



Book Reviews

L'HABITAT ET L'OCCUPATION DES SOLS A L'AGE DU BRONZE ET AU DEBUT DU PREMIER AGE DU FER. EDITED BY LAURENT CAROZZA, CYRIL MARCIGNY & MARC TALON

Recherches archéologiques, 12. Paris: Inrap/CNRS Éditions, 2017. 374pp, 209 figures, 13 tables, pb, ISBN: 978-2-271-11587-4, 37 €

Around 25 years of what the French call 'archéologie préventive' has produced an exponential increase in the amount of evidence for settlement and land-use during the Bronze Age. In 2005 a proposal was submitted for a national synthesis of this evidence and in 2011 a round table was held in Bayeux, the results of which are published here. Nearly 60 authors and collaborators are listed so it is not practical to name any individually here.

After an introduction to the project by the editors, a series of 12 chapters presents the evidence from different regions of France. This is not evenly spread, with much more in the north than the south. Some regions are not covered at all – Aquitaine, Auvergne, Provence, Corsica or Franche-Comté – presumably because of the distribution of major infrastructure projects which provided the opportunity for excavation; sites recorded are located on a series of distribution maps on pages 26–9. These chapters take a standard form: geography, state of research, chronology, settlement, burials and territorial organisation. They are well-illustrated with distribution maps, settlement and house plans and plenty of pottery. Absolute chronology varies slightly, from Beakers around 2400 BC to the end of the Late Bronze Age about 800 BC or in some cases on towards the end of the Early Iron Age during the later 6th century. The chapters covering Picardy and Normandy should be especially relevant to the Bronze Age in southern England, and it is not accidental that two of the editors have worked in these regions.

Vegetarian readers will appreciate a chapter on plant remains, which includes a 13-page Annex listing details from 272 sites. But this being France, it is followed by a chapter on consumption of meat. There is a brief conclusion by the editors and a substantial bibliography, but no index or summaries, and the paperback volume is entirely in French.

Inrap (Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives) is still less than 20 years old. Its mission combines survey and excavation before development with research and this has

clearly facilitated the work presented here in a way that, at least to your reviewer, would seem much more difficult under the arrangements prevailing this side of the Channel.

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*The views expressed in this review are not necessarily those of the Society or the Reviews
Editor*