



Concerning: *European Meeting Forensic Archaeology, August 2012*

Dear colleagues,

Forensic archaeology is a forensic discipline that uses archaeological theory, methods and techniques in a legal context. It combines archaeological and taphonomic knowledge to document and interpret pedological and biological finds at a crime scene. Inherent in forensic archaeological research is the location, identification and documentation of, in a verifiable manner, in situ and in context, any finds and features required for further forensic analysis. A recent analysis of the practice of forensic archaeology in Europe indicated that forensic archaeological principles are sparsely applied in most European countries.¹ From the analysis, it also appears that the excavation and recovery work is mostly done by a forensic anthropologist or a pathologist. In the United Kingdom and in the Netherlands at the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) forensic archaeology work is undertaken by qualified field archaeologists. Furthermore, in the United Kingdom forensic archaeologists have formed an Expert Panel within the British Institute for Archaeologist (IfA).

The Dutch NFI and the British IfA Expert Panel are planning to jointly host a meeting for European forensic archaeologists or other forensic practitioners who apply forensic archaeological principles in their casework. This meeting will be held as an additional event to the European Academy of Forensic Scientists (EAFS) 2012 conference, which is scheduled from the 20th to 24th August. The EAFS conference is being hosted by the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) in The Hague.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how forensic archaeology is organized and practiced within different European countries; to meet foreign colleagues; and to discuss the possibility of establishing an European forum for forensic archaeology. It is estimated that each presentation will last circa 30 mins, depending on the total number of presentations.

You and your colleagues are invited to participate in this first European Forensic Archaeology meeting and if possible to give a presentation about the way forensic archaeology is being perceived and performed in your country. The exact date of the meeting will be announced, later. There will be no fee for the meeting and lunch will be included for attendees. Participation in the EAFS conference is optional and has to be registered separately.

We thank you in advance for your attention and hope to see you in August at the NFI.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Groen and Roosje de Leeuwe, Forensic Archaeologists NFI
Rob Janaway, Chair IfA Forensic Archaeology Expert Panel

For questions or additional information please contact Mike Groen at m.groen@nfi.minvenj.nl

For more information about the NFI: www.nederlandsforensischinstituut.nl

For more information about the IfA Expert Panel: www.archaeologists.net/groups/forensic

For more information about the EAFS 2012: www.eafs2012.eu

¹ Márquez-Grand, N., Litherland, S. & Roberts, J., European Perspectives and the Role of the Forensic Archaeologist, in: A Companion to Forensic Anthropology, D. Dirkmaat (ed), Wiley-Blackwell, May 2012, 598-625.