



PRELIMINARY SEARCH AND SITE ASSESSMENT

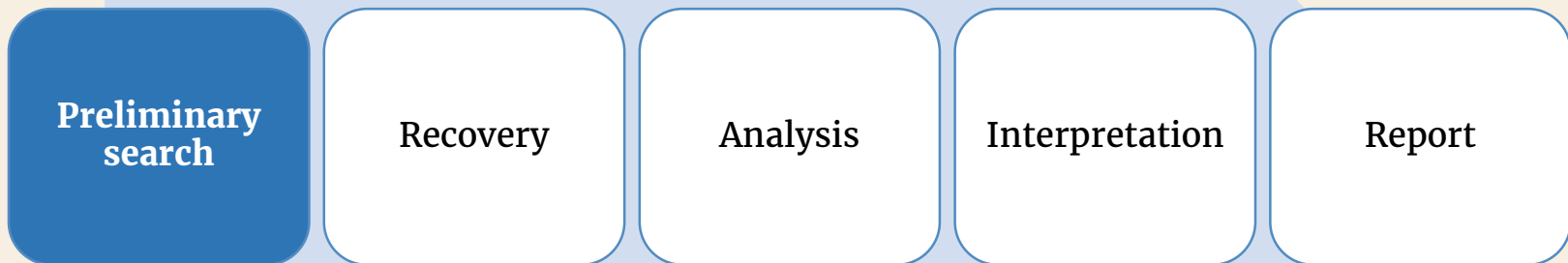
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Preliminary search

Collection of all information about a case (documents, testimonies, maps, etc.) to develop strategies and to narrow down possibilities;

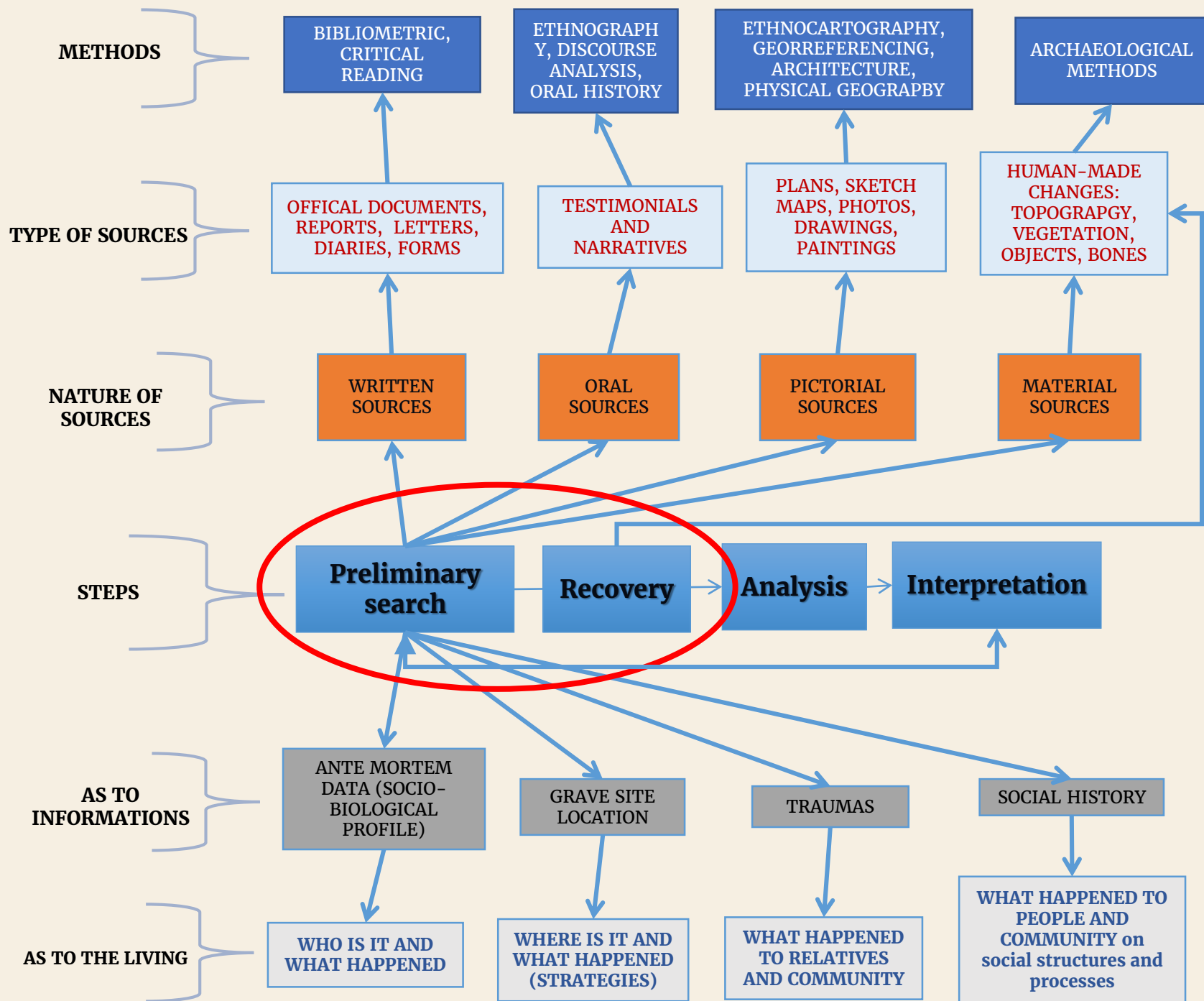


Used to:

- Background and circumstances of the event;
- Social and biological information about a person while alive;
- Establishment of patterns;
- Biological reference samples;
- Hypotheses of identity;
- Location of sites.



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Oral sources

Family
Communities

Related to the witnesses	Direct
	Indirect
Related to the direct witness	Of Death
	Of Burial
	Of Death and burial
Related to the indirect witness	Went to location with direct witness
	Went to location with indirect witness
	Heard from a direct witness, without going to location
	Heard from a indirect witness, without going to location



23/11/2016. Baitadi district, Satbanjha. With the support of the ICRC Hateymalo psychosocial support program, families construct a place in memory of their beloved ones who went missing during the conflict. Photographer: SUNAR; Dan Bahadur. Copyright ICRC.

Rank	Recommendations
	Meaning the highest probability of finding remains.
	Meaning that it is important to look for other witnesses, but site can be surveyed depending the reliability of other variables (sketch, landmarks, surface examination, etc.)
	Look for further information.

Written sources

Documents issued by state, army, police, judicial investigation, autopsy reports, cemetery or morgue records, death certificates, mass media archives, academic works, etc.



28/03/2018. Thailand. Bangkok. Volunteers of the Thai Red Cross Society take part in a dissemination session organized by the ICRC on the correct use of the Red Cross emblem in different situations. Photographer: Tuiengsat, Thanapa. Copyright: ICRC.



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Pictorial sources

Missing/dead
Event
Remains



30/08/2012. Nepal. Bardia district, Gulariya. Families of missing persons mark the 29th International Day of the Disappeared. Photographer: Sharma, Vijay. Copyright: ICRC.



06/2017. Iraq. Baiji. This photo was used at the exhibition "War in cities" organized by the ICRC. It is said that a photo speaks a thousand words. These two pictures found among the remains of a house. Photographer: Qusay, Anmar. Copyright: ICRC

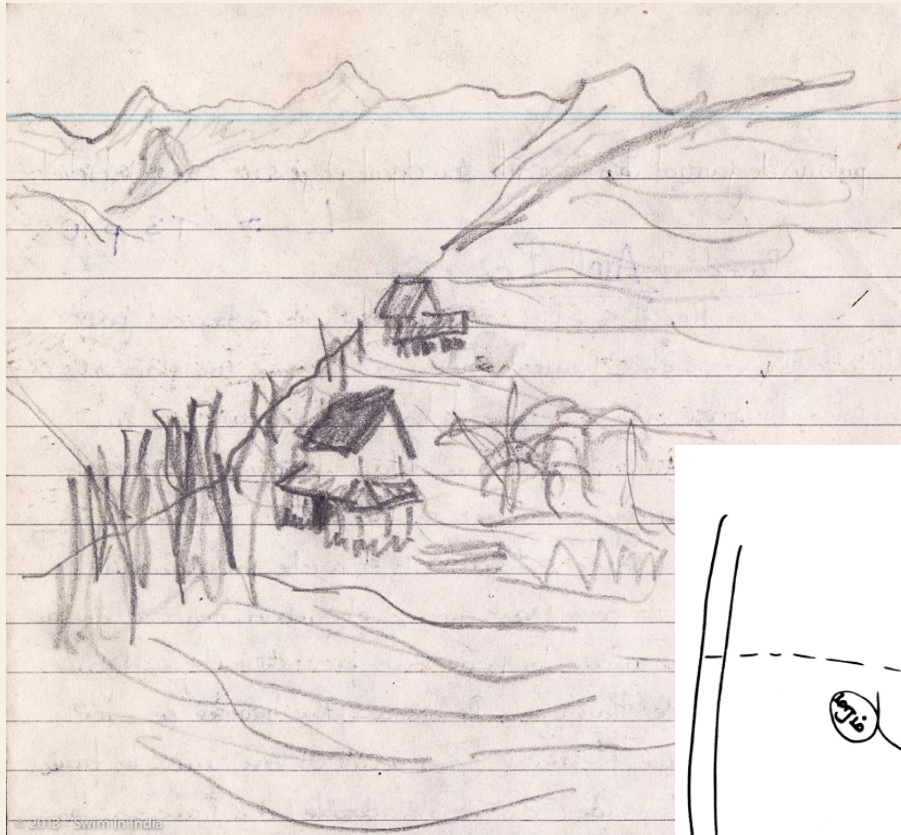


1960. Nepal. Réfugiés tibétains occupés à la construction d'une route. Photographer: Hagen, Toni. Copyright : ICRC archives (ARR)



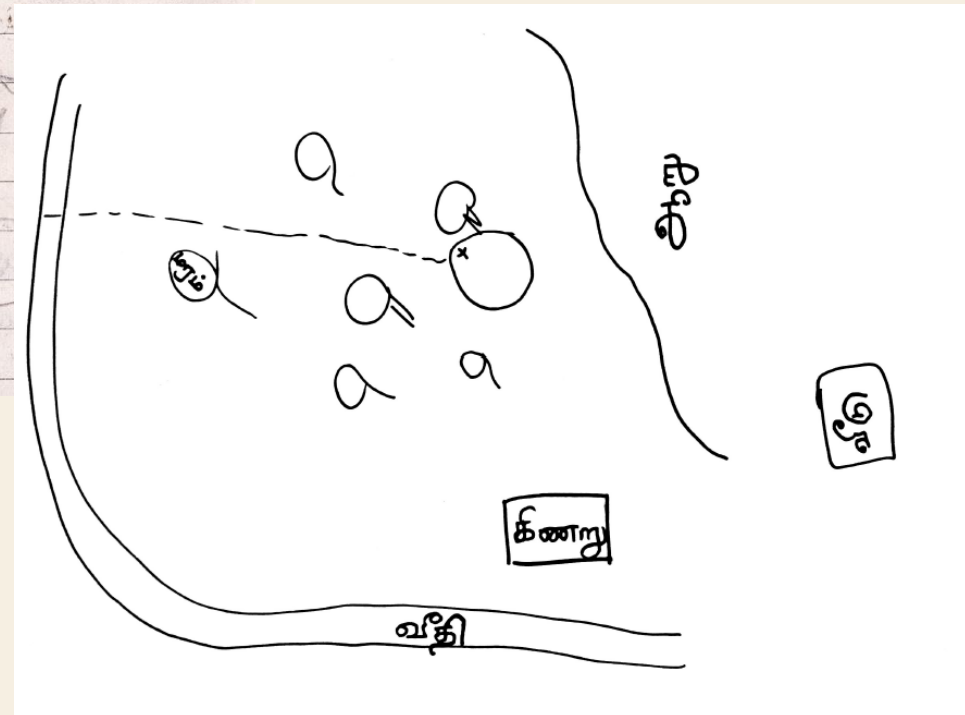
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Sketches and drawings



<https://hiveminer.com/Tags/kathmandu%2Csketch>

- Landmarks
- References
- Proportions
- Spatial relations



Contemporary photographs



06/02/2008. Chad. N'Djamena. Mortal remains are buried by volunteers of the Red Cross of Chad. Photographer: Kaloga, Inah Fatouma. Copyright: ICRC.



04/1943. Poland. Katyn. Work of the international forensic commission to identify the bodies in graves in the forest.

Ways of disposal



27/12/2004. Sri Lanka. North of Sri Lanka, Mullaitivu district (LTTE controlled area). Tsunami victims being buried in a communal grave. Photographer: VAN HEERDEN, Juan. Copyright: ICRC

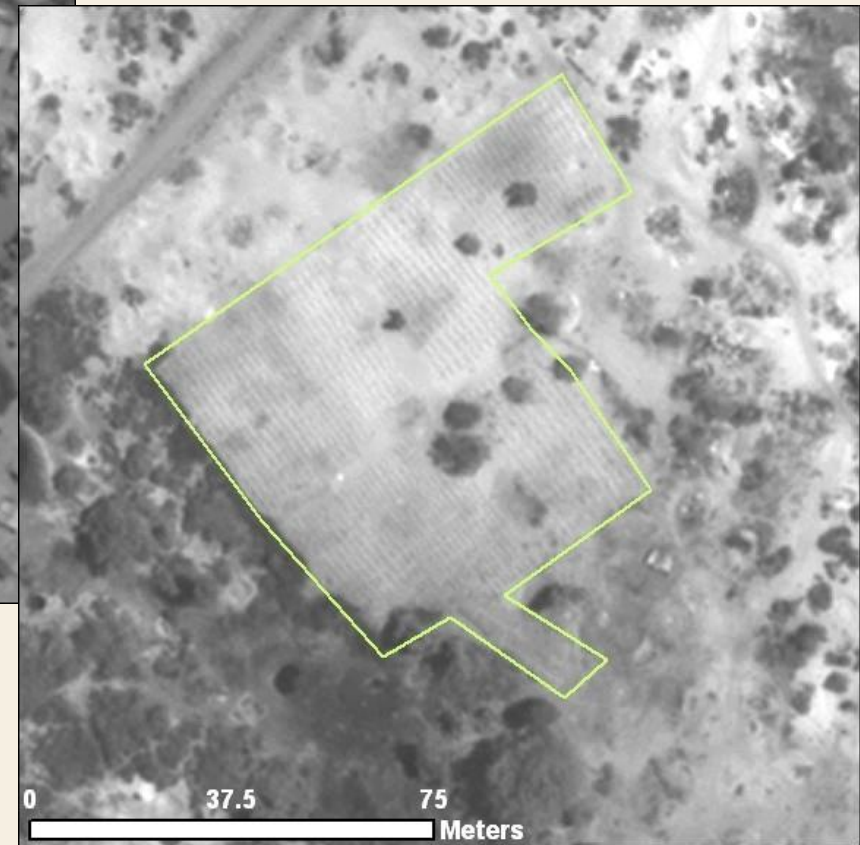


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Aerial photographs and photogrammetry



AAAS, Sri Lanka, 2011



AAAS, Sri Lanka, 2011



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Material sources

Site assessment

- Archaeological fieldwork to gather information from each site identified;
- Assessment methods depend on field conditions, goals and type of site.



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Survey

- Before conducting a survey, a survey plan should be formulated that identifies the personnel and equipment that will be needed and the specific methods/ techniques that will be used.



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Survey plan

- Preparation for recovery is just as important as the survey.
- Prior to beginning every survey, carefully determine the **boundaries of the area to be searched** and the different methods that will be used.



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Types of areas to be surveyed

- Open areas
- Obstructed areas
- Submerged areas



28.02.2009. Putumayo department, between the village of Teteyé and Puerto Asis. A cemetery that contains several unmarked graves. Photographer: Pagetti, Franco. Copyright: ICRC/VB.

- Disturbances and features;
- Land use;
- Environment and ecology;
- Geomorphology and topography.



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Survey methods

- Invasive
- Non-invasive
- Systematic
- Unsystematic



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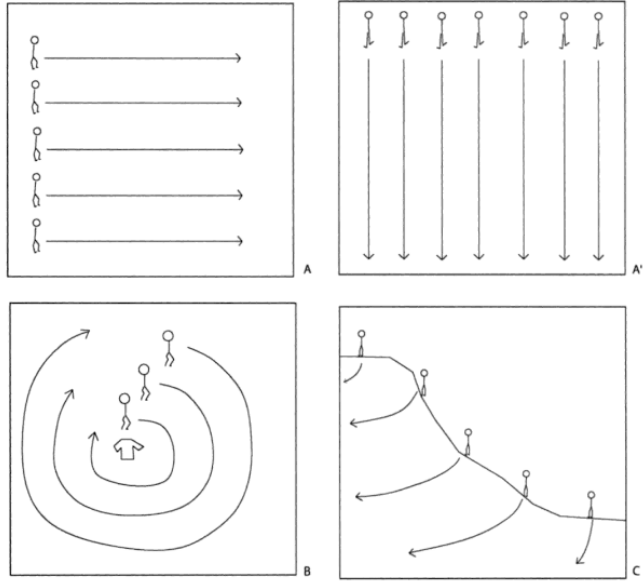
Non-invasive

- Pedestrian survey:
visual inspection

- As we walk, we watch the ground – saw something, mark with a flag;
- Walking slowly over the ground while looking for signs:
 - Artefacts
 - Color of the soil
 - Topography
 - Vegetation
 - Other terrain features



- Transects



Kalutara Training Center, Sri Lanka, 2016

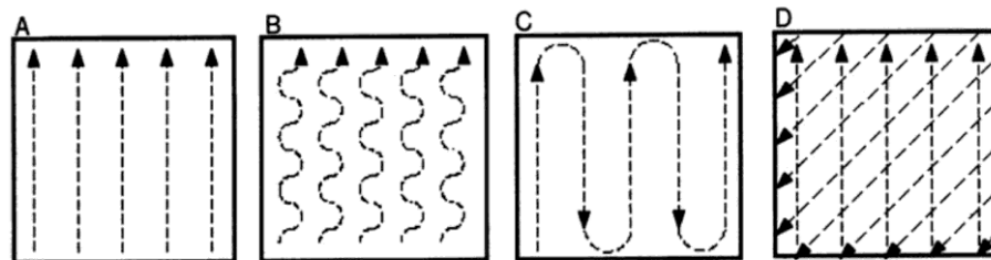


Figure 5.6 Different **survey** transects

(E. B. Banning, *Archaeological Survey*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum, 2002, p. 91 © Springer Science.)



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Surface features



Kalutara Police Training Center, Sri Lanka, 2016



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Vegetal cover

- When a grave is dug, the vegetal cover on the surface change;
- Change in vegetation sequence (weeds);
- Looser, aerated and prone to infiltration than surrounding soil:

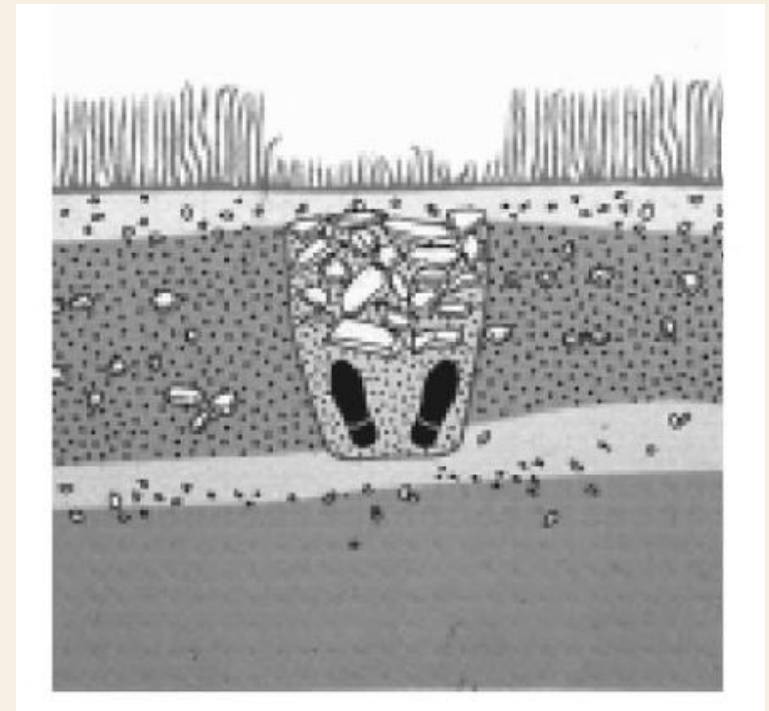
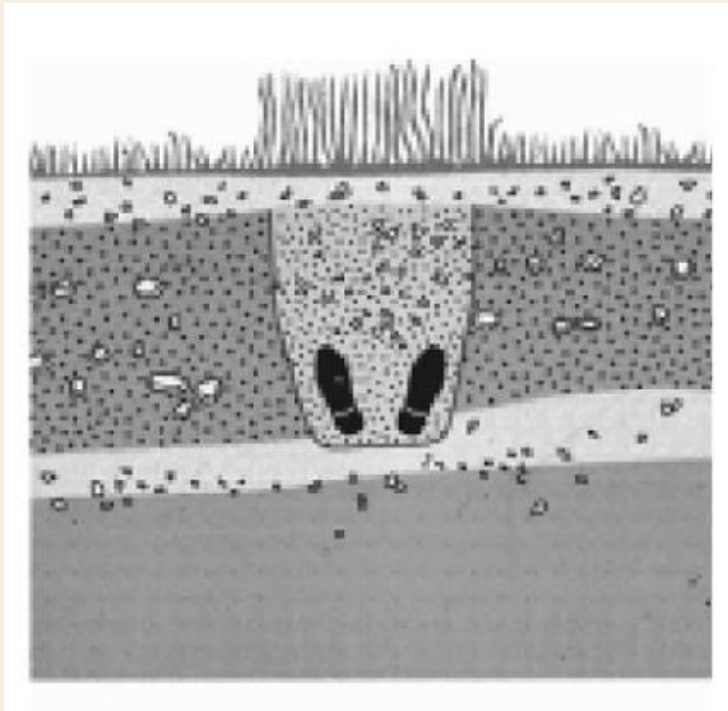




Figure 2.3 Photograph showing how vegetation change above an Iron Age burial ground is still visible today on a seasonal basis



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Topography

- Volume –almost impossible for original spoil to be replaced within the grave
 - Less consolidated;
 - Mound;
 - Depression.



Gravesite hill, view N

ICRC. South Ossetia, 2016

Coloration

- Color – stratigraphic inversion



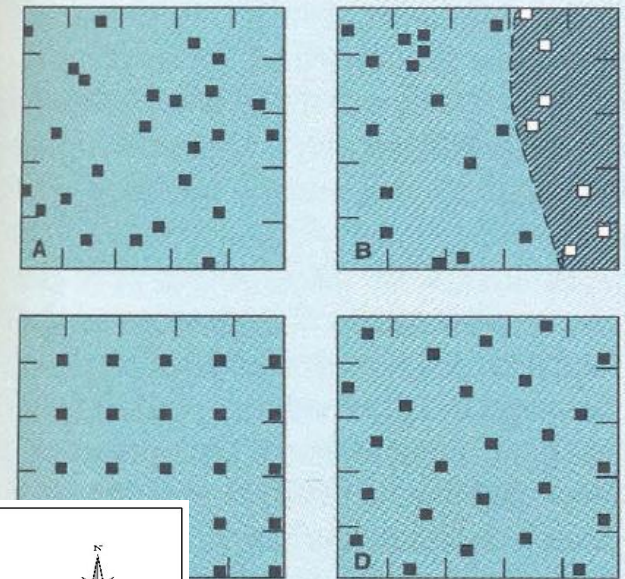
Kalutara Police Training Center, Sri Lanka, 2016



