

# **WATERLOO UNCOVERED**

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

[www.waterloouncovered.com](http://www.waterloouncovered.com)

# It started with a friendship

Founders Mark Evans and Charlie Foinette have a shared history. They studied archaeology together at University College London before joining the army. Both chose the Coldstream Guards, the British regiment that played a vital role in the allied victory at Waterloo and continues to see active service across the world today. In their military careers they saw war up close and personal, led men in combat and felt its impact first hand - at war and at home.

In 2010, returning from Afghanistan, Mark was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and his friend Charlie was on hand to help. It was Charlie's powers of persuasion - "If you haven't seen a Doctor by Monday I'll bloody drag you there myself" - that set Mark on the way to

recovery. It wasn't quick and almost four years later when the MoD began a project to support veterans through archaeology Charlie thought Mark would be an ideal candidate. They were both amazed by what they discovered - archaeology could help veterans recover.

This revelation got the pair thinking. Inspired by their shared past and the approaching bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo, they were struck by the notion of combining the worlds they knew so well to create an entirely new kind of social enterprise - a bold new venture to involve wounded veterans in unearthing the secrets of the world's most famous land battle. Waterloo Uncovered.



Mark Evans left the army in 2010 having been diagnosed with PTSD. He found archaeology helped his recovery.



Major Charlie Foinette was an archaeologist at university and now serves with the Coldstream Guards.

# Turning conflict into collaboration



**Hougomont Farm 18 June 1815 - the allies defending the farmhouse against the French**



**Hougomont Farm 22 April 2015 - veterans doing archaeology to piece together the story of the battle**

As they began to plan Charlie and Mark were amazed by how little archaeology had previously been carried out at the battlefield. It was incredible, “like knowing where Pompeii was buried, but never lifting a trowel to excavate it.”

Eyewitness accounts are abundant, but recounted through the fog of the battlefield – often some time after the event – they can be biased, patchy and confusing. Somewhere between the written record and the physical evidence provided by archaeology lies the truth about what happened, and what it might have been like for a soldier to fight and die there.

Even more shocking was that 200 years after the battle the archaeology was almost gone - looted by metal detectors, disturbed by modern farming and eroded daily by the natural environment. What was left needed to be recorded now, or risk being lost for ever.

They acted fast and sought the help of some of Europe’s top archaeologists and historians who readily joined the project. Universities, companies, governments, organisations and individuals all jumped onboard, seizing the chance to be a part of such an ambitious project.

So armed with the best minds and latest technology (geophysics, smartphones, augmented reality, social media) they developed a plan: an international collaboration between soldiers, veterans and archaeologists to produce a world class archaeological project.

While each team member has their own motivations there is a common thread that binds them together: a desire to work alongside members of the modern military – themselves scarred by war - in the painstaking task of piecing together this extraordinary moment in history. To be a part of a project that is truly groundbreaking.



# Discovery aiding recovery

Archaeology has been proven to help recovery from injury. A multifaceted discipline, it offers opportunities to everyone no matter their ability or injury. In particular, it is very helpful to those who suffer or suffered from PTSD. The work not only provides interest and focus but is also meditative. Its outdoors and team based nature is particularly appealing to soldiers, and the chance to do work that will be appreciated and seen by the public makes it even more rewarding.

What's more, archaeology offers a real educational and vocational experience, a chance to be part of the civilian workplace under relaxed yet professional conditions; a number of veterans who went on the excavation have carried on with archaeology or have been inspired (back) into education.

All who participate learn new skills, build motivation and confidence and open up to new possibilities. Each plays their part in uncovering something of historical importance.



**Ian Russell, Lance Corporal in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Waterloo Uncovered team member and part of the first metal-detector survey on the Waterloo Battlefield.**



**Musket and pistol balls found by Ian to the south of Hougoumont Farm. They confirm where the first fighting of the battle began on 18 June 1815.**

*“ I did tours of Iraq and Afghanistan as a dog handler. My job was to work with the dogs to search for IED's. When I got back from my last tour I got told I had PTSD. Some of my symptoms manifest in acute anxiety and hyper vigilance which have a huge impact on my day to day life. During low periods my mind becomes a prison and I get trapped in a nonstop cycle of analysing situations and reliving events. These symptoms make me withdrawn and stunt my ability to enjoy even the simplest of things. However I have found archaeology and metal detecting give me a respite. I can focus on the task at hand and my symptoms don't manifest as much.*

*Working on Waterloo Uncovered with other veterans is also a good opportunity to talk about the illness and share experiences of recovery. I've gained a good deal of hope from others that have recovered from PTSD and some who've forged a career in archeology.*

*I'm really hoping to continue to work on Waterloo Uncovered as it develops and be a part of the spark the project has created. And I'm now looking at tackling an archaeology degree in the future.*



# Bicentenary and beyond

We've begun our work at Hougoumont Farm but there's an entire battlefield still out there waiting to be excavated, before it's too late and the archaeology is lost forever.

The more of the battlefield we explore the more we will uncover, and the longer the project runs, the more soldiers and veterans we will be able to help.

It costs £230 a day to take a soldier or veteran away with us. To make the project work we rely on donations from trusts, foundations, charities and individuals.

A donation form can be found on the final page. Please donate and help our work carry on.

And we're always happy to receive donations in kind. If you have a bit of kit (from a trowel to a JCB digger) you can lend or give us we'd be only too happy to hear from you. If you happen to own an airline and want to fly us to and from Belgium, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone!

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

For more information please email Mark Evans at [mark@waterloouncovered.com](mailto:mark@waterloouncovered.com) or visit our website [www.waterloouncovered.com](http://www.waterloouncovered.com)



# WATERLOO UNCOVERED DONATION FORM

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Name

I enclose a donation for £

Contact address

Postcode

Contact telephone

Email

### Method of payment

- I enclose a cheque made payable to Waterloo Uncovered  
Please send cheques to: Waterloo Uncovered, RHQ Coldstream Guards,  
Wellington Barracks, London SW1 7HQ
- I will arrange for a wire transfer to be made to the Waterloo Uncovered account  
held at Metro Bank Plc.  
Sort code: 23-05-80 Account number: 16648531.  
IBAN: GB70MYMB23058016648531 SWIFT/BIC: MYMBGB2L
- I would like to pay by credit card and will do so via the DONATE page on the project  
website **[www.waterloouncovered.com](http://www.waterloouncovered.com)**

**Gift aid** If you are a UK taxpayer and pay by personal cheque rather than a company cheque or charity cheque, we are able to reclaim the tax on donations and the donation element under the Gift Aid scheme on your donation at no extra cost to you. All you have to do is read the Gift Aid declaration below and if it applies to you, sign and date it.

**Gift aid declaration** I confirm that I would like Waterloo Uncovered to reclaim the tax on this and all subsequent donations, that I am a UK tax payer and that I pay an amount of Income and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that will be reclaimed (25% of the value of your donation)

Signature

Date

All proceeds from the evening including any tax on eligible donations will be banked by Waterloo Uncovered to All proceeds of the evening will go towards WATERLOO UNCOVERED's future work.