

## 2004 Fall Field Expedition Summary\*

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources personnel with support from the Division of Marine Fisheries completed the first investigative excavations since 2000 on the *Queen Anne's Revenge* shipwreck site the week of October 3 - 8, 2004. The project had multiple goals but the primary focus was to evaluate the accuracy of the gradiometer surveys conducted in 1999 and 2001 through test excavations. The field project team included:

**Chris Southerly** - Project Archaeologist, Field Director  
**Mark Wilde-Ramsing** - Archaeologist, Project Director, Public Relations  
**Richard Lawrence** - Senior Archaeologist, Branch Head  
**Nathan Henry** - Archaeologist/Conservator, Excavation Supervisor  
**Dave Moore** - Archaeologist, Mapping/Documentation Supervisor  
**Julep Gillman-Bryan** - Dive Safety Officer, Boat Captain, Underwater Photographer  
**Jim Martin** (Volunteer) - Marine Biologist, Videographer  
**Sarah Watkins-Kenney** - Project Conservator, Recovery Monitoring  
**Wendy Welsh** - Field Conservator, Artifact Documentation, Archaeology  
**Eric Nordgren** - Field Conservator, Artifact Documentation  
**Karen Browning** - Surface Photography, Shore Support  
**Tom Piner** - Captain, R/V *Shellpoint*  
**John Masters** (Volunteer) - Intersal Diver, Remote sensing



Overall, conditions during the week were favorable with light winds from the north and relatively calm seas. Visibility varied with the tides ranging from a maximum of ten feet near high tide to almost zero during the falling tide. Water temperature was comfortably in the mid-70s.

- **Sunday, 3 October:** Operating from R/V *Snap Dragon*, UAB divers completed site setup. The first diver located the wreck site and placed the first mooring buoys. The 150-foot baseline and reference tags were placed while the remaining moorings were located and buoys placed. A general site reconnaissance was completed and sand elevation data

collected, while two parallel transect lines marking the excavation area were triangulated and installed. Only one faint target was located when a controlled metal detector survey was conducted of the excavation area.



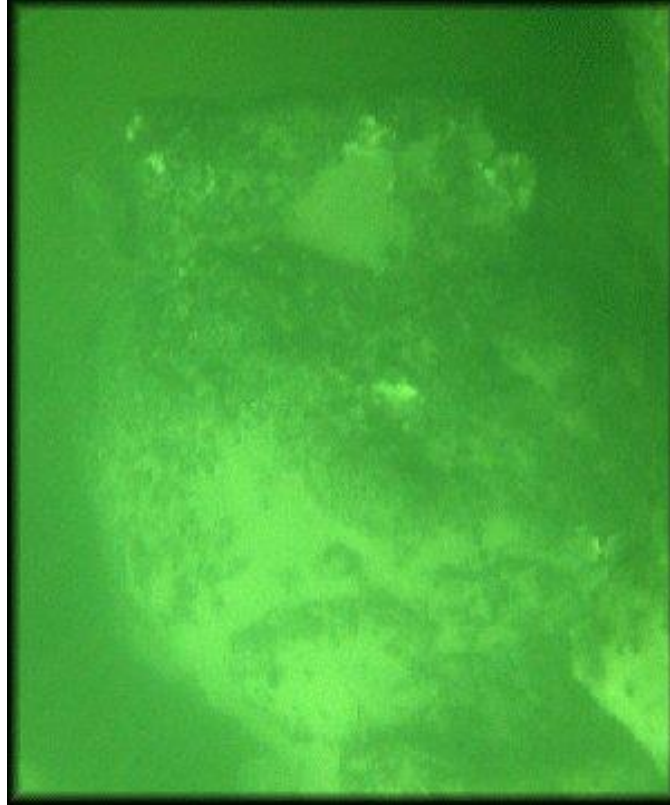
*R/V Snap Dragon*

- **Monday, 4 October:** R/V *Shellpoint* was placed on a three-point mooring using the North and West moorings and the East screweye (NM/WM/ESE). Detailed initial elevations were recorded along the excavation transect along with probing depths for buried artifacts while the 6-inch and 3-inch pump intakes were setup and tested. Excavation commenced in the afternoon while documentation mapping was completed on newly exposed areas of the site, east of the main pile. By the end of day, some unidentified concretions and the cascabel of a cannon were exposed.



