

**AGGREGATE LEVY SUSTAINABILITY FUND  
MARINE AGGREGATES AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

**ARTEFACTS FROM THE SEA**

**CATALOGUE OF THE MICHAEL WHITE COLLECTION  
FOREWORD AND RECORDS 1-150**

**Ref: 51541.05a  
March 2004**

prepared on behalf of

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**Foreword**

This is a catalogue of part of the collection held by Michael White of Lymington, Hampshire. This catalogue contains a record of lithics and faunal remains that have been collected during the course of fishing activities in the Solent.

The catalogue was recorded by Wessex Archaeology as part of the Artefacts from the Sea project, which was funded through the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund by English Heritage. An aspect of this project was to record and archive museum and private collections, including material from the Solent. Mr White's holdings satisfy this definition, and it is anticipated that this catalogue will provide a valuable resource and tool for researching and managing the archaeological development of the Solent, as well as being a record of this collection in its own right.

The collection includes implements that date from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. The marine collection in particular is biased in favour of large core tools and easily recognisable blades, suggesting that there may be some bias in the collection method (predominantly oyster dredging) or non-identification of waste flakes. The core tools are principally tranchet adzes and picks, which are most likely to date to the Mesolithic period. The blades are more likely to span a broader range from the Late Glacial period to the Early Neolithic. Classifications of the blade component reflect this broad range, but have been allocated more precise dates where possible on technological grounds.

The catalogue is arranged by number, with a total of 298 entries. The numbers allocated by the collector in his original catalogue have been maintained (1-229). Artefacts that had not been previously recorded have been allocated a new number sequence, starting at 1000. Artefacts that are no longer in the collection but are noted in the original catalogue have been included with the original entry and a broad description of the tool type e.g. 'unspecified core tool'.

While the collection contains numerous artefacts of various material and date, it was decided, for the purpose of the present project, to record only lithic artefacts and faunal remains, and to give the highest priority to finds from the marine environment. Some catalogue entries are thus *groups* of unprovenanced, and usually undiagnostic flints from sites on land.

The artefacts were first identified and measured. Their provenance was established based on area names that had been used by Mr White. The areas were identified from

Admiralty Charts, and coordinates and the charted depth taken to further define the areas of collection. Where no location information was given the artefacts were recorded with no provenance. The areas are illustrated in the figure included in this catalogue.

The area names have been rationalised into 59 retrieval points or findspots. As these retrieval points are defined as areas of various sizes, with various definitions some are overlapping and some are refinements of larger areas. The findspots and the associated finds have been entered in the database of the broader project. This data will be transferred subsequently to the appropriate SMRs and to the NMR.

The lithics from these sites were recorded by Wessex Archaeology staff; Phil Harding; assisted by Mikkel H. Thomsen and photographer Elaine Wakefield. The faunal remains were photographed and the pictures presented to Stephanie Knight also of Wessex Archaeology and Andy Currant of the Natural History Museum for identification.

We would like to extend our very great thanks to Michael White and family for their tremendous assistance in the course of this project, and for their contribution to the archaeology of the Solent through their diligence in developing such a collection over the years.

This catalogue contains the holdings of faunal remains and lithics in the collection of Mr. Michael White on the 18 February 2004. Further information about Artefacts from the Sea is set out in the project report (Wessex Archaeology March 2004, ref: 51541.04).