



Call for Papers

5th Landscape Archaeology Conference

17–20 September 2018, Newcastle upon Tyne and Durham, United Kingdom

Session8G: Settlement desertion and cultural landscape transformations: connections between past and present

Cultural landscape is a palimpsest and a multi-period heritage. Landscape is subject to constant transformation and (re)interpretation, and settlement desertion or abandonment is an inevitable part of landscape development. Even in entire areas, many settlements have been abandoned only recently and remnants of former inhabited places from various periods are identified worldwide. For a landscape to become cultural, it has to be inhabited. Settlements are established by people for people, they are used by them, become part of their identities, are perceived, interpreted and evaluated. Settlements evoke a certain sense of stability. Deserted settlements are thus often perceived as a symbol of particular and extreme discontinuity in landscape cultivation. However, once abandoned, deserted settlements often do not transform into completely forgotten places, as their remnants or ruins are integrated with continuing social and cultural activities. Thus, the story of settlement desertion is not only the story of loss, destruction and oblivion. Through their material inertia, abandoned settlements may become a part of local and regional heritage and be integrated in the activities of those people that strive for the maintenance or creation of a relationship with certain historical and intergenerational continuity to the lived-in landscape. The session thus seeks papers that do not only discuss the causes and consequences of settlement desertion in various regions in the distant as well as the recent past but also pay attention to the present condition, functions and meanings of abandoned settlements, and of their remains and ruins.

Keywords: settlement abandonment; ruins; landscape heritage; memory; identity.

For more information on open sessions please visit the LAC 2018 conference website (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/mccordcentre/lac2018/>) and follow the instructions for submission of papers and papers. Submission Form can be found here: <https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=1365317>. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is March 31, 2018. Please note that all paper proposals intended for inclusion in the announced session should be submitted using the conference registration system. However, in case of any queries regarding the session you can also contact its organizers (contacts are provided below).

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