2-Bin Sheikh Al Mottawa Al Dhahiri House
- 4.1.3-Sheikh Zayed (Al Ain) Palace Museum
- 4.1.4-Murabba Fort
- 4.1.5-Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Sultan Eastern) Fort
- 4.1.6-Jahili Fort
- 4.1.7-Jahili Mosque

Legend

- Site Boundaries —
- Buffer Zone Boundaries —
- International Border —
- Falaj Irrigation Channels —

Submission to the World
Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Map Source:
Town Planning Department of Al Ain

Map Preparation:
Arch. Aqil Ahmed Aqil

Reviewed by:
Dr. Sami El Masri Mohammed Al Niyadi
Dr. Mark Beech Dr. Walid Y. Al Tikriti
Ege Yildirim Peter Sheehan
Fawaz Khalifa Imma Plana

Date drawn: 24/12/2009

Projection: Clarke 1880

Scale: 1/15,000

Datum: WGS84

Precision: 1 - 10 meters

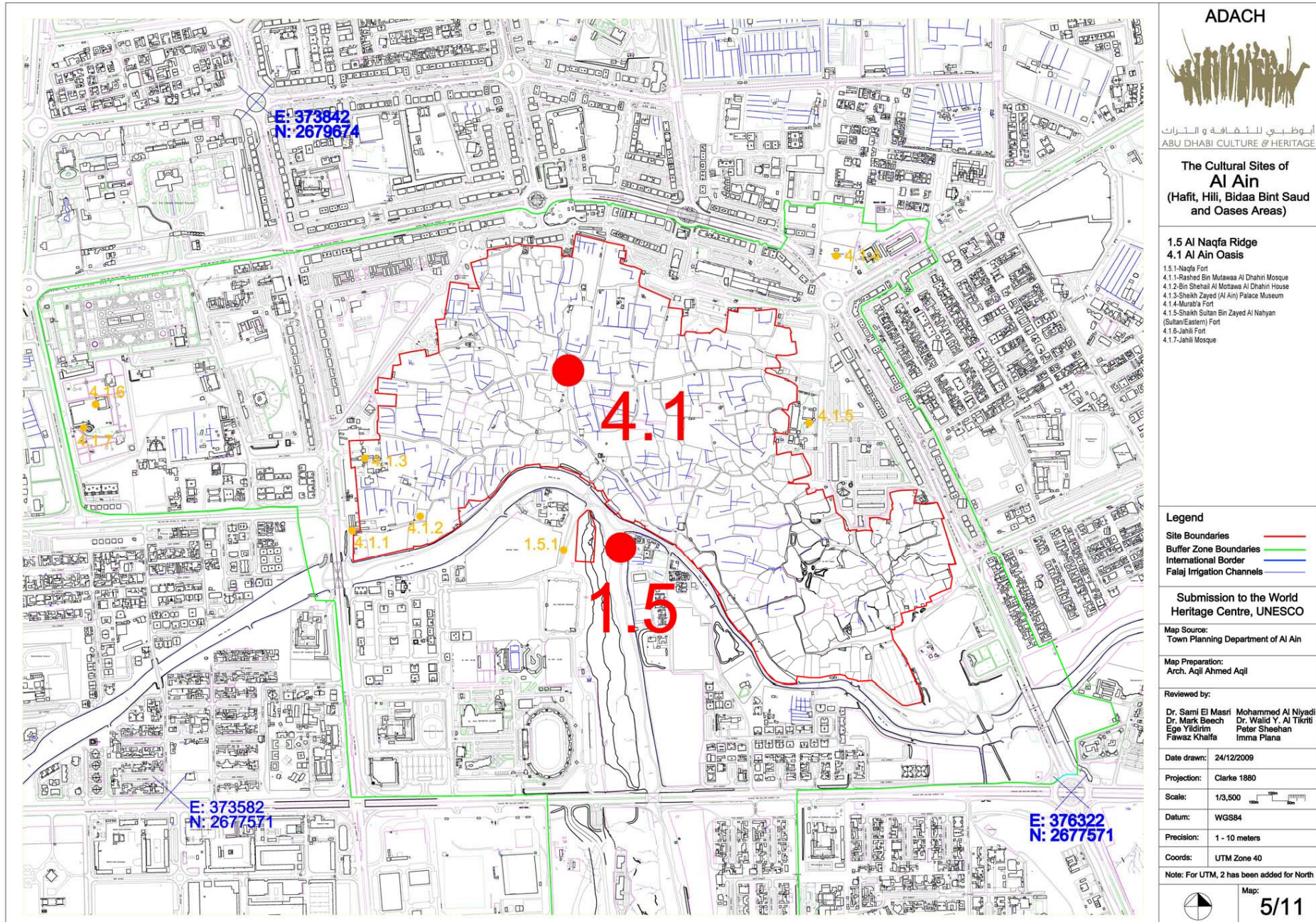
Coords: UTM Zone 40

Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North




Map: 4/11

Map 5: Oases (Al Ain Oasis)



