

**Leamington  
& Warwick  
British Sub-  
Aqua Club**



**Nautical  
Archaeology  
Society**



# Project Report: What Lies Beneath?

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**Expedition Leader: Jules Kelley**

**Expedition Assistants: Paul Daniels, Helen and Andy Hay**



Photo courtesy of Jules Kelley

**Team members: Owen Brown, Andrew Evans, Caroline Hay, James Bird**

**Dated: November 2013**

**Written By: Jules Kelley and Club Members**

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# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## Abstract

The Leamington and Warwick British Sub Aqua Club (L&W BSAC) are involved in an exciting project where we will have the opportunity to dive somewhere new, to get our two unused RIBs into good working order and undertake training appropriate for this project. The specific training will include:

- Boat Handling (RYA level 2 Powerboat) for two members,
- Nautical Archaeology Society Training - Introduction and Part 1 for our Expedition Leader
- Locally held sketching and measuring training (at Newbold Pool and Stoney Cover)
- Diver training to Sports and Dive Leader levels
- Buoyancy and finning skills practice.

## Introduction

The South Coast has some great diving including hundreds of known sites and wrecks, however there are hundreds of unknown sites, recorded simply as 'obstructions' on charts with little if any information about what lies beneath the surface. The "What Lies Beneath" (WLB) project is the idea of Alison Mayor of Southsea BSAC club who has made a name for herself with similar projects in the Solent where wrecks have been found, surveyed and recorded.

The aim of the project would be to gather basic survey data for some of these sites by asking Branches to dive, take measurements/record, sketch, photograph, video each site and also record marine life present. Eleven Branches have confirmed they wish to take part in the Project including 4 from outside the Southern Region. It is easy to imagine that based on a Branch team of 8 to 10 members this could mean in the region of 100 divers or more getting involved and potentially hundreds of hours of diving taking place.

Branches will be asked to complete a survey data form with details of what they observe such as site composition (natural rock, metal, wood, concrete, etc), dimensions, depth (max & min), any signs of structure etc, any evidence of man-made materials (artefacts etc).

These records will be pulled together centrally and the results made available to the wider community and the United Kingdom Hydrographical Office (UKHO) and thereby placing findings on public record. In addition a database of material would also be created (will need to investigate how this can be hosted).

Branches would be invited to register an interest in the scheme and would be allocated a number of sites to investigate primarily in the Eastern Approaches to the Solent. The sites will be relatively close together so as to allow Branches the opportunity to dive 2 per day, or perhaps completing the over a weekend. Of course if the Branches want to revisit and provide much more detail then that would be even better, but the priority will be to have a basic investigation of each site with a view to organising a much more detailed survey if there is something significant discovered.

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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### Clubs taking part in the What Lies Beneath Project

Branches were invited to express an interest in taking part in the project via a post put out on the BSAC Southern Region Facebook page. Each branch to nominate a Branch member to be their Team Leader who will be responsible for the survey of each site for their Branch. The Branches' Diving Officer were asked to confirm details of the Team Leader's experience and identify any areas of additional training that may be required.

Some Branches had more than one applicant under consideration. Four Branches were outside of the Southern Region which demonstrated the appeal of the project to a wider group of divers beyond the South Coast. A meeting was held on 10 February 2013 with those 13 Branches that had expressed an initial interest. A copy of the presentation given to interested branches is at Annex A. Subsequently 11 of the Branches have confirmed their intention to take part. The final participating Branches and their Team/Survey Leaders are as follows;

	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Nominated Team Leader(s)</b>	<b>Diver Grade</b>
1	Southsea Sub-Aqua Club	Doug Carter	D/L
		Derek Bower	D/L
		Pete Dolphin	A/D
2	Newbury Sub-Aqua Club	Desha Pingel	Sports
		Cathy de Lara	A/D
3	Eastleigh Sub-Aqua Club	Paul Wilson	D/L
4	Wight Dolphins	Garry McGinty	D/L
5	Reading BSAC	John Bawden	A/D
		Alison Bawden	A/D
6	Nekton Sub-Aqua Club	Guy Freeman	A/D
7	Leamington and Warwick Sub-Aqua Club	Julie Kelley	A/D
8	Milton Keynes Sub-Aqua Club	Graham Nurse	A/D
		Greg Roach	D/L
9	Dacorum Sub-Aqua Club	Glen Adams	A/D
10	Bedales School (Special Branch)	Andrew Cooper	D/L
11	Swindon Sub-Aqua Club	Mark Kelly	Sports
		Susan Kelly	Sports
		Andy Rayson	A/D

Table 1 List of Branches and Survey Team Leaders

The responsibility for the safety during diving operations to be conducted as part of the Project will rest with the Diving Officer of each Branch who will oversee the Team Leaders diving plans and so the Diving Officer will need to confirm that the diving plans are safe and have considered the risks (via a risk assessment). A copy of the diving plans will be required to be submitted to the Team Leader for the purposes of the Project/Expedition report.

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## About our club

The origins of our club began as a recreational hobby for workers of a big local employer “AP Leamington” which manufactured car parts. Leamington and Warwick Sub-Aqua Club was formed on the back of this in 1957 and became BSAC club 217. Members had use of a club house which boasted a boat house, training and equipment rooms, compressor and large bar/social area.

The club has taken members diving all around the coasts of Britain and Ireland as well as across the world. In 2001 there was a strong membership of over 100 members and were delighted to be awarded the Heinkie Trophy. In recent years however like many other clubs our numbers have declined and we have had to give up all but the boat house and compressor to save costs but have been fortunate to retain some long serving members whose commitment and knowledge has been the cement holding the club together. Coupled with that are newer members who have come in and brought a whole new energy and although we currently have just 19 diving members we are becoming more active again and have a lot of training taking place in 2013.

## Aims

By taking part in this project we hope to give new, seasoned and junior members a focus to their diving by it been inclusive to all. An opportunity to be involved with something completely different, gain new skills and increase experience. The site is in a depth of 20m or less so accessible to all qualified diving grades. The clubs biggest resource will be utilising the skills of the project participants, from photographic, drawing, mechanical and I.T for example.

Our club owns 2 RIB's which have not seen much use in recent years due to the declining membership and lost knowledge from those who have left. A key part of been involved in the project is to train and give experience to new members on boat maintenance, preparation as well as boat handling. With this we can broaden our diving opportunities and make good use of an important club resource.

Of our allocated site we aimed to survey the area and be able to collect information which had not been previously recorded.

- Type/dimensions/construction

With data collected during the dives we could then gather more information:

- research the wreck/history/cargo
- cause of loss/date
- owner/maker

## Project What Lies Beneath?

Project Schedule			
Date	Event/Location	Who required	Outcome
January	Project outline at Southsea BSAC	Alison Mayor Interested BSAC clubs	Jules Kelley, Jo Height attend brief
February	Meeting with club members to outline project	Jules Kelley, Helen Hay, Paul Daniels	Involvement in project confirmed
	Monthly WLB meetings to commence	All	Minutes
March	Assessment of Ribs and trailers, electronics/radios	Andy Hay, Les Rainsley, Owen Brown, Paul Daniels	New parts/issues recognised
	Second meeting held	Club members	Minutes
	Awaiting site allocation	Alison Mayor (Southern Region project Co-ordinator)	Site confirmed
April	Parts ordered for boats, ongoing work	Andy Hay	
	Third meeting held	Club members	Sub committee formed
	Sub committee met	Andy Hay, Helen Hay, Paul Daniels, Jules Kelley	Base established
	NAS course booked April 26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	Jules Kelley	Completed
May	Fourth meeting held	Club members	Completed
	Classroom lesson on survey techniques	Project divers and club members	Completed
June	Fifth meeting held	Club members	Completed
	Pool lesson to practice survey techniques/Buoyancy refresher.	Project divers and club members	Completed
	Present project outline to other club members	Jules Kelley, Helen Hay, Paul Daniels	Project briefing completed
July	First dives to site/assessment	WLB Team	Site not found
August	Second dives to site/survey		Trip cancelled
September	Final dive to site		Trip cancelled but de-brief to club members with learning's discussed. Boats serviced
October	Report written and submitted	Jules Kelley and team members	Completed Nov!
November	Dive Planning for 2014 "What next", outreach	All club members	Completed, Ribs to be used, finish DL training

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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### *Group Structure*

Name	Grade	BSAC Skills	Other Qualifications	Comment
Andy Hay	ADV/OWI	O2/Nitrox/ Boat handler		Equipment Officer
Helen Hay	ADV/AI	O2/Nitrox/ Boat handler	First Aider	Diving Officer
Jules Kelley (Team Leader)	ADV/OWI	O2/ Boat handler	NAS Intro & Pt 1	Training Officer
Paul Daniels	SD/ACI	O2/ Boat handler		Treasurer DL Trainee
Owen Brown	SD	O2/ Boat handler		Membership DL Trainee
Andrew Evans	SD	O2/ Boat handler		Chairman DL Trainee
Caroline Hay	SD		First Aider	Jnr member
James Bird	OD		Lifeguard	Jnr Member SD trainee

- All divers must be a minimum of Ocean Diver with 6 logged sea dives
- Team leader to be NAS part 1 qualified
- All participants to have received additional training in survey techniques.
- Ribs coxed by certified Boat Handlers
- Sufficient Oxygen administrators for each trip

### *Additional support*

Name	Comments
Jo Height	Equipment support
Les Rainsley	Boat preparation, engine running
Kay Rainsley	IT and general moral support
Rodger Hope/ Simon Gurney	Harbour/berthing information

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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### *Responsibilities*

TASK	WHO	COMMENTS
Expedition leader	Jules Kelley	Support by Club D.O
Website/minutes	Paul Daniels	
Boats	Andy Hay	Supported by Owen Brown, Paul Daniels, Les Rainsley
Dive Manager		Designated for each trip
Training on survey techniques	Jules Kelley	
Risk assessments	Alison Mayer, Helen Hay	
Dive plan	Owen Brown	
Research/history/etc	Caroline Hay, James Bird, Andrew Evans	

