

Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries



Project Background



In March 2014 the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (ORPAD) completed its 3rd successful year protecting marine heritage during work on offshore renewable energy projects.

ORPAD was launched in December 2010 by The Crown Estate as part of continuing its role of proactively supporting the offshore renewable energy industry.

All offshore renewable energy development schemes are archaeologically investigated during the planning stages and mitigation is provided to protect identified sites of archaeological significance. As a result of continued industry growth, there is a high likelihood of uncovering or encountering archaeological remains during work offshore. This may occur at any point in the process – from geophysical surveys or

environmental sampling, to cable-laying and the installation of turbines.

The character of the marine environment and lower baseline of archaeological knowledge at sea means that the level of unspecified risk of archaeological discoveries is generally higher at sea than on land, whilst the construction team's flexibility in the event that a significant site is discovered is generally less.

Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries: Offshore Renewables Projects, 2014

The aim of the Protocol is to support offshore development by providing an umbrella system for reporting, investigating and protecting these unexpected archaeological discoveries which may be encountered during pre-construction, construction and operation work for the offshore renewables industry.

This report explores the Protocol's 3rd year, April 2013 – March 2014, during which 105 individual reports detailing archaeological discoveries were raised with Wessex Archaeology's Implementation Service.

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Photograph credits

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1 Overview of the Protocol

The basic tenet of the Protocol is that when archaeological material is encountered during work on offshore wind farm schemes, it is reported. The Protocol sets out a framework to facilitate this, assisting the protection of our cultural heritage.

1.1 The Protocol in Action

The Protocol does not replace other methods of archaeological investigation but is designed to act as a safety-net for material recovered after archaeological baseline research, assessment or mitigation has been completed.

Under the Protocol, if archaeological remains are discovered they are reported to a designated Site Champion – usually the site manager, team leader or vessel master – who completes a reporting form with key information about each discovery.

The reporting form and photographs of the find or site are forwarded to the Nominated Contact for the Developer – usually the Consents Manager. The Nominated Contact uploads information and photographs onto an online portal, which notifies the Implementation Service. **The Implementation Service is currently operated by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of The Crown Estate.**

The role of the Implementation Service is to assist the Developer in matters relating to archaeological discoveries made during work on offshore wind farm developments. This includes investigating discoveries uploaded onto the portal, providing advice, preparing reports and disseminating information about new discoveries to relevant parties.

The Protocol meets conditions laid out in Section 4.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). EN-1 states: “Where the IPC [Infrastructure Planning Commission] considers there to be a high probability that a development site may include as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the IPC should consider requirements to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction.” The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (DECC 2011) reiterates aspects of this condition.

To support the Protocol the Implementation Service runs an Awareness Programme funded by The Crown Estate, the activities of which are detailed in section **4 Awareness** of this report.

1.2 Summary of the First Year, 2010–2012

ORPAD was launched in December 2010 to provide a cost-effective safety-net to protect submerged heritage. During the first ‘year’ of operation (spanning December 2010 – March 2012) four reports were raised detailing archaeological finds.

In addition to investigating and reporting on these discoveries, the Implementation Service focused on raising awareness to ensure that everyone involved in development schemes was aware of the Protocol and familiar with its operation.

This was achieved through visits, meetings, dedicated web pages, the production of newsletters, operational guides, handouts and a DVD for those unable to attend a talk (such as those working on a vessel).

The benefits of this awareness training are being seen now as the level of reports filed annually has increased considerably.

1.3 Summary of the Second Year, 2012–2013

A large increase in the number of reports filed was witnessed in the second year of the Protocol, rising from four reports in the first year, to 76 in the second. This reflects not only the impact of effective awareness training, but also the acceleration in offshore activity resulting in the discovery of archaeological material.

In addition to supporting offshore development by investigating these reports, the focus of the second year was to increase dissemination of information to relevant bodies. To do this, Wessex Archaeology worked closely with Developers’ Nominated Contacts to ensure that information was released in a timely and sensitive manner.

1.4 Summary of the Third Year, 2013–2014

105 reports were raised with the Implementation Service during the third operational year of the Protocol.

In the previous year the majority of reports related to material recovered during benthic trawls. This year this information has been supplemented by evidence gained during the investigation of potential ordnance using Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and divers. Material has been reported that was recognised on sonar or video, and for which images were provided, although the items were not recovered from the seabed.

Confidentiality remains high within the industry which has led to some delays in the dissemination of information. Wessex Archaeology continues to communicate with all parties in order that information about heritage assets is accessioned onto relevant national databases.

During the third year a consultation was opened to review the Protocol and its operation to date. Contact was made with companies working within the offshore renewables industry, heritage agencies and government departments, and the consultation was publicised through *Renewing the Past*, the newsletter which supports the Protocol. The results of this process are discussed below in section **6 Consultation**.

Table 1 ORPAD finds reported during 2013–2014

Find ID	Description	Activity
10103	Propeller	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10106	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10107	Wood	Beam trawl
10108	Peat & coal	Beam trawl
10109	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10110	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10111	Anchor	Clearance
10114	Wood, twig, stone	Beam trawl
10116	Twigs	Beam trawl
10117	Twig	Beam trawl
10118	Peat	Otter trawl
10119	Vertebra	Beam trawl
10120	Peat	Beam trawl
10121	Peat	Otter trawl
10122	Wood	Beam trawl
10123	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10124	Twig, ?wood/lignite	Beam trawl
10125	Wood	Beam trawl
10126	Peat	Beam trawl
10127	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10128	Peat	Otter trawl
10129	Peat	Beam trawl
10130	Peat	Beam trawl
10131	Peat & wood	Otter trawl
10132	Peat	Otter trawl
10133	Peat	Otter trawl
10134	Peat	Otter trawl
10135	Wood & twig	Beam trawl
10136	Wood & twig	Beam trawl
10137	Peat & wood	Beam trawl
10138	Wood	Otter trawl
10139	Peat	Otter trawl
10140	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10141	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10142	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10143	Metal framework	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10144	Metal framework	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10145	Metal beam	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10146	Metal beam	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10147	Potential anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10148	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10149	Chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10150	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10151	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10152	Metal debris	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10153	Admiralty chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10154	Steel (winch drum?)	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10155	Chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10156	Chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10157	Deck winch	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10158	Metal debris	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10159	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10160	Chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment

Find ID	Description	Activity
10161	Capstan	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10162	Metal debris	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10163	Potential capstan	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10164	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10165	German GC mine	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10166	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10167	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10168	Ordnance	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10170	Metallic object	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10171	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10172	Metal debris	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10173	?Wooden beam	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10174	Ordnance	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10175	Chain	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10176	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10177	Anchor wire	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10178	Potential deck plate	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10179	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10180	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10181	Metal framework	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10182	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10183	Metal debris	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10184	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10185	Unidentified object	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10187	Chain & ?anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10188	Metal framework	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10189	Anchor	UXO ground-truthing anomaly assessment
10190	Cable reel	Survey work of magnetic anomalies
10191	Anchor	Moved during phase 3 boulder clearance
10192	Anchor	Found during export cable laying works
10193	Peat & twig	Found during scientific trawl
10194	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10195	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10196	Peat, wood & twig	Found during scientific trawl
10197	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10198	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10199	Peat, wood & coal	Found during scientific trawl
10200	Peat & wood	Found during scientific trawl
10201	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10202	Peat & wood	Found during scientific trawl
10203	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10204	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10205	Wood	Found during scientific trawl
10206	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10207	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10209	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10210	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10211	Peat & wood	Found during scientific trawl
10212	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10213	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10214	Peat	Found during scientific trawl
10216	Trailing fishing gear	Debris target investigated by ROV

2 Discoveries

105 reports were raised during the 2013–2014 reporting year, an increase from 76 in 2012–2013 and four between 2010 and 2012.

2.1 Finds Summary

In common with the 2012–2013 period, a number of potentially significant heritage assets were discovered during benthic trawls offshore. Organic materials such as wood and peat, which have significance for our understanding of pre-submergence landscapes, were recovered from trawls and reported through ORPAD. These plant remains were provided to Wessex Archaeology for further study.

