

**Republic of Iraq**

# **Samarra**

**Archaeological City**



**Nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List**

**Executive Summary**

**State Party:** Republic of Iraq

**State, Province or Region:** Salah al-Din Governorate/ Samarra Township

**Name of Property:** Samarra Archaeological City

**Geographical coordinates to the nearest second:** The archaeological city is surrounded by:  
Longitudes 43° 45' 50" - 43° 51' 70'  
Latitudes 34° 25' 34" - 34° 05' 13".

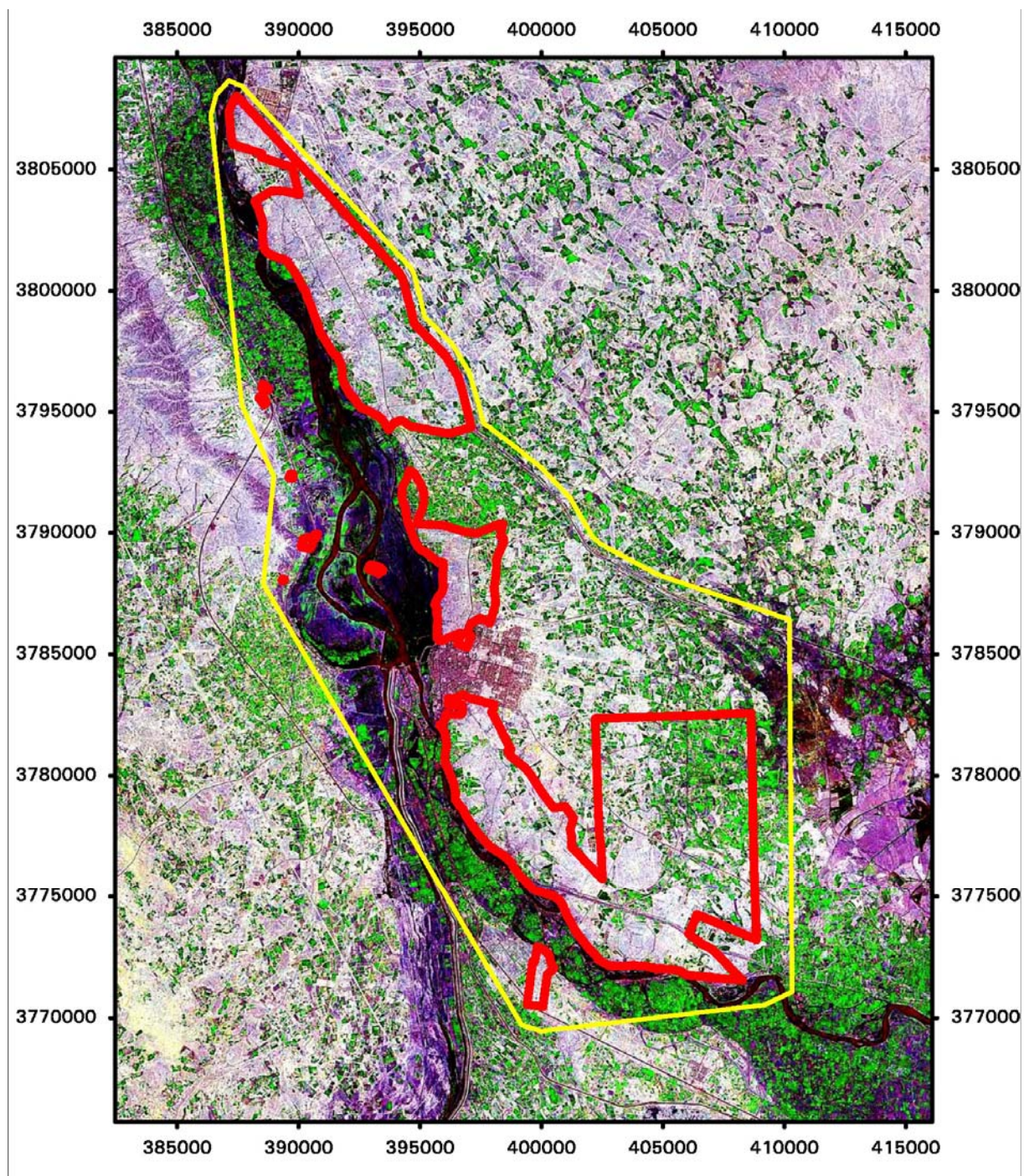
**Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property:**

The boundaries of Samarra Archaeological City start from Al-Ja'fari Palace in the north to Husn al-Qadisiyya, al-Musharrahat Palace and the Palace of al-Istablat in the south, and from the Nahr al-Rasasi in the east to the Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya and Al-Ma'shuq Palace in the west.

