

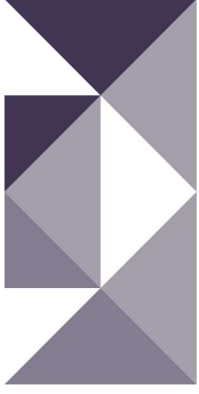


Hagler Bailly Pakistan



DIGBY WELLS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Appendix F: Cultural Heritage Assessment



Hagler Bailly Pakistan

**Environmental and Social Impact
Assessment of
Reko Diq Mining Project**

**Cultural Heritage
Assessment**

Final Report

HBP Ref.: D4CH8RKI

January 21, 2025

Reko Diq Mining Company

Quetta

Executive Summary

Barrick Gold Corporation (hereafter Barrick) through its subsidiary Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), in a Joint Venture partnership with the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Balochistan, is completing a feasibility study for the Reko Diq Mining Project (also referred to as the 'Project') in the western part of Balochistan Province of Pakistan. As part of the feasibility study, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been conducted, including specialist studies. The ESIA will be part of the environmental permitting process and will provide a basis for the integration of environmental and social considerations into the Project design. RDMC appointed Digby Wells Environmental (hereafter Digby Wells) and Hagler Bailly Pakistan Pvt. Ltd (hereafter HBP) to carry out the proposed environmental and social studies and permitting process for the Project.

The Project is a Copper-Gold mining operation with an onsite processing plant to produce a high-quality copper-gold concentrate (the Concentrate) that will be exported for final processing into various products. The current Life-of-Mine (LoM) is 38 years in terms of defined resources (resources that have been identified already) with significant exploration upside.

The construction phase is anticipated to take approximately 40 months, including pre-stripping. The mine will be a truck-and-shovel open pit mining operation with processing facilities that include crushing, grinding, and flotation. The final Concentrate will be railed to Port Qasim for final export by ship.

The mine will be developed in two phases, Phase 1 is expected to have a capacity of 45 Mt per annum (Mtpa) and Phase 2 is expected to have a combined processing capacity of 90 Mtpa. Phase 1 operations are anticipated to in 2028 and Phase 2 operations in 2030.

Baseline Description

All four archaeological sites identified in the Cultural Baseline Survey Report in 2010 were visited, examined, and photographed. Deviations, if any, from the records in the Cultural Baseline Survey Report were noted. One of the four archaeological sites are located within the Project footprint. Additionally, eleven anthropogenic rock features¹ were investigated. Additionally, as the Project will utilize the Rail Transport Route for transportation of the product to Port Qasim, the railway stations along the Rail Transport Route that are potentially of heritage value were also examined and photographed. The heritage value and significance of the railway stations are acknowledged but since they are located outside of the Project footprint they will not be directly impacted. Details that can assist in determining the heritage status of the railway stations were documented and photographed but these features were not further considered in the impact assessment section. The following observations were made based on photographic evidence, site observations and community consultations:

¹ Examples of such rock features includes stone cairns, hearths, and shelters.

- ⑥ Archeological Sites (RD-001 to RD-004): All four archaeological sites are associated with the upper Paleolithic period. The sites reveal temporary stone tool workshops used by ancient nomadic groups. These sites, located near dry lakebeds in the Tozghi and Cheel Nawar areas, feature scattered lithic artifacts, including scrapers, cores, hand axes, and chert cobbles. The artifacts are found in deflated contexts on flat, windswept plains with no visible structural remains, indicating short-term use by nomads. The materials suggest that these sites were likely seasonal encampments, with no potential for buried cultural materials.
- ⑥ Anthropogenic Rock Features (F-001 to F-011): Eight of the eleven anthropogenic rock features are single cairns, or rock monuments, which were found in a collapsed state. All occupy an area 1 meter in diameter or smaller. During previous surveys, local informants informed the survey teams that F-003 and F-004 may have been constructed to aid in loading camels. However, this information was treated as speculation, and no age estimates were provided.
- ⑥ Railway Stations: All surveyed Railway Stations retain distinct features of British colonial-era construction, showcasing architectural elements from that period. However, these stations are now in a state of disrepair due to theft and insufficient funding for maintenance, as the sparsely used railway network has been largely overlooked. Local community members recall that these stations were once bustling hubs of business and commerce, and they believe that restoring the stations and upgrading the railway network could significantly enhance local livelihoods.

Section 5 presents the baseline results in additional detail.

Impact Assessment

The following impacts were considered significant in accordance with the methodology for assessing the potential significance of impacts presented in **Section 4.4**:

- ⑥ Improper Management of Chance Finds
- ⑥ Impacts on Archaeological Sites

The Project will continue to implement its **Chance Finds Procedure** (Annex A) to address potential chance finds, and will proceed with clearance of archaeological sites and rock features in accordance with an action plan which considers the regulatory requirements in the country along with international best practices. All of the potential impacts will be “Minor” or below given the implementation of mitigation measures identified and presented in **Section 7**. **Section 8** provides a monitoring plan the Project will follow to ensure that all mitigation measures are in place and that all potential Project impacts can be proactively addressed and mitigated.

Recommendations

The Project’s impacts on archaeological sites are not significant given that the mitigations identified are implemented and subsequent monitoring is carried out. The following is recommended:

- ⑥ The Project shall continue to implement the RDMC Ground Disturbance Approval procedure
- ⑥ The Project will continue to implement its Chance Finds Procedure to account for the unlikely event that chance finds occur during excavation and clearing activities

The railway stations along the rail transport route have distinct features tied to the region's colonial history and have been assessed to be of tangible cultural heritage significance. The Project will advise the relevant government institutions on the preservation and upkeep of these stations.

Acronyms

DWE	Digby Wells Environmental
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
HBP	Hagler Bailly Pakistan
IFC	International Finance Corporation
PS	Performance Standard
RDMC	Reko Diq Mining Company

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1. Introduction

Barrick Gold Corporation (hereafter Barrick) through its subsidiary Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), in a Joint Venture partnership with the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Balochistan, is completing a feasibility study for the Reko Diq Mining Project (also referred to as the 'Project') in the western part of Balochistan province of Pakistan. As part of the feasibility study, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been conducted, including specialist studies. The ESIA will be part of the environmental permitting process and will provide a basis for the integration of environmental and social considerations into the Project design. RDMC appointed Digby Wells Environmental (hereafter Digby Wells) and Hagler Bailly Pakistan Pvt. Ltd (hereafter HBP) to carry out the proposed environmental and social studies and permitting process for the Project.

The Cultural Baseline Survey Report² prepared as a part of the 2010 ESIA contains adequate data on the archaeological heritage of the Project area and expanded on the findings of the previous archaeological study conducted for the Tanjeel Project in 2005.³ The 2010 Cultural Baseline Survey Report focused exclusively on archaeological heritage (including all periods from the Stone Age to the British Colonial period). The report on Transportation Route Archaeology prepared as a part of the 2010 ESIA contains data on the archaeological heritage along the concentrate pipeline route, the Road Transport Route to Gwadar, and the Rail Transport Route connecting to Quetta.⁴ A Cultural Baseline and Study of Relationship Dynamics prepared as a part the 2010 ESIA⁵ provides an overview of the traditional and tribal culture of Balochistan and the Project setting.

The Cultural Baseline Survey Report also provides valuable insights into the intangible cultural heritage of the Project area, shedding light on the traditional practices, customs, oral histories, and community-based knowledge that define the cultural identity of the local populations. This includes details about rituals, festivals, art forms, languages, and craftsmanship that have been passed down through generations, as well as the social structures and values that shape the way of life in the region. The services of Dr. Syed Shakir Ali Shah (Archaeologist) and Mr. Roshan Khan Baloch (Guide/Assistant) were acquired by Hagler Bailly Pakistan to revisit the previously reported archaeological sites, and to assess new areas that need investigation in view of changes to the Project design.

² Cultural Resource Baseline Survey: Tethyan Copper Company – Reko Diq Mine Site Chagai District of Balochistan Province, Pakistan, prepared for Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan Ltd. By Centennial Archaeology, Inc., 2010

³ Field investigation conducted by archaeologists for Coffey Geosciences Pty Ltd. (Coffey) for an ESIA completed in 2005 as part of the Chagai Hills Exploration Joint Venture Tanjeel Project (Coffey Geosciences 2005

⁴ Transportation Route Archaeology, Expedient Archaeological Reconnaissance of Proposed Material Transportation Routes Associated with the Reko Diq Project undertaken by archaeologists from the Exploration and Excavation Branch of the Department of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Pakistan, for Hagler Bailly Pakistan, 2009

⁵ Cultural Baseline and Study of Relationship Dynamics, prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan for Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan Ltd., 2009

The archaeologist conducting the 2024 Cultural Baseline Survey were part of the team led by experts from the Centennial Archaeological, Inc. that prepared the 2010 Cultural Baseline Survey Report.

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this Specialist Report are to:

- ⑥ Update the 2010 heritage and archaeological baseline.
- ⑥ Define the reference framework⁶ and develop an integrated heritage assessment compliant with national and international requirements.
- ⑥ Provide mitigation measures along with monitoring and reporting requirements for various phases of the Project to ensure that assets of tangible and intangible heritage value can be preserved.

⁶ A reference framework is a structured set of guidelines, principles, and criteria for organizing, interpreting, and analysing information within a specific field.

2. Project Description

The Project is a Copper-Gold mining operation with an onsite processing plant to produce a high-quality copper-gold concentrate (the Concentrate) that will be exported for final processing into various products. The current Life-of-Mine (LoM) is 38 years in terms of defined resources (resources that have been identified already) with significant exploration upside.

The construction phase is anticipated to take approximately 40 months, including pre-stripping. The mine will be a truck-and-shovel open pit mining operation with processing facilities that include crushing, grinding, and flotation. The final Concentrate will be railed to Port Qasim for final export by ship.

The mine will be developed in two phases, Phase 1 is expected to have a capacity of 45 Mt per annum (Mtpa) and Phase 2 is expected to have a combined processing capacity of 90 Mtpa. Phase 1 operations are anticipated to commence in 2028 and Phase 2 operations in 2030.

2.1 Reko Diq Mine Site and Associated Facilities

Exhibit 2.1 provides an overview of the RDMS and the major proposed infrastructure.

The core infrastructure that will be established at the RDMS includes:

- ⑥ Two main pits, Western Porphyry and Tajeel (**Exhibit 2.1**). The mining method of these pits will be a 24-hour open-pit shovel and truck operation;
- ⑥ Two designated Waste Rock Dumps (WRD) for the waste rock from the Western Porphyries pit. The Tajeel Pit will have a separate WRD in its proximity.
- ⑥ Tailings storage facility (TSF).
- ⑥ A processing plant.

2.1.1 Supporting Infrastructure

The proposed supporting infrastructure at the RDMS includes:

- ⑥ Several sources for power supply will be utilised for the Project. The Project's estimated peak power requirements will be 183 megawatts (MW) in Phase 1 and 348 MW in Phase 2:
 - ⌘ Diesel generators during the early works and construction phases until the establishment of the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) power station;
 - ⌘ A Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system with an installed capacity of 183 MW in Phase 1 and 384 MW in Phase 2;
 - ⌘ It is anticipated that the Project's energy requirements will be met through a grid connection from Year 15 (operational phase).
- ⑥ Diesel, HFO and other sources of fuel will be railed to the site from Port Qasim and stored in bunded contained atmospheric tanks at the designated storage areas.

- ⊗ Accommodation Facility to provide on-site accommodation for all employees and contractors;
- ⊗ Security infrastructure;
- ⊗ Waste management facilities:

2.1.2 Water Supply and Management

Water for the Construction Phase, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project will be sourced from a sedimentary groundwater system located approximately 70 km to the northwest of the mining area referred to as the Northern Groundwater System (**Exhibit 2.1**). The system represents a small and isolated part of a much larger basin and there are no communities or community water sources located within the proposed borefield and its area of influence.

Water in the system is saline and challenging to access, and as such is not suitable for human consumption or most agricultural or industrial uses without significant treatment and abstraction infrastructure. There are currently no planned developments or users of the target groundwater system, and the scope of the Project would not preclude future use of the broader basin by others. Independent international best practice environmental and social impact assessment and hydrogeological studies, using physical surveying and remote sensing techniques, have demonstrated that there are no surface expressions of the groundwater system and no known dependent biodiversity.

This groundwater system is considered capable of enabling development and sustaining operation of the Project, which is expected to add significantly to the socio-economic advancement within the region and country through employment, infrastructure, and services.

2.2 Transport and Marine Port

The Project will use the existing road and rail networks to transport materials during construction and operational phases and utilise the air transportation option for personnel. The main Project transport routes (Road Transport Route and Rail Transport Route) are shown in **Exhibit 2.2**.

2.2.1 Transport of Concentrate to Port Qasim

The Concentrate will be transported from the RDMS processing plant to Port Qasim via an existing railway line, passing through the Balochistan and Sindh provinces. The existing rail route is approximately 1,350 km in length as outlined in **Exhibit 2.3**.

The Project will make use of the existing PIBT Terminal where all facilities are owned and operated by PIBT. An area will be leased to RDMC for the construction of a Concentrate storage shed.

An extract of the onshore and offshore layout is shown in **Exhibit 2.4**.

Exhibit 2.1: Proposed Reko Diq Mine Site Layout

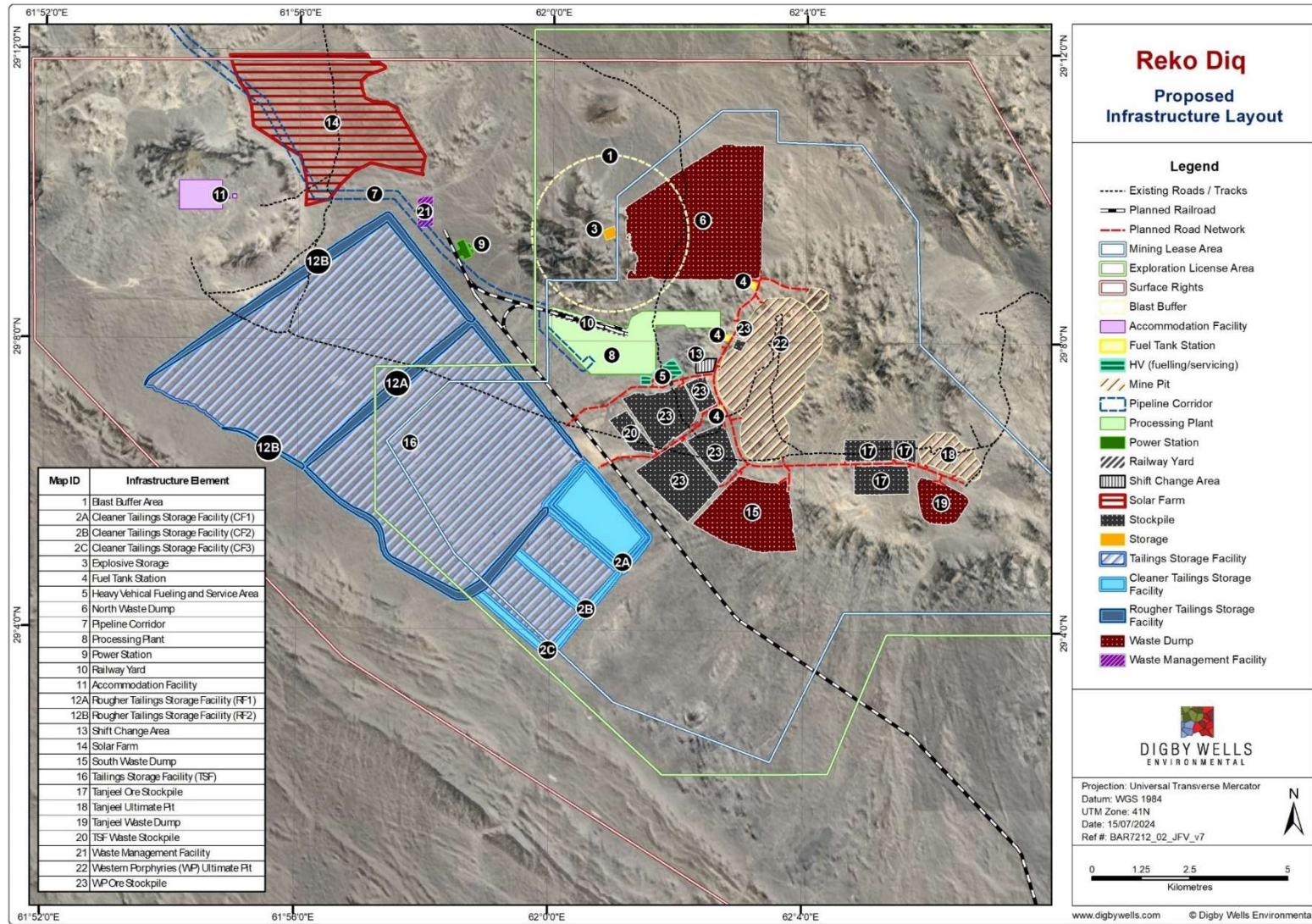


Exhibit 2.2: Reko Diq Spatial Extent and Transport Routes (Rail Transport Route and Road Transport Route)

