Saxons in the Meon Valley: A Place-Name Survey

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Introduction

The Meon Valley in southern Hampshire is defined by the River Meon, a chalk river, which rises at the village of East Meon and flows to the Solent at Titchfield Haven. The Meon Valley area contains the parishes of East and West Meon, Warnford, Exton, Corhampton, Meonstoke, Droxford, Soberton, Wickham and Fareham (for Titchfield); also associated with this region are the parishes of Shedfield, Swanmore, Privett, Froxfield, Steep, Langrish and East and West Tisted.

Place-names preserve information about topographic, linguistic and cultural conditions at the time of their formation, and therefore are a useful resource for investigating the past. The toponymic survey presented below is intended to compliment the ‘Story of the Saxons in the Meon Valley’ project, and to provide a general synopsis of the region’s Anglo-Saxon history through place-name evidence. This survey covers the geographical scope of the field-work carried out in the project.

Firstly, an introduction to the Jutes of southern Hampshire is presented, followed by a discussion of the Meon River and the Meonware. The following toponymic survey adheres to the structure of the English Place-Name Society county survey volumes. The place-names are organised hierarchically by hundreds, then parishes. Major settlements are discussed first in each parish, followed by minor names of etymological interest arranged alphabetically. Other minor names, for which we have only late forms, are listed at the end of each parish. Bounds in the Meon Valley region recorded in Anglo-Saxon charters are discussed where applicable, in general following the parish. The Meon charters are discussed last.

The groundwork for this survey is based on the 1958 unpublished typescript of J. E. B. Gover, ‘The Place-Names of Hampshire’. As Gover’s typescript is not easily available, I have included the early place-name forms from his work for the convenience of the reader. This source is simply cited as Gover, followed by the page number. The remaining abbreviated citations follow standard English Place-Name Society conventions. These can be searched on The Historical Gazetteer of England’s Place-Names website.

The Jutes and the Meon Valley

The post-Roman history of the Meon Valley region is of particular importance in the study of early Anglo-Saxon Britain. In his Historia Ecclesiastica (c. 731), Bede describes the Anglo-Saxon migration as consisting of three peoples, the Saxons, Angles and the Jutes (lutae). According to Bede (i.15), ‘From the Jutes are descended the people of Kent, and the Isle of Wight, and those also in the province of the West Saxons who are to this day called Jutes, seated opposite the Isle of Wight’. Yorke (1989: 90) demonstrates that the location of the mainland ‘Jutish province’ of Hampshire lay between Lymington and Hayling Island (see Insley 2001: 475). The River Hamble was in the territory of the Jutes (Bede IV.16), and place-names containing the ethnic name *Yte ‘Jutes’ allow us to
visualise the probable extent of Jutish territory in Hampshire. Place-names with *Yte- are found near the proposed boundaries of the ‘Jutish province’, suggesting they were coined by neighbouring Saxons (Yorke 1898: 91-2; Sørensen 1999: 238). This element is preserved in Yting stoce, modern Bishopstoke on the River Itchen (Insley 2001: 475), and also in the early name of the New Forest, recorded in the twelfth century chronicle of John of Worcester (attributed to Florence of Worcester) as prouncia lutarum in Nova Foresta and Ytene, meaning ‘of the Jutes’ (Insley 2001: 475; Yorke 1989: 90-1). The Meon Valley, therefore, was in Jutish territory (Sørensen 1999: 238). This is further suggested by the lost place-name Ytedene ‘valley of the Jutes’, which was located near East Meon (Yorke 1989: 90), and which likely marks their eastern border (Sørensen 1999: 238).

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Bede refers to the people of the Meon Valley as Meonware, for which see below; Klingelhöfer (1992: 103) observes that valley names were often ‘the identifying part of the territory/folk name’. Bede’s use of prouincia also implies that the Meonware formed an early political territory (Yorke 1989: 91). The Jutish region of Hampshire, including the Meonware, came under West Saxon control in the later part of the seventh century, although the evidence suggests that the Jutish identity of the region persisted for some time (Insley 2001: 474).

River Names and Regional Names

River Meon
(flumen quod appellatur) Meonea 786 x 794 Sawyer 269, BCS 258, Kemble 158
and lang Meone, utt on Meône 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038
(æt, innan, to, and lang) Méone, æt Meoneæ 932 Sawyer 417, BCS 689, Kemble 1107
(juxta dirivatios aquarum cursus) Meone, (on, and lang, utt) Meone 939 Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122
(æt Meoneæ, æt Meone) 940 Sawyer 463, BCS 758, Kemble 1131
æt Meoneæ, æt Meone 956 Sawyer 619, BCS 982, Kemble 1190
utt on Meoneæ 959 Sawyer 600, BCS 953, Kemble 1181
(æt, to, of) Meône 959 x 963 Sawyer 811, BCS 1319, Kemble 597
(æt, to, on) Meône 967 Sawyer 754, BCS 1200, Kemble 535
Estmain ryver c. 1540 Leland (Ekwall 1928: 288)

The River Meon, from which the Meon Valley and the villages of Meonstoke and East and West Meon are named, rises south of the village of East Meon and flows to the Solent. The early forms of the name are Mēon and OE ea ‘a river, a stream’ (Insley 2001: 476). The name Mēon is Celtic or pre-Celtic, but the meaning and etymology is obscure (Mills 2003: 324). Ekwall (1928: 288) suggests that the name may be related to the Main in Germany (Gaulish Moenus; see Holder 1904: 606), but this creates phonological difficulties. Insley (2001: 476) suggests that it may be better to regard the name as an n-extension of the root *meu-, *mey-', *mā- meaning ‘damp, musty, to moisten’ and also ‘to wash, to clean’. Meon Hill in the parish of Quinton, Gloucestershire (Mene, Mena 1086 DB, Meone 1221 Ass) may have had a similar early development to the river-name Meon (PN Gl, pt. 1: 254).

Meanuoarorum prouincia
Meanuoarorum prouincia c. 731 Bede, HE (IV.13)
Meanware mægð (var. Meonwáre B, Meanwaro O, Ca) c. 890 (c. 1000) OE Bede (Ekwall 1928: 288)
Meonwara snaðe 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038
‘People of the Meon’ (with OE –*ware, genitive plural –*wara ‘dwellers, inhabitants, defenders’ suffixed). The Meonware represent an early territorial and political entity, further supported by Bede’s description of the Meonware as a provincia (Yorke 1989: 90). In his analysis of smaller Anglo-Saxon territorial divisions with –*saetan and –*wara, Klingelhöfer (1992: 93-4) observes that OE –*saetan ‘inhabitants, settlers’ may have retained a sense ‘inhabitants of a frontier’, suggesting that place-names with this element represent later Anglo-Saxon expansion westward into Britain (e.g. the Wilsaet, the people of the Wyle valley in Wiltshire, or the Elmetsaetan referring to Anglo-Saxon settlers in the former post-Roman British kingdom of Elmet). In contrast, –*wara is a very old term, attested in Continental tribal names as Latin-Germanic –vari(i) (Insley 2001: 475), and –*wara indicates a regional difference, ‘as it does not seem to have been used in Anglian areas, and is most frequent in districts traditionally considered to have been settled by Jutes—Kent, the Isle of Wight, and southern Hampshire’ (Klingelhöfer 1992: 94): see above. The early charter forms with OE snād (see above Meonwara snaðe, meon wara snadæ), ‘a detached piece of woodland’ in the Droxford charters, indicates that the Meonware area of influence extended outside the Meon Valley (Insley 2001: 475).

**Meonstoke Hundred**

**Corhampton**

**Quedementyne** 1086 DB

**Cornhamton** 1201, 1215 Cur, **Corhampton** c. 1225 BM et freq to 1428 FA (all Gover 49)

**Cornhameton** 1218 EcclComm, 1220 Cur, 1242 Fees (all Gover 49)

**Corhamtune** 1232 EcclComm, **Corhantone** 1296 IPM (both Gover 49)

**Cornehampton** 14th cent. Grundy 1924, 89

**Corehampton** 1598 FF (Gover 49)

The earliest reference to Corhampton is the Domesday Book of 1086, which records:

> ‘Quedementyne. Alwin held it from King Edward. Then it answered for 3 hides; now for 1 hide. Land for 3 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 2 villagers and 6 smallholders with 1 plough. 4 slaves; a church; 2 mills at 22s; meadow, 1 acre; 1 house in Winchester at 5s. Value before 1066 and now £8; when acquired 5s.’

The Domesday form Quedementyne has received little comment. The place-name is a compound of OE cwēad ‘dirt, dung’ and hām-tūn ‘a home farm’, the precise interpretation of which is obscure. It may denote a farm with a significant quantity of manure, or perhaps it is an insult. Quidhampton in Overton Parish, Hampshire has an identical Domesday spelling and etymology (Klingelhöfer 1992: 172; Gover 138). For other place-names preserving the element cwēad, cf. Quidhampton in Bemerton and Wroughton Parish, Wiltshire (PN Wi: 226, 279) and Quither, Devon (PN De, pt. 1: 216).

The later forms are derived from OE *Cornhāmtūn meaning ‘corn estate’ (Coates 1989: 59) or ‘corn farm with a house’. The element corn is rare in Old English place-names, as corn was not a crop typically grown by the Anglo-Saxons, though Corhampton may be an exception (EPNE, pt. 1: 108). Hām-tūn is composed of two elements, suggesting the interpretation ‘the enclosure in which
a homestead stood, the home farm’, and occurs most frequently in the South West (EPNE, pt. 1: 232). Coates (1989: 59) suggests that hām-tūn ‘denotes a place of considerable significance’.

Corhampton is not attested in Anglo-Saxon charters, though early place-names within Corhampton Parish occur in Droxford and Exton charters (Grundy 1924: 40; and see below). The church recorded in the Domesday account refers to the present-day church, which preserves late Saxon architecture and a sundial (Taylor 1965, v. 1: 176-8).

ST CLARE’S WOOD (OS 1810), ST CLAIR’S FARM (OS Index 1895) olim BENSTEAD

Benstede 1086 DB
Benestede 1201 FF, Estbenestede juxta Sobereton 1275 Ass (both Gover 50)
Benestud 1235 Castle (Gover 50)
Benestede Senclere 1350 EcclComm, Benstedse Saintclere 1391 FF (both Gover 50)
Seynclers t. Hy. 6 Add (Gover 50)
Sinckles 1610 Speed (Gover 50)

From OE bēan ‘a bean’ (both ‘broad-bean’ and ‘horse-bean’) and stede ‘a place, site, locality’, meaning ‘place where beans are grown’. The modern name is derived from the manorial suffix, from the family of Robert de Sancto Claro who held the manor in 1201 (Gover 50).

CORHAMPTON DOWN (OS). FRANKLIN FARM (OS). LITTLETON COPSE (6” OS). STAINS COTTAGES (6” OS).

MEONSTOKE

Menestoch 1086 DB
Menestok 1202 P, 1236 Ass, 1263 Pat, 1282 Ipm (Gover 50)
Menestok c. 1200 StCross, Meonestoke 1388 FF, 1392 IpmR (both Gover 50)
Munestok 1202 P, 1242 Fees et freq to 1330 Ipm (Gover 50)
Monestok 1237 Cl (Gover 50)
Mynestoke c. 1270 EpReg (Gover 50)
(eclesia de) Moenestoke (cum capella) 1291 Tax
Mundestok 1376 Seld xxxii (Gover 50)
Meanestoke 1503 FF, Mean Stoke 1577 FF (both Gover 50)

From the river-name Meon (see Meon above and East and West Meon below) and OE stoc ‘outlying farmstead’, meaning ‘farm dependent on the River Meon’ (Coates 1989: 116; Gover 50). The Domesday Book describes Meonstoke as:

**Meonstoke.** It was of King Edward’s revenue. Then it answered for 1½ hides; now for nothing. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 1½ ploughs; 3 villagers and 16 smallholders with 1½ ploughs. 4 slaves; 4 freedmen; 1 mill at 10s; meadow, 3 acres; woodland at 10 pigs; from grazing 10s.

SHEARDLEY FARM

Shuddesly 1352, Shuddele, Shudle t. Hy 4, Shudle, Shydeley t. Ed 4, Shydley, Shidley 1509 WinchColl (all Gover 50)
The name is possibly from OE scydd ‘hovel, shed’ or ME schudde ‘hovel, pig-sty’, although the medial –s in the earliest form Shuddesly, unless this is an error, may indicate a different etymology. The second element is OE lēah ‘a wood, clearing in a wood’, and the name might mean ‘clearing of the shed’ or ‘clearing of the pig-stye’. Cf. discussion of Palshuddes for Limbo Farm, Sussex (PN Sx, pt. 1: 117).

**Soberton**

**Sudbertune 1086 DB**
**Suthberton 1280 Ass (Gover 50)**
**Subertune 12th Durford, Suberton(e) 1166 RBE, 1168, 1175 P et freq to 1316 FA, Subereton 1199 Cur, Schuberton 1280 For, Suburton 1383 FF, Souburton 1490 FF (all Gover 50)**
**Soberton 1291 Tax**
**Soberton 1296 Ip, 1327 SR (Gover 50)**
**Subburton t. Hy 4 WinchColl (Gover 50)**

The earliest spellings indicate this is from OE suð ‘south’ and beretūn (bær-tūn) ‘barley farm/enclosure’, rather than from OE burh-tūn, ‘fortified farmstead’ (Gover 50; Coates 1989: 151). In 1205 Soberton became a grange of Beauliu Abbey (Coates 1989: 151). The first reference to Soberton is in the Domesday Book of 1086, which records:

Soberton. Leofman held it from Earl Godwin. Harold took it from him when he was reigning and put it in his revenue; and so it is still. Leofman himself could not withdraw whither he would. They state that he was in Chalton jointly. Then it answered for 4 hides; now for nothing. Land for 2 ploughs. In lordship ½ plough; 6 villagers and 3 smallholders with 2 ploughs. 2 mills at 15s; meadow, 1 acre. The value is and always was £3.

Soberton. Godwin held it from King Edward jointly; he could not withdraw elsewhere. Harold took it from him and put it in his revenue; it is so still. Then it answered for 3 hides; now for nothing. Land for 2 ploughs. In lordship ½ plough; 3 villagers and 2 smallholders with 1 plough. 1 mill at 5s; meadow, 3 acres. The value is and always was 40s. These 2 lands pay 40s more.

**Charles Wood**

‘is probably identical with’ Chorlewod’ 1234 Cl (Gover 51)

From OE ceorl ‘churl, peasant, an ordinary freeman’ (here ceorla in the genitive plural) and wudu ‘wood, forest’, meaning ‘churls’ wood’. Compare with the place-name Charlwood, Surrey (PN Sy: 287).

**Hoe, Hoe Cross (1810 OS)**

**Hou 1086 DB**
**Ho 1236 Ass, Hoo 1280 For (both Gover 51)**

From OE hōh ‘a hill, a spur of land’. Coates (1989: 94) identifies this with the hill separated from Windmill Down by a valley. The use of hōh as a simplex name occurs frequently (Gelling 1984: 167).
**Huntbourne**

Hunteburne t. Hy 3 For (Gover 51)

‘A stream in the hunting district’, from OE and ME hunte ‘a hunt’, or later ‘hunting district’ and OE burna ‘a spring, stream’. Huntbourne is located in the centre of the Forest of Bere (Gover 51).

**Ingoldfield (olim Flexland)**

(la) Flexland 1207 Obl (p), 1212 Fees (Gover 51)  
Englefeld in Soberton 1495 Castle (Gover 51)

From OE fleax or ME flax, flex, 'land where flax was cultivated' (Gover 51). The modern place-name Ingoldfield is derived from a manorial suffix; Roger de Engelfeld held the manor in 1326 (ibid. 51).

**Mislingford**

Maslyngefled (sic) 1280 For, Maslyngefford 1298 ib., Maslyngford 1363 Ipm (all Gover 51)  
Mestlingeford 1290 Ch (Gover 51)  
Mastlyngford 1298 Harl (Gover 51)

This name refers to a ford on the River Meon. It is an -ing or -inga- name (see EPNE, pt. 1: 282-298), but the first element is obscure. Gover (51) suggests that it may mean 'ford of the people of Mastley', perhaps a lost place-name from OE mæst and lēah meaning 'beech-mast or nut, clearing', within the Forest of Bere. The Forest of Bere is derived from OE bere 'pasture or woodland for feeding swine' (Watts 2010: 51).

**Watton**

Wadedene c. 1300 Add, Wadden, Waddon t. Hy 4 WinchColl (Gover 51)

Gover (51) suggests that the earliest forms point to a personal name Wada and OE denu 'valley', rather than OE wād ‘woad’; therefore the name would mean ‘Wada’s Valley’. For the personal name Wada see Searle (1897: 472).

**Warnford**

æt Wernæforda 1053 Sawyer 1476, BCS 980, Kemble 1337  
Warneford 1086 DB  
Warneford(e) 12th Montacute, 1199 Cur, 1217 Cl et freq to 1341 NI, Up Warneford 1346 FA (both Gover 51)
Warnford is a ford on the River Meon. Ekwall (DEPN: 498) speculates that the first element may be from an OE personal name *Wærna, *Werna, OE wærna, wrænna ‘wren’, or OE *wræna ‘stallion’. Gover (52) suggests OE *wræna ‘stallion’ is an unlikely explanation for Warnford since this word is not recorded, and that OE wærna, wrænna ‘wren’ or a personal name are more plausible. Coates (1989: 171) supports the late view, suggesting the name likely means ‘ford of Wǣrna’.

A personal name Wærna is possibly preserved in the place-name Warningcamp, Sussex (Warnecham 1086 DB; PN Sx, pt. 1: 173-4), and is also likely attested in Wærnan hylle (c. 958 BCS 1028) in Berkshire.

The second earliest attestation of Warnford is in the Domesday Book of 1086, which records:

Warnford. Wulfric and Wulfward held it from King Edward jointly. They had 2 halls. Then it answered for 4 hides; now for 2 hides less 1 virgate. In Hound there are 3 hides and 3 acres of land which belonged to Warnford; they paid tax in Mansbridge Hundred. In total there are 7 hides. Land for 9 ploughs; 31 villagers and 9 smallholders with 6 ploughs. A church; 6 slaves; 2 mills at 20s; meadow, 20 acres. Value before 1066 and now £14; when acquired £8.

RIVERSDOWN FARM

þryfes dene 961 Sawyer 693, BCS 1077, Kemble 1231
Ryvesden 1337 Ipm, Rivers deane feild 1650 ParlSurv, Riversdeane 1669 Recov (all Gover 52)

The development to Rivers- is due to analogy. The second element is OE denu ‘valley’. The first element is unexplained, although the earliest reference suggests it is a genitive singular noun. It is possibly an unattested OE personal name *þryf, and therefore the name means ‘Þryf’s Valley’.

WHEELY FARM, WHEELY DOWN (1895 OS Index)

(of ðam borga) on weoleage 1045 Sawyer 1007, Kemble 780
Weoleghe, Weleg’ 12th Montacute (Gover 52)
Weleye 1325 MinAcct (Gover 52)

From OE wēoh ‘an idol, a shrine’ and lēah ‘clearing, clearing in a wood’, denoting a clearing or grove with a pre-Christian shrine or temple (Gover 52). Wheely is one of five examples of OE wēoh and lēah, others being Weoley, Worcestershire; Whiligh, Sussex; Willey, Surrey and Weilei in Hertfordshire (Gelling 1961-2: 8). Gelling’s (1961-2: 15) study of compound names containing words meaning ‘a heathen site’ or ‘shrine’, or the name of a Teutonic God, found that the most common second element was lēah. The association of religious sites with groves or woodland clearings is also found in other early cultures and reflected in place-names, such as Old Norse lundr ‘oak grove’ and Celtic nemeton ‘sanctuary, shrine’, which is sometimes linked with pre-Christian worship in groves (see Kilpatrick 2010: 7-8).

The conversion of the Meonware is likely to have taken place in the late seventh-century. King Æthelwealh of the South Saxons was converted and baptized under the influence of King Wulfhere of Mercia (658-675), as Bede (IV.13) described:

In token of their relationship, Wulfhere gave him [Æthelwealh] two provinces, the Isle of Wight and the province of the Meanwaras in the territory of the West Saxons. With the king’s approval ... the bishop baptized the leading thegns and soldiers of the province.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle dates Wulfhere’s conquest of the Isle of Wight and the transference of these provinces to Æthelwealh to the year 661. Later, between 681 and 686 Bishop Wilfrid (c. 634-
709) baptized the noblemen of the provinces (Bede IV.13; Stephanus, *Vita S. Wilfridi*, § 41). There is a possibility, however, that the *Meonware* were converted before 681 by the West Saxons (Hinton 1989: 61; see also Yorke 1989: 62-3). Importantly, Gelling (1961-2: 20) argues:

[A] pagan place-name is to be regarded as factual evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement in a given region by the time the kingdom in question was converted to Christianity.

The place-name Wheely Farm is testament to a pre-Christian site of worship in the Meon Valley, and therefore must have originated before the Christian conversion of this region. This place-name also provides further evidence that the Germanic settlement of the region had early origins (see above ‘The Jutes and the Meon Valley’).

**Bishops Waltham Hundred**

**Droxford**

*Drocenesfordæ* 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038
*Drocenesforda* 826 Sawyer 276 (x3), BCS 393, Kemble 1038, 939 Sawyer 446 (x2), BCS 742, Kemble 1122, 956 Sawyer 600 (x3), BCS 953, Kemble 1181
*Drocenesford* 939 Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122
*Drokenesford* 956 Sawyer 600, BCS 953, Kemble 1181; *Drokenesford(e)* c. 1127 WinchCart, 1205 Pap et freq to 1342 Ipm (Gover 46)
*Drocheneford* 1086 DB
*Drokeneford* 1203 EcclComm (Gover 46)
*Trokenesford(e)* 1236 Ass, 1316 FA, *Trokeneford(e)* 1236 Ass (both Gover 46)
*Drokkysford* 1541 MinAcct, *Droxenford alias Droxford* 1722 Recov (both Gover 46)

Grundy (1924: 74) suggests this contains an OE personal name *Drocen*, but this has not found acceptance elsewhere. Ritter (1922: 193, n. 2) proposes that the early forms of Pensham, Worcestershire (*Pedneshamme* 972 (c. 1050) Sawyer 786, BCS 1282) show a personal name with an n-derivative, and to this example Mawer (PN Wo: 221-2) adds Droxford. Ekwall (DEPN) suggests the first element is OE *drocen* meaning ‘dry place’ (Gover 46; Coates 1989: 67). The second element is OE *ford* ‘a shallow place, natural or artificial, across a stream, river or other water, by which a crossing can be made’ (EPNE, pt. 1: 180). The first element is more likely to be used as a descriptive adjective, the entire name meaning ‘dry ford’, or perhaps a ford with firm banks.

Droxford was formerly the name of a hundred in the *Domesday Book* (*Drocheneford Hundred* 1086), to which the parish of Droxford belonged. The *Domesday* survey records:

In *Droxford* Hundred. *Droxford*. It was always in the (lands of the) Church. Before 1066 it answered for 16 hides; now for 14 hides. Land for 16 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 32 villagers and 13 smallholders with 14 ploughs. 6 slaves; a church at 20s; 2 mills at 15s 2d; for the profit of the land 12s; meadow, 10 acres; woodland at 40 pigs pasturage. Value before 1066 and now £26; when acquired £20.

**Hazelholt Park** (Hazelholt Farm 1810 OS, Hazelholt 1895 OS Index)

(to) *hæsæl holt* 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038, *hæsel holt* 939 Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122 (for both see Droxford charters below)
Haselholt(e) 1228 FF, 1245 EcclComm, 1256 Ass, 1269 For (all Gover 46)

‘Hazel Wood.’ From OE hæsel (West Saxon dialect), and holt OE ‘wood’.

