

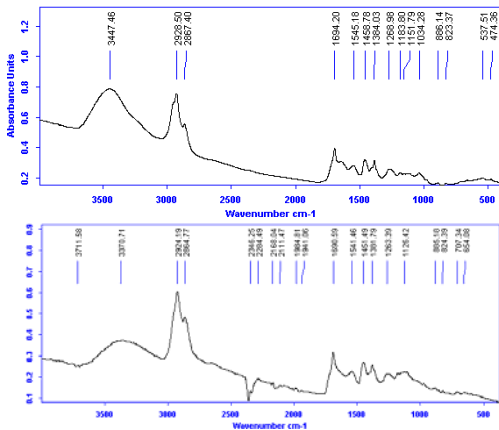
To perform the initial infra red analysis, a small amount of pigment was compressed to form a pellet, which in turn was subjected to the infra-red analysis. The analysis of this proved that the pigment was an organic base.



Photograph 20: Dr. Spooner analysing the sacrificial planking and removing a sample of the paint to send to Paris (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 21: Dr. Gendron-Badou on the left with student watching as she prepares the paint sample for the infra red testing (© ADMAT - Spooner).



Photograph 22: Top analysis showing Infrared Spectrum (ATR) of pigment 2 (piece of wood from Square D5) and bottom showing Infrared Spectrum (ATR) of pigment 1 (Plank 1, face A) (©Dr. Aisha Gendron-Badou).

Dr. Gendron-Badou stated: “The two pigment samples were analyzed by Infrared Spectroscopy (IRTF) with Attenuated Total Reflexion-Diamond (A TR-Diamond). This quick technique (direct analysis on raw sample) used a very little quantity of removal (only some mg). The two spectra show the same kind of organic matter but the research should go further to define the exact nature of this organic mater”. The scientific research continues.

ADMAT Undertakes a DGPS’s Survey of The Purton Hulks In The UK

In June Dr. Spooner was asked by Mr Paul Barnet Acting Chairman of the Friends of Purton to assist with the “1st Peoples Archaeological Academy” at Purton near Bristol in England.

The purpose of this activity was to have a public open day over two weekends to continue the survey work of the many hulks which are on the riverbank at Purton. Mr Barnet stated: *To this end I am very pleased to advise that the weekends proved to be a great success with 6 vessels being comprehensively surveyed by the NAS and Friends of Purton volunteers. Coupled to this, Wessex Archaeology with the use of ground penetrating radar, obtained images of some 5 vessels one of which had never been recorded before. Furthermore Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team conducted a DGPS survey of the vessels with the view to updating the previous schematic survey conducted by Dr A. J Parker in 1996.*

The history of the site starts almost 100 years ago when it was realised that the River Severn was affecting the base of a protective earthen canal bank.



Photograph 23: The rudder and sternpost of one of the schooners at Purton in England (© ADMAT - Spooner).

The erosion removed about sixty metres of canal bank and threatened the main Midlands transport canal. The solution was to deposit a small fleet or redundant wooden vessels to plug the breach. This worked and the canal was saved. Over the next 100 years the area became a graveyard for wooden ships. The collection contains several Schooners, Trows, Wooden Lighters, Steel Lighters, River Lighters, Barges and Stroudwater Barges. Recently these remaining ships have been the target of vandals and the local historian Paul Barnet has organised local support to document and save what they can of this collection of important vessels. ADMAT is delighted to take part in this operation.