

The Big Dig

How to Excavate an Archaeological Test Pit

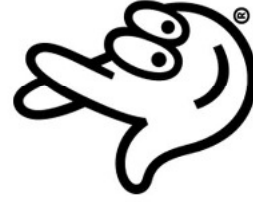


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1. Introduction

Thank you so much for volunteering to be part of the Big Dig!

Your hard work on this project will help us tell some fascinating stories about the history of your house, garden, neighbourhood and town as a whole.

With the help of a number of professional archaeologists on hand to help out, the training resources you will have had access to, and of course the experience of excavating and recording your very own test pit, by the end of this weekend you will be well on your way to being a trained amateur archaeologist!

This booklet explains how to dig and record an archaeological test pit somewhere in your garden. It includes a step by side guide, together with some health and safety tips and a list of equipment you'll need. If at any point you're stuck or confused and need a bit of help, or even think you have found something important, then please ask one of the Big Dig archaeologists for help.

Finally, if by the end of the project you're keen to get more involved in archaeology, there's also a list of further sources of information, both local and national, to help you do so.

Our 'Headquarters' will be in Motcombe Gardens, BN21 1QF and we will be there from 9am – 5pm on 9th – 11th June. You will be able to collect a Test Pit Recording pack and borrow any needed equipment at a briefing session at Eastbourne Town Hall in May, or from Motcombe Gardens between 9am and 11am on 9th or 10th June. The Operations Room will be open during the event, and everyone will be encouraged to report back their progress and findings throughout the project so that we can let everybody know what else is going on and allow you to watch the story of Eastbourne unfold.

- **What is a Test Pit?**

A Test Pit is a small archaeological excavation, consisting of a square trench measuring 1m by 1m and up to 1m deep, that can be dug by hand, by anyone, in an open space in their garden.

The Test Pit is dug methodically, i.e. layer by layer, and carefully recorded, with the aim of identifying evidence of past human activity, usually by finding pieces of pottery and other material, or, if you're lucky, archaeological features such as rubbish pits, building postholes or wall foundations. While we can learn a great deal about the history of our towns and villages through study of historical documents and maps, place names, aerial photographs and so on, archaeological excavation is often the best or only way to add to or confirm the results of such research.

The opportunity for large-scale excavation however, particularly within our established settlements, is usually rare and so the excavation of a collection of Test Pits, which can be squeezed in anywhere throughout the town is a good alternative. Test Pits are also a great way of allowing a community, with the help of professional archaeologists, to investigate its history and learn a bit about how archaeological excavation works. By collating the results from all the Test Pits, the archaeologists will try to establish a general picture of the origins and development of Eastbourne as a Downland settlement, and hopefully find out about the people who lived there.

- **What am I looking for?**

Archaeological excavation aims to identify any evidence of past human activity that may be buried below ground at any given site. This evidence usually consists of features, such as buried soil layers, rubbish pits, ditches and graves, or parts of former buildings such as postholes, wall foundations and floor surfaces, and the finds material that has ended up within the features. Although some finds will have been deliberately buried, such as grave goods or treasure hoards, most of the finds material found by archaeologists is the discarded rubbish from the activities of everyday life and work in a settlement. Due to the small size of a Test Pit you might need a bit of luck to find a proper archaeological feature such as a pit or building, but you'll almost certainly find the bits and pieces that people have thrown away or lost over the years, mixed in both the topsoil or within buried older soil layers.

Finds will consist of man-made items such as broken pieces of pottery, metalwork, glass and building material, as well as organic or environmental material such as pieces of animal bone or shell. If you are not sure if you should keep something, then KEEP IT. It can always be discarded later at any stage during assessment and analysis by an archaeological finds specialist.

2. Health and Safety

Anybody is welcome to take part in the event but all children under the age of 16 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Although excavating a test pit is a relatively safe thing today, there are risks involved which all participants should be aware of. All involved will be asked to complete a Big Dig Safety Policy form to confirm that you understand the hazards involved and that you are undertaking this activity at your own risk.

First Aid

Before starting to dig, you should make sure that you have some basic first aid supplies such as antiseptic wipes and plasters on-hand, some of the things you find buried in your garden such as broken glass or pieces of flint can be extremely sharp, even after being under the ground for a very long time!

A First Aid kit will be available at the Operations Room.

Safe digging practices

In order to dig safely, please follow these simple rules:

- Work carefully.
- Wear protective clothing, i.e. gloves, sturdy footwear (steel toe-capped boots if you have them) etc.
- Don't dig your hole along the line of a path or other walkway.
- Don't dig your hole too deep (no more than 1m) and if you are leaving it unattended remember to tell anyone who may enter the garden about the hole you are digging! If necessary, the hole can be fenced off using garden chairs, boxes or garden canes and some string.
- Don't work too closely together - there are lots of different tasks to be done (e.g. digging, sieving, recording) so it should be possible to avoid getting in each other's way.
- Be aware of where people are so that you don't accidentally hit them with a spade or mattock.
- Don't raise tools above your shoulder height.
- Don't overdo it. It's important to work at your own pace, at a speed you're comfortable with. It doesn't matter if by the end of the project you haven't quite finished the pit, and above all, it's not a race. If anything is too heavy to lift, get someone to help share the load. Take regular breaks/breathers.
- Pay careful regard to the weather, i.e. sunscreen, a hat and plenty to drink, or wrap up warm depending on conditions.
- Be aware that flints can be sharp and that there may be glass in the soil, wear gloves while digging and sieving.

STOP digging if you find anything that looks like a service pipe, a cable or old munitions (bullets etc.)

STOP digging if you find heavily contaminated ground, i.e. dumps of asbestos, oil etc.

3. Equipment

To excavate and record your test pit you will need a basic range of digging equipment (most of which you hopefully have in your garden shed) and recording equipment. If you don't have any of these items, please try to let us know in advance as The Big Dig has limited supplies of some equipment which can be loaned out at the briefing session.

At the initial briefing you will be given a recording pack to be returned at the end of the project.

This will include the following items:

- Test Pit Record booklet
- 30cm photo scale
- Photo board
- Non-permanent and permanent marker pens
- Finds bags

Other tools that you will need to try to provide (although we will have limited supplies) include:

Digging tools

- Spade and/or shovel
- Hand shovel/garden trowel
- Buckets/wheelbarrow
- Garden sieve (1cm mesh)
- Trowel (plasterers' type, ideally with a 4"-6" blade)
- A sheet of plastic/tarpaulin, c. 2m x 2m – on which to put your spoil heap if you want to protect your lawn etc.

Recording equipment

- Digital camera or phone camera
- Washing up bowl
- Soft nail brush/toothbrush
- Garden seed trays
- 5m length of string
- 2 steel hand tape measures
- 4 large nails/tent pegs
- Clipboard
- Pencils, rubber, sharpener

4. Step by Step Guide

It may sound complicated but excavating an archaeological Test Pit is quite simple, and definitely fun.

By following this Step by Step guide you will dig and record your pit properly to a set standard. This will help us to compare all the pits at the end of the project and allow an overall report on the project to be produced.

A number of Big Dig Archaeologists will be on hand just a phone call away, so please ask for help and advice if you are uncertain of what to do. If you can please try to bring your finds, records and photos to the Operations Room once a day so we can keep everyone updated.

Methodology

The basic idea of archaeological excavation is to identify the sequence of events that has occurred in the area over time, to leave your garden as it is now. Obviously, we are only able to look for events which have left an impact below ground-level, but by looking for what might seem like small changes in the types of buried soil, we can see where features (pits, ditches etc) were dug in the past before being filled in, and we can discover a lot about the history of a site.

The main aim in digging your Test Pit is to identify the different layers of soil and the finds contained within them.

The test pit should be dug 10cm at a time in a series of Spits (think layers of a cake!). Within a Spit you may find two or more different types of soil, i.e. dark brown sand on one side, light grey on another, and you should try to dig these separately.

Any finds in the Spit will be numbered with the appropriate context (spit or layer) number.

The idea of digging the pit in 10cm Spits is designed to make you excavate methodically and carefully, making you stop every so often to consider what is happening in the pit and record it.

On a full archaeological site, it can get a lot more complicated with separate numbers being given for the cut of a feature such as a pit (i.e. the actual hole itself), and a fill number for the soil that later backfilled it, but the overall principle is the same. By recording the stratigraphic sequence of the contexts, and identifying the finds within them, we can establish what has happened on the site and when.

Step 1. Choose your test pit location

The first step in digging your Test Pit is choosing its location. This could have a major effect on how easy your digging will be and what you might find, so choose carefully. If you are in any doubt about where to dig then please have a chat with one of the archaeologists who will be happy to advise you. It might also be worth checking with your home insurers.

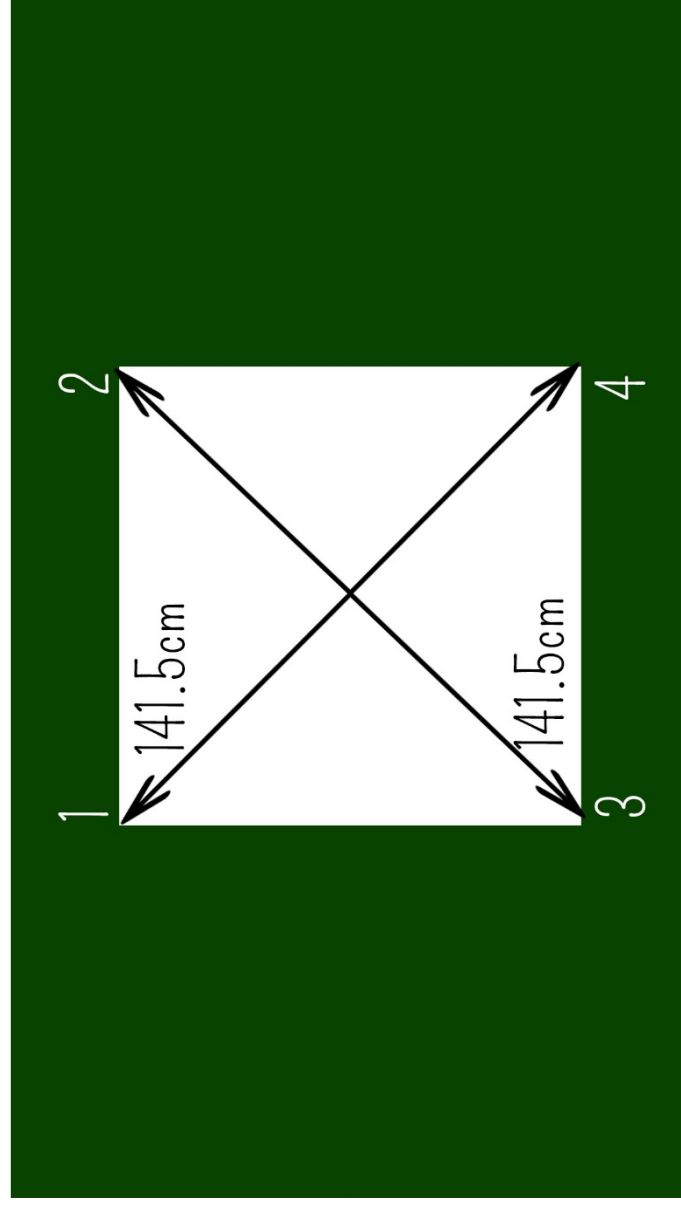
However, it is in your garden so remember that you'll probably have a far better idea than anyone else of what might be a good spot. The best or easiest spots will probably be in lawns or flower vegetable/beds, which should allow relatively easy digging at first and will also be easy to backfill and reinstate. A spot with a thick garden topsoil could mean that you'll find lots of finds material mixed in it relating to the history of your house. Try to choose somewhere fairly flat, with plenty of room to work. You also need to decide where to put your spoilheap, and place a tarpaulin or sheets of cardboard as a base for it to make backfilling easier and neater. The spoilheap needs to be at least 1m away from the edge of your test pit

to stop spoil falling back in, and to allow you safe access around the pit. Don't place it too far away though as you're going to have to put the spoil back at the end of the dig.

- Try to find avoid being under tree canopies or in close proximity to bushes so that you don't have to work around roots. Please don't cut any tree roots as these may weaken the tree or even make it unstable.
- Avoid any areas where there may be buried services, such as your electric or water supply.
- Avoid any areas where you think there might have been substantial recent disturbance or heavy landscaping, i.e. old cess tank or footings for a former garage, or where 50cm of soil has been imported in.
- Keep at least a 1m distance from any walls – you don't want to be digging out the contents of a modern wall foundation trench, or risk undermining an existing wall.
- If you're in a shared garden, make sure you get permission from the residents' association and/or management company, and take extra care to cordon off your test pit safely.

Step 2. Marking out your test pit

Once you have chosen your location you need to mark out your 1m square. To start push two nails into the ground 1m apart and attach the string to the first nail and pull it round the second. Next put in a third nail 1m away from and at right angles to the second nail, and then repeat for the fourth. To get the right angles either use an object with a right angle (or this booklet) as a guide to help set the square, or if you have two tapes, measure 100cm from the first nail, and 141.5cm from the second. Put your third nail where the tapes overlap. Then repeat for the fourth nail. However you mark it out, your test pit should measure 141.5cm across both diagonals (this is explained by Pythagoras' Theory if you can remember it!).



Step 3. Recording your test pit location.

Now look at your Test Pit Record sheets. Draw a sketch plan of your test pit's location within your site or garden in the space provided. It doesn't have to be to scale although preferably north should be at the top (please draw an arrow showing the direction of north in the space provided). Number the corners of your Test Pit 1-4 in a clockwise direction from top left.

Show on your sketch plan any nearby features such as walls or fences, including at least two which are shown on the Ordnance Survey map. Select a point on these features, preferably a corner, and measure from that point to two adjacent corners of the test pit. Record these measurements on your sketch plan and then repeat the exercise for a second point. If there are no corners available, you will need to simply measure from your pit to the nearest point on a linear boundary. Additional measurements on more than two points will increase the accuracy. Your site plan may be the only record of where it was dug, so please try to make it as accurate and clear as possible.

Finally take 1 or more photographs of your test pit location and its surroundings and record some details about each photo on the photograph form.

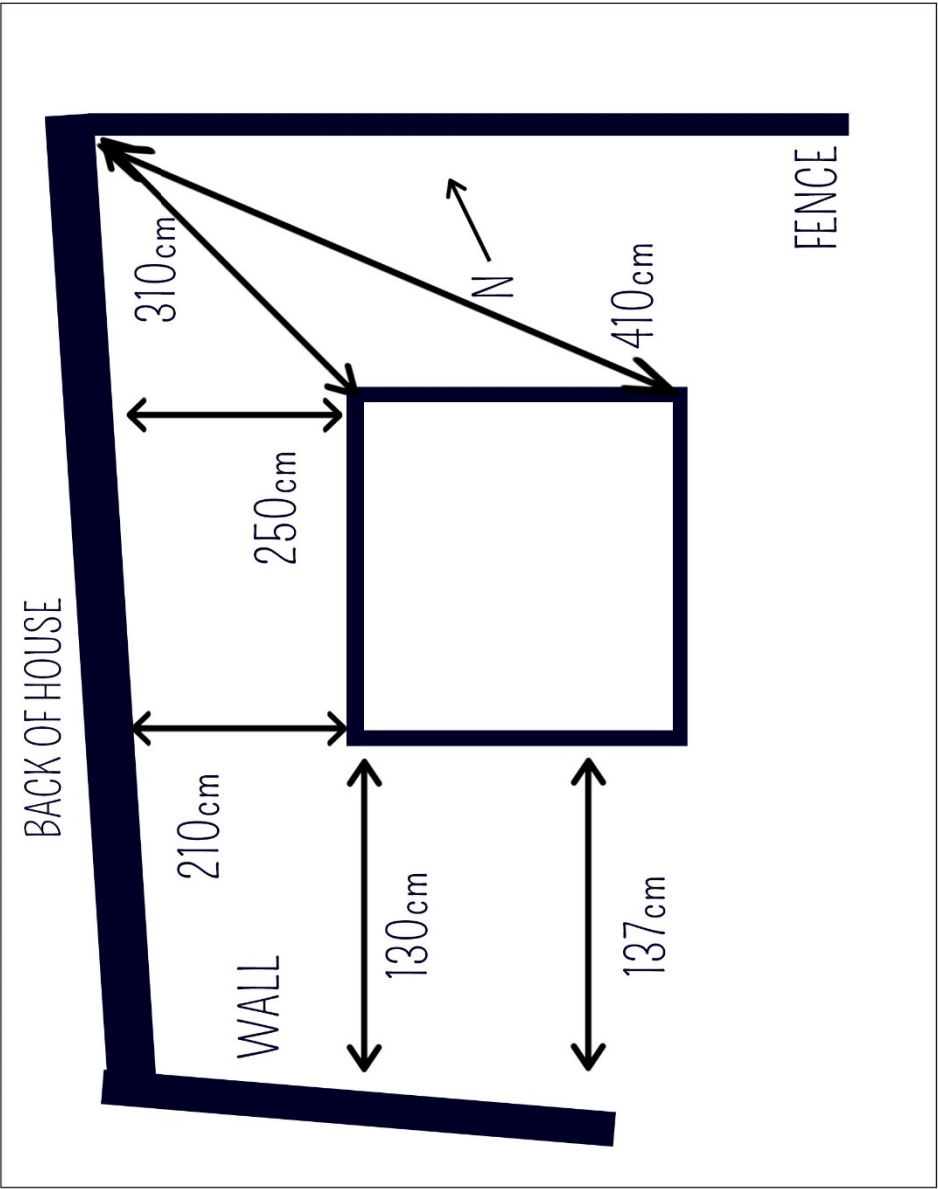
Site Code:	Test Pit number:
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TEST PIT LOCATION MAP

Map drawn by:

Make an annotated sketch plan of the test-pits location.

- Show where the test-pit is in relation to features such as houses, boundaries, roads, walls etc. These need to be features that can be found on an Ordnance Survey map.
- Include lines showing the exact distances from the test-pit to permanently identifiable points such as buildings or garden corners.
- Draw your test-pit as a square with the corners numbered 1-4, to correlate with the numbers on each Layer plan.
- Draw an arrow showing the direction of North on your map.
- **REMEMBER:** Your plan needs to be understandable to someone who doesn't know the site.



TEST-PIT COMPLETION CHECKLIST			NAME:
TASK	COMPLETED	TASK	COMPLETED
All Layer sheets completed		Loaned equipment returned	
Section drawings completed		Test Pit record form and finds handed in	
Location map completed			
All finds bagged and labelled			
Test Pit backfilled		SIGNED OFF:	

Step 4. De-turfing

If your test pit is on your lawn, you'll need a spade to remove the turf. Put the spade just inside the string and gradually work along each side cutting the turf as you go. When you have cut the turf all the way round, begin cutting the middle into a series of squares like a chessboard. Each turf should be about 20 centimetres square. Once you have done this, slide the spade under a piece of turf and gently lift it out and stack by the side of the trench. Carry on until all your turfs are lifted. When you stack the turf make sure you put it well out of the way so that you don't fall over it. Start by putting the first layer grass side down, then the second layer grass side up and so on. Alternatively lay your turfs out in a reassembled square so that you can replace them back in the same pattern at the end of the dig.

Step 5. Context Recording (pre-excavation check)

Your final task before you start to dig each 10cm Spit is to record what you can see on the surface. Important things to note are whether there are any new visible contexts, i.e. has the soil changed to a new uniform layer or are there areas of different types of soil or inclusions. If there is a new type of soil layer, whether across the whole pit or in just one part of it, then you should make a note of it and complete the description section of the Layer Recording Sheet. Some prompts are included on the sheet, but add any information you think relevant. A photograph should then be taken of the pit (see below). If there are any visible differences within the pit, i.e. two or more visible contexts, then you should also draw a plan before starting to dig (see below).

Photography

Each photograph should be taken as vertically as possible (i.e. looking down on the square) and from the same direction. Try to avoid glare from the sun or shadows in the picture and make sure that the camera is picking up the light reading from the soil rather than the surroundings. Using a non-permanent marker write the Site Code, Test Pit Number, Context No. on the supplied photo board, with an arrow pointing towards north. Place the whiteboard and 30cm scale ruler close to the test pit (but not obscuring it) and make sure that they are visible in each context photo. Make a record of all the photographs that you take in your Test Pit Recording Booklet. Please feel free to take as many other photographs as you want throughout the project (of people digging, of your finds etc) so that we can build a photographic record of the whole event.

Drawing the plan

Each plan should be drawn in the space provided on the Layer Recording Sheet. Each drawing should be orientated in the same direction but please add an arrow indicating the direction of North, and number the corners of the pit in the same way as your location map.

If the lines that you are drawing do not represent a soil layer (e.g. the edges of the test pit) draw a dot-dash line, otherwise use a solid line unless you are uncertain, in which case use a dashed line. You should draw everything you can see on the surface of your square - e.g. stones/bricks, bits of pot etc, and in particular mark any soil changes representing different contexts. Please clearly annotate your drawing to explain what you have drawn labelling the different contexts. You are now ready to start digging!

Step 6. Dig a 10cm Spit.

Digging

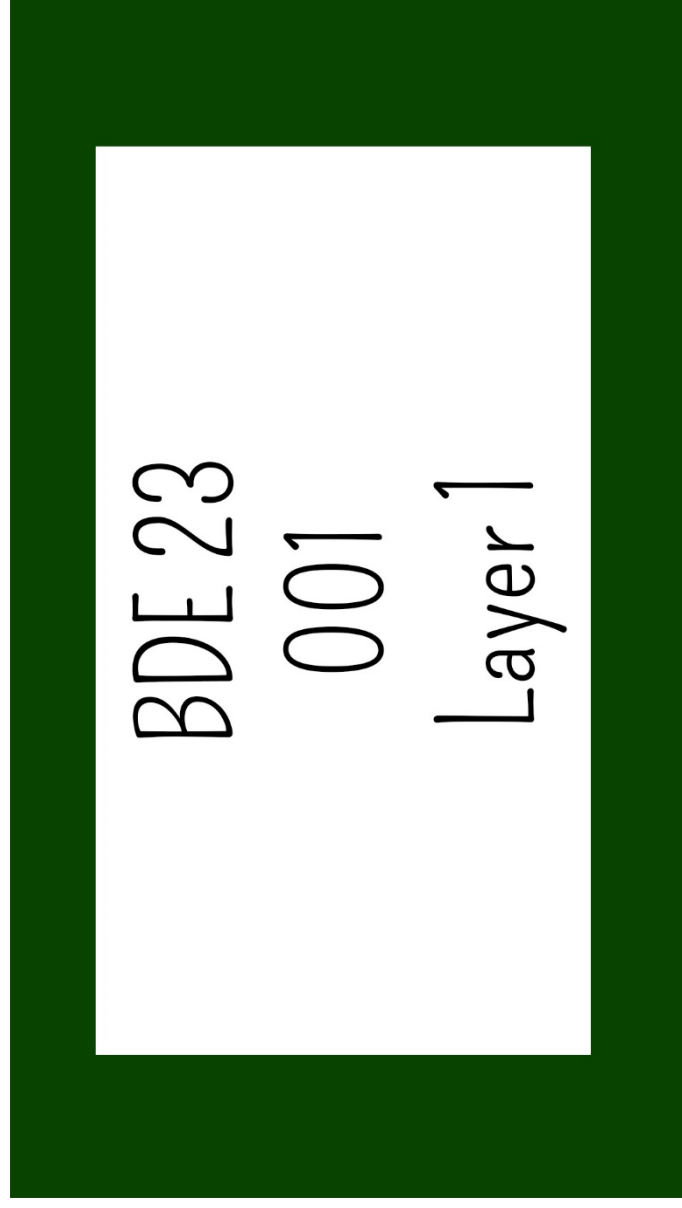
Use the side of your trowel to carefully scrape off the soil, making sure that you keep the bottom of the test pit as level as possible and ensure that the sides remain vertical. One of the most important rules as an archaeologist is to be as methodical, neat and tidy as possible, as you dig. Don't remove any objects such as bricks, stones or finds if they extend down into the next 10cm Spit, or into the sides of the Test Pit. Keep an eye out for colour changes or concentrations of particular materials, and if you hit anything hard like a wall or a floor surface then stop! Contact a Big Dig Archaeologist and they will take a look at what you have found, give advice and, hopefully, be able to explain what **it** is and help you to record and carry on digging. Removing the first Context you may want to cut small roots but leave larger ones in place and clean around them. You may also want to make separate heaps for your topsoil and any underlying soil layers so that they later go back into the pit as they came out. Stop digging when you have reached a depth of 10cm. Make sure that you leave the bottom and sides of the Test Pit as clean as possible, usually by cleaning back into a corner and then removing the last spoil from a position outside your pit. Don't climb back into your pit until you have recorded it and are ready to start digging again!

Step 7. Sieving and finds

To ensure you recover as many finds as possible you should try to sieve the spoil as you remove it, usually by pouring soil into your sieve from a bucket directly over your spoil heap. If you don't have a sieve, you can use your hand shovel to sprinkle the soil onto the tarp.

However, this may not always be practical if your spoil is heavy with clay or if it has been raining or if you don't have a sieve. If sieving is proving difficult and time-consuming it may be more suitable to only sieve a portion of the spoil - ask one of the Big Dig archaeologists for advice.

Put all finds from the Spit into an empty seed tray, if they are from different contexts then keep them separate. Put a label with each group of finds with the following information - Site Code, Test Pit number and Spit Number.



If you are not sure about something, keep it and ask one of the Big Dig archaeologists when they visit or when you deliver the finds to the operations room. Be careful not to mix finds from different layers as they are the main way that we can find out how old each one is. Make a note of the finds from each Spit on the relevant sheets. It is also very important to note what percentage of the Spit was sieved so that we can compare the finds results from each Test Pit properly.

