

Guernsey, Herm & Sark 2011 Expedition Report



Ali Gaudion, Expedition Leader

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Introduction

Purpose

Following on from the success of an expedition to the South of France in 2010, ULSAC wanted to follow this up with an equally exciting and challenging expedition for 2011. The Expedition Leader is originally from Guernsey but learned to dive in London and having never dived in the Channel Islands, suggested that they might provide a suitable location. After some initial research we discovered that these Islands were perfect for expedition diving. They have been described as having some of the most stunning scenic diving in the UK but the exposed dive sites, strong and unpredictable currents and short slack windows mean that they also provide challenging and adventurous expeditionary diving.

The primary purpose of this expedition was to explore the area surrounding the Channel Islands of Guernsey, Herm and Sark with a view to producing much more detailed documentation of the local dive sites than is currently available. The aims of the expedition were:

- To conduct two weeks of quality diving that will challenge all members of the expedition, involving members of two BSAC clubs: University of London SAC and Crawley Divers and to provide divers from First Class through to Sports Diver with the opportunity to experience safe but challenging diving in a dive location that is completely new to all team members (with the exception of the Expedition Mentor).
- To explore a challenging dive region previously unknown to the team members.
- To identify and explore previously undived sites.
- To enhance the diving skills of trip members under more adventurous conditions than they are accustomed to, increase their confidence not just with respect to their diving but also in working as a team to make such a complex expedition successful.
- To assist one Trainee First Class Diver, two Dive Leaders and three Sports Divers in progressing towards their next Diver grade.
- To cascade skills from First Class Diver level through to Sports Divers with a view to this translating back to their branches.
- To be self-sufficient in terms of boats, food, accommodation and other equipment.
- To promote expeditionary diving and the Channel Islands as a dive location to the wider diving community.
- To compile a more complete guide to diving around the Islands.

Location

Guernsey is situated 30 miles (48 km) west of France's Normandy coast and 75 miles (121 km) south of Weymouth, England and lies in the Gulf of St Malo.

The Channel Islands lie in a highly tidal area of the English Channel. This has the benefit of creating dive sites with abundant life and clear waters due to the large and fast tidal flow however, conversely it means that diving is challenging, with strong currents, including strong up and down currents when not on slack. Slack water windows are very short, even when diving on neaps. The waters surrounding the Islands are extremely rocky with many pinnacles protruding from the water and just as many rocky reefs below. The experience level of the group was set to reflect these challenging conditions.

Expedition Management

Planning and of the expedition was done by Alison Gaudion with assistance from Michelle Kim, and reviewed by expedition mentor Mark Mumford. Dive management of each day was assigned by Alison to a nominated Dive Manager identified in the Expedition Dive Log Sheets.

Logistics

Dive Platform

We took one of ULSAC's RIBs, "Scoundrel". It is a 5.5m vessel, which holds up to 8 divers with kit. Scoundrel has twin 40hp engines, allowing for redundancy in case of engine failure. Using our own RIB gave us complete independence and flexibility to find and explore dive sites around the Islands.

Travel

The expedition used two vehicles, a small van to carry the majority of the diving and boat equipment, and a Ford Tourneo MPV to carry all but two of the team members, personal luggage, the remainder of the diving equipment, and to tow the RIB.

One extraordinary item was the transport of the RIB and Trailer on the ferry which, being over 5.5m in length got classed as commercial freight, limiting us to one specific ferry crossing each way as freight is only permitted on the Portsmouth-Guernsey conventional ferry route. Commercial rates were also charged, with the RIB and Trailer alone costing over £1,400 to transport.

Two members, for personal reasons, were unable to attend the whole expedition, and flew to Guernsey at their own expense.

Accommodation

After extensive research into accommodation options in Guernsey it was discovered that affordable accommodation such as hostels or guest houses simply do not exist. The options were either camping, which while adequate for short periods of time was deemed unsuitable for such a long expedition, or more expensive B&Bs and hotels. Luckily for us the parents of the Expedition Leader (Alison Gaudion) live in Guernsey and offered the use of their house while they are away for this two week period. The house is located just outside of St Peter Port and provided everything required to support the team during this expedition.

Food

We were self-catering throughout the trip with team members preparing their own breakfasts and the means to prepare sandwiches etc. provided for lunch. Dinner was prepared on a rota basis. Our accommodation contained a well equipped kitchen as well as to a large barbecue which was used one evening. One late finish necessitated a fish and chip takeaway, and on the final evening, we ate out at a local restaurant.

Air and Fuel

We based ourselves in the harbour area next to the main Fuel Pontoon, which is open from 08:00 to 17:30 and usable at all times except for about 1 hour either side of spring low waters.

To recharge cylinders, we used Sarnia Skin Divers located on Castle Pier, a few hundred metres from our base. An alternative would have been Dive Guernsey, a little closer, but with less flexible opening arrangements.

Launching and Recovery

We launched and recovered from St Peter Port Harbour using the slipway next to the Yacht Club. We had researched slipways on the western side of Guernsey at Grand Havre and Rousse Bays, but did not end up using them. The RIB was moored on a public "local boat" pontoon, courtesy of the Guernsey Harbour Office, who also kindly arranged storage for our RIB trailer for the period.

Diving Base

We based ourselves in St Peter Port Harbour at Castle Emplacement.

Items of note in the illustrations below are:

- Yellow Grassy area to prepare kit, have lunch, etc
- Red Slipway / Steps, usable at all states of tide
- White Temporary pontoon, boat moored here overnight
- Cyan Fuel Pontoon / Chandlers
- Green Cafe - Eats, drinks, and snacks with seats and shade
- Magenta Toilets
- Grey Free car parking
- Blue Yacht Club - changing rooms that we never actually used
- Black Shore diving access to Havelet Bay



How it went

Planning Resources

Appendix A - Expedition Planning Resources contains details of information sources originally used, and a few more that we have since found that should be of use to future expeditions. The local BSAC branch, Blue Dolphins SAC, were incredibly helpful in providing us with information on sites and tides, and we are very grateful for that help.

Team Members

Appendix B - Expedition Participants contains details of the 10 members of the expedition.

Dates

The expedition began on Friday 22nd July and finished on Sunday 7th August 2011, a total of 17 days.

Appendix C - Expedition Timetable contains an overview of the expedition.

Appendix D - Expedition Diving Summary contains details of who did what on which day.

Appendix E - Expedition Diary contains principal events from each day.

Costs

Appendix F - Expedition Financial Summary contains an overview of the expedition.

Budgetted cost was £700 per person, and actual costs came out at just under £600 per person.

Compared to the budget, savings were made in boat fuel and oil, and air fills

There was an overspend on RIB and equipment usage charges (not budgeted for), and food and drink

Weather

Appendix G - Expedition Weather contains a record of the weather encountered, summarised in retrospect from the Guernsey Weather web site. We experienced good weather for almost the whole expedition, with only one morning's diving being missed due to poor conditions.

Dive Sites

Appendix H - Expedition Dive Sites contains full details of the sites visited.

Appendix I - General and Marine Life Photographs contains a selection of photographs by Mark Mumford.

Reporting

Expedition Reporting

During the expedition we reported our experiences on the ULSAC website expedition 'blog', which can be found at <http://blog.ulsac.net/>.

In due course, this Expedition Report will be made available on the ULSAC and Crawley Divers websites www.ulsac.net and www.crabbsac.org.uk and the Expedition Report will also be made available to BSAC.

We will contact SCUBA magazine regarding running an article.

A press release will be sent to local media to publicise diving within the Channel Islands.

Expedition Criteria

Some of the criteria that are specified when applying for an Expedition Grant are aspirational, others can be more easily verified. They are:

Criterion	Result
3.1	The Expedition was aimed at Dive Leaders
3.2	Ten divers participated in the Expedition. The minimum number at any time was eight.
3.3	Two BSAC branches were involved
3.4	70% of the party were, at minimum, Branch Instructors.
3.5	Only one First Class Diver was present on the expedition
3.6	30% of the expedition were Advanced Divers.
3.7	30% of the expedition were Dive Leaders.
3.8	The expedition was 17 days long.
3.9	The expedition ran with total self leadership - RIB diving using own boat
3.10	The expedition undertook challenging diving at rarely dived sites
3.11	The expedition undertook deeper diving. 25% of dives (44 dives) were deeper than 30m.
3.12	The expedition undertook wreck, wall, drift, and cavern dives.
3.13	The organisers plan to produce a magazine article using the material collected.

Supporting evidence

Supporting evidence for the expedition consists of:

1. Dive log sheets
2. Receipts for expedition expenditure

Review

Cascade of Skills

A considerable amount of both formal and informal instruction went on over the course of the expedition. The three (fairly new) Sports Divers were obvious initial targets, and had few places to hide. All had their depth experience increased incrementally to 30m, then 35m. Some of them did their first dives requiring compulsory decompression. Each was taught, and given many opportunities to practice, mid-water DSMB deployment, some even while drifting. Each was taught how to use a lifting bag to safely send a shot to the surface. Each was given an opportunity to drive the boat back to harbour, following a multi-leg GPS route, and some were taught how to safely pick up divers in benign conditions. There was an impromptu lesson one morning on recovering casualties into a boat.

One of the Dive Leaders was gently eased back into diving after a year-long absence, while another extended his depth experience to 40m. Both got more involved than they had initially anticipated in the planning and execution of the diving. All of the party got involved in dive planning, with appropriate chartwork skills being taught as necessary to verify co-ordinates and plan safe routes.

Of course, there was much more learning done than via set pieces alone. On average, expedition members did about 19 dives each in the fortnight that was spent. This is a respectable annual total for many recreational divers, and doing it in a 14 day period allows reinforcement and consolidation of skills that may take much longer to acquire under normal conditions. Clearly everybody did learn quickly, and put it into effect, as there was very little direction required by the Dive Manager after the first few days, and an efficient routine was embraced by all.

Each of the participants has provided a written review of what they learned or gained over the expedition. The accounts have many similarities, one common theme being expressed as:

"I honestly feel like I've learned loads not just from being directly taught, but from observing, helping out where help was needed and listening to more advanced divers talking about their own experiences."

One Sports Diver commented:

"I learned a few different ways of doing it from the different instructors. The message I took away from it all is that the most important thing is to find a method you feel comfortable with."

"Overall, by the end of the trip I felt far more at home underwater than I did at the start, more able to enjoy the dive and concentrate on improving things than having to always think about the basics."

"I always felt like the briefings were at the right level and that the management was well-handled, I never felt like I was missing information and it was clear the organisers were taking into account that we were all learning what needed to be done so didn't need to be told which made me feel less like a complete novice."

Another observed:

"The trip to Guernsey was both fun and an inspirational experience. It made me want to continue with my qualifications, and dive different sites I heard about from others. It was an excellent finish to my first year with BSAC. After coming in as a PADI cross-over in October and training to complete my Sports diver qualification at Easter, this trip really consolidated everything I had learned. It made me a more confident diver and I was able to dive some unbelievable sites in the Channel Islands."

One of the Advanced Divers had recently completed an Advanced Instructor Course, and took plenty of opportunities to practice his instructional skills, and seek feedback on his performance.

"As an Assistant Advanced Instructor, a trip like this is a gold mine for Advanced Instructor Exam practice. Although the opportunity for practice 'project dives' was not taken, much was

made of surface teaching. By the very nature of needing a group to become slick at all the jobs that need doing in a diving day, everything becomes a teaching opportunity."

"Above the surface I was able to instruct, or mentor the SDs, on kit configuration, boat preparation, skill development, boat handling, rope work, shot preparation, VHF use, dive planning, chart work, marine identification, photography, and probably a few others. I also learnt from the other ADs and FCD (and the SDs!) something on all those subjects too. You can only get that kind of total involvement on an expedition like this."

"Being with two AIs and an NI also gave me a great insight to furthering my own instructing. Watching other people do it is of course the Demo/Do way, but it's particularly relevant if you can be a fly on the wall at someone else's instruction."

Another of the Advanced Divers is preparing for the First Class Exam, and formally led a dive with the expedition mentor, obtaining some personal feedback in the process.

"As I am working towards my First Class Diver qualification, the Guernsey expedition presented a perfect opportunity for me to practise planning and dive managing diving in a challenging location which was completely unknown to me."

"As an experienced diver, this trip was great as there was real variety in the diving on offer from scenic reefs to walls to wrecks to caves. I was able to do a couple of deeper wreck dives which enabled me to practise techniques I don't often get the chance to such as multi-stop diving and deep deco stops."

"The area is littered with covered rocks and with a 10m tidal range on Spring tides you really have to know where they are to not run into them. This was where I learnt the real benefit of using multiple waypoints and entering routes into the GPS unit which was something I had never used practically before. More work certainly, but the security of knowing you will be avoiding all those hidden rocks was well worth it."

Expedition Leader's Review

As the expedition organiser I always expected that this would be a steep learning curve for me. Previous experiences organising weekend diving, a 30+ person trip to Gozo and most recently ULSAC's 10 day Easter training trip had helped to prepare me for what things needed to be organised but it was how to accomplish this when no one in the club had any experience of diving in our chosen destination that presented the biggest challenge.

Research for the expedition proved more difficult than I had originally thought. Although there are several reports online about diving in the Channel Islands, these have focused on diving from hardboats, and there was therefore very little information available from online sources, especially with regard to slack water times. I found that the best way to find out information about diving in an area is to contact local divers. However, my experience of doing this was somewhat varied. While the local BSAC branch could not have been more helpful both before and during the expedition, some other people who I contacted were less than helpful, and this is something I will bear in mind for the future.

In preparation for this expedition I decided to prepare a document based on what slack water information I had managed to gather, detailing the time(s) when each of the potential dive sites could be dived for each day of the expedition. Although this was time-consuming, it made a huge difference while on the expedition in terms of picking the following day's dive sites and made it much easier for other members of the expedition team to take over the reins of dive managing. This is definitely something I would do again.

The biggest eye-opener was definitely with regard to how wrong information sources such as charts and tidal streams can be. While on neap tide during the first week all of the calculations were fine, however as we got closer to springs it soon became clear that something had gone wrong. It was at this point that I picked up my biggest lesson – don't be afraid to ask for help! An hour spent on the phone to one of the most experienced members of the local BSAC branch provided information not only on revised slack water times for sites we planned to visit but also for completely new sites that we could go and explore. The difference between slack times on neaps and springs was quite staggering and without getting local help

I'm not convinced we would have hit many slacks during the second week using the charts and tidal stream.

I was greatly helped on this expedition by the make-up of the expedition team, including some of the most experienced club members from ULSAC and CRABBSAC, this meant that managing the team was a simple task, jobs were done swiftly and well when I asked and sometimes even before I asked. I learned to delegate more and more as the expedition progressed and found that this made my job of dive managing so much easier as I was able to focus on the big picture instead of all the little details.

After several days of quite early starts it became apparent that, although they would get up early again if asked to do so, the group would probably benefit from a later start. This had the desired effect of buoying the group and little things that had started to creep in i.e. being slow to get ready in the morning disappeared. I now understand how important it is to monitor the general feeling of the group and react accordingly.

I feel that my dive planning and managing skills have come on leaps and bounds because of this expedition. I now have complete confidence in the fact that I can successfully take a group of people diving even if the site is unknown to both me and the club. Despite misgivings when I first suggested the expedition and helpful comments from more experienced club members such as "You probably won't enjoy it while you're there but you'll look back on it and realise you had fun" I actually really enjoyed organising the expedition and put this down to the huge amount of preparation beforehand that ensured that while on the expedition the workload for dive managing was kept to a minimum. I feel that this was helped by having a brilliant team, perfect weather and diving that surpassed my expectations with its quality and consistency.

Expedition Mentor's Review

Having joined the expedition late in the day, the majority of the planning work had already been done, and required little active input from me. Once we started diving, we reaped the benefit of the detailed planning done. In the actual execution of the plans, it was clear that our team had experience in depth, and boat-handling and site location skills were of a very high standard, making the diving itself seem a lot less arduous than it probably could have been.

ULSAC are well versed in the art of team catering, and the whole team was exceptionally pro-active and co-operative even away from the dive site - most jobs were done in a timely manner without being asked, and everyone pulled their own weight, and more. The more senior members of the team led by example, and this was one of the main areas of learning for the less experienced members of the team.

While I infrequently take my camera on UK RIB dives, the team were enormously supportive, and allowed me to get some excellent results. At the end of the fortnight, there were at least as many planned sites that we hadn't dived as we had, and there were lots of subjects that I had wanted to photograph, but hadn't succeeded in finding. A return visit is definitely required!

Things we might have done differently

The expedition in fact went exceptionally smoothly. There were no problems that weren't quickly and easily ironed out without significantly affecting the diving. Even a problem with the inflator valves on the RIB on the first day only resulted in a 20 minute delay to the start of diving. A minor problem with a full water-separating fuel filter was simply rectified without fuss, and could have been avoided completely with a little preventative maintenance at the start of the expedition. A case of premature preparation one morning, on a flooding tide, saw the two emergency boxes swept off the slipway into the water by a rogue wave, bringing a slight blush to one of the more senior divers present and requiring a Water-Taxi rescue.


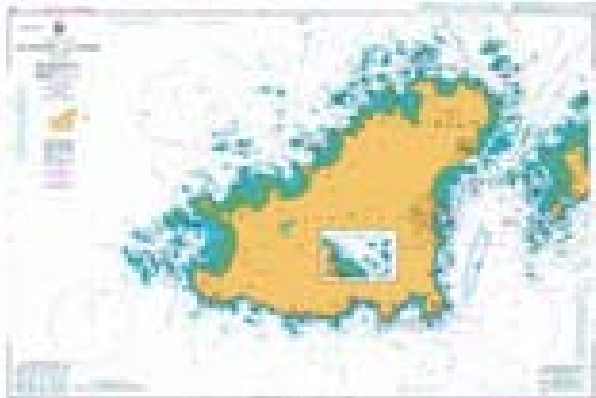
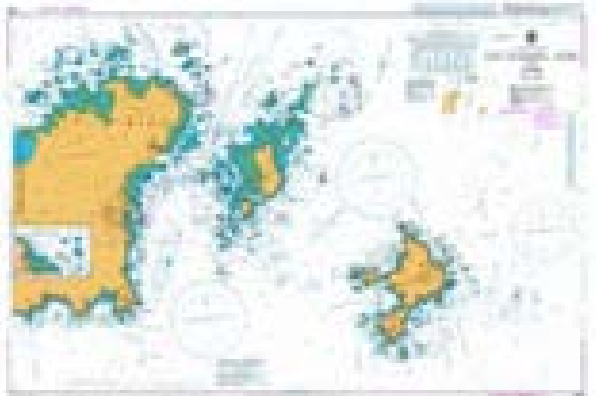
Undoubtedly the major thing that we would have changed would have been to understand the tides better. Local knowledge made an enormous difference during the second week of diving. In retrospect, we're not sure that NP264 or the Tidal Diamonds on Charts 807 and 808 were particularly helpful in diving many of the sites that we were frequenting, some of which were subject to back eddies from the primary direction of the tide. We have tried to include as many useful resources as possible into Appendix A, including a number that we only unearthed after we returned from the expedition.

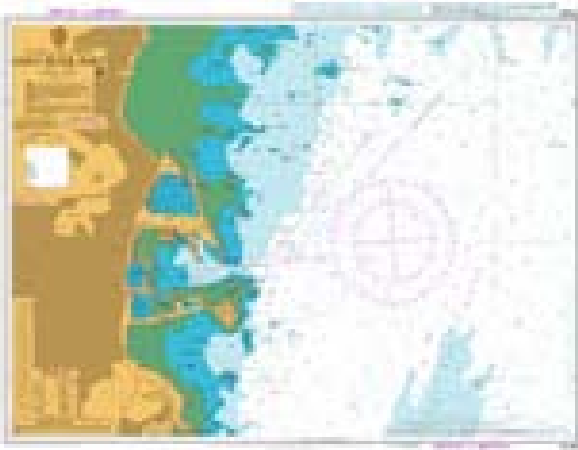
Appendices

- Appendix A - Expedition Planning Resources
- Appendix B - Expedition Participants
- Appendix C - Expedition Timetable
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Expedition Planning Resources

Primary Resources

No	Resource Name	Description
1	Charts	<p>Chart 3654 - Guernsey, Herm, and Sark - 1:50,000 Only needed if diving The MV Captain Niko or the M483.</p>  <p>United Kingdom Hydrographic Office publications can be obtained from authorised Agents and Distributors. See http://www.ukho.gov.uk/ProductsandServices/Purchase/Pages/Home.aspx</p>
2	Charts	<p>Chart 807 - Guernsey and Herm - 1:25,000</p> 
3	Charts	<p>Chart 808 - East Guernsey, Herm and Sark - 1:25,000</p> 

4	Charts	<p>Chart 3140 - Saint Peter Port - 1:6,000</p> <p>Optional - enough detail appears on charts 807 and 808</p> 
5	Tidal Streams Atlas	NP264 - The Channel Islands and Adjacent Coasts of France
6	Tidal Streams	An understanding of the complex Tidal Streams around Guernsey is necessary to be able to calculate good times to dive in an area that has few tidal diamonds. Please see the section on tides at the end of this appendix
7	Tidal Clock	<p>A tidal "clock" can help to further visualise what is happening. See the one at http://sailingalmanac.com/Almanac/Navigation/tidalclocklarge.html</p>
8	Tides	<p>Guernsey Harbour publishes a table of tides for St Peter Port for the year. http://guernseyharbours.gov.gg/tides/Tide%20Tables.pdf</p> <p>Note that Tidal Diamonds on Charts 3654, 807, 808 and 3140 refer to HW at St Helier (Jersey). Jersey Harbours publishes a website for tides at St Helier http://www.portofjersey.ie/Pages/tides.aspx</p>
9	Pilots	<p>If required, local pilots can be obtained from:</p> <p>http://www.guernseypilotage.com/</p>
10	Guernsey Harbour	<p>The Yachtsman's Guide to Guernsey - a comprehensive guide for visitors. http://www.guernseyharbours.gov.gg/yachtFlipBook/index.html</p> <p>Harbour Map. http://www.guernseyharbours.gov.gg/peter-port-oll-and-marina.pdf</p>
11	Arrivals and Departures	<p>Daily list of major vessels arriving and departing Guernsey. http://guernseyharbours.gov.gg/HSSArrivals.php</p>
12	Health	<p>Important health advice for travellers from the UK, explaining the need for comprehensive travel insurance. http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=13581051</p>

13	Blue Dolphins	Blue Dolphins Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC Branch 668) http://www.bdsac.org.gg/
14	Dive Guernsey	A commercial dive shop based at St Peter Port harbour http://www.diveguernsey.co.uk/
15	Weather	Guernsey Weather http://www.gyweather.com/

General Research

No	Resource Name	Description
1	BSAC Web Site Where to Dive	Overview of diving in the Channel Islands, with details of some of the dive sites. Two almost identical articles about diving from MV Maureen. http://www.bsac.com/divelocations.asp?section=1251&itemid=1939 http://www.bsac.com/divelocations.asp?section=1249&itemid=1637
2	Diver Magazine	Article from January 1999 by Brendan O'Brien. http://www.divernetextra.com/travel/supp199/guernsey.htm
3	Diver Magazine	Another article from John Liddiard from August 2007, diving with Sark Diving Service http://www.divernet.com/Travel_Features/157218/between_the_scallops.html
4	Dive Magazine	Report of a trip to the Channel Islands on the MV Maureen http://www.divemagazine.co.uk/index.php/travel/231-diving-destinations/2117-channel-islands.html
5	Dive Magazine	Article 1 about Diving in Sark, by a resident professional photographer http://www.divemagazine.co.uk/uk-diving/diving-destinations/channel-islands/4833-sarks-secret-beauty.html
6	Underwater Photography Magazine	An article by Steve and Jenny Powell in UWP Issue 3 from Dec 2001, featuring their favourite photographic sites. Now requiring purchase of a back-issue from http://www.uwpmag.com/ or available elsewhere in the Internet such as http://www.sensaciones.org/down/uwp/UwP3.pdf
7	Guernsey Biological Records Centre	Details of how to purchase a leaflet on the Gouliot Caves by Ann Allen http://www.biologicalrecordscentre.gov.gg/files/gouliot.html

8	Seasearch	<p>Seasearch has made a number of surveys on Sark in the past few years, and they provide considerable detail of what to expect to find on many of the dive sites around Sark.</p> <p>http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf</p> <p>http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark%202010%20report.pdf</p> <p>http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark%20shrimp%20survey.pdf</p>
9	John Liddiard	<p>Article from John's website detailing two of the Guernsey wrecks, although the majority of the article concerns the wrecks off Jersey</p> <p>http://www.jlunderwater.co.uk/old_site/photoix/channel_islands/channel_islands.htm</p>
10	Sue Daly	<p>Article 2 about Diving in Sark, by a resident professional photographer.</p> <p>http://www.suedalyproductions.com/sark_diving.htm</p>
11	Sue Daly	<p>Article 3 about Diving in Sark, by a resident professional photographer</p> <p>http://www.suedalyproductions.com/diving.html</p>
12	Clidive	<p>Account of Clidive's trip to Sark using Sark Diving Services</p> <p>http://www.clidive.org/index.php?action=divereports&id=158&firstitem=10</p>
13	gooddive.com	<p>A very brief guide on diving in the Channel Islands</p> <p>http://www.gooddive.com/uk-diving/channel-islands-diving.htm</p>

Contacts

St Peter Port Radio (Coastguard)	VHF Channel 16
St Peter Port Radio (non-emergency) Ch. 20 is the coast guard direct calling frequency for all working traffic and should be used to pass all arrival and departure messages.	VHF Channel 20 01481 720085
Port Control Port Control's working channel is VHF 12; this channel should be monitored by mariners entering /exiting St. Peter Port to be aware of any impending commercial movements and is not to be used for berthing information and general enquiries.	VHF Channel 12
Harbour Water Taxi	VHF Channel 10 07781 108 767
London Hyperbaric Chamber 24hr helpline	07999 292 999
BHA / RN Diver Helpline	07831 151 523
Nearest recompression facility: St John Ambulance and Rescue Service, Rohais, St Peter Port, GY1 1YN.	01481 714963
Nearest Accident and Emergency Department: Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Le Vauquiedor, St. Martins, GY4 6UU	01481 725241
Condor Ferries	01481 729666
Guernsey Harbour Authority P.O. Box 631, St Julians Emplacement St Peter Port, GY1 3DL	01481 720229 guernsey.harbour@gov.gg
Chandlery Boatworks +, Castle Emplacement St Peter Port, GY1 1AU	01481 726071 boatworks@cwgsy.net
Guernsey Police Hospital Lane, St. Peter Port, GY1 2QN	01481 725111
Sarnia Skin Divers (Air Shop) Castle Emplacement, St Peter Port GY1 1AU	07781 101105
Dive Guernsey (Air Shop) The Bunker, Castle Emplacement St Peter Port, GY1 1AU	01481 714525

Tidal Streams around Guernsey (1)

As a brief overview, Sea-Guernsey's web site (<http://www.seaguernsey.com/>) contains the following:

The strong tidal currents of the Channel Islands warrant careful study of the Tidal Atlas. At spring tides high water is approximately 0800/2000 GMT (8.9 range) and at neaps 0100/1300 (6.6m); slack water is approximately half tide. The main stream runs N/NE (north/north east) at high water and S/SW (south/south west) at low water. Maximum tidal flow will be experienced at high and low water. Tidal rates vary from 5.25 knots during springs and 2.25 knots during neaps.

Tidal Streams around Guernsey (2)

http://www.maib.gov.uk/cms_resources/Trident%20VI.pdf contains the following guidance on pages 70 to 71. This is probably best read with reference to a tidal streams atlas for the area, (which can conveniently be found in the same document on pages 73 to 75). These tidal streams help illustrate the different streams that can be found closer to shore.

(a) General Tidal Flow in the Bay of St. Malo.

Consider firstly the general flow of the early flood tide Into the English Channel and in particular the Increasing pressure of water as it Is built up In the confines of the Bay of St. Malo, commencing just after local low Water at each place along the north Brittany Coast in the form of a broad band, whilst further to the north the main flow proceeds at a more leisurely pace up the English Channel.

At progressively later Low Water times, the tide turns eastwards along the north Brittany Coast until the west-facing Normandy coast is reached, building up into the south-east corner of the Bay of St. Malo until local HW. Meanwhile, east of Les Roches Douvres this easterly set is divided by the island of Jersey. part of which flows NE up the La Deroute towards Cap de la Hague, accelerating as it Is squeezed through the Race and Swinge of Alderney. slackening and turning here at four and a half hours after HW St Peter Port, then turns first southerly then south-westerly when influenced by the main Channel ebb.

Thus a circulatory anti-clockwise flow is set up in the general area surrounding the Bailiwick of Guernsey, approximately contained within imaginary lines, drawn between Les Roches Douvres, Jersey, Casquets, a point 10 miles NW of Les Hanois and return to Les Roches Douvres.

It will therefore be seen that except for certain inshore areas, there is no definitive slack water in the Bailiwick of Guernsey area, but rather as the flood and then the ebb evolves, the direction of the current alters anti-clockwise in the general area surrounding Guernsey at a rate of approximately 30 degrees per hour (in general terms) during the tidal cycle. Along the north Brittany Coast, the tide flows and ebbs in an east-west direction at local LW and HW respectively; similarly the current flows north-south along the Normandy Coast

(b) Tidal Flow - Guernsey

The easterly flow rate is increasing rapidly in the latitude of Guernsey at half-flood along the south and north coasts, whilst in the Little and Big Russels, slack water is experienced due to the Island mass blocking the flow.

As the flow direction alters anti-clockwise towards the north-east, the current commences to flow up the Little and Big Russels after half-flood, and at HW the tendency is to turn towards the north. Thus the flow is split at St. Martin's Point, but whilst the main stream of flood tide continues to run northerly through the Big and Little Russels at 2.5 to 3.0 knots during springs, the early ebb drift is commencing to go west close inshore along the south coast of Guernsey at 1knot.

After high-water, the configuration of the East Coast of Guernsey continues to force the main flow north-easterly past the Platte Fougere lighthouse and Amfrocque, but lends to turn more northerly a few miles north of this area. At this time close inshore south of St. Peter Port a southerly drift is produced, which joins the first ebb along the south coast; and close inshore the eddy is felt along the NW coast from the Platte Fougere L/H, and the first westerly ebb is commencing.

At half-ebb the general flow has turned westerly, and slack water is again experienced in the Little and Big Russels., but is soon forced to turn south-westerly in this area, first by the configuration of the land and then by the Influence of the main ebb gaining momentum.

At low water the tendency is for the flow to turn more southerly, causing slack water in the eddy of the south coast of Guernsey, and a strong south-easterly flow to commence in the area of the Platte Boue and Amfrocque towards the Big Russel, caused by the influential southerly stream in this Channel.

After low water the first flood tide is commencing towards the east at Pleinmont Point and along the inshore north-west coast, the former event being induced to join the main flow down the Little and Big Russels at St. Martin's Point, but inevitably this easterly flow is gradually increased until half-flood, and overwhelming the southerly Russels' current, thus re-commencing the cycle once more.

The greatest volume of tidal flow will be felt in the narrows off Roustel (rate 4.5 knots) during Spring tides at high and low water, in the Big Russel and along the south and north coasts of Guernsey, also in the area of the Platte Boue between LW and half-flood,

The tidal rate in the near approach to St. Peter Port is generally weak at 1 knot maximum, but one should be aware of a fairly strong circulatory flow into the Harbours of St. Peter Port and St. Sampson's, especially during the two hours either side of half-flood at Spring tides.

Expedition Timetable

Day	Date	Time	Activity
1	Fri 22 Jul 2011	18:00	Main party meet at University of London Union
		23:00	Arrive New Forest for overnight stay
2	Sat 23 Jul 2011	09:00	Ferry departs Portsmouth
		16:00	Ferry arrives Guernsey
3	Sun 24 Jul 2011	10:00	Dive 1: Oost Vlaanderen (Wk), Guernsey
		15:00	Dive 2: Longue Pierre, Guernsey
4	Mon 25 Jul 2011	09:30	Dive 1: Dr Rudolf Wahrendorf (Wk), Guernsey
		16:30	Dive 2: Gouliot Caves, Sark
5	Tue 26 Jul 2011	11:00	Dive 1: Guillaumesse, Sark
		16:00	Dive 2: Dr Rudolf Wahrendorf (Wk), Guernsey
6	Wed 27 Jul 2011	10:00	Dive 1: Grunes de Jerbourg, Guernsey
		13:00	Dive 2: MV Captain Niko (Wk), Guernsey
		16:00	Dive 3: Havelet Bay, Guernsey
7	Thu 28 Jul 2011	09:00	Dive 1: Anfre, Guernsey
		13:00	Dive 2: Lower Heads, Herm
8	Fri 29 Jul 2011	10:00	Dive 1: Les Dents, Brecqhou
		16:00	Dive 2: Foreland (Wk), Guernsey
		18:00	Dive 3: Havelet Bay, Guernsey
9	Sat 30 Jul 2011	10:30	Dive 1: L'Etac, Sark
		15:00	Dive 2: Parfonde, Herm
10	Sun 31 Jul 2011	10:00	Dive 1: Gouliot Caves, Sark
		15:30	Dive 2: Banquiers de Fermain, Guernsey
11	Mon 01 Aug 2011	11:00	Dive 1: Oost Vlaanderen (Wk), Guernsey
		12:30	Dive 2: SS Brighton (Wk), Guernsey
		17:00	Dive 3: Gabrielle Rock, Guernsey
12	Tue 02 Aug 2011		Rest Day: Cliff Walk, Occupation Museum
13	Wed 03 Aug 2011	11:30	Dive 1: Sardriere, Sark
		16:30	Dive 2: Les Vingt Clos, Little Sark
		20:00	Evening with Blue Dolphins BSAC
14	Thu 04 Aug 2011		Poor weather - no morning dive
		17:30	Dive 1: Les Vingt Clos, Little Sark
15	Fri 05 Aug 2011	12:30	Dive 1: Baleine Rock, Guernsey
			Recover RIB / Wash equipment
16	Sat 06 Aug 2011	10:00	Packing / Clean accommodation
		17:30	Ferry departs Guernsey
17	Sun 07 Aug 2011	06:30	Ferry arrives Portsmouth
		12:00	Back at University of London Union

Expedition Diving Summary

Name	24 Jul		25 Jul		26 Jul		27 Jul			28 Jul		29 Jul			30 Jul		31 Jul		01 Aug			03 Aug		04	05	No	Total	Max
																										Dives	Time	Depth
Ali Gaudion	24	37	37	38	46	33		48		31	37	39	27		26		38	39		46	55	44	46	32	36	20	304	44.9
Andy May	24		37	32	46	30		31		36		33	30		24					40	55	37			43	14	498	44.7
Anjali Shah														18		29	39	50	30		34					6	200	32.7
Chris Higgins	29	36	28	31	36	38		48		36	47	40	34		26	40	45	48		46	34	37	45	34	28	21	786	44.4
Eric Lucas	26	37	28	35	35	29		31		20	40	35	27	18	24											13	385	39.9
Helen Stevenson	29	37	30	32	43	29	27		43	31	37	35	34		38	40	45	39	25		37	35	46	32	32	22	776	34.2
Liam McArdle	26	38	29	35	43	38	27		36	36	47	39	30		38	40	39	48	30		48	25	31		32	21	755	35.1
Mark Lewis	28	36	28	38	35	30	30		36	31	40	33	22		32	40	38	48	30			35	31		28	20	669	32.8
Mark Mumford	28	38	29		36	33	30		43	20	37	40	22		32	29	45	50	25		48	25	45	34	43	21	732	35.3
Michelle Kim	26	37	30	31	46			48		31	37									40	37	44	46	32	36	14	521	43.7
Jo Mahy (Guest)																		48								1	48	20.6
Totals																										173	5674	44.9

Depth to	Dives
10m	14
15m	13
20m	16
25m	32
30m	55
35m	32
40m	3
45m	5
50m	3

Average Depth	25
Average Time	35

Expedition Diary

Fri 22 July 2011

The ULSAC members met at the University of London Union at 18:00, and proceeded to the boathouse at Chiswick to pick up the RIB and kit. The party then drove to the planned stop for the night, a cottage in the New Forest, arriving around 23:30, where they meet up with the group from Crawley.

Sat 23 July 2011

An early start was made even earlier by the local cockerel in full voice, but the 40 minute journey to Portsmouth was uneventful. Breakfast on the ferry helped to while away some of the 7 hour journey over to Guernsey. Arrival saw increased activity, transferring the RIB to the harbour area that we would be using, settling in to the accommodation, collecting initial fuel, collecting the ninth member of the team from the airport, food shopping, and a reasonably early night.

Sun 24 July 2011

Our day started by discovering that the boat was not ready to launch. Our problem in this case was a broken inlet valve on the bow tube. After standing around for some time and discussing potential fixes, we were told by local Port Authority staff that we could temporarily solve our problems with the generous application of vaseline to the problem area. Sceptically, we followed the advice, and despite a failed foot pump (switch to spare), several attempts later, we had a sea-worthy vessel. Amazingly we managed to launch just 10 minutes later than planned and headed off for our first dive. We decided to ease everyone in with a gentle first wreck just 1.3Nm outside St Peter Port harbour. After a second dive at Longue Pierre, with we set about mooring the boat for the night on a small jetty in the middle of the harbour, necessitating the use of the harbour water taxi.

Mon 25 July 2011

The first dive was on the ominously named Ammo Wreck, and entertained by a variety of congers and lobsters. In the afternoon, the team visited the Gouliot Caves on Sark for a completely different kind of dive. Arriving at the approximate coordinates we began looking for possible cave entrances, and resorted to sending in snorkelers to search below the surface. Our relaxed afternoon was spoiled by the arrival of a hard-boat full of underwater photographers, and our party generously agreed to go in first. This saw our divers quickly but it seems prematurely, into the water, then having to contend with the strong and differing currents in the various parts of the cave.

Tue 26 July 2011

A slightly later start, and calm seas again made another trip to Sark on the cards. This time we dived a small rock which breaks the surface at low water to the north of the island of Brecqhou. We dropped in on the north face of the rock and headed down past the kelp line to around 20m. Timing of tides indicated a return to the Ammo wreck, immediately outside the entrance to St Peter Port harbour for the second dive, having to be out of the water before the fast Condor ferry drove over the dive site at 17:00. With a neap slack calculated to be at 16.30, we decided to drop in 30mins before this at 16:00. We descending down a slack and vertical shot line, until we found an unexpected 1.5kt current below 20 metres, however, once on the wreck, shelter was found, and the rest of the dive went ahead as planned.

Wed 27 July 2011

The weather continues to be kind to us, and we start with another flat calm day. The day's diving is a bit more ambitious, Half of the party have an initial dive around on the south side of Guernsey, exploring the ledges there away from the currents running down the eastern coast. The second dive was in exactly the opposite direction, a complicated journey of 10Nm around the north of the Island for some of the more experienced team members to dive a deeper wreck. The final dive of the day, was an exploratory dive around the entrance to one of the informal yacht anchorages to the south of the harbour, looking for some of the smaller sea-life unique to the Channel Islands. Our tenth member arrived in the early evening. After dinner, we were invited by the extremely friendly and helpful local dive club to share a drink with them at

their local watering-hole. We left with new acquaintances and the maps and details of a series of dives sketched out on a handful of beer-mats.

Thu 28 July 2011

Today was the day of two very high quality scenic dives, the first being only a short journey from the harbour. In the afternoon we headed over to the southern tip of Herm Island to dive the Lower Heads reef, worryingly marked with a large southern cardinal buoy to the south of the diving area.

Fri 29 July 2011

The morning dive took in the Les Dents, which translates into English as "The Teeth". A difficult site to navigate, but many interesting dives were had, and we travelled through a particularly extensive and thick fog bank on the way home. Our second dive was to find a shallow wreck to the north of the island again, in an expected current. Local knowledge had provided some good GPS co-ordinates, and another swim down another horizontal shot line found a hull and boiler, and other wreckage. We were learning to trust the tidal diamonds less and less. Our tenth member, who had not dived for many months, was taken for a checkout dive in the early evening, ready for the next day.

Sat 30 July 2011

Another calm day saw us diving a large rock to the south of Little Sark. A varied dive was had by the first wave, but the second wave went in to a strong current, accelerating as they went around the reef, offering a good dose of "challenging" and "exciting". A quieter dive was had in the afternoon on a site just off the southern part of Herm / Jethou. One of the party flies home tomorrow, so his kit is washed, dried, and packed.

Sun 31 July 2011

Another trip to the caves on Sark was arranged, this time with some much more accurate local slack knowledge ("exactly 2 hours and 10 minutes after HW"). A massed deployment of 6 divers entered bang on time and made their way to cave entrance and even with a bit of a current making the entry to the cave a bit of a crawl we were blessed with the most beautiful dive of the holiday so far. The second dive of the day was more local, but no less satisfying in its own way. We were treated to an incredible abundance of life, wonderful topography, and again no raging currents.

Mon 01 August 2011

Like many of the divers, the RIB had been a bit below par yesterday afternoon, but a good clean-out of the water-separating fuel filter quickly resolved this. This morning saw the two emergency boxes embarrassingly swept off by a rogue wave on the slipway, requiring a Water-Taxi rescue. Another three dive day saw the first dive as a repeat on one of the local wrecks, followed by another venture to the north of the island to dive a deeper wreck of a paddle steamer. A third dive, further exploring the eastern coastline to the south of the harbour was a two wave affair, resulting in a late finish, and a hastily bought fish and chip supper. Tuesday is the highest tide of the week, so has been selected as the obligatory day off, so a trip to the pub, followed by a slide show, rounded off the evening.

Tue 02 August 2011

A late start was had by most, and energy levels were boosted by a rare cooked breakfast. Eventually an excursion was organised, and we had an hour's cliff walk overlooking stunning, almost deserted, sandy bays, stopping finally at Petit Bôt bay for swims by the hardy, and ice cream and tea for others. Next was a visit to the museum of the Second World War Occupation of Guernsey, and a fairly quiet evening.

Wed 03 August 2011

After a refreshing day off, we were treated to another reasonable start amid the usual glorious conditions. The first dive was on the north eastern corner of Sark with a clearly different pattern of marine life. Our second site was again on Sark, but this time on the south western corner. Local knowledge had told us

exactly when to dive, and we were disconcerted to find overfalls running over the reef when we got there. We nevertheless got in on time to discover the promised slack conditions. We met up again with the local BSAC branch in the evening for a evening of pub grub, and a highly competitive skittles match, which the locals won easily. Another late night in the end.

Thu 04 August 2011

The nice thing about an island though is that there should be somewhere to dive, and so we departed as usual for the harbour with a Westerly Force 5 at our backs hoping to be able to dive on the protected east coast, or perhaps in one of the sheltered bays. Sadly we hadn't counted on the swell from the Southerly Force 6 overnight, and all the local bays were cauldrons, and we came back home again to consider our options and revisit the situation in a few hours time. Some of the group sat the day out, while others made a repeat trip in the afternoon to the southern end of Sark. While white horses were absent in open sea, the effect of a Force 3 in the areas of overfalls on the way to was impressive, and we encountered some patches of very large and confused waves which stretched boat handling and passenger skills. Longer journeys saw a late finish, returning to the accommodation after 20:00.

Fri 05 August 2011

The last day saw a single dive on the South Coast on a section of reef with a sheer wall running from about 20 to 40 metres. We had been advised that the visibility on the South Coast isn't generally as good as that in other areas, and so it proved to be. On return, then trailer was collected from its remote parking area, and the boat recovered. The rest of a hot afternoon was spent kit-washing and boat-cleaning. The day ended with an "end-of-term" meal in a restaurant in town.

Sat 06 August 2011

A late start saw a cooked breakfast prepare our divers for a day of cleaning, washing and packing ready for the trip home. The boat was eventually collected from the harbour, and we got in the queue to be loaded for the 17:30 ferry. A busy harbour in Jersey, and a queue of ships, saw us berth there two hours late, but we were assured that the time would be made up overnight. A last-minute cabin vacancy saw a bed for the night for some of the party.

Sun 07 August 2011

The ferry arrived at Portsmouth on time at 06:30, and a return to the New Forest to pick up a car was made while the rest of the party proceeded up the M3 and waited at Fleet Services. The Crawley divers departed, and the ULSAC members returned the boat to Kew, and the people ULU. Our 17 day trip was over.

A more informal account of the diary can be read on the ULSAC Blog (<http://blog.ulsac.net/?p=236>)

Expedition Weather

Day	Date	Pressure	Wind (mph)			Wind	Rain	Max	Ave
		(mb)	Mean	Max	Gust	Dir	(mm)	Temp	Humid
1	Fri 22 Jul 2011	1016.9	5.1	12.7	20.7	NE	0.2	19.4 °C	83%
2	Sat 23 Jul 2011	1016.4	6.5	13.8	20.7	NW	0.0	18.7 °C	80%
3	Sun 24 Jul 2011	1014.0	5.6	12.7	20.7	W	0.0	19.0 °C	84%
4	Mon 25 Jul 2011	1010.9	4.7	11.5	16.1	WNW	0.0	22.2 °C	85%
5	Tue 26 Jul 2011	1015.1	4.2	11.5	15.0	NNE	0.0	21.1 °C	80%
6	Wed 27 Jul 2011	1020.6	2.1	8.1	11.5	NW	0.0	22.8 °C	77%
7	Thu 28 Jul 2011	1022.6	1.8	5.8	8.1	ENE	0.0	23.7 °C	77%
8	Fri 29 Jul 2011	1022.3	2.1	9.2	12.7	E	0.0	24.0 °C	83%
9	Sat 30 Jul 2011	1020.9	3.0	6.9	11.5	E	0.0	22.5 °C	83%
10	Sun 31 Jul 2011	1015.6	3.3	11.5	18.4	S	0.0	23.2 °C	84%
11	Mon 01 Aug 2011	1013.1	1.8	6.9	11.5	NNW	0.0	22.4 °C	84%
12	Tue 02 Aug 2011	1013.7	3.2	11.5	15.9	NE	0.0	22.3 °C	85%
13	Wed 03 Aug 2011	1015.8	4.6	12.7	19.6	WSW	0.0	22.4 °C	79%
14	Thu 04 Aug 2011	1012.3	8.6	17.3	29.9	SW	23.0	19.7 °C	89%
15	Fri 05 Aug 2011	1013.1	2.8	9.2	13.8	NW	0.0	21.3 °C	81%
16	Sat 06 Aug 2011	1006.2	4.4	12.7	20.7	W	0.0	18.4 °C	84%
17	Sun 07 Aug 2011	1005.2	7.9	16.1	28.8	WSW	5.4	20.2 °C	80%

Water temperature was 16 °C throughout the expedition

Expedition Dive Sites

Wreck Dives

Site	Name
01	Oost Vlaanderen, Guernsey
02	Dr Rudolf Warhendorf, Guernsey
03	MV Captain Niko, Guernsey
04	Foreland, Guernsey
05	SS Brighton, Guernsey

