

# Offshore Renewables Protocol

for Archaeological Discoveries



## Offshore Renewable Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

Protocol Annual Report 2011-2012

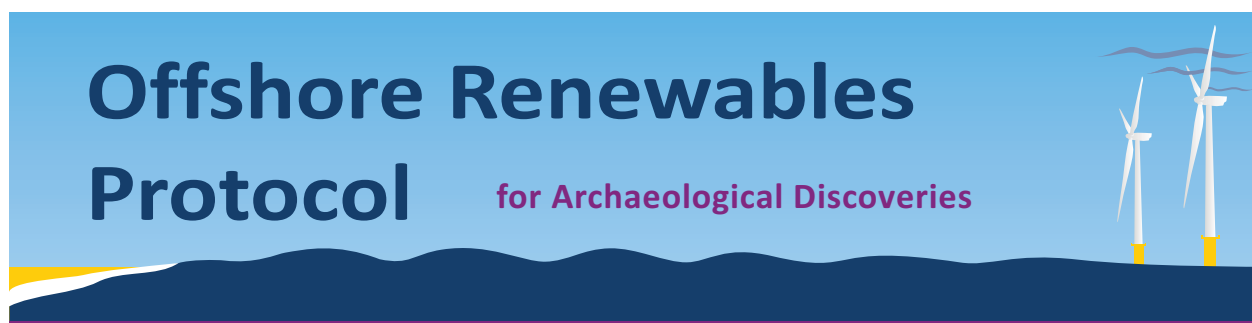
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Prepared by

Wessex Archaeology 





## Protocol Annual Report 2010-2011

June 2012

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Project Background

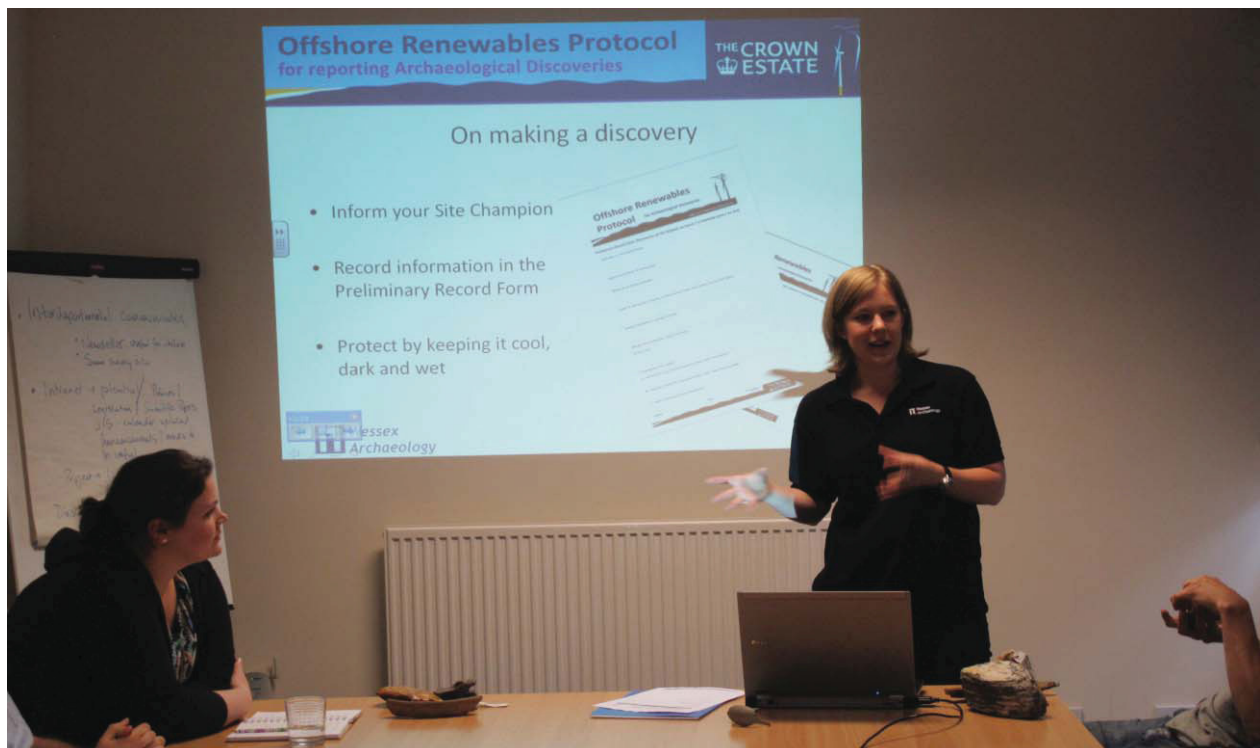
1.1.1. The Crown Estate (TCE) owns approximately half the UK foreshore and nearly the entire seabed out to the 12 nautical mile limit, and has the rights to licence areas up to 200 nautical miles offshore for renewable energy.

