

# Berkshire Charters

By G. B. GRUNDY, M.A., D.Litt.

Continued from p. 171, Vol. XXXII, No. ii.

## ABBREVIATIONS.

AS., Anglo-Saxon; B. (with a number), number of charter in Birch's *Cartularium Saxonicum*; K. (with a number), number of charter in Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*; By., Boundary; TA., Tithe Award; p.n., personal name; Pl.N., Place Name; fur., furlong.

## BALKING.

Balking is S.E. of Faringdon, and N. of Uffington. There is a charter relating to it (B. 873, B. 1165), but it does not give any boundaries. By it King Eadred grants to his thegn, Cuthred, five hides of land at *Bedelaking*, or *Bedalacing*. The reputed date is 948. In the Sparsholt charter (B. 1121, K. 1247) it is called *Bathalacing* and *Badalacing*. Prof. Skeat (Pl.N. Berks) explains the name as meaning 'belonging to the sons of Badalac.' I should not deny the possibility or even the probability of this derivation of the name. But at the same time I would point out that Lockinge Brook is called in the Milton charter (B. 935, K. 444) *Eald Lacing* and *Lacing*, where, though the first element, *Lac-*, is not determinable, the second, *-ing*, is undoubtedly that pre-Saxon *-inge*, termination which meant 'stream.' I am inclined to suspect that the termination of the name Balking had that meaning, and that the name was the name of the stream which flows through the village to the Ock.

For old AS. names on the By. of the parish see the charters of Ashbury and Shellingford.

## LOCAL AND FIELD NAMES.

Bagmore: The land in the N.W. of the parish where the Ock and Bagmore Brook separate to join again lower down.

It is the *Baccan Mor*, 'Bacca's Marsh,' of the charters.

It was very extensive in former times, running for several miles down the course of the upper Ock.

Peaked Mead: A hay field with an acute angle.



Picked Mead : Another field ; but, as a name, merely a variant of the last.

Fields to which the names 'picked' or 'peaked' are applied may be triangular, quadrangular, or polygonal. But an acute angle is an invariable feature of them. The prevailing rectangularity of the cultivated fields of ancient and mediaeval farming caused fields of other shapes to be exceptional, and hence they were called by names which implied some special peculiarity in their outline.

Little Moors : Great Moors : On the W. By. of the parish, opposite to Moor Mill. The names imply that the fields were of a fenny character.

Hadney Mead : S. of the S.E. corner of Rosey Copse. Probably *Haddan Ig*, 'Hadda's Island.'

Bulhard : Immed. S. of the last. 'Hard' has two meanings, either of which might apply in this case : (1) a hurdle, (2) a piece of firm ground in or near a marsh or fen ; but the latter meaning seems to be confined to the extreme N. of England. But it is possible that this field-name and the one which follows, Brown Gill Piece, were introduced into the district by some northern farmer who settled there.

Brown Gill Piece : On the Ock, opposite to the point where the E. By. of Shellingford meets the river. 'Gill,' though essentially a northern word, refers almost certainly to the neighbouring stream.

The Strings : Name of two fields, one E. of the village and W. of Green Close Copse, and the other to the S. of the village. This name is not uncommon in Berks. It means 'The Ditches.'

Banny Hill : S.E. of the village.

The Laines : Field S.E. of Green Close Copse. 'Laines' means an open tract of arable land at the foot of downs.<sup>1</sup>

Upper Crook : Lower Crook : N.E. of Green Close Copse. Implies a field of irregular shape.

Wick Leaze : 'Wick' (AS. *Wic*) meant originally a farmstead where some operation connected with cattle, such as dairying, cheese-making, &c., was carried on. Hence 'Wicks'

<sup>1</sup> See the Dialect Dictionary, which does not, however, mention Berkshire as a country in which the term is used. It occurs also in Compton Beauchamp and Lockinge.



are always near the 'mead' or hay land of the village community, which means in most cases that they are near a stream.

**Coldharbour:** The name of a building about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Green Close Copse. The term is very common all over England. It does not imply, as is sometimes supposed, a ruined Roman building. It may possibly imply a ruined building of some kind; but it is on the whole more probable that it is most often used of a building in a bleak, exposed situation.

**Ploughed Riddings:** Just S. of the last. 'Riddings' means a piece of land which has been cleared of trees or brush-wood.

**Cat's Brain:** This curious name occurs in Oxfordshire field-names, and once in Hampshire, in the old field-names of Micheldever. It is a dialectic term in the W. of England for a kind of rough clay mixed with stone.

### BESSILSLEIGH.

The present name of the village of Bessilsleigh is derived, in so far as its first element is concerned, from that of a Norman family which held the manor. That the Saxon name of the village community was *Earmundes Leah* has been argued in relation to Appleton.<sup>2</sup>

The charter dealing with its lands, B. 1047, K. 1221, a document of the reputed date A.D. 959, is one by which King Eadgar confirms various privileges to Abingdon Abbey. Its text is fragmentary in the earlier part of it, but it mentions lands in *Gaeging* (Ginge), *Gosie* (Goosey), *Weorth* (Longworth), and *Earmundes Leah* as belonging to Abingdon. It also gives the boundaries of the lands in all these four places. The *Earmundes Leah* lands are of five hides.

### SURVEY.

*Mete de Ermundes Leia:* 'Boundary of Earmund's Lea.'

1. *Aerest of Sandforda on tha Fulen Lace andlang thaes Gemaerhagan ut to than Coten:* 'First from Sand Ford to the Foul Stream along the Hedge (or Game Enclosure) out to the Cottages.' Sandford survives in Dry Sandford just out-

<sup>2</sup> See notes on Appleton in previous volume.



side the S.E. corner of the parish, and the boundary seems to begin at the point where the Bessilsleigh By. turns W. from Sandford Brook, near Cothill. The Foul Brook is the small brook which enters Sandford Brook on this point. The *Gemaer Haga*<sup>3</sup> was probably on the site of Upwood Park. A memory of the *Coten* survives in the name Cothill, but the cottages lay probably some way west of the modern village.

2. *Thonan andlang Gemaeres on Heasel Dic*: 'Then along the Balk to Hazel Dyke.' The *Gemaere* must have been a balk which bounded some of the Common Fields of the community; and Hazel Dyke must have been somewhere near Bessilsleigh Manor House.

3. *Andlang Straete ut on Styrian Pol*: 'Along the Street (Made Road) to (Sturgeon?) Pool.' It looks as if some point or points of the survey had dropped out of the extant MS. at this place. At any rate the survey arrives next at the *Straet*, which is almost certainly the Appleton-Cumnor Road.<sup>4</sup> It is probable that the By. met it just N. of Appleton village, and that the fields called Sission's Close and Hengrove Field, to the W. of Appleton Brook, were in *Earmundesleah* lands at the time of the charter. *Styrian Pol*, the *Stirigan Pol* of the Eaton charter,<sup>5</sup> was probably a pond near the road about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of Appleton village.

4. *Andlang thaere Dic east to Wasan*: 'Along the Dyke east to the Ouse.' *Wasa* is Appleton Brook, called *Osse*

<sup>3</sup> I have translated *haga* 'hedge' or 'game enclosure.' As the specific meaning of this word is not given in the dictionaries, and as it will recur in subsequent Berkshire charters, it will be well to explain once and for all its full meaning. There are two words in Saxon, both of which are common in the charters, and both of which are translated 'hedge' in the dictionaries—*haga* and *hege*. It is probable that neither of them means a live hedge; but that both imply an artificial fence; in fact, 'fence' would be a better generic translation of them. A *hege* was often composed of mere wattle hurdles such as were put up round the ploughlands while the crops were still on them, and taken away when the crops were reaped, so that the cattle might pasture on the stubble. Where a *hege* was not removable, e.g. in the case of crofts near houses, it was no doubt a more substantial structure, but still a fence rather than a hedge, for live hedges seem to have been introduced in later times. A *haga* was a more formidable type of fence, constructed with a view to preventing wild animals, or swine pastured in the woods, from passing over it. I think there can be little doubt that it came to be applied to the actual areas which it enclosed; and so there has been added the alternative interpretation 'game enclosure.' But it is probable that it was used most frequently to stop the depredations of the swine. In the charters the term occurs in wooded regions, not in open country.

<sup>4</sup> See notes on the Appleton charter in this Journal, Autumn, 1922, p. 148.

<sup>5</sup> See notes on Appleton.



Ditch in the Tithe Award. This is that river name which appears as Ouse on the modern map, an interesting survival, as it shows that that name was not confined to streams of the size of rivers.<sup>6</sup> Unless the *east* of this land-mark is a mis-writing for *west*, the landmark shows clearly that the Bessilsleigh lands at the time of the charter did extend W. of Appleton Brook. The Dyke here mentioned is evidently the 'Dyke that runs to Wasa' of the Appleton charter. Its course must have been along the straight line of hedge which runs from the road to the brook along the S.W. By. of Lower England's Copse.

5. *Thonon on Hrocan Leage northwearde*: 'Then to the north side of Rook Lea.' This name survives in that of Rockley Heath and Rockley Copse in the N.E. part of the parish. The lea extended evidently to the extreme N. point of the parish; and the actual landmark indicated is the northernmost point on Appleton Brook which the parish By. reaches.

6. *Andlang Dic on ufeweard Haeg Dune*: 'Along the Dyke ascending' Hedge Down.' The Dyke mentioned ran east from the brook for about 100 yds.<sup>8</sup> *Haeg Dun* was undoubtedly the ground between the upper part of Appleton Brook and the Oxford-Wantage road.

7. *Th' up on Snoddes Hylle ufe wearde*: 'Then to Snod's Hill from its upper side.' This brings the survey down S. along the E. By. of the parish to what is now Rockley Heath. Snod's Hill must have been the slope to the N. of the hamlet

<sup>6</sup> This name *Wasa*, which occurs in this, in the Appleton, and also in the Buckland charter, has been thought to be identical with the Isis; and that supposed fact has been used in support of the theory that Isis is really the name of the upper Thames. Of course, the topography of these charters was not known to those who used this argument; and the identification of *Wasa* with the Thames (Isis) was a pure guess. The upper Thames is mentioned in quite a number of Oxfordshire and Berkshire charters, but always by the name *Tamese* or some slight variant of it. As a fact, the name Isis is known to be an antiquarian invention arrived at by a sort of simultaneous equation: Tamisis equals Thames: Tam equals Thame: therefore Isis equals that part of the Thames above the point where the Thame joins the main stream. It is curious that such a pure invention should have taken so firm a root in modern geography.

<sup>7</sup> I have somewhat guessed at the translation of *ufeward* in this unusual position before the noun. Did it in this passage come after the noun, it would mean that the boundary approached the down from the upper side. That is impossible here, as the boundary is at this point running up from a stream.

<sup>8</sup> The boundary is at this point, and from this point onwards, somewhat complicated. But all its twists and turns are indicated in the Saxon survey, and may be followed on the parish By. shown in the 1 in. map.



of Bessilsleigh. The By. does approach it downhill, *i.e.* from its upper side.

8. *To than Haran Stane*: 'To the Hoar Stone.' This is almost certainly part of the last landmark. The stone must have been at Rockley Heath, at the re-entering angle of the parish By.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. due N. of Bessilsleigh hamlet.<sup>9</sup>

9. *Thonon to the Ealdan Wulfhagan*: 'Then to the Old Wolf Hedge (or Enclosure).' This must have been on the site of Rockley Copse, the wood just N. of Bessilsleigh hamlet.

10. *Thonne andlang Slaedes*: 'Then along the Hollow.' This is the hollow S. and S.E. of Rockley Copse.

11. *Thaet to Laeces Forda*: 'Then to Leech Ford.' This name survives in that of Lashford Lane, the Bessilsleigh-Abingdon road. Also Lashford Bottom is a field-name in Wootton parish just S.E. of where this road crosses Sandford Brook. The Ford must have been at this crossing.

12. *Thonne andlang Lucringes eft on Sandford*: 'Then along Lucringe once more to Sandford.' Lucringe is evidently the old name of Sandford Brook. It is one of those pre-Saxon stream names of the same type as the old names of Wantage, Lockinge, and Ginge brooks, *Wanetynge*, *Lacynge*, and *Gae-inge*. Other names of the same type occur in the Hampshire charters. For Sandford, see 1.

#### SOME FIELD NAMES.

Ploughed Mill Ham: In the angle between the Bessilsleigh Common Road and Appleton Brook. AS. *Hamm*, 'enclosure.'

Cow Bridge: Now New Copse on the W. By. of the parish.

Winterleaze: In the present park, N.E. of Bessilsleigh Manor House.

Able Grove: Immed. S. of the last, in the park. 'Able' means 'rich' in certain dialects.

Wry Close: Next E. to Winterleaze.

Hell Wood: Now Bessilsleigh Common. A common corrupted name for an L-shaped wood.

<sup>9</sup> I was at the time I published, in a former number of this Journal, the notes on the Eaton (Appleton) charter B. 1222, inclined to identify the *Har Stan* mentioned in that charter with this one. But I have abandoned that view.



Lady Grove: A field on the parish By.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. due S. of the rectory.

Rowleigh Farm: Just S. of the last. AS. *Ruh Leah*, 'Rough Lea.'

String Lane: At extreme S. end of the parish, by Cothill. Means Ditch Lane.

### BLEWBURY.

Blewbury is on the Portway, 5 m. S.W. of Wallingford.

The name occurs twice in AS. documents. In B. 1143, K. 1252 there is reference to *Bleobyrig Dun*, a hill on the E. By. of the parish, about 1 m. E. of the village. In B. 801, K. 1151, a charter referring to its land, it is called *Bleobirg* in the title, and *Bleobury* in the body of the document. The survey is entitled *Mete de Bloburig*; but the opening words of the survey are '*This sindon the land gemaero to Bleobyrig.*'

It is probable that *Bleoburh* is the AS. form of the name. It is also probable that it was named from a camp which formerly stood on the hill mentioned above. The enceinte of the camp has vanished; but the ploughed land on the top of the hill is strewn with sherds of coarse pottery, showing that it was at one time an inhabited site. *Bleo* means 'hue,' 'colour'; and connected with it is a Saxon verb meaning 'to bloom.' It may be suspected that the reference was to the presence of flowers on the hill.<sup>10</sup>

### CHARTER.

B. 801, K. 1151. King Eadmund grants to Aelfric, Bishop of Ramsbury, 100 hides at Blewbury. The reputed date is A.D. 944. The hidage is very large. It is true that the survey shows that not merely the present parish of Blewbury, but also Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, and North and South Moreton were included in the grant. But, taking the average acreage to the hide in the Vale of White Horse, even this area would not amount to more than 50 or 60 hides; and so it is probable that some other survey or surveys were originally attached to the grant.

<sup>10</sup> I shall only refer to the origins of names in cases in which I see reason to differ from the view given in Skeat's Pl. N. of Berkshire.



## SURVEY.

1. *Aerest on eastewardum*<sup>11</sup> *tham lande aet Amman Welle* : 'First having to the east the ploughland at Amma's Spring.' This spring is also mentioned in the survey of Cholsey. It is now called Amwell. It is a spring which rises in great volume  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Lollingdon Farm in Cholsey parish (OM1). The last landmark in the survey shows that it begins on the present E. By. of Aston Tirrold just S. of the roadway from Aston to Lollingdon Farm.

2. *Thaet swa suth on gerihte on Waeter Slaedes Dic* : 'Then south in a straight line to the Dyke of the Water Slade.'

3. *Thaet andlang Dic oth thone suth ende on thone thaet Riht Land Gemaere* : 'Then along the Dyke as far as its south end to the Straight Balk of the Ploughland.'<sup>12</sup>

4. *Thaet up to tham Miclan Beorge beneothan Hrameslea* : 'Then up to the Great Barrow beneath Raven's Lea.'

5. *Thaet of tham Beorge up andlang Stanweges to tham langan Cyrstel Maele aet Hafuc Thorne* : 'Then from the Barrow up along the Stone Way to the tall Cross at Hawk Thorn.'

6. *Thonne of, etc., to than langan Thorne aet Ichenilde Wege* : 'Then from the Hawk Thorn to the tall Thorntree at Icknield Way.'<sup>13</sup>

This charter is just as remarkable for the multiplicity, as the neighbouring Cholsey charter is for the paucity, of its landmarks. The Icknield Way is of course the Portway to Wantage.

The Water Slade of 2 got its name from the great spring which rises on the Aston-Cholsey By. due W. of Lollingdon

<sup>11</sup> The expression of the orientation in the Saxon is very unusual. As a fact, I do not remember any similar form of expression in the several hundred charters I have so far solved. But the meaning is rendered certain by the topography. Long Amwell Furlong is the name of the field immed. E. of Lollingdon Farm (OM1); and the spring is marked (OM6) at the east extremity of the field. Also the field immed. E. of the spring is called Amwell.

<sup>12</sup> I have assumed that the second *thaet* of the AS. text has been interpolated by mistake.

<sup>13</sup> The origins of the Saxon names of the great Roman ways are not known. The present road is not a Roman but a Romanised road. Ichenild seems to be a female name. In a perambulation of Clarendon Forest in Wilts, dating from the time of Edward III, the Roman road from Old Sarum to Winchester is called Ikenylde Stret. The so-called Ryknield Street of W. Worcestershire is really *Buggilde Straet*, where Buggild is also a female name. *Sevenna Straet* is shown by a South Damerham (Hants) charter to have been the name of the Roman road from Old Sarum to Dorchester. That is also a female name.



Farm (OM1). The Dyke must have run S. from that point, and have been continued by the Straight Balk of 3. The Great Barrow of 4 must have stood on the Aston By. due W. of Lollingdon Hill. *Hraemes Lea* (*Hraemnes Leah*) was probably on that hill. In the Cholsey charter the name appears as *Romes Leg*.

*Andlang Stanweges* of 5 refers to the short bend in the By. just W. of Lollingdon Hill, where it runs W. for a few yards along what is now a mere fieldpath which branches off the Portway and runs to Moulsoford village. This path must be on the line of the *Stanweg*, and on it the Tall Cross of 5 must have stood.

7. *Thaet swa to than thriddan Thorne aet Wirhangran*: 'then so to the third Thorntree at the Hanging Wood of Myrtles.' This wood must have been just S. of the Icknield Way on the slope running up to the downs.

8. *Of, etc., to tham feorthan Thorne on Wrangan Hylle fore weardre stent*: 'From the Thorntree to the fourth Thorntree (on the projecting face of?) the Uneven Hill.' This hill is presumably the first hill the By. comes to after crossing the Icknield Way, i.e. Cholsey Down (OM1) about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of the road.

9. *Thaet swa forth to tham fiftan Thorne to tham Elebeame*: 'Then so on to the fifth Thorntree to the (Elm?).'<sup>14</sup> It is probable that this Thorn and *Elebeam* stood at the S.E. corner of Aston Tirrold parish.

10. *Thaet west andlang thaes Lytlan Weges up to thon Thorne up to Teonan Hylle*: 'Then west along the Little Way up to the Thorntree up to the Hill (of Offence?).'<sup>15</sup> Is Unhill (OM1) at the S.E. corner of Aston Tirrold, a corruption of the Saxon name? *Teonan Hyll* must be the hill in the wood above, and N. of, Unhill Farm (OM1). The Little Way may be represented by the path which leads from Cholsey Down along the edge of this wood, and subsequently down to the farm.

<sup>14</sup> In the Saxon translation of the bible *elebeam* is used to translate the Greek word for olive tree. If the olive ever grew in England, it was never on so exposed a spot as this. It is not possible to say what tree is meant by *elebeam*; though the word occurs not infrequently in the charters.

<sup>15</sup> I have taken only translation which seems possible. But it is not very probable, because Saxon topographical nomenclature hardly ever runs to names of any fanciful type.



11. *Thaet swa west on thone Ruwan Hlinc* : 'Then west to the Rough Lynch.' This lynch must have been on the side of the top end of the valley called Unhill Bottom (OM<sub>1</sub>), on the S. By. of Aston Tirrold.

12. *Andlang, etc., to thon Heathenum Byrgelsum aet thaere Ealdun Dic* : 'Along the Rough Lynch to the Heathen Burial-places at the Old Dyke.'

13. *Thaet andlang oth thaet Treow Steall* : 'Then along as far as the Cattle Stall at the Tree.'

14. *Thonne of, etc., on ge rihte to thon Bradan Beorge be easton Wrocena Stybbe* : 'Then from the Cattle Stall at the Tree to the Broad Barrow to the east of . . . Stump.'

15. *Thaet swa to Wrocena Stybbe* : 'Then so to . . . Stump.'

16. *Thaet of, etc., on Meoces Dune on thone Byrgeles* : 'Then from . . . Stump to (Dung?) Down to the Burialplaces.'

17. *Of, etc., to thaere Flodan aet Swinweges Slo aet thaere Wege Gelaeton* : 'From the Burialplace to the Great Intermittent Spring at the Slough of the Swine Way at the Place where the Roads meet.' Points 12-17 carry the survey along the S. boundaries of the parishes of Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe, a little more than a mile.

The intermittent spring of 17 exists at the present day. In the charters of this district of the Berkshire Downs three such springs are mentioned, two of which still flow at intervals of several years.<sup>16</sup> The present one has its origin near a small copse at the extreme S. point of Blewbury parish, a short half mile E.N.E. of Roden Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>). It is said to flow on the average once in seven years. When it breaks out it flows down the hollow in which Roden Farm stands into the valley through which the Didcot-Newbury railway runs, and flows so strongly that the farmer at Roden Farm has used it to carry down swedes to the sheep pasture in the valley. The reference to the 'meeting of roads' at this point is also interesting, because at the present day no less than six tracks branch off in various directions from close to the source of the spring. Some of the intervening landmarks of the charter are also determinable.

<sup>16</sup> See the *Maerfloda* of the Farnborough charter.



The Old Dyke of 12 is clearly marked at the present day all along the S. By. of Aston Tirrold. The Heathen Burial-places must have been somewhere on or adjoining it.<sup>17</sup> Landmark 13 is not likely to have left any traces.

The Broad Barrow of 14 may possibly be the tumulus on Lowbury Hill (OM1). *Meoces Dun* of 16 is almost certainly Lowbury Hill.

18. *Thaet up to tham Eorth geberste to Foxes Beorge*: 'Then up to the Landslip to Fox Barrow.' This carries the survey at one leap for a distance of two miles. Fox Barrow still exists on the S. By. (OM1) of Blewbury W. of the Didcot-Newbury railway. The Landslip is not now recognizable.

19. *Of, etc., west andlang Draegeles Baeces oth thone Hricg Weg*: 'From the Barrow along . . . Back<sup>18</sup> as far as the Ridge Way.'

<sup>17</sup> Such 'heathen burial-places' are quite common landmarks in the charters. I have not come across a single instance in which any one of them is marked by any outward and visible sign at the present day. They are obviously distinct from the 'hlaew's and the 'beorh's. I am inclined to suspect that they may be Saxon graves of the pagan age.

<sup>18</sup> *Baec* is a common term in the charters, especially in those of Hampshire. But it may be doubted whether it is always the same term. There is certainly a word *Baec* which means either a small stream which runs only in rainy weather, or the valley in which such a stream runs. It would be possible to cite from the charters various crucial instances of this meaning; but before doing so, it will be well to discuss another meaning, viz. 'back,' or 'ridge,' which, so it is alleged, may be attached to the term. I am inclined to think that it may, and therefore have thus translated the word as used in this charter. On this point Mr. Crawford, of the Ordnance Survey, informs me that in Somerset a dialectical term 'batch' is used with the meaning 'ridge.' I confess that this puzzles me for two reasons: (1) that I know of a specific case of the term in the neighbourhood of Crewkerne where it is applied to a wood situated on the side, and in the bottom, of a valley where there is a very marked stream bed which is usually dry: (2) both *Baec* and 'batch' occur in the Worcestershire charters and field-names respectively. In the *Wic* charter B. 219, K. 126, the first landmark runs: '*Aerest of Temede gemythan andlang Temede in Wynnabaeces ge mythan*'—'First from the mouth of the Teme along the Teme to the mouth of Wynna Brook.' Here *baec* could not conceivably mean a 'ridge.' In the Broadwas (really Doddenham) charter B. 233, K. 154, the same *Wynna Baec* is mentioned; but in the same charter is mention of a *Fox Baec*, which is represented at the present day by the field-name Fox Batch which occurs in Broadwas on the border of Doddenham, and is in a small valley branching off from a larger one.

On the evidence at present available to me (a) I am certain that *Baec* means 'intermittent stream of small size': (b) I am inclined to think that there was another word *Baec* of quite distinct origin, which meant 'back' or 'ridge': (c) I think that, inasmuch as each of these words might produce 'batch' in modern English, two such words with quite different meanings have as a fact come into existence. It will be clear from the language I have used that I feel that further evidence may either confirm or modify my present views as to the second meaning of *Baec*.



20. *Andlang Weges oth tha Readan Hane*:<sup>19</sup> 'Along the Way as far as the Red stone.'

21. *Of*, etc., *north andlang thaes Smalan Weges to Totan Cumbe aet tham Beorge*: 'From the Stone north along the Narrow Way to Tota's Combe at the Barrow.'

22. *Thaet swa north on ge rihte andlang thaes Smalan Weges to thone Here Page (read Herepathe)*: 'Then so north straight along the Narrow Way to the Highway.' The topography of this part of the survey presents difficulties. Fox Barrow, as we have seen, survives. Also the Herepath of 22 is undoubtedly the Portway at the point where the W. By. of Blewbury crosses it about 1 m. W. of the village. *Totan Cumbe* of 21 survives as a name in the field-name Tadcombe Piece, which occurs on the W. By. of Blewbury just S. of the Portway, the combe being shown clearly by a bend in the 300 ft. contour (OM1). But what is *Draegeles Baec* of 19?<sup>20</sup> I think it must be the Grim's Dyke on which Fox Barrow stands, and which the By. follows for some distance W. of the barrow. The *Hrycgweg* of 19 is undoubtedly the great ridgeway which now runs along a definite track a short distance S. and outside the Blewbury By., but which would in those days follow a far less definite track which must have impinged on the Blewbury By. somewhere near the S.W. corner of the parish.<sup>21</sup> Near that corner must have stood the Red Stone. At 21 the By.

<sup>19</sup> The AS. word *Han*, 'stone,' which has given us our word 'hone,' occurs not infrequently in the charters. The fact that it is nearly always accompanied by the adjective *read*, 'red,' makes me suspect that it refers to sandstone.

<sup>20</sup> The *Draegeles Baec* is referred to in the Hagbourne charter B. 565, K. 1069; and the reference there seems to point to its being identical with Grim's Dyke.

<sup>21</sup> If the line of the Ridgeway in this part be noticed it will be seen that it is artificial, in that it has been straightened. Furthermore, according to the modern map, it takes a turn at right angles about 5 fur. S.W. of Churn station. These are not characteristics of a purely natural track. Moreover, the essential feature of a ridgeway is that it adheres strictly to watersheds. The watershed of the valley through which the Didcot-Newbury railway passes is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of where the modern line of the ridgeway crosses the valley. Beyond, i.e. E. of, that *Weggelaete* (road meeting) of 17, the Ridgeway on the modern map follows a natural line. I think that there can be no doubt that the original track of the way crossed the actual valley watershed, and went straight to the *Weggelaete*, and that in later times, when the valley came under cultivation, the route was diverted to the top of the down to the S. of the valley. What I believe to have been the original course of the way in this part would have made it cut across Grim's Ditch and the Blewbury By. just where that By. makes a bend  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. from the point where it meets the Upton By. That is, I take it, the part of the *Hrycgweg* referred to in the charter.



turns N., i.e. begins to follow the W. By. of Blewbury. The Narrow Way of 21 must have run from the S.W. corner of the parish along the W. By. as far as the Portway. As far as Alden Farm it is still represented by a modern track (OM1).

23. *Thaet to thaes Linces Ende*: 'Then to the End of the Lynch.' This must have been just N. of the Portway.

24. *Thaet swa forth north andlang Weges oth Ordstanes Dic*: 'Then so on north along the Way as far as Ordstan's Dyke (or), the Dyke of the Pointed Stone.' This Dyke is where,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Upton village, the By. turns S. and then S.E. following a dyke round a field in Upton parish called Rixes Meadow.

25. *Thaet andlang Dic*: 'Then along the Dyke.' See last point.

26. *Of, etc., with northan thaet Yrthland*: 'From the Dyke to the north of the Ploughland.' This is where the By., after running round the S. side of Rixes Meadow (see above), runs away due E. The *Yrthland* would be the land just S. of the By.

27. *Thonne bi tham Yrthlande to thaere Lace the lith on Stoc Welle*: 'Then by the Ploughland to the (slow) Stream which flows to the Staked (?) Spring.' This *lacu* is a stream which rises a little N. of the Portway in a spring formerly called Hedge Well. It runs for more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from W. to E. along the N. By. of Blewbury, and enters the brook now known as the Mill Brook about 300 yds. S.W. of Blewbury Mill. The *Stoc Wyll* must have been a spring somewhere near where the *Lacu* joins the Mill Brook.

28. *Thonne of, etc., north andland Broces to thaere Dic thaere (? thaet) se Aetheling mearcode*: 'Then from the Staked Spring north along the Brook to the Dyke which the nobleman drew.' About a furlong S.W. of Blewbury Mill (OM6), which is  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. due W. of Sheencroft Farm (OM1), the By. leaves the brook and runs for some distance parallel to it on the W. It crosses the brook about 100 yds. N. of the Mill, and then runs round some land which lies E. of the brook, rejoining the stream about a furlong E. of Hagbourne Mill (OM1). This part of the By. marks no doubt the line of the artificial dyke above mentioned.



