

Position: Conservator

Location: Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth

Length of Contract: 2.5 years

Full time

Salary: £27,108 - £31,000 depending on experience

Closing Date: 6th January 2020

Looking for a career in maritime archaeology in a growing company with lots of opportunities? Keen to conserve material from a high-profile excavation? Then we would like to hear from you.

MSDS Marine are a Marine and Coastal Contractor specialising in the management, execution and support of archaeological projects in the marine environment. We have a wide range of experience and expertise within the industry from the project management of large-scale underwater excavations through to the fulfilment of archaeological licence conditions prior to large infrastructure developments. We provide geophysical and hydrographic services including data collection, processing, visualisation and interpretation.

MSDS Marine are a diving contractor registered with the HSE and provide diving and logistical support to underwater projects both on Surface Supply or SCUBA dependant on requirements. We have experience of providing support to the wider marine sector including ecological assessments, pre and post construction surveys and specialist survey solutions. We are committed to creating hands on experience in the sector for students, volunteers and early career professionals and promoting public engagement with our work.

MSDS Marine have grown steadily since first established in 2011 and are now a market leader in maritime archaeology in the UK. MSDS Marine are the UK Project Manager for the high profile #Rooswijk1740 Project to which this role relates.

You will be educated to at least degree level with a passion for heritage. A proven track record in commercial archaeology work would be beneficial but is not essential as we have opportunities for recent graduates.

Role Description

This post will be based at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth and will work closely with the MSDS Marine Archaeologist. Day-to-day support and guidance will be provided by Angela Middleton, Senior Archaeological Conservator at Historic England with line management responsibilities laying with MSDS Marine who will be the employer. The overall purpose of the role is to support the #Rooswijk1740 project during the post-excavation phase, to initiate conservation treatments and direct the MSDS Marine project archaeologist in day-to-day tasks.

The main tasks will include working with material retrieved from the marine environment. You will be involved in the documentation and conservation of material excavated during the 2017 and 2018 diving seasons. You will be initiating conservation treatments and carry out remedial and investigative conservation to address the aims and objectives of the project. You will be required to collaborate with other project specialists in this international team. The MSDS Marine Project Archaeologist will work closely from you and will assist you as required.

You will also be required to participate in open days, training courses and other similar outreach events or visits. There may be the possibility to work closely with other volunteers or students on this project.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. To contribute to all stages of the #Rooswijk1740 project including site visits, assessments, analysis and dissemination.
2. To work independently on a wide variety of materials from marine environments, including organic, inorganic, composite and concreted material.
3. To use equipment required for investigative conservation such as microscopy, X-Radiography, FTIR and with assistance from the HE Material Scientist(s), XRD and XRF where required.
4. To document the work undertaken primarily in the project archive and provide contributions to published archaeological reports where appropriate.
5. To have a full understanding of all Health and Safety implications involved in undertaking conservation work and abide by COSHH regulations.
6. To undertake other work on projects as directed by MSDS Marine.

The post will be based at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth, but may involve travel. Flexible working will be considered.

This is an outline description of the duties and responsibilities involved in the job. It is not exhaustive and may be revised from time to time.

Competitive package of employee benefits available including:

- 100% contribution towards ICON subscription fees;
- Generous holiday entitlement and paid time off to participate in volunteer projects;
- Individual training and development opportunities.

Want to know more? Contact **Alison James** for an informal chat.

Email: alison@msdsmarine.co.uk

Tel: 01332 300043

Apply: To apply please submit a cover letter and CV to info@msdsmarine.co.uk

Closing Date: 6th January 2020

Notification of Interview Invitations: by 10th January 2020

Interviews: 16th and 17th January 2020 at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
Training, experience & qualifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recognised professional qualification in Archaeological Conservation. • Experience in conservation techniques applied to wet/ waterlogged materials in particular those recovered from marine sites. • Broad understanding of the application of archaeological science techniques to a variety of materials. • Experience of writing conservation assessment and treatment reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-graduate qualification in conservation science. • Accredited Conservator in ICON or working towards accredited status • Experience of decision making and leading on projects. • Experience in the delivery of professional training to the sector. • Experience of supervising and teaching undergraduate and post-graduate students.
Knowledge & skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in the conservation, recording and interpretation of artefacts commonly recovered from wetland and marine archaeological sites in the UK, especially those made of metal. • Excellent oral and written communication skills. • Good organisational skills including attention to detail. • Ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled in creating online content. • Full driving licence. • Membership of a professional body relevant to archaeology or conservation.
Behaviours	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work constructively with a wide range of internal and external partners. • Proven qualities as a team player including willingness to learn new skills and contribute to the achievement of team objectives. • Ability and willingness to accept change and to work in new and flexible ways as circumstances dictate. • Collegiate behaviour including working with conflicting priorities and agendas. • Able to take personal responsibility for their own work and see things through. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to build and maintain fruitful working relationships within the sector. • Confident and adaptable communication style. • Be forward looking and creative in your approach. • General awareness of, and respect for historic environment-related disciplines other than one's own.