

# THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

*a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology*

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Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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29 January 2009

Dear Dr. Hawkins,

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES' SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE MARINE BILL: SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN EVIDENCE BY THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM**

### **Introduction**

The Archaeology Forum (TAF) 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, Rescue, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (formerly SCAUM), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists UK.

The Forum has close links with Wales: it meets regularly in the Principality and its constituent organisations provide representatives who practise and have considerable experience of archaeology and the historic environment in Wales.

TAF is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the Sustainability Committee's inquiry into the Marine Bill following its inclusion in the Queen's speech and ask that this letter be taken as TA's written evidence to that inquiry.

### **General**

1.1 TAF continues strongly to support the Marine Bill which will provide a framework for the sustainable management of marine resources and integrated planning and conservation for the marine environment in Wales and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The Forum welcomes the explicit recognition in various parts of the Bill (for instance in relation to marine licensing) that the 'environment' includes sites of historic or archaeological interest

and the fact that principles of sustainable development underpinning the proposed Marine Policy Statements will include consideration of impact on cultural resources.

## Concerns

2.1 However, notwithstanding the alterations to the Bill since its publication in draft in April 2008 and the presence of some helpful provisions in relation to the marine historic environment in the Bill as currently drafted, TAF remains concerned that the marine historic environment needs to be more firmly and consistently embedded in the Bill.

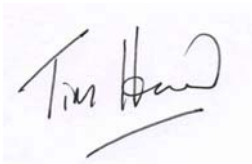
2.2 For instance, the Bill should:

- define the objectives of the Marine Policy Statement (Part 3 Chapter 1) to include the protection and management of the marine cultural heritage
- include archaeological or historic interest in the grounds for designation of a Marine Conservation Zone (clause 114(1)).

2.3 Furthermore, it was originally envisaged that the Marine Bill would be complemented by new provisions for protecting marine heritage assets in the Heritage Protection Bill, adding a level of protection for individual sites (not confined to 'wreck sites') through designation. In the light of the uncertainty that has arisen since the publication of the draft Marine Bill as to whether the Heritage Protection Bill will be taken forward, TAF believes that it is essential to ensure that there is stronger and more specific consideration of the marine heritage in the Marine Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. The Archaeology Forum would be happy to contribute further with a view to achieving greater integration of the marine historic environment within the Bill.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Howard LLB (Hons), Dip Prof Arch  
IfA on behalf of 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 of Field 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 Archaeologist*