

The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

The Castle of "Al-Shugoor - Bakas"



Introduction:

The castle of "Al-Shugoor - Bakas", located 10 km northwest of the city of Jisr Al-Shugoor, 60 km west of Idlib, and 65 km east of Lattakia.

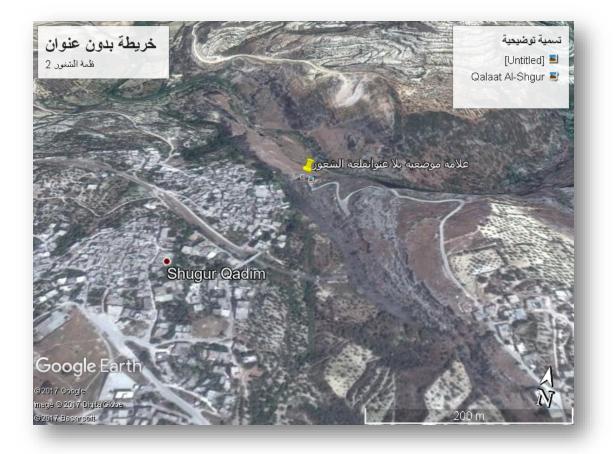
The castle enjoys a strategic location in the governorate of Idlib on the intersection of the key roads tying Lattakia - Aleppo, and Antioch – Apamea, making it one of the major hubs in the area. It was named after the village of Al-Shugoor. Al-Shagr means the empty residence, while Al-Thagr means "the border" or edge. The name "Bakas" means a cup turned upside down surrounded by rocks from which water flows.



Al-Shugoor Castle includes Aramaic inscriptions that probably date to the first occupation there. The early Arabs then took residence in it; hailing from Thamud and Palmyra during the Roman period. Saladin was the first to conquer and liberate the castle from the crusaders.

Due to the castle's significant value, on Saturday 8/20/2017, site monitors from the Syrian Heritage Center conducted a field survey to document its current condition and propose repairs in an immediate intervention. These were their findings:

- 1. Damage on the southern and eastern sides due to the elements (environmental).
- 2. Damage from illicit digging on the site.
- 3. Damage due to sheep being raised on the site.
- 4. Damage due to neglect over the past 6 years.
- 5. No Damage due to military activity was noted.









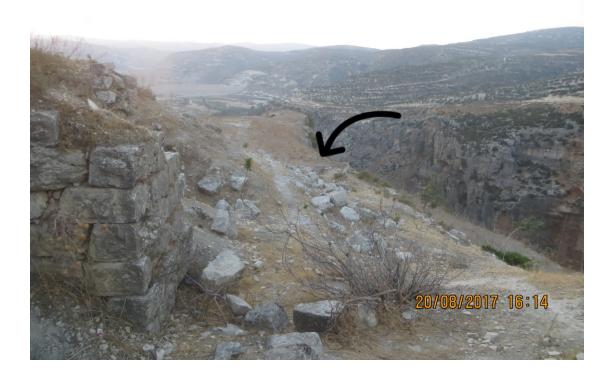


Collapse due to environmental /weathering











Looting of Stones









Collapse due to natural causes





Damage due to weathering effects









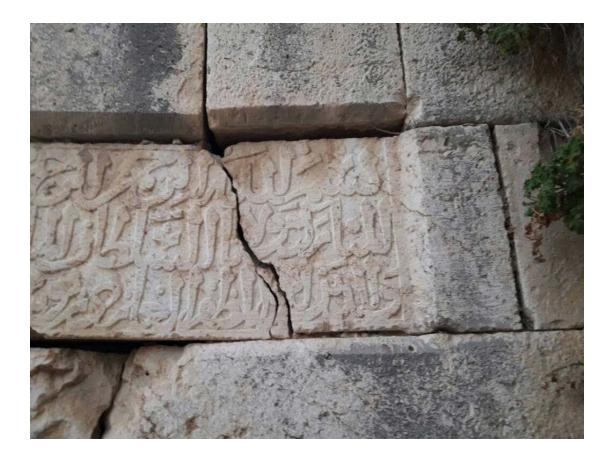




A collapse in the south is a result of weathering and human activity















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