



Maritime  
Archaeology  
Sea Trust

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

# MAST

2011 NEWSLETTER



## National Trust Maritime Trail

MAST establishes first National Trust maritime interpretative trail

Salcombe oozes maritime history: some of the oldest shipwrecks in northern Europe lie in the approaches to Salcombe. The South Hams area has evidence of trade with the Byzantine Empire and the earliest physical evidence

of the prehistoric South West trade in tin. Salcombe sent four ships to fight the Spanish Armada of 1588 and the remains of the *San Pedro El Mayor*, a Spanish Armada ship,

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### MAST and the Swash Channel wreck

MAST conserves carvings from the Swash Channel wreck

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### Contact MAST

For more details of any projects please visit [www.thisismast.org](http://www.thisismast.org) or email [mast@thisismast.org](mailto:mast@thisismast.org)



### MOD legacy wrecks

MAST, in partnership with Bournemouth University, won an MOD contract to assess environmental risks of 3 legacy wrecks.

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# National Trust Trails



Mill Bay landing stage, also used to repair landing craft during WW2



Screenshot of footage from the *Jebba*, a 3,813-ton English cargo vessel was wrecked near Ramillies Cove on March, 1907 on route passage from West Africa and the Canary Islands to Plymouth, with ivory, rubber, palm oil, fruit, and a general cargo, including mail, as well as passengers. Constructed of steel, it was a steam-driven vessel.

lie off nearby Hope Cove, though the wreck has never been found. The survivors of that wreck were taken to Ilton Castle, just south west of Kingsbridge., now a farm. During the English Civil War the town was a base for Royalist privateers, falling to parliamentary forces at the very end of the war. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the town traded with Newfoundland in Canada and built and operated fruit schooners, fast ships built to transport fruit from Spain and the Azores. With the advent of steamships this trade died out and Salcombe's maritime activity reverted to fishing and leisure industries. During WWII the town was a base for RAF air -sea rescue launches and later a staging point for US forces prior to the Normandy Landings in 1944. Here, within the estuary itself, there is rich and varied evidence of Salcombe's prominence in the UK's maritime past.

Within the estuary itself, there is rich and varied evidence of Salcombe's prominence in the UK's maritime past. A paddle down the estuary will take you past the remains of some of key sites. The *Iverna*, for example, was a vastly expensive and rare yacht design, built above all for speed. The trawler *Resolute* is representative of the epitomy of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century wooden sailing ship. The banks and creeks of the estuary also contain a wide range of sites linking the agricultural and industrial revolutions to seafaring, linking Salcombe to other cities within and beyond the UK. Particularly prominent are the saw mill at Waterhead Creek and the limekilns dotted about the estuary from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

With this in mind MAST's proposal to establish a walking and kayak trail that would take visitors past or over these most important sites, was met with alacrity by the National Trust.



The *Iverna* racing yacht is the most prominent of the hulks in this ships' graveyard

# MAST conserves Swash Channel wreck carvings



The Swash Channel Wreck is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch armed merchantman sunk in the approaches to Poole Harbour, Dorset

Thanks to generous donations, MAST is funding the conservation of two 17<sup>th</sup> century wooden ships' carvings and a canister that was also found on the Swash Channel wreck. As seen on the BBC's The One Show on April 6, both the carvings and the canister are rare survivals that would normally have been destroyed in the wrecking process or swept away.

They were raised in August 2010. The two carvings were found directly above the gunports in the bowcastle and are in extremely good condition. They bring the number of carvings found on the site to five.

The Swash Channel wreck consist of the almost complete port side and associated remains of an early 17<sup>th</sup> century northern European armed merchantman whose archaeological remains suggest it was involved

in the very beginnings of long distance international maritime trade, the beginnings of globalisation.

The activity was the 17<sup>th</sup> century's evidence of NASA's Space Shuttle flights: not quite a shot into the unknown but a challenge that pushes the boundaries of known technology and requires the development of technology to allow it to change the world.

The shipwreck is one of just 60 (out of over 10,000 known sites in Britain) considered to be of sufficient importance to be designated as an historic wreck, bestowing on it the same heritage status as Stonehenge or Dover Castle. It is under immediate risk of destruction, as the seabed that has protected it since in was wrecked in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century is being naturally eroded, exposing it and allowing its destruction.

# Announcing MAST's PADI BAD course!



This includes classroom tuition, student handbook, provision of underwater surveying tools for the duration of the course, three open water dives, PADI PIC registration and card and a reduced price voucher to dive the *Coronation* wreck, which will be valid from one year from the date of the course.

It does not include dive equipment rental, air fills, transportation to and from dive site. All profits from the course are donated to MAST to contribute to projects aimed at understanding and conserving our British marine heritage

MAST's PADI diving specialty is a two day course called Basic Archaeology Diver, (BAD) a no frills, no fuss introduction to the basics of archaeology underwater with simple recording techniques using little more than a camera and tape measures.

The introduction to the basics will also include a lecture on the laws governing divers and underwater archaeology in the UK. Students will hear exciting talks from well known figures in the underwater archaeology world.

After completion they will have the opportunity of a rare guided tour from the licensee of the 1691 *Coronation* protected wrecksite off Plymouth.

As PADI Underwater Archaeology specialists you can become the eyes and ears of our underwater heritage.

