

# Survey Results

2022



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Protected Wreck Association

# Protected Wreck Association

## Survey Results 2022

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<b>Origination date</b>	01/12/2022
<b>Reviser (s)</b>	Jenny Kent
<b>Date of last revision</b>	13/12/2022
<b>Quality Assurance Approval</b>	Protected Wreck Association Committee
<b>Version number:</b>	1.0
<b>Summary of changes</b>	

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## 1.0 Background

- 1.0.1 In 2016 Historic England undertook a survey of Licensees and their team members to start to understand more about them and their contribution to the marine historic environment.
- 1.0.2 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 and the Protected Wrecks Association, alongside Historic England, were keen to repeat this survey to get updated information to help inform future strategies.
- 1.0.3 A online anonymous survey, hosted in Microsoft Forms, was run in Autumn 2022. The results are intended to enable us to find out more about people who volunteer their time to England's protected wreck sites and help highlight the contribution that is made to the historic environment by them.
- 1.0.4 Licensees were encouraged to share it with all team members, not just those who dive.

## 2.0 Results

- 2.0.1 The results are presented here without analysis and associated discussion to enable them to be shared with Protected Wreck Association members and the wider sector prior to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.
- 2.0.2 The following headline results illustrate the extremely high contribution that Licensees and their team members make to the marine historic environment each year.

**Over 1,312 days volunteering taking place in the marine historic environment on Protected Wreck Sites**

**Licensees contribute nearly £80,000 financially to the management of Protected Wreck Sites each year**

**62% of volunteers are over 66 years old**

**46% have been involved with a site for over 15 years**

- 2.0.3 The survey received 43 responses up to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 when this analysis took place. The full survey data, including any late responses, is available from the Protected Wreck Association on request as an excel file.



### 2.1 Demographic

- 2.1.1 Responses can be broken down as follows.

### 1. Which of the following are you?

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 Principal Licensee	23
 Additional Licensee	7
 Team Member	7
 Other	6









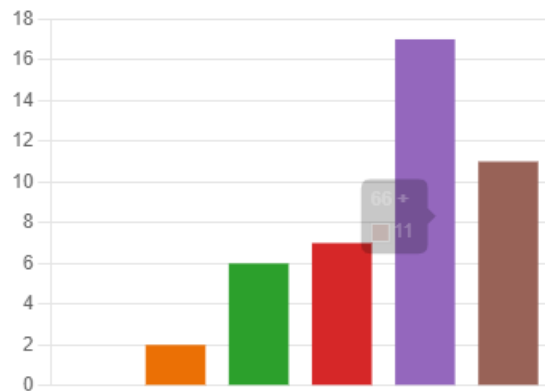
2.1.2 Respondents were asked what gender they identify as. One person declined to answer the question, 77% responded male, with the remaining responses responding female.

2.1.3 Respondents were asked to select an age bracket. Most respondents, 65%, were 56 or over.

### 3. What age bracket do you fit into?

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 Under 25	0
 26 - 35	2
 36 - 45	6
 46 - 55	7
 56 - 65	17
 66 +	11



2.1.4 All respondents, except one came from a white British background. One respondent identified as other white background. This responses to this question are a stark reminder of the lack of diversity in Protected Wreck Site volunteers, and the wider recreational diving sector.

## 2.2 Geographical Representation

2.2.1 Respondents were asked to enter their postcode. The following map shows an approximate distribution of the location of respondents who provided a postcode. Whilst this is predominantly south coast focused it should be noted a surprising number of respondents come from the Midlands.



