

# Berkshire Charters

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

## 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.

## ABINGDON (*continued*).

7. *Thaet thaer on the Dic*: 'Then there to the Dyke.'

8. *Ondlang Dic to Mearcforda*: 'Along the Dyke to the Boundary Ford.' This brings us to point 4 of the previous charter. So the Rush Slade and Torhtwold's Marsh must have been wet ground near Larkhill Stream.<sup>1</sup>

9. *Thonne up ond lang Broces oth hyt cymth to emnes tham Ealdan Laeg Hrycge*: 'Then up along the Brook until it comes level with<sup>2</sup> the Old . . . Ridge.' For the *Broc* see prev. charter 5. The ridge is almost certainly the land between Wildmoor and Sunningwell Brooks.

10. *Thonne ongerichte betweoh Pottes Treow on thone Ellen Styb*: 'Then straight on (between?) Pottel's Tree (or possibly Cross) to the Stump of the Elder-tree.' This tree is called *Pottenes Treow* in the Wootton charter K. 1283. It must have stood about where the lane from Long Furlong Farm enters the Abingdon-Cumnor road. The Stump must also have been near that point.

11. *Thaet thaer on Wuduuford on Sunninga Wylles Broc*: 'Then there to the Ford of the Wood to Sunningwell Brook.' See 6 of prev. charter.

12. *Ondland Broces to Dunnanforda*: 'Along the Brook to (Duna's) Ford.' Part of the name of this ford is preserved in the field name Dunmore. See note on 8 of prev. chart. In

<sup>1</sup> Both the AS. names and the field names show that in former times Abingdon was bounded on the N., N.W., and W. by extensive moor or fen land.

<sup>2</sup> I have translated *emnes* as if it were related to *efen*, 'level,' in the same way that *hraem* is related to *hraefn*, 'raven.' But, of course, the translation is uncertain. *Laeg* is corrupt; and it is not possible to say what was the name of the ridge.

the Bayworth charter (B. 932, K. 1202) the ford is called *Dunan Ford*. Comparison with that charter makes it fairly certain that the ford was either at or close to the point where the *Pippeles Rithig* of point 7 of prev. chart. meets Sunningwell Brook. From this point the Bys. of the two charters cease to coincide for a considerable interval. See notes on 10 of prev. chart. It is now necessary to take a long series of landmarks without discussing the position of any one of them.

13. *Thaet thaer on thaet Withig Bed*: 'Then on the Withy Bed.'

14. *Thonne on thone Healfan Aecer northweardne*: 'Then on the Half of a Strip of Ploughland on its north side.'

15. *Thonne andlang Fyrh*: 'Then along a Furrow.'

16. *To thon Heafdon*: 'To the Headland.'

17. *Thaet thaer suth ofer thone Healfan Aecer*: 'Then south over the Half Acre.'

18. *Thaet thaer east on tha Furh*: 'Then east to the Furrow.'

19. *Thaet to tham Sceortan Lond*: 'Then to the Short Ploughland.' The only thing which is plain about this part of the By. is that it is passing through ploughland which must have lain between Northcourt and Radley Park. As might be expected from their nature, the points are indeterminable.

20. *Thaer on thone Heathenan Byrgels*: 'Then to the Heathen Burial-place.'

21. *Thonne thaer on tha Seofon Aeceras westwearde*: 'Then to the Seven Strips of Ploughland on their west side.'

22. *Thaet thaer north to Lippan Dic*: 'Then north to Lippa's Dyke.'

23. *Ondlang Dic thurh Sugcan Graf*: 'Along the Dyke through Hedge Sparrow Grove.' Here we come to a landmark, the position we can determine approximately. The first element of this name survives in that of Sugworth Farm on the N. border of Radley parish, and in that of Sugnell Copse which lies W. of the Abingdon road, opposite Radley Park. Sugworth is *Sugcan Worth*, and Sugnell is *Sugcan Healh*, 'Hedge-sparrow Hollow.' It seems highly probable that *Sugcan Graf* stood somewhere on the Sunningwell-Radley By. Unfortu-

nately the site of the Heathen Burial-place is not determinable; but the *Lippan Dic* probably ran along that part of the Radley By. which runs N. to Sunningwell Lane.

24. *Thaet on thone Ellen Styb*: 'Then to the Elder-tree Stump.' Somewhere near where the By. crosses Sunningwell Lane.

25. *Thonne on tha Brembel Thyrrnan on tha Dic*: 'Then to the Blackberry Bushes to the Dyke.' We are now getting to a complicated piece of By. which can only be followed in OM6, namely, the E. By. of Chandlings Farm, which includes the field E. of the Oxford road at the point where it enters the S. end of Bagley Wood. The By. runs up first to near the buildings of the farm, and then doubles back S. to get round this field. The field is surrounded by old ditches, and the survey of the charter takes its bounds with detail. The Dyke above mentioned seems to have run up the By. W. of the Oxford road just before it enters Bagley Wood.

26. *Ondlang Dic to Horopytte*: 'Along the Dyke to the Mud Pit.' The pit must have been a little more than 100 yds. E. of the buildings of the Farm, where there is still an old pond.

27. *Thonne thurh Madoces Leah*: 'Then through Madoc's Lea.' The field on the E. side of the Oxford road (see above) must have been Madoc's Lea or part of it.

28. *On tha Ealdan Dic*: 'To the Old Dyke.' This is represented by the old ditch running down the By. parallel with, and E. of, the road.

29. *Thonne on tha Aecer Dic*: 'Then to the Dyke of the Strip of Ploughland.' This must be the Ditch on the S. side of the above field.

30. *Thonne on Haesel Dic*: 'Then to Hazel Dyke.' This would be the ditch on the E. side of the field.

31. *Of Haesel Dic on thonne Gemaer Weg on Baegan Wyrthe*: 'From Hazel Dyke to the Boundary Way, towards Baega's Farm (Bayworth).' *Gemaer Weg* has usually the meaning of a way following a balk; but here I think it has the less common meaning of a way along the By. of the land-unit. Of course the By. does not go to Bayworth; nor does the *Weg*,

as the next point in the survey shows. Therefore I have taken the words to mean that, in approaching the Boundary Way, the By. runs in the general direction of Bayworth.

32. *Onlang Weges to Hig Wege*: 'Along the (Boundary) Way to the Hayway.' The Hayway, as shown by the prev. chart., is the Oxford-Boar's Hill road. The Boundary Way must have gone along the W. edge of what is now Bagley Wood, and must be identical with the *Portstraet* of prev. chart. 14. The calling of the same road by two different names by different sets of surveyors is quite common in the charters. In the present case the characteristic of this road which struck the first set of surveyors was its 'made' character; while that which struck the second set was the fact that it formed part of the By. of the grant.

33. *Ondlang Hiweges to Ecgunes Wrythe*: 'Along the Hayway to Ecgunes Farm.' See 15 and 16 of prev. chart.

34. *Thonne on Bacgan Leah*: 'Then to Bacga's Lea (Bagley).' See 17 of prev. chart.

35. *Thaet a be Wyrwtalan*: 'Then always by the Foot of the Slope.' Here the By. diverges again from that of the prev. chart. This grant does not include the eyots of the Thames. The slope referred to is that from the N. part of E. edge of Bagley Wood towards the Radley road. The By. follows the E. By. of the parish of Bagley Wood.

36. *Thaet on Bacgan Broc*: 'Then to Bacga's Brook.' See 25 of prev. chart.

37. *Of Bacgan Broce on Hafoces Oran*: 'From Bacga's Brook to Hawk's Bank.' See 26 of prev. chart.

38. *Ond lang thaes Gemaer Hagan*: 'Along the Boundary Hedge.' *Haga* as used in the charters is, as far as I can see, always used of the hedge of a wood. It was probably a particular type of fence made with a view to preventing game from straying on to the cultivation, and was therefore distinguished from *Hege*, 'hedge.' But I am inclined to think that it in many cases in the charters applied to the wood itself, and that it came to mean 'game enclosure.' In this case it was a hedge running along the edge of what is now Bagley Wood, just W. of Kennington and through Little London.

39. *Thaet ut on Rige Wyrthe west weardne on tha Ealdan Dic*: 'Then out to Rye Farm on its west side to the Old Dyke.'

40. *Thonne ondlang Dic to Perhangran*: 'Then along the Dyke to the Hanging Wood (of Pear Trees?).'

41. *Thonne on Wulfrices Broc*: 'Then to Wulfric's Brook.' A cross reference to Ryeworth in the Kennington charter (B. 971, K. 1200) shows clearly that Ryeworth was in the angle between Bagley Wood and Radley Large Wood, N. of the latter. The Hanging Wood was probably on the site of Radley Large Wood; and the Old Dyke was the channel of the stream which runs along the N. edge of that wood, which was probably called 'dyke' because it had been straightened. Lower down towards the Thames this stream is called Wulfric's Brook. The Old Dyke is also mentioned in the Kennington charter. (See above.) See also 29 of prev. chart.

42. *Thonne on gerihte ofer Hyrдыге to tham Greatean Welige*: 'Then straight on over Herdsmen's Island to the Great Willowtree.' See 30 of prev. chart. There is no question about the identity of *Hyrдыг*. In the field-names of Radley Herdey is the name of the large eyot on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames, about a quarter of a mile below Sandford Lock. It will be noticed that the county By. runs along the backwater to the E. of this eyot. Thus, though on the Oxfordshire side of the river, it is in Berkshire. Doubtless the county By. was determined by these Abingdon boundaries of old time. The Great Willow is mentioned in a curious appendage to the survey of the Bayworth charter (B. 932, K. 1202); and it is fairly clear that it stood on the Berkshire side of the river directly opposite the S. end of the eyot. It might seem curious that this point in the survey does not mention that the By. has reached the Thames. The reason evidently is that Wulfric's Brook bends S. just before it reaches the river and enters it nearly opposite to the N. end of the eyot.

