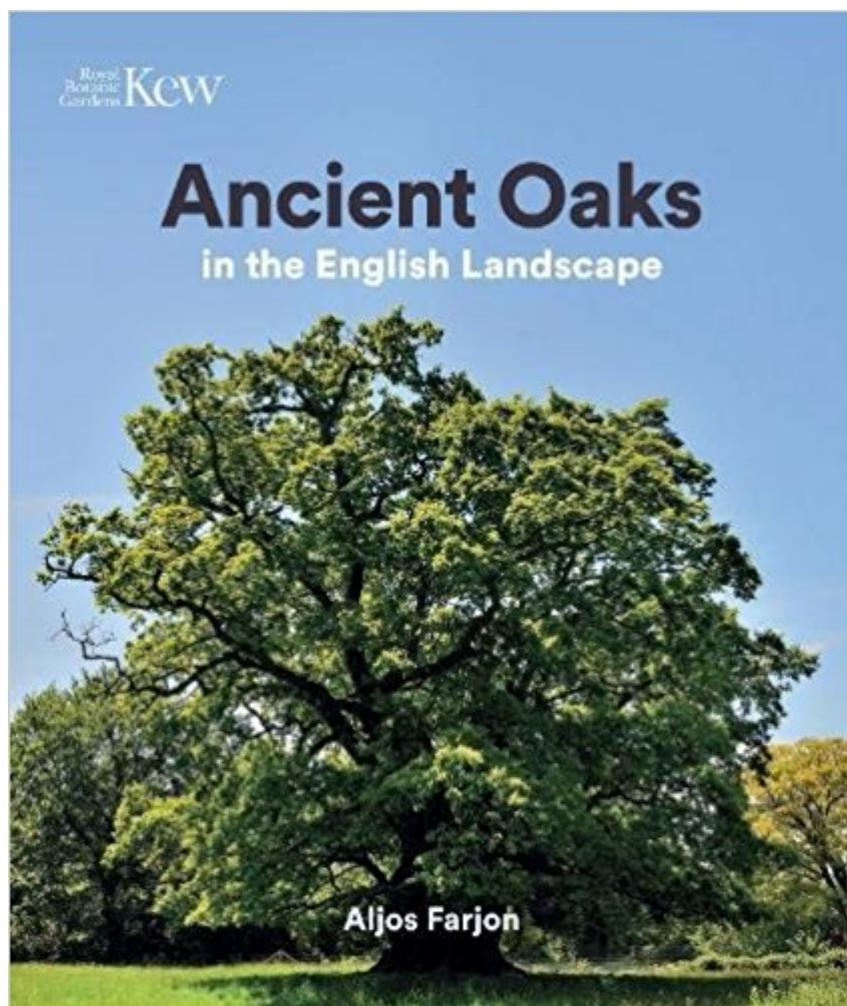


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Ancient Oaks In The English Landscape



Synopsis

The ancient native oaks of England are a national treasure, beautiful and beloved. And England has more of them than the rest of Europe combined. How did that happen? How, as Europe was deforested over the course of centuries, did England manage to preserve so many ancient trees? Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape tells that story. It begins with the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Normans, and the nobility they put in place, created Royal Forests, chases, and deer parks where only the nobility could hunt or keep deer—•and where, to protect that game, it was forbidden to cut trees. Thus, centuries before the modern conservation movement, the trees were preserved. Other historical and social factors enabled that preservation to continue long after the decline of royalty. Private ownership of thousands of parks and estates, the ready availability of timber from overseas, and, crucially, the absence of major wars and their accompanying destruction brought the ancient forests into our era. By the time modern forestry truly took hold in England after World War I, it was too late to destroy the now worthless old and hollow oaks. Bringing together history and science, Aljos Farjon tells this compelling story, illustrating it with stunning photographs and maps. The result is a beautiful, fitting celebration of England’s ancient oaks and the biodiversity they represent and foster.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A ground-breaking new book on England’s oak heritage." (Independent) "From life cycles to biodiversity to conservation, the author celebrates oak trees in all their impressive glory." (Horse & Countryside) "From chapter One where (Farjon) considers

the life of the oak, from establishment, through the various stages (formative, mature, veteran and senescent) – he draws the reader in with his wonderfully rich and detailed explanations. The pictures used to illustrate the various stages are quite stunning in their detail. (Forestry Journal) “The growing movement to protect veteran trees in our cities, countryside, parks and gardens is well served by this fascinating book. (Garden News)

Aljos Farjon is an honorary research associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and a world-renowned expert on conifers.

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