



**ARCH B233: Topics in Archaeological Principles and Methods:
Fieldwork**

Tu/Th: 2.40-4.00pm, Old Library 251

Instructor: Dr Jennie Bradbury (jbradbury@brynmawr.edu)



Week 2: Defining Archaeological Sites

- Short discussion of readings (terms, ideas, information)
- Transformation and Taphonomy
 - Exercise 1 (Outdoors): Identifying processes of transformation
- Primary and Secondary Reuse
 - Exercise 2 (Indoors): How do we interpret primary and secondary reuse?
- Archaeological Significance
 - Exercise 3 (Indoors): Recording and interpreting archaeological objects.
 - Exercise 4 (Indoors/Outdoors): Recording and interpreting archaeological features.
- Teaser Exercise for next week

Transformation and Taphonomy



Qaitbay Citadel, Alexandria

Petra, Jordan





Dover Castle, UK



Jerash, Jordan



Housesteads, UK

Exercise 1 (Outdoors): Identifying processes of transformation

Choose two buildings from campus (from the four depicted on the next sheet) and consider and answer the following questions:

- What types of transforms or transformations can you identify?
- If this structure was to be abandoned, can you hypothesize how it might be further transformed?
 - What would remain, what would disappear and, over what time frame?
 - How might abandonment and subsequent post-depositional processes influence the way we interpret the structure?



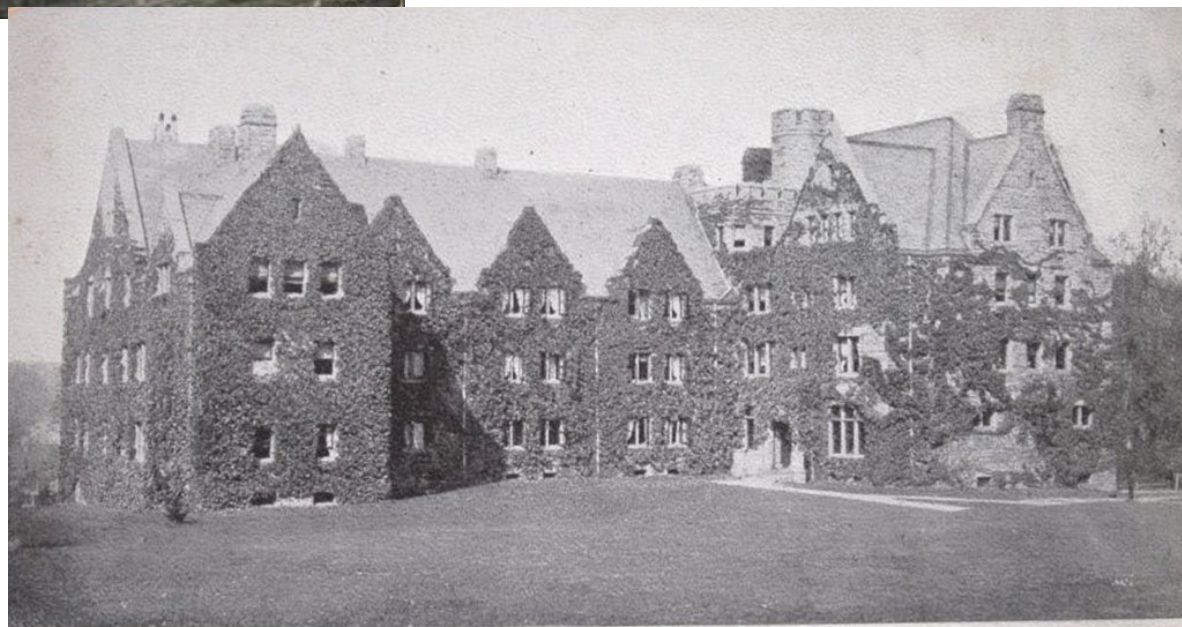
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Rocketeller Hall. Bryn Mawr College.

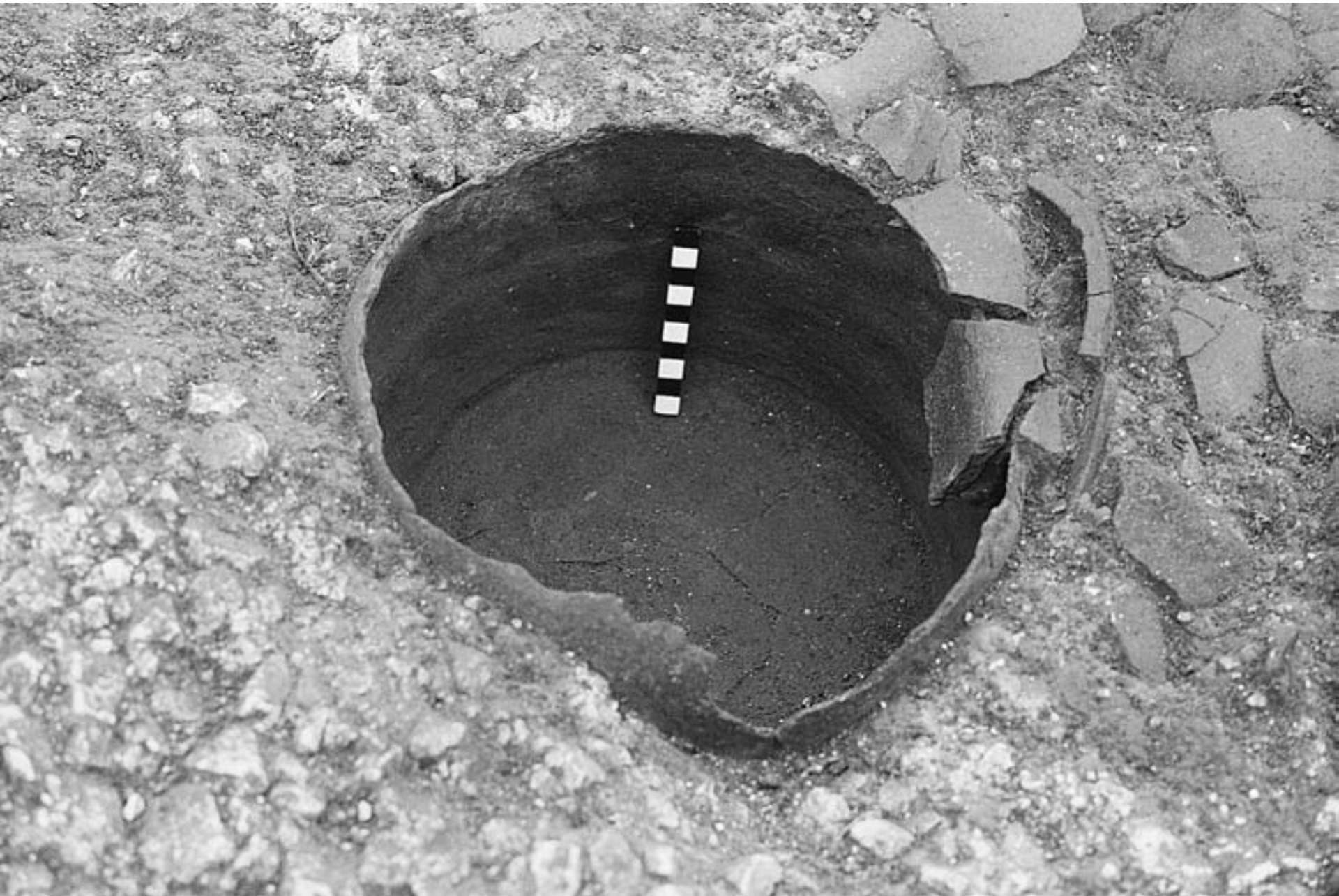


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Primary and Secondary reuse





Exercise 2 (Indoors): How do we interpret primary and secondary reuse?

- What do you think the picture is of?
- Do you think the picture is showing an object/structure in its primary context/in-situ or in secondary reuse?
 - What are the factors/characteristics of the object that lead you to think this?
- If you think the item/structure is being reused, how might we interpret this secondary reuse? Why/how is it being used? To what extent can this secondary reuse tell us about its original function? How might this secondary reuse confuse archaeologists?







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