

Republic of Iraq

Samarra Archaeological City



Nomination of Samarra Archaeological City

for inscription on the World Heritage List

January 2006

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.

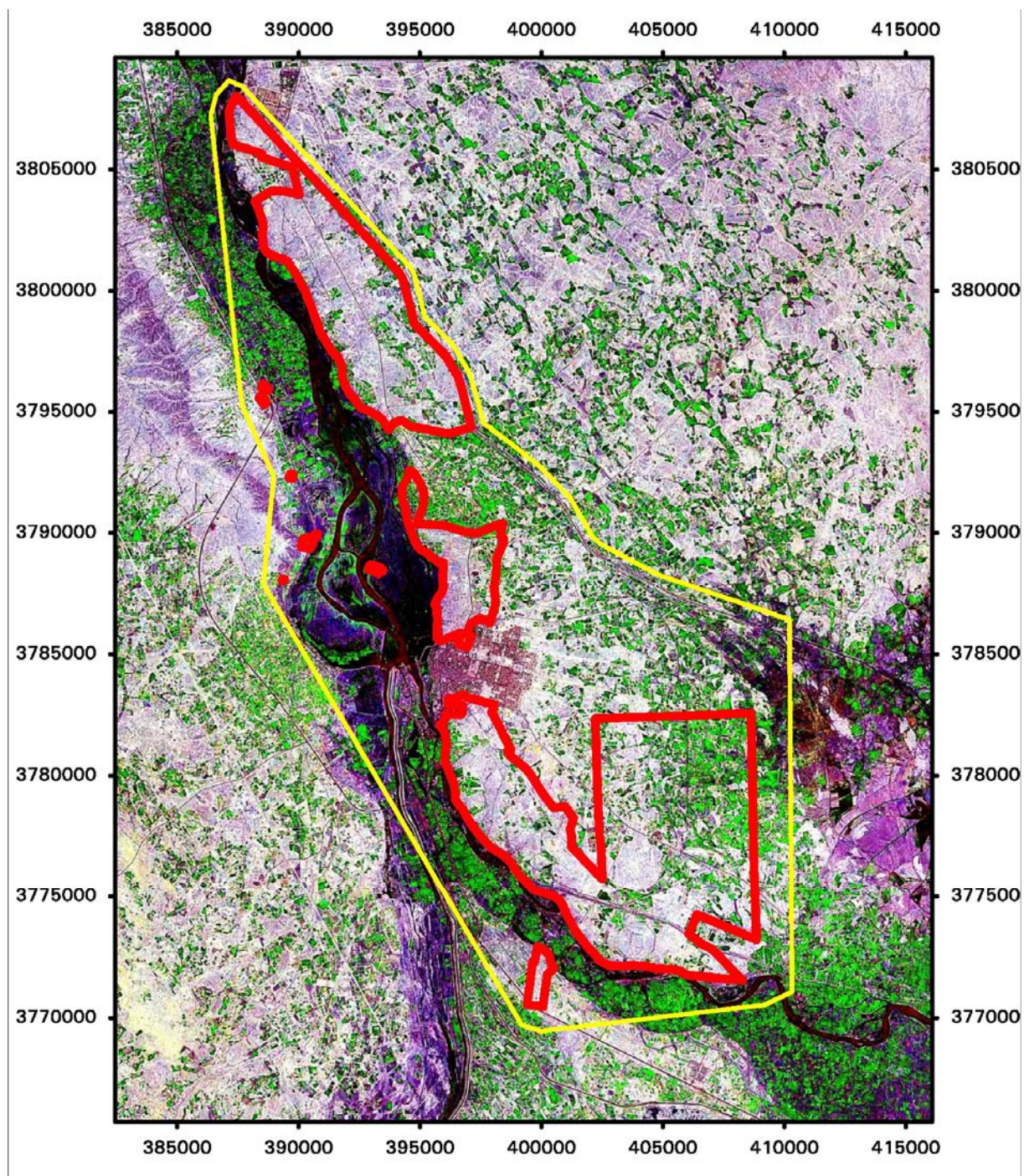


Figure 1

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:

State Board of Antiquities and Heritage/ Baghdad/ Museum Square

Telephone: 5376755/ 5370696/ 5381005

E-mail: relations@sbah.net

Republic of Iraq
Samarra Archaeological City

Nomination of Samarra Archaeological City
for inscription on
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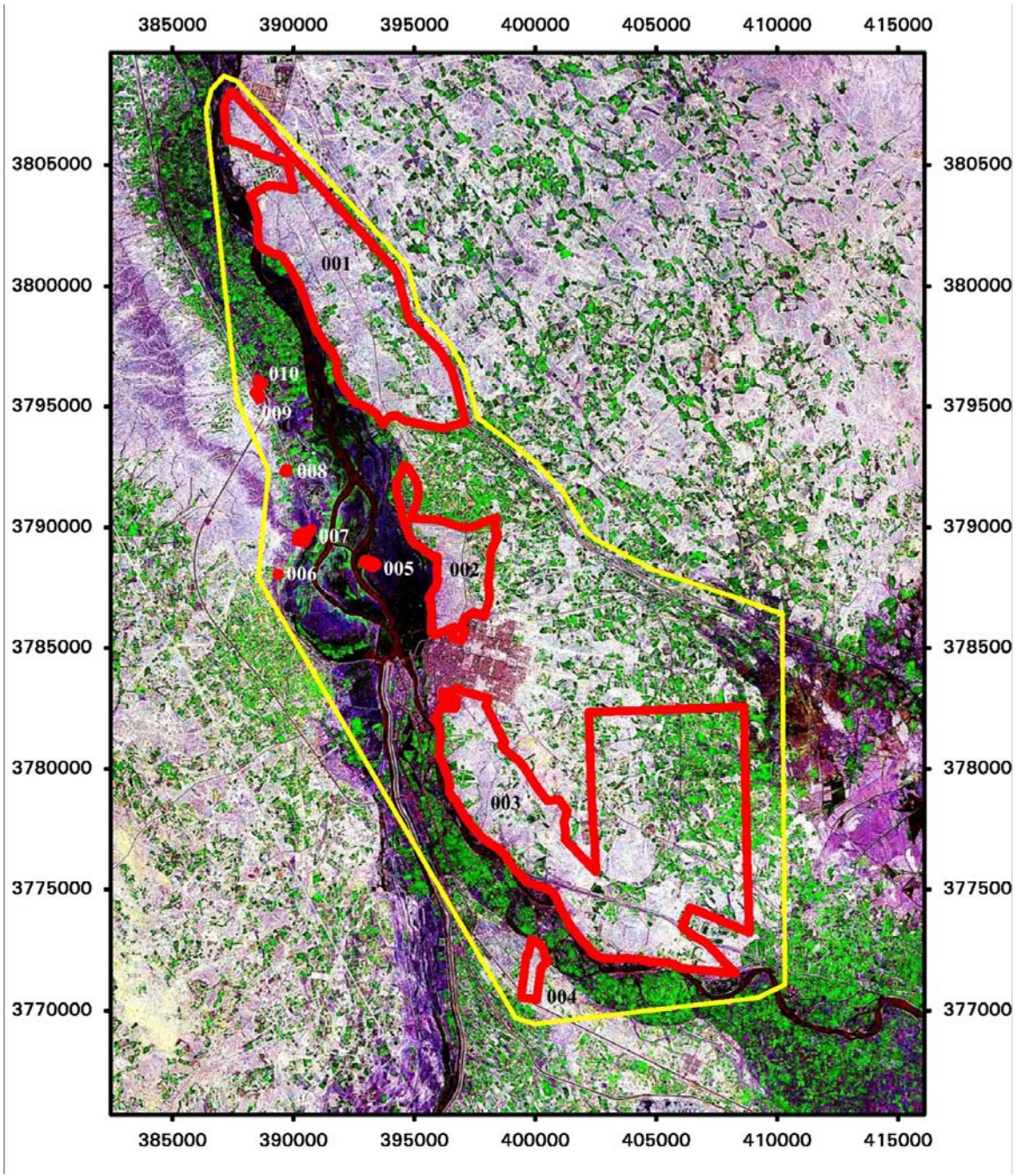
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Introduction

The story of Samarra City is one of the most strange and amusing stories of cities in history.

A piece of desolate ground...on the Bank of Tigris River... with no buildings and no inhabitants except a monastery for Christians...developing rapidly into a large city the capital of one of the greatest states known to history. But this unusual eminence did not last long for the city lost its status of capital after only fifty eight years for it was deserted and started to fall into ruin with great speed and although it was initially called Surra Man Ra'a (He who sees it is delighted) the people began to call it Sa'a Man Ra'a (He who sees it is displeased). Samarra died a sudden death after a short period, but its quick death and desertion led to the survival of its architecture and layout until today with little change or destruction and it is today a living document and a unique witness to an empire which ruled the old world from Tunisia to central Asia.

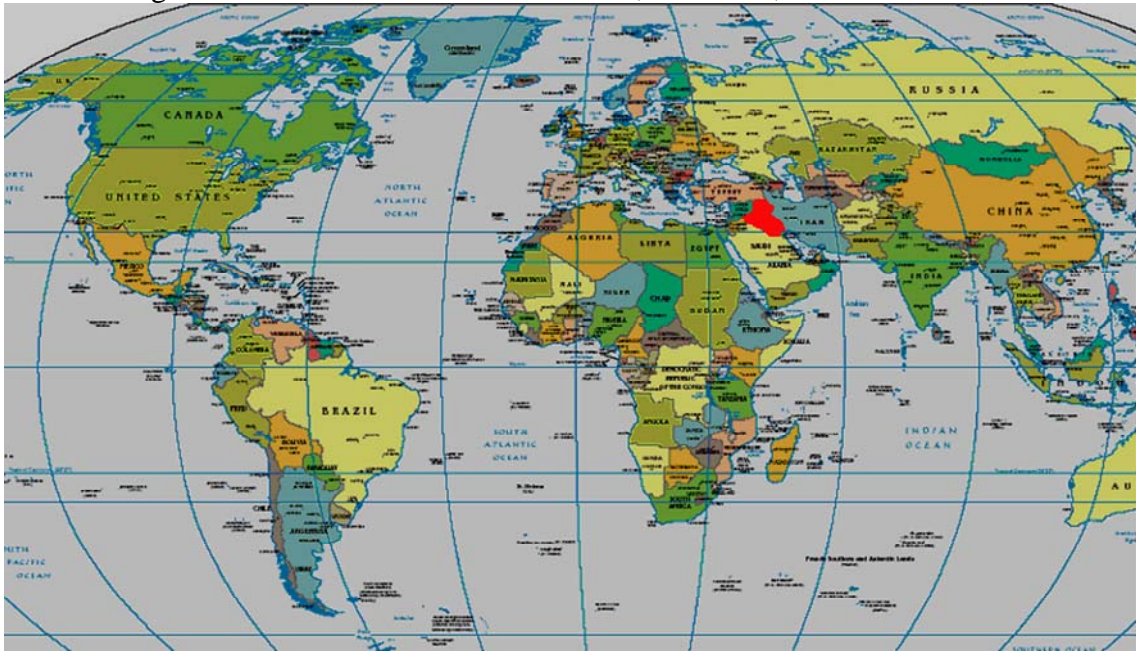


(Figure # 1) Map showing boundaries and buffer zone of Samarra Archaeological City

Nomination Format

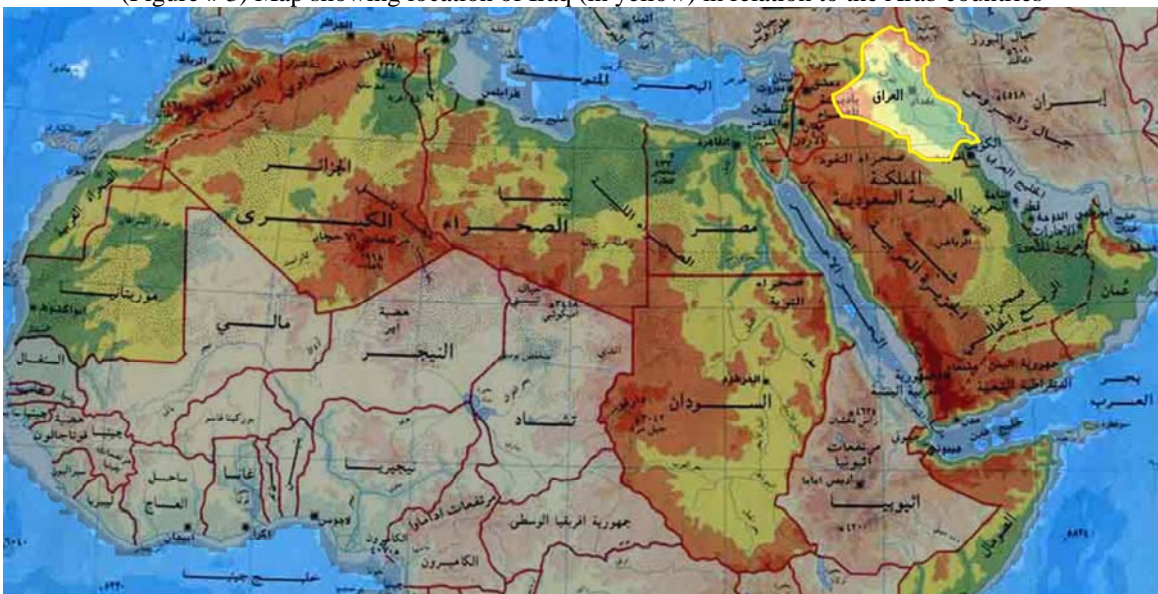
1- Identification of the Property

The property is located in the Republic of Iraq/ Salah al-Din Governorate/ Samarra Township, 130Km north of Baghdad on the two sides of the Tigris bounded from the north by Al-Door Township, and from the south by Balad Township, the Nahr al-Rasasi River from the east and the region of Al-Jazira and the main road (highway) which connects Baghdad to Salah al-Din from the west. (Forms # 2, 3).



