



Budget Consultation  
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23 January, 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **Consultation on Newport City Council's 2014/15 Budget – The Newport Ship**

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) has learned with grave concern that Newport City Council is proposing to cease providing funding for the Newport Ship from 2015.

IfA is the professional body for archaeologists and related professions concerned with the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves. IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom and abroad. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors. IfA's Wales / Cymru Group has over 300 members, many of whom practise in the public, private and voluntary sector in Wales.

The Newport Ship is the best preserved and documented 15<sup>th</sup> century ship in the world. It was saved following its discovery in 2002 as a result of a widespread public campaign and since then significant sums of money have been invested in its excavation, conservation recording and analysis. Much of that money will be wasted and the ship itself jeopardised if financial provision is not made for its future.

IfA recognises the financial constraints faced by local authorities. However, the loss of this international asset would be a retrograde step for the Council and for the community which it serves. Not only would residents of Newport be deprived of access to a highly significant archaeological resource, but the Council would lose the highly lucrative investment in the area's economy which visitors from elsewhere in the United Kingdom and overseas can bring. (I understand that a recent consultant's report estimated that a new museum displaying the ship would attract 150,000 visitors to Newport a year.)

By comparison, the sums which the Council envisages will be saved by discontinuing its support for the Ship are relatively small and cannot justify the potential loss of this renowned asset. In the circumstances, we do urge the Council to reconsider its proposal to withdraw financial support for the Ship.

If there is anything further that we can do to assist, we would be happy to do so.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hinton', written in a cursive style.

Peter Hinton BA FSA FRSA MifA MIAM  
Chief Executive