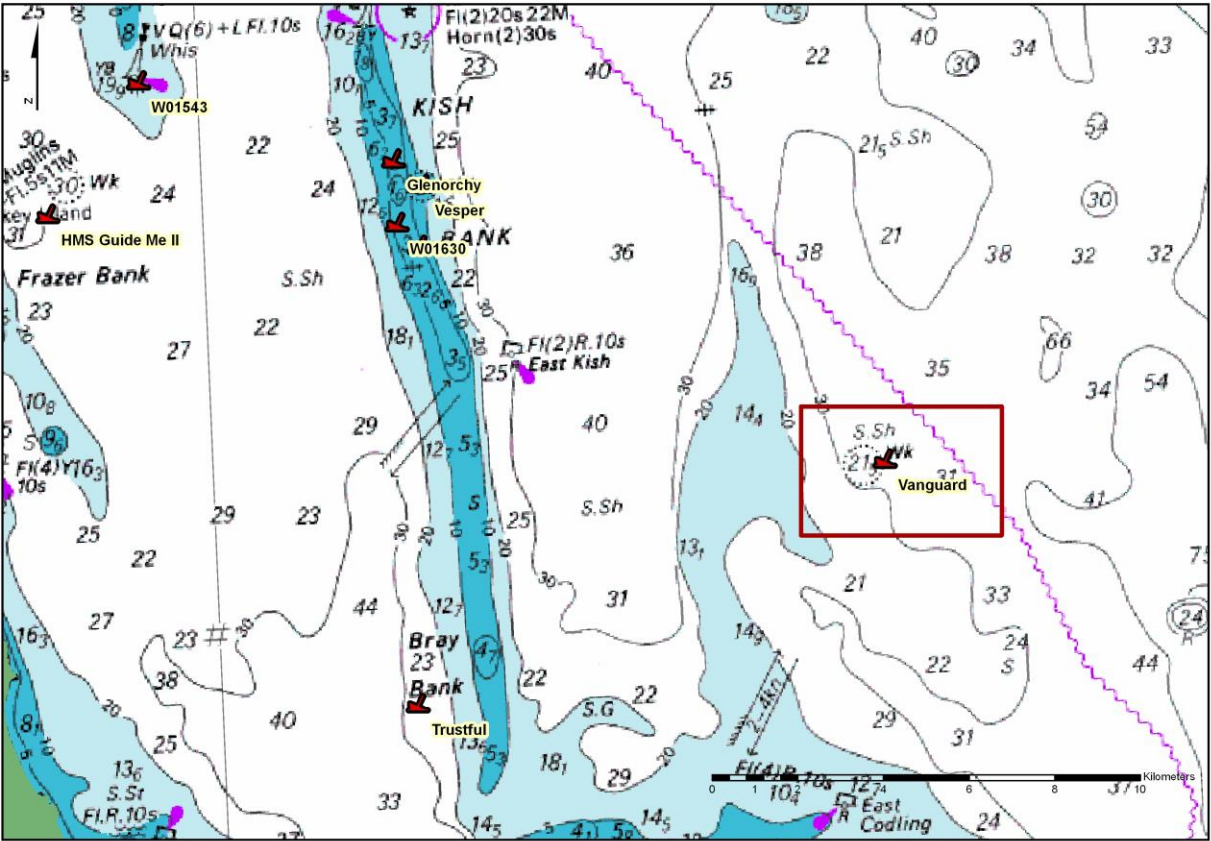