# Project What Lies Beneath?

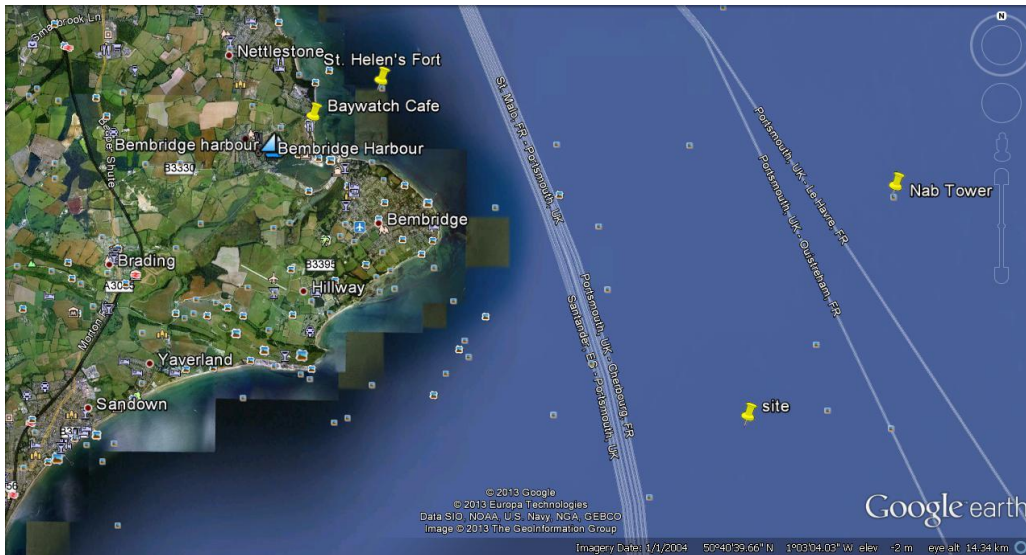
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## Site Location

Our site is located @ 50°39` .245N 001°01` .262W

Chart 2037 depth of: 12m

UKHO Ref number 19048



## ***Background to the site***

Information from UKHSO website

“19.6.75 WK LYING IN TWO PARTS, LOCATED 3M OFF NAB TR LT.BROKEN & ROTTED BUT STANDS 8FT HIGH IN 48FT. 24.5.77 BOTH OLD & NEW POSNS SEARCHED USING TRANSIT SONAR [MS47]. NOT FOUND. BOTTOM RIDGE CLOSE N OF OLD POSN GIVES GOOD SONAR RETURNS AND SMALL BOTTOM ECHOES FOUND. 12.6.78 DIVED. VERY BROKEN & GENERALLY FLAT ON SEABED, BUT WITH ISOLATED PEAKS ABOUT 7FT HIGH SCATTERED ABOUT. BOWS & STERN WERE LOCATED. IT LIES 070/250DEGS WITH BOW ENE. THERE ARE NOT TWO SECTIONS, AS SUCH, BUT WRECKAGE AMIDSHIPS IS VERY LOW - LESS THAN 3FT HIGH. PROPELLER IS IRON. AREA HAS MANY ROCKS WHICH MAKES WK DIFFICULT TO LOCATE USING E/S. 6.3.87 DIVED ON IN 1986. MOST OF WRECKAGE LIES VERY FLAT, BUT ONE SECTION, ABOUT 5MTRS SQUARE, STANDS ABOUT 2.5MTRS ABOVE SEABED. PLENTY OF COAL FOUND. ALSO BOTTLES & JARS WHICH INDICATE WK WAS PROBABLY BRITISH. AREA EXAM'D USING DCS3 AND TRISPONDER ON 11 10 89. NOT FOUND. 9.7.10 NOT LOCATED BY M/B. EXPOSED PARALLEL ROCK RIDGES.”

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## Diving Platform

Rib #1-Leamington Diver 1 5m Humber Rib, Yamaha 75HP

Rib #2-Leamington Diver 2 5.5m Humber Rib, Mariner 60HP



Photo courtesy of Paul Daniels

During the early part of the project one of our main aims was to get our own ribs back into the water. Due to falling membership, financial constraints and general enthusiasm the two boats had not been used for nearly 2 years. Longstanding club members Andy Hay and Les Rainsley rose to the challenge and identified what work needed to be completed. There was nothing too major, a new isolator fitted and batteries renewed and then a general good service and running in of engines.

Team members were trained in start-up procedures, maintenance and preparing for towing. Paul Daniels and Owen Brown attended the RYA level 2 powered boat handling course and were keen to put their new skills into practice during the project.

Check list and start-up procedure produced.

### **Small Boat Rib#1**

Check fuel can connected by pushing grey coupling in and turning till all the way home

1. Check oil level on sight gauge located on transom
2. Open breather cap on top of fuel can lid (NB: #3 leaks slightly from cap)
3. Pump fuel bowl till it becomes hard
4. Turn Isolator switch on (located to left of steering console)
5. Put engine down using switch either on the side of engine cowling or throttle handle
6. Attach kill cord lanyard around leg, insert key to ignition switch
7. Insert kill cord into switch below key
8. Ensure gear selector is in NEUTRAL
9. Lift throttle lever fully up
10. Check prop area is clear of any possible fouling
11. Turn ignition key till the engine just catches and then off immediately
12. Push key in to enable choke, and then turn ignition to start engine
13. Once engine running lower throttle lever to reduce revs and get a good tick-over

