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British Barrows
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first published in 1936 and rewritten in 1953 this book embodies the results of the author's extensive researches and fieldwork part one considers types of barrows and dating their building and the cult of the dead from palaeolithic to saxon times a chapter is dedicated to maps and another to fieldwork in particular while the final bit of the introductory material discussed barrow digging from the time of the romans to the twentieth century part two is the regional surveys from cornwall to kent and northwards to the scottish border

van riper recreates scientists first arguments for human antiquity placing these debates within the context of victorian science using field notes scientific reports and previously unpublished letters he shows also how the study of human prehistory brought together geologists archeologists and anthropologists in their first interdisciplinary scientific effort a vivid account of how the discovery of human antiquity forced victorians to redefine their assumptions about human evolution and the relationship of science to christianity

a report of recent excavation of five early bronze age barrows undertaken by cornwall archaeological unit all are complex monuments revealing episodes of remodelling and reuse despite being broadly comparable with similar radiocarbon determinations there are major differences in both the form and intensity of activity between the barrows

when philip marsden moved to a remote creekside farmhouse in cornwall the intensity of his response took him aback it led him to wonder why we react so strongly to certain places and set him off on a journey on foot westwards to land's end through one of the most myth rich regions of europe from the neolithic ritual landscape of bodmin moor to the arthurian traditions at tintagel from the mysterious china clay region to the granite tors and tombs of the far south west marsden assembles a chronology of britain's attitude to place in archives he uncovers the life and work of other enthusiasts before him medieval chroniclers and tudor topographers eighteenth century antiquarians post industrial poets and abstract painters drawing also on his travels from further afield marsden reveals that the shape of the land lies not just at the heart of our own history but of man's perennial struggle to belong on this earth

this study is about the early medieval landscape and the people that lived in that landscape it is about stories and storytelling the creation of memory the invention of home spirituality and social

hierarchy above all though it is an account about living in a mutable landscape and the stories people once told there

ethnographic and archaeological records feature a rich body of data suggesting that understandings of the mineral world are in fact both culturally variable and highly diverse soils stones and symbols highlights studies from the fields of anthropology archaeology and philosophy that demonstrate that not all individuals and societies view minerals as commodities to be exploited for economic gain or as passive objects of disembodied scientific enquiry in visiting such diverse contexts as contemporary india colonial period australia and prehistoric europe and the americas the papers in this volume demonstrate that in pre industrial societies minerals are often symbolically meaningful ritually powerful and deeply interwoven into not just economic and material but also social cosmological mythical spiritual and philosophical aspects of life in addressing the theme of the mineral world this book is not only unique within the social and geo sciences but also at the forefront of recent attempts to demonstrate the importance of materiality to processes of human cognition and sociality it draws upon theoretical developments relating to meaning experience the body and material culture to demonstrate that studies of rock art landscapes architecture technology and resource use are all linked through the minerals that constantly surround us and are the focus of our never ending attempts to understand and transform them

this is a great work by one of the pioneers of modern archaeology the period covered is from 1700 to 700 b c and is mainly concerned with the author s field work in western britain it deals with burial ritual dances processions houses of the dead the objects deposited the building of the barrow and it shows by line drawings and photographs how scientific excavation nowadays is planned and executed the book gathers together an immense amount of research completed over a long span of years on burials and the ceremonial which attended them originally published in 1959

this volume looks at the history of the study of human remains and how new scientific techniques have massively expanded what we know about our neolithic ancestors

prehistoric barrows were not only monuments to the dead but mounds for the living making out land defining pathways acting as powerful symbols and forming a major part of perceived landscapes which welded nature and human history together

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