2.2.2 Representatives from all Protected Wreck Sites in Wales and England replied except for the following sites:

- *Amsterdam*
- *Dunwich Bank*
- *Filey Bay*
- *Grace Dieu*
- *HM Submarine A3*
- *Pwll Fanog*
- *Resurgam*
- *SM-U8*
- *The Smalls*
- *Thorness Bay*

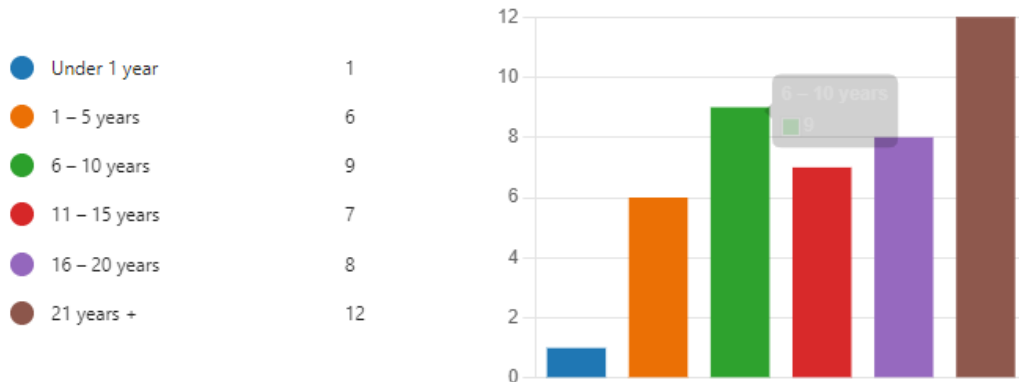
2.2.3 In addition, a response was received by a person working on an intertidal scheduled site.

## 2.3 Involvement

2.3.1 Respondents were asked a series of questions about their involvement with Protected Wreck Sites. The questions and responses are replicated here.

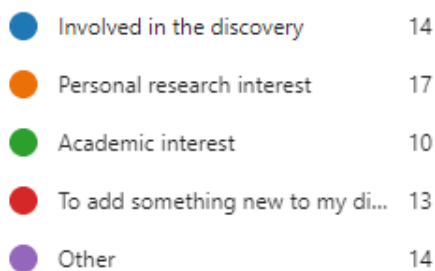
## 7. How long have you been involved with sites designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act?

[More Details](#)



## 8. What motivated you to first become involved with a protected wreck sites?

[More Details](#)



2.3.2 A common theme for other was through work either as a commercial skipper, commercial diver or archaeologist.

2.3.3 Respondents were asked if they contribute through diving, research or in another way to investigating wrecks that are not currently designated. 29 respondents, 67%, responded they do contribute to knowledge of undesignated wrecks. The results from this question can be seen in full in Annex A alongside the full results of the survey.

## 2.4 Diving

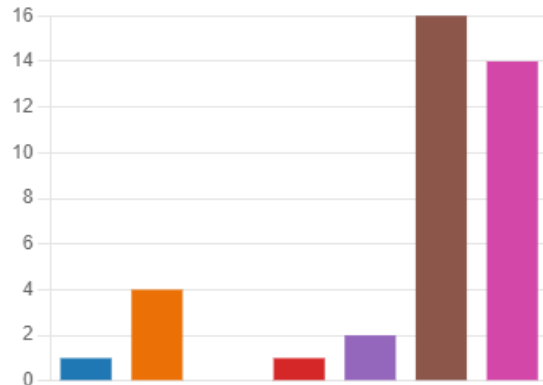
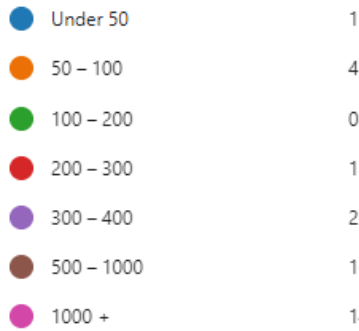
2.4.1 Respondents were asked if they dive. 38, 88%, answered yes they do dive.