ID No	Name of the asset	Core Zone (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Coordinates of the central point
276rev-001	Samarra North Zone - al-Mutawakkiliyya	4478	31414	E 391790 N 3800592
276rev-002	Samarra Centre Zone	1265		E 397080 N 3787810
276rev-003	Samarra South Zone	8953		E 401385 N 3776268
276rev-004	al-Istablat	155		E 399949 N 3771589
276rev-005	al-Quwayr	11		E 393154 N 3788502
276rev-006	Qubbat al-Sulaibiyya	0.6		E 389376 N 3788050
276rev-007	al-Ma'shuq	20		E 390365 N 3789628
276rev-008	Tell Umm al-Sakhr	2		E 389689 N 3792368
276rev-009	al-Huwaysilat Upper	5		E 388536 N 3795470
276rev-010	al-Huwaysilat Lower	4		E 388589 N 3795988
	TOTAL	15058	31414	UTM Zone 38 North

We attach an A4 size map showing Samarra Archaeological City with the buffer zone (figure 1). The site is composed of nine areas and single monuments. The exact coordinates of these nine sites comprise the Samarra Archaeological City. The Archaeological City starts from the al-Ja'fari Palace in the north until Al-Qadisiyya, Al-Musharrahat Palace and al-Istablat in the south, from the Nahr al-Rasasi in the east and the Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya and Al-Ma'shuq Palace in the west. These boundaries were defined on the map according to Antiquities law. As for the buffer zone it starts north of the Al-Ja'fari Palace at a distance of 500m and runs parallel to the Nahr al-Rasasi in the east to reach the south of the game reserve of al-Hayr, Al-Musharrahat Palace and Husn al-Qadisiyya on the south side and returns to the north to, Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya, Al-Ma'shuq Palace and Al-Huwaysilat Palace to cross Tigris River to the north of the Al-Ja'fari Palace.





**Figure 1**

### **Justification:**

The importance of the Samarra archaeological city lies in its being the only Islamic capital which still keeps its original state regarding the planning, architecture and arts, after the loss of the great Islamic capitals such as the round city of Baghdad, which was built by Abu Ja'far Al-Mansur in 145 H/ 762 AD.

The city also preserves two of the largest mosques in the Islamic world: the Al-Malwiya mosque and the Abu Dulaf mosque, which contain the most unusual minarets in the Islamic world. Also it includes the largest palaces discovered in the Islamic world which is the caliph palace. Also in it developed various kinds of stucco decorations known as the Samarra

patterns of decorations which spread from it to the other parts of the Islamic world at that time. Also there appeared in it a new type of ceramic known as Luster Ware which imitated utensils made of precious metals such as gold and silver.

**Criteria:**

Through the consideration of paragraph 77 of the operational guidelines we suggest inscription of Samarra archaeological city according to criteria (ii), (iii), and (iv), being more applicable to the property than other criteria.

- The criterion (ii) is represented by that the city is considered a distinguished architectural stage in that period through its mosques and its development, the planning of its streets and basins, its architectural decoration, and ceramic industries.
- Criterion (iii). Samarra is the finest preserved example of the architecture and city planning of the Abbasid Caliphate, extending from Tunisia to Central Asia, and one of the world's great powers of the time. The physical remains of this state are commonly poorly preserved, as frequently built of unfired earth and reusable bricks.
- As for the criterion (iv) its buildings are to be considered a new artistic complex in Islamic architecture concerning the Malwiya and Abu Dulaf, a unique example in planning, capacity and building of Islamic mosques which preceded and succeeded it. These mosques in their large dimensions and unique minarets speak of the pride and political and religious strength which correspond to the strength of the state and its pride at that time.

**Name and contact information of official local institution/ agency:**

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