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Nota di contenuto	1. Landscapes of change in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages : themes, directions and problems / Neil Christie -- 2. Elites, exhibitionism and the society of the late roman villa / Sarah Scott -- 3. Interpreting the transformation of late Roman villas : the case of Hispania / Alexandra Chavarria Arnau -- 4. From Vicus to village : Italian landscapes, AD 400-1000 Paul Arthur -- 5. Vandal, Byzantine and Arab rural landscapes in North Africa / Anna Leone and David Mattingly -- 6. Problems in interpreting rural and urban settlement in Southern Greece, AD 365-700 / G.D.R. Sanders -- 7. Balkan ghosts? Nationalism and the question of rural continuity in Albania / William Bowden and Richard Hodges -- 8. Cataclysm on the lower Danube : the destruction of a complex Roman landscape / Andrew Poulter -- 9. The origin of the village in early medieval GAul / Patrick Perin -- 10. The late antique landscape of Britain, AD 300-700 / Ken Dark -- 11. The archaeology of early Anglo-Saxon settlements : past, present and future / Helena Hamerow.

Only in recent years has archaeology begun to examine in a coherent manner the transformation of the landscape from classical through to medieval times. In *Landscapes of Change*, leading scholars in the archaeology of the late antique and early medieval periods address the key results and directions of Roman rural fieldwork. In so doing, they highlight problems of analysis and interpretation whilst also identifying the variety of transformations that rural Europe experienced during and following the decline of Roman hegemony. Whilst documents and standing buildings predominate in the urban context to provide a coherent and tangible guide to the evolving urban form and its society since Roman times, the countryside in many ages remains rather shadowy - a context for the cultivation, gathering and movement of food and other resources, inhabited by farmers, villagers and miners. Whilst the Roman period is adequately served through occasional extant remains and through the survey and excavation of villas and farmsteads, as well as the writings of agronomists, the medieval one is generally well marked by the presence of still extant villages across Europe, often dependent on castles and manors which symbolise the so-called 'feudal' centuries. But the intervening period, the fourth to tenth centuries, is that with the least documentation and with the fewest survivals. What happened to the settlement units that made up the Roman rural world? When and why do new settlement forms emerge? *Landscapes of Change* is essential reading for anyone wanting an up-to-date summary of the results of archaeological and historical investigations into the changing countryside of the late Roman, late antique and early medieval world, between the fourth and tenth centuries AD. It questions numerous aspects of change and continuity, assessing the levels of impact of military and economic decay, the spread and influence of Christianity, and the role of Germanic, Slav and Arab settlements in disrupting and redefining the ancient rural landscapes.
