

Pattanam and Mathilakam Excavation Methodology

(A joint Amity – PAMA Project)

The basic principles and procedures are as follows

- The excavation method would combine the advantages of conventional methods of vertical digging with recent advances in lateral learning of cultural contexts. Termed as 'locus based', the excavation distinguishes both vertically and laterally identifiable activity/area/layer/feature/pit/structure (termed 'locus') on the basis of colour, texture, character and composition. The precise location of the objects and features are of prime importance as they represent the time and space convergence. Their association/relationship with neighboring objects and features will be meticulously documented using specific data/locus formats.
- The Harris Matrix tool will be used to ensure critical restraint over the digging and to systematize documentation. This would help to examine, identify and interpret cultural strata based on the locus-wise (contextual) distribution of artifacts.
- Systematic documentation by maintaining 12 registers or more as situation demands – Registers for Antiquity, Local pottery, Non-local pottery, Features & Structures, Soil volume, Terracotta remains, Faunal remains, Floral remains, Geological finds, Samples, Drawings/Photographs and video-graphs.
- The trench report is prepared by maintaining two rough notebooks and one fair notebook per trench. One rough notebook is for date and time wise recording of all digging procedures and data as it proceeds. The other rough notebook is for compiling the date-wise reports into locus-wise report. Final locus-wise trench report is prepared in the fair notebook.
- Printed locus based datasheets, daily tally sheets and labels for various data recording.
- On the spot documentation in a digital database software.
- Towards proper micro-planning, review and execution of the work, a discussion session is organized on all digging days.
- Within fifteen days after the conclusion of the excavations the trench reports will be finalized and before two months the interim report of the excavation season will be prepared.
- For a visual understanding of the step by step activities involved in the Excavation procedures applicants and advised to visit this link. They are advised to identify step by step activities and seek clarifications.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHL9hZa21pc>
- For background readings and seeking clarifications if any please refer these books
 1. Banning, E.B. (2002). Archaeological survey. Springer Science & Business Media.
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 4. Cherian, P. J., Ed. (2007 to 2015). Pattanam Excavation Interim Reports. KCHR.
 5. Collis, J. (2004). Digging up the Past: An introduction to archaeological excavation. The History
 6. Drennan, R.D. (2010). Statistics for archaeologists. Springer.
 7. Drewett, P. I. (2011). Field Archaeology: An introduction, 2nd edition. Routledge.
 8. Harris, E.C. (1989). Principles of archaeological stratigraphy, 2nd edition. Academic Press.

9. Hester, T. R., Shafer, H. J. and Feder, K.L. (2009). *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Left Coast
10. Lucas, G. (2002). *Critical approaches to fieldwork: contemporary and historical archaeological practice*. Routledge.
11. Rajan, K. (2002). *Archaeology: Principles and Methods*. Manoo Pathippakkam.
12. Ray, H.P. (2007). *Colonial Archaeology in South Asia (1944-1948): The Legacy of Sir Mortimer Wheeler in India*. Oxford University Press.
13. Roskams, S. (2001). *Excavation*. Cambridge University Press.
14. Sankalia, H. D. (1965). *An Introduction to Archaeology*. Deccan College
15. VanPool, T.L. and Leonard, R.D. (2011). *Quantitative Analysis in Archaeology*. Wiley- Blackwell.
16. Wheeler, REM. (1954). *Archaeology from the Earth*. Oxford University Press.