

'A Survey and Analysis of the Place-Names of Staffordshire'

by David Horovitz, LL.B.

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Notes on Staffordshire Place-Names

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The Place-Names of Staffordshire: a Survey and Analysis.

Abstract

This main body of this work consists of a gazetteer of all of the main, and many of the minor, place-names of Staffordshire (meaning any places which are or were at any time known to have been in what was, or became, Staffordshire), with early spellings, and observations on the likely or possible derivation of those names, often in a rather more discursive form than standard works on place-names, particularly where uncertainty exists as to the derivation. Early place-name spellings have been collected from many sources, primarily the volumes of the Staffordshire Historical Collections, but also the volumes of archive indexes at Staffordshire Record Office, supplemented by Staffordshire place-names extracted from other sources, such as the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society and the printed Cartularies of Haughmond and Lilleshall Abbeys, both in Shropshire, and from the editorial notes produced during research by the Victoria County History of Staffordshire team. Those slips often contain early place-name spellings. The Staffordshire Encyclopaedia, a monumental compilation of material on the history and folk-lore of Staffordshire published in 2000, has provided a valuable key to material relating indirectly to place-name research, such as topographical and archaeological features. Other material has been extracted from early work on the place-names of Staffordshire and adjoining counties by W. H. Duignan and from other volumes on place-name research and the journals of The English Place-Name Society and The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland.

The analysis considers the early history of the county of Stafford, and reviews the place-name evidence under various headings, including the relationship of particular elements to Roman roads, the ancient boundaries, the Hundred meeting-places, and discussions on Scandinavian and French names and those considered to provide evidence of pagan religion. The analysis incorporates a list of personal names found in Staffordshire place-names, and of topographical and other elements.

David Horovitz

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Notes on Staffordshire Place-Names

Introduction

Just over one hundred years ago the Oxford University Press published a modest volume by W. H. Duignan, a Walsall solicitor and historian, entitled the title 'Notes on Staffordshire Place-Names'.¹ This was the first - and to date only - scholarly survey of the more important place-names of the whole of the county. Duignan's contribution to place-name research was later recognised by no less an authority than Eilert Ekwall, the foremost scholar of English place-names, who credited Duignan and the great Victorian philologist W. W. Skeat with founding English place-name study on modern lines.² Although Duignan's book was undoubtedly a pioneering work for its date,³ and is still of value today, advances in place-name studies and the availability of additional early spellings have thrown new light on many derivations and led to re-examination of Duignan's conclusions.

Prompted by the plaintive observation that 'Staffordshire historians could be described as topographically disadvantaged: there is no one convenient source of information about the place-names in the county...',⁴ the present work is intended to provide a concise and accessible synthesis of early place-name spellings and derivations - or observations on possible derivations - based on modern research, together where appropriate with a note of earlier derivations, to serve as an interim study pending publication of further definitive volumes of the Staffordshire survey by The English Place-Name Society, which issued a single volume (on Cuttlestone Hundred) in 1984. Many name-forms from that volume, the fruit of many years of dedicated research by the late J. P. Oakden, have been incorporated into this work, though a number of derivations have been revised.⁵ It is unlikely that a complete Staffordshire survey by the Society, to include field-names, will be available in the foreseeable future.

¹ Incorporating valuable observations added *post scriptum* by W. H. Stevenson, the historian and palæographer.

² Ekwall 1936: 12. In addition to various papers on philological matters relating to the early history of South Staffordshire and surrounding areas, Duignan also published a volume on Worcestershire place-names in 1905, and on Warwickshire place-names in 1912. A bibliography of his works appears in N & Q 11th Series XI 1915 373, 461; XII 1915 6, 39.

³ Emphasised by, for example, a glance at some of the early twentieth-century volumes of the Transactions of the North Staffordshire Field Club, in particular that for 1908, where essays on Staffordshire place-names incorporate gloriously imaginative derivations from a startling array of languages.

⁴ Paffard 1996: 1.

⁵ Extracts from PN Wo and PN Wa relating to places formerly in Staffordshire have also been included.

For historical records generally, on which place-name research is entirely reliant, Staffordshire is fortunate to possess in particular several dozen volumes relating to all aspects of the history of the county published by the Staffordshire Record Society as the Staffordshire Historical Collections, formerly the Transactions of the William Salt Archaeological Society. Only those who have made extensive use of this incomparable material are likely to recognise the prodigious labours of those who, particularly in the early years - publication of annual volumes began in 1880 - have provided such a treasury of raw material for later historians. Nor should the labours of such earlier Staffordshire researchers as Sampson Erdeswick, Walter Chetwynd, Simon Degge, Thomas Loxdale, Robert Plot, Samuel Pipe Wolferstan and Robert Stebbing Shaw be underestimated. Their remarkable achievements during a period when communications and means of publication were still relatively primitive, with records and archives invariably scattered, uncatalogued and in many, if not most, cases untranscribed, form the bedrock of Staffordshire history, and our debt to them is incalculable. Similarly, the zeal of those who have ensured the preservation of Staffordshire's documentary history, the foremost of whom must be the renowned Staffordian William Salt, places all Staffordshire researchers in their debt.

More recently, the millennium publication of Tim Cockin's formidably comprehensive Staffordshire Encyclopaedia, which marshalls and collates an extraordinary range of Staffordshire material, serves as a guide to many otherwise obscure sources (and Staffordshire places), and will prove an unrivalled sourcebook for historians. Furthermore, by recording early - and indeed more recent - thoughts on Staffordshire place-name etymology, the Encyclopaedia serves as an excellent summary of earlier thinking on the county's place-names conveniently assembled under the relevant place entry, which has further emphasised the desirability for a new study on the place-names of the county.

It will be appreciated that a work of this size covering the whole of Staffordshire cannot hope to cover every name found on a modern large-scale map, and the list of entries is far from exhaustive. The basis for selecting names has been dictated mainly by the availability of reliable early spellings (and I must here express my thanks to Dr Nigel Tringham for making available unpublished spellings gathered during research for the various volumes of the Victoria History of the County of Stafford, and to the late Victor Watts, former Honorary Director of The English Place-Name Survey, for allowing access to the typescript draft of Dr Oakden's unpublished work on Totmonslow Hundred, from which valuable early spellings have been extracted), and by an attempt to include the principal place-names, hill-names and river-names of Staffordshire. All 334 or so Staffordshire place-names in Domesday Book (the number is difficult to quantify for various reasons)⁶ are treated; most of those on Saxton's map of Staffordshire of 1577, Smith's manuscript Staffordshire map of 1599, and Browne's map of 1682 published in Plot's 'Natural History of Staffordshire' of 1686.⁷ An arbitrary selection, not intended in any way to be comprehensive, of lesser, obsolete, lost or unlocated names (some of which, it must be

⁶ It may be noted that the first (1954) edition of Darby & Terrett 1971 mistakenly treats *Valencia* as the name of a lost Domesday vill (p.168). In fact the word means 'value' or 'asset': VCH IV 43 fn. 47.

⁷ Kip's map of Staffordshire 1607-10 and Speed's map of Staffordshire 1610, which contain virtually identical place-name forms, incorporate some extraordinarily corrupt spellings, making likely identification of some places possible only by their position on the map, for example (from Speed): *Langrose* (Rangemore), *Catnell* (Tatenhill), *Chomley wood* (Callingwood), *Hasker* (Haselour).

emphasized, may relate to places outside Staffordshire), or those otherwise of particular interest, have also been included, in the hope that they may be of value to historians or researchers.

For the purposes of this work, the county of Stafford has been taken to include the areas which are or have at any time been within Staffordshire, but a handful of names of places just outside the county boundary have been included where of particular interest.

Ideally, in preparation for a work of this nature all conceivable archive and other documentary sources will have been searched and accurate transcriptions made of early place-name spellings, but this study is perforce based primarily on spellings taken from unverified secondary sources, and should be treated accordingly. Likewise the identification of a spelling with a particular place may not always be beyond doubt.

A number of place-name spellings are taken from Duignan's works, where sources are rarely cited, but those spellings that have been traced and checked for accuracy confirm that he was a meticulous transcriber, and his spellings taken from lost charters and other sources now untraceable are very likely to be correct. The great majority of forms have been extracted from the Staffordshire Historical Collections, which seem generally to be accurate, but occasionally the authors, not being place-name scholars, have modernised spellings to help the reader, and there are deficiencies in the indexing of some volumes. Although Duignan's research (based to a very large extent, it must be noted, on the early volumes of the Salt Transactions) tended to concentrate on the southern part of the county, with which he was clearly more familiar, that is balanced in this work by the unpublished spellings made available from more recent Victoria County History ('VCH') working papers, which relate in the main to the northern part, and from Oakden's unpublished papers on the north-east of the county. It should be added that the practice at the VCH is to modernise the spelling of common place-name elements when found in a particular place-name,⁸ and forms taken from VCH volumes cited in this work should be read in the light of that practice.

At a late stage the enormous range of catalogue entries on the Public Records Office *A2A* ('Access to Archives') and *Procat* websites became accessible, but those catalogues sometimes conceal pitfalls created quite innocently by archivists using modernised names to catalogue deeds, with those spellings becoming associated with early dates listed in an entry. The catalogues, daily increasing, are an extraordinary tool for researchers, and will become even more indispensable as the databases expand, but were never intended in themselves to support the work of place-name scholars, and pose obvious hazards when used for that purpose. Any references to Record Office archives in this work should be read in the light of that important caveat.

A work of this kind would be impossible without the help of others, and in addition to my indebtedness to earlier researchers of English place-names in general and Staffordshire place-names in particular,

⁸ Personal communication 5 July 2001 from Dr Nigel Tringham, county editor of VCH.

special thanks for help during the prolonged gestation of this study are due to Paul Bibire, Jean Birrell, Dr Faith Cleverdon, Revd. Michael Fisher, Dr Carole Hough, Peter Kitson, John Levitt, Bob Meeson, Dr Oliver Padel, the late Michael Paffard, Steve Potter, Dr Tania Styles, David Swinscoe, Edgar Tooth, and Chris Welch. I am especially grateful to Professor Richard Coates, Dr David Parsons, and Dr Paul Cullen, whose learned observations and suggestions have saved me from many errors and led to a number of derivations that would not otherwise have occurred to me. But my particular indebtedness is to Dr Margaret Gelling, not only for her inspirational writings - in all senses of that expression - over many years, which led indirectly to the compilation of this study, but for so generously sparing time from her own important researches to consider and offer constructive advice during various stages of this work. None of those mentioned above is in any way responsible for the use I have made of the information, advice or opinions which have been so freely made available.

Many suggestions or possibilities put forward in this work for the derivation of place-names in Staffordshire will doubtless (one hopes) come to be seen, sooner rather than later, to be equally as quaint and fanciful as some of Duignan's conclusions a century ago.⁹ That is as it should be. Few names are likely to be insoluble, and it can be predicted with confidence that future research, whether philological, topographical or archaeological, or indeed the unearthing of hitherto undiscovered early spellings, will provide the crucial key to the origin of many names which presently remain unexplained or uncertain. Readers with more detailed local knowledge will doubtless identify within this work suggested derivations which are topographically inappropriate, and recognise local features from which more likely derivations can be adduced. My intention has been to provide a corpus of early spellings, and to set down some thoughts on possible derivations and etymological difficulties, which other researchers can build upon or demolish as appropriate. In a work of this nature opportunities for errors of every kind are legion, and for all those that have escaped detection the responsibility is mine alone.

Staffordshire – the geology and geography

The county of Stafford, ranking 18th in size against the other historical (pre-1974) counties, takes the shape of an irregular diamond, some 38 miles wide at its central area and some 62 miles long, bounded by (clockwise from the north) Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Cheshire. Apart from its northernmost part, all of Staffordshire is geologically included in the Carboniferous, the Permian and Triassic systems. Stafford itself occupies a position in the centre of the county, lying in the wide central Midland Gap, an agricultural belt of Keuper Marl, which is bisected by a fault in the Triassic Sandstone which lies to the north and south. The fault to the south runs through Cannock Chase, a high wooded heathland plateau to the east of the county. The central part of Staffordshire is fertile, especially around the richer alluvial floodplain at the junctions of the rivers Tame and Trent and their tributaries, with remnants of the extensive woodland of Needwood Forest on

⁹ See for example Duignan's entries relating to Pillaton and Watling Street.

the east. The northernmost part of the county forms the southern end of the Peak District, and can be categorised as Pennine uplands, the land above Leek rising from 800' to 1500', with Oliver Hill, the highest and almost northernmost point in Staffordshire, close to the border with Derbyshire, reaching 1,684 feet. The country hereabouts is high bleak Millstone Grit moorland with exposed outcrops such as The Roaches and Hen Cloud. Nearby Flash, at 1,518' above sea level, claims to be the highest village in England. Folding and erosion of the softer shales has caused a series of edges, such as Ipstones Edge. The area to the north-east is Carboniferous Limestone which forms a rugged and broken landscape cut by the rivers Manifold and Dove, the latter serving as the border with Derbyshire. Moving south the landscape become less rugged and the river Dove turns eastwards to meet the Trent to the north-east of Burton upon Trent, with deposits of gypsum and alabaster to the west of Tutbury. In the central part of the county the valleys of the river Trent and its tributaries form a lowland corridor from east to west. The south-east of the county lies on the coalfields plateau, the southernmost part being broken by Silurian and Igneous rock ridges in the Rowley Hills. To the west the plateau is lower and cut by the river Stour and its tributaries. In the south-west is a gently undulating lowland zone lying on sandstone and forming part of the Midland watershed, with watercourses flowing eventually to the Severn to the south-west or the Trent to the north-east. The ancient forests of Morfe, Kinver and Brewood, all lying on Red Sandstone, covered much of this quarter, joining with Cannock Forest on Cannock Chase. The watershed continues to mark the western boundary with Shropshire, and the north-west of the county, which takes in the Potteries coalfield, stretches from the northern Triassic area to the Cheshire border, formed by the long ridge on which lies Mow Cop, dividing Staffordshire from the Cheshire Plain. Parts of this area drain into the river Weaver, and then into the Mersey. The only sizeable natural area of water is Aqualate Mere near Newport on the Shropshire border. Rudyard Lake and Blithfield Reservoir were both created as reservoirs, the former c.1793 and the latter in 1953. As Camden succinctly (and diplomatically) observed of the topography of Staffordshire in 1586:

'The north part is mountainous and unpleasant; the middle rendered more agreeable by the river Trent, covered with woods and diversified with corn-fields and meadows: as is the south, which has also pit-coal and iron-mines; whether to its advantage or disadvantage can best be determined by its inhabitants'.

Long known as a county of little wealth – at the time of the Domesday survey it was one of the poorest of those surveyed¹⁰ – it was the minerals of Staffordshire, particularly coal, ironstone, limestone and clay, combined with a ready supply of fuel from the areas of woodland, that allowed it to play an important role in the industrial revolution from the eighteenth century onwards, with a particular reputation for pottery manufacture, metalworking and engineering.

Staffordshire - its early history and historical boundaries

In the pre-Roman Iron-Age what is now Staffordshire is likely to have formed the eastern part of the territory of the people known as the Cornovii, the precise meaning of which is uncertain, but which may be associated in some way with British **corno* 'horn', though the significance of the term remains unexplained.¹¹ Likewise the boundaries of Cornovian territory (if indeed there were fixed or identifiable boundaries) are unknown, but their base seems to have been near The Wrekin, for the Romans created a Civitas or tribal capital for the Cornovii at Viroconium (Wroxeter). In the absence of clear evidence, historians generally accept that the Cornovii occupied Shropshire, with their territory extending for an uncertain distance into what became Cheshire,¹² Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.¹³ Much if not all of Staffordshire is assumed to have been under Cornovian influence until the Roman occupation, though it is possible that other Iron-Age peoples whose names are now lost inhabited some parts of the county.¹⁴ It has been argued that the territory of the Cornovii is to be identified as what later became Powys, but the evidence is far from conclusive.¹⁵

The sub-Roman history of Staffordshire is swathed in obscurity, but Staffordshire lay at the core of the great kingdom of Mercia, which rose to supremacy under the powerful and long-lived rulers Ethelbald (716-757) and Offa (757-796).¹⁶ For reasons which remain unclear, Tamworth was the principal royal and administrative centre of the Mercian kings from at least the seventh century until the mid ninth century, and nearby Lichfield was chosen as the site of the first Mercian cathedral.¹⁷ The county of Stafford as an administrative unit is likely to have been created, together with its neighbouring counties, in the tenth or early eleventh century, carved out of the territory of the bishopric of Lichfield and Coventry which was formed in the last quarter of the seventh century.¹⁸ The boundary between

¹⁰ See e.g. Eyton 1881: 21-24, but note Dyer 2002 for evidence that by the fourteenth century 'Staffordshire was not a backward county, but one with a greater capacity for enterprise and innovation than some other parts of the country': pp.1-2.

¹¹ Possibly with reference to the profile of The Wrekin, which resembles a pair of down-curving horns similar to those of early cattle (which would not however explain other tribes of the same name in Caithness and Cornwall, both on peninsulas which might be considered 'horns'), or perhaps because the tribe worshipped a horned deity of the Cernunnos (stag-god) type: see Rivet & Smith 1979: 325. Or named perhaps from immigrants from one of the peninsulas.

¹² Ptolemy attributed the Cornovii to Chester, which is a strong indication that the legionary fortress lay in their territory: Rivet & Smith 1979: 325.

¹³ See generally Webster 1991.

¹⁴ It is uncertain whether Letocetum (Wall) fell within the territory of the Cornovii or the adjoining Coritani to the east. The agriculturally poor soils of Cannock Chase and the south Derbyshire hills may have formed the borderland between the two peoples: see Todd 1991: 14-15. The existence of a Civitas Letocetensium, distinct from the Civitas Cornovii, and based at Letocetum in the later Roman period, has been postulated: see Wachter 1966: 108-10; also Rivet 1964: 150. Desborough 1991: 4 mentions 'the Coritani in the Trent valley, the Cornovii centred on Wroxeter and the Dobunnii in southern Staffordshire'.

¹⁵ The arguments are summarised in Gelling 1992: 27. The Tribal Hidage, generally held to be an eleventh-century copy of a much earlier (perhaps eighth century) tax or tribute listing of peoples and hidages, names an administrative district *Westerne/Westernna*, said by Stenton 1971: 296 to be 'probably...in Cheshire and north Staffordshire', but perhaps another name for the *Magonsæte*, who occupied an area to the west of Worcester (Gelling 1977: 192), or between the *Wreocenstan* and the *Magonsæte* (Hooke 1983: 11), or the British west of Wroxeter, e.g. the kings of Anglesey or Gwynedd (Higham 1993: 70, 72).

¹⁶ A gloss to the opening entry in the Tribal Hidage refers to 'the first land' of the Mercians, implying the existence of a district name *Ærest Myrcnaland*, 'original Mercia', the core of which is perhaps to be identified with the later county of Stafford (see Gelling 1992: 79-80), though that would place Tamworth at the eastern edge, which seems improbable.

¹⁷ See Zaluckyj 2001: 217-22.

¹⁸ See Finberg 1972: 225-7; Gelling 1992: 97-8; also TSAS 57 157-60.

Pirehill Hundred and Cuttlestone Hundred¹⁹ (which may well pre-date the formation of the shire, perhaps by a considerable period)²⁰ runs along the river Sow, and through what must have been the ford or causeway after which the county town may well have been named, and it has been suggested, on the basis of an analysis of monumental sculpture, that a line running roughly south-east from above Stafford to the north of Lichfield may mark the division between North Mercia and South Mercia.²¹ Possibly the Hundred boundary follows in part that ancient boundary, if indeed it is right to think of fixed boundaries for such early territories.

None of the Mercian shires is known to have been called a shire (from OE *scīr* 'a piece cut or sheared-off') before 1000 AD,²² and the generally held view has been that Staffordshire is unlikely to have been a shire before the building at Stafford of a *burh* or fortification by Æthelflæd, the Lady of the Mercians, in 913, when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recording the event would doubtless have mentioned the shire. However, some sort of burghal system has been identified in Mercia in the late eighth century, and it is quite possible that the West Midland shires originated as territories of major Mercian fortified settlements (perhaps including Stafford) created as early as the mid-eighth century, which were greatly enhanced in the tenth century or early in the eleventh when they were given additional non-military functions.²³ Æthelflæd's choice of Stafford for a *burh*, part of a strategy launched by her brother, Edward the Elder, to create a network of forts or fortified towns regularly spaced throughout the West Midlands,²⁴ might not be considered at first sight an obvious position for a military post, for the town lies on low ground surrounded (apart from a neck of land on the north) by watercourses or wet ground, which even today flood regularly, overlooked by a prominent isolated 476-foot knoll (a fluvial glacial spoil dump) a mile to the south-west of the town which gives sweeping views and formed a natural site for the Norman castle after the destruction or deterioration of the earlier fortification within the town itself.²⁵ The wet and marshy ground surrounding Stafford provided a naturally defended site²⁶ - indeed marshy ground will have offered far better defence than water - which formed the apex of a triangular

¹⁹ See SHC 1916 163.

²⁰ See John 1964: 154-6 and Stenton 1971: 128-130, but also Gelling 1992: 141-2 and Hart 1992: 287, with Hart postulating that the hundreds were modelled on the wapentakes of the Danelaw.

²¹ See Hart 1977: 43-61; Sidebotham 1994; Zaluckyj 2001: 16;

²² See Taylor 1957: 21, 24; Gelling 1992: 14. Hart 1992: 286 considers that the shiring and hundreing occurred simultaneously during the reign of Edward the Elder.

²³ See Basset 1996: 156, citing Haslam 1987: 76-93.

²⁴ See Brooks 2000a: 39-40, 45.

²⁵ Stafford existed as some form of settlement or industrial area from at least Roman times, evidenced by pottery kilns of Roman date identified in excavations within the town, and the place was a centre for pottery-making in the ninth century, for Stafford ware has been found in Chester, Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester. The first documented references to salt production in Staffordshire date from the seventeenth century: VCH II 246-7. The absence of archaeological or early documentary evidence for salt-making associated with brine springs, the nearest of which appears to have been at Rickerscote, 1½ miles south-east of Stafford (the brine baths in Stafford, built in 1897 and demolished in 1977, were supplied with brine by a pipe from Stafford Common, 1 mile to the north-west: VCH VI 221), is especially puzzling, for it would be surprising if the precious resource had not been utilised from a very early period. It is not impossible that the pottery industry was associated, even if only in a limited way, with the transportation of salt, and in that respect it may be noted that of the wide range of forms produced, only one type appears to have been exported, namely a tall cooking pot (see WMA 26 1983 51), although it is improbable that once a salt-making industry had been established, even on a modest scale, it would have died out without trace.

²⁶ Possibly chosen by Æthelflæd because a short barrier across the northern neck of land would create a strong defensible site: see Higham & Hill 2001: 151. Æthelflæd's fortification may have been limited to a palisaded bank and ditch along that line, or may have reinforced an earlier Anglo-Saxon fortification.

arrangement with the border *burhs* at Bridgnorth and Tamworth (which lie some 50 miles apart), and was clearly intended to defend the Midland Gap, the route of the Upper Trent between the southern end of the Pennines and the plateau of Cannock Chase, but also the principal and strategically important east-west highway in the region, Roman Watling Street, which lies to the south of Stafford. Bridgnorth (some 45 miles from Stafford) defended the important Severn crossing associated with pillaging Danish armies on at least two occasions,²⁷ and Tamworth (some 40 miles from Stafford) was a particularly important Mercian royal site on a broad spur at the junction of the rivers Anker and Tame, formerly half-circled by protective marshland, and which lay on the direct route from Leicester, where a Danish army was located. All three *burhs* were constructed at about the same time;²⁸ indeed the same engineers and sappers may have been responsible for overseeing the layout and construction of all three defences.

It is said that the boundaries of the West Midland shires tend to disregard the traditional territories of the peoples who collectively formed the composite kingdom of Mercia²⁹ - indeed the Staffordshire-Warwickshire boundary actually bisects Tamworth, the principal Mercian centre during the earlier Anglo-Saxon period³⁰ - and that Staffordshire may have come into being (with the other West Midland shires) at some date after 920, when Edward the Elder (899-924) was able to exercise control over local factions and impose a version of the West-Saxon system on those parts of Mercia under his domination.³¹ However, the layout of Staffordshire, with Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire has been shown to conform well with that of the territories which predated them, based around the settlements of Stafford, Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester.³² Hart's attempt to map the territorial boundaries of Mercia in the late eighth century³³ suggests that the northern, western and southern boundaries of the county of Stafford may have followed the western boundary of the territory of the North Mercians and the South Mercians, but any such boundary may well have been much older than the eighth century. There is other evidence that the Midland territories dependant on towns were re-organised as shires in or about 1007, possibly associated with a ship levy made in 1008.³⁴ The

²⁷ In 895-6, when the Danes wintered at *Cwatbrycge*, and in 910, before they were defeated by a combined force of West Saxons and Mercians in the Tettenhall/Wednesfield area: Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 89, 96.

