

## **THE WRECK OF THE 'SS CHADWICK'**

### **THE FACTS**

STAR RATING : 5 star

SIZE : 1,463 gross tons  
BUILT : Swan, Hunter (Newcastle)  
DIMENSIONS : 77m x 10m x 6 m  
SANK : July 5th 1892  
CAUSE : Ran aground  
LOCATION : Below an Ceannaich, Oisgill Bay, Isle of Skye  
WRECK DEPTH : 15 to 25 metres.  
CONDITIONS: Take care in SW, W, NW winds  
TIDES: Slack water essential  
SEABED: Black rock reef onto coarse white sand  
LAUNCH SITE: Meanish Pier

VESSELS HISTORY : (download)

WRECK AT PRESENT :(download)

MAGAZINE FEATURE : 'The Chadwick wreck tour' – Diver : October 2000 : p54-56 : by John Liddiard  
Also features in many of the other Magazine reviews about diving with us.

## **THE WRECK OF THE SS CHADWICK**

### **THE HISTORY OF THE VESSEL**

Built by Swan Hunter of Newcastle in 1882 she was registered in London to R.B.Avery.

A British iron collier, she was on voyage en-route from the Clyde to St. Petersburg carrying coal. On the night of July 5th 1892, she ran aground in fog on the rocks at the North end of Oisgill bay. Gales and tide, surprising though it may seem played no part in her loss, and although a foreboding position in which to be wrecked, a few metres further north and her voyage would not have ended in disaster. 20m of stern overhung the ledge on which her bow was grounded and the forward holes swamped with 3m of water making it impossible to save her. Fortunately a passing mail steamer rescued the crew of 19. A tug had been dispatched to pull the vessel off of the rocks, but on July 6th the 'Chadwick' slipped back into deeper water leaving only her bow visible. Considered a 'total write off' the tug was intercepted with news of her demise and sometime later she sank completely below the waves to her final resting place.

### **THE WRECK AT PRESENT**

Lying in the same attitude in which she sank, the wreck is broken into several hull sections. These sections come into view at the bottom of a small cliff at 15 metres, probably the ledge that grounded her, and are lying upside down on the sea-bed extending down to 25 metres. The large sections are still recognisable as a ship, and it is possible to swim into some of these, with the upturned hull creating an interesting archway.

Excellent visibility, abundant colourful fauna and the quantities of shoaling fish present at this site, make this dive exciting, exhilarating and worthy of careful tidal planning.

The site is easily accessible by boat when weather and tides are favourable and, once again, launching is from the jetty at Meanish. Strong tidal streams in this area make slack tide planning important and an SMB or preferably a delay decompression buoy is strongly recommended!