

# FISH TERMINOLOGIES

## Archaeological Science Thesaurus

Report Format: Hierarchical listing - alpha

Notes: Techniques, recovery methods and materials.

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## ALPHA SPECTROMETRY

- SN A technique that uses the emission of alpha particles of specific energies to identify the presence and concentration of certain radioactive isotopes in a sample
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

## ALTERED BY ANIMALS

- SN Modified or damaged by an animal.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

## AMINO ACID RACEMISATION

- SN The measurement of chemical alterations in the amino acids in protein molecules from bones, shells and teeth. Date range can be between 1,000 and several million years.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

## ANCIENT BIOMOLECULAR ANALYSIS

- SN Characterisation of organic molecules extracted from fossil or sub-fossil materials, including lipids, DNA etc.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

## ANOXIC

- UF Waterlogged
- SN Material preserved by the exclusion of oxygen usually due to saturation with water which inhibits decay by micro-organisms.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

## ANTLER

- SN Outgrowths of bone borne by most members of the deer family (Cervidae). They are shed and regrow each year.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## ARCHAEOMAGNETISM

- SN Measures the remanent magnetisation direction of magnetic minerals. Useful for dating fired structures, in-situ since their last firing, and for sediments settling from non turbulent water bodies. In the UK, calibration data extends back to 1000BC.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

## ASPECT

- CL ASPECT
- NT HUMAN ASPECTS
- NATURAL ASPECTS

## AVAILABLE PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

- SN The analysis of the amount of phosphorus (P) (liable fraction) available to plants.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT SOIL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

## BEACH DEPOSIT

- SN A deposit formed by wave and tidal action on an estuarine or marine beach.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## BIOGENIC CARBONATE

- SN Any carbonate material produced by biological activity, for instance operculae of snails.

- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

- SN A technique in which the date is deduced from the presence of fauna and/or flora considered to be characteristic of a given period of time or that gives an indication of a probable date.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

## BLOCK LIFTING

- SN The removal of fragile or complex remains from an investigation as a block of earth for excavation under laboratory conditions. Typical examples are grave goods and cremation burials.
- CL METHOD OF RECOVERY

## BONE

- SN Any of the pieces of hard tissue consisting largely of calcium phosphate that make up the skeleton of a vertebrate animal.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## BRICK

- SN Material used for construction, commonly fired in its manufacture.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## Bulk Sampling

- USE **COARSE SIEVING**

## BURNT

- UF Burnt Deposit
- SN Use for material that has been burnt.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE
- NT CALCINED
- CHARRED
- SILICIFIED

## Burnt Deposit

- USE **BURNT**
- SN A deposit that has been burnt and has since been removed from its original location. Use BURNT and appropriate object or material type.

## BURNT FLINT

- SN A form of silica, similar to quartz. Commonly black or white in colour and used for tool manufacture. Flints heated in antiquity may be dated using thermoluminescence.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## C14 Dating

- USE **RADIOCARBON DATING**

## CALCINED

- UF Cremated
- SN Material burnt at high temperature (above 700 degrees Celsius) leaving only the mineral component.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE
- BT BURNT

## Carbon 14 Dating

- USE **RADIOCARBON DATING**

## Carbon Dating

- USE **RADIOCARBON DATING**

Carbonised

USE **CHARRED**

**CARVED**

CL ASPECT  
BT WORKED

**CHARCOAL**

SN Wood that has been burnt and largely reduced to carbon as a result of burning in a reducing atmosphere below 500 degrees C (Celsius).  
CL MATERIAL TYPE  
BT WOOD  
NT MICRO-CHARCOAL  
ROUNDWOOD  
TWIG  
RT CHARRED

**CHARRED**

UF Carbonised  
SN Material that has been burnt and at least in part reduced to carbon as a result of burning in a reducing atmosphere below 500 degrees Celsius.  
CL MODIFICATION STATE  
BT BURNT  
RT CHARCOAL

**CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES**

SN Examination of a material using chemical means.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
NT ALPHA SPECTROMETRY  
ANCIENT BIOMOLECULAR ANALYSIS  
GAMMA SPECTROMETRY  
MULTI-ELEMENT ANALYSIS  
PEAT HUMIFICATION  
PH DETERMINATION  
SOIL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS  
SPOT TEST  
STABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSIS

**CHEMICALLY ALTERED**

SN Material that has been altered as a result of chemical action.  
CL MODIFICATION STATE

**CLAST LITHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

SN The identification and grouping of stone types in stratigraphy.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

**COARSE SIEVING**

UF Bulk Sampling  
SN The method of retrieving animal remains, artefacts and other remains by dry or wet-sieving whole earth samples, typically over 100 litres, sieved through a 2mm or larger mesh.  
CL METHOD OF RECOVERY

Colored

USE **COLOURED**

**COLOURED**

UF Colored  
SN Material with evidence of the application of a pigment or dye.  
CL ASPECT  
BT WORKED

**COPPER ALLOY**

SN Use for a combination (alloy) of two or more different metals where copper (Cu) is the principal component.  
CL MATERIAL TYPE  
BT NON-FERROUS METAL

**COPROLITE**

SN Waste material from the digestive tract of animals. The term coprolite comes from the Greek 'kopros' meaning dung and 'lithos' meaning stone, and is used for faecal matter that has been preserved by mineral replacement or dessication.  
CL MATERIAL TYPE

Cremated

USE **CALCINED**

**DATING TECHNIQUES**

SN Techniques applied to a material in order to date it or material associated with it. Use more specific terms.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
NT AMINO ACID RACEMISATION  
ARCHAEOMAGNETISM  
BIOSTRATIGRAPHY  
DENDROCHRONOLOGY  
ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE  
FISSION TRACK ANALYSIS  
FLUORINE, URANIUM AND NITROGEN TESTS  
LEAD ISOTOPE DATING  
LUMINESCENCE DATING  
MITOCHONDRIAL DNA  
OBSIDIAN HYDRATION  
OXYGEN ISOTOPE ANALYSIS  
POTASSIUM ARGON DATING  
RADIOCARBON DATING  
TEPHROCHRONOLOGY  
URANIUM SERIES DATING

**DECORATED**

UF Decoration  
SN Use where decoration is present.  
CL ASPECT  
BT WORKED

Decoration

USE **DECORATED**

**DENDROCHRONOLOGY**

SN The measuring of annual tree-ring growth shown by most tree species in temperated regions. Regional chronologies are required to date any particular piece of wood, the longest of which, for Germany, works for the present to approximately 14,000 yrs ago.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT DATING TECHNIQUES  
RT TREE-RING ANALYSIS

**DESICCATED**

SN Material preserved due to very low humidity which inhibits decay by micro-organisms.  
CL MODIFICATION STATE

Disease

USE **PATHOLOGY**

Diseased

USE **PATHOLOGY**

**EGG SHELL**

- SN Use for the remains of an egg whether from a bird, reptile or amphibian.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE**

- SN The measurement of trapped electrons by exposure to high-frequency electromagnetic radiation. A useful technique for dating tooth enamel, shells, coral and calcite from 5,000-1,000,000 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

**ESTUARINE DEPOSIT**

- SN An alluvial deposit laid down in an estuary.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**FEATHER**

- SN Use for feathers, an epidermal growth found in birds consisting of a quill, shaft and two vanes of barbs.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**FELDSPAR**

- SN A group of aluminosilicate minerals with varying compositions. The most common mineral in igneous rocks, and common in other rocks and sediments.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT

**FERROUS METAL**

- SN Any metal principally composed of the chemical element Iron (Fe).
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT METAL

**FIBRE**

- SN Use for any thread-like material.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**FISSION TRACK ANALYSIS**

- SN A technique for the dating of damage tracks in volcanic materials caused by the fissioning of decaying radioactive uranium (U) isotopes. Useful in samples more than 50,000 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

**FLOT**

- SN The material which floats during the floatation of samples as a means of recovering charred plant remains from an archaeological context.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**FLOTATION**

- SN Method used for the recovering of material by floating large whole earth samples, usually between 40-60 litres per context (or 100% if context contains less than this).
- CL METHOD OF RECOVERY

**FLUORINE, URANIUM AND NITROGEN TESTS**

- SN A relative dating technique for assessing bones from the same deposit. Often used to check for

contemporaneity of bones selected for radiocarbon dating or to check for hoaxes such as the Piltdown Man.

- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

Fossilised

USE **MINERAL REPLACED**

**FUNGAL DAMAGE**

- SN Material that has been damaged by fungal growth or secretions.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

**GAMMA SPECTROMETRY**

- SN A technique that uses the emission of gamma rays of specific energies to identify the presence and concentration of certain radioactive isotopes in a sample
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

**GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT**

- SN A material composed of mineral grains derived from the breakdown of rocks by environmental processes.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- NT FELDSPAR  
POLYMINERAL  
QUARTZ  
ZIRCON

**GOLD**

- SN A precious metal characterised by its yellow colour and resistance to tarnishing.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT NON-FERROUS METAL

**HAIR**

- SN Use for hair, fur etc: filaments growing out of the outermost layer of mammalian skin.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

**HAND RETRIEVAL**

- SN The retrieval of material from deposits by hand, normally large objects visible with the naked eye, eg. Mammal remains and marine molluscs.
- CL METHOD OF RECOVERY

Heavy Residue

USE **RESIDUE**

**HUMAN ASPECTS**

- SN Aspects of a material which result from the modification or use of the material by humans.
- CL ASPECT
- NT MANUFACTURING DEBRIS  
WORKED

**HYDROLYSIS**

- SN The chemical breakdown of a material by water.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

**IMPRESSION**

- SN The negative trace left by an object type or material (eg. animal, plant or textile) on another object type or material, often on ceramics or metal corrosion products.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

## INFRA-RED STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE

- UF IrsI
- IrsI Dating
- SN The light emitted from sedimentary minerals or mineral inclusions in bricks when stimulated in the laboratory by infrared light. Used to date samples up to 250,000 years old; especially appropriate for geological sediments containing feldspars
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT LUMINESCENCE DATING

## INORGANIC PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

- SN The analysis of inorganic phosphorus (P).
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT SOIL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

## INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- NT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES
- DATING TECHNIQUES
- PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

IrsI

USE **INFRA-RED STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE**

IrsI Dating

USE **INFRA-RED STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE**

## IVORY

- SN Use for a tusk or tooth of a mammal large enough to be carved or used to make objects such as those of mammoths, elephants, walrus and whales.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT TOOTH

## LEAD ISOTOPE DATING

- SN A technique which uses the measurement of decay in radioactive lead (Pb) isotopes to determine a date. Useful for sediments and lead-based paints between 1 and 400 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

## LEATHER

- SN Animal skin that has been tanned or tawed.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- RT SKIN

## LOSS ON IGNITION DETERMINATION

- SN The weight loss from low-temperature burning of material. It correlates well with organic matter (material derived from living things) content.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

## LUMINESCENCE DATING

- SN A range of techniques that use the build up of charge stored within a crystalline material to estimate its age
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES
- NT INFRA-RED STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE
- OPTICALLY STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE
- THERMOLUMINESCENCE

## MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY

- SN The degree to which a material will become magnetised when placed in a magnetic field.

- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

## MANUFACTURING DEBRIS

- SN Use where the material presents debris or waste from manufacturing.
- CL ASPECT
- BT HUMAN ASPECTS

## MATERIAL TYPE

- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- NT ANTLER
- BEACH DEPOSIT
- BIOGENIC CARBONATE
- BONE
- BRICK
- BURNT FLINT
- COPROLITE
- EGG SHELL
- ESTUARINE DEPOSIT
- FEATHER
- FIBRE
- FLOT
- GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT
- HAIR
- LEATHER
- METAL
- PEAT DEPOSIT
- PHYTOLITH
- POLLEN
- POTTERY
- RESIDUE
- SHELL
- SKIN
- TOOTH
- TUFACEOUS DEPOSIT
- WOOD

