

# Durham E-Theses

---

## *The Saudi-Yemeni boundary : towards a peaceful resolution.*

Al-Ghamdi, Ahmed Abdullah Saud

### How to cite:

---

Al-Ghamdi, Ahmed Abdullah Saud (1996) *The Saudi-Yemeni boundary : towards a peaceful resolution.*, Durham theses, Durham University. Available at Durham E-Theses Online:  
<http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/1650/>

### Use policy

---

The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties in any format or medium, without prior permission or charge, for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes provided that:

- a full bibliographic reference is made to the original source
- a [link](#) is made to the metadata record in Durham E-Theses
- the full-text is not changed in any way

The full-text must not be sold in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

Please consult the [full Durham E-Theses policy](#) for further details.

# **The Saudi-Yemeni Boundary: Towards a Peaceful Resolution**

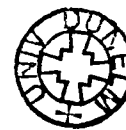
**Volume Two**  
(of two volumes)

**Atlas**

The copyright of this thesis rests with the author. No quotation from it should be published without the written consent of the author and information derived from it should be acknowledged.

**Ahmed Abdullah Saud Al-Ghamdi**

Thesis submitted for Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
in the Faculty of Social Science, International Boundaries Research Unit,  
Department of Geography, University of Durham, UK.



1996

- 9 OCT 1997

## List of Figures

(A) and page numbers in *italics* indicate that a figure is to be found in the Atlas (Volume Two). All other figures are reproduced in the appropriate place in this volume.

1.1	The status of boundaries in the Middle East and North Africa, 1996	20
1.2	The study area	22
1.3	Model Framework	25
1.4	Model of the <i>de facto</i> border	32
1.5(A)	Location of study sectors and checkpoints	1
2.1(A)	Saudi and Yemeni boundary treaties	2
2.2(A)	The Saudi-Yemeni frontier	3
2.3(A)	Emirates boundaries sampled by the author on the Treaty of Taif boundary	4
2.4(A)	Historical proposals relating to the Saudi-Yemeni frontier	5
2.5(A)	Disputed islands on the Saudi-Yemeni maritime boundary	6
2.6(A)	Yemeni oil exploration in the Red Sea	7
3.1	Location of the Western Study Sector showing adjacent administrative divisions	105
3.2	Terms used to describe the frontier in the Western Study Sector	106
3.3(A)	Geology and relief of the Western Study Sector	8
3.4	Average maximum daily temperatures at Najran meteorological station for 1992 and 1993	110
3.5(A)	Population distribution in the Western Study Sector	9
3.6(A)	Residence of respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint	10
3.7	Purposes of crossings by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint	118
3.8(A)	Visits to relatives by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint	11
3.9(A)	Visits to markets by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint	12
3.10(A)	Visits to properties by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint	13
3.11(A)	Roads and tracks to Al-Khadra checkpoint	14
3.12(A)	Oil concession blocks in the Western Study Sector	15
3.13(A)	The <i>de facto</i> border in the Western Study Sector	16
3.14(A)	Distribution of tribes in the Western Study Sector	17
4.1	Location of the Central Study Sector	151
4.2	Terms used to describe the frontier in the Central Study Sector	152
4.3(A)	Geology and relief of the Central Study Sector	18
4.4(A)	Population distribution in the Central Study Sector	19
4.5(A)	Location of relatives and properties located in Yemen of those living close to the Central Study Sector in Saudi Arabia	20
4.6(A)	Oil concession blocks in the Central Study Sector	21
4.7(A)	The <i>de facto</i> border in the Central Study Sector	22
4.8(A)	Distribution of tribes in the Central Study Sector	23
5.1	Location of the Eastern Study Sector	166
5.2	Terms used to describe the frontier in the Eastern Study Sector	167
5.3(A)	Geology and relief of the Eastern Study Sector	24
5.4	Monthly rainfall totals at Sharurah meteorological station for 1992 and 1993	171
5.5(A)	Pasture and wells in the Eastern Study Sector	25
5.6(A)	Population distribution in the Eastern Study Sector	26

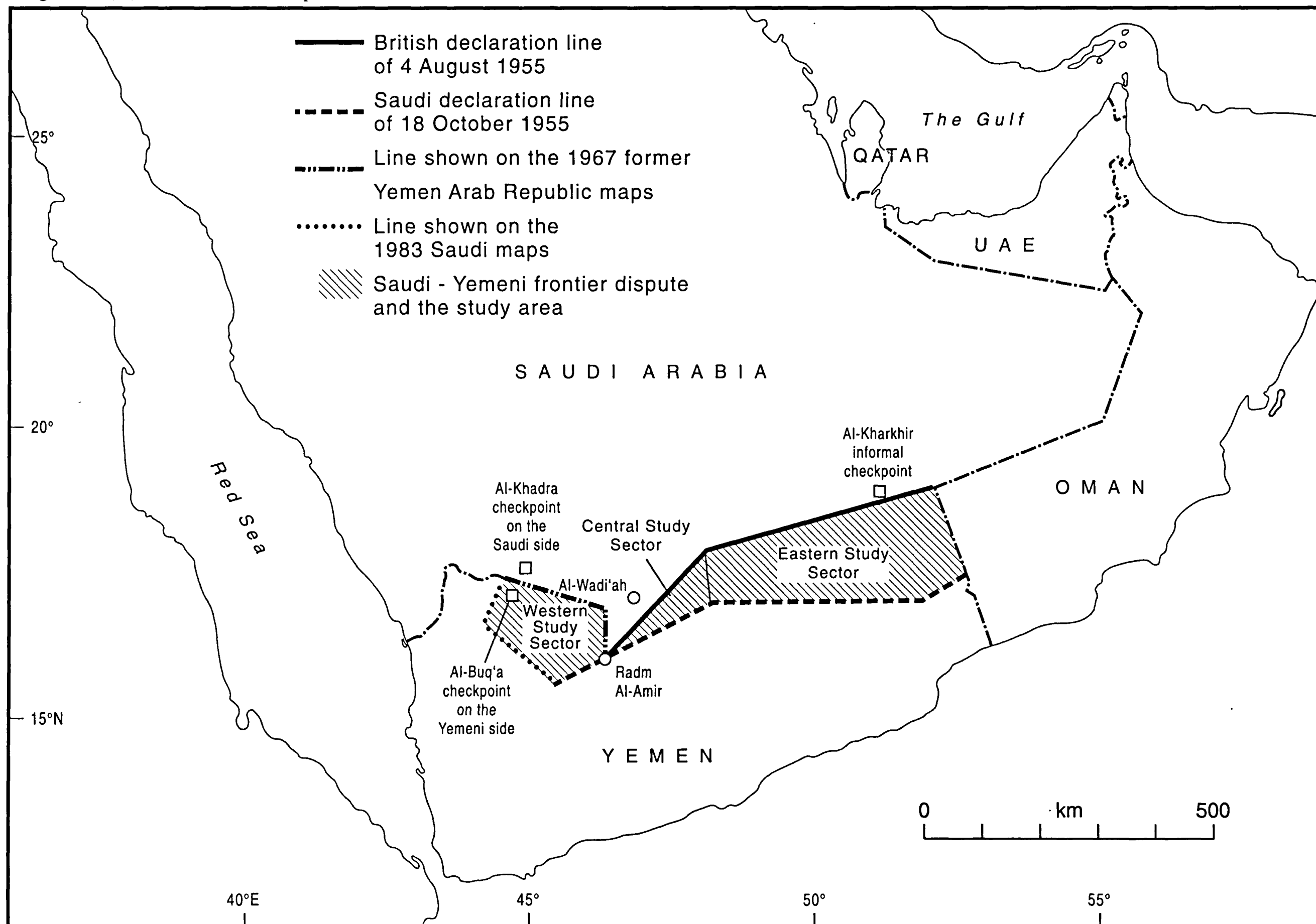
5.7(A)	Residence of respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	27
5.8	Purposes of crossings by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	178
5.9(A)	Visits to relatives by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	28
5.10(A)	Visits to markets by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	29
5.11(A)	Visits to properties by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	30
5.12(A)	Roads and tracks to Al-Kharkhir checkpoint	31
5.13(A)	Oil concession blocks and exploration activities in the Eastern Study Sector	32
5.14(A)	The <i>de facto</i> border in the Eastern Study Sector	33
5.15(A)	Distribution of tribes in the Eastern Study Sector	34
6.1	Models of borderland interaction	212
6.2	Factors influencing the location of the Logical Boundary	220
6.3	Proposed resolution to the Saudi-Yemeni boundary dispute	221
6.4	Genealogical tree of the Hamdan bin Zaid tribe	223
6.5	Model of boundary negotiations	236

## List of Plates

All the plates are to be found in this Atlas (Volume Two).

2.1	Border mark no.31, Zibarat Alsir, Al-Tawal Emirate	35
2.2	A number of border marks in the Surowat mountains, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate: (1) Madfa Alhinka (border mark no.41); (2) Alsabsab (border mark no.42); (3) Naleed Alkaal (border mark no.43)	35
2.3	Border mark no.45, Wadi Alrabidh in Almasna, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate	35
2.4	Border mark no.38, Sha'ab Alqoum, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate	35
2.5	Border mark no.39, Ras Jabal Alab, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate	36
2.6	Border mark no. 1, Jabal Althar, Al-Khadra Emirate	36
2.7	Border mark no.11, Ras Aqaba Nahuga, Al-Khadra Emirate	36
2.8	An example of the border marks mentioned by Philby (1952: pp.513-6)	36
3.1	Examples of 'statements' used at Al-Khadra checkpoint to identify members of the border tribes.	37
3.2	Yemenis crossing the frontier carrying goods from the Saudi side to the Yemeni side	37
3.3	The most common type of vehicle (Toyota Pickup) used by Yemenis crossing the frontier	37
4.1	'Uruq: long linear sand ridges; Shiqaq: valleys or depressions between the ridges	37
5.1	A bedouin from the UAE grazing his camels at Ibn Hamudah	38
5.2	An example of the houses at Shiqqat Al-Kharkhir built of local stone	38
5.3	One of the small farms at Shiqqat Al-Kharkhir	38
5.4	One of the ungraded tracks to Al-Kharkhir informal checkpoint	38

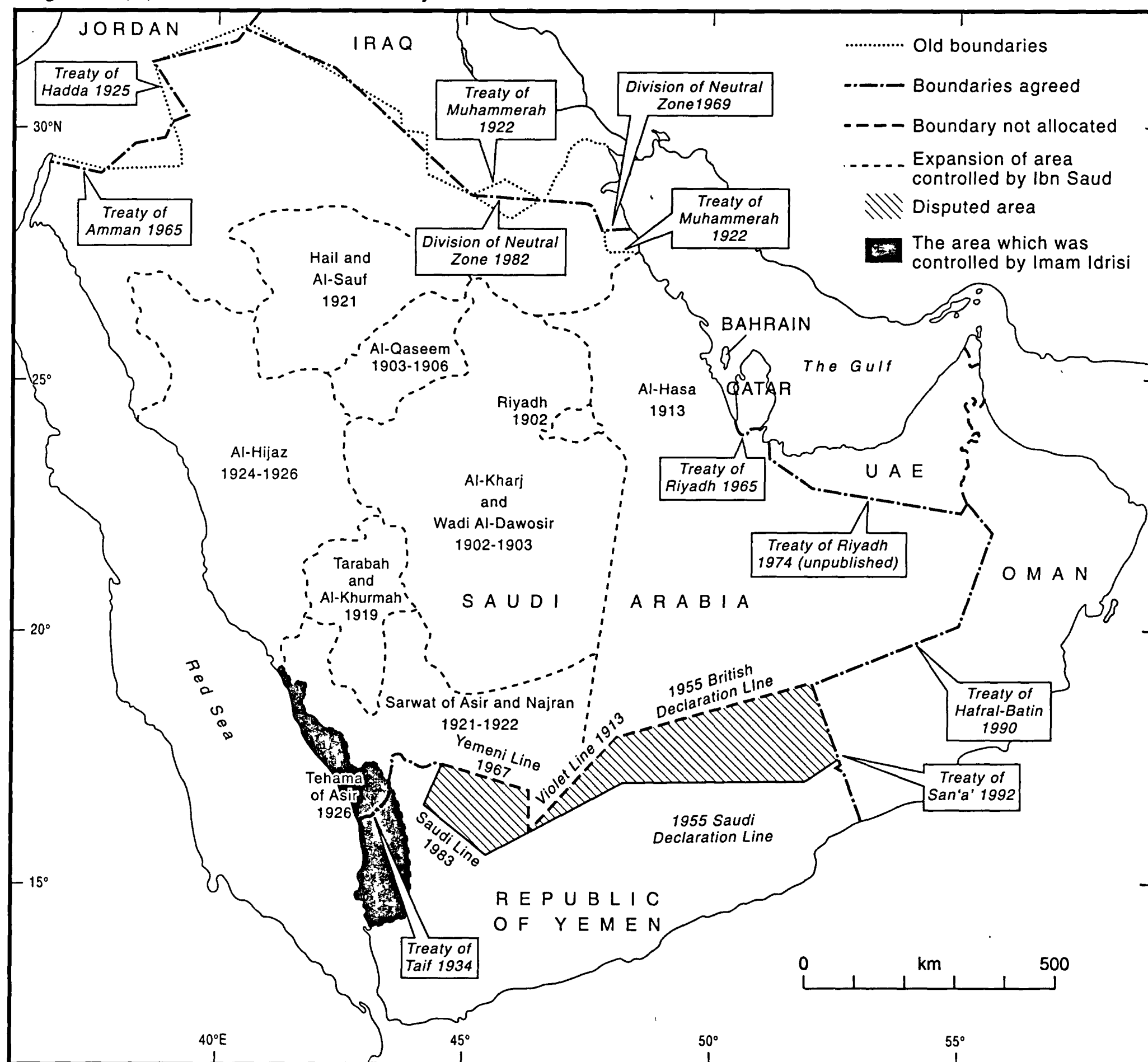
Figure 1.5(A) Location of study sectors and checkpoints



Sources: Schofield 1992-Vol. 20 pp206-7; Schofield 1993-Vol.2 p 349; MSD 1967; MPMR 1983

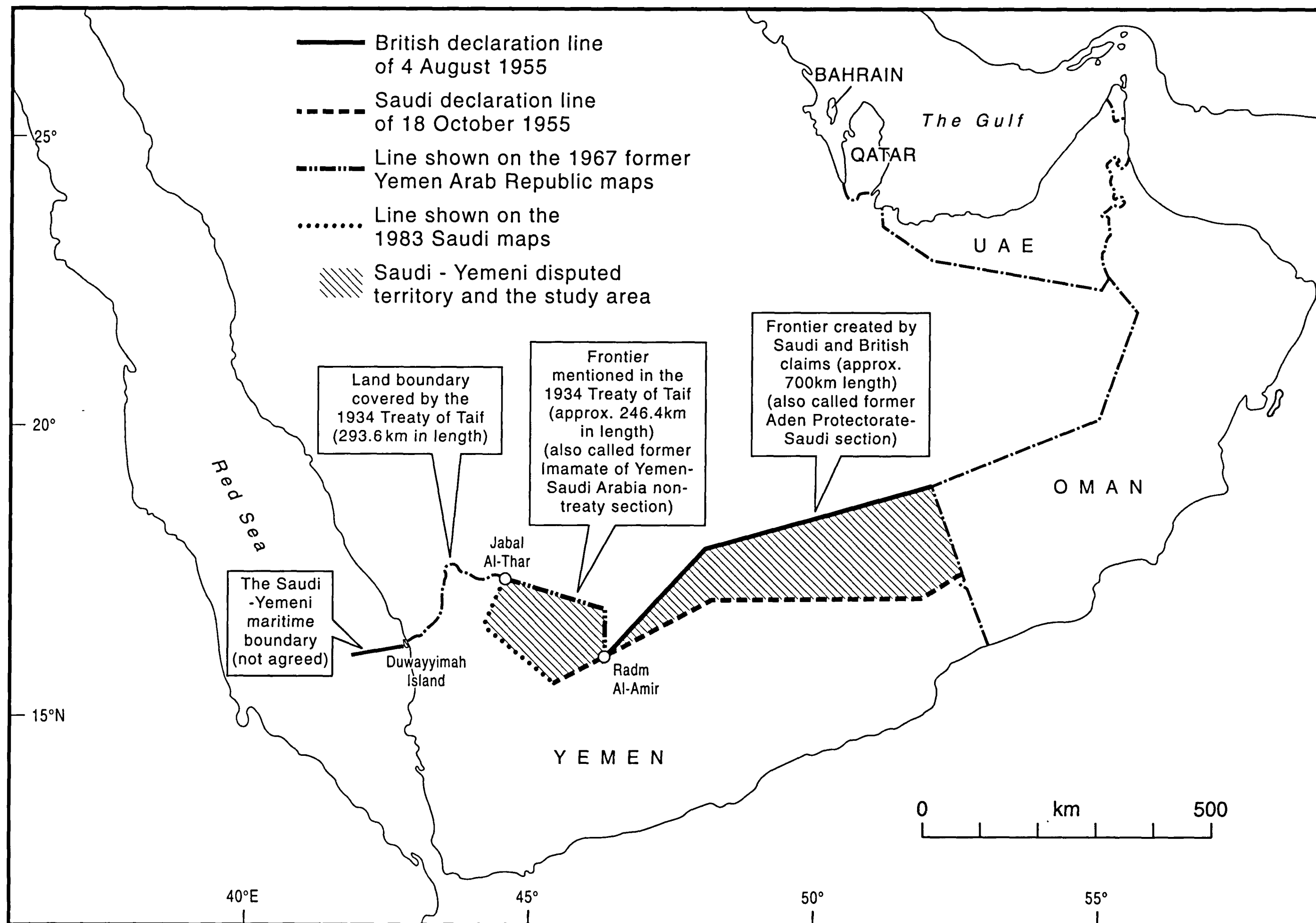


Figure 2.1(A): Saudi and Yemeni boundary treaties



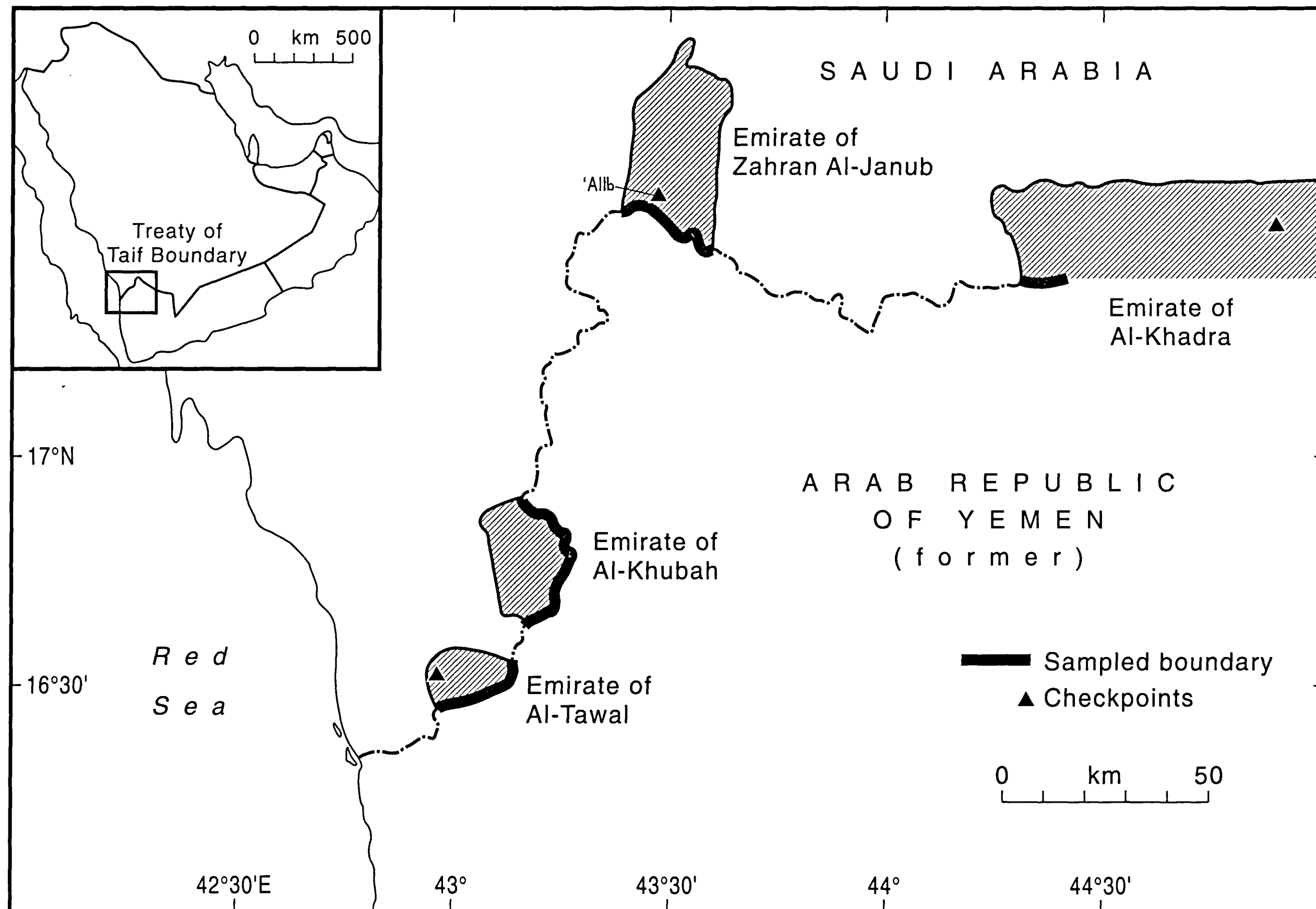
Sources: Schofield 1992-Vol. 6 p 37; Vol. 10 pp 68-71; Vol. 18 p xxi; Vol. 2 p 422; MFA (KSA) 1936-73 p 465; MEES 1992 pp 2-3; Hamzah 1933 pp367-400

Figure 2.2(A): The Saudi - Yemeni frontier



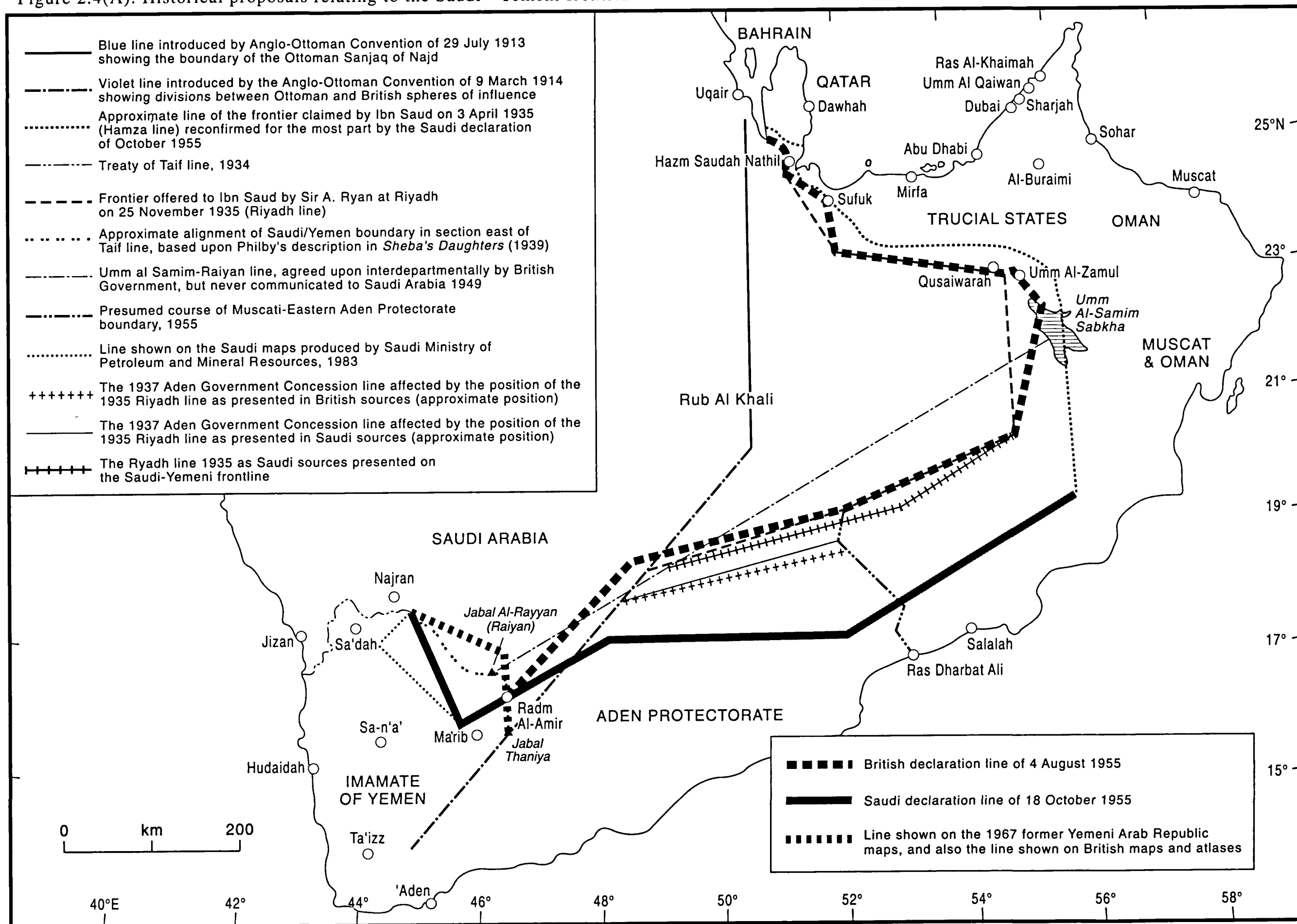
Sources: Schofield 1992-Vol. 20 pp 206-7; Schofield 1993-Vol. 2 p 349; MSD 1967 (Yemeni Map); MSD 1982 (Saudi Map); Author's Field Survey July - December 1994

Figure 2.3(A): Emirates boundaries sampled by the author on the Treaty of Taif boundary



Source: after Al-Ghamdi 1991 p 42

Figure 2.4(A): Historical proposals relating to the Saudi - Yemeni frontier



Source: after Schofield 1994 pp 22-23 with a few modifications by the author

Figure 2.5(A): Disputed islands on the Saudi - Yemeni maritime boundary

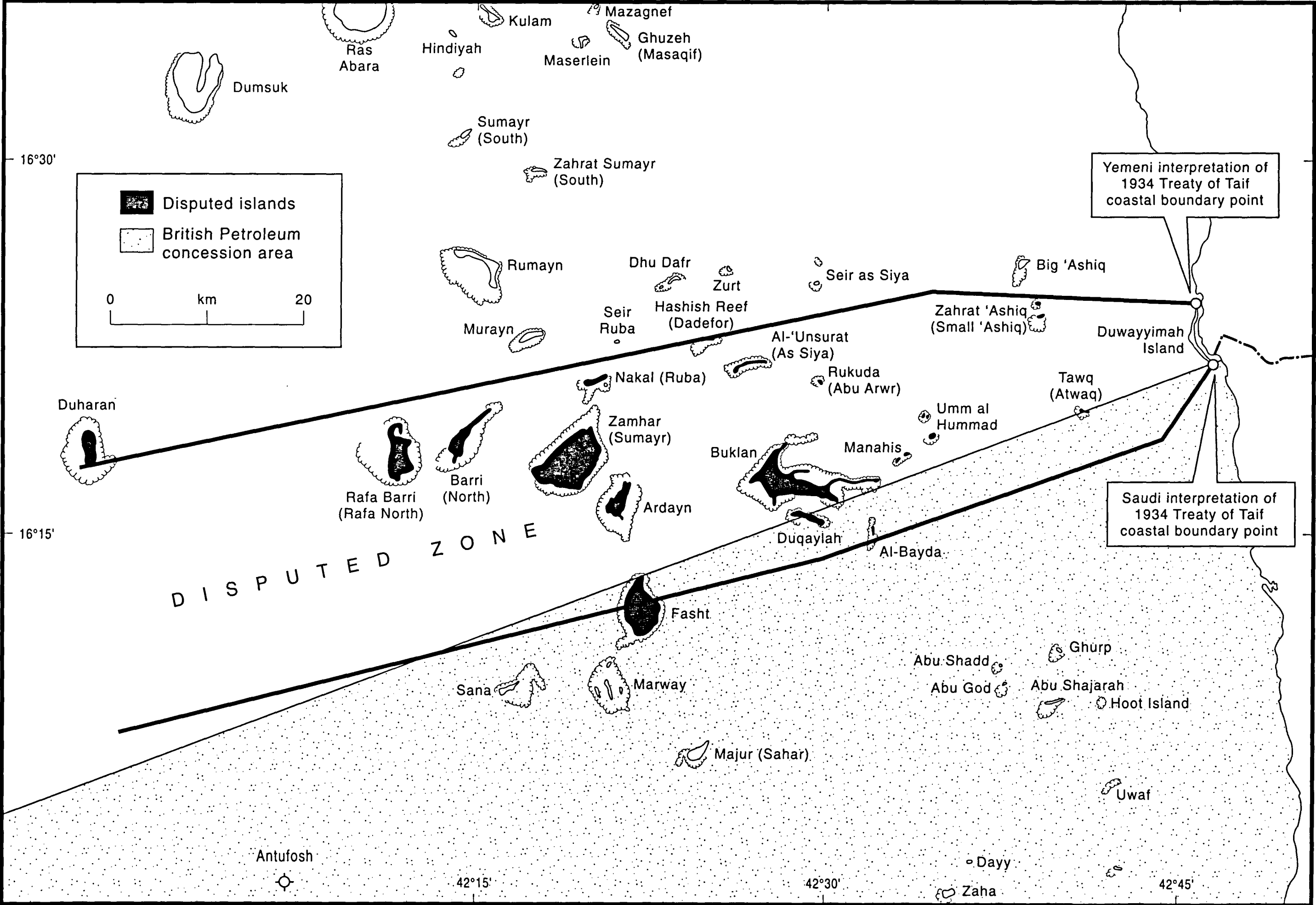
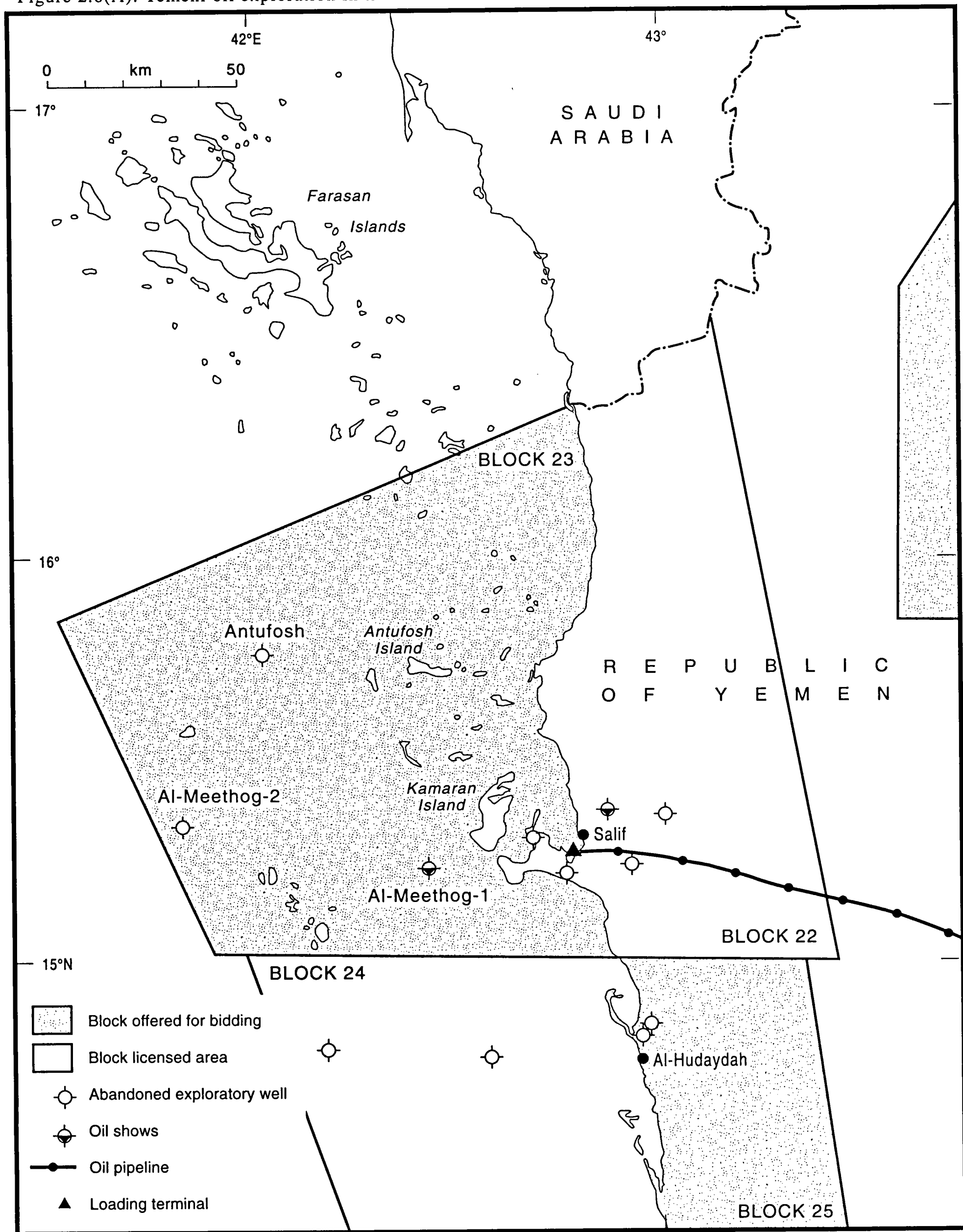


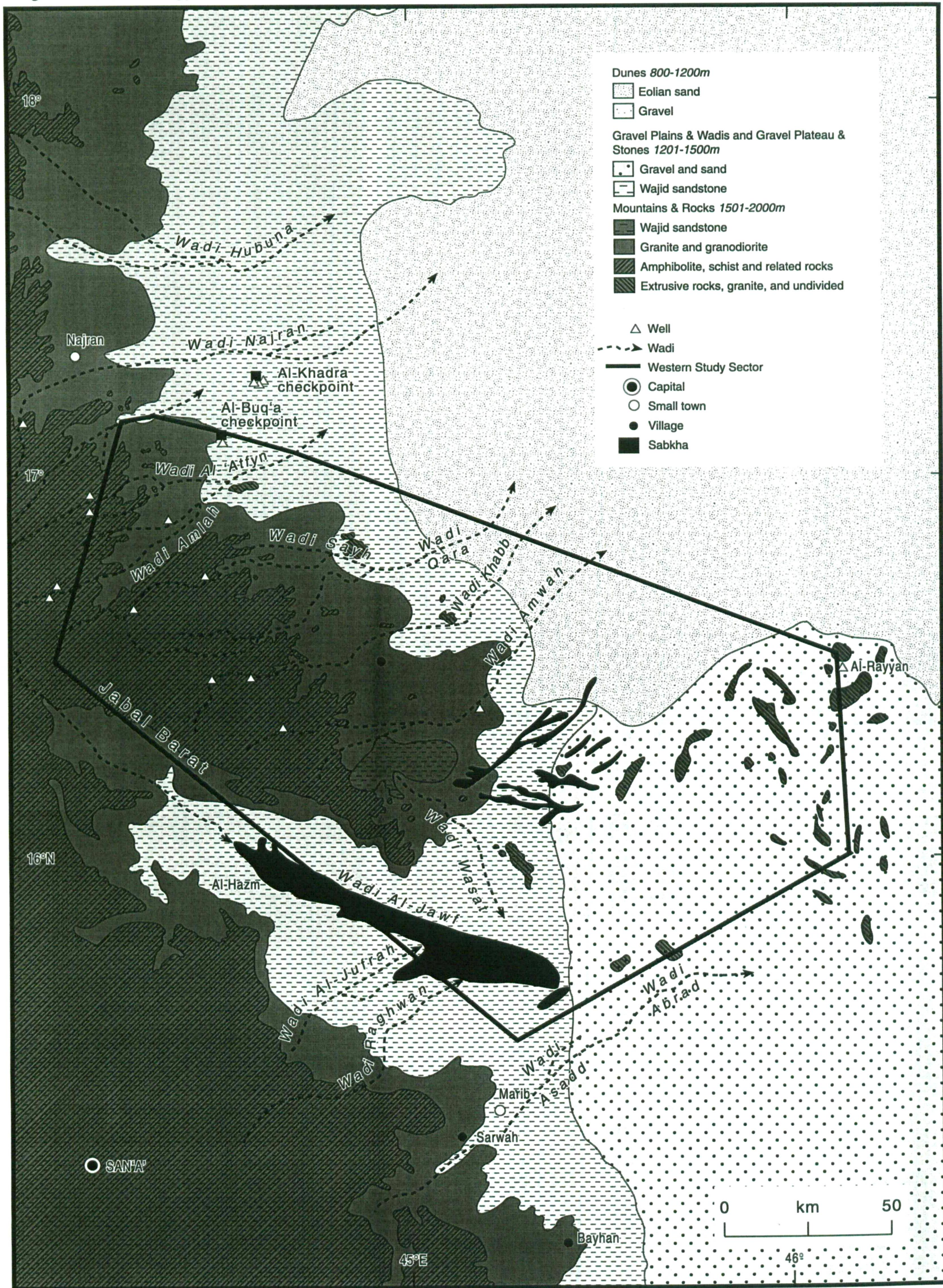
Figure 2.6(A): Yemeni oil exploration in the Red Sea



Source: Foreign Scouting Service Petroleum Activity, 1994



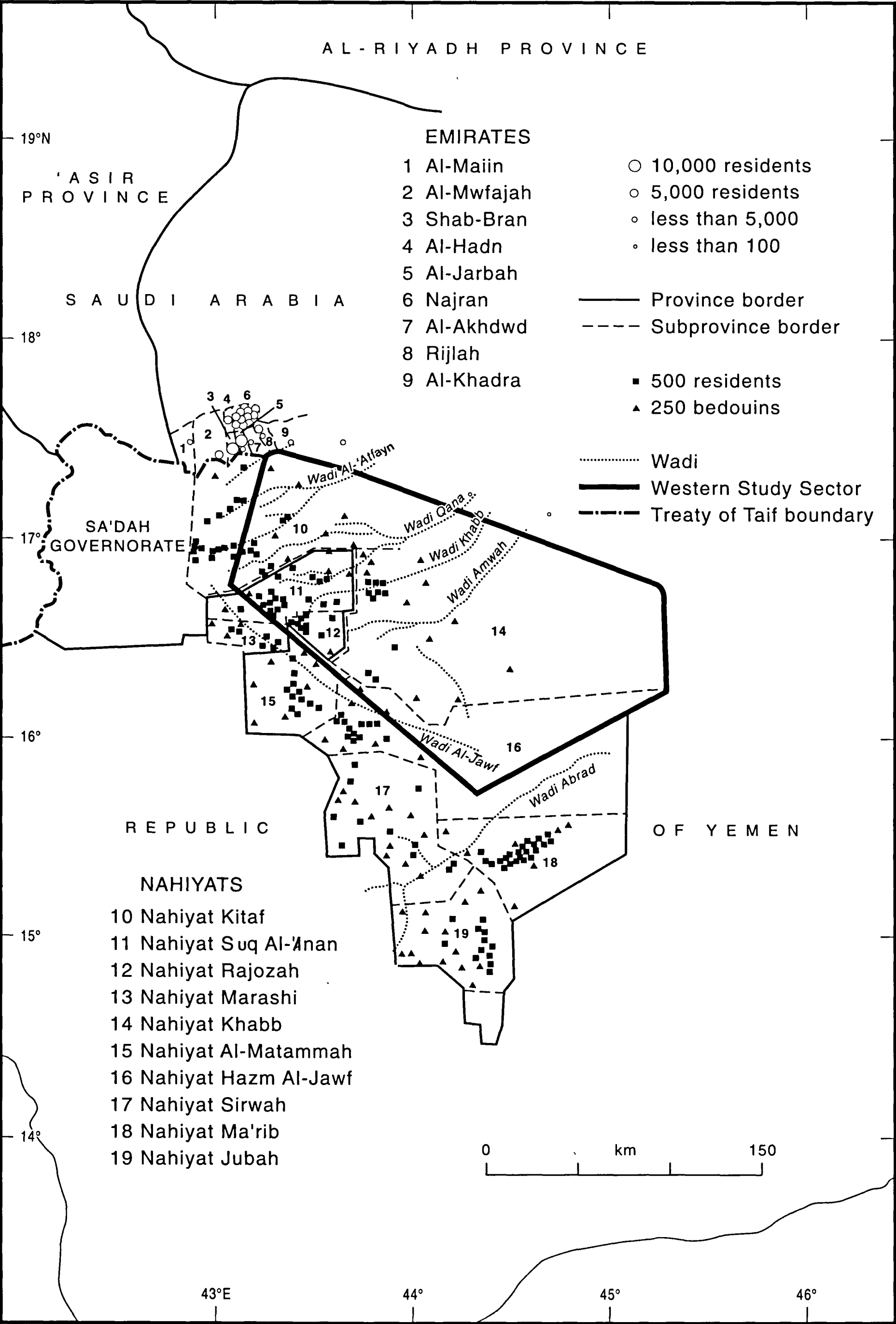
Figure 3.3(A): Geology and relief of the Western Study Sector



Source: US Geological Survey 1963; 1979; GMWRQ (K.S.A.); GMAQ (K.S.A.); MSD 1992 Rof Yemen (Saudi Map)



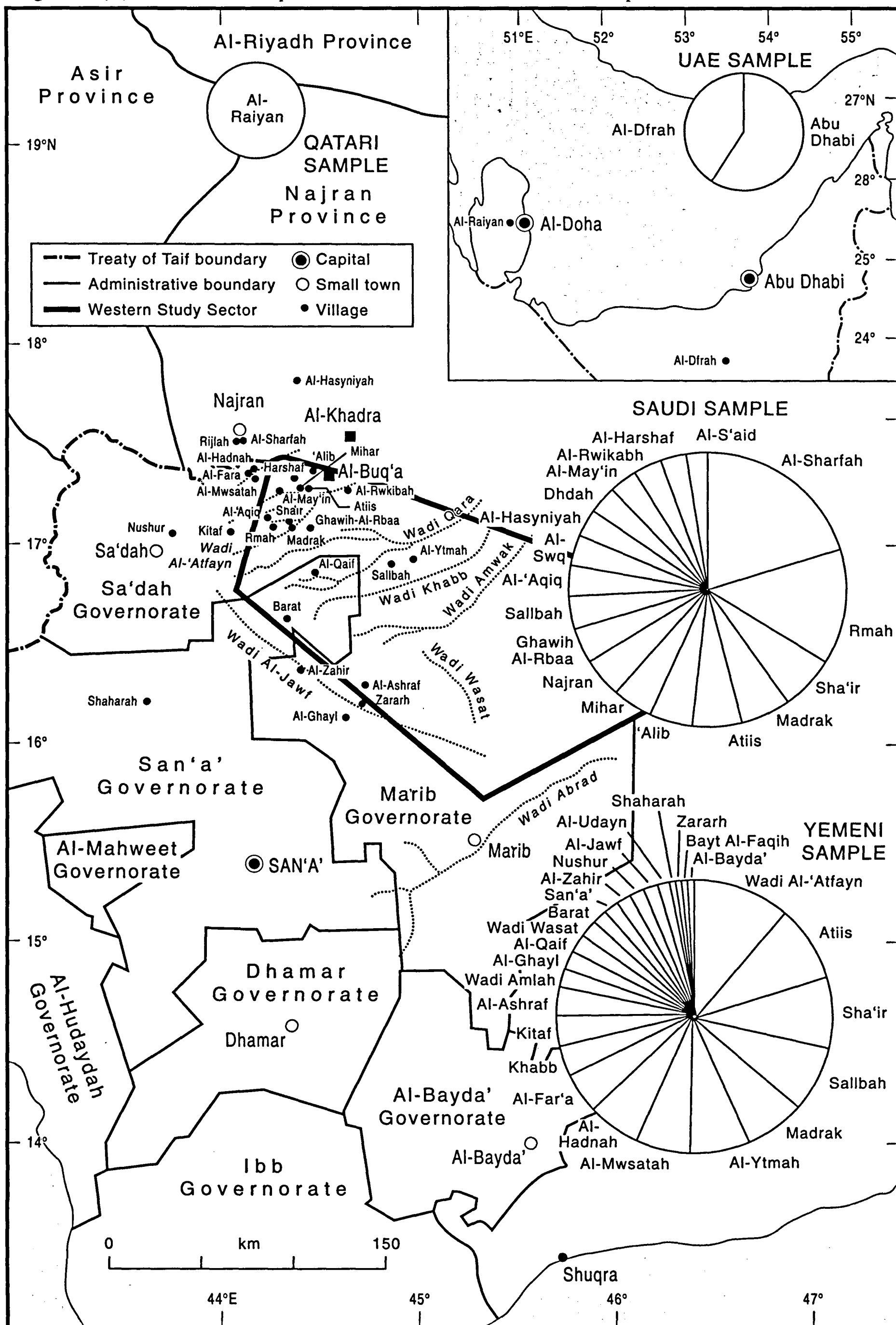
Figure 3.5(A): Population distribution in the Western Study Sector



Source: Swiss Technical Co-operation Service 1978 p.II/127, Saudi Census 1994

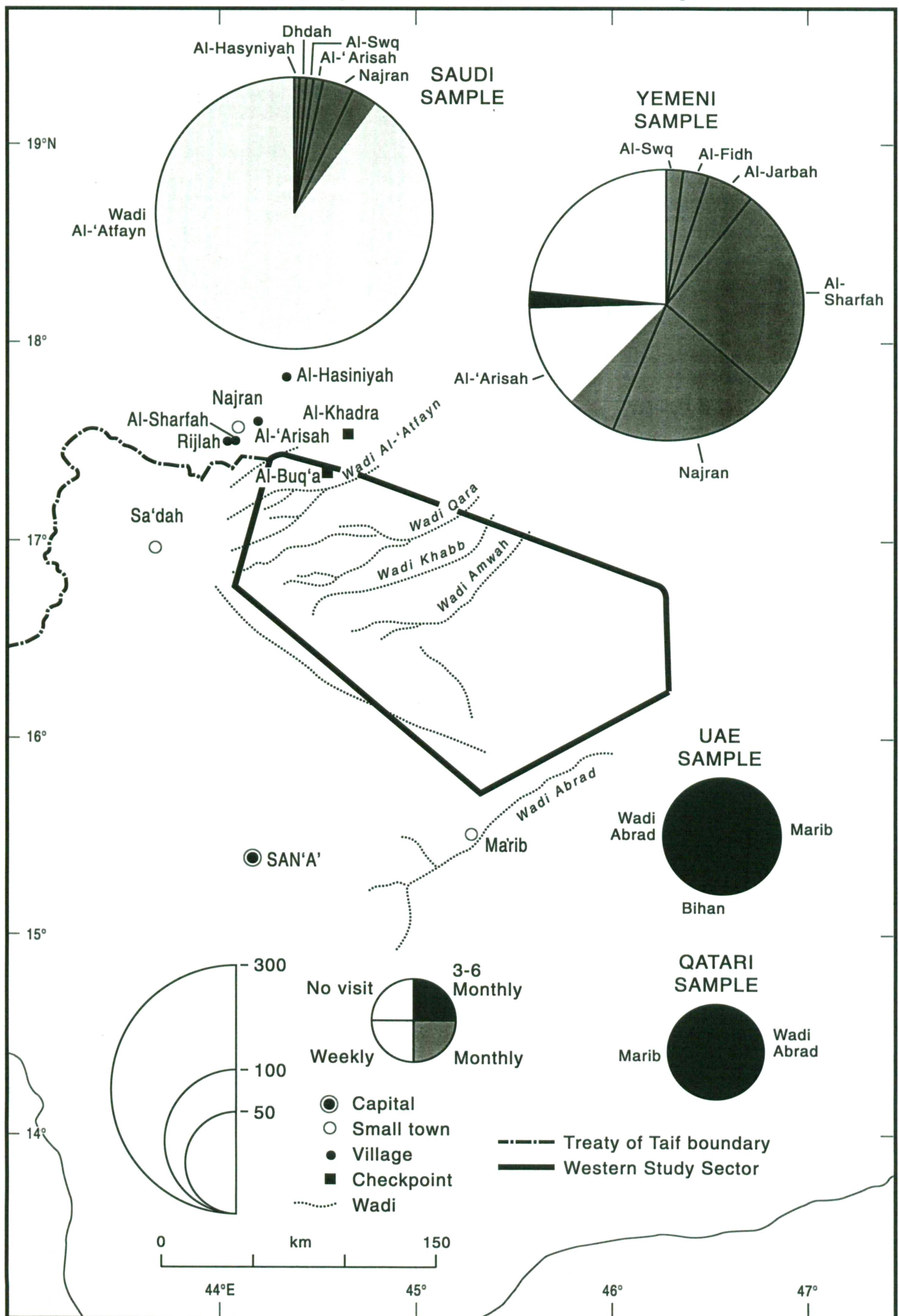


Figure 3.6(A): Residence of respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra Checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey October - December 1994

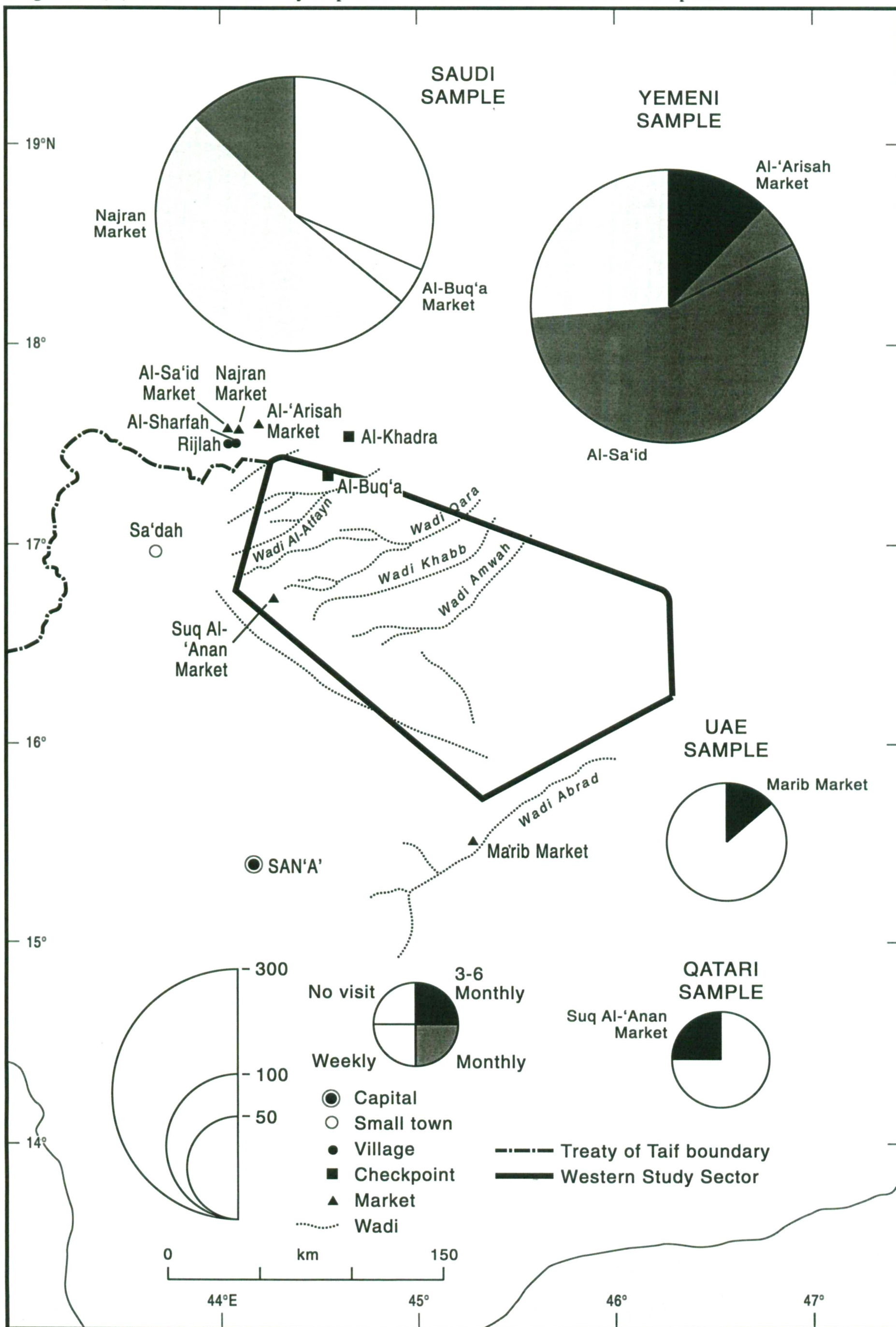
Figure 3.8(A): Visits to relatives by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey October - December 1994

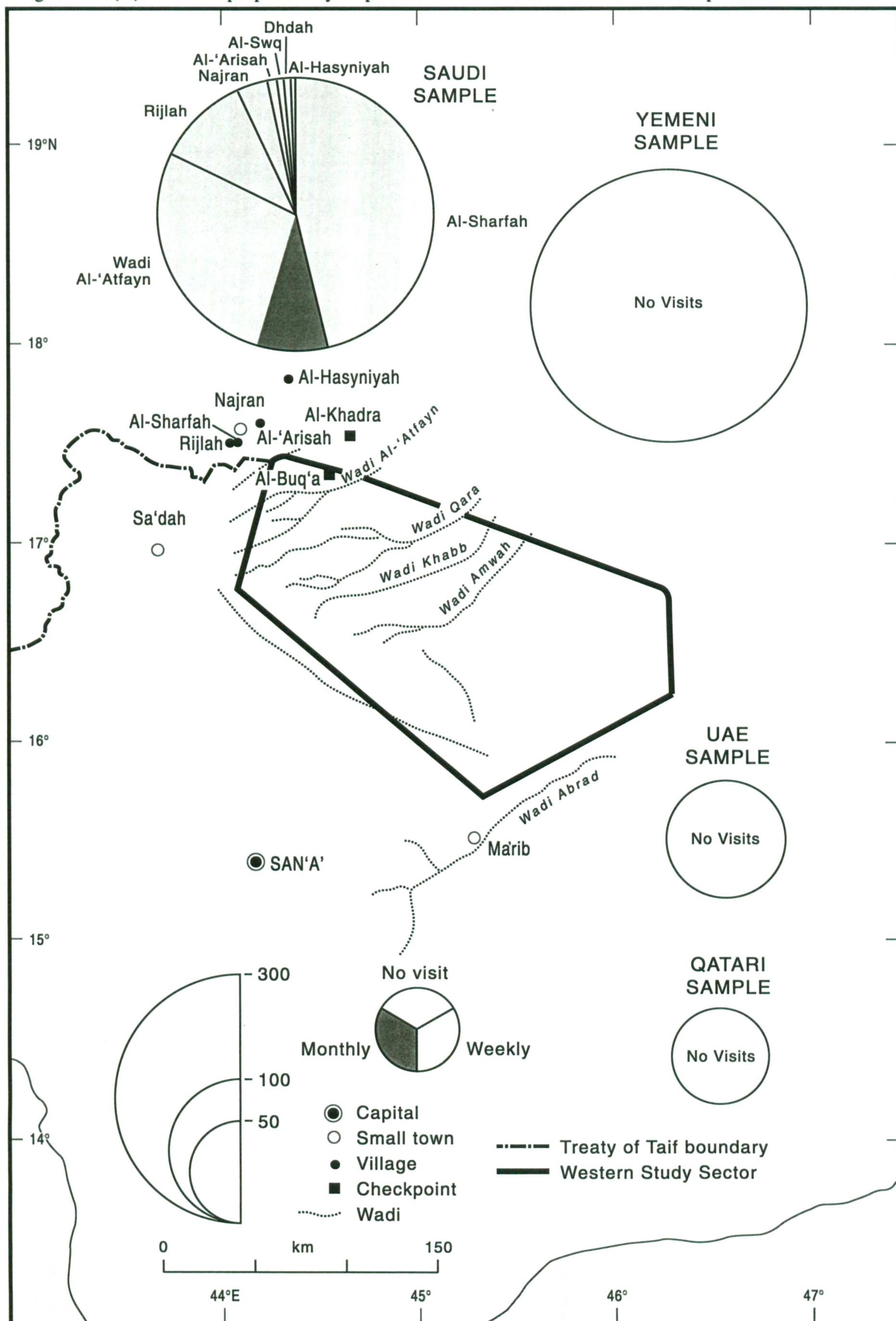


Figure 3.9(A): Visits to markets by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint



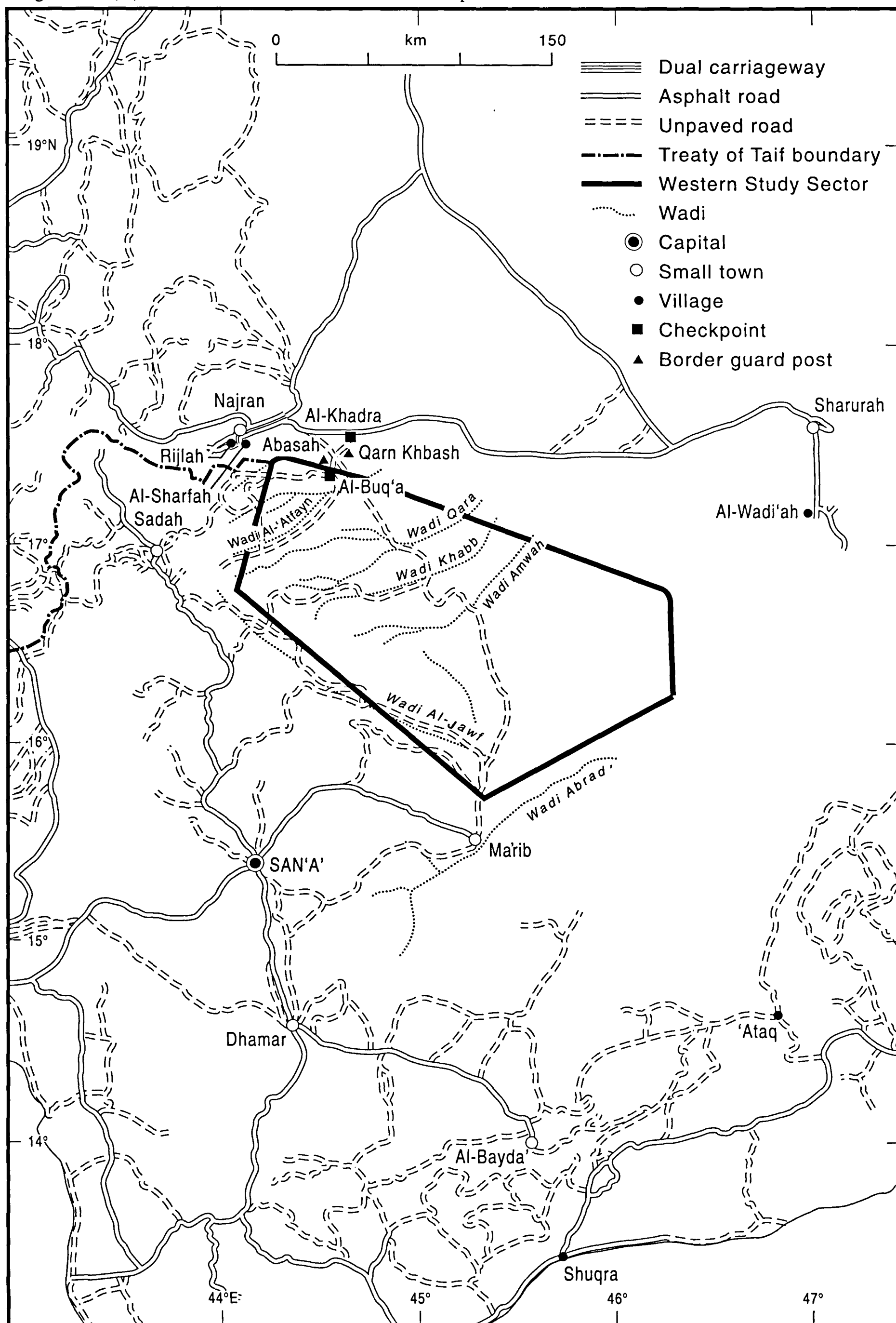
Source: Author's Field Survey October - December 1994

Figure 3.10(A): Visits to properties by respondents interviewed at Al-Khadra checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey October - December 1994

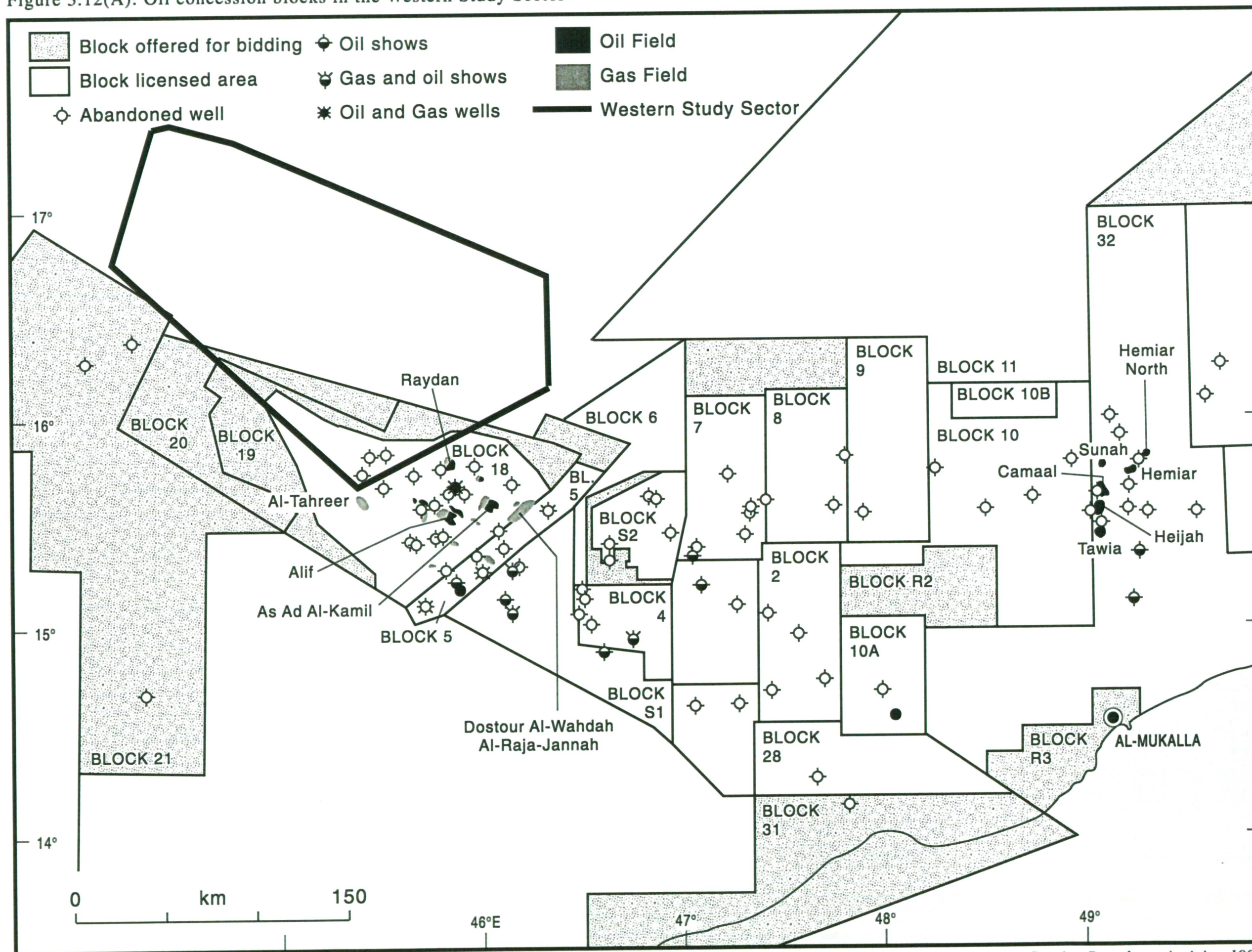
Figure 3.11(A): Roads and tracks to Al-Khadra checkpoint



Source: MSD 1992, Republic of Yemen (Saudi Map)



Figure 3.12(A): Oil concession blocks in the Western Study Sector



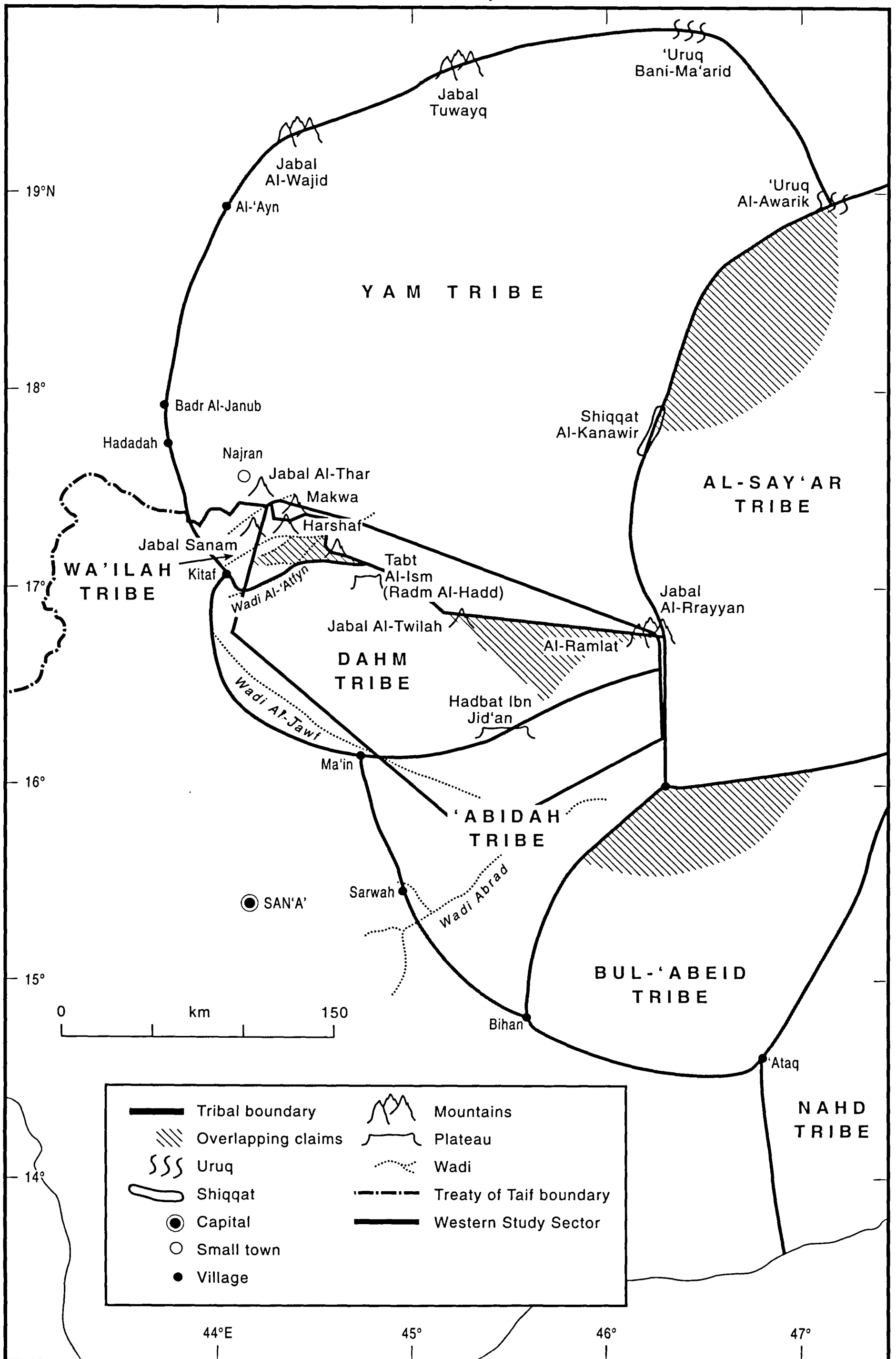
Source: Foreign Scouting Service Petroleum Activity, 1994







Figure 3.14(A): Distribution of tribes in the Western Study Sector



Source: Author's Field Survey October - December 1994



Figure 4.3(A): Geology and relief of the Central Study Sector

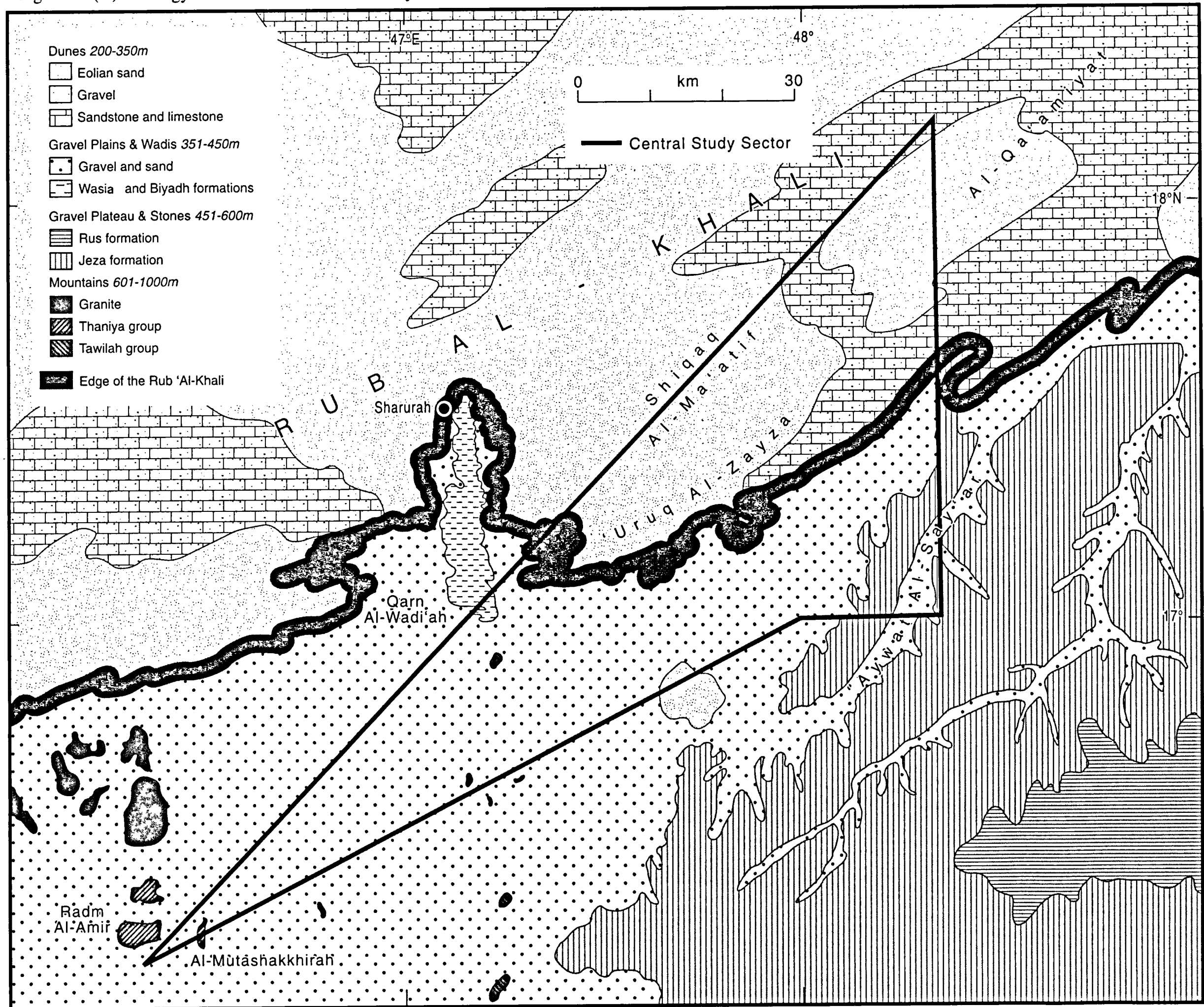
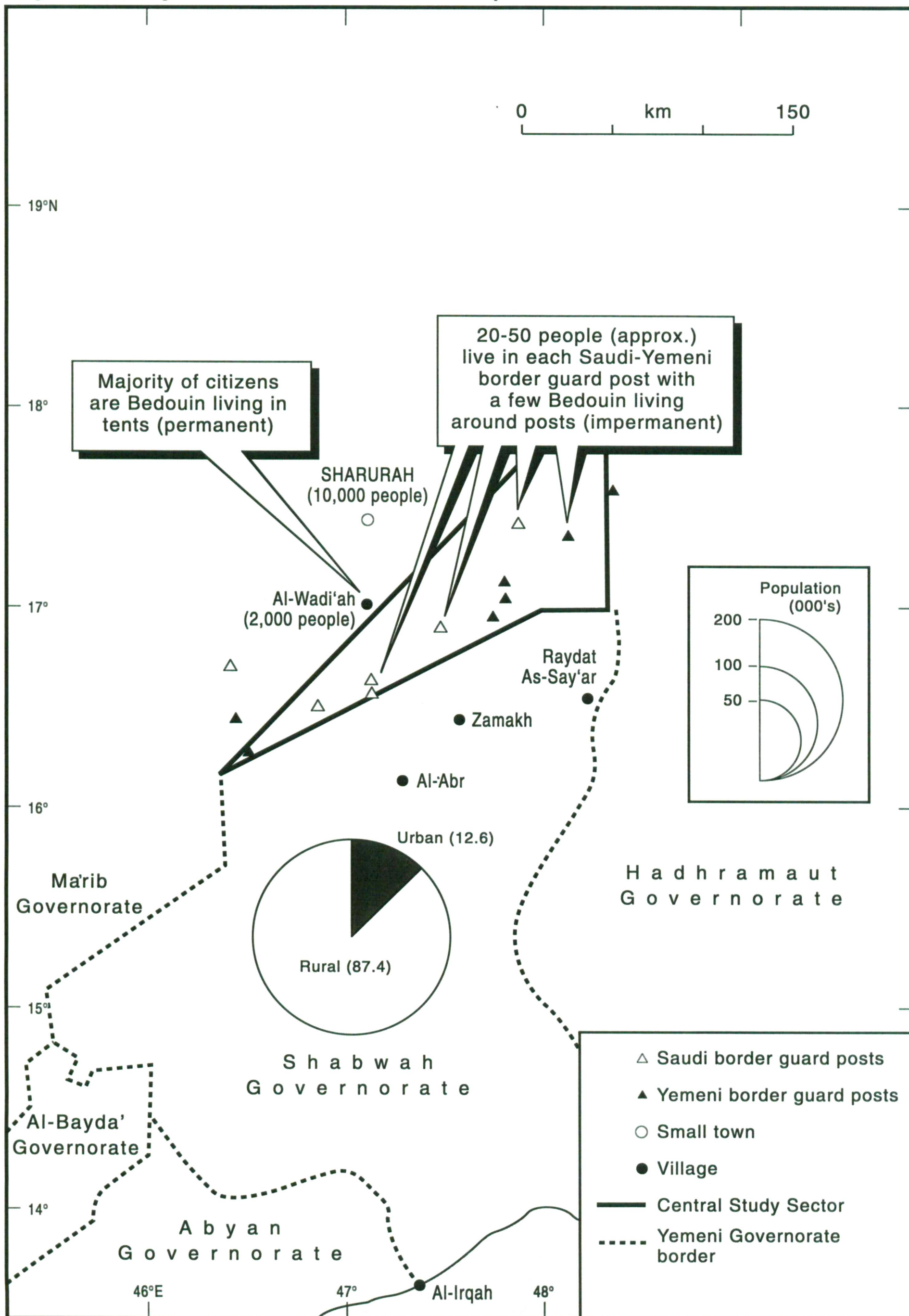
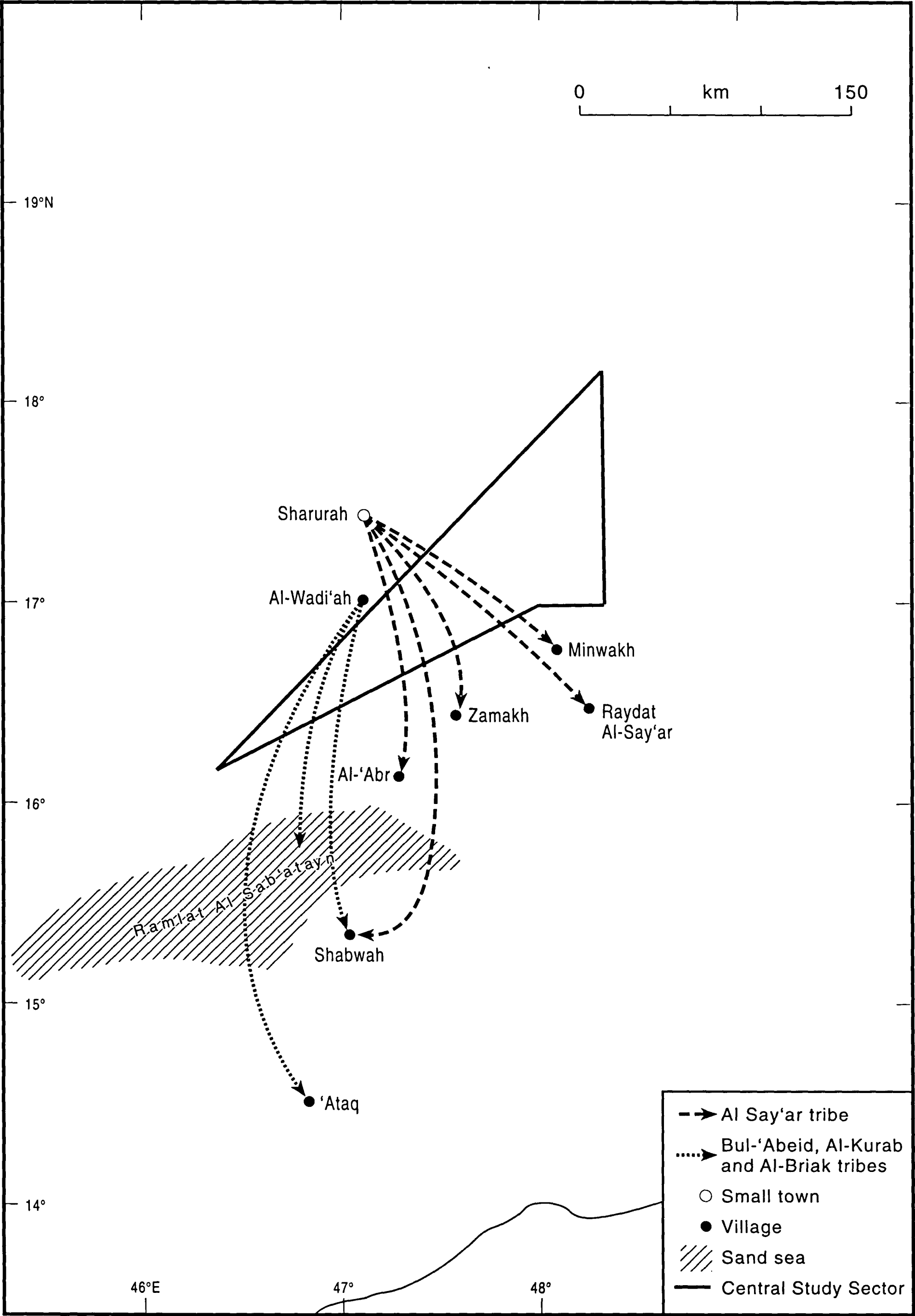


Figure 4.4(A): Population distribution in the Central Study Sector



Source: Saudi Census 1994; Yemeni Statistical Yearbook 1990

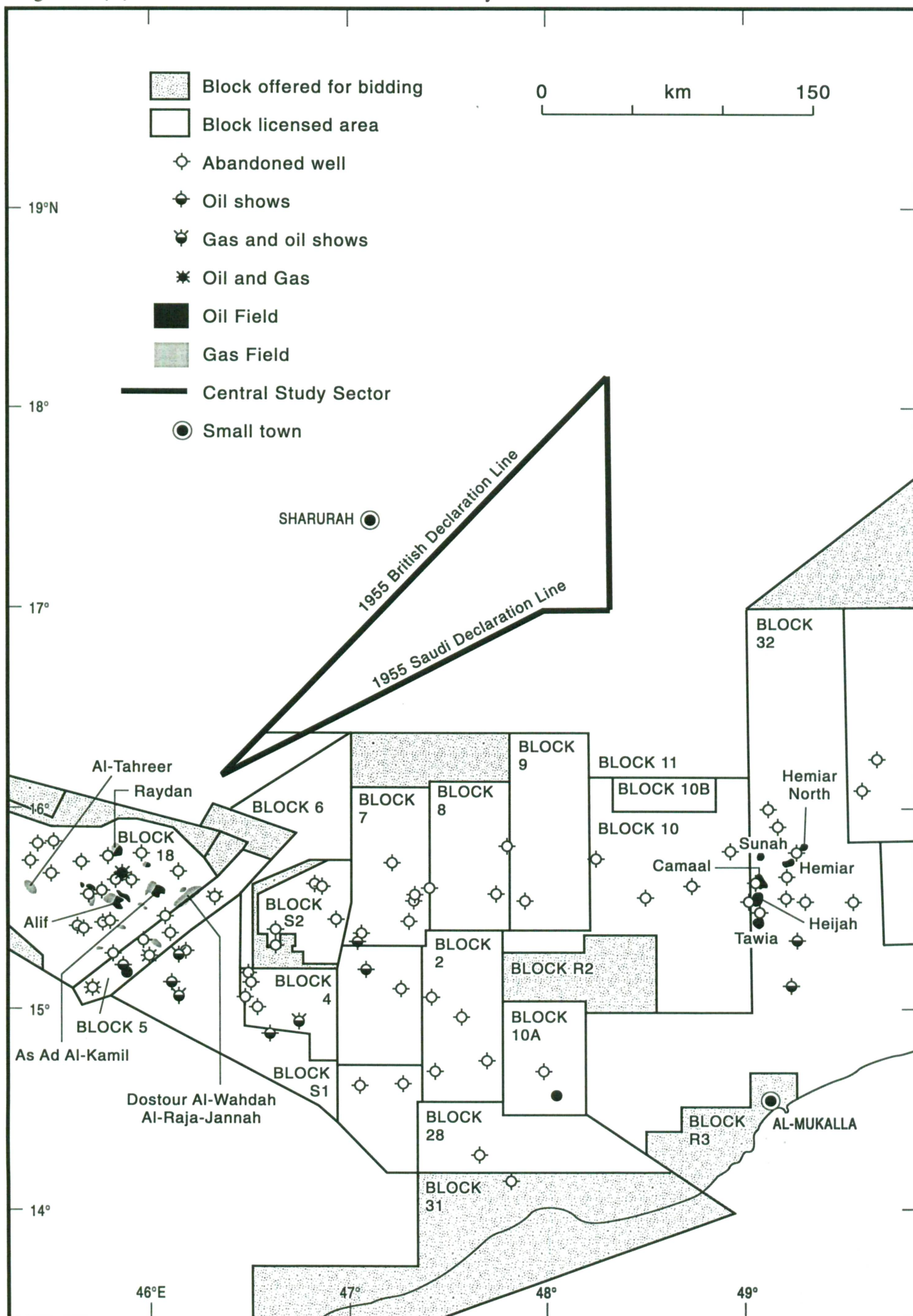
Figure 4.5(A): Location of relatives and properties located in Yemen of those living close to the Central Study Sector in Saudi Arabia



Source: Author's Field Survey, September 1994



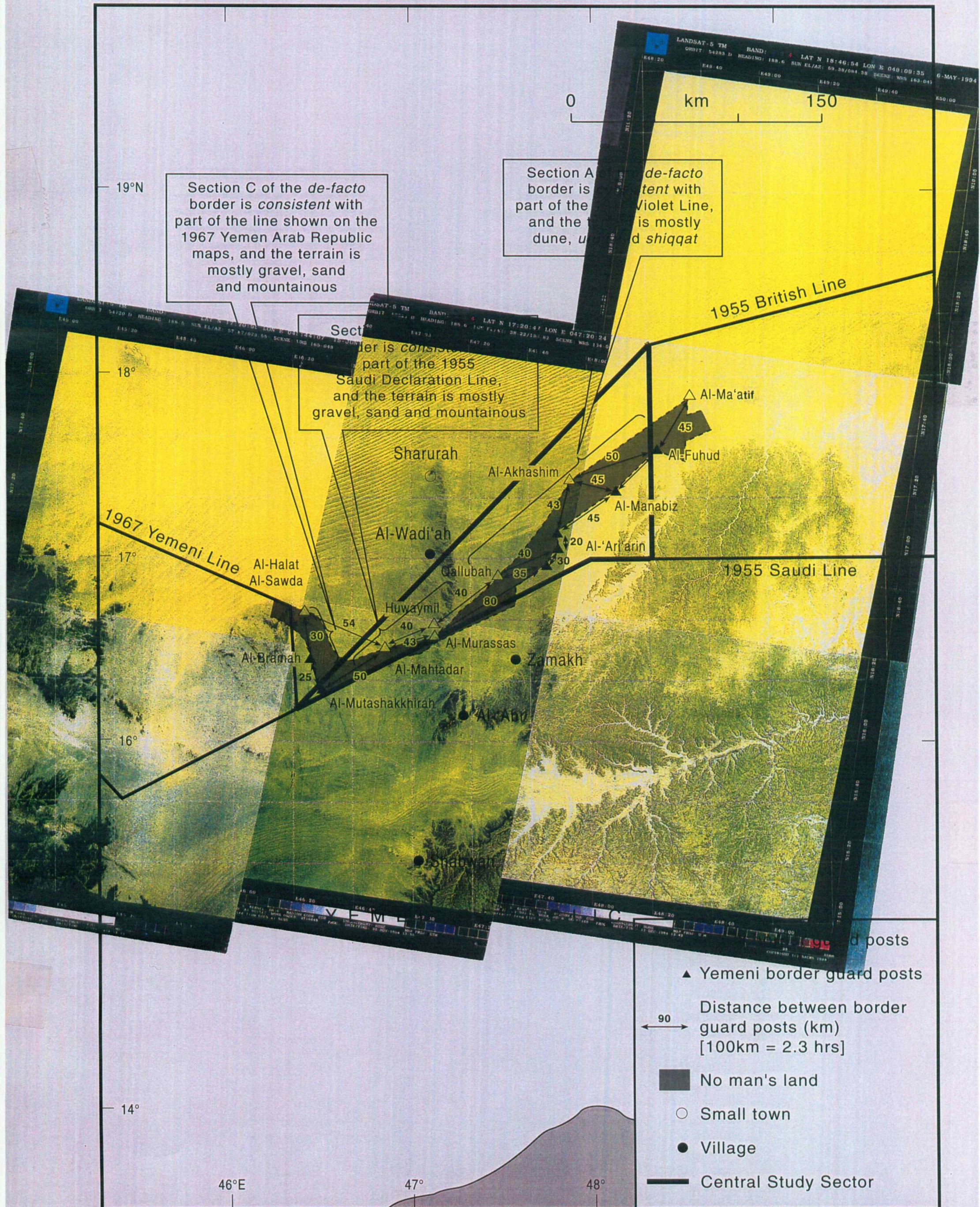
Figure 4.6(A): Oil concession blocks in the Central Study Sector



Source: Foreign Scouting Service Petroleum Activity 1994



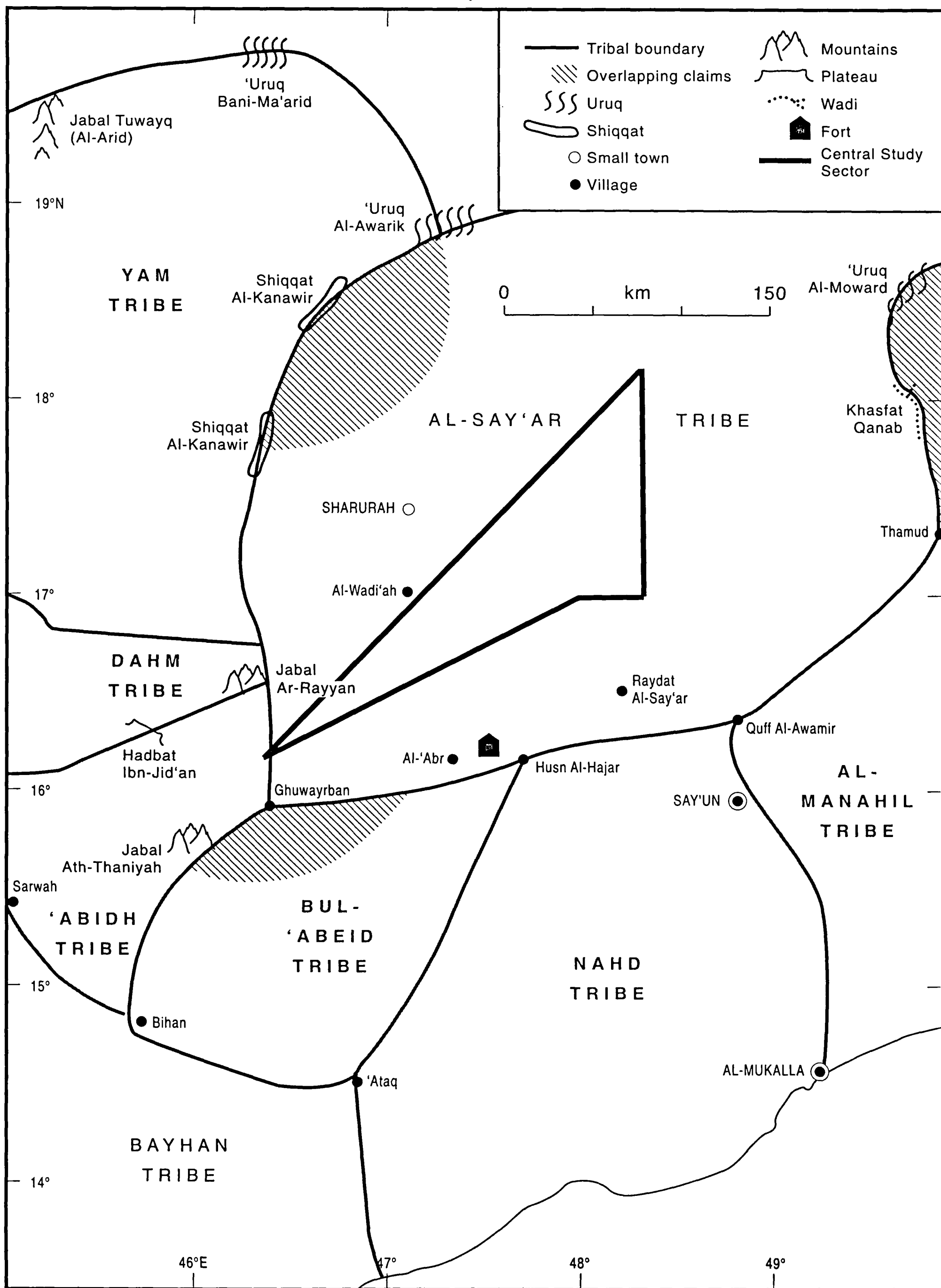
Figure 4.7(A): The de facto border in the Central Study Sector



