

Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries



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List of acronyms used in text

AEZ	Archaeological exclusion zones
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
MHWM	Mean high-water mark
MHWS	Mean high-water springs
MoD	Ministry of Defence
nm	Nautical miles
NMRW	National Monuments Record of Wales
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PAD	Protocol for archaeological discoveries
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
RoV	Remotely-operated vehicle
RoW	Receiver of Wreck
TEZ	Temporary exclusion zone

Glossary

AEZ – archaeological exclusion zone imposed for the in-situ protection of known or potential archaeological sites, or locations considered to be of archaeological potential

Artefact – an item that has been made, modified, used or transported by people, i.e. its presence in the marine zone is ‘cultural’ rather than ‘natural’

Cadw – the national curatorial body that provides planning advice to local and national authorities if a proposed development has the potential to impact on a scheduled monument, registered historic park or garden, a registered Historic Landscape or a World Heritage Site

Contractor – a party engaged by the Developer to undertake development works

Curatorial Authorities – the statutory bodies with responsibility for the marine historic environment in Wales. This includes both the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Heneb – the Trust for Welsh Archaeology

Developer – the individual(s) or organisation with responsibility for the works that disturb the seabed. They are responsible for ensuring compliance with this protocol for archaeological discoveries. In some instances, the Developer may also be the Marine Licence Holder

Finds – all forms of artefact

Geophysical survey – a non-intrusive, remote-sensing investigative survey to detect or measure features on and below the seabed

Heneb – the Trust for Welsh Archaeology. Heneb was formed following the merger of the four regional Welsh archaeological trusts in April 2024. Heneb is the local curatorial body with responsibility for the historic environment, down to mean low water. Heneb shares responsibility for the intertidal zone with the RCAHMW

Heritage assets – elements of the historic environment that have local, regional or national significance, such as protected wrecks or submerged palaeo-landscapes in the marine zone or on the foreshore

In situ – an artefact or find located in the context or place that it was originally built, placed, or deposited

Intertidal zone – the area between mean high water (the average high tide) and mean low water (the average low tide)

Marine Licence Holder – the holder of the Marine Licence issued by Natural Resources Wales

PAD – the protocol for archaeological discoveries sets out the procedures that must be followed in the event that unexpected archaeological discoveries are made during the course of marine works

Receiver of Wreck - the Receiver of Wreck, the wreck administration within the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), that deals with all reports of wreckage from around the UK. It is based at the MCA headquarters in Southampton, with assistance from coastguard personnel around the coast

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales – the national curatorial body that provides guidance and advice on the marine historic environment to the regulator pre- and post-consent. The Royal Commission's remit extends from mean high water to the edge of Welsh waters; it shares responsibility for the intertidal zone with Heneb.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This protocol for archaeological discoveries (PAD) has been prepared by Coracle Archaeology on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). It is intended for use by individuals or companies undertaking minor seabed works which do not require full-scale, marine archaeological support as part of the consenting process. Decisions over whether this PAD is applicable to individual projects will be made by the RCAHMW and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

2. MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY IN WALES

- 2.1. The coastline of Wales and its surrounding waters are rich in marine archaeological heritage. This includes a diverse range of archaeological sites and landscapes, ranging from prehistoric forests submerged by rising sea levels, to shipwrecks and aircraft lost during the Second World War. At present, there are approximately 8500 archaeological sites recorded in the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) below the mean high-water mark (MHWM) (Figure 1).
- 2.2. Only a tiny fraction of these sites are afforded statutory protection as scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites or military remains. There is nevertheless a requirement for impacts on the marine historic environment to be properly assessed and mitigated as part of the planning process. This is outlined in both Planning Policy (Wales) and the Welsh National Marine Plan, as well as in the UK Marine Policy Statement. The Welsh National Marine Plan, for example, states that valuable landscapes, seascapes and historic assets should be protected and promoted, whilst encouraging the enjoyment and stewardship of Wales' coasts and seas. This is highlighted further in Policies SOC_05 and SOC_07 of the Welsh National Marine Plan, which state that proposed developments must demonstrate how they will avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts to cultural heritage assets, while encouraging opportunities to enhance those assets.
- 2.3. The most common types of marine archaeological site encountered in Welsh waters are shipwrecks (Figure 2 and 3) of various ages and construction, reflective of the intensity of marine traffic and shipping in the region, often directed towards, or departing from, Welsh ports and harbours. There are presently nearly 5000 documented losses in the NMRW; these are locations where a ship is thought to have sunk, but where no archaeological material has been found. In addition, there are over 1200 known wreck sites – locations on the seabed where there is evidence of a wreck or wreck event, often obtained through geophysical, diver or remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) survey. There are also several hundred findspots of wreck material, where archaeological material has been found, but has since been removed or recovered.

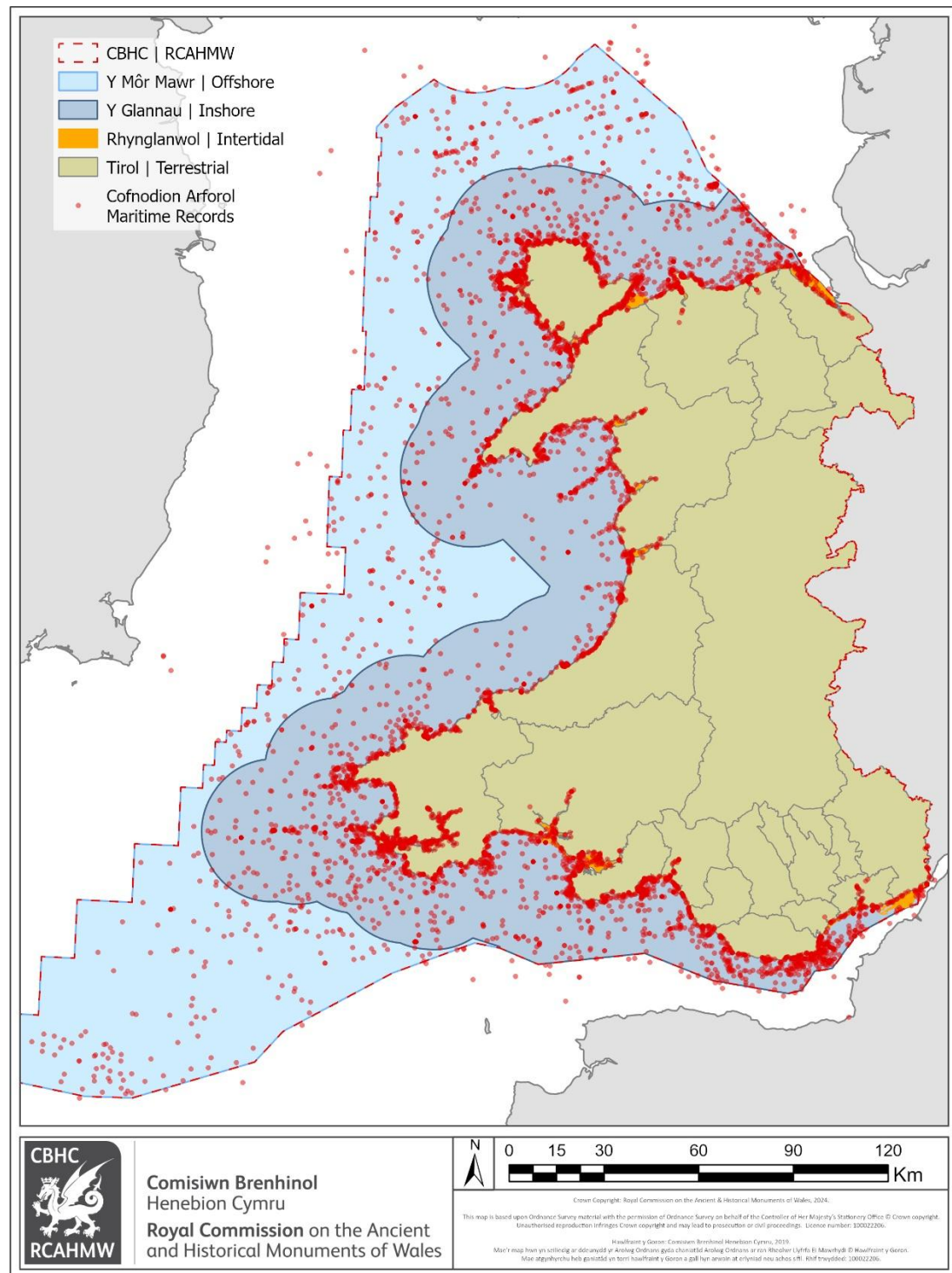


Figure 1: Maritime records within the National Monuments Record of Wales (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Figure 2. An unidentified shipwreck at Morfa Nefyn, exposed in March 2025 [NPRN 801385](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Figure 3. A 16th/17th century shipwreck at Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, exposed in 2012 [NPRN 416723](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

