

The Cultural Sites of Al Ain **(Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)** **Serial Property**

Executive Summary



Submission to the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO



by the United Arab Emirates

March 2010

State Party	United Arab Emirates
State, Province or Region	Abu Dhabi
Name of Property	The Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	Please see table below. For the full list of component and buffer zones boundary coordinates, please refer to Annex 2.

SITE NO.	COMPONENT CODE	COMPONENT NAME	COORD. EAST	COORD. NORTH
	Component Group 1	Hafit Assemblage		
001	Component 1.1	Jebel Hafit Desert Park	378679	2662265
002	Component 1.2	Jebel Hafit North Tombs	374030	2672186
003	Component 1.3	Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs	373000	2674623
004	Component 1.4	West Ridge Hafit Tombs	372846	2675984
005	Component 1.5	Al Naqfa Ridge	374951	2678315
	Component Group 2	Hili Assemblage		
006	Component 2.1	Hili Archaeological Park	377195	2687187
007	Component 2.2	Hili 2	376128	2686986
008	Component 2.3	Hili North Tomb A	377134	2688791
009	Component 2.4	Hili North Tomb B	377197	2688511
010	Component 2.5	Rumailah Site	374073	2685476
	Component Group 3	Bidaa Bint Saud		
011	Component 3.1	Bidaa Bint Saud	369749	2697151
	Component Group 4	Oases		
012	Component 4.1	Al Ain Oasis	374792	2678852
013	Component 4.2	Hili Oasis	375139	2685901
014	Component 4.3	Al Jimi Oasis	372593	2683241
015	Component 4.4	Al Qattara Oasis	373195	2684088
016	Component 4.5	Mutaredh Oasis	372247	2678788
017	Component 4.6	Al Muwaiji Oasis	370653	2679845

Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property	The areas proposed for World Heritage nomination are specifically those sites which constitute the elements of the cultural significance of Al Ain, i.e., the Hafit Assemblage, south of Al Ain; Hili, in the northeast sector of the city; Bidaa Bint Saud, set at about 14 km north of Hili; and the Oases (Al Ain Oasis, Mutared, Muwaiji, Hili, Jimi and Qattara) scattered across the city's interior.
A4 (or "letter") size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)	See Attached Summary Map and full set of detailed maps, listed below:

MAP NO.	MAP NAME	SCALE	DATE
1	General Map	1/50,000	17.12.2009
2	Jebel Hafit Desert Park and Jebel Hafit North Tombs	1/15,000	26.9.2009
3	West Ridge Hafit Tombs	1/5,500	26.9.2009
4	Al Naqfa Ridge, Al Ain Oasis (large scale)	1/15,000	24.12.2009
5	Al Naqfa Ridge, Al Ain Oasis (small scale)	1/3,500	24.12.2009
6	Hili Assemblage and Hili Oasis	1/5,500	26.9.2009
7	Hili Assemblage	1/3,500	26.9.2009
8	Hili Oasis and Rumailah Site	1/3,500	26.9.2009
9	Bidaa Bint Saud	1/5,000	26.9.2009
10	Al Jimi Oasis and Al Qattara Oasis	1/3000	26.9.2009
11	Mutaredh Oasis and Al Muwaiji Oasis	1/2,500	26.9.2009

Justification- Statement of Outstanding Universal Value	<p>The cultural sites of Al Ain are reminiscent of the cultures of Hili, Hafit (both type-sites) and Umm an-Nar. They are set together in a landscape characterized by the oasis, the desert and the mountain, and constitute an assemblage of sites of outstanding universal value since they bear witness to unique cultural traditions, which developed on the crossroads of ancient routes between what is nowadays Oman, Saudi Arabia and the coastal settlements of the UAE. These cultural sites are the remaining representatives of a vanished culture which developed and manifested its cultural expression via unique and quite distinctive technological developments such as the ingenious falaj system and its associated falaj management system, through specific architectural traditions such as the circular fortified settlement at Hili 8 and through the specific funerary traditions of Hafit and Hili Grand Tomb and Tomb N architecture, among others.</p>
Criteria under which property is nominated	<p>(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius</p> <p>(iii) bear a unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared</p> <p>(iv) Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history</p> <p>(v) 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</p>
Name and contact information of official local institution/agency	<p>Organization: Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH)</p> <p>Address: Cultural Foundation – Airport Road, PO Box 2380, Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates</p> <p>Tel: +971 2 621 2192</p> <p>Fax: +971 2 621 2186</p> <p>E-mail: smasri@adach.ae</p> <p>Web address: www.adach.ae</p>

