

# Dredged Up

from the past

Spring 2014

Archaeology Finds Reporting Service Newsletter

## Protocol Update

Welcome to Issue 14 of Dredged Up. The 2013-2014 reporting year is in full swing and to date 28 reports have been raised through the Protocol in this, the ninth year of Protocol reporting. The Protocol Implementation Service expect to receive



Brett Ipswich Wharf

around 50 reports a year which means that at this stage, just five months in to the Protocol year, the industry is on course to surpass that figure.

Since the last issue of Dredged Up, the annual report for the 2012-2013 reporting year has been published and every wharf and vessel should have received a bound copy to keep on site. The report is also available on Wessex Archaeology's dedicated Protocol web pages where it has currently been viewed over 300 times.

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/docs.html>

In this issue we review finds from the past six months and announce the results of the 2012-2013 Protocol Finds Awards.

### Did you know?

Details of all finds reported through the Protocol appear online.

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/discoveries.php>

Once reporting has been completed for a find and the reports sent to the nominated contact, we upload a short synopsis about the find onto the website, including photographs where they are available. Why not visit the website and see what finds other wharves and vessels have been reporting throughout the year?

Wessex Archaeology's Marine Aggregates Protocol project pages also carry full details about the Protocol and how it operates. You can download project reports, issues of Dredged Up, and awareness handouts which are available in English, French and Dutch.

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/index.html>

To contact the Protocol team at Wessex Archaeology:  
[protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk) or call 01722 326 867



## 2012 - 2013 Finds Awards

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2012 - 2013 Protocol Finds Awards:



*Burnley Wharf: Best Attitude by a Wharf*

Lafarge Tarmac's **Burnley Wharf** wins **Best Attitude by a Wharf**.

Hanson's **Arco Arun** wins **Best Attitude by a Vessel**.

And the award for **Best Find** goes to Lafarge Tarmac's **Bedhampton Wharf** for the discovery of a pewter syringe used for the introduction of medicine into the anus or urethra.

The crew of the *Arco Arun* reported most of the finds discovered by vessels during the 2012-2013 reporting year, including the discovery of a shell which saw ten members of the crew evacuated by the RNLI. The 3 inch calibre explosive was found on the screen tower as the vessel left Licence Area 460 in the East English Channel region. As always, the safety of the crew took priority over archaeological reporting and the find was only reported once it had been made entirely safe.

Lafarge Tarmac's Burnley Wharf in Southampton is the well-deserved winner of the **Best Attitude by a Wharf** award. Staff at Burnley have reported an astounding number of finds during the nine years of Protocol

operation and take a keen interest in the protection of our heritage. In the last reporting year they reported a range of finds linked to a downed Luftwaffe aircraft thought to lie in or near Licence Area 395/1 on the South Coast. The discovery of the first finds prompted staff to be extra vigilant when checking the discharge pile, which has led to the discovery of further material.

Choosing the winner of the **Best Find** award is always a challenge given the wide array of archaeological material that is reported through the Protocol. This year the best find, chosen by English Heritage, supported by Mark Russell of BMAPA and the Protocol Implementation Service team, is a pewter syringe from Licence Area 395/1 discovered at Lafarge Tarmac's Bedhampton Wharf. As is common with issues of a medical nature, Wessex Archaeology sought two opinions on this find.



*Bedhampton Wharf: Best Find pewter syringe*

Alan Humphries, Librarian of the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds identified this as a urethral syringe, used to treat ailments in men by injecting substances directly into the penis. Sarah Bond of London's Museums of Health and Medicine suggested that this is a syringe for delivering enemas rectally and there is a comparable example pictured in the Wellcome Trust's online image library dating from the late 19th century. Both agree that this example is likely to have been made and used in the late 1800's for the presumably distinctly unpleasant treatment of venereal ailments or the introduction of an enema!

**Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all of the staff who have supported the Protocol during the past nine years.**



## Finds from 2013 - 2014 so far

This brass art deco style key was reported by Greenwich Wharf. It was discovered amongst a cargo from Licence Area 430 which lies in the East Coast region. The key is a mass produced example, likely to date to the inter-war period of the 1920's or 30's, and would have been used to open an item of furniture. How the find came to be on the seabed is unknown although its discovery offshore in the East Coast region suggests it was probably lost overboard from a vessel. By accident? Deliberately discarded? Or flung in a fit of rage? However it arrived on the seabed, its loss almost certainly caused someone great inconvenience.



This glass bead, measuring only 1cm in diameter, was discovered at Burnley Wharf and joins a similar bead, discovered last year at Greenwich Wharf, as some of the smallest but most interesting finds ever reported through the Protocol. The Greenwich bead is thought to be Saxon, dating from the Early Medieval period which lasted from 410 AD to the Norman Invasion of 1066. This time has, in the past been saddled with the negative label "The Dark Ages" as some academics viewed Saxon England to be technologically less advanced than the preceding Roman period. Far from being dark, the Saxon period was alive with myth, magic and folklore. Against this setting the Greenwich bead, and potentially the Burnley bead, which experts believe may also be of Saxon origin, were made and lost to the sea. Whilst they may have been washed from the shore or dropped over board, they may also have been lost with vessels travelling around the coast of the UK. A wreck of this age would be of national, if not international, significance.



This find is from Lafarge Tarmac's Burnley Wharf. Identified as a lamp wick mechanism, this is likely to have been manufactured in the Victorian or Edwardian periods. This example may have come from Southampton or Portsmouth as it was dredged from Licence Area 395/1 which is known to contain a spread of domestic debris interpreted as blitz rubble from the South Coast.

### Mystery Find

This enigmatic iron, circular find was discovered at Burnley Wharf in November 2013 and it has not yet been conclusively identified. It measures 8.5 inches diameter and has two bolts embedded in one side. Their positioning off-centre indicates that this find was not intended to rotate on an axis. The opposing face has a central recess which has become filled or was deliberately filled with a hard substance.



It might have been used as a weight or counterweight or it might be connected with a spread of post-war domestic debris known to lie off the South Coast to the east of the Isle of Wight.

This find, from Licence Area 395/1, demonstrates how difficult it can be to understand archaeology from the seabed. It is not always possible to identify finds, they are often broken and corroded making interpretation hard, especially when working from photographs alone.

Do you recognise it? Have you seen one before? Have you got a theory as to what it is and how it came to be on the seabed off the South Coast?

Let us know  
[protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)



# The First World War - 1914 - 1919

2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Europe in 1914 was experiencing intense political pressure, two distinct blocs had formed vowing to support each other should tensions, centred on historical distrust, imperialism, militarism and nationalism, boil over into war. Great Britain, France and Russia were on one side of the conflict (the Allies) facing Germany and Austria-Hungary (the Central Powers) on the other. War broke out on 28th July 1914 following the political assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife by a Serbian rebel in Sarajevo on 28th June 1914.

The conflict was bloody and brutal, characterised by trench warfare on the Western Front in France. Conditions were bleak and progress slow with stalemate being reached for several years. Millions of men lost their lives in the trenches due to conflict and poor conditions. Despite the human sacrifice, neither side gained any great advantage in the trenches during 1916 to 1917.

As the conflict continued, Italy, the United States and Japan joined to support the Allies and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria added their military power to the cause of the Central Powers. Several new technologies were pushed into action. Tanks were used for the first time, as were chemical weapons and poison gasses.

## First World War Service Revolver

During the 9 years of the Protocol one find has been reported that has been confirmed to relate to the Great War.



Tarmac\_0297 reported by Portslade Wharf in the fifth year of the Protocol (2009 - 2010) is a First World War Handgun which was dredged from Licence Area 395/1 which lies to the east of the Isle of Wight.

