

PAKISTAN

Historic Monuments of Thatta



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1981

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Makli Hills Monuments
Dept of Archaeology & Museums (DOAM)
Government of Pakistan
Thatta
Pakistan

II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C iii

Statement of Significance

- Proposed by the State Party
The historical monuments of Makli Hills, Thatta, lie about 100 km east of Karachi and 22 km from Janshahi Railway Station. Half a million tombs and graves spread over an area of 10 sq km make it the greatest Muslim necropolis in the World. It is replete with the history of 400 glorious years when the Sumas, Arghuns, Tarkhans and Imperial Mughals ruled over Sindh with their capital at Thatta. This unique assemblage of massive structures presents an impressive order of monumental buildings in several architectural styles. In this necropolis are buried Kings, Queens, Governors, Saints, Scholars, Philosophers and Soldiers. The Monuments of Makli Hills, Thatta, are built either with brick or stone. A number of monuments have enamel tiles lavishly used in the form of dadoes, and panels.

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The World Heritage values of the property are considered to have been maintained.
- No changes to its authenticity/integrity are considered to have occurred or are foreseen.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The Director of the Southern Circle of Archaeology, DOAM, based in Hyderabad, is responsible for its management.
- The property's Management Plan describes the system of administration of the site.
- The property is protected under the Antiquities Act, 1975.
- Proposals are under consideration to amend and strengthen the Antiquities Act.

Present State of Conservation

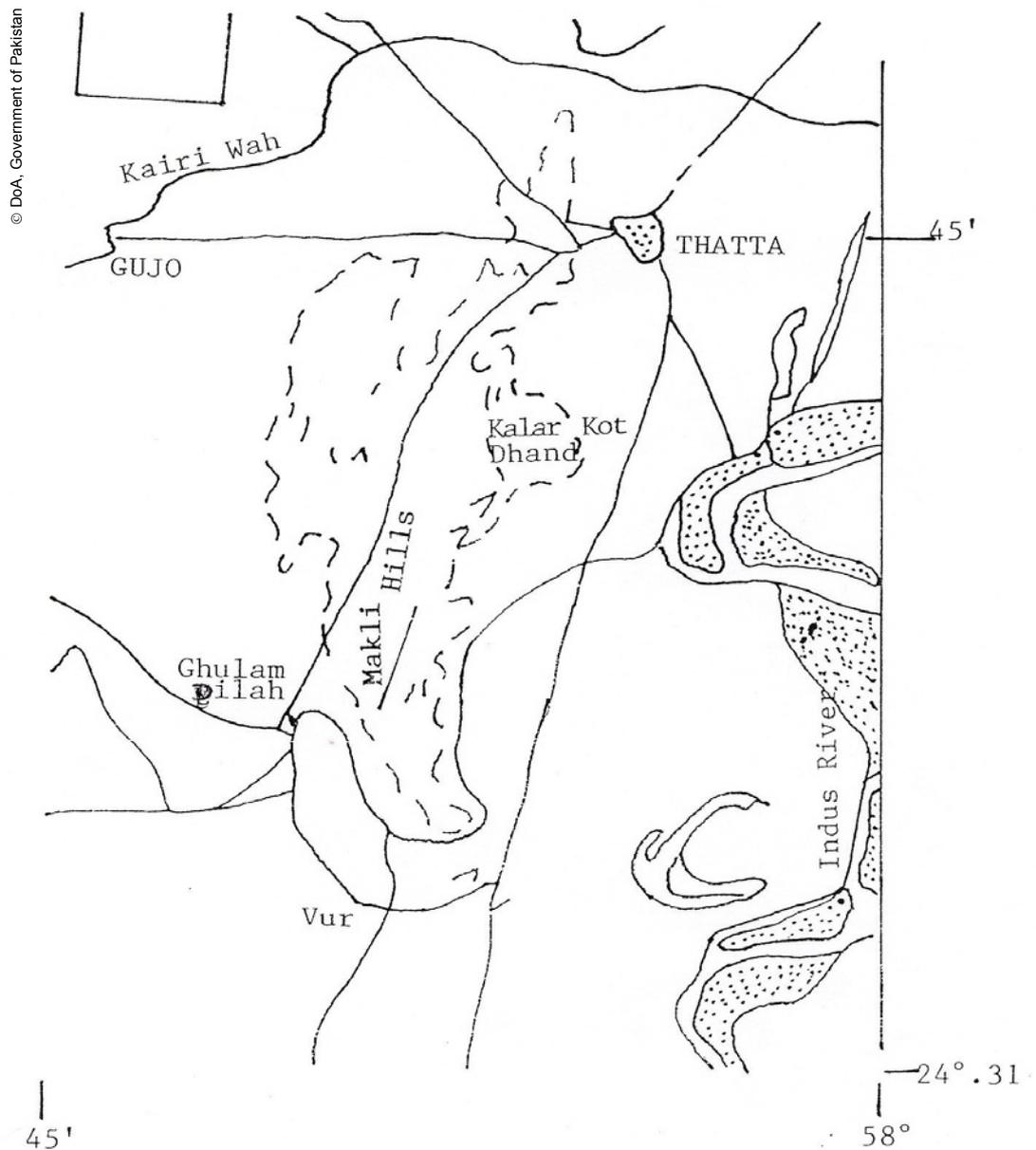
- The hilltop location of the property exposes it to natural hazards such as earthquakes, sandstorms, air-borne salts, and heavy rain.
- "Brick structures are in an advanced state of decay and disintegration while many of the stone structures are in urgent need of repair and consolidation".
- The ease of access to the stone canopies and graves has made them vulnerable to vandalism and pilfering.
- Due to financial constraints the Dept. has been unable to implement a comprehensive master plan. A proposal for the site is nearing finalisation.

