

SAA INTRODUCTORY NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY Nautical Archaeology Society Part 1 Course

A TWO DAY COURSE PROVIDING:

- * An appreciation of nautical archaeology and its importance
- * An introduction to the theory and practice of searching for, survey methods and recording of wrecks and other nautical archaeology sites
- * Skills in practical surveying and recording
- * An introduction to the legal and conservation aspects of maritime finds

Aim:

The course is intended to introduce nautical archaeology to divers with no previous knowledge of archaeology. As well as providing an appreciation and theoretical knowledge, it also gives the candidate an opportunity to broaden their skill base such that they may be useful on an archaeological site.

Prerequisites:

SAA Elementary Diver or equivalent

Awarded Qualification:

Successful candidates will be issued with the SAA Basic Archaeological Qualification Record Book Certificate and the MAS Training Qualification and Training Record Card as proof of attendance.

DAY ONE

Time: 0945 to 1800hrs*

Syllabus:

Introduction

Archaeology underwater - definition, scope and site type

Science or art? - the principles of modern archaeology

Area search, survey and position fixing in archaeology (high tech and low tech)

Underwater survey - fundamental principles and techniques (high tech and low tech)

Survey practical - briefing and practice on land

Practical surveying and recording activities underwater (if applicable)

* Dependent upon pool availability. Sometimes it is necessary to undertake the water session on day two with some day two sessions conducted on day one.

DAY TWO

Time: 0945 to 1630hrs

Syllabus:

Drawing up surveys

Debrief and further insights into underwater surveying

Problems with water logged material (first aid conservation)

Finds recording workshop

Legislation

Diving operations - the strategy and logistics of both large and small projects

What next? - projects and Part 2/3 courses - getting involved

GENERAL

Equipment required by candidate:

If the course involves SCUBA diving, candidates are required to supply diving equipment appropriate to the venue, bearing in mind that for part of the underwater period the candidate will be stationary with other periods of moderate activity. Accordingly, in cool pools, a shorty thin wetsuit is often appropriate. Suitable cylinders with air for up to 2 hours of underwater activity in depths of generally less than 6m are required.

Equipment provided:

All surveying and drawing equipment required to complete the course

Materials supplied for the course:

NAS handbook "Archaeology Underwater" Salvage leaflets
Wreck/Archaeological site recording form Receiver of wreck leaflet

Safety requirements:

The majority of courses take place in indoor pools and appropriate pool safety requirements must be observed. Although SAA Elementary Divers are eligible, paired with Dive Leaders, divers of Club Diver grade and above may cope better and gain more from the course.

Occasionally the course venue is in sheltered open water (minimum Club Diver) and appropriate marshalling for such dives are required.

Several of the courses run each year by the NAS are in the inter-tidal zone at low tide. These non diving events must follow the appropriate requirements of field archaeologists for such sites, as the presence of mud, quicksand and rapidly rising tides can pose a real threat. Such venues require the wearing of Wellington or other boots (rather than waders) and the rapid availability of ropes or ladders for rescue.

Qualification of Instructors:

Minimum of SAA Club Instructor (if the instructor is internal) and has attended a NAS Tutors Course (proof of attendance and attaining satisfactory standard is the NAS Tutors Record Card).

The senior tutor on any course (to ensure archaeological standards are maintained) must be qualified by the NAS Training Committee, and this is denoted on the NAS Tutors Record Card.