

SAMPLE LETTER

(Your Address)

(Name & address of the person you write to)

Dear (insert the name of the person you write to)

Newport's Mediaeval Ship - Recovery of the Stern

I am writing to express my continuing concern over the Newport Medieval ship and the regrettable decision to not recover the Stern section.

This ship is a remarkable find that, following restoration, will prove to be a significant feature of Newport and Wales' maritime heritage and will attract visitors from all over Britain and the world. It will raise Newport's international profile and help consolidate its status as a city.

Newport City Council has only recently announced that the Bow and Stern will be recovered. However I understand that this decision has now been reversed. I find this somewhat surprising given the immense significance of the stern timbers to an understanding of the overall design and construction of the ship and its steering mechanism.

The opportunity to preserve such a complete and unique example of a ship of this period should not be squandered. Newport City Council has done well to have advanced the project so far but I fear that the far greater benefits to be gained in terms of the advancement of knowledge, our maritime heritage, international prestige and the economic benefits that will undoubtedly accrue through tourism will be greatly diminished by this decision.

As I understand it, the Council has yet to appoint a panel of expert advisors to prepare and oversee a research and project management plan I am concerned to know on what basis the archaeological and "structural engineering analysis" was made?

My understanding is that the problems cited by the Council are not unusual in archaeological terms and there is engineering expertise readily available to overcome them at a reasonable cost and in the time available. Does the Council and the Wales National Assembly intend to seek another opinion?

I appeal to Newport City Council and the other public and governmental bodies involved to reconsider the tragic decision taken on this extraordinary national asset. In doing so I am confident that Newport will earn the gratitude and admiration of the whole nation and that of future generations.

Yours sincerely,

(signature)

(Type your Name)

(Date)

Please feel free to amend this letter as you see fit

- add your own views, insert other important questions as listed on the website and tailor the letter accordingly with respect to the person or organisation to whom you are writing.

To read about the back ground to this issue please visit our website. You can download an electronic version of this letter and the address list. Email is fast but please try to send a paper version of your letter as this is more likely to produce a 'non-standard' response.

www.thenewportship.com