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CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/TA/1687_Add.Inf

Charenton-le-Pont, 3 October 2022

H.E. Mr Mounir Anastas
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Palestine to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2023 – Additional Information Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan (Palestine)

Dear Ambassador,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of “Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan” as a World Heritage property and an ICOMOS technical evaluation mission will visit the property to consider matters related to its protection, management and conservation, as well as issues related to its integrity and authenticity.

In order to allow us to further evaluate this property, we would be grateful if the State Party could provide us with additional information on the following points:

Proposed justification for inscription

As a justification for criterion (ii), the State Party has described Ancient Jericho as an “essential link for the widespread interchange of cultural and religious ideologies and for spreading its innovations in architecture, technology, art, and domestication of plants and animals” (p. 113). Ancient Jericho is said to have served as a cultural centre that, thanks to its strategic location along main trade routes, contributed to the exchange of values, ideas (about irrigation, building techniques, architecture), experiences and innovations. ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could elaborate further on the ideological, technological, cultural and social influence of Ancient Jericho over the region, and provide some more evidence that could testify to the said interchange and demonstrate more clearly the impact of Ancient Jericho’s innovations on the region.

Ancient Jericho is further described as “an important international trade centre of the old world, which connected Asia and Africa” (p. 86). ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide more information on the trade routes, at the crossroads of which Ancient Jericho was established, and elaborate on the historical sources and archaeological remains that enable us to attribute to the town such a prominent role in the trade within the region and beyond.

The detailed description of the archaeological vestiges uncovered on the tell included in the nomination dossier (together with a map on page 30) focuses on the period from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, with the town dating to the PrePottery Neolithic A (p. 12). However, the justification for the proposed criteria and the statement of integrity (pp. 14-15) relate to both the earlier (Natufian) and the later periods of the functioning of Ancient Jericho, which are said to be preserved within the boundaries of the nominated property – the term “historical wholeness” is used in relation to the period from the Natufian to Ottoman period (p. 14) and twenty-nine phases of habitation dating from the late Natufian period (10,500 BC) to the

Ottoman period (1516 AD) attested on the site (p. 73). Concurrently, the nomination dossier mentions that Ancient Jericho has been relocated in the Hellenistic period, after some 10,000 years of continuous occupation (p. 75). Finally, a chronology of Jericho provided in the nomination dossier includes all periods from prehistory to modern times (p. 74), illustrating the historical continuity of the ancient town that is said to continue in the modern city of Jericho (pp. 88, 113). Given these different references, ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could clarify the chronological timeframe for which the property is nominated.

Boundaries

ICOMOS notes that the boundaries of the nominated property encompass only the tell, without its immediate or wider setting. Meanwhile, the nomination dossier describes Ancient Jericho as an urban centre that functioned thanks to its strategic location – at the crossroads of key trade routes (p. 86), within the broader context of the Jericho oasis, flourishing thanks to the water from the springs of 'Ain es-Sultan, 'Ain ed-Duyuk and en-Nueima (p. 75), with the related irrigation canals that enabled agricultural activities. As such, the setting of Ancient Jericho was directly linked to its development. ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could explain whether the natural and cultural context within which and thanks to which Ancient Jericho functioned has been considered in the definition of the boundaries of the nominated property.

The State Party has described in the nomination dossier the history of Ancient Jericho, with many periods of destruction and rebuilding, as evidenced by twenty-nine phases of habitation of the city (p. 73). It has been also explained that after Ancient Jericho's catastrophic collapse in the Late Bronze Age, it was "sparsely inhabited and no longer the urban centre of the oasis. Small agricultural villages and other urban centres developed elsewhere within the cultural and spatial context of Ancient Jericho and the Jordan Valley" (p. 88). Later on, "in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, Jericho was relocated to where modern Jericho now stands on both sides of the Wadi-el-Qelt about two kilometres south of Tell es-Sultan" (p. 75). As the maps provided in the nomination dossier focus mainly on the area of the National Archaeological Park, it is not clear what archaeological vestiges of the said Iron Age villages and urban centres as well as later remains have been preserved in the "cultural and spatial context" under discussion. ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide a map indicating areas where the evidence of these later "offshoots" of Ancient Jericho has been documented (or the known extent of the area where archaeological vestiges that can be historically associated with the city are expected). It would also be helpful if the State Party could clarify the relationship between the vestiges of Ancient Jericho preserved within the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and the area around it, classified as "antiquities zone" in the Jericho Spatial Urban Plan (fig. 5.2).

ICOMOS notes that the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone is not clear. The buffer zone is said to have been "drawn to incorporate all areas which contribute to the visual setting of the property and its physical features" (p. 10). It is, however, not well understood what is considered as "contributing to the visual setting" and how it has been established – what methods or tools were used to define the key views.

Moreover, ICOMOS notes that the nominated property has been "an integral part of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis" (p. 99), and the city "moved" from the tell in different periods (as described above). ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could clarify in what way the buffer zone takes into consideration this wider historical and cultural context of the property, besides the views.

Jericho Spatial Urban Plan

The Jericho Spatial Urban Plan annexed to the nomination dossier includes captions in Arabic. It would be useful if a translation in one of the two working languages of the Convention could be provided. Based on fig. 5.2 of the nomination dossier, ICOMOS understands that the buffer zone area directly adjacent to the nominated property, on all sides except for a short stretch of land to the north, is classified as "antiquities zone". Moreover, the buffer zone includes further sections of land dedicated to different purposes

(residential and for tourism) which carry “special regulations” attached to them. ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could briefly explain what these “special regulations” include.

It is further noted that “the spatial plan also controls and maintains the visual continuity between Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan and the Mount of Temptation/Jabal Quruntol thus sustaining the overall cultural landscape of the oasis and preventing urban encroachment” (p. 133). Could the State Party clarify what is meant by “visual continuity” in this instance, as the historical connection between Ancient Jericho and the Mount of Temptation is not well understood. What are the measures in place to maintain the visual integrity of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis and prevent urban encroachment?

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** with the above information by **Monday 7 November 2022 at the latest**.

ICOMOS appreciates that the timeframe for providing this additional information is short. Brief responses are required at this stage, and can be discussed further with the State Party if needed during the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

We look forward to your responses to these points which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

Please note that the State Party shall submit a copy of the additional information to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and a copy to ICOMOS so that it can be formally registered as part of the nomination dossier.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
 Jericho Municipality
 Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre

State of Palestine
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
World Heritage General Directorate

Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan (Palestine)

Reply of the State Party of Palestine to the ICOMOS Additional
Information Request



November 2022



DATE 3 Nov 2022

To:

H.E. Mr Mounir Anastas
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Palestine to UNESCO

**Subject: World Heritage List 2023 – Additional Information
Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan (Palestine)
Ref. GB/TA/1687_Add.Inf**

Dear Ambassador,

First, I would like to thank you and ICOMOS for the letter Ref. GB/TA/1687_Add.Inf, dated 3 October 2022 regarding the additional information on Nomination Dossier of “ **Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan**” presented by the State of Palestine for potential inscription in 2023.

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit, herewith, the required additional information prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities experts. I hope these answers clarify certain issues required and effectively contribute to the positive evaluation process of the nomination Dossier.

Please accept, Mrs Bourdin, the assurance of my highest consideration and esteem.

Should you have any future questions concerning these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Ahmed Rjoob

Director General of the World Heritage

Cc: H.E. Minister of Tourism and Antiquities



Proposed justification for inscription

Question 1.

ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could elaborate further on the ideological, technological, cultural, and social influence of Ancient Jericho over the region, and provide some more evidence that could testify to the said interchange and demonstrate more clearly the impact of Ancient Jericho's innovations on the region?

The Nomination Dossier (ND) demonstrates the cultural, social, innovational, and ideological influences of Ancient Jericho over the cultural region to different extents. It is not easy to precisely compare the cultural and social traits of the Near Eastern Neolithic sites because of a variable of ecology and geography in the cultural region, variables in excavation methodologies, and radiocarbon dates. In the ND, references have been made to exhibit the ideological, technological, cultural, and social influence of Ancient Jericho over the region and the important interchange of human values over the Neolithic period and Bronze Age (pp 88-90; chapter 2, ND). Ancient Jericho is one of the oldest towns in the Near East with the earliest known fortification system in the world manifested by impressive public architecture—especially its PPNA walls and tower—as well as its social organization, religion, economy, trade, and craftsmanship. Thus, it is reasonable to suppose that other Neolithic settlements in the region were influenced by Ancient Jericho through social and trade interactions in the following ways:

Ideological influences

In the ND, this phenomenon and its customs have been reviewed, described, discussed, and compared with different sites in the region, especially in chapters two and three. It is clear that the ideological changes of Ancient Jericho were based on ritual and veneration of Ancestors and its regional interconnection and interchange during the Neolithic period that support and Justify Criterion II. Ritual and funeral practices seem to have been especially important for Neolithic Jericho which, according to Kenyon and Rast, related primarily to ancestral worship (Kenyon 1981; Rast 1992). The practice of removing the head of a deceased person



was a common ideological phenomenon of the pre-pottery Neolithic cultures at Ancient Jericho and across the Levant. Skulls were separated from the rest of the skeleton, treated with plaster, painted, and then completed with sea shells that were placed into the eye sockets (*figure 2.16 in the ND*). During PPNA, this phenomenon spread south from Palestine and at least as far north as southern Turkey (Hauptmann 1999; Kanjou 2016).

The burial practice of removing, decorating, and reburying the skulls of the deceased is rare in the PPNA Levant, but Ancient Jericho is the best Neolithic site in West Asia to find the tradition (Kanjou, 2009). Most of Ancient Jericho's skulls were found in groups (*figure 2.17, ND*). During the PPNB, the ritual practice of burying human skulls continued, but with new sophistication and new beliefs (*figure 2.18, ND*). Kenyon found fourteen skulls dated to this period, four of which were un-decorated crania showing cultic continuity with the PPNA skull separation tradition (Kenyon 1981).

The PPNB community of Ancient Jericho expended great efforts plastering skulls and decorating them with precious seashells and cinnabar paint which had to be imported from great distances and where Ancient Jerichoans interacted and interchanged their culture, beliefs and ritual values. This religious community grew from PPNA to PPNB with larger and more prominent cultic objects, such as decorated skulls and anthropomorphic statues (Rollefson 1983, 1986; Garfinkel 2014). Garstang discovered two caches (190 and 195) of fragmentary plaster statues dating to the late PPNB which were buried beneath the floor of the PPNB shrine. Each of them contained a representation of a man, woman, and child. Bodily hair was drawn with strips of paint, and the eyes were fashioned with small seashells (Kenyon 1981; Nigro 2017). Kenyon suggested that the statues portrayed venerated ancestors (Kenyon 1957).

Plaster statues were also found at 'Ain Ghazal suggesting a strong affinity of cultural, artistic, and symbolic meaning across the region. Both sites provide unique insights into the worldview and religious practices of prehistoric people. Similar plaster statues were also found at Tell Ramad, Tell Aswad, and Tell As-Suwwan (Rollefson 1983; 2000; Grissom 2000). Such similarity indicates a strong cultural



interchanged between Neolithic communities in the Near East during the Neolithic period testifying a transitional moment in ancestor worship when plaster statues replaced plastered skulls (Nigro 2017).

Therefore, post-mortem skull removal at Ancient Jericho was a long-lasting cultic practice that developed over time from plain (un-plastered) skulls to plastered skulls during the PPN, to plaster statuary in the last stage of the PPNB (Nigro 2017). In contrast to other Near Eastern sites, Ancient Jericho provides evidence of three continuous developmental stages of ancestor worship over more than two millennia (Nigro 2017; Kenyon 1993; Goring-Morris & Belfer-Cohen 2013a). Ancient Jericho is also one of the best PPNA sites to find this funerary practice in the Levant as skull removal is quite rare at contemporaneous sites such as Wady Bakr (Netiv Hagdud) and Wadi Faynan (WF16) (Kanjou 2009; Goring-Morris & Belfer-Cohen 2013a).

The Ideological influence based on ritual costumes of Ancient Jericho is testified to by the PPNB plastered skull. The first PPNB plastered human skulls uncovered in the world came from Kenyon's 1950s excavations in Ancient Jericho, dated to about 7200-6700 BC. It is also the oldest plastered skull discovered in the region (*see the table below, and Table 2, page 77, ND*). In approximately the same period, other plaster skulls were found in 'Ain Ghazal and at other Neolithic sites across West Asia such as Tell Aswad, Ain Sufsaifa (Kfar HaHoresh), Tell Ramad, Beisamoun, Kösk Höyük Khraysan, Wadi Faynan, etc. (Nigro 2017; Schmandt-Besserat 2013; Garfinkel 2014).

Site	Date
Jericho	7200-6700 BC
Ain Ghazal	7100-6600 BC
Khalet Kalladyiah (Yiftahel)	7000-6000 BC
Tell Aswad	7000-6000 BC
Ain Sufsafa (Kfar HaHoresh)	6700-6500 BC
Tell Ramad	6200-6000 BC
Beisamoun	6100-6000 BC
Kösk Höyük	6000-5000 BC

Table1: Date of Plaster Skulls in Main West Asian PPNA Sites (© Schmandt-Besserat 2013)

Although the plastered skulls have been found in other Near Eastern and Anatolian sites, Ancient Jericho is noteworthy because its funerary skulls are the oldest in the Near East dated to 7200-6700 BC. Plastered skulls at Ancient Jericho predate plastered skulls found in all Neolithic sites in the Near East. For example, as shown in the above-mentioned table, the plastered skulls of 'Ain Ghazal dated to (7100 BC), Tell Aswad (7000 BC), Tell Ramad (6200 BC), and Kösk Höyük (6000 BC). Thus, it is rational to suppose that Ancient Jericho's ideological development based on ritual ancestor worship influenced other sites in the region during the Neolithic Period, specifically in PPNA and PPNB.

The property's location on intercontinental trade routes also allowed for the interchange of these values, ideas, beliefs, experiences, innovations, and possibly genes through intercultural marriages with the Near Eastern communities (figures 1 and 2). This fact is also evidenced by a large number of ritual skulls from PPNA and PPNB (ca. 46 skulls) that have been found so far in Ancient Jericho. Given the small excavated area of the Neolithic Jericho, quite a large number of treated skulls were found. Of the 46 skulls discovered so far, 14 of them are coated with moulded plaster. This quantity besides being the oldest plastered skulls discovered indicates that Ancient Jericho was one of the main centres for ancestor worship in the Jordan Rift Valley and from here, the practice could have travelled across the Near East and influenced its people during the Neolithic Period (Kenyon 1983; Goring-Morris



& Belfer-Cohen 2013a; Nigro 2017; Schmandt-Besserat 2013; Rollefson 1983; 2000; Grissom 2000).

Cultural and Architectural Influences

Archaeological research indicates that Ancient Jericho was surrounded by strong fortification walls in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A, forced by a stone tower and a ditch cut into the bedrock in front of the walls (*figures 2.8 and 2.9, ND*), indicating significant planning before starting construction (Kenyon 1981).

Of all ancient sites, Neolithic Jericho provides the best evidence for the earliest permanent fortified urban centre including new types of buildings and architectural innovations and the earliest fortification system in the world. No similar PPNA fortification system has been found at any other site worldwide, which suggests that Ancient Jericho predates the birth of monumental enclosures in the ancient world (Naveh 2003). It is the only known walled town of the ninth millennium BC, and Ancient Jericho remained the only walled city for thousands of years until the end of the fourth millennium BC when other towns in the Near East were fortified. These achievements are documented evidence of the first defensive architecture in human history, marking the emergence of urban planning, communal structures, building technologies, and masonry craftsmanship that is demonstrated in the tower's internal staircase and passageway and by their dressed stone lintels, representing firsts of their kind in the world. These remarkable architectural achievements—a significant human-built structure at the time and for the following four thousand years—demonstrate the power and splendour of Neolithic Jericho in the 9th and 8th millennia BC (Kenyon 1981).

Furthermore, the Neolithic Tower of Ancient Jericho with its roofed passageway and interior staircase is not only of great architectural significance, but is a unique and unprecedented structure that constitutes developmental breakthroughs in human culture. Building a stone staircase inside the tower with dressed roof lintels was an incredible achievement of design, construction, and skilled masonry unknown in that age and for centuries to come. The process required knowledge, techniques, skill, and hard manual labour using the simplest of hammering tools, stone axes, and adzes to trim rough stones into smooth rectangular shapes (IBid).



Perhaps the stone masonry of both the roof lintels and the staircase steps were influenced by obsidian trade and cultural interchange with Göbekli Tepe and that place's large-scale megalithic communal structure of T-shaped pillars built during the 10th and 9th millennia BC.

Hence, these early Neolithic architectural achievements of Ancient Jericho required creative conceptualization, significant planning, collective labour, design, technology, construction techniques, communal cooperation, divisions and specializations of labour, and food production and storage. And of course, a new socio-political organization of humanity to support it all: the city (Naveh 2003). All of which indicate that the PPNA Fortification system at Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan stands out from all other PPNA contemporaneous sites in the Near East. It testifies to unprecedented breakthroughs in architecture, construction engineering, building techniques, building materials, masonry, socio-economic patterns, and political leadership. These achievements are found in PPNA Jericho distinguishing it from all other contemporaneous sites in the Levant and worldwide, providing unambiguous evidence for a fully sedentary lifestyle, changing socio-political structures, specialization of different economic activities, stable food production, new architectural designs, ongoing building projects, and effective political leadership.

In the same context, as detailed in the nomination dossier, the house layout and building material at Ancient Jericho are similar to most contemporaneous sites in the Near East, such as Wadi Bakr (Netiv Hagdud), Khirbet Hatoula, Dhra', Gilgal, Wadi Fallah (Nahal Oren), 'Ain Darat, Zahrat edh-Dhra', Wadi Faynan, Tell Qaramel, Jerf el Ahmar, Tell 'Abr 3, and Mureybet.

However, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is one of the best Neolithic sites in the Near East to give a comprehensive picture of the development of house styles, floor plans, construction materials, and technology over about 4,000 years. There was substantial development from a simple shelter during the late Natufian period to semi-subterranean round layouts in the PPNA, and rectangular floor plans in the PPNB. During PNA the Jerichoans regressed to pit dwellings dug into the ground,



but during PNB again developed more sophisticated freestanding rectangular houses.

Ancient Jericho also reveals the development of construction materials and technology from light organic material during the Natufian period to the invention and use of lime plaster and patterned mud-bricks set on stone foundations during the Neolithic era. The development of mud-brick construction techniques in the Neolithic period is perfectly documented—from shapeless mud-bricks to moulded ones with modular dimensions which enabled the construction of more complex structures and experiments with technical solutions for improving the quality and stability of houses (Kenyon 1957; 1993; Nigro 2014a; Stordeur and Iban~ez, 2008; Kuijt; and Goring-Morris 2002; Mazurowski et al. 2012; Kanjou 2016; Stordeur et al. 1997; Yartah 2004; Mithen et al 2018).

The ND (*p.66, 108*) demonstrates the architectural innovations of Ancient Jericho during the Bronze Age, focusing on the advanced buildings and construction techniques of its three Middle Bronze Age (MB) ramparts that set it apart from all other sites in the Levant, which is one of the best examples in the Near East of building techniques for MB II-III earthen ramparts.

Consequently, for all of these documented evidences, it is realistic to claim that Ancient Jericho influenced and was influenced by other sites in the Near East in the Neolithic period and Bronze Age. Along with trading material goods, Jericho would have exchanged values, ideas, experiences, and innovations.

Question 2.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide more information on the trade routes, at the crossroads of which Ancient Jericho was established, and elaborate on the historical sources and archaeological remains that enable us to attribute to the town such a prominent role in the trade within the region and beyond.

