

Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015



MARELab, University of Cyprus
& Nautical Archaeology Society

Supported by the Honor Frost Foundation

Final Report

October 2015

1. Summary

In 2012 the Honor Frost Foundation provided a grant to the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) to help establish a formal partnership between the NAS and the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab). Following productive meetings held in September 2013 the two organisations agreed to work together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that now guides all future collaborative projects by the partners.

The core aims of the agreed MoU were to develop exchanges and co-operation in teaching and research in furtherance of the advancement and dissemination of information in underwater archaeology; and to co-operate to promote, facilitate and implement co-operation in the following programmes and activities.

In 2013 the NAS and the MARELab agreed to the development of collaborative international educational fieldschools in underwater archaeology aimed at students of archaeology at the University of Cyprus, the wider community on Cyprus as well as international participants including students from the Eastern Mediterranean region. The partners also agreed to the establishment, delivery and support for the NAS Training Programme on Cyprus, embedded in the MARELab as a mechanism to learn underwater archaeology fieldwork skills; to identify opportunities for co-operation in joint research and development in the discipline of underwater archaeology; and finally for the promotion of the MARELab as an Eastern Mediterranean regional training centre of excellence in underwater archaeology.

It is the belief of the partners that the activities of the Eastern Mediterranean regional training centre will build strong collaborative relationships between all parties and across geographical boundaries.

The principle aims of the underwater archaeology fieldschools are: a) to develop the underwater archaeological skills of students of archaeology at the University of Cyprus, the wider community on Cyprus, students of archaeology from the Eastern Mediterranean region as well as other international participants; b) to foster and build collaborative relationships between all participants attending fieldschools; and c) to encourage inclusion of professional divers on Cyprus to work together with archaeologists and share their knowledge and skills.

2. Introduction

The first Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 was organised and taught by staff from both the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society, UK (NAS).

The fieldschool took place from the Sunday 16th August 2015 until the Saturday 29th August 2015 and was attended by twelve participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Romania, UK, USA and France.

The fieldschool was held on a possible ancient anchorage site on the Xylophagou coast in Larnaca Bay. Participants were able to contribute to genuine research on this interesting site, which is being studied by the University of Cyprus and members of the NAS. The fieldschool was taught in English by NAS and University of Cyprus staff and underwater surveying, photography, illustration, using *Site Recorder* survey software and presentation skills. The fieldschool included excursions to Thalassa museum in Agia Napa and evening talks. NAS certifications were awarded to all the participants.

Thanks to funding from the Honor Frost Foundation www.honorfrostfoundation.org, students of underwater archaeology from Cyprus and Egypt were awarded scholarships to support their attendance. All other students have been awarded scholarships to support their SCUBA diving equipment hire.

3. Fieldschool Staff Team

The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 was organised and taught by staff from the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARE Lab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society, UK (NAS).

Dr Stella Demesticha, Archaeological Research Director - University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARE Lab).

Stella Demesticha completed her undergraduate studies in Archaeology in 1992, at the National University of Athens, Greece, (Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy,) and she continued at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, where she got her PhD in Archaeology, in 2002. She worked for 7 years (2000- 2006) at the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation, in Athens, Greece (as head of the Museums Department and in 2006, as vice director of the Foundation). In 2006 she taught Maritime Archaeology at the University of Peloponnese, Greece, and since 2007 she lectures at the University of Cyprus.



She specializes in maritime archaeology, with a special interest in shipwrecks, amphorae, ancient seaborne trade routes and economy in the Eastern Mediterranean. Over the past 20 years, she has participated in many land and underwater archaeological projects in Greece and Cyprus. In 2011 she created the MARELab at the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus. She currently directs three ongoing underwater field projects (the Mazotos and the Nissia Shipwreck Projects and the Xylophagou Anchorage Project) and coordinates all MARELab research programmes. She teaches both under- and post graduate courses, coordinates a Master's Programme (Field Archaeology on Land and Under the Sea) and supervises PhD students.

Mark Beattie-Edwards, Fieldschool Director – Nautical Archaeology Society

Mark started working for the NAS in 2001 as the Training Officer, Project Officer, Project Manager and since April 2009 he has been the NAS Programme Director. Mark is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the NAS office in Portsmouth, UK including overall supervision of all training and project opportunities.

Mark studied Archaeology at Southampton University between 1993 and 1996 and returned to Southampton in 1999-2000 to undertake the MA in Maritime Archaeology (awarded with Distinction). Mark has worked in the Guernsey, Sweden, the Caribbean and throughout the UK. His current projects include work on the Holland No.5 submarine (lost 1912), the Norman's Bay Wreck (lost c.1690), the collection of vessels in Forton Lake in Gosport (UK) as well as a Roman amphorae site in the waters off Guernsey.



Rachel Quick, Fieldschool Coordinator – Nautical Archaeology Society

Rachel started working for the NAS in 2011 as a graduate in Archaeology and Anthropology from Bristol University, and a Masters graduate in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton. Rachel has worked in the field of archaeology for just over 10 years working both terrestrially and in the marine environment. Her main field of interest is the ethnographic recording of not only the boats/ships/vessels but the people and societies that use them. It is clear that she has passion for anything that does or did float on the water.

Rachel is responsible for the organisation, administration and delivery of the NAS Training Programme in the UK to promote nautical archaeology to the general public and beyond. Rachel also works as the NAS in house illustrator, specialising in archaeological illustrations and design for print and media production. Working to open the world of maritime archaeology to all, including through the use of social media – you can often find Rachel tweeting on behalf of the NAS.



Andonis Neophytou, Photographer and Instructor - University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab)

Andonis is a MARELab associate, as head of the documentation team. He has participated in underwater excavation projects (Mazotos and Nissia shiprecks), surveys (at Paphos and at Xylophagou) and other maritime related projects like KARABOI: *KAPABOI*: The Ship Graffiti on the Medieval Monuments of Cyprus: Mapping, Documentation and Digitisation.

Andonis is a Computer Scientist with specialization in Software Engineering and Database Design. He has been a research affiliate with the Computer Science Department of University of Cyprus and taught computer science courses at Cyprus College/European University in Nicosia. He is an Instructor Trainer in First Aid (EFRIT-634176) and a diving Master Instructor (MI-634176).



Christos Patsalides, Chief Diver and Safety Officer - University of Cyprus, Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (MARELab)

Christos is a MARELab associate as the chief diver of the lab's underwater projects: since 2008, at the Mazotos Shipwreck project and in 2014 at the Green Bay Shipwreck Project.

Christos has been professionally involved in the diving business in Cyprus since 1999. He is now a SSI Instructor trainer for Technical diving up to Hypoxic Trimix 100m level; Ocean reef full face mask Instructor; Suex Scooters Instructor, DAN Instructor for all levels; PSAI rebreather diver; CMAS Advanced Scientific diver; CMAS Advance Marine Biology diver; CMAS Advance Oceanology diver .



Robert White, Fieldschool Researcher and Instructor – Nautical Archaeology Society

Robert joined the NAS in 2008, he is an NAS Assistant Tutor who holds an NAS Part III certificate. He is currently writing up his NAS Part IV diploma material based on the work done at the Xylophagou Anchorage Project, Cyprus.

He is qualified as a BSAC National Instructor and HSE commercial diver. A composer and musician by profession he is currently studying for a degree with the Open University in classics, material culture/anthropology and archaeology. His deepening interest in marine archaeology was instigated by his discovery of the anchors and anchorage site at Xylophagou beach in 2009. Robert has also worked on the HMS *Invincible* and Norman's Bay wrecks in the UK. His special interests are ancient technology and experimental archaeology.



David Thompson, Fieldschool Assistant and Instructor – Nautical Archaeology Society

Since 2000 David has been an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Kinesiology at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and also a Consulting Archaeologist for Nautilus Marine Group International specializing in high-resolution acoustic imaging, working primarily in the Great Lakes region of North America.

After completing a career as a Medical Service Corps officer in the United States Navy, David studied archaeology at the University of Leicester, receiving MAs in Archaeology and Heritage and Historic Archaeology. David is a ROV pilot, NAS Tutor and is a Master Instructor for SSI and a MSDT for PADI and has over 5000 dives throughout the world.



Nick Hassapis, Fieldschool Assistant, Deputy Safety Officer – Nautical Archaeology Society

Nicholas has been an NAS member enjoying the NAS's wide range of courses and projects since 2002.

Nicholas studied Classics at UCL and even managed to include some units in archaeology. He has been involved in the Xylophagou Anchorage Project since 2011 and has participated in a number of projects in the UK and the Mediterranean. He's a keen diver and diving instructor who rarely missed an opportunity to promote maritime archaeology and diving with a purpose amongst his fellow club members.



Gill Forster, Fieldschool Participant Welfare Officer – NAS



Makis Toumazos, Boat Skipper - University of Cyprus M.A.RE Lab

4. Participants

The fieldschool was announced on social media on the 14th August 2014. Formal applications opened on the 24th November 2014 with the deadline for applications set as the 30th January 2015.

Applicants were required to complete an application form and provide two referees. Thirty one applications were received for only twelve places. Dr Stella Demesticha and Mark Beattie-Edwards sifted through the applications and chose their preferred participants in February with the participants being informed of the decision on the 24th February 2015.

Unfortunately one of the successful participants from Turkey was not able to obtain a Visa in time to participate and a replacement had to be sought to maintain the

The final 12 participants who took part in the fieldschool were made up of seven women and five men from all over the world.

1. Magdalena Ausiayevich – from Romania, studying in Cyprus
2. Maria Christodoulou – from Cyprus
3. Panayiota Nicolaou – from Cyprus
4. Lefkothea Papakosta – from Cyprus
5. Aida El-Tantawie – from Egypt
6. Achilleas Iasonos – from Cyprus
7. Annabel Crawford – from Scotland, UK
8. Marian Sevastides- from France
9. Dominic Coyne – from England, UK
10. Joseph Patton Small – from USA
11. Merlin Clark-Mahoney – from USA
12. James Masterson – from England, living in Cyprus



Image: The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 team

Administration

The fieldschool participants were required to sign a participation agreement to confirm their intention to attend the fieldschool. The agreement included the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Proof of Insurance:** all participants must have valid international health and injury and travel insurance and must provide the insurance provider's contact information, as well as the policy numbers. These must be submitted to Fieldschool Coordinator, Rachel Quick by the 3rd August 2015, prior to the start date of the fieldschool.
- 2. Release form:** all participants must read and accept the terms and conditions of the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 Participation Agreement to participate in the fieldschool; a signed form must be submitted to Fieldschool Coordinator, Rachel Quick by the 16th March 2015, prior to the start date of the fieldschool.
- 3. Fee Payment:** Participants not offered a full HFF scholarship were required to pay fees of £1,500.00 (GB Pounds)
- 4. Visa's:** It is a participants own responsibility to ensure that they have valid travel documents and to arrange for an appropriate visa for Cyprus if required - UK, EU and US

nationals do not require a visa to visit Cyprus; other nationalities should check with their embassies.

5. **Weather:** As principally an outdoor activity, the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 is at the mercy of the weather. If work on site has to cease or if bad weather disrupts our time on site, we cannot offer refunds.

6. **Travel:** Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel to Cyprus and must be in Oroklini and the fieldschool accommodation by the evening of Sunday 16th August 2015. Whilst on the site, or travelling to the site, the organizers are not responsible for any accident, injury, loss or damage to person or property caused directly or indirectly by actions of third parties.

7. **Timetable:** The organizers reserve the right to modify the content of the syllabus of the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015. The organizers will keep all participants informed of proposed alteration to the syllabus.

8. **Equipment:** Participants will be required to confirm in writing that any SCUBA equipment that they bring with them is suitable and safe to use. The organizers do not accept any liability for incidents resulting from a participants own personal equipment.

9. **Liability:** The organizers do not accept any liability for damages to or loss of personal items which are brought to the fieldschool. The participant will be held liable for injury to persons caused by the neglect of health, safety and working instructions provided by the fieldschool staff members.

10. **Behaviour:** The organizers reserve the right to exclude anyone from the fieldschool if they are believed to be acting in an offensive, abusive, dangerous or illegal manner. No refund will be given. Repatriation (if required) is at the participant's own expense.

11. **Damage to property:** Participants must pay the full cost of any damage they cause to property.

12. **Attendance:** Participants will be required to attend all components of the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015. Participants will be required to contribute towards an online blog/diary about the fieldschool.

13. **Reporting:** Participants will be required to attend all components of the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015. Participants will be required to contribute towards an online blog/diary about the fieldschool.

