

Laura L. Barton  
January 2015  
Executive Vice President &  
Director of Corporate Communications  
Odyssey Marine Exploration  
5215 West Laurel Street  
Tampa  
FL 33607

29<sup>th</sup>

Dear Ms. Barton,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th January to Stephen Appleby of Rescue.

We have received Mr. Yorke's communication and are in the process of considering what (if any) steps our organisation might wish to take as a result. In the absence of any further information beyond the MoD press release of 24th October 2014, it is difficult to comment in detail upon the contents of your letter, beyond stating that in our experience, a process of transparency and openness would allow for the project design to be considered by the wider archaeological and maritime community.

The respondents to the Government's 2010 consultation on this issue were not persuaded of the arguments in favour of the proposed investigation of this site, or in agreement with the contention that surface artefacts at the site are somehow "at risk" if left alone. In order to have full confidence in the five year vetting process that you have outlined it would be necessary for additional information to be made available - primarily the agreed project design, but also details of the results of ongoing monitoring of the site that has indicated that the alleged damage requires action, and details of the decision-making process involved that has lead us to this point. With these details available Rescue, along with the rest of the archaeological and maritime heritage community, would be able to make a fully informed assessment of the proposed investigations on this site.

Yours Sincerely,

Reuben Thorpe,  
Chair,  
RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust