

The Anglo Saxon Fenland Windgather

Shows the 'moral economy' of early medieval England transformed by 'feudal thinking' in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest.

Archaeologies and histories of the fens of eastern England, continue to suggest, explicitly or by implication, that the early medieval fenland was dominated by the activities of north-west European colonists in a largely empty landscape. Using existing and new evidence and arguments, this new interdisciplinary history of the Anglo-Saxon fenland offers another interpretation. The fen islands and the silt fens show a degree of occupation unexpected a few decades ago. Dense Romano-British settlement appears to have been followed by consistent early medieval occupation on every island in the peat fens and across the silt fens, despite the impact of climatic change. The inhabitants of the region were organised within territorial groups in a complicated, almost certainly dynamic, hierarchy of subordinate and dominant polities, principalities and kingdoms. Their prosperous livelihoods were based on careful collective control, exploitation and management of the vast natural water-meadows on which their herds of cattle grazed. This was a society whose origins could be found in prehistoric Britain, and which had evolved through the period of Roman control and into the post-imperial decades and centuries that followed. The rich and complex history of the development of the region shows, it is argued, a traditional social order evolving, adapting and

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innovating in response to changing times.

Angles on a Kingdom analyses changing attitudes towards East Anglia within early medieval England as revealed in several important literary texts.

'The oak tree has long provided people in Britain with a wonderful natural resource. In this book the authors reclaim the disappearing forestry and carpentry skills of our ancestors and show how, in an era of climate change, oak can continue to enrich our future as a key element in an ecologically rich countryside'.

The massive ancient earthwork that provides the sole commemoration of an extraordinary Anglo-Saxon king and that gives its name to one of our most popular contemporary national walking trails remains an enigma. Despite over a century of study, we still do not fully understand how or why Britain's largest linear monument was built, and in recent years, the views of those who have studied the Dyke have diverged even as to such basic questions as its physical extent and date of construction. This book provides a fresh perspective on the creation of Offa's Dyke arising from over a decade of study and of conservation practice by its two authors. It also provides a new appreciation of the specifically Mercian and English political context of its construction. The authors first summarise what is known about the Dyke from archaeology and history and review the debates surrounding its form and purpose. They then set out a systematic approach to understanding the design and construction of the massive linear bank and ditch that has come to stand proxy for the Anglo-Welsh border. What

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can currently be deduced about the build qualities of the Dyke are then summarised from the authors' recent (and newly intricate) study of details of its localised form and construction and its landscape setting. The authors meanwhile also explain Offa's Dyke as an instrument of late 8th-century Mercian statecraft and the imperial ambitions of Offa himself.

This innovative study employs digitisation techniques and GIS technology to coax a wealth of significant new information from an important eighteenth-century map; William Faden's survey of Norfolk, published in 1797. It sets the map, and its maker, firmly in their historical context. It also shows how - when combined with other datasets - interrogation of the various patterns and distributions which it shows can cast a shaft of new light on the development of the Norfolk landscape many centuries before the map was surveyed, as well as telling us a great deal about the contemporary, late-eighteenth century landscape, and how this was understood, exploited and experienced. The book includes a digital version of the map, on DVD.

More coin hoards have been recorded from Roman Britain than from any other province of the Empire. This comprehensive and lavishly illustrated volume provides a survey of over 3260 hoards of Iron Age and Roman coins found in England and Wales with a detailed analysis and discussion. Theories of hoarding and deposition and examined, national and regional patterns in the landscape settings of coin hoards presented, together with an analysis of those hoards whose findspots were surveyed and of those hoards found in archaeological excavations. It also includes an unprecedented examination of the containers in which coin hoards were

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buried and the objects found with them. The patterns of hoarding in Britain from the late 2nd century BC to the 5th century AD are discussed. The volume also provides a survey of Britain in the 3rd century AD, as a peak of over 700 hoards are known from the period from AD 253–296. This has been a particular focus of the project which has been a collaborative research venture between the University of Leicester and the British Museum funded by the AHRC. The aim has been to understand the reasons behind the burial and non-recovery of these finds. A comprehensive online database (<https://finds.org.uk/database>) underpins the project, which also undertook a comprehensive GIS analysis of all the hoards and field surveys of a sample of them.

The village, one of the keystones of the English rural landscape, has a powerful hold on the imagination. This book is the result of the Whittlewood project, & addresses a key problem for historians: the origin of nucleated & dispersed settlements. It is useful for scholars, students & enthusiasts of English landscape history.

