

REVIEWS:

Anna Ritchie and David J. Breeze: Invaders of Scotland, an introduction to the archaeology of the Romans, Scots, Angles and Vikings, highlighting the monuments in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland. HMSO, for Historic Buildings and Monuments, 64pp. illus. in colour, £4.95 paperback.

Over the past few years, Her Majesty's Stationary Office has been very active in the field of producing concise, well-illustrated guides to Scotland's archaeological resources. Dr. Anna Ritchie has been one of the foremost contributors to these, which includes *Picts* (1989), reviewed in *Northern Studies* 26, and *Scotland BC* 1988. This latest offering from HMSO looks at the archaeological remains of four major peoples who influenced Scotland, in varying degrees, by the process of invasion.

The core of the book is composed of chapters documenting the most important traces of Roman invasion, in Scots in Dalriada, the Anglian move into Southern Scotland, and the Norse raiders and colonists in the Northern and Western Isles. A short introductory chapter, 'The Canvas Prepared' outlines the pre-Roman situation, while a final summary, 'The Tapestry Complete' assesses the cultural impact of the four peoples.

As with the previous publication, the emphasis is very much on the visual. Excellent aerial photographs, such as of Dumbarton Rock (p.vi), and Jarlshof (p.39), are interspersed with colour photographs of the more important sites (Dunadd, p. 18, Eileach an Naoimh pp.23-24, and the Brough of Birsay pp.41-42) as well as useful line drawings such as the reconstruction of the Roman bath house at Bar Hill on the Antonine Wall. In addition, the text is liberally scattered with colour illustrations of artifacts, coins, monumental sculptures and detail shots of several outstandingly significant remains such as the Anglian shrine at Jedburgh (p.29), the Ruthwell Cross (pp.33-34) and Sueno's Stone (pp.50-53).

The overall impression is of a well-illustrated paperback which attempts to place the 'invaders' in an overall context, so there is little new in the way of discussion or interpretation of the material. The aim has clearly been to provide the general reader with an overview of the most important remains, rather than giving a detailed guide to individual sites. Anna Ritchie's text is, as usual, concise and should be easily understood by the lay reader. The specialist will find the illustrations pleasant to the eye, but some, I suspect will be put off by the £4.95 price tag, which is an increase of £1.00 over the two earlier publications.

Ian A Fraser

E.V.W. Proudfoot (ed.), Our Vanishing Heritage, Forestry and Archaeology (Council for Scottish Archaeology, Occasional Papers No. 2, 1989; A4 36pp., £5.50)

This booklet is a record of history in the making. It contains the papers presented (in some cases in substantially amended form) at a conference on this theme held in Inverness in April 1987, together with an update on subsequent developments.