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978-1-107-03863-9 - The Ruin of Roman Britain: An Archaeological Perspective

James Gerrard

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The Ruin of Roman Britain

How did Roman Britain end? This new study draws on fresh archaeological discoveries to argue that the end of Roman Britain was not the product of either a violent cataclysm or an economic collapse. Instead, the structure of late antique society, based on the civilian ideology of *paideia*, was forced to change by the disappearance of the Roman state. By the fifth century elite power had shifted to the warband and the edges of their swords. In this book Dr Gerrard describes and explains that process of transformation and explores the role of the 'Anglo-Saxons' in this time of change. This profound ideological shift returned Britain to a series of 'small worlds', the existence of which had been hidden by the globalising structures of Roman imperialism. Highly illustrated, the book includes two appendices, which detail Roman cemetery sites and weapon trauma, and pottery assemblages from the period.

JAMES GERRARD is a Lecturer in Roman Archaeology at Newcastle University. He previously held a position at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge and worked extensively in commercial archaeology. His research focusses on the end of Roman Britain and particularly the impact of the fall of the Western Roman Empire on the use and production of material culture, and he has published widely on late Roman pottery, coins and hoarding, including the internationally significant hoard of metal vessels discovered at Drapers' Gardens in the City of London in 2007. His publications include *Debating Late Antiquity in Britain AD 300–700* (with Rob Collins, 2004) and a major excavation monograph, *A Roman Settlement and Bathhouse at Shadwell* (with A. Douglas and B. Suds, 2011). He is a member of the Institute for Archaeologists, the Study Group for Roman Pottery, and a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society.

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