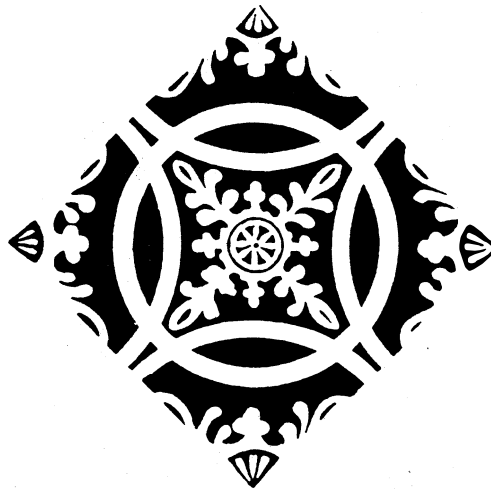


ISSN 1366-6177

# locus focus

forum of the Sussex Place-Names Net •

Volume 6, number 2 • Autumn/Winter 2002



Woldhurstlea  
Punnett's Town  
Three Cups Corner  
Loxfield Dorset  
Sussex  
Ropetackle  
Tackleway  
Golden Square  
Old Steyne  
Knockhundred Row  
Palehouse Common  
Nan Kemp's Grave  
Great Wilkins  
Open Winkins  
Short Legs  
Long James  
Timberlongfeilde  
Hither Petty-House Field

Younsmere  
Maplehurst  
Aldrington  
Sharpthorne  
Pevensey  
Eggs Hole  
Cowfold  
Racton  
Bayham  
Holtye  
Buncton  
Runcton  
Duncton  
Ifield  
Iford  
Itford  
Waldron  
Avisford  
Seaford  
Bosham  
Ferring  
Argos Hill  
Ambersham  
Newhaven  
Searles  
Shulbrede  
Tilgate  
Camber  
Preston  
Hastings  
Slaugham  
Roedean  
Kirdford  
Cuckfield  
Saddlescombe  
Bohemia  
World's End  
Portfield  
Lymminster  
Ticehurst  
Uckfield  
Adversane  
Scrag Oak  
Cousleywood  
Seven Sisters  
Bognor Rocks  
Jarvis Brook  
Cross-in-Hand  
Isle of Thorns  
East Grinstead  
East Easewrithe  
Devil's Dyke  
Kingley Vale  
Chanctonbury Ring

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## Sussex Place-Names Net •

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### • ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY-CITED WORKS, SOURCES AND ARCHIVES

<i>CDEPN</i>	V.E. Watts, <i>Cambridge dictionary of English place-names</i> (CUP, forthcoming 2003)
<i>DB</i>	<i>Domesday book</i>
<i>DEPN (Ekwall)</i>	Eilert Ekwall, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (-4 (OUP, 1960) unless other edition flagged)
<i>DEPN (Mills)</i>	A.D. Mills, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (-1 (OUP, 1991), -2 (1998))
<i>EFN</i>	John Field, <i>English field-names: a dictionary</i> (David and Charles, 1972)
<i>EPN</i>	Kenneth Cameron, <i>English place-names</i> (-5 (Batsford, 1996))
<i>EPNE</i>	A.H. Smith, <i>English place-name elements</i> (EPNS vols. 25/26, 1956)
<i>EPNS</i>	English Place-Name Society
<i>ESRO</i>	East Sussex Record Office
<i>JEPNS</i>	<i>Journal of the English Place-Name Society</i>
<i>LPN</i>	M. Gelling and A. Cole, <i>The landscape of place-names</i> (Shaun Tyas, 2000)
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English dictionary</i> (-2 (1989))
<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> (CUP, 1914)
<i>PN Sx (Glover)</i>	Judith Glover, <i>The place names of Sussex</i> (-2 (Countryside Books, 1997))
<i>PNIL</i>	Margaret Gelling, <i>Place-names in the landscape</i> (Dent, 1984)
<i>SAS</i>	Sussex Archaeological Society
<i>STP</i>	Margaret Gelling, <i>Signposts to the past</i> (-2 (Phillimore, 1988))
<i>TA</i>	Tithe award
<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> (Centre for English Name Studies, 1997-, appearing by fascicle)
<i>WSRO</i>	West Sussex Record Office
-0	an edition-flag (e.g. <i>STP</i> -2, second edition of <i>STP</i> )

## • Locus focus: forum of the

Main relevant local periodicals and series:

<i>Lf</i>	<i>Locus focus</i>
<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>	Sussex Record Society volume, with volume number
<i>WSH</i>	<i>West Sussex History</i>

Abbreviations for the names of languages and dialects:

AN	Anglo-Norman
ME	Middle English (about 1100-1485)
MedL	Medieval Latin
ModE	Modern English (1485-present; Early ModE 1485-1650)
NCy	North-Country dialect(s)
NF	Norman French
OE	Old English (about 400-1100); formerly known as Anglo-Saxon
OFr	Old French (before c. 1250)
ON	Old Norse (medieval literary West Scandinavian)
PrW	Primitive Welsh (i.e. Brittonic Celtic of about 500-800)
RB	Romano-British (i.e. latinized British Celtic of about 40B.C.E.-500C.E.)
SCy	South-Country dialect(s)
Sx	Sussex dialect
WGmc	West Germanic (i.e. the prehistoric ancestor of OE)

Symbolism

[ .... ] encloses representations of pronunciation using IPA notation

< .... > encloses spellings, principally individual letters



Mawer and Stenton  
Were once the authorities we leant on,  
But now *Locus focus*  
Safeguards us from hocus-pocus.

-- Michael Leppard

## Sussex Place-Names Net •

### • EDITORIAL

Another sad notice is necessary here: the Director of the English Place-Names Survey, Victor Watts, Master of Grey College, Durham, died suddenly on 20 December 2002, at the age of only 64. His *Cambridge dictionary of English place-names* is fortunately well advanced through the press, and is likely to appear in 2003, but the Survey will be badly hampered both by the halt to progress on County Durham and by the loss of his wise and calm guiding hand. A eulogy by Henry Dyson may be found at [http://www.dur.ac.uk/GreyCollege/college/officers/Victor\\_Watts\\_eulogy\\_30\\_12\\_02.htm](http://www.dur.ac.uk/GreyCollege/college/officers/Victor_Watts_eulogy_30_12_02.htm).

More positively, we introduce in this number of *Lf* a new feature: a dataset of names. Many name-sources remain unpublished, and it is good to be able to present raw material for future analysis. Cliff Gillam has kindly presented a collection of Cowfold names excerpted from WSRO documents. Net members and others with material of this type are welcome to submit it for publication in this form.

I am as ever indebted to Michael Leppard for a steady stream of information in addition to his formal contributions; it surfaces at various points in this issue.

An apology is required for the very late appearance of this issue.

Richard Coates  
Editor

#### From the newspapers

The *Argus* (11/04/02) reports the concerted opposition from the Worthing Society to prevent the replacement of the name *Selden Lawns* (an informal name commemorating John Selden, the Elizabethan (I) lawyer) by *Windsor Lawns* (to be an official name commemorating the house of Elizabeth (II)).

What is it about sycophancy in Worthing? Precisely one month previously the *Argus* had reported an attempt to commemorate the late princess with a *Princess Margaret Close* or *Gardens* in a development off Uplands Avenue, and four days later it confirmed that the council had approved the *Close* version.

#### From the newspapers

Worthing also featured in the letters extra page of the *Argus* of 11/12/2002; a letter from Edward Kellett explains the town's *Wyke Avenue* as being named after Wyke near Bradford (YWR) from which a branch of the Kellett family hailed. *Warwick Gardens*, also on the Warwick House estate, commemorates a large house, demolished just before 1900 to make way for these streets and Elm Road and Ash Grove (a pair of period pieces). Less happily, Worthing also features in an adjacent photo showing, deeply engraved, the erroneous name of a block of flats called *Capelia House* instead of the intended *Capella*, after a ship. (The flats have allegedly been there for about 10 years!)

## • Locus focus: forum of the

### • 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.

The Editor is grateful for information and material supplied by Douglas d'Enno, Carole Hough, John Insley, Michael Leppard and Liz Somerville.

- anon. [Leppard, M.J.] (2001) Place-names. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 76 (Spring), 20. [Smaller notes assembled by the *Bulletin's* Editor.]
- Coates, Richard (2001) Old place-names of the Brighton area. *The Goldstone: Newsletter of the Hove YMCA's Housing Projects* 9, 4.
- Coates, Richard (2002) The significances of Celtic place-names in England. In Markku Filppula, Juhani Klemola and Heli Pitkänen (eds) *The Celtic roots of English*. Joensuu, Finland: University of Joensuu (Faculty of Humanities; Studies in language 37), 47-85.
- Combes, Pam (2002) Review of Phillipa Hoskin, ed. (2001) *English episcopal acta* (vols 22, 23): *Chichester 1215-1253 and 1254-1305*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press for the British Academy.) *SPP* 97 (August), 10-11.
- Hough, Carole A. (2001) Domesday land-holdings and the place-name *Freeland*. *Studia Neophilologica* 73, 137-42. [Of relevance for the place of this name in Storrington.]
- Hough, Carole A. (2001) Old English *pottere*. *Neophilologus* 85, 621-4. [Common element in local names.]
- Hough, Carole A. (2002) Onomastic evidence for Middle English vocabulary. In Peter J. Lucas and Angela M. Lucas (eds) *Middle English from tongue to text. Selected papers from the Third International Conference on Middle English: Language and Text* (Dublin, Ireland, 1-4 July 1999). Frankfurt am Main (etc.): Peter Lang, 155-67. [On words noted first in onomastic evidence; covers some material relevant to Sussex, including *crabbe*, *\*spirt*, *\*split* and *\*swite*.]
- Insley, John (2000) *Mearcredes burna*. In H. Beck, D. Geuenich and H. Steuer (eds) *Reallexikon der germanischen Altertumskunde* (2nd edn), vol. 19. Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 473-6. [On this Sussex name in annal 485 of the *Anglo-Saxon chronicles*. Insley has also contributed articles on the following names near Sussex's boundaries: *Kent* (444-9), *Lyminge* (58-69), *Meanware* (473-6).]
- Kitson, Peter R. (2002) How Anglo-Saxon personal names work. *Nomina* 25, 91-131.
- Lagrange, Coralie and Henry Daniels (2001-2) An analysis of Romsey [Hampshire] field-names. *JEPNS* 34, 29-58.
- Leppard, M.J. (2001) The Hamlet of East Grinstead: addenda [to an article in no. 75, 7-13]. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 76 (Spring), 4-7.
- Leppard, M.J. (2001) Gullege and the Alfreys. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 76 (Spring), 8-12. [Much historical information with observations on the place-name.]
- Leppard, M.J. (2002) Wellington Town. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 77 (Autumn), 8-9. [This was originally *Willington(s) Town*.]
- Leppard, M.J. (2002) Whalesbeech and Whalesbergh. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 77 (Autumn), 10. [Location, relationship between the names, history of scholarship and antedatings.]
- Leppard, M.J. (2002) House-names as statements of belief. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 77 (Autumn), 14. [This brief note refers to previous items on this topic in *BEGS*.]
- Mew, K. (2001) The dynamics of lordship and landscape as revealed in a Domesday study of the *Nova Foresta*. *Anglo-Norman Studies* 23, 155-66.

## Sussex Place-Names Net •

- Middleton, Judy (2002) *Encyclopaedia of Hove and Portslade: H*. Privately published. [On p. 105 are notes on four field-names with background information: *Coney Burrow Field*, *Parson's Diddle*, *St Giles' Land or Knight's Acre* and *Short Breach Furlong*.]
- Richardson, Ruth E. (2002) Using field-names. *Landscapes* 2, 70-83. [Some general observations based on Herefordshire material; some caution needed about philological claims.]
- Sandred, Karl Inge (2001) English *stead* - a changeable place-name element in a changing community. *Studia Neophilologica* 73, 164-70. [Follows up his book *English place-names in stead* (1963).]
- Standing, Richard W. (2001) *The Great Tithe of 1836: Angmering*. Privately published.
- Whittick, Christopher (2002) The documentary evidence [for the history of Bishopstone]. *Sussex Past and Present* 98 (December), 6. [Part of a special feature on archaeological and historical work on Bishopstone.]

### • WEB RESOURCES

Richard Coates' book *Toponymic topics*, privately published in 1988, is now available on the author's web-site. Browsers are warned that the text is being updated for a new edition (although at a leisurely pace); the web version is the first edition and in some respects superseded. Note also that some special characters have not reproduced; the author will try to amend this defect (although at a leisurely pace).

Go to [www.cogs.susx.ac.uk/users/richardc/research.htm](http://www.cogs.susx.ac.uk/users/richardc/research.htm) and follow instructions.

### • NEWS

On 26 October 2002 there was a day-conference at the University of Sussex on the theme "The South Downs: shaping a future from the past". Contributions on names or name-related topics included "The evolution of Downland place-names" (Richard Coates) and "Agricultural impacts on the Downs, c.1400-1950" (Brian Short).

### • FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The next annual conference of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland will take place in Lerwick, Shetland, from 4-7 April 2003.

The next AGM of the English Place-Name Society will take place at the British Academy in London on 16 July 2003.

□□□

#### From the newspapers

A piece in the *Argus* of 13/12/2002 recalls that certain streets in West Durrington (around NGR TQ 105045) were named after aircrew who died when their Lancaster crashed nearby in 1944; these were Essenhigh, Varey, Rees, Thomson, Moore, Bourne and Callon. *Fulbeck Avenue* commemorates the airfield in Lincolnshire from which they had set off.

• **Locus focus: forum of the**

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

• **NOTES**

**M.J. Leppard**

*N6.2.1 Always check the hundreds*

In a pocket at the back of *PN Sx* a potentially useful map includes the boundaries of the hundreds under which parishes are entered in the text. My recent research on the hundred and parish of East Grinstead (Leppard 1999, 2000, 2001a,b) shows that historically they were not coterminous, as the map shows them to be. No evidence that they were has been found earlier than a statement to that effect in Horsfield (1835: 385). Two sixteenth-century surveys of the hundred of East Grinstead, one of which I have transcribed and mapped, show that the parish included not only the whole hundred but also the borough of East Grinstead (effectively a hundred in its own right) and portions of the hundreds of Loxfield (Greenhurst tithing) and Rushmonden (Wardley in Horsted Keynes tithing, part of the Danehill Sheffield tithing and part of Maresfield & Nutley tithing). I also adduced earlier and later evidence for these dispositions.

The point of this note is to alert **Net**-members to the possibility that their parishes and hundreds might also not have conformed to the boundaries of the map in *PN Sx*.

