



Nautical
Archaeology
Society

The Norman's Bay Designated Wreck Dive Trail

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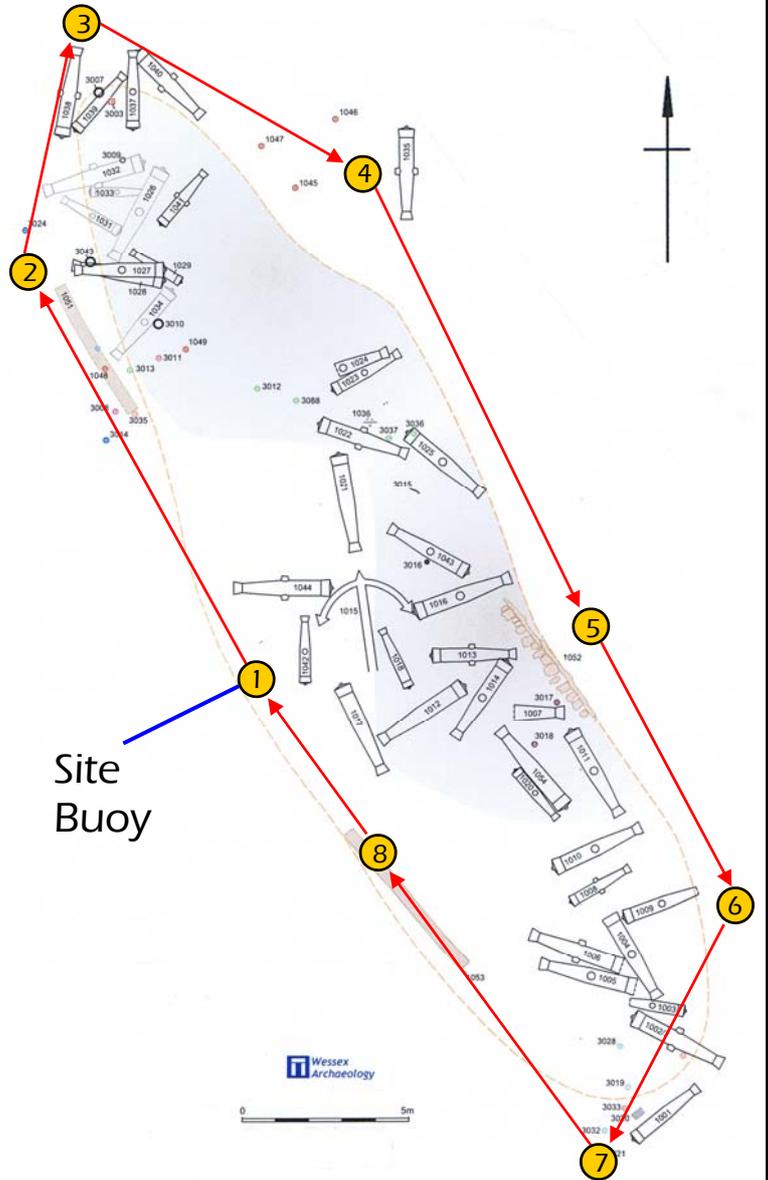
ENGLISH HERITAGE



www.seasearch.org.uk

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Please use the photographic scale below

Background of the Norman's Bay Wreck

The wreck is located 2 miles south east of Pevensey, East Sussex in Norman's Bay. The wreck has been named after the bay in which it lies due to insufficient evidence for identification. It is possible that the wreck represents the remains of HMS *Resolution* which was the flagship of the navy during the later years of the 17th Century but which sank in the Great Storm of 1703.

Alternatively, the wreck could be one of the many Dutch warships recorded as lost during the Battle of Beachy Head in 1690. Investigations by the NAS hope to determine the age, nationality and name of the vessel.



More information, images and videos

www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/projects/normans_bay.php

www.flickr.com/groups/normansbaywreck

www.youtube.com/user/nautarchsoc



Finding the Site

The wreck site is located at 50° 48.1767' N and 00° 24.6380' E (WGS84) only 3.9nm ENE (75°) from Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne at 8-15m depth. It stretches over approx 40m on a NW-SE axis. The wreck is marked with a small yellow buoy. To reach the wreck we recommend you descend down the buoy line. At the sea-bed **follow the chain** and you will find the train wheel clump weight.