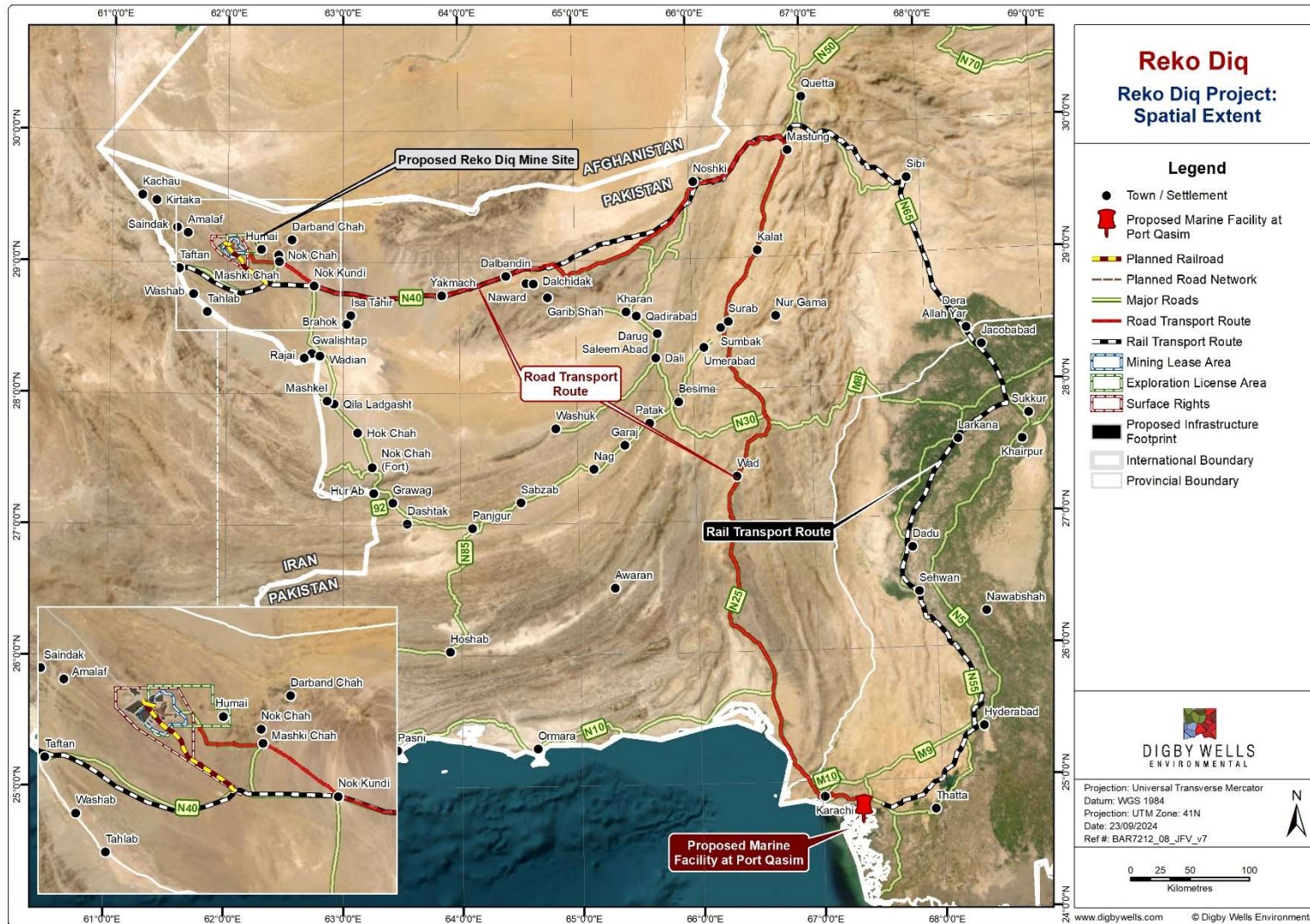


Exhibit 2.3: Proposed Rail Yard Layout at Port Qasim

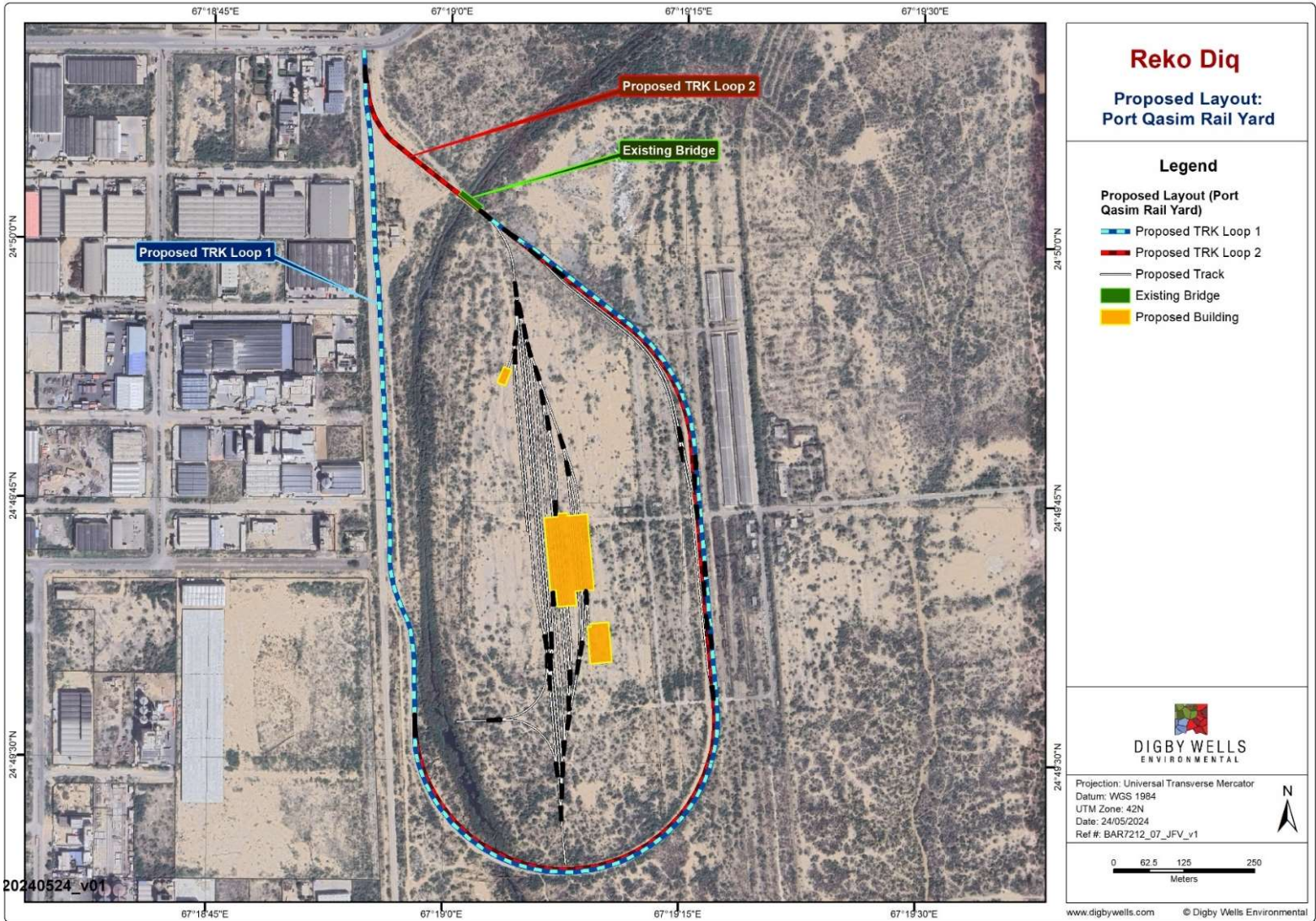
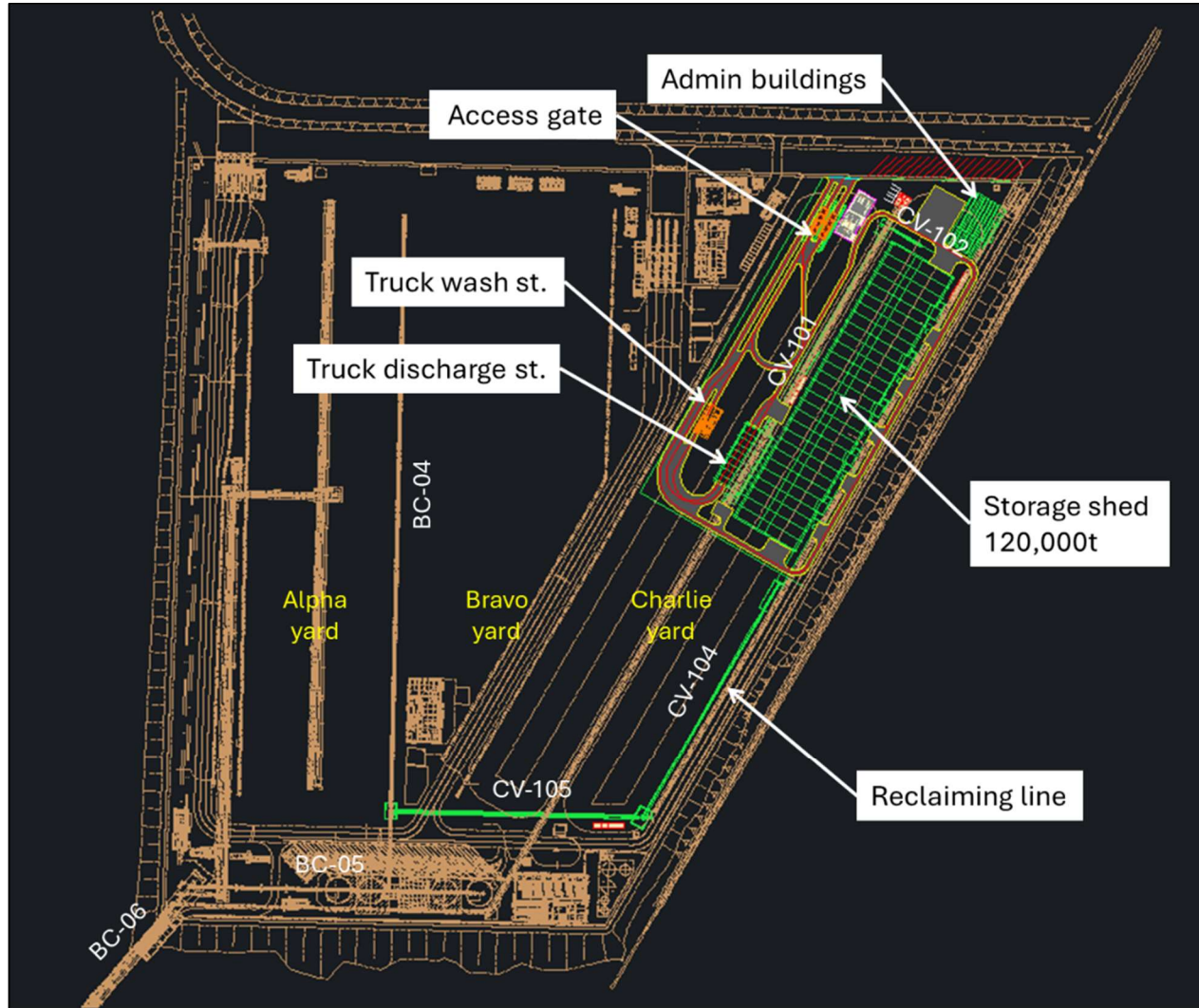


Exhibit 2.4: Layout of Concentrate Facilities at PIBT at Port Qasim



3. Legislative and Regulations Framework

An overview of the applicable legislation, international guidelines and agreements are presented below.

<i>Applicable Legislation, Policy or Framework</i>	<i>Description and Relevance</i>
Pakistan Legislations	
Antiquities Act 1975	<p>The Act comprehensively sets forth detailed provisions concerning the identification, discovery, and reporting procedures pertaining to antiquities. Furthermore, the Act delineates specific guidelines and protocols to be adhered to by individuals or entities involved in the discovery process, ensuring the proper documentation and reporting of findings.</p> <p>In the event of chance finds, the Project will be obligated to manage and report them in compliance with the guidelines outlined in this Act.</p>
International Agreements and Guidelines	
UN Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural Heritage	<p>Parties to this agreement commit to prepare inventories of the significant cultural properties and to promote practices to ensure their conservation.</p> <p>The Project, while not a party to this convention, will assist the Government of Balochistan in upholding and preserving the cultural heritage of the province.</p>
IFC Performance Standard 8	<p>This Performance Standard aims to guide companies in protecting cultural heritage from adverse impacts of project activities and supporting its preservation.</p> <p>The Project will align its practices for cultural heritage preservation and chance finds management with the recommendations of this Standard.</p>

4. Methodology

This section describes the methodology followed to establish the cultural heritage baseline and impact assessment.

4.1 Cultural Heritage Methodology

This section describes the methodology followed to establish the cultural heritage baseline for the Project.

4.1.1 Tangible Cultural Heritage

Tangible cultural heritage as identified in previous surveys was revisited and reevaluated. In addition, a review of secondary information and stakeholder consultations were also undertaken to identify aspects of tangible cultural heritage.

Overview of Survey Locations

Exhibit 4.1 show the locations of archaeological and heritage sites surveyed and **Exhibit 4.2** provides the detailed Mine Site layout with overlaid archaeological sites. These locations are described below.

- ☞ Mine Site and Northern Groundwater System: All four archaeological sites identified in the Cultural Baseline Survey Report in 2010 were visited, examined, and photographed. Deviations, if any, from the records in the Cultural Baseline Survey Report were noted. Additionally, eleven anthropogenic rock features⁷ were investigated. The purpose and age of these features are unknown.
- ☞ Rail Transport Route: As the Project will now utilize the Rail Transport Route for transportation of the product to Port Qasim, the railway stations along the Rail Transport Route that are potentially of heritage value were examined and photographed. The heritage value and significance of the railway stations are acknowledged but since they are located outside of the Project footprint they will not be directly impacted. Details that can assist in determining the heritage status of the railway stations were documented and photographed but these features were not further considered in the impact assessment section.

Exhibit 4.3 provides a list of the locations included in the 2024 Cultural Baseline Survey.

⁷ Examples of such rock features includes stone cairns, hearths, and shelters.

