French archaeology is submitted to laws (Heritage code, book V). Metal detectors are forbidden in archaeological context without prefectorial authorization (article L. 542-1).


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Contact us

Projet ALeRT - Laboratoire d'Archéosciences
CRéAAH UMR 6566
Université Rennes 1, campus de Beaulieu
Bât. 24-25
263, avenue du Général Leclerc
35 042 Rennes Cedex FRANCE

tél. +33 2 23 23 70 15
alertarcheologie@gmail.com

ALeRT
A participative approach to serve the protection of coastal archaeological heritage
The erosion of coastal archaeological sites

Climates changes effects are various in coastal zones. The **coastal erosion**, combined with anthropic pressure, affects not only the natural systems but also the cultural, historical and archaeological heritage along the English Channel and Atlantic coasts. There is an emergency to consider this loss of heritage and the scientific data.

A participative approach has started, which enables researchers and volunteers to work with archaeologists. If you wish to participate in the protection of **coastal archaeological heritage**, several tools are now available which permit to feed the interactive database of the project.

As the primary cause of sites deterioration is natural (erosion), this implies that the classical approach and the means of rescue archaeology can’t be applied in France in the issue.

For all these reasons, the “**ALERT**” project (Archaeology, coasts and climate changes - **Archéologie, Littoral et Réchauffement Terrestre**) has been built up as a coastal heritage management tool, facing the coastal erosion and other threats. This project has been developed by an interdisciplinary group of researchers (archaeologists, geographers, geomorphologists), involved in coastal archaeology and aware of the vulnerability of this coastal and island heritage.

A web version of this interactive database exists, as well as a mobile app for tablets and smartphones. In this way, everybody can participate in ALeRT project from the field.

**Menosach menhir** in Plouguerneau (Brittany), c. 1900-1910

**Cattle footprints** in Brétignolles-sur-Mer in 2014 (Pays-de-la-Loire)

**Roc’h Santec excavations** in 2015 (Brittany)

**Queménes island** (Molène archipelago; Brittany), 19.03.2015 and 22.03.2015

**Shell middens in Trielen island** (Molène archipelago; Brittany)

https://alertarcheo.univ-rennes1.fr/