

and this is true for both villa and non-villa sites. Thus at the time following the construction of the town walls of Canterbury and the coastal Shore forts the evidence from CTRL is for the total abandonment of some sites and reduced occupation at others. Just what was happening in the Late Roman countryside in Kent is perplexing. Was there a retreat to a smaller number of sites caused by factors such as changes in agricultural practice and land-tenure; exhaustion of the agricultural potential of the land; or a reduced rural population? Or did the decline in the Wealden iron industry have a profound effect on the wider agricultural landscape of Kent? The contrast with the affluent Late Roman villa landscapes of South-West Britain could not be starker.

Many millions of man hours have been expended on archaeology on CTRL, and these and other publications are a testament to just what has been learnt (and obviously also for periods other than the Roman one). Oxford and Wessex Archaeology are to be congratulated on co-operating on the production of these volumes which amply demonstrate the knowledge dividend that accrues from high-quality fieldwork and analysis. It is hard to believe that anyone who reads these volumes will doubt that important research can be achieved in a development framework. Their publication is also timely given that plans are now being developed for the next high speed railway between London and the Midlands, and ultimately the North. What has been learnt here should inform the design of the archaeological work to come.

Cotswold Archaeology, Cirencester
neil.holbrook@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

NEIL HOLBROOK
 doi: 10.1017/S0068113X13000081

The Frontiers of Imperial Rome. By D.J. Breeze. Pen & Sword Military, Barnsley, 2011. Pp. xxiii + 242, figs 48, pls 28. Price: £25.00. ISBN 978 1 84884 427 8.

It can be said at once that this is a most important book that fills a significant gap in the literature for a study of the Roman Empire. This gap is not so much in the history of Rome and her frontier wars — the context in which frontiers were established — but in the actual installations and character of the frontiers themselves. It is also difficult to think of anyone except for Breeze himself who could have filled the gap. And the frontiers themselves are surely worthy of study — as the author himself points out, after the famous network of Roman roads, with a length of 7,500 km (4,800 miles), together they form the single largest monument surviving from the Roman World. The omission is all the more odd as Roman Frontiers Studies — Limesforschung — is a sub-field of Roman provincial history/archaeology in its own right and the subject of sustained archaeological activity in the relevant provinces of the Empire and of regular international congresses of which there have been no less than twenty, from the first established under the initiative of Eric Birley in 1949, to the Madrid Congress of 2009.

Like Gaul, B.'s work is divided into three parts: Part I – The Sources; Part II – The Frontiers themselves — the core of the book which is discussed below; Part III – Interpretation/ Discussion; this analytical element is subdivided into five sections: (1) Development; (2) Military deployment; (3) How frontiers functioned; (4) Defences behind frontiers; (5) Roman imperial frontier policy. At the end there is a short section on conclusions.

Part II is divided into 'type' of frontier: i.e. linear barriers, and river, desert, mountain and sea frontiers — including the defences of the Saxon Shore. Within these divisions individual frontiers are treated chronologically. This is an interesting arrangement which facilitates the typological comparison of, say, Hadrian's Wall with the land frontier in southern Germany. However, this is not the only possible arrangement and has one disadvantage in that certain frontiers could come into more than one category, e.g. the Fossatum Africae both as a linear frontier and a desert frontier. One could have chosen to deal with the frontiers geographically — the various Roman frontiers in Germany for example — or chronologically. On occasion the Romans themselves did both, or at least considered the legionary establishment that supported the frontiers in these ways, cf. Tacitus, *Annals* 4.5 reviewing the situation under Tiberius, and the inscription listing the frontier legions (*ILS* 2288, dated to pre-A.D. 165 but with additions). These sections in Part II on the various frontiers can, despite the provision of maps, make rather difficult reading at times unless one is familiar with the relevant place names, but this will have been inevitable.

The conclusions are followed by sections on Further Reading, guides to different frontiers, DVDs and sites to see — all most useful additions. The final sections are the notes to the main body of the text and the index. The notes (226–33) are naturally arranged chapter by chapter, though again, as in the section on Further

Reading, the chapter numbers are omitted. Another technical point making use of the notes less easy than it might otherwise be, is that works cited in the footnotes are often given in abbreviated form and can be hard to track down — e.g. for the expansion of ‘Wooliscroft 2001’ (note 15 on p. 77), which is not given in the footnote itself (228), one turns first to the bibliography for the relevant chapter, and then failing that, to the bibliography for other chapters before finally finding it in the bibliography to the introduction.

These technical niggles hardly detract from what is a huge achievement and we are fortunate indeed to have at last a full and authoritative survey of the frontiers of the Empire and their associated frontier works.

University College, London
 mark.w.c.hassall@gmail.com

MARK HASSALL
 doi: 10.1017/S0068113X13000068

Dépôts votifs et d'équipements militaires dans le sanctuaire gaulois et gallo-romain des Flaviers à Mouzon (Ardennes). By O. Caumont (with a preface by J. Scheid). Monographies instrumentum 39. Éditions Monique Mergoïl, Montagnac, 2011. Pp. 479, illus. Price: €70.00. ISBN 978 2 35518 023 1.

The Romano-Celtic temple complex in the Bois Du Flavier, near Mouzon in the French Ardennes, must be one of the most frequently cited but worst published temple sites in the field of Roman provincial religion. Caumont's monograph focuses on the site's most celebrated aspect — the nearly 1,000 miniature votive weapons found there. Information about the site and these finds had hitherto only been available in a series of short regional archaeology reports, published in the back of *Gallia*, as well as a few slightly longer articles in obscure local periodicals (for a summary, see P. Kiernan, *Miniature Votive Offerings in the North-West Provinces of the Roman Empire* (2009), 47–63). In addition to the published accounts of the site, C. has also enjoyed access to unpublished preliminary reports and the full collection of finds. C.'s use of broader comparanda and literature is less impressive. His bibliography, oddly placed on pages 389–400, seldom goes beyond the year 2000 and has nothing after 2004. One surprising lacuna is the lack of reference to comparable miniature weapons from the not-so-distant sanctuary of Mars at Blicquy (Hainaut, Belgium). Nonetheless, C. has produced the new comprehensive work both for the site and the votive offerings found there on which he concentrates.

C.'s introduction places the site within a broader regional archaeological setting in both the late La Tène and Roman periods (21–46). Its location on a ridge separating the territories of the Treveri and Remi clearly places it among other temples constructed in liminal situations. C. then turns (46–66) to the patchy history of the excavations conducted between 1966 and 1992, which explored an estimated 60 per cent of the site. The main structures uncovered include three rectangular cellae surrounded by an elliptical pathway, a square cella flanked by circular pathways on either side, and a temenos wall that once enclosed these buildings. Neither inscriptions nor figural representations have been recovered to allow the deities worshipped at Mouzon to be identified, though C. sees Hercules or Mars as plausible recipients of the weapon dedications. The coins, not dealt with by C., range from the first century B.C. to the fourth century A.D. The evolution of the site has been divided into five main phases. The earliest material belongs to the final phases of the Iron Age, no earlier than 70 B.C. The miniature and real weapons seem to have been deposited in the second and third phases, between 20/10 B.C. and A.D. 50/100. At this point, the site underwent a major rebuild that sealed most of them beneath a floor in the westernmost of the three rectangular cellae. C. illustrates the excavated areas and phases in a series of useful plans (figs 10–19). He deserves considerable credit for reconstructing a coherent picture from what is clearly a confusing corpus of excavation reports of varying detail and quality.

The introduction is followed by an intensely detailed study (69–388) of the most exciting finds from the site: the 916 miniature iron weapons and 47 fragments of real weapons and various pieces of horse-gear. The miniatures can be divided into 432 swords, 428 shields, 28 axe-heads and 83 projectile weapons, mostly spear- and arrowheads. C. also documents a small number of fragments of life-sized armour and shield fragments, most interestingly some scraps of chainmail and small pieces of *lorica segmentata*. Each find is carefully illustrated by C.'s superb line drawings and described in detail in an extensive catalogue. This is supplemented by an attempt to create typological groups, comparisons to life-sized military equipment, a short metallurgical report (by P. Merlusso), and descriptions of the method of manufacture. As an artefact study, the reviewer offers only one criticism: no inventory numbers are provided and it is nowhere clearly stated where the finds or unpublished site reports are now housed. Though minor, this detail is critical for future generations.