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Contents

Mary Desborough Cra'ster, 1928–2008 John Pickles, Peter Gathercole, and Alison Taylor	7
A fen island in the Neolithic and Bronze Age: excavations at North Fen, Sutton, Cambridgeshire Leo Webley and Jonathan Hiller	11
A fen island burial: excavation of an Early Bronze Age round barrow at North Fen, Sutton Aileen Connor	37
The Bartlow Hills in context Hella Eckardt with Amanda Clarke, Sophie Hay, Stephen Macaulay, Pat Ryan, David Thornley and Jane Timby	47
Senuna, goddess of the river Rhee or Henney Stephen Yeates	65
A reappraisal of the evidence for the 'northern arm' of the Fleam Dyke at Fen Ditton Scott Kenney	69
An excavation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire Laura Piper and Andrew Norton	73
Excavations at Scotland Road/Union Lane, Chesterton Duncan Mackay	77
A curious object from Firs Farm, Caxton Aileen Connor	89
A morphological analysis of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire: an admission of defeat Christopher Taylor	91
Funerals, the final consumer choice? Ken Sneath	105
The 'Age of the Windmill' in the Haddenham Level N James	113
Upware and Bottisham sluices K S G Hinde	121
Changes in the landscape of west Cambridge, Part V: 1945 to 2000 Philomena Guillebaud	127
The CAS Collection of Cambridgeshire 'Sketches' John Pickles	143
Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2008 Tom Lyons, Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu and Sarah Poppy	147
Reviews Christopher Taylor, Christopher Brookes, Evelyn Lord and Sam Lucy	163
<i>Index</i>	167
<i>Abbreviations</i>	173
Recent Accessions to the Cambridgeshire Collection Chris Jakes	175

landscape context (including their relationship with prehistoric and Roman remains) and how cemeteries are placed in relation to settlements. This enables the formation of a number of research questions to be addressed analytically through the Norfolk data, with a theoretical approach that raises questions of communities: what they represent, and how they might have operated. This perspective is thus grounded in an approach that sees large-scale patterning as comprised of lots of small-scale decisions, and it is this local patterning that can be interrogated archaeologically. What follows is a detailed and nuanced interrogation of the data, which reaches a number of interesting conclusions. One pattern confirmed is the locational tendencies of early Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries: the former have a strong tendency towards the slopes of river valleys, where they are best placed to exploit a range of environmental habitats, while the latter tend to lie further upslope (cremation cemeteries more so than inhumation). In each case, though, local considerations seem to have been at work, particularly in the relationship with previous sites and monuments. These general patterns are then explored through a series of more detailed localised studies, where the GIS mapping is employed to good effect. Editorially, the volume can barely be faulted, with attractive page-setting and excellent use of graphics.

This is certainly an approach that could be used elsewhere in Britain, and further afield; the national record is slowly catching up with the pioneering recording work encapsulated within the Norfolk HER, and such approaches are now becoming viable. Moreover, the rapid incorporation of developer-funded work into HERs means that regional studies such as this can proceed even before final publication of the sites in question, if the level of reporting through schemes such as OASIS is high enough. Chester-Kadwell is to be congratulated on a monograph that moves so seamlessly from detailed data analysis to nuanced interpretation.

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Where most Inclosures be. East Anglian Fields: History, Morphology and Management

Edward Martin and Max Satchell 2008

EAA vol 124 xviii + 270pp., 44 figs, 38 tables, 19 charts, 72 plates ISBN 978 1 86055 160 7, £30

The principal purpose of this book is yet one more attempt to solve the problem of the origins of medieval common fields. At its core is a survey of ten small areas, mostly single parishes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, plus one each in Hertfordshire and in Cambridgeshire (Dullingham). Using archive maps, documentary sources and fieldwork, the authors divided each area into 'land types' based on physical

characteristics, field shapes and names, historic land use, tenure etc. The collated results are illustrated by superb colour fold-out maps on 1st edn OS 1:2500 map bases. The results are then applied and analysed in relation to the land of the rest of the region.

The conclusion is that 'block holdings', or land in individual ownership, were more common in the south than in the north, where common fields, usually farmed in strips and in multiple ownership and/or occupation, predominated. Such results are of considerable interest to all agricultural historians.

The book includes much else of value. It contains an analysis of the so-called co-axial field systems recognised in East Anglia and concludes that they are less extensive than previously claimed and are not necessarily pre-Saxon. It also has an extensive glossary of agricultural terms both ancient and modern. If the difference between Inland, Bordland and Warland is needed, or the exact definition of stretch ploughing is required, the answers are here. There is also a good bibliography.

In the end, however, the real value of the book must depend on its conclusions about the origin of common fields, and block holdings. And here doubts begin to emerge. The authors decide that while the southern block holdings are probably older and even may have originated in Roman times or earlier, the common fields of the north are likely to have been the result of social and tenurial reorganisation caused by the Viking invasions of the late ninth century, or possibly by the English re-conquest in the early tenth century.

Despite much supporting evidence being provided, your reviewer is unconvinced. The effect on the landscape of the Scandinavian settlement in East Anglia remains poorly understood. The actual numbers and cultural impact of the incomers are also uncertain. And the suggestion that the complete and very rapid re-organisation of inherently conservative farming methods were the result of political, social or tenurial changes is not easy to take on board.

Behind these worries is another that concerns the methodology. Many of the eighteen different 'land types' that were identified from a mere twelve case studies and then applied to the whole region are very subjective. Further, to a considerable extent they are based on the Historic Landscape Characterisation Scheme (HLC) developed by English Heritage for management purposes. The value of HLC for heritage management is not in question, as the excellent last chapter of the book shows. But its use as an academic tool has caused serious divisions amongst scholars. Some see it as a new and objective way of advancing landscape studies, others as merely a reworking of old-fashioned geographical determinism. The book does not attempt to address this disquiet, or to clarify the problem or to satisfy the doubters.

Christopher Taylor
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