

EAA 2018

BARCELONA,
5-8 SEPTEMBER

REFLECTING FUTURES



Session #628
**THE PAST AND
FUTURE OF HILLFORTS
CHALLENGES, CHANCES, PERSPECTIVES**

Call for Papers

(deadline: 15th February 2018)

Theme: The archaeology of material culture, bodies and landscapes

Title: The past and future of hillforts - challenges, chances, perspectives (session #628)

Ancient hillforts resp. strongholds, earth works, fortifications and enclosures are registered in thousands all over Europe, in different geographical regions for diverse archaeological periods. In contrast to open settlements, cemeteries and other mostly subterranean archaeological sites a large amount of these fascinating monuments since centuries has been visible and accessible not only for archaeologists, but also for the public, using them as memorials, meeting points or even in one of their original functions as defensive structures.

The history of serious hillfort research goes back to the early 19th century and resulted in regional overviewing maps and registers as well as in-depth studies of single monuments. Since these beginnings there have been a nearly uncountable number of small or large scale excavations up to the present day. But many of the results remain unpublished in the archives and there is no clear concept to include this material into modern research by using educational systems.

On the other hand today's archaeologists can use a whole range of new powerful investigation methods like geophysics, aerial photography and LIDAR scanning, Pollen analysis, drilling, geochemical soil analysis, microstratigraphy, C14-dating and finally Geographical Information Systems to display, combine and analyze all the different data. Especially the modern interdisciplinary and often non-invasive methods are contributing to the investigation of hillforts and their surrounding landscapes, but seem to be applied randomly – depending on availability – to many single sites rather than systematically to a whole region of interest. And they are dominated by techniques from natural sciences, whereas possibilities of social sciences often remain untapped.

After all, surprisingly little is known about general trends of hillfort development and questions about their different functions, terminology, chronology, typology or their role and interpretation in the cultural landscape.

Hence the biggest lack of contemporary hillfort research, in the eyes of the organizers, is a comprehensive strategy, which breaks down the many single questions to a common sustainable concept. Defining and developing general mandatory standards for investigating the fortifications and their vicinity would form a vision for future hillfort research and offer a perspective not only for archaeological aspects and problems of managing cultural heritage, but also for modern touristic concepts of usage and plans of protecting the monuments for future societies and scientists.

The aim of the session is to name the main problems and needs for developing a common strategy for investigation and protection of these key sites of cultural landscapes to contribute to the understanding of the settlement dynamics of past societies.

The session invites scholars from different countries (especially from northern middle Europe) to present and reflect the state of the art of the relevant hillfort research, either by diachronic lectures focusing on one particular geographical region to gain an overview over the main trends and problems, or by individual case studies concentrating on the advantages and disadvantages of different methods. The final discussion will focus on the challenges, chances and perspectives of modern hillfort research to promote a synergetic network and enhance the effectiveness of archaeological science in respect of this unique type of monuments.

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Organisers

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If you are interested to participate and present a **15 minute paper** please contact one of the organizers and/or submit a paper on the official homepage

<https://www.e-a-a.org/ea2018>

Deadline for submissions: 15. February 2018 !!

