

My experiences through the year with the What Lies beneath Project.

The year began with a trip to Southsea Sub Aqua club in February. They have their clubhouse at Fort Widley which is located on a hill above Portsmouth. Alison Mayor had arranged a get together of clubs in the BSAC southern region to see if there would be any interest in a bit of wreck detective work. Gary Paddock and I went along to see what it was all about. Gary is the dive officer of our dive club, Wight Dolphins BSAC 0807 and an advanced diver and instructor.



Garry McGinty on the left Gary Paddock on the right.

The talk was very interesting and Gary and I agreed it would be beneficial to our club if we became involved, an email was sent to all members to gauge the response. Due to our club being based on the Isle of Wight we were in a prime position to undertake the work required. An informal meeting was arranged at a local hostelry and it was decided that I should be the designated club member to undertake the relevant NAS training which was requisite to join the WLB project.

Our club runs a trip to the the London Dive show in March each year, and it is hear that I met up with representatives from NAS and signed up for the Introduction E-Learning course.

NAS had introduced the E-Learning course as a way of getting more people involved with archaeology. I found this course very informative and easy to understand, there were lots of videos and graphics to explain things. As it was online learning it could be accessed from any pc or tablet, which I found made the whole learning process laid back and I could control how much I wanted to learn and when.

On completion of the Introduction Course I then signed on to the Part 1 course. Again this was E-Learning based and followed the same learning format as the introduction course.

Garry McGinty

has successfully completed the

NAS Introduction Theory Course syllabus and has been awarded the

Theory Certificate for the

Introduction to Foreshore and Underwater Archaeology

29th March 2013



Mary Barber, NAS Training Manager



Mark Beattie-Edwards, NAS Programme Director

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Garry McGinty

has successfully completed the

NAS Part I Theory Course syllabus and has been awarded the

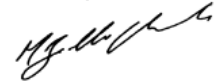
Theory Certificate for the

Part I Certificate in Foreshore and Underwater Archaeology

2nd June 2013



Mary Barber, NAS Training Manager



Mark Beattie-Edwards, NAS Programme Director

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I was contacted by Anne-Marie Causer from NAS to see if I could give them feedback on the E-Learning courses that I had undertaken. I had a phone conversation with Anne-Marie and put forward my ideas on the course, that I thought could be improved or added to make the E-Learning more fluid in its presentation and the navigation around the site.

Now all the theory training had been undertaken it was on to the next phase of the NAS learning. This was the practical element and various courses are held around the UK. The nearest one to us was in Plymouth and it included both the introduction and part 1 practical elements. Being based on the Isle of Wight, the logistics of getting to Plymouth at a sensible time to join the course was proving problematic due to the times that the ferries run from the Island. I contact Rachael Quick from NAS who are based at Fort Cumberland in Portsmouth, to see if there was any chance they could run a bespoke course for the WLB Project. Rachael took all the details and got back to me within 24hrs (most impressed) with a date in June that would be available. 22nd and 23rd June 2013.

Through the what lies beneath group that had been set up by Desha on Yahoo, I posted a message to all members of the group and awaited the response.

Desha Pingle

Guy Freeman

Paul Wilson

Jeremy

Glen Adams

Paul

Garry Mcginty

There were 6 WLB participants for the Saturday and 7 for the Sunday. (can't remember Pauls surname)

Saturday June 22nd was a dry and sunny day but with a breeze blowing when we arrived at Fort Cumberland. On arrival we had a meet and greet over a cup of coffee and got down to a recap of what we had learned (remembered) from our E-Learning. It was then down to a trip to the " Pit" as it is called. This is a dedicated area within the Fort which has been laid out with various artefacts that are used for teaching measuring and recording techniques.



NAS Offices at Fort Cumberland.