Exhibit 4.1: Map of the Surveyed Archaeological and Heritage Sites

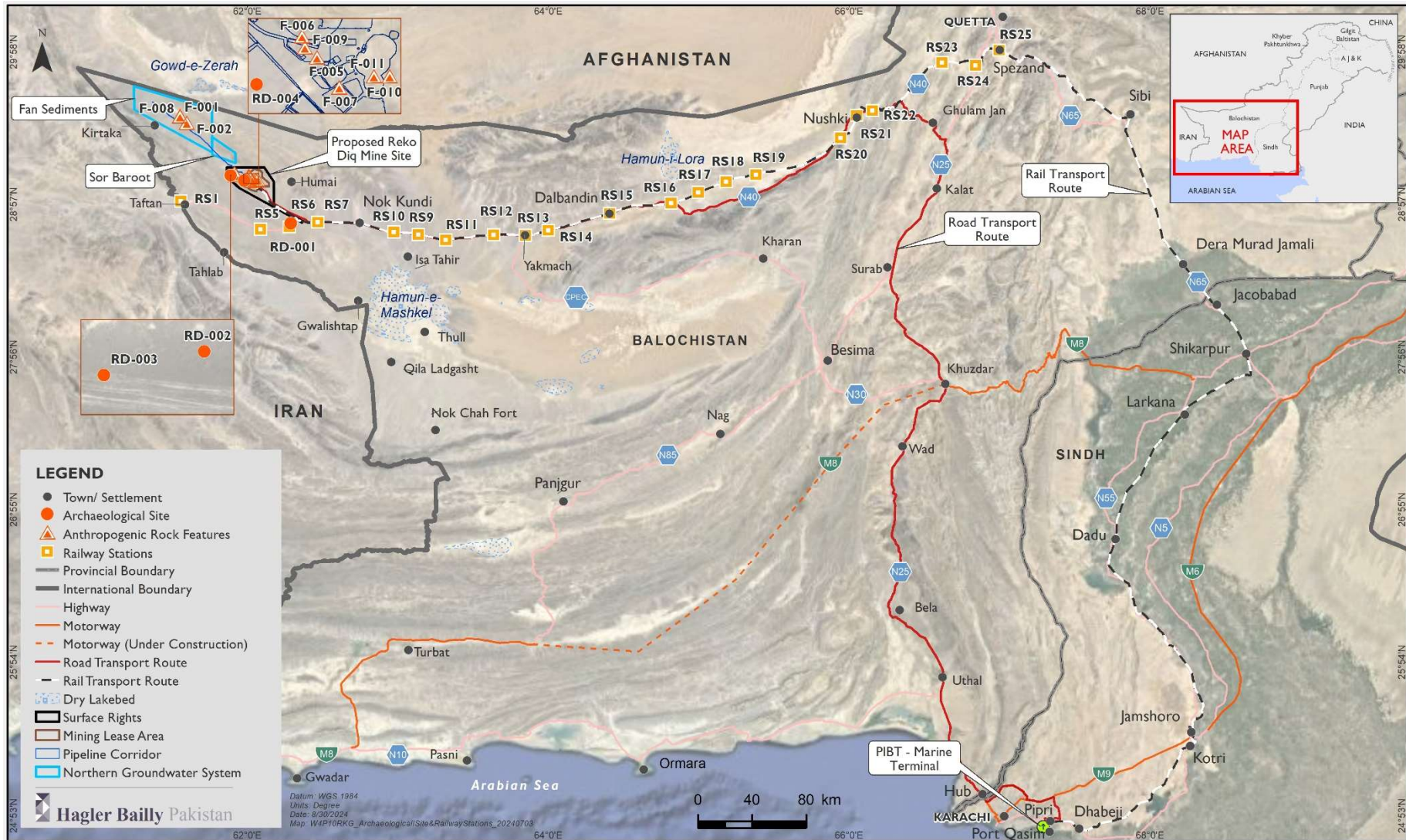


Exhibit 4.2: Detailed Mine Site Layout with Overlay of Archaeological Sites

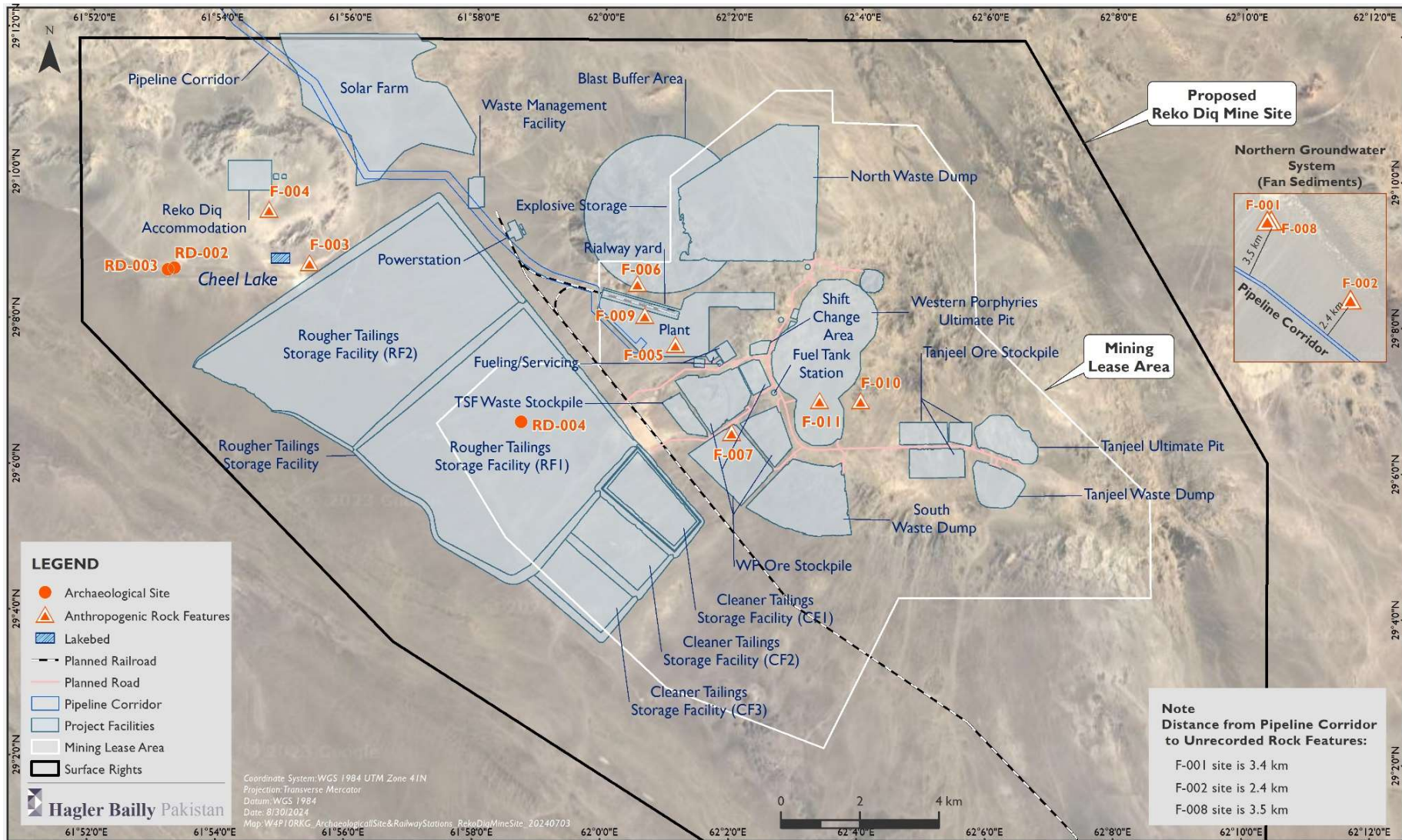


Exhibit 4.3: Table of Surveyed Locations (2024)

Map-ID	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Location in Project Footprint
Archaeological Site along Reko Diq Mine site				
RD-001	Near Mine Site access road	28° 49' 30.868"	62° 17' 17.578"	Outside
RD-002	Near Accommodation Building	29° 08' 42.043"	61° 53' 17.311"	Outside
RD-003	Near Accommodation Facility	29° 08' 40.596"	61° 53' 11.220"	Outside
RD-004	Within Project's Rougher Tailings Storage Facility (RF1)	29° 06' 37.832"	61° 58' 43.594"	Inside
Anthropogenic Rock Features				
F-001	Northern Groundwater System	29° 32' 18.154"	61° 33' 06.228"	Outside
F-002	Northern Groundwater System	29° 29' 39.372"	61° 35' 44.261"	Outside
F-003	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 08' 47.303"	61° 55' 24.013"	Outside
F-004	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 09' 31.018"	61° 54' 45.727"	Outside
F-005	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 07' 42.391"	62° 01' 07.342"	Inside
F-006	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 08' 32.554"	62° 00' 31.450"	Inside
F-007	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 06' 30.456"	62° 02' 00.708"	Inside
F-008	Northern Groundwater System	29° 32' 15.691"	61° 33' 06.782"	Outside
F-009	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 08' 6.191"	62° 00' 38.401"	Inside
F-010	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 06' 57.528"	62° 04' 01.150"	Outside
F-011	Reko Diq Mine Site	29° 06' 57.359"	62° 03' 22.856"	Inside
Railway Stations				
RS1	Koh-e-Taftan railway station	28° 58' 21.360"	61° 33' 25.200"	Outside
RS2	Old Taftan railway station	28° 57' 12.240"	61° 35' 18.096"	Outside
RS3	Rag-i-Malik railway station	28° 56' 57.840"	61° 43' 52.212"	Outside

<i>Map-ID</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Location in Project Footprint</i>
RS4	Ware Chah railway station	28° 51' 56.088"	61° 54' 30.276"	Outside
RS5	Koh-i-Daleel railway station	28° 47' 12.516"	62° 05' 17.772"	Outside
RS6	Tozghi railway station	28° 48' 6.516"	62° 16' 41.376"	Outside
RS7	Alam Raik railway station	28° 49' 55.650"	62° 28' 03.346"	Outside
RS8	Kundi railway station	28° 49' 44.076"	62° 39' 37.584"	Outside
RS9	Isa Tahir railway station	28° 46' 02.928"	62° 58' 25.248"	Outside
RS10	Azad railway station	28° 45' 00.947"	63° 08' 14.226"	Outside
RS11	Gatt railway station	28° 42' 50.818"	63° 19' 02.820"	Outside
RS12	Nuli railway station	28° 44' 57.286"	63° 38' 15.929"	Outside
RS13	Yakmach railway station	28° 44' 39.646"	63° 50' 53.099"	Outside
RS14	Ismaili railway station	28° 46' 42.096"	63° 59' 59.244"	Outside
RS15	Dalbandin railway station	28° 53' 25.735"	64° 24' 32.958"	Outside
RS16	Nok Chah railway station	28° 57' 35.636"	64° 49' 00.689"	Outside
RS17	Yadgar railway station	29° 01' 54.617"	64° 59' 46.511"	Outside
RS18	Padag Road railway station	29° 06' 10.800"	65° 10' 58.080"	Outside
RS19	Bilao railway station	29° 08' 56.760"	65° 22' 54.836"	Outside
RS20	Ahmedwal railway station	29° 23' 43.991"	65° 56' 33.180"	Outside
RS21	Nushki railway station	29° 32' 39.257"	66° 03' 02.315"	Outside
RS22	Kishingi railway station	29° 34' 38.687"	66° 09' 20.592"	Outside
RS23	Sheikh Wasil railway station	29° 53' 45.956"	66° 37' 03.554"	Outside
RS24	Wali Khan (Mastung) Road railway station	29° 52' 42.121"	66° 50' 28.979"	Outside
RS25	Spezand Junction railway station	29° 58' 47.521"	66° 59' 56.494"	Outside

Overview of Field Activities Undertaken

An initial review of the existing baseline information via desktop reviews and field-based data verification was undertaken. Photographic evidence, in-field observations and collection of layout plans were collected to represent archaeological and other forms of cultural heritage. Consultations with the communities were also undertaken to verify information collected previously and to collect information about other potential cultural and heritage.

The 2024 Cultural Baseline Survey was conducted from April 18th to 29th, 2024. The survey included revisiting four prehistoric archaeological sites and eleven rock features at the Mine Site and Northern Groundwater System. The distinct human-made structures, are referred to in this report as ‘Rock Features’. The exact purpose and age of these features are unknown but can be interpreted as stone cairns, hearths, and shelters. The 2024 survey aimed to verify the location and current condition of these sites and features and to check whether any change occurred during the past 14 years at these sites. The rock features could not be conclusively classified as archaeological sites in previous surveys. Consistent with the methodology adopted for the 2010 archaeological survey, two categories of archaeological sites were surveyed:

- ⊕ Temporary Archaeological Sites: These are locations where people lived briefly and produced or processed goods, such as stone tools. These sites, often found near raw material sources, served as workshops for tool manufacturing. Indicators of factory sites include raw materials, finished and unfinished tools, and debris. Many factory sites also functioned as campsites or living sites.
- ⊕ Permanent Archaeological Sites: These are locations, large or small, where traces of long-term human occupation or activity are found. A key feature of these sites is the presence of structures built with stone boulders, mud, burnt bricks, or mud mortar lumps, indicating prolonged human settlement. These sites typically include activity areas with cultural materials such as stone tools, pottery, metal objects, precious stones, clay artifacts, and everyday utensils, often found in rubbish dumps buried in the ground.

