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# Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

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(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological  
Society)

Volume LXXXII

for 1993



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Cambridge Archaeology Field Group: *Three Earthwork Surveys*  
(Vol. LXXXI, pp. 39-49)

Paul E. Firman was the author of the drawings for the report.  
The Field Group wishes to thank him, and also the late Kenneth Kenham  
for his contribution to the documentary research.

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# Gazetteer of Hundred and Wapentake Meeting-Places of the Cambridge Region

Audrey L. Meaney

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Like many gazetteers, this one was created as a tool, rather than in its own right. I wished to write a paper in honour of John Dodgson, an old friend and renowned place-name scholar (whose untimely death took place at the beginning of 1990), and decided to examine the characteristics of Hundred meeting-places in the region around Cambridge, where I had made my home after returning to England from Australia. That the area discussed included parts of all the surrounding counties is due in the main merely to the attempt to include everything within the bounds of a rectangular map, whose size was a matter of joint decision with Cambridgeshire archaeologists working on different aspects of the same area. However, it has had the advantage that it extends all around the Fens and includes some northerly and southerly areas which differ from modern Cambridgeshire in their topography and distribution of population.

As the work progressed it entailed considerable detective work (in County Record Offices and the Cambridge University Library Map Room) on the sites whose names have been lost from the modern map, until the Gazetteer, at first devised as an Appendix, became too long to be included in its entirety with the discussion,<sup>1</sup> yet there was a great deal which appeared to be of local interest. I must emphasise, however, that local historians are likely to know much more about any individual site than I have been able to discover from Cambridge, and I would welcome any correspondence. In a few cases,

too, it may be that a re-examination of the medieval evidence for place-names will settle some of the problems I have had to leave unresolved.

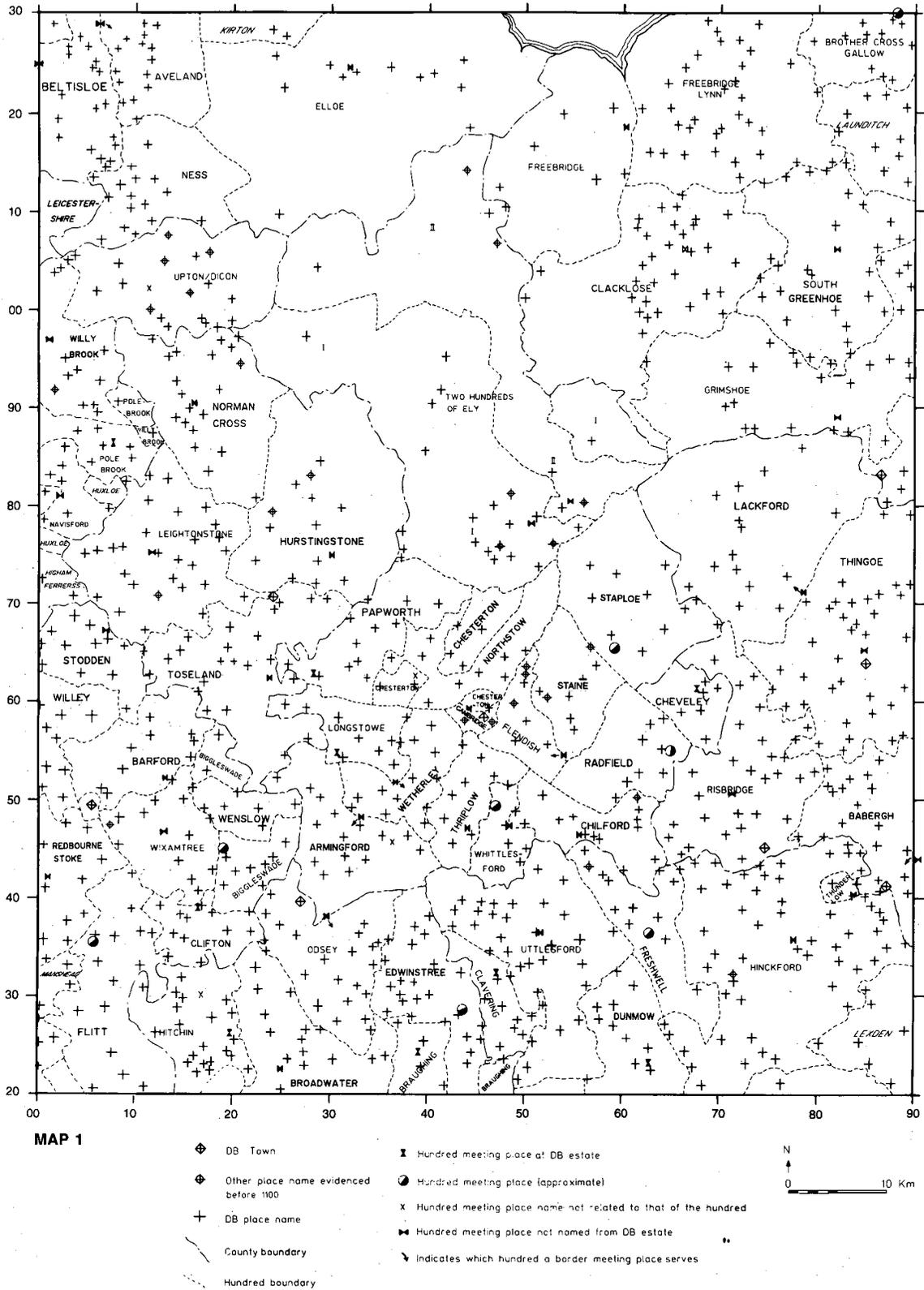
## **Summary of General Conclusions about Types of Hundred Meeting-Places in the Cambridge Region**

My research has not been directly concerned with the Hundred organisation; for example, it is regarded as immaterial to this enquiry whether the unit was a Hundred, a Half-Hundred, a Hundred and a half, or a double Hundred. Suffice it to say here that as a network the organisation gives an impression of very tight government control, and cannot be much older than the mid-tenth century, when it is first mentioned in the laws. Some of the Hundred names are from Danish, and must be later than the Viking settlements. Moreover, the network seems designed to suit a distribution of population not vastly different from that in Domesday Book, where its details are first revealed (Map 1). The meeting-places seem to have been chosen for ease of communication, and are usually sited along Roman roads (Map 2).

Some of the Hundreds are named from their chief manor at the time of Domesday (e.g. CHEVELEY), and presumably their meetings took place within the settlements. Some are named from their districts (e.g. NESS), and their assembly sites are frequently unknown. However, many Hundreds were named from places which never became settlements, and which surely must have been the original assembly sites. It is even possible that some of these might already have

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1 To be published in a memorial volume for John McN. Dodgson, edited by A.R. Rumble and A.D. Mills (1994).



Map 1. Domesday Hundreds and Hundred meeting-places in the Cambridge region.

been used as meeting-places before they were incorporated into the Hundred network, for example where the Hundreds appear to be named from Anglo-Saxon tribes or social groups (e.g. BRAUGHING and HURSTINGSTONE), or from heathen sanctuary sites, e.g. THUNDERLOW and WENSLOW.

I have divided the countryside sites in the Cambridge region into three types. I regard as **primary** meeting-places those where people would have encountered each other in the course of their journeys, usually at some kind of bottleneck (such as where the Icknield Way crossed the Fleam Dyke; see FLENDISH), or at crossroads such as NORMANCROSS, which later became formalised as assembly sites. In the Cambridge region these are most often at fords, such as ARMINGFORD and UTTLESFORD, not so often at bridges such as FREEBRIDGE.

**Secondary** meeting-places I consider to be those named after natural landmarks. Sometimes the landmark was a valley, e.g. STODDEN, or a grove, e.g. WETHERLEY and TOSELAND. Sometimes it was a tree (e.g. WIXAMTREE), or a spring or a stretch of water (e.g. BROADWATER). More often it was a stone, such as the LEIGHTONSTONE; which was sometimes shaped into a cross, (e.g. the ELLOE stone, and NORMANCROSS), or a cross-base (e.g. the HURSTINGSTONE).

**Tertiary** meeting-places are those where the landmarks were man-made, specifically to mark the site or to play a part in the ceremony, such as the pillar which evidently marked the site for STAPLOE Hundred. At CLACKLOSE there seems to have been some sort of rough building, perhaps a shelter for the judges, and at ODSEY there might have been a hall. Eventually all outdoor meetings were to give way to indoor gatherings in settlements, though it sometimes took several hundred years.

The most popular and typical kind of meeting-place, the mound, might be either secondary or tertiary, depending on whether it was a re-used burial barrow, or purpose-built. A mound is an archetypal assembly point, because it gives good opportunities for announcements, for speech-making, and for impressing inferiors. He who has control of a mound needs no soapbox. Several Hundred names in the Cambridge region are compounded with **Old English hlāw**: e.g. THUNDERLOW and WENSLOW (already mentioned), BELTISLOE and THRIFLOW. It is difficult to tell if the last-named Hun-

dred met at a large **Bronze Age** barrow, or at the settlement named from it. Another Hundred, BABERGH, has the second element in OE **beorg**, and the site is identified with the ploughed-out ring-ditch of a BA barrow. The mounds, then, cannot always have taken their names from the persons buried in them; but perhaps were named from early Anglo-Saxon landowners for whom they were boundary-markers, or from officials who used them as judgement seats.

Other Hundreds have the **Old Norse haugr**: e.g. GRIMSHOE, SOUTH GREENHOE and THINGOE, and indeed, the popularity of mounds as meeting-place sites seems to have increased as time went on. In the early thirteenth century *Speleburwe*, 'speech-barrow' is found for Sperberry Hill in HITCHIN, and from later in the century there are references to several local Mutlows (from OE **\*(ge)mōt-hlāw** 'assembly mound'). In ARMINGFORD there was a Roman burial in Mettle Hill (Meldreth), and near UTTLESFORD was a Mutlow containing seventh-century Anglo-Saxon warrior-burials. Some Mutlows seem to have served in the later Middle Ages as meeting-places for more than one Hundred: one for FLENDISH, RADFIELD and STAINE Hundreds, another for THRIFLOW and WHITTLESFORD; and my impression is that they were not usually the original meeting-place for the Hundred.

In this Gazetteer it has been considered most important to establish (as far as possible) the site of the meeting place, and to supply a National Grid reference (the sites are not normally productive of any kind of archaeological artefacts). The full range of early spellings has therefore not been cited, but page references are given to Anderson's *Hundred Names* and to the relevant English Place-Name Society (hereafter EPNS) volumes. If the early forms present no difficulties to the place-name experts (of which I am not one) often only one form (usually from *Domesday Book*) will be cited; if that is not clear, or there are serious discrepancies, then enough forms are cited to show the range.

I have attempted to visit the sites of the countryside meeting-places, if they are known, and have found that they tend to have similar characteristics: they are often on parish boundaries, and with wide views, and (unless they are at fords), on the sides of hills or on the top of low hills. The Anglo-Saxons certainly had a feel for the land.

### References to the Individual Sites as Hundred Meeting-places

are (for the sake of clarity) listed after the heading; references to other discussions (concerning e.g. archaeology and place-names) are put in footnotes to the text.

### Abbreviations

#### Names of counties

are abbreviated in such a way as to be transparent.

#### Publications

are abbreviated to author's name and date (see References).

#### Other abbreviations

are signalled by bold printing of initials (e.g. **Domesday Book**, afterwards **DB**) or other short form (e.g. **genitive**).

### ARMINGFORD Cambs TL333/485

Helen Cam, *The Hundred and the Hundred Rolls* (London 1930) p.172; Anderson I (1934) pp.103-4; Reaney (1943) pp.50-1, 69-70; *Victoria County History* (hereafter **VCH**) *Cambs VIII* (London 1982) p.1; Thorn (1990) p.26 n.2.

*Erningaford* AD 970; *Erningford* 1086 DB; OE *Earn(a)*, **personal name** (related to the OE word for an eagle?) + **-inga-** (**genitive case**), 'people of' + **ford**, 'ford'.

Apparently where Ermine Street crosses the Cam,<sup>2</sup> just south of the junction with the Roman road to Cambridge and a Roman roadside settlement (at TL333/488) where there were at least three burials of the pagan Anglo-Saxon period, including a sixth-century woman with grave-goods.<sup>3</sup> The ford, where Arrington Bridge now stands, is at the junction of Arrington, Wimpole, Wendy and Waddon parishes (the first two in WETHERLEY Hundred, the last two in Armingford). The *Earningas* probably occupied a considerable area, since they also gave their name to Ermine Street (*Earninga stræt* 955, *ManuScript* c. 1200)<sup>4</sup> and to Arrington (at *Earningtone* c. 950, 14th cent. MS; Arrington was occasionally referred to as (e.g.) *Arningaford* 963, 14th cent. MS. Their ford is now just outside the Hundred to which

it gave its name, and may well have originally marked the boundary of their territory. Gelling lists eight major names in **-ford** with **-inga-** compounds; the name type belongs to the early post-pagan period.<sup>5</sup>

The present Arrington Bridge was built in 1950. Just upstream of it is a small weir which will have altered the topography of the river; however, it looks small enough to have been forded at many points and therefore occasioned no deviation to the road. Yet in 1662 'in the time of great frost and high waters', when the bridge was broken, the stream crossing was reported to be dangerous for 'small cattle'.<sup>6</sup>

Thorn suggested that another ford, where Ermine Street crossed a tributary of the Cam near Kneesworth, would have been a more central meeting place for the Hundred. However, a meeting-place on the edge of a Hundred is not unusual, and there is no indication that the Kneesworth ford was ever called Armingford.

