

Underwater Survey

Measured sketch

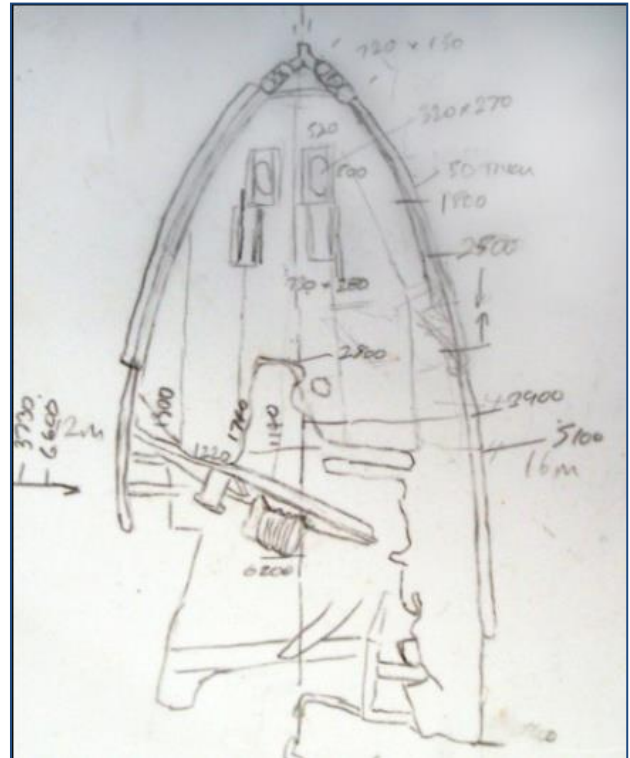
Basic approaches to making your measured sketch of a site are outlined below. This draws on available resources developed by 3H Consulting <http://www.3hconsulting.com/> We have used this information as it provides a great introduction to site sketches, and as someone has covered this before then we don't need to 'reinvent the wheel'!

General Approach

When creating a site plan it is usually easiest to start with a sketch plan of the site. The aim is to produce a simple sketch which shows the main features and where they are in relation to each other. Draw the site from above rather than as a 3D representation as it is this sketch that gets used as the starting point for the site plan. The sketch should be done fairly quickly without getting bogged down in details, it should only take a couple of dives to get an idea of the main features on the site.

Make lots of notes while you are under water on a plastic slate, this is best done while still under water as you will not remember everything once you are back on the boat.

Take lots of photos and video and if possible put a scale in the photographs to give you an idea how big things are; a scale bar or folding rule is best but a diving knife can be used as well.



On scattered sites it can be useful to tag and label each object as its found. This is so each member of the team uses the same name for each object when discussing what they saw and so its easy to spot newly discovered items as they are the ones without tags.

We also need to record some basic information about the wreck site. This will help you to work out what the wreck is and how old it could be but will also be useful when you make the plan.

Please resist the temptation to remove any objects from a site. Gathering objects without recording their position and relationship to the wreck remains means vital information is lost that may help identify and/ or understand the wreck site. You will also be depriving other divers of the chance to see objects in their full context.

