

was excavated, due to the constraints of its depth below ground, this was sufficiently diagnostic for Hodgson astutely to recognise another example of this original Hadrianic plan to add to the five already known. The rooms exposed are confidently identified, and the probable complete plan extrapolated, with a convincing analysis of the metrological scheme. Importantly, Hodgson sees the aqueduct found some years ago passing through Hadrian's Wall from the north-west (reported in Bidwell's 2018 report on Hadrian's Wall at Wallsend) as the source of water supply for the bath-house, suggesting that the fort, Hadrianic narrow Wall and bath-house were planned together as an 'integrated whole'.

Two structural phases were identified of which the second, dated to the third century, is a reduced version of the Hadrianic scheme, with a somewhat different circulation pattern. It is suggested that the rebuild was necessitated by a landslip, as the building was situated some distance from the fort, close to the river's edge. Abandonment appears to have occurred in the late third or early fourth century, but extensive damage did not take place until the 'ruthless reduction' of the building during its discovery in 1814. This might also account for the relative paucity of finds, including ceramic building materials, but those that were recovered are published in detail.

The structural report is meticulously presented, with a wealth of detailed excavation photography, essential to an appreciation of the text, along with very clear plans and reconstruction drawings. The final discussion section is wide ranging and demonstrates Hodgson's unrivalled understanding of Roman Wallsend.

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Roman County Durham: The Eastern Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall. By D.J.P. Mason. Durham County Council, Durham, 2021. Pp. 557, illus. Price £30. ISBN 9781907445712.

Knowledge and understanding of Roman County Durham has been transformed over the last 20 years, thanks to an increased pace of both commercial and research-driven fieldwork, in some cases still unpublished. As a County Archaeologist who has overseen commercial work and developed and participated in many research projects within the county (e.g. Binchester and Sedgfield), Mason is well placed to bring together published and unpublished information in this comprehensive, lavishly illustrated, book-length treatment of the Roman archaeology of the county, the first of its kind.

The volume extends into North Yorkshire in order to give full coverage of the emerging evidence from the Tees Valley. On the other hand (and wisely) it omits South Shields, in the historic county of Durham but now usually covered in the many works dealing with Hadrian's Wall. Until the late twentieth century, the Roman archaeology of the County Durham was seen as largely military. This has changed with the arrival of developer-funded archaeology, and we can now say much more about Roman-period rural settlement, both of the traditional Iron Age type and new site types such as villas, small towns (e.g. East Park, Sedgfield) and agricultural and pottery production sites (e.g. Faverdale). This wholly new insight into the rural settlement of the county is richly documented in the book. We also get a glimpse of what the rural settlements of the non-elite population looked like in the late Roman period, e.g. Symmetry Park, near Darlington (p. 427). For the long-known military sites this will become a standard work of reference. It gives comprehensive coverage of the excavated and geophysical evidence which has transformed our knowledge of the forts in recent decades, synthesising information from long-delayed publications of sites examined in the 1970s and '80s (Piercebridge, Binchester) and from more recent but unpublished fieldwork (Lanchester; Binchester again).

Although rich in empirical data from structural and historical sources, Mason admits direct material culture analysis is minimal as he 'is not an artefact person' (p. 6). Some aspects seem somewhat old-fashioned: the book relies heavily on concepts such as 'Romanization', which some academic readers will find problematic, although often the terminology and concept is hard to avoid. It also sees the development of an infrastructure of military supply in the area as a benign development for the indigenous population, assuming that they prospered by supplying military needs. Despite increasing knowledge of the rural settlements and villas in

the region, we cannot be sure to what extent the population might have been exploited by the Roman army and other immigrants.

The book demonstrates beyond any doubt the wealth of archaeological remains and rich Roman heritage of County Durham, giving new insights on the interactions between the diverse frontier communities, as well as the lasting legacy of the sites, infrastructure and populations. *Roman County Durham* is an attractive production, but the length of the volume has perhaps caused several editing oversights. There are some repetitions, and some references in the text are missing from the bibliography (e.g. Herz 2011 on p. 65). The hefty weight of the book means this is not a volume to carry around the county when visiting sites, but it combines easy and enjoyable reading with the quality of a reference book or gazetteer packed with informative and thorough analysis. Mason has done a great service in making our current state of knowledge available in one convenient place to professional archaeologists, academics and the general public alike.

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Visitor Experiences and Audiences for the Roman Frontiers: Developing Good Practice in Presenting World Heritage. Edited by N. Mills. BAR International Series S3066. BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2021. Pp. ix + 188, illus. Price £50.00. ISBN 9781407359007 (print); 9781407359014 (ebook).

This volume is an edited collection of papers which lie at the intersection of the fields of heritage management and Roman frontier studies. It originates from a session at the 2018 Limes Congress in Serbia, which was in turn inspired by the same editor's earlier work, *Presenting the Romans* (2013). The 2013 volume had highlighted challenges to the interpretation and presentation of Roman frontiers, such as the excessive use of academic language in museum displays, the similarities in the offer along each segment of the Roman Frontier, and the challenging issues of accessibility – both physical and intellectual – to invisible sites. The 2021 collection is a follow-up, revisiting some key themes and outlining, using case studies, the ways the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Property Interpretation Framework has been applied in the UK, Netherlands and Serbia.

The editor's introduction and opening contribution are followed by 13 papers from 19 authors. The book succeeds in offering an overview of Roman frontier interpretation, but individual contributions are only loosely thematically arranged and would have benefitted from better interactions and cross-referencing. For example, Hazenberg and Visser provide a useful summary of the adaptation of the Hadrian's Wall interpretation framework to the Dutch Limes. The authors highlight how 'bottom-up, community engagement' was a prerequisite for the framework to present the Dutch Limes not as 'an exclusive archaeological story, but as an important contribution to an inclusive story about our Dutch history, our way of life, our environment and our landscape'. This paper could have been directly linked to contributions from Grafstaal, on how the Dutch interpretation framework informed work at Castellum Hoeye Woerd museum in Utrecht, and Pieren, Hasselaar and Mills on the DOMunder underground museum and excavations. Instead, the introduction to the Dutch interpretation framework is followed by Roberts' discussion of the 2018 redesign of the Birdoswald visitor facility on Hadrian's Wall.

Another example of disconnect between papers is the positioning of Weeks and Dobat's contribution, showcasing cooperation across the Limes while working on a mobile application. The authors outline how the Bavarian Limes interpretive mobile app framework was shared with Scotland, where 'a completely new application for the Antonine Wall was created with enhanced capabilities and the new functionalities were transferred back to colleagues in Germany'. Instead of introducing Flugel's contribution, which outlines the tools available to bring to life the hidden sites of the Bavarian Limes, including the Limes Mobil app, Weeks and Dobat's paper is followed by that of Hingley, analysing present attitudes to ancient Roman identities, with the portrayal of diversity among Roman Britons on UK television as a case study. Hingley's contribution, while it suffers from its positioning, is one of the highlights of the volume: it makes some important theoretical points which are a familiar trademark of the author's wider work, but it