



Maritime
Archaeology
Trust

A Year In Depth

Maritime Archaeology Trust

2019

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Maritime Archaeology Trust 2019

This year was the 75th anniversary of D-Day; the event that heralded the end of the Second World War. The Maritime Archaeology Trust commemorated the occasion by launching a digital viewer of Southampton's D-Day Wall. This contains inscriptions from dozens of American soldiers before they headed off to Normandy. The 3D model can now be viewed by anyone with a computer, tablet, or phone who can explore the messages inscribed on the wall and find out more about some of the individuals who left their mark. The wall was further brought to life when a troop of 16 American veterans, aged from 93 to 100 years old, visited to pay tribute to their comrades that fought to ensure democracy triumphed over tyranny.

The initiative is part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) funded D-Day Stories from the Walls project. At the heart of this Southampton based project, is a respect for the positive deeds of our predecessors, drawing on their virtuous conduct for inspiration while increasing our understanding of actions that followed. This has formed the basis of an educational resource that the Trust will be taking to schools in Southampton over the next six months. The project is a venture that typifies the positive work of our organisation.

Underwater research and discovery of submerged landscapes has continued to provide a long-term perspective, allowing us to look back at humanity's passage through time. It has enabled us to cast light on some of the earliest settlers in the UK, while work on shipwrecks has made artefacts and structures accessible for the first time in centuries. Bouldnor Cliff has been particularly rewarding with the excavation and rescue of the country's most intact, wooden Mesolithic platform. This gained international media coverage and provides a great opportunity for a nationally important display at the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum on the Isle of Wight. The discovery, along with Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman finds, that have been made on the north shores of the Western Solent, provides a human context for the Solent's evolution. All these archaeological breakthroughs are providing empirical evidence for a story that is often overlooked, but it should not be ignored as maritime cultural heritage has the ability to provide great pleasure, relevance and excitement when people are given the opportunity to interact with it. It is for this reason that we have been incorporating new digital visualisations into all our projects, giving a greater number of people tangible access to their history. When we can present palpable links to significant events, such as with the D-Day wall initiative, we can give people a stronger connection with their cultural heritage. Where this is successful, we see people unified around common aspects of their collective histories, facilitating engagement and cultural cohesion.

The maritime archaeological projects outlined above and the many others presented within this report were possible thanks to the support of organisations that provided funding and logistical help. I would like to thank the many individuals for their donations and our valued volunteers for the hundreds of hours of their time. In particular, I would like to thank the NLHF, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Doris Campbell Memorial Fund through the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, the EU for ERDF funding of the SARCC project, Historic England, Hampshire County Council, the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton City Council, the Isle of Wight Council, the Scorpion Charitable Trust, the Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation, the Butley Research Group, the Herapath Shenton Trust, 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, our Trustees, for their guidance and support and, I would like to mark the Trust's thanks to all the members of staff for their vital work on research, income generation and dissemination. I would also like to record our particular thanks to Sir Martin White, Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight who retired in the Spring of 2019 and stepped down as the President of the Trust during our 2018 AGM. He has provided considerable support to our organisation and continues to be involved. Finally, I am honoured to welcome Nigel Atkinson, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire into the post of President. Nigel has been a great advocate for the Trust over the years and is already having a very positive impact as he actively raises our profile in the region.

Michael J Woodhall BEM FRICS
Chairman

Western Solent Prehistory

The Solent is an excellent area for the preservation of submerged landscapes and datable, organic artefacts. It is therefore ideal for research into the origins of human occupation in Britain. This evidence dates to 11,500 years ago, when the Ice Age came to an end but sea level was still 50-60m lower with a habitable landscape between Great Britain and mainland Europe. Low-lying plains were traversed with networks of rivers and lakes that provided great hunting and foraging opportunities. Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) populations of the time were attracted to these sites where they coalesced to sow the seeds for future European civilisations.

The warming climate caused sea levels to rise, steadily taking land away and forming the North Sea around 7,500 - 8,000 years ago. This was a period of great change when hunter gatherer communities had to adapt. It is from this time, just before Britain was separated from mainland Europe, that we have found evidence of sophisticated occupation at Bouldnor Cliff.