This year also saw the reporting of a range of materials identified during Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) survey. This aptly demonstrates how existing offshore surveys, conducted as standard before or during construction, can inform Developers and their Retained Archaeologists of submerged heritage assets without increasing costs by any noticeable extent.

Approximately 50 of the reports filed this year relate to organic material whilst 55 reports detail metal finds from the seafloor, ranging from anchors to ordnance. The latter were either recovered to the surface, or investigated on the seabed by divers and ROV after their discovery by geophysical survey.

Finds reported through the Protocol are informing our understanding of human use of pre-submergence landscape, sea and seabed, shedding light on a period that is little understood due to geographical, chronological and practicable distance.

The Implementation Service has been working closely with Developers and with specialists to ensure that all reports are investigated to the highest standards. As some of this year's reports detailed environmental material such as peat or wood, this meant internal experts undertaking detailed specialist analysis to produce reports.

Table 1 (page 5) lists the finds reported in the 2013–2014 reporting year alongside the type of activity that led to their discovery. Find locations for all of the finds reported through ORPAD this year are shown on the map above.



General overview of the location of finds for 2013–2014

2.2 ORPAD Archaeological Finds

The development footprints of offshore wind farms are being intensively investigated to ensure their suitability for renewable energy development. This includes benthic trawls, geophysical surveys, boulder clearance operations and UXO surveys, all of which have yielded archaeological discoveries in the 2013–2014 reporting year.

The big news of last year's Protocol was the discovery and reporting of material from pre-submergence environmental deposits from the East Coast. Whilst initially these discoveries were kept confidential and information only shared with the Protocol's Implementation Service, the results of detailed study of the remains have now been published and are available online.*

* Visit <http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/5599/ei-archaeological-material-from-the-dogger-bank.pdf>

This year the increasing pace of development and change in offshore activity has seen a shift from the reporting of environmental remains, to the reporting of artefactual material and a divide between finds reported that have been lifted to the surface, and those that remain *in situ* on the seabed. Both have relevance to our archaeological understanding of offshore areas, and both retrieved and *in situ* finds should be reported through the Protocol. Here we focus on one find that remains *in situ*, and another that was recovered during offshore work.

Anchors, such as the two featured here in these

case studies, can be part of larger sites of archaeological significance. For example, where a collection of anchors is found together they may indicate an historic anchorage and where an anchor is found with maritime material it is likely to be part of a shipwreck event. These examples are currently believed to be discrete finds; those that have been lost from a vessel, not with one. However, by ensuring that they are correctly reported the Developer concerned has made this information available should potentially associated material be recovered from a nearby location during future work offshore.



Case Study 1 The Recovered Find

This anchor was recovered during work offshore to clear boulders ahead of the installation of wind turbine generators. A grab was deployed to the seabed and, as these images show, lifted the anchor to the surface.

This is a Rodgers' small-palm anchor, a type which was very popular in the 19th century. Rodgers' small-palm anchor – named after Lieutenant (later Commander) Rodgers – was patented in 1832 and continued in commercial use into the early 20th century as a stream

anchor. The anchor is characterised by a bolt passing through the shank, arms forged in one piece and blunt points.

The discovery was reported through the ORPAD after its recovery by the boulder clearance team working on behalf of the Developer. Without a Protocol in place, finds such as this one may not be correctly reported, or reported at all, and the information they hold about the heritage of an area could be lost from the archaeological record. Details of this find were submitted to the relevant national heritage database by the ORPAD Implementation Service where they will be available to future researchers.

Case Study 2 The *in situ* Find

In the past it has been common for finds to be reported through a relevant industry protocol only after their recovery. The ORPAD has demonstrated the value in reporting material that is still *in situ* on the seabed, as this next case study shows.