43. *Thaet thaer ut on Temese*: 'Then there out to the Thames.' After passing round the eyot, the By. follows the main river right down to Abingdon.

44. *Thonne ondlang Temese*: 'Then along the Thames.'

45. *Thaet est* (sic) *on Occenes Gaerstundic suthewardne*: *Est* is an obvious error for *West*. 'Then West to the Dyke of the Grass Enclosure by the Ock on its south side.' See 32 of prev. chart.

## SOME GENERAL NOTES FROM THE CHARTERS.

The name of Abingdon appears in various forms in the charters. In Latin form its name appears as *Abbendonia* (B. 366, K. 214), *Abbenduna* and *Abbendona* (B. 687, K. 1129). The AS. variants are: *Abbendun* (B. 101, K. 46: B. 683, K. 357: B. 844: B. 906, K. 1171, &c.), *Abbandun* (B. 680, K. 1104), *Aebbandun* (B. 155, K 81).

Skeat (Pl. N. Berks) points out that the modern name is a corruption of the AS. form which was *Aebban Dun*, 'Aebba's Down.' The down was probably the watershed which comes down from Bagley Wood to the town.

This is not the earliest name of the place. That survives in a document in the *Abingdon Cartulary* (I, p. 6) in the form *Seouechesham*, 'Seofec's House,' a personal name which also appears in the old form of the name Seacourt, *Seofecan Wyrth*, which is in Cumnor parish close to Botley, near Oxford.

On the E. side of the town and of the Abbey, just outside the municipal By., lay the suburb of Barton, which is now represented merely by Barton Farm. But if, as is almost certainly the case, the *Bertona* of the document in the *Abingdon Cartulary* (I, p. 270) is this Barton, then it must have attained to some importance in times immediately succeeding the Conquest, for it is there stated that Hinksey was formerly a member of Cumnor, but at the time of the writing of this document was a member of Bertona. Furthermore, the identity of *Bertona* with Barton is shown by the document in the *Abingdon Cartulary* (I, p. 480). This records the making of a new channel for navigation at '*Bertun juxta viculum nomine Adtropam.*' The latter is Thrupp, which lies a little further E. of the town than Barton. This channel is the Abbey Stream which branches from the Berks bank of the river just above Abingdon Lock. It was made, so we are told, at the request of the citizens of Oxford, who used the river a great deal for navigation. The document cited is of the reputed date A.D. 1012.

In a document of the reign of Henry I in the *Cartulary* (II, p. 64) is a mention of *Henora*, or *Einore*, presumably 'Hean's Bank,' named no doubt after the well-known abbot, Hean. It is described as being at the E. of the town at a bridge at the mouth of the Ock. In a further document (*Cart.* II, p.

109) *Henoura* is stated to be in the Manor of Sutton (Courtenay).

#### SOME FIELD NAMES IN ABINGDON AND RADLEY.

(N.B.—C.1 refers to the first, and C.2 to the second charter in this paper.)

Colwell Mead and Windick Bottom : extended all down the W. side of Larkhill Stream from the Shippon to the Cumnor Road. See 3 of C.1 and 5 of C.2.

Barrow Field : 3 fur. S.W. of Shippon Church. Must have been a tumulus here.

Madmoor : 3 fur. W. of Shippon Church.

Hanging Lands : i.e. lands on a slope, 3 fur. E. of Shippon Church.

Carewell : 3 fur. W.S.W. of middle of Northcourt. Indicates a spring.

Dunmoor : 3 fur. W.N.W. of middle of Northcourt. Also name of a field  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of New Red Farm. Indicates that the marsh extended between these points.

Stert Ground : AS. *Steort*, 'a tongue of land between water-courses.'  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fur. W. of Pewit House.

Lashford Bottom :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Upper Farm in Dry Sandford. The *Laecesford*, 'Leech's Ford,' of the Bayworth and Wootton charters.

Sudbrook :  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Wick Hall.

#### IN RADLEY.

Bruney :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Thrupp. *Brun-Ig*, 'Dark Island.'

Old Eye :  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fur. S.S.E. of Thrupp. An eyot.

Goosey Mead :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.S.E. of Thrupp. *Gos-Ig*, 'Goose Island.' An eyot.

Stockey : Large eyot  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E.N.E. of Thrupp.

Barrow Hills :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. by E. of Wick Hall. Probably former tumulus.

Green Avile : 3 fur. S. by E. of Radley Station. Avile refers to the second of two crops of corn in the rotation of crops.

Mass Furlong :  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of Radley Station.

Bayworth Meadow:  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. E. of Radley village, on the river.

Records the fact that this was the 'mead' of Bayworth.

See the Bayworth charter.

Eney: Two fields  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fur. S.S.E. of Radley village. *Ennan-Ig*, 'Enna's Island.' The site of the *Ennan Beorh*, 'Enna's Barrow,' of the Bayworth charter.

Leverly: On the river a fur. E. of Pumney Farm. Probably *Laefer-Ig*, 'the Island where the Yellow Flag grows.'

Studfield: Large field immed. N. and N.W. of Radley village.

Ashing Grove: Immed. S. of Sugworth Farm. Probably 'Ashen Grove,' i.e. Grove of Ash-trees.

Bougrave Copse: Radley Little Wood,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. by E. of Radley College, is on the site of part of it.

#### APPLEFORD, 3 m. S.W. of Abingdon.

B. 581 is a charter by which King Alfred grants to Deormod the thegn the lands of *Aeppelford* in exchange for other lands. The area is given as 5 hides.

#### SURVEY.

1. *Aerest on tha Lace thae lith be westan Dyrnangelade*: 'First on the Stream which lies west of the Secret (Hidden) Path.' The points in this survey are in some cases very uncertain. It is probable that some of the original landmarks are missing from the beginning of this copy of the survey. A comparison with points 3, 4 and 5 makes it probable that this *Lacu* was a small stream which flows from W. to E. past Hill Farm in the S. part of the parish. The actual point would be where W. of Hill's Farm the W. By. makes a short bend W. One is tempted to suggest that the *Dyrne* of the ancient name survives in the first element of the modern name Durnell's Farm. In that case Durnell's should be Durnell, and would probably originate in *Dyrne Healh*, 'Hidden Hollow.'

2. *Andland Lace up on ane Furh*: 'Along the Stream up to a furrow.' The survey is very difficult to follow; but this appears to refer to the short stretch of the stream which runs along the bend in the By. above mentioned. The furrow must have run down the S. part of the W. By. of the parish to what

is now Easton's Plantation, the wood at the S. end of the parish.

3. *Th' on Widan Gate andlang Dic*: 'Then to the Wide Gate along the Dyke.' This dyke must have run along the S. side of Easton plantation. The gate was at or near the S.E. angle of the parish.

4. *Th' on thone Mor the led (sic) betwux Suthtune and Wittenhamme*: 'Then to the Marsh which lies between Sutton and Wittenham.' All the S. end of the parish seems to have been called Moor (marsh) in former days. Cotmoor Lands lie a short  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. of Hill Farm. Moor Meadow is the field immed. N. of Easton's Plantation. The wording of the charter indicates that the *Mor* extended right across the parish from Sutton parish on the one side to Wittenham parish on the other. This landmark is then in the S. part of the E. By., until, going N., that By. reaches the large stream which cuts across the S. end of the parish, and impinges on the E. By. about one-third of a mile N. of the S.E. corner.

5. *& swa forth be More th' on tha Ealdan Dic thae lith betwux Wigbaldincgtune and Appelfora*: 'And so forth by the Marsh then to the Old Dyke which lies between the Farm of the Wigbalds and Appleford.' The name *Wigbaldincgtun* survives in the name of Willington's Down Farm in the S. part of Long Wittenham parish. The Old Dyke is the great dyke or straight stream bed which runs up the E. By. of Appleford parish. It is now called Moor Ditch.

6. *& of thaere Ealdan Dic to Dices Wyllan*: 'And from the Old Dyke to Dyke Spring.' The spring must have been towards the N. end of the dyke.

7. *Of Dices Wyllan to Sand Gewyrpe*: 'From Dyke Spring to the Sand-heap.' This point is not determinable.

8. *& of Sand Gewyrpe th' utan Temese*: 'And from the Sand-heap out on the Thames.' This carries the E. By. to the river. The landmarks of the N. part of the W. By. seem to be missing from the extant copy of the charter.

#### LOCAL NAME.

The Portway is the road which cuts across the parish from E. to W. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Hill Farm.

APPLETON,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Oxford.

In charter B. 1170, K. 1255, the name appears as *Appeltun*. In B. 777, K. 1141, it is spelt *Aeppeltun*. It is 'the Farm with the Apple Orchard.'

B. 1170, K. 1255, states that it was, together with Frilford and the uncertain *Leoie*, part of Marcham in the days of King Edgar. Eaton is mentioned by name in a document of A.D. 968<sup>3</sup>: 'Fuerunt autem *Uuihtham* (Witham), *Seouecurt* (Seacourt, near Botley), *Hensteseie* (Hinksey) *membra de Cumenora* (Cumnor) temporibus Eadgari regis Angliae, habentes cassatos XXV; nunc vero *Hensteseie* membrum est de *Bertona* (Barton by Abingdon), *Uulhteham* et *Seouecurt* militibus datae, *Eatun* omnino ablata.'

