



Maritime
Archaeology
Trust

A Year In Depth

Maritime Archaeology Trust
2023



Image: Diver Laura on the wreck of Rocciu 1, L'île-Rousse, Corsica.

Front cover. Site director Miguel San Claudio Santa Cruz photographing the Ribadeo wreck, Spain.

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

Maritime Archaeology Trust 2023

The opening months of 2023 brought us to the end of the four year European Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities project with a flurry of activity that included workshops, tours with the Discovery Bus and the completion of an online portal. The outputs included recommendations for planning guidance on the use of archaeology, maps, charts and art to understand coastal change. This strengthened relationships with our partners across the channel and we plan to build on these links to develop future initiatives that will enhance this significant impact.

With the conclusion of one project, others have moved forward apace, particularly the Fathoming the Future and Unpath'd Waters initiatives which are building on the armoury of experience and data gathered over the last 32 years by collating and digitising our vast analogue archive. This information is feeding into a new 'Discovery Hub' where we are utilising our expertise with 3D modelling and geospatial viewers, giving access to project results via digital platforms.

Dissemination of archaeological information has always been a central tenet of MAT's mission, allowing material to feed into educational initiatives regionally, nationally and overseas. Close to home, we have been increasing educational interactions at the Shipwreck Centre, at local events and in schools. Additional events with the Discovery Bus have been carried out along the length of the English south coast, while a pioneering video, created from diver-captured photogrammetry from the wreck, was a main feature of the Norwich Castle Museum *Gloucester* 1682 Exhibition from last February. Regarding our Isle of Wight museum, we have recently been very involved with colleagues on the Island to attempt to acquire the now redundant Primary School in Yarmouth. A Trust is being formed to facilitate MAT's relocation from the Shipwreck Centre in Arreton and an offer has been made to the Isle of Wight Council to purchase the site.

An area of growing international significance is the UN Decade of Ocean Science where maritime archaeology has been identified as being especially important. Here, as an Accredited NGO, we have developed a digital platform that links the underwater cultural heritage to the different UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have presented this, along with the results of our work, at major conferences including at the UN Education Science and Culture Organisations (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris and at the 32nd International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Assembly. Our work on shipwrecks and submerged landscapes underpins the educational outputs, from the investigation of newly discovered guns in the Eastern Solent, probably from the *Invincible* for Historic England, to the ongoing work on coastal change that is revealing incredible archaeological material in the Western Solent at Bouldnor Cliff, near Yarmouth and off the Beaulieu Estate. These and our other projects, including Listening to Our Past and Women and Protected Wrecks, are summarised in the following pages, all of which are presented within UN ocean science and literacy themes.

The extensive range of projects outlined in this report were possible thanks to the support of organisations that provided funding and logistical help, all of whom are listed on the back pages. I would like to thank the many individuals who supported us with their donations and for volunteering hundreds of hours of their time. 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 continually challenging times.

Chairman - Honorary Alderman M. Woodhall, BEM FRICS

Integrating Heritage and Ocean Science

Acquisition of high quality data from the seabed, seas and coast is vital for developing understanding of these diverse environments and ecosystems, and as datable indicators of change through time. Cultural heritage forms a vital part of these dynamic areas, providing habitats for marine life, sometimes posing issues for possible pollution, but nevertheless of immense importance is its historical and archaeological significance and how this informs on a wide range of human history.

MAT's work to investigate and gather scientific data contributing to ocean and coastal research has included a range of projects. They have involved new and developing techniques for seabed prospection, sediment and artefact analysis.

Bouldnor Cliff: This internationally significant submerged Mesolithic landscape off the Isle of Wight has continued to erode exposing more worked and burnt flints. Alongside the diver-based monitoring of the cliff through photogrammetry survey, the site has been used in trials by Dr Morgan Smith of the University of Tennessee, who is developing seismic survey techniques to detect submerged and buried prehistoric material. Areas of the underwater cliff are also being identified for sedimentary DNA analysis. Working with the University of Warwick, we plan to investigate the last 8-10,000 years of change, telling the story of the formation of the Solent, including how flora and fauna evolved as sea levels rose.

