

# WATERLOO UNCOVERED

SPONSORED BY  
**Bonhams**

## 2018 ACTIVITY AND IMPACT REPORT







## INTRODUCTION

2018 has been a very busy and successful year for Waterloo Uncovered (WU). 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 hosted the launch of The Great Game - a world record attempt at the largest table-top battle of Waterloo, to be fought at the University of Glasgow (by wargamers and veterans) in June 2019.

This document is a summary of the work we have achieved this year. None of this would 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.

# QUOTES FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

“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.”

---

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





# CONTENTS

1. Summer fieldwork .....	page 1
Team make up.....	2
Archaeology.....	3
Serving Personnel & Veteran Support.....	5
Bolt-on projects.....	8
Education & Outreach.....	9
Research .....	10
2. Other activities.....	page 11
Salford University Video Games JAM .....	12
Project Review Volume 1 .....	12
Chalke Valley History Festival.....	13
Battlefields Uncovered Summer School.....	13
Waterloo to Waterloo .....	14
The Great Game - Waterloo Replayed.....	14
Helen Chester Paintings.....	15
Dutch Army Battlefield Tour.....	15
3. Communications .....	page 17
Digital .....	18
Media .....	19
4. Fundraising .....	page 20
An Evening with Waterloo Uncovered.....	21
Reading to Remember .....	22
Marathons .....	23
5. Looking forward .....	page 24







# 1. SUMMER FIELDWORK



## TEAM MAKE UP

2018 has been Waterloo Uncovered's largest summer excavation to date, with 141 people involved. This was an increase on 2017 (85 in total) and 2016 (65 in total). In the 2018 excavation, 94 were part of the core team (staying four days or more), 34 were part of bolt-on projects (see below for details) and 13 were visits lasting one to three days.

66 of the 141 and 45 of the core excavation team were serving personnel and veterans (SPV). 25 were on the excavation as beneficiaries – those selected to take part in the Waterloo Uncovered SPV Support Programme. The others took part in different roles – some of them previous beneficiaries returning to the project in roles with greater responsibility.

33% of the core team, and 20% of the beneficiaries were female.<sup>1</sup>

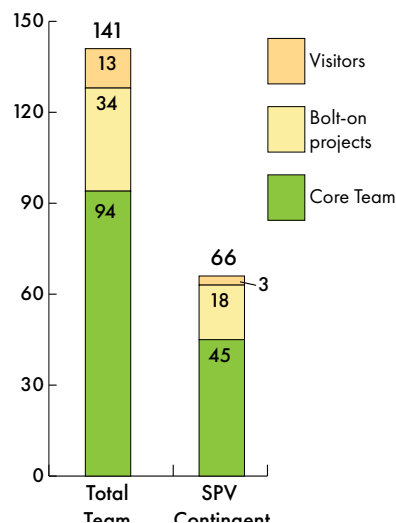
11 nationalities took part: American, Belgian, British, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Swedish.

Bolt-on projects are detailed below and include a creative writing workshop, metal detecting course, outreach weekend and Waterloo to Waterloo, a weekend trip in collaboration with the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans.

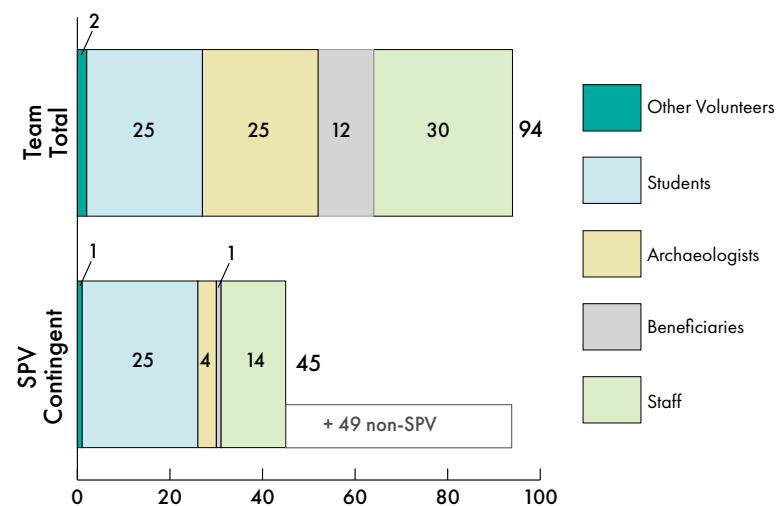
<sup>1</sup>-NB the proportion of women in the UK Regular Forces was 10.4% at 1 April 2018. At the same date, in the Future Reserves 2020, the proportion was 14.3%.



WU 2018 Team



Core Team Composition



## ARCHAEOLOGY

The archaeological work in 2018 focused on two areas of the Waterloo battlefield: Hougoumont Farm and the sandpit near La Haye Sainte. Nine trenches were dug and 798 finds were made.

**The Walled Garden:** two trenches were placed on either side of the garden wall – one in the walled garden and one in the Killing Zone. Excavation again demonstrated that the current wall is a post-battle rebuild, with the original foundation marked by a backfilled construction slot.

**North of the North Gate:** a trench was placed in order to examine the possible site of a pond outside the north gate. This machine cut trench encountered much modern back-fill and "made ground". However, there was evidence for a quarry pit that appears to pre-date the construction of the farm and some evidence for the pond. It was not possible within the constraints of the trench to fully establish the extent of the pond.

**Courtyard:** Work from 2016 and 2017 continued on the site of the large barn, with more of the deposits contained within the walls excavated and the trench widened. Again, this trench revealed deep and interesting deposits. However, the key finding was that the slate and other material in the interior represented sorted debris relating to the recycling of material following demolition of the fire damaged building – these are not in-situ deposits related to the collapse of the building. In addition, a second trench located a surviving element of the east-west running wall that marks the southern edge of the large barn, located against the northern wall of the courtyard.

**Kitchen Garden (Area to west of complex):** A trench was placed so as to facilitate the evaluation of ground prior to the construction of a new car park. No notable archaeological features were found to be cut into the subsoil, beyond a field drain and a probable tree bowl. A number of artefacts, including nails and musket balls were recovered from the footprint of the car park.

**Area to east of La Haye Sainte:** Three small, hand dug trenches were placed in an attempt to locate evidence for the sand pit which was occupied by men of the 95th Rifles and then used as a mass grave (evidence provided by paintings of the battle's aftermath). Two of these trenches were in the woods, and findings







consisted of sandy silt deposits, with two musket balls recovered from the upper deposits. The third trench was to the south of the Hanoverian memorial. It contained redeposited material which might relate to the construction of the monument mound, while the absence of silt deposits might suggest sand extraction at this location. Further work would be required to clarify the nature of surviving elements related to the sandpit. No evidence for the mass burial of the dead was encountered.

**Killing Zone:** The last of the un-investigated portions of the Killing Zone were subject to machine stripping and metal detector survey. As in previous years a large quantity of musket balls were recovered. When added to the artefacts recovered prior to 2018 these finds will provide a detailed picture of the French attack against the south wall of the garden.

**Field to east of the crossroads at La Haye Sainte:** A metal detector survey was done in the area thought to be occupied by the 27th Regiment of Foot (the Inniskillings), which suffered badly at the hands of French Guards artillery that advanced into close range after the fall of La Haye Sainte. Only a light scatter of musket balls and other finds was recovered, and local people did report that this area is regularly visited by detectorists operating illegally during the winter months. It must be remembered that a similar picture was provided by the Killing Zone at Hougomont before the process of stripping spits and then detecting them was introduced. With this in mind, this area would certainly be worth revisiting, but this time including soil stripping as part of the methodology.

#### KEY DISCOVERIES INCLUDED:

**The roofing of the barn** by the North Gate. On this building at least, slate was used rather than thatch or the pan tiles on the surviving barn.

**A small English clay pipe**, likely from the early 1800s, 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 Hougomont.

**Our oldest find to date:** a flint tool estimated to be between 4,000 and 6,000 years old.

**Confirmation of the location of the Killing Zone hedge** at Hougomont, and the pond by the North Gate. Both provided answers to a long standing historical debate.





## SERVING PERSONNEL & VETERAN SUPPORT

66 Serving Personnel and Veterans (SPV) were on the 2018 excavation: 25 as beneficiaries, 20 more in the core team (as students, archaeologists, and other volunteers), 18 in bolt-on projects, and three as visitors. Of the 25 beneficiaries, seven were serving and 18 were veterans.

75% of our 2018 beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> say WU made a very positive difference to their recovery or personal journey. All say they got benefits out of it. 85% say their family and/or support network benefited from their participation in WU. 95% would recommend the trip to other veterans.

Dutch involvement has grown, with six Dutch Serving Personnel and Veterans taking part in the excavation (up from four in 2017).

One caseworker noted: “My veteran was on cloud nine when he returned. He found the whole experience beneficial from being with his peers to challenging himself to get to the meeting point. He also felt able to help others through discussion. He has been more confident since the dig, and has been attending our support group without his wife which is a positive step forward.”

## WELL-BEING AND SELECTION

The well-being support, and selection process used by WU continues to evolve and was supported by Walking with the Wounded (WWTW), 254 Medical Regiment, and the NHS, who provided staff to help with selection, and on site participant well-being.

WU continues to work with veteran charities like WWTW, Help for Heroes (H4H), Combat Stress, and the Royal British Legion, to identify and support SPV who could benefit from taking part in the excavations.

On site, the well-being support was assured by three welfare officers each week, with a 24/7 duty rotation system and surgery hour. As in previous years, it remained a light touch rather than active therapy.

During the two weeks, participants were given opportunities to take part in workshops

---

<sup>1</sup> 20 respondents out of our 25 beneficiaries.



including poetry, art, and creative writing. All of these activities attracted interest from veterans, and provided an alternative to digging for those wishing to vary their activities.

### SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of beneficiaries was done in two stages, an application form and an interview with a WU staff member and a welfare officer. The process aims to evaluate whether candidates are able to participate and how they will benefit from the experience. When appropriate, WU coordinated with participants' existing support network to better understand and support them. All candidates were contacted directly to let them know the result of the selection process. Unsuccessful candidates were directed towards other military and archaeology charities. Successful candidates continued on to the pre-dig programme, receiving regular contact from WU staff to facilitate support on the dig and support the administrative process ahead of departure.

### EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL SUPPORT

The 2018 excavation was accredited by the University of Utrecht, and participants could obtain European learning credits (ECTS) by taking part and completing a small piece of coursework. Some participants combined this with the Battlefields Uncovered Summer School run by the University of Utrecht (see page 13).

Participants were also given a chance to learn about heritage opportunities from a presentation given by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A document was also circulated post excavation with suggestions on further support and heritage opportunities, to help those with an interest in archaeology and heritage continue to further it beyond the WU excavation.

### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Excavation participants were invited by WU to take part in a Mental Health First Aid (Armed Forces) training course before attending the dig. 10 people took this two day course in June.





# QUOTES FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

“I'm living my life once more thanks to Waterloo Uncovered.”

---

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

---

“[My veteran partner] 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.”





## BOLT-ON PROJECTS

In addition to the main excavation, four bolt-on projects were run during the two weeks at Waterloo. You can read more about the Waterloo Uncovered Archaeology Weekend on page 9, and about Waterloo to Waterloo on page 14.

### METAL DETECTING COURSE

On a three day course, eight metal detectorists (five whom were veterans) from five countries (Denmark, France, Poland, Sweden, and the UK) were introduced to the project, its ethical and professional approach to archaeology, and how responsible metal detecting can support it.

They helped further the archaeology by surveying new parts of the battlefield, allowing WU to explore an area that required more metal detectorists than are usually present on the excavation team.

### CREATIVE WRITING COURSE

Two veterans were treated to a creative writing course, led by author Katy Moran, who researched her historical novel *False Lights* on WU's July 2015 excavation. The course brought them to Waterloo for two days, where they were toured around the site, and shown artefacts and their uses by the WU team members and re-enactors. Using their experience on site and writing techniques from Katy, as well as their own experiences as veterans, they devised fictional characters based on soldiers at Waterloo and wrote creative pieces in the voices of those characters.







## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### WATERLOO UNCOVERED ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

The first Waterloo Uncovered Archaeology Weekend was held over the 14-15 July 2018 weekend. Saturday 14 was an open day, with hundreds of visitors coming to Hougoumont to see open trenches, a pop-up museum, reenactors and their kit, black powder musket firing, WU finds, a tour of the farm and its archaeology, and the launch of The Great Game<sup>1</sup> through a table top wargame replaying the fight for Hougoumont.

Five past participants of WU were brought back to Waterloo to run the event, working alongside some of the 2018 team.

A tour of the full Waterloo battlefield was organised on Sunday 15 July. The tour was guided in French and English by the Guides 1815. Veterans, serving personnel, archaeologists, taxi drivers, students, visitors and Napoleonic re-enactors were all part of the group. Walkers of all ages and in all conditions – including some in Napoleonic uniforms and some in wheelchairs – joined forces to take the four hour hike around the battlefield to raise funds for Waterloo Uncovered.

### TOURS OF THE FARM

For the duration of the excavation, battlefield guides from the Guides 1815 association were present on site to provide tours for visitors of the farm, including archaeological information provided by WU.

A number of VIPs also came for a day's visit on the excavation including the British ambassador to Belgium, Alison Rose, and the former Belgian ambassador to the UK, Guy Trouveroy.

Renowned historian and Waterloo expert General Barney White-Spunner worked in conjunction with Waterloo Uncovered to bring Waterloo enthusiasts to the battlefield for a historical and archaeological tour.

<sup>1</sup>-See page 14 for more detail.



## RESEARCH

### UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

Dr Jennie Dayes and Dr Karina Croucher (from the Continuing Bonds Project - a collaboration between the University of Bradford and LOROS Hospice, Leicester) visited the excavation, and are leading research about the impact of the excavation on veterans and serving personnel. Their research is ongoing on the 2018 cohort.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ROOSEVELT

Vicki Haverkate (University College Roosevelt) continued her research on the impact of the excavation on civilians in terms of interaction both with veterans and with archaeology. This research is expected to continue in 2019.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Rebecca Hearne (University of Sheffield) used Waterloo Uncovered 2018 for her PhD, *Archaeology as therapy: a narrative and material investigation*. Her research focuses on whether archaeology is therapeutic for individuals living with or recovering from mental health disorders, and if so how. WU was an opportunity for Rebecca to try out some of her theories and methods. She is currently writing her findings in a paper, for future publication.

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

David Ulke (University of Leicester) published his BA dissertation, *The Legacy of Mars - The Impact of Participation in Archaeology on the Mental Well-Being of Military Personnel and Veterans* in May 2018. His research covers the effect of Waterloo Uncovered on the well-being of the 2017 cohort of beneficiaries.





## 2. OTHER ACTIVITIES





## VIDEO GAME JAM

On January 22-23 2018, Waterloo Uncovered was given an opportunity to develop new outreach tools with the University of Salford.

Students from the Computer and Videogames, Digital Media, Animation, Film production, and Contemporary and Military history departments of the university worked in small groups for a two days intensive session to produce concepts and prototypes for video games and applications aiming to engage the public with the work of Waterloo Uncovered. WU staff and veterans were with them to represent the charity and answer questions as the students developed their projects.

Four very different prototypes came out of the JAM, one of which may be fully developed in the future.



## PROJECT REVIEW VOLUME 1

The first volume of Waterloo Uncovered's Project Review was published in April 2018. A magazine format, it covers all aspects of the project in the 2015 and 2016 excavations, from archaeology to veterans.

A good introduction to the project, it has been widely shared with our supporters and is available to download as a digital edition or to order as a paper edition through our website: [www.waterloouncovered.com/project-review-volume-1/](http://www.waterloouncovered.com/project-review-volume-1/)

The Project Review Volume 1 has recently been translated into French, and the French edition will become available in the coming year.

Volume 2 will be published by 2020.





## CHALKE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

Chalke Valley History Festival is the biggest history festival in the UK, with over 38,000 tickets sold in 2017 and thousands of pupils attending on school visits. Waterloo Uncovered had a tent at the event for the third consecutive year, bringing an archaeological perspective and veterans awareness element to the festival.

The WU display and activities were run by a student from UCL's MA Public Archaeology and run by volunteers including previous dig archaeologists, students and veterans, for whom this was an occasion to re-engage with the project, and do outreach work. The display, finds handling, re-enactors and educational activities drew attention from adults and children alike. Talks by Phil Harding and Peter Ginn also took place over the weekend and were met with great interest.



## BATTLEFIELDS UNCOVERED SUMMER SCHOOL

A collaboration with the University of Utrecht, Battlefields Uncovered was a summer school teaching the basics of battlefield archaeology and using Waterloo as one of its case studies. The course took place at University College Roosevelt in Middleburgh, from 26 June to 5 July 2018, and included a multiple day trips, including one to Waterloo guided by Tony Pollard.

In line with Waterloo Uncovered's aims, the course was open to university students and to veterans alike, favouring their collaboration in coursework. Eight attended the course, of which five students and one veteran then participated in the WU 2018 excavation.

Battlefields Uncovered will return in June 2019.



## WATERLOO TO WATERLOO

A weekend trip from London to the excavation was organised in collaboration with the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. This allowed eight veterans and seven London taxi drivers to see for themselves some of the archaeology done by Waterloo Uncovered on Friday 13 July, and attend the Waterloo Uncovered Archaeology Weekend on 14-15 July. The group was also treated to an expedition to Ypres, to hear the Last Post at the Menin Gate.

Participating veterans were brought from charities: Help for Heroes, the Not Forgotten Association, the Officers' Association, BLESMA and the Coldstream Guards. They would not have been able to take part in the excavation without the Taxi Charity's support.

You can watch a short video about the trip, through this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVao3gfnBX4>



## THE GREAT GAME - WATERLOO REPLAYED

The Great Game - Waterloo Replayed is a world-record attempt for the largest wargame reenactment of the Battle of Waterloo, with over 20,000 figures on the table. An idea born from model painting evenings during the excavations, the event is fundraising in support of Waterloo Uncovered and will take place at the University of Glasgow, June 15 and 16, 2019.

The Great Game was launched on July 14 on site, as part of the Waterloo Uncovered Archaeology Weekend, with a wargame reconstitution of the battle for Hougoumont.

More information can be found on their website: [www.waterlooreplayed.com](http://www.waterlooreplayed.com)





## HELEN CHESTER PAINTINGS

Since the beginning 2018, artist Helen Chester has been working in conjunction with Waterloo Uncovered to produce a series of portraits showing some of the serving personnel and veterans the charity has helped.

These portraits not only seek to show an accurate depiction of the sitter but also include vignettes which tell the story of the sitter, while making reference to the Battle of Waterloo itself. Working closely with each person, Helen has gone to great lengths to understand each subject's personal history and to find out the impact the work of Waterloo Uncovered has had on them and their lives moving forward.

When finished, this series will include fifteen portraits and will culminate in a series of exhibitions.



## ROYAL NETHERLANDS ARMY BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 18 June 2018, Waterloo Uncovered worked with the Koninklijke Landmacht (Royal Netherlands Army) to provide a battlefield tour for the Korps Rijdende Artillerie (Horse Artillery).

They were given information about the work of Waterloo Uncovered and WU volunteers showed them finds from the excavation. Dutch reenactors in 1815 costume were also present to discuss the equipment of Dutch soldiers at Waterloo.

Waterloo is considered to be one of the founding battles of the Dutch army, and the Koninklijke Landmacht has been sending serving personnel on Waterloo Uncovered's excavations since 2017.





# QUOTES FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



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

---

“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.”



