

# EUROPEAN LANDSCAPES

## past, present and future

Culture 2000 Project Ref. No. CH-A2-UK-2077

### FINAL REPORT

1 October 2004 – 31 October 2007



*Through satellite imagery, airborne survey, fieldwork, geophysics and excavation, the aim of the project is to promote the exploration, public appreciation and conservation of heritage sites and landscapes across Europe.*



Education and Culture

Culture 2000



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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**The complete Final Report or individual reports from partners can be downloaded from:**

[e-landscapes.com](http://e-landscapes.com) or

<http://www.muzarp.poznan.pl/EuLandscapes/EuLandscapes/index.htm>

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## **HELSINKI SYMPOSIUM ON AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

### **4-9 October 2004, Helsinki, Finland**

*Nina Heiska and Professor Henrik Haggren, Helsinki University of Technology*

#### **Background and objectives**

Aerial survey and air photography have as yet hardly been used for archaeological or landscape studies in Finland, and their application in the other Scandinavian and Nordic states has been sporadic. The aim of the Helsinki Symposium was to promote the use of aerial archaeology in the Nordic and Baltic countries. The meeting was organised by the Helsinki University of Technology, the University of Helsinki and the Finnish National Board of Antiquities as the first pan-European event in the Culture 2000 project. Assistance was also given by the Finnish Ministry for Education, Sites and the Aerial Archaeology Research Group.

#### **The Helsinki Symposium on aerial archaeology**

The Symposium was a well-attended and lively event, introducing a relatively new archaeological technique to the region. A sub-group was formed to encourage further cooperation between the Baltic and Nordic states in the fields of culture and aerial archaeology. Contacts have been maintained over the following years despite relatively slow progress in the practical implementation of aerial archaeology in many parts of the region.

#### ***The Seminar***

During the first two days of the meeting a public Seminar was held in the auditorium of the National Museum of Finland. Eighty-three professionals and students from various fields, ranging from land surveying to archaeology and architecture, took part in the discussions, which were led by experts from Culture 2000 co-partners in Germany, Lithuania, Poland and the UK as well as by speakers from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia and Slovenia.

The presentations and discussions covered a wide range of subjects: the principles, practice and potential of aerial survey in landscape and archaeological studies; varying kinds of remote sensing, from aerial reconnaissance to satellite imaging; the uses of aerial archaeology in various parts of Europe; and aerial work in the Baltic and Nordic states. A final discussion looked to the future and resolved to form a regional grouping of interested specialists to promote aerial archaeology and landscape studies in the Baltic and Scandinavian states.

#### ***The Workshop***

The Seminar was followed by a four-day Workshop in a well-equipped computer laboratory at the Aleksandria Learning Centre in the University of Helsinki. Altogether, 28 professionals and graduate students who had attended the introductory Seminar stayed on for more intensive study and practical exercises at the Workshop. The participants came from Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland. They were instructed and encouraged by six tutors from Slovenia, Austria and the UK.

During the Workshop the participants studied aerial photographs and maps from their own countries. Through descriptions of basic principles and practical exercises they were taught to read information from the photographs, to relate it to the maps, to interpret the data in archaeological terms and to transcribe the information onto the map-base. The meeting was felt by all to have been a success, in particular in the way that a wide variety of archaeological and landscape information had been treated by the participants according to the needs and circumstances of their own countries.



*Students and visiting tutors at the Helsinki Workshop in October 2004.*

## Developments since the Helsinki meeting

The organisers of the Helsinki meetings were satisfied with the events during the Symposium. In particular, they felt that the formal and informal contacts made during the week would serve as a sound basis for cooperation and networking in the future.

Following the Symposium there has been a growing awareness of the value of aerial archaeology and its methods in Finland and in the neighbouring countries. For instance, a Finnish-Russian team took aerial photographs of an archaeological site at Lake Valg, Estonia, in the summer of 2005. In 2006, too, a Finnish engineering student who took part in the Symposium completed his thesis on the Lake Valg project at the EVTEK University of Applied Sciences. At the time of writing, in early autumn 2007, however, there appears to be no active aerial survey work in progress in **Finland** through the use of light aircraft. However, adjunct professor Kari Uotila, of the University of Turku, has started documenting excavations and historical buildings with the aid of photography from a tethered balloon.

Nor does there appear to have been any progress with the renewal of aerial survey in **Sweden** since the death some years ago of Jan Norrman, who pioneered the technique in that country.

However, excellent cropmark photographs of previously un-discovered archaeological sites in **Norway** were taken in the summer of 2007 by Lars Forseth, after reading published accounts of the Helsinki Symposium.

At least one practicing archaeologist from **Iceland** has maintained his interest in the subject, though he was unable at the last minute to attend one of the final events in the Culture 2000 project, a specialist workshop at Poznań in Poland.

In **Denmark**, on the other hand, interest has been gathering pace. Archaeologists who attended the Helsinki Symposium and later Culture 2000 events have now formed an active Danish aerial archaeology research group with members undertaking both aerial and ground-based work (LAND – Luftfoto Arkæologisk Netværk Danmark). Danish archaeologists have visited English Heritage to look at work patterns and the organisation of the Cirencester Training School; there are now plans for a training school in aerial archaeology in Denmark in 2008 or 2009. In response to all these developments the international Aerial Archaeology Research Group held its annual meeting in Copenhagen in September 2007.

In the coming years it is hoped that future European projects may help to build on these early beginnings in these countries.



### HIGHLIGHTS 2004-2007

**Belgium** Air photographs uncover the battlefields of Ypres

**Czech Republic** Air survey, excavation and a grand exhibition

**English Heritage** Air photo training schools at home and abroad

**Estonia** Estonian archaeologists take to the air

**Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)** Seeing beneath the waves

**Germany (Baden-Württemberg)** Iron Age fortresses in their landscape setting

**Germany (Freiburg)** Airborne laser scanning to 'see through the trees'

**Hungary** Combining techniques to explore the Neolithic

**Italy (Puglia)** Uncovering and mapping the past through aerial survey

**Italy (Salento)** Modern techniques and a Roman harbour

**Italy (Tuscany)** Air survey, laser scanning and geophysics

**Lithuania** Raising awareness through aerial archaeology

**Poland** New discoveries and new systems for heritage conservation

**Slovakia** Stone Age monuments from the air and on the ground



### A LOST TOWN RE-FOUND

Szamotuly, in Poland is a medieval town, its originally open market square now filled with later buildings (top). Until recently historians believed that the town always occupied its present site. This view changed dramatically in July 2006 when spectacular air photographs, taken as part of the Culture 2000 project, revealed its original location at Mutowo, 2.5km away, where it had stood before a disastrous fire in the 14th century. One of the photographs is shown here (centre), rectified to fit the present-day map. In the bottom image the town's large open square, outlined by the dark marks of cellars beneath its surrounding buildings, has been plotted on the rectified photograph, along with the presumed lines of the linking streets.

