

The British Treescap: Past Neolithic to William the Conqueror and beyond



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Ancient and other Veteran Tree, Wood-pasture and Parkland, Old Growth Specialist

Ice Age to Neolithic and beyond

Clements / Tansley: Succession to most shade tolerant and closed canopy



Vera: Park-like dynamic mosaic of open areas with open grown trees, scrub and groves of trees with grazing

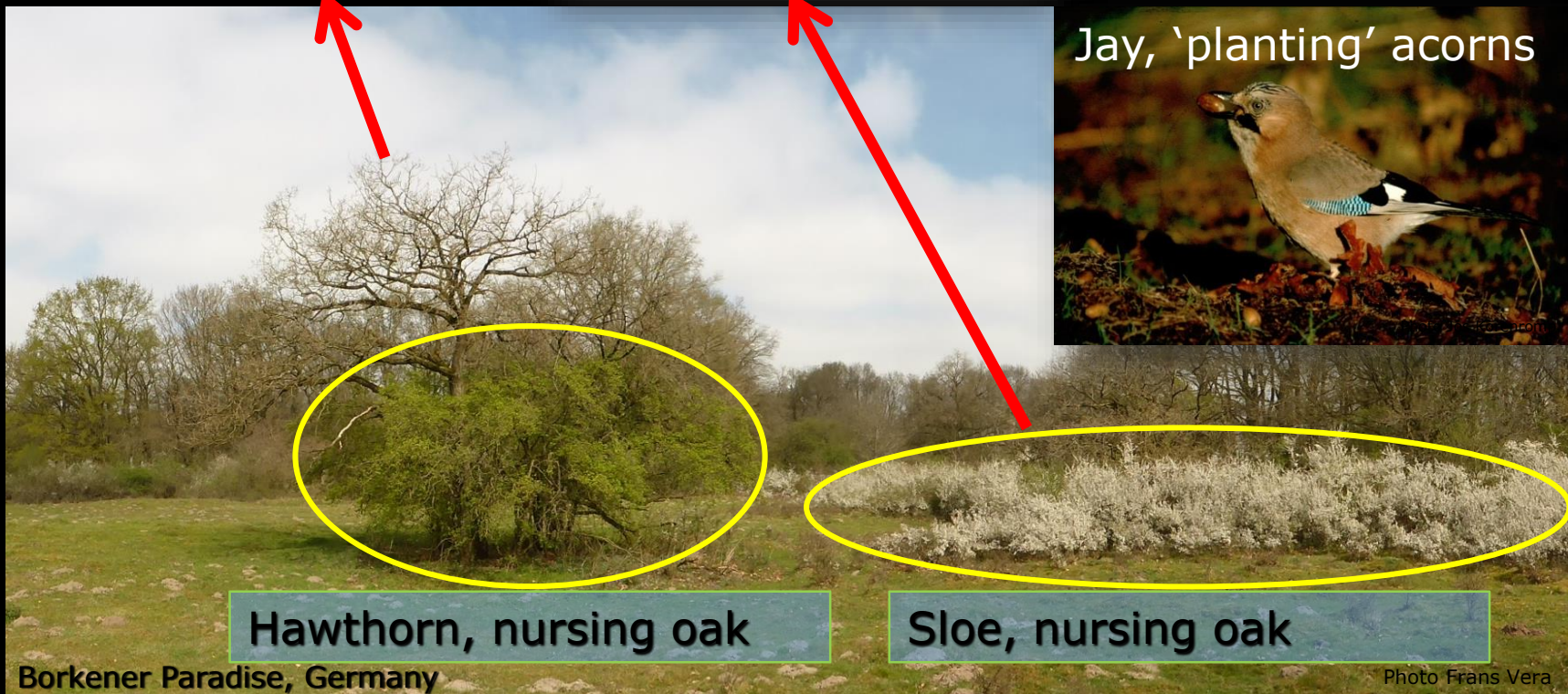


Ancient trees: life-long, open grown trees



Species	c % Shade tolerance
Scots pine	33
Juniper	34
Hawthorn	39
Birch	41
Aspen	44
Mid. hawthorn	49
Ped. Oak	49
Black pine	49
Ash	53
Alder	54
Rowan	55
Sessile oak	55
Sweet chestnut	63
Field maple	64
Cherry	67
Sycamore	75
Holly	77
Hornbeam	79
SL Lime	84
Yew	89
Beech	91





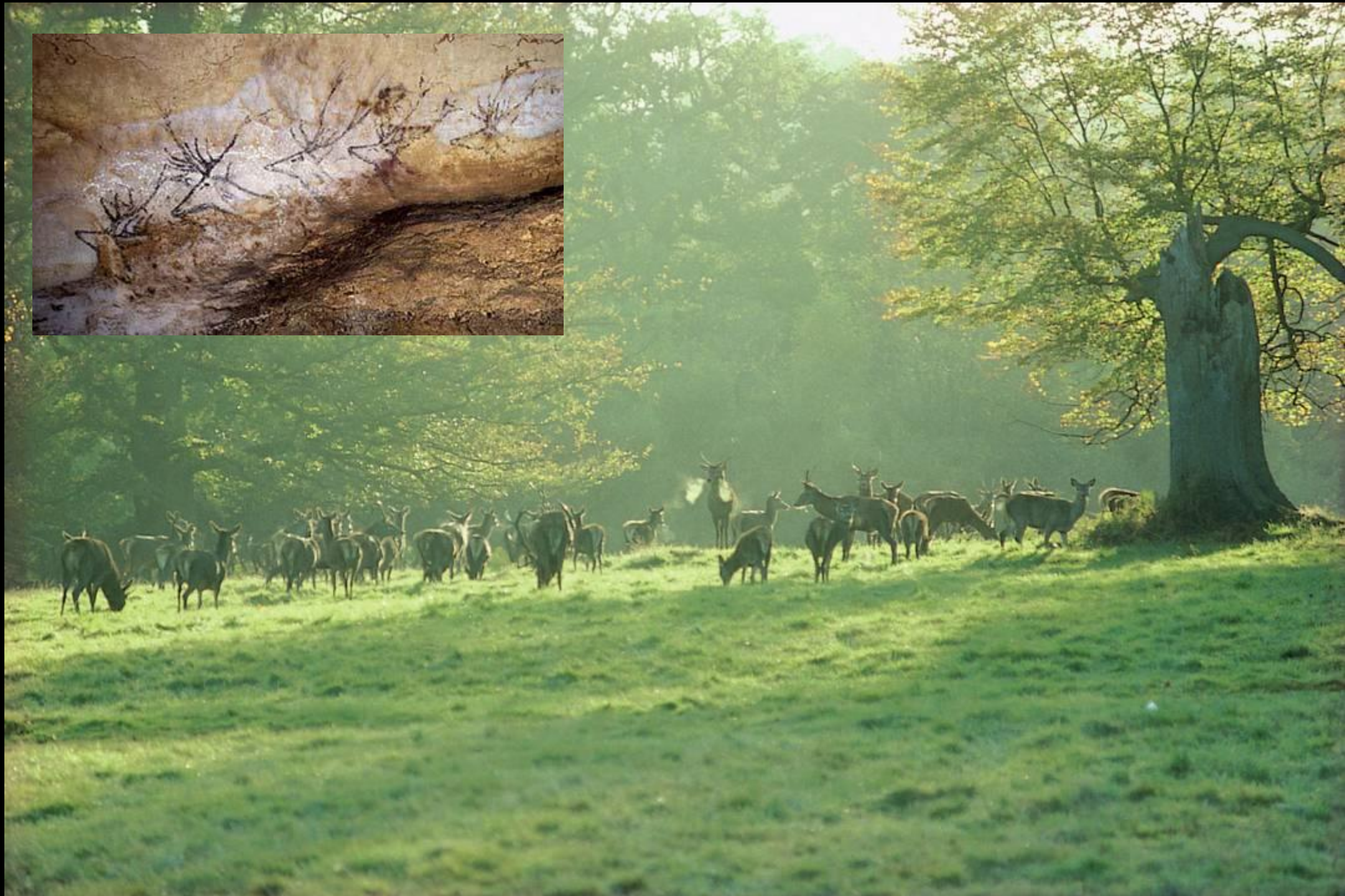


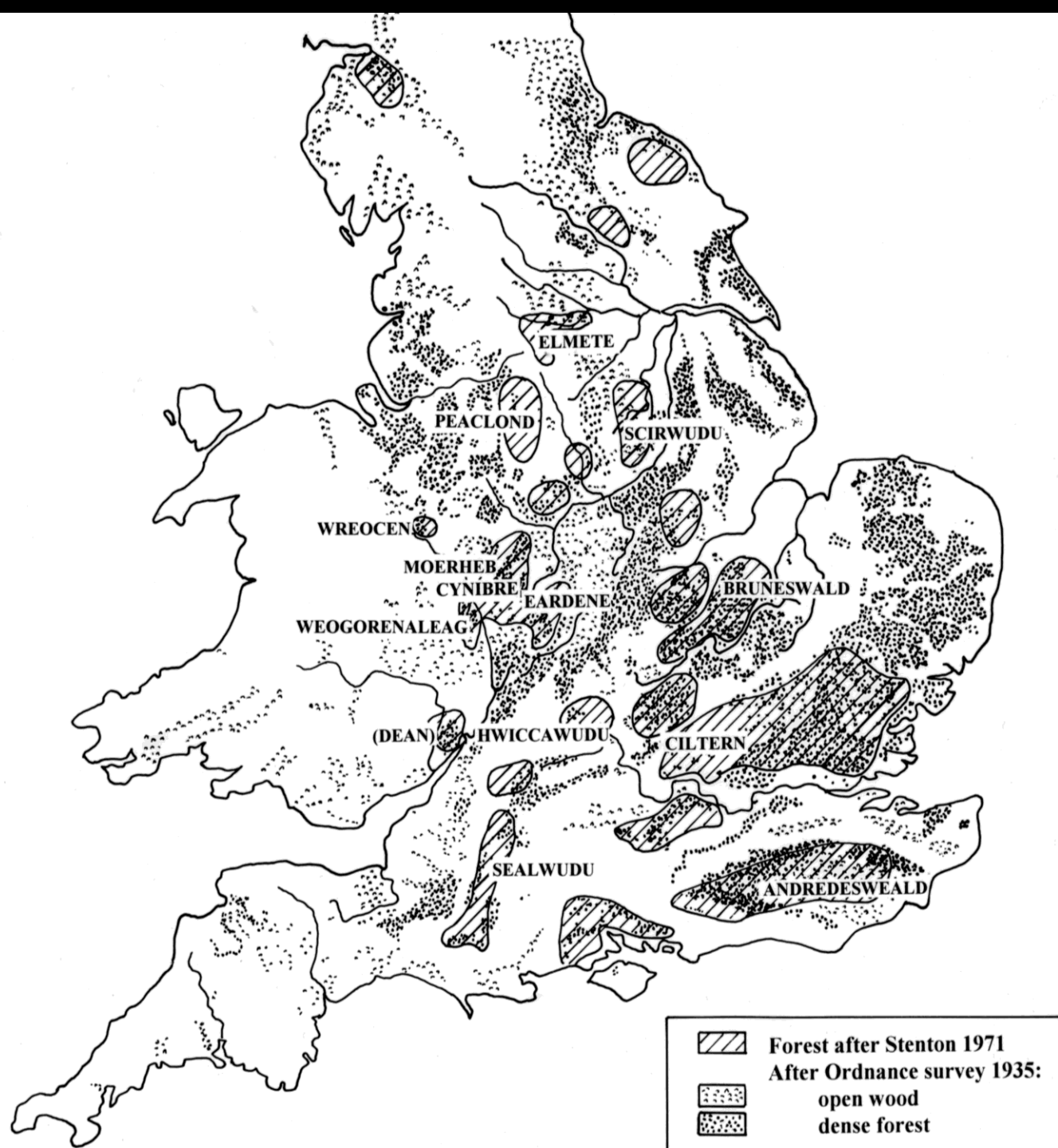


**The thorn is the mother
of the oak
– a very old saying**









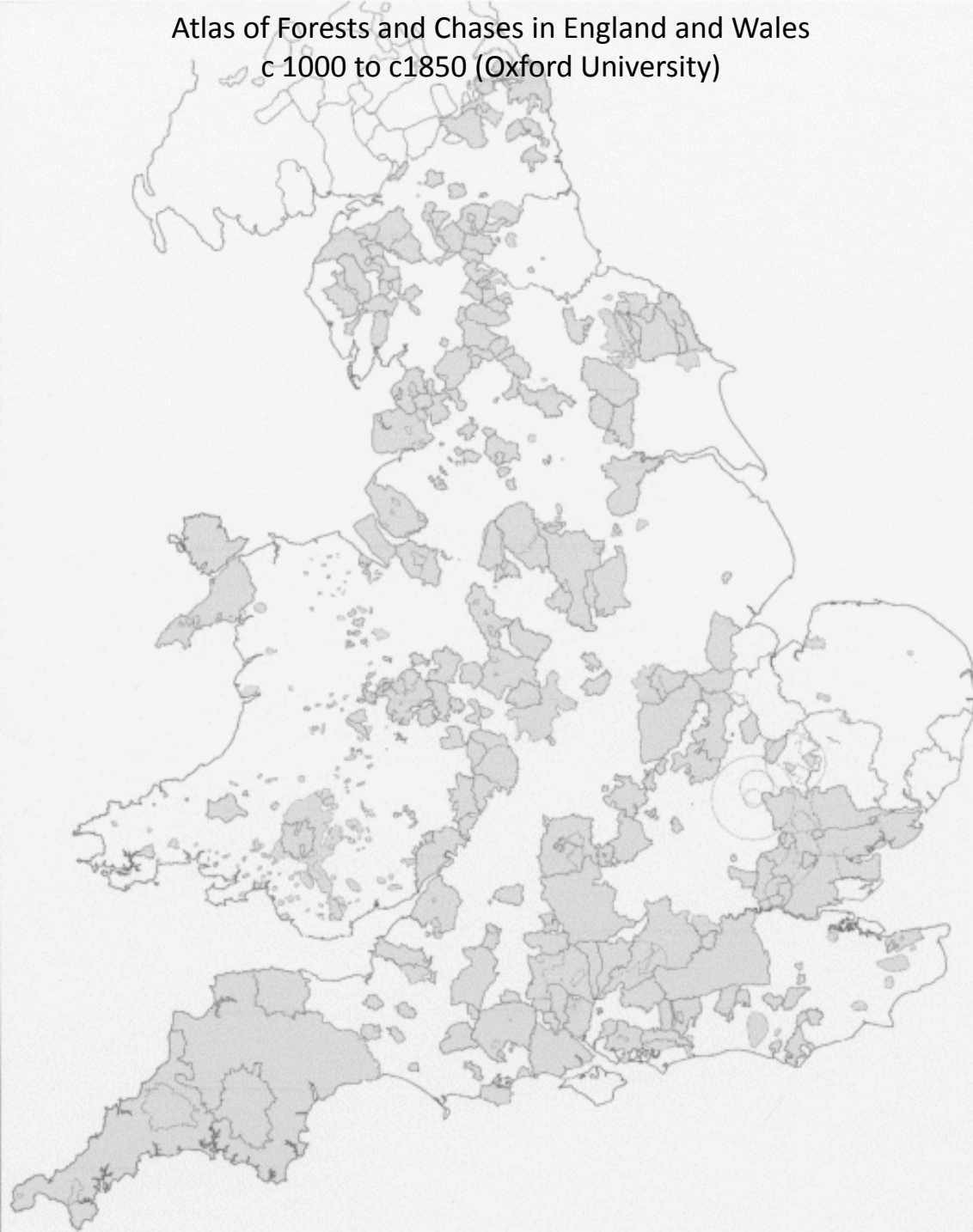
Anglo-Saxon
"wudu"

year 894

© Della Hook



1000 year-old Royal and
older commoners landscapes



Norman Forests

“...wild woody grounds and
fruitful pastures, privileged for
wild beasts, and fowls of forest,
chase and warren,
to rest and abide in,
in the safe protection of the
king, for his pleasure.”





'Air of antiquity'
mediaeval deer parks



Saxton's map
c1579



Sub fossil pollard – c 4400 years old



Sub fossil pollard – c 1500 years old



Conclusions

1. Park-like treescapes in the UK are important but overlooked representatives of past European landscapes
2. Value not just historically, archaeologically, culturally but for biological continuity and therefore biodiversity
3. Lack of understanding means undervaluing, poor protection and uninformed management
4. Windsor Great Park is the most important area in Europe and the world