



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Bronze Age Sacred Cities to Iron Age Citadels: U?akl? Hk 2023-2024 excavation seasons

D'AGOSTINO A. ³, ORSI V. ^{1,2}, HEFFRON Y. ^{4*}

¹ Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations - ANAMED, KoUniversity, Istanbul, ?stanbul, Turkey

² Universitdegli Studi di Siena, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche e dei Beni Culturali, Siena, Italy

³ Universitdi Pisa, Dipartimento di Civilte Forme del Sapere, Pisa, Italy

⁴ University College London, London, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Excavations at U?akl? Höyük, located in the heart of the Anatolian plateau, have revealed a long and complex sequence of occupation from the Early Bronze Age through to the Medieval Period. Throughout this extensive timeframe, the site underwent significant transformations, visible in the evolving settlement types and distinctive features of its material culture. Since 2013, stratigraphic investigations have focused intensively on the Late Bronze Age, the Iron Age, as well as later reoccupations. This paper will provide an overview of the principal results from the 2023-2024 excavation seasons, with a focus on architectural features and the stratigraphic sequence.

Excavations in the lower city have been directed toward examining the organization and nature of the settlement in this area during the Hittite period. Notably, the investigations of the monumental Building 2 in Area A and the unique circular structure in Area F—currently unparalleled in its form—indicate a highly ritualized environment.

Research on the southeastern slopes of the mound has allowed for a more precise examination of the final phases of the Hittite settlement, marked by the destruction of Monumental Building 3 by fire, as well as the construction of the new Iron Age citadel.

Keywords

Anatolian archaeology, Hittite architecture, Iron Age, stratigraphic sequences, sacred landscape

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