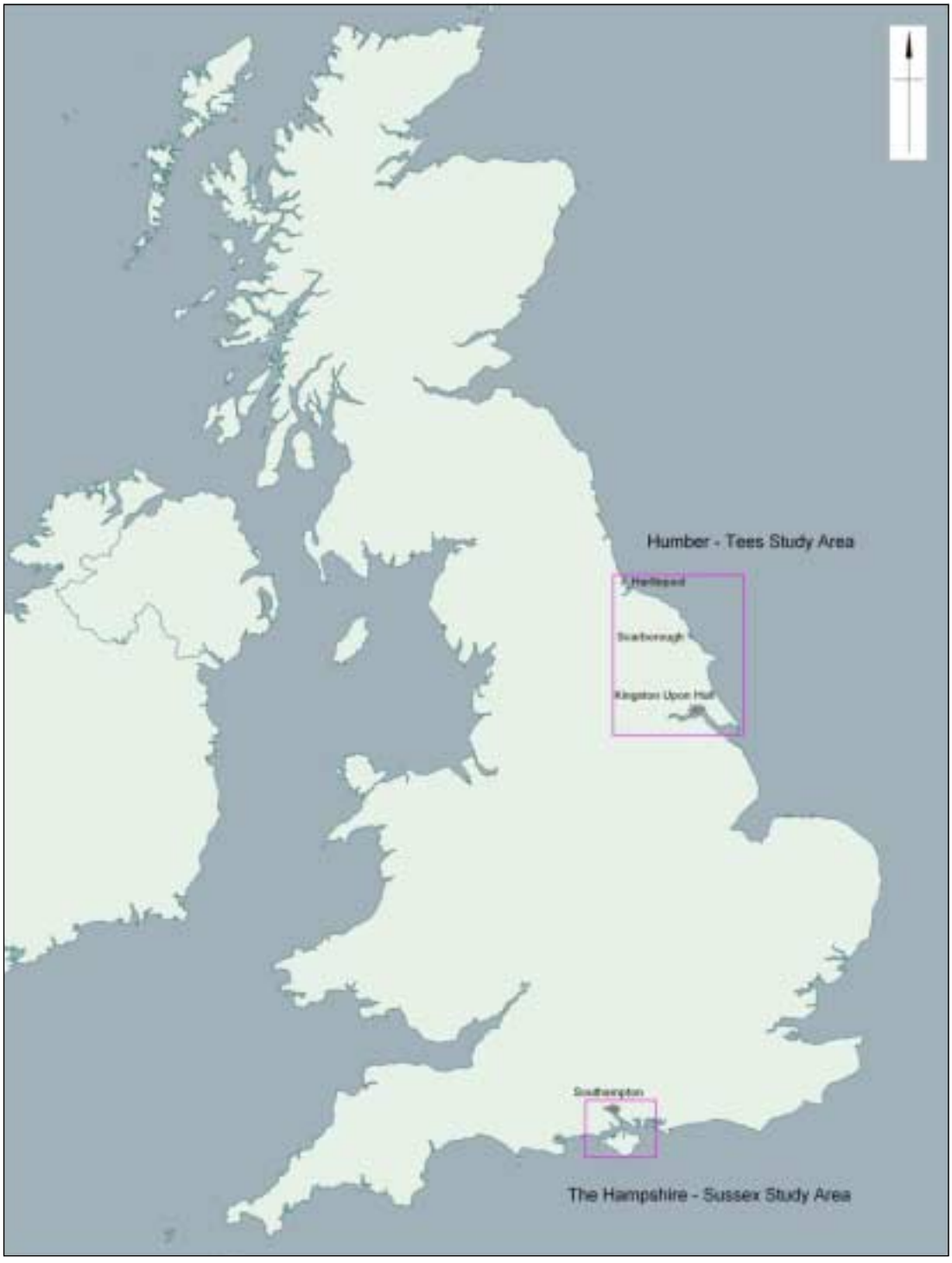
Wessex Archaeology

AGGREGATE LEVY SUSTAINABILITY FUND

MARINE AGGREGATES AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

ARTEFACTS FROM THE SEA

Year One Report



Ref: 51541.02

September 2003

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FINAL

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

English Heritage (EH) commissioned this project through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). The assistance of their staff throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

We gratefully acknowledge staff from all the Sites and Monuments Records and the County Archaeologists taking part in the project for their co-operation and their contribution to the project.

Hanna Steyne carried out Year One work for the project. Hanna Steyne and Jesse Ransley compiled this report. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Stuart Leather.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1. Wessex Archaeology (WA) has been commissioned by English Heritage (EH) for the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) to undertake research into previously recovered archaeological artefacts from the sea. The purpose of the project is to enhance records of artefacts from the sea and inter-tidal areas, held by the National Monuments Records (NMR) and selected coastal Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) in England and to record artefacts held in museums or private collections for inclusion into these records.

1.1.2. The initial area identified for study covers the coastline between the western Solent and the River Tees. Two smaller areas within this general area have been agreed for more detailed study, covering the Solent region and the coastline between the River Humber and River Tees (Figure 1). In addition, the Sussex and Lincolnshire coastlines have been identified as potential additional areas for study, should the work on the initial areas be completed.

1.1.3. The data collection phase of work has included all sites and finds along the coastlines of the two selected regions dating from the Palaeolithic to the Medieval Period. All undated material is also included to ensure the project identifies the maximum number of sites and findspots relevant to the project aims.

1.1.4. This report presents the results of the database design and the data collection phase of the project. The report will assess and appraise the data collected from each SMR and explain the collation of the data into the project database. It will also set out the objectives for the enhancement stage in Year Two.

1.1.5. This report follows the Source Appraisal submitted to EH in March 2003. The Source Appraisal addressed the following:

- the results from the initial literary search
- the contents and standards of established data sets,
- the design of the project database
- the preliminary comments by SMRs when replying to the initial requests for participation in the project
- proposed action (including the focus on two primary study areas).

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. PROJECT AIM

2.1.1. The project aim is to collate information arising from previous discoveries of artefacts from the sea in a manner that improves understanding, conservation and appreciation of the marine historic environment.

2.2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Year One

2.2.1. The objectives of Year 1 are:

- to establish a recording system for recording artefacts from the sea;
- to enhance records of artefacts from the sea held by the NMR, by (selected) SMRs, and in secondary sources;
- to establish a methodology for recording artefacts held in museums, private collections, and by individuals;
- to initiate links with museums, private collections, and individuals.

Year Two

2.2.2. The objectives of Year 2 are:

- to further enhance records of artefacts from the sea, to include data arising from artefacts held in museum, private and individuals' collections;
- to publish results from the project in an accessible format.

Years One and Two

2.2.3. The following objectives will also be addressed in Years 1 and 2:

- to initiate and maintain a dialogue with industry, regulators and contractors regarding the reporting and recording of artefacts from the sea;
- to support the development of skills and experience in the archaeological profession;
- to engage in academic debate nationally and internationally regarding the reporting and recording of artefacts from the sea;
- to inform the public of the importance of reporting and recording artefacts from the sea.

