

sensitivity and duty of care from those involved in their conservation and management. Both the volumes under review impress that on us, and such a reminder is no bad thing.

PAUL STAMPER

Short Reviews

An Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary. Edited by John Williams and Nigel Brown. 21 × 30 cm. vi + 58 pp., 11 figs, maps, plans and tabs. Chelmsford: Essex County Council and English Heritage, 1999. ISBN 1-85281-198-6. Price: £5.00 pb.

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8). Edited by Nigel Brown and Jenny Glazebrook. 21 × 30 cm. viii + 73 pp., 11 pls, many tabs. Norwich: The Scole Archaeological Committee for East Anglia, 2000. ISBN 0-9521848-2-6. Price: £6.50 pb.

An Assessment of Scotland's Sites and Monuments Records. By David Baker. 21 × 30 cm. iv + 107 pp., many tabs. Edinburgh: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland with the Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists, 2000. Price £15.00 pb.

A trio of research and management-related publications, of which the first two are 'research frameworks' for English regions. Research policies are nothing new, of course. The Medieval Settlement Research Group, for example, has developed them for many years and, in the late 1980s, English Heritage consulted widely during the production of a new national agenda. This Society's contribution was published in *Medieval Archaeology* for 1987 (Vol. 31, 1-12), and the final product emerged in 1991 as *Exploring Our Past: Strategies for the Archaeology of England*. Significant funding followed for many of the projects identified there, not least for the batch of intensive and extensive urban surveys which have synthesised so much medieval data. In 1997 an updated English national policy was circulated for discussion. This under-rated document, entitled *Research Agenda*, has been similarly successful in attracting investigation for projects such as settlement mapping and historic landscape assessment.

But that was then and this is now. Five years on and, while national agendas have not gone away, it is regions which have a new political buzz about them and, before world-weary cynicism sets in, let me reassure you that there are some very good reasons to read the documents under review here. To begin with, they differ from most previous regional policy documents in that they (should) represent a professional consensus; they are not merely the views and opinions of a single individual expressed in a volume of edited papers. Broader issues of historic environment are also touched upon such as access and education. Promising too is the opportunity to assess the mass of data collected since the introduction of PPG 16 and PPG 15 and to place those findings into a wider context (the result is a 'resource assessment'), identifying gaps in understanding along the way (a 'research agenda'). The vast majority (80%?, 90%?) of fieldwork in England is now 'planning-led' through local government authorities and these syntheses of regional achievements and the guidance they provide for the future ('research framework' or 'research strategy') are sorely needed in order to inform 'curatorial' decisions. Merely the process of producing them should be valuable in bonding disparate parties (local authorities, societies, units,

universities) and reinforcing their common purpose and, with luck, the considerable collaborative effort which these documents represent should spark new partnerships. There seems no doubt that the funding of future archaeological projects (not just through English Heritage) will follow their recommendations.

The text of the East Anglian volume (by Keith Wade for rural and Brian Ayers for urban) is reduced almost to note form in places but the regional evidence is quite properly set against wider national debates with appropriate references. Incomplete and unpublished research is identified and paragraphs on environmental archaeology by Peter Murphy are inserted into each section. Research themes which cross-cut period boundaries are considered in a separate chapter and include the study of patterns of trade within and beyond the region. The strategy document is particularly excellent and discusses priorities for management research (e.g. on coastal erosion), threat-led research and pro-active research (e.g. for multi-period field survey projects and for international projects). It is, of course, a concise statement of the ways things are now (or rather were in 2000) and it will be enlightening to see just how quickly inroads are made into the research issues identified here and, of course, who pays for the work.

The Greater Thames Estuary framework unites assessment, agenda and strategy neatly in a single volume and covers the Essex coast south of Clacton all the way upstream to Tower Bridge and then east along to Kent coast to Whitstable. Of greatest interest to the medievalist might be insights into ship building, boat remains, fish traps and weirs, saltworking from the intertidal zone, and the archaeology of the floodplain and terraces in the form of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and settlements like Mucking as well as the trading settlement at Ludenwic. After the Norman Conquest London extended its influence but fishing ports and towns also developed around the estuary and there were major schemes of drainage and reclamation.

Production quality for both these documents is high. There are crisp black and white photographs dotted throughout the East Anglian text, mostly aerial shots, while the double column layout is clear and well thought out. There are bibliographies at the end of every section. The Thames document opts for colour, numbered paragraphs and a unified bibliography.

The success of these frameworks relies heavily on the quality of the local archaeological record. Significant SMR backlogs, for example, will inevitably hamper the process. The Scottish SMR review undertaken by David Baker underlines the crucial role of the SMR for education, management, planning (mostly), and for research. Yet it is still the case that some parts of Scotland lack SMRs altogether, while others are vulnerable to cost cutting or may contain substantial gaps in their records. A glance at the questionnaire responses shows that, of the eighteen SMRs surveyed, nine contained no information at all on historical ecology, eight ignored place names and fourteen did not record field names. There are still large holes in the infrastructure here which must be filled and Baker sets out clearly how these might be addressed.

CHRISTOPHER GERRARD

Medieval Palaces: An Archaeology. By Graham Keevill. 17 × 25 cm. 192 pp., 71 figs, 23 colour pls. Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2000. ISBN 0-7-524-14542. Price: £19.99 hb.

Medieval archaeologists are now beginning to turn their attention away from studying the structures associated with the rural poor in England which have largely occupied them for the last 50 years, towards high-status buildings, including palaces. In England Borenus and Charlton led the way by their excavations at Clarendon in the 1930s, Biddle pursued the theme at Nonsuch and Wolvesey and now Keevill, a redoubtable excavator himself at the Tower and Hampton Court, continues the genre. The best bit of this book is the

analysis of architectural remains of the palaces in question. Keevill has a 'hands on' approach to his discussion of foundations and walls: he clearly spent much time puzzling over the interpretation of the footprints and first few feet of buildings. His informed views on the latest excavations and building recording at the Tower of London are particularly stimulating but the text (e.g. 73–7) is still difficult to understand without a plan showing topography and features. The order of the chapters could have been improved. The consideration of the sources should, to my mind, come before the chronological summary of palace development. There is some confusion: 'archaeological evidence' which he mentions, is in fact 'documentation'. Documentary sources are largely ignored. One would have thought that *The King's Works* would have figured largely. The illustrations leave much to be desired. Figure 41 is incomplete: the surviving pieces of Westminster Palace are *not* shown in black as the caption states. Many of the photos are a murky grey or black, the reason probably being that the author provided the publisher with colour slides and in the conversion process the colours turn into an undifferentiated grey. Figures 54 (arcading hardly visible), 61 (shows nothing except a metre stretch of wall) and 62 (the wall is in the shade) contrast unfortunately with the excellent black and white shots taken by Charlton at Clarendon in the 1930s. The colour plates present a washed-out appearance, partly the result of over generous white margins. Here the publisher would seem to be at fault.

Regarding the subject matter, there are a number of inaccuracies. St Mary's Guildhall, Lincoln (53) is a 12th-century not a 'mid-thirteenth century' building. The claim that 'Anglo-Saxon palaces were quite common' is not true: they are very rare, frequently unidentified and in fact only two have been excavated. Kings of this period often stayed at minster communities or just camped out. The author calls the 14th-century master masons Yevele and Wynford 'architects', an anachronism. He does not mention Elias of Dereham, probably at least as influential in the previous century. The illustration on page 75 does no credit to the excavator. Why were planks left lying around? 'Complementary' appears for 'complimentary' on page 99 and what is the meaning of this sentence: 'Westminster provided a grand ceremonial foil to the castle'? Keevill misses the point (125) that double layered chapels had been in England since the 11th century (Hereford) and were fashionable from the 13th (Sainte Chapelle and St Stephen's Westminster). Who is 'King Steven' (125)? Sounds like a rock star.

In general this book lacks a European dimension. There is no indication of where the ideas governing the structures and rituals connected with palaces came from; in fact there is no account of the complex interrelationships between the buildings put up by the Continental rulers, and those of England and Scotland. History is therefore left out, with the result that the archaeology stands alone, a rather rickety substructure.

JOHN STEANE

The Archaeology of Power: England and Northern Europe A.D. 800–1600. By John M. Steane. 17 × 25 cm. 288 pp., 31 colour pls, 120 figs, maps and plans. Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2001. ISBN 0-7524-1933-1. Price: £25.00, \$37.50 pb.

The Archaeology of Power is a work on a grand scale, with references spanning not only the whole of the period from 800–1600 (and beyond), but geographically from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and from the Atlantic seaboard to Hungary. Notwithstanding this great breadth of treatment the book is a deeply personal account — it opens with a Preface on the author's exercise of power at Kettering Grammar School, Northamptonshire, a quarter of a century and more ago and ends with a plea for the retention of Latin instruction in schools. This reviewer would have welcomed a concluding chapter rather than a half-page Epilogue (this would, no doubt, have helped a target readership 'the ordinary man's understanding of his past'). The Preface sets his agenda for the work which

follows, an agenda which is amplified in an opening section of medieval ideology which lists thirteen 'key ideas [which] dominated thinking in Europe between A.D. 800–1600'. It is personal in other respects: there is an impressive familiarity with the far-flung places to which reference is made; the drawings are penned and the plates were taken largely by the author himself. He clearly has likes and dislikes — the papacy gets short shrift; the English monarchy is talked up as are individuals such as William Waynflete 'the only schoolmaster to have become Prime Minister'.

The work proceeds at a cracking pace, both in terms of locations discussed, chronology and in the range of artefacts and structures considered. There are particular strengths in this work: the section on bureaucracy, for example, takes the reader into muniment rooms and reveals the medieval furniture which survives in a number of places. Overall the sheer range of artefacts and locations discussed is most impressive and stimulating. However, there are some blind-spots and weaknesses. The author sets out his stall on the issue of theoretical archaeology early on with a broadside against 'excessively academic theoretical and jargon-ridden books and articles' from 'Cambridge and certain American institutions' (here speaks an Oxford man!). However, he does give central place theory an outing and makes some inconclusive, sceptical comments on spatial analysis in which he claims Clarendon Palace was 'strung together . . . without rhyme or reason' (in fact it is a standard manorial plan). There is also an attack on 'Marxist jargon' such as 'urban bourgeoisie' [*sic*]. It would have been valuable to have had, for example, a broader discussion of buildings in their settings rather than as isolated blocks, as for example in the discussion of guild and town halls. However, Steane would be the first to admit that you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, and he has begun recently to engage with these new (and helpful) theoretical perspectives.

This is a book packed with data on many themes and spanning a very long chronology. It is a polemical archaeology of power in the Middle Ages (reminiscent of Froissart's account of the Hundred Years' War), full of action and incident and providing a masterly impression of this great theme over such a long period — but, like Froissart, containing numerous errors. Examples include an illustration of the Winchester 'North' (*recte* West) gate (202); and a view of the chapter House of Salisbury Cathedral 'Hampshire' (*recte* Wiltshire) (240) etc. Proof reading has left too many errors, and correlation of text-notes and bibliography shows numbers of gaps in the latter. A revised second edition could easily repair these irritations. Overall this is an excellent study on the grand scale, and we must warmly congratulate the author on his boldness and skill in undertaking it.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

The Archaeology of Wigford and the Brayford Pool. (Lincoln Archaeological Studies 2). By Kate Steane et al. 22 × 31 cm. viii + 360 pp., many figs, maps and plans. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2001. ISBN 1-84217-021-X. Price: £35.00 hb.

This volume represents the culmination of post-excavation work on the archives of twenty years' worth of excavations in the suburb of Wigford, to the south of the River Witham on the south side of the city of Lincoln. The sites are broad in character and date, covering Roman to post-medieval deposits. Although many of the excavations are small-scale, their distribution throughout the Wigford suburb is extensive and relatively even. While there is not the space to do justice to even a selection of the excavations a couple of highlights should be mentioned, not least the re-assessment of the St Mark's Church sequence first published by Gilmour and Stocker in 1986. While the majority of the initial interpretation still stands, certain details have changed, for example features formerly seen as representing the western boundary of the early graveyard are now interpreted as successive pits (containing 10th-century pottery). The rapid growth of the suburb as a

whole is demonstrated by the occurrence in nearly all of the excavations of early- to mid-10th-century occupation lying directly over the latest Roman levels.

Overall, this is no standard excavation report for it is the result of wide consultation with excavation and post-excavation specialists whose cumulative input has resulted in an 'integrated' approach whereby artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic sequences are fully interrelated via a computerised database. The result is a readable report on each site and its sequence supported with information drawn largely from finds of a 'primary' nature, with secondary material taking a supporting role and with residual material taking something of a back seat. The only aspect where the volume might be criticised, and it is not alone in this respect, is the lack of texture in terms of the drawn record. While finds are commonly illustrated to a high standard in archaeological reports, field recording and, more often, publication of plans and sections is often devoid of the detail and therefore the character and feel of the deposits in question. While the pursuit of pure 'sequence' is undoubtedly of paramount importance, it is high time that surfaces and interfaces, structures and their components were committed to the printed page with the same degree of concern for presentation of detail as the objects by which they are interpreted; bearing in mind that a rescue archive put together over a long period will necessitate a degree of standardisation. Furthermore, one of the unfortunate side effects of modern methods of recording of urban deposits, in particular the exclusive application of single context recording, is that archaeological sites are difficult to stick back together again during analysis and report writing. The volume reviewed here gets to grips with this issue and the Lincoln approach is thankfully now more broadly applied. Archaeologists should await the forthcoming Lincoln publications with a sense of excitement and in the meantime give due credit to the skill of those who have produced the present volume.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

Salisbury Museum Medieval Catalogue Vol. 3. Edited by Peter Saunders. 19 × 25 cm. 271 pp., 88 figs and pls. Salisbury: Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, 2001. ISBN 0-947535-217. Price: £24.95 pb.

The third of four volumes in this excellent series (edited by Peter Saunders, Curator of the Museum) is dedicated to his late wife Eleanor, his co-editor in volumes 1 and 2. The volume contains specially commissioned analytical catalogues by recent experts of bone, antler and ivory objects (Arthur MacGregor), glass vessels (Rachel Tyson), enamels (John Cherry), cloth seals and papal bullae (Geoff Egan), lead-/tin-alloy metalwork (Geoff Egan with David Algar), balances and weights (David Algar and Geoff Egan), pottery, tile and brick (the late John Musty with David Algar, Christopher Gerrard and John Hadley) and jettons and casting counters (Philip Mernick and David Algar). The excellent drawings are by Nick Griffiths. The catalogue resoundingly achieves the Saunders's joint vision of a scholarly catalogue of the permanent collections of a provincial museum by opening windows on economy and society at all levels.

The writers confront problems, for example the date-range of Laverstock ware which is here extended from Musty's original 1275–1325 back to the mid-late 12th century. Thus while familiar objects are re-evaluated, new objects are published for the first time — for example, clay toy marbles perhaps from the 13th century and 'extremely unusual' before the mid-17th century. Another Salisbury rarity is a collection of early 15th-century lead tokens from a hoard decorated with female and male sexual organs (on separate pieces), unusual for England but more common in France!

The gathering together of all these materials into a single catalogue is of value not only to the regional and local scholar but also nationally in providing finds-analysis from a rich and distinct area for the period up to c. 1500. There is much to commend this volume,

including the quality of the specialist writing and of the drawings and photographs. Such weaknesses as there are stem often from the antiquity of the major excavations — at Clarendon (royal palace), Old Sarum (royal castle) and Gomeldon (deserted medieval village) and from the lack of stratigraphy for dating pieces from the drainage collection and spot finds. At times the analysis tantalisingly refers to parallels without offering any date ranges, requiring the reader to read elsewhere. Sixty years after publication of the *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, the inspiration for this work from Salisbury, we see part of a medieval collection through the eyes of some of our best scholars. The editor(s) of the ceramic section express the hope that this catalogue will establish 'the basic details of the archaeological record' in order 'to make a lasting contribution' to archaeology. The editor has produced a team effort with which Eleanor Saunders — who helped to forward the early work — would surely have been delighted.

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES

Archeologia Urbana a Pavia: Parte seconda. Edited by Sergio Nepoti. 30 × 21 cm. 189 pp., 55 figs and pls. Milan: Edizioni Ennerre s.r.l./Musei Civici, Comune di Pavia Assessorato Cultura, 2000. ISBN 88-87235-20-1. Price: €51.65 pb.

This is a companion volume to *Archeologia Urbana a Pavia: Parte prima*, edited by Hugo Blake (1995) and reviewed in volume 43 of this journal (1999). The first volume provided a listing of all find spots in the North Italian cityscape recorded since the 18th century and presented extended summaries and reviews of the key excavations undertaken — but largely unpublished, hence the importance of bringing such work together. This second tome offers reports on the finds from four of the main archaeological projects revisited in 1995: the Torre Civica, S. Sisto, S. Maria delle Cacce and the Palazzo Malaspina. The excavation summaries and finds reports for the Broletto and for S. Maria Gualtieri still remain unpublished, but will hopefully appear shortly in a third Pavia volume. As the editor notes (9), delays in bringing old projects to press inevitably create problems, such as needing to find new scholars to revise or update dormant finds reports in the light of more recent and ongoing work; clearly these remaining excavation reports need still more time to sort.

This volume is sensibly organised, with each of the excavations' finds reports being introduced with brief summaries on the site stratigraphies and on general considerations of the relevant finds. Finds are then discussed by type and within these types by period. Thus, as for S. Sisto (73–86), there are sections on Roman and Post-Roman Ceramics, *Ceramiche ingobbiate e graffite*, *Ceramiche invetriate e smaltate*, Glass, and Metal and Other Objects. For the Torre Civica and S. Maria delle Cacce there are also reports on Pietra Ollare, Epigraphic materials, and Coins. For the most part we are being informed on the material culture, and, particularly, the ceramic culture of 12th- to 18th-century Pavia, although certain of the coins, soapstone and epigraphic finds do relate to the early-medieval epochs. The ceramic reports have not been designed to be exhaustive, but are largely synthetic in character and seek to detail the principal finds and results. Nepoti does, however, provide a very full review of the current knowledge of late and post-medieval production and consumption of ceramics, notably maiolica, in Lombardy and Pavia (149–76). A comparable review of the early and full medieval ceramic repertoire would have been of value here too.

The whole volume is well produced and illustrated, although scope existed to frame each excavation better — a site plan, a location map, and a view of each site (a problem with the first volume was that there were no plans which showed the various phases of the

city of Pavia, nor one to list its key monuments). The anticipated third *Archeologia urbana a Pavia* will further clarify the city's medieval and later fabric and economy.

NEIL CHRISTIE

Anglo-Saxon Weapons and Warfare. By Richard Underwood. 17 × 25 cm. 159 pp., 83 figs, 25 pls. Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2001. ISBN 0-7524-1910-2. Price: £15.99 pb.

The preface clearly establishes this book's intended readership. Aimed at 're-enactor, wargamer, military historian or general reader', the level of accessibility is evident and the reasonable price of the paperback version is to be applauded. However, from the start, any general reader should have an interest in and some understanding of weapons and their uses. Moving from missile weapons, hand-to-hand weapons through to armour, helmets and shields, Richard Underwood presents an unashamedly military work.

This is perhaps understandable, given the author's experience as a re-enactor and user of the 'safer', blunter descendants of such weapons. He gives a critique of the manufacture and designs of various weapons, and possible uses for them. These interpretations are relatively comprehensive without being turgid. However, one might question the wisdom of the author's insistence upon quoting 'primary' sources at length in order to inform us that metal and flesh do not mix particularly well when they make contact. From this, Underwood gives the impression that warfare consisted simply of the *melée* of battle. Granted, Anglo-Saxon warfare may not have been all bluster and posture, but macho displays of aggression seem to have been a fundamental element of the conduct of warfare, all the same. The utilitarian approach which Underwood takes minimises any interpretations of warfare and status.

The author is realistic about the limitations of some source material for his purposes, however; there is, for example, recognition that grave goods do not necessarily represent the weapons used by the deceased. Nevertheless, there seems to be some inconsistency in the author's sometimes uncritical use of literary material, which includes the *Battle of Maldon* poem and 13th-century Icelandic sagas, in considering his chosen period of c. 450–800. Although Underwood acknowledges some evidence for possible changes in the nature of warfare, these are not dealt with explicitly. The reader may be left with a pan-Germanic view of a style of purely infantry warfare that varied only in scale over the course of a millennium. Given Underwood's source material, one may be a little confused as to why he stops around the beginning of the 9th century. While he remains focused upon a relatively tight chronology for the weapons of the period, the study of the battles and campaigns strays far into the Viking Age, arguably undermining his justifications for studying pre-Viking England in isolation.

Taking the book's strengths, the author does a good job of demonstrating the manufacturing processes of weapons and the effort which went into them. The illustrations, including stage-managed re-enactment photographs, are of a high quality, and the author's extensive quotation of the literature at least allows the general reader some introduction to them. However, as a study of weapons *and* warfare, it does not really succeed. The devotion of the text to military equipment far outweighs any consideration of the social context and the nature of warfare. As an introduction to Anglo-Saxon weaponry, *Anglo-Saxon Weapons in Warfare* might have been a far more realistic title.

RYAN LAVELLE

Excavations at Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight, 1921–1996. (Wessex Archaeology Report 18). By C. J. Young. 21 × 30 cm. xii + 231 pp., 68 figs, 55 pls, 36 tabs. Salisbury: Trust for Wessex Archaeology, 2000. ISBN 1-874350-27-2, ISSN 0965-5778. Price: £21.50 pb.

