

## Summary

The EAC publishes guidance on archaeological heritage management topics that is applicable within a Europe-wide context. The Guidelines are created by the EAC's working groups who come together to create resources to address issues which have been raised by members as areas of concern. All of the EAC's guidance can be found on the digital repository Zenodo, or by following links on the [EAC website](#).

|                                          |   |
|------------------------------------------|---|
| Public Benefit of Archaeology            | 1 |
| Archaeological Archives                  | 2 |
| Articulating Archaeological Significance | 3 |
| Research Frameworks                      | 3 |
| Remote sensing                           | 4 |

---

## Public Benefit of Archaeology

### **The Benefits of Development-Led Archaeology in Europe and Beyond (EAC Guidelines 4 & 5)**

These reports present nine tangible public benefits which can be derived from development-led archaeological investigation, illustrated by genuine case studies from across Europe and beyond. It is designed to act as a resource for all archaeological heritage managers, archaeologists, and other stakeholders to help make the case for supporting development-led archaeology, and to help shape investigation projects to get the most out of them for the public. It recognises that the benefits of archaeology go far beyond its inherent value in creating knowledge about our shared past, creating many other societal and scientific benefits. It demonstrates very small additional cost of development-led archaeology at the state level and concludes that this cost is outweighed by the positive benefits which can be realised if planned into projects from the outset.

EAC4 is a short overview of the subject; EAC5 is a longer document with illustrative case-studies.

European Archaeological Council. (2024). The Benefits of Development-led Archaeology (EAC Guidelines 4). European Archaeological Council. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10696765>

European Archaeological Council. (2024). The Benefits of Development-led Archaeology in Europe and Beyond (EAC Guidelines 5). European Archaeological Council. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10696865>

### **A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe (EAC Guidelines 1)**

The aim of the guidelines is to make archaeological data, information and knowledge available, stable, consistent and accessible for present and future generations. Archaeological archives contain material objects, records and data about our past which are irreplaceable and vulnerable to damage and loss. The guide consists of a standard accompanied by best practice guidance for archaeological archiving: it sets out how to care for and curate that archive both before and after it is placed in permanent storage. This project was realised with the support of Culture Programme 2007-2013 of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Union.

This guide is available in other European languages.

PERRIN, K., BROWN, D. H., LANGE, G., BIBBY, D., CARLSSON, A., DEGRAEVE, A., KUNA, M., LARSSON, Y., PÁLSDÓTTIR, S. U., STOLL-TUCKER, B., DUNNING, C., & ROGALLA VON BIEBERSTEIN, A. (2014). A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe (EAC GUIDELINES 1). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10664081>

### **Guidance on Selection in Archaeological Archiving (EAC Guidelines 3)**

Archaeological archives represent much of the significance of a site or monument which has been studied. They should thus be seen as a powerful resource to test and re-test theories, to advance knowledge and to create opportunities for access for everyone. At the same time, the space for storing archaeological archives and collections is not, and cannot be, infinite. The more material that is excavated, the greater the pressure on available capacity to store for the long term. It is vital that archaeological heritage managers ensure that how they practice is sustainable in the long term. The aim of these guidelines is to provide advice on intelligent selection, to help to balance these two equally important issues, to make the case for continued support for our shared archaeological legacy, and to ensure that future generations, with future technology and capabilities, can continue to generate real public benefit from the work of archaeologists past, present and future.

This guide is available in other European languages.

ONISZCZUK, A., TSANG, C., BROWN, D. H., NOVÁK, D., & DE LANGHE, K. (2021). Guidance on Selection in Archaeological Archiving (EAC Guidelines 3). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10671360>

### **Revisiting the Valletta Convention for the Digital Age. Position statement on archiving primary archaeological data (EAC Guidelines 6)**

There is a significant disparity in the value of archaeological data and their handling within heritage management practice. This imbalance threatens the preservation of cultural heritage being continuously removed from the landscape and transformed into archives of (digital) archaeological documentation. To mitigate the risks, systemic changes are necessary. These changes require political decision-making to provide the resources, a clear framework, and the tools to create a sustainable and meaningful environment for archaeological archiving, leading to the highest possible social benefit. The EAC proposes a set of basic principles for the handling of primary documentary archives and recommends practical measures to be taken in the legislative and organisational framework and derived archaeological practice. The proposed measures can be applied as widely as possible as a basic standard of care for archaeological cultural heritage.

European Archaeological Council. (2024). Revisiting the Valletta Convention for the Digital Age: Position statement on archiving primary archaeological data (EAC Guidelines 6). European Archaeological Council. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10695890>

## Articulating Archaeological Significance

### Assessing Archaeological Significance: key concepts (EAC Guidelines 9)

Evaluating the significance of archaeological sites and remains is a vital aspect of the archaeological process that underpins the management of the historic environment across Europe. And yet evaluating and articulating the significance of archaeology presents a core philosophical question at the heart of heritage management. This short document provides an overview of key concepts for consideration when undertaking the process of evaluating or articulating archaeological significance in various contexts.