The North West Solent: This coast continues to reveal more exciting sites and features with Roman posts and Neolithic complexes being exposed as the covering sediments erode away. Photogrammetric surveys by drone have produced 3D models that enable seasonal comparisons. A small-scale excavation of an area containing Roman posts has recovered seven examples which are being recorded and preserved. Other nearby features include a 36 metre long row of mid-thirteenth century timbers,



Top down: Lowri Roberts, Greta Clarke, Brandon Mason, Lauren Tidbury, and Garry Momber prepare to survey at Bouldnor Cliff. MAT patron the Hon. Mary Montagu-Scott, DL, uncovers 5,000 year old worked Neolithic timbers in the western Solent. Some of the flints eroded out from Bouldnor Cliff between monthly visits.

and 5,000 year old wooden structures. There has been great support for this work with local residents flocking to the beach with brushes and rakes to help systematically remove the covering overburden.

SARCC Project: Analysis of archaeological, historic, artistic and photographic data from the coastal zone has been a key element of the Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities project (SARCC). Over the past four years MAT has been working with partners in Belgium, The Netherlands and France to develop and test ways of working with nature for coastal management and defence. An important aspect of the data assessment has been understanding the causes and rates of past change to better predict future coastal responses. These concepts have been incorporated into guidance notes, advising urban planners responsible for coastal planning regimes.

MAT has created the SARCC Visualisation Tool through which coastal managers can review case studies and anyone can access and learn about nature-based solutions on the coast. The project demonstrates how cultural heritage is a useful source of scientific data to aid our understanding of past scenarios and inform our predictions on ongoing coastal and oceanic change.

www.naturalseadefence.eu

Anchors in-depth: An exciting project being undertaken by our MA Ltd team which has received a lot of media attention is the recording and analysis of a significant anchor from off the coast of East Anglia. The anchor was surveyed and recovered from within the East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm area and, due to the support of ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) and in conjunction with Historic England, the Mary Rose Trust and Nikon, it is now being subject to cutting edge analysis techniques to attempt to understand more on the manufacturing process and its date. Lisa Western from SPR commented: "Following the journey of the anchor, from recovery to the present day, has been fascinating. Hearing how the experts plan and undertake the analysis, whilst ensuring the conservation of this precious find, is admirable. I am intrigued to see what comes next".



Top to bottom: MAT Director Garry Momber visits the SARCC case study site at Ostend, Belgium. Brandon Mason with Ross Ovens, SPR Managing Director, and the anchor recovered from the East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm area. Worked Roman timber from the North West Solent. Dr Morgan Smith from University of Tennessee uses remote sensing at Bouldnor Cliff.

Archaeological and cultural heritage data help understand past ocean conditions and ongoing changes, contributing to the Scientific Development Goal 14, Life Below Water and Ocean Decade Outcome: 'A Predicted Ocean'.

Enabling Diversity and Representation

Key to ensuring the future of all aspects of the UN Decade of Ocean Science is developing equality of access to data, opportunity, involvement and chances for employment. The marine and maritime sphere requires specific skills and is often seen as a male dominated workplace. MAT is delivering initiatives to gather data to understand related demographics, providing skill development for everyone, and telling new stories highlighting elements of the past which provide role models and inspiration for all.

Fathoming the Future: promoting digital engagement with maritime archaeology to develop resilience:

The project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is seeking to develop MAT's audience diversity through a range of elements. These include digitising analogue archive and delving into our past investigations and resources to tell new stories. Fundamental to this work is the involvement of volunteers who have been developing new skills and rejuvenating the MAT volunteer programme post-Covid.

