Offshore Renewables Protocol

for Archaeological Discoveries

Offshore Renewable Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

Protocol Annual Report 2012-2013

Ref: 73834

Prepared by

Wessex Archaeology

THE CROWN ESTATE

Offshore Renewables Protocol

for Archaeological Discoveries

Protocol Annual Report 2012-2013

June 2013

prepared by
Wessex Archaeology

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 In March 2013 the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD) completed its second successful year protecting submerged heritage during work on offshore renewable energy projects.

1.1.2 ORPAD was launched in December 2010 by The Crown Estate which is proactive in supporting offshore renewable energy developments. All offshore renewable energy development schemes are archaeologically investigated during the planning stages and mitigation is provided for identified sites of archaeological significance.

1.1.3 Despite this extensive research, there is a high likelihood of uncovering or encountering unexpected archaeological remains during work offshore. This may occur at any point in the process – from geophysical surveys or environmental sampling, to cable-laying and the installation of turbines.

'*The character of the marine environment and lower baseline of archaeological knowledge at sea means that the level of unspecified risk of archaeological discoveries is generally higher at sea than on land, whilst the construction team's flexibility in the event that a significant site is discovered is generally less.*' (Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries 2010).

Cannon

Anchor

1.1.4 The aim of the Protocol is to support offshore development by providing an umbrella system for reporting, investigating and protecting these unexpected archaeological discoveries which may be encountered during pre-construction, construction and installation work for the offshore renewables industry.

1.1.5 This report explores the second year of the Protocol – April 2012 – March 2013 – during which 76 individual reports detailing archaeological discoveries were raised with Wessex Archaeology's Implementation Service.

2. The Protocol

2.1 The Protocol in action

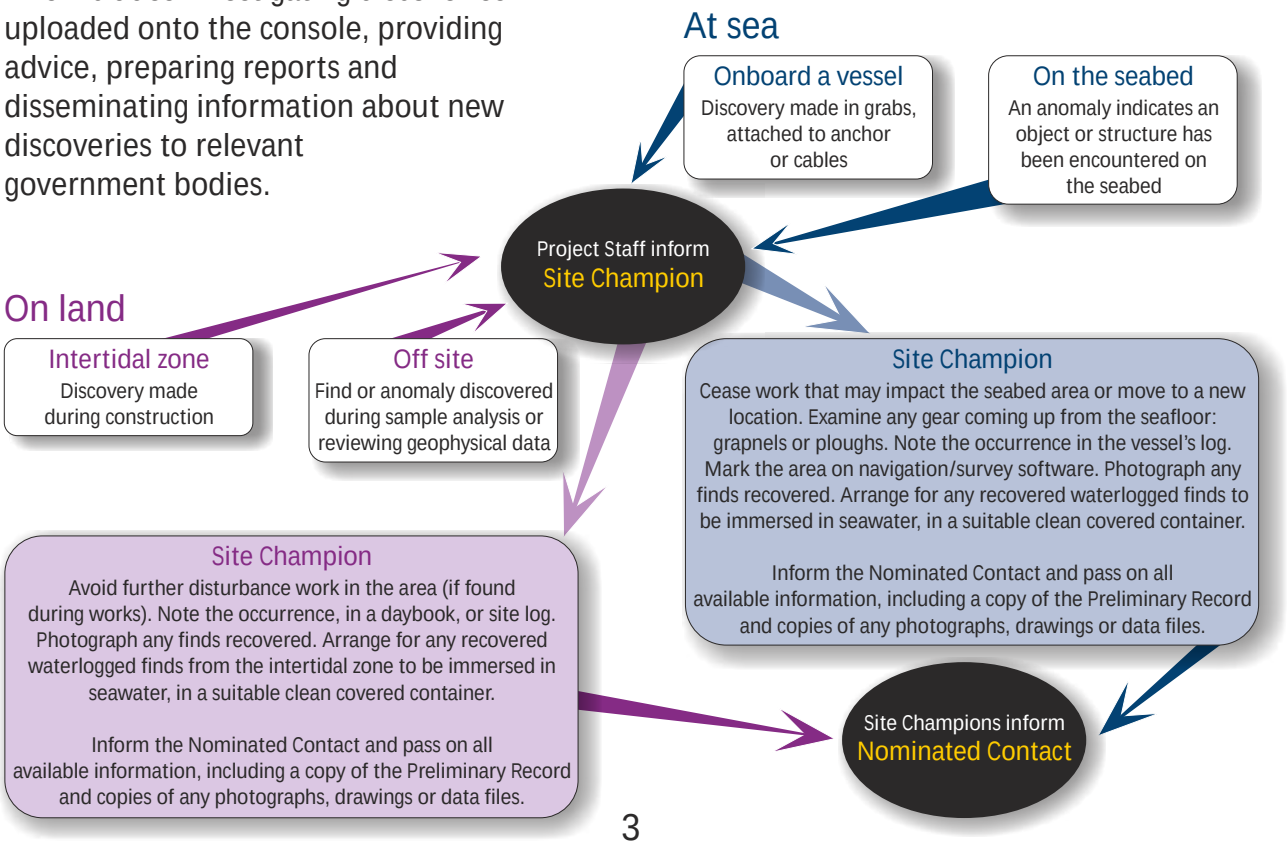
2.1.1 Under the Protocol, if archaeological remains are discovered they are reported to a designated Site Champion (SC) – usually the site manager, team leader or vessel master – who completes a reporting form with key information about each discovery.

