

June 2008

Professor Michael Collins is reappointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites.

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Professor Michael Collins has been reappointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites (ACHWS). His term of appointment will run from 7 July 2008 to 6 July 2012.

Biographical notes

Professor Michael Collins is Professor of Oceanography (Sediment Dynamics) at the School of Ocean and Earth Science of the University of Southampton. He has over 30 years experience in the sediment dynamics of fluvial, estuarine, coastal, and open sea environments. Professor Collins has published extensively on sediment dynamics, served on ship-based research expeditions and acted as a consultant. He is the founding Editor of *Continental Shelf Research*, an international marine science journal. Professor Collins has acted as advisor to research programmes in France, Greece, Spain and Portugal and under the auspices of the European Commission. He is an Honorary Professor of the University of Nanjing, PR China. He has not undertaken any political activity in the past five years.

Background

The Advisory Committee was set up to advise Ministers following the passing of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. ACHWS members advise Ministers on i) 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, and ii) 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.

ACHWS members give their services on an honorary basis but travel/subsistence and out-of-pocket expenses are paid.

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.