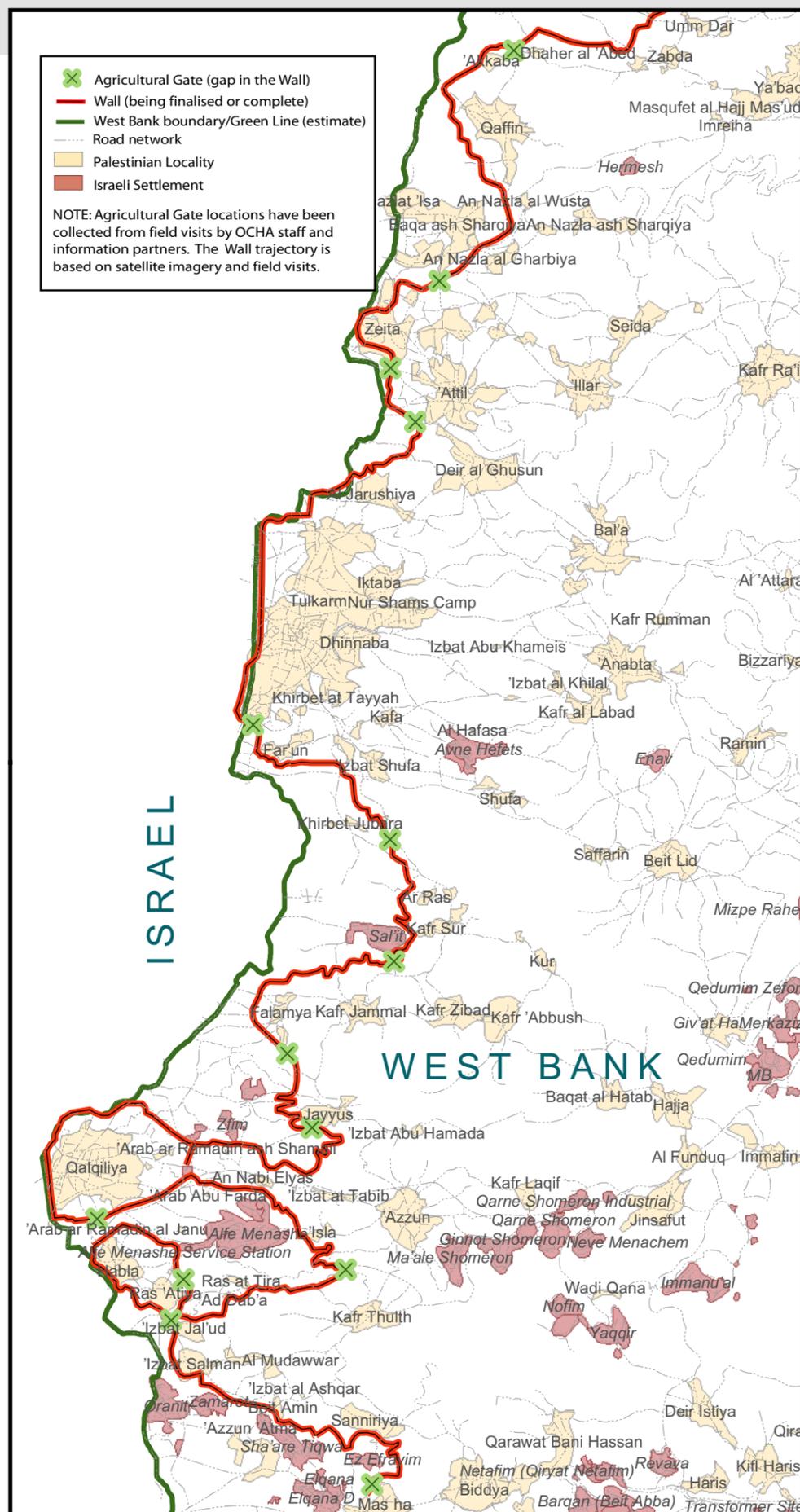


Terminals, Agricultural Crossings and Gates



Terminals

Controlled access through the Wall has been promised by the GOI to enable movement between Israel and the West Bank for Palestinian populations who are either trapped in enclaves or isolated from their agricultural lands.

According to Israel's State Attorney's office, five controlled crossings or terminals similar to the Erez terminal in northern Gaza will be built along the Wall. The Government of Israel recently decided that the Israeli Airport Authority will plan and operate the terminals. One of the main terminals between Israel and the West Bank appears to be being built near Taibeh, 75 acres (300 dunums)³⁵ in a part of Tulkarm City considered area A.³⁶

The remaining terminals/control points are designated for areas near Jenin, Atarot north of Jerusalem, north of the Gush Etzion and near Tarkumiyeh settlement bloc.

