

Subsea Vision ROV surveys for Dean & Dyball June 2003

A Subsea Vision Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) has completed a survey of pipeline diffusers from a Power Station off the coast of West Dorset, U.K. This is the first time an ROV has performed the task as dive teams have previously been used.

In the past, divers had to negotiate strong currents and over 25 metre water depths in order to complete the annual survey. The depth of water restricted dive times due to decompression constraints & tidal movements resulted in limited periods of slack water in which to carry out the survey. This evidently resulted in delays therefore prolonging the project over a few days. In addition a decompression chamber was required on site due to the remote location of the area. These factors together increased costs involved with the project.

Chris Bryant, Managing Director for Subsea Vision, who in the past has surveyed here as a diver explained, 'using our Seaeye Falcon ROV proved valuable when working at depths for longer periods and in the strong currents typical of this area. The ROV was able to complete the project in less time and without interruptions which was therefore cost effective and far safer than using a dive team.'

The ROV survey commenced with a General Visual Inspection (GVI) of the pipeline diffusers, concrete gravity anchors & anchor chains. It then performed a contact Cathodic Potential (C.P) survey on the diffuser stems. The ROV was finally relocated inshore to carry out a GVI of the inshore works which included Larson Pile & Gabion basket surveys followed by a scour survey of the pre-cast concrete apron & concrete in-fill sections.