LOCUS FOCUS

forum of the Sussex Place-Names Net

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Passing interest [ref. *Locus focus* (3), inside front cover and p. 11]

Janet Pennington notes that Freddie Mercury's head adorned the Queen's Head at Bolney before that in Steine Street, Brighton. She also mentions another contender for longest Sussex pub-name, the famous *Shoulder of Mutton and Cucumbers* at Yapton, which had slipped your Editor's mind.

Passing interest [ref. *Locus focus* 1 (3), p. 18]

Janet Pennington mentions a counter-theory for the origin of the Gribble Inn at Oving, viz. that it is named after, not an apple, but Miss Rose Gribble. The source of this information is Brigid Chapman's *West Sussex inns* (Newbury: Countryman (1988)), 118.

• EDITORIAL

Readers will notice a subtle change of sub-title for this issue. It seems to me that *Locus focus* has rapidly become something more than a newsletter since it has a significant amount of research content. Accordingly, I have retitled it a "forum"; it still has considerable informality, and "journal" sounded a bit too grand at this stage.

Welcome is extended to two new members of the **Net.** David Padgham, Editor of *HAARG Journal*, is the fifteenth. His personal statement appears below. Paul Cullen is the sixteenth. He has just completed a doctorate at the University of Sussex on the place-names of the two eastern lathes of Kent. It is very encouraging to see the **Net** expanding to accommodate so many people active in research. *Locus focus* is expanding too, but I encourage you all to keep sending material in any of our standard categories for inclusion - nothing is too small to serve as a note; and who knows? your query might be answered! Responses to published items and longer-term debate are both very welcome; perhaps we have the makings of one about Ringmer developing in this issue.

It should be clear that notes, queries and articles are welcomed from persons who are not members of the **Net**; this issue contains a note-cum-response by Max W. Wheeler to an earlier note by John Bleach, and an article by Valerie Mellor, as well as SNSBI contributions by Tania Styles and Ann Cole.

If you are stuck in a copyright library without your *Locus focus*, do not despair, as a copy of each issue has now been deposited in each one.

Richard Coates
Editor

• PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS: A SELECTION

DAVID PADGHAM

My particular interest is the landscape history of the borough of Hastings and the hundred of Baldslow, identifying the sites of tenements in manorial and other records. I find the Anglo-Saxon period and *Domesday* of particular interest and am an avid collector of books on these topics. In this study I have long perceived a need for contact with others better qualified who can give advice on interpreting early forms of names, being only too aware of the pitfalls; while this may not be the primary aim of the Net, I hope it may be an acceptable secondary one. As Editor of the *Hastings Archaeological Group (*"*HAARG*"*) Journal* I occasionally have to tell contributors that their guesses are unsupportable, and am then called upon to provide alternatives!

Passing interest

The *Sussex Express* of 3/10/1997, p. 8, reports that Uckfield Town Council wants the final say in the naming of new streets, as opposed to Wealden District, who delegate the final choice to an officer.

• RECENT LITERATURE

Blair, John (1997) Saint Cuthman, Steyning and Bosham. *SAC* 135, 173-92 [place-name discussion especially 180-2].

Bleach, John (1997) A Romano-British (?) barrow cemetery and the origins of Lewes. *SAC* 135, 131-42, with an appendix by Richard Coates on the name of Lewes (141-2).

Coates, Richard (1998) Coldharbour. *SPP* 83, 2.

Cullen, Paul (1997) The place-names of the lathes of St Augustine and Shipway, Kent. Dissertation for the degree of DPhil, University of Sussex.

Hobbs, C.J. (1997) The manors of Maresfield and Duddleswell in East Grinstead. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 62, 15-16. [Extensive analysis and documentation of tenemental history, with numerous local names.]

Leppard, M.J. (1997) Domesday Book and the origins of settlement in East Grinstead: addenda. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 62, p. 4. [See *Bulletin* 61, 5-10.]

Male, Georgina and Winifred Abbott (eds) (1995) *The incoming tide. Studies in the history of Middleton on Sea, West Sussex.* Felpham: Felpham and Middleton Local History Workshop. [Of special place-name interest are 'Our coastline past and present', by Ivor Edwards and Denis Ardagh, 13-23, for topography; 'Early Middleton', by Winifred Abbott, 25-33, for the Felpham charter bounds (S562); 'Middleton parish', by Winifred Abbott, 35-9 for the manor and parish; and 'Middleton's change of name' [i.e. to *Middleton on Sea*], by Vivienne Arnold, 97.]

Parsons, David and Tania Styles with Carole Hough (1997) *The vocabulary of English place- names: -Box.* Nottingham: University of Nottingham (Centre for English Name Studies). [First fascicle of the important reference-work that will replace Smith's *Elements* (1956). (Obtainable from Mrs J. Rudkin, Publications Officer, English Place-Name Society, Department of English Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD.) See the last article in the Supplement to this issue.]

Pennington, Janet (1996) Boiler Hill [at Lancing College]. *The Lancing Club Newsletter*, 39. [This was the Lancing College name for Lancing Hill.]

Coote, Roger B. (1986) A field day with names. *Sussex Life* (May), 54. [On downland field- names.]

Swan, William Carter (1909-10) Diary. Edited by Edmund E. Swan as *Diary of a farm apprentice: William Carter Swan, 1909-10.* Stroud: Alan Sutton (1984). [Whereabouts of original unknown; presumably in private hands. Swan was apprenticed at Dial Post Farm, West Grinstead, whose fields are mentioned by name.]

• NEWS ITEMS

Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland held a one-day conference at the University of Sussex on 1 November 1997. Papers were read by Richard Coates, Ann Cole, Pam Combes, Diana Sanders and Tania Styles. Abstracts of these are printed in this number of *Locus focus.* Feedback about the day from those who attended was very positive.

Dr Rune Forsberg

Rune Forsberg, the reclusive English philologist from Uppsala, Sweden, has died at the age of 89. He made his name with a contribution to R.E. Zachrisson's dictionary of Old English that never materialized, but this awesomely learned work - his doctoral dissertation - on words beginning with **L** was published separately in 1950; it includes much of topographical and place-name interest. The grapevine says that he left virtually complete on his desk a book *[sic!]* on the name of Lewes, which is being shepherded through the press at Uppsala by a generous colleague. The publication of this is a forthcoming event rather than a news item; further details are unknown. [Stop press: the book has just arrived on the Editor's desk; more in *Locus focus* 2 (2).]

The Ivors Lane saga

In September 1997, Lewes District Council approved the name *Ivors* [sic!] *Lane* for a lane in Hamsey, at the request of the parents of Ivor Wilson, who committed suicide in 1996. The parents live at the only house having an address in this lane. Predictably, the peeve brigade who had never bothered to make a case for it to be named at all objected on the grounds that procedures had not been followed and that there were good reasons to name it after them and theirs rather than the said Ivor. A claim was made, however, that it had had the earlier unofficial name of *Drove Lane.* (*Evening Argus*, 26/9/1997, p. 14; *Sussex Express (Lewes and Ringmer edn)*, 26/9/1997; 3/10/1997, p. 16.)

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

By the time this issue is distributed, the conference "The archaeology of Sussex to A.D. 2000" will perhaps be a matter of News; but it takes place 4-5 April 1998 at the University of Sussex under the auspices of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University and the Sussex Archaeological Society; the sponsor is Archaeology South-East. There are several papers, especially on 5 April, which promise to be of interest to place-name specialists.

• NOTES

Max Wheeler, Reader in Linguistics in the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, offers an alternative view of the name of Ringmer

N2.1.1: The ponds of Ringmer [ref. N1.3.1]

The ponds mentioned by John Bleach as candidates for being the source of the name *Ringmer* are on the OS 1:25000 map, and there are several others within 500 metres of the church. The fact that the ones he mentions are in the grounds of Delves House leads me to believe they are clay extraction pits, as the name of the house suggests (*PN Sx* 356); and as the local archaeological record confirms Ringmer was a significant pottery centre (Hadfield 1981; Bleach 1982).

It is not clear to me, anyway, that the circularity of the edge of a pond, whether it is one of these or some other, is significantly distinctive enough to appeal to a namegiver. The sort of thing that would attract attention as a *hring-mere* is what we would call an oxbow lake; no alternative Old English word for this concept is currently known. There are several of these in Ringmer parish, three of them forming part of the parish boundary north-west of the current course of the Ouse. Of course, it is not likely that any of these is the original one, given the rate at which meanders shift position. But, remembering that the first Saxon settlers may have arrived by water, a particularly ring-shaped oxbow lake by the Ouse might well have been a distinctive landscape feature. Surely we do not need to seek the original *hring-mere* on the site of the current settlement?

o   *References*

Bleach, John (1982) The medieval potters of Ringmer. *Ringmer History* 1, 43-54.

Hadfield, J.I. (1981) The excavation of a medieval kiln at Barnett's Mead, Ringmer, East Sussex. *SAC* 119, 89-106.

Michael J. Leppard speculates on the origin of Sussex villages with a characteristic name- type.

N2.1.2 Parishes in Sussex with names in -field

On a recent visit to Mayfield it struck me how many Sussex villages in whose names the second element is *field* have a town-like appearance, with their parish churches an integral element in the layout - paradoxically since *feld* indicates open country. All the *-field* parish names are recorded by the early 13th century and all such villages known to me have mediaeval and 16th-century buildings either closely strung along either side of the road or grouped in a more rectangular disposition.

With earliest dates from *PN Sx* in parentheses, the first group includes Hartfield (1086), Henfield (770), Lindfield (765), Mayfield (c12), Uckfield (1220) and also Limpsfield in Surrey.

The second group includes Cuckfield (1088-1100), Maresfield (1234), Rotherfield (788) and also Lingfield in Surrey.

The remainder I do not know well enough to categorise and they may not match my observations: Heathfield (original site; c12), Isfield (1215), Framfield, Ifield, Netherfield, Ninfield and Westfield (all 1086).

If this is nothing more than coincidence it may tell us something about the origins of settlement in those places. Perhaps, as enclosure and farming got under way, the *feld* was the best place to site a church for the area with a small trading and artisan community settled alongside or attracted to it. It is likely too that such villages would have had fairs; some certainly had.

With no specialised knowledge of any of these parishes or their records I can do little more than speculate. **Net** members should be ideally placed to comment on particular cases, either to develop a sustainable theory or to bury the whole thing as soon as possible.

Christopher Whittick has discovered some early *twitten*s.

N2.1.3 Twitten*: is it spreading beyond dialect? [ref. Q1.3.4; see also R2.1.4 below]*

Although I can't answer the question as put (my feeling is that the idea is correct, and another aspect of the *faux-antique* which seems to beset us), I have recently come across some relatively early examples of the use of the word, and in a context which may throw light on its original meaning.

What follows is largely based on the notes which I took from documents at Hastings Museum when researching the history of the town wall. The notes were not taken with place-names or etymology in mind; some of the documents are in English, some in Latin, and it would be instructive to return to them to establish whether any Latin word is an acknowledged translation of *twitten.* With that caveat, here goes.

In 1589, Hastings Corporation received a grant from the crown of the chantry land in the town, the advowson of St Mary in the Castle and the land known as *the Stonebeach.*[1] In the course of the following century, the corporation derived an income from selling off plots of the Stonebeach for housing, the sites of capstans and netsheds. The southern side of George Street and several streets which were cleared during the 1950s and 60s were the product of these grants.

The counterparts of many of the conveyances are preserved in the corporation archive,[2] and describe the sites in some detail. The first deed to use the term *twitten* which I have noted is dated 1634, and uses the expression "a twitten or parcel of waste" to describe the eastern boundary of the plot. A deed of the following year again describes the boundary as "the twitten between the granted land and the shop of Thomas Gawen"; in 1645 we have "a little lane or twitten" and in 1653 "a way or twitten" five feet wide. In 1669 a little twitten is said to be two feet wide, and a deed of 1672 contains references to both a narrow twitten and "a large twitten of waste ground or stonebeach". Four grants between 1681 and 1684 feel the need to gloss the term with the formula "a twitten or town's waste".[3] The term also occurs in several other documents at Hastings, with dates between 1676 and 1745.[4]

What is interesting is that the term is clearly not simply the equivalent of a lane. In the boundary-clauses of deeds, roads, lanes and paths are always described according to their origin and destination - the lane from A to B - whereas the Hastings twittens are always said to be between the property being granted and some other object. In a form of primitive town planning, their ownership was retained by the corporation to maintain rights of way from the town to what remained of the beach.

Turning to the earliest example of the term that I have encountered, an identical usage is apparent. A deed of 1436 compromises litigation over "a parcel of ground called a *Twychene*, two feet wide, between two tenements in North Street, Chichester".[5] It is clear that the ground was a void space

between the two houses - the compromise grants easements for repairs, to maintain a gutter and for an eavesdrip - and not a lane, path or right of way between two places.

That the latter has become the common understanding and indeed use of the term is apparent from many examples. In 1954, when extensive building at Malling brought another *Church Lane* into prominence, Lewes Borough Council renamed the town-centre Church Lane *Church Twitten*.[6] The Friends of Lewes publication on Lewes twittens categorically describes them as ways running at right-angles to a principal highway, to be found in towns laid out in the 9th century.[7]

The evidence seems to the contrary. From both Chichester in the 15th century and Hastings in the 17th, the meaning seems common: a piece of void or waste ground lying between two buildings, the ownership and rights either shared between them or open to the public at large. It is obvious that such parcels of land, especially when contiguous, will develop into paths, but the evidence from these documents seems to suggest that 'path' is a secondary, albeit potentially early, meaning - Ascelota atte Twytene and Simon' atte Twyten, next-door neighbours at Meeching or Piddinghoe in 1296, presumably lived near a pathway rather than a piece of void ground.[8]

Is there a connection with *Twytown*, hypothesized by Pam Combes *(Q1.2.3)* as meaning a field shared by or lying between two estates? Twytown (now *Troy Town*) in Selmeston is on or near a hundred boundary.[9]

o   *Notes*

1   *VCH Sussex* IX (1937), 10-11.