2.1.2 The reporting form and photographs of the find or site are forwarded to the Nominated Contact (NC) for the developer – usually the consents or environmental manager. The NC uploads information and photographs onto an online portal, which notifies the Implementation Service, currently operated by Wessex Archaeology (WA) on behalf of The Crown Estate.

2.1.3 The role of the Implementation Service is to assist the developer in all matters relating to unexpected archaeological discoveries made during work on offshore wind farm developments. This includes investigating discoveries uploaded onto the console, providing advice, preparing reports and disseminating information about new discoveries to relevant government bodies.

2.1.4 Reporting finds negates the need for costly watching briefs and helps to discharge planning consents whilst protecting fragile offshore heritage. It meets conditions laid out in Section 5.8 of Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and in The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (DECC 2011). EN-1 states: *"Where the IPC considers there to be a high probability that a development site may include as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the IPC should consider requirements to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction"*.

2.1.5 To support the Protocol the Implementation Service runs an awareness programme funded by The Crown Estate, the activities of which are detailed on page 7 of this report.



2.2 Summary of the first year - 2010-2012

2.2.1 ORPAD was launched in December 2010 to provide a cost-effective safety net to protect submerged heritage. During the first year (which due to the timing of the launch of the project spanned from December 2010 – March 2012) four reports were raised detailing archaeological finds.

2.2.2 In addition to investigating and reporting on these discoveries, the Implementation Service focused on raising awareness to ensure that everyone involved in development schemes was aware of the Protocol and familiar with its operation.

2.2.3 This was achieved through visits, meetings, dedicated web-pages, the production of newsletters, operational guides, hand-outs and a DVD for those unable to attend a talk (such as those working on a vessel).

2.2.4 The benefits of this awareness training are being seen now as the level of reports filed annually has increased considerably.

2.3 Summary of the second year - 2012-2013

2.3.1 A large increase in the number of reports filed has been witnessed in the second year of the Protocol, rising from 4 reports in the first year to 76 in the second. More information on these is given on page 5.

2.3.2 In addition to supporting offshore development by investigating these new reports, the focus of the second year has been to increase dissemination of information to relevant bodies without compromising confidentiality. To do this WA are working closely with developers' consents managers to ensure that information is released in a timely and sensitive manner.

3. Discoveries

Peat

3.1 Finds summary

3.1.1 76 reports were raised during the 2012-2013 reporting year. The finds ranged from palaeo-environmental material, such as peat and preserved wood, to finds likely to have originated from sea-going or inshore vessels.

3.1.2 There is a highly diverse range of archaeological material that can be expected to be found underwater and the representation here of finds from polar ends of the archaeological spectrum is a testament to the hard work and dedication of those in the offshore renewables industry.

3.1.3 Finds reported through the Protocol are informing our understanding of human use of pre-submergence landscape, sea and seabed, shedding light on periods that are little understood due to geographical, chronological and practicable distance.

3.1.4 The Implementation Service has been working closely with developers and with specialists to ensure that all reports are investigated to the highest standards. As many of this year's reports detailed environmental material such as peat or wood, this meant procuring detailed specialist reports from internal experts.

Wood

3.1.5 Table 1 lists the finds reported in the 2012-2013 reporting year alongside the type of activity that led to their discovery.

Table 1: Finds reported in 2012-2013

Find ID	Date found	Description	Activity
10015	30/07/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10016	04/08/2012	1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10017	04/08/2012	2 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10018	01/08/2012	4 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10019	31/07/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10020	01/08/2012	6 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10023	25/07/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10024	05/08/2012	4 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10025	05/08/2012	22 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10026	28/07/2012	4 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10027	06/08/2012	2 pieces of coal	Otter Trawl
10028	06/08/2012	1 concretion	Otter Trawl
10029	06/08/2012	2 pieces of coal	Otter Trawl
10030	05/08/2012	1 piece of wood	Beam Trawl
10031	04/08/2012	Flat, rectangular stone	Beam Trawl
10032	05/08/2012	3 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10033	05/08/2012	10 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10034	01/08/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10035	31/07/2012	4 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10036	31/07/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10037	05/08/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10040	23/10/2012	Animal bone fragment	Benthic Grab
10041	19/09/2012	Cannon	UXO Survey
10043	21/07/2012	Anchor	Cable Installation
10044	04/10/2012	1 piece of wood	Hamon Grab
10045	15/10/2012	1 piece of wood	Beam Trawl
10046	23/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10047	22/10/2012	1 piece of peat, 1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10048	10/10/2012	4 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10049	05/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10050	04/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10051	06/10/2012	6 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10053	10/10/2012	8 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10054	22/10/2012	2 pieces of peat, 4 pieces of roundwood	Otter Trawl
10055	22/10/2012	2 pieces of peat, 2 pieces of wood	Otter Trawl
10056	22/10/2012	13 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10057	07/10/2012	10 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10058	07/10/2012	19 small pieces of peat, 1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10059	06/10/2012	1 piece of wood, 4 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10060	09/10/2012	2 pieces of wood	Otter Trawl
10061	11/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10062	04/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10063	22/10/2012	1 piece of peat, 1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10064	21/10/2012	1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10065	10/10/2012	1 piece of wood	Otter Trawl
10066	01/02/2013	Anchor	ROV
10071	17/02/2013	4 pieces of peat, 1 possibly worked wood	Beam Trawl
10072	05/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Beam Trawl
10073	10/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Beam Trawl
10074	06/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10075	11/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Beam Trawl
10076	22/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Beam Trawl
10077	17/02/2013	10 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10078	17/02/2013	5 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10079	19/02/2013	2 pieces of peat	Beam Trawl
10080	15/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Beam Trawl
10081	22/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10082	06/10/2012	3 pieces of peat, 2 pieces of wood	Otter Trawl
10083	06/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10084	10/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10085	23/10/2012	2 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10086	06/10/2012	2 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10087	04/10/2012	7 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10088	05/10/2012	3 pieces of peat	Otter Trawl
10089	23/10/2012	1 piece of peat	Otter Trawl
10090	23/09/2012	Clinker	Hamon Grab
10091	23/09/2012	Coal/lignite	Hamon Grab
10092	27/09/2012	Clinker	Hamon Grab
10093	01/10/2012	Clinker	Hamon Grab
10094	01/10/2012	Coal/lignite	Hamon Grab
10095	06/10/2012	Iron rich clinker	Hamon Grab
10096	10/10/2012	Concretion of clinker	Hamon Grab
10097	13/10/2012	Coal/lignite	Hamon Grab
10100	17/12/2012	Potentially worked wood	Benthic Trawl
10101	17/12/2012	Potentially worked wood	Benthic Trawl
10102	20/01/2013	2 piles of stacked slate - potential shipwreck	Diver Target

