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BOOK REVIEWS, 2011

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Jennifer Proctor, *Pegswood Moor, Morpeth* (Pre-Construct Archaeology monograph, 11: London 2010) pp. xii + 115, 47 illus. ISBN 0-9563054-0-4. £14.95.

This important report describes and discusses an excavation in advance of the opencast extraction of coal, just to the north of Morpeth, in that transitional zone between the coastal lowlands and the eastern foothills formed by the Upper Carboniferous limestones. A generation ago, much of scholarly attention was on the archaeology of the uplands where the survival of earthworks is so astonishingly good. Since then, aerial photography and geophysics have helped to shift the focus to the lower ground where the density and complexity of settlement in later prehistory is now being more clearly appreciated. Ironically, at Pegswood, it was a deceptive cropmark that triggered the investigation, the results of which proved to be of exceptional interest. A series of landscapes was revealed, beginning with a small, unenclosed farmstead, perhaps occupied from the fourth century BC. The second phase was characterised by a network of large enclosures — including arable fields, pastureland (for sheep), and stockyards. Initially there was one round house, which was followed by a whole string of smaller ones. Subsequently, in the late first or early second century AD, there was a timber enclosure associated with a very different, much more open landscape of fields. There was, however, very little sign of any direct Roman influence. There was, for instance, no Roman pottery (although — in marked contrast — an important collection of late prehistoric ceramics, including some briquetage, was recovered). The reason for the abandonment of the area in or after the second century AD (after which the area reverted to moorland) is not at all clear.

An extensive discussion sets the results of the excavation in context, especially focusing on the interpretation of the evidence for the timber round houses, the changing nature of the enclosures, and the evidence for small-scale industry, and for ritual activity. The whole report is well set out and clearly expressed and illustrated. Such a substantial and thorough treatment might overload a journal — the traditional means of reaching the appropriate audience; one can only hope that the distribution of this free-standing report will prove to be efficient and effective.

Humphrey Welfare

An Archaeological Map of Hadrian's Wall, 1:25,000 scale, (English Heritage, Swindon 2010) ISBN 978-1-848020-59-7. £7.99

The first OS *Map of Hadrian's Wall* was published in 1964. The depiction of the Wall and its associated structures was symbolic but clear. The second edition followed the same format, but the third edition, published in 1989, adopted a different and more unhelpful convention, complicated by the use of two different scales. The new map returns to the style of the first and second editions, though in an improved format.

The Archaeological Map of Hadrian's Wall is not published by the OS but by English Heritage. It has a colour wash but this is light enough not to obscure the background and has the advantage of being tinted to reflect height. The lettering, including road numbers, is clearly visible through the tint so that the visitor does not need to travel additionally armed with the OS maps for the Wall.

A major problem with a map of this type lies in the nature of the symbols. All Wall elements are depicted either in black or red. The legend states: 'symbols are used to distinguish between features that are readily visible (black) or less readily visible (red). There are no hard rules on this...'. This is a most sensible approach. It is clearer in meaning than the statements in the first and second editions where black is 'extant or identifiable'. There 'identifiable' is ambiguous as it could mean either 'visibly identifiable' or 'identified by excavation but no longer visible'. The new wording is therefore to be preferred. It also emphasises that this is a map primarily designed for visitors. We still need a map of Hadrian's Wall which provides basic information about archaeological knowledge, including not just where the remains have been identified through excavation but are no longer visible but where they have been destroyed.

Yet the *Archaeological Map* goes a long way to providing this information. This is achieved by up-dating all information recorded on the map, which is particularly impressive in relation to civil settlements where there has been a considerable increase in knowledge through geophysical survey, and in extending the range of types of sites recorded on the map ('Mausoleum' is the only symbol dropped from previous editions). The 'obstacles' found on the berm are included, as well as bridges. Areas of cord rig are now recorded, and Iron Age and Roman period settlements and field systems are planned rather than depicted as symbols. Museums and the line of the National Trail are included. One element of the Wall not shown on any map is the upcast mound, in spite of the article in this journal by Humphrey Welfare in which he emphasised its importance as part of the monument (*AA*⁵, 33 (2004), 9–23). The stone tower on the south-west side of Barcombe Hill, located by David Woolliscroft, also fails to be recorded on the map (*AA*⁵, 20 (1992), 57–62).

Unlike its predecessors, the sections of the map are printed on 'a durable double-sided waterproof sheet'. The potential disadvantage of using both sides of the page is balanced by the inclusion of more land on either side of the Wall in each section and the extension of the map down the Cumbrian coast as far as the last known tower at Risehow. The text accompanying the map remains minimal. Rather strangely, the dates of the building and occupation of the Wall are not given.

The new *Archaeological Map of Hadrian's Wall* is up-to-date, easy to use and informative, including more information than any of its predecessors. English Heritage is to be warmly congratulated on its production. It is indispensable for everyone interested in Hadrian's Wall.

David J. Breeze

Stephen Leach and Alan Whitworth, *Saving the Wall: The Conservation of Hadrian's Wall 1746–1987* (Amberley, Stroud, 2011) pp. 160, 72 illus. ISBN 978 1 445600 1 85. £12.99.

Wayland Kennet, in his book *Preservation*, offers three methods of saving ancient monuments: purchase, legislation or shaming would-be destroyers. All three were used to protect Hadrian's Wall, as is made clear in the prologue to this important account of its protection and conservation: John Clayton purchased sites; the state scheduled and took into care;

William Hutton shamed. The range of this book, however, is more restricted. It falls essentially into two parts: the campaign against quarrying in the early 1930s and the career of Charles Anderson. Both are good stories. But it does result in a misleading title: only four pages are devoted to the years from 1746 to 1929, while the account ends in 1974, with 1987 cited only because in that year Hadrian's Wall became a World Heritage Site. The text would also have benefited from detailed copy-editing.

The story of the campaign against the quarrying of the central sector is well told, with copious quotations from official documents. It involves a great cast of characters from the First Commissioner of Works, George Lansbury, through the great and the good of British archaeology to, briefly, the humble quarryman. It tells of the ironies of life: Lansbury was made First Commissioner because it was felt that here 'he would do least harm'. In the event, he steered the *Ancient Monuments Act 1931* through Parliament, as a result of which the *Roman Wall and Vallum Preservation Scheme* was adopted in 1938. And it tells of the follies, how the great Clayton estate — so carefully built up by John Clayton and nurtured by his immediate successors — was sold to pay the gambling debts of his great-great nephew, Jack Clayton. (A further irony, not noted by the authors, is that Clayton died, appropriately, at Newmarket.) What is heartening is the wide range of support given to the safeguarding of the Wall by archaeological societies and universities throughout Britain. What hasn't changed are the arguments: jobs versus protecting the heritage.

The story of Charlie Anderson is also well worth telling. Here we step into a different world. Charlie wanted to be left to get on with what he knew he was doing well: he did not suffer interference from above gladly. And he was largely left to get on with it. Indeed, the only records we have of this great campaign from 1935 to 1974 — to uncover and consolidate milecastles, turrets, temples, bridges, stretches of Wall, forts and the Housesteads latrine — lie in his photographs and his notes. His contribution to the present appearance of Hadrian's Wall is enormous. When a class of school children in Corbridge were asked who built the Wall, the answer was Charlie Anderson! How right they were.

For the archaeologist, there is much useful material in the detail presented here. This includes the information that at Heddon-on-the-Wall only did Anderson encounter clay bonding in the core, whilst at Planetrees 'the core of the Broad Wall was of fairly big stones'. In other places the core was mortared, and illustrated by a photograph taken at Sewing-shields. Anderson was also the first to find centurial stones in the north face of the Wall, at Black Carts, and he noted the location of large stones in the Wall, of chamfered stones on both the north and south sides at Walltown and a bonding course at Birdoswald. He offered an explanation for the small points of reduction in the central sector: they mark points where gaps were left in the Wall to provide access to the north side. Occasionally there is reference to Anderson's sketches, but none is published, though the account is well illustrated by photographs. This section also has an interest for the cultural resource manager — and the visitor — for there is an interesting account of the disagreements between the Ministry of Works and the National Trust on the best way to present the Wall — as a consolidated monument or with a turf cap — a problem which is still with us.

The main text is supported by six appendices. Two provide the texts of the *Ancient Monuments Act 1931* and the *Roman Wall and Vallum Preservation Scheme 1938*. The others are lists: mortar mixes; Charles Anderson's photograph albums; inscriptions he found; and those parts of the Wall in state care. The last is illuminating. It lists 31 sites from Corbridge (taken into care in 1933) to Corchester House Field at Corbridge (in 1977). But of this list no less than 26

properties were acquired between 1933 and 1954, one in 1960 and four in the 1970s. This is itself an eloquent testimony to the current level of interest of the authorities in Hadrian's Wall. It gains even more poignancy when related to the demise of the Hadrian's Wall squad in the years following Charlie Anderson's retirement. Yet, we should celebrate that the *Roman Wall and Vallum Preservation Scheme* was the first step in the long path to seek to protect the environs of our ancient monuments.

This is a valuable addition to the small number of publications which help us to understand the processes of protecting and conserving Hadrian's Wall as well as providing details which improve our knowledge of its construction. It should be on the shelf of all interested in the Roman Wall.

David J. Breeze

Mark Brennand and Keith J. Stringer (eds.) *The Making of Carlisle: From Romans to Railways* (Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Extra Series 35, 2011) pp. xviii + 198, 131 illus. ISBN 978 1 873124 50 5. £15.

Every historic city needs to be understood by its residents — and by its visitors — if it is to be properly cared for and sustained. This excellent, well illustrated, summary of the development of Carlisle provides that understanding in an accessible form. The city has a relatively small historic core, a significant proportion of which has been excavated in the last 30 years, and the thirteen expert contributors to this book have been able to draw upon all of the latest research. Two essential papers set the scene, dealing with the growth of archaeological knowledge, and with the city's early environment and setting. Inevitably, perhaps, the Romans get extensive treatment, focusing on the succession of forts and on the life in the town that grew up outside them. Roman urbanism eventually disappeared but occupation continued, with a shift, locational and spiritual, away from the fort. The subsequent themes of stronghold, the church, and of life in the medieval town are an echo of the earlier discussions, and all of the authors achieve a good balance: summarising the evidence but not shying away from pointing out our ignorance of this topic or that. The final three chapters joyfully follow the emergence of the modern city after the mid sixteenth century, tracing the growth of industry and of manufacturing, and the impact of the railways (and their great complexity). Sensibly, the book is rounded off with a few pages on places to visit that illustrate the story. The select bibliographies that are provided at the end of each contribution will also be enthusiastically followed up by readers. Carlisle is lucky to have such a publication, and our sister society is to be congratulated on its production.

Humphrey Welfare

Anna Rossiter, *Hexham in the Seventeenth Century: Society and Government in a Northern Market Town* (Hexham Local History Society, Occasional Publications, 9, 2010) pp. viii + 302, 25 illus. Hardback ISBN 978-0-565078-0-8. £25. Paperback ISBN 978-0-9565078-1-5. £15. Digital download <http://hexhamhistorian.org/pages/shop.php> £10.

Produced by the Hexham Local History Society, this is a small but substantial volume which is basically the Masters thesis of Anna Rossiter, a keen member of that society who died in 2007. This reviewer read the paperback edition; the book also appears in hardback. Densely packed with the products of her exhaustive researches through primary sources, it has to be

said straight away that this is a work of reference rather than easy reading. Hexham is a Northumberland market town best known through St Wilfrid's foundation there of what was termed by one chronicler as 'the greatest church north of the Alps', and which had a troubled medieval history typical of this Border county. The book looks at its post-medieval character and growth, as extrapolated from its surviving records. Much of what is presented is analysis — table after table relating to the occupants, their trades, their wealth, their baptisms and burials. Local government, crime and public order are all detailed — and what delight there is of course is in the detail: Thomas Paterson the town wait (a combination of town cryer and musician) appointed in 1665 to go about the town, morning and evening, wearing a red coat and playing 'some audiball musical instrument' and stopping to announce the time and weather; 'all other pipers and musitions' were debarred from public performances without his consent. What emerges is a picture of an important but not wealthy market town, at a time when the local leather industry — a natural extension to its role as a livestock market — was developing. Both the evidence of contemporary documents and of the surviving buildings of the town point to a gradual improvement throughout the century, although medieval lawlessness and the 'rieving' tradition left a long legacy, claimed to be greatly improved in the nineteenth century but which some might claim is not wholly extinct to this day. On the positive side, there are many evidences of a strong sense of community (perhaps a consequence of the relative isolation of the town) and also of a clear tolerance for its substantial Roman Catholic population who enjoyed the support of many gentry families in the area and certainly played their full part in society.