The Bouldnor Cliff Archaeological Site

11 metres below sea level, to the east of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight lies a kilometre-long prehistoric landscape. It was once dry land on the south side of a river valley with lush vegetation and within walking distance of the flint-rich, chalk cliffs. The archaeological sites discovered by the MAT contain a wealth of organic artefacts and evidence of technological skills that were over two thousand years in advance of terrestrial sites, such as Long Barrows, suggesting a European, Neolithic (New Stone Age) influence. The site is invaluable when considering the development of these early cultures but there is a problem; it is all being lost.

As the Solent evolves, sections of the ancient land surface are being eroded by up to 0.5 metres per year and the archaeological evidence is disappearing. During inspections this year, a new structure was spotted eroding from within the drowned forest. It was surveyed to reveal a platform consisting of over 60 split timbers, several layers thick, resting on horizontally laid round-wood foundations. It was then raised as it represents the most cohesive, Mesolithic wooden structure ever recovered in the UK. We now plan to record, preserve, and study the structure so we can reconstruct and display it.



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.

The Northwest Solent

With the passing of time, sea level continued to rise and the occupants of the Solent valley were forced upslope. New evidence of this has been found across the Solent, on the Beaulieu Estate by Mary Montagu-Scott. A peat lined palaeo-channel embedded with fallen trees includes several Neolithic posts. The first timber recovered was tapered with cut and tear scars at one end. It was dated to 3346 - 3090 BC. Intriguingly, it was covered by a hard-protective substance that was impregnated with stones. This appears to be resin of some kind that was applied before the timber was pushed into the ground, allowing the cobble to adhere when the 'resin' was still partly fluid. A similar covering has now been recorded on several other pieces of worked wood. Was this protection against the increasingly wet conditions that followed a rising water level?

The post was recorded with a Structured Light Scanner to create a 3D digital model: <https://skfb.ly/6KzQo>.

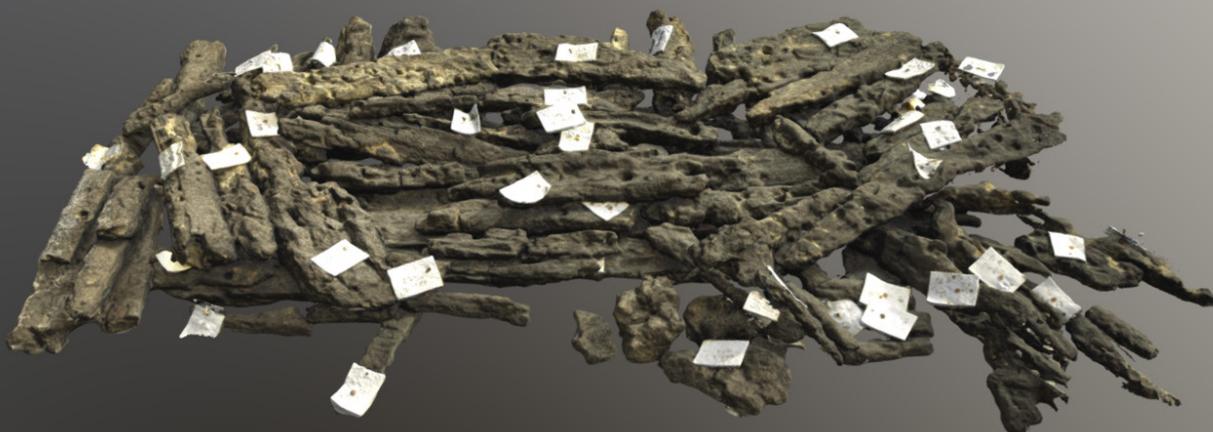
Further to the east, on the Cadland Estate, survey of the 'Cadland Causeway' has continued. New investigations and discoveries are beginning to make the name seem somewhat constraining. Rather than a causeway, there are a complicated series of structures that date from the Bronze Age at c.1371 BC to the Roman period at c. 140 AD. Surveys in 2019 revealed dozens more timbers at the south-western end of the site. Many of these are associated with the larger Bronze Age posts that could be the footings for a platform or more substantial building. During diving fieldwork an evaluation trench was dug around the newly discovered feature and four associated timbers recovered. It looks like the structure was accessed by the causeway that ran from the east. The site was used repeatedly for 1,500 years so it must have been a significant feature within the coastal landscape. Today, a walk around the site at low water puts us in the footsteps of people that occupied the complex over 3,000 years ago.