4. Liaison and accessibility

4.1 Distribution of reports

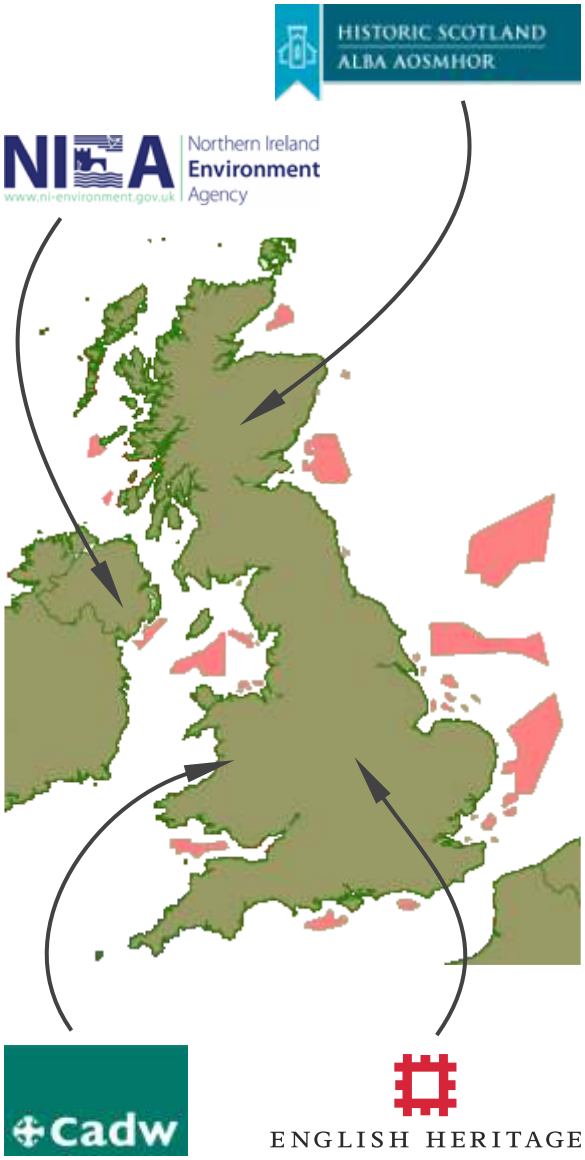
4.1.1 Finds will be reported to relevant agencies including, but not limited to, The Crown Estate and the relevant government heritage agency/curator, and where necessary the Receiver of Wreck and the Ministry of Defence.

4.1.2 Prior to this level of reporting, WA will work closely with consents managers and Nominated Contacts to ensure that further reporting will not negatively impact the interests of the development in question.

4.1.3 None of the finds reported in the 2012-2013 reporting year is associated conclusively with an unknown or uncharted wreck site. Consequently no finds have been reported to the UKHO in this reporting year.

4.2 The importance of further reporting

4.2.1 It is important that all discovered finds are reported to the relevant heritage agency and this is a role that the Implementation Service can undertake on behalf of a Developer. This is crucial as understanding finds in their broader national context is essential to their interpretation.



4.2.2 All heritage agencies hold archives of known sites of archaeological importance and discoveries made during work on wind farm developments will be added to these archives after reporting by the Implementation Service. These archives may help to inform future developments and WA regularly receives requests for information about finds reported through protocols to inform offshore development projects.

4.2.3 Confidentiality remains understandably important within the industry and the Implementation Service is taking care to liaise with Nominated Contacts at each stage of the reporting process to ensure that the details being released are appropriate for the audience and for the development. This ensures the protection of industry interests whilst helping to safeguard our shared submerged heritage.

5. Awareness

5.1 Activities undertaken in the 2012-2013 reporting year

5.1.1 During the 2012-2013 reporting year the Implementation Service run by Wessex Archaeology has continued to raise awareness in support of the Protocol through the Awareness Programme funded by The Crown Estate.

5.1.2 WA has conducted three further awareness visits at the request of developers. If you would like an awareness visit – as a refresher for existing staff or because new staff have joined – please contact WA.

5.1.3 Copies of the awareness DVD aimed at staff working offshore or who aren't able to attend an awareness training session due to operational circumstances are available. If you would like a copy of the DVD please contact WA.

5.1.4 The Implementation Service has produced two further issues of the popular *Renewing the Past* newsletter. Issue four was distributed in autumn 2012 and issue five was distributed in summer 2013. Further issues are planned for winter 2013 and summer 2014.

5.1.5 Resources to support the operation of the Protocol are available through WA's website. These include *Renewing the Past* and last year's report, as well as reporting and operational guides and information on finds that may be encountered.

5.1.6 A comparison of Scribd reads from last year and this year shows a steady increase in views for all web-based resources. Making awareness materials available online will continue to be a priority (alongside visits and talks held in-person) due to the operational difficulties in visiting every development at each stage of work.

5.1.7 WA will continue to implement the Awareness Programme in support of the Protocol.

Table 2: Comparison of website visits

Resource	Scribd reads	up to April 2012	up to April 2013
Renewing the Past 1		851	1088
Renewing the Past 2		500	594
Renewing the Past 3		449	608
Renewing the Past 4		N/A	981
Full text of the Protocol		988	1404
Handouts		810	1056
2010 - 2012 Report		N/A	938
Operational guide - Geophysics		85	259
Operational guide - Benthic Ecological Survey		78	238
Operational guide - Grapnel Survey and Obstruction Clearance		85	270
Operational guide - Offshore Construction and Cable Laying		354	525
Operational guide - Intertidal Cable Laying		75	256
Operational guide - Onshore Work		82	257

To contact WA about Awareness:
01722 326 867
protocol@wessexarch.co.uk
http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables

6. Discussion of points arising from operation of ORPAD in the 2012-2013 reporting year

6.1 Uploading reports

6.1.1 The Implementation Service maintains a web-based reporting console to allow straightforward reporting from remote locations. When finds are uploaded onto the website staff at WA are able to begin investigating them immediately to negate risk to our submerged heritage and to prevent delays to development schemes.

6.1.2 Use of the console is important as it allows all information about finds to be held in a central location accessible by whoever is implementing the service at any given time.

6.1.3 During the 2012-2013 year several reports have been made directly to the Implementation Service, bypassing the console. In these instances staff at WA have undertaken the uploading process on the behalf of Nominated Contacts, though this is not the preferred process and developers are encouraged to upload details of discoveries through the console themselves.

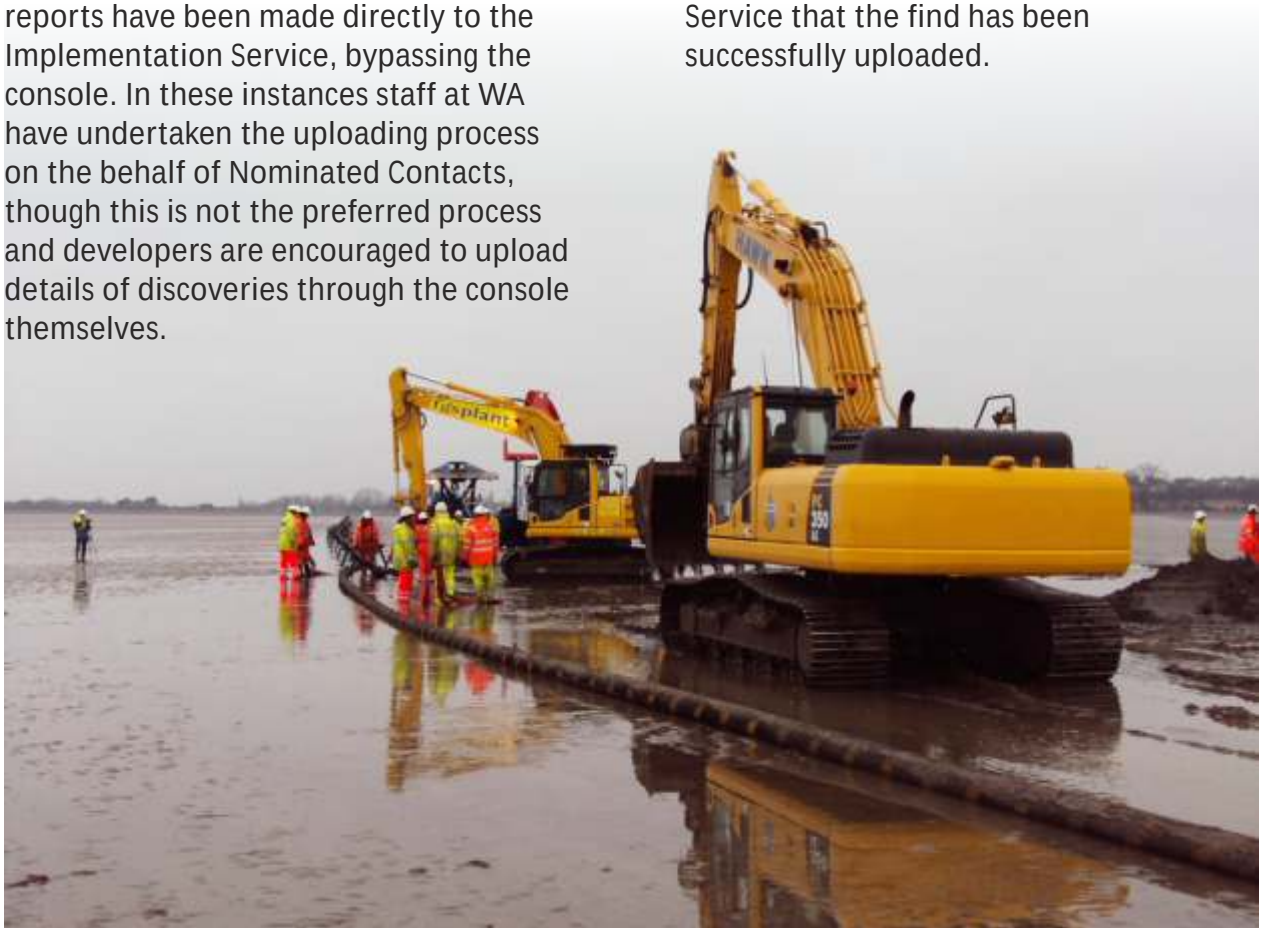
6.1.4 Nominated Contacts can upload finds via the weblink:

