

Offshore Renewable Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries



Operational Guide 4: Offshore Construction & Cable Laying

Introduction

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

Offshore construction activities and cable laying can bring to light finds that may be important archaeologically, such as those from shipwrecks, aircraft or buried prehistoric landscape features. Activities that may give rise to archaeological discoveries include:

- Dredging seabed material for use in gravity bases
- Anchoring patterns (wreckage/artefacts brought up on anchors)

- Jack-up legs (wreckage/ artefacts brought up on spud feet)
- Ploughing/jetting/trenching of cable into seabed
- Diver/ROV surveys or inspections

What to do

In most cases there will be no immediate provision for direct archaeological input, so the ORPAD will apply. This Operational Guide will help you to report discoveries that you suspect may be of archaeological interest. Reports of finds are made to the Site Champion, who reports them to the Nominated Contact.

In the case of ploughing, jetting or trenching during cable runs, this includes reporting the locations of any anomalies identified on the forward-looking sonar of the plough.

DOs

- ✓ Seek the advice of the Protocol team at Wessex Archaeology if you are unsure on your next steps – protocol@wessexarch.co.uk
- ✓ Report anything you suspect is of archaeological or cultural heritage interest to the Site Champion
- ✓ If you are the Site Champion, report the discovery to your Nominated Contact immediately
- ✓ Record the GPS location of any discoveries and the measurement heading of the vessel at the moment of obstruction impact, if necessary
- ✓ Make sure all details are recorded (exact location, date, time, etc.) using the Protocol's recording forms
- ✓ If you suspect a discovery is of 'high potential' (see criteria) stop work in the area where the find was discovered until archaeological advice is received via the Nominated Contact
- ✓ Keep finds protected in a suitable container in a cool, dark place
- ✓ If the item came from seawater, keep it immersed in seawater
- ✓ If the item is dry, keep it dry and protected
- ✓ Label finds and handle them with care

DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T wait to report the finds
- ✗ 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

Prepared by

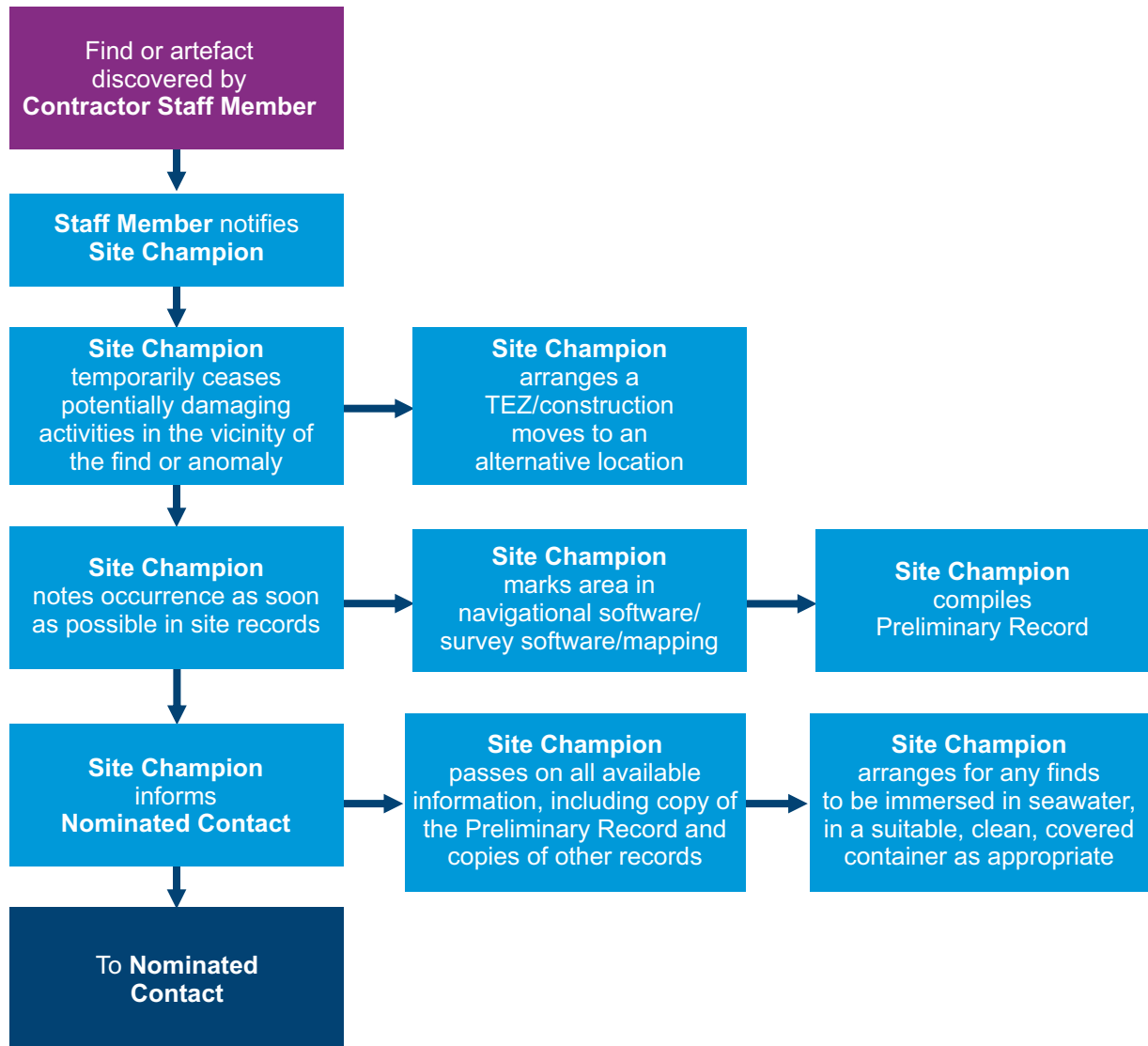


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Actions by Site Champion Flow Chart



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

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