Jonathan Ferguson of the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds identified the find as a British service revolver - a Webley Mark VI. Webley revolvers have been manufactured since the 1870's but the Mark VI is arguably the most common Webley gun. It was produced from 1915 for use during the First World War. The Mark VI was universally popular, being issued to airmen,



naval crews, tank crews, boarding crews and servicemen tasked with raiding enemy trenches.

Complete Webley Mark VI  
Image by Rama (wikipedia)

The First World War was known as the Great War until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Unresolved tensions, military and economic restrictions and historical ill feeling that resulted from the end of the First World War in 1919 all became contributing factors in the development of the second major conflict of the twentieth century.



A: German Albatros D.III biplane fighters near Douai, France 1917 (by a German official photographer)  
 B: British Mark V tanks 1918 (by a British official photographer)  
 C: HMS Irresistible abandoned 18 March 1915  
 D: Vickers machine gun crew with gas masks 1916 (by J W Brooke)  
 All images courtesy <http://en.wikipedia.org>

## Weapons and the Protocol

Weapons from more recent conflicts have also been reported through the Protocol, including components from three machine guns. The first was dredged in the second year of the Protocol (2006-2007) and was identified as being part of an MG 15 machine gun. This weapon was recovered from Licence Area 430 with the partial remains of a German Luftwaffe aircraft, a Junkers Ju 88, and, sadly, the remains of one of the crew members.

Parts of a second machine gun were reported by CEMEX's Angerstein Wharf in April 2012 and identified as the remains of a Browning. The third machine gun was dredged in January this year from Licence Area 395/1 which lies in the South Coast region to the east of the Isle of Wight. Licence Area 395/1 has recently yielded the partial remains of a Junkers Ju 87 Stuka aircraft (from *Sturzkampfflugzeug* meaning "dive bomber") reported in Dredged Up 13. This weapon, however, is from a different part of the Licence Area and is not thought to be connected with the Stuka. This type of machine gun, identified by Jonathan Ferguson of the Royal Armouries Museum as being an MG 131, was instead fitted to aircraft such as the Junkers Ju 88 or Messerschmitt Bf109 fighters.

Handguns have also been recovered including a Vis pistol dredged in 2008 and discovered by Greenwich Wharf. This gun was manufactured in Poland and issued to Polish troops before the factory was overrun by German forces in 1939. The gun was of such high quality that Germany continued production and issued it to paratroopers and German police officers. In 2012, Greenwich Wharf also reported part of a rifle inscribed



‘No. 4 Mk 1 LONG BRANCH’, first manufactured in 1939, and, in 2010, Brett’s Cliffe Wharf reported parts of an unidentified break-action air rifle. Ordnance is commonly found amongst aggregate and since the start of the Protocol over forty cannonballs have been reported. This is in addition to bullets, shells and other forms of ammunition that have been recovered from dredged loads.

Statistics suggest that approximately 10% of all munitions dropped during the assault on the UK during the Second World War failed to detonate and the seabed around our coastline still holds a large though unknown number of dangerous munitions. Wharf and vessel staff are very well trained to recognise these and the safety of vessel crew and wharf operatives always takes priority over archaeological reporting.

For more information on munitions amongst marine aggregates, see the BMAPA guidance note ‘Dealing with munitions in marine sediments 2010’ (available online) and Wessex Archaeology’s handout on munitions available from:

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/docs.html>

## Festival of British Archaeology 2014

Over the summer months there are lots of opportunities to get involved in archaeology, whether it's volunteering on a site, visiting an open day or attending a talk or lecture.

Festival of British Archaeology is an annual celebration of our heritage which brings together many of these opportunities. This year it is being held from the 12th to the 27th July. Events take place across the country to give everyone the chance to get hands on with heritage. The event is co-ordinated by The Council for British Archaeology who advertises all of the events on a dedicated website:

<http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/>

More opportunities will be added as the year progresses but last year there were over 1000 events exploring different types of archaeology and many different historical and prehistoric periods. This year's event is the 24th held annually and it celebrates the 70th year of the founding of the Council for British Archaeology.