(Figure # 2) Map showing location of Iraq (in red)

(Figure # 3) Map showing location of Iraq (in yellow) in relation to the Arab countries

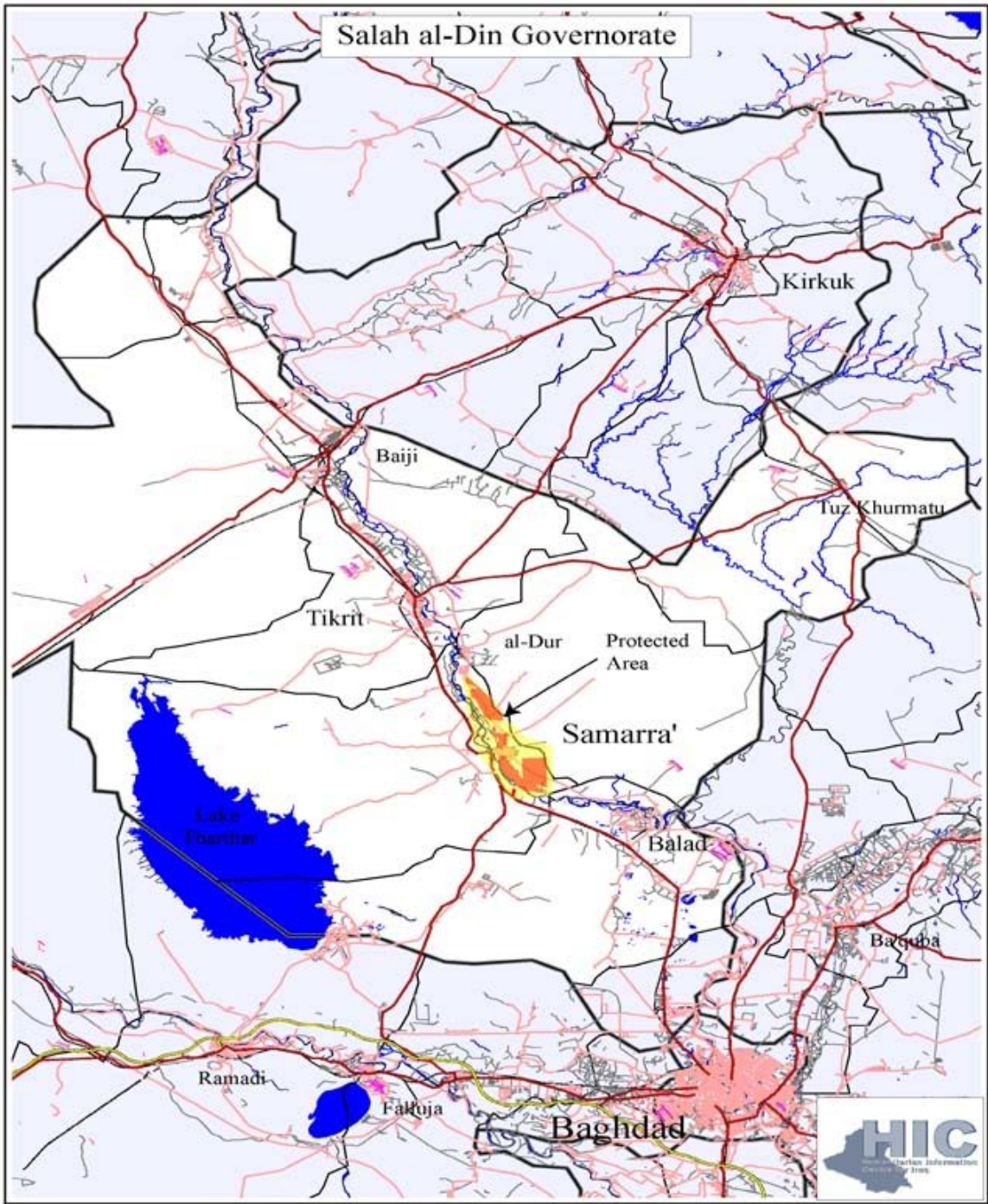


1-a Country
Republic of Iraq

1-b State, Province or Region
Salah al-Din Governorate/ Samarra Township. (Figure # 4a, 4b)



(Figure # 4a) Map of Iraq showing location of Samarra .



(Figure # 4b) Salah al-Din Governorate

1-e Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone.

We attach map (maps) showing the boundaries of the nominated property and the buffer zone, the archaeology of this property was published in the Iraqi Gazette no. 1465 on 17/10/1935.

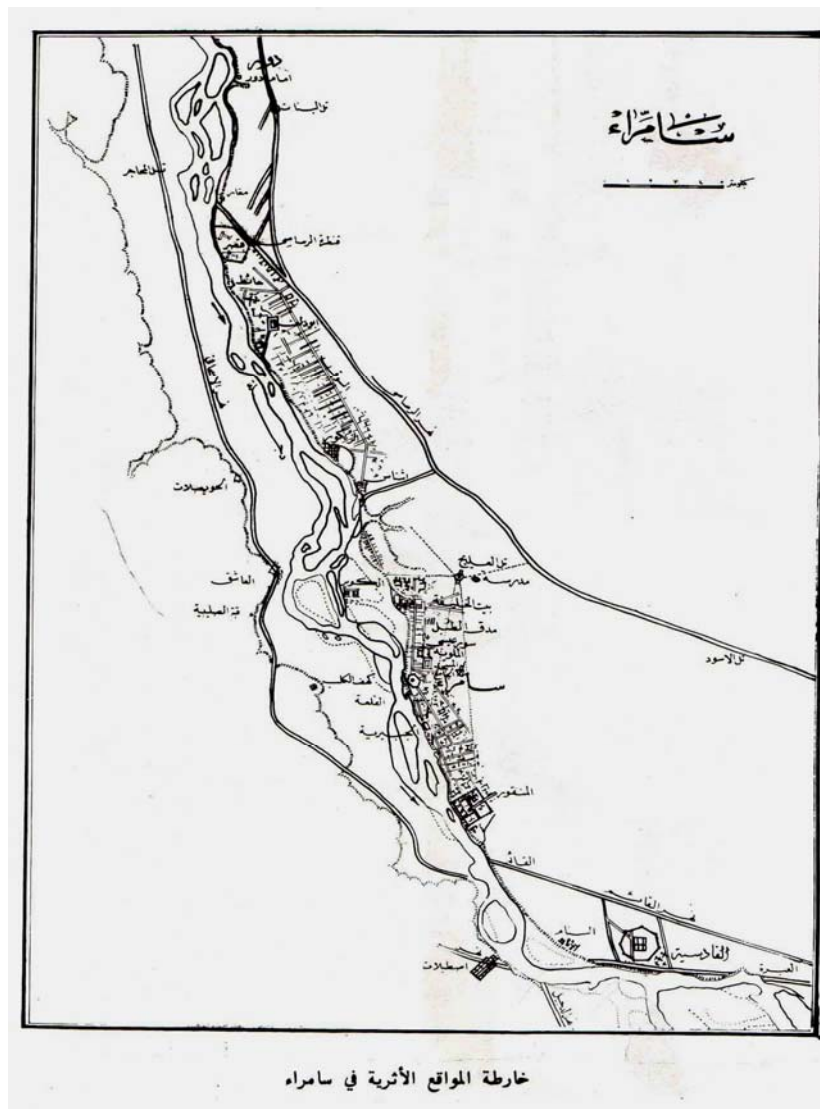
The boundaries of the nominated property (Samarra Archaeological City) start from Al-Ja'fari Palace in the north and become wider as we move southward towards Al-Mutawakkiliya and Abu Dulaf Mosque bounded, by the Nahr al-Rasasi (ancient canal) in the east, and the Tigris in the west and narrows around Sur Ashnas, and from Sur Ashnas the archaeological area becomes larger gradually to include the horse race grounds, Tell al-Alij, the Caliphate Palace and the Great Mosque until it reaches the modern city of Samarra (the traditional city) which was included within the buffer zone. This modern city was built over part of the archaeological area in district of Al-Jubairiya in various places and the archaeological area extends southwards to include the game reserve of al-Hayr and the palace of al-Manqur (Balkuwara in medieval texts) until it reaches the Octagonal city of Husn al-Qadisiyya and Al- Musharrahat Palace which is the southern limit of the city.

And on the western bank of the Tigris there are important archaeological sites which are part of Samarra Archaeological City: they start from the north at Al-Huwaysilat Palace (Qasr al-Juss), Al-Ma'shuq Palace and the Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya in the middle and the al-Istablat in the south. These are the boundaries of the property on the western side of Tigris, and the area of the property Samarra Archaeological City is (150581480.17m²=15058 hectares).

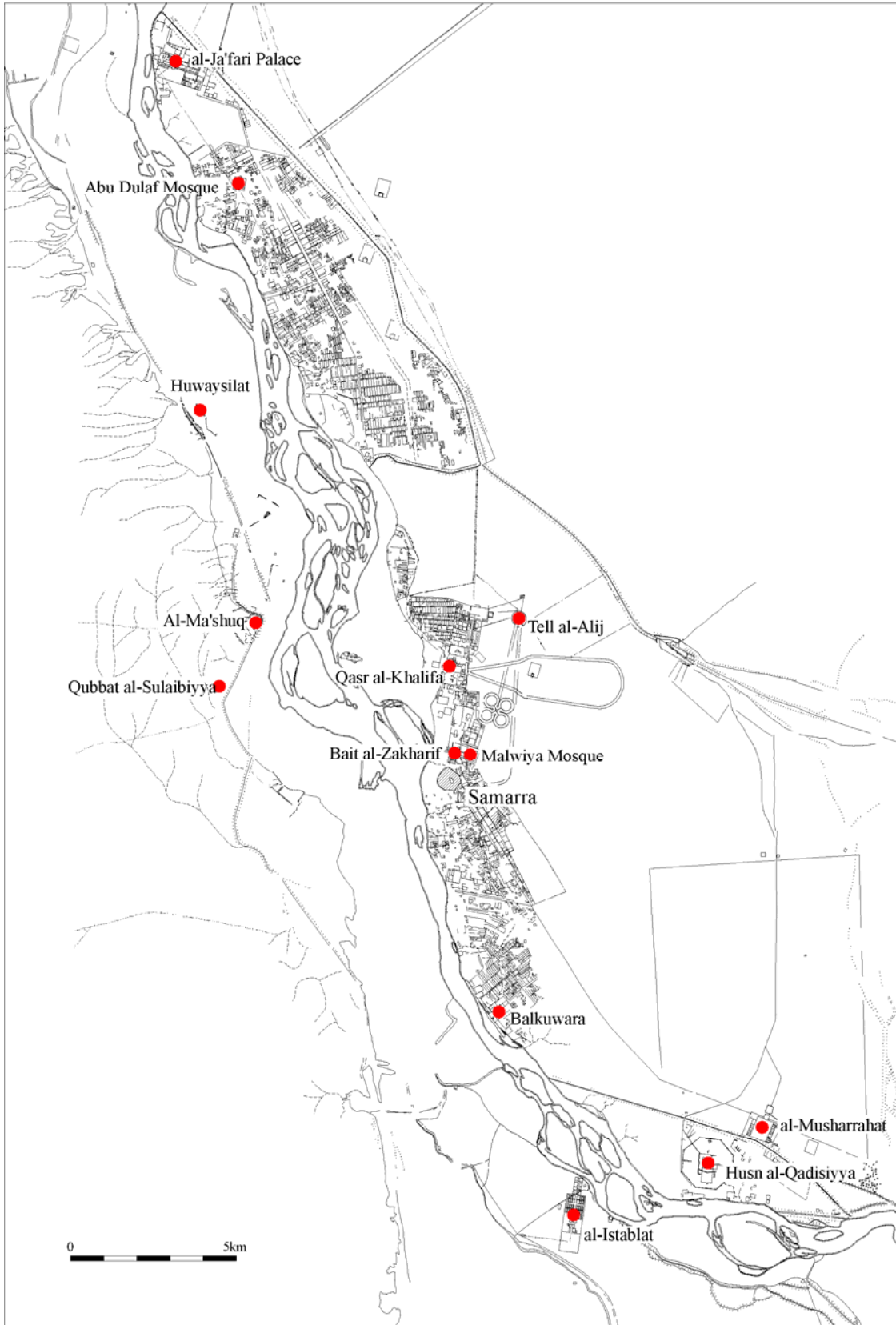
As for the buffer zone according to article 5 clause 3 and article 6 clause 2 of the Iraqi Archaeological Law No. 55 for the 2002, it was determined for Samarra Archaeological City starting to the north of Al-Ja'fari Palace at a distance of 500m near Salah al-Din Industrial Facility and extends south east parallel to the Nahr al-Rasasi (ancient canal) at a distance of 500m from its right bank to continue until it reaches the north of Tell al-Khazaf on the same ancient canal where the boundaries of the buffer zone turn south parallel to the eastern wall of the game reserve of al-Hayr at a distance of 500m from it, then this line turns westwards crossing the Tigris River in the direction south of the al-Istablat at a distance of 500m, then it continues north-west to the Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya at a distance of 500m from its western wall. After that the buffer zone extends northwards to reach a point to opposite to Salah al-Din Industrial Facility, and thus the area of the buffer zone is (314140453.2m²=31414 hectares)., See annexes No.1 and 2. (Figure # 6)

The property has been divided into ten core zones within the buffer zone. These are defined as follows:

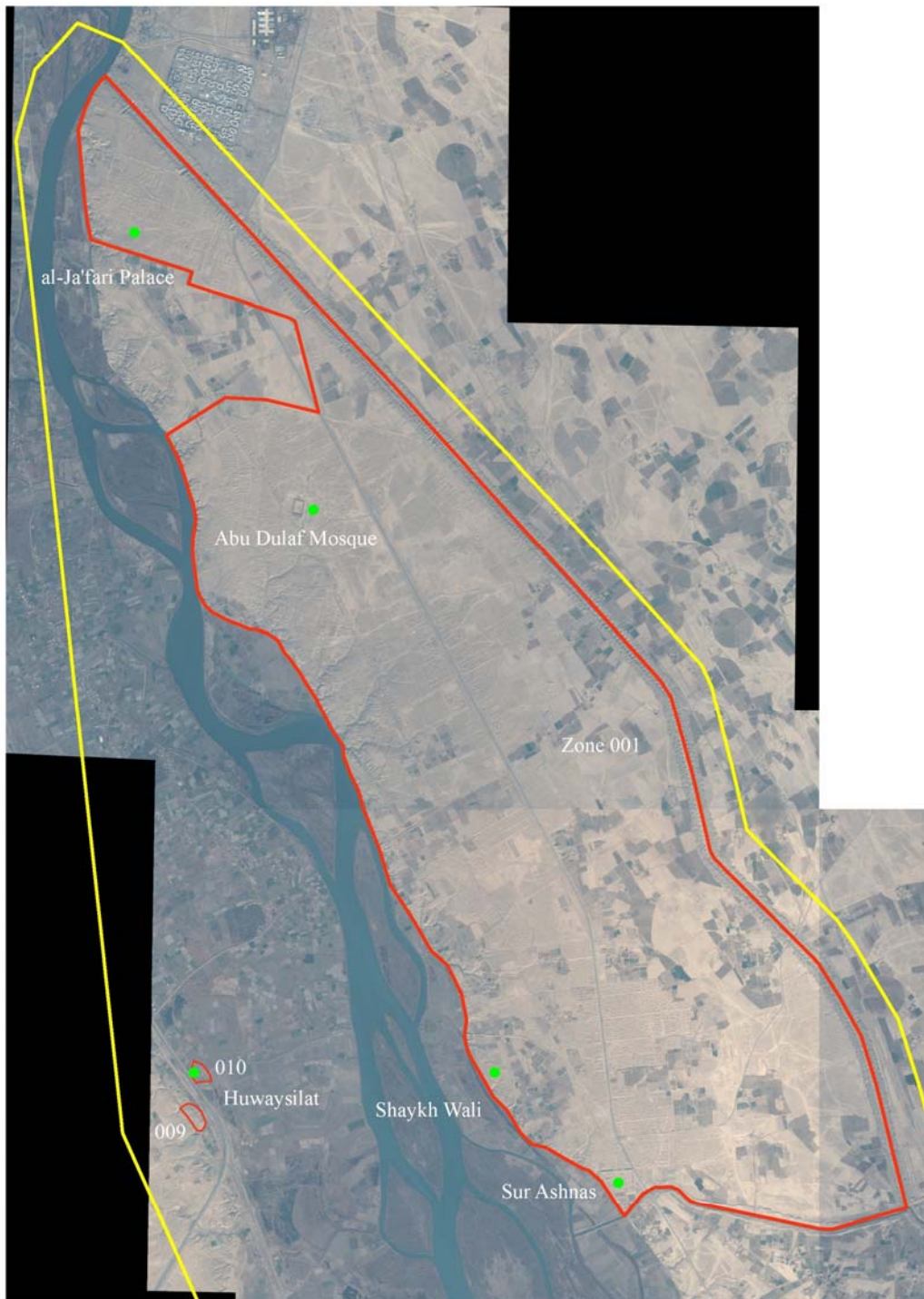
ID No	Name of the asset	Core Zone (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Coordinates of the central point
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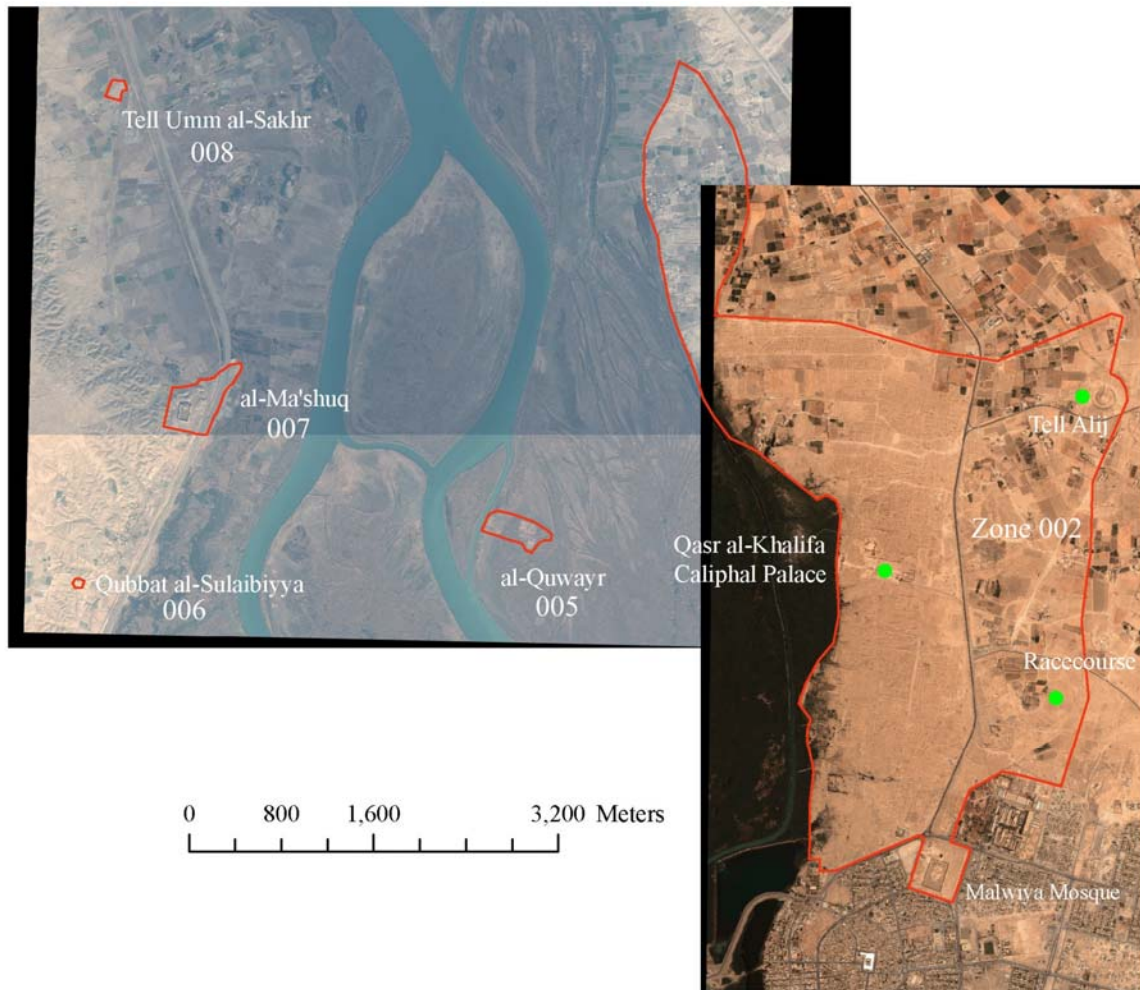
(Figure # 6) Map of Samarra Archaeological City



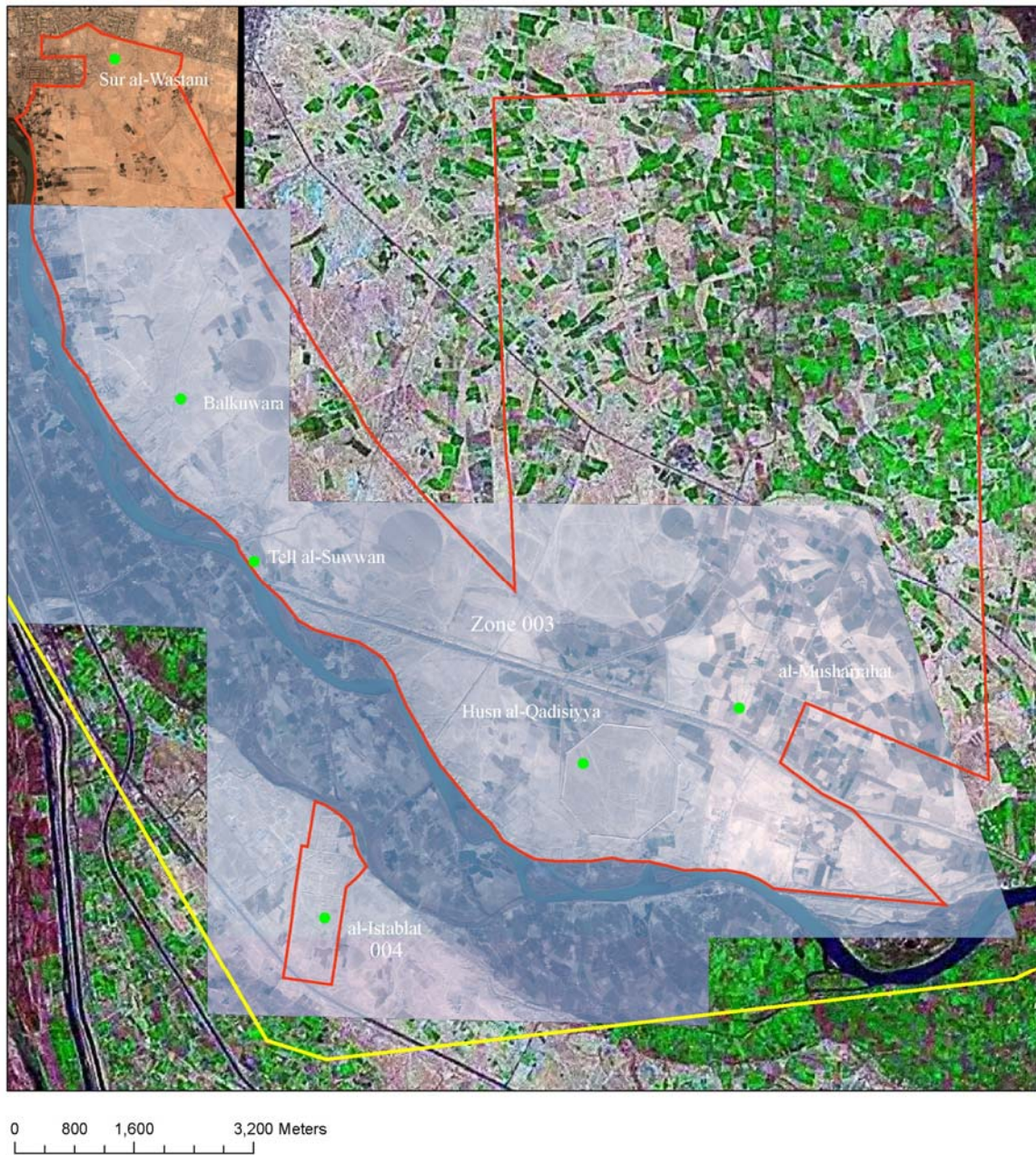
(Figure # 7) Map showing the location of the main monuments and archaeological elements of the site



(Figure # 8) Map showing the location of the main monuments and archaeological elements in the northern part of the proposed protected area



(Figure # 9) Map showing the location of the main monuments and archaeological elements in the central part of the proposed protected area



(Figure # 10) Map showing the location of the main monuments and archaeological elements in the southern part of the proposed protected area

1-f Area of nominated property (ha) and proposed buffer zone (ha)

Area of nominated Property	:	150581480.17m ² =15058 hectares
Buffer Zone	:	314140453.2 m ² =31414 hectares
Total	:	464721933.38 m ² =45472 hectares

2- Description

2- a- Description of Property

Samarra Archaeological City is of the greatest Islamic cities; it was built by the caliph Al-Mu'tasim Billah ibn Harun Al-Rashid in 221H/836AD as capital of the Islamic Empire in place of Baghdad. It is located on both sides of the River Tigris at a distance of 130km north of Baghdad. The length of the city from Al-Ja'fari Palace in the north to the octagonal city of Husn Al-Qadisiyya, Al-Musharrahahat and Al-Istablat in the south is 41.5 km, and its width from the Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya and Al-Ma'shuq Palace in the west to Tell al-Alij in the east is 8 km (the widest dimension), and the width in the remaining areas is up to 4 km.

Samarra Archaeological City was not surrounded by walls because it was protected by the Tigris River from the west, the Nahr al-Rasasi ancient canal from the north and the east, and by the Nahr al-Qaim and Nahr Al-Sanam ancient canals from the south. The Caliph Al-Mu'tasim billah combined in his planning of his new city (Samarra) military and civil quarters. This can be seen through the separation of the mosque from the Caliphal Palace and the division of the residences into sectors, each sector of which is destined for the military commander and his followers, and by the straight roads and streets, many though not all of which are organized in an orthogonal plan perpendicular to the Tigris, while crossing them is the main street which is called the Grand Avenue, whose width is 80-100m at the maximum.

