

The Hazardous Project Site Report - October 2001.

Introduction

Poor weather conditions early in the year prevented diving taking place on the site until 6th May this year. An abortive dive was made in early April in zero visibility by the ADU as part of a documentary being filmed by The BBC's Tomorrows World team.

Diving was further hampered this year by huge amounts of water and nitrate run off through the winter months, adding to an increased plankton bloom which lasted to the end of June.

There has been an increase in seabed levels at the north and south ends of the site. However the area where the seabed was most active last season in the centre of the site, seems to have stayed fairly stable through the winter months, some damage to datum's was observed. Monitoring in recent years has demonstrated instability in this area and shown that concretions located here are under continued threat.

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

Year 2001 Objectives

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.

Fieldwork

Eight days of diving have been conducted on site throughout the year where the site was monitored and remaining elements of the underwater trail were laid. This included one organised trip for visiting divers in September, no further trips took place due to yet more bad weather.

Results

The diver trail was completed and a number of guide booklets were designed and produced for use underwater by visiting divers.

Due to very poor visibility and much bad weather it was only possible to carry out limited monitoring of the site.

Dissemination of information has continued through the season and will continue through the winter months.

Artefacts

No loose artefacts were found on site this season.

Diving Schedule

Diving operations were carried out on eight separate days. This resulted in 36 man-hours spent underwater by fourteen divers.

Intentions for 2002

Continued improvements and additions to museum displays.

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

Continued operation of the diver trail.

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

Dissemination of information by presentations and report/publication.
