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 (coastscapes): 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)