

The SeaBotix June 13, 2010 report titled Amelia Earhart Airplane Search describes the area searched as follows:

“Searched area from Norwich City wreckage to point approximately 150 meters north of “Nessy” citing to a depth of 300 meters (1,000 ft) . With the exception of a 75 meter (246 ft) swathe 50 meters (165 ft) north of Norwich City wreckage from 150 meters (500 ft) to depth 300 meter (1,000 ft) depth.

Searched 1 kilometer (0.54 nm) area south of Norwich City to a depth of 150 meters (500 ft).”

The map that accompanies the report looks like Fig 1. The red dotted line represents the primary search area and the green solid line is the area searched.

Fig. 1



The East/West dimension of searched area is not mentioned and the “Nessie” location is not shown.

If we apply the text description to the map we get something that looks like Fig. 2.

Fig. 2



The map is based on the Feb 22, 2007 satellite image used by Google Earth. If we add the dimensions of areas shown and show the Nessie location and the actual Norwich City location, several discrepancies become apparent.

Fig. 3



- Norwich City is actually 200 meters north of the location shown on the map.
- The map shows the searched area extending 200 meters north of the Nessie location, not 150 meters.
- The box showing a searched area extending 1 kilometer south of Norwich City extends only 715 meters south of the erroneous Norwich City location.

If we draw a map based on an accurate representation of the described areas we get something that looks like Fig. 4.

Fig. 4



Assuming that the description of the area searched is accurate and that the map depicting the area searched is in error, the area searched down to 300m is smaller than we thought and the area searched only down to 150m extends somewhat further south than we thought.

The map discrepancies also mean that the section of the primary search area that was not searched is further north – closer to Nessie - than we thought.

The confusion about where Norwich City is with respect to the areas searched raises another question. Much was made of underwater debris from the shipwreck being found north, rather than south, of the wreck on the reef – but was it? The errors in the map suggest that the underwater work was not accurately keyed to the surface features. Norwich City is 200m north of where the map shows it. Is the underwater debris actually south of the shipwreck?