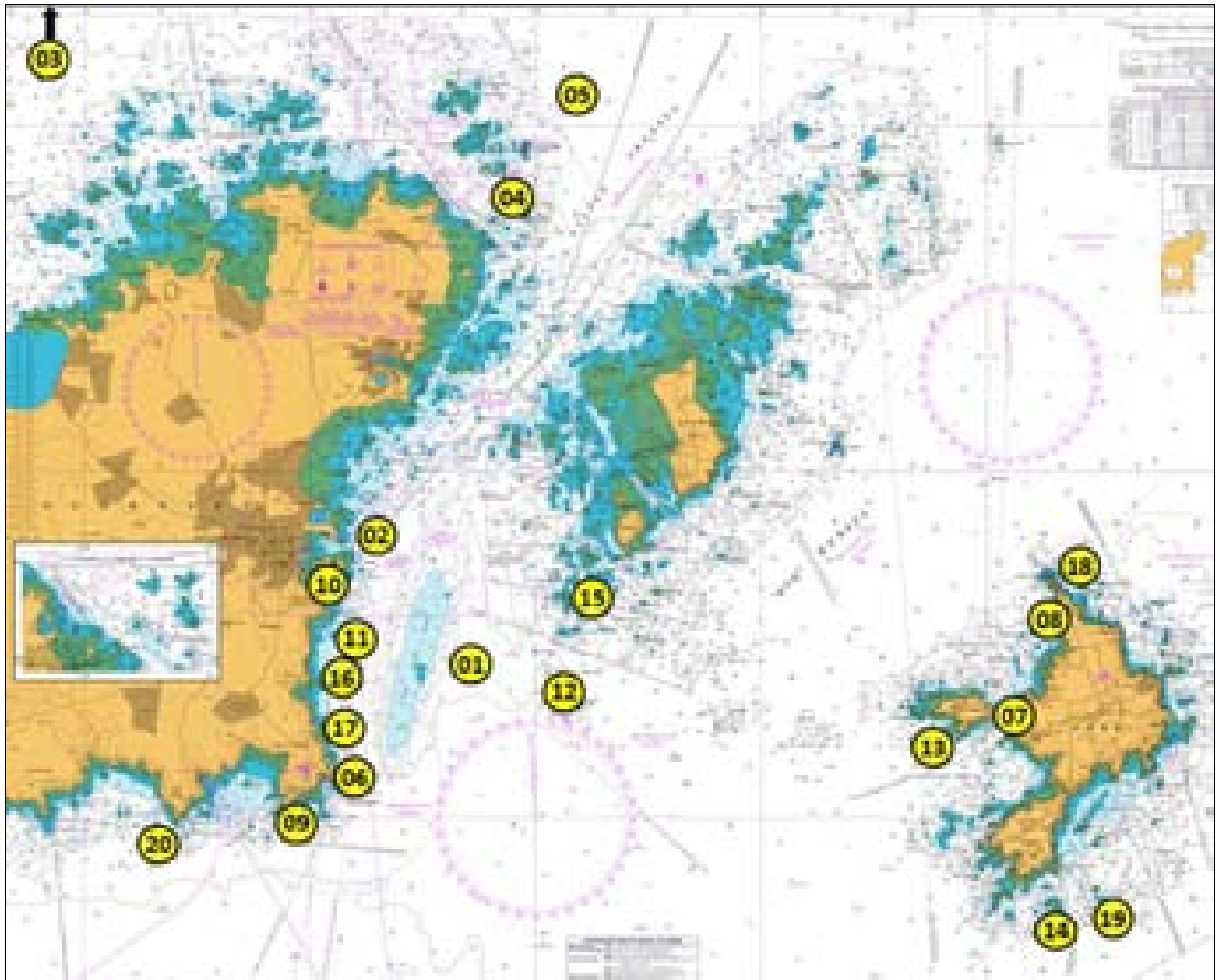
Reef Dives

Site	Name
06	Longue Pierre, Guernsey
07	Gouliot Caves, Sark
08	Guillaumesse, Sark
09	Grunes de Jerbourg, Guernsey
10	Havelet Bay, Guernsey
11	Anfre, Guernsey
12	Lower Heads, Herm
13	Les Dents, Brecqhou
14	L'Etac, Sark
15	Parfonde, Herm
16	Banquiers de Fermain, Guernsey
17	Gabrielle Rock, Guernsey
18	Sardriere, Sark
19	Les Vingt Clos, Little Sark
20	Baleine Rock, Guernsey

Sites Not Dived

Site	Name
21	Summary of Sites Not Dived

Overview



General slack water information for the area

The East Coast of Guernsey is slack roughly around LW

The South Coast of Guernsey (6nm long):

- St Martin's point in the East is slack 1hr after HW
- Moving from East to West along the South Coast slack progresses towards LW with sites such as Boue Baker and Boue Phillips being slack around LW.

A rough guide to diving around Sark (3nm long), especially on springs, follows the rule:

- North is slack at HW
- Middle is slack at half tide
- South is slack at LW

General Notes

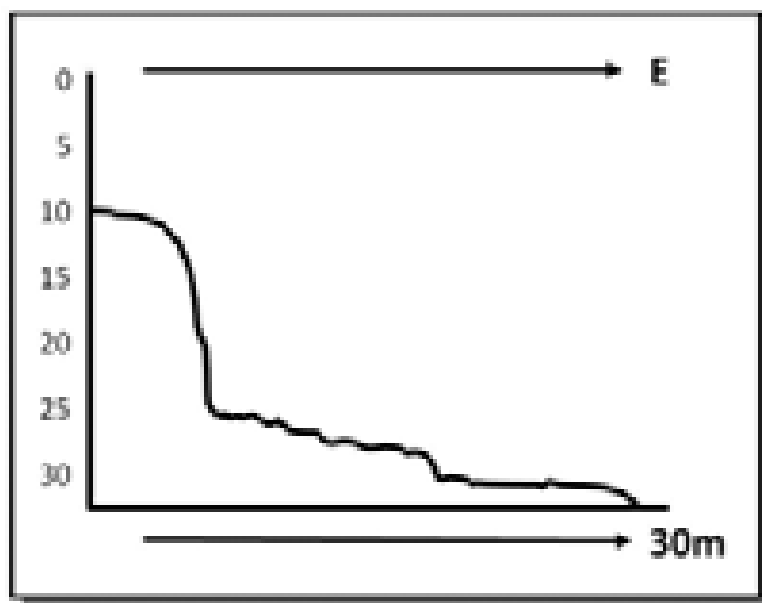
Notes

With a Mean Spring Tidal Range at St Peter Port of 7.9 metres, it is very difficult to try and describe any particular site in specific terms of depth.

The various tidal zones in Guernsey, seem to be more clearly defined than in other areas with smaller tidal ranges. Even at low water springs there appears to be only a small amount of kelp visible, but due to the large tidal range, this band of kelp only persists to a certain depth due probably to the limited penetration of sunlight during periods of higher tides. Seemingly, kelp persisted only in a narrow band between about 5m and 15m depth, on average, at most dive sites. When dive reports refer to depth, please keep this in mind.

Example Site Profile

Many dive sites involved a reef-top at a certain depth, followed by a drop-off, or wall, to a certain depth, which then arrested, and cascaded into deeper water, but at a much more shallow rate. An illustrative site profile appears below.



This profile is generally typical of the diving encountered, in that there was a variable depth to be descended initially at the start of the dive, following which one needed to swim in a given direction for a short period, depending on the skill of your cox'n, before encountering the edge of a wall, which usually ran to both the left and the right, for you to choose one according to the current running at the time.

We could have included a chart similar to the one above for each reef dive that we did, but they would have all been remarkably identical. Fine discrimination is, unusually, contained in the written, rather than graphical, descriptions of the sites involved, if at all. Please read the accounts closely.

When starting a dive, reefs will be either exposed or submerged. When diving submerged reefs, we chose not to put in a shotline where the initial depth was less than 15m, which was most cases. While simpler, this does require the divers to be able to make a expeditious free descent once dropped into the water. In the descriptions on the following pages, we have attempted to identify which type of reef each dive was.

Photos

If you wish to see any photograph in more detail, then a Picasa Web Album containing all of these photographs can be found at [Mark Mumford's Guernsey 2011 Photos](https://picasaweb.google.com/105848035338489486399/MarkMumfordSGuernsey2011Photos?authkey=Gv1sRgCOParNrc45ml8QE) or see the link at bottom of page¹.

¹ <https://picasaweb.google.com/105848035338489486399/MarkMumfordSGuernsey2011Photos?authkey=Gv1sRgCOParNrc45ml8QE>

Site 01

Name	Oost Vlaanderen, Guernsey
Type	Wreck
Co-ordinates	49° 26.346' N 002° 29.863' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 02h 30m hours after HW or LW St Peter Port Around 30 mins slack on Springs, 60 to 90 minutes on Neaps We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 02h 55m We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 02h 20m

Site Overview



Marked By Wreck, swept by wire, 16.5m, as shown.

Additional Info *From UKHO, via The Wrecksite*

Date sunk: 25 May 1943

Bombed and sunk by RAF during German occupation.

Length: 45m, Beam:8m, Tonnage: 421

Upright and Intact, Orientation: approx 090°

Notes

This is a gentle wreck just 1.3Nm outside St Peter Port harbour. Locally known as the "Cement Wreck", it is an intact, compact, 421 ton cargo ship carrying guns and supplies to occupied Guernsey during World War 2.

"Descending the shotline the conditions were very clear and the sunlight illuminated our way to the wreck. Reaching 20m I could see divers on the wreck below us already! The wreck was really lovely, quite small, only about 45m in length but full of marine life including huge shoals of bib and pollock and 4 massive congers. We drifted around the wreck at a leisurely pace enjoying the viz and the warmth (15 degrees at 30m) until it was time to come up. Dives in Guernsey are pretty short due to the intense tides and currents that hit the islands but what they bring is well worth seeing even if only for a short time."

"Moving from bow to stern the most noticeable thing about the wreck was the sheer number of fish. The wreck was absolutely covered in them and shining a torch inside the hull through one of the large openings on the deck revealed even more below. There are also plenty of smaller openings where you'll find congas, fish and lots of smaller life-forms to investigate. The wreck is small so it's worth taking your time moving along it - you'll still see it all, but it's a fantastic way to start a trip."

Site 02

Name	Dr Rudolf Warhendorf, Guernsey
Type	Wreck
Co-ordinates	49° 27.382' N 002° 31.050' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 01h 00m after HW or LW St Peter Port Around 30 mins slack on Springs, 60 to 90 minutes on Neaps We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 01h 18m We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 00h 24m

Site Overview



Marked By	Wreck, swept by wire, 15.4m, as shown.
Additional Info	From UKHO, via The Wrecksite Date sunk: 24 Jun 1944 Length: 52m, Tonnage: 381 Upright and intact, Orientation: approx 270°

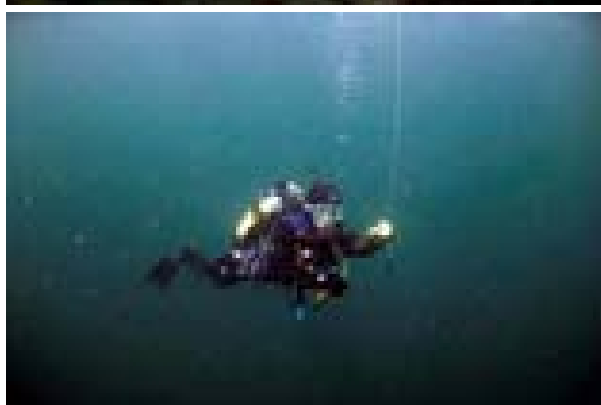
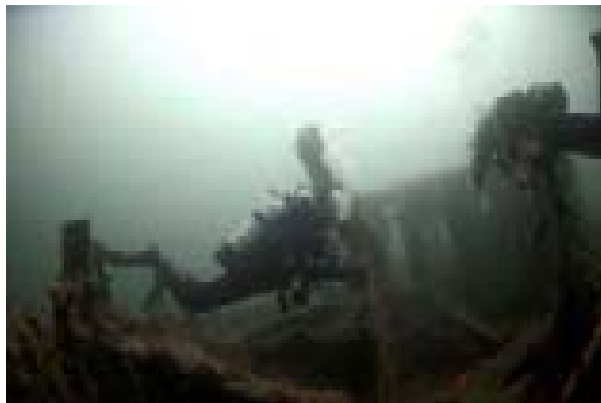
Notes	<p>The Dr Rudolph Wahrendorf (V209) was delivering war supplies to the islands before being sunk by British bombers in the Second World War. As it is so close to the entrance to St. Peter Port harbour, this wreck needs permission from the Harbourmaster to dive</p> <p>Beware of periods of apparent slack, as the seabed features in the area can mean that, at times, there is no current running on the surface, while there continues to be a significant current at 20m or more. Local knowledge is essential when diving in Guernsey waters.</p> <p>"An excellent wreck – many congers were seen. Also discovered was the largest lobster ever seen by some of the party."</p> <p>"This was a lovely wreck, though in our case we spent too long visiting the stern to make it to the bow (slack tide windows being pretty narrow round here). Coming down onto the stern, which sits vertically on the sea-bed, we were immediately rewarded with a fun little swim-through between the rudder and the body of the ship. Making our way then onto the deck and exploring its wreckage delivered in the form of two congas and a small lobster. Some say the lobster's enormous cousin was also lurking around the ship, I guess it must have been at the bow."</p> <p>"My second dive on this wreck, however, revealed how deceptive currents can be. A slight surface current tugging gently on the marker buoy revealed itself as something of a ripper at greater depths. It was just about possible to fin against it, but you wouldn't want to given the choice, so most of this dive was spent holding on and looking around.</p>
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Plenty of fish to keep us entertained though, and a couple of more congers. Beware tide tables. Use local knowledge."

Further reading Diver Wreck Tour No 127, published August 2007

http://www.divernet.com/Wrecks/wreck_tours/302309/wrecktour127_the_wahrendorf_v209.html

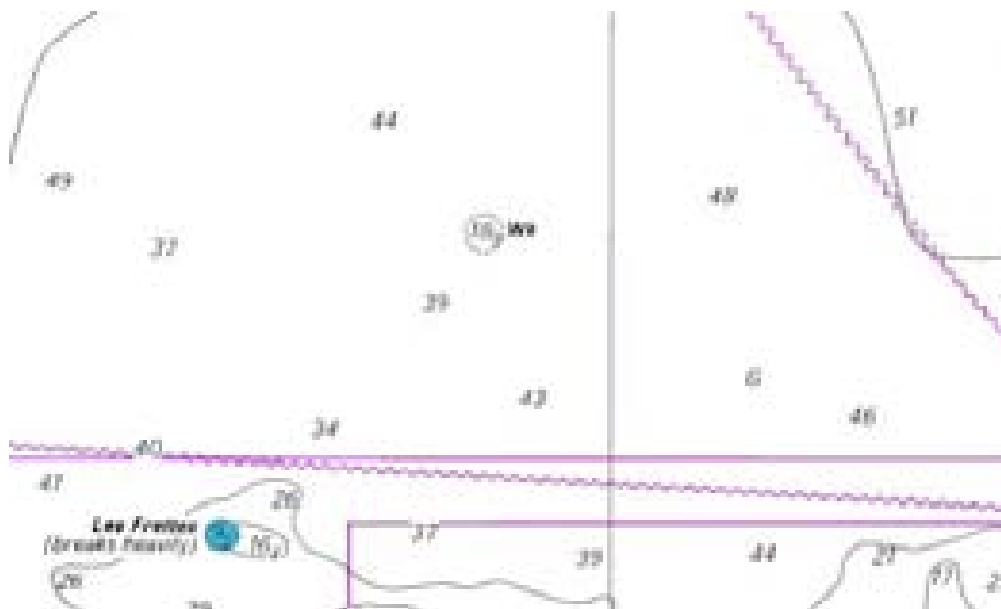
Photos



Site 03

Name MV Captain Niko, Guernsey
Type Wreck
Co-ordinates 49° 32.729' N 002° 35.539' W
When to dive Neaps and Springs: 02h 30m hours after HW or LW St Peter Port
 We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 02h 43m

Site Overview



Marked By Wreck, as shown, 18.9m

Additional Info From UKHO, via The Wrecksite

Date sunk: 05 May 1973

Length: 140m, Beam: 17m, Tonnage: 6,680

Broken up. Orientation: approx 300°.

Notes

This wreck is 10 miles from St Peter Port, and 4 miles offshore in a very exposed position. It also sits on a rocky bottom so can be dark.

The Captain Niko was a 6,680 ton cargo ship built in Belgium in 1948. In 1973, she was caught in gale-force weather while heading to Guernsey, losing one man and the ship's precious cargo of Ammonium Sulphate.

"I was only down there for about 15 minutes bottom time, but it was awesome. The main thing I remember was a colossal hull curving up on either side of us, with assorted wreckage at the bottom tragically out of my depth experience. However, the depth did little to diminish the great visibility that had characterised my experiences of the local diving so far, so I could nevertheless appreciate these out-of-reach areas (visibility was around 8-10m at the time). We swam to a huge structure which could have been a house to my untrained eye, but which my buddy recognised as the (spare?) anchor. The wreck's structures are sufficiently intact to be identifiable by anyone with a more developed appreciation of ship parts than myself, but an overall shape was nevertheless both obvious and impressive. The site did not distinguish itself through its abundance of fish, though we did see several schools, including one which neither myself nor my buddy recognised. The good visibility, elegance of the wreck and little or no current that we faced made the dive both beautiful and relaxing as we gently finned between the large chunks of ship that were proud of the wreckage by at least 5m, if not more. An excellent first experience of 40m diving."

"Descending down the shot line somewhere near amidships the Captain Niko appears as a large flat reef at about 35m, which more resembles a huge ledge as you get to it. Our shot was off the port side and this ledge turned out to be the

massive side of the ship. Once the lifting bag was attached at that point we went over the 'drop off' and into the wreck. The bottom of the ship is at about 45m and here a few crabs and lobsters were going about their business. To our right, and out of the distance loomed a huge structure which became evident was the beginnings of the super structure with clear doorways and hold access, lying at an angle of about 30 degrees. Slightly disorientated (and a little narked) we swam away from this and fortunately so, as from out of the distance appeared a perfectly intact bow section lying at right angles and partly within the ship. I suspect that the ship went down nose first and the bow broke off and landed starboard side down. It is still perfectly intact with all its anchor gearing, rails, masts, and is home to a few conger eels. I dare say the anchor wouldn't be hard to find but this was the end of our dive and after a brief circle 5m above of the area we sent up our DSMB and ascended. A fairly comfortable 20 minutes of deco was also enjoyed by a passing jelly fish. My lasting impression of this wreck is one of majesty and that it needs another couple of dives!"

