Site: Wraysbury Dive Centre

Depth: 11m

Conditions: Clear day; 10C air temp; 6C water temp

Visibility: 5m

Divers: 3 divers

Special kit: Dry suits & lots or thermals (non-scientific test of gear).

Details: Entry & exit at the ramp behind the DC building. Check of regs in the water. Took time to get settled in with weight and trim checks in 2m before starting. I was wearing double under suit (needed 14kg) and the others hadn’t dived for some months.

In the water for an hour but about half that at depth, max depth 11m near. Visibility okay although already quite disturbed near the entry and bus as another group had come out that way.

Visited the containers and rechecked trim on the top. Headed for the deeper trench toward the pit. Circuits and hovering over the pit, it was quite kicked up already, did not go down the hole. Loop around the waste piles and to the platform at 6m, couldn’t see the bus from here. Safety stop done while moving back to the exit.

As you’d expect not much aquatic life active, some small Crayfish out and about.

I’ve had better visibility in Wraysbury during the winter but the site was relatively busy and we were in a higher traffic area.

Notes on thermal protection:

Diver 1: Neoprene suit & medium under suit, 5mm hood & gloves.

Diver 2: Trilam & medium heavy under suit, 5mm hood & gloves.

Diver 3 (me): Trilam & two medium to heavy under suits, 7mm hood, 5mm glove.

Diver 1 & 2 both reported being cold during the dive at about the same time. Both had cold heads & hands early on.

Diver 3 not cold during the dive, finger tips feeling it shortly before coming up.

Top side weather was pretty good for January very little wind chill out of the water and no rain. My hands (diver 3) got cold hands dissembling gear and I needed a lot of lead to get down. Suited up out of the water was borderline too warm.

Probable compromise is to wear onesie under suit plus top or bottoms from two piece. Personally I’d go for the bottoms to keep upper body movement and/or get a fleece vest.