

The Ancient City of Blaundos (Turkey): First Excavation Season in 2018

The ancient city of Blaundos, whose position at the top and along the slope of a hill overlooking the Grand Uşak (Ulubey) canyons, has strategic importance on the Lydia-Phrygia border in western Turkey. Although the city's well-known foundation reportedly dates to the Hellenistic period, some sources report that its establishment may even be earlier. After earthquakes damaged the city in the first century AD, the city was re-built and fashioned into one of the more significant Roman-era urban centers in the region. It is understood from epigraphic evidence that the city's elites contributed to the reconstruction activities. There are many public, civic and religious buildings—temples, theater, stadium, gymnasium, basilica, central street, city walls and gates, aqueducts, rock-cut chamber tombs—which demonstrate a typical example of urbanism in and around the city. The first season of archaeological excavations was focused on the city's main street and necropolis. Approximately 400 square meters of the street were uncovered and one of the rock-cut chamber tombs in the necropolis was cleaned. In addition, pre-restoration and consolidation planning regarding the city gate, basilica, and especially aqueduct, all of which are in various states of preservation, were also initiated.