http://net.wessexarch.co.uk/ORPAD/login.aspx

WA can advise you of your company's username and password if necessary.

6.1.5 Prompts on the website guide Nominated Contacts to populate the available cells which correspond to those on the initial reporting form.

6.1.6 When all of the information is uploaded Wessex Archaeology will receive an automated email and will begin researching the find. Nominated Contacts will receive email confirmation from a member of the Implementation Service that the find has been successfully uploaded.



6.2 Final reports

6.2.1 All finds are subject to three basic stages of treatment once reported – investigation, initial reporting and final reporting.

6.2.2 Once a find has been investigated and its origin and likely significance assessed, WA will provide a summary report to the Nominated Contact. This details all available information about the find in an easily accessible format. It should be circulated amongst all of those involved in the reporting and discovery of the find to disseminate information and promote interest.

6.2.3 When this report is issued WA will request permission from the Nominated Contact to continue the reporting of the find by submitting reports to the relevant curator and to other agencies as appropriate. WA will specify on a case by case basis who will receive information on a find and will wait for permission to report further.

6.2.4 This second stage of reporting is fairly standard within the heritage industry as it allows finds to be added to national databases. This means that information about ORPAD finds is available to future schemes and developments.

6.2.5 Understandably confidentiality within the industry is important and WA will work alongside Nominated Contacts to ensure that information is disseminated in a timely and sensitive fashion, working within planning constraints and archaeological written schemes of investigation.

6.3 Retained archaeologists

6.3.1 In circumstances where a Retained Archaeologist is employed by the developer, it is down to the discretion of the developer (via the Nominated Contact) how the find is reported and order that the reporting takes place in, i.e. whether reported to the retained archaeologist and then to the Implementation Service (IS), or vice versa. Whichever the preferred order, as long as a report reaches the ORPAD IS, then the discovery will be held centrally on PAD database which is important as this provides a central repository for all offshore renewable finds.

6.3.2 Once the find is reported to the IS, the onward reporting requirements (Receiver of Wreck, Ministry of Defence, final report etc.) can be performed by the IS, but this will be at the discretion of the developer. The reporting requirements will remain the responsibility of the developer, and they should notify the IS when they want the reporting requirements undertaken.

6.4 Identifying finds from available data

6.4.1 In some cases finds encountered during work offshore are not removed from the seabed. Where this is the case, finds should still be reported along with any available data, such as drawn notes made by dive teams or stills from ROV surveys.

