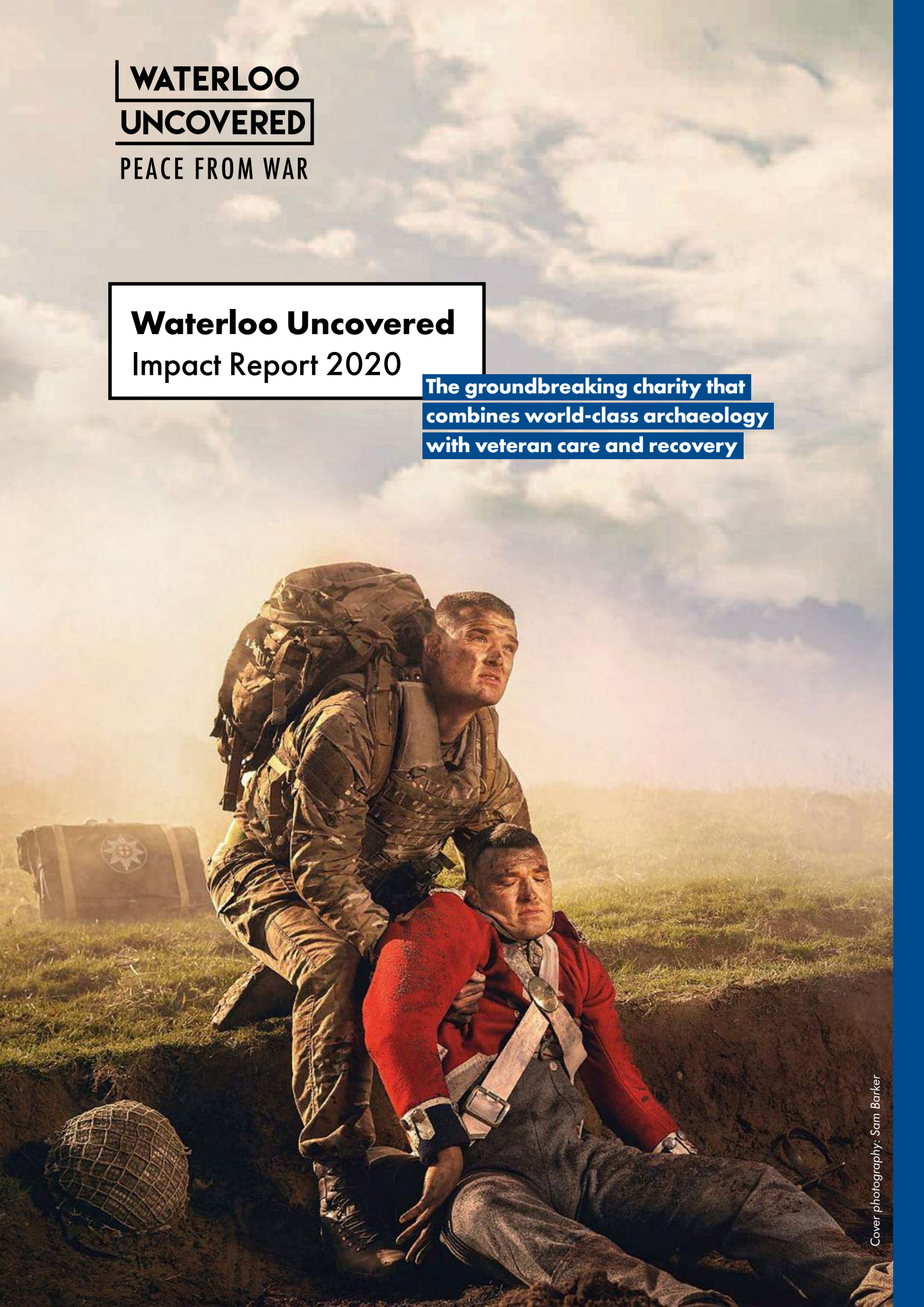


**WATERLOO
UNCOVERED**
PEACE FROM WAR

Waterloo Uncovered
Impact Report 2020

The groundbreaking charity that
combines world-class archaeology
with veteran care and recovery



WATERLOO UNCOVERED

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



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Overview

Waterloo Uncovered is the ground-breaking charity that supports Veterans and Serving Military Personnel (VSMP), many of whom have experienced mental or physical impacts from their service, with their recovery and wellbeing. We do this through involvement in a world-class archaeological project; through education; and through a year-long programme delivered by professional welfare specialists. Our vision is *Peace from War*. Since we began in 2015, we have grown rapidly and proved our work's value by supporting over 150 VSMP and uncovering over 5,000 archaeology finds.

Waterloo Uncovered (WU) is a charity created to perform three essential aims:

- **Veterans and Serving Military Personnel Support:** – providing those who have served their country with the support they deserve when they need it most.
- **Archaeology of Waterloo** – investigating and preserving the heritage of the battlefield before all traces are lost forever; and adding new understanding to the military history of this decisive battle.
- **Education** – providing formal education, informal learning and public engagement that broadens the understanding of war and its impact on people -both then and now.

Promoting wellbeing during Covid-19

This year, the coronavirus pandemic has undoubtedly increased the need to support the military community; we rose to the challenge by embracing technology and new ways of working across all our operations to deliver much-needed services. We believe our work this year, more than ever, demonstrates the importance of collaboration and creativity to provide: support that best benefits our beneficiaries; and a rich body of material that will engage the broader public with our work.

While this report, and the majority of our 2020 effort, focuses on the support provided to UK VSMP, WU also continued to work with Dutch veterans, and despite severe travel restrictions, has very much remained an international project through Covid-19.

General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE

Chief of the General Staff, British Army



"The advent of Covid 19 impacted on the work of Waterloo Uncovered as it did with us all. Whilst it prevented them from returning to excavate the battlefield, it more than ever confirmed the need and value of their work to support veterans and serving men and women with their recovery and wellbeing. In this most challenging year, they found news ways of building a community of support for their beneficiaries, giving them the opportunity to learn, to develop new skills, and helping them overcome some of the impacts of social isolation. The work of Waterloo Uncovered will continue and grow over the years to come, both through real archaeology on the battlefield and through the virtual skills developed in the last year. I commend the work of this small charity and would encourage you strongly to support its work."

2020 Headlines



A year-round wellbeing support programme was there for Veterans and Serving Military Personnel when they needed it most



Our ambitious 3-month series of online talks, activities and welfare support helped 24 UK VSMP participants through lockdown



22 VSMP gained an academic qualification via our Battlefield Uncovered course, run in partnership with Utrecht University



Education: Our online lectures and films drew an audience of over 650,000 views on our YouTube channel and website



Our 2019 Impact Report was distributed throughout Parliament, and our work was recognised by the Prime Minister



Our work was featured and widely read in the national, international and specialist press



We marked the 5th anniversary of WU and the 205th of the battle with our first ever Waterloo Week – an online event that reached people in over 25 countries



Past participants and the general public responded in creative ways to make our 2.6 Challenge a fundraising success. The campaign smashed its target of £1,815 and raised over £15,000

Points of Light Award

Waterloo Uncovered co-founders Mark Evans and Charlie Foinette were honoured with a Points of Light Award from the UK Prime Minister. The Points of Light Award recognises outstanding individuals volunteers-people who're making a change in their community.



Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street



Waterloo Uncovered

Mark Evans and Major Charles Foinette, from London, created the 'Waterloo Uncovered' project to unite rehabilitating veterans with ground-breaking archaeological excavations of the Waterloo battlefield.

Mark and Charles joined the Coldstream Guards after both studying archaeology together at University College London. Returning from Afghanistan in 2010, Mark was diagnosed with PTSD, and his recovery was supported by Charles over four years. Mark began by participating in a Ministry of Defence project supporting veterans through archaeology. He and Charles then set up their own project to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015. Since then, their initiative has grown into the registered charity 'Waterloo Uncovered', which runs annual excavations and has established an 12-month programme of support to help veterans through their recovery. Over 5,000 objects have been excavated from the battlefield, helping to create new understandings of one of the most famous battles in history.



In a personal letter to Mark, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

"I know you do this with no thought of praise or reward, but allow me to offer my own recognition of how you are helping those who have bravely served our country to find purpose and wellbeing through your incredible archaeological project, preserving our heritage while supporting our fine veterans."

In a personal letter to Charles, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

"You are giving up so much of your time, alongside your military career, to support veterans who have served our country. Your project is also a wonderful testament to our nation's history."

Cabinet Office Minister Oliver Dowden, who represents the Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) in Cabinet, said:

"This award recognises the selfless commitment Mark and Charles have shown in setting up and running this fantastic charity to help veterans with their recovery.

"We want to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran, and achieving this will require a team effort from the government, our partners and innovative charities. It is very inspiring to hear of projects such as 'Waterloo Uncovered' which help veterans who fall into difficulty."

The 2020 Virtual Support Programme

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic meant that the 2020 summer excavation in Belgium had to be cancelled. WU responded swiftly by devising an entirely virtual program that would allow us to support VSMP throughout the pandemic.

The programme had a particular emphasis on maintaining mental wellbeing to overcome the potential risks of social isolation. Support was year-round and began with an ambitious series of online talks, articles, films and audio. Interactive resources and sessions kept people engaged. Using our wealth of resources, we provided participants with over 70 contact hours, wellbeing support and the opportunity to interact online with other VSMP between scheduled activities.

The programme, which intensively supported 24 UK VSMP, ran for a year, with an initial online series lasting twelve weeks from May 2020. This included bi-weekly interactive activities led by our excavation supervisors, and opportunities for one-on-one sessions with the Wellbeing & Support Team. Other activities included “At Home Archaeology” training, practical tasks, virtual museum tours, Waterloo Ghost stories, virtual reality explorations of the battlefield, podcasts, lectures and enrolment in **Battlefields Uncovered**, an online course run in partnership with Utrecht University, offering students a chance to achieve internationally recognised academic credits.

The programme, put together at short notice under the pressures and restrictions of lockdown, was a real success; a true reflection of the dedication and flexibility of the WU team, not only did it support VSMP, it also produced education and entertainment for the wider public, and brought the WU family closer together in times that tested all of us.



**Professor Tony Pollard lecturing
on the battle for Hougoumont**

Neil Greenberg

Professor of Defence Mental Health, King's College London



Social isolation can be a challenge for an important proportion of veterans to overcome at the best of times and the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have compounded this difficulty for some. Previous research has shown that the programmes run by Waterloo Uncovered (WU) can improve psychological wellbeing for veterans and serving personnel. Initial results from WU's Virtual Programme appear to show a timely intervention that provided participants with an online community, a chance to immerse themselves in activity and learning, and professional support, with modest and useful improvements in wellbeing evident at the end of the programme which were sustained at follow up around three months later.

VSMP Support

VSMP need support in building resilience as they adjust from military to civilian life. Our approach is based on five Pillars of Resilience:

- **Recovery** – return to a desirable state of health, mind, or strength
- **Wellbeing** – being comfortable, healthy, or happy
- **Transition** – the passage from military to civilian life
- **Education** – learning new things (formally and informally)
- **Employment** (or its equivalent) – developing real prospects and skills as well as valuable new insights

This year the Wellbeing & Support component of our Virtual Programme was re-designed around these five core pillars and delivered online and over the phone. Participants were still able to set goals for themselves from these five broad categories; they received one-on-one support and benefitted from the community, friendship, and engagement that we feel is key to the success of Waterloo Uncovered.

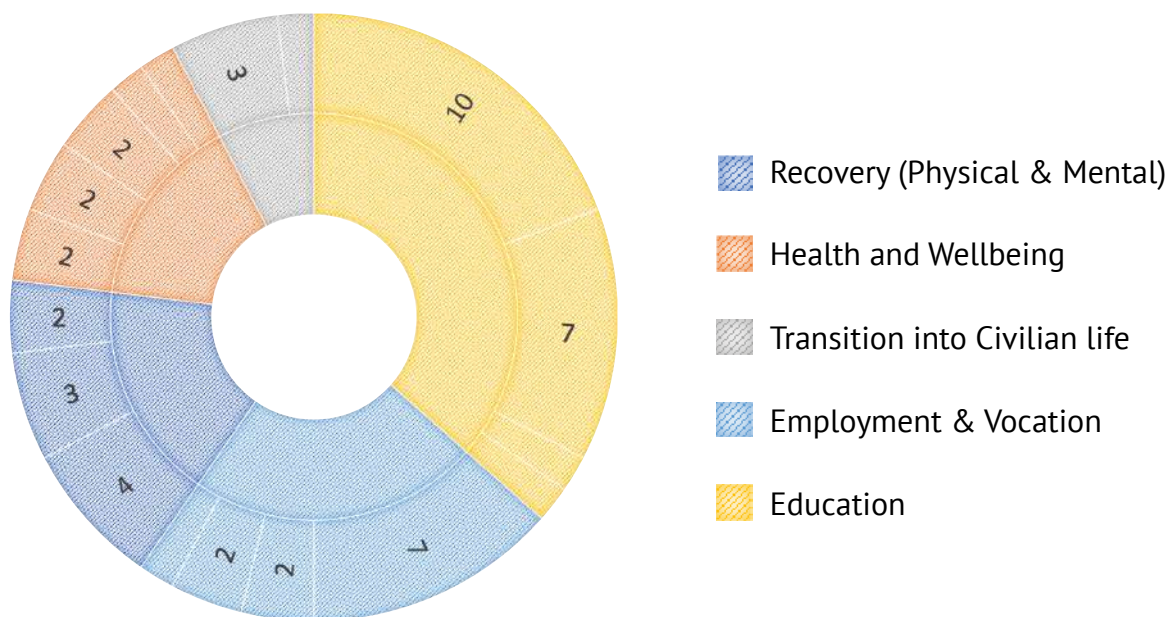
Each year, we gather data to understand how best to serve the needs of our VSMP and to track their wellbeing and outcomes according to goals they have selected for themselves at the start of the programme. This also produces evidence about impact and learning that we can share with external audiences. We use a widely-recognised external methodology to evaluate the impact of our programme on mental health and wellbeing -The Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale.

During a year that brought many additional challenges for our VSMP, the wellbeing scores showed that participants were able to at least maintain their level of mental wellbeing across the time spent on the programme. This demonstrates to us that we can still support VSMP wellbeing without face-to-face contact, supporting them during a particularly vulnerable and isolating time.

On the virtual programme participants were able to set tailored goals across our five pillars of wellbeing – Recovery (Physical and Mental), Health and Wellbeing, Education, Transition into Civilian Life, and Employment and Vocation. All participants selected at least two goals they hoped to achieve for the programme, with the majority choosing three or more for themselves. At the end of the programme, participants agreed or strongly agreed that 62% of their goals had been met and goals for Employment, Vocation and Education were particularly popular, alongside a focus on Recovery, Health and Wellbeing. For example, ten of our participants wanted to increase their knowledge of the history of the Battle of Waterloo, drawing on their own military experience to explore the similarities/ differences, while seven also chose to experience a new activity that may help them participate in a new interest/hobby/skill.

We found that the Virtual Programme was particularly effective for new beneficiaries, while returning beneficiaries missed previous aspects of our residential programme, such as the excavation and the opportunity to socialise in person.

Participant Goals 2020



Tailored Goals from 2020 (*number of participants choosing goal*):

Recovery (Physical and Mental)

- A. Improve my confidence by engaging in group activities, tasks and/or social events using various online digital platforms (4)
- B. Challenge myself by engaging in digital/online activities, recognising my capabilities and limitations, seeking advice, guidance and support (where necessary) to help me contribute effectively and confidently to gain the most out of the experience (2)
- C. Recognise my own needs and look at ways to overcome any barriers I may have by engaging with the support of those around me to help with my recovery journey (3)

Health and Wellbeing

- D. Use the experience to improve my overall wellbeing, by building positive relationships and increasing social engagement (this can include increasing independence/positivity/mindfulness or other encouraging outcome) (2)
- E. Reduce my feelings of social isolation and/or loneliness by using the Virtual Programme to develop new friendships (short/long-term) and gain enough confidence to try new experiences after Waterloo Uncovered's Virtual Programme (2)

F. Improve my social engagement by getting the most out of the virtual programme, taking part in as many group discussions and activities as possible (1)

G. Improve wellbeing by engaging with the wider group including other participants, archaeologists (via Q&A sessions), students*, support & wellbeing staff (*may not be involved in Virtual Programme) (1)

H. Reduce my anxiety levels by engaging in a virtual programme from a safe environment (i.e. home) (2)

Transition into Civilian Life

I. Work within a structured timetable/programme to re-familiarise myself with routine, time-keeping and a sense of duty/commitment to engage and complete specified tasks (3)

J. Interact with the wider group to develop positive communication skills to help with the integration into civilian life (i.e. fellow participants, archaeologists, students*, staff and volunteers) (*may not be involved in Virtual Programme) (0)

K. Develop practical* and social skills in a non-military 'virtual' environment and increase personal awareness of the multi-cultural, diverse world outside of the military, building on respect and tolerance skills (*creative arts materials will be delivered to your home address) (1)

L. Connect with others to learn from their lived experience of transition to help break down any misconceptions and/or anxieties I may have about leaving the military (0)

Education

M. Increase my knowledge of the history of the Battle of Waterloo, drawing on my own military experience to explore the similarities/ differences (10)

N. Use the experience to improve my education/skills to use in a future learning/career choice (1)

O. Experience a new activity that may help me participate in a new interest/hobby/skill (7)

P. Improve communication skills (verbal and digital) and build my confidence by engaging in virtual activities (including 'Reading to Remember', engaging with guest speakers etc.) (0)

Q. Look at where my military experience and skills can be applied in a civilian career (1)

R. Develop 'soft' skills in an informal setting to help enhance job applications (NB. soft skills include communication, conflict resolution, problem solving, team work, creative thinking) (2)

S. Use the Virtual programme to develop existing digital skills to support future employment/vocation opportunities (2)

Jo Clark

Veteran, Royal Army Medical Corps & Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps



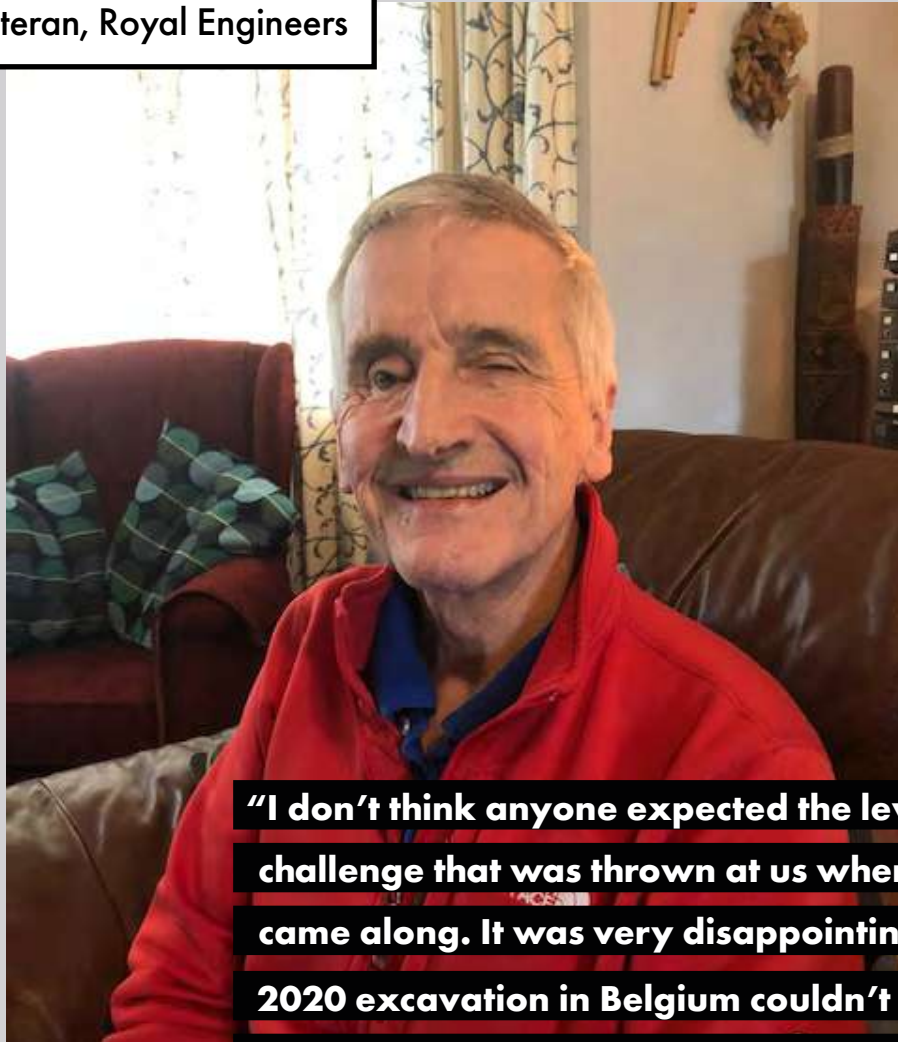
"The team at WU seem gifted with the ability to instil confidence for open dialogue about emotions, wellbeing and physical and mental ill health. Coming away from Waterloo Uncovered I felt confident enough to be honest with myself -there's no shame in not coping sometimes. The whole outlook of the WU team, their ethos, provides you with a collective safety net, where everyone's got a story and everyone's story is as deserving as the next."



