

Spring 2012

In this issue, **A Seafaring Nation** highlights the types of materials you could find that can tell us more about Britain's maritime heritage (pp 2 & 3). **What is your role in the Protocol?** - find out who to report to and how in our article explaining the roles of **Site Champion** and **Nominated Contact** (pp 4 & 5).

Are you involved in any of these activities?

- Geophysical survey
- Benthic ecology survey
- Grapple surveys
- Obstruction clearance
- Offshore construction and installation
- Offshore cable laying
- Inter-tidal cable laying
- Onshore ground work

If you do not already have on-site archaeological supervision, awareness training will help you identify and report any archaeological discoveries.

We provide training
across the country,
often at short notice.

Contact us:
**The Implementation
Service team**
01722 326867
protocol@wessexarch.co.uk



A Seafaring Nation

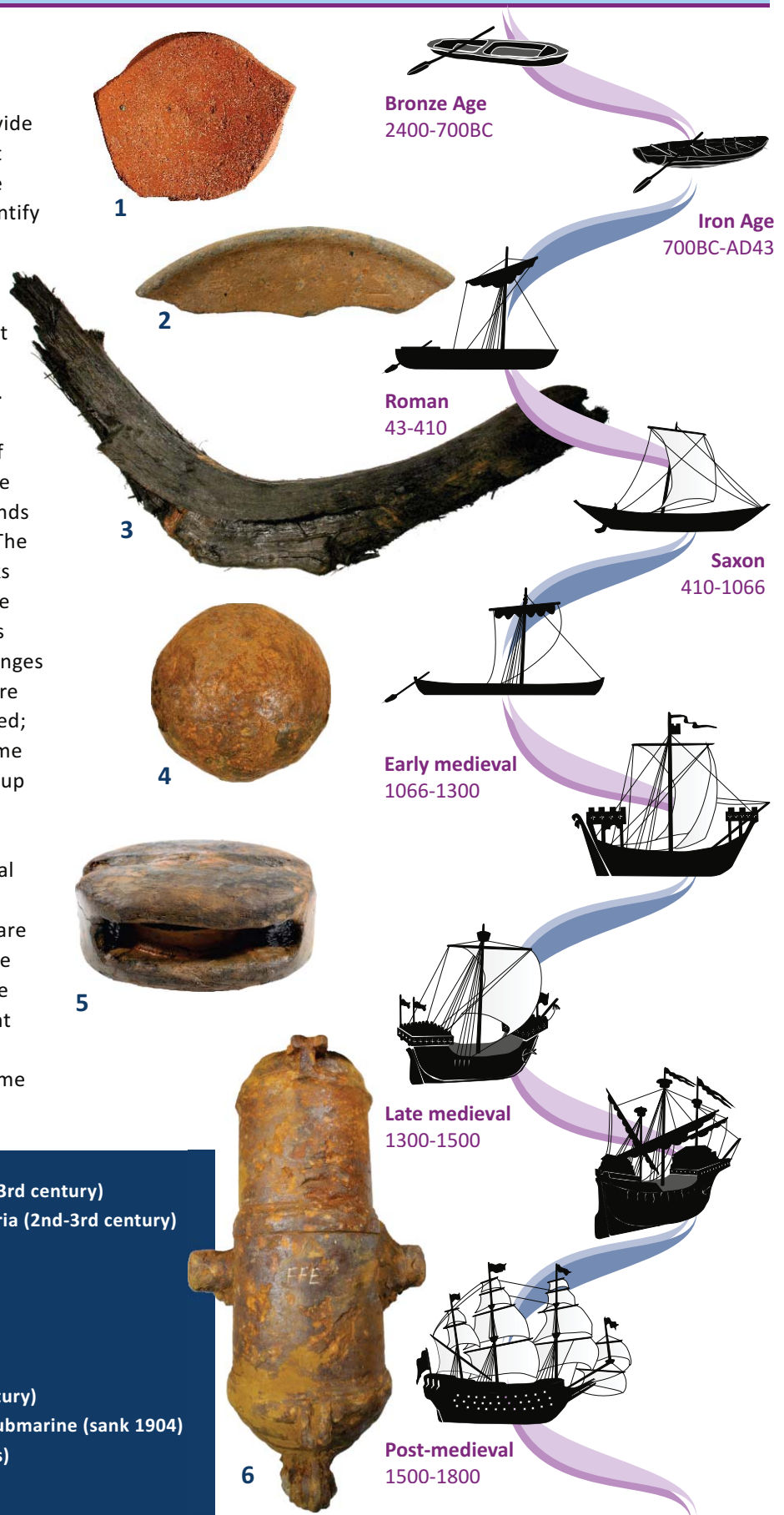
Archaeological discoveries made through protocols provide invaluable information about our maritime history; on rare occasions they may even identify the location of a shipwreck.