²⁸ The *burh* at Bridgnorth was created in 912, those at Stafford and Tamworth (the latter, from archaeological evidence, superimposed on a pre-Viking rampart: see Gould 1967-8: 18-23) in 913. The Danes created a 'work' or fortification at *Cwatbrycge* (possibly Bridgnorth: PN Sa I 56-9, but see also Groom 1992: 19, where it is suggested that the *burh* guarded a bridge between Quatford and Eardington) in 895-6, and it is not impossible that Æthelflæd's *burh* was also superimposed there on the Danish fortification there. The *burh* at Hereford attributed to Æthelflæd was also built over earlier defences, perhaps created by Mercians in the face of Welsh attacks: Rahtz 1968: 242-6; Shoosmith 1982: 74-7.

²⁹ The western boundary of Staffordshire, if indeed they had a fixed territory, is likely to have been based on the far older boundary of the Anglo-Saxon people known as the *Wreocensætan*, who lived in the area near The Wrekin, from which they took their name. A charter of 963 (12th century, S.723) grants lands at Church Aston, which is said to be 'in provincia Wrocensetna' (Gelling 1992: 83). Church Aston is one mile south-west of Newport, eight and a half miles from the Wrekin, and two and a half miles from the Staffordshire-Shropshire border. Hart 1977: 54 suggests that the north-western boundary of South Mercia is now represented by the western border of Staffordshire.

³⁰ See Keynes 2001: 59; Hill 2001: 151.

³¹ But Bassett 1996: 155 has argued that only the former provincial boundaries in Shropshire and Warwickshire are 'comprehensively ignored' in the pre-Conquest layout.

³² See Bassett 1996: 155.

³³ Hart 1977: 47-54.

³⁴ See Swanton 1997: 138; also Taylor 1957: 17-51; Lapidge *et al* 1999: 76; SHC 1916 157.

shiring of the Midland counties continues to engage academic debate, but it is probably safe to say that the Mercian shires had developed as an informal arrangement whereby districts were associated with *burhs* for military purposes perhaps as early as the late eighth century, and probably by the early tenth century, although not formalised into the shire system proper until the early eleventh century.³⁵

Also uncertain is the period during which the Germanic system of Hundreds was introduced into England, and into Staffordshire. The Hundreds (five in Staffordshire) were administrative areas with fiscal, judicial and military functions which possibly pre-dated the shires in Mercia, as they certainly did in Wessex,³⁶ and perhaps existed long before, or were created as part of the response to, the Danish invasions of the ninth century.³⁷ The number and size of Hundreds varies greatly from shire to shire, but notionally (and sometimes actually, as in Staffordshire) comprises 100 hides, or sometimes 100 long hundreds of 120 hides.³⁸

The entries in Domesday Book help to identify the boundary of the county of Stafford as it existed at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, though not with absolute certainty, for the borders of south-west Staffordshire in particular remain the subject of continuing academic research and debate. Early boundaries tended to follow indisputable physical features such as rivers, watersheds, ridges and ancient roads. The boundary of the ancient county of Stafford utilised various features including (clockwise, from the north) the rivers Dove, Trent and Stour, and (to the south-east of Kinver) the line of a lost Roman road,³⁹ on the west (in various parts) the watershed dividing streams and rivers which flow ultimately to the east or the west,⁴⁰ and Back Brook, Lonco Brook, a short length of Roman road between Whitleyford Bridge and Ellerton,⁴¹ Waggs Brook, Coal Brook, the river Tern (with a deviation, perhaps post-dating the original boundary, to encompass the curious beak-like peninsula to the west of the Tern containing Knighton, which would otherwise be an indisputable part of

³⁵ Whybra 1990: 1-15; 106; also SHC 1916 166; Stenton 1971: 337.

³⁶ See Whitelock 1955: 393-4; Jewell 1972: 47-51.

³⁷ Staffordshire was assessed at 513 hides and 13 acres (at 120 acres to the hide) in Domesday Book: VCH IV 2. There is some slight evidence that the Hundreeding of Staffordshire may have occurred at some time before 994, the date of Wulfrun's gift of several estates to the clergy of Wolverhampton, for half the parish lies in Seisdon, half in Offlow. VCH IV 5 suggests that the hidation of South Staffordshire had been assigned probably by the middle of the tenth century, and certainly by the end. Stafford, unlike other shire towns in the region, is not the caput of any Hundred, which might suggest that the Hundreeding pre-dates Æthelflæd's *burh* of 913. Thorn 1991: 23 fn3 observes that Staffordshire may have evolved from 'a poor and wasted rump of land left after the rest of Mercia, apart from the Danelaw proper, had been laid out into Shires in multiples of 600 hides', but suggests that another and more likely possibility is that 'the 2404 (probably a slip for 2,400) hides allocated to Warwick by the Burghal Hideage included those of Tamworth and Stafford, and perhaps even land that later formed the western third of Leicestershire; Staffordshire may thus have been a later creation out of Warwickshire'.

³⁸ Aleto 1988: 156. Whitelock 1952: 138 observed that 'the division into hundreds has a recent and artificial look in the Midlands, for the areas there are often neatly assessed at just one hundred hides...'. If the Hundred predates the Shire, it might be assumed that the Shire would be created by bundling together a number of pre-existing Hundreds. The natural boundaries adopted by the Shire and the relatively artificial boundaries of the Hundred for Staffordshire might tend to suggest that the Hundreds were created as sub-divisions of the Shire at the time the Shire was formed, or a little later, and a meeting-place in each Hundred, probably already long-established, adopted as the Hundred meeting-place. Mander & Tildesley 1960: 4 conclude that in 994 the Hundreeding of Staffordshire had occurred but the Shire had not been created.

³⁹ Running south-east from Greensforge: Margary number 192. It is evident that at the time the boundary was fixed, some trace of the road remained as a landscape feature.

⁴⁰ A survey of the likely boundary of the kingdom of the Hwicce suggests that it followed in part natural watersheds between major river systems, and may have pre-dated the Anglo-Saxon period: Ford 1979: 147-8.

⁴¹ Margary number 19.

Shropshire), the high ground between Mow Cop and The Cloud, and the river Dane. Over time, some watercourses have changed their line, sometimes with the boundary adjusted to follow the new course, in others cases leaving the old boundary as a relic of former landscapes. Severed oxbows explain how, for example, odd islands of land technically forming part of Derbyshire lay at one time along the west and south side of the river Dove.⁴² The boundary on the west of the county appears to run deliberately through or very close to permanent features such as watersheds⁴³ and prehistoric monuments,⁴⁴ perhaps to be seen as evidence that when the county was shired, the western border was superimposed on an existing, perhaps already ancient, territorial division.

The Domesday shire was certainly considerably larger than the present county, extending westwards to the river Severn and beyond to incorporate a sizeable tract of land on the west bank centred on the river-crossing at Upper Arley, one of the areas to the west of the Severn that formed part of the early See of Lichfield and Coventry. The present Staffordshire-Worcestershire boundary which forms an acute angle to the south-east of Kinver appears to follow this same early boundary between the bishopric of Lichfield and Coventry and the bishopric of Worcester.⁴⁵ The Staffordshire holding on the west of the Severn opposite Arley can be taken as evidence of an early river crossing at that point. Landholdings on the far side of a river at the site of a ford, ferry or bridge are not unusual.⁴⁶ Doubtless the reasons were related to security and the avoidance of disputes about maintenance and tolls.

Early mapmakers were evidently unclear as to the precise extent of Staffordshire west of the Severn opposite Upper Arley, which varies considerably in early (and, in some cases, more recent) maps.

One particular long-lived curiosity was the existence of detached islands of one county set in another. Broom and Clent formed detached islands of Staffordshire within Worcestershire, and were supposedly acquired by the sheriff of Staffordshire, and later transferred into his own county for administrative convenience. Tardebigge was in Staffordshire from c.1100, but transferred to Warwickshire in 1266,⁴⁷ and to Worcestershire in 1844. It may be noted that both Clent and Tardebigge are grouped at the end of the King's Worcestershire holdings in Domesday Book, possibly because they once shared the same

⁴² As Gregory King observed in 1679: 'The Dove does not divide Staffsh. & Darbysh. in all places, but about Rocester and Rolston (juxta Egginton in com. Derby) it is divided by other branches, possibly the old Course of the River, which query concerning, there having been Suits at Law about it': SHC 1919 274.

⁴³ See TSAS 4th Series VI 1916-7 123-6.

⁴⁴ For example The Devil's Ring and Finger, a neolithic galleried tomb to the west of Mucklestone, and The Bridestones, to the north of Biddulph Common, a prehistoric gallery grave, the latter lying just within Staffordshire.

⁴⁵ Perhaps itself based on earlier boundaries between the territories of the Anglo-Saxon sub-kingdoms of the Magonsæte and Hwicce: see Zaluckyj 2001: 87.

⁴⁶ Examples are the area of Quatford (in 1086 part of Eardington) on the west side of the Severn centred on the old ford (and the bridge recorded in the late 11th century: see Mason 1961-4: 43); the area to the north of Seighford which encloses the site of the old ford at Great Bridgeford; the deviation of the county boundary from the river Dove to take in a river crossing to the east of Crakemarth Hall (O.S. 1836); the curious boundary deviation to the east of Rocester where the border follows a secondary stream at the river Dove crossing; the deviation which appears on the first edition 1" O.S. map to the east of the Dove at Church Mayfield which includes the river crossing; the county boundary to the north of Edingale and Clifton Campville which deviates from the river Mease to include river crossings; and the bulge in the boundary on the south side of Chebsey to take in the site of the former ford.

⁴⁷ See for example SHC 1944 88; Palliser 1976: 29.

holder, and Clent indeed gave its name to a Worcestershire Hundred. Rowley Regis was at the time of Domesday ecclesiastically in Worcestershire, as was Dudley, and it seems unlikely that either was in the original county of Stafford.⁴⁸ Until 1966 Dudley and some of the adjoining area formed a detached island of Worcestershire in Staffordshire, and there may have been other similar cases: some parts of the north of the county some distance from the border may have been in Cheshire in the 12th and 13th century, for in 1185 property at Leek was listed with the Earl of Cheshire's farms, and other references a century or so later suggest an earlier association of Leek and adjoining areas with Cheshire.⁴⁹

A large area bordering the Severn, which included Alveley, Kingsnordley, Claverley, Worfield, and (possibly) Quatt, Romsley, Rudge and Shipley,⁵⁰ together with Cheswardine and Chipnall on the north-west border of the county, formed part of Staffordshire, but became part of Shropshire in the twelfth century, while Tyrley (in Hales) was taken from Shropshire at the same period, probably between 1099 and 1135.⁵¹ The adjustments were doubtless made because the lords of the various manors preferred not to hold estates divided by a county boundary, and because the river Tern was seen as a more permanent division than the previous boundary. At about the same date Edingale was 'mised' (transferred) into Staffordshire from Derbyshire.

The county boundary seems to have remained to a large extent unchanged from the end of the twelfth century until the first of the modern local government boundary revisions was completed in 1844. Detached parts of counties were taken by those surrounding them, with Clent and Broom incorporated into Worcestershire. Curiously, however, the parish of Dudley was left untouched, although Dudley Castle and surrounding land remained in Staffordshire. From 1891 some small areas of Harborne which had become suburbs of Birmingham were incorporated into Warwickshire, with part of Harborne absorbed into Birmingham, and in 1894-5 two western parishes were lost, Sheriffhales to Shropshire, and Upper Arley (including the portion on the west side of the river Severn) to Worcestershire.⁵² Four districts were taken from Derbyshire: Croxall, Edingale, Stapenhill, and Winshill, the last two now part of Burton-upon-Trent, although Oakley, part of Croxall, was in Staffordshire by 1086. At the same

⁴⁸ See SHC 1919 168-9; also King 1996: 73-91; SHC 1916 166.

⁴⁹ See VCH Ch II ii 178.

⁵⁰ The last four of these places are entered under Warwickshire in Domesday Book, and although Eyton 1881: 2-4 considered 'unquestionably' that they properly belonged to Staffordshire, and it was subsequently suggested that the area was 'mised' or transferred into Shropshire either because the Earl of Shropshire owned that quarter of the Hundred 1068-1103, or because after the Earl lost it the Crown retained it and administered it from Shrewsbury with the rest of the Earl's late estates, with the boundary redrawn under Henry I, 100-1135, and certainly before 1157 (SHC 1916 163), that view is not free from doubt: see TSAS LVII 1961-4 157-160; VCH IV 1. An unresolved question is whether the parish of Worfield, assessed at no less than 30 hides with a value of £18 in DB (VCH IV 48), extended to the river Severn to encompass what is now the Low Town area of Bridgnorth on the east bank of the Severn: VCH Sa I 286 assumed that the Staffordshire-Shropshire boundary ran along the Severn from Newton, three miles north-east of Bridgnorth, and that the latter place did not exist, but see TSAS LVII 1961-4 39; SHC 1916 191. It is possible that in the late Anglo-Saxon period the river Severn formed the south-western boundary of Staffordshire from Newton to south of Arley, with part of Quatford forming a small projection of Shropshire on the east side of the river, doubtless explained by the existence of an early ford or bridge here. Bridgnorth, like Tamworth, is certainly omitted from Domesday Book, perhaps because both places held the status of royal burhs.

