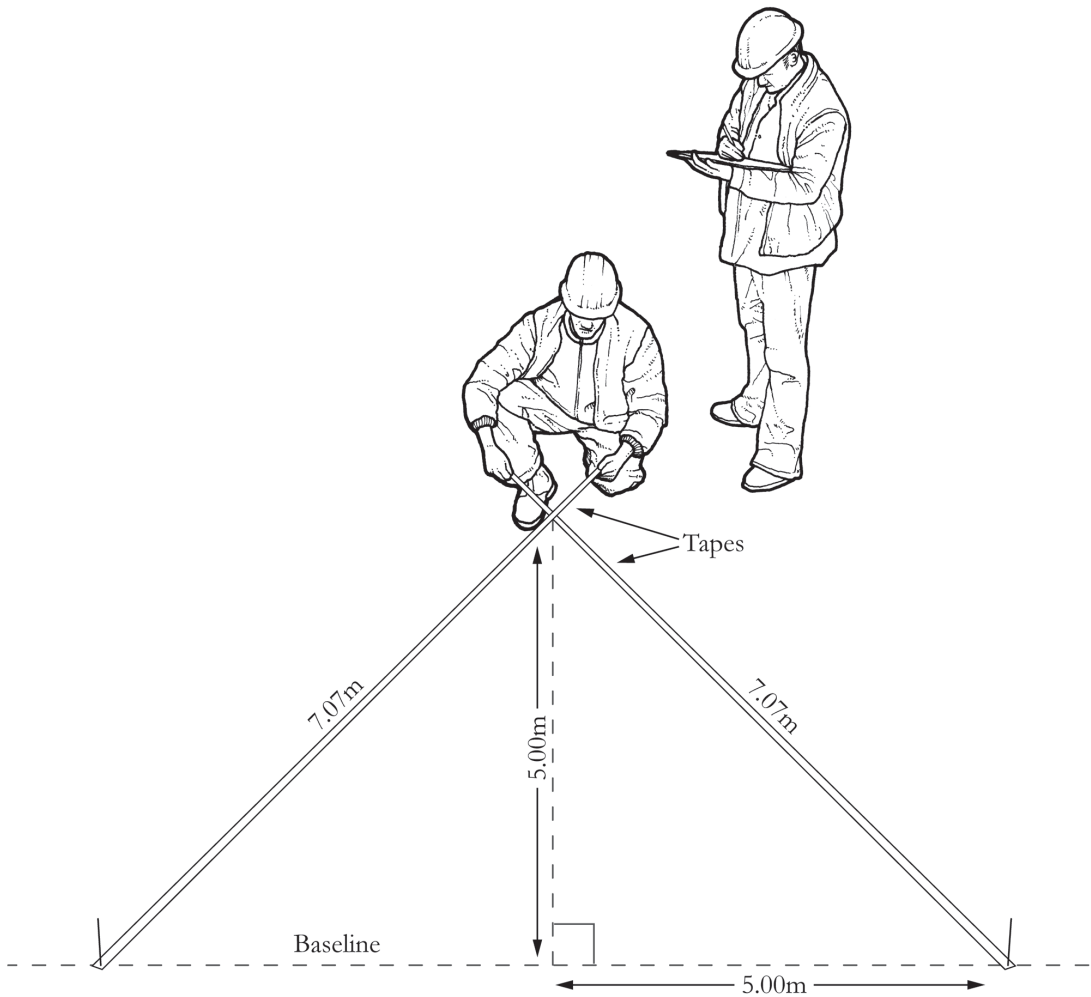


Archaeology



Paul Wilkinson



ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Summertown Pavilion

18-24 Middle Way

Summertown

Oxford OX2 7LG

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978-1-78969-531-1



Archaeology

What it is, where it is, and how to do it

© Paul Wilkinson 2007

First published in 2007. This edition published in 2020.

