

MAD about the Swash Channel Wreck

A Maritime Archaeology Day at Bournemouth University Talbot Campus Saturday, 2nd May 2009 10:00am-4:00 p.m.



The Swash Channel Wreck is a 17th Century wreck which lies in approximately 7m of water



on a flat sand and shingle seabed immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the dredged section of the Swash Channel in the approaches to Poole Harbour in Dorset (UK). The site was designated as a Historic Wreck under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 on Friday 10 December 2004. Since the site was designated, the archaeological licence has been held by the Poole Harbour Commissioners with Bournemouth University undertaking fieldwork and providing archaeological advice for the site.

The evidence to date suggests that the wreck is of a relatively high status ship, consisting of the articulated hull structure of the lower portion of a ship's hull running from the stern of the vessel forward for approximately two thirds of the vessel's length and the surviving remains roll into the port bow and forecastle upperworks. Work on the site has also revealed the presence of the ships rudder, which is 8.4m in length and has a carving of a male human head on its upper portion. The structure extends for as long as 40m in a SW-

NE axis and in area up to 14m in SE-NW axis. In some areas, the site may contain buried stratigraphy up to 2.5m deep. Other finds from the site include at least 7 iron cannon, two wood carved "mermen", an apothecary jar, musket shots, leather shoes, wooden barrels, rigging elements, copper, pewter and ceramic domestic material.

Scientific environmental monitoring of the site is also being conducted by Bournemouth University since 2006. Preliminary results show clear evidence of rapid degradation also by warm water wood borers, which could be an indication of global warming affecting exposed underwater archaeology. This monitoring programme involved a cohort of students which then specialized also in the monitoring of the metal degradation of the seven cannons found on the shipwreck site.

In 2008, a group of skilled students in Marine Archaeology also conducted a highly challenging photo mosaic of the site.



Most of the work carried out on the Swash Channel Wreck is and has been possible because of the hard work of Bournemouth University Marine Archaeology students and their enthusiastic commitment.

The students have been participating in the surveying and recording of the wreck. As well as taking part in the photomosaic, researching the artefacts, monitoring of the environment and wood and metal degradation research.

Students at Bournemouth University have also been privileged enough to have worked on sites including: Salcombe 'B' (a middle Bronze Age site that provides evidence of early contact with the Mediterranean), Salcombe Cannon Site (the wreck of a 17th century vessel and one of the most spectacular wrecks found in UK waters) and the Erme Ingot Site (a site with tentative connections with Diodorus 1st century BC reference to south west Britain's tin trade).



Apothecary jar

The undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in Marine Archaeology, offered by Bournemouth University, are both innovative and unique within the UK and prepare individuals for a career in archaeology.

Recent archaeology students have participated in projects as far afield as the USA, Greece and Russia.

Please take a look at our web site for further information on these courses. Bournemouth University is first amongst new universities for research in Archaeology.

Undergraduate course:

http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/caah/marineandcoastalarchaeology/marine_archaeology.html

Postgraduate course

http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/caah/marineandcoastalarchaeology/msc_maritime_archaeology.html

For information please contact: ppalma@bournemouth.ac.uk. For further information regarding the Swash Channel Wreck please visit the websites shown below.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2228622/Elizabethan-Titanic-discovered-by-archaeologists.html>

<http://portal.bournemouth.ac.uk/News/Document%20Library/28.6%20BMTH%20DAILY%20ECHO%20%20Raised%20from%20the%20depths.jpg>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/jul/02/archaeology>

http://www.itvlocal.com/meridian/news/?player=MER_News_15&void=207466 (video)

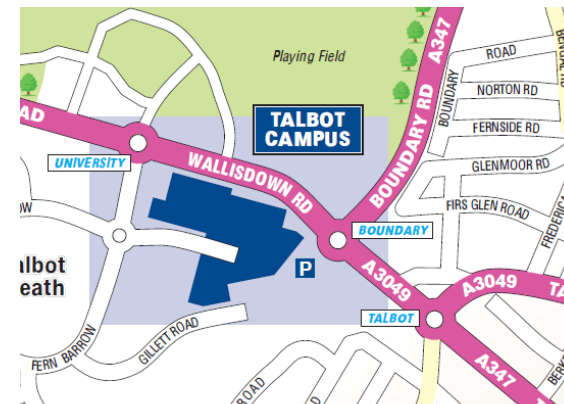
This is a Bournemouth University Project in collaboration with:



Created by Laurie Walker with photographs courtesy of BU Marine Archaeology Course Students and Staff.

Location and Directions

Talbot Campus is located two miles from Bournemouth's centre. The Swash channel Wreck session will be located in the Thomas Hardy Suite at the front of the University.



Talbot Campus can be reached from the North or the East via the A338 (locally known as the Wessex Way). Take the exit at the Richmond Hill Roundabout (next to the Zurich Insurance tower) and then follow the signs for the University.

From the West on the A35 follow the signs to Bournemouth (A3049), taking the dual-carriageway (Dorset Way) past Tower Park. Talbot Campus is located on the A3049 (Wallisdown Road).

Parking on the Talbot Campus is free of charge.

By bus

As part of the local transport network, Wilts & Dorset Buses operates a service known as UniLinX. This service provides transport between Poole, Bournemouth and Boscombe. Services run every 15 minutes and full details of the service can be found on the UniLinX website.