*R/V Shellpoint*

- **Tuesday, 5 October:** *Shellpoint* again moored on the NM, WM and ESE. Excavations and mapping continued throughout the day. Artifacts exposed during excavation included a new cannon (C-23), two deadeyes, a possible third deadeye, a cook kettle, a section of wooden plank, two barshot, a lead concretion, a piece of folded lead, and a pewter plate.



*Cook kettle on-site*

- **Wednesday, 6 October:** *Shellpoint* again moored on NM, WM, and ESE. Excavation was proceeding ahead of schedule so the decision was made to extend the test area east to the baseline and twenty feet further west. Excavation continued once transect lines were extended further west. Mapping began on artifacts uncovered by the previous day's excavations. Video documentation began of the exposed portions of the site and the newly opened excavation area. In addition, an updated biological survey was conducted around the main ballast pile. A diver-held hardwired video provided images to non-diving surface personnel and the media visiting the site. Artifacts exposed during excavation included a chain concretion, an unidentified "double-rod" concretion, a lead sounding weight, a cask hoop concretion, and more ballast stones.



*Lead sounding weight*

- **Thursday, 7 October:** *Shellpoint* again moored on NM, WM, and ESE. Excavation continued until approximately noon primarily as cleanup for documentation. Once completed, digital video was shot of the artifacts in the test excavation. Elevations were taken on each exposed artifact. The mosaic photo grid was then assembled and placed at the west end of the excavation area and digital photographs taken. On reviewing the images, visibility was too poor for good images and additional photography was postponed. Detailed mapping continued on the artifacts exposed throughout the day.



*Mosaic photo grid*

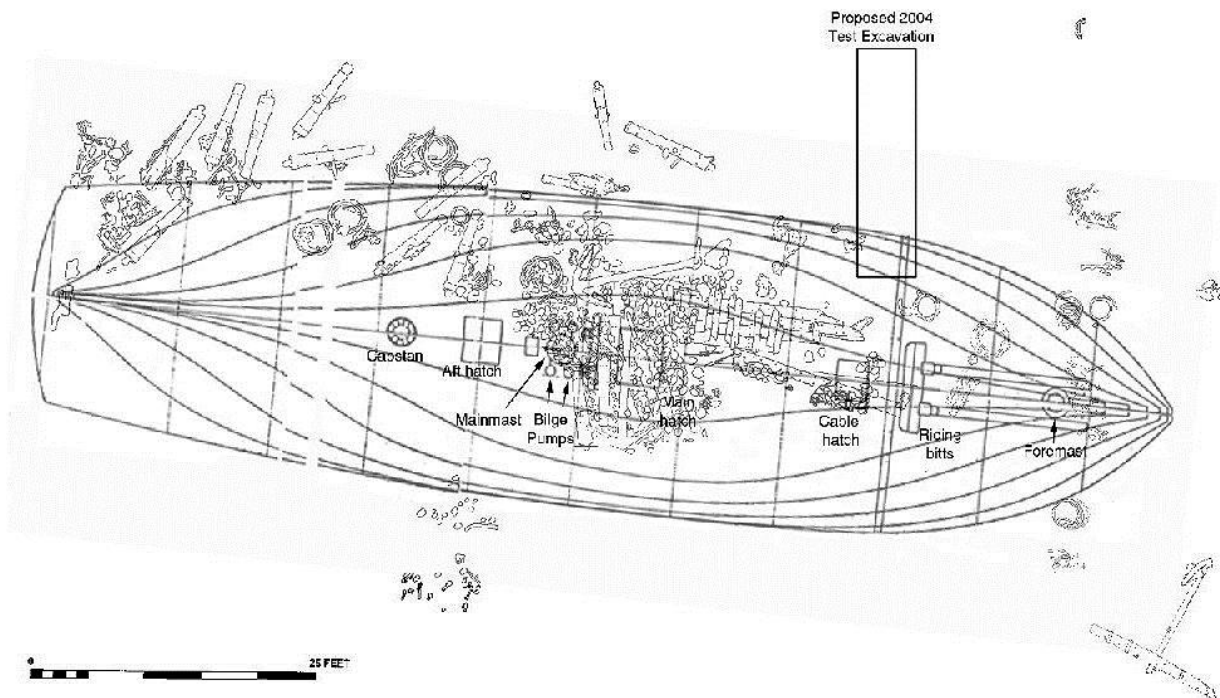
- **Friday, 8 October:** *Shellpoint* moored on NM, WM, and ESE. Mapping continued and visiting scientists were given a tour while waiting for visibility to improve for photography. Visibility did not improve sufficiently to allow photography. Several small objects and concretions were recovered before backfilling the test excavation. Backfilling was completed and reference lines, baseline, and moorings were removed from the site.