The project's digital outputs over the past year have included a range of blog posts, videos, podcasts, 3D wreck and site tours, online talks and presentations. Digital resources have also been taken out to new audiences with the Discovery Bus at events and we have been encouraging use of a new digital QR trail at the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum (see page 8). These stories and resources cover topics such as shipwrecks, submerged landscapes and life at sea; they also include examples which highlight women in maritime environments and the role of Black and Asian sailors during the First World War. Social media and online dissemination of these resources is helping to grow and diversify our audiences.

Women and Protected Wrecks: This project, funded by Historic England, forms part of a programme to celebrate 50 years of the Protection of Wrecks Act, which was passed to provide a mechanism for preventing interference with historic wrecks. The Act



Top to bottom: Students put newly-learned photogrammetry skills into practice. The Discovery Bus at Lepe Country Park. Volunteers listen to a presentation at the Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum.



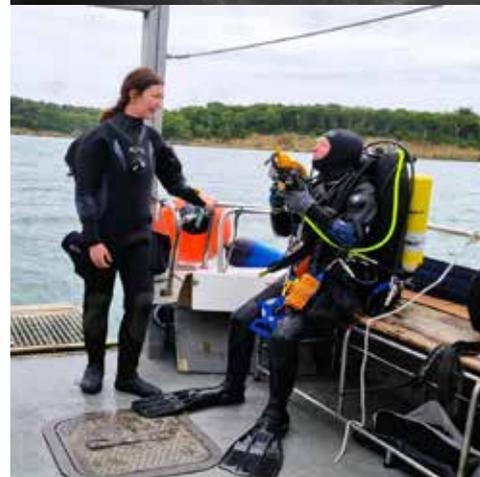
Scan the QR code to visit the Fathoming the Future project web page.

has been used sparingly on sites deemed of national or international significance and has benefited from committed teams of volunteer divers who have helped to investigate and monitor these sites. However, it was recognised that there have been very few women occupying the position of Licensee for Protected Wrecks. In 2021 only 3% of licences were held by women. This project is working to develop understanding of women's engagement with Protected Wrecks and we are seeking information on past and current involvement through a survey and interviews, to analyse why this might be the case and what impact it may have had on the understanding and enjoyment of the sites.

There is also a dearth of information related to women and Protected Wrecks in terms of the ships and shipping in the past, so the project is also exploring any stories related to the sites, such as Catherine Trelawny who survived the wrecking of *Assurance* at the Needles. Outputs will include blog posts to tell these overlooked stories.

Listening to Our Past - Recording the History of Maritime Archaeology: Understanding how the discipline of maritime archaeology has evolved into its form today is one of the aims of this project which is based around the collection of interviews with those involved in the early years of its development. The availability of SCUBA diving equipment enabled archaeology under water to develop rapidly during the 1970s and 1980s. The personal testimonies being captured are providing new perspectives and are helping to develop an understanding of where we have come from. Interviews conducted so far have included practitioners across the globe, fully reflecting international perspectives on developments and influences within individual countries. Thanks to the Honor Frost Foundation these oral histories and their transcripts are being collected and archived with the Southampton University Library Maritime Archaeology Special Collection and will soon be made available online.

The project is also identifying personal archives which include letters, photographs, slides, sketches, draft papers, logbooks or notebooks, which reflect the history of the discipline and might be at risk of loss as they do not have a repository identified for their deposition. Where possible, assistance is given to help provide a long-term home, and secure them for future generations to study, interpret and re-interpret.



Top: Image of Laina Swiny, part of the original *Kyrenia* project excavation team (image courtesy of Laina Swiny).
Bottom: Heather Anderson and Jan Gillespie, part of the MAT dive team.

Our initiatives promoting equality of opportunity in maritime archaeology, and fostering involvement for all through resources telling new stories, are contributing to Ocean Decade Outcome: 'An Accessible Ocean'.

From Local to Global

The final resting place of a shipwreck is just one point in a global network, beginning from when the ship was built to the modern day. The *Flower of Ugie*, wrecked in the Solent in 1852, spent fourteen years sailing across the globe, from North America and Europe, to the Indian Ocean and beyond. It sailed through the heart of globally developing trade networks, picking up goods, people, and ideas along the way.