A shipwreck can be a time capsule, recording a snapshot of technology and society on board at the moment it sank.

There are many thousands of known shipwrecks around the British coastline, and thousands more remain undiscovered. The majority of known shipwrecks (96%) and finds date from the 19th century onwards. This is because of technological changes which meant that vessels were more substantially constructed; also, wrecks have had less time to deteriorate or be covered up by seabed sediments.

The majority of archaeological discoveries made at sea and reported through protocols are isolated finds. However, these isolated finds can still provide archaeologists with important information about maritime activities and shipwrecks; some even end up in museums.

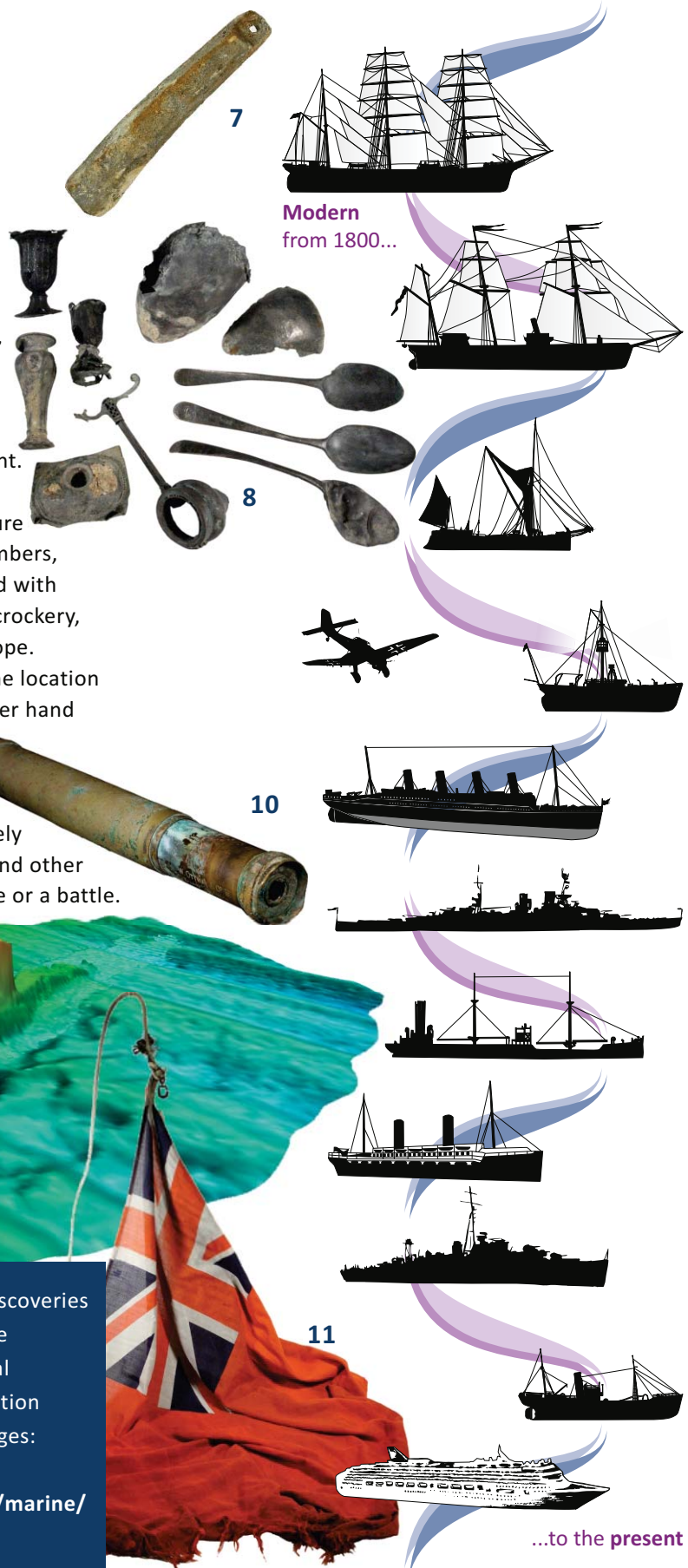
1. Roman Samian Ware (2nd-3rd century)
2. Fragment of Roman Mortaria (2nd-3rd century)
3. Ship Timber
4. Cannonball (17th century)
5. Wooden Pulley Block
6. Carronade (18th century)
7. Sounding Lead
8. Silver Tableware (18th century)
9. Geophysical Image of A1 Submarine (sank 1904)
10. Admiralty Telescope (1940s)
11. Red Ensign (1950s+)