2   H[astings] M[useum] MSS. E/A a.

3   The deeds in which I have noted the word are HM E/A a 32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 49-51, 55, 56, 58, 63, 66, 72, 74, 85, 89, 91-93, 97, the last dated 1692.

4   HM MIL B 2, D1/34, XX 319.

5   *SAC* 89 (1950), 133-34, quoting WSRO Chichester Corporation Deeds AY 56, and quoted in [John Houghton for] Friends of Lewes, *The twittens of Lewes* (Lewes: Lewes Civic Society (1991)), 3. I have not examined the deed, the text of which is clearly in Latin; the spelling, according to medieval orthographic practice, could equally easily be *Twythene*. [*Twychene* is perfectly credible, as the *formal* source of our word has previously been taken to be OE *twicen(e)* 'fork in the road, crossroads'. The later history is unclear; but see the end of this Note. - Ed.]

6   L.S. Davey, *The street names of Lewes* (Lewes: Lewes Town Council (2nd edn. 1981)), 19; the author describes the change of the way's name from *Street* to *Lane* and from *Lane* to *Twitten* as a 'double indignity'.

7   *The twittens of Lewes*, 3.

8   W. Hudson (ed.) (1910) *The three earliest subsidies for the county of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332.* Lewes: SRS 10, 45.

9   Further developed in Pam Combes (1996) Searching for Sidnore. *SPP* 80, 9 and 13.

• QUERIES

Q2.1.1 "Lost" inn/alehouse locations (Janet Pennington)

There was a national survey in 1686 of guest beds and stabling, revealing such things at 212 locations apparently in Sussex. I am contributing a map based on this list for the forthcoming *Sussex historical atlas.* Several of these names are under suspicion of being from elsewhere, e.g. Devon, Hampshire and Somerset, as tentatively indicated by Richard Coates below. As I don't know the exact way the names were reported back to central government, this is a problem. It seems strange that there should be "floaters" from other counties in a return for Sussex. Can **Net** members help me identify some of the unrecognized ones remaining?

A?wort	(impossible to read second letter, document faded and creased - ?Abingworth, Aldworth, Hayworth). Worth is listed.
Batwick	(?Berwick, Gatwick unlikely) RC wonders Bathwick, Somerset
Chillittgate	Anything to do with Chiltington?
Darvett gate	Sounds Ashdown Foresty.
Eastead	East Dean, Eastergate, East Grinstead are listed
Facombe	(?Thakeham, a bit early for Estuary English). RC wonders Faccombe in Hampshire.
Frankeild	?Framfield.
Gampton	(?Hampton). RC says ?Galmpton in Devon.
Garecross	so many Cross names, particularly in E. Sussex, but nothing like this even with alterations of capital letters, and imitating broad Sussex accent, and imagining local inhabitant in 1686 repeating place-name several times to London-born militiaman who can't spell and doesn't know the county. I had imagined the Return to have been taken by local militiamen, but have no evidence for this yet.
Georgeham	RC says place of this name in Devon. Bodiam is mentioned.
Good	I have checked with Tim McCann at WSRO re Goodwood.
Ivindon	RC says Mark Gardiner has excavated at Ivenden.
Northbridge	a couple of likely places but I don't know of any pubs there.
Rebellsloth	RC wonders Revelstoke in Devon.
Ridgway	?Ridgwood (south of Uckfield). Or on the Ashdown Forest ridge.
Robarrow	?Crowborough. (Croburrow gate is listed.) RC says Rowbarrow is quite a frequent minor place-name.
Roofleete	?Rowfant.
Rottary	RC wonders Rattery/Rattray in Devon.
Sluceneer	several sluice names on Budgen's 1724 map, but could this mean there is a 'sluice near' the alehouse, cf. position of Star Inn at Norman's Bay.
Tisborn	?Fishbourne.
Turne	Turner's Hill is not listed, so could it be this?

Here are some easier examples of entries I can work out - Angmern, Baalcombe, Balverhide, Beread, Boarne, Bodgham, Borkham, Brighthetton, Dolington, Ebornoule, Ekelsham, Fant, Fidelsworth, Grabtree, Hancar, Herstonteax, Horsam, Pevemsey, Poddinghoe, Tyshurst, Waldon, Willmindon, Wilsfeild, Worbelton.

Q2.1.2: Woolf's lair (Richard Coates)

Why did Virginia Woolf write letters from Asheham House, Rodmell, rather than Asham House, Beddingham?

Q2.1.3: The Egg, Bishopstone (Richard Coates)

Does anyone have information about the source and age of this informal name for the church green at Bishopstone?

• QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND ARTICLES

R2.1.1: Slonks again [ref. N1.2.5]

Pam Combes adds that the field-name *the Slonk* was recorded in Kingston (NGR TQ 407095) by John de Ward in his survey of the Ouse levels (1620; ESRO A 2187). The field lies on the marshes but adjacent to where the land begins to rise up to what is now the Wyevale Nurseries. A survey of the Abergavenny land in Rodmell (unlocated map headed "Land and Property owned by the Earl of Abergenny 1769-1837"; copy in Pam Combes's possession) records the names *in the Slonks* and *Slonks furlong* west of the windmill that lay on the downs west of the Lewes-Newhaven road (TQ 414066). This is clearly a downland site rising steeply to the summit. The two sites have almost nothing in common bar, possibly, the rising ground suggested as the sense of the word.

[As to the first of these, the slope followed by the parish boundary between Iford and Kingston is exactly the sort of thing I had in mind. -RC]

R2.1.2: Numerical avenues [ref. Q1.3.1]

David Padgham notes that *First*, *Second* and *Third Avenue* in Bexhill were planned *c.*1938, though only very limited construction took place before the late 1950s. Janet Pennington notes that *Penn's Gate* in Steyning is really *Penn's Court.*

R2.1.3 Knockhundred Row, Midhurst [ref. Q1.3.2]

Janet Pennington notes that the White Horse is said to have been in *Knockhundred Hill* in 1682 (WSRO Cowdray MSS 4347, no. 13, f.28).

R2.1.4 Twitten [ref. Q1.3.4; cf. also N2.1.3 above]

Paul Cullen notes that *twitten* appears in the minor-name record of Brook (Kent) in *c.*1595 and of Wye (Kent) in *c.*1453. *Twitchen* or a variant appears in Wye at the same date and at Hinxhill in the fifteenth century. He wonders how easy it is to decide whether *twitten* and *twitchen* are etymologically distinct, citing the problematic material in Gill (1943). Major (1981) includes *twitten* as a Kent word.

o *References*

Gill, W.W. (1943) Footpaths and alleyways: diversified local terms. *Notes and Queries* 185, 199-203, 231-4.

Major, Alan (1981) *A new dictionary of Kent dialect.* Rainham: Meresborough Press.

R2.1.5: Tom Tiddler's Ground [ref. Q1.3.5]

Michael Leppard notes that this is a general term used as a name. It means 'waste ground', 'no man's land' (Farmer and Henley 1890-1904: *s.n.*), "[a]ny place where money or other consideration is 'picked up' or acquired readily" (*OED-1*: *s.n.*); it is ultimately from the name of a children's game, first recorded in the early nineteenth century.

o *Reference*

Farmer, J.S. and W.E. Henley (1890-1904) *Slang and its analogues, past and present* (7 vols. in 3). London. [Reprinted Vaduz: Kraus (1965).]

From the newspapers

School governors have called the new Eastbourne secondary school *The Causeway School* after the Shinewater Bronze Age discovery (*Evening Argus* 20/1/1998).

Hardwick Road, Hangleton, Hove, is named after a local farming family, 1770-1914 (*Evening Argus* 13/3/1998, ref. Colin Laker, *Hangleton in the past* (privately published).

Raystede animal sanctuary, Ringmer, took its name from its founder Dr Mabel Raymonde-Hawkins (d. 1998), universally known as *Ray* (*Evening Argus* 20/1/1998).

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Hassocks

This has now been adopted as the name for the united parishes of Clayton and Keymer (*Evening Argus*, 9/11/1997, 23/12/1997, 9). Fine; very sensible. But the historic centres are to be distinguished as *Clayton Hamlet* and *Keymer Village*. How daft can you get? Why not just *Clayton* and *Keymer?* This decision is supposed to respect local history - but Clayton was never a hamlet anyway in any technical sense.

• ARTICLES

Richard Coates

Vanished features and coastal place-names: Meeching, The Seven Charleses *and* Winchelsea

Much idle fun can be had in speculating about the relation of (sometimes lost) place-names to non-apparent landscape features, but if speculation follows constraints provided by relevant academic disciplines, it can be profitable. I offer these pieces as a set of solutions to difficult Sussex coastal place-names in line with the most recent thinking by geomorphologists and historical geographers.

(1) Meeching, the ancient name of the settlement at Newhaven

PNSx (323-4) offers two related suggestions for this name. The first follows Ekwall (1923: 60) in deriving it from OE **Mēcingas* 'sword men', and the second involves a "patronymic" of apersonal name formed from the base-word *mēce* 'sword'. The second suggestion would make it a routine *-ingas* name of the Hastings type. In either case, the phonology of the word *mēce* must be taken as Kentish; this is acceptable in the light of the evidence from Sussex of other words with unshortened OE (West-Saxon) *ǣ* presented by Rubin (1951: 127-34). Phonologically speaking, neither of these solutions can be faulted. But if I believed either of them, I wouldn't be writing this note. No personal name including the element *mēce* is known. Of structural parallels to the supposed 'sword-men', i.e. words for animates derived using an *-ing(-)* suffix from concrete nouns, the OE records yield only three; of these two are words for animals and the other a rather special term amounting to 'head-man' (Munske 1964: 66). So in the light of the word-formational and semantic implausibility of the suggestions already in play, here is an alternative view.

The *-ingas* suffix may be found attached to a topographical term or an earlier place-name consisting of such a term. (For present purposes, I shall not distinguish between these possibilities.) A probable example in Sussex is Sompting 'dwellers at the marsh' (*PN Sx* 201), though some names apparently of this type may need to be interpreted in a different way (cf. Coates 1997: 35-6, on Steyning). I suspect that the Sompting model is valid for Meeching too, and that *mēce* is to be interpreted topographically. Until 1537, the Ouse entered the sea not at Newhaven but at Seaford; the reason was a shingle spit deflecting it to the east and allowing marsh to develop on the floodplain. This is characteristic of Sussex rivers; note the present (breached) feature deflecting the Adur, the twin features partially closing Pagham Harbour, and the stabilized and consolidated barriers at Cuckmere Haven and The Crumbles/Pevensey. (On all these, and the processes involved in their creation, see Castleden (1996).)

I suggest that in Anglo-Saxon times the possibly 4km long narrow spit at Meeching was called **Mēce* 'The Sword'. No other such applications of this word are known to me. But the metaphorical use of terms with a primary application meaning 'pointed weapon' for landforms is absolutely normal in OE. We find *ord* 'weapon-point', e.g. of dagger, spear or sword, at least once clearly meaning 'sword' in literature, an uncommon but long-recognized name-element for a minor point of land, e.g. in Duckard Point, Hayling Island, Hampshire and Shamblers, Cowes, Isle of Wight; *bill* originally 'falchion, sword' (i.e. one shaped like a *bill-* hook), in Amble (Northumberland), and perhaps in Portland and Selsey Bills, though these two are not recorded very early (the former in the fifteenth century; Richardson 1996/7: 227, n. 60) and the word involved may really be the descendant of *bile* 'beak', but a derivative with the same sense probably appears in some *Billing*-names; *ecg* 'blade, sword' in some *Edge* names as applied to straight ridges; and *sweord* 'sword', as in *Sweordora* apparently 'sword shore/bank', a feature in or near Fenland in the late-seventh century *Tribal Hidage* (Davies and Vierck 1974: 232 etc.), and as in *Swarling* (Petham, Kent), 'sword ledges/banks'. The term *spit* itself, though rarely a name-element, is not so dissimilar. In each case, we have the metaphor NARROW POINTED METAL IMPLEMENT >> TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURE OF ANALOGOUS SHAPE. On this view, **Mēcingas* meant 'dwellers at **Mēce* (The Sword)', and their name came to denote the inhabited place. I imagine that the parish originally contained all the land on the right bank of the Ouse, which would have included the ancient spit. I also hazard the guess, on the basis of the position of Court Farm, that the original nucleus of Meeching was nearer the sea than at present, and therefore nearer the root of the spit.

o   *Note*

PN Sx (84) says that Selsey Bill (i.e. presumably the name) is first marked on Philip Overton's map of 1740, "and there is no evidence that it is old". In fact, *The Byll* appears in the top right-hand corner of Speed's map of the Isle

of Wight in his *Theatrum Imperii Magnæ Britanniæ*, dating at the very latest from 1611 and possibly up to 15 years earlier. The feature named is the only part of The Manhood within the confines of the map, namely the north-west, but there can be no realistic doubt that Selsey Bill is intended. This is earlier than the first mention of The Bill of Portland by that name recorded in *PN Dorset* (I: 220), but Richardson (1996/7: 60, n. 227) has found earlier mentions of the latter.

