

16 February 2004

Suzanne Pleydell is appointed to the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites
Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Media and Heritage, announced today that Suzanne Pleydell has been appointed as a Member of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. The term of appointment will run from 16 February 2004 to 15 February 2008.

Biographical notes:

Suzanne Pleydell is Education and Instructor Development Manager at PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors International), which is the world's largest diver training organisation and has international accreditation. At PADI International, since 1994, she has been involved, with other diving bodies, in formulating the 'Respect our Wrecks' initiative, and has ensured that the inclusion of the importance of underwater cultural heritage in the Association's mission statement. As a member of PADI International's review group, she has been responsible for the inclusion of historic wreck issues in the organisation's mission statement. She is a member of the Receiver of Wreck's Amnesty Group, and of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee. She is Director of Project Aware (UK), an environmental charity concerned with conservation of the underwater environment (1999 to date). She has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.

Note to Editors:

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.

In March 2003, the administration of Underwater Archaeology was transferred to English Heritage.