

Renewing the PAST

Protocol newsletter- Issue 2

Summer 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of the Renewing the Past, the Offshore Renewables Protocol newsletter.

Latest News

In the past months, the Implementation Service team has travelled extensively, promoting the Protocol to developers across the country. Currently (early August), meetings with Nominated Contacts are complete and the next round of site staff awareness is underway. The first finds have already been reported via the Protocol. You can book a free visit now by contacting the Implementation Service team – see contact details below.

The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD) webpages are now online. Here you can find out more about the Protocol, and download useful documents such as site staff handouts, preliminary record forms, awareness posters and all the issues of the Renewing the Past newsletter -

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



This issue of Renewing the Past explores seafloor artefacts, through a timeline of artefacts that have already been discovered on the seafloor. Finds from the ORPAD will add to this wealth of knowledge and help us to further develop our understanding of Britain's maritime heritage.

To book an awareness visit or find out more about the DVD, contact the Implementation Service on **01722 326867** or email protocol@wessexarch.co.uk

Team News

We are delighted to welcome Gemma Ingason back from maternity leave to the Learning and Access Team. She brings with her a wealth of experience from the marine aggregates protocol. Gemma will join Katie Card and Sarah Phillips in running the protocol. The project is managed by Toby Gane.



A Journey Through Time on the Seafloor

Thousands of artefacts have been discovered on the seafloor, all of which inform our understanding of the marine historic environment.

The most useful archaeological finds are those which can be dated. Some finds contain enough information for their manufacture to be assigned to a specific year. Other finds can be assigned to a broad date range.

This timeline shows how finds reported through the Protocol can illustrate the broad expanse of time from our ancestral predecessors to the modern day.



1 Prehistoric Mammoth Tusk and Mammoth Tooth



2 Prehistoric Flint Tools



3 Roman Samianware*



5 1780s Silverware



4 17th Century Cannonball



7 19th Century Clay Pipe



6 18th Century Carronade

9 WW2 German Messerschmitt Propeller Hub

10 WW2 Commando Knife



8 Early 20th Century Pocket Watch



11 Modern Ensign Flag

Palaeolithic

700,000-10,500 BP

Mesolithic

8,500-4,000 BC

Neolithic

4,000-2,400 BC

Bronze Age

2,400-700 BC

Iron Age

700 BC-43 AD

Rare find *

Romano-British

43-410 AD

Anglo-Saxon

410-1066 AD

Medieval

1066-1500 AD

Post-medieval

1500-1800 AD

Modern

1800-Present day

The Importance of Awareness

The ORPAD offers free awareness visits and a range of material to help staff understand what they need to report through the Protocol and how to go about it.



Awareness

What is an Awareness Site Visit?

An awareness visit involves a member of the Implementation Service from Wessex Archaeology giving a brief 30-minute talk and an archaeological artefact handling session to project staff. The talk outlines the basics of the Protocol and explains why there is archaeology on the seafloor. It also teaches staff how to report archaeological finds and what essential information to record, including how to photograph finds and conservation tips on looking after finds while they are in your care.

Currently, the teaching collection for handling sessions contains archaeological finds reported via a similar Protocol for the marine aggregates industry – however, as more finds are reported via the Offshore Renewables Protocol, the teaching collection will be expanded.

Handouts and other supporting material are available to download from the website. Book your project staff awareness visit now by calling **Sarah Phillips** on **01722 326867** or emailing **protocol@wessexarch.co.uk**



Finds Reported



Teaching Collection

DVD

Where a visit in person by the Implementation Service is not possible, there is now an Awareness DVD, which covers the basic information that staff need to know. We would always recommend having a visit in person, but the DVD can also be used to support ongoing awareness, new staff inductions and staff on vessels.



The awareness programme is an essential part of the Protocol. The more people know about what to look out for, the more finds are reported. A selection of these finds will be added to the Protocol's teaching collection, which is then taken on further awareness visits. The opportunity for site staff to handle archaeological artefacts during Protocol awareness visits encourages understanding of the types of archaeological materials that might be discovered during work on offshore renewables.

Photographing Finds

When you discover a find and report it through the Protocol, a vital part of the reporting process is taking photographs. When it is not possible to examine the artefact itself, photographs allow experts to study your discovery. They can help us identify what the artefact is and what it can tell us about our maritime past.



Tell us what you think

If you have participated in an awareness visit, we would like you to provide some feedback on the training so that we can develop and improve the service. On the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries webpages we have launched an online evaluation form to provide an easy way for you to tell us what you think.

Remember the webpages also provide online information about the protocol as well as downloadable resources, such as the site handouts, preliminary recording forms and much more.

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

Top Tips for Photography

- Always use a scale – ideally, use the scale sheet provided in the Protocol handouts. Alternatively, you can use a ruler or known object (such as a coin), to help show the size of the find;
- Keep it simple - do not include too many objects in one shot.
- Where the photograph is taken is important – make sure you take photographs in suitable lighting conditions;
- Take photographs at different angles - the more photographs and views, the easier it is to interpret the artefact;
- Take close-ups – close-up photographs of markings, text or features that you think are unusual;
- Check your photographs – make sure the photograph is sharp;
- Make a written record – back up your photographs with a written description of the artefact, including measurements and a transcription of any writing.

You can download the Protocol handouts from our website, which provide more information on identifying, recording and reporting archaeological discoveries.