The last words account perhaps for the detachment of Eaton from Cumnor, and its attachment to Appleton.

In another document<sup>4</sup> it is called *Aettun*, and spoken of as next to Cumnor. The AS. form of the name was *Ea-tun*, 'Farm or Village on the river.'

In the A.S. documents the two places, Appleton and Eaton, are the subjects of two different grants.

B. 777, K. 1141 is a document of reputed date, A.D. 942, which records the grant by King Edmund of certain lands to Earl Aethelstan. The title runs 'Carta regis Eadmundi de *Ermundesleia*.' In the body of the document the land is described as consisting of ten hides, 'Ibidem ubi vulgares prisco more mobilique relatione vocitant *Aet Aermundeslea*; villamque nomine *Aet Aeppeltune*.'<sup>5</sup> The actual statement of boundaries is prefaced by the words: 'These are the land boundaries of *Aermundes Lea*, otherwise called *Aet Aeppeltune*.'

The boundaries given are those of Appleton, excluding Eaton, which latter was, as we have seen, not merely a land-unit distinct from Appleton, but belonging to Cumnor, whereas Appleton belonged to Marcham. But what of *Aermundeslea*? Professor Skeat (Berks Pl.N.) assumes that *Aermundeslea* is

<sup>3</sup> Abingdon Cartulary, I, p. 270.

<sup>4</sup> Abingdon Cartulary, II, p. 144.

<sup>5</sup> The oldest form of AS. place names is always in the locative with 'aet.' A place was not called 'Drayton,' but 'at Drayton.'

another and older name of Appleton. My own impression is that this view must be modified; and that *Aermundeslea* is the old name of lands which included both Appleton and Bessilsleigh; but that, when the lands of Appleton became subject of a grant separate from that of Bessilsleigh, then the name *Aermundeslea* came to be restricted to Bessilsleigh only. There is strong evidence for this view, for in B. 1047, K. 1221, we have a document of *Aermundeslea* which gives the bounds of Bessilsleigh only.

#### THE SURVEY OF B. 777, K. 1141.<sup>6</sup>

1. *Aerst up of Temese on tha Dic aet Doccan grafe*: 'First up from the Thames to the Dyke at the Grove where Sorrel grows.' The old Appleton-Eaton By. leaves the Thames at a point about a furlong and a half above Northmoor Lock, and follows the N. edge of Ash Copse. Ash Copse and Hengrove Wood are probably the remains of the former *Doccan Graf* of the charter. Hen Grove is the wood about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.N.W. of the village.

2. *Thaet on thaet Sic the scyt thurh Haesel Lea*: 'Then to the Watercourse which runs through Hazel Lea.' The *Sic* or watercourse ran probably along the line of hedge from the S.E. corner of Hengrove Wood to the road; and, if so, Hazel Lea must have been between the wood and the road.

3. *Foran ongean tha Dic the scyt to Wasan*: 'Forward towards the Dyke which runs to the Wasa (Ouse).' The Wasa is Appleton Brook, which is called Osse Ditch in the TA. of Appleton, a curious survival of the old name. It is impossible to say what line the Dyke which ran to this brook took, for comparison of the Appleton, Eaton, and Bessilsleigh charters show that the old boundaries just E. and N.E. of Appleton village were very complicated. See the Bessilsleigh charter.

<sup>6</sup> In the determination of the landmarks of this charter I have been greatly aided by a paper published by the Rev. J. E. Field, Rector of Bensington, Oxon.

<sup>7</sup> The occurrence of this old pre-Saxon river name in Berks is interesting. It had attracted the attention of those who had seen the text of this charter; but they had assumed that it referred to the 'Isis,' and was in fact the origin of that name. As a fact, that name has no other origin than the invention of an antiquarian. Like some less celebrated antiquarian figments it has got into the modern map. Reference to the Buckland charter will show that this name Wasa was also applied to a little brook in that parish.

4. *Siththan andlang Wasan thaet it sticath on Tubban Forda*: 'After that along the Wasa until it reaches Tubba's Ford.' The By. then runs along the Appleton Brook (Osse Ditch) to the extreme S. point of the parish where was *Tubban Ford*, a ford also mentioned in the Marcham (really Tubney and Frilford) charter K. 1255. *Tubba's* name survives also in that of Tubney, 'Tubba's Island.'

5. *Thonon on thaet Rithig oth hit cymth to thaere Straete*: 'Then to the Streamlet till it comes to the Street (Made Road).' The *Rithig* was a stream along the W. Side of Appleton Upper Common. The *Straet* is the Netherton-Appleton road at the point where it crosses the W. By. of Appleton. It will be seen on reference to the map that this is a ridgeway. It is, as a fact, part of the old road from Cumnor and Oxford to Faringdon, a road which ran N. and more or less parallel with the line of the present road as far as Buckland, where the two join, and run on to Faringdon along the same line. This old road from Cumnor to Faringdon was a ridgeway throughout its length, adhering strictly to the watershed between the Thames and the Ock, and carefully avoiding the heads of the streams which run to join those rivers. It is probable that the sharp bend which the present road makes towards Netherton shortly after entering Fyfield parish marks the place where the old line of road, continuing along the ridge or watershed, diverged from the modern line. No trace of the old line is further observable in Fyfield parish, except perhaps the two pieces of straight hedge which are in a direct line with its course up to that point; but the line is taken up by the farm road or lane which goes from Newbridge road in Kingston Bagpuize to Draycot Farm in Draycot Moor, and then by a fieldpath to Sudbury Farm in Longworth. Hence it must have gone through Longworth village, past the rectory, and have then gone on to take the line of the present road running through the S. of Hinton Waldrist village, and continued by the lane and fieldpath which joins the modern main road in Pusey Common Wood. After that the modern road to Faringdon is a ridgeway, and it coincides with the line of the ancient road. The name *Straet* applied to this ridgeway shows that at and about the W. By. of Appleton it had been romanised, i.e. metalled and, possibly, straightened. The charters show

clearly that many ridgeways were romanised in parts. We shall find the term *Stræt* applied to this same road in another charter.

6. *Of thaere Strete on tha Dic the scyt to tham Heafod Lande*: 'From the Street to the Dyke which runs to the Headland.' The Dyke is still clearly marked along the W. side of Appleton Lower Common just N. of the main road.

7. *VI gyrda be westan Yttinges Hlawe*: 'Six rods west of Ytting's Low or Tumulus.' Important as being one of the passages in the charters which show us that the AS. *Gyrd* was roughly the 'rod, pole, or perch' of our modern measures. Ytting's Low has its name preserved in the field name Titlar Hill, which is in Appleton Lower Common Wood,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of the road. 'Titlar' in the TA. is certainly a corrupted form of 'Titlow.' In the neighbouring part of Fyfield parish there stood in former times Githill Wood, which has now been cut down, but appears in early editions of the OM.

8. *Thonon on tha Raewe*: 'Then to the Row of Trees.' This must have run down from Ytting's Low to the Thames.

9. *Of thaere Raewe on Temese*: 'From the Row to the Thames.'

10. *On thaet in fyrde andlang Temese eft on Doccan Dic*: 'And then forth along the Thames once more to Sorrel Dyke.' These points require no explanation.

#### THE EATON CHARTER.

B. 1222, K. 1261 records a grant made by King Eadgar to Abingdon Abbey of land at Cumnor. The reputed date is A.D. 968. The charter refers to 30 hides '*Loco qui celebri aet Cumenoran nuncupatur vocabulo.*'

The 30 hides include undoubtedly Cumnor and its appurtenances, Seacourt, Swinford, and Eaton; but the survey is that of Eaton only. Possibly other surveys were originally attached to the charter, and have been lost.

1. *Aerest of Stirigan Pole to thaere Dic*: 'First from . . . Pool to the Dyke.' *Stiriga* or *Stiria* means a 'sturgeon,' an obviously impossible translation here. But it is also used to translate certain other Latin names of fishes; and to one of these it must refer here. The pool stood somewhere close to

what was in A.S. times the meeting-place of the boundaries of Appleton, Eaton, and Bessilsleigh, a point which, as has been said with regard to the previous Appleton charter, is very obscure. The pool is referred to in the *Earmundes Lea* (Bessilsleigh) charter, B. 1047, K. 1221; and the reference there shows that it must have lain close to the Cumnor road, where the old Eaton By. crossed it about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. of the N. edge of Appleton village. The Dyke is probably the *Doccan Dic* of the Appleton charter, running from this road down to the Thames along the S. side of Hengrove Wood (see Appleton charter).

2. *Andlang Dices infyrde a be Maere on Temese*: 'Along the Dyke always on by the Balk to the Thames.' The By. runs down the Dyke to the Thames.

3. *Andlang Temese on Wadleahe*: 'Along the Thames to Woad Lea.' *Wadleah* must have been where the present Eaton-Cumnor By. meets the Thames.

4. *Of Wadleahe thaet on tha Ealdan Dic*: 'From Woad Lea then to the Old Dyke.' The Old Dyke is clearly marked all along the N. By. of Eaton from the Thames right up to Cut's End on the Appleton-Cumnor road. Cut's End derives its name evidently from the 'cut' or dyke.

5. *Andlang thaere Dic on Feower Gemaera*: 'Along the Dyke on Four Balks.' It is probable that four balks of the common fields of Eaton and Cumnor met at Cut's End.

6. *Of IIII Gemaera on Ruhan Leahe*: 'From Four Balks to Rough Lea (Rowley).' The By. then follows the Appleton road, running S.; and *Ruh Leah* must have been where the By. leaves the road 3 fur. S. of Cut's End. (There is a Rowley 1 m. or more S. in Bessilsleigh parish, near its S.W. By. But the name is very common.)

7. *Of Ruhan Leah on thone Haran Stan*: 'From Rough Lea to the Hoar Stone.' The Hoar Stone must have been between the Appleton Road and Appleton Brook.

8. *Of than Stane thaet on Wase*: 'From the Stone then to Wasa (Ouse).' Wasa is the Appleton Brook. (See notes on Appleton charter.) The By. ran down the brook to the S.E. corner of the small copse (Lower England's Copse) 3 fur. N.E. of Appleton village.

9. *Of Waese eft on Stirigan Pole*: 'From Wasa again to . . . Pool.' See notes on point 1.

## SOME FIELD NAMES IN EATON.

Brackwall Copse: Now Jackman's Copse,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W.N.W. of the village.

Wade Heath and Bard: Opposite side of the road, 1 fur. S.W. of last.

Binney: In angle of roads, immed. W.S.W. of village.

Swan Heath: On By.  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of village.

Cut and Send Home Close: 1 fur. N.W. of Cut's End Farm.

The Hams: Immed. N.E. of The Ark Weir.

Stibble Eaton: Immed. W. of road, about 3 fur. N.W. of Bessilsleigh Farm.

Eaton Osse Field: On By. 3 fur. due E. of village.

## SOME FIELD NAMES IN APPLETON.

Sission's Close: 1 fur. N.E. of St. Lawrence's Church.

Badswell Road: Runs by the spring marked 3 fur. W. of village.

Broad Moor: Immed. N.E. of Cheer's Farm.

Osse Ditch Furlong: In Appleton Upper Common,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Appleton Farm.

Saint Hill: In Appleton Upper Common,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Appleton Farm.

Furlong shooting to Netherton Field: In Appleton Upper Common, immed. S.S.W. of Sandhill Cottages.

Furlong shooting on Thames Close: Extreme N.W. part of Appleton Lower Common.

## ASHBURY, 7 m. due E. of Swindon.

The parish includes the village of Idstone. The Ashbury charters do not include the land of Idstone; and therefore the latter was almost certainly a separate village community in AS. times. The original name of Ashbury appears in different forms in various charters: *Ayshebury* (B. 431, K. 246, of A.D. 840<sup>8</sup>): *Aescesbyrig* (B. 491, K. 1056 of A.D. 856) (B. 796,

<sup>8</sup> This is the reputed date. But the very form of the name shows that the extant copy of the charter is at least several centuries later than the reputed date. That does not mean that the charter is necessarily a forgery pure and simple. It may be a copy of an earlier document of the date given, or it may be a document of the twelfth or thirteenth century, drawn up to replace one which had been destroyed. I cannot discuss the dates of the various documents cited. All that I shall give are the reputed dates, save in cases where the language of the charter indicates in clear fashion that it is much later than the date claimed for it.

K. 1148 of A.D. 944) (B. 902, K. 1178 of A.D. 958): *Aescesburuh* (B. 1055, K. 481 of A.D. 960): *Escesbeurh*, *Aescesburh* (B. 899, K. 1668 of A.D. 953-. The original name of the place was undoubtedly *Aescesburh*, 'the camp of the ash-tree.'<sup>9</sup>

The charters show clearly that *Aescesburh* was not on the site of the village, but several miles S. of it, in the S. part of Ashdown, Ashbury Park. There in the valley, on the site of the wood S. of the house, are the remains of an earthwork of large dimensions, the N. side being about 682, the E. side 1,056, the S. side 836, and the W. side 924 yards long. The area is about 150 acres. It is roughly rectangular in shape; but its sides are not quite straight, and its corners are rounded. But the most striking feature of it is its situation. It is in a valley, with high land on both the E. and W. sides of it. On the E. side the S.E. angle of the camp climbs some way up the slope of the hill. Its ramparts are at the present day quite low; in fact but slight vestiges of them remain at some parts of the enceinte. As far as I can discover no real exploration of its site has taken place. The insignificance of its ramparts as compared with those of such camps as stand on White Horse Hill or at Wittenham Clump would suggest that it is not of the same period as they are, or that, if of the same period, it was not made with the same intent. The magnitude of their works show that they were made for permanent occupation; in fact there can be little doubt that they were cities and hill fortresses of the Celtic period similar to those which Cæsar found in Celtic Gaul. But Ashbury looks like a military camp thrown up for temporary occupation. Roman coins have been found just outside the S. rampart. The present By. of Ashbury passes outside the camp and includes it; but the old By. passed through the camp by its N. and S. gates; e.g. 'From

<sup>9</sup> The first element of the name, *aescs-*, is in the genitive case. Mr. W. H. Stevenson, in his edition of Asser's 'Life of Alfred,' when discussing the name *Aescesdun*, 'Ashdown,' lays down the rule that, when the first element of an AS. name is in the genitive, it is, unless it is the name of a bird or animal, a personal name. My experience of the charters, the evidence of which would be far too long to give here, is that the rule really is that, save in the case of names of birds and animals, the first element of an AS. name, when in the genitive, may of course be a personal name, but may also be that of an individual object as distinguished from a group or class of objects, e.g. *Aescs-dun* would mean a down named from the presence of one prominent ash-tree on it, whereas *Aesc-dun* would imply a down where ash-trees generally grew.

the Long Dyke to Ashbury's South Gate, and so out at the North Gate.<sup>10</sup> Again in another charter we get 'From the Long Dyke to Ashbury again to the South Gate.'<sup>11</sup>

The Ashbury group of charters presents the greatest difficulty to anyone who would interpret their topography. The Ashbury lands were extensive. They are first mentioned<sup>12</sup> as having been bequeathed by Hean, the great Abbot of Abingdon, to his sister Cilla, with remainder after her death to the abbey. They are mentioned together with a large estate of forty-eight cassati (Hides)<sup>13</sup> at Bradfield.

The next mention is in a document<sup>14</sup> of the reputed date A.D. 840, whereby Aethelwulf, King of Wessex, grants to Duda the thegn lands at Ashbury to the amount of ten hides. But it is doubtful whether this was part of the actual Ashbury lands, for, though *Aysheburī* appears in the superscription of the document, yet both in the superscription and in the body of the document the locality is named *Aysshedoune*, i.e. Ashdown. The document will therefore have to be considered later under the latter much disputed heading; but, as no boundaries are given, the actual position of the grant cannot be ascertained. But it is remarkable that Duda's name seems to be preserved in the *Dude Beorh* of B. 899, K. 1168.

At the reputed date A.D. 856 the same Aethelwulf, King of Wessex, made to the thegn Aldred a grant of 20 hides at *Aescesbyrig*. This charter illustrates two great difficulties which face anyone who would solve the topographical problems of the charters. In the first place, though the grant is at *Aescesbyrig*, it does not include, or even touch, the boundaries of the modern parish of Ashbury. Its landmarks show, by comparison with those of other charters, that they are the boundary marks of the parish of Woolstone. In the second place the hidage is almost certainly larger than can be attributed to Woolstone only. The grant included probably two parcels of land, of only one of which the boundaries are given. The boundaries of the other have disappeared.

<sup>10</sup> B. 687, K. 1129, a charter of Uffington which includes the lands of Ashbury.

<sup>11</sup> B. 299, K. 1168.

<sup>12</sup> K. 998.

<sup>13</sup> From this time forth I shall use the term 'hides' for the various terms 'cassati,' 'mansae,' 'mansiones,' used in the actual documents.

<sup>14</sup> B. 431, K. 246.

## CHARTER B. 899, K. 1168.

In A.D. 953 King Eadred granted to his thegn Aelfsig and his wife Eadgifu 33 hides at *Escesbeurh* or *Aescesburh*.

This charter refers to the same area as the Uffington charter, B. 687, K. 1129, namely, Ashbury (excluding Idstone), Compton Beauchamp, Uffington, and Woolstone. It will therefore be convenient to take the two surveys together, noting the landmarks as A and U.<sup>15</sup>

A. 1. *Aerest in aet tham Suth Geate & ut aet tham North Geate*: 'First in at the South Gate and out at the North Gate.'

U. 26. *Of Lange Dic in to Aescaesbyries Southgeate and swa ut aet tham Northgeate*: 'From Long Dyke into Ashbury's South Gate and so out at the North Gate.' This is the great earthwork at the S. end of Ashdown Park. It will be seen that the By. does not follow the present W. By. of Ashbury, but runs parallel with it at a distance of a little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Probably, as has been said, Idstone was a separate land-unit. It is not included in this grant.

A. 2. *On Dude Beorh*: 'To Duda's Barrow.'

U. 27. *Of tham Northgeate middan uppan Dunen Byrig*: 'From the North Gate up on the middle of one side<sup>16</sup> of *Dunen*<sup>17</sup> Camp.' It is evident that *Dude Beorh* and *Dunen Byrig* are the same. This illustrates a tendency, which will have to be noticed in other instances, for copyists to confuse *Beorh*, a barrow, and *Burh* (*Byrig*), a camp. In this case *Byrig* is almost certainly the right term. On the other hand *Dude* is almost certainly right, owing to the name Duda appearing in the charter B. 431, K. 246 already quoted. I have little doubt that the *Burh* is Alfred's Castle, 30 chains W.N.W. of the house at Ashdown Park.

A. 3. *Thanne on Eceles Beorh*: 'Then to Ecel's Barrow,' or possibly, 'the Barrow of the Church.'

U. 28. *Of Duden Byrig uppan Ecles Beorh*: 'From Duda's Camp up to Ecel's Barow,' or, &c. No name Ecel is

<sup>15</sup> As the surveys do not begin at the same point, the U numbers do not correspond to those of A.

<sup>16</sup> I am quite uncertain as to the proper translation of *Middan Uppan*; but *Mid* is used elsewhere in other surveys to mean the middle of one side of an object. Perhaps a more probable translation would be 'through the middle of "*Dunen*" Camp in an upward direction.'

<sup>17</sup> I do not translate *Dunen* because I believe it to be corrupt.

given in the Onomasticon. On the other hand some philologists are inclined to suspect in such place-names as Eccles, &c., a Saxon word derived through Celtic from the Latin ecclesia. The tumulus must have stood somewhere on the ridge of the down, probably near the Ridgeway. From this point the Uffington charter is much more detailed than that of Ashbury.

U. 29. *Thwyrt ofer Dunrihtes in to Ikenilde Straet*: So the text goes. I fancy that a restoration is necessary, and that the landmark should run: 'Obliquely over the Down straight to Icknield Street.' The By. must have crossed the Icknield Way between Ashbury and Idstone, probably not far W. of Ashbury village.

A. 4. *Thanne on Hring Pyt*: 'Then to Ring (? round) Pit.' Not mentioned in the Uffington charter. It was probably on the N. slope of the down; but whether above or below the Icknield Way it is impossible to say.

U. 30. *Sythenes dunrihtes bae thaes Heafð Aecres West Furh*: 'After that straight down by the West Furrow of the Headland Acre (strip of ploughland).' I suspect that the copyist has borrowed the *Dunrihtes* of U. 29 from this and the following point.

A. 5. *Thanne on tha And Heafdu*: 'Then to the corner headland.'<sup>18</sup> It is probable that these are the same landmark expressed in different terms. The corner headland or headland acre was probably on the lower slope of the down, N. of Icknield Way.

A. 6. *Thanne on the Cealc Seathas*: 'Then to the Chalk-pits.' These must have been on the N. slope of the down below the Icknield Way.

U. 31. *Dun ofer tha Thwyr's Furh*: 'Down over the Oblique Furrow.' Probably just N. of the Headland Acres of U. 30.

U. 32. *Dun rihtes to them Riscbedde*: 'Straight down to the Rush-bed.' Probably on the stream which comes from the Lertwell.

<sup>18</sup> That there was a difference of meaning between *Heafod* and *Andheafod* is certain. I am inclined to think that *Andheafod* meant the place where the plough was turned when the headland came to be ploughed, a 'headland of a headland' as it were. If so, it would be always at the corner of a group of *Aecer's*.

U. 33. *Of tham Riscbedde to tham Dyrne Stane*: 'From the Rush-bed to the Hidden Stone.' Three stones are marked on the OM. in the N.W. part of the parish on the By. near Stainswick Farm. The *Dyrne Stan* may be one of these. Perhaps its name was due to some superstition which is attached to it. It is evident that 'standing stones' were regarded with superstition.

A. 7. *Thanon on thone Bradan Maere*: 'Then to the Broad Balk.' This would appear to be a long balk which ran along the W. By. of the ploughlands of the grant. Probably the points U. 31, 32, and 33 were along its line.

The next few points in the Uffington charter are very difficult to determine. I suspect strongly that in the case of both the charters the By. of the 'mead' of Ashbury has been given separately, and been lost. This must have lain in the low-lying water-meadows at the N. end of the parish. Even in cases in which the mead is contiguous to the main grant its boundaries are sometimes given in the form of an appendix to the survey of the main grant, as, for instance, in the Harwell charter K. 1273. If I am right in this conjecture, then the By. which we have in these two charters cut across the N. end of the parish from about the re-entering angle of the By. near Westleaze to about where the By. crosses the railway near Ruffinswick Farm.

U. 34. *Of tham Dyrne Stane to tham Risc Thyfele*: 'From the Hidden Stone to the Rush Thicket.' This was probably situated near the above-mentioned re-entering angle of the parish, on the large brook which comes down from the North Mill.

U. 35. *Of tham Risc Thyfele in to Hlippen Ham*: 'From the Rush Thicket to Lippa's (?) House.' I cannot be sure of the meaning of the first element of *Hlippen Ham*, unless it is the same as we find in *Lippan Dic* of an Abingdon charter, i.e. the p.n. Lippa. This must have been near the re-entering angle of the parish.

U. 36. *Of Hlippenham in to tham Milestreame*: 'From Lippa's House to the Millstream.' This is almost certainly the stream on which North Mill stands.

A. 8. *Thanon andlang Dices on Claenan Maede*: 'Then along the Dyke to Clean Mead.'

U. 37. *Of tham Mylestreame innan tha North Lange Dic :* 'From the Millstream on the inside of the North Long Dyke.'

U. 38. *And langes thurh tha Smale Thornas innan Bulemed :* 'Along through the Small Thorntrees on the inside of Bula's Mead.'

U. 39. *Of Bulemaed ofer tha Claene Med :* 'From Bula's Mead over the Clean Mead.' This shows that which has been noticeable before, that the Uffington charter takes for more landmarks than the charter of Ashbury.

The Dyke of A. 7 is evidently the North Long Dyke of U. 37. I think that there can be no doubt that it ran through the N. part of the parish of Ashbury, somewhere past Ruffinswick Farm to where the By. cuts the railway. The *Bulemed* must be the *Bulan Maed* of the Ashbury (Woolstone) charter B. 491, K. 1056. It was therefore on the N. By. of Woolstone parish. That being so, the North Long Dyke must include a line of dyke which ran along the N. By. of Compton Beauchamp, where it is called the Red Dyke in the Compton charter B. 908, K. 1172, and along the N. By. of Woolstone, where it is called simply 'the Dyke' in the Ashbury (Woolstone) charter B. 491, K. 1056. The Clean Mead was probably in the N.W. angle of Uffington parish.

U. 40. *Of tha Claene Med northward east rihtes be Northe Mordune on thaene Grene Weig :* 'From the Clean Mead straight north-east<sup>19</sup> by North Marshdown to the Green Way.'

A. 9. *Thanne on thone Bradan Weg on butan Mor Dune :* 'Then to the Broad Way about Marshdown.' No doubt the Green Way and the Broad Way are the same; but the way is not represented at the present day, unless it be by some farm track. The Marshdown is Alfred's Hill in the N.W. part of Uffington parish. It will be noticed that the By. is going N.E. at this part, which tends to confirm the conjectural translation of the words in U. 40.

U. 41. *Of tham Grene Weige thwyrt ofer thaene Mor :* 'From the Green Way obliquely over the Marsh.' The Marsh must be the low-lying land N.E. of Alfred's Hill.

U. 42. *Innan thwyr Mere midrihtes :* 'Inside (Dry) Pond . . .'

<sup>19</sup> The orientation here may be corrupted in the text. I have not so far come across a similar expression in any other Hants, Berks, or Wilts charter. So the translation is, at best, conjectural.

U. 1. *Aerest of Hwres (or Hwyles) Mere*: 'First from (Dry) Pond.'

A. 10. *On Thyreses Lace*: 'To (Dry) Stream.'

A. 11. *And thanon on Laeces Mere northe wearde*: 'And then on Leech's Pond northward.'

There can be no doubt that *thwys*, *hwyles*, and *thyreses* are forms, some or all of them corrupt, of the same name or term. I can only guess that they are corruptions of *thyrre*, 'dry.' The pond and the stream must have been W. of Gains Bridge, where two streams from near Fernham village enter the N. branch of the Ock. *Laeces Mere* is probably another name of *Thyrre Mere*.

A. 12. *And thanne andlang Mores be than North Stane*: 'And then along the Marsh by the North Stone.'

A. 13. *And thanne thwyles ofer thone Mor on Bulan Dic*: 'And then obliquely over the Marsh to Bula's Dyke.'

U. 2. *Andlang thaere Lace in to thaere Blace Lace*: 'Along the Stream into the Black Stream.'

U. 3. *Of thaere Blace Lace innan Bulemere*: 'From the Black Stream inside Bula's Pond.'

U. 4. *Of Bulemere to Buleferthes Steorte*: 'From Bula's Pond to Buleferth's Tongue of Land.'

U. 5. *Of tham Steorte in to Bulendic*: 'From the Tongue of Land into Bula's Dyke.' Bula's Dyke was evidently at the N.E. corner of Uffington parish. The S. Ock, after passing Moor Mill (which preserves the name *Mor* of A. 12), turns N. a furlong beyond the mill, and runs in a straight course for one furlong to join the N. Ock. This straightened course is probably Bula's Dyke.

In reference to the *Mor* of A. 12 it may be noted that two fields in Balking parish just N. of Uffington station are called in the TA. the Great and the Little Moors. There was evidently a marsh or fen all along the course of the N. Ock in these parts. The Black Lake is the N. Ock just before it joins the S. Ock. Bulferth's *Steort* is obviously the tongue of land between the N. and S. Ock just N. of Moor Mill. The North Stone must have been near the N. Ock.

A. 14. *And swa andlang Dices to Aethelferthes Mearce*: 'And so along the Dyke to Aethelferth's Balk.'

A. 15. *On Bulen Dices ende on thone Thorn Styb*: 'To the end of Bula's Dyke to the Thorn Stump.'

U. 5. *Andlanc Bulen Dic in to tham Thorn Stybbe*: 'Along Bula's Dyke to the Thorn Stump.'

A. 16. *Thanne on Talleburnan*: 'Then to Tallebourne.'<sup>20</sup>

The Ashbury and Uffington boundaries proceed now along the By. between the parishes of Uffington and Kingston Lisle. Here they coincide with part of the boundary of the Sparsholt charter B. 1121, K. 1247. So the Sparsholt survey (marked by S.) must now be included. This correspondent part of the three boundaries is variously defined in the three charters; and the landmarks must be fully stated before any attempt is made to determine their relative order.

A. 17. *And thonon to thaeres Halgan Stowe*: 'And then to the Holy Place.'

A. 18. *And swa up andlang Broces to Aethelferthes Mearce weste wearde*: 'And so up along the Brook to Aethelferth's Balk westward.'

A. 19. *And swa andlang Mearce to Hremnes Byrig to than North Geate*: 'And so along the Balk to the North Gate of Raven's Camp.'

A. 20. *And ut aet than Suth Geate on Hodan Hlaew*: 'And out at the South Gate to Hoda's Low (Tumulus).'

A. 21. *And thanne on Stan Hlaewan*: 'And then to the Stone Tumulus.'

A. 22. *And thanne to than Redanhole*: 'And then to the Red Hollow (or Hole).'

In the Uffington charter the more or less correspondent points are as follows:—

U.6. *Of tham Thorn Stybbe in to thaere Halige Stoue*: 'From the Thorn Stump to the Holy Place.'

U. 7. *Of thaere Halige Stowe andlang thaere Heafde in to Ikenilde Straete*: 'From the Holy Place along the Headland (of a ploughland) to Icknield Street.'

U. 8. *Of Ikenilde Straete in to Aegelwardes Mearce*: 'From Icknield Street to Aegelward's Balk.'

U. 9. *Of Aegelwardes Mearce upprihtes be tham Heafde in to Hremnes Byriges North Geate thurhut tha Byrig*: 'From

<sup>20</sup> I cannot interpret the first part of this name. I suppose it is personal. It may be pre-Saxon.

Aegelward's Balk straight up by the Headland to the North Gate of Raven's Camp right through the Camp.'

U. 10. *Ut aet tham Suth Geate* : 'Out at the South Gate.'

U. 11. *Suthrihte be than Hefde uppen Hodes Hlaewe* : 'Due south by the Headland up to Hod's Low.'

U. 12. *Of Hodes Hlaewe oppen tha Stanhlaewe* : 'From Hod's Low up on the Stone Low' (or 'Low of the Stone').

In the Sparsholt charter the points are as follows (the points being in reverse order) :—

S. 6. *Thonon on ge rihte on tha Bradan Stanas* : 'Then straight to the Broad Stones.'

S. 7. *Of than Stanun on Hodan Hlaev* : 'From the Stones on Hoda's Low.'

S. 8. *Of than Hlaewe on Hremnes Byrig westwardon* : 'From the Low to Raven's Camp on its west side.'

S. 9. *Of Hremnes Byrig on Lea Cumb* : 'From Raven's Camp to Lea Combe.'

S. 10. *Thonon rihte andlang Streames th' on Tealeburnan* : 'Then straight down stream to Tealebourne.'

S. 11. *Andlang Tealeburnan th' on tha Rithe* : 'Along Tealebourne to the Brooklet.'

S. 12. *Andland Rithe on thone Thorn Stub on Bulan Dic* : 'Along the Brooklet to the Thorn Stump to Bula's Dyke.'

A comparison of the above surveys of the three charters shows that the landmarks running from N. to S. on the Uffington-Kingston Lisle By. were in the following order :—Bula's Dyke, A.U.S. ; Aethelferth's Balk, A. ; End of Bula's Dyke, A. ; Thorn Stump, A.U.S. ; Brooklet, S. ; Tallebourne, A., or Tealebourne, S. ; Holy Place, A.U. ; Along the Stream or Brook, A.S. ; Lea Combe, S. ; Along the Headland, U. ; Icknield Street, U. ; Aegelferth's Balk, A., or Aegelward's Balk, U. ; Headland, U. ; North Gate of Raven's Camp, A.U.(S.) ; South Gate of Raven's Camp, A.U.(S.) ; Headland, U. ; Hoda's Low, A.S., or Hod's Low, U. ; Low of the Stone, A.U., or Broad Stones, S.

The position of Bula's Dyke is, as has been already said, clearly indicated as having been at the N.E. corner of Uffington parish. The next absolutely determinable landmark is the Talleburna or Tealeburna. This is Stutfield Brook. The name

*Tealeburna* occurs also in a Goosey charter, B. 907, and the identity of the bourne is quite certain. The brook rises under the N. slope of the downs near the E. By. of Uffington parish; flows down past Fawler hamlet, forming the By. between Uffington and Kingston Lisle as far as the Uffington-Kingston Lisle road. Then the brook turns nowadays W. away from the parish By., and the two do not coincide again until the brook has passed the Berks and Wilts canal. But, if you look at the map, it becomes clear that the brook was originally the By. right up to the canal. The line of it has been diverted and then straightened, whereas the parish By. follows an irregular zigzag line such as parish boundaries never take unless they are following some natural feature such as a stream. After passing the canal the brook runs in a general N.E. direction, forming the N. By. of a whole series of parishes.

We can now determine approximately the positions of the landmarks between Bula's Dyke and the Tealebourne. Aethelferth's Balk is probably that part of the By. which lies immediately N. of Uffington station. Bula's Dyke seems to have also run S. towards the station, *i.e.* to the S. of the point where the S. Ock takes up the line of it near Moor Mill. The Thorn Stump must have been close to where the station stands. The *Rith* was probably some small stream running into the Tealebourne from somewhere S. of the station. Thus the By. reaches the Tealebourne.

The boundary now followed this bourne for more than a mile, for, as has been pointed out, it seems certain that the parish By. between the canal and the Uffington-Kingston Lisle road marks the original course of the bourne. The only specific point mentioned is the *Halige Stow*, or Holy Place. All that we can say is that it was probably on the brook near Fawler.<sup>21</sup>

The Lea Combe is obviously the combe at the headwaters of the brook, the combe from which the brook issues just about the point where the By. in its passage S. leaves the stream.

The Headland was probably where the By. makes a right-angled turn W., 7 chains N. of the Icknield Way. The strips would naturally run N. and S. up the hill at this point; and

<sup>21</sup> I am inclined to think that it referred to a mosaic pavement, probably of a Roman villa, at Fawler. See notes on Kingston Lisle.

therefore the Headland would run E. and W. The Icknield Way is, of course, the Portway to Wantage.<sup>22</sup>

We now come to a landmark which is called in the Uffington charter Aegelward's Balk, and in the Ashbury charter Athelferth's Balk. The former is probably the correct name. (In the Ashbury charter the scribe has apparently repeated by mistake the proper name of the 'Aethelferth's Balk' of a previous landmark in the charter.) This balk is no doubt the straight line of the parish By. running S. from the Icknield Way.

We now come to *Hremnes Burh*, Raven's Camp. As to its site there can be no doubt. It stood on the summit of what is now Ram's Hill. The ploughland extends nowadays to the summit of that hill, and the camp has been ploughed out. But it is even now just possible, by following closely the contours of the hill, to see the vestiges of the old enceinte of the camp. The name Ram's Hill preserves part of the old name, for 'Rams-' in place-names such as Ramsbury is more often than not a representative of an AS. *Hraemnes-*. Place-names illustrate again and again the tendency to replace elements in names which have lost all meaning to later generations by some term of similar sound which was still existent in the language.<sup>23</sup>

The next Headland mentioned must have been on the S. slope of Ram's Hill, and *Hodan* or *Hodes Hlaew* was a tumulus somewhere to the S. of the hill.

The *Stanhlaew* is probably the same as the *Brade Stanas* of the Sparsholt charter. It is probable that it stood at the S.E. angle of Uffington parish.

We have now to trace the S. By. of these two large grants. It comprises the S. boundaries of the modern parishes of Uffington, Woolstone, Compton Beauchamp, and Ashbury.

Four charters give landmarks alongs the line of it, viz. :—  
Ashbury, B. 899, K. 1168, indicated hereafter by A.  
Ashbury, B. 902, K. 1178 (in reverse order), indicated hereafter by A.

<sup>22</sup> The term is never applied in the charters to the Ridgeway; and the application of it to that road in modern maps is due to a misreading of the evidence.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. Ramsbury (Wilts), which was also a *Hraemnes Burh*; and Ramsey (Camb.), which was *Hraemnes Ig*, 'Raven's Island,' &c., &c.

Uffington, B. 687, K. 1129, indicated hereafter by U.

Ashbury (Woolstone), B. 796, K. 1148, indicated hereafter by W.

A. 23. *Thanne to than Redan Hole*: 'Then to the Red Hollow (or Hole).'

A. 24. *And thanne to than Dunnanhole*: 'And then to the Brown Hollow.'

A. 25. *And swa be than Hlide*: 'And so by the ?? Gully.'

A. 26. *Thanne on Domferthes Hest*: (reading *Hnaess*, see U., for *Hest*) 'Then to Domferths' Ridge-end.'

A. 27. *On Taettaces Stan*: 'To . . . . Stone.'

A. 28. *And then on Hundes Hlaew*: 'And then to Dog's Low.'

A. 29. *And thanne on Hafoces Hlaew*: 'And then to Hawk's Low.'

A. 30. *And thanne on thone Scortan Dic*: 'And then to the Short Dyke.'

A. 31. *And thanne on tha Langen Dic to Aescsbyris eft to than Suthan Gate*: 'And then to the Long Dyke once more to the South Gate of Ashbury.'

The following points of A. are in reverse order:

A. 22. *Thonon on thaet Suth Geat*: 'Then to the South Gate' (i.e. of Ashbury).

A. 23. *Thaer utt andlang Dic on Scortan Dic*: 'Then out along (Long) Dyke to Short Dyke.'

A. 24. *Thonon on Hean Dunae ufae wearde on thonae Beorh*: 'Then to High Down upwards to the Barrow.'

A. 25. *Of tham Beorgae on thone othaerne*: 'From the Barrow to the other (Barrow).'

A. 26. *Thonnae on taet Tucaen Stan*: 'Then to . . . . Stone.'

A. 27. *Of tham Stanae on tha Ealdan Dic thaer hit aer onfaenc*: 'From the Stone to the Old Dyke where it first began.'

A. 1. *Aerest on tha Ealdan Dic*: 'First to the Old Dyke.'

A. 2. *Andlang Hlincas on tha Foxhola*: 'Along the Lynch on the Fox Earth.'

The following landmarks are from U.:

U. 13. *Of thaere Stanhlaewe innan than Hwitan Hole*: 'From the Stone Low on the inside of the White Hollow.'

U. 13. *Of tham Hwitan Hole in to tham Readan Hole :*  
'From the White Hollow to the Red Hollow.'

U. 15. *Of tham Readan Hole in to tham Dunnan Hole :*  
'From the Red Hollow to the Brown Hollow.'

U. 16. *Of tham Dunan Hole in to Dunferthes Hnaesse :*  
'From the Brown Hollow to Dunferth's Ridge-end.'

U. 17. *In to Padde Byrig :* 'To . . . . Camp.'

U. 18. *Of Padde Byrig in to Taedduces Stane :* 'From  
. . . . Camp to . . . . Stone.'

U. 19. *Of Taedduces Stane in to Hundes Laeywe :* 'From  
. . . . Stone to Dog's Low.'

U. 20. *Of Hundes Hlaewe in to Hafaeces Hlaewe :* 'From  
Dog's Low to Hawk's Low.'

U. 21. *Of Hafeces Hlawe in to tham Stodfalde :* 'From  
Hawk's Low to the Horsefold.'

U. 22. *Of tham Stodfalde uppan Lauercesbyrig :* 'From  
the Horse fold up to Larksbury (Lark's Camp).'

U. 23. *Of Lauercesbyrig in to Sceortendic :* 'From Larks-  
bury to the Short Dyke.'

U. 24. *Of Sceorten Dic in to Langendic :* From Short  
Dyke to Long Dyke.'

U. 25. *Of Lange Dic in to Aescaesbyries Suthgeate :*  
'From Long Dyke to the South Gate of Ashbury.'

From the Ashbury (Woolstone) charter :

W. 24. *Thonon tha Ealdan Hola :* 'Then on the Old Holes  
(or Hollows).'

W. 25. *Of tham Holum aeft on thone Garan suthae  
weardnae :* 'From the Holes again to the Gore at its south  
side.'

By comparing the data of these four charters we get the following order of landmarks :—The Stone Low, or Low of the Stone, U. ; The White Hollow, U. ; The Red Hollow, or Holes, U.A., probably identical with the Fox-earths of A. and the Old Holes of W. ; The Brown Holes or Hollow, U.A. ; The Lynch, U. ; The *Hlid*, 'Gulley,' possibly *Hlith*, 'slope,' U. ; Dunferth's Ridge End, U.A. ; Padbury, U. ; Old Dyke, A. ; Gore, W. ; *Taettuces* (?), *Taettucan* (?), *Taedduces* (?),

Stone, A.A.U.;<sup>24</sup> Dog's Low, A.U., 'the *other Barrow*' of A.; Hawk's Low, U.A., the Barrow of A.; The Horsefold, U.; Lark's Camp, U.; The High Down, A.; Short Dyke, A.U.A.; Long Dyke, A.U.A.; South Gate of Ashbury, A.U.A.

The position of the Rag (?) Stone is clearly indicated by its mention in the Woodstone charter as having been at the S. point of the Compton-Woolstone By.; and therefore the previous points must have been on the S. boundaries of Uffington and Woolstone, and the succeeding points on the S. boundaries of Compton and Ashbury. But the exact determination of many of these landmarks is not now possible.

Beginning with the Stone Low and Broad Stones, which stood probably at the S.E. angle of Uffington parish, the White Hollow is possibly the wide dip in the downs at that corner of the parish. Then come the Red Holes, the Brown Holes, and the Fox-earths, landmarks the nature of which renders it unlikely that they should be recognisable at the present day. Probably the Fox-earth and either the Red or the Brown Holes stood at the S.E. angle of Woolstone parish. The *Hlith* must have been the slope of the hill at much the same point, and the Lynch must have been somewhere on that slope. Domferth's Ridge-end is certainly the end of the ridge which comes down the E. By. of Woolstone. Padbury and the Old Dyke are doubtless represented now by the remains of earthworks E. and S.E. of Knighton Bushes. The Rag(?) Stone stood at the N. angle of that copse which fills the curious angle of land at the S. end of the Compton-Kingston By.; and the land within that angle is undoubtedly the Gore of the Woolstone charter. Hound's Low and Hawk's Low have left no traces behind them; but it is possible that they were at the S.E. and S.W. angles of Compton parish. The Horsefold must have been near the N.E. end of the S. By. of Ashbury. At this point the By. is climbing the N.E. slope of Weathercock Hill. There are remains of an earthwork halfway up, which may be the remnants of Larksbury. The 'High Down' was Weathercock Hill.

<sup>24</sup> The genitive form suggests a p.n.; but no such name is found elsewhere. I strongly suspect that it is the AS. *Taettec*, 'a rag,' with a possible reference to that practice common among primitive peoples of attaching rags to objects of reverence or superstition.

At the top of the hill the parish By. turns more S., and on the E. side of it and close to it runs an old dyke not marked on the O.M. This must be the Short Dkye. As you go down the hill to *Aescesburh* a dyke runs along the parish By. right to the S.E. corner of the camp. This will be the Long Dyke.

This completes the circuit of the great Ashbury and Uffington surveys.

### A THIRD CHARTER.

B. 902, K. 1178. Grant of 20 hides of land at *Aescesbyrig* by King Eadred to his thegn Wulfric, A.D. 958, for 953-5. This grant includes Ashbury (excluding Idstone), Compton Beauchamp and Woolstone. As most of its points have been determined in relation to the previous charters, it will only be necessary to give in brief form those which have been so determined, and a reference to the corresponding point in those charters.

A. 1. *Eald Dic*, 'Old Dyke.' See A. 1, p. .

A. 2. *Hlinc*, 'Lynch.' On the slope of the great ridge which comes down the S. part of the E. By. of Woolstone.

A. 3. *Foxholas*, 'Fox Earths.' S.E. angle of Woolstone parish.

A. 4. *Thanon on Hringpyt*: 'Then to Ring Pit.' Also in the Woolstone charter, B. 796, K. 1148. May possibly the chalk pit just W. of the By. about  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the S.E. angle of Woolstone parish.

A. 5. *Of tham Pyte on Weardaes Beorh*: 'From the Pit to Weard's Barrow.' The *Beorh* of the Woolstone charter. Probably Idlebush Barrow.

A. 6. *Thonon on Thonae Smalan Cumb*: 'Then to the Narrow Combe.' This will be the combe which runs up from the springs of the S. Ock, S. of Woolstone village, into the downs. The head of it is close to the White Horse.

A. 7. *Andlang Cumbaes on Ocenne Wyllas*: 'Along the Combe to Ock Springs.' The source of the S. Ock, just S. of Woolstone village, and immediately beneath the Icknield Way. This survey shows clearly, what is made further evident by the Woolstone charter, that the original E. By. of Woolstone went along the upper S. Ock, and did not, as now, include the lands E. of the river.

A. 8. *Andlang streames on tha Mylne*: 'Along stream to the Mill.' The Mill was very likely on the site of the present Woolstone Mill, just N. of the village.

A. 9. *Thonne waent hit thaer up on thone Aethenan Byrigels*: 'Then at that point it went up to the Heathen Burial-places.' Also in the Woolstone charter. The Burialplaces must have been on or near the Ock at a point about  $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Uffington village, where the parish By. leaves the stream on its way N. It is so far impossible to say what the Saxons meant by 'Heathen Burialplaces,' as distinct from a *Beorh* or a *Hlaew*. It is possible that they were the graves of Saxons of pre-Christian times.

A. 10. *Thonon andlang thaes Grenan Weges on Stan Maere*: 'Then along the Green Way to Stone Balk.'

A. 11. *Thonon to tham Braembel Thylelan*: 'Then to the Bramble Thicket.'

A. 12. *Thanon on tha Maed Northe Weardae*: 'Then to the Mead northward.'

A. 13. *On thone Thorn*: 'To the Thorn-tree.'

A. 14. *Thonnae and lang Waeges on thonae Aellen Stub*: 'Then along the Way, to the Elder-tree Stump.'

A. 15. *Thonon utt on Baccan Mor*: 'Then out to Bacca's Marsh.'

A. 16. *Th' imbutae thonae Mor on Bulan Meadae northae wearde on tha Dic*: 'Then about the Marsh to Bula's Mead on its north side to the Dyke.'

The land marks come very thickly here; and they are of a nature which makes the determination of most of them difficult. The Green Way must have been somewhere along the N. part of the E. By. of Woolstone. It is possibly represented by the bit of occupation road on the E. side of the field to the N.E. of Oxleaze Farm.

The Stone Balk occurs also in the Woolstone charter; and the Bramble Thicket is represented by the Bramble Corner of the same charter. These two landmarks must have been on the N. part of the E. By. of Woolstone. Possibly the thicket was at the N.E. corner of the parish. Point A. 12 shows the By. to be passing on the N. side of the Mead, and that implies that the survey was now going along the N. By. of Woolstone

in a W.S.W. direction. The Thorn and the Elder-tree Stump were probably on the N. By. of Woolstone, on the N. Ock.

Bacca's Marsh was evidently the name of an extensive fen which stretched along the Ock from the N. of Woolstone down the stream. It appears in the Shellingford charter, B. 683, K. 357, on the S. By. of that parish. Just on the opposite side of the Ock from the point just mentioned it appears as a field-name Bagmore on the N.W. By. of Balking; and further still along the Balking By. we get the name Bagmore Brook. It occurs again in the field-names of Charney Bassett. So Bacca's or Bacga's Moor or Marsh extended in former days for a good many miles down the Ock. The part of the marsh referred to in the present charter must have been in the N. end of Woolstone or of Compton. The part of Bula's Mead mentioned in this charter must have been higher up the Ock. Bula's Mead must have stretched a considerable way along the river, along the N. By. of Compton and Woolstone and, if Bula's Dyke be significant, along the By. of Uffington also.

From this point the landmarks of this charter are comparatively few. The survey follows the same lines as the great Ashbury and Uffington charters already given, but has fewer landmarks. The *Dic* of A. 16 is no doubt the *North Lange Dic* of the Uffington charter, which seems to have cut across the N. end of Ashbury parish somewhere by Ruffinswick Farm.

A. 17. *Thonnae utt on thonae Maere*: 'Then out on the Balk.' This is probably the Broad Balk of the Ashbury charter, which seems to have run along a line through the N.W. part of Ashbury parish, passing to a point between the villages of Ashbury and Idstone.

A. 18. *Thonon upp on tha And Heafda on thonae Thorn*: 'Then up to the Corner Headland to the Thorn-tree.' This is doubtless the *Andheafod* of the previous Ashbury survey. It was probably on the N. slope of the downs between Ashbury and Idstone villages.

A. 19. *Of thaem Thornae thonnae on thonae Pyt*: 'From the Thorn then to the Pit.' This is probably a chalkpit up on the down.

A. 20. *Thonon on Aeceles Beorh ufæ weardnae*: 'Then to

Ecel's Barrow, approaching it from the upper side.'<sup>25</sup> For *Eceles Beorh* see notes on A. 3 and U. 28.

A. 21. *Of Aeceles Beorgae a bae ecge on thonnae Beorg*: 'From Ecel's Barrow always by the (?) edge to the Barrow. What *ecge* really means here I cannot say. For the *Beorh* see notes on A. 2, U. 27, p.

A. 22. *Of tham Beorgae in on th' North Geatt*: 'From the Barrow to the North Gate.' See notes on A. 1, U. 26, p. 154.

The remaining points of this charter have already been given and discussed. A very noteworthy feature of the survey of this charter is that the points are taken against, not with, the clock. The almost invariable practice of the AS. surveyors was to take landmarks with the clock.

#### LOCAL NAMES IN ASHBURY PARISH.

I have been unable to find the Tithe Awards of Ashbury and some of the neighbouring parishes. They are not in the Oxford Diocesan Registry, nor in that of Salisbury, to which diocese they formerly belonged.

ASTON UPTHORPE, about 4 m. S.W. of Wallingford.

In the one genuine charter of Aston, B. 1143, K. 1252, a charter which Birch attributes mistakenly to Aston Tirrold, the name of the place appears as *Estun* and *Eastun*, i.e. *East Tun*, 'East Farm or Village.' Birch also ascribes B. 1144 to Aston Tirrold. It is, as a fact, a charter of Crux Easton, near Burghclere, Hants. The charter B. 1143, K. 1252 records the grant by King Edgar of 10 hides at Eastun to his queen Aelfthryth. The reputed date is A.D. 964; but Earle, in his edition of the charters, says that the extant copy is of the twelfth or thirteenth century.<sup>26</sup> The grant is confined to the present limits of the parish of Aston Upthorpe.

#### SURVEY.

1. *Aerest of Hacce Broce on Rugan Dic*: 'First from Hacca's Brook to Rough Dyke.' *Hacce Broc* is the Hag-

<sup>25</sup> I am not by any means sure of the meaning of AS. terms of orientation ending with *-ne*. But in the Wootton charter K. 1283 there is a point which describes the By. as approaching a certain Foxcombe '*Ufewearðne*,' where the By. is unquestionably approaching thecombe from the top of it.

<sup>26</sup> I must say that if Earle is right, it is very surprising that the language of the survey adheres so closely to the original AS. form. At any rate, the survey is certainly a genuine copy of an AS. original.

bourne, or Hakka's Brook, of the modern map, which gives its name to the villages of East and West Hagbourne. In the Cholsey charter, B. 565, K. 1069, the village name appears as *Hacca Burna*. In the Blewbury charter, B. 801, K. 1151, the brook is called *Haccan Broc*; and this is probably the correct form of the AS. name. The By. begins at the N. end of the parish, and goes along the Hagbourne till that brook divides at the S.W. corner of the village of South Moreton. The By. then follows the S. branch of the stream, which is apparently the Rough Dyke of the charter.<sup>27</sup>

2. *Thonne andlang Weges on thone Fulan Forda*: 'Then along Track to the Miry Ford.' A lane now runs along the line of the *Weg*. It branches off from the Moreton-Aston Tirrold road just after it has crossed the Hagbourne. The Miry Ford was at the re-entering angle of the parish where this lane crosses what is now no more than a ditch.<sup>28</sup>

3. *Of than Fulan Ford on Eanulfing Thorn*: 'From the Miry Ford to the Thorn-tree of the Eanudfs.'<sup>29</sup> This tree was probably somewhere close to the site of the village.

4. *Of tham Thorne on thone Hwitan Holan Weg*: 'From the Thorn to the White Hollow Way.' This way is undoubtedly the chalky road which runs up the downs S. of Aston from the Wantage road.

5. *Of than Hwiton Hwege andlang Langan Dune*: 'From the White Way along Long Down.' *Lang Dun* is a name preserved in that of Langdon Hill on the E. By. of the parish about 1½ m. S. of the Wantage road.

6. *Thaet est on thone Stanihtan Weg*: 'Then East (*sic*) to the Stony Way.' It is evident that *Est* is a copyist's error for *West*. The Stony Way is now represented by the footpath which comes down from the ridgeway and passes for about one-third of a mile along the S. part of the W. By.

7. *Of than Wege on thone Crundel*: 'From the Way to the Quarry (or Chalkpit).' The quarry or chalkpit is not marked on the map; but I have little doubt that an examination of the By. near Baldon Hill would discover it.

<sup>27</sup> There are other instances in the charters of the application of the term *Dic*, 'dyke,' to parts of streams which had had their channels straightened.

<sup>28</sup> The AS. *Ford* was applied to the passage of any stream, however small.

<sup>29</sup> The *-ing* termination implies a family name; so I translate it as if it was, what is very nearly is, a surname.

8. *Thonon on Geritha on Brochylle Slaed*: 'Then to the streamlet (?) to Brook Hill Slade.' The '*Gerith(a)*' was at the bottom of Baldon Hill about where the Wantage road runs. A reminiscence of *Brochylle Slaed* is found in the name, Slade's Piece, of a field adjoining that road on the N.

9. *Of than Slade on Hiccan Thorn*: 'From the Slade to Hicca's Thorn-tree.' The association of some personal name with a *Thorn* in the charters is very common. I suppose that the tree was a boundary mark of the land held by the person mentioned. This tree stood somewhere on the short stretch of the W. By. between the Wantage road and Blewburton Hill.

10. *Thonon ofer Bleo Byrig Dune on Haecceleas Dic*: 'Then over Blewbury Down to the Dyke of the Meadows with the Hatch-gate.' I suspect that the hatchgate was a floodgate in the dyke, which could be shut down so as to flood the meadows. There is, however, another possible translation of *Haecceleas*, which is perhaps more probable than that given, viz. 'not having a floodgate.' In that case, of course, the reference is to the dyke itself, probably in contrast to a neighbouring dyke which had one. This dyke runs still along the long straight piece of the N. part of the W. By. to Hacca's Brook. *Bleobyrig Dun* is the modern Blewburton Hill. *Bleo-Burh* refers to the 'camp' on the hill. It seems, judging from the numerous remains of coarse pottery to be found there to have been a place of permanent occupation. The AS. name, translated literally, means 'colour camp.' The reference may be to flowers, or, perhaps, to the colour of the soil.

#### OLD NAMES IN THE TA.

Halcombe is the hollow just S. of the Icknield Way and W. of Baldon Hill.

Lowbury Hill, called in the TA. Loughborough Hill, is on the S. By. of the parish. Its name is derived from a small camp or earthwork which has been excavated within the last few years, and appears to date from late Romano-British times. The ancient name was obviously *Hlaew-Burh*, 'camp of the tumulus,' so called by reason of the *Hlaew*, or tumulus, which stands just outside the camp.