The survey and documentation of heritage buildings covered the railway stations on the Rail Transport Route which were constructed between 1917 and 1920. It was observed during the documentation process that along the N40 highway, stations were established at 15 to 20 kilometres apart, and were constructed in a similar plan, maintaining the symmetry and local architectural traditions.

4.1.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage

The baseline for intangible cultural heritage been established using a combination of secondary and primary sources to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the cultural context.

The primary foundation of the intangible cultural heritage baseline has been drawn from existing secondary sources. These include the Cultural Baseline Survey Report of 2010, which provides detailed insights into local cultural practices, traditions, and expressions. Additionally, other secondary literature, such as academic studies and regional

documentation on cultural heritage, has been reviewed to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural dynamics and heritage in the region.

To complement the secondary data, information gathered through community consultations conducted as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been reviewed to gather insights on intangible cultural heritage.

In addition to local sources, the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Pakistan has been consulted to identify recognized elements of intangible heritage that may be relevant to the Project area.

4.2 Impact Assessment Methodology

The impact assessment methodology used for the Project involves two phases, namely impact identification and impact assessment. Impact identification was performed using an input-output model, whereby Project activities are superimposed onto the environmental and social baseline characteristics of the project area to generate assessment outputs in the form of instances of potential positive or negative biophysical and socio-economic changes in the environment.

A numerical assessment of the significance of potential Project-induced impacts was done as follows:

$$\text{Significance} = \text{Consequence} \times \text{Probability}$$

Whereby

$$\text{Consequence} = \text{Type of Impact} \times (\text{Intensity} + \text{Spatial Scale} + \text{Duration})$$

And

$$\text{Probability} = \text{Likelihood of an Impact Occurring}$$

In addition, the formula for calculating consequence:

$$\text{Type of Impact (Nature)} = +1 \text{ (Positive Impact) or } -1 \text{ (Negative Impact)}$$

The weight assigned to the various parameters for positive and negative impacts is provided for in the formula above and ratings are presented in **Exhibit 4.4** with the consequence matrix presented in **Exhibit 4.5**. The interpretation of the consequence ratings is presented in **Exhibit 4.6**.

Exhibit 4.4: Impact Assessment Parameter Ratings

Rating	Intensity		Spatial scale	Duration (duration of an impact without mitigation)	Probability (over the life of the project)
	Negative Impacts (Type of Impact = -1)	Positive Impacts (Type of Impact = +1)			
5	Significant impact on the environment. Irreparable and irreplaceable damage to highly valued species, habitat or ecosystem. Persistent severe damage. Irreparable and irreplaceable damage to highly valued items of great cultural significance or complete breakdown of social order.	Significant improvement to livelihoods and living standards of a large percentage of the population, as well as significant increase in the quality of the receiving environment.	<u>Global</u> Contribute to global impact	<u>Inter -Generational</u> >20 years	<u>Certain / Definite</u> There are sound evidence-based reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur (90-100%)
4	Serious long-term environmental effects. Environmental damage can be reversed in less than a year. On-going serious social issues. Significant damage to structures / items of significance.	On-going and widespread positive benefits to local communities which improves livelihoods, as well as a positive improvement to the receiving environment. Average to intense social benefits to some people. Average to intense environmental enhancements.	<u>Regional</u> Will affect the entire province or region. A broad geographical area distinguished by similar features.	<u>Long term</u> 5-20 years	<u>Likely</u> The impact may occur (50-90%)
3	Moderate, short-term effects but not affecting ecosystem function. Rehabilitation requires intervention of external specialists and can be done in less than a month. On-going social issues. Damage to items of significance.	Average, on-going positive benefits, not widespread but felt by some.	<u>Sub-regional</u> Will affect the sub-regional / commune area e.g. district level/ areas within the region with similar features	<u>Medium term</u> 2 to 5 years	<u>Probable</u> Has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur (20-50%)

Rating	Intensity		Spatial scale	Duration (duration of an impact without mitigation)	Probability (over the life of the project)
	Negative Impacts (Type of Impact = -1)	Positive Impacts (Type of Impact = +1)			
2	Moderate, short-term effects but not affecting ecosystem function. Rehabilitation requires intervention of external specialists and can be done in less than a month. On-going social issues. Damage to items of significance.	Average, on-going positive benefits, not widespread but felt by some.	<u>Local</u> Extending across the site and to nearby settlements. Sub-division of a district.	<u>Short term</u> Up to 2 years	<u>Unlikely</u> Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the Project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur (5-20%)
1	Minor effects on the biological or physical environment. Environmental damage can be rehabilitated internally with/ without the help of external consultants. Minor medium-term social impacts on the local population. Mostly repairable. Functions and processes not affected	Low positive impacts are experienced by very few of the population.	<u>Site Specific</u> Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings.	<u>Immediate</u> Hours to weeks but less than 1 month	<u>Rare / improbable</u> Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances and / or has not happened during the lifetime of the Project but has happened elsewhere. The possibility of the impact materialising is very low as a result of design, historic experience or implementation of adequate mitigation measures (1-5%).

Exhibit 4.5: Probability Consequence Matrix

		Significance																									
Probability	5	-75	-70	-65	-60	-55	-50	-45	-40	-35	-30	-25	-20	-15	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
	4	-60	-56	-52	-48	-44	-40	-36	-32	-28	-24	-20	-16	-12	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60
	3	-45	-42	-39	-36	-33	-30	-27	-24	-21	-18	-15	-12	-9	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45
	2	-30	-28	-26	-24	-22	-20	-18	-16	-14	-12	-10	-8	-6	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
	1	-15	-14	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			-15	-14	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Consequence																									

Exhibit 4.6: Significance Threshold Limits

Score	Description	Rating
57 to 75	A very beneficial impact which may be sufficient by itself to justify implementation of the Project. The impact may result in permanent positive change.	Major (positive)
39 to 56	A beneficial impact which may help to justify the implementation of the Project. These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually a long-term positive change to the (natural and/or social) environment.	Moderate (positive)
20 to 38	An important positive impact. The impact is insufficient by itself to justify the implementation of the Project. These impacts will usually result in positive medium to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment.	Minor (positive)
3 to 19	A small positive impact. The impact will result in medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment.	Negligible (positive)
-3 to -19	An acceptable negative impact for which mitigation is desirable but not essential. The impact by itself is insufficient even in combination with other low impacts to prevent the development being approved. These impacts will result in negative medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment. The impacts are reversible and will not result in the loss of irreplaceable aspects.	Negligible (negative)
-20 to -38	An important negative impact which requires mitigation. The impact is insufficient by itself to prevent the implementation of the Project but in conjunction with other impacts may prevent its implementation. These impacts will usually result in negative medium to long-term effects on the social and/or natural environment.	Minor (negative)
-39 to -56	A serious negative impact may prevent the implementation of the Project. These impacts would be considered by society as constituting a major and usually a long-term change to the (natural and/or social) environment and result in severe effects. The impacts may result in irreversible damage to irreplaceable environmental or social aspects should mitigation measures not be implemented.	Moderate (negative)
-57 to -75	A very serious negative impact may be sufficient by itself to prevent the implementation of the Project. The impact may result in permanent change. Very often these impacts are immitigable and usually result in very severe effects. The impacts will be irreplaceable and irreversible should adequate mitigation and management measures not be successfully implemented.	Major (negative)

5. Baseline Description

This section presents the baseline information gathered through the 2024 Cultural Baseline Survey and review of secondary information as well as previous studies prepared for the Project.

5.1 Tangible Cultural Heritage

This section provides the baseline information for tangible cultural heritage.

5.1.1 Regional Overview of Cultural Heritage Resources

The earliest traces of ancient history in the region include the ruins of terraced embankments, or ‘Gaurbastas,’ at the foot of the Raskoh Hills, approximately 200 kilometres west of the Project site and about 50 km west of Dalbandin. Other notable heritage buildings in the area are the square-plan tombs in the western part of the district, locally known as Galuga. According to local traditions, these tombs are attributed to the Kaiiaus of the Achaemenian Dynasty of Persia. The remains of ruined forts and karezza found in various parts of the Chagai District are often assigned to the Arab period, during which the neighbouring province of Sistan in Iran reached the peak of its prosperity. However, some of these structures are also attributed to the Mughals. These historical remnants indicate a prosperous and civilized population among the Baloch and Barahvis inhabitants who currently populate the area.

5.1.2 Findings of Previous Archaeological Investigations

Three archaeological investigations preceded this Study. Coffey Geosciences (Pvt) Ltd, (Coffey) for an ESIA in 2005 as part of the Chagai Hills Exploration conducted the initial field investigation. This earlier assessment of the proposed Reko Diq mining project represented a preliminary exploration phase; therefore, the specific impact areas were less well defined. The Coffey study was conducted within a 10-kilometer (km) radius of the proposed mining site and construction of the proposed camp. Two 500-metre-wide corridors were inventoried along the proposed water supply pipeline routes. The first pipeline route extended 52 km northeast from the mine site to Upper Tahlab. The second pipeline route extended 17.5 km eastward from the proposed construction camp to a well near the village of Humai. The Coffey archaeological investigations yielded seven archaeological sites. They consist of a lithic procurement site, a copper smelting locale, two camping areas attributed to nomads, a contemporary quarry locale, a set of 19th-century British period structures near Humai, and the Ware-Chah railway station, which was also built by the Government of British India, in the 19th century.

The second archaeological investigation consisted of an expedient archaeological reconnaissance of the proposed routes for the material transportation, associated with the Reko Diq project. That survey was undertaken by the present principal investigator from HBP in 2009. Two general routes for transportation were proposed in different areas of Chaghi district. The first is a combined overland pipeline/roadway route, referred to as

the “ocean pipeline route,” that extends southward from the proposed Reko Diq Project area in the Chagai District to the port city of Gwadar. During this investigation, a total of 36 sites were recorded, including tombs that date from the 9th to the 17th century, ancient and historic forts, archaeological mounds that date from 3300 BCE. to the 18th century CE, camps sites dating to 3000 BCE, and a prehistoric dam.

The third archaeological investigation was made by Centennial Archaeological Ink, Colorado, USA, and the present principal investigator of this Report. During that fieldwork, four prehistoric archaeological sites were recorded. Three of them were associated with clay borrow areas (Tozghi Lake – 1 site; Cheel Lake West – 2 sites) and one with a block area (Cleaner Tailings Facility). All of these are small short-term encampments or limited-use temporary sites where a number of lithic artifacts were found.

5.1.3 Consultations with Stakeholders

Consultations were undertaken with the local communities and other stakeholders to identify and assess whether any assets of tangible cultural heritage exist within or near the Project’s footprint and the likelihood that they will be affected due to the Project’s direct or indirectly induced impacts.

No local communities exist near the archaeological sites at the Mine Site and Northern Groundwater System. The archaeological sites were not of any existing cultural significance such as may be the case with shrines or graveyards for example. In previous surveys, residents from nearby local communities were consulted to assess the function and age of the rock features. The residents speculated that rock features F-003 and F-004 may likely have been constructed in recent times to aid in loading camels but were not able to ascertain the age of the features.

