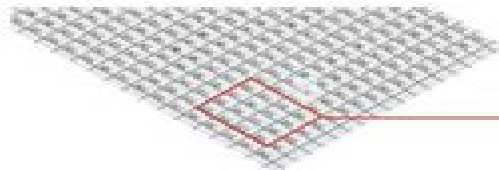


# Archaeology

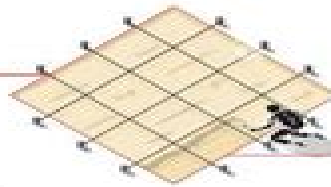
Archaeology is the science that studies evidence<sup>10</sup> found of cultural (objects, settlements) or natural (fossils) remains that characterised a particular site, always in relation to humans and their ancestors.

## HOW ARCHAEOLOGISTS WORK

**1** The piece of land to be explored is marked out in grid form and numbered.



**2** The plans are reproduced on the land itself using thread to mark out the grid lines. Then, using a trowel or spatula, a few centimetres of the land is excavated. This continues until any notable object is found, such as a fossil.



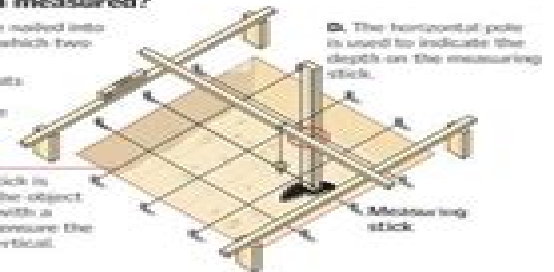
**3** If an object is found, the first task is to record its exact location; its layer, depth and coordinates on the previously marked grid are noted.

### How is depth measured?

**A.** Four stakes are nailed into the ground upon which two poles rest.

**B.** A third pole rests across the other two, and the three are levelled out.

**C.** A measuring stick is placed on top of the object being measured, with a plummet used to ensure the it is completely vertical.



### Extracting an archaeological remain

**4** To avoid the object breaking, in this case, a fossil, cracks are sealed with lacquer or contact adhesives.

**5** Once the fossil is exposed, finer tools are used to work with it, such as burins, sharp points or brushes.



### Transportation to the laboratory

**6** Once the upper part of the fossil has been excavated, it is covered with with absorbent paper, and later encased with water.

**7** The fossil is covered with plaster to form a solid block, to avoid damage to the fossil while it is transported. Once the plaster has set, the piece is removed from the ground.



**8** In the laboratory the plaster is removed and, on a bed of sand using precise instruments, the last bits of rock stuck to the fossil are removed, and the fossil is now ready to be analysed.

Cracks are filled in using lacquer and the surface is protected.



### HOW IS A FOSSIL'S AGE CALCULATED?

The most common method is to use Carbon 14, or C14. This is based on measuring traces of Carbon 14, a form of radioactive carbon, that degrades and disappears over time.

#### A. Carbon 14 in human beings

Human beings constantly replace C14 while they are alive, which is extracted from the atmosphere.



#### B. In fossil remains

When human remains die, C14 failed to be replaced and was lost at a constant rate, allowing their age to be calculated.



#### C. Measurement

The age of a fossil can be predicted by measuring the quantity of C14 that still remains in it.



#### UPDATE

This method was based on the assumption that there had been a constant level of C14 in the atmosphere for thousands of years. It was later revealed that this was not the case. Therefore, correction methods were used, known as Calibration Curves. In spite of this, it continues to be used as the method for dating organic materials.

### SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



# Techniques Of Archaeological Excavation

**Ying Liu**



## **Techniques Of Archaeological Excavation:**

**Techniques of Archaeological Excavation** Philip Barker, 1993 Immediately hailed as the standard work and one of the most widely used archaeological field manuals Philip Barker's survey of current excavation techniques now in its third edition remains an indispensable guide for archaeologists [Techniques of Archaeological Excavation](#) Philip Barker, 1993

**Techniques of Archaeological Excavation** Philip Barker, 1983 [P. Barker, Techniques of archaeological excavation](#) Alessandro Guidi, 1982 [Techniques If Archaeological Excavation](#) Philip Barker, 1977 *Conservation Practices on Archaeological Excavations* Corrado Pedeli, Stefano Pulga, 2014-02-01 The relationship between archaeology and conservation has long been complex and at times challenging Archaeologists are often seen as interested principally in excavation and research while conservators are concerned mainly with stabilization and the prevention of deterioration Yet it is often initial conservation in the field that determines the long term survival and intelligibility of both moveable artifacts and fixed architectural features This user friendly guide to conservation practices on archaeological excavations covers both structures and artifacts starting from the moment when they are uncovered Individual chapters discuss excavation and conservation environmental and soil issues deterioration identification and condition assessment detachment and removal initial cleaning coverings and shelters packing and documentation There are also eight appendixes Geared primarily for professionals engaged in the physical practice of excavation this book will also interest archaeologists archaeological conservators site managers conservation scientists museum curators and students of archaeology and conservation

