

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Instructions regarding marine archaeological findings

This memorandum is intended for all engineers, contractors and mariners who work with the retrieval of seabed sediment samples from the seabed or construction at sea. As a rule, the retrieval of sediment takes place in connection with the recovery of raw material, as well as cleaning and deepening harbour basins and channels.

On the Danish seabed, it is possible to find archaeological artefacts and habitations from the hunter-gatherer Stone Age and from shipwrecks and boats, among other things. These objects of cultural heritage interest may be found in harbours, close to the coast and in deeper water.

Pursuant to section 29 g (1) of the Danish Museum Act, no changes may be made to the condition objects of cultural heritage on the seabed.

Pursuant to section 29 g (2) of the Danish Museum Act, changing or removing wrecked ships that may be assumed to have been lost more than 100 years ago must not take place. Similar provisions apply to cargo, ballast heaps and parts of shipwrecks.

When excavating or dredging, using suction pumping and investigating, it is a good idea that all employees on a ship, and in storage and pumping areas, etc., receive instructions about how to check the following:

Objects from the stone age:

Antlers and parts of antlers, axes and harpoons made of antlers or bones, cleaved bones, fabricated sticks and poles, flint flakes, small and roughly shaped (unpolished) flint axes, amber pearls, polished flint axes, pots, sherds, clay pots and human bones.

Wreckage:

Ship timbers and ship inventory of all kinds.

If there are findings during excavation or dredging, it is important that the information regarding the conditions of the finding and location are registered immediately. Procedures for extraction must be determined in advance so that such findings can be responsibly placed and so that records of the location's coordinates, water depth, extraction pumping depth and any special characteristics are made immediately about the part of the occurrence of raw materials in question.

If the findings occur in connection with the processing of raw materials and sediment on land, it is important to take notes on the cargo that the findings comes from and all of the circumstances regarding the findings.

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When findings of the categories of objects mentioned above are made, information must be provided regarding the type of the findings and their location. This information must be given to the nearest museum in accordance with the list below or to the Agency for Culture and Palaces, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2, DK-1553 Copenhagen V. Telephone number +45 33 74 51 00.

The finding must then be stored in the dark and in a cool location. Its location and the circumstances surrounding the finding must be stated unambiguously. Objects made of wood, bones or tooth must be stored in water (for example in closed plastic bags full of water). The findings and information about the findings must be given to the Agency for Culture and Palaces as soon as possible.

The person who has permission must also assist staff from the approved museums or the Agency for Culture and Palaces if they want to investigate ship cargo, storage sites, pumping areas etc. for any objects of the type mentioned above.

The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces, Cultural Heritage Division

Viking Ship Museum, Vindeboder 12, DK-4000 Roskilde. Tel.ph. 46300200
marinark@vikingeskibsmuseet.dk

The Viking Ship Museum is in charge of archaeology in the waters around Zealand and Bornholm. The boundary is in the middle of the Great Belt and the island, Sprogø, belongs to Zealand.

Langelands Museum (former Øhavsmuseet), Archaeology, Southern Funen, Jens Winthers Vej 12, 5900 Rudkøbing. Tel.ph. 63511023.
arkeologi@ohavsmuseet.dk

Langelands Museum is in charge of archaeology in the waters around Funen and the eastern coast of Jutland in the Region of Southern Denmark.

Moesgård Museum, Moesgård Allé 20, DK-8270 Højbjerg. Tel.ph. 87161016
moesgaard@moesmus.dk

Moesgård Museum is in charge of archaeology in the waters around the east coast of Central Denmark Region.

Nordjyllands Kystmuseum [the coastal museum of northern Jutland], dept. Bangsbo, Dr. Margrethesvej 6, DK-9900 Frederikshavn. Tel.ph. 98423111
info@kystmuseet.dk

Nordjyllands Kystmuseum is in charge of the waters around the North Denmark Region.

De Kulturhistoriske Museer i Holstebro Kommune [the cultural museums of the municipality of Holstebro]. Strandingsmuseum St. George [shipwreck museum St. George]

Vesterhavsgade 1E, Thorsminde, DK-6990 Ulfborg. Tel.ph. 96115020
info@strandingsmuseet.dk

Strandingsmuseum, St. George department is in charge of archaeology in the North Sea off of Central Region Denmark and the Region of Southern Denmark.