



EAC 28th Annual Meeting and Heritage Management Symposium

18–20 March 2027, Vilnius, Lithuania

CONCEPT NOTE

Archaeology in Changing Landscapes

Across Europe, landscapes are undergoing profound transformation, driven by the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure, urbanisation, climate change and adaptation measures, infrastructure development, changing agricultural practices and evolving patterns of land use. While many of these changes respond to contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges, they also create significant risks – and new opportunities – for the protection, management and understanding of archaeological heritage at a landscape scale.

Archaeological heritage is increasingly affected by decisions that reshape landscapes at a scale and pace that can challenge established approaches to heritage protection. At the same time, large-scale development and infrastructure projects may lead to the discovery of previously unknown archaeological sites and generate new knowledge about past landscapes. These processes raise fundamental questions about how archaeological values can be recognised and integrated into decisions concerning the future of landscapes, and how apparently competing public interests can be reconciled.

The symposium will explore how archaeology and archaeological heritage management can respond to rapidly changing landscapes through effective policy and spatial planning, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovative approaches and meaningful public engagement. The symposium will consider how heritage knowledge and values can become an integral part of informed, sustainable and balanced landscape management.

The programme focuses on three interconnected themes: archaeology and renewable energy infrastructure as a particularly significant example of rapid landscape transformation; the role of policy, spatial planning and decision-making in managing archaeological heritage amid wider landscape change; and the contribution of local communities to the protection, stewardship and sustainable management of archaeological heritage. Together, these themes highlight the need for integrated approaches that ensure archaeological heritage remains an active consideration in shaping the landscapes of the future.

Theme 1: Archaeology and Renewable Energy Infrastructure – Between Conflict and Good Practice

The transition to renewable energy is transforming landscapes across Europe at an unprecedented pace. Wind farms, solar parks, electricity transmission networks and related infrastructure increasingly intersect with areas of archaeological significance, creating both challenges and opportunities for heritage management.

This session will explore how archaeological heritage can be effectively integrated into the planning, design, and implementation of renewable energy projects. Contributions are invited on impact assessment, mitigation strategies, interdisciplinary cooperation, innovative methodologies, regulatory frameworks and examples of good practice that demonstrate how climate and energy objectives can be balanced with the protection and sustainable management of archaeological heritage.

Theme 2: Landscape Transformation and the Management of Archaeological Heritage – Challenges for Policy, Spatial Planning and Decision-Making

Rapid landscape transformation, driven by climate change, including adaptation and mitigation measures, urban development, infrastructure projects, changing agricultural practices and the green transition, presents new challenges for archaeological heritage protection and management.

This session will examine how the principles set out in the [European Landscape Convention](#), together with current legislation, public policy, spatial planning and decision-making processes, can better respond to these changes. How can landscapes be assessed in all their complexity while balancing the priorities and needs of multiple stakeholders? How can environmental, planning and heritage policies be negotiated or aligned to achieve positive outcomes at a broad scale? And how can archaeological knowledge become an active part of decisions about future landscapes rather than being addressed only after development priorities have been established?

Contributions may address governance and planning systems, environmental and heritage impact assessment, preventive archaeology, strategic planning, cross-sector cooperation and policy innovations that strengthen the long-term protection and sustainable management of archaeological heritage.

Theme 3: The Role of Communities in Protecting Archaeological Heritage in Changing Landscapes

Local communities play an increasingly important role in safeguarding archaeological heritage within rapidly changing landscapes. Their knowledge, engagement and stewardship can contribute significantly to identifying, protecting, interpreting and promoting archaeological sites while supporting sustainable landscape management. The changing approaches to archaeological heritage conservation reflect a broader shift from expertise-based heritage protection towards the 'democratisation of heritage'. This transition is particularly well illustrated by the [Amersfoort Agenda](#), adopted by the European Archaeological Council (EAC) in 2014, which seeks to integrate the principles of the [Faro Convention](#) into the established framework of archaeological heritage protection shaped by the [Valletta Convention](#). At the same time, broader developments in heritage conservation and public administration, including the growing emphasis on participatory and interactive governance, have strengthened the role of communities and wider society in heritage-related decision-making.

This session will consider how the role of communities can be strengthened, particularly where landscape change takes place at a large scale and involves multiple public and private interests. Contributions are invited on community archaeology, public participation, citizen science, volunteer initiatives, education, local partnerships and collaborative approaches that strengthen the relationship between people, place and archaeological heritage. Papers presenting successful examples of community involvement in heritage protection and landscape management are particularly encouraged.

The event

The [28th EAC Annual Meeting](#) will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, 18-20 March 2027. The event is organised by the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the Klaipėda University Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology, Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Society of Lithuanian Archaeology. The event will be hosted by the National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

The scientific coordinators for the Heritage Symposium are led by Professor dr. Albinas Kuncevičius, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of History, Vilnius University.

Call for Papers

The EAC welcomes proposals which demonstrate a clear connection to one of the three themes outlined in the concept note, and which reflect the practice and theory of archaeological heritage management.

Each presentation will be 20 minutes maximum with additional time allowed for questions. The event is not hybrid, and we ask potential speakers to attend in person. The language of the symposium is English.

Proposals should be 300-400 words maximum, and should be submitted to the scientific coordinators [using this form](#), no later than 11 December 2026. The scientific coordinators reserve the right to make a selection from the proposals submitted. Each year, the EAC publishes the proceedings from its Heritage Symposium in two forms: a short version, published by Archaeolingua, available in hardcopy and as a digital download; and a full set of papers published digitally by Internet Archaeology. All speakers are invited to submit their papers for publication in these volumes after the symposium. Previous editions are available via the EAC website.

Please contact the EAC Assistant, Jenni Butterworth, info@e-a-c.org with queries about the concept note and call for papers.