

## Operational Guide 7: ROV Surveys and Diving Operations

### Introduction

This Operational Guide is intended to help those involved in ROV surveys and diving operations to meet the requirements of The Crown Estate's Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD).

ROV surveys and diving operations are routinely carried out in advance of and during construction for offshore renewable energy schemes. There is a high potential that archaeological material will be encountered during these activities.

### What to do

In some cases, provision will already have been made for an archaeologist to review ROV footage or to advise on finds made during diving operations, particularly in areas of high archaeological potential. In such cases, the

retained archaeologist will interpret and report on the survey/operations results. Where there is no immediate provision for archaeological input the ORPAD will apply. The Site Champion will report the find to the appointed Nominated Contact, who will report it through the ORPAD. This Operational Guide will help you to report finds and anomalies that may be of archaeological interest.

### Operations

When an anomaly or potential archaeological find is encountered underwater, ROV operators and divers should attempt to obtain detailed video footage and still photographs of the context of the overall find as well as close ups and capture blueview images if possible. Also, record the position of the find, as accurately as possible.

### DOs

- ✓ Check if provision has already been made for archaeological input
- ✓ Seek the advice of the Protocol team at Wessex Archaeology if you are unsure of your next steps – [protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)
- ✓ Report anything you suspect is of archaeological or cultural heritage interest to the Site Champion
- ✓ Record the find/anomaly position by GPS
- ✓ Make sure all details are recorded (exact location, date, time, etc.) using the Protocol's recording forms
- ✓ If you are the Site Champion, report the anomaly to your Nominated Contact immediately
- ✓ If you suspect an anomaly is of 'high potential' (see criteria) stop any planned work within the area where the anomaly is located until archaeological advice is received via the Nominated Contact
- ✓ Keep finds protected in a suitable container and in a cool, dark place
- ✓ If the item came from seawater, keep it immersed in seawater.
- ✓ If it is too large, cover it and keep wet
- ✓ Label finds and handle them with care

### DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T wait to report the anomaly or finds
- ✗ DON'T report anomalies if provision has already been made for archaeological input
- ✗ DON'T remove any concretion, sediment or dirt
- ✗ DON'T leave the finds where they could be damaged or deteriorate
- ✗ DON'T allow wet finds to dry out

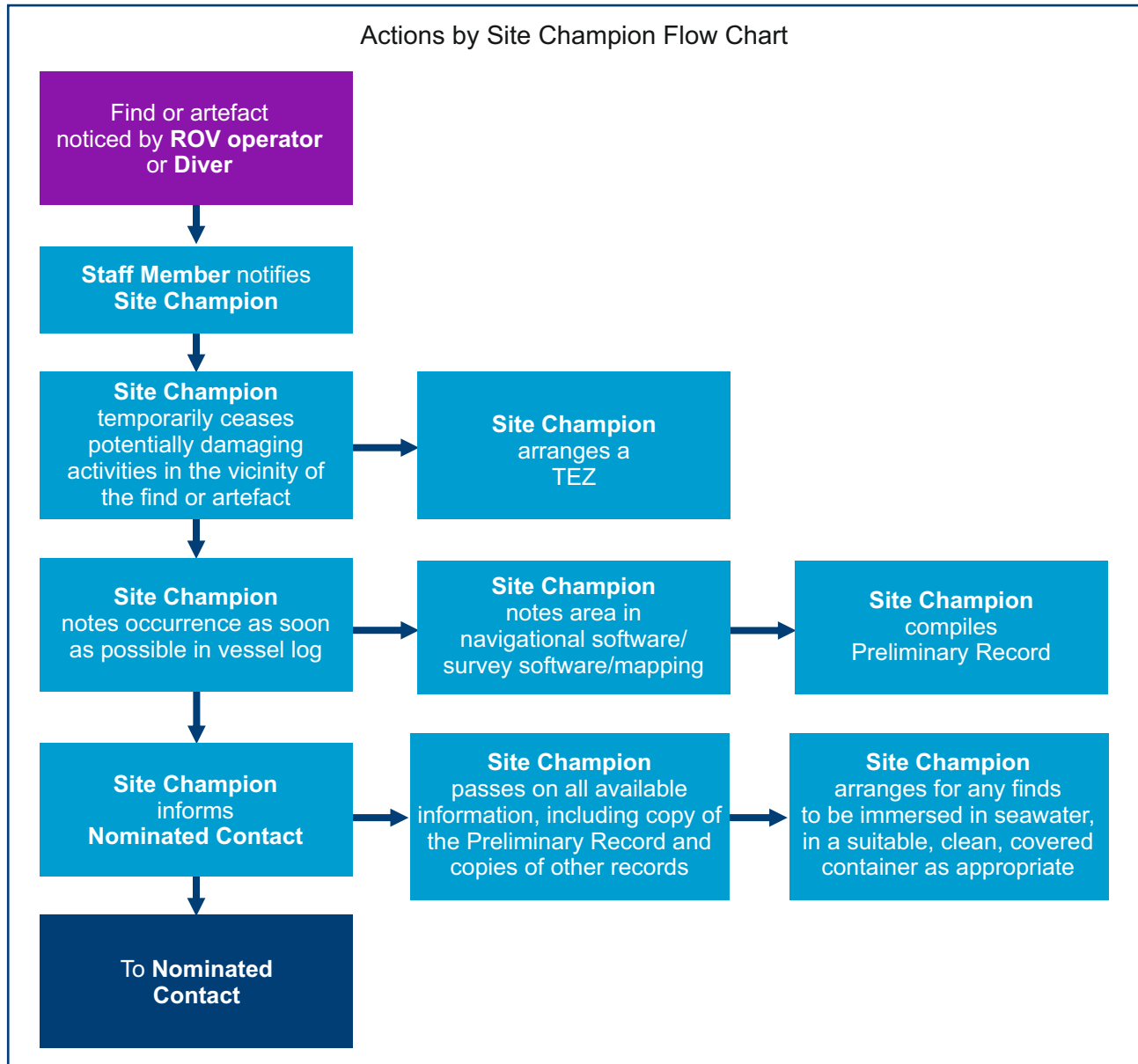
### Criteria for High Potential Finds – Nominated Contact to be informed immediately

- Single finds that are post-medieval or earlier in date (date to 1800 or earlier)
- Single finds that relate to military aircraft
- Multiple finds recovered from one location
- Indications of the presence of a shipwreck or other structural remains
- Peat or other fine-grained sediments that contain worked flint, charcoal or bone

### Criteria for Low Potential Finds

- Single, isolated finds that are not dateable or of modern (post-1800) date
- Peat deposits

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Guidelines for identifying finds of archaeological interest can be found in the *Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries: Offshore Renewables Projects* (The Crown Estate, 2014). The Preliminary Record form for reporting archaeological discoveries to the Nominated Contact can be found in the Protocol document and on the Protocol website:

[www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables)