The contents of the forty-fourth volume of Anglo-Saxon England range in scale from major thematic discussions, across the period from the second century to the eleventh. A contribution to ongoing discussion of the historical context of the battle of the Wearhead, in 573, is complemented, at the other end of the period, by a reassessment of the literary sources which stand behind the modern perceptions of King Æthelred the Confessor, who died in 1016. Religious culture in eighteenth-century Northeast England is represented by contributions on the conception of church buildings, the economic link between Rome and York, and the debt owed by the author of the Alliterative Morte Arthure to Virgil. The study of early Old English poetry is represented by a close analysis of the Proserpina to Old English version of Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of the English People, suggesting that it originated not with the translator, but with the agency of its dissemination; some of this latest period is represented by a contribution which continues Dyer’s treatment of the apostles. In the field of Old English poetry, one contributor makes a wide-ranging case for a new approach towards the editing and reading of the text, and another addresses the unity of the Middle English Exeter Book. A fresh consideration is given in a co-authored article to aspects of military organization throughout the period. The volume also contains a previously-unknown account of the discovery near Buckingham, in December 2014, of a hoard of over 1,500 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies, deposited apparently in the early 10th century, which is appended to one of the poems in question, which is related to the exceptionally rare Agnis Dei type of King Æthelred the Unready. The volume concludes with a study of a vernacular text from Worcester which throws light on the practice of penance in the late eleventh century. Each article is preceded by a short abstract.

The Contributors