

## **Remote Sensing for Archaeology AARG/EAC/ISAP Working Group**

**Report 2021-22 for the 23<sup>rd</sup> EAC annual meeting, 24-26 March 2022, Vienna, Austria**

The activity of the Remote Sensing for Archaeology working group has been relatively low level, focussing on looking for a successor to one of co-chairs and exploring options to progress *EAC Guidelines for the Use of LiDAR in Archaeology*.

### **New co-chair**

Following a long period as co-chair of the working group Dr Dave Cowley is stepping down, and following consultation with the AARG committee, Dr Rachel Opitz has been proposed to replace him. In early 2022 this was put to the EAC Board who have confirmed that they are happy with this proposal. Professor Chris Gaffney will continue in his role as co-chair.

Dr Rachel Opitz is a Senior Lecturer in Spatial Archaeometry at the University of Glasgow, receiving her PhD in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge in 2009. She subsequently held posts in the Université de Franche-Comté, University of Arkansas, and University of South Florida. Her research interests include applications of remote sensing and geospatial methods in landscape archaeology, digital archaeology and the ancient Mediterranean. As co-director of the Gabii Project (2010-present), which is excavating at the town of Gabii in central Italy, she oversees digital recording and publications. She directs the ipaast-czo project (2021-2023), which is investigating connections between archaeological and precision agricultural remote sensing. She currently serves as the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) Scientific Committee Chair (2018-2022).

### **EAC Guidelines for the Use of LiDAR in Archaeology**

The EAC Board has indicated a desire for LiDAR guidelines, modelled broadly on the example of the EAC Geophysics Guidelines produced in 2016. We agree there is a need for LiDAR guidance as availability of data and its application in heritage management and archaeological prospection is growing rapidly across Europe. Existing documentation for archaeological and heritage management applications of LiDAR is partial in its coverage and little of it is directed specifically to heritage management concerns.

Recognising that the production of guidelines can be a considerable challenge in resourcing work and ensuring a timely outcome, in late 2021 we submitted a proposal to the EAC Board for the coordination of the work to be funded and progressed by Dr Rebecca Bennett. Dr Bennett is an archaeologist specialising in aerial and ground-based landscape studies. Specifically, she is interested in the application of airborne remote sensing prospection techniques, airborne laser scanning (lidar), and multi and hyper-spectral imaging. She also has a keen interest and experience in geophysical survey and open-source GIS, with international experience spanning the academic, commercial and charitable sectors.

This proposal has been accepted by the Board and an outline funding package agreed over the next two financial years. The detailed planning of the process will be undertaken in March/April 2020, with reporting of progress in March, June, October to EAC Board meetings. The incoming co-chair, Dr Opitz, who also has considerable LiDAR expertise, will provide input to the direction and review of the guidelines, and we welcome a nomination from the EAC Board for someone to assist in this role of overall direction for the guidelines.

Dave Cowley and Chris Gaffney

9 March 2022