

Skyscapes, Cosmology and Archaeology

Recommendation for Fieldwork Equipment

GPS Handheld

Garmin is the go-to brand on handheld GPS units. Their current 'standard' line is the *eTrex* line and, if you intend to buy a new one, any *eTrex* model would be our recommendation. New units range in price from £99 to £219

They look like this:



eTrex® 30x

Button-operated GPS device with built-in memory and sensors



eTrex® 20x

Button-operated GPS device with built-in memory



eTrex® 10

Button-operated GPS device for hiking and geocaching

You can read more about them on Garmin's website [by clicking here](#).

Garmin are the manufacturers of the GPS chips that most smartphone companies use, which means that such smartphones have very good GPS reception. The main problem we face is that often they don't give you much needed information, such as number of satellites it has connected to, the error in the measurement or even the latitude and longitude. If that's the case with your smartphone then you'll need to buy an app to give you that information.

There are many, one recommendation would be *GPS Status & Toolbox*, which is available both [for iPhones](#) and [for Android phones](#).

Compass + Clinometer

In terms of compasses we are looking for a sighting compass, which is not your run-of-the-mill plate compass that you can buy essentially anywhere for next to nothing. The difference is substantial, and we cover this in the seminars.

There are many brands that sell good-quality sighting compasses (Silva, EyeSkey, etc.). If you are serious about doing fieldwork, the brand we recommend is Suunto who provides both compasses and clinometers, as well as a tandem unit that combines the two.

Our recommendations are:



[Suunto KB-14 Compass](#)

Price: £125

[Suunto PM-5 Clinometer](#)

Price: £135



Or the tandem unit:



[Suunto Tandem Compass and Clinometer](#)

Price: £200

If you are on a budget, EyeSkey has similar units at a fraction of the cost. [Click here for their compass](#), and [click here for their tandem unit](#).

If you want to try to find something online try to find something that looks like the images above, i.e. that includes the eyepiece which you look through (black bits in the photos above) and ensure that the advertised precision is below 1° (preferably 0.5° or lower).

As always, email the tutor(s) when in doubt. We are here to help you!