Source: Author's Field Survey, September 1994

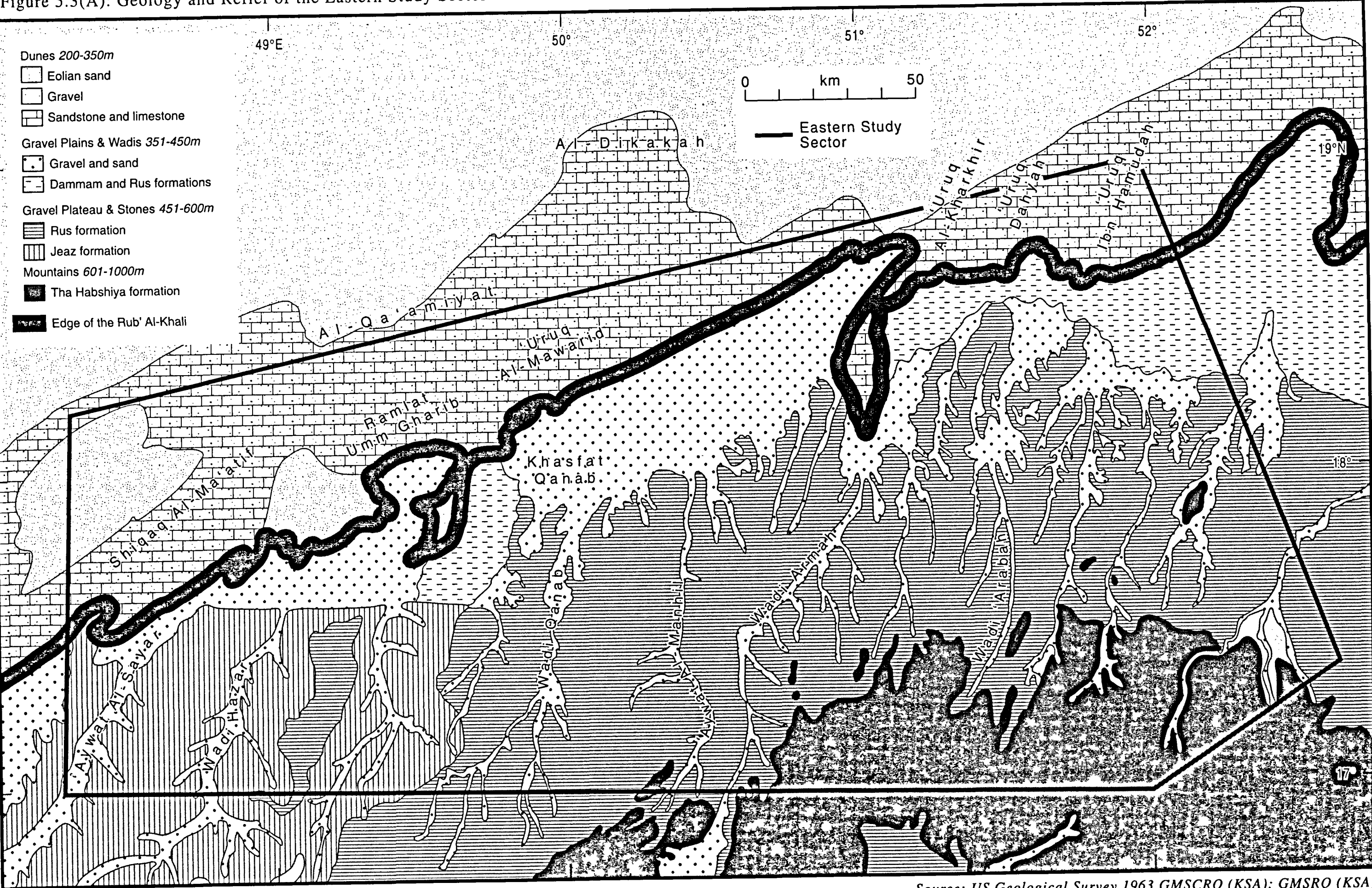


Figure 4.8(A): Distribution of tribes in the Central Study Sector



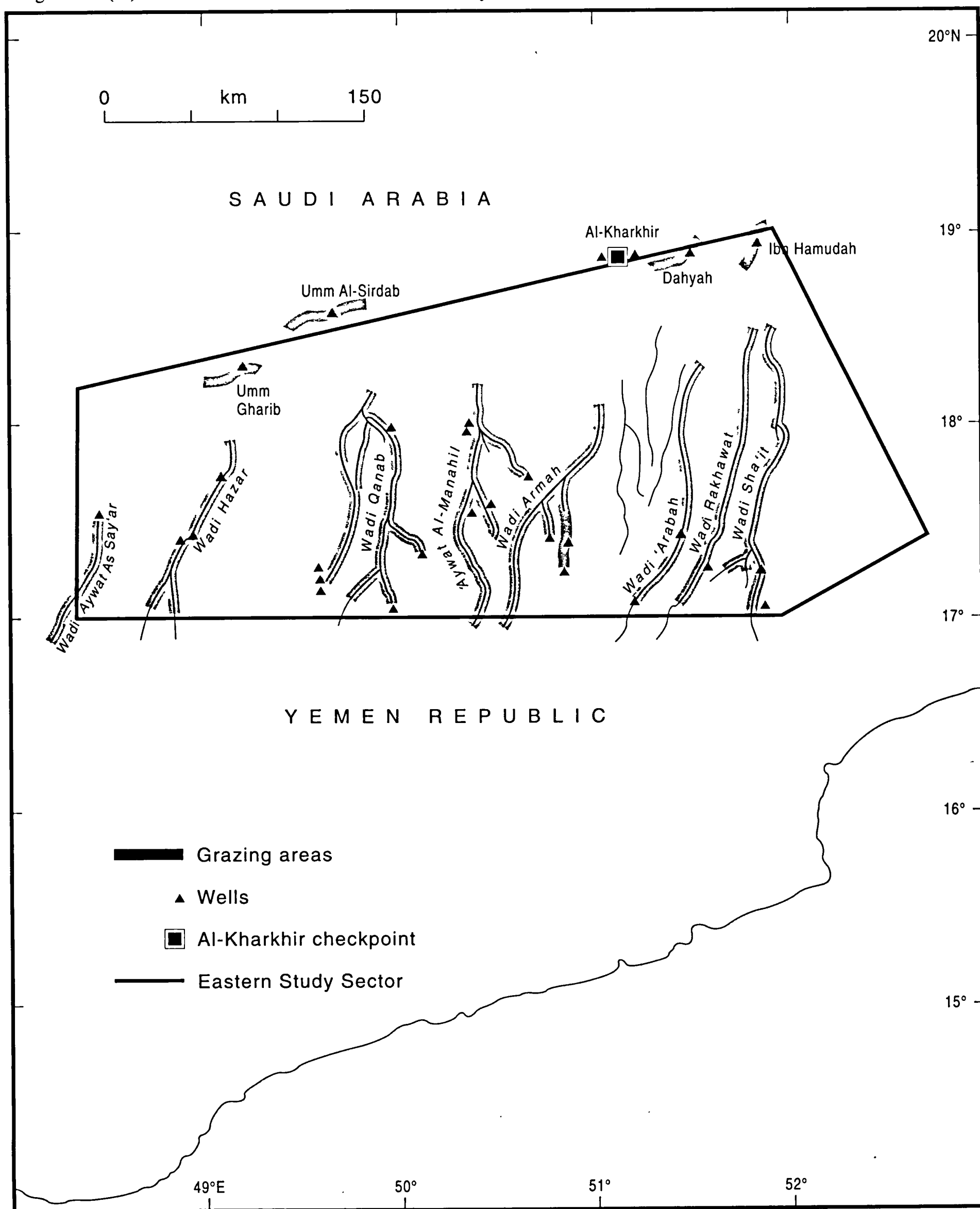
Source: Author's Field Survey, September 1994

Figure 5.3(A): Geology and Relief of the Eastern Study Sector



Source: US Geological Survey 1963 GMSCRQ (KSA); GMSRQ (KSA)

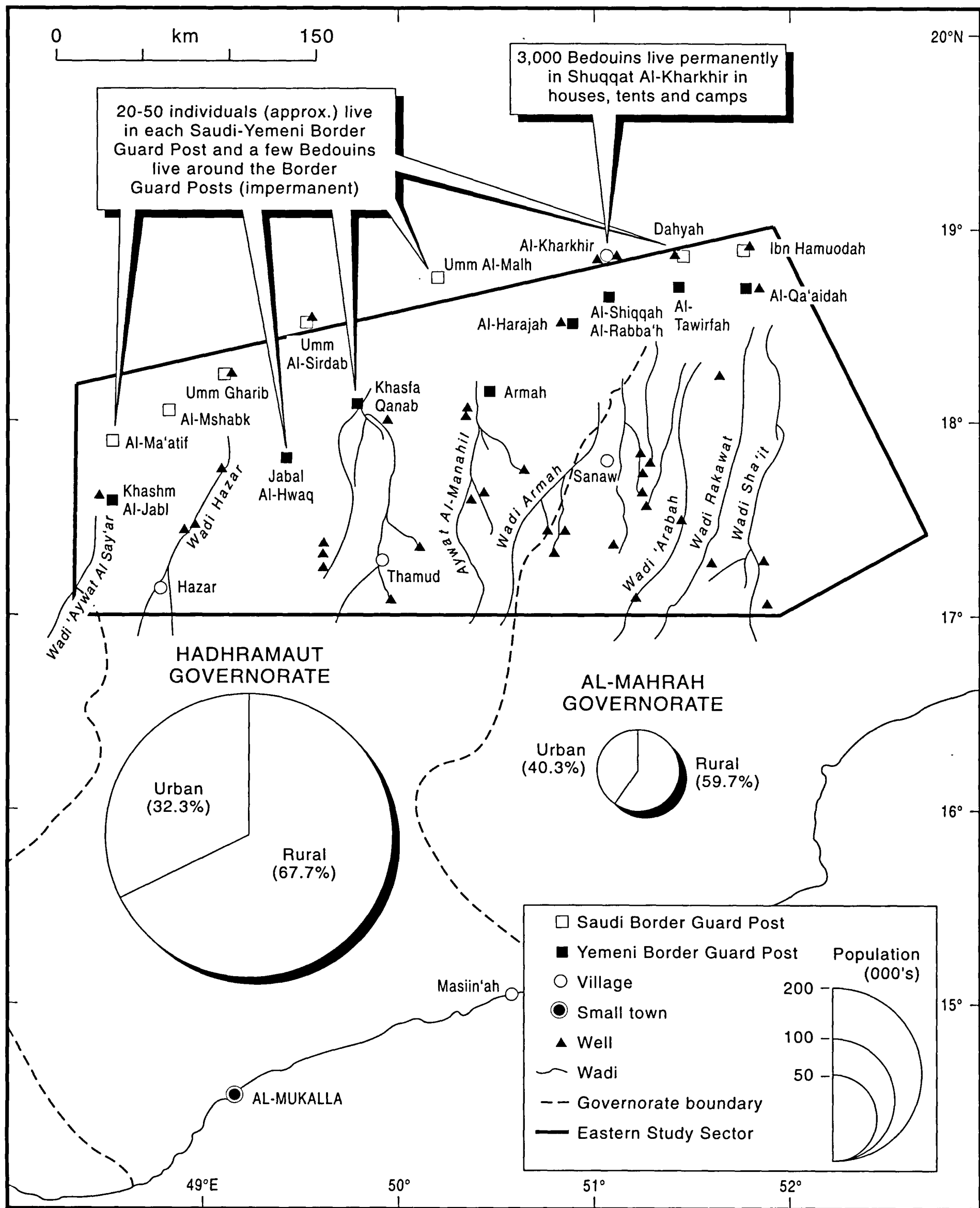
Figure 5.5(A): Pasture and wells in the Eastern Study Sector



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994

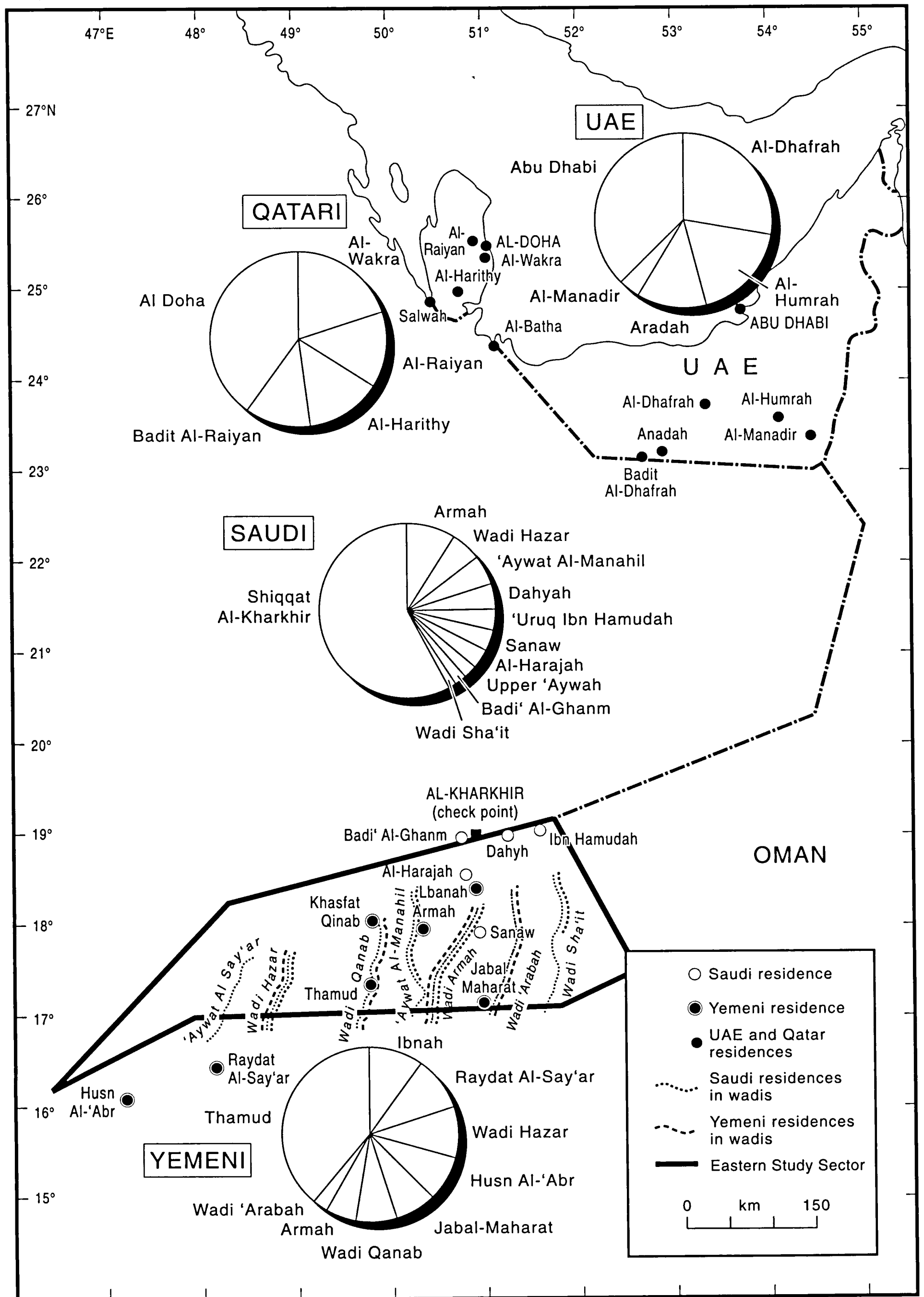


Figure 5.6(A): Population distribution in the Eastern Study Sector



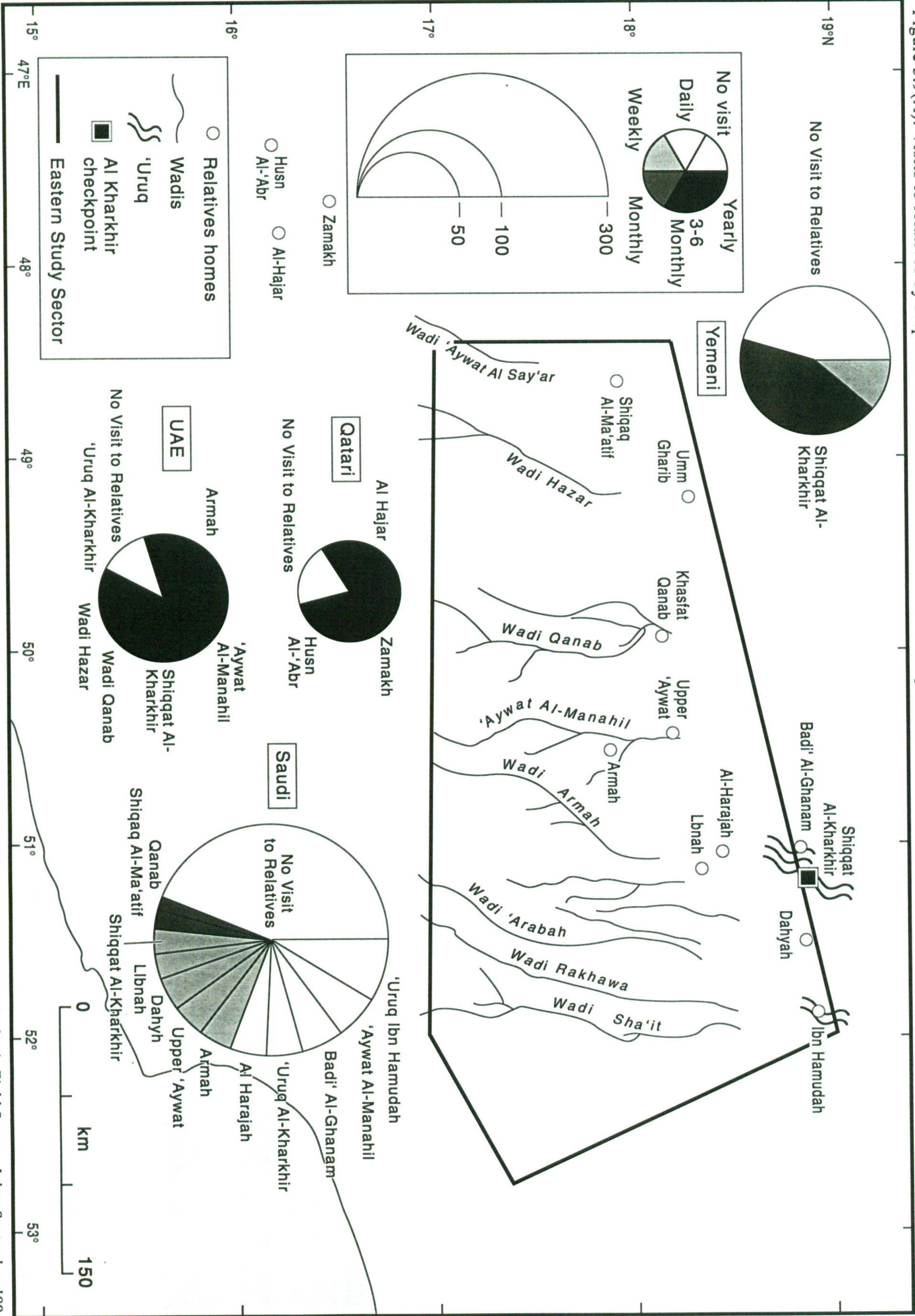
Source: Saudi Census 1994; Yemeni Statistical Yearbook 1990; MSD 1992 Republic of Yemen Map

