

## 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	24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	Springs // Neaps //
Venue	Farne Islands	
Marshal	Clare Davies	
Overseer	Michelle Kim	
Number of People	12	
List of attendees with Diver Grade in brackets (e.g SD, DL etc)	Clare Davies (SD)	Michelle Kim (AD)
	Sarah Cant (OWI)	Alison Bradley (SD)
	Megan Creese-smith (SD)	Simon Wilkinson (SD)
	Liam McArdle (OD to SD on trip)	Anais Classens (OD to SD on trip)
	Thalita Calvi (OD to SD on trip)	Erik Rijkhorst (SD)
	Aleix Momburu (SD)	Elizabeth Smith (SD)
Accommodation	Elford Caravan Park (camping)	
Address	<a href="http://www.elfordcaravanpark.com">www.elfordcaravanpark.com</a> <b>Elford Touring Caravan Park</b> Elford Farm House Seahouses NE68 7UT	
Telephone No.	Bill Robinson - 01665 720244	
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	£12 per tent per night including showers. We ended up paying £4 pppn	
Notes	Small and cosy site. Fairly basic. Only one shower in both male and female bathrooms but was fine for group of 12 people. It did have a washing machine and tumble dryer which were free to use. Owners were very flexible and did not mind us arriving at 1.30am. Their policy is find somewhere to pitch and pay the next morning. 5 minutes from Seahouses and definitely need to drive to find civilisation.	
Launch Site (inc. cost)	Used commercial RIB - £480 for RIB, space for 12 people. - <a href="http://www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk/">http://www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk/</a>  The RIB is a 10m Humber Ocean Pro with twin 200HP engines. Very spacious and well laid out. More than enough room for 12 divers to kit up at the same time. Skipper Alan was great and very accommodating of our dive wishes.  The boat stays out between dives which means each diver needs 2 tanks on board. Don't forget to pack lots of food to eat between dives as well. Left from Seahouses – day trip boats have priority when loading and unloading, so we did have to wait a little bit if one came in before loading, but not for too long.  Car parking at Seahouses harbour - £4 per day  Public toilets just up from the harbour	
Coastguard	Humber Coastguard 01262 672317	
Nearest chamber	North of England Medical Hyperbaric Unit (Hull) 01482 659471	
Air Shop	Sovereign diving - £4 for 12L. Clean air and nitrox available Air and dive shop on industrial estate – Unit 3, North Sunderland Industrial estate, NE68 7UP Phone 01665 720059	
Van Hire (inc. notes, did you breakdown, AA cover, tow bar etc.)	RVC minibuses (can only be driven by staff and students at RVC) £10 to hire for entire period, then pay for fuel plus 5p a mile	

## Dives

Dive 1	
Site:	The Coryton
Max depth:	10m
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	Not a dive on the islands. The site is along the coast towards Bamburgh. Shallow little wreck, good first dive for us as many of us hadn't dived for over a year. Big boilers support a fair amount of life and lots of little nooks and crannies to find creatures in. Prop shaft and stem are in tact.

Dive 2	
Site:	The Megstone
Max depth:	10m
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	Lots of seals! Again a shallower dive, lots of little gully to swim through and lie down in to let the inquisitive seals come and play with you. Plenty of kelp for those that like it, our group were diving mostly for the seals so we didn't venture to far beyond the kelp as that's where the seals were! Not the most adventurous of Farne dive sites but it was where all the seals were so that's where we went

Dive 3	
Site:	Whirl Rocks
Max depth:	25m
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	<p>Must be dived in slack water. At their highest point, the reefs are only three metres below the surface and are permanently submerged. The reef is about 600 metres in length and lies in two sections, which are divided by a 100 metre wide funnel shaped channel 25 metres deep.</p> <p>Amazing rock walls, very scenic dive with large crabs and lobsters. Gullies are full of wreckage with things such as a VERY large anchor to be seen. Just a spectacular dive. One of the best scenic dives you can do in the UK when the conditions are good. The 2 pinnacles are breathtaking and covered in soft coral. The wreck of the Jan van Ryswick has its engine block and large boilers as well as prop still in tact. Massive shoals of pollock were schooling on the day we dived it. Visibility was easily 15m and some divers even got a seal fly-past.</p>

Dive 4	
Site:	The Hopper (Longstone)
Max depth:	25m
GPS Marks:	Drop divers at the large square rock which is black at the top and brown at the bottom and make sure the tide is running North to South.
Brief description:	Wall dive with seals, again gullies to swim into on a hunt for seals; apparently the best way to find them is to accidentally beach yourselves with them as one buddy pair found out. A great site with tonnes of lobsters on the walls and plentiful seals. To see the seals you need to swim into the gullies. There are routes through to the shallow lagoon on the other side but you have to go very shallow.

Dive 5	
Site:	Longstone Ends
Max depth:	25m
GPS Marks:	Southern tip of Longstone
Brief description:	A wall dive, lots of seals swimming around on the entry point, then a nice scenic dive again with some gullies to swim through and a few seals joining people on their dives. Again tonnes of life, lobsters, crabs, nudibranchs on the rocks and boulders

Dive 6	
Site:	Crumstone (south end)
Max depth:	25
GPS Marks:	
Brief description:	Wall dive, lots of crabs hiding in little cracks all along the wall. A few seals here and there but I don't think many pairs got to see them on their dive. A lucky few got to see dolphins after they had come up from their dive!

Fantastic trip which was blessed with great weather, calm seas and brilliant visibility. With conditions like this the Farne Islands are truly spectacular. And how lucky we were to be able to dive with the seal population. Yes it's a long way but trust me it's worth it. The commercial RIB was an added cost but with fuel prices these days there probably wasn't much in it compared to towing 2 boats up there and back. Cost per dive for someone hiring all club kit was £37

We ate in Seahouses both nights (Saturday and Sunday) at a pub and then fish and chips, if you're planning on doing this try and get there a little early (by 7 or 8 pm) as we were quite rushed to find places that were still selling food when we turned up. Pubs generally stop serving by 8/9pm and fish and chip shops shut by 8pm on Sundays.

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