

# Focus on maritime archaeology

## The Centre for Maritime Archaeology

Among the many distinctive 'archaeologies' at Southampton, maritime archaeology is one in which it can claim to be a world leader. Research and teaching are delivered through the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (CMA), founded in 1997, and now comprising 4 members of staff.

Between them, the members of the centre work on all five continents, from medieval shipwrecks in Guernsey to heritage management projects in Uruguay. As with all Southampton archaeology, it is the research that leads the teaching, so maritime courses reflect everything from deep water investigations of Classical wrecks in the Mediterranean, shipwreck and rock art recording programmes in Sweden and ethnographic surveys of boat building communities in India. Closer to home projects include submerged, prehistoric landscapes as well as high-resolution marine geophysics on Henry V's flagship *Grace Dieu*. CMA staff were also involved in the recent work to

recover the stern and an anchor from Henry VIII's *Mary Rose*.

For students, maritime archaeology is embedded throughout the undergraduate syllabus, figuring in four Year 1 units, with whole units available in years 2 and 3. Many of the field projects run by the Department have a maritime aspect and these often involve underwater work for those who have appropriate diving qualifications. Having gained a thorough grounding in the discipline, those who wish to specialise can progress to the MA/MSc in Maritime Archaeology and perhaps, all the way to a PhD!

*Dr. Jon Adams*

'I have never regretted my decision to do my BA in Archaeology at the University of Southampton.'

I chose Southampton because I really wanted to do an MA in Maritime Archaeology, once here, I soon became aware that the undergraduate degree course is much more than a mere necessity! A wide range of topics and interdisciplinary perspectives merged naturally into one another, and were by no means isolated chunks of information.

Archaeology was critically presented from many angles, making it extremely inspiring and enlightening. Many lecturers in this department are not only renowned scholars, but also have an inherent enthusiasm that is catching - and which makes it impossible to fall asleep! As an undergraduate I had many opportunities to "pre-specialize" in Maritime Archaeology which helped to ensure a smooth transition into my MA course. I participated in the Krogen Project in Sweden under the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Adams. This trip included visits to Prehistoric sites, an example of landscape change and the resulting impact on the people of the past, an insight into museum management and - as highlight - a visit to the *Vasa* shipwreck in Stockholm where we had a guided tour through all decks and the archive. I wholeheartedly recommend this BA degree as an excellent foundation in archaeology!

*Daniel Zwick*



## Archaeology appoints new Maritime lecturer

Archaeology has recently appointed a new lecturer to the Centre of Maritime Archaeology. Here Fraser Sturt explains the appeal of maritime archaeology

Archaeology for me has always been about two key things. Firstly, the challenges and excitement that comes with drawing together the multiple strands of evidence that let us think about what life was like in the past, and secondly, the teamwork and lifestyle of excavation and fieldwork. This is why I was particularly excited to join the CMA and department of archaeology as its newest member of staff. Here I not only joined a team that work all over the world on a number of different time periods, but who also move beyond the traditional terrestrial boundaries of archaeology.

This fits well with my own research and experience in archaeology which has focused on understanding relationships between people, land and sea in prehistory. Recently I have looked at



Fraser Sturt tells students about Maiden Castle

maritime aspects of Mesolithic and Neolithic life in Orkney, the changing geomorphology and landscape of the Fenland Basin in East Anglia, along with work surveying the submerged coast of Cyprus. My new job as a lecturer in maritime archaeology maintains my ties to

a subject which has always provided me with a great number of opportunities; from excavating burial mounds in Siberia, surveying Inca sites in the Andes, fieldwalking in Sicily, my own excavations in Britain to the new challenges of passing on this enthusiasm to others through teaching.



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## Stop press



## Work starts on New Building

Over the summer work started on the new £3 million pound Archaeology Building. This 3 storey building will be equipped with state of the art laboratories for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and also for research. These new facilities will allow students to have extensive practical experience with archaeological materials as part of their training.

One of the few purpose-built archaeology buildings in the country, Southampton's new Archaeology building will also have lecture rooms, seminar rooms and staff offices. A highlight will be the 2.5m standing stone (megalithic) sculpture created by the artist Gary Breeze. Building work is due to be completed in May 2006 and Archaeology will be fully installed by the start of the academic year.

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## Digging on the Danube

Students from Southampton headed off to eastern Romania for the first six week season of excavation as part of the Noviodunum Archaeological Project (scheduled to run until 2009).



Noviodunum Archaeological Project team 2, 2005

This is a multi-period site on the banks of the Danube, with features spanning from the Roman era to the end of the Cold War. Work has been ongoing since 2000 - but up to now has only involved survey, geophysics and fieldwalking.

Excavations were directed by professional archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology Service. Work this year focused on a trench within the Roman fort, looking to locate one of the towers; this fort was part of the Roman frontier (limes) in this

area of the Balkans, as well as being the HQ of the lower Danube fleet. Students were able to try environmental work - unsurprisingly, large numbers of fish bones were recovered!

Most of the finds this year were Ottoman Turk or Medieval (Byzantine). It is hoped in future to get down to the later Roman levels and to expand the area of excavation to the civilian areas outside the Roman fort.

*Tim Sly*

## Tidgrove Warren Excavation

Students from the department continued fieldwork at Tidgrove Warren Farm near Basingstoke in Hampshire. This project was started in 2004 as a joint venture with the local Kingsclere Historical Association, who secured Heritage Lottery funding to finance the project and provided help and support throughout.

Two trenches were opened, one over the Romano-British settlement excavated last year. The other was over a possible medieval hunting lodge and uncovered part of a possible cellared building and boundary ditch. Students gained valuable experience in different aspects of archaeological site work

including excavation and recording techniques, topographic and geophysical survey, field walking and finds processing.

Students also took a key role in community archaeological activities with an outreach project to local schools. Staff and pupils from local primary and secondary schools visited the site, guided around by the Southampton team. Special access facilities allowed a group from a local special needs school to visit - a memorable day for all. Students also provided tours of the site to the general public during the special heritage weekend.

*Kris Strutt, Dominic Barker and Paul Everill*