Executive Summary

الملخص التنفيذي
STATE PARTY
Kingdom of Bahrain

PROVINCE
Northern Governorate and Southern Governorate

NAME OF PROPERTY
Dilmun Burial Mounds
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Id N°</th>
<th>Name of the component part</th>
<th>District(s)</th>
<th>Coordinates of the Northern Point</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Madinat Hamad 1 Burial Mound Field</td>
<td>Northern Governorate</td>
<td>N 26°08'25'', E 50°30'11''</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Madinat Hamad 2 Burial Mound Field (Karzakan)</td>
<td>Northern Governorate</td>
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<td>N 26°09’27” , E 50°30’52”</td>
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<td>Royal Mound 17</td>
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<td>N 26°09’27” , E 50°31’08”</td>
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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

The 21 nominated site components stretch along the western side of Bahrain’s central dome. Together they form a chain that extends over 20 kilometres.

MADINAT HAMAD 1 BURIAL MOUND FIELD (BURI)

The northernmost of the three Madinat Hamad burial mound fields comprises 754 mounds and although it is located very close to the West A’ali cemetery, the two had never been part of the same burial mound field. The area that separated the two cemeteries has since been used for the development of roads and housing. The cemetery is located at Roundabout No. 1 in Shaykh Hamad Avenue, south of Wali al-Ahed Highway and north of Road 410.

MADINAT HAMAD 2 BURIAL MOUND FIELD (KARZAKKAN)

The Madinat Hamad 2 Burial Mound Field is the second largest mound cemetery in Bahrain. It is located in the northern centre of Madinat Hamad. The density of its 4,262 mounds is extraordinarily high. Many of the mounds are gathered along the banks of its several wadis providing a very scenic panorama. Several wadis cross the mound field; two of them are of major size still carrying water from time to time and, as a result, plenty of vegetation. To the east, the field stretches along Shaykh Hamad Avenue from Roundabout 4, which marks the northern tip of the field, to Roundabout 7 in the south. There, the field is bordered by Avenue 9 and Road 721.
MADINAT HAMAD 3 BURIAL MOUND FIELD (DAR KULAYB)

The burial mound field is the southernmost of the cemeteries located in Madinat Hamad. It has a high concentration of Late Type burial mounds. A total number of 1,331 burial mounds remain as the last witnesses of the ancient settlement that is assumed to have existed nearby. The burial mound field is located north of Road 4606 and Roundabout 20 in Shaykh Hamad Avenue, and south of Road 1309.

JANABIYAH BURIAL MOUND FIELD

The burial mound cemetery in Janabiyah is the northernmost as well as the smallest field comprising 13 Late Type burial mounds and 5 so-called chieftain mounds. The boundaries of the site are defined by the modern village of Janabiyah. The field is located between Road 7144 and Road 7537, and bordered to the north by Road 7527 and to the south by Road 7151.

A´ALI EAST BURIAL MOUND FIELD

The A´ali East mound cemetery covers a large area that is located south of the historic core of A´ali village. It is the largest of all the cemeteries both in dimension and number of burial mounds. It hosts a total number of 4,669 tumuli of various sizes. The mounds are mainly of Late Type and date to the period from circa 2050 to 1750 BCE. Akin to ancient times, a few natural wadis cross the burial mound field. The northern part of the field hosts several immense burial mounds, two of which belong to the group of special type mounds with an outer ring wall. The cemetery is located south of the historic village of A´ali and Highway 71 and north of Wali al-Ahed Highway. To the west, it is bordered by Shaykh Khalifa Bin Salman Highway and to the east by Avenue 38.
Executive Summary

A’ALI WEST BURIAL MOUND FIELD

The A’ali West and the A’ali East Burial Mound Fields once formed a physical entity which was partially split by a wadi and, nowadays, is divided by the Shaykh Khalifa Bin Salman Highway. Besides the highway, the A’ali West Burial Mound Field is bordered to the west by the modern village of Buri, to the north by Highway 71 and to the south by Wali al-Ahed Highway. The necropolis comprises 723 burial mounds and is one of the last examples to present the distribution of mounds on the edge of a mound cemetery. The size of the burial mounds is above average and, relative to their importance, the mounds have been constructed farther away from each other. The necropolis also comprises six special type burial mounds with outer ring wall.

