

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
Inquiry into the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Policy

Response from Cambrian Archaeological Association



CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHAU CYMRU

Patron: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.  
Noddwr: EUB TYWYSOG CYMRU, K.G.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 216249

Committee Clerk,  
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

Dear Sir,

**Planning for the future of historic environment services in Wales**

The Trustees of the Association met on 7<sup>th</sup> June and we were made aware of the consultation process regarding the above. We have not received a direct approach from you but respond to the invitation in the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee open letter of 31 May 2012. This reply is intended simply to register our interest and our wish to comment more fully by 29<sup>th</sup> June.

The Cambrian Archaeological Association is the oldest society in Wales concerned with the archaeology, built heritage and historic landscapes the whole of Wales being founded in 1846 and continuously active since that date. Our principal activities as a charitable organization are to hold meetings and conferences mainly in Wales, to produce an annual journal, *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, of international repute, and to make a number of financial awards, prizes and grants to schools, undergraduates and postgraduates and research grants open to all for excavation, survey and conservation and interpretation projects and analyses. Our membership is wide, comprising amateurs and professionals across Wales and in England and abroad. We consider ourselves therefore to be an essential 'third-sector' consultee on the numerous and fundamental changes being proposed.

We wish, at this preliminary stage to make three points:

1. We are puzzled by the relationship between the proposed organizational and policy changes and the proposed Heritage Bill – is the merger between Cadw and RCAHMW seen as an essential precursor to the Heritage Bill ?

2. What is the relationship between the Working Group the Minister has set up and the responses invited by 29<sup>th</sup> June? Will the Working Group consider these responses since we see that the Minister expects their Report by July 2012 ?
  
3. At a general level, we feel that over the past decade enormous strides forward have been made by both Cadw and RCAHMW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts in terms of access to and interpretation of sites, monuments and buildings , on- line information to all levels of the public, local initiatives, publications and working with a very broad range of partners – a Renaissance in fact. We understand the need for savings and budgetary constraints. However

Heather James,  
General Secretary