

ScARF Marine & Maritime Panel

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the extent and locations of the Scottish Marine and Maritime archives, repositories and active research programmes, in order that a methodology for a forthcoming audit of Scotland's Marine and Maritime historic environment can be undertaken and characterise the nature of the information. The following section briefly outlines other maritime audits occurring in England, Wales and the one conducted by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Section 3 reviews the methodology of this research and a brief examination of the findings, with a discussion on how the current project associates with Scotland's Historic Environment Audit under Section 3.3.

2. Current programs

2.1 *Maritime and Marine Historic Environment Research Framework (MHERF)* (An ALGAO maritime update, March 2009)

This research framework for England used a period-based approach to the categorisation of maritime themes. A set list of criteria is addressed and is consistent between each group. Two additional non-temporal groups are also included in the framework and include *methods, technologies, visualisation and dissemination* and *archive and collections*. Having a period-based approach would ensure less overlap between groups and it will be of interest to the ScARF panel to see how information from the two additional groups fit within this framework. Currently, the criteria for the two additional groups are still under discussion. Geographic boundaries were also discussed. For example, English vessels in non-territorial waters are not to be included and coastlines beyond the English coast (i.e. Europe) should be included in Palaeolithic research.

2.2 *Maritime and Intertidal Archaeology in Wales: A Research Agenda* (Source unknown, possibly the IFA Wales/Cymru, Aberystwyth conference in 2001?)

This paper was produced in order to present suggestions for the direction of further study and to strengthen current weaknesses in the management of maritime heritage. The weaknesses highlighted in this paper are chiefly concerned with post-designation management of maritime sites. These include inadequacy in the national maritime database, lack of subtidal and intertidal survey by qualified archaeologists, lack of response and curation of surveys undertaken by developers, sports' divers, etc and the lack of curation and conservation of material declared to Receiver of Wreck and from excavated wrecks. The research agenda should examine methods of identifying areas of maritime importance, of identifying threats to these areas, of encouraging and training in fieldwork and raising awareness of the National Maritime Database and promotion of maritime projects. There are four candidates listed for future study: investigations on *early sites*; *technological advancement in later sites*; the *Welsh dimension of maritime archaeology*; and *surveys on vulnerable areas of high potential*. All the points highlighted in this paper are valuable and need to be considered for the management of the maritime heritage throughout the UK, however this paper appears to only discuss general issues to managing maritime heritage rather than presenting a detailed research agenda.

2.3 Securing a Future for Maritime Archaeological Archives (MAA)

(A collaborative project in support of the aims of Archaeological Archives Forum - March 2009)

The recent work by the IFA Maritime Affairs Group (MAG) has highlighted that the current state of the maritime archives is substandard and disappearing. This project was undertaken in order to develop approaches towards maritime archive. The definition of maritime archaeology in this project did not cover inland waters. Only the first phase of the project has been reported. This involved a survey questionnaire response on maritime archive collection, storage and policy from select museums located within proximity to the coast and major tidal rivers. The result was reported and displayed in distribution maps. While this research has produced valuable data, the investigations in Scotland appear to be limited. There is no mention of the archive that may be held at the regional SMRs/HERs or the National Archives and several museums that hold maritime archive were not included in the survey, i.e. Unst Boat Haven, Glasgow Museum of Transport and the National Museums Scotland.

3. Work to date

3.1 Methodology

A list of organisations that hold maritime/marine collections, manage a database or conduct research was created into an excel spreadsheet. Information was sourced from the internet, Heal 1988 and Securing a Future for Maritime Archaeological Archives, Element One: Mapping Maritime Collection Areas. British National Grid X and Y coordinates were collected from www.streetmap.co.uk using postcodes or museum symbol locations on the OS maps.

The term ‘collection’ used in this paper covers both museums collections/exhibits/displays and archaeological archive. Details of the collections were listed when information was available. In this exercise, the organisations were not contacted, in which further information on the collections would be gathered during an audit.

3.2 Categorization of Data

The organisations have been categorised by the geographic area they cover, national or regional, or specified as a research group and port authorities.

- National: Country-wide Museums, Institutes and Societies that hold collections from the whole of Scotland and/or UK.
36 items
- Regional: Local museums, SMRs/HERs, Online catalogues and databases.
99 items
- Research Groups: Universities or Trusts that promote and undertake research and produce archive, but do not typically hold or receive collections.
18 items
- Port Authorities: List of port authorities in Scotland
23 items

It was felt that the data would be best illustrated within a GIS, using a database that comprised the above categories. Ideally the regional organisations would be

represented by a polygon to illustrate the area that the collection covers. National and Research can be represented by point data.

A theme column was initially created, however throughout the course of this exercise it was realised that several organisations' collections could be considered under more than one of the maritime themes. The label 'Unknown' was given when there was indication that the collection contained maritime objects, but the extent and details of these objects was not available.

Group	Palaeo	Coast	Inland	Ships	Re-search	All	Diving	Un-known	Palaeo/ships	Coast/Palaeo	Coast/Inland/Palaeo	Coast/Inland/Ships	Coast/Ships	Coast/Ships/Palaeo?	Coast/Research	Coast/Ships/Research	Ships/Research	
National		2	3	16	1	8		1					1			2	1	1
Regional		5	3	9		16		41	1	4	1	1	16	1		1		
Research	2			2	8		6											

3.3 Information pertaining to Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA)

The information gathered during this research may help fill the gaps in maritime knowledge in association with the Historic Environment Audit. The information below is listed to provide a rough estimate and to suggest the direction in which to gain additional information that will supplement SHEA.

Headline Indicator:

- Number of organisations that hold maritime archives.
- Number of organisations that hold maritime records.
- Number of organisations that are involved with maritime research and/or produce archive material (i.e. postgraduate research; underwater surveys).

If one of the end results of an audit of Scotland's Marine and Maritime Historic Environment Record is to quantify maritime collections for statistical purposes it should be noted that the term archive needs to be assessed. The number of sites with archive would be more meaningful rather than the number of maritime collections. Would archive pertain to an organization (i.e. ADU archive), which may include multiple sites or the archive for a particular site, which may be part of a larger project/collection (i.e. SoMAP archive). Perhaps a more meaningful number would be the number of sites with associated archives and the number of archives associated with that particular site.

4. Future Work

Design of the audit

Scoping exercises

Sources:

Heal, V. 1988. Britain's Maritime Heritage: A Guide to Historic Vessels, Museums and Maritime Collections. Conway Maritime Press.

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