

## Archaeological Site of Vergina

### Engineering geological conditions and problem:

The ancient city lying on the north slopes of the Pierian mountains is securely identified as Aigai, the capital of the kingdom of Lower Macedonia. Archaeological evidence proves that the site was continuously inhabited from the Early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC) while in the Early Iron Age (11th-8th centuries BC) it became an important centre, rich and densely inhabited.

- The ruins of the city and the tombs needed protection against weathering and damages of the stones and wall-paints as well as the archaeological finds.



### Protection measures already have been taken or have to be taken:

A conservation program was performed, after 1977, in order to preserve the murals and the tombs.

At the same time a conservation laboratory was set up on the spot to save and restore the extremely important portable objects they contained.

For the preservation of the Royal Tombs themselves a subterranean structure was built in 1993 to encase and protect the ancient monuments by maintaining a constant temperature and humidity, both indispensable for the preservation of the wall paintings. Externally the structure has the appearance of an earth mound; inside it are the treasures found in the Royal Tombs, which have been on exhibition since November 1997



### Other information:

In 1977, M. Andronicos brought to light the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus of Vergina (Megale Toumba). The most remarkable of these was the tomb of Philip II (359-336 B.C.) and its discovery is considered to be one of the most important archaeological events of the century. Since then, continuing excavations have revealed a series of significant monuments.

### References on studies already performed:

- Andronicos M. (1978). Royal Tom of Philip-2 – Unlooted Macedonian Grave at Vergina. Archaeology, Archaeological Inst., New York, 31 (5), pp. 33-41 (ISSN: 0003-8113)
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