



2025

Activity Report



European
Archaeological
Council

Managing Europe's Archaeological Heritage

Foreword

2025 has been a year of achievements for the European Archaeological Council.

The EAC has had a busy year in 2025. We launched a second set of publications resulting from our Making Choices work programme. The very large number of downloads that these documents have already achieved is a great tribute to everyone who has worked so hard to deliver them.

As the Making Choices initiative draws to a close – the final publication will be issued in 2026 – the EAC has also spent 2024 and 2025 looking forward to identify new ways we can support our members to address challenges and opportunities in the coming years. Bringing so many members and colleagues together in Gdańsk to begin shaping our next work programme was a highlight of the year.

As always, the work of the EAC would not be possible without valuable collaborations with our partners and stakeholders. This year, we have benefited from strengthening our links with both the European Heads of Heritage Forum, and the European Association of Archaeologists.

On a personal note, it is an honour to have been elected as President of the EAC in Gdańsk. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together and it is a privilege to work within this network of heritage managers on matters that contribute to the continued progress and success of our work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Ann Degraeve, who worked tirelessly to promote the work of EAC. It was a pleasure to invite her to become an Honorary Board member.

Finally, and most importantly, the EAC exists to support and amplify the vital work of all its members in the field of heritage management. Together we are stronger, and I look forward to building on the achievements of this year with our members in 2026.



**Marjolein Verschuur
EAC President**

Introduction

Our Mission

The European Archaeological Council (Europae Archaeologiae Consilium) is a network of national bodies charged with the management of archaeological heritage throughout Europe, established to support closer and more structured cooperation and exchange of information.

The European Archaeological Council was founded in 1999. It is an international not-for-profit association registered in Belgium. The EAC is governed by [Statutes](#) and its work is guided by the [Amersfoort Agenda](#) (2015) and the Strategic Plan (2022-2027).

Our Purpose

The vision of EAC is that the management of Europe's heritage includes archaeological heritage as a central component, recognising its value to society and economy, and that this heritage is afforded adequate protection as a source of the European collective memory, as an instrument for historical and scientific study, and as a catalyst for collaboration and inclusion.



Annual Meeting and Heritage Symposium

The 26th EAC Annual Meeting and Heritage Symposium was held in Gdańsk, Poland

The event (27–29 March), was co-organised by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (NID), Archaeological Museum of Gdańsk and Museum of Gdańsk, and was hosted by the Museum of Gdańsk.

The EAC is honoured that the Annual Meeting was granted the Patronage of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The theme of the Heritage Management Symposium was 'Life after life of archaeological archives – accessibility and re-use of archaeological collections in heritage management'. The Symposium was followed by excursions which explored the historic city of Gdańsk and the World Heritage Site of the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork.

Looking Forward

A series of workshops were held in Gdańsk to explore topics raised by members as potential areas for future EAC action.

The workshops generated valuable discussions on these important topics, namely: Heritage Crime; Landscape Management; Climate Change/Environmental Sustainability and Citizen Science. The resulting questions and challenges to EAC have been published online (see Publications page), and will form the basis of new EAC work in 2026.



EAC General Assembly

Representatives from EAC member organisations and invited observers attended the meeting on 27 March, at which the term of EAC President Ann Degraeve ended, and Marjolein Verschuur was elected to succeed her.

Working Groups

The EAC's working groups are set up to discuss specific issues to inform the development of policy, and to progress the aims and objectives of EAC and its members. Members of the Working Groups are drawn from EAC member organisations, and from other relevant bodies and programmes as appropriate. Some are joint initiatives with partner organisations. The Chairs of the Working Groups met in October to coordinate their programmes.

The **EAA and EAC joint working group on farming, forestry and rural land management** performed its observatory function and reported to the EAC General Assembly, as well as hosting a session at the EAA Annual Meeting in September.

