Local and Landscape History Research Group

Dear reader,

This latest edition of the Bulletin of the Local and Landscape History Research Group is on the subject of place-names, a subject of interest by many group members, something that is reflected in the size of this bulletin, our largest thus far.

Evelyn Lord
*September 2023.*

CONTENTS

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shirley Wittering

What's in a Name? As I walk round my village of Thriplow, names pop up like mushrooms. Names of People, places, fields and roads. I think to help me sort them out, it might seem sensible to divide them into people and places, but so many names of places are named after people and often people take their names from where they live, so that really wouldn't work.

So where do we start? Perhaps as long ago as possible, how about the village name – Thriplow. The name probably stems from the Saxon word Trippa's *Hlaw or* Low, Tryppa being the Bronze Age chieftain, buried in the tumulus just by the church, the word Hlaw/Low meaning a sacred site on a hill. The 'H' is silent as in Thames. It is not known what the place was called before the Saxons named it 2,000 years later. In 1953 the tumulus was excavated and a burial urn found containing burnt bones and many small animal bones such as lemmings. The tumulus lies beside an ancient route way called Mutlow Way, the traditional meeting place of the Moot or Hundred Court. Also, the remains of a Roman Villa were recently excavated, close to the Thriplow Hundred boundary, including a bath house with the remains of a hypocaust.
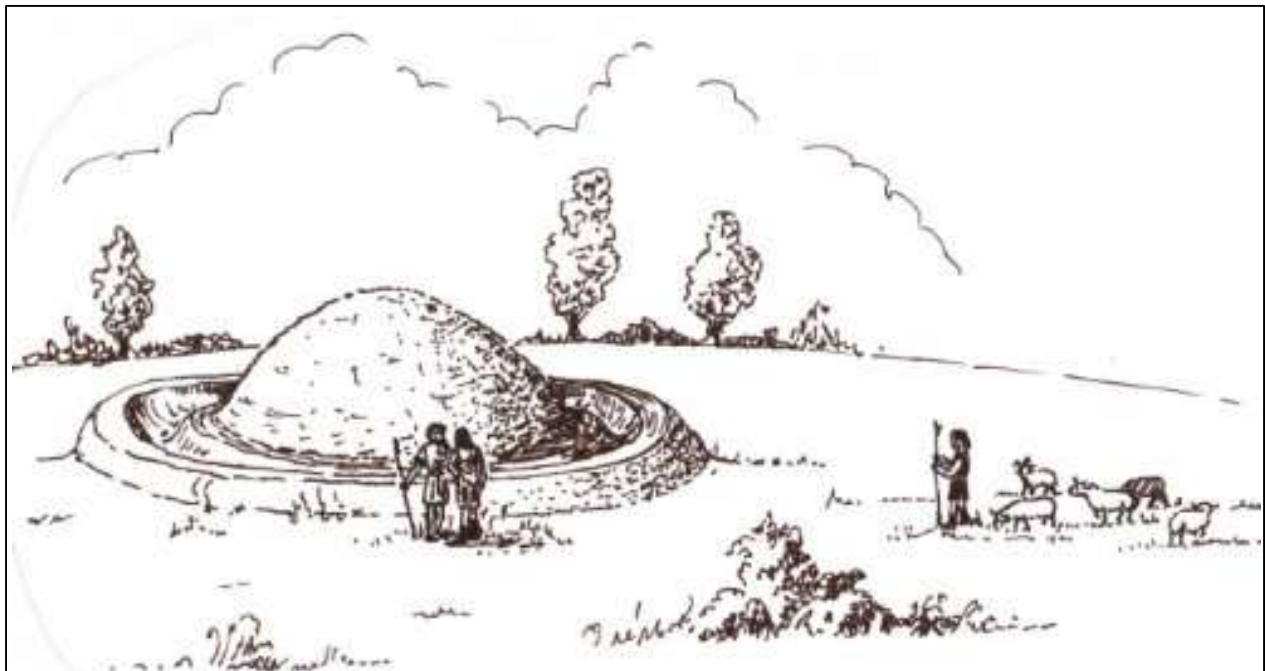
Artist's impression of the Bronze age Tumulus at Thriplow.

The tumulus sits on the highest position in the Parish and the church was built close by, visible for miles around, probably built to prove that Christianity was more powerful that a pagan site. Not far away the land drops and becomes a very boggy area called The Quave, because the land quivers.

A name that has changed little over the centuries is a house in Church Street called Careless.

The Hundred Rolls of 1279 mentions a Cotar (Saxon house servant) called William Carles who holds a '*messuage and croft containing one acre and 5 roods of land of Agnes of Barenton'*. In 1327 a *John Careless of Meldebourne is accused of 'Taking away a horse impounded by the Bishop of Ely.'* In his will of 1537 John Ferrer left '*My howse called Careless with 3 acres of lande thereto and a cowe and 40s to my daughter Elizabeth,'*

In 1625 Lnacelot Sell, husbandman and Churchwarden left '*To my wyf Alice all my costomary tenements and land called Careless during her natural life ...'.* In the court roll Barenton's Manor for 1641 Agnes Sell who had married John Goodwyn, died and left her *'Messuage called Careless'* to her daughter Agnes.

The name continues to be mentioned from 1695, until 1814 when Thomas Wallis, carpenter, surrendered his '*Messuage called Careless with a yard, garden, croft and grove and one acre of arable land' to Joseph Ellis for the sum of £84-15-0 on condition that 'Thomas Wallis and his wife Ann should have the use of two rooms in said cottage, one on the ground floor and the other above and a piece of garden ground, part of the barn and pigsty, also the carpenters shop, rent free.'* It must have been fun trying to split a Barn and Pigsty.

Careless Cottage, now named Honeysuckle Cottage

In 1859 Joseph Ellis II notes in a list of property owned by his Grandfather that the cottage, garden and lands was now in 4 tenements occupied by W. Pilling, James Faircloth, Peter Ison and Thomas Flack'. The rise in population was obviously leading to more people being crowded into the smaller spaces.
 In 1068 one of the Jurers for the Doomsday Survey was Ranulf of Barenton, who gave his name to one of the two manors mentioned in Doomsday, 1068.

A new close of houses now called Pigeon's Close was originally called Pittancers. A Pittancer was a monk at Ely Cathedral who was responsible for handing out small amounts of food to the poor, hence the word Pittance meaning a small allowance. By 1874 the name had changed to Pitter's Alley, obviously a corruption of Pittancers but the first inhabitants didn't like the name not understanding its relevance so changed it to Pigeon's Close.

A glance through the Manor Court Rolls, (Thriplow has four Manors), reveals some interesting names. Haremans, Shardelow, Sixpenny Land, (poor soil not worth more than six pence an acre|), Gore Piece,(a Gore is a triangular piece of land), Redmore (A corruption of Reedmoore, a boggy piece of land), Clunch Pitt Lane, (Clunch is a local name for a hard chalk suitable for building walls). Lower Gentleman's Footpath, also Upper Gentleman's Footpath, both these lead across field from one Manor to another. Gutter Lane is now School Lane, a brook ran down the road and eventually led into the Cam. The School was built in 1863 on a piece of land called Savages, very apt.

Burnt Close is an appropriate word, as a Bone Mill was situated there. Before the discovery of Guano from South America, all sorts of things were used to improve the fertility of the fields. The Bone Mill at Thriplow burnt bones for fertiliser. Guano is the accumulated excrement of seabirds or bats. It is a highly effective fertilizer due to the high content of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium, all key nutrients essential for plant growth. The 19th-century seabird guano trade played a pivotal role in the development of modern input-intensive farming. (Wikipedia)

Dedwomanshoe is the strangest name I have come across; I feel sure it must have evolved over time. At a CALH meeting I mentioned it to William Franklin, he passed me onto Valory Hurst who has researched the name and found it and similar in many places, Ded**man**sway, she found, was more common that ded**womans**way, and were often routes to sacred sites. She sent me some wonderful maps of other places that mention a similar name. I contacted Professor Sue Ooshuizen and suggested that the Hoe at the end of the name was similar to the Hoe at the end of Thriplow, a raised sacred place, nothing to do with shoes. She also pointed out that the named often described a route way.

I have yet to find the exact situation of Thriplow's Dedwomanshoe, as it only occurs in a Manor Court Survey, which as most of you know, only provides a description of the land surrounding the piece named, which is often not precise enough to place it accurately.

I shall keep on looking.

A POEM AS A MAP OF ANGLO-SAXON CAMBRIDGESHIRE: IN SEARCH OF DINGESMERE

A Discussion Paper

Terry Hunt

After the defeat at the battle of Brunanburh in AD937, Olaf or Analf Guthfrithson, the leader of the Dublin Norse, is said to have escaped by boat over Dingesmere.[1] In an earlier paper, Bran Ditch[2] was identified as a possible Cambridgeshire Brunanburh. This has motivated this search for Dingesmere in Cambridgeshire, however the identification of the site of the battle is not used to determine the location of Dingesmere.

Nobody has ever found a reference to the place-name Dingesmere,[3] sadly, researching this paper has not unearthed one either. However, this paper will give evidence suggesting that King Æthelstan, in AD937, the year of the battle of Brunanburh, possibly, indirectly told us where Dingesmere was, and maybe gives us the name of an unsung hero.

An Analysis of the Brunanburh Poem

The order of events in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle's Brunanburh poem has Olaf taking to a boat on the 'fealene flod', only later in the poem speaking of going over Dingesmere, then after or during that part of his voyage seeking deep waters in search of Dublin.

The phrase '*fealene flod*' has been argued over, clearly *flod* means *flood*. The phrase can be translated as a flooded uncultivated area, some translations use the word *fallow* for *fealene*. Kirby[4] states that in 1938 Campbell equated the phrases, ón dyngesmere and ón fealene flod, with an estuary of dark water and sand. Livingston translates it as *dark flood*[5]. For the purposes of this paper *fealene* will remain untranslated as it could be any of the above or refer to a flooded river, it is unknown. Similarly, *Dingesmere* has been translated by some such as Tennyson[6] who rendered it as a *stormy sea*, and once translated some possibilities are not easy to see.
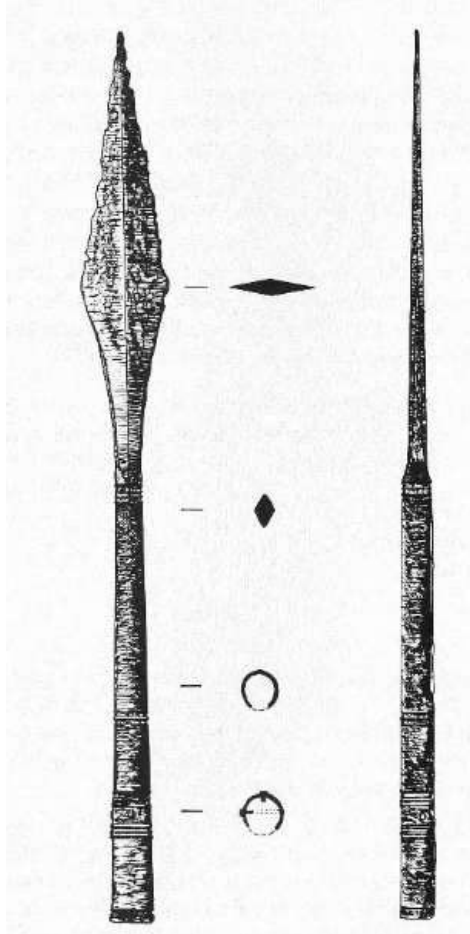
1. Viking Spearhead found near Whittlesey Mere. Image courtesy of Nene Valley Archaeological Trust. Durobrivae 9:1984 page 17

In the text below, the King taking to the ship is Olaf, king of the Dublin Norse. The old campaigner and hoary warrior both refer to Constantine, the Scottish king. The relevant sections of the poem, in order are:

cread cnear on flot, cyning ut gewat
on fealene flod, feorh generede.
Swilce þær eac se froda mid fleame com
on his cyþþe norð, Costontinus,
har hilderinc, hreman ne þorfte

he pressed the ship afloat, the king went out
on the fealene flood, he saved his life.

Likewise, there also the old campaigner through
flight came
to his own region in the North
hoary warrior. He had no reason to exult

Gewitan him þa Norþmen nægledcnearrum,
dreorig daraða laf, on Dinges mere
ofer deop wæter Difelin secan,
eft Iraland, æwiscmode.

Departed then the Northmen in nailed ships.
The dejected survivors of the battle,
sought Dublin over the deep water,
leaving Dinges mere
to return to Ireland, ashamed in spirit.
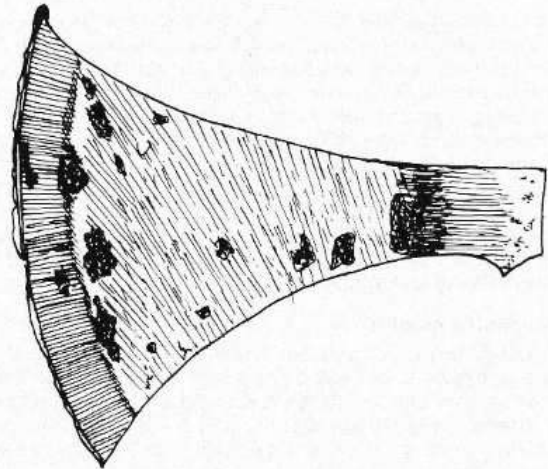
2. *Viking Axe head found near Whittlesey Mere. Courtesy of Nene Valley Archaeological Trust. Durobrivae 9:1984 page 16*

So, instead of looking for Dingesmere in isolation, interpreting this as a journey. The start of the journey is the defeat at Brunanburh. Both Olaf and Constantine would have had the same starting point. As the Anglo-Saxon army were said to have pursued the fleeing invaders for a whole day, it seems likely that Olaf first fled North with Constantine by road until reaching a place that was in flood or sufficiently flooded to allow Olaf to board a boat or ship of some kind. Constantine continued North by road to Scotland. The '*fealene*' flood took Olaf to Dingesmere, which was shallow as Olaf sought deep waters only then reaching the sea to seek Dublin.

To show this, as a reasonable interpretation, it will be explained how these conditions can be fulfilled:

(1)   Justification of the assertion that the initial flight from the battlefield would have likely been by road.
(2)   That there is a consistent explanation of the term *fealene*, in an area which is known to flood, offer an embarkation point from a road which leads North to Scotland and a known waterway that leads via a possible Dingesmere to the open seas.
(3)   That there is a candidate Dingesmere, with justification for it being so identified.

The Hypothesis

The journey of flight proposed as fitting that described by the poet is: Brunanburh (left unidentified) to Ermine Street, North to Water Newton, Cambridgeshire. Water Newton will be suggested as the *fealene* of the *fealene flod*. There, the river Nene, on its old course leads to what was Whittlesey Mere, Cambridgeshire (the suggested Dingesmere). Whittlesey Mere gives access to the open sea via rivers to Wisbeach and hence to Dublin.

The Case in Outline
The road of invasion and retreat to or from Scotland was, as Wood[7] asserts, most likely to be the Old Great North Road - this paper relates to the section called by the Anglo-Saxons 'Ermine Street'. This is in line with Malmesbury's History of the English Kings (c.1195 – c.1143)[8] 'far into England'.

The identification of *fealene* with Water Newton is partly based on the intersection of Ermine Street with a waterway route to the sea (the river Nene). A charter (S 437) by Æthelstan in AD 937, the year of the battle of Brunanburh is cited. It is close to a place documented to have been raided by Vikings (Peterborough). If this is correct, it can only lead to one mere, that, therefore being Dingesmere (Whittlesey Mere), which has well documented access to the open sea.

Why Whittlesey Mere was called Dingesmere by the poet will be discussed, evidence of its shallow[9] and stormy[10] nature will be given. It will be suggested, if this identification is correct, why the seeking of deep water referred to in the poem was apt.

What is knowable or inferable of Dingesmere from the Poem in The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles?

There are a few different spellings; Dingesmere, Dyngesmere, Dynigesmere and Dinnesmere.[11] Dingesmere must be capable of supporting a boat of some kind. The poem says that Dingesmere afforded Olaf an escape route to Dublin. It is generally agreed that 'mere' refers to a body of water. This is as far as most researchers seem to go.
What might reasonably be inferred is that Dingesmere was roughly North of Wessex and East or North of Mercia, as those routes were reversed by the returning victorious armies.

As Constantine heads North to Scotland, it essentially puts an end to any Scottish contenders to either the Dingesmere or Brunanburh location.

Similarly, it seems likely that when the two forces engaged, they came from their respective home territories. If so, a candidate for Brunanburh should be found roughly South of Dingesmere, at a distance of a day's chase. This distance would depend on the type of terrain and mode of transport (foot or horseback) over which the pursuit took place.

This is more tenuous, the route of flight from the battlefield was a choice, the route would have been known. Whether or not the Dingesmere exit was premeditated, forced or opportunistic, the initial route, i.e., that leading towards Dingesmere, was a positive choice.

Less certain, but reasonable, is the consideration that Dingesmere was named by the poet, for an audience across the nation. So, as a place, if indeed it was a place, it should have been known nationally at the time. Like the place-name Brunanburh itself, that is no longer the case.

Finally, and least convincingly, the omission of a mention of the armies of Northumbria or East Anglia, which should have been allies of Æthelstan might be considered as significant in the geographical identification of Dingesmere. However, as the Strathclyde Welsh, known participants, are not mentioned either, it might simply be that only the major players were cited by the Brunanburh poet.

Previous commentators do not seem to have given much weight, in relation to identifying Dingesmere, of the earlier part of the Brunanburh poem; 'cyning ut gewat, on fealene flod, feorh generede.'[12] cited above.

A Very brief Review of Previous Identifications of Dingesmere

One explanation is that Dingesmere is merely a poetic description of effectively dangerous seas. Another is that 'ding' can mean noise, so Dingesmere can be read as the sea of noise – Cavill[13] notes all seas tend to be noisy, but what about a notoriously stormy and noisy mere? Some have suggested that 'dinge' means dung[14]. Yet another, that it is a corruption of the word for a Viking meeting place, 'thing', giving Dingesmere the meaning of *Mere of the thing*.

If Dingesmere is claimed as a poetic device, it's difficult to counter as it does not have supporting evidence that can be definitively challenged.

The 'mere of the thing' relates to Thingwall, on the Wirral, it was identified by its proximity to a Bromborough, as Brunanburh. The place-name of Dingesmere was explained as having 'thing' / 'þing' as a root, corrupted in local dialect to 'Ding', then applied to a nearby body of water. One criticism is that there are many place-names derived from 'þing' / thing, such as the very similar place-name of Dingwall in Ross-shire.

Evidence offered in Support:

(1)… The initial flight was by road, most likely Ermine Street.

It must be admitted that there is a tautological aspect to this argument, as, if Water Newton was where Olaf took to a boat on the 'fealene flod', it places Brunanburh in the Fens. This argument is that the only reasonable choice to escape from the fen landscape would have been by road, which supports Water Newton, hence the tautology. However, bearing this limitation in mind, the argument is as follows:

The unreclaimed fen, the landscape of that time, would have been very difficult to cross Noble[15] quoting from Miller and Skertchley in Fenland Past and Present gives this description: — 'A vast open plain, covered, for the most part, with deep sedge, dotted with thickets of alder and willow, abounding in shallow lakes, temporary and permanent, and overflowed in its lowest parts, nearly, if not every winter.' This fits with the idea of fallow, uncultivated land interpretation *fealene flood*.

It seems there would have been little option but to follow the then extant road network. As the desired destination was North toward Scotland, Ermine Street, part of what would is now known as the Old Great North Road seems to be the obvious contender.

(2)...That Water Newton was the place where Olaf boarded his ship.
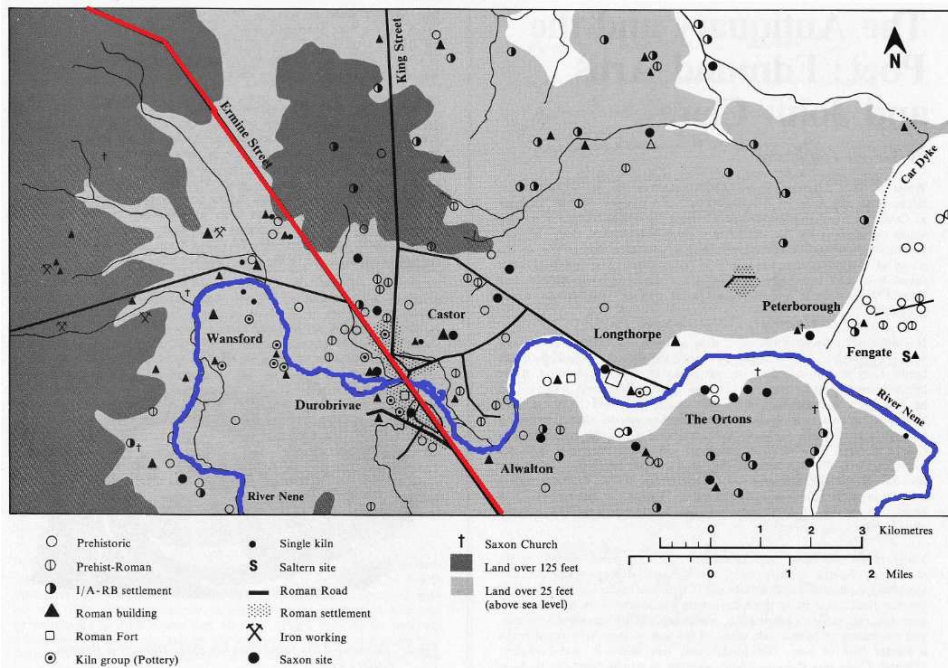
3. Ermine Street and the river Nene highlighted. Map courtesy of Nene Valley Archaeological trust. Durobrivae 9:1984 page 4

Fig 1   Map of the archaeological sites in the Nene Valley

Assuming Ermine Street was the route North, a place where a navigable river crosses it would offer a place for Olaf's and Constantine's routes to diverge. Water Newton offers such a place. It has access to the river Nene, which in turn via Whittlesey Mere leads to the sea.

There is an Anglo-Saxon Charter (S 437)[16] judged to be authentic, by King Æthelstan in AD937, the year of the battle of Brunanburh. The author of this paper is not an expert in old languages and so online translators have been used, including ChatGPT. Recognising that this may lead to errors, misinterpretations and is far from optimal, it is the only option open to the author. As this is a discussion paper it is hoped that it will be sufficient to initiate the discussion, leaving the precision for others with the ability delve deeper. Here is the content of the charter with it's Latin and Old English parts:

> Ego Aethelstanus, etc., rex Anglorum et eque totius Albionis gubernator rogatus fui a meis fidelibus ministris ut aliquam partem terræ in æternam hereditatem laxarem Sigulfo , eorumque precibus annuens pro ejus amabili subjectione atque obedientia cum consensu optimatum meorum terram quinque manentium ubi ab incolis nominatur Niwantune juxta dirivatis fluentium successibus ubi vulgares prisco usu moralique relatione nomen imposuerunt Use quatinus ille bene perfruatur ac perpetualiter possideat et posteritatis suæ successoribus cuicumque voluerit heredi derelinquat , in pratis campis silvis silvarumque nemoribus . Sit autem predicta terra libera ab omnibus mundialibus causis preter pontis et arcis constructione expeditionisque adjuvamine.

> Þæs ben þe land mæro æt Niwantune Ærest of stanwege 7lang slædes on ða fulan rode of þare fulan rode 7lang slædes to dinnes hangran ut þurh denegiðegraf to þan hagþorne . 7 þan to þam hlæwe 7 þan to þam ellene 7 þan to Use staeþe on ealferðes hlaew 7 þan on suðfelde 7 swa be wirtwalam on þa efsan 7 þan on þone wiðig 7 swa be wirtwalan on þone mereþorne on eastehalf branteswyrðe 7 þanne on þone Stanwege .

> Acta est prefata donatio anno . 937 . indictione . 10.

The Latin was rendered by ChatGPT[17] as:

> '*I, Æthelstan, etc., the king of the English and the equal ruler of all Albion, have been asked by my faithful ministers to grant a portion of land in eternal inheritance to Sigulf. Yielding to their pleas, and considering his beloved subjection and obedience, along with the consent of my noble advisors, I grant him the land of five mansions, known to the inhabitants as Niwantune, near the branching rivers, where common practice and moral tradition have bestowed the name Use upon it. May he enjoy it well and possess it perpetually, and may he leave it as an inheritance to his chosen heir or successors of his posterity, in meadows, fields, forests, and groves. However, let the aforementioned land be exempt from all worldly burdens, except for the construction of bridges and fortresses and assistance in times of military expedition.*'

'Niwantune'[18] is an early attested name of Water Newton, which is close to the branching of the river Nene. Sigulf, being awarded this land, by Æthelstan in AD937 being required for 'assistance in times of military expedition' suggests the interpretation that the lands are awarded for military services, although this phrase is often used in charters. Being in AD937, it suggests a Brunanburh connection. Is Sigulf an unsung hero of that battle? Of Ealferðes, whose mound is mentioned, that would depend on archaeology, but as it is mentioned as a landmark it was quite possibly already a feature of the landscape.

The next section, written in Old English, essentially sets out the boundary of the lands granted. The following is a word-by-word attempt at translation, it is noted from the Latin above that 'Use' is a place-name. Also, that groves are mentioned. OS maps have been used to contextualise the description. Ermine Street is taken as the stone-way, 'staeþe' is close to the Norfolk 'Staithe' for landing place, still used in place-names. The 'wyrðe' part of ' branteswyrðe' is taken as[19] Werth:

> 'Werth weorth wyrth. Whether initial or final in the names of places, signify a farm, court, or village, from the Saxon weorðig, used by them in the same sense. Edmund Gibson Cam.'

The word 'wirtwalan' has been split to 'water wall', understood as bubbling water wall, i.e. a weir. The word 'mereþorne', water thorn, has been taken to mean reeds, common along the Nene. The word 'fulan' could simply mean dirty, so 'fulan rode' might mean dirt track as opposed to the stone road, then the mention of the dirt track twice could refer to two different dirt tracks. This is left untranslated here to emphasise the possible link between 'fulan' and 'fealene' in the poem text. So, with the caveats above, it reads something like;

> *As favour for service, this Land, Famous at Water Newton. First from Ermine Street, along the valley to Fulan Road, then along Fulan Road, in the valley to Dinnes Wood. Out through Denegigrove to the hawthorns and to those mounds and to those elder trees. Then to the Use landing stage. On to Ealferðes mound and then on to the South Field near the weir, and then on to the Willow and so near the weir on to the reed beds. Then on to the East-half of Brants Farm and back to Ermine Street.*

The personal name 'Dinnes' is used in this charter as a part of a place-name, (as noted by Cavill, Harding and Jesch[20]), 'dinnes hangran'/'Dinnes Wood' could give rise directly to the Dingesmere form of 'Dinnesmere' – this seems reasonable as it differs markedly from the other forms that it is later asserted relate to Whittelsey Mere.
It should also be noted that the description above specifies that the river Nene offered a landing place. The area described would be liable to flooding – see OS Maps of the area[21]. This flooded area could provide an alternative explanation for the term *fealene flod* as an embarkation site to river Nene.

This area must have had long standing importance, as witnessed by the Roman fortified town of Duobrivae. More could be added on this aspect (see Peterborough Archaeology Website for more information[22]), but it is mentioned in passing as the narrative needs to move on.

(3)...That Whittlesey Mere was Dingesmere

If the above is correct, then as the Nene at that time lead directly to Whittlesey Mere, it is immediately identified as Dingesmere.

A significant element of the research which went into this paper was made to try to find a Cambridgeshire Mere that had a place-name associated with Dingesmere. Space, and the needs of the narrative mean that a only a brief account can be given. It wasn't possible to identify a distinct mere with a place-name obviously linked with Dingesmere, the closest was Dray Mere[23]. Whittlesey Mere, while it would have had essentially the name of Whittlesey Mere at that time, would also have had several 'mere' names associated with various parts, the closest to Dingesmere was Dreigmaere[24], Bolger's 1776 map of Whittlesey Mere lists several such place-names. It is probable that many names have been lost, for comparison Godwin[25] explains that there was once a mere even larger that Whittlesey mere for which no known record exists, except perhaps the place-name Redmere, by which name it now known. The records of the Cathedral Church of Ely[26] have an interesting reference to a Bishop Athelstan of Elmham in the late tenth century: '*This good Biſhop, as appears by his Charter, purchaſed with his own money the Manor of Dringeſtune , and*
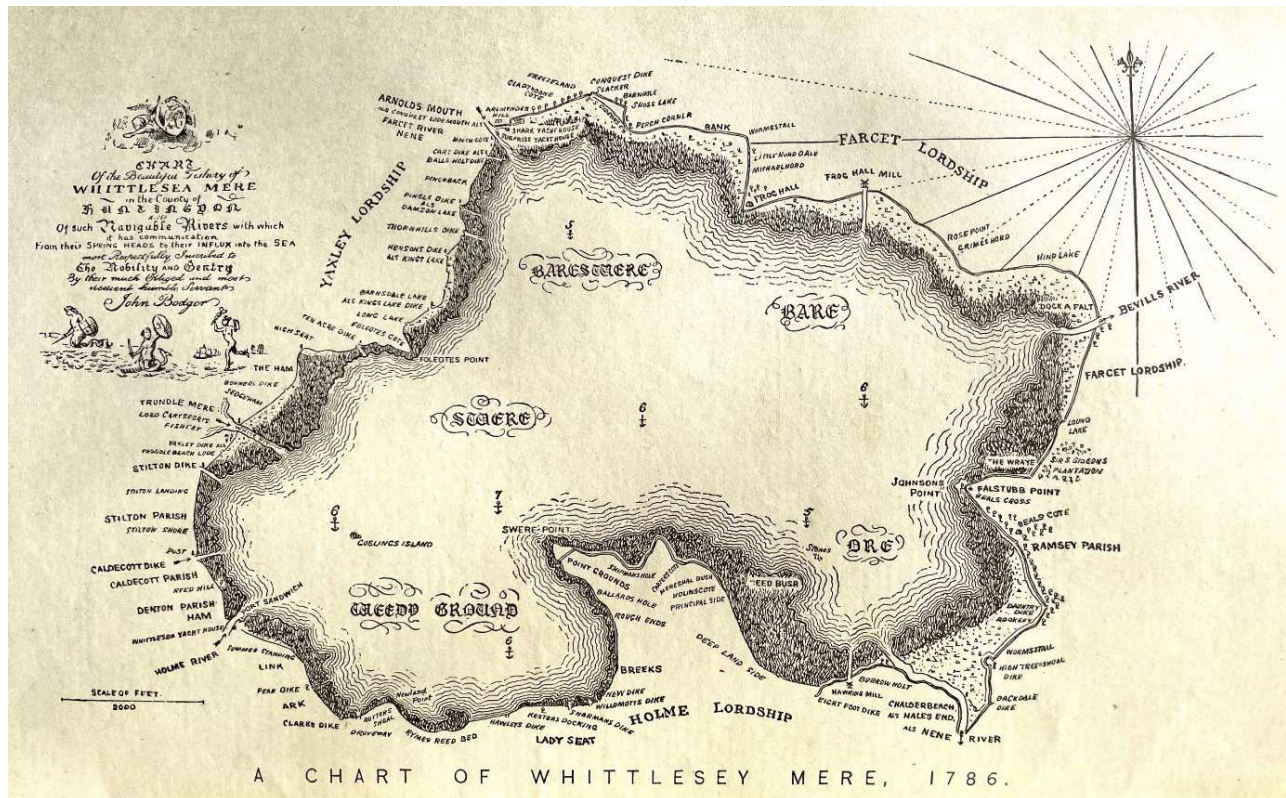
4.   Bolger's 1786 Map of Whittlesey Mere. From Wikimedia, Public Domain

gave it to the Church of Ely for ever'. However Dringftune is associated with *Drinkstone* in Suffolk. So the sought after convincing place-name match for the Dingesmere form of the place-name form wasn't found.

The poem's names of Dingesmere, Dyngesmere, Dynigesmere can be seen as a descriptive, compound place-name for Whittlesey Mere, (A possible explanation for the Dinnesmere form being given above).

Kirby[27], suggested that Dinges means noise. 'Dynge' is discussed by Cavill, Harding and Jesch[28], as perhaps meaning storm. This seems reasonable for a heroic description of Olaf's voyage. Allowing imagination to play a part in this research, this could have been Olaf's experience;

> *Olaf, the once proud King, now a fugitive faced a desperate choice between the pursuing Anglo-Saxons, and the road North or a dangerous route to Dublin. Olaf chooses to take his ship onto the rushing flood waters of the river Nene. He'd know that if the ship were grounded he'd be killed. In darkness Olaf's ship would enter Whittelsey Mere, notorious for sudden storms. A Mere in places only two feet deep, but worse, expanded over the treacherous indistinguishable shallow flooded fens. Olaf, in the dark stormy night would have to find the deep water channel. In the distance, on the hill tops, perhaps adding to his fears, he'd see the Anglo-Saxon's beacon fires. He'd know then, if he didn't already, that his escape route wouldn't stay open for long.*

It is suggested that this is the story the poet wanted to convey. So, the specific mention of seeking deep water and a stormy mere would be enough, especially in the context of places known at that time. Whittlesey mere would have been known, it was by area the second largest lake in England at that time, covering 1870 acres in Summer, extending to 3000 acres when flooded[29].
Here, with its original spelling retained, is a passage from Celia Fiennes[30] tour of 1697;

> *'From Huntingdon we came to Shilton 10 mile, and Came in Sight of a great water on the Right hand about a mile off wch Looked Like Some Sea it being so high and of great Length: this is in part of the ffenny Country and is Called Whitlsome Mer, is 3 mile broad and six long. In ye Midst is a little jsland where a great Store of Wildfowle breeds, there is no coming near it; in a Mile or two the ground is all wett and Marshy but there are severall little Channells runs into it wch by boats people go up to this place. When you enter the mouth of ye Mer it lookes fformidable and its often very dangerous by reason of sudden winds that will rise Like Hurricanes in the Mer, but at other tymes people boate it round the Mer with pleasure. '*

This description shows that due to its proximity to Ermine Street, again, it would have been widely known. That a description of essentially 'Stormy Mere' would be not only appropriate, but could also serve as a place-name. The time of the battle of Brunanburh isn't known for certain, but it is generally considered to be October[31], a time when

storms can be expected. Despite this seemingly inhospitable description, Darby[32] explains that these waterways were used for trade, transporting stone and corn for instance, giving the route from Peterborough to Wisbech via the Nene. The old course of the Nene was through Whittlesey Mere, this is evidence of their navigability, quite probably well known to Norse.

The Great Fen Website[33] gives dimensions for Whittlsey Mere; 'The Mere was at one point six miles across, the largest lake in lowland England. But it was very shallow, only from two to seven feet deep.'

If Olaf was using a Viking Longship, a reasonable assumption, then these shallows would need to be avoided, the depth required by a Viking longboat is around three feet[34]. This is in line with an interpretation of the poem saying Olaf sought deep water. Deep water, could of course simply mean the sea.

It is possible that Dinges is a scribal error, it looks like a compromise between 'Dynge' and 'Dinnes', could two sources have been available to the Dingesmere scribe? Not having any expertise in this area, it is left as a comment. Dingesmere, as 'noisy-mere' could be an alternate descriptive name for Whittlesey Mere (This argument seems less convincing). It could be the noise of the storms that arose, said to be like hurricanes. It could have been the thunderous noise of flocks of birds, it might seem odd, but frogs croaking (all loud sounds of the mere, see; A History of the Fens[35]). Another sound heard for miles around in the winter was the cracking of ice[36]. In truth, any inventive advocate of any area could fulfil this noise requirement, all that can be said is that Whittlesey Mere might have been regarded as a noisy mere. Yet, was this noise exceptional? Was it remarkable enough to become a place-name? It's hard to see how to know.

Is there any archaeological evidence? Not really, but that isn't surprising as a rushed exit on a boat over a thousand years ago wouldn't leave any trace. However there is was a gold ring of Viking design, found in the river Nene in 1855[37]. It has been dated to between AD700 and AD 900, this could be explained by the Great Heathen Army attacking Peterborough in AD 870[38]. There was a Viking axe and spearhead found near Whittlsey, but these were possibly of a later date, Howe[39] suggests a late tenth century date for design for the axe.

What might this imply for Brunanburh itself?

As for the location of Brunanburh, this paper suggests looking South, down Ermine Street from Water Newton, a distance that could be covered on foot or on horseback in a day. Google maps gives 33 miles to Bourn, Cambridgeshire. Bourn being early attested as 'Brun', 'Brunna' and 'Brune' it would seem a contender. Bromswold has been suggested as a Brunanburh location[40], this exit rout would fit this location too.

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Modern Place Names in Eastern England: some thoughts

Tony Kirby

The study of place names is usually seen as the preserve of medievalists and historians of the Early Modern period, tracing how they evolved from the earliest written records to a recognizably modern form, but generally ignored by those working on post-1750 Britain, even though traditional names continued to evolve in this period, not least because of the attempts of the Ordnance Survey and the Post Office to achieve standardised spellings: so Whittlesea has become Whittlesey (perhaps less entomologically correct?), Wisbeach 'Wisbech' and Fulbourne has dropped its final 'e'. [1] There are, of course, exceptions, particularly in the well-trodden study of street names: in Cambridge in particular these reflect, at least until the 1950s, very largely the ownership of the land on which new roads were being laid out (hence, for example, the profusion of obscure benefactors and Fellows of Gonville & Caius College in the Glisson Road area).[2] Since then they often appear to have been chosen almost at random by the City Council deciding a theme, for example in the 1980s eastward expansion of Cherry Hinton, with its eclectic assortment of the names of various types of antelope.