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**The Cultural Sites of
Al Ain**
(Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud
and Oases Areas)

**1.5 Al Naqfa Ridge
4.1 Al Ain Oasis**

1.5.1-Naqfa Fort
4.1.1-Rashed Bin Mutawaa Al Dhahiri Mosque
4.1.2-Bin Shehail Al Mottawa Al Dhahiri House
4.1.3-Sheikh Zayed (Al Ain) Palace Museum
4.1.4-Murabba Fort
4.1.5-Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Sultan Eastern) Fort
4.1.6-Jahili Fort
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Legend

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- Buffer Zone Boundaries —
- International Border —
- Falaj Irrigation Channels —

**Submission to the World
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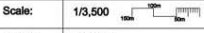
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Date drawn: 24/12/2009

Projection: Clarke 1880

Scale: 1/3,500 

Datum: WGS84

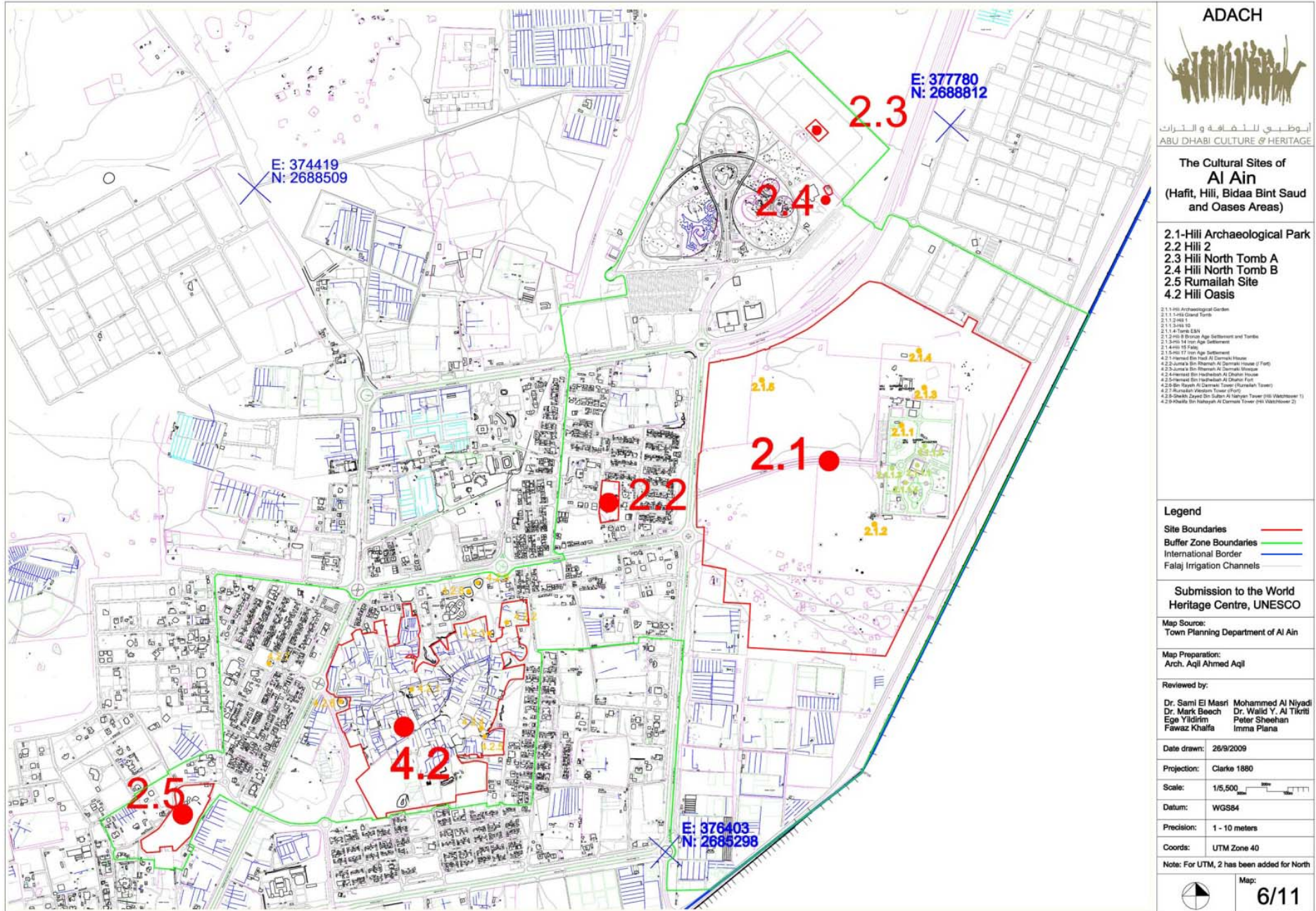
Precision: 1 - 10 meters

Coords: UTM Zone 40

Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North

Map:
5/11

Map 6: Hili Assemblage (Hili Archaeological Park, Hili 2, Hili North Tomb A & B, Rumailah) and Oases (Hili Oasis)



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The Cultural Sites of Al Ain
(Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)

2.1-Hili Archaeological Park
2.2 Hili 2
2.3 Hili North Tomb A
2.4 Hili North Tomb B
2.5 Rumailah Site
4.2 Hili Oasis

2.1.1 Hili Archaeological Garden
2.1.1.1 14th Grand Tomb
2.1.1.2 14th Tomb I
2.1.1.3 14th Tomb II
2.1.1.4 14th Tomb III
2.1.2 Hili 2 Bronze Age Settlement and Tombs
2.1.2.1 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement
2.1.2.2 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement
2.1.2.3 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement
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2.1.2.98 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement
2.1.2.99 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement
2.1.2.100 Hili 2 Iron Age Settlement

Legend

- Site Boundaries
- Buffer Zone Boundaries
- International Border
- Falaj Irrigation Channels

Submission to the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Map Source:
Town Planning Department of Al Ain

Map Preparation:
Arch. Aqil Ahmed Aqil

Reviewed by:

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Dr. Mark Beech
Ege Yildirim
Fawaz Khalifa

Mohammed Al Niyadi
Dr. Walid Y. Al Tikriti
Peter Sheehan
Imma Plans

Date drawn: 28/9/2009

Projection: Clarke 1880

Scale: 1/6,500

Datum: WGS84

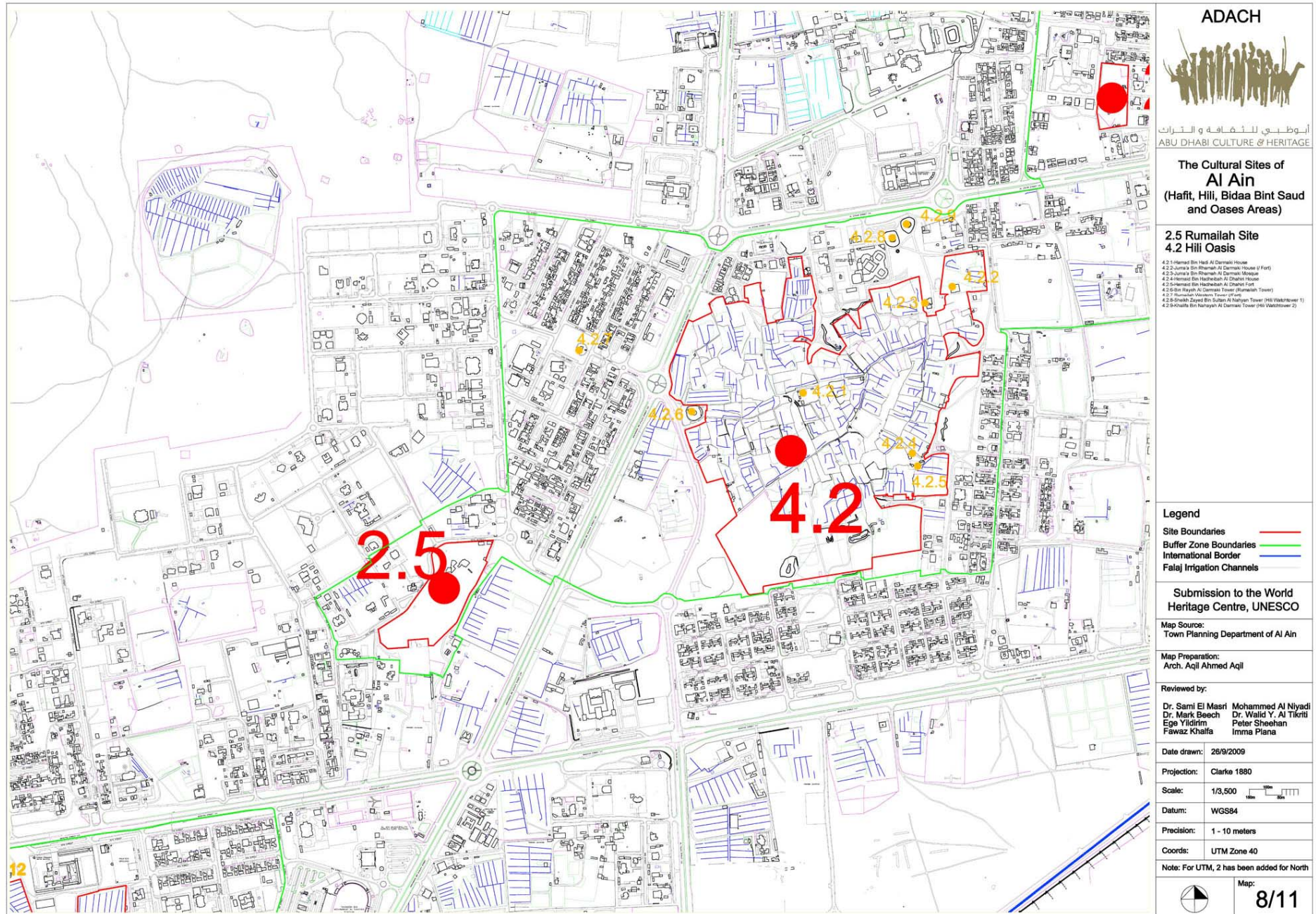
Precision: 1 - 10 meters

Coords: UTM Zone 40

Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North

Map: 6/11

Map 8: Hili Assemblage (Rumailah) and Oases (Hili Oasis)



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**2.5 Rumailah Site
4.2 Hili Oasis**

4.2-1 Hamad Bin Hadi Al Damaki House
4.2-2 Jumal Bin Rhaman Al Damaki House (Fort)
4.2-3 Jumal Bin Rhaman Al Damaki Mosque
4.2-4 Hamad Bin Hashaban Al Damaki Fort
4.2-5 Sultan Ibrahim Al Damaki Tower (Rumailah Tower)
4.2-6 Rumailah Western Tower (Rumailah Tower)
4.2-7 Khalifa Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayn Tower (Hil) (Habitat 2)
4.2-8 Khalifa Bin Nahayn Al Damaki Tower (Hil) (Habitat 2)

Legend

- Site Boundaries —
- Buffer Zone Boundaries —
- International Border —
- Falaj Irrigation Channels —

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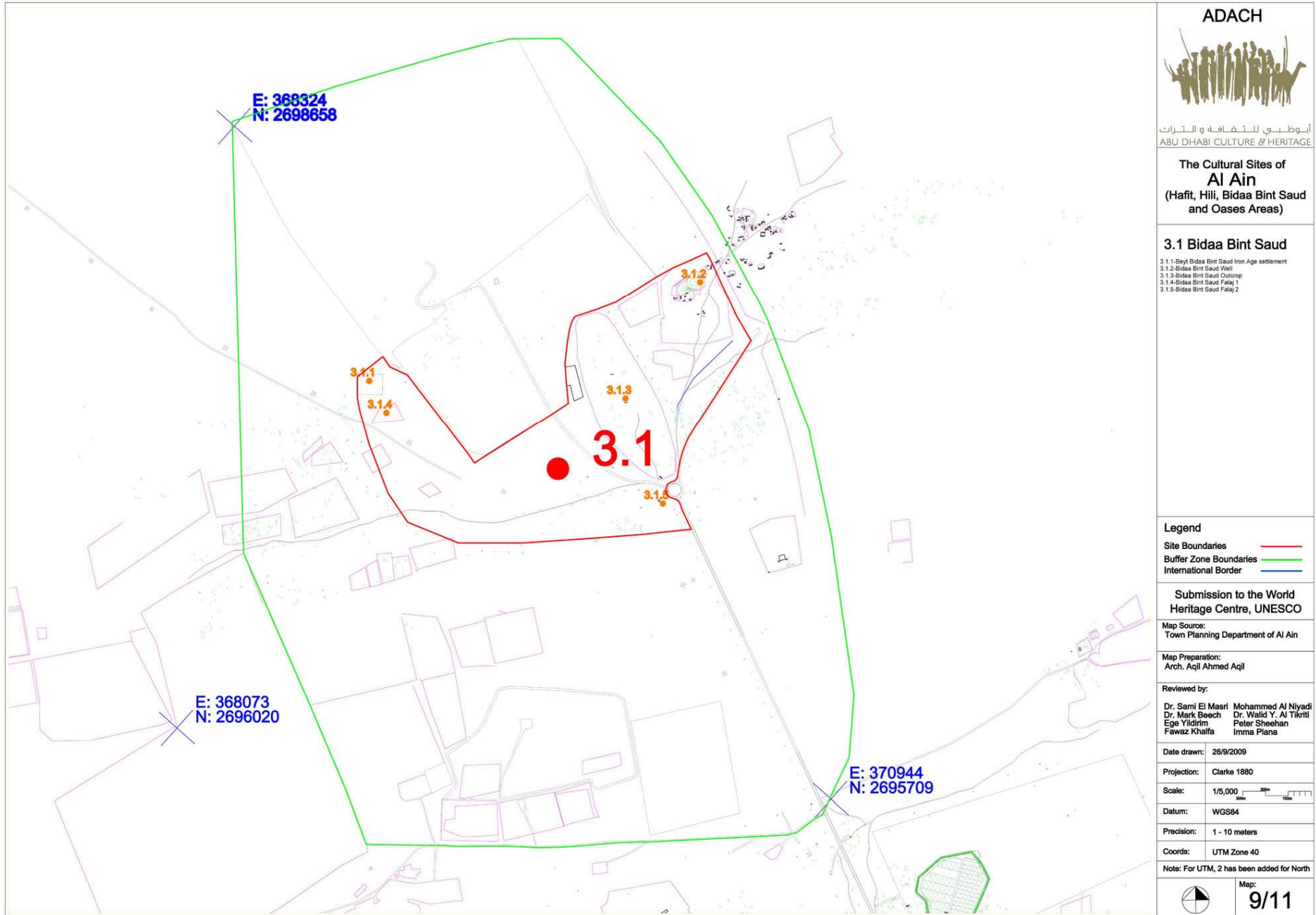
Precision: 1 - 10 meters

Coords: UTM Zone 40

Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North

Map: **8/11**

Map 9: Bidaa bint Saud



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(Hafit, Hill, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)

3.1 Bidaa Bint Saud

3.1.1-Beyl Bidaa Bint Saud Iron Age settlement
3.1.2-Bidaa Bint Saud Well
3.1.3-Bidaa Bint Saud Outcrop
3.1.4-Bidaa Bint Saud Falaj 1
3.1.5-Bidaa Bint Saud Falaj 2