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## Big Boat Rib#2

1. Add 2 stroke oil at ratio of 50:1 (100mm of oil to 20Ltrs of fuel)
2. Check fuel can attached by pushing in and engaging clip-lock
3. Open breather cap on top of fuel lid
4. Pump fuel bowl till it becomes hard
5. Turn Isolator switch on (located at left side of steering console)
6. Put engine down using switch onside of throttle handle
7. Attach kill cord to leg, insert ignition key
8. Insert kill cord into switch below key
9. Ensure engine is in NEUTRAL
10. Lift throttle fully up
11. Check prop area is clear of possible fouling
12. Turn ignition key till the engine just catches and then off immediately
13. Push and hold choke switch up, turn ignition to start engine
14. Once running lower throttle lever to reduce revs and get a good tick-over

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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### Ribs Check List

Leamington Diver #1 (Large)				Leamington Diver #2 (Small)			
	Fri	Sat	Sun		Fri	Sat	Sun
Fuel x2 (1 Spare - <b>NO</b> oil)				Fuel x2			
A-Flag				A-Flag			
Oars				Oars			
Oil				Oil			
Boat Boxes x2				Boat Box			
Oxygen				Oxygen			
Anchor				Anchor			
Shot Buoy				Shot Buoy			
Shot line				Shot Line			
GPS				Sounder			
Compass				Compass			
Radio				Radio			
Water Bailer				Water Bailer			
Tube Pump				Tube Pump			
Survey tapes x2				Survey tape x1			
Survey slate x2				Survey slate x1			
Diver Log Slate				Diver Log Slate			
Chart/Map				Chart/Map			

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## NAS training

As Project Leader I enrolled for the NAS Intro & part 1 training course which was graciously funded by the club. This took place on April 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> at Stoney Cove in Leicester, about as far from the sea as you can get but for our land locked club just 20 miles up the M69 fortunately!

The intro is theory based but with practical elements including a dive as we were here at the Cove, then two days for the part 1 where planning, diving and practising the techniques were all tested before drawing up the collated figures using a computer software program.

We were a large group with lots of differing experiences all looking for various outcomes. BSAC club Aldershot Dolphins were there to train members for a club project to survey their newly adopted wreck the "Cuckoo". Other individuals wanting to have a new drive to their diving, while I was here to gain the skills to enable our club to be involved with the WLB project.



Photo courtesy of Jules Kelley

Getting to grips with 3D surveying!



Photo courtesy of Jules Kelley

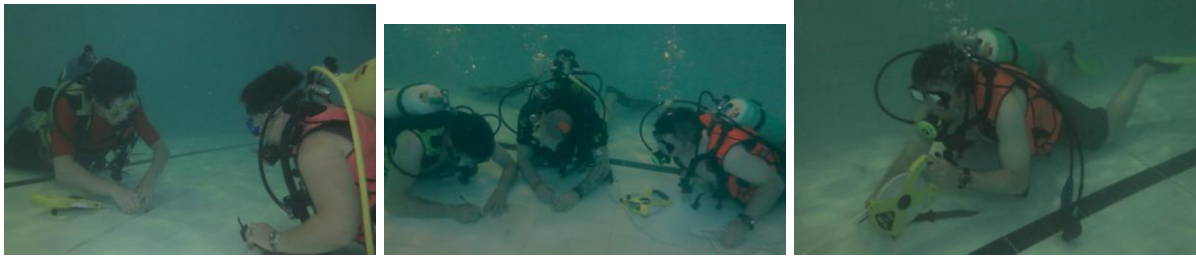
Reporting back to the NAS instructor Jezz Davies

It proved to be a full on 3 days where the instructors kept us at it, but great fun and an amazing amount of knowledge gained. Really got me buzzing! Using the "Gresham" wreck, placed in the Cove last year by the NAS team, as our underwater classroom was brilliant. Made me realise that our one site is going to give us plenty of challenges so need to evaluate exactly what we can achieve in the time we will have.

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## Club training (pool)

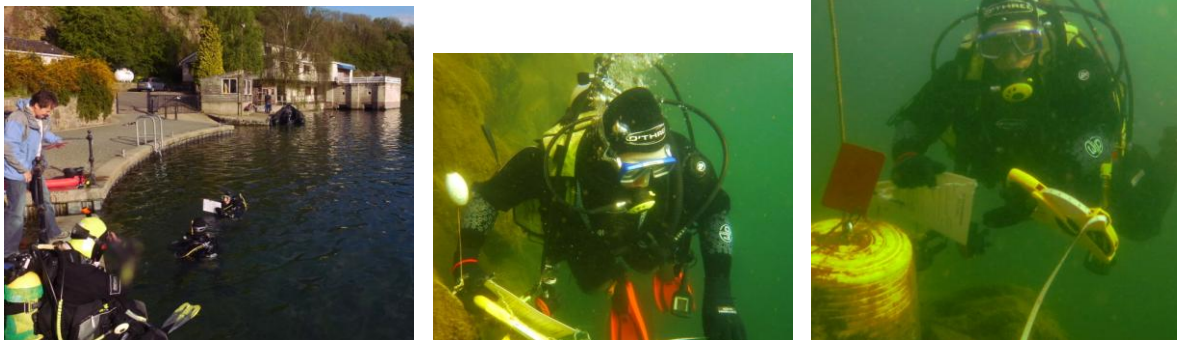


Photos courtesy of Jules Kelley

So freshly qualified from the NAS course I was keen to get the other club members trained up and involved. Starting with some theory and a dry run in the car park outside of our boat house. Slates and Tapes at the ready, once the initial idea was shown the team really got to grips with the technique, especially liking the “Dumb” and “Smart” end to the tape measures! Control points, base lines and Trilaterations all coming together!