29. *Thaet andlang Dic to thaere Sceap Waescan on Haccan Broc*: 'Then along the Dyke to the Sheepwashing-place on Hacca's Brook.'

30. *Thonne andlang Haccan Broces to Huddes* (read *Hundes*) *Igge*: 'Then along Hacca's Brook to Dog's Island.' *Haccan Broc* is the *Haccan Burna* of other charters. It is the modern Hagbourne, or Mill Brook, from which the villages of East and West Hagbourne get their name. Dog's Island is the large eyot formed in the northernmost angle of Blewbury parish by two branches of the Hagbourne. The Sheepwash must have been on Mill Brook between this point and Hagbourne Mill (OM1).

31. *Thaet swa forth north andlang Broces with westan Hundes Ig*: 'Then so on north along the Brook on the west side of Dog's Island.' This carries the By. along Mill Brook to the point where the boundaries of Blewbury, South Moreton, and East Hagbourne meet.

32. *Thaet up andlang thaera Andheafda to thaera Lytlan Dice Ende*: 'Then up along the corner Headland to the End of the Little Dyke.' There is no question but that a landmark has been omitted from the extant copy of the charter between 31 and 32. The By. of the grant now follows the S. By. of South Moreton, running due W. for nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. along that branch of the Hagbourne which comes from East Hagbourne village. This would almost certainly be described as running *andlang Broces*; and the fact that the same expression occurred in the previous landmark 31 misled probably the eye of the copyist, and caused him to think that he had already copied it.

It is plain that 32 refers to the By. as it passes up the W. side of South Moreton parish. Probably this headland was at one of the short turns which the W. By. of South Moreton makes W. of Fulscot Farm (OM1). The Dyke's End was probably somewhere near where the railway crosses the By.

33. *And tham north andlang thara Andheafda to than langan Cyrstel Maele aet Haeth Dune*: 'And then north along the Corner Headland to the tall Cross at Heath Down.' *Haeth Dun* is the modern Hadden Hill which stands about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. E. of Didcot station. It is marked OM1. The Cross was probably beside a track over the hill along the line of the present Didcot-



Wallingford road.<sup>22</sup> The survey is still following the W. By. of South Moreton.

34. *Thaet swa north andlang thaes Smalan Pathes on the Dic Sticcea to thone Stodfalde*: 'Then so north along the Narrow Path to the Dyke . . . to the Horse Fold. I cannot translate *Sticcea*. It may refer to sluggish water. This dyke must have run up the W. By. of South Moreton N. of the Didcot-Wallingford road. The Horse Fold must have been at the N.W. corner of the parish.

35. *Thaet swa eath (read east) andlang thaere Ealdan Dic oth Aethelstanes Treow Steall to thare Dice Byge*: 'Then so east along the Old Dyke as far as Aethelstan's Cattle Stall by the Tree<sup>23</sup> to the Bend in the Dyke.' The Old Dyke ran along the N. By. of the parishes of North and South Moreton. The *Treowsteall* and the Dyke Corner must have been at the easternmost point of Brightwell parish. In the Brightwell charter a dyke is mentioned as running up to this point from the S.E.

36. *Thaet swa suth east andlang Dic be Byrgwylla Gemaere*: 'Then so south-east along the Dyke by Brightwell Boundary.' *Byrgwylla* must be either a miswriting for *Beorhtwylla*, or else an alternative name of Brightwell. The By. goes along the Old Dyke mentioned in the Brightwell charter, and follows the W. By. of that parish. Such a quotation of the By. of a neighbouring land-unit generally implies that the By. being described is carried the whole length of the By. of the unit mentioned. In the present case the By. is carried S. as far as Mill Brook on the N. By. of Cholsey Parish.

37. *Thaet swa suth est ofer thone Mor to Maeringes Thorne*: 'Then so south-east over the Swamp to . . . Thorn-tree.'<sup>24</sup> This tree stood probably on the N. or N.W. slope of Cholsey Hill (OM1) between it and the Mill Brook. The field-names of Cholsey show that all this region was swampy land till quite recent times.

39. *Of etc., to Sulgeate*: 'From . . . Thorn to Furrow Gate.' *Sul* or *Sulh* means originally a furrow. But Napier and

<sup>22</sup> For notes on this road, see 'Ancient Highways of Berkshire,' *Arch. Journ.*, Vol. LXXV, 1918, Road 43, p. 136.

<sup>23</sup> This is the second occurrence of *Treowsteall* in the survey. My translation is tentative. Perhaps the meaning is simply 'the place where the tree stands.'

<sup>24</sup> *Maering* may be an otherwise unrecorded personal name.



Stevenson (Crawford Charters) point out that it may mean a hollow way. *Geat* may in this connection mean the cutting made by such a road in the hillside. Possibly the road going from South Moreton to Cholsey over Cholsey Hill is the *sulh* referred to here. That it is an ancient road is shown by its wavy course.

40. *Of, etc., be Wyrtwalan to thone Read Leafan Mapuldre* : 'From the Furrow Gate by the Hillfoot to the Redleafed Mapletree.' The *Wyrtwala* is the west foot of Cholsey Hill (OM1). The Maple may have stood at the re-entering angle of the parish W. of Cholsey village.

41. *Of, etc., on tha Lace* : 'From the Mapletree to the Slow Stream.' This is the stream which comes up from the S. to the re-entering angle above mentioned.

42. *Thaet on gerihte on West Wylle then on other naman haet aet Amman Wylle* : 'Then straight to West Spring, otherwise called "at Amwell."' 'At Amwell' is here used, not of the spring Amwell itself, but of the region named from the spring. For Amwell see notes on 1. West Spring is another great spring on the W. By. of Cholsey parish, just N. of where the road from Lollingdon Farm to Aston Tirrold crosses the By.

#### SOME FIELD NAMES.

##### *Blewbury.*

Char-croft : 5 fur. N.E. of Hagbourne Mill (OMI).

Sheencroft Farm (OM1) : AS. *Scin*, 'bright.'

Woohedge Furlong :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. of Sheencroft Farm. AS. *Woh Hege*, 'Crooked Hedge.'

Bessil's Way : Runs N. from Icknield Way just E. of village.

*Cf.* the post-Conquest name Bessilsleigh.

Bridus Way : Bridus Meadow. Bridus Furlong (Twice). Include all the land immed. N. of the village.

Winterbrook Piece :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of village. Winterbrook Furlong :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of village. Named after a stream which only flows in winter.

Berry Moor Ayte : In the village ; the land N. and W. of the church. Ayte is variant of eyot. Various streams traverse the village. The Berry or Bury is an old camp or enclosure about Blewbury Farm in the village.

Ayte in Horsecroft Meadow :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W.N.W. of the church.



Hedgewell Piece : On W. By. immed. N. of the Portway.

Tadcomb : On W. By. immed. S. of Portway. Cf. *Totan Cumb* of the charter.

Beer Hill : The N. slope of Churn Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Churn Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>) : About  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S. of village. Probably named from its shape. A hill of this name in Martyr Worthy, Hants, is the *Cyrringe*, 'churn,' of an AS. charter.

Salcom Bottom : 7 fur. S.E. of Churn Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>). Probably AS. *Sealhcomb*, a combe where willow trees grow.

*Aston Tirrold.*

Marr Furlong : On both sides of the Portway, about 5 fur. S. by E. of the church.

Upper and Lower Burn Bake : E. and S.E. of Langdon Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>) : Land reclaimed by burning the surface.

Ridge Way Pay : On W. By. a furlong N. of the Ridgeway.

Loughborough : In S.W. angle of parish.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Lowbury Camp. Variant form of Lowbury : AS. *Hlaewbyrig*, 'Camp of the Tumulus,' referring to the tumulus just by the camp.

Severals : On W. By. 7 fur. S. of the Portway. Land held in private ownership.

Bigg Ball :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Hill Barn (OM<sub>1</sub>). 'Balls' were mounds of earth put up to mark boundaries.

*South Moreton.*

Cross Furlong : 3 fur. W. of Fulscot Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Louse Lands :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of Fulscot Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

*North Moreton.*

Height Furlong : Immed. N. of village.

Standel : S. By. 3 fur. S.W. of village. 'Stone Pit.' AS. *stan-del*.

Upper Dollots : 3 fur. S.S.E. of church.

Mead Husk : Immed. S.E. of last.

## BOXFORD.

Boxford is a parish 4 m. N.W. of Newbury.

### CHARTERS.

There are two charters of the parish : B. 1022, K. 1177 is of the reputed date A.D. 958, and records the grant of 10 hides *aet Boxoran* by King Edred to the thegn Wulfric. B. 1227,



K. 1265, of the reputed date A.D. 968, records the grant of 10 hides at *Boxora* by King Edgar to the thegn Aelfwine.

To both of the charters surveys are appended; but as the two are almost identical, it will only be necessary to take that of the latter charter, and merely note any important variant from the survey of B. 1022.

#### SURVEY OF B. 1227.

1. *Aerest aet Uuines Treowe*: 'First at Wine's Tree.' This tree is also mentioned in the Welford and Leckhampstead charters. It was therefore at the point where these parishes meet Boxford, i.e. at Hangman's Stone (OM1).

2. *Th' andlang Herpathes to Dene Pytte*: 'Then along the highway to the Pit in the Dean.' The position of the pit is clearly marked by a cross reference to it in the Leckhampstead charter. It was where Chieveley, Leckhampstead, Winterbourne, and Boxford meet about 300 yds. S.E. of the tumulus (OM1) in the N.E. part of Boxford parish. Nor can there be any doubt that the *Herepath* is the Wantage-Newbury road, which crosses the By. at that point, and forms for about 300 yds. part of the N. By. of the parish.

It is almost certain that a landmark has been omitted from the extant copy of the charter between 1 and 2. It is also omitted in the survey of the earlier charter, B. 1022; but that may be accounted for by the fact that the survey of the latter charter is almost certainly a copy of that of the earlier one.

3. *Thanon up on Aescmaeres Hammas sutheweuarde*: 'Then up to the Enclosures of the Pond<sup>25</sup> of the Ashtrees southward.'<sup>26</sup> The position of these enclosures is marked by the name Ashmore Coppice, which occurs in the Winterbourne field names, applied to a small copse at the N. edge of Pope's Wood (OM1).

4. *Of, etc., andlang Mearce ut on thone Haethfeld eastewardne*: 'From the Enclosure along the Balk out to the east

<sup>25</sup> *Aescmaere* would mean the 'balk where the Ashtrees grow.' But the surviving form of the name, Ashmore, points to the reading *Aescmere*. In the B. 1022 survey the spelling is *Aescmere*.

<sup>26</sup> *Sutheweuarde* would, judging from instances of AS. terms of orientation in similar form, mean 'from the south side.' But sometimes these terms of orientation in the charters present great difficulty. As the By. here is running almost due S., it is impossible to see how it could approach the enclosures from the south side; and therefore I have translated the term as implying the course which the By. is taking.



side of the Open Heath.' This must have been near the site of Penclose Wood. The existence of a heath in these parts is shown by the name North Heath which occurs in the neighbouring parish of Winterbourne.

5. *Th' on Lindene northeuuearde*: 'Then to Flax Dean from its north side.' This is the dean E. of Basford Hill (OM1). The field name Linniard occurs at the head of the dean, immed. S. of the road from Boxford to Winterbourne. This is probably *Lin-geard*, 'Flax Yard.'

6. *Thanon andlang Mearce on Weocan Thorn*: 'Then along the Balk to Candle Thorn.' The Thorntree must have been named from some fancied resemblance. It stood probably where the Boxford By. meets that of Speen.

7. *Of, etc., th' andlang Mearce on Lamburnan on Clatford*: 'From the Thorntree along the Balk to Clay Bourne (Lambourne) to the Ford where the Burdock grows.' The repeated reference to balks merely indicates that arable land extended along the By. for a long distance. The By. meets the Lambourne about 350 yds. E.S.E. of Hunts Green (OM1). Here must have been the *Clatford*.

8. *Of, etc., on Meos Broces Heafod*: 'From Clatford to the Head of Moss Brook.' This brook is mentioned also in the Benham charter. It ran down the small valley which lies a little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Woodspeen Farm (OM1); and the point indicated in the survey was at the angle of the road  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of that farm.

9. *Th' thanon to Allan Stapule*:<sup>27</sup> 'Then to the Pole at the Eldertrees.' A cross reference to this pole in the Benham charter shows pretty clearly that it stood at the angle of the parish on the Roman road, at the N.E. corner of Scotch Wood (OM1).

10. *Thanon andlang Herpathes ut on thone Mersc*: 'Then along the Highway out to the Marsh.' The old line of the Roman road at this part was probably along the S. By. of Boxford, and not as marked in the OM. The Herepath is undoubtedly that road. The top of a ridge is not a likely place for a marsh, but at the same time not an impossible one. This marsh seems to have been at the S.W. corner of the parish about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of Hoe Benham.

<sup>27</sup> *Aellan Stapol* in the Benham charter. I read *Ellen*, 'eldertree.'



11. *Th' a be Mersce to tham Tune on tha Hege Raewe :* 'Then always by the Marsh to the Farm to the Hedgerow.'

12. *Th' on tha Dic ut on tha Burnan :* 'Then to the Dyke out on the Bourne.' The bourne is the Lambourn which the W. By. of Boxford meets about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E.S.E. of the hamlet of Easton (OM1). The marsh seems to have run down the hill to the W. of Ownham (OM1) and probably the Hedgerow ran along the By. to the present line of the road which runs down towards the village of Boxford from the W.S.W. The Dyke ran probably due N. from this road to the Lambourn.

13. *Thanon at on tha Blacan Graefan :* 'Then out to the Black Trench' (or, perhaps more probably) 'Grove.'<sup>28</sup>

14. *Of, etc., on Rinda Crundel :* 'From the Trench to . . . Stonepit.'<sup>29</sup>

15. *Of, etc., to Thrim Thornan :* 'From the Stonepit to the Three Thorntrees.'

16. *Th' andlang Weges eft on Wines Treow thaer hit aer on feng :* 'Then along the Way again to Wine's Tree where it first began.' For this tree see 1. The Way is that piece of road which forms part of the By. for about 500 yds. S.E. of Hangman's Stone (OM1). Points 13, 14, and 15 present some difficulty. Of course they were all on the W. By. of Boxford, N. of the Lambourn; but no trace of 14 and 15 is to be found in the field names. But the Black Grove may have been on the W. By., due W. of Bradley Wood Farm (OM1), for the wood from which that farm got its name stood on the By. at this point; and again, the two small woods near this point in Welford Parish,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Woodlands Barn (OM1) are called in the Welford tithe award 'Grove Corner Coppice.' The Three Thorns is a peculiar difficulty. In a Welford charter, B. 877, this piece of By. is described, and the Three Thorns are mentioned. But in that charter they come close to the Lambourn, and six other landmarks come between them and *Wines Treow*; whereas in the present survey they come just before that Tree. It is true that the Welford charter presents insoluble difficulties, and this discrepancy is certainly one of them.

