Pathways to Europe’s Landscape

European Pathways to the Cultural Landscape 2000 - 2003
Foreword
Pathways to a European Union

It is with very great pleasure that we introduce this book. It has been produced at the conclusion of a project called ‘European Pathways to the Cultural Landscape,’ that was carried out by twelve partners in the years 2000 to 2003 under the supportive and visionary guidance of the municipality of Albersdorf in Dithmarschen County (Schleswig-Holstein) and managed by the Archaeological Spessart-Project in Aschaffenburg and Lohr (Bavaria). The project was generously funded by the EU Culture 2000 programme, and supported by grants and other contributions from the national governments, regions or local municipalities, and from many of the universities and charities, of the twelve partner project areas. We are also very grateful to Lancashire County Council for preparing the original English language master copy of this book, with substantial funding from English Heritage.

Pathways to Europe's Landscape draws together a few of the many experiences of Europe's cultural landscape that we have found and shared during the three years of our work. Our wish in writing this book is to share with a much wider audience the increased understanding of landscape that we have built up during our work and meetings. We hope too that it will encourage other people to look at their own landscapes with new eyes and in new ways.

Furthermore, in keeping with the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe and the European Spatial Planning Perspective of the EU Council of Ministers, whose principles our project has adopted, we believe that landscape is a central part of the European common heritage and culture, and that it ‘belongs’ in a very real sense to all citizens of Europe. In some small way, therefore, we hope that this book will contribute to the aims of the Convention by helping to guide people along their own personal pathways to the cultural landscape, and by underlining the economic as well as the social value of a sustainably-managed landscape.

Our book is the product of collaborative working between more than seventy archaeologists and other landscape scientists in twelve regions of Europe. Our regions are all very different: from mountain to marsh, from the Atlantic to the Baltic, from forest to farmland. Yet we have found that this variety (and the even richer diversity of our cultures, languages and food, or ‘taste-scape’) is matched by an equally rich common heritage that unites our landscapes and makes them very recognisably and distinctively European. We discovered that this combination of diversity and unity was a powerful force for increased mutual understanding, respect and friendship, just as too was our exchange of experience and expertise. We firmly believe that the landscape can be a strong and vital part of European unity, and we think that our project – and this book – is a symbol of European partnership and shared culture.

This book should not mark the end of the EPCL network of European archaeologists. EPCL itself was the successor to a smaller, but equally successful two-year project called European Cultural Paths, and the two projects have together shown the great value of pan-European, inter-regional partnership. Our network still has much useful work to achieve, and we are planning several future projects that will continue and expand our network and its important work for the European idea.

Dr. Gerhard Ermischer
Chair of EPCL

Manfred Trube
Mayor of Albersdorf

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Locations of the twelve projects brought together by the EPCL initiative

- Du: Downris
- Ar: Arfon
- Bo: Bowland
- Un: Untamala
- Ka: Kaali
- Bj: Bjäre
- Ha: Halland
- Fu: Funen
- Al: Albersdorf
- Sp: Spessart
- Pr: Práčehško
- Pa: Paneveggio