The Cultural Sites of Al Ain

(Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)

Serial Property

Executive Summary



Submission to the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO



by the United Arab Emirates

January 2010

State Party	United Arab Emirates
State, Province or Region	Abu Dhabi
Name of Property	The Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas)
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	Please see table below. For the full list of component and buffer zones boundary coordinates, please refer to Annex 2.

SITE NO.	COMPONENT CODE	COMPONENT NAME	COORD. EAST	COORD. NORTH
	Component Group 1	Hafit Assemblage		
001	Component 1.1	Jebel Hafit Desert Park	378679	2662265
002	Component 1.2	Jebel Hafit North Tombs	374030	2672186
003	Component 1.3	Al Ain Wildlife Park Tombs	373000	2674623
004	Component 1.4	West Ridge Hafit Tombs	372846	2675984
005	Component 1.5	Al Naqfa Ridge	374951	2678315
	Component Group 2	Hili Assemblage		
006	Component 2.1	Hili Archaeological Park	377195	2687187
007	Component 2.2	Hili 2	376128	2686986
008	Component 2.3	Hili North Tomb A	377134	2688791
009	Component 2.4	Hili North Tomb B	377197	2688511
010	Component 2.5	Rumailah Site	374073	2685476
	Component Group 3	Bidaa Bint Saud		
011	Component 3.1	Bidaa Bint Saud	369749	2697151
	Component Group 4	Oases		
012	Component 4.1	Al Ain Oasis	374792	2678852
013	Component 4.2	Hili Oasis	375139	2685901
014	Component 4.3	Al Jimi Oasis	372593	2683241
015	Component 4.4	Al Qattara Oasis	373195	2684088
016	Component 4.5	Mutaredh Oasis	372247	2678788
017	Component 4.6	Al Muwaiji Oasis	370653	2679845

Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property	The areas proposed for World Heritage nomination are specifically those sites which constitute the elements of the cultural significance of Al Ain, i.e., the Hafit Assemblage, south of Al Ain; Hili, in the northeast sector of the city; Bidaa Bint Saud, set at about 14 km north of Hili; and the Oases (Al Ain Oasis, Mutared, Muwaiji, Hili, Jimi and Qattara) scattered across the city's interior.
A4 (or "letter") size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)	See Attached Executive Summary Map

Justification- Statement of Outstanding Universal Value	<p>The cultural sites of Al Ain are reminiscent of the cultures of Hili, Hafit (both type-sites) and Umm an-Nar. They are set together in a landscape characterized by the oasis, the desert and the mountain, and constitute an assemblage of sites of outstanding universal value since they bear witness to unique cultural traditions, which developed on the crossroads of ancient routes between what is nowadays Oman, Saudi Arabia and the coastal settlements of the UAE. These cultural sites are the remaining representatives of a vanished culture which developed and manifested its cultural expression via unique and quite distinctive technological developments such as the ingenious falaj system and its associated falaj management system, through specific architectural traditions such as the circular fortified settlement at Hili 8 and through the specific funerary traditions of Hafit and Hili Grand Tomb and Tomb N architecture, among others.</p>
Criteria under which property is nominated	<p>(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius</p> <p>(iii) bear a unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared</p> <p>(iv) Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history</p> <p>(v) 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</p>
Name and contact information of official local institution/agency	<p>Organization: Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) Address: Cultural Foundation – Airport Road, PO Box 2380, Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 2 621 2192 Fax: +971 2 621 2186 E-mail: smasri@adach.ae Web address: www.adach.ae</p>



أبوظبي للثقافة و التراث
ABU DHABI CULTURE & HERITAGE

The Cultural Sites of
Al Ain
(Haft, Hill, Bidaa Bint Saud
and Oases Areas)

