

## ULSAC Trip Report Form

Please include on this form any details you think will help organise another trip to this area. Please include details of any problems encountered, or any particularly good things/places in the area, such as good or awful restaurants and pubs.

### Logistics

Date	01 – 02 August 2009	Springs <input type="checkbox"/> Neaps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Venue	Portsmouth / Isle of Wight	
Marshal	Jeremy Davey	
Overseer	Martin Greaves	
Number of People	14	
List of attendees with Diver Grade in brackets (e.g SD, DL etc)	Eric Lucas (DL)	Clare Davies (SD)
	Kamila Tomaszewska (SD)	Daniel Morris (DL)
	Lucia Summers (OD)	Siobhan Broadbent (OD)
	Mairead Conneely (DL)	Siobhan Cox (SD)
	Vanessa Woolhead (OD)	Tom Linton Willoughby (DL)
	Al Morgan (DL)	Martin Greaves (AD)
	Bonnie Webster (AD)	Jeremy Davey (DL)
Accommodation	Southsea Backpackers Lodge	
Address	4 Florence Rd Southsea, PO5 2NE www.portsmouthbackpackers.co.uk	
Telephone No.	023 92832495	
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	£15 per night per person	
Notes	<p>As we were only staying for one night (due to awkward slack water times) we decided to stay in a hostel. The hostel was really nice. It had good warm showers, bed linen was supplied and had a large kitchen to use.</p> <p>One problem here was parking since there is limited space outside the front of the hostel. There was on street parking nearby but it seemed very busy and had to leave vehicles a short distance from the hostel. The hostel sold 24 hour parking tickets for £3 per car.</p> <p>It was commented that this hostel would be quite good for something like our Easter Training trip.</p>	
Launch Site (inc. cost)	<p>Camber Docks, East Street, Portsmouth</p> <p>There is a reasonably sized slipway at Camber Docks. To access it you need to put £2 into a barrier to open. This is all that was needed for launching.</p> <p>There was a car park situated very near the slipway, which cost £10 per vehicle per days parking.</p>	
Coastguard	<p>Solent Coastguard 02392 552100 Contactable on VHF Radio Channel 67</p>	
Nearest chamber		
Air Shop	<p>NOTE: None of these air shops can do air fills on a Sunday.</p> <p>Solent Divers (Portsmouth) Ltd. 122-128 Lake Road Portsmouth PO1 4HH Hampshire</p> <p>Tel: 023 92814924</p>	

	<p>Triton Scuba  147 Highland Road  Southsea  Hampshire  PO4 9EY  023 9283 8773</p>
<p>Van Hire (inc. notes, did you breakdown, AA cover, tow bar etc.)</p>	<p>Long wheel based van from H&amp;H (cost £149.50 for weekend).  Kentish Town  107e Bartholomew Road, London, NW5 2AR  020 7916 6616</p>

## Dives

Dive 1	
Site:	Nab Tower
Max depth:	20 metres
GPS Marks:	(now in Scoundrel's GPS unit)
Brief description:	<p>This curious looking object a few miles to the South East of Bembridge started life during the First World War as part of an anti-submarine defence system. During 1916 the British Admiralty, alarmed by the losses of allied merchant shipping to German U-boats designed four or six towers that were to be built and positioned in the Straits of Dover. They would be linked together with steel nets and armed with two 4" guns. The others were dismantled but what was to be done with this 92-foot tall metal cylinder (costing one million pounds sterling, in those days), sitting on its raft of concrete?</p>

Dive 2	
Site:	HMS Boxer
Max depth:	18 metres
GPS Marks:	(now in Scoundrel's GPS unit)
Brief description:	

Dive 3	
Site:	Camswan (didn't dive this)
Max depth:	
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	<p>3,500 ton British steamship sunk on 19 October 1917 in only 20m of water. She was dispersed with explosives in the 1920's but still stands an average of 3-4m off the seabed. A fantastic rummage dive spread over a very wide area.</p>

Launch Location	
Site:	Camber Docks
Max depth:	
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	

Dive 5	
Site:	
Max depth:	
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	

Dive 6	
Site:	
Max depth:	
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	

General Details
<p><u>Permissions to cross the Channel.</u></p> <p>When leaving Camber docks on the boats to head out into the Solent, you need to seek permission from the Harbour Master. Follow these steps to ensure correct passage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Wait at the exit of the harbour (marked on the map below).</li> <li>2) Radio the Harbour Master on Channel 11 (eleven) and speak the magic incantation:  “QHM, QHM, QHM, this is Dive Boat ....., permission to cross from Camber Dock to Ballast Pile, over”</li> <li>3) Harbour Master will hopefully give you permission to cross or ask you to wait for one of the larger vessels to pass.</li> <li>4) Make your way over to Ballast Pile (a large red marker on the other side of the river). See image below.</li> </ol> <p>When leaving the harbour make sure to travel on the right hand side and also to return on that side, taking the reverse of the above message to the Harbour Master. I have marked on the image below the points and section of the channel you should drive through.</p> <p>It is very important to do this because of the large ferries which come in and out of the channel.</p> <p><u>Air Fills</u></p> <p>Note there are no shops that can do air fills on Sunday. The nearest place I could find was Andark in Southampton.</p> <p><u>Bembridge Ledges</u></p> <p>It is worth noting that when travelling past Bembridge Ledges on the Isle of Wight, to take a very wide berth because it is extremely (and deceptively) shallow.</p> <p><u>Berthing</u></p> <p>We managed to berth the boats at Camber Docks. This was done on a bit of an ad-hoc basis in the end since I was given different information over the phone. I would strongly suggest insisting on arranging berthing with Ken Brown Boat Park beforehand (<a href="mailto:info@kb-boatpark.co.uk">info@kb-boatpark.co.uk</a> or 0239281 4246 or 07710 012804).</p> <p><u>Petrol stations</u></p> <p>It is well worth finding out where the petrol stations are in SouthSea as we had quite a trek around town early morning.</p> <p><u>The diving</u></p> <p>There is lots of great diving out of Portsmouth. However there are a few things that make it less than ideal for ULSAC diving:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The dives sites are quite a long way from Portsmouth (at least 8-9 miles from launch)</li> <li>2) The Solent is notoriously tidal and so you have to make sure to get the slack times correct and work to a tight schedule.</li> <li>3) Most of the great diving is below Ocean Diver range, however the dives we did were perfect for doing sports diver assessments on.</li> </ol>

On the Sunday, we stopped over for our surface interval on the Isle of Wight- stopping on one of the small beaches, which had some shops and snack places. This was a nice break and meant we could send one boat back to Portsmouth to replace empty for full tanks.

#### Achievements

Vanessa, Siobhan B and Lucia all passed their Sports Diver assessments during the trip. Bit congratulations to the three of them.

This was a fairly unknown location for ULSAC and so it was very good to add another area to our portfolio of dive sites. Thanks to everyone for being so understanding and helpful during the weekend to make it a successful and safe diving weekend.

My particular thanks goes to everyone who drove vehicles and boats, and instructors who took trainees in for Sports Diver assessments. Big thanks also go to Martin for overseeing me on the trip and for all the advice and support.

Please return completed forms to the Diving Officer asap. Thanks!