But modern place names provide a rich and scarcely-explored field for local historians: this short article – which makes no pretence at being either definitive or scholarly– may suggest opportunities for further work. It is based largely on the study of Ordnance Survey maps of Eastern England, especially the Seventh Series One Inch sheets, to identify new names, and a handful of secondary sources. It confines itself to 'settlements' rather than isolated buildings, the criterion for inclusion being that they are named on the map. Grid references are given for some of the more obscure ones. Consequently it excludes the names of farms, potentially a rich field of study in areas like Cambridgeshire where many new farmsteads appeared after Parliamentary Enclosure from the late 18c onwards and often reflect contemporary events: ('Waterloo' farms are not uncommon). War, in this case the Crimean (1853-56) also seems to have led to the naming of at least one farm on recently reclaimed land in Terrington Marsh (Norfolk), **Balaclava Farm** (TF555234) and – more speculatively – perhaps also **Kamarad Farm**, two miles away (TF511242), although as this is a German rather than Russian word it seems at first glance unlikely. Another interesting example is one of the several new farms established post-drainage on the former Whittlesey Mere: **Iron House Farm** (TL 235910): what was the 'iron house'? It was presumably connected in some way with the drainage operations, but all the well-known engravings of the drainage works seem to show brick buildings housing the Appold pumps.

A further possible field for study is the names given to 'natural' features in the landscape that have appeared in recent centuries. There are many 'Adventurers' Fens', but who were all the others named after? An obvious example is **Wingland**, immediately east of the former Cross Keys Wash, which commemorates Tycho Wing (1794 -1851), land agent to the Duke of Bedford, who was the moving spirit in the reclamation of the area in the 1830s. Wooded areas also offer possibilities: **Telegraph Clump**, a patch of rather scrubby woodland on the NW edge of the Wandlebury estate (TL 495538) commemorates the site of a signal station on the London – Yarmouth semaphore telegraph route established in the Napoleonic Wars, and signalling to Royston Heath to the SW and Newmarket Heath to the NE. Mystery surrounds **Telegraph Hill**, just south of Weybourne on the North Norfolk coast (TG 104425); this is well off any on the know Admiralty semaphore lines and was presumably for signalling to ships out at sea, but whether for civilian or military purposes is unknown, and Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Record doesn't mention it. Another form of signalling is commemorated in **Distant Signal Belt**, a strip of woodland running north from the Cambridge to Newmarket railway line at TL 570567, obviously name after Six Mile Bottom's down distant signal which stood here until 1981.

Settlements with the prefix 'New'

These have a long history, dating back to the *bastides* (planned new towns) of the early Middle Ages and can be found all over the country, although there are relatively few in East Anglia. New Buckenham, Norfolk, is perhaps the best local example, founded by William d'Albini at the gates of his new castle in 1146 and preserving its original town plan more or less intact.

18c emparking led to a proliferation of 'New' villages when the original settlements were resited, the earliest local example probably being **New Houghton**, laid out at the gates of Houghton Hall by Sir Robert Walpole from 1729 onwards.[3] Much less obvious – blink and you could miss it driving by – is **New Holkham** (TL 887398). This is not, as one might perhaps assume, the village on the A149 which stands at today's main entrance to the park (although this was largely rebuilt by the Cokes in 1817-21) but a couple of miles to the south on an unclassified road leading from Wighton to Burnham Thorpe and was a semi-circular group of cottages at the southern end of the Triumphal Avenue, built 1793-95 and situated at what was then the main gateway to the estate: the opening of the railway to Wells in 1857, by which most visitor would now arrive, led to a complete reorientation with the entrance now from the north. That New Holkham can so easily overlooked today is due to the fact that it was demolished in 1913 and replaced by a group of semi-detached cottages (with the same layout), virtually indistinguishable from local authority housing of the inter-war period.

Cambridgeshire has no real equivalents to these; of its few estate villages, **Chippenham** was rebuilt and extended by Lord Orford between 1702 and 1712, but at least partially on its old site and not re-named, [4] nor was **Thorney**, which underwent similar treatment at the hand of the Duke of Bedford in 1840s and 1850s. But the county does have **New Wimpole,** built by Sir Charles Philip Yorke in the 1850s to replace (very belatedly) the old village that had gradually been destroyed with successive emparking schemes since the 17c, of 12 cottages grouped in six pairs and in a vaguely Tudor-ish style. [5]

Urban growth in the 19c led to a proliferation of such names, the simplest version being **New Town** for early suburban areas, notably in Cambridge (the area south of Lensfield Road, developed from 1815 onwards). [6] Huntingdon also has its **Newtown**, which dates from c.1860 and has a very impressive terraced frontage (St Mary's Terrace) to Hartford Road (*Figure 1).*
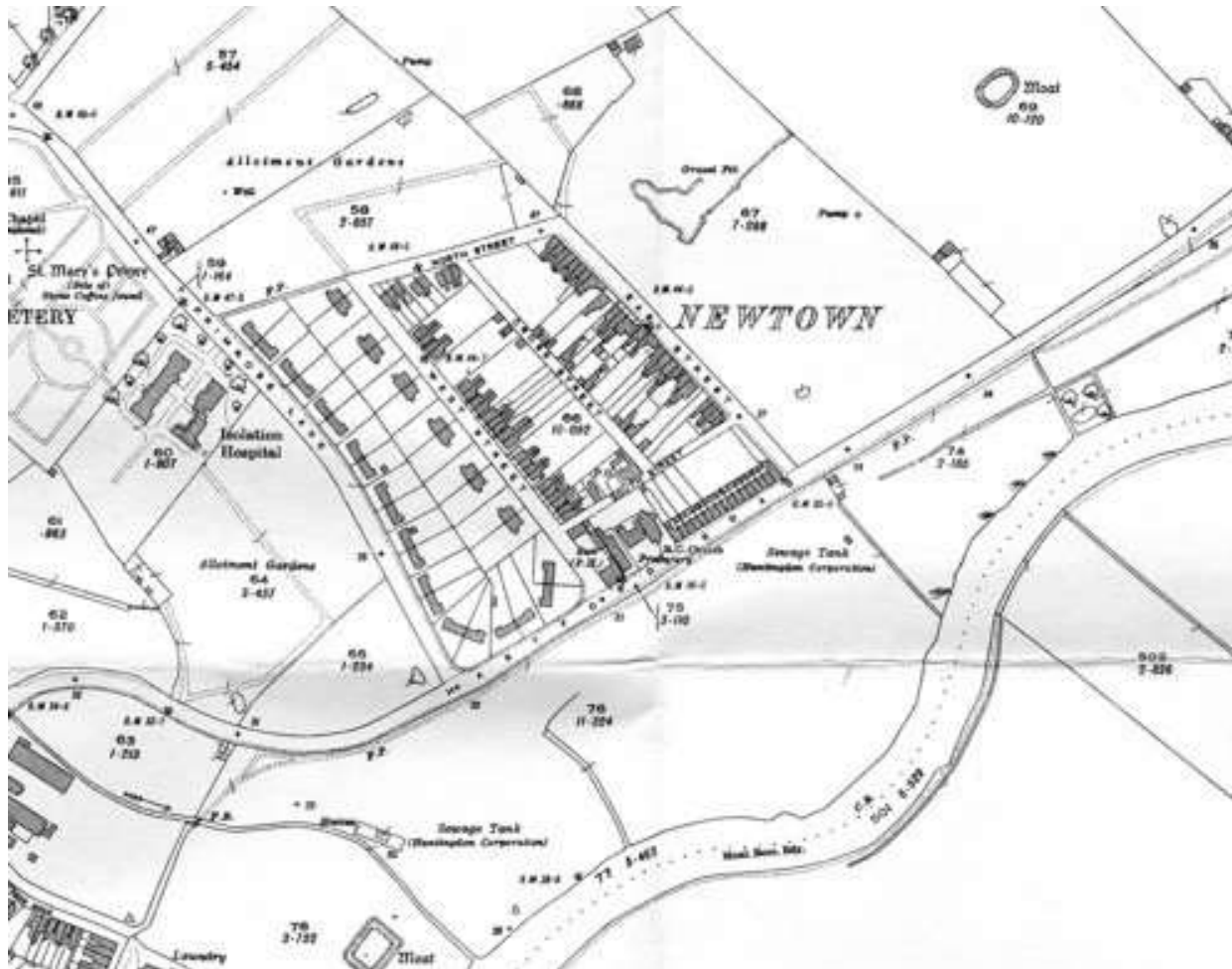

Figure 1: Newtown, Huntingdon, as shown on 1924 OS 25" map and still well outside the town. The houses on the west side of West Street and the east side of Primrose Lane are a 1920s council development. (Alan Godfrey Maps/NLS)

More common, and developing when towns started to spill over their boundaries into adjacent parishes, are 'New XX' suburbs, taking the name of the parish in which they lay. One of the earliest is **New Walsoken** (Wisbech), which was developed on the Norfolk side of the Wisbech Canal in the 1820s and thus in Walsoken; by 1837 there were 200 houses here, 'mostly dwellings of an inferior description' [7] and it continued to grow into the 20c, its parent village (now virtually indistinguishable from its younger sibling) becoming 'Old Walsoken' at some point.

In Cambridge, **New Chesterton** *(Figure 2)* was developed on the north bank of the Cam near what is now Mitcham's Corner following the 1838 Enclosure of the parish and the building of the new Victoria Road. Plots in this area were sold off cheaply to small developers from 1850 onwards, initially for working-class housing (e,g in Albert Street) and later for more substantial middle-class dwellings (e.g Carlyle Road), the area's popularity in late Victorian times being due to lower rents (and rates) than in Cambridge itself. It remained physically separate from Chesterton village until the very end of the century, when the De Freville estate, of much bigger detached and semi-detached houses was developed from 1892 onwards, encouraged by the building of the new Victoria Avenue and Bridge (1889) which made access to the town much easier. [8] The name is rarely used nowadays ('West Chesterton' is usual), but it had a longer currency than **New Cherryhinton,** middle-class terraced housing developed in the angle between Cherry

Hinton and Hills Roads in the late 19c at the western extremity of the parish of St Andrew Cherry Hinton. The name appears on maps until the 1920s, after which it quietly disappeared.

Figure 2: New Chesterton, from the 1901 25" OS map. The earliest houses are those in Ferry Path (leading down to Caius Boat House), c.1850. The contrast between earlier development and the De Freville Estate to the east is very obvious. (Alan Godfrey Maps/NLS)

In NW Norfolk, **New Hunstanton** was the creation of Henry L'Estrange of Hunstanton Hall (in what is now 'Old' Hunstanton). It was one of earliest new seaside resorts to be created o na 'green field' site (the only other early one I know is the Burtons' planned development at St Leonards in the 1830s, although readers will doubtless be able to come up with others), with building starting in 1843. It grew very slowly, due to its remoteness from any major centre of population, but this was to change with the opening of the railway (promoted and largely financed by Henry's son Harmon) in 1862, following which it rapidly grew in popularity aided by judicious publicity playing on its proximity to Sandringham, which was purchased at exactly this time by the Prince of Wales: the main hotel (railway-owned) was 'The Sandringham'. The plan of the resort, which survives largely intact today, was laid out by the architect George Butterfield (a friend of the family), with tall gabled houses of the local Carstone in Tudor style. [9]

Settlements named after individuals

Personal names, of course, form a major component of 'traditional' place names. In the modern period, they are most common – for obvious reasons – in the new industrial areas that developed from the late 18c onwards, as industrialists unsurprisingly often named new communities after themselves. Saltaire (West Yorkshire) is probably the best-known, built between 1851 and 1871 by Sir Titus Salt for the workers in his alpaca mill to provide healthier conditions than in Bradford (and also exercise to a considerable degree of social control) and where each street is named after a member of his family (plus Albert and Victoria). Although our region had its share of large employers – the Courtaulds at Braintree and Halstead, the Gurteens at Haverhill and the Colmans at Norwich – who built housing for their workers, this was simply added to existing towns. In Haverhill, Eden and Duddery Roads, plus Waveney Place, are worth examining as well-preserved examples with housing carefully-graded according to the tenant's position in the firm.

However, **Suffield Park** (Cromer) *(Figure 3)* probably qualifies for inclusion: this was the creation (from 1887) of Charles Harbold, 5th Baron Suffield (1830-1914) who lived at Gunton Park, a few miles to the south, and owned

nearly all the land east of the Norwich Road out of the embryo resort. It was some distance from Cromer itself, and well above the town (about 200 feet above sea level). Lying east of the aptly-named Cromer High station, it would appear to have been aimed at railway workers and their families, together with tradesmen and others involved in servicing the holiday industry and contrasts strongly with the much larger properties elsewhere on the Suffield estate.

So far as I have been able to discover, the only two places in our region named after industrialists (or firms) are both in the Bedford area. The first is **Shortstown**, developed by the aircraft manufacturers Short Brothers in the First World War; much expanded in recent years, its earlier parts are in the 'Garden City' style adopted by Raymond Unwin at similar wartime developments such as Gretna and Well Hall.[10] A short distance away is **Stewartby**, built between 1926 and 1939 by the London Brick Company and named after the firm's chairman, Halley Stewart, and – inevitably – entirely in brick.[11] Both communities were dominated physically by their workplaces, Shortstown by the giant airship hangars, which still survive as film studios, Stewartby by the chimneys of the brickworks that stretched along the full length of Marston Vale but have been demolished with the demise of the industry *(Figure 4)*. Stewartby used the Fletton process, which took its name from the village of Fletton, south of Peterborough, where it was first used in the 1880s and which gave rise to yet another 'New' name, **New Fletton.**
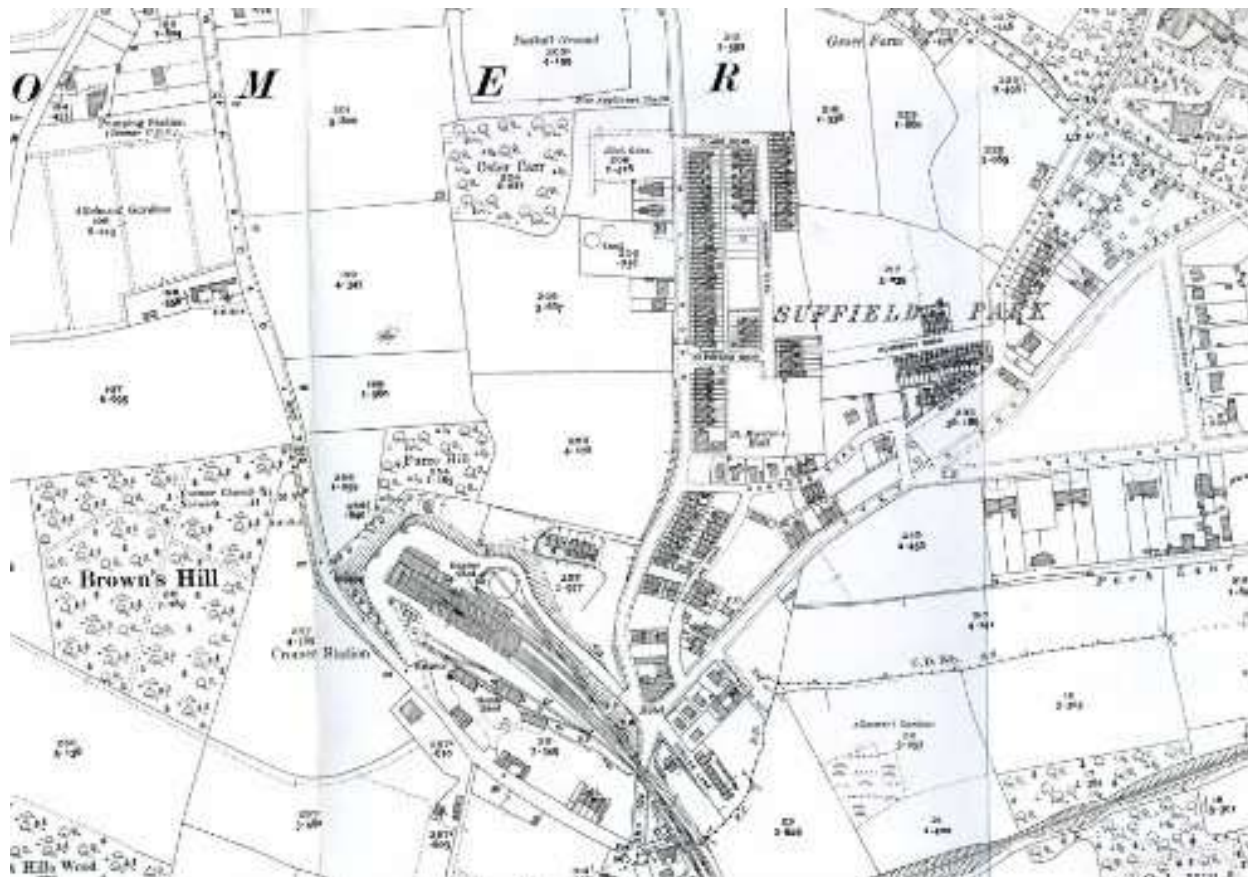
Figure 3: Suffield Park, Cromer, from the 1924 OS 25" map. The relative isolation of the development from Cromer itself is clear, as is its convenience for Cromer High Station. The larger houses in the Park Road area and to the NE (Overstrand Road) are more representative of Cromer's high class status. (Alan Godfrey Maps/NLS)

Much smaller than any of these, mention must be made of **Queen Adelaide**, just north of Ely. This takes its name from a public house established in the 1830s, (Queen Adelaide was the wife of King William IV, who reigned 1830-37) possibly originally as a beer house for navvies working on 'Sandell's (or Sandys) Cut', the new channel of the Ouse built from here to Littleport to cut off the loop that the river originally made to the east around Padnal Fen. It became a hamlet from the 1840s with the coming of the railways (it is adjacent to Ely North Junction, where sidings were laid out in the 1850s to sort goods traffic heading to and from Norwich, and thus there was local employment), and acquired in 1883 one of the many Fenland mission churches built by the Diocese of Ely in this period (now converted to residential use). The railway remains the dominant feature, with three level crossings on the B1302 to infuriate motorists heading for the delights of Prickwillow.

Figure 4: Stewartby, 1977, with the curiously New England-style village hall on the left and dominated by the LBC's chimneys. (Author)

Settlements named by transport undertakings

As with the above, Eastern England offers only mediocre pickings here, and certainly nothing to compete with the canal towns of Ellesmere Port and Stourport; **Outwell Basin,** on the Wisbech Canal (1797) might just qualify, as a distinct location identified by the OS about a mile north of Outwell village proper.

On the roads, **Six Mile Bottom** (on the old A11) is, however, a possible candidate: six miles from Newmarket (hence its name) it grew up with the coaching trade in the late 18c and is not named on any maps before then. The local inn had extensive stabling, presumably for visitors to the races, although it is said that the mail coaches – running to a very tight schedule – changed horses here as well as at Great Chesterford and Newmarket.

