

FROM 2004 REPORTS AND PROJECT RESURRECTION

In **2004** a designated site investigation was commissioned by Historic Scotland in relation to the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973).

This was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2004 and they concluded that:

“The designated Blessing of Burntisland site appears not to contain the remains of the shipwreck based on the evidence available to date.”

Ian Archibald, the licensee on behalf of Burntisland Heritage Trust, wrote to Historic Scotland on 5th December 2007 having at that time only received sighting of the Wessex Archaeology report. He listed many concerns regarding the accuracy and the conclusion that had been reached.

His main issue was that the report had focussed extensively on the area that the Burntisland team had already investigated. This extent had already been confirmed by the team in a report to Historic Scotland in 2001 as **not** being the area which contained the anomaly located by the Royal Navy. The team had concluded that this lay adjacent to the east.

In **2013** an assessment carried out by Historic Scotland for designation as an Historic Marine Area under Part 5 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 stated:

“While the slight possibility remains that there is a wreck ... on the basis of an analysis of the best available evidence, namely the results from the detailed searches, diver and geophysical survey work and probing undertaken within the restricted area during the period 1998-2004, Scottish Ministers can no longer be satisfied that a wreck of national importance is or may be located within the area currently designated.”

The site was not taken forward for designation.

This was a great disappointment to everyone involved in the project given the huge amount of effort undertaken by the team over the years.

In **2013**, and unable to accept this decision, Ian Archibald contacted Dr Colin Stove who was of the same opinion. A sub bottom survey was carried out by Dr Colin Stove's company ADROK Ltd in August 2013.

The survey using advanced scanning technique developed by Adrok Ltd ran several scans directly over the target area. All of these scans produced a result indicating a buried anomaly 17.0m long. The same scan records the seabed at the time of survey at 26.4m; the start of remains at 29.1m; and end of remains at 33.9m. The target lies in fluid silt and is embedded in hard saturated sand. The results from spectral frequency analysis indicate the presence of wet wood and correlate with previous surveys in the same vicinity in 1998 and 1999.

Four lateral and sectional scanned lines show extents of structure and other isolated targets.

