

Fishing Industry

Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries



Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of the Fishing Industry Protocol for Archaeological Finds (FIPAD) Newsletter. Its purpose is to promote the protocol, publicise the archaeological material discovered during the day to day operations of the Sussex fishing fleet, and share information on its identification and recording.

FIPAD acts as a form of mitigation against the negative impacts of fishing on unknown heritage assets. The scheme works in collaboration with the Sussex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (Sussex IFCA) to help fishermen voluntarily report archaeological finds either online or through the Historic Environment Fisheries Liaison Officer (HEFLO).



Cast iron Cannon



A New Method of Reporting Finds

With the long and busy days that many of the fishermen work, a new method to help simplify the reporting process has been created. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, an update to the Maritime Antiquities Scheme (MAS) smart phone app was created, so allowing fishing to be recorded as a separate activity, distinguishing these finds from diving and general activities. The app is simple to use and available for both the Android and iOS operating systems. Finds can still also be reported direct to the HEFLO or via the website (<https://fipad.org/>) and the site also auto-generates the form for the Receiver of Wreck, so helping discharge the finder's obligation under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, where applicable.

News & Finds

- A cast iron cannon (pictured) dated to 1690, found off Hastings and probably related to the Battle of Beachy Head between the English and Dutch fleets or from the loss of the Anne, a Dutch ship captured by the British and then set on fire to avoid being lost back to the Dutch
- A fragment of unidentified aircraft, possibly from the outer wing rib of a single engine aeroplane or the fin/tail plane rib of a larger multi engine aircraft from the Second World War
- A wooden single sheave block with iron wheel was recovered in the nets at the end of a two-hour trawl
- A partial human cranium
- A '500'lb bomb
- An aircraft propeller that was too large to recover
- Fragments of timber groynes
- 20 mm shell cases
- An anchor too large to recover into the boat
- Various ships timbers including part of a companionway ladder



Download our mobile app

The app allows the finder to locate, record and submit details of any finds, attaching images, a location and a description. Once submitted a confirmation email is received, including a pre-populated Report of Wreck and Salvage form that needs to be signed and sent to the Receiver of Wreck. The Wessex Archaeology team will then feedback the importance of your finds, help identify them, and give advice on storage and conservation, if needed, along with advice on any relevant legislation. The details are uploaded to the database to form part of the permanent record for the find. This information is available to be searched and downloaded from the website by members of the public along with the National Record of the Historic Environment and Historic Environment Record Offices.

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Dating Pottery Finds

Below are a few simple tips on helping to date pottery. If you have any questions, the experts at Wessex Archaeology will be more than happy to help identify your find.

- Mass produced pottery and the uniformity produced is generally only seen in Roman and modern pottery.
- Glazed pottery is unlikely to predate the Norman Conquest.
- Transfer print and potters marks start appearing around 1760 with multicolour printing appearing in the mid-1800s. Many potteries used willow print so making it difficult to date material by this pattern alone.
- Rims and bases rather than fragments of the body of the item are the most useful things for dating and identifying pottery.



Wooden sheave block

Photo tips

- Take plenty of pictures from as many different angles as possible. This is particularly important with objects that might deteriorate on the surface or have had to be returned to the seabed.
- Do take additional photos of any detail, repairs or modifications you might see, such as maker's marks and stamps.
- If possible, use a photo scale (a biro for smaller objects or a shovel for larger objects make good substitutes).
- Waterproof A4 & A3 photo scale sheets are available on request.
- Try not to cast a shadow across the object.
- Do include a piece of paper with the date and your boat's PLN in at least one of the pictures.
- If you don't have the data allowance to email the images to us, share it with us via the MAS app or by using HEFLO@FIPAD on WhatsApp. Alternatively, text or call and we will get back to you to arrange a visit to record the item with you.



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- Two very successful talks took place in Littlehampton to the Civic Society and Look and Sea, along with a well-received talk at Hasting in the Shipwreck Museum.
- Do **come and say hello** at the Hastings Fish Fair 8-9 July and the Bexhill Festival of the Sea 2-3 Sept. Other events will be posted on the project Facebook page as they come up.