

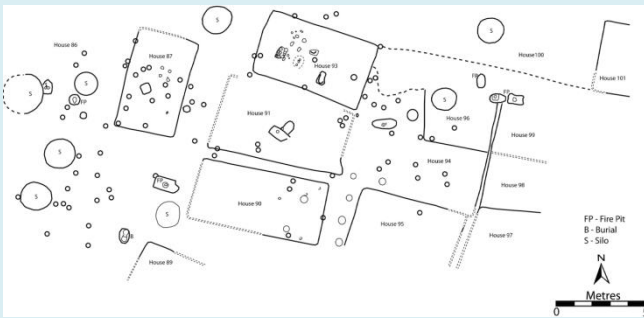
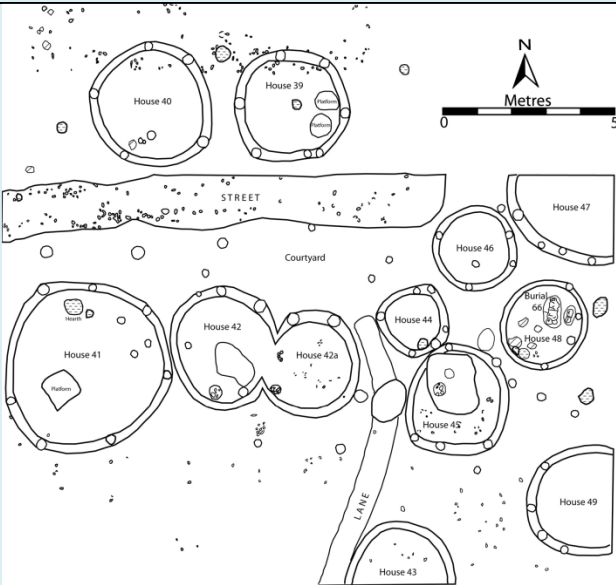



Horizontal Excavation:Excavation of Towns and Fortifications

5.1 Do you know?

Description	Image	Source
The grid method of excavation is called Wheeler-Kenyon method.		The excavation at Keezhadi (Keeladi) Early Historic Site, Tamil Nadu. Courtesy: ASI, Amarnath
Taking cross sections of walls,fortification and moats can help to understand the stratigraphy and the relationships.		Excavation at the Harappan Site of 4MSR, Binjore, Rajasthan. Courtesy: ASI Source: https://www.harappa.com/blog/indus-industry-binjor-rajasthan
Settlement pattern and landscape archaeology studies require horizontal excavations and surface survey.		A layout of houses at the Chalcolithic site of Inamgaon, Maharashtra. Source: Deccan

		College
Exposing the Layout of structures is an important objective of horizontal excavations.	 <p>Layout of structures at Daimabad</p>	<p>Source: ASI</p> <p>https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/archaeology-of-south-asia/early-historic-tradition-c1900200-bce/0F9284AA45A3057A8B2F4562BC22FE14</p>
Excavation of moats and tanks, and off-site features can help understand the settlement contexts and environmental interactions.		<p>Water Reservoir at the Site of Dholavira, Gujarat</p> <p>Source: ASI and</p> <p>http://www.gujarattourism.com/destination/details/12/339</p>

Disadvantages of baulks:
Baulks can obscure the evidence, and disturb the process of interpreting the ancient settlement layouts more accurately.



Wheeler's
Excavation at
Arikamedu.
Source: ASI

Baulks contribute to the understanding of stratigraphy, and they help maintain control in large-scale excavations.



The
Harappan
site of
Binjore,
Rajasthan
Source: ASI

Identification of working levels, foundation trench, floor levels, postholes are important during the archaeological excavations.







Mudbrick
Floors and
other features
the Harappan
site of
Binjore,
Rajasthan
Source: ASI


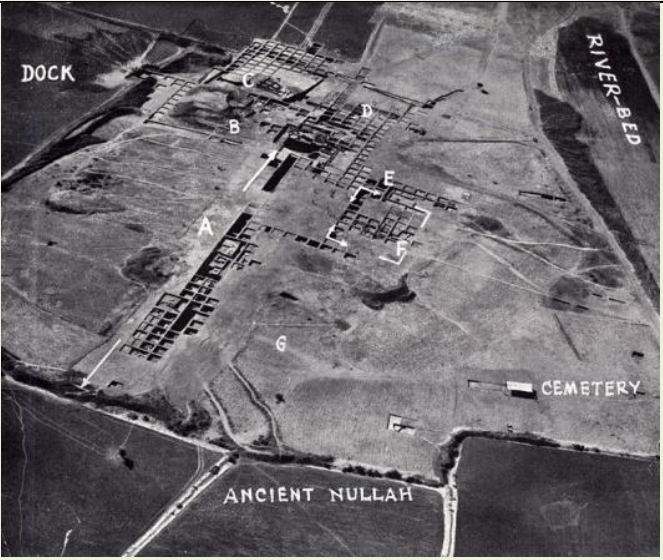

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5.2 Timeline

Horizontal Excavations of Harappan/Indus Valley and Other Sites of India

Timelines	Image	Description
1920s		<p>Marshal's Excavation 1922-1927 at Mohenjodharo</p> <p>Source: https://www.harappa.com/slide/southern-buildings-course-excavation-south-west</p>

1920s		<p>Marshall's Excavation 1922-1927 at Mohenjodharo https://www.harappa.com/slideshows/marshalls-mohenjo-daro-1922-27</p>
1920s		<p>Excavation at Bulandibagh, Pataliputra, Bihar by J.A. Page and M.Ghosh in 1926-27 http://www.asi.nic.in/asi_exca_imp_bihar.asp</p>
1930s	 <p>Kiln excavated by Macay at Mohenjodharo in the 1930s</p>	<p>Excavation at Mohenjodharo by Mackay.</p> <p>Source: https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/w-norman-brown-americans-excavating-in-british-india/</p>

