

Historic Scotland's Marine Heritage Strategy 2012-15

Report of Day Seminar – 5th March 2013, Royal George Hotel, Perth

1 Introduction

This seminar took place when Historic Scotland was on the verge of consulting on a first tranche of Historic Marine Protected Areas – the first in fact of Scotland's Marine Protected Areas. The strategic context was outlined with reference to documents '[Making the most of Scotland's Seas](#)' and the UK and Scotland Marine Acts, which led to the development of Historic Scotland's '[Strategy for the protection, management and promotion of marine heritage 2012-15](#)' (published March 2012). Since publication of the Strategy, the merger between Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has been announced, and a strategic review of historic environment policy is underway. The day seminar gave participants an opportunity to hear a range of presentations and to offer feedback to Historic Scotland on its progress in delivering the strategy – key points arising from each are highlighted below. A delegate list is at annex A.

2 Advancing knowledge and making information widely available

- 2.1 **[Project Adair](#) overview:** George Geddes (RCAHMS) outlined Project Adair – *an HS/RCAHMS project which is enhancing data that is held on the marine environment and making this widely available*. Key characteristics of the project include a strong partnership approach; ongoing dialogue with clients; a new approach of publishing *all* data; improved concordance with Canmore (differentiating between maritime and terrestrial environments); improved archiving. By integrating updated information from the UK Hydrographic Office and Ian Whittaker's digital database for *Off Scotland*, the project has increased RCAHMS marine records by 25%. This improved data-set is available via the usual channels and will also be made available through Marine Scotland's National Marine Planning Interactive ([NMPi](#)). Subsequent speakers gave more detail on projects progressed under the Project Adair banner.
- 2.2 **Project Adair – Orkney ; and the Outer Hebrides Coastal Community Marine Archaeology Pilot Project (OHCCMAPP) :** Ted Pollard (ORCA Marine) presented [survey work findings](#) which have focused on enhancing knowledge for the area around Orkney given the renewables interest in the locality. The maritime archaeological resource is rich and the World Heritage Site generates tourism interest and adds status. Survey work made use of Marine Scotland, UKHO and Crown Estate-funded multibeam/sidescan sonar data, as well as British Geological Survey sub-bottom profile data. These have helped to indicate potential submerged landscapes – a notable finding is that *things can survive in this high*

tidal, high energy area - particularly in gullies. Andrew Bicket (Wessex Archaeology) highlighted a pilot project in the Outer Hebrides ([OHCCMAPP](#)) which has made use of a variety of techniques to improve our knowledge of coastal and marine archaeology in the W. Isles. This has included mapping potential for submerged landscapes accommodating early prehistoric settlement in a number of areas including the Sound of Harris, also by interrogating survey data gathered by public sector agencies. There is much potential, for example around the Isle of Berneray – more would be revealed by higher resolution datasets. A key element of the project has been about involving the local community – ***educating on how to report finds and learning from the knowledge of local people.*** The project has also involved different specialisms coming together to carry out the survey work.

- 2.3 **Maritime Archaeology archiving:** Colin Martin highlighted Historic Scotland as the driving force in maritime heritage protection in Scotland over the last twenty years. He also recognised the invaluable recent support of HS/RCAHMS through Project Adair in facilitating the Martin’s current Maritime Archaeology archiving project which is digitising and archiving via RCAHMS, their records from major coastal/marine projects across Scotland over the last 40 years (see [here](#) for example). Colin illustrated their experiences of diving and recording three wrecks, ***advocating the continued value of small scale ‘hand-on’ archaeology*** – and the fact that this remains a key technique in understanding the resource. The project also involves exploring the relationship between early coastal structures and adjacent natural features. It was noted that ***even in shallower eastern seabords, the threat of erosion*** means that sites can be considered an endangered resource.
- 2.4 A Q&A session focused on ***commercial sensitivities around data.*** The issue is the time lag which may be as long as four years rather than receiving data in three months. Generally developers are in principle supportive of sharing data once they have their consent – data sharing has improved considerably in the last 2-3 years. It was noted that data is not always going into Environmental Impact Assessments (for example if schemes do not go forward for consent). A system is needed to capture such data. There is also an issue around availability/capacity to interpret data.

3 Improving stewardship of key marine heritage sites

- 3.1 **Past sea floor reconstruction:** Richard Bates presented a project ‘[Rising Tide, Orkney](#)’ which is exploring drowned palaeo-landscapes. The project is focusing on understanding sites in the landscape setting through mapping and past sea floor reconstruction. The project has shown the ***importance of drilling cores right next to the archaeological site*** due to movement of sediments. Coring can be very valuable however the scale is challenging since in just 2m depth it can be difficult to get a boat in. In responding to questions, it was noted that regional LiDAR survey work might help prioritise work, however it is necessary to know the pattern of sediment movement and to ensure that the sea-level curve is correct. There is a need for improved sea level index points around Scotland. Richard identified an additional need which is to help develop skills for understanding beyond interpreting seabed

features as 'arranged stonework'. To this end divers should ideally be archaeologists since features can be so hard to interpret.