3. STUDY AREAS

3.1.1. Two areas have been selected for focused research. The areas were chosen so that they encompass a cross-section of attitudes and levels of marine-related artefact recording. Moreover, both areas have a close coincidence of marine aggregate dredging and contain previously identified early prehistoric remains and evidence of maritime activity since the later prehistoric period.

3.1.2. Equally, there are organisations within both areas that have a keen interest in the maritime record but have adopted different models for researching and archiving marine related archaeological artefacts.

3.1.3. By focusing on two areas with different geographic contexts, specific local issues and diverse policies, it is hoped that issues relevant to the whole study area can be highlighted and actively addressed.

3.2. STUDY AREA 1: THE HUMBER-TEES COASTLINE

3.2.1. The Humber-Tees coastline is the most northerly part of the original larger study area and corresponds to dredging areas around the Humber Estuary and in the North Sea around the Dogger Bank. For the purposes of this project, it is defined as the coastline between the River Humber and the River Tees (Figure 2).

3.2.2. The SMRs within the Humber-Tees study area are

- Humber Archaeology Partnership
- North Yorkshire County Council
- North York Moors National Park
- Tees Archaeology

3.2.3. This coastline has seen high levels of erosion, which has resulted in the exposure and eventual loss of large amounts of coastal archaeology. For instance, several medieval villages are known to have been lost as a consequence of erosional processes (Boyle 1889, Sheppard 1912, Muir 1982, Ostler 1990). This process, however, is not a recent phenomenon. Changes in both sea level and erosion have affected the coastline since the Middle Pleistocene. The region has a number of early prehistoric sites, whilst the Dogger Bank area has been identified as a likely area for human habitation during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene (Coles 1998, Verhart 1995).

3.2.4. There is also evidence of coastal activity from the Later Prehistoric period, focused particularly around the Humber estuary. The four Bronze Age sewn boats found at North Ferriby, on the estuary itself, demonstrate a 'remarkable level of technical competence by people of the north-west European Bronze Age several centuries if not a millennium earlier than anything of the kind has been conceived as within their capability' (Wright 1990:194). In fact, Wright describes the Ferriby boats as a 'realistic candidate in addition to hideboats or logboats for the carriage of cross-channel and coastal traffic from the Middle Bronze Age down to the prehistoric Iron Age' (ibid.). During the Iron Age, a number of regions, among them East Yorkshire in particular, 'exhibit close continental links' (Haselgrove 1999:131) and there is evidence of other boat finds from the Later Prehistoric period. There are, for example, two finds from Brigg on the River Ancholme, a tributary of the Humber estuary to the south of Ferriby. An Early Iron Age 'raft' or plank boat has been excavated very near to the location of the Brigg logboat, which was dated to the transitional period between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age (McGrail 1987). This, combined with such finds as the substantial Iron Age logboat found at Hasholme on the River Foulness to the north-west (a vessel capable of carrying five tonnes) (Millett & McGrail 1987), suggests that there is also high potential for marine-related artefacts that would reflect coastal settlement and maritime activity during the Later Prehistoric period.

3.2.5. Not only is this an area of high archaeological potential in terms of the marine and coastal artefact record, but there have been several initiatives undertaken by Tees Archaeology in particular, which have begun to address the issues surrounding marine-related artefacts and the potential for maritime archaeology in the area. In 1999, Gary Green produced *Plain Sailing: A Review of the Maritime Archaeology of the Cleveland Coast* for Tees Archaeology, which included recommendations about continued data entry into, and enhancement of, the Marine SMR established by Tees

Archaeology in 1993 (see also *Lost at Sea: Maritime Archaeology of the North-East of England* produced by Tees Archaeology). The database is primarily focused on the shipwreck record, establishing a data set through documentary sources that refer to losses at sea rather than through the artefact record. Further south, the Humber Wetlands Project, based at the School of Geography and Earth Resources at the University of Hull, began in 1994 and has carried out considerable survey and fieldwork in the wetland areas of Holderness and the Hull Valley, as well as other wetlands in the region (Van de Noort & Ellis 1995, 2000). The Holderness and Hull Valley parts of the project have also involved the Humber Archaeology Partnership. This work has inevitably included marine-related artefacts, but has addressed them from their wider, wetlands context, rather than from a coastal or marine perspective.

3.3. STUDY AREA 2: THE SOLENT REGION

3.3.1. The Solent region represents the most westerly part of the original study area and is of significance to the dredging areas to the south-east and south-west of the Isle of Wight. For the purposes of this project, the limits of the Solent region will be defined as the coastline from Christchurch Bay in the west to the Hampshire/West Sussex border in the east (Figure 3).

3.3.2. The SMRs within the Solent region study area are:

- Hampshire County Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- Southampton City Council

3.3.3. The Solent area has well known Palaeolithic archaeology recovered from the raised beaches and gravel terraces of the region (Wymer 1999:105ff). The palaeogeography and the Palaeolithic archaeology of the 'Solent River' have been the focus of recent, innovative research (Wenban-Smith & Hosfield 2001). The area also has the only identified, dated and archaeologically investigated submerged Mesolithic landscape containing human artefacts in Britain (Momber 2000). As well as this, there is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation, much of which is not only exposed by shifts in the coastline, but also represents originally coastal-focused activity. There is also a long history of seafaring, seaborne trading and naval activity in the area.

3.3.4. The Isle of Wight, in particular, has seen sustained interest in the coastal archaeological record. For example, the Isle of Wight Coastal Audit was recently undertaken by the County Archaeology Unit, partly in response to Coastal Protection Authority proposals 'to develop a model coastal management programme which can anticipate the management needs of the full range of archaeological sites contained within the process units of its coastline' (Isle of Wight Coastal Audit website). This audit has involved coastal survey and assessment, actively pursuing and recording the current coastal record, resulting in significant additions to the SMR. The area is geologically varied and the interests of coastal management and protection have also seen studies by the pan-European LIFE project focused on the Isle of Wight.

3.3.5. In addition, it should be noted that the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology have a term agreement to hold and enhance maritime data for Hampshire County Council. The Trust holds information about archaeological sites along and within the rivers draining into Southampton Water, Southampton Water,

the Solent and the waters around the Isle of Wight. The Trust has begun to address many of the issues surrounding marine-related artefacts with an active programme of research and a network of relationships to access local knowledge of finds and findspots (the latter with Hampshire County SMR).

3.3.6. Both streams of work focused on recording marine and coastal archaeology in the Solent region contrast with the approach seen along the Humber-Tees coastline. The Humber-Tees area has seen a ship or wetland focus, while the Solent region can be characterised by information-gathering on new sources of marine-related finds.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. THE PROJECT DATABASE

4.1.1. The intention in Year One was to obtain the relevant records from SMRs and the NMR, then to collate and enhance the data, so that the enhanced records could be exported in formats suitable for re-incorporation into the SMRs and NMR. The development of the project database has been central to this, with a need for it to be both consistent and flexible.

4.1.2. The definitions of Monument, Event and Source are fundamental to the interpretation of data within an SMR database. For this project, the following definitions apply:

- A MONUMENT is a site of past human activity defined spatially and temporally. Hence, a monument will represent a single phase of activity at a specified location. As such, multi-period and multi-use sites will have a number of related monuments representing each phase of activity, and each use type, e.g. A 15th century house that becomes an inn in the 17th century has one monument for the 15th century house and another, related, monument for the 17th century inn.
- An EVENT is any activity related to the Monument. This could include an excavation or survey on the site or a research project about the site.
- A SOURCE is any information relating to the site. This can include, for example, published and unpublished documents about the site or aerial photographs of the site.

4.1.3. The project database was designed around the Monument, Event, Source system advocated by MIDAS (MIDAS Data Standard) and used by the NMR and a number of SMRs. An additional set of tables record information about related people and organisations. The database 'switchboard' is shown in Figure 4, demonstrating the division of information. Each area of information has a series of associated tables and look-up tables that are linked together to provide a streamlined, but detailed, digital record.

4.1.4. Word lists have been used in appropriate fields in the database, including the NMR Thesaurus of Monument types and the *mda* (Museum Documentation Association) thesaurus of archaeological objects. Word lists are lists of standardised terms. They function to restrict the data entry options to the terms contained within the list. The wide use of agreed word lists within the project database is aimed at ensuring consistency.

4.1.5. In addition, in order to clarify the data held in the database:

- A FIND has been defined as any individual artefact recovered from a monument. A find will always be attached to a monument, since monument terms also include 'findspot'.
- An ORGANISATION is any individual or organisation related to a monument, event, source or find. These will include organisations such as archaeological units, museums, libraries, individual excavators or the finders of artefacts.

4.1.6. Supplementary to the NMR thesaurus of monument types and the *mda* thesaurus of archaeological objects, word lists were used to describe the following:

- Monument record type
- Dating and chronological periods
- Geology
- Soil type
- Land use
- Event type
- Source type.

4.1.7. The word lists within the project database can only be extended through the 'backend', or tables, of the database and not through the data inputting, 'form' view. The dating and chronological periods word list was taken from the MIDAS handbook. Where appropriate, these correlate to the word lists used by the ExeGesIS HBSMR. HBSMR is a MIDAS compliant, comprehensive database, GIS and photographic data management system for the historic environment, developed by exeGesIS SDM in partnership with the NMR and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO). HBSMR is now used by a large number of SMRs.

4.1.8. The database has the provision to record a number of locations for a particular monument. This allows for different map projections and less accurate or historic locations to be recorded. The database can hold any type of grid reference including Latitude and Longitude and has provision for a 12-figure grid reference to be recorded for GIS mapping purposes.

4.1.9. The database has the facility to hold any number of records relating to the geology or soil type of a monument. This records the geology and soil type so that the description of a site's stratigraphy is standardised, using the word list, and can therefore be used as search criteria.

4.1.10. Since the database was designed for this project an emphasis has been placed on the recording of individual artefacts, which will potentially be out of their original archaeological context. For this reason, an additional table (Figure 5) was created to record information about the dimensions, condition and completeness of the find, in addition to more specific detail for ceramic and flint artefacts, such as form, fabric and inclusions for ceramics. It is hoped that by recording these details further information can be gained from the artefacts.

4.1.11. The database is flexible enough for new fields of data to be added to the database should the need arise.

4.1.12. The database requires the use of a username ID. This is used to identify the person responsible for any adjustments to the data within the database, including the creation and deletion of records. This information provides a level of accountability for the data within the database and will be transferred back to the SMRs as part of the final dataset.

4.2. DATA ENTRY METHODOLOGY

4.2.1. The data entry process has been complex with each dataset requiring a different approach. However, throughout the data entry process there has been a consistent intent to enter all data provided by the SMRs into the project database so that no information is lost in the data transfer or enhancement process. No records were amalgamated or deleted, although for those records that were clearly related, cross-references to other relevant records were added. All previous SMR and other reference numbers have been maintained, with the addition of a project specific numbering system. For those records received on paper, this approach has necessitated interpreting handwriting and any abbreviations used, whilst ensuring that the variety of data provided was entered in a consistent manner. The different sets of paper records being entered used different headings to record information, hence a specified data entry methodology was developed to maintain consistency within the project database. It was felt that it was more important to ensure that the records were digitised in full, than for the original format to be used within the fields.

4.2.2. The transfer of digital information from the tables supplied by the SMRs into the project database has required the use of Microsoft Access query functions. Essentially, this has been a process of changing the data into a format suitable for integration into the project database. Those data sets that were provided as a single table were divided into smaller tables consistent with the project database format. The identification and interpretation of data held in each field was sometimes complicated by the use of codes for both field headings and the data itself, although SMRs were helpful in the provision of code lists.

4.2.3. The incorporation of digital records into the project database has several inherent complications due the variety of information data structures maintained by SMRs. For example, a number of SMRs have digital indexes of extensive paper records. Assessment of the amount of information that is held in these records will be essential so that enhancement work avoids duplication and so that the most productive and compatible results can be achieved (see Sections 6 and 7 for further discussion of this).

4.2.4. All data provided for the project has been included in the project database. Any fields additional to those in the project database were included in either Notes or Description fields as appropriate, to ensure the maintenance of the complete dataset.

5. DATA COLLATION

5.1. DATA SOURCES

5.1.1. One of the key issues arising from the first phases of this project concerns the variety of methods of recording the marine artefact related data the project is targeting. Consequently, it is pertinent to provide a brief description of each participating archaeological organisation as well as details of the number of records that have been

collated from each of them (see Figures 2 and 3 for details of the specific areas each organisation holds records for).

National Monuments Record

5.1.2. The National Monuments Record (NMR) is the national archive of archaeological data, historic buildings and aerial photography. The archive was originally created as part of the Royal Commission of Historic Monuments for England (RCHME) and is now funded and maintained by EH. The NMR holds 10 million items dealing with the archaeology, buildings, maritime archaeology and aerial photography of England. It includes modern and historic photography, almost total coverage of England in aerial photographs, a complete set of listed buildings descriptions, data on most known archaeological sites, survey reports on specific buildings and archaeological sites, measured drawings, and a specialist reference library. However, the information held in the NMR reflects the origins of the archive; archaeological data is focused on known sites, rather than finds or findspots, that have been surveyed either by the RCHME or EH. Moreover, the maritime data is focused on documented and reported shipping losses, rather than finds or artefacts.

5.1.3. The NMR holds digitised records in a MIDAS-based system that is compatible with ExeGesIS HBSMR. Moreover, it is active both in data standards development and supporting SMRs through such activities as software support, management of the SMR forum and data audits.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

5.1.4. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological artefacts found by the general public. The scheme has Finds Liaison Officers located around the country, each with regional databases, whilst the Central Unit based at the British Museum collates the records from around the country.

5.1.5. The PAS database records information about the artefact, the find spot, the finder, organisations and publications. The recording system is ideal for dealing with metal artefacts, particularly coins, but can also record information about artefacts made of other materials. The Scheme is currently preparing recording guidelines for flint objects; the reporting of which has been steadily increasing since the introduction of the scheme.

5.1.6. Discussions with the Central Unit co-ordinators indicated that there are as yet no consistent lines of communication between the PAS and individual SMRs. As a result it appears unlikely that SMRs would have any information on the finds held within the PAS database. This is, in fact, the primary reason for including data from this source in the project.

