

July 2010

Tom Hassall's current term, as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites, is extended

John Penrose, the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, has extended the current term of appointment of Tom Hassall OBE, as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites, in order to provide continuity during a period of major transition.

Biographical notes

He is a distinguished archaeologist who has held a series of senior posts in the sector including, Secretary and Chief Executive of the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the founder director of Oxford Archaeology. He has also been Chair of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, President of the British Council for Archaeology, and President of ICOMOS UK. He has published articles on archaeology, along with a book, 'Oxford: the city beneath your feet' (1972). He is a Fellow at St Cross College, Oxford. He has not undertaken any party political activity in the last five years.

Notes for Editors

Following the passing of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck (ACHWS) Sites was set up to advise Ministers on the suitability of wreck sites to be designated for protection on the grounds of historical, archaeological, or artistic interest, and the issue of licences for the surveillance and excavation of designated sites. The Advisory Committee also recommends the conditions to be attached to such licences, along with other general underwater archaeology issues which may affect historic wrecks within UK waters.

The Chair and members of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites give their services on an honorary basis but reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

Proposals for the future of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites are contained in the recent announcement made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7297.aspx)

This appointment extension has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Political activity played no part in the process.