<sup>28</sup> The confusion between *Graef*, 'trench,' and *Graf*, 'grove,' is so common in the extant texts of the charters, that it is often necessary to decide the identity of the term in any particular survey by topographical consideration.

<sup>29</sup> *Rind* means the 'bark' of a tree. But I cannot think that *rinda* can have any such meaning here.



## FIELD NAMES.

Rowbury Cottages :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W. of Courtoak Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Rowbury Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Rowberry Coppice : No longer a wood; immed. N. of the tumulus (OM<sub>1</sub>) in the N.E. part of the parish. The name Rowbury seems to have been applied to the whole of the N. part of the parish. It is undoubtedly the name of the tumulus, *Ruh-beorh*, 'Rough Barrow.'

Court Oak Common :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.E. of Rowbury Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Evidently named after a tree at which a court was customarily held. See also Courtoak Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>),  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.S.W. of the common.

Cockmoor Hill Furlong : On W. By., 5 fur. N. of Westbrook Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Borough Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>) : Camp on it.

Linniards : See note on *Lindene* of the charter.

Nower Hill Piece : Immed. S. of Hoar Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>). *At ten Oran*, 'at the hillslope.'

The Swilly : Immed. E. of Basing's Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Holdways Field :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of the church. Probably the name of the road running E. from the village.

Hyde Meadow : Immed. N. of the Lambourn at the point where the E. By. of the parish crosses it.

Pack Meadow : Immed. N.W. of last.

The Ridgeway Road : The name of the Roman road in the tithe award.

## BRIGHTWELL, SOTWELL AND MACKNEY.

Brightwell, Sotwell and Mackney are three practically contiguous villages situated about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W.N.W. of Wallingford. Brightwell and Sotwell are separate parishes, the former including Mackney.

In respect to situation Mackney is perhaps the most remarkable of Berkshire villages. Its name indicates that it was, in the Saxon sense, an island; and even at the present day it is surrounded on all sides by streams and water dykes. It is built on a gently rising hillock, surrounded on all sides by marshy ground which must in old times have been to a large extent covered by permanent standing water. It is indeed very like an island of the Fen District translated into Berkshire.



## VARIOUS CHARTERS.

B. 474 is a charter whereby Aethelwulf, King of the West Saxons, grants to Winchester Cathedral 10 hides at Beorhtawille at the reputed date A.D. 854. The fact that the grant is 30 hides shows that it included all three places.

B. 810, K. 1154 is a charter of the reputed date A.D. 945, whereby Kind Edred grants to the thegn, Aethelgeard, 30 hides at Brightwell. It also states how this land is distributed, *viz.* : 10 hides at Brightwell, *i.e.* Brightwell parish, excluding Mackney; 15 hides *aet Suttanwille*, *i.e.* Sotwell parish; 5 hides 'in the island which the natives call Maccanig,' *i.e.* Mackney, or the S. part of Brightwell parish; a series of plots of land, both arable and pasture, in the neighbourhood of the 'castellum,' called *Welingaford*, *i.e.* the detached portion of Brightwell, E. of Sotwell parish, towards Wallingford; certain marsh land which is surrounded by the 'rivulus' called *Gybhild*.

To this charter is attached the following survey, which includes all the four or five categories of land above mentioned.

## SURVEY.

1. *Aerest of tham More be westan tham tune on the Ealdan Dic* : 'First from the Swamp to the west of the village to the Old Dyke.' The survey starts from the re-entering angle of the parish, which is about due W. of Brightwell, near Moor End Cottages (OM1). The *Mor* is commemorated in the name of the cottages. The Old Dyke exists still. It is a stream whose channel has been artificially made, which comes down towards the cottages for about 1 m. from the westernmost corner of the parish.

2. *West andlang Dic on the Haethenan Byrgylsas* : 'West along the Dyke to the Heathen Burialplaces.' The survey runs up the dyke or stream above mentioned to the westernmost corner of the parish. There is a field there which the natives of the region still call Dead Man's Acre.

3. *Thonne east andlang Weges* : 'Then east along the Way.' From the westernmost point of the parish the By. turns E. for about 1½ fur. along what is now a footpath, which must be on the line of the old *weg*.



4. *Of, etc., on aenne Littelne Thorn*: 'From the Way to a Little Thorn-tree.' Somewhere on the N. By. S.W. of the camp on Sinodun Hills.

5. *Of, etc., east and hwon suth on ge rihte to thaem Wege to Gafer Bice*: 'From the Thorn-tree east and (bending??) south to the Way to . . . (Corner??).' It is impossible to say what *Gafer Bice* means, but it is pretty certain that the Way referred to is the road from Little Wittenham which comes over the S.W. shoulder of Sinodun Hill.

6. *Thanon north be tham Andheafdon oth tha Lace*: 'Then north by the Corner Headland as far as the Slow Stream.' At the above road the By. turns N.E. and at the E. By. of Little Wittenham Wood reaches a small stream whose course has been straightened and forms the E. By. of the wood. This is the *Scillinges Broc* of the Wittenham charter.

7. *Andlang Lace ut on Temese oth midne stream*: 'Along the Slow Stream out to the Thames as far as mid stream.' The By. reaches the Thames at the N.E. corner of Little Wittenham Wood (OM1).

8. *Andlang Ea of (read oth) tha Ealdan Stret Ford*: 'Along the river as far as the Old Street Ford.' This was a ford over the Thames on the old Roman road S. from Dorchester to Streatley.<sup>30</sup> The ford was where the E. By. of Brightwell meets the Thames,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Lowerhill Farm (OM1).

9. *Andlang Ea to Holan Wyllē*: 'Along the river to the Hollow Spring.' This spring must have been on or near the river bank at the point where, about 1 fur. below the S. end of the village of Shillingford, the By. leaves the river.

10. *Of, etc., on Holan Weg*: 'From the Hollow Spring to the Hollow Way.' This is the hollow way which goes up the hill from the last point.<sup>31</sup>

11. *Of, etc., on Bric Weg*: 'From the Hollow Way to the Bridge Way.' The Bridge Way is probably represented by the road which runs past North Farm (OM1) to Shillingford Bridge. The name would suggest that there was, even in Saxon times, a bridge at or near the site of the modern bridge.

<sup>30</sup> For description of this road, see 'Ancient Highways of Berkshire,' *Arch. Journ.*, Vol. LXXV, 1918, Road 29, p. 133.

<sup>31</sup> It is evident that neither this nor the later charter included the detached part of Brightwell in the angle of the Thames at this point. It is probable that this was mead land; and it may have been, as mead land often was, the subject of a separate survey which has not survived.



12. *Of, etc., on Aernincg Weg*: 'From Bridge Way to Riding Way.' The Riding Way may possibly have been along the line of the footpath from Shillingford Bridge to Sotwell, but it is perhaps more probable that it is represented by the road which runs past the Severals (OM1), a farm in Clapcot parish, towards, but not at the present day to, Sotwell.

13. *Of, etc., on Meosdene*: 'From Riding Way to Moss Dean.' This dean was of course on the E. By. of Sotwell. It was probably the hollow at the first bend of the By. going S.

14. *Of, etc., on Meldanige eastewerdne*: 'From Moss Dean to Melda's (or, possibly, Traitor's) Island on its east side.' The name of this island survives in the field name Mil-lony, which is that of the land lying in the detached part of Brightwell, N. of Mill Brook, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Wallingford station.

15. *On Sandlace*: 'To the Slow Sandy Stream.' This stream is Mill Brook.

16. *Andlang, etc., to Ceolesige to tham Hnottan Stocce*: 'Along Sand Lake to Ceol's Island (Cholsey) to the Pollard Trunk.' *Ceoles Ig* is not the village of Cholsey, but Cholsey Hill (OM1) in the N.W. part of that parish, bordering on the S.W. corner of Brightwell. It will be noticed that the hill is surrounded on all sides by streams. Hence its name.

17. *Of, etc., north and lang Gybhilde to thaere Ealdan Dic thaer we her on fengan*: 'From the Trunk north along Gybhild to the Old Dyke where we first began.' That *Gybhild* is that stream now called Kibble Ditch, which forms the S. part of the W. By. of Brightwell, there can be no question whatever. Is the modern name Kibble derived from *Gybhild*? From the point of view of philology there is this difficulty, that the 'G' in *Gybhild* would have been pronounced like the modern 'Y.' This Saxon 'G' followed one of two courses in the evolution of sound: it either disappeared, as in *Gippes-wic*, Ipswich, or it became 'Y,' as in 'Yate,' the mediaeval form of the AS. *Geat*, 'gate.' At the same time Gatcombe at Boar's Hill, near Oxford, is the *Geatcumb* of the charters. I can only say that if this Kibble is not derived from the AS. name, then the existence of two such similar names of the same stream at different ages is a most extraordinary coincidence.



A curious note is appended to the survey of this charter. 'There lie to the north of the town thirty-six strips of ploughland, and ten strips of mead, and one mill, and inside the town from the east gate on the north side of the street, and seven dwellings outside it, and three churches.' I cannot explain this note. It is confused in meaning. It is repeated with certain verbal variations in B. 864, K. 1161, and that document refers it to Mackney, not to Brightwell or Sotwell. It is probable that the churches were on that island. They can have been but small, little more than shrines; perhaps a remnant of Romano-British Christianity which had survived on this out-of-the-way island.

B. 830, K. 1156 is a charter of the reputed date A.D. 947, whereby King Eadred grants to the thegn, Aethelgeard, 10 hides at *Beorhtanwylle*, which Birch identifies wrongly with Brightwell in Oxfordshire.

The survey shows the grant to have included Brightwell without Mackney. The survey begins at the same point as that of the previous charter, and the landmarks correspond until what is called *Gafer Bice* in the previous charter, but is here called *Gafer Baec*.<sup>32</sup> Whether *baec* means some intermittent stream which ran down the south slope of the ridge on which Brightwell Barrow (OM1) stands, or whether it refers to the ridge itself cannot be said.

It then continues to the Thames along the same landmarks as in the former charter, and goes down the Thames also to *Straetford*, though not the ford, but the *Eald Straet*, 'old street,' is here mentioned. This is the road, or what is now little more than a farm track, which forms the By. between Brightwell and Sotwell as far as the borders of Mackney.

Only two further landmarks are given in this survey.

*Andlang Straete on thone Ford*: 'Along the Street (made road) to the Ford.'

*Of tham Forde west andlang Mores of* (read *oth*) *thæt man aer on feng*: 'From the Ford west along the Swamp to the point where we began.'

From the Thames the survey passes along the line of the old Roman road,<sup>33</sup> passing between the villages of Brightwell and Sotwell to the stream which runs between Brightwell and

<sup>32</sup> For *baec* see note, p.

<sup>33</sup> See reference, p.



Mackney. Over that stream went the ford. The By. then went W. to the W. By. of Brightwell, about 3 fur. S. of Moorend Cottages (OM1). The ford is the *Maccaniges Ford* of B. 988 (see later).

B. 988 is a charter of the reputed date A.D. 957, whereby King Edwy gives 15 hides *aet Stottanwille*<sup>34</sup> to the thegn Aethelgeard. By a subsequent charter, B. 989, which is undated, Aethelgeard leaves the reversion of these lands to the New Monastery at Winchester. The survey shows that the land includes the whole of the modern parish of Sotwell, together apparently with that detached portion of Brightwell which lies E. of Sotwell.

### SURVEY.

The survey survives in three forms, Saxon, Middle English, and Latin. The two latter will only be quoted when they throw light on the AS. form.

1. *Aerest of Maccaniges Forda andlang Straete ut on Temese oth midne stream*: 'First from the Ford of Macca's Island along the Street (made road) out on Thames as far as mid-stream.' In the previous charter of Brightwell the last point but one of the survey takes the By. from the Thames along the Roman road to the ford where the road from Brightwell to Mackney crosses the stream N. of the latter village. That is the *Maccaniges Ford* of this charter; and here the By. runs from the ford along the Roman road to the Thames.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> This spelling must be due to the error of a copyist. The AS. form of the name must have been *Sottanwyll*.

<sup>35</sup> I have described this Roman road in the article in the *Archæological Journal* (LXXV, 1918) to which reference has been already made. But as that article may not be accessible to all readers of this paper, and as the road is important as giving the clue to the long-sought continuation of the Roman road from Alchester, near Bicester, to Dorchester, it may be well to speak of it in detail here.

Reference to the 1 in. map will show that from *Maccaniges Ford* the Brightwell-Sotwell boundary runs N. along what is still a continuous line of road or track almost as far as the Thames. It will also be noticed that this road is in two straight lines, which make an angle at the summit of the ridge on which Brightwell Barrow stands. That is exactly what Roman roads tend to do when they arrive at summits which form a horizon for the land on either side of them. If the great Watling Street from London N.N.W. be carefully examined, it will be found that whenever it arrives at such a horizon it makes a slight divergence from its previous direction. The reason evidently was that the surveying instruments used by the Romans made it possible for them to lay down a straight line from one sighting point to the next, but did not make it possible for them to ensure that the line would be continued in exactly the same direction beyond the point which



2. *Andlang streames to Holan Wylle thaere gerit*:<sup>36</sup> Along the stream to the hollow wylle that hangyth there to: A longo illorum decursuum ad illum concavum puteum adjacentem: 'Along the stream (of the river) to the Hollow Spring which lies near it.' The spring was on or near the river bank at the point where, about 1 fur. below the S. end of the village of Shillingford, the By. leaves the river. See 9 of previous Brightwell-Sotwell charter (B. 810).

3. *Of, etc., up andlang Dic to Brycgwege*: 'From the Hollow Spring up along the Dyke to the Bridge Way.' See 11 of B. 810. Probably on the line of the road past North Farm (OM1) to Shillingford Bridge.

4. *Andlang Brycgweges an furlang*: 'Along the Bridge Way for a furlong.' The 'furlong' is only approximate, as would be expected. The By. passes along the Bridge Way for about 180 yds.

5. *Of, etc., to Meosdene*: 'From the Bridge Way to Moss Dean.' See B. 810, point 13. On the E. By. of Sotwell, probably the hollow at the bend in the By.,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of The Severalls (OM1).

6. *Andlang Meosdene with eastan Meldanige oth midne Mor*: 'Along Moss Dean to the east of Melda's (Traitor's?) Island as far as the middle of the Swamp.' For *Meldan Ig* see

formed the horizon for any one reading. Another factor would be that in running a road for a great distance without the aid of the compass, it would be necessary to correct the line at intervals in order to keep it in the direction of the point at which the road was ultimately to terminate. So this bend in the road at present under consideration is peculiarly characteristic of Roman road making.

