A European Perspective: The EAA and EAC Working Group on farming, forestry and rural land management

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2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of State Archaeologists in the Federal Republic of Germany

- DG Environment
- Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs
- Natural England
- English Heritage

- DG Culture and Education
  - European Commission Directorates
- Department for Culture Media and Sport
  - English Ministries
- English Non-Departmental Public Bodies (Agencies)
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Arbury Banks prehistoric enclosure, Northamptonshire, England 2004
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Fig. 1.2a Padbury, Buckinghamshire, in 1953, with well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow under grassland, hedges and field trees. © Ministry of Defence

Fig. 1.2b Padbury, Buckinghamshire, in 2003, where intensification has led to the destruction of archaeological remains, loss of character and a decline in biodiversity. © English Heritage
Scheduled Monuments at Risk:

Vulnerabilities of designated monuments in England 2010
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Figs 17.4a and 17.4b: An agri-environment scheme agreement at Segsbury hillfort in Oxfordshire has returned its once heavily ploughed interior to flower-rich chalk grassland, and cleared its ramparts of damaging scrub. Photographs taken in 1987 and 2003. © English Heritage NMR 4243-34 and 2795-09
Annual agri-environment scheme spending on cultural heritage in England currently = c. 8 million Euros for historic buildings plus c. 8 million Euros for archaeological site management.

Nearly 8,000 archaeological sites, covering >100,000 ha are now managed under the scheme, including:

- c. 80,000 hectares maintained in grassland (including 1,414 designated sites);
- c. 5,000 hectares removed from cultivation (including 580 designated sites);
- c. 14,000 hectares with depth-limited cultivation (including 336 designated sites);
- 1500 hectares cleared of scrub (including 327 designated sites).
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Priority accorded to landscape and cultural heritage in the agri-environment schemes of 19 member states (After OECD and Institute for European Environmental Policy).

Two stars = key priority; one star = secondary priority
Bronze Age burial mounds on South Dorset Ridgeway, England
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• EAA EAC Working Group on farming, forestry & rural land management

• 30 members in 14 European countries

• Some member’s organisations are in EAC, others are agriculture, forestry or natural environment bodies
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EAC Occasional Paper 4

Published December 2010

23 papers

One European overview paper

22 papers describing the situation in 13 European countries

Available from Archaeolingua
The main theme of EAC 4 is the challenge of managing the archaeological resource within agricultural and forested landscapes.

But this draws in a number of subsidiary themes including:

• The implications of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy and the potential contribution of its environmental farming schemes;

• The relationship between historic landscape management and conservation of the natural environment;

• The implications for managing archaeology in landscapes affected by a changing climate;

• The need to work far more closely and collaboratively with land owners and land managers;

• The need for far more scientific research to support the delivery of effective archaeological site management; and

• The importance of auditing and monitoring the state of the rural archaeological resource in order to influence national policy
Proposal for a Framework Directive for the protection of soil

Article 1 (Subject-matter and scope)

“This Directive establishes a framework for the protection of soil and the preservation of the capacity of soil to perform any of the following environmental, economic, social and cultural functions...... (g) archive of geological and archaeological heritage.
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- Advocacy in relation to reform of the common Agricultural Policy
- Puts cultural heritage at the heart of the “public goods” debate
- Endorsed by 8 partners including the European Landowners’ Organisation and Europa Nostra
- Non-technical language aimed at opinion formers and civil servants