Humber Archaeology Partnership

5.1.7. The Humberside area SMR is held by the Humber Archaeology Partnership (HAP) and covers the coastline from the north side of the River Humber to the northern coast of Flamborough Head. The SMR is partially digitised. It has an index or catalogue, held in the ExeGesIS HBSMR, made up of skeletal information on the all the SMR records. All records created since 1998 have a fully digital record. However, pre-1998 records are held on paper record cards.

North Yorkshire County Council

5.1.8. The North Yorkshire County Council SMR covers the coastline to the south of the North York Moors National Park. Their SMR is totally computerised using ExeGesIS HBSMR and an integrated GIS system.

North York Moors National Park

5.1.9. The North York Moors National Park holds records for an area that includes the coastline from Scarborough to Saltburn. All records are held digitally. The SMR officer highlighted that the records had not been completed for any archaeology along the Park's coastline, as the primary focus of their work has thus far been within the body of the Park.

Tees Archaeology

5.1.10. Tees Archaeology SMR maintains archaeological records for the coastlines of both Redcar and Cleveland, and Hartlepool. Tees Archaeology holds a digitised system that indexes extensive paper archives.

Hampshire County Council

5.1.11. Hampshire County Council maintains archaeological records for the majority of the Hampshire coastline (excluding the coastlines of Portsmouth and Southampton, see Figure 3). Data will be supplied from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR). The majority of marine-related data for the Hampshire area is held under a term agreement from Hampshire County Council by the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA). This data will be made available for use by the project. In order to respect this agreement, existing data will not, however, be incorporated into the project database, only new and enhanced records will be included.

5.1.12. The AHBR is held on a computer database, linked to digital mapping. The database is supplemented by archaeological reports, articles and photographs, including aerial photographs.

Isle of Wight County Council

5.1.13. The Isle of Wight County Council holds digital records for the coastline and inshore waters of the Isle of Wight.

Portsmouth City Council

5.1.14. Portsmouth City Council holds sites and monuments records for the area within the city limits, which includes the city's coastline, from Southsea along to Eastney.

5.1.15. Portsmouth City Council SMR have a completely paper archival system. The SMR system uses a combination of paper record cards and maps. Each site or find is located on 6" 1 mile OS maps sheets dating to around 1962, using a red pen cross and an associated identification number. The details of each site are held on a record card, which usually holds summary information. Some additional information is held within the Portsmouth Museum store, although this was not accessed during this phase of research.

Southampton City Council

5.1.16. Southampton City Council SMR holds records of the archaeology within the city limits. Prior to January 2003, all of the records were held in a paper index system. In

January 2003 a program was initiated to digitise new data and the existing paper index system in ExeGesIS HBSMR.

5.1.17. The ALSF project coincided with the start of the Southampton SMR digitisation program. Through discussions with the SMR officer, it was agreed that the process of digitisation would begin with those sites in coastal locations. The records were digitised with a view to participating in this project, hence all the information held within the paper records was put into the HBSMR. This has produced a consistent, detailed and well-referenced set of SMR records.

5.2. DATA COLLATED

5.2.1. The following table illustrates the number of records received at this point in the project from each archaeological organisation. The records from several organisations are still being collated and analysed before entry into the database, so that only the marine artefact related information relevant to the specific study areas is included.

Archaeological Organisation	Number of Records Received	Number of Records Relevant to the Study Areas
National Monuments Record	Awaiting Records	-
Portable Antiquities Scheme	219	39
Humber Archaeology Partnership	310	310
North Yorkshire County Council	457	In process of analysis
North Yorks Moors National Park	41	7
Tees Archaeology	251	In process of analysis
Hampshire County Council	Awaiting Records	-
Isle of Wight County Council	Awaiting Records	-
Portsmouth City Council	140	140
Southampton City Council	38	38

Table 1: Records Collated

5.3. NATURE OF COLLATED RECORDS

Portable Antiquities Scheme

5.3.1. 'Land Use Codes' were used as the search criteria to identify records within the Portable Antiquities database. The 'Land Use Codes' used by the Scheme describe the land of a findspot and are divided into:

- Coastland
- Cultivated land
- Grassland or heathland
- Open fresh water
- Other
- Wetlands
- Woodland

Each of the above Land Use types has a number of sub categories to further define the type of land so as to enhance the findspot description. The Land Use Code system is used consistently within the database, which enabled all coastal records for the extent of the Scheme to be easily identified for this project

5.3.2. Data from PAS was received as a digital Microsoft Excel table of records. The information provided included 32 findspots from within the general study area. Of those, 13 findspots were within the two smaller study areas (Humber-Tees and the Solent region). The 13 findspots yielded 23 individual finds.

5.3.3. The data was received as one large Excel table with 71 fields. The integration of this data into the project database involved breaking this table down into smaller tables to reduce duplication and to fit with the relational database of the project.

5.3.4. The data provided included information about the findspot, including; a unique identifier for the findspot, the parish, county and grid reference, where known. Details of the discovery of each find include a unique identifier of the finder (but no further information about the finder), the date the find was discovered, the method and circumstances of the discovery. The rest of the data concerned the finds: a description, a term from the *mda* thesaurus of archaeological objects, date and period ranges for the objects, the material, manufacture, decoration, current condition, dimensions and any paper references such as SMR numbers, photographs or drawings of the object. Where known, the current location of the object is also recorded.

5.3.5. The detail of each record varies, which may be due to the inclusion of finds that were discovered before the Scheme was initiated. Those records for finds discovered and reported recently are generally more comprehensive.

Humber Archaeology Partnership

5.3.6. Information was collated for the northern part of the Humber Estuary, from the parish of Sunk Island to the east of the city of Hull, to the parish of Bempton on the north side of Flamborough Head. The HAP SMR holds the original SMR map sheets (1:10,000 and 1: 2,500). The maps are annotated with sites or findspots, coverage of aerial photographs, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and related Events. These maps were used to identify suitable records for inclusion in the project. The search area was defined as the beaches, foreshore and inter-tidal areas, cliff tops and collapsed cliffs, as well as all records of unknown or rough locations and relevant records from between 50 – 100m inland.

5.3.7. The data was collected as photocopied record cards with targeted parts of the associated sources. These included articles, letters, photographs and other documents. A total of 310 records were collected.

5.3.8. The level of detail and type of information held within each site record varies considerably. Some site records solely contain references to published sources, with basic location and identification information. Other site records include detail about the archaeology and finds from a site, with information from excavation record cards and excerpts from publications, in addition to references to other sources.

5.3.9. Aerial photographs and details of events relating to a site are held in a separate filing system but are referenced within the site record. These additional records were at this point only referenced. They could be pursued at a later date if it is considered productive.

5.3.10. Among the records, there are also a number of individual sites where information is held on a number of different record cards, which can result in a number of different site names and locations relating to the same site. These have been amalgamated or related to each other within the project database as appropriate.

North Yorkshire County Council

5.3.11. North Yorkshire County Council SMR used a map based search criteria to produce the data for this project. The search area was defined by a 1km buffer that was placed around the high water mark for the coastline under their jurisdiction.

5.3.12. The search generated 457 records, which are currently being analysed for entry into the project database. Although the data was received from North Yorkshire SMR as ExeGesIS HBSMR type tables, it was necessary to re-link the tables together, to remove the duplicate entries and to re-form tables that could be integrated into the project database. Eight tables of core data about the monuments have been generated, (data was exported from the HBSMR using the standard Dublin Core queries within the program). The query tables have provided summary information about the monuments, or sites, including the dating information, locations, descriptions, basic geology information, related reference numbers and sources.

