

Forensic Ecology Training

Clandestine Grave Search, Location and Excavation

Course

- Three-day intensive course run at Alecto's laboratory and training facility in Watchfield and delivered by accredited instructors
- Designed for crime scene investigators, managers, police search advisors, search officers, and other related police professionals
- Provides a comprehensive overview of search, location, reconnaissance, and excavation of clandestine graves and their contribution to major crime and missing person investigations



Structure

- A pre-course briefing pack will be provided
- The course is presented through lectures, interactive classroom discussions, and outdoor practical exercises
- Participants will receive a comprehensive folio of training materials
- The course includes a number of assessed activities and certificates of satisfactory completion will be awarded

Content

- Focuses on a range of search, location and clandestine grave excavation and recovery techniques in conjunction with human decomposition, burial environment taphonomy, and aspects of forensic anthropology
- Presents relevant forensic ecology disciplines such as geoforensics (soil science, geology, geographic profiling), botany, limnology (diatoms) and palynology (pollen analysis)
- Enables an understanding of search and location techniques, including the use of GIS and geophysics, victim recovery dogs, military and open source material and aerial imagery reconnaissance

Outcome

- Consider and integrate the importance of search, location, reconnaissance and excavation techniques within a forensic strategy
- Assist forensic anthropologists and archaeologists at scenes with human remains recovery