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan geographical location contributed to the development of the site as an important international trade centre connected Asia and Africa. The position of Ancient Jericho in the southern part of the Jordan Valley,



about 10 km to the north of the Dead Sea and about 5 km to the west of Jordan River facilitated the passage of prosperity trade routes through the ages. Also, it is a segment of the Great Rift Valley that extended about 7,000 kilometres in total length, runs from Lebanon in Asia to Mozambique in Southeast Africa (Kenyon 1957, Orni and Efrat 1976; Aharoni 1977; Merriam-Webster 1997; Nigro 2020).

The geographic location of Ancient Jericho made it a connection node to the ancient world through the natural north-south passage extending from Beqaa Valley in Lebanon, Hula Lake, Tiberias Lake (the Sea of Galilee), Jordan River, Dead Sea, Arabah Valley, to the Aqaba at the Red Sea. Likewise, Jericho exists in an East - West Bridge that connects Jordan and Palestine via the Jordan River. Therefore, the Transjordan King's high way linked to Jerusalem and the central mountains road which is attached to the international Mediterranean coastal route (Via Maris) that connects Egypt with Syria, Lebanon and the ancient world.

These trade routes started during the prehistoric periods, improved in the Bronze Ages, and developed significantly in a network of roads during the Roman period, up to the present time (figures 1- 7), (Orni and Efrat 1976; Aharoni 1977; Arav 1989: 125, Merriam-Webster 1997; Hamamra 2000).

Ancient Jericho's finds have yielded the largest PPN obsidian collection in the Levant indicating that Jericho was likely a regional distribution node for obsidian and probably the dominant settlement in the southern Levant during PPNA and PPNB (Kenyon 1957; Bar-Yosef 1986; Bar-Yosef et al. 2010). 539 obsidian pieces were found at the site during the excavations in the 1950s notwithstanding problematic retrieval techniques of excavations during the fifties of the last century, since the system of sieving was still not included in the method of archaeological excavations (Crowfoot-Payne 1983; Bar-Yosef et al. 2010).

Obsidian was imported from different sources in Central and Eastern Anatolia, but the main source was the Cappadocian region of Çiftlik, located 500 miles from Ancient Jericho (figures 1 and 2). As families and clans acquired obsidian tools they transitioned from nomadic to settled, and within settlements, the possession of obsidian tools conveyed prestige and possibly positions of leadership (Renfrew et al 1968; Carter et al 2011, Khalidi et al 2016). Through obsidian trade, Jericho



became a dynamic town where ideas, goods and innovations were exchanged—and possibly genes as well through marriage. Thus, the trade of obsidian played an important role in Jericho’s cultural interchange and economic development (Khalidi et al, 2016).

More obsidian tools were found in Ancient Jericho than in other neighbouring Neolithic sites such as Netiv Hagdud and Gilgal, where obsidian is totally absent—despite the fact that both sites were contemporaneous to Ancient Jericho and located ca. 12 km north of it (Bar-Yosef et al. 2010). The great amount of obsidian found at Ancient Jericho indicates that it was a regional distribution node for the obsidian exchange network and probably was the richer/dominant settlement in the southern Levant during the Neolithic period (figures 1 and 2). The quantity of obsidian retrieved in Jericho is abnormally high where ritual activities seem to have been especially prevalent (Kenyon 1957; Bar-Yosef 1986; Bar-Yosef et al. 2010). The acquisition of the obsidian tools accompanied the process of sedentarization, possessing of prestigious commodities, social competition of household leaders, and growing hierarchy and ranking (see figure 1 and 2).

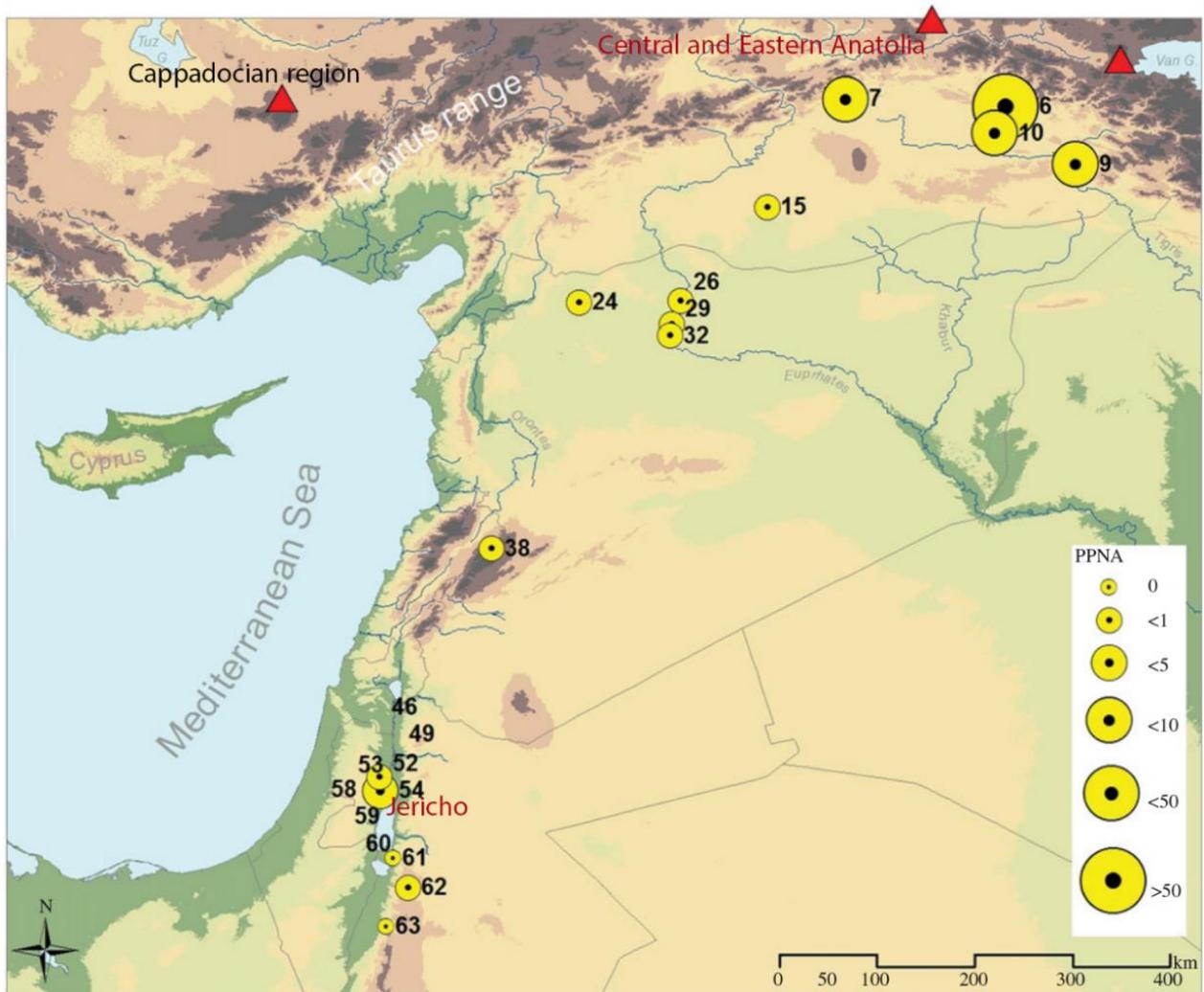


Figure 1: Obsidian Distribution during PPNA and Jericho as a Main Node Site (Ibáñez et al 2015 Fig.1; Khalidi et al 2016)

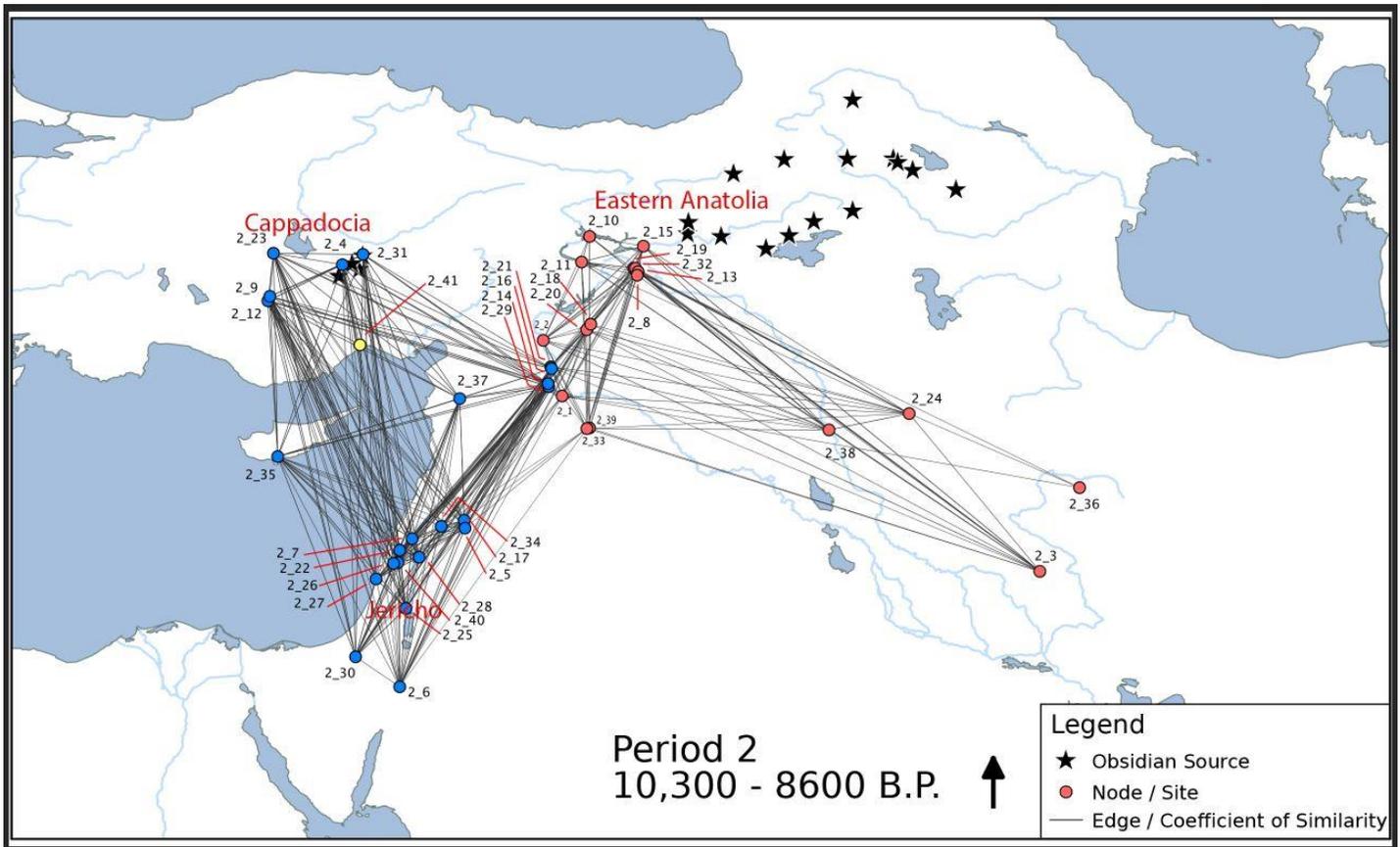


Figure 2: Obsidian Sources and the Node Sites Network during Neolithic Period (Batist 2014: Fig.7.5)

Salt, sulfur, bitumen (asphalt), and curative mud were first exploited on the shores of the nearby Dead Sea during the PPNA. These products were transformed and utilized as medicines and perfumes by the inhabitants of Ancient Jericho (Nigro 2019a, ND). The bitumen of the Dead Sea, which is part of Jericho's territory, was an important item for trade in ancient periods (figures 3 and 4). It was widespread and exported to Egypt for use in the mummification process; evidence of asphalt exported from the Dead Sea was found in Egypt after 1000 BC. Its use became particularly important in the Ptolemaic–Roman period, as demonstrated by wars in the fourth century BC specifically to gain commercial control of this product. Although the reasons why the Egyptians wanted Dead Sea asphalt at this specific time are nowhere specified, the answer may lie in its increasing availability as a (partial) replacement for the plant resins used previously. A review of the historical literature shows that Dead Sea asphalt was used for at least two millennia as a



biocidal agent in agricultural practices (figure 4). It is posited that the reasons for using Dead Sea asphalt in the mummification process are due to its dual role: first, as an external mechanical shield when smeared on the exterior of mummy wrapping to prevent ingress by insects, fungi, bacteria and moisture; and second, as a biocidal agent (perhaps due to its high sulphur content), which prevented the flesh from decaying—the prime concern for the ancient Egyptians (Nissenbaum and Buckley 2013).

The connection with Egypt during the Early Bronze Age (3400– 1200 BC) accelerated urbanization at Ancient Jericho—a common cultural phenomenon revealed in the Southern Levant—as illustrated by a series of imported Egyptian items like marble mace heads, schist palettes, lotus vases, and a serekh, pottery and scarabs, which were the most popular form of amulet in ancient Egypt. The exportation of scarabs was not only an expression of Egyptian commercial contacts, but also a manifestation of Egyptian cultural influence (Ben-Tor, Daphna 2011; Nigro 2020),(figure 6). (Sala 2005b: 171–177; Nigro 2014a; 2020: 183). The nacreous shells utilized for cosmetic containers (kohl cosmetics) also point to connection with Egypt. Manganese dioxide found inside the shells was apparently quarried from mines in the Sinai. These shells are identified as *Chambardia Rubens* originally from the Nile River. All of these luxury items can be connected to the emergence of sophisticated elite in Ancient Jericho when it was a commercial station on ancient trade routes in the Near East (Nigro et al 2018), (see figures 3, 4 and 5).

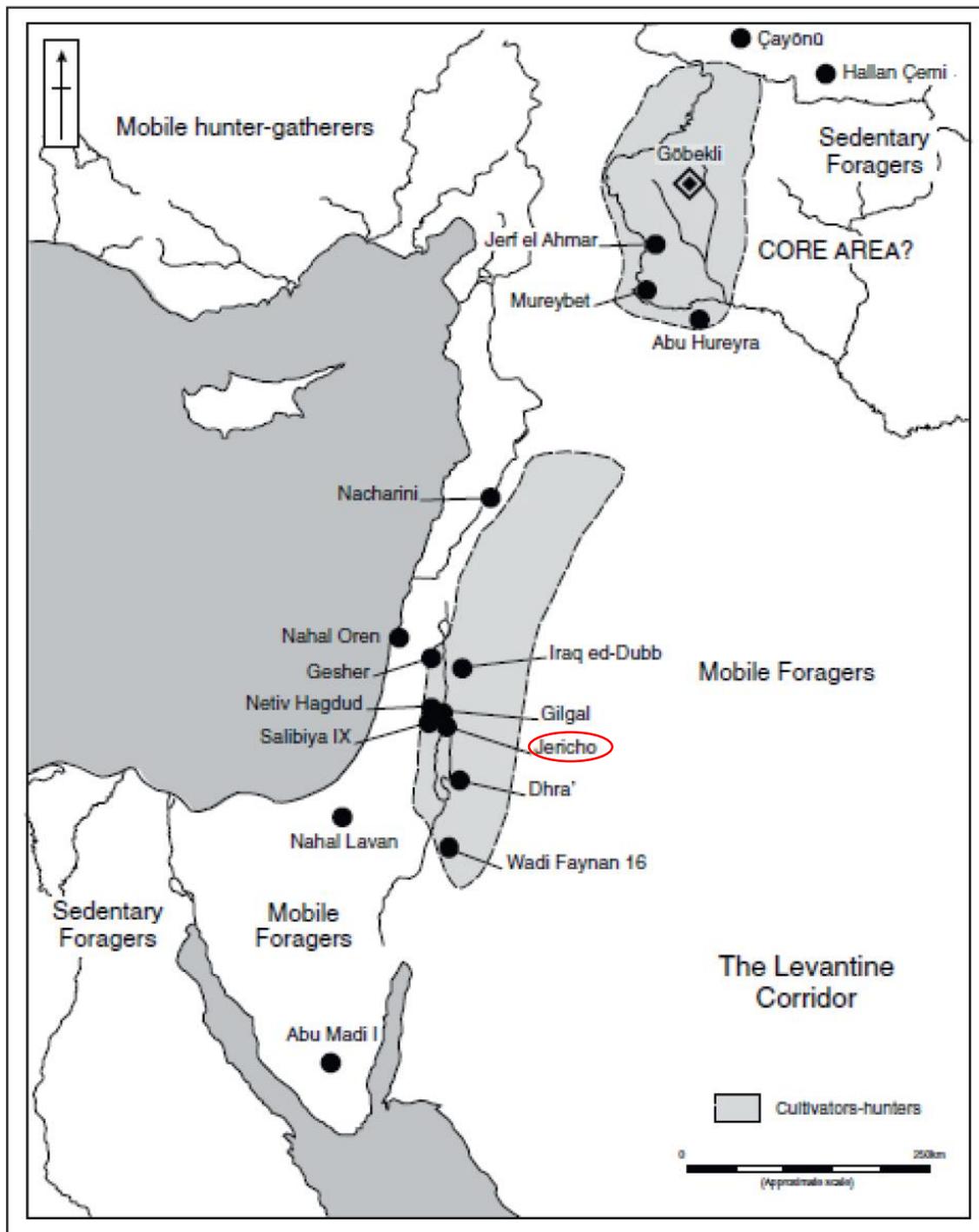


Figure 3: The Levantine Corridor during PPNA and Ancient Jericho as a Main Site (Asouti, 2006: fig. 3; Bar-Yosef 2001: fig. 4; Fuensanta 2018: fig.3)

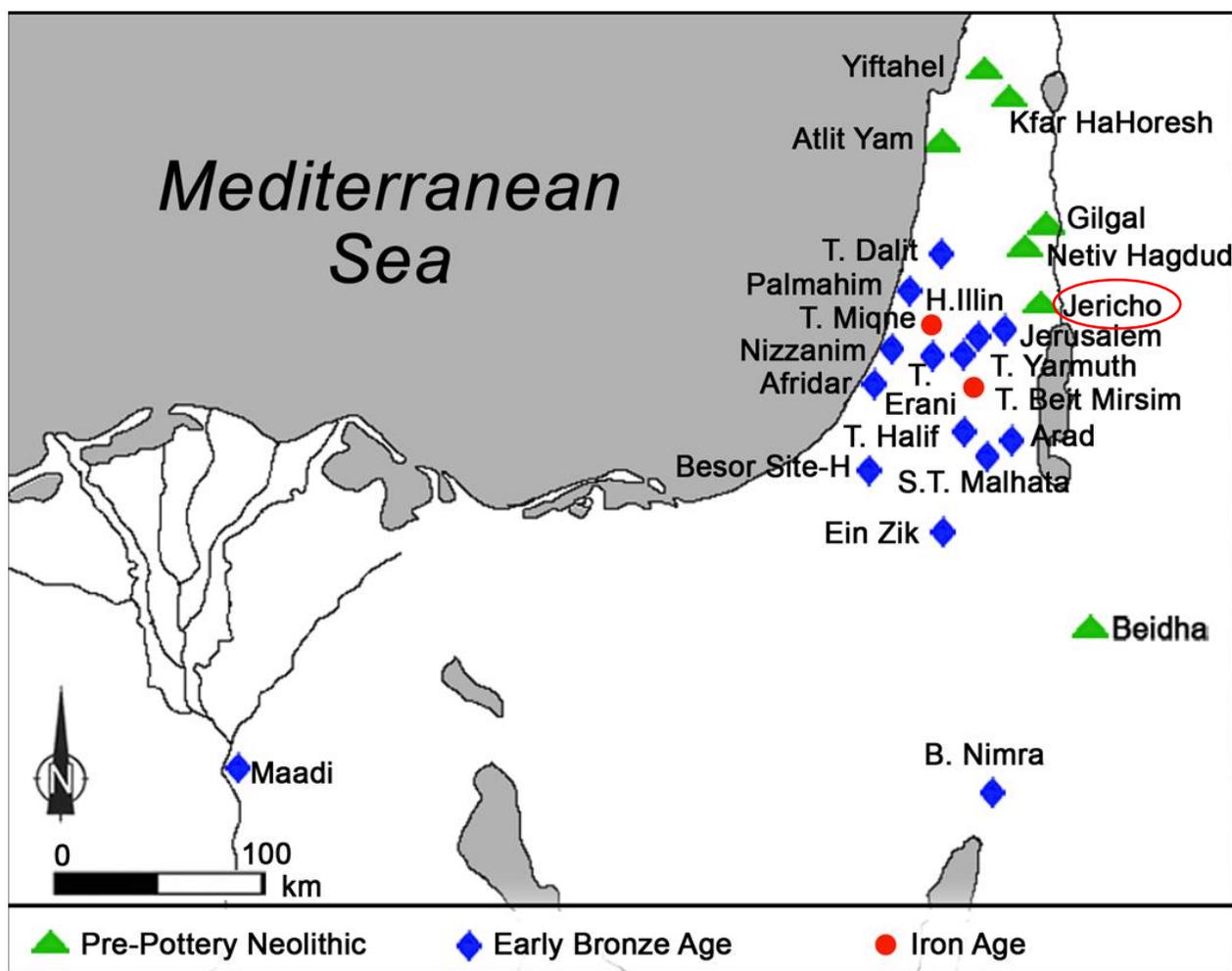


Figure 4: Map of Archaeological Sites where Dead Sea Bitumen was Found from the Neolithic (9750–4500 BC) to the Iron Age (1200-332 BC) (Oron et al. 2015: fig. 2)