MIDDLINGTON 1810 OS, MIDLINGTON Ho 1895 OS Index

Midlinton 1203 Cur (p), Middlynton 1327 SR (p) (both Gover 46)
Midlingeton 1207 Obl (p), 1242 Fees, 1248 Ass (all Gover 46)
Midelinton 1218 FF, Midelington 1248, 1272 Ass, Mydelynton 1391 Seld xxxii
Midlington 1233 EcclComm, 1236, 1280 Ass, Middlington 1291 Ipm, Midlyngton 1316 FA, 1434 FF (all Gover 46)

The final element is OE tūn ‘enclosure, farmstead, village’. Gover (46) suggests that this name may be an –ingas derivative of OE middel ‘middle’. If so, this would be a geographical –ingas name (EPNE, pt. 1: 300), perhaps meaning ‘farmstead of the inhabitants of the middle (district)’, but this is uncertain.

PHRYMPHT COPSE 1895 OS Index

la Frenthe 1292, 1301, 1350 EcclComm (Gover 46)
la Fernthe 1307 EcclComm (Gover 46)
la Frempthe 1395 EcclComm, la Fremthe 1447 ib., la Fremph c. 1500 ib. (Gover 46)

‘Place of bracken’, from OE fearn ‘fern’. Cf. Fareham below. Gover (46) points out that Phrympth Copse is identical in origin to Frant, Sussex (fyrnþan 956, Fernet c. 1105, 1176, Ferneth(e) 1230, 1298, Frenthe 1332 , 1517, etc. ; PN Sx, pt. 2: 373).

BROCKBRIDGE (BROCK-BRIDGE 1810 OS, BROCK BRIDGE 1895 OS Index)

Gover (46) suggests this may be associated with the family of Peter le Brocke 1318 EpReg, and that it may be identified with pont’ de Bradebrigge inter Menestok’ et Drakenesford 1280 Ass (Bradebrigge meaning ‘broad bridge’, cf. Broadbridge Farm, Sussex, earlier Bradebrigge 1267 FF [PN Sx, pt. 1]). Ekwall (DEPN) identifies the Proc briggæ and Procbyrgæ in charter bounds (see below) with a Drockbridge, but Grundy (1924: 77) notes that the bridge was where the Shedfield-Fareham road crosses the stream, several miles from Brockbridge (Gover 47).

DROXFORD: ANGLO-SAXON CHARTERS

I. Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038. This charter reputedly dates to AD 826 in the reign of King Egbert (dated from Hampton in the 24th year of Egbert’s reign). The charter is directed to the minster of Saints Peter and Paul, Winchester, and grants twenty hides (manentes) at Droxford, free of all dues except military service and bridge-work (Finberg 1964: no. 13). The bounds of the charter, however, are spurious (Finberg 1964: no. 13; Forsberg 1973: 12 [4]): the episcopal witnesses (with two exceptions), six of the ealdormen, thirteen of the ministri, and the bounds
themselves are all copied from the charter Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122. This latter charter (for which see II below) is authentic.

The place-names and topographical features in the charter are italicised. For the bounds of these charters see Grundy (1924: 74-8). General notes appear in the translation in brackets.

Ærest æt clefer dæne on þæt del · of þam dæl · 7 lang wæges · on þa hwitan floda · on norð healfæ hærepaðes · on ðone litlan þorn · þæt on swalwan þorn · þonne on þæs hlinces norþ ændæ · swa and lang hlinces suð on ðæs cumbæs heafod · þonne on ðæs hlinces west ænde æt þæm hwitan fox holm · þonne on stan burg · þonne and lang dic utt on hwitan forð · swa and lang Meone on midnaes stream on þa dic on nordhealfæ þæs forðæs · þonne on þanæ ealdan þorn · swa æft utt on Meône · and lang streames ða ða dic · and lang dic to þæm hepernum birigelsum · þonnæ suð and lang hling ræwe to ðæs niðer langan hlinces east ænde · and lang hlinces æft utt on eð · þonnæ swa ða ðæt wæst ðæst how · þonnæ wæst for þonnæ seal stub · ða ðæt yrðland · syð bað þæs landæ on ðæs willes heafod · þonne utt on ea · swa forð suð on wuda · 7 þonnæ git ða wic hæma mearce · þonnæ wæst bað hagan on Cyneburgan hyrstæ · suðæ weardæ ða ðet scirhiltæ · on þonnæ greatan beam · þonne on þunres lea middæ weardæ · swa gæ rihtæ to Proc brigæ on þonnæ fulan bróce · þonne utt on bitnan burnan · and lang burnan on þæs bisceopæs mearcea · swa norð to filæ leage geatæ · þonnæ on bumbornæ · and lang burnan on bromfæld · þonne upp bað tweonæ þa twægen bromfeldas and lang þæs alar sceatæs on þonnæ fulan bróc · þonne to þæs cumbæs heafodæ · þonne to þære stigelæ to þæs bisceopæs mearcea · þonne utt on langan leageæ · þæt þweores ofer þa leage norð to wuda · þonon to þære stigelæ ða Meonwara snæðe · Swa to domnes hlinæ · þonnæ to þæm wulfpyttæ · swa on ge rihtæ to hæsæl holt · þonnæ to clæfær daænæ æft on þæt del.

First at Clover Valley to the dell (part of this name is preserved in Cleverly Wood. This survey begins at the north-west corner of the parish, north-west of Hazelholt Park [Grundy 1924: 74]) · from the dell along the path · to the White Channel (perhaps ‘white’ because of chalk) · to the north half of the highway · to the little thorn-tree · then to Swalwan Thorn-tree · then to the bank · thus along the bank south to the head of the valley · then to the west end of the bank at the White Fox-holes · then to the Stone Fort (preserved in the field-names Great Stanbury, Stanbury Hanger and Long Stanbury: this refers to the north boundary of the parish [Grundy 1924: 74-5]) · then along the ditch out to the White Ford (both charters I and II have forð here, but from context this is on the River Meon, so ford ‘ford’ must be what is intended) · so along the Meon to mid-stream, to the ditch on the northern half of the ford (Grundy 1924: 75 suggests this ford was where Brockbridge now stands) · then to the old thorn-tree · so again out to the (River) Meon · along the river to the ditch · along the ditch to the Heathen Burial-ground (hæðen in place-names refers to things made ‘by the inhabitants of England before the conversion of the English to Christianity'; EPNE pt. 1: 220. Grundy 1924: 76 suggests this site must have been near the north-east corner of the park at Middlington) · then south along the boundary line formed by a bank to the east end of the lower long bank · along the bank again out to the river · then so to the west-most hill (see Hoe below) · then west before the willow stump · to the ploughed-land · south along the land to the head of the spring (Grundy
1924: 76 identifies this as the holy well on the river in the parish of Swanmore · then out to the river · then onwards south to the wood (in charter II ‘then along the stream (Meon) south to the wood’; Grundy 1924: 76 identifies this as Bishop’s Wood) · and then further to the Wickham boundary · then west along the hedge to Cyneburgh’s Copse · southward to the Shire Wood (this name is still preserved in Shirrell Heath, see below) · to the Great Tree · then mid-way (?) to Filar’s Clearing (Filar means ‘thunder’; this is a pre-Christian name, for which see Insley 2001: 475) · so straight on to Beam Bridge (broc means ‘beam, support, trestle, post’, probably here in the sense ‘a bridge made out of beams’) to the dirty brook (charter II below: ‘to the clearing straight to Beam Bridge on the dirty brook’; Grundy 1924: 77 identifies the dirty brook as the brook that rises south of Shedfield village) · then out to the valley bottom stream · then along the stream to the Bishop’s Boundary · so north to gap of Fila clearing (perhaps a personal name, meaning Fila léah ‘Fila’s clearing, Fila’s wood’; Grundy 1924: 77-8 suggests this may be an error for Syle léah ‘miry clearing’ or ‘willow clearing’, as this is close to syle ford found in the Curdridge charter) · then to Broom Stream (identified by Grundy 1924: 78 as the brook called Shawford Lake between Curdridge and Shedfield) along the stream to Broomfield (literally ‘open country covered with broom grass’) · up between the two broom-covered open lands along the alder-grown strip to the dirty brook · then to the head of the valley (Grundy 1924: 78 suggests this is about ¾ mile south of Nation’s Farm as marked on the 1” OS) · then to the stile to the Bishop’s Boundary (the boundary of Bishop’s Waltham) · then out to the Long Clearing · then crosswise over the clearing north to the wood · then to the stile as far as the detached piece of woodland of the Meonware · so to the Lord’s Bank · then to the Wolf-pit · so straight on to Hazel Wood · then to Clover Valley again to the dell.

Il. Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122. The bounds of this charter are authentic. This charter is dated AD 939 and is a grant from King Æthelstan to his sister Eadburh, granting her seventeen hides (mansae) at Droxford (Finberg 1964: no. 57). See also Grundy (1924: 79). For a translation of this charter see Droxford charter I above.

Ærest æt clefer dæne on þæt del · of þam dælle and lang weges · on þa hwitan flodan · of þære flodan on norð healfæ hærepaðæs · on þone litlan þorn · þonon on swealwan þorn · þonon on þæs hlincæs norð ændæ · þæt and lang hlincæs · sup on þæs cumbæs heafod · þonon on þæs hlincæs wæst ændæ æt þam hwitan fox holum · þonne on stan burg · of stan byrig 7lang dic utt on hwitan ford · þonon and lang Meone on midnæ stream on þa dic on norð healf þæs fordas · 7 lang dic on þone ealdan þorn · þam borne æft utt on Meone · 7 lang streames ðæt þa dic · 7 lang dic to þem æþænan byrigelsum · þonon suð and lang hling ræwe to þæs nipær langan hlincæs east ændæ · 7 lang hlincæs æft utt on ea · 7 lang ea oð 7æt ææs[t] mæste how · þonon wæst for þonæ seal styb · oð ðæt yrð land · suð bæ þam landæ on þæs wylæs heafod · þonon æft utt on ea · þæt and lang streamæs sup on wuda · 7 þonne on giet ðæt wichæma mæarcæ · þonon west be hagan for cyneburghæ hystæ · suþe weardæ ðæt þæt scir hiltæ · on þonæ greatan beam · of þam beamæ on þunres lea middæ weardæ · of þam lea on ge rihtæ to procbyrægæ on þonæ fulæ broc · and lang fulæ brocæs utt on bytnan burnan · 7lang burnan ðæt þæs bisceopæs mearcæ · þæt norð to filæ lea
geatæ · þonon on brom burnan · þæt and lang burnan of bromfældæ · þonnæ upp þæt tweoh þa twægen bromfældas 7lang þæs alar sceatæs of ðone fulan brocc · 7lang brocæs to þæs cumbæs headæ · þonnæ to þære stigelæ to þæs bisceopes mearcæ · þonne utt on langan leagæ · þæt þwæoræs ofær þa leage norð to wuda · þ anon to þære stigelæ of meon wara snadæ · þonne forð.

to domnæs hlincæ · þonon to þære stigelæ to þæs cumbæs heaufæ · þonnæ upp to þære stigælæ · þanon utt to wulf pyttun · þanon upp on ðone fulan brocc · 7 lang brocæs to þæs cumbæs headæ · þonnæ to þære stigelæ to þæs bisceopes mearcæ · þonne utt on langan leagæ · þæt þwæoræs ofær þa leage norð to wuda · þ anon to þære stigelæ of meon wara snadæ · þonne forð.

III. The third charter (Sawyer 600, BCS 953, Kemble 1181), dated to AD 956, records a grant from King Eadwig to the noble lady Æthelhild of twenty hides (mansæ) at Droxford (Finberg 1964: no. 80). The bounds cover the parish of Swanmore and part of Droxford, for which see Grundy (1924: 79-80).

Ærest of Drocenesforda to biene stede · of biene stedæ to scida felda · þanan utt to langan leagæ middæ wærdæ · þanon upp to þære stigælæ · þanaon utt to wulf pyttun · þanon upp on Meone.

