

Berkshire Charters

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Continued from p. 247, Vol. XXVII, No. iii.

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.

EAST AND WEST CHALLOW.

The Challows near Wantage derive their name from that *Ceawan Hlaew*, 'Ceawa's Low,' or tumulus, which is mentioned in the Denchworth charter, and stood apparently on the S. By. of that parish.

CHILDREY.

Childrey, near Wantage, is not the subject of any land grant in the extant charters; but its name is derived from that *Cilla Rith*, now Childrey Brook, which is mentioned in the Lyford (W. Hanney), Denchworth, Marcham, and E. Hanney charters.

CHILTON.

Chilton is a parish situated on the road from Abingdon to Newbury, about 8 m. S. of Abingdon. Its name is mentioned in the Blewbury charter, which speaks of the *Gemaer Weg* about *Cilda Tun*, 'the boundary way about Chilton.' In the document K. 1310, relating to its lands, the name is also spelt *Cildatun*. The meaning is 'Children's Farm.' Skeat (Pl. N. Berks.) suggests that it may have been originally a farm carried on by young men whose parents had died. K. 1310 records the grant made at the reputed date, A.D. 1015, by King Aethelred to Beorhtwold of 5 hides at Cildatun. The land had belonged to a certain Wulfget who had forfeited it because he had joined the king's enemies.

Owing chiefly to the nature of the landmarks the By. is almost wholly untraceable. Though it runs with the Harwell By. on the N., and the Blewbury By. on the E., not a single

point corresponds with any of theirs, except that we have a *Flecge Stan* which suggests the *Flecgas Gara* of both those charters. The rest is little more than guesswork. It will be best to print the survey in full before attempting to determine any of its landmarks.

1. *Aerest of Waddune andlang Weges to than Grestune*: 'First from Woad Down along the Way to the Grass Croft.'
2. *Swa andlang thaes Grestunes Dic to than Wege on eastanwyrthe thaene Tun*: 'So along the Dyke of the Grass Croft to the Way on the east side of the village.'¹
3. *Swa andlang Weges to thaere Dice Hyrnan*: 'So along the Way to the Corner of the Dyke.'
4. *Swa andlang Dic innon thaene Aesc*: 'So along the Dyke to the inside of the Ashtree.'
5. *Of etc. innon thane ealdan Maere*: 'From the Ashtree inside the old Balk.'
6. *Of etc. innon tha Braece*: 'From the old Balk inside the (Breach?).'²
7. *Of etc. andlang Beces innon Rodstubban*: 'From the (Breach?) along the intermittent Stream inside the Stump of the Cross.'
8. *Swa of etc. to Loddere Thorne*: 'So from the Stump of the Cross to Beggars' Thorntree.'
9. *Swa of etc. to Flecge Stan*: 'So from Beggars' Thorn-tree to Flecg's Stone.'
10. *Of etc. to than Ferngaren*: 'From Flecg's Stone to the Gore (triangular piece of plough-land) where the Ferns grow.'
11. *Of etc. eft on Waddune to than Ealdan Bece*: 'From the Gore where the Ferns grow once more to Woad Down to the Old Intermittent Stream.'

The form of the words in the survey show that the copy belongs to the Saxon age, and may be of the date of the grant. Absolutely the only starting-point for the identification of the landmarks is the *Flecge Stan*. If, as is probable, this was near *Flecgas Gara*, then it was at the N.E. angle of the parish. It is very rare for boundaries to go otherwise than with the

¹ I have taken *Tun* to refer to the village of Chilton, not to the *Grestun*.

² I am doubtful of the meaning. 'Breach' is a very common field-name, meaning land broken up by the plough.

hands of the clock; and therefore landmarks 10, 11 and 1 were probably on the E. By. Moreover, point 1, as a starting-point, is probably, though not certainly, at one of the cardinal angles of the By. *Waddun* may therefore have been at the S.E. corner of the parish. The *Eald Bec* of 11 may possibly be a miswriting for *Eald Baec*,³ 'Old Ridge,' and may be the *Draegeles Baec*, Grim's Dyke (see the notes on Blewbury), which forms the S. By. of the parish. The *Rob Stybb* of 7 and 8 may possibly survive in the name Chilton Cross, that of a field in West Hagbourne between the Icknield Way and the Chilton By. If so it would be towards the E. end of the N. By. The *Loddere* of 8 is a word the meaning of which is much disputed; but I think that it means a 'beggar.' It occurs four times in the Berkshire charters: (1) In this instance at Chilton; (2) *Loddere Beorh* (Barrow) in Ginge: (3) *Loddere Saeccing* (Bed) in two Ashbury charters: (4) *Loddere Straet* in Barkham, near Reading.