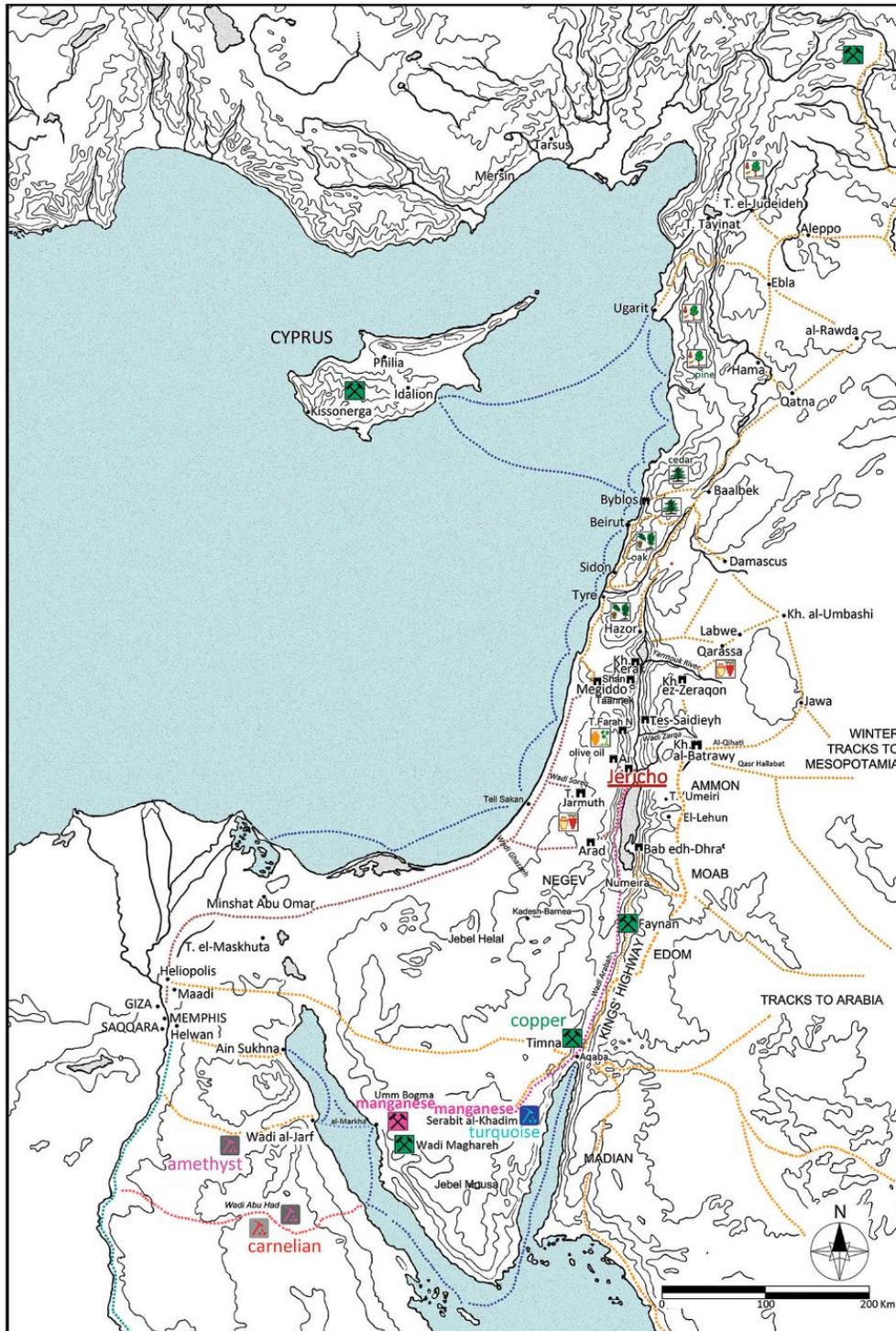


Figure 5: The "Copper Route". Map Illustrating Supply Points of Manganese, Copper, Gemstones, and other Precious Stuff, and Trade Routes in the 3rd millennium BC, between Egypt and Levant, Passing through the Trade Trigger Site of Jericho.



Figure 6: Overland and Maritime Proposed Trade Routes during the 4th and 3rd Millennia BC. No scale (Kafafi 2011: Fig.2).

Road networks were developed significantly during the Roman period, up to the present time. Jericho in the Roman period was on a crossroad of several main routes: the Jerusalem-Jericho road; the road up the Jordan Valley to Bet Shean, Tiberias, and other cities north of Jericho; and the road east, which led to Transjordan and the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea itself was an extension of this route via boats that continued on to 'Ein Gedi, Masada, and other centers. These roads facilitated travel, trade, communication and cultural interchange (Orni and Efrat 1976; Aharoni 1977; Arav 1989: 125, Merriam-Webster 1997; Hamamra 2000), (figure 7).



Figure 7: Roman Roads in the South Levant — Atlas of Jordan - Roman Arabia – (Presses de l'Ifpo, Fig. III.14, <https://books.openedition.org/ifpo/4903>)

Question 3.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could clarify the chronological timeframe for which the property is nominated.

The Operational Guidelines (OG) for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (132.2) states that "*The History and development of the property shall describe how the property has reached its present form and the significant changes that it has undergone. This information shall provide the important facts needed to support and give substance to the argument that the property meets the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity and/or authenticity*".

The second part of chapter two in the ND demonstrates the history and development of the property within the cultural context of Jericho Oasis. Ancient Jericho is characterized by an almost continuous history of occupation, with an impressive stratigraphic sequence. It was the key site and main urban centre for the Oasis and Jordan rift valley almost from the Neolithic period to the end of the Middle Bronze age. Ancient Jericho has an occupational history of more than ten thousand years which is attested by 29 phases of habitation dating from the late Natufian period (10,500 BC) to the Ottoman period (Kenyon 1957; Nigro 2020; Hamamra 2014). This long history is important to be highlighted in the ND as supplementary information for the other values of the property rather than justifying its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This fact is clearly illustrated throughout the ND, specifically in chapter two and Table 1 in Page 74, which summarizes the chronological timeframe of the property's long history.

Chapter 3 (in the ND) justifies the inscription of the property. Its Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) identifies the chronological timeframe of the nominated property with the Neolithic era and Bronze Age, specifically the Middle Bronze Age. For example, it is mentioned under criterion II (P. 88, ND) "*...urban life started here and has spread across the globe, attested by astounding achievements in architecture, technology, arts, and the domestication of plants and animals, particularly during **the Neolithic and the Bronze ages**... A small settlement on the oasis grew into the town of Ancient Jericho and then into a large walled town by the 9th millennium BC that was fortuitously located on the western side of Fertile Crescent.*"



Criterion III (Page 90, ND) states that "*As the oldest fortified town in the world, and as one of the first settled societies in the world based on domesticated plants and animals, Ancient Jericho is one of the progenitors of the **Neolithic** agricultural revolution that opened up a new era for man to develop the production of food, and provide fundamental knowledge of the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts...*".

Criterion IV (Pages 90-91, ND) mentions that "*It is the main milestone of the development of human civilization and a principle agent of **the Neolithic revolution**. Of all ancient sites, **Neolithic Jericho** provides the best evidence for the earliest permanent urban centres with a new type of buildings and architectural innovations and the earliest fortification system... During **the Early and Middle Bronze Ages**, Ancient Jericho again introduced its exceptional innovative ability to build one of the most glorious Canaanite city-states with outstanding defensive fortifications and a highly developed city centre.... In the **Middle Bronze Age (MB)** Jericho's 'engineers' developed theretofore remarkable techniques to construct its nearly impregnable walls and ramparts ... as evidenced by highly skilled ramparts found in the excavated areas. The sophisticated construction techniques of the three MB earthen ramparts distinguish Jericho from all other sites in the Levant and make it among the best examples to so clearly illustrate construction techniques of the MB ramparts, as evidenced by excavated areas"*.

As a consequence, it is obvious that the chronological timeframe for the nominated property is the Neolithic Period and Bronze Age, specifically MB.

Boundaries

Question 4.

ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could explain whether the natural and cultural context within which and thanks to which Ancient Jericho functioned has been considered in the definition of the boundaries of the nominated property.

Delineating sustainable and manageable boundaries of the nominated property protected by an effective buffer zone within the open cultural landscape of Jericho Oasis is a challenging task. Boundaries of the nominated property comprise of the



Tell and the eastern immediate vicinity surrounding the Spring of 'Ain es-Sultan (circa 6 ha), encompassing all attributes that convey its OUV from the Neolithic period and Bronze Age. Boundaries of the property were established according to the OG (Articles 99-107), which state that *“The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property”*.

The nominated property is part of a complex cultural landscape of the Oasis that encompasses complex issues of geographic, cultural, and chronological depth and defining spheres of interest and management, especially the complexity of land-holdings within the area, urban expansion, and tourist facilities. All of these are complicating the designation of the property's boundaries and its buffer zone. However, protecting the entire cultural landscape of the Oasis needs another wider level of urban and management, which is beyond the scope of this nomination dossier. Jericho Municipality, in cooperation with international donors and international and local experts, conducted two main studies: Jericho City Urban Development Plan within the context of Jericho Regional Development Study—implemented by JICA in 2006 available at (https://openjicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/11831880_01.pdf)—and a master plan study funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented by Italian and Palestinian experts in 2011. These two studies guided the current approved Spatial Urban Plan for Jericho City.

To be in harmony with the World Heritage Convention (Article 1) and its OG (Articles 45-47), Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan is nominated under the category of sites not as a cultural landscape, even though it is an integral part of the wider cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis. Unfortunately, the cultural landscape of the Oasis has been heavily undermined after 1948 due to the establishment of refugee camps, one of them right next to the property. Afterwards, during the time of Israeli Occupation (1967-1994) and the time of the Palestinian National Authority, with the rash development of the modern city of Jericho, modern urban development



severely threatened the authenticity and integrity of the wider cultural landscape of the Oasis. For these reasons, and to be conformed to the World Heritage Convention and its OG, potential OUV sites or monuments or landscape features in Jericho Oasis have been delineated as separated protected archaeological (Antiquities zones) with discontinuous boundaries on the Spatial Urban Plan of Jericho city (see Annex1).

The delineated boundaries of the nominated property focus on the Neolithic and Bronze Age chronological boundaries. They incorporate all attributes that convey the OUV and the main complex history of human exploitation of the Oasis during these two main eras when the property was an urban core/s (centre/s) of the Oasis and Jordan Rift Valley and embrace the civic life of Ancient Jericho's residents and the main concentration of population and public buildings.

As indicated in the ND, after the MB, the property was no longer the urban core of the Oasis. However, sparse remains of these periods were found in the stratigraphy of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, which are part of its 29 archaeological phases. Although these remains do not bear the OUV, they attest to **virtually continuous** occupation of the property over ten millennia and are considered as other supported values crucial to understanding the development history and the complexity of human settlement illustrated by interpretation strategy of the property. This fact is clearly stated in the ND (page 92) "*The nominated property is complete and has maintained its integrity. Its boundaries surround all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. The property is large enough to ensure the complete representation of its OUV features and its innovative archaeological processes to convey their respective importance*".



Question 5.a.

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could provide a map indicating areas where the evidence of these later "offshoots" of Ancient Jericho has been documented (or the known extent of the area where archaeological vestiges that can be historically associated with the city are expected).

Jericho Oasis is home to numerous archaeological sites dating from prehistory to the Ottoman period. It includes about 105 archaeological sites (Sala and D'Andrea 2011). Four of which are main sites used to be urban cores for the Oasis and the Jordan Rift Valley during specific periods (see Annex 2) as follows: (1) Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan was the urban core of the Oasis during Neolithic period and Bronze Age. It is the most important archaeological site, known as the oldest fortified city in the world. (2)Tulul Abu al-'Alayiq was the urban core of the Oasis during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. (3)Tell Hassan, probably beneath the modern city of Ariha, was the urban core of the Oasis during the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. (4) Hisham's Palace /Khirbet al-Mafjar, the eighth-century AD Umayyad palace complex and agricultural estate.

In 2011, the Palestine Archaeological Databank and Information System (PADIS) project at the University of Rome La Sapienza published a comprehensive catalogue of 105 archaeological sites in the Jericho Oasis, including a print volume accompanied by an online database of site information, maps, and satellite (Sala and D'Andrea 2011, <http://www.lasapienzatojericho.it/padis/project>), (see annex 2).

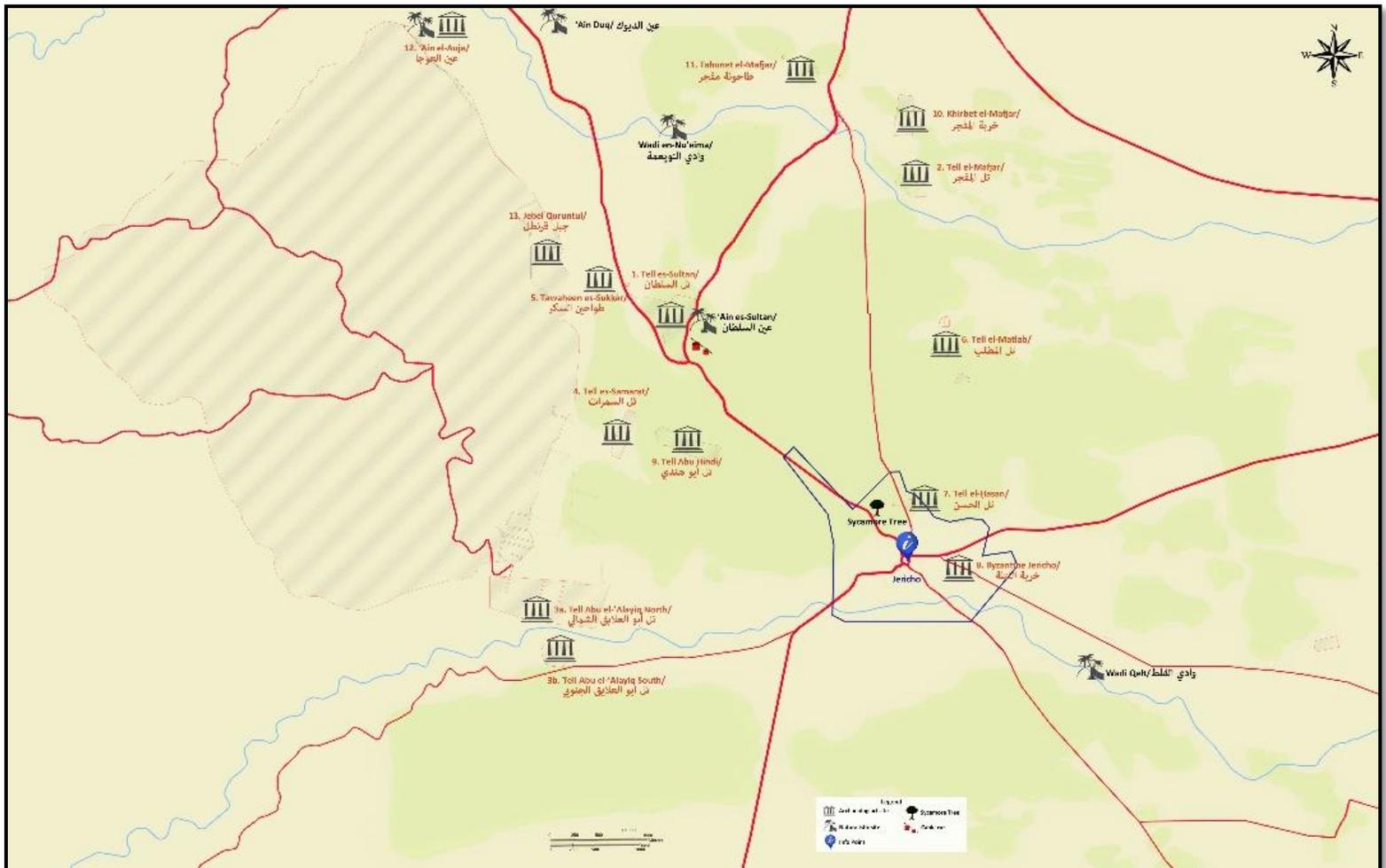


Figure 8: The Location of the main archaeological Sites in Jericho Oasis (<http://www.lasapienzatojericho.it/JOAP/>)

Question 5.b.

It would also be helpful if the State Party could clarify the relationship between the vestiges of Ancient Jericho preserved within the proposed boundaries of the nominated property and the area around it, classified as “antiquities zone” in the Jericho Spatial Urban Plan (fig. 5.2).

Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan is a roughly-oval shape, or ovoid-shaped mound adjacent to the perennial spring of 'Ain Es-Sultan. The Property lies at the base of the mound along the break of the slope between mound and flat plain, including the spring of 'Ain es-Sultan at the east. The 'Ain es-Sultan Refugee camp is



immediately to the north, some commercial centres and tourist facilities to the south, and an open landscape to the west. The area of the nominated property is 5.93 ha. Surrounded by a buffer zone effectively protects the property from potential negative impacts, specifically random urban development.

In accordance with the 2019 Spatial Urban Plan (see Annex 1), approved by the Jericho Municipality and the High Palestinian Planning Council, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan and its surroundings are a protected archaeological area (antiquities zone). This was delineated in great detail by a multidisciplinary team made up of architects, archaeologists, historians, and urban planners to safeguard and protect all places near the Tell or in its immediate surroundings that might include artefacts or remain relevant to numerous historical periods. Additionally, the antiquities zone, which depicts the chronological bounds of the site, reflects the surrounding terrain which is a palimpsest of earlier and later activity that together make up the intricate story of human exploitation of the Oasis.

When the State Party started preparing the Nomination Dossier of “Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan”, as mentioned before, delineation of the property’s boundaries and its buffer zone were drawn up according to the provisions of the OG (Articles 99-107). The Property’s boundary incorporates all attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and ensure the integrity and authenticity of the property, which mainly focuses on the Neolithic and Bronze Age as clarified earlier, while the buffer zone includes the immediate and wider setting of the property which contributes to effectively protecting and managing it.

