

## REVIEWS

**SOUTHERN ENGLAND: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDE. THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN REMAINS.** JAMES DYER; Faber and Faber; 1973; 380 pp. Cloth £5.50, Paper Covers £1.95.

The Guide provides succinct and informative accounts of 621 well-selected sites from 27 counties. Each site is indicated on outline maps at the beginning of the main text and as each site is described, county by county, its grid reference is given together with specific directions necessary to reach the site. The Guide is illustrated with over 70 half-tone plates but no more than 24 plans and maps. Understanding of some of the more complex sites, such as Maiden Castle, might be better served with a plan. The choice of sites seems to include all visibly impressive archaeological field monuments. In those counties less well endowed with such sites, post-Roman remains are included as in the case of the Cambridgeshire Dykes.

To aid the interested non-archaeologist, a glossary of archaeological terms and a comprehensive general framework of Southern England in prehistoric and Roman times, preceeds the main text. Brief bibliographical references, where they are considered to be of value, are given at the end of each individual site description and a list of local museums is provided at the end of each county section.

The Berkshire section contains 20 entries, which should be slightly reduced for the post-1974 county. This number is about average—entries per county vary between 5 and 63—and covers mainly hill forts and barrows, showing, incidentally, the paucity of visitable Roman remains here. It is doubtful whether Berkshire archaeologists can learn anything new concerning their own county, but the real use of the Guide is for counties other than one's own, and here it should be of great value to all those with an interest in archaeological field monuments.

VERNA CARE

**VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGY IN SCILLY.** LUKE OVER; printed on St. Mary's by A. H. READ & SON; 1974.

The policy of this Society is not to review works that do not give at least some modest mention to Berkshire. But an exception must be made in this case, for it is our Honorary Secretary who has compiled this Guide. Those who have visited the Scillies of comparatively recent times will recall the annoyance engendered by the absence of any such Guide, and the amazing thing is that the gap has been made good by an outsider, although an assiduous visitor, to the Islands. The Guide covers the main islands. There is an archaeological introduction up to the Norman Conquest and then a section on the visible ancient monuments, including some medieval and later, that can be seen on the standard walks. Inevitably one always demands, quite irrationally, an encyclopaedic quantity of information from even the smallest guide, but it is difficult to see what more Mr. Over could have included with his imposed limits in space and subject. In any case the visitor can work out his own appreciation of the scenery. It has not been possible to walk the trails with this Guide in hand, but memories of St. Mary's and St. Martin's suggest its reliability. There are a few printing infelicities that will doubtless be put right in later editions and it would be helpful were the pages numbered. It would also seem unlikely that there are many more houses to be excavated at Bant's Carn. But these are minor points and Mr. Over must be congratulated not merely for seeing a need but for doing something effective about it.

C. F. SLADE

**FIELDWORK IN INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY:** J. KENNETH MAJOR; B. T. Batsford Ltd; 1975; 176 pp. Hardback £4.50, Limp £2.95.

The author of this book is a Vice-President of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, a

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contributor to its Journal and a welcome lecturer at its meetings. These facts alone would bring it within the review net of this Journal. But there is the additional bonus for Berkshire readers that, although Mr. Major ranges widely, Berkshire and its immediate surroundings provide a large proportion of his examples.

The book starts with some consideration of the scope of fieldwork in industrial archaeology, which inevitably has to include some consideration of the thorny problems of definition. But once this is out of the way the rest of the book deals with fieldwork in all its aspects from investigation to publication of results, all obviously based on the author's own

ideas and experiences, and so emphasizing that its ideas have been tested in practice. All is very clearly written, even the technical passages, and the only error noted had nothing to do with industrial archaeology. But it should be stressed that anyone who wishes to pursue the subject seriously cannot treat it as a soft choice. It should not be overlooked that Mr. Major, in addition to his demanding training as an architect, has made himself master of much industrial expertise. If this book inspires beginners really to train themselves it will have fulfilled an important function in addition to its use to practitioners and its pleasure to all.

C. F. SLADE.