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• NET MEMBERS

- John Bleach, 29 Leicester Road, Lewes BN7 1SU; telephone 01273 475340; OR Barbican House Bookshop, 169 High Street, Lewes BN7 1YE
- Richard Coates, School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QH; telephone 01273 678522 (678030); fax 01273 671320; email richardc@cogs.susx.ac.uk
- Pam Combes, 37 Cluny Street, Lewes BN7 1LN; telephone 01273 483681; email pamela.combes@virgin.net
- Paul Cullen, School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QH; fax 01273 671320; email paulcu@cogs.susx.ac.uk
- Douglas d'Enno, 1 Bevendean Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton BN2 4RB; telephone 01273 882757; email dougd@cwcom.net
- Anne Drewery, The Drum, Boxes Lane, Danehill, Haywards Heath RH17 7JG; telephone 01825 740298
- Mark Gardiner, Department of Archaeology, School of Geosciences, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN; telephone 01232 273448; fax 01232 321280; email m.gardiner@qub.ac.uk
- Ken Green, Wanescroft, Cambrai Avenue, Chichester PO19 2LB; email 106160.3022@CompuServe.com OR thegreens@CompuServe.com
- Tim Hudson, West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RN; telephone 01243 533911; fax 01243 533959; email thudson@westsussex.gov.uk
- Gwen Jones, 9 Cockcrow Wood, St Leonards TN37 7HW; telephone and fax 01424 753266; email mrs_jones@lineone.net
- Michael J. Leppard, 20 St George's Court, London Road, East Grinstead RH19 1QP; telephone 01342 322511
- David Padgham, 118 Sedlescombe Road North, St Leonard's on Sea TH37 7EN; telephone 01424 443752
- Janet Pennington, Penfold Lodge, 17a High Street, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3GG; telephone 01903 816344; fax 01903 879845; email jpsussex@hotmail.com
- Diana Sanders, Director of Administration, University College Medical School, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT; telephone 0171 209 6306; fax 0171 383 2462; email d.sanders@ucl.ac.uk
- Liz Somerville, School of Biology, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QG; telephone 01273 678511; email lizsom@biols.susx.ac.uk
- Heather Warne, 13 Gladstone Road, Burgess Hill RH15 0QQ; telephone 01444 236347
- Christopher Whittick, East Sussex Record Office, The Maltings, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YT; telephone 01273 482349; email 100341.2565@CompuServe.com OR Christopher.Whittick@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

- The Net members with email addresses can be contacted collectively at spnn@cogs.susx.ac.uk

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• ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY-CITED WORKS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>CDEPN</i> | V.E. Watts, <i>Cambridge dictionary of English place-names</i> (forthcoming 2001) |
| <i>DB</i> | <i>Domesday book</i> |
| <i>DEPN (Ekwall)</i> | Eilert Ekwall, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (-4 (1960) unless other edition flagged) |
| <i>DEPN (Mills)</i> | A.D. Mills, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (1991) |
| <i>EPN</i> | Kenneth Cameron, <i>English place-names</i> (-5 (1996)) |
| <i>EPNE</i> | A.H. Smith, <i>English place-name elements</i> (EPNS vols. 25/26) |
| <i>EPNS</i> | English Place-Name Society |
| <i>JEPNS</i> | <i>Journal of the English Place-Name Society</i> |
| <i>Lf</i> | <i>Locus focus</i> |
| <i>OED</i> | <i>Oxford English dictionary</i> |
| <i>PN X</i> | <i>The place-names of county X</i> ; EPNS volume |
| <i>PN Sx (Roberts)</i> | R.G. Roberts, <i>The place-names of Sussex</i> (1914) |
| <i>PN Sx (Glover)</i> | Judith Glover, <i>The place names of Sussex</i> (-2 (1997)) |
| <i>PNIL</i> | Margaret Gelling, <i>Place-names in the landscape</i> |
| <i>STP</i> | Margaret Gelling, <i>Signposts to the past</i> (-2 (1988)) |
| <i>VCH X</i> | <i>Victoria history of county X</i> |
| <i>VEPN</i> | D. Parsons, T. Styles, with C. Hough, <i>The vocabulary of English place-names</i> (1997-, appearing by fascicle) |
| -0 | an edition-flag (e.g. <i>STP-2</i> , second edition of <i>STP</i>) |

Main relevant local periodicals and series:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| <i>SAC</i> | <i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i> |
| <i>SASNL</i> | <i>Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter</i> |
| <i>SFH</i> | <i>Sussex Family Historian</i> |
| <i>SH</i> | <i>Sussex History</i> |
| <i>SNQ</i> | <i>Sussex Notes and Queries</i> |
| <i>SPP</i> | <i>Sussex Past and Present</i> (successor to <i>SASNL</i>) |
| <i>SRS 0</i> | <i>Sussex Record Society</i> volume, with volume number |
| <i>WSH</i> | <i>West Sussex History</i> |

• PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

DOUGLAS D'ENNO

Douglas d'Enno, a translator and retired civil servant living in Saltdean, became interested in field-names when working on his book *The Saltdean story* in the early 1980s. Study of the Beard papers at ESRO revealed some interesting references for Rottingdean and the land that would become Saltdean as we know it. His interest in this subject was further fostered in 1998/9, when working on the restoration of Harvey's Cross in Iford (the field names of Iford farms have been made available to the **Net**), and more recently when preparing material for a book on Ovingdean. A tangential interest is the names used by climbers for cliffs and parts of cliffs in the Saltdean area.

From the newspapers

The *Argus* of 10/10/2000 reported a new street off Norwich Drive, Bevendean, Brighton, built by the Hedgehog Housing Co-operative. It is to be called *Hog's Edge*.

From the newspapers

Again in the *Argus*, 21/08/2000, the problems arising from there being two *New Roads* in Newhaven were highlighted - they involve heavy lorries and a cul-de-sac. (There is only one on the OS street atlas of East Sussex - the one which is not the one getting the trouble)

• EDITORIAL

It is a pleasure to welcome a new member to the **Net**, Douglas d'Enno, whose work on the local history of Saltdean and district will be well known to many readers. He has a special interest in field-names.

Readers will recall the project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board (1999-2001) which had among its aims the creation of an electronic database containing the information in Mawer and Stenton's *The place-names of Sussex* and other material, and on which Paul Cullen holds a research fellowship at the University of Sussex. This is just to note that an application has gone in to AHRB for an ambitious scheme to widen and deepen the earlier study; if it is successful it will be reported fully in *Lf* 5 (2).

Please tell everyone working in local history and related areas that *Lf* is keen to receive contributions on place-name themes or with place-name implications from people who are not **Net** members. Of course, material for future issues is solicited from members too. Now is exactly the time to complete that note that has been awaiting a final visit to WSRO or Barbican House. Queries are also welcomed; after a glut in *Lf* 4 (1), we have none in the current issue. Copy deadlines are 15 March and 15 September.

Richard Coates
Editor

• CORRECTIONS

It is no pleasure for an editor to have corrections as a regular feature, but I have to tell readers that in *Lf* 4 (1):

- references on p. 4 (x 4) and p. 9 to issue 69 of the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* should be to issue 70
- in Q4.1.6 the correct date of Jean Campbell Cooper's *Illustrated encyclopaedia of traditional symbols* is 1978 as in the reference-list, not as in the text
- the title and venue of the conference to which the abstracts on p. 28 belong are omitted, but correctly recorded in the contents-list on p. 1 and on p. 6
- an extraneous character ("I") has crept in at two points in Paul Cullen's charter handlist (p. 19; in the citations of Kitson relating to S 708 and S 1178); delete this character

I hope that readers will understand the pressure under which this issue was produced.

