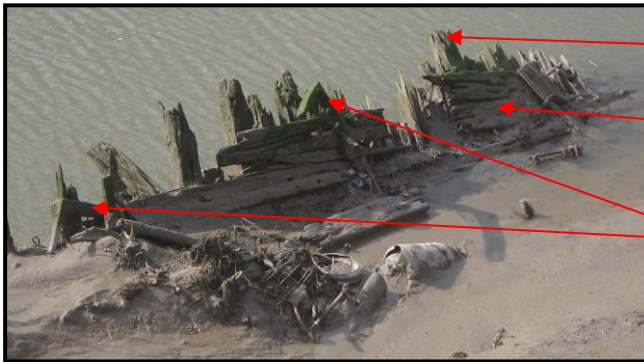


# An illustrated glossary of Wooden Ship and Boat Terminology



Frames

Ceiling Planks /  
Quickwork

Hanging Knees



*City of Ottawa - Rhyl Harbour, North Wales*

**Ian Cundy**

Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

**An illustrated glossary of  
Wooden Ship and Boat Terminology**

# An illustrated glossary of Wooden Ship and Boat Terminology

**>650 entries / 100 pages /  
100 photographs & drawings**



**Ian Cundy**



**Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit**

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Cover: The remains of the wreck of the *City of Ottawa* lying visible at low water in Rhyl Harbour, North Wales.

Inside the front cover: The Maritime Heritage Alliance Boatbuilding Workshop at Greilickville, Traverse City, Michigan, USA.

Rear cover: A replica of HMS *Endeavour* with the backdrop of Sydney's 21<sup>st</sup> century skyline.

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# Preface

All professions have their own coveted language and linguistic idioms that can often be completely incomprehensible to outsiders. In addition, the jargon derived from specific occupations, just like dialects, can vary from minor spelling and pronunciation to entirely different words being used from one location to another.

Marine activities are not only classic examples around which itemised terminology and particular terms for specific activities have evolved, but a huge amount of the English language and vocabulary has derived from, and is indebted to, historical maritime endeavours over centuries of seafaring.

As a boat builder of 30 years, while fully appreciating all the above, it never ceases to surprise me that words I take for granted, sometimes sound like a foreign language to non-maritime individuals. Over the years, particularly when lecturing on ship and boat construction, or when working with colleagues, carrying out marine archaeological investigations associated with the remains of wrecked vessels, it has been apparent that many people lacked the necessary terminology for what they were finding, or any comprehension of the activities that went into the production of the constituent parts of ships and boats.

This book has evolved from a basic set of lecture handouts, into this illustrated glossary of terminology. It is intended to be used as a quick reference guide for anyone interested in marine activities, and wooden ships & boats in particular.

Like any assembled lexicon, in this book there will inevitably be some errors and mistakes, particularly with respect to indexing and cross referencing, as well as alternative spelling and the addition of words that the reader may consider too important to have been overlooked. In this respect, the author would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any thoughts and comments so that errors and omissions can be corrected at the earliest opportunity.

Contact details can be found on our website at: [www.madu.org.uk](http://www.madu.org.uk)

Ian Cundy (Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit)

## Introduction

This glossary of nautical terminology is intended to be used as any other dictionary, however, in addition, the index at the back of the book will hopefully assists in not only pointing the reader at the page where the main entry (shown in **BOLD**) can be found, but also where photographs or illustrations (shown in **RED**), together with any other references (shown in a smaller point size) have been included.

Most teachers understand that people learn most effectively in different ways. Some may prefer oral information, while the written word, or visual images (be it pictures, tables, charts, etc) work best for others. This book attempts to compensate for these differences by offering various options.

Often, it is the question "what is the name for a ----- ?" that is being asked, and it is in the pictures and illustrations where the reader may be able to home in on, and discover the answer to what they are looking for.

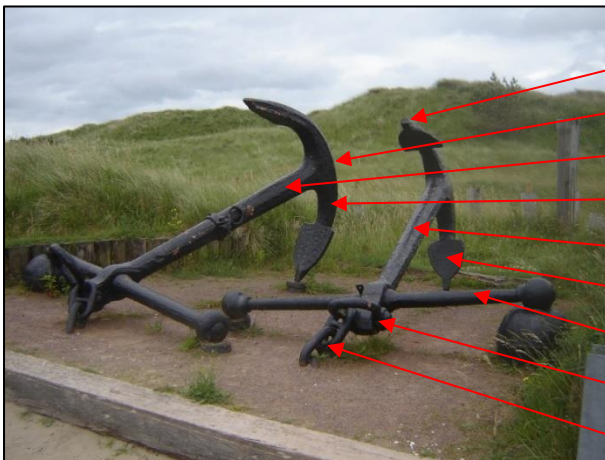
The descriptions associated with each entry have deliberately been kept to a minimum, but they hopefully provide a basic understanding of the word being sought. However, for further reading and more in-depth information, at the rear of the book, has been included a suggested list for further reading.

The author hopes you find this publication of assistance in whatever maritime activities you are involved.

A / Alpha /



- Aback** When the wind comes onto the forward side of the sails – typically driving square **Sails** onto the **Mast**.
- Abaft** Behind, towards the **Stern** or **Aft**.
- Abeam** Forward or **Fore**.
- Aft** A term used for the **Stern** or the rear of a vessel.
- Aloft** The upper **Sails** and **Rigging** – typically on **Square Riggers** (*to go Aloft*).
- Amidships** The central section of a vessel.
- Anchor** A heavy weighted and normally hooked device used to grip the seabed / riverbed – typically used for mooring and preventing a vessel from drifting (see also: **Bower, Danforth, Grapnel, Kedge & Mud Anchor**). (*see Figure 1.*)
- Anchor (Stocked)** An **Anchor** incorporating a fixed or removable **Stock** which requires the **Anchor** to be stored on the **Deck** or suspended from a **Cathead** when raised. (*see Figure 1.*)



- Bill / Pea
- Crown
- Trend
- Arm
- Shank
- Fluke / Palm
- Stock
- Shackle
- Studded Chain

*Figure 1. Example of **Stocked Anchors**.  
(Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire)*

- Anchor (Stockless)** An **Anchor** without a **Stock** so that it can be drawn into, and stowed in a **Hawse Pipe**. (*see Figure 2.*)

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If you like what you have seen so far, copies of this paperback book are available from the Nautical Archaeology Society at:

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/shop/illustrated-glossary-of-boat-and-ship-terms>

and from the Go Dive scuba store at:

<https://www.godive.net/categories/books-dvds/>

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## Reviews:

“Great Book” – [Jezz Davies](#)

“An excellent piece of work.” – [Robert Hall](#)

“I was pleasantly surprised by the quality. As they are printed to order, I was expecting a loose bound book, but the quality is excellent and the pictures superb. It is also really interesting.” – [Nigel Spickett](#).

“A most useful bedtime and reference read.” – [Huw Roberts](#)

“What a great book on boat terminology. I wish I had it 30 years ago. It takes a lot of reading and distilling of text books to get down to information you have supplied in a really easily available format.”

– [Darina Tully](#)