

affix  
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## Museums that feature Historic Wreck & diving

### Castle Cornet

#### Maritime Museum

Housed inside Castle Cornet Guernsey's Maritime Museum traces the Islands nautical history from prehistoric times to the present day.

Guernsey's sheltered harbour has welcomed seafarers for many centuries, making the island part of a thriving world wide trade route. Its fishing industries, ship building and naval history are portrayed through life sized displays, scale models and museum objects.



**Castle Cornet & Museums**  
Castle Emplacement, St Peter Port  
open Easter to October



1 Roman amphora, Maritime Museum  
2 Diving history display, Maritime Museum  
3 Shipwreck Gallery, Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum

### Fort Grey

#### Shipwreck Museum

This museum houses a collection of maritime artefacts and information relating to shipwrecks around the treacherous west coast of Guernsey.

From HMS Sprightly, wrecked on the Hanois Reef in 1777, to the sad story of MV Prosperity which foundered on the rocks of Perelle in January 1974 after the crew had abandoned ship and 16 of them drowned. The display serves as a poignant reminder of the perils of the sea.



**Fort Grey Shipwreck Museum**  
Rocquaine Coast Road, St Peters  
open Easter to October

## Other useful addresses

### Harbourmaster

St Julians Emplacement  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey GY1 2LW

### Receiver of Wreck

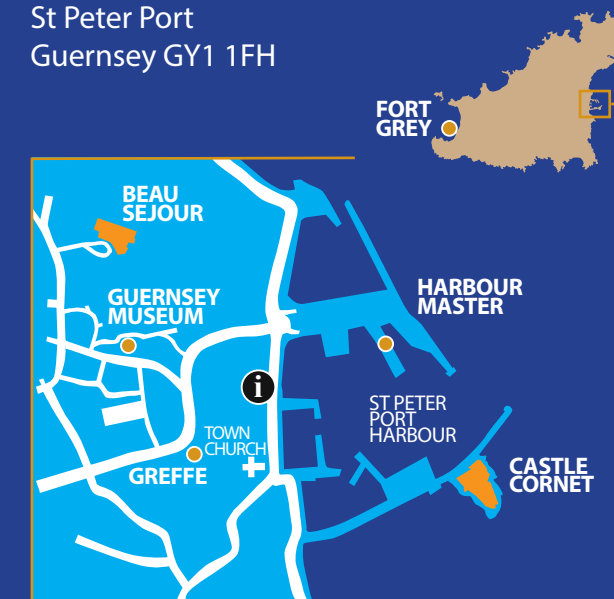
Sir Charles Frossard House  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey GY1 1FH

### Greffe

Royal Court Building  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey GY1 1FH

### Visitor Information Centre

Royal Court Building  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey GY1 1FH



## States of Guernsey Historic Wreck guidelines

### Finding out more

This leaflet summarises the key aspects of the **Wreck and Salvage Law** relating to historic wreck in Guernsey waters. The same Law applies elsewhere in the Bailiwick but different authorities are responsible. Copies of the Legislation are available from the Greffe.

For more general information on historic wreck, contact the **Archaeology Officer**  
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery,  
Candie Gardens, St. Peter Port,  
Guernsey, GY11UG  
telephone mobile 07781102219

Or email phil.dejersey@gov.gg

For further information on Guernsey's maritime past visit the museum website

www.museums.gov.gg

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**CULTURE AND LEISURE**  
A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



**The Archaeology Officer**  
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery  
Candie Gardens  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey  
GY1 1UG



## What is Historic Wreck?

Historic Wreck includes:

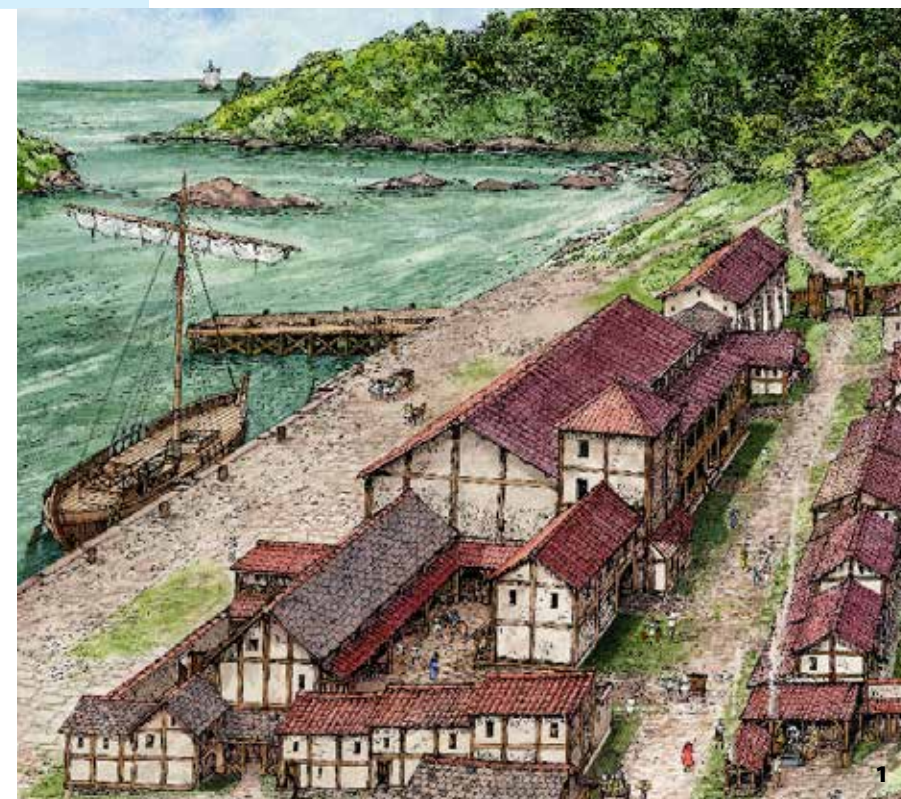
**a** vessel which has lain wrecked for 50 years or more