Photos

None taken

Site 04

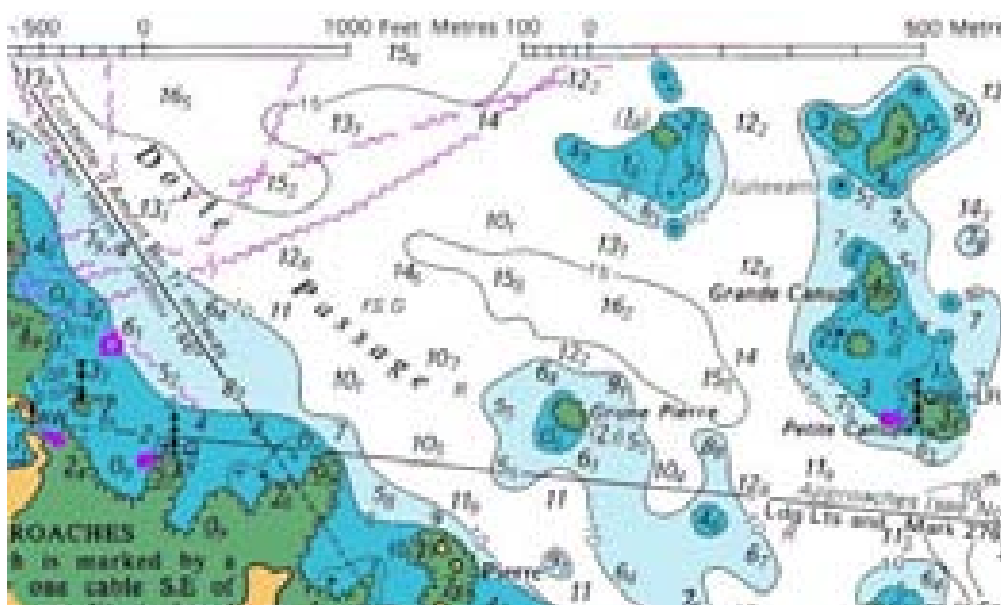
Name Forland, Guernsey

Type Wreck

Co-ordinates 49° 30.386' N 002° 29.215' W

When to dive Neaps: Half Tide
Springs: LW St Peter Port
"Subject to anomalous currents"
We dived at HW St Peter Port minus 02h 43m in around 0.5kt of current

Site Overview

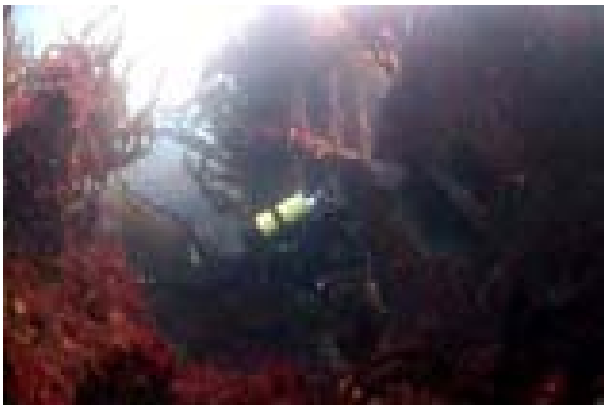
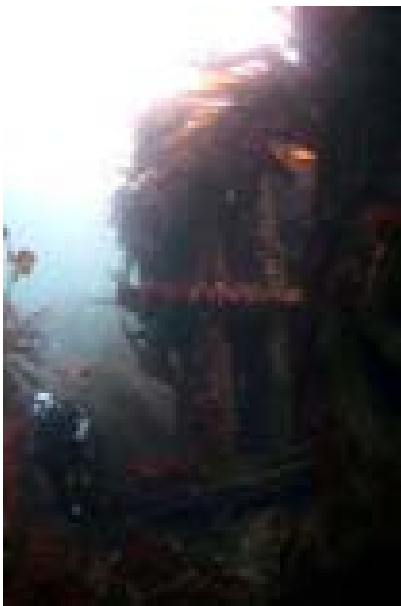


Marked By Not shown on chart.

Additional Info No significant details held by UKHO, who suggest that she was a collier.
Very broken, boiler and bow identifiable. Orientation: approx 180°

Notes "Our second dive of the day was to search for a mysterious beast lying northeast-southwest, appearing non-existent on the echo-sounder. We put our faith in the trusted in the locally supplied GPS co-ordinates and the inbuilt abilities of the cox'n in the shot-dropping department. We swam down another frighteningly horizontal shot line and found a hull and boiler nobody expected to find, sadly lacking in congers – no doubt they have the sense not to mess around in these currents. Turns out the Foreland was upside down and had smashed itself to pieces on the rock. "Funny that, given the current," quoted one diver. However, a large section of the bow is still intact upturned forever flashing its keel to the surface, inviting divers to penetrate it. The more rusty of our number managed to pick out the finer details of this wreck and differentiate between a kelp-covered rock and a kelp-covered bit of metal. A very satisfying exploratory dive where we all felt like true pioneers. The moral of the story, given the absurd and unpredictable currents, is that you cannot necessarily trust the charts, the tides or the crusty old men with their wizened advice, and good local knowledge, again, is the key."

Photos



Site 05

Name SS Brighton, Guernsey
Type Wreck
Co-ordinates 49° 31.293' N 002° 28.636' W
When to dive Neaps and Springs: 02h 00m before LW St Peter Port
 We dived at LW St Peter Port minus 02h 13m

Site Overview



Marked By None - very approx position shown on Site Overview above as red spot

Additional Info *From UKHO, via The Wrecksite*

Date sunk: 29 Jan 1887

Tonnage: 136

Upright and partly intact, but sunk into white sandy bottom.

Notes

The PSS Brighton was built in 1857 and owned by the Weymouth and Channel Islands Company. On the night of the 28th January 1887 she had left Weymouth in terrible visibility. She struck Brayes reef in the early hours of 29th January severely holing her bow. Fortunately the ship's full complement of crew and passengers totalling nearly 50 were able to escape onto life boats. Today she lies upright in around 45m of water on a sandy seabed.

On the day we dived her conditions in the days prior had been calm so we expected visibility to be fairly good. As I descended the shot-line and approached the wreck the first thing I noticed was that the seabed seemed to be moving. As I got nearer it became clear that the moving seabed was in fact a very dense and large shoal of bib entirely obscuring the wreck. As we approached and they moved away the unmistakable shape of a paddle steamer wheel came into view. After over a century underwater all the wood had eroded however the metal frame was clearly visible. After a minute or so of inspecting the first wheel we proceeded to the middle of the wreck and saw that the second wheel was also visible which was great as we had been told that this one tends to cover and uncover with the shifting sands around the wreck.

We headed down the centre-line of the wreck. We weren't sure whether we were heading towards the bow or the stern as the wheels are right in the middle and there weren't that many identifiable features left. Still, we had plenty to explore and the abundance of fish and other life such as lobsters and conger eels made this a very interesting dive. Sadly at this depth on air bottom time is not long so after 20mins or so we started our ascent, it would be another 30mins before we reached the

surface.

It certainly is a long way to go for a relatively flat and broken up wreck but the opportunity to dive something which sank in the 19th century and as unique as a paddle steamer plus the sheer volume of life make this a worthwhile dive. It is worth diving this on a spring tide to try and get a slightly lower low water.

Further reading Board of Trade Wreck Report for 'Brighton', 1887
<http://www.plimsoll.org/resources/SCCLibraries/WreckReports/15295.asp>

Photos None taken

Site 06

Name Longue Pierre, Guernsey

Type Exposed Reef with Beacon

Co-ordinates 49° 25.352' N 002° 31.447' W

When to dive Neaps and Springs: 01h 30m after LW St Peter Port
We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 01h 50m !

Site Overview



Marked By Beacon (always visible) on drying rock

Notes

A really nice scenic dive with really fun (and somewhat confusing) topography. The landscape was streaked with gullies, alternated with the occasional sandy bottom, which would somehow turn into what looked like an abyss between another couple of gullies, followed by more sandy bottom. Most perplexing. The current in general was not particularly strong, but it did pick up a bit in the gullies.

"This was my first scenic dive in Guernsey, and I have to say I was mightily impressed (though I wouldn't swear that some of the ones we did in the following days weren't nicer). There was plenty of life and the rocks were covered in jewel anemones. Although such richness turned out to be the norm for scenic dives in this area, I think what really made this one was the landscape, which made the dive interesting as well as beautiful."

"This was the first scenic wall site visited on the expedition (Dive 2, Day 1), so anticipation was high to discover if the stories about the quality of the scenic diving in the area was true. The reef itself consists of one large rock to the east of two much smaller rocks, all of which uncover at low tide. The large rock is marked by a yellow special mark with the letters "LP" at the top. At the time of diving the tide was falling and the rock at the base of the beacon was uncovering. We were dropped in on the west side of the beacon as close as the cox'n dared to get to it which turned out to be around 10m from it. We then did a free water descent to meet the reef at around 10m.

My buddy and I decided to head due east to try and find a deeper section of the reef and ultimately the wall which the charts indicated would fall away relatively steeply to sub-40m. The scenery at this initial part of the dive was small boulders with kelp covering the upper surface. It was difficult to see anything past the kelp-line so we didn't spend too long investigating this area. After a few minutes (and having descended another few metres) we came across a much larger boulder in our path at which point we decided to turn right to head in a more south-westerly direction along the reef. This is the point of the dive where the topography became very much


more interesting.

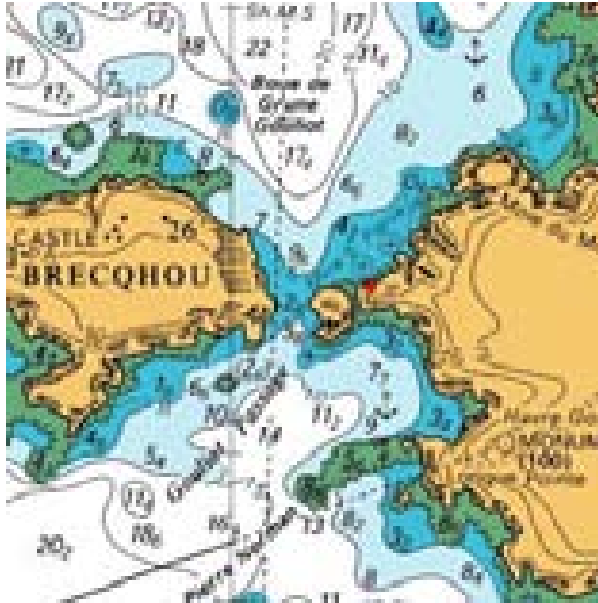
We soon found ourselves swimming in narrow channels between rock faces with the bottom disappearing into an inky blackness. We did not venture particularly deep on this dive but I would estimate that the wall stretched to well below 30m. The wall itself had a significant amount of jewel anemones, dead men's fingers and pink sea-fans growing on it. The life was not prolific but certainly plentiful enough to make for a very pretty dive. Every now and then we would come to the top of one of the large pinnacles which would gently slope upwards towards the surface in the form of wide sandy gullies flanked by rocky boulders. It was in one of these gullies that we deployed our DSMB and ascended."

Additional Info

Photos None taken

Site 07

Name	Gouliot Caves, Guernsey		
Type	Open Caves		
Co-ordinates	49° 25.928' N	002° 22.726' W	
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 02h 10m after HW St Peter Port		
Site Overview			



Marked By
Diagrams

None - approx position show on extract above as small red spot



A more detailed sketch can be found in the Seasearch Sark Survey 2008 which can be read at <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf>. This

suggests that there is a second entrance to the west of the first one, and sort of underneath the "E" of "Entry".

Notes

"The sponge cave is almost totally dark, and a torch is required for the passage through it. Once in the jewel cave, the cave is well lit by sunlight from a large entrance above and to the south. Much of the jewel cave is open to the air, as I expect parts of the sponge cave are. As this can only be dived at half-tide, and as it dries completely on low spring tides, then expect to get about 5m depth.

Arriving at the coordinates we began looking for possible cave entrances, and resorted to sending in snorkelers to search below the surface in the most likely places, but as the tide dropped, the top of the cave entrance revealed itself.

We were quickly into the water but had to contend with the strong and differing currents in the various parts of the cave. Watching divers pulling themselves along the floor can be surprisingly entertaining.

Luckily, the strenuous activity paid off with a staggering array of coloured jewel anemones and even with a relatively short time inside the cave, everyone agreed it was a beautiful dive."

On the second time we dived this, a massed deployment of 6 divers entered bang on time and made their way to cave entrance and even with a bit of a current making the entry to the cave a bit of a crawl we were blessed with the most beautiful dive of the holiday so far. A few minutes after arriving at the part of the cave we were aiming for the current disappeared and we spent the best part of 30 minutes floating motionless among the most beautiful anemones I have ever seen. At pretty much the same time as the photographers finished photographing every tentacle, the tide turned and we were gently ushered out of the cave exit passing, according to only one diver, a large conger.

"It was a bit of a challenge to move through the first section of the tunnel, as the tide was against us. It was lovely seeing all the divers with their torches lighting up the soft corals on the walls of the tunnel. We made our way slowly through to the open middle section of the cave where jewel anemones with stunning and varied colours graced the sun-dappled walls. I saw other divers looking in a crevice at several velvet swimming crabs and blennies."

Additional Info

Diving on slack is essential. Slack timing means that there will be a slight current against you as you enter the cave. This will then will go slack once in the cave, to allow full slack window to be spent in the caves

Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf>:

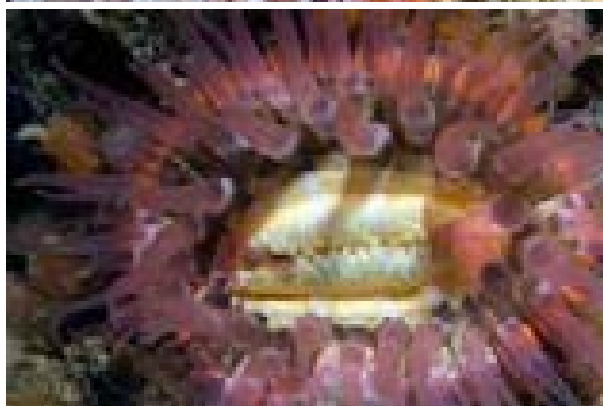
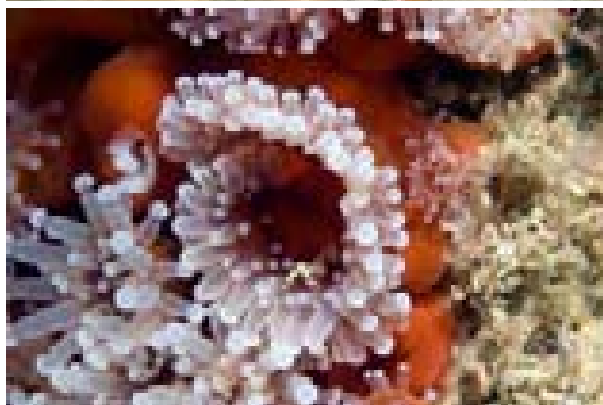
The Gouliot Caves are a littoral and sublittoral fringe cave system running through the Moie de Gouliot headland opposite Brecqhou. There are accelerated tidal streams through the Gouliot Passage and therefore strong tidal currents through the caves. The site is normally dived from the north side to the south at slack water, emerging in Havre Gosselin on the south side of the headland.

The northern entrance leads to a completely submerged and enclosed cave which is totally dark. In the centre of the cave system there is a blind cave to the north-east which leads above the surface and an open area with patches of light from cracks above. The cave is about 5m wide at this point. To the south it narrows again but there is some light from above. The walls and cave roof are of rock whilst the cave floor is of cobbles and pebbles.

What makes the Gouliot caves unusual is the sheer density of hydroids and anemones, made possible by the tidal streams bringing copious amounts of food with each change in the tide.