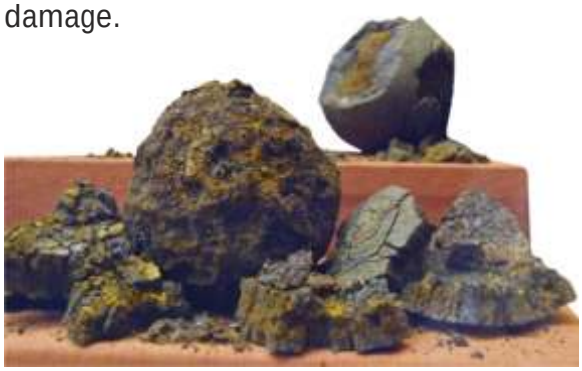
6.4.2 In these instances interpretation will be based on all available evidence, however sparse.

6.5 Conservation of finds

6.5.1 During the 2012-2013 reporting year many of the finds received have been palaeo-environmental – such as peat or wood. In these instances it is not recommended that formalin is added to sample buckets. Wood and peat should be stored damp within a sealed container to protect them from degrading before specialist analysis can take place.

6.5.2 The advice for finds discovered in the water is that they should be kept cool, wet and dark. WA appreciates that in some instances this is not possible as some finds will be too large to store in this fashion. In these instances the find should be covered with damp cloth and tarpaulin to retain moisture. WA understands that the best standards possible will be maintained for a find, even if it cannot be fully submerged.

6.5.3 If a find has dried out when it is discovered it is advised that the item is stored dry as re-submerging it may cause damage.



6.5.4 WA are happy to advise on a case by case basis about conservation for finds.

6.6 The changing nature of offshore activities

6.6.1 Currently the majority of retrieved finds have been encountered during benthic surveys such as otter and beam trawls. Other finds have been identified during unexploded ordnance surveys (UXO) conducted by divers or RoVs and one reported find was found snagged on the anchor of a manoeuvring vessel.

6.6.2 As work on offshore wind farm schemes develops – from environmental surveys and target investigations to grapnel runs and eventually turbine installation – a change in the nature of archaeological material may be expected. For example, small finds and palaeo-environmental material are unlikely to adhere to a grapnel but larger finds may be retrieved or encountered on the seabed.

6.6.3 The Protocol will continue to be the supporting framework through which all chance finds of archaeological origin should be reported (where an archaeologist is not present) and investigated as work on schemes develops in the future.

6.7 Scope of the Protocol

6.7.1 The Protocol applies to all aspects of wind farm development including the laying and installation of cabling. Finds encountered offshore, in the intertidal zone and on land should be reported through the Protocol where they are found during work to develop offshore renewable energies.

6.7.2 The Implementation Service is available to provide unbiased advice in all circumstances.

7. Conclusions

7.1 Importance

7.1.1 The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries is supported by The Crown Estate and by heritage curators as an effective means of protecting our offshore heritage whilst allowing development to occur. Operating a protocol provides umbrella support for all aspects of offshore work during marine development where it is not operationally or economically viable to have an archaeological presence.

7.1.2 The quantity and variety of discoveries reported during the first two operational years of the Protocol clearly demonstrate the value of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries.

7.1.3 The finds that have been reported – 80 separate reports detailing finds as diverse as cannon, anchors and palaeo-environmental material – will be protected or preserved by record for future generations whilst influencing our understanding of a landscape that is not readily accessible.