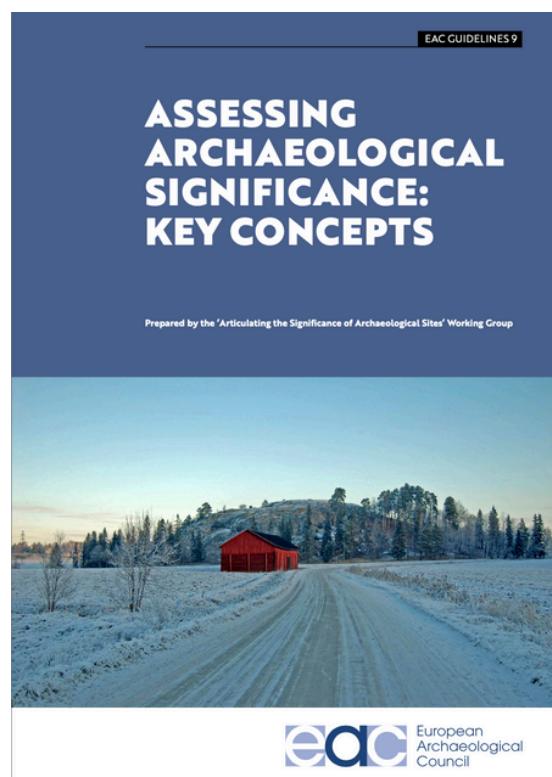
The **Communications** working group continued to support the promotion of EAC, its activities and publications throughout the year.

New guidance publications

Three of the EAC Working Groups launched new guidance at the Annual Meeting. All EAC guidance is published on Zenodo and links can be found on the Publications page or via the EAC website.

The **Articulating Archaeological Significance** group published a short note which provides 'key concepts' for consideration when undertaking the process of evaluating or articulating archaeological significance in various contexts.

They continue to work on a longer contextual document on the topic, for publication in 2026.



The image shows the cover of a document titled 'EAC GUIDELINES 9' at the top right. The main title 'ASSESSING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: KEY CONCEPTS' is centered in large, bold, white capital letters on a dark blue background. Below the title, a smaller line of text reads 'Prepared by the 'Articulating the Significance of Archaeological Sites' Working Group'. The bottom half of the cover features a photograph of a snowy, rural landscape with a dirt road leading towards a red wooden building in the distance, surrounded by trees under a clear sky.

EAC GUIDELINES 9

**ASSESSING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE:
KEY CONCEPTS**

Prepared by the 'Articulating the Significance of Archaeological Sites' Working Group

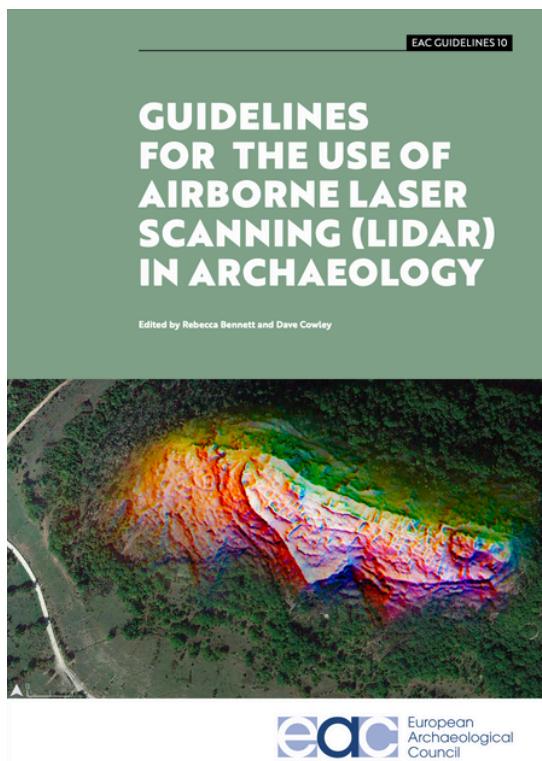


eac European Archaeological Council

Working Groups

The **Research Frameworks** group published web guidance on developing national research frameworks to support their earlier strategic note on the topic. Having concluded their current work programme, the group closed in 2025.