# 3. COMMUNICATIONS





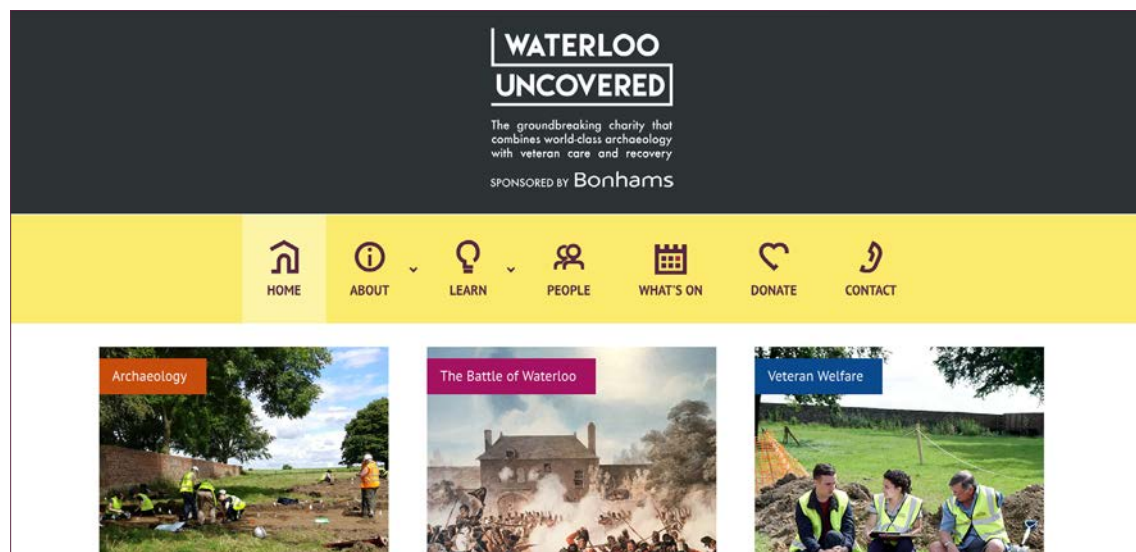
## DIGITAL

### WEBSITE

The WU website traffic has increased by 161% from the previous year, with 14.4k users between January and December 2018 (NB. The website was re-designed early July 2017). The average bounce rate was 61.02%.





Just over half of users were from the UK, and the website recorded peaks in visits during the summer excavation and when running events or communications campaigns on email or social media.

Email emerged as an acquisition channel, with 5% of users referred through WU's email campaigns. Social media accounted for 16.4% of visits, with 75% of those from Facebook and 15% from Twitter.

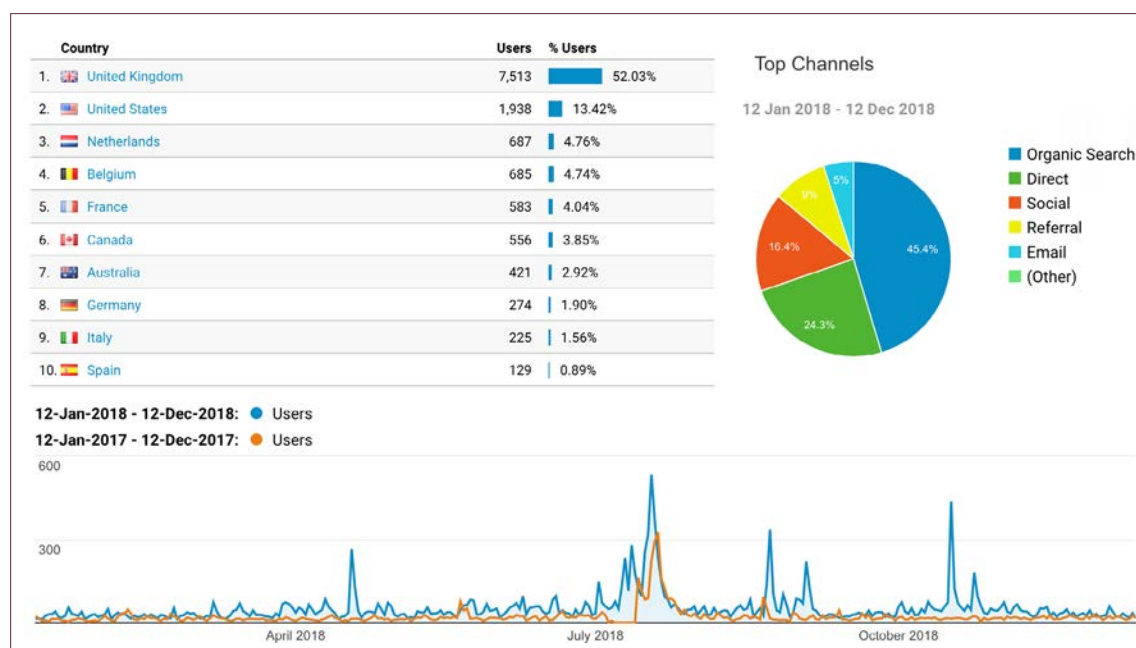


### SOCIAL MEDIA

Waterloo Uncovered continued growing its social media audience, on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

				
	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	Instagram
<b>Followers</b>	2,817	1,087	268	340
<b>Compared to 2017</b>	+18%	+30%	+32%	+479%
<b>Impressions</b>	134.9k	180.7k	16.7k views	/
<b>Compared to 2017</b>	+14%	+1.6%	+ 130%	/

NB. WU's Instagram account was created in June 2017 and impressions were not recorded.





## MEDIA

In 2018, Waterloo Uncovered was featured in over 40 media outlets in four countries, reaching millions. 27 of those outlets were in the UK, seven in Belgium, five in the Netherlands, and one in France.

British media presence included the BBC and ITV News, the Times, STV News, iNews and an episode of The Naked Scientists that had Waterloo Uncovered for its main topic. You can find The Naked Scientists podcast on [www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists-podcast/waterloo-uncovered-veterans-excavate-old-conflicts](http://www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists-podcast/waterloo-uncovered-veterans-excavate-old-conflicts)

Belgian media presence included RTBF Vivacité, La Capitale and L'Avenir.

Dutch media presence included De Faam, Algemeen Dagblad, and Provinciale Zeeuwse Courant.







# 4. FUNDRAISING



## AN EVENING WITH WATERLOO UNCOVERED

On 6 November 2018, the fundraiser An Evening With Waterloo Uncovered took place at The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

350 guests came to hear about the work of Waterloo Uncovered from CEO Mark Evans and from WU's patron, the Duke of Wellington. The entertainment was a short cameo about war and veteran care from Waterloo to the modern era, and narrated by the Chief of Defense Staff, General Sir Nick Carter. This was followed by a live auction, in which guests donated generously, allowing the charity to raise over £35,000.

You can read more on [www.waterloouncovered.com/an-evening-with-waterloo-uncovered/](http://www.waterloouncovered.com/an-evening-with-waterloo-uncovered/)







## READING TO REMEMBER

For the third year, Waterloo Uncovered ran Reading to Remember, a reading marathon covering 11 hours – the duration of the Battle of Waterloo.

Members of the 2018 team took turns reading first-hand accounts of the battle, in English, Dutch and French. They read in the chapel at Hougomont farm, where wounded soldiers sought refuge in 1815.

Through sponsorship around their participation, the team raised around £3,000.

More than a fundraiser, the event is chance for participants to read and hear accounts of the Battle of Waterloo, in the words of those who fought it – and an opportunity to open discussions about the differences and parallels between soldiering then and now.





## MARATHONS

Waterloo Uncovered would like to thank two of our wonderful supporters, who ran marathons to fundraise for us.

Rod Eldridge (right) took part in the 42nd US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC, and raised over £1,100.

Nick Rendall (below) ran the Edinburgh 2018 Marathon and raised over £3,000.

Their efforts will allow WU to cover the costs of three veterans on the excavation.





# 5. LOOKING FORWARD





## 2018 STRATEGY MEETING

On 17 October 2018, Waterloo Uncovered held a strategy meeting that brought together nearly 40 representatives from our partner organisations and supporters.

The day led to some crucial decisions being made regarding the future of WU. The charity will continue its excavations on the Waterloo battlefield, using its existing contacts and knowledge to develop its work there rather than move to other battlefields. WU will continue to support more serving personnel and veterans.

## NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS: MONT SAINT JEAN 2019

In other exciting news for Waterloo Uncovered, the summer fieldwork base of operations will be changing in 2019. After running excavations from Hougoumont for the past four years, WU will be running its 2019 excavation from Mont Saint Jean.

The farm, now a museum and brewery, was the allied field hospital during the Battle. It will be the site of new archaeological investigations for 2019, as well as WU's new headquarters during future fieldwork.

## PROJECT REVIEW VOLUME 2

WU's Project Review Volume 2, covering the 2017 and 2018 excavations, will be assembled and published by 2020.

