

JOINT NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY POLICY COMMITTEE

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Ms Karen Buck MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Buck

National Heritage Bill Standing Committee – Wednesday 13th March 2002

The National Heritage Bill provides a very necessary and long overdue opportunity to put maritime archaeology on the same basis as land archaeology. Around our coasts we have some of the richest maritime heritage in the world including historic wrecks, harbour installations and submerged ancient land surfaces.

The transfer of responsibility for underwater archaeology from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to English Heritage will provide the opportunity to understand, manage and protect this underwater heritage for future generations. Underwater archaeology is already popular in the media and future dissemination of information will be further improved as a result of the transfer. We believe that the proposed move will be welcomed by amateur and professional underwater archaeologists, sports divers and all those involved with the subject.

Since the launch of '*Heritage at Sea*' in 1989, the JNAPC has been working to bring about this transfer and we hope that you will feel able to give it your full support. I enclose a few details about the JNAPC and two of its publications that have been widely circulated to sports divers.

Yours sincerely

R.A.Yorke
Chairman