Paul at work in the "Pit"

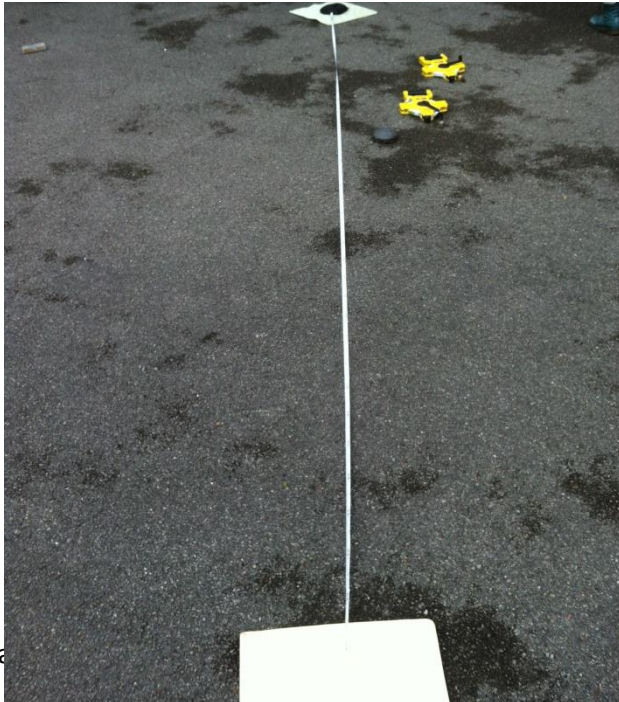


Desha, Paul

and Matt

After a rather interesting and fun filled session in the "pit" it was time to go outside and conduct some measurements with tapes and slates instead of frames and paper and pencils.

This involved taking measurements of objects placed on the ground and dimensions taken to and from control points to detail points, this was recorded for later interpretation.



tape mea

Our first attempt at using a

After a lot of dimensions in mm, metres, inches and feet, it was decided mm was the way to go, so many measurements were taken lots of numbers written down and we then returned to the NAS Offices to transfer the measurements we had taken to paper. After a lot of deliberation it was a very successful exercise and when laying each person's drawing on top of each other the errors were very minimal. This concluded the introduction practical and we were eager to press on with part 1 but that was for Sunday.

The Sunday was similar day weather wise, and the practical element expanded on what we had learned on the Saturday, but we were now measuring in 3 dimensions instead on 2.

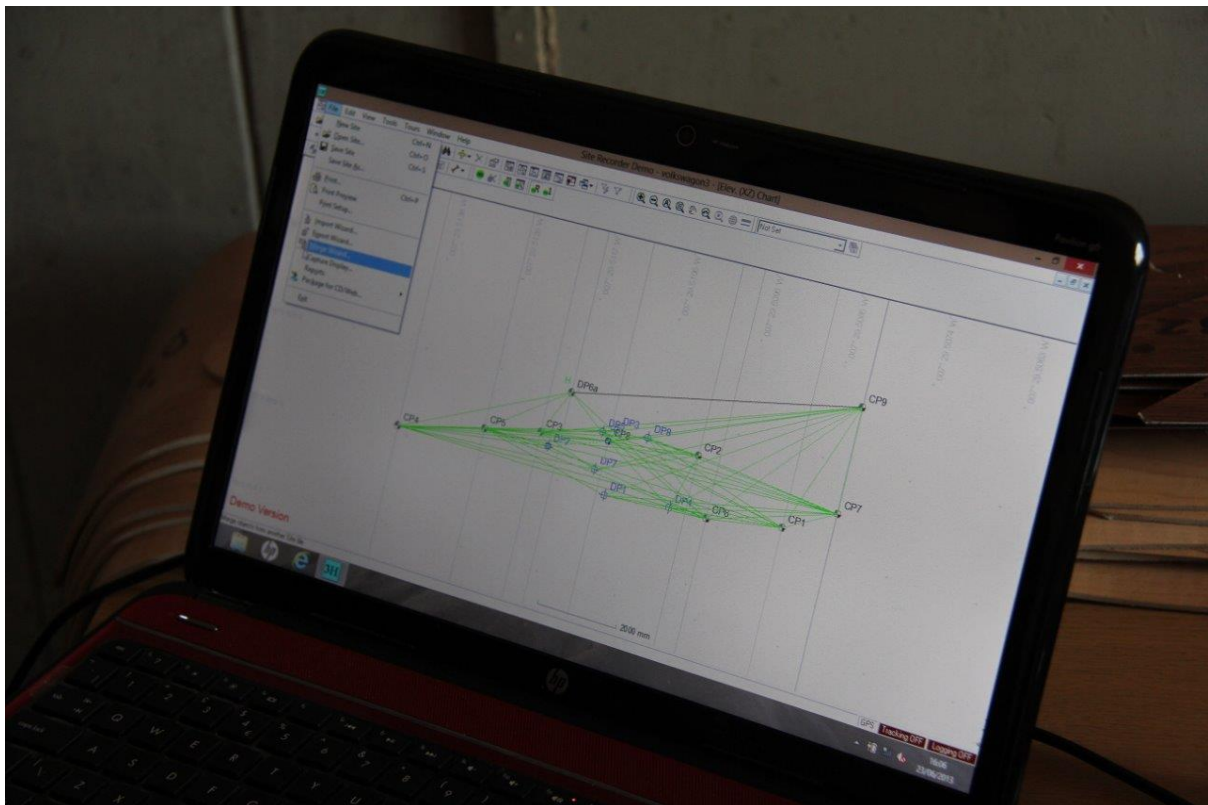
The participants were also introduced to Site Recorder which is a computer program for recording measurements taken on site. As the practical element was a dry course we used a Volkswagen T5 transported for our wreck.



