

# Renewing the PAST

Protocol newsletter- Issue 5

Spring 2013

**Welcome** to the fifth issue of **Renewing the Past**, the Offshore Renewables Protocol Newsletter.

The Protocol, which entered its third year at the start of April, provides a mechanism through which archaeological discoveries encountered during offshore work can be reported and protected.

The second year of the Protocol saw a huge rise in the number of reports received as 76 individual reports were raised, some detailing more than one find. This is 19 times greater than the number of reports raised in the 2011-2012 reporting year and a fantastic testament to the sharp eyes and dedication of those working in the offshore renewables industry.

The Protocol continues to provide umbrella support for the protection of heritage encountered during all activities associated with offshore renewable energy developments, where a retained archaeologist is not available. To contact the Implementation Service team about finds, the operation of the Protocol or for advice on any aspect of the protection of our marine heritage, contact Wessex Archaeology (WA) using the details on this page.

## Resources available from Wessex Archaeology

**FREE**

WA has produced a range of resources to help you to recognise and report finds of archaeological importance. These are free and available from the Implementation Service team or via our website

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

- Reporting forms
- Discoveries poster
- Operational guides giving advice on how the Protocol operates for various roles
- Advice sheets detailing the working of the Protocol and how to recognise, store and photograph finds
- Awareness DVD

If there are any other hand-outs or information packages that you would find useful, please let us know.

Get in touch:

[Protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:Protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)  
**01722 326 867**

*Victoria Lambert and Gemma Ingason* are currently working on the project, under the management of **Toby Gane**.

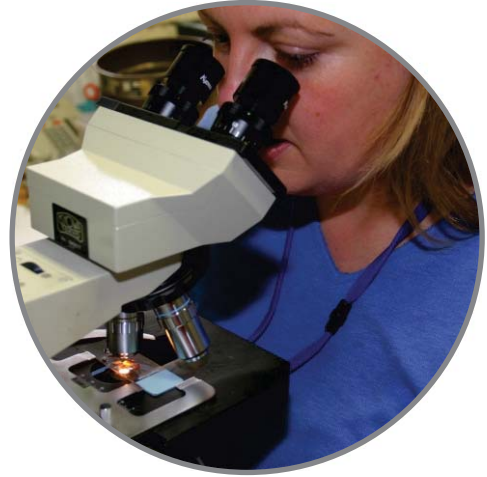


## After reporting – what happens next?

When a report is uploaded onto the reporting console by the **Nominated Contact** for the relevant company...



Archaeologists at **Wessex Archaeology** (WA) receive an email announcing the new find. It is then our job to assess and investigate every discovery.



Organic environmental material such as peat or wood is passed to our environmental team, archaeological finds are studied by our archaeologists and where necessary **specialists** outside of WA are consulted in order to provide the maximum amount of information for each new find reported.



Once we have received advice from our specialists, a summary report is produced and sent to the **Nominated Contact**. It is the role of the Nominated Contact to forward this to those involved in the making and reporting of each discovery.



WA then prepares a report for the relevant **national heritage agency** (curator) and for the Ministry of Defence and the Receiver of Wreck where appropriate. This meets the legal and consenting obligations of the Developer to report the find to the correct agencies.

Once permission is received from the **Nominated Contact** to release the information, **WA** will report new finds to the relevant curator for the area in which the discovery was made.

### Who is the relevant curator?

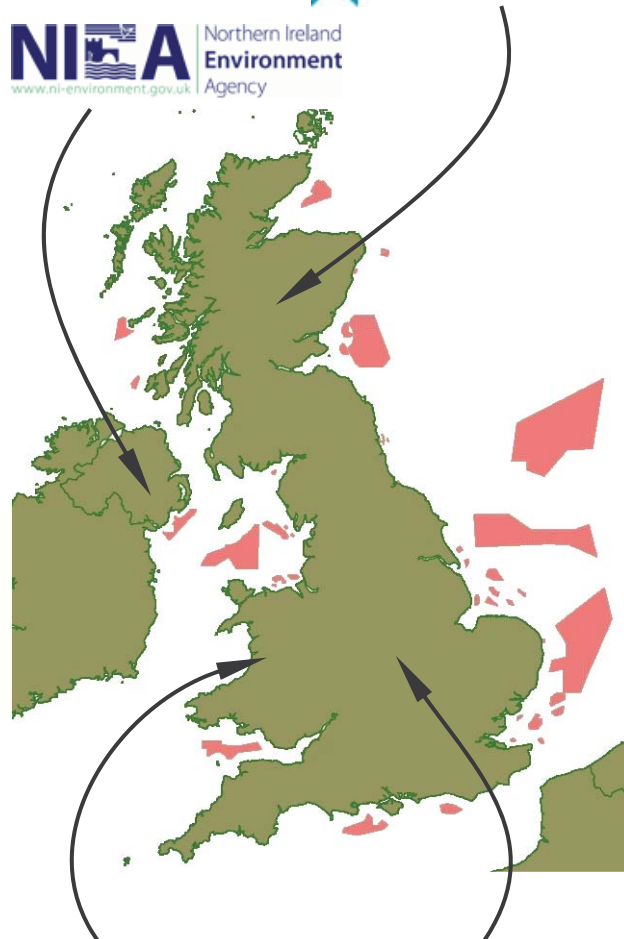
In English territorial waters the heritage agency is English Heritage. **English Heritage** (EH) administers the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) Archive which was formerly known as the National Monuments Record (NMR). All finds made in England are reported to the NRHE for inclusion in the archive. Discoveries are also reported to the Local Government Archaeological Curators where appropriate.

In Welsh territorial waters the heritage agency is **Cadw**. The Implementation Service will report finds made in the Welsh Offshore Region to Cadw and to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

In Scottish Territorial waters the heritage agency is **Historic Scotland** – All finds found during work on developments in the Scottish Offshore Region will be sent to Historic Scotland and to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

In Northern Ireland the curator is the **Northern Ireland Environment Agency** (Built Heritage) who maintains the Northern Irish Sites and Monuments Record.

Whatever area of the UK you are working in, **Wessex Archaeology** (WA) will be your primary contact for all matters relating to the Protocol.



ENGLISH HERITAGE



### The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries

#### Create a new report - basic information

Discovery location:	<input type="text"/>
Worksite name:	<input type="text"/>
Originating zone:	<input type="text"/>
Originating work area:	<input type="text"/>
Discovery date (dd/mm/yyyy):	<input type="text"/>
Team Leader:	<input type="text"/>
Finders name:	<input type="text"/>
Time discovery made (hh:mm):	<input type="text"/>
Findspot extent:	<input type="text"/>
Findspot description:	<input type="text"/>
Compiler name:	<input type="text"/>
Compile date (dd/mm/yyyy):	<input type="text"/>
Compile time (hh:mm):	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Save and Continue"/>	

In addition to reporting finds to the relevant heritage agency, The Implementation Service is also available to advise, assist, and prepare reports to conform to legal requirements such as those listed below.

Protection of Military Remains Act 1986  
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010  
Merchant Shipping Act 1995  
Legal constraints associated with human remains  
Protection of Wrecks Act 1973  
The Treasure Act 1996



### Isolated finds from ships

Four reports in the 2012-2013 reporting year are thought to represent finds lost from ships. There is currently no evidence to suggest that there are further sites of archaeological significance, such as shipwrecks, associated with any of them.

Two anchors were reported last year – one was found tangled with fishing nets snagged on the anchor of a cable installation vessel and was moved out of the way of development work. The other was found by ROV and is still lying where it was discovered on the seabed. As far as possible, finds such as this one will be left *in situ* and will not be disturbed by the development.

Two cannon have also been discovered during unexploded ordnance surveys. Again, the cannon will be left on the seabed if possible.

Finds like these may have been lost with a shipwreck. However, no further archaeological remains were noted on the seabed during any of the investigations and so it is currently thought that these are all chance finds lost from, rather than with, a vessel. Anchors may be lost or cut loose if snagged and cannon may be sent overboard if conditions are worsening to lighten the load of an endangered vessel.

Where finds such as these have been found, vigilance should be maintained during further works in the area in case a shipwreck is present but buried by sediments. Any further finds should be reported through the Protocol and investigated by the Implementation Service to comply with consents relating to protocols for archaeological discoveries.



Anchor



Cannon



Cannon



### Why use a Protocol?

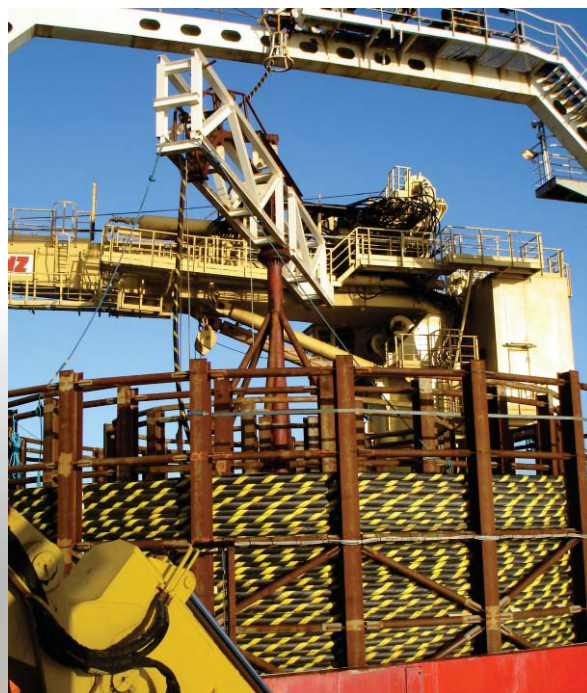
Reporting Protocols are a cost effective mitigation option that negate the need for costly watching briefs. Most of the day to day work undertaken in the development of offshore wind farms will not require archaeological supervision but employing a retained archaeologist and implementing a protocol for archaeological discoveries is often a condition of consent. Breaching a condition of consent could lead to enforcement action or other penalties and it is therefore in a Developers' interest to ensure that a protocol is in place and their contractors are adhering to it.

Despite extensive archaeological research being undertaken prior to the granting of consent to begin works, unexpected archaeological finds are still likely to be encountered during development offshore. Operating a protocol discharges licensing conditions whilst protecting the nation's submerged cultural heritage.

### Need to report a find?

Pass it to your Site Champion or Nominated Contact along with as much detail about the discovery as possible. Reporting forms detailing what information is required are available from WA and on our website. If you are unsure as to how to fill in one of the cells on the form, or the information is not available, leave it blank or provide whatever information is available, however sparse.

If you think you have found something and are unsure as to whether to report it, contact the Implementation Service team who are always happy to give advice.



To book an awareness visit or find out more about the Protocol, contact the Implementation Service on **01722 326867** or email [protocol@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:protocol@wessexarch.co.uk)