1.1.2. During offshore development in the renewable energy industry there is a high likelihood of uncovering or encountering unexpected archaeological remains. Activities associated with renewable energy such as: placement of turbines, cable-laying, geophysical surveys and seabed sampling all have the potential to impact on the historic environment.

1.1.3. It is a requirement of most planning consents, in line with documents such as EN-3, that a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) are in place during construction work.

1.1.4. In December 2010 The Crown Estate launched the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD). The aim of the Protocol is to provide a system for reporting and investigating unexpected archaeological discoveries encountered during pre-construction, construction and installation work in the offshore renewables industry. The ORPAD Implementation Service guides and advises industry staff on how to protect our shared cultural heritage.

1.1.5. This voluntary Protocol is implemented when site staff encounter potential archaeological material during the activities listed above and an archaeologist is not present. It was inspired by the extremely successful marine aggregates industry Protocol for reporting finds of archaeological interest, which has reported over 800 individual objects since it was launched in 2005.



## 2. The Protocol

### 2.1. Reporting Process

2.1.1. Under the Protocol, if archaeological artefacts or sites are discovered the find is reported to a Site Champion (SC) – a single individual usually the site manager, team leader or vessel master – who completes a reporting form with key information including description of the find and positional information.

2.1.2. This form, along with photographs of the find, is forwarded to the Nominated Contact (NC), a single person within each Developer. The NC uploads information and photographs onto an online portal, which notifies the Implementation Service (IS), currently operated by Wessex Archaeology (WA) on behalf of The Crown Estate.

2.1.3. The IS will then respond to the NC and The Crown Estate with a report following investigation into the find and, where appropriate, send copies of this information to the SC, site staff, curators, and any other interested parties.

2.1.4. The Protocol covers the full range of possible artefacts that could be encountered on the seabed. To support the Protocol the IS runs an awareness programme, the activities of which are detailed on page 5 of this report.

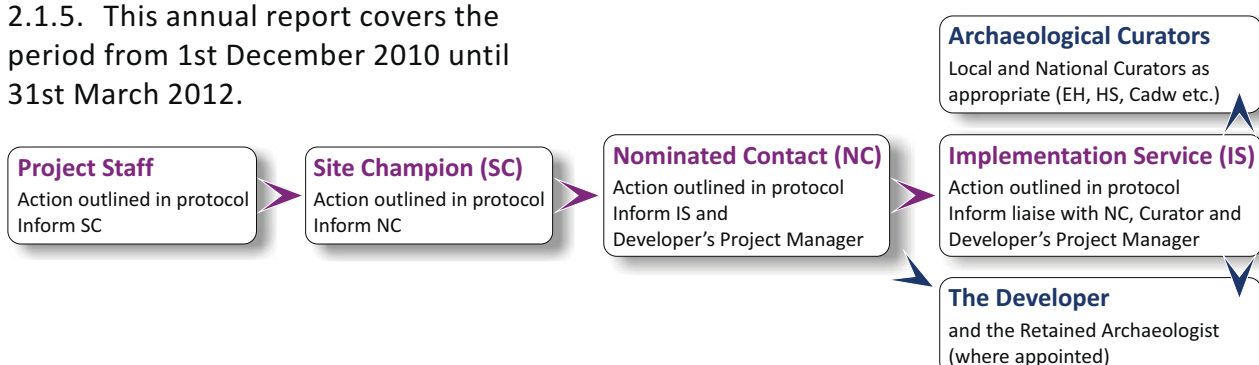
2.1.5. This annual report covers the period from 1st December 2010 until 31st March 2012.

### 2.2. The First Year

2.2.1. Following its launch in December 2010, the IS began initial awareness to Developers to open discussions about how the ORPAD can provide a cost-effective and simple way to reports archaeological discoveries.

2.2.2. Many Developers employ a retained archaeologist since offshore renewable zones are subject to archaeological assessment during the planning process where vast licence areas are surveyed to ensure the least impact on conservation receptors construction.

2.2.3. There is a high level of confidentiality within the offshore renewable industry, which means that the dissemination of reports is time restricted, unlike that of the marine aggregates industry protocol. Similarly, unlike the marine aggregates protocol where finds are published in a bi-annual newsletter and on the protocol web-pages, discoveries reported through the ORPAD are often considered confidential at the consenting stage. Post-consent, there is less of an issue over confidentiality and this may be the best time to disseminate the data to the relevant agencies.





2.2.4. The sensitivity of Developers to finds of archaeology found during pre-consent activities creates challenges in the dissemination of data to the relevant bodies and may cause Developers to delay reporting in relation to the Protocol and the wider Historic Environment. Notwithstanding the confidentiality issues surrounding pre-consent activities, this need not necessarily be the case. As has been shown on a number of schemes, archaeology and cultural heritage are rarely a major obstacle to development programmes and is usually dealt with in a practical and sensible way without undue disruption to the planning and engineering processes.

## **2.3. Reports**

2.3.1. Due to the confidentiality issues relating to the pre-consent activities of the offshore renewables industry the finds reported through the Protocol have not yet been disseminated to relevant bodies or the public. This will take place when the Developer agrees for the information to be disseminated. When finds are reported, the IS compiles a discovery report for the Developer and, initially, The Crown Estate only.

2.3.2. During the past year four finds from offshore renewable activities have been reported through the Protocol. These find were discovered in the North East, East Coast and Outer Thames regions of England.

2.3.3. Reported finds have demonstrated the type of archaeological remains that may be encountered by staff working offshore. Finds include ship timbers, anchors and a windlass. They have

provided further insight into Britain's maritime past. One of the finds was even related to a nearby known wreck and is likely to be part of the wreck debris field.

2.3.4. People have been travelling around the British coast in watercraft for many thousands of years and whilst the majority of discoveries reported through the Protocol are modern in date (post-1800) there is potential for finds dating to earlier periods.

2.3.5. These finds were discovered during pre-construction activities such as diver survey following a geophysical survey, grapnels runs and fisheries surveys.

2.3.6. The Developers involved have worked with the IS to ensure that these finds have been recorded and protected and that their discovery has caused minimal disruption to the work of the industry.

2.3.7. The wider lack of finds reported via the Protocol may relate to the paucity of awareness training provided to site staff and management, about the need for a protocol, or possibly other development priorities taking precedence meaning the ORPAD would benefit from further publicity. See 3.3.8.

2.3.8. One of the challenges faced by the Protocol will be the level of monitoring by the Regulator's advisor. It is a matter for the relevant Heritage Agencies to achieve an acceptable and balanced level of monitoring and implementation.

### 3. Raising Awareness

#### 3.1. Protocol Awareness Programme

3.1.1. The IS operates an awareness programme for the ORPAD to ensure that industry staff are informed about all aspects of the Protocol including why we find archaeology on the seafloor, different find types and how to report them. The awareness programme is funded by the Crown Estate.



