

GORDION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

SITE CONSERVATION PLAN

Yassihöyük, Turkey
2006 - ongoing

Funded by: 1984 Foundation, J.M. Kaplan Fund,
Global Heritage Fund, and the Selz Fund

As one of the principal archaeological sites in Central Anatolia, Gordion premieres royal Phrygian architecture that includes a nearly complete monumental ninth-century BCE masonry gate, along with the remains of a once impressive citadel. Few sites in the world offer a glimpse of the early civilizations of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages.



Above: Conservation of the Terrace Building masonry (ACL)



Above: Balloon imagery of the citadel mound (ACL)

Despite its a complexly layered history, Gordion today is most commonly associated with the reign of King Midas, who led the Phrygian Empire to its zenith at the end of the eighth century BCE. The citadel's continuous occupation for over three thousand years has made Gordion a unique and rich repository for scholars, visitors, and students interested not only in the history of ancient Anatolian civilization and the rise and fall of several great empires, but also conservation and management issues for this world renowned archaeological site. Even with a built and natural environment of unparalleled historical significance, the existing Phrygian architecture is currently in poor condition due to sixty years of exposure to the harsh Anatolian climate.

Since 2006 the Architectural Conservation Laboratory has implemented a full program of advanced documentation and intervention strategies to preserve the site and identify vulnerabilities such as displacement, water infiltration, seismic movement, and other deteriorative agents. This multi-phase plan also resolves issues related to visitor access and general site legibility through the installation of viewing platforms, updated signage, and new steps and railings.

Most critically, the program addresses site conservation in the context of local development and professional training to ensure the long-term success of Gordion's preservation and display.

In collaboration with the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Middle East Technical University. The results of all phases of the work may be accessed through the project's website at http://www.conlab.org/acl/gordion/index_new.html.

