

Workshop 5: Archaeology Jos Bazelmans

Archaeological research within the Wadden Sea area is at a low tide, although the area is extremely rich and in many aspects unique as regards archaeological remains. This begs the question whether archaeologists have "a license to do research". What have they got to offer? To science? And to the economic, social and spatial development of society? Within the scientific domain archaeologists can contribute to interdisciplinary research: they should focus on providing independent data on sea-level rise and the long term ecological development of the Wadden Sea area. How did the human forcing of geological and ecological change develop in holocene times? As a social science emphasis should be on the study of the long term co-evolution of man and environment (including human responses to disasters), societal development, the development of relationships with the outside world and the formation of regional identities. All this as a scientifically sound basis for storytelling within contemporary society.