The Carisbrooke Castle excavations revealed very much more than could be expected of a medieval castle and this volume will be of interest to those working on material of pre-1066 and post-medieval dates as well as those concerned more directly with castle studies. Given the strategic importance of the Isle of Wight it is perhaps surprising that it is the only medieval fortification on the island. Although the standing remains are well preserved on the whole, the series of excavations conducted between 1921 and 1996 have collectively thrown much new light on the castle itself, particularly on the origins of the fortifications, but also on earlier activity, most notably a small group of important early Anglo-Saxon graves and late Anglo-Saxon occupation.

This review thus focuses on these major new discoveries rather than the later medieval archaeology of the castle. The site of Carisbrooke Castle had previously been considered as a candidate for both prehistoric and Roman period occupation, but one of the major results of the work, described in detail by Tania Dickinson and Elaine Morris, is that the earliest located activity was a group of three 6th-century inhumation burials, all furnished, one rather spectacularly. The high-status grave contained 52 playing pieces, one of cobalt blue glass, the others of ivory, along with a copper-alloy bowl, a copper-alloy bound bucket, a glass bowl and a drinking horn mount with Style I ornament paralleled only at Taplow. This small group of burials is prominently located and joins the eleven other known cemeteries of this date on the Island. Excavations around the perimeter of the Norman bailey have revealed important evidence for a pre-Conquest fortification in the style of the classic *de novo* burhs like Cricklade and Wallingford, but on a much reduced scale measuring c. 120 × 140 m. Although the 'burh' is not securely dated, it underlies the earliest phase of Norman defences and is of a character quite unlike early Norman fortifications in both layout and architectural style. The finding of only eleven sherds of Roman pottery over the whole site rules out a Roman date, while the South Cadbury style east entrance, the refacing of an earthen rampart in stone and the finding of two phases of timber buildings, probably of the late 10th or 11th century, within the interior of the bailey, all support the excavators' contention that the site is a late Anglo-Saxon defensive work. The most likely historical context for the masonry phase is the Athelredian period, while the earthen rampart could be as early as the 9th century or even earlier still, given that we know so little about the dating of earthwork phases at many of the major burh sites. The absence of the site from the Burghal Hidage list is of interest, but indicates just how partial a view of pre-Conquest systems of civil defence that source provides. David Hill's reconstruction of beacon networks in southern England highlighted the importance of the Isle of Wight (Totland Point) and it remains to connect the discoveries at Carisbrooke to his postulated network.

The remainder of the publication deals with the Norman and later castle where a rapid succession of three defensive phases between the Conquest and 1136 is described, which is followed by 13th- and 14th-century modifications culminating in the transformation of the medieval castle into an artillery fortress between 1587 and 1602.

Overall, the report is well organised and easy to follow, with clear and detailed plans, sections and elevations that convey a sense of texture of the archaeology. The finds catalogues, particularly the metal items are well illustrated and form a useful reference collection to set alongside (admittedly much more extensive) published assemblages from elsewhere in the region (Facombe Netherton, Portchester Castle, Southampton, Winchester etc.). Christopher Young and Wessex Archaeology are to be congratulated for bringing such a long series of important excavations to publication in an attractive and user-friendly form.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

Early-Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands. (The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series 1). By Ian Fisher. 21 x 30 cm. xiv + 178 pp., many figs. Edinburgh: Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 2001. ISBN 0-903903-30-X. Price: £20.00 hb.

This volume is a compilation. The larger part is a republication of the Royal Commission inventory entries for all pieces of early-medieval sculpture in Argyll, sometimes in an abbreviated form. The rest consists of new descriptions and brief discussions of all examples of early-medieval sculpture, including their contexts, from the West Highlands and Islands, an area stretching from North Rona down to Arran. All the monuments are illustrated with line drawings and many also with black and white photographs. The sculpture forms a coherent series which spans the early-medieval centuries, ranging from ogham stones, through the large number of simple cross-carved monuments, to free-standing crosses and cross-slabs. In the introduction Ian Fisher considers the historical and archaeological context of the sculpture. Sites include not only major monasteries, such as Iona, but also smaller eremitic sites, caves and holy wells and the burial grounds of the laity. The important ecclesiastical sites can be identified by the large number of sculptured stones associated with them. The monuments themselves are then discussed, their functions and local groupings, together with their classification and chronology. Dating is rightly acknowledged as difficult since it is very largely dependent upon typology and art-historical comparison, though some suggestions are made about the broad development of the sculpture over time. The tables of line drawings showing the monuments grouped according to similarity are particularly useful and facilitate comparison with early-medieval sculpture elsewhere.

Because this volume is a compilation the entries are not always consistent and it is not easy to find one's way around. The numbering systems can be confusing, but it is worth persevering. The book is attractively produced and its publication is important since it brings together all the early-medieval sculpture of western Scotland in a modern format for the first time which makes its wider significance explicit. This in itself will help to preserve these monuments for the future.

NANCY EDWARDS

The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenurial Evidence and Physical Structure. (British Archaeological Reports, British Series 310). By Jennifer Lewis. 21 x 30 cm. ix + 434 pp., 146 figs, maps and pls, 47 tabs. Oxford: John and Erica Hedges and Archaeopress, 2000. ISBN 1-84171-158-6. Price: £53.00 pb.

