



Maritime
Archaeology
Trust

A Year In Depth

Maritime Archaeology Trust
2021

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Garry Momber, BA (Hons), MSc, MCIfA, FSUT. Director;
Julie Satchell, BA (Hons), MA, MCIfA, FSA. Head of Research

Maritime Archaeology Trust 2021

Shortly after the last AGM in mid-November 2020, Covid-19 cases were dropping, the weather was good and we got a team back in the Solent to dive on the 8,000 year old underwater site at Bouldnor Cliff. The fieldwork was a great success with numerous worked stone tools rescued, preventing them being washed away and lost. Unfortunately, a resurgence of the pandemic curtailed our fieldwork activities over the winter months and we were forced to retreat indoors to work online. But, this did not stop us as we knuckled down to complete the D-Day – Stories from the Walls project that included a digital reconstruction of the historically significant wall, visitor trails, education resources and a documentary video. This recounts the heroism of over three million soldiers that passed through Southampton before heading to France to bring the war to a close, some of whom inscribed their names in the D-Day Wall.

To mark the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* sailing to North America from Southampton, in 2020 the Trust created a digital 3D model of the stone monument that stands on Southampton's Western Esplanade, complete with the replica *Mayflower* ship at its top. Liaison with Southampton City Council has continued apace as we support Southampton's bid, now as a finalist, to become City of Culture 2025.

As restrictions lifted in the late spring, Trust archaeologists ventured back in the field to record more archaeological features along the north west Solent shoreline when the tide was low enough. Newly discovered artefacts from the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Roman period were recorded, dated and monitored. This brought to light some intriguing ancient structures but also revealed a disturbing amount of erosion.

A limited amount of diving was possible in the summer, south of the Isle of Wight and along Bouldnor Cliff in the Solent. The work at Bouldnor included photogrammetric recording as well as sampling for sedaDNA analysis. The work was filmed for another Digging for Britain documentary and the sample is now being analysed in Warwick University. At the same time, 22 pieces of conserved timber from one of the submerged Bouldnor Cliff platforms was exhibited at the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum (SWC) within the Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities display. The SWC reopened cautiously in June but has gone from strength to strength as visitors grew in number during the summer break.

As we enter our 30th year of operations it can be seen, that in spite of the pandemic, we have maintained our momentum as a dedicated organisation that is recording and saving our maritime heritage for future generations. We are also looking at this evidence to provide indicators of past human adaptation and as dateable markers against which we can measure past and present sea level change. This additional consideration adds value to archaeological artefacts that tend to be out of sight and out of mind, and it is becoming increasingly necessary as the threats to our maritime heritage grow. We now need all the help and support we can muster if we wish to make the most of this resource to unravel the information and insights that it holds.

The maritime archaeological projects outlined above and the many 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 for volunteering hundreds of hours of their time, all of which are acknowledged at the back of this Annual Report. I wish to thank members of the Management Committee, our Trustees, for their guidance and support and, I would particularly like to mark the Trust's thanks to Garry Momber our Director and to all our members of staff for their vital work on research, income generation and dissemination in these most challenging times.

Chairman

Honorary Alderman M. Woodhall, BEM FRICS

The Power of Portals

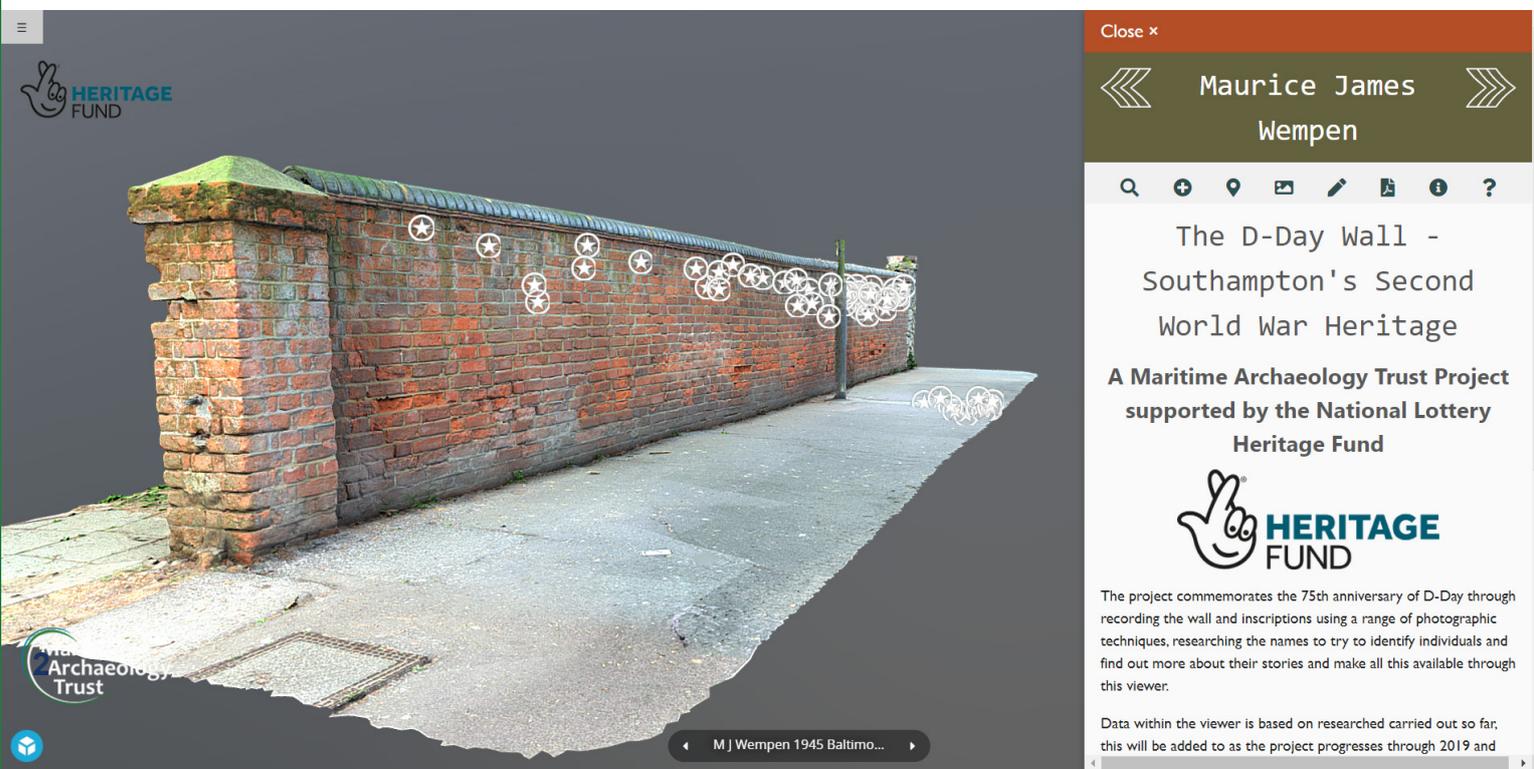
MAT is at the forefront of using digital technology and online resources to make out of reach maritime heritage available for all. An impact of Covid-19 has been to increase the scale of our online resources available through our website, where you can experience sites, artefacts and stories through reports, audio casts, videos, 3D models and interactives. www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org has received a quarter of a million page views in the past year. Two examples of project portals are featured here, demonstrating just how powerful a tool they are for connecting people with heritage.

D-Day: Stories from the Wall

This project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, recorded the wall where some of the 3.5 million troops that passed through Southampton on their way to the Normandy beaches inscribed their names. It brought the graffiti to life by disseminating the untold stories of these troops. A key output is the 3D interactive online viewer which allows anyone with an internet connection to explore the soldiers' stories and view documents and images collected during the project. A project documentary was released in February 2021 which included themes of Southampton and D-Day, Americans in Southampton, recording the wall, the soldiers' lives and the work and experience of volunteers. Feedback on the documentary included:

From the daughter of one of the soldiers: *"The tributes to the servicemen were beautiful! I am thankful and grateful to all of you who took the time to do the research. Thank you, thank you, thank you".* (D.H).

With others commenting: *"This is incredible, thoroughly researched and very well presented. I could not stop watching once I started. I never knew about this part of Southampton's rich history when I lived and worked there. All the stories are fascinating. I really enjoyed hearing from the researchers as well".* (J.M)



D-Day: Stories from the Wall Statistics

- 76 Soldier inscriptions recorded.
- 67 individual soldiers identified and their stories told.
- 75 people who volunteered as part of the project, contributing 433 volunteer days.
- 13 outreach days with over 3,000 people attending.
- 48 page booklet D-Day: Stories from the Walls American Troops in WWII Southampton (available to download www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Project_Booklet_FORWEB.pdf).
- Social media promotion reached over 400,000 with information on the project.

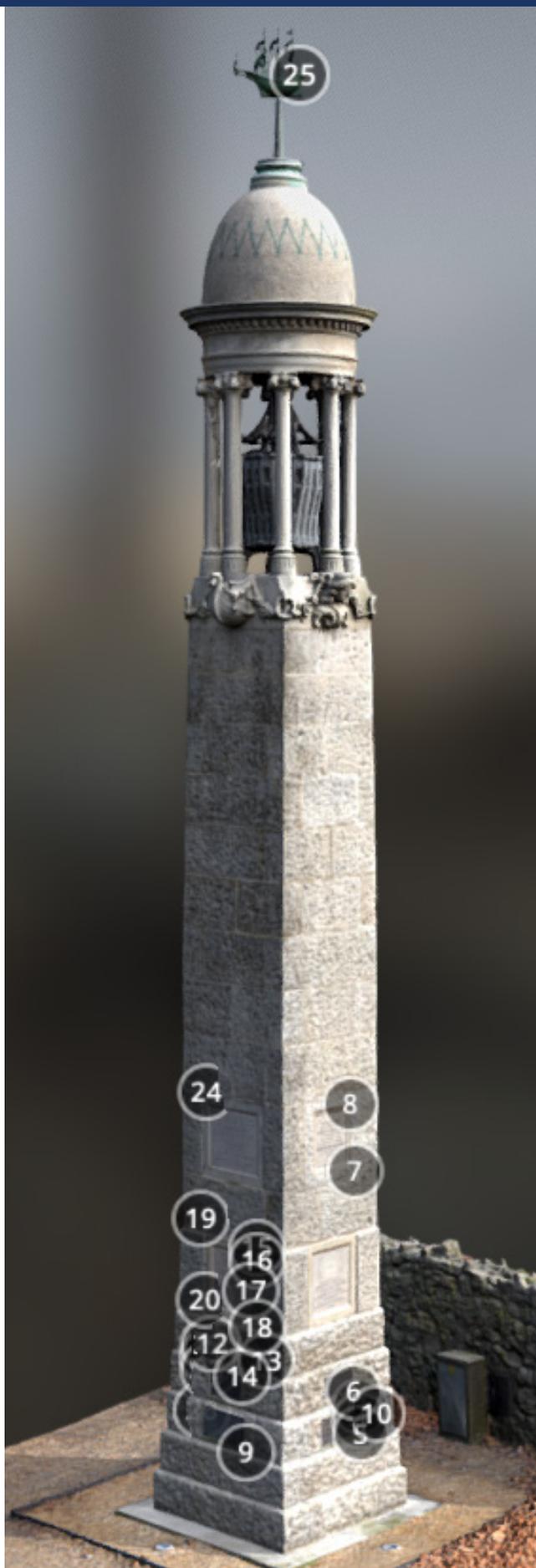
Modelling the Mayflower Memorial

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*, the ship that carried the Pilgrim Fathers from England to America in 1620, the Friends of MAT embarked on a research and digitisation project. The Mayflower Memorial is a Grade II listed, 16m high column located on Southampton's Western Esplanade, it hosts a number of commemorative plaques and is topped by a copper model of the ship.

Thanks to a new 3D interactive viewer the memorial can now be explored and enjoyed by anyone around the world. The annotated tour includes details of some of the individuals that sailed on the ship and their fates and the design and construction of the monument. A video explains how the memorial was recorded through drone survey and the process followed to create the model. This project was made possible thanks to support from Southampton City Council's Community Chest.

More Interactives: The full range of MAT's digital portals and interactives can be accessed here:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/explore-the-past/interactives



Above: The 3D model of the Mayflower Memorial, Left: The D-Day Wall interactive viewer.

The Power of Prehistory

It has been another busy year investigating the fascinating submerged and intertidal prehistoric landscapes of the north west Solent. Diving at Bouldnor Cliff has recorded more of the eroding underwater landscape and recovered at risk flint tools, while work at Thorns Beach in the New Forest has located exciting new features. Information from these new discoveries is adding more detail to understanding of the development of human communities in the area and is demonstrating the power of prehistory for connecting us to our early ancestors.

Exploring New Prehistoric Discoveries in Context

The process of human dispersal at the end of the last Ice Age set the framework for the development of settled New Stone Age (Neolithic) societies and the onset of farming. These were times when the building blocks of civilization were laid down.

The underwater site at Bouldnor Cliff was occupied 8,000 years ago, shortly before the final separation from mainland Europe. It has elements of a sedentary society that is 2,000 years ahead of its time, including the discovery of the earliest evidence of wheat in the UK. These indications of potential Neolithization are tantalizing but the discovery of boat building and evidence that probably come from north of the Alps, demonstrate there was trade and mobility with people possibly just passing through. However, if the shoots of sedentism were being sown at Bouldnor Cliff, it was short lived before the sea covered the area, began to fill the Solent and formed open water between Great Britain and the continent. Signs of settlement practices then disappear from the British archaeological record but 2,000 years later Neolithic people arrive and their remains are seen along the north shores of the Solent where posts dated to 3346–2090 BC have been recovered next to a palaeo-channel exiting the Beaulieu Estate. The remains of this structure is now almost 4m underwater on a high spring tide, but when it was put in place, it would have been dry land by a coastal stream and pollen evidence shows there was cultivation close at hand.



Images: (top to bottom) Archaeological divers Roland Brookes, Jan Gillespie and Heather Anderson are given a pre-dive brief by Trust Director, Garry Momber; Divers entering the water at Bouldnor Cliff; Sunset over the Needles; 8,000 year old leaves recovered from Bouldnor Cliff; A flint tranchet axe lying on the seabed after being eroded from the Bouldnor Cliff site. Right: Bronze Age basket feature exposed on the New Forest foreshore during the lowest tides. It forms a distorted circular shape with a diameter ranging from 1–1.25m.

The people that lived in the area would have invariably taken advantage of the rich coastal resources and by the Bronze Age we know they certainly did, as we have evidence in the form of a basket dated to 1502–1401 BC, 500 metres west of the palaeo-channel in the same intertidal zone. This is one of a number of Bronze Age sites discovered in the last few years eroding from the shoreline around the Solent, demonstrating there was a thriving Bronze Age maritime community in the region.

The coastal activity continued into the Roman period, where posts that formed the supports for a tidal structure have also been found. They dated to 255–416 AD. These new immaculately preserved discoveries are beginning to paint a picture of sequential occupation along the Solent shores by our pioneering ancestors who developed maritime skills and technologies. We are now in a position to document and add to this proud maritime narrative, a tradition which continues today.

It should also be noted that the evidence from the discoveries can be used to calibrate past change. Each fixed dateable structure holds a record of the changes that happened to and around it as time has marched forward. We can learn about the pace and scale of sea level rise in the past and the changes to the coastline today. Unfortunately, any site that is exposed is now under threat of loss and where the site has been uncovered for the first time in millennia, it is clear that the stretch of coastline within which it has remained buried, is also under threat.

Exploring Further

For those who would like to learn more and experience prehistoric landscapes and associated artefacts you can:

Visit 3D models of the Bouldnor Cliff landscapes and artefacts:

www.sketchfab.com/maritimearchaeologytrust/collections/bouldnor-cliff

Visit the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum on the Isle of Wight where, thanks to funding from the Interreg 2 Seas, ERDF funded EU SARCC project, the Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, the Caroline Montague Weston Fund, the Herapath Shenton Trust and the Scorpion Trust we have presented more research and expanded the prehistoric story of the Solent displays including worked timbers recovered and conserved from Bouldnor Cliff:

www.shipwreckcentre.co.uk/exhibits/prehistory



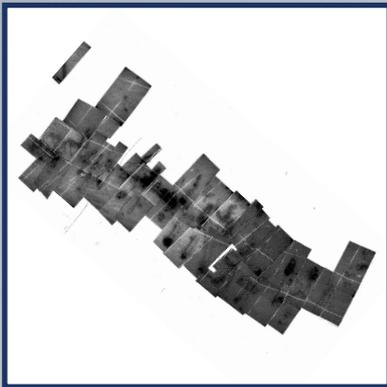
30 Years of MAT: The Power of Change

Over the last 30 years, the MAT has worked to make maritime heritage publically accesible. Over this time, developments in technology and techniques have allowed us to record, interpret, and display our underwater past in new and exciting ways.



Lights, Camera, Action!

From clunky cameras and dark, blurry photos, new cameras and powerful lights have allowed us to capture underwater scenes in vivid detail.



2D to 3D

Site plans have evolved from hand drawn sketches and manually collaged images to computer-generated, highly accurate, and interactive digital 3D models.



Bird's Eye View

The advent of drones has also enabled us to capture sites from the air and gain perspectives not possible before.

Supporting Us

The MAT is a charity, and relies on the support of trusts, 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

Social Reach

Across all MAT and SWC social media channels, we now have 15,684 followers. We have also had over 250,000 visits to our website.



@maritimearchaeologytrust



@maritimetrust



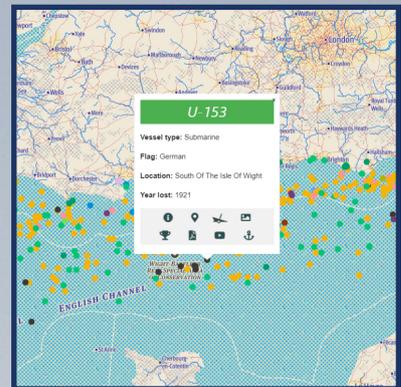
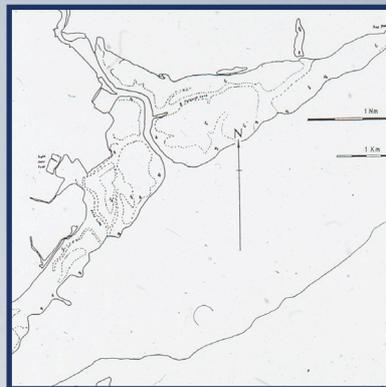
@maritimearchaeologytrust



youtube.com/hwtma

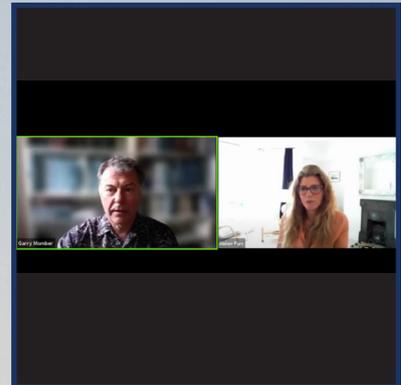
Charting Discoveries

Paper charts have given way to digital interactive maps which can display huge amounts of information supplemented by images, video, and 3D models.



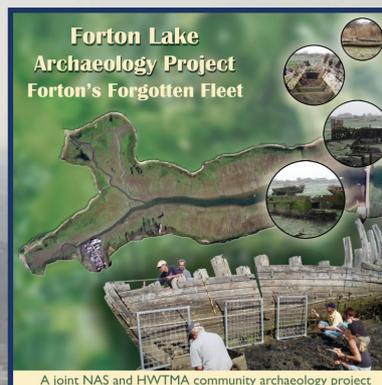
Dissemination

While we still love to talk about maritime heritage in person, digital platforms have allowed us to reach wider audiences, especially during the pandemic.



Online Resources

We are working to digitise many of our old booklets and resources to make them available to all online through our website.



The Power of In-Person

While we seek to increase creative ways to enable people to interact with heritage and learn about the past, there is still no substitute for getting hands-on in person for a direct experience. The fascination of seeing artefacts from a local wreck, the excitement of a new find, the pride in a recording job well-done, the pleasure of finding a historic document related to the wreck you have been researching – these are all experiences that can have a very positive impact for individuals and for the work of MAT.

Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum (SWC)

After a difficult year in 2020 we were pleased to re-open and welcome visitors through the doors, constantly adapting to work within the evolving Covid-19 guidelines. Tourists and locals have had the chance to experience the fantastic collection which includes artefacts, models and maritime curiosities that have been brought together by Martin Woodward and provide an exceptional insight into shipwreck heritage from around the Island.

Our revamped SWC website (www.shipwreckcentre.co.uk), supported through the Art Fund and South East Museum Development, has helped attract people to our reinvigorated programme of events through the season. Sessions have focused on 'periscopes and propellers' for our submarine themed project (thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund) and on archaeological sites and the changing climate and coast which links to our EU Interreg 2Seas programme funded Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities (SARCC) project. We have also promoted the SWC at events such as Ventnor Day and Nautical Newport. Important work with the Isle of Wight Museums and Schools Group has engaged local children through sessions on a range of maritime themes.

Feedback from SWC visitors:

"I have made visits to this great collection for the last 30 years and it's well worth the trip"

"It's a perfect wet day holiday venue"

"Looking world class"



Invaluable Volunteers

Since its inception in 1991 MAT has provided volunteering opportunities through fieldwork, research and outreach activities. While Covid-19 has had an impact on our volunteering programme projects have benefitted from 'remote volunteers' working from home at their computers to contribute to research and writing articles and blogs. We are also fortunate for the help that we have received at the SWC with the collections, welcoming visitors and delivering activities. With restrictions easing over the summer months we were able to welcome a number of diving volunteers who helped deliver activities at Bouldnor Cliff and intrepid mud larks assisting along the north Solent shores.

