Site: Far Mulberry

Vessel: Emma-Jayne hard boat from Selsey

Depth: 11m

Conditions: Afternoon 15:30 ropes off (Bank holiday afternoon dive)

Visibility: 3m underwater

Divers: Andy, Tim, Dave, Olaf, Annette, Ian & Tatiana. All O/C.

Special kit: None.

Details: Little bit of swell and overcast. Despite a lot of plankton in the water the site was reasonably bright. Dropped in buddy teams and descended. Two ribs also on the site so lots of divers although I only saw a few underwater.

Everyone managed to fine the wreck site, eventually…. I didn’t spot any Lumpsuckers, certainly they were there last month. A big Cuttlefish was eating a crab near to where the shot chain meets the main wreck. Also a lobster under the ferrocrete close by.

Toured the more intact “stern” end and then worked our way over the broken mid-section. Tried to have a fettle about for conger but I should have brought a bigger torch as they were well inside!

A fair amount Anemones, Deadmen’s fingers and Sponges, growth has picked up from the winter months and my last visit in April.

More Cuttlefish back around by the start point and on the lobster pot line. Undulate ray spotted as well.

I think everyone got 45-50mins dive time. Ascent and a safety stop queuing on the buoy chain.

A good fun and relaxing dive.

Site: Buckland Nature Reserve

Depth: 15m

Conditions: Inland, freshwater. Overcast, rain showers.

Visibility: 2-9+m (depends where you are).

Divers: Andy & Tim. O/pen circuit scuba.

Special kit: Lights

Details: This site has limited facilities, there is a café nearby with toilets, showers & hot food. Air fills not necessarily available on site. That said it’s under new management who are upgrading things.

The useable section occupies the NW corner of a large freshwater lake that was previously a quarry & is now a nature reserve. Depths vary from 5m to 17m. Lots of features from the previous working life as well as boat & aircraft additions.

We had two dives of about 40 minutes. The first one followed the northern edge around from the entry point, mostly quite shallow reaching 10m where we turned around. The bottom is fine clay but the visibility in this undisturbed part of the site was exceptional, at least 9m probably more.

Along the edge are patches of weed and we found a pike guarding the entrance to one of the submerged tunnels. There are a couple of these along the edge of the site. Efforts have been made to block them and divers should not enter them.

\* [Set into the bottom of the site is the old pump house, this has a couple of rooms, tunnel exiting at 15m, stairs and well shaft at 10m. It’s very dark, quite narrow and often silty inside. Training, gas redundancy & lights recommended if you plan on going in these.]

For our second dive we had a look a wreck that’s fallen over the edge of the slope and now rests between 9 & 13m at the SE edge of the site. Visibility at this end was much lower, 3m average but a rescue course had been using this area. From there we headed into the middle and found one of the guidelines, this took us to a platform, great white shark and small jet aircraft.

Nice relaxed diving, good scenic site although didn’t see many fish this time.

Site: Vobster Quay, Near Frome. Inland quarry.

Depth: 30m (max 36m available)

Conditions: Inland fresh water. November water temp 12C surface to 9C at depth.

Visibility: 4-10m

Divers: Andy, Clare, Mark, Theo, Will and Bryn all Open circuit

Special kit: Torches, redundant gas pony/stages

Details: Couple of dives to conduct training and skills practice. Explore the site and introduce it to new divers. Visited the APC, Jacquin II wreck, wheel house and tunnel entrance on the first dive. Dive two examined the aircraft fuselage sections, crushing works and quarry walls.

Quite dark when in the lee of the quarry walls and there is fine sediment on the 22m area. Someone had done us a favour and kicked this up to save us doing so. ;)

Felt much colder below 20m but fine above that, especially in drysuits.

Catering facilities put to good use between dives.