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Dear Ms Ingason,

Consultation on the Review of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the review of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries.

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.

In matters relating to maritime archaeology IfA is assisted by its Maritime Affairs Group (MAG), to which most professional maritime archaeologists belong. The Group exists to:

- advance the practice of maritime archaeology by promoting professional standards for the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the maritime archaeological resource;
- provide advice and commentary to IfA on matters relating to maritime archaeology;

- aid in the development of professional guidelines and standards for the execution of maritime archaeological work;
- promote the training of archaeologists and others in maritime archaeological practice; and,
- facilitate the exchange of information and ideas about maritime archaeology and to communicate these to the wider profession.

The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

IfA is strongly supportive of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD) which acts as an important safety net to deal with unexpected finds which come to light during the construction phase of development.

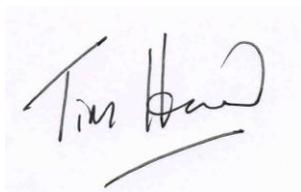
ORPAD is beginning to bear fruit (as the Annual Report for 2012-2013 and the regular Protocol Newsletters show) and IfA welcomes the review of ORPAD and the specific changes already planned.

However, there is concern that the Protocol may be seen in some quarters as an alternative (rather than a supplement) to the conventional regulatory mechanisms employed in the earlier stages of the development process to consider and address impacts upon the historic environment. In fairness, paragraph 1.1.5 of the Protocol makes clear that this should not be the case, but it is important, as part of the Protocol Awareness Programme, that this message is reinforced, particularly to those outside the historic environment sector.

The Institute and its Maritime Affairs Group would be happy to cooperate further in the development of the Protocol.

In the meantime, 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, appearing to read 'Tim Howard', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor