

and 'Abwein in the Bani Zaid sheikhdom). Nineteen villages (80%) are located on top of hills or top of ridges (see table 1).

Except for the throne village of Sanour, none of the highland villages had a wall around it. The absence of parameter walls or other elements for fortification, such as watch towers, ditches or fortresses, leads me to believe that, with the exception of throne villages, defence did not take precedence over other considerations in the location or siting of highland villages. It was the security of agricultural fields rather than the security of the village itself that was crucial. (See Cana'an, 1932: 228).