New research into the development of rural settlements. These studies focus on the period 850-1200 when the basic patterns were established. Incorporates a great deal of new research, mostly based on detailed regional surveys in the east Midland. Essential reading for landscape archaeologists and medieval historians.

Highlights the achievements of prehistoric people in Britain and Ireland over a 5,000 year period.

The eleven chapters in this international volume draw on a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to focus our attention on medieval and early modern things (ca. 700–1600). The range of things includes actual objects (the Altenburg Crucifixion, a copy of

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Hieronymus Brunschwig's *Liber de arte distillandi*, a pilgrim's letter), imagined objects (a prayed cloak for the Virgin Mary), and narrative objects in texts (the Alliterative *Morte Arthure*, the *Ordene de Chevalerie*, Hartmann von Aue's *Erec*, Heinrich of Neustadt's *Apollonius of Tyre*, Luís de Camões's *Os Lusíadas*, and the vita of Saint Guthlac). Each in its own way, the papers consider how things do what they do in texts and art, often foregrounding the intersection between the material and the immaterial by exploring such questions as how things act, how they express power, and how texts and images represent them. Medieval and early modern things are repeatedly shown to be more than symbolic or passive, they are agentive and determinative in both their intra- and extradiegetic worlds. The things that are addressed in this volume are varied and are embedded, or entangled, in different contexts and societies, and yet they share a concerted engagement in human life.

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Traces the development of towns in Britain from late Roman times to the end of the Anglo-Saxon period using archaeological data.

This handbook is currently in development, with individual articles publishing online in advance of print publication. At this time, we cannot add information about unpublished articles in this handbook, however the table of contents will continue to grow as additional articles pass through the review process and are added to the site. Please note that the online publication date for this handbook is the date that the first article in the title was published online. Roman Britain is a critical area of research within the provinces of the Roman empire. Within the last 15-20 years, the study of Roman Britain

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has been transformed through an enormous amount of new and interesting work which is not reflected in the main stream literature.

In recent decades, the Merovingian world has become more visible in Anglophone historical studies. The forty-six essays included in this collection highlight the vitality and importance of the Merovingian kingdoms in the fifth through eighth centuries. The lowlands of the Humber Basin form one of Britain's most extensive wetland areas. Since waterlogging inhibits the decomposition of organic remains, they also form a rich archaeological resource. This book reveals for the first time the buried ancient landscapes which lie under the peat. It is the result of a ten-year English Heritage funded project, which aimed to identify and explore this archaeology before it was damaged by peat extraction, development and drainage. Robert Van de Noort's principal theme is how people have perceived the wetlands in the Humber lowlands over the last 10,000 years, and how they have separated places of economic and spiritual importance. He describes the use of natural resources in prehistory, first by fishers, hunters and gatherers, and then by farmers. He explores the evidence for prehistoric wetland settlements, such as the famous lake-dwellings at Holderness. The wetlands were important prehistoric waterways: finds have included unparalleled maritime structures such as the Ferriby boats. As elsewhere in northern Europe, there were also places where valuables were deposited: perhaps 'natural places' linked to ancestor cults. The Romans settled in new places in the region, revealing much about

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their own economy and about the dynamics of regional sea-level change. Sea-level rise at the end of the Roman period heralded new patterns of resource exploitation in the Middle Ages, whilst drainage, driven in more recent times by forces outside the region, has largely shaped the landscape we see today. This book draws the themes from the layers of complex evidence to reveal the archaeology under the flat and featureless fields: the hidden world under the peat.

Part ecology, part archaeology and part history, *Beavers in Britain's Past* explores the evidence for *Castor fiber*, the European beaver from late in the last ice age to the time of its extinction from Britain's native fauna. The first chapters introduce the beaver and its habitats in western Europe, where it is now flourishing. Based on original field survey in Brittany and southeastern France, the characteristic structures and features of three contrasting beaver territories are documented and analysed, with a view to identifying beaver activity in the archaeological record. Beavers are a keystone ecological species, modifying their waterside surroundings to the benefit of many other species, both plant and animal, including humans. The book then focuses on the archaeological and historical record, from the return of beavers after the severe cold of the last glaciation through 13000 years of living alongside humans, to their disappearance from the record. In the light of the field survey results, beaver influence is identified at a number of well-known wetland sites of prehistoric date, while the evidence for human exploitation of beavers becomes increasingly diverse through time. In the post-Roman

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period it expands to include place-names, carvings and illuminated manuscripts, written records and oral traditions. Analysing the record in the light of the field survey results and increasing knowledge of the behaviour of European beavers, it is argued that beavers vanished from human perception but did not become extinct until the later second millennium AD. *Beavers in Britain's Past* provides a new perspective on the archaeology and history of Britain and demonstrates the significance of beavers to the environment of Britain.

This is a book which puts the environment back where it belongs - at the centre of the historical stage. It is essential reading for all those interested in the history of the English landscape, social and economic history, and the way that life was lived in the medieval countryside.

Important evidence for occupation spanning the late 1st century (Early Roman) to the 9th century (Middle Saxon) was found by CAM ARC (now Oxford Archaeology East) in 2002. The initial phase of a Roman farmstead consisted of fragmentary evidence for a ditched field system and livestock enclosures, the layout being altered throughout the Roman period. Barns, trackways, wells and rubbish dumps were also evident, with environmental and artefactual evidence pointing to a predominantly pastoral economy. Both pottery and metalwork imply continuity of settlement at the site from the Roman to the Anglo-Saxon periods.

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Early Saxon activity of the 5th-6th centuries is attested by seven sunken-featured buildings, a possible hall, ovens, pits and a contracted (or 'crouched') burial. Most of the buildings were deliberately set around a rectangular space, perhaps representing an extended family grouping within a much larger settlement. After a possible hiatus, the site was again used in the Middle Saxon period. The field boundary ditches were replaced by a large enclosure containing a post-hole building and another oven. Metalwork and associated debris in the backfill of an earlier building and nearby pit attest to ferrous working, possibly including steel production, and the gathering of scrap metal for recycling. The site evidently formed part of a Middle Saxon settlement such as a large village, engaged in craft activities and perhaps providing a local market. Its eventual abandonment was probably a result of the defeat of King Edmund at Thetford in 869 and subsequent settlement changes under Danish occupancy.

This study examines the changing ways that human communities chose to exploit, modify and ultimately transform their environment over two millennia. Using field archaeology and documentary sources to explore the origins and development of today's historic landscape, it shows how this individual area - in North-West Somerset - cannot be understood in isolation, but must be seen in its wider regional context.

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Las sociedades humanas han concebido su relación con el espacio físico en el que habitaban en términos territoriales. Este concepto dota a la noción de territorio de una serie de significados sociales y culturales, convirtiéndolo así en un instrumento de articulación de las complejas y cambiantes relaciones entre grupos sociales y medio natural. Generalmente la territorialidad se examina desde el prisma de los estados modernos como zonas perfectamente delimitadas, tanto desde un punto de vista topográfico como desde una óptica del significado político. Sin embargo, se trata de una visión parcial, que no toma en consideración la existencia de otras formas de territorialidad existentes en sociedades preindustriales. La Alta Edad Media, un periodo que cubrió los siglos VI al XI aproximadamente, fue un auténtico laboratorio de territorialidad. Los modelos romanos, fuertemente condicionados por el poder imperial, se diluyeron y surgieron nuevas y muy diversas formas de articulación del territorio. Las sociedades locales se convirtieron en protagonistas activas, al crear patrones territoriales que sirvieron de escenario para implementar las relaciones con la autoridad central, al tiempo que se fueron construyendo los espacios episcopales y se crearon “lugares centrales” de nuevo cuño. Esta compleja relación entre lo local y lo englobante se aborda en este volumen a través de un

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conjunto de estudios que cubren la Península Ibérica, Inglaterra, Irlanda e Italia. La construcción de la territorialidad en la Alta Edad Media es una obra deliberadamente orientada hacia una historiografía de escala europea que supere las miradas exclusivamente nacionales.

This important and significant volume examines, for the first time, the ordinary people of Roman Britain. This overlooked group – the farmers, shopkeepers, labourers and others – fed the country, made the clothes, mined the ores, built the villas and towns and got their hands dirty in the fields and at the potter's wheel. The book aims to rebalance our view of Roman Britain from its current preoccupation with – archaeologically visible – elite social classes and the institutions of power, towards a recognition that the ordinary person mattered. It looks at how people earned a living, family size and structure, social behaviour, customs and taboos and the impact of the presence of non-locals and foreigners, using archaeology, texts and ethnography. It also explores how the natural forces which underlay the use of agricultural land and regional variation in agricultural practice impacted upon the size, health and nutrition of the population. The Romano-British Peasant leads the way towards a greater understanding of ordinary men and women and their role in the history and landscape of Roman Britain. This title has been nominated for the 2014 Current Archaeology Best

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Book Award.

