

ARCHAEOLOGY

An Introduction

What is archaeology?

- Turn to the person sitting beside you and discuss what you believe archaeology is.
- Be prepared to share your ideas.

What is archaeology?

- Archaeology is the study of remains of past human activity.
- Archaeologists use these remains to reconstruct and interpret the past.
- Archaeology is a subdivision of anthropology, the study of humankind.

The Archaeological Process

- Background Research
- Fieldwork
- Laboratory Work and Analysis
- Interpretation

The Archaeological Process – a Jigsaw Lesson

- You will participate in two groups – a home group and an expert group.
- In your expert group you will learn about one aspect of the archaeological process – research, fieldwork, lab work and analysis, or interpretation.
- You will bring your information back to your home group and share what you have learned.

Dowden's Ordinary Site

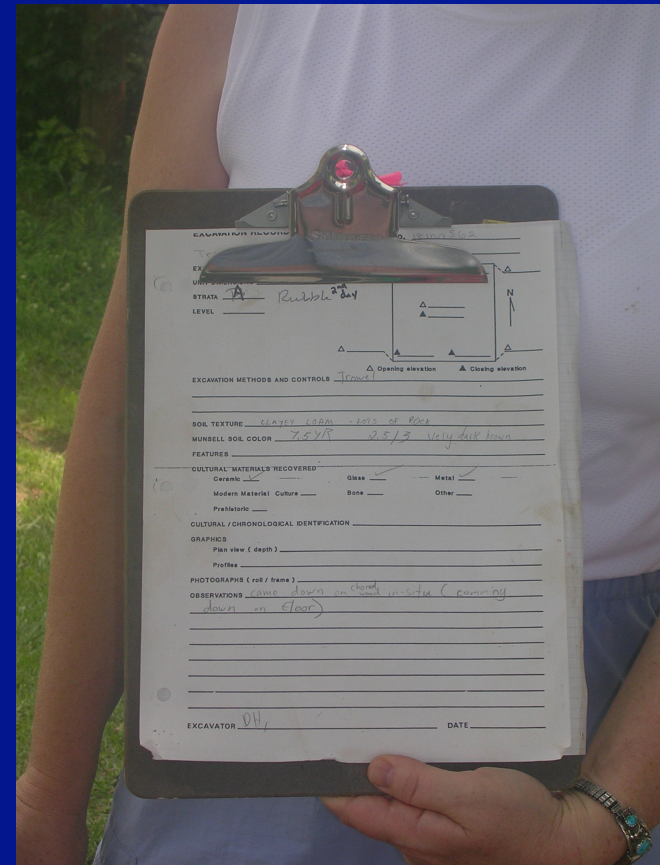
Dowden's Ordinary is a site located in Clarksburg, Maryland, in Montgomery County.



Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use

DATA SHEET

A data sheet is an important tool. It captures what has happened at the site, such as artifacts that were found, and observations.



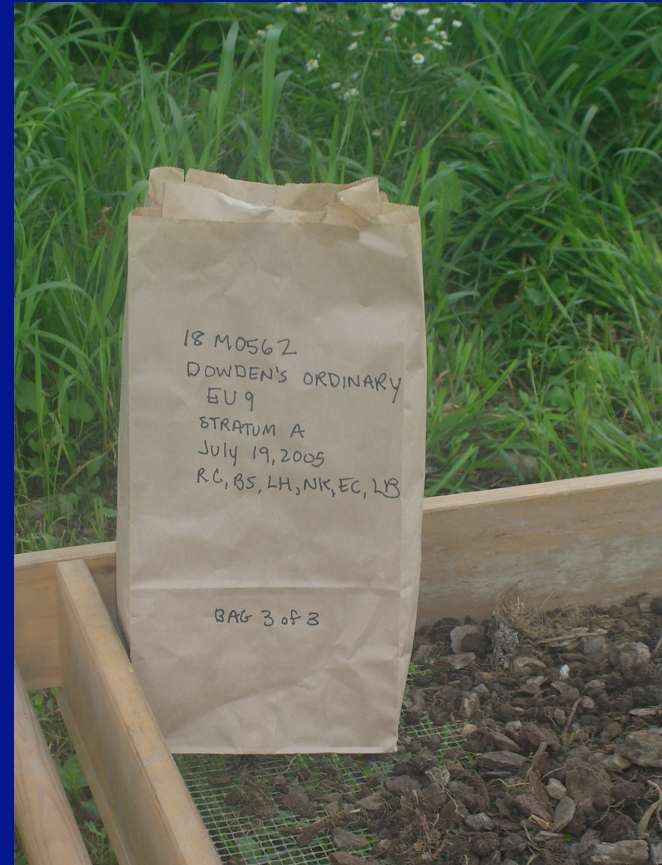
Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use

The Munsell Soil Color Chart provides a standard name for soil colors so that soil at the site can be compared with soil from other sites.



Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use

All artifacts collected from a unit are placed in their own bag and carefully labeled so that interpretation and analysis of the site may be done following excavation.



Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use

SCREEN

A screen is used to filter out small rocks, clumps of soil, and other natural objects.



Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use



All the soil that is excavated is sifted through a screen or 1/4 inch mesh to be certain that all the artifacts or cultural material has been recovered.

Fieldwork -- Tools Archaeologists Use



The trowel is a tool used to carefully and evenly scrape across the surface of the excavation area so that artifacts are uncovered and soil changes are easily noted.

Fieldwork – Excavating Dowden's Ordinary Site



Fieldwork – Excavating Dowden's Ordinary Site



Fieldwork – Recording Dowden's Ordinary Site

Recording the position
of the rocks
unearthed at the
trash pit unit.



Laboratory Work and Analysis

Artifacts such as this piece of ceramic were uncovered at the site.