The Marine Aggregate Industry Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries has been running since 2005. During that time, the industry has made over 245 separate reports detailing over 830 individual finds. The majority of these relate to maritime activity.

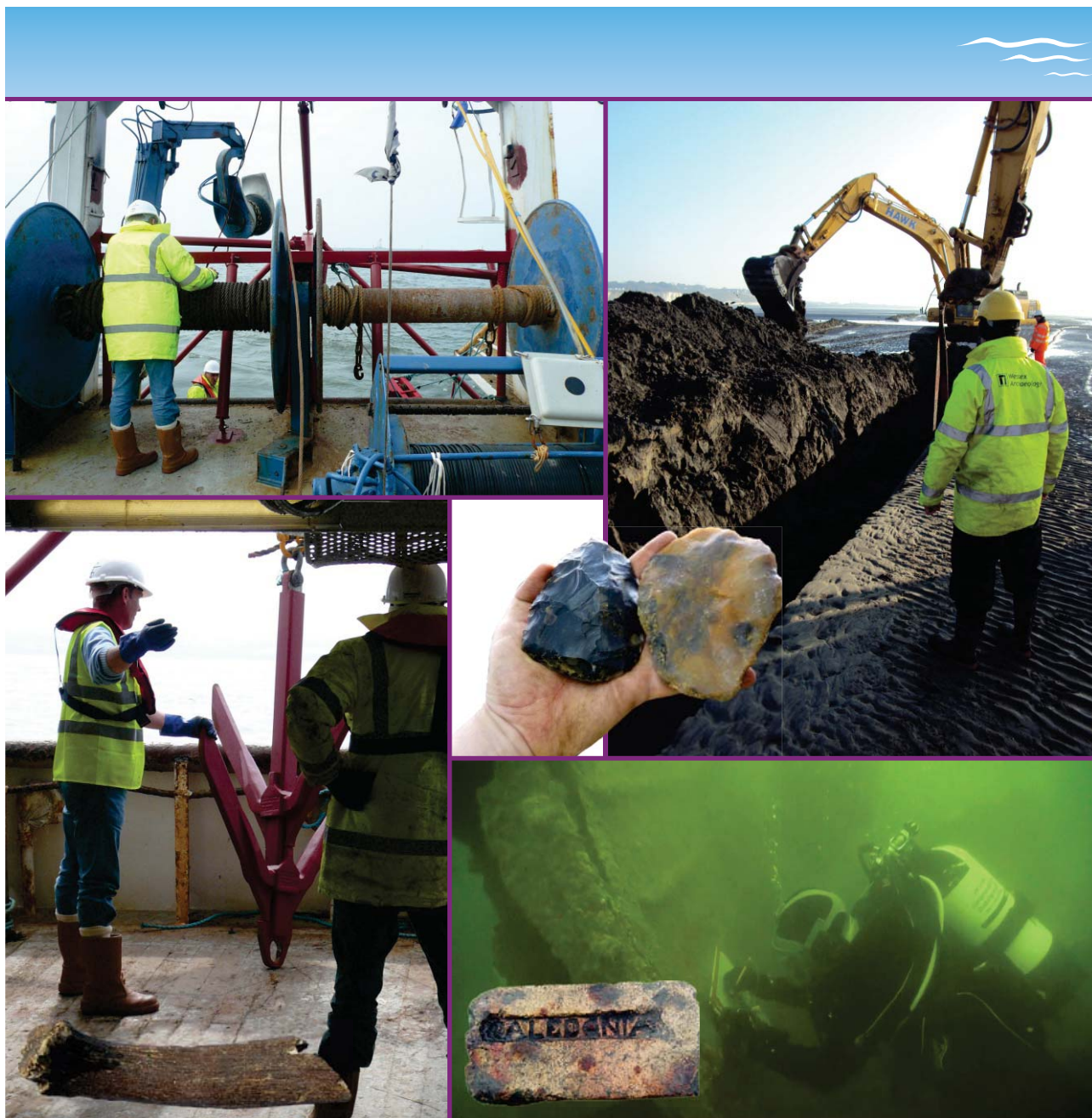
The ORPAD is still in its infancy. However, the aim – as for the Marine Aggregate Industry Protocol – is for it to improve our understanding and preservation of the heritage of the marine environment.

