

# MARINE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

## GUIDE: FLINT & STONE FINDS



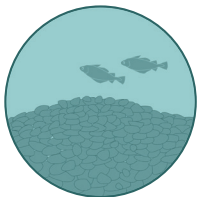
### STONE TOOLS

Stone tools are the oldest surviving tools used by humans and are amongst the earliest finds that can be discovered from the seabed. They are often made from flint, though many other types of rock could be used. They are relics from a landscape which now lies submerged under the sea and are invaluable in telling us about past activities and settlement patterns of early humans and their ancestors. Stone tools can be hard to recognise. Any stone that looks as though it has been worked or struck should be recorded through the MAS.



### GUN FLINTS

Gun flints were used on a range of firearms from the early 17th century, including naval ordnance. They are particularly useful as their typology can help determine a wreck's date and provenance.



### STONE ANCHORS

Pierced stones or stone anchors are a well-known object found on the seabed. The majority of pierced stones thought to be anchors have either one hole or three holes, with very few demonstrating only two holes. Dating of stone anchors is very difficult as their simple yet effective design was unable to be improved upon; however, there are indications that they may have been in use until quite recently, even after the widespread adoption of iron anchors. Given the relatively robust nature of stone objects, they are unlikely to be vulnerable to damage or deterioration due to natural processes. Finds of smaller pierced stones are likely to be fishing weights.

### BALLAST STONES

Ballast stones were used to stabilise ships empty of cargo. Stone ballast can survive in situ within the wooden structure of shipwrecks; or it can be the only indication of the location of a shipwreck where the wooden structure has rotted away. Ballast is also found at landing sites or ports where it has been jettisoned before loading cargo. The identification of the origin of ballast stones can indicate the origin of the vessel or its trade routes.

**There is a statutory obligation to report wreck to the Receiver of Wreck, part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.**

For further information about the Marine Antiquities Scheme please visit: [www.marinefinds.org.uk](http://www.marinefinds.org.uk)

The Marine Antiquities Scheme is supported by:

