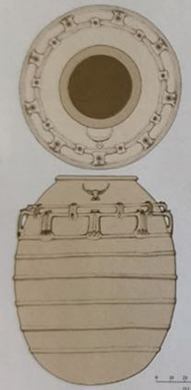
Neo-Hittite Period (Middle Iron Age): The Luwian Kingdom of Tuwana (ca. 800-700 BC)

After being abandoned for more than four centuries, Porsuk was reoccupied at the end of the Early Iron Age and in the Middle Iron Age (Levels IV and III). In Chantier IV, near the entrance to a tower in the eastern fortification, a pithos with 18 handles and a bull's head decoration was unearthed; the fifty or so lead clamps on it bear witness to its repair during antiquity. Both the presence of the fortification and that of the objects found at the site, such as the iron scales of an armour, and the hieroglyphic inscription written by a general named Parhwira, attest to the military function of Porsuk. Parhwira was a subject of King Masaurhisa, either a vassal of the king of Tuwana (classical Tyana) or himself king of that land in the late 8th or early 7th century BC.



Pithos with a bull's head decoration (Chantier IV, Level III)

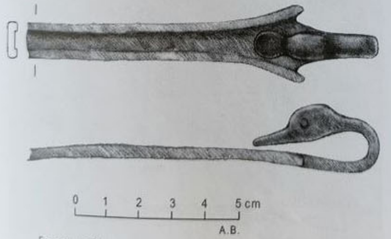
Iron armour scales (Chantier, Level III)

Hellenistic and Roman Periods (ca. 250 BC to 250 AD)

Although it is likely that Porsuk was urbanized during the Hellenistic period (Level II), signs of urban prosperity are most visible during the Roman period (Level I), particularly with the fine stone-paved streets.

Iron shoe nails (Chantier IV, Level II)

Stone-paved street from the Roman Period (Chantier IV, Level I)



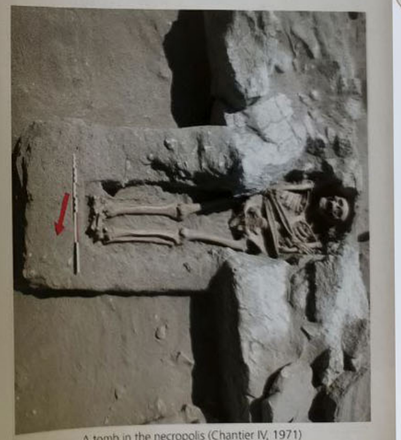
Fragment of a bronze simpulum (ladle) (Chantier IV, Level I)

Early Christian and Byzantine Necropolis (from the 4th-6th to the 12th century AD)

Porsuk was deserted after the Roman period, and was then used as a necropolis in Late Antiquity. More than 100 graves were unearthed in the eastern part of the site. Absolute radiometric 14C dating studies conducted in the TÜBİTAK-MAM laboratories indicate that the individuals in the cemetery were buried between the 9th and 12th centuries. As some objects date back to Late Antiquity, further dating analyses are planned.

The few objects found in the graves, such as crosses, as well as the position of the dead, who were buried on their back, with the head facing west and their hands often clasped on their chests, suggest Christian funerary practices.

The skeletons are preserved at Hacettepe University's Human Behavioural Ecology and Archaeometry Laboratory (IDEA Lab), where bio-archaeological analyses continue.



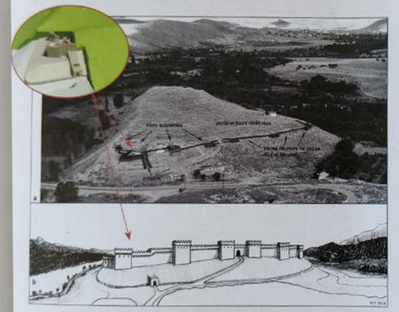
A tomb in the necropolis (Chantier IV, 1971)

Passing on Porsuk's Cultural Heritage to Future Generations

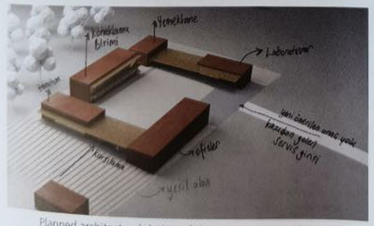
The process of expropriating the private land has begun at the site, which will allow the excavation to be extended to new areas and thus provide a better understanding of the successive occupations of the höyük.

A touristic development of the site is also planned, which will begin with a project to conserve and restore the Hittite gate of Chantier II, whose walls, made of mudbricks on a stone base and reinforced by a wooden chain and a filling of gypsum rubble, are preserved to a height of 6 meters.

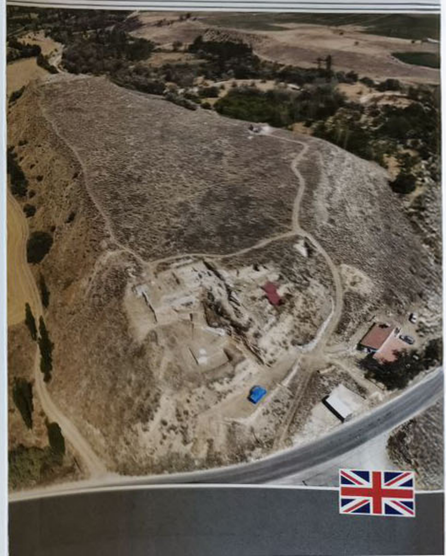
Research into the design of a new excavation house at Porsuk Höyük is also underway, which will be built using materials and construction techniques that reinterpret traditional mudbrick building techniques to reduce its carbon footprint.



Reconstruction of the Hittite fortification and postern gate



Planned architectural design of the new excavation house

PORSUK HÖYÜK

(Zeyve Höyük)