to decide upon the level of resolution needed to record the spatial patterning in the artefacts and how to infer from this information the spatial patterning of activities.

The final paper by Chris Gaffney, Vince Gaffney and Martin Tingle reports on the Maddle Farm Project, centred on a small Romano-British settlement complex. It is principally concerned with the interpretation of the settlement as a functioning unit linked inextricably to its surrounding farmland. The main themes are a critique of the assumptions of site catchment analysis in general and Wilkinson's (1982) discussion of the material correlates of manuring activity in particular.

The case studies in this volume have several similarities which bind them into a diverse, yet coherent, collection. Following Foley's lead (1981 inter alia), much is made of the idea of 'off-site archaeology' with the central recognition that the landscape is considerably more complex than traditional distribution maps or the spatial approaches of the 1970s implied. As archaeologists, we are dealing with a data base consisting of a very largely continuous artefactual spread. Hence, field-walking is given extra prominence, not merely as a means of putting dots on maps but as a vital tool in the reconstruction of extinct settlement systems and activities in the landscape. However, as all the contributors emphasise, it is only by means of associated excavation that the plausibility of interpretations of unstratified material can be demonstrated.

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Journal of Danish Archaeology, Vols. 1-3, 1982-4. Odense University Press, Pjentedamsgade 36, 5000 Odense C.

Reviewed by Mike Parker Pearson

This attractively bound and well illustrated journal (which has produced three volumes to date) publishes short articles summarising the results of recent archaeological research in Denmark. Its content is generally academic and specialised, and we may assume that it is aimed at English-speaking practitioners and students of archaeology and anthropology, particularly in Britain and North America. It might be seen as taking up where New Directions in Scandinavian Archaeology (which never went beyond a single volume) left off, and is a further indication that Danish archaeologists are looking less to the German-speaking world and increasingly towards Britain and America for debate and recognition.

Each volume contains 16-17 articles of 5-10 pages average length, summarising the results of excavations, archaeological experiments, field surveys and artefact studies. Over the last three years there has been a change of emphasis from excavation reports to papers concerned with issues of methodology. A new feature of the third volume is a debate section, which presents opportunities for discussion of a more theoretical nature.

It is not possible to do justice in a review to all the articles, book reviews and lists of new discoveries in these three volumes. A few articles are perhaps worthy of mention because they demonstrate the potential of the Danish archaeological resources or the value of techniques in use: excavation reports on Voldtofte Bronze Age settlement, Trappendal Bronze Age barrow and Vorbasse Iron Age and Viking settlement; regional studies of cultural variation in the Mesolithic, prehistoric field boundaries in eastern Denmark, Bronze Age landscapes at Lindebjerg and Rojle Mose and new developments in pollen analysis; artefact studies such as 1st millennium trade and production of textiles; and 'state of the art' papers on Bronze Age research strategies, rescue archaeology and archaeology in the '80s.

The JDA is one of many Danish archaeological journals. It is more similar to the smarter regional journals such as Kuml than the more sober Acta Archaeologica and Aarboger. In Britain it has no parallel, although in America the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology might be hailed as a more boring version. The Danes have always done well with their archaeological publications, as exemplified by the popularity of the magazine Skalk with its wide distribution throughout Denmark. It would be interesting to know the JDA's sales and its market success outside Denmark. Whilst attractive, well illustrated and interesting, it will appeal mainly to specialists and the few of us who are interested in European prehistory and archaeology. Hopefully this is a pessimistic view, and the series should attract the browser whose interest in Danish archaeology might be stimulated and encouraged. The JDA certainly shows up the British archaeological journals as boring, poorly illustrated and old-fashioned collections of over-detailed excavation reports and ragbags of unstructured and idiosyncratic research papers.

The JDA highlights a few lessons as well as problems. The publication problem (backlogs of unpublished excavations; expensive reports with little or no wider synthesis and crammed with irrelevant detail, bought by a handful of specialists, whilst the rest moulder in warehouses, all at great expense) probably affects every country in Europe and America. The excavation reports in the JDA are neither full reports nor interims, but short summaries of results: I do not know whether each excavation is intended for full publication elsewhere -- I suspect so, but would hope not. Archived reports are available for consultation by the specialist at the National Museum and the local museum (and maybe one day these archives will be computerised for international specialist consumption). A journal such as this offers a new opportunity to escape the blind alley of detailed excavation publications (down to the fill of the last post-hole) with their limited readership and lack of appeal to the non-specialist. The JDA is a very

satisfactory way of disseminating concise, well presented information to an international audience, whilst avoiding the considerable costs of full publication.

Subject matter is limited to either single excavations or advances and developments in techniques; theoretical approaches hardly figure in this empiricist-dominated journal. It is curious that the many fine excavation reports are little more than basic descriptions with little analytical or interpretive discussion of the sites' social dimensions. Articles on regional studies tend to go no further than pattern recognition and throughout there is little consideration of mechanisms of social change. The papers are more concerned with 'show' than with 'telling' -- indeed the shortness of the articles does not help to promote social explanation over site description.

Finally, the discussions of current archaeological practice -- on rescue and gas pipeline archaeology, fieldwalking and research strategies -- reveal only one face of Danish archaeology in action. Preservation of ancient monuments and landscapes, their legal protection and the strategies for securing their better management and presentation are issues which are hardly mentioned. Archaeology in Denmark offers an important model, if not a blueprint, for the treatment of archaeological sites, the strengths of heritage legislation and the preservation philosophy behind it.

In summary, the good points outnumber the bad; this is a journal which should be read as a lesson in conciseness, layout and content (although a little heavy on empiricism and light on theory). Probably the best journal in the world...Well, I know of no better archaeological journals.

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HELEN CLARKE, The Archaeology of Medieval England. British Museum Publications Ltd., London. 1984. 224pp. £12.95 (Hard) ISBN 0-7141-8058-0.

Reviewed by Matthew Johnson

"Medieval archaeology", writes Dr. Clarke in the last lines of this excellent book, "has at last come of age and can be regarded as an independent discipline". The appearance of such a volume as this can be taken as a sign of this coming of age: it presents a highly competent, and yet admirably concise, synthesis of the mass of excavated evidence for life in medieval England amassed over the last thirty years. The text is obviously based on thorough research and a lifetime's experience in this field, and retains a depth and profusion of detail within the necessarily summary nature of its discussion. It should prove popular as an introductory and basic text at the undergaduate level for many years.

Clarke's treatment of the vast amount of evidence available to her is a thematic one. After a brief introduction, we start with the countryside, subdivided into sections on villages and moated sites. The subjects of churches, monasteries and castles get a chapter each, and are followed by a consideration of craft and industry. The final chapter is devoted to towns and trade.

In each case the potential