Renewing the PAST

Protocol Newsletter Issue 7

Spring 2014

Welcome to **Issue 7** 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**, has just completed its third year providing a 'safety-net' for heritage found during work on offshore wind farm developments.

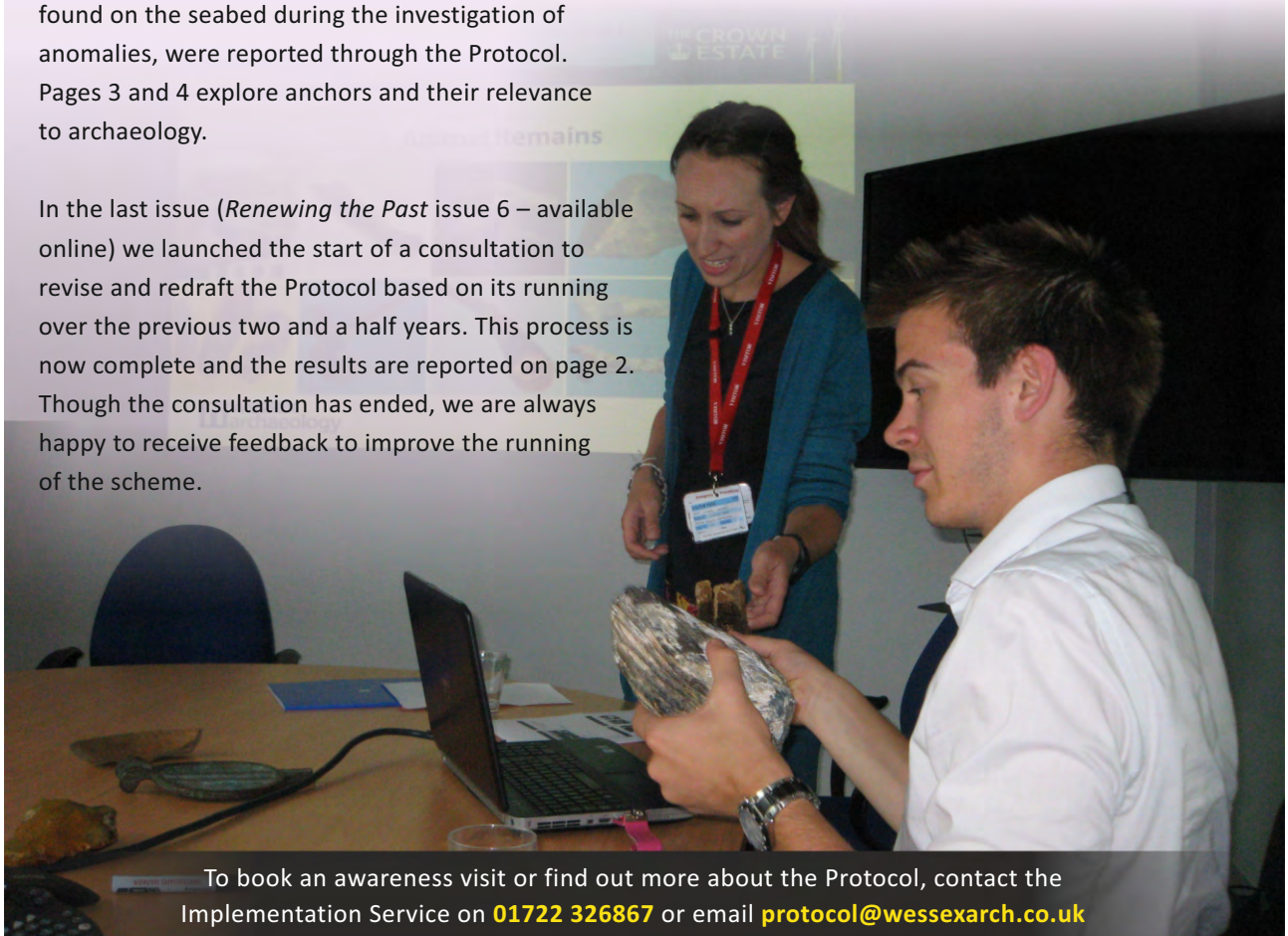
This year over 100 individual reports have been raised detailing finds as diverse as prehistoric plant remains and a suspected German mine from the Second World War. The developing nature of work on offshore wind farms has resulted in a surge in reports of material found during anomaly assessment and investigated by Remote Operated Vehicles or divers. This year 24 anchors and potential anchors, many of which were found on the seabed during the investigation of anomalies, were reported through the Protocol. Pages 3 and 4 explore anchors and their relevance to archaeology.