○ *References*

- Horsfield, T.W. (1835) *History of Sussex*, vol. I. Lewes: Baxter.  
Leppard, M.J. (1999) Hundreds and tithings and a hamlet too. *BEGS* 68 (Autumn), 10-13.  
Leppard, M.J. (2000) Hundreds, tithing, hamlet: addenda. *BEGS* 70 (Spring), 10.  
Leppard, M.J. (2001a) East Grinstead hundred in 1579. *BEGS* 73 (Spring), 5-10, including map.  
Leppard, M.J. (2001b) East Grinstead Hundred, 1579 and 1564. *BEGS* 74 (Autumn), 8-10.

• **QUERIES**

- If readers respond directly to the person making the enquiry, please would they also send a copy to the Editor?

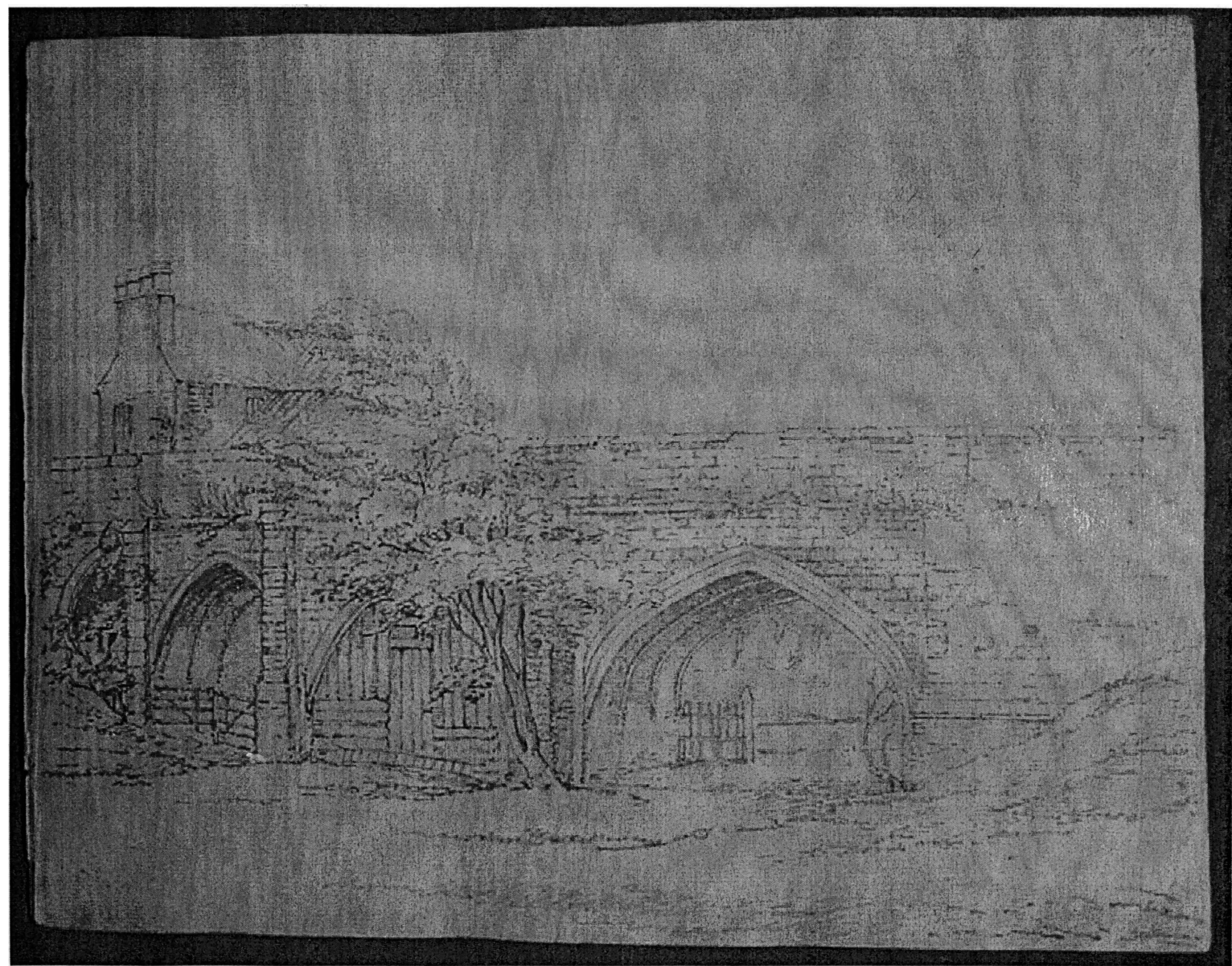
**Rafael Osuna**

*Q6.2.1 Where is this bridge?*

Professor Osuna (Duke University, Durham, North Carolina) supplies the digital image, reproduced on page 7, of a drawing labelled "Bridge at Utham, August 5, 1807", which there is some reason to suppose may be in south-east England, perhaps Sussex. Does anyone recognize it - or the name?



Sussex Place-Names Net •



## • Locus focus: forum of the

### • QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND ARTICLES

R6.2.1 *Stordisdale, Bulverhythe* [ref. article in *Lf* 6.1, 17-19 (David Padgham)]

**Christopher Whittick** comments:

Although there is other evidence for place-names in Bulverhythe, I should like to restrict myself to the name *Stordisdale*, which occurs on the Hastings custumal, ESRO RYE 57/4 (not 57/1 as printed), folio 139. This is a copy of about 1480, written up with several other documents concerning the customs of Romney Marsh.

The first seven articles of the custumal are indeed in French, but the eighth and subsequent entries are in Latin. Alas, Cooper and Ross, who published a translation of the custumal in 1862, misread a crucial word, *clivum* 'cliff' as something which they were able to translate as *water-course*. Paragraph nine begins thus:

Omnes autem condempnati in isto casu jactari debent ultra quoddam clivum vocatum Stordisdale ex parte occidentali ville versus Bolewarheth'

'But all who are condemned in this case should be thrown over a certain cliff called Stordisdale on the west side of the town towards Bulverhythe'

The misreading was not spotted by Salzman, who in 1937 relied on Cooper and Ross's article to pronounce that the method of execution at Hastings had been by drowning (*VCH Sx-9*: 11). Mary Bateson, in her edition of borough customs, was more canny, describing Cooper and Ross's translation as "not wholly reliable" and substituting [*the cliff?*] in her transcript of BL 28530, an English version of the custumal (1904: 76).

Execution by this means had a name, *infaliation*, and was the customary means of execution in Dover, Hastings, the Isle of Man and in certain parts of the Honour of the Eagle, roughly coterminous with Pevensey rape. The word occurs in Giles Jacob's *Law dictionary* (I have used the editions of 1782 and 1809) but not in *OED-2*.

The Dover execution-site was at a cliff called *Sharpness*, and the deed was to be carried out by the victim if the criminal had been convicted as a result of an appeal, the personal action for felony which preceded the indictment. It is interesting to note that the "in isto casu" reference in the Hastings customs also refers to procedure by appeal.

The erection of gallows by the bishop of Chichester in his manor of Bishopstone was objected to by the bailiff of Peter of Savoy, the lord of the Honour of the Eagle, at the eyre of Sussex in 1248. He claimed that it had been done "in prejudice of the liberties of their lord, and that all thieves ought to be thrown over a cliff within the liberty of the aforesaid Peter" (PRO JUST 1/909A m28d). That claim was probably justifiable only within the hundred of Flexborough, which included Peter's borough of Seaford, a member of the Confederation of the Ports; one cannot imagine parties from the northern border of Sussex travelling to Seaford or Beachy Head for execution ceremonies.

Infaliation seems to have been one of a number of customary punishments, including drowning and dismemberment, all of which were gradually supplanted by hanging. Hastings received a charter from Edward IV (1460-83) which supplanted infaliation by hanging "as is according to the common law of England" (Bateson 76). Its distribution seems, not unnaturally, to have been dependent on the availability sufficiently high for the purpose, but with a distinctly south-eastern bias.

The reading *clivum* obviates any difficulties surrounding the location of the watercourse, and the potentially lethal consequences of being thrown over it; but it does little to resolve the location or meaning of *Stordisdale*.

## Sussex Place-Names Net •

As I read the text, there is nothing to locate *Stordisdale* in Bulverhythe at all - it is merely on the Bulverhythe side of the town. It would be natural for the Hastings customal to choose Bulverhythe as a direction in this way, as it formed a detached part of the liberty of the borough. What we need is a cliff high enough to be used for executions, and the three-mile stretch of coast seems to provide few locations, unless they have been eliminated by erosion.

Does the new-found role of *Stordisdale* as a cliff help with the meaning? The *-dale* element can mean 'pit' or 'hollow' (*EPNE* I: 125), but Smith goes on to note that in literary sources OE *dæl* is used chiefly of a pit, and gives an example of *dēope dæl* 'a deep pit', as an allocation for hell, used to gloss Latin *baratrum* 'abyss'. If the element applied to the precipice, that would produce a suitably dramatic resonance for an execution-site. If however *Stordisdale* refers to the surface from which the throwing took place, I suppose we could imagine the ceremony taking place in a dip in a rolling cliff-edge, still high enough for the purpose, with the spectators sitting on the higher land to east and west to view the proceedings. If "*stordis*" is to mean 'brushwood', then presumably only the second interpretation is possible.

Could *Stordis* be a genitive form of a personal name? Did the clerk of c.1480 misread a <c> for a <t> (easily done), and should we be thinking about *Scordisdale*? I am sure readers of *Lf* will not be short of suggestions.

### ○ Acknowledgement

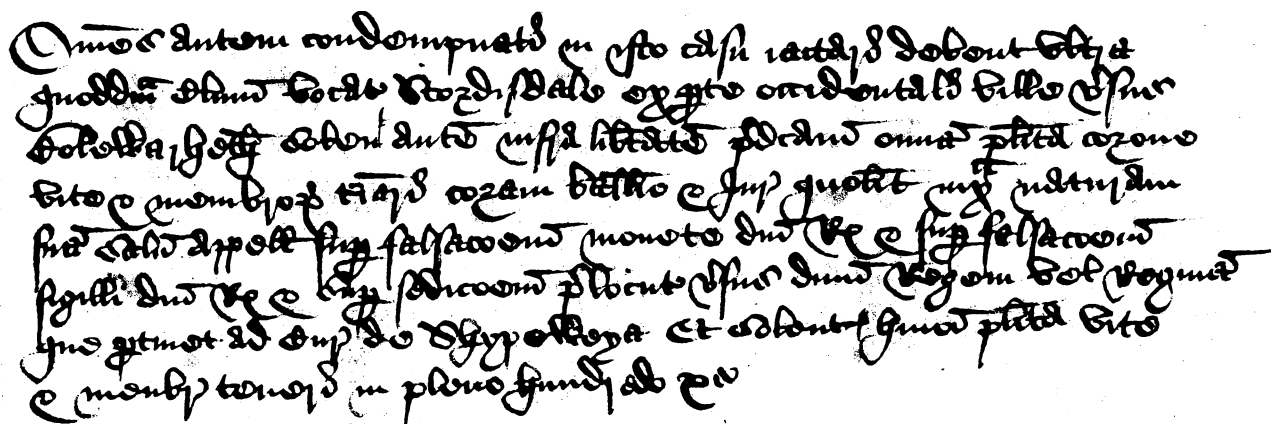
Helpful advice was received from Pam Combes and Mark Gardiner during the preparation of this note.

### ○ References

Bateson, Mary (ed.) (1904-6) *Borough customs* (2 vols). London: Selden Society (vols 18, 21).  
Cooper, W. Durrant and T. Ross (1862) *Notices of Hastings*. SAC 14, 65-118.  
Jacob, Giles (1729) *A new law-dictionary*. London. [Editions of 1782 and 1809.]

### ○ Editor's note

In addition to the surname *Sturdy* suggested in *Lf* 6.1, 19, *Strode* is also a possible source; this is the true English form of the apparently Scandinavian word in the place-name in question. Several people called (*atte*) *Strode* are taxed in Hastings rape between 1296 and 1332, though of course evidence for Hastings town itself is absent from these subsidies since the Cinque Ports were exempted.



East Sussex Record Office RYE 57/4 f139

## • Locus focus: forum of the

□□□

*R6.2.2 Rushy Hill* [ref. Q6.1.5 (Richard Coates)]

**Christopher Whittick** reports:

There is a map at ESRO of the farm in Newhaven immediately to the east of Rushy Hill (ESRO SAS/FIG 860). It is untitled and undated, but endorsed "Rough Draught of Newhaven" and from the hand looks to be c.1760. A field on the parish boundary, next to Rushy Hill, is *Rushy Hill Piece*. [This suggests that the name is self-explanatory and did not need my intervention based on a name in Kipling's memoir. - Ed.]

□□□

*R6.2.3 Bo-Peep* [ref. R6.1.6 (Richard Coates)]

**Christopher Whittick** comments:

This is the name for the game played with children in which, in the words of *OED-2*, "A nursery play with a young child, who is kept in excitement by the nurse or playmate alternately concealing herself (or her face) and peeping out for a moment at an unexpected place, to withdraw again with equal suddenness". The earliest citation is from 1528. Could the place-name derive from a building or other feature which, in the course of a journey, regularly disappears from view only to emerge again?

□□□

*R6.2.4 Bishop's fingers* as a word for 'signposts' [ref. Obituary of Joseph Pettitt (Michael Leppard), *Lf* 6.1, 23]

**Christopher Whittick** comments:

*Bishops' fingers*: is this not because signposts, or *fingerposts* as they were also called, actually had terminals in the shape of a hand arranged with the top two fingers extended and the bottom two tucked in, resembling (horizontally) the hand of a bishop raised in benediction?

□□□



## Sussex Place-Names Net •

### • ARTICLES

#### Pam Combes

##### *Commons and farms in Barcombe and Hamsey*

A list of farm-names in Barcombe and Hamsey recorded on the 1873/4 25" OS maps of the area was compiled in the course of preparing a project researching the medieval settlement in the two parishes. In Barcombe in particular some farm-names and the names of the commons, enclosed in the 16th century, escaped the notice of the editors of *PN Sx*. Although the names of the commons continued in use in the manor court rolls, only one of them survived in the general administrative record, as a farm-name. Those omissions have been made good and are recorded in the table on the pages below.

This initial work has emphasized the difference between the communities. Barcombe is much the larger, encompassing 5,027 acres, with 29 farms, 16 of which were identified by personal names. Hamsey, with 2,747 acres had 15 farms, only one of which is identified solely by a personal name, although others appear to have personal names as the first element with a locative second element. Some Barcombe place-names reflect the wooded nature of the district, whereas the total lack of *leah* and *hyrst* names in Hamsey suggests that woodland clearance occurred early there.

The farm-names derived from surnames are unlikely to have originated before the 17th century, and a few appear only in the 19th century. Although it is clear that some families whose names became attached to modern farms had long been resident in the parish it is impossible to be certain that the land that now bears their name was their original holding. Indeed, given that the active land market was still assisting in the creation of consolidated blocks of farmland in the 19th century, it is probable, even if there was some continuity of tenure, that only a small part of a modern farm would represent the original medieval tenement.

In both parishes the tenement names recorded in the court books were only rarely the same as the farm-names recorded on the early OS maps. In Barcombe the families who gave their names to the farms were only occasionally copyholders or freeholders of the manors. More often they appear to have been local residents who were farming consolidated land units, either from the manorial lord as tenants of the manorial demesne, or from manorial copyholders and freeholders.

In order to record changes over the last 120 years, a comparison was made with the names recorded on the 1911 OS 6" map and the current Explorer sheets. Although most of the names were and are still recorded, there are a few significant differences. Some names do not appear almost certainly because of the small scale of the modern Explorer map. Other farms and their names have been lost and some new farm names have appeared; the comparisons are tabulated below. Slight changes to several names reflect the change in status of the dwelling - many are no longer working farms, and in some cases the loss of the word *farm* reflects that change; in others the presumed superior generic *manor* has prevailed. Notably none of the names associated with the most ancient manorial centres, Barcombe, Hamsey, Coombe or Camois Court, incorporate the word *manor*. They are, respectively, *Courtledge* (now *Court House*), *Hamsey Place*, *Coombe Place* and *Camois Court*.

This is a report on work in progress; but some trends, possible peculiar to these two settlements, are beginning to emerge and are worth recording at this early stage. How and under what circumstances a farm acquired a specific name is of some importance both in the study of place-names and of local history and archaeology.

As well as printed sources including the Subsidy Rolls and Inquisitions Post Mortem, a substantial but, as yet, not fully comprehensive series of original documentary sources has been consulted. In order to avoid swamping the tables with references, they have been individually numbered and listed with the bibliography at the end of the paper. The numbers in [square brackets] in

## • Locus focus: forum of the

the text of the table refer to that list.

Significant contributions to this brief paper have been made by Ian Hilder and Sue Rowland (hereafter SR). Their unparalleled knowledge of their respective parishes, which they have generously shared with me, has substantially enhanced my work. Christopher Whittick has also provided invaluable wise advice and support.

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### ○ Numbered sources in the tables which follow, pp. 13-21

- [1] ESRO SAS/PN 126 Enclosure deed, 1574  
[2] ESRO SAS/PN 127 Exemplification of enclosure deed, 1578  
[3] W.H. Godfrey (1928) *The book of John Rowe*, SRS 34, 233-235  
[4] W.H. Godfrey (1928) *The book of John Rowe*, SRS 34, 217  
[5] M.S. Holgate (1931, 1932) The Sussex manors of Francis Carewe, *SNQ* 3, 202-3, 4, 54-7, 78-9.  
[6] ESRO AMS 1208 Barcombe Manor Rental, 1734/5  
[7] ESRO BMW/C4/2 Barcombe Manor Rental, 1798  
[8] ESRO ADA 178 Barcombe Manor Court Book, 1798-1833  
[9] ESRO ADA 179 Barcombe Manor Court Book, 1834-1858  
[10] ESRO AMS 5556 Barcombe Land Tax, 1703  
[11] ESRO ADA 174 Camois Court Manor Court Book, 1662-1788  
[12] BL Add Ch 58825 Grant by feoffees to heir, 1508  
[13] ESRO PAR 235 Parish Register, St Mary's, Barcombe  
[14] ESRO W/A55 184v Will of Thomas Earle, 1729  
[15] ESRO OS 25"  
[16] ESRO ACC 4789/159 W. Figg, Map of Banks Farm, 1820  
[17] ESRO TD/E 111 Hamsey tithe map, 1840  
[18] ESRO W/A18 204v Will of John Monger, 1624  
[19] ESRO W/A3 128r Will of Richard Erle, tanner, 1548  
[20] ESRO SAS/E258 Land Tax redemption certificate, 1799  
[21] PRO RG 13/914 f 126, 5 Census, 1901  
[22] PRO IR58/12564 (206) Land Valuation Fieldbook, 1909, p. 15  
[23] ESRO SAS/B167 Mortgage, 1714  
[24] ESRO SAS/WG888 W. Figg, Map, 1822  
[25] ESRO AMS 2854/10 W. Figg, Map, 1827  
[26] ESRO SAS/WG889 W. Ford, Map, 1779  
[27] ESRO SHR 3587 List of tenements held of the manor of Hamsey by the late Sir John Bridger Kt, c.1816  
[28] ESRO SHR 2028/9 Land conveyance, 1764  
[29] Jack Harmer (1991) *Our parish*  
[30] ESRO SAS/PN 162 Bargain and sale, 1709

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<b>Barcombe Commons</b>	Recorded forms	Meaning and notes
Handlye	1575 Hanly [5] 1578 Handley [2] 1734 Handly [6]	Not in PN Sx. <i>hēan</i> – or <i>hana</i> – <i>lēah</i> . High woodland clearing or woodland clearing with cocks, wild birds. In vicinity of Handlye farms
Marvell	1508 Merveld [12] 1571 Merefiles [3] 1575 ?Mirfeld [5] (reading queried by editor) 1578 Mervell [2] 1734 Marvil [6]	Not in PN Sx. Meadow north of Barcombe Mills. Located in vicinity of Hover's Bridge (Over's Bridge TQ442170). In 1574 the Lord was said to have surrounded his allotment from the common with water. The name might describe either the quality of the meadow land <i>myrge</i> merry, or its position ( <i>ge</i> ) <i>mære</i> boundary or its neighbours <i>mere</i> pool with <i>feld</i> field.
Mill Row Green	1578 Milne Rowe Grene [2]	Not in PN Sx. Simple location near the mill – the term row suggests habitation. 1548 The Myllrowe [19]
Whitehead	1508 Whytehoth [12] 1575 Whytehode [5] 1578 Whitehead [2] 1734 Whitehead [6]	Not in PN Sx. <i>hwīt</i> white <i>hād</i> heath. Difficult to locate with precision. 1836 Land at Whitehead Green lay east of the highway leading north from the village at TQ424163 [9]

<b>Barcombe Farms 1873/4</b>	OS 1911 and OS 1996 (the latter based on an earlier survey)	Meaning and notes
	1911 Down View 1996 Down View Farm (TQ412172)	Not in PN Sx. Does the farm have a view over to the Down Coppice east of Spithurst?
	1996 Half Yard Farm (TQ427156)	Not in PN Sx. 1901 Half Yard Cottages [21] A modern farm, but using as its name a term

• **Locus focus: forum of the**

		occurring in the manor rentals, there were several 'half yards'. Possibly the farm should be associated with one of those holdings.
	1996 Harelands Farm (TQ411171)	Not in PN Sx. 1873 and 1911 Harelands Wood (Much reduced in extent by 1996) Probably <i>hara</i> hare land. The combination of the term <i>land</i> with wood suggests that open land frequented by hares may have been replaced by woodland.
	1996 Holmans Bridge Farm (TQ411169)	Not in PN Sx. Lies to N. of Holmans Bridge which was recorded in 1873 and 1911. Surname. 1695-1752 Holoman, Homan, Holmond, Holman [13]
	1996 Mill Farm (TQ433150)	Not in PN Sx. Name applied to modern farm buildings serving farmland lying close to the former site of Barcombe Mills – there is no farmhouse.
(Monger's Farm) (TQ421156) Depicted but not named.	1911 Monger's Farm	Not in PN Sx. Surname 1624 John Monger of Hamsey [18] 1724 Anne Monger 1812 Munger [13]
Avery's Farm (TQ414142)	1996 Avery's	Not in PN Sx. Surname 1729 Thomas Earle of Hamsey left land held of Barcombe manor to William Avery [14] 1746 Elizabeth Avery [13]
Balneath Farm (TQ397172)	1911 Balneath Farm and Balneath manor were recorded adjacent to one another. 1996 Balneath Manor	PN Sx 313. Bealda's <i>hæð</i> heath. 1909 – 1915 Farmhouse described as 'formerly two cottages' [22]



## Sussex Place-Names Net •

Banks Farm (TQ431163)	Banks Farm	Not in PN Sx. Probable surname occurs in Barcombe 1709-1716 [13] 1820 Two tenements described as Pacans (Pakins 1734, 1798 [6,7]) or the Banks and The Banks comprised what is now Banks Farm [16]
Beak's Farm (TQ433183)	Beak's Farm	Not in PN Sx. Probable surname. Beach occurs in Barcombe 1630 [13]
Brickyard Farm c(TQ413175)	1996 Name lost - unnamed Nursery on site.	Not in PN Sx. Simple locative
Bunce's Farm (TQ434191)	Bunce's Farm	PN Sx 314 Surname occurs in Barcombe 1667-1685 [13]
Burtenshaw's Farm (TQ425170)	Burtenshaw Farm	PN Sx. 314 Probably surname, occurs in Barcombe 1637 [13].
Camoiscourt House	Camois Court	PN Sx 314 The manor was created by a division of Barcombe manor and initially recorded as Barcombe Camoys (from the family name) – presumably the courts for the manor were held at the house. Whether the present Camois Court, which dates at least in part to the 17 <sup>th</sup> century ( <i>VCH 7</i> ), represents the original site of the manor house is open to question. 1709 sale of land...land whereupon the ancient seat or mansion house called Camois Court formerly stood...[30] 1996 Camois Court Farm a modern house.

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<p>Carpenter's Farm (TQ426172)</p>	<p>Oak Tree Farm</p>	<p>PN Sx 314 – Oak Tree Farm Oak Tree Farm is on the same site and PN Sx associates that name with Ralph atte Oke a jurat in Barcombe Hundred in 1296 SR. Perhaps some caution is required since this is a heavily wooded area and the farm name is recorded late. 1799 and 1901 Carpenters Farm [20,21] Probable surname occurs in Barcombe 1663 – 1685 Carpenter [13]</p>
<p>Coppard's Farm (TQ433182)</p>	<p>1911 Coppard's Farm 1996 lost</p>	<p>PN Sx 314 Surname in 1327 and 1332 SR and 1599 [13]. 1798 Catherine Coppard held copyhold tenement called Worgers, otherwise Longford [7] Coppards Farm lay across the Longford stream opposite Longford Farm. Possibly the family originally farmed as tenants of a copyholder.</p>
<p>Courtledge Farm (TQ419144)</p>	<p>1911 Courtledge Farm 1996 Court House</p>	<p>Not in PN Sx Court House for Barcombe Manor 1703 Court Lodge [10] 1714 Court Farm [23]</p>
<p>Covell's Farm (TQ427165)</p>	<p>1911 Scovell's Farm 1996 Scobell's Farm</p>	<p>Not in PN Sx. Probable surname occurs in Barcombe as Colvil 1598/9 [13] 1798 Copyhold tenement Coppernetts otherwise Colvell's [7] 1822 Scovell's [24] 1827 Covill's [25]</p>
<p>Culver Farm (TQ426143)</p>	<p>Culver Farm</p>	<p>PN Sx 314 1703 Culver Farme – possibly associated with the manorial pigeon house [10 &amp; 3]</p>
<p>Curd's Farm (TQ412150)</p>	<p>Curd's Farm</p>	<p>Not in PN Sx. Surname occurs in Barcombe 1653 –1792 [13]. 19th century farmhouse replaced an older,</p>

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		timber – framed building, still depicted by the barns in 1873.
Delves Farm (TQ434165)	Delves Farm	PN Sx 314 Association with John atte Delve of <u>Lewes</u> in 1296 is unlikely. 1574 John Delve a Barcombe manor tenant [1] The name occurs frequently later. 1779 The Delves [26] There were water - filled pits in the vicinity of the farm in 1840. It is impossible to know whether the family gave their name to the farm or derived their name from the landscape feature.
Firzley Farm (TQ396184)	Furzeley Farm	Not in PN Sx <i>fyr̄s lēah</i> woodland clearing with furze 1891 Furzley Farm Tenement of Balneath manor.
Gallops Farm (TQ438166)	Gallops Farm	PN Sx 314 Probable surname occurs frequently in Barcombe 1598 –1675 [13]. 1508 the land of Richard Gallop is named as an abuttal in a land grant [12] The house, now lost despite appearing on current OS maps, was a single - aisle hall house. (Mason 1978)
Gipp's (TQ432191)	Gipps	Not in PN Sx. Probable surname 1575 Chippes als Jeppes [5] 1703 Jepts/Jepps [10] A freehold tenement of Barcombe.
Handly Farm (TQ411156)	1911 Handly Farm. 1996 Handlye Farm	Not in PN Sx. Handly Common in 16th century enclosure award. Fine timber - framed building possibly built following enclosure.
Handly Farm (TQ408149)	1911 Handly Farm 1996 Lost	Presumably a second farm created as a result of the enclosure of the common.

• **Locus focus: forum of the**

Haye's Farm (TQ432150)	1911 Hayes Farm 1996 name not on map	PN Sx 314 Associated with Simon atte Hegh 1296 SR. Probable surname which occurs in Barcombe 1670-1673, 1715-1722 [13]
Hole House (TQ438172)	1911 Hole House 1996 Lost	Not in PN Sx. 13th century pottery on site (Tebbutt 1975) 1820 and 1836 adjacent land was called Old House Field [16 & 9] The house was not sited in a hollow, as the name implies-was it the Old House?
Knowlands Farm (TQ420168)	Knowlands Farm	PN Sx 314 Knowlands Wood 1247 la Cnollond; <i>cnoll</i> 'mound', though the farm itself is not on one. The house is a fine timber-framed building.
Longford Farm (TQ432182)	Longford Farm	PN Sx 314 Simple topographic name
Over's Farm (TQ405147)	Over's Farm	PN Sx 314 Probable surname 1580 Hovore [13] 1675 Over [13] 1799 Modern Over's Bridge at TQ442170 is Hover's [8]
Scuffling's Farm (TQ432166)	1911 Scufflings Farm 1996 Scufflings	PN Sx 314 1614 Scufflands – possibly descriptive of land There is a Scuffling bridge in Ringmer. 1734 Barcombe manor tenement [6]
Sewell's Farm (TQ413160)	Sewell's Farm	PN Sx 314 Probable surname 1577 Anne Sewell of Southover was the servant of Richard Wickerson. His surname occurs in Barcombe 1578 Thomas Wikerson [2] 1599 John Savewel son of Elizabeth [13]? 1662 Camois Court tenement [11]
Spithurst Farm (TQ425175)	1911 Spithurst Farm 1996 Church Farm	PN Sx 314 1296, 1327 surname <i>Splytherst</i> , <i>Splidhurst</i> suggests a derivation from 'split-wood' but the

