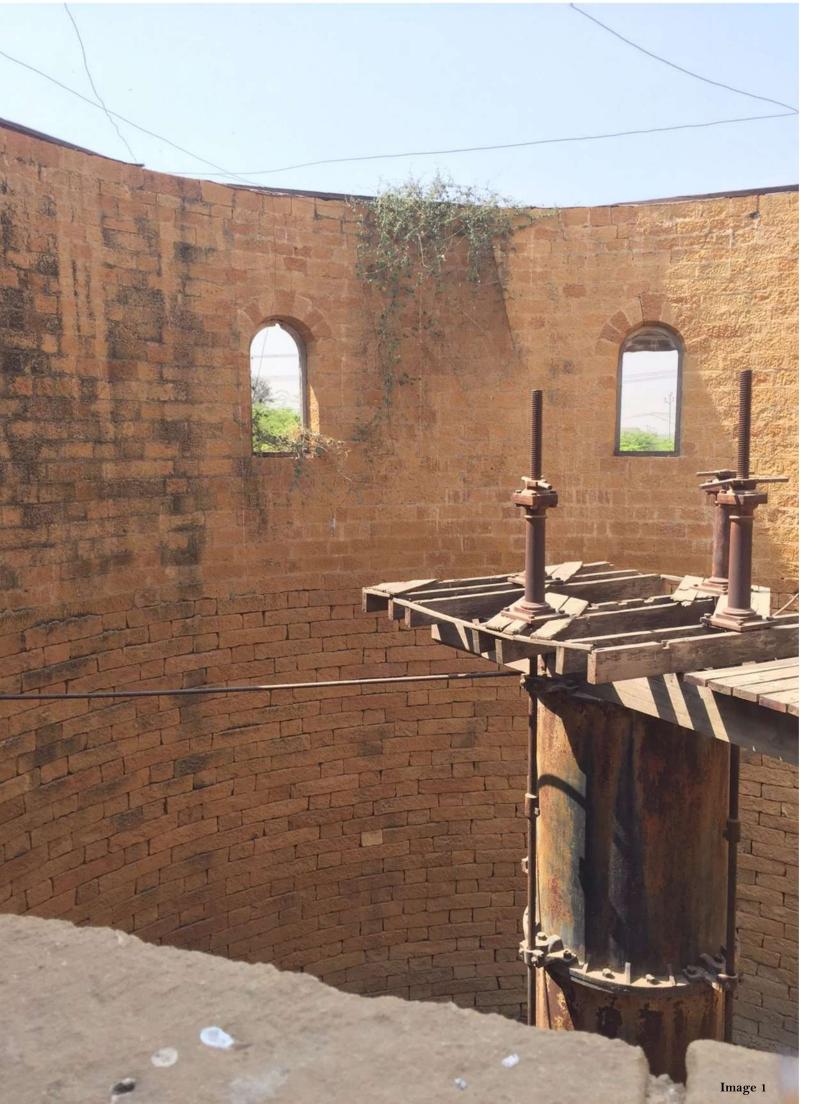


Social Initiatives | Research & Publication www.marvimazhar.com | info@marvimazhar.com





Contents

Historical Significance

From the Archives

A History of the Malir River

Social Importance

Current Status

Documentation & Survey

Location Map Karachi, Pakistan

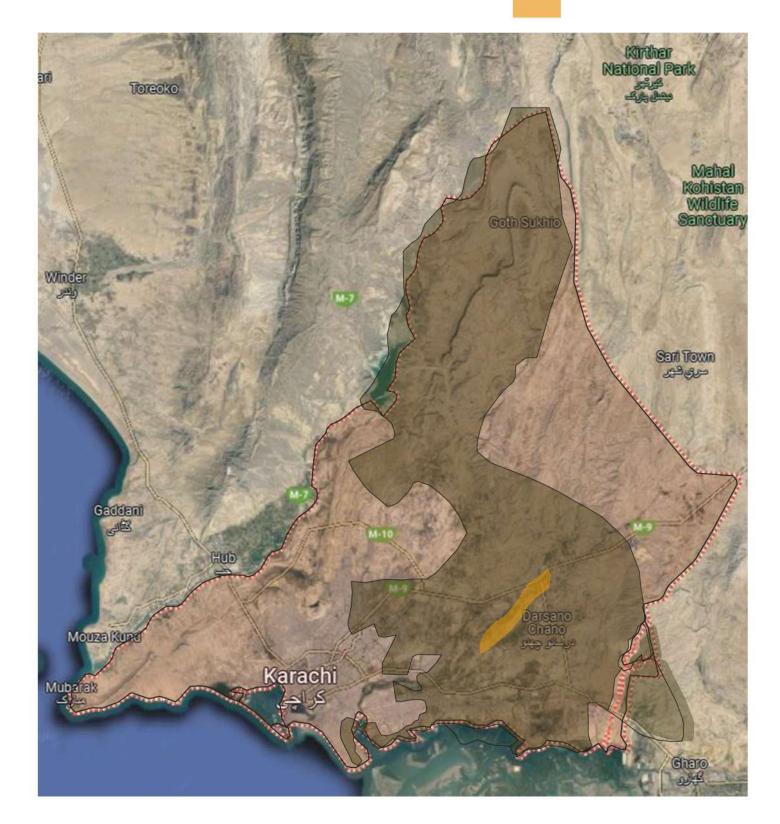
Co-ordinates 24.8607° N, 67.0011° E

Dumlottee Wells

Karachi Malir

Inventory of Dumlottee Wells

24.989730, 67.328932





Well_01 24°58′10″ N, 67°19′34″ E Well_02 24°58'32" N, 67°19'42" E Well_03 24°58′16" N, 67°19′32" E Well_04 24°58′26" N, 67°19′40" E Well_05 24°58′32" N, 67°19′42" E Well_06 24°58′24" N, 67°19′39" E Well_07 24°58'47" N, 67°19'48" E Well_08 24°58'45" N, 67°19'46" E

Well_09 24°58′34" N, 67°19′42" E Well_10 24°58'40" N, 67°19'48" E Well_11 24°58'01" N, 67°19'12" E Well_12 24°58'03" N, 67°19'14" E Well_13 24°58′05" N, 67°19′18" E Well_14 24°58'12" N, 67°19'28" E Well_15 24°58′16" N, 67°19′34" E Well_16 24°58'14" N, 67°19'35" E



To: Respected Director General & Advisory Board

Culture, Tourism, Antiquity & Archives Department Government of Sindh (Antiquity House) C/82 Block 2 Clifton Karachi 75600

Subject: 'Dumlottee Wells' to be declared as a Heritage Site of Importance on an urgent basis

Dear Director General and Advisory Board for Cultural and Heritage Assets,

I, Marvi Mazhar, an architect and heritage consultant with Marvi Mazhar &Associates (MMA), request you to register the neglected historical site, 'Dumlottee Wells' to be declared as a Heritage Site of Importance on an urgent basis.

It requires immediate Preservation and Heritage Management Plan as it is Karachi's first water supply system which holds historical, architectural, engineering, and ecological values. It has been left in a neglected but structurally in a very strong condition.

It was built by British Engineers before Pakistan came into being in the earlier 19th century. And it is of national importance as they mark as rural landmarks.

The illegal sand mining of Malir Riverbed has deteriorated the natural terrain and the aggressive development projects have affected infrastructure but also causing environmental issues like erosion and destruction of the aquatic ecosystem in and around the Malir River.

Attached below is the documentation of the 'Dumlottee Wells' site.