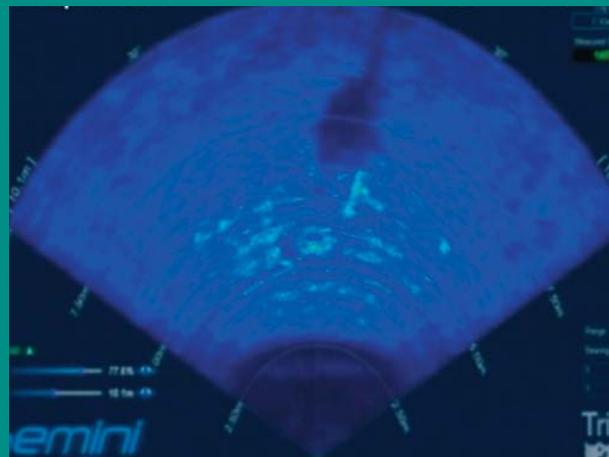
This example was investigated as a potential UXO target after geophysical survey. ROV images of the find on the seabed clearly identified it as an anchor, with shackle attached, and covered in nets or ropes. The quality of ROV and underwater camera images, combined with sonar images of the anchor on the seabed has allowed a firm identification of this find as an anchor, even though it has not been lifted to the surface. Leaving the anchor on the seabed negates the inherent conservation problems of drying marine finds, particularly iron finds, without their degradation.

The reporting of *in situ* discoveries marks a change from other industry protocols where material is commonly only discovered and subsequently reported after its removal from the seabed. In the 2013–2014 reporting year approximately 25% of reported ORPAD finds remain on the seabed. Where they do not lie in the direct footprint of turbines or associated cables they can be left *in situ*.

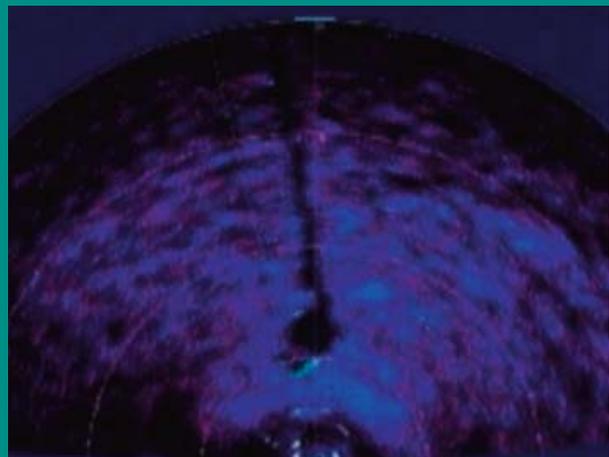
Whilst there are limitations to the archaeological interpretation that can be applied to *in situ* finds in the offshore context – for example it has not been possible on available evidence to suggest a date for the use of this anchor – the archaeological record is still enhanced by understanding of its presence and location which may provide opportunity



Underwater photograph



Multibeam image



Sonar image

for future study. As with the recovered find, the ORPAD Implementation Service will submit details of this find to the relevant national database where they can be accessed during any future work in the area.

3 Liaison and Accessibility

Finds are reported to relevant agencies including, but not limited to, The Crown Estate and the relevant government heritage agency/curator, and where necessary the Receiver of Wreck and the Ministry of Defence.

3.1 Distribution of Reports

Reporting to the various different agencies, as detailed on page 16 of the Protocol, is standard archaeological or legal practice. Prior to this level of reporting, Wessex Archaeology will work closely with Consents Managers and Nominated Contacts to ensure that they are informed and supportive of further dissemination.

None of the finds reported in the 2013–2014 reporting year were associated conclusively with an unknown or uncharted wreck site. Consequently no finds have been reported to the UK Hydrographic Office in this reporting year.

3.2 The Importance of Further Reporting

The importance of disseminating information about finds was highlighted in the annual report for 2012–2013 but is an ongoing concern so will also be addressed here.

It is important that all finds discovered are reported to the relevant heritage agency and this is a role that the Implementation Service can undertake on behalf of a Developer. This is crucial as understanding finds in their broader national context is key to their interpretation.

All heritage curators hold archives of known sites and finds of archaeological importance. Discoveries made during work on wind farm developments will be added to these archives after reporting by the Implementation Service. These archives will help to inform future developments.

Aside from the value to heritage of the effective reporting of finds, there is also a legal obligation to report some classes of find, and a failure to report archaeological finds may constitute a breach of one or more conditions of consent. It is therefore critical that the Developer can demonstrate that an effective communication procedure (such as awareness training) has been implemented to make the Protocol operationally effective.

Confidentiality remains understandably important within the industry and the Implementation Service will liaise with Nominated Contacts at each stage of the reporting process.

It should be noted that unless a find is of exceptional archaeological value (with national or international resonance) reporting through the Protocol is unlikely to present any obstacle to continued development, provided appropriate investigation and mitigation, agreed by the curator, is conducted for the development. If a find or site is of exceptional archaeological potential then it is in the interests of the Developer to ensure rapid reporting so that appropriate action can be taken.



4 Awareness

During the 2013–2014 reporting year, the Implementation Service, run by Wessex Archaeology, has continued to raise awareness in support of the Protocol through the Awareness Programme funded by The Crown Estate.

4.1 Activities Undertaken in 2013–2014

During 2013–2014 Wessex Archaeology has conducted three awareness visits at the request of Developers.

Copies of the awareness DVD aimed at staff working offshore, or who aren't able to attend an awareness training session due to operational circumstances, are available. If you would like a copy of the DVD please contact Wessex Archaeology. If there is high demand for this resource the video can be made available online.

The Implementation Service has produced two further issues of the popular *Renewing the Past* Newsletter. Issue six was distributed in autumn 2013 and issue seven in June 2014. Further issues are planned for autumn 2014 and spring 2015.

Resources to support the operation of the Protocol are available through Wessex Archaeology's website. These include *Renewing the Past* and previous years' reports, as well as reporting and operational guides.

A comparison of downloads from digital library Scribd reads from 2013 to 2014 (**Table 2**, right) shows a steady increase in views for all web-based resources. Making awareness materials available online will continue to be important (alongside visits and talks held in-person) due to the operational difficulties inherent in visiting developments at each stage of work.

Wessex Archaeology continues to implement the Awareness Programme in support of the Protocol. If you would like an awareness visit – to refresh the knowledge of existing staff or because new staff have joined – please contact Wessex Archaeology 01722 326 867, protocol@wessexarch.co.uk or visit www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables



Table 2 Scribd reads

Resource	Scribd reads up to April 2012	Scribd reads up to April 2013	Scribd reads up to April 2014
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 1	851	1088	1326
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 2	500	594	779
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 3	449	608	821
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 4	N/A	981	1790
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 5	N/A	N/A	808
<i>Renewing the Past</i> 6	N/A	N/A	401
Full text of the Protocol	988	1404	1666
Handouts	810	1056	1288
2010–2012 Report	N/A	938	1202
2012–2013 Report	N/A	N/A	722
<i>Operational guides:</i>			
Benthic Ecological Survey	78	238	353
Geophysics	85	259	395
Grapnel Survey and Obstruction Clearance	85	270	393
Intertidal Cable Laying	75	256	370
Offshore Construction and Cable Laying	354	525	640
Onshore Work	82	257	356

5 ORPAD during 2013–2014

During the 2013–2014 reporting year, several operational matters have arisen, and they are discussed below.

5.1 In-person Awareness

Despite a large amount of remote and online activity (including the updating of online material and continued production of the *Renewing the Past* Newsletter) there have been few requests for in-person awareness training during the past year.

Regardless of this, the scheme still appears to be operating well. Informal feedback from people working in the offshore renewables industry suggests an awareness of the Protocol and of reporting obligations despite little personal contact with the Implementation Service.

A high initial energy input into awareness has sustained the scheme so far but further work is necessary in order to maintain this. A renewed input into awareness raising, supported by The Crown Estate, is planned for the 2014–2015 reporting year.

5.2 Local Protocols

Some developments, showing dedication to the protection of our heritage, have put their own protocols in place to protect material found during work on their schemes. The ORPAD is funded by The Crown Estate on behalf of all wind farm developments in the UK. However, if a development has its own Protocol in place, finds should be reported through the local Protocol in the first instance.