3.1.2. The 2010-2011 programme of awareness included

- Development of ORPAD resources to support the Protocol
- Visits to Developers, survey companies and contractors
- Newsletter – three issues of Renewing the Past newsletter. This bi-annual newsletter aims to promote the ORPAD through thematic articles on the marine historic environment
- Production of Website
- Production of Awareness DVD

#### 3.2. ORPAD Resources

3.2.1. To support the running of the Protocol, the IS has developed a number of resources. These are available from the IS or can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables/documents>

- Website including information and reporting Portal
- Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) document
- Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
- Reporting Form
- Handouts
- Discoveries Poster
- Operational Guides

3.2.2. The PAD document contains all information and actions of those involved with the process of the ORPAD. It provides background to the project, plus flowcharts of responsibilities and roles of all those affected by the discoveries of archaeological material.

3.2.3. The ORPAD Reporting Form is a double-sided document, which supports the reporting of archaeological discoveries by providing a series of prompts for recording essential information that should be included in the report of a find to the IS.

#### 3.2.4. The IS developed

a range of handouts based on the format of the marine aggregates protocol. These handouts include information about how to report finds, as well as conservation and photography advice. A photo scale sheet is also included on the reverse of the photography handout to make recording small finds easier.



3.2.5. A discoveries poster was produced for distribution throughout offices and site. It is printed on 'scrim', a strong, water resistant paper, perfect for posters used on site, on vessels and outside.

3.2.6. Additional operation guides have also been produced for use by a range of staff with the renewables industry. These guides provide information for specific activities conducted by those within or contracted by the offshore renewables industry focussing on the more likely types of archaeological encounters for these fields. Operational Guides for the following activities have been produced:

- Geophysical Survey
- Benthic Ecology Survey
- Grapnel Surveys and Obstruction Clearance
- Offshore Construction and Cable Laying
- Inter-tidal Cable Laying
- Onshore Work

3.2.7. These guides lay down the required actions, dos and don'ts, and provide advice for many common industry activities that can lead to discoveries of an archaeological nature being made.

### 3.3. Awareness Visits

3.3.1. The IS has conducted a number of visits to Developers and contractors about the Protocol. On site training is presented to site staff via a PowerPoint presentation. Alternatively where facilities are unavailable a paper flipchart presentation has been designed for use in any venue.



3.3.2 Nominated Contacted visits include:

- focuses on legal and general guidance on dealing with the historic environment
- the nature of the marine historic environment
- types of material encountered;
- roles and responsibilities of NC and SC
- guidance on using the ORPAD portal
- outlines the training available

3.3.3. Awareness visits to staff include:

- the nature of the marine historic environment
- types of materials encountered
- roles and responsibilities of SC and NC
- advice on conservation and storing finds
- advice on recording finds





3.3.4. Types of materials encountered on the seafloor are illustrated by the IS handling collection. Objects that have been discovered on the seafloor are passed around those attending the training supporting the understanding of the different types of materials from submerged prehistory, boats & ships and aircraft wrecks that may be discovered and reported through the Protocol.

3.3.5. Additional training was provided to NC on how to report finds via the online portal. NCs were led through the different pages of the portal including the welcome page, reporting a new discovery and uploading additional information at a later date.

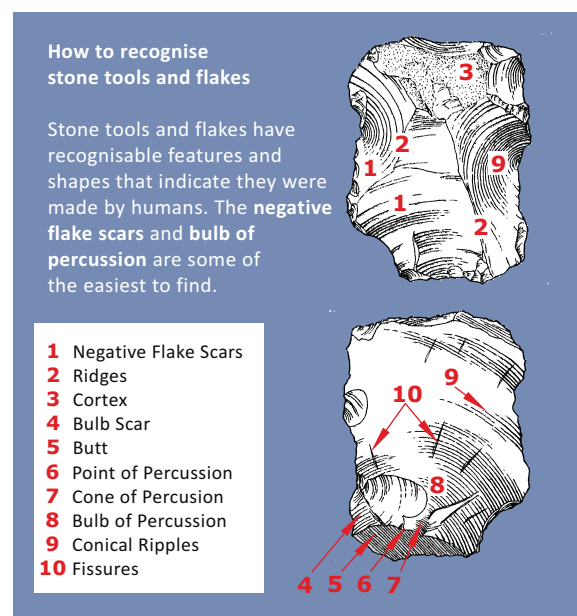
3.3.6. The IS have conducted multiple visits to NC and site staff. Over the past year the IS have provided twelve NC visits and seven visits to site staff including survey companies and other contractors.