**Practical Archaeology** Brian D. Dillon, 1993-12-31 Useful and instructive papers advocating the value of practical considerations in the field addressing common problems from the real world of archaeology and proposing real solutions that have proven successful through trial and error Includes papers on the chemical reduction of clay matrices methods of establishing precise provenience in archaeological excavations surface collecting with the aid of transits simplified mapping techniques the use of X rays in artifact analysis archaeological surveying from muleback choosing and maintaining an archaeological field vehicle and the use of small boats in archaeological investigations *Field Methods and Post-Excavation Techniques in Late Antique Archaeology*, 2016-04-26 Archaeologists working on late antique sites have not spent enough time thinking about methodology Their focus has been on recovering and cataloguing evidence or on the study of specific historical problems Digging has often been more important than publishing which has rarely extended beyond the basic summaries found in preliminary reports The re emergence of clearance excavation fuelled by the demands of tourism has further reduced the value of urban excavations in the East Mediterranean Here late antique levels have suffered in the hunt for photogenic early imperial architecture This volume attempts to address this situation by offering a critique of present practice and a series of exemplars alongside discussion articles on field technique and post excavation analysis The articles ranges from urban survey to the study of finds The book also considers if we need to develop specific field methods

appropriate to the study of late antiquity Contributors are John Bintliff Jeremy Evans Axel Gering Stefan Groh Yoshiki Hori Nikolaos D Karydis Veli K se Luke Lavan Zsolt Magyar Philip Mills John Pearce Steve Roskams Helga Sedlmayer Ellen Swift Itamar Taxel Douglas Underwood Lutgarde Vandeput and Joe Williams      **Digging Up the Past** John Collis,1996-11-07 This concise and fully illustrated introduction to methods of excavation describes a technique that is essential for all kinds of archaeology It presents new ideas on excavation techniques and challenges traditional approaches to site organisation and recording John Collis uses his 40 years of excavation experience to recommend practical solutions to problems and considers the impact of computerisation and other technical innovations He also describes the history and development of archaeological excavation which provides a background to the methods employed today This practical common sense guide should find a place on the bookshelf of everyone who practices archaeology on a professional or amateur basis and is illuminating reading for anyone who wants to understand how archaeologists can recover the past by digging in the soil

**Standards of Archaeological Excavation** Geoffrey John Tassie, Lawrence S. Owens, 2010 Accompanying CD ROM contains recording forms diameter chart and abridged standards CD ROM label      *Digging in the Dirt* European Association of Archaeologists. Meeting, 2004 This volume collects papers presented at a series of sessions at EAA and UISPP conferences These were originally conceived as a response to theoretical approaches to archaeology from the perspective of fieldwork and practical archaeological methods and as a way of bringing together international scholars to compare archaeological techniques Lectures covering such topics as pre excavation survey post excavation and stratigraphic analysis and contrasting national methods of excavation brought the discussion much further than had been anticipated as the proceedings show excavation techniques differ between countries to a degree not found in such hard sciences as biology chemistry or physics The contributors here present a range of methodological diversity in accounts of how archaeologists dig in their countries stratigraphically non stratigraphically with different documentation systems tools terminology ties with geologists and geoarchaeologists ways of training and organising workers and more      Excavation David L. Carmichael, Robert H. Lafferty III, Brian Leigh Molyneaux, 2003-10-22 Excavation is traditionally considered the heart of the archaeological enterprise But it is an activity transformed over the past two decades of increasingly contract based work Carmichael and Lafferty lay out the basics of this brand of excavation for the novice reader in this handy practical guide After outlining the ethical concerns in archaeological excavation and the history of the endeavor the authors walk the reader through the steps of contemporary excavation site identification remote sensing test excavation and various scales of recovery They also deal with the complex issues of human burials uncovered in excavation Written in an accessible practical way Carmichael and Lafferty s guide will be useful to students field school attendees and other novice fieldworkers      **Field Methods in Archaeology** Thomas R Hester, Harry J Shafer, Kenneth L Feder, 2016-09-16 Field Methods in Archaeology has been the leading source for instructors and students in archaeology courses and field schools for 60 years since it was first authored in 1949 by the legendary

Robert Heizer Left Coast has arranged to put the most recent Seventh Edition back into print after a brief hiatus making this classic textbook again available to the next generation of archaeology students This comprehensive guide provides an authoritative overview of the variety of methods used in field archaeology from research design to survey and excavation strategies to conservation of artifacts and record keeping Authored by three leading archaeologists with specialized contributions by several other experts this volume deals with current issues such as cultural resource management relations with indigenous peoples and database management as well as standard methods of archaeological data collection and analysis

**The UNESCO Training Manual for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean** Netherlands. Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Cultural Heritage

Agency, UNESCO, 2021-03-10 De Engelstalige UNESCO Training Manual for the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean is samen met UNESCO ontwikkeld en vormt de basis voor trainingen in onderwater cultureel erfgoedbeheer in Latijns Amerika en de Cara ben Het is een vervolg op een eerder verschenen trainingsmanual 2012 waarin gefocused werd op Azi en de Pacifische regio uitgever

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**Principles and Techniques of Archaeology** Mr. Rohit Manglik, 2024-02-16 EduGorilla Publication is a trusted name in the education sector committed to empowering learners with high quality study materials and resources Specializing in competitive exams and academic support EduGorilla provides comprehensive and well structured content tailored to meet the needs of students across various streams and levels

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**British and Irish Archaeology**, 1994

Maritime Archaeology Jeremy Green, 2016-12-05 Jeremy Green s systematic overview of maritime archaeology offers a step by step description of this fast growing field With new information about the use of computers and Global Positioning Systems the second edition of this handbook shows how to extract as much information as possible from a site how to record and document the data and how to act ethically and responsibly with the artifacts Treating underwater archaeology as a discipline the book demonstrates how archaeologists looters academics and governments interact and how the market for archaeological artifacts creates obstacles and opportunities for these groups Well illustrated and comprehensive in its approach to the subject this book provides an essential foundation for everybody interested in underwater environments submerged land structures and conditions created by sea level changes

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