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The Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
IMCHTH

Nomination of
The PERSIAN CARAVANSERAI

For Inscription on the World Heritage List



MANAGEMENT PLAN



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World Heritage Convention
Tehran 2021

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1. Preface

CARAVANSERAI OR CARAVANSARY (also *kārvān-sarā/-sarāy* “lodging for caravans,” from *kāravān* “caravan” and *Sarāy* “house”; sometimes called *Khān*, *Robāt* and *Rabāt*), is a special building which emerged and evolved in ancient territories of Persia to serve as the inn of the historical roads across the Iranian plateau, usually built out of settlements, providing accommodation and safety for serve the people who travel across the long roads. The term Caravan (*kārvān*) was gifted to the world glossary from Persian language.

The first type of caravanserais were found frequently along the Achaemenid Empire's Royal Road, a 2,500-kilometre-long (1,600 mi) ancient main road that stretched from Sardis to Susa to serve the royal express couriers. The oldest document in which caravanserais in Iran has been mentioned is Herodotus' books of history (Vol. v).

According to Herodotus: "*Royal stations exist along its whole length, and excellent caravanserais¹; and throughout, it traverses an inhabited tract, and is free from danger*" (The History – Herodotus).

Hillenbrand (1994) noticed that the caravanserai is the largest type of the Islamic buildings. Furthermore, he expressed that in the harsh conditions, merchants and pilgrims needed frequent places of rest; places where men and their animals would be safe for the night, and where they could be sure about the existence of food and water.

Caravanserai is one of the most known architectural structures in the history of the Persian architecture, because this land always been as a bridges between civilizations and societies that emerged and created cause of routes development and needs related to the travel's demands and requirements. Since the function of roads, smoothly extend beyond the trade and the main historical rout became a fertile context for developing the human knowledge and spreading the believes and religions, caravanserais as a main related elements of the historical roads such as *Shāhrāh-e-Khorāsān* (Khorasan Road), Silk Road and Spice Road, became a place for exchanging the culture, science and all intangible aspects of human civilization beside the goods and merchandise.

Most of the Iranian caravanserais built in rectangular with a central courtyard only with one entrance and adequate fortification if necessary. Whether fortified or not, it at least provided security against beasts, bad weather and banditry.

In the Persian setting this courtyard plan, the one most commonly adopted for caravansaries, was probably borrowed from the same structure with same function in the Achaemenid period which called *Chāpār-khāneh*. In the 2nd-6th/8th-12th centuries the Persian caravansary was typically almost square in form, with a single entrance, frequently emphasized by a projecting block. Inside the walls the

¹ Actually the Herodotus explaining a place as a station for accommodation. He used the term "σταθμός" means station and "Κατάλυμα" means accommodation. He says that along the royal road, in each station there is an accommodation place.

courtyard was surrounded by chambers for rest and behind the chambers halls to keep the pack animals.

The range of architectural variation in the Persian caravansaries was considerable and was further developed in each subsequent period. Until the construction of caravansaries came to an end at the beginning of the 14th/20th century, they represented an unbroken tradition of considerable achievement within the Iranian architecture which greatly affected other Persian architectural structures. Setting of caravanserais smartly chosen² and this setting never changed, even in several reconstructions along the history. Building a caravanserai in Iran became a tradition and tied to the Iranian believes, insofar the majority of caravanserais are built by donation fund or based on endowment. The Islamic ideology highly recommends to care about travelers specially who cannot easily afford their travel expenses.

Nowadays, the public and private sectors have made efforts to restore and revitalize the original functions of the Persian caravanserais depending on their capacity. They once again render services to travelers and pilgrims. Accordingly, they are now a touristic destination as well.

This serial nomination file includes and highlights **56** prominent caravansaries from different historical periods and diverse geographies/climates among hundreds of instances.

² The distance between two caravanserais never exceeds 40 km because is the maximum distance which is reachable by a day of travel. the average distance is 20 to 30 km

2. Description of Property

Caravansaries have been among the most viable elements of Persian architecture over the centuries. Numerous types of these unique structures were building according to the needs, climate and demands across the Iranian historical roads.

In Iranian architecture, caravanserais have a unique situation, especially along the communication network and around the main cities. The evolution and expansion of caravanserais in Iran in different historical stages have been dependent on social, economic and religion aspects associated with their formation and development (Kiani, 2008: 265). Throughout history, Iran has been the major corridor area connecting west to the east of the world, due to the specific geographical location as well as numerous communication routes passing through this region.³

In fact, the caravanserais considered as complements for roads in the Iranian plateau. The Iranian caravanserais mentioned in the historical documents written by historians, orientalist and explorers who managed to visit or studied Iran. Additionally, in these travelogues commercial and cultural issues existing within the vast expanse of Iran and the region as well as the role of caravanserais have been brought up. Not only these caravanserais were pivotal for the security of the roads and safety of merchants' possessions but also, they boasted notable architectural, artistic, cultural and social characteristics which were interesting for scholars. In this regard, *Arthur Upham Pope* the late American Iranologist has said: "Caravanserais constitute one of the triumphs of Persian architecture. Nowhere can we find a more complete accord of function and structure."

The Iranian caravanserais have been shaped by many factors: geographical, political, economical, and cultural. Different periods have lent their own emphasis to these factors, however, and the particular needs or events of an historical period have influenced both the quantity and quality of construction. Thus, for example, strong central governments have used them as security bases of their authority; the emergence of holy cities has brought them about as resting places to serve pilgrims, and always commerce has dictated their erection to provide safe lodgings on the often-hazardous trails.

The structure also been known under many different names (Khān, Robāt, Inn and Caravanserai) but it is unlikely that these ever reflected its differing aspects. Rather are the different names applied to structure serving the same basic function: the secure lodging of travelers and caravans at the end of a day of travel. The distance between caravanserais depend on topography of road are from 20 to 30 km.

³ Typology Architecture of the Stone Caravanserais of the Seljuk Period in Qom Province, Elahe Lotfali Khania, Ahmad Danaeiniab

2.1 Various Types of caravanserais in Iran and its classification (Typology)

The fundamental architectural features of caravanserais are a function of environmental, human and physical contexts. Among these, the environmental context is one of the most important elements that provide the underlying classification for architecture. Because of this, as most of caravanserais are, away from the cities, They lack the condition for regular restoration; this has given it a particular importance in the architects' eyes.

In architecture, typology can be used as a tool to identify and classify things. The necessity of typology is for differentiating periods and architectural style to identify how architects have built in each period and to achieve common patterns in spatial design of a caravanserai. To understand these designs and patterns means to understand the social relationship that has occurred in the interior space.

Iranian caravanserais enjoy a vast variety from an architectural point of view because Iranian architects used a wide range of plans and patterns in their construction. Naturally different types of caravanserais have various characteristics which have been studied extensively by relevant researchers. Researchers on the classification of Persian caravanserais, have done extensive researches.

Maxim Siro has reviewed the typology of caravanserais in different periods. In his book, entitled "Iranian caravanserai and small building along the way", he says: "in the late Sasanian period, two types of caravanserai were known in Iran. The first type consisted of a courtyard surrounded with a wide *Dālān* (corridor) for the livestock like the caravanserai Darvaz-e Gach (plaster gateway caravanserai). The second type includes rectangular halls located around the *Hayāt-e Markazi* (central courtyard) and this was the characteristic of Iranian caravanserais. During the Islamic era, the plan of these two caravanserais was integrated in a manner that the caravan's chambers were built around the central courtyard, and behind these rooms a wide corridor was built for the livestock; and like the Parthian and Sassanid palaces in most of the caravanserais two or four *Iwāns* (porches) were built around the central courtyard".

In addition to this classification, studies by other researchers in this field have shown that many items such as location, climatic conditions, architectural details, geometry and form, construction materials, functions, historical origin and type of ownership play a specific role in classification of the Persian caravanserais.

However, since Persian Empire had a vast amount of land that houses many topographical characteristics with many climatic zones and subzones, the architectural typology of caravanserais was a question of debate. One of the most essential researches about Persian caravanserais was done by a French archaeologist and architect Maksim Seiro who was the first dean of the Faculty of Architecture in Tehran University. He had separated the Safavid caravanserais into two categories; *mountain type* and *plane type with yard*. Later Kleiss and Kiani (1983) added new categories regarding climate zones. Their classification composed of three climatic regions; *Persian Gulf region type*, *mountain and covered type* and lastly *mid regions with courtyard type*. According to Kleiss and Kiani (1983) and also as adopted later by Ghobadian, (2008), Persian Gulf region types were rectangular or square in shape and had no interior courtyards. They had however cross shaped spaces centrally located resembling *Iwāns* and the rooms are positioned around this. In order to have a sturdy base, the caravanserais were

usually built on rock platforms raising them a few steps higher than the sea level. As this platform serves as an entrance to the rooms with doors, which are open to outside, it also helps to regulate air circulation in order to provide cool breeze in such hot and humid climate. In this type, the rooms could be accessed from outside; but since defense was not a problem during the period, this design also emphasises the security and prosperity of the Safavid era. Mountain type caravanserais on the other hand, were built on roads that are difficult to pass during journeys. These had inner yards covered with vaults, due to the harsh cold winds of winter and night time. The vaults were sometimes supported by pillars or large walls. There were usually heaters embedded in the walls of the rooms. Mid regions type is significant with its use of the inner courtyards. As it was mentioned before inner courtyard architecture was not limited to typology of caravanserais; this is also typical for courtyards with *Iwāns* as well. Starting from the Assyrian and Parthian palaces of Mesopotamia, use of *Iwāns* has become the significance of Iranian architecture. Owing to a general notion of symmetry of the Iranian culture, philosophy and religion, courtyards having especially two *Iwāns* and four *Iwāns* were the norms of mid area Safavid caravanserais. The significance of *Iwāns* is so dominant that some sources (Kiani and Kleis, 1983; Hillenbrand, 2004) also classify caravanserais according to the numbers and types of *Iwāns* with variety of definitions.

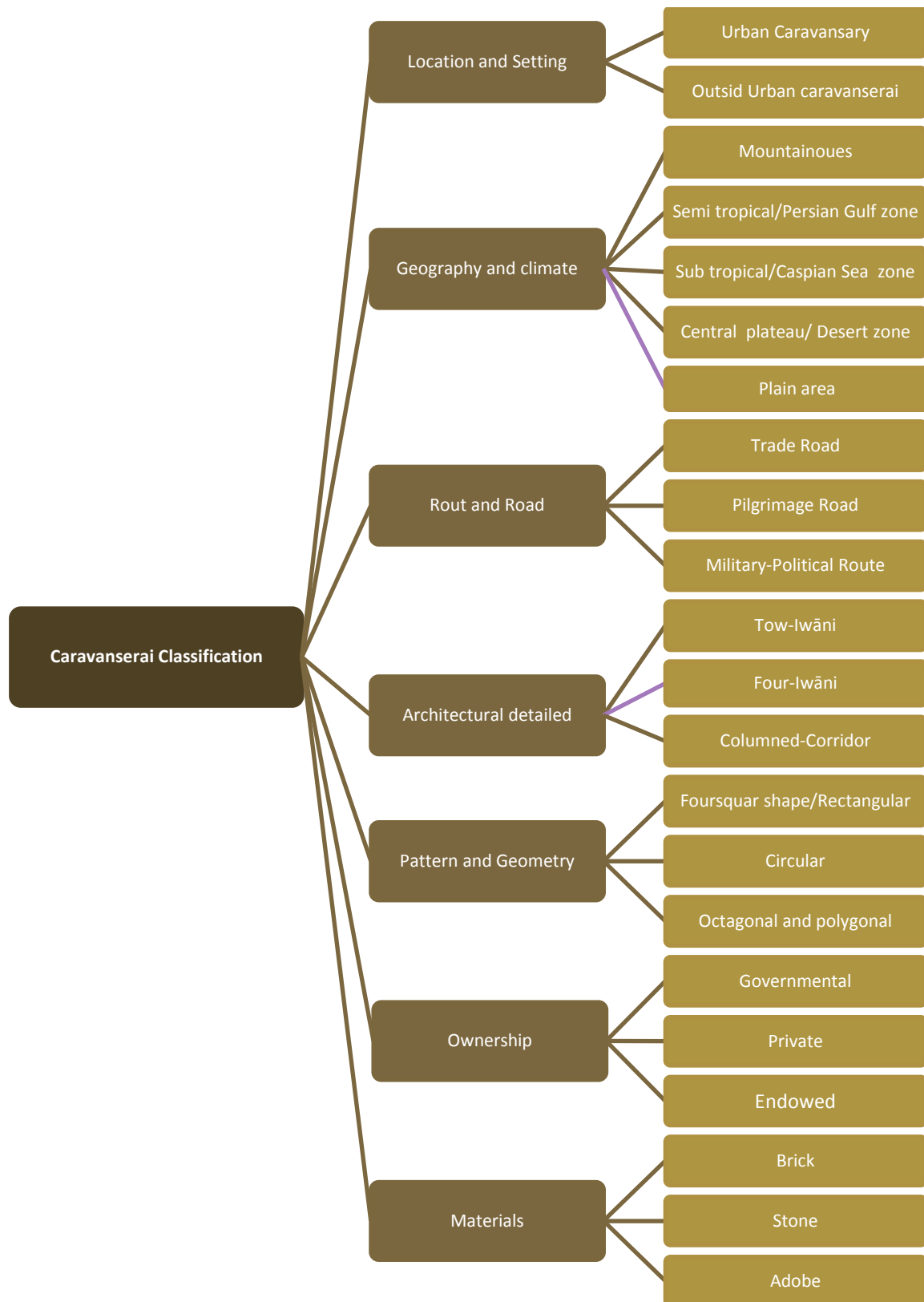
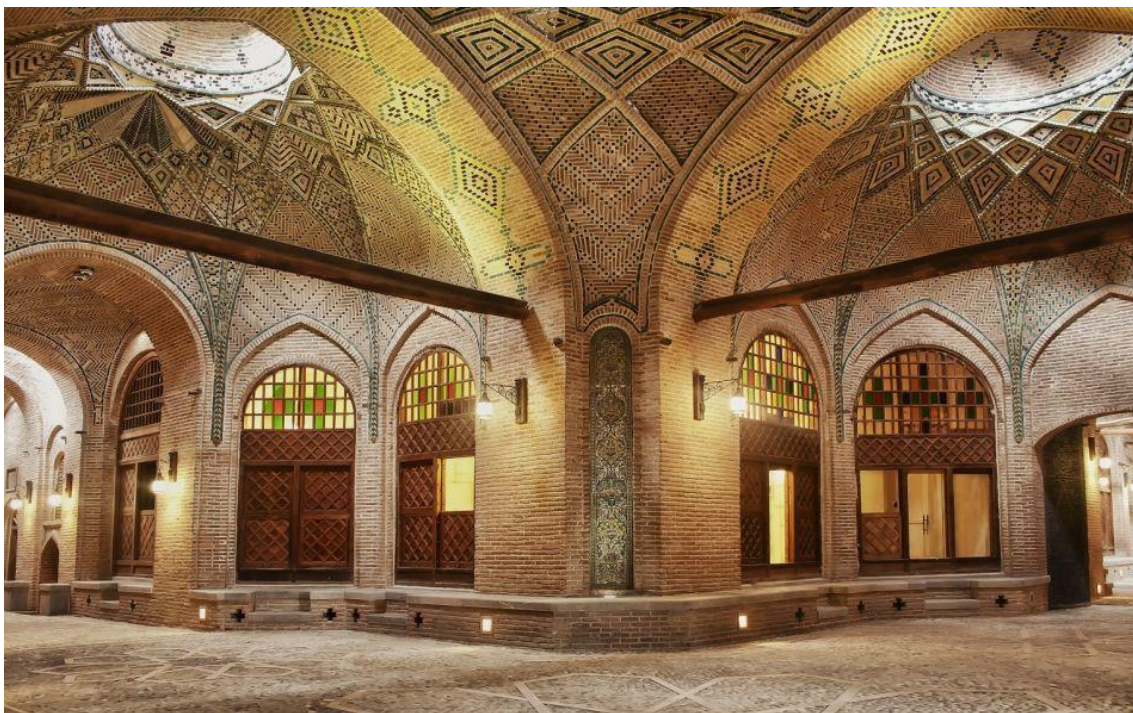


Diagram 1: Caravanserai Classification

2.1.1 Urban Caravanserai (Inside-city Caravanserai)

These caravanserais were built inside the cities for the accommodation of merchants and visitors. They were located beside or within central bazars, Friday mosques or other crowded public centers, forming part of their composition. In each *hojreh* of caravanserais, specific goods went on display by traders for auction. Due to the presence of governmental officers, the inside-city caravanserais enjoyed high security and because of their nature and function differed from other caravanserais. The number of working caravanserais was closely related to the scale of trade. Due to the high price of inner-city lands, these caravanserais were built in two floors. Pietro Della Valle the Italian traveler during the Safavid rule, mentions that the ground floor was allocated to the storage of goods and the upper floor was used by travelers who were charged a relatively high rent. There were also small stables or no stables at all in which case the livestock were held either somewhere within the building or at some other appropriate place. Platforms were also erected in yards in order to unload the merchandise of traders.

Caravanserais were erected in cities, along the trade and pilgrim routes and in the deserts. Some of these were public property (*VWAQF*) while others belonged to individuals. The urban caravanserai falls into two main groups: those in which travelers and pilgrims could lodge free of charge, and those in which trade was conducted. Of the two types the latter are the more handsome and commodious, and have secure doors to the apartments. Such commerce' caravanserais were a distinct destination, either for the natives of a certain region or country or for traders of a particular merchandise. In the cities a number of caravanserais were erected as lodging houses, depots, and commercial offices in the vicinity of the *bāzārs*. They resembled the road caravanserais in form, except that most had two stories, whereas the latter had only one.



Picture 1: The inside-city caravanserai compound of Sa'adossaltaneh in Qazvin dating from the Qajar era. (Source: IMCHTH archive)

The merchandise kept at caravanserais was protected by a *darbān* (meaning doorkeeper) who wrote not only the names of the merchants but also the type and quantity of goods in a booklet called the Royal Register. The well-kept register was an important document helping the Shah of the time obtains valuable information about the condition of caravan trade in his country.

The biggest inside-city caravanserais were constructed during the Safavid rule mainly by state men and the powerful who endowed their profits to mosques and religious schools (*madrasahs*) in the form of *WAQF*. Additionally, these caravanserais served as lodgings for high rank travelers and rich merchants. Over time, the religious, political and military aspects of inside-city caravanserais diminished and their cultural-commercial aspects prevailed leading to a functional alteration and occasionally their change into, *Sarā*, *Khān*, *Khanbar*, *Tim* and *Timche*. Because of their coexistence with bazars, inside-city caravanserais had a deep effect on urban bodies and expanses.

Gradually the commercial aspect of the inside-city caravanserais which were adjacent to bazars overcame other aspects attracting major merchants from various trades despite the fact that some of them had already a *hojreh* within the bazar. But some of these inside-city caravanserais exclusively had residential function such as *Mādar-e Shah* (Shah's mother) caravanserai in Isfahan.

Like their outside-city equivalents, the inside-city caravanserais can be divided according to climate, form, architecture and construction materials. Central yards of some of these inside-city caravanserais have quadrilateral, octagonal or *hasht and Nim-Hasht shapes*. Some of Qazvin and Kashan caravanserais have octagonal-shaped yards but their perimeter line (the form of building) does not follow a specific geometrical shape resulting in their categorization as polygonal caravanserais. It should be noticed that caravanserais are grouped according to the exterior form of their building not the shape of their central yards.

2.1.2 Out of city Caravanserai (Outside city Caravanserai)

Generally, caravanserais built outside urban areas or near ordinary or major roads were called outside city caravanserais. As a matter of fact, issues concerning the security and welfare of caravans and safety of routes led to the construction of outside city caravanserais and their associated elements aimed at satisfaction of communicative and economic requirements. Around outside city caravanserais, high fences were erected and their compound consisted of several yards, rooms, corridors, big halls and other facilities. In accordance with climatic conditions, regional architectural style or occasionally military concerns and strategic location, the outside city caravanserais enjoyed a variety of architectural forms and structures.

Compared with the outside-city caravanserais, the inside-city ones had several similarities in construction and some differences. For example, in rural areas the safety of goods and people were more at risk especially by bandits; therefore, the caravanserais were built as self-sufficient, castle-like compounds. On the contrary, caravanserais situated within cities had a physical body and an outer shell in harmony with the existing urban fabric and were part of it.



Picture 2: Miāndasht Caravanserai of Mayāmey. (Source: Hamid Binaei Faal)

Considering the low price of lands in remote areas, the outside-city caravanserais were built predominantly in one floor with relatively large yards and vast buildings. On the contrary, due to the high price of land in urban areas particularly near marketplaces, the buildings were constructed in two floors and sometimes with an additional basement. Also, a large part of outside-city caravanserais consisted of a stable mostly bigger than all the rooms allocated to travelers. But the inside-city caravanserais were either without stables or had small animals shed behind the rooms.

3. History and Development

3.1 Development of Persian Caravanserai through the course of history

The Caravanserais are one of the most important form of Persian Architecture that emerged and created cause of routes development and needs related to the travel's demands and requirements. As Iran historically is located between the main ancient civilizations, the historical roads are playing a critical role in Persian civilization. From the beginning of the history to the current time, the role of Iran as a bridge has encouraged the rulers and people to always care about roads and related structures as one of the main financial income resources. For example, Silk Roads is one of this long lasting corridors which played an important role in Persian Empire during the history. One of the famous Persian ancient road which known as Royal Road, during and after Achaemenid period, which was connecting the main cities of Persian empire, there were several characteristic network of routes across the Iran that historically are well-known.

Evidently, construction of caravanserais in Iran as part of the public service of road maintenance has a long history. In Iranian architecture, caravanserais have a high status, especially along the communication network. The evolution and expansion of caravanserais in Iran in different historical stages have been dependent on social, economic and religion aspects associated with their formation and development (Kiani, 2008: 265.)

Over a long period of time, *Chāpār-Khānehs* (posting houses), *Robāts*, caravanserais and resting-places were built particularly in the Achaemenid era under Darius the first because the all-important political

and commercial relations within the vast Achaemenid Empire required the provision of such roadside services.

In his fifth book, the Greek historian Herodotus writes about midway lodgings built by the Achaemenids between Susa and Sardis. Although unfortunately no example of these buildings remains standing, it is evident that at the time they were much needed for the comfort and security of caravans as well as for sending special messengers.

During the rule of Arsacidean dynasty like its predecessor, the special attention paid to the construction of midway stations and protection of caravans continued. As a result, on most roads particularly the Silk Road caravanserai-like buildings with perimeter rooms and stables were constructed which had a rectangle or a square shape with bricks and/or mud bricks used in their structures.

The Sassanid era was a major age in the development and architecture of pre-Islamic caravanserais. Because of the flourishing economy of the empire, road construction and safety of travelers became a top priority leading to the construction of several caravanserais on main routes.



Picture 3: Anoushervani Robāt belonging to the Sassanid age. (Source: IMCHTH archive)

During the early centuries of the Islamic conquest over Iran, commercial deals declined due to the insecurity produced by negative political and economic atmosphere of the time resulting in less international caravan traffic but nevertheless few caravanserais were still built imitating old prototypes. Several factors contributed to the formation, development and expansion of caravanserais in Islamic times particularly religious, economic and militaristic factors. Later in the era, a variety of

caravanserais regarding their shape, design and plan was built. In travelogues and historical geography books written by for example Ibn-e Howqal and Naser Khosrow, accounts are found about caravanserai construction pertaining to trade and pilgrimage issues. Earlier Islamic dynasties of Iranian origin such as: Buyid, Samanid, and Ziyarid put much emphasis on the construction of public-benefitting buildings like caravanserais and cisterns. Among the monuments of the time is *Robāt -e chaheh* or mahi on Mashhad-Sarakhs road built with four *Iwāns*.

The fifth century AH is considered as the peak of art and in particular architecture in the social history of Iran. Construction of multiple commercial roads as well as a better security led to an economic boom which in turn resulted in the building of several caravanserais in rural and urban areas in order to improve the welfare of travelers. The dominant architectural style of the age was almost uniformly applied to mosques, madrasas and caravanserais which had two- or four-*Iwān* plans. Located in Khorasan Province, the finest example of this period was Sharaf *Robāt* or caravanserai which was built at a time when traveling on Khorasan road was quite popular and not only a trade boom but also full security of roads had been established all over Iran.



Picture 4: Robāt-e Sharaf in Khorasan-e Razavi belonging to the Seljuk period. (Source: Babak Sedighi)

The 5th and 6th centuries AH must be regarded as the heyday of Iranian caravanserais. Thanks to the political and economic stability of the time, expansion of trade led to the construction of many in- and out of city caravanserais. As mentioned before, setting up dwelling-places for travelers has a long history but its development accelerated in this period. Although the growing trend led to the emergence of various elaborate designs, the original composition of Persian architecture remained intact consisting of one central yard and four *Iwāns* (rarely two) on four directions of the building and the intermediate rooms. Following the Mogul invasion in the 7th century AH, the ensuing turbulent social and political circumstances led to a standstill in developmental activities which were delayed until the Ilkhanid dynasty came into power. Naturally the improvement in trade and security at this

time resulted in the construction of major buildings among them caravanserais. During the reign of the Timurid dynasty, the development boom continued and trade expansion led to the construction of caravanserais with four *Iwāns* occasionally boasting decorations like tilework. Significant information is available about caravanserais of this time in the travelogue written by Clavijo, the Spanish ambassador to the court of Tamerlane.

Without doubt, the golden age of caravanserai construction in Iran was the time of the Safavid rule. The booming domestic and foreign trade as well as prioritizing of road-building and Shiite pilgrimage led to the construction of several caravanserais on pilgrim paths especially the Khorasan road stretching from Kermanshah as far as Mashhad. At the start point of the route, pilgrimage caravans had two choices: either to go eastward for visiting the 8th imam of the Shiite or to travel south and reach the holy shrines in Karbala and Najaf. Many historical caravanserais were built on the road by governors or wealthy religious people who endowed them to travelers and pilgrims as *WAQF* under the Islamic law.

On the other hand, long land roads and expanding navigation resulted in the export of Iranian commodities to the European countries in west and to India and China in east. Accordingly, many caravanserais were built on these trade routes. Foreign explorers and travelers who visited Iran during the Safavid rule have drawn interesting pictures about caravanserais of the time in their travelogues and have described them as much similar to modern inns. For example, Tavernier, the French traveler who visited Iran several times between 1632 and 1668 (1042-79 AH), gives interesting details about Iranian caravanserais in his accounts particularly those in which he stayed.



Picture 5: the double-*Iwān* Sarāyān caravanserai dating from the Safavid era. (Source: Hamid Binaei Faal)

Caravanserai construction during the rule of Afshar, Zand and Qajar dynasties can be considered as a continuation of the Safavids'. Most of these buildings had four *Iwāns*. Moreover, many of Safavid caravanserais were repaired and reconstructed during the Qajar reign. The last caravanserais of Iran were built under Qajar kings of Mohammad Shah and Naser al-Din Shah in the 19th century.

Today many of these Persian caravanserais are under protection as cultural heritage because of their unique architectural and historical significance. Even in accordance with a special plan, some of them

which are located near modern roads are being revitalized and rehabilitated as traditional inns and midway lodgings respecting their functional authenticity. Among them are: The Abbassi caravanserai compound in Meybod, Zeynoddīn *Robāt* in Yazd Province, Bisotūn caravanserai in Kermanshah and many others.



Picture 6: Sadolsaltaneh caravanserai in Qazvin dating from Qajar era. (Source: IMCHTH archive)

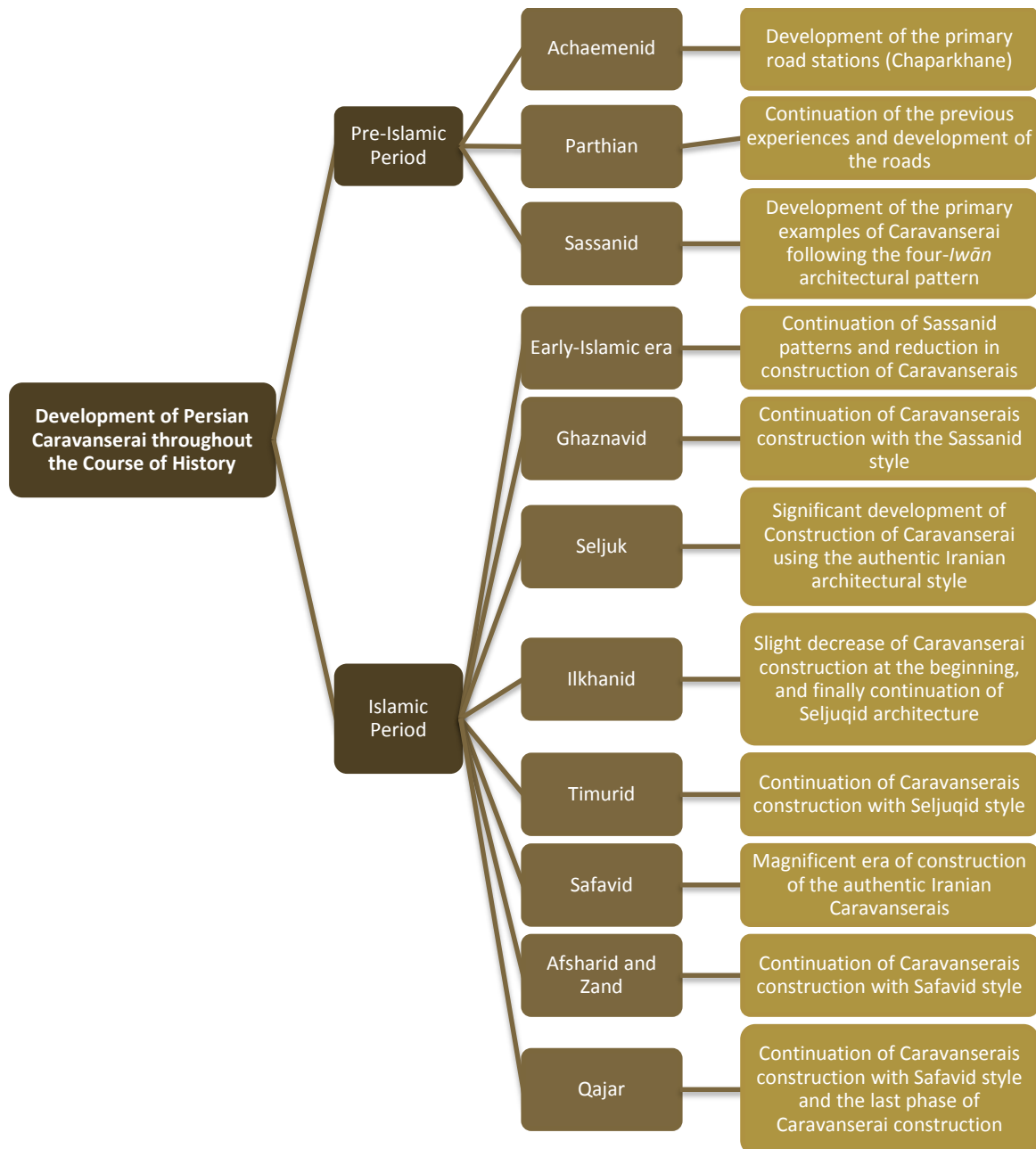


Diagram 2: Development of Persian Caravanserai throughout the Course of History

4.Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

Based on Para. 77 of the Operational Guidelines for inscription on the World Heritage List, the nomination file “The Persian Caravanserai” is proposed as it enjoys criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design;

The emergence of the caravanserai facilitated the richness of the exchange of cultural values as a fertile context. The quality, diversity and variety that visible in this heritage, are the result of the extremely long period and uninterrupted evolve and use of the caravanserais that were a place for the interaction between various civilizations along the span of the last three millennia since their primary establishment. Caravanserais, as one the most significant structures have been formed and evolved on historical routes, such as Silk Roads, *Shāhrāh-e-Khorāsān* (Khorasan Road) and pilgrimage routes presented valuable ideas. According to the archaeological evidence, caravanserais have been reconstructed and restored multiple times throughout their years of use.

Furthermore, the presence of caravanserais across the historical roads and heritage corridors of Iran played a vital role as they facilitated much-needed infrastructure for the merchants and traders that travelled from Europe to Asia and vice versa, and the pilgrimage trips working as resupplying and overnight stays. In cases where the caravanserais were located near urban hubs such as Isfahan, Mashhad, Neyshabur, Rey and Tabriz, the caravanserais played a central role in the exchange of cultural values because their geographical location allowed them to operate as centers of commerce and interaction.



Picture 7: Aerial view of Deyr-e Gachin caravanserai

At that time, caravanserais were the stations wherein different caravans from remote places stayed. A place wherein the exchange of thoughts and interaction of customs and manners of diverse ethnic groups and nations could be materialized. This structure provided the first facilities for public accommodation in the world that can be considered as a prototype for this kind of function. Undoubtedly, such communications and exchange of ideas have high impacts on the life of people through historical periods.

In addition, the earliest pattern of caravanserai as an architectural prototype has been developed and evolved, from its emergence to the later periods. It also has had subsequent impacts on other architectural structures across the regions where it was constructed. Using diverse materials, plans, and enjoying functions also prove the development of the related technologies.



Picture 8: Saadossaltaneh Caravanserai

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared

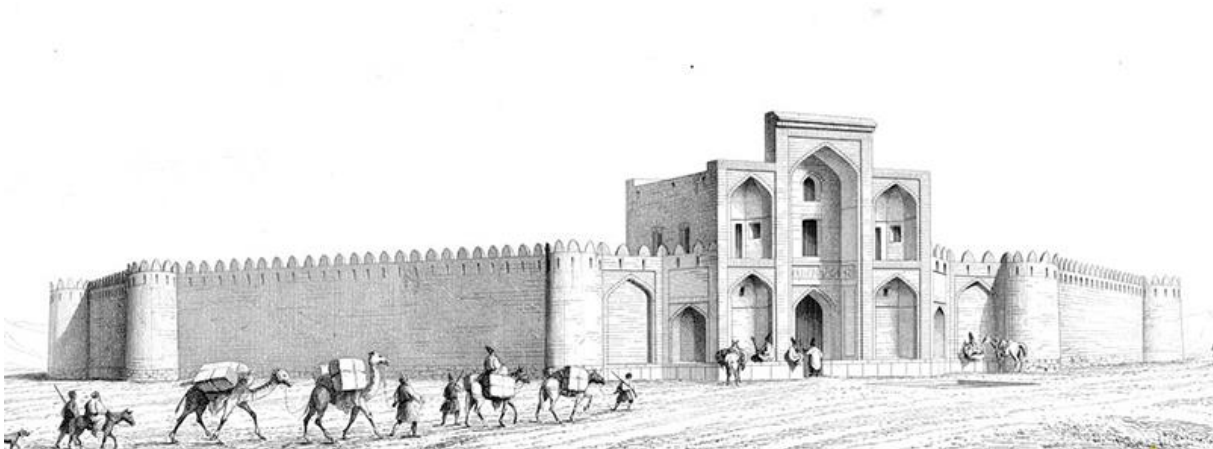
The Persian caravanserai bears an exclusive cultural tradition for long journeys in past times and is a symbol of a trade base civilization in the regions of Iran that has lasted formed at 5th century B.C. to the early years of the 20th century for 25 centuries. It played a vital role in formation of an infrastructure for safe trading within the region. The network of caravanserais and its related infrastructures in different intervals were of significant grounds for expansion of trading among different areas of the

then world as well as the growth of economic and cultural interactions among various ethnic groups and nations.

The Persian caravanserais which were established across the ancient roads such as the 2500-year Royal Road, *Shāhrāh-e-Khorāsān (Khorasan Road)*, the Silk Routes, the Spices Road as well as the pilgrimage routes were primarily simple post stations (known as *Chāpār-Khāneh*) They gradually reached their most advanced stage, which is their present form of caravanserai. They strikingly influenced the growth of trade and economic and cultural interactions among different ethnic groups and nations. Nowadays, a large number of them still stand which exhibit the enormity of architecture and a cultural tradition for construction of caravanserais, which provided the travellers with security and comfort from the ancient times onwards.

The combination of caravanserais and rout functioned as bridges between various communities, groups and nations. Every each of them was a component of a road that along with other on-road structures constituted an integrated chain.

Numerous caravanserais across the highly travelled directions paved the ground for social and economic growth that resulted in commercial associations of the East Asian communities with the west Asian and Europeans. Also high numbers of caravanserais were the starting point for today's prosperous cities and villages across the country.



Picture 9: Travel and Stay in Caravanserais. (Source: IMCHTH archive)

Construction of various and numerous caravanserais throughout Iran proves the strategic significance of this collection of structures in the Persians' worldview.

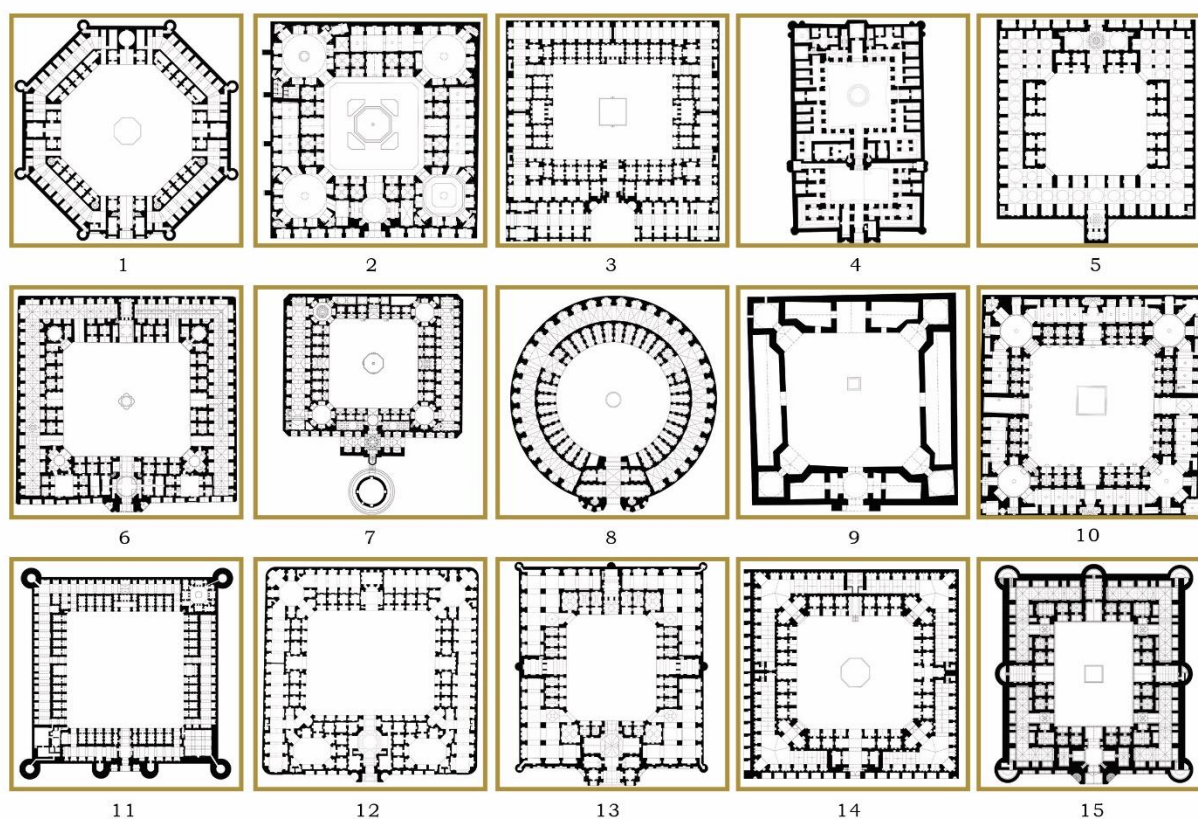
This cultural tradition is deeply can be seen the Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanian periods as well as the Islamic period dynasties including Ziyarid and Buyid, Seljuq, Ilkhanid, Timurid, Safavid, Zand, and Qajars when it mostly developed in Seljuq period and reached its zenith during the Safavid era based on the needs of time including cultural aspects of travel and trade. All of the nominated caravanserais in this dossier clearly show such this cultural tradition wherever they have been constructed such as those on the Silk Routes, *Shāhrāh-e-Khorāsān (Khorasan Road)*, pilgrim roads and the land roads that ended to the seas for maritime trade and the like. Rulers and benefactors constructed and donated most of

these caravanserais for the benefit of travellers and pilgrims. Accordingly, the construction of caravanserais and their donation (*Waqf*) became an ongoing tradition through centuries. They kept their cultural and economic functions through the passage of time.

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

Caravanserai, from architectural point of view, is a unique and exceptional type of building that appeared and developed during a very long time in the Persian region and enjoyed an uninterrupted evolution and represents the knowledge, art, creativity and adaptation to the nature by the Iranians.

The Persian caravanserai is an exemplary of architectural achievement, which presents an important stage of the human history in establishment of intercity quarters in different geographical regions, and as many scholars believe, formation of these caravanserais is considered as a big accomplishment for the Persian architecture and development of international transactions.



Map 1: Numbers of Caravanserais' Plan.

1- Amin Ābād 2- Kharānaq 3- Mahyār 4- Robat sharaf 5- Khān 6- Āhovān Ājori 7- Meybod 8- Tāj Ābād 9- Ti ti 10- Yengeh Emām 11- Deyr-e Gachin 12- Sheikhalī Khān 13- Kuh Pāyeh 14- Rashti 15- Farasfaj

There still stand large numbers of very elegant and remarkable instances of these architectural masterpieces from the Sassanian to the Islamic period especially in the time of the Seljuqs, Safavids and the Qajars all around Iran from the riversides of Aras River to the northern shores of the Persian Gulf. They represent the artistic taste and skills of architects, masons and masters who enthusiastically

made their best efforts to develop caravanserais with regard to the different needs in diverse climates and locations. It should be also mentioned that rulers played an important role in development of this architectural phenomenon. Caravanserais are the result of an Iranian continuous and uninterrupted architectural tradition through millennia with regard to the variety of architecture and aesthetic values, the Persian caravanserais are unique accomplishments which in terms of structural matters, can be regarded as the architectural and artistic masterpieces of their own time which were constructed by the creative Persian masters.



picture 10: Robāt-e Sharaf caravanserai.

The caravanserais, which were built in Iran, were unique examples of a traditional temporary abode for travelers. They not only represent a culture of construction that is in full harmony with their surrounding environment and compatible with natural potentials and limitations in past times but also, they were the prototype of the modern hotels. For the same reasons, they enjoyed diverse architectural patterns in different climates and geographies.

Although fundamentals and concepts of the Persian caravanserais shared a unique spirit, but their variety in specifications is astonishing in a way that each caravanserai is different from the other in terms of plan, dimensions, setting and some other architectural particulars. Variation of plans of the Persian caravanserais (four- *Iwān*, two- *Iwān*, polygonal with yard, columned halls, circular and octagonal caravanserais) exhibit the flexibility and development of architecture of caravanserais. Moreover, this type of architecture has had substantial reverberations, as prototype, on maturation of other public structures including schools and mosques. In the Islamic period, plans of two types of pre-Islamic caravanserais were creatively utilised and intermingled in the Islamic period ones on a very logical method in a way that the chambers for caravanserais surround the central yard and there were wide corridors behind the chambers for keeping quadrupeds. And similar to the Parthian and Sassanian palaces two and/or four *Iwān* were built around the central yard in most of caravanserais. This type of

the Persian caravanserais was transmitted and used in a number of countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and some regions of the Central Asia.

5. Protection and Management of the Property

5.1 Ownership

The ownership of almost all of the Persian Caravanserais belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran represented by the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (IMCHTH). In addition, there is a *Waqf* ownership on some of the caravanserais, which belong to the Endowment and Charity Affairs Organization. The private sector owns just a few numbers of them. Since all nominated Persian Caravanserais have been inscribed in the National Cultural Heritage List, all the following caravanserais are under the supervision of the IMCHTH and the National Persian Caravanserai Base.

No	Property	Ownership			No	Property	Ownership		
		WAQF	State (IMCHTH)	Private			WAQF	Governmental (IMCHTH)	Private
1	Deyr-e Gachin		•		29	Meybod		•	
2	Noushīrvān			•	30	Farasfaj		•	
3	Parand (Ghal'e Sangi)		•		31	Īzadkhāst		•	
4	Robāt-e Sharaf		•		32	Bisotūn		•	
5	Anjīreh Sangi			•	33	Ganjali Khān		•	
6	Abbās Ābād Tāybād		•		34	Yengeh Emām		•	
7	Jamāl Ābād	•			35	Yām		•	
8	Qelli		•		36	Khājah Nazar		•	
9	Fakhr-e Dāvūd		•		37	Goujebel		•	
10	Sheikhali Khān		•		38	Sāeen		•	
11	Maranjāb		•		39	Titi		•	
12	Amin Ābād		•		40	Dehdasht		•	
13	Gabr Ābād		•		41	Khoy		•	
14	Mahyār	•			42	Bāgh-e Sheikh			•
15	Gaz		•		43	Neyestānak		•	
16	Mādar Shāh	•			44	Chehel Pāyeh		•	
17	Kūhpāyeh	•			45	Khān	•		
18	Mazinān		•		46	Deh Mohammad	•		
19	Mehr		•		47	Tāj Ābād		•	
20	Zafarāniyeh		•		48	Chāh kūrān		•	
21	Fakhr Ābād		•		49	Anjīreh Ajori			•
22	Sarāyān	•			50	Kharānaq		•	
23	Qasr-e Bahrām		•		51	Rashti	•		
24	Āhovān			•	52	Borāzjān		•	
25	Mayāmey	•			53	Chameshk		•	
26	Abbās Ābād	•			54	Afzal		•	
27	Miāndasht		•		55	Bastak		•	
28	Zeynoddīn		•		56	Sa'adossaltaneh		•	

Table 1: Ownership Types of the Caravanserais

5.2 Protective designation of the national and universal laws, regulations and constitutions to preserve and support the property

All the Persian Caravanserais receive special protection and conservation legislation as other properties that are registered on the National Cultural Heritage List.

No	Property	National Registration No.	Year of Registration	No	Property	National Registration No.	Year of Registration
1	Deyr-e Gachin	10408	2003	29	Meybod	1618	1978
2	Noushīrvān	1727	1987	30	Farasfaj	1970	1997
3	Parand (Ghal'e Sangi)	10822	2003	31	Īzadkhāst	3/112	1975
4	Robāt-e Sharaf	2138	1998	32	Bisotūn	974	1974
5	Anjīreh Sangi	2449	1999	33	Ganjali Khān	297	1937
6	Abbās Ābād Tāybād	2386	1999	34	Yengeh Emām	2175	1998
7	Jamāl Ābād	6152	2003	35	Yām	30336	2011
8	Qelli	1806	1996	36	Khājah Nazar	7744	2002
9	Fakhr-e Dāvūd	2108	1999	37	Goujebel	2920	2000
10	Sheikhali Khān	1716	1985	38	Sāeen	1653	1983
11	Maranjāb	12126	2005	39	Titi	1784	1996
12	Amin Ābād	884	1969	40	Dehdasht	3551	2000
13	Gabr Ābād	3/1095	1975	41	Khoy	16391	2006
14	Mahyār	354	1942	42	Bāgh-e Sheikh	1185	1975
15	Gaz	379	1951	43	Neyestānak	18773	2006
16	Mādar Shāh	116	1934	44	Chehel Pāyeh	33158	2020
17	Kūh Pāyeh	2698	2000	45	Khān	2752	1999
18	Mazinān	1664	1984	46	Deh Mohammad	2381	1999
19	Mehr	1660	1984	47	Tāj Ābād	1872	1997
20	Zafarāniyeh	1696	1985	48	Chāh kūrān	2752	1999
21	Fakhr Ābād	6656	2002	49	Anjīreh Ajori	32812	2018
22	Sarāyān	8733	2033	50	Kharānaq	2238	1998
23	Qasr-e Bahrām	1059	1975	51	Rashti	2298	1998
24	Āhovān	1373	1977	52	Borāzjān	1638	1983
25	Mayāmey	1718	1986	53	Chameshk	7940	2002
26	Abbās Ābād	1726	1987	54	Afzal	2233	1998
27	Miāndasht	1436	1957	55	Bastak	2298	1998
28	Zeynoddīn	926	1972	56	Sa'adossaltaneh	2089	1998

Table 2: Date and Registration number of the Persian Caravansaries on the national heritage list of Iran

Some of the protective designation of the national and universal laws, regulations and constitutions to preserve and support the property are mentioned as below:

5.2.1 Cultural heritage law in Iran

There are different laws and regulations for protection and conservation of cultural heritage in Iran. These are in the following categories:

- Legislation governing general cases in the country, including cultural heritage;
- Legislation specifically concerning cultural heritage;

- International legal instruments, recommendations and guidelines that are integrated within the national legislation.

5.2.2 General regulations

Some of the general laws and regulations relevant to the cultural heritage include, *inter alia*:

Article 558: Anybody who partially or totally damages cultural-historical religious complexes or buildings, places, sites registered in the National Properties List of Iran and/or harms installed or existing decorations, annexations, facilities, objects, scripts and motifs which also individually enjoy cultural, historical or religious prestige, will be sentenced to one to ten years imprisonment in addition to compensation of the damage sustained.

Article 559: Anybody who steals objects, accessories as well as materials and pieces of cultural-historical properties from museums, historical, religious and other places under state protection or anybody who hides or buys such stolen objects, will be sentenced to one to five years of jail in addition to compensation of the damages done.

Article 560: Anybody who without the permission of the Cultural Heritage Organization of the country or irrespective of regulations approved by the above mentioned organization, engages in activities within the buffer zone of cultural-historical properties cited in the article that damage or harm the above said buildings and properties, will be sentenced to one to three years imprisonment as well as compensating damages incurred and removing traces of the offence.

Article 562. Any type of excavation and reductions for the purpose of obtaining historical, cultural items are prohibited and will be sentenced to 6 months to 3 years of imprisonment and the confiscation of all discovered items towards the interest of the cultural heritage organization and all instruments and gear of excavation will be towards the interest of the government.

Article 563. Any person who may trespass to the lands, hills and historic and religious locations which have been registered in the national remnants registry and have no private owners will be sentenced to 6 months to 2 years of imprisonment providing that the cultural heritage organization has previously distinguished the boundaries of these locations and areas on site and have marked them.

Examples of the general laws and regulations relevant to cultural heritage include, *inter alia*:

1. Article 83 of the Constitution Law of Islamic Republic of Iran (1920) recognizes the importance of cultural properties. Transferring the ownership of public monuments and properties considered to be part of the national heritage is forbidden, unless approved by the Parliament. However, transfer of ownership of monuments and cultural properties officially recognized as insignificant is possible.
2. Article (26) of the Iranian Civil Law (1939) prohibits private ownership of significant cultural property.
3. The Islamic Penal Law is an effective law for practical protection of cultural heritage. A full chapter deals with crimes regarding cultural heritage (from Article 558-569) in the Islamic Penal Law (1996). This law recognizes the following as a crime subject to punishment:

- Damaging, theft, selling or buying stolen historical property (Article 559);
 - Violation of the regulations of ICHHTO resulting in deterioration, defect, or damage in the heritage property (Article 560);
 - Illicit export or smuggle of heritage property (Article 561);
 - Any unauthorized excavation in an effort to find historical properties (Article 562.1);
 - Selling or buying properties discovered from unauthorized excavations (Article 562.2);
 - Encroachment on historical or religious land, property or sites registered on the National Heritage List with no private ownership (Article 563);
 - Restoration, repair, converting, renovation and extension of cultural or historical monuments or their decoration, registered on the National Heritage List without the ICHHTO approval (Article 564);
 - Transferring parts of immovable properties registered on the National Heritage List without the ICHHTO consent (Article 565);
 - Converting the functions of monuments and sites registered on the National Heritage List denigrating the identity of the property and/or without ICHHTO consent.
4. The Law for Punishment of Those Interfering in the National Economic System (1991), article (I), paragraph d, considers any effort towards export of national property, even though not successful, a crime. All such property intended for export is confiscated.
 5. Property acquisition law for implementing public development and military projects of the Government (1979) allows the acquisition of any historic property, in case a project is prepared for this property. This law has a streamlined procedure, which also guarantees the rights of the private owners.

5.2.3 Specific regulation for cultural heritage

Samples of the regulations specifically dealing with cultural heritage are explained below:

1. The Law for Protection of National Heritage (1930) is the first comprehensive law concerning various aspects cultural heritage. This Law defines the procedure for identification of cultural heritage property (Article 1). It further mandates the Government to prepare a National Heritage List (Article 2), sets the criteria and legal protection for properties on this List, and stipulates legal provisions for archaeological excavations;
2. The Bylaw Concerning Prevention of Unauthorized Excavation (1980) stipulates punishments for excavation and purchase of excavated historic objects. The provisions of this Law are further elaborated in the Islamic Penal Law mentioned above. There is further regulation limiting production, purchase, use or advertisement of metal detectors;
3. The Law Concerning Acquisition of Land, Building and Premises for Protection of Historic Properties (1969) stipulates further regulations for acquiring property with historic or cultural significance;

4. The Law for Establishing Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (1979) is another powerful legal instrument depicting a comprehensive picture for managing cultural heritage of the country;
5. The Law for Establishing the Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Planning (1987), which concerns with both cultural and natural heritage.

5.2.4 Regulation regarding the movable and immovable properties

Regulations of cultural, historical and artistic properties of government organization (number 50446 T 25214, ratified on March 4, 2004 by the Cabinet Council):

In their meeting on February 26, 2003, following the proposal number 5461-1.1 dated September 2, 2001 presented by the ICHTO, and in conformity with article 9 of the chapter on culture, art and physical education of Iran's Third Development Plan, and in compliance with the Decree Number 49454. T. 523269 dated January 22, 2001, by virtue of Article 122 of the National Audit Law passed in 1987, the Cabinet ratified the Regulations of Cultural and Historical Properties of Public and Government Organizations as follows:

5.2.4.1 Regulation of Cultural and Historical Properties

Article 1: Cultural, historical and artistic properties are defined as those of scientific, historical, cultural, archaeological and paleontological significance, and are more than one-hundred years of age; they should fall in one of the following categories.

- a. **Historical and cultural properties:** They are defined as those properties that are indicative of evolution of life, historical and cultural identity of man, or the historical events of certain period(s), which, in one way or another, demonstrate the historical and cultural development of man on the national, regional, or international scale, or show the emergence, life, and extinction of civilizations. Such properties should be excavated and found in archeological; sites on the land or the seaside through scientifically conducted excavations or other means.
- b. **Historical properties:** Such properties are objects from historical events, science and technology, military and social history, and the lives of leaders and significant historical, scientific, religious, cultural and artistic figures.
- c. **Cultural properties:** It refers to movable properties, which demonstrate various aspects of human life in the more recent eras where research helps with understanding of historical and cultural features of human societies. These include ethnography, anthropology, native arts and culture, voice and image libraries, stamps, etc.
- d. **Artistic properties:** This is used to refer to all pieces of artwork in different fields of visual arts including traditional, native or contemporary arts, either Iranian or non-Iranian, which are created by the distinguished artists of the given field, or are listed among the prominent pieces of artwork, or are indicative of the birth of a certain artistic style, school, or era.
- e. **Research properties:** It is a piece of a cultural, historical or artistic object which does not carry a full motif, writing or an independent cultural identity, or lacks any features worth protection; such objects are only valuable for the evidence they provide for the research and recognition of the historical era, materials and their combination.

Article 4: Organizations subject to this regulation are expected to take due measures to renovate, protect, introduce, conduct research works, and organize the structure and data related to the cultural, historical and artistic properties they possess.

Article 5: The ICHHTO is obliged to decide the emergency measures in order to restore and protect the properties, and to notify the organization which would be bound to putting the regulation into practice.

Article 6: The organization in possession of the properties mentioned in the regulation is in charge of protection and conservation of them. Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance would be in charge of the accounts of such properties.

Article 7: Categorization of artistic, historical and cultural properties included in this regulation would be carried out based on instructions prepared and announced by the ICHHTO. The categorization will be binding upon ratification of the ICHHTO.

Article 8: The ICHHTO is obliged to notify the instruction for categorization of the properties mentioned in this regulation and their related data to all relevant organizations and entities in order for them to produce and document data regarding the research work, restoration and protection of the properties as well as their structural information all included in general and specialized identification of the property.

Article 14: All organizations subject to this regulation are required to open the specialty museum of their field of activity. Such museums will be managed under supervision and authorization of the ICHHTO.

5.2.5 Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Planning [HCAUP]

All urban plans in Iran should be confirmed by Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Planning [HCAUP], before their approval.

Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Planning (HCAUP) was established under the law of February 1973. Ministry of Housing and Urban Development [MHUD] is responsible for managing housing development as well as for developing master plans for urban and semi-urban areas. This includes the historic urban areas, where a large proportion of the Iranian cultural heritage is located. The HCAUP is presided by the Minister of MHUD. The Deputy Minister for Urban Development and Architecture is the Secretary of HCAUP, under whom a Director-General manages the Secretariat. Other members of HCAUP include the Ministers

of Interior; Economy and Finance; Culture and Islamic Guidance; Education; Power; Jihad Agriculture; and Defence.

In addition to these ministers, three Vice-Presidents are voting members of the HCAUP: (i) Head of Management and Planning Organization, (ii) Head of ICHHTO, and (iii) Head of Department of Environment. HCAUP has four main functions:

- Overall urban development policies;

- Commenting on by-laws affecting zoning, land use, and determining main functions;
- Adoption of urban master plans;
- Adoption of urban criteria, regulations, by-laws, etc.

The approval of master plans by HCAUP has an established process. A qualified consultant is commissioned by the provincial Housing and Urban Development Organization (HUDO), which is the provincial office of MHUD. After the plan is prepared must be approved by The Provincial Planning Council. It is then reviewed concurrently by the HCAUP's technical committee and the office of Physical Plans at MHUD, before final submission to HCAUP. The figure below shows the procedure for approval of physical plans by HCAUP.

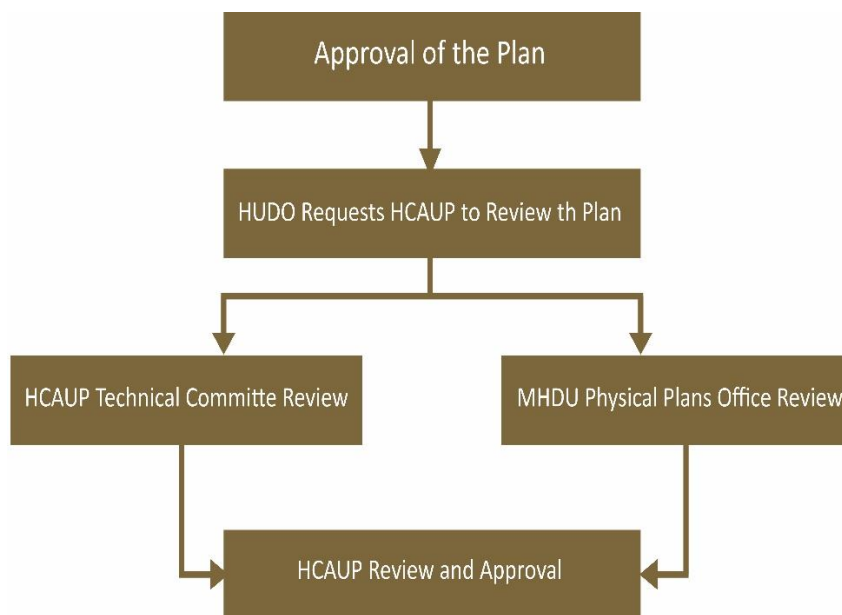


Diagram 3: The procedure for approval of development plans by HCAUP

In principle, HCAUP does not examine the detailed plans. Such plans, as well as modifications which do not essentially change the existing Master Plan, are adopted by a commission presided by the provincial or county governor-general, head of City Council, Mayor, representatives of MHUD and some other ministries and (also called Commission for Article 5). The Secretariat of Commission for Article 5 is established at HUDO. In case of Caravanserais which are located in urban fabrics, the Commission for Article 5 in province is responsible for adopting urban development control regulations that Cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism ministry is one of the main members of this commission.

5.2.6 The Planning and Budget Organization

As per article 4 of the execute bylaw and clause C of article 166 of the 3rd Development Plan (2000), the Planning and Budget Organization is bound to provide the necessary funding for the execution of recommendations by the ICHHTO and the Ministry of Interior in the annual budget of relevant organizations.

According to article 6 of the 3rd Development Plan (2000), all executive organizations are required to establish specialized research museums in line with their responsibility towards the protection and

promotion of cultural heritage in accordance with their own duties, and based on ICHHTO standards. They are also required to spend part of their development and research budget for the conservation, restoration, revitalization, and introduction of these monuments under the supervision of the ICHHTO.

The activities required by the aforementioned articles are:

- Planning, preparing, and executing all necessary actions aimed at the realization of conservation standards declared by ICHHTO about historical buildings, complexes, sites, and fabrics
- Identification conservation and revitalization of historical places and fabrics such as the reorganization of adjoining thoroughfares and public spaces, prioritization of providing urban services in proportion to the qualities of the historical fabric or site
- Planning and reforming required activities concerning reorganization and introduction of sites and mounds located within urban limits such as setting up public service facilities, cleaning, lighting, and landscaping based on a plan or project approved under the supervision of the ICHHTO
- Preparing and launching plans related to restoration, reorganization and revitalization of historical buildings and fabrics based on the ratified project and under the supervision of ICHHTO
- Doing any activity deemed necessary for cultural-historical monuments existing in the city like historical buildings, sites, complexes and fabrics and regarding them as sustainable urban elements and main assets of the city/village/province and putting them under physical conservation within urban/rural development plans based on ICHHTO standards
- Issuance of any construction permit and conducting of development operations within the Nominated property and buffer zone of historical buildings, compounds, sites and fabrics shall be in accordance with conservation standards declared by ICHHTO; municipalities shall prevent any damage, encroachment, restoration, repair, and functional change contrary to conservation standards set by the ICHHTO
- Preparing and implementing plans related to restoration and revitalization of historical compounds, buildings and fabrics with cooperation and supervision of the ICHHTO as well as performing necessary activities for their ratification by the ICHHTO

5.2.7 International legal instrument

In the I.R. of Iran, the requirements of any international convention are integrated with the national legislation, upon accession to that international convention. Thereafter, it will be compulsory to abide with the requirements of these conventions. The I. R. of Iran has acceded to several UNESCO conventions concerning the conservation and protection of cultural heritage, as well as other conventions and charters. Some of important conventions which are acceded by the I. R. Iran include, inter alia:

1. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);
2. Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1954) and its Protocol I (1954) and Protocol II (1999);

3. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).

5.2.8 Other regulation

In addition to the legal instruments mentioned above, there are other types of regulations for protection and conservation of cultural and historic property in the I. R. of Iran. For example, according to a Cabinet decision adopted in 2001, all public organizations must conduct studies to assess the cultural-historic impacts of major development projects at the earliest feasibility study stage and to comply with the recommendations of such studies during design and implementation. The Nominated property and buffer zones of historical buildings are considered and respected in the national law.

Approved General regulations for The Persian caravanserais nominated property and buffer zone are as follows and as each of the nominated caravanserais, according to their specific conditions have the specific regulations as well as the buffer zone that are mentioned in the maps section.

5.2.9 Regulations of nominated property

- Any activity resulting in damaging or harming the structure, foundation and landscape of the nominated property is prohibited.
- Feasible study, planning and performing any of the following activities must be initially approved by the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (IMCHTH): re-organizing, establishing and/or developing infrastructures, installing and/or launching facilities, constructing service spaces, etc. Any intervention to revitalization and utilization of the caravanserai as well as all activities related to research, restoration, conservation, archaeology, etc.
- Utilizing any kind of eco-friendly sources such as photovoltaic cells, solar water heaters, etc. is authorized with the respect of landscape and visual characteristic.

5.b.10 Regulations of buffer zone

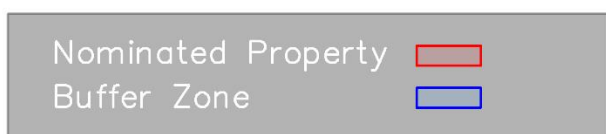
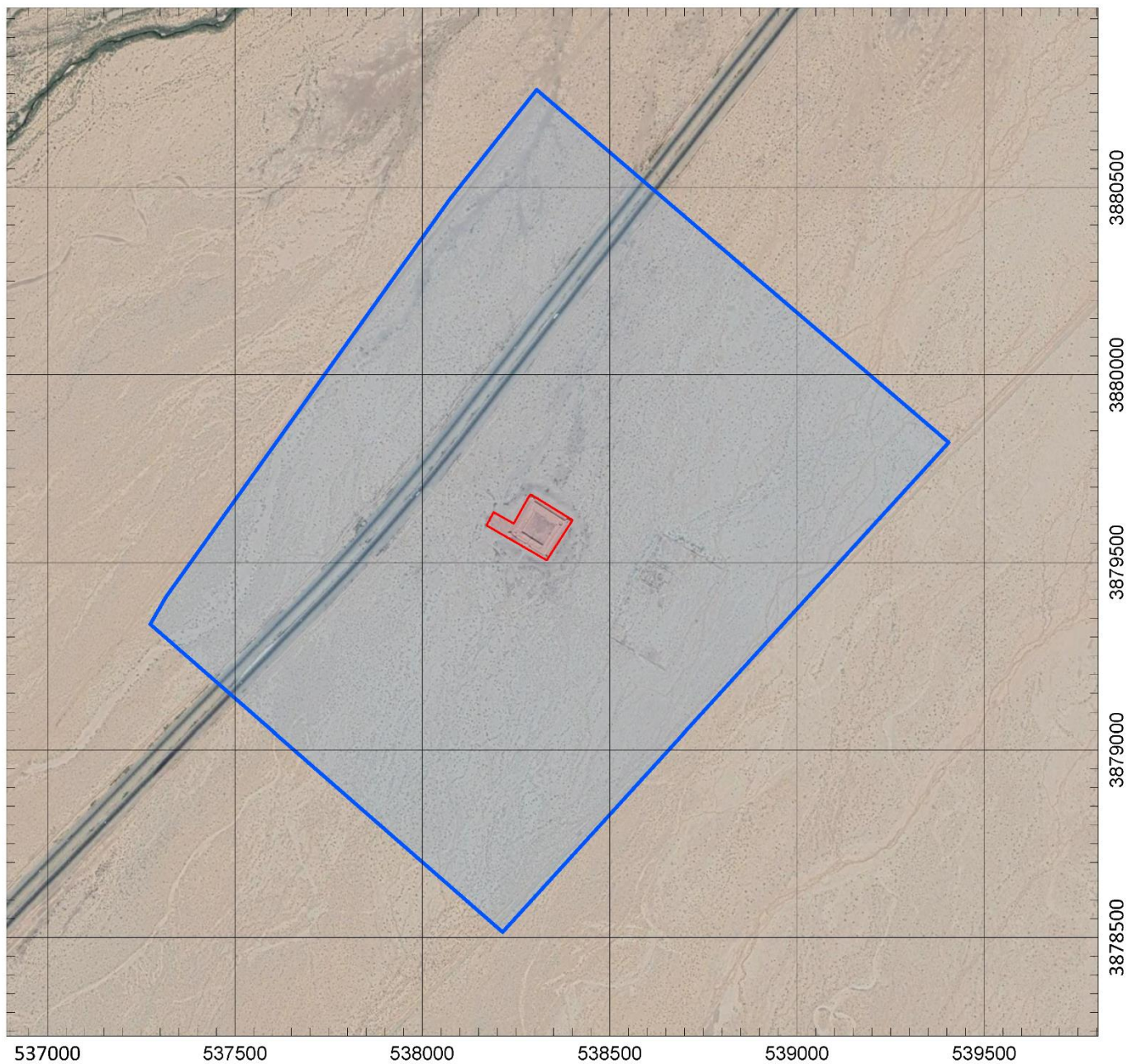
- Any damaging or disturbing activity such as any pollutant industrial activities, garbage accumulation as well as any other action done inside the buffer zone which generally harming the basis or landscape of its nominated property is forbidden.
- Any of the following activities is prohibited unless the risk assessment study examined by the IMCHTH: any type of construction, infrastructural, telecommunication, welfare, service, entertaining facilities etc.
- Any construction activity inside the buffer zone of the following caravanserais is forbidden: Abbās Ābād-Tāybād, Robāt-e Sharaf, Qelli, Maranjāb, Gabr Ābād, Deyr-e Gachin, Qasr-e Bahrām, Sāeen, Chehel Pāyeh, Chāh kūrān, Goujebel, Zeynoddīn, Anjireh Ajori, Anjireh Sangi, Ganj Ali Khān and Bastak.
 - a. Note: In concert with revitalization of the said caravanserais, establishing any necessary infrastructural and service facilities can be done within the buffer zone of the nominated properties provided that the required permit is issued by the IMCHTH.
- The maximum authorized height for any construction inside the buffer zone for the following caravanserais is determined according to the approved rural and urban detailed plan for each

of the properties: Kūhpāyeh, Yengeh Emām, Afzal, Farasfaj, Sa'adossaltaneh, Fakhr-e Dāvūd, Mādar Shāh Tāj Ābād, Titi, Abbās Ābād and Mayāmey.

