

Searching for Human Remains

Archaeological Search Techniques and Bone Identification



 FORENSIC ACCESS GROUP

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Course details

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for anybody involved in the search, recovery and identification of human remains, including:

- Police Search Advisers (PolSAs)
- Licensed Search Officers (LSOs)
- Crime Scene Managers (CSMs)
- Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs)
- Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs)

Course objectives

This awareness course is designed to provide delegates with knowledge of:

- A range of archaeological search techniques, which can be used to locate buried evidence
- Geophysical survey methods most commonly used to detect buried human remains and evidence
- Mapping and recording techniques
- Stages of body decomposition and factors influencing the preservation of remains
- How to distinguish between human and animal bones

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered over 4 days via a combination of lectures and practical exercises. On day 4, the delegates will participate in an outdoor search and excavation exercise.

There is an emphasis on practical skills and applied knowledge throughout the course.

The course is taught by senior experts in the field Alecto Forensics Anthropologists, Archaeologists, Geophysicist and Scavenger Expert.



“ The presentation on Forensic Taphonomy was very useful, providing excellent grounding for what we can find and what to look for and what happens to a body between death and when it is discovered. ”



“ The search and excavation practical was brilliant. It was good to see all of the week come together and I was more confident in what I found. ”

Course Instructors

Dr Julie Roberts - *PhD ChFA FRAI (CERT FA-I)*

With over twenty years' experience as a Forensic Anthropologist and Archaeologist, Dr Julie Roberts is the company Scientific Advisor at Alecto Forensics. During her career Julie has assisted both civilian and military police officers with the location, recovery and identification of human remains from scenes of crime, war zones and mass fatality incidents on both a national and international scale.


As well as managing the delivery of Ecology services and training at Alecto, she provides expertise on cold case reviews and complex casework, including the identification and interpretation of burnt and highly fragmented remains, and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). She is the Forensic Anthropology national point of contact for UK DVI and responsible for the management and coordination of the UK DVI forensic anthropology team. She also represents UK Forensic Anthropologists in the Interpol DVI Pathology and Anthropology Sub Working Group. Julie is the current Chair of the British Association for Forensic Anthropology, and a member of the RAI Forensic Anthropology Committee.

Kristina Lee - *BA DipSc MSc PCIfA FRAI (CERT FA-II)*

Kristina is a Forensic Anthropologist and Archaeologist with Alecto Forensics. She is a Level II Forensic Anthropologist (FA-II) certified by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland and a Practitioner Level (PCIfA) Archaeologist accredited by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. She is also a member of the Forensic Anthropology UK DVI team.

As a Forensic Anthropologist and Archaeologist, she supports Alecto Forensics' casework and has assisted in investigations for multiple police forces and other agencies involving murder, suspicious and unnatural deaths, fatal fires, transportation accidents in international waters, missing persons, recovery of dispersed unburied remains and clandestine grave search, location and recovery.

Kristina also provides expertise to UK police forces who require specialist identification through our bone identification service.



To find out more and book your training slot, please get in touch with the team.

Direct Enquiries: 01235 426030 or info@alectoforensics.com

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