

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

### **Progress Report: March 2021**

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 spring 2021 – spring 2022.

### **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.

The work of the EAA and EAC Working Group on farming, forestry and rural land management in recent years has focussed on the potential impacts of rural land-uses on the archaeological heritage, in particular intensive agriculture, restructuring of rural land holdings, and forestry expansion and management, and the capacity and limitations of the more widely established mechanisms for archaeological impact assessment, avoidance or mitigation, to address these concerns. Examinations have also been made, in the context of the European Union's legal framework and financial support mechanisms for agriculture and forestry, most notably the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), of policy prioritisation and formulation mechanisms at a European level to help mainstream heritage management considerations in these areas.

### **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 fluctuates around 50 participants or correspondents, representing 20<sup>1</sup> countries. An update of the member list is planned, since (active) members are requested to join the community at the EAA-website (remains to be done).

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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

## **2021 - governance**

In reaction to the call for sessions for EAA 2021 a successful proposal was made by Vince Holyoak and Emmet Byrnes on behalf of the WG in theme “Widening horizons through human-environment interconnections”.

Title of the session: Forestry, Subsistence and Industry: the character and conservation of woodland heritage

Rationale: The nature and extent of Europe’s modern forestry cover is a key characteristic of its landscapes and of their history. Exploitation of forestry for subsistence, agriculture and industry shaped earlier settlement patterns, and as a result, ancient forestry is not only strong in cultural significance and folklore, but a rich repository of archaeological evidence of past activity. Because of this, new planting (for carbon sequestration, nature, public goods such as health, wellbeing and access, or simply timber production) provides an opportunity for recognising, celebrating and enhancing historic character. This session will explore, compare and contrast the historic and archaeological character of woodland and forestry across a range of countries. It will discuss the challenges for sustaining the heritage and the historic character of forestry and woodland, and the differing national approaches to doing so. Papers will also explore the suite of affordances, both natural and cultural that the forest offers, from raw material to the support of industries and how evidence of this is being recorded and understood today. With the increased role which woodlands now play around health and wellbeing, as well as the social benefits seen through community archaeology and public engagement, the session will also examine the role of this work around the recording, promotion and protection woodland heritage.

The call for papers was quite successful: we had 12 papers and 1 poster submitted for our session.

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## 249 FORESTRY, SUBSISTENCE AND INDUSTRY: THE CHARACTER AND CONSERVATION OF WOODLAND HERITAGE

Time: 9:00 - 13:00 CEST, 10 September 2021

Theme: 1. Widening horizons through human-environment interconnections

Format: Regular session

Organisers: Holyoak, Vincent (HE - Historic England) - Byrnes, Emmet (Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

### ABSTRACTS

- 9:00 **SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IN SAXON FORESTS**  
Strobel, Michael (Landesamt für Archäologie Sachsen) - Westphalen, Thomas (Landesamt für Archäologie Sachsen)
- 9:15 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOREST CONVERSION**  
Cott, Eva (LVR-Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege im Rheinland)
- 9:30 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IN FLANDERS FORESTS: OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS**  
Cordemans, Karl (Flemish Land Agency) - Meylemans, Erwin (Flanders Heritage Agency) - Goeminne, Nele (Archaeological Monument Watch)
- 9:45 **IF YOU ARE THE BIG TREE; A TREE TRUNK COFFIN BURIAL IN A LANDSCAPE OF DROWNING FORESTS**  
Allen, Tim (Historic England) - Willmott, Hugh (University of Sheffield) - Panter, Ian (York Archaeological Trust)
- 10:00 **CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: WOODLAND CREATION IN ENGLAND**  
Robertson, David (Forestry Commission England) - Shaw, Lawrence (Forestry England)
- 10:15 **FARMING AND FORESTRY IN THE BLACKSTAIRS MOUNTAINS, IRELAND; LOOKING TO THE PAST TO MANAGE THE FUTURE**  
Ó Murchú, Séamus (Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)
- 10:30 **FOREST HISTORY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERLINKS AT TERRITORIAL SCALE INFERRED FROM A COMBINATION OF WOOD AND CHARCOAL PAST USE EVIDENCES**  
Robin, Vincent (LIEC - Lorraine University - CNRS) - Knapp, Hannes (LabEx DRIIHM CNRS) - Gocel-Chalté, David (Chrono-Environnement CNRS) - Guérol, François (LIEC - Lorraine University - CNRS) - Rochel, Xavier (LOTERR - Lorraine University)
- 10:45 **DISCUSSION SLOT**
- 11:00 **WOODEN MATERIAL CULTURE. PRACTICES AROUND THE UTILITY AND USE OF TREES DURING THE EARLY MEDIEVAL AND VIKING PERIOD IN IRISH AND**  
O Carroll, Ellen - O'Donnell, Lorna (School of Archaeology, University College Dublin)
- 11:15 **NATURE VERSUS HERITAGE: NATURE INCLUDING HERITAGE**  
Schreurs, José (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)
- 11:30 **EVIDENCE FOR A HORNBEAM WOODLAND FROM CHARCOAL KILNS IN MEUSE LOWLANDS (NORTHEASTERN FRANCE): PAST MANAGEMENT RECORD OR LOCAL ANOMALY?**  
Oliveira, Cláudia - Bouquerel, Jonathan (LIEC - Université de Lorraine) - Rochel, Xavier (LOTERR - Université de Lorraine) - Devin, Simon - Robin, Vincent (LIEC - Université de Lorraine)
- 11:45 **CELEBRATING THE WOODLAND HERITAGE OF THE SOUTHERN PENNINES: A COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY INVESTIGATION**  
Atkinson, Christopher (University of Sheffield; Pennine Prospects)
- 12:00 **DARK FORESTS: AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FRANCOIST INDUSTRIAL FORESTATIONS IN SPAIN**  
Millan-Pascual, Rafael (CSIC - Spanish National Research Council), Institute of Heritage Sciences)
- 12:15 **DISCUSSION SLOT**

