

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

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Dear Simon

CONSULTATION ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW ADVISORY PANEL ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUMAN BURIALS IN ENGLAND

The Archaeology Forum is a grouping of the key, non-governmental organisations concerned with archaeology in the UK. Its members include the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK, the Council for British Archaeology, the Institute of Conservation, the Institute for Archaeologists, the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, Rescue, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers, and the Society of Museum Archaeologists UK.

The Archaeology Forum is pleased to contribute to the consultation by the Church of England, English Heritage and the Ministry of Justice on the formation of a new panel to advise on the archaeology of burials in England.

The Forum's comments on the two questions set out in the consultation are as follows:

- The Forum welcomes the opportunity that has been taken to review the terms of reference of the existing Advisory Panel on the archaeology of Christian burials. We believe it is important that a new Advisory Panel's terms of reference is extended to consideration of all ancient burials and that appropriate archaeological expertise is available to the Panel to enable it to advise on all aspects of best practice.

- In addition to the three national organisations with statutory responsibilities for archaeological burials, we strongly support the suggestion that any new panel should include representatives of archaeologists, osteologists and museum staff.
The Archaeology Forum's membership includes key national organisations that represent these interests in England, and they would be pleased to be nominate representatives to the Panel.

Thank you for this opportunity for the Forum to offer its views on the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gill Chitty
Secretary, The Archaeology Forum

The Archaeology Forum's members are:

*The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK
The Council for British Archaeology
The Institute of Conservation
The Institute for Archaeologists
The National Trust
The National Trust for Scotland*

*Rescue: the British Archaeological Trust
The Society of Antiquaries of London
The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
The Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers
The Society of Museum Archaeologists UK*