



*Carved channel in limestone for separating blocks from the bedrock*

The Hellenistic-Roman city of Sagalassos is situated high in the Taurus Mountains in south-western Turkey. The local geology, consisting of limestone, sandstone and volcanic materials, has been quarried intensively for the construction of the monumental town. Moreover, marbles and other precious stones were imported from far away into the city, to serve their purpose as luxury products to boast the city's richness. A keyword for local quarrying is proximity, as in the immediate vicinity of important stone buildings there are quarries, sometimes even integrated in the building itself. Hence, at Sagalassos, we are confronted with quarries in the town landscape. These stone extraction sites are an integral part of the cultural landscape due to the monumental purposes they served and are imperative to the story of the city of Sagalassos. When the quarries of Sagalassos are seen as an integral part of the monumental town, their conservation and protection becomes evident and so their significance can be clearly demonstrated to the public. At Sagalassos, guided tours already offered to visitors during the excavation season can include a presentation of the quarries in relation to the city as a means to raise the awareness of these non-monumental remains and how they form the fabric of the city.

*(Patrick Degryse)*

*Sarcophagi, either free-standing or carved in the bedrock, were an important output from many small quarries*



*The ruins of Sagalassos, mostly made from local limestone*



*Weathered steps in the bedrock witness the ancient quarrying of ashlar blocks*