Throughout the week, Mike Daniel and divers with MRI were on site. They operated off the vessel *Outrageous V* from Discovery Diving of Beaufort. Their goal for the week was to photo and video document the archaeological activity at the site for eventual documentary production.



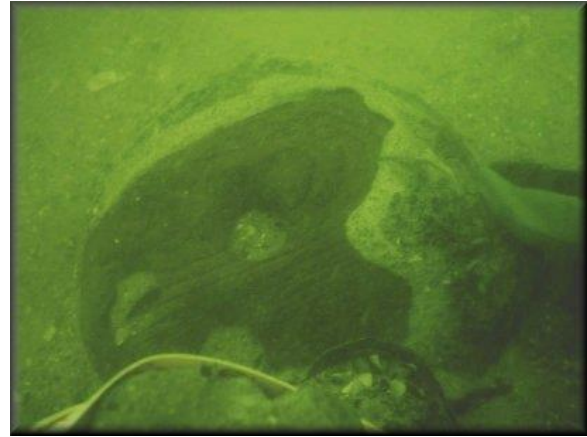
*Outrageous V*

The field project was deemed a success. Based on the remote sensing survey, archaeologists expected to possibly uncover one or more cannon. It was hypothesized that excavations were taking place in the forward area of the vessel, near the foremast. Therefore, rigging elements were also expected to be found.

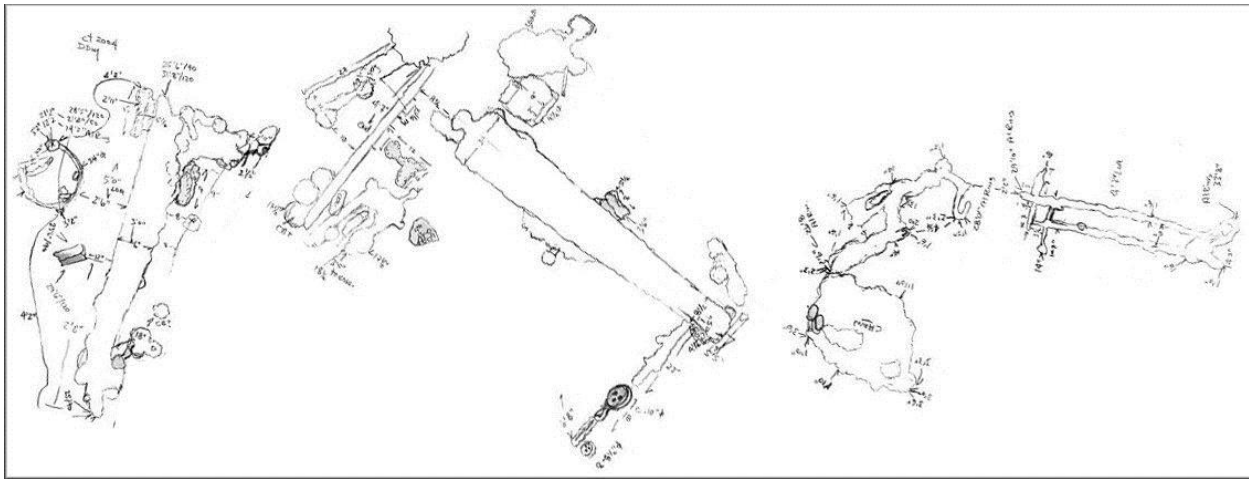


*QAR Site Map with proposed 2004 excavation area in forward area of vessel.*

One cannon was indeed found, bringing the count on site to twenty-three. Three deadeyes and a possible chainplate assembly were uncovered. The presence of a small kettle and a pewter plate also supports the hypothesis of being in the forward area of the vessel where the galley would have been. The mapping of scour exposures around the east and southeast side of the main ballast pile expanded on work done after previous storm events in 2003. Finally, detailed time data was recorded for all aspects of the fieldwork. This will allow archaeologists and managers to plan more accurately future efforts on the site in terms of time and funding required. Sixteen divers (including the eight core research divers) made 112 dives on the site, over a period of 6 days, for a total bottom time of 104 hours and 34 minutes.



*Deadeye*



*Sketch of site mapping*

\* Prepared by Chris Southerly Project Archaeologist, Field Director