

## Save our wrecks from Windfarm Developers

**This is an appeal for your help to protect the untouched marine treasure trove that is Scarweather Sands, a vast sandbank 3 miles off the coast of Porthcawl in Swansea Bay. Soon this ancient sailors and ships graveyard will be destroyed with the building of 30 massive wind turbines, the largest ever built, each standing 443 feet high on one of South Wales most sensitive and picturesque seascapes.**

Viking mariners who sailed these waters from the ninth to the eleventh centuries AD feared this deceptive sandbank and named Scarweather from the Norse word 'skar' meaning reef.

Many sailing vessels have floundered on Scarweather Sands and all are well documented, at least two ships are from the 'Mary Rose' period and one troopship from the Nelson era all with many hundreds of sailors. Of the 50 plus known shipwrecks, that of the SS Samtampa in 1947 with the loss of 39 seamen and the 8 crew of the Mumbles lifeboat, is within living memory.

If the seabed of Scarweather Sands is covered with concrete and machines excavate vast trenches to bury the miles of cable network without the highest standards of protection from Cadw, no more artefacts will surface on local beaches and a large part of Britain's marine archaeology will be permanently lost. The track of the planned cable excavations over Margam Burrows is the natural area for exposing artefacts from the Ann Francis, and many of these can be viewed at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

This area looks onto Kenfig Burrows, a Special Site of Scientific Importance and the lost city of Kenfig, buried under the sand for more than 500 years. This little known but unique historical coastal area, both on and offshore, will be decimated if no effort is made by responsible people to insist that the developer observe the utmost care. Only Best Practice archaeology standards being imposed and designed into the windfarm construction will achieve a measure of safeguards and make the best of this destructive situation.

Unfortunately CADW have little resources set aside for marine archaeology and therefore we urge you to please take the time and interest to write and insist that CADW impose the strictest protocol possible for historical preservation on this development.

**PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS SITE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BE PLUNDERED AND DESTROYED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR URGENTLY NEEDED HELP...**

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Book on wrecks

Porthcawl and its Coastline.....John David

Please make your feeling known to the Welsh Assembly Government and the following as listed.

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