

Observing and recording a building

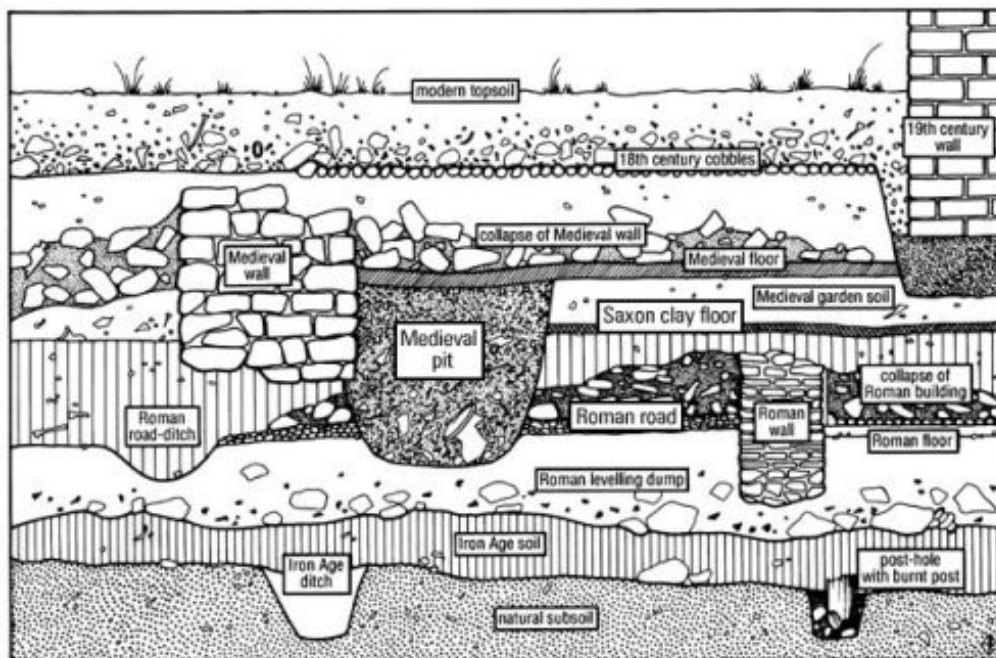


Name: _____

Experts at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum have saved buildings from destruction and moved them to the Museum site by using their mathematical skills.

One key skill is observing and recording a building. This means looking very closely at what is there and making a detailed scale drawing.

Many people, such as architects, archaeologists and conservation experts, use these skills every day. Even with the technology we have today they often want a drawing with key measurements and information but not the details in a photograph.



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Have a go at observing and drawing a building, like the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum experts!

Q. What do you think you will need to do this?

A. Notebook, pencil, ruler, eraser, measuring tape or use the ideas from 'measuring the height' sheet.

Q. What is the first thing to do?

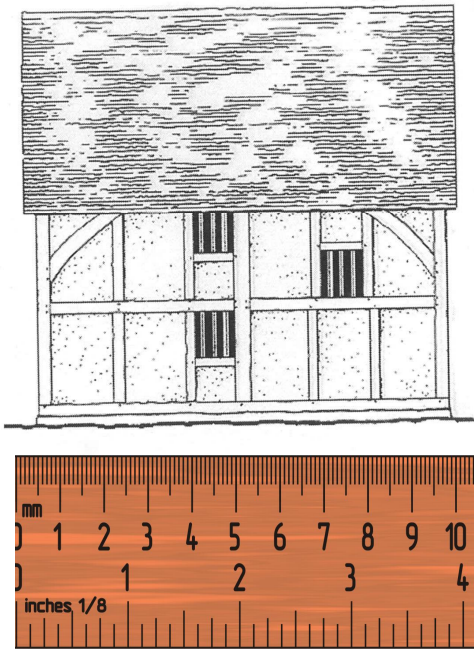
A. Decide the building, or the section of a building, that you are going to observe and record. Look at it in detail, discuss with someone else. Then measure and draw the outline shape.

Q. How large should the drawing be?

A. You decide on the scale.

If you are drawing part of a building the scale may be 1cm = 1m.

A scale drawing means that you are drawing a real object with accurate sizes, except they have been reduced or enlarged by a certain amount. This amount is called the scale.



Before you start you can draw a grid (or use graph paper) to make it easier. Then you know in every centimetre square you need to draw what you see in that section of the building.

To test your drawing: Do you think someone could follow your drawing to reconstruct the part of the building with no other information? This is how detailed it needs to be! Also mark on the drawing anything else important (might be a different colour or mark).