FISH TERMINOLOGIES

FISH Archaeological Sciences Thesaurus

Report Format: Hierarchical listing

Description: Terminology used for recording the techniques, recovery methods and materials associated with archaeological sciences. Maintained by Historic England on behalf of the FISH Terminology Working Group.

Date: June 2024

Linked Data: http://purl.org/heritagedata/schemes/560
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Breeding</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Aspects</td>
<td>Cereal Processing By-Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Debris</td>
<td>Cereal Processing Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked</td>
<td>Flax Retting</td>
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<td>Carved</td>
<td>Food Preservation</td>
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<td>Coloured</td>
<td>Malting</td>
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<td>Decorated</td>
<td>Roasting</td>
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<td>Natural Aspects</td>
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<td>Non-Metric Traits</td>
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<td>Pathology</td>
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<td>Animal Roles</td>
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<td>Animal Fighting</td>
<td>Feasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Companion Animals</td>
<td>Funerary Use</td>
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<td>Hunting And Trapping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pack Animals</td>
<td>Importation Of Goods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riding Animals</td>
<td>Medicinal Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traction Animals</td>
<td>Seasonality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Materials</td>
<td>Social Differentiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caulking</td>
<td>Storage</td>
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<td>Craft Working</td>
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**Investigative Techniques**

**Chemical Techniques**
- Alpha Spectrometry
- Ancient Biomolecular Analysis
- Gamma Spectrometry
- Multi-Element Analysis
  - X-Ray Diffraction
  - X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- Peat Humification
- pH Determination
- Soil Phosphorus Analysis
  - Available Phosphorus Analysis
  - Inorganic Phosphorus Analysis
  - Total Phosphorus Analysis
- Spot Test
- Stable Isotope Analysis

**Dating Techniques**
- Amino Acid Racemisation
- Archaeomagnetism
- Biostratigraphy
- Dendrochronology
- Electron Spin Resonance
- Fission Track Analysis
- Fluorine, Uranium And Nitrogen Tests
- Lead Isotope Dating
- Luminescence Dating
  - Infra-Red Stimulated Luminescence
  - Optically Stimulated Luminescence
  - Thermoluminescence
- Mitochondrial Dna Dating
- Obsidian Hydration
Investigative Techniques (continued)

- Dating Techniques (continued)
  - Oxygen Isotope Analysis
  - Potassium Argon Dating
  - Radiocarbon Dating
  - Tephrochronology
  - Uranium Series Dating

- Physical Techniques
  - Archaeobotany
  - Archaeomolluscology
  - Archaeometallurgy
  - Clast Lithological Analysis
  - Diatom Analysis
  - Foraminifera Analysis
  - Human Osteology
  - Loss On Ignition Determination
  - Magnetic Susceptibility
  - Micromorphology
  - Microscopy
    - Polarised Light Microscopy
    - Scanning Electron Microscopy
  - Mineralogy
  - Moisture Content
  - Mortar Analysis
  - Palaeoentomology
  - Palaeoenvironmental Analysis
  - Palynology
  - Particle Size Analysis
  - Stratigraphic Description
  - Tree-Ring Analysis
  - X-Radiography
  - Zooarchaeology

Material Type

- Antler
- Beach Deposit
- Biogenic Carbonate
- Bone
- Brick
- Burnt Flint
- Coprolite
- Egg Shell
- Estuarine Deposit
- Feather
- Fibre
- Flot
- Geological Sediment
  - Feldspar
  - Polymineral
  - Quartz
  - Zircon
- Hair
- Leather
- Metal

Method Of Recovery

- Block Lifting
- Coarse Sieving
- Flotation
- Hand Retrieval
- Specialist Sampling

Modification State

- Altered By Animals
- Anoxic
- Burnt
  - Calcined
  - Charred
  - Silicified
- Chemically Altered
- Desiccated
- Fungal Damage
- Hydrolysis
- Impression
- Mineral Preserved
- Mineral Replaced
- Plant Damage
- Waterworn

Ferrous Metal
Non-Ferrous Metal
Copper Alloy
Gold
Silver
Peat Deposit
Phytolith
Plant Macrofossil
Pollen
Pottery
Residue
Shell
Skin
Slag
Tooth
Ivory
Tufaceous Deposit
Wood
Charcoal
Micro-Charcoal
Roundwood
Twig