- 1. PDF of the Survey and Heritage Form
- 2. Historical, Cultural and Social Importance
- 3. Pictorial Reference and Site Context

I appreciate your attention to this matter on an urgent basis and look forward to seeing positive changes.

My kindest regards, Arch. Marvi Mazhar

Marvi Mazhar & Associates

Architecture | Historic Building Consultant | Social Initiatives | Research & Publication

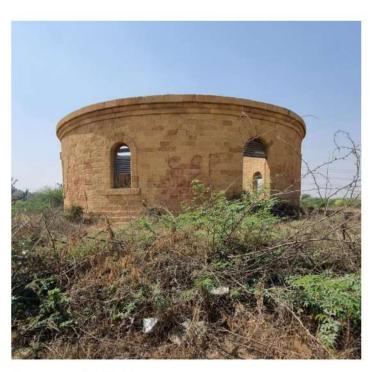
www.marvimazhar.com | info@marvimazhar.com

C 81 Block II Clifton Karachi Pakistan | Cell: (+92 321) 2605272 | (+92 21) 35863087

- 1. Hameed Haroon (Chairman, Technical Committee)
- 2. Arif Hasan (Architect, Urban Planner)
- 3. DC, Mr. Arfan Salam Mirwani
- 4. Aneela Naeem (NED, Heritage Cell)
- 5. ICOMOS, South Asia Chapter
- 6. Yasmeen Lari, (Heritage Foundation)
- 7. Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP Karachi Pakistan)
- 8. Institute of Architects of Pakistan (IAP Karachi Pakistan)

Architecture | Historic Building Consultancy | Research & Publications | Karkhana

www.marvimazhar.com | info@marvimazhar.com C 81 Block II Clifton Karachi | +92 21 35863087



Parameters for Merit:

- (10pts) Heritage & Cultural Assets Typology.
- (10pts) external architectural features.
- (10pts) representative of social, cultural and economic values.
- (10pts) contributes to the group value of an area or cluster.
- (10pts) public eminence/ significance
- (20pts) rare survivor and expression of cultural tradition.
- (20pts) independent compound with Public Open Spaces, visible from main road.

GPS Coordinates: 24.989730 N, 67.328932 E.



Dumlottee Wells

Dumlottee Road, Gadap Town, Karachi Sindh.

The document has 16 wells.

Ownership Government

Present Status Threat Level Alterations Marking Partially Second Major Maintained Degree Threat

90 pts

Prominent Architectural Features

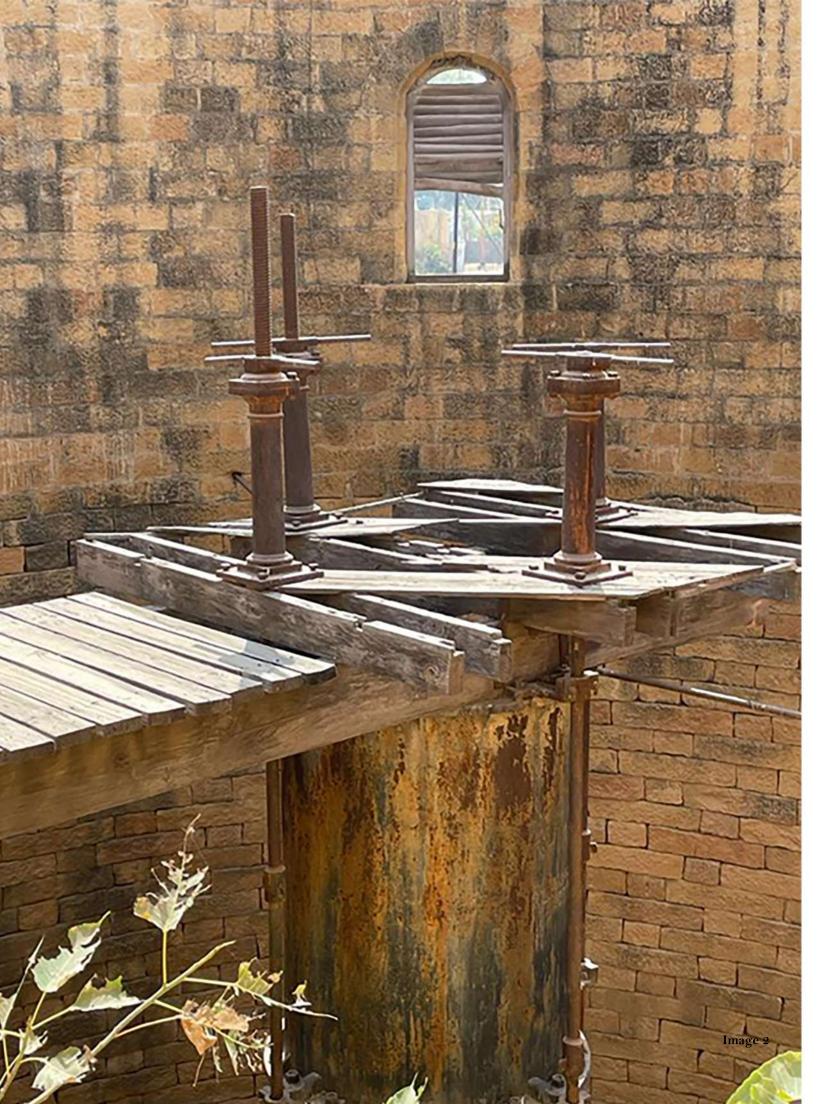
Circular, Arches, Yellow Gizri Sandstone Blocks.











Historical Significance

Built around 150 years ago, an ancient conduit system supplied water to all of Karachi, until the system gradually retired, becoming just a remnant of the British era. The Gizri stone architectural marvel ensured a supply of 20 MGD of water to Karachi up until the 1970s, when it came to a near halt, owing to neglect. Today, only 12 wells remain, out of which two are functional and supply around 500,000 gallons of water daily to Gadap Town and Malir Cantt in the northwestern part of Karachi.

In the early days, private wells were dug to procure water from the shallow Lyari River in Karachi. This method did not prove useful as water supply was limited and not the best quality. Transporting water to an area covered with marine limestone proved difficult, until a new system i.e. the Dumlottee Wells were used to procure water from the Malir river, a dry bed water body.

The Dumlottee Wells allowed water to be pumped and gravitated miles away, supplying water for years until partition. 16 Dumlottee Wells were built in the Malir river area, with filtration galleries that ensured a smooth supply of water to the city. Four of these wells were leveled and demolished due to silting and flooding. These wells supplied water to Karachi through engines running on crude oil. The engines were later replaced by electric



Image 4

During the British era, these wells were the only source of water supply to Karachi but changes in the climate have resulted in fewer rains in the area, cutting off a large chunk of the water supply. In addition, a shortage of electricity has also cut off water supply, forcing residents to rely on other sources of water. Previously, Karachi was entirely reliant on the Malir River, pumping water from Dumlotte Wells, today, supply has diversified and water is now pumped from the Indus River and its tributaries.

Construction of the Dumlottee Wells

During British rule, development works were carried out in the conduit in two phases. The first, in 1881, supplied five million gallons of water to Karachi daily. More wells were built in 1923, increasing Karachi's water supply to fifteen million gallons daily. A 32 kilometer conduit was built alongside, channeling water to various parts of the city. It stretches from the Dumlottee Wells to Malir Cantonment, Safoora Chowrangi, Karachi University, Gulshan Block 6, NIPA Chowrangi, Aziz Bhatti Park, Mashriq Centre, Al-Hilal Society, Old Sabzi Mandi, Kashmir Road and Lines Area. The Dumlottee wells still exist today, although mostly not in use, and are considered a historical site built in the colonial architectural forms.

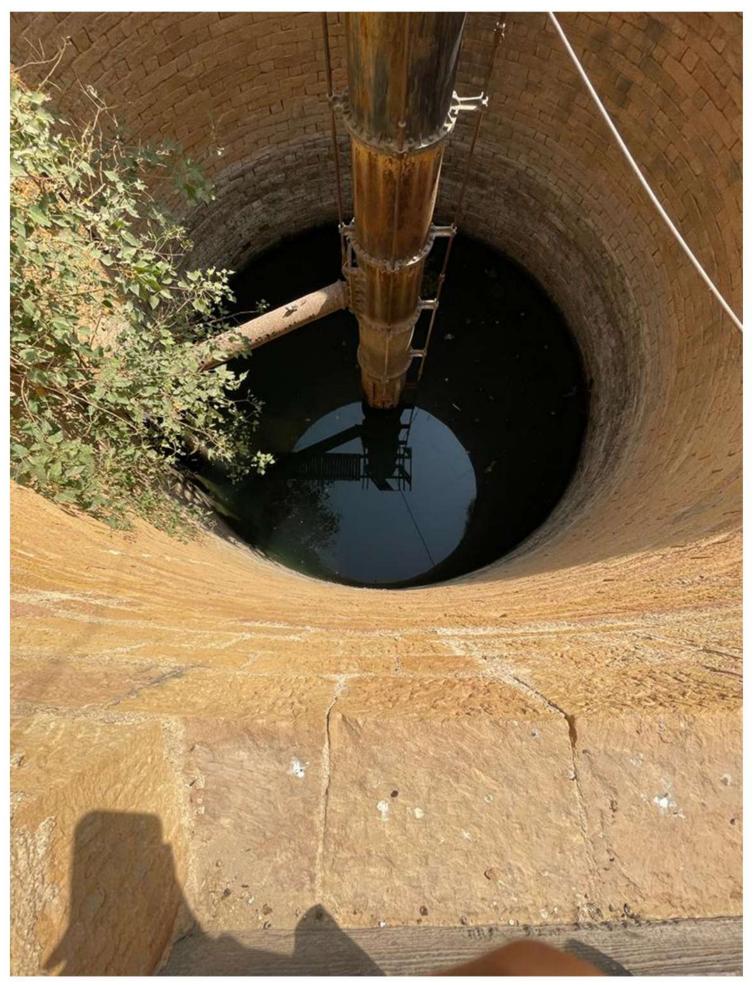
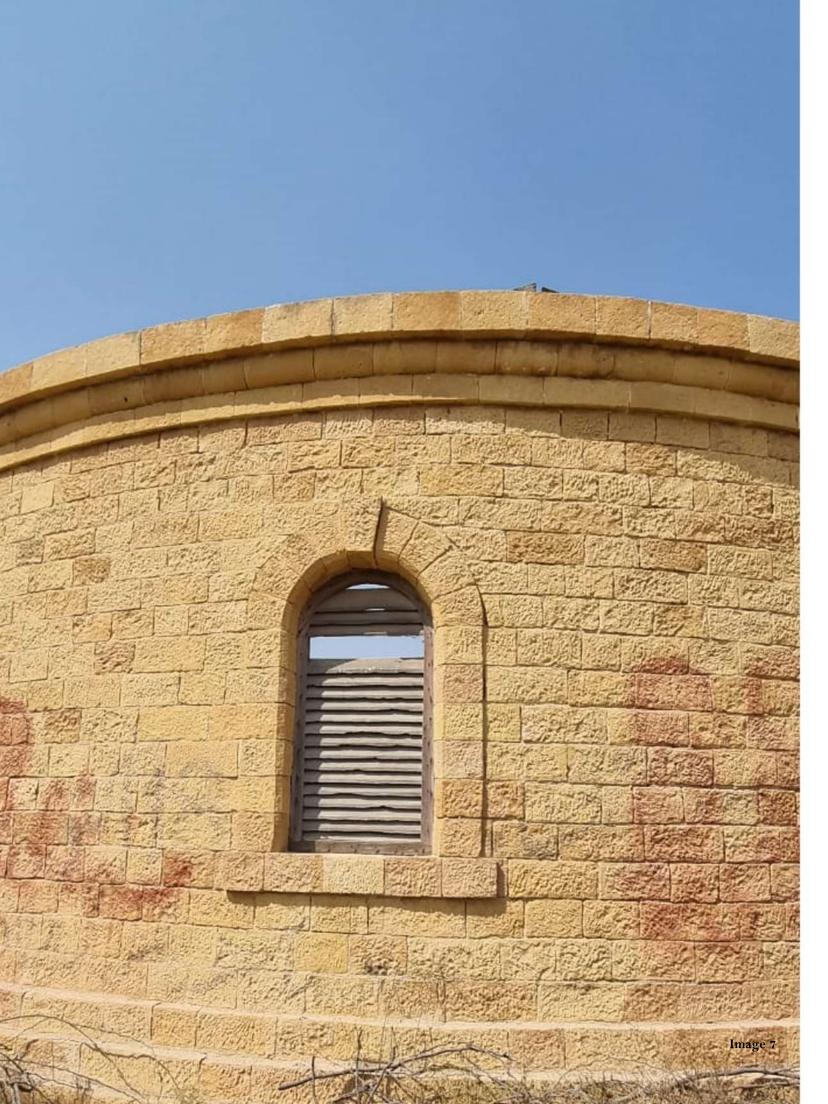


Image 5

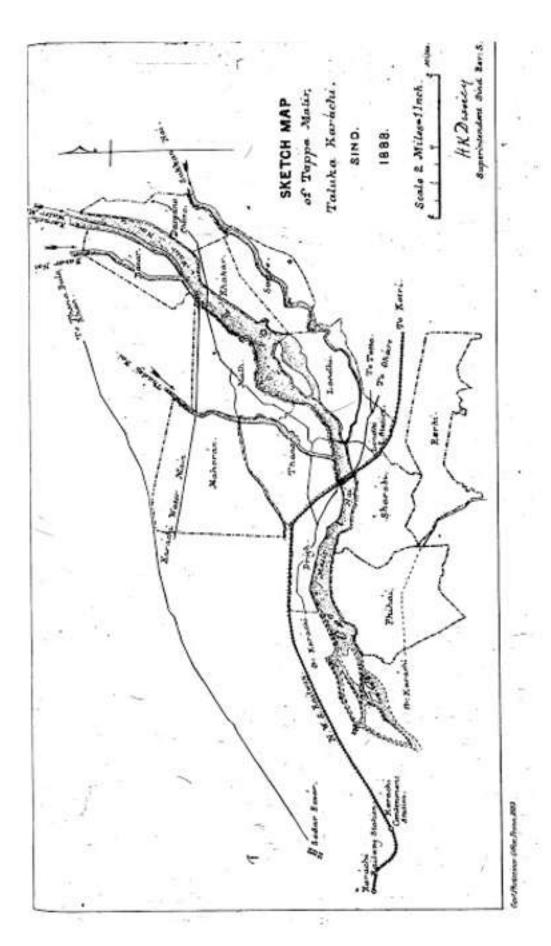


Gizri Sandstone

The Dumlottee Wells are built with gizri yellowstone, a building material popular in the british era. The Yellow Gizri sandstone is a type of sandstone that was found in the Gizri area of Karachi. Renowned for its distinctive yellow colour, it has been used as a building material for centuries. It is a sedimentary rock that formed millions of years ago during the Cretaceous period. The sand grains in the rock were deposited by wind or water and compacted over time to time to form solid rock. The use of yellow Gizri sandstone in construction dates back to ancient times. It has been used in numerous historical buildings and landmarks in the region, such as the Makli and Chawkandi Graveryard. Known for its aesthetic value and durability, it represents a part of Karachi's architectural heritage and reflects the city's history and culture. Due to its historical and cultural importance, efforts have been made to conserve and preserve structures made from yellow Gizri sandstone. The structure of the Dumlottee Wells emphasizes on symmetry, grandeur and detailed craftsmanship through the use of the Gizri sandstone. The Gizri sandstone is known for its durability, aesthetic appeal, and ability to withstand weathering over time.