'It is only a lucky few that have the opportunity to look through the window of time and into their neighbours' lives over 5,000 years ago!'

Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities

The Solent prehistoric landscapes provide a living laboratory to develop methods for maritime archaeological practice that can be applied to our understanding of coastal change. This data is being used within SARCC, a new ERDF, EU funded project. Traditionally protection against the sea has been responsive and has resulted in the creation of hard defences. SARCC is exploring the viability of softer, nature based solutions for coastal defence. The project uses information from the Solent projects as case studies to inform coastal developers about past changes. The scenarios presented will provide dateable markers in areas of long-term erosion, accretion or where there has been variability.

Image: 3D model of the Bouldnor Cliff wooden platform.



D-Day: Stories from the Walls

Between D-Day 6th June 1944 and the end of the Second World War, 3.5 million troops passed through Southampton and into France. Two million were American, the remainder British and Canadian. Around 100 of these men etched their names and hometowns on the walls of what was the old town mortuary. This 19 metre stretch of wall is at the lower end of Western Esplanade, it was left in-situ as a memorial when the area was redeveloped in the 1990s, with a number of other inscribed bricks being kept by Southampton Museums Service.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund the MAT has been able to help mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day through recording the wall using specialist photography techniques, providing opportunities for volunteers to be involved and learn new skills and to promote the wall and its significance through a range of education and outreach resources and activities.

Volunteers are involved in delivering the project in many different ways. Those involved in recording the inscriptions at the wall have said:

“Putting your fingers on the initials of someone who carved that all those years ago and where they were going, it is quite emotional. You are terrified you are going to miss someone’s name”.

“I really wanted to do something for the D-Day commemorations and preserve something for future generations”.

“This is a local part of history that may not be here in a few years’ time and it is my opportunity to give my time to help preserve that”.

Research has drawn on past initiatives to try to trace some of the soldiers, and has been using archives and online genealogy sources to identify more. Through the efforts of volunteers the soldiers’ stories can be told. Just a few examples include:

Harold Heatherington of Zion, Illinois, enlisted 22 April 1941, he held the rank of Tech 4 with the 131st Infantry between 1943 and 1945. Harold survived the war but was sadly killed in a domestic shooting in 1948.

Glenn Nathan Bunker, enlisted in August 1942 and served in the 88th Engineers Heavy Pontoon Battalion, he departed the US on 24th March 1944, going to Normandy on the 22nd July that year. He survived the war, returning to the US where he married and had a family.



HAROLD LEVERNE HEATHERINGTON		ALBERT COURT ROCKFORD WINN.	
1. NAME (First, Middle, Last)	2. ADDRESS (Number and street or R. F. D. number)	3. PLACE OF BIRTH (Town or county)	4. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP (State)
28	Rockford	Ill	USA
5. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)	6. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON (First, Last)	7. NAME (First, Middle, Last)	
Apr 11, 1912	Brother-in-law	ALBERT COURT, ROCKFORD WINN.	
8. PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS (First, Last)		9. NAME (First, Middle, Last)	
Gordon Olson		Rockford Drop Forge Co.	
10. EMPLOYMENT OF BUSINESS (Number and street or R. F. D. number)		11. NAME (First, Middle, Last)	
The Arc + 9th St. Rockford Winn.		Glen Nathan Bunker	



Images, top to bottom: Capturing the Bouldnor Cliff platform in 3D, outreach sessions at the Shipwreck Centre, young volunteers helping with recording, mesolithic spear throwing at an event, the Discovery Bus at Chesil Beach. Overleaf: 3D model of the James Fennel.

2019: at a glance

Social Media

Facebook followers: over 5,000
Twitter followers: over 4,400
Views of 3D models: 20,000 +



Most popular posts:

D-Day Wall veterans visit: 38,600 hits
Bouldnor Cliff platform: 26,200 hits
Bouldnor Cliff video U-Tube: 76,000 views

These two projects have also been featured widely in the news, on TV, radio and in the mainstream press, and the Bouldnor Cliff work is the subject of documentaries commissioned by Digging for Britain and National Geographic.

Fieldwork

Time underwater: 159 hours
Underwater and intertidal fieldwork days: 42
Photographs for survey and 3D modelling: approx. 26,500

Volunteering

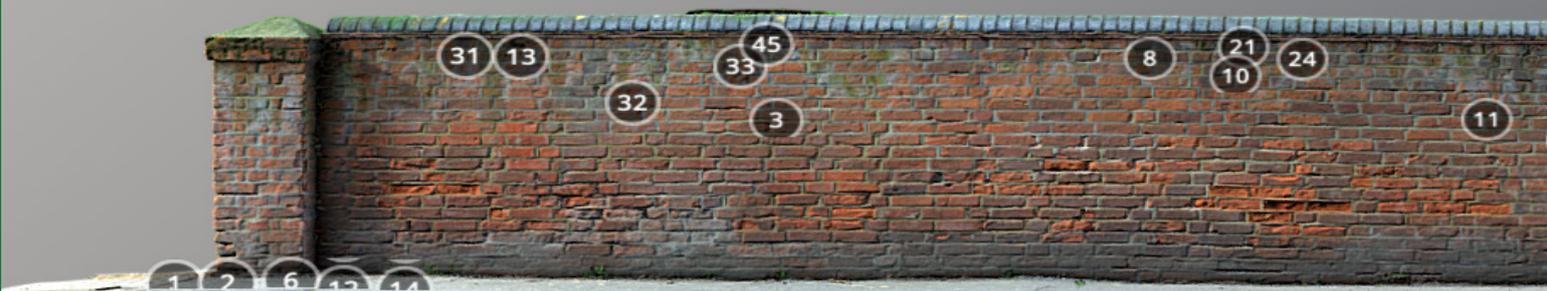
This year, 80 volunteers have provided 450 days of volunteering.

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



Virtual Worlds: 3D Models in Augmented Reality

What is augmented reality?

Augmented reality (AR) is a technology that takes the world around you and adds virtual content on top so that it looks like it's there in the real world.

You can view some of our 3D models in AR using your smartphone and the instructions below.

Method 1:

Use a QR code reader on your phone (many phones can do this through your camera, or come with an app to do this pre-installed) and point it at one of the square icons on the right. Press the 'Launch' button.

Method 2:

Download the Zappar application from your phone's app store (Apple and Android) and use it to scan one of the round icons on the right.

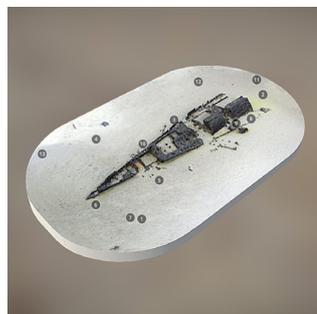
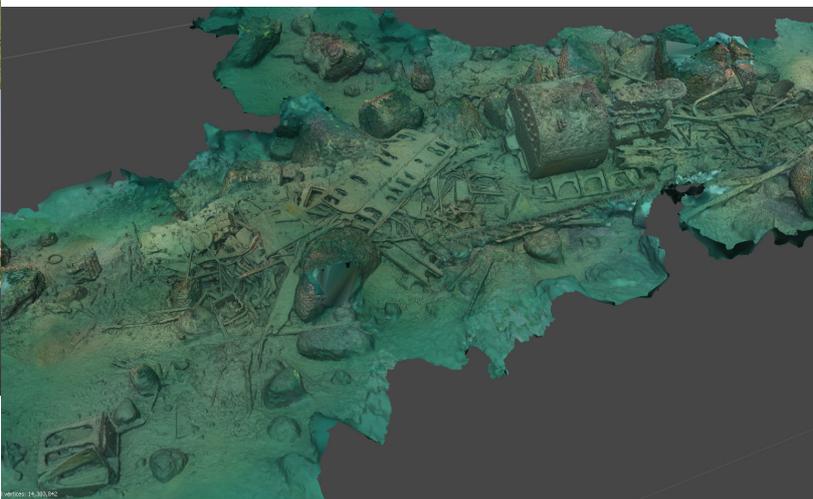
Once the model has loaded, point your phone at this double-page spread and the model will appear above this page as if it were really there. Move your phone around while still pointing at this page, or move the page itself, to see all around the object.