- 2.4. A number of other types of marine archaeological sites are documented in the NMRW. These include over 350 aircraft losses (Figure 4), mainly from the Second World War. The majority of these are documented or reported losses, where an aircraft is known to have been lost in the general vicinity, but no physical remains have been identified. There are also several hundred fishtraps (stone or wooden fishing structures within the intertidal zone), spanning from prehistory to the early 20th century (Figure 5), almost 200 historic quays (Figure 6),

wharfs or jetties, more than 50 historic harbours, numerous defensive installations, often located on the foreshore, and the remains of over 50 submerged prehistoric forests (Figure 7). The latter are becoming increasingly important as geoarchaeologists seek to understand environmental change and the impact of global sea level change. Examples of marine archaeological sites and cultural heritage assets found on the foreshore and in the marine zone can be seen in Figures 2 to 7 and their generic disposition is shown in Figure 8.



Figure 4. P-38 Lightning aircraft, wrecked on Harlech beach in 1942, and re-exposed in 2007, [NPRN 240241](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Figure 5. A medieval fish trap, possibly dating from the early 13th century, at Poppit Sands, [NPRN 24568](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Figure 6. The remains of an historic stone quay at lower town, Fishguard, [NPRN 704007](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).



Figure 7. A submerged forest exposure at Whiteford Beach on the Gower, dated to 4939-4783 cal BC, [NPRN 800168](#) (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

- 2.5. This rich marine heritage is at risk from multiple forces, including construction and development. If not properly managed or mitigated, the resulting impacts can be severe. The marine historic environment is a finite and non-renewable resource: once sites are damaged or destroyed these impacts are permanent. Archaeological sites cannot recover, and any material remains of cultural, historical or scientific value are lost forever. It is critically important therefore for any archaeological discoveries to be reported to the

curators responsible for the Welsh marine historic environment as soon as possible, so that they can be recorded, managed and protected appropriately for future generations. This PAD serves as one means by which this can be accomplished.

- 2.6. The purpose of the PAD is to set out clearly the protocols and procedures that must be followed in the event of any unexpected archaeological discoveries whilst undertaking development-related activities in the marine zone. It fulfils the requirements of Welsh National Marine Policy SOC_05, which requires that adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings are avoided, minimised or mitigated, and is in line with best practice guidance on management of the marine historic environment set out in Cadw (2020). Marine planning areas and site types are shown in Figure 8.

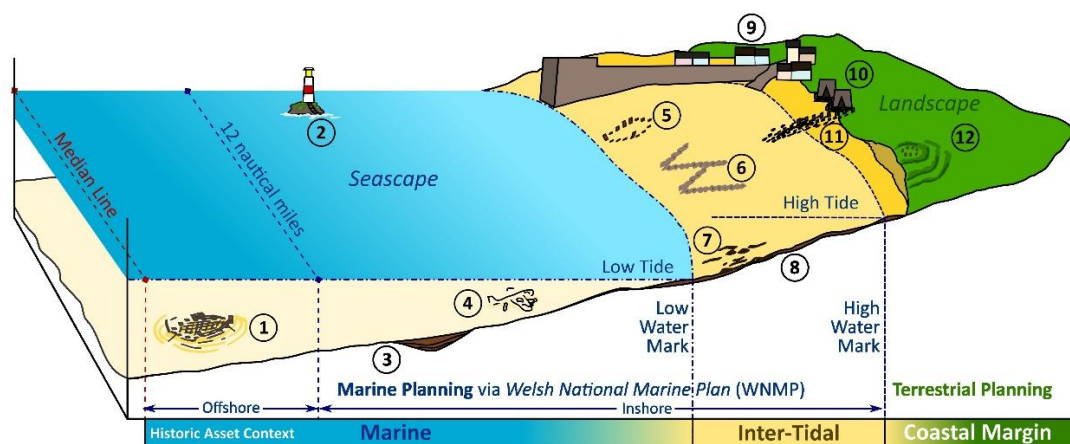
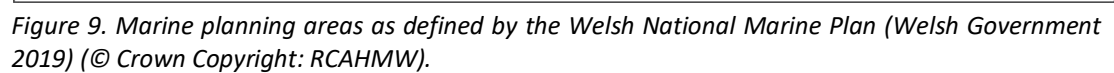


Figure 8. Welsh marine planning areas for historic assets. 1 - Shipwreck; 2 – Lighthouse; 3 – Palaeo-landscape; 4 – Aircraft; 5 – Shipwreck; 6 – Fishtraps; 7 – Submerged forest; 8 – Peat deposit; 9 – Historic harbour; 10 – Lime kilns; 11 – Former quay; 12 – Promontory fort (© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

- 2.7. This PAD applies to projects conducted in Welsh waters from mean high water springs (MHWS) around the Welsh coastline out to the median line. This encompasses the intertidal zone between the high and low water marks, territorial waters to the 12 nautical mile (nm) limit, and the offshore zone, or Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from 12nm to the median line. Any assets located above MHWS are subject to terrestrial planning regulations and consents. A map of Welsh marine boundaries is shown in Figure 9.