This is one of the five sites in the Channel Islands that The Marine Conservation Society has recommended as a protected site. For more information see <http://www.yourseasyourvoice.com/>

Photos

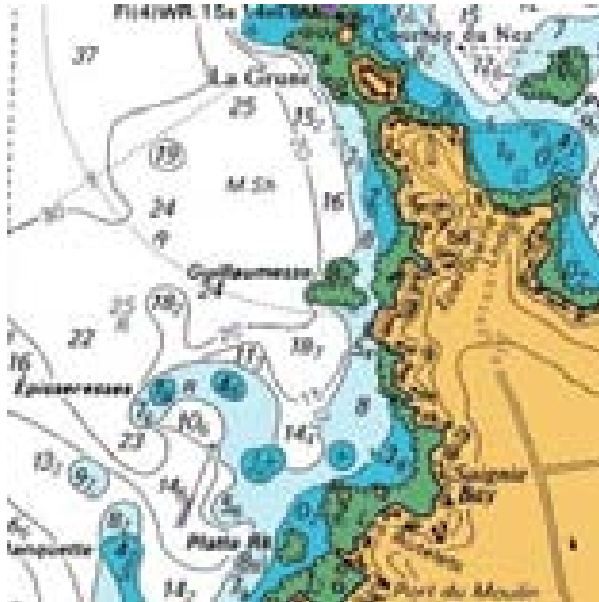


And many others - see the Expedition Photograph Album

Site 08

Name	Guillaumesse, Sark
Type	Exposed Reef which is covered at MHWS
Co-ordinates	49° 26.767' N 002° 22.179' W
When to dive	Half tide down to half tide up Fairly sheltered from both NE and SW flowing tides, but slack ideal. We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 01h 50m

Site Overview



Marked By Drying (8.1m) reef

Notes Site should be visible above water at all but the highest tides. Start the dive by dropping divers in on North-West (sheltered) edge and allow them to dive to the north and west as desired. Stay reasonable close to the pinnacle, as the seabed further away is fairly homogeneous. There is a lot of life in the shallow overhangs, but make sure that you bring a light source with you.

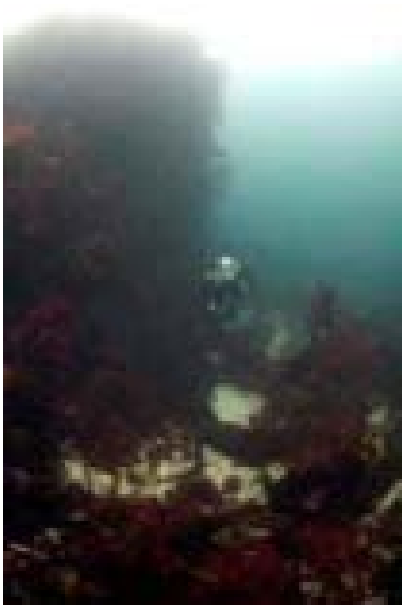
"As a small rock, which breaks the surface at low-water, this made it very easy to find. We dropped in on the north face of the rock and headed down past the kelp line to around 20m. Initially thinking we would spend the time diving through kelp, once below this magical seaweed we were treated to a landscape of outstanding beauty and diversity. This included lobsters (of course), rock faces covered with millions (not an exaggeration) of jewel anemones – too many colours to describe, 20 cuckoo wrasse, many many large pink sea-fans and attached to these we were lucky enough to see 3 gestating mermaids purses. One pair also managed to find a living Ormer (a type of Abalone only found in the Channel Islands) – very cool. All in all a swell [as in 'nifty'] dive."

Additional Info Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf>:

Guillaumesse is rock which reaches the surface on the north-west side of Sark. The outer, western, face of the rock drops steeply initially and then continues as a slope of huge boulders. The seabed levels somewhat at 15m bcd and continues as a gentle slope of mixed sized boulders. The inner side of the rock is much shallower.

This is one of the five sites in the Channel Islands that The Marine Conservation Society has recommended as a protected site. For more information see <http://www.yourseasyourvoice.com/>

Photos



Site 09

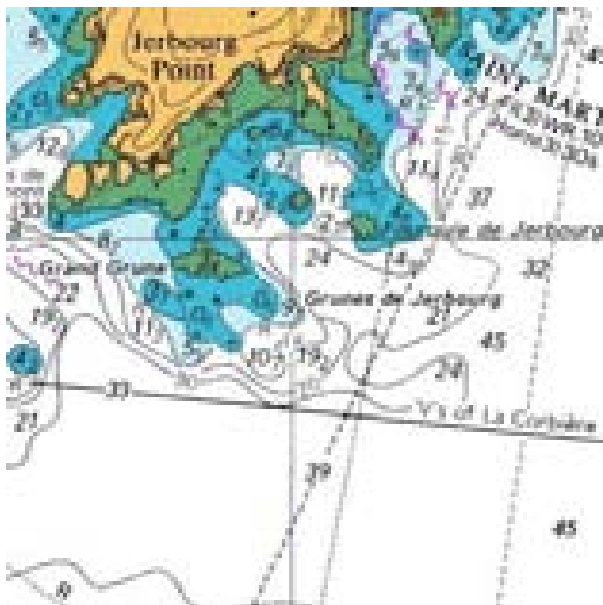
Name Grunes de Jerbourg, Guernsey

Type Submerged Reef

Co-ordinates 49° 24.850' N 002° 32.075' W

When to dive Neaps and Springs: 01h 00m after HW St Peter Port
We dived at LW St Peter Port minus 00h 20m finding no significant current.

Site Overview



Marked By We dived approximately in the area showing 10.7 in centre of extract.
Alternate spots might be between the 5.5 and the 30 contour slightly to the East, or on the 9.1 point just next to the "G" of Grunes de Jerbourg.

Notes Start the dive by dropping divers in on your selected co-ordinates, having provided them with the direction of deep water. Gently descending rocky seascape with small walls of between 2 and 4 metres to be easily found.

"Our dive started in about 18m of water on a rocky and slightly kelpy bottom with gullies and ridges running apparently to the NW/SE. After shelving for a while, the depth increased gradually until the kelp petered out and we found a series of mini-walls at about 22m. There was clearly a lot more silt in the water than some of the other dives we had done up to that point, and this we were informed that this is quite typical of the south coast of Guernsey. All-in-all quite a lot to see, but beware that there are some quite extensive flat areas that are probably best avoiding, so a small shot put in at a carefully selected spot would be the best way to dive this."

Additional Info

Photos None taken

Site 10

Name	Havelet Bay, Guernsey
Type	Exposed Reef with Beacons at entrance / Shore dive from slipway or South Beach
Co-ordinates	49° 27.000' N 002° 31.500' W
When to dive	Any time, but best near HW St Peter We dived at HW St Peter Port minus 01h 03m We dived at HW St Peter Port minus 00h 43m

Site Overview



Marked By None - co-ordinates are a 10m contour point between Oyster Rock and Moulinet.

Notes

Our dive dropped one pair of divers slightly to the south of the Oyster Rock beacon, and another pair slightly to the north of the Moulinet beacon.

"Our mission was a reconnaissance for the potential for macro photography later on in the expedition. Steve & Jenny Powell's article in UWP3 (see Expedition Planning Resources) has suggested that this was a prime site for the Snakelocks shrimp (*Periclimenes Sagittifer*), which has only been observed in the Channel Islands and Swanage, and this was an opportunity to see if any could be found. Starting at the Moulinet Beacon we descended the rock slop and settled on a sand / gravelly / slight silty bottom, and after swimming around the rock to the left for a short while, headed off west across the bay to see what we could find. While there was plentiful small life, there weren't any Snakelocks anemones to be seen, and so after about 15 minutes, we returned to Moulinet and went over it in a south-westerly direction. Only during this last part of the dive did we see a small number of Snakelocks anemones, none containing any shrimps.

Around the base of Moulinet, in the area where 4₃ is written, we came across a fairly large bed of eelgrass *Zostera marina*, a type of seagrass, the only marine flowering plants.. Eelgrass beds are commonly threatened by coastal development and moorings and are a Biodiversity Action Plan habitat in the UK according to Seasearch."

"Havelet bay sits just south of St Peter Port and Castle Cornet. It's shallow and there is enough boat traffic that use of a fixed SMB is required. We were dropped just south of the Oyster Rock beacon and moved west towards the bay with a request to look out for snake-lock anemones containing shrimp. Unfortunately, we weren't successful in that respect but the dive was pleasant enough, moving around and over a small reef before coming off it and heading north-west. The surrounding area is covered in small rocks under which sit an array of life - one excited diver for an instant thought he'd found a black-faced blenny until closer inspection revealed otherwise. The area certainly doesn't make for a challenging dive but would be ideal for a very gentle introduction to open water or warming up for people who've been away from the water for a while."

A separate dive was had from the slipway to the west of Castle Cornet on a different day. Access to the water is generally easy here, but even slight wave actions are amplified into a surge along the wall and up the slipway, and careful consideration of the conditions should be made. This slipway is popular with light traffic that doesn't want to negotiate a busy harbour mouth.

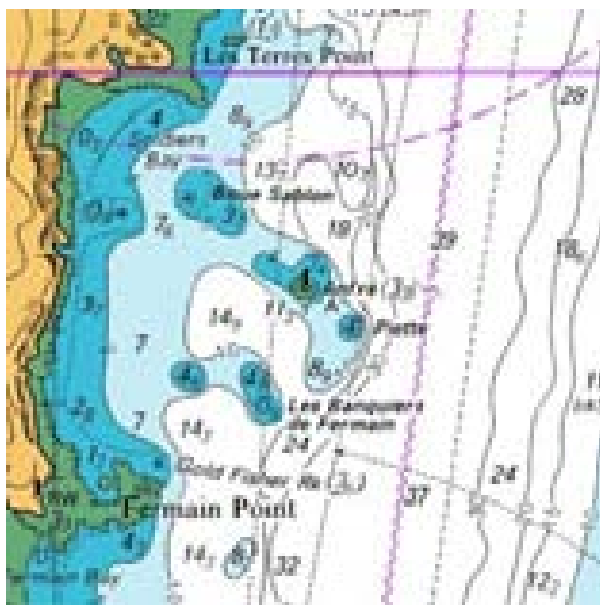
Additional Info

Photos None taken

Site 11

Name	Anfré, Guernsey
Type	Exposed Reef with Beacon
Co-ordinates	49° 26.450' N 002° 31.480' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 01h 30m after LW St Peter Port As a pinnacle, theoretically there should be some protection from currents at any state of the tide. We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 03h 28m just after neaps and had a manageable dive.

Site Overview



Marked By	Beacon (always visible) on drying rock
Notes	As currents run generally north/south, protection is available in most circumstances. Beware of dropping divers too far to the east on a southerly current, as they will be swept into deeper water at moderate speed. Instruct them to try and keep to the 20m contour (plus whatever tide there may be).

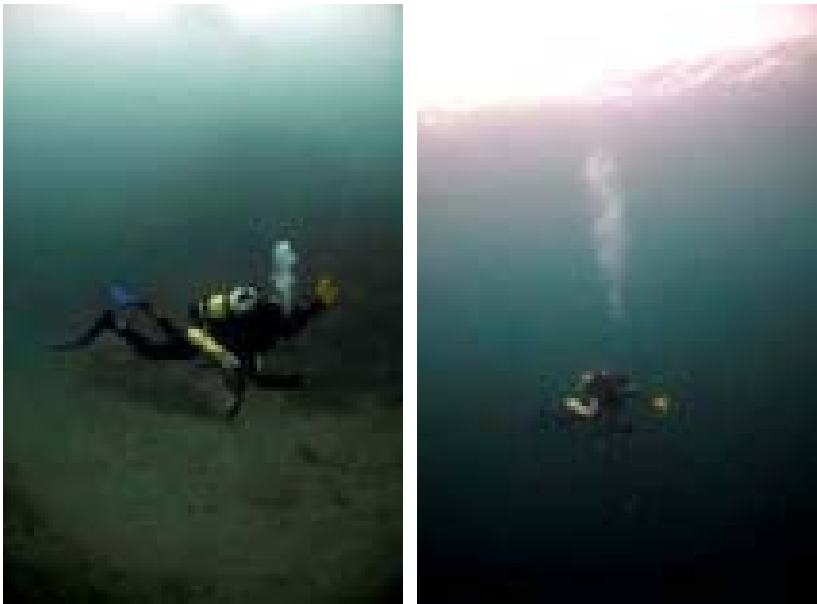
"The great thing about the currents in the Channel Islands is that they bring with them clear water. In the morning we dived a reef called Anfre. Dropping onto the reef to start our drift it was pleasant but wouldn't be described as brilliant. However, after 5 minutes or so the current took us down to between 30 and 35m to a sheer wall. It was absolutely covered with jewel and bead anemones, pink fan corals, dead men's fingers and many more forms of coral and sponge life that I have yet to have the opportunity to look up and identify. We spent most of our drift dive staring absolutely gobsmacked at the beauty of this wall. Given it is less than a mile outside of St Peter Port Harbour it is with great jealousy that we dive this site knowing the 'locals' have it on their doorstep!"

"Diving as a second wave, we allowed ourselves to drift off the main Anfre pinnacle, and fairly quickly started to drift south and to the east into deeper water along deep rock gullies and ridges. We stopped a couple of times, but an SMB made this a short affair, and soon, despite swimming to the west, the bottom dropped away from us faster than we were prepared to follow, and our dive was over. Moral of the story - stick to the pinnacle you are meant to be diving".

Photo below illustrates.

Additional Info

Photos



Site 12

Name	Lower Heads, Herm
Type	Submerged Reef within 1m of surface at CD
Co-ordinates	49° 26.120' N 002° 28.520' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 01h 30m to 02h 00m after HW St Peter Port We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 01h 39m halfway between springs and neaps, encountering an almost imperceptible current running NW.

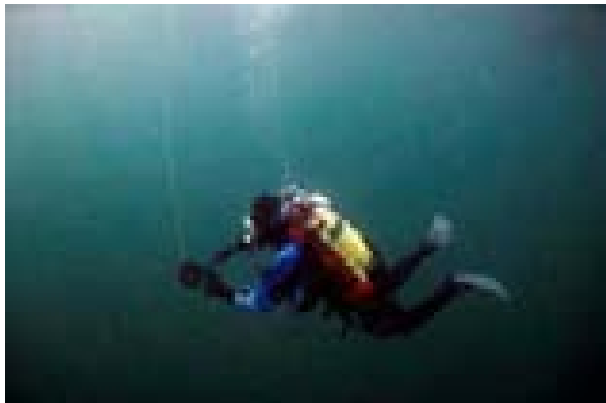
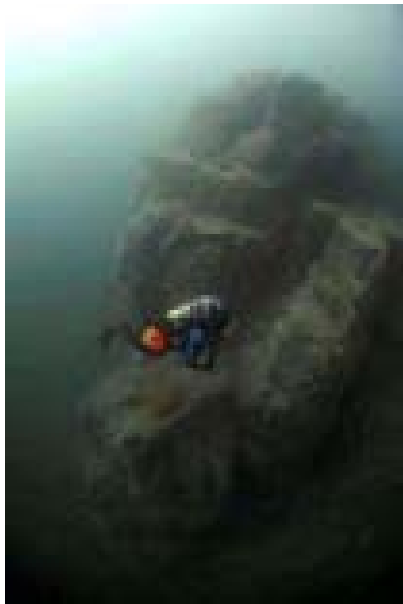
Site Overview



Marked By	We dived the wall edge on ENE, between 0.6m and 35m, and were oh-so-gently swept NW.
Notes	<p>"We headed over to the southern tip of Herm Island / Jethou to dive the Lower Heads reef. Yet again this scenic was absolutely stunning. Pink fan corals shared the dive site with various species of anemones, flat fish, lobsters and for the first time this trip, squat lobsters! "</p> <p>"This is an interesting dive site. You can take your pick between wall diving or valley diving, or have a mixture of both. There so much localised life going on that you could happily sit and watch a 'village' go about its business for your whole dive. The usual life was out to play but it really did have the feel of diving around a very large model village site. Pink and white fan corals sit happily as neighbours and male cuckoo wrasse urgently move you out of their patch. A very gentle speed will take your through various 'towns' and also through some spectacular 'country side' as well. This is a photographer's haven, or a place you're likely to find your 'zen' moment."</p>

Additional Info

Photos



Site 13

Name	Les Dents, Brecqhou
Type	Exposed Reef which is covered at MHWS, leaving one exposed "Dent".
Co-ordinates	49° 31.293' N 002° 28.636' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: Half tide down to 02hrs 00m after HW St Peter Port. Protected by Brecqhou from currents from the North-East. We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 04h 00m halfway between springs and neaps.

Site Overview



Marked By We dived the wall edge on the SW, between the drying area and 13.2.

Notes The morning dive took in the Les Dents, which translates into English as "The Teeth".