Potential Benefits of Reviving the Dumelottee System

The reconstruction of a number of the conduit system's wells, in the opinion of irrigation specialists, may guarantee Karachi's daily supply of 15 to 20 million gallons of water. The KWSB has been working towards this goal for the past seven years. However, the Sindh government rejected the proposal, depriving Karachi's residents of a reliable water supply via the outdated infrastructure.



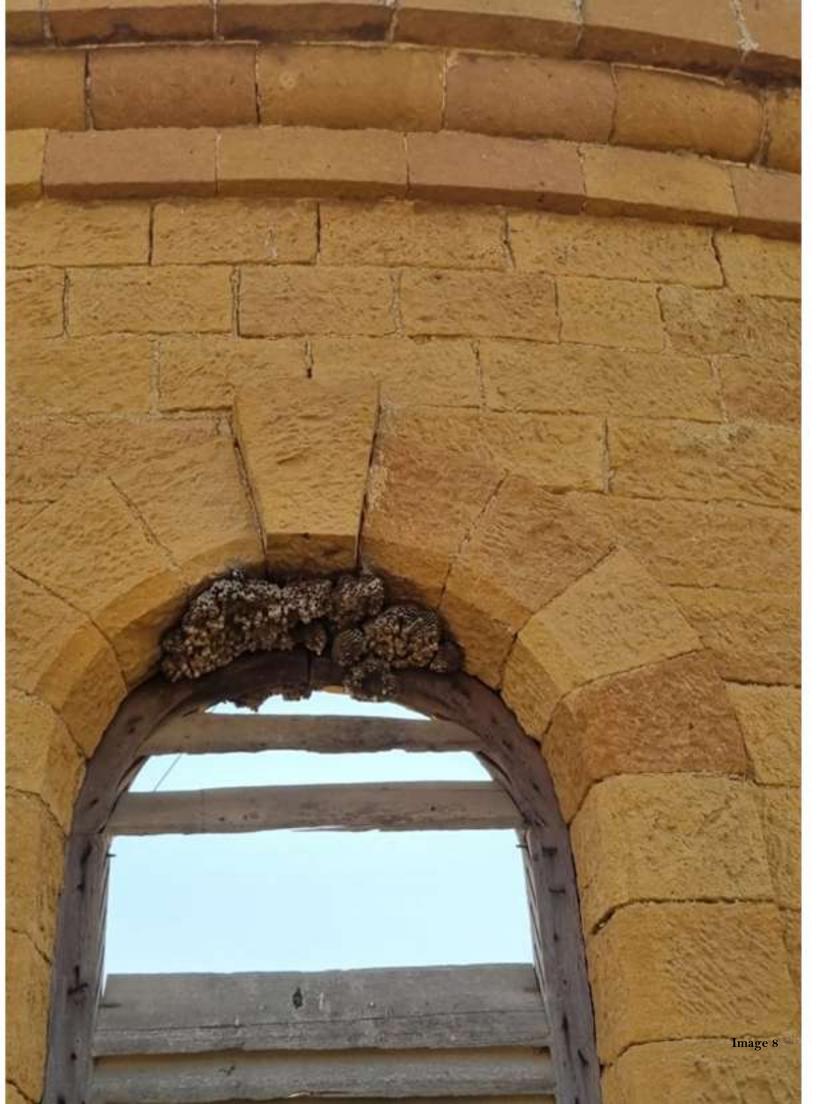
Map of Malir River from 1888

From the Archives

In 1971 Jack Coles (then Reuter Correspondent in Karachi) encountered a female sitting on its nest at Dumloti in Malir just outside Karachi. It was observed over a period of 7 days but unfortunately the nest was robbed and curiously no male was ever seen in the vicinity during rather brief visits to the area (Coles, pencomm., 1972). In the winter of 1979/80 a female suddenly arrived on 21 December in the author's garden in Malir. It at once attracted attention by its loud and unfamiliar calls. It remained until 10 February behaving quite territorially during that 7 week period (Roberts, JBNHS, 1981). Status VAGRANT to south-eastern Sad.

Grimmett, Richard, T. J. Roberts, Tim Inskipp, and Clive Byers. Birds of Pakistan. London: Christopher. Helm, 2008.

Published in 1991, the book "Birds of Pakistan" talks about a Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher once found on the Dumlottee Wells site and the Malir River area. This bird is mostly found in the south eastern part of Asia, but it is also sometimes spotted in lower Sindh. This excerpt describes Jack Coles encounter with the bird, whose species is generally found in dense forests and habitats abundant in trees.



4. The Malir lands possess a most valuable source of irrigation in the sub-surface flow of water, which is general in this tract of country. This natural advantage is utilized at small cost by means of temporary (kacha) wells sunk in the sandy soil, the depth at which water is obtained ranging as a rule from 12 to 25 feet. The Malir river, which at a level but little below that of the surrounding country has its course through this tract, also affords a ready means of irrigation. Though dry the greater portion of the year, water is readily obtainable by digging a few feet in its bed. The beds of the smaller hill torrents, which are tributaries of the Malir, afford a like supply. The water thus obtained is conveyed by means of channels until it reaches and flows on to the land, which it is destined to irrigate. These irrigational channels are known locally as "wangis."

The number of wells is increasing rapidly. When the Malir lands were measured in 1886-87, there were 197 wells. In the interval of one year between measurement and classification, 114 were added and since October last there has been a further increase of 52, making a total of 363 wells, all of which are now in good working order.

There are 37 irrigational channels (wangis). Owing to the scanty rainfall of the last few years, there appears to have been some general subsidence of the underflow in the Malir lands. Water is not now found so near the surface and the supply to some of the channels has in consequence

partially failed. The land formerly commanded has either a reduced supply or has been left high and dry. Of the 37 channels, 10 now give a comparatively certain supply all the year round, 12 are effective up to about the end of February and 15 have partially or entirely failed. In lands where a flow supply is, under present conditions, no longer available, the cultivators have in most cases resorted to well irrigation. As shown in the last para, wells are largely on the increase and as they afford a certain and cheap means of irrigation, it is not to be regretted that they should be preferred to the more precarious channel supply.

No.1433 of 1889 Revenue Department Commissioner Sind on Malir River, Karachi, 29th April 1889

Shared by Sadya Siddiqui (SOAS)

The Malir River

The Malir, formed by the confluence of the Mol and Khadeji tributaries at a distance of 30 miles north of Karachi City, is one of two rivers that pass through Karachi. It is an intermittent river or ephemeral stream that once used to flow year-round, starting from the Kirthar Mountain Range to the Gizri area, finally ending in the Arabian sea. With rainfall being very scanty, these rivers are dry for the greater part of the year. They hardly flow for a couple of days during the season but they are a powerful underground source of fresh-water supply for the city. The Dumlottee Wells received their supply water from this river, providing water to the residents of Karachi.