WU beneficiary Jo first joined Waterloo Uncovered in 2018 during her recovery from a medical condition whilst serving. Returning in 2020, having retired from Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, Jo is now working as a registered nurse and has put her skills to work to help combat the pandemic like many serving personnel and veterans across the country.

Jamie Cuthbertson

Veteran, Royal Engineers



"I don't think anyone expected the level of challenge that was thrown at us when Covid came along. It was very disappointing that the 2020 excavation in Belgium couldn't happen. But Waterloo Uncovered were very quick to dive in and come up with an alternative -the Virtual Programme. It was perfectly timed, giving us something really meaty to get our teeth into. There was a lot of background research, lots of videos to watch, lots of resources to broaden my knowledge of the battle -that was great."

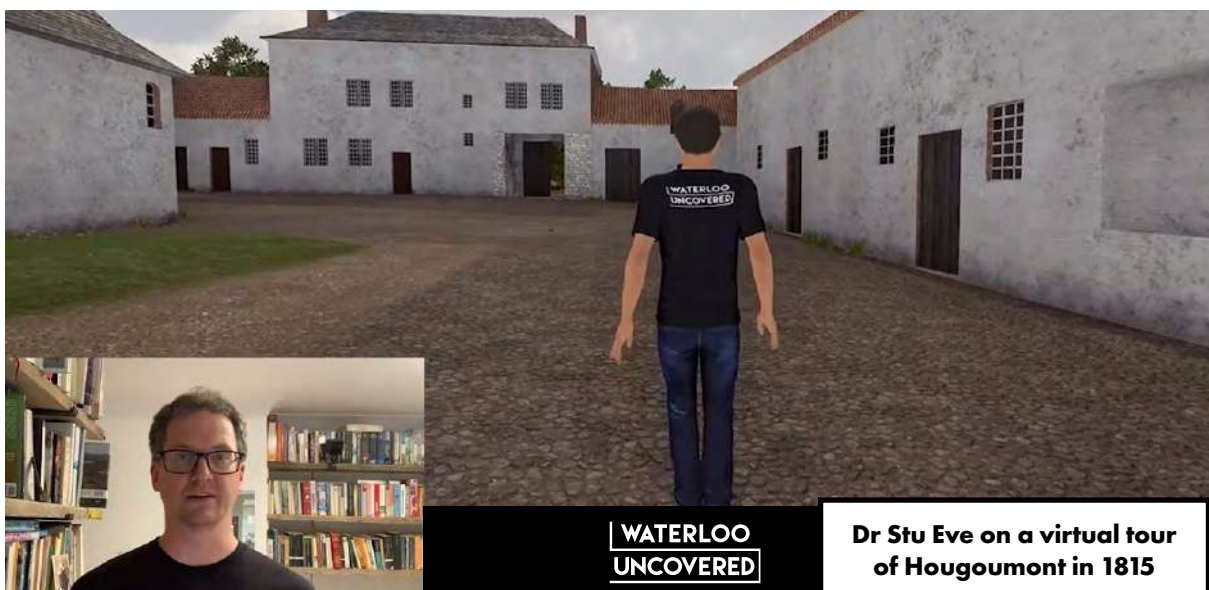
Archaeology at Waterloo

In the absence of a physical excavation, we stepped up the depth and range of our educational work, research, and reporting. Waterloo Uncovered has always been blessed with the knowledge and experience generously shared by leading experts in their field. The *Lockdown Lectures* became a public shop window for this expertise.

Professor Tony Pollard delivered a superb series of lectures on the archaeology of the fight at Hougoumont; Dr Stu Eve presented an introductory series on an archaeologist's work, and an immersive 3D walk-round of Hougoumont in 1815; veteran archaeologist Phil Harding shared stories of digs, from the Neolithic to the Napoleonic; and there were contributions from Ben Schoenmaker about Dutch troops at Waterloo, and from battlefield archaeologist and WU trench supervisor, Sam Wilson.

While the dig was on hold, academic work on the discoveries at Waterloo continued apace. Four academic archaeology publications were accepted during this period, with two published and two coming up in press ([From the killing ground: digital approaches to conflict archaeology - a case study from Waterloo. Digital War](#) & [Waterloo Uncovered: From Discoveries in Conflict Archaeology to Military Veteran Collaboration and Recovery on One of the World's Most Famous Battlefields. Historic Landscapes and Mental Well-Being](#)). Currently work is ongoing to develop an accessible, interactive online database of finds. Waterloo Uncovered has also been successful in gaining an award under the **Positive Pathways** programme to fund two projects including one on finds handling for VSMP.

For some of our previous beneficiaries, their first encounter with the practice of archaeology through involvement with Waterloo Uncovered has led to a deeper interest and, in a number of cases, has inspired them to undertake further formal education.



Alastair Eager

Veteran, Royal Marines



"For me the most important part of the dig is that it's helped me transition into civilian life and realise the opportunities that lie ahead... It feels surreal.

It only felt like five minutes ago that I was picking up a trowel for the first time and now I'm at university studying an archaeology degree full time. I find myself walking round campus still not quite believing it. I spent a long time trying to work out what to do next after leaving the forces, and it was attending the excavation with WU that gave me the pointers, gave me the nudge. Not only did it show me what I enjoyed and what I wanted to do, but it gave me paths and doors to pursue that. If it wasn't for WU I wouldn't be at university now"

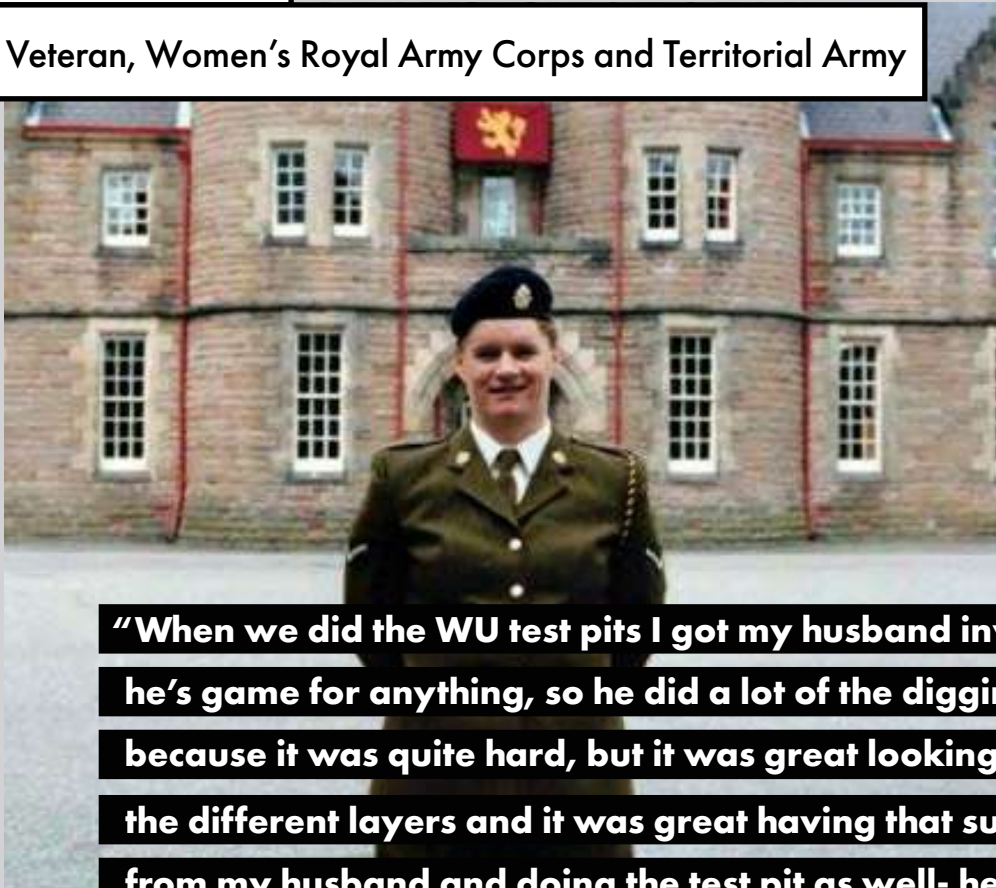


WU beneficiary Alastair retired after fifteen years in the Royal Marines and following his time with Waterloo Uncovered, began studying for a degree in Archaeology at Winchester University as part of their Heritage for Heroes supported undergraduate scheme in September 2020.

Although the formal excavation in Belgium did not take place, it was not quite the end of the story for archaeology in 2020. One element of the Virtual Programme for VSMP was the opportunity to carry out test pits in people's own gardens. These small test pits, excavated under virtual archaeological supervision, and carried out following the principles of good archaeological practice, uncovered a range of small finds from clay pipes to Victorian tiles. Perhaps more importantly, they offered the opportunity to get to grips with archaeology, in spite of lockdown.

Maria Pikulski

Veteran, Women's Royal Army Corps and Territorial Army



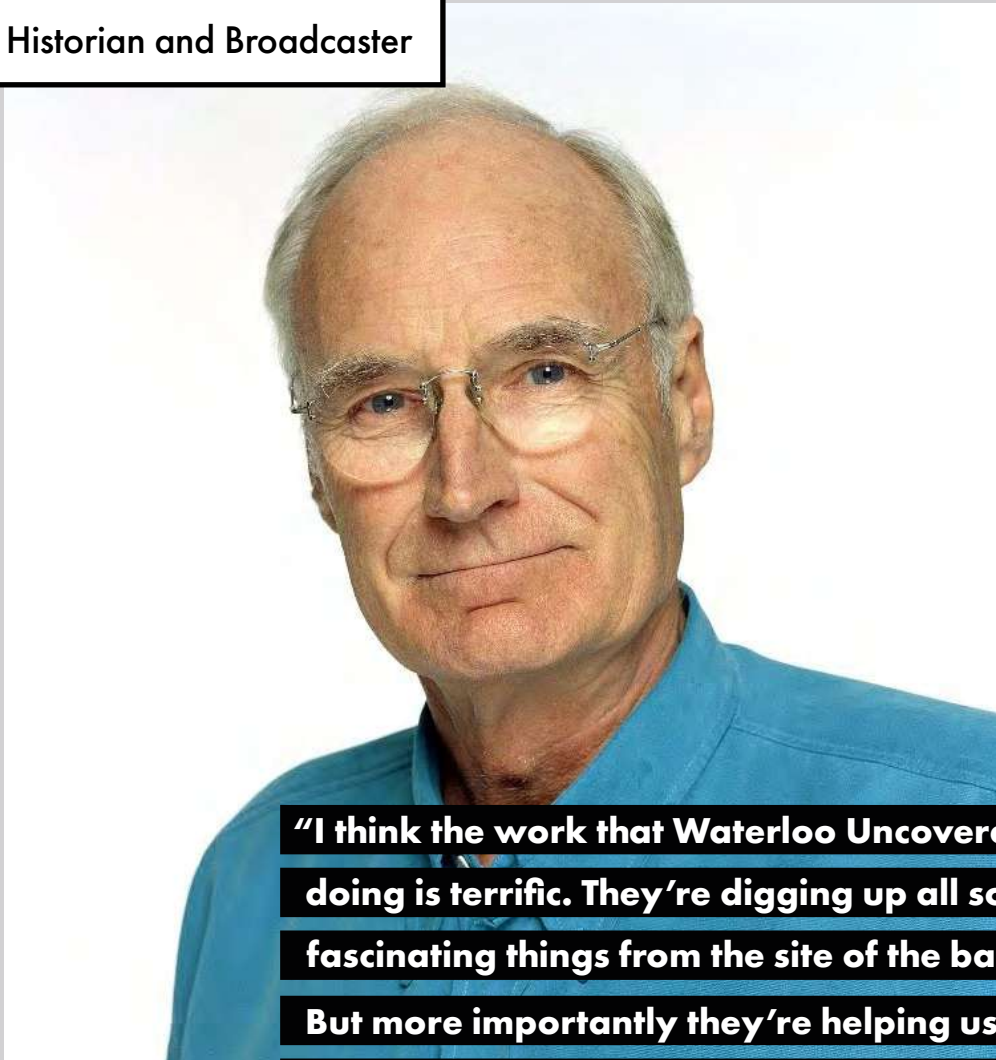
"When we did the WU test pits I got my husband involved, he's game for anything, so he did a lot of the digging, because it was quite hard, but it was great looking at the different layers and it was great having that support from my husband and doing the test pit as well- he got excited as much as me...And having the WU programme in 2020 was fantastic because you felt like you had your family around in the house. They were there if you did feel down and you felt like you did need somebody to talk to -they were there for you."