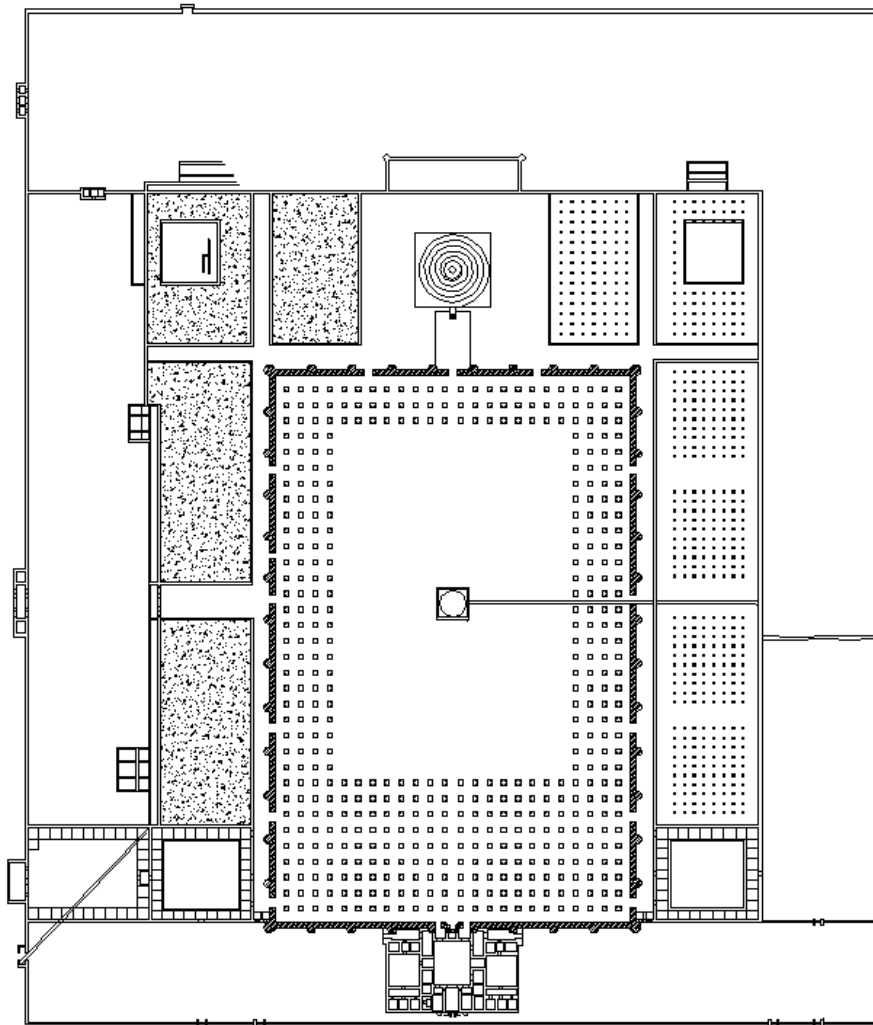
The city was built in one layer of building construction; the greatest part of which is still unexcavated, constituting 80% of the area of the city. As for the above-ground and explored archaeology, the total area is around 20%. The main building material in it is fired brick, mud-brick and adobe, and the mortar is of gypsum or mud. This archaeological city which contained many palaces, mosques, basins, racecourses and game reserves was adopted as the capital of the Islamic Empire for 58 years for the period from 221 H/ 826 AD to 279 H/ 892 AD, and during this period eight Caliphs ruled, after which the capital returned again to Baghdad, making this period very important in the history of human, architectural and artistic development, and the layout of the city is still preserved. We must point out that after the abandonment of Samarra City as capital of the Abbasids, a more recent city has continued to exist on part of its remains around the shrine of the two Imams Ali Al-Hadi and Al-Hasan Al-Askari as the nucleus of the modern traditional city and included within the buffer zone of the archaeological city. It is regrettable that the dome of the Shrine was destroyed by a bomb on 22 February 2006.

The major architectural monuments of the city are:

1) The Great Mosque and its Spiral Minaret

A great building, built of fired brick and gypsum mortar whose dimensions is 264 m x 159 m, it was the largest mosque in the Islamic World at that time. Its exterior walls are

reinforced by half-round towers regularly spaced, of which the largest are the towers at the four corners. The height of the walls is 10.5m, and there are sixteen gates.
(Figure # 11).



(Figure # 11) Plan of the Great Mosque and its Spiral Minaret.

The mosque consists of four parts surrounding the open courtyard. The first is the prayer hall which consists of 24 rows of pillars forming 25 aisles, the widest of which is the mihrab aisle. The mihrab is a rectangular niche flanked by two pairs of marble columns. The rear (northern) part consists of three rows of columns forming four aisles, and the two sides, eastern and western, each contains 24 columns forming 25 aisles perpendicular with the outer walls. This mosque has a minaret which is the most unusual in the Islamic World, known as Al-Malwiya. The sides of the square base are 32m in long, and, above its base, five circular layers rise forming a huge spiral tower 54m high, ascended by a ramp 1.92m wide running in an anti- clockwise directions. The mosque and the minaret were built by the Caliph Al-Mutawakkil 'ala Allah 232-247H (847-861AD.), probably between 849 and 852 AD.

(Figures # 12, 13, 14, 15, 16).



(Figure # 12) The Great Mosque and its Spiral Minaret inside.



(Figure # 15) view of The Great Mosque and its Spiral Minaret.



(Figure #13) Outside wall of The Great Mosque.



(Figure # 14) The mihrab at the Great Mosque.

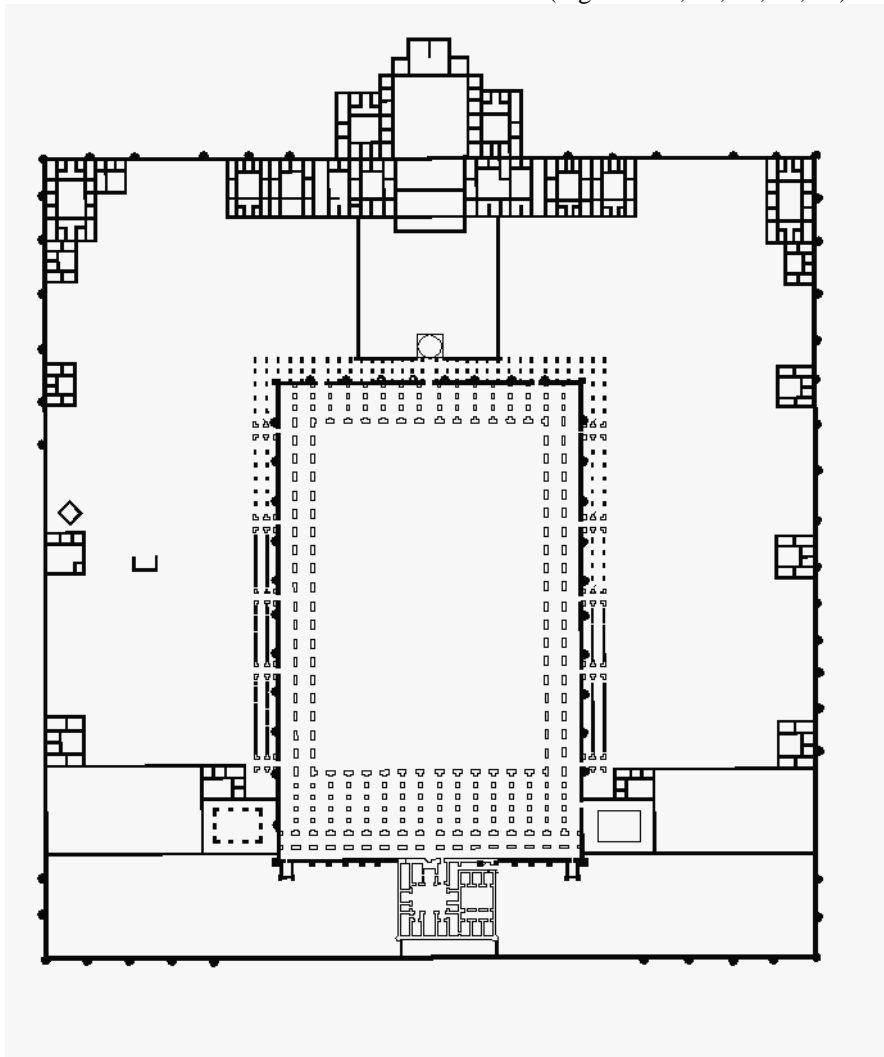


(Figure # 16) Air image of Samarra city in 1953, showing The Great Mosque.

2) Abu Dulaf Mosque (in Zone 001)

This mosque is situated to the north of the city and was built similar to the Great Mosque, but smaller in size. It is of a rectangular plan whose area is around 30,000 m². It consists of an open courtyard surrounded on its four sides by porticoes, the largest of which is the Qibla portico (the prayer hall), where the depth is 50 m and contains 16 aisles each with 6 arches. The two side porticoes are each 14 m deep, with 19 arches on the courtyard facade. As for the north side, it consists of a triple portico with 19 arches on

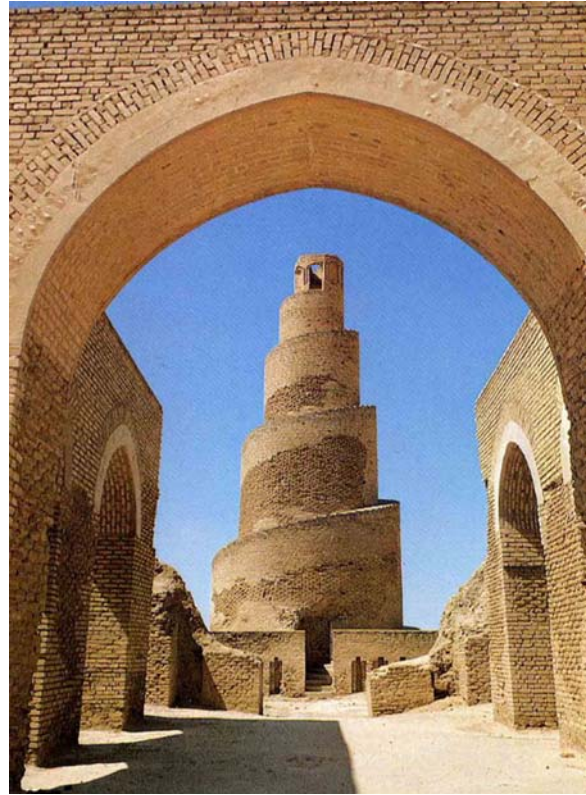
the facade The walls of the mosque are reinforced by semi-cylindrical towers, 28 in total, apart from the corner towers. The minaret is similar to that of the Great Mosque, but it is smaller in size and height. It consists of a square base whose height is 2.5m, while the body of the minaret stands to a height of 20 m. On the outside a spiral staircase runs in four complete circles in an anti-clockwise direction. (Figure # 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).



(Figure # 17) Plan of Abu Dulaf Mosque



(Figure # 18) Abu Dulaf Mosque and Prayer Hall.



(Figure # 19) Abu Dulaf Mosque and Minaret.

(Figure # 20) The Abu Dulaf Mosque: Qibla aisle of the prayer hall



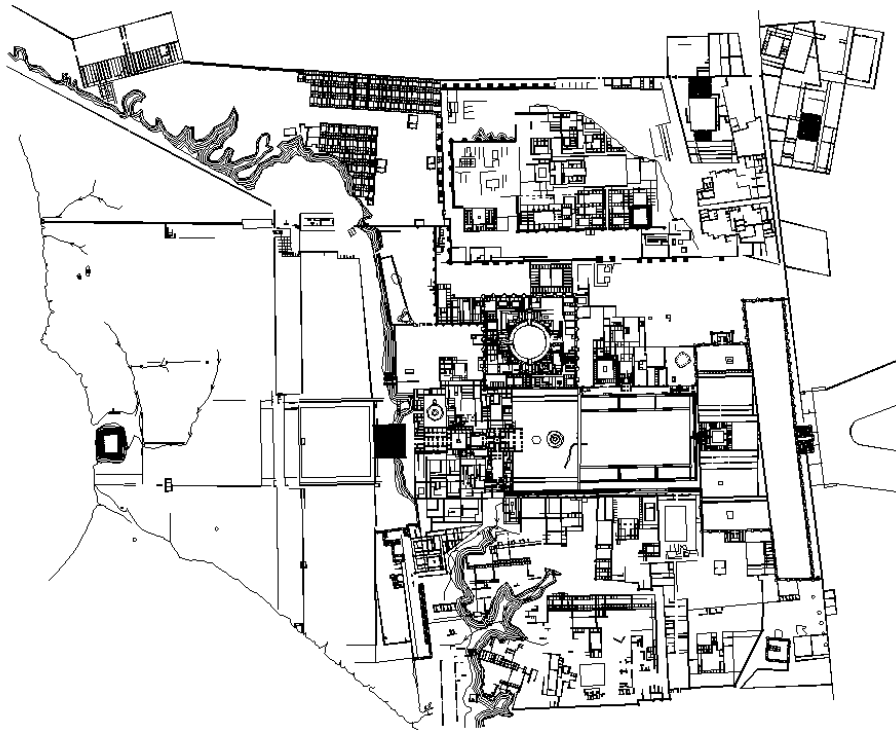
(Figure # 21) Spiral minaret of Abu Dulaf Mosque (before conservation)



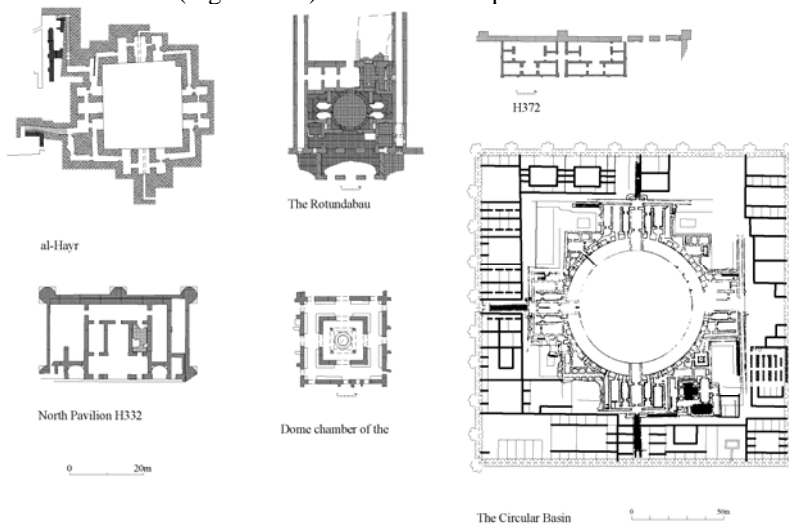
3) The Caliphal Palace (Qasr al-Khalifa) (in Zone 002)

This palace was built by Khaqan Urtuj Abu Al-Fath Ibn Khaqan, who was a Turkish military commander, by order of the Caliph Al-Mu'tasim billah. It is situated on the Grand Avenue (al-Shari' al-A'zam), which extends on the whole length of the city.

The palace overlooks the Tigris River on the west, and it is one of the largest Arab Islamic Palaces (125 ha), exceeded only by the al-Ja'fari palace at the north end of the site of Samarra (211 ha). It includes living quarters, halls, administration rooms, the diwans, and guards' barracks, in addition to facilities for rest and recreation. Among the standing remains are the Bab al-'Amma, overlooking the river, which was used as the formal ceremonial entrance of the palace, in addition to the palace of al-Hayr, and the circular basin - which are two parts below ground. Each of them contains pools, rooms and iwans, and was used for the Caliph's rest and recreation. This palace still preserves its complete original layout, and is the only case of an imperial palace from later antiquity, whose plan is completely preserved. (Figure # 22, 23, 24, 25, 26).



(Figure # 22) Plan of the Caliphal Palace.



Excavated building plans from the Caliphal Palace



(Figure # 23) The Bab al-'Amma, the formal entrance of the Caliphal palace.



(Figure # 25) Al-Hayr palace inside the Caliphal' palace.



(Figure # 24) The circular basin inside The Caliphal palace.

(Figure # 26) The palace of al-Hayr inside the inside the Caliphal palace



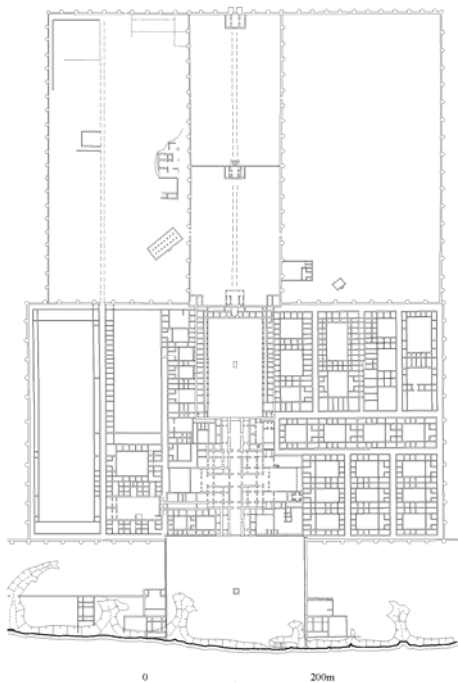
Excavations have been conducted in the Caliphal Palace since 1910 and 1913, but particularly since 1980. However about three-quarters of the area still remains unexcavated, and the western garden has been flooded.

4) Al-Huwaysilat Palace (Zones 009 and 010)

Al-Huwaysilat is identified with the Qasr al-Juss in the medieval Arabic chronicles. It is situated on the West Bank of the Tigris to the north. It was built by the Caliph Al-Mu'tasim billah to be a palace for relaxation. There are two buildings, Lower and Upper. The Lower palace consists of a square building, the length of whose sides is 140m. It is located within a square shaped outer enclosure, surrounded by a wall, 370m a side, reinforced by a series of towers, four of which are main round towers, 3m in diameter, and along with ninety six others on each side. In the middle of each of the four sides of the enclosure, there is a main entrance and it includes a number of halls, rooms and courtyards.

5) Balkuwara (Al-Manqur) Palace (in Zone 003)

This palace is situated to the south of the city of Samarra on the bank of the Tigris. It was built by the Caliph Al-Mutawakkil 'ala Allah for his son Abdullah Al-Mu'tazz in about 240 H/854 AD. In spite of the effects of time and the acts of nature, archaeological excavations and investigations have been able to draw a complete plan of the building. It is of a rectangular shape, with the corners oriented to the cardinal points. The dimensions are 575 m x 460 m, consisting of three parallel rectangles, the middle one of which contains the important parts of the palace (Figure # 27). The building survives as mounds of unfired earth with some fired brick. The site was excavated in 1911 by E. Herzfeld for the German Archaeological Expedition.



(Figure # 27) Plan of Balkuwara Palace

6) Al-Ma'shuq Palace (Zone 007)

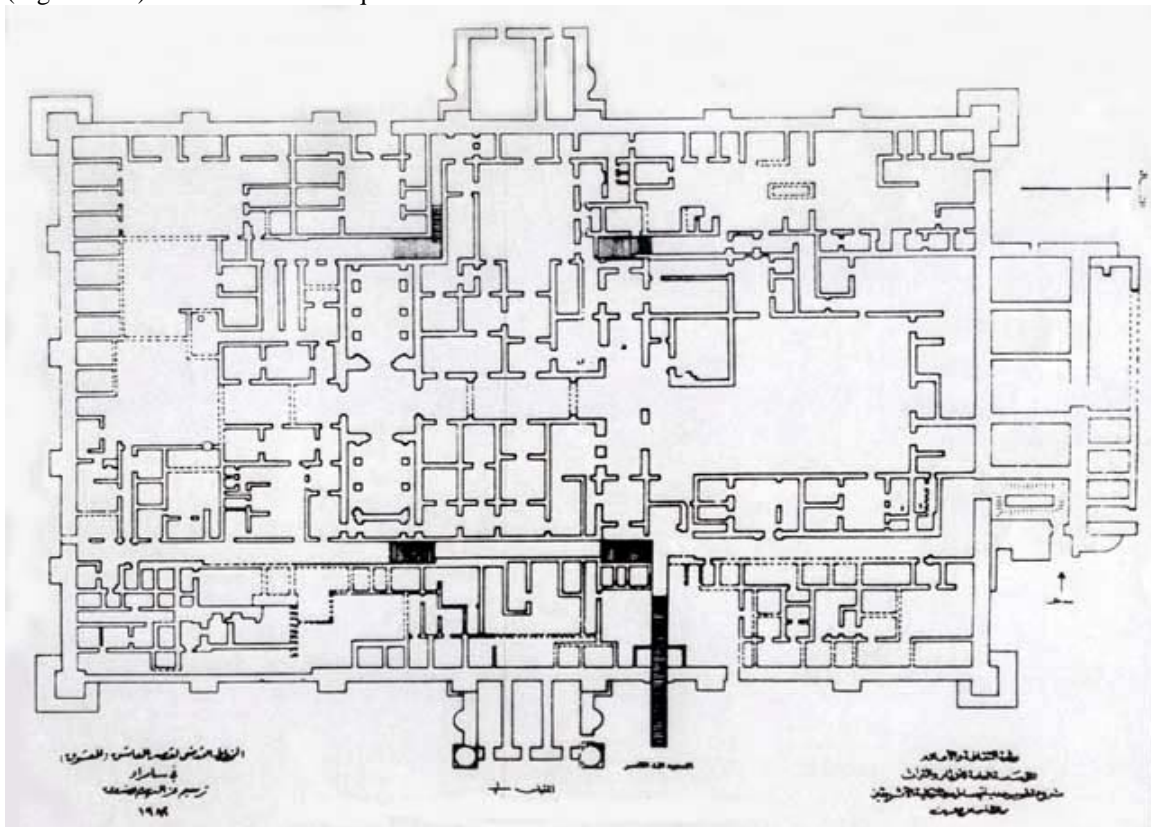
The remains of this palace look out over the West Bank of the Tigris. It was built by the caliph Al-Mu'tamid ala Allah in the year 263 H/876 AD, and is the best preserved of the Abbasid palaces at Samarra. The plan is rectangular, with dimensions of 136m x 90m. It is mounted on an artificial platform of barrel vaults, with many courtyards and a number of rooms and halls opening onto the central spaces or connected to them by entrances. The internal division in the palace is tripartite. The walls of

the palace are 360cm wide, reinforced by round towers with rectangular bases. Between each pair of towers are three large niches with polylobed arches. (Figure # 28, 29, 30, 31, 32).



(Figure # 28) Al-Ma'shuq Palace.

(Figure # 29) Plan of Al-Ma'shuq Palace





(Figure # 30) Remains of Al-Ma'shuq Palace.



(Figure # 31) One of Al-Ma'shuq Palace facades.



(Figure # 32) Al-Ma'shuq Palace facades

7) Bayt al-Zakharif (in Zone 002)

This house is one of the important private residences, excavated in 1965. It is located to the west of the Great Mosque and the Malwiya. It is well-known for its carved stucco panels which form revetments about 1 m high. Fifty houses from the 9th century city have been excavated, out of an approximate total of 15,000 (including small housing units).



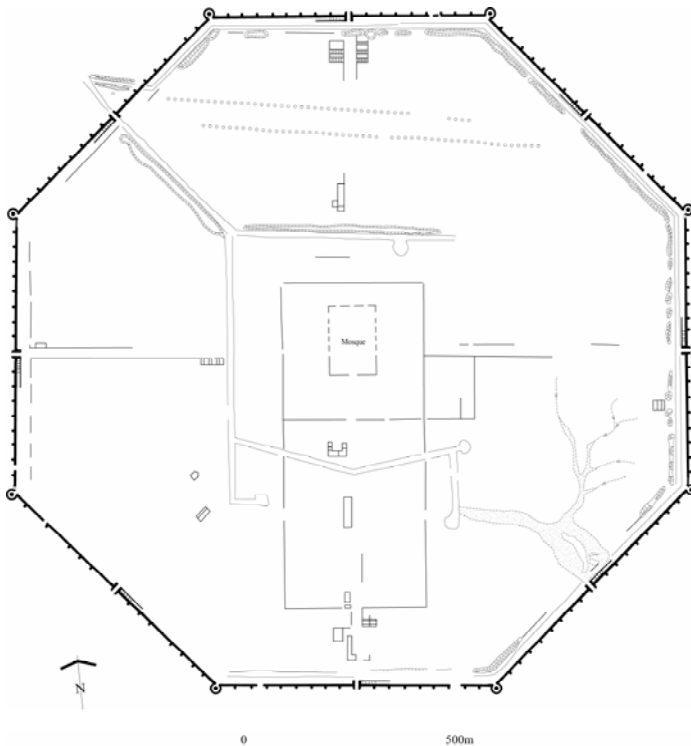
(Figure # 33) Plan of Bayt al-Zakharif



(Figure # 34) Example of house decoration at Samarra (Herzfeld)

8) Husn al-Qadisiyya

An unfinished city of octagonal shape built in mud-brick and still unexcavated. The plan was based on a circle of 1.5km in diameter. The length of each side is between 620 and 627 m and its perimeter is 4990m. According to the texts it was built by the Caliph Harun al-Rashid on the model of the Round City of Baghdad, and abandoned in 180 H/796 AD before the city of Samarra was built.(Figure # 35)



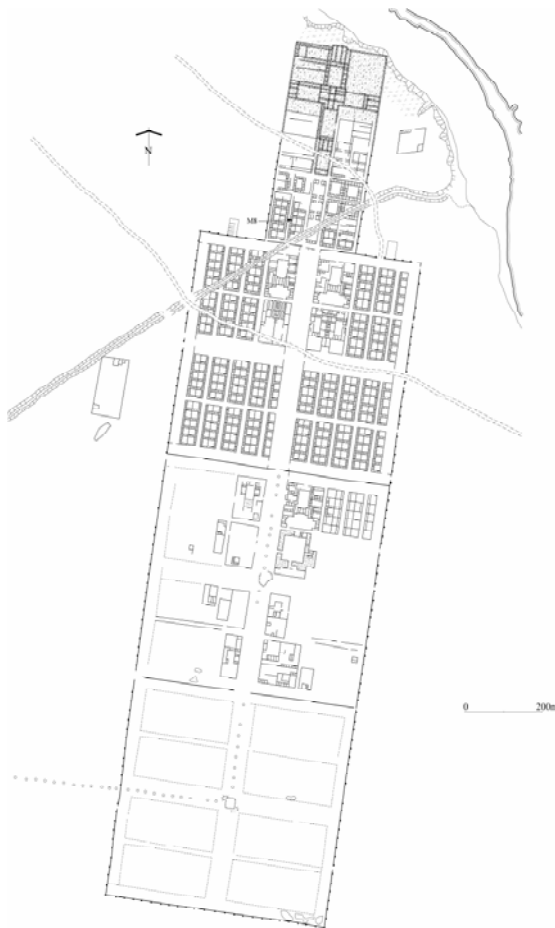
(Figure # 35)Plan of Husn al-Qadisiyya In the south of Samarra Archaeological City.

9) Al-Musharrahahat Palace (in Zone 003)

Al-Musharrahahat is situated at a distance of about 6km from the modern city of Samarra to the east on the way to the enclosure of the game reserve. It is one of the palaces which the caliph Harun al-Rashid built, when he excavated the canal Nahr Abu al-Jund. The debris from the canal excavation was laid under the area of the palace to form a high mound. It was occupied by the Caliph Al-Mu'tasim. But the Caliph Al-Mutawakkil demolished the palace and built in its place the present palace (Al-Musharrahahat) and dug in front of it the basin known as Birkat al-Buhturi, after the famous poem by the Abbasid poet al-Buhturi.

10) Al-Istablat (Zone 004)

The area of al-Istablat is 111 hectares, and is situated on the West Bank of the Tigris at a distance of about 15km south from the modern city of Samarra. The plan consists of a small rectangle containing the palace, connected to a large rectangle with blocks of houses. The length of the small rectangle is about 500m and the width is 215m. The length of the large rectangle is 1700m and its width is 550m. These rectangles are surrounded by a massive enclosure wall.



This enormous monument represents a camp for soldiers, houses for the commanders and stables for the horses. According to Professor Northedge, it is to be identified as the palace of al-'Arus, built by the Caliph al-Mutawakkil in 237 H/851 AD. (Figure # 36)

(Figure # 36)
Plan of Al-Istablat

11) Tell Al-Alij (in Zone 002)

Tell Al-Alij is an artificial mound for the caliph to view the horse-races. Probably built by al-Mutawakkil, 21 m high at the start of a racecourse 10.4 km long, intended for a pavilion for the caliph al-Mutawakkil to watch the horse-racing. There were three other racecourses at Samarra. (Figure # 37)



(Figure # 37)
Tell Al-Alij.

12) Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya (Zone 006)

This domed building is situated to the south of Al-Ma'shuq Palace. Probably it was a mausoleum for three of the Caliphs who ruled in Samarra - Al-Muntasir, Al-Mu'tazz and Al-Muhtadi. It is an octagonal shaped building in the middle of which there is a square hall surrounded by an octagonal ambulatory above which there is a dome of hemispherical shape. The building was considerably restored with its dome in the 1970s.

13) Al-Ja'fari Palace (in Zone 001)

Al-Ja'fari was the new caliph's palace built by al-Mutawakkil in 859-61. It is located at the north end of the site at the entrance to al-Nahr al-Rasasi. It is the largest palace ever constructed in the Islamic world, 211 hectares. It has never been excavated, but the site is well-preserved.

A vast number of other buildings are also known at Samarra, either in the historical sources, such as al-Ya'qubi, al-Mas'udi, al-Baladhuri and al-Tabari, or from the archaeological survey of the site. Forty-two palaces, four congregational mosques, and about 7000 other buildings have been identified, and are recorded in a database.

2-b History and Development

The district of Samarra was only lightly occupied in antiquity. Apart from the Chalcolithic Samarran Culture excavated at the rich site of Tell al-Suwwân, and at al-Latwa, a cemetery excavated by the German Archaeological Mission in 1911, the city of Sur-marrati, refounded by Sennacherib in 690 BC according to a stele in the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, may somewhat doubtfully be identified with a fortified site of Assyrian date at al-Huwaysh opposite to modern Samarra.

The region experienced an upturn in its fortunes with the excavation of the Qâtûl al-Kisrawî, the northern extension of the Nahrawân canal which drew water from the Tigris in the region of Samarra', attributed to the Sasanian king Khusrau Anushirvân (AD 531-578). To celebrate this royal project, a commemorative tower (Burj al-Qâ'im) was built at the southern inlet (Nahr al-Qâ'im) south of Samarra, and a palace with a walled hunting park at the northern inlet (Nahr al-Rasâsî) near to al-Dur. A supplementary canal, the Qâtûl Abî al-Jund, excavated by the Abbasid Caliph Hârûn al-Rashîd, was commemorated by a city in the form of a regular octagon (Husn al-Qâdisiyya), called al-Mubârak and abandoned unfinished in 796 AD.

Probably in 834-5, the Abbasid caliph al-Mu`tasim left Baghdad in search of a new capital. The Caliph apparently sought a residence for the court, and a base for the Abbasid army, outside of Baghdad, and was attracted by a region known for its hunting, but otherwise poor in natural resources. About half of the army was composed of Turkish slave soldiers, and the remainder of Arabs and Iranians.

The caliph's city was formally called Surra Man Ra'â ("he who sees it is delighted"). This original name was later shortened in popular usage to the present Samarra.

Surra Man Ra'â was laid out in 836 on the east bank of the Tigris around the pre-Islamic settlement, with the principal palace on the site of a monastery to the north. This palace complex, called in the sources Dâr al-Khilâfa, Dâr al-Khalîfa, Dâr al-Sultân, and Dâr Amîr al-Mu'minîn, had two major sub-units, the Dâr al-`Amma, the public palace where the caliph sat in audience on Monday and Thursday, and al-Jawsaq al-Khâqânî, the residence of the Caliphs and their families, where four are buried.

It is not easy to reconstruct the plan of the original Surra Man Ra'â, because of later rebuilding. From the palace an avenue, later referred to by al-Ya`qûbî as Shâri` Abî Ahmad, extended south 3.5 km to the markets, the mosque of al-Mu`tasim (both now under the modern town), and beyond. To the east of this avenue lay the cantonments of the Turk Wasîf, to the west on the Tigris bank those of the Maghâriba, a military unit apparently of Egyptian origin. The cantonment of Khâqân `Urtuj was placed north of al-Jawsaq, and may be identified with one of two quarters in this area. The two remaining military cantonments were located outside of Surra Man Ra'â, that of the Ushrûsaniyya, under al-Afshîn Khaydar b. Kawus al-Ushrûsanî at al-Matîra, the village 4 km south of modern Samarra' (mod. al-Jubayriyya), and that of the Turks under Ashnâs 10 km north at Karkh Fayrûz (mod. Shaykh Walî). The area east of the city was walled as a hunting park (al-Hayr).

With the death of al-Mu`tasim in 842, came a point of decision: would Samarra be abandoned on the death of its founder, as many other princely settlements, or would it become a more permanent Abbasid capital? Al-Wâthiq (842-847) chose to stay, and the population reacted by turning what was called a camp (ʿAskar al-Mu`tasim) into a real city. Al-Wâthiq made some changes to the military disposition, but concentrated on the

economic development of the city. He built a new palace called al-Hârûnî, which has been identified on the banks of the Tigris at al-Quwayr (Zone 005), an unexcavated site partly flooded since the 1950s by the barrage at Samarra. Al-Hârûnî continued to be the residence of al-Mutawakkil, and was occupied during the 860s by Turkish units.

The reign of al-Mutawakkil (847-861) had a great effect on the appearance of the city, for he seems to have been a lover of architecture. In a list of his building projects which appears in several different versions, the new Congregational Mosque and up to 20 palaces are mentioned, totalling between 258 and 294 million dirhams. The new Congregational Mosque (al-Malwiya), with its spiral minaret, built between 235/849 and 237/851, formed part of an extension of the city to the east, extending into the old hunting park. Two new palaces with hunting parks were built in the south, at al-Istablât, identified as al-`Arûs, and al-Musharrahât (the palace of al-Shâh). A further palace, Balkuwârâ, excavated by Herzfeld in 1911, was built on the Tigris bank south of al-Matîra, surrounded by a military cantonment for a new army corps under al-Mutawakkil's second son, al-Mu`tazz.

Three courses for horse-racing were built east of the main city. Two have an out-and-back course 80m wide and 10.42 km long with a spectators' pavilion at the start (Racecourse 1 and 2), and the fourth a pattern of four circles around a central pavilion (5.3 km)(Racecourse 3).

Under al-Mutawakkil the city centre, which developed on the site of `Askar al-Mu`tasim, seems to have reached its greatest extent, and was described in its hey-day by al-Ya`qûbî after the death of al-Mutawakkil in 861. There were seven parallel avenues. The avenue adjacent to the Tigris, Shâri` al-Khalîj, accommodated the quays for the river transport which was the principal means of supplying the city, and the cantonments of the Maghâriba. Although Herzfeld supposed that the alignment had disappeared, it now seems that the trace of the avenue lay inland from the river-bank, and still survives in part.

In 859, al-Mutawakkil began a new project to replace Surra Man Ra'â with a new caliphal city to the north, called, according to its coinage, al-Mutawakkiliyya, although written sources also call it al-Ja`fariyya. A canal was dug from a point 62 km north to supply the new city, crossing by an aqueduct over the Qâtûl, and running on both sides of the avenue, but the levelling was badly calculated, and little water flowed. The main palace, al-Ja`farî, is located at the inlet to the Nahr al-Rasasi. The city plan is organised around a central avenue leading south past the Abû Dulaf mosque to the cantonments of al-Karkh, thus similar to that of Surra Man Ra'â. The Sasanian hunting park north of the canal was reworked with a viewing platform at Tell al-Banât close to modern al-Dawr. After the assassination of al-Mutawakkil in 861 the city was abandoned.

The drain on the treasury played a role in the decade of troubles following al-Mutawakkil's death, which led to the making and unmaking of four caliphs, and military action in Samarra in three phases in 862-3, 865-6, and 870. Perhaps more significant was the isolation of the Caliph with his army in Samarra, which left the Caliph exposed to forceful attempts by the soldiery to ameliorate their lot. At any rate, during the decade

after the accession of al-Mu`tamid in 870, the army was removed from Samarra by Abu Ahmad al-Muwaffaq, although Samarra' continued to be the official residence of the caliph until 892, when al-Mu`tadid reestablished Baghdad as capital.

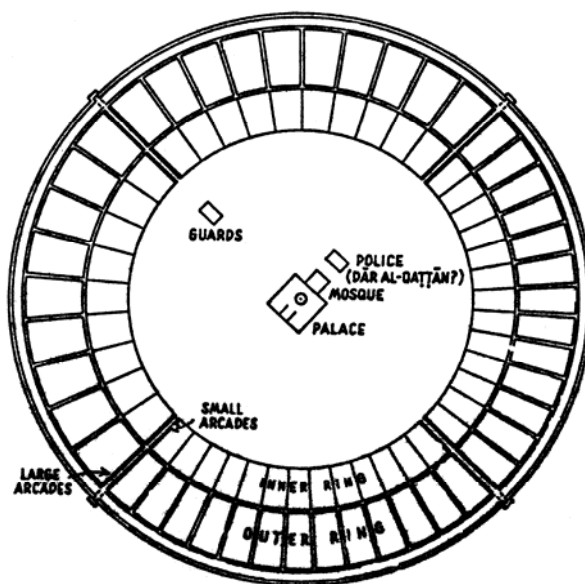
Nevertheless the area round the markets continued to be occupied. The two Imâms `Alî al-Hâdî and al-Hasan al-`Askarî had a house on the Shâri` Abî Ahmad, probably adjacent to the mosque of al-Mu`tasim, and were buried there. The twelfth imâm disappeared nearby in a cleft commemorated by the Sardab al-Mahdî in 874. The tomb was first developed in 944-5.

List of the Abbasid Caliphs who ruled at Samarra

- Al-Mu'tasim billah bin Harun Al-Rashid 218-227H/ 833-842AD
- Al-Wathiq billah bin Al-Mu'tasim 227-232H/ 842-847AD
- Al-Mutawakkil ala Allah bin Al-Mu'tasim 232-247H/ 847-861AD
- Al-Muntasir billah bin Al-Mutawakkil 247-248H/ 861-862AD
- Al-Musta'in billah bin Muhammad bin Al-Mu'tasim 248-252H/ 862-866AD
- Al-Mu'tazz billah bin Al-Mutawakkil 252-255H/ 866-869AD
- Al-Muhtadi billah bin Al-Wathiq 255-256H/ 869-870AD
- Al-Mu'tamid ala Allah bin Al-Mutawakkil 256-279H/ 870-892AD

3- Justification for Inscription

The importance of Samarra 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.(Figure # 38).



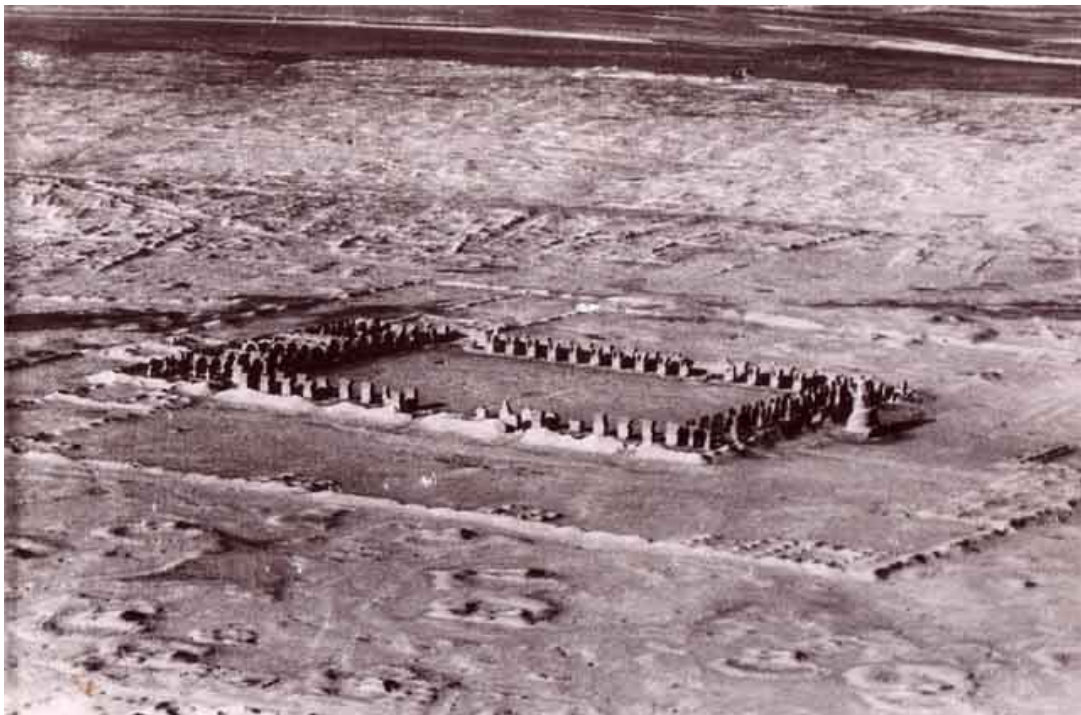
(Figure # 38) Plan of the Round City of Baghdad.

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, of which we have cited the caliphal palace (Qasr al-Khalifa), al-Ja'fari, al-Ma'shuq and others. Also in it developed various kinds of carved stucco known as the Samarra style, which spread to 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.(Figure # 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45).



(Figure # 39) The Great Mosque at Samarra

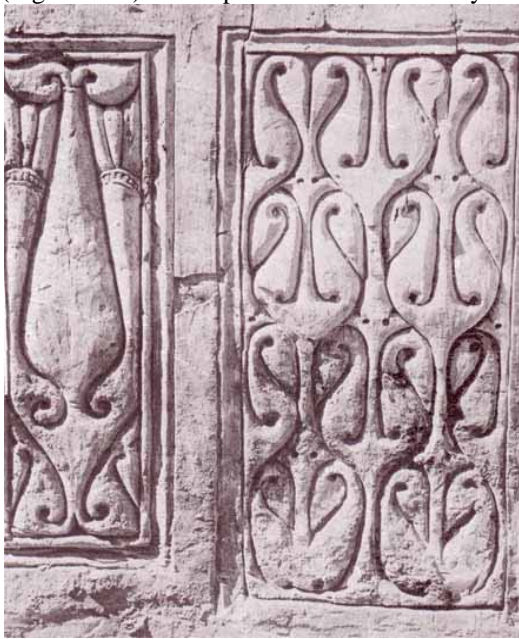
(Figure # 40) The Abu Dulaf Mosque and its Spiral Minaret.



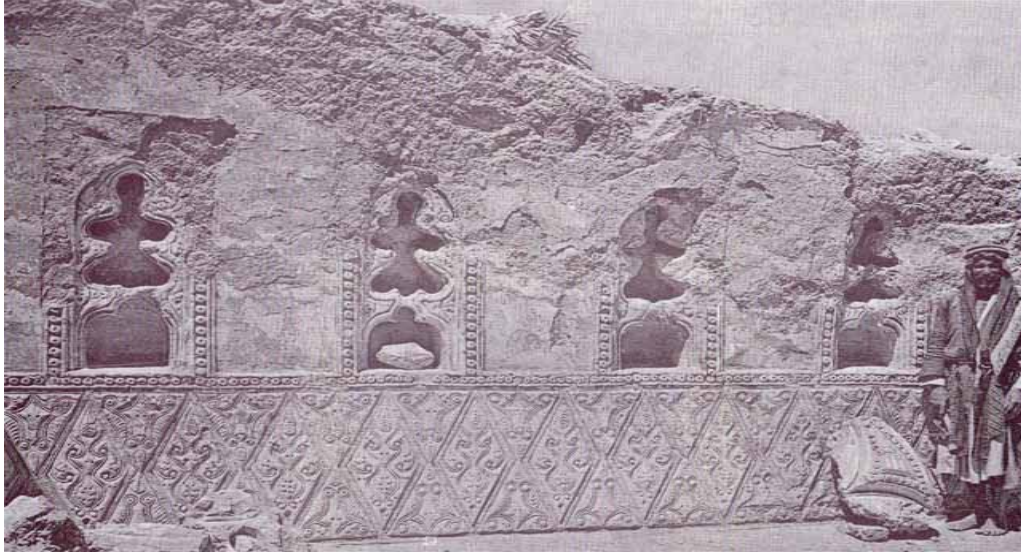


(Figure # 41) Air view of Samarra in the 1920s, showing the Imam Ali el-Hadi and Hasan el-Askari tombs.

(Figure # 42) stucco panel of the bevelled style



(Figure # 43) stucco panel of the Vineleaf style.



(Figure # 45) Stucco facade of the Bevelled style from House XIII (1911).

3- a Criteria under which inscription is proposed

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.

We would add that in view of the control of the Caliphate in Samarra over the provinces of the empire extending from Tunisia to Central Asia, Samarra was a distinguished capital which no other state rivaled in administration, politics and military power, and from the city of Samarra spread the architectural, decorative and artistic phenomena to the other regions of the Islamic State.

3-b Proposed statement of outstanding universal value

The outstanding universal value of Samarra archaeological city is represented by what is show below:

- 1- It is the second capital of the Abbasid Caliphate which extended from Tunisia to Central Asia, after Baghdad, and it is the remaining living witness of the Islamic capitals, which preserves all its elements, and after the loss of the monuments of Baghdad it could be considered that Samarra represents the physical trace of the Caliphate at its height.
- 2- Samarra was adopted as capital of the Abbasid Caliphate for a period of 58 years, and this is considered an exemplary period compared with other cities through the flourishing of its architecture, planning, decorative arts, and the strength of its political and religious systems, and its settlement and desertion in this short period has left it in a good state from the point of view of its original and unimpaired state.
- 3- In Samarra archaeological city, the greatest mosque in the Islamic world at that time was built together with the Abu Dulaf mosque, which contain the most extraordinary and beautiful Islamic minarets as well as the largest Islamic palaces discovered - the Caliphal Palace (Al-Jawsaq Al-Khaqani) and the largest so far unexcavated palace the al-Ja'fari Palace.
- 4- Innovation of stucco decorations known as the Samarra style which decorated the walls of its buildings, which gave it a distinguished architectural style, and the innovation of new kind of ceramic known as luster ware which spread from it to the other regions of the Islamic world.

3-c Comparative Analysis

Samarra archaeological city, although somewhat eroded by recent events, is the best preserved plan of an ancient large city. Nowhere else in the world is the semi-complete plan of a large capital city preserved in all its details, extending from public architecture – the mosques and palaces – to the smallest workman's or soldier's house, sports facilities (racecourses, polo pitches, hunting reserves), military cantonments, and even to industrial buildings.

In the comparable great capitals of that time such as Baghdad, Rome, Cordoba, and Constantinople, comparatively little is preserved, in spite of the long history of excavations in Rome. The limited preservation elsewhere is due to the obvious point that they have continued to be flourishing cities with continued reconstruction over the centuries. However Samarra was soon abandoned, and consequently retains much of its early plan (see Album of Plans).

For example, the city of Cordoba in Andalusia, which became in 170H/786AD the capital of the Umayyad Emirate (later Caliphate), in Andalusia and did not have any authority on the other regions of the Islamic world, continued its history of development up till today, which led to the loss of many of its ancient monuments, except the mosque which was later transformed into a cathedral, and the palace complex of Madinat al-Zahra', outside the city. It is not possible to get a clear picture of the planning of the city and its buildings at the time of its prosperity as a capital. And this same point applies to the city of Baghdad, which Abu Ja'far al-Mansur built in the year 145H/762AD to be the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate, but the course of history and the modern development of the city has destroyed its remains completely.

There are more examples around the world where imperial cities have not kept their original pattern owing to continuous occupation and change, such as for example, in China, Chang'an under the T'ang dynasty, Peking under the Yuan and Manchu dynasties, in Japan, Edo (Tokyo), Kyoto and Nara, and in India, Delhi.

At the level of monumental architecture, Samarra is distinguished by its mosques and palaces. The Congregational Mosque, with its spiral minaret al-Malwiya, is one of the best known and largest ancient mosques in the Islamic world, and marks a new stage of development of the mosque in using a spiral minaret, and a secondary outer enclosure with covered porticoes (Arabic *ziyada*) intended to shelter the Muslims unable to find a place in the mosque for the Friday prayer. Samarra is also the earliest site where we find archaeological evidence of the *musalla*, the prayer ground outside the city intended for the holiday prayers.

The two caliphal palaces, Qasr al-Khalifa (Caliphal Palace) and al-Ja'fari, are among the largest ancient imperial palaces in the world whose plan is preserved (125 and 211 ha).

3-d Integrity and Authenticity

With regard to the issue of authenticity, it can be stated that the site of the Samarra archaeological city may be described as fully authentic, with a few minor questions.

At the abandonment of Samarra by the Caliphs at the end of the 3rd century H/9th century AD, occupation continued in a few areas, including the modern city of Samarra. Most of the remainder of the site was left as it was until the beginning of the 20th century, as the land lacks water and the soil is poor. The west bank of the Tigris was an exception, and the land there was cultivated.

Foreign archaeological missions became interested in eastern civilizations and Samarra in particular since the middle of the nineteenth century. The German excavations of 1911-1913 included exploration of the Caliphal Palace, Balkuwara palace, Al-Ma'shuq palace, the Great Mosque, Abu Dulaf mosque, Tell Al-Alij with seventeen residential houses. After the First World War, the Iraq Directorate-General of Antiquities (as it was)

began excavations in 1936-40, and then again from 1965 onwards. In particular, beginning in 1980, much investment was put into the excavations at Samarra. Since 1983 a map and database of the monuments has been prepared by the Samarra Archaeological Survey, dir. A. Northedge, a joint project of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. Nevertheless, only a minimal proportion has been excavated, and it is anticipated that complete excavation would be a question of centuries.

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage is working to preserve the excavated and standing buildings by conserving the remains which may be in danger of falling and restoring the parts destroyed as a result of climatic and time factors, in the same specifications of the original construction materials, so as to distinguish the original from the restored parts. More extensive restorations have been undertaken at two monuments: the Great Mosque of the Malwiya and al-Ma'shuq.

With regard to the question of integrity, the site can be described as corresponding to the definition in the same way as any archaeological site: that is, it is partially preserved. Nevertheless, it is possible to measure the degree to which loss has taken place in relation to the probable original extent of the city. The loss is low, in comparison to other archaeological sites, and is mainly due to ploughing and cultivation, and to the growth of the modern city of Samarra (see Album of Plans for the extent of destruction).

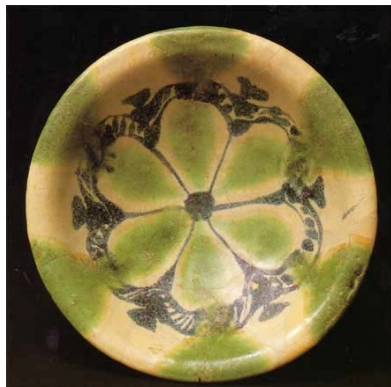


(Figure # 49) Example of Abbasid polychrome Luster Ware.

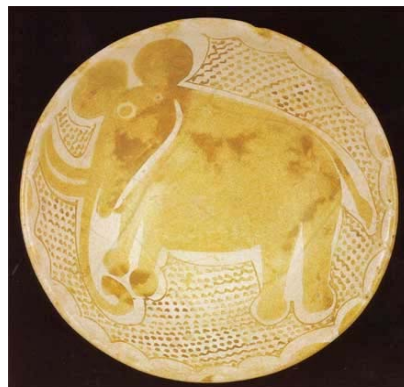


(Figure # 50) Example of Abbasid polychrome Luster Ware.

(Figure # 51) Abbasid cobalt blue and green Ware.

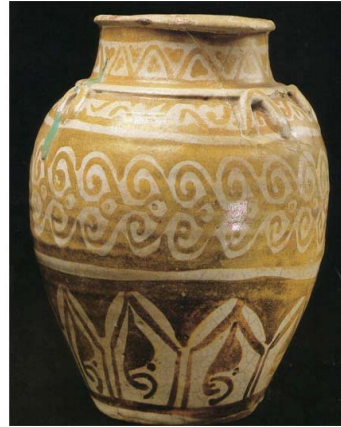


(Figure # 52) Abbasid Monochrome Luster Ware.





(Figure # 53) Ceramics inspired by Samarra Luster Ware (Iran).



(Figure # 54) Ceramics inspired by Samarra Luster Ware (Egypt)

4- State of conservation and factors affecting the property

4-a Present State of Conservation

All the buildings of Samarra archaeological city are original and most are still unexcavated, estimated at about 80% of the archaeological city area. The extent of survival and destruction of the remains at the present time is shown in the accompanying Album of Plans. The satellite imagery used dates to July 2004, January 2005, and March 2006, and in outer areas to 2000. The satellite imagery is overlaid by archaeological maps based mainly on air photography from 1953, and other dates, when the site was better preserved than today.

As for the standing remains, a scientific method was followed in conserving them, where modern building materials were used in the work but in the same specifications and dimensions as the original materials, such as fired brick, mud-brick, and stucco. The observer can distinguish between the original parts and the restored parts. Similarly in the conservation work, the consolidation of the parts about to fall was attended to without affecting its originality. Also another method was used which is completing the parts whose situation forms a danger to the building as a whole, without touching the original form. The buildings of which parts were restored form about 20% of Samarra archaeological city; they are:

- **The Great Mosque and the Malwiya:** the external wall and the Malwiya minaret have been restored.
- **Abu Dulaf Mosque:** The arches of the prayer hall and the spiral minaret have been restored.
- **The Caliphal Palace:** The Bab al-Amma (Public Gate), the al-Hayr palace, and the Circular Basin have been restored.
- **Al-Ma'shuq Palace:** The restoration of the facades of the palace and the upper floor of the palace only.
- Restoration of the walls of the excavated houses and the stucco decorations of the palaces.

These works were executed according to an annual plan prepared by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage based on the applicable archaeological law.

Other excavated areas have not been conserved.

4-b Factors Affecting the Property

(i) Development Pressure

Samarra archaeological city is subject to transgressions by neighboring farmers, but these problems have been remedied by the archaeological law, and the necessary plans were put in motion to remove these transgressions, which happened before the enactment of the law. Legal claims were filed at the legal department of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage against the transgressors. As for the expansion of construction, it was remedied within the law also by two methods: the first is local and conducted by the Samarra Inspectorate of Antiquities in coordination with the relevant departments such as the Department of Agriculture, the Municipality of Samarra and others, in order to study the projects, with the grant of consent or not. The second is that there is a ministerial committee consisting of a number of the representatives of the ministries among them the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, and this committee studies the projects which the state and individuals intend to execute. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage has the decisive opinion in giving consent or not. In the last events which followed the war of 2003, the archaeological area was occupied by the multi-national forces and they used the archaeological area as a theatre for military operations. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage has sent many letters to the parties concerned in order to limit these violations and we attach in the annexes copies of this correspondence. (See annex No.2).

(ii) Environmental Pressures

Climatic factors have had a negative effect on the archaeological zone. The winds which blow on it bring with it dust leading to the burial of the buildings and particularly the restored parts. There is an environmental problem facing the city which is the dumping of garbage and debris. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage is working to prevent these phenomena and punishing the transgressors. Campaigns are carried out from time to time to remove the garbage in cooperation with the departments of Municipality and Health and the Salah al-Din Governorate. Also the State Board has built sheds to conserve the decoration and the important buildings from rain and atmospheric conditions.

(iii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage has provided firefighting equipment in the archaeological sites inside Samarra archaeological city as a precaution for any emergency. The height of Samarra archaeological city above the level of the Basin of Tigris Rivers makes it safe from the risk of floods. Also the city is outside the earthquake and seismic zone.

(iv) Visitors/ tourism pressures

Samarra archaeological city is affected by the acts of visitors and tourists through graffiti and defacing the walls of the buildings. The buildings are protected by intensifying the watch on the movement of visitors, providing tourist guides, and an increase in the number of guards in all the main sites of the city. Lately an archaeological police department has been formed and it participates in watching vandals and stops any case of pillage or violation of any kind.

And due to the large size of the city and the abundance of the archaeological attractions, the site is able to accommodate large numbers of visitors and tourists, estimated at 5000 persons daily.

(v) Number of inhabitants within the property and the buffer zone

According to the official figures registered at the departments concerned in 2005:
The inhabitants of the nominated property are 25000 persons.
And the inhabitants of the buffer zone are 375 000 persons.
The total is 400 000 persons.

(vi) The Present Situation (2006)

At the time of submission of the nomination (2006), activity and control is reduced to a low level because of the political situation. While the present situation continues, the principal danger is increasing extension of agricultural zones, as described in 4-b (i). The multi-national forces have at times occupied the Malwiya (Spiral Minaret), which was also slightly damaged by a small bomb in April 2005. In August 2005 multi-national forces excavated an earth mound across the archaeological site north and south of the modern city. In February 2006, a bomb destroyed the Tombs of the Imams in Samarra: this monument lies outside the core zone of the protected area.

5- Protection and Management of the Property

5-a Ownership

According to article seven of the Iraqi archaeological law No. 55 of the year 2002, Samarra archaeological city is considered to be public property in which no dealings not allowed. And it is allocated for the activities of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, and registered officially in the name of the Iraqi Ministry of Finance. See annex No.1

5-b Protection Designation

Samarra archaeological city is considered to be the property of the state of Iraq and it is not permitted to violate it and there are articles in the law that organize the relationship and the official disposition with its assets, noting that the archaeological buildings in the city are open all the year round to receive visitors and tourists and they are subjected to protection

and the Iraqi Law punishes all who vandalize or transgress this property according to article seven of the applicable Antiquities and Heritage law No. 55 for the year 2002. See annex No.1.

