

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting
Krakow, Poland
19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Sarah McCarthy, Kalliopi Vacharopoulou

Theme:

Managing the Archaeological Record and the Cultural Heritage

Session Title:

GOING UNDERGROUND: THE PUBLIC WANTS WHAT THE PUBLIC GETS

Abstract:

Notwithstanding its many high profile and dedicated publications, its own journal, a plethora of conferences, university courses and so on, the field of public archaeology is only now beginning to really engage with a multi-perspective model of historic environment appreciation, and to move from the rhetoric of public engagement to practicing it. But how much closer are we to understanding exactly who this public is, and what it wants or needs from archaeology?

The aim of this session is to examine the ways in which we, as professionals and academics, define and attempt to understand our audience, the methods by which their needs in terms of archaeology can be and are ascertained, and to explore the extent to which this knowledge is put to use in the management and interpretation of archaeological sites in such a way that their public value is incorporated and sustained.

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