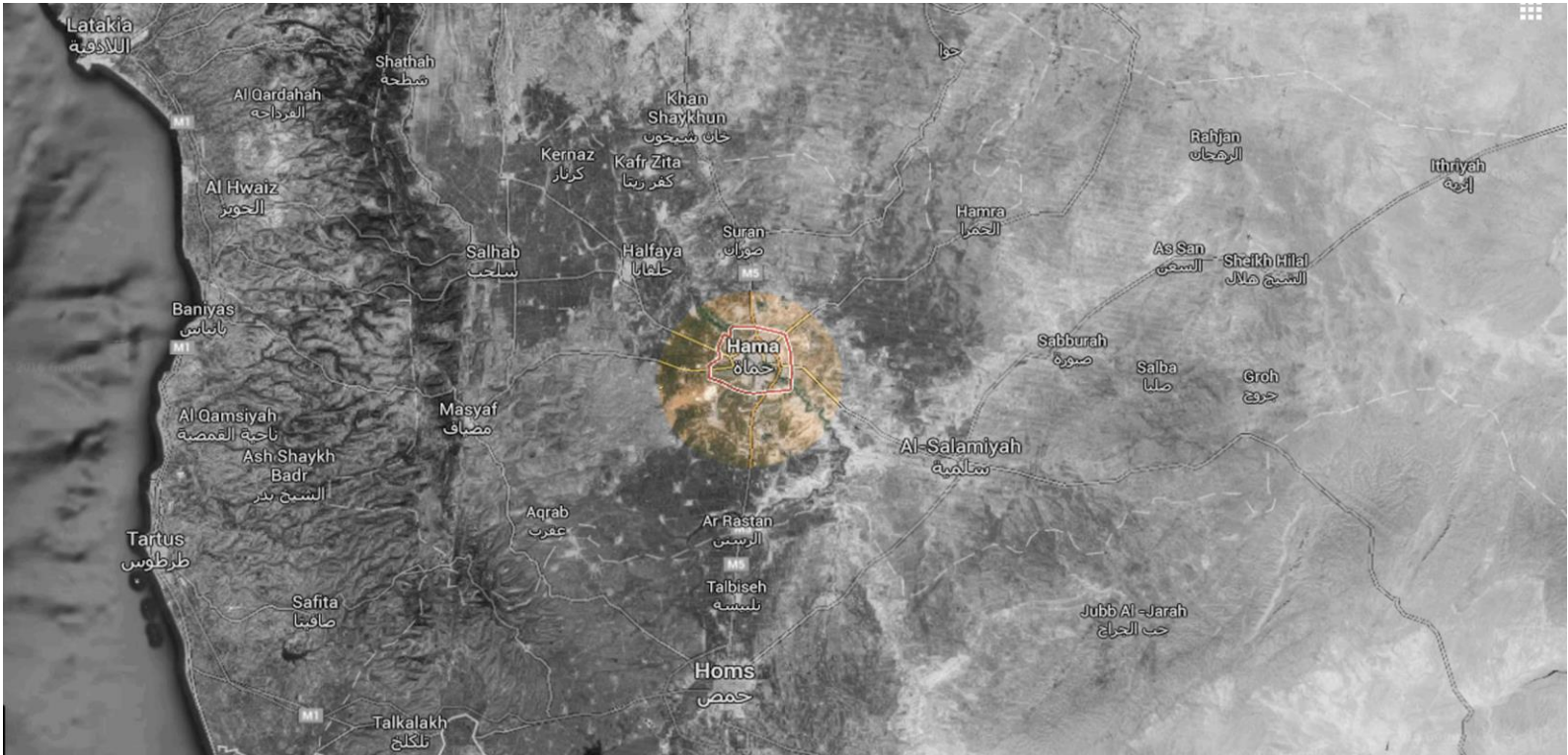


The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Mitigation Project 3

Documenting Damage and Protecting the Contents of the Apamea Museum Phase: I



Project: Documenting Damage and Protecting the Contents of the Apamea Museum 2016

Phase: I

Location: Apamea Museum located in the city of the Citadel of Al-Madeeq, Hama Governorate.

Executed by: The Day after Heritage Protection Initiative (TDA-HPI) in partnership with the Syrian Heritage Protection Center in Idlib.

Start date: 7/1/2016

End date: 9/17/2016

Project duration: 11 weeks only.

Historical Overview

The mosaics at Apamea are displayed in a 16th century Ottoman caravanserai or khan that has been converted into a museum.

Within the courtyard (2450 ft. sq.) of the museum is an impressive collection of Roman military stele commemorating II Parthica Legio. There are also a number of mosaics, funerary stele and a basalt door (dating to the Islamic period); all in all about 150 pieces.

The primary collection on display within the museum galleries are mosaics dating back to the Roman and Byzantine period. In addition, there are a number of statues, Roman capitals and several sarcophagi in the galleries as well.

The east wing has five large mosaics fixed to the floor, 150 mosaics stacked awaiting restoration, 5 statues, 11 capitals, 11 funerary inscriptions, 2 large stone sarcophagi and 2 smaller terracotta sarcophagi.

The west wing has five large mosaics fixed to the walls and 7 mosaics fixed to the floor. There are also eight large mosaics on the floor that are not fixed. There are of stone objects including a statue of a seated individual and a stone base to a table.

The south wing contains a basalt stone door and two lions dating to the Islamic period.

The museum also contains 100 ceramic pieces.

Project Objectives:

- Assess the damage to the museum building and identify causes (military/environmental).
- Document the contents of the museum.
- Protect the contents of the museum from identified causes.

Work Stages Completed (Objectives 1 and 2):

The following work has been completed after 6 weeks from commencement of project.

First: Prepare an assessment of the damage to the museum and identify causes (military/environmental):

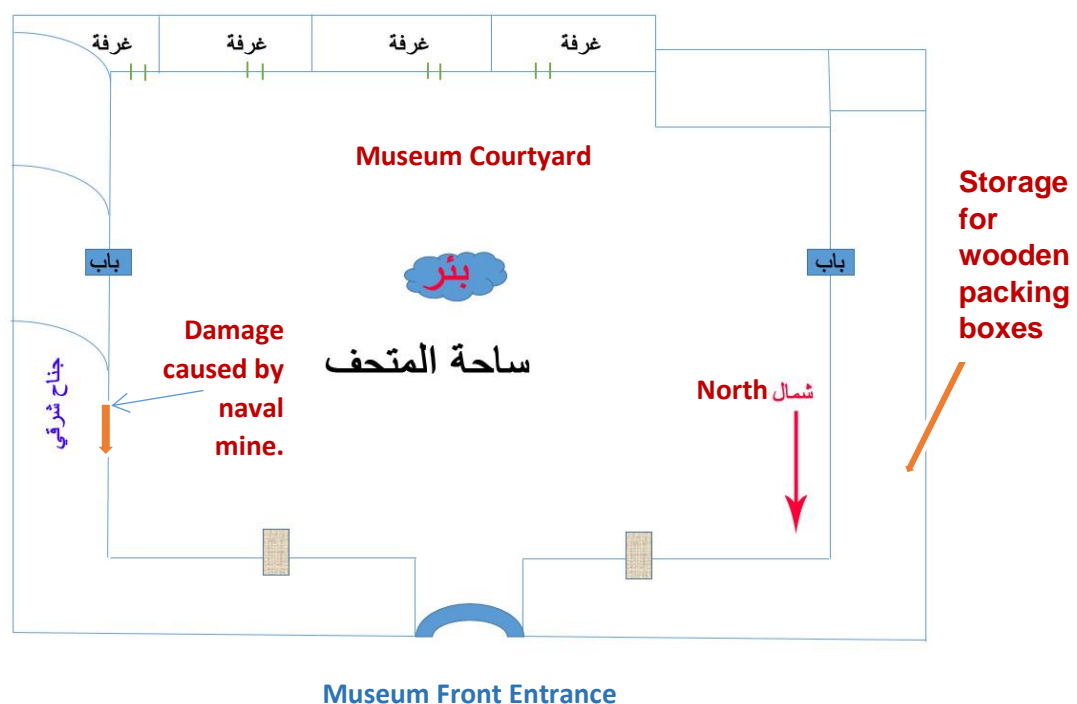
Work completed includes evaluating the damage to the Apamea museum caused by military action or natural weather factors (environmental):

1. Producing a complete plan of the museum.
2. Topographic mapping of the damaged areas.
3. Clean the courtyard of weeds and excessive plant growth.

Second: Documenting and protecting the mosaic collection in the Museum.