- 3.2 **Scottish Marine Protected Areas Project:** Philip Robertson (Historic Scotland) and Sebastian Howell (Marine Scotland) introduced the Scottish Marine Protected Areas Project. A scientific approach to designation is being undertaken first, followed by stakeholder engagement. The network of marine protected areas for biodiversity will incorporate existing protected areas (SSSIs and SACs which currently cover 11% of Scottish seas). Inshore management is likely to come in more quickly. There are 33 nature conservation MPA proposals and four MPA locations still to be assessed (those for mobile species). Two further demonstration/research MPAs are being developed. If all the proposals are accepted, 25% of Scotland seas will be designated. Consultation is forthcoming this summer. The network will not likely be completed until 2016 with the target for demonstration of good environmental status under European legislation being 2020.
- 3.3 In terms of [Historic MPAs](#), Historic Scotland (HS) is preparing the first tranche of designation proposals prior to consultation (commenced 18 March 2013). It will comprise seven of eight existing designated wrecks (with the exception of one – the *Blessing of Burntisland* - since HS can no longer be satisfied that there is a wreck of national importance within the existing site boundary). Once existing designated wrecks have been transferred to Historic MPA status where appropriate, section 1 of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 is to be repealed in Scotland, though it will be used elsewhere across the UK. As future Historic MPAs, responsible diving access to sites like *Campania*, Duart Point, and *Dartmouth* will no longer require a visitor license from Historic Scotland as is currently the case through designation under the Protection of Wreck Act 1973.

The second tranche of Historic MPAs will comprise Scapa Flow scheduled wrecks (likely in Spring 2014) and any other underwater sites of national importance within Scapa Flow relating to the history of the WW1 and 2 naval anchorage. It is intended that a third tranche in 2015 will accommodate a small number of currently undesignated sites of the highest priority.

Areas for future discussion include whether 'demonstration and research MPAs' could be designated for areas/sites of cultural heritage interest where a strong research component exists. It was acknowledged that we don't have a good handle on what is nationally important, or what data is available to improve our understanding cost-effectively. A [Scottish Marine Historic Environment Data Audit](#), a [national characterisation study](#), and a regional study of Shetland have been completed to aid appraisal of this.

- 3.4 John McCarthy (Wessex Archaeology) gave more detail on Wessex Archaeology's work for Historic Scotland on the Scottish Marine Protected Areas Project, including surveys in Scapa Flow, the Firth of Forth, and Highland. He also spoke about the marine data audit (see above) – which **involves synthesizing a wide range of data sources which might be of benefit for heritage purposes**. He highlighted the lack of match-up/alignment between sources and the need to work out which data are most accurate.

- 3.5 **Scottish Coastal Heritage at Risk Project (SCH@RP):** Tom Dawson presented on the work of the SCAPE Trust and the latest initiative - the SCH@RP. SCAPE Trust has undertaken 25 coastal surveys since 2000 amounting to 30% of Scotland's coastline. Of 12,000 sites identified, particular action is recommended at circa 4,000 sites. The project 'Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk' asks the public to update survey information via iPhone app and pack. The public are also asked about which sites they value, and this helps target resources. Since January 2013, the project has registered 190 users, 84 trainees, generated 137 records and created 4 community projects including an online scan of the Wemyss Caves carvings.
- 3.6 **Guidance for Marine Renewables:** Anthony Firth (Fjordr) drew attention to a consultation that he is running on Wave and Tidal Energy Guidance. This is a joint English Heritage/Historic Scotland/CADW initiative to complement existing guidance. As marine renewable technologies are usually deployed in high energy environments there is an assumption which needs to be challenged that there will never be anything archaeological there. The key issues for the historic environment are i) how equipment is embedded into the sea floor and ii) what you see above in terms of landscape impact/setting. There is a lot of interest in adjacent coastal areas and port and harbour developments since it is in these places the impacts will most likely be greatest rather than at the devices themselves. It was explained that the industry is looking for recognition of the sector and to get everyone to 'first base' in terms of understanding/familiarity with the technology, which is still developing. The consultation closed shortly after the seminar, however the draft guidance can be viewed at: www.fjordr.com/downloads
- 3.7 **National Marine Plan:** A series of consultations will take place over a sixteen week period over the summer 2013, covering: National Marine Plan, consultation on Marine Protected Areas, and a review of sectoral plans (wave, wind, tidal) for offshore renewables. The national plan will be adopted in the winter 2014. There will be eleven Scottish Marine Regions and Marine Planning Partnerships to deliver regional marine planning.
- 3.8 **ALGAO perspective on marine planning:** Val Turner highlighted that Shetland already has a Marine Spatial Plan (4th edition) (under the Shetland Act) which extends up to the twelve nautical miles limit. A Wreck Register for wrecks around Shetland exists but is not widely available due to sensitivities. A Risk Register details the likelihood of encountering and asset. This is going to be adopted as supplementary guidance in local planning. ALGAO Scotland has concerns over responsibilities in managing the marine environment, for example how will terrestrial boundaries between authorities project out into the sea? Also ALGAO members have varying experiences of underwater time, so there remains a question as to the role of local authority officers in monitoring and engaging with marine historic environment. The records managed by local authority archaeologists are tools for planning purposes first and foremost.

4 Developing wider understanding and enjoyment

- 4.1 **Training Needs:** Dan Atkinson explained that an Institute for Archaeology (IfA) survey sponsored by Historic Scotland, has been looking at professional training needs within the context of the HS Marine Strategy. The IfA survey is a broad brush review of training needs in relation to managing the marine historic environment. Participants sought clarification over the nature of training which the IfA survey is exploring. The point was made that there is training available, however the need is for strengthened awareness of sources of training and co-ordination of training opportunities. It would be appropriate to use Scottish IfA and ALGAO meetings as a focus for delivering or simply sign-posting training opportunities.

A number of topics for potential training in relation to the marine historic environment were suggested as follows: the overarching policy context in general, training for developers on the historic environment *at the start* of projects, submerged landscapes, training for LA Archaeologists. The cost of training was raised – might there be scope for diving scholarships/bursaries? Possible funding sources might be HS and Skills Development Scotland (Construction Skills having invested in traditional building skills).

- 4.2 **Training offered by [Nautical Archaeology Society](#):** Steve Liscoe acknowledged the ongoing support of Historic Scotland which has enabled the delivery of marine heritage training and research for over twenty years. Since 2009 regional training centres have been in operation at Lochaline, Edinburgh, Loch Tay and St Andrews. A new E-learning component to the training provided will shortly comprise a theoretic element online, coupled with new ‘mini’ field schools giving experience in foreshore and underwater. NAS is exploring collaboration with SH@RP to generate awareness across from the terrestrial to marine environments. Relationships are also being developed with Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Association of Marine Sciences and the Marine Alliance of Science and Technology. NAS aims to raise awareness with the public and divers of the new Historic Marine Protected Area designation.

5 Plenary and summary

- 5.1 Key points from the day may be summarised as follows:

- High energy marine environments: assets can survive there.
- LiDAR: There is demand for more LiDAR, and at a higher resolution, however there is a need to prioritise locations for this. Historic Scotland indicated that Marine Scotland is looking into public sector needs for LiDAR as a tool for shallow water survey.
- Training: Local Authority Archaeological Officers are looking for support in the appropriate use of marine geophysics and LiDAR– understanding when to commission, how to interpret findings etc, and in setting conditions for planning applications at sea.

- Community involvement: Might there be scope to extend the idea behind SCH@RP to the marine environment and diving community? Repeated dives to the same wrecks do have value in that it gives time lapse information. However accurate interpretation of features can be very difficult in this environment and requires specialist knowledge and experience.
- Hand survey: Traditional forms of archaeological survey remain important - RCAHMS has strong skills. These remain a strong complement to digital survey techniques.
- Funding for survey work: might a collaborative approach to the oil industry be considered?

5.2 The projects presented at the seminar demonstrate the range of techniques and challenges in understanding the marine historic environment. The creation of a ***comprehensive set of baseline data will help inform the management*** of our marine historic environment through the new system of marine protected areas and national/regional marine planning.

Annex A: Delegate List

Bruce Mann	Aberdeenshire Council
Jonathan Wordsworth	Archaeology Scotland
Jo Robertson	BEFS
Dayton Dove	British Geological Survey
Jane Brann	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Stephanie Leith	East Lothian Council
Antony Firth	FJORDR Limited
Olwyn Owen	Historic Scotland
Philip Robertson	Historic Scotland
Kevin Munro	Historic Scotland
Adele Shaw	Historic Scotland
Laura Denholm	Historic Scotland
Sam Fox	Historic Scotland
Tim Howard	JNAPC/IFA
Sebastian Howell	Marine Scotland
Peter Hayes	Marine Scotland
Andy Liddell	Ministry of Defence
Matt Skelton	Ministry of Defence
Paula Martin	N/A
Colin Martin	N/A
Ian Archibald	N/A
Daniel Rhodes	National Trust for Scotland
Steve Liscoe	Nautical Archaeology Society
Edward Pollard	ORCA/UHI
Sarah Malone	Perth & Kinross Council
George Geddes	RCAHMS
Dr G Russell	RYA Scotland
Tom Dawson	SCAPE Trust
Joanna Hambly	SCAPE Trust
Val Turner	Shetland Amenity Trust
Kirsty Cameron	The Highland Council
Caroline Wickham Jones	University of Aberdeen
Richard Bates	University of St Andrews
John McCarthy	Wessex Archaeology
Dan Atkinson	Wessex Archaeology
Andrew Bicket	Wessex Archaeology