- The maximum authorized height for any construction inside the buffer zone for the following caravanserais is 4.5 m.: Rashti, Kharānaq, Sheikh Ali Khān, Amin Ābād, Mahyār, Zafarāniyeh, Fakhr Ābād, Sarāyān, Meybod, Yām, Khājah Nazar, Dehdasht, Neyestānak, Khān, Deh Mohammad, Bāgh-e Sheikh, Borāzjān, Jamāl Ābād, Mehr.
- Monuments and structures enjoying historical values existing within the buffer zone of any caravanserai must be conserved. In addition, any damage to and demolition of the said monuments and structures are strictly forbidden.
- Change of land use of gardens and farmlands located within buffer zone of the nominated property is prohibited.

Deyr-e Gachin Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

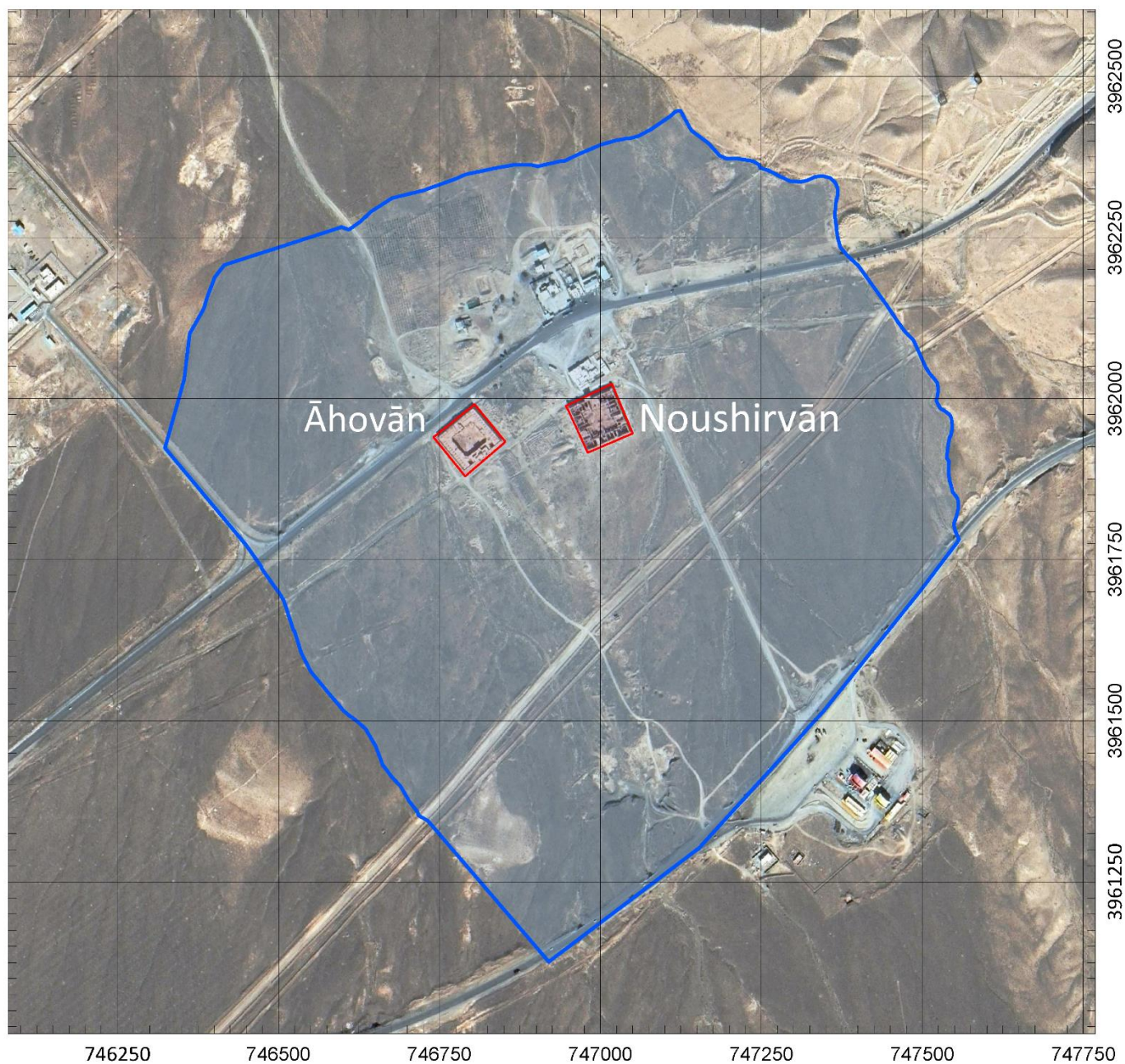


UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E



Noushīrvān Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Āhovān&Nushirvān
Caravanserai

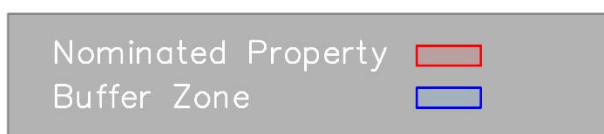
Semnan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Parand (Ghal'e Sangi) Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Robāt-e Sharaf Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m

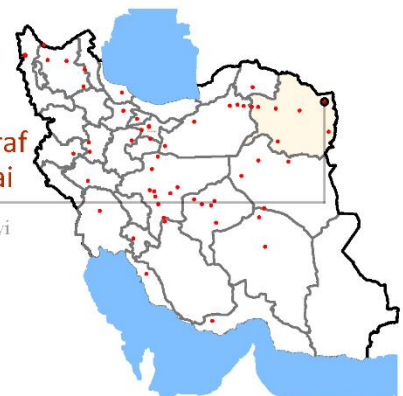


Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Robāt-e Sharaf
Caravanserai

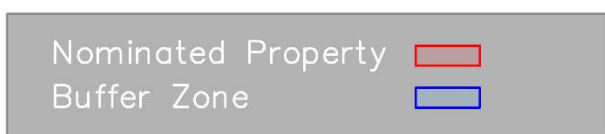
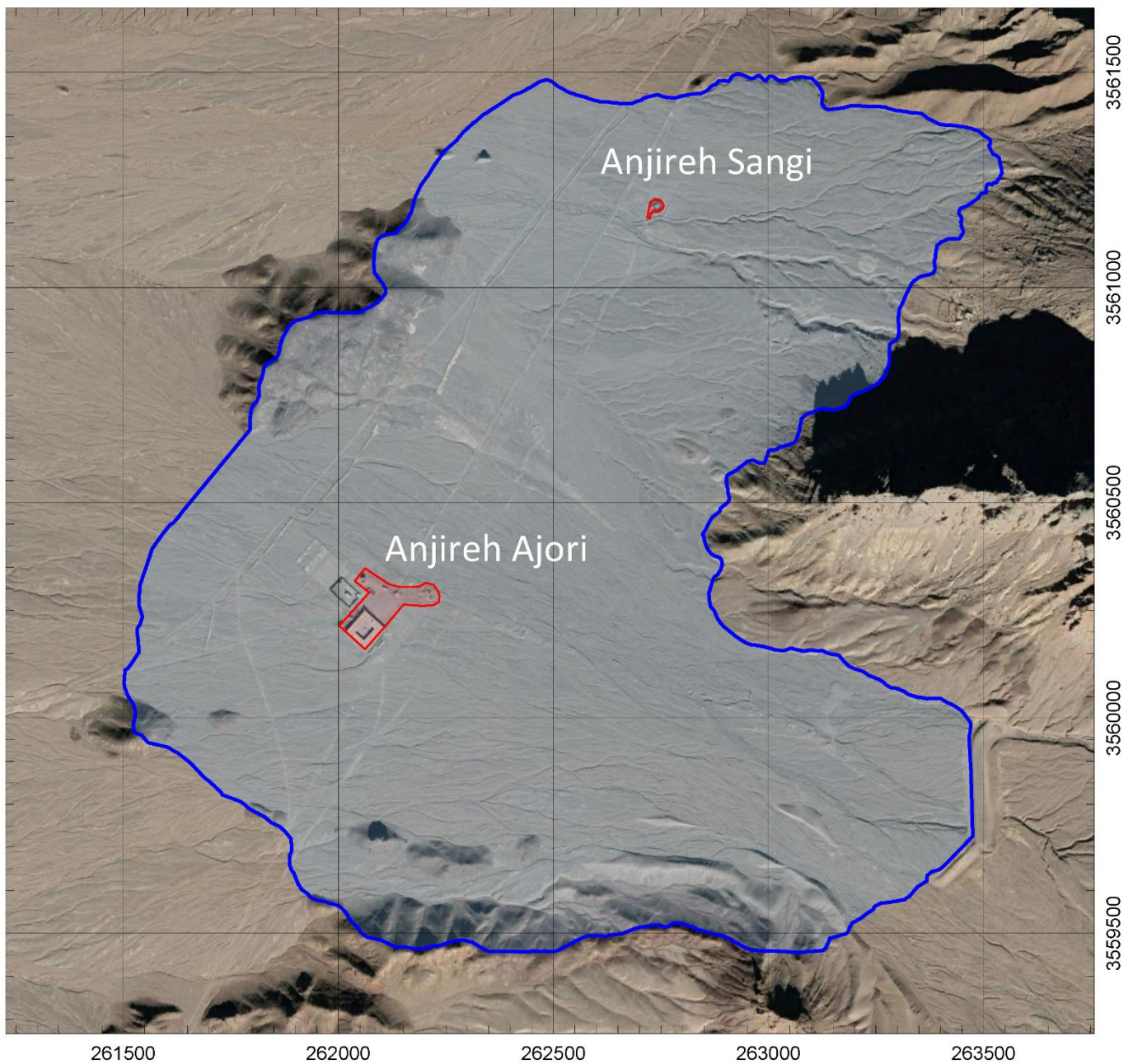
Khorasan-e Razavi



UTM, Zone 41 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 63d E

Anjireh Sangi Caravanserai

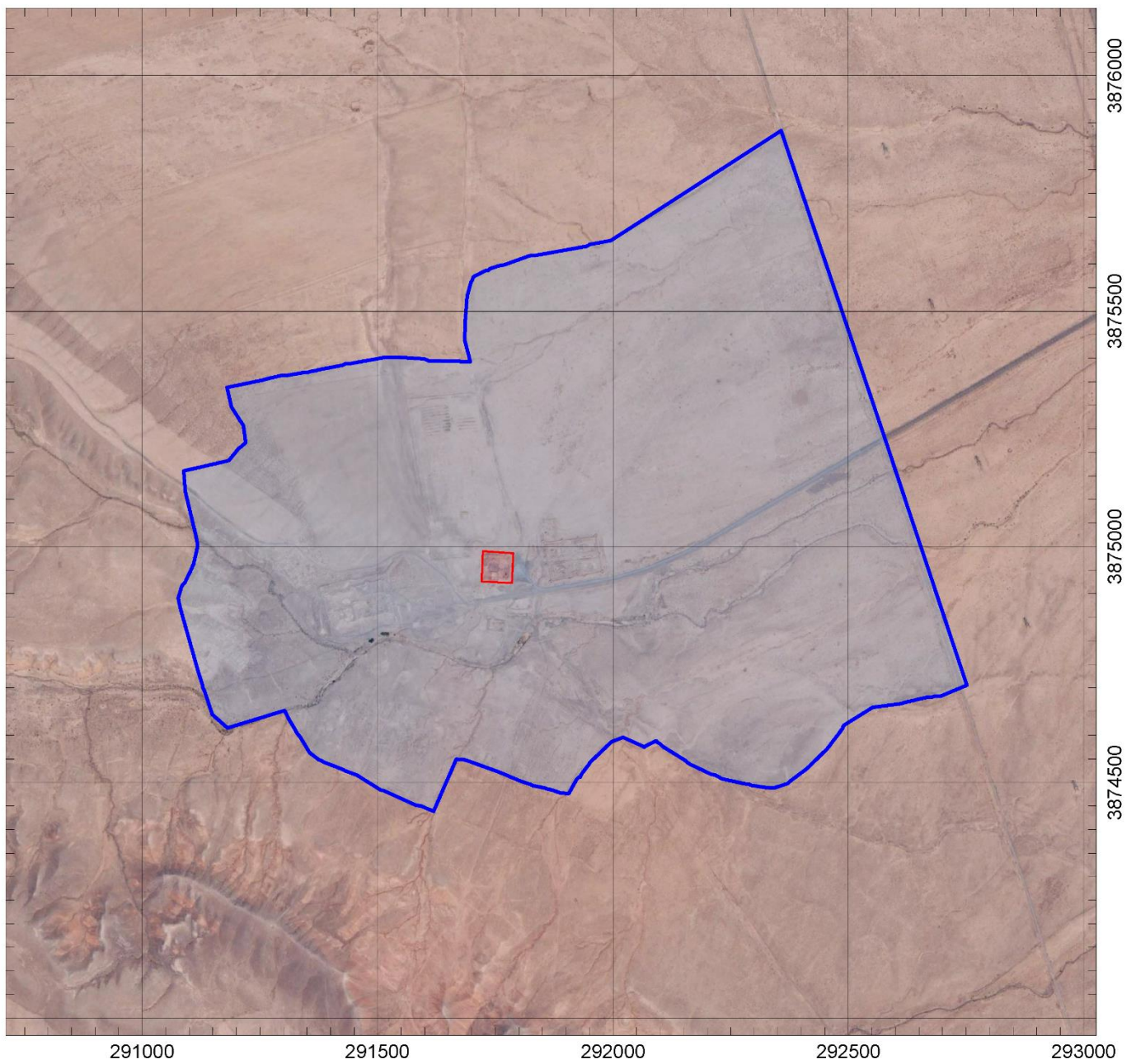
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Abbās Ābād Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



500 m

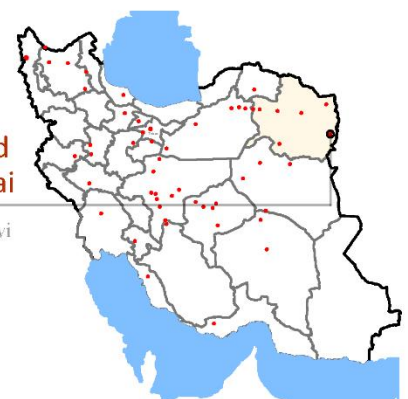


Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Abbās Ābād
Caravanserai

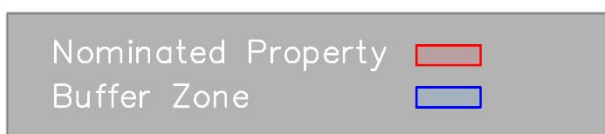
Khorāsān-e Rāzavī



UTM, Zone 41 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 63d E

Jamāl Ābād Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

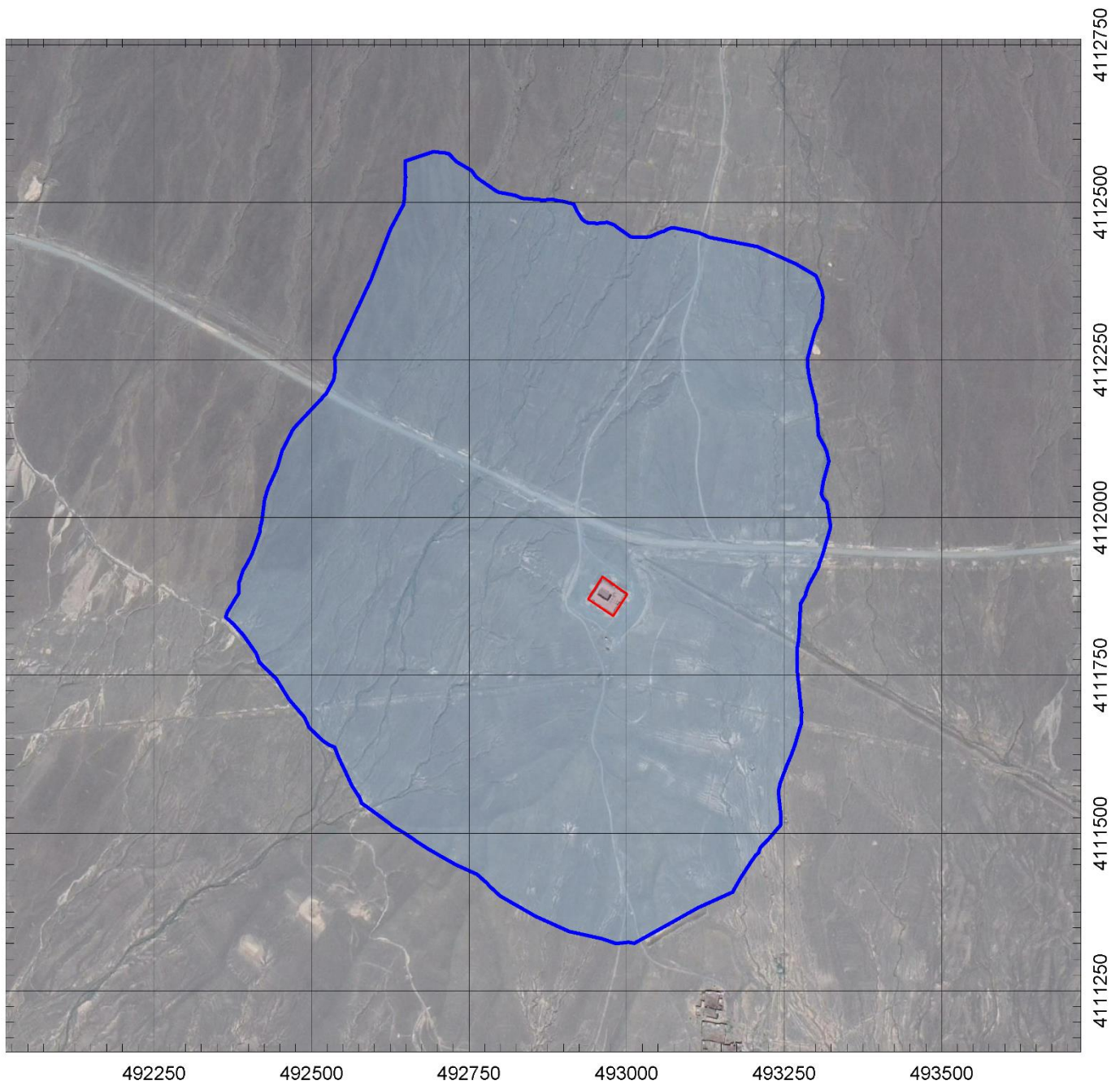


UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E



Qeli Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



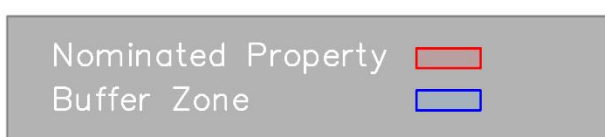
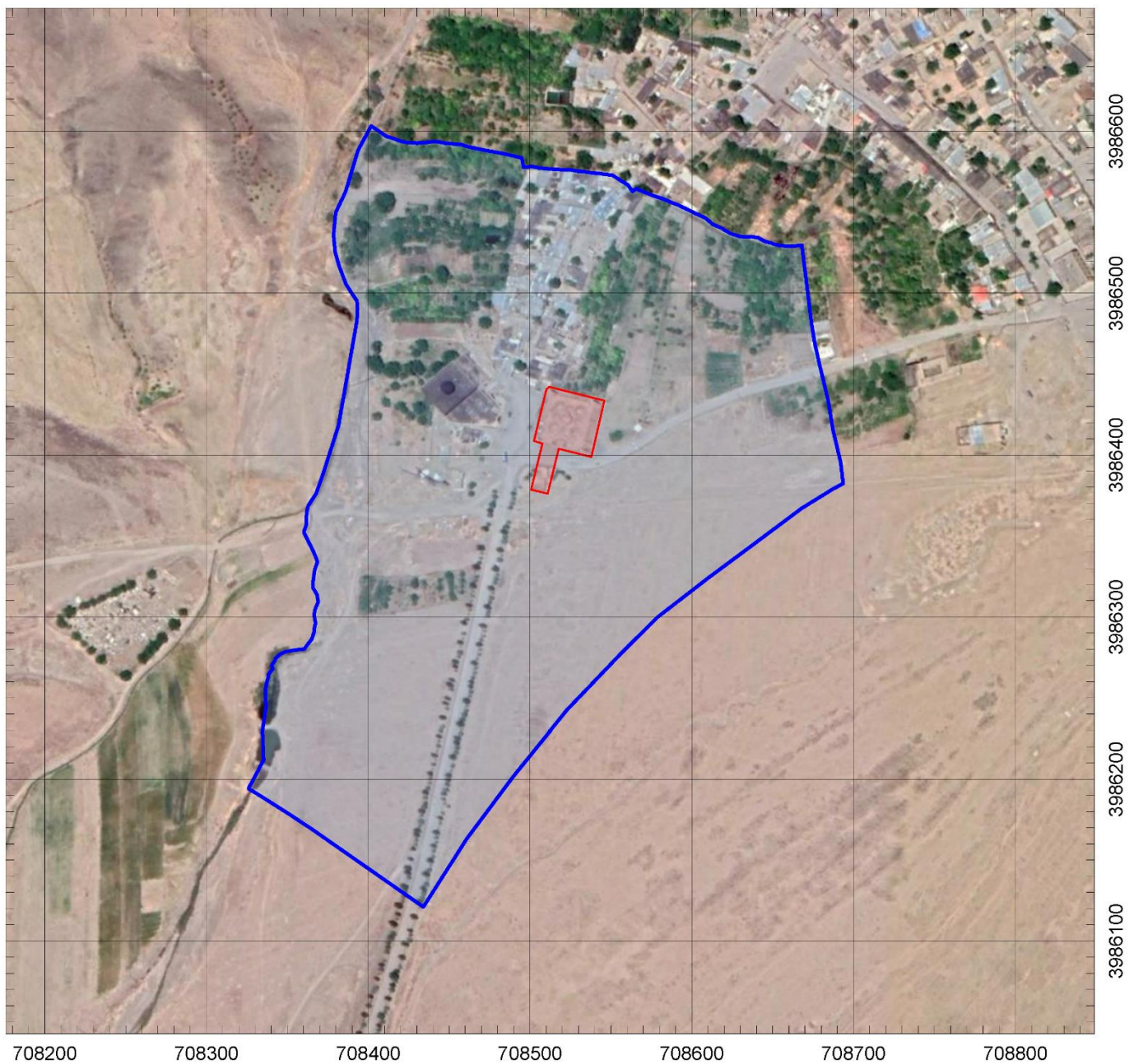
Qeli
Caravanserai
Khorasan-e Shomali



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Fakhr-e Dāvūd Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Fakhr-e Dāvūd
Caravanserai

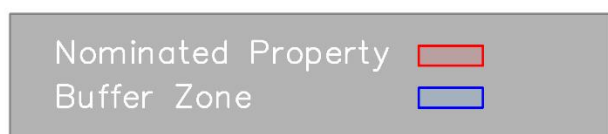
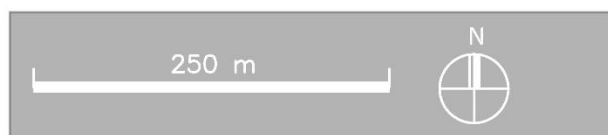
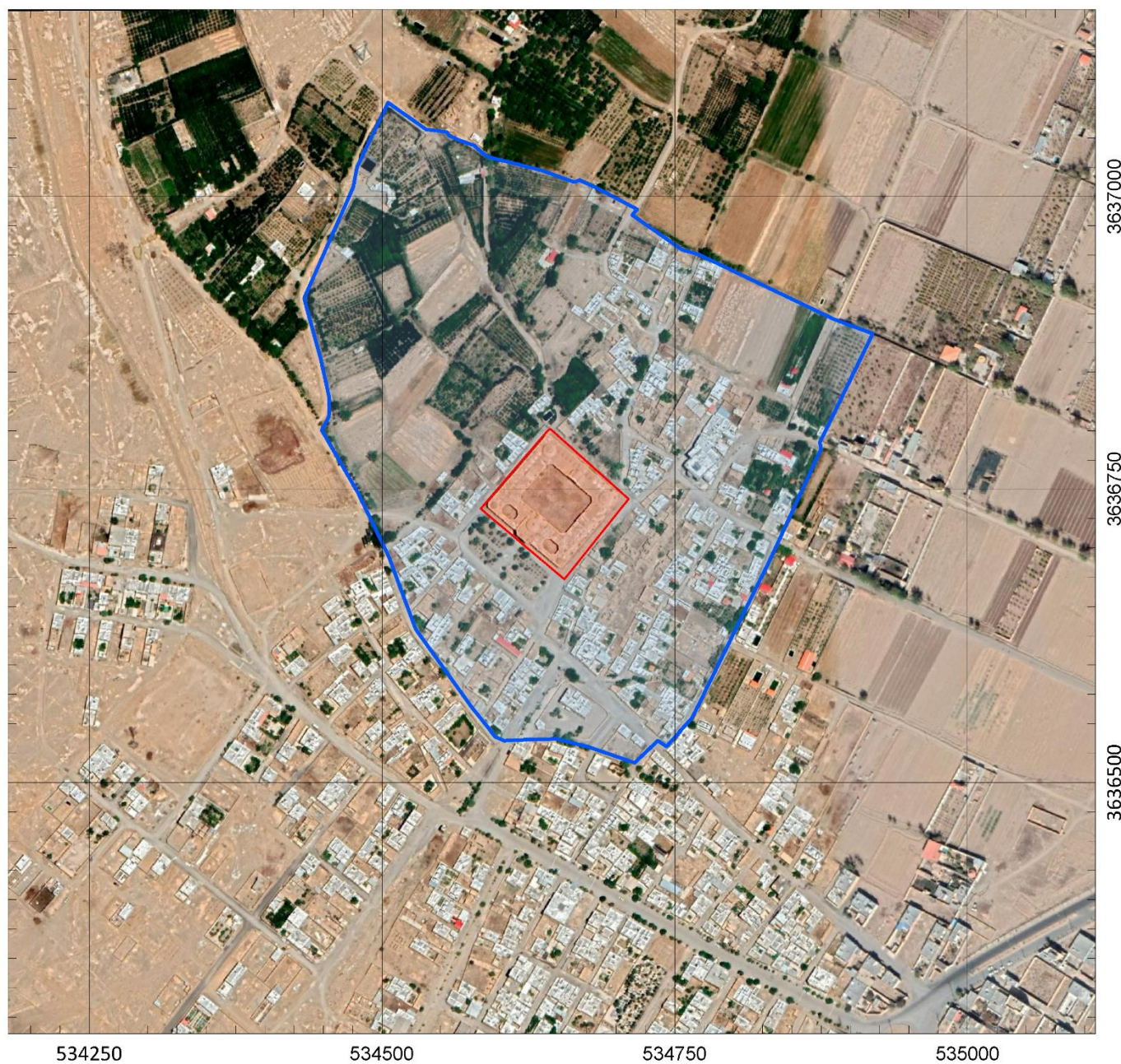
Khorasan-e Razavi



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Sheikhali Khān (Chāleh Siyāh) Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Sheikhali Khān
(Chāleh Siyāh)
Caravanserai

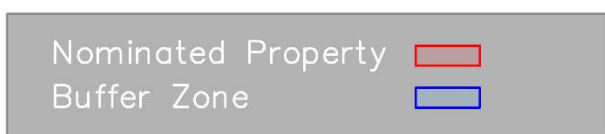
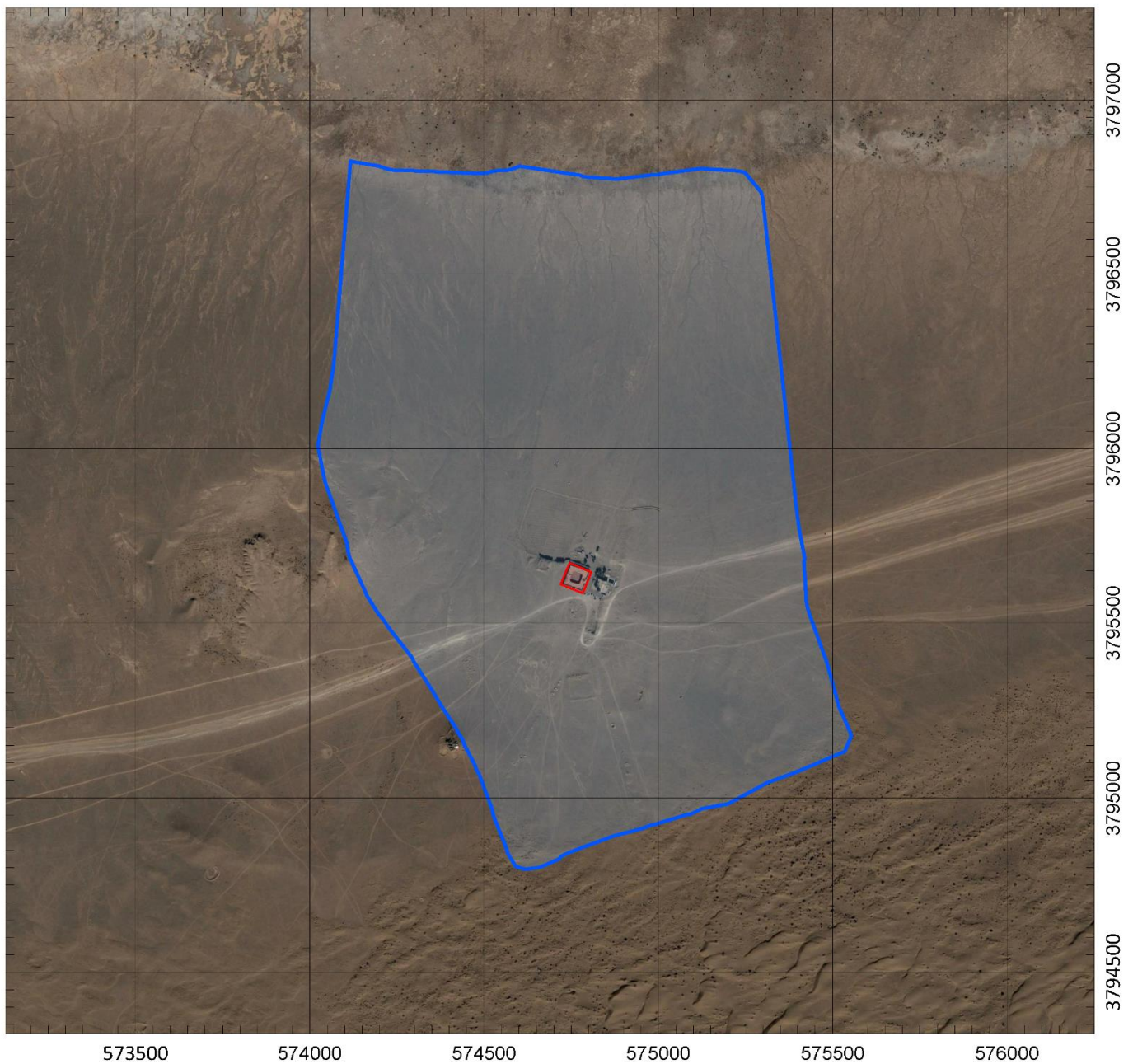
Isfahan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Maranjāb Caravanserai

