

February 2008

Suzanne Pleydell is reappointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites.

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Suzanne Pleydell has been reappointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. Her term of appointment will run from 16 February 2008 to 15 February 2012.

Biographical notes

Suzanne Pleydell is currently Group Manager [Education and Instructor Development] at PADI International Ltd, and Director of Emergency First Response International Ltd (subsidiary of PADI). In these roles, she is responsible for diving instructor examinations, training programme development and diver education throughout the UK and Eire, Africa, Mediterranean, Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe. In addition, she is Vice Chair of Project AWARE Foundation (International), which is an international environmental charity whose mission is to conserve underwater environments including their underwater cultural heritage. She is a member of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee.

Background

The Advisory Committee was set up to advise Ministers following the passing of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Section 1 of the 1973 Act empowers the Secretary of State to designate, by order, the site of what is, or may prove to be, the wreck of a vessel which should be protected from unauthorized interference because of its historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such a designation makes it an offence to tamper with, damage, or remove any part of the wreck, its contents or its former contents. Activities on the wreck site may only be carried out under licence granted by the Secretary of State.

ACHWS members give their services on an honorary basis but may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.

This reappointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.