As our club hires the local District Council Swimming Pool at Newbold Comyn, Leamington Spa, it was then onto the pool and the realisations that this is a lot more difficult underwater, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the project was starting to evolve. Taking a step further forward and an evening dive to Stoney Cove and do it all again on the “Gresham” with full kit and reduced visibility.

## Club Training (Stoney cove)



# Project What Lies Beneath?

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These 2 sessions of training sowed the seeds to help train both those club members who would be directly involved, but also a taster for those who could not join in due to other commitments.

## Method

### Equipment/Gases

#### Divers

- SCUBA unit to include Octopus and where possible redundant air source
- Suitable thermal protection/dry suit
- Training/experience
- Fully paid member

#### Boats

- Fully serviced and maintained
- Safety equipment/Oxygen/first aid/boat boxes
- Suitable rope/buoys/anchor
- Oars/spare fuel tank/air pump
- Electronics-Nav aids fitted/radio
- A-Flag
- Life jacket if non-diving coxain

#### Air Fills

Island Divers  
Shepards Wharf  
Medina Road  
Cowes  
IOW  
PO31 7HT

Tel: +44 (0)1983 240255

Email: [info@iowdivers.co.uk](mailto:info@iowdivers.co.uk)

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## Emergency Numbers

Coastguard, Lee-on-Solent 02392 552100  
Bembridge harbour 01983 872 828  
Poole Hyperbaric Hotline 1 – 01426 316636  
Poole Hyperbaric Hotline 2 – 03367 771883  
Institute of Naval Medicine - Gosport Hotline – 07831 151523  
DAN National Emergencies – 01224 585747  
Portland & Weymouth Coastguard – 01305 760439  
DDRC Poole – 01202 678278  
DAN Non-emergencies – 01970 821222  
Portland Hospital – 01305 860111  
DCI Poole A&E – 01202 442202  
Medical Dorchester A&E – 01305 251150

## Diving Base

During our first WLB committee meetings we had a lot of discussion on the following

- Set 3 weekend dates for project
- Find accommodation for agreed dates
- Costs for fuel (towing/boat ops)

With the club located 125 miles north of the Solent the luxury of looking out of the window and deciding yes or no to a days diving is not an option. We needed to set actual dates and keep fingers crossed for good weather! Once our site had been allocated we decided to base ourselves from Bembridge Harbour on the East side of the Isle of Wight. This would give us shorter transit times, so save on fuel even with the cost of the ferry crossing. The first weekend to be 3 days of diving to allow time to locate site and also complete initial surveys.

## Launch site

[www.bembridgeharbour.co.uk](http://www.bembridgeharbour.co.uk)

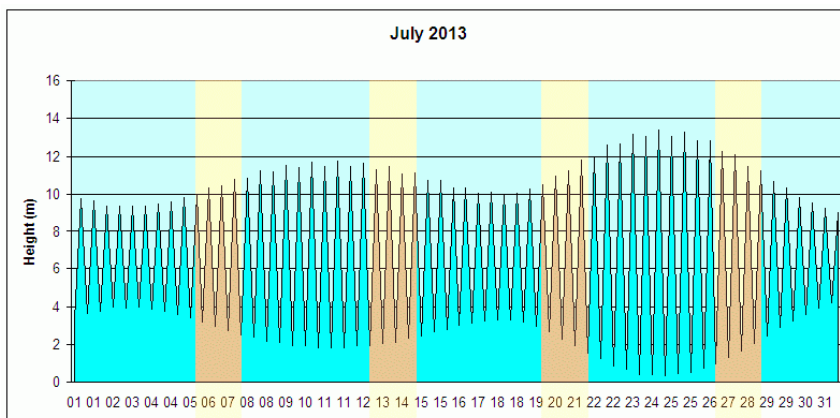


# Project What Lies Beneath?



Part of our dive planning:

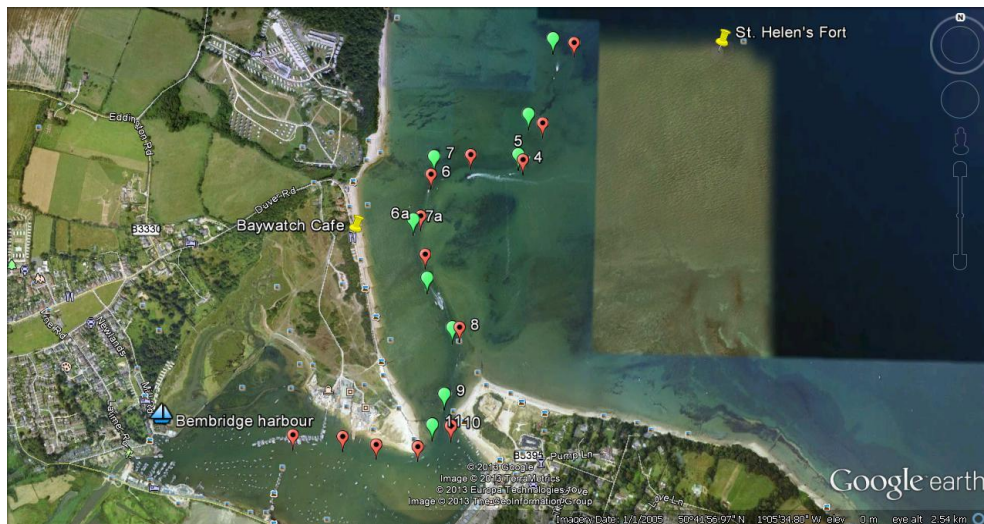
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	
HW 10.20 (3.7m)		HW 11.06 (3.85m)		HW 11.48 (4m)	
LW 15.49 (1.44m)		LW 16.31 (1.33m)		LW 17.08 (1.2m)	
<b>Tidal Streams (to HW)</b>					
-6 Hr	-1 Hr	HW	+1 Hr	+6Hr	
↗	↗	↖	↘	↗	
09.18	01.02	06.12	11.22	07.13	



