

atlas will be of value to students interested in broad historical and contemporary urban change.

Comprising five chapters: 'The dynamics of global urban expansion', 'Understanding and measuring urban expansion', 'The global sample of 120 cities, 1990-2000', 'Historical perspectives on 30 cities, 1800-2000', and 'Urban, national, and regional data', the atlas is in some respects attractive. The colourful illustrations readily capture attention. The maps in the chapter on the global sample of cities, make it very easy to identify changes in urban sprawl at the end of the last century, and easily-readable charts facilitate rapid grasp of changes in population size, amounts of open space, urban density, fragmentation, compactness, and the scale of new development. Charts allow the reader to compare local change to regional and global developments. Presenting the evolution of cities in Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Australasia and Europe, the atlas is useful in portraying local, regional, and global shifts.

The discussion of historical perspectives on 30 cities between 1800 and 2000 reveals longer-term sprawl, density change, and population growth in 30 megacities, including Beijing, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Istanbul, Kolkata, London, Manila, Paris, Sao Paulo, Sydney, Tehran and Tokyo. Tables and charts convey the scale of urban change in, for example, Shanghai, a place that experienced monumental suburban expansion after 1989. In the case of Manila, it is possible to distinguish growth outside of the *intramuros* (the Spanish colonial walled settlement) prior to 1918 and the immense sprawl occurring from the early-1970s onwards. Notwithstanding the expansion of its metropolitan population from 3.7 million to 17.3 million between 1971 and 2002, Manila has maintained approximately the same level of urban density. In contrast, the growth in the population of Shanghai, from 7.3 to 10.8 million between 1973 and 1989 was associated with a reduction in population density of over 60 per cent (p. 309). In relation to each city's footprint, openness index, built cohesion, scale of infill and extension, there is much in a factual sense to learn of the world's 'great cities'. However, there is a paucity of analysis and explanation. How and why changes have occurred are largely overlooked.

The fact that the *Atlas of urban expansion* does little to explain processes and patterns of urban change will inevitably disappoint many readers. Yet with its large number of maps and its raw data it can offer a taster to what urban evolution, both in

historical and contemporary contexts, is about. As the authors comment, the atlas makes 'it possible to compare cities in terms of their metric values on key attributes of urban expansion' (p. 4). It is disappointing that the attempt was not made to provide more explanation of the patterns revealed.

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Transforming townscapes. From burh to borough: the archaeology of Wallingford AD800-1400 by Neil Christie and Oliver Creighton with Matt Edgeworth and Helena Hamerow, Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 35, London, UK, 2013, 475pp. ISBN 978-1-909662-09-4.

Wallingford was one of a series of fortified settlements founded by Alfred the Great as part of his response to Viking attacks. It is located on the River Thames some 50 miles west of London and controlled a ford and the passage of vessels on the river. It grew to become Berkshire's county town and was the location of one of William the Conqueror's castles. But in the later Middle Ages it went into a sharp decline, dwindling into a small local centre. It has been left with a spectacular set of earthworks from both the *burh* defences and the castle.

'Townscape' in the title of this monograph is not used in the established sense of the word. It is not concerned with three-dimensional groupings of buildings and space but with changes in town plan and its utilization over time. However, it has much to offer on these matters.

The *Burh to Borough* project was established in 2001, and in 2008 it received a major grant for 3 years from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This publication explains the findings to date, although work continues, notably in garden test pits. In the study of a new, evolving and then declining town the project had six aims. First, it addressed Wallingford's origins. The town like some of Alfred's other foundations, for example Cricklade and Wareham, is generally regarded as a *de novo* creation. But in a long settled country that does not mean a clean slate. There had been stray finds of Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a large

pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon cemetery lay just outside the south-east corner of the town's defences. Secondly, the project was concerned with the layout of the *burh* and how it evolved in the tenth and eleventh centuries. This relates to debates as to whether the *burhs* were initially fortifications or were always intended to serve as urban nuclei. Thirdly, it was concerned with the Norman transformation of the town. Fourthly, it was to investigate the reasons for the borough's physical and economic contraction. Fifthly, it investigated Wallingford's connections with its environs. This concerns links to wider debates on town-country interconnections. Lastly, there are methodological issues: for example on the relationship between research-led archaeology and commercial archaeology paid for by developers.

Wallingford had no major predecessor. The site was rural, but with a nucleus to the south necessitating an important early Anglo-Saxon cemetery. It was initially a fortress. Today the area within the *burh* defences features major open spaces. One contains the castle earthworks. The others, Bullcroft and Kincroft, adjoin the western bank and ditch. These two were open in Anglo-Saxon times, probably providing accommodation for the field army, and refuge for people and their livestock. A road and properties did later extend into Kincroft but they were short-lived. Only the south-east quadrant was initially divided by roads and occupied. More urban attributes developed under Alfred's successors as they located administrative functions and mints in these places. However, the most valuable discovery is the new light that is shed on Anglo-Saxon planning. It is easy to become absorbed by the obvious features of many *burhs* – the near rectangular outline of the defensive circuit of ditch and bank and a regular street layout based on two main roads linking the gates and crossing approximately at right angles. Here the project has revealed the existence of a major scheme of hydrological engineering. The scheme must have involved large work forces to dig canalized channels. The Mill Brook was a new cut delivering water that fed the town ditch via sluices before discharging into the Thames. To the south, Bradford Brook was re-engineered as a storm drain. The water probably fed mills by the south gate from Anglo-Saxon times. Later the supplies were also used to fill the castle ditches, its mill and later its swannery and ornamental gardens. They also filled the priory fishponds. Obviously, there is a need to re-examine other *burhs* in the light of these discoveries.

The antiquarian suggestions that the town's

decline was due to the Black Death and the building of a new bridge in the fifteenth century at Abingdon are disproved. Wallingford peaked earlier, around 1200. In fact its fortunes were linked to the castle. The Norman castle destroyed few houses. The authors argue that this was because it succeeded an Anglo-Saxon royal hall. Then in the civil wars between Stephen and his cousin Matilda and her son, the future Henry II, the town and castle remained loyal to the ultimate winners, undergoing three sieges by Stephen. Henry rewarded it with a generous charter, and royal favour lay behind the establishment of a hospital and leper house. Frequent royal visits helped to support a row of goldsmiths. But royal interest faded after c.1250 and visits declined. Contraction followed.

So this is a major research project. It will be an essential source for those interested in the origins of English towns and their patterns of growth and decline. Much of what has been found will have implications elsewhere in northern Europe. It will have a wider relevance for those interested in castle towns. It also shows how a major project can be aided by local support: indeed the roots of the whole project were a campaign to stop a scheme to build on part of the castle site. There is much here for a variety of scholars, although many will not need to read all the detail of the archaeological work.

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Bamberg: StadtDenkmal und Denkmal-landschaft Die KunstDenkmäler von Oberfranken, vol. 3, edited by *Thomas Günzelmann*. Part 1, Stadtentwicklungsgeschichte, 803 pp; Part 2, StadtDenkmal, 1953 pp. Bayrische Verlagsanstalt Bamberg, Deutscher Kunstverlag Berlin München, Germany, 2012. ISBN 973-3-422-07118-6.

The key issue in this astonishing work of over 2700 pages and almost 1400 illustrations is the concept of a town as monument (*StadtDenkmal*). Of course Bamberg is a special place. It was awarded world cultural heritage status by UNESCO in 1993. The town had escaped major destruction during the Second World War and is a delightful example of a baroque town. This massive publication is