(2) The Seven Charleses, Eastbourne

The Sussex coast from Cuckmere Haven to Beachy Head was once even more spectacular than it is now. The features called *The Seven Charleses* were pinnacles projecting from the middle, diagonal, face of the cliff above Falling Sands at Beachy Head, and rising the full height of the vertical cliff above the diagonal face (Castleden 1996: 42). The last is said to have fallen in 1853, but three are still depicted on OS maps of 1875. How old they were is not known; they are mentioned in no early sources known to me. But they may be ancient; after all, the more famous Seven Sisters cliffs are not mentioned before 1588, and not known by that name till later still. If the Charleses were indeed ancient, they were presumably *þā Seofon Ceorlas* 'The Seven Men (Churls)'. OE *ceorl* develops to *Charl-* in Sussex (cf. *Charl(e)ston*), and the name would be expected to turn out as **The Seven Charls.* The disruptive influence of the given- name *Charles* can reasonably be dated to the Stuart period or later, before which it was uncommon in England. Whether there really were originally seven, or whether one was made nominally available for each Sister, I do not know.

(3) Winchelsea

The site of Old Winchelsea, probably south of Camber, has gone for ever. Since the name is topographical, any solution will have to be speculative in view of the massive coastal changes hereabouts. The second element could be *ēa* 'river' or *īeg* 'island'. *PN Sx* (538) emphatically prefers the former; Smith (*EPNE* II, 268) and Gelling (*PNiL* 39) prefer the latter. The earliest forms, which are not from the most trustworthy of post-Conquest sources, suggest that Smith and Gelling are right; the bulk of medieval forms tends to support *PN Sx*, but not unambiguously. The position of Old Winchelsea, presumably close to or on the coast itself, makes the 'island' interpretation preferable to me, but certainty is impossible. The word *īeg* did not survive in use as a lexical word

in Middle English; *ēa* did just. If it is true that the port of Winchelsea was founded not long before 1040 (Gardiner 1988: 112), it very probably took its name from that of an existing feature, whether an island or a river.

PN Sx suggests that the first element is a personal name, which is not impossible but very questionable; no name of the relevant form is recorded, but a standard method of OE derivative-name formation would make one theoretically possible. Smith argues that it is a lexical word denoting 'nook, corner', meaning either 'a sharp bend in a river or valley' or 'a corner of land in the hills' (whatever that might mean in topographical terms). Gelling prefers 'river-bend', and translates the entire name as 'island by a river-bend', though it is unclear what *by* might mean, as opposed to *in.*

The Germanic relatives of *wincel* in the 'corner' sense suggest that it tended to denote an internal angle. In the case of Winchelsea, that would suggest a meaning 'island at or with a recess'. Much is uncertain about the history of the drainage of this area, but this is more or less compatible with Castleden's (1996: 51, figure 16) reconstruction of the area in about 1100, with the conjectural town-site next to a conjectural pouch-shaped bay, possibly silted up by about 1250. If the whole Walland Marsh area including the presumed site of Winchelsea is construed as an island, which is not unreasonable given the conjectural drainage of the area in about 1100, to take Winchelsea as 'island with an internal angle (recess, bay)' is not outrageous. Tatton- Brown (1988: 106) also speculates that Old Winchelsea may have occupied an island in the marshes, "like Cheyney and Scotney", and a similar view is implied by Gardiner (1988: 112). The alternative landform history of the Marsh espoused by Green (1988) changes some essentials of this solution; his differences with Cunliffe (1980) and Castleden (1996) have largely to do with the ancient course of the Rother and therefore of the northern limit of the Walland Marsh 'island', but, crucially, he regards Old Winchelsea as having been on the western side of the post-1287 Rye estuary (1988: 170-3), as does Gardiner. In such circumstances, an 'island' Winchelsea could have been on a shingle bar dividing the sea from a harbour scoured by the Brede/Tillingham river and presumably called *The Camber* 'chamber, room' (although this name is not recorded before 1375, its Norman-French form suggests its earlier existence). It is unclear on Green's model what would have islanded Winchelsea on the west, unless there was a narrowing of the conjectural spit due to beach starvation on that side too. It is conceivable that the Brede-Tillingham estuary, possibly partly barred by a divided spit on the eastern side of Winchelsea, might have been considered a *wincel*, and that *wincel* named the same feature as the French *camber.* But Rye Bay itself is less plausibly viewed as a *wincel* until the development of Dungeness to proportions approaching those of modern times.

On any current model of the development of the Romney Marsh area, sufficient reason could be found for supporting the hypothesis that *Winchelsea* meant 'island with/at a bay or inlet'. The grammatical form of the name, with the first element in the genitive case with a loose associative-locative meaning, has its best parallels in *Portsea* 'island at Port/the port', less likely 'with a port', *Pilsey* (West Thorney) 'island with (a causeway or ford marked by) piles' and *Mersea* (Essex) 'island at/in the (open) sea', or possibly 'with a pond'.

o *Note*

It should be said that there are conflicting views about the way in which and the date at which the three Sussex rivers came to drain into Rye Bay (e.g. beside those of Cunliffe and Green, Tatton-Brown 1988: 105-6, 108; Gardiner 1988: 112).

o *Acknowledgement*

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Michael J. Leppard

Ironworking in medieval Sussex: some possible place-name evidence

In a recent article in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* (Leppard 1997) I drew together various kinds of evidence for ironworking in that parish between the abundant Roman activity and the plentiful documentation and remains from the 16th century, including possibly relevant place-names. A version of the article, with comparable evidence from other parts of Sussex, has been submitted to the *Newsletter of the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG).* What follows here is a summary of the use made of place-name material in the two articles, with the hope that others may

be able to correct or add to it. Any additions will be communicated to the WIRG, duly acknowledged, for the period in question is the one about which least is known.

Starting with the unique *ferraria* (whatever exactly that was) in *Domesday Book's* account of an unnamed holding in the hundred of East Grinstead and with P.D. Wood's persuasive identification of that holding with Lavertye (now Ashdown House; Wood 1996: 10, 14)), I suggested that the *ferraria* must have been particularly valuable, both to be mentioned at all and because the holding was an offshoot of the manor of Ditchling, a place first mentioned in A.D. 765 and royal property by 880 (Barker 1947: 86-8; 1948: 135). One would expect the crown to exploit iron resources on its land, not least in the reign of King Alfred (died 899) with its many years of war.

Certainly the only remains of Saxon ironworking so far discovered in the Weald have beendated to the 9th century, 4 miles south of Lavertye at Millbrook on Ashdown Forest, just east of the A22 (Tebbutt 1982). Nothing is known of any associated settlement, but a mile further south an undoubtedly ancient road runs on from the A22 at Nutley to the River Ouse at Isfield. Pointing this out, Heather Warne (pers. comm.) has suggested that the first element of Isfield is OE ise(r)n 'iron'. Hitherto that name, recorded as Ise- or Yse-, -feld or -feud from 1215 onwards, has been derived from a personal name Isa (PN Sx 396), but Richard Coates (pers. comm.) says there is no philological objection to Mrs Warne's theory. One may compare the nearby Iron River and Iron Cut (Straker 1930/1: 89) and the bloomery recently discovered there (Cleere and Crossley 1995: 379). Whatever the name's origin, there was clearly an ancient route by which iron could be exported from Ashdown Forest and such nearby places as Lavertye.

Mrs Warne has also suggested that *Isecumbe*, a lost place-name in the tithing of Ashurst in East Grinstead, recorded from 1287 (Budgen n.d.) to 1332 (Subsidy roll; Hudson 1910: 313) and hitherto explained the same way as Isfield (*PN Sx* 328) is another iron-name and Richard Coates again sees no objection. A Richard Faber (Smith) in the same tithing and source (Budgen n.d., *s.aa.* 1285, 1287) may strengthen this interpretation, for the standard work on the Wealden iron industry says such a name can in the 13th century indicate iron production rather than mere blacksmithing (Cleere and Crossley 1995: 96).

Elsewhere in Sussex, Isenhurst in Mayfield, first recorded in 1279 as *Ysenhurst*, 'may be "iron- wood"' (*PN Sx* 382). Cleere and Crossley refer to ironworking there in the 1540s (1995: 127), but do not consider the name's implications for an earlier date.

Another possible iron-name may be *Isewo(r)de* in Keymer and Clayton. Members of the de Isewo(r)de family occur in the 1296 and 1327 subsidy rolls there (Hudson 1910: 45, 177), and land called *Isewodes* was part of Keymer manor in the 17th century (Godfrey [?]1933: 32, 35).

Finally, Henry ate Cinderforde in the manor of *Hauekeherste*, apparently in East Hoathly, in 1292 (Wilson 1961: 18) and Simon Synderforde in Herstmonceux in 1392 (*PN Sx* 482) may testify to ironworkings in those parts.

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☐☐☐

Gwen Jones

Communication and settlement in Ewhurst parish: the evidence of place-names

The pattern of the roads was studied as part of a parish survey, and figure 1 (see end of article) shows the road network as it is today. The road shown on fig. 1 as route T originated as a turnpike which was opened only in 1840, and because of its late date it is omitted from subsequent figures. While it is likely that the majority of public footpaths (shown dotted) originated as links between early settlements, only those which have either or both of artefactual and ground evidence for prolonged use (hollow ways and parallel tracks) have been included in the figures.

Ewhurst parish lies in the north of the Rape of Hastings and covers 1,768 hectares (about 5,800 acres). Its soils are formed on Wadhurst Clay, Ashdown Sand and a small area of Tunbridge Wells Sand. Rivers and streams form the greater part of its boundaries and the land rises away from them to its highest point at 109 metres above Ordnance Datum.

Today the parish is served by a network of minor roads and country lanes (fig. 1; and with key letters for the routes, figs. 2 and 3). Important routes (A and B) link the port of Rye with the interior, formed on the two east-west ridges of higher ground. Whereas no artefacts have yet been found along the line of route A, the early use of route B is suggested by finds of prehistoric artefacts at points along its length within the parish. After the removal of Robertsbridge Abbey to its site close to the river Rother in the early thirteenth century, this route also provided an important link with the community of monks.

Route C which runs north-south across the parish also keeps, where possible, to the higher ground. It is part of the Roman road to Rochester and traverses the present village of Bodiam, where there was an important Roman river port (fig. 2). A short stretch (shown dotted on fig. 4) survives only as a footpath and was probably lost as a result of late-medieval quarrying on the line of the present road to the west and as the result of increased traffic between Ewhurst and Bodiam along the road to the east.

Route D, which for considerable stretches remains in use only as public footpaths, may possibly also be of Roman origin. The *stret* element in two early names, *Stretfeld*, which gave its name to an early borough of Robertsbridge manor and whose land it crosses, and *Lordistret*, the name of a *Domesday* vill whose land lay just north-west of the road, suggests a possible early origin. Beyond the confines of the parish this route links Sedlescombe, important in Roman times and later, and Newenden in Kent, an important medieval river-port (fig. 5).

The pattern of settlement revealed in the *Domesday* place-names and in documents of the two following centuries suggests that routes A, B, C and D remained in use into the medieval period and that, as pockets of settlement spread across the eastern half of the parish, the four routes were joined by other linking routes which formed them all into a coherent network.

In 1086 the now separate parish of Bodiam was assessed as part of Ewhurst vill. The link across the river was presumably maintained by route C: "Osbern holds one hide and 3 virgates of this manor's land in *Bodeham* [i.e. Bodiam]; it always lay in *Werste* [i.e. Ewhurst] lands; the Hall was there" (*DB* 9,120). That hall possibly stood in or near the present village of Ewhurst Green where the late-twelfth-century church still stands.

In addition to *Werste* itself there were three and possibly four other smaller *Domesday* vills which have been identified with areas within the parish: *Lordistret* (Lordine), already mentioned, *Waliland* (Wellhead), *Eslede* (Eyelids) and one other unnamed embryo settlement (*DB* 9,123, 9,130, 9,27-9, 9,130). Few details are given for this last and it was possibly still in a pioneer state. *Eslede* comprised three small settlements, *Waliland* (1 hide, 66s) and *Lordistret* (0.5 hide; 20s) were somewhat larger and since their names have survived with some phonological changes, their general area can probably be identified with reasonable accuracy.

It seems unlikely that the five foci of settlement (assuming that *Domesday Book* implies foci) would have remained for so long without establishing regular communications with one another and also with other settlements in neighbouring parishes. The lanes and footpaths which link them today very probably represent pathways adopted during that early communication. But since parts of these early routes now exist only as public footpaths, as communications the footpaths often seem to be of purely local importance. They acquire something of their original significance when re-established and seen in relation to neighbouring parishes (fig. 5).

Route D assured the link between Newenden, *Lordistret*, Hurst and Sedlescombe. Routes E and F provide the link between Ewhurst, Lordine, Austford and Sedlescombe. Route G linked Ewhurst with *Eslede*, *Drigsell* and Salehurst to the west, and with Northiam and Newenden to the east. A spur to the north provided further communication with Udiam, which by the thirteenth century had emerged as a manor and may have been the unnamed embryo settlement already referred to. Route H, today a narrow lane which lacks any ground evidence for former importance, appears to have provided a local link with Brede.

Since the *Domesday* record is known to be deficient, it has been suggested (Dodgson 1978: 60) that place-names recorded by 1100 reflect the early manorial centres, while those recorded by 1300 reflect a slightly later wave of settlement, although it was also accepted that ". many places which first emerge by name in the thirteenth-century record must have been in existence, with a place-name, by 1086". Dodgson's list includes seven further place-names in the parish: Ockham, Padgham, Udiam, Crainham, Edgington, Wattle Hill, and Yorkshire, all bar one (Crainham) farm-names which emerged in the documentary record between 1180 and 1225. *Schoram* (Shoreham) occurs in the Patent Rolls of 1281, and other place-names are incorporated into the surnames of the taxpayers of the 1296 subsidy (Hudson 1910): *Knolle* (Knowle), *Herycomp* (Harcombe), *Pralle* (Prawls), *Stocke* (Stockwood, Stocklands), *Bremblegh* (Bromley), *Staple* (Staplecross),

Edelnix (Ednix), *Chytecumbe* (Chitcomb), *Brabon* (Brabans), and *Gate* (Gate). These names continued in use. They also became attached to farms, or, in two cases, (Yorkshire and Harcombe) to stretches of woodland, and in one case (Staple) to a hamlet which later grew into a village round a crossroads, but the majority appear to have originally reflected early land-use or topography and became attached to farms perhaps as part of a second wave of settlement. Plotted onto a map (fig. 4), these names show that the existing network of roads, lanes and footpaths developed as a system of intercommunication between the farms.

Those farm-names survive on the Tithe Map. These early place-names suggest that the original waves of settlement occupied land either in the section of the parish accessible from the river or from the Roman roads (C and D). In the central area of the parish there is, however, an obvious difference between the west and east sides. In the west, the early routes across to Salehurst remained in use, but a large tract of the area became the demesne parkland of the abbey of Robertsbridge, and expansion of settlement virtually stopped. This part of *Waliland*, hardly settled in 1086, never lost its wooded character and there was no north-south road across it till the 1840s. In the eastern half, there are gaps in the place-name record which would be at least partly filled were early deeds belonging to Ore manor, which held a small area of land north of Chitcombe, to be discovered. But while the area now covered by Lordship and Wellhead Woods remained as demesne parkland, other land in the eastern half of the central sector, also land which had been acquired by Robertsbridge Abbey, had been divided up into copyhold tenements by the end of the thirteenth century (rental, ESRO SHE 7/3). Subsequent rentals (Centre for Kentish Studies U1475 M243 (1390), M244 (1470/1)) show a much greater proportion of early tenants' names surviving in tenement-names, and only a few (e.g. *Nywelond*, *Monjoye* and *Potehous*) which reflect land-use or topography in their designation. Tenants' names such as *Wale*, *le Wolf*, *Baron* and *Wylbele*, recorded in the early thirteenth- century rental, recur, attached to the same tenements. Other tenements eventually take on the names of later tenants, but are still identified by details naming the former tenants and the dates of their tenure (d'Elbouf 1946). Where the tenants' names attached to tenements survive in 1840, however, it is as *field-names* in the Tithe Schedule rather than as farm-names, seemingly suggesting the smaller scale of settlement they represent - a third and somewhat later stratum of small holdings which in subsequent centuries were consolidated into larger units.

If one can assume that Robertsbridge Abbey was largely responsible for settling tenants on the land it acquired, then three waves of settlement are reflected in the place- and field-names of Ewhurst parish. The parish must have been supporting considerable numbers of people by 1300, possibly as many as in the nineteenth century. It is evident that the road/footpath network had its origin well before the days of the Conquest and it is not impossible that, with exception made of the turnpike road (A229), it was established entirely as we know it today in or by the thirteenth century.

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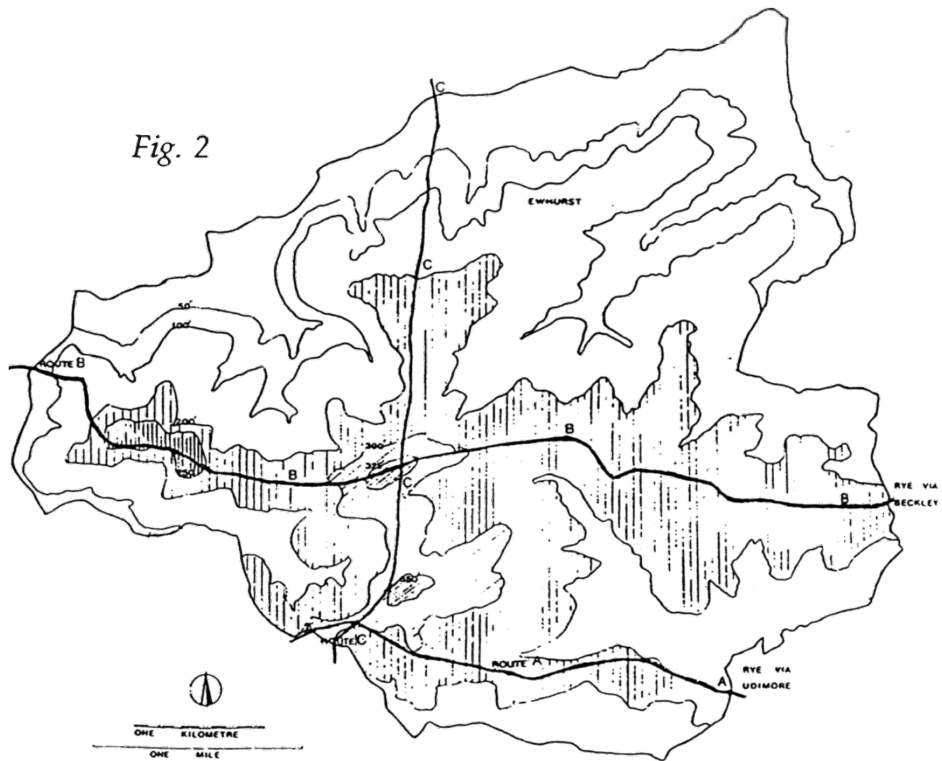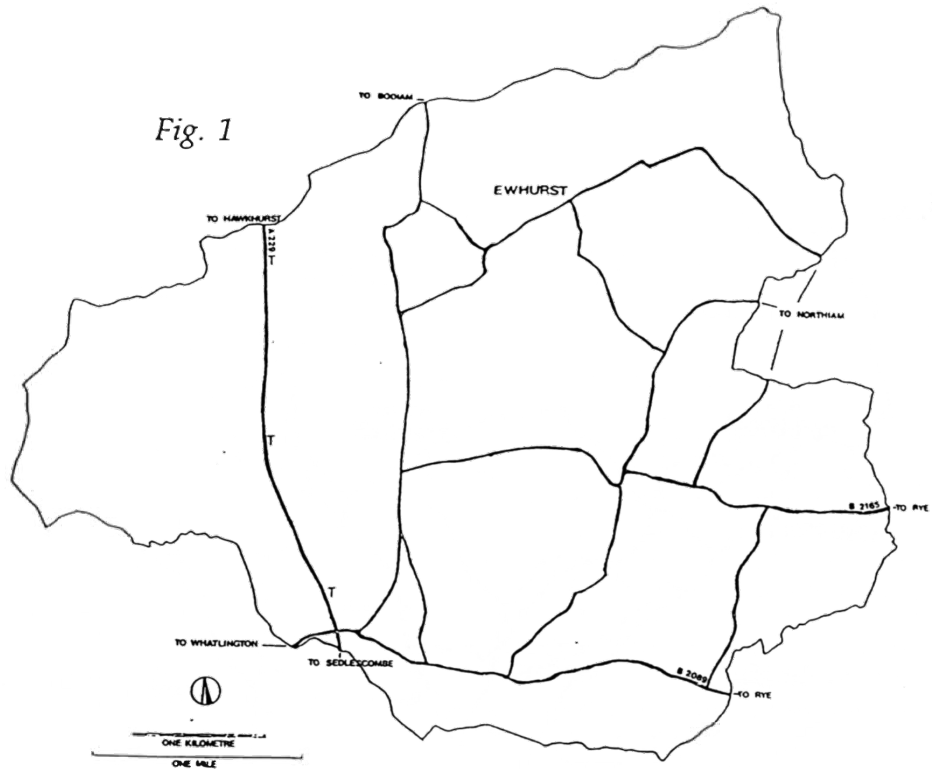Morris, John (1976) *Domesday Book: Sussex.* Chichester: Phillimore.
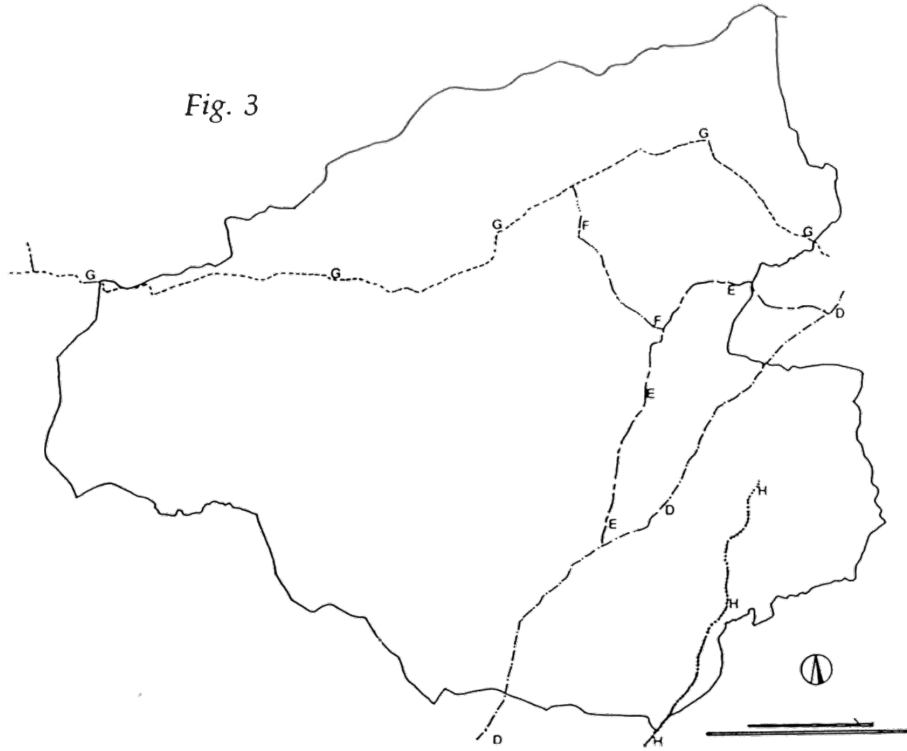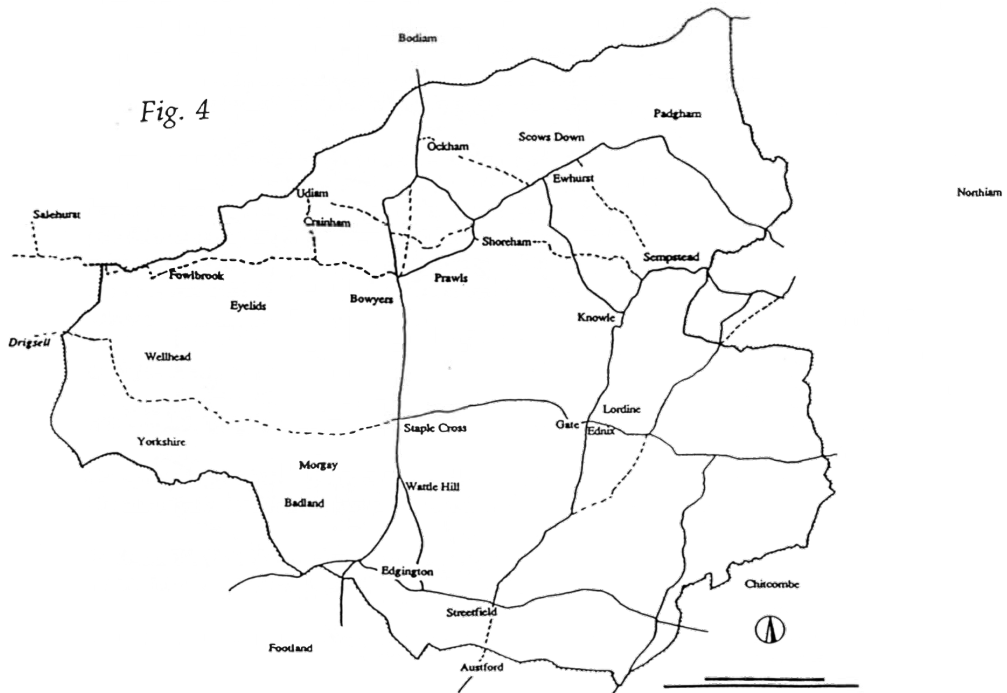
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Part of
Salehurst

Parish

Bodiam

Fig. 5

BODEHAM
Bodiam

Parish

KENT

Part of

HIHAM
Northiam

WERSTE
Ewhurst

Northiam

SALHERT
Salehurst

Ewhurst

ESLEDE
Eyelids

LORDISTRET
Lordine

Parish

DRISNESEL
Drigsell

WALILAND
Wellhead

Parish

Part of

Parish

FODILANT
Footland

Part of

Sedlescombe

Brede

Whatlington

HERSTE
Hurst

Parish

Parish

Parish

WATLINGETONE
Whatlington

SELESCOME
Sedlescombe

PARISH BOUNDARY
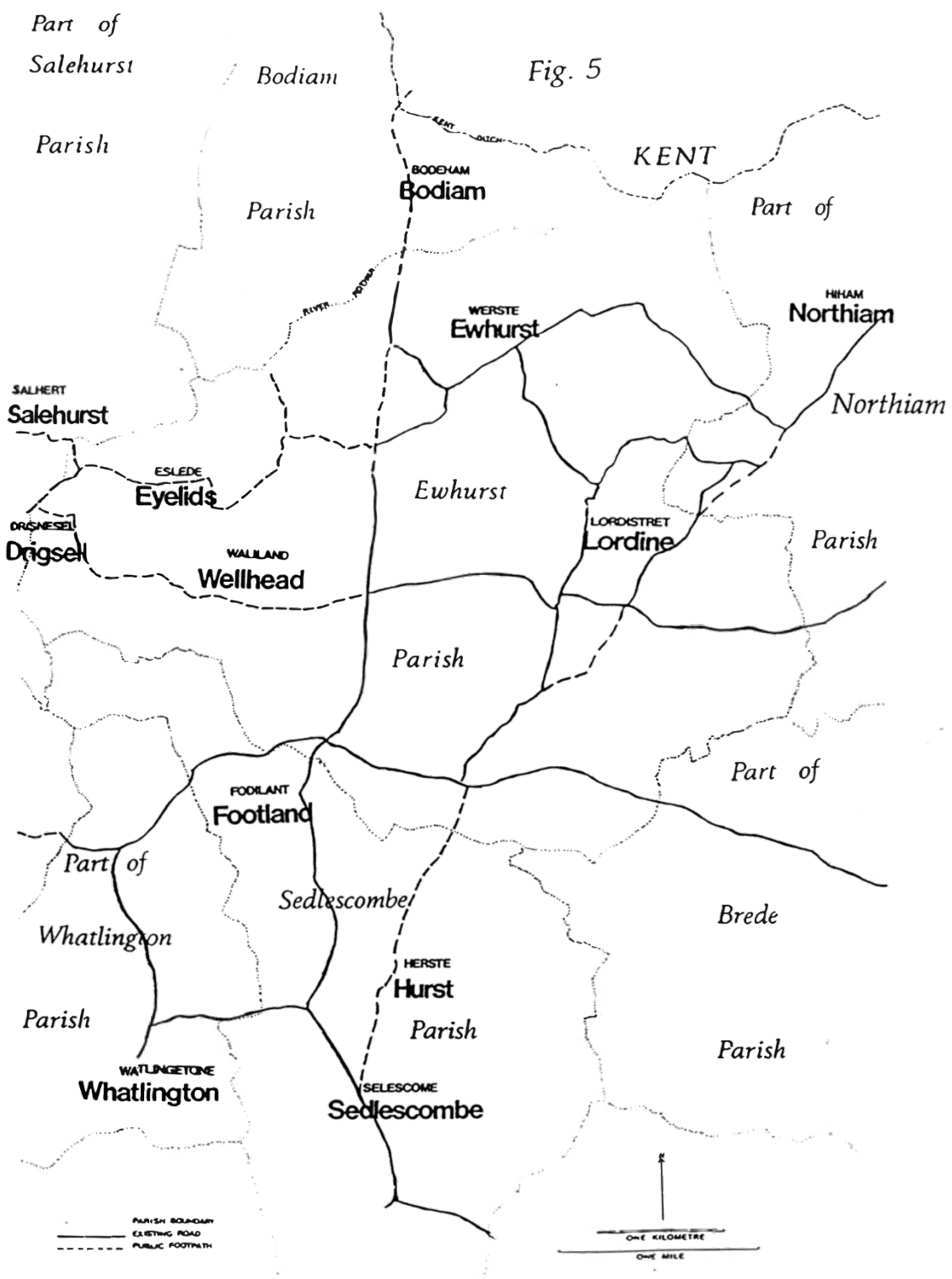EXISTING ROAD
PUBLIC FOOTPATH

ONE KILOMETRE
ONE MILE

Richard Coates
Going west, but where first? Western Road

This is a little exploration in onomastic fashion.

Historically, compass-point street-names tended to be uniformly of the type [compass-point name + generic], e.g. *West Street*, of which there are 24 surviving instances in Sussex. *Street* is the dominant generic, followed by *Road* (which is however dominant in Greater London except in relation to *West*). Such names were distributed evenly among the compass-points, as the following table of Sussex survivors, culled from the *Ordnance Survey street atlas*, indicates:

West St 24
East St 21
South St 20
North St 24

This is the pattern I would expect to be found repeated across the whole of England. A lucky dip into gazetteers of nine urban areas is not quite conclusive; West Street is unaccountably favoured in Greater Manchester and Greater London, and there is a skew to the East in the Basildon area.

Compass-points can also be less directly denoted by the corresponding derived adjectives, e.g. *western*, *westerly*. What I investigate here is the curious case of *Western Road.* It will be noted from the tables below that *Western* with the generic *Road* in Sussex far outnumbers the same word with other generics, and that *Western* far outnumbers the other compass-point adjectives. There are almost as many *Western Road*s as *West Street*s. In the tables below, **P** means that the name in question is paired or multiply associated with one or more contrasting street-names in close proximity (e.g. Western Road and Eastern Road in Haywards Heath). **A** means that the name in question shares its specifier with one or more other adjacent street- names, and that the group so formed should be considered a single unit in naming terms (e.g. Western Road and Western Terrace in Brighton). The number in parentheses is the number of instances of the name in question that could be considered independent; **P**s are disregarded altogether, considered as being jointly named by acts of policy from an Olympian viewpoint, with reference to each other and not to a topographical location; and a group of **A**s counts as one. To which group the As are then counted is a matter of the author's judgement - normally to the "bigger" street-type, e.g. to *road* rather than to *close* or *terrace.* Those judged independent are marked with **A** unqualified; a qualified **A** (i.e. with a further name in parentheses) states a relation to an independent one.

Western Road (17)

Bexhill, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Crowborough **A**, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Haywards Heath **P**, Hurstpierpoint, Lancing (Western Road North in Cokeham/Sompting continues the same road), Lewes, Littlehampton, Newhaven, Newick, Pevensey Bay, St Leonard's, Selsey, Shoreham, Wadhurst

Close to the county boundary is one at Ferndale, Tunbridge Wells.

Western Other (6)

Avenue (Battle), Avenue (Polegate) **P**, Buildings/Cottages (now Sillwood Road, Brighton) **A** (W Road), Close (Lancing), Court (Littlehampton), Esplanade (Hove), Gardens (Crowborough) **A** (W Road), Parade (Eastbourne), Row (Worthing), Street, Little W Street (Brighton) **A** (W Road), Terrace (Brighton) **A** (W Road)

Close to the county boundary are Western Avenue and Parade, Emsworth.

Eastern Road (3)

Brighton (probably modelled on W Road, but applied at a different time), Haywards Heath **P**, Lindfield, Wivelsfield

Close to the county boundary is Eastern Road, Havant.

Eastern Other (3)

Avenue (Polegate) **P**, Avenue (Shoreham) **A**, Close (Shoreham) **A** (E Avenue), Close (East Preston), Place (Brighton) **A** (E Road), Street, Terrace, Terrace Mews (Brighton) **A** (with each other; not directly with E Road)

Northern Anything (1)

Northern Avenue (Polegate) **P**, Northern Crescent (East Wittering)

Southern Anything (3)

Southern Avenue (Polegate) **P**, Southern Ring Road (University of Sussex, Falmer), Southern Road (Eastbourne), Southern Road (Selsey)

Total of Western: 23 Total of Eastern: 6 (possibly generous interpretation; arguably 5) Total of Northern: 1 Total of Southern: 3

Dispassionate readers will agree that the dominance of *Western*, and of *Western Road* in particular, is very striking.

It is interesting that the same pattern appears to recur in Greater London, though the difference is numerically less striking. There are 42 instances of *Western Road* in Greater London (Room 1992: 201); Room's tables list no other such compass-point adjective names, which means that they must be represented by under 30 instances. This kind of dominance is confirmed by sources ranging from a 1930s *Geographia* index to the *A-Z* of 1991.

These names are all apparently recent ways of referring to west-oriented roads (! no paradox intended). Factors which may have led to the exceptional popularity of *Western* names include a connotation (or something more direct) of the usually more salubrious west side of towns and their genteel roads, with hints of London's West End, of the West Country as a holiday destination, and of "Westering home". In other words, they had nothing to lose through being named transparently; west was OK. (This might account for the *West Street*s of Greater Manchester and London if their preponderance were not limited to those places.) During the twentieth century, the cultural load of the word *western* increased to connote western European cultural norms, political openness and liberalism and so on. These can hardly have damaged the survival prospects of names containing

it; but they must have been enough to outweigh the connotations of the Wild West and its literary genre.

In Sussex, the earliest such name was apparently *Western Place* (later *Western Road*) in Brighton. Its name is not what it might appear. True, it is a road leading westward from the urban nucleus towards Hove, across the West Laine, but it passed across land part of which once belonged to the Western family, also entering Western lands as it entered Hove. Thomas Western, whose family's main seat was at Rivenhall, Essex, was one of the biggest landowners in Brighton, Preston and Hove in 1739, and his successors still held a substantial portion of the West Laine in the early 1790s. The Westerns' interests in the Brighton area were auctioned off in 1793 for reasons set out in Haddan (1933), and the legal arrangements were completed in 1794-5 (Farrant 1981: 174-7). The West Laine lands were bought by Thomas Kemp of Coneyborough, Barcombe.

The family tradition of the Westerns was that Western Road was named after Thomas (Haddan 1930). The researches of Col. Somers Clarke could not, however, demonstrate conclusively that the Westerns held land actually abutting the line of Western Road, though he conceded that this might have come about by the rationalizing of the lands of different owners into convenient blocks during the years of rapid development (Clarke 1930).

A *Western* name seems to have been applied at the time of the first building developments along the present line, in the guise *Western Place*, from the present Marlborough Street to Preston Street/Hampton Place (Clarke 1930). But this was after the extinction of the Western interest. It is therefore impossible to decide finally whether Kemp or his agents decided on the name out of piety towards the old landowners, geographical rectitude (but using a novel onomastic formula), or some combination of both; though Dale (1951: 69) confidently asserts that the family name is what is involved, following the family tradition. The most likely solution to the puzzle is that the *Western* of the various street-names came directly from the name of the now-demolished *Western House* (see Clarke 1930; marked as such on maps till at least 1850), the last house in Brighton on the Westerns' land at the bottom of the west side of Western Street, which must have been acquired by Kemp and merged with his own existing interests, and which preserved its name, as being topographically appropriate, into Kemp's ownership. Western Street is likely to have been the earliest street to be named, directly from the adjoining house. The others will have taken their names from the street at least in part because of its appropriateness and in the light of the developing *West Brighton* estate.

The eastern end of proto-Western Road led from Brighton's West Gate (Yeakell and Gardner's town plan, 1779) and appears as *the footway* in Budgen's terrier of 1792. Its westward projection across the two westernmost furlongs of the West Laine is not on the pre-first edition OS map of 1789. Farrant and Farrant (1978: 72) speculate that this extension may be of the nineteenth century, and that appears to have been the case. Marchant's map of 1808 does not mark a *Western* name, but shows one building abutting the line of Western Road north of Clarence Place. Thereafter came *Western Terrace* (1827; before *Eastern Terrace* (1827/8; Carder 1990: 207c, 99e)). Next was the *Western Pavilion* (A.H. Wilds's own house) in 1828/31 (Carder 1990: 207c and 209 gives contradictory dates), and *Western Lodge* (before 1830; Wallis's map). Last in this group was *Western Lawns.* The original Western Place has become *Western Road* (this was originally only west of Preston Street and into Hove) by 1834 (the "New Plan" made in the wake of the 1832 Reform Act).

In Lewes, the name *Western Road* was first applied to a terrace of houses built in 1848 west of St Anne's church (Davey 1981: 60), and this was applied to the road that was eventually laid to connect the High Street with the roads to London and Brighton which diverged near The Spital. It is now (and since 1883) formally defined as running from the Ireland's Lane junction to the end of

Brighton Road. Nothing can be proved, but it would be reasonable to regard the name as copied from fashionable Brighton. As at Brighton, it is a westward extension of the main west- east thoroughfare of the town, a pattern which is also repeated at Newick and arguably at Hailsham. The suspicion of copying is aggravated by the eccentric placing of the specimen in Old Shoreham, which runs along the northern margin of the old town (though it does lead west from Buckingham Road).

All other instances, including that at Newick, appear to be of later origin than those in Brighton and Lewes, and can be regarded as radiating from either Lewes, as the county town, or Brighton, as the centre of fashion. This is an example of some significant cultural patterning lurking behind a bland-looking name.

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Valerie Mellor

Finding your way around Piddinghoe, then and now

The erection of two new street signs in the village leads to several interesting lines of thought. Why now (in one case hundreds of years after the first buildings)? How did folk manage with no signs? Why do we have these particular names?

At a recent meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils, concern was voiced by many members about the problems the emergency services had in finding individual houses. This has certainly been the case in Piddinghoe, despite the village being relatively compact compared with many others. Even delivery of goods can be a frustrating experience, for drivers and householders alike. Street signs are only part of the solution but perhaps we have made a start by

doubling ours from two to four.

Formerly the houses here were mostly known by the name of the occupant and since everyone knew everyone else (and was related to quite a few of them) this was no problem. Deliveries too were mostly made by "regulars". In all the subsequent years, despite the influx of new houses and new people replacing the "old" families there was, until last year, only one street sign - for Brookside. Here also were the first numbers, but they were allocated in the order built so are not sequential: that confuses visitors too.

The names on the new signs *The Green* and *Court Farm Close* both have their origin in village history. Despite greens featuring so strongly in the popular image of a village, there appear to be no sure explanation of their origin. Many are roughly triangular, as is ours, and it seems highly likely that ours was the centre of the original Saxon settlement. Through it would have passed the track used from earliest times by travellers along the valley. Why then is The Green now a backwater, ignored by the present village street? All the ground evidence suggests that the part of the Street from the Old Post Office to Old Cottage, perhaps previously a farm track, came into use to bypass the loop through the green. Coincidentally, our second new sign is to be found on this "new" piece of road. Court Farm Close was built on a field previously belonging to Court House Farm, itself now isolated on another section of "new road", opened in 1923 and better known as the C7. In the Middle Ages, the manorial courts were held at the farm.

> *Sussex Express* (Lewes edition), "Parish Pump" column, 3/10/1997; reproduced by courtesy of the Editor of the *Sussex Express* and lightly edited for republication here.

ARGUS, Friday, February 6, 1998 -- 15

The rise of the Phoenix

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Quite a lot according to these residents

by Adam Trimingham

HISTORIC names chosen by local people will be restored to the Hanover area of Brighton in a new housing development.

People were asked by Chichester Diocesan Housing Association what names the roads should have in the new Phoenix Brewery development opposite The Level.

Five winners were each presented with a bottle of champagne at the Church of the Annunciation parish room in Washington Street.

Parish priest Father David Wostenholm, Nina Rolf, of Hanover Street, and Betty Morgan, of Washington Street, all chose Phoenix Rise to mark the old brewery.

Fred Sayers, of Freshfield Street, chose Malthouse Lane, both because of the brewing connections and because there is a road of that name near Hurstpierpoint College in the part of Sussex where he spent his childhood.

Memory

Bertha Morgan, of Preston Drove, chose Tamplins Terrace in memory of the old brewery company that used to operate on the site.

CDHA project manager Amanda Hodge said: "It is good that these old names are being revived."

• BOOK NOTICES

Because of its centrality to our interests, the Editor is offering a review rather than merely a notice of one new book:

Judith Glover, *Sussex place-names.* Newbury: Countryside Books, 224 pp. (£9.95; £1.00 off in some bookshops)

This is a second edition of the author's *The place-names of Sussex* (Batsford, 1975), with a new title. Your reviewer read it with mounting annoyance as he realized that, having had 20-odd years at her disposal to make improvements, all the author had done was add some topographical, cultural and folklore details to her entries, without making any reference whatever to advances in place-name study. This makes it all the more irritating when she issues pronouncements such as "The most popularly held theory among etymologists is ..." (Amberley); she hasn't actually read any place-name literature published since 1968, and there is some dealing with Amberley. The first edition was critically, but not ungenerously, reviewed by Margaret Gelling in *JEPNS* 9 (1976/7), 31-2. Dr Gelling was wasting her time, as her excellent advice has been completely ignored. The principal things I criticize were also criticized by her over 20 years ago. The blurb on the back cover describes the work as a "book of high scholarship" - yes, but it's someone else's scholarship (as far as etymology goes) and it's 70 years out of date. And how many works of high scholarship do you know which acknowledge the use of *Sussex Life* but not of *Sussex Archaeological Collections* or the Record Society volumes? Or which acknowledge visits to county record offices but do not show evidence of having consulted the relevant books (i.e. bibliographies of place-name study and modern dictionaries of place-names)?

Glover's most heinous crime is to believe that every place-name containing the same personal name was associated with the same person. This is so silly - and so unsupported by any historical facts - that annoyance soon gives way to derision, followed by depression. So with Abingworth (as observed by Dr Gelling) and lots of other places outside Sussex, Baldslow and Balsdean, Beddingham and Beeding, Etchingham and Itchingfield, Folkington and Fulking, Pashley and Patching, Rottingdean and Ruttingham (with Ratham edited out since the first edition), with only the most minimal of get-out clauses such as "or possibly some member of his family". Even modern names are not exempt from this sort of attention; Kemp Town is properly ascribed to T.R. Kemp, and then we are irrelevantly told that that surname (from "Saxon" *cempa* 'warrior') is found in a list of other place-names too. In the light of her views on OE names, are we to read this as meaning they are all ramifications of one big Kemp family?

Glover's own philological grasp is weak. Her ignorance of the way Old English was pronounced leads to a ludicrous etymology for Beggars Bush; however, she appears to have some grasp of the interplay of official usage and dialect when she discusses Offham (Hamsey). She spells an OE word wrongly in Mayfield, invents a meaning for one in Falmer, and flounders around one in Quedley without specifying what it is. Her ignorance of OE grammar leads her to believe that Dixter is 'the ditch of pestilence' rather than (perhaps) 'pestilential place marked by a dyke'. She doesn't know that *perry* in the sense of 'pear-tree' was English before the Norman Conquest (see Perryfield). Her account of Woolavington shows no grasp at all of the typical use of personal names in place-names.

Romantic figments of her imagination pepper the pages, such as the "warrior-farmer Beorhthelm" who gave his name to Brighton - what warrant is there for this man with multi- purpose ironmongery? - and the Ada Prynkel in Netherfield hundred in 1296 (Prinkle's Farm) was doubtless really Adam. She clearly believes that the South Saxons shared her perception of landscape; the fact that

they called Lindfield *linda feld* 'linden land' (actually this is Mawer and Stenton's reconstruction of the name, not an attestation) shows that they found the place as attractive as it is nowadays, she says. She expresses puzzlement over names some of which puzzled Mawer and Stenton but which have received some enlightening treatment in print since, such as Cissbury, Habin, Harlot's Wood, Lewes, Lurgashall, Males Burgh, Moonhill, Mount Caburn, Pyecombe, Shulbrede, and Slonk Hill. The perception that the OE names we see in Sussex represent the working landscape of the original colonization-period is unquestioned. She shares a fault with many an amateur philologist in tending to believe that names fluctuate as illustrated by their spellings, instead of seeing spellings as a disguise for a fairly constant - or at least smoothly evolving - pronunciation.

The history and textual scholarship are not beyond reproach, either. Her view of land tenure appears to be limited to the condition of "ownership" rather than holding. The haven at Newhaven is still presented as the outcome of Mother Nature's temper tantrums rather than Tudor river management. Kingston near Lewes is on record 250 years before she says it is. A local fairy-story is repeated about Carthagena Farm. One could carp endlessly, even about modern names, on which she is usually more reliable: Peacehaven was never *Anzac-on-Sea* but *New Anzac-on-Sea*.

Dr Gelling, in 1977, ended her review by saying: "It is ungracious to go on carping. The book is not wild or silly, and there is a good deal of excellent information about the topographical and historical background of names of late origin. The faults could have been corrected quite easily, and it is surprising that the publishers did not get a professional opinion or seek professional help." After 20 years during which this downside could have been attended to, we cannot be so relaxed about it all. Do not give this book as a birthday present.

Richard Coates

Passing interest

A house in Sandy Lane, East Grinstead, was recently renamed *Ex Libris* 'from the books' by a new owner who wanted to recognize the fact that the money to buy it had come from translating books other people had written. (With acknowledgement to the Editor of the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 62 (1997), 4.)

Passing interest

Recently up for sale was the house *The Kick Inside* in Lewes Road, Halland, apparently named after an album by the singer Kate Bush (Property Supplement, *Sussex Express*, Lewes edition, 30/11/1997).

• LOCUS FOCUS SUPPLEMENT

Abstracts or short versions of papers from the SNSBI conference
"Advances in Place-Name Scholarship: a Southern View"
1/11/97
(See • NEWS ITEMS)

Papers were delivered in the following order: Coates, Cole, Sanders, Combes, Styles, and this is echoed by the order of the summaries.

Richard Coates

Place-names before the earliest records

This paper covers several distinct themes related by the matter of the characteristics of the earliest names in (mainly southern) England.

Brittonic names might survive in English place-names in more than one guise. Some survive in their own right (e.g. *Leatherhead* or *Penge*). Others may survive embedded in English names, like *Andredesweald* or *lidgeard* in the *lidgeardesbeorg* of Eadred's Washington charter. Others may be translated, but the original may not have survived; these are hard to spot, but there are suggestive cases in the south-west of England, the West Midlands and Welsh Marches, including some names in *swēte* 'sweet' with an 'enclosure' word, which appear equivalent to Welsh *perllan* 'orchard (lit. 'sweet enclosure')' and possibly some instances of *Harwood*, for which cf. Welsh *llwytgoed.*

Scholars should be cautious about admitting a strategy for explaining Old English place-names which involves postulating whole elements lost since the original namegiving. *Herepaðford* in Devon becoming *Harford* may not be typical. More often we find place-name clusters with generic elements which alternate. There is evidence to suggest that in the earliest Old English times generics had a degree of freedom, and that what we now think of as proper names were not necessarily crystallized as such in the earliest times - rather, we find descriptive expressions which are related, e.g. *Hartland* and *Harton*, but which are used to refer to different entities. One Beald was implicated in the Sussex landscape at Balsdean, Balsway and Bazehill, all in Rottingdean. The landscape was described using schemas of the type *X + appropriate generics*; what fell out as later names of places was a matter of circumstance.

Final generics seem to have had a status not yet fully understood, but involving some degree of freedom from the rest of the name-forms in which they occur. *Tūn* appears to disappear in not a few names (e.g. Lavant) in a way that suggests that the element may not truly have been part of an

institutionalized name, but rather a descriptive term, such that *Loventune* may not have been a place-name proper but an expression referring to a/the farm at (or on the) Lavant, or maybe the farm called *Lavant.* This generic, and others, may also vanish in more complex expressions; as for instance in *seofon wyllas* 'seven springs' + *hāmtūn* ==> *Sevenhampton.* Generics may also substitute for, and become, true place-names, as in *Chester.*

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Ann Cole

What was an Old English ersc ?

Ersc is an OE place-name element translated by place-name scholars as 'stubble field/land' or 'ploughland'. It is related to dialect (including Sussex) *earsh*, *arrish*, meaning 'stubble' and OE *erian* and Latin *arare* 'to plough'. The distribution (see map) is strange: *ersc* usually occurs in clusters as around Burwash, East Sussex; south of Godalming, Surrey; east Berkshire; and north-west Devon. Most examples are in the Weald.

To be effective, a topographical place-name should refer to a feature that is both permanent and distinctive. Stubble fails on both counts. Stubble occurs seasonally wherever grain growing occurs and was therefore widespread over England, not distinctive of small areas. Stubble, even if not ploughed in, is soon overwhelmed by weeds and then rots - it is not permanent. On the other hand, ploughland, if it is a small patch amidst woodland, pasture, marsh or moorland, shows up well and would be visible year after year as long as cultivation continues.

Examination of the geology and soils shows that *ersc*s occur in areas which would deter most arable farmers. Seventeen occur on heavy clays (Wadhurst, Weald and London Clays particularly), where soils (e.g. Wickham 1) are waterlogged in winter, riddled with rushes and suffer from erosion and poaching. In years of normal rainfall, they can be worked about 41 days in autumn (after September 1st) and eight days in spring (up to April 30th), in wet years seventeen and nought days. It may be touch and go whether a crop can be sown or not. Examples of *ersc*s on clay include Battenhurst, Bungehurst, Burwash, Orznash, Socknersh and Starnash in East Sussex, Ryarsh in Kent, Ryehurst, Ryeish and Winnersh in Berkshire and five others in Surrey.

Fourteen occur on infertile sands (Ashdown, Tunbridge Wells and Hythe Beds/Folkestone Sands mainly). A typical Curtisden soil can also be seasonally waterlogged and fields may have numerous springs and seeps. Capping, panning and gullying can occur, but there are more working days - 73 to 50 in autumn, eighteen to nought in spring. Examples include Bungehurst, Burwash, Hazelhurst, Orznash, Socknersh and Turzes. Some places are on geological boundaries and have both clayey and sandy soils. Shirrell Heath soils found at Haldish, Willinghurst and Wonersh, Surrey, are even more infertile than Curtisden soils and are generally left as acid heathland.

Bush in Kent and Locksash, Selhurst and Stapleash in West Sussex are all on chalk where the soils, though flinty, are easy to work but have mineral deficiencies which stunt the crops.

In north-west Devon soils again are often waterlogged, but the climate is also unfavourable. The area is high and exposed to wind and rain from the Atlantic which may flatten plants and leave grain sodden at harvest time.

Conditions are therefore in all of these cases against arable farming; heavy difficult-to-work soils,

lack of fertility, and/or adverse climatic conditions prevail. In spite of these drawbacks, some attempts were made.

In East Sussex amid the greenness of *denn* country - the swine-pastures of the Wealden Forest - small patches of brown ploughland were appearing especially around Burwash. Access was possible up the Rother or Brede or along old Wealden ridgeways for pioneering farmers, probably individuals trying to scratch a living, judging by the many personal names qualifying *ersc*. A demand for grain may have existed from people working iron, because five of the nine East Sussex *ersc*s are very close to old Roman iron workings and one, Hazelhurst, is by an Anglo-Saxon smithy, as well as from swineherds and a population beginning to expand Weald- wards from the coast.

In Surrey population was expanding southwards beyond the North Downs. People moving up the Wey from Guildford were hemmed in by infertile Shirrell Heath soils to the east and poor Bagshot Sands to the west, so the valley of the Wey and its tributaries was the most promising area in the westernmost parts of the Wealden Forest to farm and gave rise to, for example, Haldish, Linersh, Mellersh, Rydinghurst, Willinghurst and Wonersh.

In east Berkshire Ryehurst, Ryeish and Winnersh occur in the former rough open pastures of the feld country on the margins of Windsor Forest. Again ploughed fields contrasted with the green (at times) of the permanent pasture. The recurrence of rye as a qualifier of *ersc* is appropriate since it is an autumn-sown crop more tolerant of poor conditions than other grains.

In Kent, *æcer* meaning 'newly broken-in land' is more common than *ersc*, but they are not synonymous. *Æcer* occurs in the earliest settled arable lands of the coastal plain and the Chart between Maidstone and Ashford and on the Downlands, places where there was already ploughland and any new ploughland was not, therefore, distinctive. The *ersc*s of Kent represent movement away from the older arable lands into the clay vales and the Weald further west.

Ersc therefore described isolated patches of brown ploughland amidst the greens of forest, pasture, marsh and moor and represented early attempts to cultivate later settled areas. As patches of ploughland became more numerous the term *ersc* became less distinctive and died out as a place-name-forming element, hence its limited and curious distribution.

Editor's note: The origin of the word *ersc* is obscure. It may be an irregular development of a Germanic form such as **arw-isk-* >> **ar-isk-* >> **ær-isk-* where the root is related to Latin *arvum* 'ploughland'; this would be expected to give **erisc* in OE, but the second vowel is never found. (It is unclear whether the variant *arrish* might perpetuate this hypothetical vowel, or whether the *-i-* simply breaks the consonant-cluster.) A suggestive parallel is OE *mer(i)sc* 'marsh' where *mersc* is found much more frequently. There is no other clear Gmc evidence for a root-form **arw-*. The sense of *-isk-*, generally (1) an adjective suffix or (2) a collective-noun suffix attaching to nouns denoting humans, would also need to be established. There are no parallels for an **-(i)sk-* suffix on a verb root such as that seen in *erian* 'to plough'. A form **ær* '(primitive) wheelless plough' (what was later called a *sulh*), if it existed, might be the base of *erian* and might allow a derived form **ær-isk-* in some such sense as 'ploughings'; in such a case the attested form *ersc* might mean or connote something like 'land inaccessible to a (heavy, wheeled) plough *(plōg)* and only fit to be tilled with an **ær* '. But all this is completely conjectural, and cooked up to suit Ann Cole's geographical discussion.

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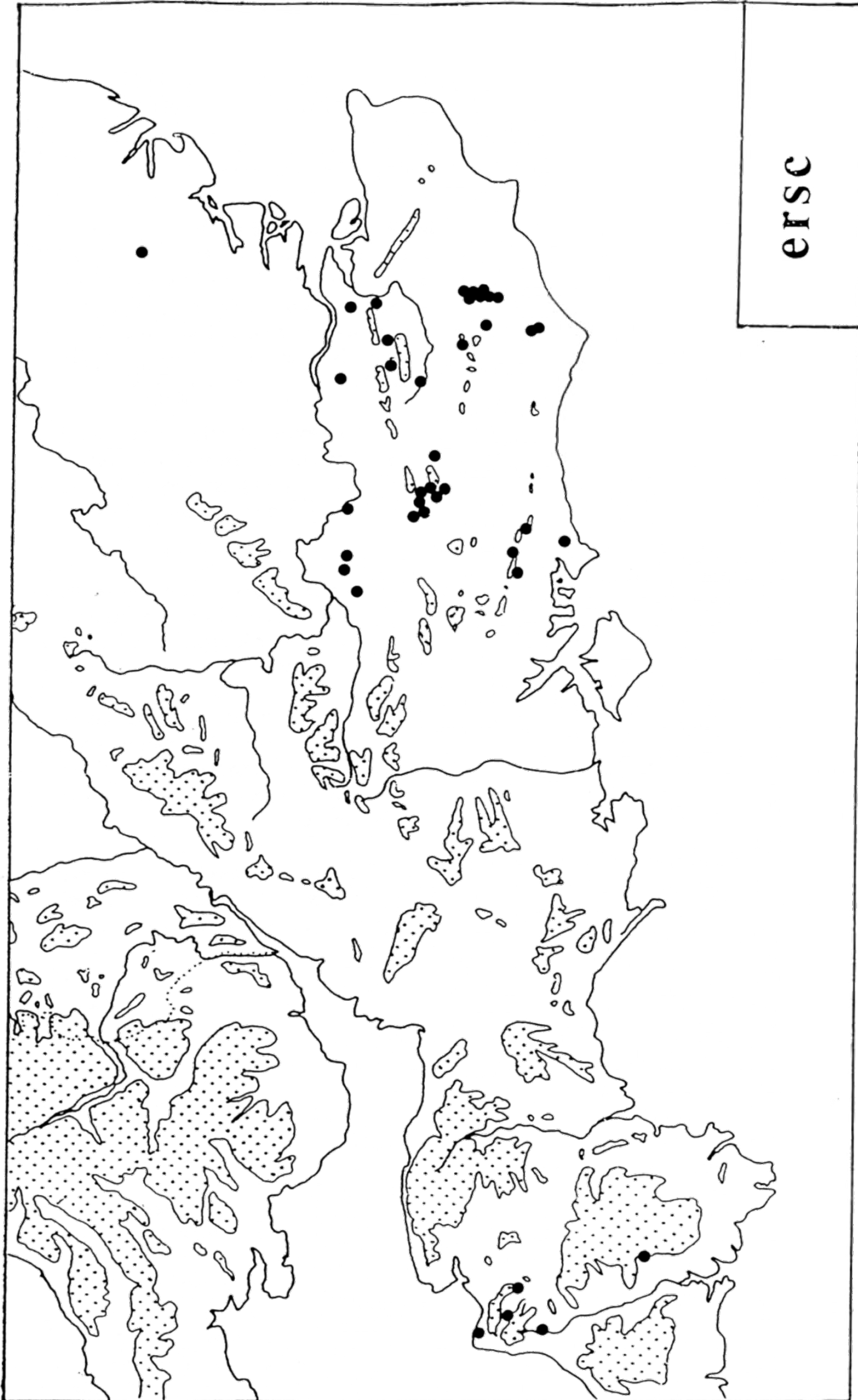
Diana Sanders

The Saxon tūn

Sussex, with its clearly differentiated landscape zones, illustrates particularly clearly the general characteristics of the sites bearing *tūn* place-names and is thus a good area for a pilot study of the early Anglo-Saxon *tun.*

Tūn is reckoned to be the most common of the Old English place-name elements. It is variously translated as enclosure, farm, vill, village, manor and estate, but surprisingly little is known about the way in which the designation was originally applied. Place-names in -*tūn* are found only in certain types of landscape, and in characteristic patterns. In Sussex, sites with↓*tun* names are mainly concentrated in the area around the chalk Downs. Some lie along valleys on the Downs themselves, but most are to be found to the immediate north and south of the Chalk: along the scarp-foot and where the dip-slope shades into the Coastal Plain. They tend to be found in distinct concentrations, with sites often only 1-2 km apart. Very few *tūn* sites are to be found in the Weald, and then only its easternmost part. Differential preservation may have accentuated the tendency for *tūn* place-names to be concentrated in certain areas, but it could not have created such patterns of distribution. It is clear that the *tūn* place-name was being used selectively, only for certain types of site.

As a class, the *tūn* sites lie away from flood-prone or seasonally waterlogged land. Typically the settlements are in sheltered positions on slight slopes: low ridges or (as along the Downland scarp) the foothills of steeper slopes. These are well-drained locations, and good drainage seems to have been important for these sites. Even allowing for some movement of the centres of settlement over the years, it is evident that the individual sites were chosen with some care. This precise targeting of site location, and the tendency of the sites to be located close to major pre-existing communications routes (for example across Sussex as a whole 71% of all *tūns* on record by 1100 are located within 3km of a main Roman road) suggests that these settlements were established early, at a time when there was freedom to choose, or to take over, the most suitable locations. A good proportion of *tūn* sites became parish centres (in Sussex 60% of those on record by 1100); and 96% of those on record in Sussex by 1100 are recorded as Domesday manors.

I suggest, on the basis of the geographical evidence, that the sites with *tūn* names were most likely to have originated as principally pastoral (rather than arable) sites, and that in Sussex they were probably mainly concerned with sheep. The location and configuration of the *tūn* sites strongly suggest their active involvement in the care and management of stock in pastoral holdings which extended over sizeable areas of the surrounding countryside. The majority of the sites are grouped either along the foot of the Downs to the north, looking towards the Weald, or along the lower reaches of the dip slope of the Downs, looking towards the coastal flatlands. These are locations from which the seasonal movement of stock from one type of pasture to another could most readily be administered; whichever type of land the stock were grazing they were never too far away from the base site, and those base sites themselves were carefully located on tracts of well-drained land suitable for holding concentrations of stock during certain seasonal activities such as shearing or culling, or for the sale or exchange of stock. The location of the *tūn* clusters suggests utilization of stretches of territory extending from the Downs to the Weald or from Downs to the coast, substantial swathes of land which could have carried large flocks.

The function of a settlement generally has some distinctive effect on its physical, and therefore its

visual, characteristics; and I believe these hold the key to the original connotations of *tūn* in place-name use. What all these sites will have had in common, irrespective of location or configuration, or even their chronology, will have been their appearance. A dominant feature, functionally and visually, will have been the stockyards with their drafting races and associated pens for the inspection, sorting and individual tending of the animals.

We know that in the earliest Saxon usage *tūn* was not a habitative term but referred to an enclosed place, hence some kind of enclosure (a sense which persisted in certain uses, and in some place-names, right through the Saxon period). Here we can only speculate, but if, as I suggest, the term *tūn* was applied to sites which originally developed as bases for stock management, could it be that this designation was influenced by, or even derived from, the stock enclosures which would have been the most salient visual feature of these sites? Perhaps the original *tūn* was in fact the stockyards and stockruns, the designation subsequently transferring from the enclosures to the associated habitative structures. Whether or not this is the way it actually happened, what is clear is that at some stage during the Early Saxon period (around A.D. 450-650) a *tūn* had ceased being an enclosure *per se* in all but a few residual usages and the term had become applied to a farm. I suggest that these farms were the permanent settlements which grew up in the areas where there were stockyards: either as one settlement with its associated stockyards, or as a cluster of settlements within a more extensive complex of stockyards and droveways.

From the later 8th century onwards, *tūn* starts accounting for a much higher proportion of recorded place-names. This probably reflects the increasing tendency of such sites to appear in official records as they gained in status: they have developed from enclosures with huddles of associated dwellings into more substantial pastoral base sites. The sheer numbers of *tūn* place-names suggest that this was a very common type of site (and this would fit with what we know of the Saxon economy). In due course many of these sites - no doubt because of their well-chosen locations - gained in social and economic importance, becoming parish and estate centres. Sometimes they changed function in the process. Later in the Saxon period we find a number of the *tūn*s taking on specialized roles related to arable farming as part of large multiple estates, or themselves become the centres for arable holdings. Thus sites with *tūn* names came to be popularly associated with a range of rural nucleated settlement, and in later Saxon usage *tūn* had clearly gathered these connotations in general lexical use. Despite this social and economic diversification, however, we find that in Sussex (and, my researches suggest, elsewhere) the vast majority of *tūn* sites present a similar set of characteristics in terms of siting, geography and the grouping of settlements irrespective of the date of first recording. This suggests that the *tūn* generic was in most cases applied early in the Saxon period, before any widening in the use of the term took place (although the place-name qualifiers may have changed, perhaps several times). My own guess is that most of the *tūn* settlements were in place by around the close of the 8th century, although many will still have been insignificant sites at that time and will not have made their first appearance in the records until considerably later.

□□□

Pam Combes

Minsters, manors and hamm*s: the problem of identifying the extent of estates recorded in early documentary sources.*

One of the many problems associated with the interpretation of place-names is the use in early documents of a single name to identify a variety of areas of jurisdiction both ecclesiastical and secular.

With the passage of time, both ecclesiastical and early manorial holdings changed substantially. The great *parochiae* of the Saxon minster churches fragmented into the smaller parishes with which we are now familiar, while the lands associated with the great royal manors of *Domesday Book* were clearly not coextensive with the comparatively small landholding of manors bearing the same names that appear in the record later in the medieval period.

In Sussex the problem is made more complex since the creation of the Norman rapes formed consolidated blocks of land with distinct linear boundaries that changed the pattern of the land administered from some of the Saxon royal manors. The rapes were created from groups of the central cores of these great manors consolidated into blocks by the addition of distant outliers of other manors. The form and bounds of the earlier Saxon rapes remain unknown, but it seems unlikely that these great manors were subject to the jurisdiction of several different rapes.

Although Beddingham ('the *hamm* of Beada's people') is now only a minor settlement with a parish church that forms part of a joint ministry with the parishes of Firle and Glynde, in the Saxon period it was of considerable importance. The association of an 8th-century minster and its substantial *parochia* with what emerged later as a royal estate suggests that Beddingham was a *villa regalis*. Minster churches were frequently associated with these great royal manors. The clerics may have served in an administrative capacity while, in the absence of a royal palace, the conventual complex would have provided a residence for the king when he visited the area. In the 11th century the royal manor of Beddingham owed the 'farm of one night', an obligation to supply a food rent. Part of the former minster *parochia* was still providing appropriate hospitality for the king or his representatives in the shire when their itinerary brought them into the vicinity of Lewes.[1]

During the reign of Offa (757-796), the minster church governed a *parochia* that far exceeded not only the boundaries of the later parish of Beddingham but also those of the hundred of Totnore within which the parish lay.[2] A charter of 801 records a dispute regarding land in Denton that Offa had granted to the Bishop of Selsey from the *parochia* of the minster of Beddingham. This gift is assumed to relate to the manor of Bishopstone, an assumption based on the combined evidence of its proximity to Denton, its name, and the fact that the manor was still held by the Bishop of Chichester (successor to Selsey) in 1086. Clearly in the 8th century the minster *parochia* extended as far as the coast to the south. Regrettably, only two records relating to the minster survive and both relate to the same incident, so evidence is lacking for any other boundaries. But if the later extent of Bishopstone manor can be assumed to reflect accurately the position of outlying holdings associated with the earlier grant, the Beddingham minster *parochia* may have extended as far as Litlington and Heathfield to the east and north- east.[3]

At the end of the 9th century an estate at Beddingham was left by King Alfred to his nephew. Whether this was the manor of Beddingham itself or an associated estate administered within the greater manor (or minster *parochia*) is not clear. However by 1066 King Edward himself held Beddingham. The more valuable manors of Iford and Rodmell, which lay on the opposite (west) bank of the river Ouse, were held by the Queen and Earl Harold respectively. In addition the Queen's manor of Iford encompassed a *cyninges tūn* (Kingston). The role of 'king's *tūns*' has been much debated. Despite that status implied by the name, many were comparatively insignificant settlements that appear quite late in the documentary record. Since the king retained no land in this part of Sussex after the Conquest, the occurrence of the name here suggests that Domesday Iford was, or had been, part of the Saxon royal demesne.[4]

The royal manor of Beddingham, which had been granted to Robert of Mortain by 1086, was substantial. Valued at 52.5 hides in 1066 the associated land included unnamed outlying holdings in Hawksborough hundred in Hastings rape. Although these outlying holdings were lost to Mortain, the high value of the greater part of the Domesday manor that remained in Pevensey rape (50 hides) suggests that, like Firle, it exercised jurisdiction over substantial areas of land lying elsewhere in the rape outside the bounds of the modern parish of Beddingham.[5]

A 10th-century reference which, incidentally, records a visit by Edward the Elder to "Hamme by Lewes" may also refer to Beddingham. In 961 King Edward signed a charter at a place recorded as *Hamme juxta Læwes* (c13 transcript) or *Hamme with Læwe*. This *Hamme* has been identified with Hamsey (*Hame* 1086, *Hammes c.*1155), but Hamsey was *not* a royal manor in 1066. The 25-hide manor was held from the king by a sub-tenant, Wulfeva, and later the much reduced (14-hide) post-Conquest manor was also held by a sub-tenant. Despite the obvious problem created by the unusual form of the name which omits the specifier, the long-established royal manor of Bedding*ham* appears a more likely candidate to receive a royal visit than a smaller manor held by a sub-tenant. If the reference is to Beddingham, the evidence suggests that the minster/manor remained an important royal centre for 200 years or more.[6]

Beddingham lies closer to Lewes than any other of the manors held in demesne by King Edward in 1066. The proximity

of the manor to Lewes is significant. The Alfredian *burh* and the borough that developed from it would have been created, at least in part, out of the needs of just such a *villa regalis*. Logic demands that the king's manor and the royal *burh* with which it was associated should both lie within the same area of jurisdiction, possibly the Saxon rape of Lewes which is documented in Domesday Book.[7] If the *hamm* of the name originally encompassed all the marshland lying immediately to the south of Lewes it is possible that Iford and Rodmell may have had their origins as sub-manors of the royal manor of Beddingham.