## Harbour Navigation

Bembridge harbour entrance has a narrow approach and the outlying sands almost completely dry out dependant on the tide. Therefore careful consideration and planning must be used in conjunction with tide times and the navigational buoys.

# Project What Lies Beneath?



This map was created to plot the channel




Photos courtesy of Jules Kelley

Coming through the channel

Cruising to our berth at low water!

## Diving

July 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

Time Slots	Actual Time	Tide	Tasks	Comments
6.00				Leave Accommodation
6.30	6.45		Carry out Boat checks	ALL - Arrive at Harbour
7.00			Prepare to launch boats	
7.30			Boat kit check list	Caroline/James
8.00				Depart Harbour
8.30			Locate dive site	
9.00			Kit up	
9.30	9.20		Locate Wreck	Slack Water
10.00			Photos (all)	
10.30	10.30	3.8m 		
11.00	10.50			Leave Dive Site back to Harbour

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11.30	11.20			Arrive Back at Harbour
13.30				Leave Harbour for dive site
14.00				HARBOUR CLOSED
14.30				
15.00				
15.30	15.50	1.4m	↓ Stake & prep site (All) Photos-Andy/Caroline	Slack Water
17.30	17.49		Harbour Open	Return to Harbour
18.00			Remove kit from boat	
18.30				Boat Fuel & Air

Dive Site 6.9 miles

Our plan was to put 2 pairs of divers on to the site to do an initial recce, take photos/video and ensure shot in place. Then the following 2 pairs were to set up a base line or control points dependant on what the first divers told us of the site. Subsequent dives were then to be planned around which area to survey, the whole site (dependant on size) or a broken section like the bow or prominent feature.

### AM Diving

RIB 1 Coxswain = Helen Buddies - Jules & Andrew  
 RIB 2 Coxswain = Andy Buddies – Paul & James Buddies – Owen & Caroline

### PM Diving

RIB 1 Coxswain = Jules Buddies - Helen & Andrew  
 RIB 2 Coxswain = Paul Buddies – Andy & Caroline Buddies – Owen & James  
 (Name underlined is Dive Leader)



Photos courtesy of Jules Kelley

A breathing session took place of the above dive plan and we managed to get away from the harbour for the first dives approx 08:30. Both boats were equipped with GPS, handheld on Rib#1 and a fixed Garmin on Rib#2, the 2 coxswains' guided by this and the chart. It was a glorious morning with the temperature already in the mid 20 degrees, and the sea state flat calm so expectations were high.

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As the 2 boats made their transit across it started to become apparent that the 2 GPS units were giving different readings, an oversight we would regret having not checked them side by side whilst still in the harbour! On Rib#1 we are closing in on the co-ordinates and make ready the shot line, however Rib#2 is 200-300 meters away on a separate course? **“SHOT AWAY”**

Although we are on different locations we decide to dive each and have a look at the sea bed in both, anticipation is high but we have come off slack water as time to find site took much longer than planned. First buddy pairs away.

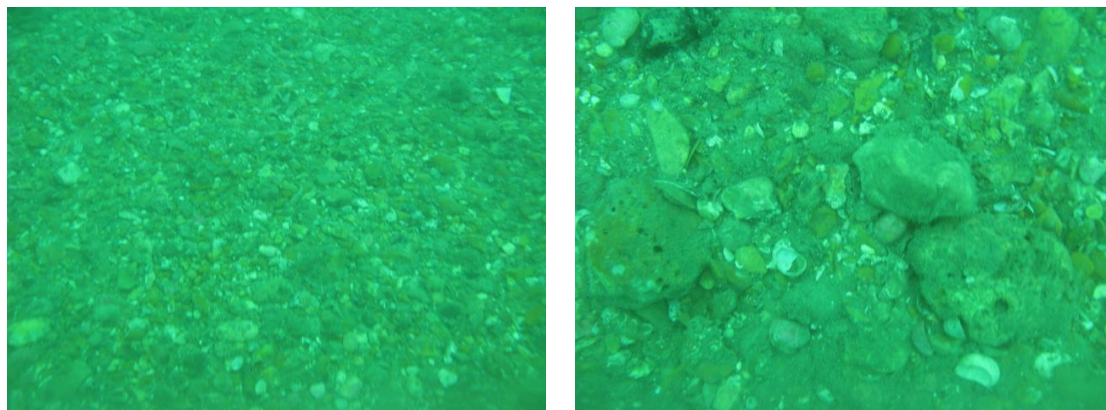
Jules Kelley and Andrew Evans (extract from Jules Kelley’s Dive Logbook)