At the present date the road is an ordinary macadamised road as far as the main street of Brightwell. But from that point up to the main road from Long Wittenham to Wallingford, a little more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  m., it is represented by a green lane. It continues further N. as little more than a cart track, which in various places shows traces of having been raised above the ground on either side. It continues in this form as far as the road from Lowerhill Farm (OM1) to North Farm. N. of that its line is shown by a straight line of hedge reaching to the Thames. S. of *Maccaniges Ford* it continues in a straight line as far as Mackney village, beyond which its course southward is not now marked in any way. But its line is pointing straight to Sreatley; and from there it went doubtless down the Thames valley as far as Pangbourne, and then turned S. to Silchester *via* Theale. The lengths of the surviving parts of it are as follows, beginning from the south: Mackney to *Maccaniges Ford* (road), 180 yds.; *Maccaniges Ford* to Brightwell main street (road), 620 yds.; Mackney Street to Long Wittenham road (green lane), 530 yds.; Long Wittenham road to summit of ridge (cart road), 530 yds.; summit of ridge to road at North Farm (cart road), 910 yds.; road at North Farm to Thames (straight hedge), 770 yds.; total, 2 m. 20 yds.

<sup>36</sup> I have read *Wylle* for *Pylle*, as in 9 of B. 810.



14 of B. 810. Millony is on the S. By. of detached Brightwell,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Wallingford station. Thus what is now a detached part of Brightwell seems to have been included in Sotwell at the date of this grant. The middle of the Swamp must have been at the S.E. corner of Mackney,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.N.W. of Heathercroft Farm (OM1).

7. *Up andlang Mores on Langanforda suthweardne oth Maccanige*: 'Up along the Swamp to Long Ford at its south end as far as Mackney.' Long Ford must have been a passage across the streams and swampy land S.E. of Mackney village.

8. *Swa be Maccaniges Wirthland swa swa oxa went*: 'So by Mackney's Detached (or Outlying) Ploughland as the oxen go.' This land was probably just E. of Mackney village.

9. *And swa on Maccaniges Forda suthweardne*: 'And so to the Ford of Mackney on its south side.' See 1 of this charter.

#### FIELD NAMES—BRIGHTWELL.

Haddon Close: Extreme W. corner of parish. Probably named after the *Headda* mentioned in the charter of Little Wittenham as having given his name to a tree which stood near here.

Coomb Piece: On W. By., about 5 fur. N.W. of Moorend Cottages (OM1).

Stream Furlong Close: About 3 fur. N.W. of same cottages Abwell Piece; Next S. of Redgate Farm (OM1).

Felmore Copse: Small wood, a projection of Little Wittenham Wood (OM1) eastwards.

Little Ham: 1 fur. E. of Lowerhill Farm (OM1).

#### SOTWELL.

Pedmore: Immed. N.E. of Northmoor Farm (OM1).

Kedging Meadow: Immed. E. of last. Perhaps connected with 'kedge,' a dialectic word for 'trash' or 'rubbish.'

Picked Ground: Immed. N.E. of the *Maccaniges Ford* of the charter. 'Peaked' ground, an enclosure with an acute angle.

#### BEEDON WITH STANMORE.

Beedon, which includes Stanmore, is situated on the Newbury-Abingdon road, about 7 m. N. of Newbury. The name of Beedon occurs frequently in the AS. charters. In B. 1171,



K. 1232, it is called *Bydene*. In a document of the *Abingdon Cartulary* (Vol. I, p. 429) it is called *Budene*. In the same *Cartulary* (Vol. I, p. 279) the name appears as *Bedene* in the title, and *Bydene* in the body of the document. In the list of the lands of Abingdon shortly after the Conquest, it is spelt *Bedena*.

Skeat (Pl. N. Berks) says that it is the genitive of a personal name *Byda*, and that the original form would be *Bydan*, lit. 'Byda's.' This suggestion does not seem very satisfactory. Place names in AS. times consisting merely of the possessive case of a personal name without any addition are, to say the least of it, rare. The *Bydenhaema gemaere* of the Chieveley charter does not prove that *Bydenham* was the name, or a name, of the place, any more than *Stifinghaema gemaere* proves that *Stifingham* was a name of Steventon, or *Cinghaema gemaere* that *Cingham* was a name of Kingston Bagpuize. The termination *-dene* seems to have reference to the dean or valley on the very edge of which it stands. The first element is uncertain. It may possibly be AS. *Beo*, 'bee.'

Stanmore is now a part of Beedon, but the hidage of the grants of the two places suggests that they were sometimes reckoned as one, sometimes as two land-units. In B. 866, K. 1164, the name is spelt *Stanmere*; and other AS. records, which need not here be quoted, show that that was the true form of the name. It means 'Stone Pond.'<sup>37</sup>

There are various charters dealing with the lands of the two places. B. 866, K. 1164, of the reputed date, A.D. 948, records a grant made by King Edred to the thegn Wulfric of 10 hides at Stanmore. Very shortly after this Wulfric seems to have lost the lands, for B. 1055, K. 481, records the restoration of these lands, together with lands at Chaddleworth, to Wulfric in A.D. 960.

B. 1171, K. 1254, records a grant made at the reputed date, A.D. 965, by King Edgar to Abingdon Abbey of 5 hides at Beedon, and a document in the *Abingdon Cartulary* records the fact that a certain 'princeps' of the South Saxons left Beedon and Hordwell (in Compton Beauchamp) to Abingdon in 1015.

<sup>37</sup> The change from an original AS. termination *-mere*, 'pond,' to a modern termination *-more*, 'swamp,' is quite common in place names. See note on Dunmore Pond in Brightwalton.



In the days of William the Conqueror Beedon was in the lands of Abingdon.

Only the Stanmore charter, B. 866, K. 1164, has a survey attached to it, and, unfortunately, many of the landmarks cannot be determined with certainty.

#### SURVEY.

1. *Aerst of than Crundelun thaer to Straete*: 'First from the Quarries to the Street (made road).' It is certain that the survey began at some cardinal angle in the By. The Stone-diggings may have been (see landmark 19) at the marked angle on the S. By. which lies 5 fur. E. of Cridley Farm (OM1). About the identity of the *Straet* there can be no question whatever. It is now represented by the road which forms nearly the whole of the W. By. of Beedon. This road is called Old Street Lane in the tithe award.<sup>38</sup>

2. *Andlang Straete to Athulfes Thorne*: Along the Street (made way) to Athulf's Thorntree.' This is almost certainly the *Aethelunes Thorn* of that Chieveley charter which includes the lands of Peasemore. The tree must have been towards the N. end of the W. By. of Beedon.

3. *Thonnon on Fyrd Hammas andlang Stifig Weges*: 'Then to . . . Enclosures along the Way of the Clearing.' This way is mentioned in the Farnborough charter. It is part of the *Straet* near the N.W. corner of the parish.

4. *Thonne on Cat Beorh*: 'Then to Cat Barrow.' It is probable that this name is connected with *Catmere*, the old name of the neighbouring Catmore. It is the first landmark in the Chieveley By., and must have stood at the N.E. angle of Catmore parish.

5. *Thonne on Aelfheages Gemaere*: 'Then to Aelfheah's Balk.' This was probably the short N.W. By. of the parish.

6. *Thonon andlang Maere Weges on Wulforan*: 'Then along the Boundary Way to Wolves' Bank (Hillslope).' The line of the old boundary way is probably covered at the present day by the long narrow belt of trees, or hedgerow, along the W. part of the N. By. The name *Wulfora* is preserved in that

<sup>38</sup> For full details of the course of this very interesting but very puzzling road, see *Arch. Journal*, LXXV, 1918, 'Ancient Highways of Berkshire,' Road 45, p. 138.



of Woolver's Barn in East Ilsley parish (OM1). The *ora* was the N. slope of the ridge on which the N. part of Beedon parish stands.

7. *Thonon andlang Gemaeres to Ines Dene ufewealde*: 'Then along the Balk to Ine's Dean<sup>39</sup> from its upper side.' This dean was probably the valley on the N. By., N.E. of Redlane Barn (OM1). There now follows a series of landmarks which, mainly owing to their nature, it is not possible to determine at the present day.

8. *Thæt thonon Stiele*: 'Then to the Style.'

9. *Thonne andlang Gemaeres*: 'Then along the Balk.'

10. *Thaet on Lic Hangan* (read *Hangran*): 'Then to the . . . . Hanging Wood.'

11. *Of etc. on Pocging Rode*: 'From the . . . . Hanging Wood to . . . . (Rood?).'

12. *Thonnon on Dunan Wyrthe*: 'Then to the Farm (on the Down?).'

13. *Thonon on Loceres Weg*: 'Then to (Lover's?) Way.'

14. *Andlang Weges on the Ealdan Stigele*: 'Along the Way to the Old Style.'

15. *Of etc. thwers ofer Rammes Hrycg*: 'From the Old Stile crosswise over Ram's Ridge.' This is the first of the above landmarks which can be determined. Great Ram Ridge occurs in the field-names just S. of Beedon village; and there can be no doubt that the Ram's Ridge is the great ridge which goes right across the parish from the N.W. corner to the hamlet of Beedon Hill (OM1). The part of the ridge to which the survey refers is that traversed by the E. By. of the parish a little more than a furlong E. of the Hamlet of Beedon Hill (OM1).

Landmarks 8-13 can only be assigned conjectural positions. *Loceres Weg* may have been along the line of footpath which runs down the E. By. just W. of Great Ridge Copse (OM6). *Dunan Wyrth* must have been near Ashridge Wood (OM1). The other landmarks are by their very nature indeterminable.

16. *Thonnon on thone Ealdan Hyrne Weg*: 'Then to the Old Corner (or Angle) Way.' This way may have been along

<sup>39</sup> There is a variant reading *Mesdene*, which probably is *Meosdene*, 'Moss Dean.'



the line of what is now the Newbury-Abingdon road at World's End (OM<sub>1</sub>).

17. *Thannon on Beden Weg*: 'Then to Beedon Way.' Possibly along the line of the road leading to Beedon village by way of Common Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>). This is rendered probable by the orientation of the next landmark.

18. *Of etc. suthewearde innan andlang Hecgan onbutan Hunes (? Hundes) Dune*: 'From Beedon Way southward along the Hedge (and) going round Dog's (?) Down.' From the re-entering angle of the S. By. near Common Farm the By. runs S. for  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Along this must have run the hedge. *Hundes Dun* is probably the little hill, marked by the 500 ft. contour (OM<sub>1</sub>), just E. of this part of the By.

19. *Thaet eft on tha Crundelas be suthan Haran Grafas*: 'Then once more to the Stonepits to the South of Hare Groves.' See landmark 1. In the charter of Oare, the N.W. part of Chieveley, there is mention of a *Haer Graf*, probably identical with the landmark here. That would put the Hare Groves and the Stonepits at the angle in the S. By. 3 fur. S.S.E. of Common Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

#### SOME FIELD NAMES.

The whole parish, as the tithe award shows, was divided originally into large areas called 'fields,' e.g. Stanmore Field, East Field, West Field, etc. The plots of land are very largely named after the number of acres which they contain.

Lambourn Close: 5 fur. N.N.E. of the church at Beedon.

The meaning would be Clay Bourne; but the field is probably named after Lambourn, the village 9 m. W. of Beedon.

It is impossible to say how the name got to be transferred hither.

Halfpenny Catch and Ashridge: A field on E. By.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. N. of Ashridge Farm.

Picked Piece: A very small just E. of the main road at Ashridge Farm. A field with an acute angle.

Oare Mead: Immed. N.W. of Beedon village. Must have been at one time a detached piece of mead belonging to the neighbouring Oare in Chieveley.

Great Ramridge: Immed. S. of village, and E. of the N. end of Park Copse. See *Rammes Hrycg* of the charter.



Brotherstone Coppice : Just S. of the last. Not now woodland.

Probably some 'standing stone' stood near it.

North Stubs and South Stubs : Formerly two fields  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of the church. AS. *Styb*, 'stump of a tree.'

### BRIGHTWALTON.

Brightwalton is a parish on the S. slope of the Downs  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.S.E. of Wantage.

The charter relating to its lands is B. 743, K. 1223, of the reputed date, A.D. 939. By it King Aethelstan grants to the 'religiosa femina' Eadulfu 15 hides *aet Beorhtwaldingtune*.<sup>40</sup>

#### SURVEY.

1. *Aerest of Curspandic up on Acdene* : In the Lechampstead charter this dyke is called *Crypsandic*. 'First from (Crypsa's? Dyke to Oak Dean.'

Comparison with the Lechampstead charter shows clearly that the Dyke was at the S.E. corner of Brightwalton parish, at Brightwalton Holt (OM1). Running W. from this point the S. By. traverses a little valley, the *Acdene* of this and the Lechampstead charter.

2. *Of etc. to Wigferthis Leage* : 'From the Dean of the Oaktrees to Wigferth's Lea.' This lea is also in the Lechampstead charter. It was at the N.E. corner of Lechampstead  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. N.E. of Oakash Farm (OM1).

3. *Of etc. to Pippes Leage* : 'From Wigferth's Lea to Pip's Lea.' As the next landmark describes the By. as turning N., *Pippes Leah* must have been on the W. By. where it begins to turn N. at the S. end of Spray Wood (OM1).

4. *North andlang Hagan to than Brandan Stane* : 'North along the Hedge (Game Enclosure) to the (Burnt?) Stone.' The game enclosure was probably woodland on the site of Spray Wood (OM1); and the stone stood probably about at what is now the N.E. corner of that wood.

5. *Of etc. to Dunian Mere* : 'From the Stone to (Down ?) Pond.' This is the modern Dunmore Pond (OM6) which lies

<sup>40</sup> After working out the boundaries of this charter some years ago I came across an excellent little book on the subject by Dr. G. C. Peachey, Medical Officer of Health for Wantage, which corrected one of my conclusions, and confirmed the others. It is called 'Beating the Bounds of Brightwalton, 1904.'



on the W. By. just N. of the road running W. from Brightwalton village. This name Dunmore, like those of Stanmore and Catmore, is an instance of the change from *mere*, 'pond' to *mor*, 'swamp,' which is so common in place-names.

6. *Thonon north rihte to Haesel Lea* : 'Then straight north to the Lea of the Hazels.' The landmark which follows this present one shows that this lea lay at a bend of the boundary where it turns W. It must therefore have been in the neighbourhood of Nine Acre Wood (OM6), which lies about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Brightwalton Common (OM1).

7. *Of, etc., west rihte to Borsenan Beorge* : 'From Hazel Lea straight west to Burst (Broken) Barrow.' The orientation is not quite correct. The By. runs north-west, not due west. Curiously enough the same mistake in orientation is made in the Farnborough charter when describing this part of the By. The Barrow was probably at the summit of the hill called Woolley Down (OM1).

8. *Of etc. west riht on thone Haranstan* : 'From the Barrow due west to the Hoar Stone.' This stone was at the extreme W. angle of the parish, where the By. touches the Wantage-Shefford road. Mr. Peachey says that in the middle of the neighbouring field there is a large stone, which has, according to tradition, been moved in recent times. This was, no doubt, the Hoar Stone.

9. *Of etc. north rihte to Stan Crundele* : 'From the Stone due north to the Stone Quarry.' This is the *Stan Crundel* of the Farnborough charter. It stood at the N.W. angle of the parish, a short  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Down Barn. The traces of a broad trench from which stone has been dug are apparent.

10. *Thonnan andlang Weges to tham Langan Treowe* : 'Then along the Track to the Tall Tree.' The By. now runs S.E. The Way is mentioned in the Farnborough charter. It is now a little used cart track for part of the distance; but has vanished in the S. part of this stretch of By. The *Lang Treow* is also mentioned in the Farnborough charter. It must have stood at the angle of the By. where the Wantage-Newbury road enters the parish.

11. *Of etc. andlang Weges to Maerflodan* : 'From the Tree along the Way to the (Intermittent) Boundary Spring.' See the notes on the *Floda aet Swinweges Slo* in the Blewbury charter.



This *Maerfloda* is mentioned in the Farnborough charter. The term *floda* is only used three times in the Berkshire charters, and in all three cases the reference is to one of those great intermittent springs which are so remarkable a phenomenon in the chalk downs of the south of England. In the Hants charters, where the word occurs several times, it is used of large streams which only run in rainy weather. Two of these Berkshire *floda*'s are in Farnborough parish, namely this *Maerfloda*, and a certain *Cytelfloda*, 'Kettle Spring,' the name having reference to the violence with which it bursts forth,—on the N. By. of the parish.

Of the intermittent springs at present existent I received some years ago a very interesting account from Mr. Whitehurst, the rector of Farnborough :

'The only bournes and intermittent springs which run now are :

'(1) The one by the Holt along the valley between Brightwalton and Peasemore. Possibly it may have begun by Tinker's Corner. It ran via Lilly, Holt, etc.

'(2) The one on the main road between Wantage and Shesford. This possibly began up the valley by Woolley Down, and so on to Combe which lies N. of Farnborough ; at any rate a well sunk at the west end of Woolley Down is said to be on the top of the course of this spring. It is certainly a good spring ; but I have never seen it running so far up as this, though last year it was running very strongly further down, and did great damage to the road above mentioned.

'(3) The source of the Pang (Pangbourne) is said to be between Farnborough and West Ilsley. I imagine that it really began at Penn, due N. of Farnborough about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. or less, and ran via Land's End to West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Compton, etc. West Ilsley is the nearest place I have seen it running. The wells sunk upon its course are excellent at Penn and Land's End. The former is not used ; but is a very good one.'

Of these springs the first is unmistakeably the *Maerfloda* of the Brightwalton and Farnborough charters. Its course is well marked. It follows the line of that Wantage-Newbury road which forms a large part of the E. By. of Brightwalton. The *Weg* of this landmark was along the line of the Wantage-Newbury road.



Mr. Peachey, in the book mentioned above, gives further information with regard to the *Maerfloda*. 'This stream probably originated in springs arising from the higher lands northwards in the direction of Lockinge Kiln, where the water flowed down to Farnborough Copse (OM6). It is worth remarking that, judging from the present appearance of the land, the watercourse which in these early times formed the boundary between the two parishes is now included in Farnborough, as is also the hard road, which is itself further west of what was apparently the bed of the old stream. Running southwards, and forming for some distance the parish By., this *maerfloda* was in those days the upper waters of the stream which in this year, 1904, coursed along the high road towards Newbury, and eventually flowed by the present Chapel Arch, the Ford, the Hazel-hanger, to run into the Winterbourne.'

12. *Thonne giet andlang Weges thaet eft on Cyrspandic* : 'Then it goes along the Way once more to . . . Dyke.' The present By. runs parallel with the Wantage-Newbury Road a few yards E. of it. The By. marks doubtless the old line of the road.

#### FIELD NAMES.

Dud's Hill : At the re-entering angle on the W. By. of the parish  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W.N.W. of Brightwalton Common (OM1).

Great Blackneys : On the W. By. about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of the village.

Long Dean : Next E. of the last.

Whitchester : AS. *Hwit Ceaster*. But, as *ceaster* is always used of a Roman camp or station, and there is neither sign nor tradition of such having existed here, I suspect that the name is of comparatively modern origin.

Woolley Hedge : On the W. By.  $\frac{1}{3}$  m. N.N.W. of the village.

Chadmore Dean : On the W. By. about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.N.W. of the village.

Butts Furlong : Between the village and the W. By. 'Butts' were strips of ploughland which, owing to some local circumstance, could not be carried to the usual length of about 220 yds.

Dunmore Piece : On W. By. just S.W. of the village. See *Dunian Mere* of the charter.



- Western Shelves : About  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of the village, E. of the road running N. from the same. AS. *Scylf* is a ledge in a slope.
- Ell Furlong : About  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.E. of last. The name may refer to an L-shaped field.
- Lilley Copse (OM<sub>1</sub>) : E. By. Cf. *Lillig Leah* of the Farnborough charter.
- Park Quines : On the E. By., between Hemley Copse (OM<sub>1</sub>) and the Newbury-Wantage road. 'Quines' may mean a 'corner stone'; but what it means here cannot be said.
- Hemley Copse (OM<sub>1</sub>) : Near E. By.
- Stanbrooks Hitching : Immed. W. of N. end of last. 'Hitching' probably connected with a dialectical 'hitch,' which means a field, part of which is ploughed and sown for the year, while the rest remains fallow.
- Hazells Hitching : Immed. W. of last.
- Pilorothe : Immed. S. of Stanbrooks Hitching. A curious but inexplicable name.
- Twitching Piece :  $\frac{1}{3}$  m. S.E. of village. It is immed. N. of the meeting of two roads. Probably AS. *Twicene*, 'road-meeting.'
- Hawkridge Hill. Immed. N. of Lovell's Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- White Furlong : At S.E. corner of village.
- Dun's Breach :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Lovell's Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Bellow's Nose : Immed. S. of last.
- Rye and Pit Close : Immed. S. of Southend (OM<sub>1</sub>).

### BUCKLAND.

Buckland lies about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. E.N.E. of Faringdon.

The tithe award shows that this large parish is really composed of four separate districts : (1) Buckland and Newton, (2) Carswell, (3) Barcot, (4) Ragnall. It is probable that these represent four separate land-units of AS. times. On evidence which cannot, on account of its length, be stated here, there is reason to suppose that composite parishes of this kind represent areas which were settled at a time later than the earliest AS. settlements in the region.

The only charter relating to Buckland is B. 1005, K. 1210. It is of the reputed date A.D. 957, a grant made by King Edwy to the Duke Aelfheah of 10 hides *aet Boclande*.



The survey presents those difficulties which are customary in the case of grants, the boundaries of which either do not correspond, or correspond but partially, with modern boundaries. This present charter refers, not to the whole parish of Buckland, but to the E. and S.E. part of it; and thus many of the landmarks mentioned are not on boundaries existent at the present day.

#### SURVEY.

Owing to the difficulties of identification, it may be well to take all the landmarks before attempting to identify any one of them.

1. *Aerest Sprindles Ham hyrth to Boc Lande and eal Gama Feld to Boc Landes Gemaere*: 'First Sprindel's House belongs to Buckland and all . . . . Open Country to the Bounds of Buckland.'
2. *Of Lytlan Mores Heafde to Laurocan Beorge*: 'From the Head of the Little Swamp to Lark's Barrow.'
3. *Of etc. to Casan Thorne*: 'From Lark's Barrow to Casa's Thorntree.'
4. *Of etc. to Bradan Wege*: 'From Casa's Thorntree to Broad Way.'
5. *Of etc. and lang thara Heafod Aecera oth Fisceres Dene*: 'From Broad Way along the strips of Ploughland of the Headland as far as Fisher's Dean.'
6. *Of etc. to thare Maede*: 'From Fisher's Dean to the Mead.'
7. *Of etc. ut to Wasan*: 'From the Mead out to the Ouse.'
8. *Of etc. ut Ea*: 'From the Ouse out to the river.'
9. *Andlang Ea to Healh Were*: 'Along the River to the Weir of the Hollow.'
10. *Of etc. to than westran Withige*: 'From the Weir of the Hollow to the western Willowtree.'
11. *Of etc. to tham Yrth Lande*: 'From the Willowtree to the Ploughed Land.'
12. *Of etc. on thone Hig Weg*: 'From the Ploughed Land to the Hay Way.'
13. *Of etc. thurh Boc Land to Kynan Wylle on thone Heafod Aecer*: 'From the Hay Way through Buckland to (Kyna's ?) Spring to the Strip of Ploughland of the Headland.'



14. *Of etc. ut on thone Steort*: 'From the Strip of Ploughland of the Headland out to the Tongue of Land.'

15. *Of etc. on thone Yrnendan Mor*: 'From the Tongue of Land to the Running Swamp.'

16. *Of etc. on Aelfsiges Mor*: 'From the Running Swamp to Aelfsig's Swamp.'

The determination of most of these landmarks can only be conjectural.

*Gamafeld* of 1 is certainly Gainfield Farm (OM1) in the S.E. corner of the parish. *Wasa* of 7 is the Ouse Ditch. The name of this ditch or stream has completely vanished from the modern map, and is apparently unknown to-day within the parish itself. But it appears in the tithe award, and is clearly marked in the field names. It rises on the S.E. edge of the village near the church, and runs E.N.E. by Rectory Farm to Lower Newton Farm (both OM1).

Both *Gamafeld* and *Wasa* are names of considerable interest in Berkshire.

*Gamafeld* is the name of one of the Berkshire Hundreds of Saxon times, if, as I think, it is to be identified with the *Gamenefeld* which appears in the document included in the Abingdon Cartulary (Vol. II, p. 309). That document gives a list of the Abingdon lands in Berkshire divided under the heads of the Hundreds in which they are contained; and under *Gamenefeld* appear Shellingford, Longworth, and Charney. It is evident that the Hundred lay in this part of Berkshire, all round Buckland. Moreover, Skeat (Pl. N. Berks.) points out that the name only survives in a corrupted form. He thinks that it is derived from a personal name, *Gamel* or *Gamal*, derived from an old Saxon word *gamel* or *gamal* meaning 'old.' In the Berkshire Domesday the following places are mentioned as being in the Hundred: Littleworth, Buckland, Longworth, Charney, Shellingford, Pusey, Hinton (Waldrist), Duxford, and another place not identifiable. It will be seen on the map that Gainfield in Buckland lies near the centre of these land-units.

The name *Wasa* has been identified by some with the Isis. The name occurs in the Appleton, Fyfield, and *Earmundes Leah* (Bessilsleigh) charters, and in all these three refers to Appleton Brook.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> See especially the notes on the Bessilsleigh charter.



Here in Buckland, as has been said above, the name Ouse Ditch is applied to the small stream of which we have spoken; and two fields about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of the village are called Ouse Ditch. In the Saxon Chronicle the Yorkshire Ouse is called *Usa*. The Great Ouse is called by the same name in the chronicle of 1010, and *Wusa* in the chronicle of 905. There seems little reason to doubt that *Wase* or *Wasa*, *Usa* or *Use*, and *Wuse* or *Wusa*, are the same name, represented by the modern river name Ouse.

To return to 1, it does not look as if *Sprindles Ham* and *Gamafeld* were included in the boundary which follows. Gainfield in the S.E. corner of the parish is bounded on three sides by streams; and it is extremely improbable that any statement of its boundaries would have failed to mention them. No name resembling *Sprindles Ham* is to be found in the tithe award of the parish.

As to the land included in the boundary there must be considerable doubt. My impression is that *Gamafeld* and *Sprindlesham* are the S.E. part of the parish, and that the survey proper, which begins at 2, refers to the remainder of the E. part of the parish. On this assumption the following tentative account of the survey is founded.

The survey begins probably somewhere on the N. edge of this S.E. part of the parish; and the *Lytel Mor* of 2 may have been in the neighbourhood of Broadmoor Cottages (OM6), a short  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Mount Pleasant Farm (OM1). The name Broadmoor implies that there was some sort of a swamp in the neighbourhood in former times. The *Laurocan Beorh* may have left some reminiscence of its former existence in the field name Greenborough, which is just N. of Mount Pleasant Farm (OM1). The *Brad Weg* of 4 was probably on the line of the present high road to Faringdon, the actual point indicated being almost due S. of the village. *Fisceres Denn* of 5 is almost certainly the hollow in the village. The *Maed* of 6 was just E. of the village. The *Wasa* of 7 is, as has been said, the Ouse Ditch, a stream which, rising at the S.E. edge of the village, runs first N. and then E.N.E. to the neighbourhood of Lower Newton Farm (OM1), and then N. into a backwater of the Thames at a point about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. E. of Tenfoot Bridge (OM1). This backwater of the Thames is the *Ea* of 8. The *Healh*



*Were* of 9 must have been at the N.E. corner of the parish on the above backwater about 3 fur. E. of Tenfoot Bridge (OM1). From there the By. of the grant must have run down the E. By. of the parish, and the Western Willow of 10 may have been on the By. E. of Lower Newton Farm (OM1). The *Yrthland* was probably a little S. of this; and the Hay Way of 12 may have been along the line of the path which comes from Hinton Waldrist to the corner of the parish By. at the N.E. angle of Pusey Common Wood (OM1). The spring of 13 may have been near the N.W. corner of the same wood. The *Steort* of 14 may have been the land between the stream which bounds Pusey Common Wood on the S., and the stream which flows through the park at Pusey. *Yrnende Mor* of 15 and *Aelfsiges Mor* of 16 were probably where the latter of these two streams crosses the Buckland By. due W. of Pusey House.

#### FIELD NAMES.

The field and local names of Buckland are very numerous, and some of them very interesting.

Of the four divisions of the parish Ragnall forms the N.W. part. S. of it, along the W. By., runs Barcot. The By. between the two runs W. from the middle of the W. side of Barcot Brake, the northernmost of the woods about Barcot House (OM1). Barcot extends S. from this line to a small wood at the re-entering angle on the S.W. By. of the parish. Carswell is a long narrow strip running from the N. to the S. of the parish, immed. E. of Ragnall and Barcot. Its E. By. begins on the Thames at Rush Weir (OM1), and follows field boundaries almost due S. to the wood called on the ordnance map Rivey Brake, the long narrow plantation a short  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Carswell House (OM1), along the E. side of which it passes. It then goes along the E. By. of the grounds of Carswell House; crosses the Faringdon road, and follows the field boundaries one field E. of Carswell Farm (OM1). It reaches the S. By. of the parish along the W. border of Peat Bottom Wood.

In the name Ragnall the second element is almost certainly *healh*, a hollow. The first may be a proper name, *Raga*. Barcot is probably Bere-cot, 'Barley Cottage.' Carswell is Caerswyll, 'Watercress Spring.'



