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Archaeology's stakeholders are many and diverse, but we must learn to collaborate with them. Many believe that they own the past of their ancestors; that it is not a public heritage. This chapter briefly examines the history of archaeological interaction with stakeholders and epistemological issues that may block successful consultation. Consultation problems involve informed consent, competing claims, and notions of cultural property. Successful consultation involves building partnerships out of mutual respect.

Chapter 1

Stratigraphy is the study of stratification, that is, the interpretation of layers that form the deposits of a site over time. The study of stratification is of crucial importance for understanding what happened at an archaeological site – in particular, the order in which events occurred. There are four main principles, drawn from Earth science disciplines, upon which the interpretation of stratigraphy is based, but the human element in the accumulation of archaeological sites makes the application of these principles especially difficult. This chapter describes these principles and problems and the way in which a Harris Matrix can be used to describe the relationships between different layers and features at some sites. Approaches to the creation of analytical units, formed by combining material from stratigraphic units, to identify changes over time within and between sites is another important part of archaeological analysis discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 2

In archaeology, it is the sedimentary matrix that normally provides key contextual information for the interpretation of material culture: chronology, site formation, *in situ* transformations of archaeological information resident in soils and sediments and specifying past environments form core goals of sediment analysis when researching past human behavior. Modern technical approaches increasingly blend field and laboratory activities using "mixed methods" – deployed alongside established sampling and analytical techniques such as grain size, pH, organic matter, and phosphorous content. Selection of approach and analytical procedures is cost-sensitive and has to be led by the research questions at hand. This chapter illustrates the process of

Chapter 3