

## NOTES ON PLACE-NAME ENDINGS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

In the following Notes I lay no claim to original research, or to the authority of an etymological expert.

The material used was mostly ready to hand; and the Notes are an elementary attempt to discriminate and interpret it. The list of about 330 Bucks place-names, upon which I have worked, is compiled mainly from the index to Kelly's Directory, and comprises the names of the old parishes, a considerable number of hamlets, and a few farms.

The antiquity of nearly two-thirds of these names is attested by their appearing, in a more or less recognisable form, in Domesday Book (1087). These names will be found printed in capitals. Of some others there is other mediæval evidence, in charters, etc. The rest are at present only presumed to be ancient; and without external evidence there is no doubt always a risk of being misled by borrowed names.

It is the endings only which are dealt with here—those local suffixes which have been called the substantial portion of Teutonic place-names. I have endeavoured to make a rough and ready analysis and classification of them, more with the hope of suggesting and stimulating research in a wide and rich field accessible to all, than with the expectation of establishing any startling result.

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Before setting out the names, it may be well to make some general observations.

1. One conviction borne in upon the mind by this examination is that of the completeness of the Anglo-Saxon, or English, occupation of this part of the country. Almost all the suffixes belong to well-known Anglo-Saxon types. There is hardly a trace among them of the nomenclature of earlier races. What exceptions there are may be specified here.

*Celtic.*—The memory of the British chieftain, Cunobelin or Cymbeline, is said to be perpetuated in KIMBLE; Frieth (in Hambleden) is possibly a Celtic

woodland designation, akin to Welsh and Cornish forms. The English "combe" (WYCOMBE) has a Celtic analogue; and "Pen," the Celtic "head" or "hill," so common in Western Britain, may well survive in the name of the loftily situated village of Penn.

*Latin.*—The common English termination "wick" may, at some remote period, have been adopted from the Latin "vicus." Speen in Berks is identified with the Roman Station "Spinæ" (thorns); and though the Bucks Speen (in Lacey Green) can boast of no such identification, the origin of the name may have been similar. Undoubtedly the syllables "port" in NEWPORT-Pagnell, and LAMPORT (in Stowe), and "font" in CHALFONT, point to a Latin origin, though there is no evidence to show that the names were given to the localities in the Romano-British period.

With these exceptions, the endings appear to be of the ordinary A.S. character.

The English came, not merely to conquer, but to settle: and they settled—clearing, enclosing, building, pasturing, tilling, (as many of their descendants have done in many parts of the world); and thus settling, they named or re-named their new homes. As a rule, indeed, they adopted the river names already existing in the country: but for the rest, they went upon the simple principle of describing either what they found, or what they made there. The terminations of their place-names, with which alone we are now concerned, are in almost all cases purely descriptive.

The strength of the English hold upon the soil is further evidenced by the permanence of the English names after the Norman Conquest. In a score or so of cases the name of the lord's family is added as a second title—thus, STOKE Mandeville, CLIFTON Reynes, STANTON Barry, for so, it appears, Stantonbury should be written. But the old English nomenclature held its ground. The only instance, I believe, of its being supplanted by a later growth is the modern suppression of Isenhampstead before the family names of Chenies and Latimer.

2. In perusing a list of this kind it is natural to notice the absence or rarity of terminations which are fairly common elsewhere. Thus the terminations "cester" or "chester," "castle," "minster," and

“bridge” are unknown in Bucks. It is strange that the familiar “hampton” should be absent; for, if we adopt the Domesday spelling of BECENTONE, Beachampton must be considered a corruption. More surprising is the rarity of such common A.S. terminations as “worth,” “hurst,” and “field.” Contrast the number of “fields” in the neighbouring area of the old forest between Windsor and the Kennet valley.

3. The question of spelling alluded to above is a difficult one. Mediæval, and even later, scribes are so arbitrary and capricious in the matter—sometimes spelling the same name in different ways in the same document—that they are very uncertain guides to the original form of a word. The common suffixes “den,” “don,” “ton,” “stone,” and “more,” “mere,” are constantly apt to get interchanged. Probably no substantial injustice will be done to any of them, if the modern spelling is adopted as the basis for assessing their comparative frequency of occurrence, except in cases where it is clearly proved to be a corruption.

And now to pass from preliminaries to the suffixes themselves. They may be grouped, for convenience sake, under four heads—Configuration, Vegetation, Irrigation, Occupation.

