

# Dredged Up

from the past

Spring 2015

Archaeology Finds Reporting Service Newsletter

## Protocol Update

Welcome to Issue 16 of Dredged Up, the newsletter of the Marine Aggregates Industry Protocol for the Reporting of Finds of Archaeological Interest. Since the last newsletter, 27 reports have been raised detailing 31 individual finds. These add to a database of over 1,100 finds that have been reported since the Protocol was implemented in 2005.

The Protocol has now entered its tenth year – a momentous achievement and a true testament to the eagle-eyed staff, on vessels and at wharves, who have demonstrated passion and dedication for reporting archaeology. Whilst a few of these people are recognised through the annual award scheme, and last year's winners are announced on page 2, the Protocol team at Wessex Archaeology would like to recognise and thank everyone in the industry for protecting our heritage.

In this issue, we look at some of the finds reported during the last six months and at the other side of aggregates – exploring how archaeology is investigated on land before quarrying – by looking at excavations in Horton, Berkshire.

### A reminder of how to report finds

If you find something amongst aggregate that you think might be evidence of the past

1. Keep it cool and dark, put it in a safe place and label it clearly.
2. Fill in a reporting form online.
3. Pass the form and photos of the find to your Site Champion or Nominated Contact. They will report the find to Wessex Archaeology and we will make sure it is fully investigated.



The Protocol Implementation Service team are very happy to answer any questions – email [protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk) to reach the team, who are pictured from left to right: Gemma Ingason, Peta Knott, Paolo Croce, Euan McNeill, Andrea Hamel and Victoria Lambert

## Finds Awards

Drum roll please ... the 2013–2014 finds awards, nominated by Wessex Archaeology and endorsed by BMAPA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage), were awarded to:



### Best Attitude by a Wharf

Lafarge Tarmac Marine's Greenwich Wharf – for excellent standards of reporting including sending annotated PDFs containing multiple images, close-up views of features on finds (including marks and damage) and detailed descriptions. Also, for continued good work in raising the profile of the Protocol to wharf staff and visitors, by displaying finds at their office, which has recently been expanded into a new, larger case!



### Best Attitude by a Vessel

DEME's *Victor Horta* – for reporting a fine example of a mammoth tooth. When discovered, the crew were uncertain as to what it was and how to proceed but they used information from annual reports and *Dredged Up* to identify the find and to make sure that it was reported. The tooth was dredged from Area 240 in the East Coast region, which has previously yielded significant prehistoric remains dating from the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age. Experts from the Natural History Museum studied images of the *Horta's* tooth and Pip Brewer, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and Professor Adrian Lister, believe it is from a woolly mammoth that was aged around 35 when it died. The tooth itself is upwards of 20,000 years old and is possibly as old as 70,000 years.



### Best Find

Last year's best find was a .276 Enfield bullet from the Pattern 1913 rifle – found at Lafarge Tarmac Marine's Burnley Wharf. This bullet, which was found with five others, was identified by Jonathan Ferguson of the Royal Armouries Museum. The Pattern 1913 rifle was only produced in limited quantities for tests, which led to the suggestion of several improvements to its design. The improvements were not finalised before the outbreak of the First World War and so the Pattern 1913 was not put into mass production. Because of this, few examples exist today. Even more interesting is that fact that the rifle was only tested off Whale Island, Portsmouth, which is 5 km as the crow flies, and on the wrong side of the Isle of Wight, to the dredging Area (127 in the South Coast region). How the bullet came to be in the Licence Area is still a mystery.

## Finds from 2015 so far ...

We are half way through the reporting year and some really exciting archaeological discoveries have been reported through the Protocol so far.

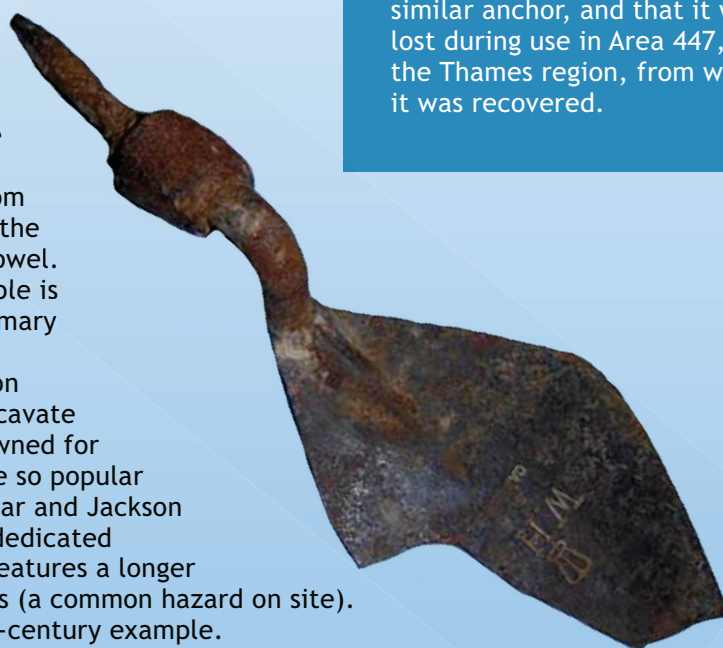


James Lutman discovered this find at Bedhampton Wharf. It is a diver's mouthpiece which has been examined and identified by the Historical Diving Society. Their experts recognise it as part of a Dunlop Underwater Swimming Breathing Apparatus (UWSBA) which was used during covert Second World War operations. It was phased out by the navy in 1954. Bob Campbell of the Historical Diving Society, who produced some excellent scale drawings of the find, has suggested a probable (and highly plausible) link between the Naval base at Portsmouth and the find which was dredged from Area 372/1 in the South Coast region.



This find, which Andrew Lingham retrieved at Northfleet Wharf, is clearly part of an anchor but it has an interesting feature, a narrowing at one end, which might suggest that it was from a portable anchor. George Cotsell designed just such an anchor in the mid-19th century which had a removable arm. It is possible that this comes from a similar anchor, and that it was lost during use in Area 447, in the Thames region, from where it was recovered.

This find was discovered at Burnley Wharf by N. C. Sait, one of the Protocol's top reporters. It was dredged with material from 395/1, which lies to the east of the Isle of Wight, and is clearly a trowel. What is special about this example is that it is a WHS trowel – the primary digging tool used by British archaeologists. These are used on sites both on and offshore to excavate finds and features and are renowned for their strength of blade. They are so popular amongst archaeologists that Spear and Jackson (who own WHS) now produce a dedicated 'Archaeologists' trowel' which features a longer tang to prevent skinned knuckles (a common hazard on site). This is likely to be an early 20th-century example.

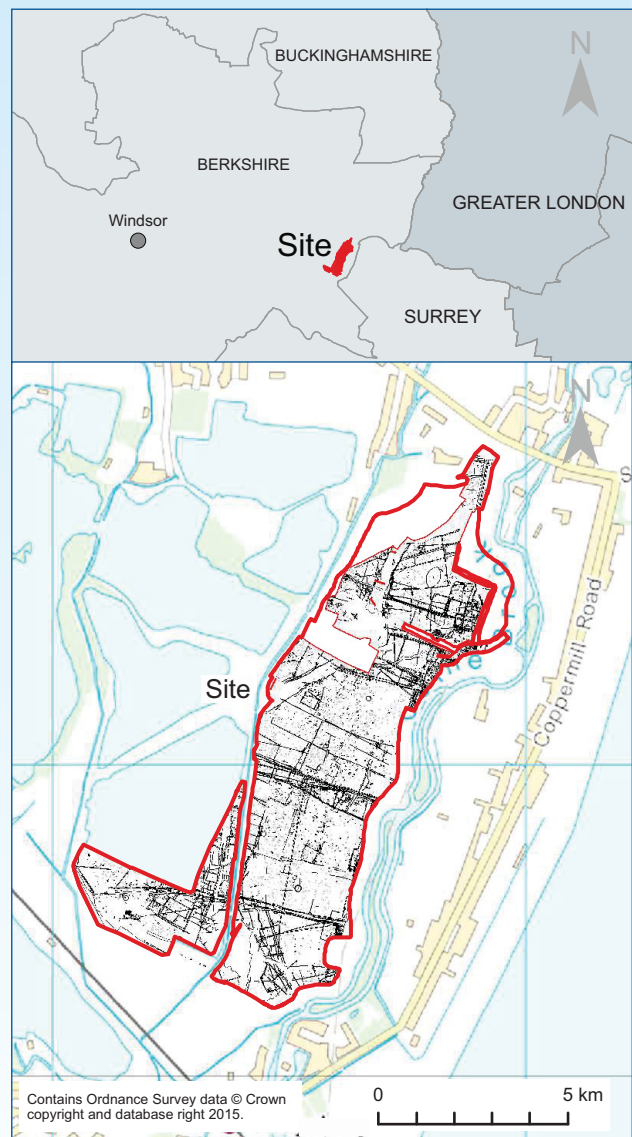


## Kingsmead Quarry Horton

The Protocol protects archaeology offshore during the extraction of sand and gravel. But what happens on land? Here we explore the work undertaken by our terrestrial team ahead of quarrying in Berkshire.

Sand and gravel have been quarried in the area surrounding Horton, near Windsor (right), since 1946, and over the last eleven years Wessex Archaeology has been investigating the archaeological landscape of CEMEX's Kingsmead Quarry, Horton. Here archaeological layers lie beneath the modern ground surface but above the natural gravel, and they need to be investigated before any extraction can take place.

Since 2003 some 34 hectares of a multi-period archaeological site have been investigated which has produced evidence that people have lived, worked and altered the landscape in the area since the end of the last Ice Age, a period of 12,000 years. Finds from the excavations include four Early Neolithic buildings, a Neolithic oval barrow, Early Bronze Age ring ditches, a rare Beaker burial, two Middle Bronze Age farmsteads, an Iron Age settlement, a Romano-British farmstead and a medieval barn! Together, they tell the story of a landscape shaped by human activity, set within a meander of the River Thames.



### Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 Million to 10,500 years ago

The earliest evidence for people at Horton is provided by a stone handaxe that was made around 300,000 years ago (left). This style of axe is called cordate (meaning 'heart-shaped') and was probably made by a Neanderthal, not a modern human. The handaxe was found by one of the quarry workers who spotted it amongst extracted gravel on its way for processing on the site's conveyor belt. Clusters of Late Upper Palaeolithic flints dating from around 14,000 BC have also been found at the site, as well as a few flint artefacts dating to the Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age (10,500 to 6,000 years ago), though these are rare at Horton.

## Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4,000 to 2,400 BC

In the Neolithic period the first major changes in the Horton landscape occurred; four Early Neolithic houses were built. They date to between 3710 and 3650 BC. As you can see from the photograph below, all that remains on the site are the holes into which the supports for each house would have been placed. All of the above ground remains, such as the wooden walls and roof, have long since disappeared. Despite this, we can tell that the houses were rectangular, with the largest measuring 15 x 7 metres, and that they were constructed of upright planks and posts. Artefacts found in or near the houses included pottery, flint tools and arrowheads, and rubbing stones for grinding corn. The houses are rare finds that give us a unique opportunity to learn about the earliest permanent settlements in Britain.



*Early Neolithic house with excavators as scales*

The site also contained a Late Neolithic burial and a Middle Neolithic oval barrow, seen in the Horton Quarry as a section of semi-circular ditch. Oval barrows were important monuments where people played out the ritual or ceremonial aspects of their lives. Many, including the one excavated at Horton, have artefacts buried in or around them that are thought to be votive offerings to whatever gods or spirits governed the lives of the community.



*Reconstruction of the Early Bronze Age Beaker burial*

## Bronze Age: 2,400 to 700 BC

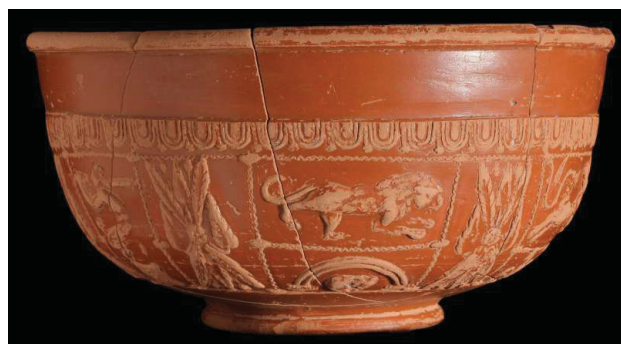
In 2012 a rare Beaker burial of Early Bronze Age date was excavated at the site (above). Within the grave were the remains of a c. 35 year old, possibly a woman, who was buried with some of Britain's earliest gold (beads pictured below), 30 beads of black lignite, amber buttons or fasteners, and a large drinking vessel known as a Beaker. This was decorated with a comb-like stamp and had been placed on her hip. Beaker graves of this date are almost unknown in south-east England and only a small number of them contained gold artefacts.



*Gold beads*

Two potential round barrows on the site also date to the Early Bronze Age. These, in common with the Neolithic oval barrow, would have been used for rituals or ceremonies, likely connected with the treatment of the dead. Eight graves and a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery were excavated nearby.

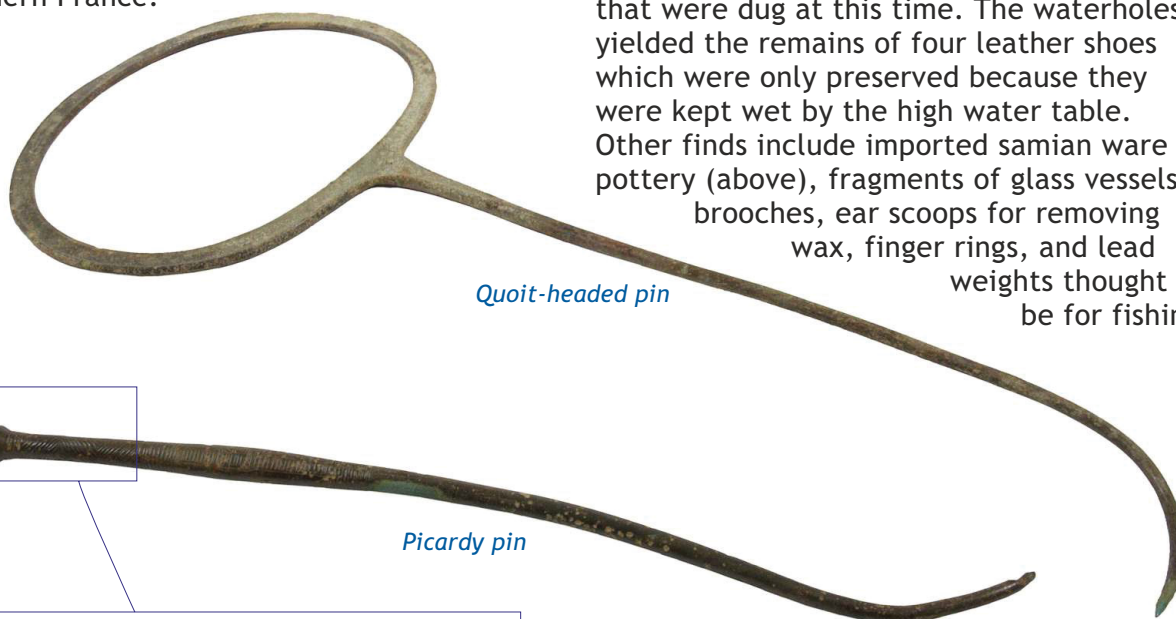
During the Middle Bronze Age (after 1600 BC) the landscape at Horton underwent its most dramatic transformation. It was subdivided into a substantial and extensive field system, within which two farmsteads were established. Artefacts from this period include complete pottery vessels, animal burials, worked flint and two pins – a striking quoit-headed pin and a finely decorated Picardy pin (below). Both of the pins were made of copper alloy suggesting that there was contact and trade between Horton and wider communities, and in the case of the Picardy pin it is possible that at least the metal, if not the finished object, came from northern France.



*Decorated samian ware bowl*

#### Romano-British: AD 43 to 410

After the arrival of the Romans in AD 43 occupation at Horton continued in the east of the site and archaeologists have investigated pits, postholes and waterholes that were dug at this time. The waterholes yielded the remains of four leather shoes which were only preserved because they were kept wet by the high water table. Other finds include imported samian ware pottery (above), fragments of glass vessels, brooches, ear scoops for removing wax, finger rings, and lead weights thought to be for fishing.



*QUIT-headed pin*



*Picardy pin*

*Picardy pin detail*

#### Iron Age: 700 BC to AD 43

By the Iron Age, settlement had shifted to the east of the site, close to the Colne Brook River. The remains of houses, which in this period were round and are called (unsurprisingly) 'roundhouses', smaller square buildings and Iron Age field systems have all been excavated at Horton.

#### Early medieval to post-medieval: from AD 410

The site continued to be used for farming throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The remains of a large medieval barn was excavated in 2014, which was constructed of square timbers set into large postholes. The base of one of these timbers was preserved *in situ* in the ground. The barn is thought to date to the 12th to 14th centuries and would probably have been used, much as a barn would be today, to store agricultural produce.

For more information visit [www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/horton2013](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/horton2013)

## The Battle of Kentish Knock

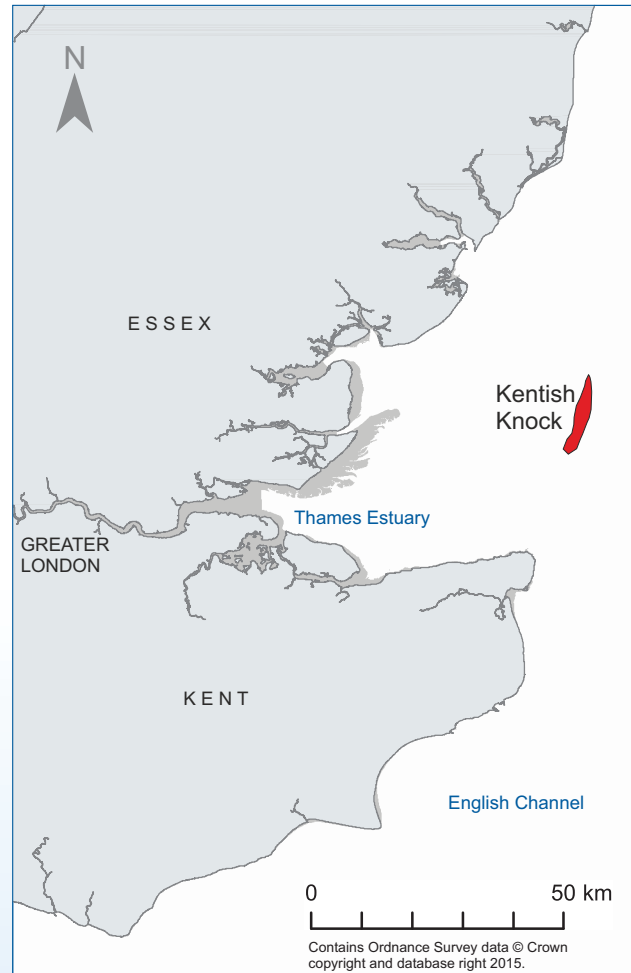
On 28th September 1652 the Dutch and English fleets sighted each other in the North Sea and engaged in battle north of the mouth of the Thames. Amongst the noise and the smoke of firing cannons at least three Dutch ships were lost beneath the waves.

This battle became known as the Battle of Kentish Knock after a shoal that presents a hazard in the area for unwary mariners. It was one of the engagements of the first Anglo-Dutch War, the first in a series of conflicts that waged throughout the 17th century.

In December, Greenwich Wharf's Terry Clancy found a bar shot and two balls from a bar shot (below) amongst material dredged from Area 447, which lies close to the site of the battle. Charles Trollope, an expert in historic ordnance viewed images of the shot and confirmed that these finds are likely to be from that event. This makes them rare amongst Protocol finds in that we have a clear date for their deposition at sea, and makes them some of the best understood finds reported through the scheme.



Two balls from a bar shot (upper) and detail (lower)



The Anglo-Dutch Wars were fought at sea throughout the 17th century as both sides wrestled for control of vital trade routes and fishing rights. Many of the cannonballs from the East Coast that have been reported through the Protocol are thought to relate to battles during this long running conflict.

Bar shot were fired from cannon in much the same way as a cannonball would have been, but with the added destructive power of being able to spin on an axis to damage, and potentially fell, masts and rigging.

