

Landings of marine aggregates in the solent average 1.5 million tonnes a year!

FACT

A Diving Resource

Shipwrecks are extremely popular dive sites often because of their history, but also due to the rich and diverse marine life found there.

Numerous wrecks within our study area are regularly dived on. Diving and aqua culture are important for the economy of the region. Britain is internationally renowned for the quality and diversity of its wreck diving.

Aggregate Extraction

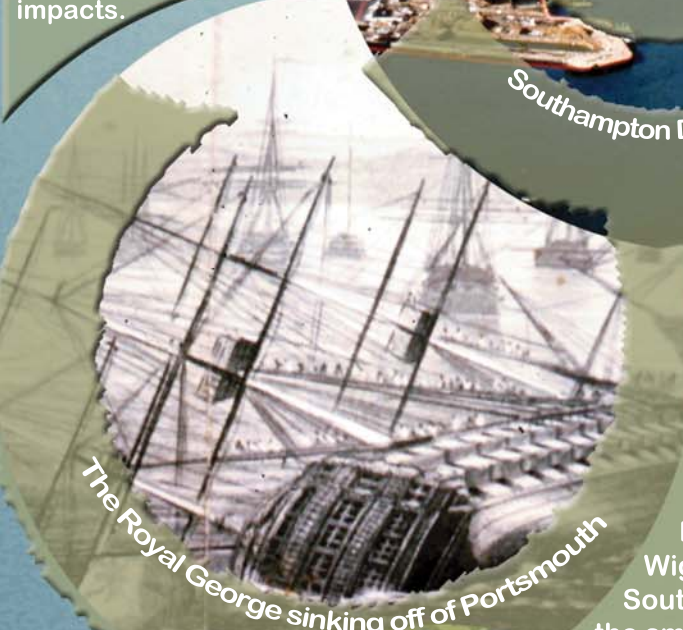
The aggregate industry understands the importance of the marine environment and its maritime heritage. During extraction the aggregates industry aims to protect wrecks and their associated wildlife by placing exclusion zones around sites. Several projects and initiatives, such as the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, have been developed to help reduce environmental impacts.



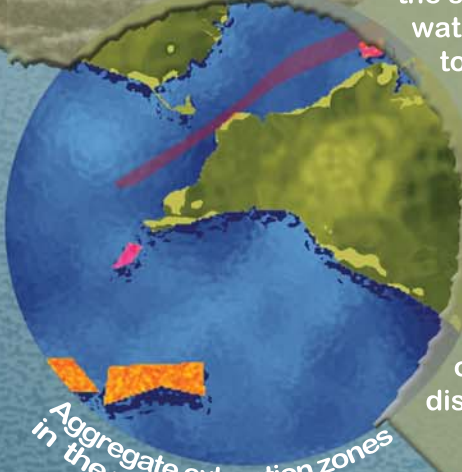
Southampton Docks



HWTMA Diver examines a wrecksite



The Royal George sinking off of Portsmouth



Aggregate extraction zones in the west Wight

115,000 tonnes of aggregates are consumed on the Isle of Wight every year!

FACT

OASIS

Offshore Aggregates & Species Inhabiting historic Shipwrecks

Shipwrecks in Aggregate Areas

Bustling with activity, the waterways around the Isle of Wight are some of the busiest in the world. Portsmouth and Southampton are centres of international maritime trade, while the smaller harbours around the Solent play host to an array of local watercraft. The area has been used since prehistory as a gateway to our island nation and to exploit maritime resources.

Frequent fierce tides and strong funnelling winds have caused the loss of many ships in these waters. This has left its mark on the seabed and a large number of shipwrecks are found in the area. In the Solent area alone 700 wrecks have been registered as being of historic or cultural interest. Many wrecks still lie on and within the seabed awaiting discovery.