Between September 2020 and August 2021, we have benefitted from **237 volunteer days** to support our work.

The D-Day Stories from the Wall project involved 75 volunteers between 2019-2021 (see page 2); over the past year this has included online research using genealogical sources to identify and trace the soldiers whose names were carved on the wall. The feedback from these volunteers demonstrates the impact of the experience.

Quotes from volunteers:

"To be able to go to Luxembourg and lay a wreath on the grave of one of the men I researched was a very humbling and emotional experience which I would not have been able to do if I was not part of this important project. My congratulations go to everyone involved in this very worthwhile research".

"Being a volunteer with the MAT and the Stories from the Wall Project has been a remarkable experience. This Project has enabled myself and others to walk in the footsteps of those fearless men who put their lives on the line to fight for our freedom. These men and their families have, in turn, become a part of my life and, even though I did not know them personally, I feel immensely proud of them all. I hope that, in my own small way, I have honoured them. I hope they will be remembered". (M.G-F).

Interested in volunteering? Find out more:
www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/volunteering



Images: (Left) MAT Vice President Susie Sheldon, HM Lord Lieutenant of IoW, left, visits the SWC. (Top to bottom) Volunteers Sara Hassan and Duncan Ross preparing to dive; MAT archaeologists, volunteers and interested residents during fieldwork along the north Solent shores; Set up for a promotional event for the SWC; Volunteers recording the D-Day wall.

The Power of Partnerships

Over the past 30 years MAT has been involved in a large number of projects which have brought organisations together in partnership for the benefit of maritime heritage. This has included work on research, management, education and outreach which has shared experience, approaches and resources to enable a host of positive outcomes.

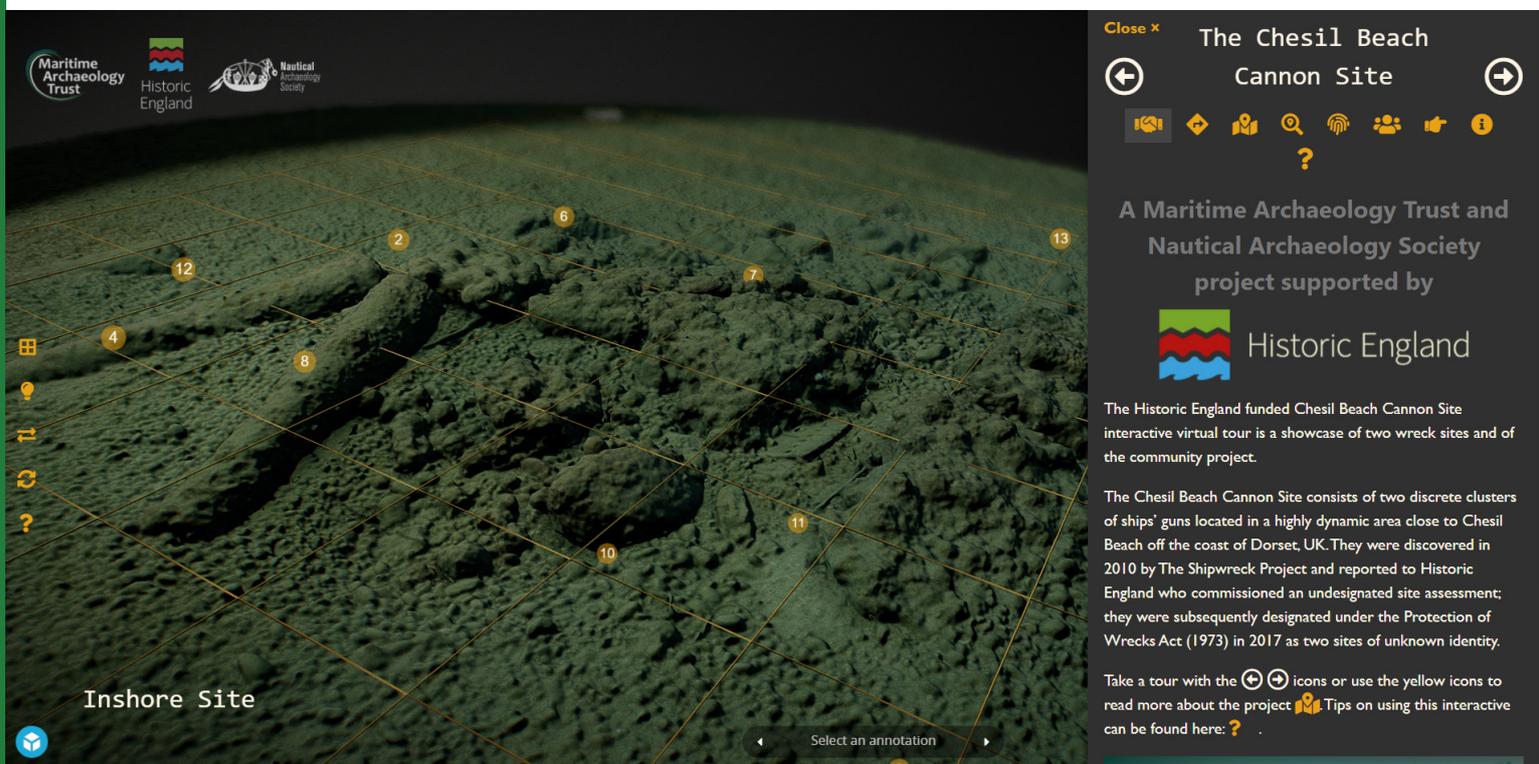
Our professional affiliations, such as being a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and an accredited NGO with the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, underlines our commitment to working with others to develop standards and best practice. We are supporting the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which should be an exemplar of the 'power of partnerships' as it brings together scientists, policy makers, managers and service users to advance new maritime initiatives.