2.4.2 Respondents were asked about their diving. The results are replicated here.

12. Please select your approximate number of dives

[More Details](#)

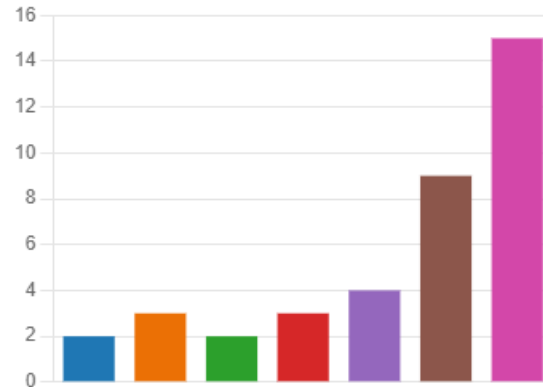
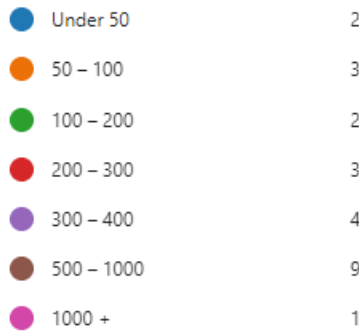
[Insights](#)



13. Please select your approximate number of **UK** dives

[More Details](#)

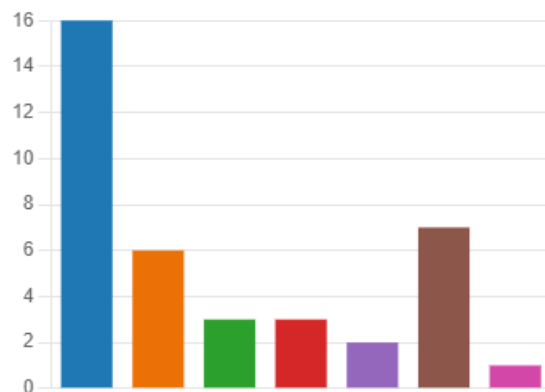
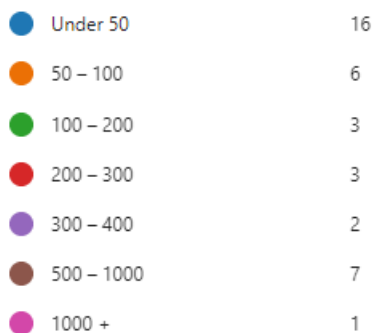
[Insights](#)



14. Please select your approximate number of dives on **protected wreck sites**

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)



2.4.3 Respondents were asked which dive agency they had undertaken most of their dive trailing with. BSAC was the most common agency. Other agencies included RAID, TDI, IANTD, and HSE.



15. What dive agency have you undertaken most of your training with to date?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> BSAC	22
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> PADI	4
<span style="color: green;">●</span> SSI	0
<span style="color: red;">●</span> SAA	3
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> Other	9



16. Do you dive with a regular club or group of people outside of your dives on protected wrecks?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes a club	14
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Yes a regular group	12
<span style="color: green;">●</span> No	12



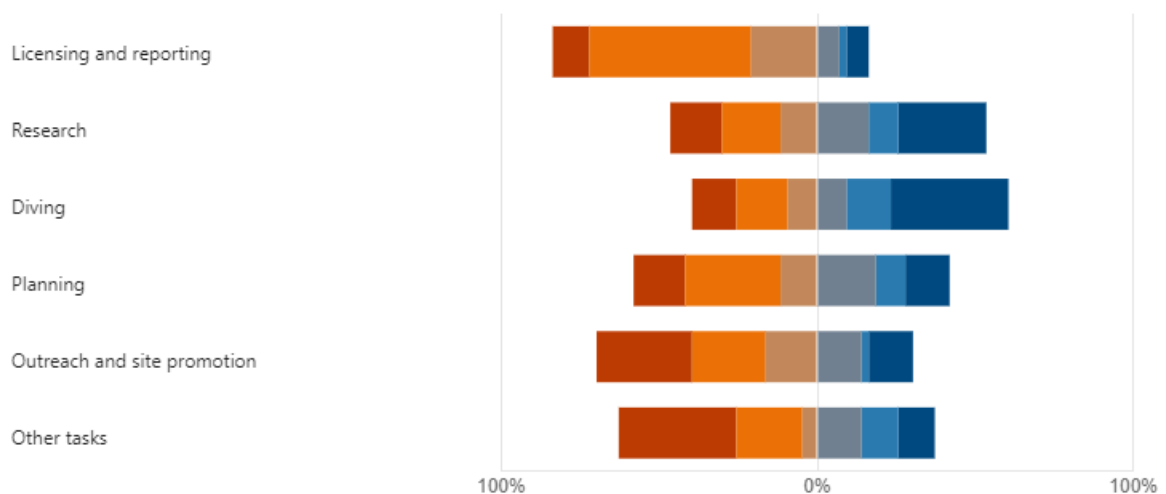
## 2.5 Contribution through volunteering