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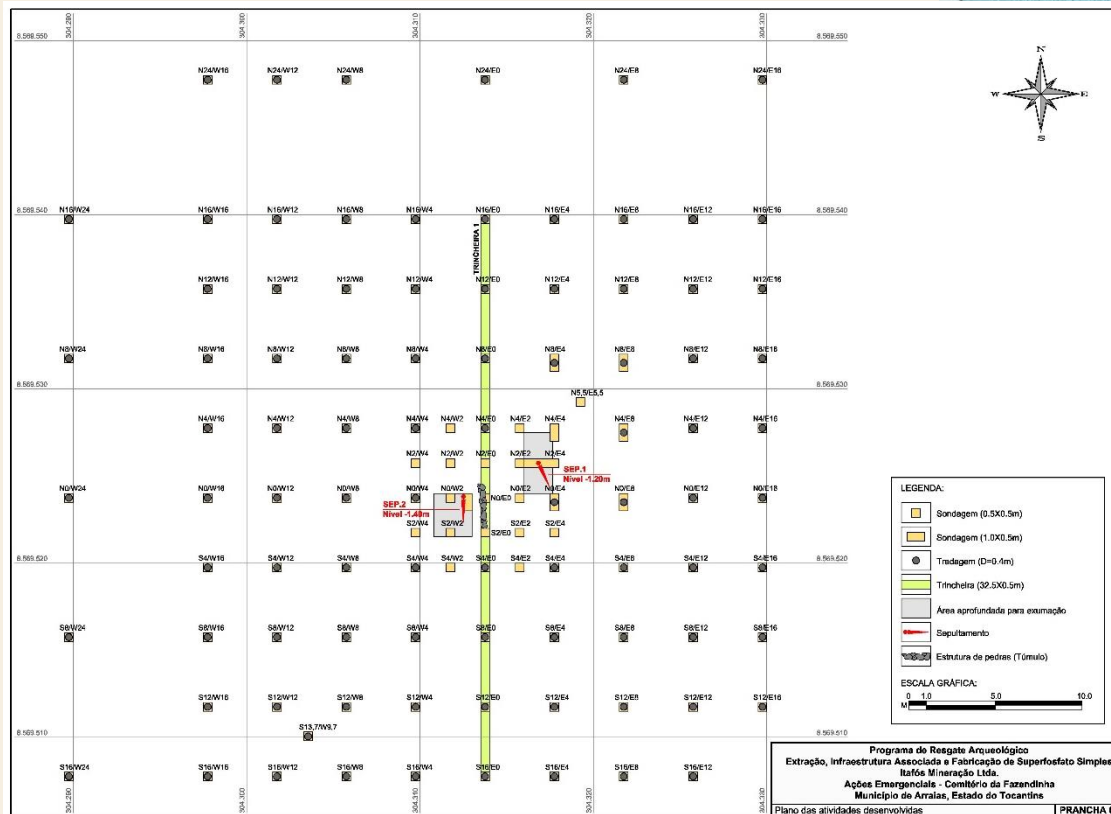
Invasive

- Probing
- Shovel tests



Sampling: (A) simple random;
random; (C) systematic;
unaligned systematic.

Renfrew, Bahn, 2009



Souza, Hattori, Fischer, 2012



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Recovery plan

- ❖ Funding;
- ❖ Coordination of a large number of people;
- ❖ Human and material resources;
- ❖ Recruitment;
- ❖ Appropriate technical support to fieldwork;
- ❖ Duration of field work and lab;
- ❖ Logistical issues:
 - Site access;
 - Recording;
 - Protection of evidences in situ;
 - Housing;
 - Funding.



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To open or not to open?



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