*“Clubs first trip as part of the What Lies Beneath project. Quite an adventure with tons of pre planning, training, getting ribs back in action. Headed out early as Bembridge harbour entrance closed at low water! A BIG challenge to find site as both GPS giving different readings, we get a fix and drop shot. Kitted up and dropped over & held onto buoy, but Andrew drifted wide so I had to let go and join him. We descended quickly but obviously way off the mark so just enjoyed a drift dive”*

*14m for 23 minutes, water temp 18 degrees! Viz 3-4m*

It was a disappointment to feel we had not been anywhere near to the possible site, from the HSO description I had expected it to be rockier with gullies but interestingly we found the sea bed to be very flat with some possible signs of dredging. I took photos of the bottom though as a record of the area.

There were very bare & flat areas with broken rock, shells and large size grave of 20mm average



Photos courtesy of Owen Brown

Anemone and Rose Coral

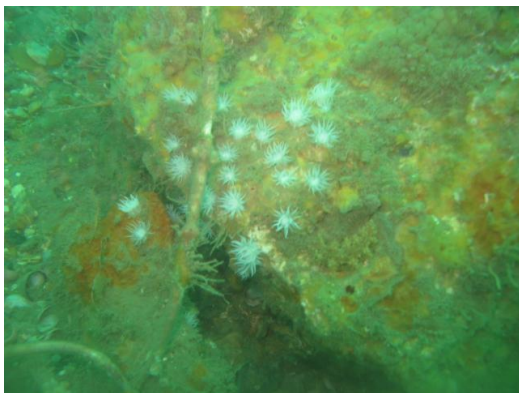
## Project What Lies Beneath?

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Photos courtesy of Owen Brown

White Striped Anemone and small Dead Men's Fingers



Photos courtesy of Owen Brown

Common Starfish, Dead Men's Finger, Breadcrumb Sponge



Photos courtesy of Owen Brown

We recovered the shot as unsure if it would a) hold in the strong current and b) need to check on GPS readings between units!

On Rib#2 a different GPS reading and so another shot put down. Next Buddy pair was Paul Daniels and James Bird. Unfortunately a shoulder clip snapped on James' Stab Jacket and the dive was aborted. Owen Brown and Caroline Hay descended the shot line but also had to abort dive as

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Caroline could not clear her ears after a recent bout of the common cold! The shot line was recovered and diving was over for this day.

Back alongside the harbour the team take advantage of the surface interval to re-fuel the boats and grab something to eat. We took both GPS units and the chart and reconcile them against the position of the harbour and we find that the handheld is correct while the console mounted one is some 400m SW out!

We decide to run out using the handheld and put another shot down so we can hopefully get on to the site using the HSO co-ordinates. So it's all aboard for the second wave.....then disaster! The engine on Rib#2 will not start! With a lot of "try this, try that" she would just not run so we have to quickly decide on a plan of action before low water hits and the harbour entrance closes!

A democratic decision amongst us all and the kit shuffled about onto Rib #1. Caroline is sitting out because of the problems with her ears this morning, a spare Stab Jacket for James to use.

**COSWAIN=** Paul            **BUDDIES- Owen** and James

**BUDDIES- Helen** and Andy

On Rib#2 Owen and James had the following dive. (extract from Owen Brown's diver logbook)

*1<sup>st</sup> dive completed on the "What Lies Beneath" project, tried to locating wreck, went down shot line on co-ordinates given and attached my reel to the shot and went around on a 5 and then 10 meter radius but unsuccessful at the moment myself and James had a nice 30 minute look around, plenty of beautiful starfish, hermit crab, big velvet swimming crabs and even a dog fish....Only man made structure was a right angled section of metal around 6ft x 6ft with nothing else around so could have been on the fringe of a wreck but probably wishful thinking. Struggled against the current so deployed DSMB.*

*Viz 4-5m, Very Hoy and Sunny, sea state smooth-slight*

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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From Owen and James' dive the find of some "metal" had wetted our appetites so may be worth a revisit. After a lot of discussion, with the fact we were a Rib down and the team were a little despondent we decide to dive wreck on the Saturday. This would give everyone the chance to have "a dive" after an equipment failure day, and been closer to shore we could get in and clear of the low water channel with having 4 waves. In the back of our minds we were thinking we still had 2 other weekends to have another shot at the WLB site, but hindsight would have told me to return on the Sunday, and I do regret that.

Whilst diving the "Camswan" Paul and Helen found a small boat anchor, so on the Sunday to make good on a the disappointment of not finding our site Paul recovered the anchor as part of the Dive Leader course.

# Project What Lies Beneath?

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## Expedition leaders review of involvement in project

Ever seen the Smirnoff “Purified” advert where they throw all the junk out of the sea, including 2 divers? (<http://youtu.be/-iXwzBvdrlY>) That always made me think about just how much wreckage is off our coastlines. Then one of our club members flagged up the project and I was immediately interested, it’s the whole growing up with the raising of the Mary Rose I think, we would all like to discover something no one else has seen.