So, a valuable academic work, well referenced, and an invaluable source for future researchers, yes, but perhaps a tome to consult rather than simply sit down and enjoy; it is a thesis and it reads like one. The quality of the illustrations is disappointing — some maps and old prints are reproduced at too small a scale to be useful and the few photographs (which do not even have glossy paper) are poor by today's standards; presumably economics took its toll here. The necessary introduction to the natural setting and earlier history of the town has a few painful slip-ups, too; geologically 'much of the area consists of limestone' (p. 15) is just not true — sandstones and shales are dominant — and to refer to 'Wilfrid's Priory' (p. 24) is misleading; what had been an abbey (and cathedral) under Wilfrid only became an Augustinian priory upon a refoundation centuries after his death. Confusingly, it today calls itself an 'Abbey' once more!

Peter Ryder

Thomas Faulkner, Helen Berry and Jeremy Gregory (eds.), *Northern Landscapes: Representations and Realities of North-East England* (Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 2010. Regions and Regionalism in History Series, 12), pp. 352; 83 illus. ISBN 978-1-84383-541-7; ISSN 742-8254. £65.

These 18 essays, and the introduction by Faulkner and Gregory, are very welcome, especially for anyone who could not attend the University of Northumbria conference of a similar name in 2000. It is well edited, designed, and produced. Illustrations are carefully chosen, with fine photographs and appropriate maps. The index is excellent. A bibliography would have been a useful addition, but more important are the fully-referenced footnotes.

In the Foreword, Margaret Drabble reveals her strong connections with and allegiance to the region and, as an example of both landscape and attitudes, quotes local landowner

Elizabeth Montagu in 1758, describing pit communities as 'an anthill swarming with black creatures no better than savages' from Adrian Green's essay on early industrial County Durham.

The long introduction shows the reasoning behind the choice of material, emphasising the special nature of this region — 'wild yet "civilised"': varied, many-layered, eliciting responses which can be stereotypical or which mark new understanding of this as a region with its own identity, encompassing both the industrial landscape and G. M. Trevelyan's 'land of far horizons'.

The chapters explore, in broadly chronological order, countryside and town, rural and urban and industrial landscapes, agricultural, polite, historic and prehistoric — and, by implication, the societies that created and inhabited all of them. A. W. Purdue on the eighteenth-century landed estate in Northumberland is supported by Steven Desmond on Hardwick Gardens near Sedgfield, by Judith Betney on mid-nineteenth-century Gibside, and by Veronica Goulty on the walled gardens of large houses. A longer time span is adopted by S. M. Cousins on the Prudhoe landscape. S. A. Counce tackles the broad subject of north-eastern agriculture 1750–1914, in which the clod crusher played a surprisingly significant part.

Northumberland's empty far northern spaces still show the effects of the Border troubles. The less disturbed coastal plain was a source of wealth gained from highly-developed agriculture and from coal mines of increasing complexity. Urban development along the great rivers — Tyne, Wear, and Tees — saw more industry and concentrated growth. To those industrial towns, the urban parks described by Fiona Green brought the pleasures of the countryside to those who worked long hours in industry. The development of the streets of Darlington and Newcastle upon Tyne are carefully analysed by their respective acknowledged authorities, Gillian Cookson and Thomas Faulkner. Martin Roberts dispels any illusions about Durham's riverbanks — certainly not a happy survival of old woodland; rather a change from bare cliffs, defending the peninsula in times of trouble, to a picturesque and beautiful setting for cathedral and castle and as the perfect setting for polite perambulation.

The balance between owners and workers is managed well. Adrian Green on early industrial settlements; Linda Polley on the ambitious but ill-judged first plan of Middlesbrough; Gillian Cookson on the crowded courts of Darlington; Winifred Stokes on family papers and popular culture illuminating life in the pit houses of the nineteenth century; Hugh Dixon on Bewick's brilliant depictions of the landscape; Hilary Grainger on Crathorne Hall; Jan Hewitt on Whitby as a fishing harbour and as an example of 'heritage' place-myth: all are illuminating. Newspaper advertisements and archival sources, published eighteenth-century descriptions (Berry on Hutchinson's descriptive accounts) and field survey, these create the firm platform upon which the authors build their analyses of society and its settings. Readers of this journal will be especially pleased to see attention given to the rich past of Tyneside — from 'the Lambton Worm' to the Society of Antiquaries [of Newcastle] — in Laura Newton's piece on Cullercoats and its artists' colony.

The book shows the development of a sense of identity, a sense of place. It rewards close attention by readers who have some experience of the region's history and topography, but would equally inform those who are encountering it for the first time. 'Landscape' is interpreted broadly. Landscapes of town and of country, historic and formal, industrial and urban, cultural and perceived.

Grace McCombie