14. **Promotion:** The organizers may take promotional photographs and video footage of participants

15: **Copyright / Use of images:** The participants agree not to publicize any monument/artefact/ecofact that is found/documented/conserved/restored/visited during the fieldschool and any scientific results from the fieldschool activities.

All graphic, textual, photographic and video documents related to the fieldschool shall be considered as property of the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeological Research Laboratory (M.A.RE Lab) and the Nautical Archaeology Society.

All graphic, textual, photographic and video documents related to the fieldschool must be submitted to the fieldschool coordinator by the end of the fieldschool. Participants keep the right to use these documents for non-commercial purposes. If any participant intends to distribute or publish photos/videos of the site/parts of the fieldschool they must communicate the request with the research director or fieldschool director in advance.

16: Vis Major: The organizers not be responsible for any failure to comply with any of its obligations (and therefore shall not be required to provide any compensation) if the failure is occasioned by any cause beyond the organizers reasonable control. Nor shall the organizers be responsible for any costs incurred by or on behalf of the student as a result of any such cause. Such causes shall include but shall not be limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, unusually adverse weather conditions and infectious diseases.

Fieldschool Programme

The first international participants arrived at our accommodation and base for the fieldschool (The Lithos Hotel) on the 15th August. The full timetable (set out below) was designed to be a balance between underwater fieldwork, post fieldwork processing of data (survey and photography) as well as formal classroom teaching.

Prior to the start of the fieldschool nearly all the participants were registered on the NAS ELearning Training Programme so that they could do their NAS Introduction and Part 1 courses on Underwater Archaeology. Two of the participants had already undertaken these courses and so did not need to do the online courses.

Saturday 15th August 2015

- Pick up fieldschool equipment
- Sort out diving equipment
- Shopping as required
- Pick up hire vehicles
- Staff Team meeting at the Lithos Hotel
- Participant's arrival / acclimatization

Sunday 16th August 2015

- Participant's arrival / acclimatization.
- Shopping as required
- Sort out fieldschool equipment
- Sort out diving equipment
- Staff Team meeting at the Lithos Hotel
- Welcome meeting at the Lithos Hotel
- Welcome dinner at the Lithos Hotel

Monday 17th August 2015

- AM - Check out dives for fieldschool participants from boat
- PM - NAS Introduction Course 2D survey exercises and drawing up
- 18.00 – lecture by Dr Stella Demesticha on the Archaeology of Cyprus

Tuesday 18th August 2015

- AM - Orientation dives on the ancient anchorage site at Xylophagou
- PM - NAS Part 1 Underwater Archaeology Course 3D survey exercises
- 18.00 – lecture by Robert White on the ancient anchorage site at Xylophagou (Larnaca Bay)
- Evening – Blog writing / Dive logs

Wednesday 19th August 2015

- AM - Exploratory dives on site, including survey, illustration, photography and video
- PM - NAS Part 1 Course 3D survey exercise
- Evening – Fieldschool video editing / Blog writing / Dive logs

Thursday 20th August 2015

- NAS Part 3 course – Underwater Photography and photomosaics (Andonis Neophytou, Photographer and Instructor, MARE.Lab / Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus.
- PM – excursion to Thalassa Museum in Agia Napa
- Evening – Fieldschool video editing / Blog writing / Dive logs

Friday 21st August 2015

- AM - Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video
- NAS Part 3 course – Underwater Photography and photomosaics (Andonis Neophytou, Photographer and Instructor, MARE.Lab / Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus.
- Evening – off // Fieldschool video editing / Dive logs

Saturday 22nd August 2015

- AM - Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video
- PM – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs

Sunday 23rd August 2015

- Day off – optional excursion to Larnaka

Monday 24th August 2015

- Exploratory dives on site, including survey, illustration, photography and video
- PM – Data processing using Site Recorder survey software / Dive logs
- 17.00 – lecture by Dr Stella Demesticha on the Mazotos Wreck
- Evening – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs

Tuesday 25th August 2015

- Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video
- PM – NAS Part 3 course – Archaeological Illustration Part 1, (David Thompson)
- Evening – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs

Wednesday 26th August 2015

- Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video
- Evening – off / participant presentation preparation / Fieldschool video editing
- PM – NAS Part 3 course – Archaeological Illustration Part 2, (David Thompson)
- Evening – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs

Thursday 27th August 2015

- AM - Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video
- PM - NAS Part 3 course – Presentation Skills (Mark Beattie-Edwards, NAS Programme Director)
- Evening – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs

Friday 28th August 2015

- Fieldwork on site, including illustration, survey, object cleaning, photography and video.
- Evening – Data processing using *Site Recorder* survey software / Dive logs / participant presentation preparation / Fieldschool video editing

Saturday 29th August 2015

- Participant's presentation preparation
- Participant presentations at Lithos Hotel
- Fieldschool ends / closing ceremony at Lithos Hotel
- Final dinner at Lithos Hotel

Sunday 30th August 2015

- Participants depart.
- Staff Team demobilizing / return hire cars
- Staff Team archiving
- Staff Team report writing

Fieldschool Formal Taught Elements

1. NAS Introduction to Underwater and Foreshore Archaeology (online theory with classroom dry practical exercise)

The first stage of the NAS Training Programme, the Introduction Course, is an introduction to the discipline of nautical archaeology taking students from the basic question 'What is Archaeology' through to the range of sites we might study, dating techniques and 2D survey methods to get started recording sites.

2. NAS Part 1 in Underwater and Foreshore Archaeology (online theory with classroom dry practical exercise)

The NAS Part 1 Certificate builds on the knowledge and skills learnt during the Introduction Course. The course aims to introduce archaeological projects from the planning phase through to carrying out a 3D survey and publishing the results.

As well as looking at project planning and building on the 2D survey techniques with 3D surveys, the course also looks at other issues which may arise during a project. These include safety and logistics, search and survey methods, and dealing with archaeological finds. Through the use of case studies and examples the course also demonstrates how all of these factors come together for a successful project.

3. NAS Part 3 course Underwater Photography (classroom theory and practicals)

This course provides an introduction to the principles of underwater photography and its application to archaeological survey methodology. The course is suitable for the general public, individuals undertaking the NAS Training syllabus and professional archaeologists wanting to increase their knowledge and skills in underwater archaeological photography.

