Finds and samples

Bulk finds: artefacts recovered in bulk are not given a unique number, but added on-site to a 'Finds tray' - a garden tray labelled with the Context number you are working on (see figure). Examples: unworked animal bone, post medieval pot shell and ceramic building material (CBM). Top tip: don't overload the context tray with finds, start a new tray so you don't crush those precious finds!

Small (or special) finds: issued with a unique Small Find number (SF No. shown in a triangle). Carefully excavate the find, get a SF no. from Digital Dig Team, take a sketch photo, and complete the record. Bag the find (while resisting the urge to clean it up!), labelled as pictured. Top tip: always mark the exact findspot with a garden tag labelled with the SF No, so the location can be recorded!

General Bulk Samples: contexts taken as General Bulk Samples (GBS) need to be secure (not contaminated with modern / intrusive material), and have a reasonable amount of material to recover (eg enough for two bags of 20 litres), with potential for recovery of charred seeds, small bones, shell and small finds. GBS will be washed using a flotation technique to recover the information and should have their own unique number (shown in a diamond), labelled two Tyvek labels, one inside the bag and the other outside, including the number of bags (see opposite). Top tip: clean the surface of the context before taking the sample to avoid contamination!