



Institute of
Archaeologists of
Ireland

63 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
353 01 662 9517
Email: iaireland@eircom.net
www.iai.ie

Editor
Sunday Tribune
15 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin

BY E-MAIL

07 June 2007

Madam

In response to the article on the conservation of Skellig Micheal by Una Mullaly on Sunday 03 June 2007, we would like to clarify a number of points.

Mr. Michael Gibbons made his initial remarks in June 2006, as personal contribution on a restricted, members-only e-mail discussion list. At no point were his personal comments published on the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland website (www.iai.ie) nor could they have been regarded as the opinion of the Institute.

The letter which you cited from the Office of Public Works was issued in late June 2006, almost twelve months ago.

The IAI responded pro-actively, at that time, to the concerns raised by the OPW, including posting the OPW's response on the same e-mail discussion list to ensure balance.

Moreover, at the IAI Autumn Conference in November 2006, a session was devoted to the on-going conservation programme at Skellig Michael at which Grellan D. Rourke, Alan Hayden and Michael Gibbons presented papers.

The IAI has maintained open and positive lines of communication with the OPW on this matter. The IAI looks forward to the full publication of the management plan, and the report on the works carried out.

Yours Sincerely

Teresa Bolger
Public Relations Officer