"A difficult site to navigate, but many interesting dives were had. At the most varied part of the area, the multiple gullies each acted as an individual wall covered in dead mens fingers and anenomes. One diver pair spent most of the dives exploring the boulders around the area rather than the reef itself, but very much enjoyed looking through the nooks and crannies. Some of the sports divers were on a quest for depth progression – this was achieved by reaching the base of the wall and then digging furiously."

"This is a lovely little reef which slopes down to a sea-bed littered with boulders in about 30m, while the top is sufficiently shallow to be crowned with a fine head of kelp. It isn't really worth looking for a depth progression beyond 30m as you'd need to swim a long way off the reef to find it, though if you do depart the reef the surrounding boulder fields offer a pleasant dive in themselves, providing a wealth of nooks and crannies to explore. There is life galore throughout the area, in the form of flora more than fauna. The reef itself is in parts composed of gullies which create a series of little walls on which can be found beautiful anemones and dead men's fingers. The kelp beds rise sufficiently high to provide entertainment all the way through a slow ascent."

"The reef is surrounded by gently-sloping boulder fields which are home to a huge number of crustaceans. We'd originally come looking for a 35m depth progression but with the tides as they were found we could get no deeper than 30m without swimming a long way off the reef. Instead we meandered back through the rocks, peeking underneath and find crabs, lobsters, fish and larger boulders covered in anemones. The reef itself is full of small gullies and lots of small wall areas which are covered in colourful anemones, making this an ideal dive for people happy to explore the smaller aspects of the underwater world."

Additional Info

Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf>:

Les Dents are a series of rocks and shallow reef lying south-west of Brecqhou. On the exposed southern side of the reef, the rock shelves gradually to 10m and then steeply to 17m followed by a flattish boulder slope. The site is moderately wave exposed and has moderate tidal streams.

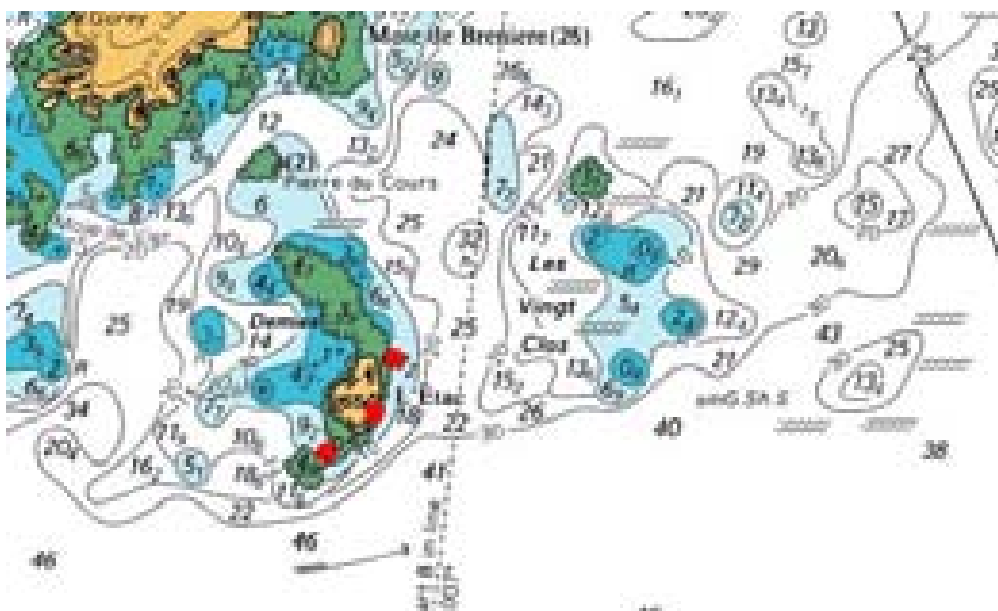
The steeply sloping and vertical wall facing southwards was dominated by sponges, with hydroids, spiral bryozoans, orange sea squirts, jewel anemones and red fingers. The site was notable for the diversity of sponges with 17 species recorded.

Photos

Site 14

Name	L'Étac, Sark
Type	Exposed Reef
Co-ordinates	49° 24.075' N 002° 22.000' W
When to dive	Neaps: Half tide down to half tide up. Springs: LW St Peter Port. We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 03h 16m close to spring-tides We had been advised that "The Gutter" was a good point to drop divers in when there was a SW to NE current running (which there wasn't!).. We noted that a local hardboat dropped a group of divers in at point (1) at about the same time we dropped divers in at point (2).

Site Overview



Marked By	Three points marked on Site Overview as red spots. (1) North: Drop point (in SW flowing current) for our final pair. (2) Middle: Drop point for 3 of our 4 pairs. (3) South: "The Gutter" - advised drop-off point on NE flowing currents
Notes	On NE flowing currents, drop divers into gutter [point (3) = 12m trench in 6m depth] and tell them to swim south to meet the wall, then swim left. On SW flowing currents, drop divers off on point (1) and left them drift SW. This site should be dived with care, as diving off slack water can lead to strong currents, not only horizontally, but vertically. Two pairs were put in at point (2) above, and descended close to the reef wall, finding a series of sheltered gullies in about 18 metres, and venturing out into a sheltered wall running 20-25 metres. Attempting to swim north around the next "headland" proved impossible, so after a while exploring the immediate area we went off for a drift SW along the 20m contour at about 1.5 knots until it started to drop away after 10 minutes or so. Another pair didn't stay so close into the wall at the start of the dive, and had a little shorter dive as a result. The divers in wave 2 weren't quite so lucky, and the current had picked up a bit by the time they got in the water. Again, local knowledge was the key, but we didn't have it on this occasion.
Additional Info	Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf : <i>There were sloping rock surfaces to a depth of about 7m bcd (15m at the time of</i>

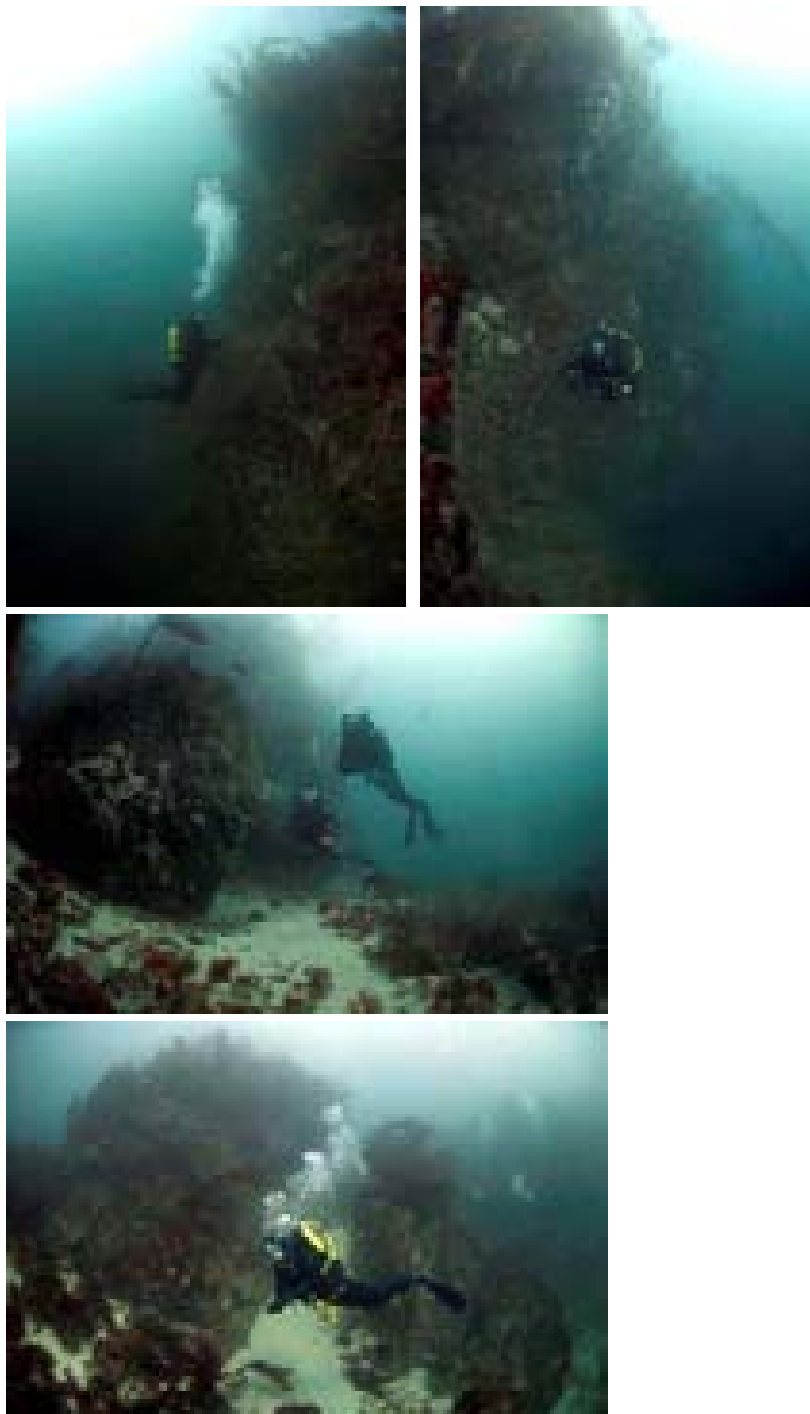
the dive). These included both flattish surfaces and low walls and gullies. Below 7m bcd there were two different habitats, one a steeply sloping surface of pebbles, cobbles and small boulders and the other a vertical wall with overhangs and fissures to a depth of at least 25m bcd.

Two rare cup-coral were present on the wall, sunset cup-corals, *Leptopsammia pruvoti*, and southern cup-corals, *Caryophyllia inornata*. Both of these have a southerly distribution in the British Isles and the sunset cup-coral is only recorded from four other areas. It is a Biodiversity Action Plan species in the UK.

Other uncommon species included the sponge, *Adreus fascicularis*, yellow cluster anemones, *Parazoanthus axinellae* and pink sea fans, *Eunicella verrucosa*. All of these have a restricted southerly distribution in the British Isles.

This is one of the five sites in the Channel Islands that The Marine Conservation Society has recommended as a protected site. For more information see <http://www.yourseasyourvoice.com/>

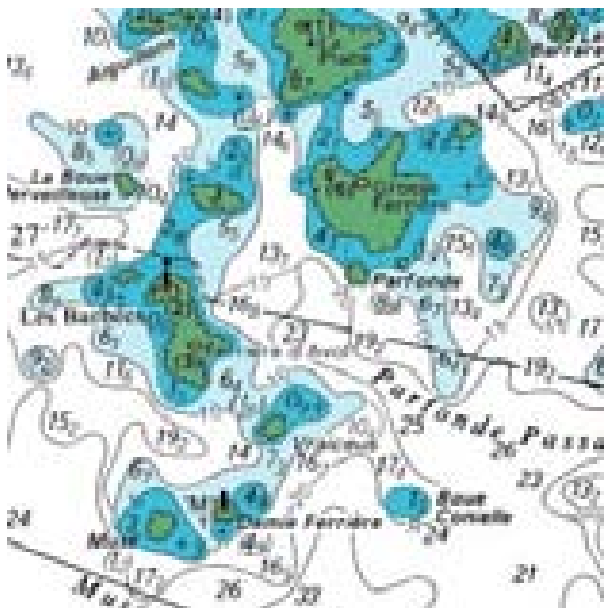
Photos



Site 15

Name	Parfonde, Herm
Type	Exposed Reef which is covered at MHWS
Co-ordinates	49° 26.950' N 002° 28.250' W
When to dive	This was recommended by the local BSAC branch as a dive that could be conducted at any state of the tide. We dived at HW St Peter Port minus 03h 50m, encountering a very gentle current flowing SE

Site Overview



Marked By	Drying area (8.8) metres, visible at most states of the tide.
Notes	<p>It is a marked navigable passage for small boats, so SMBs must be used.</p> <p>We dived by entering on the western side of the pinnacle, and diving anti-clockwise around it, settling at a comfortable depth.</p> <p>"This was a surprisingly good dive. We found some beautiful jewel anemones, a spiny squat lobster, and were followed around by a cuckoo wrasse."</p> <p>"Parfonde is a largely uneventful but very diveable site. However, one you readjust your eyes to the small stuff you realise that it is abundant with life. What first appears to be a largely rocky pinnacle with some weed, turns into a massive habitat. In certain places anemones have occupied almost every square inch of rock face both vertical and horizontal. The sea bed is about 18m but it's a fairly walled area so you can pretty much pick your depth. Depending on what you're looking for, be it mobile life in nooks and crannies or static life hanging to rock, you'll probably be able to find it."</p> <p>"There was a beautiful wall at around 20m on the day (but not as good as Les Vingt Clos were later). There is a small tunnel formed by three massive boulders where we started our dive on the wall, but we didn't go through because of the SMB."</p>

Additional Info

Photos



Site 16

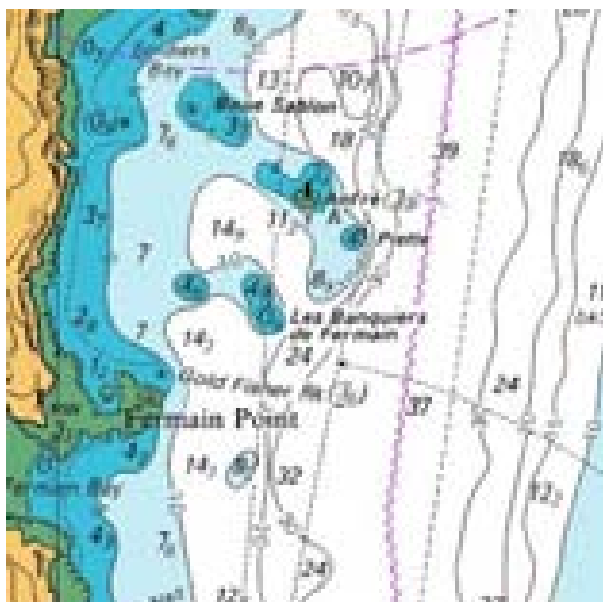
Name Banquiers de Fermain, Guernsey

Type Submerged Reef within 1m of surface at CD

Co-ordinates 49° 26.340' N 002° 31.560' W

When to dive Neaps and Springs: 01hrs 30m after LW St Peter Port.
We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 01h 23m

Site Overview



Marked By None - co-ordinates are just to NE of marked 4.9m depth

Notes

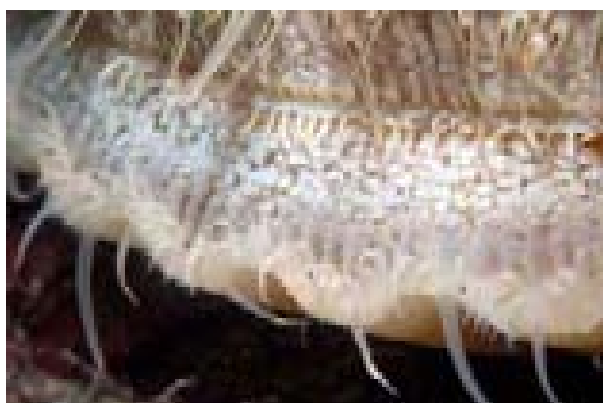
"The dive site is a little reef near Anfre. We were treated to an incredible abundance of life, wonderful topography, and again no raging currents. Patience pays off, and among lots of other things we were treated to seeing a lobster making lunch of a crab, some really intrigued cuckoo wrasse, and the thickest body of a conger I've ever seen. Sadly we couldn't find the head! Pushing all the details to the wire we ascended just on our no-stop time, with just enough air, and with the thought that given more of both we could have happily stayed there."

"This is another pretty dive site in the 25m range. As with a lot of the dive sites around here you can get yourself lost in the daily life of the local inhabitants. The usual scene of valleys and walls with 'villages' and 'country side' were here but none less stunning than some of the other sites."

"There was an amphitheatre shaped structure at the end of the wall (which we missed) - if you want, you could go along the wall and then up onto the plateau over the amphitheatre."

