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Contents

For the first time, abbreviations for counties, languages, county place-name surveys, and other frequently-cited publications can be found in the back of this volume.

The Bibliography for 2017 will appear in *The Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 51 (2019).

Tom Williamson, Gerry Barnes and Toby Pillatt (2017), *Trees in England: Management and disease since 1600* (Hertfordshire: University of Hertfordshire Press). ISBN 978 1 909291 96 6. Paperback, 229 pp. £16.99.

This book is a richly informative literary exploration of trees in the post-1600 landscape of England. It is targeted primarily at landscape historians, natural scientists and arborists; however, its value can be extended to anyone with an interest in landscape management, trees as a resource and the history of human interaction with the natural environment.

The introductory chapter explains that the book aims to illustrate how, for centuries, the quantity and species division of trees in the landscape, and their management, has been determined by ingrained social and economic structures. Williamson, Barnes and Pillatt stress that their primary focus is on farmland and hedgerow trees, as woodland has been considered extensively in previous works. Not only do they therefore cover new ground, they also draw on the expertise and opinions of previous scholars to contextualise their research. This chapter contains a concise review of studies that explore prehistoric and medieval land use, ownership and management techniques. The approach to this material is critical but nuanced, and acts as a useful introduction to the topic. The authors here also describe the wide array of sources from which they draw their conclusions and are careful to acknowledge the limitations these sources present. Their primary concern is for the lack of specificity that may have been adopted in estate accounts of trees in the landscape and how this could impact the accuracy of their work.

The second chapter discusses the density of trees in the landscape post-1600 and how this varied greatly by region: there were significantly fewer trees on the farmland of the Midlands and the northern counties. A point the authors repeatedly return to is that while climate and soil type play a part in tree density and species distribution, the ultimate determining factor is human agency, informed by economic and social demand. This leads smoothly into Chapter Three, which explores the economic benefits of farmland trees in greater detail. Pollards are of particular note here as they were common in hedgerows despite the detriment this would have presented to crop growth. Large-scale tolerance of pollarding implies the process was beneficial enough to outweigh any negative effects it had on crop yield, while the later decline of pollarding (explored in Chapter Six) is the result of an increase in the intensity of farming to support a growing population, as well as the wider use of coal and the consequential reduction in need for pollard wood as fuel. The authors make substantial use of case-

studies in East Anglia, suggesting that wood for fuel and timber for building were particularly important commodities in this region, as coal and stone were not so readily available here as elsewhere. From an onomastic point of view this has interesting ramifications for our understanding of human interaction with the natural landscape and how this may be reflected in the toponymy of different parts of the country.

Chapter Four is chiefly concerned with the distribution of wood pasture and coppice woodland, both features more often found in the south-east and West Midland landscapes. Changes in ownership and the consolidation of land created conflict over woodland rights that had been established and upheld since the Middle Ages. An increasing population led to the appearance of extensive tracts of heathland, largely the result of overgrazing, although the authors take care to note that this was not exclusive to the post-medieval period and that the creation of heathland was common throughout the history of the English landscape.

The fifth chapter may be of particular interest to onomasts. It discusses the concentration and distribution of tree species by considering their topographic location and the economy of the region. Oak and ash predominate in the landscape today because they were intensively planted on farmland during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Simply put, these trees were the most economically useful and are therefore the most prolific. Interestingly, the authors note that elm, once the third most prolific farmland tree, was less common in the north but flourished in the south-east, while ash and oak seem to have been more evenly distributed. This has the potential to be compared with the field-names of these regions to see if related patterns emerge and may have further ramifications for earlier naming practices.

Chapter Six details the plethora of industrial and agricultural changes that took place during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which reshaped woodland coverage and the distribution of farmland trees. Williamson, Barnes and Pillatt note a decline in traditional wood management techniques, such as pollarding, and the disappearance of large areas of wood pasture, which was balanced by the establishment of plantations as a more intensive economic use of the land. Contrary to the popular narrative of the gradual decline of tree-cover since prehistory, it may surprise readers to note that this resulted in a twenty-five percent increase in tree-cover across the country. The chapter goes on to explore how technological advances and the Industrial Revolution further changed the management of trees. The process of globalisation is cited as a means by which softwood timber was more easily imported from abroad, thus decreasing the demand for slower growing native hardwood species.

However, the authors do not overstate the changes that took place and also explore the continuity of tree management between this time and earlier centuries. They remark particularly upon the use and continuing establishment of coppice wood, and the predominance of particular tree species in a well-treed but poorly-wooded landscape.

Chapter Seven explores how changes over the past two centuries have culminated in the familiar landscape of the modern day. The authors detail the extensive removal of hedgerows in the first half of the twentieth century and an expansion in woodland cover, although they note that this woodland is often less diverse in species than the coppice woods of earlier centuries. A decline in tree-health is also of particular concern in this chapter. The authors stress that while disease in trees has always been an issue, globalisation increasing the chance of contact with foreign epidemics and monospecies woodlands leading to faster decline negatively affects tree health now more than ever before. Again contrary to the perhaps more commonly held belief that trees would fare better if left alone, the authors have concluded that the most managed and 'unnatural' tree populations may be the healthiest (p. 195).

The final chapter revisits the main observations made earlier in the book and draws this exploration of woodland management to a well-rounded close. The authors emphasise the importance of examining regional variations in tree density in relation to the economy and agricultural practices of the time. They caution the reader not to be too pessimistic about the changes that have taken place since the medieval period, especially within the last century, as the modern perception of a wild and pristine landscape full of ancient trees pre-1600 is demonstrably false. We should instead be cognisant of gradual changes in a landscape that has been shaped by the agency and needs of humanity since prehistoric times. The research presented in this book is valuable to any study of trees in the English landscape and may have particular onomastic relevance when considering the distribution of tree species, tree management techniques and the economic importance of trees as a resource.

Jessica Treacher
jessica.treacher@nottingham.ac.uk