



Marine Archaeology and Typical Finds Types

for
London Gateway Port



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





Timber and Wood



Ship's timber



Joggled floor frame

WB 1127



Barrel



Various ship's timbers

LORDI 1377



Leather

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



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Leather shoe parts





Skeletal Material

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

LORDI 1691



Human Bone

Bone assemblage

LORDI 1061



Human Bone



Stone

Protect from:

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



Stone cargo/ballast

Prehistoric worked flints



Stone net weight



Ceramics

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

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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

Glass Whiskey bottle



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Metal

Protect from:

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



Lead sounding weights



Aluminium air frame



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Iron Concretion

© Tarmac



Iron Carronade

LORDI 1691





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

Bf 109 'prop-hub', steel and aluminium



LORDI 1700

Rigging block, iron and wood



LORDI 1377

Aircraft components





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.