The course includes:

- Introduction to the principles of photography and its application underwater
- Introduction to digital camera systems
- Practical use of camera systems in a dry environment
- Practical use of camera systems in an open water environment
- Introduction to project photography and artefact photography

4. NAS Part 3 course in Archaeological Illustration (classroom theory and practicals)

The aim of the course is to introduce students to theory and techniques of archaeological illustration. The course is taught through a combination of presentations and practical instruction. Both real and replica objects from a number of collections will be used during the course.

The presentations introduce the student to archaeological illustration, touching briefly on early examples of archaeological illustration, highlighting the difference between drawing and illustration, and explaining the purpose and requirements of illustration. Students are introduced to the main illustration tools and the techniques for producing a successful illustration, from the initial pencil draft version to the final pen drawing. The conventions used for different materials will also be introduced.

The course includes:

- Understanding of the difference between a drawing and an archaeological illustration
- Being able to set up an artefact for an archaeological drawing
- Understanding the basic procedures and techniques of archaeological drawing
- Being able to produce a selection of illustrations from some of the main types of materials: wood, metal, leather, pottery, stone.

5. NAS Part 3 course in Presentation Skills (classroom theory)

To help participants understand how best to construct and deliver an effective presentation. The course covers the presentation preparation, delivery techniques, the advantages and disadvantages of the different equipment used during lesson delivery and tips for the use of Microsoft *PowerPoint* software.

Fieldschool Experience

On day one of the fieldschool the group was separated into two teams, the “GREEN” team made up of Patton, Dominic, Lefki, Giota, James and Aida; and the “YELLOW” team made up of Merlin, Achilleas, Marion, Magda, Annabel and Maria. Unfortunately two of the participants (one from each team) were not able to dive every day, but were still able to be involved in the fieldschool.

The two teams were briefed that they would each be responsible for recording half of the fieldschool site and for all the post-fieldwork cataloguing of their dive logs, photographs and video, as well as the data entry into the survey software *Site Recorder*.

The site chosen for the 2015 fieldschool experience was the Xylophagou Block Site (XBS) situated in 15m depth of water just off the coast at Xylophagou Harbour in Larnaca Bay. The site is situated in the eastern end of Larnaca Bay only 20km from the fieldschool classroom and accommodation in Oroklini.



Image: Map of Cyprus showing the fieldschool site and the base for the fieldschool at Oroklini

In 2009 a large stone anchor was discovered by NAS member and diver Robert White at Xylophagou area of Cyprus. Initial assessments suggested a probable dating of Early to Middle Bronze Age. Robert was joined by NAS member Simon Draper and a second single-hole anchor was soon discovered and subsequently two additional stone anchors were found by Robert, including possibly a Byzantine metal anchor in the same area. Later visits discovered large number of dressed stone blocks in close proximity to the anchors. Work on the Xylophagou site was published in an article in the autumn 2010 edition of the NAS newsletter, *Nautical Archaeology*, titled "Discovery of Bronze Age Wreck Site?". Follow up investigations were also published in an article "Bronze Age Anchors and other Artefacts Discovered in Cyprus" in the autumn 2012 edition of the NAS newsletter, *Nautical Archaeology*.

It was concluded by the fieldschool organizers that the Xylophagou site would be a perfect location for hosting a basic fieldschool for students with little or no prior experience of undertaking archaeological investigations underwater. The site is shallow (15m maximum depth) and robust (consisting of anchors and dresses stone blocks) enough to not be hazardous to the participants or the archaeological material on the seabed.

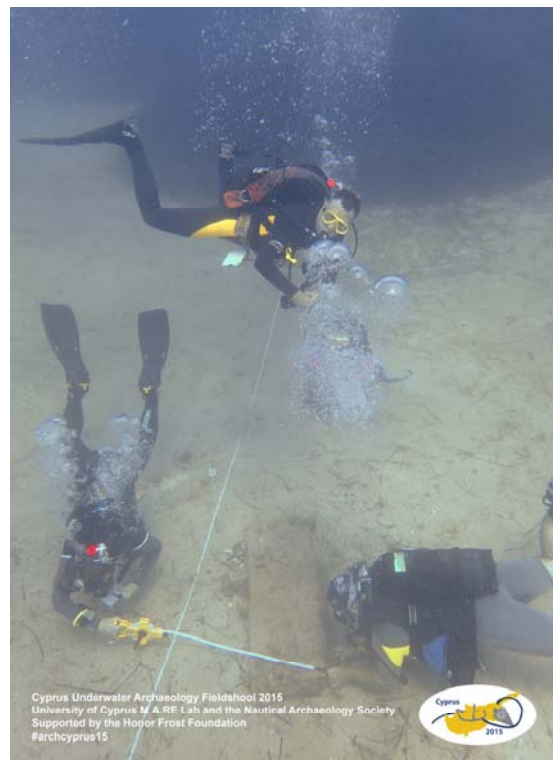
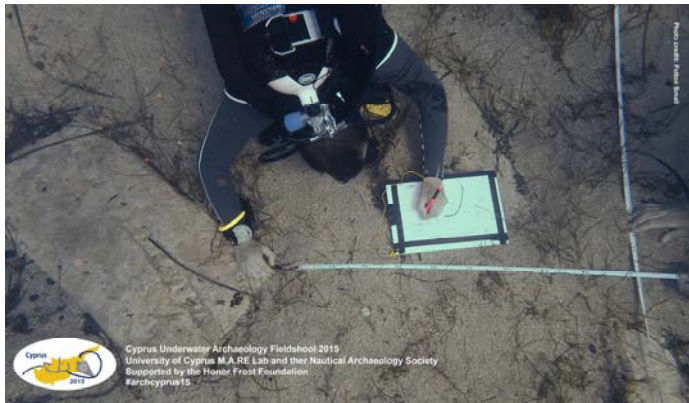
Investigations on the Xylophagou site are currently being written up for publication by Robert White and Dr Stella Demesticha from the University of Cyprus and are therefore not the subject of this report.



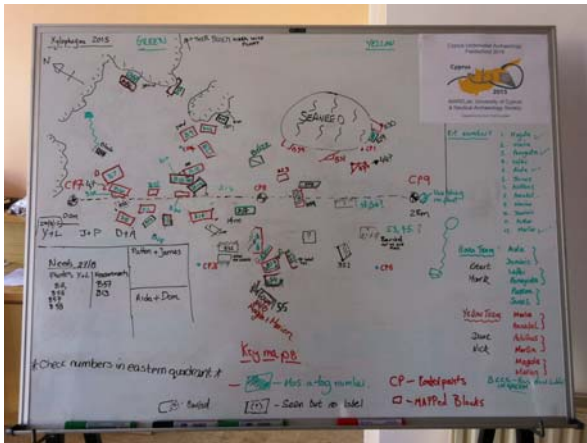
Images: Selection of photographs from the 2015 fieldschool from the classroom, the dry practical exercises, the photography course as well as a visit to a nearby quarry at Xylophagou beach.