Additionally, consultations were undertaken with the custodians of the railway stations to determine whether the stations are of tangible heritage value. The findings are detailed below.

- ⑥ Eid Muhammad Zai, a security guard and caretaker appointed by the Federal Ministry of Railways at the Alam Raik Railway Station, was consulted on the present-day condition of the railway station. Mr. Zai expressed disappointment with the lack of funding for the maintenance and repairs of the railway station. He stated that in the past, the railway stations served as an important aspect of the local economy and facilitated various businesses and tradesmen, as well as connecting the province to the urban centres in the rest of the country. Presently, the railway station is completely inoperable and in a state of disrepair, similar to several other railway stations along the Rain Transport Route in that area.
- ⑥ Mr. Ghalamullah, a security guard, and his team appointed at the Nok Chah Railway Station were also consulted in a group discussion. Mr. Ghalamullah expressed similar concerns regarding the complete negligence and lack of funding by the government. He recalled that 50 to 60 years ago, several families regularly conducted business at the railway station and were responsible for its upkeep. Due to the absence of funds for security staff, the railway stations have been subject to extensive theft, with many of the doorways and windows being stolen. He

expressed a desire for the government to continue funding the railway stations and for the railway network to become accessible to the public.

- ⊕ The above-mentioned stakeholders were also consulted to verify whether there are any other sites of cultural or archaeological significance. The stakeholders could identify no such sites that may fall within the Project's footprint or may be adversely affected by the Project. They mentioned that any such sites, even if they do exist, have likely been ransacked and destroyed completely due to decades of complete absence of government oversight.
- ⊕ It was reported by the local communities in the ESIA surveys of 2023⁸ that Syed Natho Shah Bukhari Temple and Church of Pakistan are important sites in the Kotri settlement, while the Victoria Tower is located near Jacobabad settlement. Fort Mir Chakar Khan and the famous Jirga Hall, located near Sibi and the archaeological ruins of Mehrgarh that are 30 km away from Sibi settlement. It is not expected that the Project will have direct or indirect impacts on these sites.

5.1.4 Evaluation of Heritage Value of Railway Station Buildings

Heritage holds enormous significance, as it connects to origins and develops a sense of identity and belonging. It bridges the past and present, enabling us to learn from history and understand cultural diversity. Conserving heritage not only honours the achievements of the master architects of the past, but also improves our collective knowledge, shaping our values, and guiding the nation towards a more inclusive and socially aware world.

The British period architecture in Pakistan carries significant historical, cultural, and architectural importance. These standing structures reflect the legacy of British colonial rule and the succeeding relationship of local and Western influences. These jewels on the ground surface serve as tangible reminders of the remote region's multifaceted past, shaping its mountainous landscapes and architectural identity on one side, on the other, the strong security system on the railway stations, remains of the same which are still visible, remind us about the safety and security of the public and how the administration was concerned about it.

The railway station buildings constructed between 1917 and 1920 in the Balochistan province of Pakistan exhibit distinctive features of colonial-era architecture. These structures typically showcase a blend of British and local architectural styles, incorporating elements such as burnt brick façade elevation on entrances, grand arched entrances, semicircular arches in veranda, and decorative detailing. The design in cut-brick pattern often reflects the realistic needs of the railway system, with spacious platforms, and sometimes vaulted roofs. Additionally, these monuments were equipped with the basic requirement of a public station in the shape of a water reservoir facility in almost all documented buildings because drinking water was not available for the public locally and transported from Ahmedwal Station, which indicates the strong management system of the British period. Similarly, the master planners were aware of the local weather conditions, and in almost every building, a fireplace was made. Despite variations in size and scale, railway stations from this period in Balochistan share a

⁸ All consultation related information can be found in the Socioeconomic Specialist Study.

common aesthetic that symbolizes the region's historical connection to the British Empire and its enduring legacy in the region's infrastructure and architectural heritage.

5.1.5 Field Observations

The field observations of archaeological and heritage sites are presented below. All four sites were identified as belonging from the upper palaeolithic period.

Archaeological Sites at Mine Site and Northern Groundwater System

The locations of surveyed sites are marked in the map included in **Exhibit 5.1**, while **Exhibit 5.2** lists the GPS coordinates of the surveyed locations.

Stone Tool Workshop (RD-001)

The temporary archaeological site or stone tool workshop is located on the southern edge of the shallow seasonal lake Tozhgi Nawar (Dry Tozhgi Lake) in the Tozhgi area. Whenever rain falls in the region, the dry lake of Tozhgi Nawar receives water from the surrounding areas. Taking advantage of the water, it might be possible that the people in ancient times settled here for short periods, marked by stone tool scatters. The site is located on shale with almost no soil deposit. There is therefore no potential for buried cultural materials.

Site RD-001 consists of a small collection of lithic materials limited to an area measuring 11 m by 10 m. Artifacts are derived from a single orange Chert- cobble and include flakes ranging in size from 3-12 cm in dimension. Materials found near the knapped cobblestone and flakes consist of large stream-rounded cobbles. The artefacts are found in a deflated context (deflation occurs when fine grained material is blown away leaving the larger objects grouped together on a surface), but the artefacts have not been horizontally dispersed. Surface observations include red chert stone tools such as scrapers, cores, and hand axes that were collected during previous investigations.

Exhibit 5.1: General view of the stone tool workshop on the bank of Tozghi Nawar.



Stone Tools Workshop (RD-002)

This temporary archaeological site or stone tools workshop of the upper Palaeolithic period is situated in the proposed mining area of the Project. The remains of the ancient period workshop fall within the Cheel Nawar area (Cheel Lake). To the north of the site, the Sheesha Koh range of mountains is located, which according to local sources, the was used to send messages through reflective mirrors to convey messages to the south side (Sheesha Koh translates to mound of the mirror). The site is 21 km northeast of the current exploration camp. The stone artefacts are sparsely scattered on the surface of a flat plain area.

The site consists of flakes, a concentration of lithic shatter, and rock concentrations that probably represent hearths. Overall site dimensions are 29 m by 13 m. The lithic scatter may be the result of natural weathering of heat-altered stone. Surface collection from the site in the past recorded scrapers, hand axes and cores dating to the lower Palaeolithic period, which suggests that the area was occupied by a nomad group temporarily, as there is no visible sign of structural remains.

Exhibit 5.2: General view of the stone tools workshop in Cheel area (RD -002) site



Stone tools workshop (RD-003)

This upper Palaeolithic era site or stone tool workshop is situated in the proposed mining area of the Reko Diq project. The site is situated on the southern margin of a dry lakebed in the Chagai District of the Balochistan Province in the desert of northwestern Pakistan. The site RD-3 is located west of RD-2 workshop and the remains also fall within the Cheel Nawar area (Nawar Lake) near the Boram bore camp for groundwater investigations. The site is 21 km northeast of the current exploration camp. The stone artefacts are sparsely scattered on the surface of a flat plain area. This site is comprised of lithic debitage, artefacts include cobbles, flakes and shatter. Rounding of flake edges and ridges because of wind polishing is evident on some of the artefacts. Most of the artefacts are made from white chert or limestone. In general, identifiable cultural materials have not been displaced horizontally to any significant degree despite the obvious deflation that has taken place.

Surface collections recorded a few cores, scrapers and hand axes from the upper Palaeolithic period, which indicates that the occupied temporarily by nomad groups, as there is no visible sign of structural remains.

Exhibit 5.3: General view of stone tools workshop in Cheel area, RD-003



Stone tool workshop (RD-004)

The site or stone tools workshop of the upper Palaeolithic period is situated on a plain in the Cheel area. The site is in open, windswept terrain on a gently undulating surface mantled with cobbles of various materials as well as angular spalls of volcanic rock. The stone artefacts are sparsely scattered on the surface of a flat plain area.

The artifacts collected were mostly stone scrapers and flakes from wind polished high-quality chert stone. Triangle-shaped pointers were found in large numbers while dark grey coloured stone drillers were found in smaller numbers. The artefacts suggest that the site was temporarily used by a nomad group, as there is no visible sign of structural remains.

Exhibit 5.4: General View from East of Stone Tools Workshop RD-4 in Cheel Plain Area



Anthropogenic Rock Features

Eleven rock features were noted in previous site investigations. Eight of the eleven isolated rock features are single cairns, or rock monuments, which were found in a collapsed state. All occupy an area 1 meter in diameter or smaller. The three remaining features are F-003, an asymmetrical three-sided rock structure with dry-laid walls 0.3 – 0.6 meter high; F-004, consisting of two short, parallel dry-laid rock walls up to 0.4 meter high, each 1 meter in length and separated by a distance of 1 meter and F-006, a rock circle 5 metres in diameter, built into a moderate slope with a dry-laid wall up to 0.5 meter high on the downslope side. The interior of F-006 is filled nearly to the level of the top of the encircling rock wall with sandy sediment.

During previous surveys, local informants informed the survey teams that F-003 and F-004 may have been constructed to aid in loading camels. However, this information was treated as speculation, and no age estimates were provided.

Exhibit 5.5: Photographs of Rock Features



General View of Already Reported Northern Groundwater System F-001



General view of F- 002 from east



General View from the Northeast (F-003)



General View from the Southeast (F-004)



General View from the East (F-005)



General View from the North (F-006)



General View from the East (F-007)



General View from the North (F-008)



General View from the South (F-009)



General view from the East (F-010)



General View from the Northeast (F-011)

Railway Stations

A survey of the Railway Stations was undertaken, and photographed. The architectural features of the Railway Stations were recorded, and their condition was also noted.

Additionally, floor plans of the stations were recorded to determine distinct features and functions of the Railway Stations both in the present and in the past. The following observations were made:

- ☞ Many of the Railway Stations exhibit distinct features of British Colonial era construction and retain architectural features from that time period ranging from the layouts of the railway stations and construction material used.
- ☞ The Railway Stations are in a state of disrepair due to theft and lack of sufficient funding for their upkeep. As the railway network in the region is sparsely used, the railway stations have been overlooked from a funding perspective as they serve limited function.
- ☞ Many of the local community members cited that the Railway Stations were a hub of business and commerce in the past and said that restoration of the Railway Stations and emphasis on the upgrade of the railway network and services can significantly improve livelihoods.

Appendix B provides the survey findings and **Exhibit 5.6** provides photographs.

Exhibit 5.6: Photographs of Railway Stations



Façade elevation of Koh-i-Taftan Railway station



General view of old Taftan Railway Station from the south



General view of Rag-i-Malik Railway Station from south



Southwestern view of Ware Chah Railway Station



General view of the Koh-i-Daleel Railway Station from the south



Façade view of Tozghi Railway Station from the north.



