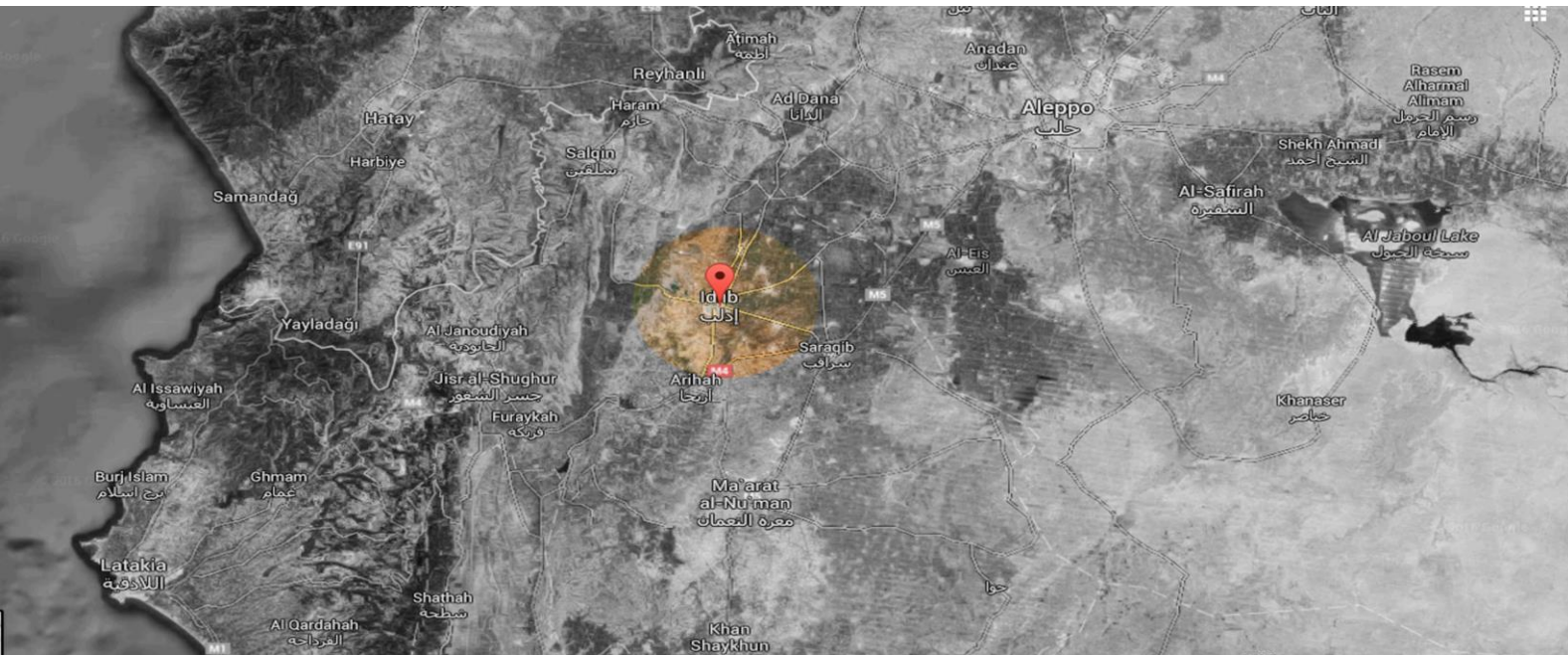


The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Site Monitor Report Village of Jaradeh

September 2015



Jaradeh is part of a group of archaeological sites known as the “Dead Cities” located in the north of Syria and is part of the archeological park of Jaradeh and Ruweha. Date and registration number /207/ 19/8/1992.

The site is also registered under the Department of Antiquities at Ma’ara and located 10 km’s to the north of the city. Dating back to the Byzantine era, Jaradeh comprises several religious, residential and tower buildings with a unique style of architecture.

Al Burj (The Tower)

The tower is located in a dominant position on the site and it is still in a well-preserved condition. The building is square shaped with a side measurement of 5.50 meters and 18 meters total length.

It comprises of six floors. The bottom story has a small door leading to a beautifully decorated basalt room with stone tiles used to build the ceiling. The ceilings of the remaining floors were made out of wood and this same material was used to build the ladder and the staircase. Each of the floors has small windows while the edges of the window on the sixth floor were designed in the shape of a cross. The top of the tower bears an ornamental bas-relief, while the fifth floor has a square shaped toilet with a 25 cm deep basin linked to the drainage hole.

The Villas

The villas at Jaradeh are characterized as rich and spacious with open-air courtyards surrounded by service rooms and the main door is sometimes topped with a tower. The residential rooms are set in two stories, bottom and upper floor. The upper floor occupies a special wing with a terrace in front originally supported by elegant pillars and richly ornamented doors and windows. The ceiling of the bottom floor is built with big stone tiles supported by a number of arches while the ceiling of the upper floor is crafted in wood. Other villas in the site were found with three stories. These are some general characteristics of the public residential buildings in Jaradeh.

Al Hamal Al Wadi'a (The gentle lamb)

A bas-relief decorating one of the lintels found in the ruins of an old villa, depicting a lamb with the sign of the cross on top. The item which was called "the gentle lamb" was found in 1974 and dates to the 6th C. It is now the property of the Aleppo museum.

The Basilica Church

The building is a small monastery church built in the shape of a basilica dating back to the 5th C. It measures 7 by 9 meters, with three aisles and two porticos each with six arches carried by five central pillars. There are two additional half pillars built in the two walls of the apsis and the western wall. The building is oriented to the east with triple apsis (central apse and two side chapels) curved in half circles and flanked by a double story (Diaconicon) service room with an arch topped window on the second floor and a martyr's room reached by an external door facing west. The lintels of the lower windows are in the shape of an arch.

The church has seven doors. Three originally built in the western wall, one in the north, two in the southern wall and one in the service room.

This church is characterized by its simple style of decoration with simple decorative frames for its arches and the ionic style of its capitals.

The Monastery

The monastery is an isolated building located to the northeast of the site with an open-air courtyard surrounded by a wall. The courtyard has a cistern and a press (olive press). There is a funerary burial area for the priests to the east and the monastery entrance-gate. To the north is a two-story building; a church (chapel) occupies the bottom floor and priest dorms in the second. Some pillars are still visible on the terrace that was added in the front of the second story.

In addition to what has been mentioned; there are several other buildings that need renovation including the tower.

An inspection report of the site prepared by the site monitor group in 9/28/2015 has highlighted the following:

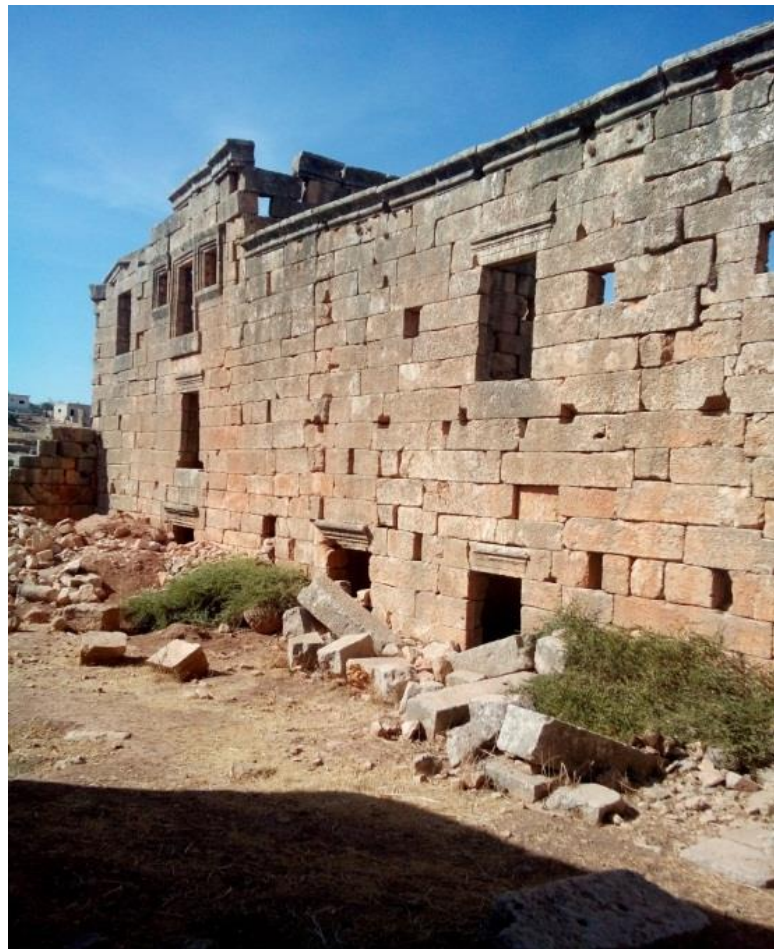
- 1- Evidence of looting and random illicit digging within the nave of the church and beside the wall and on the eastern side.
- 2- Damage noted due to neglect of the site over the last five years.
- 3- Damage noted due to the environmental/climatic effects.
- 4- The site requires rapid intervention in order to stop the ongoing damage and deterioration.



Illicit digging at the site and near to the walls causing damage to buildings and foundations



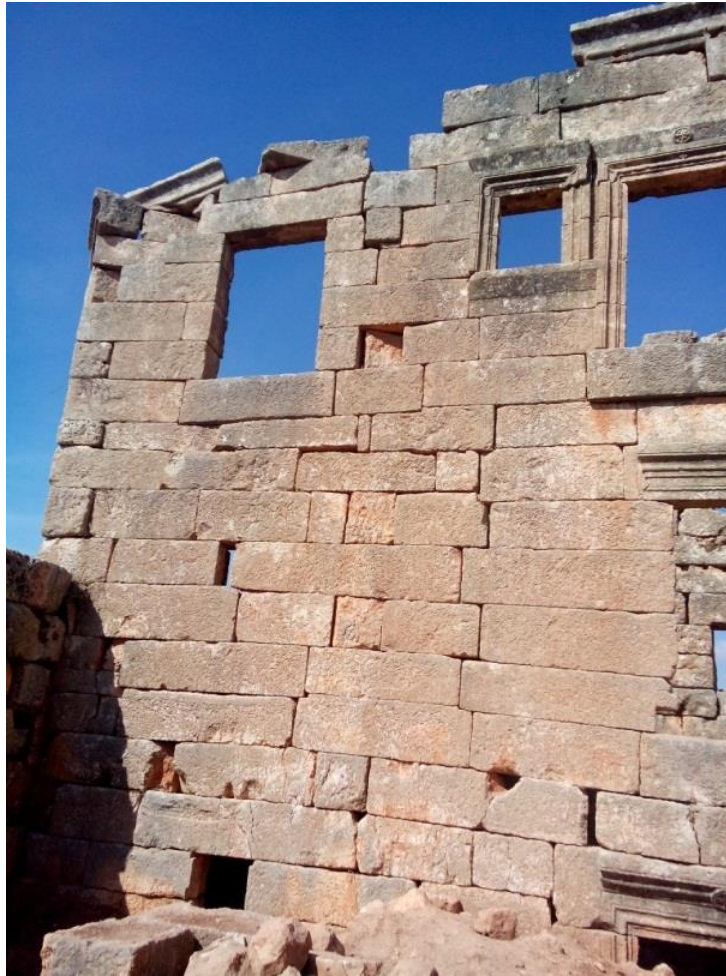
Illicit digging



Damage due to overgrowth of plants



Damage due overgrowth of plants



Damage caused by neglect



Damage caused by neglect



Damage caused by neglect



Damage caused by neglect



Damage caused by neglect



Illicit digging near the walls



Damage due to weathering and neglect

Reported by:

Eng. Abdul Rahman Alyehia (Syrian Heritage Centre)

Site Monitors Project Coordinator

Dr. Amr Al-Azm