Additional Info

Photos





Site 17

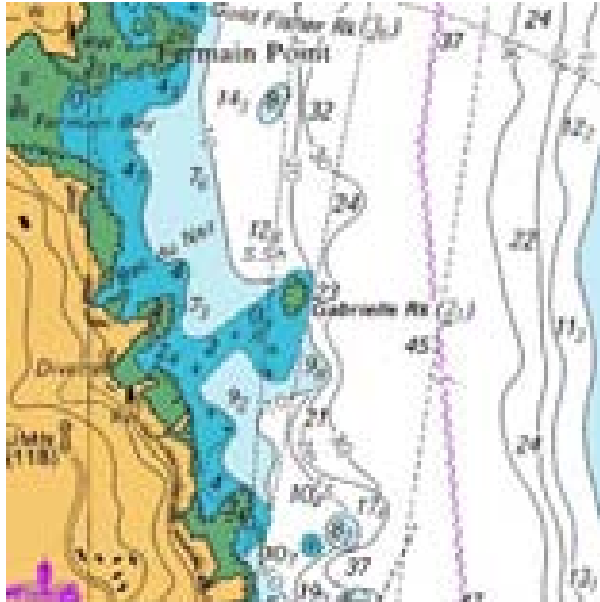
Name Gabrielle Rock, Guernsey

Type Submerged reef which uncovers at MLWS

Co-ordinates 49° 25.825' N 002° 31.550' W

When to dive Neaps and Springs: 01hrs 30m after LW St Peter Port.
We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 01h 23m

Site Overview



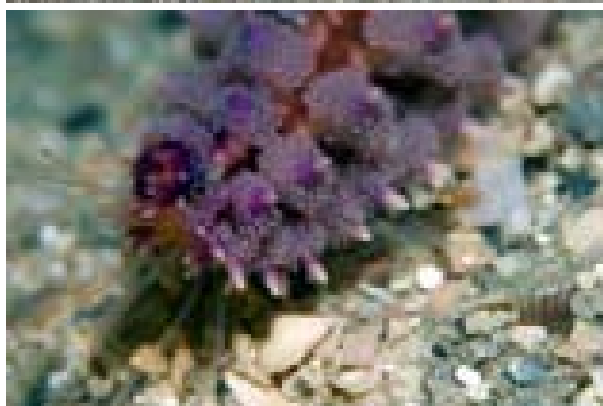
Marked By None - co-ordinates are easternmost point of drying area

Notes "We descended down the pinnacle to another pretty underwater scene, with a gentle current moving us along. Pretty soft corals, kelp and jewel anemones. Millions of little fish - transparent with a black spot kept us company."

Additional Info

Photos





Site 18

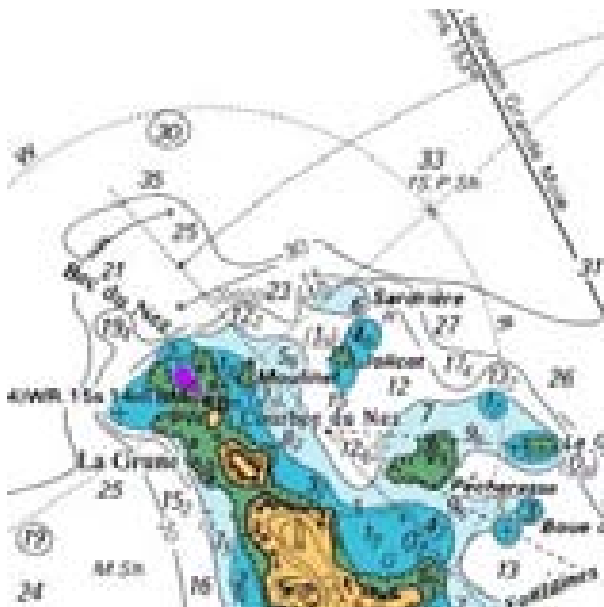
Name Sardrière, Sark

Type Submerged Reef

Co-ordinates 49° 31.293' N 002° 28.636' W

When to dive Neaps and Springs: HW St Peter Port.
We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 01h 23m, encountering little current.

Site Overview



Marked By None - approx position on NNE of 6m point on chart

Notes Sardrière is a rocky pinnacle almost due east of the northern tip of Sark (Bec du Nez) which uncovers at low tide, and was our first dive that day.

"My buddy and I were dropped in north of the submerged pinnacle and did a free water descent to around 15m. The seabed was primarily a collection of boulders and patches of sand. The boulders had a dense growth of kelp covering the top. There was a decent number of male and female cuckoo wrasse in the area as well as pollock. Investigating below the kelp and under the boulders revealed a number of small crabs. A pleasant dive but not one of the outstanding sites in the area."

Another pair of divers were dropped into a 35m area nearby to do some depth progression and reported finding large areas of yellow cluster anemones, and some enormous starfish."

Additional Info Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf>:
A moderately exposed, tide-swept site with steep rocky reef from 0m bcd to 18.5m bcd leading to a gently sloping sea bed of rock and boulders with areas of fine sand and shelly gravel.

Photos None taken

Site 19

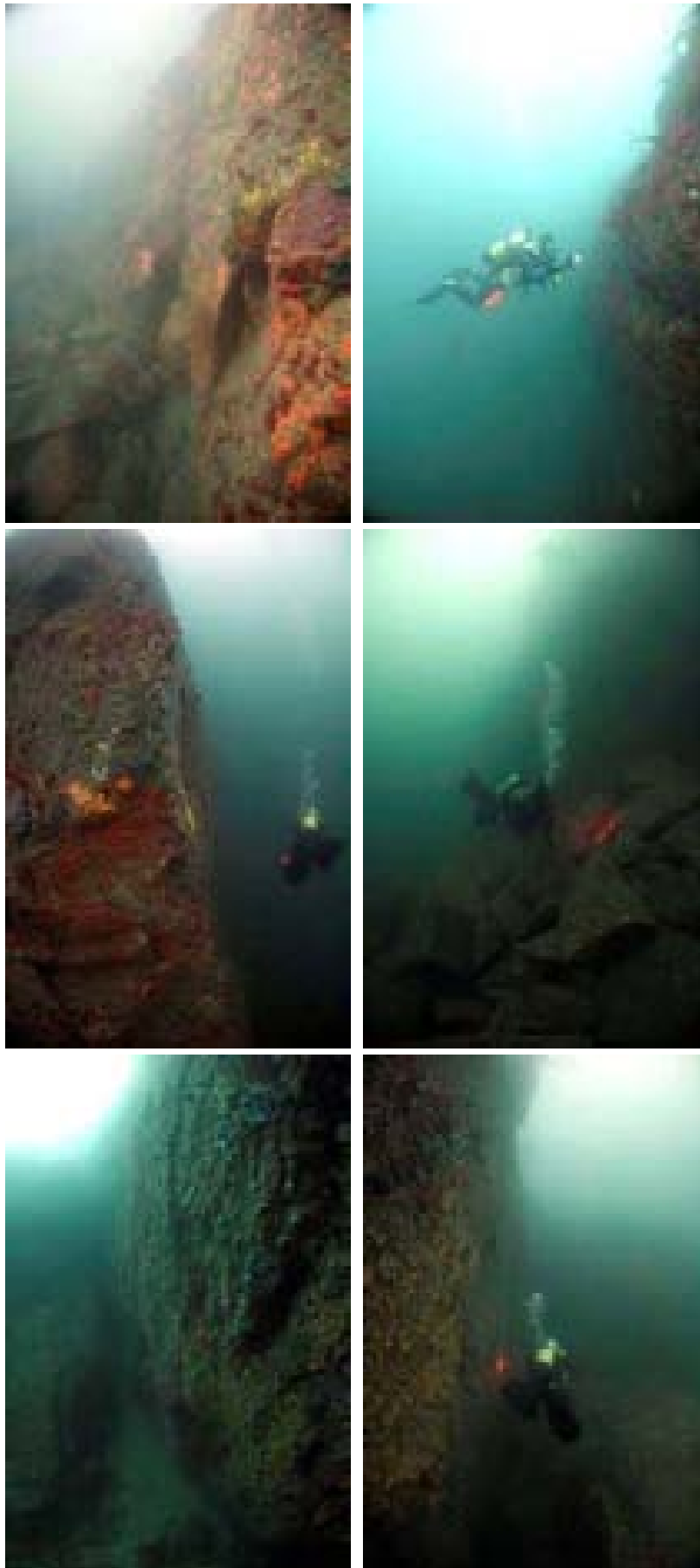
Name	Les Vingt Clos, Little Sark
Type	Submerged Reef within 1m of surface at CD
Co-ordinates	49° 31.293' N 002° 28.636' W
When to dive	Neaps: Half tide down to half tide up. / Springs: LW St Peter Port. Local knowledge had told us exactly when to dive (exactly on LW St Peter Port), and so we were horrified to find overfalls running over the reef when we got there. We nevertheless relied on the advice given, and entered the water on time to discover the promised slack conditions on the wall itself. Learn to believe! We dived at LW St Peter Port plus 00h 11m and LW plus 00h 39m

Site Overview



Marked By	None - approx position shown on extract above as red spot. Due to currents, try to drop divers into 10m or less, then let them swim south to find their own depth.
Notes	<p>Spectacular wall running approx 250° to 070°.</p> <p>Think strongly about the angle of the sun when you dive, and try to make sure that the wall is illuminated by the sun, as its impact will be severely diminished if it is not illuminated correctly. Inevitably, there will be a slight current, so think about the direction of the light, and plan the dive to make sure that the light is from behind you for the better part of the dive.</p> <p>Once down, the underwater geography was simply stunning with a sheer wall from 15-35m festooned with life of all varieties. One team found no less than seven lobsters, while another saw a variety of congers in one of the deep cracks in the wall. All in all, this dive was judged to be 'amazing'.</p> <p>"Stunning multicoloured anemones, look out for lobsters patrolling the base of the wall. The biggest conger I have ever seen (as long as me) hides in a large crevasse in the wall at around 25m."</p>
Additional Info	<p>Edited From The Seasearch Sark 2008 Report which can be read at http://www.seasearch.co.uk/downloads/Sark2008report.pdf:</p> <p><i>Vingt Clos is a moderately exposed area of reefs south-east of Little Sark. It is subject to strong tidal streams and there are overfalls marked on the chart. The area dived was on the south easterly side of the reef where it drops away into deeper water.</i></p> <p><i>This is a tide-swept site with a good diversity of sessile fauna of which the abundance of jewel anemones was the most notable feature. These were present in</i></p>

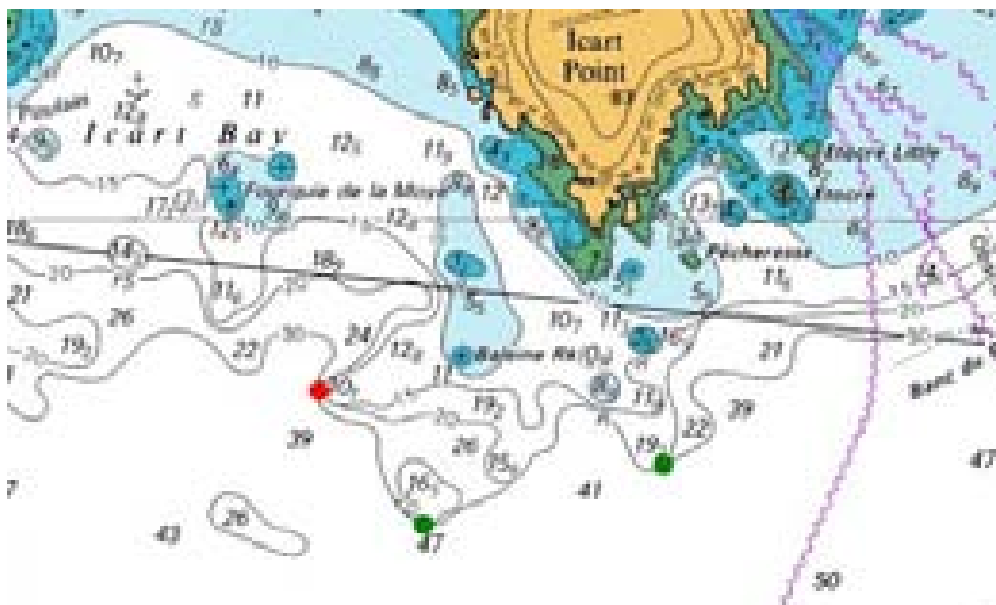
all of the habitats at high abundances, including on the lower boulder surfaces at the base of the walls and gullies. This is an unusual habitat for this species which normally prefers shaded surfaces.

Photos

Site 20

Name	Baleine Rock, Guernsey
Type	Submerged Reef
Co-ordinates	49° 24.760' N 002° 34.320' W
When to dive	Neaps and Springs: 01h 00m to 01h 30m after HW St Peter Port. We dived at HW St Peter Port plus 01h 15m

Site Overview



Marked By	None - chosen dive site shown on extract above as red spot
Notes	Good dive site, but more protected from westerly flowing, rather than easterly flowing streams (which we had on the day). Other suggested sites marked in green.

"Our dive on the South Coast was on section of reef with a sheer wall running from about 20 to 40 metres. We had been advised that the visibility on the South Coast isn't generally as good as that in other areas, and so it proved to be. Local knowledge had warned that, even at slack, a little current might be present, and was again correct. Our macro photographer however found the noticeable current and gentle surge at depth rather frustrating when trying to focus on subjects the size of a postage stamp with a slow camera in poor light."

"The site at the shot point was largely rocky and it's not much trouble to pull yourself to where you want to go, and heading through a small pass at 25m and into a bowl did provide a fair amount of shelter from the current not only for us but the largest spiny lobster. The large rock formations here were a little different to the other sites making the valleys more pronounced and slightly barren. There was still plenty to see with the site remaining around 25-30m, but with the current running on this dive my buddy and I got slightly disorientated and the shelving depth in the Easterly direction never materialised so we made an ascent from 30m once the bottom was clearly not coming up to join us."

Additional Info	A large European spiny lobster - <i>Palinurus elephas</i> was observed by most divers. See http://www.marlin.ac.uk/speciesinformation.php?speciesID=4022 . Seasearch notes that this is a Biodiversity Action Plan species in the UK because of the small numbers remaining.
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Photos



Site 21 - Sites Not Dived

Northern Guernsey

Name	Boue Blondel	
Co-ordinates	49° 29.725' N	002° 42.150' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	SS Dagenham	
Co-ordinates	49° 30.456' N	002° 38.063' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, 1466 tons, sunk 1909	
Marked By	Not identified on chart	

Name	SS Wear	
Co-ordinates	49° 30.457' N	002° 38.063' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, 1076 tons, sunk 1910	
Marked By	Not identified on chart	

Name	SS Briseis	
Co-ordinates	49° 29.272' N	002° 37.547' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, 3000 tons, sunk 1937	
Marked By	Wreck Symbol, 10.1m	

Name	SS Clarrie	
Co-ordinates	49° 29.258' N	002° 29.480' W
Type / Notes	Shallow Wreck, sunk 1921	
Marked By	Not identified on chart	

Name	SS Forth	
Co-ordinates	49° 29.919' N	002° 26.247' W
Type / Notes	Shallow Wreck, sunk 1906	
Marked By	Wreck Symbol, 8m	

Name	Mary Tuvee	
Co-ordinates	49° 31.529' N	002° 24.706' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, circa 45m	
Marked By	Not identified on chart	

Southern Guernsey

Name	Boue Baker	
Co-ordinates	49° 24.866' N	002° 39.454' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Boue Phillips	
Co-ordinates	49° 24.709' N	002° 39.346' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	SS Figaro	
Co-ordinates	49° 24.592' N	002° 39.000' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, 567 tons, sunk 1918	
Marked By	Wreck Symbol in general vicinity	

Name	Boue des Kaines	
Co-ordinates	49° 24.591' N	002° 38.217' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Forein	
Co-ordinates	49° 27.099' N	002° 31.220' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Les Audames	
Co-ordinates	49° 26.444' N	002° 29.033' W
Type / Notes	Pinnacle	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Sardriere, Guernsey	
Co-ordinates	49° 26.018' N	002° 28.355' W
Type / Notes	Reef, southern part of Lower Heads plateau	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Herm and Sark

Name	Tugs and two barges	
Co-ordinates	49° 25.531' N	002° 27.092' W
Type / Notes	Wrecks	
Marked By	Wreck Symbol, 37m	

Name	Les Grandes Bouillons	
Co-ordinates	49° 27.700' N	002° 26.100' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Noire Pute	
Co-ordinates	49° 28.165' N	002° 24.925' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Pecheresse	
Co-ordinates	49° 26.945' N	002° 21.459' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	Pavlaison	
Co-ordinates	49° 26.893' N	002° 20.788' W
Type / Notes	Reef	
Marked By	Named on chart	

Name	German Minesweeper M483	
Co-ordinates	49° 27.023' N	002° 15.208' W
Type / Notes	Wreck, 775 tons, sunk 1943	
Marked By	Wreck Symbol, 38m	