Work completed includes full documentation of the museum contents inside the galleries and the courtyard and:

- a. Clean the mosaics and documenting the cleaning process.
- b. Lay a protective cover on the mosaics by applying a layer of glue (water soluble) and placing a layer of TYVEK (or similar material) over them. The entire process is documented using video and photographs following the guidelines provide by ASOR.
- c. Protect the mosaics by placing sand bags over and around them. This method of protection has been successfully implemented at the museum of Ma'arra and recommended by the Smithsonian Museum.



Photos of damage caused by vegetation overgrowth:





Photos of damage to objects in museum courtyard due to exposure to weathering:







Photos of damage inside the museum wings:



Damage sustained by a naval mine



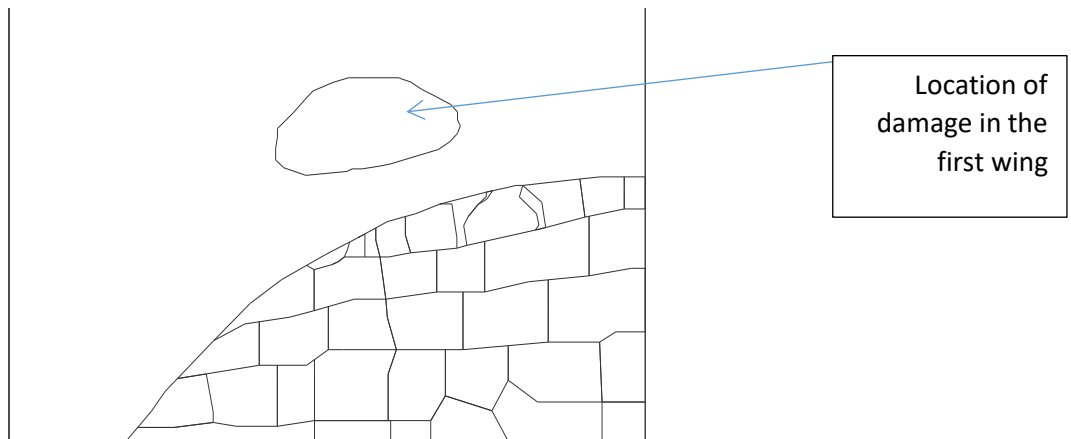
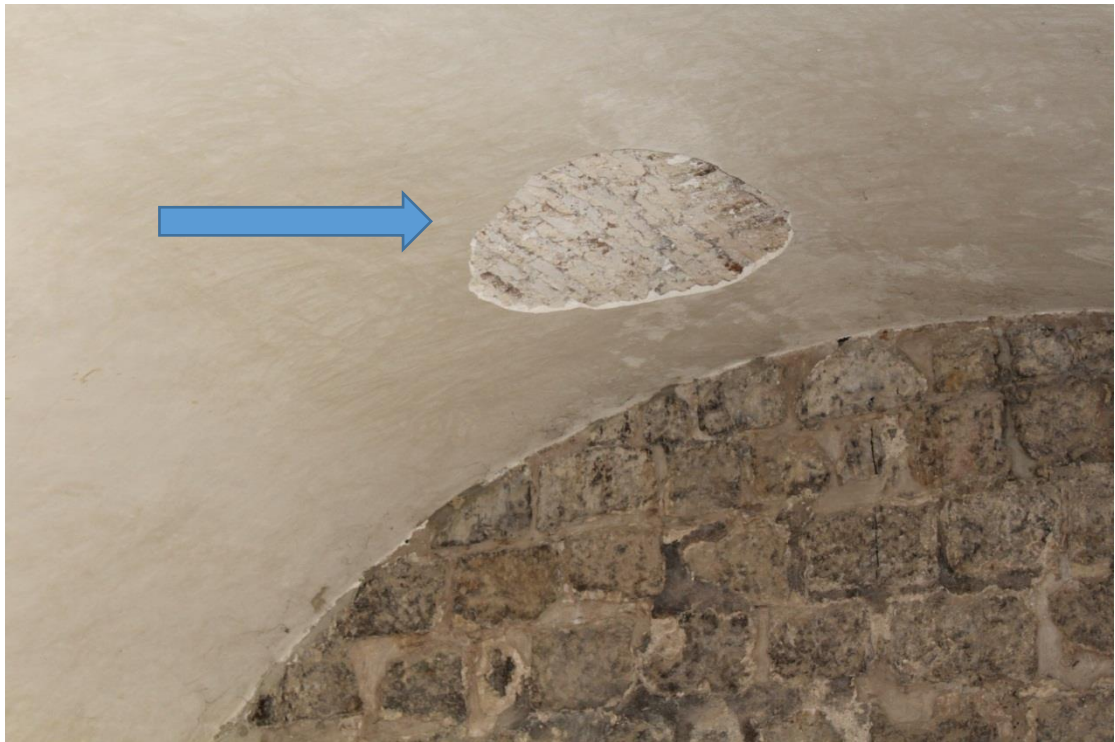


