

The Hazardous Project Site Report - October 2003.

Introduction

This year as last it was decided to use one full weekend a month, starting in April and utilizing the best neap tides for work on site and running the diver trail.

However due to the late arrival of the site licence, the first dive on site did not take place until the end of April. With varying sea conditions brought about by, at times strong south-westerly winds, visits to site were limited through May and June. The plankton bloom curtailed work on site during July.

The first dive on site revealed much seabed movement both northwest and northeast of the main hull timbers, also a general scouring out of sediment within the hull from beak to the central break, this further destabilized the group of three cannon and had begun to expose the cannon and carriage sheeted and buried during the 1989/90 seasons.

Artefacts were also found loose on the seabed in the north of the site, however the south end appeared fairly stable, although it was noted that some damage to datum's had occurred in the central area caused by the hauling of something substantial across the site.

Year 2003 Objectives

Continue monitoring variations in seabed levels and timber degradation, using points set up last year.

Carry out further planning of areas / artefacts exposed due to erosion.

Survey and recover artefacts exposed by erosion and under threat of loss or damage.

Continue with conservation of artefacts in wet storage at present.

Continue operation of the diver trail.

Continue improvements and additions to museum display.

Fieldwork.

Fifteen days of diving have been conducted on site throughout the year, during this time more survey work was carried out, the diver trail underwent running repairs after the winter storms and seven escorted trips for visiting divers were arranged.

Results

Development of a digitised site database is continuing and will be added to over the winter months.

Some cleaning and repairs, plus replacement of numbered points around the diver trail

were required before it was opened this season. The trail continues to be popular, with a total of sixty-nine visitors this season, all making positive comments. This initiative will continue in future years.

In response to the continued erosion, particularly in and around the main hull structure a programme of planning was undertaken. An area approx 100sq metre was planned using one metre square planning frames, linking new areas to existing hull structure in the north end of the site.

The ADU have carried out a second high-resolution bathymetric survey of the site using Reson's multibeam system.

The ten monitoring points established around the northern timber structure last season, were measured on each visit to the site, revealing continual seabed movement. This data awaits further interpretation along with timber degradation measurements taken.

Research is ongoing into the artefacts and site formation of the Hazardous by a post-graduate student from the University of Southampton.

Artefacts

A number of uncovered, loose artefacts within the main hull and northeast of it, were measured into datum's, recovered and put into wet store.

Work continues on stabilization of artefacts in wet store.

Conservation work on a number of fragile artefacts is ongoing at The Mary Rose Trust.

Public Relations

All visiting divers were given lectures on the history, discovery and present work taking place on the site, along with an overview of the flora and fauna of the area.

The museum display received many visitors again this year.

Diving Schedule

Diving operations were carried out on fifteen separate days. This resulted in 4183 working minutes spent underwater by thirteen divers.

In excess of 3000 minutes was spent underwater by Sixty nine visiting divers.

Intentions for 2004

Continue monitoring variations in seabed levels and timber degradation, using points set up in 2002.

Carry out further planning of areas / artefacts exposed due to erosion.

Survey and recover artefacts exposed by erosion and under threat of loss or damage.

Continue with conservation of artefacts in wet storage at present.

Continue operation of the diver trail.

Continue improvements and additions to museum display.
