

Renewing the PAST

Protocol newsletter- Issue 1

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Introduction

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

The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries was created during 2010 with funding from The Crown Estate and with the support of Historic Scotland and English Heritage and a range of consultees/stakeholders. This newsletter provides a quick introduction to the Protocol and how it works.

The Protocol

The Protocol provides a system for reporting and investigating unexpected archaeological discoveries encountered during development and construction work. The offshore renewable industry involves developing areas on the seabed, in the intertidal zone and on land, and any work in these areas has the potential to impact on the historic environment. The Protocol will work to raise industry awareness of archaeological remains and provide an efficient reporting system for sustainable management of the historic environment.

How it works

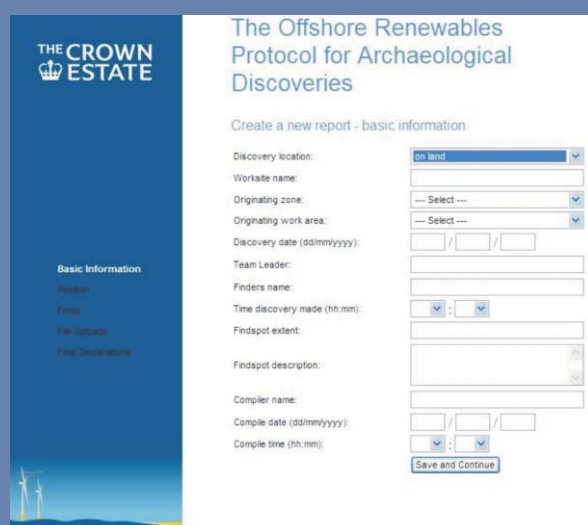
Each Developer will appoint a 'Nominated Contact' and a number of 'Site Champions' to deal with reporting and communication. When project staff find items of archaeological interest, the Site Champion fills in a form and sends it to the Nominated Contact. The Nominated Contact uploads the report to the Protocol website. The finds are then researched by the Implementation Service (IS) team and a final report is produced. Information about the finds is recorded in the National Monuments Record, forwarded to industry staff and published on the Wessex Archaeology website.

You can find the latest information on archaeological finds and discoveries by checking these pages:

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

Awareness

The Protocol relies on staff and companies working in the offshore renewables industry reporting any archaeological finds or sites that they discover.



The screenshot shows the 'The Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries' web form. It is titled 'Create a new report - basic information'. The form includes fields for: Discovery location (dropdown menu with 'on land' selected), Worksite name, Originating zone (dropdown menu with '--- Select ---' selected), Originating work area (dropdown menu with '--- Select ---' selected), Discovery date (dd/mm/yyyy), Team Leader, Finders name, Time discovery made (hh:mm), Findspot extent, Findspot description, Compiler name, Compile date (dd/mm/yyyy), and Compile time (hh:mm). A 'Save and Continue' button is at the bottom right. On the left side of the form, there is a sidebar with the 'THE CROWN ESTATE' logo and a list of links: 'Basic Information', 'Process', 'Tools', 'File Uploads', and 'Data Observations'.

The online Protocol reporting system



The Protocol Awareness programme has been established to provide information and training to relevant staff. Over the coming months the IS team will be visiting developers, contractors and sub-contractors to introduce the Protocol and explain how it works. We look forward to meeting you all and having the chance to discuss the amazing heritage that can be found in and around the coast of the United Kingdom. **If you have not yet booked your Awareness training, get in touch with the IS.**

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Previous Protocols

The Protocol follows on from the hugely successful Marine Aggregates Protocol, supported by BMAPA, English Heritage and the Crown Estate. The Marine Aggregates Protocol has been running since 2005, during which time there have been over 205 reports made, relating to a total of 784 archaeological artefacts. The innovative and efficient way in which this has mitigated the affects of marine aggregate dredging on the historic environment provides a good template for the Protocol.

To learn more about the Marine Aggregates Protocol visit these pages:

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/bmapa/index.html>



Silverware collection reported through the Marine Aggregates Protocol – from recent Dredged Up



Roman mortaria, a vessel for grinding food

Discoveries

Identification of discoveries through the Protocol is vital for us to understand their archaeological significance. Wessex Archaeology uses both in-house and external experts to study these artefacts.

For example, the fragment of pottery above was initially thought to be modern in date, however Racheal Seager Smith, Wessex Archaeology's pottery specialist, identified it as Roman dating to the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Further discoveries may lead to the identification of the location of a Roman shipwreck in the future.

The Awareness Programme which supports the Protocol has produced a series of handouts for staff providing advice on the reporting and treatment of archaeological finds. Copies are being distributed during Awareness visits. To discuss the Protocol or book an Awareness visit, contact Katie Card or Toby Gane at Wessex Archaeology.

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protocol@wessexarch.co.uk

The handouts can also be viewed online (from January 2011) at:
<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables>