The Field Archaeology of Exmoor. By Hazel Riley and Robert Wilson-North. 22 x 28 cm. xii + 192 pp., 190 figs, maps and pls. Swindon: English Heritage, 2001. ISBN 1-873592-58-2. Price: £12.95 pb.

These two books are both concerned with the field archaeology of a district, in the first case a hundred of south-western Lancashire, in the second a well-defined landscape on the borders of Somerset and Devon: Exmoor. Both of the study areas adjoin the western coast of England, and contain marginal land, but there any similarities end. The books use very different approaches.

Lewis's book, based on her doctoral thesis, is about moated sites. All 122 of the sites known in the hundred are examined minutely in a gazetteer which takes up most of the book, with numerous plans, and details of topography and documentary evidence. The long introduction draws on the vast accumulation of raw data in the gazetteer in order to investigate various aspects of the moats, including their locations, their morphology and the buildings standing within them. But the main focus of the interpretation is to examine

the social and tenurial context of the moats. The main conclusion is that the land and resources of the hundred had come into the hands of a large number of thanage tenants before the Conquest: in later centuries many minor gentry benefiting from these holdings. These small landowners, who did not belong to the formal feudal structure, surrounded their houses with moats.

The survey of archaeological sites on Exmoor covers all periods, up to the artillery training grounds of the Second World War. Prehistoric sites bulk large, as we would expect, but the medieval period receives its fair allocation of space within a slim book. There are some excellent plans and photographs accompanying descriptions of a selection of sites, together with maps and text on sample landscapes. The latter include Culbone, an early-medieval religious site, and Badgworthy, a deserted medieval hamlet with associated field systems. This and other sites more briefly described show that Exmoor had a scatter of hamlets and farmsteads, which worked many hundreds of acres of arable land, as well as exploiting the pastures. Three castles and two priories are described briefly, and the town of Dunster. More remarkable, because the mineral resources of Exmoor are not generally known, are the remains of iron mining and working, including a water-powered smithy at Horner Wood with origins in the 15th century.

The reader expects to find in the Exmoor book a comprehensive gazetteer, of the kind provided by Dr Lewis for the West Derby moats. That is the tradition of the former Royal Commission to which this book belongs. Instead we have to make do with examples, and generalised distribution maps. The so-called gazetteer is a list of selected sites, with NMR numbers to enable the records to be consulted at Swindon. The information in the gazetteer is so meagre that no medieval field systems are included at all. The examples are not fully explained in terms of estates, manors, townships and territories. The upland sites are presumably only to be understood fully if we know more about associated settlements in the valleys surrounding Exmoor. Such an analysis would help to explain why, contrary to the notion that marginal land was abandoned after 1300, which is the conventional interpretation of sites on Dartmoor, many of the Exmoor sites were not deserted until the post-medieval centuries, and indeed a significant number are still occupied.

The West Derby study is an unashamedly academic work, which is a useful addition to the literature on moated sites, and will be appreciated one hopes by some of the residents of Liverpool and its environs. The Exmoor book is more of a hybrid, which judging from its price and glossy presentation is intended to be used by the many tourists to the area, as well as academics. Surely intelligent tourists, like the academics, would expect to find a more complete coverage, and would value at least an attempt to explain the sites in a broader context.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

Timber: Dendrochronology of Roof Timbers at Lincoln Cathedral. (English Heritage Research Transactions 7). By R. R. Laxton, C. D. Litton and R. E. Howard. 21 x 30 cm. xii + 84 pp., 57 figs, 43 tabs. London: James and James, 2001. ISBN 1-902916-03-4, ISSN 1461-8613. Price: £30.00 pb.

This slim volume, which is one of a series of 'Research and case studies in architectural conservation' published by English Heritage, is in fact the raw data and scientific report on all the dendrochronology undertaken by the Nottingham University Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory at Lincoln Cathedral since 1979. It has a brief introduction by Alex Bayliss of English Heritage, and then has two main parts: 'Principles and practice of tree-ring dating' and 'Results and discussion'. The first part explains the principles of tree-ring dating and exactly how the sampling was achieved. Though most of it is relatively easy to understand — but written in a boring way — it also includes the fairly complicated algebra

required to produce ring-width indices and t-values. One wonders who the first part of the volume is actually for: certainly not for other dendrochronologists, who will know it all anyway. It might be useful to a student, but he or she could perhaps get this information more easily in a textbook.

After a very brief 'background' section on Lincoln Cathedral, there is a table of all 608 samples taken from the cathedral with all the data on number of rings etc., and, where determined, the dates of the first ring, last heartwood ring, last ring and 'estimated felling date range'. Almost all the samples came from the roofs, but a few from choir stalls, a ceiling and one door. Also, though the majority of the samples were from the original 13th-century roofs, others came from post-medieval repairs.

The cross-matching and dating process is then discussed in full, as is the possible source of the timber (local: i.e. from the east Midlands). This is followed by each of the roofs considered in full with many tables, listing the samples and matches in each roof. Unfortunately the computer-scanned figures of the roof-trusses etc., are often badly reproduced, making them difficult to study. There is also a distinct lack of roof plans, and the overall plan of the cathedral is inadequate. A few black and white photos are also included, and then, amazingly, these are all reproduced again in the centre-spread in full colour. What for?

