

Tees Archaeology

Shovel Pit Record

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Address | | | | |
| Test Pit Number: | | Name | | Date |
| Layer | Depth in m | Description follow prompts to right | Finds | Prompts Colour e.g. <i>brown, grey</i> Texture e.g. <i>loose or hard</i> Composition e.g. <i>sand, clayey</i> Natural inclusions e.g. <i>few pebbles, large stone etc</i> |
| 1 | | | | |
| Layer | Depth in m | Description follow prompts to right | Finds | Prompts Colour e.g. <i>brown, grey</i> Texture e.g. <i>loose or hard</i> Composition e.g. <i>sand, clayey</i> Natural inclusions e.g. <i>few pebbles, large stone etc</i> |
| 2 | | | | |
| Layer | Depth in m | Description follow prompts to right | Finds | Prompts Colour e.g. <i>brown, grey</i> Texture e.g. <i>loose or hard</i> Composition e.g. <i>sand, clayey</i> Natural inclusions e.g. <i>few pebbles, large stone etc</i> |
| 3 | | | | |
| Layer | Depth in m | Description follow prompts to right | Finds | Prompts Colour e.g. <i>brown, grey</i> Texture e.g. <i>loose or hard</i> Composition e.g. <i>sand, clayey</i> Natural inclusions e.g. <i>few pebbles, large stone etc</i> |
| 4 | | | | |

Instructions

Digging

1. Use a spade and remove a square of turf about 0.3m x 0.3m, put this to one side.
2. Scrape the newly exposed surface and fill in the information for Layer 1
3. Dig down about 5cm and scrape the surface flat, fill in the information for Layer 2. Look through the material you have excavated to see if there are any finds you have missed.
4. Dig down about 5cm and scrape the surface flat, fill in the information for Layer 3. Look through the material you have excavated to see if there are any finds you have missed.
5. You can dig to about 0.35m like this.
6. Once you have finished recording fill the hole back in, stamp the earth down and put the turf back on.





Finds

1. Put the finds from each layer in a separate bag, mark the shovel pit number and layer number on the bag e.g. Test Pit 1, Layer 1 or abbreviate to TP1/1, TP 1/2 etc. It is better to keep anything you are not sure about and throw it away later
2. Get an old washbasin or similar and put some water in it and find an old toothbrush.
3. Wash the finds a bag at a time and keep the finds from each bag separate with a layer clearly showing which pit and layer the finds have come from.
4. Let the finds dry before you put them back in the bag, usually takes about a day.
5. Once you have washed the finds check what you wrote about the finds for each layer and change if necessary.



Dating Finds

You can use the internet to find out your finds, but there are some examples of the most common finds below. Pottery is the most common find along with animal bone from meals:-

| Period | | |
|--|---|--|
| Roman 43 – 410 AD |  <p data-bbox="555 584 775 618">Samian Pottery</p> |  <p data-bbox="1027 712 1222 745">Huntcliff ware</p> |
| Medieval 1066 – 1540 AD |  | |
| Post – Medieval Pottery 1540 – 1914 AD |  | |

Clay Pipes
1600 – 1900 AD



Animal Bone



Finds from the Beach

Copper Rivets



Ships Timbers and
wooden nails
(trenails) used to
hold them together



Items of Rigging
Sheave blocks from
pulleys and part of
standing rigging to
hold masts up