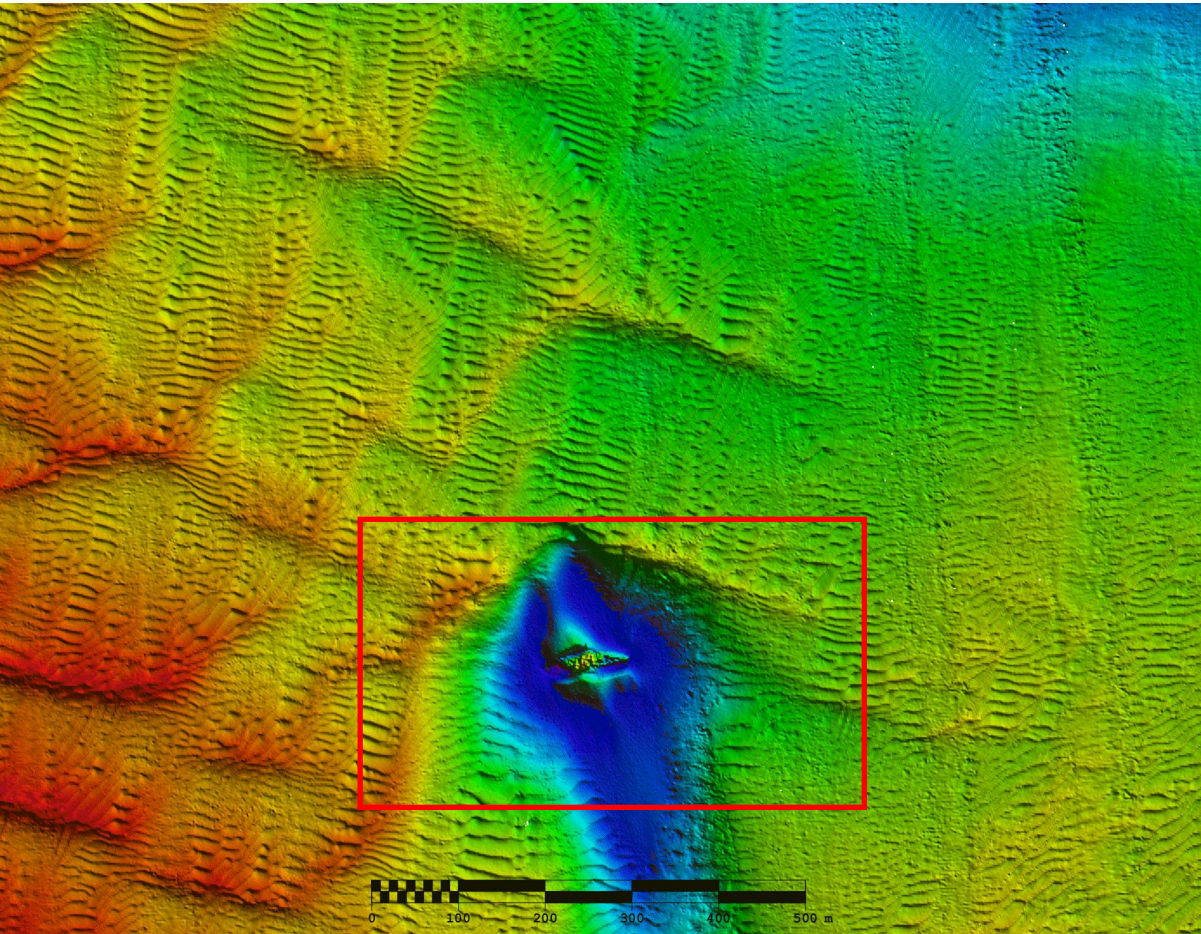




