

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

ARCHAEOBOTANY

- SN The study of plant remains, typically seeds, fruits, wood, leaves etc, preserved within archaeological deposits and palaeoenvironmental archives. Use palynology when pollen and spores are being analysed as opposed to macroscopic plant remains.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

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

ARCHAEOMALACOLOGY

- SN The study of mollusca remains preserved within archaeological deposits and palaeoenvironmental archives.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

ARCHAOMETALLURGY

- SN The the study of metalworking structures, tools,

waste products and finished metal artefacts, from the Bronze Age to the recent past. It can be used in the field and in post excavation to identify and interpret metalworking structures, tools, waste etc.

- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

Archaeozoology

- USE ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

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

Bioarchaeology

- USE HUMAN OSTEOLOGY

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

SPOT TEST
STABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSIS

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

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

DIATOM ANALYSIS

- SN The study of diatoms preserved in deposits.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

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

FORAMINIFERA ANALYSIS

- SN The study of foraminifera preserved in deposits.
- CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
- BT PHYSICAL 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 grow ing 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

HUMAN OSTEOLOGY

UF Bioarchaeology
 Osteoarchaeology

SN The study of human remains preserved within archaeological deposits and palaeoenvironmental archives.

CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

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
SLAG
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

MORTAR ANALYSIS

- SN Sampling and analysis of historic mortars to determine mortar composition. For radiocarbon dating of organic traces within the mortar (relict mortar fuel), use Radiocarbon Dating.
- 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**

Osteoarchaeology

USE **HUMAN OSTEOLOGY**

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

PALAEOENTOMOLOGY

SN The study of insect remains preserved within archaeological deposits and palaeoenvironmental archives.
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SN The study of biological remains preserved within deposits, including peat.
CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES

PALYNOLOGY

SN The study of pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs preserved within deposits, including peat.

CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
BT PHYSICAL 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 ARCHAEOBOTANY
ARCHAEOMALACOLOGY
ARCHAOMETALLURGY
CLAST LITHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
DIATOM ANALYSIS
FORAMINIFERA ANALYSIS
HUMAN OSTEOLOGY
LOSS ON IGNITION DETERMINATION
MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY
MICROMORPHOLOGY
MICROSCOPY
MINERALOGY
MOISTURE CONTENT
MORTAR ANALYSIS
PALAEOENTOMOLOGY
PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
PALYNOLOGY
PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS
STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION
TREE-RING ANALYSIS
X-RADIOGRAPHY
ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

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 SiO₂. 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 floatation 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

SLAG

- SN A by-product usually from the smelting process.
- CL MATERIAL TYPE

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 tufa ('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

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

UF Archaeozoology
SN The study of vertebrate remains, excluding human remains, preserved within archaeological deposits and palaeoenvironmental archives. Use archaeomalacology for the study of mollus remains and palaeoentomology for the study of insect remains.

CL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
BT PHYSICAL TECHNIQUES