In Bassingbourn there was a (lost) *Mootelowfurlong*, and in Meldreth there is Mettle Hill (*Motloweyhil* 1319, 'assembly hill' [or 'hill on the way to the assembly mound?'] which Reaney considered to have been the Hundred meeting-place; if so, it might only gradually have taken over from the Armingford, since Cam stated that the Hundred met at the ford in the thirteenth century; I have not been able to find the precise source for her statement.

Mettle Hill is now marked on Ordnance Survey maps at TL365/457, on the approach to Meldreth from the west (that is, from Ermine Street). There is a noticeable rise in the road here, and a wide view to the west. R.C. Neville reported in 1856 on a discovery made about 40 years earlier in 'lowering a hillock . . . not an artificial tumulus but apparently a natural eminence' at 'Metal Hill'. There was a 'square leaden coffin' and in it were 'five Roman *unguentaria*, . . . a bronze armlet, a bone pin, and a small brass coin of Cunobelin'. It seems probable, therefore, that this was a Roman barrow, disturbed in digging the chalk pit marked on this spot.<sup>7</sup>

### AVELAND Lincs TF067/296

W. Marrat, *History of Lincolnshire* 5 vols (I-IV, VI; Boston 1816) III p.122; Streatfeild (1884) p.249; *Lincs Notes and Queries* (hereafter

2 Anderson I (1934) pp.103-4, citing Lysons II (1808) p.46.

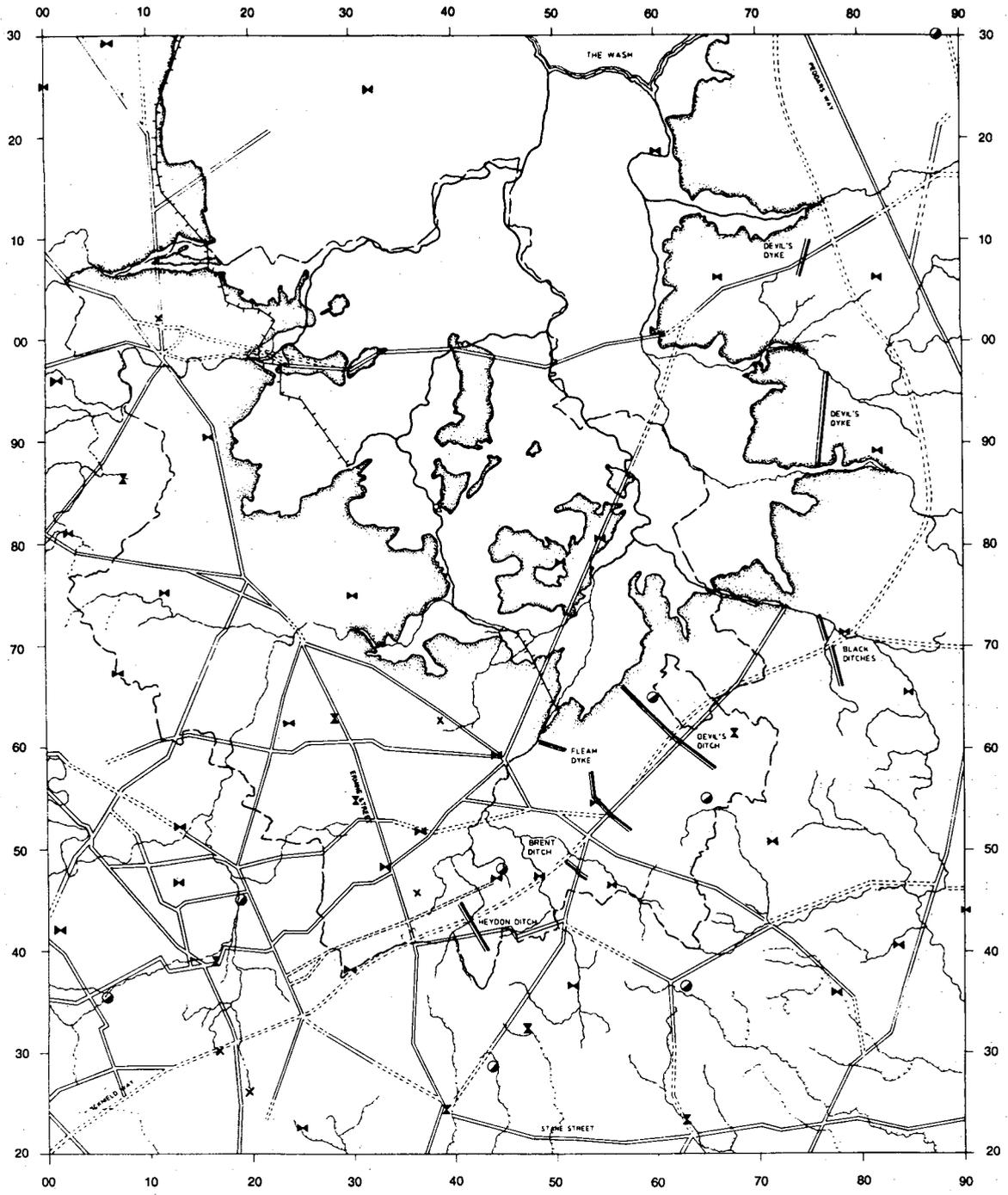
3 *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* (hereafter *PCambsAS*) 79 (1990) p.94; *Cambs SMR* nos 08384 and 08384A.

4 Mawer (1926) pp.2-4.

5 Gelling (1984) pp.69-70.

6 *VCH Cambs II* (1948) p.86.

7 *ArchaeJ* 26 (1856) p.291.



MAP 2

- |   |                          |   |                      |   |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---|---|
| — | Road (known)             | — | County boundary      | ⌘ | Hundred meeting place at DB estate                            |
| ⋯ | Road (uncertain)         | — | Old river course     | ⊕ | Hundred meeting place not named from DB estate                |
| — | Present day river course | — | Fen edge             | ⊙ | Hundred meeting place (approximate)                           |
| — | Dyke or ditch            | — | Roman drainage dykes | × | Hundred meeting place name not related to that of the hundred |
- N  
0 10km

Map 2. Hundred meeting-places and Roman roads in the Cambridge region.

*Lincs N&Q* 19 (1928) p.62 (P.B.G. Binnall), pp.79–80 (A.Welby); 22 (1934) pp.66–9 (W.A. Cragg); Anderson I (1934) pp.60–1; *Lincs Sites and Monuments Records* no. 33734.

*Avelunt* 1086 *Lincs DB*, Old Danish Ave, persn (gen), + ON **lundr** 'small wood'. Ave also probably gave his name to the village of Avethorpe, now lost but evidently close by.

Marrat said:

About a mile west of Aslackby, in a field, is a moated parallelogram, 100 yards long by 50 broad, with bushes growing round it — it is called Aveland, and tradition says that it gave name to the Hundred. The Sessions for the Hundred were held here, and when the buildings were down, the court was opened under an old oak tree, which grew near the place. Vestiges of foundations are now to be seen, large enough for a Sessions house. This is in the middle of the field, upon a hill.

According to W.A. Cragg, Bishop Wake said in 1708 that the oak had been 'prodigious', and had been cut down within living memory.

A manuscript map of 1746 shows a pasture field, with a few moderately-sized trees dotted about, labelled as The Avelands, with the hedged enclosure running almost due north-south in the centre of it.<sup>8</sup> Early nineteenth-century maps of Lincolnshire<sup>9</sup> also show a rectangular site called Aveland, about one-and-a-half kilometres east of the Wapentake boundary, but centrally placed for most of the DB population.

The Rev. C.W. Foster told Anderson that until about 1780 'the Sessions opened there and were then adjourned to the market town of Folkingham'. W.A. Cragg reported in 1934 that the site was much the same as John Cragg had described in a manuscript in 1790: the moat and traces of buildings were still to be seen.

The reports of a building are puzzling, as open-air meetings were usually the norm on countryside sites, and it is difficult to imagine a movement from meeting in a 'Sessions House' to gathering under a tree. Unfortunately the whole site has now been ploughed out, without any archaeological investigation.

W.A. Cragg also remarked that from this

site there was 'a wonderful view of the 20 miles of Fen country right down to the sea, and well placed for seeing the beacon fires which raised the country'. From the north-eastern corner of the enclosure a line of trees across the open field marked a track to the 'now metalled road from Aslackby to Keisby', which gave access to the site. This road was evidently cut by a wartime airfield, and is no longer open.

Nothing is now visible on the ground. The field is currently under plough, and there are no oak trees nearby, though there is a solitary ash in the field hedge. However, local people are still able to point out the site, and the wide view is still visible.

### **BABERGH Sfk ? TL904/444**

Anderson I (1934) pp.93–4; Lawson (1981) pp.5,18; Louise Kenyon, *Great Waldingfield: the Babergh Village* (Sudbury 1986) pp.2–3,6,8; Sfk SMR no. 05769, parish no. WGF 007.

*Babenberga* 1086 DB, OE *Babba*, persn (gen, -n) + **be(o)rg** 'mound'.

Babergh Heath Farm (TL898/444), Babergh Hall (TL903/445) and Babergh Place (TL907/442) are so named on OS maps, between Great Waldingfield and Acton, while Babergh Heath appears to have been just to the west of Great Waldingfield village. Several Bronze Age ring-ditches of ploughed-out mounds are known in Great Waldingfield parish; Lawson and Kenyon associated the name Babergh with the ring-ditch close to Babergh Hall at TL904/444 (clearly visible on the air photograph in SMR), probably only because this is the only ring-ditch known in the area of the still extant Babergh names. It would have been reasonably central to the Hundred.

### **BARFORD Beds TL134/516**

Mawer (1926) pp.50–2; Anderson III (1941) pp.18–19; J. Godber, *History of Bedfordshire 1066–1888* (Bedfordshire 1969) p.12 and n.34.

*Bereforde* 1086 DB; OE **bere**, 'barley', probably in the sense 'cereal crop, corn' + OE **ford**. The same name is found in Nfk, Nthants, Oxon, Wilts and North Yorks (Barforth), and may mean 'ford over which a good load of corn may be carried'.<sup>10</sup>

Either the Hundred is named from the village of Great Barford, or, more probably, the ford where Barford Bridge now stands gave its name to both Hundred and village.

8 Map of Mr John Carter's Farm on p. 2 of a *Book of Maps of Part of the Lordship of Aslackby belonging to his Grace the Duke of Ancaster*, drawn by J. Grundy in 1746 (now in the possession of Lincs Archives, ref. 3 ANC 4/0). I owe this reference to Nigel Colley of the Lincolnshire Archives.

9 A. Bryant (1828) and C. and J. Greenwood (1830).

10 Gelling (1984) p.71.

The Great Ouse is a considerable river as it flows through Great Barford; the bridge is a long, narrow, basically medieval construction, with many piers. The ford it replaced must also have been a major river crossing, and it lies on a Roman road.

Godber suggested the meeting-place might have been in a field (site not given) where a stone cross was recorded in 1472, the base of which was perhaps later moved into the village. Though near the eastern edge of the Hundred, a meeting-place in or near the village would have been reasonably central for the DB population.

#### **BELTISLOE Lincs TF000/250**

Anderson I (1934) p.91.

*Belteslau* 1086 LiDB; possibly OE *Belt* persn (gen, -es) + OE *hlāw* 'mound'.

The site is unknown, but in the thirteenth century the Hundred court was held at Corby (TF000/250).

#### **BIGGLESWADE Beds TL186/452**

*VCH Beds II* (London 1908) p.201; Mawer (1926) pp.100-1; Anderson III (1941) pp.19-20.

*Bicheleswade* 1086 DB; OE \**Biccel* persn (gen -es; not in independent use in OE, but a diminutive of OE *Bicca* and cognate with OG *Bikilo*) + OE *gewæd*, 'ford'. Gelling commented that in most of England (except perhaps the SW) *gewæd* went out of use early, 'being superseded by the ubiquitous ford.'<sup>11</sup> Altogether, Biggleswade appears to be a very early name.

However, it is not obvious from the map where *Biccel*'s ford on the River Ivel may have been; perhaps near the church (which stands at the southern end of the original settlement at Shortmead Street, formerly the A1) at TL187/444 or on the road to Old Warden at TL186/452. According to *VCH* the Hundred court met at Biggleswade, and therefore the name may refer to the settlement rather than to a rural meeting place. Though near the western edge of the Hundred, it would have been reasonably central if the Half-Hundred of Wenslow were included.

It was not possible to assess the state of the ford near the church; the road crossing is a busy one, linking to the A1. The river is still an effective barrier, but does not carry traffic.

#### **BRAUGHING Herts TL7391/243**

Anderson III (1941) pp.32-3; Gover (1938) p.189.

*Brachinges* 1086 DB; OE *Breah(h)a* persn + *ingas*, 'belonging to the people of Breahha'.

Named from the tribal district, or from the settlement, *Breahingas* 825-8 (17th). Gover *et al.* conjectured (without citing any evidence) that the meeting-place may originally have been at Ford Bridge on the River Rib (TL390/247), north of the Roman town, west of the prehistoric enclosure, and south of Braughing township; there is also still a ford crossing the *Quinn* (a tributary of the Rib) in the township, at TL394/250.

In the fourteenth century the sheriff's tourn was held at Puckeridge; no site is indicated. Both townships are in the north of the Hundred and not at all central to it.

#### **BROADWATER Herts TL246/221 (crossroad)**

Anderson III (1941) pp.27-8; Gover (1938) pp.117,130.

*Bradewatre* 1086 DB, OE *brād*, 'broad' + *wæter*, 'stream/ river, pond/lake'.<sup>12</sup>

Anderson describes the site thus:

The hundred-name is preserved in the name of the hamlet of BROADWATER . . . at the cross-road 2 m. south of Stevenage, where the road from Hertford joins the main London road. This is on the boundary between Knebworth and Shephall par[ishe]s, roughly in the centre of the hundred. A stream which runs past the place forms a pond just north of the Roebuck Inn, and the pond seems formerly to have extended along the Hertford road, forming a lakelet. . . . In 1390 the sherriff's tourn was held here, at *Bradwater Asshe*, clearly an ash-tree, which marked the spot where the hundred court was held.

Unfortunately, the post-war expansion of Stevenage has made the topography virtually unrecognisable, and even on the first edition of the OS 25-inch map (1898) the 'lakelet' north of the Roebuck Inn is not precisely identifiable. The site would have been reasonably central.

#### **BROTHERCROSS AND GALLOW Nfk Area TL880/300 (Dunton)**

The joint area of these two Hundreds remained constant, but distribution between the two changed after DB.

11 *Ibid.* p.83.

12 Smith II (1956) p.238.

Parkin in Blomefield (1805–9) VII p.2; Anderson I (1934) pp.66–7; Lawson (1981) pp.4,10,15.

*Brodercros* 1086 DB; ODan *Brother*, persn (gen), + ON **kross**, 'cross'.

Parkin suggested that the Hundred 'seemed to take its name from a cross placed at the ford or pass over the river at *Burnham*' (not far from the north Norfolk coast, and out of our area) but cited no evidence.

*Galgou*, *Galhou* 1086 DB; OE **gealga** or ON **galgi**, gen, 'gallows' + OE **hōh** 'spur of land' or ON **haugr** 'mound'. Site unknown, but Parkin cited the 'land called *Galehow* or *Galehoges*' (1312–3) in 'Dunton Field' (which would, however, have been in Brothecross Hundred in DB) which he thought might have given its name to the Hundred.

The Norfolk Record Office has listed a number of meeting-places for the view of frankpledge within Gallow Hundred, which, it seems, perambulated; there does not seem to be a record of the site of the Hundred Court.

#### CAMBRIDGE Cambs Area TL451/585

Reaney (1943) pp.36–8; Thorn (1990) p.26.

*Grantanbrycge* c. 925 AS Chronicle; *Gretebrige* 1086 DB; OE *Granta*, river name + OE **brycg**, 'bridge'.

There are no clues as to the exact meeting place in the town. In the later medieval period, Cambridge ceased to be regarded as a Hundred; the town continued as a borough.

#### CHESTERTON Cambs TL446/592 ?

Anderson I (1934) p.106; Reaney (1943) p.147. *Cestretone* 1086 DB; OE **ceaster**, 'Roman town' + OE **tūn**, 'enclosure, farmstead'.

Named from the village north of Cambridge, on the other side of the River Cam; Chesterton itself named from the Roman town on Castle Hill (in Chesterton parish though the centre of the village is some distance away to the east). There are no clues to the meeting place; the top of Castle Hill, beneath the Norman motte, where the Shire met, would be typical.

#### CHEVELEY Cambs TL684/608 (church)

Anderson I (1934) p.99; Reaney (1943) pp.123,125.

*Chaelai* 1086 DB; OE **ceaf**, 'chaff' perhaps in the sense 'rubbish, fallen twigs' + OE **lēah**, 'wood'.

The Hundred is named from the manor

'where its meeting place may have been', but which only became the royal vill in 1022, by exchange with Woodditton.<sup>13</sup> There are no clues as to the site of the meeting-place.

#### CHILFORD Cambs TL558/470

W.M. Palmer, *The Antiquities of Linton* (Cambridge 1913) p.2; Anderson I (1934) pp.101–2; Reaney (1943) pp.99,110.

*Cildeford* 1086 DB; OE **cild** (gen pl **-(r)a**), + OE **ford**. The meaning of **cild** here is ambiguous. The name could mean 'children's ford' with the implication that it was shallow enough for even a child to use safely, or be a place where children habitually played. Smith argued that the frequent appearance of **cild** in the genitive plural in place-names implies some kind of communal possession, perhaps by younger sons of land taken out of an estate.<sup>14</sup> This, coupled with Gelling's argument that **-ford** has a quasi-habitative sense,<sup>15</sup> could give the meaning 'settlement near a ford held by younger sons'. However, this meaning does not seem to fit Hundred meeting-place names (see ARMINGFORD, *supra*), and Chilford does not seem to have been a habitation until modern times.

In the eleventh century, **cild** was used as a title of honour, and a third possible meaning, if the name were late, would be 'ford used by young noblemen' — perhaps on their way to the Hundred meeting. My preference would be for one of the options involving young children.

The northwestern open field of Linton was called Chilfords, but this (like the present use of the name for Chilford Hall and Little Chilfords) appears to be a later displacement: there are no watercourses in this area. Palmer cited an entry in the Hundred Roll for 1279, where it appears that the ford where Stanton's Lane crosses the river was known as Chilford, and 'taking into consideration the number of paths which converge on [Westrope] meadow, it has been suggested that this was the Moot Meadow, the meeting place of the Hundred of Chilford'. The meadow, on the boundary between Great and Little Linton, was common pasture; after the Enclosure Act of 1840 it was divided by a hedge and part awarded to the parish as a recreation ground. There is a footbridge across the stream at about the right position; the

13 VCH Cambs, forthcoming; C. Lewis, personal communication.

14 Smith (1956) I p.94.

15 Gelling (1984) p.72.

present sides of the stream are steep but not high; and there are several places where a bank of stones makes it fordable. However, the topography has probably been altered with small weirs. Though not far from the southern boundary of the Hundred (and the shire), Chilford would have been central to it.

#### CLACKLOSE Nfk TF672/063

Parkin in Blomefield (1805–8) VII pp.268–9; Anderson I (1934) pp.74–5; Lawson (1981) pp.5,13; Nfk SMR no. 4341, Ancient Monument no. 158.

*Clacheslosa* 1086 DB; OE *Clacc* persn (gen -es) or ODanish *Klakki* persn (gen -s) + OE *hlōse*, 'shed, shelter, pigsty'.

Parkin says that in the late thirteenth century the Hundred court and sheriff's tourn was held at 'Clackclose-hill on the common of Stradset'. The OS (1930 edition) marks 'The Mound' (scheduled as a barrow) east of Stradsett Park, and about 300 yards from the Fincham boundary, at TF6728/0630. According to the SMR, the Rev. J.F. Williams stated in 1922 (on what authority is not given) that this was the 'moot hill' of Clacklose Hundred. In 1935 it was recorded as about 20 yards (18.3 m.) diameter, and about 8 feet (2.4 m.) high, nearly flat on top but slightly concave, and covered by trees. There was a large pit to the north which might have provided the material. Its condition was unchanged in 1983 (SMR), but by 1986 (date of OS Landranger map 143) the piece of woodland had disappeared; and in 1992 the whole area was under cultivation, and there were only minimal signs of a mound. SMR commented that it was 'not at all convincing as a barrow', and this raises the possibility that it may have been a custom-built moot-mound. It would have been fairly central for the DB population, though not the area, of the Hundred.

#### CLIFTON Beds TL165/392 (church)

Mawer (1926) pp.165,169–70; Anderson III (1941) pp.24–5.

*Clifton* 1086 DB; OE *clif*, 'slope' + *tūn*, 'enclosure, homestead'.<sup>16</sup>

Presumably the meeting-place was in or near the village, but there do not seem to be any clues as to the exact site. Clifton lies between the River Ivel and its major tributary, the Flitt, and on a Roman road.

It would have been near the northern boundary of the Hundred, but fairly central to it.

#### DUNMOW Essex TL?626/218

Reaney (1935) pp.470,474–5; Anderson III (1941) pp.37–8.

*Dommawa* 1086 DB; OE *dūn*, 'hill' + OE *māwe*, 'meadow', singular or plural. The Hundred takes its name from the DB estate of Dunmow.

Stane Street (running east–west) and other Roman roads from the north and southwest met 'on the elevated spot on the S side of the modern town' where there may have been a small Roman urban centre.<sup>17</sup> Wright described the town as 'on a gravelly hill of considerable height, in a healthy and pleasant part of the county.'<sup>18</sup> The actual meeting-place is not identifiable, but a site on this 'elevated spot' would have been typical. Anywhere in Dunmow would have been fairly central to the Hundred.

#### EDWINSTREE Herts Area TL437/287

Gover (1938) p.168–9, 180; Anderson III (1941) p. 33; VCH Herts IV (London 1914) p.3.

*Edwinestreu* 1086 DB; OE *Ēadwine* persn (gen -s) + OE *trēo(w)*, 'tree'. Gelling discussed 'tree' names in some detail; it is a common element in Hundred names.<sup>19</sup>

There appear to be two possibilities as to where Edwinstree Hundred met. In 1278 there is mention of a meeting at Edwynestree — and of a *boscum de Edwynesbrugge* ('-bridge') probably nearby — in the parish of either Brent or Furneux Pelham (VCH). According to Gover, there was a field in Furneux Pelham 'still known as' Meeting Field near the River Ash, just north of a bridge over it. The field is not named on large-scale OS maps, or on any maps (e.g. enclosure and tithe) of Furneux Pelham in the Herts Record Office. In the time of Henry VI the Hundred was called *Eddiford*, which Gover suggests 'probably refers to the ford on the Ash in Violets Lane just to the north of Meeting Field'. OS maps mark a ford fitting this description at TL4375/2870, and therefore the meeting may have been in this area.

However, there is also Mutfords in Little Hormead to the west (TL400/283). The name Mutfords is not evidenced before the fourteenth century, but may be for OE *mōt*,

17 VCH III (London 1963) p.125.

18 T. Wright, *Essex* II (1835) p.211.

19 Gelling (1984) pp.211–22.

16 *Ibid.* p.133.

'meeting' + **ford**. Both sites would have been reasonably central to the Hundred.

**ELLOE Lincs TF315/248 (modern site of the stone)**

W. Stukeley, *Itinerary Curiosum* (London 1724) p.22; *Lincs N&Q* 1 (1889) p.141-4; Anderson I (1934) pp.62-3; David Stocker, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Archaeology Division (personal communication).

*Elleho* 1086 DB; OE *Ella* persn (gen -n) + **hōh**, 'spur of land'. The name is preserved by the Elloe stone (recorded by that name from 1491), which is a late tenth- to early eleventh-century cross of the south Kesteven Group, ornamented with interlace (a Scheduled Ancient Monument, County Number 52). The unusual degree of weathering, especially on the southern side, suggests that it has stood upright out of doors for a long time, in the current orientation. It has dowl holes in the top surface, and was therefore thought important enough for an ancient repair, but now consists only of the head portion, with a length of tapered shaft. Such crosses were mostly funerary, but the next most common usage was as boundary markers. 'The Elloe stone is the only clear-cut surviving *in situ* example' of a cross as the marker for a meeting-place — yet this is not strictly true.

Stukeley described its site in 1724 as between the parishes of Whaplode and Moulton:

[I]n a green lane northwards stands a little stone call'd *Elhostone*, whence the name of this hundred is deriv'd. It is about the middle thereof, and was formerly the main road across the country now call'd *Old Spalding Gate*. Old men tell us here was kept in antient times an annual court, I suppose a convention *sub dio* of the adjacent parts to treat of their general affairs; a wood hard by is call'd *Elhostone wood*.

In 1747, it was recorded in more detail in the Spalding Gentlemen's Society's Minutes<sup>20</sup> that the cross had stood in a quadrivium — an enclosure about 50 ft (c. 15.25 m.) square, now disappeared. The road 'to the left hand towards Whaplode from Moulton stocks was called Elloe-stone-Lane'. The cross remained *in situ* after 'the green lane in whose broad course [it] had stood fell victim to agricultural encroachment', in a 'garden' said to have lain 25 ft (7.5 m.) from the new road

edge. However, between 1850 and 1889, 'when the "garden" in turn was engrossed into the surrounding field' it was moved into the hedge 'on the south side of the minor road from Moulton village to Cackle Hill in Holbeach parish, at the boundary between Moulton and Whaplode parishes'. This road is labelled Spalding Gate on the earliest OS map to mark the Elloe stone, the 25-inch, surveyed in 1886.

In 1911 the fragmentary cross was mounted in a modern base with an identifying inscription, but (except when moved, for example for cleaning) it has remained on the late nineteenth-century site ever since. H.E. Hallam stated 'the inhabitants are loth to go too near to the stone on winter nights, for they say it is haunted by spirits'<sup>21</sup> (compare HURSTINGSTONE). Both the original site and the modern one would have been reasonably central for the DB population of the Hundred.

**ELY (two Hundreds) Cambs TL505/787 (Witchford crossroads)**

Anderson I (1934) pp.107-8; Reaney (1943) p.213.

*Ely* 1086 DB, *Elge* c. 730 Bede; OE *ēl*, 'eel' + \**gē*, 'district'.

The two Domesday Hundreds met *apud Wiceforde*, OE **wice**, 'wych elm(s)' + **ford**. Witchford village is on the main road into the Isle from the west, and the ford was probably just to the east of where the road from Stretham met it, at TL505/787. There is a drain-like stream running north from the road; it does not look now as if it could ever have been a formidable obstacle, but the fenland has changed so much that it is impossible to be sure.

At times in the tenth century, however, the Hundreds met at the north gate of the Abbey, perhaps roughly where the Sacristan's gate now stands in the built-up town (TL542/803).

In later medieval times the two Hundreds became separate, and eventually two others were formed.

**FLENDISH Cambs TL547/544**

Anderson I (1934) pp.100-1; Reaney (1943) pp.35,138,140-1; Lawson (1981) pp.115-16; Adkins and Petchey (1984) pp.248-9.

20 Spalding Gentlemen's Society's minutes (1747) Vol.4,123, not seen.

21 *The New Lands of Elloe*, Leicester University Department of English Local History Occasional Paper 6 (1954) p. 7.

*Flamingdice* 1086 DB; probably OE **flēaminga** (gen pl), 'of the fugitives' + **dic**, 'ditch, dyke', a massive post-Roman earth-work now usually known as Fleam Dyke, constructed between fen and forest against attackers from the west.

The sheriff's tourn for Flendish Hundred was at the Dyke, and the precise meeting place for this, and probably also for RADFIELD and STAINE Hundreds from the later Middle Ages onwards, was almost certainly Mutlow, a barrow on a knoll probably on the major prehistoric route, the Icknield Way, which may be evidenced by the remains of hollow-ways pointing to Mutlow, well marked in 1921 (now replaced by the A11, not on the same line).<sup>22</sup> Mutlow is near the junction of the boundaries of the three Hundreds (now just inside STAINE) and not central to any of them. The name Mutlow is not evidenced before 1812, but, to judge from other occurrences of the name, was from OE **(ge)mōt**, 'assembly' + **hlāw**, 'mound'.

R.C. Neville excavated the mound in 1852, and found Bronze Age urns beneath it, and a Roman building nearby.<sup>23</sup> Recently Petchey has argued that the mound could have been 'the last feature of the site to be built rather than the first', that is, that it was post-Roman and non-sepulchral, purpose-built for the assembly. However, though no primary burial was found, Neville was at pains to point out that there were 'bands of darker earth running across the mound [which] satisfied us that this part had never been disturbed since its original formation'. Though Neville's excavation techniques are now rightly condemned, his workmen were experienced and might surely have noticed if the mound appeared different from other Bronze Age mounds they had 'turned over'.

Fox and Palmer, who excavated in 1921, noted that some of the Roman finds overlay a deposit of fine silt 4 ft (more than 1 m.) deep, devoid of finds, evidently rainwash from Mutlow — 'there is thus no evidence that the site was anything more than a place of sepulture in the Bronze Age'.<sup>24</sup> Moreover, Neville does not record any Roman finds on the old ground surface under the mound,

which would be extraordinary if the mound had been constructed after the Roman building: no mound-builders would start by clearing what is soon to be covered up. Fox and Palmer found Roman brooches, bracelets, pottery and coins dating from the first to the fourth century in a clearly defined belt about 12 ft (c. 3.75 m.) wide around the barrow, 9 ft to 15 ft from its edge. I incline to accept the suggestion in *VCH*<sup>25</sup> that the Roman building was a temple dedicated to a cult centred on the mound, and that the spread of artefacts 'had the appearance of votives around a shrine of great antiquity, perhaps venerated since Bronze Age times'.

Elsewhere prehistoric burial mounds were certainly re-used as meeting-mounds (see *infra*, e.g. THINGOE), and there seem to be sufficient reasons to accept that this is what happened at Mutlow, whether or not it had earlier been a sanctuary.

#### **FLITT Beds Area TL059/358 (Flitton Church)**

Mawer (1926) pp.144–5, 148–50; Anderson III (1941) p.23–4.

*Flictham*, 1086 DB, *Flitte* 1166; named from Flitton, of obscure origin: *Flittan* 980x990, Will of Æthelgifu, apparently dative sg of unknown OE \***flitta** masculine or \***flitte** feminine.<sup>26</sup>

Presumably the meeting place must have been somewhere in the area of Flitton, perhaps just to the north of the church, where there is now a small bridge crossing the River Flitt and linking the village to the Roman road running east-northeast-west-northwest. Anywhere in Flitton is near the northwestern boundary of the Hundred and not at all central to it.

#### **FREEBRIDGE (and FREEBRIDGE LYNN) Nfk Area TL608/187**

Parkin in Blomefield (1805–10) VIII pp.328, 419; E.M. Beloe, 'The Great Fen Road', *Cambridge Antiquarian Society Communications* 7 (1893) pp.112–30, at 125–6; Anderson I (1934) pp.64–5; Nfk SMR no. 3477.

*Fredebruge* 1086 DB; ON *Frithi* or OE *friþu*, 'peace' + OE **brycg**, 'bridge'. If the name is of English origin, it may refer to the fact that the bridge was put under protection for the holding of the Hundred court.

22 C. Fox and W.M. Palmer, 'Excavations in the Cambridgeshire dykes III. The Fleam Dyke. Second report: excavations in 1922' *PCambsAS* 25 (1924) pp.21–36, at pp.27–31, 35–6.

23 *ArchaeJ* 9 (1852) pp.226–30.

24 'Excavations in the Cambridgeshire dykes II. The Fleam Dyke: first report', *PCambsAS* 25 (1923) pp.45–53.

25 *VCH Cambs* VII (1978) pp.85–6.

26 Gelling (1984) p.22.

Freebridge is named on A. Bryant's 1826 *Map of the County of Norfolk* just south of West Lynn, and must refer to the bridge linking the two parts of the Hundred, over the then course of the River Ouse, which in Anglo-Saxon times would not have been such a major outfall as it later became. Freebridge Farm is at TL608/187; the modern bridge named Freebridge on OS maps (alongside the A47 bridge on the north) is over the new course of the river at TL612/185.

Parkin, however, stated:

The ancient place of holding this hundred's court was at *Fritcham-Burgh*, where is a tumulus, &c, about a mile from the town, on the road to *Sharnburn* [Shernborne]. In the 3d of Elizabeth, it appears, from a rental of Sir *Richard Southwell's*, that his manor of *Walsoken* paid then to the Queen's bailiff of the hundred, 40s. *per ann.* suit of court, held under an oak, at *Gaywood* near *Lynn*, and was called *Gaywood Oak-Fee*.

After this, the court was held at an oak at *Wigenhale*, *St German's*, called *Fitton Oak*, in a farm of that name belonging to the town of *Lynn*, the Duke of *Norfolk* being lord, but it has been discontinued about 30 years.

Gaywood is on the northeast of King's Lynn (TL63/20), now absorbed into the town. Fitton Oake house is at TF594/135, just to the east of the Great Ouse. About the Fritcham site Parkin had more to say:

In this parish was the remarkable hill or tumulus, where, in the *Saxon* age, the hundred court was held, in the time of *William Rufus*, in order to decide a controversy about lands at *Holm*, who issued out a commission to *H.* his chamberlain, to call together 3 hundreds and an half at this place, called *Flicceham Burch*. It is upon an hill about a mile above the town of *Fritcham*, in the hundred of *Freebridge* *citra Lenne*, on the west side of the way, leading from that town, to *Sharnborne*, being a square piece of ground about an acre, ditched about with an old large ditch.

Beloe equated the site with Paston's Clump (TL718/282), which he described as 'a highly elevated spot above all the country round, now planted with trees', with the ditches 'but little altered'. It is on the 'Great Fen Road', at a crossroads (some now only field tracks), and just over two miles west of Peddar's Way. It is now covered with tall beech trees. In September 1993 I could see no signs of a barrow or of a ditch, though there may be traces of a rectangular bank (Nfk SMR 3477).

Perhaps these later meeting-places reflect

either the division into two Hundreds (Freebridge and Freebridge Lynn), or the provision of meeting-places serving more than one Hundred.<sup>27</sup>

#### FRESHWELL Esx ? TL652/339

W. Harrison, *Description of Britaine* (1586), reprinted in Vol. I of R. Holinshed's *Chronicles*, ed. John Hooker (London 1807-8) pp.179-80; Philip Morant, *History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* (London 1763-8) II, 518; Christy (1925-8) pp.186-8; Reaney (1935) p.502; Anderson III (1941) pp.36-7; Gerald Curtis, *The Story of the Sampfords* (Great Sampford 1981) pp.5-6.

*Fross(c)ewella* 1086 DB; OE **frosc**, 'frog' + OE **wielle**, 'spring, stream'.

The name is no longer used for a spring or stream but, according to Harrison, one of the headwaters of the River Pant (which flows through the middle of the Hundred and forms its boundary for about a mile) was named Froshwell. Christy identified the source spring as 'that which feeds the little lake (serving also as a mill-pond) [at TL652/339] . . . just below and in the grounds of the Hall at Little Sampford.' This identification seemed to be supported by the fact that Freshwell Cottage is named at TL653/336 on the first edition of the 25-inch OS map (1886).

However, Harrison's full description makes this identification impossible; and the only chance of making a better one is to quote all he says about the Pant headwaters:

There is a pretie water that beginneth néere vnto . . . Winbeche church in Essex. . . . This said brooke runneth directlie from thence vnto Radwinter. . . . By the waie also it is increased with sundrie pretie springs, of which Pantwell is the chéefe (whereof some thinke the whole brooke to be named Pant). . . . There is likewise another in a pasture belonging to the Grange. . . . The third commeth out of the yard of . . . Radwinter hall. The fourth from Iohn Cockswets house, named the Rotherwell, which running under Rothers bridge, méeteth with the . . . Pant on the northwest end of Ferrants Meade, southeast of Radwinter church. . . . I might take occasion to speake of another rill which falleth into the Rother from Bendish Hall: but bicause it is for the most part drie in summer I passe it

27 R.R. Clarke noted on SMR card *re* no. 3540, that the mound at TF755/287 was the moothill, but this does not fit Parkin's description, and is to be regarded as an error.

ouer. . . . The next is named Froshwell. And of this spring dooth the whole hundred beare the name, & after this confluence the river it selfe whervnto it falleth (from by north) so farre as I remember. . . . The streame therefore running from hence (& now, as I said, called Froshwell. . . .) hasteth immediatlie vnto old Sandford, then through new Sandford parke, and afterward with full streame (receiuing by the waie, the Finch brooke that commeth through Finchingfield) to Shalford. . . . and so to Blackwater, where the name of Froshwell ceaseth, the water from hencefoorth (as I heare) commonlie called Blackwater, vntill it come to Maldon.

The sites of some of the springs and rills are easy to identify, but unfortunately not the Rotherwell or the Froshwell, which latter, however, clearly joined the main stream of the Pant *above* Great (Old) Sampford, and *from the north*. Morant also placed Freshwell above Great Sampford, but described it differently:

The half-hundred of Froshwell, or Freshwell, took its name from the river Froshwell, heretofore called Pant, which runs through part of it: or rather from a well, or spring, that riseth within it, called Froshwell, which falleth into the Pant betwixt Radwinter and Great Samford, and abounds with frogs.

Freshwell could hardly have given its name to a section of the main river, as Harrison said it did, unless it had itself been a substantial stream; therefore the best candidate appears to be the brook which joins the Pant after flowing past Anser Gallows Farm, which was called Anstye in 1825, evidently from OE *ānstiga*, 'narrow path'.<sup>28</sup> Yet the landscape is flat and apparently without obstacles; could the land have been liable to flooding and the narrow path a sort of causeway?

Nearby, the Radwinter to Sampford road (B1053) crosses the bridge by a ford. According to Curtis, this is the 'most convenient meeting place for persons coming from all villages of the Hundred', and 'tradition has it that the gallows stood a few yards west of the road junction, on the bank on the north side of the Radwinter Road'. It was still there in 1567, and 'the vegetable garden below the bank and beside the road is the reputed burial ground of the fruit of the gallows tree.' Other Hundred meeting-places in the region were associated with gallows (see ODSEY and THINGOE) and therefore,

provisionally, the ford near Anser Gallows is accepted as the meeting-place site.

#### GRIMSHOE Nfk TL819/898

Blomefield (1805–10) II p.148; W.G. Clarke (ed.), *Report on the Excavations at Grime's Graves, Weeting, Norfolk, March–May 1914* (London 1915) pp.11–13, 106–12; Anderson I (1934) p.75; Lawson (1981) pp.4–6, 9–10, 12, 23, 26, 38; Adkins and Petchey (1984) pp.248–9; Nfk SMR no. 5640 c1, Ancient Mon. no. 70.

*Grimshou* 1086 DB; ODanish (or OE) *Grimpn* (gen (*e*)s) + ON *haugr*. Blomefield said that the Hundred court used to be called to a large tumulus 'which perhaps might also have served as a watch-tower, or a place of signal' at the east end of the 'Danish incampment' (in reality prehistoric flintmines) called Grimes Graves. Grimshoe is still marked on OS maps, and is central for the Hundred.

Greenwell said that the mound had been 'cut through by the Norfolk Archæological Society, when nothing was discovered except a piece of a red deer's antler'.<sup>29</sup> It was also excavated in 1914 and W.G. Clarke described it as a mound raised over an interment cremated on the spot. He did not specifically mention human remains, though there were fragments of burnt pottery among the burnt material. The mound seemed to have been augmented in size at a later date. However, Petchey argued that the cremation was merely 'a small burnt layer sandwiched between the buried ground surface and the mound', and that it could have been constructed specifically as a meeting mound. There was no dating evidence in the mound or beneath it, and nothing to connect it with Romans or Anglo-Saxons. The SMR described it in 1976 as 2.5 m. high, 28 m. diameter.

Grimes Graves and Grimshoe are now under the guardianship of English Heritage. One of the mine holes immediately adjoins Grimshoe, which therefore has somewhat the appearance of a high, steep and rounded spoil heap. It still bears the scar of a ransacking excavation across the centre.

#### HINCKFORD Essex TL777/355

VCH Essex (London 1903) pp.406–7; Christy (1925–8) pp.185–6; P.H. Reaney, *Transactions*

28 Smith (1956) I p.12.

29 W. Greenwell, 'On the opening of Grime's Graves in Norfolk', *Journal of the Ethnological Society of London new ser.* II (1870) pp.419–39, at 422–3.

of the *Essex Archaeological Society* (hereafter TESxAS) 19 (1930) pp.62–3; Reaney (1935) pp.405,438–40; Anderson III (1941) pp.42–3; Lawson (1981) p.10.

*Hidingaforda* 1086 DB; probably OE *Hedin* or *Heddin*, persn. + **-inga** gen pl, 'people of' + OE **ford**; cf *Hidingham* 1086 DB for (Castle and Sible) Hedingham. Anderson's derivation from OE **hyð** + **-inga-**, 'people of the landing-place' is not convincing, in that the Colne here is not large enough to have carried major traffic. See ARMINGFORD *supra* for discussion of **-inga-** + **ford** names. Occasionally from the late twelfth century Hedingham is called by the name of the ford, and the Hundred by the name of the settlement.

Hinckford was apparently on the Colne near the main road from Haverhill to Braintree (now the A604) and on the road to Castle Hedingham; it was later called Crouchford (i.e. 'cross ford'), and Nunnery Bridge now stands there. Immediately west of the ford, in the angle of the two roads, there was, according to Christy, 'a small triangular piece of ground, about one third of an acre in area, and raised some five or six feet above the level of the roadway and also above the flood level. This mound looks as if it might once have been a moot-mound'. It was locally known as Crouch Green ('cross green') and a cattle fair was held there. It was also called *le Mot(e)stowe* 1262; OE **mōt-stōw**, 'meeting place'. It was central for the Hundred.

Houses have been built on the corner of the two roads, and no 'moot-mound' is now discernible.

#### HITCHIN Herts TL197/266 (Sperberry Hill)

Gover (1938) p.8; Anderson III (1941) p.28.

*Hiz* 1086 DB, *Hicche* 1175; OE *Hicce* is the name of an Anglo-Saxon tribe, listed in the *Tribal Hidage* as *Hicca* (gen pl);<sup>30</sup> later forms with final *-n*, used as the name of a settlement, go back to the dat pl, *Hiccum*.

The post-Conquest Hundred meeting-place seems to have been at Sperberry Hill in (St) Ippollitts, *Speleburwe* 1203, OE **spell**, 'speech' + OE **beorg**, 'mound, hill'; on OS large-scale maps the name appears on the road leading east-northeast from the London road at St Ibbs up a steep natural hill at about TL197/266. Not far to the south, at about TL199/265, a group of four ring-ditches shows up as crop-marks, probably from ploughed-out

Bronze Age barrows. In 1322, however, a view of frankpledge was held at *Altonishevuyd*, i.e. Oughton Head (TL168/303), a spring just northwest of Hitchin, close to the Icknield Way. None of the sites (Hitchin itself, Sperberry Hill or Oughton Head) is really central to the Hundred.

#### HURSTINGSTONE Hunts (now Cambs) TL301/751

Mawer (1926) pp.xli,203–4; *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England): Hunts* (London 1926) p.296a and pl.142; *VCH Hunts II* (1932) pp.149–50; Anderson I (1934) pp.109–10; Gelling (1984) p.198; Thorn (1989) p.29 and n.15.

*Hyrstingestan* 1086 DB; OE **hyrst**, 'wooded hill', + **-inga-**, gen pl 'people of', + OE **stān**, 'stone'. The area occupied by the *Hyrstingas* included Old (formerly Wold) Hurst and Wood Hurst, and must have formed an administrative unit, possibly to be equated with the *Herefinna* of the Tribal Hidage.<sup>31</sup>

W. Page (in *VCH*) said that until c. 1440 (when they were moved to Broughton) the Hundred courts were held at the Hursting stone in Wood Hurst, marked on eighteenth-century maps of Huntingdonshire such as that in Emmanuel Bowen's *Large English Atlas* (c. 1750) 'at the highest point of the road from St Ives to Old Hurst' (the boundary of which parish touched the stone). Gallows were also recorded on *quemdam montem qui vocatur Hirstingston*, and dogs were sent there to be expeditated.<sup>32</sup> From the twelfth century onwards the Abbot of Ramsey (which held the Hundred) kept his court here. Page suggested that 'a stone existed at this prominent position at an early date', and that it 'was replaced by a cross, perhaps in the twelfth or thirteenth century, when such crosses were commonly erected as boundaries, and the still extant stone is the base of that cross'. One side of it has either been weathered or cut away, so that the original square socket for the shaft has now only three sides, and it was set up in such a way that it had the appearance of a wide, very shallow (and probably very uncomfortable) armchair, so that it came to be called the Abbot's Chair. Folklore evidently gathered around it, as legend had

30 Dumville (1989).

31 A.W. Davies and H. Vierck, 'The contexts of the Tribal Hidage: social aggregates and settlement patterns', *Frühmittelalterliche Studien* 8 (1974) pp.223–93, at 232,234,273,284–6,291,293; Dumville (1989).

32 W. Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum II* (London 1819) p.568.

it that monks stopped to rest in it when travelling between Ramsey Abbey and St Ives Priory. Mawer reported a tradition that in the sixteenth century Mother Shipton used to utter her prophecies from it; and when I enquired from the local farmhouse about the Abbot's Chair, the response was 'Oh, you mean Cromwell's Seat'. According to the board now beside it in the garden of the Norris Museum at St Ives, 'It is also said that if ever the stone sinks below the ground, blood will flow in the streets of Bluntisham! Bloodstains are supposed to be visible on the stone, and a ghost is said to haunt it' (compare the ELLOE stone, above). In September 1993 I could observe no bloodstains, but might have done so if I had attempted too vigorously to push aside a prickly holly bush to see the back of the 'chair'. The stone is said to be from Barnack; the quarries there were worked from Roman times until exhausted in the late Middle Ages or later. There is nothing about the stone itself to date it, or to indicate if it could have been cut down from an earlier cubic shape like the LEIGHTONSTONE, and nothing, therefore, to prevent the stone from having been that named in DB.

The site of the meeting-place — which was not central either to the Hundred or to the DB population thereof — was marked on the OS one-inch map of 1954 (sheet 134); but about 1948 the road was cut by the extension of the long runway of the RAF's Wyton Airfield, and the stone removed then.

#### LACKFORD Sfk TL791/711

Anderson I (1934) pp.97–8.

*Lacforda -e, Lacheforda, Leacforde* 1086 DB, *Lecforde -a* 1086 IE; probably OE *lēac*, 'garlic' + *ford*.

The ford was where the Icknield Way crosses the River Lark, on the southwestern edge of the Hundred and not at all central to it. The church of the village with the same name, which is in THINGOE Hundred, stands at TL796/703.

The nearest road crossing, with a bridge, is at TL788/111, but this is not on the line of the Icknield Way. The Ordnance Survey marks a ford just to the east at TL791/711, and there are a few squared stones on the bed of the stream which may be the remnants of paving. In June 1992 it was a very shallow stream, but a flood gauge was a timely reminder that it might not always be so easily passable.

#### LEIGHTONSTONE Hunts (now Cambs) Area TL116/752

Mawer (1926) pp.231,245–6; Anderson I (1934) pp.111–2; VCH Hunts III (1936) p.1; Bigmore (1979) p.72 and caption to pl.4; Thorn (1989) p.29 and n.16.

*Lectunestane* 1086 DB; OE *lēac-tūn*, 'herb garden' + OE *stān*, 'stone'.

The stone is marked on Emmanuel Bowen's map of Huntingdonshire (c. 1750); Gover *et al.* described the position as: 'just to the south of Leighton Bromswold, on the right side of the road, where the one-inch OS map marks "The Castle". This site is central for the Hundred'. Though it is not altogether easy to reconcile Bowen's with a modern OS map, the Leightonstone was clearly to the east of the road to Spaldwick, now only a track, in the general area of TL116/752 (Thorn suggested at TL118/750). However, VCH recorded it as at (apparently having been moved to) the west end of the village. A large, roughly cubic stone (about the size of a tea-chest) now stands on a platform just outside the churchyard gate (TL115/753), and a notice describes it as the judgement stone, moved from 'the other side of the church'. In 1979 Bigmore said that it had been 'recently recovered' from fields 'some distance north[east] of the church'. Wherever the stone originally stood, it would have been central for the Hundred.

#### LONGSTOW Cambs ? TL313/551

Anderson I (1934) p.105; Reaney (1943) pp.154,163–4; VCH Cambs V (1973) p.2.

*Stou* 1086 DB; OE *stōw*, 'place of assembly'.

Though Reaney pointed out fourteenth-century forms of minor names in *stōw* in Harlton parish, at the other end of the Hundred, it was probably named from the village of Longstowe, where in 1271–2 the sheriff claimed that the villagers had to supply a building for the tourn. VCH suggested (without citing any evidence) that the original meeting-place might have been where 'the road from Bourn to Little Gransden crosses Ermine Street', which would have been convenient and typical. Though close to its southwestern corner, Longstowe is quite central to the Hundred.

#### NASSABOROUGH see UPTON

**NAVISFORD Nthnts TL022/812**

Bridges (1791) II p.367; Gover (1933) p.216; Anderson I (1934) pp.116-17; Helen Belgion, *Titchmarsh Past and Present* (Titchmarsh 1979) p.19 and map 2.

*Nar(r)resford* 1086 DB, *Naveresford* 1220; probably ON *Nafarr* persn (gen -s) + **ford**. Though the early forms of the name are variable, this derivation, and its relationship to the lost names, *Nauereslund* 1066-75 (MS c. 1200) and *Nafrysbroc* 1013 seems most probable.

According to Gover *et al.*, 'The hundred meeting place must have been by the Nene at the point where Aldwinkle, Thorpe Achurch and Titchmarsh meet, for the name survives in two fields in Titchmarsh just to the west of Thorpe station'. The railway is dismantled, and the station now a private house, but Belgion's map shows the 'furlong called Navisford': the most northerly in Titchmarsh parish. The ford must therefore have been where the Roman road to Castor crossed the Thorpe Brook (an insignificant feeder to the nearby River Nene) at TL022/812. Belgion suggested that the modern bridge here conceals medieval work.

There was a group of Bronze Age barrows on the opposite side of the Roman road from the Navisford field, now ploughed out but visible as cropmarks of ring-ditches on air photographs; a rise in the centre of the meeting-place field may be the last trace of an extension of the barrow cemetery there, and might have provided a focus for the assembly. Bridges said that the Court for the manors of Achurch and Thorpe Waterville was 'kept at the house of Mr Lee', in Thorpe Waterville.

**NESS (Wapentake) Lincs**

Streatfeild (1884) pp.193-4; Anderson I (1934) p.61.

*Nesse* 1086 LiDB; OE *næss* or ON *ness*, 'promontory of dry ground jutting into fen'.

The site of the meeting place appears to be unknown.

**NORMANCROSS Hunts (Cambs) TL160/908**

Mawer (1926) p.180; Anderson I (1934) pp.112-13; Bigmore (1979) p.72.

*Normannescros* 963-84 (MS c. 1200), 1086 DB; *Normannescros* 1121, *AS Chronicle* MS E, for the year 963; OE *Norðman*, 'Viking, Norwegian', perhaps used as a persn (gen -es), + ON **kross**, 'cross'.

Norman Cross stood on Ermine Street just north of Stilton at the junction with the main road (A15) running northeast to Peterborough, roughly in the centre of the Hundred. There has never been a village settlement there, and the name is now applied to a busy roundabout on the A1.<sup>33</sup> There are at present no clues to the exact meeting-place; it would have been central for the Hundred.

**NORTHSTOW Cambs ? TL395/630**

Anderson I (1934) pp.105-6; Reaney (1943) p.176; Lawson (1981) pp.116-17; Cambs SMR 00380.

*Nordstouua* 1086 DB; OE *norð*, 'north' (as distinct from Longstow) + OE *stōw*, 'place of assembly'.

Reaney suggested that it is named from *Nortstowe*, recorded in the thirteenth century in Dry Drayton (church is at TL389/619). This would have been in Chesterton Hundred in 1086, and therefore the meeting place of Northstow is unknown. However, it seems probable that Chesterton and Northstow Hundreds may originally have been only one.<sup>34</sup>

According to the SMR, an Anglo-Saxon glass beaker was recovered during road works on the A604 (A14), the Roman road from Chesterton to Huntingdon, at the crossroads with the local road from Dry Drayton to Oakington. Subsequent investigation showed that there had been a medieval gallows at TL395/630, with the bodies of the condemned buried near the gibbet. The glass beaker was presumably deposited with a burial, which might have been covered by a barrow, subsequently used as a gallows mound because it stood on a main road by a parish boundary. This would have been a typical site for a Hundred meeting-place, but there is no proof that it was.

**ODSEY Herts TL300/380**

*VCH Herts* III (1912) p.193; Gover (1938) pp.150-1; Anderson III (1941) pp.25-7; Reaney (1943) pp.62-3.

*Odesei* 1086 DB, *Odeseth* 1135 (MS 1286), *Odesela* 1166, *Odesethehill* 1406; *Od(d)a* persn (gen -n) + ? OE *sēað*, 'pit'. The alternative forms with OE *sele*, 'hall' are found only for the Hundred name, and may indicate

33 For a recent description of the site, see Bigmore (1979).

34 Thorn (1990) pp.24,26.

some kind of structure.

Odsey is now just over the Cambridge-shire border but VCH noted that until at least c. 1600 it was in Hertfordshire. Anderson conjectured that the actual meeting-place was on Gallows Hill on the opposite side of the Icknield Way from Odsey Grange, 'where a barrow on the hill-top may mark the site'. A. Dury and J. Andrews' map of Herts (1766) shows the oval Odsey race-course encircling two barrow-like features (the more westerly of which is presumably Gallows Hill, the other not now identifiable on the ground). Gallows Hill was reputedly trenched in 1934, and an American searchlight placed on it during the second World War. Herts SMR records it as c. 38 m. diameter north-south, c. 35 m. east-west and c. 1 m. high, riddled with rabbit burrows and covered with rubble, fenced but close-ploughed on the north, west and south. It is now nettle-covered, and trees have been planted on the north and south. From it there is a wide view in all directions except east (along the ridge).

Though on its northern boundary, the meeting place is 'fairly central' for the Hundred, since Cambridgeshire here projects into Hertfordshire.

#### PAPWORTH Cambs ? TL282/637

Anderson I (1934) pp.106-7; Reaney (1943) p.164.

*Papeword(e)* 1086 DB; probably OE \**Pap(p)a* persn, (gen-n) + *word*, 'enclosure'.

Named from the settlement now represented by Papworth St Agnes (also called Magna and Olde) and Papworth Everard (Parva etc). Since DB lists two settlements with this name but one was in Huntingdonshire, it is difficult to know where the meeting-place may have been. The cross roads at TL282/637, where the road from Eltisley to Hilton and St Ives crosses Ermine Street, at the northern end of Papworth Everard, where county and parish boundaries coincided, and where the main road slopes gently to the north, providing a wide view, seems possible and typical, but there is no evidence. Any site in Papworth would have been at the southwestern end of the Hundred and not central to it.

#### POLEBROOK Nthnts TLO68/869 (river crossing)

Gover (1933) pp.209,215; Anderson I (1934) p.116; Smith (1956) II p.68.

*Pocabroc* 1076; *Pochebroc* 1086 DB; OE *pocca*, *pohha*, 'a pouch, a bag, used in some undetermined sense in place-names, possibly as a by-name' (Gover *et al.*'s suggestion of OE *pūca* is ruled out because the expected -u- never appears) + *brōc*, 'brook'.

There is a village with this name on a small tributary of the Nene, at the eastern end of the Hundred. The map shows many tracks converging on the brook crossing at TLO68/870, just to the south of the church, and this may have been the meeting-place site. However, west of the village the Roman road to Castor (keeping to the east of the River Nene) crosses the brook at TL058/869, and this would also have been a possible ford meeting-place. The Polebrook stream (like Thorpe Brook — see NAVISFORD) is an insignificant feeder to the Nene.

#### RADFIELD Cambs Area TL645/555

Anderson I (1934) p.101; Reaney (1943) pp.113-14.

*Radefelle* 1086 DB, *Radefelde* 1086 (c. 1180), ICC; OE *ræd*, 'red', OE *feld*, 'open country'.

Reaney stated: 'The Hundred was named from *Radefelde* 1335-9 [which] was "in campo de Burgh". . . . Patches of gravel on the chalk . . . make the soil look rather reddish.' Radfield was the name of one of the open fields of Burrough Green, and is marked on (e.g.) the 1837 Tithe Map<sup>35</sup> on the east side of the parish, centred about TL645/555. It is near the eastern corner of the Hundred, but reasonably central for the DB population.

A track through the Burrough Green cornfields is still known as Radfield Road. The meeting-place site may have been somewhere along its course, but no particular spot stands out. The land is level, but with woodlands on low hills in the background.

Since Mutlow Hill is on the boundary between Radfield, STAINE and FLENDISH Hundreds, Reaney suggested that Radfield Hundred also met there.

#### REDBOURNSTOKE Beds Area TLO10/426

Mawer (1926) pp.66-7; Emmison (1928) pp.95-6; Anderson III (1941) p.21; Smith (1956) II p.154.

*Radborgestoc*, *Radebernestoch* 1086 DB; OE *Rædburg*, fem persn (gen -e) + OE *stoc* (probably *stocce* dat sg), 'place, secondary

35 Cambs RO no. P17/27/1.

settlement'. The forms with **-n-** are probably due to the 'common confusion of the suffixes **-burh** and **-burna**'; there are also later forms showing confusion of **stoc** with **stōw**.

A terrier of Marston Moretaine (1715) refers to South Meadow 'abutting north upon Hundredway' and bounded on the west by Brook Field. Emmison argued, from the Enclosure Award of Marston (1798), that it appeared

South Meadow lay to the southeast of the brook which runs parallel with the Bedford road and not far from the road leading from Wootton Pillinge northwest to the Bedford road. The former of these is the boundary between the parishes of Wootton and Marston. Can this road run along the track of the ancient Hundredway? We may at least guess that the meeting place of the Hundred Court of Redbournstoke was in the vicinity of this way.

The whole topography of the area has been drastically altered by brickworks and pits and a modern housing estate. The road Emmison conjectured to be the Hundredway now runs along the northeastern edge of Stewartby Lake Country Park; South Meadow has probably disappeared into the brick pit turned lake. There is now a sluice where in 1767 (on Jeffrey's map of Bedfordshire) there was a Stone Bridge, at TL010/426, and this is used as the reference point for the meeting place of Redbournstoke, but there is no guarantee that it is the right spot. The area is central for the Hundred.

#### RISBRIDGE Sfk TL712/506

Anderson I (1934) p.95.

*Risebruge* 1086 DB; OE **\*hris-brycg**, 'brush-wood causeway'. This compound appellative is found in eight or more minor names from Sussex to Durham.<sup>36</sup>

On C. Greenwood's 1826 map of Suffolk a small district, with a small stream along its southern boundary, just east of Barnardiston Hall, was named Monks Risbridge. Anderson commented that there was no water course near it in his time, but a pond near Barnardiston Hall still feeds a stream running westward, and was probably fed in turn by a drain running along the hedge line. However, if **\*hris-brycg** is to be interpreted as a track made of logs covered with brushwood, such as has been recently

found from Saxon times at Droitwich, it would more probably have been used over a patch of boggy ground rather than to cross a stream. The site is quite central for the Hundred.

#### SOUTH GREENHOE Nfk TF828/056

Blomefield (1805-10) VI p.1; Anderson I (1934) p.74; Lawson (1981) pp.4,6-7,12,26,38,40; Nfk SMR nos. 2688-90.

*Grenehou* 1086 DB; ON **groenn** or OE **grēne**, 'green' + ON **haugr**, 'mound'. 'South' subsequently added to distinguish it from North Greenhoe Hundred.

According to Parkin the Hundred takes its name

from the *Green Hills* or *Tumult* lying by the *London* road to *Swaffham*, on the Heath between [Cockley] *Cley* and *North Pickenham* where 'very antiently, even to the last Century, on these Hills the HUNDRED-COURT was kept, as appears from its old Rolls.

Two barrows are marked in the right spot to the east of the road (now the A1065) on the first edition of the OS one-inch map LXV (1824).

SMR records three barrows (see Lawson) to the east of the A1065 within the quadrant TF82/05; all have been damaged or destroyed. One (SMR 2688) was excavated in 1963, and a Bronze Age flexed male burial was found, with a bronze bush-barrow dagger with additional rivets. In 1976, SMR 2688 was described as mutilated, 32 m. diameter and 0.4 m. high, covered by trees; SMR 2689 was destroyed and also tree-covered; SMR 2690 had been ploughed and was grass-covered, 28 m. diameter and 0.4 m. high. None is conspicuous in the landscape, which is partly wooded, mostly with beeches. The road is undulating, and the view is not wide, but the site is central for the Hundred.

#### STAINED Cambs

Anderson I (1934) pp.99-100; Reaney (1943) p.129.

*Stanes* 1086 DB, *Stane* 1086 ICC InqEl: OE **stān**, either sg. (nom. or dat **-e**), or pl (**-as**), 'stone' or 'stones'. The modern form with diphthong appears to be a late development, not due to Norse influence.

There are no suggestions as to the site of the stone(s). Stone Field was the name of the open field lying to the southeast of Bottisham (one of the Staine parishes); it

36 Gelling (1984) p.66.

is shown (e.g.) in an estate map of 1793.<sup>37</sup> However, there is no marker-stone, and in the fourteenth century the field was apparently called Stony.<sup>38</sup>

It seems that later the meeting-place may have been at Mutlow on the Fleam dyke, together with FLENDISH and RADFIELD Hundreds. If OE *stān(as)* had the meaning 'Roman remains' which Copley wished it to bear,<sup>39</sup> the meeting-place on Fleam Dyke may have given Staine its name, since Neville found a Roman temple building nearby.

#### STAPLOE Cambs Area TL606/644

Lysons (1808) II p.97; Anderson I (1934) pp.98-9; Reaney (1943) p.187.

*Staplehou* 1086 DB; OE *stapol*, 'pillar, platform raised on pillars' + OE *hōh*, 'spur of land', or perhaps ON *haugr*, 'mound'.

Lysons said that 'A *balk* in Burwell field is called Staploe balk', and a grant of land in Exning was said to lie *ad viam de Stapelhoue*. A terrier of freehold lands in Burwell occupied by William Fuller about 1834<sup>40</sup> lists two blocks of land in Mill Field near Staploe Way, one of which was on the heath side of Staploe Way (i.e. to its southeast), near Sandpitt Way: the fourth boundary was 'on the ditch side' (i.e. on the southwest).

Sandpitt Way is visible on the 1806 estate map of Burwell,<sup>41</sup> running southeast from Burwell village (at about TL591/658) towards the present site of Gravel Pit Farm (at TL601/646). Staploe Way must run roughly at right angles to it (i.e. southwest-northeast). The terrier appears to be arranged with the blocks nearest Burwell village listed first, so those described as near Staploe Way must have been in the southern part of the parish, where Mill Field ran along the Exning boundary, to the east of Ditch Field. J. Chapman's 1768 map of Newmarket Heath shows a road running west-southwest from Exning, evidently partly along the the line of the track at present going past Gravel Pit Farm; nothing on this

line, however, stands out.

The 1806 map shows no continuous southwest-northeast road in the right area, but the draft for the first edition of the OS map (1810) shows a road angling southwest from Exning and crossing Devil's Ditch. It seems to have run well to the south of Gravel Pit Farm, perhaps in part along the track (which may itself have been one of the parallel paths of the Icknield Way complex) east and west of Springhead Farm and on to Warbraham Mains and the Ditch. Just west of the parish (and now county) boundary it runs across a patch of higher ground — above the 30 m. or 100 ft contours — which, in this low-lying country, may have been sufficiently prominent to have been called a *hōh*. The highest point appears to be at about TL606/644, and it would have been a typical site for a Hundred meeting-place, but it is hoped that a local historian may eventually find more precise evidence. No mound is recorded in the vicinity.

Any site in Burwell would be near the southwestern edge of the Hundred though reasonably central for the DB population.

#### STODDEN Beds Area TL080/653

Mawer (1926) p.12; Emmison (1928) pp.93-5; Anderson III (1941) p.18.

*Stod(d)en(e)* 1086 DB; OE *stōd*, 'a stud, a herd of horses' + OE *denu*, 'valley'. Gelling remarked that *denu* is only rarely compounded with a term for a domestic animal.<sup>42</sup>

A Stodden field was named in 1607 in Pertenhall, near the Hundred and County boundary, but would have been reasonably central to the Hundred before Tilbrook was taken out of it. Emmison concluded, by a process of elimination, that Stodden field lay in the northwestern part of the parish of Pertenhall. The map shows a broad shallow valley running northwest from Pertenhall into the high ground, and perhaps part of this could have been used as a 'stud valley', which would have needed to be securely enclosed (c.f. the use of ruined Roman forts as studs, e.g. Stotfall, Lympne Kent). The map shows many tracks leading to the field in the northwestern corner of the parish (centring on TL072/669); modern farming has altered these, and the countryside looks very open, with some remnants of woodland, and a view widening out downhill.

37 London Borough of Hackney Health District Archives 19/6B/1; photograph in Cambs Record Office at R 71/38.

38 M. Postgate, 'The open fields of Cambridgeshire' (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Cambridge University 1964) Appendix I p. II.

39 *Archaeology and Place-Names in the Fifth and Sixth Centuries*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 147 (Oxford 1986) pp.55-6,99; *Early Place-Names of the Anglian Regions of England*, BAR Brit ser.185 (Oxford 1988) pp.10,62,89,99,112-3,134.

40 Cambs RO ref.no. L 21.16.

41 Public Record Office no. MR 509.

42 Gelling (1984) p.98.

**THINGOE Sfk TL850/654**

J. Gage, *History and Antiquities of Suffolk: Thingoe Hundred* (London 1838) pp.ix-xi; T. Arnold, *Hermann Archidiaconi Liber de Miraculis Sancti Eadmundi in Memorials of St Edmund's Abbey*, 3 vols (London 1890-6) I p.31; *VCH I* (1911) p.626; Anderson I (1934) pp.95-6; M.D. Lobel, *Bury St Edmunds* (London 1935) p.7; Lawson (1981) pp.4,6,8,10-14,26,68,70-1; Sfk SMR parish nos.BRG 001, BSE 004, BSE MISC.

*Dinghowe* 1042-6, *Thingehou* 1086 DB; ON **Pinghaugr**, 'mound of assembly'.

Hermann (late eleventh century) records justice as being dispensed at *Thinghogo* on the first of May. From early sources, Gage conjectured it to be 'an artificial mound on rising ground just outside the north gate of Bury'. Anderson suggested that Thingoe might be where Gage marked a windmill, on the map opposite his frontispiece. It was central for the Hundred, and sometimes all the eight-and-a-half Hundreds of Bury Abbey met there.

The area is now built up, and affected by the construction of the A45. By comparing the site marked *Thinghove* on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (1886) with the modern 1:10,000, it appears that the mound was not on the road now called Thingoe Hill at about TL852/653, but beside the present Northgate Avenue (formerly Norfolk Road), at TL850/654 (SMR no. BSE 004). *VCH* said that it was 'formerly partially isolated by the Teyfen Mere and the marshes of the River Lark'. Thingoe was excavated by H. Prigg in 1880, and he described it as a 'large British barrow'.<sup>43</sup> Unfortunately, his paper on his discoveries was never published, but the OS six-inch map records that 'Human remains, horns and urns' were found, and *VCH* stated that it was 'a tumulus of three interments. The centre, however, was not reached nor the primary burial recovered. The East Anglian School now occupies the reduced summit'.

Gage also remarked that the Peddar's Way passed a mound on Shirehouse Heath called Gallows Hill, which the SMR (no. BSE MISC) places at approximately TL845/657 (near Tollgate Lane), and which earlier was called Henhowe. According to *VCH*, there was a grant to the Abbot of Bury in 1305 that pleas brought into the eight-and-a-half Hundreds formerly held at *Cateshull* (Cateshill, 'cat's

mound' in Great Barton, SMR BRG 001) should be held at Henhowe ('bird's mound'). Perhaps the early medieval functions of the two neighbouring mounds were originally complementary, one judicial, one punitive.

Catshill was used for judicial assemblies in the thirteenth century, after Thingoe had been acquired by St Edmund's Abbey.<sup>44</sup> It was excavated in 1957 and found to contain first-century sherds, pumice quern fragments and cattle bones, and is therefore judged to have been a midden.<sup>45</sup>

**THRILOW Cambs TL443/468**

Anderson I (1934) p.103; Reaney (1943) pp.82,90; Lawson (1981) pp.109-10,114-6; Cambs SMR 04286.

*Trepe(s)lau* 1086 DB; OE \**Tryppa* persn, gen (-n) + **hlāw**, 'mound'.

Named from the village of Thriplow (*Tripelau* c. 1050), or village and Hundred were both named from the same mound, probably that just east of Thriplow church (TL4436/4682, now ploughed out), which may originally have served as the meeting place. It was of the Bronze Age, about 80 ft wide, perhaps 15-20 ft high, originally capped with white chalk. There appears to have been Iron Age and Romano-British settlement nearby.<sup>46</sup> It is in the southern part of the Hundred.

However, there are references to a *Mothlowe*, *Motlawe*, (OE \*(**ge**)*mōt-hlāw*, 'assembly mound') from the thirteenth century onwards in documents belonging to Newton, Harston and Thriplow, which Reaney conjectured to be the same place. There are also references to a *Motlowewe* etc., 'road to the assembly mound' up to the fifteenth century in Newton, Shelford and Thriplow documents. In an advertisement for a sale at Newton in 1834<sup>47</sup> (before the enclosure) Muttler Roadway is named as bordering several lots in Little Brookfield on the east; and a few lots in Great Brookfield on the west. A short length of Muttler Way is named on an accompanying map, southwest of Camps Park. A comparison with the enclosure map of Newton

43 See *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 36 (1880) p.233, and 38 (1882) p.208-10.

44 A. Gransden, *The Letter-Book of William of Hoo, Sacrist of Bury St Edmunds 1280-1294*, Suffolk Records Society V (Ipswich 1963) p.61n.

45 N. Smedley and F.A. Aberg, 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1957', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* 27 (1957), p.178 (*Barton, Great*).

46 D.H. Trump, 'The Bronze Age barrow and Iron Age settlement at Thriplow', *PCambsAS* 49 (1956) pp.1-12; Lawson (1981) pp.109-10,114-6; *VCH Cambs VIII* (1982) pp.152,238.

47 Cambs RO R 51/17/20b.

(1861)<sup>48</sup> makes it clear that Muttler Way ran in a double curve between the two Brookfields from the edge of Newton village at TL4395/4925 to a kink in the boundary with Thriplow parish at TL4430/4853. Its further course is conjectural, but in view of the names Muttelers (at roughly TL445/483) and Mutlers Pit (at roughly 447/482) which Maynard places on his 1837 map of Whittlesford<sup>49</sup> just north-west of Mutlow (at TL448/481), it is probably safe to assume that Mutlow Way ran along the Thriplow boundary and so into WHITTLESFORD to Mutlow, which may therefore have served as a joint meeting-place for the two Hundreds.

### THUNDERLOW Esx TL?830/387 (Gallow Green)

VCH Esx I (1903) pp.405–6, 534, 537; Christy (1925–8) pp.139, 173, 195–7; C.F.D. Sperling, *TEsxAS* 18 (1925) pp.139–40; P.H. R[eaney], *TEsxAS* 19 (1930) p.63; Reaney (1935) pp.418–19; Anderson III (1941) pp.41–2; Lawson (1981) pp.5, 9–10, 17; B. Slaughter (ed.), *Bulmer Then and Now* (Bulmer 1979, 2nd ed. 1990) pp.32, 42, 45, 53–4; Esx SMR no. 1806.

*Thunreslau* DB; OE *Thunor* persn (the god of thunder; gen -es) + OE *hlāw*, 'mound'.

In Domesday this 'Half-Hundred' consisted of only three manors, Belchamp (Walter), Ballingdon, and the lost Binsley in Bulmer. There have been many suggestions as to the site; none is so convincing as to eliminate all others. Christy suggested that the meeting place had been on the top of Ballingdon Hill, 290 ft high, 'c. 100 yards to the west of a clump of trees occupying a lower point (180 ft)'. It is a prominent landmark, within sight of the Thunderslow manors, just within Bulmer parish, but Ballingdon 'touches the fence of the field'. However, Reaney judged Ballingdon Hill to be too far from where thirteenth-century references put Thunderlow.

These references were in the Hospitallers' Cartulary, and according to Sperling, put *Thundreslawe*, 'apparently in the neighbourhood of Middleton [church is at TL871/396] and Goldingham [Hall is at 833/402]', and described *Thunderloue* as a wood — presumably that which Domesday records as sufficient for 20 swine — in Binsley. Sperling suggested that Binsley probably lay 'near the brook which runs below Goldingham Hall';

however, there is no room for a third manor between Goldingham and the DB manor of Belchamp Walter, which lies on the other side of the brook.<sup>50</sup> Woods are marked along the Belchamp Brook on modern maps, but are recent plantations;<sup>51</sup> Heaven Wood, further to the east, and the now destroyed Park Wood appear to have been ancient woodland — judging from what Slaughter said about them — but were in the manor of Smeetham.

Also according to Slaughter, Dickinson (who wrote the guide to Bulmer church) suggested that the church site at TL843/401 — which commands wide views and stands upon a little knoll<sup>52</sup> — looked appropriate for a pagan sanctuary; if it had been Thunderlow, however, one wonders why that was not the name of the parish.

Slaughter himself did not discuss Thunderlow, but suggested that the lost Binsley was to be equated with Kitchen(s) Farm (at TL855/408) as this lies in the right area, and was 'often referred to as an old manor'. In 1380 it was purchased for the College of St Gregory at Sudbury, and may therefore have gained the name Kitchen (not evidenced until 1545 as e.g. *Kechyn*) because it was used to grow food for the priests. The argument is good, and if correct, Thunderlow may be Kitchen Hill, a spur extending northeast from the site of the farm. However, there does not seem to have been any identifiable ancient woodland nearby.

Reaney suggested that Thunderlow Wood was Goldingham Hall Wood, or 'perhaps the small strip of unnamed wood on higher ground to the southwest'. It has not been possible to identify the unnamed wood, unless it was a strip marked on a mid-eighteenth-century estate map<sup>53</sup> south of Goldingham Wood and there named Wick Grove Croft. Goldingham Hall Wood is named on the first edition of the OS 25-inch map,<sup>54</sup> surveyed in 1876, but had already been reduced in size from 33 acres to 13 before 1808, and was cleared altogether in 1947. It was the most substantial wood in Bulmer in the eighteenth century, and seems to have been ancient woodland, with hornbeam trees and an

48 Cambs RO Q/RDc 73.

49 Cambs RO R 58/5/9, p.165.

50 I am grateful to Mr Ashley Cooper for this observation (personal communication).

51 Cooper (1989) pp.200–4.

52 *Ibid.* p.106.

53 *A Map of the Manor of Goldingham Hall, the estate of Samuel Berkley Esq situate in Bulmer and Gestingthorpe in the County of Essex* (1755, from a survey taken in 1707); EsxRO no. D/DQ 14/35.

54 Essex sheets XII.1 and XII.5.

abundance of species.<sup>55</sup> It was south of the road from Bulmer to Gestingthorpe, the west side of the last 13 acres (roughly the centre line of the original 33 acres) running from about TL825/395 southeast to TL828/391, near New Barn. On J. Chapman and P. Andre's 1777 map Gallow Green is shown just to the south of New Barn at about TL830/387, and may give a further clue as to the Hundred meeting-place site, since the two are frequently associated. The presumed line of the Roman road (Margary's Peddar's Way) from Braintree to Long Melford must run quite close by. Moreover, just over the parish boundary in Gestingthorpe, was a Roman building, part of a small site which may have had a religious character. Frere wrote:

In topographical terms the focal point of the site is undoubtedly the crest of the promontory projecting southwest from the plateau, some 80 m. southeast of Building I, and it may be significant that here was recovered a model votive axe in bronze as well as two iron axeheads, all as surface finds. A self-consciously primitive shrine in timber, or a sacred grove might well have occupied this position. . .

The site was in use from Belgic times to the fourth century; though there was a decline in the second half of the century, some of the finds would not look out of place on an early Saxon site.<sup>56</sup> There was a small early Saxon settlement within view.

Though no barrow has been found nearby — not even a ploughed-out ring-ditch<sup>57</sup> — a site somewhere in this neighbourhood would therefore seem entirely appropriate both for a pagan sanctuary and a Hundred meeting-place. The name of the field where the Roman finds were made, Court field, may reflect the Hundred's judicial function. There is even the typical wide view, here on the south side, towards the stream.

However, it must be admitted that there are difficulties in the way of this identification. The area lies to the south of the estates known to have been in Thunderlow, and is partly outside Bulmer parish. The distribution of woodland may well have altered so much from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries that the whereabouts of Thunderlow Wood are irrecoverable. If we

are to imagine the manor of Binsey as somewhere along Bulmer's border with Gestingthorpe, it might seem that Goldingham (which would then lie between Binsey and Belchamp) must also have belonged to Thunderlow, but in DB Goldingham is put in Hinckford Hundred. These difficulties can be explained away: other Hundreds are named from sites which later were outside their area, and since Thunderlow is anomalous in having only three manors attributed to it in DB, it may originally have been of somewhat wider extent. Hinckford eventually absorbed Thunderlow, and the DB listings may have been inconsistent — or a Thunderlow heading before Goldingham merely accidentally omitted, as other headings were. The exact site of Thunderlow must therefore remain uncertain. Though I must confess my preference for the Court Field/Gallows Green site, there are (unfortunately) several suitable sites for Thunderlow, whether as pagan sanctuary or as Hundred meeting-place, in and around the area of the Half-Hundred.

#### **TOSELAND Hunts (now Cambs) TL240/626**

Mawer (1926) pp.251–2,272–3; Anderson I (1934) pp.110–11. *Toleslund* 1086 DB; ON *Toli*, persn (gen -s), + ON *lundr*, 'grove'. An 'earl of this district' called *Toli* died at the Battle of Tempsford in 921.<sup>58</sup>

DB mentions only the Hundred of this name, not the village (though the church cannot date from very much later than 1086). A 'large, rough, irregularly-shaped sarsen-stone (2 ft 8 in. × 1 ft 7 in. × 9 in. deep) in the churchyard against the south wall of the church is locally known as the "Moot-stone" and is said to have been the ancient Hundred stone'. Mawer *et al.* claimed that part of the fragmentary, possibly Roman, possibly Saxon, road from Sandy to Godmanchester was known in the neighbourhood of Toseland as 'Moats' or 'Moots Way'. Though near the eastern edge of the Hundred, the site is reasonably central for the DB population.

#### **UPTON/DICON/NASSABOROUGH Nthnts (now Cambs) TF113/026**

Bridges (1791) II p.489; Gover (1933) pp.223–4,244; Anderson I (1934) pp.114–15; John Steane, *Northamptonshire Landscape* (London

55 Cooper (1989) pp.12,202; personal communication.

56 Jo Draper, *Excavations by Mr H.P. Cooper on the Roman Site at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, Essex, East Anglian Archaeology Report No.25 (1985)*, pp.2–4,60.

57 A. Cooper, personal communication.

58 *Liber Eliensis* pp.xi,xiv,99.

1974) p.86 and pl.26; Cambs SMR 00786.

*Uptune* 1076; *Optone*, *Opton(e)gren* 1086 DB; OE **uppe**, 'upper' + OE **tūn**, 'enclosure, farm' (+ OE **grēne**, '(village) green'); *æt Dicon* 972-92, OE **dīc** (dat pl -um), '(at the) ditches, dykes'; *Nassum Burgi* 1215, OE **næss**, 'promontory of dry land in fen' + OE **burh**, 'fortified place' — referring to Peterborough.

Though the name of this double Hundred is variable, the meeting-place has remained fairly constant. Bridges said that before the Dissolution Langdyke court had been 'kept by the Abbat and Convent at *Castre*', but 'within the memory of man the Hundred court had been summoned to *Langdyke-bush*', and then adjourned to the Lord Exeter's house at Helpston. He described Langdyke Bush as standing

about two furlongs to the left of the warren-house, or of the great road between *Stamford* and *Peterburgh*, upon a high ground, that overlooks the country to the northwest, near the corner of a hedge in the open field called *Helpston-heath*, with a white thorn tree on the other side.

A sketch of the site in 1721 is Steane's plate 26.

The mound known as Langdyke Bush, now in Ailsworth parish but at the junction with Upton, Ufford and Helpston parishes, stands in a field just to the east of where the road from Upton joins the north-south Roman road (a branch of Ermine Street), which is known as King Street or Langdyke. The road from Peterborough to Stamford crosses the Roman road not far to the north. According to the SMR, the mound stood about 70 cm. high and appeared to be flat-topped, but a covering of brambles obscured the profile. From this mound came both a piece of carved Barnack stone and a gibbet stone now in Helpston village.

The brambles are now cleared away, and the irregular surface of the mound is grass-covered. The view is still there, and the site is reasonably central for the DB population.

#### UTTLESFORD Esx TL518/364

VCH Esx I (London 1903) p.406 and n.3; R.C. Fowler, 'Uttlesford Hundred, East and West', *TESxAS* 16 (1921-3) p.183; Reaney (1935) pp.516,543; Anderson III (1941) pp.35-6; Lawson (1981) pp.4,10,17,26,98-9; Esx SMR no. TL53.71.

*Udelesforda*, *Wdelesforda* etc 1086 DB; probably OE \**Udel* persn, diminutive of recorded *Uda* (gen -es), + **ford**. Anderson's

suggestion that the first element is OE **wudulæs**, 'forest pasture' appears to have no parallels.

The name is preserved in Uttlesford Bridge on what used to be the main London to Cambridge road in Wendens Ambo. According to Anderson, the ford 'is on low ground, but just north of it the road goes up Mutlow Hill' (OE \*(**ge**)**mōt-hlāw**, 'assembly mound'), referring to a barrow where the sheriff's tourn for the Hundred was often held. R.C. Neville dug into Mutlow (which he called Myrtle Hill) in 1847,<sup>59</sup> and found pottery, three iron spear-heads and a conical shield boss probably belonging to the seventh century.

The topography of the area has no doubt been disturbed by the (now dismantled) railway. The stream is quite small, so that it would have posed no problem to ford almost anywhere, except in time of flood. The site is central for the Hundred.

Also in Uttlesford was *Spelbeorghe*, presumably for OE **spell**, 'speech' + OE **beorg**, 'mound, hill' (see HITCHIN *supra*), named in some Anglo-Saxon bounds of Littlebury dated after 1008. Dr Mary Hesse has identified *Spelbeorghe* with Coploe Hill,<sup>60</sup> most of which is in Ickleton, WHITTLESFORD Hundred Cambs. A road runs north-south along the ridge, on the west side of which are formidable strip lynchets. The present county boundary crosses the road at TL4935/4210, leaving the top of the hill, marked on the OS 1:10,000 map at TL4943/4212, just within Uttlesford Hundred. Therefore, if *Spelbeorghe* were the site of some kind of meeting-place, it was probably common to the two neighbouring Hundreds, or even to the two counties. It would, however, have been central for a territory around the Roman walled town at Great Chesterford. The Roman road from Chesterford to Strethall runs north-north-west/south-southeast, near *Spelbeorghe*, crossing the county boundary at TL 500/421.

59 *Sepulchra Exposita* (Saffron Walden 1848), pp.9-11,49-50.

60 I am grateful to Mary Hesse for this reference. See Reaney (1935) p.530 n.1; *Liber Eliensis* II.58 pp.129,130 and n. f. 417; P.H. Sawyer, *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (London 1968) no.907, p.277; Steven Bassett, 'In search of the origins of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms', in *idem*, ed., *The Origins of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (Leicester 1989) pp.3-27, at p.25 and fig.1.12. The boundaries appear to be at least four years later than the text of the charter.

There is also a furlong called *Spelverden* (presumably for **spell**+**beorg**+**denu**, 'valley') between the strip lynchets and the stream called Sawston ditch at c. TL491/425/CRO Ickleton terrier R63/D.D.B.1115).

**WANSFORD Beds/Nthnts (now Cambs)  
TL074/991**

*Liber Eliensis* II ch. 11, pp.ix,xv, 85; Mawer (1926) p.198; Gover (1933) pp.245-6.

*Wylmesforda* 972 (MS c. 1200); *Wælmesford* 1184 (15th cent. MS); OE **wielm** (WSxn), **wælm** (Angln), (gen-es) 'of the spring' + **ford**.

Though it did not give its name to one Hundred, the eight Hundreds of Oundle met at Wansford, presumably where the handsome medieval bridge stands (mercifully bypassed by the A1). Taylor has described the importance of Wansford in the Middle Ages, when a number of roads joined to cross the Nene. It was probably the first fording-place upstream from the broken Roman bridge at Water Newton, and so took most of the traffic on the London-York route.<sup>61</sup>

**WENSLow Beds**

Mawer (1926) p.100; Anderson III (1941) p.19.

*Weneslai* 1086 DB, *Wodneslawe* 1169; OE *Wōden* persn (deity), (gen *Wōdnes*) + OE **hlāw**, 'mound, hill'.

There are no clues as to the site. The Half-Hundred included five settlements, and is not mentioned after 1287.

**WETHERLEY Cambs ? TL367/515**

Anderson I (1934) pp.104-5; Reaney (1943) p.69; *RCHM Cambs I, West Cambs* (1968), pp.129,135; *VCH Cambs V* (1973) p.138 n.5; *Cambs SMR* 03288.

*Wedrelai* 1086 DB; OE **wed̥er** (gen pl **wed̥ra**), 'a castrated ram, a wether', + **lēah**, 'woodland clearing'.

The name is now lost, and does not appear to have been used for a settlement. Clues to its siting are *Wetherle Grene* 1322, in *Barrington*,<sup>62</sup> *Wetherle(e)feld* fourteenth century,

in Little Eversden, *Wedryrleweye* 1402 etc. in *Harlton*. *VCH* noted that the name was also recorded c. 1275. Reaney said

The place must have been near the high ground (once woodland) jutting eastwards into the hundred near the junction of the parishes of Orwell, Little Eversden, Harlton and Barrington.

The best suggestion appears to be a mound (150 ft diameter and only 6-9 in. high) at Maypole Farm, which is just in Harlton parish but near the junction of four parishes and two Roman roads. The site of the Maypole is shown on this mound on the 1825 map of the estates of Queens' College, Cambridge,<sup>63</sup> on the 1836 map, and on the first edition of the OS 25-inch map (1886). According to *RCHM*, pottery dating from the eleventh century to the fourteenth has been found on the surface of the mound.

Though on the northwestern boundary with *LONGSTOW* (which forms a compact subrectangular block with *Wetherley*), the Maypole site is quite central for the Hundred. It is 'on a prominent hill, 200 ft above sea level', with a wide view towards the north. A visit to the site in September 1992 failed to identify the mound among the long grass.

**WHITTLESFORD Cambs TL484/472**

Anderson I (1934) pp.102-3; Reaney (1943) pp.92,98.

*Witelesford* 1086 DB; OE *Wit(t)el* persn, (gen *Witles*) + **ford**.

Named from the village of Whittlesford (*Witelesforde* 1086 DB; the second smallest settlement in the Hundred), or from the ford which gave its name to both.

Unfortunately, it is not clear which ford this was. C.C. Taylor has argued that Whittlesford village originally ran east-west along a main street, and that the ford was that at TL476/485<sup>64</sup> where there is now a footbridge leading to a path to Sawston — though a mill and drainage have altered the river topography and there are several separate

southwest towards Barrington.

It must therefore be a coincidence that on the Orwell 1836 plan of Carriage Roads etc. (Cambridge University Library MS Plans R.a.8) the name Hole Way is written along the major Roman road, just within Orwell parish, and in the 1686 Orwell estate map (CUL Maps.Deposited R.a.1) a field by the road at the same spot is named *Hollway Furlong*.

63 Now held in Cambridge University Library, Queens' College no. 355/A and B, map on p. 17.

64 C.C. Taylor, *Roads and Tracks* (1979) pp.106-7.

61 C.C. Taylor, *Roads and Tracks of Britain* (London 1979) pp.121-2,194.

62 Reaney characterised this reference as 'near the Whole Way', but Professor J.H. Baker (Archivist of St Catharine's College) has kindly checked the reference for me, and it appears that there are two descriptions of separate pieces of land, one to a piece of land near *Wetherle Grene*, the other, immediately afterwards, to another piece of land near the Whole Way. The deed (in St Catharine's Barrington Collection VIII/1/16, dated the Sunday before SS. Simon and Jude 16 Edw.II, i.e. 24 October 1322) does not state, therefore, that *Wetherley Green* was near the Whole Way (which in Barrington runs nowhere near the Maypole site). On the modern six-inch map, it is a track running southwest from Harlton, with an angle at 377/519, then south-

streams. However, about a mile to the south one of the branches of the Icknield Way also crossed the Cam at a ford, where there was later a bridge called *Wytltisfordebrige* 1279. There is now a bypass and the present bridge is a little to the south. Four parishes joined at this spot, and it would have made a good and typical meeting place, especially, perhaps, for the moot of the county notables at Whittlesford in the late tenth century.<sup>65</sup> In the later Middle Ages a priory with a 'hospital' (a hostel for wayfarers?) was founded nearby.<sup>66</sup> The area of the Hundred is very small, and any of the suggested sites would have been close for the DB population.

However, a Mutlow is later evidenced, probably with *Mitlowdene* in c. 1280 in Duxford and certainly in 1598 in Whittlesford, with *Moutlow Moor*. N. Maynard, a local antiquary, marks Mutlow Hill on his 1837 manuscript map of Whittlesford<sup>67</sup> with a large pink spot, the same symbol as he used for the Chronicle Hills, which are known to have been Roman barrows (now ploughed away). Though Mutlow Hill is not identifiable on the ground, it was therefore probably a mound, whether sepulchral or not. At roughly TL448/481, it is in Whittlesford parish and Hundred, but very close to the border with Thriplow parish and Hundred. Along this boundary, just northwest of Mutlow, Maynard marks Muttler's Pit and Muttelers, these names probably being corruptions of Mutlow, and connecting Muttlerway — which ran through the open fields of Newton, in THRIPLow Hundred — with Mutlow. Mutlow may therefore have been a joint meeting place for the two Hundreds at least from the thirteenth century onwards. On the borders of UTTLESFORD Hundred (Esx) and Whittlesford was the lost *Spelbeorghe*, which may have been a joint meeting-place for these two Hundreds.

#### WILLYBROOK Nthnts TL007/970 (King's Cliffe church)

Anderson I (1934) pp.115–16; Gover (1933) pp.4,198–9.

*Wilebroc* 1086 DB; OE Anglian \**wilig*, 'willow', + OE *brōc*, 'brook'.

Named from the Willow Brook, 'a small stream that rises west of Corby and runs

past King's Cliffe to the Nene'. In the fourteenth century the Hundred Court was held at King's Cliffe by the Willow Brook. The church stands on high ground close to the substantial stream, and here a meeting-place in the churchyard, well above the flood plain, would seem an obvious choice, but there is no evidence. The site would have been reasonably central for the Hundred.

#### WIXAMTREE Beds TL129/466

Mawer (1926) pp.87–8; Anderson III (1941) pp.20–1; Bigmore (1979) p.73.

*Wichestanestou* 1086 DB; OE *Whstara* persn (gen -es) + OE *stōw*, 'place of assembly'; *Wicstanestre* 1163, + OE *trēo(w)*, 'tree'. The substitution of 'tree' for the more general 'place' is also found in Grimbald's Ash Hundred, Gloucs.

The site of the meeting-place is 'traditionally associated' with Deadman's Oak, at the southern tip of Sheerhatch Wood, Willington; Bigmore remarked that 'a number of tracks and footpaths radiate from it'. It was recorded as *Shirhacche* from 1369 (now Sheerhatch Wood), presumably for OE *scīr*, 'shire' + *āc* (dat sg, *āce*), '(at the) oak'. Deadman's Oak is marked on the OS 1:10,000 map at TL129/466, at the junction of the borders of Willington, Moggerhanger and Northill parishes. Its name may indicate the former presence of a gallows nearby.

Sheerhatch Wood occupies the top of a ridge, with a wide view. There is still an oak tree with a thick trunk on the NE corner of the crossroads, and other tall ones just within the wood.

#### Acknowledgments

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65 *Liber Eliensis* p.109.

66 C.E. Sayle, 'The Chapel of the Hospital of St John, Duxford (Whittlesford Bridge)', *PCambsAS* 10 (1898–1903) pp.375–9; *VCH Cambs II* (1948) p.91 n.74.

67 Included in the papers of his son, G.N. Maynard; *Cambs RO R 58/5/9* p.165.

maps I needed constantly to consult.

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