

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

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**A meeting of the Archaeology Forum was held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff,
Tuesday 11th February 2014, 12.00 – 16.00**

Present: Peter Hinton (IfA), Mike Heyworth (CBA), Gail Boyle (SMA), Andy Marvell (GGAT),
Gwilym Hughes (Cadw), Angharad Huws (Cadw), Tim Howard (IfA),

Summary of discussion:

Main discussions centred on advocacy planning for the UK general election 2015 and special updates on the progress of the Welsh Heritage Bill and results from 'Future of our pasts' consultation including of the continuing discussion of adopting a more formal footing for HERs in Wales.

HERs and local authority services is also at the heart of advocacy concerns in the run-up to Westminster election time, with a renewed strategies for gaining influence adopted. Further possibilities of greater coordination between archaeology and the Museums Association was also raised.

Other areas for discussion included the English Heritage split, Ed Vaizey's review of Local authority archaeology services, the National Planning Practice Guidance and HER practice guide, England's National Heritage Protection Plan, Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy, the HS/RCHAMS merger, archaeology strategy, COSLA undesignated heritage discussions, and planning reform, as well as the review of archaeological licensing in Northern Ireland and TAF marine policy.

Key action points:

- It was agreed that TAF should increase advocacy work in anticipation of party political manifestos being written over the coming 6 months.
- Discussions with Museums Association to be reported to Forum members in advance of next meeting
- TAF marine policy to be updated

Next meeting dates

- i. 6th May – London
- ii. 17th June (12.30pm) – Edinburgh
- iii. 7th October – London