Often visits are split between NC visits and site staff visits as the emphasis is slightly different.

3.3.7 Number of visits December 2010 to 31st March 2012

Nominated Contacts	Site Visits
9	9

3.3.8. Awareness Visit feedback was requested via an online portal (<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables/feedback>). Those receiving training were asked to provide feedback to the IS so that the awareness programme can be continually reviewed and improved. So far the feedback has been positive. The IS could benefit from tailoring presentations, particularly the handling collection to the specific types of work, e.g. one commenter remarked “the finds were interesting but unlikely to be found in samples brought back to the lab” and continued with a preference to “see more... flint finds”.



3.3.9. Improvements to awareness training would include ensuring that the IS team member giving the presentation was aware of the specific nature of the work being conducted by the contractor. This would ensure that, as well as providing a general introduction to the Protocol, training could be adapted to each specific audience.

### Are you involved in any of these activities?

**FREE**

- Geophysical survey
- Benthic ecology survey
- Grapnel surveys
- Obstruction clearance
- Offshore construction and installation
- Offshore cable laying
- Inter-tidal cable laying
- Onshore ground work

If you do not already have on-site archaeological supervision, awareness training will help you identify and report any archaeological discoveries.

We provide training across the country, often at short notice.

Contact us:  
**The Implementation Service team**  
**01722 326867**  
[protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)



3.3.10. One of the factors that may have contributed to the lack of finds reported through the Protocol could be the lack of awareness visits and training. Awareness visits have shown, in previous Protocols, to have lead to more archaeological discoveries being recognised by staff and therefore reported. As one of the challenges is to promote the support of the Regulator's advisor (EH, Cadw, HS etc.) in encouraging its strategy for training, it has been a relatively slow process in broadening the reach of the awareness programme.

3.3.11. The IS would recommend a proactive approach to the awareness programme involving more robust marketing and direct communication to advertise The Crown Estate Protocol (not WA) to ensure that contractors staff who may encounter archaeological finds are trained to recognise and report such discoveries.

### 3.4. DVD

3.4.1. Although a visit by a member of the IS team is the preferred method to provide training to staff about the Protocol the IS have produced an awareness DVD. The purpose of the DVD is to be used in the event that an awareness visit is impractical, e.g. on board a vessel.



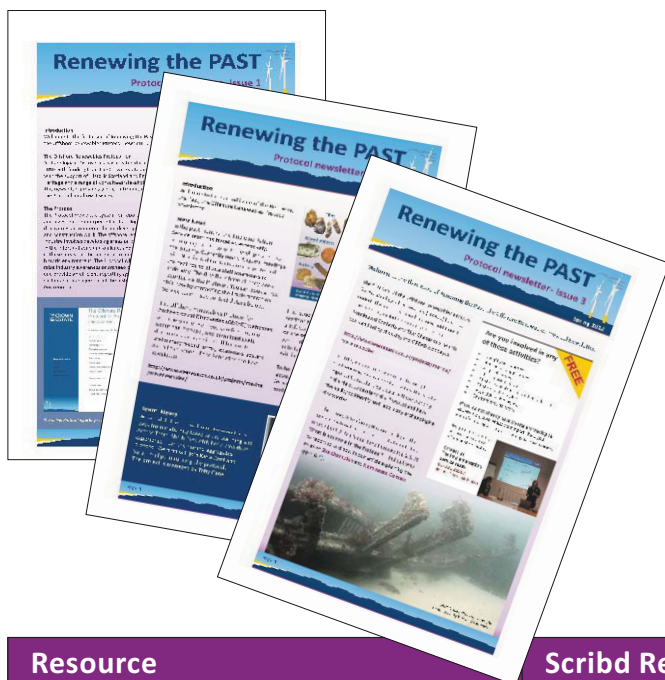
3.4.2. The film lasts approximately 25 minutes and follows a similar pattern to an awareness presentation including information on the marine historic environment, types of material encountered, actions for site staff and recording tips.

