Stratigraphy – a technique for relative dating based on organizing artifacts by means of strata. Key concept: objects in lower strata are older than objects in higher strata.
- Objects tend to get buried over time – humans build on top of old structures
- Observe carefully to identify continuous, undisturbed strata
- Disturbed strata may indicate dump pits, post holes, burials, construction, or other human activity which can compromise relative dating

Modern Topsoil – 2019AD

Brick Wall – 1900AD

Cobblestones – 1750AD

Collapse of Medieval Wall – 1000AD

Medieval Floor – 1000AD

Medieval Dump Pit

Anglo-Saxon Era Floor – 700AD

Medieval Garden Soil – 800AD

Medieval sword – 750AD

Collapse of Roman Wall

Roman Wall – 100AD

Roman Leveling Dump – 50AD

Roman Mosaic Floor – 100AD

Roman Road – 200AD

Roman Road Ditch – 200AD

Roman Coin – 25AD

Pottery – 900AD

Iron Age Pit

Iron Age Spear – 400BC

Bones – 550BC

Natural Sub-soil

Axe – 800BC

Post Hole with Burnt Post

Your Mission: Find the likely age ranges of items indicated with a yellow circle, if relative dating via stratigraphy is possible (some are tricky !!)