<p>1950</p>		<p>Wheeler's Mohenjo-daro Excavations</p> <p>Source; https://www.harappa.com/slide/mohenjo-daro-granary-excavations-91 </p>
<p>1950s</p>	 <p>Excavation at Lothal By S.R. Rao</p>	<p>Excavation at Lothal</p> <p>Source: http://www.harappa.com/blog/lothal-and-mohenjo-daro-3-similarities </p>
<p>1990s</p>		<p>Excavation at Dholavira by Archaeological Survey of India (R.S. Bhist)</p> <p>Source: http://asi.nic.in/asi_exca_2007_dholavira.asp </p>

2000s		<p>Excavation at Rakhigarhi, Hariyana, Source: Archaeological Survey of India</p>
2016-17		<p>Excavation at Binjor, 4MSR Harappan Site Source: Archaeological Survey of India</p>

5.3 Glossary

Staring Character	Term	Definition	Related Term
A	Activity Area	An area where an activity takes place	Locus
B	Baulk	The unexcavated area around a trench. It is used in grid method. It is normally 50 to 100 cm in thickness.	Wall, Baulk, Section
B	Building Plan	The plan of the structures and buildings. The purpose of horizontal excavations is to identify the building and structural plans used by people in a particular settlement.	Ground Plan; Top Plan
C	Clay Wall	Walls built with clay. Here blocks of clay are placed to build the wall.	Mud wall
C	Cross Section	Cutting a feature or digging the sediments around a wall for understanding the stratigraphy	Baulk, Stratigraphy
D	Dynamic Context	Context of ancient cultures. Living context, pre-depositional	Post-Depositional
E	Emic	Views of the producers of a culture	Etic
E	Etic	View of the outsiders to a culture. Archaeologists and Historians are outsiders to the cultures that they study	Emic
F	Function	Function refers to the purpose. Horizontal excavation involves the identification of the function of a structure.	Purpose
F	Floor	The ground level of a building or hut in the interior prepared with various materials. Identifying the floor levels and floors is one of the challenges of horizontal excavations.	Buildings
G	Grid Method	Gridding the excavated areas into small squares for control over digging. This method is also known as Wheeler-Kenyon Method.	Horizontal Method
G	GPR- Ground Penetrating Radar	Radar used for mapping the buried structures	Excavation Method
H	Horizontal Excavation Method	Horizontal Method of excavating a site	Excavation of Towns and

			Villages, Settlement Pattern
K	Knapping	Knocking off a flake from a stone.	Activity Area
L	Locus	<i>Locus</i> means space or place in Latin. It refers to a context. It is one unit of activity in a trench.	Matrix, Activity Area
M	Mud bricks	Bricks that were made out of clay or mud and used without baking them in the kiln.	Adobe, sun dried bricks
O	Open Area Excavation	The method of excavating a large area without leaving baulks or grids	Horizontal Method excavation
O	Off-site	Activity areas and small sites that are located away from the main settlements	Site
P	Pit	A feature that cuts into the layers. It is a disturbance to archaeological sediments and materials move across various directions because of the pits. They are seen as one of the causes for the contamination of the cultural materials. The pits have to be identified and excavated separately in an archaeological excavation.	Robber Trench
P	Post-hole	Pits dug to plant the posts for building houses. Posts are also dug over brick walls in Early historic contexts.	Building Plan
P	Post-Depositional Context	Abandoned buildings, layers after they shift from the dynamic, living cultural context to the sediments at a site.	Dynamic Context
R	Robber Trench	A pit dug in a site for collecting bricks from ancient walls and buildings for reuse.	Pit
S	Site Function	Function of a site. E.g. Political headquarters. Commercial centre port	Settlement Type
S	Section	Cut part of a feature. Cutting across a feature or wall or fortification or moat or deposit.	Baulk
T	Top plan	The plan of a particular feature, building structure	
V	Vertical Excavation	Excavation focusing on the vertical sequence and cultural history of a site.	Cultural Sequence
W	Wheeler-Kenyon Method	The method of leaving grids in large excavated area	Grid Method

W	Working Level	Level during which a building was in use at the town/site/settlement. The level of the street and the building in a particular period.	Floors, Streets
W	Wall	The feature built with clay, mud bricks and burnt bricks around a building	Baulk

5.4. Weblinks

Web links
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Excavation_(archaeology)
http://science.jrank.org/pages/2617/Excavation-Methods.html
https://www.ashadocs.org/aha/03/03_04_Higginbotham.pdf
http://www.rantinandrovin.com/2013/07/05/archaeology-trenches-and-grids/
https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/pdf/rn/rio_nuevo_ch02.pdf
http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GExcavation_1.pdf
https://maas.museum/event/zagora/archaeological-field-tools-and-methods/
http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/decoding_the_past/digging.html
http://www.ihti.ca/eng/IHT-Archaeological-Excavation-Guide.pdf
https://achill-fieldschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/molasmanual942.pdf
http://www.archaeology.ru/Download/Drewett/Drewett_1999_Field_Archaeology.pdf
http://www.nara.accu.or.jp/elearning/2005/archaeoloical.pdf
http://www.pawv.org/special/Process%20of%20Archaeology.pdf
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pq-tw7HWRw
http://www.epaves.corsaires.culture.fr/flash/en/uc/05_01
https://www.studyblue.com/notes/note/n/lecture-6-archaeological-excavation-part-1/deck/10393570
http://www.asi.nic.in/asi_exca_imp_bihar.asp
http://www.asi.nic.in/asi_excavations.asp

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