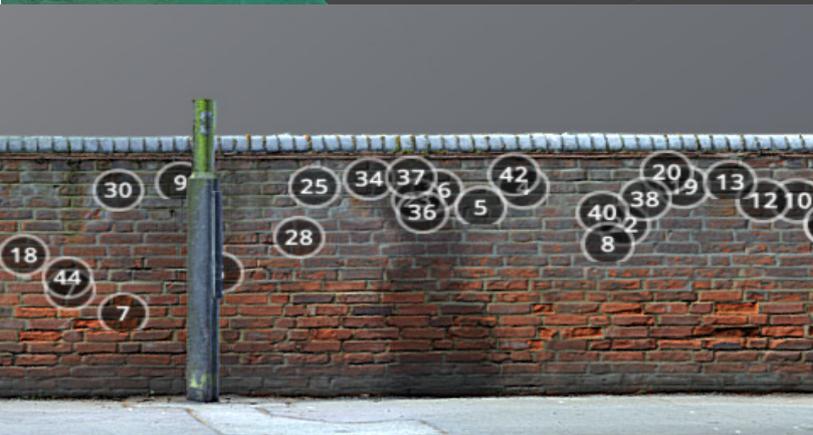
Statue from the SS Shirala. This small statue of a woman was found on the seabed near the site of the SS Shirala, which sank in 1918. The statue is now in Littlehampton Museum, where it had previously thought to be a statue of a monkey.



A moulded reconstruction of the skull of Lucy (*Australopithecus afarensis*), who was discovered in 1974 in Africa and dates to about 3.2 million years ago.



V82, one of two German destroyer wrecks in Portsmouth Harbour. Launched in 1916, it was interned at Scapa Flow after the WW1 armistice and subsequently used for gunnery trials in the Solent. Severely damaged, it was beached on the mud flats at Whale Island.



3D model of the D-Day wall.

Waves of Change: Maritime Archaeology Skills for the Future

The Waves of Change project worked with 16-25 year olds who aren't currently following a path to higher education to help develop skills relevant for future employment through a range of workshops. Technology and maritime archaeology were used to develop the talents and interests of those who might not have easy access to such opportunities. The skills workshops provided hands-on experience of a range of technology used for heritage recording, study and promotion and included:

- Drone flying for archaeology
- Diving for archaeology – with a try-dive session
- Digital photography, photogrammetry and 3D modelling
- Using technology for interpretation and communicating results

Further support included advice on developing CVs, opportunities for future involvement and potential 'next steps'. In addition to technical skills the programme provided participants with experience of working in teams, information on their local heritage, developed confidence and an understanding of the work involved with being an archaeologist.

Participants were very positive about the experience of being involved:

"Really enjoyed every session, no complaints at all. Very good job by everyone involved and hope everyone else did enjoy it."

"Superb course, 10/10 would recommend, best course of this type I've done".

We were able to deliver the project thanks to funding from the Doris Campbell Memorial Fund through the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation. More workshops will be delivered in 2020.

Image: The Waves of Change participants during their try-dive.



Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum

The Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum at Arreton Barns, Isle of Wight has welcomed over 6,500 visitors so far this season. This amazing collection which is owned by Martin Woodward and managed by MAT includes artefacts, models, paintings and maritime curiosities that provide a unique insight into the shipwreck heritage from the waters around the Isle of Wight. As one of the largest collections of shipwreck artefacts in the UK it has national and international significance for the understanding of maritime history.

New initiatives for the 2019 season included expanded prehistoric exhibits including flints, worked wood, artefacts and ecofacts from the Bouldnor Cliff submerged Mesolithic site, made possible with funding from the Herapath Shenton Trust. Temporary exhibitions, hosted in our Education and Outreach room, included a display of ship models and a collection of drawings from the Cowes Library Drawing Group of artefacts from the collection.

