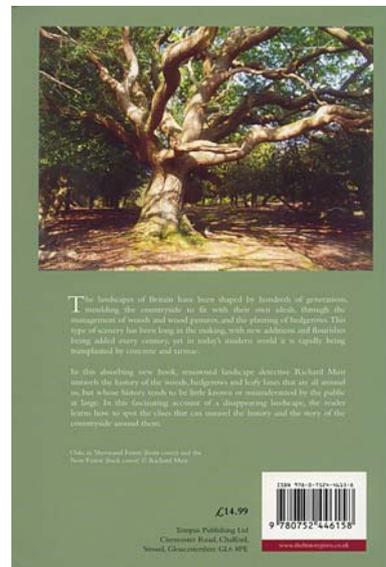
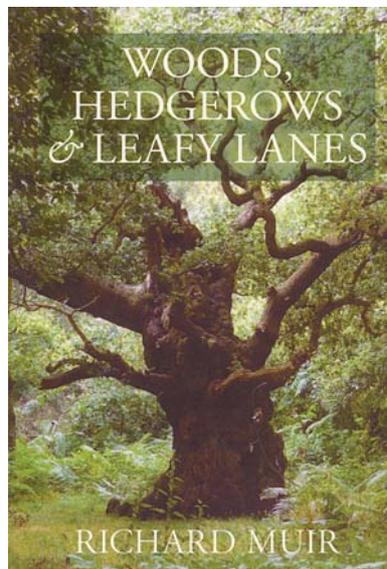




BOOK REVIEWS

Muir, R. 2008. Woods, Hedgerows & Leafy Lanes. - Stroud, Tempus Publishing

C. Vermeeren & K. Hänninen



This book by Richard Muir is about woodlands, hedgerows and leafy lanes in England and in particular the human influence on such landscape elements. It should be possible to recognize and interpret, with the assistance of the book, traces of human interference such as the management of woodlands, grazing or charcoal production. Aspects such as place names and folklore in connection with trees are also discussed.

The book is handy to use and looks attractive, with beautiful reproductions in both black and white and color and its tables are comprehensible. The text is easy to read and the many subjects can be looked up in an extensive index. It has useful information for example on which species do well in hedgerows and why.

The book is clearly focused on the British isles which is the reason why its application on the mainland is limited. "Pleachers", for instance, are typically British forms of hedgerows, and the number of species mentioned for plantations are too limited from the European point of view (or perhaps even for the British?). Another problem is that the scientific names are never used, which makes the reading for a non-native speaker problematic.

In the back of the book a short list of reference literature is given, but as references are completely absent, the literary sources cannot be checked. Furthermore, the author often strongly expresses his personal (and political) views, and it is difficult to judge if those are substantiated by other sources or not.

It is foremost a practical handbook for the interested (British) layman, who wants to know more about the woodlands, hedgerows and leafy lanes he passes on his walks. With some small adjustments (a list of scientific names and the use of references) it could also have been of interest to a wider public, and that seems to be a missed opportunity.

Muir, R. 2008. *Woods, Hedgerows & Leafy Lanes*. - Stroud, Tempus Publishing. 192 pp. ISBN-10: 0752446150/ISBN-13: 978-0752446158. Price £ 14.99 (paperback).

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