

## **“Are we there yet?” - Archaeologists and the European Landscape Convention**

**Organisers:** Marie-Jeanne Ghenne (Région wallonne) and Graham Fairclough (English Heritage)

For the past 8 years EAA Annual Meetings have seen discussions about the role of archaeologists in the ELC (Florence, 2000). The importance of this issue for archaeologists continues to grow as the Convention spreads its influence and as its implementation begins in earnest. (It is in force now in 29 countries). There have been two parallel strands at EAA meetings - Round Tables discussing national policy and practice and Sessions explaining methods and results in many countries. There has, however, been a tendency for the range of participants in both sets of meetings to reflect a bias towards the north and west of Europe, and to the larger countries. In advance of the next Round Table (which we hope to hold at EAA in 2009) and to take advantage of the location of the 2008 Meeting, we therefore propose a session to begin to change that bias.

We invite papers for this session particularly from archaeologists working in Mediterranean and Southern European countries. The Mediterranean, after all, was one of the principal birthplaces of the Convention.

The ELC covers many aspects of landscape policy. For this session we invite particularly papers that concern two aspects of the Convention: its article 6(c) on the need to understand (assess and identify) landscape (because in that area archaeologists have a specific contribution to make in terms of process and human agency through deep time); and its article 5 (d) on managing landscape not through narrow sectoral policies ('heritage' for example) but through all aspects of land policy. Both raise the question of interdisciplinary work. It does not need saying, perhaps, that we will look for papers that are set within the Convention's definition of landscape as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

Please send paper abstracts (200 words) to session organisers on [Graham.Fairclough@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Graham.Fairclough@english-heritage.org.uk)