

Dive a plane at Capenwray UK

Many of the visitors to Capernwray Diving Center near Lancaster, UK over the past eight or so months will have noticed that there was what appeared to have been a sizeable aeroplane crash in the top corner of the car park!

It all started a bit like a blind date; a call asking us if we would like an aeroplane to put in the quarry, followed by visits to it, a ridiculous amount of planning, and a long and tortuous journey up the motorway. The tail section and wings had to be removed to fit under bridges, which made for a total of four abnormal loads causing traffic chaos throughout Lancashire!

The winter passed by with a massive amount of work being carried out,; removing fluids, snagging hazards and re-attaching the wings. It is now rumoured that Capernwray has a specialist aeroplane-mending department! The entries and exits were enlarged, and the cockpit (with most of the controls still intact) closed off with Perspex. She is G-BVOV a Hawker

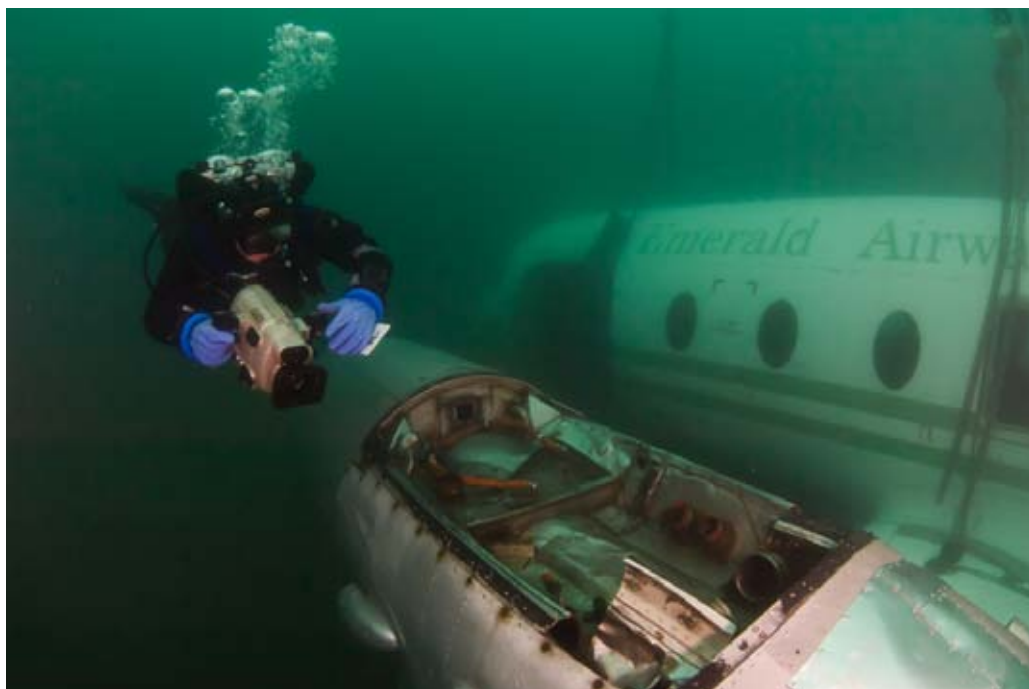
Siddeley 748 turboprop forty-eight seat passenger aircraft. She flew between Lisbon and the Azores, before being bought by the now defunct Emerald Airways to fly from Liverpool to Jersey and was scrapped in 2006.

On Monday the 29th March, we hired the biggest mobile crane available, and watched by the press, very gingerly lowered G-BVOV into the water. She made a textbook water landing, despite giving us some last minute angst by threatening to nose dive!

She now sits on a clear bottom with her wheels at 18m and the top of the fuselage at 12m. She is completely intact, with landing gear down, and wings in place. The tail and fin are intact but separate, which allows for a safe and easy entry into the cavernous fuselage.

Her cockpit faces almost due East-and gets the full force of the morning sun. Leaning in through the open windscreens you can shoot the cockpit controls and interior. The first impression on diving is





how big and quite unlike any other wreck she is. This is due to how high she stands and how intact she is. It really does look like a movie set, and is a real treat for videographers. For still shooters, the fall of light through the portholes (?) from the inside makes for some real cathedral lighting effects, particularly on a bright day. It is also crying out for some off camera strobe effects with a willing model inside! The wreck is so big that lighting it is a challenge, although green water Magic filters can help for wide-angle shots. As is often the way, the schools of resident fish in Capernwray are adopting

www.uwpmag.com

the wreck, with a large group of Perch already ensconced close to the nose wheel, which will add another dimension to subject choice.

Reaction from the diving public has been very positive, and with Charles Hood hosting the Visions in the Sea "Wrecks of Capernwray" event on the 8th/9th May, it is likely that it's image will be featuring in quite a few portfolios!

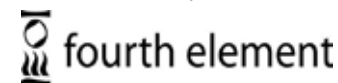
Adam Hanlon
www.dive-site.co.uk

"Visions in the Sea" Summer Series

Sponsored by



8th & 9th May 2010



Charlie Hood – Underwater Photography Workshop
 The Wrecks of Capernwray

Itinerary:

The weekend activities will start each day with morning talks, by Charlie Hood, giving advice on what to try out on the 2 dives of the day. You will also have the chance of a one to one advice session each day with Charlie, along with an evening lecture and a chance to enjoy dinner and a couple of drinks with fellow underwater photographers. Orca Divers will provide dive guides, briefings, surface support and models for the 4 dives over the weekend.

Mares will have equipment available to try throughout the weekend, Fourth Element will donate a Capernwray entry pass to each participant and Capernwray will be providing the classroom facilities for us. Your entry fee will also allow you to enter your 2 best photos taken on the day. The winner and runner up will receive prizes.

Tickets cost £30

Limited Places

For more details or to book online:

www.visionsinthesea.com

Charlie Hood is one of the world's foremost wreck photographers. His work is widely published and has taken him all over the world. He is also a correspondent for Dive Magazine. Charlie has also received many awards and accolades for his underwater photography. Charlie also has his own RIB charter to get photographers close to the UK's best sea life including the Basking Shark, Seals and Mola Mola over the summer months. His guidance over the weekend will be invaluable to improving your underwater photography skills.



"The Visions in the Sea Summer Series encapsulates what underwater photography in the UK should be about – getting in the water and having a go!"

0161 718 3118

Capernwray – is the premier inland dive site in the North West. It offers excellent training facilities and is a great place to do some underwater photography. Those joining us on this weekend will be some of the first photographers to have the chance to photograph the new airplane sunk in April this year. Other attractions are the HMS Podsnap, Cessna and 2 helicopters. There is also plenty of fish life with Trout, Roach, Perch and the impressive Sturgeon

