

Stoney Cove, February 2013

Trip organised by Ruth Charles

Report by Ruth Charles

The Divers:

- > Ruth Charles
- > Jan Lellman

Details

Our two intrepid divers set out from Cambridge at 7am, making it to Stoney Cove by 8.25am. The lower car park was quite full by this point, but we found a space quite close to the entry point we intended to use. The entrance fee had increased since our last visit and was £17 per person. The fill station was open, so Jan popped his twinset in and we headed off in search of breakfast; the twinset was ready and waiting for us by the time we returned. As we started to kit up we were dusted with a light springling of snow, and we could not fail to notice the signs about the dangers of freezing regulators as the water was a balmy 5 degrees.

By 10am we were kitted up and headed off for a tour of some of Stoney's highlights - The Bus, the Stanegarth and the Van. All too soon the time came to ascend for our safety stop, which we spent exploring the 'cave' under the pub before moving on to deploy DSMBs and heading back to the steps.

Our second dive was planned a deep one as Ruth wanted her 30m depth progression. Consequently we had a leisurely 2.15 hour surface interval watching intermittent snow flurries and having lunch (Jan recommends the cheesy chips) before returning to the water. Once in we followed the path down to the top of the 'deep box' noting the light fade as we gained depth.

Having swum round the top at around 30m we pointed our torches through the entrance at its top just to be nosey. Then we headed back to the wall and the path, slowly ascending back the way we had come. After a gentle ascent with a 1 minute stop around 13m we eventually sighted the Viscount Aircraft cockpit in 6-7m and had a good nose around that while doing our safety stop. All too soon it was time to practice deploying DSMBs again, and once both were inflated we made our way back to the ladder.

After a brief pause to de-kit and pack the car we retired to Nemos bar, relaxing by the open fire with a pint to write up log books before heading back to Cambridge in the late afternoon.