Images: A selection of photographs from the 2015 fieldschool.



Images: A selection of photographs taken by fieldschool participants of working underwater on the Xylophagou Block Site.



Images: A selection of photographs from the 2015 fieldschool.

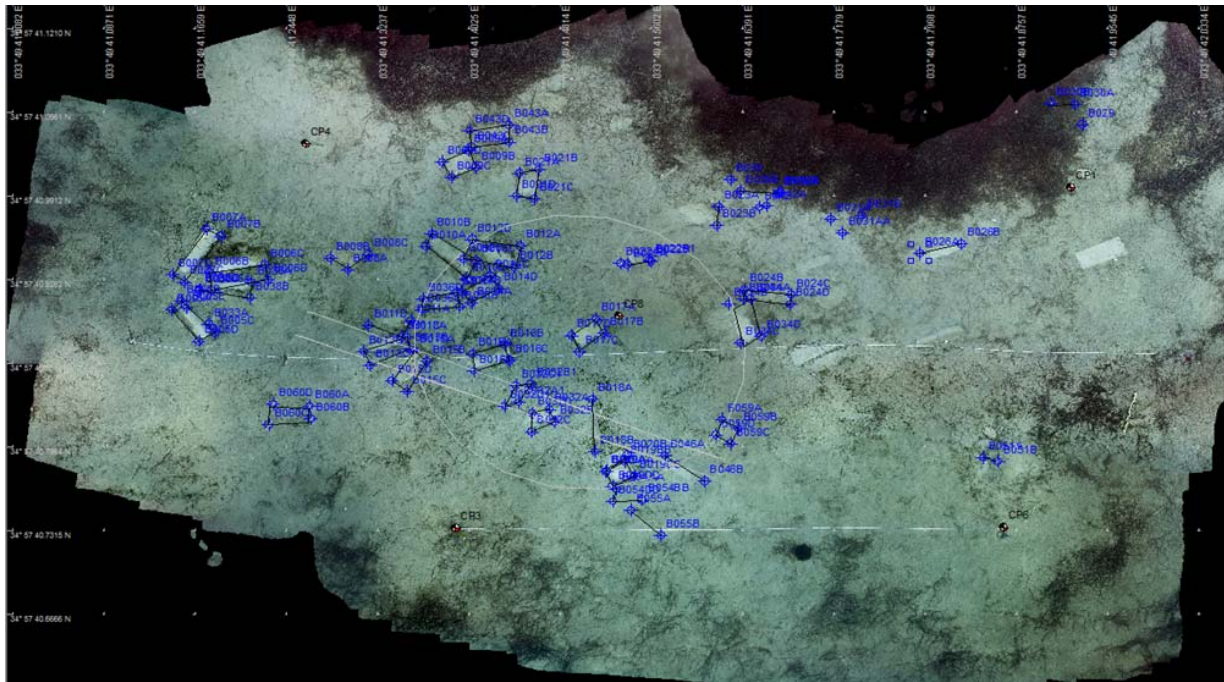


Image: A screen grab of the *Site Recorder* survey of the Xylophagou Block Site (XBS) compared to the photogrammetry survey undertaken in 2012.

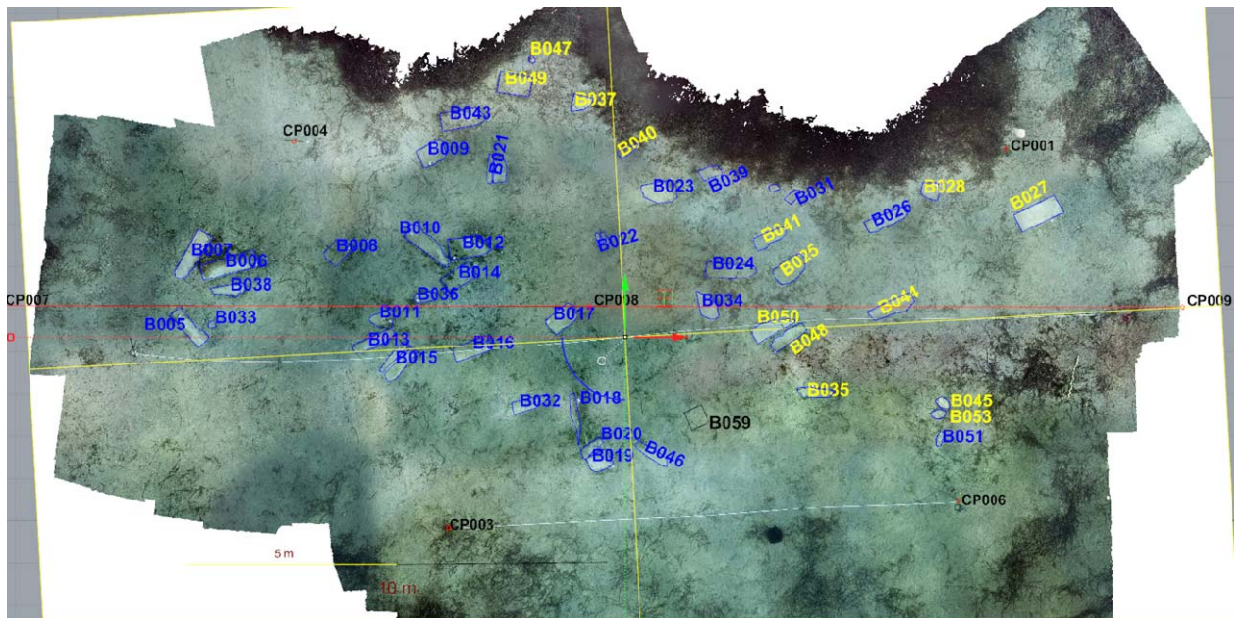


Image: A screen grab of the 2015 survey of the Xylophagou Block Site (XBS) compared to the photogrammetry survey undertaken in 2012.

Participant Presentations

From the very beginning of the fieldschool the participants were brief that they would be expected to give a team presentation at the end of the two weeks. The participants were provided with access to the archive of photographs and videos from the fieldschool that were stored on an external data drive that could be shared between them.

The two teams gave their presentations after an NAS Part 3 course on “Presentation Skills” taught by NAS Programme Director and Senior Tutor, Mark Beattie-Edwards.



Image: The Green Team’s Presentation (left) and the Yellow Team’s Presentation

Awards Ceremony

At the end of the fieldschool the participants were presented with their certificate of attendance as well as individual reports on their “Participation Report”.

Subjects areas graded in the participation reports were their attitude to

1. Fieldwork
2. Post-Fieldwork
3. Educational Learning
4. Other (diving abilities, social skills, etc.)

The participation reports were drafted by the instructor team from the NAS and the M.A.RE Lab and hopefully included positive advice for each student for their future careers in underwater archaeology.



Image: The attendance certificate awarded to each of the fieldschool participants.



Image: The Class of 2015 receiving their certificates from Dr Stella Demesticha.

Tow row: Maria, Madga, Marion. Second row: Annabel, Patton, Dominic. Third row: Giota, James, Aida. Bottom row: Merlin, Achilleas, Lefki

Publicity and Dissemination

In preparation for the fieldschool the NAS created a webpage with information about the fieldschool www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/archcyprus15 but this webpage was not used as a primary mechanism for dissemination and publicity about the fieldschool. This was achieved via an online Blog which was created and maintained by the fieldschool team. Each day a fieldschool participant was required (with the help of instructors or other participants) to write the blog. The blog was hosted on WordPress meaning that anyone would be able to find and read it <https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com>



The blog post for each day can be found below:

Day 1: *Merlin's blog post, day one* – by Merlin Clark-Mahoney
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/17/merlins-blog-post-day-one/>

Day 2: *Second day of the field school in Xylophagou* – by Magda Avsijevich
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/18/second-day-of-the-field-school-in-xylophagou/>

Day 3: *a 22 knot trumpet fish* – by Annabel Crawford
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/day-3-a-22-knot-trumpet-fish/>

Day 4: *Photography and exploration* – by Aida El-Tantawie
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/20/fourth-day-photography-and-exploration/>

Day 5: *Surveying* – by Panayiota Nicolaou
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/21/day-5-surveying/>

Day 6: *Measuring, mapping and Site Recorder 4* – by James Masterson
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/22/day-6-measuring-mapping-and-site-recorder-4/>

Day 7: *Monday morning* – by Marion Sevestides
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/24/monday-morning/>

Day 8: *Η μέρα της κρίσης έφτασε! Muaha* – by Maria Christodoulou
Hyperlink not possible to provide

Day 9: *To date not a single maritime archaeologist has been attacked by a shark* – Dominic Coyne
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/26/day-9-to-date-not-a-single-maritime-archaeologist-has-been-attacked-by-a-shark/>

Day 10: *Dive 8* – by Achilleas Iasonos
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/27/day-10-dive-8/>

Day 11: *Time to collect our pieces* – by Lefki Papakosta
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/28/day-11-time-to-collect-our-pieces/>

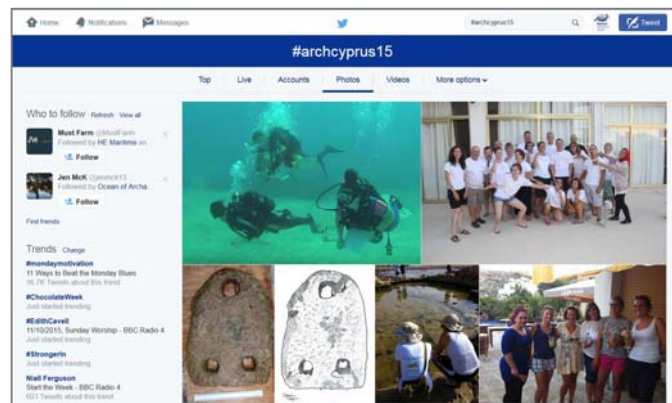
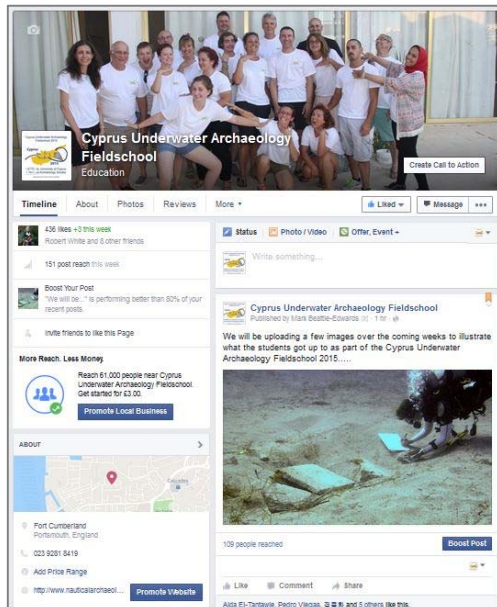
Day 12: *The Final Day and Some Closing Thoughts* – by Patton Small
<https://archcyprus15.wordpress.com/2015/08/30/the-final-day-and-some-closing-thoughts/>

It is possible to calculate that a total of 2,898 views of the blog were made during the fieldschool with the most popular day being Friday 28th August with 119 visitors making 284 views. We know that most people navigated to the blog via Facebook. The top six countries to view the blog were the UK (885 views), Cyprus (794 views), USA (397 views), France (170), Greece (135), Taiwan (47 views).

The NAS managed to update social media feeds nearly every day of the fieldschool. The primary social media outlet was a Facebook page created to host text, images and videos on the fieldschool. This page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/archcyprus15>. To increase the readership of posts to the Facebook page the NAS shared posts with its own followers and to other relevant pages.

As of 12th October 2015, the Facebook page had 436 likes with the most popular post being on the last day of the fieldschool, on the 30th August 2015 which reached 3,076 people. The second most popular post was on the 22nd August 2015 reaching 2,216 people, with the third most popular post being on the 17th August 2015 (Day 1 of the fieldschool) reaching 1,912 people.

Although the NAS did not create a specific Twitter profile for the fieldschool we did use the hashtag #ArchCyprus15 when posting online.



Images: The fieldschool Facebook page and the #archcyprus15 Twitter feed

The students on the fieldschool were asked to create a short video of their experience that would be hosted on the NAS's YouTube channel. The participants were given a loose brief on what the video would show and were then given independent control over the direction and content of the short film. Two of the fieldschool participants, Merlin and Patton kindly took control of the storyboarding of the film, with Merlin becoming the principle director.

