



Landscape Revealed

One of the best selling books of 2000 has already been featured in CA: ***A Landscape Revealed, 10,000 years on a Chalkland Farm***, (Tempus £14.99) Martin Green's account of his excavations at his home at Down Farm. His most recent work was summarised in the last issue of CA, his earlier work formed a major article in CA138. Here he pulls it all together in a sweeping account of the archaeology on his farm and on Cranborne Chase. Inevitably the major emphasis is on the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The Dorset cursus runs through the farm and it was at the heart of the great ritual area of Cranborne Chase, but his account goes from the Mesolithic down to the present day.

What is remarkable is that Martin Green is indeed a farmer. He never went to University, he has never formally studied archaeology. However, when Richard Bradley and John Barrett began excavating on Cranborne Chase they joined up with Martin and trained him on the job, since when he has received widespread help and support from fellow archaeologists, notably Mike Allen of the Wessex Archaeological Unit. It is amazing however in the last years how he has grown in confidence and indeed in authority.

This book is a triumph. One is tempted to say that it is academic; it is in no way 'popular', but it lacks the academic jargon and academic pretentiousness. It is what every academic book should be. It provides a splendid introduction to the archaeology of Cranborne Chase and indeed anyone looking for an introductory textbook on the archaeology of southern England might well start here. ■

This book is available from Current Archaeology at the special price of £12.99 (inc P&P). Call us on 020 7435 7517 to order your copy.

Hadrian's Wall

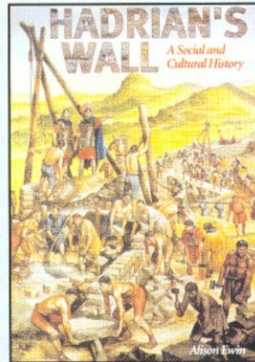
Over the past 150 years Hadrian's Wall has changed, from being something known only to a few scholars, to a monument of widespread cultural interest, and in ***Hadrian's Wall, a Social and Cultural History***, (Centre for N.W. Regional Studies, Leicester University, LA1 4YF, £8.50) Alison Ewin explores these changes. In the late 19th century Hadrian's Wall was dominated by two towering figures. John Clayton, was a wealthy and successful Newcastle solicitor who bought up much of the central portion of the wall to preserve it and whose estate forms the heart of the public holdings today. In contrast to the introvert Clayton, John Collingwood Bruce, a Newcastle headmaster was an extrovert who conducted the first pilgrimages of the Wall and set in train the tourist interest.

The intervention of the State came in the 1930s. John Clayton never married and after his death his estate was dissipated and much of it was eventually rescued and passed into state and National Trust ownership. But this ownership was exploited not for the benefit of the masses but for the benefit of the few, the university scholars who carried out scholarly excavations and wrote scholarly guidebooks.

What is the situation today? The author explores five particular sites. Three of them, Chesters, Corbridge and

Housesteads, are in state ownership and have a subdued presentation. South Shields, municipally owned, has a far more outgoing profile, rebuilding a gateway in the teeth of English Heritage opposition. A big surprise however comes at Vindolanda, a privately owned site which is nevertheless by far the best presented to the public.

Alison Ewin is, I fear, far too kind to the current plans for the Wall as a World Heritage Site. She writes, 'a co-ordinated approach to the management of the Wall is obviously desirable'; she has clearly not read my comments in CA144, and the subsequent letters, pointing out that the World Heritage Plan means squeezing out the local archaeological societies who have done so much, and indeed the Birleys. Nor has she read my book *Who Owns the*



Past, even though her final chapter, 'Whose Wall is it Anyway?' covers much the same ground. Though she appears to come to the conclusion that amateurs and tourists have an interest as well as the professionals, I think she underplays the possibilities of amateur involvement. She should look again at the funding of South Shields and the role played by Earthwatch, the American organisation that brings over volunteers, each of whom contributes substantial funding, which has paid for much of the excavation there. But this is a fascinating account with many new insights. ■

Officers and Gentlemen

Roman Officers and English Gentlemen by Richard Hingley (Routledge, £16.99) would have been a pioneering work had it been published thirty years ago. He sets out to explore the imperial origins of Roman archaeology, and to see how, explicitly or

implicitly, British archaeologists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries made comparisons between the experiences of the British Empire and the Roman Empire. His approach, defined in his initial chapters on imperialism, is to take texts, notably novels and schoolboy novels, and see how they promoted the idea of imperialism and the relationship between imperial Rome and Britain.