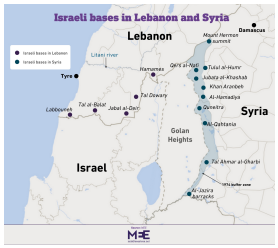

Unifil, the UN peacekeeping force set to wind down its operations in 2027, has operated in the area for two decades, and Israel appears to be making use of - and improvements to - tracks used by its patrols.

The post at Labbouneh, Israel's most western position, is just 150 metres from a Unifil base and 2km from the force's main headquarters on the coast.

Similarly, at Tal Dowary near Houla, the Israeli base has been established 1.5km from Unifil peacekeepers.

Satellite imagery shows work beginning at the sites in October 2024. At first, nearby buildings are destroyed. Israel has used air strikes, detonations and bulldozers to raze areas close to the border.

The images also show roads being widened, land degradation and earth fortifications emerging over the following months. By the turn of the year, accommodation units and vehicles have started appearing at the bases.

Work really gets going once the ceasefire begins and Israel has agreed to withdraw.

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