European Archaeological Council. (2025). Assessing Archaeological Significance: key concepts (EAC Guidelines 9). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10697000>

### Articulating the Significance of Archaeological Sites (EAC Guidelines 11)

Heritage significance is articulated in different ways depending on the stakeholders involved and is likely to be articulated differently according to the geographical context and through time. The complexity of defining significance, which is inherently philosophical, shaped by cultural narratives and evolving societal values, implies reflective heritage management practices. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide principles, context and a toolkit of varied approaches that may be drawn upon to assist in the assessment of significance. It provides a philosophical and historical background to the concept of archaeological significance and its use in heritage management, and case studies of legal systems and assessment projects to provide inspiration and useful examples.

European Archaeological Council. (2026). Articulating the Significance of Archaeological Sites (EAC Guidelines 11). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14975018>

## Research Frameworks

### The Value of Developing a Research Framework (EAC Guidelines 7)

This document provides the strategic context that supports the value and role of research frameworks in fostering a coordinated research culture and embedding an evidence-based approach to heritage management, regardless of the different political, legal, administrative and economic contexts. This includes supporting decision making and broadening public benefit to include social and communal values as well as the research dividend. The document is aimed at those who are responsible for commissioning, funding or developing research frameworks and sets out the key principles that should be considered.

European Archaeological Council, VAN DER JAGT, I., MILES, D., OLIVIER, A., & COONEY, G. (2024). The Value of Developing a Research Framework (EAC Guidelines 7). European Archaeological Council. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10696980>

### The EAC Guidance on Developing a Research Framework (EAC Guidelines 8)

This is a practical guide to support the development or updating of a research framework. It covers the variation in types of frameworks, including scope and content, and establishes the considerations that can help you think through all the different aspects of creating a framework. Multiple case study reviews of existing research frameworks provide an overview of the work done by other countries for inspiration when creating a new research framework. This guidance is designed to support everyone involved in the process: from commissioning a framework to running a project to build one. This builds on the strategic document EAC7; available as web guidance or pdf.

[web guidance]: <https://www.europae-archaeologiae-consilium.org/>

[pdf]: European Archaeological Council, van der Jagt, I., & Miles, D. (2024). The EAC Guidance on Developing a Research Framework (EAC Guidelines 8). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14473051>

## Remote sensing

### **EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider (EAC Guidelines 2)**

The aim of these guidelines is to provide an overview of the issues to be considered when undertaking or commissioning geophysical survey in archaeology. As every project differs in its requirements, and variations in geological and environmental conditions lead to different geophysical responses, there is no single 'best' survey technique or methodology. This guide, in its European approach, highlights the various questions to be asked before a survey is undertaken. There is no formalised standard for the conduct of geophysical survey in archaeology, mainly because there are many parameters that determine the outcome, and there are various purposes for which the results may be used. A variety of geophysical techniques is available and an archaeological geophysicist will choose a particular methodology for collecting data with any of these techniques. The choices will depend on the archaeological questions being asked. The guidelines consider the issues when selecting geophysical techniques and methodologies, but do not specify requirements as these will vary according to context.

SCHMIDT, A., LINFORD, P., LINFORD, N., DAVID, A., GAFFNEY, C., SARRIS, A., & FASSBINDER, J. (2015). EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider (EAC Guidelines 2). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10671299>

### **The Use of Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) in Archaeology (EAC Guidelines 10)**

The EAC Airborne Laser Scanning (lidar) Guidelines are designed to enable cultural heritage managers, specialist practitioners, and students who need to work with airborne lidar to undertake archaeological and heritage projects. These focused guidelines support readers to efficiently access information most relevant to their needs and to explore further publications and information. The guidelines provide an overview of key considerations when commissioning an airborne laser scanned survey (ALS) for archaeological and heritage applications, for creating and using ALS data for these applications, and for designing and managing workflows and projects that take advantage of these data. The guide is divided into four parts. The first summarises sensor technology and data acquisition, preparing users to commission data and assess the reuse potential of archived data. The second sets out good practice for post-acquisition data processing and analysis. The third outlines guidance for reporting and archiving data. The fourth reviews specific applications of airborne laser survey within the heritage sector and the benefits and challenges of using A data for historic landscape studies in a range of environments.

Bennett, R., & Cowley, D. (2025). Guidelines for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (Lidar) in Archaeology (EAC Guidelines 10). European Archaeological Council.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14609210>