⁵¹ Almost certainly because Almington was held at Domesday under the Earl of Shrewsbury by William Pantulf, Baron of Wem, who also held Tyrley under the same Earl. Pantulf mised Tyrley into the Staffordshire Hundred of Pirehill so that both places lay in the same hundredal jurisdiction: Eyton 1881: 7. See also SHC 1945-6 24-5.

⁵² The latter in 1897 according to VCH I 46.

time, the whole of Tamworth, divided between Staffordshire and Warwickshire since the Middle Ages, became part of Staffordshire. A large area adjoining the river Severn, which formed the south-west boundary of the county, was transferred to Shropshire, including part of Bobbington, which has since been recovered. Handsworth with its township of Perry Barr became part of Birmingham in 1911, and a few hundred square yards were transferred from Barton and Yoxall wards to Scropton in Derbyshire in the same year.⁵³ In 1894 part of Sheriffhales which had been in Staffordshire was moved into Shropshire.⁵⁴ It has been calculated that all these changes involved a net loss of only 2400 acres. In 1934 a small part of Edingale which had been in Derbyshire was transferred to Staffordshire. Further minor boundary changes were made in 1935 and 1936; in 1965 an area to the south and east of Tamworth hitherto forming part of Warwickshire was transferred into Staffordshire, bringing the whole of Tamworth into the county for the first time; and the following year the long-standing anomaly of Dudley was dealt with by moving it into Staffordshire.

In 1974, in the greatest reorganisation since 1066, the whole area generally known as the Black Country (the County Boroughs of Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Dudley), became the new West Midlands Metropolitan County.

The linguistic background

Within the last three thousand years five distinct groups of immigrants or invaders, each speaking a different language, have settled in Staffordshire, and each, to a greater or lesser extent, has influenced the formation of place-names in Staffordshire.

It is not possible to discover what the inhabitants of the area that became known as Staffordshire spoke in the hundreds of thousands of years of the so-called Stone Age periods, or the Bronze Age, or the earlier part of the Iron Age, but odd tantalising glimpses of this remote past may be discernible in the Staffordshire river-name Sow, which is likely to be pre-Celtic and derived from an earlier Old European language of which only fragmentary evidence in the form of place-names now survives.

The Celts were an ancient warrior people who originated in central Europe in about 1200 BC and settled in other parts of central and western Europe, including almost every part of England and Wales, in pre-Roman times. They spoke a Celtic language, known to philologists as British, technically a Brittonic or P-Celtic language, the ancestor of modern Welsh, Cornish and Breton, but which may have enshrined elements of a still earlier language. The Roman conquest of Britain began in 43AD, and by the end of the first century Latin was the language of officialdom throughout the conquered areas, including Staffordshire, and remained so for the next 300 years, although the native Celtic population will have continued to speak British. When the Romans withdrew early in the fifth century, the

⁵³ See TNSFC XLVII 1912-3 49. Under Enclosure Awards made in 1811, Scropton in Derbyshire gained a few hundred acres in Barton and Yoxall Wards. See also TNSFC XLVIII 1913-4 5 fn.

inhabitants they left behind were still essentially Celtic, and spoke much the same language as their ancestors at the time of the Roman invasion. That language was used by the indigenous population of Staffordshire well into the Anglo-Saxon period, in some places perhaps until the seventh century or even later, but it is customary to call British after approximately the middle of the sixth century by the names of the languages into which it developed, in this case Primitive Welsh.

Following the withdrawal of the Romans early in the fifth century opportunistic incursions into England were made by pagan Anglo-Saxon groups from Northern Europe. Those groups or tribes included the original Angles or English who gave us the Old English language, from which the vast majority of English place-names can be traced. The influx of settlers that followed the earliest incursions increased in later centuries as permanent footholds became established, and variously merged and subdivided until they dominated most of the island, except for Wales, Scotland and Cornwall, which remained Celtic strongholds. The settlers and invaders moved inland from several coastal areas, but in the main there were two separate routes of penetration into central England during the sixth and the early part of the seventh century. It was the Angles who advanced westwards into the Midlands from the eastern counties, reaching Staffordshire probably via the Trent and its tributaries in the mid sixth century and becoming firmly established during the first half of the seventh century,⁵⁵ while the Saxon people known as the Hwicce moved northwards and established settlements along the Severn and Avon focused around Worcester, reaching up as far as Wyre Forest and the forests of Kinver and Morfe in north Worcestershire and south Staffordshire.⁵⁶ From about the close of the sixth century it is likely that areas with Celtic-speaking populations gradually reduced to linguistically isolated enclaves which in the West Midlands may have all but vanished by the eighth century. The reasons why and how a relatively small number of Anglo-Saxon immigrants managed to impose their language on a much larger native population (which the Romans demonstrably failed to do after over three centuries of occupation) is still the subject of academic speculation, but the presence of Welsh-speaking people in Staffordshire is supported by a number of place-names incorporating Old English words for 'Welshman', and further evidenced by river-names and place-names incorporating Celtic elements.

The groups of Anglo-Saxons (more specifically West Angles) involved in the westwards expansion into what was to become Staffordshire seem to have included tribes called the Bilsaeten, Hwicce, Pencersaeten, Rhydware, Tomsaeten and Mierce, whose names are likely to be associated with Bilston, Wychnor, the area around the river Penk near Penkridge, Ridware, Tamworth and Mercia. The Mercians were named from the Old English word *mearc* 'boundary', but the nature and location of that boundary remains unresolved, though most historians opt for a boundary between the English of the West Midlands and the native British to the west.

⁵⁴ VCH IV 61.

⁵⁵ See Jackson 1953: 209; 222. Higham 1993: 70 and 72 'very tentatively' identifies the *Wreocensetun* with the Cornovii of Roman Britain and believes they were a British people based at sub-Roman Wroxeter with their territory incorporating Cheshire, much of Shropshire and Western Staffordshire.

⁵⁶ From their links with Worcestershire evidenced in Domesday Book it is probable that the royal manors of Kinver and Kingswinford were settled from the south: see VCH Wo I 287.

Wherever their boundary, the Mercians expanded from a people concentrated around the basin of the upper Trent and its tributaries and gradually conquered or absorbed most of their neighbouring tribes, and became 'not so much a state as a group of peoples held together by an illustrious dynasty'.⁵⁷ It was in the early seventh century under Penda (c.632-55), a Mercian leader of royal blood, that the power of Mercia greatly increased. Penda seems to have conquered or absorbed the Middle Angles of the east, the Hwicce of the south-west Midlands and the Celts of what are now Shropshire and Herefordshire, including the people known as the Wreocensætan,⁵⁸ who lived in the area near The Wrekin, and so brought into being the united kingdom of Mercia, extending from the Humber and The Wash to Chester and Hereford, with its chief town at Tamworth. Mercia continued as an independent political unit for over 200 years, reaching its zenith during the reign of Offa (756-796), the most powerful English king of his day. From about 650 to 870 the Mercians were by far the most dominant of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, with greater Mercia eventually extending from the Humber to the Thames, but with its centre of power remaining at its historic heartland in Staffordshire.⁵⁹ Its earliest and principal cathedral was at Lichfield,⁶⁰ and its foremost royal residence at Tamworth, with a royal monastery, probably established by the late seventh century, at Repton in Derbyshire, a mere three miles east of the Staffordshire border. In 850 England was divided into the four large and wealthy kingdoms of Mercia, Northumbria, Wessex and East Anglia. By the end of the century only Wessex and fragments of western Mercia and northern Northumbria had escaped Danish depredation and domination.

The Danes, popularly known as the Norsemen ('men from the north') or Vikings, and frequently termed simply 'the heathen' or 'the pagans' in the early Chronicles, began their raids into England at the end of the eighth century. In 865 a great army of Danes invaded England, and in 874 launched raids from a base established at Repton and overran Mercia with great destruction, effectively ending Mercian supremacy. Danish settlers forming or following the army of conquest moved into unoccupied land in the north and east of England, and wealthy and powerful Viking kingdoms were established in East Anglia and at York. The language of the Danes, now called Old Norse, was used to adopt or translate existing place-names or to create new ones, but their influence was strongest in the Danelaw,⁶¹ an area which covered the north and east of England and was the subject of a treaty with king Ceolwulf c.877. The boundary of the Danelaw at that date is unknown from contemporary evidence, but a treaty of c.886⁶² between king Alfred and the Danish king Guthrum mentions boundaries, the last of which is

⁵⁷ Stenton 1971: 202.

⁵⁸ See Jackson 1953: 210.

⁵⁹ It has long been suggested that an early Mercian royal centre may have existed at *Wulfcester*, generally associated with the earthworks known as Bury Bank near Stone. VCH XIV 5 suggests that such identification is based more on long tradition than historical or archaeological evidence, but see Studd 1993: 55.

⁶⁰ The first Mercian bishops, many of whom came from Northumbria, appear to have had no cathedral - their diocese was very large, and they may have been peripatetic - but when Chad was consecrated in 669 he built a small church at Lichfield, perhaps at Stowe Pool to the east of the present cathedral, and made this the centre of his see: see Gould 1993: 101-4.

⁶¹ The Danelaw was not a uniform entity, but is now used as a convenient shorthand expression for the complex arrangement of disconnected regional communities sharing a common respect for Danish law and a common pre-Danish ancestry: see Lapidge *et al* 1999: 137.

⁶² Guthrum's treaty is generally held to date from 886x890, but see Dumville 1992: 1-23.

Watling Street.⁶³ It was long assumed from this that Watling Street in its entirety formed the boundary, but it is now believed that the line between English and Danish Mercia is likely to have deviated northwards from Watling Street at Mancetter, ignoring the rivers Anker and Tame, which meet near Tamworth, and followed a line which eventually became the boundary separating Staffordshire, Cheshire and Lancashire from Derbyshire and Yorkshire.⁶⁴ That would have left Tamworth itself, the early Mercian centre, several miles inside Mercia, and the the whole of Staffordshire outside the Danelaw.⁶⁵ Evidence of Danish influence in Staffordshire is sparse,⁶⁶ but the river Trent evidently acted as a highway for Scandinavian penetration. Excavations at Catholme,⁶⁷ close to Wychnor and Ryknild Street, suggests that a settlement there may have been destroyed in the Danish invasions of the 890s, pointing towards Scandinavian penetration along the Roman roads (including Ryknild Street and Watling Street) as well as major rivers.

The treaty of c.886 did not prevent constant raiding into the others' territory by both the English and the Danes, culminating in a great battle between a Danish army, retreating from west of the Severn laden with booty, and a combined force of Mercians and West Saxons, in the vicinity of Tettenhall or Wednesfield c.910 when the Danes were decisively defeated and several of their kings killed.⁶⁸ That re-established Anglo-Saxon control in the area, with the Danes concentrating their attention on the European mainland, and allowed Alfred, and his son Edward the Elder (and later Edward's sister Æthelflæd, 'Lady of the Mercians'), to create or strengthen a series of fortified centres from which to defend the English heartland, not only against threats from the Danelaw, but also against Irish Vikings moving into territory around North Wales and The Wirral, and serve as bases from which to regain control over the Danelaw.

To what extent the Danish campaigns affected Staffordshire is difficult to establish, particularly since Scandinavian place-names do not occur in every area of the Danelaw, but from their Repton base, chosen for their main winter fortresses in 873-4, the Danes by tradition occupied Tamworth⁶⁹ and possibly Hanbury,⁷⁰ and since several of the *burhs* established by Edward the Elder and Æthelflæd were on sites known to have been occupied by the Danes, the *burh* established at Stafford in 913 might be seen as evidence, albeit slight, that Stafford suffered Danish occupation, if not destruction. Certainly it would have been militarily prudent for the Danes to have had a presence in areas close to their Repton base, even if only to act as forward posts to give advance warning of any enemy activity, and the Danes may themselves have utilised an even earlier fortification created as early as the eighth

⁶³ 'First concerning our boundaries: up the Thames, and then up the Lea, and along the Lea to its source, then in a straight line to Bedford, then up the Ouse to the Watling Street': Whitelock 1955: 380.

⁶⁴ Sawyer 1971: 151; Davies 1982: 803-10.

⁶⁵ The statement in Greenslade & Stuart 1984: 26 that 'Central and Northern Staffordshire...fell under Danish control' is based on the assumption that Watling Street formed the boundary of the Danelaw in Staffordshire.

⁶⁶ See Darby & Terret 1971: 178; also SHC 1916 150; VCH IV 3, 6. Overall, the evidence provided by Domesday, the fact that the geld assessments were based on the hide, and the absence of Scandinavian tenurial terminology in early Staffordshire records supports the view that Danish influence was insignificant.

⁶⁷ See Faull 1984: 101-14; Losco-Bradley & Kinsley 2002.

⁶⁸ Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 94; Whitelock 1955: 193.

⁶⁹ The place disappears from the records from 874 to 913.

century.⁷¹ The dearth of names of Scandinavian origin or influence in the county tends to support the generally accepted view that the county lay outside the area of Danish influence.

The Norman conquest of 1066 is the most recent and best-recorded conquest of England. The Normans, so-named as descendants of Norsemen who had conquered part of France, had assimilated French culture and language which they introduced into England. French became the official language of the ruling classes for the next two centuries, with formal documents written in Latin or Norman French. Perhaps surprisingly, given the nature of the total military conquest, just as the British language survived centuries of Roman occupation, so vernacular Anglo-Saxon survived and evolved and eventually replaced Latin and Norman French for official use, though some post-Conquest records, such as Feet of Fines, Subsidy Rolls and Assize Rolls, are in Latin or 'dog-Latin', which required the scribes or clerks to Latinise all names inserted in them, and it will be noticed that many Staffordshire names extracted from such records are Latinised or show evidence of Latin inflections.

Sound changes, dialect and place-names

⁷⁰ By tradition St. Werburgh's remains had been translated from Hanbury to Chester following Danish occupation of Hanbury or Repton: VCH Ch I 252; 268.

⁷¹ See Basset 1996: 156, citing Halam 1987: 76-93.

Words and personal-names used in the formation of place-names will have been pronounced in the local dialect, and whilst officials might have adopted formalised spellings, the 'vernacular' spellings used locally will generally reflect those dialect differences.⁷² Certainly as early as the Anglo-Saxon period there were, as today, clear dialectal differences in the language spoken (and written) in different parts of the country, and the Old English language of that period has been divided into four distinct dialects: Kentish, West Saxon, Mercian and Northumbrian, the last two sometimes together known as Anglian. Phonological spellings often require the key provided by a knowledge of Old (and Middle) English dialect before they can be explained, but any dialectal analysis is outside the scope of this study, though it may briefly be noted by way of example that in the Midlands, Old English *ā* was rounded in Middle English to *ō*, so that Old English *āc* becomes modern *oak*. Old English *ēast* is a common first element in place-names, but in the Midlands often becomes *Ast-*, and the word for 'spring' (and occasionally 'stream', and very rarely 'well'), a very common element in place-names, was *wella* in Anglian and Kentish areas, but in Mercian territory the word is *wælle*, which became *walle* in Middle English, and is very difficult to distinguish from *wall*, though the context will often provide a guide: Coldwall is more likely to be 'cold spring' than 'cold wall'. Again, the Old English *y* in words such as *hrycg* and *hyll* ('ridge' and 'hill') frequently becomes *u* in the West and Central Midlands, for example in Rudge, Rugeley, Penkhull and Hulton.

An analysis of Staffordshire place-names

Introduction

Since the area of what was to become Staffordshire lay in the heartland of what is known as 'original' Mercia, perhaps a grouping of early unrecorded peoples created primarily by military means and based on the royal and ecclesiastical foci of Tamworth and Lichfield respectively, which developed into by far the most successful of the various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, it is especially surprising to find that there are virtually no extant Mercian written records or other evidence. That dearth is attributable to a number of reasons.

Since Bede had no Mercian contributors or informants, his Ecclesiastical History of the English People concentrates on non-Mercian areas. Various fragmentary annals purporting to date from the sixth or seventh century identified amongst the compilations of later chroniclers appear to be East Anglian in origin.⁷³ Although Mercia, with Lichfield as its religious hub, was an important literary and cultural centre,⁷⁴ no pre-Conquest manuscript, teacher or scholar can be definitely linked to Lichfield. Even a 9th century homily on the life of St Chad in the Mercian dialect may have been produced elsewhere,

⁷² For West Midland dialect and sound changes see generally Clark 1919; EPNE i xxiv-xxxvi, Kristensson 1987; Levitt 1968; Miller 1891-1900; Nicholls 1934; Northall 1894; Orton 1969; Wilson 1974. On Poole 1880, however, see Levitt 1987: 195-206.

⁷³ See Davies 1977: 17-29.

⁷⁴ Wainwright observed that '...Lichfield seems to have been a cultural centre the importance of which is not sufficiently recognised': Finberg 1975: 71.

and the illuminated 8th century gospel book known as St Chad's Gospels originated outside Mercia, and reached Lichfield only in the 10th century.⁷⁵ No early biographies exist of the great Mercian kings Æthelbald or Offa, nor evidence of their laws.⁷⁶ Of at least 159 Latin diplomas recorded from Mercian rulers, almost all relate to estates outside Mercia proper, and coins issued by Mercian kings were seemingly minted elsewhere. Virtually no Mercian buildings survive above ground,⁷⁷ and there are no charters dated before 940. Even the mysterious early listing of peoples and districts known as the Tribal Hidage,⁷⁸ perhaps a taxation assessment, may not have been Mercian in origin, for the first hidage assessment is of Mercia itself, and if it is indeed a taxation list it is improbable that a Mercian king would have imposed tributes on his own people.⁷⁹

The fact that Mercia was by far the last of the major kingdoms to weld itself into a single unit of the so-called Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy, and that there was no single Midland dynasty, together with the depredations of the Danes towards the end of the 9th century, probably explains the absence of annals or chronicles for the Midlands. Even the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle found little to record until later in the Anglo-Saxon period about what was to become Staffordshire, and then only fleetingly.⁸⁰ Indeed, were it not for the so-called Mercian Register, a record of the military exploits of Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians, in the early tenth century, which was incorporated en bloc in one version of the Chronicle,⁸¹ we would know next to nothing of her life and impact on the area.⁸² The Register serves to highlight the fact that many critical incidents in Mercian history must have gone unrecorded, or that the documentary evidence has been lost. In terms of historical research, as opposed to archaeological or linguistic studies, the early Anglo-Saxon period in Staffordshire is in many ways a true Dark Age.

Nevertheless, Staffordshire toponymists are not denied some valuable, albeit limited, pre-Conquest material, in the form of place-names recorded in a number of Anglo-Saxon writs and wills, most notably the will, dating from 1004, of the Mercian magnate Wulfric Spot, and of the relatively modest number of boundary clauses⁸³ from Anglo-Saxon estate charters (many surviving only as later copies),

⁷⁵ VCH XIV 6-7. The view that the Gospels could not have originated in Wales because at the period in question there were no scriptoria has been challenged by Professor Wendy Davies, on the basis that in the Dark Ages, Wales had 36 monasteries in the south-east alone, and the author of a ninth-century poem describes himself as the librarian of the fathers of Tenby: Byron Rogers, 'Gospel Proof', Daily Telegraph, 31 December 2000 9.

⁷⁶ Chaney 1970: 177-8.

⁷⁷ One notable exception is All Saints' church, Brixworth, Northampton, perhaps dating from c.680.

⁷⁸ See footnote 15.

⁷⁹ See Bassett 1989: 159-60; 225-30; Dumville 1989: 129; Higham 1992: 1-15.

⁸⁰ The earliest reference in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to any place within Staffordshire is Lichfield, where Ceolred, king of Mercia, is said to have been buried in 716, with subsequent references to Tettenhall and Wednesfield c.910 in connection with the defeat of the Danes by a joint army of Mercians and West Saxons, and to Stafford in 913 when it was fortified by Æthelflæd. Staffordshire is first recorded by name in an entry for 1016: Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 147.

⁸¹ The 'C' version: Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 99.

⁸² But note that Irish annals known as The Three Fragments also provide evidence for Æthelflæd's activities: see Cavill *et al* 2000.

⁸³ 17 for Staffordshire, compared with 96 for Worcestershire and 58 for Gloucestershire: Hooke 1983 25. For Shropshire, as well as documents connected with Wenlock Priory, 3 pre-Conquest charters (all of the 10th century), two wills and a writ of Edward the Confessor survive: PN Sa I xiv. Hart 1975: 165 suggests that a much larger collection of Anglo-Saxon charters is likely to have been preserved at Burton Abbey up to and after the Conquest, since most of the estates listed in Domesday Book as being in the possession of Burton are

which have been the subject of considerable research and analysis and which provide some of the earliest evidence for the pre-Conquest history of Staffordshire, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the county.

As would be expected, Domesday Book provides incomparable information on Staffordshire place-names at the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, with the great majority of ancient Staffordshire names first recorded in the great register, but some of the names from the survey pose particular difficulties of both identification and etymology.

For the purposes of this analysis, particular emphasis is placed on the more important names, that is names which are recorded in Domesday Book, or which have given their names to ancient parishes, or which are well-recorded as settlements from an early date, although other, lesser, names, including field-names, are included where appropriate.

Celtic influence

In Staffordshire there are many place-names with probable (or possible) British or Primitive Welsh elements, or which refer to British people, including Barr, Brewood, Chatterley, Cheadle, *Comberbach*, *Cumberfield*, Comberford, Crakelow, Creighton, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Hints, Ingestre, Kiddemore Green, Kinver, Lichfield, Lizard, Minnbank, Morfe, Penkhull, Penkridge, Penn, Ridware, Saverley Green, Seisdon, Talke, Trysull, Walford, Walsall and Walton (four places of that name, and another now in Worcestershire), and perhaps Ilam and Ocker Hill, as well as a number of hill-names which may be of British origin, including Mow Cop, Bar Hill and Barr Beacon. Celtic river- or stream-names are common, and include Anker, Churnet, *Cocker* (two), Dane, Dork, Dove, Hamps, *Kyre*, Leamonsley, Penk, Tame, Tern and Trent. Tamworth and Tamhorn, which both take their names from the river Tame, may well have existed as settlements in Celtic-speaking times, since the use of a river-name was one of the most common ways of denoting settlements in the Romano-British period.⁸⁴ Special significance has been attached by researchers to isolated Celtic names in areas where pre-English names are rare, especially where such names are attached to relatively insignificant streams in an area where otherwise only some of the major rivers keep their ancient names, and there may be a correlation with the Romano-British archaeology of such areas.⁸⁵ *Cocker*, *Cun*⁸⁶, *Cund*,⁸⁷ *Dork*, *Kyre* and *Severn* may be lost names of comparatively minor streams which may provide tentative evidence for late Roman and post-Roman activity: the two cases of *Cocker* may be associated with the numerous Roman sites around Greensforge and the Roman road between Rocester and Stoke on Trent,⁸⁸ *Kyre*

unrepresented in surviving charters, which must be seen as 'chance survivals from a much more comprehensive collection, which would have been particularly rich for Staffordshire and Derbyshire...'

⁸⁴ See Gelling 1988: 51.

⁸⁵ See Gelling 1979: 115.

⁸⁶ See Consall.

⁸⁷ Probably found in the name Scounslow.

⁸⁸ Cocking Farm lies 1½ miles from this road (Margary number 181).

with the various Roman sites (including a villa) at Pennocrucium, and *Severn* with a possible Roman road running from Blythe Bridge to earthworks, possibly Roman, at Hollywood, south-east of Stone.

It may be noted that three ancient royal Forests (a legal term introduced by the Normans for areas, not necessarily wooded, subject to Forest law and in which the king had exclusive rights to hunt) in the southern half of the county - Brewood, Kinver and Morfe⁸⁹ - all have names of probable British origin, as does Cannock Chase, another vast tract of high ancient woodland. As elsewhere, Celtic place-names identified in Staffordshire typically incorporate topographical elements, rather than words for a habitation or settlement.

During the latter part of the sixth century and the earlier part of the seventh century Staffordshire was in transition from a predominantly Welsh populated and speaking area to a predominantly English peopled and English speaking area, and it was not until about the end of the ninth century that Welsh speech is likely to have died out.⁹⁰ The place-names listed above show other signs of a Welsh/English transition, particularly the large proportion of hybrid names, where an English element qualifies or explains a Welsh element, such as Brewood, Chatterley, Cheadle, Eccleshall, Gnosall, Lichfield, and Penkhull. These can be seen as the adaption by the English of existing Welsh names: they are English names with a Welsh basis, from a time when the English were beginning to dominate a Welsh area but the Welsh language was still recognisable. The other manifestation of the Welsh/English social overlap can be detected in the names Comberford, Comberbach, Cumberfield (and possibly Cumberstone), and in Walton, Walford, and (possibly) Walsall, collectively categorised by Dodgson as 'Indian Reservation' names.⁹¹ Comberford, Comberbach and Cumberfield are 'the ford of the Cumbre', 'the stream valley of the Cumbre', and 'the *feld* or open land of the Cumbre', noteworthy for the use of the Old English term *Cumbre*, the anglicised and non-derogatory version of the Welsh national name, *Cymry*. Walton, Walford are 'the farmstead or village of the Walas', 'the ford of the Walas', and (possibly) Walsall 'the *halh* of Walh or the Walas', *Walas* being the Old English word for 'the foreigners; the inferior race; the serfs', which was a derogatory term applied to the Welsh. With the *Comber-* names the Welsh are referred to in polite terms, whereas the *Walas* names are less respectful of Welsh sentiment. These names might signify places associated with, or possibly even reserved for, the remnants of a displaced Welsh population, coined at a time when a concentration of Welsh people was a noteworthy survival in Staffordshire, meriting a special name. The *Comber-* names may be taken as evidence for enclaves of Welsh near Cannock and Tamworth (and perhaps near Seighford and Swynnerton) speaking their own language, with a degree of respectful recognition from the dominant English population.⁹² But the possibility that every one of these names marked a historical, rather than contemporary, association with elements of the native Welsh population during the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon colonisation cannot be ignored, and it may be dangerous to read too much into these

⁸⁹ See VCH IV 21.

⁹⁰ See Gelling 1992: 70.

⁹¹ PN Ch VII (ii) 297.

⁹² These comments and conclusions are based largely on PN Ch V (ii) 296-8, and see particularly Cameron 1979-80.

names, either individually or collectively. Finally, it may be noted that no English personal names with a Welsh element added have been noted as place-names in Staffordshire.

In his survey of Cheshire place-names Dodgson noted:

‘From the date-schemes proposed by Kenneth Jackson in *Language & History in Early Britain*⁹³ it will be found that Cheadle and Chathull contain a Welsh element in a form which has not undergone an eighth century Welsh change, whereas Tame and Lyme show English *m*, from a Welsh sound which was proceeding from *m* to *v* over a long period, sixth to tenth centuries, being heard by the English as *m* down to the tenth century, and as *v* as early as the late sixth century, with an overlap and alternation of English *m*, *v*, and sound-substitution in the seventh century...These names could be late sixth century adoptions into English’.⁹⁴

For Cheadle (Cheshire) and Chathull (Cheshire), the Staffordshire names Cheadle and Chatcull, which contain correspondingly identical Welsh first elements, can be substituted to produce the same conclusions.

The name Hints is usually held to be the English plural of Welsh *hynt* ‘road’, from British **sento-*. If that is the case (and the derivation is not free from doubt), the name must have been used by Welsh speakers through the period when *S-* changed to *H-*, usually considered to be the middle or second half of the 6th century.⁹⁵ In Wales Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, is Wales End, an early- fifteenth-century timbered house, the name of which may denote Welsh-speakers, but the name has not been traced before the sixteenth century, and is perhaps not much older in date.

Roman influence

Only two places with Roman names have been identified in Staffordshire, *Letocetum* and *Pennocrucium*, which have given rise to the modern names Lichfield and Penkridge, although in neither case does the modern place stand on the site associated with the ancient name. The Roman names are both likely to derive from yet older names, and incorporate the earliest recorded example of two of the commonest British place-name elements.

Letocetum (also recorded as *Etoceto* and *Lectoceto*)⁹⁶ has been identified as the Roman settlement at Wall, which lies on Watling Street, 2 miles south-west of Lichfield, but the ghost of the name survives as the first part of the name Lichfield itself. The earliest spellings for the name *Letocetum* are found in a fourth-century copy (surviving in 8th century texts) of the Antonine Itinerary, a Roman road-book

⁹³ Jackson 1953: 555.

⁹⁴ PN Ch V (ii) 295-6.

⁹⁵ Jackson 1953: 521. Jackson himself considered such derivation for Hints ‘quite uncertain’, and the name possibly pre-Celtic: *ibid.* 519.

listing the distance between Roman cities, towns, and posting stations. The name derives from British **Lētocaiton* meaning 'grey or brown wood', from **lēto-* (Welsh *llwyd*) 'grey' and **caito-* (Welsh *coed*) 'wood'.⁹⁷ *Coed* is one of the most common British words in English place-names, but its British ancestor occurs only once – in *Letocetum* – in names recorded in Roman Britain.⁹⁸ When the name was first recorded in the Antonine Itinerary it had perhaps been taken from a pre-Roman wood or large estate (perhaps with a so-far undiscovered pre-Roman settlement)⁹⁹ with the British name **Lētgēd* (which gives OWelsh *Luitcoyt*)¹⁰⁰ which in Romano-British times may have extended some distance north of Watling Street,¹⁰¹ or coined by troops from a continental Celtic area who formed part of the Roman army: it is known that such troops frequently gave Celtic names to uninhabited places.¹⁰² The 'grey wood' might be identified as the extensive high woodland of Cannock Chase,¹⁰³ with the lower ground to the south and south-east later forming the *feld* of *Luitcoyt*,¹⁰⁴ or an extensive area of woodland which existed in the area of Wall in Romano-British times, with Lichfield in open land to the north.¹⁰⁵ OE *feld* is generally interpreted as 'open land', but at the time of the English incursions may have held the special meaning 'common pasture', and applied when the English began to cultivate that pasture.¹⁰⁶ In due course the name *Luitcoyt* became associated with the area in which stands the place now known as Lichfield, the early history of which is of interest.

In the mid-13th century the idea developed that the name Lichfield was from OE *līc* (ME *lich*) 'body, corpse', with the meaning 'field of corpses' attributable to a battle. The historian Matthew Paris (d.1259) suggested that the name commemorated the slaughter of 999 Christians, martyred under the emperor Diocletian between 284-305 AD, and associated the event with the fictitious St. Alban. The story appears not to have been taken seriously in Lichfield (Leland does not mention the incident in his

⁹⁶ Rivet & Smith 1979: 387-8.

⁹⁷ Rivet & Smith 1979: 386-7. The usual rendering of the first element is 'grey', but the word 'crosses the English perceptual boundary between grey brown': see Hjelmlev 1968. The name was in late British **Ledogēd*, developing via Primitive Welsh **Led'gēd*, later **Luitgēd*, into OE *Liccīd*. *Letocetum* may have been a semi-technical term for surviving areas of wildwood, the translation of which survives in the name Harwood (from OE *hār* 'grey') found in several counties: see N & Q NS 44, No. 4, 453-8; PN Ch IV 227-8. The derivation of *Letocetum* was first solved by the philologist Henry Bradley (Bradley 1886: 296; 1889: 545f.), but his identification of *Lwytgoed* as Lichfield was discounted by Duignan 1902: 92-3, who concluded that the name was from Old English *lache*, *leche* meaning 'a morass, a bog', so giving 'the boggy field'.

⁹⁸ Gelling & Cole 2000: 223.

⁹⁹ Gelling 1988: 57.

¹⁰⁰ See Jackson 1953: 332.

¹⁰¹ A possible clue to the extent of the land or territorium of *Letocetum* may be the bishop of Chester's manor of Lichfield as recorded in Domesday Book. The manor may be evidence of an estate many centuries older. 23 settlements are listed, 3 of which cannot be identified, and 3 of which (Harborne, Smethwick and Tipton) can probably be disregarded given their distance from the area. The remainder are spread over a sizeable area bounded roughly by Cannock Chase on the west, on the east by the river Tame, and extending just north of the river Trent and just beyond Watling Street to the south. *Letocetum* lies close to the southern edge of this area: see TSSAHS X 1968-9 50-1. The ancient parish of St Michael's includes Wall within its southern boundary and incorporates (with St Mary's parish, which appears to have been taken out of St Michael's parish) much of the early settlement of Lichfield: TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 33, 47.

¹⁰² Rivet & Smith 1979: 22-3.

¹⁰³ Cf. the pre-English names Kinver and Morfe, and part pre-English Brewood, for vast areas of forest.

¹⁰⁴ In that respect it is of interest that some places named *hēan lēah* ('high wood'), such as Henley in Oxfordshire and Hanley Castle and Hanley Swan in Worcestershire, are not themselves on high ground. It has been suggested that such places may have been so-named from woods on higher ground overlooking the settlement, which would be a striking visual marker for travellers: Gelling & Cole 2000: 239. Another possibility is that *hēah* is to be interpreted in some contexts as 'chief, most important'.

¹⁰⁵ See Gelling 1992: 60.

account of his visit to the city c.1540), but in 1549 the new corporation commemorated the massacre in the design of its seal, and attempts were later made to use local place-names to support the story: in the 1570s it was claimed that Boley and Spearhill near Lichfield referred to bows and spears used in the massacre, and as late as 1816, following the discovery of human bones, Elmhurst was identified as the scene of the massacre. A variant of the story claimed that the corpses referred to by the element *Lich-* were those of the army of three Christian kings defeated at Lichfield by Diocletian, and various places were identified as the burial place of the Christian dead, including Elmhurst, St. Michael's churchyard, Borrowcop Hill, and the site of the cathedral. Another theory, put forward in the later 17th century, proposed that the name is from OE **lece* 'stream, boggy ground near a stream',¹⁰⁷ but that derivation is etymologically impossible. The name Lichfield is now generally held to mean 'the *feld* or open land near or belonging to Luitcoyt', or 'the common pasture in (or beside or near) the grey or brown wood', the colour presumably indicating the predominant species or perhaps denoting lichen-covered trees, and to have originated at some time during the seventh century.¹⁰⁸ Spellings for Lichfield dating from c.715 with the preposition *on* (or *an*) suggest (with parallels elsewhere) an area of some size called 'in Lichfield', and that 'Lichfield' came to mean the principal place in that area, in which case *Lyccidfelth* (which does not *per se* indicate a place of habitation) is likely to have been a late 7th century development of the existing name of a large area, gradually applied more narrowly to the cathedral and its immediate area.¹⁰⁹

A Welsh elegy, the Marwnad Cynddylan, or 'Lament for Cynddylan',¹¹⁰ possibly compiled as early as c.655, but perhaps more than a century later,¹¹¹ refers to a great raid on *Caer Lwytgoed* in which neither the bishop nor 'the book-clutching monks' were spared,¹¹² and 1,500 cattle and 80 horses were seized as booty and taken to Powys.¹¹³ The identification of *Caer Lwytgoed* has given rise to considerable academic speculation: *Caer* normally refers to a fortified place, and it has been observed that Lichfield could not then have been described as a *caer*, since its defences did not exist until about the mid-12th century.¹¹⁴ The name may well refer to Letocetum (from which traces of a Christian presence have

¹⁰⁶ See Gelling 1981: 14.

¹⁰⁷ See Plot 1686: 398; SHC 1950-1 147.

¹⁰⁸ Jackson 1953: 332-5.

¹⁰⁹ VCH XIV 38. A very full account of the history of the name Lichfield can be found in VCH XIV 37-9 and TSSAHS XXVIII 1986-7 1-13; see also N & Q 242 453-8; Jackson 1953: 327, 332; Watts 1979: 123, 124 fn. 5. On *Caer Lwytgoed* and Letocetum see TSSAHS XXXIII 1986-7 7-10. Lichfield was created a county by royal charter in 1553 (Shaw 1798: I 309), and re-united with Staffordshire by statute in 1888 (VCH XIV 83).

¹¹⁰ See VCH XIV 37, and Rowland 1990. The *Historia Brittonum*, a history of Britain to the 680s, compiled by an unknown author in north Wales c.829, and popularly attributed to Nennius (Lapidge *et al* 1999: 239-40) records *cair loit coit* (or *Cair Luitcoyt*) as one of the 28 (or 33, depending on the version) cities of Britain, which is presumed to be the same place as *Caer Llwtgoed* (VCH XIV 37). All the cities listed in the *Historia* are given the title *cair*. It is possible that the author of the *Historia* knew of the name from the 'Lament for Cynddylan'.

¹¹¹ The reference to an archbishop, for example, points towards knowledge of the archdiocese of Lichfield, created in 787: N. J. Higham 2002: 178.

¹¹² An incident that might owe more to the Bede's description of the Battle of Chester than any mysterious massacre in the Lichfield area: N. J. Higham 2002: 178.

