

Memorandum of Understanding

between the

Aerial Archaeology Research Group (AARG)

and the

International Society for Archaeological Prospection (ISAP)

30 November 2022

Aim

The aim of this agreement is to advance the integration of aerial and ground-based methods of archaeological prospection through close collaboration between AARG and ISAP.

Background

The constitutions of AARG and ISAP state (editor's highlight):

AARG

*The object of the Group shall be to advance the education of the public in archaeology (including the man-made landscape and the built-environment) through the promotion of high standards of research, application and communication in the fields of **air-photography and other methods of remote sensing.***

ISAP

*The object of the Society shall be to advance the education of the public in archaeology (including the man-made landscape and the built-environment) through the promotion of high standards of research, application and communication in the field of **archaeological prospection and related studies.***

Although these constitutional objectives show considerable overlap, in practice the two organisations mostly focus, respectively, on aerial and ground-based methods of archaeological prospection. Integration of these methods is beneficial for most investigations and is to be advanced through close collaboration between the two organisations. This benefits their respective members as well as the wider archaeological community.

Implementation

- To improve the information flow between the two organisations a liaison person is nominated who proactively pursues information exchange, for example by forwarding relevant information (e.g. conference announcements, publication information, funding opportunities). In addition, the Honorary Secretary of each organisation is included in the distribution channels of the other organisation (e.g. email lists). Alternatively, each organisation may nominate a separate liaison person.
- The AARG Committee ('General Committee') and the ISAP Management Committee aim to meet jointly online once a year to discuss ways of supporting the integration of archaeological prospection methods.
- The organisations aim to consult with each other before setting the dates for their respective conference to prevent overlaps.
- The organisations promote each other whenever possible, for example through the distribution of leaflets or the organisation of joint conference booths.

- The organisations may represent each other in funding schemes (for example AARG, as a legal entity, may become a Co-Investigator in an EU funded project and may then also represent the ISAP membership in that project; thereby becoming even more attractive as a project partner; and vice-versa). Such overarching representations in funding schemes shall be discussed in advanced between the two Committees.
- Generally, membership benefits are only available to members of the respective organisation (e.g. newsletters). However, selected membership benefits are also made available to members of the other organisation. For newly established membership benefits (e.g. discounts for new books) it shall be considered whether they can also be made available to members of the other organisation. Although the organisations' schemes for member benefits are different and partly incompatible the aim is to achieve reciprocity. Currently existing joint membership benefits include:
 - Conferences
 - AARG members qualify for the ISAP Conference Bursaries.
 - ISAP members qualify for the reduced membership rate at AARG conferences, but do not obtain complimentary AARG membership by participating.
 - AARG Fund and ISAP Fund
 - Applicants to the Societies' funding schemes must be a member of that respective Society in the year of the application (or part of a Corporate Member's organisation).
 - In addition, to apply for the AARG Fund the applicant must have been a member of **AARG or ISAP** in the year prior to the application.

There is no financial commitment for the implementation of this agreement.

For the AARG Board:

Sara Popovic, Chair

For the ISAP Management Committee:

Armin Schmidt, Chair