"It was a whole civilization, different tribes were settled here. You will find traces of the Buddha period here, along the Malir River. You will find historical evidence here from the 10th century. You will find the blessed footsteps of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai here. You will find the footsteps of Sassui here. The old route, which it is said used to come from Iran to Balchistan to Bhambore, passed from here. So this is a very rich area in terms of history," says Hafeez Baloch, an activist affiliated with the Indigenous Right Alliance.

Most of our seasonal vegetables and our local fruits come from the Malir area. Around 800 farmers growing seasonal vegetables have been removed from the riverbed and bank. There are many fruit orchards growing Guavas, Chikus, Shareefas, Coconut, Dates and Papayas, along with golden wheat fields. Imli trees, banyan trees, and Keeker (Acacia) are also native species that can be found in the area. There are hundreds of species of local shrubs and plants, which act as food sources for native species of butterflies, birds, bees and other insects. A thorny shrub, known as Devi by the locals, can be fatal to animals who eat the leaves, and is used to keep people away from the Dumlottee Well.



Image 9

Karachi's Disappearing Natural History

The inhabitants of Malir had always resisted invasions in the past, protecting their land for centuries. It made up one of the main inhabited lands in Karach when the British era started. The British never tampered with the natural ecosystem and the wells that existed in this area. In fact, they built more wells that helped address the shortage of water.

Today, there is no mention of Malir, its rivers and its ecology in history textbooks. According to Hafeez Baloch, the post-partition era wreaked havoc in Karachi's ecosystem. An area once rich with vegetation, habitat to various species of birds and other animals now became wrought with an ecological disaster fighting to keep itself and its residents alive. During Partition, the indigenous population of this area migrated to India while no master plan awaited the huge population that was to enter Karachi.

Throughout history, humans have had an inherent connection with their land and the environment. Hafeez says, the Hindus, Parsis and Jews, who made up the indigenous population of the city at that time maintained this area very well. Once lost, it was nearly impossible to replicate the same relationship with the land. With a lack of understanding of Karachi's ecology and the functioning of Karachi development schemes soon took over and the water crisis, (water which was once available in abundance) became the heart of Karachi's problem. (16:27–16:58)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M76sgh7veWw

The land by the sea neglected one of its most useful resources and abandoned the Dumlottee Well system to pave way for a development that infringed on human and environmental rights. "When we formed the Indigenous Rights Alliance, its main objective was that, someone like Malik Riaz has no right to take and use piece of land, and say that he is using it in the name of development; that he will make a road here, a building here, and the people that have been living here for centuries should go live somewhere else," says Hafeez.

Sand and Gravel Mafia

Sand and gravel are a natural water filtration system, allowing filtered water to flow into underground wells and boring systems. Post-partition, sand and gravel was excavated from the Malir River bed and mixed with cement to use in construction. As Hafeez aptly puts it: "All the buildings you see in Karachi have been painted with the blood of Malir River."

Despite a very delayed ban on such practices introduced under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code, these practices continue illegally. Sand mining by the sand and gravel mafia has resulted in environmental issues, tampering with the natural ecosystem of the Malir river. As a result of these practices, the Dumlottee Wells and adjoining nullahs such as Thaddo Nalo and Bazaar Nalo saw a decline in the water table. Underground freshwater reserves have now been contaminated owing to the lack of natural filtration. This poses risks to the residents of Gadap Town, who often consume this water from nearby wells and conduits. The water scarcity in the Malir River area is so severe that the Dumlottee Wells, testaments to the innovative prowess of British engineers, are depleting, progressively drying up and shutting down, one after another.





Karnataka, India: How nearby cities are handling old wells

The municipal corporation in Karnataka, India has managed to resuscitate 66 of the hundreds of wells that were there under British rule so that they can provide water to 25% of Belagavi's population. Every two days, residents receive water from the resurrected wells. According to corporation head engineer R S Naik, the wells, which are between 100 and 200 years old, provide sufficient water and have proven to be a reliable alternative source of supplies for Belagavi city.

Sri Lanka: Antiquity Ordinance protects the cities heritage

Looking at Srilanka's antiquity ordinance, the state has outlined a set of rules to be followed in order to preserve and conserve their history and heritage. While it remains important to bridge the gap of theory and practice through praxis, both the development of laws and their enforcement remains important.

Atrato River, Colombia: Rights of the River

The Atrato River in Colombia has been granted rights because of what it offers for human life, not because it ought to be compared to human life. The preservation, conservation, upkeep, and restoration of the river are now considered to be a part of its "bio-cultural" rights. The Atrato's new rights require that it be safeguarded and ultimately restored.

Social Importance

The Dumlottee Wells were a huge, and at one time, the only source of water for the residents of Karachi. The Malir River, an area once known as the 'lungs of Karachi,' is now poverty stricken, struggling to make ends meet, surrounded by the real estate mafia in a global capitalist world that is adamant on urbanization and ridding spaces of their natural ecology, exploiting not just people but also land and nature. Despite the climate disasters that have ensued, the world continues to embark on this path of alleged progress, which has affected not just the lives of people but also their cultures and histories and the ecosystem of the world. Yet, sitting in the forested Gadap area of Malir, Karachi on the 5th episode of Habib Talks, Hafeez Baloch talks about how the ecology of Malir still persists; resisting climate change and all the exploitation that its has put up with and is set to face in the near future, with the construction of projects such DHA, Bahria Town Karach and now the Malir Expressway.

Like Baloch, many environmental activists hold a deep-seated belief that land represents a fundamental aspect of human value. This perspective is particularly prominent among indigenous rights advocates, who view land-grabbing schemes as blatant infringements of human rights. They argue that severing the connection between humans and their natural environments has led to catastrophic consequences. A compelling example of this ethos is present in India, where the "Save the River" campaign has championed for the Ganga River to be granted "Non-Human Personhood" status. This approach perceives the river as an independent entity that inherently possesses its own rights, reflecting the intrinsic value and respect given to nature.

The Ganga River is considered a sacred entity in Hindu traditions, and is perceived as an embodiment of Hindu Goddess Ganga. Throughout history, most civilizations have been found near rivers and other bodies of water. Rivers have had a sacred place in many cultures. Yet, they are not only neglected today, but also subject to intense environmental degradation through practices such as sand and gravel excavation.



Image 11

Current Status

The river now has a raised expressway, partially constructed in the riverbed with sand and gravel excavated from the site, lowering the water table and reducing the capacity of the natural aquifer to be replenished. This project has put the livelihood of indigenous residents at risk.

The recent heavy rainfall led to significant flooding in the region, damaging portions of the under-construction road. Despite numerous efforts to subdue it, the river tenaciously endures. However, the unfortunate reality is that this formerly pristine river does not feature in the city's master plan. It's projected to devolve into a sewage conduit, carrying waste from Bahria Town and DCK to the Arabian Sea.

Several smaller streams in the vicinity, which contribute to the Malir River, also face risk. Encroachment and aggressive land development threaten their existence.

Thaddo Nadi now exists as a noxious, foul-smelling body of water, contaminated by a chemical factory upstream and sewage discharge from Bahria Town. Consequently, the local playground is often submerged. With two more chemical factories scheduled to be built nearby under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there are concerns of further pollution to the area's groundwater, posing a threat to the agricultural zone.

Subhani Nadi has been virtually erased from the landscape, only existing on geographical maps.

Nangeyji Nadi, another seasonal stream feeding the Malir River, is witnessing continual land excavation.

Nadi Feeding the Dam forms a sizable lake during the rainy season. An effort to increase its capacity through damming has backfired as one of the walls has collapsed, causing the water to spill over. The planned Malir Road, which cuts through this lake bed, threatens the lake's ecology as well as nearby fruit farms. This lake is a popular stopping point for numerous species of migratory birds.