That is all that can be said as to this survey. But there are attached to the main survey certain boundaries of an appendage to Chilton which present a still more puzzling and tantalising problem. Chilton had no woodland; therefore the grant included a detached portion of land where trees grew. It is described as follows:—*And this sind thaere wudubaere*⁴ *landgemaru aet Thaeclege the herto hyrath*: 'and these are the boundaries of the woodland at Thatch Lea which belongs thereto.'

1. *Aerest of tham Haecce to Dudemaeres Hele*: 'First from the Hatchgate to . . . Hollow.' For *Dudemaeres* see later. A hatchgate is literally a gate of lattice-work; or possibly gates or clappers in a stream to back up the water; or possibly the lattice weir of some fish-trap.

2. *Of etc. to Merclege*: 'From . . . Hollow to Boundary Lea.'

3. *Of etc. on Stanlege*: 'From Boundary Lea to Stone Lea.'

4. *Of etc. to thaere Dunlege*: 'From Stone Lea to the Lea of the Down.'

³ See the note on *Baec* in the Blewbury charter.

⁴ For those interested in place-names it may be well to note that this word *baere* is the origin of the name Bere, which is common in English nomenclature.

5. *Of etc. swa eft innon thane Haecc* : 'From the Lea of the Down to the near side of the Hatchgate.'

Now at the end of a so-called Marcham charter (B. 1169, K. 1255), which gives the bounds not of Marcham but of Tubney and Frilford, it is stated in Latin : '*Frileford, Appeltun, Leoie* were in the time of King Eadgar members of Marcham, of which places the boundaries are partly defined here, partly elsewhere.' Then, without further ado, are added the self-same landmarks which we find in this appendix to the Chilton charter.

In B. 1170, which is Birch's copy of the note appended to B. 1169, K. 1255, after the words which I have translated from the Latin, the survey is preceded by the words *Mete de Leia*, i.e. 'Survey of Leia.' Therefore this mysterious boundary of *Thaecleah* is that of *Leia* or *Leoie*, for there is no doubt that these two last names are really different forms of the same name.

In the Abingdon cartulary (Vol. II, p. 128) are the words : 'Est juxta Abbendoniae burgum unius militis mansio quae *Leia* vocatur.' This makes it clear that *Leia*, which is almost certainly a form of *Leah*, a 'lea,' was near Abingdon. My impression—it can be no more—is that it is Oakley in the N. part of Marcham parish, and that the *Thaecleah* of the Chilton charter is a corrupted form of *Aecleah*, 'Oak Lea,' to which a copyist has by mistake added the 'th' of the definite article.

It is strange that the detached timber land of Chilton should be so far from Chilton itself. But the region round Chilton is very bare of timber, and may have been even more so in former times, so that this may have been the nearest place where timber could be spared. Each land-unit had to have timber for house building; and the economy of the Saxon village community was absolutely based on the theory that each should be absolutely independent in respect to the ordinary necessities of life.

FIELD NAMES.

Thorning Down : in N. part of parish just W. of the Abingdon road.

Hammary Bush : $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the cross-roads at the Horse and Jockey Inn. May be an adjective formed from 'hammer,' a bird name. Cf. Yellow-hammer.

Havill Corner : E. of the Abingdon road $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the cross-roads. Havill means a temporary wooden shelter covered with straw.

Berry Croft : Immed. W. and N.W. of the village.

Middle Mere : W. of the Abingdon-Newbury road, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the cross-roads. 'Mere' is a name applied to various occupation roads and tracks in the parish. AS. *maere*, 'balk' of a plough-land, along which such occupation roads were wont to develop.

Church Mere : E. of last, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the cross-roads. See last.

Peak Furlong : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Middle Mere (see above.) 'Peak' implies an acute angle in the By. of a field.

Hollow Furlong : E. of last, on opposite side of road.

The Bargeway : A road running up the down from the S. end of the village. The name is said to mean a horseway up a hill. I suspect that it really is connected with the French 'berge,' 'bank.'

CHOLSEY AND MOULSFORD.

Cholsey and Moulsoford are both on the Thames immed. S. of Wallingford. The name Cholsey is derived from that of the hill which stands in the N.W. part of the parish, and was formerly called *Ceolsig*, which Skeat interprets 'Ceol's Island.' It is, literally speaking, an island at the present day, for the Hagbourne or Mill Brook divides into two at S. Moreton, and flows both N. and S. of the hill. B. 565, K. 1069 records the grant of 100 hides of land at Hagbourne, Bestlesford (Basildon), and Cholsey by King Alfred to the Bishop of Winchester in exchange for other lands. Birch gives no date for the document. The survey of Cholsey attached to the grant shows that it includes Moulsoford as well as Cholsey; and this is as might be expected, for the hidage is very large. Surveys of Hagbourne and Bestlesford are also given. Considering the area of this Cholsey grant, the landmarks of the survey are very few in number; and this makes it difficult to determine some of them.

SURVEY.

The survey is at earliest of the late Saxon age.

1. *Ofer Sunesforda upp on Grenan Dune* : 'Over (above?) Sun's Ford up to Green down.' There can be little doubt that *Sunesford* is now represented by Runsford, an old ford on the Thames where, a little more than Im. below Moultsford railway bridge, the S. By. of Moultsford parish abuts on the river. In the T.A. the neighbouring field is called Runtsford Corner. It seems almost certain that a mistake has been made either in the original MS. or in Birch's copy of it; and the 'S' in *Sunesforda* ought to be 'R.' The points being, as has been said, few, the distance between them is in some instances great. Green Down was probably the high narrow ridge which projects from W. to E. along the S. By. of Moultsford.

2. *Thonon on Higran Hongran northe weardne* : 'Then to Higher Hanging Wood from its north side.' Probably this wood is represented in a sense at the present day by Ham Wood, though the approach of the By. to it is far more from the E. than the N.

3. *Thonon on Bullanholt on Diopan Wei* : 'Then to Bulla's Wood to Deep Way.' I can only guess that these landmarks were at the S.W. angles of Moultsford and Cholsey parishes. The two angles are close together.

4. *Thonon on Marge Wei and Grim Gelege* : 'Then to (Boundary?) Way and Grim's (Devil's) . . . I suspect *gelege* to be a form of *leah*, 'lea.' But I have little doubt that *Grim Gelege* is Grim's Ditch, a well-known and noticeable feature of this part of the Berkshire Downs. The traces of Grim's Ditch are marked to within $\frac{3}{4}$ m. of this By., and the last traces point direct to where the S. By. of Aston Tirrold meets the Cholsey By. It is there that I should be inclined to put *Grim Gelege*; and in that case the *Marge Wei* would be the track which the By. follows S. of this point.

5. *Thonon on Romes Leg on Stanwei* : 'Then to Raven's Lea to Stone Way.' The boundary points of the charter now begin to correspond with those of the Blewbury charter. There can be no doubt that *Romes Leg* is the *Hrames Leah* of that charter, K. 1151. The *Stanwei* is the *Stanweg* of the same charter. The text of the present charter is corrupt at this point. Also there seems to have been an omission of some landmarks

from this copy of the original charter. The survey follows the W. By. of Cholsey and crosses the Icknield Way, as is shown by the landmarks in the Blewbury charter which came down the reverse way, *i.e.*, from the N. *Hraemes* (or, more properly, *Hraemnes*) *Leah* lay between the Icknield Way and Lollingdon Hill (OM₁), *i.e.*, N. of the Wantage-Reading road. The Stone Way seems to have been the road which branches off from that road W. of Lollingdon Hill, and runs S. of the Hill, and on to Moulsoford in the form of a footpath.

6. *Thonon andlang Dices on West Welle*: 'Then along the Dyke to the West Spring.' The West Spring is mentioned in the Blewbury charter. It is a spring of unusual size which rises on the By. between Cholsey and Aston Tirrold just at the point where the road from Lollingdon Farm (OM₁) to Aston Tirrold crosses the By. The spring is so large that the stream which flows from it is quite a big one at its very source. The *Dic* is the *Waeterslaedes Dic* of the Blewbury charter, running from the *Stanweg* to the West Spring.