To maintain a complete database of finds from wind farm schemes, reports relating to our cultural heritage should then be reported through ORPAD so that details can be accessioned onto the ORPAD database. If a find has been fully investigated under a scheme-specific protocol, the ORPAD will record the finds and not report on them.

It is anticipated that the Retained Archaeologist providing the scheme specific protocol will be responsible for reporting in those instances.

5.3 Anchors

The surge in the number of anchors found during work offshore has led to the need for clarification on how they should be treated.

Anchors are archaeologically significant and should be reported through the Protocol. If an anchor is isolated (i.e. is not found with other material that may indicate that it forms part of a site, such as a shipwreck) and is in the way of development, it can be moved on the seabed to a new location. This should only ever be done after archaeological consultation. Moving material on the seabed may contravene a number of legislative measures put in place to protect certain types of sites (for example the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986). Seeking the advice of a Retained Archaeologist or the ORPAD Implementation Service first can help to prevent future complications.

When an anchor is moved on the seabed, the new co-ordinates of its location should be reported through ORPAD.

If a heritage asset such as an anchor is recovered from the development site and is being considered for disposal, an alternative use should first be considered where possible. The national curator, Retained Archaeologist and/or Implementation Service may be able to suggest alternative uses for such assets that mean that they can be preserved for future generations to enjoy. They should also be subject to recording to an appropriate standard at the earliest opportunity.

5.4 Revision to Reporting Standards

A summary report reviews all available data about a find or site and is issued to the Developer to circulate amongst the finders. This provides feedback, promotes the Protocol and helps eliminate the disinterest that can develop when finders report material and hear nothing back.

In some instances the information about a find is sparse – a grainy image from an ROV's video, camera or BlueView and a brief description from the finders. Where the find remains on the seabed there can be little on which to base an archaeological interpretation. In these instances it is not effective to issue a summary report.

A percentage of the finds reported in this reporting year (2013–2014) were initially investigated as UXO and, following archaeological assessment of the data under a client-funded project, the material was subsequently submitted to ORPAD, based on archaeological recommendation. In these circumstances, where information was sparse and the finders were a third-party contracted to remove the threat of ordnance on site, it was deemed appropriate to forgo summary reports and streamline the operation. For these finds, only MIDAS reports, which allow the transference of data to national heritage databases, were generated.

5.5 Confidentiality and Adherence

The number of reports received each year has been increasing suggesting good uptake by industry and general adherence to the Protocol by some offshore schemes.

Many of the Developers reporting through the Protocol request that information linking finds to their schemes is not included in publicly available documents such as the ORPAD annual report and the *Renewing the Past* newsletters, something which Wessex Archaeology has supported to date in order to ensure that Developers are not deterred from reporting finds.

However, the lack of readily accessible information about which schemes are reporting finds was raised by several correspondents during the consultation process which led to the drafting of the revised Protocol document. Parties outside of Wessex Archaeology and The Crown Estate were limited in their ability to assess how effective, and therefore valuable, the Protocol is, as they cannot gauge how widespread use of the Protocol is without details of where discoveries are being made.

Statistics held by the Implementation Service suggest that less than half of OWFs have reported through the Protocol.

There are varied reasons for this:

- Some schemes may implement their own protocols.
- Others are not currently in a construction phase or undertaking the type of pre-construction activities that would return or identify archaeological material.

- The operational circumstances of some sites inhibit the likelihood of archaeological finds.

However, it is recommended that a protocol is initiated during the early pre-consent phases of development as a good practice measure.

It has been suggested that asking Developers who have adopted the Protocol and not discovered material during the reporting year to file a 'nil return' would help to ensure adherence and reinforce awareness of the scheme.

5.6 Dissemination

After a discovery is reported and investigated, details of finds are accessioned by the Implementation Service onto national databases. These are the records that an archaeological consultant will check during the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed development site. Ensuring that these records are fully appraised with respect of information about schemes in various areas of the UK may help inform future development offshore. Whilst this does in some respects constitute the public release of information, it does not allow an interested party to view all of the reports raised through the Protocol in one document. Including details of reported finds in the ORPAD annual report would provide a comprehensive resource of Protocol discoveries.

