

EAA and EAC Joint Working Group on Farming, Forestry and Rural Land Management

Progress Report: March 2011

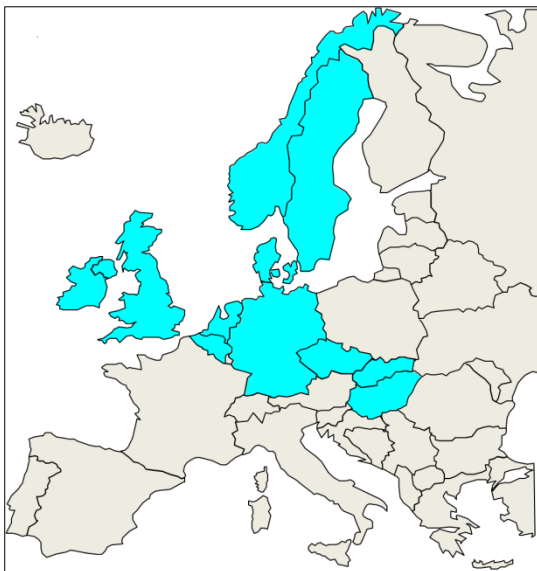
The Working Group, originally organised under the aegis of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) became a joint Working Group of EAC and EAA in March 2009. This report covers the work of the joint group during 2010-11. The Working Group's Terms of Reference are provided in Appendix 1.

General

The Working Party has identified rural land uses (most notably agriculture and forestry) as amongst the most destructive of processes acting on the archaeological historical landscape in Europe. It is a particular concern that these processes, in contrast to construction and development, have few or no established mechanisms for archaeological impact assessment, avoidance or mitigation.

Membership

Group membership has now reached nearly 30 participants or correspondents, representing 14 countries. Importantly, during 2010 a colleague from Slovakia joined the group, further improving the group's perspective of the situation in central/eastern Europe.



Map showing European countries represented on the Working Group (shaded blue)

The Working Group continues to seek additional members, particularly from southern and eastern Europe.

EAC Occasional Paper 4

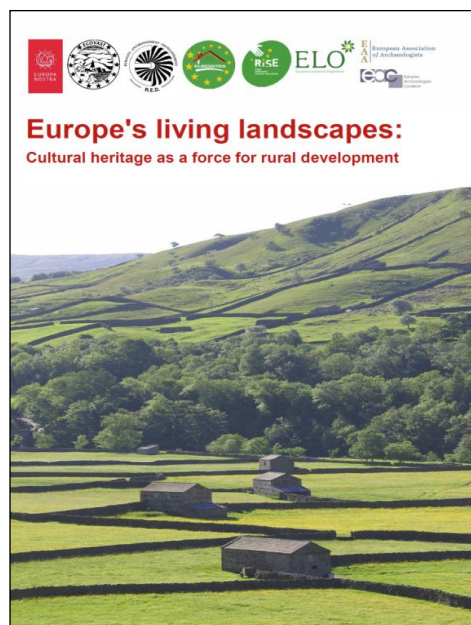
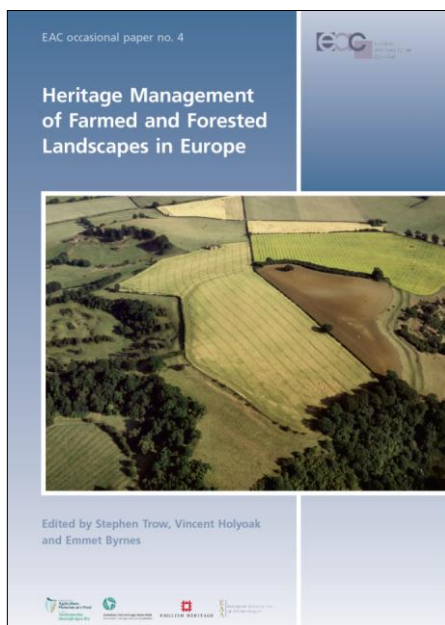
In December 2010, EAC Occasional Paper 4 *“Heritage Management of Farmed and Forested Landscapes in Europe”* was published, Edited by Stephen Trow, Vincent Holyoak and Emmet

Byrnes. The volume (cover shown below) comprises 23 contributions from 13 European countries including papers given at conference sessions organised by the Working Group at the 2008 World Archaeological Congress, at the 15th EAA Annual meeting in 2009 and some especially commissioned for the volume.

