

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MARINE MANAGEMENT

The Queen of Sweden (Historic Marine Protected Area) Order 2019

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into force - - - - - ***

The Scottish Ministers make the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 67(1)(c) and 73 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010(a) and all other powers enabling them to do so.

In accordance with section 73(1) of that Act the Scottish Ministers consider it desirable to make this Order for the purpose of preserving a marine historic asset of national importance which is located in the area designated.

In accordance with section 75 of that Act, the Scottish Ministers have published a notice of their proposal to make the order and consulted such persons as they consider are likely to be interested in or affected by the making of the order.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Queen of Sweden (Historic Marine Protected Area) Order 2019 and comes into force on [**Date Month Year**].

Designation of Historic Marine Protected Area

2.—(1) The area of the Scottish marine protection area described in paragraph (2) is designated as an Historic Marine Protected Area, to be known as “the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area”.

(2) The area is the area of within a distance of 80 metres of co-ordinate latitude 60° 08.803' north, longitude 001° 07.980' west.

(3) In paragraph (2), “co-ordinate” means a co-ordinate on the World Geodetic System 1984 Datum and co-ordinate reference system(b).

Marine historic asset

3. The marine historic asset located within the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area is the remains of a vessel, the Drottningen af Swerige, lying wrecked on or in the seabed, objects

(a) 2010 asp 5.

(b) Definitions of “World Geodetic System 1984 Datum” and co-ordinate reference system” are available via EPSG Geodetic Parameter Registry as EPSG:6326 (<http://epsg.io/6326-datum>) and EPSG:4326 (<http://epsg.io/4326>) respectively.

formerly contained in the vessel and deposits or artefacts which evidence previous human activity on board the vessel.

Preservation objectives

4. The preservation objectives for the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area and the marine historic asset are—

- (a) to maintain the extent of survival of the marine historic asset within the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area,
- (b) to maintain site condition of the marine historic asset,
- (c) to prevent the removal, wholly or partly, of the marine historic asset from its location within the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area, except where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that this is desirable for the purpose of making a significant contribution to the protection of the marine historic asset or to knowledge about marine cultural heritage, and
- (d) to prevent the commercial exploitation of the marine historic asset for trade, speculation or its irretrievable dispersal other than provision of professional archaeological or public access which is consistent with the preservation objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

A member of the Scottish Government

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh

2019

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

The Scottish Ministers are satisfied that designation of the Queen of Sweden Historic Marine Protected Area is desirable for the purpose of preserving a marine historic asset of national importance which is located within the area.

The wrecked vessel is believed to be the *Drottningen af Sverige* (translated as the ‘*Queen of Sweden*’), a Swedish East Indiaman (an armed merchant sailing vessel of the Swedish East India Company) which hit a rock off the rocky headland of the Knab, while seeking shelter in Bressay Sound, Shetland, on 12 January 1745. The remains lie at a depth of approximately 14 to 25 metres below chart datum close to Twageos Point, at the southern entrance to Lerwick Harbour.

The wreck of the *Drottningen af Sverige* is of national importance as arguably the best-preserved remains of a Swedish East Indiaman located in waters around Scotland. Although the wreck has been subject to historic salvage activity, key features are visible on the seabed and there is significant potential for further remains to be buried within the seabed sediments. Combined with study of documentation in company archives, records of the ship’s loss and salvage, and an extensive collection of artefacts held by Shetland Museums, the remains of the wreck can significantly enhance our knowledge and understanding of vessels of the Swedish East India Company and its trading activity around Scotland’s coasts during the 18th century. Around this time, the Swedish East India Company played an important role in growing northern European trade with China in tea and silk. The vessel’s loss in Bressay Sound bears testament to Shetland’s strategically significant location on sea-routes linking northern Europe with the rest of the world. The loss of the *Drottningen af Sverige* was a significant event to local communities in Shetland at the time.

As this marine historic asset is located within an area that is popular for recreation and tourism (in particular recreational diving), it is expected that designation will also help to promote the heritage value of the site, foster its understanding and enjoyment, and encourage responsible behaviour by divers and other sea-users.