WU beneficiary Maria retired from the Territorial Army in 2003 and now works as an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer at the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Test Pitting gave Maria a taste for archaeology, and she hopes to continue archaeology as a hobby in the future, perhaps volunteering with community digs in her local area with the goal of "finding something really special".

Peter Snow CBE

Historian and Broadcaster



"I think the work that Waterloo Uncovered is doing is terrific. They're digging up all sorts of fascinating things from the site of the battle. But more importantly they're helping us make a personal connection with the ordinary soldiers who fought -like the evidence they found of the primitive battlefield first aid available to wounded men. And the links to the experiences of modern veterans and today's servicemen and women is really powerful and makes one think hard about the human impact of war."

Education and Engagement

Waterloo Uncovered turned the challenges of 2020 into an opportunity to engage wider audiences with our story. First, we redesigned our website, regularly posting new content and adding an “Explore” section ranging from mini film documentaries about the archaeology, to background articles on the battle ([explore](#)).

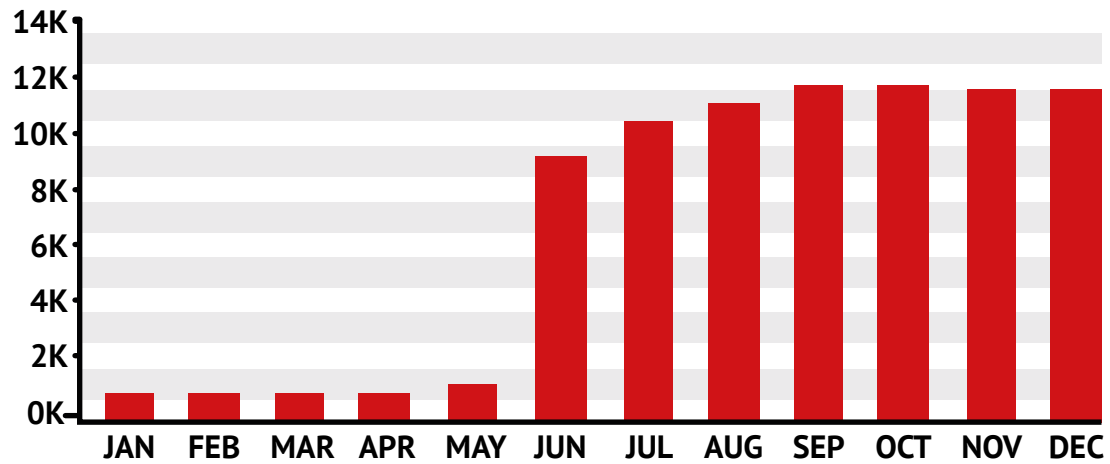
Dig Diaries, originally a way of following the dig, became a monthly publication, alongside a newsletter for subscribers to get first sight of developments ([newsletter](#)). We launched *Visiting Historians* - a series of podcast interviews with leading historians like Andrew Roberts and Peter Snow. ([Visiting Historians](#)).

The jewel in the crown was the series of *Lockdown Lectures* we delivered, and a measure of their success is the audience gained by the Waterloo Uncovered YouTube channel, ([Films and lectures](#)).

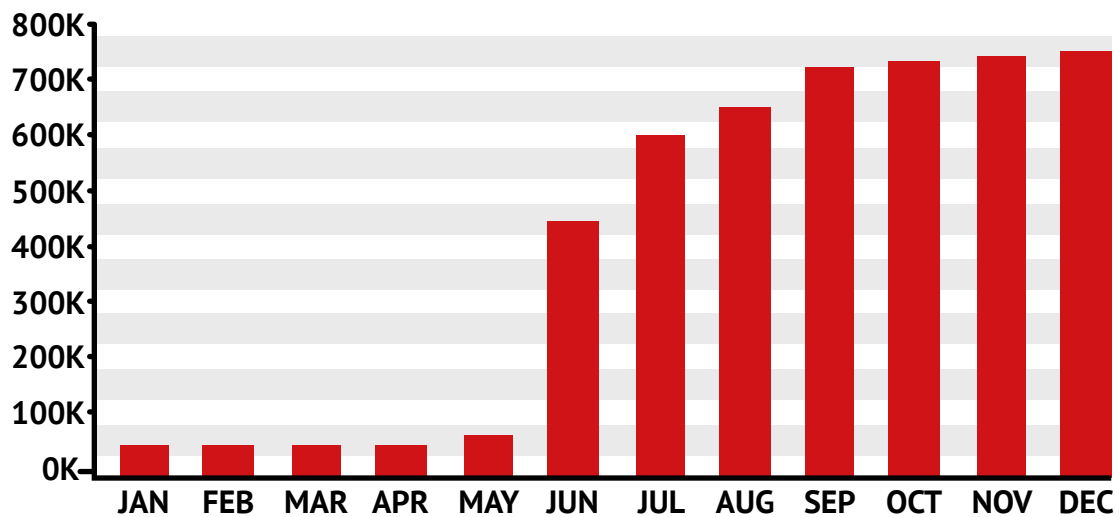


We began the year with a cumulative total of 45,000 views since the charity began in 2015, but ended 2020 with well over 700,000 views, with over 11,000 subscribers and hundreds of positive comments. The lectures will, over time, contribute to a rich body of material forming a legacy for our work. A further series of lectures is being planned for 2021, and the launch of a suite of educational content -Going to the Wars- exploring the experiences of soldiers on campaign.

YouTube Subscribers



YouTube Views



Andrew Roberts

Historian, author of 'Waterloo', 'Napoleon and Wellington', 'Napoleon the Great'



"Battlefield archaeology is at the cutting edge of military history on the moment, constantly confirming and disproving theories that historians have been positing for decades. There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in this dynamic area of scholarship and expertise. The battlefield of Waterloo is to modern historians what Sutton Hoo is to Anglo-Saxon specialists, or the Valley of the Kings to Egyptologists. The genius of Waterloo Uncovered is that not only do they regularly tell us about important aspects of this world-changing 19th century battle, but they do it in a way that is quantifiably therapeutically helpful to our 21st century warriors. Unlike with Napoleon and Wellington back in June 1815, it's a win-win!"

Battlefields Uncovered: our online, accredited university course

Another key element of our educational work is the partnership with Utrecht University in the Netherlands to deliver accredited courses in aspects of battlefield history and archaeology. Going online did not prevent 22 former or serving military personnel from graduating alongside students from a range of backgrounds and nationalities, including three American and two Dutch VSMP.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with participants especially enjoying the discussion sessions and the high-quality lectures and materials produced. The course was such a success that it's already advertised by Utrecht to run again this year, ([Battlefields Uncovered](#)).