The linear boundaries of the Norman rapes retained some administrative significance into the 18th century and it is difficult to eliminate the knowledge of such well established boundaries from our minds. But possibly that is what we should be doing in order to understand more fully the size and significance of the minster and royal manor of Beddingham.

For the moment. however, the question of the pre-Conquest administrative unity of Lewes and at least part of Pevensey rape remains a matter for further research and debate.

o   *Notes*

1   Peter H. Sawyer (1983) The royal 'tun' in pre-Conquest England. In Patrick Wormald (ed.) *Ideal and reality in Frankish and Anglo-Saxon society.* Oxford: Blackwell, 273-299; John Blair (1996) The minsters of the Thames. In J. Blair and B. Golding (eds) *The cloister and the world.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 5-28; P.A. Stafford (1980) The 'farm of one night' and the organisation of King Edward's estates in Domesday. *Economic History Review* (2nd series) 33, 491-502.

2   The hundreds recorded in Sussex *Domesday Book* are something of an enigma. Some were vast and valuable holdings while other administered only 1-2 hides of land; clearly many had not been ancient administrative areas. It is possible that the system recorded in *Domesday Book* had been newly created to subdivide the administration of the new Norman rapes that had replaced earlier Saxon rapes and hundreds, the extent and number of which are unknown.

3   Eric E. Barker (1948) Sussex Anglo-Saxon charters. *SAC* 87, 112-163, at 126-131; John Morris (ed.) (1976) *Domesday Book: Sussex.* Chichester: Phillimore, 3,1 [cited hereafter as *DB*]; Dennis Haselgrove (1977) Documentary sources. In Martin Bell, *Excavations at Bishopstone. SAC* 115, 243-50, at 247.

4 *DB* 10,3; 11,3, 11,4; Barker, *op. cit.*, 135; Jill Bourne (1987/8) Kingston place-names. *JEPNS* 20, 13-37. Kingston (near Lewes) is not named in Domesday Book

5 *DB* 9,35-37 (it is tempting to suggest that the major Beddingham holding was either Burwash or Heathfield both of which emerged later as significant parochial centres in Hawksborough hundred); Pam Combes (1997) Now you see it now you don't: Firle in *Domesday Book* and beyond. *Locus Focus* 1 (3), 12-14.

6 *PN Sussex*, 315; *DB* 12,49.

7 *DB* 12,1 "for a man 4d, wherever he buys within the rape".

<div align="center">□□□</div>

Tania Styles

New knowledge about place-name elements

Last summer, the Centre for English Name Studies at the University of Nottingham published the first fascicle of *The vocabulary of English place-names (VEPN)*, fully referenced in • RECENT LITERATURE, above (p. 4). *VEPN* is a multi-volume historical dictionary based on the materials of the EPNS, intended to supersede Smith's *English place-name elements* (1956) as the standard account of the words that make up the country's place-names. Smith's dictionary has been an invaluable reference-work for scholars of history, landscape and the various languages that have historically been spoken in this country, Celtic, Scandinavian and French as well as English; but it is now sorely in need of revision. The last forty years have brought to light a mass of new evidence relating to the names of fields, farms, villages and towns, recorded in documents from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Ordnance Survey. In 1956, the EPNS had published twenty-three county survey volumes, covering nineteen counties; there are now sixty-four volumes dealing - at least in part - with thirty-two counties. The last two generations have also seen many independent works of scholarship on individual name-forming elements and on counties not covered by the EPNS's national survey. We have been able to take into account all of this new material, with the result that our entries are fuller, more numerous and more accurate than Smith's. The first volume of *VEPN* has increased the number of words treated in the equivalent section of Smith's *Elements* by more than 20%. Many of these additions to Smith's corpus have especial relevance for the names of places in the south of England; the discussion which follows focuses on these. The name of Billericay in Essex provides a record of a word that must have been used in England but is not recorded in any other kind of written source. *VEPN* 's entry for this word reads as follows.

> *bellerica MLat, 'dyehouse, tanhouse' is discussed in detail by Coates 1982-3. *Bellericus* is attested from the 13th century in English Latin sources, and survives in early ModE *belleric;* in both cases it appears to denote the fruit of the Indian tree Terminalia bellerica. This fruit was a source of tannin, which could be used in the tanning process and in producing permanent black dye. **Bellerica* was presumably, therefore, applied to sites where dyeing or tanning took place. This solution was earlier suggested by J. Harvey in McGarvie 1974-9.
> (b) Bellerica 1535 So, *Billerica* 1278 K, (f.n.) 1549 W:482 [& McGarvie 1974-9:354], Billericay 1274 Ess [& W:xxxvii].
> MED –; EDD –; cf. OED *belleric*, DML *belliricus*.

Medieval Latin **bellerīca*, then, is one amongst many words that would be entirely unknown to scholars of vocabulary were it not for the record of southern place-names; here, the onomastic

record allows us to add a new entry to existing dictionaries of British medieval Latin.

For a much larger group of words that have been identified in place-names since 1956, new material made accessible by the continuing county surveys now allows us to supplement what is already known from other sources. Many words are recorded in place-names considerably earlier than in any other kind of text, at least in so far as these texts are represented in published dictionaries. In such cases, place-names allow us to push back the date from which the vocabulary was used in England, sometimes by a considerable amount. The French loanword *archer* is first recorded in the *OED* in 1297, but it appears almost thirty years earlier in the name of Stoke Orchard (Gloucestershire). In the earliest records, the place is known as *Stoke le Archer* (1269), and contemporary documents show that land there was held in return for the service of providing of one archer, equipped with bow and arrows, to serve in the king's army for forty days a year. To this could be added tens of examples of "new" elements in the first volume of the vocabulary that antedate the standard historical dictionary of English. Moreover, antedatings like these are much easier to identify in *VEPN* than they were in Smith's *Elements*; unlike its predecessor, the new work now lists the date of the earliest record of every place-name mentioned in the text.

As well as issues of dating, other kinds of information about the place-name vocabulary Smith considers have become available over the last forty years. Place-names, more than any other kind of text, represent locatable language; for this reason, they have long been used in the study of early dialect. However, much important work in this field has been conducted in recent years, with the result that we are now in a far better position than Smith was to note which words are typically southern as opposed to northern, eastern rather than western. For example, thanks to the work of Kitson (1990), new light has been thrown on the dialect distribution of the two common Old English words for an apple-tree. In the north, the word used was *æppeltrēow*; it is this term that lies behind *Appletreewick* in West Yorkshire, *Appletree* in Derbyshire and *Apperley* in Northumberland. In the south, meanwhile, the preferred term was *apuldor*; this is the term that appears in *Appuldurcombe* on the Isle of Wight, *Aperfield* in Kent, *Appledore* in Devon and *Apuldram* in Sussex.

Old English words for 'apple-tree'
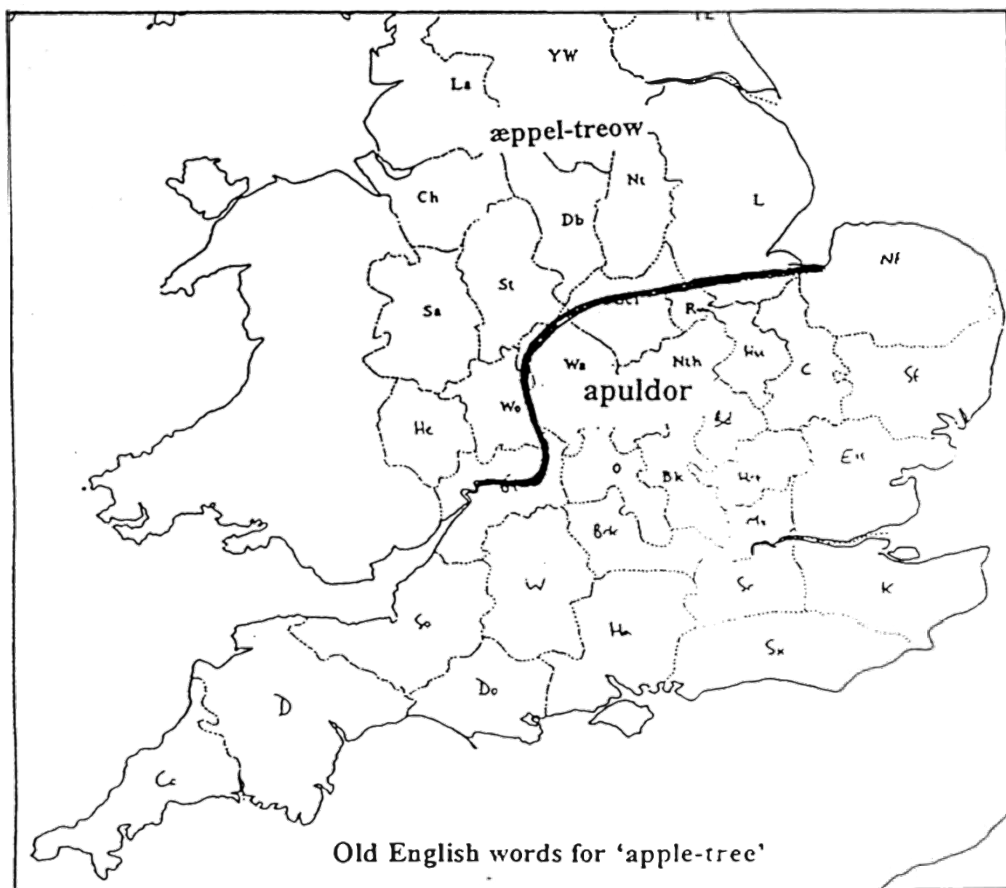
Moreover, OE charters seem to suggest that the strong noun *apuldor* was used mostly by inhabitants of the central and eastern parts of the region, while their neighbours in the south- west favoured the weak variant *apuldre.*

Often, new light has been thrown on the accepted meaning of a word. An entertaining illustration, unfortunately not a southern one, is the Old French loanword *bordel.* As the *OED* points out, this is the origin of modern English *bordello.* However, the standard dictionary of Anglo-Norman reveals that the word is in origin a diminutive of OFr *bord*, which referred to nothing more exciting than a cottage; only later was the term for 'little cottage' used euphemistically for a house of ill repute. *Bordel* presumably had its original sense when the West Yorkshire field known as *hermitagium [qui] vocatur le Bordell* got its name some time before 1384, unless fourteenth-century hermits were considerably more outgoing than we have been led to believe.

Like *bordel*, ME *bord-land* is also traditionally connected with the French word *bord* 'cottage'. *MED* and *OED* both define the compound as 'land held by a bordar or cottager', the lowest class of feudal tenant. *Bord-land* seems to lie behind a large number of field- and minor names throughout the country. Southern examples from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries include *Birtlands* in Gloucestershire and the lost field-name *Bordelond*, which appears in Warmwell, Dorset and Arborfield, Berkshire; all of these names are said to contain the word in the accepted dictionary sense by their respective county editors. Winchester (1986) showed that, in place-names, *bord-land* is probably to be derived not from the OFr word for a cottage but from OE *bord*, which refers to a board, counter or table: it appears in this sense in the name of the Gloucester building known in 1455 as *The King's Board*, originally a market stall set up by Richard II for the sale of butter and cheese. *Bord-land* would then be land that provided food for the lord's table, demesne land, a sense that Winchester shows to be well attested in Scotland.

By cross-referencing each of our entries with the appropriate headword in existing dictionaries, we hope to make life easier for those of our readers who wish to explore the nature of the contribution place-names make to our knowledge of vocabulary. The second fascicle of *VEPN* is scheduled for publication this summer. As work progresses, we continue to add to Smith's corpus of elements, and to uncover information on these words that has not been noted in dictionaries that use sources other than place-names. We hope that this information will be of interest to all name-scholars, north and south alike.

o   *References and abbreviations*

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Published twice a year in Spring and Autumn

Informal thanks to the *Evening Argus* for the article reproduced on p. 26 from its edition of 6/2/1998