

Exploring **THE** *Lofthus* State Underwater Archaeological Preserve

Location

The wreck of *Lofthus* is situated offshore of Manalapan at coordinates 26° 33.776' N and 80° 02.309' W. The site is a mile north of Boynton Inlet and 175 yards offshore, and is marked as wreck #133 on NOAA chart 11466.



For more information call: (850) 245-6444
WWW address: <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/uap>

A Window to the Past...

Lofthus was built in England in 1868 during the heyday of metal-hulled sailing ships. Originally christened *Cashmere*, the 222-foot-long barque was used in the Far East trade and had false gunports to discourage pirates. *Lofthus* wrecked in 1898 while en route from Pensacola to Buenos Aires with a cargo of lumber.



Diving and Snorkeling at *Lofthus*

- Use safe diving procedures and always display a diver-down flag.
- Please do not anchor on the site; anchor in the sand to avoid losing your anchor or damaging the shipwreck.
- Sand movement is dramatic at this site and the wreck may be completely exposed or almost entirely covered, presenting a new experience with every visit.

As with all archaeological and historical sites on public uplands and submerged bottomlands, *Lofthus* is protected by Florida laws forbidding unauthorized disturbance, excavation, or removal of artifacts.

Please take only photos and leave only bubbles!!



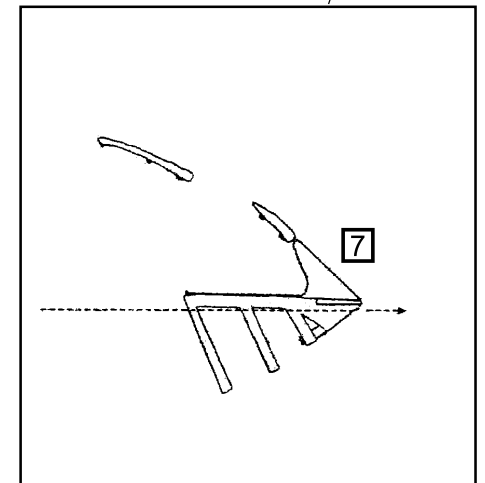
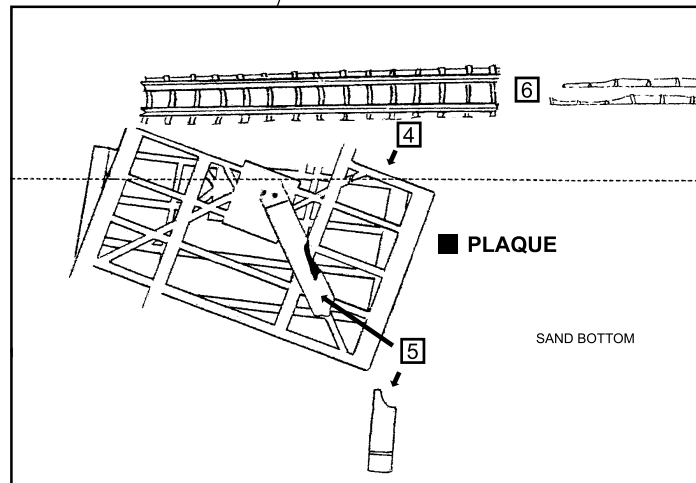
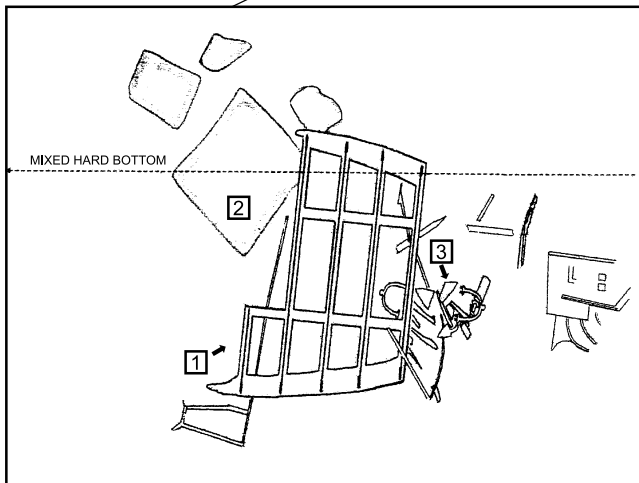
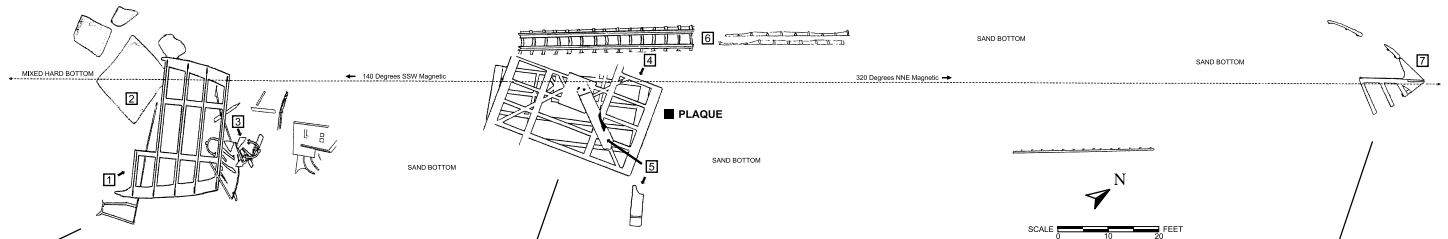
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Loftus

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE Boynton Beach, Florida

- 1 DECK BEAMS
- 2 HULL PLANKING
- 3 GEAR
- 4 DECK BEAMS
- 5 MAST SECTIONS
- 6 HULL
- 7 BOW



The remains of *Loftus* are scattered over an 80 x 15 yard area – the result of dynamiting the hull after wrecking to gain access to the valuable cargo of lumber. Three main sections of wreckage protrude above the sandy bottom; the vessel's bow is to the northeast. Sand movement around the wreck is remarkable and varies with currents, waves, and storm action.

Pieces of the barque including masts, machinery, and deck beams lie at odd angles among sections of inverted decking. Many species of marine life can be seen in the twisted wreckage; look inside the mast sections for anemones and damselfish, and underneath hull sections for small nurse sharks. Beware of scorpionfish hiding on the rusty iron.