

small area of the Levels between the Polden Hills and Wedmore. The trackways uncovered are described in a chronological framework, so that the Early Neolithic and the Sweet Track (named after Ray Sweet, the peat-worker who discovered it), occupy chapter 3. In the ensuing text the rest of the Neolithic evidence and that of the Bronze Age is considered, with a chapter on experimental archaeology and wood conservation. The only settlement evidence available so far is that of the Iron Age sites at Glastonbury and Meare. Besides offering a resume of the excavation details available, the authors briefly discuss the interpretations offered by Professor Tratman and Dr. D. Clarke of the organisation of these settlements. While disagreeing with major points of both papers, they suggest that the original excavator, Bulleid, was perhaps nearer the truth in his conclusions.

There is no general introduction to this book, so it has to be assumed that it is aimed at "enthusiasts...with no special knowledge, but a lively interest as are other books in the same series. One suspects also that it is in fact hoped that many dryland archaeologists will read it as a general introduction to wetland work, and the complementary nature of the artefacts and structures found is fully emphasised in the final chapter.

The information given is clearly and concisely expressed, with welcome touches of humour, but the style of writing sometimes irritates (as in the somewhat conscious use of "we" and the patently clumsy "one of us [J.M.C.]"). The illustrations are excellent throughout, nearly all the sixteen colour plates being

carefully used to illuminate points that the monochrome photographs could not demonstrate so well. The odd one out is the illustration of a peat-cutting machine, which could have been replaced with advantage by a colour plate of a settlement. The black and white photographs are also reproduced clearly. Particularly delightful are the early twentieth century ones of peat-stacking and of the Bulleid and Gray excavations, a strong contrast to the present-day techniques, which have been developed to suit excavation in peat. It is a pity that the necessary emphasis in the text on the importance of environmental work is barely reflected in the illustrations, neither macro nor micro plant remains being represented. The line drawings are very clear and the reconstructions imaginative, being firmly based on the available evidence. It would be helpful to have a scale on all the drawings -- the details of size are hidden in the text in some cases. Rather oddly, the illustrations are listed at the end of the book with the bibliography, suggestions for further reading and the index. The exhaustive.

This book then is a well-illustrated and full account of specialised archaeological work on a small area of the Somerset Levels. If it is aimed, as I presume it is, at the enthusiastic amateur or the dryland archaeologist, then it will be a good introduction to the prehistory of our rapidly diminishing wetlands.

#### Reference

- Alcock, L. 1972. 'By South Cadbury is that Camelot...'. The Excavation of Cadbury Castle 1966-1970. London, Thames and Hudson.

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