

## NOTE ON MANAGEMENT PLAN AT QAL'AT AL-BAHRAIN SITE

### ACHIEVED RESULTS, PLANS AND TIMING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed Management Plan contained in the Nomination Report submitted to the World Heritage Center in January 2004 is still in active preparation and a complete up-to-date version will be presented before the end of 2005 to the WHC, which will include some changes regarding the location of the main access gate to the site and, probably, the visitor car park, and the Site Museum.

In addition, the Directorate of Archaeology wishes to announce to ICOMOS and the WHC that, since the submission of our previous report, several steps were effectively completed during the period from October 2004 to January 2005. These are detailed below and several illustrations of the main aspects (including a provisional site development plan) are provided at the end of this note.

#### 1 — Human means :

A first technical management team has been appointed to follow up and control the site, the organization of which comprises :

- Site supervisor (1)
- Renovation and Maintenance expert (1)
- Site attendants (2)

A private Security Agency has been entrusted with the security of the site.

#### 2 — Main actions and constructions accomplished so far in 2004-2005 at the Qal'at al-Bahrain archaeological site :

- Improvement of the main access road from Manama, the capital, to the site, from the Northern Highway and the local southern road : edification of a roundabout near the main entrance, new signalisation for the archaeological site. In addition, a meeting with the Northern Governorate Administration, led to the decision to erect a symbolic monument on the Northern Highway, at the entrance of the access road to the site (ca. 1 km), and presently in the process of building.

- Complete fence around the limit of the proposed nominated site to secure it against vandalism. A main gate has been installed on the South-East edge. A secondary access, situated on the South-West, allows access for the private owners of the palmgrove situated between the North-West sector of the site and the sea. With this only exception, no visitors' cars or buses are presently allowed to enter the site and must use the outside parking (*see below*).

- Provisional parking lot (capacity : 150 cars), at the end of the access road and close to the Main Gate.

- Visitor pathway through the site and its main features. Alongside this pathway, guide signs and several information boards have been installed (introductory texts, pictures and explanation plans or maps).

- Other visitors' facilities :

- information office (temporarily located inside the Main Fort),
- edition of several brochures and maps for the visitors (bilingual Arabic & English brochure on the site, a special issue about Qal'at al-Bahrain published by the Bahrain Cultural Journal (Al-Taqafiya), a new book on the Portuguese influence by Dr. Fawziya Al-Jeeb, an Arabic/English CD on the history of the excavations at the site, special 2005 calendars and commemorative stamps, etc.),
- visitors toilets (at the main gate),
- wooden security barriers on the Northern and Western balconies of the Main Fort for visitor safety,
- small podium (built in the same material used for the restoration of the Main Fort) erected nearby the Coastal Fortress in order to enhance visitor viewing
- benches and traditional palm-leaf parasols in the sector close to the sea-side.

- Lighting installation : the site was provided with a good lighting system (Main Fort walls and inner courtyards) for visitors at night time and for cultural activities taking place inside it.

- In addition, a comprehensive cleaning of the site was realized which consisted of :

- Cleaning of the Northern coastal area,
- Removal of all temporary material stores, portable offices and barracks and provisional transfer at the exterior of the site, on the edge of the present car parks,
- Removal of all restoration or excavation detritus (rubble materials, refused sand heaps, etc.).
- Encouraging owners of neighbouring gardens to properly fence their properties.

### **3 — Additional projects and actions planned for 2005 :**

- To develop the general lighting on the remaining sectors of the tell.
- To carry on the preparation of the Site Museum Project.
- To determine a special area for visitor's cafeteria and gift shop.
- To organize the participation of craftsmen from neighbouring villages to practice their professions and sell products to visitors at a special sector of the site.
- To produce additional booklets for visitors :
  - Special educational booklet for local school visitors,
  - 3 booklets, by a local artist, about the Dilmun Period influence on contemporary artists.

- To help the diffusion at the site's gift shop of existing or forthcoming publications by previous Danish, French or British teams on their archaeological work at Qal'at al-Bahrain or elsewhere in Bahrain (Saar Settlement, for example).

- To develop a general policy of translation into Arabic of the available non-Arabic works (generally English or French) about the site :

→ Translation of historical articles on the previous Danish and French archaeological excavations at the site (Danish *Kuml* magazine, Monik Kervran's *Bahrain in the 16th century: an impregnable island* - French/English book about the defensive aspects of Qal'at al-Bahrain, P.V. Glob's *Bahrain* Danish book, etc.).

- To develop coordination with the Ministry of Education and private schools to include information on Qal'at al-Bahrain site in the educational cursus, and to arrange special visits at the site.

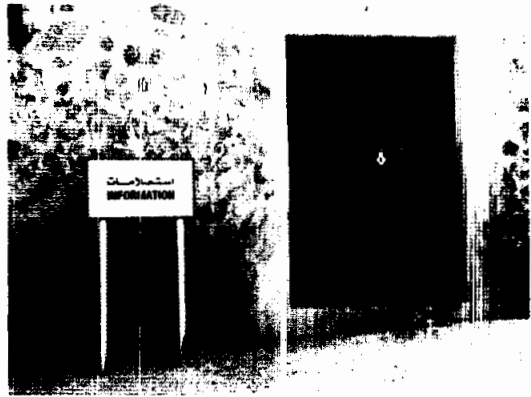
- To celebrate, notably at the Qal'at al-Bahrain site, the Golden Jubilee of the discovery of the Dilmun civilization (official visit and official opening of the restored Main Fort by H.H. Shaikh Hamad al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, showing of an historical play, « The lands of the Kings ») [*this event was planned in November 2004 and was postponed due to UAE Shaikh Zayed's death and mourning*].

- Holding a temporary exhibition (at Bahrain National Museum) on the 50th anniversary of the Danish Archaeological Expedition, with special emphasis on the discovery of Qal'at al-Bahrain site, center of Bahrain's civilization. [*this exhibition was planned in November 2004 and was postponed due to UAE Shaikh Zayed's death and mourning*]

- Holding a local music concert, derived from the Danish Expedition's ethno-musical research in the fifties in Bahrain

- Preparation of an international symposium at the site.

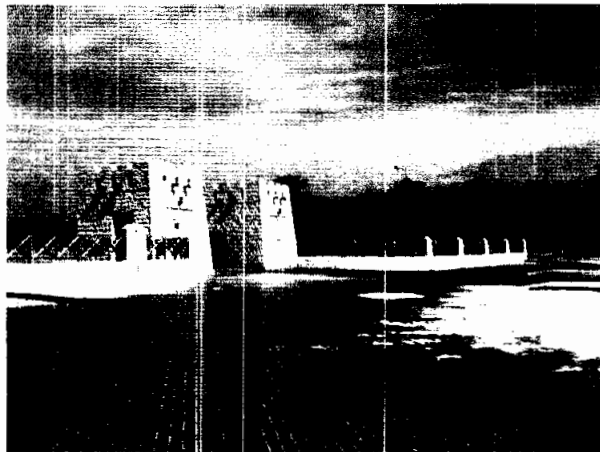
*The Directorate of Archaeology & Heritage,  
Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain,  
20th January 2005*



*Temporary information office, security attendant, and closed-circuit video surveillance system*



*Signalisation monument on Northern Highway*



*Main entrance gate at the South side of the site*



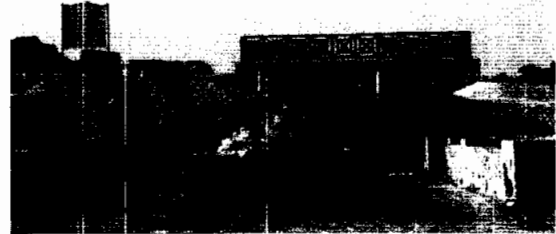
*Roundabout in construction in front of the main gate, on the South side of the site*



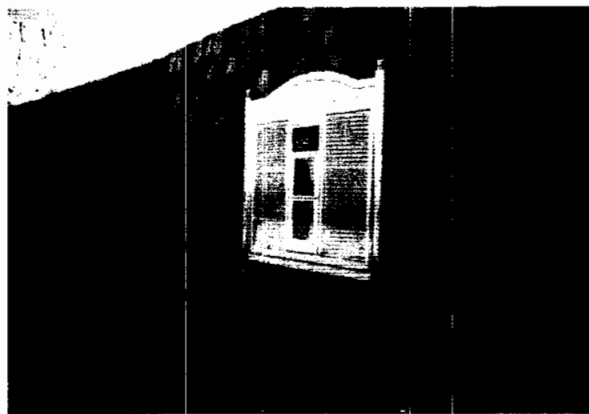
*New parking, near the main entrance*



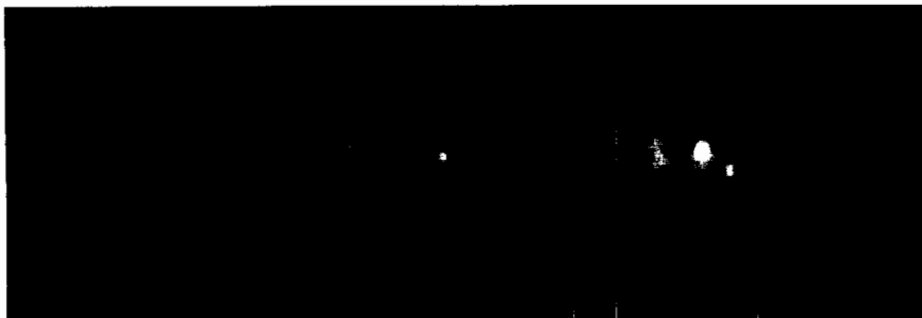
*Pedestrian pathway alongside the major features of Qal'at al-Bahrain site*



*Visitor podium overlooking the Coastal Fortress*



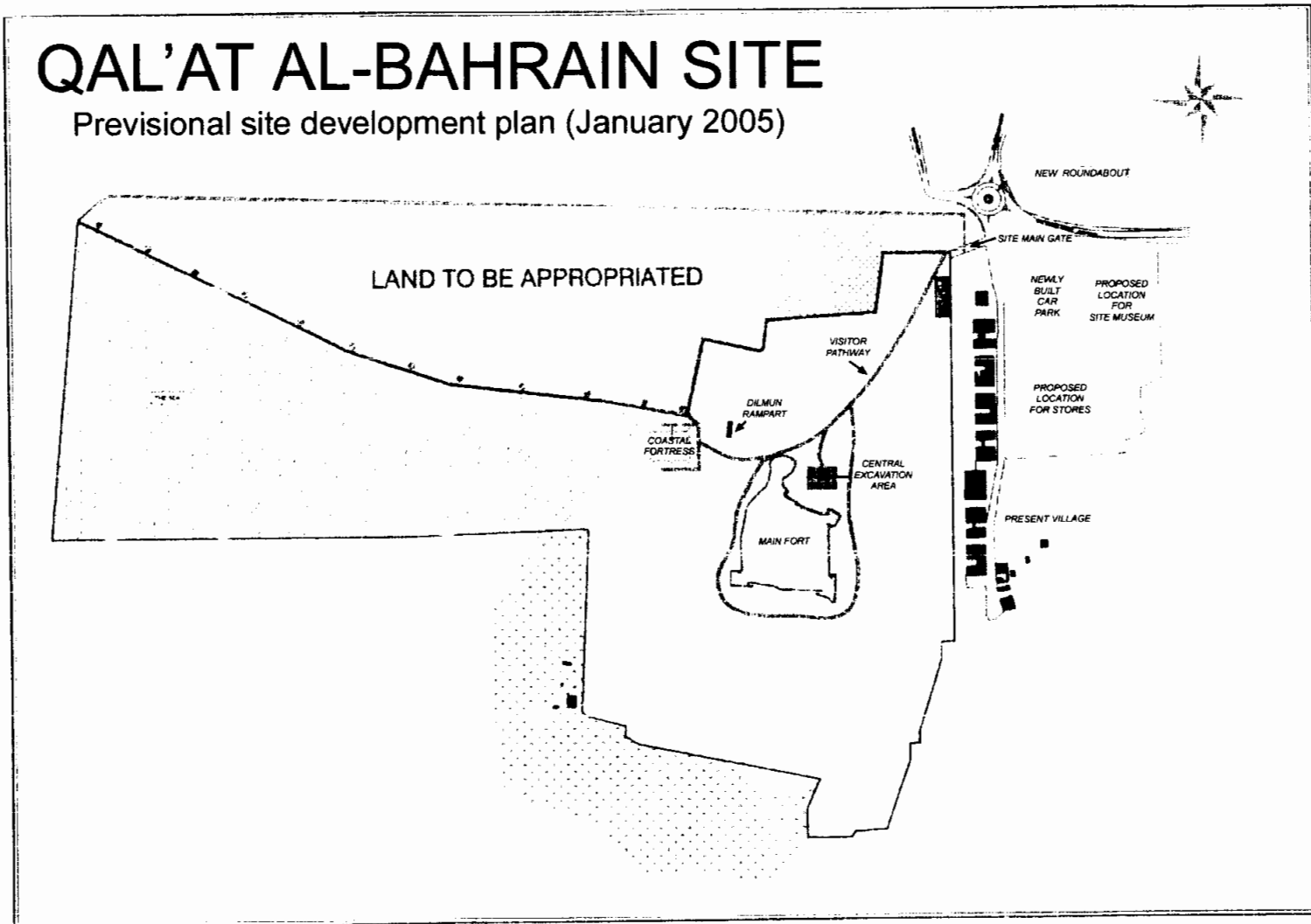
*Information board placed alongside the visitor pathway*