I wanted our club to be involved because our membership has dwindled dramatically in 10 years, and this seemed a good project to get some renewed interest in diving for our older/established members while giving the youngsters a unique opportunity. On a personal level I was looking for a challenge too, I completed my Advanced Diver 5 years ago but had not really done a big project since then, as a club we’ve played safe and done the same trip year on year so time for a change.

By putting myself forward I hoped to get the club doing some different diving, the momentum to put our under used Ribs back in the water, and have knowledge/skills of older members passed down to the next generation.

My ambitions from the project have been partly achieved, getting the RIBs up and running but we did have issues with one which affected our dive plans considerably. I think it has really brought those current club members together more though, as we are a small number it’s everyone in together, no “Clicks” that we used to have with certain members only diving with certain others! I think it has really brought out peoples individual skills too, expertise and knowledge I didn’t know some people had!

We had 8 of us on the actual trip, but all 18 members of the club helped, advised or had an input in some way. During training out the survey techniques after my NAS course we had those who would not be on the trip turn up to have ago in the pool with “Tapes n Slates” and helping in fabricating slate boards and sourcing suitable metal stakes etc for Control Points.

It was a bigger challenge than I expected, with tons of planning and research but we had a sub-committee of 5 (including our D.O.) and this helped a great deal. Loved the NAS course and couldn’t wait to get on to our site. Our one and only trip was disappointing in that we didn’t find a sausage, and didn’t get the opportunity to return or try and alternate site, BUT as a team effort, and friends enjoying some diving the weekend was a real success and we enjoyed AMAZING weather conditions.

Its given me the confidence to do different dive trips, and try new sites. Because we are a land locked club we have to plan our trips so far ahead. Peoples personal commitments too means we do not have the luxury to look at the weather and think “let’s go diving tomorrow” ..... you don’t want to disappoint, so risking an unknown site and having a “naff” dive is always a concern when people are paying for a weekend away. However, those that have been involved this year are keen to look at the charts and point the finger at it and see what’s there.

We had intended to “adopt” the wreck had we found anything, I’m sure there is still something out there but we were just not quite on it! Hoping next year to return as I feel I have unfinished business with the site, and with the knowledge everyone has gained from this year and the difficulties we can actually put “Tapes n Slates” to action. After all the Mary Rose was not found in a day was she!

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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Some personal views of how the project was for individual club members

Were you aware of the clubs involvement in this project? Y

What is your understanding of the project? INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL WRECKS NEAR PORTSMOUTH

How were you involved, what did you do? JOINED TRIP TO IOW, HELPED WITH RIBS

What did you enjoy about the project? GOOD TEAMWORK + GO SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT + USE OUR RIBS

What did you not enjoy? RIB OUT OF ACTION-LESS DIVES HAN PLANNED

What have you personally learnt as a result of been involved? SURVEY TECHNIQUES, TOWING RIBS, WRECK LOCATION

How has the project helped the club? BUILT CONSENSUS AND TEAMWORK, PROVED THAT WE CAN DO SUCH WORK-ESPECIALLY IF THERE WAS SOMETHING THERE!!

Any other comments? WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD TO HAVE WORKED MORE CLOSELY WITH OR MET CLUBS IN AREA

### Diving Officers comments

*We became involved with the project when one of our members saw it advertised on Facebook and contacted me, he thought it would be a great project to involved in and would I consider it for the club. So I went ahead and contacted Alison, and Jules was keen to head up the team so attended the initial meeting as I was away with work. Have been fully involved however with everything that has happened back at the dive club, the plans for training out the survey techniques in the pool and Cove and then the main trip to the IOW.*

*The branch really pulled together to make this work, we set about to get as many people who wanted to be involved in the project as could do so. Once we decided as a club to be involved we set up a team, then a sub committee to help concentrate on the in depth planning.*

*We also had to keep costs down as much as possible (we already had 2013 dive planning financially committed in November 2012) a lot of effort was involved by many members.*

*Benefits to the club include:*

*Team Leader NAS training, got our two club Ribs in the water, how to set them up, tow etc. Newer members learnt what was needed to run a trip like this, it got the whole club working together. Older members became enthused again and shared knowledge, basic chart work taught to new members.*

### **Overall outcomes from involvement in project**

RIBs back in the water-

Greater experience for new divers-

Our 2 youngest members Caroline Hay (Sports Diver) and James Bird (Ocean Diver) were very involved in the project, particularly learning about all aspects of the RIBs. James was able to complete his Assistant Dive Marshal towards the Sports Diver grade and gained valuable experience. It was unfortunate Caroline was plagued with ear trouble so was unable to dive, but hopefully gained lots of knowledge about planning.

## Project What Lies Beneath?

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Dive leader qualifications-

3 of the dive team are working towards the DL grade and Paul and Owen took it on themselves to attend the RYA Level 2 power boat handling course so once on the trip proved valuable coxswains.

Teamwork-

### References

### Approvals

Written consent has been granted by those members of our club whom submitted photographs for this report. It is with much appreciation I thank Owen Brown, Andy Hay and Paul Daniels for their submissions. All photos held in the report are covered by copywrite and cannot be reproduced without the owner's permission.