5.3.13. Information pertaining specifically to the artefacts was not included in the basic search information. However, this can be retrieved from the SMR using the SMR ID and will be assessed as part of the next phase of work.

North Yorks Moors National Park

5.3.14. 41 records were provided by The North York Moors National Park as a single digital table with 115 fields of data. These records covered all periods, seven of which date to the Palaeolithic to Medieval Period, or were of unknown date, and these have been entered into the project database.

5.3.15. The fields included in the North York Moors National Park database provided the potential to record a very high level of detail about sites. Although inevitably many fields were empty since only data recorded at the time of the find can be entered into the SMR.

Tees Archaeology

5.3.16. The data from Tees Archaeology was received as a Microsoft Excel table with 251 records in 17 fields. The search parameters for the Tees coastline needed to be defined by a NGR specific, rectangular polygon. The coastline passes roughly from the south-east corner to the north-east corner of the specified polygon. Within this area, records of Prehistoric, Neolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Early Medieval and Medieval date were requested. This produced information additional to the requirements of the project and the records are currently being assessed and filtered before they are entered into the project databases.

Portsmouth City Council

5.3.17. The data was collected from the Portsmouth SMR offices as photocopies of selected OS record cards. The search area was defined as the coastline, beaches, mud flats and sea. Records with accurate grid references, up to around 50m inland, and those with rough locations, up to a maximum of 100m inland, were included. All records of unknown location were included in the search.

5.3.18. In total 140 records were identified, all of which are now included in the project database. The records for archaeological sites within Portsmouth present some problems with their consistency. Many of the fields on the record cards of particular interest to this project have not been completed. These include exact location of sites and the ground type. This is a reflection of the information available at various times during the accumulation of the SMR record. It was noted that some record cards relate to multi-period sites or collections of artefacts from a number of locations or of multiple periods.

Southampton City Council

5.3.19. The coincidence of the digitisation of the Southampton SMR with the start of this project provided a unique and productive situation, especially since the process of digitisation has begun with sites located in coastal areas. Much of the coastal area within the jurisdiction of Southampton City Council comprises reclaimed land which, it could be argued, falls within the search criteria of the project. It has been decided however to only include the current coastline in the criteria as this is more likely to produce traceable artefacts.

5.3.20. The Southampton SMR has 38 findspots or sites in coastal locations. Attached to these sites are 51 individual artefact records. An assessment of the information held within the records suggests a high level of detail, although it is clear that at least seven artefact entries refer to collections of lithics, with other entries also referring to collections of artefacts.

5.3.21. It was initially envisaged that this data would be exported from the HBSMR for use in the project database. However, it became apparent that to maintain the integrity of the information already entered by Southampton SMR, it would be advantageous to work with the ExeGesIS tables in their entirety.

6. YEAR ONE: CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1. The project design set out several Year One deliverables. These included:

- a substantially enhanced record of findspots to be incorporated in the NMR/SMRs;
- a project archive, to be held at WA pending Year 2;
- a programme of seminars for industry, regulators and contractors and a public lecture series;
- specific project web pages hosted by WA with links to EH/BMAPA etc.;
- a report on the archaeological and methodological results of Year 1 and a revised method statement for Year 2.

6.1.2. The process of collation and enhancement has begun. To date this has focussed on an initial visit to Humberside, which was made to identify relevant HAP records, copy and, where possible, research them.

6.1.3. Overall, 1456 original records have been collated so far. Of these, 431 have been rationalised and entered into the project database. A limited number of these have also been enhanced, specifically those that could be enhanced through documentary research rather than museum or collection visits.

6.1.4. The project archive is a significant and expanding literary resource. At present it includes many of the articles referenced in the relevant HAP records and material on coastal and marine sites and finds from the Prehistoric to the Medieval period. There are approximately one hundred articles currently held on the study areas and appropriate comparative material. The archive also includes paper copies of the complete, relevant HAP records and material on data standards, artefact assessment and indexes of museums, archives, archaeological societies and private individuals with relevant collections or interests.

6.1.5. Several papers about the project have been presented at ALSF workshops and seminars, including at the 'Marine Aggregates and the Historic Environment Seminar' at the Southampton Oceanography Centre at the beginning of April and at the 'Integrating Terrestrial and Marine Aggregate-Related Archaeology Workshop' at the Museum of London at the end of April. The project was discussed both at the 'Maritime Archaeology Forum for Yorkshire and the North East' meeting on 25th April and at the 'North of England Maritime Archaeology Group' meeting on 19th June. The 'North Sea in Prehistory Workshop' was also attended, where artefacts from the seabed, particularly dredged artefacts, were a key topic. Information on the project was displayed at the Shipwrecks Conference in Plymouth in February and the project was presented and then discussed as a seminar topic for postgraduate maritime archaeology students from Bristol and Southampton Universities as part of a seminar day in April. This has formed the basis of a programme of dissemination, seminars and discussion with industry, regulators and the public that will expand during Year Two. 'Artefacts from the Sea' is also a Coastal and Marine 'Featured Project' on the Wessex Archaeology website.

6.2. CONCLUSIONS RELEVANT TO INDIVIDUAL SMRS

6.2.1. Additionally, during the process of data collation, several specific conclusions about the potential for 'enhancement' of the records from individual SMRs became apparent. These conclusions are set out below and will be incorporated in the revised methodology for Year Two.

6.2.2. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has comprehensive artefacts assessment built into the project. The Finds Liaison Officers are all archaeological finds specialists who have, in most cases, examined the artefacts in order to record them for the Scheme. Further analysis of the objects within this project is likely to provide supplementary information specifically on the marine implications of the finds.

6.2.3. However, the benefit of including PAS records in the project database will be for the SMRs involved, who may not have received any information about the PAS findspots or finds. By putting the information from PAS into a format useful to the SMRs, this project will also ensure that their data is more easily accessible in the course of archaeological Desk Based Assessments for dredging areas. There are also a number of fields within PAS records that reference further information that would be of specific interest to this project, including detailed land use description for each findspot, information about the finds and associated references and publications

6.2.4. The potential benefit of the 'enhancement' process to the Humberside area SMR is primarily the digitisation of the coastal records currently held on paper. Key work would include a rationalisation of the records, to ensure all related records and sites are cross-referenced, with as much information as possible extracted from the sources referenced in the SMR record cards. There are many large-scale research projects, including local heritage coastline studies and the Humber Wetlands Project

(HWP), whose data has not yet been added to the SMR. The digitisation of this data would be of great value to the SMR and relevant coastal data would be of great value to this project.

6.2.5. The majority of the sites currently held on the North York Moors Park SMR are quarries and jet mines, which may be difficult and inappropriate to 'enhance' within the scope of this project. There is the potential, however, for the inclusion of any 'stray' finds currently held in local museums or private collections. It would seem unlikely that there is no early archaeology along the coastline within the Park, given that there is exactly this kind of material on the coastline to the north and south of the Park. It seems likely, therefore, that this area would benefit greatly from the kind of museum collection targeted, enhancement work proposed for Year Two of the project.

6.2.6. Tees Archaeology has a digitised information catalogue system of the extensive paper archives. Given the amount of information already archived within the paper records, it seems likely that museum collection and private collection visits and assessments would be the most appropriate 'enhancement' work for this data.

6.2.7. It is hoped that the digitisation of the coastal records for this project will directly help Portsmouth SMR with its digitisation program, which commenced in April 2003. Moreover, the wider enhancement work originally proposed as part of this project would probably be of great benefit to the Portsmouth SMR. Many of the finds or site archives are held at Portsmouth Museum, and are therefore accessible to this project. The inclusion of this data in particular, along with information gleaned from pursuing the published references in many of the records, would be very productive. An assessment of the artefact collections at the museum would expand the description and/or dating of artefacts, currently described as broad categories such as flints or pottery. Additionally, information collected during the Langstone Harbour study (Allen & Gardiner 2000) that has not yet been entered into the SMR system will be an important addition to both the project database and the SMR.

6.2.8. In the case of Southampton SMR, it also seems likely that the process of targeted museum collection and private collection assessment, alongside reviews of the published references already in the SMR archive, would be the most appropriate second phase of work. For example, at least seven artefact entries in the SMR refer to collections of lithics, with other entries also referring to collections of artefacts. Pursuing this kind of material and including additional and expanded information would be central to the Year Two approach.

6.2.9. The exact nature of the enhancement work appropriate to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight SMRs will be determined once the original records are received and assessed.

7. YEAR TWO: PROPOSED ACTION

7.1.1. Recent consultation with SMRs within the study areas has identified a number of further conclusions arising from Year One and methodological suggestions for Year Two. The revised Year Two project methodology has been shaped to ensure that tasks undertaken are beneficial to both the SMRs and to the wider archaeological community by contributing to the research tools available, as well as meeting project objectives.

7.2. ISSUES ARISING FROM YEAR ONE CONSULTATION

7.2.1. Although data has been provided and incorporated into the project database. SMR officers and county archaeologists have expressed concern that returned enhanced data could present data reintegration problems. Two particular issues have arisen:

Validation of Returned Data

- This centred on the concern that data would be enhanced in a manner not in accordance with the enhancement procedure of the individual SMR.
- It also reflected the fact that data accuracy and quality assurance methods for data entry and enhancement should be explicit.

Benefit of the Enhancement

- It has been identified that, in some cases, the digital data held by SMRs represents an index to extensive paper archives. This may not be apparent from an initial interrogation of the digital data and therefore further enhancement of these records may well prove to be inefficient, repeating work and, in the worst case, missing valuable information that is already contained (if not readily accessible) within the SMR.
- It has been perceived that there has not been enough consultation on the specific needs of the individual SMRs in terms of beneficial enhancement. This has been addressed by talking with the county archaeologists and SMR officers as well addressing groups such as the maritime section of the association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGOA). The product of these meetings has gone towards the formulation of the year two method statement.

7.3. YEAR TWO REVISED METHOD STATEMENT

7.3.1. The methodology for Year Two has been developed taking the issues discussed above into account and will focus on the following areas:

Museum Collections

- There is general agreement that the inclusion of museum collections into SMRs would be of great value. In the case of several of the SMRs within the study areas, particularly in those areas where the current records are largely comprehensive, this kind of work will probably prove to be the most productive.
- This task would also be of great value to the project as a whole, since marine-related finds are likely to be handed into local museums. The intention is to pursue specific and appropriate museum collections that are targeted through references in the SMRs and discussion with organisations such as The Yorkshire Museums Council, as well as the SMRs themselves. Priority targets in the Humber-Tees study area include both Whitby and Scarborough Museums and in the Solent region, Portsmouth Museum.
- It is hoped that this will result, in the most part, in the creation of new records, which, along with entry into the project database, will be incorporated into the relevant SMRs in the appropriate format.

Private Collections

- Private collections will be visited where possible, for a parallel programme of artefact assessment. Initial contact with the private individuals with appropriate collections will be through the relevant local bodies.

- The collections will be assessed by suitably qualified WA staff and the information incorporate into the project database and submitted to SMRs.

Library Research

- There is also potential in reviewing specific references to published sources in the SMRs. This is partly to qualify codes and abbreviations within the project database and to rationalise the source lists. However, it is hoped it will also highlight further references as well as ensuring that the fullest amount of material is gleaned from sources that are already identified.

- This will involve research visits to some of the smaller local archives as well as to the appropriate libraries.

Further Sources

- A number of other sources of data have been identified during the first phase of work. These will be pursued during Year Two and include the Humber Wetlands project, the Langstone Harbour project and the appropriate European LIFE projects on the Isle of Wight.

7.3.2. This work will be carried out within particular methodological guidelines:

Record Enhancement

- Close contact with the SMR data managers will be established to ensure that any enhancement that takes place or has taken place is in the required format and is both suitable and welcome within the specific SMR.

- During the process of museum visits and the recording of private collections, the newly acquired information will be cross-referenced to existing records to avoid duplications as part of the validation process.

Communication

- This project will have implications for marine-related, archaeological data handling. It is therefore imperative that consultation takes place with relevant bodies throughout Year Two. This will comprise a close relationship with the project steering group, liaison with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) and a seminar targeted specifically at marine archaeological data management.

Data Ownership

- The enhancement process raises the question of data ownership and control. It is accepted that the data provided by SMRs will only be used for this project and agreements to this effect have been signed in certain areas.

- The enhanced dataset arising from the project will be transferred to participating SMRs and the NMR at the end of the project. For participating SMRs, the data will be split so that they receive only those records that are relevant to their local authority. Data will be structured in accordance with the requirements of each SMR/NMR. Discussions regarding data transfer are continuing.

7.4. YEAR TWO DELIVERABLES

7.4.1. From the above actions an assessment will be made of the extent of the real interpretive advantages and consequent benefits of the project. Issues relating to enhancement of marine and coastal archaeological data confronting SMRs, will also

be addressed and recommendations will be made for future action to further the marine archaeological record.

7.4.2. Consequently, the Year Two deliverables will be:

- an enhanced data set of findspots – including data from museum, private and individuals' collections – to be incorporated in both the NMR and relevant SMRs;
- a project archive;
- a report on the archaeological and methodological results of Year 2;
- specific project webpages hosted by WA with links to EH/BMAPA;
- further seminars to industry, regulators and contractors, as well as public lectures;
- a publication on the range and importance of artefacts discovered in the sea.

7.4.3. Moreover, it is hoped that the information gained from this assessment of artefact data from marine contexts, will be of direct use in the course of future curatorial issues surrounding the marine aggregate industry. In particular, both the database and conclusions from this ALSF project, should enhance the production of archaeological assessments for marine EIAs.

