



Nikki Milne
Priority Marine Features Consultation
Scottish Government
Marine Planning and Policy Division
Area 1-A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

13 November 2013

Dear Ms Milne,

Consultation on Priority Marine Features

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Consultation.

The Institute for Archaeologists

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors. IfA's Maritime Affairs Group (MAG) (to which most professional maritime archaeologists in the United Kingdom belong) and its Scottish Group (which has over 200 members practising in the public, private and voluntary sector in Scotland) advise the Institute on matters falling within their respective remits.

Furthermore, IfA is a member of the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), a network organisation that brings together non-governmental organisations and professional bodies that work with Scotland's built environment.

Priority Marine Features

Question 1: Do you agree with the recommended list of Priority Marine Features as the basis for targeting future marine conservation action in Scotland's seas?

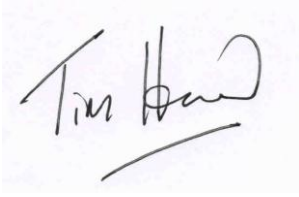
1.1 No comment.

Question 2: Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?

2.1 Although the consultation refers in places to marine conservation, it is clear from the draft National Marine Plan (page 29) and SNH / JNCC's *Advice to Marine Scotland on Priority Marine Features in Scotland's seas* dated 17 September 2012 that such features are concerned with marine nature conservation. IfA does not object to such features being identified, provided that it is accepted and made clear that such status does not confer any priority vis-à-vis historic marine protected areas and other heritage features.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Tim Howard" in a cursive style, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor