

*Review*

discipline's standards of empirical research and thereby truly enrich our understanding of the human past.

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E.B. BANNING. *Archaeological survey*. xxi+273 pages, 38 figures, 3 tables. 2002. New York (NY): Kluwer Academic/Plenum; 0-306047347-X hardback \$80, 0-306-47348-8 paperback \$50.

Archaeological survey is a core aspect of archaeological research. It is essential for the study of past settlement systems and life at the regional scale whatever period is being studied. It is also an essential element within developer funded archaeology, now the greatest employer of archaeologists in Britain, the United States and many other parts of the world. Over the last thirty years much has been written on the subject and yet this is the first really comprehensive manual on archaeological survey. It really is a manual. If you want to know how to apply Bayesian analysis or what to wear so as not to be shot by hunters, this is the book for you. It is clearly set out with bold headings highlighting each topic so you can find what you want and ignore sections you already know.

A fundamental part of archaeological survey is finding archaeological sites (however they are defined, and there is a good section on 'sites' and 'non sites' in the book). Archaeologists are actually quite good at this and have developed a body of theory and a battery of survey techniques. However, as the author points out, we are not alone in our need to search things out in the field and yet the large body of literature on search theory has largely been ignored by archaeologists. Much of this theory comes out of much better funded subjects than archaeology, like the US Navy's research and

mineral deposit research. This book brings in this theory as and when the author thinks appropriate, so adding a new dimension for 'old hands' at archaeological survey.

Following a brief history of archaeological survey, models of cultural distributions are considered from the 'Monumental' to the 'fried-egg' and the all important 'off-site' model. Chapter 2 outlines the goals of archaeological survey from simple prospection (finding 'sites') through statistical survey to surveying for spatial structure. Design and survey techniques, although overlapping, may be different for each goal, a point often missed when planning an archaeological survey. The three goals are then discussed in detail in Chapters 5-7.

One of the crucial aspects when considering archaeological survey are the factors affecting archaeological detection. Chapter 3 considers everything from crew training and motivation to visibility, obtrusiveness and post-depositional changes. The author also mentions, but goes into no great detail on, the appropriateness of specific survey techniques from divoting to thermal survey. Given that geophysical survey techniques are now such a common battery of survey techniques perhaps this section is a little thin (one and a half lines on ground-penetrating radar) particularly as the selection of appropriate techniques is a major factor affecting archaeological detection. The fourth chapter considers the all important boundaries of a proposed survey area and where to survey how much within it. Quite rightly this again depends on the goal of the survey as well as the nature of the archaeological material expected and the region being studied. There is no template for archaeological survey, each is different so should be planned and executed in a way suitable for the particular project.

It is good to see that Chapter 8 is aimed specifically at developer funded archaeologists

in the ever expanding area of cultural resource management (CRM). Much current archaeological survey is aimed specifically at assessing the archaeological significance of areas to be developed. CRM archaeologists are rarely able to design their own survey area, objectives or even sampling strategy but instead have to satisfy clients and regulations. In particular they often have to assess significance and here we see a clear consideration of measuring significance in all its aspects, archaeological, economic, recreational and ethnic. Here we see, however, the clear North American/British bias of the book with only US, Canadian and UK laws and professional organisations mentioned. Yet this should not put off readers from other parts of the world who will find the rest of the book a mine of information on archaeological survey.

Chapter 10 considers the evaluation of surveys. The final chapter, on 'Surveying the future', is a bit disappointing (better geophysics, more use of Geographic Information Systems and more mathematics in survey evaluation) but then archaeologists should be better at looking into the past than into the future.

Essentially this is a good book with a clear aim. It is well illustrated and clearly written avoiding much of the jargon thought necessary by several authors writing on archaeological survey in the past. It will be a valuable undergraduate textbook and manual for CRM archaeologists and all planning an archaeological survey.

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## Obituary

ROBERT T. FARRELL  
1939–2003

*Robert T. Farrell, FSA, Professor of Archaeology, English and Medieval Studies at Cornell University, USA passed away unexpectedly at his home on July 31, 2003, aged 64.*

Born in the Bronx, New York, he graduated from Fordham University in 1960 (BA) and 1967 (PhD), at which point he joined the faculty of the English Department at Cornell, where he pursued his primary interest in Anglo-Saxon and Nordic literature. His published record includes *Beowulf, Swedes, and Geats* (1972), *Daniel and Azarias* (ed. 1974), *Bede and Anglo-Saxon England* (BAR 1978) and *The Vikings* (1982). These works and his numerous papers reflect the interdisciplinary approach that Farrell helped to establish and cultivate

within Cornell, as part of the wider development of Medieval Studies since the 1960s. Above all, Bob pursued the illumination of text by understanding material culture, and his relentless energy in this regard was perhaps first catalysed by his delight in joining Rosemary Cramp's excavation team at Wearmouth and Jarrow. Many medieval archaeologists will recall the always pleasant experience of the sessions he organised at the International Congress of Medievalists in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Farrell played a pioneering role in bringing together philologists, historians, art historians, and archaeologists from around the world, the fruits of which emerged in the *American Early*