



Maritime
Archaeology
Trust

A Year In Depth

Maritime Archaeology Trust

2018



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Maritime Archaeology Trust 2018

2018 has proven to be another pioneering year for the Maritime Archaeology Trust. We have seen the conclusion of our showcase HLF funded Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War project and the development of new initiatives in the Solent, and overseas.

The commemorations that marked the centenary of the First World War have highlighted the importance of understanding the past. Research into the ship losses and the fate of numerous sailors from all around the world has demonstrated that suffering, bravery and compassion is universal. These are eternal human traits to be reflected on with our growing wisdom of hindsight and they should not be forgotten in our drive to ensure cooperation rather than conflict.

A major element of the Maritime Archaeology Trust's work has been the visualisation of shipwrecks, monuments and landscapes. The processing of thousands of photographs collected by divers, drones or volunteers has facilitated the creation of 3D models. These digital illustrations have been uploaded to an online platform providing access to Augmented and Virtual Reality experiences that can be viewed by a global audience. This modern technology is not only allowing the non-diver to see shipwrecks for the first time but also land that is now drowned due to climate change and the rising sea level. Work at Bouldnor Cliff, off the Isle of Wight has uncovered another 152, eight thousand year old, Mesolithic flints and over a dozen pieces of worked timber including two wooden posts. Across the Solent near Calshot, we have sampled and excavated sections of a linear 'causeway-like' feature that would have been part of a lost landscape. The structure, that has been dated to the late Bronze Age and early Roman periods, is recorded as 35m long. We know that more archaeology remains below the seabed as each year new timbers continue to be revealed when the protective silts are removed by wave action.

Accelerating seabed erosion is not restricted to the UK, and the Maritime Archaeology Trust has been called on to address far reaching threats to our heritage by helping excavate a Spanish Galleon in northern Spain and recover Islamic ceramics from Al Zubarah Bay in Qatar. Our work has contributed to the rescue of new archaeological material that is casting light on our collective past. This work is providing detail that will help reinforce the building blocks of our common maritime heritage. This, in turn promotes a sense of identity and provides a rationale for the cultural framework that underpins society today.

All these projects and the others outlined within this report were possible thanks to the support of organisations that provided funding and logistical help. I would also like to thank the many individuals for their donations and volunteering hundreds of hours of their time. In particular, I would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, Hampshire County Council, Historic England, the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton City Council, the Isle of Wight Council, the University of York, the Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation, the Scorpion Charitable Trust, the Butley Research Group, Fawley Waterside and the Cadland Estate, along with those other Authorities, companies, organisations, Trusts and individuals who are listed in this report, for their sponsorship and support over the past twelve months. I wish to thank members of the Management Committee and our Trustees, for their guidance and support, and I would like to record the Trust's thanks to all the members of staff for their vital work on research, income generation and dissemination.

Finally, it was a very proud moment when we celebrated the conclusion of the Forgotten Wrecks Project held at the Southampton Solent University on 21st September 2018.

Michael J Woodhall BEM FRICS
Chairman

MAT promotes interest, research, and knowledge of maritime archaeology and heritage

Our key objectives are to:

Investigate: maritime, coastal and underwater archaeology

The MAT undertakes maritime archaeological surveys, investigations and research in accordance with professional and museum codes of conduct and practice.

Engage: people, communities and schools through involvement, enjoyment and education

Involving people in maritime heritage to develop understanding and enjoyment of the resource is a key priority for MAT. All MAT projects have an education and outreach element, and the development of new methods of dissemination provides a wide range of opportunities and initiatives to get people involved.

Promote: hard to reach and inaccessible maritime heritage

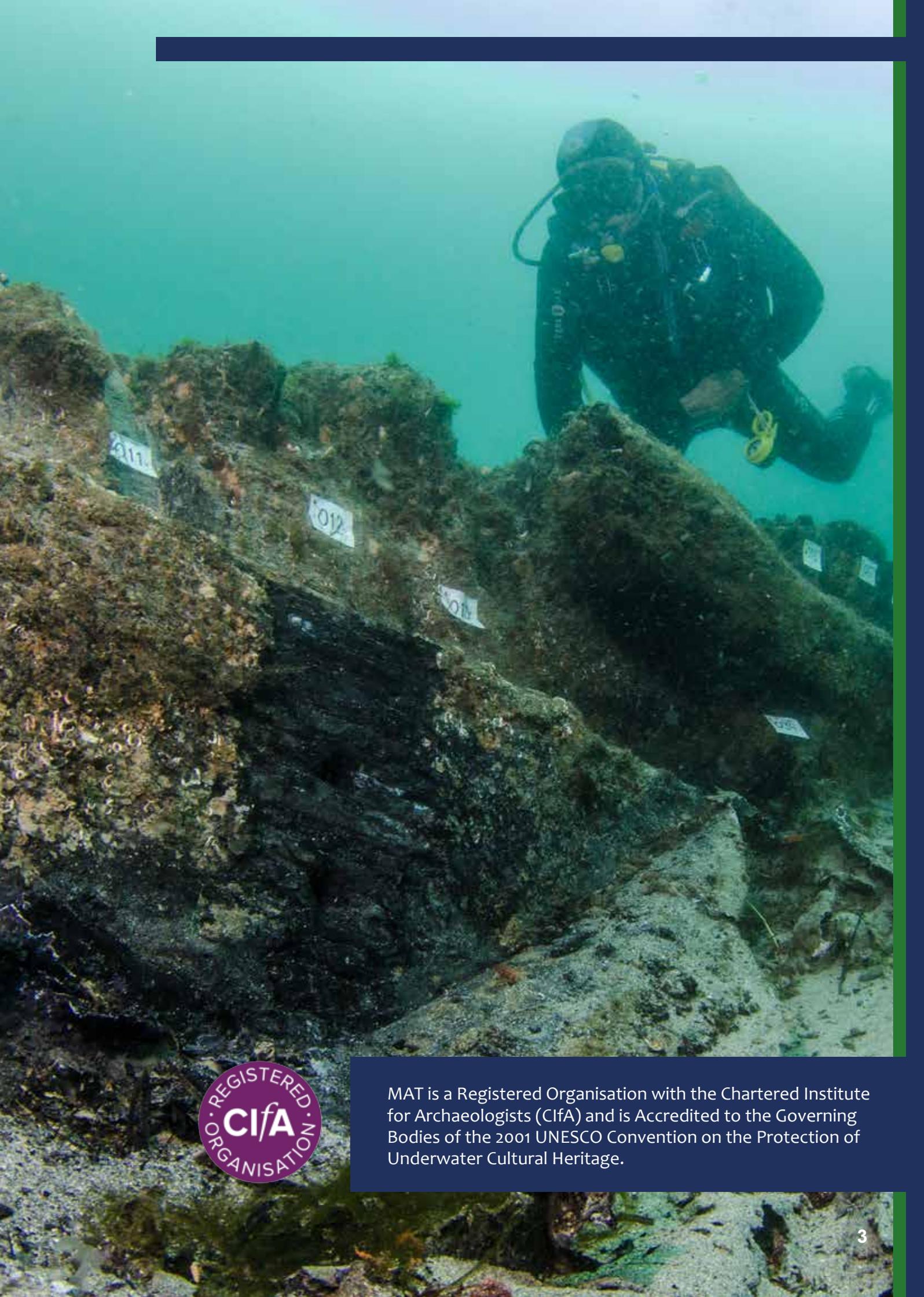
It is important to raise the profile of our submerged and hidden heritage to enhance its significance. If we do not, many sites would be lost and with them, irreplaceable knowledge about our past.

Protect: through supporting heritage management for current and future generations

MAT champions and supports the protection of maritime cultural heritage on behalf of society at national and international forums.

In 2018 the *Heritage and Society* report was published by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum. This highlights the wide-ranging impact of heritage on society. In this report, we have incorporated these topics and shown where maritime archaeology has the power to provide significant contributions.





MAT is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) and is Accredited to the Governing Bodies of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Investigate: maritime, coastal, and underwater archaeology

From Prehistory to the First World War

Highlights from investigations over the past year include:

Monitoring the submerged lands of Bouldnor Cliff - diving investigation of the exposed and eroding Mesolithic occupation sites off the North-West coast of the Isle of Wight. Photographs were gathered to develop 3D models enabling visualization of the site that is unique in the UK and the richest in terms of worked wood and organic material. Sediments here show evidence of past coastal change in the face of rising sea levels. This holds many lessons for tackling similar challenges today.

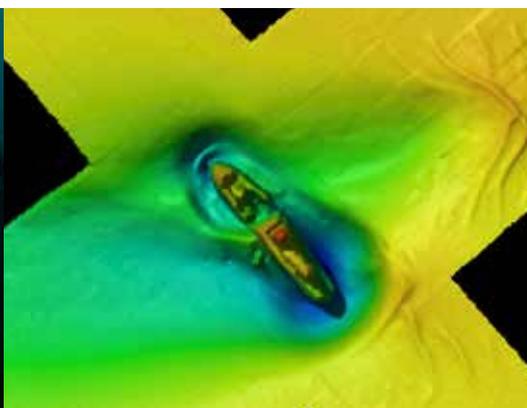
Evaluation of the enigmatic Cadland Causeway - excavation accompanied by photomosaic survey revealed a 35m long, linear structure located low in the intertidal zone and made up of over 100 timbers of different sizes and wood types. Initial dates placed the feature in the early Roman period, but recently received radiocarbon dates of different posts, collected from across the site following the survey and excavation, show phases of Bronze Age as well as Roman construction.

Ribadeo - MAT worked as part of an international team supported by the Spanish Navy and led by Miguel San Claudio to excavate, record, and produce a 3D model of a 16th century Spanish Galleon lost at the mouth of the River Ribadeo, Spain. Built in 1597, the ship, that is similar in age to the Yarmouth Roads wreck, is revealing evidence of the skills, complexity, and competence of those who built and sailed it in the 16th century.

Qatar - working with the University of York and Qatar Museums to investigate the bay near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Al Zubarah. Diving on anomalies identified through geophysical survey led to the discovery and excavation of six ceramic jars from what is thought to be a larger buried assemblage. These new finds add to understanding of Qatar's maritime archaeological resource, further demonstrating the potential of the underwater cultural heritage of the region.

Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War - over the past four years our project has:

- Researched over 1000 sites online and/or at The National Archives
- Undertaken fieldwork on 62 sites
- Produced reports on 66 sites
- Extracted and made public over 200 geophysical survey images
- Recorded 718 artefacts from First World War shipwrecks



The maritime historic environment influences how we perceive places

Responses received from those attending MAT events or talks:

“My eyes have been opened and I am amazed at the use of technology that has helped to bring this history to life.”

“I am astonished at how many wrecks there are in the immediate vicinity. The virtual reality diving on wrecks has been a memorable experience for us and our two boys.”

“I was fascinated by the story of the SS Mendi and both moved and horrified by these untold stories of colonialism. I intend to investigate further.”



Engage: people, communities and schools through involvement, enjoyment, and education

The maritime historic environment contributes to health and wellbeing

Active involvement in maritime archaeology enhances understanding of heritage, but also provides wider personal benefits:

“I do these things on a voluntary basis, for the pleasure I obtain from it and from a desire to contribute something. Whilst doing this work I also gain in many ways including increased knowledge and - particularly in the case of the Forgotten Wrecks project - by the knowledge that it will result in a database of information in an otherwise neglected area. I also get to interact with the MAT Staff and with other volunteers from a range of backgrounds and specialisations. It is a thoroughly pleasant experience and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate. I look forward to continuing to do so.” (J.P. Forgotten Wrecks Volunteer).

“Retired and recovering from chemotherapy, I wanted to do something new and meaningful, and I chanced across the Maritime Archaeology Trust who were looking for volunteers. As an experienced landlubber with no maritime background, I tentatively dipped my toes in the water in April 2017 and it was not too long before the addiction to do more took hold, researching online for various aspects of the Trust’s Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War Project”. (R.B Forgotten Wrecks Volunteer).

Volunteers recording Portland Breakwater as part of the Forgotten Wrecks project.





The maritime historic environment brings people together

All MAT projects involve community engagement:

- MAT delivers an average of over 50 public outreach events per year, directly reaching almost 10,000 people.
- The Friends of the MAT brings those interested in maritime heritage together for events and activities.
- Over the past four years our volunteer programme has benefited from the involvement of more than 320 individuals who have contributed over 1,800 volunteer days.

The maritime historic environment inspires learning and understanding

In the past year the MAT has delivered:

- Student opportunities – involving national and international post-graduate students.
- School sessions - going in to schools supporting teachers and pupils, using heritage to complement and enhance a range of subjects.
- Out of school sessions - working with youth groups and families.
- Special Educational Needs sessions - working with those with learning disabilities.

“Really inspired children who are often difficult to engage in their learning. All the children raving about how fun it was and how much they learned without knowing they were learning!” (Teacher, Primary School, Devon).

“An excellent session that was well planned to the needs of my class. We were very impressed with the day and the children took a lot away with them from the visit. They are very interested in the topic and a few of them have since told me that they want to be maritime archaeologists!” (Teacher, Primary School, Isle of Wight).

Images from top left, clockwise: the Forgotten Wrecks Showcase Event, visitors on the Discovery Bus, MAT archaeologist ready for a photogrammetry survey, international student using structured light scanner for 3D modelling, preparing for an aerial drone survey, examining flint finds from Bouldnor Cliff, engaging the public at the Shipwreck Centre.

MAT: at a glance

Supporting education in communities

The MAT encourages communities to engage with their local heritage. Through our mobile Discovery Bus, we reach people up and down the country, and even internationally, forging connections between people and the past, highlighting shared connections and heritage.

Promoting best practice

As a CfA Registered Organisation and being UNESCO accredited, we work with individuals, groups, and companies to promote best practice at every level.



Tackling big issues: climate change

Analysis of cultural material in ancient landscapes along the coastline and under water can show long-term patterns of coastal and climate change. This record provides wisdom from hindsight that can help us foresee the consequences of global warming and inform coastal managers of pending impacts.



Inspiring a new generation

Through our outreach programme, we aim to inspire a new generation of heritage champions by providing knowledge and hands-on experience.



Integrating technology and heritage

The MAT is leading the field in the use of new and innovative technologies in the recording and dissemination of heritage. These include:

- Drone photography: capturing aerial views to gain a new perspective or make difficult to reach sites more accessible.
- Photogrammetry and 3D modelling: using photography to build 3D models of artefacts and sites using pioneering techniques.
- Virtual reality: bringing heritage to life and making underwater sites accessible to non-divers.



Planning and policy

With over 25 years of experience in maritime archaeology, the MAT helps to ensure that heritage is represented within coastal planning, management, and policy development.

Supporting Us

The MAT is a charity, and relies on the support of foundations, funding bodies, companies, organisations, and the general public in order to continue our work.

If you would like to support us, please visit:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/support-us



Promote: hard to reach and

inaccessible maritime heritage

The MAT promotes maritime archaeology through a range of activities and initiatives that are designed to reach a wide audience making inaccessible heritage available to all.

MAT helps millions of people enjoy England's maritime historic environment

Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War Touring Exhibition - over the past four years this has been displayed across five south coast counties, in 42 different venues and has reached over half a million people.

"Thanks to the sacrifice of our forefathers we have a future - thanks to the Maritime Archaeology Trust we can see the past" (Touring Exhibition Feedback).

3D models and tours - Leading the field with the development of 3D modelling for maritime archaeology - our Sketchfab gallery (www.sketchfab.com/maritimearchaeologytrust) has over 65 different models available including a range of wrecks, coastal sites and artefacts. A significant addition this year has been the 3D model tour of Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton (pictured below):

"When most people remember the First World War they often think of mud and trenches and overlook the vital contribution and sacrifice of those who served and died at sea. The CWGC's Hollybrook Memorial is one of those commemorative gems that typifies our desire to treat all the war dead equally, regardless of their rank, race or creed, and to keep both their names, and their memory alive for future generations. It is our hope that this imaginative way of representing the memorial and telling the stories of those it commemorates, will encourage more people to visit, to discover this aspect of our shared history and to remember." (Head of Operations, Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Online resources - digital dissemination enables a large audience to access resources which include:

- Archaeological project pages and reports across the MAT website and Forgotten Wrecks website
- New booklets and audio articles commemorating the First World War
- Videos and geochaches

These, and more, can be found at:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org
www.forgottenwrecks.org



The maritime historic environment creates a strong sense of place

Although often under water, sites and their artefacts play an important role in developing a sense of place, this is particularly illustrated through the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum, Isle of Wight. The attraction is popular with local people and visitors and provides direct access to an archive of material representing the physical remains directly related to this 'shipwreck Isle'. New displays, events and activities in the past year have included:

- Prehistoric displays - providing information on ancient watercraft, the Bouldnor Cliff Mesolithic site, submerged landscapes and past coastal climate change.
- Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War legacy display - installation of new cases and interpretation as a lasting commemoration to those lost at sea around the Island.
- 40th Anniversary Weekend - celebrating a key milestone for this collection which has been made publicly available thanks to Martin Woodward.
- Mendi Day - commemorating those lost from the African Native Labour Corps off the south coast of the Island in one of the First World War's worst disasters at sea.
- Being awarded 'Working Towards Accreditation Status' through the Arts Council Scheme.
- Joining an initiative between 40 museums on the Isle of Wight to share ideas and best practice.



