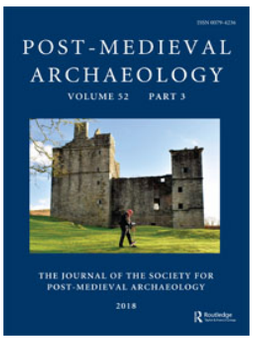

Post-Medieval Archaeology

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Warburton. Glimpses of a Rural Life: The Archaeology and History of a Cheshire Village. Edited by M. Nevell. 184 pages, illustrated. University of Salford Archaeological Monographs, 4, 2015. ISBN 978-0-9565947-8 5 (pbk); A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Cheshire. By M. Nevell and D. George. 76 pages, illustrated. Association for Industrial Archaeology, 2014. ISBN 978-0-9560251-3 5 (pbk)

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A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Cheshire. By M. Nevell and D. George. 76 pages, illustrated. Association for Industrial Archaeology, 2014. ISBN 978-0-9560251-3 5 (pbk).

Growing up in a small Cheshire village called Bunbury, I had my earliest experiences of industrial history, heritage and archaeology at places within school trip distance. Bunbury Mill was probably first, walking distance from my primary school. Quarry Bank Mill would have been next, an introduction to Victorian industrial life that I remember imagining to be relentlessly bleak, perhaps not helped by the low-budget educational films that accompanied that bit of the syllabus. Towards the end of primary school, Jodrell Bank, which I have remembered well ever since, although I also remember the class's main point of excitement being one of those charity boxes where the penny you slide in rolls slowly round and round into the centre of a vortex. I think it had been roped in to demonstrate something about black holes. Later, in high school, the salt industry, and the town study of Nantwich that I credit with kicking off my interest in what would now call built heritage. But already by this time we were looking further afield, and the school trips were not really local anymore, but to north to Albert Dock or the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, east to Stoke-on-Trent and Jesse Shirley Bone Mill and south to Ironbridge and Blists Hill. Even as a post-medieval archaeologist at university, Cheshire was rarely to be seen in lectures or library collections, and with a few great exceptions, such as Eleanor Casella and Sarah Croucher's work at Alderley Sandhills (Casella & Croucher 2010), I have always found my home to be something of a forgotten county.

How great, then, to see these two publications, both focused on the county, one an in-depth village study of the kind I wish we had many more of, in Cheshire and beyond, and the other a county-wide survey of surviving industrial archaeology. The latter, Nevell and George's *A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Cheshire*, is an extremely well put-together gazetteer, listing sites across the county under a series of themes, each prefaced with a short introduction, and with an excellent introduction to the volume providing a concise introduction to what will be, to many, a new subject. The volume is nicely illustrated and individual sites well described, although, with a grid reference provided for each entry and a number of maps through the volume, this guide is really a call to get out there and look at this stuff for yourself. As the authors state in their introduction, this is really just the beginning of understanding the nationally important role of the county in the Industrial Revolution (to the present day), and I look forward to more.

Warburton is just the kind of thing we need more of. The volume is the result of a number of years of work by members of one of Mike Nevell's classes for the Altrincham branch of the Workers' Educational Association, and ultimately brings together 20 years of excavation and research. As such, as well as for its content, it stands out for being a great example of collaboration between academics (supported by the University of Salford) and a local society, the South Trafford Archaeological Group. Well illustrated and highly engaging, this volume provides a study of Warburton, now just inside Greater Manchester but formerly part of Cheshire, touching on its prehistoric to medieval development, but with the much greater focus on the village's post-medieval existence. Although the authors describe this in the title as a 'glimpse', and add the caveat inside the book that only a small percentage of the work done could be included for reasons of space, this is a fascinating and inspiring volume that will be of interest to many, especially those looking for ideas about how to approach settlement-scale studies of this sort. The building studies (Chapter 4 and Appendix 3) in particular stand out for the quality of work undertaken and the wrangling of a wide range of structures into a coherent historical narrative of development.

Both of these books have got me thinking about Cheshire again in a way I have not for a long time, and they will be of use to many, whether seeking inspiration for collaborative projects or coming to the county for the first time.

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Casella, E.C. & Croucher, S.K. 2010, *The Alderley Sandhills Project, an Archaeology of Community Life in (Post-)Industrial England*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Leather Tanneries: the Archaeological Evidence. Edited by Roy Thomson and Quita Mould. viii, 206 pages, 91 illustrations, 15 tables. London: Archeotype Publications, 2011. ISBN 978-1-904982-61-6. £51.20 (pbk).

Leather Tanneries: the Archaeological Evidence provides a thorough discussion of what constitutes a tannery in the archaeological record, and addresses a number of possible misinterpretations of the evidence, for example the archaeological presence of leather, or an isolated pit being indicative of a tannery, not uncommon to find in site reports. A main point made by this volume, put succinctly, is that just a few finds of leather do not a tannery make.

This publication consolidates a wide range of multidisciplinary evidence into a single volume, enabling the reader to better support or rule out the possibility of a possible tannery on an archaeological site or in finds processing. It also highlights the idea that tanning is not a stand-alone activity, and is instead just one part of a chain of butchery-related processes. As such, it may be accompanied by indicators of other specialist crafts such as horn working, glue making and wool collection and cleaning. The volume goes on to do an admirable job of linking the archaeological signatures of tanning and associated crafts such as bone and horn working or wool collection back to the activities that caused their formation. It does so in a logical sequence and using understandable terminology, making it an accessible resource for the non-leather specialists who make up the majority of the archaeological community.

While the focus of Chapters 11–17 is on the more archaeologically well-represented vegetable tanneries of later time periods, earlier time periods and their accompanying tannage technologies and possible site signatures also receive some overdue attention. Chapter 8 discusses the puzzling lack of Roman tannery sites from a time period where a wealth of evidence for a well-developed tanning industry exists in the form of surviving leather items. A detailed overview is also given to some of the less well-represented skin-processing technologies and the associated archaeology, including rawhide and parchment, oil and smoke tannages, and alum tawing in Chapters 2, 5, 7 and 10. In Chapters 5 and 6 the inclusion of well-selected ethnographic examples, from the Sudan, northern North America and Lapland, is particularly useful. These ethnographic examples are important in that they illustrate a complete sequence of activities related to tanning, a perspective seldom afforded in a purely archaeological context. The descriptions enable us to better understand where the evidence, for example for tools, processed leather or archaeological features, might fit in the sequence.

Perhaps as importantly, these ethnographic examples serve as a reminder that skin processing and leather production, one of our very earliest developed craft skills, is an ongoing activity in every culture, and not just ancient history.

Exeter THERESA EMMERICH KAMPER

The Country Where my Heart is: Historical Archaeologies of Nationalism and National Identity. Edited by Alasdair Brooks and Natascha Mehler. 346 pages, illustrated. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8130-5433-9 (hbk), $ 89.00.

For the past 30 years, nationalism has been a central issue within archaeology and, although many of the key texts appeared in the 1990s, it remains a topic that still generates lively discussion, to which this volume is a welcome addition. What is perhaps most novel about this book, as the editors underline in their introduction, is a discussion of nationalism from the perspective of historical archaeology rather than prehistory. Most of us are familiar with varied ways in which prehistoric archaeology and nationalism are intertwined, yet, given that nationalism is a product of the last three centuries, it is perhaps surprising that historical archaeologists — with some notable exceptions — have not made more of the obvious connection. Brooks and Mehler provide a thoughtful editorial introduction to the volume, highlighting key themes as well as offering an interesting contrast of Bavarian and Scottish nationalism drawn from their own different backgrounds. However, although