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Hamsey Farms 1873/4	OS 1911 and OS 1996 (earlier survey)	Comments
Barley's Banks (TQ391129)	1911 Barley's Banks 1996 not named	Not in PN Sx Probable surname. c1816 copyhold tenement of Hamsey manor described as 'at Barley's Banks' [27] 1764 ...manor of Allington otherwise East Allington or the manor farm of Allington alias Barley's Banks...[28] 2003 the house originally known as Barley's Banks is now Picketts (SR pers. comm.)
Cooksbridge Farm (TQ402141)	Cooksbridge Farm	PN Sx 315. Probable surname. 1537 Henry Coke farmed the demesne of Barcombe manor which lies adjacent. 1543 Thomas Coke of Hamsey. The farmer of demesne of Hamsey manor was responsible for the maintenance of the bridge.
Copyhold Farm (TQ407131)	Copyhold Farm	Not in PN Sx. A tenement part of Offham farm 1840 [17]. Probably copyhold of Hamsey manor.
Cowlease Farm (TQ417135)	Cowlease Farm	PN Sx 316 <i>cū - lǣs</i> cow pasture
Folly Farm (TQ404150)	1911 Folly Farm 1996 Shelley's Folly	Not in PN Sx. Probably <i>folly</i> in the sense of a costly structure suggesting folly in the builder. Shelley from surname.
Hamseyplace Farm (TQ413122)	1911 Hamseyplace Farm 1996 Hamsey Place	Farm not in PN Sx. Medieval Hamsey Place lay immediately adjacent to the church – the farm lies by the Mill cut.
Hewinstreet Farm (TQ396158)	Hewenstreet Farm	PN Sx 315 <i>Hīwan</i> (OE) members of family, household or monastic community or <i>hewen</i> (ME) servants. The obligation of manor tenants to maintain the road at Hewenstreet may account for the name.

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		<p>problem of the early use of the term split remains. However the road divides the modern settlement.</p> <p>Possibly the name of the farm has been changed to distinguish it from Spithurst House which lies across the road.</p> <p>1880 St Bartholomew's Church was built.</p>
Vuggles (TQ437193)	Vuggles	<p>PN Sx 317</p> <p>Probable surname. Parochially in Newick, manorially in Rodmell, located in Barcombe!</p>

**Hamsey Commons**

Despite the fact that there were undoubtedly substantial commons in the parish only two field names now survive to record the common land in Hamsey: There would have been common grazing on the downs and the remnants of strips of brookland, located by the Pell Brook Cut in the south of the parish, were recorded on the 1873/4 OS map (TQ405118). The 24 acres of Hamsey Common (at TQ408133) and the adjacent Common House Field were privately owned in 1840. The small area of the common suggests that the neighbouring Park Fields to the north may once have also been common and were later emparked. In addition the names of three other fields to the west, the Hither, Middle and Further Bush Field, suggest that the land there is not prime quality and may also have formed part of the common. [17].



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Little Hewinstreet Farm (TQ401157)	1911 Farm buildings survived but not the name. 1996 Loss complete.	A division to create two holdings probably accounts for two farms in such close proximity. The lesser farmhouse did not survive as a dwelling when the brickyard was developed.
Lower Tulleyswells Farm (TQ397137)	Lower Tulleyswells Farm	Either a division or an expansion of the landholding of Tulleyswells Farm.
Mill Laine Farm (TQ400121)	1911 Mill Laine Farm 1996 no name recorded	Not in PN Sx. Named from a windmill on the downs and the arable laines adjacent to Coombe Place – the home farm of Coombe Manor.
Northend Farm (TQ412134)	1911 Northend Farm 1996 North End	Not in PN Sx. The most northerly settlement in central Hamsey
Offham Farm (TQ400125)	Offham Farm	Not in PN Sx. Home Farm associated with Offham Place
Tulleyswells Farm (TQ391132)	Tulleyswells Farm	PN Sx 316 Possible surname, Tulley, apparently alien, + wells
Willmets Farm (TQ409129)	1911 Willmets Farm 1996 not named on map (Highwell)	PN Sx 316 Probable surname PN Sx associates the farm with the family of Robert Wylemot of Southease in 1327 but there is no evidence to support that view. 1840 George Wilmot owner the farm was probably named from him. Locally it was later known as Ade's, reverted to Willmets and is now Highwell. [17, 29] There is a well in the garden. The 15 <sup>th</sup> century house is the oldest so far recorded in Hamsey (SR pers.comm.)
Winterlands Farm (TQ399149)	Winterlands Farm	Not in PN Sx. Perhaps winter pasture – but a surname is possible.

## • Locus focus: forum of the

Those who did not see the correspondence on spnn@cogs about older spellings of *Views Wood* (Buxted) may enjoy this example of a collaborative academic exercise:

A collaborative enterprise of **Pam Combes (PCo)**, who let the hare loose, **Paul Cullen (PC)**, **Christopher Whittick (CW)**, **Mark Gardiner (MG)** and **Richard Coates (RC)**, 30/03/02-04/04/02

Lightly edited and with one red herring floated by RC removed

*Whews*, Buxted

PCo:

Any idea of what the *Whews* in Buxted (demesne) might have been - mews?

PC:

*PN Sx* 392 identifies (unnecessarily tentatively) *Whynes* [sic] 1631, *Whiewes* 1732, *Whewes* 1756 with *Views Wood* in Buxted. The same name appears slightly earlier in Surrey: see *PN Sr* 269 for *The Whewes* in Capel (*Weeves* 1576, *Whewes* 1597). As far as I know no-one has offered an explanation, probably wisely given the lateness of the data. After a brief struggle I've failed to make any sense out of some attempts at postulating an OE form, e.g. *\*hwē(o)w(es)*, *\*hwī(e)w(es)*, *\*hwē(o)fl(es)*, *\*hwī(e)fl(es)*.

MG:

An earlier form, which, to my ill-informed eye, appears to support PC's first two etymologies, appears in ESRO GLY1140, 7. It is an assignment for dower and therefore is part of the demesne. It grants all of *Weyhuse* wood. I am using from the printed catalogue, so the spelling might need to be checked.

The same document grants land "in Civicticlario". It looks like a Latin compound, rather than a place-name, but it not clear to me what it means. Any ideas?

PC:

Of course! A compound in OE *hūs* 'house'! What date is this *Weyhuse* form? *OED-2* has *weigh-house* 'a public building to which commodities are brought to be weighed' from the 15th century (le *Weyhous* 1438, *the Weyhous* 1463). We should acknowledge that formally there are other possibilities for the first element (including OE *weg* 'way, road', OE *hwæg* 'whey'), but the recorded compound gets my vote.

For similar reduction of *hūs* cf. Trowse in Norfolk, with OE *trēow* 'tree'; also comparable is ON *hús* in Smaws in West Yorkshire, with ON *smár* 'small' (plural).

CW:

I have looked at ESRO GLY 1140, which is a little dodgy as it was written c.1450 and the clerk obviously couldn't entirely read what was in front of him. Number 7, a deed of 1299, has *Weyhuse* twice; first = *boscum de Weyhuse*, second = *de la Wyhuse* (no sign of wood). The loss of the <e> in the second form could have something to do with the over-elaborate <W> which precedes it having, in the eye of the clerk, swallowed it up.