Occasional Paper 4 was funded jointly by English Heritage, Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and its National Monuments Service and by EAC (with assistance from the Swedish National Heritage Board). It was printed and distributed by Archaeolingua in Hungary and is available at:

<http://www.archaeolingua.hu/books/eac/eac%2004.html>

Publication of the volume represents an important achievement by the Working Group in terms of raising the profile of the implications of rural land use for the archaeological resource and will provide a solid basis for its continuing work.



Advice in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy

The second major area of work in which the Working Party has been engaged in 2010 is in relation to the current discussions on the future of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2013. This will have major implications for the impact of agriculture on the European archaeological resource and on the substantial spending on archaeological site management currently delivered through environmental farming schemes in a number of EU member states.

The Working Group has therefore been co-operating closely with other European organisations with interests in cultural heritage and landscapes (particularly Europa Nostra) to ensure that the archaeology and historic landscapes of Europe are not omitted from the current debate on the "public goods" delivered by agriculture through the CAP.

As part of this work, in July 2010 the Working Group drafted a position paper *“Europe’s Living Landscapes: Cultural Heritage as a Force for Rural Development”* (see above), that was subsequently been endorsed by Europa Nostra and others. This has been distributed widely to stakeholders in the debate on the CAP and is attracting considerable interest.

In partnership with Europa Nostra, we have also attended meetings with representatives from the European Commission’s Directorates General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment and Culture and Education in order to enhance the profile of the cultural heritage in the debate on the CAP. As a result of these contacts, in December 2010, the Working Group Chair was invited to join the expert panel at a seminar on “Public Goods and Public Intervention in Agriculture” sponsored by the Agriculture and Rural Development DG.

Further work on this front is anticipated throughout 2011.

Conference sessions

In 2010, Working Group member Cees van Rooijen (of the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency), assisted by Christine Grant (of the National Monuments Service of the Republic of Ireland’s Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government) and Réka Virágos of the Hungarian National Office for Cultural Heritage organised a successful round table session at the 16th Annual EAA Meeting in Den Haag. The session theme was *“Archaeology and managing change in economically marginal and semi-natural land in Europe”*. A business meeting of the group was also held alongside the session.

In September 2011, another round table session has been organised on behalf of the Working Group at the 17th Annual EAA meeting, in Oslo. It will be organised by Leif Gren (Swedish National Heritage Board), Ingunn Holm (Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage), Stephen Trow (English Heritage), and Jonathan Wordsworth (Archaeology Scotland) and address the theme *“Managing sites or managing landscapes: what is the proper concern for archaeologists?”*. We also propose to hold our 2011 annual business meeting in the margins of this conference.

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Appendix 1: Terms of reference

The EAA/EAC Working Group on farming, forestry and rural land management, working closely with other relevant EAA/EAC Standing Committees and Working Groups, will:

1a. Monitor the implications for the conservation of the historic environment of developments in farming, forestry and rural land management and related environmental policy and organization in Europe;

1b. Collate information on the activities of international organizations and nation states which will have an impact on the historic environment component (including buried archaeological remains) of farmed and forested landscapes;

1c. By encouraging the development of specific projects, contribute to assessing the impacts of agriculture, forestry and rural land management on the historic environment in Europe, and the responses to these impacts by archaeologists and other managers of the historic environment;

1d. Seek to inform and influence international agendas and organizations (eg the European Union, Council of Europe, UNESCO) in order to promote enhanced conservation of the historic environment within farmed and forested landscapes, with the approval of the Board;

1e. Encourage European governments to establish or support arrangements to engage farmers and other land managers in the positive management of the historic environment; with the approval of the Board and

1f. Identify and disseminate guidance on research and best practice.

2. Advise and assist the EAA and EAC Executive Boards on these matters.

3. Establish an e-mail discussion group and convene an appropriate forum at least once a year.

4. Brief the EAA/EAC membership on issues discussed at the working group forums and also on other relevant matters.