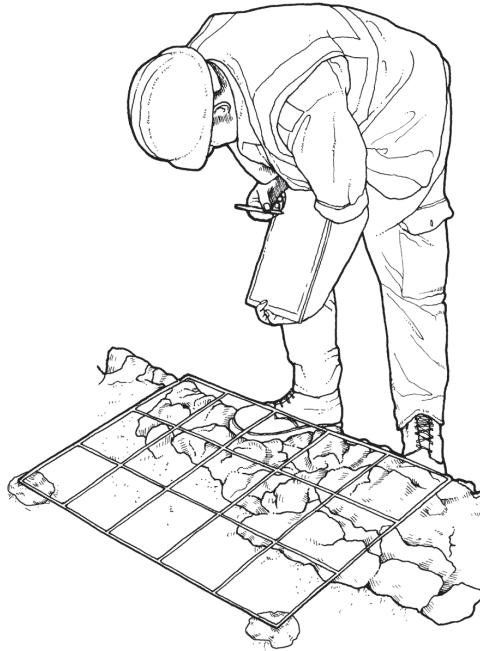
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

Printed in England by Severn, Gloucester

This book is available direct from Archaeopress or from our website www.archaeopress.com

Archaeology

What it is, where it is, and how
to do it



Paul Wilkinson



The thrill of archaeology: Pottery sherds, one of the building blocks of field archaeology which help to identify and date sites.

The study of pottery is important for three reasons. Firstly, to date sites and contexts when other datable objects are lacking; secondly, pottery provides information about trade and distribution; thirdly, it furthers the understanding of ceramics themselves.

This book could not have been written without the help and advice of many archaeologists and tutors of the Kent Archaeological Field School.

In particular:

The specialists of the Museum of London, MoLSS and MoLAS

Archaeologists of English Heritage

Paul Cuming, Sites and Monuments Record Manager, Kent County Council

Damian Grady, Senior Investigator, Aerial Survey, English Heritage

Michael Lewis, Deputy Head of Portable Antiquities, British Museum

Andy Payne, Archaeometry Branch, English Heritage

Peter Rowsome, Senior Manager, MoLSS

Ges Moody, Emma Boast, Trust for Thanet Archaeology

Geoff Morley, archaeologist

Dr Robert Prescott, Institute of Maritime Studies, University of St Andrews,

Catherine Wilkinson, archaeologist

Artwork by Will Foster, Monitos.art@virgin.net

Contents

List of figures.....	6
Introduction.....	9
Chapter One: Documentary Sources.....	10
Chapter Two: Aerial Survey for Archaeologists.....	22
Chapter Three: Ground Survey.....	32
Chapter Four: Archaeological Field Survey.....	40
Chapter Five: Site Excavation and the Site Grid.....	47
Chapter Six: Recording Methods: The drawn record.....	62
Chapter Seven: Recording Methods: The written record.....	72
Chapter Eight: Recording Stone and Timber.....	78
Chapter Nine: Recording Skeletons.....	84
Chapter Ten: Soil Sampling.....	87
Chapter Eleven: Small Finds.....	92
Chapter Twelve: What Next?.....	96
Suggested Reading.....	98
Index.....	99

List of Figures

Chapter One

- Fig 1. The SMR data around Star Hill, Bridge.
- Fig 2. OS map of Whitstable in 1798.
- Fig 3. Estate map of Pigeon House Field in Teynham.
- Fig 4. Estate map of 1623.
- Fig 5. Comparison of an estate map of 1623 and recent discoveries in 2004.
- Fig 6. Seventeenth century map of the fishing ground of the Faversham Oyster Company.
- Fig 7. Map of the beacons of Kent drawn by Lambarde.
- Fig 8. Map by Andrews, Drury & Herbert, 1769.
- Fig 9. John Rocques map of 1746.
- Fig 10. Sixteenth century map of Faversham.
- Fig 11. Map detail of Faversham painted by Edward Jacob circa 1760.
- Fig 12. Edward Jacobs engraved map of Faversham circa 1774
- Fig 13. The c.1789 Ordnance Surveyors drawing of Faversham.
- Fig 14. The 1801 Ordnance Survey map of Kent
- Fig 15. The 1:25.000 scale OS map of Teynham in Kent.
- Fig 16. The 1867 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of Milton Creek in Kent.
- Fig 17. Ordnance Survey Siteplan and Superplan.
- Fig 18. An early map of Faversham.