This overview paints a grim picture of the current state of our water bodies, indicating an urgent need for better conservation and protective measures.



Image 11

Malir Expressway Project

The Malir Expressway project was officially inaugurated by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zaradari in December 2020. Now under construction, this project penetrates through the center of the Malir river and threatens to be yet another environmental disaster. The wall of the six-lane mega-infrastructure project poses the risk of blocking rainflow and flooding surrounding areas. The 39 kilometer motorway is designed to serve as an alternative southern route, facilitating the flow of traffic from ports and industrial zones to the main highways. This expressway will enhance access to significant real estate projects along its path, and claims to cut down the commute time from the KPT Flyover to the Super Highway (M-9) to 25 minutes. In other words, it will link the affluent areas of the city to the gated societies on the outskirts to reduce commute time. The project is a development disaster. This aggressive ecological invasion will not just result in displacement of people and gravely affect their livelihoods, but it will also cut off an a river.

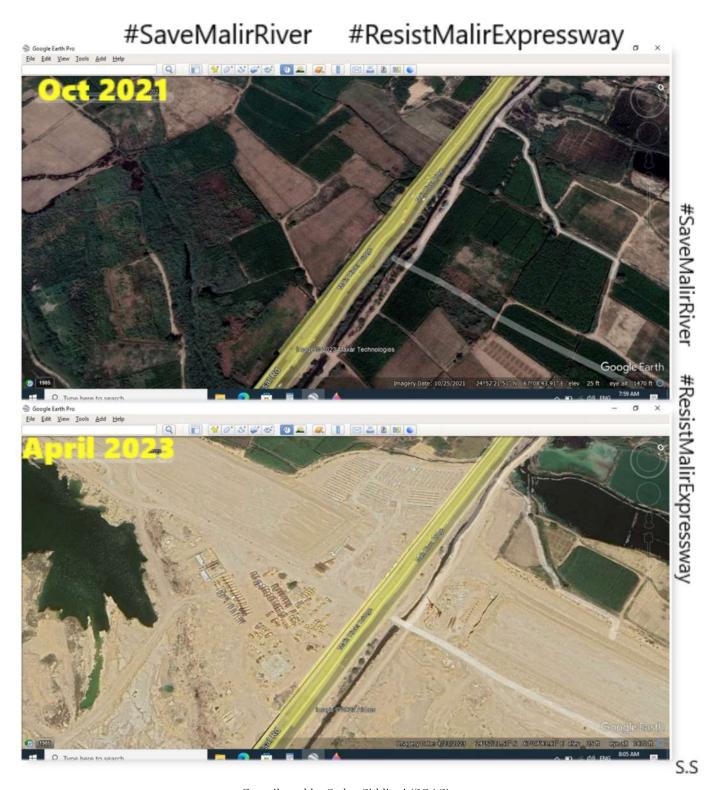
"If we have to save Karach and its environment, then this area on earth, which is called Malir, where there is still agriculture and which still has a beautiful chain of rivers and sweet water, if we can't save it from getting destroyed due to housing societies, mills and others, then neither Karachi will be able to breathe, nor this world. Because we are connected with this world, not separated." (Hafeez Baloch, Habib Talks Podcast, 2023).

Legal Actions

During the early 2000s, Siddiq Chacha, a local farmer without legal expertise, initiated the first lawsuit against sand and gravel mining. Despite his lack of legal knowledge, he displayed remarkable perseverance in pursuing the case over several years.

In April 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADP) decided against financing the Karachi Malir Expressway after the Indigenous Legal Rights Alliance protested against its construction. The petition, filed by two local farmers of Malir, Mohammad Aslam and Azeem Dekhani, through their counsel Abira Ashfaq, in April, received a favorable judgment as the this project did not align with the ADP's climate resilience policy, as the project would reduce agricultural productivity and damage the land along the Malir River.

Siddiq Baloch achieved a significant legal victory in the Sindh High Court, successfully putting an end to the release of toxic waste from the Naguri Society Dairy Farms into the Malir River. For the past forty years, Siddiq Baloch has been relentlessly advocating for the rights and protection of the Malir River.



Contributed by Sadya Siddiqui (SOAS)

This image shows the progression of the Malir River ecocide: 2021-2023, following the construction of the Malir Expressway.

Safeguarding Heritage

The Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act 1994 provides the legal framework for the protection of Sindh's cultural heritage, and it covers everything - from prehistoric sites, to any premises or objects with historic, cultural or natural value.

It is therefore imperative to protect and preserve an architectural marvel built in the colonial style that had the potential to solve some of Karachi's water problems. Enlisting it as a heritage site will ensure that the Dumlottee Wells are maintained through repair and restoration efforts. Today two of the wells are operational and supplying water to Malir. However, by maintaining the other Dumlottee Wells, it could facilitate a significant portion of the city to provide water.



Image 12

THE SINDH CULTURAL HERITAGE (PRESERVATION) ACT 1994 (SINDH ACT NO XII OF 1994)

An Act to preserve and protect ancient places and objects of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, ethnological, anthropological and national interest on the province of Sindh

Sindh Cultutural Heritage (Preservation) Act, 1994

1. Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act, 1994 - Ned University of ..., accessed July 12, 2023, https://www.neduet.edu.pk/arch_planning/ICOMOS/22-11-11/5-Sindh%20Cultural%20Heritage%20Preservation% 20Act%201994.pdf.

5. CUSTODY, PRESERVATION, ETC., OF CERTAIN ANTIQUITIES:

- (1) Where the Director General receives any information or otherwise has the knowledge of the discovery or existence of an antiquity of which there is no owner, he shall, after satisfying himself as to the correctness of the information or knowledge, take such steps as he may consider necessary for the custody, preservation and protection of the antiquity.
- (2) Where the owner of an antiquity is not traceable the Director General may with the approval of the Federal Government, take such steps as he may consider necessary for the custody, preservation and protection of the antiquity.
- * Sub-Section (1) of section 3 substituted vide Act No. XXI of 1992

Antiquities act 1975 - Pakistan. Accessed July 13, 2023. https://www.heritage.pakistan.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/annex-2doam.pdf.

Why the Dumlottee Wells need to be listed as a heritage site?

The designation of a building or site as a heritage site involves careful consideration of a range of factors:

Historical Significance: These sites have major historical value, as they are remnants of the British era. The exterior of these wells must be preserved as it holds tangible and intangible history for us. They represent a time when Karachi faced one of its first water problems and the genius that went into resolving it, ensuring that Karachi remains an agricultural forested land with natural reserves and rivers of its own - a sight often forgotten, and sometimes unknown to current residents of Karachi.

Architectural Value: Allowing this site to fall into desolation would be an unfortunate disregard for its architectural brilliance. The site has:

a. External architectural features: Details contribute to the character and quality of the urban fabric b. Record of variation in construction materials: The wells have been constructed in a colonial architectural style using Gizri sandstone, a material that is no longer available.

Educational Purposes: The Dumlottee Wells are an important resource for learning about the past. These sites can be used to educate the public about history, culture, and heritage.

Innovation in Technology and Engineering: They also showcase the valuable engineering and technological breakthroughs of the past. The distinct design of the wells represents significant technological progress for an agriculture based country.

Archaeological Potential: As a historical archeological site for the future, surrounded by agricultural lands. The Dumlottee Well can be a new addition to the historical landmarks of the city.

Cultural Importance: These wells are important for the community in the Malir River for the preservation of the environment which is at grave risk and help irrigate lands by supplying water. Restoring and preserving the wells could significantly contribute to the community's growth and rejuvenation, particularly if the site is integrated into local strategies for water provision.