¹¹³ Usually considered to be a Welsh action against Mercia, but see Brooks 1989: 169: 169; Rowland 1990: 134; TSSAHS XXXIII 1991-2 9-10; Gelling 1992: 73.

¹¹⁴ Brooks 1989: 169; Gould 1991-2: 7-8. The bishopric moved from Lichfield to Chester after a council held at Windsor in 1072 decided that bishops' sees should be in walled towns rather than in villages: Preest 2002: 208 fn.5. *Caer Luit Coyt* is identified as Lichfield on the 1974 O.S. map of Dark Age Britain.

been recovered),¹¹⁵ with its extensive stone defences, well recorded historically and archaeologically, but no evidence has been found (which does not of course mean that none exists) of any occupation later than the fifth century.¹¹⁶ It is conceivable, but unlikely, that the prehistoric earthworks of Castle Old Fort near Stonnal (3 miles from Letocetum, and visible from the Roman site), or the enigmatic earthworks nearby at Loaches Bank, or Castle Ring on the highest point of Cannock Chase (5 miles from Letocetum), are to be identified with *Caer Lwytgoed*.¹¹⁷

However, *Caer Lwytgoed* might refer to the early site at Lichfield, for the identification as Letocetum based on a narrow meaning of *Caer*¹¹⁸ fails to recognise that Old Welsh *cair* and *civitas* are evidently synonymous in the ninth-century list of the 28 *civitates* of Britain listed in *Historia Brittonum*, the names of which all begin with *cair*,¹¹⁹ and Welsh *caer* is often used in the Welsh forms of English place-names of Celtic origin, where it has the significance of Latin *urbs* 'city' in the earliest texts, but comes in Cornish and Breton - and probably also Primitive Welsh - to mean simply 'homestead' or 'village'.¹²⁰ In modern Welsh the word *caer* has a wide band of meanings, ranging from 'Roman camp' to '(non-Roman) fort', and 'castle' to 'city', and there is evidence that it might mean 'town, village'.¹²¹ In this case therefore *Caer Llwytgoed* could properly be interpreted as 'the town or village associated with Lwytgoed, 'the grey wood''. Although indistinct traces of Saxon settlement have been recorded to the south of the cathedral,¹²² historians conclude that Lichfield is unlikely to have been anything other than a modest ecclesiastical site until well after the Conquest: as late as the twelfth century the Anglo-Norman chronicler William of Malmesbury described Lichfield as 'a small village in Staffordshire far from the habitation of men'.¹²³ It might be surprising however if such an important ecclesiastical centre with its founder's shrine had not attracted some commercial activity in the form of hostelryes and suchlike before the Conquest, but whatever the size of Lichfield it is not impossible that even a very modest community may have been described as a *caer*, as evidenced by other relatively insignificant places listed in the *Historia Brittonum*. At present therefore it can only be concluded that *Caer*

¹¹⁵ See TSSAHS XIV 1972-3 30-31; TSSAHS XXXIV 1992-3 1-4. It has been suggested that there was a British see (and possibly a monastery) at sub-Roman Wall, which was succeeded by St. Michael's church in Lichfield: Basset 1992: 13-40; N. J. Higham 2002: 110. That would explain the statement of 'Eddius' Stephanus, the contemporary biographer of St Wilfrid, that Lichfield was '*a suitable place*' to establish the see of the Mercians in 669: Colgrave 1927: Chapter 15. But then so would the existence of a pagan shrine. It is not inconceivable that Stowe at Lichfield took its name not as popularly supposed from its legendary associations with St. Chad, but because it was already a holy Christian site when the place was chosen for the first Mercian cathedral: cf. Eccleshall and its Celtic Christian history.

¹¹⁶ VCH XIV 4.

¹¹⁷ It may be noted that Viroconium was founded on the banks of the Severn under the shadow of the Wrekin and its great hill-fort. In the case of Castle Ring, some nine acres in extent and the largest and most elaborate of the Iron-Age hillforts in Staffordshire, with views from the foothills of the Pennines to the South Shropshire hills, a Cistercian abbey was established a mile or so to the south at Radmore c.1143, before being moved to Stoneleigh in Warwickshire eleven years or so later: VCH III 225. It would be fanciful to believe that Radmore may have been chosen for long remembered local links with early Christianity.

¹¹⁸ See for example Brooks 1989: 169.

¹¹⁹ Padel 1985: 50, citing Jackson 1938: 44-55.

¹²⁰ EPNE i 76; also Coates & Breeze 2000: 150; 348.

¹²¹ Padel 1985: 50.

¹²² TSSAHS XII 1980-1 3; 10.

¹²³ Hamilton 1870: 307; Preest 2002: 207 translates the passage: 'Lichfield is a small town in the county of Staffordshire, far away from crowded cities. It is surrounded by woods and has a small river flowing past'. See also TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 24. Stephen of Ripon (the so-called 'Eddius' Stephanus), writing probably between 710 and 720, refers to Lichfield as a *locus*: Colgrave 1927: chapter 15.

Lwytgoed probably refers to Letocetum (Wall), or possibly Lichfield, or perhaps even an earthwork in the area such as Castle Old Fort or Castle Ring, or some other location in the area that yet remains unidentified.¹²⁴

The name Pennocrucium, recorded as *Pennocrucio* in the Antonine Itinerary for the Roman settlement straddling Watling Street one mile west of Gailey,¹²⁵ had long intrigued philologists. Rejecting a derivation from British *pen-crug* 'the head of the mound', proposed by Rhys, Duignan accepted the connection between Pennocrucium and Pencric (later Penkridge), but attributed the name to British *pen-cric*, with *pen* meaning 'head, end', and (as an adjective) 'chief', and the second element a supposed *crioch* or *criche*, cognate with German *crīoch*, *crīche*, Irish *crioc*, *crioch* 'a boundary, end, limit, frontier', so giving 'head or end of the border, a frontier'.¹²⁶ But more recent research has confirmed the derivation proposed by Rhys, and there is no doubt that the name is British **Pennocroucion*, from **penno-* (Welsh *pen*) 'head, end, headland, chief' (one of the commonest British words in English place-names, but found only once – in Pennocrucium – in names recorded in Roman Britain),¹²⁷ and a derivative of British **crūg* (Welsh *crug*, Old Cornish *cruc*) 'hill, mound, tumulus', giving the meaning 'headland tumulus', 'chief mound', 'head of the mound' or similar, referring possibly to a prehistoric burial mound. It has been assumed that the tumulus which stands on Rowley Hill, 1½ miles south of Penkridge, is the mound referred to,¹²⁸ but there may be an inference that there were others in the area,¹²⁹ perhaps on the more prominent but heavily quarried summit of Beacon Hill nearby.¹³⁰ The name, which would have been in British **Pennocroucion*, was Latinised by the Romans by the alteration of the ending to *-io* or *-ium* and adopted for the civil settlement which lay astride Watling Street at Water Eaton (which is closer to Rowley Hill than Beacon Hill). The name may, as with Letocetum, have been a Latinised version of an existing Celtic name, or created by Roman troops from continental Celtic areas, who are known to have created names for uninhabited areas.¹³¹ Originally it was perhaps applied to a much larger area, and has been linked to a Mercian group or tribe recorded as the *Pencersæten* ('people of the Penk') mentioned in a charter of 849 relating to Cofton Hacket in Worcestershire,¹³² suggesting that the southern boundary of that tribe lay in that area (the boundary was with the *Arosætna*, named from the river Arrow: Cofton Hackett is at or very close to the

¹²⁴ See also The Loaches. The situation may be compared with the lacunae in our knowledge of the situation in central Shropshire after the abandonment of Viroconium in the fifth century and before the creation of the town of Shrewsbury in the Anglo-Saxon period.

¹²⁵ See Rivet & Smith 1979: 326.

¹²⁶ Duignan 1902: 116-7.

¹²⁷ Gelling & Cole 2000: 212. Hackwood 1915: 22 notes that Penncricet Lane, which forms the boundary between Oldbury and Halesowen and was the ancient county boundary when Oldbury was detached from Shropshire, may have derived from Penn Cruc.

¹²⁸ See Gelling 1984: 138; Gelling & Cole 2000: 159. The mound was noted by antiquarians in the eighteenth century: see Shaw 1798: I 31.

¹²⁹ In the possible meaning '(place by) the chief mound', preferred by Padel: see Lapidge *et al* 1999: 367.

¹³⁰ In that respect, it may be noted that OE *bēcun* had a range of meanings including 'sign, signal, cross, memorial stone', and perhaps 'tumulus' (see VEPN I 68), and *Congreve fiede*, which may have included Beacon Hill, was also known as *le lowe fiede*, 'the field with the tumulus', in 1589 (SHC 1929 28; SHC 1930 16), *Lowe Field* 1682 (SRO D1057/F/1/3); and in the 17th or 18th century *Lowfield Leasow* (alias *Lowhill*) (SRO D260/M/T/5/46); and *lasselowe*, *lesselowe*, possibly 'the lesser low or tumulus', is recorded in Stretton in 1439: Oakden 1984: 179. A Roman road running slightly west of north has been traced across Beacon Hill: Horovitz 1992: 32. See also Shaw 1798: I 31.

¹³¹ Rivet & Smith 1979: 436.

headwaters of the river), though it may be noted that this is the only known reference to the *Pencersæten* (they are not mentioned in the Tribal Hidage, an 11th-century manuscript of earlier material listing 34 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms south of the Humber, though other known kingdoms are also excluded), and the possibility of a scribal error cannot be entirely discounted: it has been suggested that 'even the exact form of their name is uncertain, for Pencer may well be due to a misreading of Wencer [due to a similarity between the manuscript forms of OE *w* and *p*]...The context in which they are mentioned makes it probable that they were afterwards incorporated in Worcestershire'.¹³³ Or perhaps the name derived from OWelsh *pen caer* 'fort headland'.¹³⁴ By the 10th century the name of the Roman settlement of Pennocrucium had been transferred to the river, and to Penkridge, some two miles north-east of Pennocrucium,¹³⁵ via OE *Pencric*, which was taken by the Anglo-Saxons from speakers of Brittonic with the second *c* intact as a velar,¹³⁶ and has since changed into the modern form based on a wrongly-assumed river-name with an imaginary 'ridge' which exists neither at the place nor in the original name. Penkridge village indeed lies in a shallow valley. For completeness, it should be mentioned that the element *pen* 'head, end, headland' has been interpreted literally, to be associated with a Celtic cult: there is said to be evidence of pagan Celtic head worship at Wall,¹³⁷ and at Magh Slecht in County Cavan, Ireland, the Celtic god Cenn Cruaich (literally 'head of the mound') is said to have been worshipped. The theory has no support amongst place-name experts.¹³⁸

Mention might be made of a handful of minor names which appear to contain the element *penk*, namely Penecford (Timmor), Penkshull (Claverley), and Penkholme (Pipe Ridware). All lie on or close to a stream or river. The significance of the names and the influence, if any, of the name of the river Penk is unclear, but the place at Timmor (and possibly the other names) may be from Old English *pennuc*, Middle English *penok*, *pinnok* 'a small animal pen', found in field-names in western England from the thirteenth century.¹³⁹

¹³² S.1272; see Hooke 1983: 12-13; Hooke 1990: 135-42.

¹³³ PN Wa xvii. It may also be pertinent to observe, conversely, that Wychnor is said to incorporate the name of the Anglo-Saxon people known as the Hwicce, although Wychnor is a considerable distance to the north of the generally accepted territory of the Hwicce: see Ford 1979: 146-8.

¹³⁴ Cf. Pencaer (Pencâr), Pembrokeshire, recorded as *Penker* in 1315: PN Pembrokeshire I 253.

¹³⁵ Cf. Lichfield and Wall. Like Lichfield, Penkridge has a long history and was an important ecclesiastical centre: a charter of Edgar dated there in 958 (Birch 1885-93: III 246), mentions 'in loco famoso qui dicitur Pencric' 'in that famous place called Pencric', (though we are tantalisingly deprived of the reasons for its fame), and Penkridge church, probably founded by the tenth century (traditionally by Edgar) was one of the nine royal free chapels named in a mandate of Henry II in 1318: Styles 1936: 56-95. The expression 'famous place' perhaps implies something other than a palace, which was usually referred to as a *villa regalis* or *villa regis*: see Zaluckyj 2001: 222.

¹³⁶ See Jackson 1953: 260.

¹³⁷ TSSAHS XXI 1979-80 3-11.