Chapter Two

- Fig 19. An oblique aerial photograph of Stonehenge taken in 1907.
- Fig 20. A 1946 vertical aerial photograph showing a hexagon feature near Bridge, Kent.
- Fig 21. Photographs taken from an aircraft.
- Fig 22. An oblique aerial photograph taken in 2004.
- Fig 23. The vertical aerial photograph of a motte and bailey castle.
- Fig 24. Vertical aerial photograph of a shadow site and Stonehenge at dawn.
- Fig 25. Artwork showing the formation of a ditch.

- Fig 26. Part of the double ditch of the Roman frontier in Germany.
- Fig 27. Aerial photograph of Neolithic, Bronze Age sites and Silbury Hill.
- Fig 28. Two oblique air photographs of Roman villas in France.
- Fig 29. Crop marks showing the buried remains of Roman buildings in Germany.
- Fig 30. An oblique air photograph of a deserted shrunken medieval village at Goxhill.
- Page 31. False-colour infra-red air photograph of a Roman temple site in France, and soil marks in a field near Faversham.

Chapter Three

- Fig 31. Artifact collection from the plough zone.
- Fig 32. A typical field recording form.
- Fig 33. A method of field walking.
- Fig 34. Field walking results
- Fig 35. Zones of survey areas.
- Fig 36. Geophysical survey of a Roman villa.
- Fig 37. A colour enhanced geophysical survey of the Archbishops palace at Teynham.
- Fig 38. Resistivity survey of the Roman town of Durolevum near Ospringe, Faversham, Kent.
- Fig 39. Time slices using ground penetrating radar and aerial photograph of route of road.

Chapter Four

- Fig 40. The Rollright stones in Oxfordshire.
- Fig 41. Julian Richards explaining landscape survey at Syndale Park, Kent.
- Fig 42. Hachure depiction of earthworks.
- Fig 43. Two plans of Mount Caburn.
- Fig 44. A reconstruction of the Roman aisled building at Hog Brook, Faversham, Kent.

Chapter Five

- Fig 45. National Grid reference.
- Fig 46. Six and eight figure grid references.
- Fig 47. Fixing the position of a site grid.
- Fig 48. Site grid in operation.
- Fig 49. Setting out a right angle.

Fig 50. Extending the site grid.
Fig 51. Marking the site grid co-ordinates.
Fig 52. Labelling your grid with an alpha-numeric system.
Fig 53. Ordnance Survey bench marks.
Fig 54. Ordnance Survey bench marks on maps.
Fig 55. The surveyors assistant.
Fig 56. Setting up the tripod.
Fig 57. A survey team at work.
Fig 58. A typical automatic level.
Fig 59. Typical cross-hairs (stadia lines).
Fig 60. The digital electronic theodolite.
Fig 61. A survey-grade GPS machine in use.
Page 61. Contour model of the topography of Yeavinger Bell (English Heritage).

Chapter Six

Fig 62. Site archive.
Fig 63. The multi-context plan.
Fig 64. The single-context plan.
Fig 65. Section drawing.
Fig 66. Using the planning frame.
Fig 67. Plan of a single feature.
Fig 68. Location of features.
Fig 69. Various types of hachures.
Fig 70. How to set up a section drawing.
Fig 71. A typical plan drawing.
Fig 72. Hachures.
Fig 73. Time Team survey in action.

Chapter Seven

Fig 74. An example of a completed Context Recording Sheet.
Fig 75. Recording a post hole.
Fig 76. Part of a site plan.
Fig 77. Excavating a Roman building.
Fig 78. Roman fluted column.
Fig 79. Excavation at Star Hill, Bridge, Kent..
Fig 80. Recording a Roman site.
Fig 81. A Masonry Recording Sheet.
Fig 82. Excavation and dating of wall footings.
Fig 83. The main styles of stone finish and coursing.

Fig 84. Brick styles.
Fig 85. The main types of brick bonding.
Fig 86. The main types of timber conversion.

Chapter Nine

Fig 87. The main bones of the human skeleton.
Fig 88. The human osteologist will decide on the collection policy of skeletons.

Chapter Ten

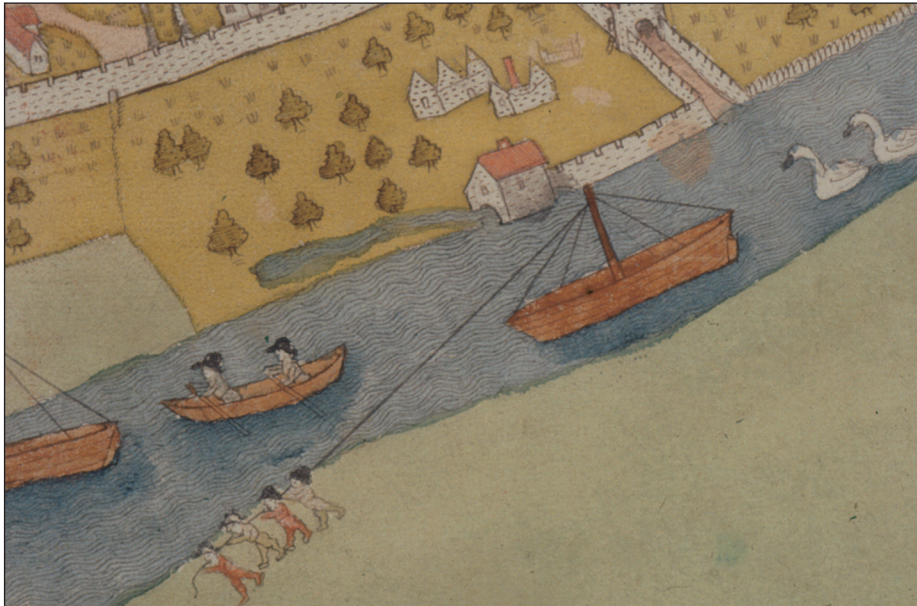
Fig 89. The Carabidae beetle.
Fig 90. Visual key for estimating grain size of sands (English Heritage).
Fig 91. Plant recovery by water flotation.
Fig 92. The stratigraphy of a ditch.

Chapter Eleven

Fig 93. Coins from the Roman period.
Fig 94. Stained glass fragments.
Fig 95. The world famous 'Seahenge' and conservation in the field.
Fig 96. Conserving Bronze Age pots and x-ray techniques.

Chapter Twelve

Fig 97. The future of archaeology.
Fig 98. Young archaeologists.



The potential of archaeology is shown in this wonderful estate map of part of the city of Gloucester. The city walls and the tidal mill are shown functioning in the sixteenth century.

These structures are now Heritage Sites whilst the roofless buildings, already in ruins on the map, have now disappeared, but they could survive below the turf as buried archaeology.

INTRODUCTION



This book has been written as a practical introduction on the investigation of the material remains of the past which can be interpreted with contemporary historical and literary evidence. The book also explains where to find this evidence and what to do next.

Every archaeological field activity needs to be recorded. If it is not, the opportunity to provide evidence and understanding of our past is lost and in many cases the evidence is forgotten.

Our landscape, both rural and urban, is one of the most important historical documents that we have, and we can unravel it by observation, investigation and recording. But we need to survey and record our archaeological activities in the field to a standard which is acceptable to the profession today. It is also worth remembering that the great archaeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, once said ‘a site is not discovered until it is published’.

It is well to remember that archaeology in the field is not to be carried out just for its own sake, but as a means to create new knowledge, to revise theory and to interpret existing evidence in new ways. Although this book can serve to provide a basic explanation of archaeological practice it is worth remembering that every facet of this wonderful, exciting

discipline will need careful study and lots of experience - which will come in time.

All intrusive archaeological investigations should be supervised by a registered Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), who will maintain standards. The IFA was established to define and maintain proper professional standards. All archaeologists undertaking field investigations must have adequate insurance; advice is available from the IFA (tel: 0118 378 6446, admin@archaeologists.net) or the Council of British Archaeology (CBA), tel: 01904 671417, admin@britarch.ac.uk.

Archaeology courses are held at educational establishments across the country. But many

students do find it difficult to gain access to practical courses and training excavations. Do consult the CBA or ‘Current Archaeology’, or try my own organisation, the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS). Our courses cover all aspects of archaeology and are suitable for anyone with an interest in archaeology. Previous experience is unnecessary and beginners are welcome. Training excavations are fully supervised by professional archaeologists and are structured as taught courses.

The KAFS operates a membership scheme, and benefits include subscription to the *Practical Archaeology* magazine and priority booking. Details of courses and membership forms can be found on our website: www.kafs.co.uk; or tel: 01795 532548; or email: info.kafs.co.uk.

Dr Paul Wilkinson