Today, it demonstrates how maritime heritage is internationally connected, with the themes and resources emerging from its study tying into the UN's Decade of Ocean Science, which also focuses on the ocean as a shared resource. Research on the wreck site has revealed new insights into site formation and conditions over time ('A Predicted Ocean'), provided opportunities for volunteer and early career experience in investigation ('An Accessible Ocean'), and the 'Mystery Wreck' Education Pack focused on the wreck provides an engaging and cross-curricular resource for learners ('An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean').



76,853
website
visitors and
23 new
blogs.



94,996 people
reached
through
events,
exhibitions,
education
sessions.



18,754 social
media
followers, **31**
new videos,
and **96,223**
video views.

THIS YEAR...



7,400
visitors
to the
Shipwreck
Centre.



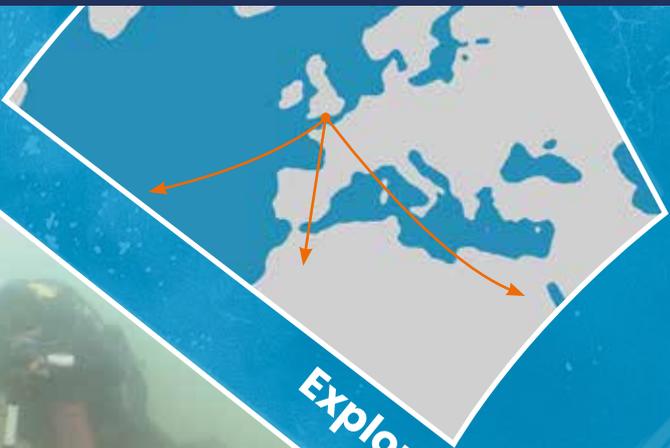
88 volunteers
contributed
578 days.

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

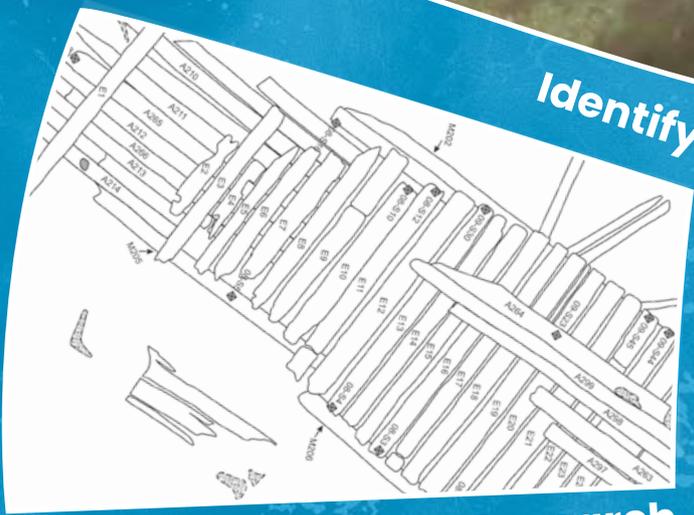
THE FLOWER OF UGIE



Explore



Identify



Research



Educate



Promote

UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE

Encouraging Ocean Literacy: Public Engagement and Outreach

Access to information and data on our oceans allows everyone to enjoy them, be inspired by them and value them. Creating many and varied ways for people of all ages to become aware of their maritime cultural heritage and demonstrating how it can help us understand the oceans is one of MAT's core principles, which mirrors the aim of the Ocean Decade.

It has been a busy year for education and outreach, whether in-person at schools and events, in museums and displays, or digitally online.

Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum:

A successful year at the museum has seen large numbers through the doors to experience the shipwrecks and submerged landscapes of the Solent region. The season opened with additions to the prehistory exhibits and the installation of an updated digital QR code trail. These new, enhanced elements include reports, videos, 3D models and audio articles that are now available via visitors' phones to explore stories of the many shipwrecks and sites.

