



Assemblage marking with chalk powder



Multiple graves in an assemblage

CLUSTER CATALOGUING & ASSEMBLAGES NUMBERING

The WHS-04 Necropolis of Makli is spread over an area of 10 km and it accommodates a diversity of historic structures. The structures date back from the 14th century to 17th century. It houses many from Sufi saints to princes, from ordinary mortals to kings. The area of the site has been divided into four major clusters of monuments. These clusters are based on the periods of rule, to which the graves belong. The clusters are 1. Samma Monuments Cluster (mid 14th c. – late 16th c.), 2. Arghun Monuments Cluster(1520- 1555), 3. Tarkhan Monuments Cluster (1555 – Late 16th c.) and 4. Mughal Monuments Cluster (1592 - Early 18th c.)

In the month of June, Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Endowment Fund Trust and Department of Culture, Government of Sindh, led a team of Student volunteers from Karachi University & Mehran University to catalogue the clusters at the World Heritage Site Makli, Thatta. In order to have an efficient system for cataloguing, it was decided to divide the clusters into several sub-clusters. Each sub- culture was further organized by marking assemblages, these comprise of monuments, umbrella structures, platforms and graves. The Assemblages are to be marked and numbered using the Heritage Foundation Numbering system, resulting with a cataloguing system that is efficient and lasting.

The cataloguing of Samma Monument Cluster started by marking the assemblages with chalk powder, at the same time a more lasting solution to this marking was also thought of. The assemblages will later on have bamboo set in mortar in the ground to mark the corners of the assemblage, and a string will be tied to mark the boundaries.



Bamboo block markers



HF team and volunteers marking assemblages with chalk powder



Mapping of Samma Monument Cluster