

**February 2009**

**Dr Ian Friel is appointed a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wrecks**

Barbara Follett, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Dr Ian Friel has been appointed as Naval/Maritime History member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites (ACHWS). His term of appointment will run from 30 January 2009 to 29 January 2013.

**Biographical notes**

Dr Friel is a freelance historian, writer and museum consultant. Prior to this, he has pursued a career with museums, serving at the National Maritime Museum, the Mary Rose Trust, Littlehampton Museum and Chichester District Museum (1977 to 2007). He has published widely on maritime history, including the books 'The Good Ship – Ships, Shipbuilding and Technology in England 1200-1520' (1995), and 'The British Museum Maritime History of Britain and Ireland c 400- 2001' (2003). Dr Friel is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA). He has undertaken no political activity during the past five years.

**Background**

The Advisory Committee was set up to advise Ministers following the passing of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. This advice covers the suitability of wreck sites to be designated for protection on the grounds of historical, archaeological, or artistic interest in accordance with the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, the issue of licences for the surveillance and excavation of designated sites by named individuals, and recommends the conditions to be attached to such licences, as well as other general underwater archaeology issues which may affect historic wrecks within UK waters.

ACHWS members give their services on an honorary basis. Travelling expenses, incurred by ACHWS members in the performance of their duties, are reimbursed.

This appointment 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.