*The Main Fort at Qal'at al-Bahrain illuminated at night*

# QAL'AT AL-BAHRAIN SITE

Previsional site development plan (January 2005)



WHC REGISTRATION	
Date	31.01.05
Id N°	1192
Copy	1 Item 14

**CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION WORKS CARRIED OUT  
AT THE MAIN FORTRESS OF QAL'AT AL-BAHRAIN  
SINCE DELIVERY OF THE NOMINATION FILE  
TO THE *WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE (UNESCO)*  
(from January 2004 to January 2005 + previsionsal works for 2005)**

**A — OPERATIONS ACHIEVED IN JANUARY 2005 :**

These operations have required 30 labourers, as follows :

- 23 workers
- 7 masons

These labourers were divided into 7 groups, which have evolved according to the nature of the work which included the following tasks :

1. Completion of the excavation at the main entrance of the fortress ;
2. Continuation and completion of the last phase of the renovation ;
3. Organizing the main entrance of the fortress ;
4. Electric cable extension into all fort sectors for closed circuit video security system ;
5. Leveling the fort's floor and constructing rain drainage systems ;
6. Reconsidering earlier renovations at some places ;
7. Development of a tourist system for the fort ;
8. Lighting installation in all areas of the fort ;
9. Installation of doors to several rooms in the fort ;
10. Finishing touches

**1. Completion of the excavation at the main entrance of the fortress :**

- Proceeding with the excavation work at the main entrance at the Southern side, and renovating existing walls.

**2. Continuation and completion of the last phase of the renovation**

- These conservation works mainly consisted of :
  - . consolidating the existing vaults of the inner casemates of the bastions,
  - . rebuilding the fallen arches in the left access corridor to the courtyard of the fort.
  - . Renovating or partially rebuilding the South-Eastern section of the counterscarp wall (outside wall of the fortress moat).

**3. Organising the main entrance of the fortress**

- Due to the fact that the unique entrance to the fort exists at the Southern side and opens on a bridge, this bridge was rebuilt to resemble the latest stage of its

construction. This work was done using the comparative study of other existing contemporary fortresses in the Arabian Gulf and elsewhere. A wooden pathway was set up.

At the same time, the artificial access ramp built across the northern side of the fortress moat for the use of heavy equipment (trucks, bulldozers, etc.) was removed. The section of the outside wall that it covered was finely excavated and restored.

#### **4. Electric wiring and closed circuit video surveillance cable extensions**

This very technical job, which required special expertise, was carried out by a specialized company, after submitting a study in due course. Surveillance cameras were notably placed inside the bastions casemates, as well as in various strategic locations in the Main Fort.

All cables were imbedded inside the existing masonry, and new coatings were installed or restored.

#### **5. Leveling the fort's floor and constructing rain drainage systems**

Drainage systems were notably set up in the upper and lower courtyards of the fort ; following this operation, a general floor levelling was made at its current level ; all floors were covered with small-sized gravel, in order to prevent sand dispersion due to wind action ; it is planned to renew periodically this gravel covering.

#### **6. Reconsidering earlier renovations at some places**

Such work mainly consisted of new conservation applied to the sectors primarily restored at the beginning of the project (1988-1990).

#### **7. Development of a tourist system for the fort**

It notably consisted of installing wooden barriers alongside the tourist path. Information boards were also installed ; traditional benches will also be installed after a few months.

#### **8. Lighting installation in all areas of the fort**

After comprehensive installation of invisible electric cables in all sectors of the fort, a complete lighting system is presently in activity. It includes adapted projectors to illuminate both the outside and inside walls, as well as smaller wooden lanterns in the inner rooms.

#### **9. Installation of doors to several rooms in the fort**

Several wooden doors, similar to the ones used in the old traditional Bahraini houses have already been installed in two sectors (Southeast and Northwest bastions). Additional doors will be installed in the future at the entrance of the bastions casemates which will eventually house displays for visitors.

#### **10. Finishing touches**

Such a task, which concerns the whole structure, has just started at the end of 2004. In addition, this phase will also include several accurate engineering drawings and new plans of the restored Main Fort at the 1 :50 scale ; this up-to-date documentation is intended both for published documentation and for display in several rooms of the fort.



## B — PREVISIONAL OPERATIONS IN 2005

### **1. Renovating the fort's bastions roofs.**

This renovation, carried out, at the beginning of the restoration project about fifteen years ago, has to be redone urgently.

### **2. Cleaning of all of the fort's walls**

Such work which consisted of removing salt as well as aeolian sand has always been systematically carried out, and will have to be programmed regularly.

### **3. Maintenance of the outer elevation fronts of the fort**

This work includes regular interventions on a total of 850 m of walls. Materials will be the same as those used previously in the 1988-2002 renovation phase.

### **4. Completion of the cleaning of the surrounding moat of the fort, and associated slopes.**

### **5. Additional conservation work to maintain the keep of the fort (« Captain Tower »).**

One must recall that this building is the sole structure of the fortress which is not properly excavated at the moment, and which will require a specific expertise (project proposed for 2008, probably in collaboration with the French Archaeological Mission)

### **6. General maintenance in the inner parts of the Fort**

It concerns : floor renovation, installation of additionnal traditionnal wooden doors. Beams made with palm-trees trunks have to be pest-controlled, and other traditionnal ones have to be renovated and painted with plant dye. In addition, electric and electronic security equipments will be regularly checked.

*The Directorate of Archaeology & Heritage,  
Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain,  
20th January 2005*

31 JAN. 2005

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KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES & AGRICULTURE  
MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS



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UNDERSECRETARY'S OFFICE

مكتب وكيل

Ref: 44/42/05  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2005

WHC REGISTRATION	
Date	31.01.05
Id N°	1192
Copy	1 Item 18

**Mr. Mahmood Yousif Al-Mahmood**  
Undersecretary for Information,  
Ministry of Information,  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Your Excellency,

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST 2005:**  
**NOMINATION OF QAL'AT AL-BAHRAIN**

With reference to H.E. the Minister of information letter ref. no 2005/اص /وز /Km/3 dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2005 regarding the comments submitted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in December 2004 regarding Qal'at Al-Bahrain.

We would note the following observations and comments in reply:-

- 1) The proposed development of plots to the north of the site is currently being prepared by the private developers and we are in coordination with them. These sites are out with the 500-metre radius shown on the attached plans. We suggest that this Ministry should prepared a coordinated master plan for this entire area that will coordinate all developments and restrictions, including the proposed Museum etc. There is a scheme under review to locate the houses immediately to the south of the fort further away from the site thereby freeing more of the site from development, but this has to be further developed.
- 2) The existing Palm Groves that surround this site are on privately owned lands, in addition there are some reclaimed and we have indicated those which are within the 500-metre radius on the attached plan. From our studies of this site there is approximately 500,000 sq. m. in total. In addition there are also some plots in the sea, approximately 71,000 sq.m.

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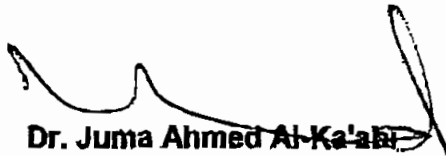
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مكتب الوكيل

and the budget required by the Ministry of Information to acquire all of these plots would be in the region of BD 45 million. We would be obliged if you could inform us if Your Ministry is planning to acquire these plots and we coordinate this matter with the concerned Municipal Council.

We note that ICOMOS refer to a management plan that has been prepared for this site; we would greatly appreciate if a copy can be forwarded for our information and records. We assure Your Excellency of our cooperation to complete this prestigious project and please do not hesitate to contact this office if Your Excellency requires any additional information.

Yours faithfully

  
**Dr. Juma Ahmed Al-Kalbi**  
Undersecretary for Municipalities Affairs

Encl.

