



Researcher Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

6 Month / 210 Hours Temporary Freelance Contract

Start Date: As soon as possible and no later than July 20 2026

End Date: Contracted hours must be completed by 31 January 2027

Salary: NLW £12.71 P/H

Agreed travel at .45p per mile.

Overall Job Purpose

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum has recently decided to expand its historical offer to the public, locally, nationally and internationally, in line with its mission to tell compelling 'stories about the soldiers of Oxfordshire and more broadly showcasing the role the military has played in our national life, seen through an Oxfordshire lens.

To achieve this the museum proposes to embark on a new enterprise aimed at offering an innovative visitor experience at the museum, working with and alongside Blenheim Palace, Woodstock.

The core outcome will be

(1) a detailed written plan for an imaginative 'Churchill Event Project', to be delivered at Blenheim and Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum with a projected start date of June 2027, and

(2) a discrete written Portfolio of a small number (4-5) of outline historical narratives, selected from the major military activities of the regiments whose archival materials form the basis of the museum's collections to be completed by 31 January 2027. Examples might be the story of the Oxfordshire Hussars' experience of both world wars and Palestine until 1947; one or two from earlier periods.

Both the plan for a 'Churchill Event' and the Portfolio of selected stories are intended to be realised as a mixture of real events and talks at Blenheim and at the museum as well as supplemented online in digital format, with a proposed start date of June 2027 (i.e. after the completion of the research that is required for them).

The role of the Researcher will be to work on these two new projects for six months under the direction of the Museum Director Ursula Corcoran and the Museum's academic advisor and trustee, Prof Anthony Glee of the University of Buckingham. Work on these projects will be Anthony Glee's chief academic commitment until 31 January 2027 and he is geared to be very actively involved in them throughout. You can access Anthony Glee's interests at <https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/directory/professor-anthony-glees/>

The Researcher will be given office space within the modern Museum, located in pleasant surroundings in the heart of historic Woodstock.

They will gain first-hand experience in translating historical material into engaging real and digital storytelling, helping to develop content suitable for social media and public engagement. This unique opportunity for a final year History student or a recent History graduate will allow the researcher to demonstrate hard evidence of their ability to research, develop and produce projects, under professional guidance from the Museum and the academic directors.

The museum sees the Researcher as equipping themselves (with full support) for an exciting future career in historical research, the media, academe or museum direction.

Specific Tasks and responsibilities:

- To develop an outline knowledge of the histories of the various regiments that incorporated the soldiers of Oxfordshire (the Civil War, the Napoleonic Wars, the Boer War and both world wars) and

(1) to write a detailed plan for a 'Churchill Event Project' to reflect Blenheim's position as a monument to Britain's military story, its connection with Winston Churchill and perhaps others whose careers are reflected in the three collections held at the museum and the Archives of Blenheim Palace as well as other key locations (e.g. the National Archives at Kew and Churchill College, Cambridge).

(2) to write short introductory text for half a dozen or so 'rich history' narratives extracted from the Museum's collections including its oral history and library, through listing, selection and basic digitisation. This will lead to the creation of an online resource with narrative description available for future researchers to access. These themes are to be developed as far as possible during this initial research period.

- To be ready to give written progress reports to the Academic and Museum Director at regular and frequent intervals.

At the end of the six month work period, the researcher, together with Professor Anthony Glees and the Museum Director, will have produced two discrete deliverables: (1) A written executive plan for the proposed Blenheim-Soldiers of Oxfordshire 'Churchill Event' Project (2) A written Portfolio of a small number (4-5) of outline historical narratives about the major military activities undertaken by the soldiers whose regiments form Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum archival collections.

And more broadly

- To provide some support to the Museum's Women and War Festival for 2027 through research into the collections; identifying and working with partners as well as creating a distinct marketing plan for the festival
- To make some contribution if feasible to the Museum's ongoing oral history project; identifying and recording new narratives.
- To develop and support all marketing plans and help run social media campaigns that take advantage of all different types of promotion and create content to maximise our messages and using the collections as inspiration for this.
- To assist in initial work to frame the museum as a prospective research hub for a national and international clientele.
- Helping things run as smoothly and safely as possible – this includes getting to know health and safety and evacuation procedures, assisting with day to day bookings and events.

Specific Skills:

- A strong interest in modern European history and, preferably, an interest in modern Military history
- Experience conducting research under supervision of using primary sources
- Proficiency in Excel and Word
- Some familiarity with museum databases

General Skills:

- A willingness to work energetically under full supervision from the Museum and the Academic Directors
- A readiness to seek to assistance at every single stage of the project work (Professor Glees is committed to providing full supervision from 1 July until 31 January 2027; he lives very close to the Museum and will take a 'hands-on' approach to supervision; the Museum Director will also be available, usually by appointment, to offer her assistance where required
- Excellent communication, coordination and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate enthusiasm, energy, adaptability and reliability
- Ability to work using initiative and without supervision where appropriate
- A good team worker
- Good initiative and judgement skills with the ability to problem solve and make appropriate decisions
- Prioritisation and organisational skills

- Ensure understanding in all relevant areas of Health and Safety, taking appropriate responsibility and action
- Excellent, relevant computer literacy skills
- Full, clean driving licence and a willingness to travel as part of the role

Skills that will be developed:

- Data entry
- Gaining media and PR presentational experience
- Written communication
- Independent research
- Content creation
- Handling sensitive data
- Ethics in research, Data collation
- Conducting interviews
- Working with oral testimonies
- Working with handwritten sources
- Digitisation of sources

To apply please send letter of application (no more than 2 sides of a4) and curriculum vitae by June 20 2026

museumdirector@sofo.org.uk

Please note we anticipate this post beginning by July 1 2026.