



## The Diving Club

### Experience Shore Dives: Guide for Divers

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#### **Location**

The dives are held at an inland site, typically Vobster Quay (<http://www.vobster.com/>) or Chepstow NDAC (<http://www.ndac.co.uk/>).

#### **Don't forget!**

Your **certification cards** may be requested - have them with you.

It is VERY unlikely that weather will prevent a dive, but if you have any doubts please call the dive leader the night before the dive to check that it is still on. Phone numbers and arrival times should have been supplied by the organizer.

Dive Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ First Dive (Time): \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ hrs

Leader's Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Your Responsibilities**

Have Fun! We want the day to be fun as well as give you some valuable experience and encouragement towards your diving career. But there are some important things we need you to remember:

**Always take heed of your training and follow your own judgment.** You are responsible as a qualified diver for your own safety. The dive leader is there to help and offer the benefit of his/her experience but is not responsible for your safety. **This is YOUR dive and at YOUR discretion.**

**Do not exceed your level of qualification.** E.g. Depth, overhead environments and no decompression times.

#### **Equipment and Air**

You are responsible for providing all of your own kit. If you don't have your own equipment, we suggest you hire it before you go. There is a good dive shop on site that could bail you out if you need to purchase anything at the last minute but it's best not to rely on this. **Divestyle** (<http://www.divestyle.co.uk/>) can do full kit hire if required before you go and offers the club discounts on purchases. It's worth making a check-list (see below) so you don't have to worry about forgetting anything as you load up the night before.

You'll only need one cylinder as you will be able to get a re-fill at the site between dives, should you need to. **Make sure your cylinder is full on arrival** for the first dive as it can be quite busy and fills can take a while.

Please feel free to use the opportunity to practice skills for future dives, such as using a delayed surface marker buoy or getting familiar with new equipment and kit configurations. Make sure your dive leader is aware of this so he can plan appropriately.

Finally, it's always worth taking a warm hat for between dives and, if diving in a semi-dry, some warm clothing, just in case!

## What to Expect

### Above water

The sites are a very well organised with an extensive dive shop at Vobster (less so at Chepstow) and an air station. Hot drinks and burger-type food is available all day.

There is a car park by the water's edge at Vobster but if this fills up you will be asked to park in the 'top' car park. Be prepared to carry your kit a couple of hundred meters or bring a trolley. Or you are usually OK to drive down, unload, and then park. Someone will be in the lower car park to leave the kit with. At Chepstow the car park is at the top of the site and a shuttle bus takes you to the water's edge.

Meet up as instructed by the organiser. The exact ratio of divers to leader/assistant will depend on the numbers attending. Dives may be in 'shifts' to make them manageable. Check with your dive leader for the best time to arrive. In general, the earlier the better.

Water entry is via giant stride off a flat concrete platform. Exit is via ladders at Chepstow and ladders, slipway or a recess in the concrete platform at Vobster (i.e. easy!).

At time of writing entrance is around £16 per diver per day. You will be asked for payment and to complete a release form on arrival. There is a membership scheme that reduces this price for subsequent visits.

### Below water

Visibility is usually pretty good at 5-6m on an average weekend but can be less (and more!). Chepstow is usually a little better than Vobster due to the makeup of the bottom.

The underwater topography allows for an area for OW dives up to 16m at Chepstow and around 12m for most of Vobster. AOW dives could be to around 25m at both locations. Please note that actual depths will be subject to the qualifications and experience of the group as a whole.

There are a few underwater objects to see (check the websites). Temperature will depend on the season and should be posted on the web site. Make sure your exposure suit/under suit is suitable for the conditions - please ask if you aren't sure.

Let the dive leader know if there is something you want to practice on the dive or anything you are unsure of.

## A Note about your Dive Leader

### Is Not

There as your instructor (but may be one)  
Being paid  
There to provide equipment you forgot

### Is

An experienced diver and club member  
Willing to help and answer questions  
Able to pass on experience of UK diving  
Familiar with rescue skills but doesn't want to use them!

## General Advice

We want you to get the most out of the day. Ask questions - and question answers!

Remember that the dive leaders experience and practices may differ from what you have been taught (different agency, advanced training, etc.). Their experience and qualifications may lead them to use techniques or equipment setups not taught on you OW or AOW courses. If they do, ask them about it, why they do it and how they learnt the technique.

Always remember to be your own judge. Consider what is right for you and your level of experience and... **enjoy the day**

## Sample Check List

Dry Suit + Under suit / Semi-Dry  
Weights (remember - Fresh water)  
BCD  
Cylinder(s)  
Regs  
Mask  
Snorkel  
Hood  
Gloves  
Fins  
Coat

Dive Computer / Tables,  
SMB and Reel  
Certification Cards  
Wooly Hat  
Torch  
Knife  
Log Book  
Contact Numbers  
Directions  
Food and Drink