

# **GORDION**

## **STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT**

**Date of Inscription: 2023**

**Criteria: (iii)**

**Ref: 1669**



**December, 2024**

**Türkiye**

## FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

*(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)*

### **Gordion (Türkiye) (Ref.1669)**

#### **1. Executive Summary of the report**

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 45 COM 8B.22 of the World Heritage Committee, taken in the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2023). The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

It was reported by the Polatlı Municipality that it would be appropriate to project the new museum in the areas outside the World Heritage Site and the Buffer Zone.

In the approved conservation plan, a total area of approximately 30,3 ha (hectare) is reserved as Special Project Area. However, it has been reported with the letter of Polatlı Municipality that there is a licensed building belonging to the said Municipality on 184 block 1 parcel owned by Polatlı Municipality on an area of approximately 2,7 ha, and that there is no construction on an area of approximately 27,6 ha.

The General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums have contacted the Excavation at Gordion to carry out further site survey to assess the boundaries of the outer town. Once the boundaries of the outer town are assessed the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area (= 'site') boundaries (at the west of the Nom. Property) will be re-evaluated by the Conservation Council.

During the evaluation process of Gordion's nomination to the World Heritage List, a work schedule was provided in the additional information sent in February 2023. However, since the excavation team's surveys in the area continue and after the final report of the survey is submitted to Ankara Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties Directorate, the subject will be evaluated by the experts of the Regional Council Directorate and taken to the agenda of the Council.

Polatlı Municipality has started to work on a Conservation Development Plan within the area covering Gordion World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone. It has been reported by Polatlı Municipality that some of the views of the institutions related to the area have been received within the scope of the relevant legislation, and following the submission of the opinions of the institutions, the preparation of the Conservation Plan will continue.

In order to combat illicit excavations and smuggling of cultural heritage in archaeological sites, controls prepared by the security personnel of the Museum Directorate are carried out at the museum and archaeological site and reports are regularly submitted to the Directorate of Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilisations.

The uneven terrain on the north side of the Visitor Circuit was leveled and approximately 210 meters of a new galvanized steel fence were installed along the west, northwest, north, and northeast sides of the mound, to protect the area of excavation. All the old barbed-wire fence was removed, and the Visitor Circuit is essentially complete.

A large and powerful security camera on the Citadel Mound has been installed by the Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilisations Directorate, and a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Ankara was also used to install 33 more security cameras in front of Tumulus MM, around the museum, and at the entrance to the depot in the Gordion excavation compound in 2023.

Regular patrol controls and inspections are carried out to prevent illegal excavation and illegal construction activities by the District Gendarmerie and Municipality Zoning Police teams.

The excavation team has also installed camera in and around the Tumulus MM tomb chamber, and video monitors in the exhibition area of the tumulus, so that visitors can look into tumulus using the video monitors. The team has also nearly completed a digital model of the tomb chamber which will be displayed in the museum. This will make it easier to understand the chamber without actually getting close to it.

It was also decided in the meeting of the Coordination and Audit Board of the Gordion (Yassihöyük) and its Environment Management Plan, held on October 14, 2024, to begin work as soon as possible on the preparation of the Visitor Management Plan for Gordion, with a particular focus on the MM Tumulus.

Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) Report in relation to solar energy production facility planned to be constructed in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property "Gordion" was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The report was also revised within the framework of the issues included in the ICOMOS Technical Review Report.