Figure 5.7(A): Residence of respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994

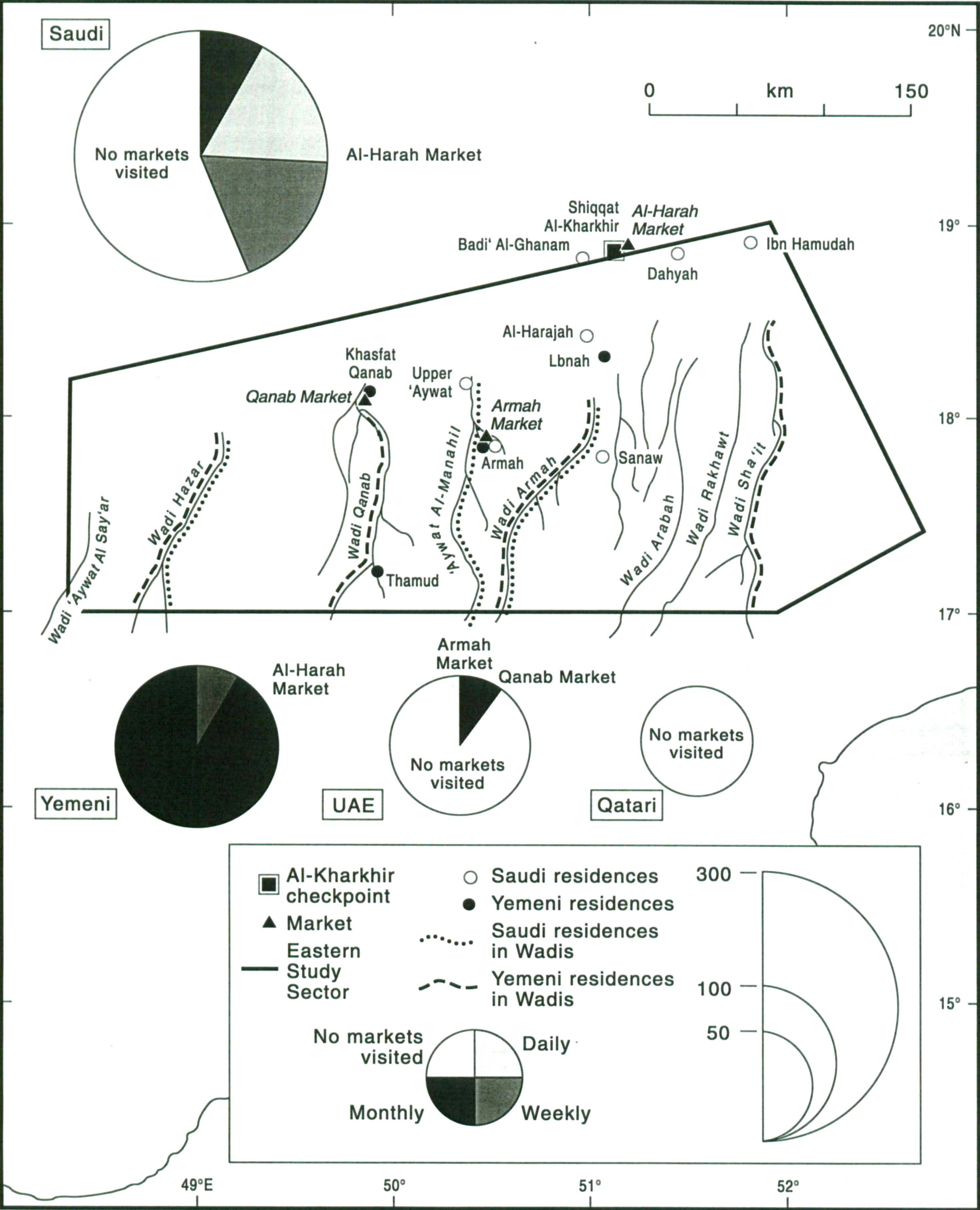
Figure 5.9(A): Visits to relatives by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994

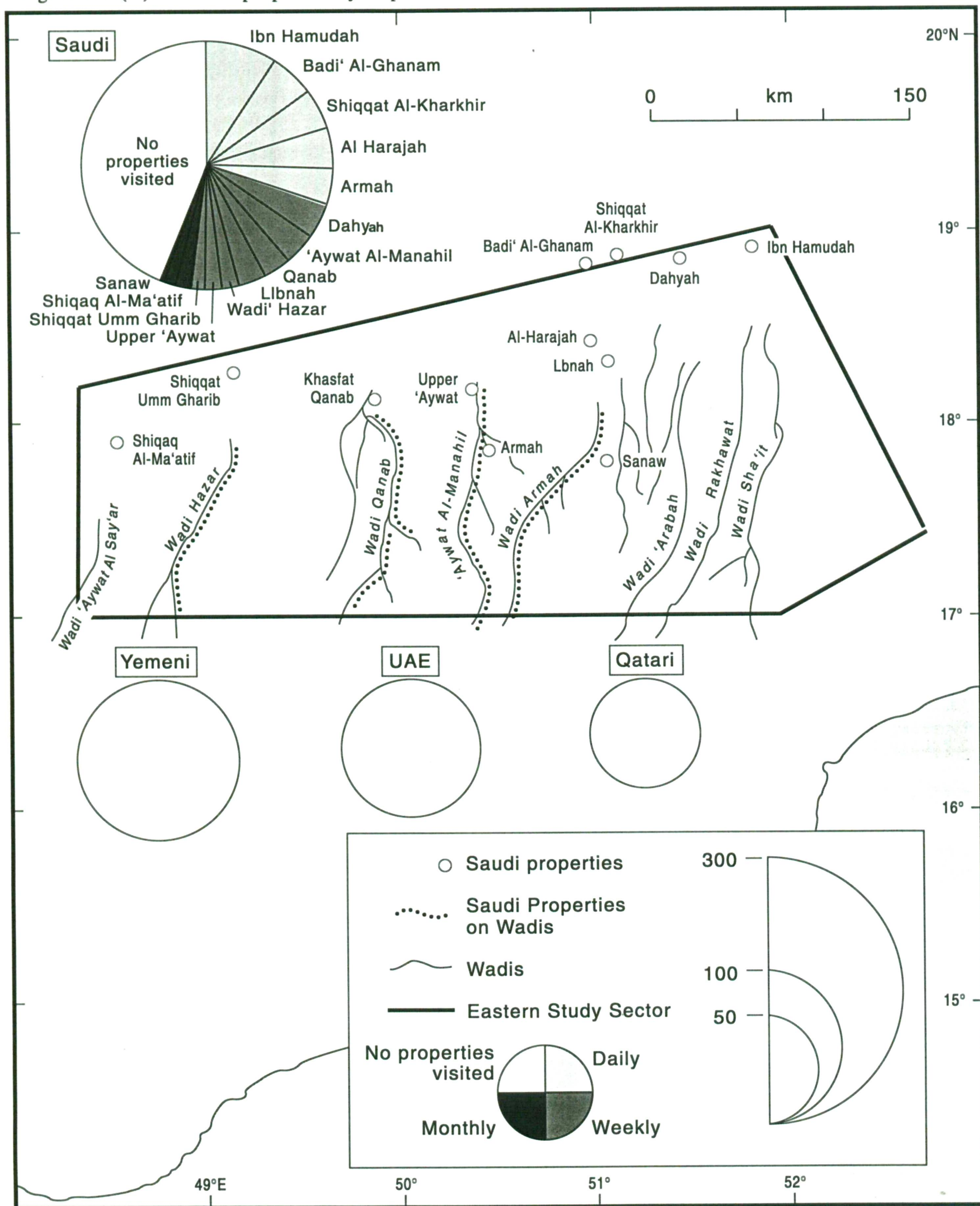


Figure 5.10(A): Visits to markets by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint



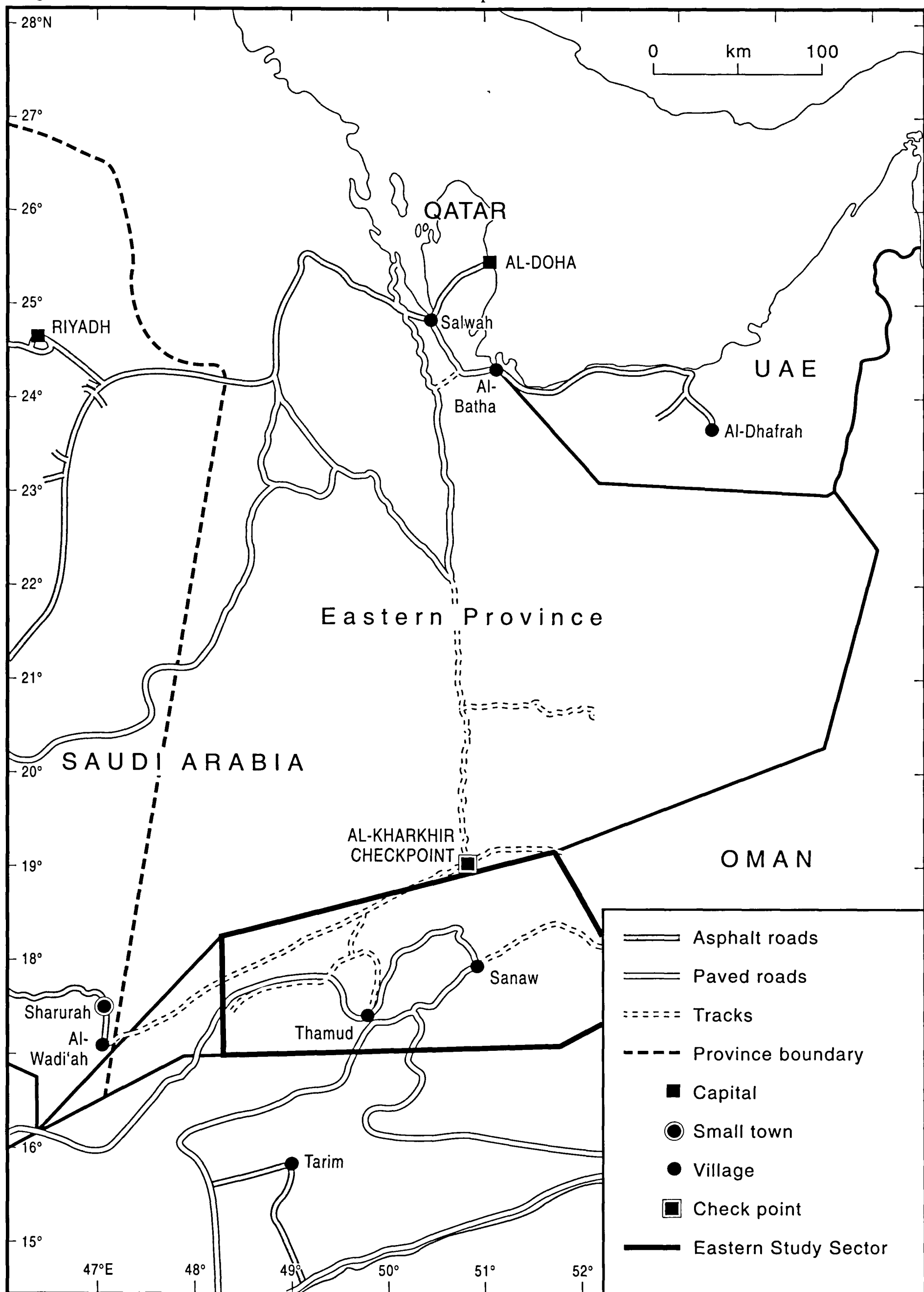
Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994

Figure 5.11(A): Visits to properties by respondents interviewed at Al-Kharkhir checkpoint



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994

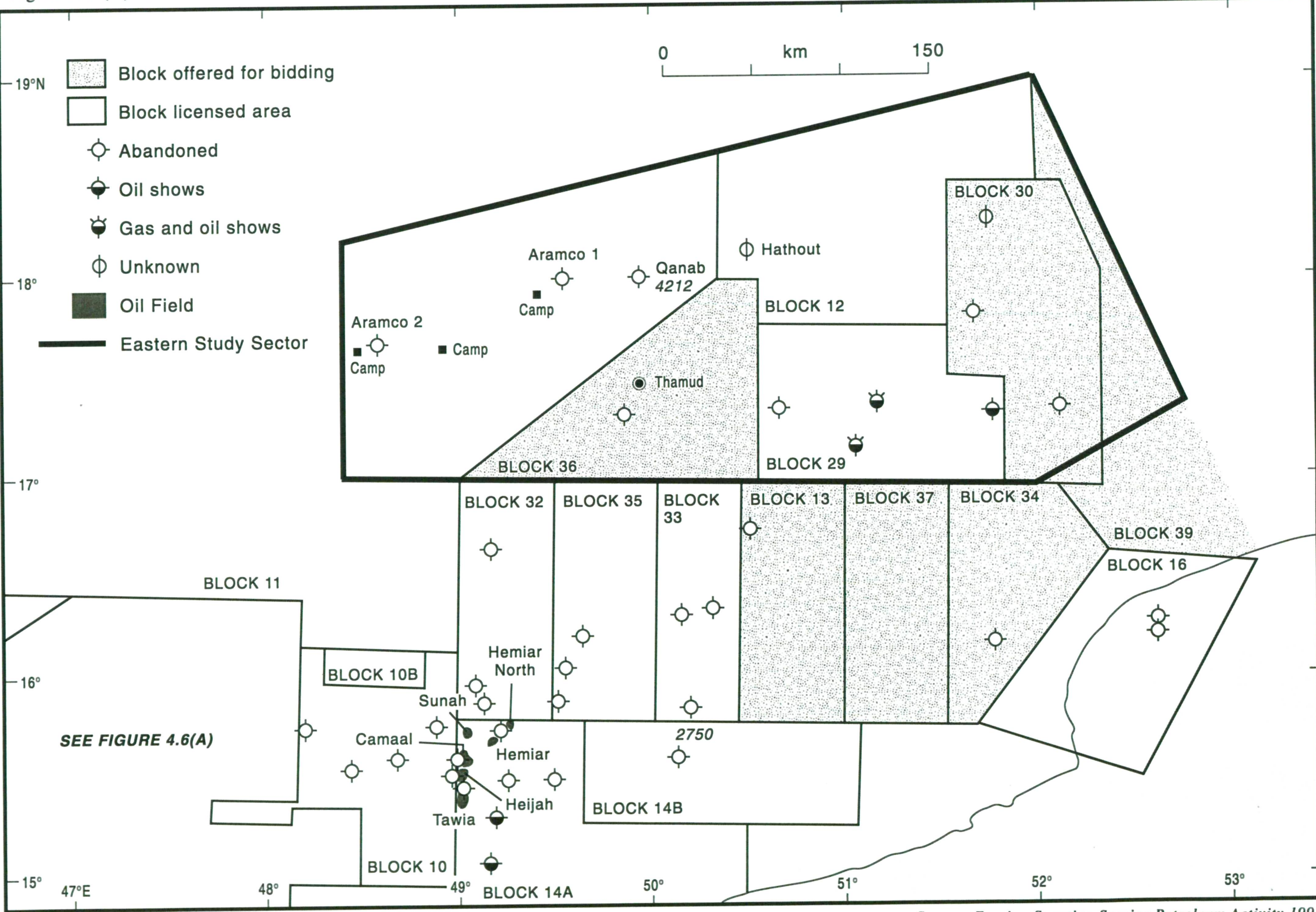
Figure 5.12(A): Roads and tracks to Al-Kharkhir checkpoint



Source: MSD 1992 Republic of Yemen map; MSD 1983 Arabian Peninsula map



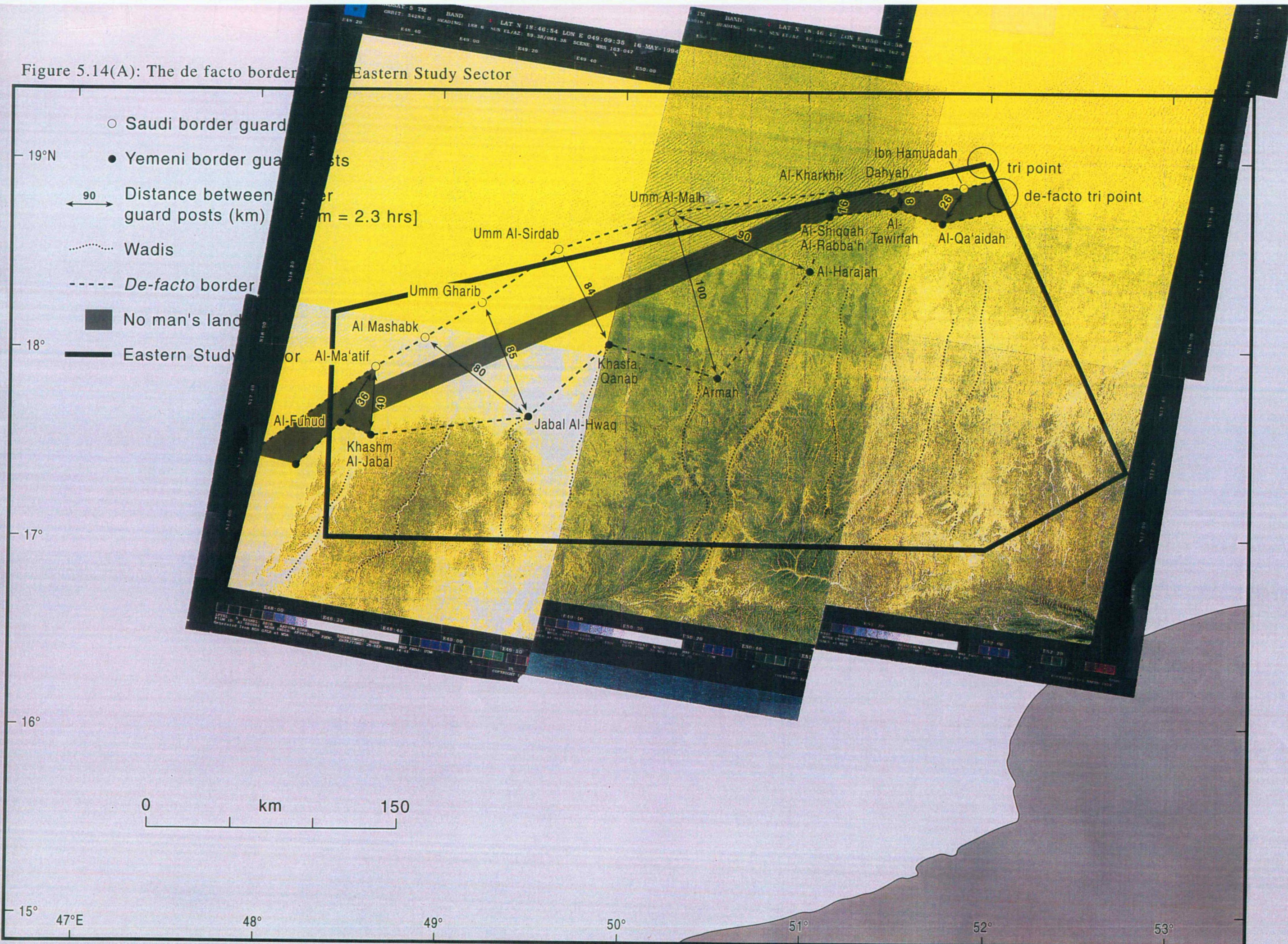
Figure 5.13(A): Oil concession blocks and exploration activities in the Eastern Study Sector



Source: Foreign Scouting Service Petroleum Activity 1994



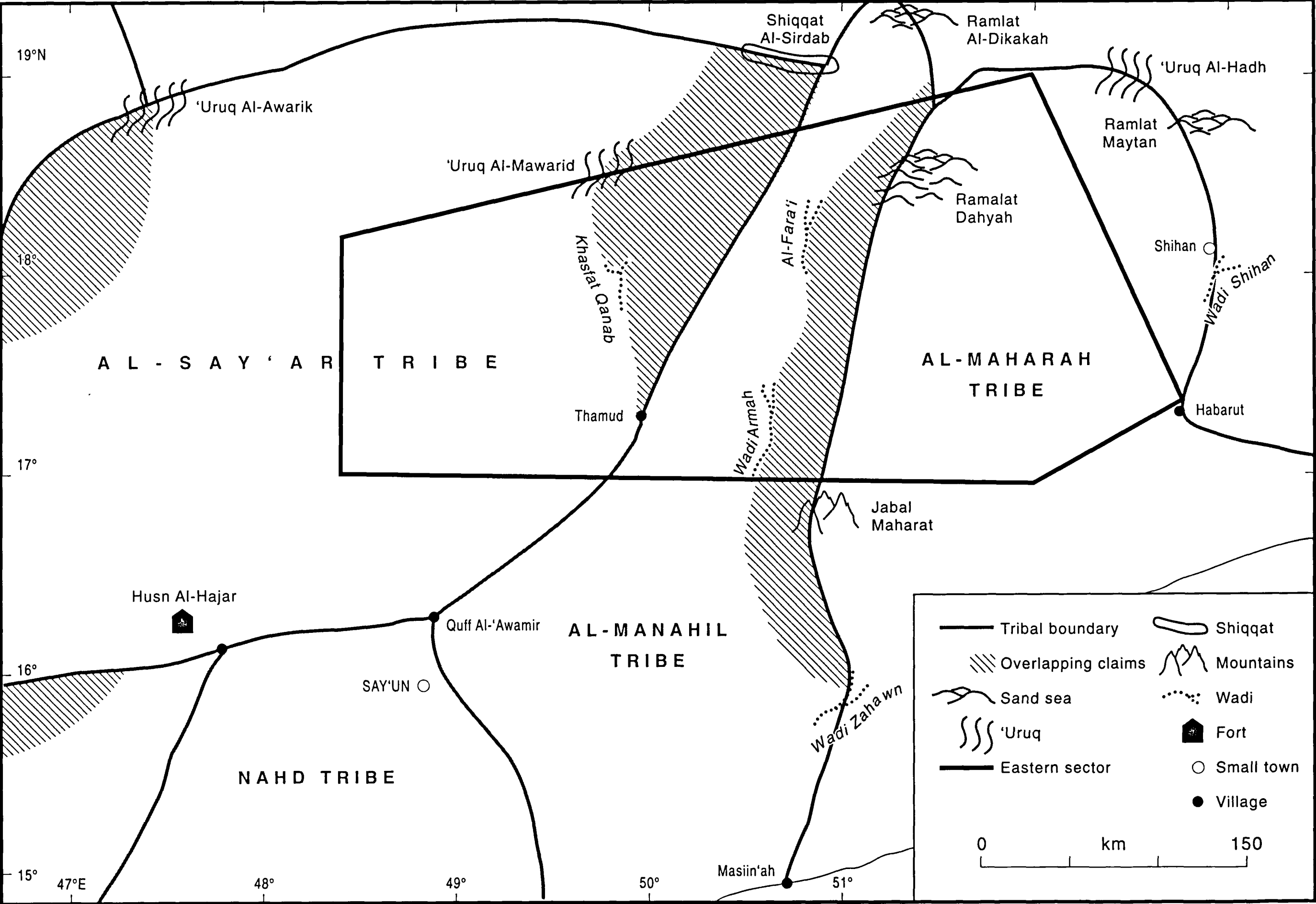
Figure 5.14(A): The de facto border Eastern Study Sector



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994



Figure 5.15(A): Distribution of tribes in the Eastern Study Sector



Source: Author's Field Survey, July - September 1994





Plate 2.1 Border mark no.31, Zibarat Alsir, Al-Tawal Emirate



Plate 2.3 Border mark no.45, Wadi Alrabidh in Almasna, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate.

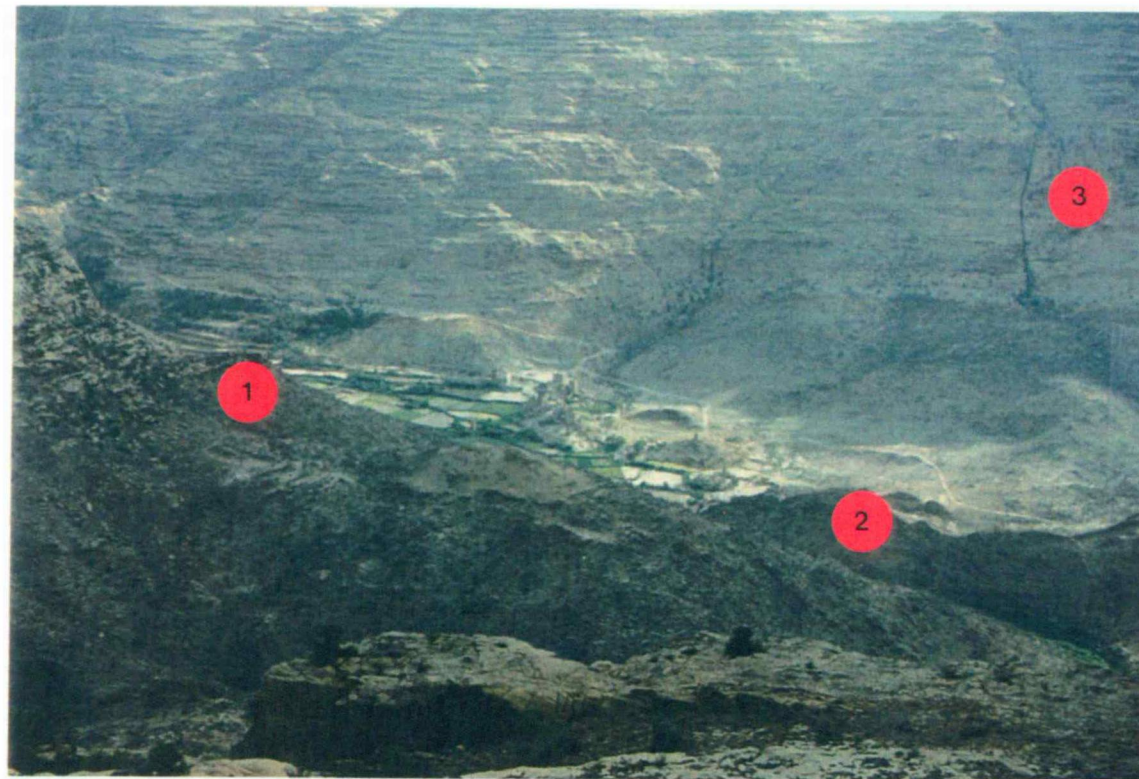


Plate 2.2 A number of border marks in the Surowat mountains, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate: (1) Madfa Alhinka (border mark no.41); (2) Alsabsab (border mark no.42); (3) Naleed Alkaal (border mark no.43)



Plate 2.4 Border mark no.38, Sha'ab Alqoum, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate.



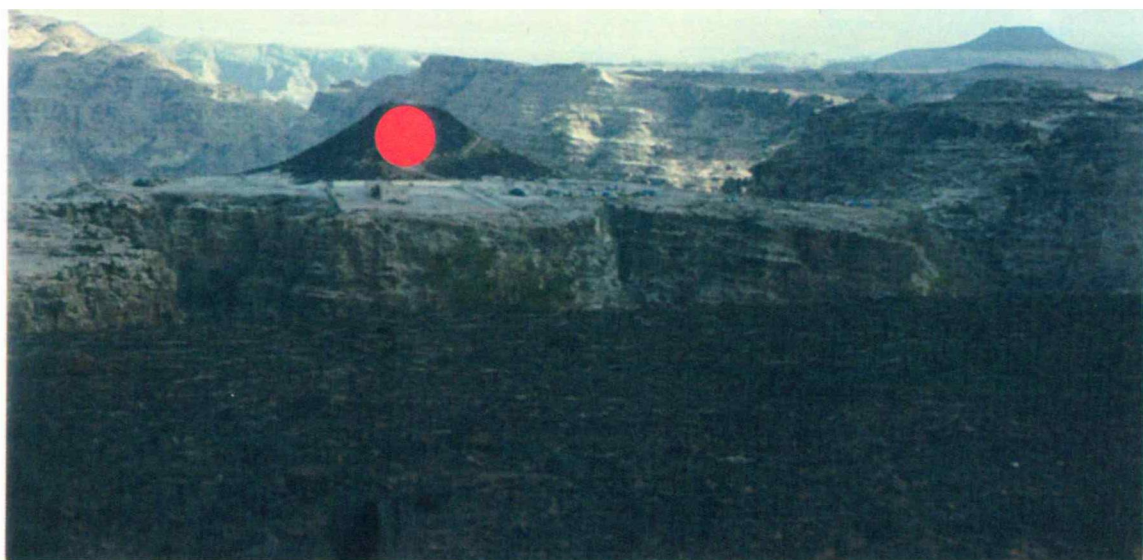


Plate 2.5 Border mark no.39, Ras Jabal Alab, Zahran Al-Janub Emirate.

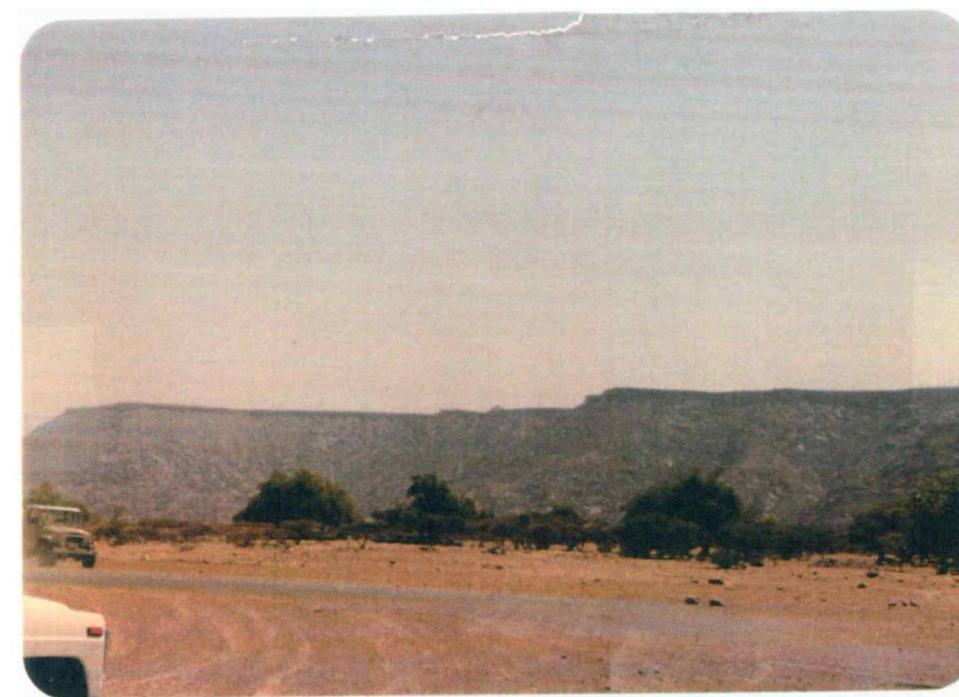


Plate 2.7 Border mark no.11, Ras Aqaba Nahuga, Al-Khadra Emirate.

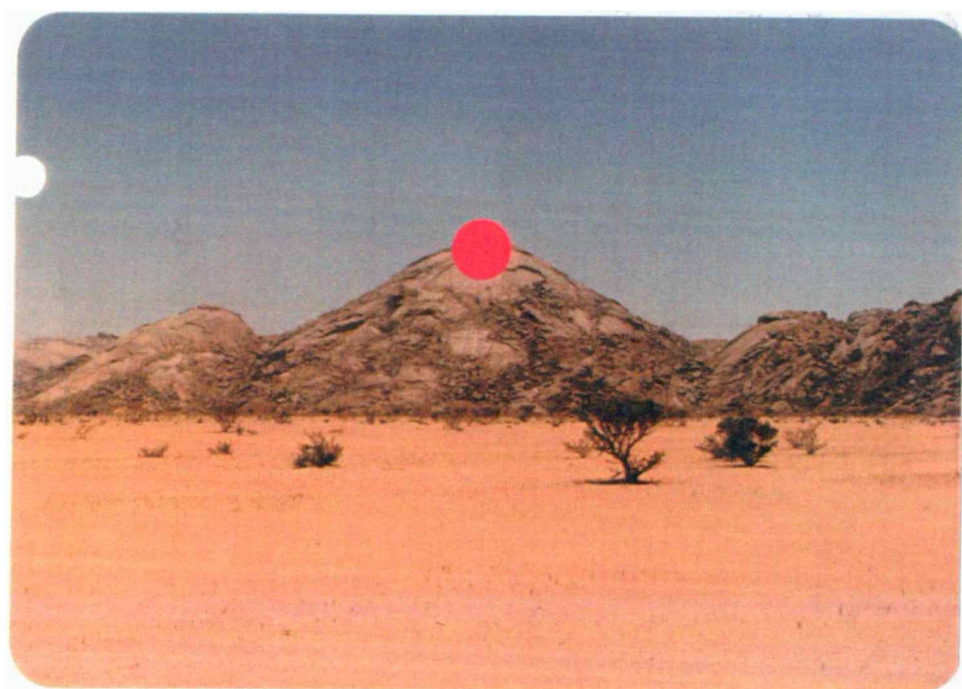


Plate 2.6 Border mark no. 1, Jabal Althar, Al-Khadra Emirate.



Plate 2.8 An example of the border marks mentioned by Philby (1952: pp.513-6).





Plate 3.1 Examples of 'statements' used at Al-Khadra checkpoint to identify members of the border tribes.



Plate 3.3 The most common type of vehicle (Toyota Pickup) used by Yemenis crossing the frontier, Al-Khadra checkpoint.



Plate 3.2 Yemenis crossing the frontier carrying goods from the Saudi side to the Yemeni side, Al-Khadra checkpoint.

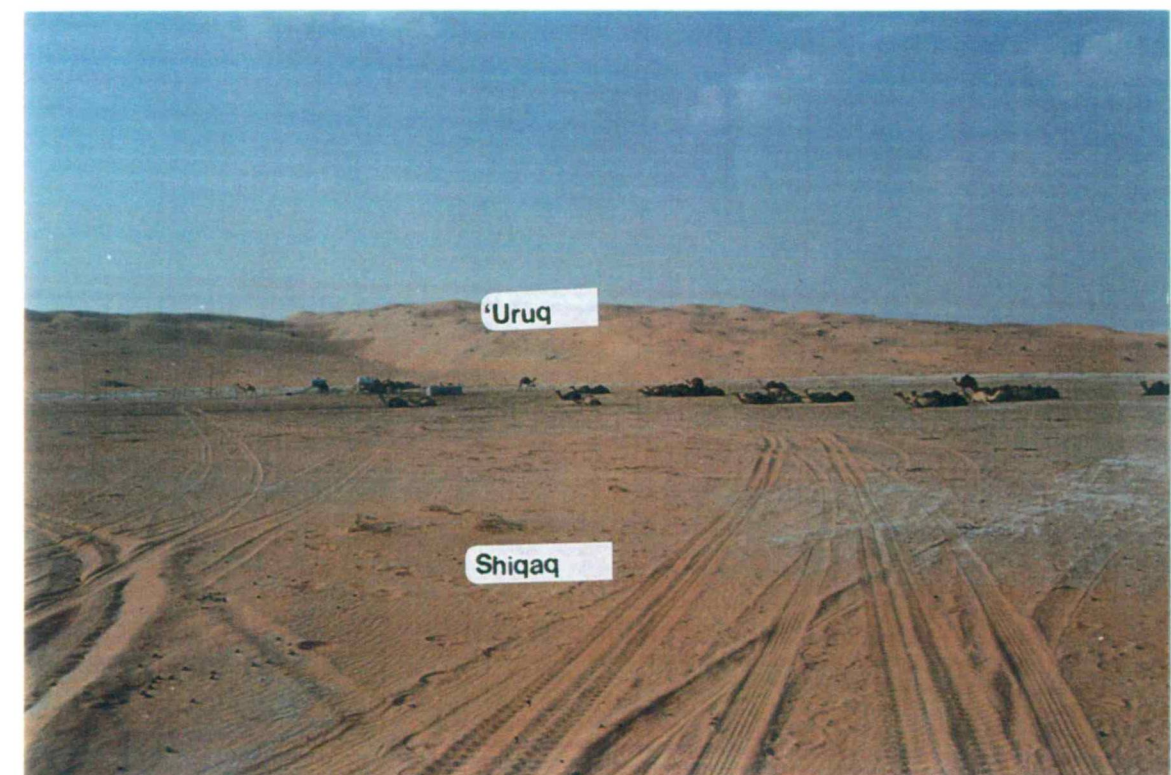


Plate 4.1 'Uruq: long linear sand ridges; Shiqaq: valleys or depressions between the ridges.