### POSTERS:

- A. **AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF CHARCOAL PRODUCTION PLATFORMS BY DEEP-LEARNING TECHNIQUES – A CASE STUDY IN NORTHEASTERN FRANCE**  
Oliveira, Cláudia (LIEC - Université de Lorraine) - Aravecchia, Stéphanie - Pradalier, Cédric (GeorgiaTech Lorraine) - Robin, Vincent - Devin, Simon (LIEC - Université de Lorraine)

The event was fully digital instead of a hybrid event, as planned.

At the 22nd HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM on Climate Change and Archaeology (Online Symposium, 1-2 July 2021) Karl gave a presentation in a session called: Archaeology, carbon mitigation and climate adaptation, chaired and moderated by Marjolein Verschuur.

Karl Cordemans (Belgium), Emmet Byrnes (Ireland), Vince Holyoak (UK): The impact of EU climate policy on archaeology – Making choice

This will also be published as a paper on Internet Archaeology in 2022.

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

The new CAP will only start in 2023. CAP Strategic Plans will put into practice enhanced conditionality, eco-schemes, farm advisory services as well as agri-environmental and climate measures and investments to address the Green Deal targets, in particular those stemming from the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and to fulfil the climate and environmental specific objectives.

One of the EU Green Deal targets is to bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features by 2030. This is specifically translated into objective 6 of the CAP: Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes, and the maintenance and creation of landscape features or non-productive areas. Specific actions are also promoted as possible eco-schemes to include in the Strategic Plans.

Member States have submitted their plans beginning 2022. First analysis shows that little action is taken to preserve landscapes or (rural) heritage. On the other hand, we can see that more attention is being paid to a more general view at landscape scale. Possibly this will generate opportunities to improve measures with the mid term review in a few years. Also this wider view might be translated in more holistic advisory services delivered through the AKIS, taking also heritage, archaeology and landscape into account.

### **Developments in relation to Forestry**

Worth mentioning is the ongoing development of the next Irish Forestry Programme for the period 2023 to 2027. One of the challenges has been to design measures for archaeological and other cultural heritage sites in existing forests or forests that will be newly established that can also be aligned the specific objectives under Article 6 of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation. They have been trying to devise and frame measures so they have a dual function, in addition to protecting archaeological and other cultural heritage sites generally, they either contribute to –

- a) Climate change mitigation and adaptation, e.g. early thinning or small scale clear felling interventions adjacent monuments to pre-empt damage that may occur from future adverse weather events, especially storms;
- b) The protection of biodiversity, enhancement of ecosystem services and preservation of habitats and landscapes, e.g. increased open space / setbacks around monuments and diversifying the species of trees planted adjacent such setbacks (more broadleaf species, smaller and slower growing and ideally flower or fruit bearing); and/or
- c) The promotion of employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, e.g. through support for actions that facilitate visitor access, trails, and signage.

Similar developments are taking place in Finland. Their National Forest Strategy is being updated and a new scheme called MEKKO is supporting the process. MEKKO is about recognizing how ecological, cultural, social and economic dimensions of forest are all connected and should be in balance. We try to use these examples to inspire other Member States to also take heritage and landscape into account.

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