Finds washing

Fill a bowl with cold water and using an old toothbrush, gently clean any dirt from your finds (avoid scrubbing the finds as this can damage them) paying particular attention to the broken edges of the pottery so that the fabric can be examined. Do not wash metal objects or anything which is particularly fragile. Once washed each find should be put back into the relevant finds tray to dry (wash the tray if it is very muddy and make sure that you don't lose the label or allow contexts to get mixed up).

Don't put your finds in bags if they're wet.

If you would like further information about your finds once cleaned, please bring them to the Operations Room.

Step 8. Context Recording (post-excavation)

Once the 10cm Spit has been excavated, you need to review your Recording Sheets. Did the excavation tell you any more about what was going on in the layer? Was there lots of charcoal, brick etc that you didn't see on the surface of the Spit? Have you removed all the context now, in which case how thick was it?

Step 9. Onto the next Spit

Once you have completed digging your first 10cm Spit and filled in the Recording Sheets you can move to the next Spit. Repeat steps 4-8 for each 10cm Spit until you reach a maximum depth of either 1m or you come down onto the natural undisturbed geology (usually this will be solid chalk). If you're lucky, you may be able to stop earlier because you find a solid archaeological feature such as a wall foundation or floor!

Step 10. Completing the Test Pit

At some point you will hopefully either reach natural undisturbed ground or a solid archaeological feature. It's also possible that archaeological layers may go deeper than 1m in which case you will simply have to call a halt. If you don't have time to finish your pit don't worry but make sure you stop and allow an hour or two to backfill it. Keep the sides and bottom of your test pit clean and ensure that the finished test pit has vertical sides and a flat base. Record the final depth of the trench on the recording sheet and give a brief description of its base. Take a final photograph of the completed pit.

Step 11. Photograph and draw the Test Pit sections

The final task is to record the sides of the Test Pit as these are showing a cross-section through all the archaeological layers, indicating how they have developed over time. Take a photograph of each of the four sides, as close to a horizontal angle as possible, using a scale and number board as before. Next, on the Section Drawings Sheet, draw all four sides of the pit. This should be done in much the same way as the plans, except you are looking at a vertical not horizontal surface. Place a tape measure horizontally along the edge of the pit and take measurements vertically from it. Draw and label any changes in the soil and include any finds or inclusions that are sticking out of the side. If the lines that you are drawing do

not represent a soil layer (e.g. the edges of the test pit) draw a dot-dash line, otherwise use a solid line unless you are uncertain in which case use a dashed line. Remember to label the corners of the pit, this will tell us which section it is.

CONGRATULATIONS!

That's it, you've excavated and recorded your pit!

Step 12. Records Check

Double-check your records to see that everything has been filled in. Once everybody's happy then it's time to backfill the pit.

Step 13. Backfilling

Carefully shovel the soil back into the test pit, treading it down at regular intervals. Try to put the soil back in roughly the same order as it came out, so that your topsoil is back at the top. If you kept a pile of sieved out stones etc, you want to put this back in first. When you have replaced all the soil, replace the turfs that you removed at the beginning so that there are no gaps and that the edges do not overlap. Make sure that you get all the soil back in, if that leaves the turf a little high (less than 5cm), that is OK as it should settle down slightly in time.

Step 14. Project End

Please bring your finds, recording sheets and any borrowed equipment back to the Operations Room once your pit has been excavated. **Please send photos of the test pit to katherine.buckland@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk or 07415208458.**

A Big Dig archaeologist will help you make an initial assessment of your finds. This may involve discarding some finds such as brick fragments etc after a note has been made of quantity and/or weight. The Big Dig archaeologist will then identify some of your finds and will keep them until the final report is written when they will be returned to you.

Step 15. Post-project Report

We will use all the site records and finds to write a report of the results, and a copy will be available on our website along with being lodged with the East Sussex Historic Environment Record so that it is available to both future archaeological researchers and the general public. A copy of the report will also be emailed to everybody who took part.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

I've never done this before, any hints and tips?