ROYAL MOUNDS 1 TO 17

The 13 single royal mounds and 2 pairs of royal mounds are all embedded in the historic village of A’ali. Mounds 1 to 6 are single mounds located north of Highway 71. Mounds 7, 8, and 9 are located in the so-called pottery workshop area that is famous throughout the region for its products. Mound 10 is a single mound and also one of the biggest examples ever found in Bahrain. Mounds 11 to 17 are all located south of Highway 71. Mounds 11 and 12 are clustered together and form a pair, and so do mounds 13 and 14. Mounds 15 and 16 are located south of the latter four mounds. Mound 17 is a single isolated mound, located in the south-eastern part of the wider royal mound area. The boundaries for each royal mound or pair of royal mounds correspond to the physical boundary of each site, which is the outer edge of the bottom slope.
BUFFERO ZONE

The boundaries of the buffer zone are aligned to the existing land use and zoning plan, taking into account the property boundaries. Therefore, their width varies between 200 and 300 metres. The main purpose of the buffer zone is to secure the visual integrity of the site and to regulate heights and design of existing and future housing development. A number of archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of the buffer zone. Though some of them are burial mound sites, they have been excluded from the property as they do not convey Outstanding Universal Value. Yet, they are protected on a national level.
A4 SIZE MAPS OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY, SHOWING BOUNDARIES AND BUFFER ZONES

An overview of all the nominated property components including their buffer zones is shown in the overview maps. Furthermore, each of the burial mound fields is presented separately in Maps 1 to 6. Royal Mounds 1 to 17 and their combined buffer zone can be found in Map 7.
OVERVIEW MAP 1

LEGEND

PROPERTY BOUNDARY
BUFFER ZONE
BAHRAIN TERRITORIAL WATERS

OVERVIEW MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY AND ITS BUFFER ZONE
LEGEND
- MADINAT HAMAD 1 BURIAL MOUND FIELD
- BUFFER ZONE

MAP 1B: SATELLITE MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY COMPONENT AND ITS BUFFER ZONE
3. MADINAT HAMAD 3 BURIAL MOUND FIELD
(DAR KULAYB)

SOURCE: CENTRAL INFORMATIC ORGANIZATION, 2014

LEGEND

- MADINAT HAMAD 3 BURIAL MOUND FIELD
- BUFFER ZONE

MAP 3B: SATELLITE MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY COMPONENT AND ITS BUFFER ZONE.
4. JANABIYAH BURIAL MOUND FIELD

MAP 4B: SATELLITE MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY COMPONENT AND ITS BUFFER ZONE
LEGEND

- A'ALI EAST BURIAL MOUND FIELD
- BUFFER ZONE
- A'ALI ROYAL MOUNDS

5. A'ALI EAST BURIAL MOUND FIELD

MAP 5B: SATELLITE MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY COMPONENT AND ITS BUFFER ZONE
7-21. A’ALI ROYAL MOUNDS

MAP 78: SATELLITE MAP SHOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPOSED PROPERTY COMPONENT AND ITS BUFFER ZONE
CRITERIA UNDER WHICH PROPERTY IS NOMINATED

The property is nominated under criteria (iii) and (iv).

DRAFT STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

A) BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The Dilmun Burial Mounds is a serial property formed by 21 archaeological sites located in the western part of the island of Bahrain. Six of the selected site components are burial mound fields consisting of some dozen to several thousand tumuli. Together they comprise about 11,774 burial mounds. The remaining 15 site components consist of 13 single royal mounds and two pairs of royal mounds, all embedded in the urban fabric of A’ali village.

The Dilmun Burial Mounds were constructed during the Early Dilmun Period over a time span of 300 years, approximately between 2050 and 1750 BCE. The property encompasses the most representative sites of Late Type Early Dilmun Burial Mound construction. The burial mounds bear witness to the flourishing of the Early Dilmun civilization around the 2nd millennium BCE. During that period, Bahrain gained economic importance on an international level as a trade hub which led to population growth and, as a consequence, to a more diversified social complexity. The latter is best reflected in the extensive necropoleis with their variety of graves, comprising burial mounds of various size, as well as chieftain mounds and the grandest of them all, the so-called royal mounds.

Archaeological evidence shows that the burial sites were originally not constructed as mounds but as cylindrical low towers. The royal mounds, characterized by their pronounced sizes and elaborate burial chambers, were constructed as two-storied sepulchral towers.
forming a ziggurat-like shape. The Dilmun Burial Mounds illustrate globally unique characteristics not only with regard to their numbers, density and scale but also in terms of construction typology and details, such as their alcove-equipped burial chambers.

B) JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA

CRITERION (III)

The Dilmun Burial Mounds represent unique sepulchral testimony to the Early Dilmun civilization over a period of about 300 years. As remains of settlements are scarce and buried under thick layers of soil, the Dilmun Burial Mounds are the most extensive and most apparent evidence of the Early Dilmun culture. At the time, the newly gained prosperity allowed the island’s ancient inhabitants to develop an elaborate burial tradition applicable to the entire population. The excavated mounds provide a cross section of various social groups in the Early Dilmun society with thousands of individuals of different age, gender, and social class. They also offer crucial evidence on the evolution of the Early Dilmun society. The ancient inhabitants of Bahrain understood the special geological configuration of the island and used less fertile lands for the formation of these extraordinary cemeteries. Ultimately, they built the biggest and densest burial mound cemeteries the world has ever seen.

CRITERION (IV)

The evolution of the Early Dilmun civilization is best reflected in the architecture of the Dilmun Burial Mounds. Four different mound types give clues about the emergence of social hierarchies. Even though the burial mounds can be divided according to variations in size and interior design, the basic layout of the mounds remains the same throughout the period. The Dilmun Burial Mounds illustrate globally unique characteristics not only with regard to their numbers, density and scale but also in terms of construction typology and details, such as their alcove-equipped burial chambers.
same throughout the 300-year period. The construction typology is exceptional. The majority of the tombs were constructed as single-storeyed small cylindrical towers while some of the bigger two-storeyed examples were built in a ziggurat-like shape. A very particular and unique characteristic of the Dilmun tumuli construction is the presence of alcoves. Depending on the tenant’s social status there can be up to six of such alcoves which were usually filled with mortuary gifts.

C) STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The serial property displays the original distribution of Late Type Early Dilmun Burial Mounds, organized in individual cemeteries. It excludes the two fields which provide testimony to the Early Type Early Dilmun Burial Mounds (Wadi as-Sail and Umm Jidr) which shall be nominated as an extension in a second nomination phase envisaged for 2022. The four distinct types of burial mounds included in the current nomination phase reflect a hierarchy of the ancient population and present a cross section of various social groups of the Early Dilmun society. Most of the tumuli have not been excavated and their fabric is completely intact, solely impacted by occasional ancient looting and natural erosion that has transformed the once sepulchral towers into mounds. As a result of previous development activities, the setting has lost parts of its integrity. In particular the direct vicinity of residential developments affects the visual integrity of some of the property components. However, urban developments have come to a halt due to effective arrangements in the protection and management of the site. Corrective measures are underway and include the introduction of green belts around the ancient cemeteries in order to improve their visual setting. Though their number has diminished, the cemeteries are still the biggest and densest burial mound fields in the world.
D) STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

The nominated serial property is authentic in terms of its location, function, material and substance, form and design, as well as density. Despite having been impacted by erosion and partially by looting in ancient times, the mounds’ architecture, layout and interior design remain intact. The particular characteristics and distribution of Late Type Early Dilmun Burial Mounds within the cemeteries are excellently displayed. The density is expressed at two levels. Firstly, it is the exceptional density of fields in a limited area; about 11,774 individual burial mounds cover an area of 168.45 hectares. Secondly, it is the unique concentration of burial mounds within each cemetery, which is the highest in the world.

E) PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

All site components of the Dilmun Burial Mounds serial property are registered as National Monuments and are protected according to the Kingdom of Bahrain Legislative Decree No. 11 of 1995 concerning the Protection of Antiquities. The restrictions for urban development within the buffer zones of the site components are integrated in the Land Use and Zoning regulations which are subcategories of the Physical Planning Legislation of 1994. Site administration is carried out by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities. A small unit within the Directorate has been designated for the administration of the property.

The Dilmun Burial Mounds Management Plan will be approved and effective as of January 2018 for a period of 5 years including long-term objectives for the site. It is envisioned as an integrated management and action plan with the following key strategic themes:
administration and finance, land ownership and development, research, conservation, awareness-raising and community involvement, as well as interpretation, presentation and visitor management. The management plan works also as a protection plan as it addresses the main threats to the site components which are: development pressure, pollution and erosion.

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF OFFICIAL LOCAL INSTITUTION

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MADINAT HAMAD 1 BURIAL MOUND FIELD