

NOTE: the DRUC assumes NO responsibility, direct or implied, for the safety of diving at this site using this information.€ The information in this report presents general information on conditions and certain known hazards, but conditions are variable and other hazards may exist from time to time.€ It is every diver's own/personal responsibility to ensure that the conditions are adequately safe with respect to his/her training and experience – THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Dive Site Report – Lake Clear Training Site

Attractions

Underwater training site (Basic course), marine life (smallmouth bass, crayfish), boulder field, strange boulder feature (described below).

Site Overview

This site is a shore dive site that accesses a shallow section of the lake. A wooden platform is sunk on the bottom roughly 150 m straight out from shore (an 8' by 8' deck sitting on the bottom). The platform is used basic scuba course open water dives (i.e., where trainees practice skills without kicking up too much silt). Around the platform are a range of artefacts intended to interest the trainee divers during their first hours beneath the surface – *try to ride the bicycle if you can find it!*. The site also holds an excellent crayfish population, which is harvested in an annual crayfish hunt in Mid-June.

Towards the middle of the boulder field, there's one larger boulder (4' dia) that has been pushed by something (sometime ago), leaving a silt-filled depression in the track behind it. The front of the boulder has smaller rocks piled up, forming the front of the "plow face". What's very curious about this feature (*watch for it*), is the orientation of the streak. This boulder was pushed in one episode in a northerly direction (for roughly 20 m). Being in about 8' of water, this event must have occurred many centuries ago, if not thousands of years ago. The present shoreline of Lake Clear is marked with boulder piles formed from hundreds/thousands of years of seasonal ice movement, but this deeper feature, is an indication of an earlier, receded shoreline. If this hypothesis is true, why is there not any other indication of a flooded shoreline?, and why are there no other boulder streaks? – very unusual!

The site geography consists of a low gravel/boulder ridge that extends from a slight point on shore (some sort of glacial feature). On either side of the ridge, and off the far end of the ridge, is a flat silty bottom. The site is quite shallow (10 to 15'), but it offers excellent viewing of large bass that reside in the area. On one side of the ridge, there are logs that have been placed to enhance the habitat for the bass. These logs tend to attract fishing lures as well, which helps to defer the eager fisherman as they discover the site.

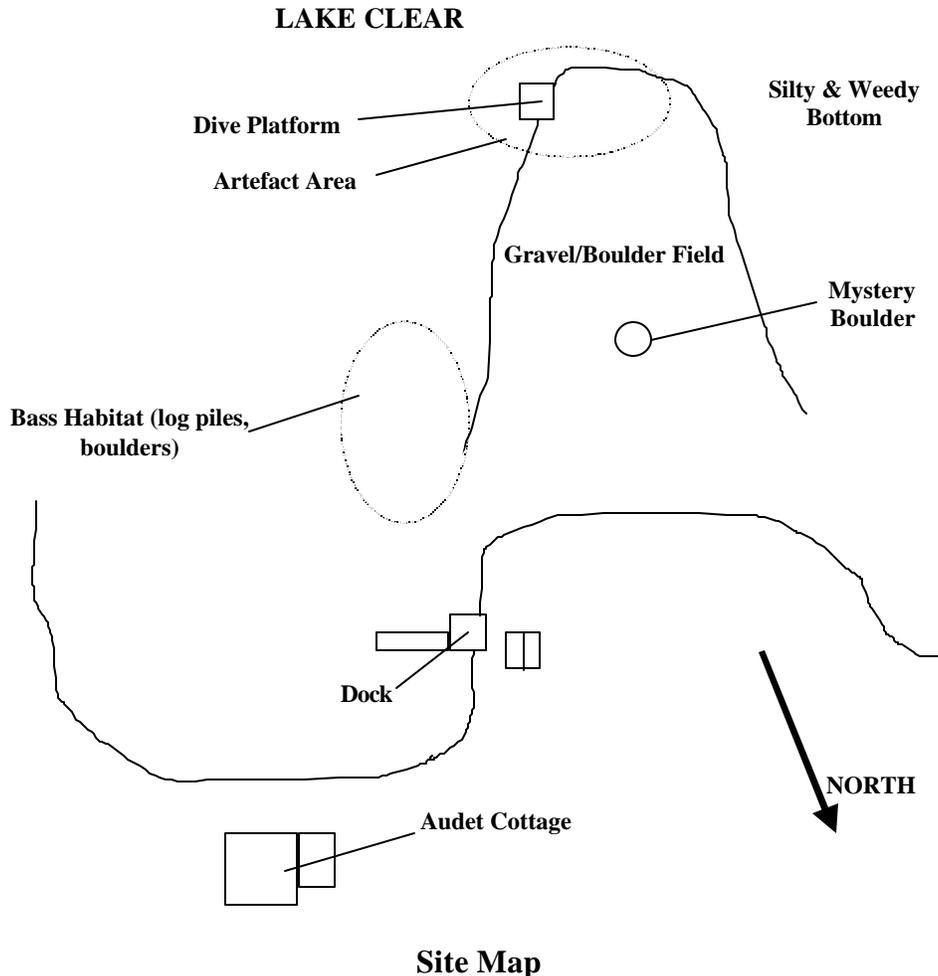
VIS is normally excellent – 15 to 20', but less in August. Temperature is normally reasonable, ranging from 65 to 75 deg F from June to September. There is no thermocline at this site (the thermocline exists at 30 to 40' in Lake Clear). The bottom is very silty away from the gravel ridge, but even over the ridge care must be taken to keep off the bottom.

Access

Lake Clear is a large lake in the Eganville area. The lake has only private access (no public access). The dive site is off the property of Marc and Anne Audet, and if they're

there at the time they'd likely be pleased to allow access to the site – contact them at 613-754-5340. This property is accessed by road. The dive site is accessed simply by swimming out from shore on the Audet property (see map).

To locate the dive platform, simply swim out (south) from the dock, following the east edge of the gravel ridge to the tip of the glacial feature. On your way, you'll swim past the logs and likely past a few large curious bass. Some of these fish will follow you around, *looking for an opportunity for a free meal.*



Hazards

The site has only a few minor hazards – *exhaustion* and *boat traffic*.

Exhaustion - Being a shallow site, an 80 CF scuba will last for 75 minutes or more, so the tendency is to cover a large area of the bottom. This can take you a far distance from shore. Be sure to check your position during the dive so that you have sufficient air to return to shore along the bottom. *Bring a compass* to navigate without having to surface too frequently.

Boat traffic – Lake Clear can be a busy lake for boat traffic – *surface with care*, and be sure to drag a *diver-down flag* during your dive. The site is not far from a main channel where boats frequently pass.

Recommendations

This is a site of convenience – it's quite a nice spot, but the main limitation is the limited depth. If you don't mind diving in 10 to 15' of water, it's worth diving if you don't have to travel far, but there are many better spots to dive at Lake Clear (if you have a boat to access them). It's a fun site if there's an objective of crayfish hunting, or bass sight seeing. The site is worthy of a 7 of 10 rating, but bring a dive flag and a compass!