

SERF Research Agenda conference discussion points for the Maritime theme

Put at its simplest, the Maritime archaeology of East Sussex, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex would/should take an integrated regional approach.

Maritime themes include:

- 1) Maritime Landscapes (coastsapes): plot the changes through mapping the evidence at 200 year intervals or less across the whole region:
 - geomorphology-hydrology-topography
 - changes in sea-level relative to the land
 - changes in tidal head in estuaries/rivers
 - changes in coastal morphology/ extent of usable foreshore/ lagoons/ sandbanks/ saltmarsh/ erosion/ silting/ navigable channels
 - coastal land reclamation
- 2) Maritime Centres: ports/ harbours/ landing places: their local and regional importance changes over time (see above); look at:
 - individual centres and at contemporary groups of sites
 - urbanisation (first medieval 'towns' were ports)
 - traffic and trade: waterfront markets etc
 - harbour construction: wharf, quays and embankments;
 - harbour facilities, warehouses etc
- 3) Maritime Industries:
 - fishing and related activities
 - ship-building, ropemaking etc
 - salterns
- 4) Maritime Defences:
 - against the Sea
 - against sea-borne invasion/attack
- 5) Maritime Transport; boats, 'barges' and ships:
 - recovered as wrecks, hulks, or vessel fragments underwater, in the intertidal zone, or on terrestrial sites.
 - (see also graffiti and representational evidence)