

Renewing the PAST

Protocol Newsletter Issue 6

Autumn 2013

Welcome to Issue 6 of *Renewing the Past*, the Newsletter of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for reporting Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD)

The Protocol, which is funded by **The Crown Estate**, is now in its third year providing a 'safety net' for heritage found during work on offshore wind farm developments.

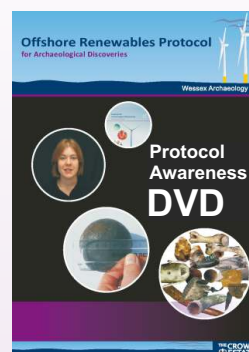
Stray archaeological finds are expected to be encountered during work offshore despite intensive investigation prior to the start of development. The Protocol provides a framework to study and record these discoveries, which may range from wrecks undetected by geophysical survey to stray artefacts lost to the seabed or peat deposits sampled during pre-consenting surveys.

The Protocol is due to be revisited and redrafted after two and a half operational years based on experience of its running to this point. Page 3 details how this is being planned and how you can contribute feedback to ensure that the Protocol is effective and relevant to your industry.

In this issue we also investigate some of the finds reported during the past six months and explore the role of the Receiver of Wreck.

Wessex Archaeology has continued to raise

awareness of the Protocol through visits, Skype presentations, email contact, phone calls, updated web pages and through this Newsletter. Given the fast paced and often geographically disparate nature of work, and the financial cost involved in delaying work for training, we are adamant that awareness is provided that meets the needs of the Developer and its contractors. If you need a visit, want to talk to someone formally or informally or would like a copy of the awareness DVD produced at the launch of the scheme, contact us today.



The Protocol continues to be managed by Toby Gane and implemented by Wessex Archaeology's Coastal & Marine archaeologists.



Contact us via
protocol@wessexarch.co.uk
or phone
01722 326 867



The Role of the Receiver of Wreck

The **Receiver of Wreck** is responsible for ensuring that aspects of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 are followed by processing reports of salvage, investigating suspected unreported salvage and prosecuting where applicable. Finds deemed to be wreck – flotsam, jetsam, lagan or derelict – should be reported to the Receiver within 28 days of their removal from the seabed.

The responsibility to inform the **Receiver of Wreck** of salvaged material lies with the developer in all circumstances; however, **Wessex Archaeology** can facilitate reporting for archaeological finds through the Protocol by completing a reporting form on your behalf. These will be sent to the developer's nominated contact to sign and return to the Receiver.

Reports are not necessary where the find has not been removed from the seabed but may be applicable when a find is retrieved and then returned to the seabed. As the act only applies to wreck, which includes aircraft wrecks, the Receiver does not need to be notified about prehistoric finds, such as peat, Palaeolithic stone artefacts and ancient mammal bones.

Reporting to the **Receiver** is essential to keep developers working within the law, for the protection of our heritage assets and the assets of the owners of wreck. Incidentally, until as recently as 1995 a Receiver of Wreck was able to carry arms and to kill, maim or hurt anyone obstructing them in their duties. They were also indemnified against any legal action resulting out of this so, effectively, the Receiver of Wreck had a licence to kill. Whilst these powers have now been revoked, the **Receiver** is still a very active role and will pursue prosecution where necessary.

The **Receiver** has a period of one year after reporting in which to trace the original owner of a find. If no owner can be found, the **Receiver** will normally try to house the find within an appropriate collection or museum. A salvage fee may be payable to the finder, if requested, where an owner is found.



Alison Kentuck (RoW) overseeing the unloading of a cargo of copper ingots. Photograph courtesy of the MCA

Types of Wreck

- **Flotsam** – goods recovered floating after the loss of a ship
- **Jetsam** – goods intentionally cast overboard in an attempt to protect an endangered ship from perishing
- **Derelict** – property abandoned at sea by those in charge of it without hope of recovery. This includes vessels, aircraft and cargo
- **Lagan** (also referred to as **ligan**) – buoyed goods intentionally put overboard from a ship for later recovery



The Second Year of the Protocol

Like the financial year of companies and some organisations, the Protocol year runs from 1st April to 31st March. The second year of operation came to a close in 2013 and the results have been published in an annual report.

The second year of the Protocol saw a significant increase in the number of finds being reported. Attributed to the increasing pace of development and the expansion of awareness, the results of the second year are highly encouraging.

To find out more about the Protocol's operation, read the annual report which is available online at <http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables/documents>

The Protocol going Forward

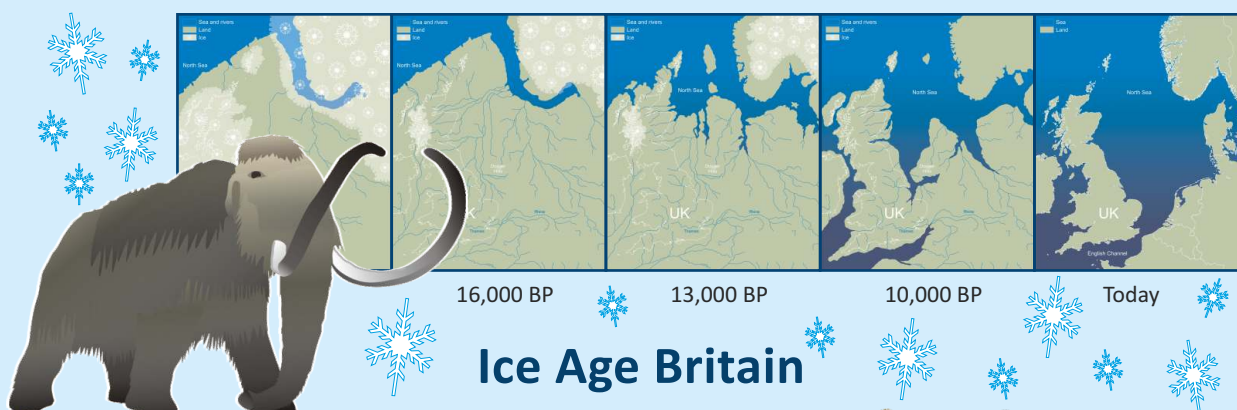
The Protocol was established as an alternative to more costly options – conducting archaeological watching briefs can impact heavily on project budgets. Whether you are using a retained archaeologist or not, the Protocol will run in the background ensuring a safety net wherever necessary to preserve and protect archaeological discoveries found both on and offshore in the course of wind farm development.

After two years in operation it is evident that the Protocol could be made more effective with a number of changes to its format. **Wessex Archaeology** has been commissioned to review the Protocol document and make amendments to ensure that the system is working to support you, the Developer. We are entering a period of consultation this winter with all interested parties to gauge feedback.

What do you think?

Developers will be contacted by **Wessex Archaeology** this autumn with a brief survey to gauge feedback on the Protocol. If you are reading this online or have been forwarded a copy and you have a suggestion of how the Protocol can be improved, get in touch via protocol@wessexarch.co.uk. We are keen for the Protocol to be efficient, effective and above all appropriate to the varying activities taking place in support of the industry. All feedback is valued.





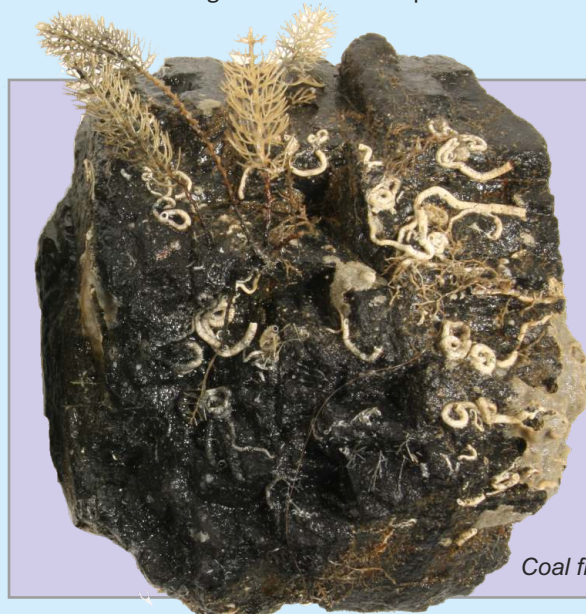
The **Offshore Renewables Protocol** is informing our understanding of Ice Age Britain through the discovery, reporting and analysis of **peat** from the seafloor. **Peat** forms when plant material degrades in anaerobic conditions – those where oxygen is not present – and can contain plant remains, pollen, seeds, charcoal and small ecofacts and artefacts that have been preserved for tens of thousands of years.

These plant remains date to the period after the last Ice Age over 10,000 years ago when the coastline of Britain looked very different – parts of today's seabed were a land-surface habitable by people and animals and populated by a range of tree and plant species. The peat reported through the Protocol in the 2012–2013 reporting year was formed after the end of the last Ice Age, shortly before land surfaces were inundated by water (eventually creating our current coastline), and represents one of the only ways we can access this enigmatic and distant past.



Peat from the seafloor

Peat found during offshore development may have come from a secure deposit or may have been disturbed previously and been moved around on the seafloor by currents and tides. Though the former is more important archaeologically, both have the potential to further our understanding of how our world looked many thousands of years ago. **Wessex Archaeology's environmental team** can establish what type of context peat has come from and the prevailing environmental conditions at the time, when they study samples of peat reported through the Protocol.



Coal from the seafloor

Coal and Lignite

Other finds reported during the 2012–2013 reporting year are **coal** and **lignite**. Both are a form of fuel that would either have powered a vessel or been transported as cargo. A waste product of the burning of fossil fuels, such as **coal** or **lignite**, is **clinker** – a hard dark coloured material which has also been reported through the Protocol in the 2012–2013 reporting year. **Peat** and **coal** were commonly used sources of energy in the past – as wind energy will be in the future.

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