3. PROTOCOL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

- 3.1. The PAD clearly sets out the protocols and procedures that must be followed in the event of any unexpected archaeological discoveries whilst undertaking activities in the marine zone. It anticipates finds being made in the following circumstances:
- during pre-construction seabed inspections or investigations;
 - in the course of intrusive activities on the seabed, including material recovered whilst excavating into or dredging the seabed, or stray artefacts caught in equipment such as grapnels, anchors or ploughs, and subsequently recovered onto a vessel, jetty, quay or harbour; or
 - an anomaly encountered on the seabed during geophysical, geotechnical, ROV or diver surveys. This may include possible wreck or aircraft material.
- 3.2. This document is intended only for use by companies or individuals that do not require archaeological support as part of the consenting process. Decisions on whether or not this PAD is suitable for a project will be made by the RCAHMW, in consultation with NRW. It is based on and incorporates all current and relevant guidance, including the Crown Estate & Wessex Archaeology (2014; 2021), Cadw (2020) and NRW and RCAHMW (2022)
- 3.3. The **Developer** is responsible for the implementation of this PAD, and adherence to the protocols and procedures contained within. They are also responsible for ensuring that all **Contactors** and **Sub-contractors** comply with the reporting protocols outlined in this document.
- 3.4. The objectives of the PAD are:
- to set out the responsibilities of the **Developer**, prior to and during any works that disturb the seabed;
 - to clearly set out the protocols and procedures that must be followed in the event of any unexpected archaeological discoveries; and
 - to ensure that, in the event of unexpected archaeological discoveries, appropriate archaeological input, review and recording is undertaken.

What constitutes a find?

- 3.5. 'Finds' are considered here to mean all forms of artefact that can be found on the seabed or in the intertidal zone. Broadly speaking, an artefact must have been made, modified, used or transported by humans; i.e. the artefact's presence on the seabed must be 'artificial' or 'cultural' rather than 'natural'. Guidelines for identifying types of finds can be found in Appendix A of this document.
- 3.6. For legal purposes, finds made in a marine context fall into two categories. 'Wreck' has a specific legal definition, encompassing materials that come to be on the seabed as a direct result of once being aboard or part of a vessel or aircraft. Statutory law relating to wreck is set out in the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, applicable to territorial waters out to the 12nm

limit; common law relating to wreck is found in legal cases and commentaries. Any items of wreck recovered in, or brought into, UK territorial waters must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck within 28 days, under the terms of Section 236 (i) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995. **This is a legal requirement.** Contact details for the Receiver of Wreck can be found at the back of this document.

- 3.7. All other finds are referred to as 'non-wreck'. This includes finds found within prehistoric landscapes that have since been inundated by rising sea level, such as the submerged forests found around the Welsh coast, or artefacts of all periods that have eroded from sites on the shore. The law applicable to 'non-wreck' is largely common law, to be found in legal cases and commentaries.
- 3.8. Any finds of treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its 2002 revision) must also be reported immediately to the **Curatorial Authorities** (the RCAHMW and Heneb, the Trust for Welsh Archaeology, depending on where the find was recovered). Contact details for both the RCAHMW and Heneb are included at the back of this document. 'Treasure' includes artefacts over 300 years old that are made entirely or partially out of precious metals (gold or silver), groups of prehistoric metal artefacts found together, and artefacts younger than 300 years old that are composed primarily of gold and silver and that appear to have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery. A full list of what qualifies legally as treasure can be found at <https://museum.wales/treasure/>. Any archaeological objects or artefacts recovered that do not constitute treasure should be reported via the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS; <https://museum.wales/portable-antiquities-scheme-in-wales/>).
- 3.9. In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered below mean high water, they must be reported immediately to the **Curatorial Authorities**. Under the terms of the Burial Act 1857, the remains must remain *in situ* until an exhumation licence has been obtained. **This is a legal requirement.**
- 3.10. Owing to the potential sensitivities involved, discoveries that may be military must be reported immediately to the **Curatorial Authorities**. The **Curatorial Authorities** will then inform the Ministry of Defence and the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC; for more information see www.gov.uk/guidance/joint-casualty-and-compassionatecentre-jccc).

