

NAS Part III Survey & Recording modules

Archaeological Search Methods

Aims:

This course will provide an insight into the practical application of diver search methods, position fixing and seabed mapping techniques within archaeological field projects. The course is aimed at divers, individuals undertaking the NAS Training programme, as well as professional archaeologists wanting to increase their practical skills in underwater diver search methods and position fixing.

Course outline:

- Introduction to diver search methodology including the logistics and health and safety implications of each method
- Introduction to the position fixing of search patterns and seabed mapping of artefact distributions
- Completion of dry practical exercises including position fixing using theodolite, GPS or EDM
- Participation in several team exercises carrying out underwater diver searches, including circular and jackstay searches
- Creation of a area site plan mapping out search patterns and the distribution of artefacts on the seabed

Teaching Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course participants will have been introduced to the application of diver seabed search methodology and position fixing within archaeology. The logistical and health and safety implications of each method will have been introduced through classroom and practical diving sessions. Through practical drawing sessions participants will also have been introduced to the drawing of seabed search patterns and seabed mapping plans.

NAS Part III Points:

Survey & Recording: 8 points maximum

Suggested Reading:

Archaeology Underwater, The NAS Guide to Principles and Practise. A Bowens (ed). 2008. Blackwell, London.

Scientific and archaeological diving projects - Approved Code of Practise.

Diving at Work Regulations, 1997. Health & Safety Commission. HSE Books, Sudbury.

Surveying in Underwater Archaeology, Throckmorton, P. 1969. London