Staffing and Training Needs

- The site is staffed by a Curator, archaeological conservator, technical assistant, supporting staff and attendants. Staffing levels are viewed as inadequate and the Dept. is seeking to obtain more staff.
- Training needs are identified in the fields of curatorship, and brick and stone conservation, chemical treatment, and landscaping for conservators.

Financial Situation

- Funding for the site comes from the annual Regular Budget of the Ministry of Culture and other Government programmes.
- Funding is recognised as inadequate.



Location of the Makli Hills at Thatta

Access to IT

- There is no access to IT at the property.

Visitor Management

- The site had 25,602 visitors in 2001 (24,260 Adults, 1,061 Students, Children and Soldiers, and 281 Foreign Tourists).
- There are no visitor facilities on the site.
- The need for a Visitor Management Plan is recognised.
- An information booklet is available at the site, but there is no education programme.
- Inscription on the World Heritage List is understood as a major factor affecting the number of visitors to the site.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Time, nature and vandalism are all identified as factors in the deteriorating condition of the property.
- Air-borne salts are damaging both stone carvings and glazed tiles.
- Urbanisation and encroachment on the site are also mentioned as threats.

Counteractive Plans

- There is an acknowledged need for an emergency or risk preparedness plan.

- The Dept. has prepared plans for the conservation of the property particularly with reference to weathering.

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- The Science and Technological Universities of Pakistan, Soil Investigation Laboratory Lahore, the Geological Survey of Pakistan, Environmental Dept. and others have been involved in monitoring exercises.
- The Dept provides regular site monitoring according to Sir John Marshall's Conservation Manual.

Monitoring Indicators

- An Environmental Monitoring System, photogrammetry laboratory and other surveying resources are proposed as central in to developing site-monitoring indicators.

- "For proper management and monitoring of the site it is necessary that enough staff should be deputed to the site, including a site director, who will be responsible for its upkeep".
- The Government has prepared a comprehensive plan for the conservation of Thatta, for implementation in 2003-2004.
- Both financial and technical assistance is required from the World Heritage Fund.

* No State of Conservation Reports

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Restoration works at Thatta

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- Unless scientific action is taken to reduce the natural threats to the property irremediable damage will be caused.