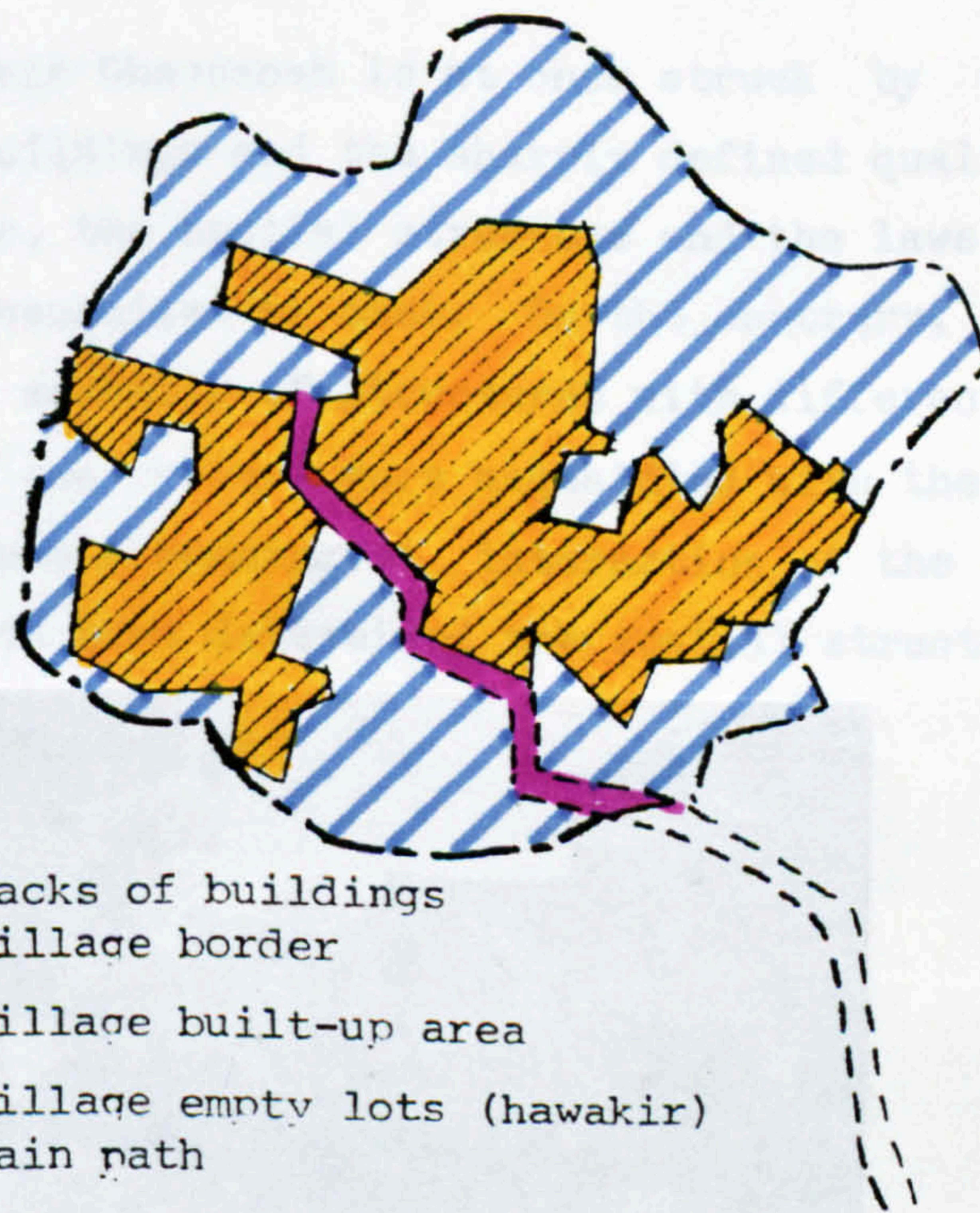


of the village. The terraced fields, the blue skies, the bright sunlight and the white stone houses with domes all combine to make a particularly powerful environment. The natural landscape is still very strong and determines the general milieu.

Boundaries Defining the Village Built-Up Area

Similar to most other Palestinian villages, Deir Ghassaneh never had walls around it to define its boundaries. The boundary between man-made space and natural space was achieved by the sharp difference in density between the the compact built-up area and the open surrounding fields. The fields were almost free from man-made structures, except for the storage huts (ksour) used for guarding against thieves during the fig and grape seasons and for storage of agricultural produce. The hawakir, a belt of empty lots, constituted a clear geographical boundary and a natural edge between the denesly built man-made settlement and the partly natural, partly ordered landscape (fig. 4.2).



- Backs of buildings
- - - Village border
- Village built-up area
- ▨ Village empty lots (hawakir)
- █ Main path

Fig. 4.2: A belt of empty lots (hawakir) separated the village built-up area from fields around it