

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

### **Progress Report: March 2017**

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 2016-17.

### **Background**

The Working Group has identified rural land uses (most notably agriculture and forestry) as amongst the most potentially 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 widely established mechanisms for archaeological impact assessment, avoidance or mitigation.

### **Membership**

The group continues to reach new professional archaeologists interested in the interface between archaeological heritage management, landscape, rural land use and nature conservation. Group membership is now over 50 participants or correspondents, representing 20<sup>1</sup> countries.

### **Business meeting 2016**

The 2016 annual business meeting of the Working Group was held in the margins of 2016 EAA conference in Vilnius. Karl Cordemans (Flemish Land Agency) was confirmed as Chair of the Working Group. Vince Holyoak (Head of National Rural and Environmental Advice, Historical England) stays on as Vice-Chair of the Group with responsibility for its position on agriculture. With the hanging Brexit, the working group agrees that Hugh Carey (Heritage department, Ireland) will be following developments on the CAP reform and Rural development. Riika Mustonen of Finland stays on as Vice-Chair responsible for Forestry matters. Amanda Chadburn will be supporting the new EAA website.

The Chair and Vice Chair positions are on the agenda for discussion at each yearly business meeting.

Members present gave a short update on the situation in their country. Recent relevant developments regarding heritage and agriculture & forestry were discussed. Main topic here was of course the Brexit and possible implications on rural heritage management.

We agreed to try to organise a new session on EAA 2017 in Maastricht. To raise the profile of our working group and to promote the importance of the European CAP and Rural Development it seems like a good idea to organise a joint session with another working group.

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Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Eire/Ireland, England, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Wales

### **Developments in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy and Forestry**

In 2015 the focus of members was mainly the monitoring of the delivered results and possible adaptations of measures. In 2016 the continuation of the running schemes and prospection for possibilities for the years to come were the most important. The preparations for the planned evaluation of the CAP and the different position papers by organisations were closely followed.

### **Developments in relation to other relevant EU Policy**

The preparation of a non-paper on heritage & EU policy, initiated by a EAC-reflection group, was supported by several members of the working group (this paper is still in draft and not public yet).

Vince Holyoak attended the Council of Europe's session on the European Landscape Convention in Armenia in October 2016 as UK representative. He will also be attending the next conference in Strasbourg 23-24 march 2017. This gives our working group a direct link to this important and widely supported European policy developments and network.

We actively follow up possible European funding possibilities. In the past, the working group has often stressed that cooperation in a European project would be an excellent way to take rural heritage management forward. Especially with the coming European Heritage year 2018, we hope for new possibilities on European funding.

### **EAA Conference session 2016**

John Raven (Historic Scotland) and Karl Cordemans (VLM) organised a session in Vilnius called 'Papers and Round Table Discussion: Successful Partnerships: Recognizing and Improving Heritage Management in Landscape and Rural Land Use Policy and Practice'.

We start with a short introduction and 4 papers, followed by round table discussion.

- BEST-PRACTICE MODELS FOR INTENSIVELY USED AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES (Dr. Strobel, Michael)
- INTEGRATED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING AT ANCIENT CORINTH, GREECE (Prof. dr. Wright, James)
- MANAGING RURAL LANDSCAPES IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND - TWO CASE STUDIES. (Dr. Chadburn, Amanda; presented by dr. Holyoak, Vince)
- NEW APPROACHES TO ENGAGE FARMERS WITH BURIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN THE UK (Mr. Webber, Henry).

It was a good session with an interested and large public. Five new members for the working group could be added. An account was published in the autumn 2016 edition of TEA ([Successful partnerships: recognising and improving heritage management in landscape and rural land use policy and practice](#)).

### **EAA Conference session 2017**

As agreed in the business meeting 2016, we tried to organise a joint session with another working group, but due to lack of time and interest we failed. We agreed instead to hold a merger business meeting before the start of the conference and to try to present an overview paper with the work of our working group in some other session to raise our profile.

### **Future**

The Working group will continue to monitor the impact of European policy on heritage and to try to influence the decision making regarding this. We will try to broaden our geographical working field and actively seek collaboration by Member states in South and Eastern Europe.

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