

*** CALL FOR PAPERS ***
International aerial archaeology conference

AARG 2008 LJUBLJANA

9 - 11 September 2008

Hosted by the
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts
University of Ljubljana

**** Proposals for sessions, papers and posters are invited****

The following sessions have been proposed, for which offers of papers are welcome:

Aerial Archaeology in the Mediterranean; New Projects; Postgraduate research;
Airborne Thematic Mapping/Airborne Laser Scanning;
An archaeology of natural places ... from the air;
Aerial photography in context – recording landscape and urban areas

11 September Conference Day 3

Field Trip

Note: session titles are provisional and all papers and session proposals are welcome.
Oral papers should usually be 20 minutes duration, and equal weighting is given to poster presentations.
Closing date for abstracts is 31st May 2008.

Address for conference correspondence:

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STUDENT/YOUNG RESEARCHERS BURSARIES FOR AARG 2008

These are to support bona fide students and young researchers who are interested in aerial archaeology and wish to attend the conference. Anyone wishing to apply should contact Dave Cowley (RCAHMS, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX, Scotland or by email) with the following information:
Their interests in archaeology and aerial archaeology; place of study; the name and contact details of a supervisor or employer who can provide a reference; an estimate of their travel costs to attend.

Closing date for applications is 31st May 2008.

Aerial Archaeology Research Group website: <http://aarg.univie.ac.at/>

Session abstracts

Provisional session abstracts are listed below. Suggestions for additional sessions should be sent to Dave Cowley with a short abstract, and if known a list of participants. Unless otherwise stated, all sessions will be organized centrally.

Aerial Archaeology in the Mediterranean

As the AARG annual conference has moved around Europe, sessions designed to showcase work in the host country or region have become an important component of the conference. The geographical focus for this session takes in countries in and bordering the Mediterranean, with its huge range of landscapes, ranging from maritime to alpine.

New Projects

This session is designed to allow for the presentation of work-in-progress, and also for projects at an early stage, where research design, methodology etc. can be presented for peer review and comment.

Postgraduate research

AARG has a long tradition of encouraging postgraduates and young researchers to present their research in a relaxed environment, and give them exposure to experts in their fields and provide an opportunity for necessarily incomplete research to be presented.

Airborne Thematic Mapping/Airborne Laser Scanning

Despite broadening horizons in recent years, 'Aerial Archaeology' is still, for some, synonymous with applications of traditional aerial photography. There are now a range of remote sensing platforms, ranging from LiDAR to multi-spectral sensors, that require exploration and development as part of the aerial archaeologist's 'toolkit'. This session will present recent research in these areas.

An archaeology of natural places ... from the air

Session Organiser: Dr Kenneth Brophy – contact: k.brophy@archaeology.gla.ac.uk

What do we do when we see 'natural features' from the air, or on prints?

Participants in this session will be challenged to reflect on how natural features are filtered out through traditional aerial archaeological practice, whether in the air (the decision not to photograph), or on the photographic print (classifying cropmarks as 'natural' or 'geological' but not regarding these images as of any significance). This mirrors the treatment of natural features found during excavations (tree throws, animal burrows, frost wedges, hollows, silty deposits and so on). These are partially – or not – recorded, usually not sampled, and generally treated as of little archaeological significance. Yet there is an increasing body of archaeological literature that suggests we should be taking an 'archaeology of natural places' seriously, or at least, as archaeologists we should be taking natural features more seriously. From 'structured' deposition in tree throws, to subtle topographic and soil variations associated with geomorphological features such as relict streambeds, these unmodified and 'natural' phenomenon may have played a part in the location, meaning and function of activities in the past.

Aerial archaeology is in a unique position to record, identify and map a range of small-scale and widespread topographic and environmental phenomenon, especially as these features show best as cropmarks in the same locations as our archaeological cropmarks. It is hoped that participants will discuss their experiences of cropmarks of natural features from across Europe, dealing with some key issues:

- How best should we record cropmarks and other natural features from the air?
- Where should we stop; indeed, is there any point at all?
- How readily are tree throws visible across Europe, and what work – if any – has been done on them?
- How are archaeologists across Europe using the aerial resource to move beyond the cultural boundaries of what we call 'sites'?

Aerial photography in context – recording landscape and urban areas

As a routine archaeological aerial survey takes in non-archaeological subjects, including buildings and broader landscape character recording. This session explores the role of aerial photography in documenting other aspects of the cultural heritage, including landscape characterization, architectural recording and urban areas, with reference to both historic photography and current recording initiatives.