

Waterloo Uncovered

2016 Summary

The information below represents the charity's work to date in 2016.

NB. Work is ongoing in a number of areas.

Veteran and Serving Personnel Support

- 20 soldiers and veterans took part in the summer fieldwork (5 serving soldiers and 15 veterans). Of the 20:
 - 100% described WU as inspirational and 80% as life changing.
 - 100% found the work as adventurous or challenging (physically and/or mentally).
 - All 20 described participation as a positive experience (as recorded using University of Birmingham's ICECAP-A measuring system).
 - 18 recorded a noticeable positive mood change during the 2 weeks. Over 60% of those have recorded a noticeable lasting positive mood change they attribute to WU, measured at 3 to 4 months post trip.
 - The aim is to measure this again at 6 and 12 months.
 - All 20 said they had learnt something new; about Waterloo, about themselves and archaeological and transferable skills.
 - All 20 would recommend the trip to other serving personnel and veterans.
- Serving personnel (5 x Army. All Junior Ranks):
 - 2 serving soldiers (injured prior to WU and in the recovery process) will rejoin regular training and according to their chain of command both have shown notable increases in motivation that they attribute to participation in WU.
 - 2 serving soldiers are in the process of Medical Discharge. Both agree WU has opened their eyes to possible futures outside the military. One is very seriously considering applying to start a History degree.
- Veterans (12 Army, 2 x RAF and 1 x Navy. Ages ranging from 21 to 72):
 - 7 veterans are (realistically) looking to pursue archaeology as a career, hobby or academic study.
 - 4 veterans continue to be involved in the project - one assisting with admin, one with finds, one with research and archive work and one as CEO.
 - 2 veterans (junior ranks) have started archaeology degrees at Winchester University this September organized in conjunction with H4H. Another is looking into a History degree at York.
 - Another veteran will be going to Southampton University for an Archaeology MA; inspired to do this by his time with WU.
 - 2 of the participants were also with us in 2015 and were brought back in roles of greater

responsibility to enhance their understanding of archaeology and career/educational development – one of these is going to Winchester in September.

- Further study into long-term impact is being conducted (to include data from soldiers and veterans from 2015). (See Future Plans).
- The welfare, support and selection process used by WU have been developed in conjunction with the charities Walking With The Wounded, H4H and Combat Stress and is considered to be of a very high quality.
- An organic (largely through social media) support network/WU community has developed that:
 - Is keeping people informed about archaeology opportunities and helping them continue archaeology as a hobby, education or vocation.
 - Has helped one veteran find a home after providing vital support when he became homeless.
 - Has helped one veteran overcome his fears and take a train (any public transport) for the first time in years.
 - Inspired one of the civilian metal detectorists to train other veterans and disabled people in metal-detecting in Scotland.
- Involvement in the charity has changed the way the archaeologists (and others) look and talk about soldiers and veterans and has changed the way they think about employing them.
- The project has created friendships and formed links across Europe.
- Quotes from 2016 participants:
 - *“Before coming over here I was hoping to get some experience in archeology, but I got a lot more than that.”*
 - *“It was really good to be with people alike and speak with other veterans about their injuries. Therapy wise, it works.*
 - *“It was an honour to be part of it all, I felt like part of a team and that it didn’t matter that I have a disability. My wheelchair was never considered a problem. - It was my first time away alone since being in a chair. I nearly turned around at the station, but I’m so glad I went. I did struggle with being away from home but had a fantastic roomy Emily who helped me massively. As I have a physical and metal health injury people don’t always understand me but at WU I felt so comfortable and learnt so so much it was just fantastic and was a life changing experience. And for that i really cannot thank WU enough.”*
 - *"Prior to joining the project I had become very withdrawn and had little contact with people other than my direct family and had little interest in anything that had been important to me before. After 2 weeks of being with veterans and serving soldiers I felt so much better. Working with archaeologists again gave me back my enthusiasm".*

- Quote from 2016 participant's Company Commander, Major O Biggs, Coldstream Guards.
 - *"From a chain of command perspective, Waterloo Uncovered allowed us to give soldiers a change of pace and a break from Windsor/Victoria Barracks. This is important as trying to get back to full fitness from injuries can have a big impact on an individuals' morale and motivation and Waterloo Uncovered will have contributed towards the soldiers' overall recovery (both physical and mental)."*

Archaeology

- Summer fieldwork:
 - 2 weeks - 02-15 July '16 at Hougoumont Farm.
 - 50 people - 20 archaeologists, 20 soldiers/veterans and 10 students.
 - Over 30% of participants were female.
 - Additional 10 or so locals and Belgian archaeologists regularly on site.
 - 5 Nationalities involved: British, Belgian, French, German and Dutch.
- Key results:
 - Disproved the widely accepted theory that there was a mass grave located under the car park outside the farm's South gate.
 - Uncovered foundations of the chateau dating from 1815 that will help us understand its layout and impact on the battle.
 - Discovered original features of the formal garden that will assist in its potential reconstruction - a proposed Project Hougoumont venture.
 - Collected further evidence of the battle around the farm, including a potential undocumented French incursion and use and role of artillery.
 - Continued investigation of the Hollow Way, determining its depth and size in 1815 and the effect that would have had on the battle and a critical resupply that saved the defense of farm. It is deeper than expected – about the height of a person.
- Post-excavation work is ongoing.
 - Analysis of musket balls and buttons is being carried out at Glasgow University under Professor Tony Pollard.
 - L-P Archaeology continuing with some soil analysis.
 - We are in discussion with our university partners to find ways to get more of the potentially expensive post-excavation work carried out by their PhD and MA students as part of their courses and research (and include veterans in the process).
- Publication and display:
 - Archaeology report to be published Mar '17.
 - 30 mins documentary (dissertation piece for MSc Film students from Imperial College)

- London) to be screened Winter '16.
- Discussion underway to put project finds on display in the Waterloo and Hougoumont museums (Belgium) and The Guards Museum (London).
- 2 x academic dissertations have been written about the project by students participating in the project. Both to be published imminently.

Education

The project education aims are to inform the public about the battle as well as the lives, experiences and hardships of serving personnel and veterans.

- During the fieldwork:
 - Hougoumont Farm is open to the public who get an opportunity to watch the dig in action and speak to participants.
 - Organised tours were given to:
 - The 1815 battlefield guide association.
 - The Waterloo Committee.
 - His Grace The Duke of Wellington.
 - The British Ambassador to Belgium.
 - A tour of the site was livestreamed via Facebook Live reaching over 20,000.
 - Another tour of the site was livestreamed to over 100 pupils at a British school. Included a cameo from the Duke of Wellington!
 - Media coverage (see Comms).

- Chalke Valley History Festival:
 - 1 week - 27 Jul - 03 Aug.
 - 7 people (3 archaeologists, 3 soldiers/veterans and 1 student).
 - Delivered a virtual tour of Hougoumont Farm and a pop-up museum, including finds and finds handling of objects from the 2015 excavations.
 - Reached an audience of thousands, including hundreds of school children (all ages).
 - Promoted WU, Waterloo, archaeology, and soldier and veteran support.
 - The 2 veterans responsible for delivering the tours were both participants in WU 2015.
 - WU have been invited back in 2017, the festival organisers having been particularly impressed!
 - Has led to invitations to appear at other such events and give lectures at Lions and Rotary clubs.

- Outreach:
 - Dutch students will go back to the Netherlands and deliver talks about the project to local schools.
 - Various other members of the project will/have given lectures in a mixture of universities and societies and public venues across the country.
 - Members of the local community were included in the project team.

- Teaching:
 - Archaeology discoveries and practical lessons learnt have been taught at Glasgow University and UCL as well as dedicated lectures given on the project/battle.

Comms

- Generated a print, radio, television and social media presence that shared our work with tens of thousands of people in multiple countries. (Latest piece from the Sunday Times 19 September 2016 is also attached).
- Daily updates (Dig Diary) delivered via our Facebook page and website reached an audience of tens of thousands.
- Articles pending in the Observer and Military History Monthly.
- BBC and Channel 4 are currently considering a 1-hour TV documentary covering the project in 2017.

Future plans

- To work with Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes - Professor of Military Psychology (Visiting), Veterans and Families Institute, Anglia Ruskin University - to conduct a study into the benefits WU and archaeology offer serving personnel and veterans. This study will not only influence the support and work at WU but the wider Veteran support community.
- The Dutch military will be involved in our veteran plans and we will aim to continue to support 30 or more UK serving personnel and veterans a year with our excavations and research, outreach and post-excavation work. Of those 30 at least 6 will be serving, and the aim is to increase the breadth of regiments involved in the project.
- To deliver a further 5 years' archaeological work at Waterloo that will contribute significantly to the understanding of the battle (military and civilian, academic and general public audiences) and support and educate more service personnel and veterans in the process (not only the fieldwork but the planning and post-excavation processes).
- A key part of the project over the next 5 years will be to develop the international aspect. This will be reflected across the project from participation (serving, veteran, student and archaeologist/specialist) to education and outreach. The driving force behind this will continue to be the UK based charity.