

Mapping the past seeing the Present and predicting the future.

The action of time and the tides have and continue to effect the Purton Hulks. Mapping the site as a whole helps us to understand how this process continues and indeed demonstrates that the hulks are still influencing the development of the Purton shore line.

To cover what is an extensive site with limited scope for lines of sight we have made use of technology using both the GPS (American) and Glonass (Russian) satellite systems. Recording the outlines of the hulks in this manner helps determine their position and alignment relative to each other. This shows where and if the vessels have moved. Showing that Purton is very much an active sight, not only of interest but still performing an important role in protecting the Gloucester to Sharpness Ship Canal.

There is a good explanation of the GPS system available from the Ordnance Survey web site, which can be found at the following link.

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/gps/information/gpsbackground/beginnersguidetogps/index.html>

To allow us to turn the data from the Satellite systems, into useful coordinates we use a software programme called Toposurv. Due to the size of the site and to allow integration with existing map we use the same coordinate system as in the Ordnance Survey. Further information on Mapping and transformations is also available from the Ordnance Survey at the following Link

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/gps/information/gpsbackground/gps_and_os.html

On site individual observations are recorded on a data logger, recording the satellite information as well as giving each observation a unique reference and a code. The codes allow us to classify different features such as individual vessels are topographical features such as river banks, areas of vegetation or trees for example.

To then produce drawings or Maps from the mass of information we have collected we are fortunate to have use of the surveying and mapping software produced by NRG kindly lent to us by Online Construction Management.

<http://www.nrgsurveys.co.uk/>

This software automatically interprets the feature codes and draws the appropriate line or point feature to provide a scale drawing or map of our survey. Allowing us to produce dxf (AutoCad0) drawings as well as a number of other formats including pdf.

Detailed archaeological Surveys are undertaken by the Friends of Purton on the individual Hulks. Transposing these detailed measurements onto the site map allows us to build up a detailed picture of the site. Importantly the detailed archaeology helps us understand how these vessels were made. Giving us an appreciation of the skill of the boat builders and an insight into the lives of those who came before us.

In the coming year the Friends of Purton will be holding a number of Master classes for those interested in Archaeology, Surveying, Mapping as well as tours of the Purton site.

Online Construction Management Ltd is happy to assist in the surveying of the Purton site.

For details please contact

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