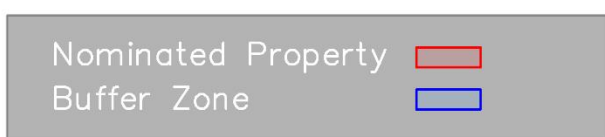
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Amin Ābād Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Amin Ābād
Caravanserai

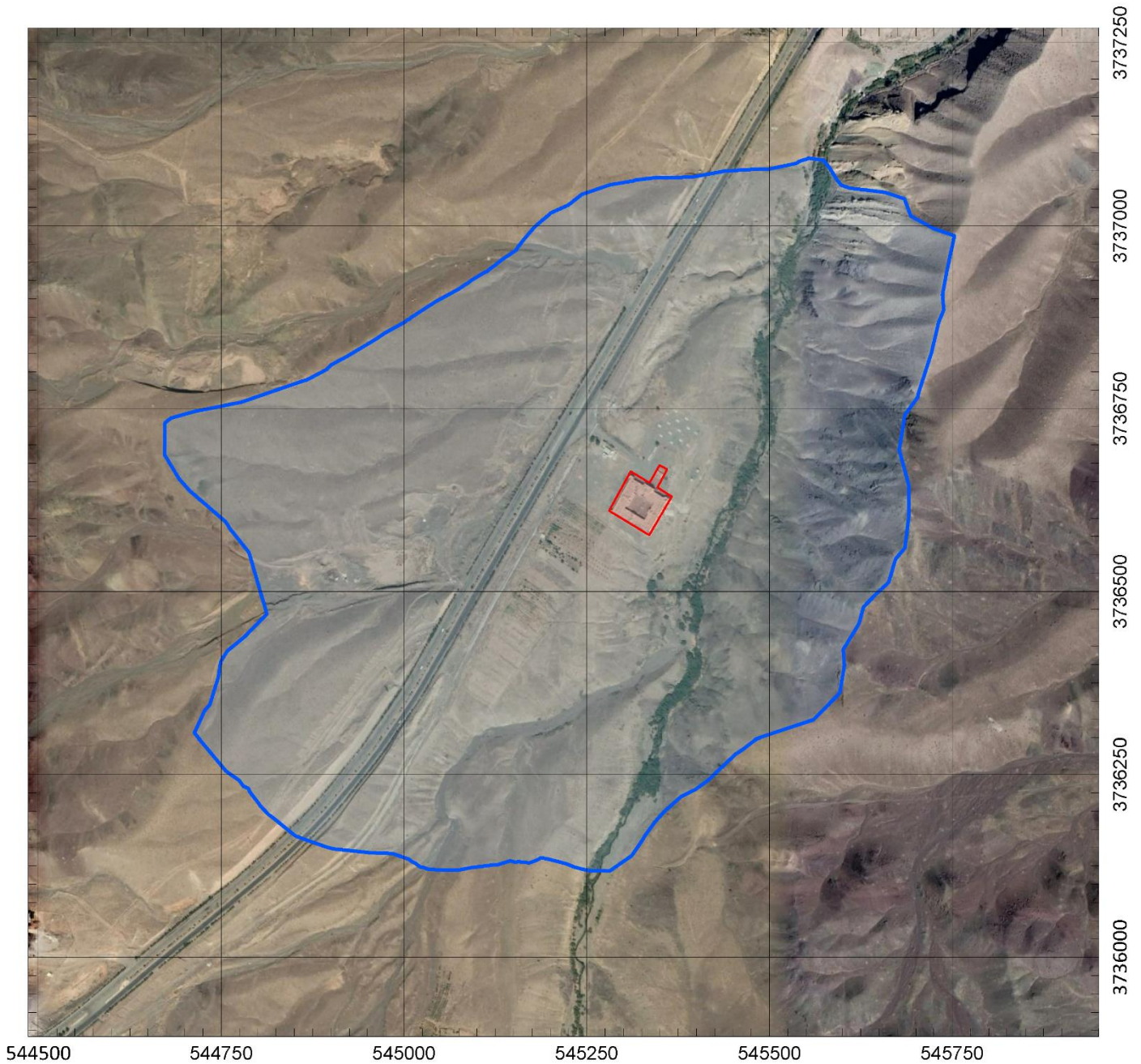
Isfahan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Gabr Ābād Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Gabr Ābād
Caravanserai

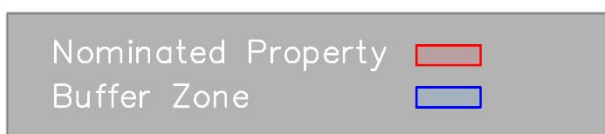
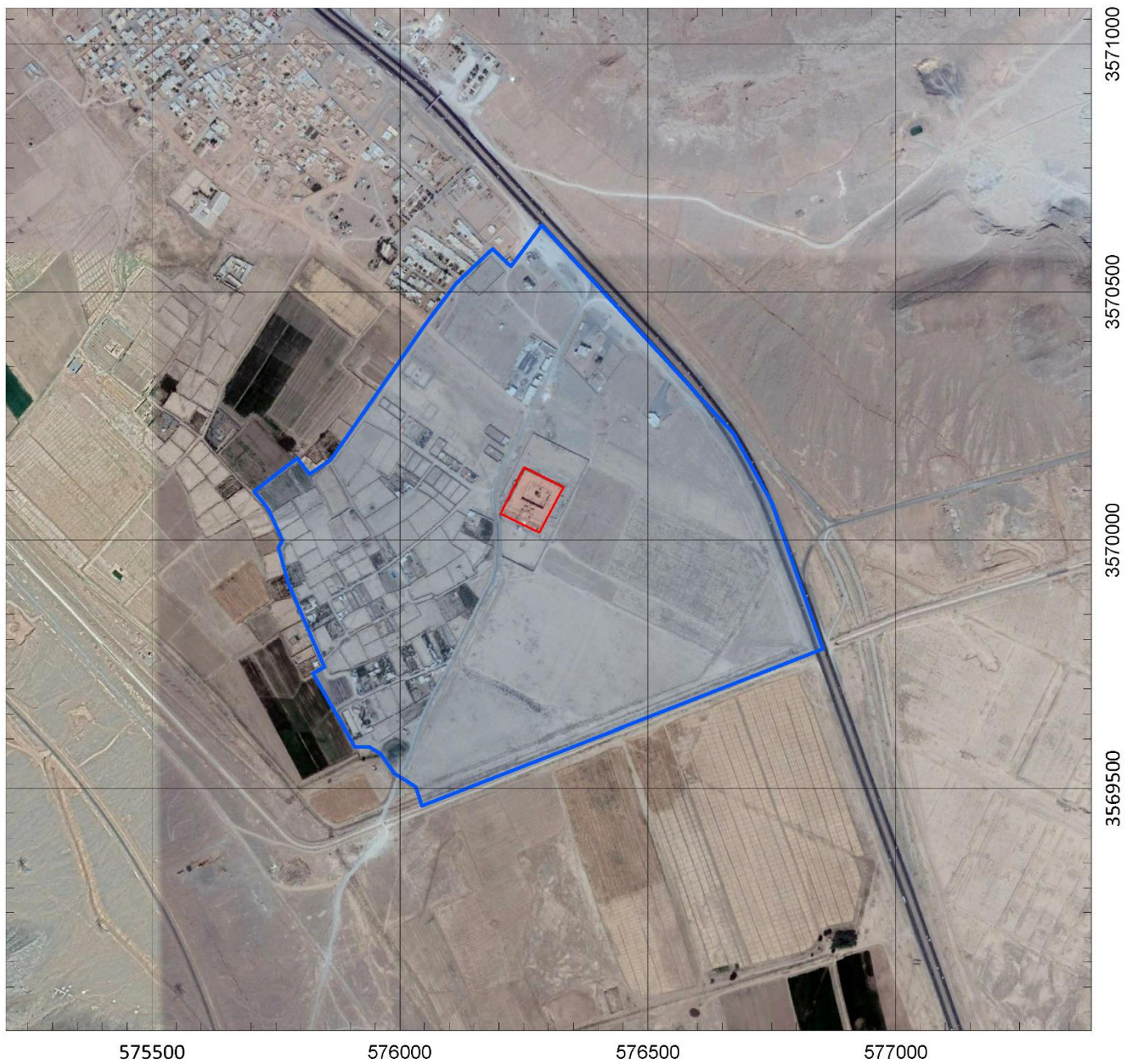
Isfahan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Mahyār Caravanserai

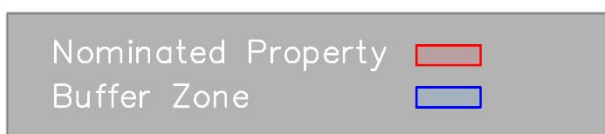
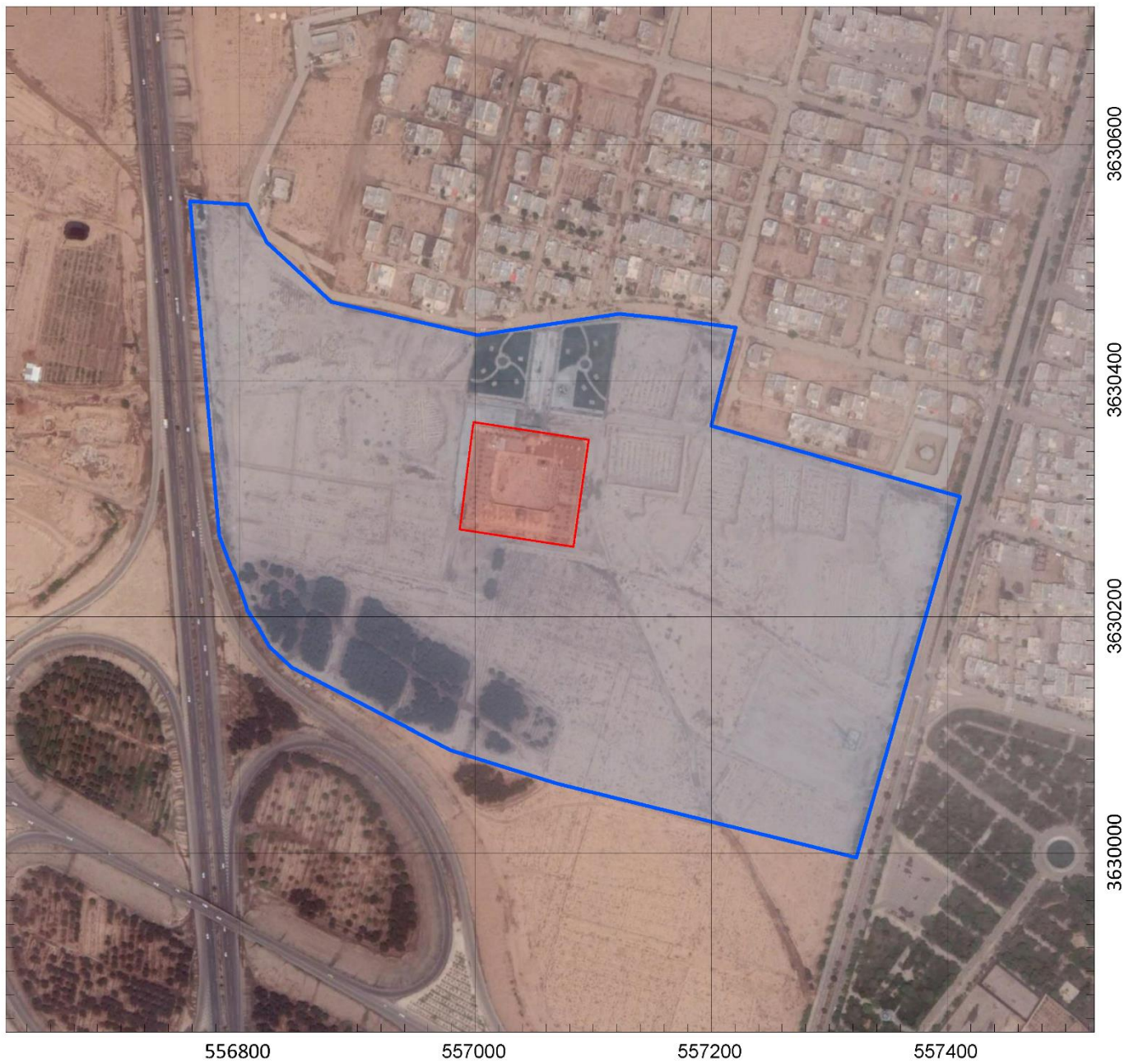
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Gaz Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Mādar Shāh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone

Mādar Shāh
Caravanserai

Isfahan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Kūhpāyeh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



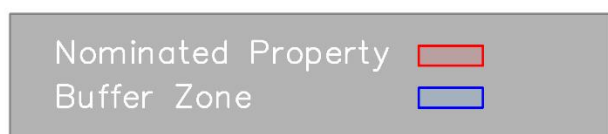
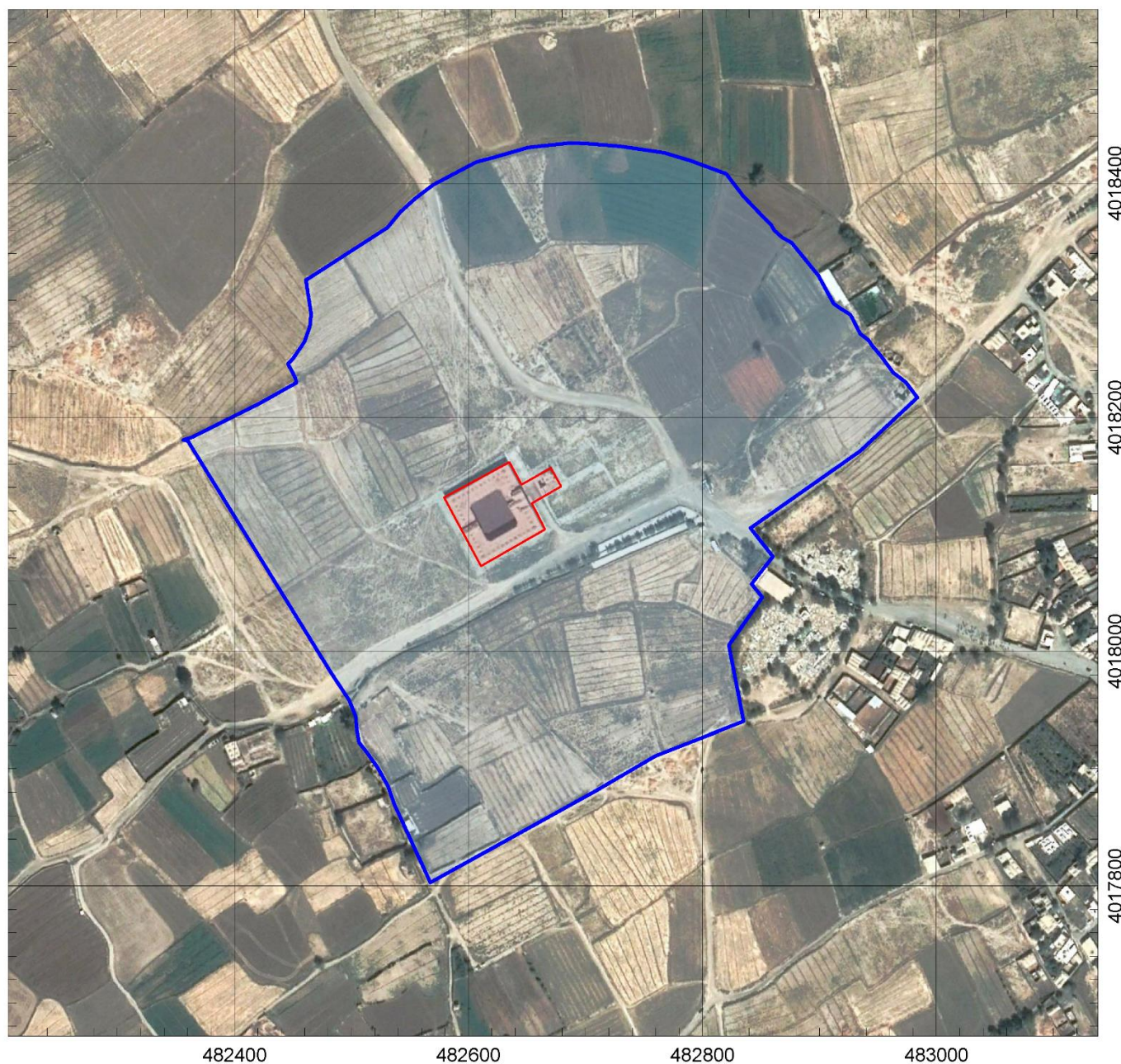
Nominated Property ■
Buffer Zone ■



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Mazinān Caravanserai

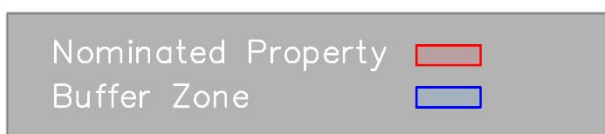
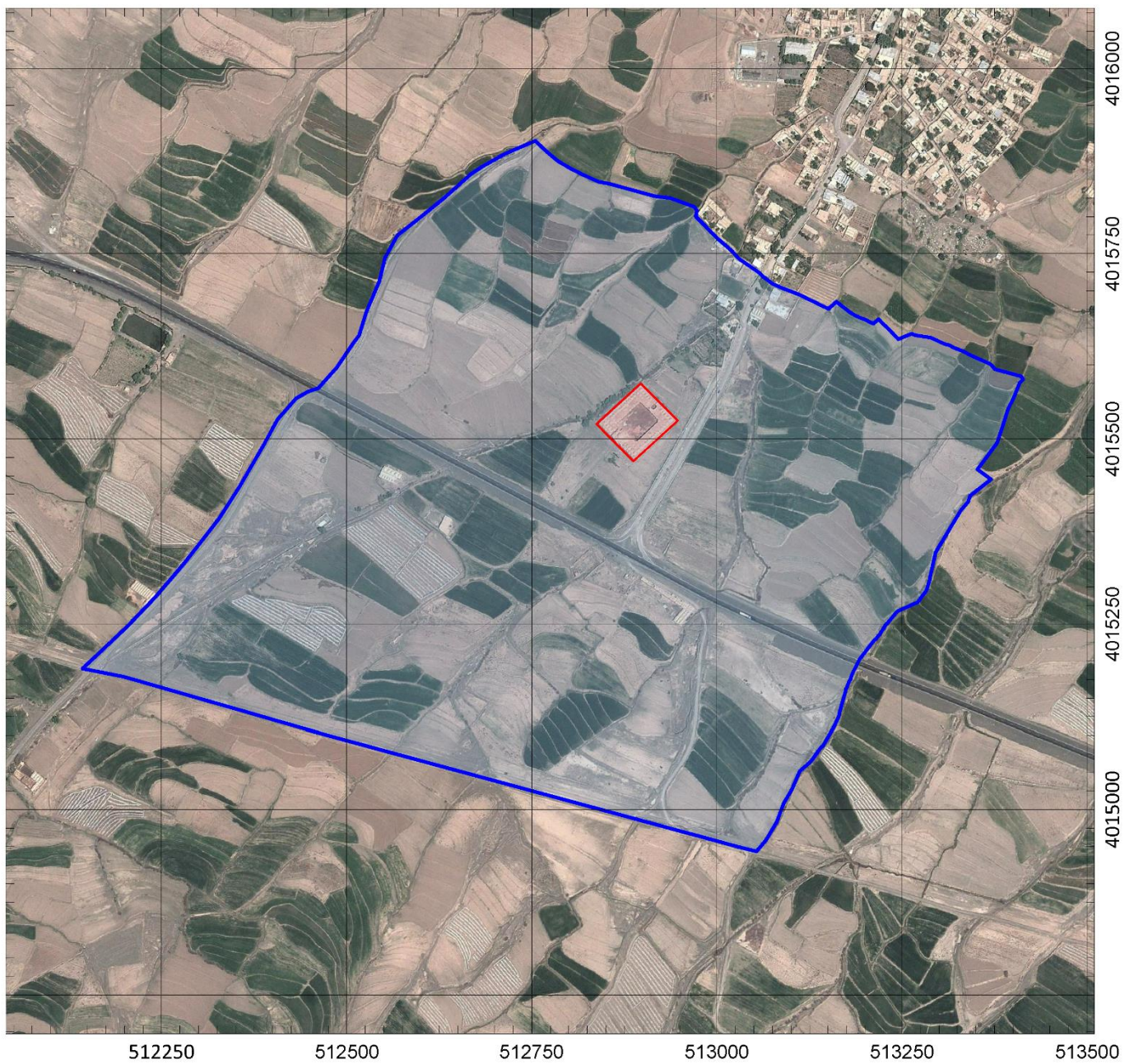
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Mehr Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Zafarāniyeh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Zafarāniyeh
Caravanserai

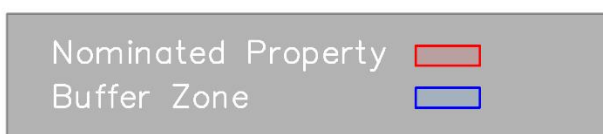
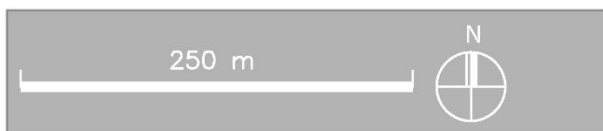
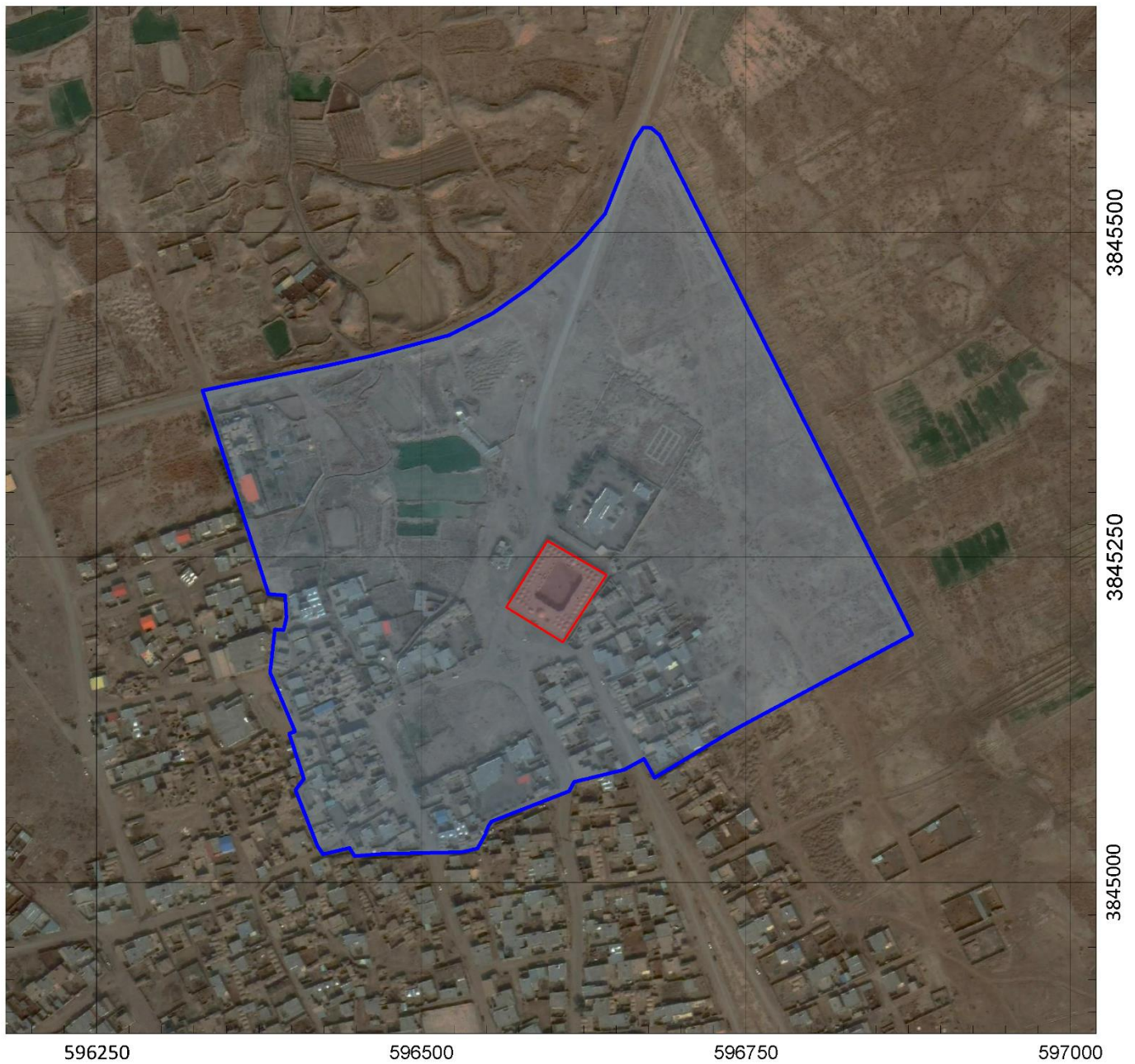
Khorasan-e Razavi



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Fakhr Ābād Caravanserai

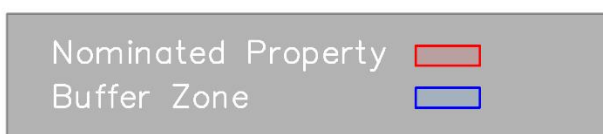
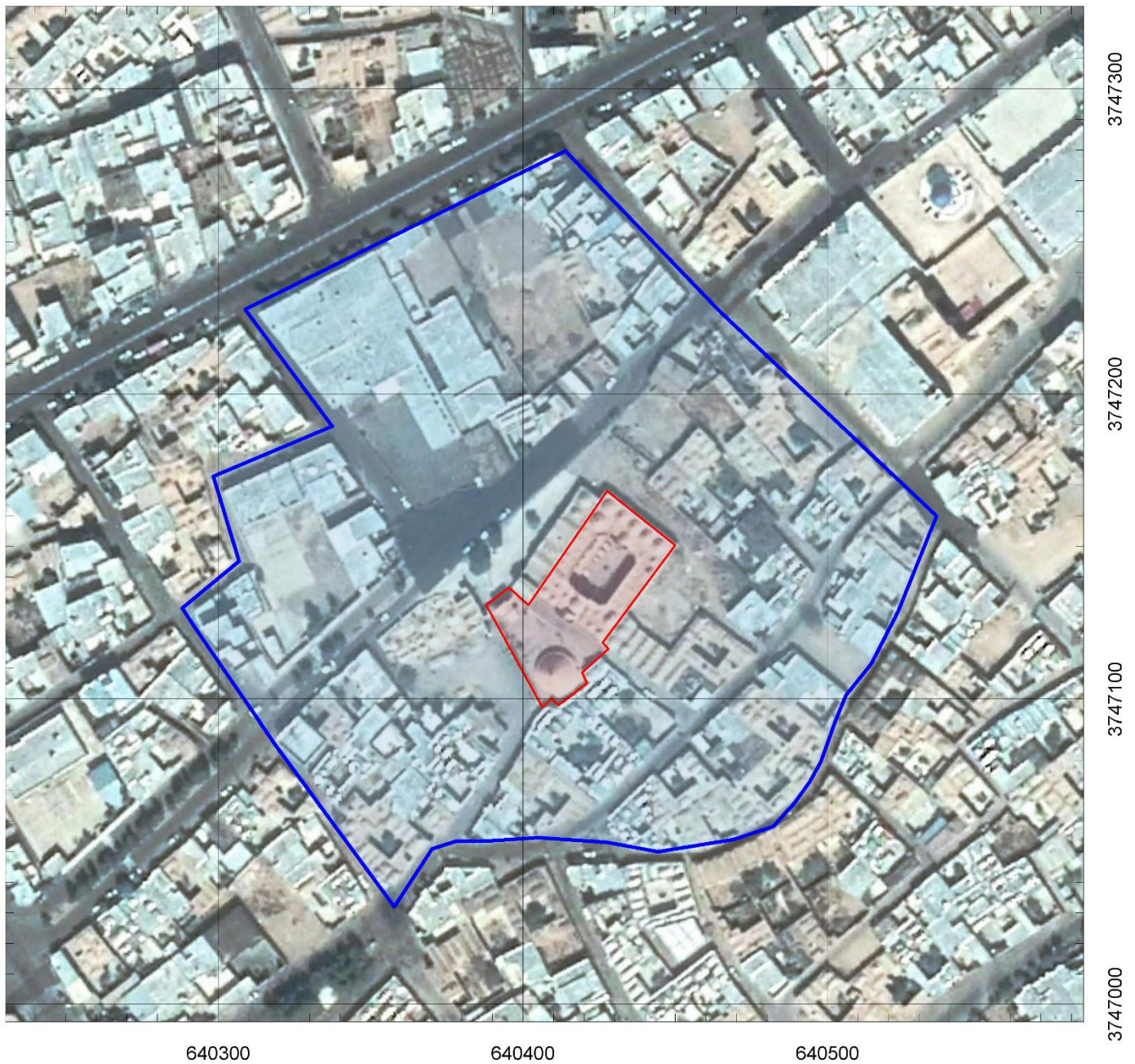
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Sarāyān Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Sarāyān
Caravanserai

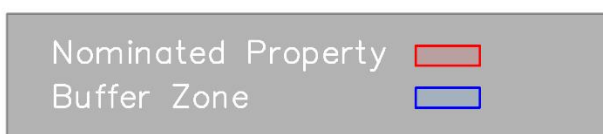
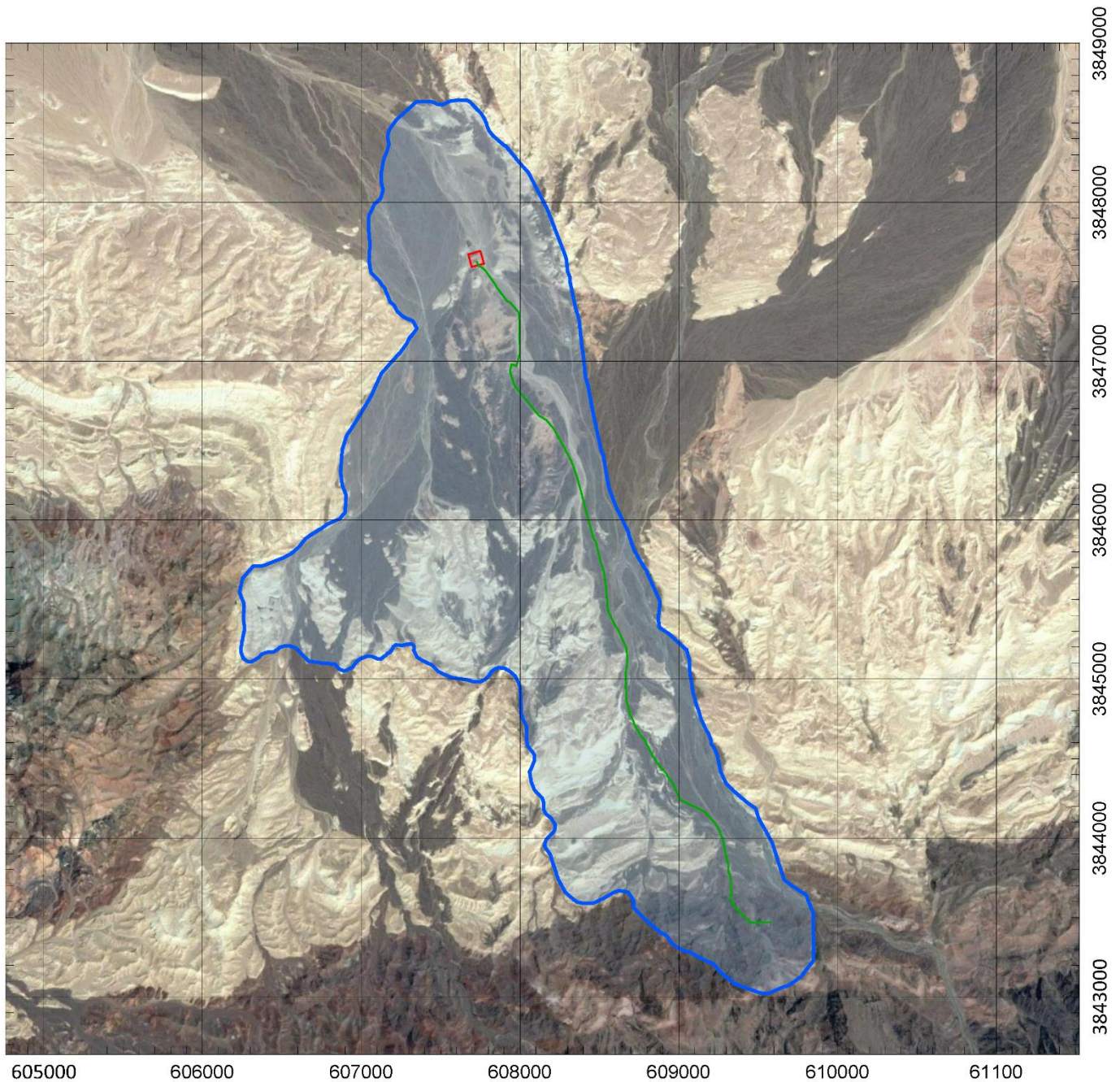
Khorasan-e Jonubi



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Qasr-e Bahrām Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

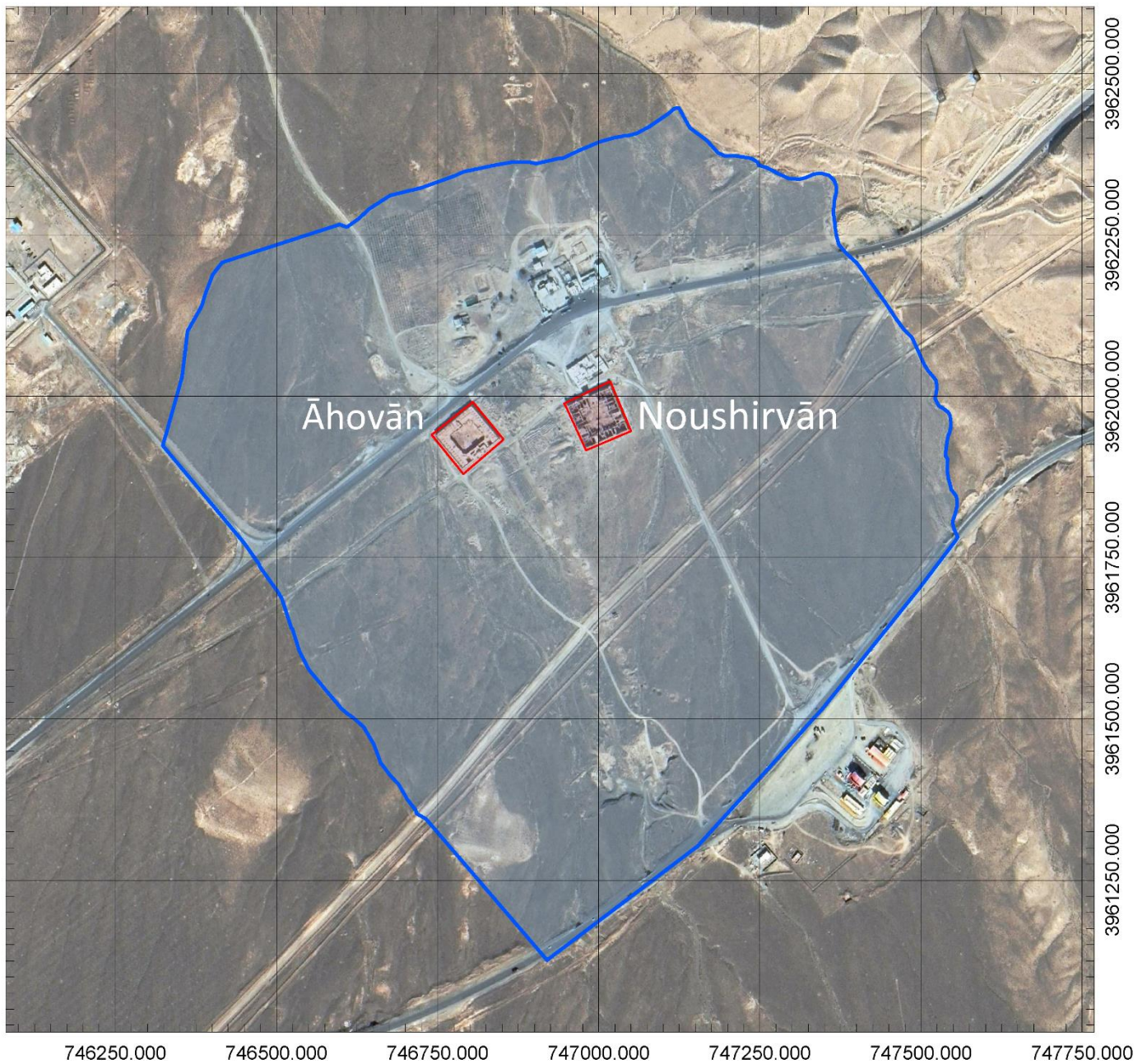


UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E



Āhovān Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Āhovān&Noushīrvān
Caravanserai

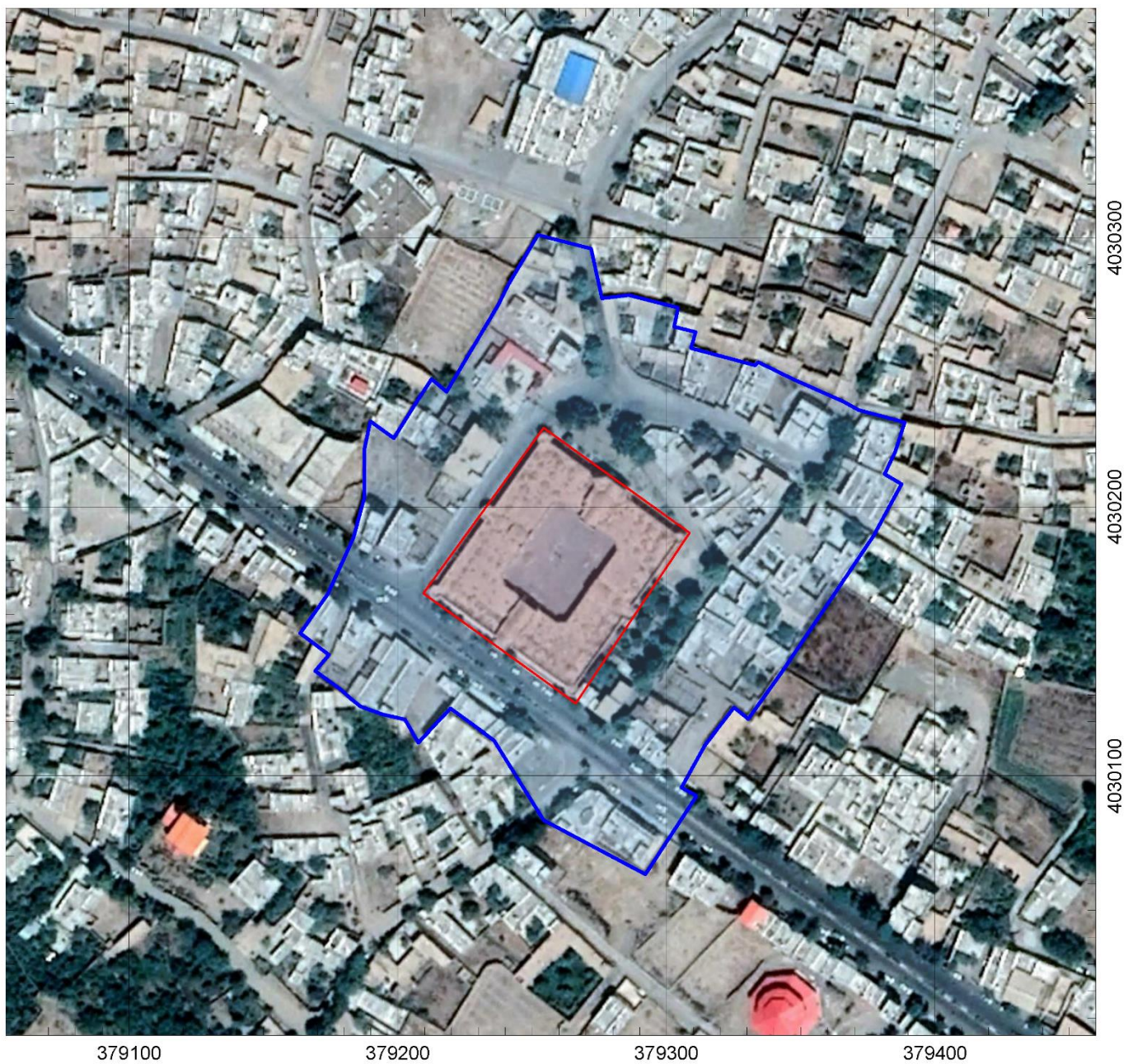
Semnan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Mayāmey Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



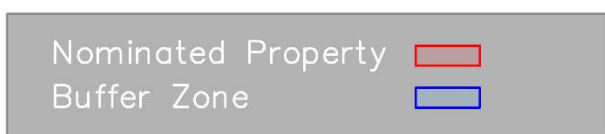
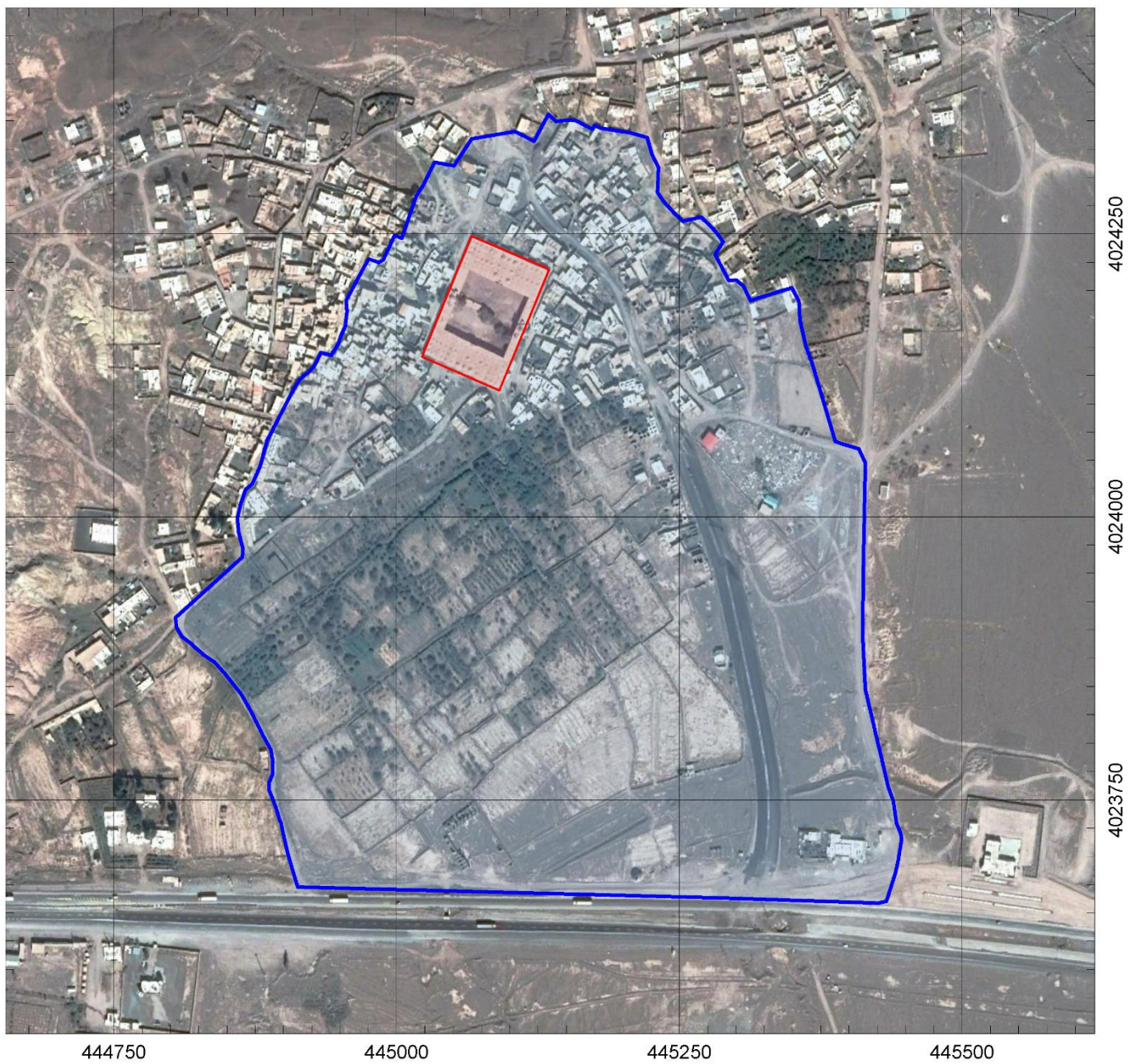
Nominated Property 
Buffer Zone 



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Abbās Ābād Caravanserai

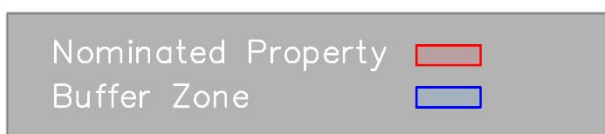
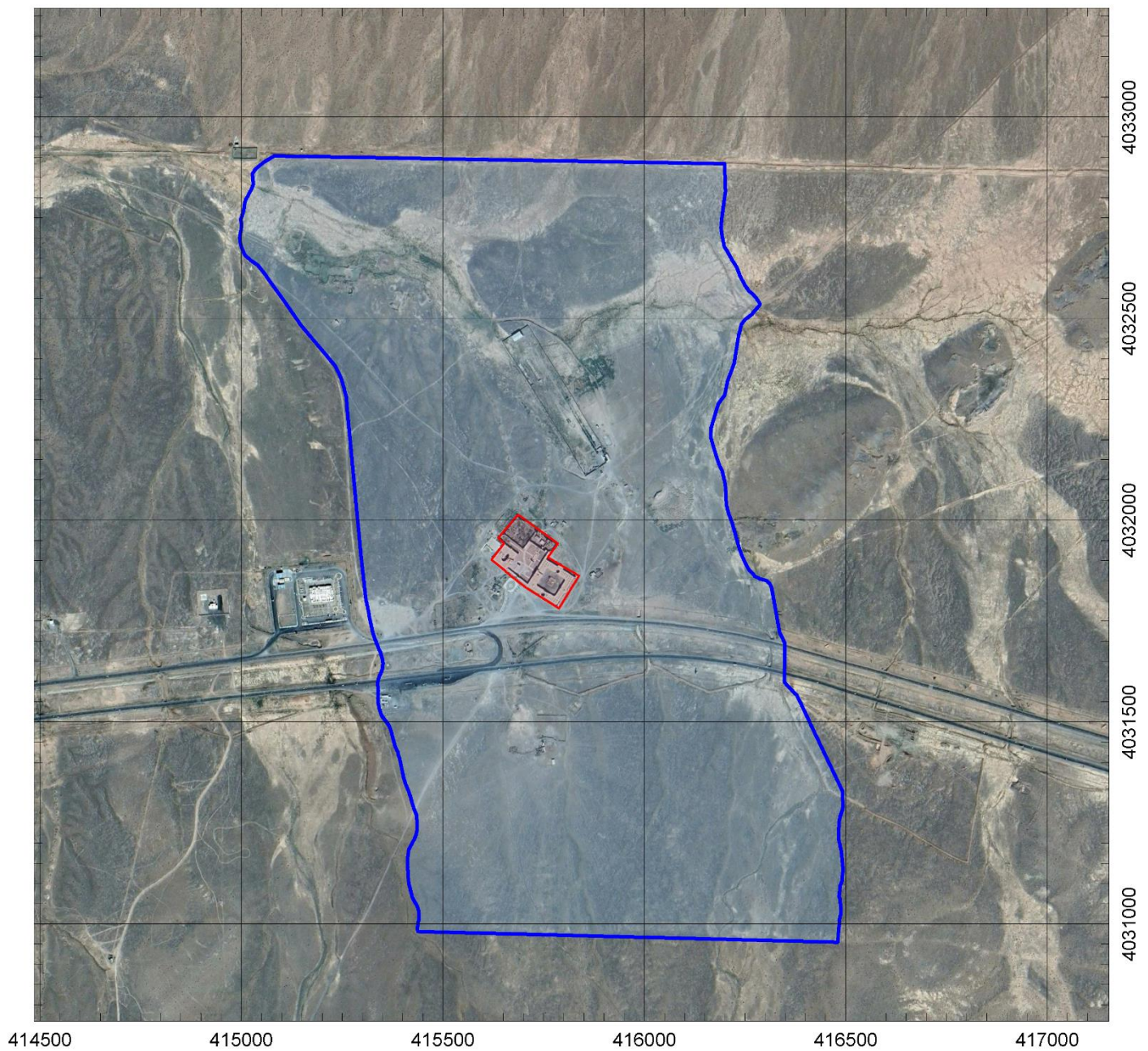
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Miāndasht Caravanserai

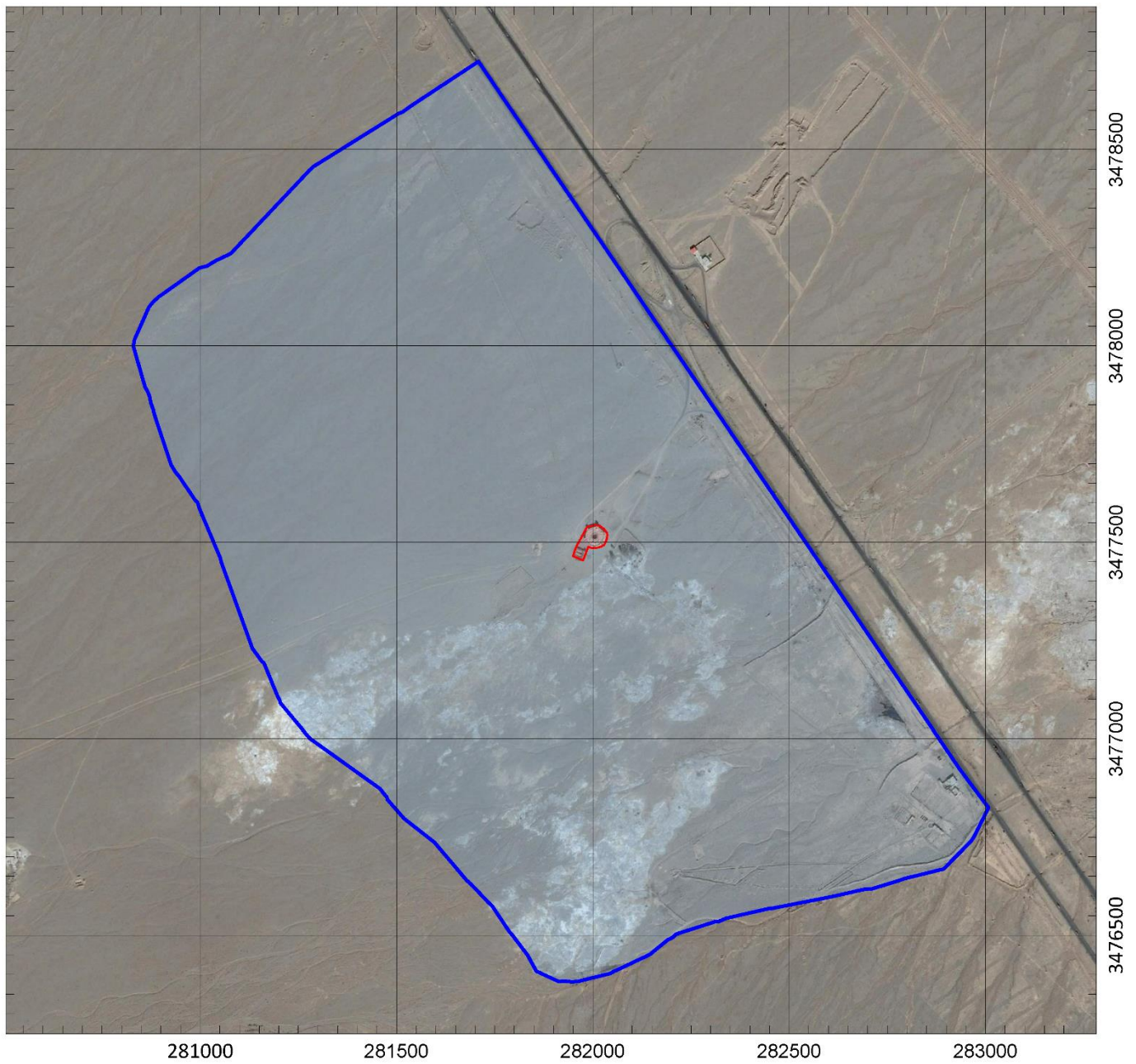
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Zeynoddin Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



500 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Zeynoddin
Caravanserai

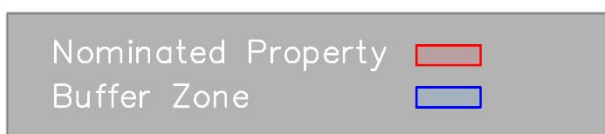
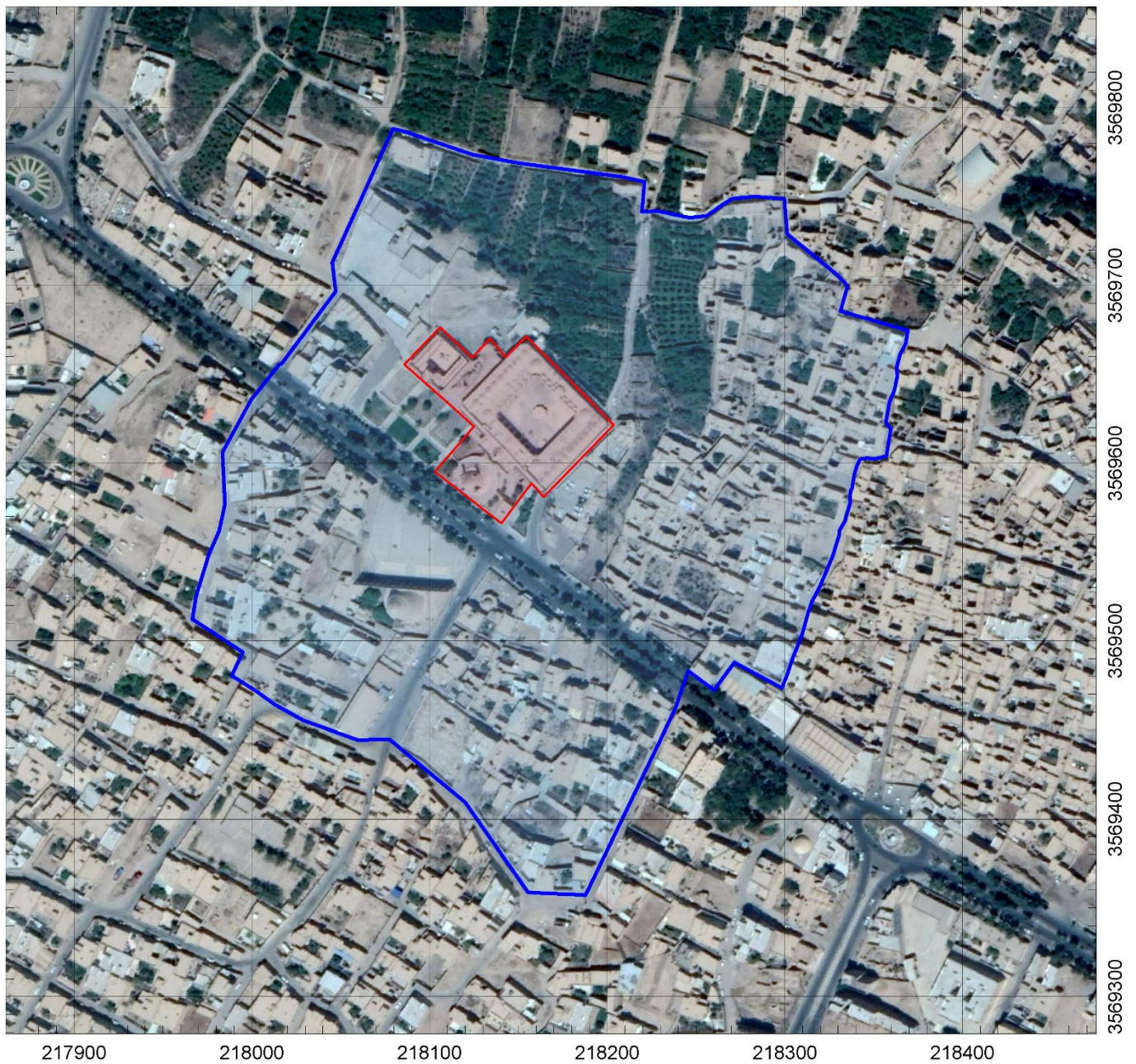
Yazd



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Meybod Caravanserai

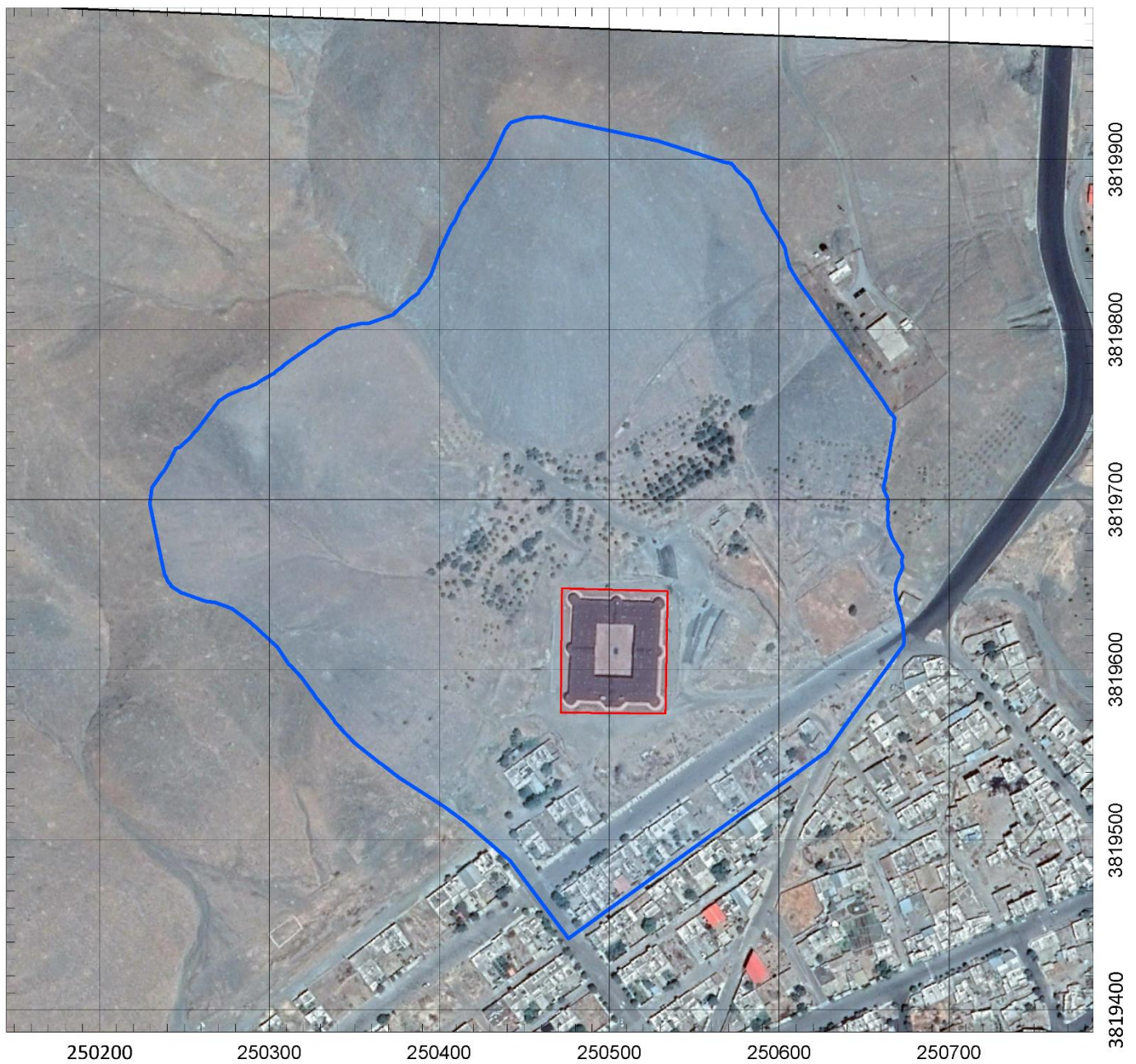
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Farasfaj Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Farasfaj
Caravanserai

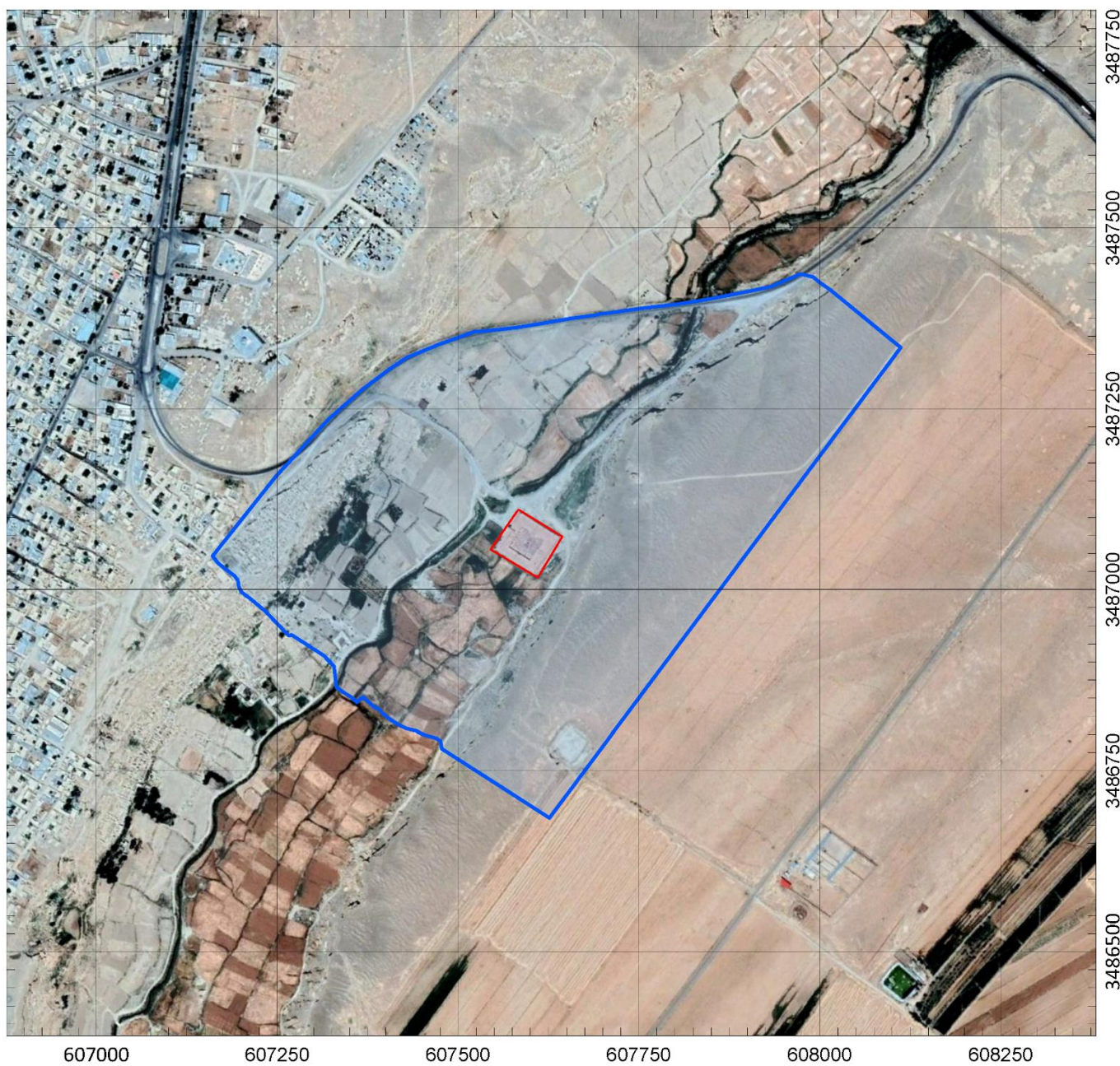
Hamedan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Īzadkhāst Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Īzadkhāst
Caravanserai