Below: Shaded relief image showing the position of the HMS *Vanguard*, CV08_03



LOCATION

Location	15 miles SE from Dun Laoghaire
Coordinates	53° 12' 46.5'' W -5° 46' 20.3'' N
Depth of Water	45m

VESSEL INFORMATION

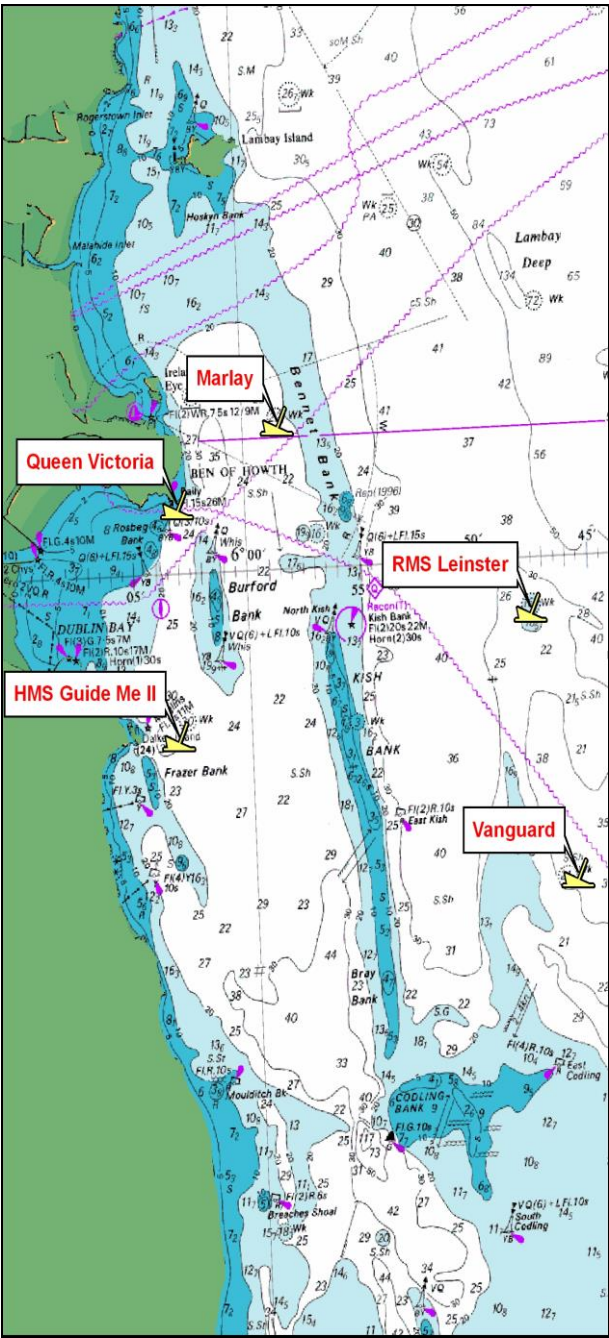
Vessel type	6034-ton <i>Audacious</i> class central battery ironclad battleship, British
Flag	
Vessel Dimensions	(l) 104.3m (b) 16m (d) 7.1m
Date of building	September 1870

DETAILS OF SINKING

Date of loss	September 1 st 1875
--------------	--------------------------------

Circumstances of loss On 1st September 1875 the RMS *Vanguard* was en route from Dublin to Queenstown with six other battleships, when the formation encountered fog, and she was rammed by its sister ship, the HMS *Iron Duke*.. As water flowed into the damaged battleship, her internal compartmentation was incapable of containing the flow and she began to sink. The boiler furnaces were soon extinguished, thus depriving her of power, and within an hour the *Vanguard* sank. Fortunately, no lives were lost in this accident, one of several ironclad era incidents that demonstrated the dangers that ram bows posed to ships operating in company.

HMS *VANGUARD*



VESSEL HISTORY

The HMS *Vanguard*, one of the four 6034-ton *Audacious* class central battery ironclad battleships, was built at Birkenhead, Scotland. She was completed in September 1870 and entered commissioned service as guardship at Kingstown, Ireland. In that role she went to sea annually with other units of the First Reserve.

DIVE INFORMATION

The *Vanguard* lies on a sandy seabed in around 45m, tilted over towards her starboard side. The wreck rises around 15m from the seabed to the top of the gun battery. Her solid construction and iron hull have ensured she remains very intact, and still very recognizably a ship. The size of the wreck means that it is generally only possible to see a section of it on each dive.

Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order (UHO) on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance

As the HMS *Vanguard* is over 100 years old, it is protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. A licence is required to dive the wreck which can be obtained from:

<https://www.archaeology.ie/licences/dive-survey-licence>

FURTHER READING/REFERENCES

Bourke, E.J. 1994–2000 *Shipwrecks of the Irish coast* (3 vols). Dublin.

