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4 - Discovering Sites Unseen

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Publisher Summary

This chapter focuses on unseen site-discovery. It is a comparative study of site-discovery problems and specific techniques. A range of techniques has been or could be used to discover sites, though not all techniques are equally effective for all kinds of archaeological remains. Nor are all techniques suited for the full range of study-area sizes, environmental conditions, or project budgets. Confronted by the variety of possible techniques, each with varied capabilities and limitations, archaeologists must choose carefully when designing a discovery investigation. The chapter provides guidance for this decision making. It describes the techniques and their effectiveness, considering the kinds of remains they can detect and their logistical limitations. It focuses on the effectiveness of a variety of techniques for the discovery of sites with unobtrusive contents in environments where visibility is poor and subsurface testing that is necessary. The chapter discusses the aspects of site obtrusiveness: intersite frequencies of site constituents and their intrasite and abundance distribution. It then describes various techniques that have been or might be used to discover sites and examines the usefulness of each technique for site discovery considering the constituent

examines the usefulness of each technique for site discovery considering the constituent that it can detect and its logistical requirements.

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