Above: 3D model of a ceramic jar from a possible shipwreck. In this way, the MAT are making the heritage accessible to all online as well as in museums. Behind: Historical diving suits at The Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum. Photograph by Nick Edwards.



Protect: through supporting heritage management for current and future generations

MAT champions and supports the protection of maritime cultural heritage on behalf of society at national and international forums. Highlights over the past year have included:

- Providing a new home for two boats, with help from Valerie Fenwick, which feature on the UK's National Small Boat Register - a coracle (reg no 2644) and a small dugout canoe (reg no 2555) that are now on display at the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum showing visitors what prehistoric boats may have looked like.
- Rescue of Mesolithic artefacts from Bouldnor Cliff that had been partially scoured out by erosion, including 152 pieces of worked flint from BC II site and 14 pieces of worked wood from BC V site. Two wooden posts that had been pushed into the ancient landscape over 8,000 years ago were recovered and a third was identified protruding from the peat. They have cut and tear marks similar to those seen on a post recovered in 2005.
- Representing maritime archaeological interests on a number of committees and groups such the UNESCO Accredited NGO Cooperation Group, the Scientific Diving Supervisory Committee, the Society for Underwater Technology, and the UK Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee.

The public deeply value the maritime historic environment

In 2016-17 the MAT undertook a survey to determine public attitudes to shipwrecks, over 1,000 people responded including divers, non-divers and people of all ages. Findings included:

More than 92% said they thought historical shipwrecks should be protected from being disturbed and having objects removed.

97% of respondents said they are interested in seeing what shipwrecks look like on the seabed today and the most popular ways of 'seeing' shipwrecks was by diving on them (55%) and online via photos (59%), video (61%) and 'online interactive models that you can 'fly' around' (59%).

"I am sure all the other volunteers would agree with me that it has been a pleasure, and a privilege, to be involved in the project. So many people, and so much capital material, were lost in such a futile conflict, that the least we can do is bring the victims to some greater acknowledgement. It has also been fascinating to learn so much along the way; and be impressed by the diligence, and erudition, of you folk as a team. So thank you, for giving me the opportunity!" (P. C. Forgotten Wrecks Volunteer).





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Centre, Southampton**
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON AND
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



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University of Southampton - University of York - Volker Dredging Ltd - Michael Waterhouse - Dave Wendes & Wight Spirit - Andy Williams - Martin Woodward - United Kingdom Hydrographic Office/Maritime and Coastguard Agency - 4th Element - University of Alexandria, Egypt

Maritime Archaeology Trust Project Staff

Jacqueline Arnold - Sally Bennetts - Grant Bettinson (to June 2018) - Amanda Bowens (to Aug 2018)
Jan Gillespie - Laura Johansson (to April 2018) - Christin Heamagi - Lee Pape (Jan - June 2018)
Brandon Mason - Jasmine Noble-Shelley - Helen Wallbridge

Shipwreck Centre Staff

Janet Shaw - Sue Ager - Helen Woodward - Elaine Rice - Alec Anderson (Volunteer) - Peter Flynn (Volunteer)

And of course a big thank you to all our volunteers, without whom we could not achieve what we do. Find out more about the work of volunteers and how you can become involved at:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/volunteering



Promoting interest, research and knowledge of maritime archaeology and heritage

Maritime archaeological discoveries offer new perspectives on human history and the marine environment from the earliest of times. For more than 25 years, the Maritime Archaeology Trust has provided rare opportunities for active involvement in archaeology under water, on the foreshore, along the coast and through research in archives, museums and from home. We remove barriers to access, raising the profile and understanding of our fascinating maritime heritage through education and outreach activities in schools, colleges, outdoor learning and public events, a museum on the Isle of Wight, touring exhibitions, our mobile Discovery Bus, publications, leaflets, and a whole host of online digital resources.

The Maritime Archaeology Trust Objectives are to:

Investigate: maritime, coastal and underwater archaeology

Engage: people, communities and schools through involvement, enjoyment and education

Promote: hard to reach and inaccessible maritime heritage

Protect: through supporting heritage management for current and future generations

Maritime Archaeology Trust

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