Brady, K. (comp.) 2008 *Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland: Louth, Meath, Dublin and Wicklow*. Dublin. The Stationery Office.

Larn, B. and Larn, R. 2002 *Shipwreck Index of Ireland*. Surrey. Lloyd's Register–Fairplay Ltd.

Stokes, R. (2000) 'HMS *Vanguard* An Underwater survey of an infamous battleship.' In *Subsea Winter 2000* No. 102, pp. 27–31.

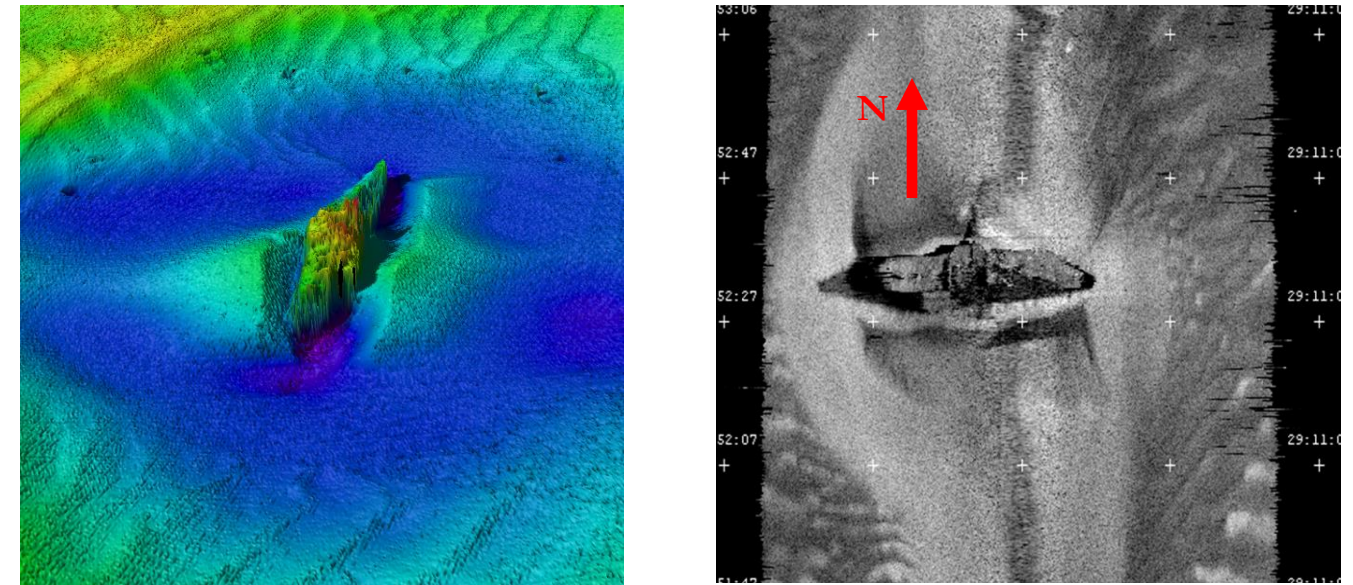
www.infomar.ie
<https://www.archaeology.ie/underwater-archaeology>