## METAL

- SN Class of elements and alloys that are characteristically lustrous, ductile, fusible and malleable. These are extracted from ore minerals originally existing in nature and processed before becoming a recognisable metal.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- NT FERROUS METAL
- NON-FERROUS METAL

## METHOD OF RECOVERY

- CL METHOD OF RECOVERY
- NT BLOCK LIFTING
- COARSE SIEVING
- FLOTATION
- HAND RETRIEVAL
- SPECIALIST SAMPLING

## MICRO-CHARCOAL

- SN Microscopic charcoal fragments that are concentrated and counted as part of standard pollen preparation techniques.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT CHARCOAL

Microfossils

USE **PHYTOLITH**

## MICROMORPHOLOGY

- SN The microscopic analysis of thin sections of resin

impregnated stratigraphy.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

#### MICROSCOPY

SN The use of magnifying equipment to examine materials not visible to the naked eye.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES  
NT POLARISED LIGHT MICROSCOPY  
SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

#### MINERAL PRESERVED

SN Preservation of material by toxic effect of corrosion products in the immediate vicinity, or within, the material.  
CL MODIFICATION STATE

#### MINERAL REPLACED

UF Fossilised  
Mineralised  
SN Replacement of organic material by minerals, including calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate.  
CL MODIFICATION STATE

Mineralised

USE **MINERAL REPLACED**

#### MINERALOGY

SN The study of minerals.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

#### MITOCHONDRIAL DNA

SN A dating technique for the founding of individual populations based on the assumption of steady rates of mutation in mitochondrial DNA. Sometimes used to produce dates for stratigraphic layers containing fossil specimens of populations.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT DATING TECHNIQUES

#### MODIFICATION STATE

CL MODIFICATION STATE  
NT ALTERED BY ANIMALS  
ANOXIC  
BURNT  
CHEMICALLY ALTERED  
DESICCATED  
FUNGAL DAMAGE  
HYDROLYSIS  
IMPRESSION  
MINERAL PRESERVED  
MINERAL REPLACED  
PLANT DAMAGE  
WATERWORN

#### MOISTURE CONTENT

SN A measure of the proportion of water within a sample.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

#### MULTI-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

SN Techniques investigating more than one element at a time.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES  
NT X-RAY DIFFRACTION  
X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY

#### NATURAL ASPECTS

SN Aspects associated with the genetic make up and/or factors that affected the organism from which the material is derived during its life  
CL ASPECT  
NT NON-METRIC TRAITS  
PATHOLOGY

#### NON-FERROUS METAL

SN Any metal that does not contain the chemical element Iron (Fe) as a principal component.  
CL MATERIAL TYPE  
BT METAL  
NT COPPER ALLOY  
GOLD  
SILVER

#### NON-METRIC TRAITS

SN Use for congenital (present at birth) abnormalities (absent/extra or morphologically unusual features) present in an individual or population.  
CL ASPECT  
BT NATURAL ASPECTS

#### OBSIDIAN HYDRATION

SN A technique used to date obsidian (volcanic glass) of all ages and is thus not commonly used in the UK.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT DATING TECHNIQUES

#### OPTICALLY STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE

UF Osl  
Osl Dating  
SN The light emitted from sedimentary minerals or mineral inclusions in bricks when stimulated in the laboratory by light of a different wavelength. Used to date samples up to 250,000 years old; especially appropriate for geological sediments.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT LUMINESCENCE DATING

Osl

USE **OPTICALLY STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE**

Osl Dating

USE **OPTICALLY STIMULATED LUMINESCENCE**

#### OXYGEN ISOTOPE ANALYSIS

SN The use of oxygen (O) isotope ratios in ice or ocean sediment cores to date global environmental change.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT DATING TECHNIQUES

#### PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS

SN The analysis of the distribution and proportion of sand, silt and clay in a deposit.  
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES  
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

#### PATHOLOGY

UF Disease  
Diseased  
SN Use for bone remodelling, new growth, loss or

destruction caused by age, activity, disease or trauma during life.