• NOTICEBOARD: LITERATURE, THE WEB, NEWS, EVENTS

• RECENT LITERATURE

- Abbreviations in references: see *Locus focus* 1 (3), 2.
- Items in previous issues of *Locus focus* are not listed.

Coates, Richard (2000) A surviving Latin place-name in Sussex: Firle. In Richard Coates and Andrew Breeze, *Celtic voices, English places*. Stamford: Shaun Tyas, 44-52. [Reprint, with revisions, of earlier published work.]

Gould, David (2000) 19th-century Moat Road: a survey. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 71, 8-16, esp. 8.

Kristensson, Gillis (1999) The place-name Tandridge (Surrey). *Notes and Queries* 46 [244 of the continuous series], 316-7.

Lapidge, M., J. Blair, S. Keynes and D. Scragg (eds) (1999) *The Blackwell encyclopædia of Anglo-Saxon England*. Oxford: Blackwell. [Contains several articles of onomastic interest by prominent scholars.]

Leppard, M.J. (2000) Mount Noddy: further information. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 71, 5.

Leppard, M.J. (2000) Dallingridge. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 71, 5. [Queries the etymology given in *PN Sussex*.]

Stevens, R.A. (1996) Gotham, Sussex. *At the Edge* 1, 25. [Online journal, <http://www.indigogroup.co.uk/edge/gotham2.htm>. Stevens suggests that Gotham in the chapbook *The merry tales of the mad men of Gotham* (1540), attributed to Andrew Borde, alludes to the farm of that name locally in Bexhill, and just over the marshes from Pevensey, where Borde wrote. The background to the tales is given by Frank E. Earp in the same issue, who mentions the strength of the traditional claim of Gotham in Nottinghamshire.]

Vennemann genannt Nierfeld, Theo (1999) Remarks on some British place-names. In Gerald F. Carr, Wayne Herbert and Lihua Zhang (eds) *Interdigitations: essays for Irmengard Rauch*. New York, etc.: Peter Lang, 25-62. [Includes remarks on Arundel criticized elsewhere in this issue of *Lf*.]

The following items are included because of their important use of, and relevance for, place-name evidence in the Selsey Bill area. Major Wallace's work on the former coastline in this area deserves to be taken very seriously. It has been an inspiration for forthcoming work by W.A.R. Richardson, which will be reported at the due time.

Wallace, Hume (1967) The Selsey project. *Triton* (October), pages not known.

Wallace, Hume (1968) The fortress under the sea. In Kendall McDonald (ed.) *The underwater book*. London: Pelham Books, 116-45 [esp. 136-45].

Wallace, Hume (1990, 1996) *Sea level and shoreline between Portsmouth and Pagham for the past 2500 years* (parts I, II). Privately published. [West Sussex County Library has eight loan copies.]

Wallace, Hume (1997) Making sense of The Mixon. *Maritime South West* 10, 137-87. [Essentially ch. 1 of part II of the previous item.]

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland meets in Douglas, Isle of Man, for its Annual Spring Conference from 6-9 April 2001.

• INTER **X**CHANGE: NOTES, QUERIES AND RESPONSES

• NOTES

Richard Coates

N4.2.1 Vennemann on Arundel

The distinguished linguist Theo Vennemann is the leading advocate of a theory that across much of northern Europe, in the aftermath of the last Ice Age, there was spoken a language related to (and maybe ancestral to) Basque; he calls this supposed language "Vasconic". This is not the place to offer a full criticism of his theory, but in one article on this topic (1999: 30-3) he makes a claim about the etymology of *Arundel* which cannot be allowed to go unchallenged in a Sussex periodical.

Vennemann analyses the name as being built around a core **arana*, which he takes to be Vasconic for 'valley', the source of Basque (*h*)*aran*, with OE *dell* 'valley' added in clarification of the obscure name by what he calls *head renewal*; as seen in, and precisely analogous to, *Val d'Aran* (French) and *Valle de Arán* (Spanish) in the Pyrenees, the names of the upper valley of the Garonne.

In rebuttal, we will establish the possible earliest known sense of Basque (*h*)*aran* and reaffirm the brilliant etymology presented by Henry Bradley in his review of *PN Sx (Roberts)*, which has been accepted by all subsequent writers on Sussex place-names, and which is supported in the most direct ways possible but dismissed by Vennemann as "likely to be a learned folk-etymology".

As to the first point, the leading Basque scholar Professor Larry Trask (University of Sussex) has allowed me to reproduce the following comments, based on a dictionary entry by Sarasola (1996: 352) which he regards as reliable:

haran. iz. (1571). 1. Ibarra; ibar garaia.

Translation:

haran. noun. First recorded 1571. 1. Valley; high valley.

Sarasola cites several examples of the word from literature, without identifying his sources. The first is "Alpeetako haranetan" 'in the valleys of the Alps'. The second is "Josafat-ko haranean" 'in the valley of Jehoshaphat'. [This is from Joel 3:12, where the heathen are enjoined to "come up [*sic*] to the valley of Jehoshaphat". - RC] The third is rather engaging: "Gora daitezela haranak, behera mendi eta muinoak" 'Up with the valleys, down with the mountains and hills'.

Sarasola's dictionary is based squarely on the scrutiny of a selected but large body of texts, including all the early ones. I consider it reliable. He is telling us, though with little support in his quotes, that the word sometimes appears to mean specifically 'high valley', and not merely 'valley', as it commonly does today. So far, I have found no recognition of a specific sense of 'high valley' in other linguistic work, but I'm sure Sarasola must have his reasons.

There is, then, a distinct possibility that the earliest sense of this term was 'high valley', clearly unsuitable for the site of Arundel.

As to the second point, Bradley's solution, OE *hār hūne dell* 'hoarhound dell', is supported

by the former presence of the medicinal plant white hoarhound (*Marrubium vulgare*) at Arundel. It is uncommon and declining in Sussex, and was found in only seven locations in the 1970s (Hall 1980: 108), one of which was Arundel. It was only ever common or plentiful in the time of scientific botany in three locations, of which one was immediately north of Arundel castle (Wolley-Dod 1937: 353). The ecologist David Streeter (University of Sussex) informs me that it was in evidence at Arundel till about 15 years ago when it was finally trodden into oblivion (were it not for scholars) by cows. We should note that part of Vennemann's dissatisfaction with the standard etymology is that Ekwall, in *DEPN*, "does not make it plausible that the place is or was in any way marked by hoarhound". More local sources are clearly more helpful.

The place which gave its name to the site of Arundel and its castle was a hollow. A *dell* is typically a small feature, either dug or resembling a digging through being steep-sided (*EPNE* I, 128-9). Gelling and Cole (2000: 113) observe that there is a tiny valley at Arundel; which they allude to is unclear, but there is certainly a notch in the 30m contour south-west of the castle, and to the north of the castle is the steep-sided Swanbourne valley. *Dell* in toponymy never, ever, means simply 'valley' as Vennemann requires, believing that the name refers to

wide spaces of the Arun gap.

