

Department For Culture, Media and Sport

Press Announcement:

**July 2006**

**Thomas Hassall OBE has been reappointed as Chair for the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites.**

David Lammy, the minister for Culture Media and Sport, announced today that Thomas Hassall OBE will serve a second term in his current appointment as Chair for the Advisory on Historic Wreck Sites. His 2<sup>nd</sup> term of appointment will now end on 2 July 2010.

### **Tom Hassall OBE**

Tom Hassall OBE has been an archaeological consultant in private practice since 1999. He is a member of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Heritage Protection Review Steering Committee and he is the Chairman of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)-UK World Heritage Committee. He was the Secretary and Chief Executive of the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1986-1999; and the founding director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit (now known as Oxford Archaeology), 1973-1985. He was Chairman of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, 1980-1983; and President of the Council for British Archaeology, 1983-1986, and ICOMOS-UK 1998-2002. He is an Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College and a Visiting Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford. He has published specialist articles on archaeology, along with a book, 'Oxford: the city beneath you feet'.

### **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 unauthorised 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.