



Please reply to:

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25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mr Terence Newman  
Maritime Archaeologist  
Historic England  
4th Floor, Cannon Bridge House  
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London EC4R 2YA

By email to: [Terence.Newman@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:Terence.Newman@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Dear Mr Newman

### **Wreck of HMS *Saltash*: Invitation to comment on Consultation Report**

The Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (JNAPC) has pleasure in submitting its response to the Historic England consultation on the Wreck of HMS *Saltash*.

The JNAPC was formed in 1988 from individuals and representatives of institutions who wished to raise awareness of the United Kingdom's underwater cultural heritage and to persuade Government that underwater sites of historic importance should receive no less protection than those on land. Some information on the JNAPC is shown in Appendix 1.

The JNAPC has a membership (see Appendix 2) that includes most of the governmental, museum, academic and voluntary organisations, and advisers concerned with submerged heritage assets, including the Nautical Archaeology Society, MAST, university professionals, various governing bodies for recreational diving and contractors like Wessex Archaeology and MSDS Marine - providers of professional archaeological services. The views expressed by the JNAPC do not necessarily represent the views of individual members and observers.

### **JNAPC response to the consultation**

The JNAPC welcomes the proposal by Historic England to schedule the site believed to consist of the remains of the wreck of HMS *Saltash* and considers it most appropriate that these historic remains should be added to The National Heritage List for England.

We consider that scheduling recognises the importance of these monuments, offers them suitable protection and allows access by divers to the site without a licensing regime. We consider that this will send the right message to the diving community and know that this proposed scheduling is supported by our representatives from the diving associations, BSAC, PADI and the SAA.

### **Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee**

Postal address: c/o Nautical Archaeology Society, Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, PO4 9LD, UK  
email: [info@jnapc.org](mailto:info@jnapc.org) Tel: 01904 671 417 website: [www.jnapc.org](http://www.jnapc.org)

The JNAPC met on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and discussed the consultation. The outcome of discussion was that it was felt by some members that more information should be provided by Historic England about the investigation of the site to allow consultees to also make interpretations and draw conclusions about the identity and significance of the wreck. As such the JNAPC recommends that, if scheduled, the site should be named as the Wreck believed to be HMS Saltash.

If the JNAPC can be of any further assistance in this matter do please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Mark Beattie-Edwards  
JNAPC Secretary

[www.jnapc.org](http://www.jnapc.org)

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## JOINT NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY POLICY COMMITTEE

### THE JNAPC - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The JNAPC was formed in 1988 from individuals and representatives of institutions who wished to raise awareness of Britain's underwater cultural heritage and to persuade Government that underwater sites of historic importance should receive no less protection than those on land.

The JNAPC launched *Heritage at Sea* in May 1989, which put forward proposals for the better protection of archaeological sites underwater. Recommendations covered improved legislation and better reporting of finds, a proposed inventory of underwater sites, the waiving of fees by the Receiver of Wreck, the encouragement of seabed operators to undertake pre-disturbance surveys, greater responsibility by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for their historic wrecks, proper management by government agencies of underwater sites, and the education and training of sports divers to respect and conserve the underwater historic environment.

Government responded to *Heritage at Sea* in its White Paper *This Common Inheritance* in December 1990 in which it was announced that the Receiver's fees would be waived, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England would be funded to prepare a Maritime Record of sites, and funding would be made available for the Nautical Archaeology Society to employ a full time training officer to develop its training programmes. Most importantly the responsibility for the administration of the 1973 Protection of Wrecks Act was also transferred from the Department of Transport, where it sat rather uncomfortably, to the then heritage ministry, the Department of the Environment. Subsequently responsibility passed to the Department of National Heritage, which has since become the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The aim of the JNAPC has been to raise the profile of nautical archaeology in both Government and diving circles and to present a consensus upon which government and other organisations can act. *Heritage at Sea* was followed up by *Still at Sea* in May 1993 which drew attention to outstanding issues, the *Code of Practice for Seabed Developers* was launched in January 1995, and an archaeological leaflet for divers, *Underwater Finds - What to Do*, was published in January 1998 in collaboration with the Sports Diving Associations BSAC, PADI and SAA. The more detailed explanatory brochure, *Underwater Finds - Guidance for Divers*, followed in May 2000 and *Wreck Diving – Don't Get Scuttled*, an educational brochure for divers, was published in October 2000.