3.4.3. The DVD has proved popular with site staff when a site visit is not practical because of the timescales of vessel movements.

3.4.4 Feedback from NC's support that while the DVD is useful, it is not a substitute for a staffed awareness training session.

### 3.5. Newsletter

3.5.1. So far the IS has produced three editions of Renewing the Past, the protocol newsletter. The newsletter contains thematic articles as well as providing hints and tips on reporting finds. The newsletter is produced as a PDF and emailed to a mailing list of Developer's contacts provided by The Crown Estate, as well as being uploaded onto the website.



### 3.6. Resource Distribution

3.6.1. Resource distribution table (as recorded 29th June 2012).

3.6.2. The Protocol report and all awareness material, with the exception of the DVD, area available on line through the website

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables>

The documents can be downloaded straight from the webpage or via Wessex Archaeology's Scribd account

<http://www.scribd.com/collections/2772831/Offshore-Renewables-Protocol>

3.6.3. The newsletters are also circulated as a PDF via email, using a mailing list of Developer's contacts provided by The Crown Estate.

Resource	Scribd Reads	Email Distribution
Renewing the Past 1	851 reads	85
Renewing the Past 2	500 reads	85
Renewing the Past 3	449 reads	85
Protocol	988 reads	N/A
Handouts	810 reads	N/A
Poster	N/A	N/A
OG Geophysical Survey	85 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A
OG Benthic Ecological Survey	78 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A
OG Grapnel Survey and Obstruction Clearance	85 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A
OG Offshore Construction and Cable Laying	354 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A
OG Intertidal Cable Laying	75 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A
OG Onshore Work	82 (uploaded 5/12)	N/A



## 4. Conclusions

### 4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 This report reviews the launch and initiation of ORPAD from December 2010 to March 31st 2011, and the completion of the first full year of ORPAD, from 1st of April 2011 to the 31st of March 2012.

4.1.2 The value of reported finds cannot be underestimated. This has been demonstrated through other Finds Protocols, such as the BMAPA's Marine Aggregate Industry Protocol for Reporting Finds of Archaeological Interest.

4.1.3 The finds discovered under the ORPAD have been few due to the reasons discussed above, but they have tended to indicate shipwreck sites rather than individual finds, due to the circumstances and methods employed during their discovery. This is significant in that, whilst the shipwrecks themselves may be of low importance, they still add significantly to the archaeological record and begin to fill gaps in our knowledge of our shared cultural heritage.

4.1.4 Of course, it is not out of the question that significant discoveries may be made, and in these instances it enhances knowledge immeasurably, but can also be relatively easily avoided by offshore renewable development, resulting in only comparatively minor project issues for the developer.

4.1.5 The ORPAD is a robust and proven system of reporting archaeological finds. However, there are challenges to its operation, not least from the unique complexity of the system in which it has to operate. Thanks are due to The Crown Estate for their support of the scheme and to those developers that have already embraced the Protocol as a means of mitigating impacts to the historic environment.

4.1.6. We would like to thank everyone who has reported finds and protected our heritage in the 2011-2012 reporting year.

### 4.2 The Future

4.2.1 The Protocol Implementation Service continues to be run by WA. If you have any questions about finds reporting, awareness training and the Protocol, please contact WA via

[protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)