To date this level of dissemination has not resulted in any scheme impacts. Failure to adhere to an archaeological Protocol where it is included as a condition of consent will present far greater scheme impacts than timely reporting and following appropriate advice in relation to archaeological finds.

Certain Acts of Parliament are applicable offshore that can relate to heritage. Examples include the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 and the Merchant Shipping Act 1995. Reporting through the Protocol can help to discharge these responsibilities and details of relevant reported finds can be disseminated to the Ministry of Defence and the Receiver of Wreck by the Implementation Service.

6 Consultation

The Crown Estate opened a consultation period in 2013 to review the Protocol to date. Contractors, heritage professionals and government agencies were invited to give feedback on how the scheme is operating and how it might be improved.

6.1 Consultation

The ORPAD was launched in 2010 and three years of operation was considered sufficient to allow comment on how it may be improved going forward in order to be as effective as possible for Developers, development schemes and for the protection of our marine heritage.

Comments received were generally positive and the scheme is deemed to be an effective safety-net for protecting archaeological material recovered during work on offshore renewables schemes.

It was, however, suggested though that the Protocol be clarified in two directions. These are outlined below.

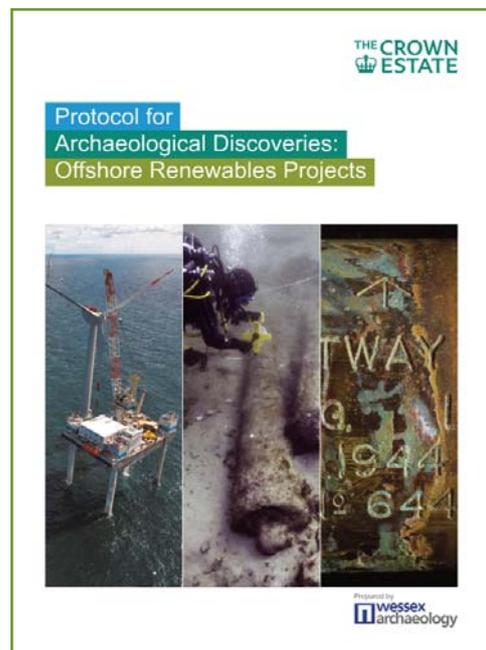
6.2 The Protocol as a Safety-net

The Protocol is a safety-net which comes into operation only after prior targeted investigation. It does not, and cannot, replace archaeological baseline research and mitigation undertaken in the planning stages.

6.3 The Protocol as a Condition of Consent

If planning consent for a development cites adherence to the Protocol (or to a protocol) as a condition of consent then reporting ceases to be voluntary.

Considerations about adherence, outlined above in **Sub-section 5.5**, were also raised through the consultation.



6.4 Revised Protocol

Following the consultation, the Protocol document has been revised and updated to reflect suggestions raised by consultees and changes in the process of the Protocol that have occurred during its operation. The revised Protocol document is available online via the Protocol's web pages: www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables

7 Conclusion

7.1 Importance

This Protocol is supported by The Crown Estate and by heritage curators as an effective means of protecting our offshore heritage without inhibiting development. Operating a protocol provides umbrella support for all aspects of offshore work during marine development where it is not operationally or economically viable to have an archaeological presence.

It is only effective when it is promoted effectively and when Developers adhere to it.

The quantity and variety of discoveries reported during the first three operational years of the Protocol clearly demonstrate the value of the Offshore Renewables Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries.

The finds that have been reported through the scheme – now totalling nearly 200 separate reports detailing finds as diverse as cannon, anchors and palaeoenvironmental material – will be protected or preserved (at the very least by record) for future generations.

7.2 The Future

Wessex Archaeology will continue to run the Implementation Service on behalf of The Crown Estate. For further information contact the Implementation Service at protocol@wessexarch.co.uk or visit www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/marine/tcerenewables





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