I have also encountered another form in a rental of c.1570 (ESRO AMS 5843 f34): *four score acres of freeland called Wyhowse*. As for what Dell has transcribed <Civicticlario>, that will do perfectly well for what is on the paper, although it is meaningless. A minor adjustment would



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produce *cuniculario*, a warren, which would be a good thing for a widow to take a third of.

RC:

I'm sceptical about *Whews* = *weigh-house*, as that leaves the initial <wh> unexplained. If this really were the origin, you might reasonably expect \*<Wewes> and the like in the Buxted name, just as you do in the Glynde MS. form.

PC:

In defence of *weigh-house* it's worth noting the repeated use of the definite article, in the earliest *de la Wyhuse* 1299 (c.1450) [thanks to CW], in PCo's reference to *the Whews* (TA?), as also in *The Whewes* (Surrey).

On initial <wh>, note that the earliest three forms (looking at both names) have <w> (*boscum de Weyhuse*, *de la Wyhuse* 1299 (c.1450), *Weeves* 1576), with no <wh> until 1597 ('Whewes'). If this is indeed a compound in *house*, might the initial <h> of the second syllable be motivation enough for the development to <wh> as the first element blurs and the name becomes opaque?

Arguably the modern form Views Wood with <v> for <w> tells against <wh>, though that's rather stretching the evidence.

I overlooked CW's useful form *Wyhowse* (c.1570, noteworthy as another <w> form before those with <wh> appear, and the clearest indicator yet of /u:/ in the second syllable.

RC:

The 13th-century forms tip it for me. I'll go with PC's suggestion. But are we happy with a specialized weigh-house in a rural context?

PCo:

Weigh-houses in country districts - I have reservations. Views Wood in Buxted lies adjacent to the road leaving north from Uckfield. If you were going from Lewes to "old" Buxted village, now Buxted Park, it is likely that you would have taken a turn off that road - on the present map there a truncated spur still survives. A *way-house*, possibly a lodge, would make more sense for me in that context.

CW:

My final offering on this before you put it to bed; can the measure-word *wey*, most frequently encountered for cheese, be anything to do with this? There are *Cheesehouse Farms* around the place.

And there the matter rests; no-one has dissented from CW's suggestion!



• **Locus focus: forum of the**

• **DATASET: Minor names in Cowfold**

Contributed by **Cliff Gillam**

*Names of farms and properties*

Source: Map of Beeding manor, 1733 (WSRO Add.MS. 27484). Some of the places named may lie partly or wholly outside the parish boundary.

Denwood	Singers	Marles
Welshes	Frithknowle	Goodgers
Patchgate	Steelhillyfield (?)	Marles Mill
Vertknowle	Graffield	Drewits
Frithlands	Hookland	Ridgeland

*Field-names and other minor names*

Source: Cowfold tithe map, 1842 (WSRO TD/W154)

1. Lime Kiln Field	37. Barn Field and Lane
2. Stone Rock Field	38. Cottage and Garden
3. Upper Orchard	39. Row Croft
4. Drewetts Farm	40. Upper Barn and Yard
5. Spring Coppice	41. Barn Field and Coppice
6. Flat Field	42. Long Field
7. Lower Barn Field	43. Rushy Lag
8. Barn Field	44. Brackets Croft
9. Hogg Plat	45. Old Field
11. Old Mead	46. Bushy Lag
12. Stable Field	47. Harbour Wood
13. The Five Acres	48. Orchard Field
14. Drewitts Wood	49. Little Barn Field
17. Steep Wood	50. Orchard and Brickyard
18. Oaken Wood	70. Gosenden Mill and Orchard
19. Wabblegate Field	71. Gosenden Mill Pond
20. Oaken Wood Plat	72. Meadow
21. Marlpit Den Wood	95. The Nine Acres
22. Round Wood	97. Upper Meadow
23. Little Furze Field	412. Lime Kiln Field
24. Den Wood	413. Milking Plat
25. Great Den Wood Field	414. Hog Croft
26. Garden	415. Eastridge House
27. Perry Field	416. [no name]
28. North Field	417. East Meadow
29. Round Mead	418. West Meadow
30. Shrep or Ashen Wood	421. Part of Doctors Field
31. Hop Garden Field	422. Great
32. Carthouse Platt	423. Part of the Nine Acre Shaw
33. Green and Pond	424. Part of the Fourteen Acres
34. Welches House and Garden	425. Part of the Little Mead
35. Hogg Platt	426. Clover Field
36. Yard Buildings and Lane	428. Lime Kiln Platt

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429. Kings Yard Buildings  
430. The Green  
431. Kings House Garden  
432. Sawpit Field

433. House Field  
434. Three Cornel (?) Lag  
[421-434 belonged to Sir Timothy Shelley.]



## • REVIEW

### Richard Coates

Review of *Rottingdean: the village*. Laurian d'Harcourt. Saltdean (Brighton): DD Publications (2002; dated 2001). 144 pp., softback. £8.95.

Laurian d'Harcourt, daughter of Sir Roderick Jones of Reuters and the novelist and playwright Edith Bagnold, long-time residents of Rottingdean, has created a parish history whose main aim is to trace the impact on the village of the Beard family. They were prominent landholders and landowners for over three centuries, and solid if undistinguished social leaders in the absence of the main landowner and lord of the paramount manor, the Marquess of Abergavenny. d'Harcourt has excerpted much material from the Beard archives, ESRO, and painted a vivid picture of the Beards' rise, prominence and way of life, as well as bemoaning their eventual fall through the profligacy of one individual in the early 20th century (ch. 11). The MS. reached its current form in 1970 and is now published for the first time. Since it is mainly an interpretation of material in a deposited archive, the delay doesn't matter; and there is little reference to material not in that archive anyway, whether up to date or not.

d'Harcourt usefully describes the complicated manorial arrangements of the village and the rights and perquisites before going on to the location of the farms and some salient events in village history, with some imaginative twists. She embarks on the Beards, starting in the 17th century, in chapter 3; parts of their story are familiar from other books about the village, but there you will not find as much on the family dynamics which figure so prominently here. Other prominent families, comfortable and poor, are also woven into the story (esp. chs 6, 7, 9, 12), and later developments such as the contraband industry and the modernization of the village and its environs are dealt with (ch. 8).

Its main interest to the place-name fraternity lies in its attempt, in several places, to locate the various tenements of the manor and their subsequent history when sold off. This can be frustrating and difficult work, though much has been usefully achieved. I have to say that I don't agree with all the author's conclusions and feel that some tricks have been missed. The nature of the common pound is misinterpreted (47); and though several tenements are identified, an opportunity to confirm the history of the piece of ground north and east of Down House goes begging. d'Harcourt is good at chronicling the descent of particular properties. But there are also some clear factual errors; for instance, the "lane" called *The Ivies* is in fact a *laine*, i.e. an arable field, and the topography of the village is distorted as a result of this mistake. A mysterious resident called "Pho in the Hole" appears (24); this must be the Philip Hale whose name is entered in the Latin ablative case as "Pho in the Hale" in the Rottingdean subsidy roll of 1332.

The book has its limitations because of d'Harcourt's lack of precise documentary referencing, her unfamiliarity with the Latin of the earlier sources, and her not altogether secure readings of English records; for instance the apparently weedy "piece of Groundsalled Cliffe" quoted from a document of 1578 (18) is really the prosaic "piece of Ground called Cliffe". But it is a welcome and vivid contribution to the already extensive literature on the village.

Copies of this periodical are available from:

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