

Shared Cultural Heritage

Wrecks such as the *Rooswijk* are part of the shared cultural heritage of Europe and it is important that cultural heritage agencies are able to work together to ensure that sites such as these are protected, researched, understood and appreciated by all.



The #Rooswijk1740 project is both funded and led by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture), working in collaboration with project partner Historic England and UK-contractor MSDS Marine. The post-excavation work is largely undertaken by Historic England in their research facilities at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth.

The archaeological information that can be gained from the *Rooswijk* is a unique resource. Shipwrecks are time capsules that offer a glimpse into the past and tell their story. Telling that story to a wide audience and engaging the public is very important to the #Rooswijk1740 project. Open days, training opportunities and volunteering opportunities have all been built into the project.



Ramsgate Open Days

16th & 17th July 2022
10:30 - 16:30

Radford House (The Old Fire Station)
Effingham Street
Ramsgate
CT11 9AT

what3words location: [///earth.sounds.signal](https://www.what3words.com/earth.sounds.signal)

For event enquiries please email:
info@MSDSMarine.co.uk

A free event suitable for all ages supported by project partners and additional funding from the Ramsgate Town Council.

Find out more about the #Rooswijk1740 project:

[English.cultureelerfgoed.nl](https://www.english.cultureelerfgoed.nl)
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk)

   @Rooswijk1740



Explore the virtual trail and dive the *Rooswijk* without getting wet!
www.cloudtour.tv/Rooswijk



The #Rooswijk1740 Project



Ramsgate Open Days
16th & 17th July 2022



The #Rooswijk1740 Project

In 2017 and 2018 over 376 surface supplied dives took place by an international team of maritime archaeologists. Visibility on the site ranges from nearly zero to 3m on a good day and the site changes daily due to waves of sand travelling from north to south. Despite this, archaeologists managed to record the wreck and recover over 2,000 artefacts ranging from coins to cannon balls and including both cargo and personal items.

Finds were brought ashore to a shore side base in Ramsgate for recording and first aid conservation before being transferred to the Historic England conservation facility in Portsmouth.

Before artefacts from the marine environment can be dried though, they have to go through a number of stages. First of all, harmful salts need to be washed out. Some materials, such as ceramics or metals can often be dried carefully without any further treatment. Other artefacts, such as those made from wood or leather need more stages: impregnation with a special wax followed by vacuum freeze drying. And iron for example benefits from having corrosion layers removed.



As well as stabilising and drying, conservators and archaeological scientists also investigate and analyse artefacts. They look at how something was made and how it changed; they note and record construction features and decoration.

All this information is shared with the archaeologists and other researchers and together they can use this information to learn about the *Rooswijk* and the artefacts.

When artefacts are being lifted from a wreck site, they become exposed to higher temperatures and higher levels of oxygen. This means that decay is accelerated. When artefacts reach the surface, they must be kept wet and are not allowed to dry out. Even though water preserves a wide range of materials in often very good conditions, prolonged wet storage is costly and in-practical. The ultimate goal of conservation treatment is to dry the artefacts. By stabilising them they will be available and accessible to others.



Conservation and scientific analysis is now nearing completion and in late 2022 the finds will be undertaking their final journey to The Netherlands. This is the last opportunity to view the finds before they leave the UK.

Our free family friendly open day, as part of the Festival of Archaeology, will have activities for all ages, opportunities to talk to the team who have been working on the #Rooswijk1740 project and to find out more about the site.