2.5.1 Respondents were asked how much time they spend annually on a number of tasks. The results are presented in the table below as a heat map.

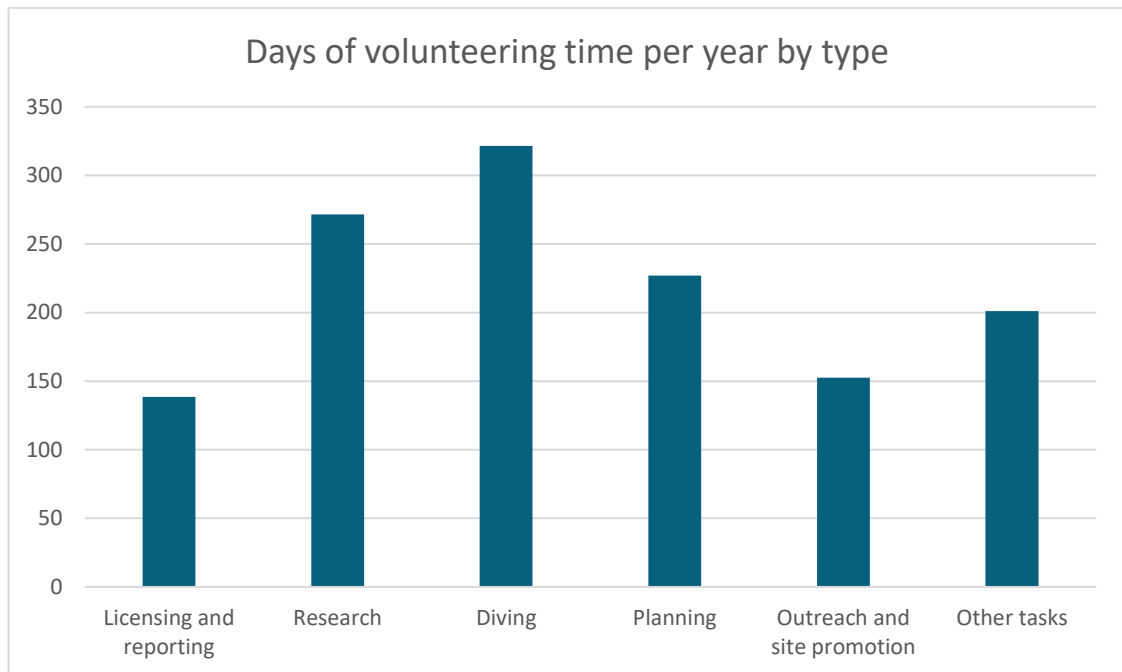
17. **Approximately** how many days do you spend annually on each of the following. Please select 0 if no time is spent on a task.

[More Details](#)

■ 0 days  
 ■ 1 - 2 days  
 ■ 3 - 5 days  
 ■ 6 - 10 days  
 ■ 11 - 20 days  
 ■ 20 days +



2.5.2 Taking the medium number of days for each respondent against each task this represents **1,312 days** volunteering taking place in the marine historic environment. It should be highlighted that this represents only a small number of those who volunteer their time in such a way and the true figure is likely to be much higher. This can be further broken down in the table below.



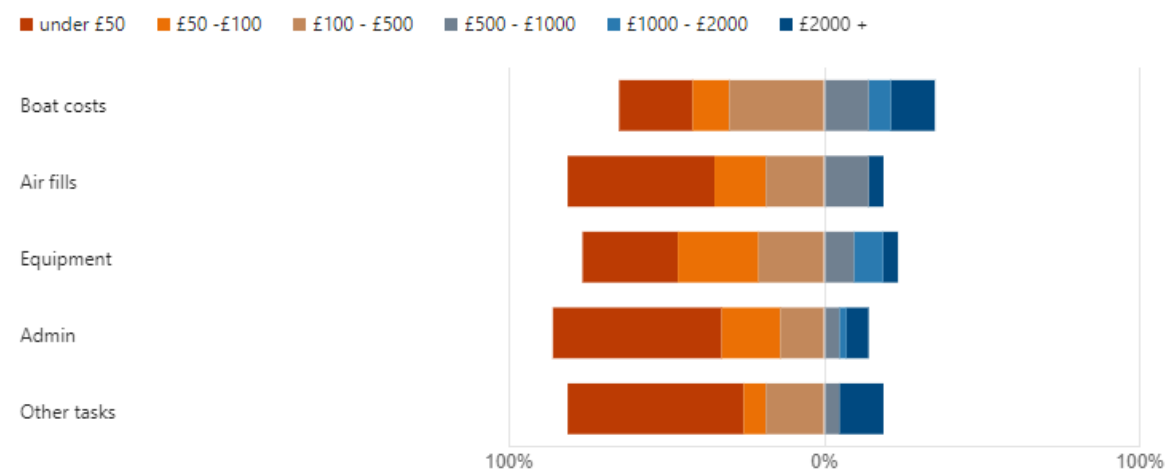
2.5.3 Respondents were asked to provide more detail on other tasks they undertake. Common themes included:

- Permanent public exhibition
- Driving and towing boats
- Group committee tasks
- Networking and conference attendance
- Finds related work
- Dive trail maintenance

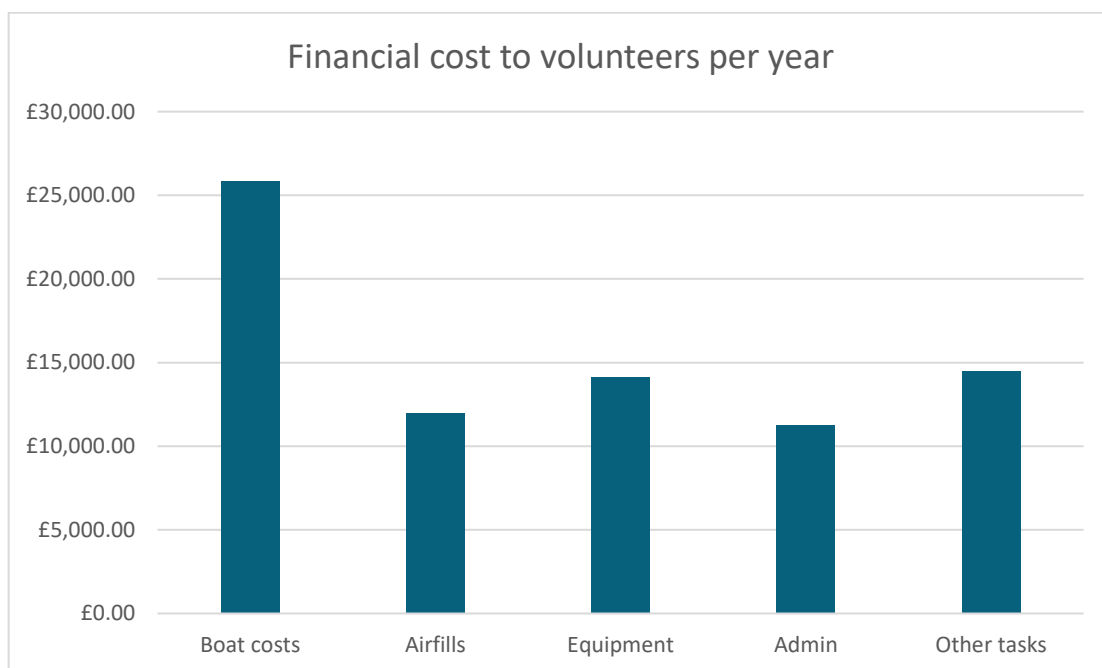
2.5.4 Respondents were asked how much they spend financially on a number of tasks. The results are presented in the table below as a heat map.

19. Approximately how much do you spend annually on each of the following areas relating to your protected wreck site involvement:

[More Details](#)



2.5.5 Taking the medium cost for each respondent against each task this represents nearly **£80,000 per year** that Licensees contribute financially to the management of Protected Wreck Sites each year. It should be highlighted that the survey respondents represent only a small number of those who volunteer their time in such a way and the true figure is likely to be much higher. This can be further broken down in the table below.



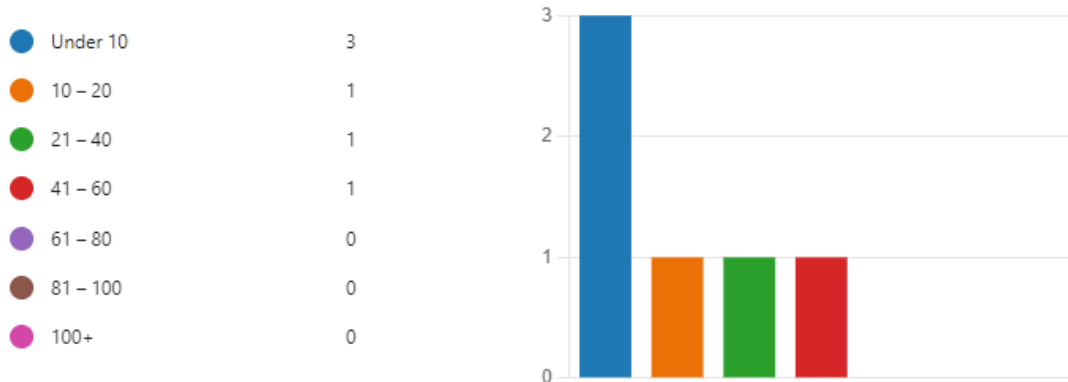
2.5.6 Respondents were asked if the increasing cost of living is having an impact in their involvement with Protected Wreck Sites. 23% are seeing a negative impact with a further 40% anticipating it will have an impact in the near future.

## 2.6 Charter Vessels

- 2.6.1 6 respondents, 14%, identified themselves as charter boat operators who take passengers to Protected Wreck Sites. Of these respondents all felt that having a licence to take divers to a Protected Wreck Site helps increase their business.
- 2.6.2 The number of divers visiting Protected Wreck Sites facilitated by each skipper varied and the results are presented in the table below. Most take under ten divers a year to a site, in relaty this is likely to be just one visit per year.

23. Approximately how many visiting divers do you take to protected wreck sites each year?

[More Details](#)



## 2.7 Reward and Recognition

- 2.7.1 70% of respondents make use of the English Heritage pass given to affiliated volunteers each year. Of those who do 52% visit a site 1 – 5 times. It should be noted a number of respondents stated they hadn't received a pass in a number of years despite expecting to do so. As the survey was anonymous no further information can be provided. There was also disappointment that this years pass only covered three months up until August 2022.
- 2.7.2 Respondents were asked for suggestions on tother ways heritage agencies could recognise the efforts of Licensees and their teams. Responses included:

- Outreach support to help get new volunteers
- Modest annual grant to help cover fuel and air fills
- Feedback on content of annual reports
- Better co-ordination between heritage agencies
- Support in writing grant applications
- Subsidies to support attendance at the annual licensees meeting, research, training and archives access

## 2.8 Membership

- 2.8.1 27 (68%) of respondents are current members of the Protected Wreck Association, with a further four unsure if they are members. It should be noted that since the survey launched four new people have joined the Protected Wreck Association. This highlights the need to continually share the work of the Association with new members.

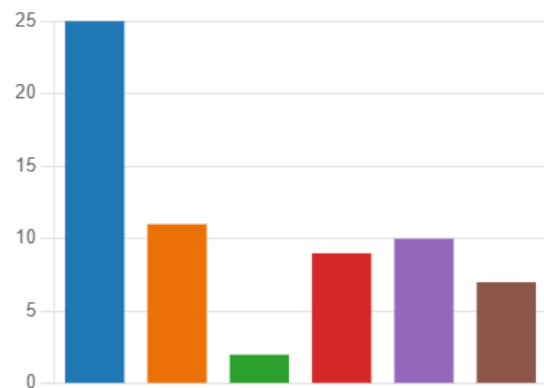
## 2.9 Skills and Training

2.9.1 Over 76% of respondents have undertaken some form of training in maritime archaeology with 58% having participated in an NAS training course. It should be highlighted that the majority of this training will have been self-funded.

30. Which of the following training have you undertaken (if any)?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> NAS Courses (in person)	25
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> NAS Courses (online)	11
<span style="color: green;">●</span> MAST BAD training	2
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Undergraduate degree in archa...	9
<span style="color: purple;">●</span> Masters degree (or higher) in ar...	10
<span style="color: brown;">●</span> Other	7



## 2.10 Site Security

2.10.1 23% of respondents have engaged with the site security scheme with a further 12% requesting further information on how to get involved.

31. Have you been involved with the site security scheme?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	10
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> No	26
<span style="color: green;">●</span> No but I would like more inform...	5





## 2.11 Archives

2.11.1 49% of respondents do not have plans for the site archive or were unsure of plans.

### 33. Do you have plans in place for your site archive?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Yes	19
 No	12
 Unsure	9



## 2.12 New Team Members

2.12.1 Respondents were asked if they have plans in place to get new team members involved with their work. 55% have plans but 36% have no plans and the rest are unsure. The majority of those that answered yes to requiring new members anticipate that they will need them in future.

## 2.13 Other points

2.13.1 A free text option was given for respondents to provide further information relating to their experience. These answers are replicated in full here.

- Don't get me started on the apathy to buoyage of wrecks - to help avoid damage from diving shot weights or from trawling and the delays on the forensic marking initiative are ridiculous.
- As our Sites were found and recorded by our team complete with yearly reports & with the added protection , the only comment is the sites are not policed to stop any illegal diving
- Maritime heritage in Wales is very poorly regarded and represented by Cadw, but it's also treated like a backwater by HE & the PWA.
- Frustrating. So much potential to gain huge insights into maritime culture from our protected wrecks but unless in exceptional circumstances we only get to scratch the surface.
- It is essential that existing Licencees are informed of the name and contact details of anyone awarded a new License for the same site, and that all Licensees for a site agree to 24-hour warning between them of intention to dive on the site and how many other divers they will have along with them.
- ITS GOOD TO BE INVOLVED
- Slightly tricky to fill in some of these questions. Some have been done from personal perspective, some from organisational. With several different roles related to number of PW sites - some in work time, some in own time - have tried to provide a general reflection of involvement/ support for the sites.
- Can be an absolutely fantastic experience diving on such a historic wreck site, but can be equally frustrating at other times.
- Lobster fishermen ignore the protected wreck sites saying it isn't marked (it is clear on charts) but as protection isn't enforced and the fishing is good they ignore it
- Too much to type here, especially regarding how the management of the wreck of the London. All the other sites that I have been involved with have proved to be mostly positive experiences, and have provided a huge number of people a chance to engage with their maritime heritage over more than a decade.
- Working with MSDS to recruit new divers for the underwater work supervised by the elderly ex diving team.