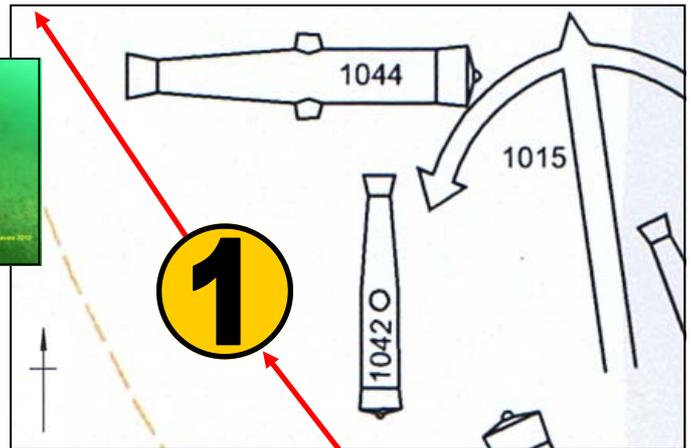
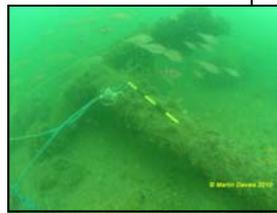
Railway wheels at the bottom of the buoy



A Norman's Bay Diver Trail Station

At the train wheel you should find a 12m blue ground line heading in the direction of the wreck on a **bearing of 105°**. When you reach the wreck site you will come across the first diver station (No. 1). Stations are marked with a bright yellow sinker with a numbered float. On top of all the stations you will find a **grey arrow which should point in the direction of the wreck** (subject to movement of the stations). At certain times of the year all the diver stations **MAY** be joined by ground lines. It is very important that you **do not pull yourself along** these lines as this risks moving the diver stations as well as breaking the lines.

Station

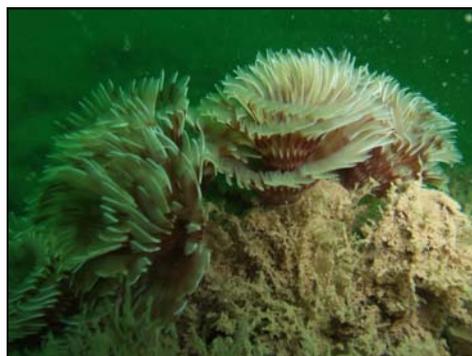


Now that you have reached the wreck site you will find yourself looking at a large 2.5m cast iron gun (No.1042). Directly to the north lies a 3m gun (No.1044). These guns are typical of a 3rd rate warship from the 17th or 18th century. East of gun No.1042 you will find the only surviving anchor (Object No.1015). It is almost 3m across. Given the position it may be the spare bower anchor stored in the middle of the ship below deck.

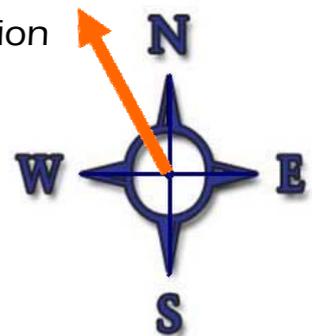
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Marine life spotter

*Bispira
volutacornis* (worm)

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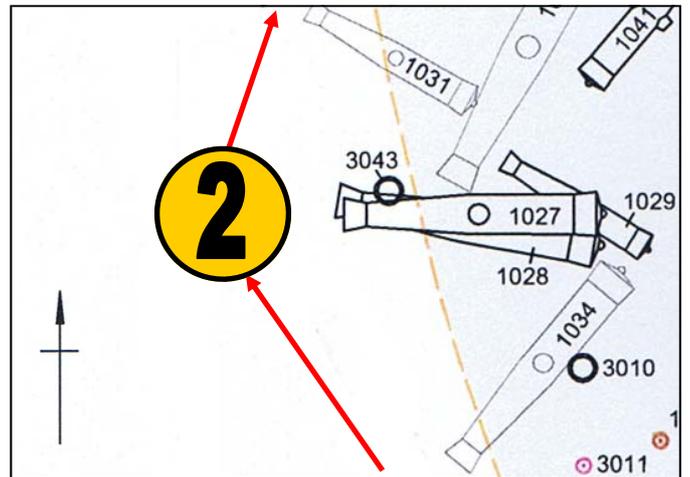


Next Station



Swim 310° for 16m

Station



Marine life is thriving in these areas and you should be able to see creatures such as anemones, common starfish, mussels and edible crabs.

At Station 2 you are in front of the remains of 9 cast iron guns ranging between 2.5 - 3m in length. Given their position it is hard to pinpoint their original ship locations, however their size indicates they may have been stationed on the main gun deck.