Battlefields Uncovered: Introduction to Archaeological and Historical Investigations of Conflict

Organising institution
Utrecht University - Faculty of Humanities

Period
13 September 2021-10 December 2021

Course location(s)
Online course

ETCS credits
1

Course code
C10

Course fee
€97

Course Level
Bachelor

[Apply for course](#)



What do battlefields have to tell us about the past and about ourselves? Battlefields Uncovered studies some of the most dramatic turning points in World History through the lens of Military History and Archaeology. See how groundbreaking archaeological techniques can shine a light through the fog of war. Discover the complex issues to be considered when preserving and presenting places of past armed conflict. Consider what stories should be told? And by whom? Discuss different perspectives on these questions with a diverse group of people including world-leading archaeologists and historians, museum experts and military veterans.

The course will take place online. You can begin following the course from the 13th September 2021. There will be an online graduation on the 10th of December. Between those dates, an engaging mix of theory, research and focus on practical techniques will be released in the form of lectures and workshops. You can mostly follow them when it suits you best. You will also take part in and online discussions and assessed seminars in small groups in October and November.

If you are interested in military history; wanting an introduction to practical archaeology; intrigued by narratives and representations of conflict; looking to gain additional academic credits; from a military background and wanting to develop new skills, then this is the course for you!

No previous academic qualifications are necessary. Teaching is in English, and you'll be placed in an online group for interactive seminars and discussions.

The collaboration with Utrecht University is just one example of the international partnerships that are a fundamental part of our work. Other examples are the relationship with the Dutch Army and Veterans' Institute, who arrange for a number of Dutch military veterans to take part each year; and the close working relationship with our colleagues from the Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine (AWAP) who facilitate our access to the battlefield and work alongside us on the excavations.

The 2.6 Challenge



Maintaining public support and fundraising for the charity was an important and ongoing feature of our work, lockdown or no.

Supporters far and wide responded imaginatively to our 2.6 Challenge, in which people undertook a range of challenges based on the number 2.6-or multiples thereof! People answered the call by, for example: Cycling 26 miles, performing music, making pasta, “tabbing” (walking with weighted backpacks), wearing an assortment of hats and conducting a route march in full Napoleonic uniform. The campaign had a target of £1815 (to match the date of the Battle of Waterloo). In fact our supporters raised nearly £16,000.

This year saw us make more extensive use of social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



These we used to effect to mark our Waterloo Week, commemorating the anniversary of the battle, the fifth Anniversary of Waterloo Uncovered and culmination of our 2.6 Challenge.

Waterloo Uncovered in the media



Waterloo Uncovered maintained its presence in the media, despite the lack of new archaeological discoveries last year due to the cancellation of the dig. We followed up the accolade of the **Points of Light Award** from the UK Prime Minister, with the launch of the 2019 Impact Report **Peace from War**. This gained coverage in the Times, the Telegraph and the Herald, and was distributed by the All- Party Parliamentary Group on Archaeology throughout Parliament.

Waterloo Uncovered featured in articles in:

The Doctor, the monthly magazine of the [British Medical Association](#); [Current World Archaeology](#); [the Army Museums Ogilby Trust Annual Report](#); and in the [journal Digital War](#). The Heritage Alliance included us as a case study in a report into Heritage, [Health and Wellbeing](#).

We contributed to virtual conferences, festivals and events including: the National Army Museum, the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology, Dig Ventures' Dig Nation Festival, The Theoretical Archaeology Group conference (TAG) and the Modern Conflict Symposium held at the Imperial War Museum.

Change at Waterloo

Tina Tarkin with additional research by Alex Cawthorne
The Doctor February 2020

Taking injured military veterans to excavate a historic battlefield which will yield parts might not seem the most obvious therapy but the results have been impressive. Tina Tarkin meets volunteers, including the surgeon who is an expert in the 'traumatic practices of war'.

From [finding] this one musket ball, he was incredibly overcome with emotion and started thinking about things that he hadn't really talked about for a very long time.

Former Army captain Mark Evans recalls the experience of a fellow military veteran participating in Waterloo Uncovered, the charity which he co-founded after leaving the Army in 2010. The project is perhaps unique in that it seeks to help serving and ex-military service personnel, many of whom might be struggling with mental or physical health issues, by engaging them in archaeological work around the battlefield of one of Europe's most iconic military encounters.

Capt Evans, along with his friend and fellow Coldstream Guards officer Major Charlie Foinette, set up the project in 2013, the bicentenary year of the battle, and the size of its expeditions to the battlefield have continued to grow in size and scale. By bringing together current and former members of the military alongside archaeologists and health professionals, Capt Evans says the project provides a safe and structured environment in which those with shared experiences and challenges can hopefully begin to open up to one another.

Waterloo: Combat and Combat Surgery on a Napoleonic Battlefield

Professor Tony Pollard
Current World Archaeology April 2020

Two battles were fought at Waterloo on 18 June 1815. One, waged by soldiers in the three armies that claimed that day turned on taking lives, the other – fought just as desperately – was by field surgeons racing against time to save lives. Now survey and excavation are shedding new light on both sides of this furious struggle, as WU Archaeological Director Professor Tony Pollard reveals.

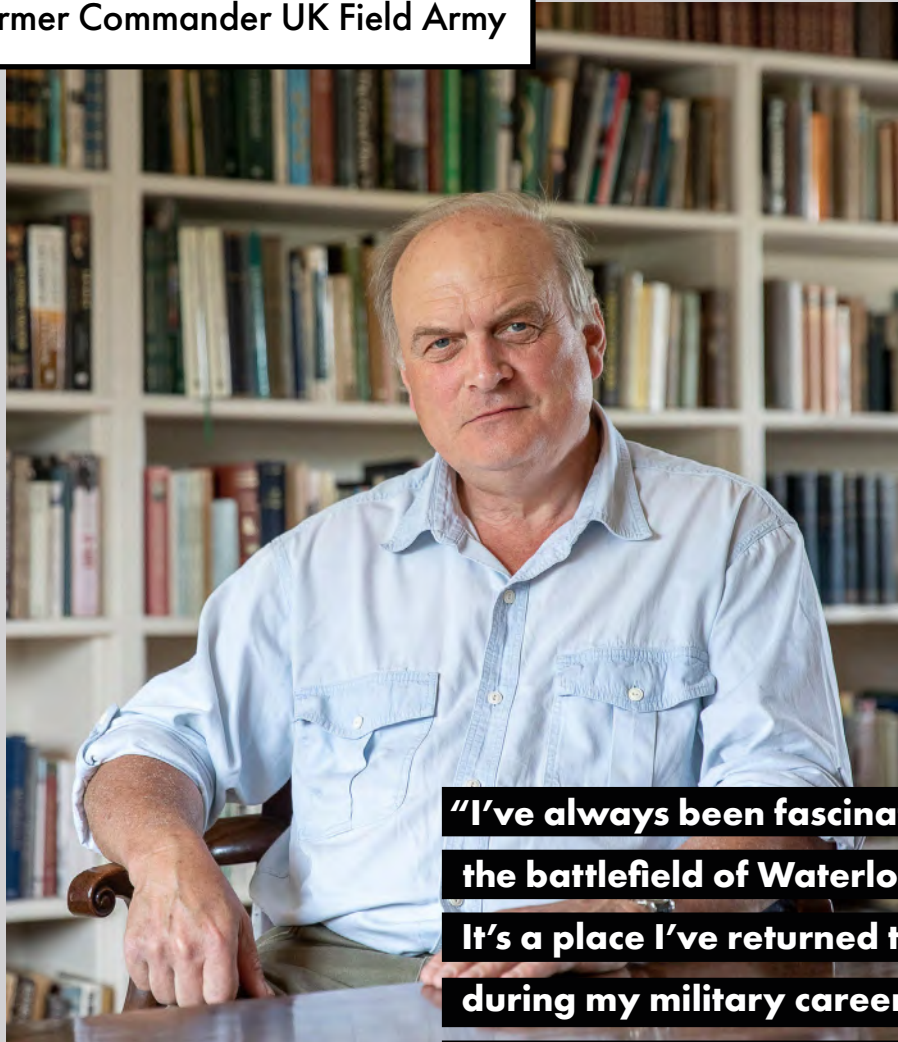
In 2015 Waterloo Uncovered began excavations at Mont-Saint-Jean, a farmhouse which Wellington chose to be the main Allied field hospital for his troops in 1815. An estimated 6000 wounded soldiers passed through the doors of Mont-Saint-Jean, although it is not known how many the field surgeons were able to save – there was, after all, no understanding of bacterial infection, and wounds caused by musket balls, cannon shots, sabres and javelins often quickly became infected. In this article, Tony describes the archaeological discoveries unearthed in the summer of 2019, when Waterloo Uncovered excavated the field hospital of Mont-Saint-Jean for the first time.



A further mark of success was being shortlisted in two categories of the Charity Times annual awards – those for Small Charity of the Year and Rising Leader of the Year.

Lt General Sir Barney White-Spunner KCB CBE

Former Commander UK Field Army



"I've always been fascinated by the battlefield of Waterloo. It's a place I've returned to often during my military career and since, as a historian of the battle. Waterloo Uncovered are doing a fine job of exploring the heritage of Waterloo whilst supporting the recovery and wellbeing of today's veterans and serving personnel."

Looking Ahead

In a changing world, veterans and serving military personnel still need help and in 2020 we were able to provide it, proving how vital it is for small, versatile charities like ours to adapt and be nimble in meeting new challenges. We believe we had an incredibly successful year, offering a year-long support programme based around our five pillars, providing formal education and public engagement, as well as continuing archaeological research and reporting.

This year we learned a lot. We still needed to create a sense of belonging, comradeship, and teamwork - key parts of the Waterloo Uncovered experience, both for our beneficiaries and for our staff and partnerships. We found that we could adapt to do this online, and in some cases found online work was more impactful: we see an opportunity in continuing to reach a wider group of VSMP through online platforms. Our programmes, built around the five pillars, had to be tailored and we had new accessibility frameworks to develop (around technology, ability and disability). It feels that this year we learned how valuable our work in education and in providing informative and uplifting content are for both our VSMP and the wider public.



"This most challenging year has taught us much; and we've achieved much. We intend to be around making new discoveries, supporting our beneficiaries and telling our stories for many years to come!"

Mark Evans

CEO, Waterloo Uncovered

A further mark of our success was the award of a grant for two initiatives under the Positive Pathways scheme, funded through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

Positive Pathways helps with the development of programmes that support the wellbeing of ex-forces personnel. We will be delivering programmes in 2021 that focus on archaeological finds handling, and on creative arts. These will sit alongside a further Virtual Programme along the lines of 2020, to form a suite of opportunities to carry out the objectives of our charity.

Looking ahead, we can see a new world in which our top-quality excavation work sits side-by-side with equally high quality and carefully designed non-excavation programmes. While we are passionate about continuing our excavation work, this means we can still achieve our core aims during times like these and ones that may follow. Education and communication are more important now than ever and our partnerships and multinational relationships are still key. We have just launched our five-year business plan 2021-2025 with a vision for how we can grow at a time when we are needed most.

This most challenging year has taught us much; and we've achieved much. We intend to be around making new discoveries, supporting our beneficiaries and telling our stories for many years to come!

Thank you

Waterloo Uncovered would like to express its sincere thanks to all the organisations and individuals whose support made our 2020 work possible. They include:

ORGANISATIONS, TRUSTS AND FUNDS

ABF The Soldiers' Charity	Hotel Nivelles-Sud	The Coldstream Guards
All Saints Waterloo	Intelligence Corps	The Worshipful Company of Glovers
Annington	Association	The Morley Family Charity
Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust	Koninklijke Landmacht – The Royal Netherlands Army	The Not Forgotten Association
All Seasons Underwriting Agencies	L – P : Archaeology	The Other Half
American Veterans	Funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds	The REME Charity
Archaeological Recovery Service Public de Wallonie - AWap	London Community Response Fund – City Bridge Trust	The Walker Group
Bataille de Waterloo 1815	Marengo Communications	Time Team
BFBS Big Salute	Ferme de Mont-Saint-Jean	UCL Institute of Archaeology
Blind Veterans UK	National Army Museum	University of Glasgow
British Embassy Brussels	National Lottery Community Fund	University of Utrecht
Capstar Advisors	Opti-cal	Utrecht Summer Schools
Cavalry and Guards Club	ORBit team, Department of Soil Management	Veteraneninstituut
Childwick Trust	Positive Pathways	Veterans' Foundation
Cobseo	Project Hougoumont	View Finders
Lt Dougie Dalzell MC	QARANC Association	Walcherse Archeologische Dienst – Bernard Meijlink and Bram Silkens
Memorial Trust	Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund	Wallonian Embassy
Defence Recovery Capability	Royal Leeds Armouries	The Waterloo Association
Dig Store – Past Horizons	Royal Military Police Charity	Waterloo Committee
Defence Medical Welfare Service	Taxi Charity for Military Veterans	Wessex Archaeology
Embassy of Belgium in the United Kingdom	The British Museum	Wessex Insurance Services
Ghent University		The Swire Charitable Trust
Guides 1815		Mills & Reeve LLP
Help for Heroes		

INDIVIDUALS

His Excellency The Duke of Wellington	Tim and Mary Clode	Taylor Lee
David Barker	Patrice Courcelle	Tony Pollard
Gyles Brandreth	Mick Crumplin	Andrew Roberts
Robert Brooks	Stuart Eve	Ben Schoenmaker
John and Doone Chatfeild-Roberts	Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald	Peter Snow
Irene Buffart (Christelijke Scholengemeenschap Walcheren)	Ian Foinette	Steve Stanton (The Waterloo Collection)
	Tobias van Gent	Jack West-Sherring
	Phil Harding	Sam Wilson
	Helle Hochscheid	