General view of Alam Raik Railway Station from the south



General view of Kundi Railway Station from the east



Northeastern view of Isa Tahir Railway Station



Southeastern view of well-preserved colonial period building



Southern view of Gatt Railway Station from north



Northwestern view of ruins of Nuli Railway Station



Façade elevation of Yak Mach Railway Station from east



View of railway Ismaili Railway Station from the north



Inside view of Dalbandin Railway Station from the west



General view of Nok Chah Railway Station from the east



Northwestern view of the ruins of Yadgar Railway Station



General view of Padag Railway Station from the north



General view of ruins of Bilao railway station



Eastern elevation of Ahmedwal Railway Station



Eastern façade elevation of Nushki Railway Station



Northern façade elevation of Kishingi Railway Station



Façade elevation of Shaikh Wasil Railway Station from the east



General view of Wali Khan Railway Station from the east



General view of Spezand Railway Station from the north

5.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritage of Baloch people is rooted in their distinct ethnic identity, shaped by shared language, customs, and a history of resistance to external forces. Key elements of their intangible heritage include tribal social organization, traditional conflict resolution practices, and a strong value system based on honor and respect for community ties. This section provides the baseline information for intangible cultural heritage.

5.2.1 Social Organization and Kinship

Baloch social structure is defined by tribal systems, where kinship plays a central role in maintaining unity.⁹ Tribal affiliations are crucial for social cohesion, ensuring solidarity, especially during times of external challenges. The cultural practices that arise from these tribal ties, such as hospitality and protection of guests, remain important aspects of Baloch heritage.

5.2.2 Tribal Hierarchy and Authority

The traditional leadership structure within Baloch society, particularly the role of the sardar (tribal chief), is an essential part of their intangible heritage. Despite legal reforms, the sardar continues to hold symbolic power and influence, particularly in rural areas, where they serve as intermediaries between the tribe and state. This hierarchical system has shaped Baloch governance and political engagement, deeply influencing their cultural and national identity.¹⁰ This hierarchical system, which influences Baloch governance and political engagement, is not unique to Balochistan; similar structures are found in other regions of the country i.e., the neighbouring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and Afghanistan.

⁹Sajid, N. B., & Sadiq, H. A. (2016). Cultural Ethics in Life of Baloch. *Balochistan Review*, 104(1), 65-80.

¹⁰ Ibid.

5.2.3 Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Traditional mechanisms such as the *jirga* and *Med* system are vital to Baloch conflict resolution.¹¹ The *jirga*, a council of elders, resolves disputes based on dialogue and consensus, ensuring culturally appropriate solutions that are respected across the community. The *Med* system, in turn, focuses on restoring balance and honor within the community through formal apologies, symbolic acts, or compensations, aimed at mending relationships and preserving social harmony.¹² The Med system is often invoked to resolve serious breaches of “honor”. *Jirgas* are also present in other parts of the country.

5.2.4 Value System and Code of Conduct

The Baloch code of honor, *laj-o-mayar*, remains a core part of their intangible cultural heritage.¹³ It defines community behaviours, focusing on principles such as *bahut* (protection), *mehmani* (hospitality), *ber* (revenge), and *bashk* (forgiveness). These codes not only govern social interactions but also shape Baloch moral and ethical conduct, making them a central part of Baloch identity.

5.2.5 Religious Practices and Beliefs

Religious practices, particularly Sunni Islam, play a central role in the Baloch belief system, which is aligned with the mainstream Islamic traditions practiced in Pakistan.¹⁴ The cultural significance of religious observances such as daily prayers, fasting during Ramadan, and communal gatherings reinforces the spiritual and social cohesion of the Baloch people.

5.2.6 Women's Role and Gender Norms

In Baloch society, traditional gender roles are deeply entrenched within patriarchal structures, where men dominate both public and political spheres. As observed during the community consultations, women’s roles are primarily defined by their responsibilities within the household and community, with their primary functions being centred around caregiving, child-rearing, and managing domestic duties. While women's participation in the public sphere is highly restricted due to the practice of *pardah*¹⁵, their contributions to cultural and economic activities, particularly through practices such as embroidery, wool-working, and cooking, are essential for preserving Baloch traditions.

Embroidery is a key form of artistic expression and a skill passed down through generations, where women create intricate designs that serve both practical and

¹¹ Khan, A. Q., & Kasi, A. Z. (2015). The Tribal System in Balochistan: Its Administrative Organization and Modern Democracy. *Balochistan Review*, 135-144.

¹² Bakhsh, R. (2022). Conflict Resolution Mechanism in Barkhan: A Case Study of Khetran Tribe, District Barkhan. *International Journal of Social and Economic Sciences*, 12(1), 32-39.

¹³ Cultural Baseline and Study of Relationship Dynamics, prepared by Hagler Bailly Pakistan for Tethyan Copper Company Pakistan Ltd., 2009

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ The practice in certain Muslim and Hindu societies of screening women from men or strangers.

decorative purposes.¹⁶ These practices not only contribute to the household economy but also hold cultural significance, as many designs reflect family heritage, tribal affiliations, and local symbolism. Women, through such work, play a vital role in preserving intangible cultural heritage, yet these activities remain largely undervalued in the broader social and economic context.

Despite their central role in the domestic and cultural spheres, gender norms in Baloch society significantly limit women's access to education and economic opportunities. Many girls face barriers to formal education, often due to conservative attitudes about women's place in society and the prioritization of male education. This limitation perpetuates the cycle of gender inequality, where women have fewer opportunities for personal and professional development, contributing to their continued marginalization.

In the political and social arenas, women's voices are largely absent. Patriarchal structures often enforce a system where women are excluded from decision-making processes, whether within the family, the community, or at the state level. While some women may hold informal influence within their families or tribes, their ability to participate in governance or public life is constrained by rigid cultural norms. These societal expectations also dictate their behaviour, dress, and interactions, with strict rules about modesty and conduct.

5.2.7 Traditional Crafts

Chagai and the broader Balochistan regions are known for rich handicraft traditions, particularly Balochi embroidery.¹⁷ These crafts, often passed down through generations, are central to the region's cultural identity.

5.2.8 Festivals and Celebrations in Baloch Culture

Baloch culture is rich in festivals and events that reflect the community's values, traditions, and social cohesion. These festivals often involve family gatherings, community participation, and cultural performances, strengthening the bonds within the Baloch people. These include the following.¹⁸

Eid-ul-Azha, Eid-ul-Fitr, and Eid-Milad-un-Nabi

These religious festivals mark significant events in Islam and are celebrated with great enthusiasm. Families decorate their homes, wear new clothes, cook special foods, and visit relatives and friends. Eid-ul-Azha celebrates sacrifice, Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, and Eid-Milad-un-Nabi honors the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. Dates vary each year based on the Islamic lunar calendar. These festivals are, however, universal to Muslims across the world.

¹⁶ Alizai, M. Q., Agha, N., Alizai, A., & Noureen, S. (2017). Socio-economic Conditions of Women Home-based Balochi Embroidery Workers in Balochistan Pakistan. *Balochistan Review*, 36(1), 187-201.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Raisani, H. (2024, June 1). *The role of festivals in Balochistan's cultural identity*. *The Balochistan Diaries*. Retrieved from <https://www.thebalochistandiaries.com/articles/the-role-of-festivals-in-balochistans-cultural-identity/>

Sibi Festival

The Sibi Festival, typically held in February or March is a major social celebration in Balochistan, featuring folk music, traditional dances, cattle-shows, and handicraft stalls. It highlights the agricultural heritage and cultural diversity of the region, offering a space for the community to gather, share stories, and showcase local art.

Buzkashi

Buzkashi is a traditional horseback game in which two teams compete to steal a goat from each other. This sport, deeply rooted in Baloch culture, is an exciting display of strength, strategy, and horsemanship, often attracting large crowds and serving as an important social event. The game has no fixed date but is played during special occasions and regional festivals.

Jashn-e-Kalat

Held annually in March, Jashn-e-Kalat celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Balochistan. It includes performances like circus acts, rifle shooting displays, and other cultural programs that highlight the region's rich traditions and artistic expressions, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the Baloch people.

Baloch Culture Day

Observed annually on March 2nd, Baloch Culture Day is a celebration of the Baloch people's dedication to preserving and promoting their cultural identity. The day features cultural performances, speeches, and exhibitions that showcase the Baloch heritage, history, and resilience.

5.2.9 Livestock Breeding

Livestock rearing is a longstanding tradition in Chagai, with communities relying on livestock breeding for their livelihood. These practices are deeply tied to local customs and social organization, highlighting a key aspect of life in this region.

5.2.10 UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

There are currently three distinct aspects pertinent to Pakistan in UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. These are outlined below.

Falconry

Falconry, a practice with over 4,000 years of history, involves training and flying birds of prey, primarily falcons but sometimes eagles, hawks, and buzzards. It is a vital cultural tradition passed down through mentoring, family, and training clubs. In modern times, falconry focuses on protecting birds, wildlife, and habitats while preserving the practice itself. Despite diverse backgrounds, falconers share common values and traditions,

including techniques for breeding, training, and caring for birds, the equipment used, and the deep bond formed between the falconer and their bird¹⁹.

Falconry is practiced in various parts of Balochistan, but was not observed in the communities surrounding the Mine Site. Falconry is predominantly practiced by foreign nationals that are issued permits for the hunting of the houbara bustard.²⁰

Nawrouz

The New Year celebration, observed on March 21, marks the start of the year in several countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and others. Known by various names such as Nauryz, Navruz, and Nowruz, it symbolizes new beginnings and prosperity. The festival involves rituals, ceremonies, and cultural events lasting about two weeks. A key tradition is gathering around a decorated table, symbolizing purity, wealth, and brightness, to share a special meal with loved ones.

Nawrouz is celebrated in various parts of Balochistan, particularly by the shia community, which is a sect of Islam.

Suri Jagek

Suri Jagek, meaning "observing the sun," is a traditional Kalasha system of meteorological and astronomical knowledge, practiced mainly in the Hindu Kush mountains²¹. It relies on the observation of celestial bodies like the sun, moon, and stars in relation to the local landscape. This knowledge helps the Kalasha people determine optimal times for agriculture, animal husbandry, and predicting natural events. It also plays a crucial role in organizing their calendar, guiding the dates for festivals, social events, feasts, and religious ceremonies.

Suri Jagek is not practiced in Balochistan.

¹⁹ UNESCO. *Falconry, a Living Human Heritage*. Intangible Cultural Heritage. <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/falconry-a-living-human-heritage-01708>

²⁰ Kunbhar, Z. (2020, November 26). Economic developments in Pakistan. *Arab News Pakistan*. Retrieved from <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/1768606/pakistan>

²¹ UNESCO. Suri Jagek (observing the sun), traditional meteorological and astronomical practice based on the observation of the Sun, Moon and stars in reference to the local topography. Intangible Cultural Heritage. <https://ich.unesco.org/en/USL/suri-jagek-observing-the-sun-traditional-meteorological-and-astronomical-practice-based-on-the-observation-of-the-sun-moon-and-stars-in-reference-to-the-local-topography-01381>

6. Impact Assessment

This section discusses the potential impacts that may result from the Project, along with associated mitigation measures. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in **Section 4**.

A phased approach was undertaken for four phases of the Project's lifecycle. The following impacts were considered significant and have been detailed below:

- ☞ Impact H01: Improper Management of Chance Finds
- ☞ Impact H02: Impacts on Archaeological Sites

No direct impacts are expected to occur on the railway stations stemming from the current Project and these features are not further assessed here.

6.1 Design Phase Impacts

No impacts on cultural during the design phase of the Project are expected in consideration of the Project's siting, proximity to receptors or Project design.

6.2 General Impacts

The identified impacts will be applicable to both the construction and operations phases of the project.

