

produced in hurried conditions; they give good impressions of the objects, but care must be taken if they are to be used in detail. Furthermore, some of the recorded measurements are ambiguous, with a single measurement for the length of a sword sometimes including (Fendoch, no. 146) and sometimes excluding (Newstead, nos. 151 and 152) the length of the tang.

MacGregor's book, with its detailed corpus, will be used by many scholars in Britain and in Europe for years to come – its merits are obvious to all, but the pit-falls in using it are not so apparent and they must be emphasised. It would have been a better work had it been restricted to the material with which the author is thoroughly conversant. One can appreciate her desire to fit the North British material into context, and her attempt emphasises how inadequate is the publication of Iron Age metalwork from southern England.

London.

I. M. Stead.

### **Iron Age and Romano-British Monuments in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds.**

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London 1976. LVI and 157 pages, numerous figures, 68 plates.

The lack of a state archaeological service on the continental model has troubled many British archaeologists of late; but the research and the publications of the Crown's Royal Commissions on Historical Monuments must go a long way towards making up for this deficiency. In the volume under review the RCHM (England) makes a significant departure from its past practice of describing and listing on a county basis ancient monuments of all periods. The identifiable Iron Age and Roman monuments are considered here in isolation from earlier prehistoric and post-Roman field-monuments. To treat the Gloucestershire Cotswolds as a region in its own right also makes sense; for most of the sites in question are on the limestone uplands and only a few, in the south-east corner of the area, are on Thames gravels.

After the opening statements standard to RCHM reports the sectional preface (p. XXIII) introduces the area and its archaeology. This is the point at which the sites discussed later in the inventory (p. 1ff.) are reviewed in a national context. The evidence for Iron-Age settlement consists largely in earthworks of many types. Twenty-nine hillforts are recorded – and 37 monuments regarded in the past as hillforts are discredited in a carefully argued study. For the Roman period the investigators of the RCHM have excluded the large town of Corinium-Cirencester, but considered its environs. Rural sites are thick on the ground in the Cotswolds, and 25 Romano-British villas are known and a further 13 attested by surface finds. The evidence for their siting, architecture, interior decoration and economy is assessed. It is very difficult to classify Roman rural buildings, and the four categories proposed by the RCHM (p. XLIII) are only a rough guide.

Corinium-Cirencester dominates the region – only four other settlements are over 25 acres (10 ha). The fortified town of Dorn (10 acres, 4 ha) has a special position, still not understood. The investigators surveyed the Roman roads of the region in the light of the surviving remains, aerial photography and the Anglo-Saxon charter evidence. There are few surviving 'Celtic' fields in the area when compared with those of Wessex; but the associations of these fields (e.g. at Barnsley Park) are often significant. The preface concludes with a review of Romano-British burials, barrows with Romano-British material and two religious buildings.



In Appendix A some place-names are discussed in relation to the archaeological monuments. In Appendix B the ring-ditches are considered; their dating and interpretation still present many problems.

The core of the work is the inventory of monuments (p. 1 ff.) which lists sites under their parish heading in alphabetical order of parishes. While this has advantages, it makes it difficult to grasp the 'feel' of the region, since the parishes are so scattered. The index and lists of monuments in the sectional preface, however, make it relatively easy to examine specific categories of monument in the area.

The Cotswolds contain a series of nationally important sites. Recent excavations at Crickley Hill (Coberley parish), for instance, have revealed that large rectangular timber-framed buildings (perhaps aisled halls) preceeded a later Iron-Age circular building within the impressively sited hillfort. A striking series of crop-marks on the gravels of the Upper Thames in the parishes of Fairford, Kempford and Lechlade (map opposite p. 55) have been plotted from the air and represent a complex Iron-Age and Romano-British landscape of fields, enclosures, tracks and settlement foci.

The Cotswolds have always been known for their luxurious late Roman villas – Frocester Court, Chedworth, Spoonley Wood (Sudeley parish) and Woodchester. Recent work at the architecturally more modest villa of Barnsley Park has begun to reveal new details of the economic background to the villa systems for a pattern of walled closes and fields can now be associated with the villa buildings.

The inventory is richly illustrated with plans which show a high standard of draughtsmanship. The plates, carefully chosen, are of excellent quality; it is good to have among them a visual conspectus of the mosaics of the area. Equally, the aerial photographs emphasise the importance of the earthworks still upstanding in the region and the urgent need to protect them against all forms of erosion.

Manchester.

John Peter Wild.

**I. M. Stead, Excavations at Winterton Roman Villa and other Roman sites in North Lincolnshire 1958–1967.** With contributions by D. Charlesworth, B. R. Hartley, K. F. Hartley, H. Pengelly, P. E. Curnow, V. Rigby, C. B. Denston, J. Liversidge, D. J. Smith and others. Department of the Environment, Archaeological Reports No. 9. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London 1976. XVIII and 324 pages, 148 figures, 7 tables and 38 plates.

Archaeology in Britain in common with other scholarly disciplines has been badly hit by rising printing costs. One response to the problem has been to publish excavation reports by the cheaper (but less flexible) method of offset lithography. Official bodies, however, who publish through Her Majesty's Stationery Office, have reacted by simply raising the price of their letterpress publications. While fewer readers will be able to afford these reports, it is nevertheless reassuring to be able to handle work like Dr Stead's Winterton which maintains the established high standards of printing and production.

The volume is a record of excavations carried out at a number of Roman sites on, or on the edge of, the Lincolnshire Wolds between 1958 and 1967, with a post-script on more recent work at Winterton.

The first site to be considered (chapter I) is Old Winteringham on the south bank of the Humber. Dr Stead argues for a military presence here in the period before the Roman advance across the river in A. D. 71. His excavations revealed a series of early ditches which he claims as 'defensive'. There is, however, none of the familiar