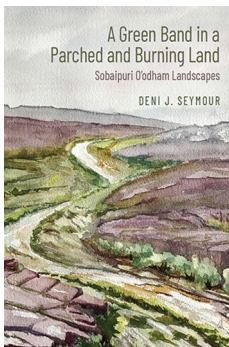


view beyond the archaeological material and evoke impressions of the night at the places they studied. It should inspire many more scholars to venture down similar dimly lit paths.

References

SMITH, M. 2010. *A prehistory of ordinary people*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

DENI J. SEYMOUR. 2022. *A green band in a parched and burning land: Sobaipuri O'odham landscapes*. Denver: University Press of Colorado; 978-1-64642-296-8 hardback \$66.



The Sobaipuri O'odham people are one of the lesser-known Indigenous groups in the American Southwest who occupied the main river valleys in southern Arizona during the Terminal Prehistoric and Early Historic period (fifteenth to nineteenth century AD). Deni Seymour is one of the few scholars who has researched and published extensively on their culture and archaeology and this volume is an accumulation of decades of research. The book combines throughout: the archaeology of both new excavations and re-interpretations of old ones; insights and memories of the modern descendants of the Sobaipuri O'odham; and the written records from colonial times onwards. The latter is the main focus

of the book with one of the prime sources being the accounts of a Jesuit missionary, Father Kino, from the late seventeenth century. The book seeks to bring the textual sources and archaeological research together; it evaluates the evidence to deliver a factual picture of the landscape during Sobaipuri occupation, thus revising former research perspectives.

The book argues for the importance of this specific group in settling the landscapes along the fertile green strips of the rivers in their unique way of life as irrigation farmers year-round, contrasting with some other groups who seasonally occupied the rivers. The first chapter concentrates on the history of research and available resources on which this work is built and places the mentioned sites in a geographical and historical framework.

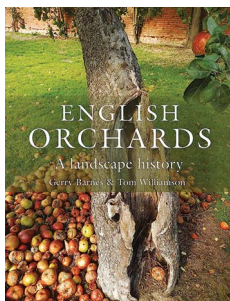
Concepts of landscape use and management along the rivers are explored in the second chapter with an overview of how the landscape looked during the occupation of the Sobaipuri. The selection of areas for agriculture and settlement are discussed and the results can be used for future fieldwork in predicting the location of certain sites. The distribution of the sites shows evidence of the deep understanding that the Sobaipuri had of features in the landscape as well as the surface and below-surface flow of the river systems. This would have been essential to survive in the surrounding desert climate. The settlement type of the Sobaipuri can be distinguished from their predecessors, and the later O'odham people, and it developed over time owing to natural and political changes. The first chapter sets the stage for an in-depth discussion of this landscape, but what follows instead are seemingly disconnected chapters, as if all were written separately for different aspects of research concerning the Sobaipuri.

Some chapters give detailed accounts of recurring discussion points in the research of the Sobaipuri: their presence along the Gila River; the settlement site of Xavier del Bac; the localisation of Quiburi, another settlement, and its final days; and the presence of a Jesuit mission on the San Pedro River. Another chapter highlights open questions around the edges and borders of Sobaipuri occupied lands and rectifies the assumptions of old records with new results especially around the San Pedro headwaters and the Babocomari River.

A case study of the settlements along the Sonoita Creek gives the most detailed record of archaeological finds. The settlement structures are similar to those in other river valleys occupied by the Sobiapuri, but also show nuanced differences, possibly highlighting areas of the settlement that were influenced by people from elsewhere. Furthermore, fieldwork undertaken along the San Pedro River changes the interpretation of this area into a much more complex occupational history than was presented through the textual evidence.

The chapters would have benefited from an overarching narrative to connect them. Sadly, the chance to introduce a larger audience to this not widely studied people is missed. An accessible introduction for non-specialists to engage the reader with the world of the Sobaipuri would have been valuable, and colourful illustrations could have been used to provide a more vivid image of *the Sobaipuri O'dham landscapes*. For readers with more knowledge of the subject, the book combines in-depth scholarship and intricate knowledge about the Sobaipuri and delivers an up-to-date review of research and highlights possible areas for future studies.

GERRY BARNES & TOM WILLIAMSON. 2022. *English orchards: a landscape history*. Oxford: Oxbow; 978-1-914427-19-0 paperback £34.99.



The English countryside is written about in many a book and from as many perspectives. This study by the renowned landscape historians Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson concentrates on “the different kinds of orchards and explain when and why they appeared in the landscape —and when and why many have now disappeared from it” (p. 2). The authors go beyond the often-nostalgic view of orchards and delve into the origin of fruit growing in England from medieval times to the present, where orchard landscapes seem ever more on the decline. A short introduction is given on the origins of fruit growing of mainly domesticated, imported species and the special techniques of management that they need (e.g. such as grafting and pruning).

In their search for a more scientific way to study orchards in the landscape, the authors have combined mentions in old maps and written records, which is often the only evidence left. Through this historiographical approach, the orchards are classified in different types, concentrating mainly on the eighteenth to twenty-first century. The first type are farmhouse and commercial orchards, which do not have a distinct division. Usually, farmhouse orchards are for domestic consumption, with maybe the surplus being sold on markets, and the commercial ones are the sole income of the orchard tenant/farmer. The latter orchards can