- Don't overdo it. The two or three days of the project should be plenty of time to dig and record your pit and process your finds. Find a steady pace that you're happy with, a careful and methodical approach is more important than speed.
- But also, don't get bogged down in the first Spits worrying about collecting every last tiny piece of the finds. As a very general rule allow 45-90 mins per Spit. This should mean that you can complete a 1m deep test pit by early/mid afternoon on the last day and will allow time for you to bring in your finds, recording sheets and other records and backfill your pit.
- Keep your workspace tidy, don't leave tools lying around for people to trip over. You don't want anyone falling into your pit.
- Teamwork. The test pit will be too small, particularly as you get deeper for more than one person to dig easily at a time. Take it in turns to do the various jobs of digging, sieving, finds washing and recording.
- Don't step in your trench when cleaned, or let anyone else do so, until it has been photographed. Repeatedly having to clean up other people's footprints will get annoying...
- Don't make too much spoil at once, it's easier to see what you're doing if you keep your pit clean as you go along.
- Get your pit sides as straight and vertical as you can. It makes it easier and better to record but also means you'll look professional.
- Resist the temptation to burrow down chasing your big find. Leave it in place and lower the whole trench evenly around it.

Why do I have to do all this paperwork?

Anyone can dig a hole looking for buried treasure but if we want to learn anything about the past through excavation, we have to thoroughly record all that we do. The importance of any archaeological find, and the information we can gather from it, is always far greater if we know exactly where it came from and in what circumstances.

It is important to remember that archaeological excavation is destructive, once that Roman rubbish pit has been excavated that's it, it's gone forever, and so the excavation records we make are all that is left. In principle it is always preferred to leave archaeological deposits 'in situ' unless they are threatened.

What happens to our finds?

All finds found during the excavation of the test pits will be initially sorted during the event, and then taken [by](#) The Big Dig team for standard archaeological cleaning, identification and recording so that a summary report of the entire project can be produced. A copy of the results will then be lodged with the East Sussex Historic Environment Record, the publicly available database of information on archaeological sites, monuments and buildings in East Sussex as well as on our website.

Who owns the finds?

All of the finds from a test pit belong to the landowner, regardless of who is doing the digging and actually finds them, unless any private arrangement has been made. If desired all finds

will be returned to the landowner after the recording work detailed above is completed. However, all owners of the finds will be asked to consider donating or loaning them to form a part of the complete project archive and for display in a project exhibition.

What happens if I find something valuable?

All finders of items classed as treasure under the Treasure Act of 1996 have a legal obligation to report such items to the coroner for the district in which they are found within 14 days. This reporting can be done via the local Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Sussex, Jane Clark – Telephone: +44 (0)1273 405731. Email: flo@sussexpast.co.uk.

The following finds are classed as Treasure under the Act:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date, it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find (see below).
- All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10% of gold or silver, there must be at least ten of them). Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:
- Hoards that have been deliberately hidden.
- Smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may have been dropped or lost.
- Votive or ritual deposits.
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.

If whilst digging the test pits you do uncover anything that you think may be treasure, please leave it in the ground and report to a member of The Big Dig team as soon as possible. Please see <http://finds.org.uk/treasure> for more details.

If during the digging of my Test Pit I find something really interesting, does this mean my garden will have to be dug up?

No, as long as your garden stays as it is, the underlying archaeology will remain preserved for many years to come and there will be no need to dig it up. In principle it is always preferred to leave archaeological deposits 'in situ' unless they are threatened by development. Any archaeological finds or features detected during excavation of the Test Pit will be recorded on the County Historic Environment Record and so if any development is ever planned in the future that could cause damage it will be known that your garden is of potential interest.

6. Further information

Heritage Eastbourne

[Heritage Eastbourne - Visit Eastbourne](#)

Curators of the Eastbourne Borough Council museum collections, outreach and learning and manage The Beachy Head Story [Visit the Beachy Head Story | Exhibition & Visitor Centre \(visiteastbourne.com\)](#)

Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeology Society (ENHAS)

[Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeology Society – Registered Charity No. 264190 \(eastbournearchaeology.org.uk\)](#)

Local amateur society that runs a programme of talks and practical projects

Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

The Sussex Archaeological Society is a registered charity which promotes, protects and provides access to the history and heritage of Sussex. They publish the annual Sussex Archaeological Collections journal and manage properties throughout the County including Michelham Priory, Lewes Castle and Fishbourne Roman Palace.

Portable Antiquities Scheme:

<http://finds.org.uk>

Recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales.

Council for British Archaeology:

<http://new.archaeologyuk.org>

Independent charitable organisation. Regular magazine, training excavation lists.

Young Archaeologist Club:

<http://www.yac-uk.org/>

Junior branch of the CBA.