First from Droxford to the place where beans are grown · from the place where beans are grown to scida felda (Shedfield, for which see below) · then out mid-way to the Long Clearing (Grundy 1924: 80 suggests this is ‘almost certainly at the south-west angle of Swanmore parish’) · then up to the stile (Grundy 1924: 80 identifies this as the site where the Swanmore-Hoe road crosses the parish, north-west of Swanmore) · then out to Wolf-pit (see charters I and II above) · then out to the (River) Meon.

**Shedfield**

(to) scida felda 956 Sawyer 600, BCS 953, Kemble 1181 (see Droxford charter III above)
Sidefeld 1233 EcclComm, 1256 Ass, Schidefeld c. 1270 EpReg et freq to 1350 EcclComm with variant spellings Schydefeld, Shydefeld, Schydefeud, Shydefeud (all Gover 47)
Shedesfeud 1272 Ass (Gover 47)
Shidfelde 1579 Sax (Gover 47)

The first element is likely to be the genitive plural of OE scīd, meaning ‘a shingle, a split piece of wood, a board, a beam’ (EPNE, pt. 2: 108; Gover 48; DEPN, 415). This may refer to a wooden footbridge on the Roman road, which crosses a number of small streams in this area (Watts 2010: 541; see Margary 1967: no. 420). The element is also found in the place-name Shide, Isle of Wight (DEPN: 417). Coates (1989: 146), however, points out the slight possibility that the first element is OE scydd ‘shed’. The second element is OE feld ‘open country’.

**Shirrell Heath**

oð þet scirhiltæ 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038 (see Droxford charter I above)
op þæt scir hiltæ 939 Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122 (see Droxford charter II above)
Sherrill heath 1695 EcclComm (Gover 48)
The first element is OE *scīr* ‘shire, an administrative district, a jurisdiction’, rather than *scir* ‘bright’ and the second element is OE *hylte* ‘a wood, a wooded place’, a derivative of OE *holt* ‘managed wood’ (Gover 48; Coates 1989: 149). Gover (48) notes that Shirrell Heath is on the border of the Bishop’s lands.

**Silford Copse**

to *Syle forda*, of *Syle forda* 900 Sawyer 360, BCS 596, Kemble 332

From OE *syle* ‘a bog, miry place’ and *ford*, meaning ‘boggy or muddy ford’.

**Bishop’s Wood (on *wuda* 826 Sawyer 276 and 939 Sawyer 446; see Droxford charters I and II above).**

**Grange Farm. Hall Court. Moor Hill. Row Ash. Shedfield Ho.**

**Swanmore**

**Swanemere** 1205 Cur, 1210 P, 1234 SelbCh, 1233 *EcclComm*, *Swanemere* 1207 Obl (p), 1218 *EcclComm*, 1236 *Ass et freq* to 1327 SR (both Gover 48)

*Swannemere* 1272 Ass (Gover 48)

*Swanmere* 1316 FA, 1496 *FF* (Gover 48)

Probably ‘swan pool’, from OE *swan* and *mere* ‘a pool’. Alternatively, the first element could be the personal name *Swain*, from ON *Sveinn* (cf. *Swegen*, Searle 1897: 435-6), meaning ‘Swain’s pool’.


**Fawley Hundred**

**Exton**

*East Saxena tunes* 940 Sawyer 463, BCS 758, Kemble 1131, (æt) *East Seaxnatune* 940 ibid., (to) *east seaxna tunæ* 940 ibid., (to) *east seaxnatune* 940 ibid.

*Estsextun* c. 1127 WinchCart (Gover 69)

*Essessentun* 1086 DB

*Esete* 1180 P (Gover 69)

*Eseteneton* 1199 *FF*, 1207 P, 1230 P, *Essettentonn* 1207 P (all Gover 69)

*Eseteneton* 1219 Cur (Gover 69)

*Esetetun* 1229 Pat, *Esetetun* 1245 *FF* (both Gover 69)

*Exton(e)* 1291 Tax, 1316 *FA et passim* (Gover 69)

‘Farm of the East Saxons’ (Gover 69; Coates 1989: 74), from OE *ēast ‘east*, *Seaxne* (*Seaxna* genitive plural) ‘Saxons’, and *tūn* ‘farmstead, estate’. The significance of this name has not been discussed in great detail, but calls for further attention. This place-name highlights a distinct group of people or settlers within the Meon Valley. The name was only likely to have been coined when Essex was an
established kingdom (see PN Ex: 1), and the place-name Exton is an exonym. It is possible that the name was coined to distinguish the East Saxons of Exton from the local population, who may have identified themselves as Jutes, West Saxons or Meanware (see above). The Jutish lands in Hampshire came under control of the West Saxon kingdom in the latter part of the seventh century (Yorke 1989: 92). Jutish identity in the region, however, appears to have lasted for a considerable time afterwards (Insley 2001: 474). In place-names, the element Seaxe/Seaxna usually denotes isolated settlements of Saxons amongst other tribes (EPNE, pt. 2: 116). Other place-names preserving this element are: Saxton, West Riding of Yorkshire (PN WRY, pt. 4: 70-1), Sixpenny Farm (Mills 1989: 104-5) and Pensax, Worcestershire (PN Wo: 67). The place-name Exton is indirect evidence that the local people who coined the name (ante 940 AD) did not identify themselves as (East) Saxons.

LOMER, LOMER F. 1810 OS

(to) lammeres geate 710 Sawyer 242, BCS 102, Kemble 997, (to) lammeres geate 824 x 833 Sawyer 284, BCS 398, Kemble 1039, to lammare 961 Sawyer 693, BCS 1077, Kemble 1231 Lamere 1086 DB, Lamere 1201 Cur, 1221 FF, 1236 Ass, 1291 Tax (both Gover 70) Lomere c. 1270 EpReg, 1280 Ass, 1316 FA, Lommere 1329 CI, 1331 Ipam (both Gover 70) Loomer 1537 LP

Gover (70) suggests this is probably ‘loam pool’, from OE lām ‘loam, clay’ and mere ‘pool’. Grundy (1924: 115) also points out that there is a Lomer Pond nearby (over the Warnford boundary). Lomer Beacon (1575 Saxton) is modern Beacon Hill (1810 OS). Compare also with Lamarsh, Essex (Lamers 1086 DB, lām + ersc ‘stubble field’; PN Ex: 444); Lambourne, Essex (Lamburnā 1086 DB, lām + burna ‘spring, stream’; PN Ex: 60) and Lampool Farm, Sussex (Lampol(l) 1295 MinAcct, lām + pol ‘pool’; PN Sx, pt. 2: 350).

OLD WINCHESTER HILL

on eorð burge geat 940 Sawyer 463, BCS 758, Kemble 1131

Old Winchester Hill is probably a fanciful name (Grundy 1924: 116), and Gover (70) states that the name is obscure. The earliest reference to the fort noted above means ‘gate of the earth fort’, and Grundy (ibid. 114) identifies this as the east gate of the camp on Old Winchester Hill.

PEAKE FM

Possibly identified with to lytlan weac and utt þurþ weác 940 Sawyer 463, BCS 758, Kemble 1131. Grundy (1924: 112-3, and 112 n. 3) notes that weac is not listed in the dictionaries, and does not attempt to translate this word in his survey. However, Gover (70) suggests the OE letter wynn (ƿ ‘w’) in the charter here is mistaken for ‘p’, and therefore the name is identical to Peak in East Meon (see below), from OE pēac ‘a knoll, hill, a peak’. This identification also fits the context of the charter bounds (see Exton charter below) in which this occurs (see Grundy 1924: 113, nos. 18 and 19).

PRESHAW (LOWER PRESHAW, LIT. PRESHAW F. 1810 OS, PRESHAW HOUSE 1895 Index, PRESHAW DOWN 1810 OS, 1895 Index)

Presagh’ 1207 Obl (p), Preshaghe 1236 Ass, 1353 FF, Preshawe 1266 Abbr (all Gover 70)
Gover (70) suggests this may mean ‘wood of the priests’, from OE prēosta ‘priests’ and sceaga ‘small wood, copse’, but also notes that early forms in general do not agree with this etymology. Another, albeit unlikely suggestion, is that the name is composed of Primitive Welsh prê’s ‘brushwood’ (Welsh prys, Cornish prysk ‘copse, thicket’) and OE sceaga (Gover 70; Watts 2010: 482). The second element, however, may be OE haga ‘a hedge, an enclosure’ and later ‘a messuage, property’ (EPNE, pt. 1: 221) rather than sceaga, in which case the name means ‘priests’ enclosure’ or ‘priests’ property’. Cf. the historical forms of Priesthaus, Sussex (PN Sx, pt. 2), and Higher and Lower Pressham Wood, Dorset (PN Do, pt. 2).

DOWNLEAZE COPSE, DOWNLIES 1810 OS

Dated to AD 940. Sawyer 463, BCS 758, Kemble 1131. ‘A grant from Edmund, king of the English and of the other peoples round about, to his thegn Æthelgeard. 12 mansae at Exton, free of all but the three common dues’ (Finberg 1964: no. 58). For the bounds of this charter see Grundy (1924: 110-115).

Ærest of Meone and lang slædæs to gæcges stapole · fram gæcges stapolæ on cynæ beorhtæs graf · fram cynæ beorhtæs grafæ to wan wæge · þonan waest to rocggan campæs geatæ · þonan waest ofær stærfing hyrstæ · þonan to mielan ðænæ stigelæ · þonan waest on gerihtæ to bisceopæs mearcæ · þonne þonan norð γ lang hlinç ræwæ to scitææ stigæle · þonnæ east and lang hegæ rewäæ on þa holo · of þam holum to wudæn ærsæc æ · fram wudæn ærsæc to byrnfæring hammmum · þonan east binnan æfisc to seal hystæ foræ weardræ · þonnæ east and lang hæræpææs be þam yrð landæ to þam stapolæ · þonnæ east bæ þæs cumbæs upp æcgæ to þam holam wægæ · þonan east to þam littlen þornæ þæ stænt on þam yrþ landæ · þonan east to lytlan weac supweardæn · þæt þonan east ofær Meone to mææræ horæn · þonan east to mearc hangran suþæ weardæn · utt þurh weac æ trindæla æ þurh trindæla on þonæ hære pað · þonnæ suð and lang hære paðæs · þonan waest on þonæ meæræ æ · þonan waest on eorp burge geat · γ lang paðæs on eorp hand þære beorga · waest and lang paðæs on stærc inwicum · þonan waest on trindæl graf æ · of trindæl grafæ æ · waest on bibban hlinç norþæ weardynæ · þonan wæst bæ þara æeceræ hand heaftælmÆ to twitææææ · utt on scealdæn foræ · þonnæ suþ and lang leæ æ tiggæl beorgæ æ · suþ on þonæ miæcan hlinç · of þam hlinçæ on þonæ forð · suð and lang meone þær hit ærest on fænc.

First from the (River) Meon along the valley to the Cuckoo’s Post (Grundy 1924: 110 notes that the starting point of the survey is near Exton Farm) · from Cuckoo’s Post to Cynebeorht’s Grove · from Cynebeorht’s Grove to wan path (perhaps wann ‘dusty’? Or a mistake for þan ‘the’: the weg was a ridgeway which ran down the west side of the Meon river [Grundy 1924: 111]) · then west to the gate of Röcga’s Open Country · then west over Stærfing Copse · then to the stile of the Great Valley (Grundy 1924: 111 identifies this Great Valley as Betty Mund’s Bottom, where St Clair’s Farm is
located) · then west straight on to the Bishop’s Boundary (Grundy 1924: 111 identifies this with the boundary of Upham, which was a dependency of Bishop’s Waltham) · then north along the boundary line formed by a bank to the Archer’s Stile (or perhaps sewer stile) · then east along the hedge-row to the holes · from the holes to the stubble wood · from the stubble wood to Byrnfæring Enclosure · then east into the edge (of the wood) to Willow Copse forward · then east along the highway to the ploughed land to the post · then east by the valley up the edge to the sunken path · then east to the little thorn-tree which stands on the ploughed land · then east to the south side of the little knoll (peac/weac is likely an error for peac; see Peak Fm above) · then east over the (River) Meon to the Boundary thorn-tree (from the context of the following line, mæarh is an error for mearc ‘boundary’; Grundy 1924: 112 suggests this relates to the northern boundary of the parish at the southern edge of Warnford Park) · then east to the south side of Boundary hangra (‘a wood on a steep hillside’) · out through the knoll (see ‘little knoll’ above) to Trind Clearing (perhaps trinda ‘a round lump, a ball’?; Trind lēah is also mentioned in the West Meon charter. Grundy 1924: 113 identifies this as the place where East and West Meon, and Exton parishes meet) · through Trind Clearing to the highway (the highway refers to the ridge-way [Grundy 1924: 113]) · then south along the highway · then west to the pool (Grundy 1924: 114 interprets mæræ as mearc ‘boundary’, but this is mere ‘pool’) · then west to the gap of the Earth Fort (i.e. Old Winchester Hill) · along the path on the north side of the barrow (the barrow is on the western edge of the camp on Old Winchester Hill [Grundy 1924: 114]) · west along the path to Stacg inwicum · then west to Round Grove · from Round Grove west to the north side of Bibba’s Bank · then west by the headlands of the cultivated land to the Twitelingas (a folk-name) · out to Shallow Ford (identified with Shawford [Grundy 1924: 114; Gover 240]) · then south along the clearing to the Tile Barrow · south on the Great Bank · from the bank to the ford (from context forð should be ford ‘ford’; Grundy 1924: 115 suggests this may have been where Exton Bridge now stands) · south along the Meon where the survey first began.

West Meon

Aet Meonæ 932 Sawyer 417, BCS 689, Kemble 1107 (see below)

Menes 1086 DB

Westmunes c. 1270 EpReg, Westmune 1316 FA, 1327 SR, 1376 Seld xxiii (both Gover 72)

(ecclesia de) Westmenes 1291 Tax

Westmeones 1331 For (Gover 72)

Westmoene 1341 NI, 1354 Pat, 1383 IpM

Westmeane 1607 FF, Westmean alias Westmeone 1701 Recov (both Gover 72)

Named from the River Meon (see above), on which this place is situated. Early forms of the name refer to the old district (Gover 63), and East and West Meon were not distinguished as separate places until the later thirteenth-century (Coates 1989: 69). For the Domesday record of Meon, see East Meon below.
**Hayling Wood**

*Lytelhayling* 1379 Cor, *Esterhaylyng*, *Westerhaylyng*, *Haylynghyl* 1548 EccIComm (all Gover 72)

This place-name may contain the OE folk-name *Hæg(e)lingas* ‘the people associated with Hægel’, which is preserved in the name Hayling Island in south Hampshire (Coates 1991: 25-6; Watts 2010: 290; Coates 1989: 89). Early forms of Hayling Island indicate that this name is derived from the OE personal name *Hægel* + -*ingas* and *īeg* ‘island’, meaning ‘island of the Hæg(e)lingas’ (Coates 1991: 25-6). There is no known connection between Hayling Wood in West Meon and Hayling Island, though Coates (1991: 26-7) notes that West Meon was a manor of the Bishop of Winchester at the time of the Conquest, and the monks of Winchester held much of Hayling Island. The prefix *Lytel*- in *Lytelhayling* is presumably used to distinguish this place from Hayling Island manor (Coates 1991: 27).

It is conceivable that Hayling Wood may represent a separate branch of the *Hæg(e)lingas*, but in the absence of earlier evidence this is speculative.

**Punsholt FM**

*Poneshoult* 1167 P (Gover 72)

*Punesholte* 1238 SelbCh (Gover 72)

The first element is likely to be an OE personal name, *Pūn(a)*, which is also found in both Ponshurst, Surrey (*Punesherst* c. 1170; PN Sy: 80) and Poynings, Sussex (*PN Sx*: 287). The second element is OE *holt* ‘wood’, and the name may mean ‘Pūn’s Wood’.


**West Meon: Anglo-Saxon Charter**

Dated to AD 932. *Sawyer* 417, BCS 689, Kemble 1107. Bounds are authentic. ‘Æthelstan, king of the English and ruler of all Britain, to his thegn Æthelgeard. 12 cassatae at Meon, free of all service’ (Finberg 1964: no. 49). For discussion of the bounds of this charter see Grundy (1926: 224-230).

Ærest of mearc beorge weste weardum · and lang *here paðes* norð innan Meone · þanon and lang *hege rewe* on ðone *hlinc* easte weardne · æt þære *efisc* · þonne þurh þone *lea* on þam *leage* · ðurh þone *lytlan lea* weste weardne · þanon *norð* on ðone *wudu* · on an *del* weste weard · 7 þanon *norð* on ðer *del* eac weste weard · norð to *eaces stede* midde weardum · þanon on ge rihte to *brom dæne* on þæt *bec* · þonne east and lang þæs *becæs* · of þæm *bæce* ofer þone *ham* on þone *scagan* ute weardne · to hure ðes *treowe* · þonne east and lang *dic* to þam *eastram bacæ* · þonne norð and lang *bæces* on *hnut leage bære* · easte wearde · þanon *norð* on li *leage* easte wearde · to *ticces stede* · þonne east be *efisc* · þurh þone *lea* norðe weardne · 7 þanon on *risc mere* · of þæm *mere* to þæm *wege* · and lang *weges* on *sciteres flodan* · þanon on *crute brece leage* weste easte wearde · swa to *weawan hocan* · þanon on þa *heafod stoccas* · þanon on *worres sol* · of *worres sol* to Meone · up and lang *meone* on *soolesburnan* · and lang *burnan* · on ðone *æwylm* · of þam *ewylme* · and lang
weter weges up to strete · and lang strete on himan beorgas · ðanon on trind lea · and lang lære paðes · þonne betweox ða twegen wegas · þurh þone lea · 7 ofer fearneleage · þonne on west healfe weges · on gerihte to cyrdan heale · ðonne and lang hlinces · on tollan dene ufe wearde · þonne and lang hlinces norð to mearc beorge.

First from the west side of the Boundary Barrow · along the highway north to the Meon · then along the hedge-row to the east side of the bank at the edge of the wood · then through the clearing (or wood) to the clearing (or wood) · through the west side of the little clearing (or wood) · then north to the wood · into the west side of the dell · and then north to the other dell also on the west side · north to the middle of Eaces Place (Grundy 1926: 225 translates this as 'Farmsteading of the Oak-Trees') · then straight on to Broom Valley (modern Bramdean, the valley in which Bramdean Village is located [Grundy 1926: 226]) to the stream · then east along the stream · from the stream over the homestead to the copse outward · to hure ðes tree (Grundy 1926: 226 amends this to hyrdes 'Herdman's Tree') · then east along the ditch to the easterly stream · then north along the stream to the east side of Nut Clearing Woodland (for hnut leage cf. Nutley, Sussex in PN Sx, pt. 2; bare is 'woodland for feeding swine'. Grundy [1926: 227] suggests that the name survives in Bere Farm in Hinton Ampner) · then north to the east side of Flax Clearing · to Ticc's Farmstead (or Farmstead of the Goats; Ticides Stede is modern West Tisted, and this refers to where the West Tisted and West Meon parishes meet [Grundy 1926: 227]) · then east by the edge of the woodland · through the wood northward · and then to Rush Pond (also mentioned in Meon charters III and IV below; this is the small pond beside Alton Road near Filmore Hill [Grundy 1926: 227]) · from the pond to the path · along the path to the channel used as an open sewer · then to the east/west side of crute brece clearing (this name is obscure; the form is repeated in Meon charters III and IV as crutte bracca and crute brace leage respectively. This is perhaps brēc 'land broken up for cultivation', bracu 'bracken, fern' or bræc 'brake, brushwood, thicket') · so to Weawa's Hook (cf. Searle 1897: 481) · then to the heafod stoccas ('stocks or posts on which the head of a criminal was fixed after beheading') · then to Worr's Slough (see Searle 1897: 505; this place-name is also mentioned in Meon charters III and IV as uuorres sol and wores sol(e) respectively. Grundy 1926: 228 suggests this was north of Westbury House) · from Worr's Slough to the Meon · up along the Meon to Seolesburnan (see Sulscombe below; recorded as Selbourne in the Tithe Award [Grundy 1926: 228]) · along the burne to the river-spring (i.e. the source of the burne; this is south of Whitewool [Grundy 1926: 228-9]) · from the river-spring along the water-way (a channel connecting two pieces of water? Grundy 1926: 229 identifies this with the track which runs south from the spring to the ridge) to the road · along the road to Hima's Barrow (see Searle 1897: 298; this refers to one of the tumuli on Tegleaze Down [Grundy 1926: 229]) · then to Trind Clearing (see Exton charter above) · along the highway · then between the two paths, through the clearing (Grundy 1926: 229 identifies this with the area where the ridgeway forks into two branches) · and over fern clearing · then to the west side of the path · straight on to Cyrdä's Nook (or perhaps from Cyr 'curved', meaning 'curved
nook’) · then along the bank, to the upper side of Tolla’s Valley · then along the bank north to Boundary Barrow.

Privett

*aet Pryfetes flodan* 755 ASC  
*Prevet* 1207 Obl (p), 1208 EcclComm, 1210 P, 1318 EpReg, 1329 Ipm, 1348 ib., 1364 SelbCh,  
*Prevyt* 1544 SR (both Gover 74)  
*(capellis de)* Privietis et de .... 1304 EpReg (Gover 74)  
*Preyvet* 1306 Ass (Gov 74)

Meaning ‘place where privet grows’, derived from OE *pryfet*, the plant-name ‘privet’ (*Ligustrum vulgare*). The first reference to this place-name in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that Cynwulf (757–786) deposed Sigeberht (756 to 757), king of Wessex; Sigeberht retained Hampshire until he slew the ealdorman Cumbra. Sigeberht was later stabbed by a herdsman at Privett in revenge for the death of the ealdorman. The first recorded form of the name refers to a *flōde* ‘channel of water, a gutter’. Though there is no stream in Privett, Grundy (1927: 190) identifies this *flōde* with the *sciteres flodan* recorded in the Meon charters (for which see below), noting, ‘It ran, and still runs in rainy weather, down the Alton road from a pond just above where the road, running west from Filmore Hill, joins it’. Klingelhöfer (1992: 174) identifies the *flōde* with the dry head of the Tichborne.

Farnfield Farm

to *Fearnfelda* 967 Sawyer 754, BCS 1200, Kemble S35 (see Meon charters below)  
*Farnfelde* 1306 Ass (Gover 74)

From OE *fearn* ‘fern, bracken’ and *feld* ‘open country’ (later developing the sense ‘field’), meaning ‘open land with bracken’ (Gover 74).

Fawley FM

*falod leah* AD 924 for ? 824 Sawyer 283, BCS 377, Kemble 1031 (see Meon charters below)

From OE *falod* ‘a fold, a small enclosure for animals’ and *lēah* ‘a wood, a clearing in a wood’, meaning ‘clearing with a fold’. Compare with Valley End and Valleywood in Surrey (*PN Sy*: 117), which is composed of the same elements (first attested as *Falelye* t. Henry 3).

Mere Pond

*plutan mære, plutan mere* 959 x 963 Sawyer 811, BCS 1319, Kemble 597 (see Meon charters below)

The word *plutan* is obscure. Grundy (1926: 198) speculates that this is an otherwise unattested personal name. The second element is OE *mere* ‘a pool’, and if the first element is a personal name, it may mean ‘Pluta’s pool’. Gover (74) observes that the name *Pluthull* (1257 EcclComm) must have been in the near vicinity.
East Meon

(East) Meone 873 x 888 Sawyer 1507, BCS 553, Kemble 314 (Old English), 1067 (Latin); 956 Sawyer 619, BCS 982, Kemble 1190
Kingsemeon 1203 FF (Gover 63)
Menes 1086 DB, 1171 WinchCart, 1208 EcclComm, Mene 1086 DB, Est Mene 1283 EpReg, Est Menes 1327 Banco (all Gover 63)
Mienes 1158 ff P, 1195 P (Gover 63)
Muenes 1161, 1178, 1193 P (Gover 63)
Estmunes c. 1270 EpReg, 1320 ib., 1327 SR, Estmune 1317 FA, 1327 Banco (both Gover 63)
Estmune 1280 Ass, Estmoenes 1283, 1317 EpReg, Moenes 1332 Pat, Estmoen 1390 Pat (all Gover 63)
Estmeones 1291 Tax (Gover 63)
Estmyoe 1417 Pat (Gover 63)
Estmeone 1543 FF, East Meane 1610 Speed (both Gover 63)

Named from the River Meon; see also West Meon (both above). East Meon and West Meon were not distinguished as separate places until the later part of the thirteenth-century (Coates 1989: 69). Meon was a royal vill in the Anglo-Saxon period (see Sawyer 1983: 282, 295). At the time of the Domesday survey, East Meon is described as:

(East) Meon. Archbishop Stigand held it before 1066 for the use of the monks; later he had it for his life-time. Then there were 72 hides; it paid tax for 35 hides and 1 virgate. Land for 64 ploughs. In lordship 8 ploughs; 70 villagers and 32 smallholders with 56 ploughs. 15 slaves; 6 mills at 40s; meadow, 8 acres; woodland at 200 pigs from pasturage; from grazing 7s 6d. Value before 1066 £60; later £40; now £60; however, it pays £100 by weight in revenue but it cannot bear it.

Bishop Walkelin holds 6 hides and 1 virgate of this manor’s land with a church. These hides of the Bishop paid tax; now (for) 3 hides and 1 virgate; the others did not pay tax.

Bereleigh (Bereleigh House 1895 OS Index)

Barlithe 1263, 1288, Barelithe 1350, Barelythe 1395 EcclComm (all Gover 64)

Gover (64) suggests this name may derive from ‘bare’ and Old English hlip ‘a slope, a hillside’, meaning ‘treeless hill slope’.

Drayton (Drayton Down 1895 OS Index)

Drayton 1248 Ass (Gover 64)
From OE *drag* ‘a drag, a portage, a slipway, a dray’ and *tūn* ‘an enclosure, a farmstead’, indicating a settlement at a place where loads have to be dragged. Literally ‘farm at the steep ascent’ (Coates 1989: 67, cf. Drayton in Farlington).

**HILHAMPTON**

*Hulhampton* 1350, 1395 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

From ME *hull* ‘hill’ (OE *hyll*) and *hām-* *tūn* ‘a home farm’, meaning ‘hill homestead’.

**HOCKHAM**

*Holecumb(e)* 1245, 1263, 1288 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

*Holecombe* 1307 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

From OE *hol* ‘hollow’ and OE *cumb* ‘valley, a hollow’, a loan-word from British *cumbo* ‘valley’, denoting a ‘deep or hollow valley’ (see EPNE, pt. 1: 119). Cf. with Hollycombe in Sussex, which has the same etymology (*PN Sx*, pt. 1).

**HYDEN (HYDEN HILL, HYDEN WOOD, HYDEN COTTAGES, HYDEN FARM 1895 OS Index)**

*Hydon*’ 1248 *Ass*, *Hyden(e)* 1257, 1263, 1350 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

‘High Valley’ (Gover 64). The second element is OE *denu* ‘valley’.

**NUZBURY**

*Notesbergh* 1263, 1301, 1350 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

*Nuttesburgh* 1307 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

The first element may be the OE personal name *Hnott*, from OE *hnot* ‘bald headed’. Cf. *Natworthy Manor* (Noteswrede 1086; ‘Hnott’s worþig’, i.e. ‘Hnott’s enclosure’), *Nottiston* (Noteston 1227, ‘Hnott’s farm’) and *Natsley* (Nottesleye 1330 ‘Hnott’s clearing’), all in Devon. The second element is OE *beorg* ‘a hill, a mound’, and the name may mean ‘Hnott’s Hill’.

**OXENBOURNE**

*Oxeburne* 1200 *FF*, 1231 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

*Oxeneburne* 1208, 1233, 1257 *EcclComm* (Gover 64)

‘Oxen stream’, from OE *oxa* and *burna* ‘a spring, a stream’.

**PEAK FM**

*Pek* 1311 *FF*, *Peek* 1326 *FF* (Gover 64)

From OE *pēac* ‘a knoll, hill, peak’, as Gover (64) observes, probably referring ‘to the hill south east of the farm’. Cf. with Peake Farm in Exton Parish above.

**RIPPLINGTON**
This is unlikely to derive from a folk-name *Rippelingas* and *tūn* ‘farmstead, enclosure’ (cf. Gover 64 where this is suggested). This name is more likely to contain OE *ripel*, *rippel* ‘a strip of land’, ‘a strip of woodland’ or ‘a thicket’ (see EPNE, pt. 1: 296, 6c; pt. 2: 84). Coates (1989: 138) suggests this is from *Rippelingtūn* meaning ‘farm of the elongated thicket’. Compare with the lost tithing of Rypling (*Rippling* 1236) in the Candover Valley (Klingelhofer 1992: 168).

**SULSCOMBE**

*Seolescumb, innan Seolescumb* 1042 Sawyer 994, Kemble 763 (cf. *Seolesburnan* 1042 Sawyer 994, Kemble 763)

*Selescumbe* 1233, 1257 EcclComm, *Selescombe* 1307 ib., *Sellescombe* 1350 ib. (all Gover 64)

This is the valley through which *Seolesburnan* flowed, a stream mentioned on multiple occasions in the West Meon and Meon charters (see above and below). The second element is OE *cumb* ‘valley’, a loan-word from British *cumbo* ‘valley’. Gover (64) suggests that the first element in this valley-and stream-name may be an OE personal name, derived from OE *seolh* (genitive singular *seoles*) ‘seal’ (see Searle 1897: 414). Cf. *Selsey*, Sussex (*Seolesige* 683, *Siolesaei* 780, *Seolesiae* c. 720; PN Sx, pt. 1: 82), which is from OE *seolh* ‘seal’ and *eg* ‘an island’; Selsey is described by Bede (IV. 13) as *insula vituli marini*, ‘the island of the sea calf’.

**TIGWELL FM (TIGWELL FARM 1895 OS Index)**

*Tygehale, Tigehale* 1235 Ass (p) (both Gover 64)

The first element may be an OE personal name *Tigga* (Gover 64), which is also postulated for the place-name Tigley in Devon (*Tiggele*, *Tiggeleg* 1399; PN De pt. 1: 297). The personal name Tigga is also attested in a witness list at Clofesho (699 x 716 Sawyer 22). The second element is OE *healh* ‘a nook’.

**WESTBURY**

*Wesberie* 1086 DB

*Westberia* 1167 P (Gover 64)

From OE *west* ‘west’ and *burh* ‘fort, a fortified place’. In the *Domesday* account Westbury is described as:

Westbury. Jocelyn holds it from him. Wulfnoth held it from King Edward. Then and now it answered for 3 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 5 villagers and 6 smallholders with 2 ploughs. 2 slaves; meadow, 3 acres; woodland at 4 pigs. Value before 1066 and now £4; when acquired 40s.
Titchfield Hundred

Titchfield

TICCHEFELDA, (to) ticianfelda 982 Hyde (Gover 32)
Ticfelle 1086 DB
Tichesfeld 1182, 1201 P, 1219 Cl, Tychesfeld 1241 FF, 1242 Fees (both Gover 32)
Tychefeld(e) 1218, 1243 FF, c. 1220 WinchCart, 1232 Ch, 1235 Selbch, 1242 Fees, Tichefeud 1291
Tychefeld 1218, 1243 FF, c. 1220 WinchCart, 1232 Ch, 1235 Selbch, 1242 Fees, Ticchefeud 1291
Tycchefeld 1327 SR (all Gover 32)
Tychenfeud 1256 Ass (Gover 32)
Tuchefeld 1280 For (Gover 32)

From OE ticcen ‘a kid, a young goat’ and feld ‘open country’, meaning ‘open lands where kids were kept’ (Gover 33; Coates 1989: 164). Cf. with Ticehurst, Sussex from OE ticcenes-hyrst ‘kid’s wood’, PN Sx, pt. 2: 13). Titchfield parish church, dedicated to St Peter, is dated by Taylor and Taylor (1965 v. 2: 619) to 800-950 AD. According to the Domesday Book in 1086:

The King holds Titchfield. It is an outlier belonging to Meonstoke. King Edward held it. 2 hides but they did not pay tax. Land for 15 ploughs. In lordship only 2 beasts; 16 villagers and 13 smallholders with 9 ploughs. 4 slaves; a mill at 20s; a market; toll 40s.

BIDDENFIELD

Buthnefeld 1219 FF, Buttnesfeld 1488 Ipm (both Gover 33)

From OE bytme ‘the head of a valley’ and feld ‘open country’, meaning ‘open land at the head of a valley’, or as Gover (33) suggests ‘open land at the valley bottom’.

BOWOOD (lost)

Bouewode 1256 Ass (Gover 33)

Gover (33) suggests that this is probably from OE (on) bufan ‘above’ and wudu ‘a wood’, meaning ‘place above the wood’.

FONTLEY

Funtelei 1086 DB
Funtelye 1251 Ipm, Funtelegh 1256 Ass, Funtelighe 1305 Ipm (all Gover 33)

‘Clearing with a spring’, from OE funta ‘spring, stream’, and lēah ‘a wood, clearing in a wood’.

MEON

Mene 1086 DB
Mune c. 1300 Harl, Meon 1538 AD ii (both Gover 33)
The hamlet which derives its name from the River Meon (see above). See East Meon (above) for discussion of this name.

POSIBROOK (GT POSIBROOK 1810 OS, LITTLE POSIBROOK 1895 OS Index)

Possebroc 1202 Cur (p), 1203 FF et freq to 1336 Pat with variant spelling Possebrok (Gover 33)

The first element is possibly an OE personal name Possa, also attested in Portsbrook Wood in Essex (Possemor(e) 1240; PN Ex: 254) and also Postwick, Norfolk (Possuic; DEPN: 372). The second element is OE brōc ‘brook, stream, water meadow’. The name may mean ‘Possa’s Brook’. Coates (1989: 134) notes that the farm is beside the smaller channel of Titchfield Haven.

QUOB FARM, QUOB F. (1810 OS)

(la) Quabbe 1199 FF, 1236, 1248 Ass, 1243 Cl, 1310 Ipm, 1362 Cl, la Quabbe in Ticchefeld 1279 BH (both Gover 33)

‘The marsh, the bog’, from OE cwabba. Compare with Quab Hill in Berkshire, which has the same etymology (Le Squabbe 1410, Le Quabbe 15th century; PN Berks, pt. 2: 481).

SEGENWORTH FARMS (SEGENWORTH)

(to) Suggincgwyrðe 982 Hyde
Sugion 1086 DB
Sugginwrth 1242 Fees (Gover 33)
Suckyngeworth 1325 Ass, Sokyngeworth 1327, 1339 FF (both Gover 33)
Suggyngeworth 1329 Cl (Gover 33)

From the OE personal name Sucga and worþ ‘enclosure’. The personal name Sucga is attested in a number of place-names. Compare Sugworthy, Devon (Suggeworth 1244, from OE Sucga + worbig ‘Sucga’s Farm’; PN Devon, pt. 2: 119); Sugworth Farm, Sussex (Suggewrth, Suggeworth 1279 and 1327, from OE Sucga + worþ ‘Sucga’s farm’; PN Sx, pt. 2: 265); Suggnell Copse, Berkshire (Suggenhull’ 1284, from Sucga hyll ‘Sucga’s hill’; PN Bk, pt. 2: 460); and Sugham Farm, Surrey (Suggeham 1332, ‘Sucga’s homestead’; PN Sy: 331). The earliest attested form, Suggincgwyrðe (perhaps OE *Suggingwyrð, see Coates 1989: 145), compared with similar place-names preserving the personal name Sucga, suggests the name contains either –ing, meaning ‘Sucgas farm’, or more likely –inga, the genitive plural of –ingas ‘people of’, meaning ‘farm of Sucga’s people’ (see EPNE, pt. I: 282-303 for a complete discussion).

The Domesday Book describes Segenworth as:

Sugion (Segensworth). Erlebald holds it from him. Wulfrid held it from King Edward. Then and now it answered for 1 hide. Land for 3 ploughs. In lordship 1; 5 villagers and 2 smallholders with 2 ploughs. 3 slaves; a mill at 20s; meadow, 5 acres; woodland at 5 pigs. Value before 1066 and now 60s; when acquired 30s.

TAPNAGE (GT TAPNAGE, LT TAPNAGE 1810 OS)

Topehache 1256 Ass, Topenhache 1327 SR (p) (both Gover 34)

‘Toppa’s hatch or gate’, from the OE personal name Topp(a) and hæc(c) ‘a hatch, half-gate, a gate’. Compare with Topleigh, Sussex (Topely 1249; PN Sx, pt. 1: 99).
Wickham

oð wic hæma mearcæ 826 Sawyer 276, BCS 393, Kemble 1038 (see Droxford charters above)
oþ wicæ meæca 939 Sawyer 446, BCS 742, Kemble 1122 (see Droxford charters above)
æt Wickham 955 x 958 Sawyer 1491, BCS 652
Wicheham 1086 DB
Wicham 1167 P, 1291 Tax, Wickham 1236 Ass, 1242 Fees, Wykham c. 1270 EpReg, 1287 FF, 1316 FA, 1327 SR, 1330 lpm (all Gover 34)
Wickham 1341 NI (Gover 34)

From OE wíc-hām ‘homestead near a wíc (a dwelling, a building or buildings, a dairy farm)’. OE wíc-hām names frequently denote Roman settlement sites or towns. Evidence of Roman activity is found nearby, and the village lies on the Roman road (Coates 1989: 175). Wickham is recorded in the Domesday Book as:

4 brothers held it [Wickham] from King Edward as 2 manors. Then and now it answered for 12 hides. Hugh acquired it as 1 manor. Land for 7 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 15 villagers and 6 smallholders with 7 ploughs. 5 slaves; 2 mills at 20s; meadow, 8 acres; woodland at 5 pigs. Value before 1066 £10; later £4; now £7.

The Meon Charters

The Meon Anglo-Saxon charters are complicated as the boundaries follow tithings as well as parishes, and there is considerable overlap (Grundy 1926: 192-6). The Meon charters cover the whole of the modern parishes of West Meon, Privett, Froxfield, Steep, Langrish and East Meon (ibid: 193). Furthermore, though the charters are authentic, much of the material is anachronistic (ibid: 195). The first charter is a grant from King Edgar to his grandmother Eadgifu, to replace an earlier charter that was lost (Finberg 1964: no. 92).

I. Dated between AD 959 x 963. Sawyer 811, BCS 1319, Kemble 597. King Edgar to Eadgifu, his grandmother, ‘replacing an earlier charter which she gave into his keeping, but which he lost. 65 mansæ at Meon, free of all but the three common dues’ (Finberg 1964: no. 92). For discussion of the bounds, see Grundy (1926: 196–205). The bounds include land in East Meon, Farnfield in Privett, Froxfield, Steep and Langrish (Finberg 1964: no. 92). The bounds in the latter part of this charter are also recorded in Meon charter II (see below).
ærest on Seolesburnan · ðlang seolesburnan on clænan forð · of clænan forð on hinctes grefan · of hinctes grafan andlang ric weges on þone litlan beorh be westantune · of þam beorhe ðeowres of Meone hut to þære strete · ðlang strete up to line stode · of line stede be þon herpode butan writeles þorn · of writeles porne ðlang þæs grenan weges to wuda how on butan þæt hit cymdh hut æt beorhtufes treowe · of beorhtufes treowe ðlang þæs grenan weges be þære efisc hutan plutan mere · of plutan mære andland heðburge dene hutan ceola get · of ceola gete ðlang strete on ðæt nyrðre geat · of ðon nyrðan gate on ðæc sele heal · of ðæc sele heal on wigið mere · of wigið mere on sædeles streat · of sædeles steorte innan dosaburnan · þ lang dosaburnan hutan esc forð up to acsceates geate · of acsceates gate on sceafles oran fore weardne · of sceafles oran on hwoburnan · ðlang burnan huton heofes brycce · ðlang scyre on hwedeles heal · of hwedeles heal ð lang burnan. on ludeburnan ford. of ludeburnan ford and lang weges butan wenne · of wenne be þam wyrt trumman hutan waccan ham · ðlang þære litlan alh rewe hutan wopbinc · ðlang wopbinc oð tychel leache west ende · of tychel leache west ende on þone greatan mearc beam · on þam wuda laces · ðlang þam wuda laces hutan great burnan · ðlang great burnan on wiðig ford · of wiðigford innan circumbume lase · of circumbume hracan hutan on þone mearcam · of þæm mearcam on þæt heow bec · þ lang heowbeces huppan byrhites oran · of þæm mearc lea on medeman oran myðer weardne · of þæm greatan helebeame on lang ganlea fore weardne · ðlang gan lea hut on finces stapel · of finces stapele west · þ lang wuda on ða greatan apeldre · of þære greatan apeldre on æsc stede rode · þ lang wuda on cyrt wara bæc · þ lang cytwara bæcce of þefocumb · ðlang weges on þone norð langan hlinc · of þone norð langan hlinc on þonne west langan hlinc · of ðes west langan hlincs ende on þonne mearc grefan · on seolesburnan.

First to Seolesburnan (see Sulcombe above; the valley in which Sulcombe is located is west of Westbury House and the Park [Grundy 1926: 196]) · along Seolesburnan to Clean Ford (clæne ‘clean, clear, clear of weeds’; Grundy 1926: 197 suggests the ford was located where the road at Whitewool crosses the burne) · from Clean Ford to Hengest’s Thicket · from Hengest’s Thicket along the path of the narrow strip to Little Barrow by Westantune (perhaps ‘from the west of the farm’?) · from the barrow crosswise from the Meon out to the road · along the road to place where flax is grown · from the place where flax is grown by the highway (along the line of the Winchester-Petersfield road [Grundy 1926: 198]) against Writel’s Thorn-tree · from Writel’s Thorn-tree along the green path to wood hill (?) outside until it comes out at Beorhtulf’s Tree · from Beorhtulf’s Tree along the green path by the edge (of the wood) outside Plutan Pond (see Mere Pond above) · from Plutan Pond along Heðburgh’s Valley outside Ceola’s Gap · from Ceola’s Gap along the road to the lower gap (Grundy 1926: 199 identifies the nyrðre geat with the luþhes geates of the third Meon charter; this was in the valley beginning at the north-western side of Privett Parish) · from the lower gap to Nook of the Thatched House (or hall) · from the Nook of the Thatched House to Wigið Pond (perhaps for wiðig ‘willow’?) · from Wigið Pond to Saddle Road (see EPNE, pt. I: 92) · from Saddle Steorte (steort is ‘a tail, a tongue of land, a projecting piece of land’; this is the same as sædeles sceate steorte and sceadeles sceates in Meon charters II and III) within Dosaburnan (this name is
still possibly preserved in Doscombe Pond [Grundy 1926: 200]) · along Dosaburnnan outside Ash Ford up to ACSceates Gap (from ac ‘oak’ + sceat ‘a corner of land, an angle, a projecting piece of land’, perhaps in the sense of ‘Oak Corner’; the place-name is still preserved in Oakshott Tithing [Grundy 1926: 201]) · from ACSceates Gap to edge of the (boundary) post (read sceaf as sceaf ‘shaft, pole, post’; see Meon charter II below) forward · from the edge of the (boundary) post (the oran is the escarpment on the east edge of Froxfield Parish [Grundy 1926: 201]) to_hwoburnan_ (‘the stream which forms the southern boundary of Liss and the northern boundary of Steep’ [Grundy 1926: 201]) · along the burne out to_Heofes Bridge (Heof is perhaps a personal name from OE heáf, heáf ‘sorrow, lamentation, grief’; this was the site of Prince’s Bridge [Grundy 1926: 201]) · along the Scyr (‘bright’) River (the old name of the Rother River) to_Hweðel’s Nook · from_Hweðel’s Nook along the burne. to_Loud Burne Ford (Loud Burne is Ashford Stream [Grundy 1926: 202]) · from Loud Burne Ford along the path outside the fold (for wenne read penne; see Meon charter II below) · from the fold by the wyrt-truma (‘root, origin, source’, here probably ‘foot, lower side’) outside_Wacca’s Homestead · along the Little alh rewe (alh ‘[heathen] temple, or a shelter’ is a possibility; rewe is perhaps for ræw ‘row of trees’?) to_wopbinc (see wowbincg in Meon charter II; the -p- is probably a mistake for wynn [p ‘w’], and perhaps should be read as wōh ‘twisted’ and bing ‘hollow’) · along_wopbinc up to the west end of Tile Clearing (read tigel ‘tile’; the place-name survives in Tilmore [Grundy 1926: 202]) · from the west end of Tile Clearing to the great boundary tree · to the stream _læc of the wood_ · along the stream of the wood out to the gravel stream (Grundy 1926: 203 identifies this burne with the brook which flows past Stroudbridge Farm) · along the gravel stream to_Willow Ford · from Willow Ford in Cherry Valley Stream (for cyrs ‘cherry’ see EPNE, pt. 1: 95; this is recorded in later sources as Chiscombe [Grundy 1926: 203]) · from Cherry Valley Pass out to the boundary (perhaps boundary marker) · from the boundary to the Heow Stream · along Heow Stream up_Bryht’s Edge (Grundy 1926: 203 notes this name is preserved in Butser Hill) · from the Boundary Clearing to_Middle Edge (? going downwards) · from the Great Elm Tree (cf. elebeam in Meon charter III) to_Long Clearing (read langan lea ‘long clearing’, see Meon charter II) forward · along_Long Clearing out to_Finch’s Post · from Finch’s Post west · along the wood to the Great Appletree · from the Great Appletree to_Ash Place Clearing · along the wood to Stream of the Cyrusware (Cyrusware is a folk-name referring to the people of Chidden; see discussion of Meanware above) · along Stream of the Cyrusware to_Thieves’ Valley · along the path to the north long bank · from the north long bank to the west long bank · from the end of the west long bank to the boundary thicket · to_Seeolesburnan.

II. Dated AD 956. _Sawyer_ 619, BCS 982, Kemble 1190. A grant from King Eadwig to his thegn Eadric (Finberg 1964: no. 84). For a discussion of the bounds, see Grundy (1926: 205-209). The bounds include part of East Meon, with Steep, Langrish, and Oakshott in Froxfield (Finberg 1964: no. 84). The bounds in the latter half of this charter are also covered in Meon charter I (for which see above).

ærest of cit wara beca on hremnes beorh · be þære fyr on spedige ðorn · ðlang weges to luhesforða · of luhesforða. ðlang weges ut to lang port · ðlang ðæne ut on þa ealdan rode · ofer bord dene on
wuncs hyl · of wungces hyl on ryæres heafod · of ruðeres heafde on rindesele · þunan on særæles sceate steorte · utan clæð heale · of clæð leahe utan ac sceates ford · of ac sceates forda up on sceafæles oran · of sceafæles oran ut to heofes brícge · andlang scire on hweðæls heal · of hweðæles heale · lang hlude burnan · of hludeburnan forð · lang weges up to penne · of penne be wyrttruman ut to wowbincg · lang wowbincg ut an tihel leahe · of tihel leahe utan ham wudelace · lang ham wudelace utan great burnan · lang great boernan · to circumbe lace · of circumbe lace on mearc ham · on þæt heow bæc · of ðam heow bæce up on bryttes oran · on medeman oran nyþe weardne · ðanon and lang lea fore weardne · lang lagan lea on finces stapel · of finces stapole · lang wuda of æscstedeget · of æscstede geate · lang wuda on citware mearce · lang bæces to citware becon.