7. *Thonon andlang Mores on Tibbaelde Lace*: 'Then along the Fen to Tibbaeld's (Slow) Stream.' Topographically *Tibbaelde Lacu* ought to be the stream which rises near where the G.W.R. crosses the W. By. of the parish and flows down the W. By. along the plantation known as The Lees (OM₁). But *Tibbaelde Lacu* has a suspicious resemblance to *Gibhilde*, that stream which encircles Mackney island. (See notes on Brightwell.) Thus there is just the possibility that *Tibbaelde* is a corruption of that name in the present somewhat defective charter. If that is the case, then *Tibbaelde Lacu* is the Mill Brook which divides Cholsey from Brightwell parish. But I think on the whole that it is the stream to the S. of the G.W.R. As to the *Mor*, the field-names of Cholsey show that the N.W. part of the parish was marshy in quite recent times.

8. *Thonon on Maccan Eige andlang Mores*: 'Then to Macca's Island along the Marshy Ground.' The By. crosses the moor or fen to the N. of the railway to the S.W. angle of Mackney which is the *Maccan Ig* of the charter.

9. *Thonon on thone Ealdan Dic est to Temaese at Welingaforða*: 'Then to the Old Dyke east to the Thames at Wallingford.' The Old Dyke is the Mill Brook, which goes on to join the Thames under the name of Bradford Brook.

FIELD NAMES.

Cholsey.

The Cholsey T.A. is peculiarly interesting because, like those of North Moreton and Steventon, it was made before the Enclosure Act was applied to the parish. The map attached to it presents a state of things approximating far more closely to that prevailing in Saxon times than to the face of the land at the present day. To anyone who has never seen such a map it is an astonishing sight, very different to the map of a modern parish. This T.A. map of Cholsey does not extend W. of a line drawn N. and S. through the present parish just W. of the village of Cholsey itself; that is to say it includes two-thirds to three-quarters of the parish,—about 3,000 acres. But that area of 3,000 acres is divided up into 2,238 lots, the property of various owners. Some large owners hold more than 100 of them; but whether an individual holding be large or small, it is distributed about the parish, so that two lots belonging to the same holder are hardly ever contiguous. The map attached to the Award is rather a rough one, so that the *exact* determination of the locality of fields in the award is difficult. This difficulty is increased by the fact that a large part of the parish was, and is still, unenclosed.

East Moor: The land lying between the village and Cholsey Hill. It must have been wet land. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due E. of the summit of Cholsey Hill (OM1) is a field described as 'Abutting on Winhurst Corner.'

Abutting on Wontle's Croft: field immed. E. of last.

Simmond's Headland: Immed. E. of last. Would be the headland of a ploughland, *i.e.*, where the plough was turned.

Gore Furlong: $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of last. A triangular ploughland, or gore.

Dry Ditch Furlong: Just W. of the Reading road on the site of the house called Bucklands (OM1).

Mill Ham: A short $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of last.

Pudmore Croft: Immed. W. of Cholsey Hill. Probably AS. *Pudd-mor*, 'Marsh of the Ditch.'

Bourn Furlong: Just S. of the road between the village and Blackall's Farm (OM6).

Two ways which have now disappeared existed formerly in the neighbourhood of the modern asylum. Malm Way left the

Reading road somewhere near the lodge gate of the asylum and ran N.N.E. to Cholsey Hill (OM1). In the parish is a field called Short Malm Pit, and in little Wittenham one called Malm Furlong. Malm is a loose, greyish white, tufaceous deposit, common especially in the Kennett valley.

The other road was called the Hay Way. It passed along the N.E. By. of the asylum grounds. Its name indicates that it led from the mead land beside the river. The land in front of the asylum was formerly called Port Way. This was no doubt the Reading road. The Wantage road in the S. of the parish is called by the same name.

Rye Slade Furlong: Immed. S. of the asylum and in its grounds. A ploughland in a valley or hollow where rye was grown.

Ditch Furlong: Immed. E. of last, also in the asylum grounds

Quack Ditch: S. of the last, in the S. corner of the asylum grounds.

Broad Hay Way: Field immed. N.E. of asylum grounds, beside the road.

Bald Rood Furlong: S.W. of Asylum grounds, beside the road. Implies a cross which had lost its arms.

String Furlong: Between the last and the river. String is a name applied to long narrow pieces of land, especially enclosures which have been formed by enclosing pasturage at the side of roads. Just S. of it is a long narrow enclosure called The String. 'String' may also mean ditch.

Long Sandhills: S. of Bald Rood Furlong, beside the road.

Bar Way or Bier Way: The lane which leaves the Reading road about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Moulsoford village and runs S.W. to join the Wantage road. It is curious that these alternative forms should both appear in the T.A. as names of fields adjoining this way. I can only guess that the names in AS. times may have been *Baer-weg*, 'Bier Way.'

Bledgeham Slade Bottom: On S. edge of the parish between the Reading road and the above lane. Bletcham Hill Furlong: Just S.E. of the last. The second element in these two names is probably AS. *hamm*, 'enclosure.' The first is probably the same as the first element in the name Bletchley, *blaece*, the plural form of the AS. *blaec*, 'black,' 'bleak.'

Shooting on the Downs : N.W. of where the above lane joins the Reading road. This form of field-name, where 'shoot' means to 'run' is very common in Berkshire, but does not occur in Hampshire Tithe Awards.

Lollington Hill (OM1) : The first element is either the possessive case or the patronymic form of a personal name. The second is *dun*, 'hill.'

Bowslade : valley S.E. of the above hill. The element 'bow' refers evidently to its curving round the hill.

Loll Hill : The hill S.E. of the above slade. Probably derived from one of the AS. personal names beginning with *Lull*. It may be that the family of one Lulla gave their name to Lollington Hill. The T.A. map of the W. part of the parish is very indistinct; and though the identification of fields by the names which follow is approximately correct, I cannot vouch for its accuracy in all cases.

Long Amwell Furlong : Just E. of Lollington Farm (OM1).

Amwell Field : S. of last, on other side of road.

Short Amwell : N. of Long Amwell. All these are named from a very large spring which rises a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due E. of the farm. Its name appears in the charter as *Amman Wyll*, 'Amma's Spring.'

Way Furlong : E. of Short Amwell.

Short Malm Pit : E. of last. See Malm Way above.

Crake Furlong : N. of Short Amwell. Named after the corn-crake.

Carrimer Coppice : A former wood a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of where the W. By. crosses the Port Way. I fancy the name is the same as Carry-merry, a kind of sledge such as was used in former days instead of a cart, especially in hilly country.

Silsbury Hill : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Moulsoford station, and just S. of the road running S. from it. Sils- represents probably the genitive of a personal name. -bury indicates that a camp (*byrig*) or barrow (*beorh*) stood formerly on the site.

Brewed Hill : Immed. S. of last.

Moulsoford.

Part of the Vineyard : In N.E. corner of the parish, between Moulsoford Farm (OM6) and the river. Astensile Furlong : W. of same farm on N. By. of parish. Gatmoor Furlong :

Immed. S. of last. On the analogy of Gatcombe in Sunningwell T.A.1. I should guess it to be *Geat-mor*, 'the marshy land near the gate.' Picked Furlong: *i.e.*, a ploughland with an acute angle. Just E. of the Wantage road, a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from where it crosses the W. By.

Pislett: Field formerly just S. of the vicarage.

Sowberry: Field between Reading road and the river, opposite the ferry to South Stoke. 'Enclosure for swine.'

Stile Piece: Immed. S. of last.

Runtsford Corner: S.E. of parish on the river. See the charter.

Starveall Farm: Near W. By. (OM1). A name very common in W. Berks. Probably refers to the poorness of the land.

Coneyberry Furlong: On W. By. Immed. S.W. of above farm. 'Rabbit Warren.' Drove Way: Immed. S.E. of the farm. Smoke Acre: E.S.E. of the farm.

Goll Acre Furlong: Immed. E. of last, on E. side of the Wantage road. Goll is possibly a dialectic form of 'Gall,' an unfertile spot in a field through which springs of water rise.

Upper Shortnalls: N. of last. Names ending in -nall or -nell are very common in this part of Berkshire. They represent the AS. *healh*, a hollow in a slope or hillside, the 'n' being borrowed from the weak genitive in -an of the first element of the name. The old AS. form of the present name would probably be *aet tham scortan healh*, 'at the short (shallow?) hollow.'

Linnlands: Immed. S.E. of last. Perhaps from AS. *lin*, 'flax.'

Bower Down Furlong: $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of last. Hanging Balk: $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of last. A grass strip between ploughlands which runs downhill. Rowland Furlong: Immed. S.E. of last, beside the Reading road. Perhaps 'Rough Land,' on the analogy of Rowley, AS. *Ruh-leah*. Bounclar Furlong: S. of last, beside the road, on S. By. of parish. I cannot explain the name.

Twyfield Corner Furlong: On S. By., on opposite side of Reading road to the last. 'Double Field.' Two Headlands: Immed. W. of Bounclar Furlong. Moonlight Furlong: W. of last. Lower Rubber Furlong: S. of the last two, on S. By. Butts Headlands: W. of last. For

Butts see above. Cross Furlong : W. of last, on Wantage road. Gurnall Piece : S.W. of last, in the angle where the By. turns S. For -nall see note on Shortnalls. Friday Butts : Immed. W. of last.

Trencher Catberry : N. of last, in the middle of the combe.

Catberry may represent an original *Cat-beorh*, 'Cat Barrow.' See Stanmore and Chieveley charters. Woolley Furlong : N. of last, close to Well Barn (OM1). The Headland : where Well Barn (OM1) stands.

Lingley Furlong : W. of last. Lingley Down : On the ridge above last.

Clout Acre : On the top of the last. Blackslade Furlong : $\frac{1}{3}$ m. S.S.W. of Starveall Farm (OM1). Harcombe Wood : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of last on W. By. Probably 'Hare Combe.'

COMPTON BEAUCHAMP.

Compton Beauchamp bounds Ashbury on the E. The village which gave its name to the parish has vanished, though traces of it are apparent. The present village is Knighton. The present parish is made up of what were two land-units in AS. times, Compton and Hardwell. The name of the latter survives in Hardwell Farm (OM1) in the N.E. part of the parish. Hardwell (AS. *Hordwyll*) was a long, narrow stretch of land which extended from the N.E. angle of the parish of what is now Compton for $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. down its E. By., with an average breadth of about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. Even at the beginning of the nineteenth century, as the TA. shows, Hardwell was separated ecclesiastically from Compton. It was at the time an outlying part of the parish of Uffington.

In the Saxon charters Compton is called *Cumtun*, the first element of which is *cumb*, 'valley.'

Hardwell appears in the charters as *Hordwyll*, 'Treasure Spring,' possibly a spring near which coins had been found. The charter which refers to it has been supposed by Birch and others to belong to Hordle in Hampshire.

CHARTER OF HARDWELL.

B. 601, K. 1080 is a charter recording the grant of three hides at *Hordwell* by King Edward to Tata at the reputed date A.D. 903.

SURVEY.

The survey is certainly of the Saxon age, and may be contemporary with the grant. The number of landmarks is unusually large for a survey of so small an area.

An Swinbroc : 'On Swine Brook.'

1. *Aerest th' up of Swinebroc in on Riscslaed* : 'First up from Swine Brook to Rush Slade.' The identity of this brook is quite clear. It is also mentioned in an Ashbury (really Woolstone) charter, B. 491, and also in the Ashbury (really Woolstone) charter B. 796. It is also mentioned in the Compton charter B. 908. It is the brook which rises close to the W. By. of Compton parish just S. of Compton Marsh Farm (OM1), and crosses the parish in a N.E. direction, and forms for a short distance the By. between Compton and Woolstone, after which it runs through the N. end of Woolstone parish. The point here mentioned is where the brook first meets the E. By. of Compton about 15 chains S.S.W. of Cowleaze Farm (OM1). The Rush Slade was the land immed. S. of the last point, between the stream which comes down from Hardwell Farm (OM1) and the E. By. of the parish.

2. *Of thaes Riscslaedes Byge foran ongean Hordwylles Weg* : 'From the Corner of the Rush Slade onward towards Hardwell Way.' This *Riscslaedes Byge* is also mentioned in the Ashbury (Woolstone) charter B. 491, K. 1056, and is doubtless the corner of the slade where the parish By., after running E.S.E. for 10 chains, turns S.S.E. *Hordwylles Weg* is the road which runs N. from the Icknield Way at the point where it is crossed by the parish By. The field below the Icknield Way, i.e. to the N. of it, at this point, is called The Wells; and in the hillside at the S. end of the field which lies S. of Hardwell Farm (OM1) are at least three springs, the easternmost of which, close to *Hordwylles Weg*, is probably the original *Hordwyll*. The name of the westernmost of the three occurs later in the charter.

3. *Th' andlang thaes Weges oth hit cymth to Iccenhilde Wege* : 'Then along the Way till it comes to Ickneild Way.' This is, of course, the Portway, the Ashbury-Wantage road.⁵

⁵ For a full description of this very important road see the *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XXV, 'Highways of Berkshire,' road 3, p. 123.

4. *Thonne of than Wege up on thone Ealdan Wude Weg*: 'Then from the Way up to the Old Way of the Wood.' This is the track which leaves the Icknield Way at a point almost directly opposite to where the *Hordwylles Weg* meets it, and runs straight S. up the steep slope of the downs.

5. *Thonne of etc. be eastan Telles Byrg on aenne Garan*: 'Then from the Way of the Wood on the east side of Tell's Camp to a Gore (triangular piece of plough-land).' *Telles Burh* is an earthwork of considerable size which is hidden in the wood on the slope of the downs immediately above the Icknield Way. The Gore must have been somewhere near the summit of the ridge of the downs.

6. *Thonne of etc. on aenne Gar Aecer*: 'Then from the Gore to a Triangular Strip of Plough-land.' This would be one of the strips of a plough-land which (the strip) ran to a point at one end.

7. *Th'and langes thaere Fyrh to anum Andheafdum to anrè Forierthe and seo Forierth gaeth in to tham Lande*: 'Then along the Furrow to a Corner Headland to a Projecting Piece of Plough-land, and the Projecting Piece runs into that ploughed land.' *Andheafdu* is commonly translated as if it were an ordinary headland of a plough-land. I am inclined to think that it is really the end of a headland where the plough turned when the headland came to be ploughed; so that every plough-land would have an *andheafdu* at each of its corners. In the same way *forierth* is commonly translated simply 'plough-land.' But I have always thought, and the reference here confirms the idea, that it is a piece of plough-land which projects into a neighbouring piece. The last two landmarks are naturally indeterminable at the present day; but they were N. of the Ridgeway, as the next landmark shows, probably between it and the summit of the ridge of the downs.

8. *Thanne on gerihte to tham Stane on Hricg Weg*: 'Then straight on to the Stone on the Ridgeway.' The stone was where the E. By. crosses the Ridgeway.⁶

9. *Thanon west on anne Garan*: 'Then west to a Gore.' This is probably the bend W. in the By. just S. of the Ridgeway.

10. *Andlanges thaere Fyrh to anum Anheafdum*: 'Along the Furrow to a Corner Headland.'

⁶ For detailed description of this road see *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XXV, p. 119, 'Highways of Berkshire,' road 1.

11. *Thanon of dune on Fearn Hylles Slaed*: 'Then down to Fern Hill Slade.' Fern Hill is probably the hill above Knighton Barn (OM1). The Slade was probably in the valley by Pingoose Covert (OM 6).

12. *Th' thanon on ane Furh an Aecer near thaem Hlince*: 'Then to a Furrow for (the breadth of) one Strip of Plough-land near the Lynch.' This must have been on the E. edge of Pingoose Covert (OM 6). Probably there was a wood there in AS. times.

13. *Thonne on thaene Hlinc aet Fearn Hylles Slaede suthe wearde*: 'Then to a Lynch to the S. end of Fernhill Slade.' This was almost certainly at the S. end of Pingoose Covert (OM 6). It is the S. end of the lands of Hardwell as marked in the T.A. map. Fernhill Slade is mentioned in the Compton charter B. 908, K. 1172; and the fact would suggest its position at this point where the Hardwell and Compton boundaries meet. The lynchies above mentioned were no doubt on the side of the valley at Pingoose Covert (OM 6).

14. *Of etc. on an Andheafda*:⁷ 'From the Lynch to a Corner Headland.' In the T.A. map showing the Hardwell By. the line goes along the S. and W. sides of Pingoose Covert; and from there northward the By. follows the W. By. of the fields the E. By. of which is the modern E. By. of Compton parish. This headland may have been at the S.W. corner of the covert.

15. *Forth there on ane Furh on ane Stan Raewe*: 'On then to a Furrow to a Row of Stones.' The furrow went probably up the W. side of the covert. The Row of Stones may have been where the By. bends W. for about 3 chains at a point about 4 chains N. of the N.W. corner of the covert. Whether the *Stanraewe* was merely a row of boundary stones or a row of ancient 'standing' stones cannot be said. It is landmark which occurs in other charters.

16. *Thanon on gerihte on Hricg Weg*: 'Then straight to the Ridge Way.' The By. crosses the Ridgeway just at the E. side of Hardwell Barn (OM1).

17. *Th. thanone on ane Gar Aecer on ane Andheafda*: 'Then to a Triangular Strip of Plough-land to a Corner Headland.' For *Gar Aecer* see above. The survey adds: *ond se*

⁷ I have made here a fairly obvious emendation of Birch's text.

Gar Aecer in on th' land; which seems to mean that it was a strip of the plough-land to which the CornerHeadland belonged.

18. *Thanone andlanges anre Furh oth hit cymth to anum Byge*: 'Then along a Furrow till it comes to a bend (corner).'

19. *Thanone of etc. forth on ane Furh oth hit cymth to anre Forierthe and sio Forierth in to tham Lande*: 'Then from the Bend on to a Furrow till it comes to a Projecting Piece of Plough-land, which belongs (?) to that Plough-land.' These three landmarks seem to correspond to three successive bends which the By. makes just N. of the Ridgeway. The straight boundaries between these bends are respectively 200, 186, and 200 yds. long. The chief slope of the land is from N. to S., and therefore the strips of the furlong would run in that direction. The straight stretches represent the sides of furlongs.

20. *Thonne on Icenhilde Weg be Telles Burh westen*: 'Then to Icknield Way on the west side of Tell's Camp.' i.e. the By. passes on the W. side of Hardwell Castle (OM₁) to the Portway.

21. *Thanone north ofer Icenhilde Weg on Sican Wyll*: 'Then north over Icknield Way to the Spring of the Watercourse.' I have taken *sican* to be one of those instances, not uncommon in the charters, of the use of the weak for the strong genitive. At this point the By. seems to leave the By. of Hardwell as given in the T.A. map. The *Sican Wyll* appears to be the westernmost of the three springs which rise in the field to the S. of Hardwell Farm (OM₁).

22. *Th' hthweres ofer an furlang on gerihte on an Aelr Bed on Haeg Hylles Broces Byge*: 'Then crosswise over a Furlong straight on to an Alder Bed to the Bend of Hay Hill Brook.' I am doubtful whether *furlang* is used here as an approximate measure or with the meaning of a group of strips of ploughland, like the common term 'furlong' in field names. If it is used in the latter sense, it is a very interesting use of the Saxon term, because that use is very rare in the charters, in fact at this moment I cannot recall another instance of it. Hay Hill Brook must be the brook which flows from the *Sican Wyll* and the *Hord Wyll* past Hardwell Farm (OM₁) in a northerly direction to the *Swynbroc*. The field to the immediate W. of Hay Hill Brook, which was in Hardwell at the time of the T.A. does not appear to have been in the original Saxon grant. The Bend of Hayhill Brook must have been close to Hardwell Farm (OM₁).

23. *An lang thaes Broces oth hit cymth to twam Gar Aecer :* 'Along the Brook until it comes to two Triangular Strips of Ploughland.' For *Gar Aecer* see above. The expression is rare in the charters.

24. *(And than) Gar Aeceras in on th' Land :* 'The words in brackets are almost certainly corrupt. 'From the Triangular Strips of Ploughland to the Ploughed Land.' The two Gore Acres must have been on the brook; and then the By. must have turned W. to that By. of Hardwell given in the T.A.

25. *Thanon on ane Forierthe on an on Heafde :* 'Then to a Projecting Piece of Ploughland to a Corner Headland.' The Hardwell land is two fields broad at this N. end in the T.A. This present landmark was probably near the W. end of the copse which stands about 25 chains N.N.W. of Hardwell Farm (OM1).

26. *Thanon on gerihte on Readan Clif on Swin Broc :* 'Then straight on to the Red Steep Slope to Swine Brook.' The Red Slope must have been by the copse on Swine Brook about 6 or 7 chains above where Hay Hill Brook joins it.

27. *Thonne and lang thaes Broces on thaet Risislaed :* 'Then along the Brook to the Rush slade.' See landmark 1.

(To be continued.)

Notes and Queries

NOTES.

Mrs. Stephen Batson has generously presented to the Public Library at Reading her well-arranged manuscript collections relating to the Hundred of Faircross. These consist of a very valuable series of transcripts from Record Office papers dealing chiefly with the Parish of Welford, but containing also many papers throwing light upon the history of Wickham, Benham, Boxford and other places. There are large numbers of pedigrees and extracts from wills, a collection of surveys and maps, and biographical notes upon many distinguished natives and residents. The Reading Library may be congratulated upon securing such a very important addition to its local collection.

QUERY.

Wanted,—Information of the family of Bye.—A. E. Bye, M.A., Ph.D., c/o Editor, *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*.