

The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Condition report for a mosaic floor

in Al-Bara site



* The Syrian Heritage Center received information that there is a Byzantine-era mosaic floor in Al-Bara historical site, located 33 km southwest of Idlib in Jabal Al-Zawiyah, 5 km south of Ehsim, and 20 km southwest of Ariha.

* History: Al-Bara contains buildings that date back to the second century AD. It reached its prime during the fifth and sixth centuries AD. Most of the remaining archaeological structures are from the Byzantine era. The abundance of water at the site was one of the reasons behind its prosperity. It has many reservoirs and a 12 meter deep well, Alwan well, north of Al-Bara, that is still used today. Al-Bara was under the rule of Apamea during the Byzantine era and had significant commercial ties with Antioch.

* Due to the lack of law enforcement, this mosaic floor, carrying images of flora and fauna, is vulnerable to looting and vandalism by antiquity smugglers.



The field investigation conducted by the Syrian Heritage Center's site monitors on 8/8/2017 revealed that the tile is located in a residential room within a palace structure. It contains elements of flora and fauna. The team found that the mosaic floor needs to be moved into the museum of Ma'arrat Al-Noman for the following reasons:

1. Lack of law enforcement due to the conflict in Syria
2. The area is now exposed and unprotected
3. Heavy machinery used in excavation missions nearby

Part of the floor after being exposed:



The part of the floor that was exposed to identify it



Mosaic floor location



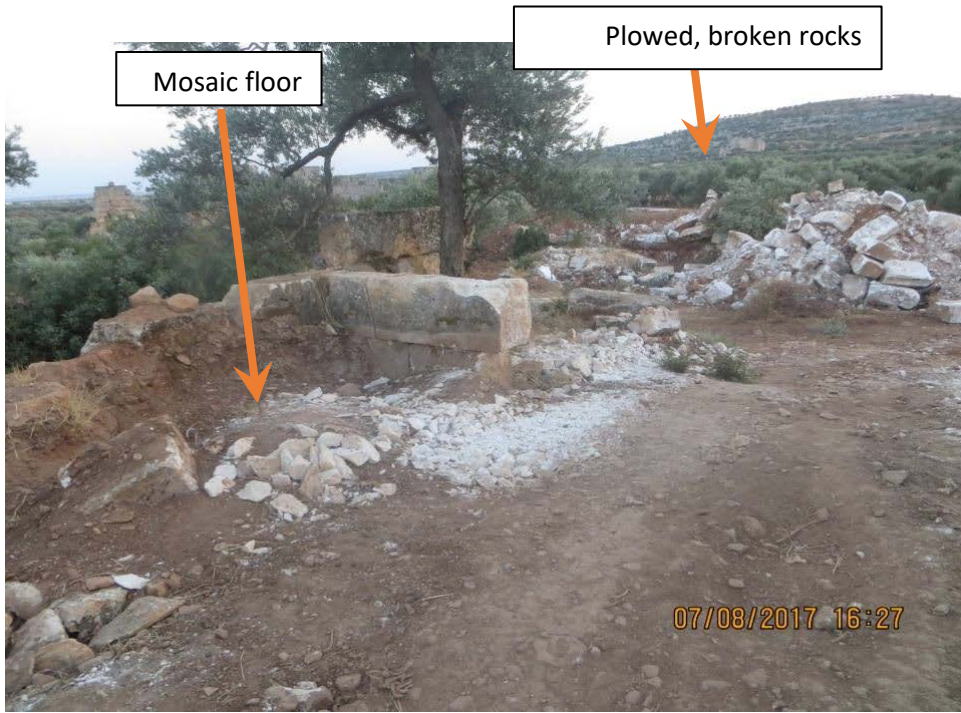
Location of the exposed part



Location of the mosaic floor within the foundation, south entrance



Destruction near the mosaic floor location



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