Legend

Site Boundaries ————
Buffer Zone Boundaries ————
International Border ————

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Fawaz Khalifa Imma Plana

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Datum: WGS84

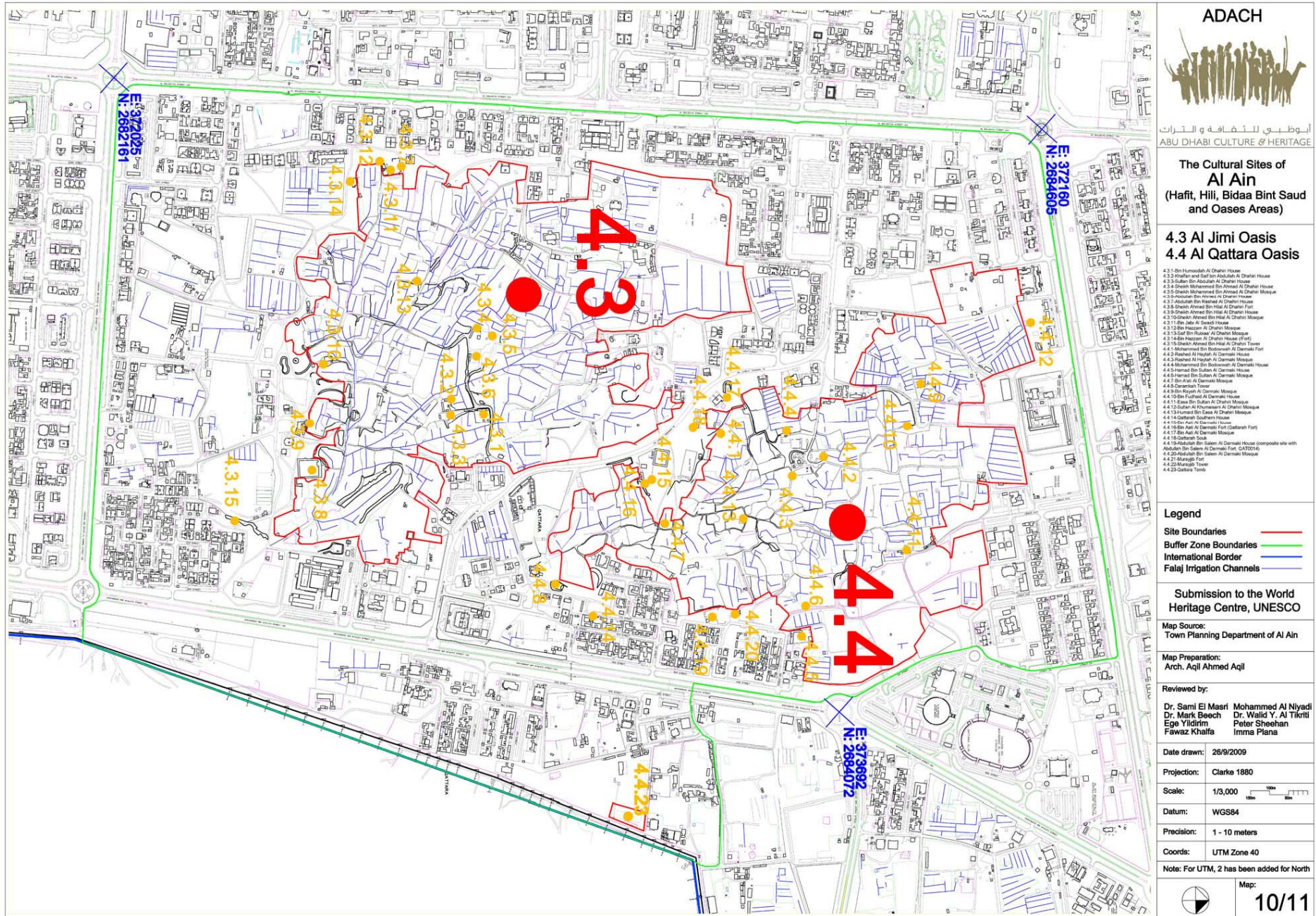
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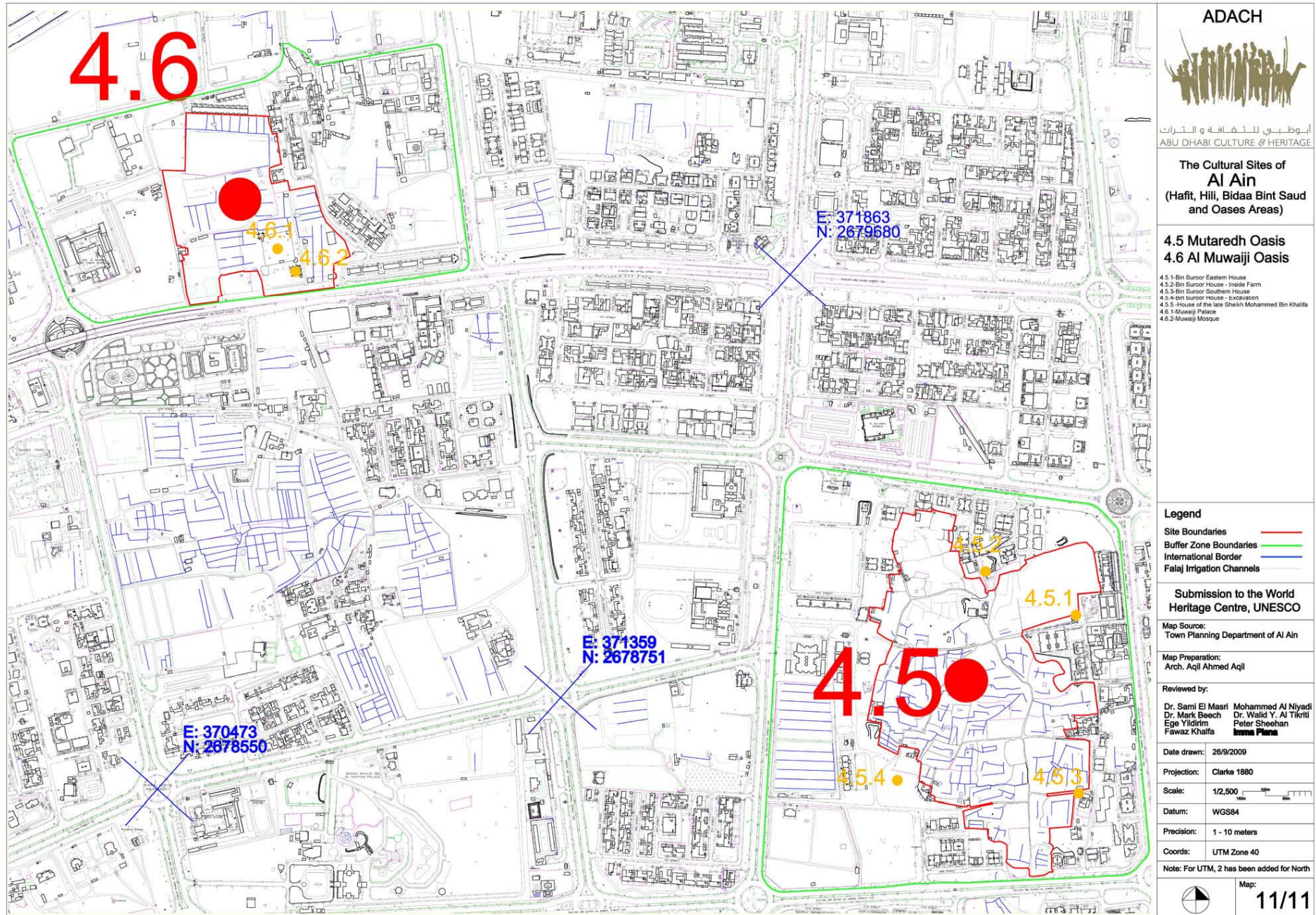
Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North