Phonologically, too, Bradley's solution makes sense. The modern <u> in the second syllable, consistently found throughout the Middle Ages, would be a seriously anomalous spelling for a reduced medial vowel in ME if the source were not OE /u:/. The loss of the initial /h/ is, as observed in *PN Sx* (136-7), an expectable consequence of Anglo-Norman influence in a centre of Norman administration. In any case, there are at least six medieval spellings with <h> apparently not known to Vennemann which, whilst they do not clinch the former presence of /h/, certainly do not count against it. If that were not a sufficient argument, we could note further that the name of the town was clearly associated with OF *aronde(lle)* 'swallow', as that was the name of the horse of the giant Bevis, warder of the gatehouse of Arundel, in the Anglo-Norman and ME romances *Boeve de Haumtone* and *Bevis of Hampton*. That is quite enough to explain the loss of /h/ in official usage.

Vennemann wants to connect the river-name with the *Ar(a)mis* or *Aranus* of the *Ravenna cosmography* (Rivet and Smith 1979: 258). He says: "The reference may be to the river Aron [*sic*] if its name should prove to be old after all." Regrettably for him, the river-name is deeply suspicious. It appears first in William Harrison's *The description of Britaine* (1577), a notorious document in which Harrison (possibly in collusion with the mapmaker Christopher Saxton) invents names for many rivers by back-formation from towns on their banks, e.g. *Chelmer* from Chelmsford. And we know the medieval name of the river at Arundel: the well-recorded good Celtic name *Tarente* (*PN Sx* 3-4), one of the few demonstrably Celtic names in Sussex. The idea that the name *Arun* is a survival is therefore not worth considering.

Many good place-name etymologies are not absolutely assured, and this one is perhaps not quite watertight in one detail (that concerning <h>), but to me it could hardly be clearer that the fortified site and hence the town was called 'hoarhound dell' from its location, and that Bradley's analysis in 1915 was spot-on. In contrast, there is nothing whatever in favour of Vennemann's analysis, and it contains demonstrable implausibilities. It should not therefore be taken as support for any larger theory.

○ *References*

Bradley, Henry (1915) Review of R.G. Roberts, *The place-names of Sussex* (1914). *English Historical Review* 30, 161-6.

Gelling, Margaret and Ann Cole (2000) *The landscape of place-names*. Stamford: Shaun Tyas. Hall, P.C.

(1980) *Sussex plant atlas: an atlas of the distribution of wild plants in Sussex*.

Brighton: Booth Museum.

Rivet, A.L.F. and Colin Smith (1979) *The place-names of Roman Britain*. London: Batsford. Sarasola, Ibon

(1996) *Euskal hiztegia [A Basque dictionary]*. Donostia/ San Sebastián: Kutxa

Gizarte- eta Kultur Fundazioa.

Vennemann genannt Nierfeld, Theo (1999) Remarks on some British place-names. In Gerald F. Carr, Wayne

Herbert and Lihua Zhang (eds) *Interdigitations: essays for Irmengard Rauch*. New York, etc.: Peter Lang, 25-62.

Wolley-Dod, A.H. (1937) *The flora of Sussex*. Hastings: Saville. [New edition 1970.]

• QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND ARTICLES

R4.2.1 The pronunciation of Lewes again [ref. article in Lf 3.1, 18-20 (Richard Coates) and N3.2.3 (Whittick, Coates and Leppard)]

Pam Combes notes: In the *Sussex fines* (SRS 7: 534), we find: "inter Reg de Walurch pet' et Ricm. fil' Gilberti de la Rye ten' :- de uno mesuagio in Leus; unde placitum fuit inter eos " 38 Hy III (1253-4). The other seven fines that name Lewes have the conventional spelling, as have all the entries in SRS 2.

In letters to Cromwell about the destruction of Lewes Priory, the engineer Giovanni Portinari consistently writes the name of Lewes as *Leus* or at the end of letters *Alleus* (presumably for *a Lewes*, with the Italian doubling of initial consonants after *a* 'at'). There is the problem of his nationality, but was he writing what he heard? His letters to Cromwell survive in the PRO (Lyne 1997: 13). They are published in *Letters and papers foreign and domestic* (Henry VIII), 1538, pt. 1 (fragile in both SAS library store and University of Sussex library store).

Janet Pennington adds: I have just been re-reading Caldecott's article (1940) on John Taylor's tour of Sussex in 1653. On p. 24, Taylor rhymes *Lewes* thus:

Twelve miles from steyning I jog'd on to Lewes
And there I found no Beggars, Scolds, or Shrews
Lewes hath no Bailiff, Mayor, or Magistrate
For every one there lives in quiet state:

His poetry frequently does not scan and there are some suspect rhymes, viz. *host/cost*, *least/guest*, *dozen/chosen*, *there/cheer* (twice), so *Lewes/shrews* may be one of these. I make no judgement. [He was a Gloucestershire man who lived most of his life in London. - RC]

Christopher Whittick reports that the missing spelling alluded to in N3.2.3, in an entry in a rough court-book of South Malling, dating from about 1500, about the sale by Joan Mason to Peter Valentyne of a messuage and garden, is "strete de Cliva iuxta *Lews*". The correct reference to this manuscript is PRO SC 2/206/33 f.20v, not as cited in the original note.

○ References

Caldecott, J.B. (1940) John Taylor's tour of Sussex in 1653. *SAC* 81, 19-30.

Lyne, Malcolm (1997) *Lewes Priory. Excavations by Richard Lewis 1969-1982*. Lewes.

Salzman, L.F. (comp.) (1902) *An abstract of feet of fines relating to the county of Sussex*, vol. I. Lewes: SRS 2.

Salzman, L.F. (comp.) (1908) *An abstract of feet of fines relating to the county of Sussex*, vol. II. Lewes: SRS 7.

□□□

R4.2.2 Laine again [ref. Q4.1.5 (Richard Coates)]

Margaret Thorburn reports that a survey of the manor of Hyde, Kingston by Lewes, dating from 1567 (ESRO MS. XA 23/7, WSRO MS. Wiston 5205), mentions strips belonging to the manor in *the South Laine*, *the West Laine* and *the Crane-Down Laine*. These antedate the mentions reported by Coates. She further draws attention to an article by Peter Brandon where mention is made of the common fields of Alciston named *the West Leyne*, *the Middle Leyne* and *the East Leyne* (Brandon 1962: 62); these forms are drawn from a survey of 1433 (PRO MS. E.315/56, ff. 246-55) in "a sixteenth-century exemplification" (SAS MS. G45/13). If this wording is confirmed in the PRO

document, it will become the earliest known usage of the term.

○ *Reference*

Brandon, P.F. (1962) Arable farming in a Sussex scarp-foot parish during the late Middle Ages. *SAC* 100, 60-72.

□□□

R4.2.3 Spiches [ref. Q4.1.1 (Margaret Laurence) and Q4.1.9 (Paul Cullen)]

Christopher Whittick replies: *Morespicheswall* in Hooe formed part of the jurisdiction of the sewer commissioners for Pevensey Levels, and was regularly named in commissions from the early years of the 14th century. The calendar of Patent Rolls will be full of them, and one of 1403 was extracted in William Dugdale's *History of embanking* (pp. 97 and 98), where *Morespicheswalle* was referred to as a "bolt". It is also clear from scot-books of c. 1500-23 at the Huntington Library (MS. BA 960-3) that it lay on the western border of the parish with Wartling.

Paul Cullen's appeal included *Mispies* in Hooe, answered by Gwen Jones on p. 14. There are in fact three examples of the name on the Hooe tithe-map of 1839 (ESRO MS. TD 93), all together at TQ 670089: 67 Upper Muspies Brook, 68 Upper Muspies Brook, 104 Great Muspieces. All are on the parish's western border against Wartling.

Could these by any chance be related?

□□□

R4.2.4 Busticle Lane, Lancing/Sompting [ref. Q2.2.2 (Richard Coates)]

Michael Leppard has noticed a cartoon in the *Church Times* of 04/08/2000 which depicts a pub with *Busticles* displayed as the name of the brewer. This clearly suggests a surname is involved (if it isn't simply a made-up joke name). Further, a man named Austin *Basticle* is on record as a patient of the American doctor Jack Kevorkian, known for his involvement with assisted suicides (see e.g. the website <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/SNN/old/feb98/february/jessica.htm>, visited by the Editor 16/10/2000). This might be a variant of the same surname, which does not, however, seem to appear in any standard reference-book of surnames.

Passing interest

Michael Leppard draws the Editor's attention to the report in the *Weekend Argus* (16- 17/09/2000) on the converted air-raid shelter in Manor Road, Worthing, called *Dunbombin*.

• ARTICLES

Pam Combes

How many high tūns were there in East Sussex?

§0 *The name Heighton*

The existence of at least three known settlements in East Sussex named *Heighton* has led to some confusion when aspects of the history of the places, whether parish, manor, manorial outlier or tithing (borough), have been discussed in print.¹The issues are complex since, in the absence of a qualifier, it is sometimes impossible to establish to which settlement the name refers. In addition, a name used in a document to describe what appears to be a manor may, in fact, represent only a portion of the original holding. The idea that some of the documented settlements may represent elements of an earlier multiple estate complicates the issue, but nonetheless deserves consideration. Map 1 plots the known instances of *Heighton* in their hundreds. (The maps referred to, drawn by Susan Rowland, appear at the end of the article.)

What follows should be seen as a preliminary attempt to disentangle some of the evidence concerning the settlements and open up further debate and research. The whole should be considered as a report on work in progress and not as a definitive final report; certainly the views expressed are speculative. Comments and criticism from readers would be welcome.

§1.0 *Places and people named Heighton in Hastings rape*

Heighton - DB: probable manorial outlier in *Ailesaltede* hundred

1086 *Hectone*: three entries all held by Godwin TRE. Divided between Osbern and Hugh TRW (Morris 1976: 9,116-118)

Heighton - tithing, presumed settlement in Goldspur hundred

1248 *Heghton* (PN Sx 527)

1296, late 14th century (personal name) *de Hecton, Heghton* (SRS 10: 14, 215, 328; SRS 37: *passim*)

1524-5 Subsidy Rolls: the personal name *Heighton* was no longer recorded in the hundred (SRS 56: 157-160)

§1.1 *Heighton in Ailesaltede hundred*

It has been suggested, with some justification, that the *Hectone* recorded in DB was an outlier of one of the Heighton settlements in Pevensey rape (see further below, §2). Many outlying holdings of Pevensey estates were recorded in Hastings rape; all were clearly identified by the name of the estate on which they were dependent; none was liable to geld. *Hectone* clearly conforms to that rule. It did not pay geld, and below the heading for *Ailesaltede* hundred the three entries for Heighton follow the description of a detached virgate belonging to Chalvington in Pevensey rape.

However the other dependent holdings were principally concentrated within the hundreds of Shoyswell, Hawksborough and Henhurst, not in *Ailesaltede* hundred. Nonetheless one outlier of Wilmington, a Pevensey rape manor, was recorded within the Abbot of Battle's rape (Morris 1976: 8,6). The Abbot's rape, encompassing the later banlieu of the Abbey, eventually emerges within the half hundred of Battle, but at least part may originally have been in *Ailesaltede* hundred (see map 1). That link with another Pevensey centre supports the view that other outlying holdings, like the virgates in Chalvington and Heighton, may have been located there.

§1.2 *Heighton in Goldspur hundred*

Heighton in Goldspur hundred (TQ 8625) is now a lost settlement. In 1352 it was described as "*Heghton apud Oxenebrigg*", and in the Subsidy Rolls it was associated with *Knelle* in Beckley. The OS map depicts the land rising quite steeply from the Rother valley to Beckley. A settlement on one of the higher spurs

could justifiably be described as a high *tūn*. If the name did indeed describe the topography of the site, it is unlikely to have been transferred from an estate centre elsewhere. Although it is just conceivable that this Heighton was the *Hectone* of *DB*, no other outliers of Pevensey estates can be identified in Goldspur hundred, so the possibility that the Domesday settlement and this tithing were identical is slight.²

§1.3 Summary

There appear to have been two places identified by the name *Heighton* in Hastings rape. One, probably named topographically, was the administrative settlement of a tithing in Goldspur hundred. The other was identified in *DB* by a name transferred from an estate centre lying elsewhere. Except in *DB*, the name *Heighton* may never have been used to identify these three small landholdings and, since the local names were not recorded there, the settlements cannot now be identified. The names of the post-Conquest tenants, Osbern and Hugh, may be significant. Osbern, who held Bodiam in Ewhurst, was a son of Hugh, so they may be the same family. Their identity could provide a clue to the location of the settlement(s) if further tenement surveys are undertaken in the area. It is also difficult to determine which Heighton in Pevensey rape was the estate centre. The problems associated with that identification are discussed below.

§2.0 Places and people named Heighton in Pevensey rape

South Heighton - parish, manor and tithing in Flexborough hundred

957 (15th) *Heahtun* 7 hides (S 648)

988 (14th) *Heantun* 7 hides (S 869)

1086 *Estone* 2 hides. Held by Gundalf TRE and William TRW (Morris 1976: 10,47)

Heighton St Clere (now Heighton Street) - manor and tithing in Firle, Totnore hundred

1147 *Hiectona*, probably Heighton in Firle. Donor associated with de Clare family (PRO E40/15417, Farrer 1925: 220)

1165-89 *Hecton* (Pipe Rolls)

1296 *Hegton*, 1327 *Heghton*, 1332 *Heghton* (SRS 10: 25, 201, 312)

Personal names

1199 William, father of Henry de *Hecton* presented Reynold to the living (Clergy index, SAS Library)

1200 Thomas de *Hehton*, John (and Margaret) de *Hehton* (*Hohton*) advowson dispute and settlement of dispute regarding 40 acres of land in Selmeston (Curia Regis rolls 1922: 152, 327)

1220 Osbert de *Hechton*, and a half-hide of land in *Hechton* (*Eylton*, *Echton*, *Hecton*) (Curia Regis rolls 1952: 53, 221, 226, 235) ?South Heighton

1241/2 Ralph (Radulfum) de *Heghton* regarding a mill (?iron) and land in Rotherfield (Curia Regis rolls 1952: 181)

1280 William lord of *Heighton*, presentation of living to alternate with Hyde. Partition confirmed in de Banco 1276 (Clergy index, SAS Library)

1286/7 William de *Suthehaton* (WSRO MS. CAPI/51/6)

1296-1332 Subsidy Rolls: no personal name *Heighton* or *Suthehaton* recorded in Pevensey rape.

§ 2.1 South Heighton

The manor, parish and tithing of South Heighton lie in Flexborough hundred. A manor of Heighton, valued at seven hides, was exchanged between ealdorman Ælfric and Æthelgar Bishop of Selsey in 988 (Forsberg 1950: 208-9). By a process, of which no record survives, the estate of Heighton, or part of it, eventually formed a part of the Sussex landholding of the New Minster (St Peter's) in Winchester (later Hyde Abbey) (Kelly 1998: 65).

Although the land at Heighton recorded in the charters and the Domesday vill of *Estone* (Heighton) (Morris 1976: 10,47) are clearly related, the association is difficult to interpret. The assessment in hides of the Domesday vill was much lower than that of the land in the original exchange and the description of *Estone* was not entered within the section of the Domesday text recording the land of the New Minster. If the record is correct, before 1066 *Estone* had been

held by a tenant from the King, not St Peter's.³ St Peter's may have been deprived of land in Hampshire both before and after the Conquest (Munby 1982: *DB* 10,1; 6,1; 6,12), some of which King William had restored. Something similar could have occurred in Sussex. But whether the Domesday entry records St Peter's manor or land already lost to them remains an open question since their interest in Heighton could have been encompassed within the description of their manor of Southease.

Significantly, land in Chollington described like *Estone* as part of the landholding of Robert of Mortain probably belonged to the Abbot of Westminster⁴ (Budgen 1921: 112). With the exception of the Bishop of Chichester and the Archbishop of Canterbury, all the Saxon ecclesiastical lords or tenants holding estates in Pevensey rape had been deprived of their land by Robert of Mortain or his followers. The Saxon ecclesiastics were replaced, but not succeeded in the same estates, by Norman abbeys or the King's new foundation of Battle. Mortain himself retained in demesne the valuable manor of Firl that had been held by Wilton abbey before the Conquest. Queen Edith had given land in Firl in Flexborough hundred to St John's (probably St John's in Lewes) some of which was held by the Abbot of Grestain by 1086. Another holding with a hall in Parrock (in Hartfield), which also belonged to St John's, had been taken from them by Earl Godwin; Mortain also retained that land and the associated hall in demesne. All of these latter changes are clearly identified in the Domesday text (Morris 1976: 8,1; 10,22; 10,44; 10,63).

Although the bounds of the parish of South Heighton appear to relate closely to the bounds described in the early charters, some land within the parish was not part of St Peter's manor of Heighton. The Dean and Chapter of Chichester held an estate in Heighton and Denton from the manor of Ludlay-Selmeston (Selmeston in *DB*). This division of the land within the bounds of the original grant suggests that part of the manor had been lost after the grant of the Heighton estate to the new Minster. Although this holding was not tiny (11 yardlands), it cannot represent the full loss of five hides.

Most of the early surviving documentary sources for South Heighton refer to disputes regarding the advowson of the church. The Abbot of Hyde did not enjoy jurisdiction over the chapel within his manor of Heighton. The right of presentation was disputed between him, the Bishop of Chichester and Thomas de Heighton. What is clear is that the chapel of Heighton had originally been subject to the church of Bishopstone and the Abbot was granted the right of presentation on payment of a pension of 20s to the church of Bishopstone and six marks to Thomas. The relationship of Bishopstone, in Flexborough hundred, with Beddingham, in Totnore hundred, which may be significant, will be discussed together with the manor of Heighton St Clere below (see map 2).

Regrettably, the name *de Heighton* was not recorded in Pevensey rape in the Subsidy Rolls of 1296-1332, so the land with which the family was associated cannot be identified. The half-hide in Heighton, which was the subject of a dispute in 1220, has also not been located. That the personal name *de Heighton* is linked with the land suggests that it was probably part of South Heighton where members of the family claimed rights in the advowson of the church. But, significantly, there is no suggestion that this disputed land was subject to the lordship of the Abbot of Hyde. At about the same time John de Heighton and his wife Margaret claimed land in Selmeston (held by the Keynes family), possibly the land in the manor of Ludlay- Selmeston located in (South) Heighton.

§ 2.2 Heighton St Clere

The manor of Heighton St Clere was not named in *DB*, but, since the settlement was recorded so early in the documentary sources, it was almost certainly established by 1086. The omission of names of smaller settlements is a well-attested characteristic of the record. Several villas in Pevensey rape are only known because outliers, identified by the name of the principal settlement, were recorded in Hastings rape. Arlington, Berwick, Winton and Broughton all fall into this category; the assumption must be that those places were included within the entry for another estate.

Unlike (South) Heighton, the settlement itself cannot be described as a high *tūn*. In 1775 the manor house lay beneath the downs, aligned, like the other settlements in the area, on the spring line (ESRO MSS. ACC 2553/2, AMS 6164/1). Heighton may have been named from Firl Beacon, the highest point on this section of the downs, which appears to overshadow it, or perhaps from the knoll-like hill on which the mill once stood (Combes 2000: 5). But the focus of the settlement was neither of those hills; the possibility that the name was transferred from elsewhere deserves consideration.

In that respect, the association of settlements within both the hundreds of Totnore and Flexborough with the *parochia* of Beddingham minster may be significant. An estate in Denton, from which the manor of Bishopstone eventually emerged, was granted to the Bishop of Selsey from the *parochia* of the minster church at Beddingham. The estate encompassed a network of valleys allowing access from the coast to the manors north of the downland ridge.

Several settlements named *Firle* were recorded within the hundreds as well as the two *Heightons*. *DB* records (West) *Firle* in Totnore and four other settlements associated with the name in Flexborough hundred; of those latter only Frog *Firle* can now be identified (Morris 1976: 10,44-46; 10,49; Coates 1998). If the interpretation of the name *Firle* as Latin, 'land characterized by wild animals' or 'beyond civilization', is accepted, an area of wilderness surrounded the manorial centre at Beddingham and its associated valley estate, Denton. The land of the 'high *tūn*' may also have extended across the downs into both the hundreds. If the whole area was perceived as associated with the royal manor/minster of Beddingham, the early names may have described characteristics of the outland of the manor. Map 2 illustrates the later settlement-pattern in the area.

If that is the case, the original manor of Heighton was extensive. Outliers of Heighton St Clere lay in East Hoathly (see map 1) and it is possible that *Hectone* in Hastings was also part of the manor (see below). Such an extensive landholding would not be unusual in a Sussex context. The land of the Bishop of Chichester's manor of Bishopstone extended into Arlington, Hellingly, Heathfield, Burwash and Ticehurst (Gardiner 1995: 199).

Perhaps not all of Bishop Æthelgar's land in Heighton was transferred to the New Minster. The context in which his charter was preserved may be significant. The undoubtedly spurious charter of 957 (S 648) purports to grant the seven hide estate directly to the New Minster and has a garbled version of the bounds attached (pers. comm. J.McN. Dodgson to Brenda Westley).⁵ The authentic version (S 869), on the other hand, describes the correct circumstances of the exchange between Ælfric and Æthelgar, the charter itself does not describe the gift to the New Minster. The attached bounds may be the most significant part of the document, recording only that part of the estate that was granted to the minster. In that case the smaller estate of Heighton recorded in *DB* might be the equivalent the New Minster's land.

Neither South Heighton nor Heighton St Clere can be certainly associated with the outlying holdings in Hastings rape. Gundulf, who held South Heighton in *DB*, is not recorded as holding any other land in Sussex, and later documentary sources do not record any manorial land held outside the parish. However, Tilton in Totnore hundred may have had tenurial links with the outlier of Heighton in Hastings rape (see map 2). Before the Conquest a tenant named Godwin, who held several manors TRE, held eight hides in Tilton and the outliers of Heighton in Hastings rape. It is far from certain that the name represents one individual. But, since it can be demonstrated that landholding extended across both Pevensey and Hastings rapes before the Conquest, it is possible that he was. If that is indeed the case, possibly Heighton St Clere was included in his manor of Tilton.

By 1086 both landholdings were fragmented between tenants. Interestingly, another name, Osbern, is again associated with both holdings. Osbern succeeded to the administrative centre of Godwin's manor of Tilton and two of the virgates of Heighton in Hastings rape. Several *Osberns* can be identified in *DB*, so the possibility that his name represents one individual is less likely. Nonetheless the coincidence is worthy of comment.

The rest of Godwin's land in Tilton was divided between the Count of Mortain, William and Ralph. A further share of Tilton had been in the hands of Alfhre before the Conquest and had passed to William of Keynes as a dependent holding by 1086. Alfhre also held Selmeston and Sidnore and Ewhurst. At

Selmeston William of Keynes was again his successor. The tenure of other Saxon thegns with composite estate holdings extending across the later Norman rape boundaries is worthy of further research.

§2.3 Summary

There were certainly three individual places named *Heighton* in East Sussex by the late 13th century. One was probably a settlement, now lost or renamed, lying in the vicinity of Beckley in Goldspur hundred (see above); South Heighton was a manor held by Hyde Abbey in Flexborough hundred; Heighton (later St Clere) was a manor in Totnore hundred. By then the name *Heighton* was not applied to the manorial outliers recorded in *DB*.

The association of the Pevensy rape Heightons with the earlier minster *parochia*, and the fact that they are, in part, coterminous, suggests the possibility that they were originally united. South Heighton, Heighton St Clere and *Hectone* in *DB* may have been part of a modest multiple estate, which would be consistent in size with the seven-hide valuation of the original grant of Heighton to Æthelgar.⁶ Possibly only two hides of that manor were then granted to the New Minster, and it was the bounds of that smaller grant that were appended to Æthelgar's original charter in the chartulary of the Minster. That would relate well to the size and location of the smaller Domesday manor, which may have been the New Minster's land, the boundaries of which appear to be closely related to the charter bounds.

However, other anomalies remain to be explained. Although they might represent a part of the original lost land, the holding in Ludlay-Selmeston and the half-hide in Heighton that has not been located may represent further deprivation of the manor. The close parallels with the Chollington case suggests that the New Minster may have been deprived of at least part of its interest in the manor by followers of Robert of Mortain, the Keynes and Dives families. Their land eventually became part of the Leicester interest in the rape of Pevensy and the Kivelingewurth (Kilworth, Leicestershire?) interest in the unidentified Heighton land may also be associated with that fee. The evidence gleaned from the limited documentary sources consulted so far is ambiguous and inconclusive. Full manorial or tenement surveys of the hundreds may reveal further detailed evidence for landholding that should, in turn, inform any future debate.

○ *Acknowledgements*

Paul Cullen, Richard Coates and Christopher Whittick have all read earlier drafts and contributed positive and helpful comments all of which helped to clarify so many of the difficulties I encountered in the course of undertaking this study. Susan Rowland kindly prepared the maps and patiently amended them as my thoughts progressed. My thanks to them all.

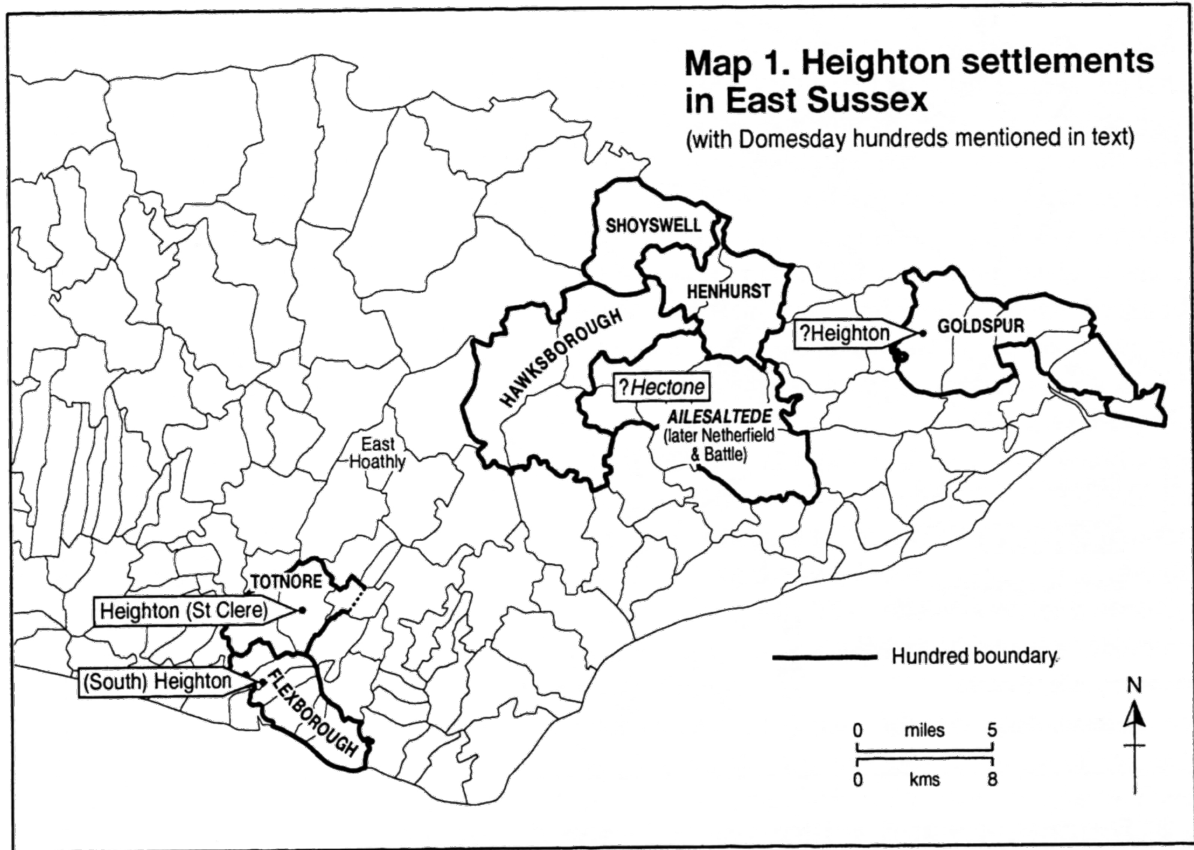
○ *Notes*

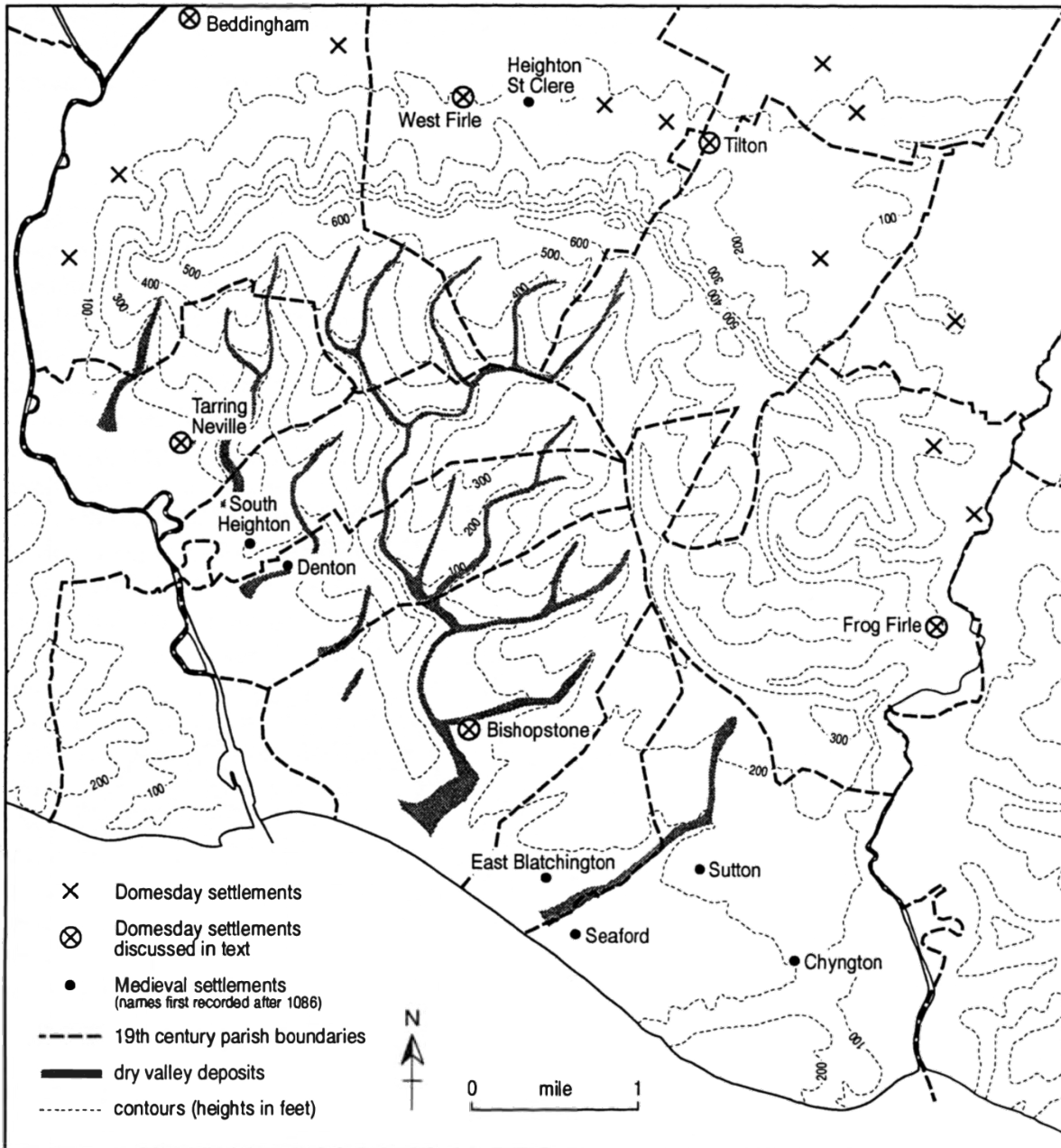
- 1 Forsberg (1950: 208-9) uses as his form of the name *Heighton* an entry in *DB* that refers to *Hectone* in Hastings rape. There is little doubt that his association of South Heighton with the *Heahtun*, *Heantun* held by the New Minster is correct. In the Alecto edition of *DB* (Erskine 1990: introduction, 28), outliers of Heighton St Clere are attributed to South Heighton (Moore 1965: 23).
- 2 In Sussex *DB*, most of the hundreds are described within a single section in the text with a clear rubricated heading. But in Hastings rape several fragments of hundreds are detached from the main entries. One, attributed to Staple, interrupts the main entry for *Ailesaltede* hundred which continues without a new hundred heading, giving the impression that all the following settlements lay in Staple Hundred. Only the fact that the places are named allows them to be located, using later documentary sources, in Netherfield (formerly *Ailesaltede*) hundred. A similar, but even more complex, error is made in Eastbourne and Totnore hundreds in Pevensy rape (Morris 1976: 9,21-32; 10,3-23).
- 3 The vill of *Estone* is the only land attributed to the tenant Gundulf in Sussex and Hampshire.
- 4 Unfortunately there is a problem of identification. The individual named as having deprived the Abbey of the land, Boselin of Dives, is not the tenant named as holding Chollington in *DB*. Although members of the same family may have held an adjoining manor that identification is not absolutely certain. The association of the Dives family with the rape and the Leicester interest within it is significant. The William holding Heighton in 1086 could be either William of Keynes or William of Dives.
- 5 Mrs Westley has kindly lent me her data on the charter bounds, including comments on S 648 prepared by J.McN. Dodgson. This material will be deposited in the SAS library at Barbican House, Lewes.
- 6 The centre of Tarring (see map 2), valued at 8 hides in *DB*, lay within the parish but the manor also held substantial wealden outliers in Fletching.

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Map 2. Topography and settlement between the rivers Ouse and Cuckmere

Richard Coates

An Old English technical term of woodland management in south-east England?

The names *Slithehurst* (Ewhurst, Surrey (*PN Sr* 241)) and *Slifehurst* (Kirdford, Sussex (*PN Sx* 107)) are regarded as "difficult" by the county editors of the English Place-Name Survey, who conclude that the first element of both is OE *slīef* 'sleeve', of which the modern word is the direct descendant. There are two reasons for this difficulty: firstly, the phonology appears to be irregular, as both names currently have unexplained /ai/ instead of the /i:/ expected from *slīef* (cf. the modern word), in addition to the consonantal complication in the Surrey name; and secondly the sense 'sleeve' does not make good sense in a place-name unless one accepts slightly desperate metaphorical reasoning such as that offered in *PN Sx*: "Slifehurst lies in a well-marked hollow which may possibly have suggested a sleeve. Another possibility is that the word *slīef* may have been used in some such topographical sense as 'slippery place'. The idea behind the word *sleeve* itself is that which is 'slipped' on." The 'slippery place' explanation is the one the editors favour for the Surrey name.

Ignoring an isolated and probably erroneous form dating from 1230 (*Selfhurst*), we find the Sussex name varying between *Slef-* and *Slif-/Slyf-* between 1199 and 1340, but always the latter in the derived surname found in Petworth, Kirdford and Ebernoe in subsidy rolls of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The Surrey name has only *-e-* till the second quarter of the sixteenth century.

Assuming the Old English written-dialect of Sussex and (mid and east) Surrey to be Kentish, I suggest that these forms of the first element are suited better by an unrecorded **slāef*, a noun corresponding to the verb **slīfan* which is confidently reconstructed for OE on the basis of the compound form *tō-slāf*, the preterite form of a verb 'to cleave in two', and which can be presumed to mean 'to cut (in a particular way)'. This hypothetical verb gains credibility from some dialect facts; it is regionally represented by modern *slive*, which is the base of the derived nouns *sliver* and *sliving* (see these in *OED-2*, also *SLIVE* v.¹ etc.). The proposed element would account for the *-e-* spellings, since pre-OE **ā* gives Kentish *ē* (cf. Rubin 1951: 127-34), and its vowel would stand in the same formal relationship of ablaut to **slīfan* as that of the recorded *snāed* 'cut-off piece, detached piece of land' to *snīðan* 'to cut'. It might have been a technical term of woodland management for the cutting of trees in a particular way, such as the one known variously as shredding or shrouding (removal of all branches below a certain height). This could be seen as consistent with the way the meaning of the base-verb has developed in the German cognate *schleifen*; this means 'to grind, smooth off, polish', i.e. 'remove projections'.¹

The forms in *-i-* in the Sussex name, and later in the Surrey one, might be explained as due to the analogical influence of the stem of the verb. This would amount to a levelling of the ablaut, where the phonetic difference was already reduced to only one distinctive vowel-height (/e:/ versus /i:/). This would account simply for the modern vowel in both names; i.e. the form **slāef*, now Kentish ME **slēf*, being obsolescent, was replaced in the place-names by a related element which was more transparent, because the verb *slīven* was still in use. (Indeed, *slive* is found as a noun from the sixteenth century onwards, often dialectally in the sense 'slice of bread', i.e. 'offcut'.) A newly reformed place-name **Slivehurst* is indirectly attested by the modern *Slithehurst* with a voiced [ð]; but [v] might readily revert to voiceless [f] under the influence of the following [h], as in *Slifehurst*.

The original stem-form, on the other hand, appears to have been retained in *Sleeves Wood* (Hadlow Down, Sussex), not mentioned in the EPNS county survey. The *-s* either marks an original plural or is simply assimilated to the frequent 'manorial' place-name type of the Sussex Weald.

The verb *slīven* was in use in ME and survives in modern times in regional dialects as *slive*, with senses including 'to cleave or split (of trees)' (transitive), 'to split (branches) off from trees to use as slips in propagation', 'to strip bark off' (*OED-2*, *EDD*). Most significantly for the present discussion, it appears to have split into two forms, *slive* and *sleave*. Whatever the relation of the latter (which, formally speaking, continues an oblique case-form of the noun **slāef*) to the verb *sleave* 'to divide (silk) into its filaments', it acquired the dialect sense 'to cleave, split'. We can interpret this as meaning that the forms from which *slive* and *sleave* originated were no longer perceived to be related to each other as verb and noun, but either could be used as members of both lexical classes.²

It seems quite plausible, then, that the noun and verb *sleave* and *slive* vacillated as to the relation between their pronunciation and their part of speech over a long period of time, and that this encouraged any tendency towards levelling the vowel-alternation in the stem. This levelling may have happened more than once, perhaps even in Anglo-Saxon times. A simple emendation will account for the *slywhyrst(e)* in the Ambersham charter (B 1114 (S 718)). Rather than being a bizarre 'tench (*slīw*) wood', this may contain **slīf*. The <wynn> which appears twice in the name in the MS. (BL AddMS 15350, fo. 36v., a twelfth-century cartulary copy of a text ostensibly of 963 C.E.) may simply be mistranscribed for <f>³,

possibly a perseveration error as the scribe had just used <wynn> four times in the previous eleven words. The form of the resultant character was sufficiently unclear to lead Kemble to transcribe it as <p> (KCD 1243); if he had been right, of course, the spelling <ph> might support the view of the name's origin adopted here. If that view is right, *slywhyrst(e)* duplicates the names in Ewhurst and Kirdford and provides an early instance of the confusion or levelling of the two stem-forms.

The greatest support for this etymology comes from the repeated co-occurrence of the suggested element with *hyrst* and its single appearance with *wood*. Smith, however, in *EPNE* (II: 129), prefers an unattested **slif(u)* 'slippery place' in Slithehurst and Slifehurst, and sees it also in *Slyfield* (Great Bookham, Surrey) and *Sleeve* (Cornwall). Smith's support for this is an undiscussed appeal to words in the family of OE *slipig* 'slippery'. But the required alternation between /p/ and /f/ needs precise explanation. Such a thing is not provided for in any account of Proto-Germanic or Pre-Old English consonantal phenomena that I know. A second OE verb of the form *slīfan* could have been mentioned; this is related to *sleeve* and means 'to slip'. Smith does not relate his **slif(u)* to the not independently attested **slæf* 'mud' which he posits for certain place-names in the North Country and which is related to Old Norse *slefa* 'saliva; mud' and *slafa* 'to slobber'. But if Smith is right, we might expect one of two outcomes: either **Sliffeld* with a short vowel, if the source is **slif*; or, if the source is **slifu*, some early spellings of the kind **Slevefeld* for *Slyfield* and for *Slyfield Green* in Stoke by Guildford (*PN Sr* 100-1, 151) - they are both recorded from the early twelfth century - but only *Sli/y-* and *Sle-* are found for the first element, offering no unequivocal evidence for a short vowel, and no evidence of an open-syllable context in which the vowel of **slif(u)* could have been lengthened as required by the pronunciation of the modern names. Smith has to appeal to spelling-pronunciation to get from his *slif(u)* to the modern /slai/, relying on the *Sli/y-* forms.

The early spellings must be assumed, therefore, to represent instead. **Slif-feld*. On the face of it, a compound meaning 'split (cloven) open-land' is not plausible, and it must be taken as meaning 'feld near a **slif*', or (equivalently) as elliptical for **Slif(hyrst)-feld*. Something analogous must be assumed for the once-attested *Slyfold* in Ebernoe tithing (Haines 1928: 20), if this is not simply another **Slif-feld*.

All the names discussed so far having the higher vowel in at least one mention, *viz.* those in Great Bookham, Ewhurst, Stoke (all Surrey), Ambersham (Hampshire, later Sussex), Ebernoe and Kirdford (both Sussex), are within a radius of 10 miles, and analogical levelling of the stem of the noun and the verb as a genuine local dialect feature seems to be indicated. The presence of the name *Sleeves* in Hadlow Down, which retains the mid vowel, is consistent with the view that the word **slæf* is essentially a regionalism of the Weald, but that the eastern part of its distribution did not participate in the substitution of **slif* for **slæf*.

Sleeve (St Ive, Cornwall) is far from all the other relevant names, and it cannot be assumed to share its origin with those in Surrey and Sussex. Perhaps Smith's **slif(u)* 'slippery place' is the correct solution, but no stand is taken here on this.

○ *Acknowledgements*

I am grateful to Oliver Padel for comment on Sleeve in Cornwall, and to Peter R. Kitson for sight of forthcoming work.

○ *Notes*

- 1 This seems to me the sense most consistent with the etymology; but I do not want to rule out coppicing or pollarding.
- 2 *OED-2* also notes a single sixteenth-century occurrence of a transitive verb *slave* ‘to tear away or split’, used of setts bearing branches; this might conceivably perpetuate **s-lf* formally, depending on what dialect is represented by the text. There is also a unique seventeenth-century use of *slaven* ‘split’ (participle as adjective), used of an arrow, which arguably is formed by the blending of the passive participle *sliven* with the vowel of the original noun (possibly shortened - the length is uncertain).
- 3 With this possibility one might compare the thirteenth-century manuscript of a Chertsey land-grant of about 672x674 (B 34 (S 1165)), where a name is found in the following forms: *fhyeke*, *Whieke*, *Hwyeke* (*mere*). As to the plausibility of *tench-hursts*, it should be conceded that the traditional etymology of *slywhyrst(e)* can be defended on the grounds of parallels such as *fischyrst* (B 197 (S 50), also a Sussex charter); and Kitson’s (forthcoming) account of the Ambersham bounds makes it less unlikely than might appear at first sight. This concession does not affect the discussion of the names on which this article mainly focuses.

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From the newspapers

There is a magnificent photograph in the *Weekend Argus* of 16-17/12/2000, p. 9, of Rye Farm, Henfield, surrounded by floodwater from the river Adur, confirming the derivation of the name from the OE *ēg* ‘island, raised land in marsh’ or its ME successor. The editors of *PN Sx* (220) are surprisingly tentative about advancing this analysis.

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