The film was premiered to the fieldschool team as part of the final day's presentations and awards ceremony. The film can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUDN3bheucw> and as of the 12th October 2015 the film had been viewed 470 times.



Images: The Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool 2015 video hosted on YouTube

In October 2015 the fieldschool was written up in an article in the NAS's own newsletter, Nautical Archaeology.



Cyprus
The Xylophagou Site And The Cyprus Fieldschool 2015
Rachel Quick, Robert White and Mark Beattie Edwards

Rachel and Mark from the NAS office recently worked with NAS member Robert White and Dr Stella Demesticha from the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeology Research Lab (M.A.R.E Lab) to host a fieldschool on underwater archaeology in the warm Mediterranean waters of Cyprus, about which they report here.

In August 2015 an international team of students and instructors gathered for the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool. This fieldschool was organised and run by the NAS and the University of Cyprus Maritime Archaeology Research Laboratory, and could not have taken place without the generous grant support from the Honor Frost Foundation.

Honor Frost herself was born on Cyprus in 1917 (see Angela Croome's obituary of Honor Frost in *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 40.1) and is thought to have dived in the same area as the fieldschool (personal communication with Robert White). The NAS has a strong connection with Cyprus, as the Society's logo comes from a scene of a merchant ship on a pottery jug in Bichrome Ware dating to 750-600 BC, now on display in the British Museum.

A seafaring tradition has been preserved around the island of Cyprus for hundreds if not thousands of years, and so this exciting opportunity to work with the University of Cyprus was one not to be missed. The Xylophagou site was accidentally found in 2009 when a stone anchor was identified by a recreational diver and member of the NAS, Robert White, who reported it to the authorities. Since then Robert and other NAS members (including Simon Draper, Nick Hassapis and Dave Thompson) along with staff and students from the University of Cyprus have worked together to try to establish the archaeological importance of the site and to

develop an underwater archaeology fieldschool programme on Cyprus. The chosen site for the fieldschool was a presumed ancient anchorage submerged in the lovely clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The site is located some 200 metres from the shore at Xylophagou in Larnaca Bay, sitting at a depth of only 15 metres. The site consists of several stone anchors of differing shapes and sizes as well as over 50 dressed stone blocks of varying sizes. The date of the site is still unknown, yet the style of anchors found means that the site could have been in use during the Bronze Age. The word Xylophagou means "wood eater" in Greek giving a tempting indication that the area may have been dangerous for seafarers in the past, hence the reason for the anchorage in the bay.

The purpose of the fieldschool was to introduce and train a new generation of underwater archaeologists about the

Three of the stone blocks from the Xylophagou block site photographed by Merlin Clark-Mahoney. Image: NAS and the UCY M.A.R.E Lab

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Images: The fieldschool write up in the autumn 2015 edition of "Nautical Archaeology"

Local Community Dissemination

During the 2015 fieldschool the participants came up with the idea of creating a poster about the fieldschool and the Xylophagou site for display at local facilities. The participants helped to design, write and translate two posters – one in English and one in Greek.

Copies of the posters were presented to the kind owner of the Fisherman's Hut at Xylophagou Harbour, to Viking Divers (Oroklini), the Paralimni Hospital Recompression Chamber, The Lithos Hotel, Naulius Dive Centre (Nicosia) and to the University of Cyprus.



Images: The owner of the Fisherman's Hut, Mr Andreas at Xylophagou Harbour receiving his poster from fieldschool participants.



200m from the shore, at a depth of 15m an international team of archaeologists are recording an ancient submerged anchorage at Xylophagou. Xylophagou means 'wood/ship eater' in Greek which gives us an indication that the area may have been dangerous for seafaring in the past.



Seafaring tradition has been preserved here for hundreds of years. This site was accidentally found in 2009 when a stone anchor was identified by a recreational diver and member of the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS), who reported it to the authorities. Since then the NAS and University of Cyprus (UCy) have worked together to establish the archaeological importance of the site.

A field school organized by the NAS and UCy in August 2015, supported by the Honor Frost Foundation, took place at the site with the purpose of training new generations of underwater archaeologists.



<https://www.facebook.com/archcyprus15>



Protecting our cultural heritage is important not only for underwater archaeologists but for everyone who visits these sites. Please help our work on the site by reporting any finds, stone anchors or ceramics, to the Department of Antiquities.

Tel: 00357 22865888

Email: antiquitiesdept@da.mcw.gov.cy



Περίπου 200 μ. από την ακτή, σε βάθος 15 μ., μία διεθνής ομάδα αρχαιολόγων καταγράφει ένα αρχαίο αγκυροβόλιο στην Ξυλοφάγου. Η λέξη 'ξύλο' σήμαινε και πλοίο στα Βυζαντινά χρόνια, επομένως το όνομα της περιοχής ίσως είναι ενδεικτικό επικίνδυνου σημείου για τη ναυσιπλοΐα.



Η ναυτική παράδοση έχει διατηρηθεί εδώ για αιώνες. Η αρχαιολογική θέση ανακαλύφθηκε τυχαία το 2009, όταν ένας Βρετανός δύτης, μέλος της Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS), εντόπισε μία λίθινη άγκυρα και τη δήλωσε στις αρχές. Από τότε, η NAS και το Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου (ΠΚ) εργάζονται μαζί για να τεκμηριώσουν την αρχαιολογική αξία του αρχαίου αυτού αγκυροβολίου.

Τον Αύγουστο του 2015, οργανώθηκε ένα πρακτικό σχολείο από τη NAS και το ΠΚ, με την υποστήριξη του Honor Frost Foundation, με στόχο την εκπαίδευση νέων υποβρύχιων αρχαιολόγων.



<https://www.facebook.com/archcyprus15>



Η προστασία της θέσης αυτής, όμως, δεν είναι σημαντική μόνο για τους αρχαιολόγους αλλά και όλους όσους την επισκέπτονται. Αν εντοπίσετε κι εσείς ευρήματα στην Ξυλοφάγου, λίθινες άγκυρες ή κεραμική, παρακαλούμε πολύ ειδοποιήστε το Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων (τηλέφωνο 00357 22865888 email: antiquitiesdept@da.mcw.gov.cy).

Βοηθείστε μας να μάθουμε περισσότερα!

