

# **Cattewater Wreck: Developing the archive Third Interim Report**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This Project aims to improve the long term care and management of the Cattewater Wreck Excavation Archive held by Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery (called the City Museum from now on). The project has received funding from English Heritage's National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (Project Number: 5439 MAIN) under the provisions of Section 45 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Stage I of the project (involving archive consolidation of the documentary archive) was completed in October 2010. Stage II of the project (involving archive consolidation of the material archive) was completed in April 2011.

Stage III followed on after a gap of time from Stage II and was mainly concerned with incorporating new material received into the present Archive during the project. This is due for completion on 5th June 2011.

## **2.0 Stage I: Archive consolidation: Documentary Archive**

### **2.1 Repackage the documentary archive**

There has been no progress on this since the second interim report. A number of the plans/sections have still not reached a satisfactory level of flattening.

### **2.2 Conservation**

There has been no progress on this since the second interim report. The City Museum Conservator (Paper) has been unable to assess the conservation requirements of the plans due to her heavy exhibition workload. It is hoped that the assessment will be carried out in the near future.

## **3.0 Stage II: Archive consolidation: Material Collection**

There is nothing to be added further to that in the second interim report at the end of Stage II.

## **4.0 Stage III: Archive consolidation: Documentary Archive: Incorporating new material**

One of the aims of the Archive Project has been to trace or locate material relevant to the Archive and to re-unite them with the City Museum Archive. This was detailed in the last interim report at the end of Stage 2 (sections 2.3 & 4.0)

Material has been received from the archives of some of those involved in the original survey and excavation: Mark Redknap, Berit Mortlock, Martin Dean and Alan Bax and Austin C. Carpenter. These include correspondence and reports, drawings, photographic negatives and prints and digitised photographs.

## 4.1 New documentary archive material index and audit

The Archive material received during this project has been audited, indexed and incorporated into the present archive.

Mark Redknap archive material (totalling 259 pages) has been incorporated into archive folders dealing with the following:

Cattewater Wreck Committee Minutes 1974-9.

Cattewater Wreck: Excavation and Publication Correspondence 1978-1985.

Cattewater Wreck: Interim Reports 1976-8.

Cattewater Wreck: Specialist Reports and Correspondence 1976-85 relating to Guns, Textiles, C14 dating, Dendrochronology, Samples, Biological remains, Conservation, Geology, Leather, Pottery, Wood, 1973 Timber, Gunpowder.

Cattewater Wreck: Finds Lists 1976-1978.

CD 1 : Cattewater Images. 20 digitised photographs, including those of diving and excavation, timbers and small finds.

Alan Bax archive material has been incorporated into archive folders dealing with the following:

CD 2 : Cattewater Images. 11 digitised photographs, including those of diving and excavation, drawings of finds and site plan.

Cattewater Wreck: Photos. 18 prints including those of diving and excavation, drawings of finds, site plans and section. 4 film negatives of plans.

Drawing of swivel guns by James C Thorn, Ancient Monuments Laboratory added to the rest of the drawings in the plan chest.

Berit Mortlock archive material has been incorporated into archive folders dealing with the following:

CD 2 : Cattewater Images. 64 digitised photographs, including those of Fort Bovisand, Plymouth Sound and Cattewater, diving and excavation, timbers and personnel.

Martin Dean archive material has been incorporated into archive folders dealing with the following:

CD 3 : Cattewater Images. 10 digitised photographs, including diving and personnel.

Austin C. Carpenter archive material has been incorporated into archive folders dealing with the following:

Digital tape, containing Cattewater Wreck swivel gun reconstruction film and slides. Digitised by the South West Film and Television Archive in 2007 for Martin Read.

There was insufficient time in Stage I to include the auditing and indexing of correspondence and notes relating to the conservation and display of the Cattewater gun (2002-9) in the City Museum. This is post-publication material relating to Museum matters and as such is not part of the primary Archive. It has been incorporated into the Archive and the folders indexed. A full listing will be added at a later date.

Materials used:

2 archive boxes and 10 folders.

4 Nicholas Hunter polyester sleeves (for photographic negatives)

2 Nicholas Hunter polyester wallets (for small photographic prints)

12 Nicholas Hunter polyester wallets (for larger photographic prints)

3 DVDs & covers (for copies of the digital archive to be sent to ADS, NMR and retained in the Archive)

1 CD and 3 covers (for digital photographic images)

#### **4.2 Rationalisation of the new archive material**

Some new material from the Mark Redknap archive were duplicates of documentary material already present in the archive and in total 18 pages of documents and correspondence have not been retained.

Copies of Cattewater Committee Minutes were duplicates of originals retained in the Archive by CWC member James Barber. Some copies of CWC meeting agendas were not present in the Archive and have been incorporated, whilst duplicates have not.

The Finds Register papers, though duplicate copies of those already present in the archive have added written comments, presumably by Mark Redknap, and have been retained in the archive.

A few copies of letters were duplicated, presumably whilst being copied by Mark Redknap. The duplicates have not been retained.

Some digital images from the Alan Bax archives are duplicates of photographic prints, drawings and plans. These were digitised by Peter Holt and added to a CD with digitised photographs from the Berit Mortlock archive (the originals having been returned to Berit Mortlock), so have had to be retained in the archive.

#### **5.0 Material still missing from the Archive**

The second interim report detailed elements of the Archive, such as the finds, which are still missing. Generally their location is unknown and they are assumed lost.

Three wooden finds were sent to the National Maritime Museum (NMM) in 1979 for conservation and never collected. Mark Redknap has offered to check with the NMM can find these items and it is hoped that these objects can still be located. No reports have been received at this time on how this has progressed.

Mark Redknap has retained a wooden find, CW78 334, some wood samples and a number of ballast samples. He also has a number of photographs and slides and the originals of the documentary material that was copied and added to the Archive. This material will hopefully be added to the Archive at some point in the future.

Chris Preece, a member of the original excavation team, has a substantial number of slides relating to the diving carried out on the site and of finds such

as the keelson. These are at present being copied prior to being added to the Archive.

## **6.0 New information for the archive**

A direct result of this project has been that the fish remains were sent up to Dr Jennifer Harland at the University of York who identified the remaining bones and estimated the approximate length of the fish they came from (Harland 2010). Dr Harland also sampled some bones in order to measure the  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$  values of the cod bone collagen to identify the approximate region of catch. DNA samples were also taken for analysis. At the present time no results have been received due to illness. This work has been funded by the City Museum.

## **7.0 Listing of documents produced during this stage**

Project\_5439\_MAIN\_Documentary\_archive\_index.xls

Martin Read  
5<sup>th</sup> June 2011