

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

SPONSORED BY
Bonhams

Waterloo Uncovered Summer Excavation 2018 A Brief Look in Numbers and Photos

2018 has been a very busy and successful year. It has seen the largest summer excavation to date (nearly 150 participants, up from 85 in 2017), which supported in excess of 60 Serving Personnel and Veterans (SPV). The main excavation made some fantastic archaeological discoveries, and in addition we successfully ran a number of additional projects, including: the *Battlefields Uncovered Summer School* at Utrecht University; an international outreach event at Hougoumont Farm (the *Waterloo Uncovered Archaeology Weekend*); and we even launched of *The Great Game* - a world record attempt at the largest table-top battle of Waterloo, to be fought (by wargamers and veterans) in June 2019.



The headlines of work we have achieved this year are detailed below, and a more detailed summary will follow shortly. All the work we have done would not have been possible without the continued support of a large number of volunteers, donors, organisations, charities, and grant giving funds. In particular, the successes of 2018 would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Bonhams. We thank you all for your support. It is essential to our work, and hugely appreciated. Thank you.

- **141** people were involved in the WU 2018 summer excavation. It was 85 in 2017, 65 in 2016... and 25 when we began in 2015!
- **66** of the 141 were Serving Personnel and Veterans (SPV). The rest consisted of volunteers (many of whom are archaeologists).
- **12** students, who add youth to the project, got the rare life-experience of working with the military and veterans.
- **11** nationalities took part: British, Belgian, Dutch, Dane, French, Chinese, Swedish, Irish, Italian, American, and Polish.
- **33%** of the excavation team were female.
- **8** metal detectorists (including **5** SPV) were introduced to the project and its ethical and professional approach to archaeology, and how metal detecting can support it.
- **8** SPV visited WU for a weekend break and were driven in the back of 5 Black Cabs from the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. The SPV on the trip would have been unable to visit or take part in WU without the Taxi Charity's support.

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

SPONSORED BY
Bonhams

- 2 SPV were treated to a creative writing course, led by author Katy Moran (K.J. Whittaker)
- **Hundreds** of international tourists and local visitors were able to visit the excavation for the very first time, as part of an open-weekend WU ran. Not only did it display the archaeology, but also the work WU does with SPV. Importantly, the day was run by SPV who had previously attended the project. As WU usually only offers each participant one experience on the project, this has proved a great way to extend SPV involvement and support.
- **The one and only *Great Game*** was launched. A spin-off of the model soldier painting evening activity SPV take part in during the excavation, this world record table-top battle of Waterloo will take place in Glasgow, June 2019. SPV will be involved in the playing of the game, as well as painting the models, which has been proven to be excellent therapy.
- 9 trenches were dug in 2 locations - Hougoumont Farm and the Sand Pit near La Haye Sainte.
- 798 finds were made. Key discoveries included:
 - The roofing of the barn by the North Gate, which was likely made of slate, suggests that the building could have been more ornamental than functional when it was built.
 - A small English clay pipe, likely from the early 1800's, and used by many soldiers for smoking tobacco, was found in the building by the North Gate.
 - A hand-cast copper button with the number 2, surrounded by a curving horn. Likely to have belonged to one of Nassau troops defending Hougoumont.
 - The edge of the famous Sandpit at La Haye Sainte was located.
 - Our oldest find to date: a flint estimated to be between 4000 and 6000 years old.
 - Confirmation of the location of the Killing Zone hedge at Hougoumont, and the pond by the North Gate. Bot answers to a longstanding historical debate.
- 45 media stories were produced, as WU continues to capture the interest of the general public – in all areas of its work, archaeology and SPV support.
- 27 media stories in the UK, including 18 in local media, where we looked to have a focus on SPV stories. A lot on local BBC outlets.



Eastern Daily Press



- 17 media stories in The Netherlands and Belgium, including L'Avenir and TVCom (Belgium), PZC and Algemeen Dagblad (Dutch)
- An episode of the award winning podcast The Naked Scientists was centred around Waterloo Uncovered: www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists-podcast/waterloo-uncovered-veterans-excavate-old-conflicts.
- Social media reach is ever increasing: 2,796 on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/waterloo-uncovered) (+16%), 1,070 followers on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/waterloo_uncovered) (+29% since last year), and 332 on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/waterloo_uncovered) (our latest platform). Our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel videos have been watched over 13,700 times in the last year.

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

SPONSORED BY
Bonhams

Team testimonials



"This is the best therapy I have ever had. At first, I was nervous, but the staff really pushed me outside my comfort zone. I can't thank you all enough. You have made a big difference to this old soldier's life.

Since I returned home, my two therapists have seen a big change in me."

— Veteran

"WU was the first time in a long time where I could meet some new friends and people. I struggle personally with speaking and opening up to people I don't know, so for me going on this trip, not knowing anyone, required me to step out of my comfort zone. I benefited from it, and am very grateful for it. It has helped me in more ways than I could imagine.

Definitely would come again."

— Serving Soldier

"I'm living my life once more thanks to Waterloo Uncovered"

— Veteran

"I think that this is a very impressive and important project. The difference in the people I met on the mini bus on 7 Jul to those I had to say goodbye to on the 21st was remarkable."

— Veteran

"He has been like a new man since Waterloo uncovered, with a new motivation, he got a lot out of the project and I personally would like to thank you and your team for your fantastic work."

— Partner to one of our veterans

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

SPONSORED BY
Bonhams

“My whole social network other than family, are all military, even my wife. Meeting the archaeologists and students was an unexpected benefit to me.”

— *Serving RAF Officer*

“The rich multi-disciplinary mix you have on the project was the key to adding value to my ongoing rehabilitation and my enjoyment of the 2 weeks. I think I returned to my family more relaxed and with a more positive outlook about the future.”

— *Serving Army Officer*