On the boundary between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk is the hamlet of **Suspension Bridge** (TL 535927) *(Figure 5)*, named after the bridge over the New Bedford River built by the Revd William Gale Townley, Rector of Outwell, in 1826 to replace a ferry. The area is marked on the First Edition of the OS One Inch map (1824) as **Washington**, which in itself raises an interesting question (a local landowner supportive of American independence?) and it is not clear when in the 19c the name was changed for what became a reasonably substantial hamlet of about 20 houses, with three pubs. It is certainly so labelled on the 1891 edition of the map. The bridge itself was rebuilt by Norfolk CC in 1926 in reinforced concrete, and again in 1996.[12]

A rather similar story lies behind **Sutton Bridge** *(Figure 6)* on the Lincs/Norfolk border, which was developed on the land reclaimed from Cross Keys Wash, the former marshy area of the Nene outfall between 1826 and 1830. There had formerly been only a pub, known as the 'Wash House' in the parish of Long Sutton on the Lincs bank of the river, where travellers could fortify themselves before hazarding the dangerous crossing of the marshes; a new embanked road now crossed the area and the canalised Nene crossed by a bridge, initially named 'Cross Keys Bridge'. The Governors of Guy's Hospital, the local landowners, quickly realised the trading possibilities of the situation and a wharf, granary, warehouses and offices were built in the 1830s under the direction of William Skelton, their local Steward and the name 'Sutton Bridge' adopted by 1840.[13]

Railways contributed a handful of new placenames to the region, mainly because of the habit of the Eastern Counties Railway (Great Eastern Railway from 1862) of naming stations in the middle of nowhere 'XX Road', luring the unwary into assuming that the village in question was not too far away. The best (or worst) example was probably Mildenhall Road, on the Ely – Norwich line (1845): Mildenhall was, in fact, seven miles away over a bleak tract of fenland via an unsurfaced road. The opening of the line from Cambridge to Mildenhall via Fordham in 1885 led to

Figure 5: Suspension Bridge, as depicted on the OS One Inch map of 1897
(National Library of Scotland, Creative Commons Attribution CC-BY)

the station being renamed 'Burnt Fen' that year, and then again to become **Shippea Hill** in 1905, although there is no village of that name, simply a farm two miles distant.[14] At two other stations on the same line, however – **Harling Road** and **Eccles Road** – quite sizeable hamlets developed at the stations and are named as such by the OS. Much smaller, and deleted from modern maps, was **Roudham Junction (**TL 921876) where the branch north to Swaffham (opened 1869) forked off and named after Roudham Heath, which surrounded it. Purely an interchange station, with no road access, it was simply a few railwaymen's cottages. Two other stations that gave their name to small settlements that grew around them are **Twenty** (TF 155206) and **Wryde** (TF 315049), both on the Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway and both named after nearby drains and farms.[15]

By far the most important of the settlements created by the railways was **New England**, the yards laid out by the Great Northern Railway a couple of miles north of Peterborough in 1853 primarily to sort privately-owned coal wagons going south to London and the empties returning north according to the appropriate colliery or coal merchant. Housing ('The Barracks') was built for railway workers to the east of the yards. There is seemingly no record of this name before the arrival of the GNR,[16] but it was in official use as early as 1853, possibly having been originally bestowed by the first generation of railway workers in view of its remote location.

Names bestowed by developers and local authorities

These take three major forms, the first being the names given to local authority housing developments of the 1950s and 1960s. Cambridge has two good examples, the first being **Arbury**, named after 'Arbury Camp', shown on OS maps since the 19c and assumed to be a Roman fortification, but now thought to have been a civilian settlement concentrating on cattle-rearing and nearby **King's Hedges,** named after what is said to have been a royal hunting preserve or rabbit warren.[17]
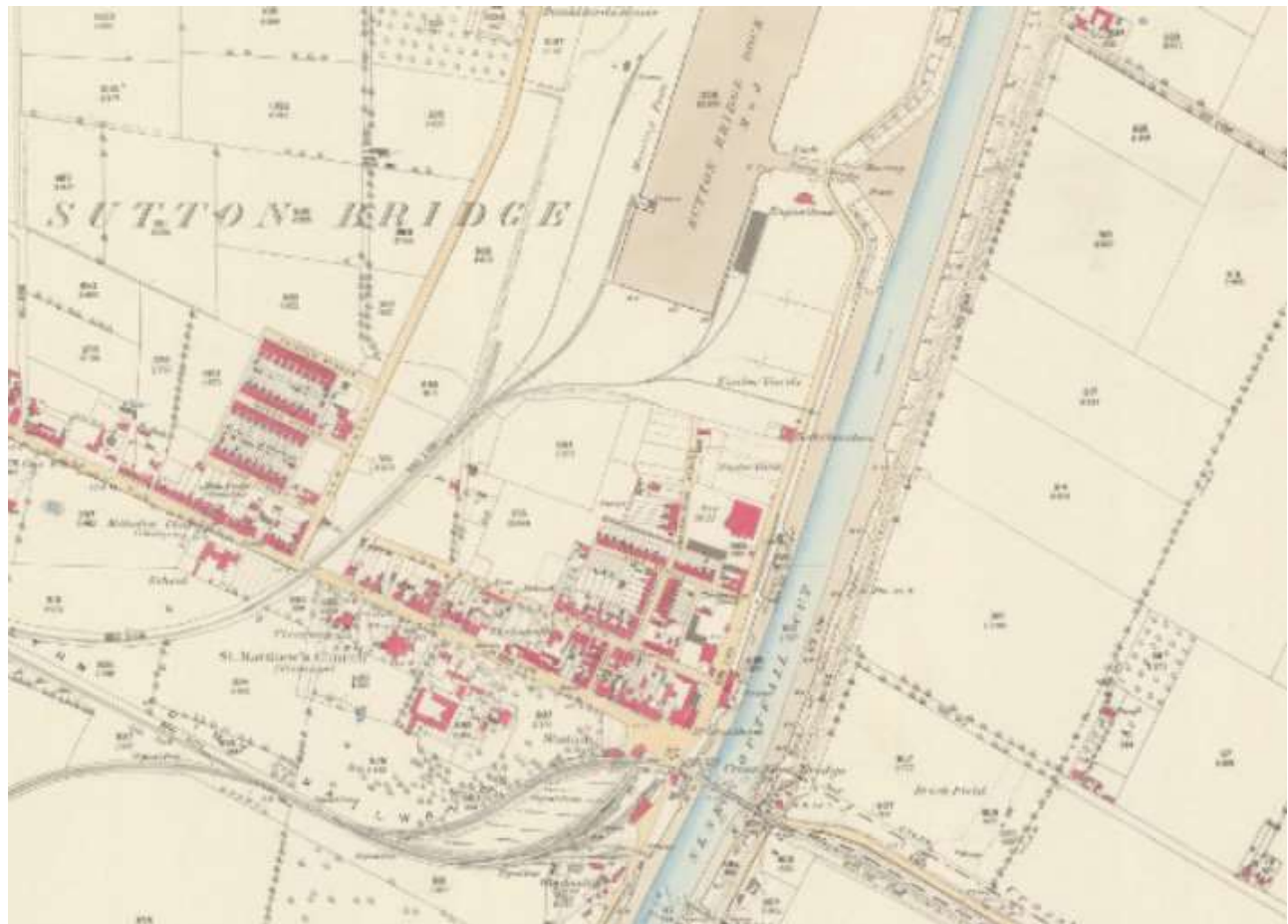
Figure 6: Sutton Bridge (OS 25" map, 1885).

The new road of 1830 runs from SE to centre W; the original village created soon afterwards lies immediately west of the swing bridge, which by this date was carrying both road and rail traffic (road only today; the railway closed in 1959). To the north is Sutton Bridge Dock, authorised in 1875 and opened in 1881 to cater for ships too large to reach Wisbech, only to be closed within three weeks when the entrance lock collapsed.(National Library of Scotland, Creative Commons Attribution CC-BY)

And Huntingdon has its **Oxmoor** estate. There appears never to have been an 'Oxmoor' as such, but 19c/early 20c OS maps mark Oxmire Lane, trackway leading to fields north of the town, and the name was adopted in revised form for the LCC overspill development (only too familiar to anyone travelling by bus between St Ives and Huntingdon) of the 1960s.[18] It seems that it might have been called the 'American Lane' estate, after another farm track leading in the same general direction, but this theme was not in the event adopted in subsequent street names, although 'California Road' suggests what might have been: in the event, admirals, generals and rivers (and even perhaps County Archivists in the form of 'Saunders Close') were adopted.

It was also local authorities who preserved/resurrected some historic 'Hundred' names after local government re-organisation in 1974. Sadly Cambridgeshire did not do this (although at least **Northstowe**, being developed on the former RAF Oakington site, has revived one), but Essex gained **Uttlesford** and Suffolk **Babergh. Forest Heath** in West Suffolk was however a new invention, its derivation being obvious from the landscapes it incorporates.

Private developers are very fond of bestowing what might be described as 'imaginative' names on their new estates, few of which survive the properties being successfully sold. For example, Wimpeys called their Kelsey Crescent estate (1971 onwards) in Cherry Hinton 'Cherry Orchard', in spite of there never having been an orchard anywhere near and in 2005 a development in Stapleford was marketed as 'Waterside': not even a stream near, only a sewage pumping station. Rather more respectable (although it sounds as if it ought be in Leicestershire) is **Great Kneighton**, south of Trumpington, although it seems that the name (which dates back to the 13c) should be more properly applied to the area on the other side of the railway where Addenbrooke's Hospital and Biomedical Campus now stand. The derivation of **Bar Hill,** the earliest Cambridge 'satellite' village (1960s onwards) is unclear, but its 01954 telephone dialling code - **Crafts Hill -** derives from a field that now lies under the Tesco store.

Also in Cambridgeshire one must include **Cambourne** (1998 onwards), another obviously invented name, and **Eddington**, Cambridge University's development off Madingley Road named after Sir Arthur Eddington (1882 - 1944), the Cambridge astronomer who proved Einstein right. A further development, on the eastern side of

Cambridge and still being built is **Marleigh** (which was originally to be called 'Wing') named after the first syllable of Marshalls (the landowners), with 'leigh' reflecting the meadow land on which it is being developed.[19]

Miscellanea

Quite a number of East Anglian holiday resorts added **'on-Sea'** to their names in the later 19c, presumably for publicity purposes (Gorleston and Caister, for example0; in the case of Wells this was the more accurate **by-the-Sea,** becoming **next-the-Sea** by 1923.[20] **Clacton-on-Sea** was one of the few completely new resorts in the region and so named from the start, to distinguish it from the village of Great Clacton some distance inland. It was the work of the Ipswich engineer and land developer Peter Bruff (1812-1900) who purchased the land for the new resort in 1864 and started to develop it after 1870.[21] Nearby **Jaywick Sands –** a classic example of inter-war 'Plotlands' development was also a new name, derived from an existing farm, 'Jewick' on Chapman and Andre's 1777 map of Essex, Jaywick by the 1832 OS One Inch First Edition: this map shows the 'sands' as 'Great Clacton Marsh', perhaps a more accurate description. **Thorpeness** *(Figure 7)* the creation of Alexander Stuart Ogilvie between 1910 and 1930 as a fantasy retreat for the upper middle-classes, took its name from a nearby (insignificant) headland, Thorpe Ness.

Two artistic/literary references: **Constable Country** (i.e Dedham Vale) was certainly so called by the late 19c, from the evidence of contemporary guidebooks. In North Norfolk, **Poppyland** was the invention of one man, Clement Scott, drama critic of *The Daily Telegraph,* the most widely-read middle-class newspaper in late Victorian England, in a series of articles he wrote in 1883 extolling the beauty and peace of the Cromer/Overstrand/Sidestrand stretch of the coast. It was enthusiastically taken up by railway companies, postcard and guidebook publishers and manufacturers of souvenirs, ironically helping to destroy, at least partially, the very beauty and seclusion he had written about, Cromer becoming one of the most fashionable English seaside resorts by 1900 (although Overstrand and Sidestrand failed to develop to the same extent) *(Figure 8).*

Figure 7: Thorpeness landmark: the 'House in the Clouds' (a disguised water tower) (Author)

Finally, and staying on the coast, there is **California**, at the northern end of Great Yarmouth, which owes its name to the accidental discovery of 16c gold coins on the beach after a storm in 1849 (at the time of California gold rush).[22] Today it is home to probably the largest concentration of caravan parks on the East Coast.

Conclusion

This has been a rather light-hearted trip around East Anglia: I would be very pleased to receive corrections. I would be even more pleased if we were able to set up some sort of co-operative research project on this topic, perhaps concentrating on one aspect (e.g farm names) and perhaps a specific and manageable area, such as South Cambridgeshire. Over to you, readers!

References

[1]   Except for the railways, where the traditional spellings of both Whittlesea and Fulbourne are still used by Network Rail.
[2]   C. Brooke, *A History of Gonville and Caius College* (Woodbridge, Boydell and Brewer, 1985), pp251ff.
[3]   B. Wilson and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Norfolk II* (London, Penguin, 1999), p435.
[4]   C. Taylor, *The Cambridgeshire Landscape* (London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1973), p.167.
[5]   *Ibid,* p166.
[6]   Originally known as 'New Zealand'; the name was changed in 1822 (P. Bryan and N. Wise, *PCAS* XCIV, 2005, p.204)
[7]   *VCH Cambridgeshire, Vol 4* (2002), p.240.
[8]   *Ibid, Vol 9* (1989), pp 5-13.
[9]   D. Dymond, *The Norfolk Landscape* (2 ed, Alastair Press, 1990), p.177, Wilson and Pevsner, *op.cit* pp 442 ff.

10   C. O'Brien and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough* (London, Yale University Press,   date?), pp. 286-7

11   *Ibid,* pp. 298-9.

12   http://www.welney.org.uk/suspension-bridge/susp-br.ht (last consulted 30 June 2023).

13   N.R. Wright, *The Industrial Archaeology and History of Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge,* (Lincs Society for Industrial Archaeology, 1970), pp14ff.

14   M. Quick, *Railway Passenger Stations in Great Britain: A Chronology* (Railway & Canal Historical Society, 3 ed, 2005), p.351.

15   N,J.L Digby, *The Stations and Structures of the Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway, Vol 2* (LIghtmoor Press, 2025) pp 511 and 583

16   I am grateful to William Franklin for this information

17   R. Gray and D. Stubbings, *Cambridge Street Names: Their origins and Associations,* (Cambridge, CUP, 2000), pp 1 and 19.

18   O' Brien and Pevsner, *op.cit,* p.531

19   With thanks for this information to County Councillor Dr Claire Daunton.

20   It was 'by' in the *Official Guide to the Great Eastern Railway* (London, Cassell, 1912) p.293. In 1923 the station was renamed ''next', but it is unclear whether this reflected a change already made by the UDC or an initiative by the newly-formed LNER to distinguish it from Wells in Somerset.

21   The most comprehensive treatment of the growth of Clacton (and of Frinton and Walton, which Bruff was also instrumental in developing) is in *VCH Essex, Vol 12* (VCH 2020/2022).

22   https://sprowstonhistory.weebly.com/california-road-california.html (last consulted 1 July 2023).

Figure 8: the classic image of Cromer, from an Edwardian poster. Oddly, although Clement Scott's poem 'The Garden of Sleep' is quoted, no poppies are shown. (Author's collection)

NUTFIELD OR NOT? A SHORT DISCUSSION
ON AN EAST SURREY PLACE-NAME

Evelyn Lord

I was brought up in Nutfield, Surrey. (No not Nutwood, that was where Rupert Bear and his chums lived.) Nutfield is a place-name so obvious it needs no explanation, and the material evidence for this name is all around us, as those of my father's fields left uncultivated for a few years have reverted to hazel scrub, now interspersed with Surrey oaks. But even the nutty fields situated in Clay Lane, another self-explanatory name, are not really in Nutfield, but have the postal address of South Nutfield, a nineteenth-century railway settlement, with one edge backed by the railway bank which cut Bower Hill tenement in existence since the 13th century in two. The clay, woodland pasture, and roads bordered by high hedges show that South Nutfield is in the Weald. Nutfield proper or 'Top Nutfield' as it is known colloquially is 2 miles up the hill on the greensand ridge, with its northern face looking towards the North Downs escarpment. This presumably the oldest part of the settlement. The original church was sited there and it was part of a route, dotted with castles leading from Guildford in the west across the border to Maidstone and onto Canterbury. Nutfield is in Domesday as 'Notfelle'. Held in 1086 by the Countess of Boulogne from the King, and clearly in existence prior to the Conquest as in the time of King Edward it was held by Wulwfi from the king. [1] Surrey has few charters or early wills, so taking the date of settlement further back is not (at present) possible. The church was there at Domesday, as was a mill, with 25 villans, 10 smallholders, and 10 slaves. A population using a multiple of 4.5 of about 200.

Felle is translated as feld, and 'not' as nut so QED Nutfield. Simple. However, 'not' could be north rather than nut, and Nutfield is actually the Northfield, and part of a much earlier estate with Thunorsfield on the Sussex border as its south marker, Smallfield part of the parish of Burstow in the middle and then Nut or Northfield. There is no evidence for this.

Granville Leveson Gower comes up with a different conclusion that Nutfelle should be Neatfelle, neat being the archaic word for ox, so Oxfield. He points out that there are other cattle names in the area Chaldon the calves' valley, Oxstead, the Oxfarm, plus Chipstead a market place, Banstead bean farm, and Merstham the mares' farm, all abutting or within easy reach of Nutfield. [2] This suggests a pre-Conquest 'multiple estate' A large Anglo-Saxon holding controlled from a central caput, a settlement including a minster church, and surrounding agricultural specialisms, part of a system where tax was by render of goods. John Blair identified four multiple estate complexes in Surrey but none in the east of the county, although the place-name evidence around Nutfield suggests one might have existed.[3] Further suggestions come from across the border in Kent, where Kenneth Witney working on Kentish place names suggested villages in Kent with the suffix 'feld' or field were connected with iron working, where the land was cleared not for agricultural purposes but industrial.[4] Industry is the key to Nutfield's landscape as it is one of the few places in England where Fullers Earth is found, and this was being exploited by pits dug across the settlement from the medieval period, Fullers Earth is a clay which can be ground down and used for cleaning or bleaching cloth, and was especially useful for removing the oils and fats from wool before spinning, as well as having other domestic and medicinal uses. There is no documentary evidence of its use in England prior to Domesday, but its use was known to the Romans, and close to Nutfield is the Roman Villa at Titsey, and more interesting there is a now missing report of a Roman building at Pendell on the border of Nutfield and Blechingley which was identified as a Roman fulling factory in 1813.[5] Beds of Fullers Earth were found on Bower Hill, and Fullers Wood links the north and south parts of the village. By the 19th century the commercial viability of the earth had been realised and by 1840 pits were dug across 'top' Nutfield and a factory for processing it at Cockley.

The main product of Fullers Earth in the medieval and early modern period was processing wool into cloth, and it is probably that Nutfield and its neighbours were involved in a fairly wide-spread operation. The place name Woolpits suggests where wool was drenched before fulling, and Woolborough where it came from. The place name Blechingley to the west of Nutfield has been interpreted as Bleachingly, the place where the cloth was spread out to bleach, and what is now Godstone was referred to as Walkinghurst at Domesday. One of the process of fulling cloth was walking it to beat it flat.[6]

None of this makes any difference to whether Nutfield is Nutfield or not. It does suggest that when we think about the Domesday landscape we are not looking solely at a rural landscape but one of nascent industry.

