

	Dating Method		Age range (BP)	Type of material		
Relative dating	Stratigraphy		Uses stratification to relate older and later contexts.	Soil and sediment		
	Pollen		A pollen zone sequence has been produced in northern Europe covering the last 10000 years.	Pollen samples		
	Faunal		Species have evolved over the last few million years and if the same species is found on two different sites they may be of the same approximate age.	Bone		
Absolute dating	Varves		12000	Sediment layers		
	Tree-ring dating		8000	Trees from outside the tropics		
	Radioactive clocks	Radiocarbon		80000	Wood, charcoal, bone	
		Thermoluminescence		500000	Pottery, burnt stone	
		Electron spin resonance		1000000	Bone or shell	
		Uranium-Series		50000-500000	Limestone	
		Fission-track		300000-2500000000	Pumice, obsidian, zircon, apatite	
		Potassium-Argon		>100000	Volcanic rock	
	Calibrated relative	Obsidian hydration		120000	Obsidian	
		Amino-acid racemisation		100000	Bone	
		Cation-ratio		20000	Petroglyphs and worked stone in desert conditions	
		Archaeomagnetic	Magnetic wandering		4000	Baked clay structures (pottery, ovens, kilns, hearths)
			Magnetic reversal		>780000	Rock strata