

Worcester Divers: Kit for Open Water

Introduction

We've written this guide to help explain what you need to bring for Open Water Dives.

Many people in the club can help you with kit, but it is your responsibility to make sure that you bring everything you need. In particular, you need to make sure that you give the equipment officer as much notice as possible (ideally at least a week) if you want to borrow anything from the club.

Diving Kit for Quarries

Hood

The club doesn't have hoods that it can lend.

Mask

The club masks can be borrowed for use in open water, although most people have bought their own by the time that they are ready for open water training.

BCs and Regulators

The club keeps sets of equipment (BCs and Regulators) for open water training separate from the pool training equipment (so that they aren't damaged by the chlorine in the pool). Before your Open Water training, you will need to arrange with the Equipment Officer to swap your Pool BC & Regulators for Open Water ones.

If you are using a drysuit, make sure your regulator has an extra hose/port for a drysuit feed.

Cylinder

Club cylinders can be used in Open Water. If you have been using a ten-litre cylinder in the pool then it is worth arranging with the Equipment Officer to swap for a larger twelve-litre.

Suit

The main piece of equipment that the club can't lend you is a suit. These can be hired from Dive 90 (or possibly Seastyle, but I'm not sure and need to check this) for approximately £40/day. Alternatively, you may want to buy one (see *"Kit for New Divers"*).

If you opt for a wetsuit, don't forget to also bring wetsuit boots.

In addition to a drysuit, you are likely to need something underneath it. For thick suits, you will normally be ok with skiing thermals or similar; with thinner suits you will want more warm things (e.g. fleece, woolly jumper, diving undersuit).

Bring two sets of things to wear underneath your drysuit in case you get wet. Because what you wear under your suit affects how much weight you need, try to bring two fairly similar weight undersuits.



Weights & Weightbelt

The club has some weight that can be borrowed (by arrangement with the Equipment Officer), or it can be fairly easily borrowed/hired. It is worth investing in a weightbelt or harness, as this is quite a personal decision (e.g. depending on your body shape).

Computers

The club has a computer that can be borrowed. They are frequently used and can't be shared between divers over a weekend, so buying a personal one is a good investment.

Gloves

The club doesn't have gloves that it can lend.

Fins

You will need open-heel fins (i.e. not the shoe fins you have been using in the pool). These will need to fit comfortably over your suit boots.

Surface Equipment

QRB

Bring your Qualification Record Book (QRB – the Filofax thing that you collect instructor signatures in) and a pen. Make sure you get your instructor to sign off the lessons you do before the end of the day. Otherwise, you won't have any record of the training you've done.

Warm & Waterproof Clothes

You are likely to get cold while you are in the water, so make sure you have lots of warm clothes to put on when you get out (including hats and gloves). Even if the weather is warm, there isn't a lot of shelter available at most quarries. You will also want a waterproof coat.

Food & Drink

Some dive sites have a little café/shop – but not all. Make sure that you have plenty of food and drinks, because lifting and carrying dive kit around is hungry work. A flask of hot drink/soup is a very good idea. Everyone loves Dive Cake!

Cash

You can do most things at Stoney or Chepstow by card (although it's easier with cash), but Cromhall does not accept cards at all. Bring plenty of cash.

You should allow £20 for entry to the site. You will also need to get your cylinder filled in the middle of the day (~£5) and similarly you probably want a fill the end of the day because you need to return the cylinder full. You'll also maybe want some for extra food.

Extra Kit for a Boat

Goody Bag

A mesh bag to keep all your "soft kit" (mask, fins, hood, gloves, etc) together and tidy.

Second Cylinder

Boats often go out all day, without the opportunity to get fills at lunch time, so you are likely to need a second cylinder.

