



The Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee ('JNAPC') was formed in 1988 from individuals and representatives of institutions who wished to raise awareness of the United Kingdom's ('UK') underwater cultural heritage and to persuade Government that underwater sites of historic importance should receive no less protection than those on land.

Since the adoption of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage ('the 2001 Convention') in 2001 and its entry into force in 2009 the JNAPC has campaigned that the UK Government ('the Government') should ratify the 2001 Convention. This process has taken the form of meetings with Government officials, questions in Parliament, public presentations of papers, seminars, and the publication of reports.

In 2005 the Government stated in a written answer in Parliament that its maritime heritage policy recognised the Annex to the 2001 Convention as best practice for underwater archaeology and this has been repeated by Government a number of times since then. Historic England also uses the Rules of the Annex as the basis of licensing activities on historic wreck sites under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Although these are important first steps, the Government has continued to indicate that it felt unable to ratify the 2001 Convention, based on its reasons for abstention in 2001.

In order to assess whether the UK's objections were still valid, the JNAPC raised funds from English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Honor Frost Foundation to enable a project group to undertake *An Impact Review for the United Kingdom* which was published in February 2014. The Review concluded that the concerns raised by the UK in 2001 were no longer problematic and that the UK was already compliant with many aspects of the 2001 Convention.

<http://www.jnadc.org.uk/UNESCO%20Impact%20Review%20February%202014.pdf>

In the Autumn of 2014 the Minister of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport ('DCMS'), Mr. Ed Vaizey, made a commitment to commence a review of the UK's position with regard to ratifying the 2001 Convention, based on the findings of the *Impact Review*. However this was delayed by the general election in May 2015. In March 2016, DCMS published the Culture White Paper in which it stated: "*We will review our position on ratifying other international conventions designed to protect cultural heritage and property, including the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.*" This is an important public commitment by the Government and a step forward in the UK ratifying the 2001 Convention. Despite the delay caused by Brexit, DCMS has indicated that the review will commence by the summer of 2017.

As a member of the Honor Frost Foundation Steering Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage, the JNAPC has contributed to the publication of the *2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage - the Case for UK Ratification*, an important report outlining the advantages to the UK of ratification.

<http://honorfrostfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2001-Convention-The-Case-for-Ratification-FINAL.pdf>

Another JNAPC initiative has been to show Government departments, including the Ministry of Defence, how ratification can enable them to protect vessels sunk in international waters with major loss of life in the First World War. This has been particularly relevant with the commemoration of the 100th anniversaries of the naval vessels lost in the Battle of Jutland in 1916, the three cruisers HM Ships Cressy, Hogue, Aboukir sunk in 1914, and many others.

A number of papers advocating the ratification of the 2001 Convention by the UK have been presented by members of JNAPC at various conferences as shown in the Appendix below.

Representatives of JNAPC have attended Meetings of States Parties and contributed to meetings of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body in Paris for a number of years.

The JNAPC continues to advocate the improved protection of underwater cultural heritage in both territorial and international waters and is working to persuade the UK Government to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

30th December 2016

Appendix

Examples of papers and publications by JNAPC and its members advocating the ratification of the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

Panel forum on common mis-conceptions surrounding the 2001 Convention, Annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology & Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology, Washington DC, USA, January 2016

Major Loss of Life and Military Wrecks, British Academy and Honor Frost Foundation Policy Forum, London, January 2015

World War I underwater cultural heritage and the loss of HMS Aboukir, HMS Cressy and HMS Hogue 1914, Underwater Cultural Heritage from World War I, Proceedings of the Scientific Conference on the Occasion of the Centenary of World War I, Bruges, Belgium, 26 & 27 June 2014, UNESCO 2015. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/underwater/world-warI.pdf>

The position of the United Kingdom regarding the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, R A Yorke, The Bulletin of the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology Vol 38 (2014)

Current threats to maritime heritage and the legal position, R Yorke & S Dromgoole: *Impact Review on the implications for the UK of ratifying the UNESCO Convention*, J Gribble & A Firth, British Academy/Honor Frost Foundation scoping day conference, London, January 2013

Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in International Waters Adjacent to the UK: Proceedings of the JNAPC 21st Anniversary Seminar Burlington House November 2010 <http://www.jnapc.org.uk/UNESCO-Seminar-2010-final.pdf>

Burlington House Declaration: Adopted at a seminar hosted by the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, on 28 October 2005 <http://www.jnapc.org.uk/Burlington%20House%20Declaration%20-%202028%20October%202005.pdf>

A full list of publications by the JNAPC can be viewed on www.jnapc.org.uk

Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee

Chairman

Robert Yorke

Member Organisations

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
British Sub Aqua Club
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Maritime Affairs Group
Cotswold Archaeology
Council for British Archaeology
Maritime Archaeology Trust
Mary Rose Trust
Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust (MAST)
National Maritime Museum
National Museums & Galleries of Wales
Nautical Archaeology Society
Professional Association of Diving Instructors
RESCUE
Sea Change Heritage Consultants
Shipwreck Museum, Hastings
Society for Nautical Research
Sub Aqua Association
United Kingdom Maritime Collections Strategy & ICOMOS
Wessex Archaeology

Robin Daniels
Jane Maddocks
Tim Howard
Toby Gane
Michael Walsh
Mike Heyworth
Garry Momber
Christopher Dobbs
Jessica Berry
Nick Ball
Mark Redknapp
Brian Minehane
Suzanne Smith
Stephen Appleby
John Gribble
Peter Marsden
Alistair Roach
Stuart Bryan
Christopher Dobbs
Euan McNeill

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Cadw
The Crown Estate
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Transport
Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Historic England
Historic Environment Scotland
Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Receiver of Wreck
Ministry of Defence
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