www.irishwrecksonline.net

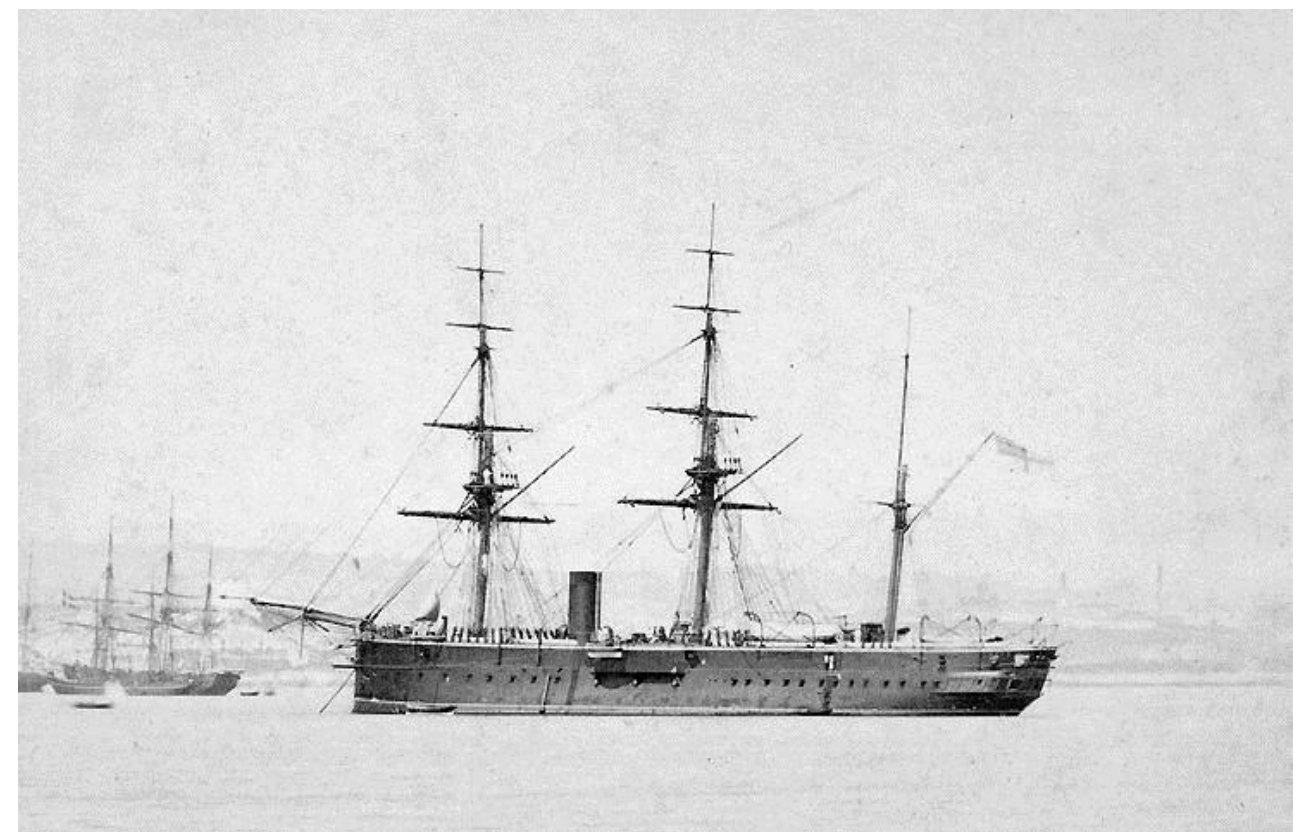
ABOUT INFOMAR

Covering some 125,000 square kilometres of underwater territory, INFOMAR (the **IN**tegrated Mapping **FO**r the Sustainable Development of Ireland's **MAR**ine Resource) project will produce integrated mapping products covering the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed. INFOMAR will initially focus on 26 priority bays and three priority areas around the coast delivering: hydrographic maps, illustrating everything from sandbars to underwater canyons and cliffs; seabed classification maps showing the type of sediment on the seabed. INFOMAR provides key baseline data to support coastal and inshore development. Making this information available to the world aims to stimulate research and development of Ireland's 220 million acres under the sea. The data will be of interest to fisheries managers, aquaculture operators, coastal zone managers and engineers, offshore engineering interests, licensing authorities and those carrying out environmental impact assessments. Indeed this unique dataset is of interest in its own right because of the sheer volume of data collected

HMS VANGUARD IMAGERY



EM3002 backscatter images of the HMS Vanguard. The images were acquired during the CV08_03 Survey in the Irish Sea.



The HMS Vanguard at anchor, circa 1870-1875.