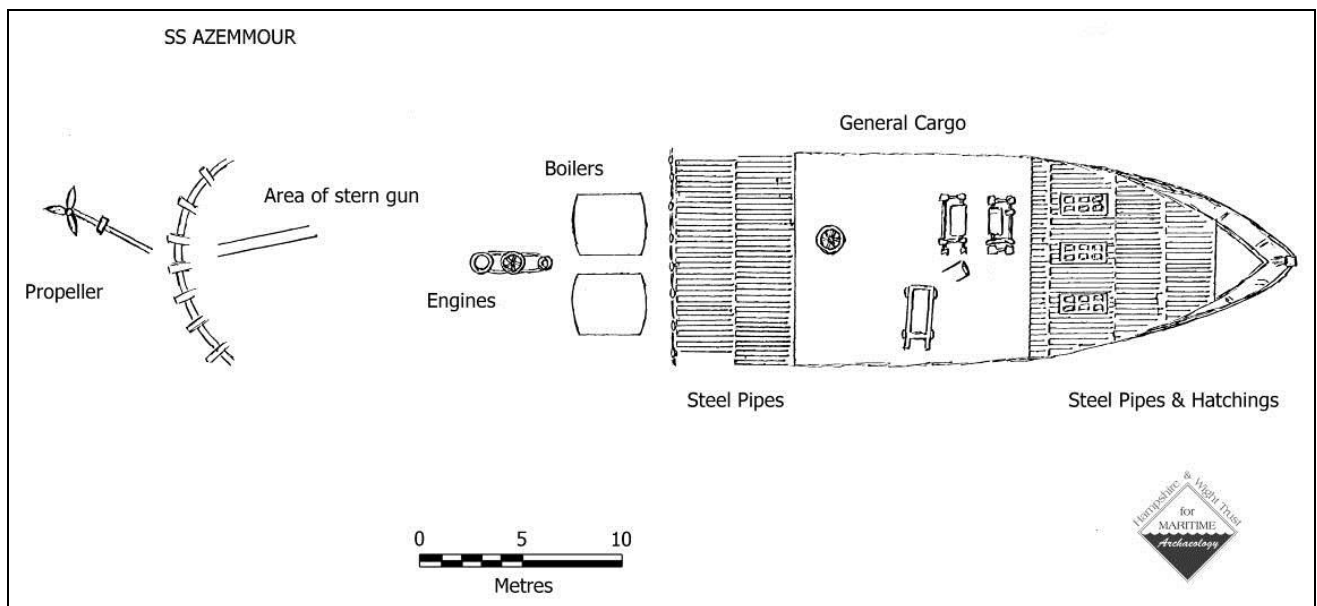
Essential Information

You should try to record:

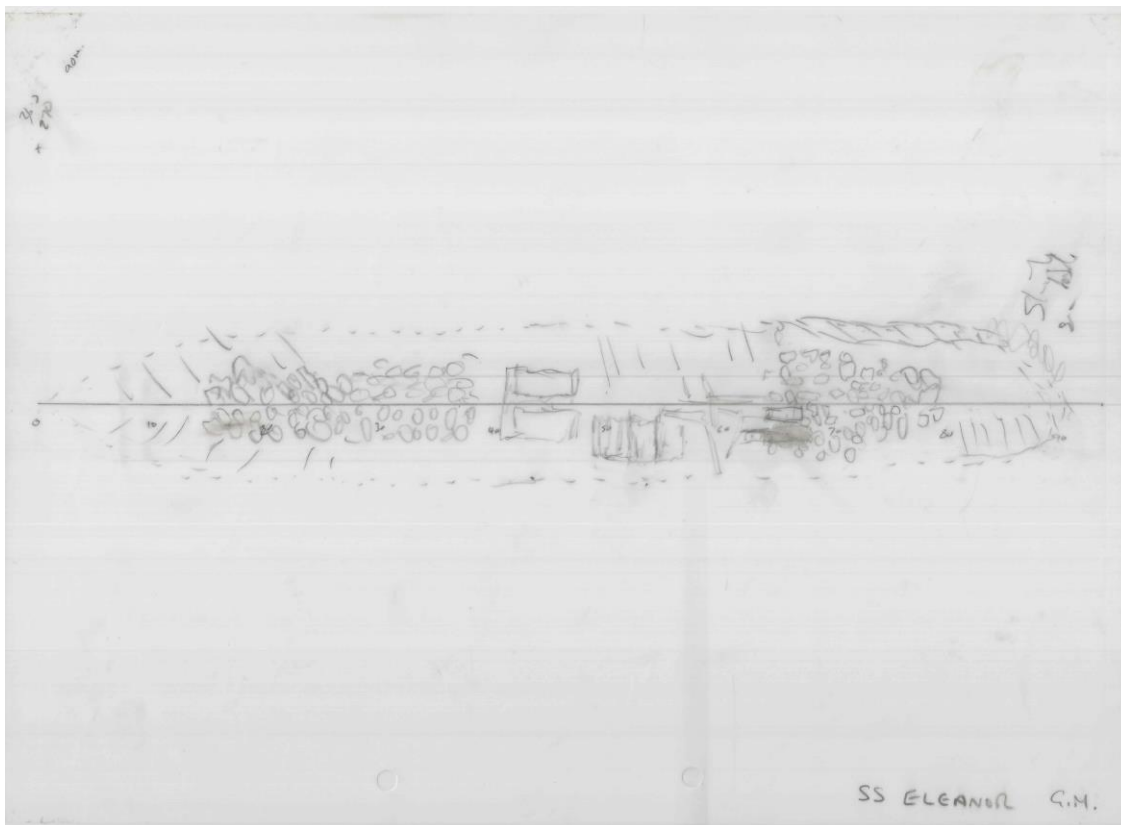
- Estimated length and width of the site
- Seabed types - rock, boulders, gravel, sand, mud
- Seabed shape - flat, sloping, shallow gullies, deep gullies
- Wreck integrity - largely intact, broken into sections, buried, collapsed and jumbled, scattered
- Structure - keel, stem, stern, ribs (frames), plating or planking, deck
- Hull construction - iron, iron frames with wood
- Gear - anchors, boilers, engine, chain, windlass, propeller, rudder, ballast
- Other features - guns, cargo, small objects, note any makers' names or marks