Some reported finds relate to the structure of the vessel, such as ship fittings and timbers, and even a flag! Others can be associated with cargo or were used on the ship, such as crockery, high status silver tableware and a telescope. In both situations, finds could indicate the location of an unknown shipwreck but on the other hand these finds could have been accidentally lost overboard, or thrown away because they were no longer needed. Some finds are deliberately abandoned at sea, such as cannonballs and other ammunition fired during training practice or a battle.



It is important that any archaeological discoveries are reported through the Protocol. To see examples of other types of archaeological material found at sea, download information and guidance from the Protocol's webpages:

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables/documents>



What is your role in the Protocol?

Everyone working in a marine activity that could encounter unexpected or incidental archaeological finds should know how to report the discovery immediately through the Protocol system. This is only necessary when there is no other provision for archaeological supervision.

You need to report anything that could be of potential archaeological interest. The Protocol Implementation Service can provide training for staff, introducing them to the different types of material they may encounter.

The diagram on page 5 illustrates the process for reporting archaeological discoveries through the Protocol.

In the first instance, staff should report any suspected discovery to the **Site Champion**, who reports it to the **Nominated Contact** and they in turn report it to the **Implementation Service (IS)** team.

The following section explains what is required of each role.



Who is the Site Champion?

The Developer appoints the Site Champion from the Contractor's team. They could be the Vessel Master, Construction Foreman or any other person in a position to control the immediate works. Every group working out in the field needs a Site Champion, unless there is an appointed archaeologist supervising the work.

What does the Site Champion do?

The Site Champion records the details of the discovery, including taking photographs when appropriate, and notifies the Developer's Nominated Contact of the find. In addition they will ensure that, when appropriate, the discoveries are stored carefully.

Who is the Nominated Contact?

Each Developer has an appointed Nominated Contact. If your company is a subcontractor on several developments, you may report to several Nominated Contacts.

What does the Nominated Contact do?

The Nominated Contact is the formal point of contact for all matters relating to the ORPAD. They liaise between the Site Champions and the Implementation Service. Nominated Contacts will notify the Site Champion of any conditions placed on the work as the result of finding a high potential find.

Who is the Implementation Service (IS) team?

The Crown Estate appoints an archaeological contractor to run the Protocol; currently Wessex Archaeology fulfils this role.

What does the IS team do?

They liaise with the Nominated Contact and, if applicable, consult with their retained archaeologist, to provide advice about immediate actions following a discovery, for example handling or storage, as well as measures to prevent or reduce damage to the discovery (if the presence of significant archaeology is suspected). The IS team will liaise with and report finds to Archaeological Curators.