

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

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Emma Beckles
Marine Strategy Framework Directive Team
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22 January 2010

Dear Ms Beckles,

The Archaeology Forum is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this consultation by Defra on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

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 Nautical Archaeology Society, 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 Forum discussed the Directive at its meeting earlier this week and its key concern is that the progress made in recent Government policy and legislation for the protection of the marine historic environment (both enacted and planned in the Draft Heritage Protection Bill) is recognised and consolidated in the draft Regulations.

The Forum supports the development of a single UK Marine Strategy for the seas around the UK. This will be in line with the Government's stated intention to produce a UK-wide Marine Policy Statement. However, there is no explicit reference to the marine historic environment in the draft Regulations. The Government has made it clear in its High Level Marine Objectives (2009) that the protection and preservation of the marine historic environment is an important consideration in managing the marine environment.

The Forum believes that this should be reflected in the draft Regulations. We suggest this could be satisfactorily achieved by a definition of 'marine environment' for the purposes of the Regulations which indicates that both the natural and the historic marine environment is encompassed in the legal framework.

The Forum also commends the representations made by its members through the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee and the Institute for Archaeologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation and we look forward to further occasions for working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gill Chitty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Dr Gill Chitty,
Council for British Archaeology
On behalf of The Archaeology Forum

he Archaeology Forum's members are:

*The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK
The Council for British Archaeology
The Institute for Archaeologists
The Institute of Conservation
The Nautical Archaeology Society
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 & Employers
The Society of Museum Archaeologists*