In the N.E. part of the parish are two fields called Lammas Meadow, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. by N. of Rushy Weir (OM<sub>1</sub>). The name Lammas applied to meadows occurs somewhat frequently in Berkshire,—in Appleton, Abingdon, Cumnor, and Hungerford. It means probably a field which became available for pasture on Lammas Day.

Great Ground :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Rushy Weir (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Coxe's Niat : Immed. S.W. of Rushy Weir. ME. *At ten igot*, 'at the Eyot.' It is on a large eyot of the Thames.

The Nyatt :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Tadpole (OM<sub>1</sub>). See last. This name Niatt occurs also in the S. of Abingdon near the river.

Rushey Close : The little field at Rushey Weir (OM<sub>1</sub>). I suspect that Rushey and not Rushy is the true form of the name ; and that it is not an adjective, but *Risc-ig*, 'Island of Rushes.'

Ham Meadow : 3 fur. S.E. of Tadpole (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Judging from the field-names the N. part of the parish W. of Tenfoot Bridge (OM<sub>1</sub>) seems to have been called Pudlake. Probably Pudd-lacu, 'Ditch Stream.' The land is traversed in various directions by large ditches or backwaters of the Thames.

Westward Gore, Eastward Gore : Two fields about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. by S. of Buckland Marsh. *Gara*, a triangular piece of ploughland.

Rough Holm : Immed. S. of Carswell Marsh. 'Holm,' which means flat land near water, does not, so far as I know, occur elsewhere in field-names in Berkshire.

Cross Lands : Narrow field  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.S.E. of Carswell Marsh (OM<sub>1</sub>). Land which runs at right angles to the line of the strips of some neighbouring ploughland.

Times Ground : Immed. S. of last.

Picked Mead : Immed. S. of last. Field with an acute angle.

Rithy Ground, The Rithy : The latter is the name of the wood called, probably mistakenly, Rivey Copse in OM. It is  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of Carswell House (OM<sub>1</sub>). *Rithig*, a small stream.

Blacklands Ground :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Carswell Marsh (OM<sub>1</sub>). May refer to the colour of the soil ; but more often refers to its badness.



Backamwell Piece: W. of the fishpond in Buckland Park, and between the edge of the park and the road running N. to Tadpole (OM1).

Church Headlands: Immed. N.W. of Rectory Farm (OM1).

Berill Ground:  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Lower Newton Farm (OM1).

Dampool: The field  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of the church.

The Heggy: On the S.E. edge of the village, 1 fur. N.E. of Summerside (OM1).

Portway: The Faringdon road.

Greenborough: Immed. N. of Mount Pleasant Farm (OM1). see *Laurocan Beorh* of the charter.

The Packway: The road to Stanford-in-the-Vale.

Chantrey Gate Ground: In the extreme S.E. corner of the parish, just N. of the road.

### CHARNEY BASSETT.

Charney Bassett is about halfway between Faringdon and Wantage.

#### CHARTER.

B. 1035, K. 1214, is a charter of the reputed date A.D. 958, whereby King Edwy grants to Keneric 2 hides of land *aet Cern*. The survey is as follows:—

1. *Aerest thaere Landscore Broc scyt on Cern*: 'First where Boundary Brook runs into Cern (stream).'

2. *Thonen, etc., on thaet aenlipe Ellyn*: 'Then from Boundary Brook to the single Eldertree.'

3. *Thonne, etc., on Hodduces Hancgran*: 'Then from the single Eldertree to Hodduc's Hanging Wood.'

4. *Of, etc., on tha aenlypan Ac*: 'From Hodduc's Hanging Wood to the single Oaktree.'

5. *Of, etc., on thaene Hearapod*: 'From the Oaktree to the Highway.'

6. *Thonon andlang Hearpodes oth there Thorn*: 'Then along the Highway as far as the Thorntree.'

7. *Of, etc., on Aniges Ham*: 'From the Thorntree to the Enclosure of Waterhen Island (Hanney).'

8. *Of Haniges Hamme on Cern*: 'From the Enclosure of Waterhen Island to Cern.'



9. *Of, etc., on thone Broc* : 'From Cern to the Brook.'
10. *Of, etc., on Haethennan Byriels* : 'From the Brook to the Heathen Burialplaces.'
11. *Of, etc., on Heath Dune on Stod lege Get* : From the Heathen Burialplace to Heath Down to the Gate of the Lea of the Horsefold.'
12. *Of, etc., on thone Broc* : 'From the Gate to the Brook.'
13. *Andlang Broces eft on Cern* : 'Along the Brook once more to Cern.'

The grant is a small one, only 2 hides. If the whole parish represents, as it probably does, an original 10 hides, then this grant is about one-fifth of the whole. But it is quite impossible to follow the points in detail. I am, as a fact, very doubtful whether this is a charter of Charney Bassett at all. I am inclined to think that it is of Cerney, near Cirencester. The only landmark which in any way suggests Charney is the *Landscore Broc* of 1. This might possibly be the Land Brook (OM1) which, coming from the S.W., forms part of the S.E. By. of the parish. But this runs into the Ock, and, that being the case, it is impossible to identify the *Cern* into which this brook is said to flow. Also the other landmarks of the survey are not identifiable. However, I have given the translation of the document, in case it may help some future enquirer to solve the question.

#### FIELD NAMES.

Bagmore Field : 3 fur. S. by W. of the village. This name is found in Balking and Shellingford. It is the *Baccan Mor*, Bacca's Fen, of the Ashbury and Shellingford charters. It is evident that it was an extensive area of swampy ground which stretched for several miles along the course of the upper Ock.

Minmere Barn : So called in the OM. Probably Minmoor. This name is found in Fyfield, and there represents a *Maene Mor*, 'Common Fen,' of the Fyfield charter, *i.e.* a fen in which the various holders in the parish had rights.

The Severals : Immed. E.S.E. of the village. Land held as private property.

Nightall Ground : 1 fur. E.N.E. of Gooseywick Farm (OM1).

Hilly Bars : About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. due S. of village.



Southeye Mead: 3 fur. S.E. of village, just S. of the Ock.

*Suth Ig*, 'South Island.'

Great Bars: About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. due S. of village.

Great Mithey: 5 fur. S. of village, on S. By. The second part of the name is almost certainly *Ig*, 'island.'

Cherbury Camp is in the N. of the parish.

### CHIEVELEY AND PEASEMORE.

Chieveley is a parish situated about 5 m. N. of Newbury. The area of the parish is 5,328 acres. It is thus a parish of a size much greater than that of the ordinary Berkshire parish, where an area of 2,000 acres is large, and an area greater than that unusual. The parish was at the time that the tithe award was made, in the earlier half of the nineteenth century, a collection of ecclesiastical areas. There was the mother parish of Chieveley itself; there was the chapelry of Oare, and the tithing of Snelsmore, together with the two districts of Curridge (or Courage) and Bradley Court, the ecclesiastical status of which is not specified in the tithe award.

These divisions originate in the secular arrangements of AS. times, when each of them was a separate land-unit. There survive separate charters of Chieveley (including Peasemore); of Oare, *i.e.* Bradley Court; and of Courage. The hidage of the grants is Chieveley 25, Courage 5, and Oare 10. Chieveley is either the subject of, or is referred to in, various charters, viz. B. 892, K. 430, and B. 1171, K. 1254. The former of these gives a survey of the bounds of Chieveley and Peasemore.

It records the grant of these lands at the reputed date 951 by King Edred to the thegn Wulfric. The area is stated as consisting of 'XXV mansas ('hides') cum pascua quae in quodam monte habetur.' Where this 'pascua' is is not stated. Is it a reference to Peasemore?

### SURVEY OF CHIEVELEY AND PEASEMORE.

1. *Aerest of Catbeorge andlang Weges on Athelunes Thorn*: 'First from Cat Barrow along the Way to Athulf's<sup>42</sup> Thorntree.' The Cat Barrow is mentioned in the Stanmore

<sup>42</sup> This *Athelunes Thorn* is undoubtedly the *Athulfes Thorn* of the Stanmore (Beedon) charter; and I prefer the reading of that charter.



(Beedon) charter, and the cross reference shows that it was undoubtedly at the extreme N. point of Peasemore parish, about 3 fur. N.N.E. of Wilkin's Barn (OM1). The *Weg* is the old track which runs down the E. By. of Peasemore, the Old Street Lane of the tithe award.<sup>43</sup> The Thorntree, as the cross reference in the Stanmore charter shows, must have been on the E. By. of Peasemore, not very far S. of the *Catbeorh*.

2. *Thonon andlang Weges on Seal Hangran estweardne*: 'Then along the Way to the east side of the Hanging Wood of Sallowtrees.' The survey continues S. along Old Street Lane. The wood must have been somewhere on the E. By. of Peasemore, N. of the tumulus (OM1).

3. *Thonon andlang Weges on tha Byrgelsas*: 'Then along the Way to the Burialplaces.' This must refer to the tumulus (OM1) on the E. By. of Peasemore.

4. *Thonne andlang Byden haema Gemaeres on the Haran Apoldre*: 'Then along the boundary of the people of Beedon to the Hoar Appletree.' This reference shows pretty clearly that, at the time this survey was made, Beedon and Stanmore were regarded as two separate land-units. The landmark, like other landmarks of the same type, carries the By. all along the common By. between the land granted by this charter and the lands of Beedon. It begins at some point not far S. of the tumulus above mentioned. It runs S. till it meets the N.W. corner of Chieveley parish about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. E. of Gidley Farm (OM1). Then it turns E. along the S. By. of Beedon and N. By. of Chieveley to that angle in the By. about 3 fur. N.E. of Green's Farm (OM1), where the old By. of Oare<sup>44</sup> begins. Here must have stood the *Har Apuldor*.

5. *Thonon on Orhaema Gemaere*: 'Then to the boundary of the people of Oare.' This is a landmark of the same type as the last, i.e. it carries the survey all along the Oare By. in so far as it coincides with the By. of this grant.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup> For details of this most interesting but most puzzling road, see *Arch. Journ.*, LXXV, 1918, 'Ancient Highways of Berkshire,' Road 45, p. 138.

<sup>44</sup> See the charter of Oare later.

<sup>45</sup> The old Oare By. ran as follows: From the angle of the Chieveley By. mentioned by a field hedge to Browndown Farm (called Broomdown in OM1). Thence 1 fur. S.E. to the road. S. down the road  $3\frac{1}{2}$  fur. to where the road from Downend (OM1) comes in from the W. Then E. 150 yds. along footpath. Then S.E., first along a stream, and then along the W. side of Bradleyhome Wood and the N.E. side of Priorscourt Wood, and



The landmark carries the survey to the street of the village of Hermitage, about 50 yds. N.N.W. of the church.

6. *Andlang thaes Gemaeres on Ciltewudes Gemaere to than Stane*: 'Along the Boundary to the Boundary of (Cold ?) Wood to the Stone.' I do not know the meaning of *cilt* in *Ciltewudu*; but there can be little doubt that *Ciltewudu* corresponds to the modern Cold Ash. The Chieveley By. does not meet the Cold Ash By. till about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Hermitage at a point about 250 yds. N.N.W. of Grimsbury Farm (OM1); but I think that that is implied by the somewhat curious wording of the landmark. But the landmark carries the By. along the common By. between Chieveley and Coldash, for the next landmark describes the By. as running W., i.e. along the S. By. of Chieveley. The Stone must therefore have been at the S.E. angle of Chieveley parish.

7. *Thonon west andlang Weges to than Haece*: 'Then west along the Way to the Hatchgate.' The last few landmarks have been of a large and general character. From this point onward, however, the survey is very detailed.

From the S.E. corner of the parish the modern By., turning W., follows for about 150 yds. a by-road. This is no doubt along the line of the *Weg* here mentioned; and the Hatchgate must have been where the By. leaves this road, about 200 yds. W. of Fisher's Lane Crossing (OM6).

8. *Thonon andlang Gemaeres to then Crundle*: 'Then along the Balk to the Stonepit.' The By. runs S. from the last landmark for a short distance. The Stonepit must have been on the S. By. a short 3 fur. W. of Fisher's Farm (OM1) in Cold Ash.

9. *Thonon andlang Gemaeres to than othrum Crundle*: 'Then along the Balk to the other Stonepit.' Landmarks come very thickly hereabouts, and their determination is at best conjectural; but it is probable that this second stonepit was at the next bend in the S. By., about 400 yds N.N.W. of Grange Farm.

still S.W. along hedge line to the S. end of the small wood called Baker's Row. Then S. 100 yds. to the road from Priors Court to Hermitage. Then E.S.E. for  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. along that road. Then continuing in the same direction, but leaving the line of road, through the small wood known as Doctor's Row and through Meetinghouse Copse to the street of Hermitage about 50 or 60 yds. N.N.W. of the church.



10. *Thonon to than Won Stocce*: 'Then to the Crooked Stake.' Probably at the next bend in the By. 400 yds. W.N.W. of Grange Farm (OM1).

11. *And thaer to Wuda*: 'and then to the Wood.' Probably at the re-entering angle of the By. on the S. edge of Snelsmore East Common (OM1).

12. *Thonon on tha Syrfa*n: 'Then to the Service-tree.' This stood probably at the angle in the S. By. 1 m. W. of Grange Farm (OM1).

13. *Thonon ofer Hean Hrycg*: 'Then over High Ridge.' This is the ridge on which Snelsmore East Common stands (OM1). The part of the By. to which reference is made seems to be that which runs S. on the edge of the Common, and runs along the ridge.

14. *Thonon on thaes Cinges Hagan*: 'Then to the King's Hedge (Game Enclosure).' This ran probably through the S.W. part of Snelsmore East Common (OM1).

15. *Thonne thaer west andlang Hagan on Hnaefleage suthewearde*: 'Then west along the Hedge to the south side of (Cup ?) Lea.' This Lea was possibly named from its lying in the hollow which lies W. of Snelsmore East Common (OM1).

16. *Thonon andlang Hagan to tham Baece*: 'Then along the hedge to the intermittent Stream.' This stream must have run down the hollow at the S.W. corner of the parish, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.S.W. of Arlington Manor (OM1).

17. *Of, etc., thaer north ut on thone Lytlan Haethfeld*: 'From the intermittent stream north out to the Little Open Heath.' The survey now turns N. up the W. By. The heath must have been on the site of the woodland S.W. of Arlington Manor (OM1).

18. *Thonon andlang Weges be Winterburninga Gemaere be westan thaere Ealdan Byrig on thone Stanihtan Weg to tham Stan Cystlun*: 'Then along the Way by the Boundary of the people of Winterbourne by the Old Camp to the Stony Way to the (Cromlech ?).' The *Weg* must have been a forerunner of the road which now runs near the W. By. to the W. of Arlington Manor (OM1). The By. begins to coincide with that of Winterbourne at a point about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.W. of Arlington Manor (OM1). The Old Camp is marked (OM1) in the wood at Totterdown (OM1). It is called Auberry in the tithe award, which



is a direct descendant of the Saxon name. The Stony Way was on the line of the road which runs up by Bussock (OM1). The Cromlech (?) must have been at the angle in the By.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Bussock (OM1).

19. *Thonon on tha Andheafda*: 'Then to the Corner Headland.' This must have been at the next bend in the By.

20. *Thonne thaer west on thone Burnan butan six Aeceru*: 'Then west to the Bourne round six strips of Ploughland.' The Bourne is the Winterbourne from which the village of Winterbourne takes its name. A short stretch of the By. runs west to meet it at a point about 350 yds. S. of Ogdowen Barn (OM1).

21. *Thonne thaer north an furlang*: 'Then north for one furlong.' The By. runs N. for about a furlong up the bourne.

22. *Thonne thaer west ofer tha twegan Beorgas to tham Hearpothe*: 'Then west over the Two Barrows to the Highway.' The Barrows have vanished; but they must have been close to Ogdowen Barn (OM1). The Highway is now represented by the road which runs along the W. By. N. of Ogdowen Barn.

23. *North andlang Herpothes on Bradan Ford*: 'North along the Highway to Broad Ford.' As the By. is described as turning W. at the next point, there is no question but that the Broad Ford was the ford marked (OM6) at Hazelhanger Farm (OM1).

24. *Thaer west andlang Burn Stowe<sup>46</sup> to Ibban Stane*: 'Then west along the Place (?) of the Bourne to Ibba's Stone.' The Chieveley By. turns W., as noted in the survey, at Hazelhanger Farm (OM1). The Bourne referred to runs along the S. side of Chapel Wood (OM1); and the *Burnstow*, whatever it was, must have been on the By. near that wood. The *Ibban Stan* must have been at the extreme S.W. corner of the parish on the Wantage-Newbury road.

25. *Thonne thaer east andlang Weges on Standene*: 'Then east along the way to Stone Dean.' The reversal of the orientation between this and the last point is accounted for by the fact that the By. almost doubles back on itself at the S.W. corner of the parish. *Standene* is the little valley a furlong N.

<sup>46</sup> Various instances and associations of *stow* as used in the charters suggest that it meant a place to which some sort of sanctity was attached. But this does not explain the frequent association of the term with *burna*, a 'bourne.'



of Chapel Wood (OM1). The way or track has no modern representative.

26. *Thonon west to tham Wyrtywalan*: 'Then west to the lower side of the wood.' The By. turns W. just N. of *Standene*. The wood must have been on the site of Prior's Wood (OM6), the small wood a long  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Chapel Farm (OM1).

27. *Thonon north to Sceaphammas*: 'Then north to Sheep Crofts.' From Prior's Wood the By. runs N. for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. to the next angle, where the Sheepcrofts must have been.

28. *Thonon on gerihta thaer Tun Wegas ut sceotath*: 'Then straight on to where the Farm Ways run out.' Probably on the line of the road which crosses the W. By. of Peasemore N. of Hill Green (OM1).

29. *Thonon on gerihta to thaere Haran Apoldre*: 'Then straight to the Hoar Appletree.' Probably at the bend in the W. By. due W. of Peasemore village.

30. *Of, etc., thurh thone Tun to than Ruwan Crundle*: 'From the Hoar Appletree through the Farm to the Rough Stonepit.' The *Crundel* is probably the *Buccan Crundel* of the Lechampstead charter. If so it was just about the S.E. corner of Eastley Copse (OM1). The farm must have stood somewhere outside the north-western outskirts of Peasemore village.

31. *Thonon andlang Gemaeres on thone Lytlan Beorh*: 'Then along the Balk to the Little Barrow.'

32. *Of, etc., andlang Gemaeres on Hrycg Weg*: 'From the Little Barrow along the Balk to the Ridgway.'

33. *Andlang Hrycgweges oth Catmeres Gemaere*: 'Along the Ridgeway as far as the Boundary of Catmore.'

34. *Thonne thaer east andlang Gemaeres on Puttan Pyt*: 'Then east along the Balk to Putta's Pit.'

35. *Of, etc., andlang Gemaeres eft on Catbeorh*: 'From the Pit along the Balk once more to Cat Barrow.'

Hitherto the landmarks of this very remarkable Saxon survey have not presented any great difficulty, owing to the accuracy with which the survey was originally made, and also to the survival of the pre-Conquest boundary, even in minute detail, to the present day. But in these last landmarks there are present various difficulties. The chief difficulty is the *Hrycg Weg* of 32. I think that it must be the road running S.E. from Lilley (OM1); and, that, though it does not follow a watershed, it



is an alternative route of the great Reading Ridgeway<sup>47</sup> just N. of it.

*Mules Dun* is probably Rough Down (see Roughdown Barn, OM1); and the Little Barrow was probably at the corner of the parish at Brightwalton Holt (OM1). The *Gemaere* of 32 must have run up the W. By. from Brightwalton Holt to Lilley. The part of the *Hrycgweg* referred to in 33 would be the 3 furlongs of road running along the N. By. of Peasemore E.S.E. from Lilley. It is probable that the *Catmeres Gemaere* of 34 refers, not to the boundary of the Catmore land-unit, but to the balks of ploughlands belonging to it. These balks followed part of the present N. By. of Peasemore. *Putten Pyt* may have been at the angle of the By. a furlong N.W. of Wilkin's Barn (OM1). For Catbeorh of 35 see 1.

#### THE OARE CHARTER.

B. 1225, K. 1263 is a charter of the reputed date, A.D. 968, whereby King Edgar grants to Abingdon Abbey 10 hides *aet Oran*. The survey attached to the charter is not of the whole of Oare, but of the northern part of it known as Bradley. This raises the question whether another survey of the S. part of the land-unit has been lost, for, taking the average acreage per hide of these down parishes of Berkshire, it is impossible to suppose that the lands of Bradley alone were reckoned at 10 hides.

#### SURVEY.

1. *Aerest of Wintermere andlang Riht Gemaeres on Haer Graf*: 'First from the Winter Pond (i.e. a pond which only contained water in winter), along the Straight Balk to Hare Grove.' In the Stanmore (Beedon) charter this grove is called *Haran Grafas*. Hence the translation here given.

The landmarks of the survey are, with the exception of this *Haer Graf*, not determinable with certainty. But the survey seems to be of that unusual type in which the landmarks are taken against, not with, the clock. *Wintermere* was probably a pond at the northernmost point of Chieveley parish about 1½ fur. S.S.E. of Common Farm (OM1) in Beedon. The Straight Balk ran S.S.W. from this point to what appears from the cross reference of the Stanmore charter to be the position of

<sup>47</sup> For this road, see 'Ancient Highways of Berkshire' in *Arch. Journ.*, LXXV, 1918, Road 44, p. 137.



the Hare Grove, which was at the angle of the parish By. about 3 fur. S. by E. of Common Farm.<sup>48</sup>

2. *Thonan andlang Hagan ut thurht Bradan Lea* : 'Then along the Hedge (Game Enclosure) out through Broad Lea (Bradley).' The reference is obviously to the lands near the modern Bradley Court (OM1). The *Haga* must have run down the old W. By. of Oare<sup>49</sup> to a point somewhere near Bradley Court.

3. *Th' on tha Heofd Stocces* : 'Then to the Stakes at the Headland of the Ploughland.' These must have stood on the W. By. of Oare somewhere W. of Bradley Court.

4. *Thonan on Weal Cotes Leahe north wearde* : 'Then to the north side of the Lea of the Cottage by the Wall.' This lea was probably on the S. side of Bradley Park (OM1).

5. *Thonan andlang Hagan on Sandan Dene* : 'Then along the Hedge (Game Enclosure) to Sand Dean.' This is the hollow about 3 fur. E. by S. of Bradley Court (OM1). The road which crosses it is called Sandy Lane; and a small wood in it is called Sandy Row.

6. *Thonon on Bysceopes Weg* : 'Then to the Bishop's Way.' I do not think that there is much doubt that this is a way or track which was the forerunner of the road which traverses this N. part of Oare from end to end, running from Oare village along the W. side of Oareborough Hill, to the northernmost point of the parish. But the present road has been made on a line W. of the old track.

7. *Andlang Weges eft on Winter Maere* (read *Mere*) : See 1.

#### THE CURRIDGE CHARTER.

B. 900, K. 1169 is a charter of the reputed date, A.D. 953, which records the grant of 5 hides at *Cusanricge* by King Eadred to the thegn Aelfric.

#### SURVEY.

As, owing to the nature of the landmarks given, I cannot solve the topography of the survey, I shall merely give the

<sup>48</sup> Hare Grove may seem a somewhat curious name. I have come across it more than once in the charters. Recently, in examining the field-names of Worcestershire, I have come across more than one instance of small copses called by some such name as Hare Enclosure, pointing to the fact that small woods were reserved as sanctuaries for hares.

<sup>49</sup> For this Oare By see note on p.



translation of it, and a description of the bounds of Curridge as given in the tithe award, in the hope that they may help some other enquirer to do what I have not been able to do myself.

1. First to the Boundary Way. 2. Along the Boundary Way to the Hedge. 3. Along the Hedge to the Hoar Thorn-trees. 4. From the Thorn-trees to Cyneah's Tree. 5. Then along the Highway to Green Dean. 6. Then along the Old Way to Flax Lea. 7. Then along the Hedge to the Stonepit. 8. Then over the Ridge once more to the Boundary Way.

#### BOUNDARIES OF CURRIDGE.

From the lodge at the S.W. corner of the park at Prior's Court (OM1) N. along the W. side of the park to the northernmost point of it. Then S.E. along the N.E. edge of that park, and along a field hedge to a point  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. due E. of Prior's Court Farm (OM1). Then S. by W. for 100 yds. to the road from Prior's Court to Hermitage. Then E.S.E. along that road for  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Then E. by S. to a point in the street of Hermitage about 60 yds. N. by W. of the church, where it meets the modern Chieveley By. It follows that By. S. to its S.E. corner, and then the S. By. of Chieveley as far as the re-entering angle  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. by E. of Oaklands (OM1). Thence N.N.E. for 200 yds. Thence N.N.W. leaving the house at Oaklands a few yds. to the W. Then still N.N.W. to a point about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fur. almost due S. of Sevenacres (OM1). Thence along field hedges parallel with the Abingdon-Newbury road, always leaving one field's breadth between it and the road, to the road to Hermitage 1 fur. W. of the lodge at Prior's Court (OM1). Then E. along the road to the aforesaid lodge.

#### FIELD NAMES OF CHIEVELEY.

Moulding's Stile Pightle: On N. By.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.N.W. of Green's Farm (OM1). Pightle (variant Piddle), a small enclosure.

Picked Home Ground: Immed. W. of Green's Farm (OM1).

'Picked' (variant Peaked), an acute angle.

Bardown:  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Green's Farm (OM1).

Rayerstane Pightle: E. of last, between it and the road.

Rayerstane is probably a rubbing stone for cattle.



World Lands : 500 yds. S.S.E. of Broomdown Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Oareborough Hill (OM<sub>1</sub>) : Suggests the site of a camp, a suggestion supported by the fact that the field immed. N.E. of it in Hampstead Norris parish is called Great Dyche Field.

Oakingham Hill :  $3\frac{1}{2}$  fur. N.N.W. of Bradley Court (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Hollybush Hyle and Lower and Upper Dene : On E. By.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  fur. E. of Oareborough Hill. 'Hyle' means 'heap.'

Knowl Hill : The present site of Handley Plantation, 5 fur. E. of Bradley Court (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Windhorn :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. by S. of Oare church.

Pitfield : N.W. of the N. end of Chieveley village.

Sowberry : 1 fur. W. of Chieveley church. 'Enclosure for pigs.'

Radlands :  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. E. of Horsemoor (OM<sub>1</sub>). Probably 'Red Lands.'

Harrington Field :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. due S. of last.

Witchpit Ground : 500 yds. S. of Horsemoor (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Mancroft :  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. S. by W. of Sevenacres (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Stubb Furlong :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Sevenacres (OM<sub>1</sub>). AS. *Styb*, 'stump.'

Langlands :  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fur. S. of Snelsmore Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>). 'Long Lands.'

Great Ground : Immed. S.E. of last ; on opposite side of road.

Lankets : Immed. N. of Snelsmore East Common (OM<sub>1</sub>). Seems to be a variant of lynchets, 'little lynchets.'

Blackamoor Copse : 1 fur. S.E. of Oaklands (OM<sub>1</sub>). AS. *Blaec Mor*, 'Black Swamp.'

Long Breach :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Prior's Court Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>). Implies land recently broken up for cultivation.

Copped Hall Gorse : Now Copyhold Copse.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. N.W. of Copyhold Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Hawkridge Field :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E.S.E. of Prior's Court Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Upper and Lower Bucket Fields : 3 fur. S. of Curridge Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).

#### FIELD NAMES OF PEASEMORE.

Hurmoors : N. By.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. by S. of Wilkin's Barn.

Shaw : Small plantation 3 fur. S.W. of Wilkin's Barn (OM<sub>1</sub>).

Ford Down Bottom : Immed S. of last.



- Long Breach : The Breach. Two fields immed. N.W. of Heath Barn (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Ell Piece : 250 yds. S.S.E. of Freeland's (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Stocckwell Piece : 3 fur. E.S.E. of Freeland's (OM<sub>1</sub>). *Stocck-wyll*, 'Stake Spring.'
- The Belchers : 500 yds. S.S.E. of Freeland's (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Mackerill Close.  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Roughdown Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Cullimore Field :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W.N.W. of Mell Green (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Crabtree Piece and The Hearn : Immed. E. of Mell Green (OM<sub>1</sub>). Probably *Hyrne*, 'corner.'
- Gidley Farm (OM<sub>1</sub>) : *Gyddan Leah*, 'Gydd's Lea.' Cf. *Gyddan Denu*, 'Gydd's Dean,' of the Leckhampstead charter.
- Worm Down : Immed. N.E. of Chapel Wood (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Upper Barlands, Barlands, Lower Barlands : All on or near E. By. between the tumulus (OM<sub>1</sub>) and Heath Barn (OM<sub>1</sub>).
- Hailey Copse (OM<sub>1</sub>) : *Heg-leah*, 'Lea of the Hedge.'

(To be continued.)

## Notes and Queries

### REPLIES.

REPLY TO QUERY (Vol. xxvii, No. 1) re OLD ARMORIAL GLASS WINDOWS.—If it be true, as I am on good authority informed, that James I (not James II) converted that portion of the Upper Icknield Way which runs from Lowbury Hill to what is known as Kingstanding Hill into a race course, and that Kingstanding Hill was the natural grand stand where that monarch and his Court viewed the sport, there can be little doubt that there was a Royal residence somewhere handy. Might this have been at Foxhill Farm, Didcot—a quite convenient spot—where the diamond-shaped panes of glass with the Rose of England and the Thistle of Scotland, now in the Board Room at Paddington, were discovered?—Wyfold Court, 18th March, 1923.

---

From whom did the Government purchase the land upon which the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, is built?—Miles, c/o Editor.