- CL ASPECT
- BT NATURAL ASPECTS

#### PEAT DEPOSIT

- SN A naturally occurring deposit formed by the decomposition and partial carbonisation of vegetable matter in waterlogged conditions.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

#### PEAT HUMIFICATION

- SN A method of determining peat degradation; quantified as the percentage light transmission value of the extracted humic acids, measured at a specific wavelength.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

#### PH DETERMINATION

- SN The degree of acidity or alkalinity of a material.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

#### PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

- SN The examination of material by physical means, including detailed observation.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- NT CLAST LITHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS  
LOSS ON IGNITION DETERMINATION  
MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY  
MICROMORPHOLOGY  
MICROSCOPY  
MINERALOGY  
MOISTURE CONTENT  
PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS  
STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION  
TREE-RING ANALYSIS  
X-RADIOGRAPHY

#### PHYTOLITH

- UF Microfossils
- SN Microscopic mineral body (usually silica) found in many plants.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

#### PLANT DAMAGE

- SN Material that has been penetrated or disrupted by the roots or rhizomes of plants.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

#### POLARISED LIGHT MICROSCOPY

- SN Light microscopy in which vibration directions of the light are constrained into single planes.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT MICROSCOPY

#### POLLEN

- SN Use for pollen and diaspores. Pollen consists of pollen grains which are the male gametes of flowering plants. Diaspores are the dispersive units of mosses, ferns, fern allies and some plants. To describe the actual object use PLANT REMAINS.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

#### POLYMINERAL

- SN A general term to describe a sediment or sample that contains a variety of different minerals.

- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT

#### POTASSIUM ARGON DATING

- SN The measurement of the ratio of a radioactive potassium (K) isotope and the argon (Ar) gas produced as a by-product of its decay. Useful for dating volcanic material older than 1,000 years.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

#### POTTERY

- SN Object produced commonly by firing clay, but can include coarser material to temper it.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

#### QUARTZ

- SN A mineral composed of SiO<sub>2</sub>. Commonly clear or milky in appearance. A common constituent of rocks and sediments.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT

#### RADIOCARBON DATING

- UF C14 Dating  
Carbon 14 Dating  
Carbon Dating
- SN The measurement of the ratio of the radioactive Carbon 14 (C-14) isotope and non-radioactive carbon isotopes. Useful for dating organic materials such as wood and bone between 500 and 45,000 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

#### RESIDUE

- UF Heavy Residue
- SN The material that does not float during the flotation of samples as a means of recovering charred plant remains from an archaeological context. Also, the material remaining following wet or dry sieving of coarse sieved samples.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

#### ROUNDWOOD

- SN Material comprising entire or partial transverse sections of stems. Bark may be present or not. Can include complete sections of tree trunk but generally comprises smaller (<20cm diameter) material.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT CHARCOAL  
WOOD

#### S.E.M.

- USE **SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY**

#### SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

- UF S.E.M.  
Sem
- SN A process using an electron microscope in which the surface of the specimen is scanned by a beam of electrons which are reflected to form an image. Very high magnification is possible.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT MICROSCOPY

#### Sem

- USE **SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY**

## SHELL

- SN Use for any shell of an animal, principally, molluscs, crabs etc.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## SILICIFIED

- SN Use for material that has been burnt at high temperature in a good air supply such that only the silica component remains.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE
- BT BURNT

## SILVER

- SN A precious metal of lustrous, white colour with great malleability and ductility.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT NON-FERROUS METAL

## SKIN

- SN Use for the remains of epidermis or outermost layer. Relates to both animals and plants. If describing the actual object use PLANT REMAINS, ANIMAL REMAINS or HUMAN REMAINS.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- RT LEATHER

## SOIL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

- SN The analysis of the amount of phosphorus (P) present in a soil.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES
- NT AVAILABLE PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS  
INORGANIC PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS  
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

## SPECIALIST SAMPLING

- SN The recovery of material from samples collected during field investigations, usually taken by specialists with a particular area of expertise. Normally processed in the laboratory. Also use for the processing of samples subsequent to investigation.
- CL METHOD OF RECOVERY

## SPOT TEST

- SN The application of a chemical test to a material, usually as a rapid approximation.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

## STABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSIS

- SN Comparison of different proportions of natural occurring isotopes of lead (Pb), strontium (Sr), oxygen (O), carbon (C) and nitrogen (N).
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT CHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

## STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

- SN The careful observation and written description of the physical characteristics of stratigraphy. It will normally include information on texture, colour and the nature of the different components.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

## TEPHROCHRONOLOGY

- SN The use of ash and tephra deposits characteristic of single known-date volcanic

eruptions to date stratigraphic sequences.

- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

## THERMOLUMINESCENCE

- UF TI  
TI Dating
- SN The measurement of the light emitted from sedimentary minerals, mineral inclusions in bricks, burnt flint or unburnt calcite when they are heated. The signal relates to their prior exposure to radioactivity. Used to date samples up to 500,000 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT LUMINESCENCE DATING

TI

USE THERMOLUMINESCENCE

TI Dating

USE THERMOLUMINESCENCE

## TOOL MARKED

- UF Tool Marks
- SN Use where evidence of tool marks is present
- CL ASPECT
- BT WORKED

Tool Marks

USE TOOL MARKED

## TOOTH

- SN Use for teeth, hard structures found in the jaws of vertebrates used principally for chewing and eating.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- NT IVORY

## TOTAL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

- SN The analysis of organic plus inorganic phosphorus (P).
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT SOIL PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS

## TREE-RING ANALYSIS

- UF Tree-Ring Studies
- SN The use of annual incremental growth in temperate trees to investigate environmental, especially local, parameters and the history of individual trees.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES
- RT DENDROCHRONOLOGY

Tree-Ring Studies

USE TREE-RING ANALYSIS

## TUFACEOUS DEPOSIT

- SN A naturally occurring deposit of calcareous tuffa ('shell marl') sometimes found in alluvial deposits.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

## TWIG

- SN Small (<2cm diameter) roundwood often complete with buds or leaf scars.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT CHARCOAL  
WOOD

## URANIUM SERIES DATING



- SN The measurement of the decay of radioactive uranium (U) isotopes. Particularly useful for dating calcite and sometimes bone, tooth and shell up to 70,000 years old.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT DATING TECHNIQUES

Waterlogged

- USE **ANOXIC**

#### **WATERWORN**

- SN Material, especially rock, worn smooth by the passage of water.
- CL MODIFICATION STATE

#### **WOOD**

- SN Hard, compact, unprocessed, fibrous cellulose substance. The roots, trunks and branches of trees and shrubs consist of this tissue.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- NT CHARCOAL  
ROUNDWOOD  
TWIG

#### **WORKED**

- SN Use for any material that shows evidence of modification by humans.
- CL ASPECT
- BT HUMAN ASPECTS
- NT CARVED  
COLOURED  
DECORATED  
TOOL MARKED

#### **X-RADIOGRAPHY**

- SN The production of an image on a photographic plate as a result of X-rays (very short wavelength electromagnetic radiation) being passed through an object.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

#### **X-RAY DIFFRACTION**

- UF Xrd
- SN A surface technique that uses the diffraction of X-rays to examine the mineral composition of a sample. Useful for identifying corrosion products, pigments etc. but of little use with organic compounds which consist largely of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT MULTI-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

#### **X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY**

- UF Xrf
- SN A surface technique of spectroscopic analysis which relies on the interaction of primary X-rays with the sample to generate a range of secondary X-rays. These have energies characteristic of the elements present in the sample.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT MULTI-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Xrd

- USE **X-RAY DIFFRACTION**

Xrf

- USE **X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY**

#### **ZIRCON**

- SN A mineral of the composition  $Zr[SiO_4]$ . Commonly brown or yellow in colour. May contain high levels of uranium and thorium. Can be used for dating using luminescence or fission track methods.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE
- BT GEOLOGICAL SEDIMENT