Circumstances of discovery

- 3.11. This PAD addresses finds of archaeological interest made in the marine zone. It is intended for use by smaller projects that do not require full marine archaeological assessments as part of the consenting process, as agreed by NRW and the RCAHMW.

Roles and responsibilities

- 3.12. This PAD anticipates discoveries being made by the **Developer**, or a **Contractor** employed to undertake works on their behalf. If a **Contractor** or **Sub-contractors** are employed, it is the responsibility of the **Developer** to draw the attention of all **Contractors** engaged in the works to the potential for archaeological material to be recovered, and to highlight reporting requirements.

- 3.13. In the event that a find of archaeological interest is made, the **Developer** must contact the **Curatorial Authorities** and provide details of the discovery. The **Curatorial Authorities** will then advise on the appropriate course of action, including whether archaeological assessments are required. If in any doubt over whether a find is of archaeological significance, contact the **Curatorial Authorities** who will be on hand to offer advice and assistance.

Key actions to be followed in the event of an unexpected archaeological discovery

- 3.14. If a find is discovered during or as a result of works on the seabed, the following actions should be taken by the **Developer**. If the find is made by a **Contractor** or **sub-contractor**, it is the responsibility of the **Developer** to ensure that these procedures are followed:
- Recovered finds must not be cleaned in any way. This includes the removal of any rust, concretion or marine growth. The **Developer** must arrange for them to be stored uncleaned in seawater in a clean, covered container.
 - The find should be examined carefully, and basic details recorded following the preliminary record sheets provided in Appendix B. If the find appears to be delicate, care should be taken to avoid accidental damage.
 - If the find was recovered as a result of deployment of subsea gear or equipment, all gear and equipment should be lifted and examined for the presence of potential archaeological material.
 - The position of the find should be noted and recorded on the preliminary record sheet. It should also be noted in the works daily progress report (DPR) or, in the case of shipboard work, in the vessel log together with the time and exact vessel position.
 - All works in proximity to the find location must cease, pending consultation with the **Curatorial Authorities**. The **Curatorial Authorities** may deem it necessary to impose a temporary exclusion zone (TEZ); the purpose of the TEZ is to prevent further damage to, or impacts on, associated archaeological material while further investigations are undertaken to assess the significance of the find. No activities which disturb the seabed can take place within a TEZ. Works can, however, continue in alternative locations.
 - The TEZ must remain in place until advised by the **Curatorial Authorities**. The **Developer** should inform other vessels or teams working in the vicinity of the existence of the TEZ, and to keep a particular watch for anomalies and finds of archaeological potential.
- 3.15. It is the responsibility of the **Developer** to inform the **Curatorial Authorities** of any find of archaeological potential as soon as possible after the find has been made, and to pass on all available information including photographs and record sheets. This will ensure that the marine cultural heritage of Wales is protected from accidental damage and recorded for posterity.

- 3.16. The **Curatorial Authorities** will assess the archaeological potential and significance of any finds, and will report the results of this assessment back to the **Developer**. Based on this assessment, the **Curatorial Authorities** will decide whether the maintenance of the TEZ is warranted, and whether further investigations of the findspot are required by suitably-qualified marine archaeologists. This may include, though is not limited to, geophysical, diver, ROV or walkover surveys within the area.
- 3.17. If the **Curatorial Authorities** establish that the find is of little or no archaeological significance, the TEZ can be removed and works can proceed as planned. This can be done only with approval of the **Curatorial Authorities**. If the **Curatorial Authorities** deem the find to be of archaeological significance, it may be necessary to maintain the protection provided by the TEZ by upgrading it to a new archaeological exclusion zone (AEZ). This provides the same protection as the TEZ but, unless instructed otherwise, is considered to be permanent in nature.
- 3.18. If further archaeological material is discovered during the course of the works, then AEZs may be altered (enlarged, reduced, moved or removed) as a result. These discoveries might include, for example, additional material recovered on equipment, or additional finds made in proximity to the AEZ. Any alteration will be defined by the **Curatorial Authority** and will be issued to the **Developer**.

Contact details for relevant authorities

- 3.19. Both the RCAHMW and Heneb are the **Curatorial Authorities** responsible for archaeology and marine heritage in Wales. Heneb and the RCAHMW share responsibility for the intertidal zone, between MHWS and mean low water. The jurisdiction of the RCAHMW extends from MHWS to the median line (Figures 2 and 3).
- 3.20. For discoveries in the intertidal zone, you should contact:
- | | |
|---|--|
| RCAHMW | Heneb |
| Penglais Rd | Corner House |
| Aberystwyth | 6 Carmarthen St. |
| SY23 3BU | Llandeilo |
| | SA19 6AAR |
| 01970 621200 | |
| nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk | planning@heneb.org.uk |
| https://rcahmw.gov.uk/contact-us/ | https://heneb.org.uk/ |
- 3.21. For discoveries below mean low water, the first point of contact is the RCAHMW. They will then advise if it is necessary to consult with any other authorities.
- 3.22. If the find is, or appears to be wreck material, this must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck within 28 days. They can be contacted at:
- Receiver of Wreck, Bay 1/05, Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton, SO15 1EG
- 020 381 72575, row@mcga.gov.uk

4. REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Cadw 2020. Managing the marine historic environment of Wales. Cardiff: Cadw. Available at:
<https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2020-03/39705%20Managing%20Marine%20E%20WEB.pdf>

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https://rcahmw.gov.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2022/11/MarineHistoricAssets_AreaStatement_English.pdf

The Crown Estate & Wessex Archaeology 2014. *Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries: Offshore Renewables Project*. London: The Crown Estate.

The Crown Estate & Wessex Archaeology 2021. Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation for Offshore Wind Farm Projects. The Crown Estate.

Welsh Government. 2019. *Welsh National Marine Plan*. Welsh Government.

APPENDIX A: GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING FINDS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST (after the Crown Estate & Wessex Archaeology 2014)

Rubber, plastic etc

In most cases, rubber, plastic, bakelite and similar modern materials are not of archaeological interest and can be disregarded. One exception is where such materials are found in the same area as aluminium objects and structures, which may indicate aircraft wreckage from World War Two. Such material should be reported.

Iron and steel

The potential range and date of iron and steel objects is so wide that it is difficult to provide general guidance. In broad terms, iron and steel objects which are covered by a thick concrete-like coating ('concretion') are likely to be of archaeological interest and should be reported. Pieces of metal sheet and structure may indicate a wreck, and these too should be reported. Any items of 'ordnance' (e.g. cannonballs, bullets, shells etc.) may be of archaeological interest and should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities**. It should be noted that there are clear safety issues around ordnance, and these should take precedence over archaeological requirements. Discoveries of ordnance, however, should be reported to the RCAHMW and Heneb as soon as possible.



Example of an Iron cannonball, recovered from the seabed.



Example of an iron anchor, covered in concretion, recovered from the seabed.



Example of a Second World War aircraft engine, recovered from the seabed.

Other metals

Items considered to be 'treasure' as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 must be reported immediately to the **Curatorial Authorities**. This includes artefacts over 300 years old that are made entirely or partially out of precious metals (gold or silver), groups of prehistoric metal artefacts found together, and artefacts younger than 300 years old that are composed primarily of gold and silver and that seem to have been deliberately hidden with the

intention of later recovery. Similarly, copper and copper alloy (bronze, brass) are potentially very old, and all occurrences should be reported. Coins too should be reported, as they are often easily dateable. Any find not considered to be treasure should also be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme <https://museum.wales/portable-antiquities-scheme-in-wales/>.

Items made of thin, tinned or painted metal sheet are likely to be modern in origin and therefore of little archaeological interest. It is possible, however, that aluminium objects may indicate aircraft wreckage from World War Two, especially if two or more pieces are fixed together by rivets – these should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities**.



Example of coin.

Bone

Occasional discoveries of animal bone, teeth and tusks on the seabed or in the intertidal zone are potentially of archaeological interest, as they may indicate the presence of prehistoric landscapes inundated by sea level rise. These bones, teeth, tusks etc. may also show signs of damage, breaking or cutting, which can be directly attributed to human activity. These should be reported to the RCAHMW and Heneb (where relevant) as soon as possible. Large quantities of animal bone may also indicate the presence of a wreck site (e.g. the remains of cargo or provisions), and these too should be reported. Artefacts made out of animal bone, including combs, harpoon points or decorative items are often of considerable antiquity, and should be reported following the procedures outlined above.

The discovery of human bone is subject to special legal requirements under the Burial Act 1857. Any suspected human bone should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities** immediately, and treated with discretion and respect. Following the discovery of human bone, all works must stop until informed otherwise by the relevant authorities.

Wood

Light coloured wood, or wood that floats easily, is generally modern and is unlikely to be of archaeological interest. Similarly, 'roundwood' with bark – such as branches – is likely to be natural and modern, and therefore of little archaeological interest. However, roundwood that has clearly been shaped, or made into a point, should be reported to the authorities. Pieces of wood that have been shaped or jointed may also be of archaeological interest, especially if fixed with wooden pegs, bolts or nails. Similarly, objects made out of dark, waterlogged wood – such as bowls, handles, shafts and so on – are often very old and may be of archaeological interest. All occurrences should be reported.



Wooden post on the foreshore, part of Second World War defences.



Wooden wreck exposed on the foreshore, age unknown



Example of a wooden treenail, used as fixing in ship's timbers, exposed on the foreshore, age unknown.

Stone

Worked stone artefacts are almost always of archaeological interest. Small to medium sized stones (especially flints) that are shaped, polished and / or pierced may be prehistoric axes, and objects that appear to be axe heads or knife blades should be reported to the authorities.

Large blocks of stone that have been pierced or shaped may have been used as anchors or weights for fishing nets, while the recovery of numerous stones may indicate the presence of the ballast mound of a wreck, or a navigational cairn – particularly in areas where the seabed is otherwise relatively barren. All occurrences should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities**.



Millstone, later repurposed as anchor weight, found on the foreshore.



Anomalous concentrations of stones on otherwise muddy foreshore, purpose unknown.



Example stone anchor, recovered from the seabed.



Examples of struck flints, probably of Mesolithic age, found on the foreshore.



Example flint blade, precise age unclear, found in the upper part of the intertidal zone.



Examples of struck flints, probably of Mesolithic age and including blades, flakes and a core, found on the foreshore.



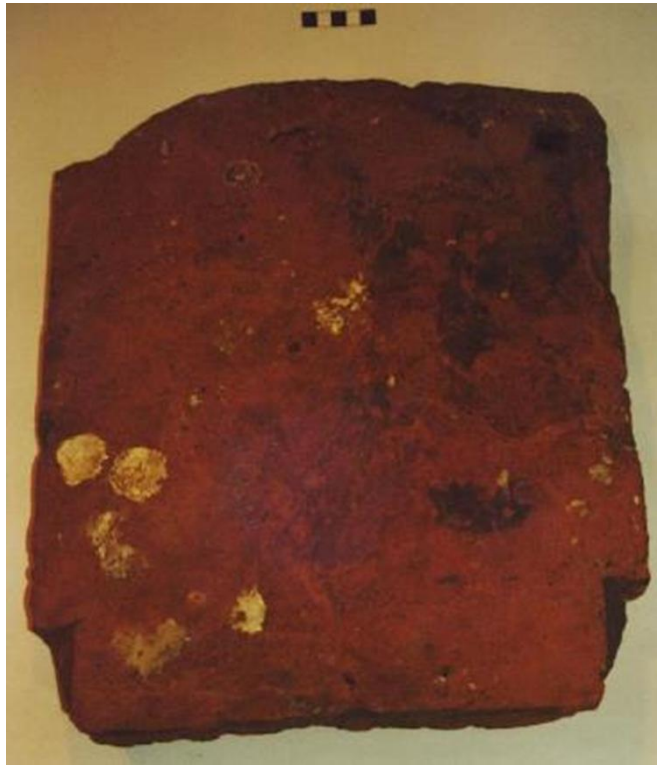
Example of a water-rolled flint blade, probably of Mesolithic age, found on the foreshore.

Pottery

Any fragment of pottery is potentially of archaeological interest, especially if it is a large fragment. Items which look like modern crockery, however, can be discarded, though if the item has an unusual shape, glaze or fabric it should be reported.



Example ceramic fragments, dredged from the seabed.



Example of a Roman tile (tegula), recovered from the seabed.



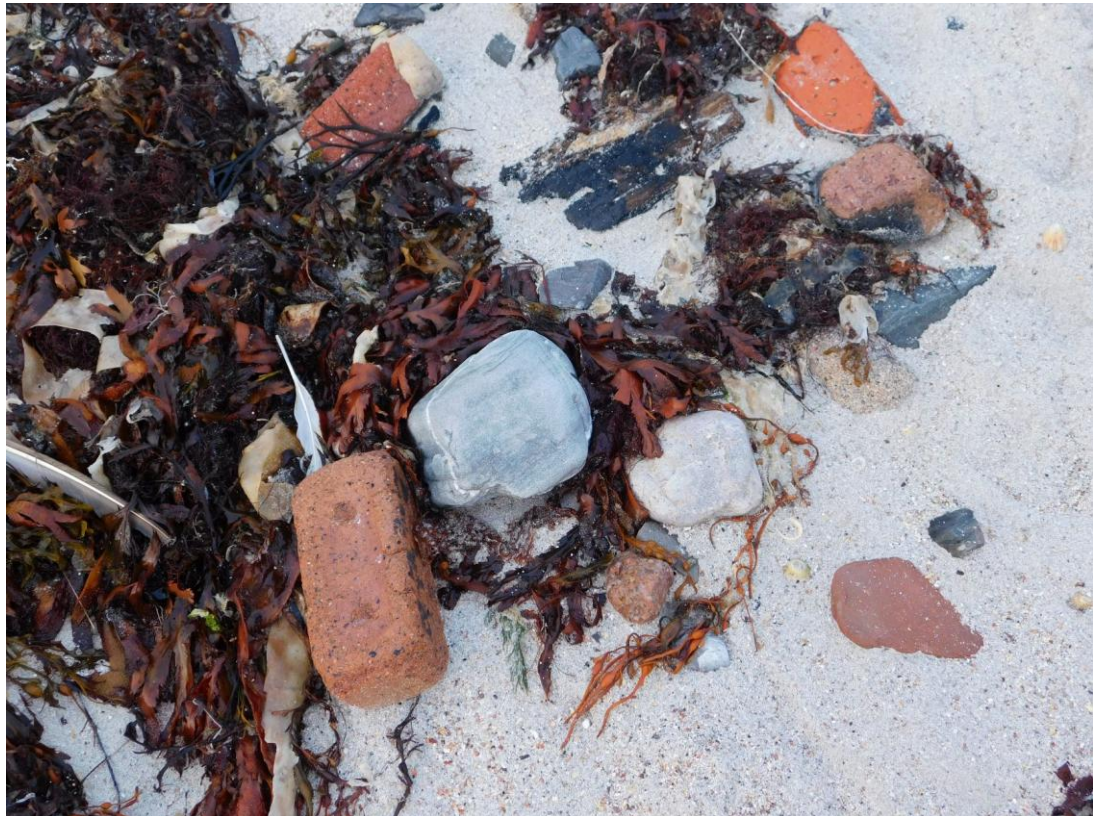
Example top of Roman amphora, with lid, recovered from the seabed.



Examples of late 16th-early 17th century Bellarmine jug fragments, washed ashore

Brick

Bricks with modern proportions and v-shaped hollows ('frogs') are of no archaeological interest – the frogging process is relatively modern in date and is typically indicative of mass produced moulded or pressed bricks. Unfrogged, 'small', 'thin' or otherwise unusual bricks may, however, be of considerable antiquity. These should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities** following the protocols outlined above.



Examples of brick and ceramic building material found on beach, heavily rolled by wave action

Peat and clay deposits

Peat is a black or brown fibrous soil that formed in marshy land at times when sea level was lower than present, often on the banks of a river or estuary. It is made up primarily of plant remains, and these microscopic remains can provide information about the environment at the time it formed.

This information helps us to understand the kind of landscape that our predecessors inhabited, and how their landscape changed. It can also provide information about rising sea-level and coastal change, which are important to understanding processes that affect us today.

Prehistoric structures (such as wooden trackways) and artefacts are often found within or near peat, as our predecessors used the many resources that these marshy areas contained. As these areas were (and remain) waterlogged, 'organic' artefacts often survive, together with the stone and pottery traditionally found on 'dry' sites.

Fine-grained sediments such as silts and clays are often found at the same places as peat. These fine-grained sediments may also contain microscopic remains that can provide information about past environments and sea level change. Any discoveries of such material would be of archaeological interest, and their occurrence should be reported to the **Curatorial Authorities**.



Example remains of leaf (holly) found in an intertidal peat deposit.



Example of a peat deposit, including large pieces of wood, buried under beach sand.



Example surface of peat deposit, including large pieces of wood, exposed in the intertidal zone.



Example surface of organic-rich clay deposit, including small pieces of wood, exposed in the intertidal zone.



Example exposure of organic-rich clay deposit, in the intertidal zone.

APPENDIX B: Record sheet for discoveries

Company Name:

Vessel/Team Name:

Site/sea area Name:

Date:

Time of compiling information:

Name of compiler:

Name of finder (if different to above):

Time at which discovery was encountered:

Vessel position at time when anomaly was encountered (if applicable):

- a) Latitude
- b) Longitude
- c) Datum (if different from WGS84)

Original position of the anomaly on the seabed, if known:

Notes on likely accuracy of original position stated above:

- a) How accurate is the position?
- b) Is the position the original position, or has the material been moved during operations?
- c) Details of circumstances and activity that lead to the discovery

Description of the find/anomaly:

Apparent size/extent of the anomaly:

Details of any find(s) recovered:

Details of photographs, drawings or other records made of the find(s) (e.g. location figure):

Details of treatment or storage of find(s):

General notes:

Signed: Date: