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# Finds types encountered

- Organic:
  - Peat
  - Wood
  - Leather
  - Skeletal material
- Inorganic:
  - Stone
  - Ceramics
  - Glass
  - Metal
- Composite Objects





## **Processes of Deterioration**

- Finds can deteriorate due to:
  - Physical damage or loss (all, but especially fragile remains)
  - Chemical damage (metal, glass)
  - Biological decay (organic materials)
- Therefore it is important to apply appropriate first aid treatment and notify the archaeologists of the discovery as soon as possible







### Peat

Peat is partially decayed plant remains and it can provide important information on past environments. It should be protected from:

- stresses and strains during lifting and recovery
- accidental drying, even for a short time
- if possible, keep immersed in chilled or cool water and in the dark





Peat being analysed



## **Timber and Wood**

### Wood must be protected from:

- unnecessary exposure to new conditions underwater
- stresses and strains during lifting and recovery
- accidental drying, even for a short time
- If possible, keep immersed in chilled or cool water and in the dark





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# Timber and Wood









## Leather

treat leather as per wood - but remember it is potentially even more fragile





## **Skeletal Material**

- skeletal remains include bone, ivory and tooth
- keep finds wet, seal in polythene bags or boxes and store in cool, dark conditions



## Stone

### Protect from:

- accidental abrasion, chipping, fracture and breakage during all stages of recovery and treatment
- drying before soluble salts have been removed







Stone net weight

Prehistoric worked flints

## Ceramics

 protect from accidental abrasion, chipping, fracture and breakage during all stages of recovery and treatment





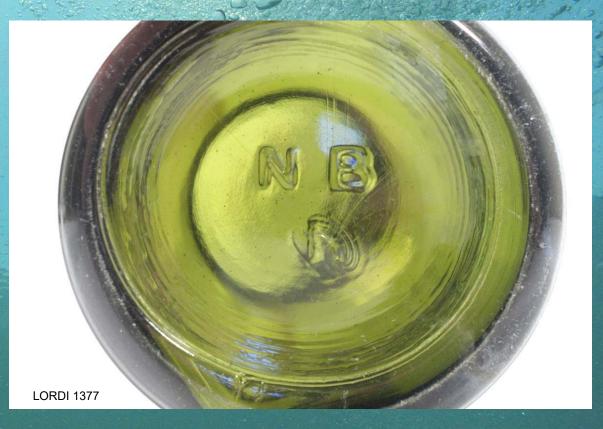
Various ceramic artefacts



## Glass

- protect from accidental abrasion, chipping, fracture and breakage during all stages of recovery and treatment
- glass should not be dried at all







## Metal

### Protect from:

- stresses and strains during lifting, recovery and transportation
- removal of corrosion products and any form of surface cleaning
- corrosion during storage





# Composite Objects

Composite finds consist of a variety of different materials:

- do not attempt to clean or dismantle composite finds
- if possible, keep immersed in water, chilled or cool and in the dark





LORDI 1700

LORDI 1377

# Summary

- Handle finds with care.
- Store in suitable conditions to protect finds.
- The more information that can be provided on finds (especially location) can help to compile information on important archaeological sites.