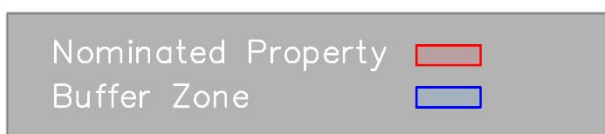
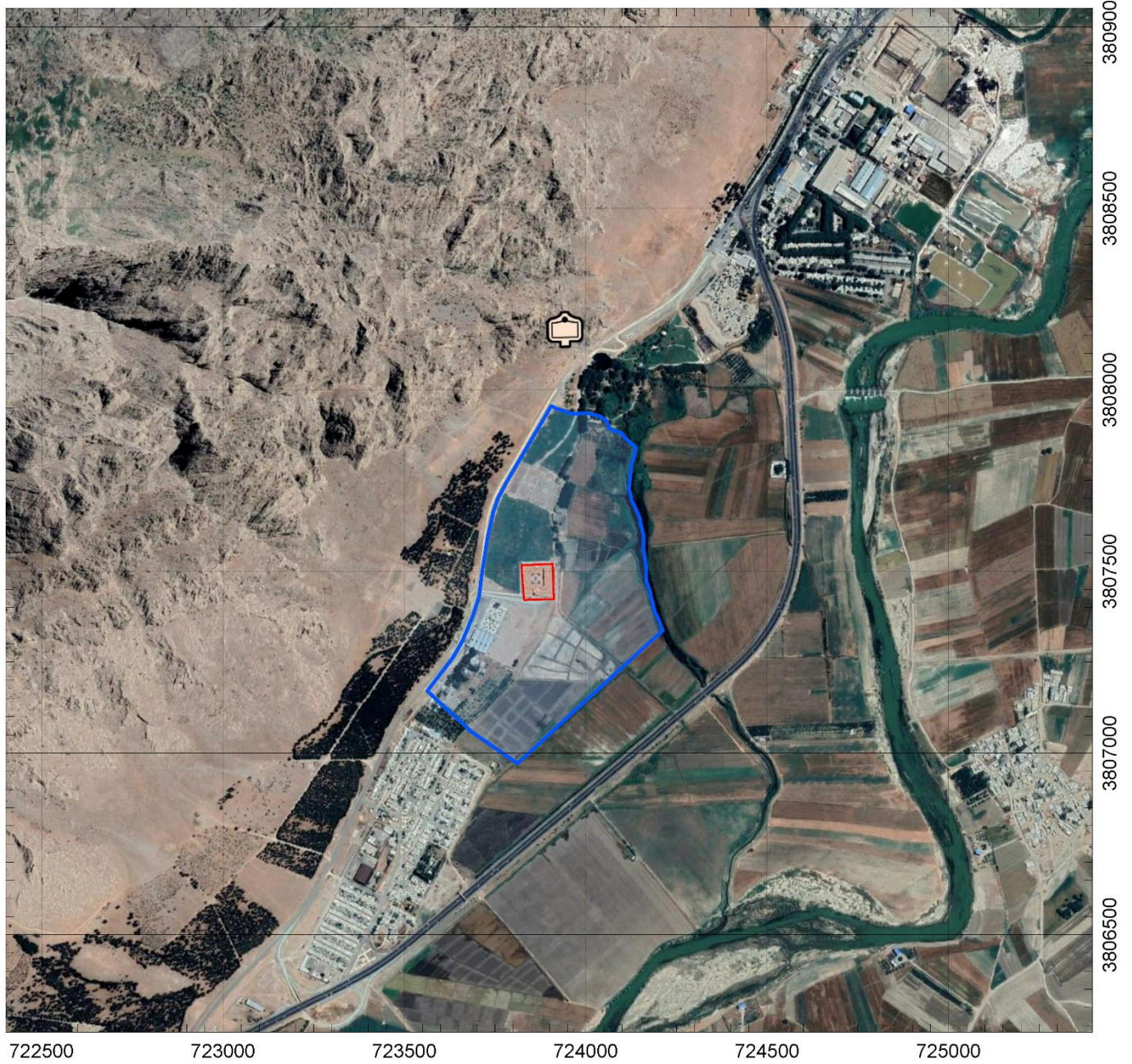
Fars



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Bisotūn Caravanserai

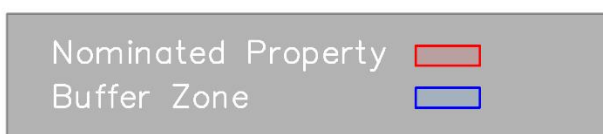
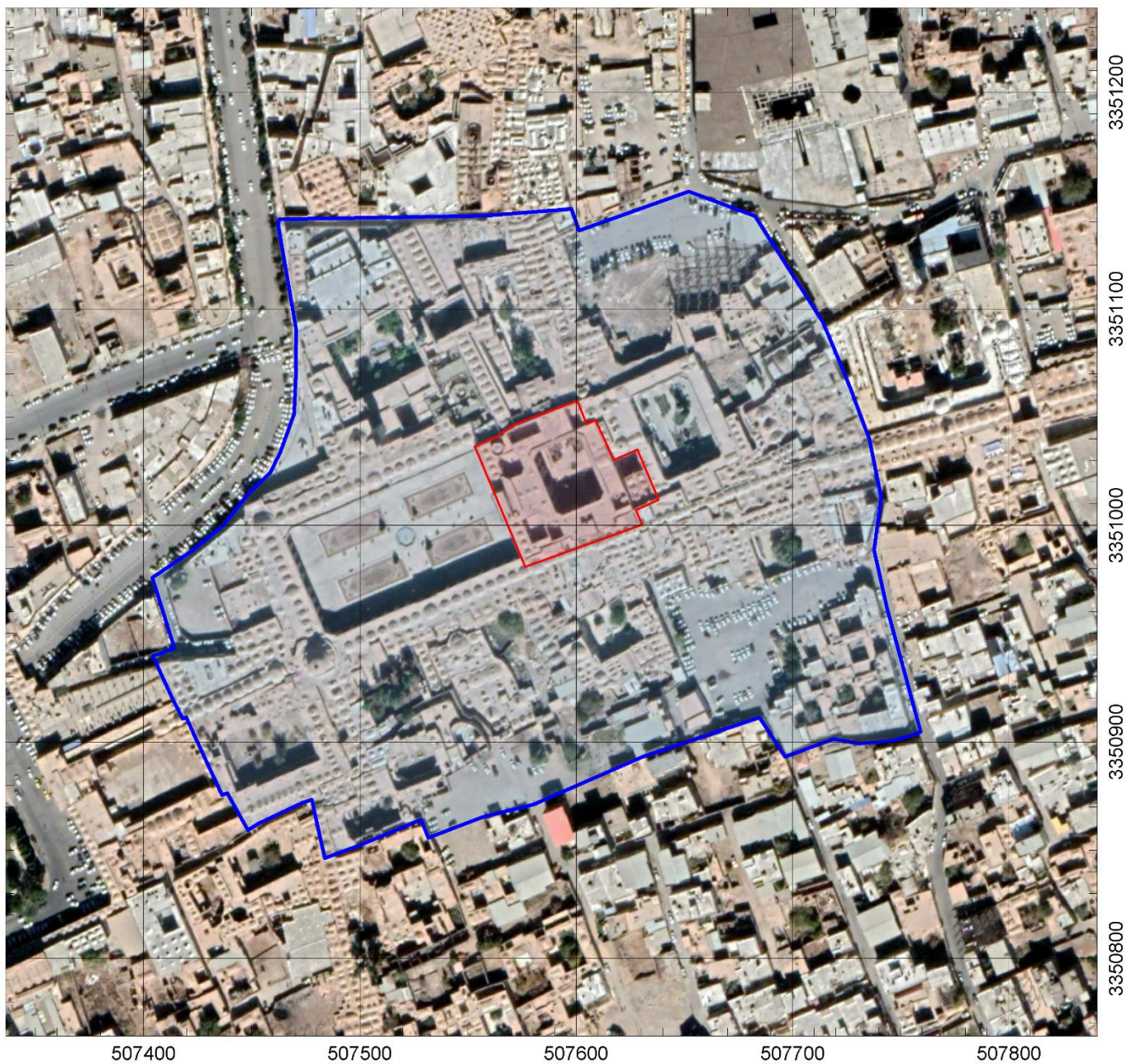
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E

Ganjali Khān Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Ganjali Khān
Caravanserai

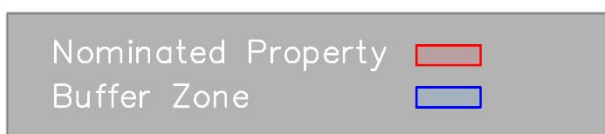
Kerman



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Yengeh Emām Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Yām Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



200 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Yām
Caravanserai
Azarbayjan-e sharghi



UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E

Khājah Nazar Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



200 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Khājah Nazar
Caravanserai

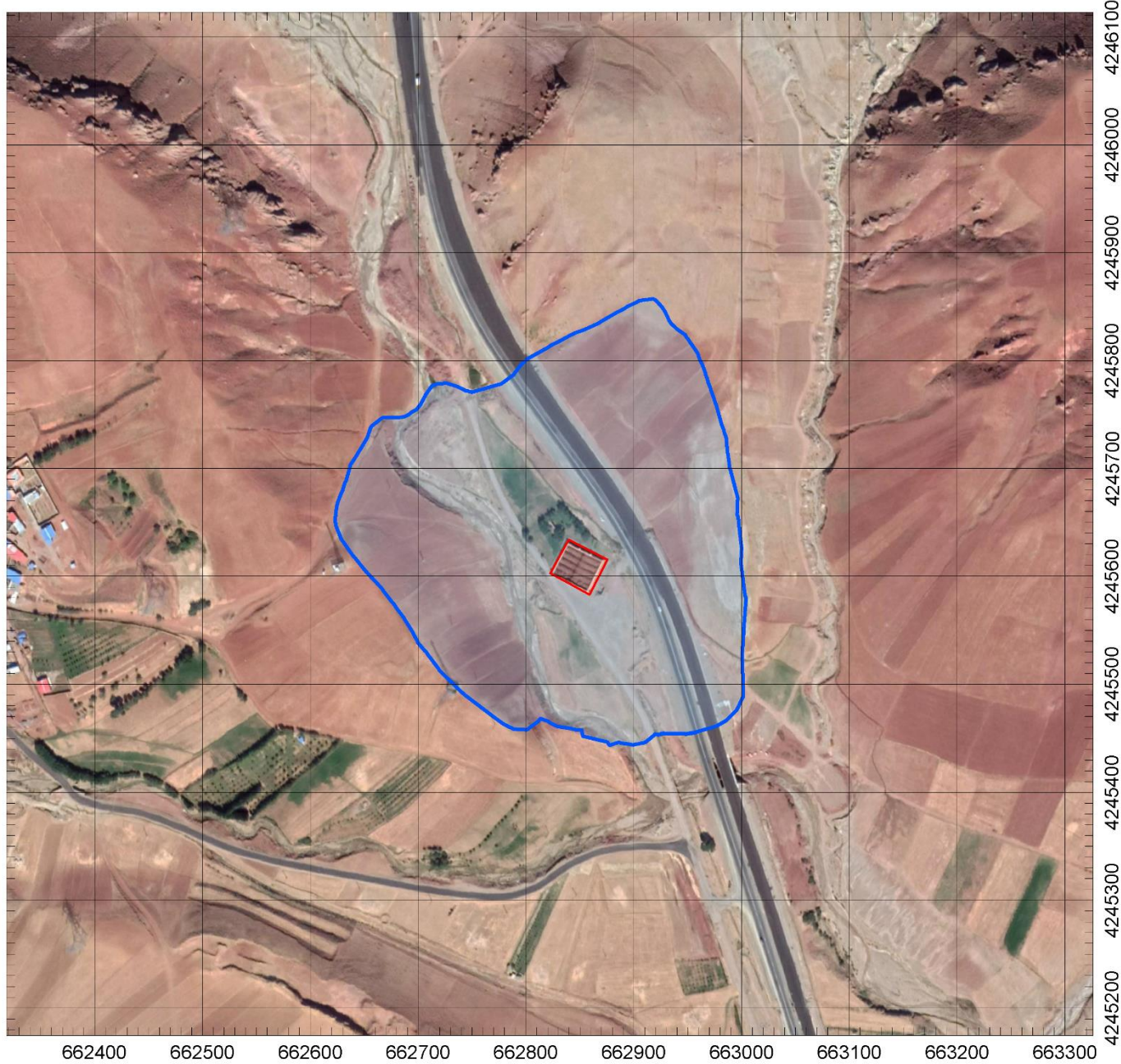
Azərbaycan-e şərqi



UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E

Goujebel Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



200 m



Nominated Property



Buffer Zone



Goujebel
Caravanserai

Azərbaycan-e şərqi



UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E

Sāeen Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

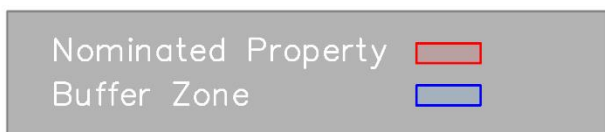
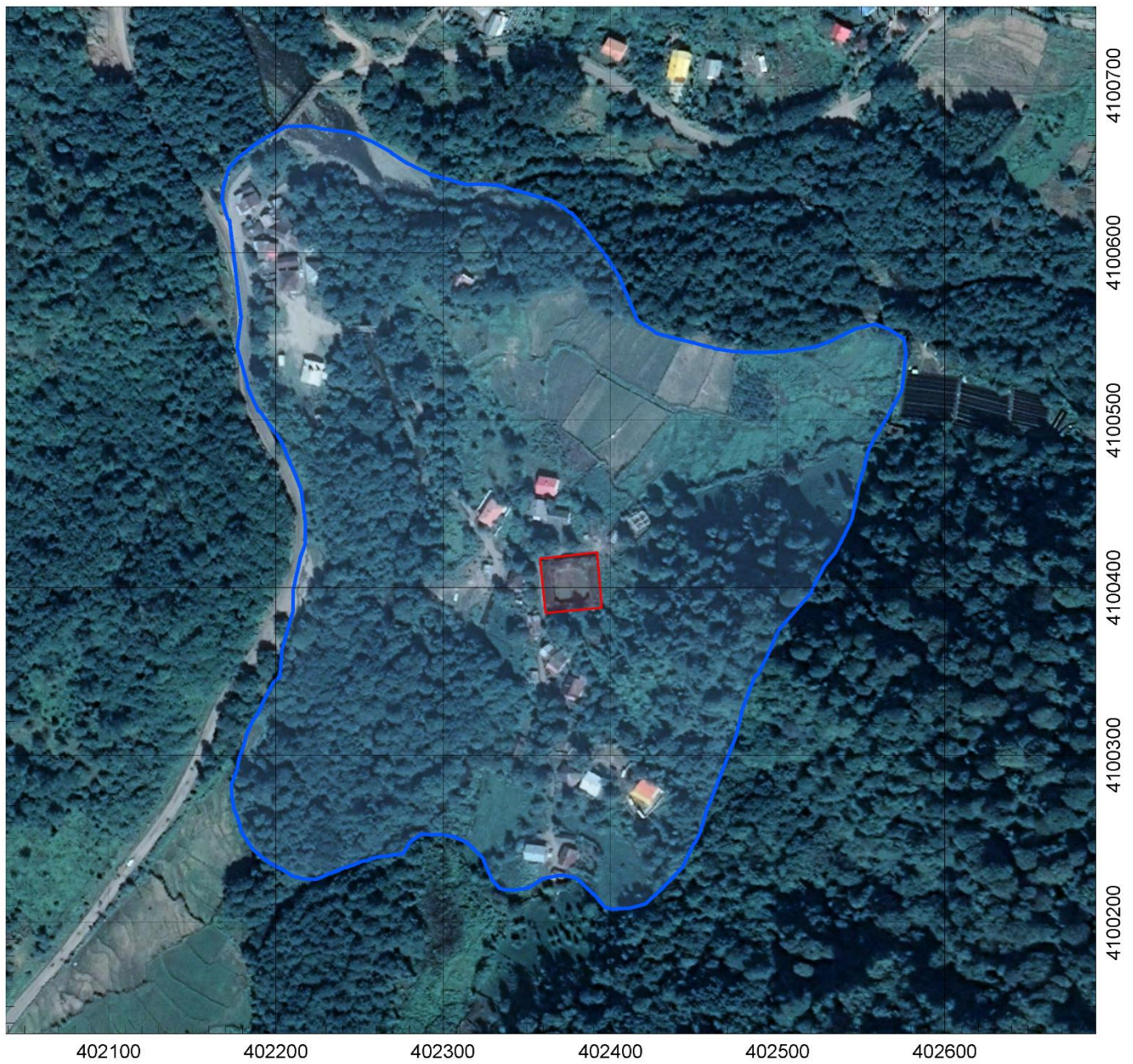


UTM, Zone 38North, Meter ; Central Meridian 45d E



Titi Caravanserai

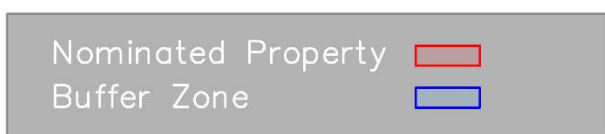
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Dehdasht Caravanserai

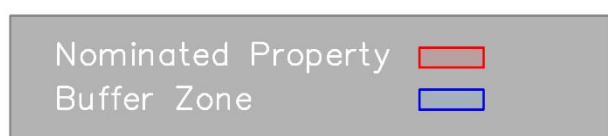
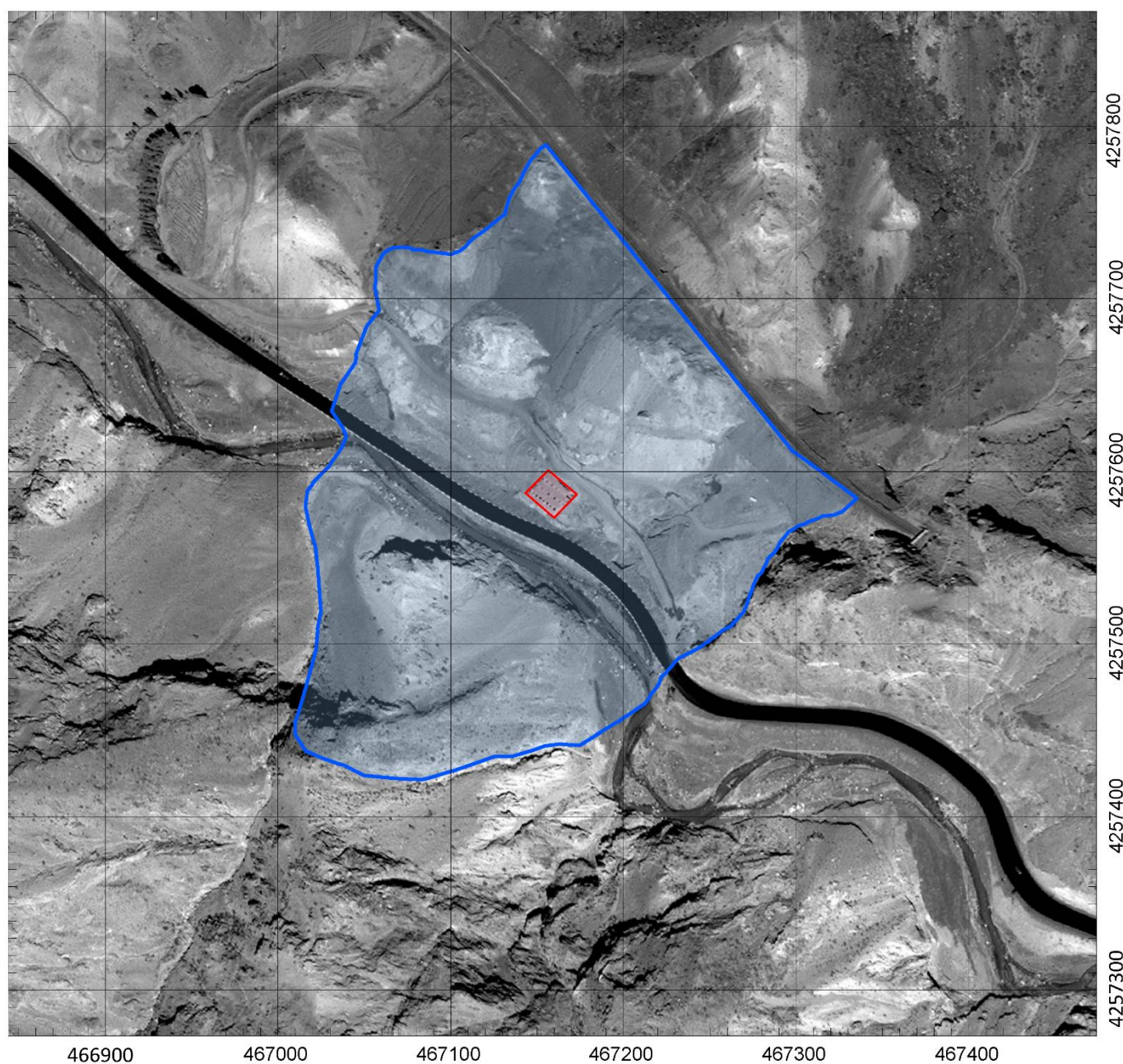
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Khoy Caravanserai

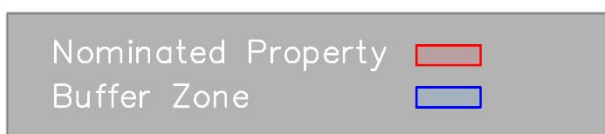
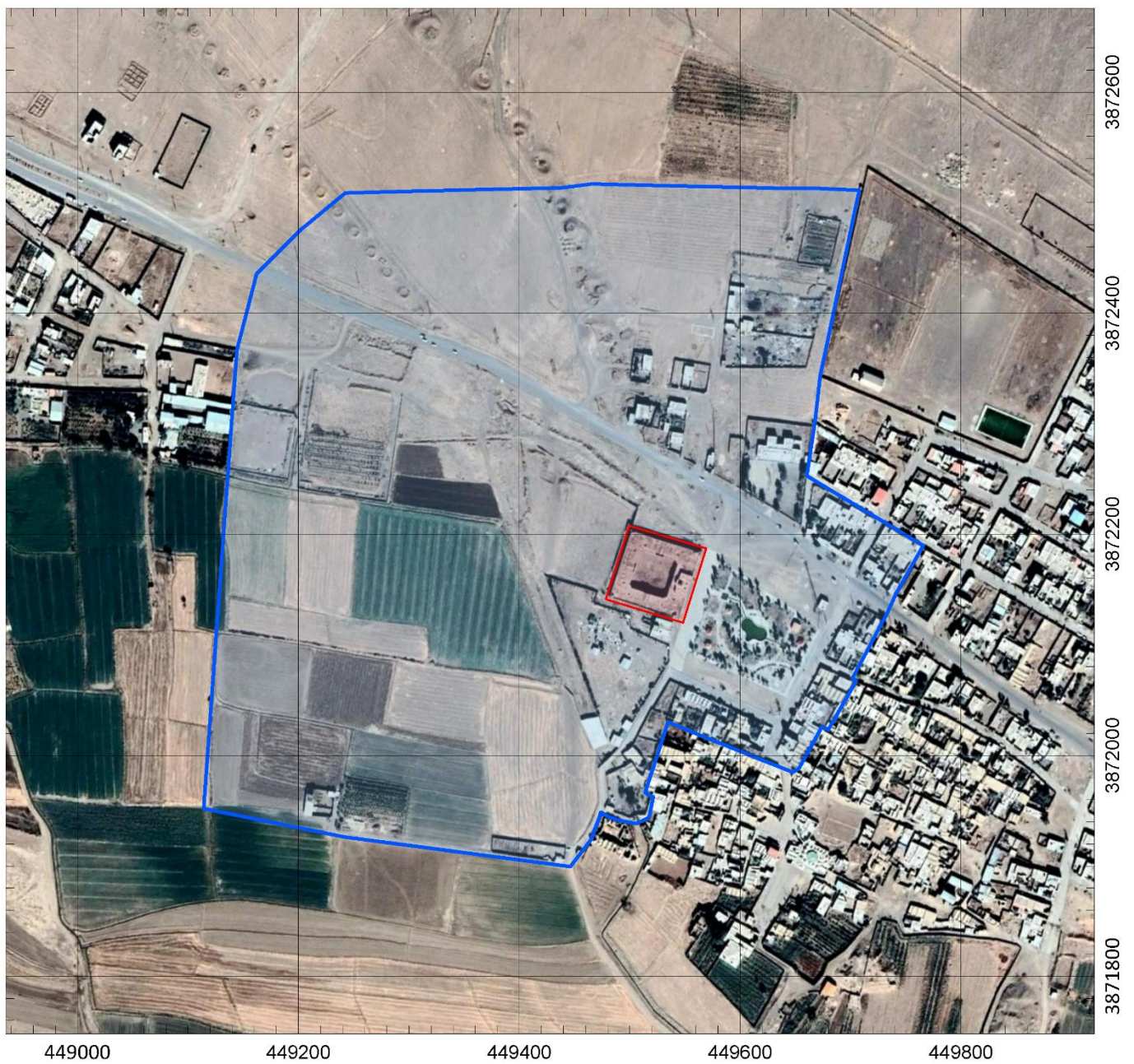
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 38 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 45d E

Bāgh-e Sheikh (Abdolqafār Khān) Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Bāgh-e Sheikh
(Abdolqafār Khān)
Caravanserai

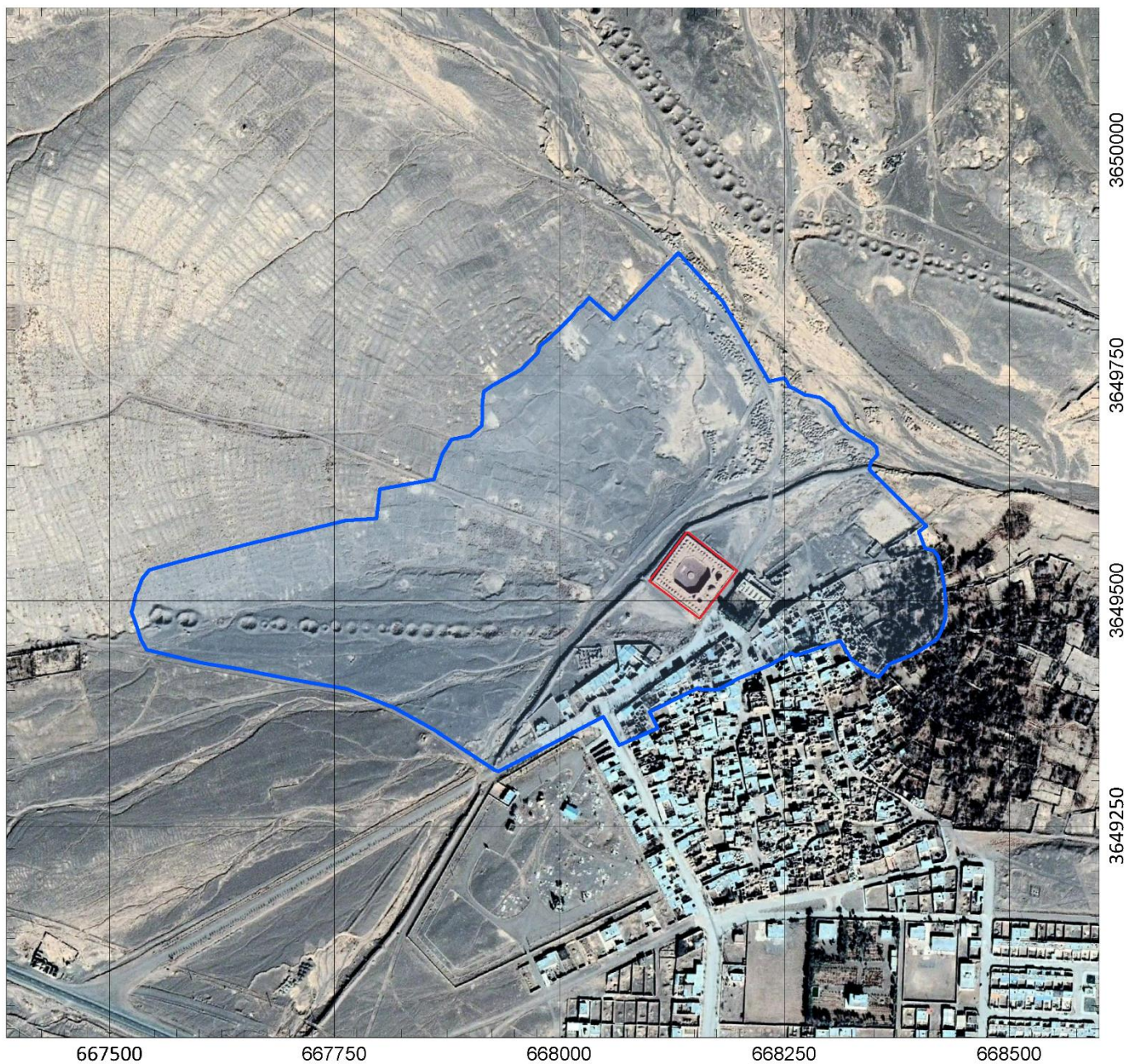
Markazi



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Neyestānak Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone

Neyestānak
Caravanserai

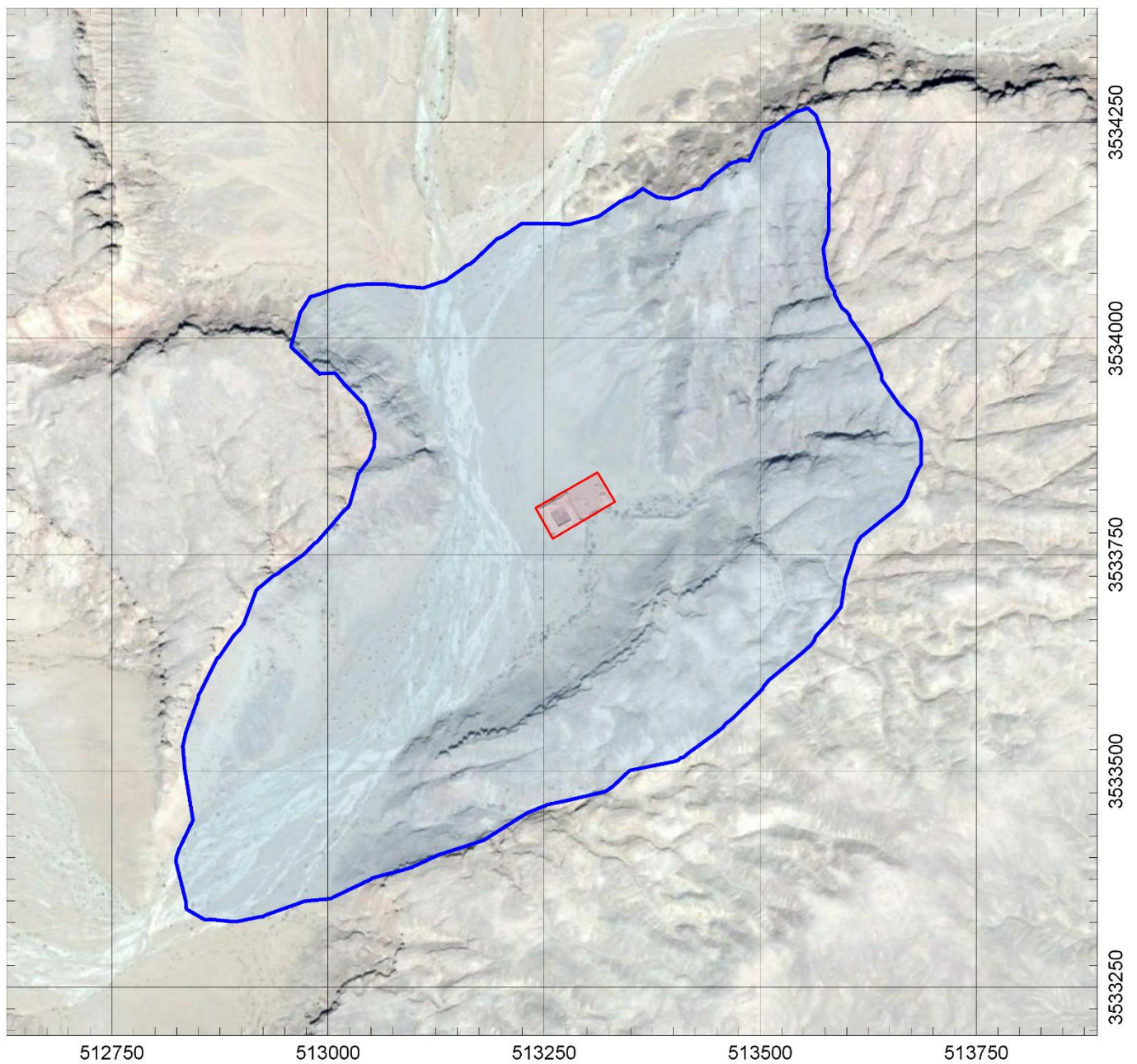
Isfahan



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Chehel Pāyeh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



250 m



Nominated Property
Buffer Zone



Chehel Pāyeh
Caravanserai

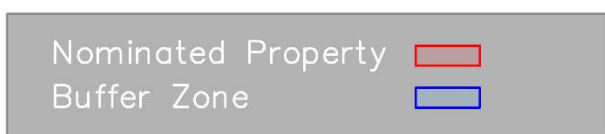
Khorasan-e Jonubi



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Khān Caravanserai

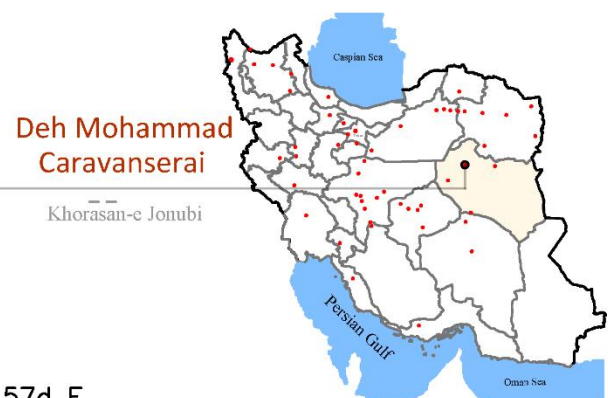
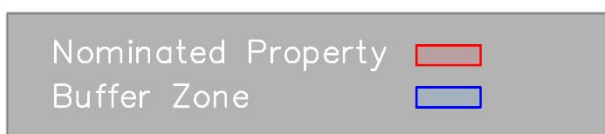
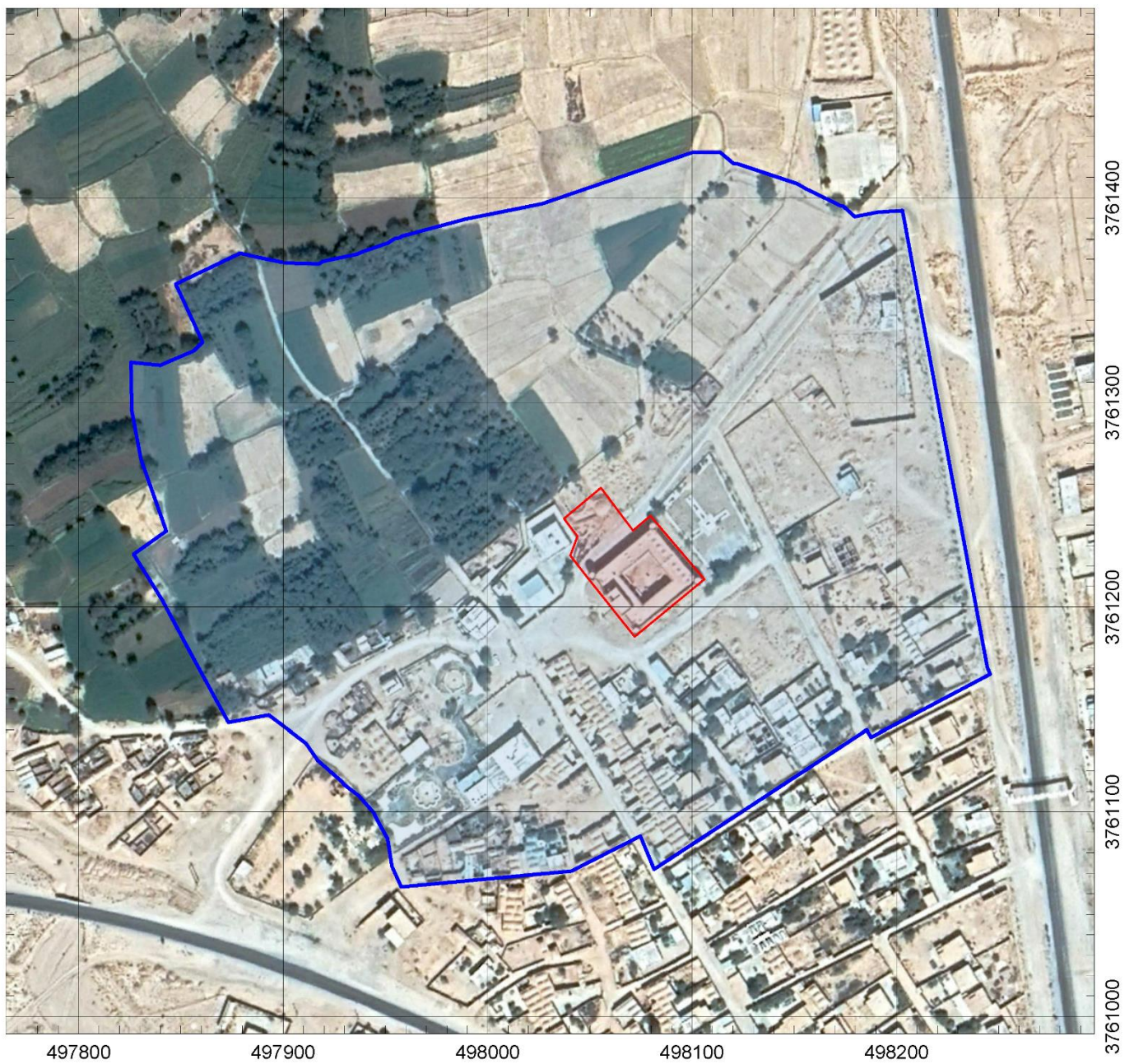
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Deh Mohammad Caravanserai

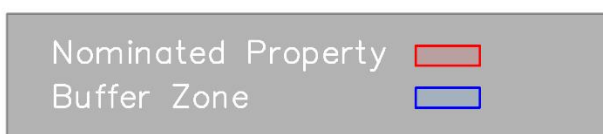
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Tāj Ābād Caravanserai

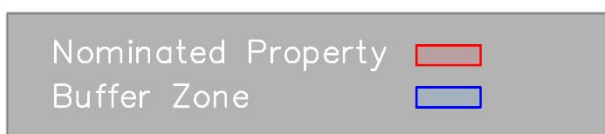
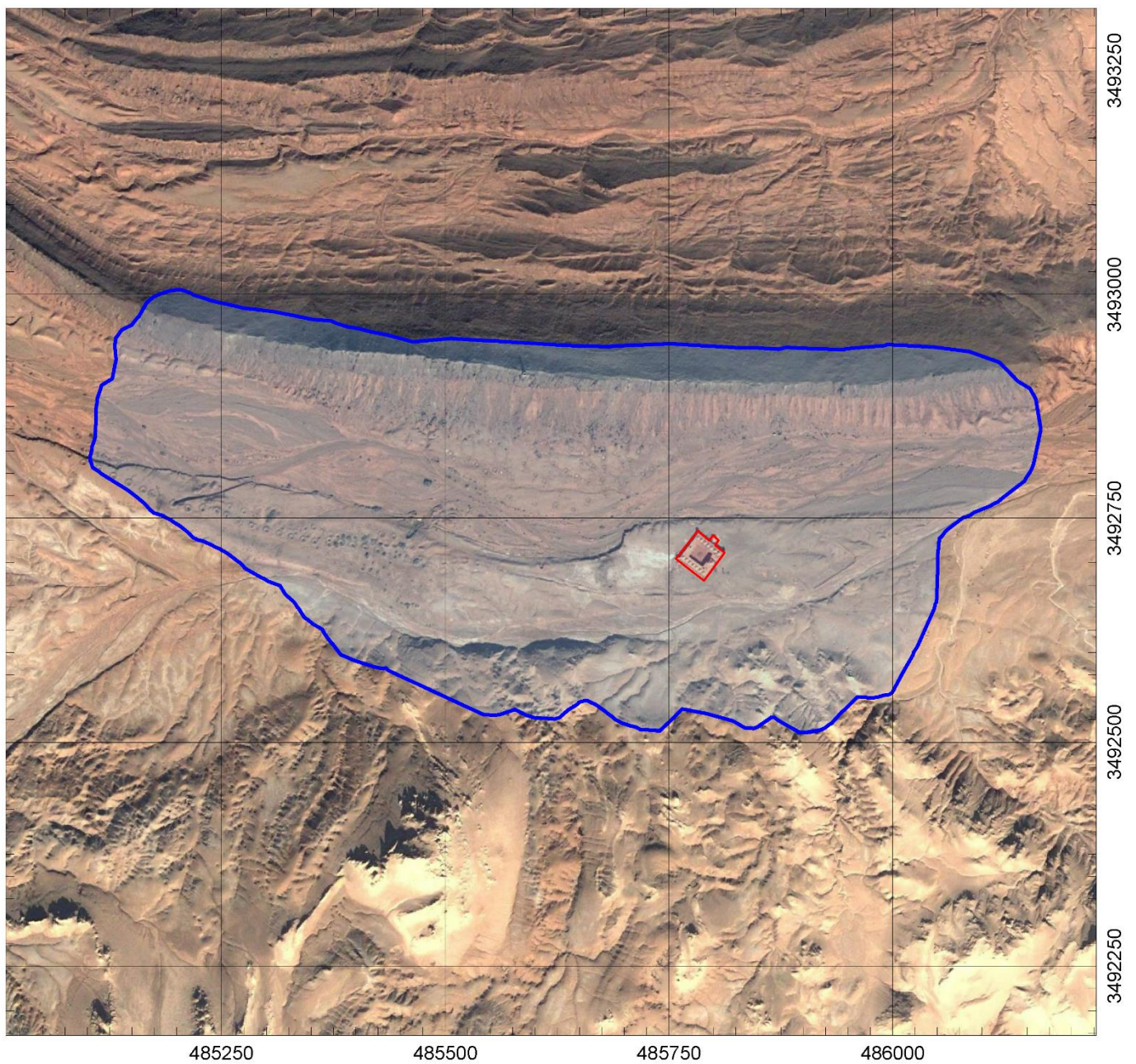
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Chāh kūrān Caravanserai

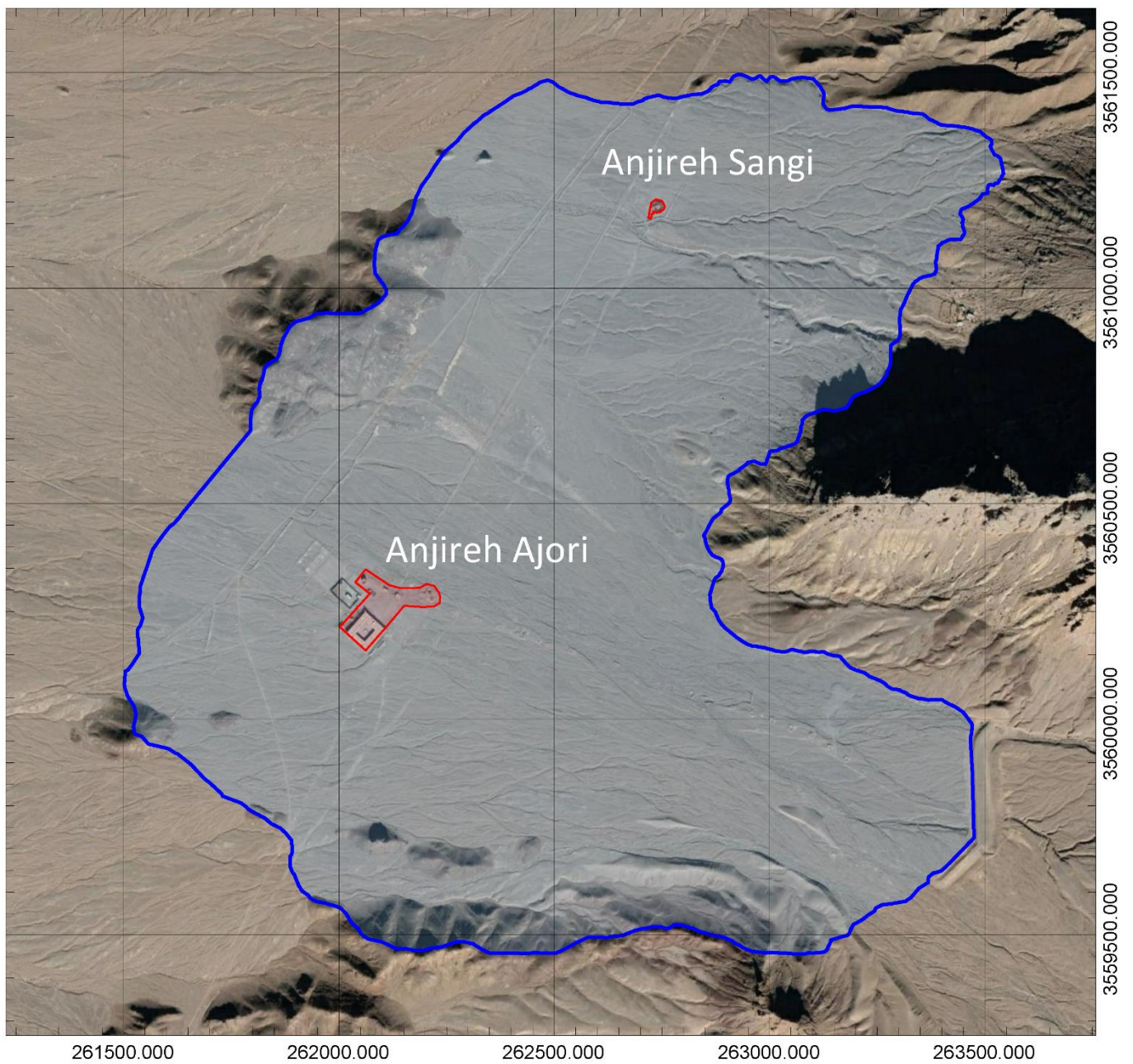
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

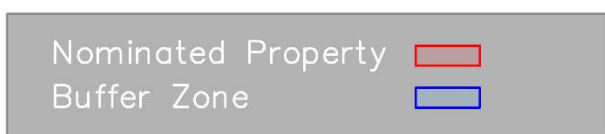
Anjireh Ajori Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Kharānagh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Rashti Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



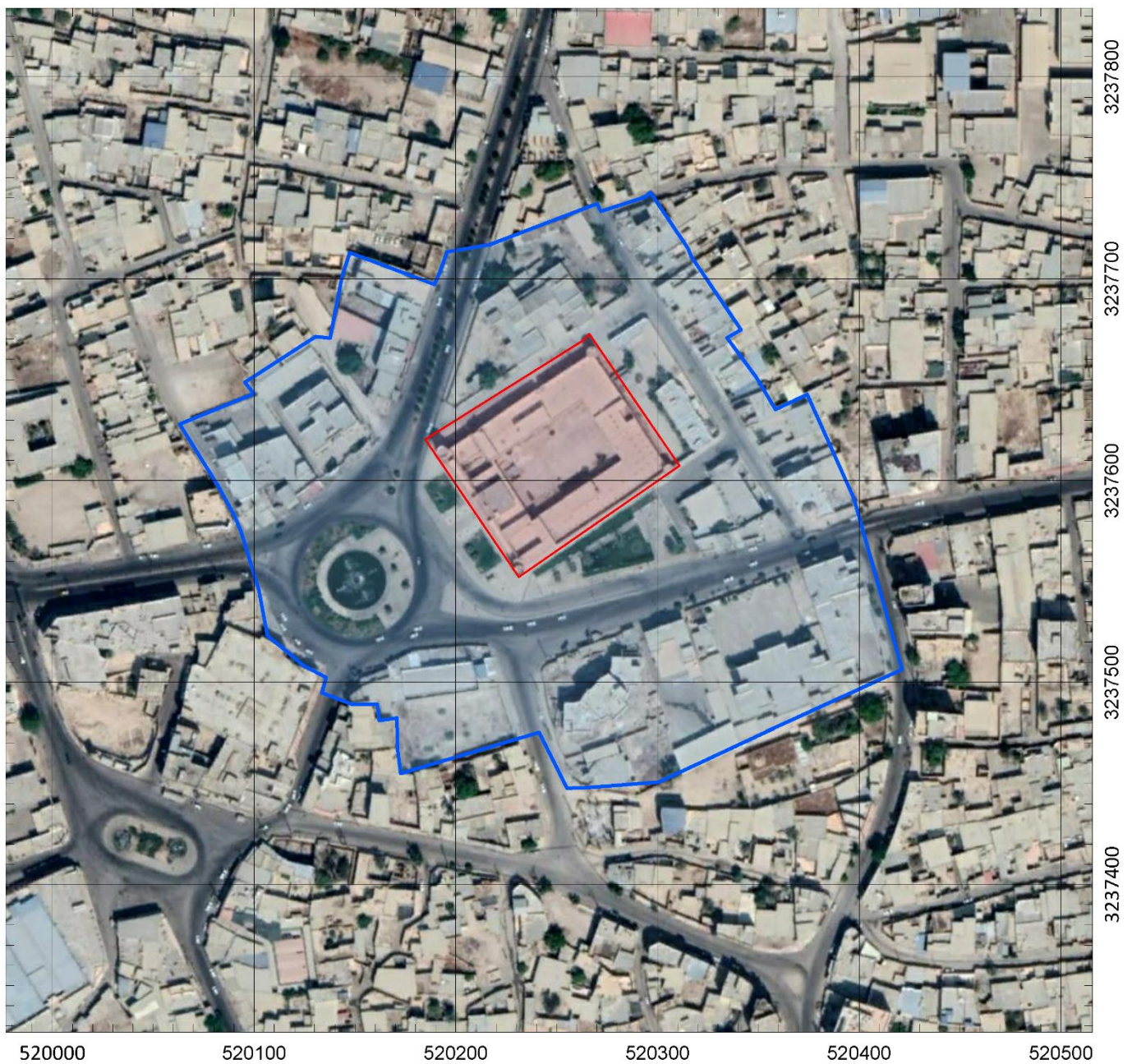
Nominated Property ■
Buffer Zone ■



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Borājān Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



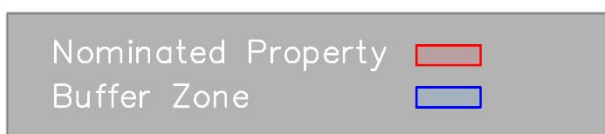
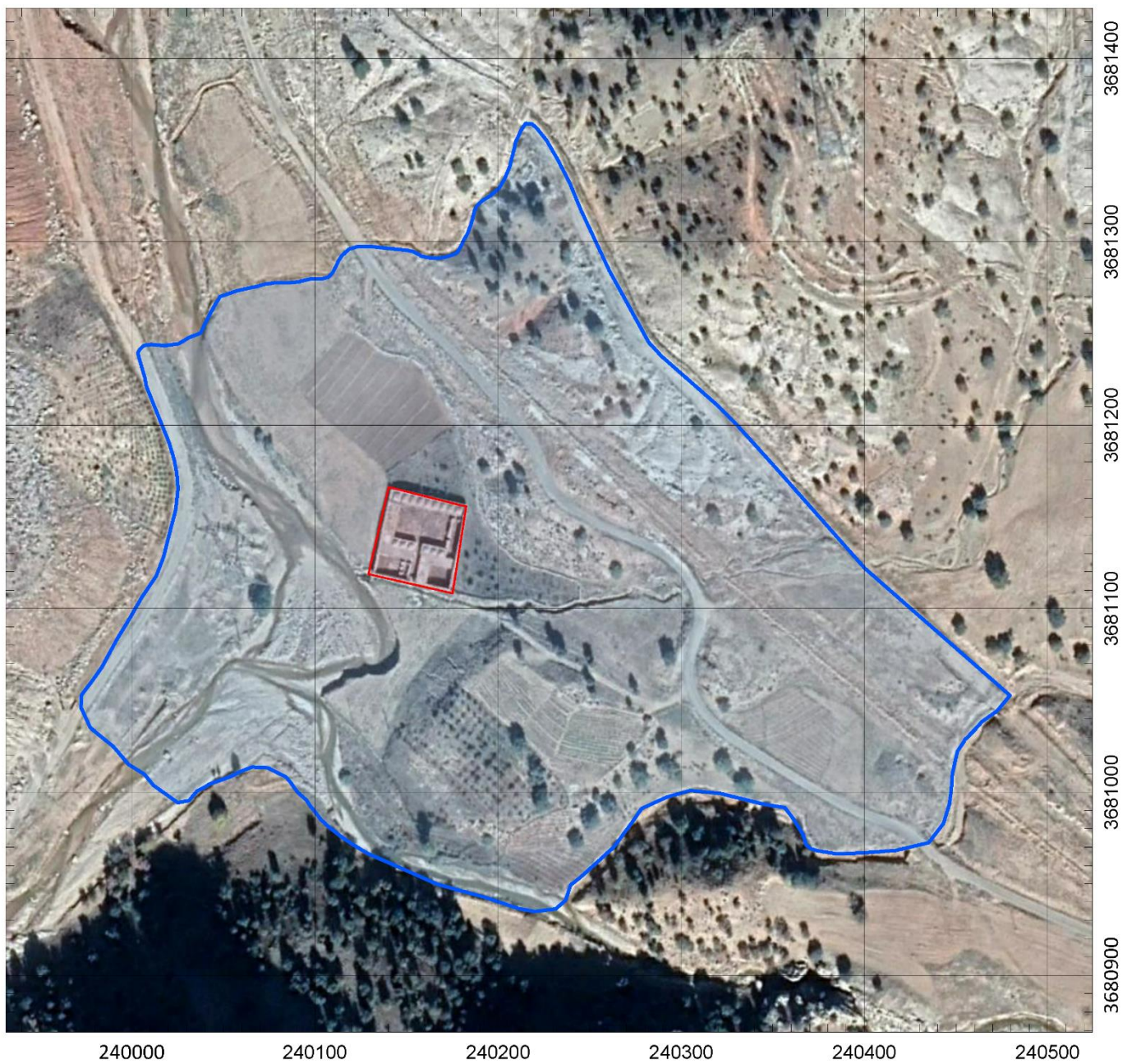
Nominated Property ■
Buffer Zone ■



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Chameshk Caravanserai

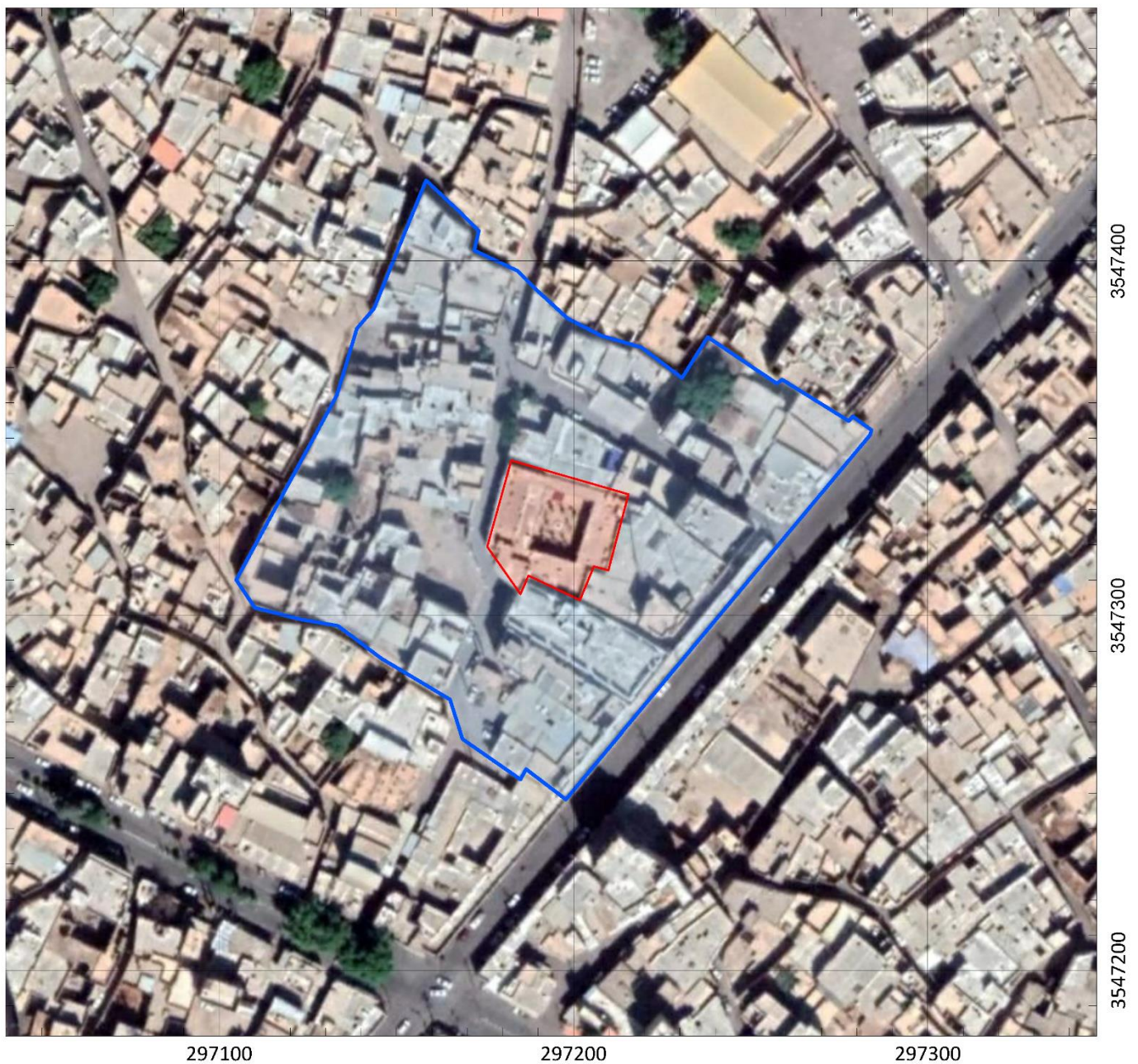
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Afzal Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



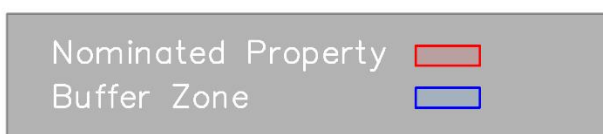
Nominated Property 
Buffer Zone 



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

Bastak Caravanserai

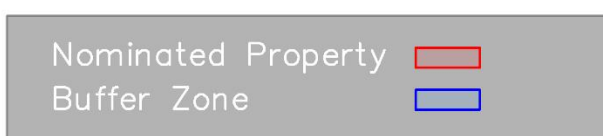
Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



UTM, Zone 40 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 57d E

Sa'adossaltaneh Caravanserai

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone



Sa'adossaltaneh
Caravanserai

Qazvin



UTM, Zone 39 North, Meter ; Central Meridion 51d E

5.3 Means of implementing protective measures

According to the civil law, the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (IMCHTH) is the authority responsible for conservation and protection of all the artistic, historical and cultural monuments and Sites.

According to law, all the governmental and nongovernmental organizations as well as all the citizens in all parts of the country must obey the law and follow the regulations related to all kinds of movable and immovable properties presented by the IMCHTH.

Since the property is under legal protection of IMCHTH, all interventions related to it needs to be approved by IMCHTH. Deputyship of Cultural Heritage which is a sub sector of IMCHTH is responsible for supervising the activities done by the National Persian Caravanserai Base.

The National Base of the Persian Caravanserai was established to be responsible for management, conservation and protection of the property.

Defined conservation regulations and policies of the Nominated Property have been implemented in different ways and the IMCHTH has been supervising this process.

- Registration of a site in the National Heritage List is the first step in its protection and conservation that is conducted through implementation of legal regulations and policies regarding the cultural heritage conservation.
- Definition of the site's buffer zone according to IMCHTH-approved regulations along with IMCHTH supervising on its correct execution is set as the executive guarantee of the application of the regulations in the defined buffer zone.
- Conservation plans are programmed based on the property's situation. According to the National Persian Caravanserai Base as well as other properties inscribed in the National Cultural Heritage List, conservation plans are executed within the scope of study of each caravanserai by the IMCHTH or executed by consultant companies under supervision of the IMCHTH. The Base experts supervise the proper execution of the plans.

The chart shows the position of the National Persian Caravanserai Base in the IMCHTH

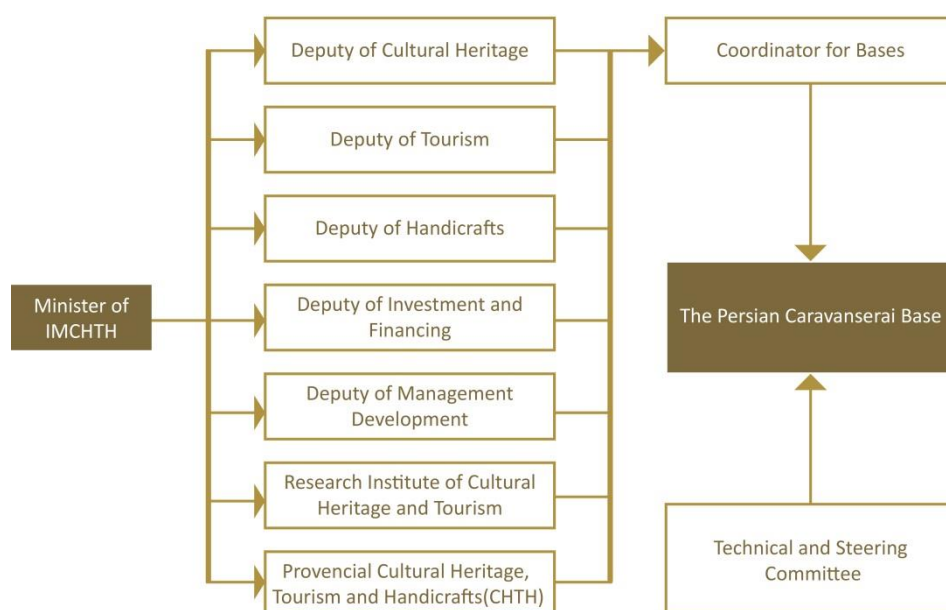


Diagram 4: The Position of the Persian Caravanserai Base in the IMCHTH

5.3.1 Supervisory systems

As mentioned, the caravanserai base with its local technical offices is responsible for conservation activities within the Nominated property and buffer zones under supervision of the Deputyship of Cultural Heritage. Decision about long-term general policies, which prepare by the IMCHTH support by other relevant organizations and the technical committee that consisted of experienced specialists from various fields related to the properties.

In addition, the Steering Committee, that includes university professors, experts in cultural heritage and other related disciplines, representatives of the Government, representatives of the city councils wherein the in-town caravanserais exist, as well as the representatives of other related organizations have regular meetings to lead and supervise the projects based on the confirmed strategies.

Since the Nominated Property is a serial nomination file, all of the caravanserais should be managed under an effective integrated management system. The National Persian Caravanserai Base that is a sub-sector of the Deputyship of the Cultural Heritage aims at coordinating and linking conservation and protective activities in the historical caravanserais of Iran. Strategies of the National Persian caravanserai Base are determined by the regular consultations with the technical & steering committees of the said Base.

Responsibilities of the National Persian Caravanserai Base are to:

- Supervising, Evaluating and controlling the management system of the whole properties;
- Conservation, restoration and preservation of Iranian caravanserais in accordance with domestic and international standards;
- Promotion and training programs in the field of Persian caravanserai;
- Continuous communication and internal network between caravanserais to transfer experiences in various fields of conservation, introduction and training;

- Development of guidelines for conservation and sustainable development by rehabilitation of caravansaries;
- Qualitative matching of all caravansaries (scientific-research, executive, landscape, administrative structure, equipment, tourism infrastructure);
- Interacting with scientific, cultural and educational centers at the domestic and international level to create study opportunities in the field of caravansaries;
- Creating, preparing and completing tourism infrastructure to promote the values of the Persian caravanserai;
- Encouraging public participation in protecting the values of the Persian caravanserai and promoting the social responsibility of local communities;
- Developing the best restoration and revitalization plan to return caravanserais to the life cycle while maintaining their authenticity and integrity.

5.3.2 Members of the technical committee of Caravanserai Base

The Technical Committee consists of experienced specialists from various related fields including restoration and conservation, tourism, handicrafts, anthropology, cultural economy, archaeology, road engineering, and architecture.

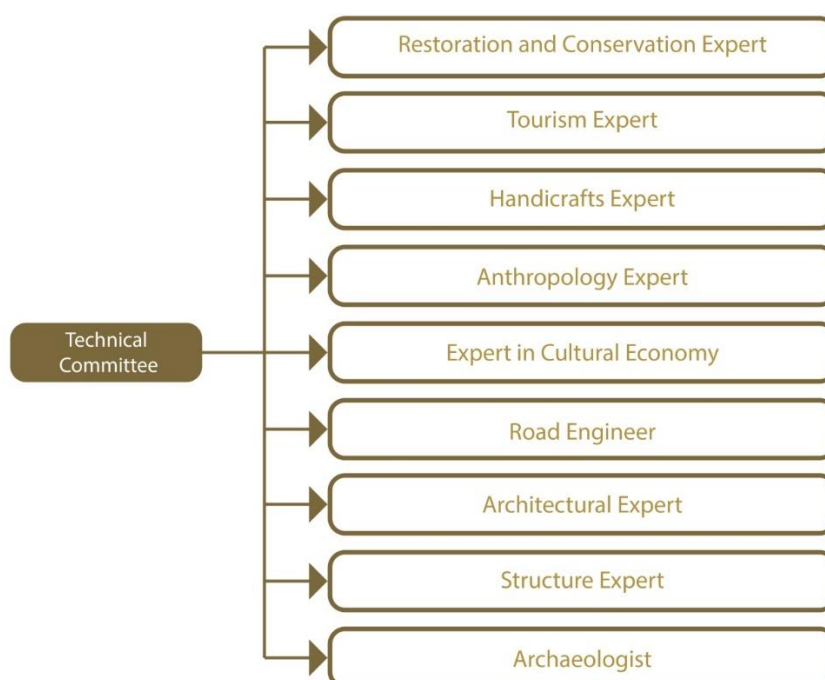


Diagram 5: Composition of the Technical Committee

5.3.3 Members of Steering Committee of the National Persian Caravanserai Base

Steering Committee is another element of the integrated management system for the Persian Caravanserai with a clear role. This Steering Committee is consisted of the following representatives:

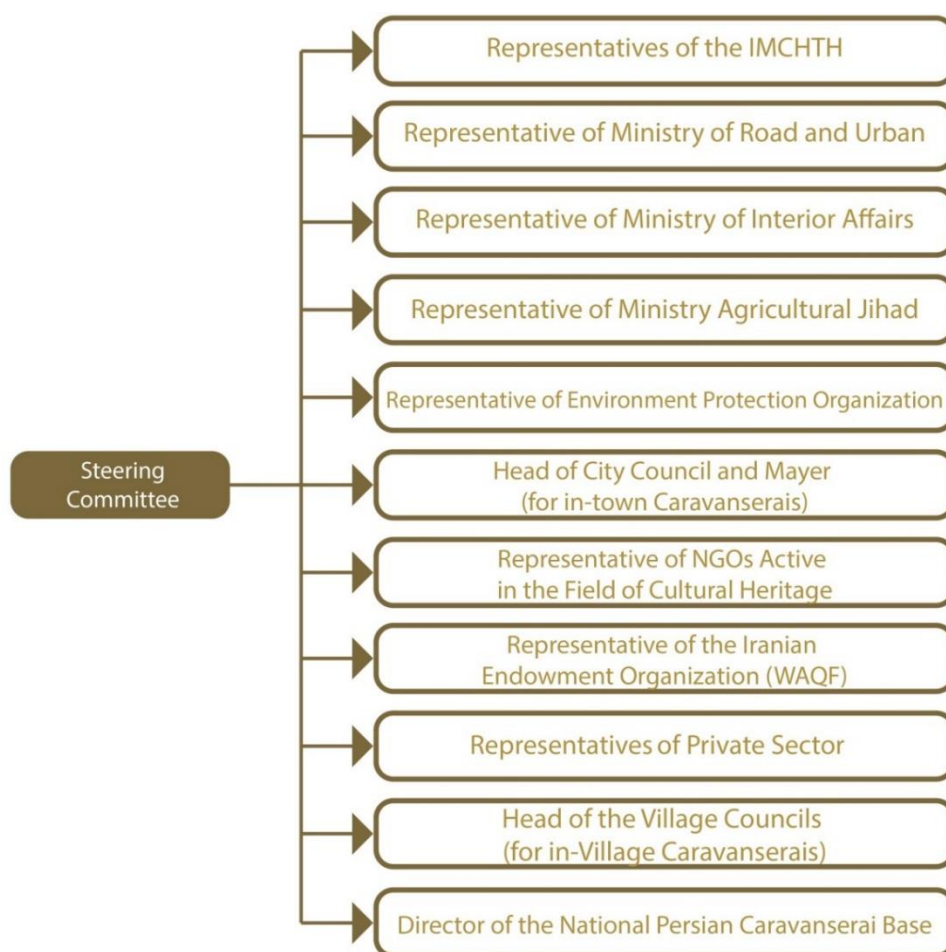


Diagram 6: Composition of the Steering Committee

5.3.4 Local and regional management contact

Mrs. Firoozeh Salari, Director of the National Persian Caravanserai Base

- Mob: + 98 912 2755887
- Tel - FAX: +98 21 66171604
- E-mail: firoozeh.salari@gmail.com

5.4 Existing plans related to the municipality and region in which proposed

Generally, in terms of programs and management plans, the nominated caravanserais fall into two categories: (1) Out-of-city caravanserais located on roads and highways that are considered as important valuable properties with protected buffer zones in infrastructure and roads development projects. In order to protect these sites in various construction projects, the IMCHTH has notified the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development about the boundaries of these caravanserais. In this regard, if master plans have been prepared in previous years, they will be reviewed based on their buffer zones and the laws and regulations of the cultural heritage. According to the law, all development plans and urban projects can be implemented with the approval of the IMCHTH.

(2) The second type is in-town caravanserais, which are located inside cities and villages, and are taken into consideration in urban and rural master plans. All development plans in relation to these caravanserais, should be examined by the conservation and protection regulations such as buffer zones and boundaries of these caravanserais, and should be approved by the IMCHTH.

Considering the fact that most of the nominated caravanserais are located across roads and boundaries, they are not under the supervision of municipalities and master plans. These plans do not include these zones. The rural master plans of the villages that are located at the vicinity of the caravansaries' buffer zones are prepared based on the IMCHTH laws and regulations.

The table below lists all the rural master plans and urban master plans for each of the nominated caravanserais.

No	Property	Plans				No	Property	Plans			
		Master Plan	Rural Master Plan	Detail Plan	Restoration Plan			Master Plan	Rural Master Plan	Detail Plan	Restoration Plan
1	Deyr-e Gachin				•	29	Meybod	•		•	•
2	Noushīrvān				•	30	Farasfaj		•		•
3	Parand (Ghal'e Sangi)	•	•	•	•	31	Īzadkhāst				•
4	Robāt-e Sharaf		•		•	32	Bisotūn				•
5	Anjīreh Sangi				•	33	Ganj Ali Khān	•		•	•
6	Abbās Ābād Tāybād		•		•	34	Yengeh Emām				•
7	Jamāl Ābād		•		•	35	Yām	•			•
8	Qelli				•	36	Khājah Nazar	•			•
9	Fakhr-e Dāvūd		•		•	37	Goujebel				•
10	Sheikhali Khān (Chāleh Siyāh)		•		•	38	Sāeen				•
11	Maranjāb				•	39	Titi	•		•	•
12	Amin Ābād		•		•	40	Dehdasht			•	•
13	Gabr Ābād				•	41	Khoy				•
14	Mahyār				•	42	Bāgh-e Sheikh (Abdolqafār Khān)		•		•
15	Gaz		•		•	43	Neyestānak		•		•
16	Mādar Shāh	•		•	•	44	Chehel Pāyeh				•
17	Kūh Pāyeh	•			•	45	Khān				•
18	Mazinān				•	46	Deh Mohammad		•		•
19	Mehr		•		•	47	Tāj Ābād		•		•
20	Zafarāniyeh				•	48	Sa'adossaltaneh	•		•	•
21	Fakhr Ābād				•	49	Chāh Kūrān				•
22	Sarāyān	•			•	50	Anjīreh Ajori				•
23	Qasr-e Bahrām				•	51	Kharānaq		•		•
24	Āhovān				•	52	Rashti			•	•
25	Mayāmey			•	•	53	Borāzjān	•		•	•
26	Abbās Ābād		•		•	54	Chameshk				•
27	Miāndasht				•	55	Afzal	•			•
28	Zeynoddīn				•	56	Bastak	•			•

Map 2: Existing Plans of Urban and Rural Caravanserais

5.4.1 National plan for expanding tourism nationwide

The national plan for expanding tourism nationwide titled “*Document 15-Years Development of the Tourism Industry in the I.R Iran*” is considered as the upstream document for the tourism extension plans of all provinces. Under this guideline, the plans, designs and tourism development projects are prepared and organized according to regions and provinces while emphasizing on their national and regional values.

The preliminary studies of the document mentioned above began in the October 2000 and lasted less than two years. There was a group consisting of a manager and three international consultants and a number of national experts who conducted the said studies.⁴ The program began with the assistance of the United Nations World Tourism Organization⁵ and United Nations Development Program⁶ and based on the “National Strategies Tourism Development Plan”⁷ includes the following:

- Preparing of the sustainable tourism development plans;
- Building and implementing human resource development strategies;
- Promoting the Government’s capacity building regarding the management of tourism;
- Executing and examining of development process in the “*special region*”.

In the National Strategies Tourism Development Plan, Iran has been divided into seven (7) touristic regions described in the following chart.

Region Number	Region boundaries	Region Center
Region one	Alborz Region consists of coastal provinces of the Caspian sea (Mazandaran and Golestan) mountainous and barren provinces of Tehran, Semnan, Qom, Qazvin and Markazi;	Tehran
Region two	Sabalan Region consists of coastal province of Caspian sea (Gilan), the mountainous province of Ardebil, East Azarbaijan province and the plains of Zanjan province;	Tabriz
Region three	Western Border Region consists of Hamadan, West Azarbaijan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Ilam and Lorestan;	Kermanshah
Region four	Ancient Capital Region consists of plains of Khuzestan province and the mountainous province of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari;	Ahwaz
Region five	Heart of Persia Region consists of mountainous and barren provinces of Esfahan, Fars, mountainous province of Kohgiluyeh va Boyer-Ahmad and the coastal province of Bushehr;	Shiraz
Region six	Great Southern Karvan Region consists of barren provinces of Yazd and Kerman and the coastal province of Hormozgan;	Kerman

⁴Mr. Nasrollah, Mostofi, head of national planning
 Mr. Load Week Reader, senior advisor of national planning
 Mr. Beshrel, advisor of national planning
 Ms. Elina Lime, advisor of national planning

⁵. UNWTO

⁶. UNDP

⁷. High council of Iran travel and world travel, the national plan for developing tourism, supervision structure over the execution of development strategies.

Region seven	Eastern border Region consists of Khorasan-e Jonoubi province, Khorasan-e Razavi province, Khorasan-e Shomali province and desert areas and the coastal province of Sistan va Balouchestan;	Mashhad
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Map 3: The Seven Touristic Regions of Iran Divided Based on the National Tourism Development Plan



Map 4: The Zoning of the National Tourism in the National Plan

5.4.2 The comprehensive plan of each province tourism development Research

In 2001, researches on the provincial comprehensive plan were studied by the consultant companies, research centers and universities. These plans were amongst the primary comprehensive provincial plans of the country.

The purposes and strategies of provincial tourism development (based on the comprehensive plan of the provinces) are as follows:

- Conservation, preservation and introduction of cultural and natural heritage;
- Supporting and improving of traditional arts in the regions;
- The exchange and improvement of cultural and artistic cooperation with other parts of the world specifically neighboring countries around the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea;
- Increasing the quality of education and training of experts regarding cultural heritage and tourism;
- Encouraging the private sectors to be attracted to active partnership;
- Creating the necessary communicational infrastructures for accessibility services to the historic monuments and natural landscapes;

- establishing temporary accommodation facilities across the paths which conclude to cultural heritage and touristic attractions;
- Providing touristic services through publishing brochures, maps and guides.

5.4.3 Plan for land logistics and the base theory for the development of some provinces

To materialize the goals envisioned in the long-term plans for the development of the country, the fundamental theory of the national development, land's logistic orientation and province's properties, the operations and duties of the province are respectively based on "development of advanced industries, cultural heritage, natural and touristic conservation, efficient usage of agricultural capabilities and providing better services". Reliance on the mentioned priorities will not prevent the utilizing other provincial capabilities and capacities.

In addition, two important strategies of the provincial development are as follows:

- The development of touristic services and facilities considering many natural and historical capabilities of a given province on national and international levels;
- A major attention to cultural and natural heritage while considering its cultural heritage value on international level;

In the land's logistic plan, the following proposed procedures were confirmed:

- providing necessary facilities and infrastructures in the main touristic centers (tourism and ecotourism) and organizing them by a standard method for accepting Iranian and foreign tourists;
- Preparing of a public and private educational plan regarding the conservation of historic and cultural remains and the preparedness of accepting foreign tourists.

Generally, the conservation-restoration, introduction, proper usage methods and public educating are all towards the purpose of increasing their level of knowledge regarding the cultural and historical importance and values the dedication in the preservation of them are amongst the most important purposes of the land's logistics.

5.5 Property management plan or other management systems

5.5.1 Main Goal

The goal is to conserve the outstanding values of the Persian Caravanserai while maintaining their authenticity and integrity.

5.5.2 Management approach

Multidisciplinary operations as well as permanent and integrative conservation are constituent of the main approach for management, which enjoys a great importance.

This approach includes identification, research, conservation and restoration, maintenance, and presentation of the intangible values of caravansaries as one of the most important on-road services. It also encourages public involvement in the said activities.

Furthermore, the multidisciplinary approach for preserving values and an integrated management for caravansaries collection is of utmost importance. Accurate identification of the historical connection of the caravan routes network inside and outside Iran and its revitalization.

5.5.3 Management strategy and guideline

- Carrying out documentation of caravansaries and historical roads and routes.
- Improving the quality of education, training system as well as promoting capacity building;
- Improving the quality of site monitoring;
- Improving the quality of the conservation and restoration plans of caravanserais;
- Encouraging public cooperation in the application of regulations regarding the restoration and conservation of the caravanserais;
- Directing and setting targets for scientific, cultural, social and tourism-related events in the caravanserais;
- Improvement of tourist services and facilities;
- Development of educational plans and training at various scales;
- Carrying out documentation and preparation and development of databank for various audiences;
- Further cooperation with national and foreign universities and other scientific centers and institutions regarding historic routes, caravans' routes and residences.
- Creating databanks relating to the Persian caravansaries as well as other caravansaries across the ancient and historical trade routes around the world such as Silk Road.
- Development of a master tourism plan for caravanserais which includes historical routes as well.

5.5.3.1 Improving the quality of conservation and restoration plans

- Updating the previous conservation procedures and documents related to the plans;
- Revision and improvement of caravanserais conservation and restoration standards;
- Acquiring the best revitalization plans;
- Conducting researches regarding the methods of partial conservation and consolidation of Sassanid, the early Islamic periods as well as Seljuk caravanserais;
- Employment of traditional master.
- Conducting researches regarding construction materials and mortars for future conservations;

5.5.3.2 Improving the quality of monitoring of the sites

- Expansion of the activities of the caravanserais' monitoring team as well as supplying monitoring equipment such as: CCTVs, hygrometer and other equipment;
- Monitoring the feasibility of regulations relating to the buffer zone of caravanserais (consultation with local residents and others interested parties);
- Monitoring the feasibility of regulations relating to the caravanserais.

5.5.3.3 Improvement of tourist services and facilities

- Reorganizing tourism facilities with regard to the necessity of protecting visual integrity and outstanding universal values of the property;
- Increasing the number of tourist guides as well as training them and raising their awareness in order to be certain that correct info would be given to visitors.

5.5.3.4 Improving of security systems

- Designing and installing the security systems in the caravanserais;
- Supplying good Lighting systems for the caravanserais with due regard to their outstanding universal values.
- Installing fire extinguishing system.

5.5.3.5 Carrying on with documentation, preparation and development of databank

- Equipping and upgrading the data archive as well as reports existing for each caravanserai;
- Documentation and categorization of all the available documents regarding each caravanserai;
- Improving and upgrading the data archive in the IMHTH provincial offices.

5.5.3.6 Development of educational plans and training at various scales

- Collaboration with schools for the purpose of implementing educational programs in each province;
- Expanding activities related to introduction and education for different audiences;
- Cooperation with national and foreign universities as well as scientific centers and other World Heritage sites for the purpose of holding training courses and scientific assemblies;
- Attracting research theses and projects at different levels of BA., BS and PhD. according to the diverse requirements and needs of caravanserais;
- Awareness raising for the personnel of the National Persian Caravanserai Base;
- Expansion of activities related to the introduction and education in the ICHTHM National Persian Caravanserai Base with the cooperation of public and private sectors;
- Training and raising the awareness of cities dwellers about the importance and outstanding values of the caravanserais as well as encouraging them to participate in conservation.

5.e.5 Action plan

5.e.5.1 Short Term Plans (two years)

Within the short-term plan of the Persian caravanserais, two main goals are on the agenda:

- Documentation, monitoring, supervision and critical restorations;
- Providing a suitable background for expanding interdisciplinary researches as well as conservation and restoration studies.

The details of the said goals are as follows:

Documentation & Research

- Updating different documents available in the bases such as maps and excavation reports;
- Creating a data bank of the Persian Caravanserai and its related structures
- Continuation documentation and cataloguing;
- Continuation documentation by Laser scanning and photogrammetry;
- Starting interdisciplinary studies aimed at acquiring more data about the caravanserais as well as its conservation;
- Improving research and furthering cooperation with universities and scientific institutions;
- Studying and research for the options available for a more successful negotiation with all groups interested in the conservation of caravansaries;
- Studying commercial passages and historical trade roads;
- Continuation archaeological studies;
- Continuation architectural studies on caravansaries and their related structures;
- Studying and researches about handicrafts in villages around caravanserais;
- Conducting ethnographic studies around caravansaries and travel culture;
- Holding professional meetings and training workshops around caravansaries and travel culture.

Conservation & Restoration

- Critical restoration of the caravanserais;
- Restoration, conservation and consolidation of caravansaries and their related structures;
- Restoration of all gate doors of the caravanserais;
- Restoration of the decorative components of the caravanserais;
- Producing comprehensive restoration plans;
- Gathering, re-organizing and researching on the previous restoration activities;
- Carrying out maintenance plans and acquiring comprehensive revitalization plans;
- upgrading electronic protection systems;
- Reorganizing and cleaning the sites around caravanserais;
- Conducting scheduled procedures for purchase and release lands around some caravansaries based on archeological researches and studies;
- Regular monitoring.

Tourism Management, Presentation, Training & Education

- Holding professional meetings and training workshops;
- Holding periodic restoration and mortar workshops;
- Holding discussion series regarding historic routes and roads residential architecture with the cooperation of Universities;
- Holding educational cultural heritage workshops on caravansaries and their related structures;
- Setting up the National Persian Caravanserai Base's website;
- Publishing educational and promotional books;

- Placing sign boards and standardizing signs in accordance with a unified standard applied for all nominated caravansaries;
- Proper furnishing of the site for tourists;
- Organization the tourist passages in accordance with a unified standard applied for all nominated caravansaries;
- Creating spaces for service providence (drinking fountains and lavatories, etc.);
- Presenting tourism, natural, cultural-social and historical attractions of the regions.

5.e.4.2 Middle Term Plans (five years)

Research & Documentary

- Continuation of research and documentation of caravansaries related structures;
- Completing the geophysical studies;
- Continuation of the archeological studies and researches;
- Continuation of research regarding building techniques used in the caravanserais;
- Furthering interactions with research groups nationwide and abroad;
- Continuance of multidisciplinary researches;
- Completing the caravansaries data bank;
- Monitoring the quality of documentations.

Conservation & Restoration

- Continuation of restoration, conservation and consolidation of caravansaries and their related structures;
- Continuation of conservation and restoration of caravansaries related structures in order to add to the caravansaries ensemble based on the management plan;
- Continuation of preparing the best revitalization plans for some of the caravansaries based on the management plan;
- Conducting scheduled procedures for the restoration and conservation based on the results of research and monitoring to remove the additional structures of some of the caravansaries based on the management plan;
- Continuation of restoration of all gate doors of the caravanserais;
- Organization and improvement of flooring and façades of the street which leads to the caravanserais;
- Sustained cooperation with local, national and international universities in the restoration and conservation;
- Updating security systems based on the management plan;
- Continuation of reorganizing and cleaning the sites around caravanserais.

Tourism Management, Presentation, Training & Education

- Holding national and international exhibitions about caravansaries and historical roots and corridors related to caravansaries and travel culture;

- Planning specific and public tours for various audiences;
- Training program for different types of audience;
- Awareness raising of local and foreign tour guides;
- Upgrading the information uploaded on the website;
- Easy transferring of information to visitors both in English and Persian via Bluetooth technology;
- Raising awareness of different types of audiences by mass media.

5.e.4.3 Long Term Plans (Ten years)

Research & Documentary

- Developing research, cultural and scientific interactions with other caravansaries nationwide and abroad;
- Continuation of archeological researches for some of the caravansaries;
- Continuation of cultural objects researches related to caravansaries for the caravansaries museum;
- Cooperating with international sites regarding exhibitions for historic roads and caravanserais;
- Continuation of documentation of caravansaries related structures based on archeological researches.

Conservation & Restoration

- Continuation of conservation and restoration of caravansaries related structures;
- Adding required structures to the caravansaries related ;
- Continuation of conservation and restoration activities;
- Continuation of re-organization and improvement of flooring and façades;
- Constant monitoring;
- Updating security systems.

Tourism Management, Presentation, Training & Education

- Continuation of holding training workshops with the participation of universities and scientific institutes in the fields of conservation, restoration and archaeology;
- Continuation of training program for different types of audiences;
- Continuation of awareness raising of the variety audiences by mass media.

5.6 Sources and levels of finance

There are provincial and national finance sources as follows:

Item	Year	Provincial (Million Tomans)			Sum (Million Tomans)
		Maintenance	Conservation and restoration	Research	
1	2016	1000	5500	800	7200
2	2017	1700	4000	850	8550
3	2018	1200	4500	900	10600
4	2019	1100	6000	830	15930
5	2020	1800	8000	960	20760

Table 3: The Financial Table

5.7 Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques are as follows:

5.g.1 Research Organization of Cultural Heritage and Tourism

The Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) is responsible for multidisciplinary researches and training of young experts of the IMCHTH.

5.g.2 Local and National universities

There are different universities, which presently their students work and study for their internship courses on caravanserais. In addition, national universities such as University of Tehran, Isfahan University of Art, Tarbiat Modares University, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran Islamic Azad University, Iran University of Science and Technology, provide sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques.

5.g.2 Short-term training workshops

Short-term training and workshops are held on local, national and regional levels with the cooperation of universities and other World Heritage sites. For example, these workshops have been held on regional and national levels.

- Conferences regarding building materials of caravanserais 2011-2012;
- Educational workshop for mapping of caravanserais with the cooperation of Azad University 2013;
- Educational workshop for stone restoration 2014;
- Educational workshop for conservation and restoration of caravanserais 2014 and 2015;
- Educational workshop on restoration of historical monuments, 2015.
- Conferences of civil engineering, architecture and urban development, Shahid Beheshti University, 2016.
- Architectural restoration & strengthening of historical building, Tabriz university, 2016;
- *"Iranian caravansaries, past, present, future"*, a conference will be organized by Tehran University, 2021

5.8 Visitor facilities and statistics

Caravanserais benefits from basic and necessary visitor facilities. However, due to the significance of presenting outstanding values of caravanserais, promoting visitor facilities around the properties and in the buffer zone is one of the main priorities in the management framework. Knowledgeable visitor guides, guards as well as personnel trained to act in emergency cases, guiding signboards in the site, visitors' paths and promotional booklets and brochures as well as tourist maps.



Picture 11: Visitors in Robāt-e Sharaf. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 12: Cultural Heritage Exhibition, Introducing Sa'adossaltaneh Complex. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 13: The First Festival of Child and Toys, 2011, Sa'adossaltaneh Complex. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 14: The Second National Festival of Iranian Culture and traditions in Nowrouz, 2019, Sa'adossaltaneh Complex. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 15: Sa'adossaltaneh Complex. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



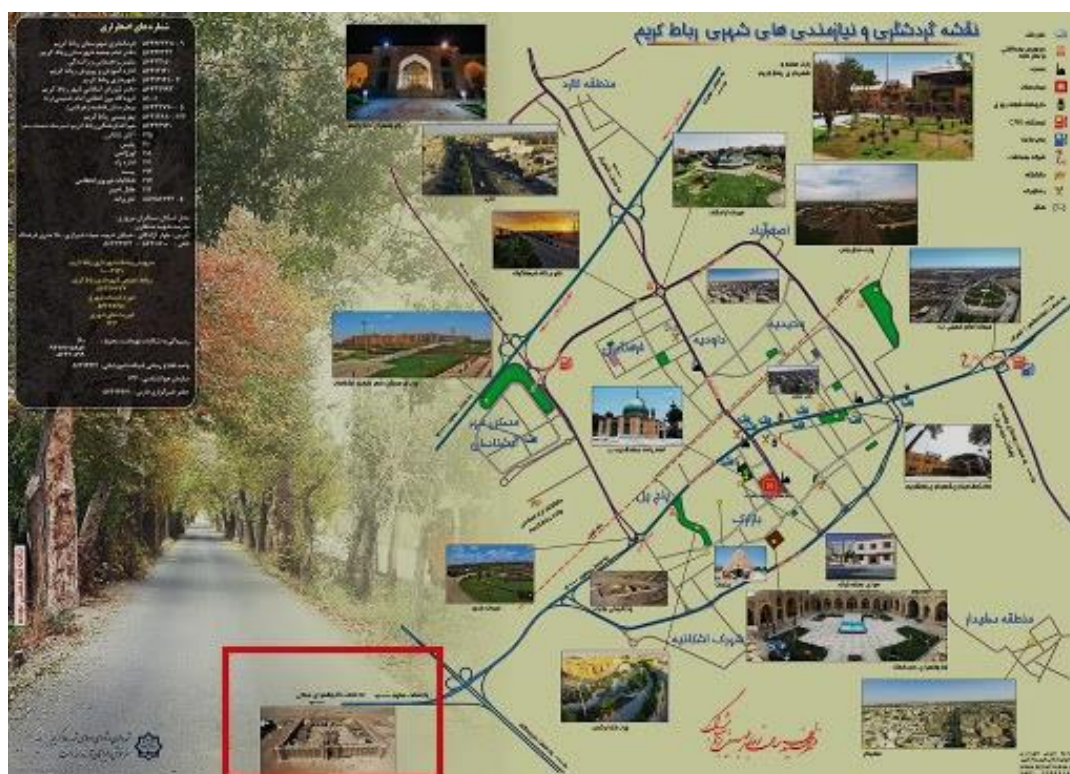
Picture 16: Accommodation Facilities in Zeynoddin Caravanserai. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 17: Accommodation and Torist Facilities, Madar Shāh Caravanserai. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 18: Madar Shāh Caravanserai



Picture 19: Brochure Introducing the Touristic Attractions for Parand Caravanserai. (Source: IMCHTH Archive)



Picture 20: Amin-Abad Caravanserai (Source: IMCHTH Archive, Photo by: Ali Eqra)



Picture 21: Left: Maranjab Caravanserai. Right: Qelli Caravanserai. (Source: IMCHTH Archive, Photo by: Ali Eqra)



Picture 22: Left: Mehr Caravanserai, Right: Īzadkhāst Caravanserai. (Source: IMCHTH Archive, Photo by: Ali Eqra)

5.9 Policies and programs related to the presentation and promotion of the property

- Studying available options for conducting more successful negotiations with all groups interested in the conservation of the caravanserais;
- Publishing brochures as well as various cultural productions aimed at informing buffer zone residents of the outstanding universal values of the caravanserais;
- Conducting a project in which an audio visual file about the caravanserais can be sent via Bluetooth technology to visitors smart devices to provide them with additional information about caravanserais;
- Providing a data base usable for different audiences but at the same time restricting data access for each group;
- Cooperation with the private sector for making a documentary film about research history of caravansaries;
- Publishing bilingual brochures and various cultural products introducing caravanserais in Persian and English;
- Upgrading lighting system of the caravanserais aimed at providing a standard atmosphere for better presentation of its aesthetic, artistic and scientific values while considering the necessity of conservation of the historical spirit and integrity;

- Reorganizing signboards as well as completing the tourist information system;
- Defining a visitors' path inside and out site the caravansaries;
- Designing and erecting guide posts and warning signs in harmony with visual conditions and climate circumstances;
- Preparing posters about tourist attractions;
- Identifying important corridors of tourism accordance to each caravanserai;
- Monitoring signboards, completing and removing possible defects such as writing mistakes, the form of the signboard, its colors, etc.
- Partnership with provincial bases for printing scientific and research findings in the format of a book;
- Providing an audio tour system within sites for Iranian and foreign visitors;
- Encouraging cultural and touristic functions within the buffer zones;
- Printing bilingual guidebooks for each caravanserai.

5.10 Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

Positions		The National Persian Caravanserai Base
Director		Mrs. Firoozeh Salari
Deputy		Mr. Hamid Binaei Faal
Technical	Conservation	Mr. MH.Moheballi Mr. Mostafa Keshavarz
	Documentation	Mr. Ali Eqra
	Monitoring	Mrs. Melika khosrojerdi
	Maintenance	Mrs. Romina Shams Peykani
Research	Architecture	Mr. Meysam Mansouri
	Cultural economist	Mr. Ali Reza Tavakoli
	Archeology	Mr. Rajab Ali Labaf Khaniki
Presentation & Training	Tourism management	Mr. Mostafa Keshavarz
	Cultural Affairs	Mr. Ali Abbasian
	Public Affairs	Mr. Mehdi Mir Abaszadeh
Financial & legal Affairs		Mr. Jalil Gholami
Official Affairs		Mr. Ghorbanzadeh

6. Monitoring

6.1 Key indicators for measuring state of conservation

The importance of the Persian caravansaries preservation has made the establishment of a coherent monitoring system. Several critical elements exist for conservation and protection of the Persian Caravanserais. Such elements need to periodically monitor based on a well-organized supervision system, in order to protect the cultural and historical values. The evaluation factors of the caravanserais are classified in these groups:

Conservation and protection of the caravanserais and their relevant structures, education and training, tourism, development and plans related to buffer zones.

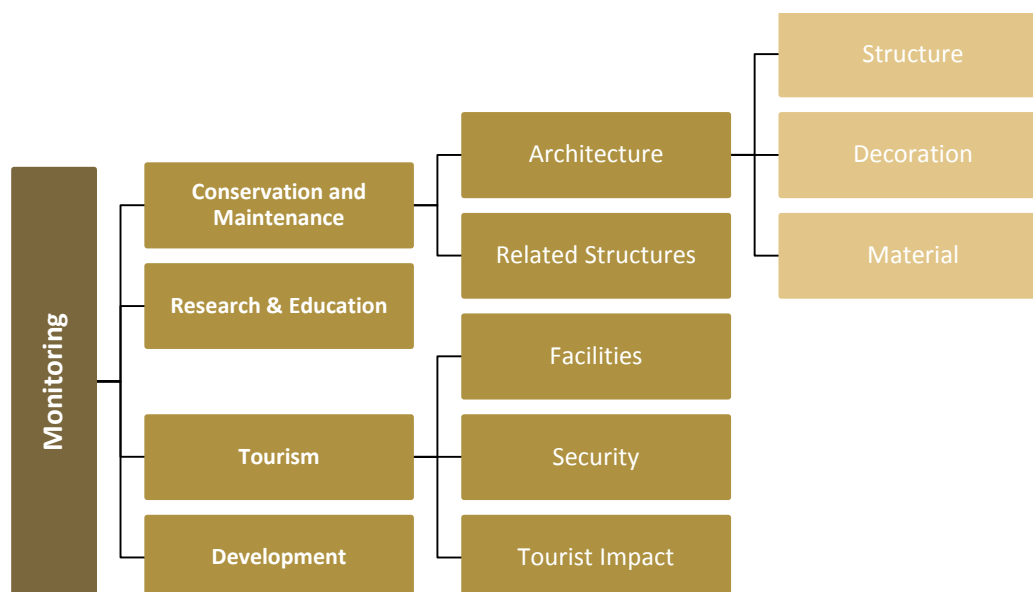


Diagram 7: Key indicators for monitoring Persian Caravanserai

State of conservation of the caravanserais and the relevant structures is the first priority in the monitoring programs. In this regard, all factors related to the situation of the structures, decorations and materials are considering in scheduled monitoring program. Scheduled investigations may be change according to the characteristics and situation of each caravanserai. For instance, Robāt-e Sharaf as a unique caravanserai of Seljuk era is demanding an organized plan for evaluation of the conservation actions since it comprises the historical and architectural values. According to the importance of the identified key indicators, monitoring activities are performed based on a regular daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and annual plan. The tools used for monitoring are classified according to the types of the indicators: direct observation of the site and photography, laboratory tests, questionnaires and statistics.

Monitoring tables of The Persian Caravanserai for different features:

Nominated Property						
CATEGORY			INDICATORS	PERIODICITY	TOOLS	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
Conservation and	Architecture	Structure	Condition of cracks (their movement & progress)	By case (Weekly, Monthly)	Micrometer & Plaster testator	The Persian Caravanserai Base and IMCHTH Provincial Offices
			Upcoming Moisture level of walls	By case (Seasonal)	Field visit& Hygrometer	
			the change in the state of foundation	Annually	Field visit	
			Interventions and structural changes in the buildings	By case (Seasonal)	Field visit	
			Chang in wooden structures	Seasonal	Field visit	

			Surveying external surfaces affected by natural factors (moisture, temperature, wind, precipitation)	By case (Monthly, Seasonal)	Field visit	
			Temperature & Moisture	Daily Climate information report	Climate information	
			pollutions (dust & soot)	Seasonal	Reports	
			Condition of mortars and plasters	Seasonal	Field visit	
			Condition of roof plaster (<i>Kāhgel</i>)	Seasonal	Field visit	
			Condition of roof insulations	Per six months	Field visit	
			Condition of drain pipes & water ways	Monthly	Field visit	
			Condition of roofs & floors	Seasonal	Field visit	
			Condition of ventilation canals	Monthly	Field visit	
			Condition of places susceptible for nesting of Insects & animals	Seasonal	Field visit	
			Process of decayed material	Per six Months	Field visit	
			Monitoring of plant growth and Weeds	Seasonal	Field visit	
		Decoration	Surveying wooden objects	Per six Months	Field visit	
			Condition of biological factors and their effects on the decoration	By case (Monthly, Seasonal)	Field visit & lab tests	
			Erosion process of decorations (tile works, stuccoes, brick works & stone works)	By case (Seasonal)	Field visit & lab tests	
		Material	Condition of biological factors and their effects on the extent of stone, brick and gypsum	By case (Per six Months)	Field visit & lab tests	
			Control of superannuation of material	Seasonal	Field visit	
			Erosion process of material	Monthly	Field visit & tests	
	Related Structures		Condition of <i>Ab- Anbārs</i> (cisterns)	Monthly	Field visit	
			Controlling the other structures	Seasonal	Field visit	

Nominated Property				
CATEGORY	INDICATORS	PERIODICITY	TOOLS	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
Research & Education	Number & quality of researches, books, articles & student thesis produced about Persian Caravanserai	Annual	Statistics	The Persian Caravanserai Base and provincial offices
	Number & quality of training workshop, exhibitions & seminars	Annual	Statistics and Field visit	
	Extent & quality of exclusive services for tourists (guide books, brochures)	Annual	Field Questionnaire	

Nominated Property & BUFFER ZONE					
CATEGORY		INDICATORS	PERIODICITY	TOOLS	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
Tourism	Facilities	Performance of heating, cooling, electric & lighting of facilities	By case (Monthly)	Field visit	The Persian Caravanserai
		Performance of urban infrastructures	By case	Field visit	

	Security	Hygienic condition (WCs & courtyard)	By case	Field visit	
		The extent of touristic security services (CCTVs, police, guards & etc.)	Daily	Field visit	
		Inspecting fire extinguishers	Daily	Field visit	
	Tourist Impact	Number of resident and nonresident population (number, age, education)	Seasonal	Questionnaire	
		Number of Iranian & foreign visitors	Seasonal	Questionnaire	
		Surveying tourists effects (negative/positive)	Seasonal	Questionnaire	

BUFFER ZONE				
CATEGORY	INDICATORS	PERIODICITY	TOOLS	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
Development and buffer zones	Respecting criteria of Nominated property and examining variations	Seasonal	Field visit	The Persian Caravanserai Base and provincial offices
	Respecting criteria of buffer zone and examining variations	Seasonal	Field visit	