The Remote Sensing for Archaeology AARG/EAC/ISAP working party published guidance on the use of Lidar in Archaeology, and delivered talks promoting the guidance to several organisations.



Archaeological Archives

Following conclusion of their previous work programme on digital archiving, the group have been exploring themes that may constitute work topics for the next few years, particularly the issue of sustainability. The coordination of the Heritage Management Symposium in Gdańsk formed part of this exploration, and key working group members are editing the Proceedings for publication.



Other activities

The EAC attended the EHHF meeting in Valletta, Malta

EAC President Marjolein Verschuur and EAC founder member Adrian Olivier were honoured to be invited to speak at the European Heads of Heritage Forum, hosted by the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, Malta in September. The topic of the meeting was 'The Valletta Convention: 30 years in practice'. The EAC was pleased to offer its reflections on the past, present and future of the Convention and strengthen links with the EHHF.

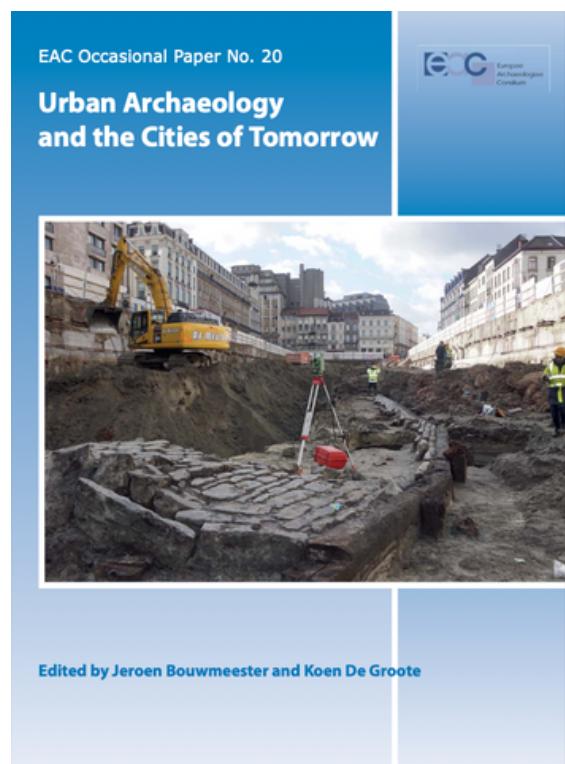
European Affairs Update

The EAC and the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) jointly published their open access [quarterly newsletter](#) on relevant developments in the field of cultural heritage.

Operational

The Board met three times, hosted by the Archaeological Museum of Gdańsk, Poland; by Durham University, UK; and online. New office holders were welcomed to the roles of EAC President, Vice-President and Secretary, and David Novák (Czechia) joined the Board.

The EAC launched a new website in 2025. It is simpler to navigate, and, we hope, makes it easier to find the EAC's publications and events.



'Urban Archaeology and the Cities of Tomorrow'

The Proceedings of the 2024 EAC Heritage Symposium held in Brussels, Belgium, edited by Jeroen Bouwmeester and Koen De Groote, were published in two formats by Archaeolingua, & Internet Archaeology.

Looking Forward to 2026

The 2026 Annual Meeting and Heritage Symposium

The 27th EAC General Assembly and Heritage Symposium will be held on 19–21 March 2026 in Altamira, Santillana del Mar, Spain. The event is organised by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, and is hosted by the Museum of Altamira.

The theme of the heritage symposium is '**Bridging Borders in Heritage Protection: towards best practice for prevention of archaeological crime**'.

This is the first EAC Annual Meeting to be held in southern Europe for a number of years, and the EAC is grateful to the hosts for providing the opportunity to forge closer connections in the region.

Looking Forward

The EAC will begin to review its Strategic Plan 2022–2027 in 2026. In conjunction with the results of the Altamira Symposium and the rest of the Looking Forward initiative, this will enable the EAC to plan its work programme for the next period. We anticipate proposals for new products, working groups and other initiatives.

New publications

Next year will see the publication of Articulating the Significance of Archaeological Sites (EAC Guidelines 11); & the Proceedings of the 2025 Symposium on the topic of Archaeological Archiving.



Facts & figures 2025

The Executive



President	Anne Degraeve (until March 2025) urban.bussels	
Vice-President	Marjolein Verschuur (from March 2025) Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands	
Secretary	Agnes Stefansdottir (from March 2025) Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland	
Treasurer	Vera Ameels (from June 2025) Flanders Heritage Agency, Belgium	
Board Members	Erich Claßen State Office for Archaeology Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany	
	Anu Lillak National Heritage Board of Estonia	
	Agnieszka Makowska National Institute of Cultural Heritage, Poland	
	Nadezhda Kecheva National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria	
	David Novák (from March 2025) Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, Czechia	
	Martin Tomášek (until March 2025) National Heritage Institute, Czechia	
Honorary Board Members	Ann Degraeve Barney Sloane Leonard de Wit Katalin Wollák	Adrian Olivier Bernard Randon Friedrich Luth

The EAC is funded by its members, using an annual contribution system which follows that of the Council of Europe.

Publications & Presentations

Bennett, R. & Cowley, D. (2025). Guidelines for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) in Archaeology ([EAC Guidelines 10](#)). European Archaeological Council.

Bennett, R. (2025). Guidelines for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) in Archaeology (EAC Guidelines 10): [introductory talk](#). European Archaeological Council.

Bennett, R. & Škerjanec, L. (2025). Gentle introduction in the archaeological interpretation of airborne lidar derived data. Presentation at the TRAIL (Training and Research in the Archaeological Interpretation of Lidar) Conference, Slovenia.

Bouwmeester, J. & De Groote, K. (2025). Urban Archaeology and the Cities of Tomorrow: Proceedings of the 2024 EAC Heritage Symposium held in Brussels, Belgium. EAC Occasional Paper 20. Archaeolingua and [Internet Archaeology](#).

Butterworth, J. & Verschuur, M. (2025) New Guidelines from the European Archaeological Council (EAC) in [The European Archaeologist, Issue 85 – Summer 2025](#), pp.81-84

Cordemans, K. & Schreurs, J. (2025) Land use impact on archaeological heritage. What's good, what's not and how to monitor this? Session 245 at EAA Annual Meeting, online.

Degraeve, A. (2025). Exploring the Past, Present, and Future: Archaeology in a European Perspective. Presentation at the 'Archaeology 2025 in 2025' Conference, Dublin.

European Archaeological Council, van der Jagt, I., & Miles, D. (2025). The EAC Guidance on Developing a Research Framework ([EAC Guidelines 8](#)).

European Archaeological Council. (2025). Assessing Archaeological Significance: key concepts ([EAC Guidelines 9](#)). European Archaeological Council.

European Archaeological Council. (2025). The EAC at 25 – Looking Forward: technical report. [European Archaeological Council](#).

European Archaeological Council/ European Association of Archaeologists. (2025). [European Affairs Update](#) (January, April, August, October newsletters).

Olivier, A. (2025). The Valletta Convention 30 Years on: Insights and New Horizons. [Presentation at the 19th edition of the European Heads of Heritage Forum, Malta](#).

Verschuur, M. (2025) Shaping our Past and Present: The Use and Relevance of the Valletta Convention for Archaeological Heritage Management in Addressing Contemporary Challenges. [Presentation at the 19th edition of the European Heads of Heritage Forum, Malta](#).

Acknowledgements

The EAC extends its grateful thanks to all of its Board, Working Group, Organisational members and expert colleagues for their valuable contributions. The EAC also offers sincere thanks to:

- National Institute of Cultural Heritage (NID), the Archaeological Museum of Gdańsk and the Museum of Gdańsk, Poland for hosting the Annual Meeting.
- Archaeological Museum of Gdańsk, Poland & Durham University, UK, for hosting the Board meetings.
- our partners Archaeolingua, Internet Archaeology and the EAA.
- the EHHF.
- the CDCPP.

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Find us at:

<https://www.europae-archaeologiae-consilium.org/>

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