Just some examples of our partnership work over the past year have included:

Chesil Beach Protected Wrecks – Online Viewer Launch

The MAT has been involved with the investigation of two protected wreck sites which lie 300m apart, off Chesil Beach. During diving fieldwork over 2,000 photographs were taken which have been used to produce 3D models of the sites that are the basis of a new online dive trail: www.chesil.maritimearchaeologytrust.org

Now these fascinating sites, which are marked by cannons and date from the 17th or 18th century, can be explored by anyone with an internet connection from the comfort of their own home. The trail presents features visible on the seabed, the history of investigations, looks at some potential candidates for their identity and highlights how designation works to protect them.





Developing the dive trail was made possible thanks to our partnership with the Nautical Archaeology Society and local divers and with funding support from Historic England – the combined efforts of the team have been vital in bringing these sites to life and allowing people to get ‘up close and personal’ with otherwise out of reach heritage.

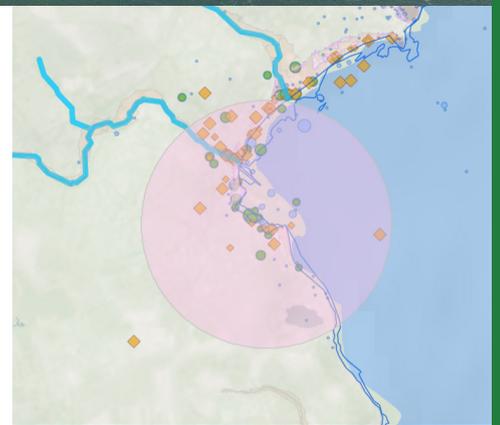
SARCC Project

The MAT is a partner in the Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities (SARCC) project (funded by the Interreg 2 Seas programme 2014-2020; co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under subsidy contract No2S06-050), our work shows how archaeological, historical and artistic evidence can be used to inform on long-term coastal change, the results of which will feed into Nature Based Solutions for coastal management.

www.sarcc.eu

- 14 project partners in four countries
- 7 pilot sites for Nature Based Solutions for coastal management

The threats facing heritage assets from coastal change were dramatically demonstrated in the Solent this year when part of Hurst Castle collapsed into the sea. MAT recorded some of the changes with a drone survey. These results are helping demonstrate how archaeological sites and features can act as markers against which changing coastal conditions can be demonstrated.