Involvement in the Isle of Wight Museums and Schools group has continued to deepen our partnership links and increase the educational value of the collection. Educational materials have been tailored for a range of ages including resources created from the SARCC project which provide sessions linked with heritage, climate change and their impacts on our coastline; other sessions focus on shipwrecks, explorers or pirates. Welcoming schools to the SWC or visiting them with the Discovery



Top: A young visitor enjoys the Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum.
Bottom: The Gloucester shipwreck visualisation.
Right: The Unpath'd Waters Needles Voyager.

Bus have been some highlights of the year. Our public Open Day in October 2023 attracted large crowds to the museum as part of the Fathoming the Future project and provided the opportunity to explore shipwrecks through virtual reality.

Discovery Bus: Another eventful year has seen the Bus motoring across the south coast, taking maritime archaeology directly into communities with its onboard interactives, 3D models, exhibition panels, artefacts, videos, and hands-on activities. The tour has championed a number of projects including Unpath'd Waters and Fathoming the Future, with outreach activities supported by the Charles Burnett Memorial Fund. These events have reached tens of thousands of people during the year; feedback collected from visitors on what they enjoyed about their visit to the Bus has included:

"Learning about all the different facts and my child's face reacting as he loves archaeology"

"Really informative, learnt loads and friendly knowledgeable staff"

"The hands-on experience. Seeing the local artefacts, especially the flints"

Gloucester Shipwreck Visualisation: MAT has provided site survey and support for Norfolk Historic Shipwrecks and the Gloucester 1682 Trust who are pushing forward research and promotion of this fascinating 17th century, 3rd Rate warship, lost while transporting James Stuart, Duke of York to Scotland. Our skills in visualisation and presentation created a fantastic fly-through and tour of the site that was available on a large digital table display as part of Norwich Castle Museum's exhibition.

Unpath'd Waters – Needles Voyager: This large partnership project managed by Historic England is part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Towards a National Collection Programme. The 18 project investigators and collaborating organisations are exploring digital maritime cultural heritage and marine data to better understand how this can be linked, searched and used for a range of research and public access.

MAT has developed the Needles Voyager which allows you to explore more than 70 wrecks and sites near this iconic area of the West Wight. It brings together our archive of work on sites, alongside information kindly supplied by others; it also links to a wide range of archive collections which provide context for the sites. Dive in and explore through video, audio, photographs, 3D models, documents and links.

<https://unpath.maritimearchaeologytrust.org>

MAT is spearheading innovative ways for encouraging Ocean Literacy for all, contributing to Ocean Decade outcome: 'An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean'.



Developing Capacity: Skills and Early Careers

Encouraging young people into the world of maritime heritage and developing skills for all have always been part of MAT's core objectives. This is also a key area within the Decade of Ocean Science and we are pleased to be able to offer a wide range of opportunities for all ages and abilities, whether as part of career development or general interest.

Over the past year we have provided training through workshops or guided 'on the job' experience in 3D modelling, creating wreck tours, archive scanning, digitising videos, cataloguing archives, creating audio resources and blog posts. Just some examples of feedback from volunteers and students:



Diving with the MAT at Bouldnor Cliff Mesolithic site was an experience I'll never forget. Being up close with such a unique piece of our distant past, and watching professional marine archaeologists at work, was deeply inspiring. I now have a keen interest in the subject of submerged landscapes which has led to me diving sites on the East Anglian coast.

- Duncan Ross (pictured left, top)



The expertise gained volunteering has given me valuable insight for research about my torpedoed civilian grandparents, for several relations and friends about their maritime forbears, and for assisting my school with their pupil/teacher war records.

- Roger Burns (pictured left, bottom)

Volunteering for MAT has expanded my horizons above and below the water, I feel very lucky to be part of such an interesting organisation.

- Katie McAvelia

I worked on the Maritime History: A Woman's Story booklet. The challenge was researching their often fractured accounts or stories that they had heard quite a few years ago. I think all my contributors expressed joy at having a true chronologically factual account and pride in the work of their family member. I could have continued collecting stories... So many people have contacted me since I wrapped it up.

- Maggie Fog



Working with the Maritime Archaeology Trust on the Fathoming the Future project was not only pleasant and engaging, but also challenging in the best type of way. I learned a lot, and I hope I can work on something again in the near future!

- Madison Scrabeck (pictured left, top)



Volunteering for the Fathoming the Future project has been a tremendously enriching experience. Through this project, I was able to learn a great deal about marine archaeology and receive crucial academic assistance and guidance that have greatly improved my research path on both a professional and personal level.

- Sarah Abdelrahman (pictured left, second from top)



I have really enjoyed working with the Trust on the Bus as I have been able to meet new people with similar interests. I also enjoyed learning more about artefacts and the sites they came from.

- Sydney Rogers (pictured left, third from top)



I really enjoy volunteering with the Maritime Trust, being retired I can give as much or little time as I like, and pick the projects that I feel capable of doing, I have participated and volunteered in quite a lot of projects over the years and I still find it interesting and stimulating. I like researching about our heritage and then love talking about it to all ages of the public at open days, talks and on the Maritime Bus. The staff and volunteers of the Trust are very informative and friendly.

- Pauline Christie (pictured left, bottom)

Developing maritime skills increases the capacity to contribute towards all of the key outcomes of the Ocean Decade: a Clean Ocean, a Healthy and Resilient Ocean, a Productive Ocean, a Predicted Ocean, a Safe Ocean, an Accessible Ocean and an Inspiring and Engaging Ocean.

Fostering Effective Communication

Image: Brandon Mason presenting the NGO database to the UNESCO 2001 Convention meeting of States Parties.



Developing dialogue between maritime cultural heritage and the wider marine community is vital for future research, management, education and understanding. MAT is proud to be an accredited Non-Government Organisation (NGO) within the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH), and through this to support the NGO Committee which is aiding the development of international approaches to UCH. MAT has created a database of UCH experts and projects which will help make the sector more visible within the 2001 Convention signatories and the Ocean Decade. This database has been showcased at a number of large stakeholder events, including the meeting of State Parties and the 32nd International Oceanographic Commission meeting in the UNESCO headquarters, Paris.

Work to raise the profile of UCH and open communication with audiences, has seen MAT represented within regional and national groups and attending events and conferences including: the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, Society for Historical Archaeology Conference Lisbon, Group for Educators in Museums Conference, Nautical Archaeology Society Conference, UK Maritime Heritage Forum Meeting, International Shipwreck Conference Plymouth, Rewriting Women into Maritime History Project Group, SARCC final conference, Taken on the Flood Submerged Landscapes Workshop and the UNITWIN UCH Network meeting.

Other avenues of communication have included talks to groups, both in person and online, on a range of themes and topics. Audiences span from local history and community groups, to world-wide audiences through YouTube.



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.



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

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2 Seas Mers Zeeën
SARCC
European Regional Development Fund



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Martin Woodward – Richard Wyatt – UK Global Challenges Research Fund
UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Strategic Priorities Fund (delivered by the Arts
and Humanities Research Council) – Worshipful Company of Fletchers

Maritime Archaeology Trust Project Staff

Heather Anderson – Sally Bennetts – Polly Buckingham (until June 2023)
Iro' Camici (from April 2023) – Greta Clarke – Jan Gillespie – Christin Heamagi
Brandon Mason – Lauren Nagler (until May 2023) – Jasmine Noble-Shelley
Dan Reeve-Brooke (from January 2023) – Lowri Roberts (from March 2023)
Lauren Tidbury (from January 2023)

Shipwreck Centre Staff

Helen Woodward – Izzy Turtle
Rena Plumridge (from September 2023) – Jude Williams (from September 2023)

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 get involved at:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/support-us/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
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Registered in England - Number: 2394244
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