Lessons Learnt

The delivery of the first Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool was always going to be a learning experience for everyone; the participants, the instructors as well as the organizers. On the whole the organizers were pleased with the honest feedback received from the participants.

As part of the closing ceremony the organizers made comments about how they felt the fieldschool went and lessons that they and learnt. At the same time the participants were also given the opportunity to provide suggestions for future fieldschools.

After a period of reflection the members of the staff team made further suggestions and comments including:

“It seemed that almost all of the students were engaged fully with the syllabus and the response from them was most encouraging. I am sure that they had no idea that they would be learning about public relations, lecture delivery, local culture and museology, as well as surveying, cleaning and photography. There was enough time to deliver the syllabus, but not more than two part three activities and it would have been good to do some more advanced underwater techniques, however they were often up into the small hours working on their various projects anyway so they had more than enough to do.

It was great to see young enthusiastic inquiring minds coming up with theories about what, why and how, just like our team has done over a beer many times in the past few years, asking the same questions and having the same possibly solutions.

Their progress in the water and classroom was varied in pace, which can be expected from a group of very different diving abilities, backgrounds and cultures, but all showed marked improvement and understanding by the end of the course. Most went from awkward or clumsy divers with buoyancy problems, to considerate and effective underwater archaeologists. This is no mean feat given the small amount of time they had in the field. It really was a great pleasure to see their progress and to hear their enthusiasm develop for a site, which for me particularly, has a very great interest”.
Robert White

We need to be very strict on diving qualifications with only one retry on skills. Recommend that we expand the skills review on the first day. We need to be more specific about the gear the students are required to provide and how it must be configured (set up) prior to arrival. A sample dive log, with required information filled in, should be posted on the first day in the daily information area and a copy on the log folder. This will hopefully avoid confusion when the diving starts.

The “how-to do it” photo logging session and information should be presented earlier in the course so that the actual photo logging can start as soon as possible. We could extend the session on basic photograph correction in RAW and add in JPEG correction – provide handouts/go-byes for student to take home. Ensure that each person

carrying a camera has a photo-bag (scale, white balance card, north arrow), instead of one per team. This would allow for more rapid and correct photographing of artifacts.
David Thompson

It is certainly difficult to create an effective class in two weeks, with so many different students and a team of instructors that were working together for the first time. Thus, the fact that we ended up with twelve maritime archaeologists in the making, full of enthusiasm to continue working underwater was a great accomplishment.

Most of the participants had worked on land excavations before and they expected a different routine. Also, not knowing the logistics of the project, they complained about 'time wasted', so although difficult, next time we need to think of a way to introduce the trainees better into the organisational aspects of an underwater archaeological project, such as the need of the instructors to be all the time at the site when students are diving. Likewise, the fact that we used the facilities of the Fisherman's café next to the anchorage in exchange with our presence there during lunchtime – hence the 'time wasted to wait for the second team to dive'. That said, however, there is room for improvement in the way we organised the students' time and we should definitely improve the daily programme.

Another interesting aspect of this project was its inter-cultural character. Apart from different nationalities, students also came from different cultures: the 'western', more disciplined mentality and the 'eastern' one, more shy, often less reluctant to follow the rules. I think that we need to take this into consideration and maybe take less for granted in this respect, especially since one of this project's objectives is to create a training programme for the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The site was a perfect ground for teaching methods of underwater documentation. It somehow lacked archaeological interest, however, as there is not much more to say about it without excavation. Moreover, drawing artefacts is a daily routine in excavations, so it would be better if the artefacts illustration module was taught with the project's finds and be a bit more advanced. Thus, we would strongly suggest excavating this site next time, if we make sure next time that the diving skills of the team are up to it, or choose another site to survey, with more small finds to recover on the surface.

Budget

The 2015 fieldschool received a total of £26,772 in grant support from the Honor Frost Foundation. An additional £7,500 was raised by charging participation fees of £1,500 to five of the participants, so a total of £34,272 was available for the organisation and delivery of the 2015 fieldschool.

The budget was divided into staffing (including organisation and delivery), travel (including travel to Cyprus and domestic travel on Cyprus), fieldschool equipment purchase and hire (on site and

for the classroom), accommodation/food, and other ancillary costs (shipping, bank charges, consumables).

The 2015 Cyprus fieldschool cost:

Direct staff: £6,000

Contracting staff: £2,638.29

Travel: £3,378.96

Accommodation and food: £9,208.97

Equipment purchases/hire: £5,303.97

Other ancillary costs: £1,745.85

Grand Total: £28,276.04

The total cost of £28,276.04 to organize and deliver the 2015 fieldschool has resulted in an under-spend of £5,995.96. It is suggested by the organizers that the under-spend could be used to contribute toward the planned activities as part of the Cyprus Underwater Archaeology Fieldschool in 2016.

Future Plans

It is the wish of the fieldschool organizers, NAS and MARELab, to host another underwater archaeology fieldschool in the August-September 2016, supported by the Honor Frost Foundation.

At a meeting with representatives of both organizations held on the 29th August 2015 it was felt that an "Advanced" fieldschool that involved teaching the underwater excavation of a site would a great follow-on experience following the 2015 fieldschool. The Advanced fieldschool in August 2016 would build on the skills and experience taught during the 2015 season.

The proposed site thought most appropriate for the 2016 fieldschool is the Nissia Shipwreck, at Paralimni, Cyprus. This is a wreck dated to the Ottoman period. It lies at a depth of around 28 metres, on a flat sandy sea bottom and has been known to the diving community since the late 1980's. As a result it has been heavily looted and when the MARELab team arrived at the site, in 2014, only wooden fragments of the ship structure and three cannons were visible. However, with the support of HFF, MARELab conducted a short, preliminary field season in September 2014, with very good results: the team assessed better the site, public awareness was raised, students were trained and an in situ preservation programme was initiated.

The Nissia shipwreck site is appropriate for an Advanced Field School in Underwater Archaeology, for several reasons: (i) it is well preserved but not too deep, (ii) it is a real excavation project, not only a site for training, (iii) the sediment above the hull is only 15cm thick, so in two weeks time it is possible to progress significantly, and (iv) the parallel programmes of public awareness and *in-situ* preservation will provide the trainees with more insights into the world of underwater archaeology.



The organizers would wish to return to the Xylophagou Block Site in 2017 to run another basic fieldschool similar to the one held in the 2015 season.

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The Nautical Archaeology Society

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