7.2 The future

7.2.1 WA continue to implement the Protocol, through the Implementation Service, on behalf of The Crown Estate.

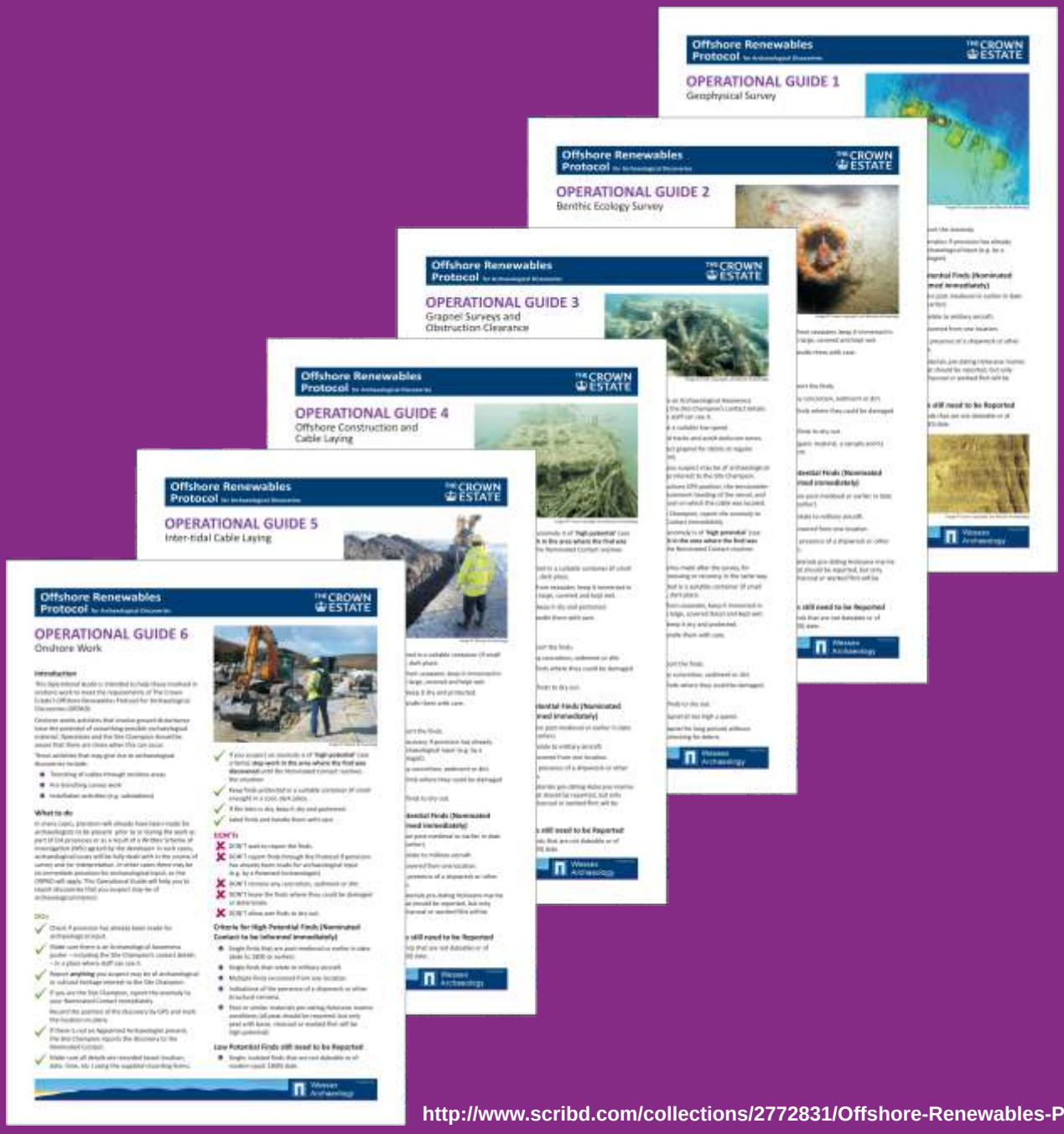
7.2.2 The increasing development of offshore zones for renewable energy and the extension of existing offshore wind farms means that the likelihood exists of more and more unexpected archaeological finds coming to light. In fulfilment of consent conditions, the IS and industry must continue to work effectively together to follow the requirements of the Protocol. It is a testament to this co-operation that so many finds have been reported as a result of varied work in the renewables sector. The IS looks forward to another year of working with the industry to help protect our shared maritime heritage.

7.2.3 For further information contact the Implementation Service via

protocol@wessexarch.co.uk

THE CROWN ESTATE

The Crown Estate, 16 New Burlington Place, London W1S 2HX
Tel: 020 7851 5311 Fax: 020 7851 5128
enquiries@thecrownestate.co.uk
www.thecrownestate.co.uk



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

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.
Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk
Regional offices in Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield
For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk