



Dear all,

Especially the ones not linked to our current social media channels (@Rooswijk1740 on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) may not have heard from us for a long while. Our apologies. The #Rooswijk1740 project was evolving nicely with great new insights in the VOC, the 18th century life on board and on the *Rooswijk* in particular. MSDS Marine, Historic England and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) had specifically the focus on the conservation and research of the objects. As you can understand, the situation has changed due to the Corona crisis. In fact, mid-March we had this letter ready to send out to you when in North-western Europe we also came to deal with the virus. There has been an absolute stop on all activities within the laboratories, and there still is. Hopefully soon our team will have access again though and we can assess the situation and hopefully continue our work.

However, we can still give you an update of what has been done since the materials arrived in Portsmouth:

The many concretions that were collected during our fieldwork are revealing spectacular finds, from glass beads to duelling pistols, marks on sword blades, a medallion and evidence of food. The search as well as the conservation goes on. Due to the unprecedented Corona virus pandemic this process has unfortunately slowed down a bit, but we have made sure we can keep on going and as soon as the crisis is over and we can move freely, we will go at full speed again.

Besides Angela Middleton of Historic England, Nicole Schoute and Kim Roche were also responsible for the conservation at Fort Cumberland and before that during the fieldwork in Ramsgate. Both of them have now left the *Rooswijk* project for new work opportunities both in their homelands of the Netherlands and the United States respectively. We would like to thank them from the bottom of our heart for all the hard work they did. Kim and Nicole have been replaced by Alex Bliss and Heather Stewart. Welcome to you both!

Heather is the projects conservator and she works closely with Angela as the Lead Conservator for the Project. Alex is employed as a Project Officer / Archaeologist and supports Heather and Angela as well as undertaking all archaeological tasks during the post excavation phase of work. Alison James, MSDS Marine, is now managing the process that is taking place in the UK. I continue to be the Project Executive overseeing the whole project.

During the Corona pandemic, when we temporarily are closing the post excavation facility, Alex and Heather will be both publishing a few blogs on the work that has been going on at the #Rooswijk1740 project over the coming weeks.

While scientists are now revealing new information on the glass beads, the coins, the glass, metal, bones and the ship structure, we are already thinking about the way our final publication has to look like. Also, scientific papers are being prepared by several of our project scientists.

MuZEEum, the maritime museum in Vlissingen is preparing a new permanent exhibition in which the *Rooswijk* will shine and the National Depot is making sure that as soon as the objects come to the Netherlands, the depot can handle and store the objects that are not used in this exhibition. In the future these objects can be on loan to other museums anywhere in the world. Who knows where you will see objects from the *Rooswijk*!

We have also put a lot of effort in a documentary series of three episodes on the *Rooswijk* project. The third one is now almost ready. Do you want to see all of them? Very soon they will be online

at: <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/maritiem-erfgoed/maritiem-erfgoed-internationaal>

Do you want to make a virtual dive on the site? Check <https://www.cloudtour.tv/rooswijk>

Do you want to check out some of the objects that were found on site and which we have recorded in 3D? Check out: <https://sketchfab.com/maritimeheritage>

Sincerely yours,

Martijn Manders.