

ARKUM

Arbeitskreis für historische
Kulturlandschaftsforschung
in Mitteleuropa e.V.

Invitation and programme

51st International Conference of the Working Committee for
Historical Cultural Landscape Research in Central Europe
(ARKUM)

Wetlands: Cultural-historical relations and cultural
heritage

24-27 September 2025
on the campus of the Open Universiteit, Heerlen
(the Netherlands)

Concept and organisation: Dr Maurice Paulissen (Open Universiteit, Heerlen) and
Dr Klaus-Dieter Kleefeld (Landschaftsverband Rheinland, Cologne)

organised and in cooperation with



Wednesday, 24 September 2025

15:00 – 16:30

Guided walking tour of Heerlen

Meeting point: bus stop 'Theater' (on the theatre-side of the street), Geerstraat, Heerlen city centre (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FPfj6SPksM61U2jVA>)

15:00 – 18:00

ARKUM board meeting (Bologna building, Seneca room), Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419 AT Heerlen (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hDh8pyc5UJ4WP4Wg7>)

19:00 – 21:00

Opening of the conference

Conference venue and conference desk: Pretoria Building, Room 3+4, Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419 AT Heerlen

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mH6y7YZPP6KYeNcH9>)

Conference desk (Samuel Dreßen) open from 18:30 – 19:15

Welcome address

Prof. Dr Theo Bastiaens, Rector of the Open Universiteit

Prof. Dr Jan Don, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Studies, Open Universiteit

Opening

Prof. Dr Andreas Dix, Deputy Chairperson of the Working Committee for Historical Cultural Landscape Research in Central Europe (ARKUM)

Keynote address

Prof. Dr Bert Groenewoudt (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed & Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Beyond the inhabited world. A wetland perspective on landscape and land use patterns in Pleistocene sandy landscapes

Reception offered by the Open Universiteit

Thursday, 25 September 2025

Conference venue and conference desk: Pretoria Building, Room 3+4, Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419 AT Heerlen

Conference desk (Samuel Dreßen) open from 8:00 – 8:45 and from 12:45 – 13:30

8:45

Dr Maurice Paulissen (Open Universiteit, Heerlen)

Einführung in die Tagung

Session 1: Historical use of wetlands (Chair: Dr Klaus-Dieter Kleefeld, Landschaftsverband Rheinland)

9:15

Dr Roy van Beek & Dr Cindy Quik (Wageningen University)
Peatland archaeology in Northwest Europe: Recent developments

9:45

Aukjen Nauta, MSc (Wageningen University)
The landscape archaeology of bog iron ore exploitation: Insights from the Bourtangermoor region (the Netherlands)

10:15

Dr Jeroen Zomer (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed)
Medieval and pre-medieval peat reclamations in the Netherlands: State of the art

10:45

Coffee break

11:15

Dr Marion Heumüller (Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege)
(Hoch-)Moorarchäologie in Niedersachsen. Neues zu Bohlenwegen und ihren Funden

11:45

Dr C. Michael Schirren (Landesamt Kultur und Denkmalpflege, Landesarchäologie Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)
"...Nah am Wasser gebaut..." Beispiele von Siedlungsstrategien frühmittelalterlicher Handelsplätze im südlichen Ostseeraum zwischen Elbe und Oder

12:15

Alexander Voigt MA (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg), Bastian Grimm MSc, Prof. Dr Markus Fuchs, (Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen), Prof. Dr Andreas Dix, Prof. Dr Rainer Schreg (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg)
Evolution of a human-dominated floodplain system. The Wiesent river system in the Northern Franconian Alb (Main catchment) in Early Middle Ages to early modern times

12:45

Lunch break (Pretoria Building)

Session 1 (continued): Historical use of wetlands (Chair: Dr Patrick Reitingер, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde)

13:30

Frank Hovens MSc & Prof. Dr Nico Randeraad (Tracé – Limburgs Samenlevingsarchief)
The historical atlas of the river Geul and its wetlands in the south of Limburg

14:00

Prof. Dr Andreas Dix (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg)
Moorbrand und Moorrauch - Umweltfolgen der Feuernutzung im Moor

14:30

Peter Burggraaff MA (Büro für historische Stadt- und Landschaftsforschung)
Bruchkolonisation am Unteren Niederrhein

15:15

Departure of the coach bus from the front of the Pretoria building

Reception at Hoensbroek Castle (about 15 minutes' drive) with coffee and Limburger vlaai.

Guided tour of the castle by Anne Rose Orbons MA (curator of Hoensbroek Castle) and lecture on Roman Heerlen and South Limburg by Dr Karen Jeneson (curator of the Roman Museum, Heerlen)

17:45 - 18:15

Return to Heerlen city centre and campus

Friday, 26 September 2025

Conference venue: Pretoria Building, Room 3+4, Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419 AT Heerlen

9:00

On-stage conversation
Commemorating Hans Renes (1954-2023) – Work and legacy

Session 2: Natural and cultural landscape heritage in wetlands (Chair: Dr Maurice Paulissen, Open Universiteit)

9:30

Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Hans Joosten (Universität Greifswald, Partner im Greifswald Moor Centrum/Stiftung Moorbibliothek)
Kann und darf Naturschutz Kultur schützen? Ein Spannungsfeld im Moor

10:00

Prof. Dr Ulrich Harteisen (Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaft und Kunst HAWK)

Moorland Niedersachsen: Kulturerbe und heutige Bedeutung für Klimaschutz und Biodiversität

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

Dr Andreas Bauerochse (Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege)

Kulturelles Erbe und Naturschutz in Mooren - fachliche Anforderungen und sich daraus ergebende Synergien bei der Umsetzung

11:30

Dr Ulf Ickerodt, Dr Tobias Reuter & Mirjam Briel MA (Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein)

Planungsorientierte Denkmalpflege und integriertes Kulturlandschaftsmanagement von Mooren, Feuchtböden und des Nordfriesischen Wattenmeers in Schleswig-Holstein

12:00

Sarina Ebling MSc (LAG Steinfurter Land e. V.)

Die Dülmener Wildpferdebahn: Wie ein Bruchgebiet eine wilde Pferdeherde bewahrte und zum Kulturgut machte

12:30

Lunch break (Pretoria Building)

Session 3: Perceptions, images, and meanings of wetlands (Chair: Dr Eike Henning Michl, Kulturstiftung Sachsen-Anhalt)

13:30

Serge Nekrassoff MA (Université de Liège)

Images and faces of the High Fens (Hohes Venn): Evolution of a landscape and its perception

14:00

Dr Tom Sintobin (Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen)

Artistic entanglements with peat and peatlands, 1900-present

14:30

Dr Lina Schröder (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg & Paris-Lodron-Universität Salzburg)

Wo enden 'Maritime Regionen'? Überlegungen zu vom Wasser geprägten, regionalen Schnittstellen

15:00

Coffee break

Session 4: Applied cultural landscape research (Chair: Dr Eike Henning Michl, Kulturstiftung Sachsen-Anhalt)

15:30

Prof. Dr Jean Hugé & Prof. Dr Stijn Neuteleers (Open Universiteit, Heerlen)
Towards a plural valuation of mangrove systems: Looking beyond their instrumental value

16:00

Dr Jörn Schultheiß (Hochschule Geisenheim, Kompetenzzentrum Kulturlandschaft)
Die Entwässerung des Nationalparks Hunsrück-Hochwald - Historische Entwicklung und Herausforderung in der Klimakrise

16:30

Final announcements

16:45 – 18:15

ARKUM General Members' Meeting

19:00 – 21:00

Conference dinner, reservation at 'Auberge de Rousch', Kloosterkensweg 17, 6419 PJ Heerlen (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/yBvB8YBaFmi7Wne46>)

Saturday, 27 September 2025

Excursion

to two wetlands in the south-east of the Netherlands

8:30

Departure of the coach bus from the front of the Pretoria building, Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419 AT Heerlen

MaasBandProject (2019-2026): Practising landscape archaeology in a floodplain landscape under reconstruction (led by Rob Paulussen MSc, ArcheoPro)

