

BOOK AND CD REVIEWS

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THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

by Leonard Cantor

Published by Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicester 2003. Price £7.50.

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This is an easy-to-read book with 212 descriptions, maps and photographs of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Leicestershire and Rutland, known as SAMS. It gives a short explanation about what Scheduled Ancient Monuments are and their history through the ages. The categories are Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval, the oldest listed local monument being in the Neolithic Period and the most modern, Foxton Inclined Plane, in the Post-Medieval era.

Monuments are scheduled to enable them to be preserved and protected in law, as wilful damage is treated as a criminal offence. However the term 'ancient' has now been dropped officially by English Heritage, as an increasing number of listed monuments are from the 19th and 20th centuries, which many would consider to be modern rather than ancient.

Each section starts with a concise introduction and is then broken down into types of monuments eg Section B 'Roman Remains', explores Roman Leicester, Roman Settlement Sites and Roman Villas in the Countryside, whilst in Section D, the subsection on 'Manorial Buildings' includes information on Fishponds and Rabbit Warrens which were associated with them. Ordnance Survey reference numbers are given as well as maps for each of the Districts showing the locations of the scheduled monuments. The Bibliography is clear and the comprehensive Index provides a useful cross-reference

system by listing the monuments and their locations separately, which enables the reader to find monuments easily and, dip in and out of the book as time permits.

Who would this book appeal to? I suggest it is a useful reference book for historians, and, in addition, would also appeal to those who like to explore the local landscape and beyond with a purpose as they could use this as a tool to plan an outing round monuments in a particular area.

I think it is worth the £7.50 price and though I would have preferred coloured photos, it would have increased the price considerably. Perhaps this could be considered at a later date if the book proves popular or is reproduced on CD.