Main Components of the Serial Site:

- 1. Haft Assemblage
- 2. Hill Assemblage
- 3. Bidaa Bint Saud
- 4. Oases

Legend

- Site Boundaries
- Buffer Zone Boundaries
- District Boundaries
- International Border

Submission to the World
Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Map Source:
Town Planning Department of Al Ain

Map Preparation:
Arch. Agil Ahmed Agil

Reviewed by:
Dr. Sami El Masri Mohammed Al Niyadi
Dr. Mark Beech Dr. Walid Y. Al Tikriti
Ege Yildirim Peter Sheehan
Fawaz Khalfa Imma Plana

Date drawn: 17/12/2009

Projection: Clarke 1880

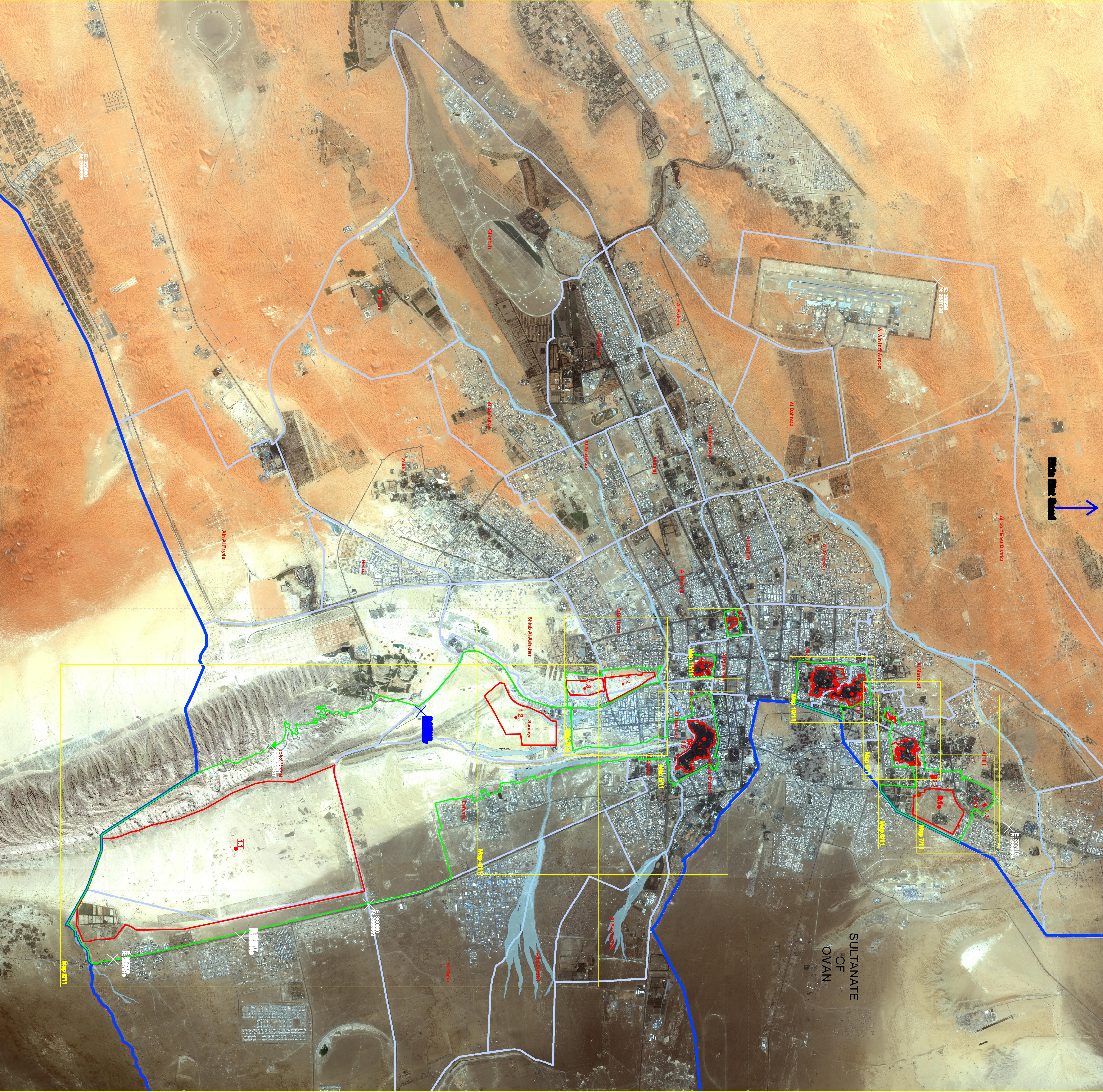
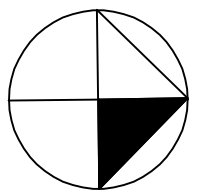
Scale: 1/50,000