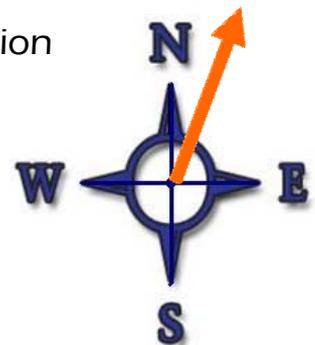
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Urticina felina
(Anemone)

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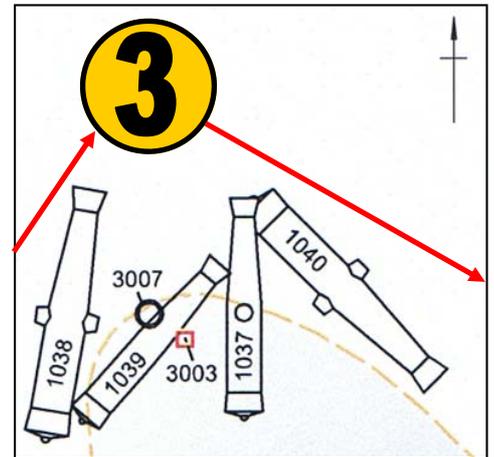


Next Station



Swim 20 for 8m

Station



Station 3 gives you a stunning view of four large (3.5m) cast iron guns. Three of the guns (No's 1037,1038,1039) are protruding out of the seabed at about a 40° angle. Given their location, at the presumed bow of the wreck site, it is possible these guns formed part of the ship's forward defences. At Station 3 you may find a line heading north which leads to a single gun (No.1019) - see the last page of this guide for more information.

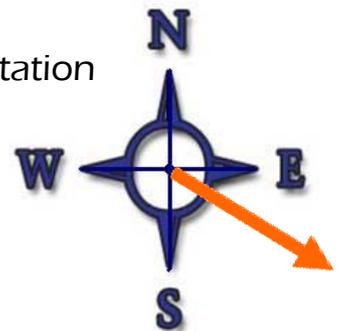
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Cancer pagurus
(Edible crab)

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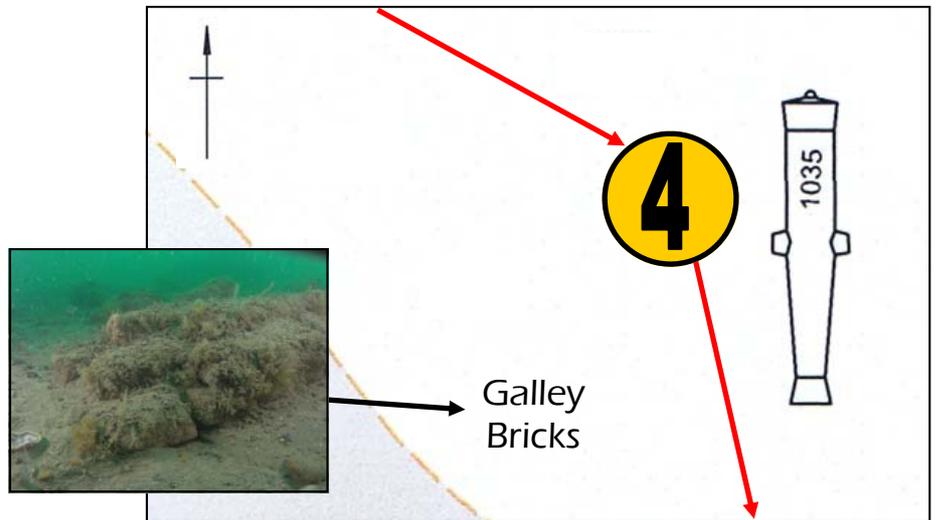


Next Station



Swim 130° for 9m

Station

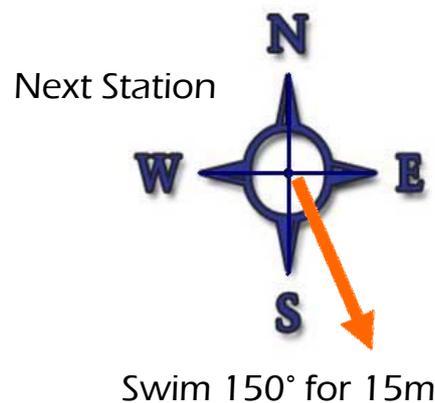


As you swim from Station 3 to 4 you are travelling along the more sheltered eastern side of the site. The reduced dynamics means that the seabed is more silty here. Station 4 lies next to a single gun (No.1035) which has a large fin along the top; this is probably due to corrosion. SW of Station 4 you can find a small cluster of galley bricks. Being three courses thick, these bricks would have protected the hull from the heat and fire of the galley or “cookroom”.

