

The British Society of Dowsers Training Programme

Dowsing for Archaeology

Tutored by BSD Registered Tutor, experienced in dowsing for archaeology, in weekend format or minimum 12 hours tuition

Aim

- To give thorough and comprehensive understanding, guidance and coaching in dowsing for archaeology and related issues

Objective: At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the principles and practice of dowsing, related to archaeological fieldwork
- Dows for archaeology and report the findings
- Explain and discuss the importance of ethics relating to dowsing for archaeology
- Explain the legal issues relating to dowsing for archaeology

Introduction & discussion

- Historical and contemporary use of dowsing in archaeological context
- Use of dowsing to locate and assess buried or concealed features, remains or artifacts
- Use of dowsing to identify ambiguous findings
- Use of dowsing to date specific findings, features and artifacts

Field work / on-site dowsing

- Review of site dowsing techniques and use of pendulum, L-rods, Y-rod and wand / bobber
- Dowsing for specific features and artifacts and their depths and dates
- Recording the dowsing survey with triangulated datum points or lines, or GPS so that the survey can be related to geophysical surveys or excavation.
- Writing a dowsing survey report

Ethics of archaeological dowsing

- Public land, public-accessible sites and private land – accessibility, trespass and permission
- Issues relating to sacred sites, burial sites and procedure in the event of discovery of human bones.
- The Portable Antiquities Scheme, The Treasure Trove Act

Other Dowsing Techniques

- Directional dowsing techniques for finding location of features and tracking linear ones
- Review of map dowsing techniques to find position and dates of concealed features and artifacts

Dowsing resources

- Information about the Archaeology Special Interest Group, further training opportunities and events. Information about the BSD Archaeology Section of the Professional Register and the ADG Archive