Thanks to 3H Consulting for contributing content: <http://www.3hconsulting.com/>

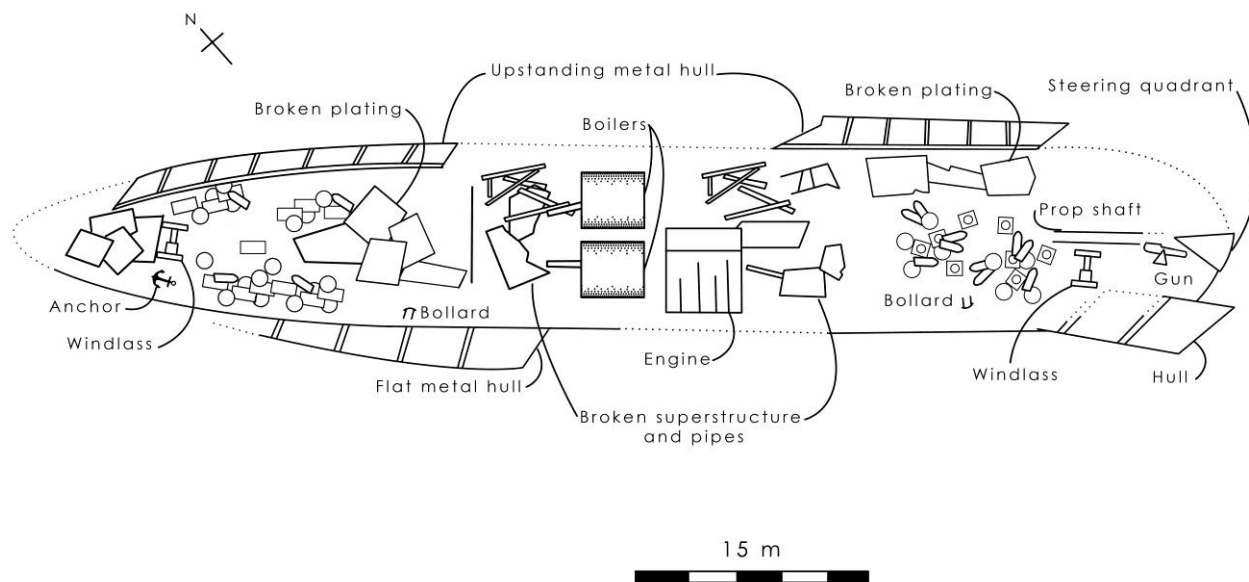
Examples of Measured Sketch Plans



Example of a measured sketch plan of the site of the Azemmour wreck
<http://www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/azemmour>



*Example of a site sketch produced under water (by someone who has done quite a few!) for SS Eleanor
SS Eleanor was torpedoed on 12th February 1918 and now stands upright in 40m, SW of the Isle of Wight*



Example of a measured sketch plan of the site of SS Eleanor