

cultural heritage programme is to provide information locally, by making up-to-date information at the sites available for both local people and for tourists. Generally, the intention will be to produce printed material, as well as to create a website and promote awareness by means of educational activities in collaboration with local museums and authorities. Special attention will be given to providing information for school children and students about their cultural heritage and its historical importance for the region in which they live. We hope to initiate these educational activities by working with local schools, colleges and universities, and providing facilities for teachers. Merriman's public attitudes survey (1991) in the UK, about people's attachment to the past and heritage, revealed a distinction between a personal past and impersonal heritage. In Turkey, people, especially locals, tend to see the ancient remains as impersonal heritage, if heritage at all. Therefore, in order to foster care and awareness, it is crucial to build a relationship between children and the archaeological sites, so that the sites become part of their personal past.

The sites themselves also need protection and conservation for the future. Archaeological – especially excavated – sites become degraded and suffer enormous damage if they are neglected. The programme therefore aims also to work with archaeological project directors and in partnership with the responsible museums, as well as with local and national officials, to create site management plans. For Aspendos, the first phase of the project, improved access to the site via good pathways, is being developed, and locations for assembly points and shelters for visitors are being considered. As excavations at Aspendos have started only this year, the protection of excavated areas and conservation of buildings can be planned from the very first days of the project. In the second phase, realistic visiting options and protection measures for the sites in Pisidia will be developed.

In sum, we hope to provide sustainable solutions for Aspendos, a Classical site under pressure because of the high numbers of tourists, as well as for the poleis in Pisidia, which remain largely unknown and are therefore in danger of constant looting. Especially for Pisidia, but also for remains in Aspendos and its territory – for example the famous aqueduct – the natural beauty of the region will add immeasurable value to cultural tours and the development of sustainable heritage management in its widest sense.

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Çatalhöyük

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The Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük was first discovered in the late 1950s and was excavated by James Mellaart between 1961 and 1965. The site rapidly became famous internationally due to the large size and dense occupation of the settlement, as well as the spectacular wall paintings and other art that were uncovered inside the houses. Since 1993 an international team of archaeologists has been carrying out new excavations and research, in order to shed more light on the people that inhabited the site. This year, Çatalhöyük was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List (see the report on the 2012 season on pages 19–20).

Much of our work on conserving and presenting the site this year focused on the north shelter, because this shelter has caused more problems over recent years and because we have opened up new areas of excavation there that need to be put on display. In addition, the new status of the site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site means that we have to be yet more careful about long-term planning for conservation and public access.

In the north shelter, we completely reorganised and upgraded the visitor walkways and signage, so that visitors could get a better look at the new excavations and the new buildings being exposed. This included having tourists walk along a wooden pathway laid on a Neolithic 'street' – actually not a street but an area of refuse between two building blocks. We also had the results of monitoring the shelter's environments over the last year and were able to make decisions about how to conserve properly the Neolithic buildings under the north shelter over the long term. So we started a new programme of capping the walls to protect them and we are expecting that this new method, using clay recycled from the mound itself, will provide a solution to our long-term needs. We also put up a sign in the north shelter saying that the refurbishment of the shelter was funded by a grant from the Hedef Alliance.



New organisation and presentation of buildings in the north shelter. The new walkways and display panels can be seen

In the south shelter, we added substantially to the reinforcement of the exposed earth surfaces by using sacking and geotextiles.

In addition, a team from Southampton University came to the site and made important changes to the display in the Visitor Centre and to the information panels on the site. The team members also assisted in the production of plans for the new series of experimental houses that we would like to start constructing in 2013, and the plans were passed through the Konya Koruma Kurulu successfully. The Southampton team also prepared for printing a version of the site guide book in Turkish, to be sold at the site, and a new information leaflet to be handed to tourists during their visits. A new updated information panel was placed at the entrance to the site.

The educational programme based at the site has continued to be highly successful. Over recent years, Gülay Sert has brought up to 600 children and educators to the site each season. The children and other participants spend a day at the site in small groups learning about the site and about heritage in Turkey. They also take part in craft exercises (see photo below) and in excavating and sieving the mounds of earth left by James Mellaart. In 2012 a wide range of schools and educational programmes was included. Veysel Apaydin is studying the long-term effectiveness of these programmes as part of his PhD research at University College London.

Local community participation in the site and project was fostered by a series of activities organised by Sema Bağcı. Newsletters were produced for the local villages and talks were given for local groups. The local villagers were also invited to a festival at the site, at which the work on the site and in the laboratories was explained, and discussions were held with the men and women from the villages about how the site should be developed.



The Boncuklu Project

Steve Chaddock | Timeline Heritage

Driving through central Anatolia today, the plain east of Konya is notable for its well-developed network of arable fields serviced by irrigation canals which are set in a predominantly flat landscape. What is less obvious is that this area of modern farming practice is custodian to a remarkable ancient heritage. Approximately 10,500 years ago people in this area adopted a settled farming lifestyle, and at Boncuklu we are uncovering evidence of this Neolithic phenomenon. The change in lifestyle coincided with major environmental changes and archaeologists are interested in researching the wider significance of these changes and how they relate to other geographical areas, such as the Fertile Crescent. To help visitors understand how significant the archaeological remains at Boncuklu are, plans are now underway to construct a Visitor Centre adjacent to the höyük in the village of Hayıroğlu.

The Visitor Centre will operate all year round, access being provided by the site guard. The expected audience is a mix of Turkish- and English-speaking visitors covering a broad age range, including groups of school children. The Visitor Centre at Boncuklu, in conjunction with the facilities at and related to the UNECSO World Heritage Site of Çatalhöyük, will create a Neolithic trail in this part of Turkey, increasing the attractiveness of the area to visitors. The methods of interpretation used at the centre will reflect the diversity of our audience. Although it will be a modern construction, the Visitor Centre building will contain echoes of the mud-brick Neolithic buildings found during excavations: wall and floor textural finishes and colours will be derived from discoveries made on site.

In line with the guidelines of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, there will be no original artefacts on display, and images or reconstructions will be used instead. Text, photographs and illustrations will help visitors to understand the reason for the Boncuklu excavation programme and the significance of its findings.

During 2012 I have created a staged interpretation plan for Boncuklu. Stage one of the plan aims to deliver interpretive content in the Visitor Centre as well as a new visitor pathway onto the höyük and a site orientation leaflet and supporting web content. Later stages envisage the development of a recreated mud-brick dwelling, a shelter to enable the display of the excavated house remains as well as publications such as an educational pack aimed at schools.

The plan is based on a developed understanding of the Boncuklu site and an analysis of the current visitor experiences on offer at nearby Çatalhöyük and Aşıklı Höyük. Bearing in mind the strengths of these other sites, a clear focus on what is significant at Boncuklu is proposed – being both different from and complimentary to other regional attractions. We have identified four key foci for the new centre.