Map: 9/11

Map 10: Oases (Qattara Oasis, Jimi Oasis)



Map 11: Oases (Mutaredh Oasis, Muwajji Oasis)



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4.5 Mutaredh Oasis
4.6 Al Muwajji Oasis

- 4.5.1-Bin Suroor Eastern House
- 4.5.2-Bin Suroor House - Inside Farm
- 4.5.3-Bin Suroor Southern House
- 4.5.4-Bin Suroor House - Excavation
- 4.5.5 -House of the late Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa
- 4.6.1-Muwajji Palace
- 4.6.2-Muwajji Mosque

Legend

- Site Boundaries —
- Buffer Zone Boundaries —
- International Border —
- Falaj Irrigation Channels —

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Projection: Clarke 1880

Scale: 1/2,500

Datum: WGS84

Precision: 1 - 10 meters

Coords: UTM Zone 40

Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North

Map: **11/11**

VIEWS FROM THE CULTURAL SITES OF AL AIN













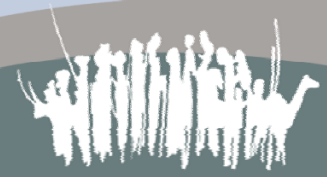
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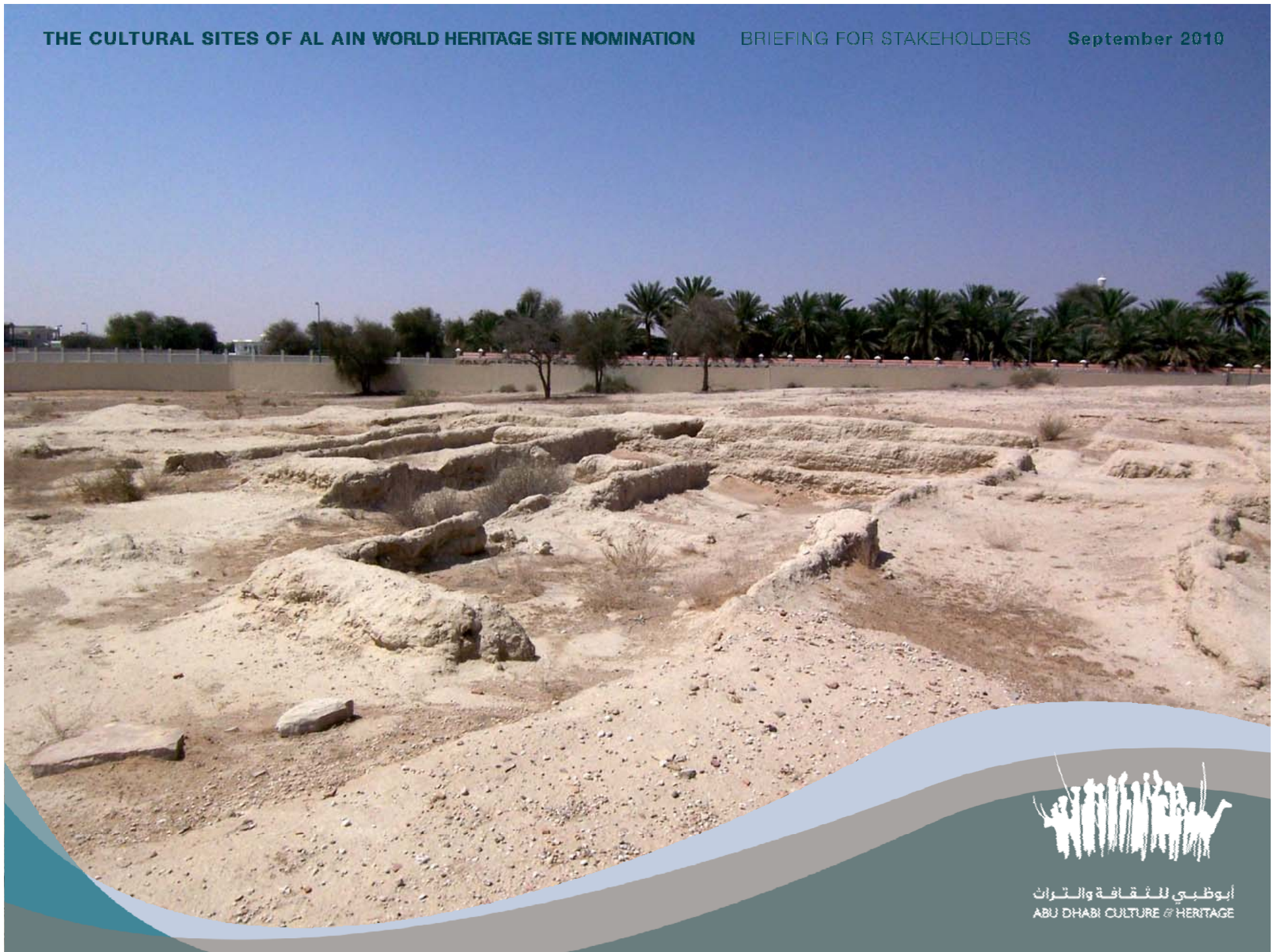




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NOMINATION PROCESS

- Tentative nomination, February 2008
- First submission, January 2009
- Interim correspondence:
 - Feedback from World Heritage Center (WHC)
 - Interim submission, September 2009
- Re-submission, January 2010
- Completion check pass, March 2010
- **Evaluation mission, 12-15 October 2010 (no press publicity)**
- Final decision for the application, Summer 2011 (35th session of the WHC committee)



ONCE NOMINATED: MANAGING THE WHS

World Heritage Status brings a responsibility to protect the sites through an effective management system, and regular monitoring by UNESCO. Sites have been delisted (e.g. Oman, Germany) when due protection was not achieved.

The Cultural Sites of Al Ain are to be protected through:

- **WHS Site Management Planning**
 - Overall management framework for the serial property
 - Individual conservation/ management plans for site components
- **Buffer zone development control**
 - Guidelines and regulations
 - PCR and enforcement
- Wider **ADACH activities** for documentation, designation, conservation, and promotion of cultural properties
- **Cooperation with external agencies** in all activities



FACTORS AFFECTING AUTHENTICITY/ INTEGRITY OF THE SITES

The Cultural Sites of Al Ain have thus far managed to retain a high level of authenticity and integrity. However, this is vulnerable to threats caused by various factors, such as listed below, and needs to be safeguarded diligently by all stakeholders.

- Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)
- Natural disasters and risk preparedness
- Visitor/tourism pressures
- Pressures from habitation within the property and the buffer zone



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

The nomination and management of WHS is a collaborative effort that can only truly succeed with support of other Emirate-level and local agencies.

To help the nomination be a success, please:

- Inform your departments and staff of the significance of WHS
- Appoint a WHS contact person for liaising with ADACH, for requests, inquiries, and coordinating actions
- **ADACH contact:** Ms. Ege Yildirim, Heritage Planner, ege@adach.ae
- **Receive evaluation mission and show your support (no press publicity)**
- Follow and endorse the PCR process (<http://www.adach.ae/en/portal/heritage/introduction.aspx>)



THANK YOU

for supporting the World Heritage Site nomination
and helping Abu Dhabi achieve another milestone of excellence.



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