Aesthetic Value: The colonial era style wells represent exceptional craftsmanship and have recently become areas of tourist visits, especially for youtubers, vloggers and tiktokers. As heritage sites, the Dumlottee Wells are likely to attract locals and foreign tourists as well as donors for the preservation of cultural historical artifacts and can be a valuable addition to the tourist attractions of Karachi carrying promising prospects for the local economy.

Environmental Asset: By preserving and repurposing existing wells, we can conserve resources and reduce the environmental impact associated with demolition and new construction. The Dumlottee Wells are open spaces that contribute to the ecology of an area and contribute towards its environmental quality; including irrigation canals, agricultural fields and other features.

Locational Value: These wells are important because they are located near the Malir River. Sites that are located on the periphery of the city are important and can be well known landmarks that are given a high degree of value as they serve as anchor points to the city's periphery.

Potential Risks and Urgency: The Dumlottee Wells, stand unguarded, at risk of demolition, land-grabbing, and pollution as they may be turned into a dumping ground. The Sindh tribunal's approval of the controversial Malir Expressway places the Dumlottee Wells at risk of demolition and degradation due to the fumes of the heavy vehicular traffic, owing to the close proximity of the wells. Future projects in this area may also result in possible demolition of these wells if they are not registered as heritage sites soon.

Dumlottee Well No. 1

24°58′10″ N, 67°19′34″ E

Legend

Well

Rural Roads



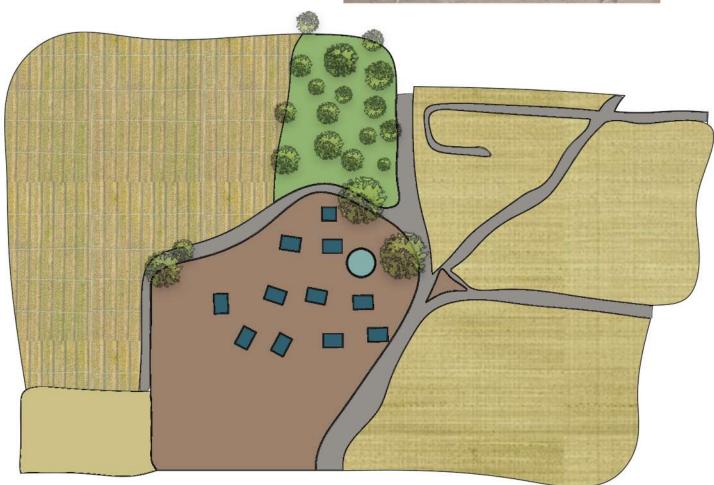




Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 2

24°58′32″ N, 67°19′42″ E

Legend

Well

GBLSS School

Rural Roads

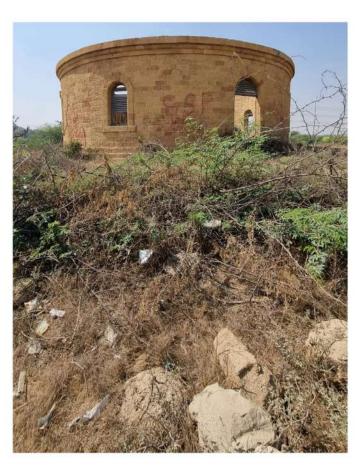






Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.

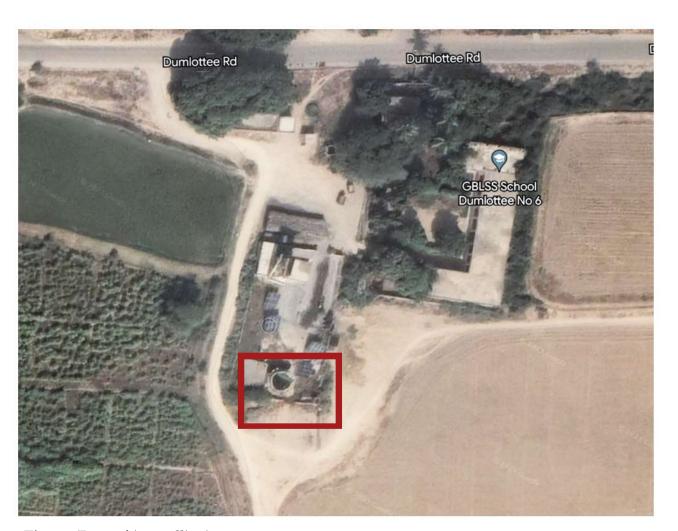


Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 3 24°58′16″ N, 67°19′32″ E Legend Well Rural Roads Solar Panels



Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

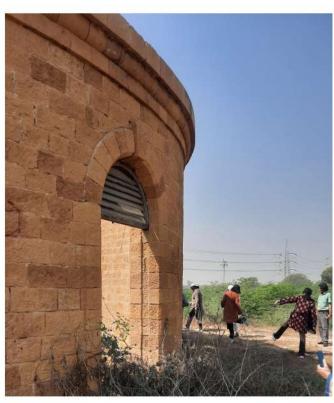
Dumlottee Well No. 4 24°58'26" N, 67°19'40" E

Legend

Well

Colonial Buildings

Rural Roads



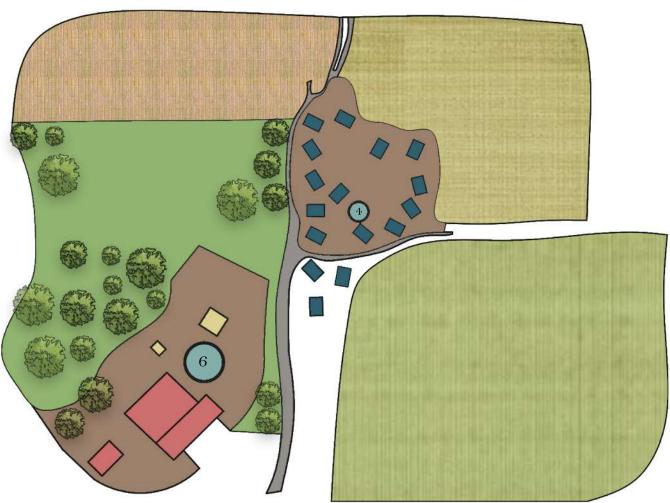




Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 5

24°58′32″ N, 67°19′42″ E

Legend

Well

Rural Roads

Solar Panels

Talaab







Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 6

24°58′24″ N, 67°19′39″ E

Legend

Well

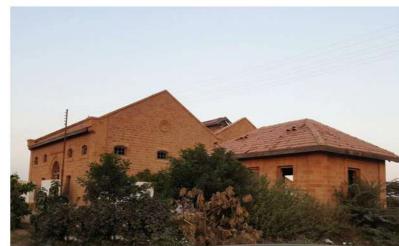
Colonial Era Buildings

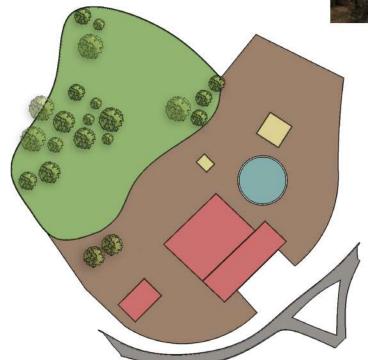
Rural Roads

Solar Panels



Colonial Era Buildings 24°58'24" N, 67°19'40" E





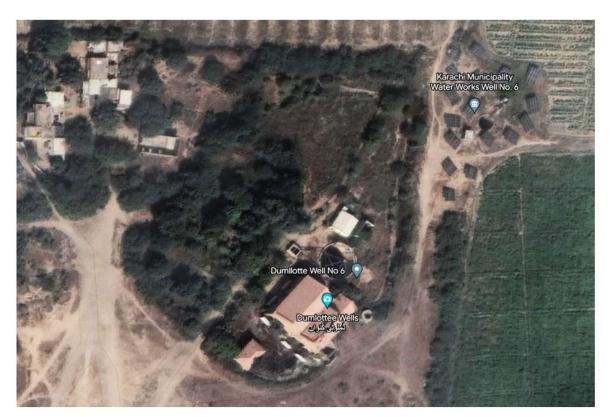


Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.

