

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

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22 September 2009

Dear Mr. Stansfield,

Consultation on secondary legislation for England and Wales under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill: Part 4 Marine Licensing

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, 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 this consultation on secondary legislation for England and Wales under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill: Part 4 Marine Licensing.

TAF supports the introduction of a unified, coherent and up-to-date licensing system. However, it is important to ensure that the management and protection of the marine historic environment is an integral part of any such system.

To this end TAF supports the extension of the licensing system to apply to the excavation of historic wreck sites, prehistoric land surfaces and other archaeological material from on or under the seabed (something which is to a great extent achieved by clauses 66(1)(8) and (9) of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (as amended in Public Bill Committee)).

Furthermore, in response to **Question 42** of the consultation, TAF would be opposed to the framing of any exemption that might reduce or remove licensing requirements in respect of archaeological excavation or of any other activity that might impact upon archaeological

remains. Similarly, in response to **Question 43**, there is concern that exempting the 'deposit of sediment resulting from archaeological exploration' would weaken the regulation of archaeological activity on and under the seabed otherwise achieved under the proposed licensing system.

TAF and its members would be pleased in future to contribute further to the development of an improved licensing system and to the formulation of secondary legislation and guidance in this regard.

Thank you for this opportunity for the Archaeology Forum to contribute its views to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hinton', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Hinton

Convenor, 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