



The Clyde Punt Graveyard Fieldschool

by Steve Liscoe

The stem of the most complete schooner recorded on site with Glasgow in the background. Image: Steve Liscoe

Maritime Archaeology Trust

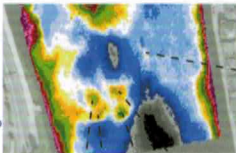


The Forgotten Wrecks Project

by Amanda Bowens

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Mergor in Mosam



The Roman Bridges of Maastricht

by Joost van den Besselaar and Peter Seinen

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Jule de Kroon

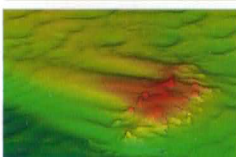


A Wreck on Sandbar 'Steile Bank'

by Albert Zandstra

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TrenDive



Multi Beam Survey of the *Stirling Castle*

by Douglas McElvogue

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The Roman Bridges of Maastricht

Joost van den Besselaar and Peter Seinen

Peter and Joost are on the board of the foundation Mergor in Mosam (www.mergorinmosam.nl), which is involved in all kinds of underwater archaeological and paleontological projects. Here they present important information about a Roman site at the River Meuse.

Sixth century sources mention the existence of an ancient bridge, which crossed the Dutch river Meuse at Maastricht. The bridge survived until 1275 AD, when it finally collapsed during a Catholic procession (see Cillekens, C. and Dijkman, W., 2006, *Twintig eeuwen Maastricht*, Nijmegen).

In 1923 AD, dredgers, busy making a proper waterway, discovered massive stone blocks, shown on the far right top-part of the image. Successive archaeological surveys (see Vos, A.D., 2004, *Resten van Romeinse Maasbruggen in de Maas bij Maastricht*, Rapportage AM 100, ROB) revealed the existence of the remains of no less than three Roman bridges, lying close together (the middle and right part of the picture). Although the remains lie close together, the few dates that have been obtained from the remains indicate a period of activity from the mid-1st century to the first half of the 2nd century AD and the mid-4th century AD.

The remains of the oldest bridge are comprised of massive oak wooden beams stacked on top of each other, forming a V-shape. The 2nd century remains are comprised of a frame of equally massive oak wooden beams, while the remains of the most recent bridge are comprised of a large number of thinner oak wooden piles driven into the river bottom. Although the last survey was carried out back in 2000, the profile of the river bottom has been measured regularly by means of multi-beam sonar equipment, for detecting newly uncovered remains.

Since 2011, the profile showed the formation of at least two elevated areas to the west of the remains that were investigated in 2000. On the basis of the pattern that became

increasingly visible, it is clear that under these areas more remains could be expected. We had to wait until last year, however, for the first archaeological parts to become visible. These parts include large worked stone blocks and massive oak wooden beams. The stone blocks have marks that indicate that they were held together with steel clamps secured with lead, which have not survived. The large square framework closely resembles the one investigated in 2000. With some caution this might indicate that these remains may date to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

The monitoring and recording of this site will be intensified during the coming years until the remains are protected by the Dutch Cultural Heritage. ♦

A site map showing the remains of the Roman bridges the River Meuse at Maastricht. Image: Mergor in Mosam