From Stream of the Citware (see Meon charter I; this stream ran east of Hyden Farm [Grundy 1926: 205]) to Raven’s Barrow (this may correspond with the reofnes beorges of Meon charter III; Grundy 1926: 205 suggests it may be identified with the tumulus on Wether Down) · by the fyrm (perhaps ‘fire beacon’?; Grundy 1926: 205 interprets this as fyrm ‘fir-tree’) to the Prosperous Thorn-tree · along the path to Luh’s Ford (perhaps a personal name, see Searle 1897: 341; cf. with luhhes gaetes in Meon charter III) · from Luh’s Ford. along the path out to long gate (? perhaps from Latin porticus) · along the valley out to the old clearing (or old cross) · over Brorda’s Valley (or perhaps bord ‘plank’, but see EPNE pt. 1: 42 for the difficulty in distinguishing bord ‘plank’ from the personal name Brorda; this is modern Bordean) to Wunc’s Hill (Grundy 1926: 207 identifies this with the hill north-east of Lower Bordean) · from Wunc’s Hill to the head of the clearing · from the head of the clearing to the house of the ridge (or perhaps sele ‘willow copse’, meaning ‘willow copse by the ridge’) · then to Saddle Corner on the projecting piece of land (this is the same as særæles steorte in Meon charter I) · outside Clað Nook (perhaps clæð ‘cloth’?; Grundy 1926: 207 interprets this as clæte ‘burdock’) · from Clað Clearing (or perhaps leahe is an error for heale in the line above) outside ac sceates ford (see Asceates in Meon charter I above; this name survives in Oakshott Tithing) · from ac sceates ford up to edge of the (boundary) post (see Meon charter I) · from edge of the (boundary) post out to Heofes Bridge (see Meon charter I above) · along the Scyr (the old name of the Rother River) to Hweðæl’s Nook (see Meon charter I above) · from Hweðæl’s Nook (this nook was at the point where Ashford Stream meets the Rother [Grundy 1926: 207]) along Loud Burne (see Meon charter I above) · from Loud Burne Ford along the path up to the fold · from the fold by the wyrttruma (‘root, origin, source’, here probably ‘foot, lower side’) out to wowbincg (see wopbinc in Meon charter I) · along wowbincg outside Tile Clearing (see Meon charter I; the name survives in Tilmore) · from Tile Clearing outside the stream (læc) of the wood · from the stream of the wood outside gravel stream (see Meon charter I) · along gravel stream · to Cherry Valley Stream (see Meon charter I; this is recorded in later sources as Chiscombe) · from Cherry Valley Stream to Boundary Homestead · to the Heow Stream · from the Heow Stream up to Bryht’s Edge (modern Butser Hill; for both names, see Meon charter I) · from the middle edge (? going downwards) · from the long clearing forward · along Long Clearing to Finch’s Post (see Meon charter I) · from Finch’s
Post along the wood to Ash Place Gap (see æsc stede rode in Meon charter I) · from Ash Place Gap along the wood to the boundary of the Citware · along the brook to the brooks of the Citware.

III. Dated AD 924 for ? 824. Sawyer 283, BCS 377, Kemble 1031. ‘Egbert, king of the West Saxons, to his prefect Wulfheard. 22 manentes on both sides of the River Meon’ (Finberg 1964: no. 10). The bounds belong to parts of East Meon and Froxfield, for which see Grundy (1926: 209-217), who notes (ibid: 209) that this charter ‘is the most difficult of the very difficult Meon charters’. Where applicable, fixed points identified in Grundy’s analysis will be mentioned in brackets in the translation.

on uesem þan londe æt risc mere · eastan and land ðes weges on ðone ge mer hagan · and lang hagan on ðone elebeam · ðanon and lang þæs hagan betwen falod leah ʰ siladæne · swa an lang hagan þiðon ceorles beame · ðonne on west eal be strete · and lang sleades þið luhhes gaetes · ðanon on þone boc hagan þið ðere boc stigele · ðonne and lang hagan wið wðig meres · ðueres ober ðone mere · swa ford and lang hagan wið sceadeles sceates · fore weardes · þanan east up suæ ðet ealden faestan scaðe · and lang ðes faestenes on readan cumb. ub an weardne. þæt hit stent on þam sieran boc hagan · And lang ðes sieran hagan on rindgesella · þeores ofer done mere · ðanon on readen bexen · þonne and lang hagan on þan bæces weaste heafod · on ðoðeres east heafod · þanon wið eastan hriðes heafod · þanon on timber hricges snad fore weardne þær he ut cymeð · þonne on synd hilde mere · þonne on re eadburge geat · þonne þeorees ofer beor done ut on þa rode · þæt up and lang norð be eastan hyblea on ðone ealdan her pað · ðoðeres ofer Meone · on granan treou · and lang þæs hlinces on para þreore acra ende . up on uccær hege · sioððan hege raue · on gaen da furh · up wið reofnes beorges · þanon on þona cumb al swa seo forg scaðep on þat cymed in sceolles uuille · and lang seolesburnan eft in Meone · on ge rihta . up on uuorres sol · inne on rests lea · þanon and lang bæces ut to bromdene · þeores ofer bromdene · on ðone here pað · on crutte bracca · on weodu · on þone healf · þonne on þone hagan · up to tycc ham stede · þanon on rihc mere eastan weardne.

To the west of the ploughland at Rush Pond (also mentioned in the West Meon charter; the pond north-east of Filmore Hill) · east along the path to the border hedge (read ge mer as gemære ‘boundary, border’) · along the hedge to the elder tree (elebeam means ‘olive tree’, but elle ‘elder’ is more likely here) · then along the hedge between the fold of the clearing (modern Fawley Farm, see above) and Siladæne (possibly ‘willow valley’, from *syle ‘willow’) · then along the fence to Churl’s Tree (cf. with Charles Wood above) · then to west eal (perhaps for ealh ‘a shelter, a temple’)?) by the road · along the valley to Luh’s Gap (luhhes gaetes may be identified with nyðre geat in Meon charter I; cf. luhesforda in Meon charter II) · then to the beech-tree hedge (enclosure) thither to beech-style · then along the hedge thither to Willow Pond · crosswise over the pond · so forth along the hedge thither to Saddle Corner (sceadeles sceates should probably be read as sædeles sceates, attested in Meon charter II. cf. sædeles steorte in Meon charter I) forward · then east upward as the Old Fortification runs · along the Fortification to the Red Valley from the upper side · to where it stands on the Withered Beech Enclosure · along the Withered Enclosure to the
house of the ridge (or perhaps sele ‘willow copse’, meaning ‘willow copse by the ridge’; see *rindesele* in Meon charter II) · crosswise over the pond · then to the Red Box-Trees? · then along the hedge to the west head of the stream · then to the other head on the east · then thither to the eastern hriðes head (Grundy 1926: 213 identifies this as the head of the valley where the boundaries of Steep, Langrish and Froxfield parishes meet) · then to the detached woodland of timber ridge forward where it projects · then to Syndhild’s Pond · then to Eadburgh’s Gap (or perhaps for *read burge geate* ‘gap of the red fortified place’?) · then crosswise over beor done (Grundy 1926: 214 identifies this as modern Bordean; see *bord dene* in Meon charter II) out to the clearing (or cross) · then up along the north by the eastern side of Hyblea (the second element is lēah ‘wood, clearing in a wood’) to the old highway · crosswise over the Meon · to the green tree (for *granan* read grênan) · along the bank to the end of the three plots of cultivated land · up to the hedge of the cultivated land (for *uecær* read æcer) · ? until the hedge-row · towards the furrow · up against Raven’s Barrow · then to the valley as the furrow goes until it comes to Sceoll’s Spring (the spring of Seolesburnan, west of the park at Westbury House [Grundy 1926: 215]) · along the Seolesburnan again to the Meon · straight on up to Worr’s Slough (cf. this name in the West Meon charter and Meon charter IV) · in to restes Clearing (perhaps restes is a personal name?) · then along the stream out to Broom Valley (modern Bramdean; see West Meon charter) · crosswise over Broom Valley · to the highway · to crutte bracca (see crutte brcce leage in the West Meon charter and crutte brace leage in Meon charter IV) · to the wood · to the half .... (something has been omitted) · then to the hedge · then to tycc homestead (either as a personal name, or from ticen ‘goat’) · then to the eastern side of Rush Pond (read risc for rihc; cf. West Meon charter and Meon charter IV for this name).

IV. Dated AD 967. Sawyer 754, BCS 1200, Kemble 535. King Edgar to the Lady Wynflæd; grant of 8 mansae at Meon, and Farnfield in Privett (Finberg 1964: no. 107). For a discussion of the bounds, see Grundy (1926: 217-220). The place-names and landmarks in this charter are discussed in the West Meon charter above.

ærest þær Seolesburna sliht on Meone · of Meone · 7lang herepaðes on wores sol · of wores sole · on weawan þorn · of weawan ðorne on crutte brace leage · of þære leage on scyteres flodan · of scyteres flodan on hriscmere · of þám mere on ðone twisledan beam · of þám twisledan beame on ceorla geat · of ceorla geate on ðone hagan æt hæð burge dene · 7 lang mearce on þa twisledan ac · of þære æc 7lang dene on coggan beam · of coggan beame on wytlehe · of wytleage to brunes hamme · of brunes hamme 7lang mearce to read lefan becan · 7 lang mearce on cealf hanggran · of þám hanggran on þorn wic · of þornwycan to wyteles ðorne · of ðám ðorne to lyne stede · of lyne stede on mearc beorh · of þám beorge on ðone stapol · of ðám stapole on clenán forda · of ðám clenán forda 7 lang seolesburnan eft ut on Meone.

First where Seolesburnan meets the (River) Meon · from the (River) Meon · along the highway to Worr’s Slough (see Meon charters III and IV) · from Worr Slough to Weawa’s Thorn-tree (cf.
weawan hocan, West Meon charter) · from Weawa’s Thorn-tree to crute brace Clearing (cf. crute brece leage in the West Meon charter and crutte bracca in Meon charter III) · from the clearing to the channel used as an open sewer · from the channel used as an open sewer to the Rush Pond · from the pond to the forked tree · from the forked tree to the gap of the churls (cf. Charles Wood above) · from the gap of the churls to the enclosure at hæð burge valley (possibly ‘valley of the heath [covered] fort’, or perhaps, as Grundy suggests, a personal name Hæðburg; see Searle 1897: 287. This valley is identified by Grundy 1926: 218 as the valley from Privett station along the north boundary of Privett) · along the boundary to the forked oak · from the oak along the valley to Cogga’s Tree · from Cogga’s Tree to White Clearing · from White Clearing to Brun’s Enclosure (or perhaps brun ‘brown’) · from Brun’s Enclosure along the boundary to the red-leaved beech · along the boundary to Calf Wood (‘a wood on a steep hillside’) · from the wood on the hillside to the Thorn Farm · from the Thorn Farm to Wyrtel’s Thorn-tree · from the thorn-tree to place where flax is grown · from place where flax is grown to the boundary barrow · from the barrow to the post · from the post to Clean Ford (where the road at Whitewool crosses the burne) · from the Clean Ford along Seolesburnan out onto the Meon.


Ærest of Seolesburnan andlang ðæs beces · of ðam bece suð andlang ðæs weges on Leofwines dene · of Leofwines dene east andlang ðæs weges on bradan lea · of ðam lea suð andlang weges on Citware mearce · of Citware mearce west innan Seolescumb.

First from Seolesburnan along the stream · from the stream south along the path to Leofwine’s Valley (Grundy 1926: 221 suggests Leofwine’s Valley may have been the hollow south-east of Coombe Cross) · from Leofwine’s Valley east along the path to Broad Clearing · from the clearing south along the path to the boundary of the Citware · from the boundary of the Citware west into Seoles Valley (Sulscombe).

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Abbreviations

BCS Birch, W. D. G. (1885-1893), Cartularium Saxonum.


EPNE Smith, A. H. (1956; repr. 2008), English Place-Name Elements, 2 parts.

Ho  House

ME  Middle English

OE  Old English

OS  Ordnance Survey Maps

(p)  personal name


PN De  Gover, J. E. B., et. al. (1931-2), *The Place-Names of Devon*.


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**Electronic Resources**


*The Historical Gazetteer of England’s Place-Names*. A searchable historic gazetteer of English place-names from the English Place-Name Society’s survey volumes.

*Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England*. A database providing information relating to all the recorded inhabitants of England from the late sixth to the late eleventh century.