

GROSVENOR 1782

**REPORT ON THE 2008
FIELDWORK SEASON**

BY

STEVE VALENTINE – PERMIT HOLDER

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF TYROON AND ARGO

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

DIVING - APRIL 2008

DIVING - JULY 2008

FINDS

SITE MAP

CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

In the 2008 season we were able to mount only a limited diving operation. The goals set were the following:

- to plot with a Total Station the underwater grid datum points relocated in the 2007 season. This is important as it is one of the priority tasks set by the CMA.
- to continue the task of identifying the cannons on the site and preparing those selected for removal and conservation.
- to explore the areas seawards of D.P.13 and D.P.14

DIVING – APRIL 2008

After some unseasonal storms along the Eastern Cape coast we decided to send someone to inspect the site to see whether there had been significant movement of sand. Jason Martin undertook this task and was accompanied by Jonathan Sharfman of S.A.H.R.A. They discovered that there had indeed been some movement of sand, although the areas seaward of D.P.13 and D.P.14 were still covered. The area east of the “Grosvenor Gully” had been uncovered and they found a previously undiscovered cannon with some timber (see Site Map). This brings the total number of cannon accounted for to twenty out of twenty six.

DIVING – JULY 2008

Following the inspection of April it was decided to wait for further storms in the hope that the areas seaward of D.P.13 and D.P.14 would be uncovered. There were strong storms in June and we decided to undertake further diving for a 30-day period in July. The dive team comprised S.Valentine (Supervisor) and P.Valentine and T.Botha (Divers). We were joined at the site by Tyroon representative Andras Benyo. Unfortunately the recent storms had also been accompanied by heavy rains and the local rivers were in flood. The outfall of the rivers in the vicinity of the site resulted in zero visibility underwater, which made work difficult. We had to wait for two weeks for the brown water to move off the site. Eventually we managed to survey the area east of the gully.

FINDS

In the area east of the gully we found further sections of conglomerated wreckage which will have to be worked at a later opportunity. Although we were not excavating the site, we were forced by circumstances to remove a few exposed objects in order to preserve them from inevitable damage. We found and removed one cannonball in very good condition which had been washed loose by rough seas and started the conservation process (See Site Map). We loosened one of the cannon earmarked for lifting and exposed a Spanish 8-real portrait dollar and a lead bottle seal in the process. These were also logged and removed for conservation. One of the storms that passed while we were there washed out a silver rupee coin and a brass piece of a telescope, which are also being conserved.

CONCLUSION

Once again the decision to commence operations was late and this resulted in our encountering difficult conditions. We hope that we will be able to make an early start in 2009 and work for a much longer period. Priority will be given at the start of the 2009 season to plotting the datum points before excavation commences. One of the cannon earmarked for lifting is now loose and ready, but the other will have to be prepared at the start of the 2009 season.

Steve Valentine Permit Holder and Conservationist
Submitted on behalf of Argo and Tyroon

6525510
6525500
6525490
6525480
6525470
6525460
6525450
6525440
6525430
6525420
6525410
6525400
6525390
6525380
6525370
6525360
6525350
6525340
6525330
6525320
6525310
6525300
6525290
6525280
6525270
6525260
6525250
6525240
6525230
6525220
6525210

777160 777190 777220 777250 777280



Ruin

General site map

WGS84, UTM

Tunnel

Northern benchmark

Central benchmark

Southern benchmark

Gully

20

514

KEY

- Cannon
- Anchor
- Ballast
- Cannon and timber
- New Area Surveyed
- Coin and Lead seal
- Cannonball
- Washed up Items