Thanks to funding from the Foyle Foundation we have greatly expanded the education and outreach programme related to the collection including:

- Children and family activities - holiday workshops with a mini-excavation and dive kit to try on, story sessions 'Tales from the Sea' and a pirate themed 'A Night at the Museum event'.
- New education sessions - seven National Curriculum linked sessions on Maritime Archaeology, Underwater Prehistory, The Art of the Museum & Artefact Handling, The History of Diving, Titanic, Pirates & Smugglers and The Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War. Bespoke sessions on Safety at Sea and Polar Explorers.
- Behind the scenes days at the museum.
- Hosting photography clubs and art groups which used the museum & artefacts to practise different techniques and approaches.
- Delivering talks at Isle of Wight venues on maritime archaeology & attending events to raise awareness of the museum.
- Increased links to other organisations through the Museums & Schools Group, Cultural Education Partnership and Museum Forum. An integrated education offer has helped attract over 200 pupils to the museum.

We are pleased to have an increased number of volunteers who continue to provide much appreciated help assisting with artefact recording, delivering guided tours, model cleaning, interpretation, display, organising second hand books and supporting events.

We are formally working towards accredited museum status through the Museums Association, which includes developing policies and collections care frameworks.



Images, top to bottom: the main gallery (courtesy of Nick Edwards), a volunteer at work, artefact drawings from Cowes Library Drawing Group (also pictured bottom).

Value of Volunteering

The MAT is very fortunate to have so many volunteers that contribute to all aspects of our work. Over the past year volunteers have helped with fieldwork above and below the water, archive research, artefact recording, online research, database entry, shipwreck research, article writing, display production and event and outreach delivery. MAT benefits enormously from the help and we are able to provide training in new skills and experience that volunteers can use with us and with other heritage organisations and projects.

We have been working with volunteers through all our projects. A new MAT initiative works with prison residents who have been developing their digital skills by entering shipwreck information into databases. This information is then integrated into a range of MAT resources.

We are working with the Nautical Archaeology Society to help develop a volunteer group to work on two protected wrecks off Chesil Beach. Having completed training workshops participants are now looking forward to fieldwork later in 2019.

Interested in volunteering?

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/volunteering

Friends of the Trust

The Friends of the Trust group supports the work of MAT and continues to grow in numbers. The group organises a range of activities that can be linked to MAT projects as well as running projects of its own. A new initiative called 'Shipwrecks for the Senses' attracted funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to take outputs from the Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War project to audiences with sight and hearing impairment. Friends members attended training sessions on working with these audiences and are delivering sessions across Hampshire.

To become involved in this project and find out more about future opportunities you can join the Friends group:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/friends



Images, top to bottom: volunteers examining the D-Day wall, volunteer divers during a fieldwork briefing, a volunteer at Cadland, volunteers looking at an artefact display, and a volunteer running an artefact handling session for people with sight issues. Image overleaf: the Forgotten Wrecks map viewer.

Forgotten Wrecks: Remembering the First World War

2014-2018

Over **1000** sites researched online and/or at The National Archives

Fieldwork on **62** sites undertaken and reports produced

Over **700** artefacts from WW1 shipwrecks recorded

Over **200** geophysical survey images extracted and made available

Outreach events reaching **30,300** people

2,450 children participating in education activities

44 touring exhibitions across five counties reaching over half a **million** people

322 volunteers involved in delivering almost 2,000 volunteer days

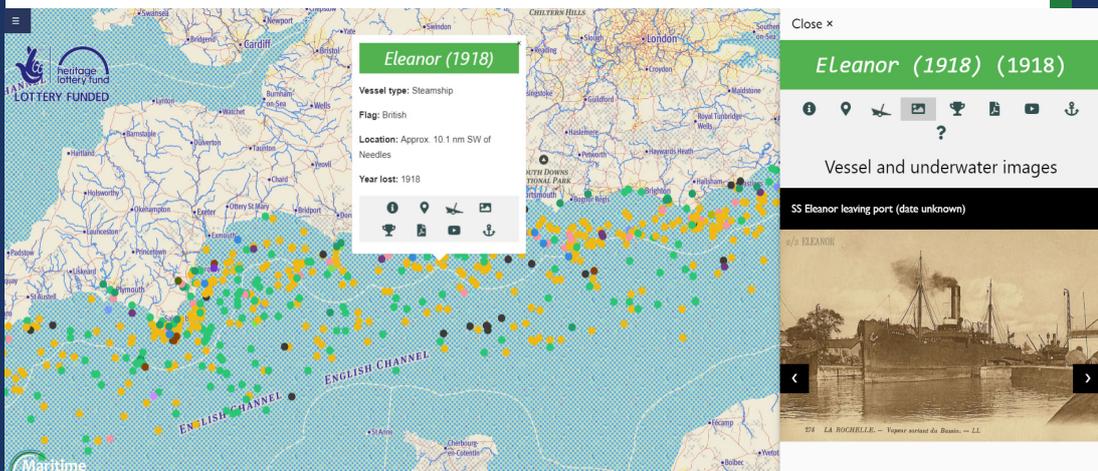
Between 2014 and 2018 the Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War project developed understanding of the nature and scale of the archaeological resource related to the war at sea which took place on a daily basis just off the coast. The work, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, investigated wrecks, intertidal hulks, ports, wireless and seaplane stations, quays and jetties. With fieldwork, research, exhibitions and outreach, the project engaged communities and volunteers.

