



ENGLISH HERITAGE



**‘Shared Heritage: Joint Responsibilities in the Management of British
Warship Wrecks overseas’
8th July 2008
University of Wolverhampton**

Many European countries were involved in extensive global exploration, survey, trade, and territorial expansion, at least from the 16th century into the middle of the 20th century. As a result, there are many of what may be termed “European” wrecks, both warships and mercantile, spread around the world, lying in the littoral waters of other Sovereign States. As a maritime nation, the United Kingdom, and the earlier manifestations of the countries that it now comprises, was actively involved in this process and it has always claimed sovereign immunity for the wrecks of its warships, regardless of their present location. The United Kingdom has recognised on a *de facto* basis that such wrecks also form an important component of the underwater cultural heritage of such Sovereign States.

The main aim of this seminar is to enable a discussion to open new lines of communication, promote best archaeological practice, and develop cooperation between different countries sharing a common heritage: in this case historic British Warships wreck sites. We hope that this seminar will offer a starting point to enable a sustainable and mutually beneficial management regime for our common heritage. Speakers will outline the international legal regime; international best practice and describe the approach to British warship wrecks in countries such as Argentina, Australia, South Africa and the United States.

Admission is free but pre-registration is essential. To register please contact: Julie Hayward, Wolverhampton University, E-mail: j.hayward@wlv.ac.uk, Tel. (UK) 01902 322 145 (Contactable on Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays). Please visit [Map and directions for City Campus](#). The nearest airport is Birmingham International with trains to directly to Wolverhampton.

Draft Programme

9.00-9.20 Registration

9.20-9.30 Welcome

9.30-9.40 Introduction by Chair (Ms. S. Davies, UNESCO UK National Committee)

9.40-10.20 Sovereignty & State Vessels - the Law & Policy (M. Williams, University of Wolverhampton)

10.20-11.00 Case Study – HMS *Swift* / Argentina (Dr. D. Elkin, PROAS)

11.00-11.20 Coffee

11.20-12.00 Case Study –Australia (Prof. M. Staniforth, Flinders University)

12.00-12.40 Case Study – South Africa (J. Gribble, Wessex Archaeology)

12.40-14.00 Lunch

14.00-14.40 Case Study – USA (Dr. D. Scott-Ireton, Florida Public Archaeology Network)

14.40-15.20 International Best Practice (Prof. Thijs Maarleveld University of S. Denmark)

15.20-15.40 Coffee

15.40-16.20 Management of designated warship wrecks in England (M. Dunkley, English Heritage)

16.20-17.00 Cultural Heritage - Public Education & Inclusion (Chris Underwood, NAS)

17.00-17.15 Q & A Session with panel of speakers

17.15-17.30 Summary by Chair