

Dating

Small Finds

The small finds database requires that objects are dated using numerical values to define a date range to which the object is typologically dated

The numerical values represent years with a negative value representing years BC and a positive value representing years AD

There are two fields: Minimum Date and Maximum Date which define the beginning date for the date range and the end date for the range. Both values must always be filled in

There is a third field Date range description that is a free text field for describing the date range. Once a numerical date range has been described, this value will be automatically filled in for every small find assigned to that date range. Therefore specific comments about an object's dating should be included in the object description field

Some examples of the dating field:

Minimum Date	Maximum Date	Date range Description
200	299	Third century AD
150	250	Mid second to mid third century AD
-800	-600	Early Iron Age
362	362	A precise date
233	350	Early to mid third century to mid fourth century AD
1850	2000	Modern
361	370	A slightly less precise date

The value 2000 should be used to indicate the end of a modern date range

Since the data will be posted on the Archaeological Data Service website abbreviations should be kept to an absolute minimum

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