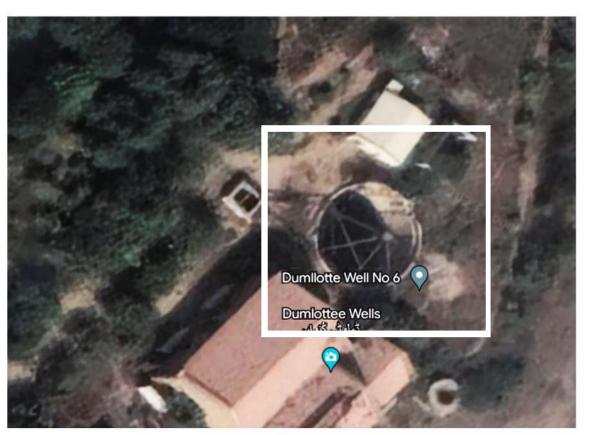


Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 7 & 8

24°58'47" N, 67°19'48" E well # 7 24°58'45" N, 67°19'46" E well # 8

Legend

Well

Colonial Buildings

Rural Roads

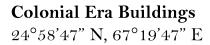












Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 9 24°58′34″ N, 67°19′42″ E

Legend

Well

Colonial Buildings

Rural Roads

Solar Panels

Talaab

Wall



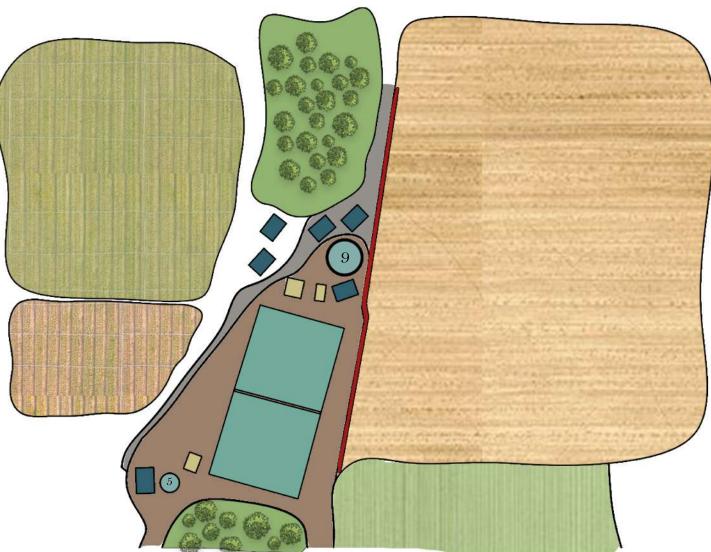




Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 10 24°58'40" N, 67°19'48" E

Legend

Well

Buildings

Rural Roads



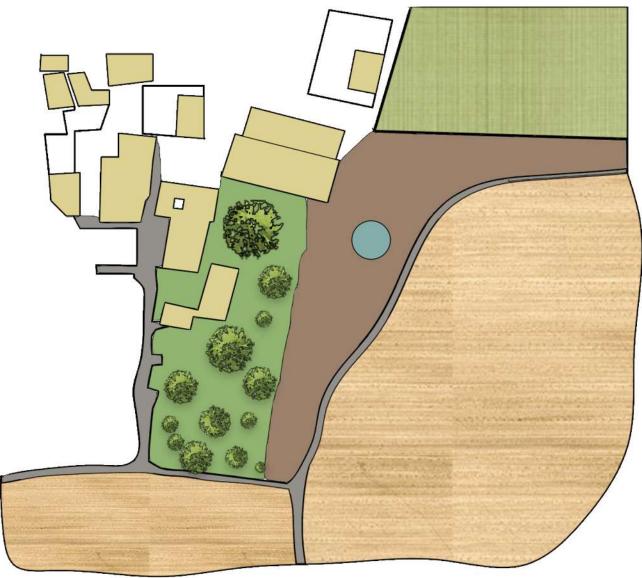




Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 11 & 12

24°58′01″ N, 67°19′12″ E well # 11 24°58′03″ N, 67°19′14″ E well # 12

Legend

Well

Buildings

Rural Roads

Solar Panels

Talaab

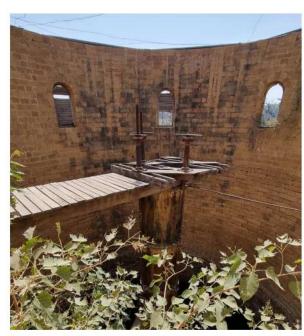






Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 13 24°58'05" N, 67°19'18" E

Legend

Well

Rural Roads



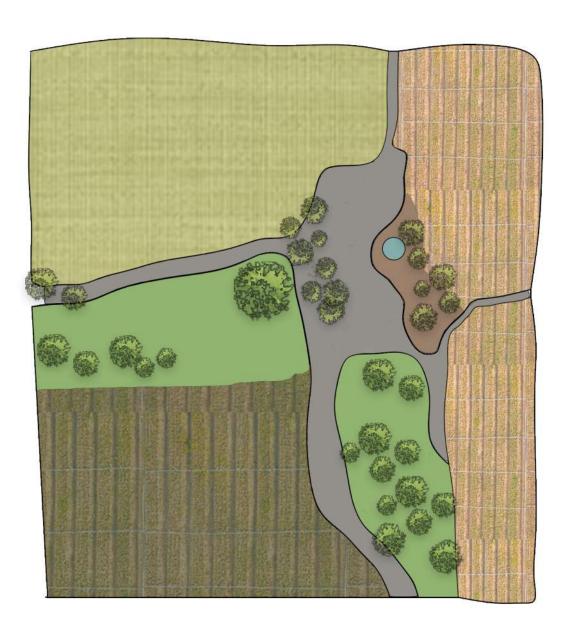




Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 14

24°58′12″ N, 67°19′28″ E

Legend

Well

Buildings

Rural Roads

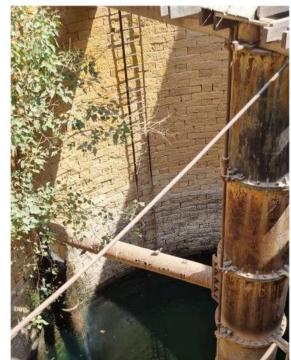






Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Dumlottee Well No. 15 & 16

24°58′16″ N, 67°19′34″ E well # 15 24°58′14″ N, 67°19′35″ E well # 16

Legend

Well

Buildings

Rural Roads







Fig 01: Largescale satellite image.



Fig 02: Zoomed in satellite image.

Concept and development

Marvi Mazhar & Associates

Research, Text & Editing

Marvi Mazhar Pashmina Memon Sadya Siddiqui (SOAS) Aliza Shaikh Ayesha Jamal

Map Development

Owais Zafar Murk Shah

Illustration & Layout

Ayesha Jamal Komal Rehman

Field Photographs

IVSAA M.Phil Program Shaheen Nauman

In Solidarity with

Indigenous Rights Alliance (IRA)
Hafeez Baloch
Abeera Ashfaq
Salman Baloch
Akhter Kalmeti