Most of the archaeological area, “antiquities zone” on the SUP, around and adjacent to the property is in the buffer zone. This area contains artefacts and/ or remains from the Natufian period (10,500 BC) to the Ottoman period (1516AD) but aren’t attributes to the OUV. For instance, in the 1950s, Kenyon discovered a number of Early and Middle Bronze Age tombs in the north and west of the Tell, which are protected inside the buffer zone.



Moreover, the current fenced Archaeological Park and the spring of 'Ain es-Sultan that form the boundaries of the property are owned and managed by the State Party, while the majority of the remaining "antiquities zone" is owned by private individuals and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Endowments, and requires special management procedures (see Map5.1, p.139, ND).

While the Spatial Urban Plan's provisions forbid building or changing the current land-use of designated areas as "antiquities zones", some activities such as farming, gardening, and reversible constructions require a special permit from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Question 6.

ICOMOS notes that the nominated property has been "an integral part of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis" (p. 99), and the city "moved" from the tell in different periods (as described above).

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could clarify in what way the buffer zone takes into consideration this wider historical and cultural context of the property, besides the views.

The property is and has always been an integral part of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis. There are a number of small and large sites, dated to different periods, registered within the Oasis. Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is one of these sites. When the State Party delineated the buffer zone, it was designated to include the immediate and the wider setting of the property—which contributes to effectively protecting and managing it. All areas adjacent or surrounding the property to the east, west, and south were included in the buffer zone. To the north, a thin strip on the edge of the property is identified as the 'Ain es-Sultan refugee camp. This was the first refugee camp constructed in Palestine after the 1948 war, and has strong historical and symbolic value to Palestinians, along with the complex needs of sustaining the community still inhabits the camp. It is difficult to develop a management strategy and urban regulations for this refugee camp



area as it is not within the boundaries of Jericho city Spatial Urban Plan nor under the control of Jericho Municipality.

On the other hand, the wider cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis is being negatively impacted by urban expansion and rapid development. However, all land plots between the property's edge and the top of the Sugar Mills/Tawaheen es-Sukker hill from the west, which constitute an open landscape with views of Jericho's main hills, are included in the buffer zone. Any construction inside this area is restricted in order to avoid any negative impact on the visual coherence of the property. From the east and the south, the immediate setting of the property is included in the buffer zone to avoid any further urban expansion in this area. Furthermore, specific urban regulations are being developed by Jericho Municipality based on Municipal decision no.12 session 34 dated 19 October 2022 (see annex 4) to control urban development within the buffer zone area and around it, including the land use pattern, building heights, percentage of construction, buildings materials and forms.

Jericho Spatial Urban Plan

Question 7.

It would be useful if a translation in one of the two working languages of the Convention could be provided.

This is attached in Annex I- The Spatial Urban Plan of Jericho City.

Question 8.

ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could briefly explain what these “special regulations” include.

The buffer zone is currently protected by Jordanian law (no. 79, 1966) on the building of and zoning for towns, villages, and structures (see page 190,ND), and the Building and Planning Regulation for Local Authorities *No. 5 of 2011* bylaws and regulations. This law and the SUP for Jericho city provide additional protection to

the property and its buffer zone. The SUP identifies the property as a protected archaeological area, “antiquities zone”, as well as the Tangible Cultural Heritage Law (no. 11, 2018) prohibits any change of its current land-use classification without official MoTA’s endorsement. The buffer zone is owned primarily by private individuals and the Islamic and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Endowments, and is managed and protected by JM through its Spatial Urban Plan. Accordingly, JM in cooperation with MoTA must approve all interventions, and developments in the buffer zone.

According to the SUP regulations, the planning law and its bylaws, every new construction shall have a valid license issued by Jericho Municipality, including regulatory requirements based on the land plot classification, the ratio of construction, the building type, setbacks, the number of floors, and the maximum heights. However, the approval of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is an obligatory requirement before licensing any new building.

The SUP stipulates the following provisions:-

Classification	Ratio of construction from total land area	Floor ratio (%)	No. of Floors	Height (meter)	Front Setback (meter)	Side Setback (meter)	Back Setback (meter)
Residence A with special Regulations	%35	%140	4	14.4	5	4	5
Rural Residence with special Regulations	%20-15	%50	2+roof	10.8	5	5	5
Tourists Zone with special Regulations	%40	%160	4	14.4	5	3	4

Public Buildings with special Regulations	36%	%144	4	18	5	8	10

Table 2: The Regulatory Requirements for Buildings within the SUP of Jericho

Note: these regulations will be revised to be in harmony with the protection of the nominated property and its buffer zone by a detailed urban plan that the JM is going to initiate for all areas adjacent to the buffer of the nominated property (see Annex 4).

Question 9.

Could the State Party clarify what is meant by "visual continuity" in this instance, as the historical connection between Ancient Jericho and the Mount of Temptation is not well understood? What are the measures in place to maintain the visual integrity of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis and prevent urban encroachment?

The "visual continuity" is mentioned in the ND (page 134) to emphasize the importance of providing adequate legal protection to the western skyline of the area between the property and the Mount of Temptation/ Jabal Quruntol. It technically means preserving the current beautiful natural scenery of this area by avoiding any adverse effect on the visual and/or aesthetic environment that may result from constructing large-scale buildings blocking a view, or construction of elements that are incompatible with texture, form, or colour of the existing natural and/or cultural landscape of this area.

The Mount of Temptation is located about 2 km west of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan and is an important destination for international pilgrimage tourists, who visit the site to recall the ascetic nature of Jesus Christ and to pray on the sites. The property is part of a beautiful panoramic view of the great Jericho Oasis that can be seen from the Mount of Temptation (figures 2.37, 3.10, ND).



The buffer zone surrounding the nominated property is delineated to give an added protection layer to the nominated property, not the Jericho Oasis itself, which is beyond the scope of this ND. The buffer zone is large enough (22.53 hectares) to protect Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan from future urban encroachment and from any infringement on the visual integrity of its skyline, and other cultural attributes that are functionally important to support the property and its protection and management.

The nominated property is surrounded by a buffer zone to provide adequate protection of the cultural landscape of the property from urban encroachments. The buffer zone on the western part protects the wider cultural landscape and reaches the hills of the Sugar Mills/Tawaheen es-Sukker. This area mainly includes the agricultural area and the archaeological site of the sugar Mills/ Tawaheen es-Sukker, which is protected by the Spatial Urban Plan of the city. The existing buildings in this area are mainly low-rise with one or two stories, which helps create the unique scenery of the city by allowing mountain views from everywhere in the city. Such a landscape is one of the valuable assets of the property and will be considered in future urban development planning for this area. As stated in the ND (page 96), the Protection Law of Tangible Cultural Heritage (no. 11, 2018) provides legal protection for the cultural landscapes of Palestine by controlling urbanization in the buffer zone and the surrounding area. Also, the SUP of JM regulates the land-use, new developments, new buildings, etc. of this area. Moreover, to provide further protection to the property and its buffer zone from possible urban encroachment, the Municipality of Jericho, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, is preparing special legal provisions to regulate the land-use inside the buffer zone and its immediate environs. These new regulations will secure a proper protection legal and planning tool for the nominated property.

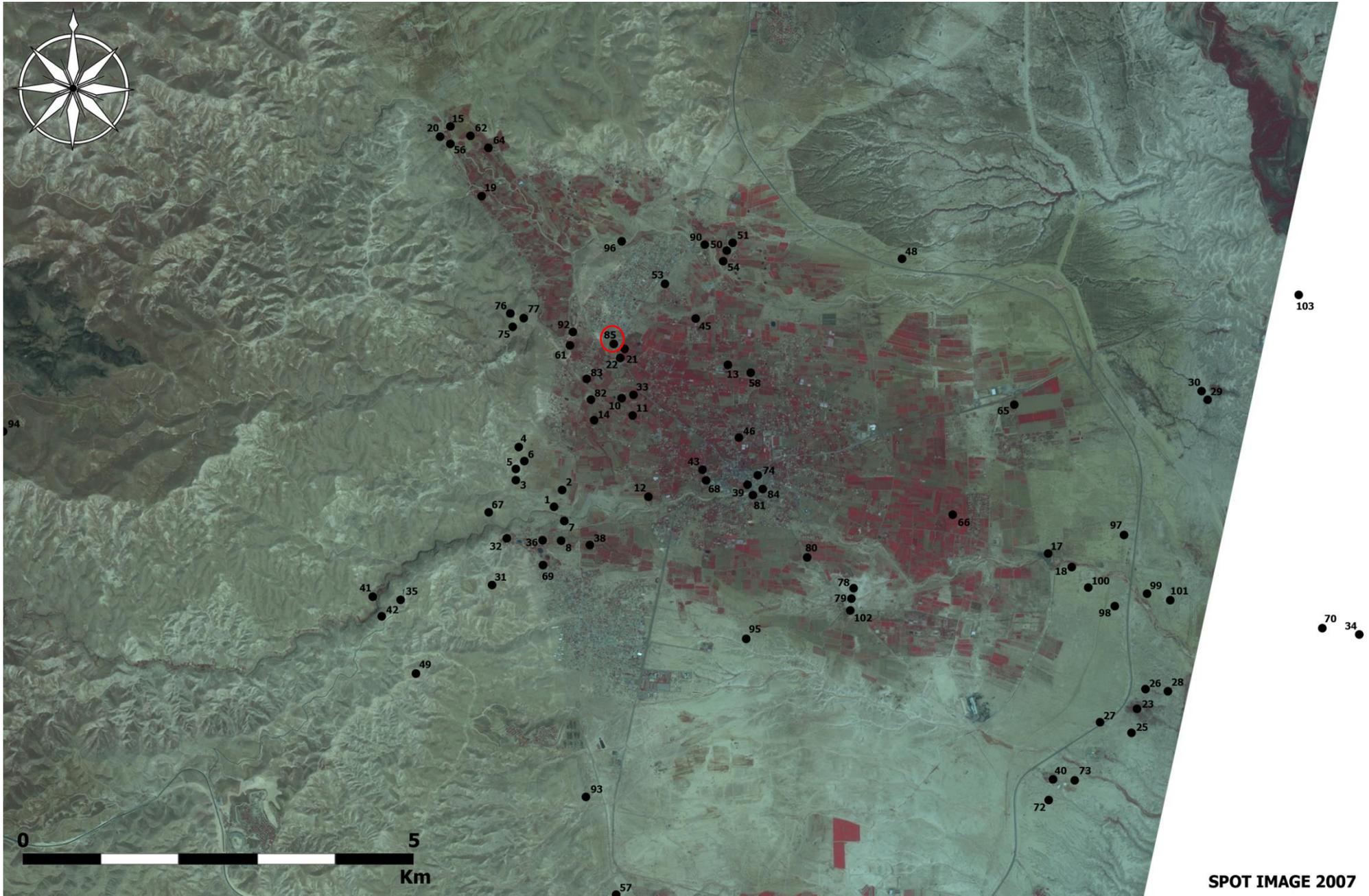
The steep slopes of the Western Ridge are the most beautiful scenery of the property and the city of Jericho, especially the cliffs of the Mount of Temptation, which dominate the natural skyline of the city landscape and the property. Although, these cliffs are outside of the city's boundaries, their cultural landscape is protected by the Protection Law of Tangible Cultural Heritage (no. 11, 2018).



Also, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has delineated the provisional boundaries of all cliffs overlooking Jericho Oasis to be announced as protected cultural landscape and avoid any change of the current land-use (see annex3).

The second part of the question, which is about the measures in place to maintain the visual integrity of the cultural landscape of the Jericho Oasis and prevent urban encroachment, is beyond the scope of the nominated property.

Annex 2: Archaeological Sites in Jericho Oasis Map



List of Archaeological Sites in Jericho Oasis

<http://www.lasapienzatojericho.it/padis/alphabetical-list>

001) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell	036) Beit Jabr et-Ta-tani	071) Qasr Hajla
002) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell area: Byzantine building (SA 7)	037) Birket Giljulyeh	072) Qasr Hajla area: mosaic
003) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell area: Columbarium Tower (SA 11)	038) Birket Musa	073) Qasr Hajla area: unidentified building
004) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell area: pool	039) Burg er-Ri-a	074) Qos, Tell el-
005) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell area: Large Wine Press (SB 2-7, 9-13)	040) Deir Hajla/Deir Mar Gerasimus (St. Gerasimus's Monastery)	075) Quruntul, Jebel: Castellum Dock
006) Abu el-'Alayiq North, Tell area: Mosaic Press (SC 1-5)	041) Deir Mar Jariys/Deir el-Qelt (St. George's Monastery or Monastery of Choziba)	076) Quruntul, Jebel/Deir Quruntel: Monastery of Temptation (Douka)
007) Abu el-'Alayiq South, Tell	042) Deir Mar Jariys/Deir el-Qelt area: late Hellenistic and Roman aqueduct	077) Quruntul, Jebel area: late Hellenistic and Roman aqueduct & cisterns
008) Abu el-'Alayiq, Tulul area: late Hellenistic and Roman aqueduct (Qelt Channel)	043) Franciscan Custodian in Ariha: mosaic	078) Rujm el-Mugheifir North
009) Abu Ghannam, Tell	044) Jaljulyia, Teleilat	079) Rujm el-Mugheifir South/Tell el-Khursi
010) Abu Hindi, Tell/Tell Mitri	045) Jurn, Tell el-	080) Rujm el-Mugheifir area: Byzantine aqueduct

011) Abu Hindi, Tell area: Anthimos' Church	046) Tell el-Hassan	081) Russian Inn
012) Abu Hindi, Tell area: St. Andrew's Church	047) Hassan, Tell el- area: sporadic architectural remains	082) Samarat, Tell es-
013) Abu Khurs, Tell	048) Jaljul, Tell area	083) Samarat, Tell es- area: Roman villa
014) Abu Zelef, Tell	049) Ketef Yeri-o	084) Sheik Ameri
015) 'Ain Duq/Na'aran	050) Mafjar, Khirbet el-/Qasr Hisham	085) Tell es-Sultan
016) 'Ain Duq area	051) Mafjar, Khirbet el- area: Byzantine monastery	086) Sultan area, Tell es-: Byzantine aqueduct
017) 'Ain el-Gharabe (Chorembe?)	052) Mafjar, Khirbet el- area: monastic cells	087) Sultan area, Tell es-: unidentified building
018) 'Ain el-Gharabe area: Byzantine bridge	053) Mafjar, Khirbet el-/Tell el-Jurn area: Synagogue of Shahwan	088) Sultan area, Tell es-: unidentified building
019) 'Ain el-Auja	054) Mafjar, Tell el-	089) Sultan area, Tell es-: unidentified monastery
020) 'Ain en-Nu'eima	055) Mafjar, Tell el- area	090) Suwwanet eth-Thaniya
021) 'Ain es-Sultan (Elisha's Spring)	056) Maqam al-Imam 'Aly ('Ain Duq area)	091) Tahunet el-Mafjar
022) 'Ain es-Sultan area: mills	057) Maqam an-Nabi Musa & cemetery (Maqame Hasan al-Ra'i & 'Aisha)	092) Tawaheen es-Sukkar
023) 'Ain Hajla (Beth Hoglah)	058) Maṭlab, Tell el-	093) Vered Yeri-o/Zubube
024) 'Ain Hajla area: Byzantine house	059) Maṭlab, Tell area: Byzantine house	094) Wadi el-Makhamas

025) 'Ain Hajla area: Monastery of the Towers (Pyrgoi)	060) Maṭlab Şegeir, Tell	095) Wadi Ghor el-Murrar area: unidentified monastery
026) 'Ain Hajla area: Penthucla Monastery	061) Mughr el-Maqrabanna (Cemetery)	096) Wadi Nu'eima
027) 'Ain Hajla area: unidentified monastery	062) Na'aran, Khirbet (Naaran, Neara, Doq)	097) Wadi Qelt (eastern bank): Laura of the Aeliotas
028) 'Ain Hajla area: Deir Mar Yuhanna Hajla (Calamon)	063) Na'aran, Khirbet area (cliffs)	098) Wadi Qelt area: Laura of Peter
029) 'Ain Yunis	064) Na'aran, Khirbet area: late Hellenistic and Roman aqueduct (Na'aran Channel)	099) Wadi Qelt area: Soubiba of the Bessian
030) 'Ain Yunis area: unidentified monastery	065) Nestorian Hermitage	100) Wadi Qelt area: Soubiba of the Syrians
031) 'Aqaba, Tell el- (Cypros)	066) Nitla, Khirbet en-/Tell Jaljul (Galgala)	101) Wadi Qelt area: unidentified monastery
032) 'Aqaba, Tell el- area: late Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine aqueducts & cisterns	067) Nuseib 'Uweishira/Ramot A	102) Wadi Qelt area: unidentified site
033) Arays, Tell el-	068) Orthodox Church in Ariha: mosaic	103) Zuayat
034) Baptism Place/Makhadat al-Hajla	069) Qaqun, Khirbet	104) Caves in Jebel Quruntul area
035) Beit Jabr el-Fauqani/Manzel Jabr	070) Qasr el-Yehud (St. John the Baptist, Prodromos)	105) Caves in Abu Saraj Cliff



**Annex3, Jericho Cultural Landscape
Provisional Protected Area**



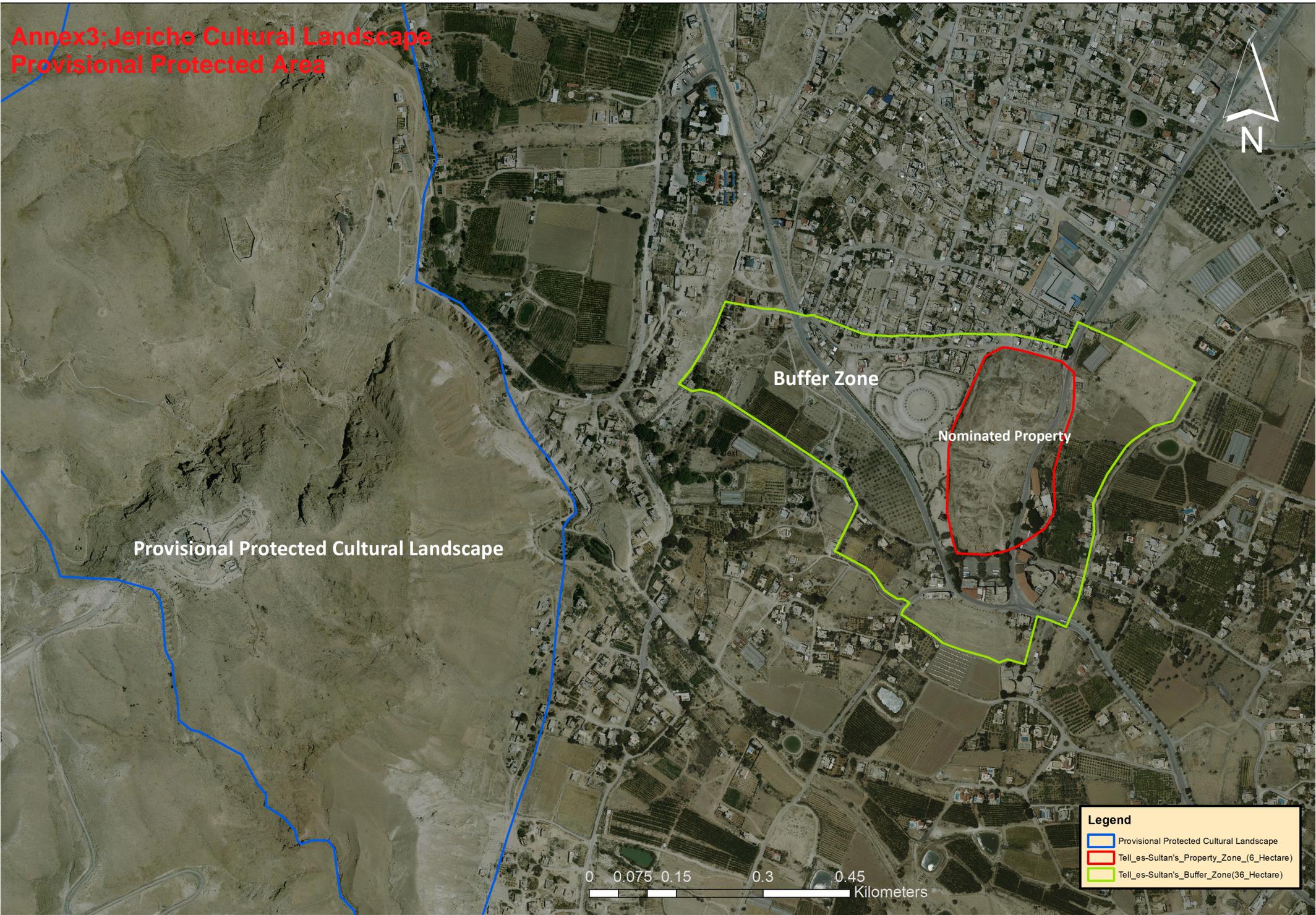
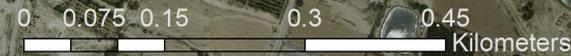
Provisional Protected Cultural Landscape

Buffer Zone

Nominated Property

Legend

-  Provisional Protected Cultural Landscape
-  Tell_es-Sultan's_Property_Zone_(6_Hectare)
-  Tell_es-Sultan's_Buffer_Zone(36_Hectare)





Date: التاريخ: ٢٠٢٢/١٠/١٥

Ref.: الرقم: ٢٠٢٢/٨/٤١٤

السيد اياد حمدان المحترم

مدير عام السياحة والآثار / اريحا

تحية طيبة وبعد ،،،

الموضوع: الاحكام الخاصة للمنطقة العازلة ومحيطها لموقع التراثالعالمي (اريجا القديمة تل السلطان)

تهديكم بلدية اريحا اجمل التحيات ،،، وبالإشارة الى الموضوع المذكور اعلاه نعلمكم بقرار المجلس البلدي رقم (12) جلسة رقم (34) بتاريخ 2022/10/19 حيث صادق المجلس البلدي على عمل مشروع تعديل تنظيمي للمنطقة المحيطة بتل السلطان بما يتلائم مع متطلبات اليونسكو ، كما ورد في كتاب مدير عام مديرية السياحة والآثار في اريحا وذلك جزء من عملية ادراج الموقع على لائحة التراث العالمي.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام

نائب رئيس بلدية اريحا

م. باسل حجازي



نسخة: دائرة الهندسة والتنظيم.