In the last issue (*Renewing the Past* issue 6 – available online) we launched the start of a consultation to revise and redraft the Protocol based on its running over the previous two and a half years. This process is now complete and the results are reported on page 2. Though the consultation has ended, we are always happy to receive feedback to improve the running of the scheme.

The Protocol is only effective if everyone involved in offshore wind farm construction is aware of it and its operation. Wessex Archaeology continues to raise awareness of the Protocol through visits, Skype presentations, email contact, phone calls, web pages and through this newsletter.

If you would like an awareness visit, copies of materials produced to support the scheme or would like to talk to someone formally or informally about the Protocol and archaeology, contact us today.

The Protocol is funded by The Crown Estate, and managed and implemented by Wessex Archaeology's Coastal & Marine archaeologists.



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**

THE CROWN ESTATE

Protocol Consultation 2013

At the end of 2013 The Crown Estate and Wessex Archaeology opened a consultation period to review the Protocol document. The scheme has been in effect since 2010 and it was felt that the original document needed to be revisited to ensure that it was still relevant and fit for purpose.

The consultation was promoted to wind farm developers, heritage professionals and other associated organisations working within the marine sphere. Comments received were positive and it was generally agreed that the scheme provides an effective safety-net for archaeological material encountered during work offshore on wind farm developments.

However, the need was identified to clarify the role of the Protocol in two particular directions:

Firstly, the Protocol is a safety-net which comes into operation only after prior targeted archaeological investigation has taken place in the course of the planning process. The Protocol should only ever be used after, or in conjunction with, site specific schemes for heritage investigation and protection, as agreed by the relevant heritage regulator (*Renewing the Past* issue 5 carries details of national heritage agencies). It should not be used as an alternative to archaeological baseline research, assessment or mitigation carried out during the planning and post-consent stages of work offshore.

Secondly, the Protocol is often included as a condition of planning consent and in these cases ceases to be voluntary. If adhering to the Protocol is a condition of consent for a scheme that you are employed on then you are legally bound to adhere to the tenets set down in it – namely that archaeological material encountered during work on offshore wind farm schemes should be reported.

The Protocol has proved effective and is generally agreed to be a valuable method for reporting finds encountered during work on offshore schemes. A year on year increase in the number of finds reported has been seen as work on offshore wind farm developments intensifies.

If you would like to see a copy of the Protocol or need any advice on finds and finds reporting, visit our dedicated Protocol web pages or contact **protocol@wessexarch.co.uk**

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

Anchors

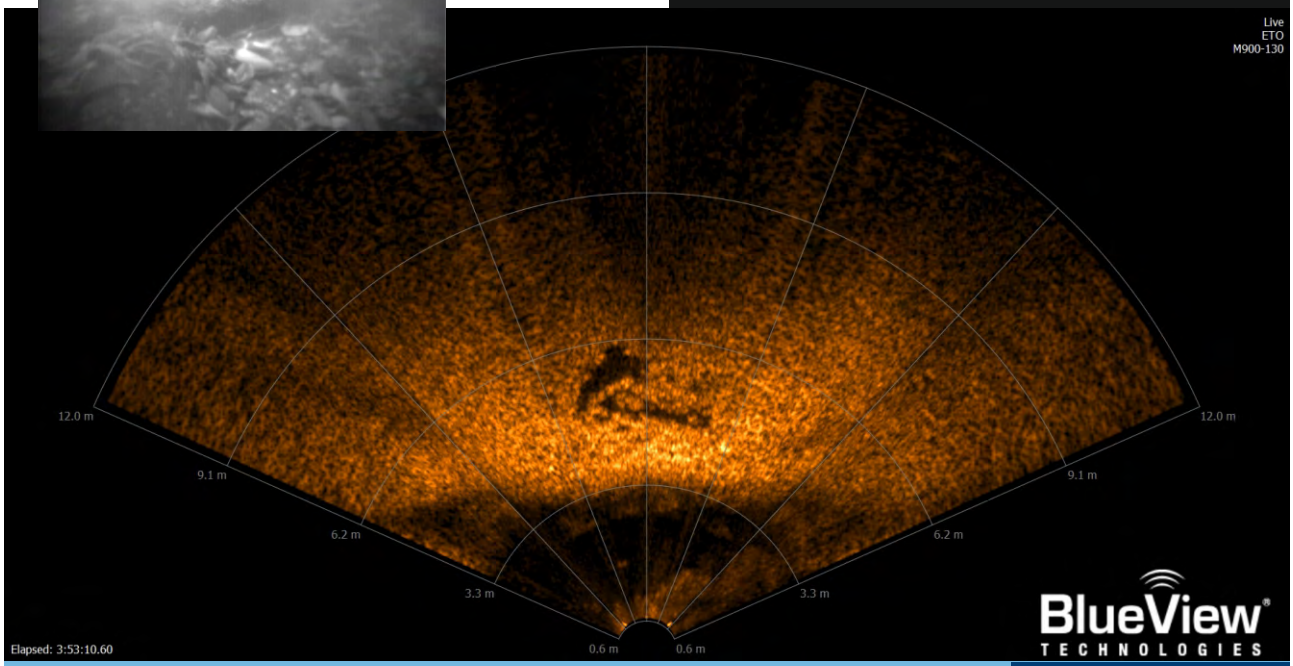
Anchors are one of the most enduring and evocative symbols in the maritime world. From the huge stockless anchors capable of staying a battleship, to the Fisherman's anchors carried by smaller vessels, nothing more aptly captures the spirit of seafaring and Britain's maritime heritage.

