Archaeological Investigation

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Drawing its numerous examples from around the world, *Archaeological Investigation* explores the procedures used in field archaeology travelling over the whole process from discovery to publication.

Divided into four parts, it argues for a set of principles in Part 1, describes work in the field in Part 2 and how to write up in Part 3. Part 4 describes the modern world in which all types of archaeologist operate, academic and professional. The central chapter ‘Projects galore’ takes the reader on a whirlwind tour through different kinds of investigation including in caves, gravel quarries, towns, historic buildings and underwater.

*Archaeological Investigation* intends to be a companion for a newcomer to professional archaeology – from a student introduction (Part 1), to first practical work (Part 2), to the first responsibilities for producing reports (Part 3), and in Part 4 to the tasks of project design and heritage curation that provide the meat and drink of the fully fledged professional.

The book also proposes new ways of doing things, tried out over the author’s thirty years in the field and here brought together for the first time. This is no plodding manual but an inspiring, provocative, informative and entertaining book, urging that archaeological investigation is one of the most important things society does.

**Martin Carver** specialises in the archaeology of early Medieval Europe and field archaeology in all periods. He was a freelance archaeologist from 1972 until 1986, when he was appointed professor and head of department at the University of York. Since 2003 he has been editor of the journal *Antiquity*. 
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Martin Carver
To my friends pictured within.
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The following were reproduced with kind permission. While every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and obtain permission, this has not been possible in all cases. Any omissions brought to our attention will be remedied in future editions.

Colour plate section

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1b Archaeological strata seen from the side. Labelled layers of charcoal, soil and stones lie above the sandy subsoil (FAS Ltd).

Aerial photographs of cropmarks: (clockwise) ring ditches showing in wheat fields, ploughed out banks, and a settlement enhanced by infra-red film © English Heritage NMR.

Taking off the topsoil. The area to the lower left has been shaved by a backblading Drott (at Level A). The area to the right has been shovel-scraped, removing the ridges (Level B) and is being cleaned at Level C; the rectangle at the top is being cleaned at Level D, and the graves exposed are being excavated at Level E. The photograph was taken from a kite, operated remotely (see kite string top right).

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