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Marine life spotter

Asterias rubens
(Starfish)

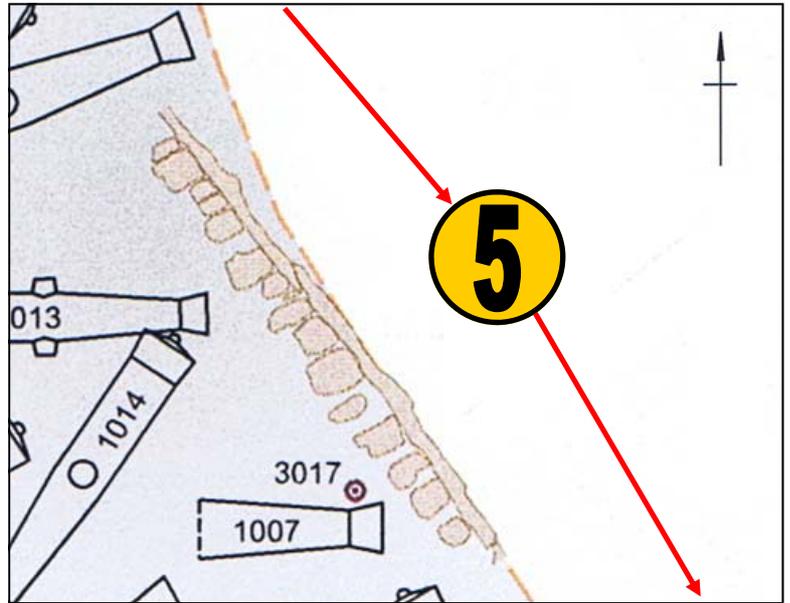
© Jim Fuller



Station

5

At Station 5 if you look carefully you will see the remains of the wooden hull structure eroding out of the seabed.



Up to 20 frames and 7 planks may be visible. These are the best preserved timbers on the site. Some have been removed to be dated which will hopefully help identify the vessel. Behind the timbers are two guns (No.1013 and 1014) resting on each other to form an arch.

Seasearch
Marine life spotter

Zeugopterus punctatus
(Common topknot)

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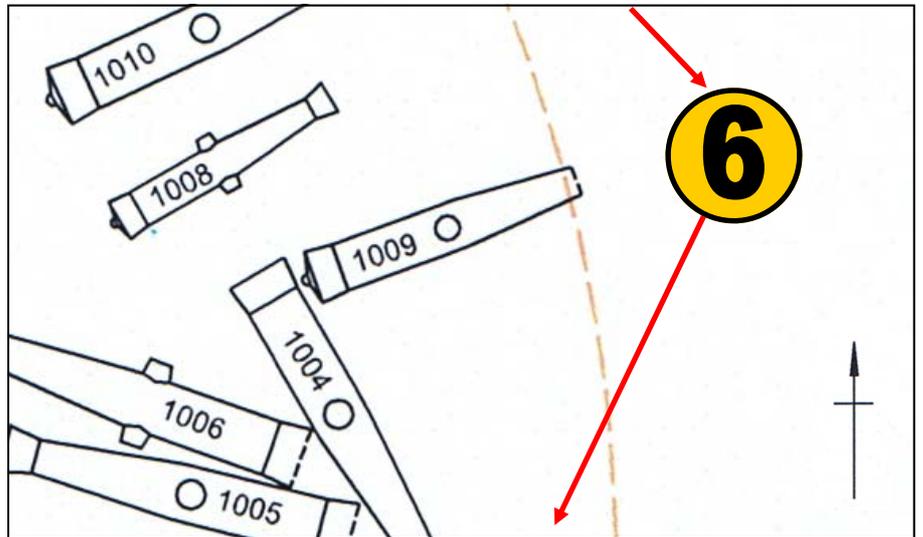


Next Station

Swim 160° for 6m

Station

6

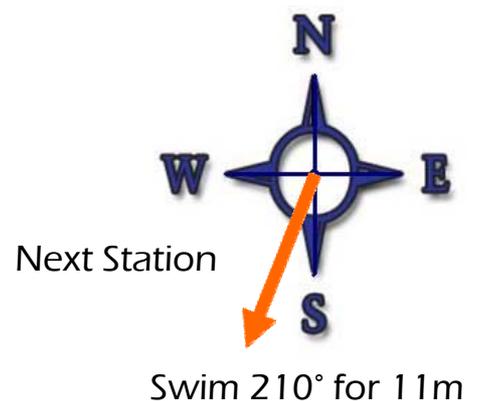


As you swim from Station 5 to 6 you will see a large number of guns (No's 1011, 1010, 1008 and 1009) which all sit on top of the substantial ballast mound. Make sure you take a look in the muzzles (where the cannon ball was expelled) of each gun to see if a crab, a shrimp or even a tompot blenny (*Parablennius gattorugine*) has made a home.

