

The Hazardous Project Site Report - October 1997

Introduction

During the first dive of the year a large build up of sand was noted at the south end of the site, this has remained and no ships timbers were visible in this area. It has not been possible at this time to establish whether the timbers are buried or have been lost from the site.

The north end of the site has seen a further increase in sediment levels overall, protecting further the gun carriage and surrounding ships timbers.

Some damage to datums and loss of identification labels was also noted at this time through the middle of the site, (mainly bent or pulled over). These were replaced and repositioned over further dives. Some additional datums were added to the middle of the site in preparation for measuring and lifting of concretions in this area, however at the time of writing this work is incomplete.

Exploratory dives were made around the perimeter of the site to check whether the clay gullies found in 1986 and silted up again in 87 had become uncovered after the winter storms, possibly explaining the extra sand on site. This was not the case.

Artefacts

On each visit to the site a check was made for exposed artefacts, none was found, this may be due to an apparent general silting up of the site which could suggest a temporary stabilisation in the area at the moment.

The display units were improved on, over last winter and have received a great number of visitors and many favourable comments over this season, more work will be carried out this winter.

We intend to spend time this winter attending to those artefacts and concretions still in wet store from last season, in preparation for display in the future.

Diving Schedule

Diving operations were carried out on seven separate days. This resulted in eighteen and one half man hours on site by the following divers:- Iain Grant, Peter Jolly, James Edwards.

The dates of diving were as follows:- 20th. April, 25th. May, 31st. May, 6th. July, 13th. July, 20th July, 10th August.

Further diving was made impossible due to the general state of poor visibility which prevented any diving in the whole of the shallow Bracklesham Bay area.

Intentions for 1998

A new larger boat has been purchased.

Continue to monitor what appears to be a general build up of sand at both the north and south end of the site.

Survey and lift any loose artefacts from the centre of the site.

Raise the concretions which are most vulnerable and work these to remove and record the artefacts

The purchase of a larger vessel will enable more divers to be accommodated. We are actively looking to enlarge our team with interested local divers.