Much reference is made to Gavin Simpson's unpublished 1998 report on the Lincoln roofs for English Heritage and Lincoln Cathedral, and it is surprising that English Heritage has never published it, with the dendrochronology report as its second part. What medieval archaeologists need is this report in print, so that they can see how the dendrochronology fits in with the roof carpentry and the wider architectural history of Lincoln Cathedral, one of the greatest and most important medieval buildings in western Europe. The dendrochronology on its own, though of great importance, is less than half the story. So that the main conclusions here (summarised in Table 10 on p. 40) are just the 'estimates of dates of construction of the roofs', including for example: crossing and inner bays of Eastern Transept c. 1195–1208 (the oldest roofs); St Hugh's choir c. 1204–9, but possibly as late as c. 1214; Angel choir c. 1276–80; chapter house, not later than c. 1216–20, etc., etc. This is all very interesting, but how does it fit in with the documented dates?

In summary this is a useful collection of important new dates for Lincoln's building history, but no more than that. Could English Heritage please now publish the Simpson report?

TIM TATTON-BROWN

From the Brink of the Apocalypse: Confronting Famine, War, Plague, and Death in the Later Middle Ages. By John Aberth. 16 × 23 cm. 304 pp., many figs. New York and London: Routledge, 2001. ISBN 0-415-92715-3. Price: £15.99, \$26 hb.

This engaging work has the distinction of being simultaneously scholarly and entertaining, something of a rarity amongst academic tomes, but here appropriate to the dramatic subject matter. Aberth deals with four fascinating and calamitous facets of later medieval life. These are titled as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse — Famine, War, Plague and Death — each discussed both independently and as manifestations of apocalyptic sentiment in a turbulent world. Although written from a strongly historical perspective, the literature, art and architecture of the period is also put into context and used to support Aberth's claims for the primacy of famine, war and plague in the later Middle Ages. His treatment of death, the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse, is especially enlightening, considering as he does *transi* tombs alongside the *danse macabre* and tapestry depictions of Death alongside *vado mori* poems.

The unusual organisation of the material into these four large sections works well, dispensing with strict chronological constraints in order to provide enthusiastic and considered details on every aspect of his theme. The detail is impressive, and the plentiful use of statistics as evidence, whilst not always fascinating, is helpful. We discover the devastating effects of war and taxation on the food supply in the early 14th century, resulting in famine and disease. We see the Hundred Years' War from new perspectives — those of the civilian, directly affected by the fighting for the first time in history, the propagandist and the diplomat — and begin to understand the apocalyptic implications of the fighting. Plague is considered in satisfyingly gruesome detail, its causes, attempted cures and desperate mortality levels all interwoven with accounts of human tragedy.

The layout of the text is largely clear and convincing, although the openings of each section are rather severe and abrupt. There are a number of minor typographical errors but the overall accuracy and scholarship of the work is impressive. Just one thing serves to undermine the impact of this otherwise excellent survey. The absence of any footnotes, endnotes, or references of any kind is both frustrating and baffling, for the wealth of historical and literary detail remains unacknowledged and decontextualised. There is a full and detailed bibliography, helpfully ordered into the relevant chapters, but this is simply not sufficient for the serious user of a scholarly work. It might also be suggested that the unusual structure serves largely to defamiliarise what is essentially well-trodden ground, but the gathering together of past scholarship in this area under one cover is long overdue.

CATHERINE GINGELL

Sermoneta e i Caetani. Dinamiche politiche, sociali e culturali di un territorio tra medioevo ed età moderna. (Studi e documenti d'archivio 9). Edited by Luigi Fiorani. 17 × 24 cm. 701 pp., 369 figs and pls. Rome: L'Erma di Bretschneider, 1999. ISBN 88-8265-091-X. Price: not stated, pb.

Sermoneta e i Caetani comprises papers from a conference held 16–19 June, 1992; a full 40 contributions are offered (out of the 43 original spoken papers), plus a roundtable discussion. The conference was a follow-up to an earlier (1988) colloquium *Ninfa una città, un giardino* (published somewhat more promptly in 1990). Both Sermoneta and Ninfa lie in southernmost Lazio, medieval Campagna Marittima, between Rome and Naples. Ninfa is well known for its lost town and its Renaissance gardens; Sermoneta, by contrast, persists today, displaying an active and restored survival of its medieval fabric, notably its ducal castle, fine churches (S. Maria Assunta, S. Nicola, S. Michele Arcangelo), merchants' loggia and town gates; in its territory this past is witnessed in the splendid 12th-century Cistercian abbey of SS. Pietro e Stefano at Valvisciolo. In the Middle Ages, Sermoneta lay in papal territory near the border with the Angevin Kingdom of Naples: by the 14th century the town was a strategic centre in the extensive feudal holdings of the Caetani family; the town became head of a small signoria, but was never a major theatre of power of display (see papers by Partner, Carocci, Caciorgna) despite conflict with the Borgias (Pineiro).

The conference publication — promoted noticeably by the Fondazione Camillo Caetani — discusses the history of Sermoneta and its territory, its sources and key protagonists in Parts I (*Il medioevo*) and II (*L'età moderna*) with useful papers on frontiers, roads (Coste) and banditry (Fosi). Part III (*L'arte, il territorio, il castello*) finally takes Sermoneta itself in detail and examines through 23 papers aspects ranging from building materials (Fiorani), to church architecture (Bellanca, Barrelli), to frescoes of 1603 (Borsellino), to musical and prisoners' graffiti (Witzenman, Satarelli) in the castello, and to castle restorations by Gelasio Caetani from 1898–1913 (Di Falco).

