

Notes for the CISMAS Simple Cast Gun Recording Form (v6)

This form is intended for use underwater and where concretion or wear makes recording of fine detail impossible. Waterproof forms can be made by printing the form on laser-printable drafting film in a laser printer. If your gun is covered in concretion (a hard crust formed from corrosion products, especially on cast iron guns) measure over the concretion. Do not remove concretion from guns without advice from a conservator as removing concretion will cause accelerated corrosion to the gun.

Measurements

Record the measurements in the boxes indicated on the form, preferably in millimetres. If you use units other than millimetres make sure you record (in the tick boxes) which units you have used. The diameter measurements are best taken using a large pair of callipers. If you do not have callipers, then measure the circumference and precede the measurement with a large 'C'.

Site - The name of the site. On land, record the name of the location or nearest building; underwater, the name of the wreck (if known). If the gun is on an archaeological site, the site code should be used.

Gun number - On sites with more than one gun, the guns should be given numbers.

Recorded by - The name of the person (or persons) recording the gun.

Date of record - The date the gun was recorded

Units - Tick one of the boxes to indicate the units in which the measurements are recorded

Gun attitude - Mainly applicable to guns underwater. State whether the gun is 'right side up', 'upside down' or 'on its side'. On land the gun will often be on a carriage (usually a reproduction); state 'on carriage'.

Material - Tick cast iron or bronze. If unsure put '?' in the box you think most likely.

Carriage parts - For use where original carriage parts survive (usually underwater).

Trunnions - Tick for parallel or tapered trunnions as appropriate. If the trunnions are tapered, record the outer face diameter on the gun diagram and the inner (larger) diameter here.

Location - Give a position derived from a hand-held GPS if possible: latitude and longitude at sea or an OS grid reference if on land. If you do not have access to a GPS then estimate the position from a chart or OS map. Please state in the notes section how the position was obtained (GPS or estimated). If on land, give the street address of the gun in the notes section.

Alignment - Take a compass bearing along the gun (from the base ring to the muzzle). With iron guns you will need to stretch a string or tape along the gun to get the compass away from the gun.

Concretion - State 'None' if the gun is not concreted. Otherwise, give an estimate of the thickness of the concretion. If this is not possible, simply record 'concreted' followed by an estimate of the percentage of the gun covered by concretion.

Markings - Any visible markings should be noted. Reference here photographs and sketches or rubbings made of the markings.

Notes - Any other features of note should be recorded here. You should also make a sketch of the gun, either on the back of the form or on a separate piece of paper. Take lots of photographs. Take one from the side of the whole gun as well as lots of detail/ close up pictures. On land, if the gun has an associated sign make a note of it here as well as photographing the sign.