1. CONFIGURATION.—i.e., suffixes describing the lie of the country, principally the hills.

<i>cliff</i> , RADCLIVE.	1
<i>combe</i> , a valley or hollow.	
Idlecombe (in Turville)	
Liscombe (in Soulbury).	
High WYCOMBE.	
West WYCOMBE.	4
<i>don</i> , a hill, cf. down, dunc.	
ASHENDON.	
Bellingdon (in Chesham).	
CHARNDON (in Twyford).	
CLAYDON (3).	
Long CRENDON.	
GRENDON Underwood.	
HOLLINGDON (in Soulbury).	
LAVENDON.	
Poundon (in Twyford).	
QUARRENDON.	

	WADDESDON.	
	WAVENDON.	
	WHADDON.	
	Weedon (in Hardwicke).	
	WINCHENDON (2).	18
<i>hill,</i>	BRICKHILL (3).	
	Brill (BRUNHELLE).	
	Coleshill (in Amersham).	
	Kingshill (in Hughenden).	
	Naphill (in Hughenden).	7
<i>hoe, a</i>	heel-shaped hill.	
	IVINGHOE.	
	MOULSOE.	
	Petsoe (in Emberton).	
	Tattenhoe.	4
<i>low, a</i>	mound, natural or artificial.	
	BLEDLOW.	
	COTTESLOW.	
	CRESLOW.	
	MARLOW (2).	
	TAPLOW.	
	WINSLOW.	7
<i>ridge,</i>	Asheridge (in Chesham).	
	Chartridge (in Chesham).	
	Hawridge.	
	Hundridge (in Chesham).	
	Totteridge (in Hazlemere).	
	WALDRIDGE (in Dinton).	6
<i>slope,</i>	HANSLOPE.	<u>1</u>
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II. VEGETATION, i.e., suffixes denoting whether the locality is wooded or open.

<i>den, a</i>	wooded hollow.
	Amerden (in Taplow).
	BIDDLESDEN.
	Catsdean (in Monks Risborough).
	Cliveden (in Taplow).
	Flaunden.
	HAMBLEDEN.
?	HAMPDEN (2).
	HILLESDEN.

- HORSENDEN.  
 HUGHENDEN.  
 MISSENDEN (2).  
 SALDEN (in Mursley). 14  
*field*, usually a clearing in a forest.  
 Beaconsfield.  
 Brafield.  
 Luffield (part in Lillingstone Dayrell).  
 Turville, formerly Turfield. 4  
*grove*, a collection of trees. (This modern sense  
 was not unknown in A.S. times, though the  
 original meaning was a cutting of some sort.  
 See Bosworth's Dictionary).  
 ADDINGROVE Farm (in Oakley).  
 BEDGROVE (in Weston Turville).  
 Blackgrove, 1196 (in Waddesdon).  
 Filgrave.  
 Grove.  
 WINGRAVE. 6  
*holt*, a wood.  
 Stockholt (in Akeley). 1  
*hurst*, a wood.  
 Fingest ? DILEHERST.  
 GAYHURST. 2  
*ley*, open meadow.  
 AKELEY.  
 Bletchley.  
 Botley (in Chesham).  
 CHEARSLEY.  
 CHICHELEY.  
 Cowley (in Preston Bissett).  
 North Crawley.  
 Downley (in W. Wycombe).  
 FAWLEY.  
 Hedgerley.  
 Langley.  
 Lee.  
 MURSLEY.  
 Notley (in Long Crendon).  
 OAKLEY.  
 SHENLEY.  
 STEWKLEY.  
 Whelpley (in Ashley Green). 18

<i>land</i> ,	BUCKLAND.	1
<i>mead</i> ,	HARDMEAD.	1
<i>moor</i> ,	Cadmore. †	
	Chackmore.	
	Dropmore.	
	MENTMORE.	
	Parmoor (in Hambleden).	
	Winchmore (in Amersham).	6
<i>shaw</i> ,	a shady place, a copse.	
	EVERSAW (in Biddlesden).	
	HOGSHAW.	2
<i>slade</i> ,	an open tract of country.	
	LINSLADE.	1
<i>thorn</i> ,	PIGHTLESTHORNE.	1
<i>wood</i> ,	Astwood.	
	CHETWODE.	
	HORWOOD (2).	
	Kingswood (in Grendon Underwood).	
	Prestwood.	6
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III. IRRIGATION—i.e., suffixes connected with water, and its incidents.

