



Dr Kate Grellier

Research Assistant & PGR MSc • 1994 - 2001



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

During my first couple of years at the Lighthouse I did a mixture of short contracts and voluntary work – dolphin surveys, seal tagging and tracking, analysing and writing up data (I even got my first paper published!). For the following few years I co-ordinated the dolphin photo-ID work – back in the day when we used slide film! As well as all the local and more wide-ranging surveys I spent many months at a light box (which was nice and warm in the winter!) matching fins. I was also lucky enough to be able to do a Masters using the dolphin photo-ID data alongside my job.

What are you doing now ?

I've been part of the offshore team at Natural Power, a renewable energy consultancy, since 2012. I work on a wide variety of projects, predominantly relating to offshore wind, power cables and tidal energy. The field is developing all the time – so I have to too. I love developing and drawing on my knowledge to help clients identify suitable sites for their projects and develop and build them responsibly. No two projects are the same!

What was your best experience at the Lighthouse ?

I was lucky enough to have lots of best experiences during my time at the Lighthouse! But the one I find myself thinking about most to this day is being on the boat and realising it was being used by one presumed adult male to hide from another. After lots of antics between the two animals, things had gone eerily calm. I looked down to my right and, to my surprise, straight into the beady eye of a dolphin which was hanging motionless in the water at the side of the boat. Nothing happened for a few seconds before the other dolphin discovered where it was and the antics resumed. A little insight into their world... I felt very small and insignificant but also very privileged. And perhaps a little complicit. They really are incredible beasts!