Anyone working with material from 447 should be vigilant for further finds relating to this historic battle and report anything of archaeological interest through the Protocol, as staff at Greenwich did.

## The Back Page Profile with Historic England's Pip Naylor



Pip Naylor is Marine Planning Archaeological Officer for Historic England, which was previously English Heritage. She works to protect archaeology on the seabed during work offshore.

Here she tells us about her background, and her work with the marine aggregate industry.

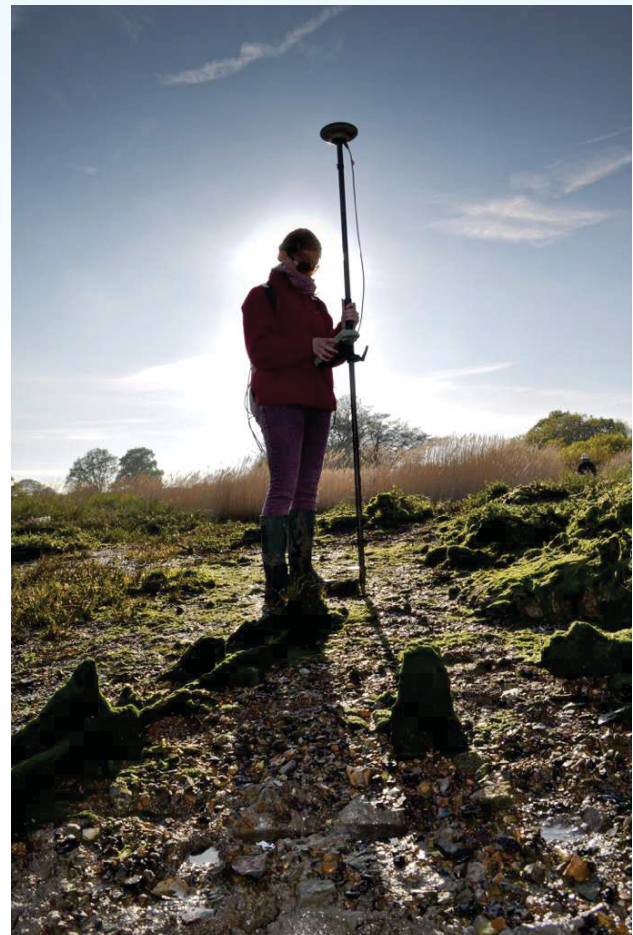
I joined the Marine Planning Unit (MPU) of what was English Heritage in July 2014 and my primary role is to act as an advisor to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for marine licencing. The MMO oversee seabed use by many offshore industries, including marine aggregate dredging.

English Heritage divided its responsibilities on 1st of April 2015 to create two separate organisations. The split sees the care of England's National Heritage Collection of over 400 properties (and their contents) run by a charity that retains the name of English Heritage. The second organisation, known as Historic England, is a government service championing England's heritage and giving expert, constructive advice. The MPU, where I work as a Marine Planning Archaeological Officer, is now a part of Historic England.

Before joining the MPU, I worked as a maritime archaeologist for the Maritime Archaeology Trust in Southampton on a project looking at coastal change and archaeology. My interest in maritime archaeology began whilst I was at university and I studied for a Masters in Maritime Archaeology at the University of Southampton after finishing my undergraduate archaeology degree there. I am a diver but my interests mainly lie in intertidal archaeology of all shapes and types – from prehistoric fishtraps, to beached hulks on the foreshore. Whilst studying for my Masters I spent many days wading through mud at low tide to investigate the best modern and

traditional techniques to use for surveying intertidal vessel remains, though I hope to see more underwater archaeology in the future.

Most of the work I do for Historic England is with marine aggregate casework, and it has been incredible to see the level of commitment and enthusiasm that the industry has for marine archaeology and the finds Protocol, not to mention the amazing discoveries that have been made over the last decade since the Protocol has been in place. The work being done through the Protocol actively adds to our knowledge of the seabed's historic environment, and is a credit to all those involved. I look forward to seeing what finds will be *Dredged Up* over the next ten years.



*Pip Naylor in the field* (photo courtesy Rodrigo Pacheco Ruiz)