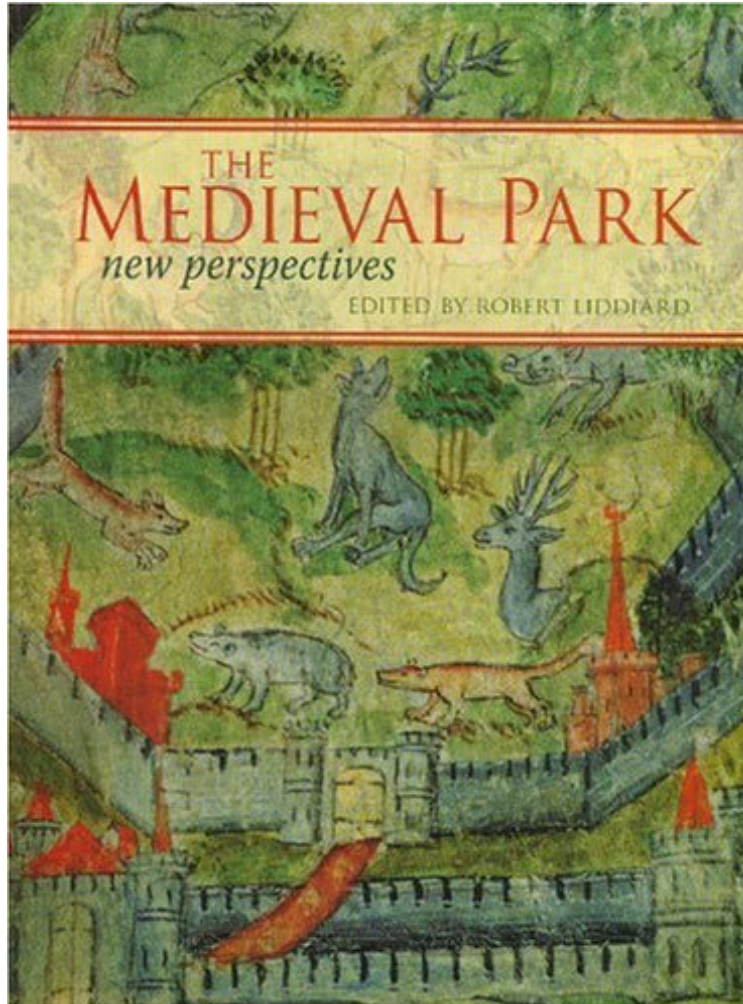


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The Medieval Park: New Perspectives

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The park - a feature of the landscape we always associate with the hunting of deer - played an important role in the psyche of Britain's medieval aristocracy. This well-illustrated book offers a reappraisal of the park by a new generation of landscape researchers, who use a diversity of approaches to assess its economy, ecology and social role. They show how parks actually had many functions other than deer management and hunting; they were integrated into the wider rural economy, and also provided a means by which seigneurial control of the landscape might be demonstrated. They varied considerably across Britain, and are of considerable conservation significance today.

Anyone who ever found parks boring should think again. This collection is intended to demonstrate the new diversity of approaches to the subject, and it admirably succeeds in its aim. (Jean Birrell *The Agricultural History* 56.2, 2008)The extent to which each essay in this collection offers fresh insights underlines the liveliness of current approaches.' (James Bond *Landscape History*, 30, 2008/9)There have been few successful attempts to provide a synthetic overview of English park development since Shirleys study in the 1860s. One consequence has been a general failure to grasp the significance of the park as a socioeconomic entity. The nine essays in this excellent volume do not set out to remedy that position - that would require a much larger programme of study and synthesis - but they do demonstrate successfully the range of research materials available, the potential for a genuinely interdisciplinary environmental history of medieval parks, and the importance of such an integrated approach for the informing of strategic conservation plans for surviving historic parklands.' (Richard Oram *Medieval Archaeology*, Vol. 54, November 2010)About the AuthorROBERT LIDDIARD is Professor of History, University of East Anglia.