

Sample Listing Application Summary

Application Type

New Wreck Application

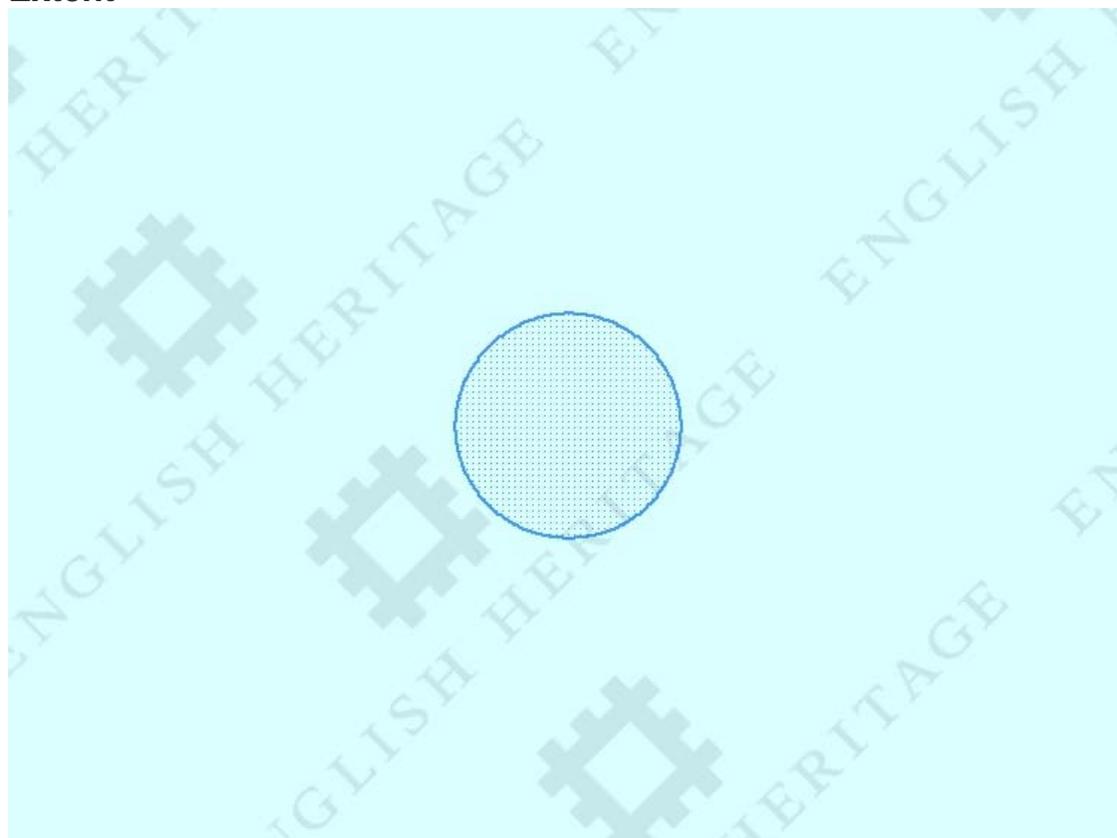
Identification

Site name: GAD8 - Wreck
County or Unitary Authority: Borough Council

Location

National Grid Reference: TR3979253781
Descriptive Location: The Downs, 2.04km east of Deal, Kent

Extent



Latitude/Longitude: 51.232796, 1.433489

Ownership & Occupancy

Details of owners and/or occupants of the site, and the extent of their ownership, where known, should be input here.

Planning

This asset is not the subject of a current planning application, permission or marine consent.

Reasons

Historic interest:

There is insufficient information to suggest a date of construction and/or loss for the vessel. However, the dating of the glass bottle suggests a date range from 1650 to 1750.

There is insufficient evidence to define a function for the vessel. The archaeological evidence suggests that this was an armed wooden sailing vessel. However it is unclear as to whether this represents an

armed merchantman, a naval or state owned vessel, or any other type of armed vessel. The possibility also exists that the vessel was transporting armaments rather than being armed itself

There is insufficient evidence to suggest an origin for this vessel.

Archaeological Interest:

An as yet unquantified amount of coherent timber structure was found at the north-west of the site; it appears that such material has not been observed on this site. Following limited sediment clearance, the exposed area of structure visible at the conclusion of diving operations in 2010 measured 0.7m x 4.4m. However, this was not the complete extent of the timber and it is possible that a significant amount of additional timber remains buried beneath the seabed.

Seven pieces of ordnance were observed on the site during the 2010 diving operations. These guns, identified as cast iron smooth bore muzzle loaders, were heavily concreted and varied in alignment.

The sediment coverage on the site is composed of compact sandy gravel. The divers reported that this became more compact with depth and was relatively difficult to clear. The excavation of a test pit in the north of the site demonstrated that in places there was up to 0.5m of sediment covering timber surfaces. The relative lack of mobility of the sediment would appear to heighten the potential for preservation of artefacts and in situ material on the site.

Artistic Interest:

The timber structure observed was composed of flush laid planking and at least one larger structural timber, thought to be a frame or beam. Additional layers of timber were observed beneath the planking, although these were not sufficiently exposed to be identifiable during this investigation. The exposed structure is likely to represent part of the hull or deck of the vessel, although further investigation is required to state this with certainty. Fragments of timber recovered from a small test pit excavated in the north west of the site were found to have an almost decorative appearance and were thought to represent a window or door frame or moulding for panelling. It is therefore possible that elements of internal ship structure may be preserved on the site.

A limited amount of artefactual evidence was recovered from this site following exploratory excavation of test pits. One of the artefacts, a glass bottle neck dating from 1650 to 1750 was found at a depth of 0.3m and illustrates the potential for further artefacts to exist buried under seabed sediments.

Threat

Possible threat of uncontrolled salvage of surviving cannon.

Photographs

None available

Documents

Uploaded documents

None

Bibliographic References

1. Book Reference - Author: Lavery, B. - Title: The Ship of the Line Volume I: The development of the battlefleet 1650-1850 - Date: 1983 - Page References: 164
2. Unpublished Title Reference - Author: Wessex Archaeology - Title: Unknown Site (GAD 8), The Downs, Kent - Date: February 2011 - Type: Undesignated Site Assessment Report - Source: English Heritage

Comments

The site had been subject to brief diving investigations in 2003 and 2009, though these were not in sufficient detail to interpret the wreck. The site has also been dived by a local diver who has suggested that the wreck may be the remains of HMS Carlisle, a Fourth Rate ship of the line which exploded in 1700.

Diving investigations in 2010 revealed that the site consists of a scatter of at least seven pieces of cast iron ordnance, a central concretion mound and a section of previously unseen coherent timber structure. The preservation of the timber structure was noted to be good and the observations on the stratigraphy of the site suggests that there is the potential or additional well-preserved structure to exist buried beneath the seabed. The site appears to be the remains of an armed wooden sailing vessel dated to between 1650 and 1750.

Additional evidence, both archaeological and documentary, is required in order to make any definitive claims regarding the identification of this site. Based on the current level of evidence, it is unclear whether this was a naval vessel, an armed merchant ship or another type of armed vessel. The possibility also remains that the site may represent the remains of an unarmed vessel carrying ordnance as cargo.

The site appears to be the remains of an armed wooden sailing vessel dated to between 1650 and 1750. The remains of boats and ships dating to between 1500 and 1815 are rare; the majority of boats and ships from this period can be expected to be of special interest.

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