

7459 MAIN Tearing Ledge, Isles of Scilly: Conservation Statement and Management Plan (7385)

Project Summary

Historic England have commissioned Cornwall Archaeological Unit and maritime archaeologist Kevin Camidge to prepare a Conservation Plan and Management Statement for Tearing Ledge, a Protected Wreck Site situated some 350m to the south-east of the Bishop Rock lighthouse in the Isles of Scilly. The project will commence on 14 March 2016 and the Plan is expected to be completed by 30 November 2016.

Wreck sites may contain the remains of vessels, their fittings, armaments, cargo and other associated objects or deposits and they may merit legal protection if they contribute significantly to our understanding of our maritime past. The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 allows Government to designate, in territorial waters, an important wreck site so as to prevent uncontrolled disturbance — there are currently 49 Protected Wreck Sites in England's territorial waters.

Assessing the significance of England's Protected Wreck Sites is an acute priority identified within the Historic England Action Plan (Corporate Plan Aim 2: Identify and protect England's most important heritage; Corporate Plan Objective 2.2.3 Assess the significance of our heritage to protect it better) while individual Conservation Statements and Management Plans assist with an improved understanding of the significance and character of these priority areas of our heritage.

The Conservation Statements and Management Plan are intended to enable local, regional and national stakeholder involvement in aspirations for the conservation management of designated historic shipwreck sites which balance conservation with economic and social needs. The principal aim of each Plan is to identify a shared vision of how the values and features of a site can be conserved, maintained and enhanced for current and future generations to enjoy.