Our first stop is in the hamlet of Maasband (municipality of Stein) on the Grensmaas, the undammed and unnavigable part of the Meuse north of Maastricht, where the river

forms the border between the Netherlands and Belgium. Maasband is one of the places along the Grensmaas where large-scale excavations and river engineering works have been or are being carried out since around 2001 for three purposes: (1) better flood protection by increasing the water storage capacity of the Meuse floodplain, (2) gravel extraction for the construction industry and (3) nature development. These extensive river engineering works have a drastic impact on the archaeological and landscape heritage. The MaasBand Project (<https://maasbandproject.nl/Home/>) is a bottom-up initiative that explores the landscape history of the area with the aid of citizen science, among other approaches. One of the researchers involved in the MaasBand Project, landscape archaeologist Rob Paulussen MSc, will tell us about the background, methods, and results of the project on site.

We will then travel to the former raised bog landscape of the Peel, where we will also have lunch.

The Peel: an intensively used raised bog landscape (led by Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Hans Joosten and Dr Maurice Paulissen)

The Peel is a former raised bog landscape that once covered around 55,000 hectares, including the surrounding heathlands. The area contains two large raised bog remnants: the Verheven Peel (Deurnsche & Mariapeel, 2734 ha) and the Groote Peel (1348 ha). Both are Natura 2000 sites. Peat extraction by local residents for their own use has been documented since the late Middle Ages. In the early modern period, the inhabitants of several villages in the hinterland of the Peel bogs engaged in a self-organised regional peat trade, which repeatedly led to tensions among those entitled to use the commons in question. Large-scale commercial peat extraction began in the Verheven Peel around 1850 and in the Groote Peel in 1889, which is much later than in the large peatlands of the western and northern Netherlands. Around 1900, commercial peat extraction shifted from peat fuel to other peat products. The Verheven Peel was declared a nature reserve between 1964 and 1980, the Groote Peel between 1951 and 1982.

During the excursion, we will learn about the different intensities and techniques of peat extraction and the traces these have left behind in the landscape, about young peat-colonial settlements (Dutch: *veenkoloniën*) and young reclamation landscapes, about the late Roman 'Golden Peel helmet', about sand ridges as places where old overland routes crossed the bog landscape, as well as about current spatial planning challenges in the Peel region.

Arrival in Heerlen (railway station and campus) expected around 16:30.

Organisational and practical information

- The event is partly subject to charges. The following costs apply per person:
 - Guided walking tour of Heerlen on 24 September: € 5,-
 - Reception at Hoensbroek Castle with lecture and guided tour of the castle on 25 September: € 9,- incl. coach bus travel and admission
 - Conference dinner on 26 September: € 55,-
 - Excursion on 27 September: € 40,- incl. coach bus travel and lunch
- **Registration for the conference**, selection of the preferred programme parts and payment are preferably made via https://www.formdesk.com/openuniversiteit/Arkum_congres
Alternatively, registration and payment via email and traditional bank transfer is also possible. In that case, please inform maurice.paulissen@ou.nl of which programme components you would like to attend.
- **The registration deadline is 7 September 2025**, or earlier if the maximum number of participants is reached. **So please register soon!**
- The conference languages are German and English.
- Heerlen is easy to reach by train and motorway (from Aachen main station by direct train in about 25 minutes or by direct bus in about 50 minutes).
 - Travel planner for public transport in the Heerlen region: <https://www.arriva.nl/>
 - Route planner for road traffic: <https://www.google.com/maps/>
- Participants must arrange their own accommodation. Information about **hotel options in Heerlen** (from budget to exclusive) can be found at: <https://www.dasistparkstad.de/>, <https://www.valkexclusief.nl/hotels/hotel-heerlen/>, <https://www.terworm.nl/>, <https://www.derousch.nl/>, <https://stadshotelheerlen.nl/>, <https://eikhold.eu/en/>. There is also a large range of accommodation options in the wider Heerlen (Parkstad) and South-Limburg region. **Early booking is recommended in all cases.**
- If you have any questions about the programme or registration, please contact Dr Maurice Paulissen, maurice.paulissen@ou.nl, Tel. +31 6 27215812.