Datum: WGS84

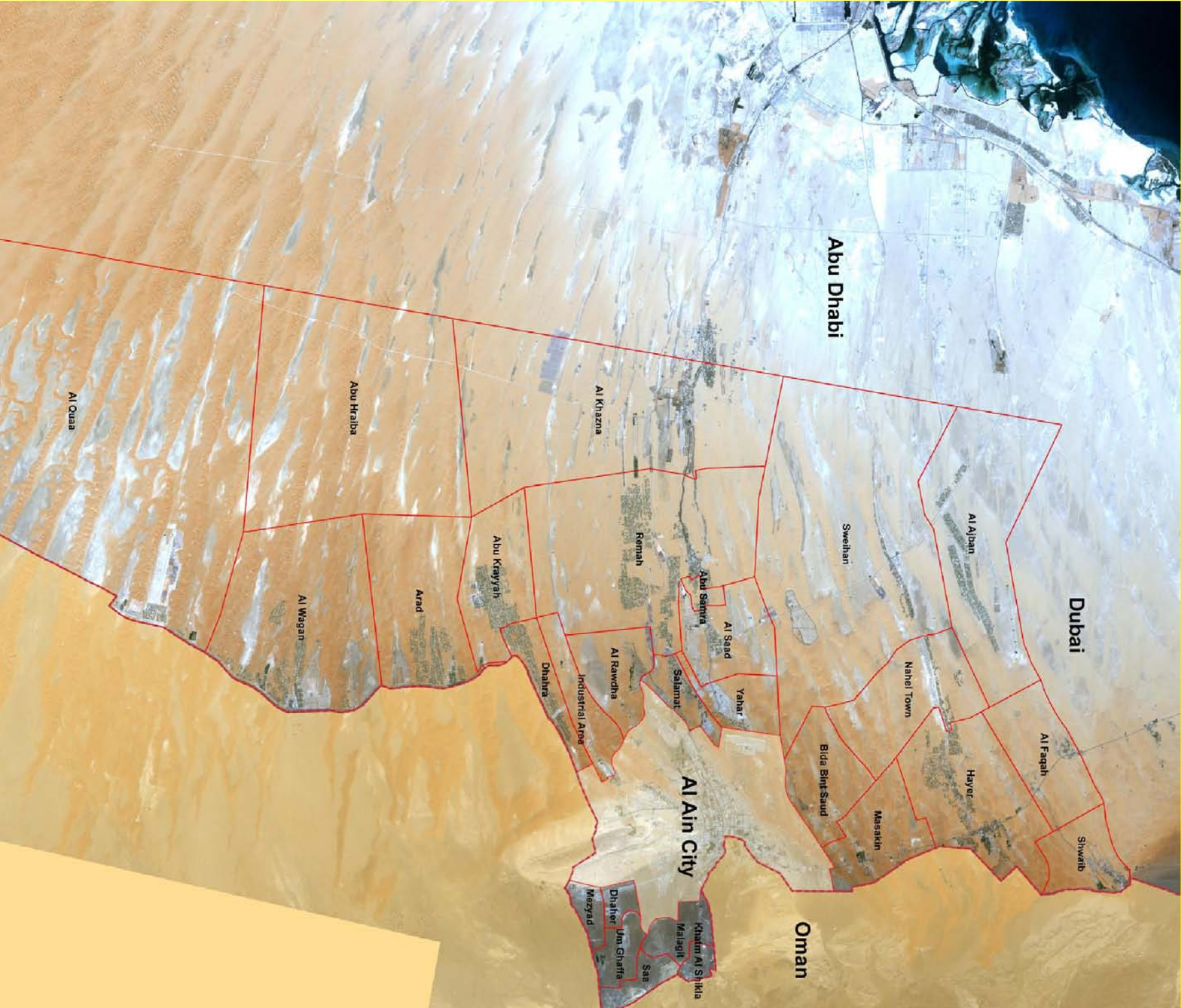
Precision: 1 - 10 meters

Coords: UTM Zone 40

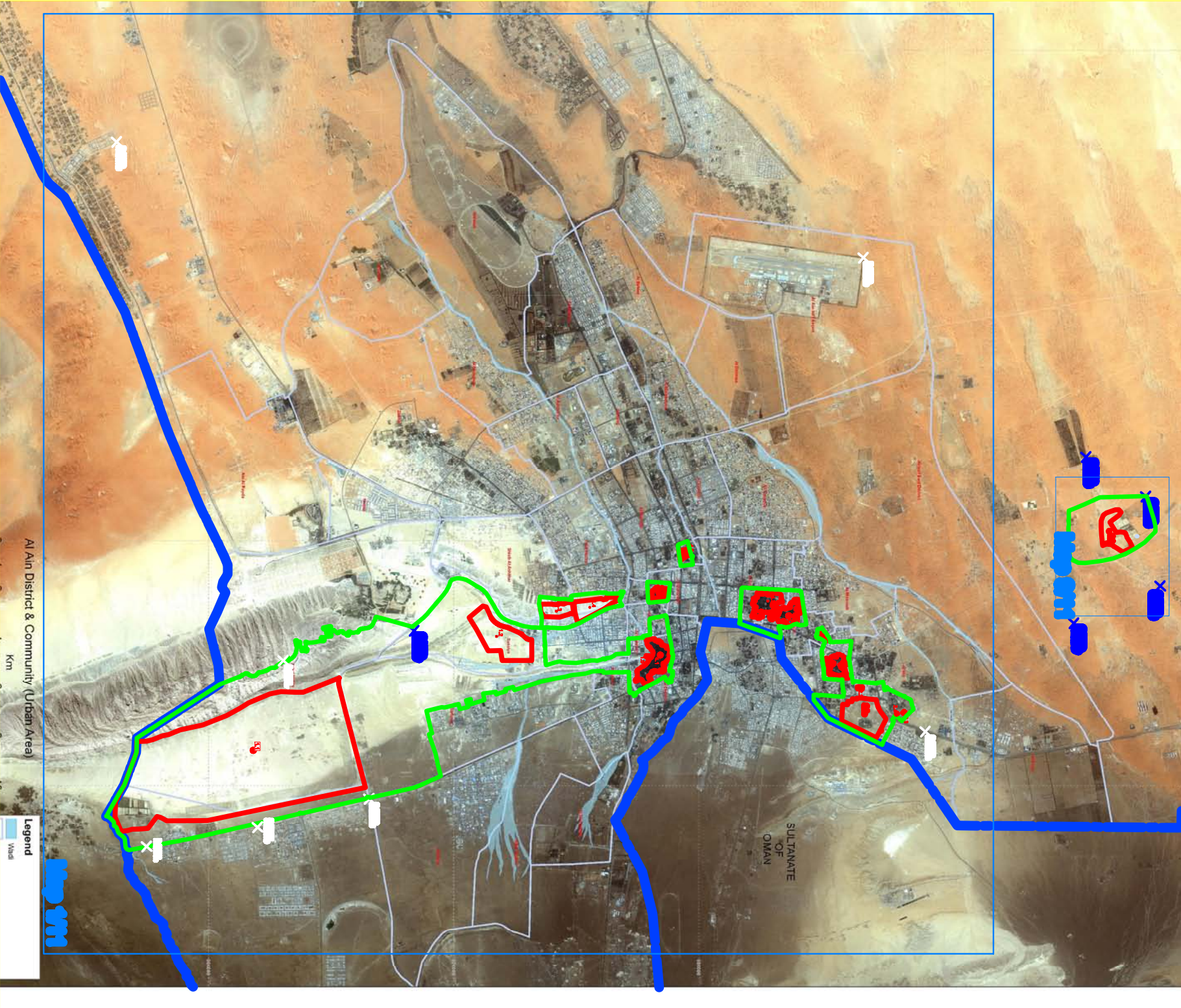
Note: For UTM, 2 has been added for North



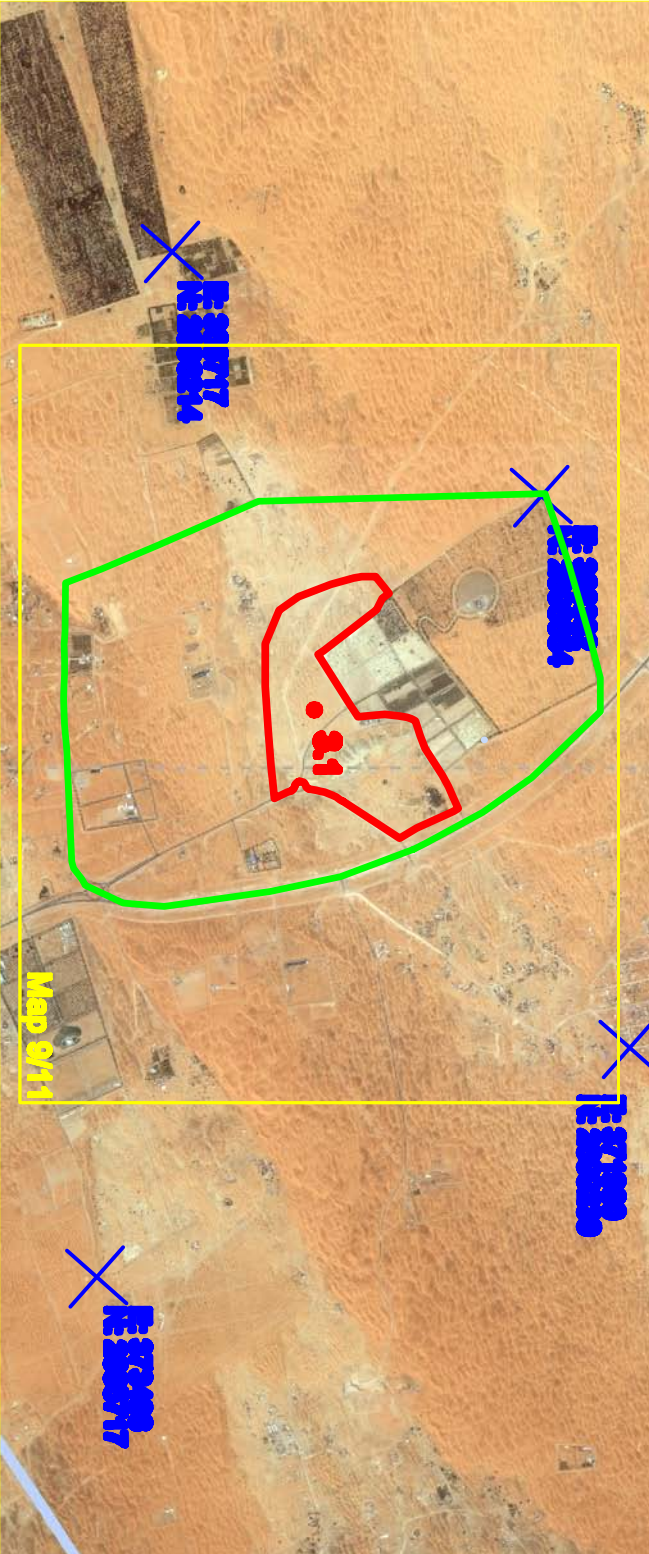
UAE Map



Rural Map of Al Ain, scale 1:750,000



Al Ain General Map, scale 1:200,000



Bidaa Bint Saud, scale 1:50,000