There are a range of resources, displays and activities that are continuing to ensure a long-term legacy for the project, and further increase its impact for heritage and people. These include:

- Online resources for research, diver information, audio articles, education resources and booklets.
- Legacy exhibitions at the Portsmouth WW1 Remembrance Centre, Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum, Isle of Wight and Hurst Castle, Hampshire.
- Volunteers continuing to be engaged with researching ships and themes based on the project dataset.
- Divers contributing information on wreck sites and photographs which are incorporated into the publicly available online viewer. The viewer, which has been accessed over 23,000 times in the past year, has been nominated for a Maritime Foundation 'Maritime Media' Award.
- The project geocaches (digital treasure hunts) have been found over 220 times in the past year.
- Significant sites investigated as part of the project are now being put forward for consideration for formal heritage protection.

Access articles, videos, 3D site-tours, artwork, site reports, publications and our interactive map can be accessed at:

www.forgottenwrecks.maritimearchaeologytrust.org



Hands Across the Water - International Cooperation

Maritime archaeology is truly international. Whether considering submerged prehistoric landscapes from times of lower sea level when lands were joined together or shipwrecks that travelled the globe impacting on many countries and cultures, working with partners across the world is vital.

The MAT has a number of projects which incorporate ongoing international cooperation such as the EU funded SARCC project with partners from Belgium, the Netherlands and France, the D-Day wall project with American connections and the forthcoming Mayflower 400 commemorations with their links to the US and wider themes of emigration. The MAT is organising a Maritime Festival for 2020 with Southampton City Council and the National Oceanography Centre where it plans to build stronger links with our colleagues over the pond. Other initiatives in the past year have included:

UNESCO – as an accredited Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) the MAT supports activities to promote best practice for its investigation and the dissemination of information. A high-profile forthcoming initiative will be the United Nations Decade of the Ocean and Sustainable Development. The MAT has been working with leading NGOs at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to incorporate the UCH in a programme that will boost international cooperation in ocean sciences.

Ribadeo, Spain - MAT has continued to support the work of an international team investigating the 16th century galleons including the *Santiago de Galicia* lost at the mouth of the River Ribadeo, Spain. Constructed in Italy in the 1590s the ship took part in the second Spanish Armada aiming to invade England. Wrecked when returning, the ship was rediscovered in 2011. MAT have provided staff to help excavate and to undertake photogrammetry in support of this pioneering work.

First World War Commemorations – 2018 saw the culmination of centenary events. With MAT undertaking the largest maritime archaeological project on the remains from the war at sea we were involved in a number of international events such as a WW1 underwater cultural heritage forum in Berlin and the commemoration of US losses at sea at the Brookwood American Cemetery, Surrey.

Digital Developments – MAT has been at the forefront of developing 3D models, online tours and interactive viewers to access maritime heritage sites. This expertise has been shared through a range of international meetings including the European Archaeological Association conference in Madrid and a specialist maritime data seminar at the University of Helsinki.





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



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Rebecca Ferreira - Brandon Mason - Jasmine Noble-Shelley - Helen Wallbridge

Shipwreck Centre Staff

Janet Shaw - Sue Ager - Helen Woodward - Elaine Rice

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

Charity Registration Number: 900025

Company Limited by Guarantee

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