



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



State Party

Palestine

State, Province or Region

Palestine, Bethlehem Governorate, Bethlehem Western Rural Areas

Name of the Property

Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines
Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir



Fig S.1 General view of the agricultural terraces near Battir Village.

Geographical Coordinates to the nearest second

The Nominated Area

C1	Latitude 31°44'2.369"N Longitude 35°8'2.897"E
C2	Latitude 31°43'50.094"N Longitude 35°8'35.287"E
C3	Latitude 31°43'34.684"N Longitude 35°8'55.333"E
C4	Latitude 31°43'11.114"N Longitude 35°9'52.982"E
C5	Latitude 31°42'20.79"N Longitude 35°10'7.086"E
C6	Latitude 31°42'16.314"N Longitude 35°9'27.088"E
C7	Latitude 31°42'34.524"N Longitude 35°8'51.634"E
C8	Latitude 31°43'37.139"N Longitude 35°8'16.642"E
C9	Latitude 31°42'49.569"N Longitude 35°8'10.123"E
C10	Latitude 31°42'30.326"N Longitude 35°7'34.107"E
C11	Latitude 31°43'32.695"N Longitude 35°7'26.485"E

The Buffer Zone

B1	Latitude 31°44'2.79"N Longitude 35°8'0.495"E
B2	Latitude 31°43'42.443"N Longitude 35°8'15.407"E
B3	Latitude 31°44'6.357"N Longitude 35°8'49.019"E
B4	Latitude 31°43'18.526"N Longitude 35°10'1.697"E
B5	Latitude 31°43'3.239"N Longitude 35°10'31.851"E
B6	Latitude 31°42'13.894"N Longitude 35°9'53.295"E
B7	Latitude 31°42'9.409"N Longitude 35°9'23.914"E
B8	Latitude 31°42'12.399"N Longitude 35°8'39.065"E
B9	Latitude 31°42'41.52"N Longitude 35°7'46.942"E
B10	Latitude 31°42'57.393"N Longitude 35°7'49.197"E
B11	Latitude 31°42'23.622"N Longitude 35°7'34.255"E
B12	Latitude 31°43'15.114"N Longitude 35°7'14.325"E



Fig S.2 Panoramic view of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir in Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines

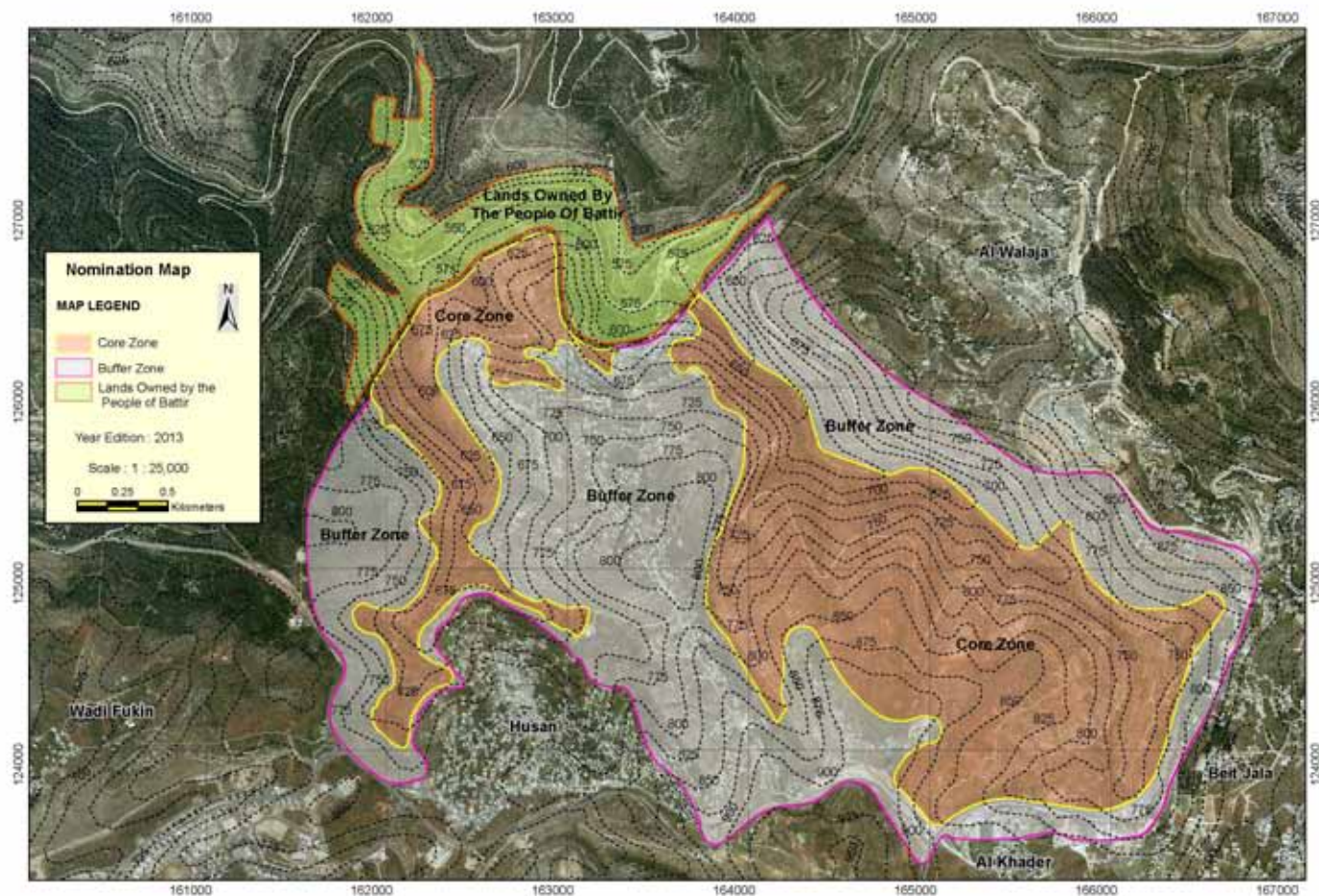


Fig S.3 Topographic map of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir showing the location of the coordinates that identify the area

Textual Description of the boundary (ies) of the nominated property

The proposed property is located in the central highlands of the cultural landscape of Palestine which starts from Nablus in the north and goes on to Hebron in the south. Cultural landscape of Southern Jerusalem Battir is located circa 7 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem, west of the top of the ridge of the mountain range that runs north to south along the Mediterranean coast. It stretches along the series of agricultural valleys “*widian*;[sing. *wadi*”] extending from Wadi Al-Makhrour to the west of Beit Jala towards the village of Husan, and encircling the village of Battir, which is an essential part of the buffer zone. This cultural landscape is characterised by extensive agricultural terraces, water springs, ancient irrigation systems, human-settlement remains, “*khirab*”, agricultural watch-towers “*manatir*; sing. *Mintar*” locally known as palaces “*qusoor*; sing. *Qasr*”, olive presses, and an historic core; a buffer zone surrounds the proposed property from its four sides.

The boundaries that define the buffer zone extend to the neighbouring villages of Al-Walaja to the northeast, the towns of Beit Jala and Al-Khader to the east and the village of Husan to the south. The lands that compose the buffer zone is either relict agricultural terraces that contain collapsed terraces and remains of agricultural watchtowers, or continuous landscape that lies within the inhabited areas. In some area, steep natural rock formations have prevented the adaptation of the landscape for agricultural purposes. These rocks, combined with the surrounding cultural terraces formulate a breathtaking landscape that reflects the efforts that were made to build the

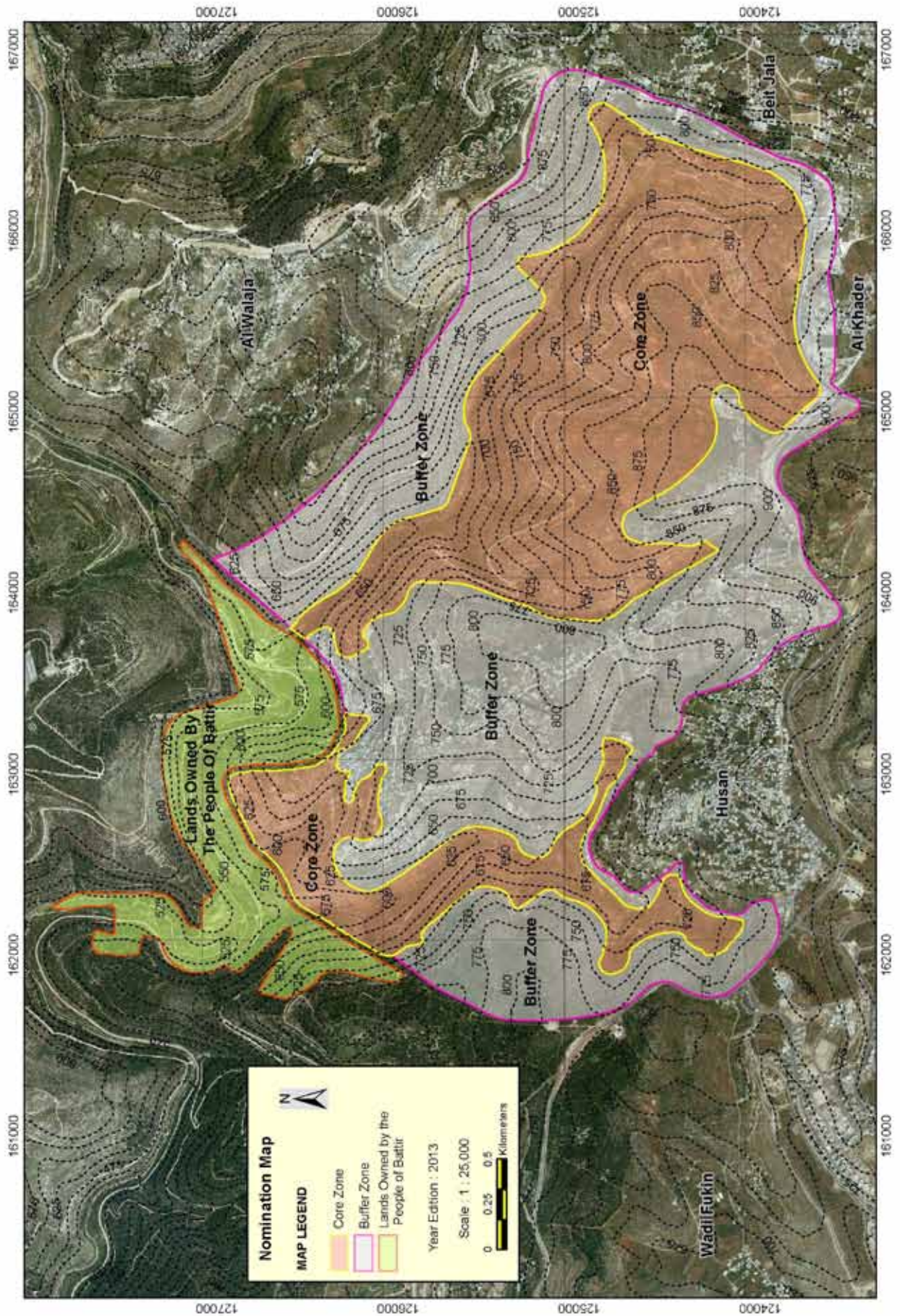
terraces. The majority of the abundant terraces still have some olive trees that grow in between several wide plants that grow in the area.

The buffer zone surrounds the property from its north, south and western sides, while a ten metres wide strip of separate the core zone form the Armistice Line¹. Lands owned by the inhabitants of Battir, and that still until this date owned and cultivated by them, and irrigated using the ancient irrigation pool and canals. These Lands lie beyond the Armistice Line in Israel, and formulate an essential extension of the agricultural terraces of the village. The village of Battir penetrates the core zone from its eastern side, and is also an essential part of the buffer zone.



Fig S.4 The canal that connects Ain Al-Balad with the ancient irrigation pool; the village of Battir is in the background.

¹ The Green Line: the name given to the 1949 Armistice lines that constituted the de facto borders of pre-1967 Israel ó «Glossary: Israel», Library of Congress Country Studies



Map of the Nominated Area and Buffer Zone

A4 (or “letter”) size map of the nominated property, showing boundary and buffer zone (if present)

Criteria under which the property is nominated (itemize criteria)

(iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir encompasses various cultural heritage elements, which are built of stone available in the area, such as dry-stone walls, agricultural watchtowers, traditional footpaths, and olive oil presses. These represent an outstanding example of a landscape that illustrates the development of human settlements near water sources, here the springs that dot the mountainous area, and the adaptation of the land for agriculture.

The village of Battir, which developed on the outskirts of this cultural landscape, and was inhabited by farmers who worked and still work the land, attests to the sustainability of this system and to its continuation for the past 4,000 years. Battir has always been considered the vegetable garden of Jerusalem due to the abundance of springs in the area. This led to the development of a system of irrigation that permitted the development of agricultural terraces in a very steep mountainous landscape fed by a complex irrigation system that is managed by the eight main families inhabiting the village. It is simultaneously a simple and complex system, and is still in use today.

The traditional system of irrigated terraces within the nominated property is an outstanding example of technological expertise, which constitutes an integral part of the cultural landscape. The methods used to construct the terraces illustrate significant stages in human history, as the ancient system of canals, still in use today, dates back to ancient times.

(v) be an 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

The strategic location of the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir and the availability of springs were two major factors that attracted people to settle in the area and adapt its steep landscape into arable land. Since the twelfth century, Battir has been one of the main producers of vegetable products for the central part of Palestine, and in particular the city of Jerusalem.

The property is an outstanding example of traditional land-use, which is representative of thousands of years of culture and human interaction with the environment. This human-made landscape has become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations that may cause irreversible damage. The agricultural practices that were used to create this living landscape embody one of the oldest farming methods known to humankind and are an important source of livelihood for local communities.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The village of Battir, to the south of Jerusalem, was historically considered to be the *jinan* of Jerusalem, that is the garden of Jerusalem. Battir lies almost at the centre of a system of very deep valleys that are very well supported by the yearlong availability of spring water that permits the cultivation of vegetables and fruit trees. In the areas along the slopes where water is not abundantly available, olives and vines were planted. The cultivation of these plants, on the very steep sloping sides of the valley, was only possible due to the creation of terraced fields with the use of dry-stone walls all along the valley. The terraces, together with a multitude of archaeological and architectural remains, testify to the presence of man in these green valleys that have been settled for at least 4,000 years.

The spring water is controlled by a unique system of distribution among the families of the village, using a very unique system of measurement to make sure that water benefits all the community. In areas of the valley that are far from the village, watchtowers or “palaces” were built for protection of the terraces. The olive trees, some of which are many hundreds of years old, are a testimony to the cultivation of olives in Palestine. Grapevines were also cultivated, though to a lesser quantity.

The continuous dependence of the inhabitants of the area on agriculture as a major source of income has indeed contributed to the sustainability of this significant and harmonious landscape, which is evidence of the adaptation of the steep mountains into arable land. Also, their commitment to and hard work in maintaining the hundreds of metres of dry-stone walls has preserved a landscape that is thousands of years old as a spectacular testimony to an ancient agricultural tradition. Farmers continue to tirelessly plant their land with seasonal vegetables and aromatic herbs, to take care of the vines and fruit trees and irrigate them using the Roman pools and irrigation channels, in addition to taking care of their olive trees, the symbols of peace.

The terraces are still in use today, despite the fact that the 1949 Armistice Line marking the boundary between Palestine and Israel cuts right through them, ignoring the natural contours of the valley. The emergency status of this nomination is linked to the fact that there is a plan in advanced stages to start the construction of the Israeli Wall, which would cut through this pristine valley landscape, marring this cultural landscape and cutting off farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries. A railway link between Jerusalem and Jaffa, still in use today, winds its way along the lowest part of the valley. The people of Battir have always respected this link.

Battir is rightly considered to be the green heart of Palestine, even though its links with Jerusalem are not as strong as in the past. This dossier is the first of the serial nomination of Palestine, Land of Olives and Vines, which will present the agricultural and cultural landscape of Palestine in all its variations of landscape.

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View of watchtowers along Wadi Al-makhrour