There are many reasons why an anchor may be lost at sea. It may have been fouled, lost as part of a shipwreck event or lost due to broken chains or cables. The discovery of an anchor or a collection of anchors may reveal where an anchorage was located or areas of danger to ships, and the discovery of an anchor and other associated material has the potential to reveal the location of a shipwreck.

Anchors hold a wealth of information as they change in their construction and style throughout history. This successive innovation allows anchors to be dated fairly accurately, and the size and style of an anchor can also reveal what type of vessel it may have come from.

Anchors that are found during wind farm development should always be reported through the Protocol. If they are in the footprint of the development they can be moved, provided that archaeological advice is sought first. Isolated anchors, although of low archaeological significance, are still part of the submerged cultural heritage of an area and should be preserved. A developer's retained archaeologist will be able to advise on the best way to protect heritage assets, such as anchors.

The Big Anchor Project run by the Nautical Archaeology Society is recording anchors across the globe. Currently their database lists details of over 600 anchors, many of which are accessible to visitors. To learn more visit:
www.biganchorproject.com



Anchors and the ORPAD

This year 24 anchors and potential anchors have been reported through the Offshore Renewables Protocol. Many of the anchors reported have been identified by geophysical survey and then investigated by Remote Operated Vehicles or divers. These types of investigation primarily took place for the identification of unexploded ordnance, which may pose a risk during work on offshore developments. The way in which many of these finds were reported demonstrates aptly how the archaeological Protocol can work alongside other investigative methods offshore, utilising data from the latter to inform us on the character of the submerged heritage of development sites.

Anchors may also be encountered during other activities. The example in these two photographs was discovered during anchor handling as part of cable installation, though it was lying outside of the designated cable route.

Images of this find were shown to Mark Beattie-Edwards of the Nautical Archaeology Society, which is implementing the recording of anchors on the seabed and on land through the Big Anchor Project. He identified two potential parallels for this find, both of which were patented by George Tyzack in the late 19th century. Tyzack's 'Improved Triple-Grip with Crown Stock' and 'Bull-Dog' type anchors are both similar in form to this example. Tyzack's anchors are unusual as the 'stock', which prevents the anchor rolling, is positioned at the crown, not at the shackle, though they are still referred to as stockless anchors. The flat crown and distinctive rounded protrusions (called 'anchor balls') shown clearly in the photograph above were designed, according to Tyzack in his patent, to 'act precisely in the manner of a stock upon the shank to prevent the anchor rolling when taking hold.'

This anchor is an unusual variety due to Tyzack's innovation on typical anchor design. Tyzack's anchor, with its stock moved to the crown, has the advantage of being easier to stow in a hawsepipe. These anchors are also reputedly very effective at gaining purchase in a variety of different seabed types. The downside of this increased holding power, however, is that the anchor can be difficult to 'break out', or remove from the seabed, which perhaps explains how it came to be found during work offshore.