

The Sacred Sites Preservation Project

We at the Asatru Folk Assembly believe it is imperative to save the sacred sites, ancient habitations, and burial places of our pre-Christian ancestors. If, on some sad day, the last of these memories in the landscape are bulldozed, asphalted over, or simply forgotten, every man and woman of European heritage will have lost something irreplaceable. It is our duty to strive with all our might to ensure that such a grim destiny does not come to pass.

For this reason, the AFA has instituted the ongoing Sacred Sites Preservation Project. We will fight the bulldozer and the dump truck, resist the housing development and the roadway, wherever they threaten our spiritual birthright. We will not let our forefathers and foremothers be dishonored by the runaway materialism, the secular narrowness of our times.

A Disappearing Heritage

After a landowner in Ireland climbed into his bulldozer and leveled the of the country's largest Celtic ring forts, a spokesman for the government put it all in perspective: Ireland has lost about ten percent of its ancient monuments in the last ten years. To conform with European Union guidelines, Ireland has had to discourage the smaller, traditional farms and consolidate them into larger holdings. These are often owned by people who have no link to the land, and who feel no need to preserve its heritage.

Elsewhere across Europe, the problem manifests in different ways. Viking habitations and graves are unearthed, Neolithic camps discovered, ritual areas come to light. Often this happens in the course of building a road or a house or the completion of some other construction project. Under these conditions, archeological work may be sketchy at best as commercial interests seek to avoid any loss of time or profit.

Our heritage is disappearing from many European landscapes. And if that heritage of stone and ancient wood, bog and burial disappears...can the folk of Europe be far behind?

Honoring the Graves of the Dead

Besides fighting to protect sacred sites, relevant historical monuments, and archeological digs, we will demand a chance to honor the bones of our dead kin who died and were buried with our native, pre-Christian rites. Whenever the graves of any other indigenous people are disturbed, there is a public outcry. Ethnic activists go into action, laws are enacted or invoked, and at the very least representatives of the native faith are

allowed to bless the remains of the dead and perform such religious ceremonies as are necessary. Contrast this with what happens whenever a Viking burial mound or a pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon cemetery are unearthed! Into the museum and laboratory go the bones of our ancestors, handled by strangers oblivious to the spiritual implications of their deeds.

We are not opposed to scientific study, and the scientists need not fear that we will bring an end to archeology and anthropology! Properly done, this can be a way for our dead to be once again remembered and to tell their story. Improperly done, it is just the sort of desecration against which runic curses were carved into gravestones.

To clarify this problem and facilitate the search for solutions, the AFA is commissioning a group to research and write a Germanic Graves Protocol. This document will explain our traditional religious beliefs and show how our needs can be met while still honoring the scientific spirit. Government agencies, museums, and university departments across Europe will be given copies of the Protocol, and qualified individuals will be appointed to perform the necessary rites in their countries.

Our Duty to the Ages

In summary, the Sacred Sites Preservation Project will educate the public about ongoing abuses and campaign vigorously to protect places important to the heritage of the pre-Christian European peoples. The SSPP will also research, write, distribute, and implement the Germanic Graves Protocol to honor the remains of our ancestors who were loyal to our native ways.

This is a noble enterprise, and the Asatru Folk Assembly commits itself to carrying out this duty to our ancestors - and to our descendants yet unborn!