

## SIDEWALK PROJECT

The purpose of this exercise is to emphasize the difference between **observations** and **interpretations** in archaeological research. This exercise will substitute for an actual field project. The exercise involves selecting a section of sidewalk on campus or near your home, describing the characteristics of the sidewalk, and then making a series of interpretations based on these observations. Follow the instructions listed below:

1. select a *minimum* 5 meter (15 ft) section of sidewalk for analysis. Select an interesting section; that is, "where something is going on." Each student must select a separate section.
2. draw a to-scale (cm or inches) plan view of the sidewalk which you can refer to in your description. Provide a key, labels, north arrow, and scale. Use graph paper and a ruler; *block print* your labels (use a pencil rather than an ink pen to draw and label the map).
3. Describe the sidewalk section in detail by taking field notes. Make sure you discriminate between observations of the sidewalk's physical character (shape, texture, color, superpositioning, etc.) and cultural characteristics (artifacts).
4. In your paper interpret your observations--that is, what sense can you make of the observations in terms of relative age, construction sequence, repair, wear, weathering, or modification. Distinguish between **cultural** and **natural** processes. You must justify your interpretations by showing the causal link between your observations and conclusions. *Take into consideration (and discuss) possible alternative interpretations indicating their likelihood.*
5. Using *Indiana Map* print a map of the neighborhood where your sidewalk is located. The map should be based on any of the aerial photo layers with a marker indicating the location of your sidewalk.
6. your paper should have three sections: 1) **Introduction & Location** of the sidewalk (UTMs/datum, and its general surroundings for context), 2) **Observations**, and 3) **Interpretations** (plus the maps). Each section in the paper should be set-off by a heading.

The first draft of the paper/map, with hand written field notes attached, is due **Wednesday, March 25th**. The paper should be word processed (include a title page). I will critique your paper and return it to you for revisions. The due date for the final version of the paper will be announced later in class (*both the final and draft will be turned in at that time--so hold onto the draft*). The exercise is worth a total of 100 pts. Your grade is based on both the draft and final versions. Be sure to have a copy of your paper and map available in the unlikely event that I misplace them.