The JNAPC continues its campaign for the education of all sea users about the importance of our nautical heritage. The JNAPC will be seeking better funding for nautical archaeology and improved legislation, a subject on which it has published initial proposals for change in *Heritage Law at Sea* in June 2000 and *An Interim Report on The Valletta Convention & Heritage Law at Sea* in 2003. The latter made detailed recommendations for legal and administrative changes to improve protection of the UK's underwater cultural heritage.

The JNAPC played a major role in English Heritage's (now Historic England) review of marine archaeological legislation and in DCMS's consultation exercise *Protecting our Marine Historic Environment: Making the System Work Better*, and was represented on the DCMS Salvage Working Group reviewing potential requirements for new legislation. The JNAPC has also been working towards the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural heritage 2001 with the preparation of the *Burlington House Declaration*, which was presented to Government in 2006 and the Seminar on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in International Waters Adjacent to the UK in November 2010.

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In 2013 the JNAPC was officially accredited as an NGO to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board and to the Meeting of States Parties of the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

The JNAPC continues to advocate the improved protection of underwater cultural heritage in both territorial and international waters and is working to persuade the UK Government to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

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**Chairman**

**Secretariat** - Nautical Archaeology Society

Robert Yorke  
Mark Beattie-Edwards

**Member Organisations**

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers	Rebecca Loader
British Sub Aqua Club	Alison Mayor
CMA, University of Southampton	Professor Jon Adams / Dr Rodrigo Ortiz
Coracle Archaeology	Dr Michael Walsh
Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust	Jo Thomson / Fiona Punter
Honor Frost Foundation Steering Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage	Dr Arturo Rey da Silva / Lauren Tidbury
Mary Rose Trust	Christopher Dobbs
Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust	Jessica Berry / Anthony Dymock
Maritime Archaeology Trust	Garry Momber
MSDS Marine / MSDS Heritage	Alison James / Mark James / Dr Sally Evans
National Maritime Museum	Andrew Choong Han Lin
National Museum of the Royal Navy	TBC
Nautical Archaeology Society	Mark Beattie-Edwards
Professional Association of Diving Instructors	Suzanne Smith
Protected Wreck Association	Dr David Johnston
RESCUE	Hana Morel
Shipwreck Heritage Centre	Dr Peter Marsden
Society for Nautical Research	Catherine Scheybeler
Sub-Aqua Association	Stuart Bryan
The Honourable Company of Master Mariners	TBC
UK Maritime Collections Strategy & ICOMOS	Christopher Dobbs
Wessex Archaeology	Euan McNeill
WSP	Toby Gane

**Individual members**

David Parham	Bournemouth University
Michael Williams	Plymouth University
Dr John Gribble	TerraMare Archaeology, South Africa
Elisabeth Bussey-Jones	Plymouth University
Associate Professor Jason Lowther	Plymouth University
Dave Gration	Rebreather Pro Training
Jane Maddocks	Honorary Member of Merchant Navy Association

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## Observers

Cadw	Jonathan Berry
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, inc. Marine Archaeology Special Interest Group	Rob Lennox / Alison James
The Crown Estate	Phillip Turner
Council for British Archaeology	Neil Redfern
Department of Culture, Media & Sport	Carla Piper & Harry Readon (Job Share)
Department of Transport	Sam Farnham
Department for Communities (Northern Ireland), Historic Environment Division	Colin Dunlop / Dr Rory McNeary
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	Colin Glen
Heritage Alliance	Lizzie Glithero-West
Historic England	Dr Antony Firth
Historic Environment Scotland	Philip Robertson
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Receiver of Wreck	Stephen White
Ministry of Defence	Helen Goodman / Emma Carr / Matt Skelhorn (SALMO)
National Trust	Tom Dommett
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Dr Julian Whitewright

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