

FIELD TOOLS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Brush - A number of types of brushes (ranging from artist's small fine pointed brushes, to painter brushes to whisk brooms are commonly used by archaeologist to gently sweep soil and dirt from an artifact or feature, and to keep the unit clean of loose dirt.

Compass - Used to orient the grid square when lying out a site or for mapping a site location on topographic map.

Flat Edged Shovel - To gently scrape away thin layers of earth while maintaining a flat surface.

Maps - Political and topographic maps that are used to note the location of a site.

Paper Bags - Used to hold small artifacts recovered at a site. Each bag is marked to indicate when and where artifacts were uncovered.

Sieve - A strainer or wire mesh screen used to separate small artifacts from loose soil.

Stakes and String - Used to divide an archaeological dig site into squares.

Surveying Transit - An instrument used to correctly plot excavation units, features, and archaeological sites.

Trowel - A mason's hand tool used by archaeologist to gently scrape away thin layers of soil.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION PROCESS

1. Research site location possibilities based on oral tradition, old maps, documents and other available information.
2. Walk around the site and look for clues on the surface to establish the site boundaries.
3. Map and lay out grids on site.
4. Dig to find clues to the past.
5. Maintain detailed records, photographs and maps of the excavation process in order to make competent interpretation and documentation of relevant materials.
6. Clean, classify and catalog artifacts.
7. Research and compare results with other sites.
8. Interpretation of data.

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