Agricultural Crossings and Gates

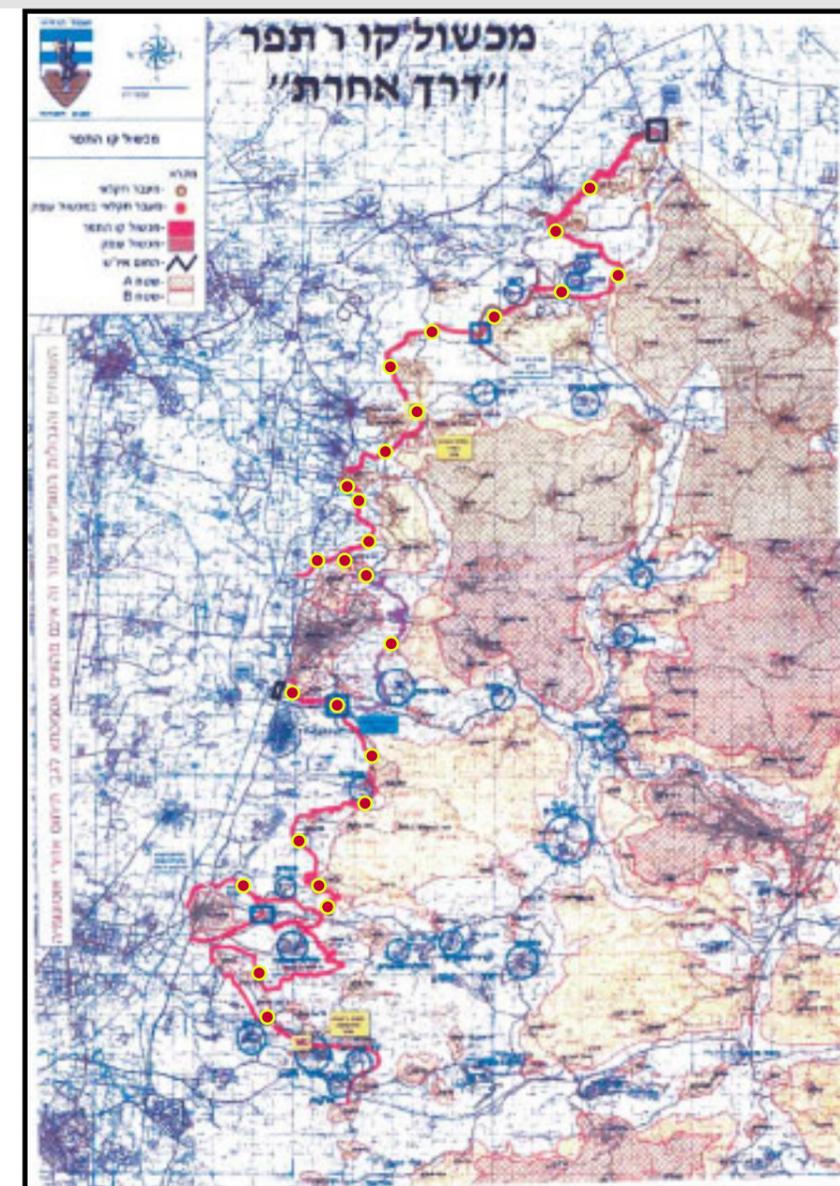
The State Attorney's Office has stated that 26 agricultural gates will be established along the length of the Wall to allow Palestinian farmers who have land west of the Wall, to cross. So far, a total of 14 have been identified through field research and interviews with Palestinian officials. In most places these gates were simply uncontrolled gaps in the wall. The problem may stem from the 2003 Israeli budget which has no provision for the building of these gates.³⁷

In response to several petitions to the Israeli High Court of Justice challenging the construction of the Wall, the Israeli Military Civil Administration committed itself to provide permits for those with land beyond the Wall to use the crossings.³⁸ As a result of this commitment, the High Court of Justice rejected Palestinian petitions challenging the trajectory of the Wall.

Despite the GOI's commitment to the Israeli High Court, no official notice has been issued concerning the working procedures of these gates or the criteria for obtaining permits. The IDF has yet to come up with a plan to define who can cross, stating "it is still too early to make this public."³⁹

But given the experience of current closure policy in the northern West Bank, with around 400 checkpoints and barriers, and the arbitrary nature of passage through checkpoints that has severely restricted Palestinians, the policy could be highly restrictive.

Netzach Mashiach, head of the Israeli authority in charge of constructing the Wall, noted that if a Palestinian who has to cross the Wall for farming or other matters has a "security past," or is the father of someone with a security past, he will not be allowed to cross. He added that "if even a single terrorist attack happens across an agricultural crossing, it will be turned into a wall".⁴⁰



Israel Civil Administration (IDF) map dated 7 October 2002 indicates the locations of 26 agricultural gates along the Wall and projected depth barriers. To date 14 of the gates have been reported under construction. Locations of agricultural gates on Israel Civil Administration map have been enhanced for clarity.

35 - "300 dunum crossing is planned for Taibeh" - Ha'aretz, 13 June 2003. Also observed by OCHA field staff.
36 - 'Area A' is a Palestinian autonomous or self-rule area as designated by the 1995 Interim Agreement between the PLO and the GOI as part of the Oslo process.

37 - The funding for the Wall comes from the budget of the Ministry of Defence, which is not open for public review. Therefore, it is practically impossible to estimate the exact amount of funds already allocated for the construction of the Wall proper and resources allocated for crossings and terminals. Contrary to the Israeli Defence Minister's statement (above), the Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted by B'Tselem (May 2003) as saying that all funds required for the Wall will be released quickly.

38 - Yedioth Ahronoth, 23 May 2003, under the title "A Wall in the Heart" (translation by Israel News Today).
39 - There was also a commitment made to provide permits to allow medical teams or teachers to cross the Wall.

40 - Yedioth Ahronoth, 23 May 2003, under the title "A Wall in the Heart" (translation by Israel News Today). "[E]ven assuming that the crossing points are set up and Palestinians are allowed to cross- which is a questionable assumption - the population will be dependent on Israel's security system and practices. Past experience indicates that Israel takes advantage of its ability to restrict Palestinian movement in the Occupied Territories to accomplish forbidden objectives and is driven by considerations unrelated to its