Tees Archaeology   Shovel Pit Record

Address					

Shovel Pit Number:		Name		Date	

Layer	Depth in m	Description follow prompts to right	Finds	Prompts
1				**Colour** e.g. *brown, grey* **Texture** e.g. *loose* or *hard* **Composition** e.g. *sand, clayey* **Natural inclusions** e.g. *few pebbles, large stone etc*
2				**Colour** e.g. *brown, grey* **Texture** e.g. *loose* or *hard* **Composition** e.g. *sand, clayey* **Natural inclusions** e.g. *few pebbles, large stone etc*
3				**Colour** e.g. *brown, grey* **Texture** e.g. *loose* or *hard* **Composition** e.g. *sand, clayey* **Natural inclusions** e.g. *few pebbles, large stone etc*
4				**Colour** e.g. *brown, grey* **Texture** e.g. *loose* or *hard* **Composition** e.g. *sand, clayey* **Natural inclusions** e.g. *few pebbles, large stone etc*

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 0.35cm 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. Shovel Pit 1, Layer 1 or abbreviate to SP1/1, SP 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	 Samian Pottery	 Huntcliff ware
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	