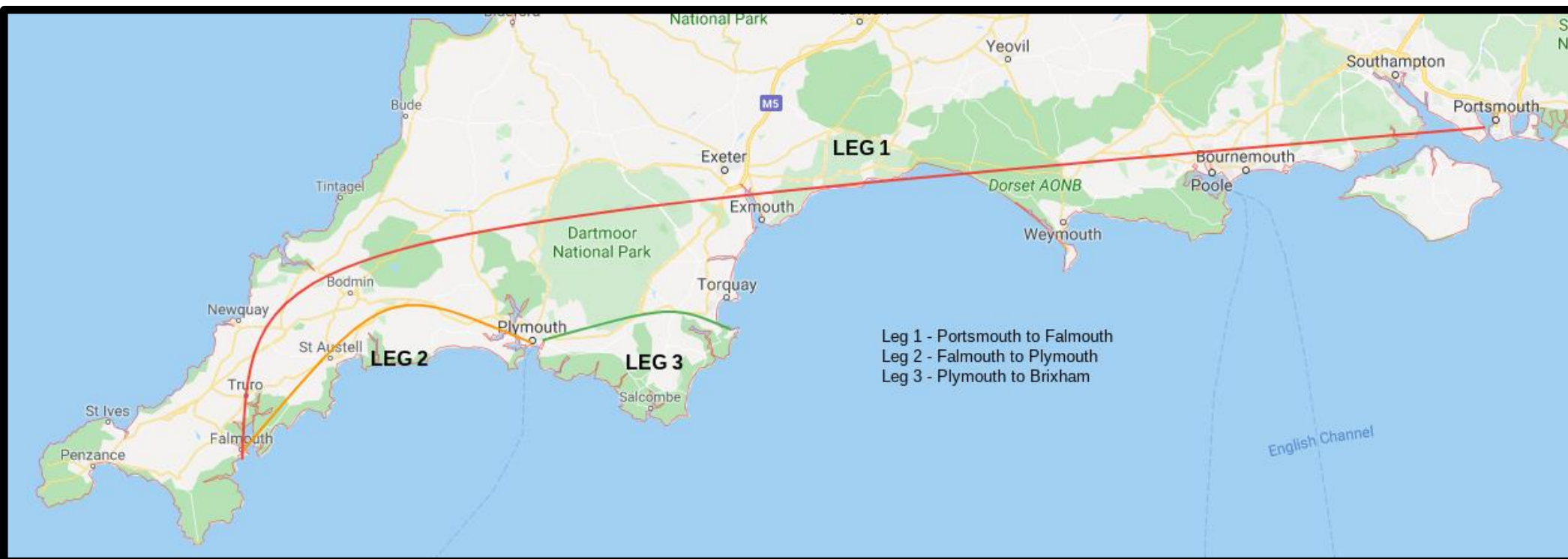


Meshellae

October

SHTP2 INDUCTION:

A journey across the South West Coast of England



Part One: New Beginnings (Portsmouth)

Our journey began in the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, a location that is especially significant for me as this is where I will be spending the majority of my traineeship.

Starting in Portsmouth not only gave me a chance to explore the museum, but also allowed me to start to gain a sense of what life would be like once I moved there in January. I was in awe of the museum and its collections and could easily picture myself working there, with the scenic and bustling Portsmouth Harbour as a constant backdrop.

Highlights:

Meeting the other Shipshape Heritage Training Partnership 2 trainees, both those from last year and the current year's trainees, who I soon came to consider as almost a second family.

Getting to listen to the Year One trainees' presentations during the Networking Day and get a glimpse of the type of things I would soon be getting to experience.

Part Two: The Old and The New (Falmouth)



I had never
travelled west of
Poole before, and
I made sure to
take advantage of
my new
surroundings by



walking around Falmouth to see what the South West had to offer.



I was struck by the beauty of the landscape, how to the peace I felt, rather than disrupt it.

even the rough seas and high winds seemed to add

Our first few days in Falmouth were free days, allowing us to get used to our new environment and settle in with the other trainees.

The programme then began in full force with a first aid course, powerboat course and sea survival training. As I've done first aid a few times already, my highlights were definitely the powerboat course and sea survival training. Although I may not be a skilled steerer, I found the information on boat safety rules, tide calculations, and SOLAS 5 to be invaluable. Going out on the powerboats was thrilling, and an experience I wouldn't hesitate to repeat. The sea survival course was just as informative, instilling me with the confidence that I would know how to handle myself and help others in a dangerous situation at sea. I especially appreciated getting to test out what we had learned in the pool, as I relish any chance to get into the water.



Aside from the courses, we were also taken on guided tours of the boatyard and workshop of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, whose collection of boats was varied and intriguing. I feel like we only got to scratch the surface of their vast and varied collection and there were many vessels I would love to get a chance to take a closer look at.



Highlights:

Getting to explore Luke Powell's boatyard and talk to the man himself. Experiencing the immense scale of *Pellew* was enough to make this a

satisfying excursion, but Luke's insight into the boatbuilding and sailing industry was particularly engrossing.



Part Three: Intro to Boat Life (Plymouth)



For the next stage of our induction we travelled to Plymouth to stay on the *Lynher* barge. Although I had participated in a two-week sail training programme on the *Spirit of Bermuda* when I was 13, this was the first time since then that I actually slept on a sailing vessel.

Our first day consisted of a day sail around Plymouth Harbour, where me and two other trainees were tasked with navigating our course for the day. This was my first time using a chart and hand compass for navigation and I was stunned by just how much information could be crammed onto navigational charts. I have always been fascinated by charts and map making in general, and the interpretation and use of charts is definitely something I would like to study more closely over the course of this traineeship and beyond. Although it had been quite a while since I last sailed, my fellow trainees were quite helpful in giving me tips throughout the day. It was great to feel like a part of the team, and I found the constant rush of sea air invigorating.



The next two days on the *Lynher* were definitely my favorite parts of the entire induction. We spent these days in groups of two, and learned rowing, the eight basic sailing knots, sculling, and dinghy sailing. I felt like I gained quite a bit from these experiences and they made me thirst for more.

Especially in the case of knot tying, which I've always been fascinated by but never spent much time working on until now.

Over our stay at the *Lynher*, our host Dominic also held informative post-dinner debrief sessions. The first one of these went through a bit of sailing theory, concepts which would be reinforced a day later when I got a chance to sail in the dinghy. During another of these sessions Dom told us about the history of the *Lynher* and also touched on his career as well. It was great to get a bit more insight into the perils and pitfalls of working with historic vessels, and inspiring to see how much love and commitment Dom and Barbara had injected into the *Lynher* barge.

Highlights:

Walking along the coast to visit Mashfords Boatyard, and getting a tour of *Phoenix* along the way.

Being able to tie a bowline behind my back by the end of the knot session.

Part Four: Boats, Boats & More Boats (Brixham)



It seemed particularly apt to end the induction in Brixham, a town with an extensive sailing history that I would come to discover over the course of our stay there.

We spent our time in Brixham aboard *Provident*, a Brixham trawler that was a part of the Trinity fleet. After sleeping in hammocks in the hold aboard the *Lynher*, the cabins in *Provident* were a welcome treat, although unfortunately the stormy conditions did not make getting to sleep any easier. Although we were beset with some rather wet weather throughout our stay, the spots of sun that did occur more than made up for this.

After a couple of days off to explore the town, we spent our third day in Brixham taking part in a day sail about the *Pilgrim*, conveniently moored up alongside. We sailed in the roughest conditions I had ever experienced and I was happy to find that rather than getting seasick I revelled in the roughness of the journey. This was the first time that I began to feel like I was starting to

understand the sailing process; I felt like I moved quicker and responded better to what was happening around me. It was great to see that things were beginning to click.

We also visited the Brixham Heritage Museum, where we learned more about the evolution of the Brixham trawlers and the sailing industry in Brixham in general.

The rest of our time in Brixham was spent mostly on board *Provident*, getting an introduction to the Historical Vessels course, learning and practising how to give debriefs to groups, and practising some team-building activities that we can use whilst working with groups.



Highlights:

The rollercoaster ride that was the *Pilgrim* day sail

The soft skills sessions, as these were both informative and a lot of fun.