This book explores the development of territorial identity in the late prehistoric, Roman, and early medieval periods. Over the course of the Iron Age, a series of marked regional variations in material culture and landscape character emerged across eastern England that reflect the development of discrete zones of social and economic interaction. The boundaries between these zones appear to have run through sparsely settled areas of the landscape on high ground, and corresponded to a series of kingdoms that emerged during the Late Iron Age. In eastern England at least, these pre-Roman socio-economic territories appear to have survived throughout the Roman period despite a trend towards cultural homogenization brought about by Romanization. Although there is no direct evidence for the relationship between these socio-economic zones and the Roman administrative territories known as civitates, they probably corresponded very closely. The fifth century saw some Anglo-Saxon immigration but whereas in East Anglia these communities spread out across much of the landscape, in the Northern Thames Basin they appear to have been restricted to certain coastal and estuarine districts. The remaining areas continued to be occupied by a substantial native British population, including much of the East Saxon kingdom (very little of which appears to have been 'Saxon'). By the sixth century a series

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of regionally distinct identities - that can be regarded as separate ethnic groups - had developed which corresponded very closely to those that had emerged during the late prehistoric and Roman periods. These ancient regional identities survived through to the Viking incursions, whereafter they were swept away following the English re-conquest and replaced with the counties with which we are familiar today.

Reknown environmental archaeologist Ian Simmons synthesises detailed research into the landscape history of the coastal area of Lincolnshire between Boston and Skegness and its hinterland of Tofts, Low Grounds and Fen as far as the Wolds. With many excellent illustrations Simmons chronicles the ways in which this low coast, backed by a wet fen, has been managed to display a set of landscapes which have significant differences that contradict the common terminology of uniformity, calling the area 'flat' or everywhere from Cleethorpes to Kings Lynn as 'the fens'. These usually labelled 'flat' areas of East Lincolnshire between Mablethorpe and Boston are in fact a mosaic of subtly different landscapes. They have become that way largely due to the human influences derived from agriculture and industry. Between the beginning of Norman rule and the advent of pumped drainage, a number of significant changes took place. Foremost was the reclamation of land from the sea, which took place in both medieval times and the early modern decades. Part of the sequence along the coast of The Wash was due to land creation from the wastes of the salt industry. Next in importance

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was the management of the East Fen, both for its resources (mostly of a biological nature) and to keep it from flooding the surrounding lands and settlements. All these changes required a knowledge of water management that depended upon gravity until the coming of the drainage mill towards 1700. This area of Lincolnshire has been largely ignored by recent practitioners of historical geography, landscape history and archaeology alike, so one aim has been to accumulate as much data as possible from a variety of sources: documents, digs, aerial imagery, maps and fieldwork dominate. The project has accumulated information from Roman times until the beginnings of fossil-fuel powered drainage. This book would be first on this particular region and the first of its kind in trying to bring together both scientific data and documentary evidence including medieval and early modern documents from the National Archive, Lincolnshire Archives, Bethlem Hospital and Magdalen College Oxford, to explore the little-known archives of regional interest, such as that of the Bethlem Royal Hospital. Written by a team of experts and presenting the results of the most up-to-date research, The Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology will both stimulate and support further investigation into a society poised at the interface between prehistory and history. Contemporary arts, both practice and methods, offer medieval scholars innovative ways to examine, explore, and reframe the past. Medievalists offer contemporary studies insights into cultural works of the past that have been made or reworked in the present. Creative-critical writing invites the adaptation of scholarly style using forms such as the

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dialogue, short essay, and the poem; these are, the authors argue, appropriate ways to explore innovative pathways from the contemporary to the medieval, and vice versa. Speculative and non-traditional, *The Contemporary Medieval in Practice* adapts the conventional scholarly essay to reflect its cross-disciplinary, creative subject. This book 'does' Medieval Studies differently by bringing it into relation with the field of contemporary arts and by making 'practice', in the sense used by contemporary arts and by creative-critical writing, central to it. Intersecting with a number of urgent critical discourses and cultural practices, such as the study of the environment and the ethics of understanding bodies, identities, and histories, this short, accessible book offers medievalists a distinctive voice in multi-disciplinary, trans-chronological, collaborative conversations about the Humanities. Its subject is early medieval British culture, often termed Anglo-Saxon Studies (c. 500–1100), and its relation with, use of, and re-working in contemporary visual, poetic, and material culture (after 1950). 'The Contemporary Medieval in Practice is both wise and unafraid to take risks. Fully embedded in scholarship yet reaching into unmapped territory, the authors move across disciplines and forge surprising links. Thought-provoking and evocative, this is a book that will have an impact that far belies its modest length.' – Linda Anderson, Newcastle University

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