

SPLASHCOS UK: Edinburgh meeting, 25th November 2011

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Morning Session: 10.00 to 13.00

10.00–10.25. Registration and Coffee

10.25. Opening remarks

10.30–13.00. 15 minute presentations (including 5 minutes for questions or brief discussion)

10.30. *Geoff Bailey*: University of York
COST and SPLASHCOS: Organisation, Aims and Working Methods

10.45. *Nic Flemming*: National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
The UK Continental Shelf in its European Setting

11.00. *Caroline Wickham-Jones*: University of Aberdeen
The Rising Tide Project

11.15. *Andy Bicket*: Wessex Archaeology Coastal and Marine (Edinburgh)
The Outer Hebrides Coastal Community Marine Archaeology Pilot Project - Phase 1

11.30. *Kieran Westley*: University of Ulster
Reconstructing Submerged Archaeological Landscapes off the North Coast of Ireland

11.45. *Euan McNeill*: Wessex Archaeology
New Middle Palaeolithic Results from Area 240

12.00. *Vince Gaffney*: University of Birmingham
New Results from UK Palaeolandscapes Survey

12.15. *Rachel Bynoe, Justin Dix, Fraser Sturt*: University of Southampton
Submerged Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Landscapes of the UK Shelf: Examples from the Thames and Severn Estuary

12.30. *Garry Momber*: HWTMA
Recent Work at Bouldnor Cliff

Lunch: 13.00 to 14.00 Light refreshments will be provided

Afternoon Session: 14.00 to 17.00 with coffee/tea at 15.30

This session is intended to be an open discussion structured around the following issues and questions: (PTO)

1. Research Issues

Regional research capacity

- Are the active and successful groups in the UK actually working in the most important areas, addressing the most important questions, or have they arisen by accident and chance?
- How can regional research be developed and promoted and how can the SPLASHCOS network help with this?
- What areas of the UK and Irish seas have most potential for submerged prehistoric preservation, and which are least promising?
- Why have no prehistoric submerged sites been found in the Irish Sea?

National/ trans-national research questions

- Is the knowledge of past sea level changes and fossil coastlines at sufficient resolution for archaeological interpretation/modelling?
- What is the most important research work which can be done on beaches and in shallow water?
- What is the chance or significance of the recent discovery of sites which precede the LGM?

Research integration and promotion

- Is there enough integration between terrestrial and marine archaeologists and between specialists working within palaeoenvironmental fields so as to create a continuum between dryland and underwater landscapes? Can the SPLASCHCOS network help with this?
- Research Frameworks: There have been a number of these initiatives in recent years, either national (e.g. SCARF, Marine and Maritime Research Framework for England), regional (e.g. EH regional research frameworks), period based (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic) or thematic (North Sea Prehistoric Research Framework).
- How can promotion and implementation of these frameworks be achieved?
- Can we get more research grants for this work from the UK Research Councils or other major research funders?

2. Management Issues

Industry Collaboration

Although there have been a number of recent success stories of industry collaboration.....

- Are we doing enough to work with the offshore oil and gas sector?
- How can work with the fishing industry be developed?
- Are there other major marine development sectors that may offer new opportunities?
- How can relevant data from industry be more effectively accessed for research?

Integrating divers, volunteers and active amateurs/ regional reporting

There are a large number of active divers, volunteers and amateurs who regularly visit the marine and intertidal zones potentially discovering evidence of prehistoric landscapes and activities. There are also more locally based marine activities and industries which may encounter submerged prehistoric evidence. At present there are few established networks or channels of communication for reporting such discoveries.

- How can this resource of potential reporters be utilised effectively?
- Is there scope for liaison with divers/ volunteers/ marine operators at national or regional level?
- Who should be responsible for this?
- Can we get a course or section on prehistoric submerged sites into the training courses of the NAS?