

# Qanawat قنوات

*As Suwayda Governorate*





FIGURE 80. Overview of Qanawat and locations where damage has occurred and is visible.

## Site Description

The primary site in this area is the Roman town of Qanawat. It dates back to at least the first century BC and contains numerous original features, including funerary sites, baths, a theatre, and remnants of the original walls. Today it is surrounded by the existing town:

“Qanawat... is a site of considerable interest. Though its origins may go back earlier, first historical mention of the town dates to the reign of Herod the Great (first century BC).”<sup>(1)</sup>

The sites of At'il (two second-century AD Roman temples), Sia (a heavily ruined Roman complex) and Tell Jubeh (Bronze Age city Ramparts) also fall within this area of interest and were examined.

The following features of the site were reviewed: the nymphaeum, the Peripteral Temple to Rabbos, the Roman baths, the Roman theatre, the Seraya palace complex, and the Temple to Zeus. Most structures showed no visible damage, with the exception of the Temple of Zeus Megistos. One of the cistern arches is now shorter, suggesting it has partially collapsed. In addition, many of the buildings which covered the site have been cleared. Whether this is a result of the conflict or site management is unknown. The Roman baths are also possibly damaged; the distinctness of the walls has noticeably lessened, however damage cannot be confirmed (see figure 80).

### NOTE

*This report provides a detailed analysis of significant changes to the cultural heritage of this site resulting from the ongoing conflict in Syria. World View 1 and 2 satellite imagery acquired on 23 November 2010 and 03 June 2014 was used for this report.*



## Qanawat Damage Level

(Number of Heritage Locations)

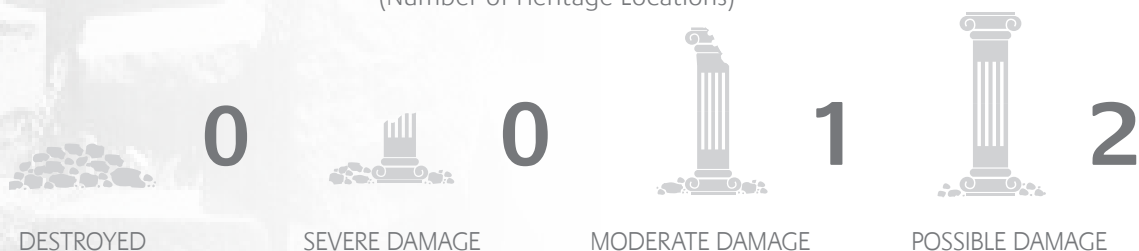




FIGURE 81. Damage to the Temple. Outer red line indicates the approximate extent of the temple.

## TEMPLE OF ZEUS

### Description

This large temple originally dates back to the first century BC, but was rebuilt in the third century AD. The structure is square and contains a central sanctuary and a cistern, and adjoining the southern wall is the actual temple of Zeus Megistos.

### Damage Assessment

The eastern-most part of the cistern's arches have collapsed and were shortened by 4 m (originally 17 m in length). A number of buildings have also been cleared from the site. It is unknown why they were removed, so it cannot be said how this has affected the site. It may have been to protect the temple, or it could have damaged the ruins (see figures 81 and 82).



Moderate Damage



FIGURE 82. Damage to the Temple. Outer red line indicates the approximate extent of the temple.



Roman cisterns in Qanawat as seen in the 03 June 2014 satellite image/Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## ROMAN BATHS

### Description

Part of the Central Forum, which contained a Roman bath complex, and dates to between the first century BC to the fifth century AD.

### Damage Assessment

The clarity of the ruins has visibly lessened according to the two satellite images examined. This could indicate stone robbing or disturbances of the earth—a sign of looting. However, it could also be a result of the atmospheric conditions at the time the later image was acquired (see figure 80).



Possible Damage