There is little archaeology on show here, and whilst there is clearly useful work on the standing medieval fabric and its (largely) post-medieval art, nothing emerges as outstanding, special or even particularly useful — even the introductory preface (11–12) rather struggles to highlight its value. Sermoneta thus comes across as one of many interesting hilltop centres, keen to gain tourism and exploit its past; this volume at least shows a keen interest in this past in terms of its historical role, its religious past and in preserving that heritage. It does not help that the volume is not pitched at a wider audience: the publication is too unwieldy, too full of local historical and art historical papers; a firmer editorial hand was needed to make this work. Most peculiarly, no map is offered until the illegible image opposite page 536; as a result links with Ninfa, Gaeta, Terracina and Valvisciolo remain unclear. Reorganisation of the various sections might have helped — for example, we only properly hear about the town itself architecturally and physically from page 563; in contrast Sermoneta's 16th- and 17th-century paintings are given much earlier prominence. Few scholars will concern themselves with the roundtable discussion (Part IV) on local governmental considerations of conservation in Sermoneta's built environment, even if valid for so many centres today.

NEIL CHRISTIE

The following publications were also received:

Burial Practice in Early England. By Alison Taylor. 17 × 25 cm. 192 pp., 81 b&w figs, 34 colour pls. Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2001. ISBN 0-7524-1487-9. Price: £17.99, \$29.99 pb.

An in-depth, readable study based entirely on archaeological evidence, which traces the continuation and reworking of concepts surrounding the nature of death, fertility, life, rebirth and the seasons from prehistory to the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon eras.

Wharram: A Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, 8: The South Manor Area. (York University Archaeological Publications 10). By P. Stamper and R. A. Croft. 22 × 30 cm. xiv + 223 pp., 100 figs, 11 pls, 39 tbs. York: York University Archaeological Publications, 2000. ISBN 0-946722-18-8. Price: £18.00 hb.

Excavation report from the Wharram excavations containing materials from the Middle Anglo-Saxon period to the 15th century. An important Middle Saxon smithy and objects including sword fittings etc.; some Scandinavian character metalwork; Norman agricultural structures superseded by peasant buildings abandoned in the 15th century.

Towns and Trade in the Age of Charlemagne. (Duckworth Debates in Archaeology). By Richard Hodges. 14 × 22 cm. 144 pp., 9 figs. London: Duckworth, 2000. ISBN 0-7156-2965-4. Price: £9.99 pb.

This book should be read as a postscript to *Dark Age Economics*. It deals with the same themes and covers much of the same ground but incorporates new evidence across the region under study, particularly from the Mediterranean.

Ireland and Europe in the Early Middle Ages: Texts and Transmission. Edited by Próinséas Ní Chatháin and Michael Richter. 18 × 25 cm. 416 pp., many figs, pls and tbs. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2001. ISBN 1-85182-631-9. Price: £63.05 hb.

Proceedings of the fifth international colloquium on Ireland and Europe focused on medieval texts and their transmission. Includes an article on Wales.

Earthly Remains: The History and Science of Preserved Human Bodies. By Andrew T. Chamberlain and Michael Parker Pearson. 20 × 25 cm. 207 pp., 90 b&w and 14 col. figs, 2 tbs. London: British Museum Press, 2001. ISBN 0-7141-2755-8. Price: £19.99 hb.

A well produced account which contains a broad scatter of medieval examples from Sutton Hoo north to Greenland and south to Inca mummies.

Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Society of Antiquaries of London. By Pamela J. Willetts. 18 × 25 cm. xxv + 619 pp., 10 pls. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer for the Society of Antiquaries, 2000. ISBN 0-85991-579-4. Price: £120.00, \$210.00 hb.

A cornucopia catalogue of materials dating from the 10th to the 20th century, including the Winton Domesday, heraldry, land transactions, seals etc.

Europas Mitte um 1000. Edited by Alfried Wiczorek and Hans-Martin Hinz. 25 × 31 cm. 2 vols, 998 pp.; catalogue 547 pp.; many figs, maps, plans often in colour. Stuttgart: Konrad Theiss Verlag, 2000. ISBN 3-8062-1545-6. Price: DM 194.00 hb.

Two-hundred scholars combine to provide an account of the emergence of the nations and cultures of central and eastern Europe in two volumes with a catalogue. Lavishly illustrated.

Norman Towns in Southern England: Urban Morphogenesis in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 1066-1215 (School of Geography and Environmental Sciences Urban Morphology Research Monograph 5). By Keith D. Lilley. 21 × 29 cm. 145 pp., inc. 22 figs. Birmingham: University of Birmingham School of Geography, 1999. Price £6 pb.

Plan-analyses of Winchester, Southampton and seven other medieval towns.

William of Malmesbury: The Deeds of the Bishops of England (Gesta Pontificum Anglorum). Tr. By David Preest. 15 × 24 cm. xv + 320 pp. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2002. ISBN 1-085115-8846. Price: £25.00, \$39.95 pb.

A key text for ecclesiastical history from the age of Bede to the 1120s when William was writing at Malmesbury in Wiltshire.

Gille of Limerick (c.1070-1145): Architect of a Medieval Church. By John Fleming. 16 × 24 cm. 176 pp., 1 colour pl. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2001. ISBN 1-85182-477-4. Price: £35.44 hb.

The writings of important early 12th-century reformer in the Irish church who was a friend of Anselm.

A Catalogue of the Maps of the Estates of the Archbishops of Dublin 1654-1850. By Raymond Refaüssé and Mary Clark. 25 × 29 cm. 112 pp., 1 fig., 37 pls. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2000. ISBN 1-85182-595-9. Price: £35.00 hb.

Superbly reproduced post-medieval maps which provide glimpses of medieval landscapes in Ireland.