<i>burn</i> ,	<i>burn</i> , a stream.	
	Bourne End.	
	Ledburn (in Mentmore).	
	SWANBOURNE.	
	WOOBURN.	4
<i>brook</i> ,	Colnbrook.	
	Dadbrook (in Haddenham).	
	Seabrook (in Ivinghoe).	3
<i>eye</i> ,	an island, often a tract of land raised a few feet above the wet level of a broad valley.	
	BOVENEY.	
	Chalvey.	
	DORNEY.	
	Kings } EY.	
	Towers }	
	OLNEY.	
	Romney (in Eton).	
	Thorney (in Iver).	8

† NOTE.—To these may probably be added some of the names classified under 'mere.'

<i>font</i> , a spring.	CHALFONT (2).	2
<i>ford</i> ,	DADFORD. Ford (in Dinton). ? Harleyford (in Marlow). ICKFORD. LINFORD (2). Fenny Stratford. Stony Stratford. Water STRATFORD. TICKFORD. TWYFORD.	11
<i>marsh</i> ,	MARSH Gibbon. MARSH (in Kimble).	2
<i>mere</i> ,	Fulmer.* Hazlemere. Holmer Green. ILMER. Widmer.	5
<i>or, ora</i> , a shore.	Hedsor.	1
<i>over, ofer</i> , a shore.	WENDOVER.	1
<i>water</i> ,	Loudwater.	1
<i>well</i> , a spring.	BRADWELL. Britwell (in Burnham). Flackwell Heath. HARTWELL.	4

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IV. OCCUPATION—i.e., suffixes denoting that men have occupied the land, and left their mark there.

*borough*, } an earthwork, whether camp, entrench-  
*bury*, } ment, or barrow. Often the work of  
pre-English races.

DESBOROUGH.  
EDLESBOROUGH.

\*NOTE.—Some of these names should probably be classified under 'moor.'

- ELLESBOROUGH.  
 GRANBOROUGH.  
 LENBOROUGH (in Gawcott).  
 RISBOROUGH (2).  
 SINGLEBOROUGH (in Great Horwood).  
 THORNBOROUGH.  
 Aylesbury.  
 Choulesbury.  
 LATHBURY.  
 Nasbury (in Whaddon).  
 PADBURY.  
 SOULBURY.  
 WESTBURY.  
 WESTBURY (in Shenley).  
 WRAYSBURY. 18
- church*, WHITCHURCH. 1
- cot, cote*, a small building for man, beast, or fowl.  
 Ascot (in Wing).  
 Askett, cote, 1348 (in Monks Risborough).  
 Boycott (in Stowe).  
 Burcot (in Wing).  
 Burcott (in Bierton).  
 CALDECOTE (in Bow Brickhill).  
 EDGCOTT.  
 FOSCOTT.  
 Gawcott.  
 Hulcote.  
 LITTLECOTE (in Stewkley).  
 Pitchcott.  
 POLLICOTT (in Ashendon).  
 SOUTHCOTE (in Linslade).  
 Westcott. 15
- hall*, a stone house.  
 Dagnall (in Edlesborough).  
 Doddershall (in Quainton).  
 Hudnall (in Edlesborough).  
 LUDGARShall.  
 Northall (in Edlesborough).  
 Ringshall (in Ivinghoe).  
 Tathall (in Hanslope).  
 WORMINGHALL. 8
- ham*, a home, a homestead. The following examples occur within a few miles of each other in the S.E. part of the County:—



AMERSHAM.  
 CHESHAM (2).  
 DENHAM.  
 IVER (EVREHAM).  
 Wexham.  
 FARNHAM Royal.  
 Cippenham.  
 EAST BURNHAM.  
 BURNHAM.  
 HITCHAM.

The others are scattered.

BRADENHAM.  
 BUCKINGHAM.  
 DENHAM (in Quainton).  
 HADDENHAM.  
 HAVERSHAM.  
 MEDMENHAM.  
 Rowsham (in Wingrave).  
 TYRINGHAM.  
 Woodham (in Waddesdon). 20

*hampstead*, *stead*, A.S. *stede*, a place, cf. "instead."

Ackhampstead.  
 Isenhampstead.  
 LECKHAMSTED. 3

*port*, a gate, sometimes used for a town.

LAMPOR (in Stow).  
 NEWPORT Pagnell. 2

*stall*, Boarstall. 1

*stock*, A.S. *Stock*, an enclosure made with stakes.

ADSTOCK.  
 STOKE Goldington.  
 STOKE Hamond.  
 STOKE Mandeville.  
 STOKE Poges. 5

*stone*, perhaps a boundary or memorial stone, or a relic of Roman masonry.

Birdstone (Burstone in Aston Abbott).  
 Bishopstone (in Stone).  
 IBSTONE.  
 LILLINGSTONE (2).  
 SHALSTONE.  
 STONE. 7

- stow*, a place, cf. the verb "to stow." 1  
**STOWE.**
- thorp*, a village.  
 Castlethorpe.  
 Eythrope (in Waddesdon).  
**HELSTHORPE** Farm (in Wingrave). 3
- ton*, A.S. *tún*, an enclosure, a farm.  
**ADDINGTON.**  
**ASTON** Abbott.  
**ASTON** Clinton.  
**ASTON** Ivinghoe.  
**ASTON** Molins (in Dinton).  
**ASTON** Sandford.  
**BARTON** Hartshorn.  
**BEACHAMPTON.**  
**BEACHENTON** (in Waddesdon).  
**BIERTON.**  
**BOURTON** (in Buckingham).  
**BROUGHTON.**  
**BROUGHTON** (in Bierton).  
**CALVERTON.**  
**CHEDDINGTON.**  
**CHILTON.**  
**CLIFTON** Reynes.  
**CRAFTON** (in Wing).  
**CUBLINGton.**  
**CUDDINGTON.**  
**DINTON.**  
**DITTON.**  
**DORTON.**  
**DRAYTON** Beauchamp.  
**DRAYTON** Parslow.  
**DUNTON.**  
**EASINGTON** Farm (in Chilton).  
 Water **EATON.**  
**EMBERTON.**  
**ETON.**  
**HALTON.**  
**HOGGESTON.**  
**HORTON.**  
**HORTON** (in Slapton).  
**LOUGHTON.**  
**FLEET MARSTON.**  
 North **MARSTON.**

Maidens	MORETON.	
	MILTON Keynes.	
	Nearnton (in Swanbourne).	
	Newnton Longville.	
	NEWTON Blossomville.	
	PRESTON Bisset.	
	QUAINTON.	
	RAVENSTONE.	
	SAUNDERTON.	
	SHABBINGTON.	
	Shipton (in Winslow).	
	SHIPTON Lee (in Quainton).	
	SHERINGTON.	
	SLAPTON.	
	STANTONbury.	
	SYMPSON (SUIVINESTONE).	
	THORNTON.	
	TURWESTON.	
	UPTON.	
	UPTON (in Dinton).	
	Walton (2).	
	Warrington (in Olney).	
	Weston Turville.	
	WESTON Underwood.	
	WOLVERTON.	
	WOOLSTONE (2).	
	Wormstone (in Waddesdon).	
	WOTTON Underwood.	
	WOUGHTON on the Green.	68
<i>wick</i> , a village.		
?	Ankerwycke (in Wraysbury).	
	HARDWICKE.	
	LongWICK (in Princes Risborough).	
	Oldwick (in Shalstone).	
	Owlswick (in Monks Risborough).	
	TETCHWICK (in Ludgershall).	
	TINGEWICK.	7
<i>worth</i> , a place warded, fenced in.		
	Littleworth (in Dropmore).	
	Littleworth (in Wing).	
	MARSWORTH.	3



ADDITIONAL NOTE.—On the termination “port,” whether derived from “*portus*” (harbour) or “*porta*” (gate) see Professor Maitland’s “Domesday Book and beyond,” Cambridge University Press, 1897, from which the following is an extract:—

“When in the laws this third feature is to be made prominent, [viz., a place in which a market is held,] the *burh* is spoken of as a *port*. . . . The word “*port* was applied to inland towns. To this usage of it the *portmoot* or *portmanmoot*, that in after days we may find in boroughs far from the coast, bears abiding testimony. On the other hand, except on the seaside, this word has not become part of many English place-names. (3). If, as seems probable, it is the Latin *portus* we apparently learn from the use made of it that at one time the havens. . . . were the only known spots where there was much buying and selling. . . . (1).”

“(3) Stockport, Langport, Ampport, Newport-Pagnell, Milborne Port, Littleport are instances. But a very small river might be sufficient to make a place a haven.”

“(1) Seemingly, if this O.E. *port* is not Lat. *portus*, it is Lat. *porta*, and there is some fascination about the suggestion that the *burh-geat*, or in modern German the *Burg-gasse*, in which the market was held, was described in Latin as *porta burgi*. . . . But what we have to account for is the adoption of *port* as an English word, and if our ancestors might have used *geat*, they need not have borrowed. . . . Dr. Stubbs (Const. Hist. i. 439) “gives a weighty vote for *porta*.” pp. 195-196.

The passage referred to in Dr. Stubbs’ Constitutional History will be found at p. 404. (Ed. 1874).

NOTE 2.—“The word *port* in *portreeve* is the Latin “‘*porta*’ (not *portus*) where the markets were held, and, although used for the city generally, seems to refer to it specially in its character of a mart or “city of merchants.”

CECIL F. J. BOURKE.

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KIMBLE.—The association of the name of Kimble with *Cunobelinos* is not a recent supposition. Camden says: “Kymbel (great and little) are supposed to take the name from Cunobeline King of the Britains, the places being also in ancient records written Cunebel. And this, together with several trenches and fortifications in these parts, confirms the notion that this county

[Bucks] was the seat of the action wherein the two sons of Cunobeline were slain, and from hence they might probably retire to give battle to Aulus Plautius." Camden's *Britannia*, edited by Gibson, 3 Edition, Vol. I., pp. 329-330. Cunobelinos, the Cymbeline of Shakspeare, styled himself on some coins *rex*. He appears to have been king over the powerful tribe known as the Catuvelauni, called, by Camden, the Cattieuchlani. Their kingdom extended over the three counties of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Hertfordshire, and farther still, as Camulodunon or Colchester appears by his coins to have been the capital of Cunobelinos, as Verlamion or Verulam, near St. Albans, was the capital of his father, known by the Latinized name of Tasciovanus. By making Camulodunon his capital, it is manifest that Cunobelinos had successfully invaded the Trinovantes, and made his seat of government in the heart of their country. The Catuvelauni, Professor Rhys says, may be regarded as the Mercians of those days, a supposition aptly illustrated by the fact that they chose to call themselves by a name meaning battle rulers or war kings. It should be remarked that the Catuvelauni had a coinage, and this fact assists in distinguishing to some degree the boundaries of the tribe (see Professor Rhys' *Celtic Britain*, 2nd Edition, Catuvelauni). In Domesday Great Kimble is called Chenebella; the Manor belonged to Walter Giffard. Little Kimble is called in the survey Parva Chenebelle, the Manor being held by Turstin Fitz Rolf. The earthworks at Kimble commanding the Icknield-way indicate that this was a spot of strategic importance in early times, but the tradition that they were formed by Cunobelinos is, of course, mere conjecture.

PENN appears clearly to be of Celtic origin, indicating a head or eminence.

FRIETH.—MR. A. H. Cocks writes that "Frieth was till quite recently known as *The Frieth*," and suggests that "it may be the same Celtic word as *Efridd*, a name used in Denbighshire for a pasture, a piece of grass land reclaimed from the Moor, and that the Frieth may indicate an enclosure from the Forest." If the word is of

Saxon origin, is it possible that this name is derived from the Saxon *Frid-Frið-gear*, a peace inclosure, a refuge or settlement outside of the Forest ?

WHITELEAF.—See Mr. E. J. Payne's paper on "Whitecliff Cross" (Records of Bucks, Vol. VII., p. 559, et seq.), in which cogent reasons are given for believing that *Whiteleaf* has been substituted for *Whitecliff*.

LOUDWATER.—Langley, in his "Hundred of Desborough," has the following note at p. 273:—"I have reason to think that my conjecture respecting Lede being the ancient Manorial appellation of Hedsor is erroneous. Lede was more probably part of Wooburn parish called now Lude, the Lude farm, and Loudwater. There was a family of this name who resided there, among whom occurs John de la Luda, Member for Wycombe." John de la Luda was Member for Wycombe at the Parliament at Westminster 28 Edw. I. in the place of Stephen Ayott, being infirm.

With reference to other names referred to in the text, one is reminded in the name SPEEN of the Speen in Berkshire, the *spinæ* on the high road to *Aquæ Solis*, Bath. RADNAGE was known in early documents as *Radenach* or *Rodenache* (see Dugdale's Mon.: Vol. II., 975). *Hatch* or *ache* is a common suffix in the neighbourhood of ancient forests, signifying a place on the boundaries of the forest. These editorial notes, it will be seen, only touch on some of the names referred to in the text, and are capable of much amplification.—  
J. P.