Archaeological Science

This book provides an up-to-date introduction to the exciting but complex new scientific methodologies that are increasingly used in archaeological study. Written by an international team of specialists, it provides clear and engaging overviews of a wide array of approaches, including DNA and proteomics, dating methods, materials analysis, stable isotope analysis and the scientific study of human, plant and animal remains, among other topics. Each technique is explored through the use of real archaeological examples, which both explain the methods and highlight their potential applications. The work is carefully illustrated with useful charts, graphs and other images, which complement the detail in the text and help articulate the case studies explored as well as the underlying principles of the techniques involved. Tables in many of the chapters highlight selected research on each topic, providing useful summaries of the current state and scope of the field for the reader. This volume will serve as a handy reference tool for scholars, as well as a key textbook for courses on archaeological science.

Michael P. Richards is an archaeological scientist who applies methods such as isotopic analysis to determine past human and animal diets and adaptations. He is a professor of archaeology and Canada Research Chair in archaeological science at the Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has published over 250 research papers in journals such as *Nature*, *Science* and *PNAS*.

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An Introduction

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