

## THE SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTRIBUTION OF MARINE AGGREGATES

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Marine aggregates off southern Britain commonly originated in fluvial environments during phases of lower than present sea level in the Quaternary Period. Aggregate extraction from such fluvial terrace and channel infill deposits has revealed evidence for low sea levels, including faunal remains, peat deposits and, most significantly, flint hand axes. In addition, more recent maritime and aviation remains are occasionally recovered in aggregate cargoes, including timbers, cannon balls and wartime aircraft parts. Artefacts found either in dredged cargoes or at the receiving wharf or other landing point are recorded through a reporting protocol agreed between BMAPA and English Heritage (EH). This involves the participation of dredger crews, wharf and processing plant staff, industry management, archaeological specialists and officials in English Heritage. The protocol, underpinned by a partnership between BMAPA and EH, a joint Guidance Note and a high standard of archaeological investigation and feedback on finds, has been and continues to be a great success.