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## **Development of draft Antarctic Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology Best Practice guidelines**



## Development of draft Antarctic Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology Best Practice guidelines

### *IPHC Information Paper 2021*

The International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) of The International Council on Monuments and Sites, (ICOMOS) is an international scientific committee, focused on the preservation and protection of polar (Arctic and Antarctic) heritage. The IPHC Polar Archaeology Working Group is developing, for the Parties' future consideration, draft Antarctic Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology Best Practice guidelines. These are being developed in alignment with the Antarctic Treaty's principles of peace and science, the Environmental Protocol's concepts of conservation and remediation, and in accordance with current Measures, Decisions and Resolutions.

The IPHC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) stating that the IPHC, 'has been recognised by the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) for its expertise and has provided advice to the CEP intersessional contact group established to develop guidance material for conservation approaches for the management of Antarctic heritage objects (ATCM XLI WP 20 *Report of the intersessional contact group established to develop guidance material for conservation approaches for the management of Antarctic heritage objects*)... its expertise in Antarctic human heritage governance, management, archaeology and conservation issues is available to inform SCAR in its advice to the Antarctic Treaty System'. The IPHC membership has extensive academic and professional expertise (ATCM XLII IP 74 *A Memorandum of Understanding between the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the International Polar Heritage Committee*). It includes members with Antarctic archaeological fieldwork experience with joint membership in related international archaeological organisations, who have been invited to comment on the technical content of the draft guidelines as they are being developed.

The draft Antarctic Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology Best Practice guidelines will offer professional expertise on how Antarctic archaeological research should be planned, conducted and the results presented. In addition to the historical information that archaeological research can provide, archaeological fieldwork and analysis with colleagues engaged in environmental science can also establish human impact baseline datasets. This integrated research can include utilizing material culture (the remains of the past) and associated biological remains as a datum and examining the impact of the material culture on the environment.

The importance of broad consultation to provide information and insights is central to the group's endeavours. The IPHC therefore invites input from any interested Parties and other expert groups which may have an interest in the development of these draft guidelines. For further information please contact:

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