5-c Means of implementing protective measures

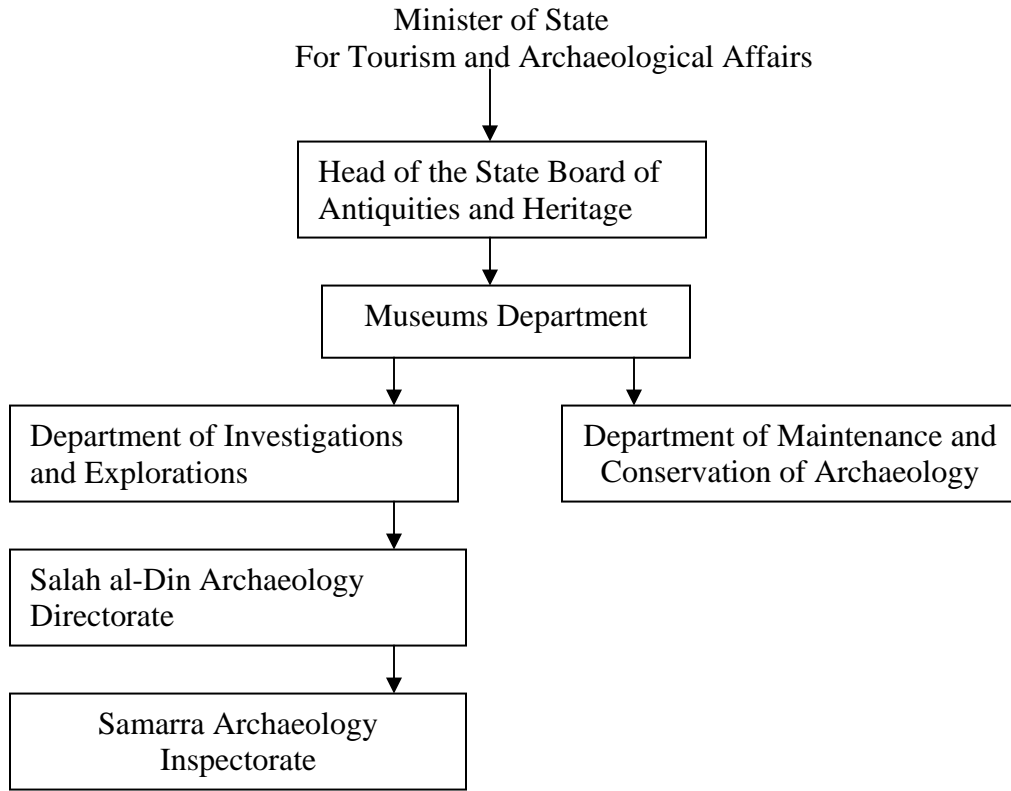
There are a number of measures which are decided by the laws of the Iraqi state in addition to a number of decisions issued by the Iraqi governorate in various stages. Together with the existence of the Iraqi Archaeology law which we attach herewith a copy of it, a strict decision issued in 1995 by the government which stipulated the detention, imprisonment and large financial penalties on whoever transgresses the Iraqi Archaeology by agriculture, building or digging. Samarra archaeological city was among the cities which bears witness to the application of these decisions where Samarra archaeological inspectorate has brought many claims before Iraqi Courts against a number of transgressors. The courts concerned issued judgments of imprisonment for one year and by fines against some transgressors, which reached 40 000 000 (forty million) Iraqi Dinars (equivalent to 30000 Dollars) in one of the cases only.

The dynamics of applying the laws are done by observing the case of transgression, then an investigation and deposition of a penal claim against it, so that the court issues its judgment for the removal of this transgression and the punishment of the transgressor. The Iraqi archaeological law is considered among the strictest archaeological laws in the region. All public and private projects cannot be executed unless the consent of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage is obtained.

5-d Existing plans related to municipality and region to which the proposed property is located

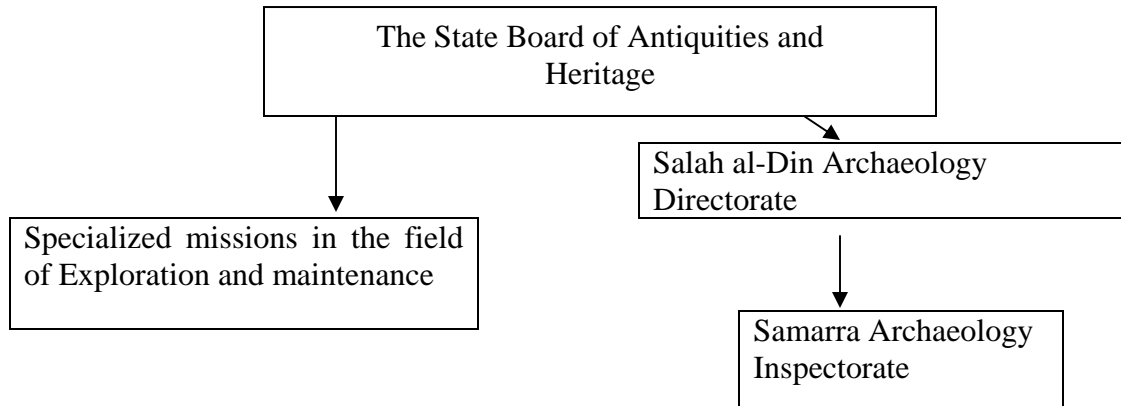
Regarding the protected zone, it is forbidden by law to built modern constructions on it. As for the buffer zone, coordination and consultation are performed between the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and the municipal, agriculture, irrigation, environment department and any other party relevant to the ground about the launch of any project. In case of consent by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, then conditions are set, among which are environmental concerns, the preservation of appropriate spaces, and limitations on height that affects the archaeological district. The State Board of Heritage and Antiquities has written to some of the departments concerned lately in order to know their future projects within the boundaries of the buffer zone and a reply has been received from those departments. See annex No. 4

5-e- Properties management plan or other management system



In the light of that, the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage since its establishment at the beginning of the twentieth century has followed a working plan to manage the property through distributing the responsibilities and this is done centrally through the headquarters of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Baghdad or through the inspectorate of Antiquities, or through coordination with other departments in Samarra.

The working plan in Samarra follows to the following structure:



The Antiquities inspector regarding the property distributes the responsibilities among the staff of the property, where one of the officials will be in charge of the movement of the visitors inside the archaeological city and control the guides who accompany the tourist groups. Another official will be in charge of the guards and security, and responsible for responding to events which affect the facilities of the property. As a result of the existence of a number of traditional buildings in the modern city constructed around the shrines of the two Imams Ali Al-Hadi and Al-Hasan Al-Askari, responsibility was given to one of the officials of the inspectorate to supervise the traditional buildings designated.

In view of the requirements of this procedure, the required budget is appropriated for maintenance, excavation and management by the state centrally and it is spent through the above mentioned sequence of management. The power of the State Board of Antiquities with its laws is considered the guarantee for the implementation of any central administration plan, and it is not necessary to create plans for each site separately. Also there is a project performed by an American organisation in coordination with the State Board of Antiquities to prepare plans for the management of the archaeological sites in Iraq.

5-f- Sources and levels of finance

Samarra archaeological city has governmental financing only and it comes from

- The Republic of Iraq
- The Ministry of State for Tourist and Archaeological Affairs.
- The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

No doubt there is a clear deficiency in the financial appropriations existing to maintain the property due to the spaciousness of the city and the extraordinary conditions in Iraq.

As for the salaries of the property employees, they are approximately 40000 US Dollars annually, and in the years that preceded the last war (the decade of the 1990s) the allocation to the works of maintenance, excavation, and management according to requirements ranged between 40000 and 80000 US Dollars annually.

5-g- Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in implementing its plans in conservation and management of the property depends on the accumulated expertise of the staff, who are Iraqi archaeologists, graduates of Iraqi and foreign universities, and assistance is obtained from local craftsmen and artisans from the local market, as also specialized professors in the field of architecture and Islamic arts participate in giving consultations.

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage holds training courses in the field of archaeological survey, English language, and engineering drawing and computing.

This matter was treated within the applicable Iraqi archaeological law for the year 2002 in article 2 clause eight, where it stipulates “Qualifying the Archaeologists and the heritage specialists throughout involving them in training courses, fellowships and the scholarships prepared for this purpose”. See annex No. 1.

5-h Visitors facilities and statistics

The facilities and statistics mentioned above show that the number of visitors exceeded 50000 monthly before the war, but the circumstances of the last war, and the events that accompanied it has reduced the number greatly and now it does not exceed ten thousand visitors a month.

As for the facilities available for visitors, there are neither translation services nor a museum for the property, but the modern city (the present Samarra) provides accommodation facilities, restaurants, shops and information and assistance services etc. The State Board is about to construct tourist centers to serve the visitors and prepare plans for this purpose.

5-i Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

The most important aims of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage are to take care of the property and to express its interest regarding Samarra archaeological city, the commission has issued many tourist folders, tourist guides and pamphlets about Samarra and its archaeological monuments, stucco decorations and ceramics. Also the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage holds continuing televised presentations to introduce archaeological sites including Samarra, to the public, and to spread archaeological awareness among the public. Also the Samarra inspectorate of Antiquities holds direct meetings for the public, schools and visitors to explain the importance of the city and its role in the history of Iraq, the community and humanity.

The matter of conservation of antiquities and spreading archaeological awareness was also dealt with in article 1, clause two, of the applicable Archaeology law no. 55 for the year 2002 which stipulates “Demonstrating the Antiquities and Heritage to the people of Iraq and the International community so as to expose the notable role of the Iraqi Civilization and it's contribution in the Civilization of Humanity.” See annex No.1.

5-j Staffing Levels

The property (Samarra Archaeological City) has a department that takes care of its affairs called the Samarra Inspectorate of Antiquities. It is managed by an archeologist who holds a bachelor degree at least called Inspector of Antiquities who is assisted by four administrative employees in addition to 17 guards who attend to the archaeological sites belonging to the property. Also 30 F.B.S. archaeological guards were appointed recently.

6- Monitoring

6-a Key indicators for measuring state of conservation

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage adopts standards and criteria in the conservation of the property through priorities. It usually conserves the buildings which are subjected more to danger or transgression, as it did in the Great Mosque which was subjected to the robbery of the brick material from its walls by the natives to build their houses nearby. The maintenance works conducted stopped this danger and conserved the building, which are more attractive to visitors and tourists, such as it did also for the Al-Malwiya minaret and the Al-Ma'shuq palace. Alternatively it conserves buildings of historical importance whose remains are no longer visible and wants to shed light on them and restore their ancient beauty and architecture, such as the works performed in the Caliphal Palace (Bab al-'Amma). These are the bases to measure the change that took place in conserving the property where Samarra Inspectorate of Antiquities performs daily monitoring of all the buildings especially the conserved ones to check for any emergency or change in order to report it so that the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Baghdad would be able to deal with it case by case and this is what is called conserving the conservation.

In this field, the commission follows the techniques of monitoring and observation among which daily inspection by the employees and writing periodical reports about the state of the property and the changes as a result of natural factors or the effect of visitors. Also the Board takes continuously photographs of the monuments by a specialized section at the Board which is the photography section which has an archive in which the photos taken are kept on fixed slides together with the date of photography, the name of the site and the angle or direction from which the photo was taken and this is fixed within records kept with the photography to follow up the state of the property and compare it with the previous photographs and so on continuously.

This photography is performed annually and there are monthly reports prepared by the inspectorate whether something worth mentioning happened or not. These measures are still continued and followed carefully. See annex No. 5.

6-b Administrative arrangement for monitoring property

Administrative arrangements were put in place recently to monitor the property centrally by the State Board in Baghdad and locally by Samarra inspectorate of Antiquities, whose headquarters are on the site. Among these are the establishments of the central security force known as the archaeological police, who are responsible for any emergency to which those sites are subjected, in addition to the guards mentioned earlier who are attached to the site administration. Also the security departments in Samarra Municipality report any transgression to which the property is subjected and this is done by mutual coordination between the site management and the local authorities.

Also there is a high committee called the committee for the review of projects and inspectorates of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, whose headquarters is in

Baghdad and which conducts visits to archaeological sites among which is Samarra and submits reports about them.

6-c Results of previous reporting exercises

The following results of previous reporting to conserve the property and its management may be noted:

1. Determination of places requiring work, new excavations and urgent conservation works must be performed.
2. Conservation of standing buildings which are attractive to visitors and tourists, and which are affected more than other buildings.
3. Restoration of the stucco decorations and the transport of some to the Iraq Museum and the construction of roofing to protect them from atmospheric factors.

7- Documentation

7-a- Photographs, slides, image inventory and photograph authorization form and other audiovisual materials Form

See annex No. 6

7- b- Texts relating to protective designation, copies of property management plans or documented management systems and extracts of other plans relevant to the property

We attach in the annexes the relevant texts with copies of the conservation and exploration plans for various years, noting that those plans started in 1934 and continued until the 1980s.

See annex No. 7

7- c- Form and date of most recent records or inventory of property

1. There is a vast archive of documents at the documentation section in the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage about the work of conservation and exploration conducted in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.
2. There is a collection of Ph. D. and M. Sc. dissertations written about Samarra in the library of the Faculty of Letters (Kulliyat al-Adab), University of Baghdad and the library of the Iraq Museum.
3. Scientific studies and articles are still being published about Samarra, published in the journal *Sumer* (specialized in Iraqi Archaeology and the archaeology of the Arab Homeland) noting that the last archaeological surveys and updating the official records took place in 1995.

7-d- Address where inventory, records and archives are held.

- The central scientific documentation Section/ studies and research department/ the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

7-e- Bibliography

See annex No. 8

8-Contact Information of responsible authority

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8-a Preparers

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8-b Official local Institution/Agency

Samarra Inspectorate of Antiquities/State Board of Antiquities and Heritage

8-c Other Local Institutions

Samarra Inspectorate of Antiquities

8-d Official Web address

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9- Signature on behalf of the State party


DR. DONNY GEORGE