After all the measurements were taken I was tasked to input them in to the Site Recorder program.



The measurements that the group had taken were very accurate and the resultant image which can be seen below goes to show how many measurements need to be taken to represent an accurate view of what you can see under water. I reckon the info that had been taken down would have been over 8 dives with one buddy pair.



The NAS practical course was a very good team building exercise, as it brought together the clubs involved in WLB and it put a face to the name.

The designated dive site that our club has been given to survey is :-

21 - 63371	50°34'.963 N	000°53'.332 W	EXAM'D 31.7.03 SWEPT CLEAR 24.8, FOUL 25.1MTRS. LEAST E/S DEPTH 24.5 IN GEN DEPTH 29MTRS. NO SCOUR. LENGTH 45MTRS, WIDTH 25MTRS. DCS3 HT 3.8MTRS. LIES 170/350 DEGS. STRONG MAGNETIC ANOMALY. WELL BROKEN UP AND BURIED.	Garry McGinty
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Planning the dive on the anomaly has been beset with high winds every time we had planned to go out.

Our first dive was planned for the 22nd June for the U1195 (submarine) we arranged to meet at Bembridge 07.30 with ropes off at 08.15, we aimed to be on the dive site by 09.00, shot set and confirmed by 09.10 and the first divers in the water at 09.30 in buddy pairs with four pairs and a non-diving coxswain on board. The dive was on high water with a 0.6 knot tide at 09.30 dropping to 0.2 by 10.00 all divers clear of the water by 10.30 as tide back up to 0.6 knots. Then it was off to survey the WLB mark with our Lowrance HDS 7 side and down scan

The second dive planned was for the 20th July with a dive time of 08.20 0.5knot again four buddy pairs and a non-diving cox, divers clear of the water at 09.40 as tide now at 0.6knots. Meet at Bembridge at 06.20 ropes off at 07.05 over the U1195 at 07.50, shot set and confirmed by 08.00, first buddy pair in by 08.20. After dive again over the WLB mark.

We have not given up on the WLB Mark we have been given and it will be planned in for early next year.

Due to the interest generated with the WLB project within our club, we have been able to run a Wreck appreciation course with 10 members of our club. We held a full day course on September 22nd 2013 with presentations in the harbour office at Yarmouth and the dry practical outside in the car park. All the members who attended the course are looking forward to the diving next year and the new dive managers are planning unknown sites for us to dive instead of our usual sites (Fenna, Warkight, Maggie Smith and the Serana)



Car Park dry practical.



Members practise with distance line

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that at the AGM in November a subcommittee would be set up to oversee the wreck side of our club diving.

Until you ask you do not realise the amount of people who are genuinely interested in the same things as you are.