

# **The Hazardous Project Site Report - October 1998**

## **Introduction**

During early dives on the site, it was noted that last years build up of sand at the north end seemed to have remained fairly stable, although a rise of some 400mm was recorded towards the south end in the area of datum D34. Seabed levels in the central area of the site appear to fluctuate through out the season; therefore it is reasonable to assume that this also happens through out the winter months.

No damage was noted on site, other than loss of some identification labels. These have been replaced.

Two new local divers have joined the core team and early dives were spent acquainting them with the site lay out, this time was also used to check for damage and loose artifacts.

Under the advice of Alex Hildred and with the assistance of Garry Momber, Archaeological Officer of The Hants and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, the central area of the site was mapped using drawing frames, see enclosed plans. The positions of all concretions within this area were recorded and photographed, with the intention of lifting at least some of the smaller ones (that are in danger of being lost from the site, due to natural erosion and seabed movement in this area), before the end of the season. However at time of writing this report, bad weather has prevented this taking place.

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## **Artifacts**

On each visit to the site a check was made for exposed artifacts, four were found and measured into datum's, lifted and stored in water. The artifacts were numbered as follows:

MS 246-98 Section of brass shoe buckle.

MS 247-98 Brass trefoil.

MS 248-98 Pewter button (Tudor Rose pattern).

MS 249-98 Castlead lead section.

The display units now permanently sited at Earnley Gardens were further improved over the winter months with the addition of more and better-printed material. Records show visitors to the whole complex exceeded 30,000 last year. Further work will be carried out again this winter.

If it is possible to lift the afore mentioned concretions before the end of the season, we intend to store them in wet holding tanks prior to recording and conserving any artifacts recovered.

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## **Diving Schedule**

Diving operations were carried out on eleven separate days. This resulted in forty-five and one half man hours spent under water by the following divers:- Iain Grant, Peter Jolly, Len Small, Jason Knowles, Garry Momber, Janet Witheridge, Robin Witheridge, Daniela Graf.

The dates of diving were as follows:- 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> September.

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## **Intentions for 1999**

Continue to monitor sand movement at both north and south ends of the site.

Survey and lift any loose artifacts from the site generally.

Complete the mapping of the central area of the site and lift the remaining concretions considered most vulnerable, wet storing them to be worked over the winter months to remove and record the artifacts.

If time and conditions allow, extend mapping with drawing frames northwards from central area of site.

In view of the fact that artifacts can be exposed and are therefore vulnerable, and that conditions during the winter are often as good as the summer, we would like to be able to monitor the site during the winter should conditions favour this. We should also like to recover any artifacts that become exposed and recover the smaller concretions that were surveyed and photographed during 1998.#