with excavation, as well as scientific analysis of the glass. Magnetometry survey was undertaken at 19 sites on the Surrey/West Sussex border, with follow-up excavation taking place at three of these sites. The report presents the scientific analysis of over 200 samples of glass and glassworking waste, which demonstrates how a fairly consistent glassmaking 'recipe' was used across the industry, with the key difference being chronological; it confirms a technological transition in the 1560s, corresponding with the settlement of continental glass workers in the area.

Overall, this publication is a major contribution to our understanding of the Wealden industry and of medieval glassmaking more generally. The project has demonstrated how intensive survey can lead to detailed information about both the sites themselves and their products. Perhaps the most important outcome has been the refined understanding of the chronology of the industry and the ability to characterise the 'early' (pre-1560s) and 'later' (post-1560s) industries. The early period is characterised by the production of a potash-rich forest glass to a recipe, which is consistent between sites and over time, using quartz-rich crucibles; in contrast, the later industry used grog-tempered ceramics to produce high lime, low alkali glass, with the addition of cobalt to create a deep blue-green colour. The earlier sites are scarcer than the later ones and appear more focussed in the northern parishes of the study area. This important contribution to the study of medieval industry outlines several priorities for future research, including the use of LiDAR, targeted excavation and HER enhancement. In addition, I see this volume forming an essential resource for beginning to explore the relationships between the industries of this distinctive area, which is well known also both for iron and textile production.

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50 Finds from Buckinghamshire. Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. By Arwen Wood. 17 x 24 cm. 96 pp, 150 (unnumbered) colour pls and figs. Stroud: Amberley Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-4456-9577-8; e-pub: 978-1-4456-9578-5. Price: £15.99 pb.

50 Finds from Buckinghamshire is a new guide-book focusing on the stand-out artefacts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme recovered within Buckinghamshire. Its author, Arwen Wood, one of the PAS Finds Liaison Officers, examines a full range of finds, from prehistoric lithics to post-medieval jewellery and clay pipes, broken up into seven short chapters, the most relevant here being the latter three covering the 'Early Medieval Period', the 'Medieval Period' and the 'Post-medieval to Modern Period'. Each chapter begins with a short introductory section, describing the periods with a national and county-level context for the finds concerned; then come concise but detailed summaries of each of the selected finds, their context and also their importance to the history (and archaeology) of Buckinghamshire. In many cases Wood also discusses related themes, such as pilgrimage or the local monastic economy. The text is complemented by high-quality colour images of the 50 finds in question, often shown from multiple angles and in fine detail. Highlights from the later chapters include a sixth-century square-headed brooch from Upper Winchendon, coin finds from the tenth- and eleventh-century Lenborough Hoard, and a fourteenth-/fifteenth-century lead ampulla for transporting holy water.

At less than one-hundred pages, this book is short, but nonetheless provides a great introduction to both the vital work of the PAS and the specific artefactual history of Buckinghamshire – and to the value of metal-detecting enthusiasts especially. Readers will certainly come away with some sense of the place, its people and their material culture, while also being able to dip in and out for periods of personal interest, or even simply leaf through for another look at the striking images.

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English Local History. An Introduction (3rd Edition). By Kate Tiller. 17 x 24 cm. x + 307 pp, 155 b&w pls and figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-78327-524-3. Price: £19.99 pb.

This is a much expanded, and improved, edition of what soon established itself as perhaps the best introduction to English local history when first published in 1992. It has both breadth and depth, is rich in examples and illustrations, and is deeply informed. Such is hardly surprising, since for 40 years Kate Tiller was a mainstay of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education, developing and laying on all manner of courses and programmes in local history, and in 2019 being appointed OBE for services to the subject. However, what this is not – at least primarily – is a guide to sources or how to write local or parish history, although the medieval and later chapters include succinct sections on 'Sources and Methods' and there are useful endnotes. There's also a good index.

If we're honest, local history can be worthy but a bit dull (which, having spent years writing it for the VCH, I can say with a degree of impunity), with more than a whiff of pipe smoke and sensible brogues. Not so this book, and over its 300-odd pages we are given an extremely engaging and up-to-date synopsis of current understanding of how English society and landscape – the people as well as the places – evolved over the last millennium. General trends and movements are informed by case studies drawn from the academic literature and by extended captions to the illustrations. A few will be familiar, but most are fresh and include a good number of specially taken photographs.

After what is essentially a history of the subject, from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* via Leland and the county historians to the VCH, comes the first of the broadly chronological chapters, this covering the period to 1066; it is a masterful account of how current understanding has been arrived at, using and explaining source materials and techniques. The successive sections on medieval rural society – on manors, lords, tenants,