

# Marine Industries and Europe's Maritime Heritage Sustainability in Practice



Since the mid-1990s Wessex Archaeology has been working with marine industries to enable development whilst safeguarding our common heritage.

[splash@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:splash@wessexarch.co.uk)

Tel: + 44 (0)1722 326867



## Historic Ports

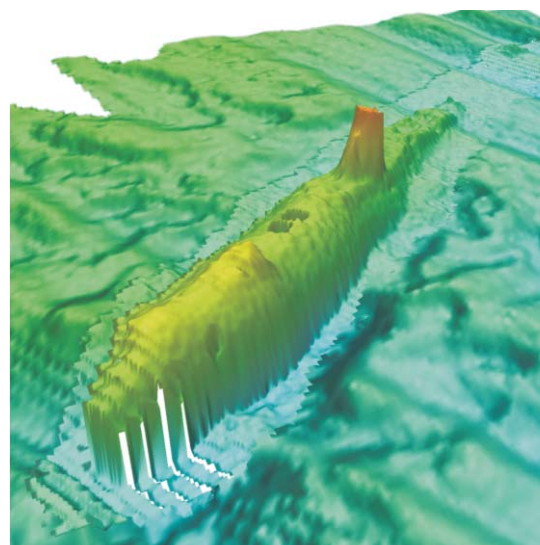
Modern ports usually have historic roots. The wrecks of old ships are found during surveys or whilst planning for new dredging. Working with major port authorities, we have investigated scores of wrecks and anomalies, including a 16th century merchant ship that encapsulated key changes in European shipbuilding and trade. A television series about our work - the award-winning *Thames Shipwrecks: a race against time* - averaged 2.5 million viewers for each episode, underlining the wide public interest in the history of ports and shipping.

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



## Offshore Renewables

The rapid expansion of offshore wind farms and other renewables has been accompanied by careful consideration of maritime heritage throughout their planning and assessment. Marine geophysical surveys have made it possible to avoid potentially sensitive sites, and geoarchaeological investigations enable better understanding of submerged prehistoric landscapes in the areas where turbines are located. Offshore renewables are important for combating climate change: our work has shown that their impacts on the historic environment can also be minimised.



## Marine Extraction

Since 2005 the British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) has implemented a voluntary Protocol that encourages industry staff to report their archaeological discoveries. Supported by English Heritage and the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, the Protocol has resulted in hundreds of historic finds being brought to the attention of archaeologists. Some of these finds have been very significant, such as the discovery of Ice Age hand axes dredged from the North Sea and landed at a wharf in the Netherlands, which won the British Archaeology Award for Best Archaeological Discovery in 2008.

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



<http://splash.wessexarch.co.uk/>

# Wessex Archaeology Coastal and Marine

Wessex Archaeology  
Head Office  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury SP4 6EB UK



[splash@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:splash@wessexarch.co.uk)

Tel: + 44 (0)1722 326867



## Time Travelling by Water

Working with industry, marine archaeologists are making important discoveries about our common maritime heritage. Time Travelling by Water (TTBW) is a programme designed to use the results of development-led archaeology in learning and education. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, TTBW has brought underwater archaeology into the classrooms of hundreds of 7-14 year-old children.

<http://blogs.wessexarch.co.uk/ttbw/>



## Coastal Survey

Climate change is placing particular pressure on maritime heritage that is situated at the coast. A very wide range of archaeological material is at risk from erosion, flooding and engineering works. This includes early prehistoric sites that are being submerged by rising sea-level, examples of coastal industries such as fishing and boat-building stretching over many centuries, and more recent vestiges of European conflicts, the coastal zone is an important area for archaeological investigation.



## EPPIC

Looking after our maritime heritage depends on developing skills and experience among professionals. Working with the Institute for Archaeologists, we are hosting a series of English Heritage Professional Placements in Conservation (EPPIC). EPPIC placements enable people in the early stages of their careers to work directly alongside professional teams. In this way, people gain highly relevant experience of the technical skills associated with diving, geoarchaeology, marine geophysics and desk-based research, providing a firm practical foundation for their future careers.



<http://splash.wessexarch.co.uk/>