A topographic map of the damaged area



Photos of Damage inside the first wing:





Photos of Damage to floors:







Photos of damage to display cabinets and objects:



Photos of Museum objects and mosaics inside wings:







Restored mosaic pieces





Restored mosaic panels





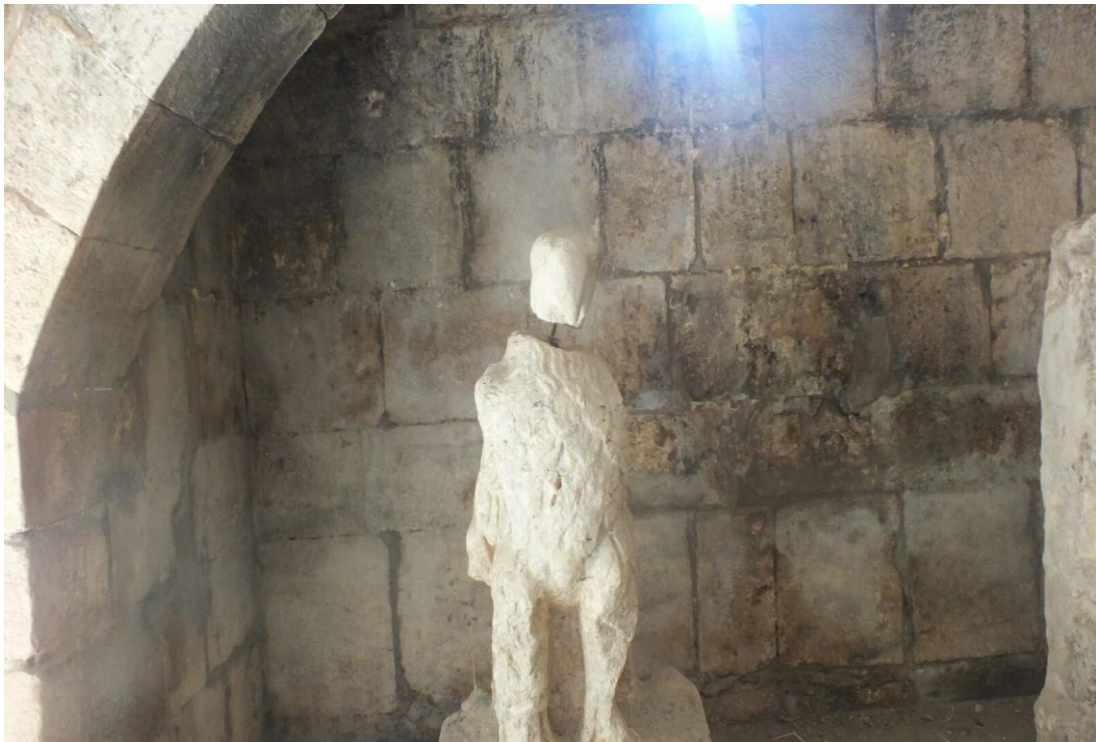
Mosaic Floors

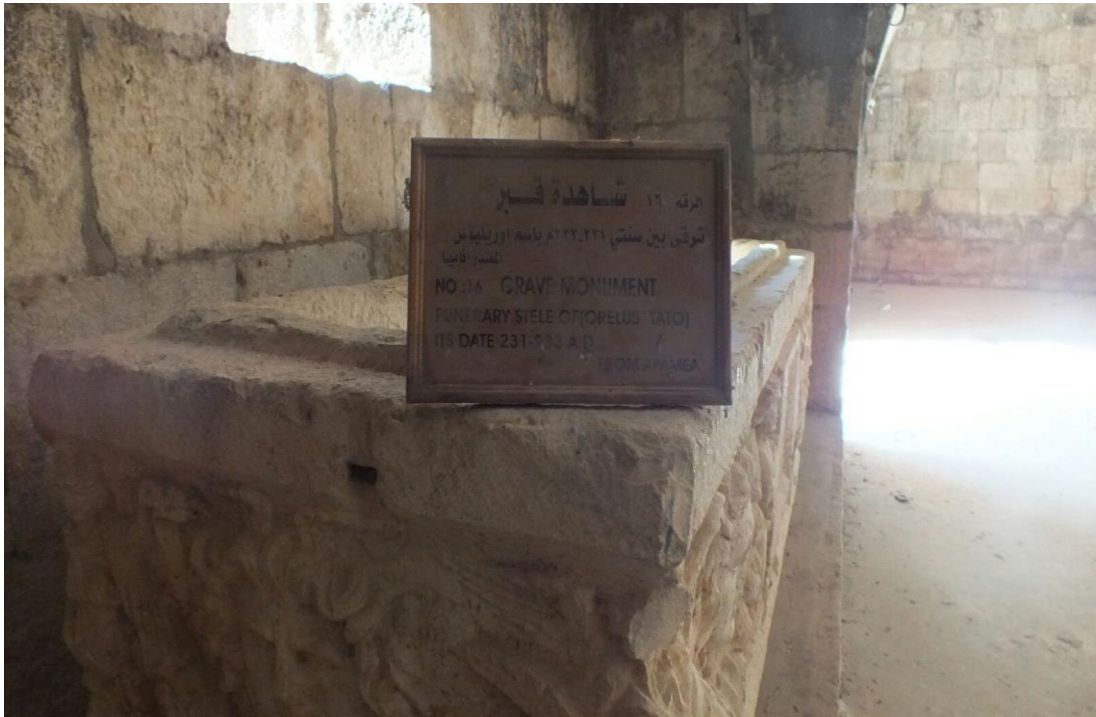










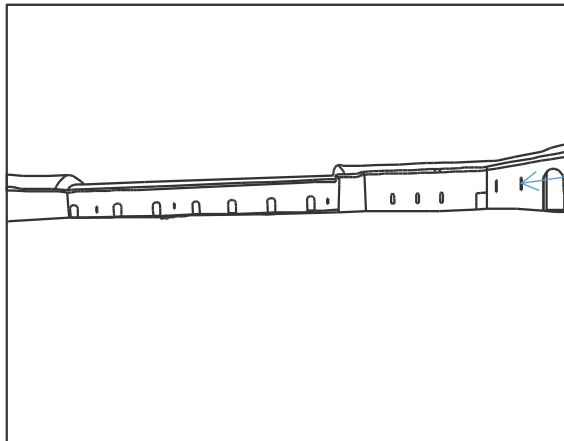


Restored mosaic pieces



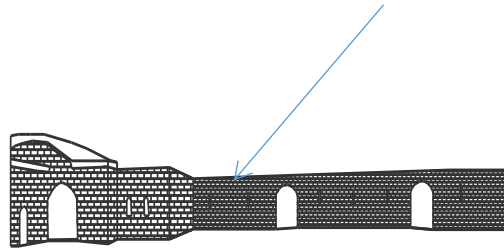
Cleanup of the Courtyard:





Inside view of the
museum's southern
façade

Inside view of the museum's western façade





Clearing vegetation from the courtyard



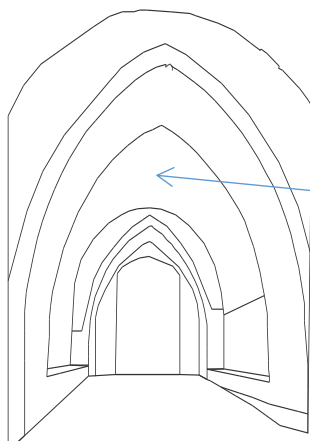


Cleaning up the courtyard



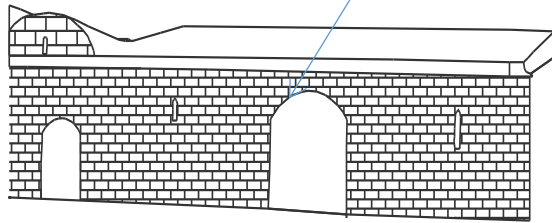


North Entrance

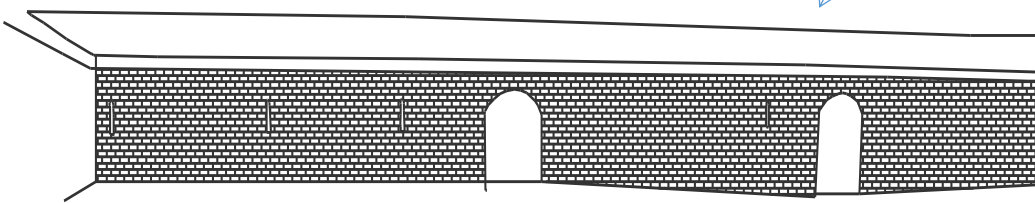


Inside view of the north entrance

Northern façade view from the east side of the entrance



Inside view of the eastern façade



Cleanup work inside the wings (first wing) on the north side:





Covering Mosaic Floors with a Layer of Glue







Mixing the glue with water

Covering Mosaic floors with cotton fabric to protect them from fragmentation due to pressure caused by explosions:





Gluing cotton sheets onto the mosaic floors





Gluing cotton sheets onto the mosaic floors







Gluing cotton sheets onto the mosaic floors











Mosaic panels covered with cloth prior to having sandbags placed over them



Sandbagging the Mosaics:





Unloading sand

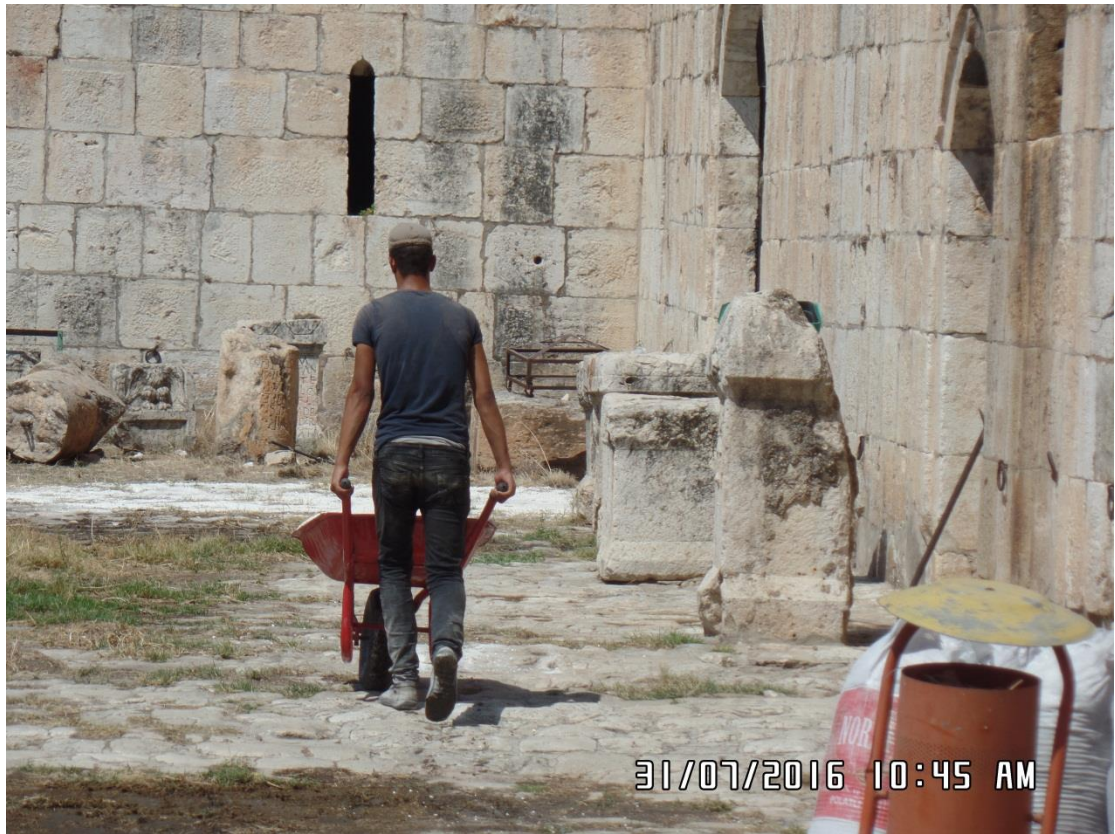






Moving sand with wheelbarrows







Filling up sandbags





Filling up sandbags





Stacking sandbags to protect mosaics

















Covering up Museum Objects:







Cleaning sarcophagi







Covering up sarcophagi



Cleaning up the Outside Walls of the Museum:









Front Entrance of the Museum

Reported by:

Eng. Abdul Rahman Alyehia (Syrian Heritage Centre)

Site Monitors Project Coordinator

Dr. Amr Al-Azm

