

**Name**

Alex Bliss

**Current Position**

Project Officer

**Education and Qualifications**

2015 BA Archaeology, University College London

**Selected Career Summary**

2020 – present: Project Officer at MSDS Marine Ltd.

2019 – 2020: Freelance Archaeological Consultant

2016 – 2019: Finds Liaison Officer, Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

2016 – 2016: Volunteer, Historic Royal Palaces

**Key Expertise**

Alex is a specialist in archaeological finds with extensive experience of recording artefacts and working with material from formal archives. This experience was further developed in his role as Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Suffolk (SCCAS/The British Museum) from 2016 to 2019.

Alex has extensive terrestrial excavation experience working with a variety of diverse individuals and institutions, both 'at home' and overseas.

Notable areas of his expertise include:

**Finds Specialist**

Alex is a skilled finds specialist and further developed his finds identification and post excavation experience whilst working for Suffolk County Council. He is now responsible for the recording of artefacts excavated from the Rooswijk protected wreck site.

**Managing Volunteers**

Alex has experience of working with volunteers and has provided training and guidance to teams of volunteers as part of his FLO role.

**Engagement**

Alex has a strong background in public engagement including planning and delivering open days, hosting group visits, providing talks and lectures. Alex is skilled in the use of blogs and social media to promote events and projects and to provide information to the public.

**Sector Specific Experience****Project Officer, MSDS Marine Ltd.**

Alex joined MSDS Marine in February 2020 as a Project Officer.

**Freelance Archaeological Consultant**

Alex undertook archaeological consultancy on a freelance basis, providing services relating to the following: identification/research/publication of finds, numismatics, finds photography, lecturing to university students, heritage crime and development of safeguarding protocols surrounding antiquities. Clients included University College London and Hansons Auctioneers.

**Finds Liaison Officer, Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service/ The British Museum**

Alex was responsible for the recording of archaeological objects discovered by members of the public onto computerised databases, fully identifying, describing and recording each to a high level of detail. During this period, he classified and organised over 6000 individual detailed photographic and narrative records to a high standard of accuracy and liaised with specialists in the case of particularly significant or interesting finds, including the Fitzwilliam Museum and researchers at the University of York.

Alex managed the archive of archaeological finds illustrations, scanning these both for attachment to digital records and filing digitised PNG files into parish folders. He assisted with the deposition/accession of finds and documentary archives by commercial archaeological units and oversaw the appropriate storage and care of finds entrusted to SCCAS, encouraged/facilitated the donation of significant objects/collections and subsequently liaised with archivists in order to accession them.

Alex's role included outreach with members of the public. He visited three metal detecting clubs per month (evening work), ran quarterly finds/outreach days in association with local museum services to promote the recording of finds to the general public. In addition, he attended training and educational days on finds-related subjects. Alex effectively communicated and promoted the aims of SCCAS to a wide range of audiences via public outreach. A good example of this was his role heading the inception, development and promotion of a very successful three-month public exhibition in Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds. Alex gave talks/lectures and presented to various interest groups (including local history and metal detecting groups) and liaised with the media including undertaking BBC Radio Suffolk and East Anglian Daily Times interviews. Contributed to county journal yearly 'round-up' for

important new finds and describing newly-discovered sites. As part of the role he wrote monthly blog posts on the SCCAS website focusing on significant finds.

Alex lead the training, management and development of volunteers, creating a highly skilled regular team of five in less than a year. He responded to email or phone enquiries providing identification services and archaeological advice to members of the public including managing the sub-team generic inbox

Alex was responsible for administering the Treasure Act at the local level. He prepared and sent written correspondence pertaining to finds and the Treasure process where needed.

The role involved a high degree of organisation. Alex scheduled appointments and co-managed internal team calendars/diaries, working flexibly and to tight deadlines.

#### **Volunteer, Historic Royal Palaces**

Alex worked with material from historic excavations at the Tower of London, both physical and documentary. The main objectives were to identify and catalogue the archive of Roman coins from excavations in the middle 20th century, with concurrent rationalisation and auditing of the paper archive pertaining to these excavations.

### **Select Publications**

**Bliss, A, G.** (forthcoming). *The miniature socketed axeheads of Iron Age and Roman Britain*. Currently under review with Hampshire Studies.

**Bliss, A, G** (2020). *A Pewter Oddity from the Thames Foreshore*. British Numismatic Society (BNS) Research Note

**Bliss, A, G.** (2020) *A New Reverse Legend for Rigold's Series I/C Groat-Sized 'Boy Bishop' Tokens*. British Numismatic Society (BNS) Research Note

**Bliss, A, G.** (2019) *Summarising the Corpus of 'Watford' Type Pence from the Sussex Mint of Rye, with Discussion of a Newly Discovered Cut Halfpenny*. British Numismatic Society (BNS) Research Note

**Bliss, A, G.** (2019) *Three Post-Medieval Weights from Suffolk verified at the Town of Colchester, Bearing a Previously Unknown Officiating Stamp*. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* vol. 53, part 3, pp. 293-297

**Bliss, A, G.** (2019) *Interim Report on Iron Age and Roman Coin Finds from the 2014-2019 UCL Field-Course Excavations at Downley Lodge, Singleton, West Sussex*

**Bliss, A, G.** (2017) *Late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> century copper-alloy jetton hooks*. *Finds Research Group Datasheet* 49

**Bliss, A, G.** (2017) *A New Middle Bronze Age Pin of the 'Picardy' type from Freckenham, Suffolk*. *LPFG newsletter* no. 10

**Bliss, A, G.** (2015) *The Horseman Cometh: An 11<sup>th</sup>-or 12<sup>th</sup>-Century Scabbard Chape from Clapham, West Sussex*. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 155, pp. 197-199