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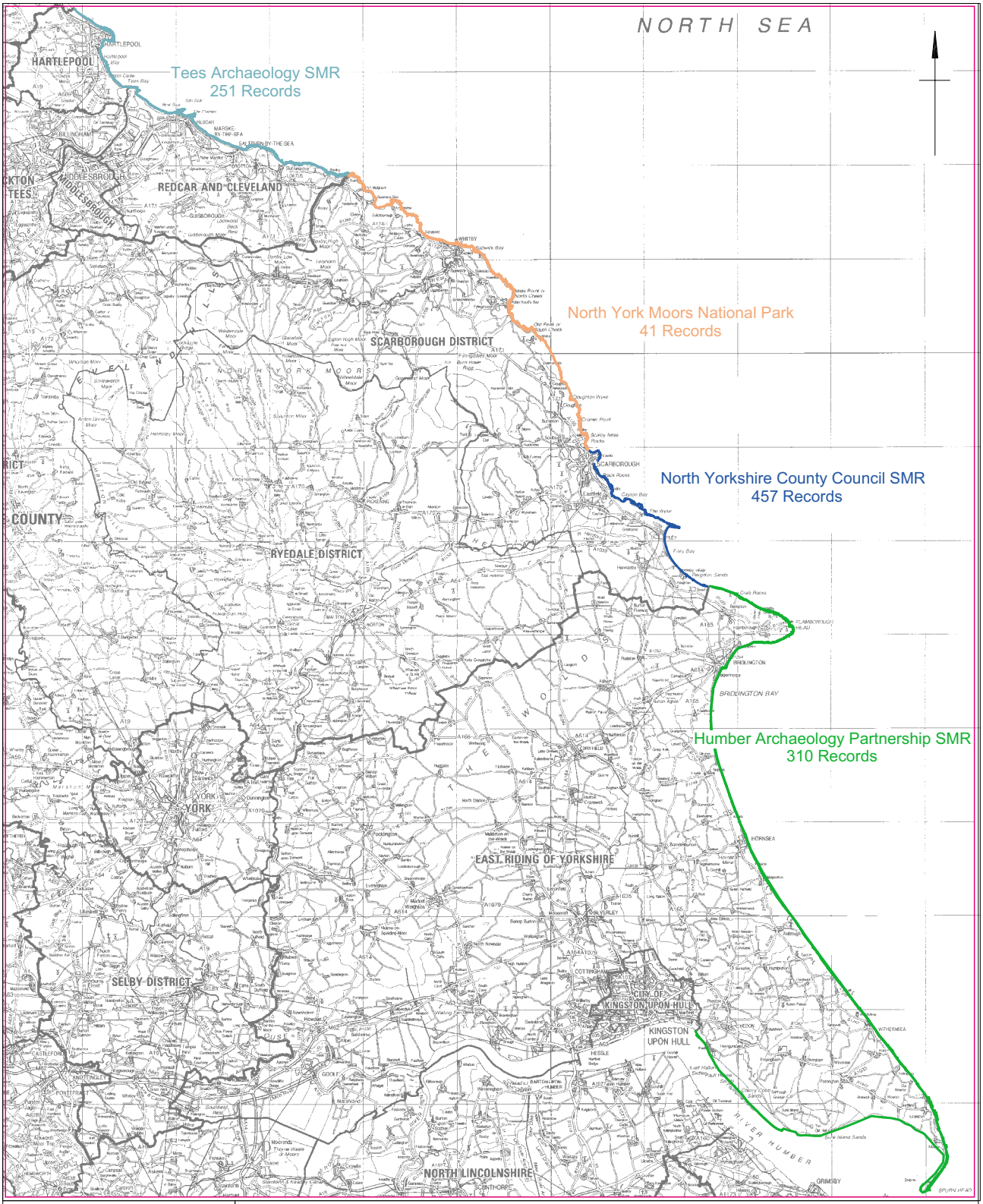
Wessex Archaeology

Location of the Study Areas

Figure 1



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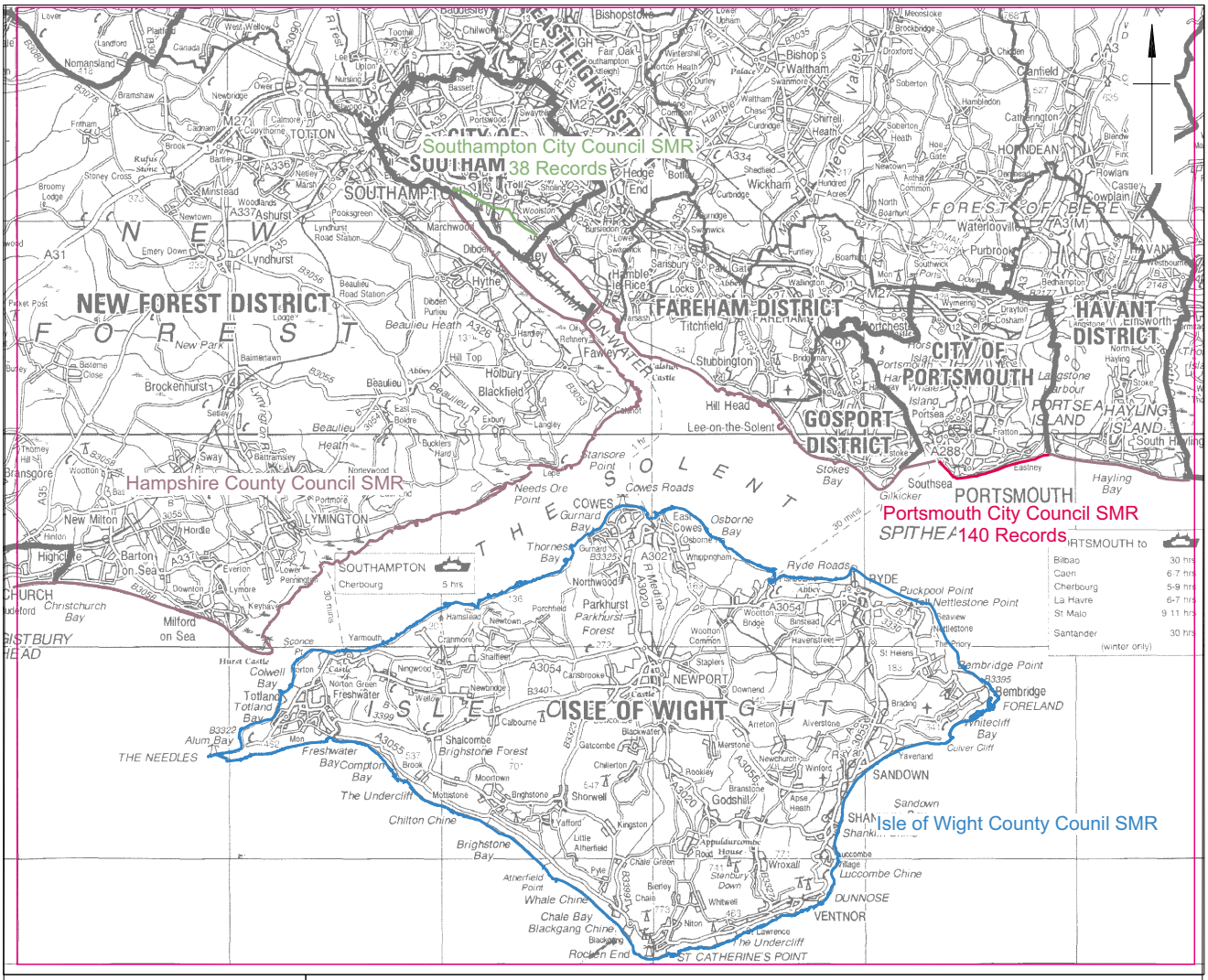
Wessex Archaeology