/ قسم GIS.

/ دائرة الثقافة والعلاقات العامة.

/ وحدة الرقابة الداخلية.

State of Palestine
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
World Heritage General Directorate

Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan (Palestine)

**Reply of the State Party of Palestine to the ICOMOS Interim Report and
Additional Information Request**



February 2023

Comparative Analysis

In summary, the ICOMOS Panel would therefore be pleased if the State Party could include in the comparative analysis the above-mentioned missing comparators and provide a more focused analysis that would demonstrate in a more convincing way that the proposed combination of values and attributes that convey them has not been yet included on the World Heritage List, and the nominated property is the best example thereof among its closest comparators from within the stipulated geo-cultural region.

The purpose of the comparative analysis in the Nomination Dossier (ND) is to ascertain whether there is scope in the World Heritage List for the inclusion of the nominated property and to demonstrate that there are no other properties, whether inscribed on the World Heritage List or on Tentative Lists that express similar values as Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan.

In addition to the comparative analysis section in the submitted ND (3.2, pp. 102-112), and for a more nuanced understanding of the values of the nominated property, a further comprehensive analysis was undertaken to compare the property with other properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists, that express similar values as Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan (see Table #1, Table #2). Moreover, the combination of values, potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the related features and attributes were compared previously with other similar important sites in the geo-cultural region, which are not inscribed on the World Heritage List nor in the Tentative Lists (see Table #3). In this context, the values and attributes of inscribed and none inscribed archaeological sites on the World Heritage List in the geo-cultural framework were compared and thus varies accordingly. To do so, the comparative analysis of the nominated property with similar properties was restudied and elaborated in terms of values and attributes that justify the selected potential OUV Criteria (See Table #4, Table #5). It again ascertains that the nominated property is one of the best representative sites to be of Outstanding Universal Value in the relevant geo-cultural context compared with other properties to each of the selected criteria.

The following tables show the selected properties for comparative analysis:-

State Party	Property	Criteria					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Palestine	Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan		X	X	X		
Lebanon	Byblos			X	X		X
Israel	The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba		X	X	X		X
Iraq	Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)			X	X		
Turkey	Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük			X	X		
	Göbekli Tepe	X	X		X		
	Arsilantepe Mound			X			
	Archaeological Site of Troy		X	X			X
	Hattusha: the Hittite Capital	X	X	X	X		
Cyprus	Choirokoitia		X	X	X		

Table 1: Inscribed Properties on the World Heritage List in the Geo-cultural Region according to the Criteria for Inscription

State Party	Property	Criteria					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Palestine	Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan		X	X	X		
Turkey	Archaeological Site of Kültepe-Kanesh		X	X			
	Archaeological Site of Sagalassos		X	X			
	Karatepe-Aslantaş Archaeological Site		X	X	X		
Israel	Bet She'an		X		X	X	X
Jordan	Pella (Modern Tabaqat Fahil)	X		X	X		
Iraq	Bestansur Neolithic settlement			X	X		
	Nippur			X			X
Syria	Ebla (Tell Mardikh)			X			X
	Mari (Tell Hariri)			X			X
	Ugarit (Tell Shamra)			X			X

Table 2: Inscribed Sites on the Tentative Lists in the Geo-cultural Region according to the Potential Criteria for Inscription

State Party	Site	Period
Palestine	Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan	Neolithic- Bronze Ag
	Wadi Bakr (Netiv Hagdud)	Neolithic
	Gilgal	Neolithic
	Khayyam	Palaeolithic -Neolithic
	‘Ain Darat	Neolithic
	Tell Balatah or Shechem	Bronze Age
	Tell ‘Ajjul or Ancient Gaza	Bronze Age
Jordan	Ain Ghazal	Neolithic
	Wadi Faynan	Neolithic
	Beidha	Neolithic- Chalcolithic
	Basta	Neolithic
	Ba'aja	Neolithic
	Dhra‘	Neolithic
	Zahrat edh-Dhra‘	Neolithic
	Ghwair	Neolithic
	Tell Abu Al Sawwan	Neolithic
Syria	Jerf-el-Ahmar	Neolithic
	Qatana (Tell al-Mishrifeh)	Bronze Age
	Tell Aswad	Neolithic
	Mreibet	Neolithic
	Abu Hurairah	Neolithic
	Tell Qaramel	Neolithic
	Tell ‘Abr 3	Neolithic
	Tell Ramad	Neolithic
	Tell Bouqras	Neolithic
Israel	Khirbet Hatoula	Neolithic
	Wadi Fallah (Nahal Oren),	Neolithic
	Khalet Kalladyiah (Yiftahel)	Neolithic
	Ain Sufsafa (Kfar HaHoresh)	Neolithic
	Tell el-Jazari (Gezer)	Bronze Age
Iraq	Tell As-Suwwan	Neolithic
Turkey	Kösk Höyük	Neolithic

Table 3: None-inscribed Sites on the World Heritage List nor on the Tentative Lists in the geo-cultural Region from the same period used for the comparative analysis

Similar Archaeological Properties Inscribed on the World Heritage List under the Same Criteria

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho Palestine	Byblos Lebanon	
ii	-	Not relevant	Not relevant
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	The deep stratigraphy of Byblos and material culture bear an exceptional testimony to different civilizations from Neolithic to ottoman period, testified by Bronze Age Phoenician monumental temples, fortifications, Persian fortifications, a Roman road, Byzantine churches, a Crusade citadel and a Medieval and Ottoman town.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both Byblos and Jericho are among the key important archaeological sites in the Near East and Anatolia. Their long history and deep stratigraphy from the Neolithic to the Ottoman period, testify to human occupation over several millennia, embodying the development of architectural styles, and diversified material culture showing their progressive growth and highly developed communities. However, Ancient Jericho is older and its stratigraphy deeper and more diversified. - Neolithic Ancient Jericho, however, is distinguished from Neolithic Byblos as Jericho in the PPNA (9th millennium BC) was a fortified town. It is also different from Byblos by the cult of ancestors worship, testified by modelled and plastered skulls. - Both properties show significant prosperity during Bronze Age, testified by different phases of fortifications' construction and construction techniques, but construction techniques of the Middle Bronze Age ramparts of Ancient Jericho are well shown, more complete, and better illustrated throughout the excavated areas than the Byblos ones.
iv	-	Not relevant	Not relevant

	<p>Fortifications during the Bronze Age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EB II- III fortifications, - Three rampart fortifications of the Middle Bronze Age and their construction techniques. 	<p>Monumental temples of the Bronze Age, fortifications of Early Bronze age, ramparts of Middle Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age stone glacis, MB II & III “Hyksos” glacis, Assyro-Babylonian and Persian glacis, a Roman road, Byzantine churches, a Crusade citadel and a Medieval and an Ottoman town.</p>	<p>Ancient Jericho and Byblos show significant growth during Bronze Age. Both properties were mightily fortified with stone and mud-brick walls. However, the sophisticated construction techniques of the three Middle Bronze Age ramparts of Ancient Jericho are the best examples in the Levant, distinguishing it from Byblos. Neither Byblos Nor other properties on the WHL so clearly illustrates these sophisticated MB fortification system techniques, which are easily distinguished by the type, scale and architecture of its structures and its construction techniques.</p>
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Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba- Israel	
ii	Innovations in Neolithic architecture, fortifications, building technology, material and house layout from circular to rectangular, and ritual practises.	Not relevant	Not relevant
	Location: Strategic location on historic and trade routes in the Jordan Rift Valley	Each of the three sites of the Biblical Tels was built on strategic location: (1) Hazor (el Qadah) was built on crossroads, dominating the main trade and military routes that connected Egypt to the south, and Syria and Anatolia to the North, and Mesopotamia to the east. (2) Tell Megiddo (el-Mutesellim) was built on the Via Maris, the major international trade and military route, connected Egypt to Syria, and Mesopotamia. (3) Tell Beer Sheba (es-Saba’) was built at a crossroads connected Hebron to the north, Dead Sea to the east, Gaza to the West and Negev and the Red Sea to the south.	Both properties were built on strategic locations dominating the main trade and military routes that connected ancient Palestine with the Near East and Anatolia, contributing to the cultural exchange of values, ideas, and beliefs as evidenced by a variety of imported materials found in them. However, Ancient Jericho is older than the Biblical Tels and its cultural influences more diversified.

<p>iii</p>	<p>The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.</p>	<p>The property consists of three archaeological sites with deep stratigraphy. Each has about twenty or more consecutive settlements, built one on top of the other, bearing exceptional testimonies to different civilizations and cultures from Neolithic to Persian period, attested by monumental temples, palaces, water system, and Bronze and Iron Age fortification systems.</p>	<p>Both properties, the Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba, and Ancient Jericho are among key important archaeological properties in the Near East and Anatolia. Their long settlement history, covering several millennia, testifies to the development of human civilisation in various cultural and socio-economic dynamics. Conversely, Ancient Jericho is distinguished from the Biblical Tels because Ancient Jericho predated the Biblical Tels. It is dated to the Natufian and Neolithic periods, attesting to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia.</p>
<p>iv</p>	<p>PPNA Fortifications Fortifications during the Bronze Age: - EB II- III fortifications, - Three Rampart fortifications of the Middle Bronze Age and their construction techniques.</p>	<p>Not relevant</p> <p>The three sites of the property yielded series of Bronze and Iron age monuments, palaces Monumental temples, water systems, fortifications of Early Bronze age, ramparts of Middle Bronze Age, especially the Middle Bronze Age ramparts of the Tell Hazor (el Qadah).</p>	<p>Not relevant</p> <p>- The sophisticated construction techniques of the three Middle Bronze Age ramparts of Ancient Jericho are clear and well-illustrated. Almost one hundred and fifty years of scientific excavations of Ancient Jericho have unearthed the best examples in the Levant of the construction process of the Middle Bronze Age ramparts. Neither the Biblical Tels nor other properties on the WHL so clearly illustrate these techniques like Ancient Jericho.</p> <p>- Tell Hazor (el Qadah) MB ramparts is much larger than Ancient Jericho's. It is 90 meters wide and 15 meters high with a mud brick core and with an earthen outer skin standing behind a deep moat on the western side. Ancient Jericho's defensive system differs by utilizing three successive ramparts that were strengthened with parallel rib-walls,</p>

			<p>retaining walls, and limestone glacis. Its third rampart constructed during MB III is about 28 meters wide and 10 meters high. Unlike Tell Hazor (el Qadah), Jericho's ramparts completely encircled the city, and were crowned with mud bricks, included a massive stone Cyclopean wall (revetment), and utilized heterogeneous supporting rubble for greater strength.</p>
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Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) Iraq	
ii	Innovations in Neolithic architecture, fortifications, building technology, material and house layout from circular to rectangular, and ritual practises.	Not relevant	Not relevant
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	Ashur is an outstanding example of an urban site where continuity and change of the Assyrian civilisation pertaining to religious, public and domestic architecture, artistic production, urban planning, religious and political systems, economic subsistence and social patterns, developed over three millennia. They are attested by Royal Palaces, large temples in the Paleo- Assyrian and Middle/ Neo Assyrian periods, fortifications and monumental gates, well known bas-reliefs, which decorated the public structures accompanied by a large corpus of cuneiform texts that attest a leading role of Ashur in religion.	Ashur is characterized by its original monumentality, artistic splendour, and great importance of the Assyrian State and Empire in the 2nd and 1st millennia BC that have influenced the history of humankind. However, Ancient Jericho is different from Ashur in terms of the path of development, chronology, function monumentality, political developments and historical significance. In chronological terms, it preceded Ashur, occupied as early as the Sumerian Early Dynastic period (2,800 B.C.).
iv	PPNA Fortifications:	Not relevant	Not relevant

	<p>Fortifications during the Bronze Age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EB II- III fortifications, - Three Rampart fortifications of the Middle Bronze Age and their construction techniques. 	<p>Ashur is an outstanding example of an urban site containing religious, public and domestic architecture, artistic production, and urban planning from the Paleo- Assyrian and Middle/ Neo Assyrian periods. They are attested by royal palaces, large temples, fortifications with monumental gates, and well-known bas-reliefs that were decorated the public structures accompanied by a large corpus of cuneiform texts.</p>	<p>The two properties show important cultural significance influenced the development of human civilization, but with substantial differences in the chronological path of development and outcomes. Ashur played a key role as the centre of political power for the foundation of the Assyrian empire in the Middle Assyrian period (14th-11th cent. BC) and for Assyrian art and craftsmanship, while Ancient Jericho was abandoned and no longer an urban centre during that time.</p> <p>However, Ancient Jericho is substantial different form Ashur as it is bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. Its prominent periods were the Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze ages in Near East and Anatolia.</p>
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Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Çatalhöyük, Turkey	
ii		Not relevant	Not relevant
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	Çatalhöyük was built and inhabited only in the PPNB and early Chalcolithic, as evidenced by 15 occupation levels. After it was abandoned in the Chalcolithic period, the site was buried and not occupied by later societies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The deep stratigraphy of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, identified by 29 distinct archaeological phases, attests to virtually continuous occupation over ten millennia. Nonetheless, Çatalhöyük was established as a sedentary settlement during the PPNB about a thousand years after the first PPNA fortified town of Ancient Jericho, which by then was the major urban setting in the Levant. - In contrast to Ancient Jericho, Çatalhöyük has 15 occupation levels dating from the PPNB and Chalcolithic periods. The Neolithic strata of Ancient Jericho reach approximately 13 meters in Trench I. Neither Çatalhöyük nor contemporaneous sites in the Near East and Anatolia have such remarkably deep and well-preserved strata of civilization. -Both Ancient Jericho and Çatalhöyük are the progenitors of the Neolithic agricultural revolution that opened up a new era for man to develop the production of food, and provide fundamental knowledge of the development of human history, culture, beliefs, architectural development, socio-political and economic dynamics. However, Ancient Jericho is older and its cultural contribution extends over ten millennia.
iv	PPNA Fortifications	Not relevant	The PPNA tower and walls of Ancient Jericho are incomparable with Çatalhöyük, which was built and inhabited only in the PPNB and early Chalcolithic.

<p>PPNB House Development: Rectangular house layout, construction material: mud brick on stone foundations, and lime-plastered floors with paintings.</p>	<p>In the PPNB, Çatalhöyük was a permanent settlement with rectangular houses layout, hard lime plaster floors, walls coated with cream plaster, often with colourful paintings of birds, wild animals, and human representations that were unparalleled in Anatolia and the Near East.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPNB House layout and building materials at Ancient Jericho are similar to Çatalhöyük and most of the contemporaneous sites in the Near East and Anatolia. In contrast to the PPNB houses at Ancient Jericho, houses at Çatalhöyük were accessed through holes in the ceiling reached by ladders or stairs. - Another notable difference between Ancient Jericho and Çatalhöyük is that in Ancient Jericho the plaster painting was on house floors, coloured red or cream, and polished to a high sheen. However, at Çatalhöyük, walls were coated with cream plaster, often with colourful paintings of birds, wild animals, and human representations which were significantly more advanced than Ancient Jericho and other sites in the Near East and Anatolia. -Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is one of the best Neolithic sites in the Near East and Anatolia, including Çatalhöyük, to give a comprehensive picture of the development of house styles, floor plans, construction material, and technology over 4,000 years. There was substantial development from a simple shelter during the late Natufian period to semi-subterranean round layouts in the PPNA, and to rectangular floor plans in the PPNB. During PNA the Jerichoans regressed to pit dwellings dug into the ground, but during PNB again developed more sophisticated freestanding rectangular houses. Ancient Jericho also reveals the development of construction materials and technology from light organic material during the Natufian period to the invention and use of lime plaster and patterned mud-bricks set on stone foundations during the Neolithic era.
<p>Fortifications during the Bronze Ag</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Göbekli Tepe/Turkey	
ii	Innovations in Neolithic architecture, fortifications, building technology, material and house layout from circular to rectangular	A hunter-gatherers ceremonial PPNA centre built with large circular, rectangular buildings and large monolithic T-shaped pillars	<p>- During the PPNA, Ancient Jericho was a fortified town and a major urban setting in the Levant; however, Göbekli Tepe was not even a town but was used by hunter-gatherers as a ceremonial centre.</p> <p>-Building a stone staircase inside the PPNA tower with dressed roof lintels was an incredible achievement of design, construction, and skilled masonry unknown in that age and for centuries to come. Perhaps the stone masonry of both the roof lintels and the staircase steps were influenced by the large-scale communal structures of Göbekli Tepe, which is an early monumental megalithic T-shaped pillars built during the 10th and 9th millennia BC, through obsidian trade and cultural interchange.</p> <p>-Ancient Jericho is also distinguished from Göbekli Tepe because Jericho was a sedentary settlement with permanent houses, granaries, and all the infrastructure and diversity necessary for city life, while Göbekli Tepe was a periodic gathering place for rituals and feasts.</p>
	Ritual Practices attributed to ancestor worship: -PPNA unplastered (plain) skulls - PPNB plastered skulls	The anthropomorphic T-shaped pillars are believed to be representations of ancestors, perhaps even incipient deities	The Neolithic Ritual practices in Ancient Jericho are completely different from the anthropomorphic T-shaped pillars of the Göbekli Tepe that are believed to be representations of ancestors, perhaps even incipient deities. In contrast to the Göbekli Tepe, the post-mortem skull removal practice at Ancient Jericho was a long-lasting cultic that developed over time from plain (un-plastered) skulls in PPNA to plastered skulls during the PPNB, to plaster statuary in the last stage of the PPNB, providing evidence of three continuous developmental stages of ancestor worship over more than two millennia.
iii	-	Not relevant	Not relevant

<p>iv</p>	<p>PPNA Fortifications: stone walls, a stone tower with dressed roof passageway and dressed stone interior staircase, and a ditch.</p>	<p>Semi subterranean megalithic monumental structures with anthropomorphic T-shaped pillars built during the 10th and 9th millennia for seasonal public rituals, ceremonies, and feasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PPNA tower and walls of Ancient Jericho are incomparable with Göbekli Tepe and/ or any contemporaneous settlement during the PPNA. When Ancient Jericho was protected by walls, a gigantic tower, and a ditch, Göbekli Tepe had none of these features. - The PPNA fortifications of Ancient Jericho with a massive stone tower and a ditch are great architectural and cultural achievements and unprecedented breakthroughs in human culture. Neither Göbekli Tepe nor other PPNA sites in the Near East and Anatolia have such exceptional accomplishments. - The PPNA fortification system at Ancient Jericho and the megalithic monumental structures at Göbekli Tepe are unique different Neolithic architectural achievements. Ancient Jericho is the only known walled town of the ninth millennium BC, and remained the only walled city for thousands of years until the end of the 4th millennium BC when other towns in the Near East were fortified. Similarly, the monumental megalithic structures at Göbekli Tepe are outstanding examples of a monumental ensemble illustrating a significant period of human history. The monolithic T-shaped pillars were carved from the adjacent limestone plateau and attested to new unprecedented levels of architectural and engineering technology.
	<p>- House Development during Neolithic : House layout development, construction material, and floors with paintings.</p>	<p>Göbekli Tepe includes large round-oval and rectangular structures with large monolithic T-shaped pillars carved from locally quarried limestone.</p>	<p>The Layout of Neolithic buildings in both sites are alike, but with substantial differences in function. Jericho was a permanent, sedentary settlement with residential houses, granaries, and all the infrastructure and diversity necessary for city life, while Göbekli Tepe was a periodic gathering place for rituals and feasts, and its buildings were constructed specifically for the ritual requirements, not for habitation.</p>

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Arslantepe Mound, Turkey	
ii	-	Not relevant	Not relevant
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	Arslantepe provides a significant image of the development of an early State system in the 4th millennium BC, attested by a Monumental palatial complex of the 4th millennium BC, including both residences of rulers and elite families. Its public spaces had different functions: religious, ceremonial, political, economic, and administrative, performed in various architecturally diversified buildings, all of which were linked together in a single whole.	-Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. It is a site with a long sequence of stratigraphy from the Natufian to Ottoman period. Its most prominent and flourishing periods were the Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze Ages. While Arslantepe Mound bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history over c. 6,000 years. Its most prominent and flourishing period was the Late Chalcolithic period when the human occupation was interrupted at Ancient Jericho. - In terms of architectural type, Ancient Jericho was one of the mighty Canaanite city-states during the Early and Middle Bronze Age distinguished by its Middle Bronze Age earthen ramparts techniques. However, the prominent architectural type of Arslantepe is the monumental palatial complex of the 4th millennium BC, including both the residences of the rulers and elite families and the public spaces that had different religious, ceremonial, political, economic, and administrative functions.
iv	-	Not relevant	Not relevant

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Archaeological Site of Troy, Turkey	
ii	-	Not relevant	Not relevant
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	The archaeological site of Troy bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history that occupied the area for over 4,000 years. Troy II and Troy VI provide characteristic examples of an ancient oriental city in an Aegean, attested by the Bronze Age city with its fortifications, palaces and administrative buildings, two Greek and Roman major public buildings on the edge of the agora and Ottoman settlement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Jericho bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, while Troy bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history over 4,000 years only. - The two properties show important cultural significance that influenced the development of human civilization, but with substantial differences in the chronological path of development and outcomes. Troy was an oriental cultural, political and economic city in an Aegean context, documenting relations between Anatolia, the Aegean, and the Balkans during the Bronze Ages, identified with the city besieged by the Greeks during the Trojan War, immortalized in the <i>Iliad</i>. Whereas Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. Its prominent periods were the Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze ages in Near East and Anatolia.

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Hattusha: the Hittite Capital, Turkey	
ii	-	Not relevant	Not relevant
	Location: Strategic location on historic and trade routes	Hattusha: the Hittite Capital is located in Boğazkale District of Çorum Province, in a typical landscape of the Northern Central Anatolian Mountain Region.	The strategic location of Both properties was of certain significance in supporting the relations and cultural interchange between different civilizations and cultures in the ancient world. However, the cultural exchange of Ancient Jericho was prominent during Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze Age. Hattusha dominating influence upon the civilizations was during the 2nd and 1st millennia BC in Anatolia and northern Syria.
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring,	Hattusha provides a comprehensive picture of the Hittite capital from the 2nd and 1st millennia BC, and bears a unique testimony to the Hittite civilization. It consists of the Hittite city area, the rock sanctuary of Yazılıkaya on the north, the ruins of Kayalı Boğaz on the east and the İbikçam Forest on the south. A monumental enclosure wall of more than 8km in length surrounds the whole city. It has a variety of	Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. Its significance was in the Neolithic, Early, and Middle Bronze Ages. Whereas, Hattusha bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history over 4,000 years. Its influence was more on the civilizations of the second millennium BC (specifically the mid-14th century BC) in Anatolia and northern Syria when it was the capital of the Hittite empire with a monumental large-scale architecture built after Ancient Jericho had been abandoned.

	houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	attributes including palaces, temples, trading quarters, necropolis, fortifications, along with the Lions' Gate, the Royal Gate and the Yazılıkaya rupestral.	
IV	PPNA Fortifications and house layout development	Not relevant	Not relevant
	Fortifications during the Bronze Age: - EB II- III fortifications, - Three Rampart fortifications of the Middle Bronze Age and their construction techniques.	Several types of buildings or architectural ensembles are perfectly preserved in Hattusha, including the royal residence, palaces, temples, residential and trading quarters, necropolis, fortifications, monumental gates and the Yazılıkaya rupestral.	The two properties represent important cultural significance that influenced the development of human civilization, but with substantial differences in the chronological path of development and outcomes. Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. Its prominent periods were the Neolithic, Early and Middle Bronze ages in Near East. While Hattusha exerted a dominating influence upon the civilizations of the 2nd millennium BC in Anatolia and northern Syria. It reached its height during the Late Bronze Age in the mid-14th century BC when it encompassed an area that included most of Anatolia and parts of the northern Levant and Upper Mesopotamia. Nonetheless, Ancient Jericho was abandoned in the Late Bronze Age and was no longer an urban centre in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Criterion	Main Ancient Jericho Attributes conveying the OUV	Attributes of similar properties inscribed under the same criterion	Comparison
	Ancient Jericho	Choirokoitia /Cyprus	
ii	<p>Innovations in Neolithic architecture, fortifications, building technology, material and house layout from circular to rectangular</p>	<p>permanent Neolithic habitation settlement with circular buildings protected by two walls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PPNA Ancient Jericho is incomparable with Choirokoitia, which was not found when Ancient Jericho had been a major urban setting in the Levant, fortified by stone walls, a gigantic tower and a ditch. - Ancient Jericho is distinguished from Choirokoitia because in the PPNA Jericho was a permanent and sedentary settlement with circular and semi-circular houses, granaries, and all the infrastructure and diversity necessary for city life, while Choirokoitia's permanent human occupation began in the Aceramic (Pre-Pottery) period (7000 BC) with circular houses when Ancient Jericho was in the PPNB with rectangular houses. - The two stone walls protected Choirokoitia in the Neolithic period similar to the PPNB Ancient Jericho's terrace walls (Wall IV and V), which could indicate cultural exchange between the two properties during that time.
	<p>Ritual Practices attributed to ancestor worship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPNA unplastered (plain) skulls - PPNB plastered skulls 	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>Neolithic inhabitants of Choirokoitia buried the deceased beneath their rammed earth floors, showing some similarity to Neolithic Ancient Jericho burial and ritual practises. However, burial ritual practices at Ancient Jericho were complex and more different practice process, based on post-mortem skull removal. The Ancient Jericho's burial ritual practices were a long-lasting cultic practice that developed over time from plain (un-plastered) skulls in PPNA to plastered skulls during the PPNB, to plaster statuary in the last stage of the PPNB providing evidence of three continuous developmental stages of ancestor worship over more than two millennia.</p>

	Location: Strategic location on historic and trade routes in the Jordan Rift Valley	Its strategic location in Cyprus made it a bridgehead for the spread of the Neolithic civilisation (7-4 millennium BC) from the eastern Mediterranean to the West.	The Strategic location of both properties played a crucial role in the spreading of Neolithic civilization. Choirokoitia contributed to the spreading of the Neolithic civilisation from the eastern Mediterranean to the West (7th millennium - 4th millennium BC). The strategic location of Ancient Jericho in the Jordan Rift Valley north of the Dead Sea on a main east-west road made it an important international trade centre of the old world. It connected Asia and Africa, contributing to an exchange of cultural values, ideas, and beliefs as evidenced by a variety of imported materials found in Jericho.
iii	The property bears an exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, attested by 29 successive phases of ancient civilization that include Neolithic and Bronze Age fortification systems, perennial spring, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.	Choirokoitia includes: Permanent habitation settlement dated from 7 th to 4 th millennium BC, evidenced by various physical attributes with circular buildings protected by two walls, a staircase with three stone flights of steps, and stone bastion in the form of a parallelepiped.	-The stratigraphy of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, which identifies at least 29 distinct archaeological phases, attests to virtually continuous occupation over ten millennia, while Permanent habitation settlement in Choirokoitia began in the Aceramic (Pre-Pottery) Proto-Neolithic Period (7th millennium BC), when Ancient Jericho was in the PPNB and was abandoned in the early 4th millennium BC. - The PPNA fortifications are found only in Ancient Jericho distinguishing it from Choirokoitia and all other contemporaneous sites in the Levant and worldwide. During the PPNA, a massive stone tower, a wall and a ditch protected Ancient Jericho, but Choirokoitia had none of these features.
Iv	- PPNA Fortifications	Not relevant	Not relevant

	<p>- PPNB Terrace Walls: TW V & TWIV</p>	<p>Permanent habitation settlement with circular buildings protected by two walls, a staircase with three stone flights of steps, and stone bastion in the form of a parallelepiped.</p>	<p>Both properties have protection walls, and/ or perhaps retaining walls during the 7th millennium BC to protect residential extensions. During the PPNB, inhabitants of Jericho built two large terrace walls with fieldstones (TW. IV & TW. V) On the western side of the Tell a few meters from the PPNA town wall. They were possibly built to serve as part of the town's defence and/ or an extension of residential area of the town. Similarly, during the Aceramic (Pre-Pottery) Proto-Neolithic period, inhabitants of Choirokoitia built two protection stone walls to protect a later extension of the village to the west. Thus, the two properties have similar traits and important Neolithic archaeological sites of exceptional importance in studying and understanding the evolution of human cultural in the Near East and Anatolia.</p>
	<p>House Development during Neolithic : House layout development, construction material, and floors with paintings.</p>	<p>Choirokoitia includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent habitation settlement with circular houses built of mud brick and undressed limestone with flat roofs. The outer surfaces are frequently of stone and the inner of clay or unfired brick. - Some paints on the internal surfaces of walls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is distinguished from Choirokoitia because Ancient Jericho's PPNB house layout was rectangular and more developed compared to Choirokoitia's circular houses. -Ancient Jericho is one of the best Neolithic sites in the Near East and Anatolia to give a comprehensive picture of the development of house styles, floor plans, construction materials, and technology over about 4,000 years, while the contribution of Choirokoitia in terms of the development of architectural types and construction material was very limited and incomparable with Ancient Jericho. - PPNB houses of Ancient Jericho were built of mud brick on stone foundations; however, the outer surfaces of Choirokoitia's houses were frequently built of undressed stones and the inners of mud bricks. - In Ancient Jericho, the plaster painting was on house floors, coloured red or cream, and polished to a high sheen. However, in Choirokoitia, little evidence was found indicating that the internal surfaces of walls had been painted which might be more similar to Çatalhöyük.

Table 4:- Similar Archaeological Properties Inscribed on the World Heritage List under the Same Criteria

Similar Archaeological Properties Inscribed on the Tentative of the World Heritage List under the same criteria

Name of Property	Chronology Timeframe	Criterion	Out Standing Universal Value	Attributions	Comparison
Ancient Jericho/ Palestine	Neolithic and Bronze Age	II, III, IV	<p>Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is the oldest fortified town in the world, dating to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (9th millennium BC). It was protected by stone walls, a massive stone tower, and a ditch. Ancient Jericho dates back more than 10,000 years and 4000 years before any other similarly fortified city in the world. Its inhabitants were among the first humans to rely on agriculture for subsistence, which is attested by its granaries and stone tools used for harvest. It had one of the oldest social, political, and economic structures in the world.</p> <p>Jericho's Neolithic funerary practice of unplastering and plastering the skulls of the deceased is an indication that the property was one of the oldest centres in the world for ancestor worship and a religious belief system. Ancient Jericho's location in the Jordan Valley along a 'bottleneck' of the Fertile Crescent and on a main east-west trade route made it an important intercontinental trading hub between Africa, Asia, and the Mediterranean basin contributing to the exchange of goods as well as cultural values,</p>	<p>Neolithic fortifications with a stone tower, walls and a ditch. Residential houses, unplastered and plastered skulls, Bronze Age fortification system, particularly the Middle Bronze Age Ramparts, various domestic and imported material culture (e.g. Obsidian), construction materials and excavated trenches.</p>	<p>Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is an exceptional archaeological site in the Near East and Anatolia, especially during the Neolithic period, which is a period that is not well represented in the World Heritage List. Its history and continuity of human cultures and habitations for over 10 millennia, make it an indispensable site for understanding the development of human civilization. The property was a major urban site in the Levant during the PPNA when it was fortified with stone walls, a massive tower and a ditch.</p> <p>Ancient Jericho again became a flourishing and fortified Canaanite city during Bronze Age. The advanced buildings and construction techniques of its three Middle Bronze Age (MB) ramparts set it apart from all other sites in the Levant. It presents some of the best examples in the Near East of building techniques for MB II-III earthen ramparts. No other property on the WHL so clearly illustrates these techniques as Ancient Jericho.</p>

			<p>ideas, and beliefs, attested by imported objects and raw materials. For example, in the Neolithic period, Obsidian was imported from south Anatolia and perfume juglets, scarabs, and nacreous shells, utilized for cosmetic containers (make-up Kohl), marble mace heads, schist palettes, lotus vases, pottery etc. were imported from Egypt. On the other hand, Ancient Jericho exported the Dead Sea product (Asphalt, salt, and sulphur), olive oil, wine, and wool to Egypt and other Near Eastern regions. During the early Bronze Age, Jericho became one of the most glorious Canaanite city-states with outstanding defensive fortifications and a highly developed city centre with well-designed streets flanked by richly furnished houses. In the Middle Bronze Age Jericho's 'engineers' developed theretofore-remarkable techniques to construct its nearly impregnable walls and ramparts.</p>		
Archaeological Site of Kültepe-Kanesh / Turkey	From Bronze Ages to the end of Roman period	II, III	<p>Kültepe-Kanesh is by far the richest and most significant source of information for the period of Assyrian trade colonies. Both the archaeological material and textual documentation obtained from the site far surpasses the information offered by contemporary colony period sites. It is a rich and varied repertoire of artefacts, certainly, the unique body of textual documents recovered and the settlement model of mixed cohabitation of local Anatolian and foreign Mesopotamian and Syrian merchants, Kültepe-Kanesh is unmatched by any of its contemporaries.</p>	<p>Residential quarters with paved streets and houses built of mud bricks, monumental palaces, and multifunctional structures serving commercial, administrative, storages, royal residences, and cuneiform archives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In chronological terms, Ancient Jericho preceded Kültepe by more than five millennia. - Ancient Jericho is different from Kültepe in the path of development, chronology, function, monumentality, political developments and historical significance. - The site of Kültepe characterized by its great importance of the ancient kingdom of Kanesh and was the centre of a complex network of Assyrian trade colonies in the 2nd millennium BC, while Ancient Jericho was almost

			<p>Unlike royal or temple archives discovered in other Near Eastern ancient centres, the cuneiform archives of Kültepe-Kanesh represent the single largest body of private texts in the ancient Near East. Moreover, given the extremely scanty nature of the information available on the contemporary levels of the north Mesopotamian city of Ashur, from which the incoming merchants originated, Kültepe-Kanesh remains the main source of the Assyrian Kingdom at that time.</p>		<p>abandoned and not a flourished urban centre in that period.</p>
<p>Archaeological Site of Sagalassos Turkey</p>	<p>Neolithic to Seljuk</p>	<p>II, III</p>	<p>The remains of the archaeological site of Sagalassos are almost completely preserved. It is an exceptional case to find a middle-sized but highly flourished town in such a well-preserved state. Archaeological research has documented all layers and kinds of occupation, delivering a coherent set of archaeological and environmental results that contribute to the history of the region, documenting at least a thousand years of continuous occupation (3rd century BC to 13th century AD). It is, for the moment, the only pottery production centre, active throughout at least a thousand years, which still can be researched in a completely preserved and pristine state. All of these make Sagalassos a unique place in terms of the quality and quantity of buildings, artefacts and all other material remains.</p>	<p>Pottery production centre with numerous kilns, completely preserved residential houses, monumental structures with distinct decorations, important monumental fountains, and Roman Baths.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The potential OUV and attributes of the archaeological site of Sagalassos are not equivalent to Ancient Jericho in terms of chronology, function, monumentality, political developments and cultural significance. Ancient Jericho had been abandoned when Sagalassos flourished. - Both properties are from different periods and are completely different in the size and type of architecture, and historical, political and socio-economic dynamics. The archaeological site of Sagalassos represents an exceptional case of a middle-sized but highly flourished town over at least a thousand years of continuous occupation from the 3rd century BC to the -13th century AD. However, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is incomparable with Sagalassos as it is a

					testimony of virtually continuous occupation over ten millennia, evidenced by at least 29 distinct archaeological phases.
Karatepe-Aslantaş Archaeological Site/ Turkey	Neolithic period up to the Roman period	II, III,IV	Karatepe-Aslantaş Archaeological Site is one the most significant sites, consisting of a continuity of fortifications over several millennia, shifting their locations on the banks of the Pyramos/Ceyhan River. The 8th century BC fortress has two unique features that mark the property to be of outstanding universal value. The monumental gates of the fortress are engraved with bilingual writing and friezes of sculpture. The writings are inscribed in alphabetic Phoenician and Anatolian Hieroglyphic Luwian, showing the earliest known bilingual narrative on an architectural monument in the Ancient Near East and representing the beginning of a visual genre used in the Graeco-Roman period and well beyond until modern times.	Fortification system, 8th century BC fortress, monumental historic tablets, statues, two monumental gates with reliefs, Graeco-Roman friezes of sculpture, engraved friezes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Jericho and Karatepe-Aslantaş are completely different in terms of function, type of architecture, chronology, monumentality, political developments and cultural significance. - Ancient Jericho is distinguished from Karatepe-Aslantaş as in the PPNA and Bronze Age, Jericho was a fortified permanent settlement with all infrastructure necessary for city life, while Karatepe-Aslantaş flourished in the Hittite and Graeco-Roman periods after Ancient Jericho had been abandoned and no more an urban centre in the Rift Jordan Valley.

<p>Bet She'an/ Israel</p>	<p>Chalcolithic, Bronze, Iron, Hellenistic, Byzantine and Islamic periods.</p>	<p>II,IV,V,VI</p>	<p>It is one of the oldest cities of the Ancient Near East built on a crossroads to the Fertile Crescent. It includes twenty layers of settlement, dating back from the fifth millennium BC to the Islamic periods. The unique importance of Bet She'an since ancient times is due to a combination of factors, including its position at a major crossroads, the fertile land surrounding it, and the abundance of water found nearby. It was an important site in the late Bronze Age during the Egyptian rule over Canaan from 16th to 12th centuries BC. Bet She'an, was the only one of the ten cities of the Decapolis west of the Jordan River during the Hellenistic and Roman Periods.</p>	<p>Bronze Age public buildings, and residential quarters. During the Late Bronze, it became an Egyptian administrative centre in the north (headquarters for the governors). It was a Hellenistic and Roman city with geometric plans, and public buildings, such as a theatre, an amphitheatre, a large Bath, and various material culture from different periods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The stratigraphy of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, which identifies at least 29 distinct archaeological phases, attests to virtually continuous occupation over ten millennia. However, Bet She'an has 20 layers that attest to the occupation of the property over five millennia. - Bet She'an was a demonstrative site during the late Bronze Age, while Jericho was abandoned during that time. - Although Bet She'an has a long settlement history, the most dominant periods were the Late Bronze Age, Hellenistic and Roman, whereas Ancient Jericho (Tell es-Sultan) was abandoned in those periods and shifted to other surrounding locations.
<p>Pella (Modern Tabaqat Fahil)/ Jordan</p>	<p>Neolithic to Islamic periods</p>	<p>I, III, IV</p>	<p>Pella has been inhabited without interruption since the Neolithic period for about six thousand years. However, the most visible structures date from the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods (2nd to 14th centuries AD). In the Middle and late Bronze Ages, Pella was a substantial walled town built of massive stone and mud brick fortification walls, some up to five metres thick, which lasted for nearly 1.500 years. The Middle Bronze Age mud brick fortification wall is still partly visible in the area vicinity of the main mound. Late Bronze domestic structures included thick stone</p>	<p>Middle and late Bronze Age fortification systems including mud brick structures, ramparts, Bronze Age domestication structures with stone walls, plastered floors, imported artefacts, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic architecture.</p>	<p>Pella dated to a much later period than Ancient Jericho. It has different historical, political and architectural features. Even though Pella was contemporaneous with Ancient Jericho during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, the sophisticated construction techniques of the three Middle Bronze Age ramparts of Ancient Jericho significantly distinguish it from Pella. Neither Pella Nor other Middle Bronze (MB) properties in the Levant so clearly illustrate these sophisticated MB fortification system</p>

			walls, smaller mud-brick walls on stone bases, white-plastered floors, and a fire pit with the remains of at least two tawabeen (bread ovens). The substantial architecture was complemented by a wide array of cultural artefacts and imported goods, indicating that Pella had traded widely throughout the eastern Mediterranean.		techniques, which are easily distinguished by its construction techniques.
Bestansur Neolithic settlement/ Iraq	Neolithic	III, IV	Bestansur Neolithic settlement is the only archaeological site in Iraqi Kurdistan to provide evidence for the period 8000-7100 BC and is therefore of global cultural, historical and archaeological significance. The importance of the site transcends regional and national boundaries due to its uniqueness in representing the earliest stages of village farming life, a major milestone in human history, evidenced by rectilinear buildings constructed of mud bricks. The site of Bestansur provides unique insights into how human communities began to have significant impacts on their natural and cultural environments in one of the world's most important heartlands of these global changes.	Residential Buildings, stone artefacts, human burials under plastered floors, and traces of red-painted plaster on the walls of the buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neolithic Ancient Jericho, especially the PPNA fortification system with a massive stone tower, walls and a ditch are incomparable with Bestansur Neolithic settlement and/ or any settlement during the PPNA, especially the Bestansur had none of these features. - Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of long settlement history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia, while Bestansur was built in Early PPNA and continued to the end of PPNB. - Ancient Jericho is one of the best Neolithic sites in the Near East and Anatolia, including Bestansur, to give a comprehensive picture of the development of house styles, floor plans, construction materials, and technology over 4,000 years. However, Bestansur had one type of Neolithic architectural style, which is the rectilinear structures, developed over less than one thousand years.

Nippur/ Iraq	Bronze Age	III, VI	<p>Nippur is one of the largest ancient sites in the Near East during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC, measures about 1.5km in length and 700m in width and consists of several public structures, such as a massive city wall with six gates, protected by a moat, and enclosing an area of about 135 hectares. The sacred city of Nippur was one of the longest-lived Mesopotamian cities.</p> <p>In the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, it was the religious centre of Mesopotamia, where Enlil, the supreme god of the Sumerian pantheon, created mankind and conferred kingship. About one-fourth of the area within the city, walls were devoted to impressive cultic buildings that attracted visitors from all over Sumer and Akkad, and donations from successive Mesopotamian rulers. The site contains several layers of superimposed urban settlement extending from c. 5000 BC to about 800 preserves an unparalleled archaeological record spanning more than 6,000 years from the prehistoric Ubaid period to the Islamic era and bears exceptional testimony to the Sumerian, Akkadian and Babylonia cultural traditions. Throughout its long period of existence.</p> <p>Nippur was associated with learning and literacy. The scribes of Nippur have left nearly 30,000 Sumerian and Akkadian documents written on clay tablets, including an invaluable group of lexical and bilingual texts (Sumerian / Akkadian) documents that allowed scholars to make real</p>	<p>Early and Middle Bronze Age fortifications with six gates, protected by a moat, residential quarters, public structures: temples, royal Palace, and written clay tablets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two properties, Ancient Jericho and Nippur, are of high importance to the development of human history. Ancient Jericho documents the development of human history over 10 millennia, and its significant role was in Neolithic architectural innovation and agricultural revolution. Whereas, Nippur was the religious centre of Mesopotamia in the 3rd and 2nd millennia and was associated with ritual practices, learning and literacy. - Nippur was significantly distinguished from Ancient Jericho, especially during the second millennium in its intellectual influence all over the Near East and Anatolia. The scribes of Nippur have left nearly 30,000 Sumerian and Akkadian documents that allowed scholars to make real progress in deciphering and understanding. Conversely, no written documents were found in Jericho in the 2nd millennium BC.
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			progress in deciphering and understanding Sumerians. For example, the earliest record of the Creation Story and Flood Story was found on a single fragmentary cuneiform tablet excavated on the site.		
Ebla (Tell Mardikh)/ Syria	Bronze Age	III, IV	Ebla is one of the most extensive Bronze Age archaeological sites in Western Syria contributed to improving the knowledge of the first urban civilization in the 3rd millennium BC, and its development up to the time of the Amorite kingdoms of the first half of the second millennium. Remains of public buildings: a palatial palace and temples, fortification systems with ramparts, and more than fifteen thousand cuneiform tablets, which opened up new perspectives for the study of the various ancient Syrian civilizations. A collection of cuneiform signs with an indication of pronunciation and lists of Sumerian words accompanied by phonetic transcriptions or Eblaite translations, considered the first dictionaries in the history of the human sciences, showing the importance of the site in the history of human thought.	Residential quarters, Public buildings: a palatial palace and temples, fortification systems with ramparts, and more than fifteen thousand cuneiform tablets, A collection of cuneiform signs with an indication of pronunciation and lists of Sumerian words accompanied by phonetic transcriptions or Eblaite translations that considered the first dictionaries in the history of the human sciences,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ebla is dated to a much later period than Ancient Jericho. Hence, it has completely different historical, political and architectural features. - Ancient Jericho and Ebla were significant cities during Bronze Age. Both properties were mightily fortified with stone and mud-brick walls. Although the earthen ramparts of Ebla are larger than Ancient Jericho's, which are wide at the base from 20 to 30 meters and rise to 22 meters, and surrounded an area of about 60 ha. the sophisticated construction techniques of the three Middle Bronze Age ramparts of Ancient Jericho distinguish it from Ebla in terms of material, and construction techniques.

Mari (Tell Hariri)/ Syria	Early and Middle Bronze Age	III IV	<p>Mari is one of the best-recognized cities of the ancient world. It was a significant example of the royal city-state of the third and second millennia BC. It was a carefully planned urban centre with circular walls and extensive hydraulic works. It had a strictly circular plan with a diameter of 1900 meters consisting of public monumental structures: a gigantic royal Palace and temples, surrounded by a dam and a canal directly connected to the Euphrates, ensuring its water supply while allowing boats to come and stop in the port. These main axes of the road joined the large foyers of the centre according to a radiating system (radio-concentric plan).</p> <p>Mari gives an image of an exceptional concentration of the Syro-Mesopotamian world during the third and second millennia BC through the quality of the conservation of its architecture and the richness of the furniture. The great royal palace with c. 260 rooms is a unique example of a great palace of the Bronze Age of the Syro-Mesopotamian area. It contained impressive artefacts, including statues, and thousands of cuneiform tablets from the early second millennium. The property also illustrates uniquely the dynamism of the Sumerian populations at the dawn of history and gives all its true depth to the first of the great urban civilizations.</p>	<p>Circular city plan with planned roads, public monumental structures, a gigantic royal Palace and temples, residential quarters, statues, thousands of cuneiform tablets, and wall paints.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Jericho and Mari are two significant examples of two different Bronze Age urban models for the early establishment of hierarchical societies and power systems in the ancient Near East. - Mari is dated to a much later period than Ancient Jericho, which narrates ten millennia of the history of civilization, while Mari is less than two millennia. - Each property has its completely different type of urban planning and architecture patterns, including setting, layout, scale, and function. - Both properties were fortified cities during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages; however, with different types of fortification systems in terms of planning, design and techniques. Each of them has exceptional architectural and defensive characteristics. - Mari is distinguished from Ancient Jericho during Bronze Age by its large-scale urban centre, a large palace and temples, wall paints, statues, and the early second-millennium cuneiform tablets.
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Ugarit (Tell Shamra)/ Syria	Middle and Late Bronze Age.	III, VI	<p>Ugarit flourished in the 2nd millennium BC on the Mediterranean coast. At the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, the city was surrounded by a powerful rampart of which a part of it is currently known. The exceptional characteristic of Ugarit is demonstrated in several qualities, including urban planning, the Late Bronze Age fortification system, its exceptional works of art, tablets inscribed in a local language and thirty writing signs, very quickly identified as an alphabet. These tablets, spread over approximately two centuries, are the oldest witnesses of true literature registered in this new revolutionary system of writing which is the alphabet. This revolutionary invention was a cultural breakthrough in human history and was distributed to the entire Mediterranean coast and the old world.</p>	<p>Late Bronze Age fortification system with ramparts, residential quarters, works of art, written tablets, alphabet invention, setting and strategic location, residential quarters, royal palace, and Temples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient Jericho and Ugarit are outstanding properties of two different models of the development of human civilization. Ancient Jericho bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history, culture, beliefs, socio-political and economic dynamics, architecture, and arts over ten millennia. It is a site with a long sequence of stratigraphy from the Neolithic, Early, and Middle Bronze Ages to the Ottoman period. Nonetheless, Ugarit bears exceptional testimony to the development of human history over almost one millennium. Its most prominent and flourishing period was the Late Bronze Age when Ancient Jericho was abandoned at that time. - The fortification ramparts of Ancient Jericho were from MB, while the fortification ramparts of Ugarit were built in the Late Bronze Age with different construction techniques. - Ugarit was one of the principle cradle places for the development and invention of the alphabet, attested by written tablets, which are the oldest witnesses of true literature registered in this new revolutionary system of writing. However, no written documents have been found in Ancient Jericho.
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Table 5: Similar archaeological properties inscribed on the Tentative of the World Heritage List under the same criteria

Cultural impact of Ancient Egypt on the Levant during the Bronze Age

The intensity and nature of Egypt-Levantine relations including Tell es-Sultan have varied through time, encompassing commerce, diplomacy, alliances, emigration, and conquest. Such cross-cultural relations incorporate varying importations and local adaptations by each host culture. In times of Egyptian strength and imperialism, such as the New Kingdom, and quite possibly the Protodynastic to Early Dynastic period, there is often a greater occurrence of Egyptian diverse artefacts, transitory through permanent migrants, and other influence in the Levant. During such periods, trade still forms a major mechanism for transmitting Egyptian items and inspiring local-regional imitations, while Egyptian garrisons, transitory troops, emissaries, other personnel, and ‘Egyptianized’ Canaanites also play a substantial role in dispersing Egyptian materials and influence. During other periods of Egyptian prosperity, such as the Old and Middle Kingdoms, Egypt relaxes its interactions with Palestine, attacking it periodically and sometimes sharing greater commerce. During low points in Egyptian political stability, such as the Intermediate periods, Egyptian exports and local-regional copies of Egyptian forms, motifs, and concepts generally decline with commerce often reflecting the main means of transferring Egyptian and Egyptian-style items and influence (Mumford 2014) ¹.

On the other hand, the Hyksos (originally from the Levant) domination of Egypt’s eastern delta introduces more Levantine influences into Egypt; the Hyksos, however, also adopted aspects of Egyptian culture and relay Egyptian and Egyptian-style products e.g. small pottery perfume juglets called (‘Yahudiyeh’ Ware), and motifs abroad (e.g. ‘Hyksos’ scarabs), (Mumford 2014). A scarab was found in MB II Tomb D.641 at Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan that bears a hieroglyphic inscription with the title of the local governor of Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan: Rwha, which could mean the administrator of channels. This name continued and is related to the new city name of Ar-Riha, which means “scent” or “perfume”, perhaps voicing the flowers of the Jericho oasis (Nigro 2009; Hamamra 2014).

It seems that Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan had strong and sturdy relationships with the Hyksos Dynasties in the Delta of Egypt. Presumably, due to this link with the Hyksos, the city came to a violent destruction in about 1550 BC (Nigro 2009). In

¹ See the bibliography of the Nomination Dossier.

addition to that two royal signet rings bearing the insignia of Amenhotep III (1390–1352 BC) were uncovered by Garstang from Tomb 5 (Nigro 2020). Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan during MB I (2000-1800 BC) was probably destroyed by the famous campaign of Sesostris III into the centre of Palestine. His campaign apparently besieged and conquered Tell Balatah (Shechem) located east of modern Nablus (Nigro 2009).

The geographical location of Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan contributed to the development of the site as an important international trade centre connected Asia and Africa (Egypt). Hence, there were two main trade routes between Egypt and Ancient Jericho. First the route through the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea, Arabah Valley, to the Aqaba, Red Sea and Sinai. The second was via the mountain road (Jerusalem-Jericho Road), then to the international Mediterranean coastal route (Via Maris) that connects Egypt with Syria. These roads facilitated travel, trade, communication and cultural interchange (Orni and Efrat 1976; Aharoni 1977; Arav 1989, Merriam-Webster 1997; Hamamra 2000).

The bitumen of the Dead Sea, which is part of Jericho's territory, was an important item for trade in ancient periods. It was widespread and exported to Egypt for use in the mummification process; evidence of asphalt exported from the Dead Sea was found in Egypt after 1000 BC. Its use became particularly important in the Ptolemaic–Roman period, which led to wars specifically to gain commercial control over this product in the fourth century BC. Although the reasons why the Egyptians wanted Dead Sea asphalt at this specific time are nowhere specified, the answer may lie in its increasing availability as a (partial) replacement for the plant resins used previously in the mummification process. A review of the historical literature shows that Dead Sea asphalt was used for at least two millennia as a biocidal agent in agricultural practices. The Dead Sea asphalt was used in the mummification process due to its dual function: first, as an external mechanical shield when smeared on the exterior of mummy wrapping to prevent ingress by insects, fungi, bacteria and moisture; and second, as a biocidal agent (perhaps due to its high sulphur content), which prevented the flesh from decaying, the prime concern for the ancient Egyptians (Nissenbaum and Buckley 2013).

Furthermore, salt, olive oil, wine, and wool were mainly products exported from Ancient Jericho (Sala 2005b; Nigro 2014a, 2020). The trade connection with Egypt during the Bronze Age period was attested by the import of special pottery and scarabs, sometimes imitated with Egyptian traditions. Scarabs were the most popular

form of amulet in ancient Egypt and were also used as seals for the central administration. The exportation of scarabs was not only an expression of Egyptian commercial contacts but also a manifestation of Egyptian cultural influence (Ben-Tor, Daphna 2011; Nigro 2020).

The connection with Egypt during the Bronze Age (3400– 1200 BC) accelerated the urbanization of Ancient Jericho. It was a common cultural phenomenon revealed in the Southern Levant, attested by a series of imported Egyptian diagnostic items, such as marble mace heads, schist palettes, lotus vases, and a serekh, pottery and scarabs that were the most popular form of amulet in ancient Egypt. Moreover, luxury items were imported from Egypt, such as the nacreous shells utilized for cosmetic containers (make-up Kohl), the manganese dioxide found inside the shells was quarried from mines in the Sinai. These shells are identified as *Chambardia Rubens* originally from the Nile River. All of these luxury items can be connected to the emergence of the sophisticated elite in Ancient Jericho when it was a commercial station on ancient trade routes in the Near East (Nigro et al 2018)

Conclusion of Comparative Analysis

As per the request of ICOMOS to include other listed properties on the World Heritage List and on the Tentative Lists from the geo-cultural region, the State Party explored all similar listed properties on both of the above-mentioned lists and subsequently compared them with Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan. The Palestinian experts, who did the comparative analysis, studied all properties inscribed on the WHL and the Tentative Lists of the geo-cultural region that express similar values as the Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan. Most of the sites that ICOMOS asked to be added to the comparative analysis are less important and to a great extent, unparalleled the Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan's OUV and its attributes. For example, archaeological sites of the Northern Near East and Anatolia dating from and after the Bronze Age are completely different and to some extent incomparable with the Archaeological sites in the south part of the Near East in terms of chronology, function, monumentality, political developments and historical significance. Most of the inscribed Turkish, Iraqi and northern Syrian sites on the WHL and Tentative Lists were large-scale cultural, economic, political and religious centres and capitals for great empires, such as Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat), Nippur, Hattusha: the Hittite Capital, Archaeological Site of Troy, Archaeological Site of



Kültepe-Kanesh, Ebla (Tell Mardikh), Mari (Tell Hariri), Ugrarit (Tell Shamra), etc. Moreover, most of these sites flourished after Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan had been abandoned and no longer an urban centre for the Rift Jordan Valley after the Middle Bronze Age.

Thus, the same conclusions indicated in the Nomination Dossier (section 3.2, p. 112) have been drawn up. The additional elaboration of the comparative analysis concluded that Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is one of the best representative archaeological site in the Near East and Anatolia, especially during the Neolithic period, which is a period that is not well represented in the World Heritage List. Its history and continuity of human cultures and habitations for over 10 millennia, make it an indispensable site for understanding the development of human civilization. The property was a major urban site in the Levant during the PPNA when it was fortified with stone walls, a massive tower and a ditch. It predates by approximately 1000 years other ancient urban centres in the region and worldwide, such as Çatalhöyük (a PPNB urban centre), Göbekli Tepe (a periodic gathering place for rituals and feasts built during the 10th and 9th millennia BC) and Choirokoitia (a Pre-Pottery permanent settlement (7000 BC) with circular houses). Ancient Jericho is even more culturally distant from the north-western European properties that are inscribed on the WHL, which were founded around 3000 BC long after Ancient Jericho's Neolithic era had ended.

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is the most historically inclusive archaeological site of the Neolithic period in the Near East and Anatolia because it documents humanity's transition from hunter-gatherers to "city-dwellers" who thrived by domesticating plants and animals and by innovating new socio-political and economic structures to create art, tools, and the technology to build architectural marvels in the ancient world known as the "Neolithic Agricultural Revolution." The ninth millennium BC PPNA fortification system at Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is unmatched by contemporaneous sites in its geo-cultural region. Ancient Jericho provides unique and unequivocal evidence as the first fully sedentary community with stable food production and with unprecedented breakthroughs in architecture, engineering, building techniques, building materials, masonry, and socio-economic patterns and political leadership. It provides documented evidence of the evolution of building types, floor plans, construction materials, and technology over 4,000 years. The property is also distinguished from other Neolithic contemporaneous sites

by ritual practices. Its funerary-plastered skulls are among the oldest and most numerous discovered in the cultural region, which provide evidence of three contiguous developmental stages of ancestor worship over more than two millennia. Post-mortem skull removal was a longstanding cultic activity that evolved over time from plain (unplastered) skulls to plastered skulls during the PPNA and PPNB and finally to plaster statues during the PNB.

Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan is also one of the best examples for the construction techniques of the Middle Bronze Age archaeological sites in the southern Near East. The advanced buildings and construction techniques of its three Middle Bronze Age ramparts set it apart from all other sites in the Levant. It presents some of the best examples in the Near East of building techniques for the Middle Bronze Age II-III earthen ramparts. No other property on the WHL and/ or on the Tentative Lists so clearly illustrates these techniques similar to Ancient Jericho.

For all these reasons, Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is unique among all other archaeological sites in the Near East and Anatolia. Without the excavations, preservation, and documentation of the site, the history books of human development would be missing crucial chapters. Inscription of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan on the WHL is crucial for humanity to know itself.

Conservation and management of the property

Conservation and Management Plan

The ICOMOS Panel would like to seek clarity on the schedule for the preparation of the Plan. At what stage is the Plan development now, what is the envisaged timeframe for the related action plan and when would its implementation possibly begin?

The project “Conservation and management of Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan” is a three-year project, funded by the Italian Government. It is started in December 2022 and implemented jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), the UNESCO Ramallah Office and Rome La Sapienza University. Each partner utilizes its expertise to design and implement the project interventions under the lead of MoTA.

The project aims at conserving the archaeological site of Ancient Jericho /Tell es-Sultan and its environs, ensuring the effective conservation and management of the cultural resources within the area and promoting sustainable tourism development that benefits the site and the local community.

Intervention in a site such as Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan is not possible without a clear roadmap drawn carefully to avoid improper actions that might jeopardize the site’s value. **A Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)** is being prepared preceding large-scale interventions on the site. The CMP is the framework that provides a holistic approach to preserve the site for future generations through an integrated, participatory and multidisciplinary manner. It consists of four phases: a) preparation and data gathering; b) assessment, which includes identification of the site’s significance, stakeholders, governance, and state of conservation; c) setting up conservation and management vision, objectives, strategies, and action plan; d) implementation of the CMP and its action plan, such as conservation interventions, site circulation and facilities, presentation and interpretation, awareness-raising, education and capacity-building, promotion, etc.

Although the main critical needs of the site have been identified by this project, it is worth noting that large-scale interventions, such as restoration, can be approved for implementation only following the finalization and approval of the CMP by MoTA.

The CMP will be the reference document for any intervention proposed and will provide the justification needed to be carried out. Furthermore, the CMP will assess the site's values including the potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and its attributes. It will provide guidance on how these values can be effectively conserved, managed, interpreted and presented. The CMP will guide the conservation and management of the site during the coming 5 years and will be updated accordingly. MoTA and La Sapienza University of Rome started the preparation phase of the CMP last December 2022. An expression of interest for the CMP preparation was announced and two local NGOs have been already chosen for bidding. The bidding and contracting procedures are expected to be accomplished during the first half of March 2023. The awarded contractor will work under the supervision of the MoTA's World Heritage Directorate in close cooperation with the project partners. For example, the expertise of La Sapienza University of Rome is instrumental, especially in the data collection, description of the property, identification of values, attributes, and interpretation materials.

The timeframe allocated for the preparation of the CMP is 12 months, as detailed in *Annex 1&2*. Within this timeframe and along with the planned activities of the CMP, the first year of the project will include the implementation of several critical preventive conservation interventions as the following:

1) International symposium for conservation and management

An international symposium for conservation and management strategies on Tell es-Sultan: approaches and opportunities for archaeology, presentation and interpretation, was organized from 14-15th February 2023. National and International conservators, interpretation and presentation experts participated. Over the course of the two-day symposium, the participants discussed and explored the status of the site, with a due focus on the conservation techniques of ancient mud brick architecture. They also examined ways forward for its effective conservation, management, and presentation based on current best international practices. Implemented partners of the project will utilize recommendations and outcomes of the symposium for improving the quality of the CMP preparation and implementation of the project activities.

2) A three-day training on mud bricks and conservation techniques

It was organized from 16-19 February 2023. The International experts, Sebastien Moriset, CRAterre, and Gaia Ripepi, La Sapienza University of Rome, trained national professional and technician trainees on

the appropriate methods and techniques used to conserve fragile mud brick architectural features of Tell es-Sultan. The Trainees received theoretical and practical sessions on the best conservation practices of mud-bricks, especially conservation of the earthen architecture is among the capacity-building priorities of MoTA to ensure the site's effective conservation and management.

- 3) **Emergency Conservation and consolidation of archaeological remains.**
This activity is part of the first year activities of the project and is being implemented to maintain, consolidate and control the deterioration of the site as well as enhance its state of conservation. The main aim of this intervention is to maintain and consolidate the excavated vulnerable trenches and remains by applying the minimum preventive intervention methods, especially Kenyon's Trench I, and providing safe access to visitors.

The ICOMOS Panel is also interested in understanding in what way would the Conservation and Management Plan address the identified factors negatively affecting the nominated property, and in particular the rainwater. Is a risk management plan currently in place or will it be part of the new Conservation and Management Plan? Have the State Party considered preparing a hydrological survey and hydrological management plan for the evacuation of rainwater from the site?

In addition to the primary identification of the negative factors affecting the property during the preparation of the Nomination Dossier, a more thoughtful review and assessment, taking into account both natural and human factors, will be an essential part of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property. All required studies, surveys, and analyses, such as state of conservation assessment, tourism dynamic study, and, if needed, a hydrological survey will be part of the assessment and planning process, and subsequently appropriate strategies and a wide set of activities and action will be drawn and implemented.

Moreover, a risk management strategy will be one of the outputs of the CMP (*see Annex 1, the CMP outline*), based on the assessment of the current conditions of the property. The risk strategy shall provide practical direction and actions to control and mitigate current and potential future risks based on their characteristics and impacts on the property.

For evacuation of rainwater from the site, it is essential to know that the area receives about 140 millimetres of rainfall a year, most of which falls in a few violent downpours. Wadi en-Nu'eima to the north and Wadi Qelt to the south of Jericho are the primary valleys through which the runoff collects and flows into the Jordan River. The average annual precipitation is almost low. However, rain and its runoff are significant causes of erosion on the property. Because the land is so dry it is virtually non-absorbent which allows torrents of runoff to cut gullies into the soil of the site, its excavated trenches, mud brick structures, and limestone. To control this factor, MoTA's staff has carefully maintained the site and made runoff drainage canals around the excavated areas to proper outlets.

New Developments

The ICOMOS Panel would like to seek clarity on whether an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment has been concluded for this development, as this type of assessment is required for new structures and major changes in the areas surrounding the nominated property, in line with the Tangible Cultural Heritage Law that applies to heritage in the country.

As noted in the ND, the spring of 'Ain es-Sultan is currently separated from the property by a public paved road. Jericho Municipality endorsed building another alternative road at the edge of the buffer zone of the nominated property and converting the existing one into a pedestrian pathway. The alternative road, adjacent to the antiquities zone, has been delineated in the previous Jericho urban plans since the 1950s, and in the 2019 Approved Jericho Spatial Urban Plan (*See Nomination File, Map1.5, page 23*). Part of this road (approximately 140m long) was established in the 2000s; however, the newly established section in 2022 is just a few meters approximately 80m long, starting from the main 'Ain es-Sultan road, in front of the refugee camp, to the existing road.

Before starting the construction work on the alternative road in August 2022, the MoTA's protection department conducted an archaeological survey to be sure whether or not it contains archaeological remains. According to its report (*see annex3*), no archaeological remains were found on the topsoil, nor inside the foundation of the sewage network. It is worth mentioning that after the archaeological survey had been done, the protection department supervised the installation of the sewage network, which included digging foundation, and double-checking if there are archaeological remains beneath the topsoil. Again, the report



of the protection department ensures that no archaeological remains were existed. Accordingly and as per the 2018 Tangible Cultural Heritage Law, this level of infrastructure does not need an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment.

Community engagement

The ICOMOS Panel would be interested in receiving from the State Party information as regards the engagement of local communities (including the refugees from the Ain es-Sultan Refugee Camp) in the process of development of the nominated property but also in the management of the property, as well as the communication strategies that can be used to build good relationships with all stakeholders.

The local population is seen as a viable source of labour and expertise for ongoing conservation, excavations, and management of Tell es-Sultan in addition to being open to participating in the development of local crafts and tourism in the site and its surrounding areas. Whether they are individuals who own the surrounding property or populations that live nearby and are immediately affected by the designation of the Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan's buffer zone and the necessary restrictions placed on it, including the Palestinian society.

All interested parties, including property owners, residents of the refugee camp and the city, concerned academic organizations, governmental organizations, such as the Municipality of Jericho, and the business community, have been engaged during the preparation of the Nomination Dossier and will be involved in the preparation of the CMP and its implementation. MoTA is fully aware of the importance of engaging the local community and other concerned stakeholders in the planning and implementation process of the CMP. Engagement of the local community is rational to mobilize their readiness to participate in the preparation of the CMP, and support group initiatives for the rehabilitation and improvement of the property and its environs taking into account the enhancement of the socio-economic context of the entire Jericho city and its refugee camps.

Inhabitants of the refugee camp, the camp's committee were fully engaged in the preparation process of the ND and in different decisions related to the management of Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan, such as rerouting the road of 'Ain es-Sultan that passes through the nominated property. The committee and most of the inhabitants of the refugee camp were fully aware of the consequences of such alterations.



The upcoming comprehensive development project for the nominated property will fully involve the entire Jericho community, including those living in the camp. In addition to workshops and discussions, this project will incorporate community involvement in the CMP. Of course, the numerous actions within this plan will take into account the community's well-being and the sustainability of the local economic growth through the incentives for future investments around the property and in the entire city after the inscription.

During the preparation of the CMP focus groups -including the local community and concerned stakeholders will be established. A thoughtful engagement strategy will be drawn by the CMP to ensure the long-term engagement of the local community and its participation in conserving and sustainably developing Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan. As mentioned previously, this community will be a goldmine of labour and expertise for the various interventions planned for the property, ensuring their greatest benefit and involvement. Recently, for example, local professionals and technicians were involved in a training course regarding the conservation of earthen architecture of Ancient Jericho/ Tell es-Sultan to improve their capacity and assist them to participate in conserving the site.

Future research

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased to know what plans the State Party have in relation to future archaeological investigations and studies of the site that would not affect negatively the archaeological vestiges. Is a research strategy in place or being developed?

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is an outstanding testament to the cultural traditions of ancient civilizations over ten thousand years and provides an exceptional opportunity for continuing archaeological studies and research. It is a fundamental milestone in the history of humanity as one of the first settled societies in the world that was based on the domestication of plants and animals, and among main oldest centres for the Neolithic Revolution. Archaeological research over 150 years at the site has documented almost continuous occupation over ten millennia consisting of 29 successive phases of ancient civilization, which include fortification systems, irrigation from perennial springs, houses, public architecture, arts, and skull rituals attributed to Neolithic ancestor worship.



Archaeologists and researchers from all around the world wish to discover, excavate, and learn from the property. However, the site is very vulnerable due to the nature of the previous archaeological excavations. For example, Kenyon's 1950s excavation technique was based on digging deep vertical trenches to reach bedrock. Currently, the trenches are deteriorated and in bad need of comprehensive conservation. Due to this critical state of conservation, MoTA decided to postpone archaeological excavations temporarily to be able to conserve what had been excavated previously. Any future archaeological research will be based on the envisaged research strategy of the CMP for the property that is being prepared.



Annex One: Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) Outline

MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE POTENTIAL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

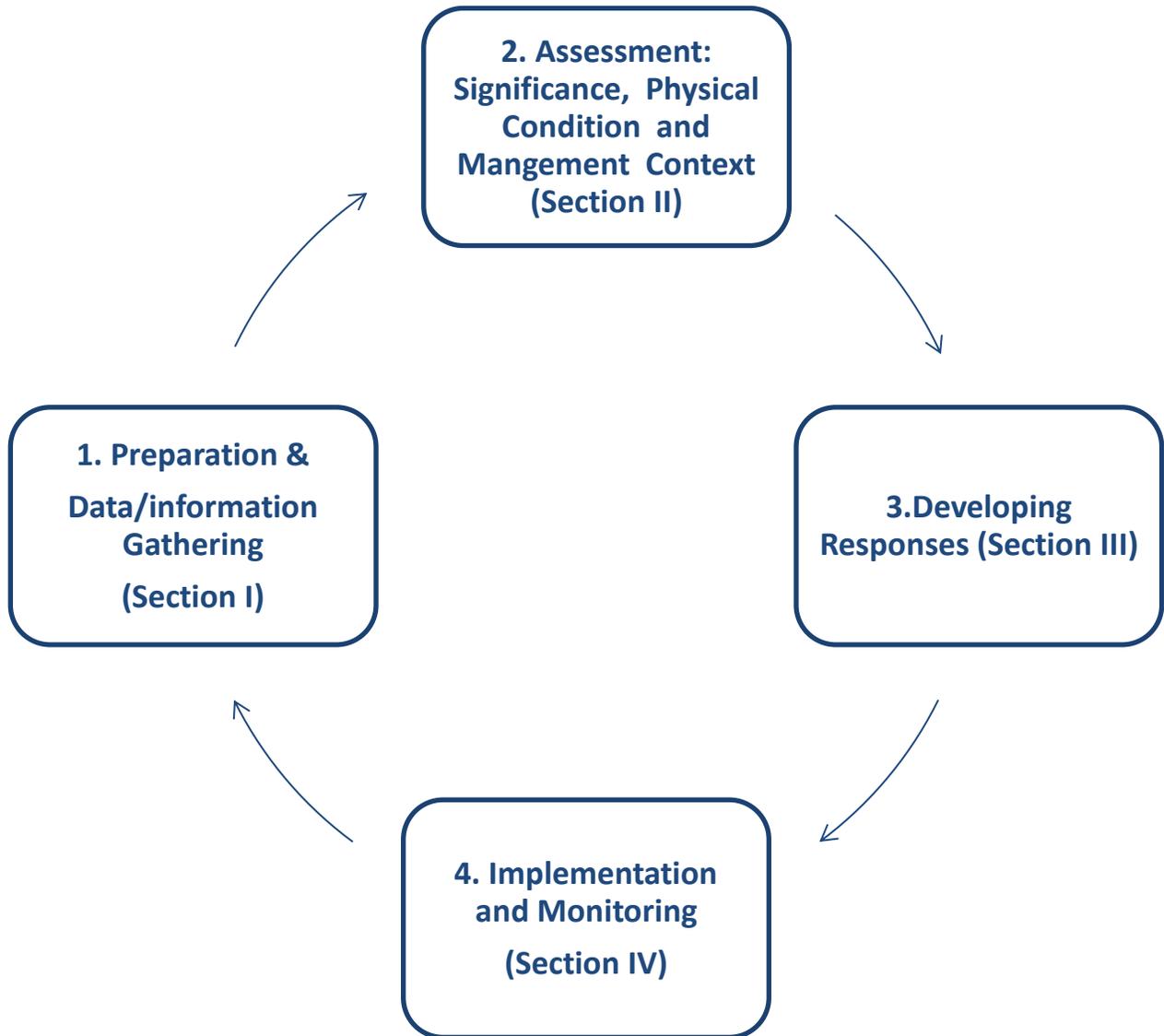


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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Colour	Institution	Note
Without shading	MoTA	
	Sapienza	
	MoTA & Sapienza	Agreed and discussed after the Symposium

Annex Two (CMP's Timeframe)

The CMP's timeframe(work plan)

Management and Conservation Plan for the Potential World Heritage Property "Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan "

No	Activities	Dec. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2023	Mar. 2023	April 2023	May 2023	Jun. 2023	Jul. 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023
1	Preparation													
2	Data Gathering and Classification													
3	Identify the preparatory studies & setting Work Plan													
4	Setting Methodology													
5	Establish the technical team ,the CMP steering Committee and technical committee													
6	Workshops with related stakeholders and the local community to identify other values(Values Assessment)													
8	Drafting CMP's Chapter 1													
9	Drafting CMP's Chapter 2													
10	Condition Assessment													
11	Risk Assessment													
12	Current Presentation Assessment													
13	Assessment of Site Tourism Dynamics													
14	Drafting CMP's Chapter 4													

No	Activities	Dec. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2023	Mar. 2023	April 2023	May 2023	Jun. 2023	Jul. 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023
15	Legal studies & urban regulations													
16	Drafting CMP's Chapter 3													
17	Workshops with Local Community													
18	SWOT Analysis with local community													
19	Develop Vision and Management Themes													
20	Draft CMP's objectives, strategies, and action plans.													
21	Setting up the management system and Monitoring indicators													
22	Finalizing and adopting the MCP													
23	Final Report													



Annex Three : MoTA's Protection Department Report



تقرير كشف ومعاينة قطعة ارض رقم (3+28) من الحوض رقم (33009)

تم اليوم الاربعاء 2022/7/20 الكشف على قطعة الأرض رقم (3+28) من الحوض رقم (33009) حيث سيتم العمل على مشروع انشاء الطريق البديل عن مقطع طريق عين السلطان، وربط الصرف الصحي لمخيم تل السلطان بشبكة الصرف الصحي لبلدية اريحا وذلك لوقف تدفق المياه العادمة باتجاه الأراضي الزراعية وما ينتج عن تدفقها من اثار بيئية مضره . فخط الصرف الصحي يسلك مسار بالقرب من الطريق البديل الذي يربط بين الشارع العام لمخيم تل السلطان ومدينة اريحا على عمق 80 سم، وقد تبين بعد الكشف على اعمال انشاء الشارع وخط الصرف الصحي بانه لا توجد اثار سطحية او طبقات اثرية على عمق 80سم وان فتح الشارع لا يؤثر على الاراضي المحيطة به . وان الاعمال الحالية تشمل تسهيل وكشط الطبقة العلوية من التراب من اجل وضع طبقة من مادة البسكورس وطبقة التبيد علما بان الشارع هو مفتوح في الجزء الأكبر ويصل الى منازل المواطنين المقيمين بالمنطقة والجزء المغلق لا يتجاوز طوله 20 م في الجزء الرابط مع الشارع العام لمخيم عين السلطان . وللتأكد من عدم وجود أي بقايا أثرية فقد تم اجراء فحص اثري للمنطقة من قبل الوزارة وتبين أن الشارع يقع خارج المنطقة المصنفة " منطقة أثرية " لحيط تل السلطان وفق المخطط الهيكلية المصادق عليه لبلدية أريحا مرفق (0) . وتبين أيضا انه لا توجد بقايا أثرية ظاهرة أو سطحية في المنطقة التي تقام عليها الطريق البديل .

