

ARSLANTEPE MOUND

STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT

Date of Inscription: 2021

Criteria: (iii)

Ref: 1622



February, 2025
Türkiye

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 46 COM 7B 14 adopted at 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at India /New Delhi meeting. The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

The effects of the earthquakes of February 2023 on the integrity and authenticity of Arslantepe Mound were comprehensively assessed and the necessary interventions were quickly implemented. The condition of the site after the earthquake was examined on site by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism officials and the Excavation Team, and immediate action was taken in line with the issues included in the prepared preliminary reports.

The Excavation Team has been surveying the buffer zone which was registered as 3rd Degree Archaeological Site, both with an intensive collection of surface material and with a geo-electric survey to the north of the mound. Research using the geophysical method started in 2022 in the area on the northern slope of the mound continued in 2024 using the electrical resistivity tomographic method. Preliminary report of a geomagnetic survey is also attached to this State of Conservation Report.

During the meeting of the Coordination and Supervision Board, dated 29.08.2024, it was decided that it would be appropriate to initiate work on revision of the Arslantepe Mound Management Plan and to carry out these works in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Excavation Team, Malatya Metropolitan Municipality and Battalgazi Municipality. During the revision process, particularly aspects such as the Conservation Plan and Strategy, the Risk Preparedness Plan and the Visitor Management Plan will be included in the revised Management Plan and these studies will be submitted for the review of the Advisory Bodies.

The Conservation Strategy and Plan, as well as a Risk Preparedness Plan are going to be prepared by the relevant participants. Although the preparation of these plans has not been finalized, there are some actions related to risk preparedness.

“The revised design of the project for extension and alteration of the new roof shelter and rainwater drainage project” was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2023. It is mentioned on the ICOMOS Technical Review, dated April 2024, the shelter construction is designed to have a minimal structural impact. The new protection roof project has been meticulously implemented in line with the project approved by ICOMOS, within the framework of the work plan prepared by the Erzurum Directorate of Surveying and Monuments, and under the supervision of the Arslantepe Excavation Team and experts from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The rough construction of the Visitor Centre has been completed and the final stage has been reached for the display and arrangement works. The number, type and square metres of the facilities in the visitor centre were previously specified in the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the impact assessment report was prepared accordingly. Visitor Management Plan will also be prepared within the scope of the revision of the Site Management Plan and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.