The *Hazardous* Project Site Report - October 2000.

Introduction

Poor weather conditions early in the year prevented diving taking place on the site until 1st May this year.

There has been little change to seabed levels at the north and south ends of the site, however the area where the seabed is most active and erosion appears greatest lies between the north and south sections. Here, all ships structure is lost and only a group of concretions remain. The concretions are exposed on a blue/grey clay seabed in an area subject to scour. Many of the concretions have become unstable and partially mobile. Monitoring has demonstrated instability and shown that some of the concretions are under immediate threat.

The museum display at Earnley Gardens continued to receive large numbers of visitors through the summer months.

Year 2000 Objectives

Continue to monitor general seabed movement on site.

Survey and lift exposed artefacts from site generally.

Continue to extend mapping with drawing frames of central area, lifting any concretions considered vulnerable, wet storing for recording etc, over winter months.

With the acquisition of a digital video camera and housing, filming of the site for archive records will be undertaken when conditions allow.

Research possibility of transferring records onto computer.

Establish diver trail for trials.

Introduce new divers to site for training and research purposes.

Fieldwork

Eight days of diving have been conducted on site throughout the year where the site was monitored and elements of the underwater trail were laid. This was complemented by a nine-day project between 24th June and 2nd July when a camp was established at Bracklesham and a large team of divers worked on the site.

Results

New datum's were positioned around the site, surveyed and entered on computer using Site Surveyor 2 (see attached print out).

The area in the middle of the wreck, (south part of north section) was surveyed at 1:20.

Corrosion potential of the iron cannon was assessed, scientific evaluation results are awaited.

The most vulnerable concretions were identified, labelled, recorded, lifted and are now undergoing first aid and conservation treatment.

Eight concretions were x-rayed, out of which five were opened.

An electronic database of the artefact catalogue has been created and is being developed.

A diver trail has been laid around the site and into the adjacent reef. This is to be monitored over the winter. Its management and viability is being assessed.

Video footage was collected of the site.

Twenty-seven new NAS volunteers and student divers were introduced to the site.

In total thirty-four people have worked on the site this season.

Artefacts

A number of loose exposed artefacts were recorded in position on the seabed and lifted along with the vulnerable concretions, all have been recorded with the Receiver of Wreck and put into wet store for first aid and conservation.

Diving Schedule

Diving operations were carried out on seventeen separate days. This resulted in one hundred and eighty three man-hours spent underwater by thirty-four divers.

Intentions for 2001

Continued improvements and additions to museum displays.

Development of the site database from hard copy to computer, enabling efficient data analysis.

Development and operation of the diver trail.

Continued assessment of site stability, raising concretions/artefacts under threat.

Development of long term management strategy based on results of fieldwork.

Dissemination of information by presentations and report/publication.