The Humber-Tees Study Area - showing the coastline for which each SMR maintains records and the number of records received

Figure 2



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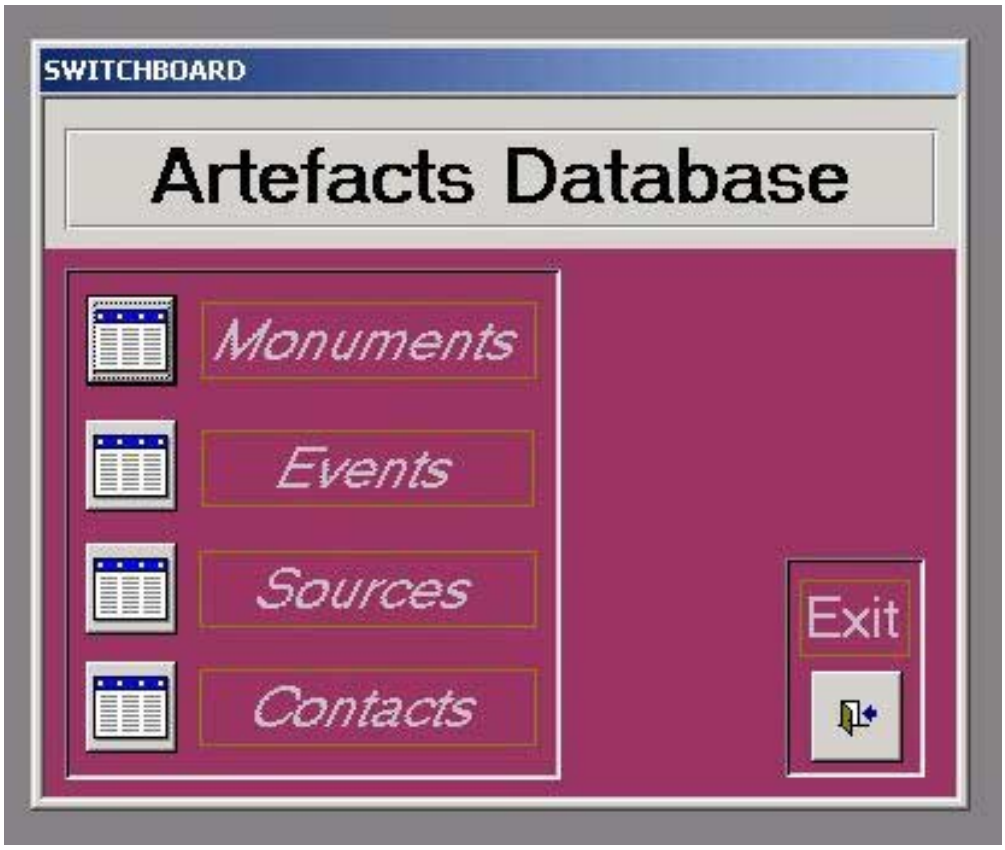
Wessex Archaeology

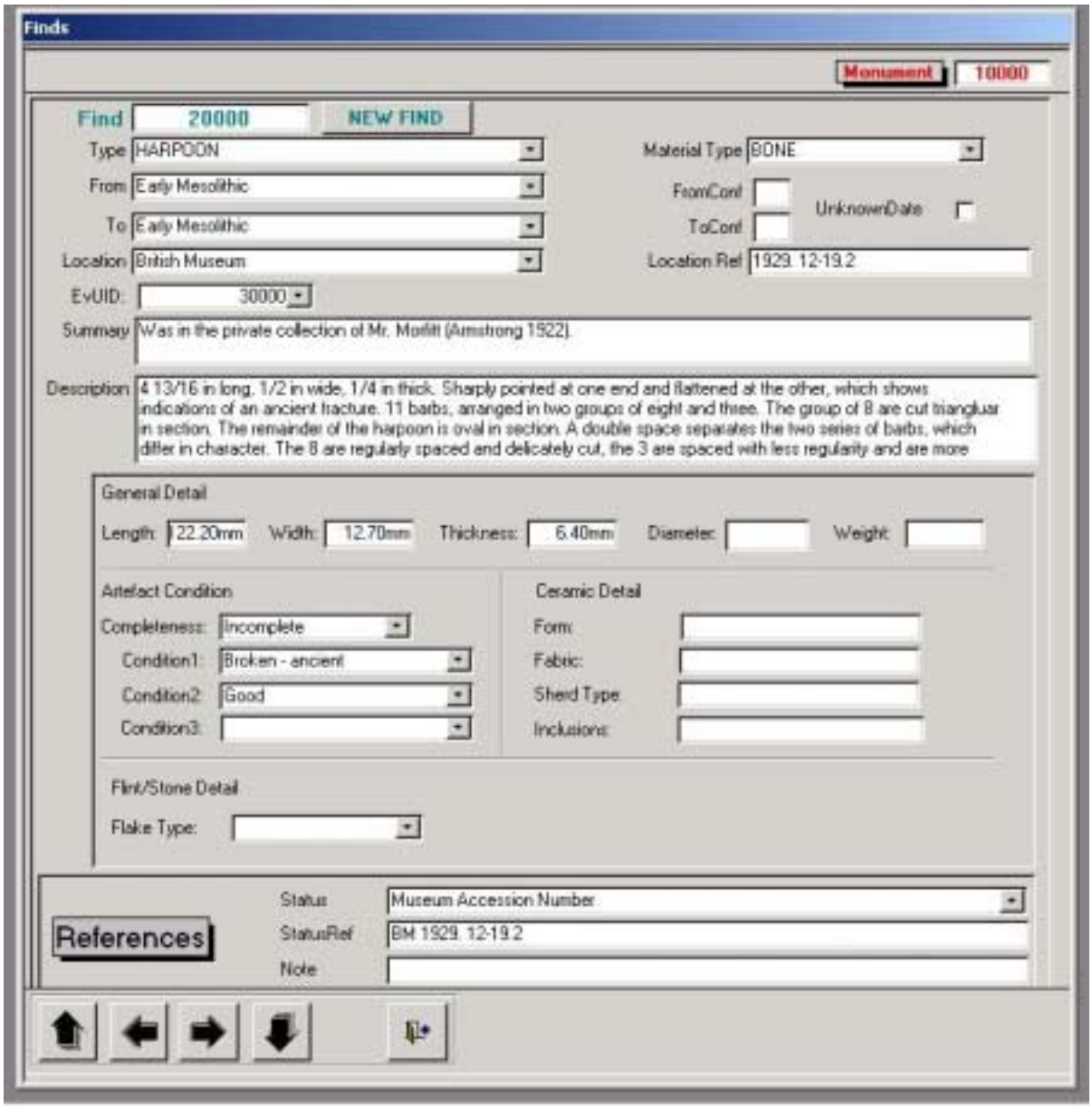
The Hampshire - Sussex Study Area - showing the coastline for which each SMR maintains records and the number of records received

Figure 3



Main switchboard of the project database, illustrating the Monument, Event, Archive (Source), Organisation (Contacts)division of information

Figure 4



The Finds table illustrating the level of information that can be recorded about individual artefacts

Figure 5

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