

states, politics and power-zones, namely those by Andrew Reynolds for Anglo-Saxon England generally (modelling three developmental stages), by Christopher Scull for south-east Suffolk, by Patrick Gleeson for the multiple ritual landscapes of Cashel and Munster in Ireland, and by Egge Knol for the extended coastal lands of Frisia, here interpreting a mix of archaeology (e.g. sites, objects, boats).

Perhaps simply a problem with my own review copy (though that seems rather unlikely), the print publication was marred by residual typographical/copy-editing elements or problems with formatting and spacing. For example, on the Contents page the Chapter 5 title has '...Norway Regional...' which is repeated on the title page of the actual paper (p.107); similar issues are evident twice on the facing page 106 (and likewise in the Introduction, with six instances on p.18). Spacing slips occur in various points, such as in footnotes (e.g. p.76 n.49 has 'Eagles pers.c omm.2007') and in captions, for example in Chapter 3 where numbers seem to be 31, 32, 35 instead of 3.1, 3.2, etc. and a space often comes after the first letter of the first word (e.g. p.65 with 'Figure 31 Distribution'). There are also issues with the left-page header for authors' names across Chapter 7. I might further note that various b&w images were not very crisp (Figures 7.1, 13.5 and 17.5 being examples); in some cases the original colour plates were probably much clearer.

These niggling points aside, there is plenty of excellent and stimulating research on show here; the range of papers and approaches certainly makes this a volume worthy of close scrutiny by any scholar engaged with Europe in the Early Middle Ages.

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***The Shaping of the English Landscape. An Atlas of Archaeology from the Bronze Age to Domesday Book.*** (Oxford University School of Archaeology: Monograph 82). By Chris Green & Miranda Creswell. 20 x 28 cm. vi + 123 pp, 136 colour pls and figs. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2021. ISBN 978-1-80327-0060-9; epub: 978-1-80327-061-6. Price: £35.00 pb.

This attractive volume arises from the *English Landscapes and Identities* (EngLaId) project and constitutes a companion to the 2021 monograph of the same name. Two outstanding features of the EngLaId project are, first, its collation and interrogation of several vast national datasets; and, second, its integration of artist Miranda Creswell into a multi-faceted team of archaeologists. Both of these features are at the fore in this book, a collaboration between Creswell and EngLaId's GIS expert Chris Green, which provides a strikingly visual commentary on the project: nearly every page displays one of Green's maps/graphs or Creswell's artworks (and, sometimes, both combined). The result is both thought-provoking and a pleasure to browse – including, notably, the blended methods and philosophies of the closing chapter.

Inevitably, the dataset cannot remain up-to-date (dated on p. iv to 2012), but its staggering size (over 900,000 records) offers reassurance as to its

representativeness. By way of context and as a refined measure of this representativeness, Chapter 1 presents a range of views on archaeological 'affordance' – the likelihood of sites of certain types or periods being archaeologically detectable across different regions. Using the distribution of Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries as a proxy for ceramic usage is rather mysterious, but overall this chapter's findings have important implications for inter-regional archaeological studies.

Most of the rest of the book is arranged into thematic chapters, each examining a different feature, function or activity in the landscape (such as 'settlement' and 'belief'), spanning 1500 BC to AD 1086, within the modern borders of England. Most of the maps in these core chapters plot the presence or density of a particular class of monument, such as roads, metalworking sites or churches. Their clarity, in presentation and exposition, is admirable. There are occasional spelling mistakes and empty cross-references, and the inferences drawn from the multitude of maps are sometimes a little vague, telling (rather than necessarily showing) us that particular patterns are useful or interesting. Some of the observations on distributional patterns (such as the mismatch between the Danelaw and open-field landscapes) are not necessarily surprising, but the sheer breadth and depth of the evidence compiled and analysed in this volume – together with the skilful interleaving of original artwork – make this an essential and characterful atlas for anyone undertaking large-scale archaeological studies of England. The availability of a free digital edition is a welcome bonus.

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***Planning in the Early Medieval Landscape.*** (Exeter Studies in Medieval Europe). By John Blair, Stephen Rippon & Christopher Smart. 16 x 24 cm. xv + 351 pp, 100 b&w pls and figs, 1 table. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-78962-116-7. Price: £80.00 hb.

This volume explores the medieval use of gridded planning using standardised measurements to lay out rural settlements within the present country of England. It takes as its starting-point Blair's previously published suggestion that in England a number of rural settlements of seventh- to ninth-century date were laid out using precisely measured, planned, regular grids repeating squares of standard dimensions of 15 or 18 perches, in a modular manner analogous to that observed in some medieval buildings. This volume seeks to advance understanding of this type of settlement planning: to establish its chronology and geographical extent, to investigate its tenurial context – i.e. who it was that required settlements to be planned in this way – and, finally, to establish why this was done.

The research analysed nineteenth-century first-edition Ordnance Survey maps to identify relevant settlements and then consulted archaeological evidence for possible corroborative support for grid planning. Other sites were included to avoid missing those where medieval grid plans might not have survived to be mapped by the early OS surveyors, including deserted