As far as Nutfield and its nuts are concerned. In ten years time if the woodland process continues in Clay Lane, then we could well be looking at Nutwood rather than Nutfield. Everything changes, even place names.
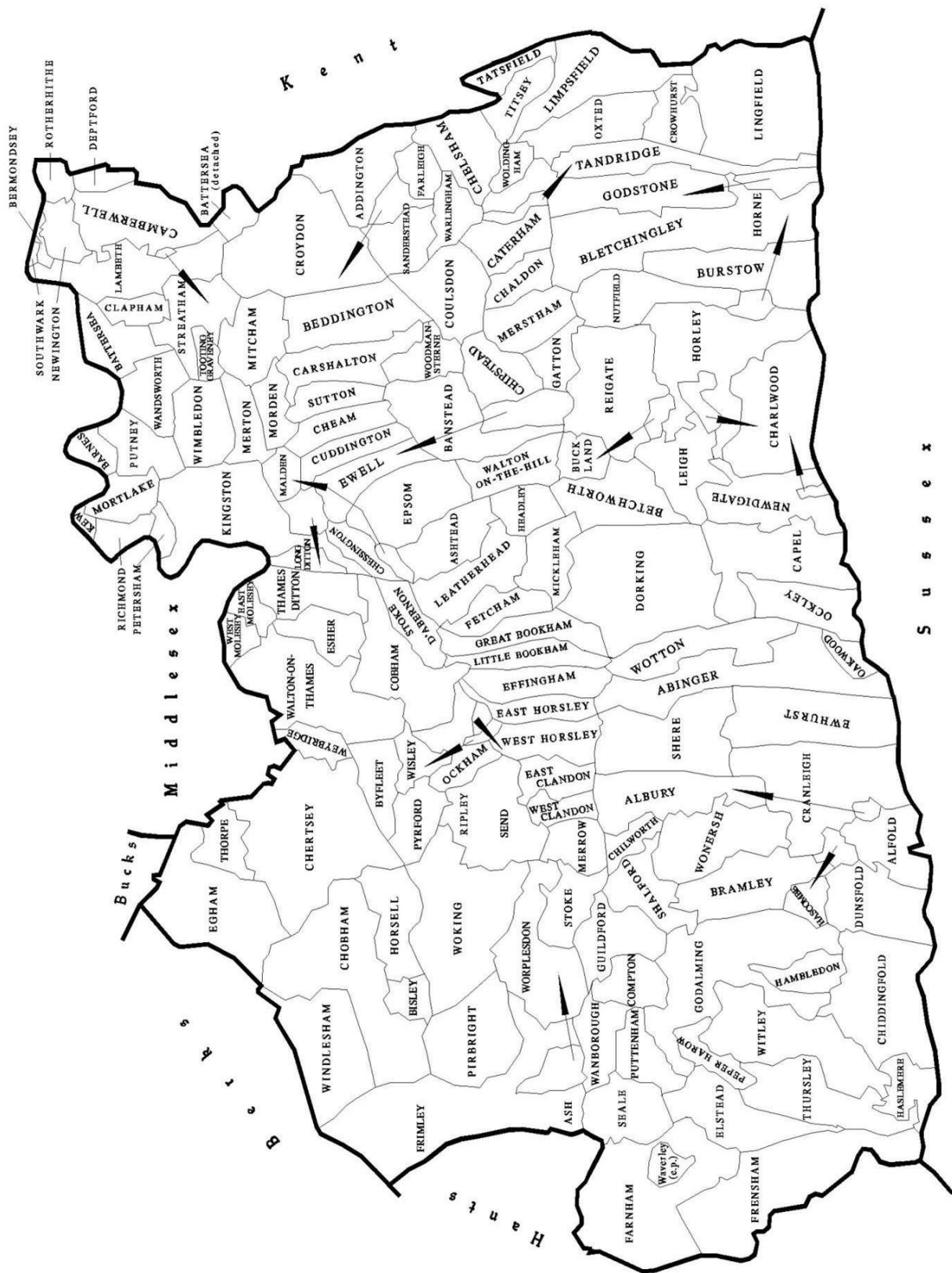
References

[1] S. Wood ed and trans. *The Domesday Survey of Surrey* ,Chichester:Phillimore, 1975 p. 34b

[2] R. Deacon, *Nutfield: Our village since Domesday*, Nutfield Local History Group, 2000, p. 9

[3] J. Blair, *Early Medieval Surrey, Alan Sutton & Surrey Archaoelogical Soiety, 1991, pp. 24-29*

[4] K. Witney, *The Jutish Forest*, London, 1976 pp. 69-83

[5] This is mentioned in Deacon, *Nutfield* pp. 215,216, but no reference is supplied. It does not appear in Surrey County Council, *Antiquities of Surrey*, 4th ed., 1951 So this might be wishful thinking.

[6] U. Lambert, *Blechingley*, 1921; *Godstone* 1929

PLACE NAMES IN WESTMORLAND

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Cumberland and most of Westmorland were not incorporated into England until the end of the 11th century.[1] North Westmorland comprises part of the ancient Barony of Westmorland - the Upper Eden Valley and the area to the west and south. The Lyvennet, Lowther and Eamont rivers are tributaries of the Eden. It is bounded by the Pennines to the east. High limestone ground separates it from the Lune valley to the south. Some reference will be included to examples outside these boundaries. The main sources are Ordnance Survey maps, *The Place-names of Westmorland* by A H Smith, *An inventory of the historical monuments in Westmorland, RHCM,* and *Scandinavian Settlement in Cumbria and Dumfriesshire: the place-name evidence* by G Fellowes Jensen. [2]

Smith states that 'the Viking settlement without doubt contributed greatly to the early development of the county. That the settlement was extensive receives some support from the unusually high proportion of river names of Scandinavian origin in relation to similar Celtic and English names as it does from the large number of place names of similar origin and the widespread use of Scandinavian terms like beck or dale, compared to the use of OE terms like brook or 'denu' (valley).'[3] Smith then notes common Scandinavian terms relating to fields, hills and other features in the landscape. But, it must be acknowledged, and is noted in several sources that the name by which settlements are known today which indicate a Scandinavian presence may have been named long after the original, possibly English (Anglo Saxon) settlement had been created and 'a sharp distinction must be drawn between the age of a settlement and the age of its name.' [4] Later external influences on the nomenclature of Westmorland are negligible'. [5]

The region had long been inhabited. OS maps show ancient sites that are evident on the landscape today. The majority are on high limestone land or on nearby glacial deposits where open pasture and dry conditions prevail, but which have a water supply. They are mainly in the Crosby Garrett, Great Asby, Crosby Ravensworth and Shap area and are also present in the Lowther valley near to Bampton and Askham. Stone circles, for example near Orton, Oddendale and Wetheriggs and, lower down the Eden valley in Cumberland, is the major and easily accessible stone circle, Long Meg and her daughters near Little Salkeld.[6] Henges, for example the Mayburgh henge and 'King Arthur's Round Table' are at Eamont Bridge.[7] Numerous examples of tumuli or burial mounds are seen across North Westmorland such as those on Ash Fell, near Kirkby Stephen, Sunbiggin, Crosby Ravensworth, Reagill, Heltondale and near Shap. [8] Other sites known as 'giants' graves' or 'pillow mounds' are visible near Waitby on the opposite side of Smardale from the Crosby Garrett ancient settlement and in Mallerstang. [9] The ancient Goggleby stone and other stones and cairns, are shown on maps for example, near Shap and Clifton. [10] Pre-Roman, probably iron age settlements such as Ewe Close near Crosby Ravensworth and another nearby settlement are in the Lyvennet valley, also near Great Asby, near Clifton and the extensive remains above Smardale in Crosby Garrett parish have been identified. [11] Recent excavations at the head of Swaledale only a few miles from the boundary with Westmorland indicate pre-Roman farms and proto-villages.[12]

Roman forts as at Brough, Kirkby Thore and at Brougham near Penrith, all have evidence of an adjacent civilian settlement and are on the cross Pennine and Eden valley route now followed by the A66 across Stainmore northwards to Penrith. A second major Roman highway crossed north Westmorland from Kirkby Thore southwards to Tebay. Any evidence of Roman occupation seems only to be close to highways. There are 'no English names of heathen origin which would suggest some settlement before the early part of the seventh century' but evidence of Anglo Saxon/Old English occupation which suggest a Christian presence is indicated in the names, Kirkby, and Crosby and also by evidence of pre-conquest masonry in for example, Morland church tower and fragments of crosses or carved stones in Kirkby Stephen church.[13]

Both Cumberland and north Westmorland were omitted from the Domesday Book. [14] Consequently, lack of written evidence means that the early settlement history may be partially reconstructed only from place names and in archaeological evidence, for example, from carved stones such as the 'Loki' stone in Kirkby Stephen church, discoveries at Ormside including a seventh century bowl and a Viking burial, standing stones, a tumulus and evidence of a settlement near Clifton, the results of excavations at Brough Castle in 1971-2 by Jones and the discovery of a Roman helmet at Crosby Garrett in 2010.[15]

Pagan, probably Viking worship places are present for example, Hoff - 'heathen temple' and Hoff Lunn – 'a grove offering heathen sanctuary,' and the Viking burial at Ormside indicate early Scandinavian presence in the area. All are near Appleby. [16]

The very few surviving ancient names, perhaps of Celtic or pre-Roman origin are mainly of topographical features. For example, rivers Eden, Lyvennet and to the south, the Lune. The Belah and Lowther rivers have a Scandinavian origin. The Eden valley closest to its source at Hell Gill is named Mallerstang which may be derived from the Celtic

- 'bare hill' but 'stang' is Norse. There may be Welsh/Celtic elements within names, for example, Meldon (in Dufton parish) and also in field names for example, near Milburn, at Moor Divock in the Askham/Helton area and in field names around Lowther. [17] But, in general, 'evidence of British and Welsh elements in Westmorland names is slight.[18] And in the whole county of Westmorland, there are only 'a very small number' of old English settlement names although 'names of topographical origin are to be found. [19] However, this does not necessarily exclude there having been settlements which have disappeared or may have been renamed.

Old English elements can be found in many place names but frequently these may also have a Scandinavian equivalent. Some examples include 'burn' as in Cliburn, Milburn or Meaburn, 'ka' is a jackdaw as in Kaber, 'cop' is a hill as in Warcop, Eamont is a confluence of two rivers, 'hadder' is heather as in Hadderdale while 'dale' can be either OE or ON. Stennerskeugh is OE for stones. Elements from Old English within settlement names in north Westmorland 'are [found] on the north east or sunny side of the Eden valley' and may have resulted from movement from the east across Stainmore – a route also followed by the Scandinavians . The high fell areas on Stainmore 'are devoid of any such settlements' which, Smith suggests, may have allowed an older British population in 'areas like Asby, Crosby Ravensworth and Shap [to] have continued a separate rural life for a considerable period after the English occupation.' [20]

Fellowes Jensen states 'the distribution of parish names of Scandinavian origin reveals that Viking settlement in Cumbria was particularly dense in … the Eden valley. [21] But she also states that although no settlement contains an element directly linking it to Danish foundation, the fact that Danes settled in Dumfriesshire means that they must have passed through Cumbria therefore at least some of the Eden valley Scandinavian place names may be assumed to have Danish connections. Similarly, while 'there is no lexical evidence to contradict the assumption that the Scandinavian settlers in the northwest were mainly of Norwegian origin', there is evidence for 'influence from the Danelaw'.[22] For example, some settled in the Eden Valley having crossed the Pennines from Yorkshire and the Danelaw. In contrast, place names in the Lake District and western parts of Cumberland have more direct Norse/Irish origins especially in valley locations. [23] Comparatively few names in north Westmorland have definite Old Norse roots but as indicated later, 'foss' or 'keld' are examples.

From the many examples that could be cited, the following selection illustrates evidence or origin as seen within place names.

The series of villages in North Westmorland on high ground adjacent to the Pennines have as their second element 'ton' which is often indicative of Old English origin. But Fellowes Jensen believes that here, Scandinavians occupied what had been founded as Anglian settlements for example, Burton (now deserted and within the Warcop military area), Dufton, Hilton, Murton, and Long Marton and which she regards as Scandinavian settlements. These may be contrasted with the valley 'ton' villages of Bolton, Winton and Wharton which may have older Anglian roots.[24] It is interesting that, in Cumberland, beyond the confluence of the Eamont and Eden rivers, villages east of the river in a similar position to those with 'ton' names in the upper Eden valley all have as their second element 'by' for example, Melmerby, Glassonby, Langwathby, Gamblesby, Ousby, Maughanby, Hunsonby and Lazonby which Fellowes Jensen states 'as characterizing areas newly colonised by the Danes'.[25]

Those place names in north Westmorland with the element 'by' away from the Pennines such as Crosby Garrett, Crosby Ravensworth, Great Asby, Colby, Waitby and Nateby are in valley locations. Kirkby Stephen, Appleby, and Kirkby Thore are all parishes which Fellowes Jensen suggests may represent old English vills taken over by Danes. 'Appleby was the head of both the Barony and the county of Westmorland, and it seems hardly likely that it began life as a Danish pioneer settlement on a second-class site.[26] The name Kirkby indicates the presence of a church and Crosby, the presence of a cross. Therefore, these were probably already Christian settlements. Crosby Garrett has the added post Conquest Norman name derived from Gerard. Temple Sowerby was once owned by the Knights Templar. Sowerby indicates farmsteads on muddy ground. See also Brough Sowerby. [27] The very few 'wick' names (OE - a building or farm), mainly relate to farms for example, Butterwick although there is the village of Renwick in the Cumberland Eden valley. Wick names may be close to a Roman road and derive from the Roman *vicus*.

Only Brougham in north Westmorland contains the OE 'ham' element, which is attached to the first element, Brough – a fortified place. Brougham is the site of a Roman fort, *vicus* and later medieval castle. Two hamlets with old Norse 'thwaite' names (a clearing) in Mallerstang are Castlethwaite and Southwaite but several farms on Stainmore (stony moor) such as Thornthwaite, Borrenthwaite (which is combined with the OE for a burial place), and Littlethwaite perhaps indicate former wooded land. Only Hackthorpe (ON - Haki's hamlet), Melkinthorpe (Melkin's hamlet – perhaps derived from a Celtic personal name) and Crackenthorpe (ON) contain the Scandinavian 'thorpe' - a secondary settlement.

Gill is a frequent element in the area. For example, Aisgill, Hellgill, Outhgill, Gaisgill, Augill, Argill, Raisgill, Sleagill, Rosgill, Mousegill, Yosgill and farms such as Toddygill, Burtergill, Haybergill and Whygill Head. A 'gill' is Scandinavian for a ravine.

The 'ber' element is either OE – hill or ON - hill or mountain and often refers to topographical features or farms for example, Kaber, Brackenber, Stockber, Enterber, Lankaber or Crossber Hill

Rigg - is Scandinavian for a ridge or cultivated strip land for example, Langrigg, Broomrigg, Grayrigg, Trainriggs or The Riggs.

Keld – ON, is a spring. There are several examples. Keld near Shap, near Long Marton and near Kings Meaburn and some farms have Keld in the name. Keld Well is at Great Asby.

Foss - ON, as in Rutter Force near Appleby, Rowantree Force near Brough, Aygill Force on Stainmore, and Aira Force, on the edge of Ullswater indicates a waterfall.

Some names are self-explanatory - Sandford (sandy ford), Langford (long ford), Drybeck or Blacksyke which probably means dark coloured water after flowing over peat.

Cop is OE for a hilltop, hence Warcop. Flodders (OE) indicates a swamp and refers to the marshy ground at Brackenber near Appleby.

Gate – is Scandinavian for a road or street. Bongate (now part of Appleby) is situated on the Roman road. Coupland – Scandinavian 'bought land' may be a 'small estate …bought and sold by the Scandinavians'. See Coupland Beck near Appleby.

Names containing the ON 'holmr' element indicate an island or water meadow. For example, Flitholme, Lockholme.

Later names which include the medieval English 'biggin' (building or outhouse) are seen in the several settlements named Newbiggin and in Sunbiggin which is on the limestone ridge near Orton and was perhaps named as a building high on a south facing slope.

Other later names may refer to village expansion for example, Great Asby Town Head or Clifton Town End or may reflect enclosure such as Intake Side - Brough, Intake – in Mallerstang, Hillbeck or Crosby Garrett, Intake Hill, Musgrave or Intake Gill, Waitby.

From these few examples out of many, the number and extent of place names in north Westmorland of Scandinavian derivation is clear but the area was 'well settled by the English before the arrival of the Scandinavian settlers who probably came from the northern Danelaw [and] took over all the more important settlements in the region. While the names of Brough and the '*tuns*' survived unchanged, … the names of Appleby, Warcop and Ormside were wholly or partially Scandinavianised'. Fellowes Jensen also suggests that some '*by'* names (-ton names and others) may have replaced older names or may have been newly created settlements. They may contain elements denoting personal names that may indicate early origins or continental names probably borne by post-1092 Norman or Flemish settlers. [28]

In conclusion, this seemingly remote north Westmorland district, and Cumbria more generally, has been peopled throughout history. Neolithic ice axes from the Langdale Pikes in the central Lake District have been found in Lincolnshire and further afield. Place names seen in Ordnance Survey maps today reflect north Westmorland's history only in terms of Anglo Saxon, post Roman and, overwhelmingly in Scandinavian settlement names which overlay and perhaps replace earlier names. The few examples of older, for example, Celtic or Gaelic occupation are reflected only in topographical features.

Abbreviations

OE – Old English, ON - Old Norse

References

[1]   Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of Westmorland. London (1936) pp. lii-liii. In 1974, the ancient counties of Cumberland and Westmorland together with Lancashire north of the Sands and parts of Yorkshire were combined to form the new county of Cumbria.

[2]   1.OS maps relating to Westmorland, see RCHM in note i. A.H. Smith, *The Place-names of Westmorland*, Vol. XLII, English Place-name Society, Parts I and II, Cambridge (1967). G Fellowes-Jensen, *Scandinavian settlement in Cumberland and Dumfriesshire: the place name evidence,* Scottish Society for Northern Studies (1985). See also, RI.OPAC Literature database for later publications by Fellowes Jensen. For example, *The Scandinavian background to English place names* in Perceptions of Place: 21st century interpretations of English place name studies (2013) pp. 75-102 and *Westmorland: a survey of English place names* Society of English place names, Nottingham (2023).

[3.]   Smith, I p. xliv.

[4]   Fellowes Jensen, 1985, p.77.

[5]   Smith, II, p. xlvi.

[6]   OS grid ref. 640082, 592129, 566263, 571373

[7]   OS grid ref. 519285, 519287.

[8]   OS grid ref. 738054, 761071, 665090, 605138, 592177, 488225.

9	OS grid ref. 720060, 782044.
10	OS grid ref. 551258, 585155, 597149.
11	OS grid ref. 610135, 599155, 620126, 682122, 531260, 720065.
12	TV News item.
13	RCHM p. 175 and pp. 142-3 and illustrations Plate 5.
14	RCHM pp. lii-liv.
15	RCHM, plate 5, p. 185.
16	Smith, I pp. xlv, 97, 99.
17	Smith, I p. xxxiii-iv.
18	Smith, I p. xxxiv.
19	Smith, I p. xxxviii.
20	Smith, I pp. xxxviii-xxxix.
21	Fellowes Jensen, 1985, p.65.
22	Fellowes Jensen, 1985, p.68.
23	Fellowes Jensen, 1985, p.75.
24	Fellowes Jensen, 1985, p. 76.
25	See OS maps.
26	Fellowes Jensen, 1985, pp. 77-8.
27	Smith, II, pp. 70, 125.
28	Fellowes Jensen 1985, pp. 80, 67.

Map of Westmorland 1637 (Christopher Saxton and William Kip)

WHERE WERE THE WOODS?

William Franklin

Introduction

The study of place-names is both an interesting subject and an important one. Our ancient ancestors named every field, hill, stream and settlement in order to understand their place in the landscape. As time went on some names changed, partly because of changes in the landscape, partly due to changes in language and also in part because of change of ownership. As a result of such changes, some names in the landscape may seem obscure, but by tracing such names back in time through documentary evidence it is often possible to find the original reason a place has a particular name.

In this article, I intend to consider the field names of two neighbouring parishes in South Cambridgeshire, Orwell and Wimpole. Both parishes lie beneath the southern side of a long ridge approximately 13.5km from the centre of Cambridge. This ridge with an ancient route way running along the top is c.78 metres (256ft) s above sea level. Across this landscape fields and meadows were created from the woods and wastes by those who created settlements such as Orwell and Wimpole, which survive to this day and others such as Wratworth and Malton which remain largely in name only. At the time the land was being adapted for agricultural use the parish as we know it did not exist (parishes were created about the 8th century[1]) and it is there for unsurprising to find topographical and field names crossing these later boundaries.

The Wimpole part of this study was originally undertaken in 2016-17 with Susan May and Mike Coles (Cambridge Archaeology Field Group) when we translated a terrier of the lands of one manor in Wimpole.[2] That terrier in Kings College Archive, dated by the college to c.1250, was we were able to show a century younger. We also mapped out those furlongs mentioned in the terrier that still existed in 1636 when the Hare map of Wimpole was produced and used the terriers and field-work to determine the location of other furlongs and landscape features. That work was published in the Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society (PCAS) in 2018.[3] More recently (2022) the National Trust planned a tree planting programme at Wimpole. Ahead of that I received an enquiry from the National Trust archeologist regarding field-names and whether these gave any indication of former wooded areas. A review of our original data took place and I added to this data from documents not seen in our original study and extended the survey to include the parish of Orwell. This article is the result of that work. In this article I have commenced with the areas of commonality between the two parishes and then considered the field-names from both the parishes before setting out the findings which answer the question posed in the title of this article.

Field-names and Language

Dependent upon location, place-names, whether those of townships, fields or features can give a clue to the ethnicity of the past population. Studies of place-names have shown that Celtic, Norse, Anglo Saxon and French names can be found. In Cambridgeshire Celtic place-names are rare while Anglo-Saxon and Norse place-names are relatively common, due to Anglo-Saxon East Anglia being part of the Danelaw from the 9th century, the Norse settlers adding their place names alongside those of the existing Anglo-Saxon farmers.

Classification of field names

John Field,[4] Margaret Gelling[5] and others who have studied field names and their meanings have used some form of classification system. Elements of those classification systems used in this study include:

• Names that indicate the location of a piece of land, including those which give the distance from the settlement

• Names that indicate the size of a piece of land

• Names that indicate the use or type of cultivation of the land at the time it was named

In both Wimpole and Orwell most field names were found to fall into the first of these classes, that is, they are in some way descriptive of the piece of land in question: that is, they will help to find and identify it. In Orwell 48 (50%) of the furlongs for which the name is known are locational names. This was 14 (34%) for Wimpole, however, it should be noted that because Wimpole was enclosed in the 17th century and the earliest map gives few furlong names, the number of known furlong names is considerably lower than that of Orwell, where the name of almost every furlong is known.

Field-names indicating the size of the field were with one exception, absent in both open field lands and meadow lands (permanent meadows and ley's). Similarly, furlongs with names indicating the type of cultivation at the time of naming were uncommon, with only one found in Wimpole (Benedole) and two in Orwell (Watland and Oateland) .

Topographical names

A particular feature of the two parishes of Orwell and Wimpole are the hills within the two parishes. It is the names of the hills which make up the majority of known topographical names. The high ridge that lies at the north of both parishes is not a simple high linear feature, but a long hill with south-facing protrusions and large slades between them. It is these protrusions that are most are most often named as hills, such that along their length in the northwest of Wimpole to the northeast of Orwell it has been possible to identify 10 hill names (figure). In the valley between the ridge and the river Rhee are 6 smaller hills of which names of 4 dating to at least the seventeenth century are known. Some of the topographical names survived well into the nineteenth century, and some still exist today, including Thornberry Hill and Lamp Hill.

Figure 1. **Relief map of Wimpole and Orwell showing the Topographical names identified and their locations.**

Streams

Crossing the valley between the ridge and the Rhee are two streams and a number of feeder streams. The name of the southern stream, which lies wholly within Wimpole parish was named the Rushbrook in seventeenth-century documents, while the northern stream below Thornberry Hill was known as The Syke, that name is derived from the

OE Sicel meaning a small stream. [6] The northern of the two streams appears to have been known as the Wimpole Brook in that parish and the Orwell River (*Aque vocat Orwell River* in 1600) [7] in that parish or just 'The Brook' as found in a gift of land dated 19th June 1328.[8] Names of smaller streams identified from 17th century documents include:

Marsh Brook (Orwell 1600)
Smallmeade Riddy (Orwell 1600)
Springwell (Orwell 1600, 1686)
'Sykeridie' (14th cent)

Road and other feature names

Before enclosure both Wimpole and Orwell and a myriad of roads, tracks and pathways. Some just gave access to areas of the open fields, but most either went between settlements or between main highways. Some such as the Mare Way and Priest Path crossed the parish boundary between Wimpole and Orwell and retained the same name in both parishes.

The names of the roads are shown in Table 1 (Orwell) and Table 2 (Wimpole), and their locations in Map 2 below.

Table 1. Orwell Road Names

| Road name	No on Map	Notes
Bartholomew's Crosse	1	First recorded in 1600 it lay at the intersection between the norther section of Taft Way (known as Little Taft Way in 1816) Cambridge Way and Priest Path, later Wimpole Way.
Broad Mere	2	A section of Mere Way, the boundary track along the parish boundary with Wimpole in the southwest corner of the parish.
Buck Lane	3	
Cow Street	4	Known as Constrate or Cowstrate in the 14th century. In the 17th century variously known as Cowstread Way or Cambridge Way.
Downhill Way	5	A road running southwest from Town End green road. Its name is self-explanatory.
Farthing Way	6	A lane running parallel with the Orwell Brook (south of the Brook) removed by the enclosure award of 1817. The name probably relates to the annual charge for grazing animals at the sides of the track. OE *feordung* = a farthing. This may allude to the annual rental value of the pasture of the verges of the road.
Fisher's Lane	7	Fisher's Land is recorded in 1600. The name suggests it ran against land owned by someone whose surname was Fisher.
Great Potters Way	8	First recorded as 'Potters Way' in the 14th century, this was a road running along the valley of the River Rhee. The Orwell section ran parallel to the Rhee and crossed the Rhee at Malton. Its name may relate to its use by potters quarrying clay locally (at Amber Pit?) and taking it to their place of manufacture
Hurdleditch Way	9	Known as Huddledich Way in 1600. A track which is ditched and fenced along at least on side.
Little Taft Way	10	The northern section of Taft way from its intersection with Downhill Way to Cambridge Way (for meaning see Taft Way below)
Long Balk	11	A track running south from the Mare Way in the North to the common in the south. The line of this is now the parish boundary. It was originally a balk between the furlongs of Orwell and the furlongs of Wratworth.
Lynces Way	12	A track on the southwest of Orwell running alongside Lynchets, OE *hlinc* = ridges or terraces on sloping land.
Priest Path	13	Recorded as Priests Path in the 14th century, it is shown on the 1686 map, but named as Wimpole Way in 1816.
Ridgeway	14	In 1816 this was a track running south from the Mare Way to Sixes Way.
Sixes Way	15	The name is recorded from 1600 as 'Sives' and then later as Sixes. It is named after the stream running parallel to it. A portion of the road which led to Orwell Common and Sixes gate at the parish boundary was known in 1816 as Mortlocks Willows Way.

Road name	No on Map	Notes
Taft Way	16	Recorded in 1600 as Taft Way, by 1816 the southern sectrion of the road was known as Great Taft Way. The meaning of Taft comes from the Old French for a homestead. This may indicate that this was the main route from the Cambridge Way to Malton. Taft Way in 1816) Cambridge Way and Priest Path, later Wimpole Way.
Water Slade Way	17	Water Slade Way (1686) Known as Watters Slade Way (1816)
Wilding Way	18	At enclosure in 1816 was a short field access road. Its name suggests it original led to an uncultivated area.

Table 2. Wimpole Road Names

Road name	No on Map	Notes
Benedoleweye	17	The name suggests a road going to a shared area of land (a Dole) where Beans were grown. In existence in 1638 but gone by the mid 18th century.
Grenedich	18	Green Ditch Way - In existence in 1638 but gone by the mid 18th century.
Hamelesweye	19	A short section of road close to the Orwell parish boundary - In existence in 1638 but gone by the mid 18th century. Hameles appears to have been the name of a local family.
Le Mare	20	The Mare Way, an ancient trackway, survives partly as a road and partly as a greenway or footpath in the north of the parish
Portweye	21	Port Way - a road that led from Wimpole village to Port Hill and on to the Mare Way in the far north-east of Wimpole. It survives in part as a greenway.
Quenedenweye	22	A lane running parallel with the Orwell Brook (south of the Brook) Part of the length of this former way is marked by a footpath between the folly and the wooded belt.
Regiam Viam	23	Royal Way - a road passing east of Cobb's Wood heading to a common in 1686. Gone by the mid 18th century.
Rigweye	24	A road in the south east of the parish. The name means Rhee Way - it went south towards the river Rhee (Cam)
Shitestrete	25	The name indicates a dirty or muddy lane. It left the former village of Wimpole at its southern end alongside the Moor.
Southdon Way	26	In existence in 1638 but gone by the mid 18th century.
Stapildoleweye	27	In existence in 1638 but gone by the mid 18th century. The portion of the name 'Stapil' suggests a stone pillar existed somewhere near this road. Such a stone still existed in 1648, for in a deed of exchange we find a reference to two selions whose north head, 'abuts a great stone called Wimple Stone'.(CRO: L17/6)
Wlgarisweye	28	Vulgar Way, or the Common Way. Survives today as a road going north from Old Wimpole to the Mare Way.
Wrangdeneweye	29	This road had largely disappeared by 1638. The name suggests a road going through a crooked valley.
Wynpoleweye	30	
Aruyng Strate		Arrington Street, the main road through the village of Arrington, now the A1198. A Roman road, the Ermine Street.

Having considered those items with names sometimes common to both parishes, I will now consider the fields of the two parishes.

Figure 2. Wimpole and Orwell Roads
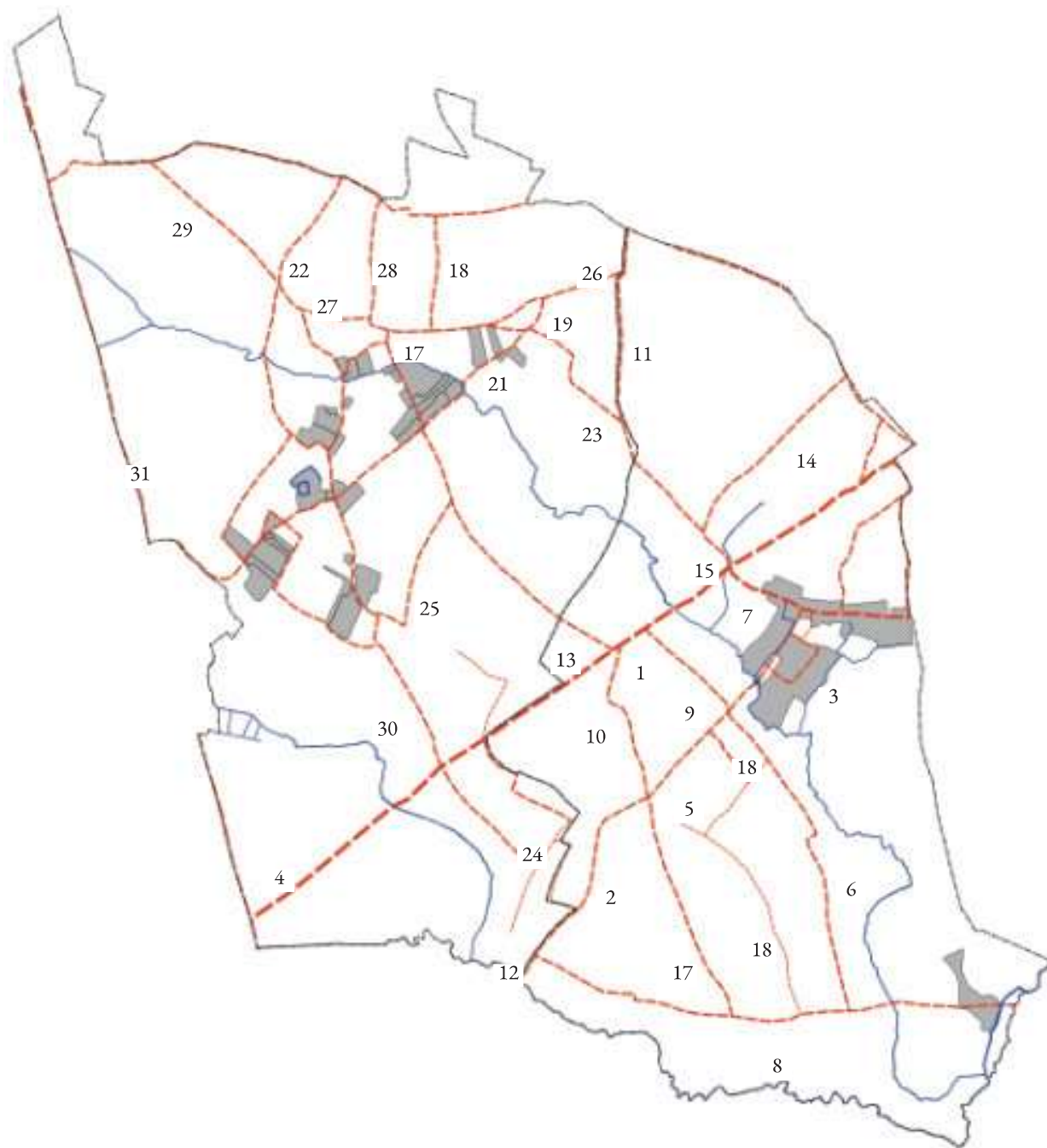
Orwell

General Description

Orwell is an irregularly shaped parish of 2083 acres. Its shape is elongated and generally oriented north-south. It is broader at the south end and tapering gradually towards the north. The northeast boundary follows a chalk ridge along which a ridgeway, the Mare Way, runs. The southern boundary of the parish is the river Rhee or Cam. In the southeast corner of the modern parish is the former settlement of Malton, a part of Orwell in 1086, but a separate settlement with its own church by 1216.[9] Malton is not included in this study.

Within the parish, there were originally four settlements, Orwell, Malton, Whitwell and Wratworth. The site of Whitwell now lost lay somewhere in the southwest of the parish, Wratworth, lay northeast of Orwell village, its site now being in the neighbouring parish of Wimpole. Maps of 1636 (Wimpole) and 1686, show the western parish boundary of Orwell to be somewhat different to its present state. The present parish boundary was confirmed by parliamentary enclosure in 1837.

In 2023 Orwell's farms are mostly arable. In previous centuries mixed husbandry was practised, with farmers using the stream-side meadows and the grass of the myriad of lanes to feed their animals.

The name Orwell is thought to mean a settlement by a spring on a hill known as the Ord.[10] As a number of springs lie in and around Orwell and the name 'Ord' does not appear in any of the surviving medieval documents it is not known where this spring lay.

Parliamentary enclosure

Parliamentary enclosure took place between 1816 and 1817. The commissioners completely reorganised most of the landscape, removing the medieval arable furlongs and stream-side meadows and allocating the land in blocks. The names and areas of the medieval fields were retained for reference only but rapidly went out of use after the enclosure was complete. The new farms probably gave new names to the new closes. However, these are not considered here.

The Open and Common Fields of Orwell

At enclosure in 1837 Orwell was said to have five fields, named Mill Field, High Field, Oatland Field, Aycroft Field and River Field.[11] In keeping with other villages close to the Hertfordshire border, field names did not hold as much importance as in many Cambridgeshire villages and are accordingly rarely named in terriers. From the numbering of the furlongs on a 1686 map[12] it is clear that the furlongs were in 7 clusters of differing sizes corresponding with the areas around Hoebeck, Oateland, Broad Mear, Malton Pond, Farthing Field, Hill Field, Mill Field and Aycroft Field.

From the map of 1686, a draft enclosure map of 1836 and various terriers it is possible to name all of the furlongs in the open fields of Orwell as well as many of the meadows and early enclosures.

High Field

Using the modern parish boundary and commencing in the northwest is High Field, roughly triangular, it stretches between the parish boundary with Wimpole in the west and the Cambridge to Royston Road in the east, and the parish boundary with Great Eversden in the north and Wimpole parish, at New Wimpole, in the southwest. Within High Field were 30 furlongs as named below (Figure 2).

Table 3. Orwell High Field - Furlong names

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
The Mear Furlong	H01	The furlong lay next to the Mere Way. OE *Mere* = boundary
White Furrows Furlong	H02	Thin soil meant the plough cut into the chalk, thus when ploughed the furrows appeared white in colour.
Puttocks Well Furlong	H03	Puttock = Kite, a pool of water frequented by birds of the Kite family.
Sharpes Hill Furlong	H04	A furlong on Sharpes Hill
Bedhack Furlong	H05	The name of this furlong may indicate a piece of managed woodland that was fenced. OE *Bedd* indicating a plot of ground where plants are grown. According to the English Place-name society such names are usually accompanied by plant or tree names.[26] Here the furlong has the word Hack, probably OE *haecce* = a fence. A managed wood.
Annes Haven	H06	A piece of land held by someone called Anne. Haven is OE *haefen*, a land holding.
Thorney Dean Furlong	H07	Furlong in a valley where thorns grow.
Thornhill Hill Furlong	H08	Furlong on a hill where thorns grow.
Sloe Croft Furlong	H09	Land near or containing Sloe trees (*Prunus Spinosa*).
Rushes Furlong	H10	Land abounding in Rushes (Juncus)
Robins Dole Furlong	H11	A furlong frequented by Robin's the 'Dole' portion indicates a piece of land brought into arable production. Or possibly a place where land owned by a person with the name Robin lay
Coneys Land	H12	ME *Coney* = Rabbits. Land frequented by rabbits.
Elder Stubb Furlong	H13	Furlong where there remained the stubbs of Elder bushes or trees.
Overthwarte Path Furlong	H14	Overthwarte is OE *Ofer* or ON *bverr* and means something that lies at right angles to another. In this instance a boundary of the furlong lay at right angles to a path.

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Robins Dole or Little Sixes	H15	
Longland Furlong	H16	A furlong with long lands (Selions / strips).
Further Sixes Furlong	H17	A small furlong named further sixes, as it lay on the opposte side of Sixes Furlong from the stream (for sixes see below). It was by 1816 later incorporated into and renamed Longland.
Ridgeway Furlong	H18	Furlong next to the road or track called 'Ridgeway'.
Sixes Furlong	H19	While the 1686 map gives the name as sixes, an Elizabethan survey of c.1600, gives the name as 'Le Sives'. It could be OE *Sic* or ON, *Sifes* place where reeds grow, or ME *Sicel* which is a larger stream. The furlong is next to the parish boundary with Wimpole and lies against the brook which just inside Wimpole parish was knowns as the 'Syke'.
Mortlockes Willows Furlong	H20	Thomas Mortlocke held land in Orwell of the crown in 1600. This furlong abutted against a lane, known as Thomas Mortlockes Willows Way which probably had willows tree alongside it.
Broad Grass Furlong	H21	This furlong has been variously known as Broad Grass Furlong, Brook Furlong and Priest Path Furlong. It lay south of a stream and extended to the road known as Priest Path. Broad Grass is the earliest appellation occurring from the 14th century. It lay against a broad strip of pasture between the stream and the arable land.
Fishers Townsend Furlong	H22	The road is named after a family called Fisher and it lay at the west end of the township of Orwell
Nibles or Nubbles Ditch Furlong	H23	A furlong next to a watercourse known as Nibles or Nubbles ditch. The Nible or Nubble portion is obscure.
Springwell Furlong	H24	Land next to a spring and pool (well)
Springwell next Cambridge Way Furlong	H25	Meaning as above. The furlong lay between Sringwell furlong and the road to Cambridge.
Benches Furlong	H26	OE *Benc* a shelf or ridge
Furlong abutting on Foxhill	H27	A furlong next to Foxhill

Mill Field

Mill Field lay east of High Field. Its western boundary was the Cambridge to Royston road, the north-eastern extent being the parish boundary with Barrington and to the south the village and its High Street / Fishers Lane.

Table 4. Orwell Mill Field - Furlong names

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Furlong abutting on Millway	M01	A furlong that lay next to a road or track known as Mill Way
Between the chalkpitts Furlong	M02	To the east of the Cambridge Way and north west of Orwell lay two chalk pits, this furlong lay between them.
Pallett Coller (1600) or Pallet Saller (1686) Furlong	M03	Pallett - ME *Palis* (a srake) + Saller *Salh* (Willow) a furlong where willows used for fencing (hurdles) once grew.
Church Path Furlong	M04	A footpath lay to the north of the Churchyard, going west to the Cambridge Way, this furlong lay against the footpath.
The Furlong on the backside of the church	M05	This furlong lay east of Church Path Furlong with its southern edge against the churchyard.
Quarrie Hill Furlong	M06	A furlong next to the quarry on the hill north of the village of Orwell.
Old Mill Hill Furlong	M07	Above and to the east of Quarry Hill lay Mill Hill. By 1816 the was known as Old Mill Hill. This furlong lay on the side of the hill.
Gray Furlong	M08	Grey colour of the land when ploughed.
Button Furlong	M09	Probably originally either Bottom Furlong, it lay at the bottom of Mill Hill, backing onto the gardens of the houses on the north side of the High Street or alternatively Butting Furlong as it abuts against the village.

Oateland Field

Oateland Field was a small field in the west of Orwell parish and close to the Cambridge Way Road.

Table 5. Orwell Oatland Field - Furlong names

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Hoebeck Reddie Furlong	OT01	This is a complex name. The 'Hoe' portion is OE *Hoh* = a spur of land. The 'Beck' portion is OE *Bece* = a stream or valley, and the 'Reddie' portion is OE *Ridig* = a small stream. The name must therefore be a small stream in a valley that originated from a spur in a hill. This is appropriate as the stream originates from the hill above Arrington.
Harlots Dole, later Small Mearedole Furlong	OT02	ME *Harlot* = a vagabond or beggar. OF *Harlot* = young man, knave or vagabond. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste. This indicates a piece of land brought into arable production and assigned to young men. This furlong was part of the field of Wratworth and by 1686 had been incorporated into the fields of Orwell where it was known as Small Meardole Furlong. Meare OE (*ge*)*mare* (a boundary)
Broadway Furlong	OT03	Furlong next to a wide lane (Cambridge Way). In the 14th century this was known as the Furlong abutting on Cow Street and part of Wratworth field.
Oatland Furlong	OT04	Land where Oats were grown. This furlong was part of the field of Wratworth and by 1686 had been incorporated into the fields of Orwell .
Taft Way Furlong	OT05	Furlong lying beside Taft Way
Downhill Furlong	OT06	A furlong on the southern side of DownHill.
Bartle Grass Furrows	OT07	The Bartle here is probably ON *Beorc* (Birch) as in Bartlow
West Croft Furlong	OT08	Furlong next to an enclosed piece of land.
Sowdon Furlong	OT09	South valley - Possibly ME *sogh* (boggy)+*Don* (valley). The furlong was at the bottom of a hill near a stream and could mean a furlong next to a piece of boggy ground in a valley.
Priest Path Furlong	OT10	Named after a path which it lie alongside, Priests Path.
Broad Grass Furlong	OT11	Broad Grass Furlong (1686) or Lower Priest Path Furlong (1816)

Aycroft Field

Aycroft Field lay south of the High Street of Orwell, roughly triangular in shape, its southern boundary was the Orwell Brook and the eastern boundary, the road to Malton.

Table 6. Orwell Aycroft Field - Furlong names

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Lunway Furlong	A01	ON *Lund* = small wood. Therefore these two furlongs lay next to a lane theat led to a small Wood
Long Lunway Furlong	A02	
Brook Furlong	A03	Brook Furlong (1686) or Outward Marsh Furlong (1816)
Watland Furlong	A04	Watland is Wheat Land. A furlong where wheat was grown.
Furlong between Berrie Croft Ditch and Watland	A05	Berrie or more commonly Bury is a term for a manor, 'Croft' is an enclosed piece of land usually associated with a dwelling, in this instance a manorial farm. The ditch was a watercourse between the enclosed land and the furlongs.
Berrie Croft Ditch Furlong	A06	
Furlong between Berrie Croft Ditch and Adams Headland	A07	
The Marsh Furlong	A08	A furlong next to marshy ground

River Field

As its name implies river field lay against the river Rhee. It was the most southerly of Orwell's fields.

Table 7. Orwell River Field - Furlong names.

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Farthing Furlong	R01	This furlong was named after the road or track along whose side it lay.
Farthing Knaip Furlong	R02	The road or track known as Farthing way had a kink in it. This kink was likened to the knaip of a neck.This furlong lay next to the track at the point.
Malton Leys Furlong	R03	This furlong lay next to the boundary with Malton and its pastures (leys)
Furlong abutting on Malton Leys	R04	Known as furlong abutting on Malton Leys in1686), it was known as Lower Shott in 1816. It lay next to Malton pastures.
Short Furlong	R05	Self explanatory.
Well Dole Furlong	R06	Furlong lying next to a spring (Well).
Furlong abutting on Waterslade	R07	Waterslades is mentioned in 1357 (TNA E178/485).
Great Malton Ponds Furlong	R08	In the northwest corner of Malton parish were several ponds right on the parish boundary, which these three Orwell furlongs lay next to.
Little Malton Ponds Furlong	R09	
Malton Ponds Furlong	R10	
Water Slade Furlong	R11	Slade *Slead* (valley) - Watery valley or wet nook between two slopes
Downe Hill Furlong	R12	A furlong on the south side of Down Hill
Old Gores	R13	Old Gores (1686) or Water Slade Balk (1816)
Long Lands Furlong	R14	A furlong with long strips of land.
Furlong abutting on Water Slades	R15	A slade, (OE *Slaed*) is a nook or valley. In this instance we have a furlong next to a damp (water) slade.
Furlong abutting on Taft Way	R16	A furlong next to the road or track called Taft Way
Long Red Dole	R17	The 'Red' portion of the names of these two furlongs probably relates to the colour of the soil.
Little Red Dole	R18	
Broadland Furlong	R19	A furlong comprising on'Broad' (wide) lands (strips or selions)
Tafts Mead Furlong	R20	A furlong next to a meadow known as Taft Mead
Little Tafts	R21	A small furlong, probably part of a homestead (OF *Taft* = Homestead)
Cross Furlong	R22	A furlong at right angles to its neighbours.
Long Linches	R23	Linches (OE *hlinc*) are flat ridges or terraces on sloping land. Here they were long.
Amberry Pitt Furlong	R24	Amberry Pitt Furlong or Ambers Pit, was a quarry against which this furlong lay
Stand Stitch Furlong	R25	Stitch OE *Sticce* (a ridge) Probably a furlong in which the ridges stood higher than in other furlongs.
Bleweth Balke	R26	leweth Balke (1600) or Furlong abutting on Short Mead (1686) or Blewitts Balk Furlong (1816). The Blewit or Bleweth name of both these furlongs appear to relate to a person named Blewitt. Blewitt being an Anglo-French name.
Blewits Croft Shott	R27	
Taft Way Furlong	R28	See Little Tafts above
Broad Meare Furlong	R29	Broad meare, Broad boundary, a wide track that originally formed the boundary Between Wimpole and Orwell.
Furlong abutting on Broad Meare or West Broad Mere	R30	

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Furlong between Hoebeck Riddie and Short Mead	R31	In the 14th century this was known as Short Mead Furlong and part of Wratworth field. By 1686 it was in Orwell parish. It lay next to a small meadow and close to the stream known as Hoebeck Riddie.
Hoebeck Riddie Furlong	R32	Hoh (spur of land) or OE Hoc (a bend in a river) + ON Bekkr (a stream) + OE Ridig (a small stream)
Hoebeck River Furlong	R33	As above. The river here is the Rhee.
Short Linches	R34	Linch OE *hlinc* ridges or terraces on sloping land

In addition to the above the names of 5 other furlongs, Beacon, Malton Brewe Furlong, Tenstitche Furlong, Notters Furlong and Undead Leys furlong, have been noted from the survey of 1600. The location of these is not known.

Meadow and Pasture Names

Meadows were permanent areas of pasture that either lay next to streams or were areas of poorly drained land. Other areas of pasture, such as Leys, often started out as the temporary appropriation of arable land to meet the additional pasture needs of the community, while Commons were areas unsuitable for arable production and used as communal pasture. Meadow and Pasture names occurring before enclosure include:

Baldock Mead (1600, 1686)[13] which lay just south of the village High Street. It still existed by that name in 1816. The name is intriguing, the only other example of this name is the town of Baldock which the English Place-Name Society says was named by the Knights Templars. The name means Bagdad. It is unclear why this meadow should be named as such.

Berrycrofte or Berriecrofte Meade.[14] Berry is Bury, a manor, A 'Croft' is an enclosed piece of land associated with a settlement. This is therefore an enclosed meadow close to the manor house.

Le Marshe (1600) The Marsh (1686) and the Inward and Outward Marsh (1816) – Marshy ground adjoining the Orwell Brook at its junction with another stream, known as Marsh Stream.

Smallmeade (1600, 1686), a small meadow.

Taft Meadow is referred to in the name of a furlong. The furlong location indicates that the piece of meadow lay next to the River Rhee.

Close Names

Closes, enclosed areas occurred from an early period around settlements. Over time and with changing needs and farming practices some areas of former open field arable land were enclosed and the resulting close given a name to distinguish it from neighbouring closes. Smaller enclosed areas, particularly those close to houses were often given Croft names, a Croft being a small enclosure. Close names occurring before enclosure include:

Camping Close or the Orchard 1600[15] An enclosed piece of land part of which was used for 'camp ball' (ME) , an earling form of football, and part used as an orchard.[16]
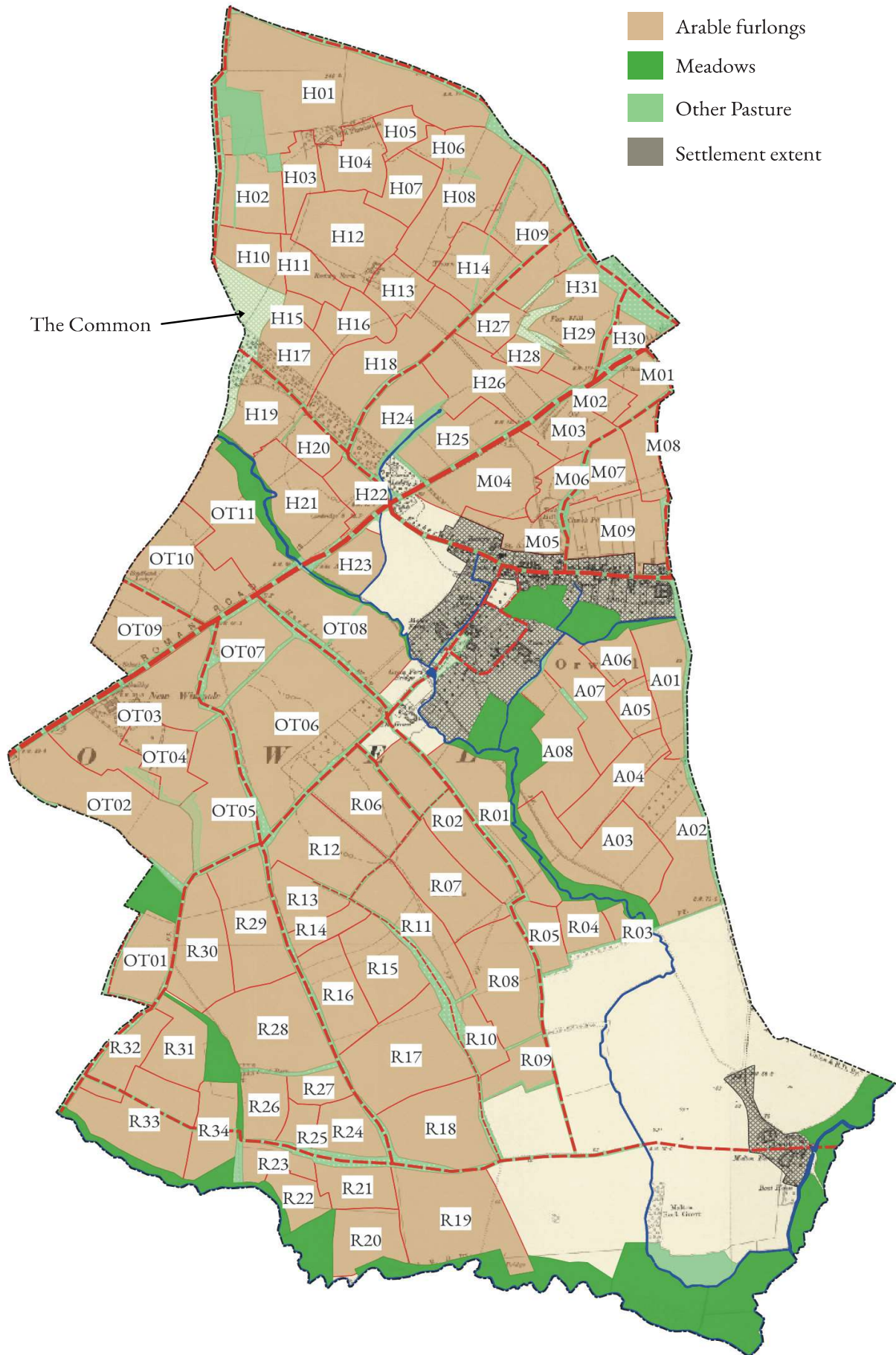Ladyes or Ladies Close
Layes Yard or Ladies Yard
Lynford (lost) a close lying near the Orwell Brook – Lyn is OE for flax. The close presumably lay next to a ford where flax grew.

Malton

Malton was enclosed at an early date, possibly in the 16th century and has not been included in this study.

Figure 3. Orwell Furlongs

Arable furlongs
Meadows
Other Pasture
Settlement extent

The Common

H01
H05
H06
H04
H03
H07
H08
H02
H12
H09
H10 H11
H14
H31
H13
H27
H29
H30
H15
H28
M01
H17
H26
M02
H19
H24
M03
M08
H20
H25
M04
M06 M07
OT11 H21 H22
M05 M09
OT10
H23
OT09
OT08
A06 A01
OT07
A07
A05
OT03
A08
A04
OT04 OT06
OT02 OT05
R06
R02 R01
A03 A02
R12
R07
R13
R29 R14 R11
R05 R04 R03
OT01
R30
R15
R08
R16
R28
R10
R32 R31
R17
R09
R27
R26
R33 R34 R25 R24
R18
R23
R22 R21
R19
R20

Wimpole

General Description

Wimpole is a rectangular in shape parish. Originally it comprised of three settlements, Wimpole, Wratworth and Whitwell. Wratworth, in the north-east and Whitwell in the south east had largely disappeared by the 13th century. The name 'Wimpole' means 'Wina's' pool.[17] Wina being a persons name. The pool was probably a wider section of the brook where the later lake was created. Wratworth's meaning was, the enclosure (farm) where Crosswort (*Cruciata laevipes*) grew[18] and Whitwell, White well, although here the Well is more likely to be a spring.

The southern and western boundaries of the modern parish of Wimpole in part follow Roman roads, the Cambridge Road on the south and Ermine Street on the west. The northern boundary mostly follows an old ridge-way, the Mare Way, with small northern projections into Kingston and Great Eversden parishes. The eastern boundary follows field boundaries.

In 1638 the eastern boundary ran further west in several places, notably around the probable site of the former village of Wratworth, whose field had been divided between Wimpole and Orwell after its demise. Oateland Field was probably the field of Whitwell. In the 14th century it was at least partially in Wimpole parish, but by the 17th century that part of it east of the Cambridge Road was considered to be in Orwell.

The Open and Common Fields of Wimpole

Fields

According to the Victoria County History, Wimpole had two fields known as North Field and South Field.[19] There are very few references to fields in early documents. The 14th century terrier,[20] where it does refer to a field states "*in the field of Wimpole*". It does however contain three references to two named fields, the "*Campo Boriali*" (North Field) and "*Oneribus Campi*" (Burden Field), suggesting that in the 14th century Wimpole retained two fields as had been the case in the thirteenth century,[21] although the name of the southern field is no longer South field. Where the division between the two fields lay is un clear. Because of this the names of the known furlongs are given as one table 8. below.

From the 1638 map, field observation and aerial photographs, 92 furlongs in the fields of Wimpole were noted. From the 14th century terrier in Kings College, records of gifts or land in the University Library and the 1638 and later maps the names and locations of 49 (52.6%) of these are known.

Table 8. Wimpole Furlongs

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Aldebeach	52	Furlong named after the stream which ran along its side, the Aldebeach or Old Stream.
Anglesey	83	The name suggests Angle Island. The furlong lay between the river and Potters way.
Badcocks Dole	80	Badcock is a family name. A furlong where a Badcock held land. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Banus Dole	41	Furlong containing land owned by the Banus or Baunce (later Banks) family. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Barewe	45	Possibly Boar Island. It is a furlong surrounded by roads.
Benedole	44	Furlong where Beans were grown.The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Benedoleweye Furlong	32	A furlong abutting against a road or track known as Benedole Way.
Benewell Furlong	71	A furlong near to a spring or well at a place where beans were grown.
Brach Furlong	79	The name Brach or Breach suggests that when this furlong was named it was land newly brought in from the waste. It lies close to a very large area of permanent meadow, from which it was probably taken.
Brayins Dole	43	Brayin is probably a personal name. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Brodgrasse Furlong	58	This was a furlong next to Brodgrasse Meadow.

Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Church Dole	53	Furlong in which the church of Wimpole held land.
Croft Dole		Furlong next to some Crofts (enclosed land associated with houses).
Edyacre Furlong	40	Possibly undergrowth or new growth acre (*Edish* = new growth)
Fleylond or Flexlond	07	The furlong lay on a hill where the land comprises undulating projections. If the first part is 'Flex' then this probably indicates land on which Flax was grown (ME - *Flax*).
Furlong above Thornborowe	61	Furlong on the upper east side of Thornborowe (Thornberry Hill).
Furlong abutting Porthilweye	47	Furlong abutting against a road or track known as Porthill Way.
Furlong abutting Priests Path	63	A furlong abutting against a road or track known as Priests Path.
Gorbrode	28	A Broad Gore
Lamphill Furlong	72	A furlong on Lamp Hill
Mare Dole	66	A furlong next to the moor
Middlsyk Furlong	62	One of probably three furlongs lying next to the Brook (*Syke*) close to the parish boundary with Orwell.
Mill Dole	25	Land on which a Windmill stood or land next to a Windmill. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Offeris Dole	35	OE *Ofer* meaning a slope or a hill side, appropriate for its location. . The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Oldwyk Hill Furlong	36	Furlong on the hill above the old farm / settlement (OE *Wyk* = *Farm*)
Oteland Dole		Land where oats were grown. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Oxford Dole	18	This furlong lay next to a stream and close to Ermine Street. Fording place used by Oxen.The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Peasacre Furlong	70	Land where Pease were grown.
Pecokstayl	76	A fan shaped area of land in the west of the parish. It was still named as such in the 17th century (Hare Map) and the 19th century (Tithe Apportionment)
Priest Path Furlong	59	A furlong abutting against a road or track known as Priests Path.
Quytetherudole	81	In Cambridgeshire Quy is a word used for a Cow (c.f. Stow cum Quy). The name therefore appears to mean tethered Cow Dole. If the origin is ME it could equally mean that the land was once a thicket.
Redmildole	26	This land lay close to Avenel's windmill, which appears to have been known as the Red Mill. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Ressheplot	31	OE *Resc* = A rush. A piece of land next to, or where rushes grew.
Rushbrooke Furlong	75	Furlong next to the stream known as the Rushbrook.
Short Butts	65	A butt is an irregularly shaped piece of land, where the strips are of differing lengths. In this instance the strips were short and irregular.
Smyths Dole	12	A furlong ned after a family 'Smyth'. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Smyths Hill Furlong	20	This was a furlong next to a gentle undulation in the ground known as Smyths or Smith Hill.
Stanwade Furlong	77	Stanwade is made up of two OE words *Stan* = stone, and (*ge*)*waed* = a ford. This furlong lay next to the Rushbrook.
Stapil Dole	27	Furlong next to a stone pillar

| Furlong name	No on Map	Root
Stocking Dole	37	OE / ON *Stocc* = a tree trunk. Therefore, an area cleared of woodland. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Stoney Dole	38	Furlong where the ground was stony. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Syreslond	83	If the 'Syres' portion of the name is OE *syle* then this is Muddy or marshy land.
The More Furlong	69	FOE *Mor* = Wasteland or land unsuited to arable production. In this instance, arable land next to or brought in from the moor
Theef Furlong	67	Land taken, in this instance from the Moor. Theef or Thieves land is also often used as a derogatory term for poor land.
Thornborowe Hill Furlong	60	FA furlong on the slope of Thornborough Hill. The name suggests this was originally a hill overgrown with thorn bushes.
Under Theef Furlong	64	See Theef Furlong above.
Vogetes	39	The name of this furlong is obscure, but could be Middle German *Voget* meaning steward. This would therefore be a furlong in which a manorial steward had land.
Whytethornes	68	A place where White thorn (Crataegus monogyna) grew
Wild Furlong?	34	While a name for this furlong has not been found in the historic records, a farmyard and barns, known as Wild Barns, existed here until at least 1900. The English Place Name Society note it on their website linking it to Croydon Wilds and Weald (https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/id/53287358b47fc40c4f00065e-Wild+Barns). That is part of a Cambridgeshire / Huntingdonshire Wold (uncultivated / wild land)
Wood Furlong	33	In the 14th century this was known as Furlong above Blankwell Hill. It is one of Wimpole's most northerly furlongs, it lay next to Great Eversden Wood in 1638, by which time it was known as Wood Furlong as it lay next to that wood.
Wrandene Dole	19	Furlong in a Crooked Valley, OE *wrang* = crooked, OE *denu* = valley. The 'Dole' extension suggests land brought into arable production from either wood or waste.
Wrangdene Furlong	21	See Wrangdene above
Wrangdene Plot	06	

Other furlong names occur in the historic record, the location of which are as yet unknown, including, 'Castledole',[22] 'Holdene',[23] 'Kottigges Akir'.

Meadow and Pasture Names

With the exception of a large block of meadow known as Rhee pasture in the southeast of the parish, Wimpole had little permanent meadow by the seventeenth century and that which did exist lay either by the two main streams or between the Moore and the village. One of these, Stannerd Mead, close to Arrington had been partly enclosed by 1638. Its name suggests a meadow where the ground was stoney (OE *Stan* - Stone and *eord* = ground) Additional pasture, originally temporary in nature, known a 'Ley' existed in small amounts within the parish and along a portion of the boundary with Orwell lay a large Common of c.20acres, probably originally intercommoned by both parishes.

By 1638, the Chicheley's, Lords of the Manor of Wimpole held two large blocks of land to the north and west of their moated manor house as park land, probably used for grazing animals and to the east a meadow known as Bayley Mead. In that year further large areas of pasture lay north of Wimpole manor on either side of the stream. These bear the name Great Avenell's and Bushy Avenell's, and most probably represent the site of the Avenell's manor.

Figure 4. Wimpole Furlongs

The Park

Wimpole

Rhee Meadow's
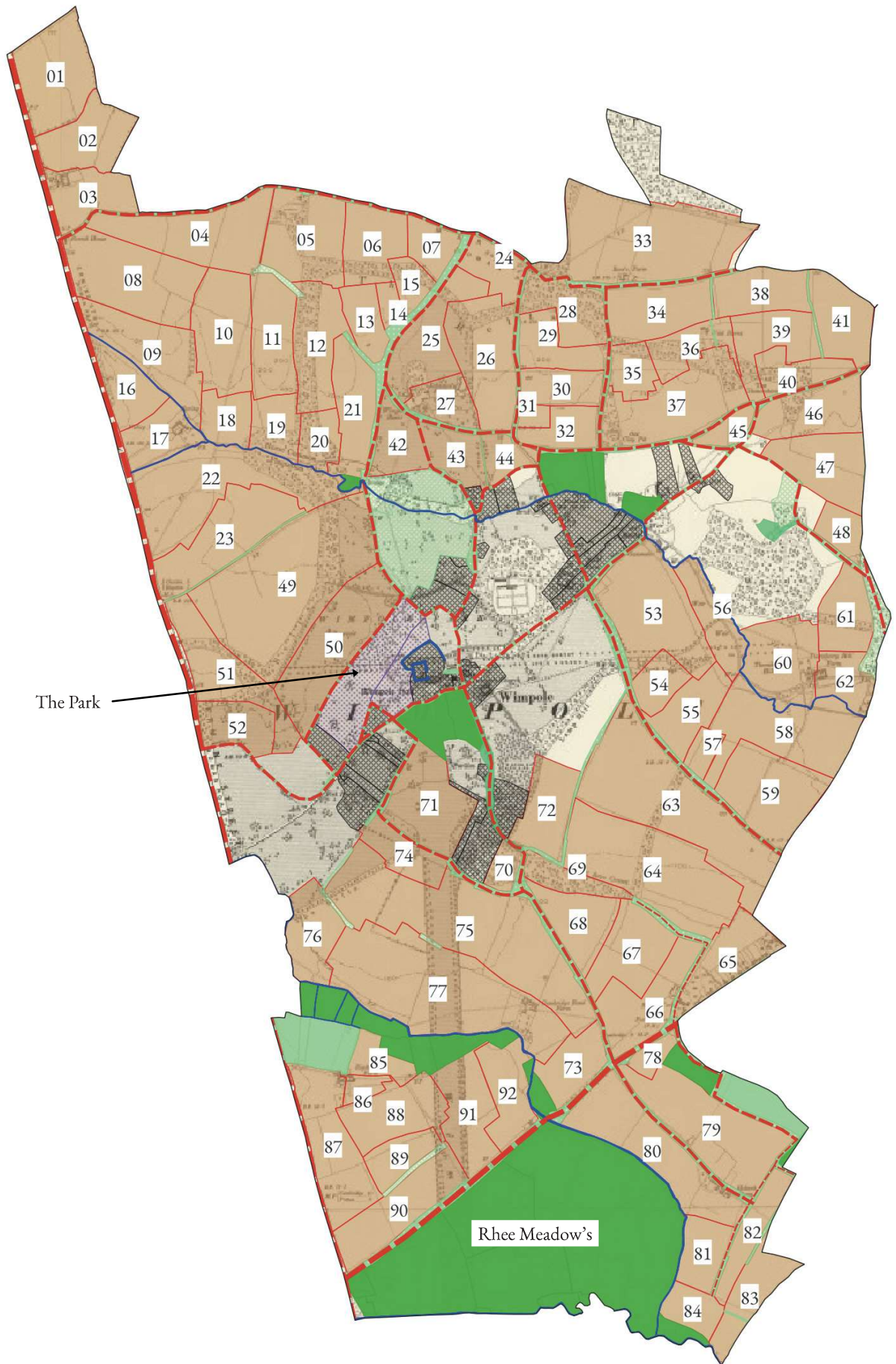
Close Names

Most of the Close names for Wimpole relate to either the enclosed grounds surrounding the village farmsteads or from late medieval or early post medieval piecemeal enclosure. The majority of these were given the name of the owner/creator and give little indication of anything previous to the date of creation. There are exceptions, for example More Close, which lay on the north western side of the former moor and occupies the totality of what had formerly been a small furlong, New Field, a newly created large enclosure near the village of Wimpole and Stannerd Close, which lay next to the stream and Arrington, and which was an enclosed portion of Stannerd Mead (see Meadow and Pastures names above).

Discussion

As noted in the introduction, this study considered the field and topographical names of Orwell and Wimpole to both map out the medieval landscape and to identify possible early locations for woodland in the parishes. The Domesday survey of 1086 suggests that there was little woodland between the two parishes. In Wimpole it states that there was wood for fencing, while in nothing is recorded for Orwell suggesting that little wood of any significance existed at the time of the survey.[24]

While the Domesday survey suggests there was little wooded land between the two parishes the field-names suggest that this was either not correct (the jurors under reporting the amount of woodland) or that at the time of the Domesday survey there was little woodland. If the latter is true then the naming of arable furlongs indicating wooded areas cleared but still remembered must have occurred long before the Domesday Survey.
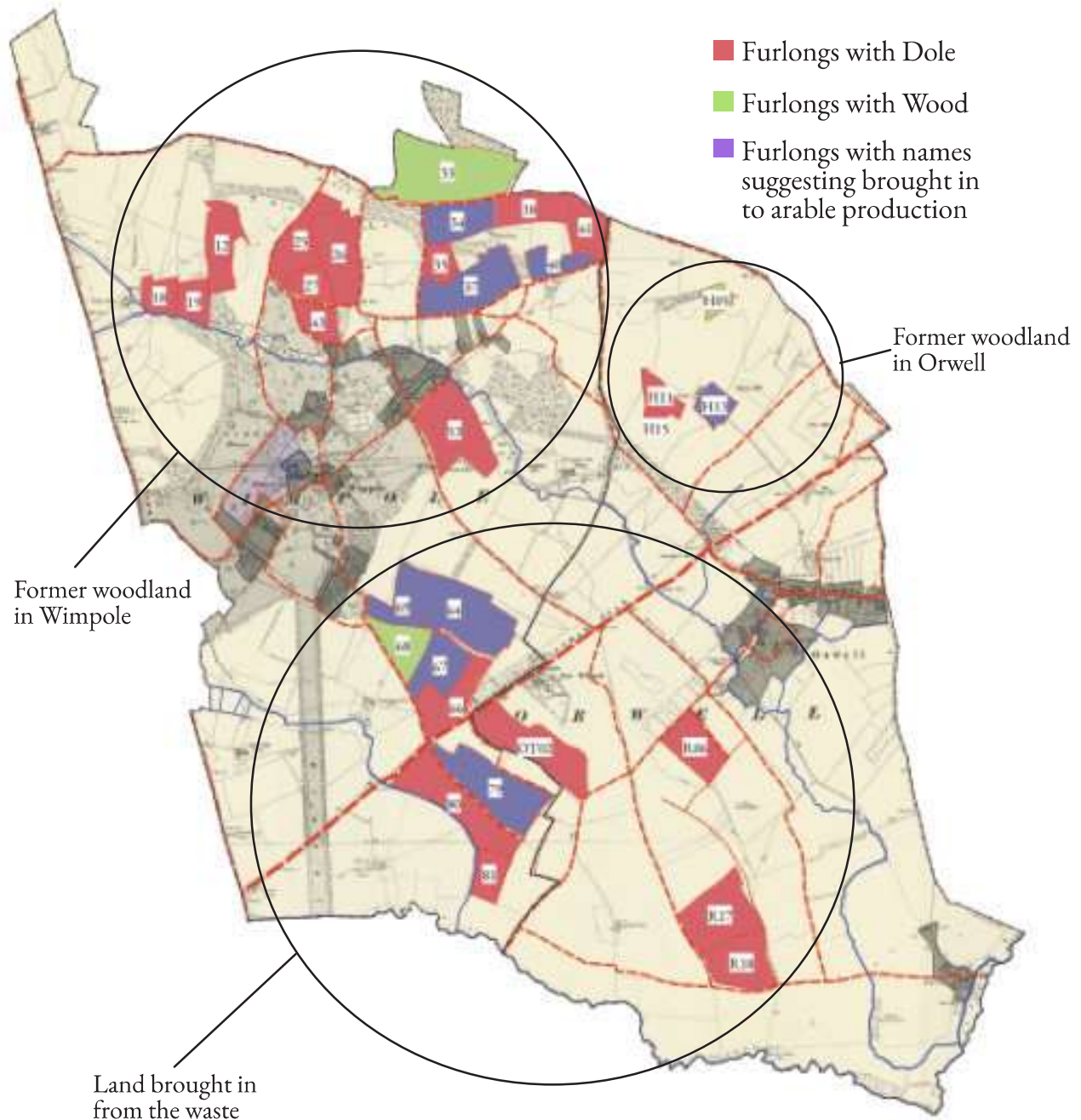
A consideration of the lands containing 'Dole' as part of their appellation gives 10 furlongs along the side of the northern ridge in Wimpole parish, where most ancient woodland probably lay. On the same ridge in Orwell only two furlongs have 'Dole' incorporated in their title. On the opposite side of the stream from Cobbs Wood[25] is a further furlong with 'Dole' in its title. These all probably relate to woodland clearances, with the land being cleared for arable use as the population increased. In all cases these appear in documents of the early to mid 14th century, before the huge decline in population from the plague (the effects of the plague on the villages of Orwell and Wimpole is unknown). Additional proof of such clearance comes from the name of one furlong as 'Stocking Dole', 'Stocking', from the OE *stoccing,* refers to a clearing of tree stumps, or a piece of ground cleared of tree stumps, which with the addition of the'Dole' element gives the best proof of a piece of land cleared for husbandry, initially animal husbandry, the animals grazing around the tree stumps and then, either because they have rooted away or been taken out the land is brought into arable production.

In Orwell parish close to the Robins Dole Furlong is a furlong called 'Pallett Saller' furlong. Whilst not immediately apparent as a wood related name, 'pallett' is an OE word, *palis* for a stake and 'Saller' from the OE for a Willow *seahl* (Sallow). Suggesting that at some time willows, used for fencing or hurdles, grew there. While the wood that this furlong replaced is not the particular wood in Wimpole used for making fences in 1086, it does nevertheless indicate that between the two parishes some wood was being used for this purpose. The cleared land subsequently being used for arable production.

Land brought in from the waste

From the field name evidence it is also noticeable that in the southeast of Wimpole and south of Orwell village are an number of furlong names, such as breach (OE *breac* = land newly broken up) indicating clearance of waste ground, that is land that had been considered in earlier times too inferior and unsuitable for arable production, but which due to factors such as increasing population needed to be used for arable production. The majority of such pieces of land lye below Lamp Hill and between Old Wimpole and the modern village of New Wimple, an area known by the early 14th century as 'Le More' (OE *mor* =barren waste land). The Moor appears to have extended in a southeasterly direction into Orwell parish (see figure 5).

Figure 5. Furlongs whose names indicate either land brought into arable cultivation from woodland or waste.

Furlongs with Dole

Furlongs with Wood

Furlongs with names suggesting brought in to arable production

Former woodland in Orwell

Former woodland in Wimpole

Land brought in from the waste

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[11]   CUL Ms.Plans R.a.8

[12]   *Ibid*

[13]   TNA E178/485, CUL Ms.Plans R.a.1

[14]   *Ibid*

[15]   *Ibid*

[16]   Field. p.37

[17]   Ekwall, p.322

[18]   Reaney, P.H. *The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.*Cambridge University Press. 1943. p.80.

[19]   Bolton, D., Duncombe, G.R., Dunning, J., Rowland, A., Stephens, W. and Elrington, C. *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely*: Volume 5. 1973. See also CUL MS Doc.4042 (gift of land 1331)

[20]   Kings College Archive KC/KCAr/6/2/176/Wim/1

[21]   British Library. Add.Ms. 36234. f.3

[22]   CUL MS Doc.4041

[23]   CUL MS Doc.4030

[24]   Williams, A. and Martin, G.H. *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation.* Penguin. London. (2002) p.538

[35]   Cobbs Wood is largely the same shape and size as it was in 1638.

[36]   Smith, A.H. English Place-Name Elements. English Place-Name Society. Vol. XXV, part 1. (1956) p.24.