Wessex Archaeology will be celebrating the event with Salisbury Museum on 12th July. Museum entry is free for the day and there will be a range of activities planned by Wessex Archaeology and the Museum, including craft stalls and re-enactments. Land-locked Salisbury is a long way from many of the wharves, vessels and staff that support the Protocol but events are being held nationally and many local archaeological units, universities, museums and groups will be opening their doors in your area.

Young budding archaeologists can join the Young Archaeologists Club. Anyone up to the age of 17 can join and receive a welcome pack, magazines, badge and a membership card. Members will also receive a YAC pass booklet offering free or reduced price entry to hundreds of heritage sites and may be able to attend meetings at a local club. For more details visit:

<http://www.yac-uk.org/>



Young Archaeologists' Club®





## Wharf Monitoring

In 2007 and 2008 significant flint artefacts were recovered from the North Sea by dredging activity including handaxes, flakes, cores and the bones of mammoth, rhino, bison, reindeer and horse. The material, from Licence Area 240, was discovered by Dutch collector Jan Meulmeester and reported to Hanson and Wessex Archaeology.

Since this discovery, extensive work has been conducted to better understand the prehistoric archaeology of areas of the East Coast dredging region. This region holds the submerged remains of a river channel, the Palaeo-Yare. The finds from Licence Area 240 are thought to be connected with this flooded ancient waterway and further investigations have centred on this site of archaeological interest.

Staff from Wessex Archaeology monitored several cargoes from licence areas located in the East Coast region in summer 2013. These were monitored at Lafarge Tarmac's Ridham Wharf, CEMEX's Northfleet Wharf and Hanson's Frindsbury Wharf.

Samples from relevant cargoes were inspected on a conveyor, or spread out on clean sand, to allow archaeologists trained in the recognition of prehistoric flint tools to collect archaeological material. They were testing several theories designed to further our understanding of the archaeology of the East Coast region.



*Hand Axes reported from Licence Area 240*

The work proved successful and several Palaeolithic finds were recovered including worked stone, a mammoth tooth and a bone thought to have come from a red deer.

Special thanks go to all the industry staff involved in the monitoring work. Wessex Archaeology commented on how helpful and enthusiastic everyone involved with the project was, which was echoed by English Heritage.



## Awareness

Awareness is key to the continued success of the Protocol. By maintaining links with wharves, vessels and survey companies that service the industry we aim to ensure that everyone who is involved in the extraction of aggregate from the seabed is aware of how to recognise and report archaeological finds. Has it been a while since we visited? Have staff changed since the last visit? Would your operation benefit from a visit?

Visits are informal and are arranged to fit around the operation of the plant. We can deliver presentations to whole teams or in shifts, talk to key staff members or do an accompanied site tour talking to anyone who has a moment to spare, whatever works best for you.

To arrange a visit contact [protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk) or call us on 01722 326 867

To maintain contact we also make sure that as much information as possible is available online, so if we can't get to you, the information you need can. We have produced posters helping you to identify finds, awareness information packs containing everything you need to know about reporting and protecting finds, and we even have a DVD which takes you through what to look for and how to report finds.

Since a proportion of aggregate dredged from UK waters is delivered to the continent, the awareness packs are available in French and Dutch, as well as in English.



All of our resources are available to download online or are available from Wessex Archaeology using the contact details on this page.

For more information and downloads visit <http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/index.html>

The Awareness Programme is supported by English Heritage, The Crown Estate and BMAPA who recognise the Protocol as an effective mitigation option to protect heritage during commercial work offshore after archaeological investigations have taken place.



To contact the Protocol team at Wessex Archaeology:  
[protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk) or call 01722 326 867