



## **SeaZone commissioned to Characterise Archaeological Potential for Shipwrecks**

Hampshire, UK, 09 March 2010 – The “AMAP2 - *Characterising the Potential for Wrecks*” project (AMAP2), commissioned in October 2009, is a collaborative project between SeaZone and the University of Southampton (UoS) which seeks to improve the management of the marine historic environment through the interoperability of reference and archaeological data for marine spatial planning.

The aim of the AMAP2 project is to study relationships between the survival of shipwrecks and the natural environment. The results will be used to develop a characterisation of areas of maritime archaeological potential (AMAP) based on the environmental parameters affecting the survival of wrecks in seabed sediments, thus providing the basis for a more justified assessment of potential for unrecorded wrecks.

Following the success of the AMAP1 pilot project in 2008, the AMAP2 project seeks to further the monitoring, mitigation and management of the marine environment for offshore industries such as renewable energy and marine aggregates by facilitating the assessment of potential threats to archaeological assets. This will be achieved by:

- (1) comparing and unifying wreck data acquired by the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and held at English Heritage’s National Monument Record (NMR);
- (2) developing interoperability between the wreck data published in SeaZone HydroSpatial and historical data available from the NMR, thereby enhancing the usefulness and accessibility of both datasets; and
- (3) analysing the statistical relationships between maritime archaeological data and the environment.

Improving the understanding of the relationships between wrecks and their environment, coupled with the results of seabed modelling undertaken by UoS, will provide a firm basis for interpreting the variables which affect the potential for wrecks to survive in different seabed conditions.

The creation of a GIS-based characterisation of the archaeological potential for shipwrecks and the consequent enhancement of data, core to the aggregate licensing process, will enhance the approach to marine spatial planning and benefit the marine industry as a whole.

The project will make best use of SeaZone HydroSpatial to develop a characterisation of the variables affecting the potential for archaeological materials to exist and survive on the sea bed. The ability to access bathymetry, sea bed geology, as well as wrecks and obstructions data, from a single consistent source and associate it with historical NMR data is of great value to this and any future projects where there is a need for cross disciplinary analysis.

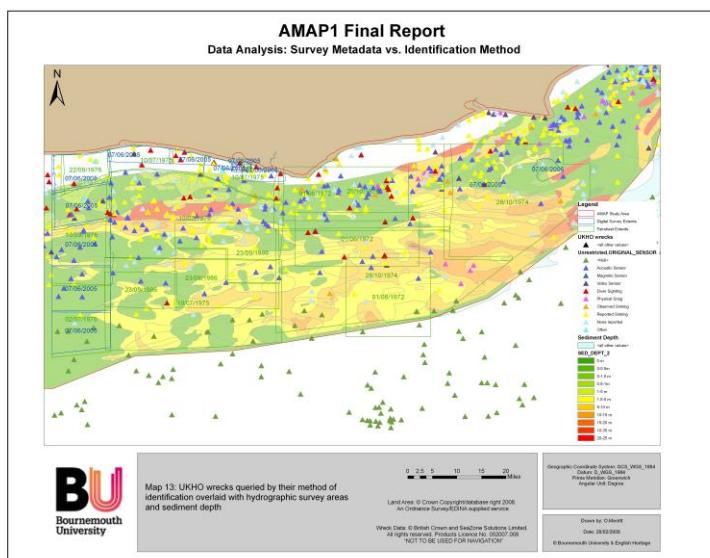


Figure 1 - Amap 1 Final Report undertaken with Bournemouth University

SeaZone will use in-house expertise in maritime archaeology, GIS and data management, plus staff experience in developing the concept and methodology for AMAP1, to undertake this project in close collaboration with UoS and English Heritage. Example of AMAP1 results are shown above in figure 1.

SeaZone and UoS believe the project will help build firm foundations for future marine planning and research, promoting consistency, and encouraging the enhancement and interoperability of digital marine data.

**Contact:**

Alison Smith, Marketing Manager, SeaZone  
 Email: [Alison.smith@SeaZone.com](mailto:Alison.smith@SeaZone.com) Mob: 07920 153 286

Olivia Merritt, Heritage/GIS Consultant, SeaZone  
 Email: [Olivia.Merritt@SeaZone.com](mailto:Olivia.Merritt@SeaZone.com)  
 Tel: +44 (0) 870 013 0607 Fax: +44 (0) 870 013 0608 Web: [www.SeaZone.com](http://www.SeaZone.com)

**Notes to Editors:**

**SeaZone** is a world leader in the field of marine geographic information solutions, including its innovative data product, SeaZone HydroSpatial, the first 'off the shelf' authoritative digital marine map.

SeaZone's knowledge of marine science, data acquisition and use, with expertise in geographic information systems (GIS) and data management, provides customers with innovative solutions that address their data access, processing and management needs.

Over 500 organisations across the oil and gas, renewable energy, conservation and public sector use SeaZone data, software and services to help support decision making in the Marine Environment and Coastal Zone.

The company, SeaZone Solutions Limited, is wholly owned by Admiralty Holdings Ltd (AHL), which is owned by the UK Secretary of State for Defence and operated on his behalf by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).