**any** cargo of such a vessel

**any** cargo or other object lost or abandoned for 50 years or more

## Importance

Each discovery of historic wreck found provides valuable information for archaeologists and historians world-wide about the Island's maritime heritage. The Culture and Leisure Department wishes to work alongside both local and visiting divers in learning more about that heritage. The island's rocky coastline has claimed many vessels since prehistoric times. Some of these such as the Roman trading vessel found in 1982, have been particularly important. Together with the land-based archaeological sites at La Plaiderie and the Bonded Stores it has provided a vast amount of information about Roman trade and domestic life in the island. More recently several medieval wrecks have been located in St Peter Port harbour one of which was built in Portugal.



your questions answered  
States of Guernsey **Historic Wreck** Guidelines

## Protection

The Wreck and Salvage (Vessels and Aircraft) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Laws 1986-98 are designed to protect historic wreck from unscrupulous individuals, not to prevent the enjoyment of responsible divers. All Historic Wreck is the property of the States of Guernsey and automatically comes under the authority of the Receiver of Wreck, but in most cases the finder will be allowed to retain it on behalf of the States.



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## What to do if you find a wreck

If you discover historic wreck, you must report it to the Receiver of Wreck at Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1FH (telephone 01481 717000). You must not tamper with or remove historic wreck unless you have a written licence from the Culture and Leisure Department ( see form attached). This includes excavation of the seabed at the site and/or removal of parts of any vessel/aircraft or cargo. Objects found away from obvious wreck sites may be brought ashore if it is likely that they are in danger of destruction or loss provided that they can be lifted without damaging any wreck or site, and also that the find is reported and handed over. It is recognised that difficulties may be experienced in identifying objects underwater. The location of the find should be noted and carefully recorded.

- 1 Roman St Peter Port artist impression
- 2 Roman pan weight Guernsey Museum
- 3 Diving on medieval wreck in St Peter Port John Adams



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## Can I dive

The Culture and Leisure Department issues licences which will allow responsible persons or bodies within Guernsey waters to 'tamper with' or 'remove' historic wreck and to salvage historic wreck in a restricted area. A small fee is charged for the licence. The size of the fee will be determined by the Culture and Leisure Department based on the importance of the wreck and whether salvage operations are to be undertaken. If you believe you may have raised historic wreck, you are advised to contact the St Peter Port Signals Office giving information of your intention to bring objects ashore. On arrival, the objects must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck as soon as possible. If the Receiver agrees, it may be possible to deposit the objects with the Heritage Committee at the museum or at another appropriate and agreed site.

## What happens to Historic Wreck

If the Receiver of Wreck has taken charge of an object which is historic wreck, he will inform the Culture and Leisure Department who may take the object into its custody. The Department will then decide whether or not the object should become part of the museum collections. The Committee will also negotiate possible compensation with the diver.

- 4 Surveying medieval timbers St Peter Port
- 5 Surveying roman timbers St Peter Port



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## What are Restricted Areas?

The Culture and Leisure Department is always pleased to hear of historic wreck discoveries. If you discover a wreck site that proves to be of particular historical interest, the Department may **designate** the area as a **restricted area** to protect the wreck. You must not tamper with or remove historic wreck nor carry out any salvage operation in a restricted area unless you have a written licence (see left). If a licence is granted, it will contain restrictions concerning who may dive, how objects should be recovered and what will happen to them on recovery. It is likely that the conditions applied to a licence to dive on historic wreck in a restricted area will be more stringent than if the wreck is not in a restricted area. A small fee is charged for the licence. The size of the fee will be determined by the Culture and Leisure Department having regard to the importance of the wreck and whether salvage operations are to be undertaken.



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## What is meant by compensation?

Compensation for the recovery of an object of historic wreck will be based on a percentage of the value of the object. Where the object is retained in the Department's collections the value will normally be based on an independent valuation. Where the Department decides to sell the object, the value will be the price for which the object is sold normally at public auction. If the Committee decides to sell the object the diver will be given the first opportunity to buy it from the States on the basis of an independent valuation, less the compensation to which the diver is entitled.

## What penalties apply if I break the Law?

Officers of the police, the Receiver of Wreck and persons authorised by the Receiver are empowered to enforce the provisions of the Wreck and salvage Law as they relate to historic wreck. If you are convicted by the Courts of a contravention of the Law, the current maximum penalty is confiscation of diving equipment and the diver's boat and a fine of up to £2,000 and/or a prison term of up to two years.

Issue 2 December 2006

## Wreck and Salvage (Vessels and Aircraft) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1986.

### Application for licence to dive on Historic Wreck

I/we wish to apply for a licence to dive

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CONTACT TEL. NO:

in an area of known historic wreck  
PLEASE SUPPLY PRECISE LOCATION

on a specific wreck  
PLEASE SUPPLY PRECISE LOCATION

Purpose of dive (tick box)  
RECREATIONAL  TRAINING  RESEARCH   
DATE & TIME OF DIVE(S)

If a licence is granted I/we agree to abide by the conditions outlined.

SIGNED  DATE

REMOVE THIS PORTION ALONG DOTTED LINE AND POST TO US