

Regulations for site planning, restoration, and conservation at archaeological excavations and excavation sites

Aim:

Article 1- These regulations are aimed to provide rules and principles to be included in the short, mid and long term programs of the excavations permitted by the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, regarding precautions against the destruction by humans and nature, restorations, site planning, and signage in order to preserve the unearthed and immovable cultural property and to ensure the easy understanding of the site by visitors.

Legal Basis:

Article 2- These regulations have been prepared according to the 45-46th articles of the law number 2863 on the Protection of cultural and natural heritage; the 9th article of the law no. 4848 about the duties of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; and the 9th article of the regulations regarding research, sounding, and excavation of cultural and natural heritage.

Abbreviations:

Article 3-The following abbreviations are used:

Ministry: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Excavation site: The sites where archaeological excavations are conducted

Council: Regional Council for Preservation of Cultural and Natural Monuments [kültür ve tabiat varlıklarını koruma bölge kurulu]

Definitions:

Article 4:

Preservation: The determination of necessary conditions and precautions to be taken in order to minimize the adverse effects of nature, human or other agents on the unearthed finds, and the work to ensure the maintenance of these finds in their existing state without changing their original characteristic features.

Restoration: The determination of applications and projects aimed to increase the integrity and strength of the finds by strengthening the existing building or object and the determination of interventions to protect cultural and aesthetic values of the finds and, if necessary, assessing its use and management.

Maintenance: Continuous arrangements to maintain the results of conservation and restoration projects.

Restitution: Plan, section, elevation, and axonometric drawings or models that show the original state of buildings or settlements, which have been changed, partly ruined or destroyed.

Reconstruction: Rebuilding of a monument or site which has disappeared or been mostly or completely destroyed, based on its documentation.

Documentation: Using photography, drawing, reports or similar techniques to document all applications before and after conservation and restoration of cultural property in excavation sites.

Anastylosis: To bring together the dismembered architectural pieces of a ruined or collapsed building.

Site Planning: Spatial arrangements in archaeological sites codified in article entitled "site planning project" [Çevre düzenleme projesi] in law number 5226.

Methods and Goals:

Article 5: The principles of the “Venice Protocol” and “The agreement of the protection of world cultural and natural heritage” signed by Unesco members in 1983 should be followed in the conservation and restoration of cultural property.

Article 6: Conservation and restoration projects of the immovable cultural property existing in excavation sites and those found in excavations are to be prepared by or on behalf of the excavation directorship and applied by it.

Article 7: Projects are to be applied according to their technique and the following regulations of the Ministry: 1) Decision made on 5.11.1999 and no:658 about the archaeological sites, conditions of conservation and usage.

2) Decision made on 3.3.1998 no: 572 about creating space to conserve and display cultural and natural heritage in first and second degree archaeological sites.

Article 8: Specialists (restorer, architect, conservator, construction engineer, mechanic, etc.) of various disciplines are to be included in the excavation team according to the needs of the conservation, restoration and maintenance projects in the archaeological sites.

Article 9: In maintenance, restoration, and conservation of cultural property a preliminary study is to be conducted in order to document conservation problems. After documenting and defining problems short, mid, and long term goals and application suggestions should be developed.

Article 10: If a cultural entity has been designated as a monument by the Committee, then any new project should be coordinated with the annual and five year plan of conservation and development accepted by the Committee.

Article 11: Excavation and conservation work should be coordinated with the short, mid and long-term (1, 5 and 10 year) programs of the Site Management Plan.

Article 12: Restoration projects of cultural property can only be applied after the approval of the relevant Committee.

Article 13: Suggestions regarding signage to improve cultural tourism, projects to serve the needs of the visitors, and security issues should be prepared by the directorship of the excavation and presented to the Ministry to be used in site planning and the site management plan that will be conducted by the Ministry.

Article 14: The easy comprehension of the building remains by the visitor should be aimed in the planning of the excavation sites and the restoration of cultural property in excavation sites.

Article 15: If necessary, reconstructions can be made in order to show the architecture and the specialized function of characteristic buildings to the visitors.

Conservation Principles:

Article 16: Immediate precautions should be taken against the destruction by nature of the unearthed structures of the excavation season.

- a) Rain and groundwater should be drained properly.

- b) Fragile grounds such as mosaics belonging to the settlements should be protected especially from the adverse effects of winter.
- c) Wild plants and similar harmful agents that can be destructive to the remains of structures should be taken out and if necessary sturdy and useful plants should be planted against erosion and atmospheric pollution.

Article 17: The cleaning and conservation of mud brick, plaster, paint, fresco and similar decorations in and outside of cultural property should be done by specialists during the excavation season according to scientific technical methods.

Article 18: When organic materials such as mud brick, brick, wood, and stone disintegrate over time strengthening should be done with suitable scientific methods. The original building should be protected from such disintegration as much as possible.

Article 19: The structural parts of the buildings that are unearthed during excavations such as walls, vaults, and floors should be strengthened and protected with modern techniques.

Article 20: The façades of monumental cultural property should be periodically cleaned. The materials of the façade, pollution type, damaged surfaces and the characteristics of the environment of the building should be analyzed in the laboratory in order to determine the right type of cleaning.

Article 21: Materials that should be protected from the weather (mud brick, mosaic, tiled wall, fresco, etc.) should be placed under coverage that would not have negative effects on the site or become a monumental entity itself in the site.

RESTORATION:

Article 22: Cultural property in excavation sites should be reviewed annually and in five year programs in order to avoid destruction and facilitate their protection without costly solutions. According to needs, necessary maintenance and repairs should be applied. One or more of the following techniques are to be used in the restoration of cultural property:

- a) strengthening
- b) completing
- c) renewing
- d) rebuilding
- e) cleaning
- f) moving

Article 23: Annual and five year plans are presented to the Ministry with the excavation programs. Within means, technical and financial support will be provided by the Ministry for the application of such programs.

Article 24: During restoration damaged broken pieces should be pieced with the original. New supporting systems should be created when it is dangerous for original vertical and horizontal supports to carry any weight.

Article 25: If the exact spots of the fallen pieces are known in the building anastylosis is applied.

Article 26: Anastylis should be planned according to the general state of the site after the excavations. In an archaeological site where the ruins are not in a very visible state the anastylis of a single monumental building is not preferred even if the pieces of a building exist on the site. In this case a restitution drawing should suffice.

Article 27: The additional pieces used to complete the cultural property in order to maintain its continuity and shape should be minimal and easily distinguished.

Maintenance:

Article 28: Before any application on cultural property risk maps should be drawn to determine how each entity will be affected in time even under drastic circumstances. Periodic upkeep should be applied according to this program.

Article 29: Maintenance can not be run separately from the previous restorations.

SITE PLANNING

Article 30: Site planning projects are applied after consulting the excavation team, and with the consent of the Committee and the Ministry.

Article 31: In excavation sites

- a) The archaeological potential of the site should be preserved.
- b) Archaeological sites should be opened to visitors under control. In this respect infrastructure projects such as walking paths, signage (to help visitors comprehend the site easier), service units for daily visitors, and lighting should be planned.
- c) Problems with the existing usage and circulation should be resolved.
- d) The needs of the site should be resolved with modern technological equipment.
- e) During such work, good communication with local people should be ensured and programs that would increase their interest and sense of propriety should be implemented.

Validity:

Article 32-This decision has been enacted by the Ministry on 27 June 2005 with validation number 89406.