

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.





East side



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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