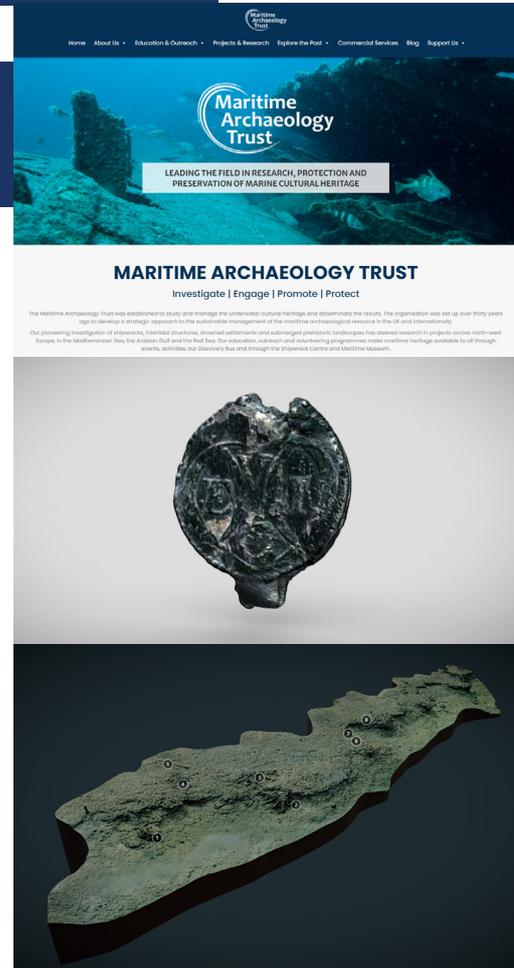


Images: (Left) The Chesil Beach Cannon Site online dive trail. (Top to bottom) The collapsed wall at Hurst Castle, one of the sites affected by coastal change; map showing data for one of the SARCC Pilot Sites, Newlyn, Cornwall; Newlyn 1887, painted by Henry John Williams (courtesy Penlee House Gallery & Museum, Penzance).

Digital Developments

As part of our increased online offering, 2021 has seen a number of new 3D models launch, including the largest section of the drowned landscape of Bouldnor Cliff yet, covering an area of over 55m. Other models include worked timbers from the site and an adze, as well as artefacts from the *Earl of Abergavenny*, a large East Indiaman wrecked in 1805. These models and more are all available to view at: www.sketchfab.com/maritimearchaeologytrust

The MAT website has also undergone a redesign, with information and resources easier to access than ever before. It brings together all MAT projects, past and present, in a central repository of maritime heritage information.



Friends of the MAT

The Friends of the Maritime Archaeology Trust are a group of people with a keen interest in their maritime heritage and a strong desire to see it rescued, researched, recorded and revealed. The Friends attracts members from all walks of life. Anyone is welcome to join and they offer activities that everyone can participate in and enjoy, whether outdoors in the field, in the laboratory, office, archives or from your own home.

The Friends of the Trust support the work of the MAT; they organise a range of activities linked to the MAT projects as well as running projects of their own; over recent years these have included Shipwrecks for the Senses, Canoe to Cannon, and Art2Sea, as well as being involved in modelling the Mayflower Memorial.

To become involved and find out about future opportunities you can join the Friends group: www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/friends



The 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.

Images: (Top to bottom) The new MAT website; A 3D model of a lead cloth seal from the Earl of Abergavenny; A 3D model of Bouldnor Cliff.



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

Interreg 
2 Seas Mers Zeeën
SARCC
European Regional Development Fund



Garfield Weston
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Doris Campbell Memorial Fund – Edward Fort Foundation
Eloise Showering and family – Exbury Estate
Fawley Waterside and the Cadland Estate
Google (Ad Words) – Greaves2connections.com
Lady Edwina Grosvenor – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation
Herapath Shenton Trust – Steven Hubbard – Isle of Wight Council Covid-19 Support
Pete Jones – Mapbox – Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust
Microsoft – Hon. M. Montagu-Scott, DL – Orcalight – Rowan Bentall Trust
Scorpion Charitable Trust – SketchFab – Solent Protection Society
Southampton City Council – Southampton City Council Covid-19 Support
South East Museums Development Programme – University of York
Dave Wendes & *Wight Spirit* – Galvin Weston
Martin Woodward – UK Global Challenges Research Fund

Maritime Archaeology Trust Project Staff

Heather Anderson – Sally Bennetts – Polly Buckingham – Jan Gillespie
Christin Heamagi – Brandon Mason – Lauren Nagler
Jasmine Noble-Shelley – Helen Wallbridge

Shipwreck Centre Staff

Helen Woodward – Izzy Tuttle – Janet Shaw (until August 2021)

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 30 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
Registered in England - Number: 2394244
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Accountants: Morris Crocker Ltd, Station House, 50 North Street, Havant

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