Renewing the PAST

Protocol newsletter- Issue 4

Autumn 2012

Welcome to the fourth issue of **Renewing the Past**, the Offshore Renewables Protocol Newsletter.

The first complete reporting year of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD) ended in March 2012. You can now find the ORPAD annual report, reviewing the achievements of the past year on the website. Download the report from here:

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

In this newsletter, we look at a two types of archaeological material that may be encountered through different offshore activities.

There are a significant number of World War II and earlier aircraft wrecks on the seabed, particularly off the South and East coasts of Britain. Many of these wrecks are memorials to the people who gave their lives during World War I and II.

Geophysical survey, as well as physical operations such as grapnel runs, can encounter and affect the remains of wrecks. Find out more on **page 2**.

Are you involved in any of these activities?

FREE

- Geophysical survey
- Benthic ecology survey
- Grapnel 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.

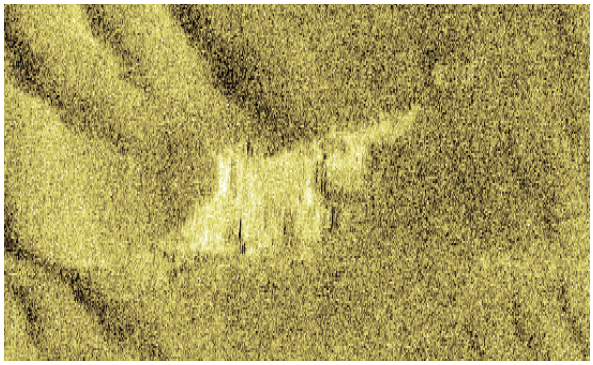
Contact us:
The Implementation Service team
01722 326867
protocol@wessexarch.co.uk

Benthic lab or other seabed sample surveys can incidentally collect archaeological material. Sometimes we may discover worked flint, a product of the manufacture of stone tools. We explore why flint is found on the seabed and what to look out for on **page3**.

Sunken birds: World War II aircraft

Why is it important to report previously unknown obstructions when undertaking offshore activities such as grapnel surveys? One possibility is that they could indicate the wreck site of a World War II aircraft.

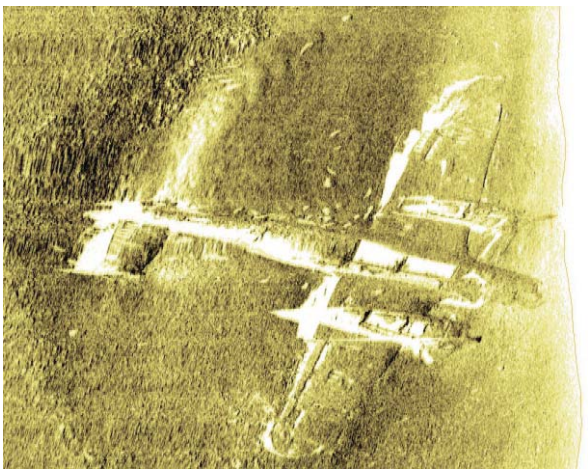
Aircraft during World War II, and to a lesser degree during World War I, were vital in the protection of our coastlines from German invasion. Although the Royal Air Force succeeded in defeating the Germans during the Battle of Britain in 1940, significant losses were made on both sides.



In most cases geophysical survey data will be reviewed by an appointed archaeologist, however if it is not an anomaly that may indicate a wreck it should still be reported.

The records of these losses were often inconsistently or poorly kept, so it is important that any potential discoveries made of aircraft) are reported.

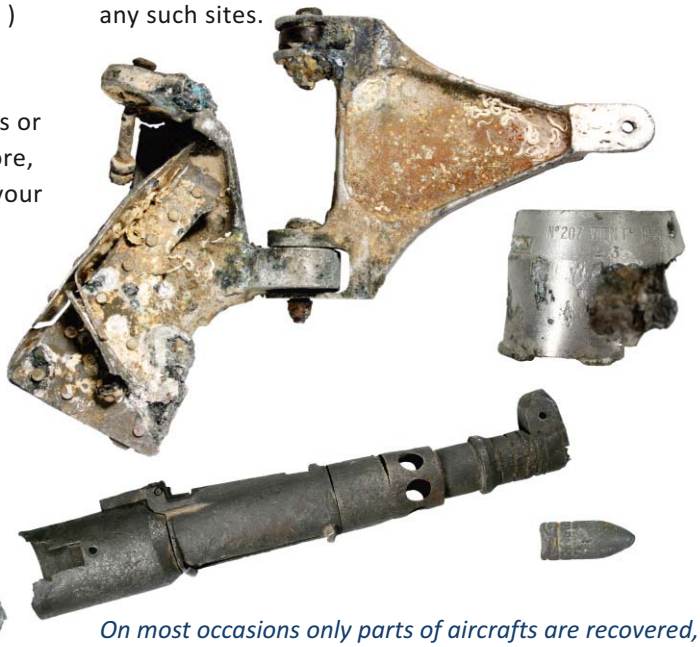
Discoveries of aircraft, either as individual finds or as wreck sites, are high potential finds; therefore, they should be reported to archaeologists via your Nominated Contact immediately.



Geophysical sidescan sonar survey of a Dornier 17 lying on the seabed.

Aircraft technology developed rapidly over the course of World War I and World War II. This means that many wrecks on the seabed are often the only surviving evidence of a specific type of plane, providing archaeologists with valuable information.

In addition, there may be munitions or human remains present, making the site hazardous or potentially a war grave. It is therefore important that any evidence of aircraft sites are reported. All military aircraft are automatically protected under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986, and it is an offence to knowingly tamper with or damage any such sites.



On most occasions only parts of aircrafts are recovered, but these can still provide important information.

Ancient landscapes under the sea

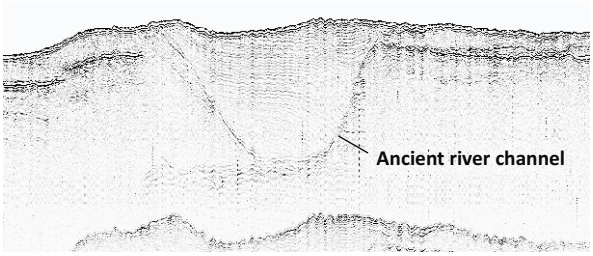
The discovery of worked flint in seabed samples is an indicator that humans once lived there.

Finds from previous cold periods (glaciations), when parts of the North Sea, English Channel and Irish sea were dry land, help archaeologists understand the potential for prehistoric archaeology that is now covered by the sea.

Worked stone tools, such as hand axes, demonstrate where people may have made tools and hunted.

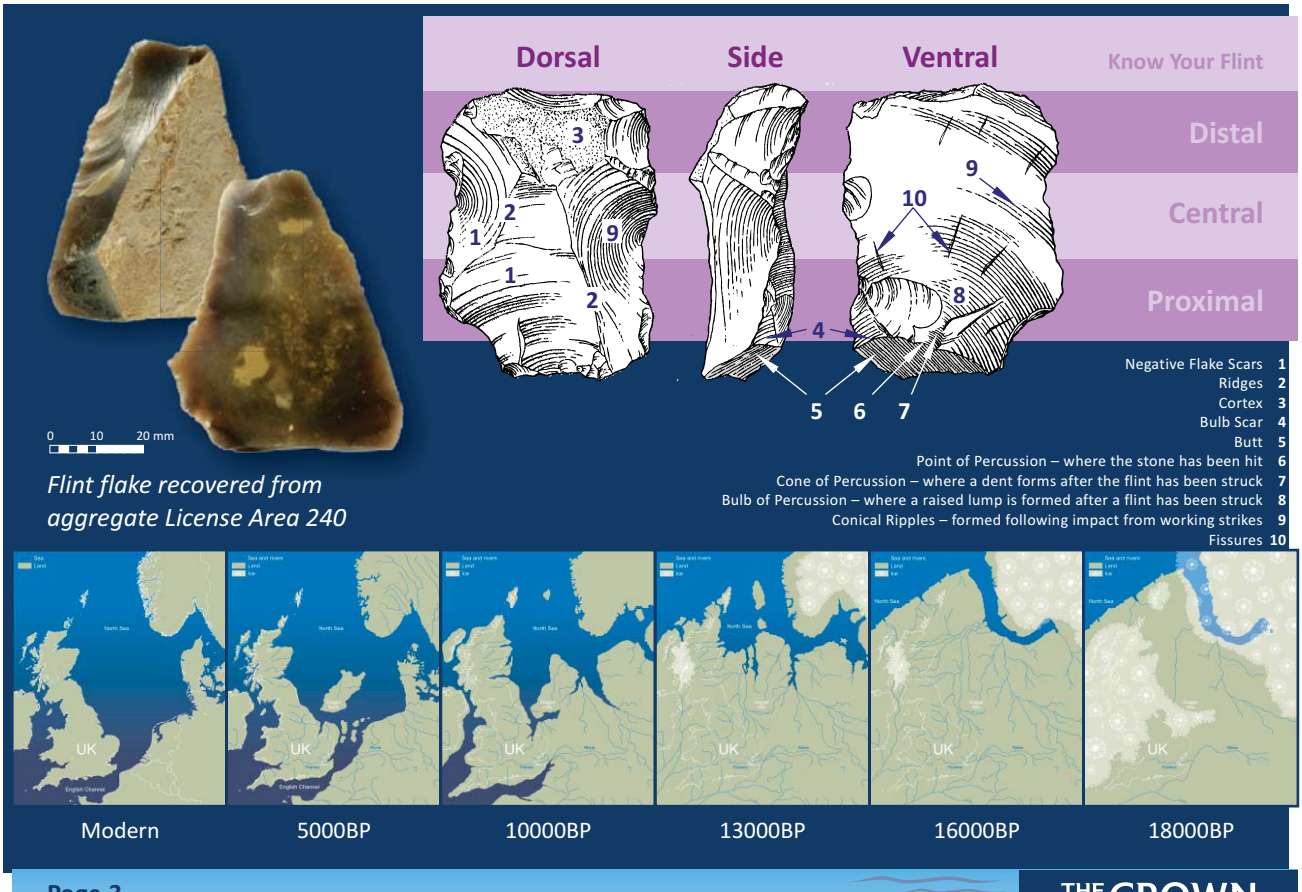
In 2007, the marine aggregate industry's Protocol reported 88 flint tools, including 47 handaxes and other smaller stone tools, such as scrapers. They also discovered cores and flakes, these are the materials discarded during the process of making stone tools (called knapping). This discovery has significantly added to our understanding of British prehistory and was only made through the existence of the aggregate Protocol.

Other evidence of submerged prehistoric landscapes include fragments of animal bone, teeth or tusks. Peat or clay can indicate old land surfaces and provide environmental evidence such as pollen and seeds. The presence of peat in seabed samples should be reported through the Protocol.



Ancient river channels illustrated by geophysics can highlight areas where people may have chosen to live when the seabed was dry land

Identifying worked flint is a challenge, particularly small flakes; you can download our guide - Identifying Worked Flint - from the ORPAD webpages. **http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables/documents**



Flint flake recovered from aggregate License Area 240

Frindsbury wharf monitoring

Recently, Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring at Frindsbury Wharf in Kent on behalf of Hanson Marine Aggregates. A team of archaeologists examined marine aggregate dredged from License Area 240, where significant flint tool discoveries had previously been made. Two flint artefacts were discovered, one a flake removed during the manufacture of a handaxe, the other a scraping or cutting tool.

Flint scraper recovered from Area 240 aggregates at Frindsbury Park.

Fishing Protocol finds mystery stone statue

A lobster fisherman discovered this stone statue in Chichester Harbour and reported it to the Fishing Protocol team. It has caused some debate in archaeological circles as to whether it dates to the Roman or medieval period, although it is likely to be the latter. The statue will soon be laser-scanned by a team at Bournemouth University as there are faint traces of lettering across the bottom of the figurine that may help to identify and date it.

This Fishing Protocol is a pilot Protocol in Sussex, funded by English Heritage and operated by Wessex Archaeology in collaboration with Sussex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Area
www.fipad.org

Granite statue recovered by fisherman Gary Edwards as part of the pilot reporting protocol for the Sussex fishing industry.

Team News

We welcome two new members to our Learning and Access team; Angus Forshaw and Laura Joyner. They will join the Implementation Team and will run Awareness training sessions for the ORPAD Protocol, amongst other outreach projects.

To book an awareness visit or find out more about the Protocol, contact the Implementation Service on **01722 326867** or email **protocol@wessexarch.co.uk**