Impact H01: Improper Management of Chance Finds

Chance finds can occur during the construction of the Project. Additionally, the influx of people can result in displacement or theft of these assets.

The Mine Site area is a naturally deflated surface that provides little potential for buried remains and it is unlikely that architectural features are present in the area beyond the materials recorded on the surface inclusive of the four archaeological sites observed. Archaeological sites may be present in portions of the Project area that were not subjected to direct archaeological inspection; however, their numbers would be expected to be low. It is likely that all such sites would fall into the "temporary" category and would be similar in size and general character to those recorded in the baseline.

The Project has developed a **Chance Finds Procedure (R4CF1RKG)** which will also be shared with all contractors to ensure that immovable and movable finds are evaluated for their heritage value before site clearance, and that all movable finds are appropriately stored and transported to the Archaeology Department.

Impact H01: Improper Management of Chance Finds			
Phase: Life of Project			
Impact Description: Damage/destruction to previously unidentified heritage resources.			
Prior to Mitigation/Management			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Negligible (negative) -17
Extent	1	Site Specific Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings.	
Intensity	2	On-going social issues or reputational issues. Damage to items of significance. <i>Potential thefts or damage to chance find artefacts.</i>	
Probability	2	Unlikely Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the Project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur (5-20%)	
Nature	Negative-	Negative	
Mitigation/Management Actions			
♦ The Project will maintain a Chance Find Procedure .			
Post-Mitigation			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Negligible (negative) -7
Extent	1	Site Specific Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings.	
Intensity	1	Insignificant effect on aspects of cultural heritage concern. <i>Potential impacts on chance find artefacts minimized through appropriate management practices.</i>	
Probability	1	Rare / improbable Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances and / or has not happened during lifetime of the Project but has happened elsewhere. The possibility of the impact materializing is very low because of design, historic experience, or implementation of adequate mitigation measures (1-5%).	
Nature	Negative-	Negative	

Impact H02: Impacts on Archaeological Sites

Identified sites were considered against the following categories, with all sites identified as Category B:

Category A: Can be disturbed or destroyed without further survey or authorisation.

Category B: Sites which can likely be disturbed but will require clearance from the relevant authorities.

Category C: Sites which cannot be disturbed under any circumstance.

A total of four archaeological sites are located within the Project boundary, out of which one site (RD-004) falls under the Project’s footprint. Additionally, site F-005, F-006, F-007, F-009 and F-011 is also located within the Project’s footprint. **Exhibit 6.1** provides an action plan for site clearance which the Project will follow.

Exhibit 6.1: Action Plan for Clearance of Sites

Site	Situated within Project Footprint?	Category	Actions
Archaeological Sites			
RD-001	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
RD-002	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
RD-003	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
RD-004	Yes	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance ♦ Establish Shovel Test Pits (STPs) and test excavation ♦ Clear site
Anthropogenic Rock Features			
F-001	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
F-002	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
F-003	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
F-004	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.

Site	Situated within Project Footprint?	Category	Actions
F-005	Yes	B	Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance
F-006	Yes	B	Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance
F-007	Yes	B	Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance
F-008	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
F-009	Yes	B	Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance
F-010	No	B	Not currently required to be disturbed. If disturbance is required in the future engagement with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums will be required.
F-001	Yes	B	Inform the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums prior to site clearance

The Project will undertake additional exploratory work at RD-004. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) will be established at RD-004, and test excavations corresponding to the surface distribution of artefacts will be conducted. A minimum area of 5x5 m will be investigated to determine if any buried remains prior to clearance. Any unearthed material, if found, will be documented accordingly before handover to the relevant department. The Archaeology Department will be informed prior to the disturbance of any identified site to allow for any follow up site investigations prior to clearance. All other procedures listed within the RDMC Ground Disturbance Approval Procedure will be followed.

Impact H02: Impacts on Archaeological Sites			
Phase: Life of Project			
Impact Description: Damage/destruction of surface and subsurface archaeological sites			
Prior to Mitigation/Management			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Negligible (negative) -14
Extent	1	Site Specific Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings.	
Intensity	1	Insignificant effect on aspects of cultural heritage concern.	
Probability	2	Unlikely <i>It is presently unknown whether the rock features are of archaeological significance, although the likelihood is low.</i>	

Nature	Negative-	Negative	
Mitigation/Management Actions			
The Project will ensure proper clearance of archaeological sites in consultation with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums.			
Post-Mitigation			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Negligible (negative) -7
Extent	1	Site Specific Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings.	
Intensity	1	Insignificant effect on aspects of cultural heritage concern.	
Probability	1	Rare / improbable <i>Additional investigative work will confirm whether there are buried artifacts or if any of the rock features are also of archaeological significance.</i>	
Nature	Negative-	Negative	

Impact H03: Impacts on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Impacts on intangible cultural heritage can occur if there is an influx of workers to the Project area which restricts or interferes with practices or customs linked to intangible cultural heritage.

Presently no cultural or religious practices linked to cultural identity will be adversely affected by the Project. In terms of religiosity, the Baloch are largely similar to other ethnic groups of Pakistan, with purdah generally being observed by women, strict observance of prayers and religious practices associated with Islam such as fasting in the month of Ramadan. These religious aspects, much like other ethnic groups of Pakistan, are strongly tied to Baloch cultural practices and self-identity. As such, it is not expected that worker influx will significantly affect the prevailing cultural and religious norms of the local communities. Additionally, as all workers will be housed at on-site accommodations, mixing with local communities will be limited.

One potential concern is the proliferation of alcohol to the site, due to the presence of foreign workers. The presence of Chinese Nationals and workers in Balochistan for example, has led to widespread proliferation of alcohol products in local markets²².

Additionally, the Project will ensure that there are no restrictions on practice of religious or cultural holidays. Local norms and customs will be respected, and women will be permitted to practice head covering in-line with existing purdah related practice. No other cultural practices linked to intangible cultural heritage besides those linked to religious beliefs, beside practice of the Nawrouz festival, were identified as pertinent to the

²² Why is Chinese beer rising in popularity in Pakistan? (2022, July 26). DW. Retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/why-is-chinese-beer-rising-in-popularity-in-pakistan/a-62472388>

Project. Holidays for Nawrouz along with other religious observances such as Holi for the Hindu minority communities will be granted on an individual case basis.

Impact H03: Impacts on Intangible Cultural Heritage			
Phase: Life of Project			
Impact Description: Adverse effects on practices linked to intangible cultural heritage			
Prior to Mitigation/Management			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Minor (negative) -30
Extent	3	Sub-regional Will affect the sub-regional / commune area e.g. district level/ areas within the region with similar features	
Intensity	2	Minor impacts on intangible cultural heritage and practices.	
Probability	3	Probable <i>Alcohol proliferation may be triggered which may conflict with local norms and traditions.</i>	
Nature	Negative-	Negative	
Mitigation/Management Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Project will ensure that there are no restrictions on religious expression and observance. ♦ The site will remain dry, and inspections on entry will be completed to ensure people are not bringing alcohol to site. ♦ Develop influx management plan. 			
Post-Mitigation			
Dimension	Rating	Interpretation of Rating	Significance
Duration	5	Inter-Generational - >20 years	Negligible (negative) -9
Extent	3	Sub-regional Will affect the sub-regional / commune area e.g. district level/ areas within the region with similar features	
Intensity	1	Negligible Impact	
Probability	3	Rare/Improbable <i>Mitigation measures will ensure that ongoing cultural practices and religious norms are not affected.</i>	
Nature	Negative-	Negative	

6.3 Decommissioning Phase Impacts

The Project's decommissioning phase will primarily involve Mine Pit closure, uninstallation of mining equipment, backfill of foundation and site rehabilitation. None of

these activities are expected to have potentially adverse impacts on aspects related to cultural heritage.

6.4 Preservation of Railway Stations

According to the Antiquities Act 1975, the Pakistani government bears general responsibility for the preservation and conservation of archaeological and historical sites and is charged with the implementation of international conventions to which Pakistan is a signatory. The Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural Heritage was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in its meeting held in 1972. Parties to this agreement commit to prepare inventories of the significant cultural properties and to promote practices to ensure their conservation.

While the Project's activities will not directly impact these stations, in interest of preserving the national cultural heritage of the province and as a stakeholder in the railway, the Project will liaise with Pakistan Railways in relation to the preservation of the Railway Stations. These buildings often represent significant architectural achievements, combining western and local architectural styles in a unique and aesthetically pleasing manner. Moreover, these railway stations hold social significance as communal spaces and transportation hubs, facilitating connectivity and community interaction. Thus, their protection and preservation will enrich society by honouring the past and understanding Balochistan's cultural heritage.

7. Environmental / Social Management Plan

Exhibit 7.1 provides the Environmental and Social Management Plan with respect to management of all cultural heritage impacts.

Exhibit 7.1: Environmental and Social Management Plan – Cultural Heritage

<i>Impact</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Mitigation Measures</i>	<i>Action Plans</i>	<i>Time period for implementation</i>
Construction and Operations Phase				
Improper Management of Chance Finds	Construction clearance and site development	The action and management under the Chance Finds Procedure will be sufficient to mitigate any potential impacts.	Chance Finds Procedure (R4CF1RKG)	Continual
Impacts on Archaeological Sites	Construction clearance and site development	The Project will ensure proper clearance of archaeological sites in consultation with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums.	RDMC Ground Disturbance Approval Procedure will be followed.	Prior to disturbance
Impacts on Intangible Cultural Heritage	Project development and influx of workers	The Project will ensure that there are no restrictions on religious expression and that alcohol proliferation is effectively controlled.	None Required	Continual

8. Monitoring Plan

Exhibit 8.1 outlines the Environmental Monitoring Plan for monitoring and reporting of the cultural heritage related aspects during various phases throughout the Project lifecycle.

Exhibit 8.1: Environmental Monitoring Plan – Cultural Heritage

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Type of Monitoring</i>	<i>Monitoring Frequency</i>
Chance Finds	Site inspections	Prior to construction clearance
	Visual surveys and reconnaissance for archaeological sites	Quarterly
	Photographic evidence of CF and methods adopted for storage and transport from Project site	Upon Chance Find
Alcohol Proliferation	Site inspections	Continual

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 Specialist Impact Statement

The Project will consult with the Balochistan Directorate of Archaeology & Museums on collection of surface artifacts prior to disturbance by the Project. The Project will have no impact on assets of tangible or intangible cultural heritage.

9.2 Key Findings and Recommendations

The key findings and recommendations of this Specialist Report are summarized below:

- ⑥ The four archaeological sites identified in the surveys are temporary archaeological sites that are unlikely to have buried remains.
- ⑥ Continue to implement RDMC Ground Disturbance Approval procedure
- ⑥ The Project has also implemented a Chance Finds Procedure in the unlikely event that chance finds occur during excavation and clearing activities
- ⑥ The railway stations along the rail transport route have distinct features tied to the region's colonial history and have been assessed to be of tangible cultural heritage significance.
- ⑥ Most of the railway stations are in a state of disrepair and neglect while others have been aesthetically degraded due to construction that has occurred at a later period.
- ⑥ The Project will ensure that there are no restrictions on religious expression and that alcohol is not sold or distributed on-site.