

# Selsey, May 2012

Trip organised by Christian Ashby

Report by Christian Ashby

## The Divers:

- > Christian Ashby
- > Divers from Chelmsford

## Diving

Firstly, a comment about the boat - it was with [Selsey Trips](http://www.selsey-fish-trips.com/) (http://www.selsey-fish-trips.com/) on the Emma Jayne - really lovely people, Colin (the skipper) was friendly, great attention to detail with custom built diver friendly benches, enough space, and PACKED LUNCHES! Also, tag system (numbered tag on each diver, whiteboard with in times filled in when you jump off the boat) - really good solution, many skippers could learn from him.

## Dive 1: Brigitta (aka 'the Teapot') - 20 m, 40 min max dive time due to slack

Dive time 40 min, 19.8 m max, 14.3 m avg, 12 deg, 4 m vis

I've rarely seen this much wildlife in a UK dive; whole shoals of what I think are ling (possibly? Quite long barbs, but fairly fat bodied), a good few cuckoo wrasse, and more blennies than I've previously see on a dive. We dropped down shot (pretty quickly - James doesn't hang around on a descent!) and arrived as expected on the big boilers. Wreck lies NE/SW so we headed NE originally around the first big boiler, came back around (not entirely intentionally) again back to the shot - finding a huge Conga eel (had a good 6" long jaw) inside one of the rusted out holes in the boiler, and continued along the deck. What made this a great dive is the deck, which you can safely swim underneath for quite a distance, and all of the fish congregate under it. Fascinating dive. Once past the pieces of deck, you end up at the huge prop, which gives a good idea of the scale of the ship. Absolutely brilliant dive. We finished with a blob (James' blob, but I took it to the surface) about 35 mins in.

## Dive 2: Landing craft - 11m, 1 h max (drift) but ended up about 20 min as we mainly found sand!

Dive time 24 min, 9.9 m max, 6.2 m avg, 13 deg, 2 m vis

Not sure whether this is the same landing craft as is linked, but whatever. Not as nice as the first dive today (though that would have been touch to beat). Good dive all the same. Quite a current, got dropped onto the wreck. Many starfish and small fish (lots of fry, etc, not much in the way of larger fish). Had a poke around there, followed a lobster line to the nets, and contemplated stealing some of the contents (didn't!). Then left the wreck to find pretty much nothing but sand. Got bored, went up.

Not sure how we missed it, but compatriots on the boat managed to bring up a live 20 mm round from something - I think we must have ended up on the edge of the wreck or something. Careless. Oh well!

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