

Complete Field Investigation Workbook

One place for the question, the evidence, the detours, the answer, and the next question.

A complete end-to-end workbook that unifies the seven Field Investigation Toolkit tools and the full 20-point BRR investigation spine.

INVESTIGATION / SET	OWNER / OBSERVER	DATE	VERSION

The 20-point investigation spine

01Identity + version	02Question / curiosity	03Why this matters	04Background / context
05Objective	06Prediction / hypothesis	07Success / observation criteria	08Materials + equipment
09Safety + preparation	10People + roles	11Conditions + environment	12Setup
13Procedure / path	14Checkpoints + decisions	15Observations	16Measurements + evidence
17Unexpected findings / deviations	18Interpretation + findings	19Follow-up questions	20Record management / repeat / adapt

FIELD RULE / OBSERVATION ≠ INTERPRETATION. FACTS FIRST. MEANING SECOND.

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01 Identity + version

Investigation name, owner/observer, date, location, version, and related-record links.

02 Question / curiosity

What exactly are we trying to find out, notice, compare, identify, explain, build, or test?

03 Why this matters

Why is this worth investigating? Practical value, personal relevance, story, or pure curiosity.

04 Background / context

What is already known? Sources, prior observations, assumptions, constraints, and relevant history.

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05 Objective

What will this investigation accomplish?

06 Prediction / hypothesis

Optional: what is the current best guess, and why?

07 Success / observation criteria

What would count as useful evidence, completion, success, or a meaningful observation?

08 Materials + equipment

Materials, quantities, equipment, substitutions, backup options, and cannot-substitute items.

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09 Safety + preparation

Hazards, supervision, preparation, handling, environmental concerns, cleanup, and stop conditions.

10 People + roles

Participants and roles: observing, timing, measuring, collecting, recording, photographing, deciding.

11 Conditions + environment

Context snapshot: weather, temperature, light, location, time, interruptions, noise, surface, other conditions.

12 Setup

Starting arrangement, diagram/photo reference, calibration, baseline, or initial state.

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13 Procedure / path

Repeatable sequence. Make branching choices explicit instead of hiding them in prose.

14 Checkpoints + decisions

Where should the process pause to verify, compare, measure, photograph, reset, or change direction?

15 Observations

What happened? Record facts, sequence, sensory details, direct quotes, and visible changes.

16 Measurements + evidence

Measurements, counts, timing, photos, samples, files, sketches, comparisons, and source reliability.

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17 Unexpected findings / deviations

What differed from the plan? Classify first: problem / neutral / unexpectedly better / unknown.

18 Interpretation + findings

What does the evidence support? What does it not support? What alternative explanations remain?

19 Follow-up questions

What new question appeared? What should be tested, watched, compared, or researched next?

20 Record management / repeat / adapt

What gets saved? Where do related files live? Repeat as-is / repeat with change / adapt / teach / publish / retire. Record revisions and update the website archive record.

Evidence review + release record

81

Evidence strength matrix

For each major finding: direct / indirect / anecdotal / measured / repeated / independently checked. Note conflicts and gaps.

82

Confidence statement

Low / medium / high, with a sentence explaining why. Confidence belongs to the evidence, not the enthusiasm.

83

Repeatability audit

Could another person reproduce the process and understand every major decision?

84

Unexpected but better register

Useful departures from the plan that should become intentional next time.

Evidence review + release record

85

Record map

Where all photos, samples, source links, companion tools, exports, and prior versions live.

86

Release record

Version, reviewer, release date, superseded version, next review date, and notes.