

THE ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology

Secretariat

Council for British Archaeology
St Mary's House
66 Bootham
York
YO30 7BZ

Tel 01904 671417; Fax 01904 671384
taf@britarch.ac.uk

Convenor

Institute for Archaeologists
University of Reading
SHES, Whiteknights
PO Box 227
Reading RG6 6AB

Tel 0118 378 6446; Fax 0118 378 6448
taf@archaeologists.net

Caity Marsh,
Culture Team (World Heritage),
Department for Culture, Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street,
London,
SW1Y 5DH

23 February 2009

Dear Ms. Marsh,

WORLD HERITAGE FOR THE NATION: IDENTIFYING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR WORLD HERITAGE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this consultation.

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's response to the questions posed in the consultation document is as follows.

Question 1: Given the factors we have set out in this document which of the following options should we adopt in relation to the future nomination of sites for World Heritage Status?

1.1 The Forum strongly supports option iii (as set out in paragraph 5.4 et seq. of the consultation document).

1.2 There is recognition within the Forum of the global imbalances in the range of inscribed cultural properties and of the need fully to reflect current values in the identification and promotion of UK nominations, albeit that some members of the Forum have expressed a concern to see that those sites identified upon the current Tentative List are dealt with fairly, both procedurally and substantively.

1.3 The Forum does not support the introduction of a 'National Heritage List' since it would run contrary to the objective at a national level of creating a simpler and more holistic heritage protection regime and may potentially undermine the protection of those assets of 'national significance' that are not included upon such a list. There is, however, some support for the investigation and development of a 'European Heritage Label' that might provide recognition and protection on an international level for heritage assets not qualifying for World Heritage status and may also provide greater parity at a European level with the protection of natural assets (for instance, under European Directives).

Question 2: What further measures should be considered to improve the management and promotion of our World Heritage Sites?

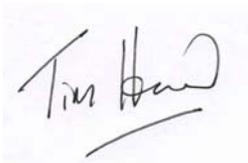
2.1 In addition to recent measures (such as the review of Call-In Directions and the publication of a draft planning circular and guidance) more effectively to embed World Heritage Sites within the planning system (which are welcomed), the Forum would like to see a specific duty to have special regard to World Heritage Sites in exercising planning functions either in the Heritage Protection Bill, should it be taken forward, or in other legislation.

2.2 The Forum also supports

- proposals to raise awareness of World Heritage Sites and to foster joint working and the creation of networks (for instance, through the Cultural Olympiad)
- practical steps to ensure that all sites are promoted consistently and effectively and to maximize community involvement
- greater integration of learning and education strategies within the management of sites
- further consideration of issues relating to World Heritage Sites within School curricula.

If there is anything further that the Forum can do to assist, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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