

# Soils and Time Travel



## Unearthing and exploring past civilisations

The stories of our past are buried in the soil beneath our feet. The remains of old buildings, coins, pottery, tools, food, plant pollen, animals...sometimes even human bodies!

Such objects are preserved in different layers of soil, which build up one on top of the other. The deeper we dig, the further back in time we are able to travel.

### Painting a picture of the environment

Pollen recovered from buried soils can be analysed to reveal the types of vegetation that once grew in the environment - including the crops grown by early farmers. Soil also holds an important record of environmental change. For example: fossilised seeds, snails, insects and lake sediments can all be used to reveal patterns of climate change and its effect on the environment.



### Choosing where to dig

Soil science allows us to 'see' beneath the surface and select sites for digs using techniques like remote sensing, soil mapping and geophysical surveying (or 'geofizz' as it's known on TV's Time Team!)



### Protecting valuable artefacts

Soils provide a protective 'blanket' that helps to keep historic artefacts in good condition.



**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

@Soil\_Science 
 admin@soils.org.uk 
 www.soils.org.uk