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Marine life spotter

Inachus sp.
(Type of small spider crab)

© Alison Mayor

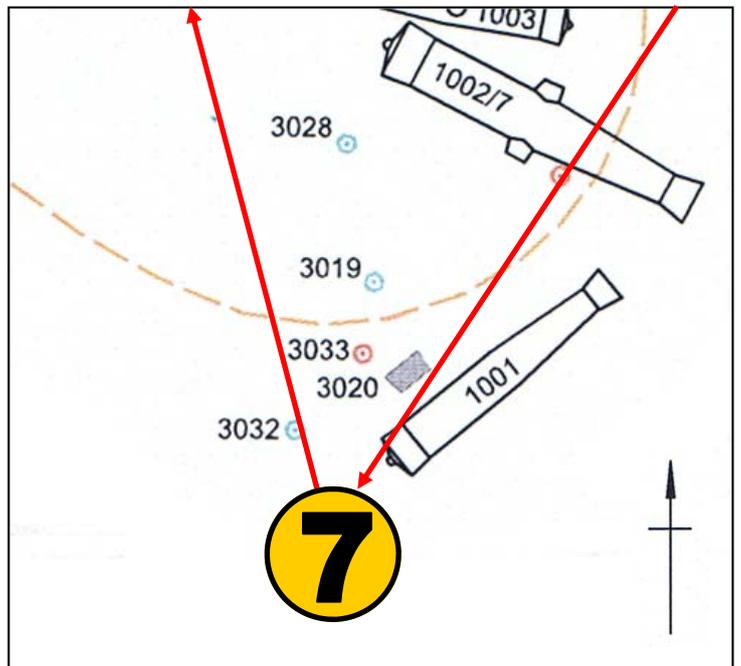


Station

7

As you swam from Station 6 to Station 7 you travelled up and over the ship's ballast and the southern cluster of guns on the wreck. In this area of the site a

large number of smaller artefacts have been found by archaeologists including small iron concretions, an iron ingot, felt and masonry. Station 7 is next to the southern-most gun (No.1001) which appears to have chain concreted to it. Feel free to explore further south but so far no more evidence of the wreck has been found.



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Marine life spotter

Loligo or *Allotheuthis*
(Squid eggs)

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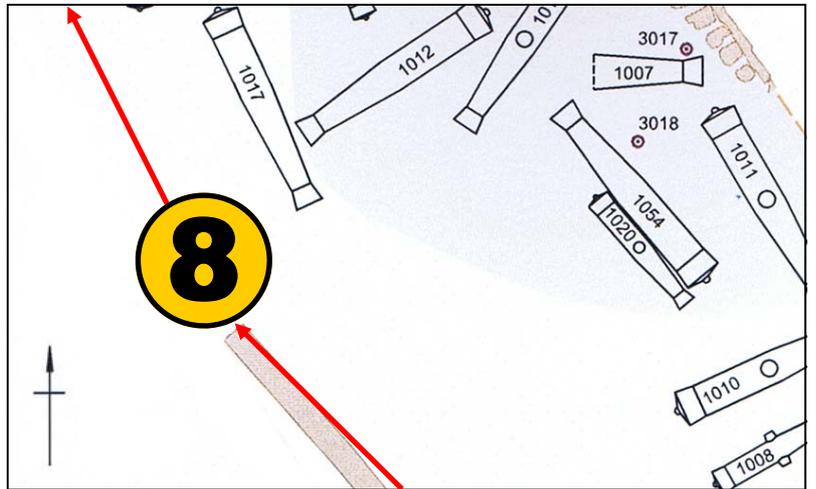


Next Station



Swim 350° for 15m

Station



This is the area of the wreck that we know least about. Looking around Station 8 on the site plan, there would appear to be not much of interest, but take a closer look and see what you can find. In 2011, NAS divers reported seeing exposed hull timbers eroding out of the seabed. There also appears to be a considerable number of concreted iron objects. Here the seabed changes in nature becoming more compact with stone and broken shell and it is hoped that small pottery fragments might be found here that will help identify the nationality of the ship.

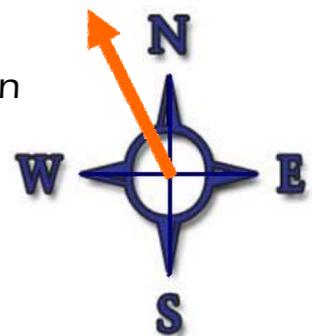
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Polycera quadrilineata
(Nudibranch)

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Next Station



Swim 330° for 5m