¹³⁸ The name Penkridge is not unique: see for example Penkridge Hall, 3 miles north-east of Church Stretton, Shropshire (built c.1590 by Rowland Whitbrooke, whose wife came from Penkridge in Staffordshire: VCH Sa X 27), and Penkridge Hall (otherwise Penkridge Lake Farm), recorded in the 13th century, 5 miles east of Runcorn (PN Ch II 155). The reference to *Penchrych-under-Lyme* in 1293 (SHC VI (i) 256) is presumably a transcriptional error for a spelling of Penkhull. Cf. Penchrise, south of Hawick: *Pencriz* 1380 (Watson 1926: 354).

¹³⁹ EPNE ii 62.

The earliest English names

A combination of British and English elements in a place-name is generally taken as evidence of British and English co-habitation, and in tautological compounds that the meaning of the British element had become lost by the time the English element was added, but there is no obvious reason why an immigrant people should not add a descriptive or other element in their own language to a pre-existing name which they well understood. A careful analysis of the earliest recorded English names has allowed philologists to determine the likely period during which particular name-forming elements were used. One example is incorporating OE *tūn*, very common throughout Staffordshire, which are believed to date in the main from the two centuries between c.750 and c.950.

Since the 1960s the long held theory¹⁴⁰ that place-names containing *-inga-* and *-ingas* provide evidence for the earliest phases of Anglo-Saxon colonisation has effectively been demolished, largely based on fruitless attempts to endorse earlier research that purported to show a correlation between these names and the location of Anglo-Saxon burial sites.¹⁴¹ The theory was based on the suffix *-ingas*, plural of *-ing*, which was added from an early date to a personal name to denote the dependants or people of the person so named, so creating a group-name, which sometimes evolved into a place-name when the group became associated with a particular locality. A study published in 1976¹⁴² analysed 224 place-names recorded between c.670 and c.730, and showed that *-ingas*-type names were far from common, and that there was a preponderance of 'topographical' and 'habitation' names. One name in Staffordshire, the unlocated Elinges, may incorporate *-ingas*, and two names incorporate *-inga-*, namely Edingale and Essington. Edingale lies on the east side of the county on the river Mease, a tributary of the river Trent, some 1½ miles from the Derbyshire border, and within 2½ miles of the Roman Ryknild Street.¹⁴³ In the centre of the village is a low mound.¹⁴⁴ Essington lies in the central part of the southern half of the county, either on or very close to the line of a lost Roman road from Pennocrucium to Metchley. No specifically Anglo-Saxon burials are recorded in the immediate area, but a dozen or so tumuli of unknown date have been pinpointed in the Wolverhampton area from place-name evidence and accounts by early historians,¹⁴⁵ at least some of which may have dated from the Anglo-Saxon period.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁰ Formulated by J. M. Kemble in 1849: Cameron 1996: 66.

¹⁴¹ See Gelling 1988: 107-112.

¹⁴² Cox 1975-6: 12-66.

¹⁴³ Plot 1686: 402 noted part of a raised road which he thought may have been Roman about a mile north-east of Edingale aligned towards Lullington in Derbyshire. See also StEnc 166, 197

¹⁴⁴ Perhaps the one mentioned in Plot 1686: 402

¹⁴⁵ See for example Shaw 1801: II 150; *172; VCH I 193.

¹⁴⁶ In which case contradicting the statement in Cox 1972-3 37 that Essington is in an area devoid of pagan burial sites.

Pattingham, which incorporates the monothematic personal name P(e)atta,¹⁴⁷ is also an *ingham* name (a late version of an *-inga-* and *hām* name, a folk- or group-name rather than a place-name proper, dating probably from a period later than the immigration phase of Anglo-Saxon colonisation represented by early pagan cemeteries, and possibly contemporary with the colonising phase which followed soon after),¹⁴⁸ with the OE noun-forming suffix *-ing* in a palatalized and assibilated form (known as Brummagem-type) with the early pronunciation *-indge*, *inch*, which may be as old as the earliest English speakers in Britain.¹⁴⁹ The soft pronunciation of *-ing-* is said to have been still used in recent times.¹⁵⁰ It has been suggested that Brummagem-type names, of which some fifty or so have been traced,¹⁵¹ are of a different origin to *-ingham* names where the *g* was hard, and are not formed by the addition of *hām* to the genitive plural of a folk-name, but from an original place-name formed by the addition of *ing* to a man's name. Pattingham, for example, would mean 'place or settlement associated with P(e)atta', and the addition of *hām* would give a compound which meant 'village at P(e)attingi'. Since *hām*, probably not used to form place-names later than 800 AD,¹⁵² was added to the locative of the earlier name, the case ending *-i* would cause the development of *-ing-* to *-inch-*.¹⁵³ The place lies 2 miles east of a lost Roman road from Burlaughton via Burnhill Green to Chesterton;¹⁵⁴ on the continuation of the line of a lost Roman road traced from Giffard's Cross to Wrottesley Lodge Farm;¹⁵⁵ 2 miles west of the presumed course of a lost Roman road which has been traced from Pennocrucium through Codsall;¹⁵⁶ and less than 3 miles north of a Roman road from Greensforge to The Walls at Chesterton¹⁵⁷ and a nearby supposed Roman road running from Greensforge to Central Wales,¹⁵⁸ suggesting that the name dates from a phase of settlement which took place while some elements of Roman infrastructure survived. Within a two mile radius Burnhill Green, Kingslow and

¹⁴⁷ For a discussion of place-names incorporating P(e)atta see Wallenberg 1931: 41 and 1934: 310. The name is found in Patton, in Stanton Long parish, Shropshire (PN Sa I 133), which gave its name to a Hundred: see VCH Sa I 285; X 190-5; PN Sa III 277; Thacker 1985: 5. Patshull, which adjoins Pattingham, is held to derive from the OE personal name Pættel, an *l-* derivative of P(e)atta: PN W 158.

¹⁴⁸ Cameron 1976: 9.

¹⁴⁹ See PN Ch V (ii) 279-88, which includes a discussion of the relationship between *-ingham* place-names and Roman roads.

¹⁵⁰ SHC 1939 193. Duignan 1902: 114 states 'I believe this name is pronounced 'Pattinjam'', and indeed Forster 1981: 180 notes that this is the modern pronunciation. The author has lived in the area for over 50 years, and has never heard the name so pronounced, or found anyone else who has.

¹⁵¹ See PN Ch V (ii) 286, fn. 92.

¹⁵² See Gelling 1984: 65. However, an alternative view is that place-names with personal names and ham may refer to whole districts rather than individual settlements, and that such names often appeared in the 10th century when large estates were split into smaller independent units: Fellows-Jensen 1990: 13-21.

¹⁵³ Nicolaisen *et al* 1970: 19-20.

¹⁵⁴ See for example Shaw 1798: I 34-5; VCH Sa I 273. It may be noted that Shaw suggests, without explanation, that Pattingham 'seems to have taken its name from the Roman road near which it stands': 1801: II 279. The route has been the subject of more detailed investigation in recent years by Tong Archaeological Group, which has yet to publish its findings.

¹⁵⁵ See Horovitz 1992: 34-5.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ Margary number 192. See Cox 1973: 15-73.

¹⁵⁸ See TSAS LVI 1957-60 237-41.

Stanlow (and possibly Copley) have names indicative of ancient burial mounds.¹⁵⁹ It may be noted that the adjoining estate of Patshull incorporates the Old English personal name Pættel: the individual involved may have been related to the P(e)atta associated with Pattingham,¹⁶⁰ for the Anglo-Saxons are known to have given their children alliterative names. There are no other place-names incorporating similar personal names in Staffordshire.

Studies¹⁶¹ have shown that the element *hām* was used at a particularly early period for the most desirable sites in topographical terms, and is almost invariably associated with Roman roads¹⁶² or major rivers which will have been utilised as the main routes by which the Anglo-Saxon settlers colonised the countryside, and with Anglo-Saxon pagan burial sites. There is only one certain and three possible place-names containing the element in Staffordshire: the certain name is Pattingham, and the possible place-names are Audnam, Burnaham/Bornam, and Trentham.¹⁶³

Audnam, with a name of uncertain age, lies 1 mile east of the Roman road¹⁶⁴ which runs between Greensforge and Droitwich, which might point to an early origin. Trentham is probably '*hām* or village on the river Trent', but possibly from OE *ham(m)*, *hom(m)* 'meadow, especially a flat low-lying meadow on a stream, a water meadow, land in a river bend', since the place lies on low ground on the river Trent, although not near a bend in the river. The elements *hām* and *ham(m)* (the latter also evidenced in use before c.730)¹⁶⁵ are difficult to distinguish unless early spellings with *-mm* or *-o-* are available, but it may be noted that all the names incorporating *ham(m)* listed by Ekwall¹⁶⁶ are in the south of England.¹⁶⁷ Trentham lies several miles south of the Roman road from Rocester through Stoke on Trent.¹⁶⁸ The grave deposits in an isolated Anglo-Saxon burial at Barlaston, two miles south-east of Trentham, were similar to those from Anglo-Saxon burials in the Peak District, and suggest that the immediate area was settled, doubtless via the river Trent, late in the pagan period, probably in the first half of the seventh century.¹⁶⁹

¹⁵⁹ Cox 1972-3: 37 states that like Essington, Pattingham is in an area devoid of pagan burial sites. The age of these mounds is not known, but the possibility that they are of Anglo-Saxon origin, or may have been used by the Anglo-Saxons for secondary pagan burials, cannot be overlooked. In 1841 the curate of nearby Beckbury wrote in the burial register about 'several mounds' in the district, although there is some doubt about the nature of such features: see TSAS LVII 1961-4 192-3; VCH Sa XX 240..

¹⁶⁰ The Staffordshire-Shropshire boundary appears to deviate from a natural line to incorporate Patshull and Burnhill Green into Staffordshire. The only other (former) Staffordshire name beginning in *Pat-* is Patmarsh, two miles north-east of Worfield. The age and history of the name are unknown, but if ancient it may share the same personal name as Pattingham.

¹⁶¹ See for example Gelling 1988: 112.

¹⁶² Note the theory that the proximity of *hām* names to Roman roads had a causal significance has been rejected in Kenyon 1986: 11-27 who suggests that a statistical analysis of 30 such names in Lancashire and Cheshire shows no such relationship beyond that to be expected if such settlements had been distributed randomly.

¹⁶³ No pre-nineteenth century spellings have been traced for the name Bentham, which has therefore been assumed to be modern.

¹⁶⁴ Margary number 192.

¹⁶⁵ Cox 1973: 61.

¹⁶⁶ 1936 214.

¹⁶⁷ But see Gelling & Cole 2000: 46-55, which notes (p.47) examples in Shropshire.

¹⁶⁸ Margary number 181; 70a.

The compound *hām-stede* 'homestead, site of a *hām*', the precise meaning of which remains unclear, occurs once in Staffordshire, in Hamstead three miles north-west of Birmingham. The place lies within two miles of Ryknild Street, and some three miles from the line of a supposed Roman road from Pennocrucium to Metchley.¹⁷⁰

Names associated with pagan religions

Four place-names perhaps associated with pagan religious beliefs have been identified in Staffordshire (Wednesfield, Wednesbury, *Wodesneswalle* and Weeford), as well as one probable name (*Belstowe*) and one possible names (Freeford).¹⁷¹

Wednesbury, 5½ miles south-east of Wolverhampton, takes its name from OE Wōden, a heathen Germanic god, corresponding to ON Óðinn. Duignan¹⁷² held the second element to be OE *beorg*, a word which has been shown to have a very specific meaning 'hill with a continuously rounded profile, tumulus',¹⁷³ and noted the 'conspicuous somewhat conical hill', confirmed by bold hatchuring on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836. The cult of Woden, both in England and the continent, was indeed especially connected with hills.¹⁷⁴ However, Duignan's conclusion was based on his confident identification of Wednesfield as the site of two battles recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle under the dates 592 and 715. In the first, the West Saxon King Ceawlin was defeated, and in the second Ine, King of Wessex, fought Ceolred, King of the Mercians. The Chronicle spellings for the 592 battle are *Woddesbeorge* (three times),¹⁷⁵ and *Wodnesbeorge* (once),¹⁷⁶ with John ('Florence') of Worcester naming *Wodnesbeorh* (with the helpful note *id est Mons Wodeni* 'that is Woden's Mount'),¹⁷⁷ and Æthelweard (d.1118) naming the place *Wodnesbyrg*,¹⁷⁸ William of Malmesbury recording before 1140 *Wodendic*,¹⁷⁹ and in the 12th century Henry of Huntingdon giving *Wednesburie*.¹⁸⁰ For the 715 battle the Chronicle gives *Wodnesbeorge* (twice), and *Woddesbeorge* (three times). Florence of Worcester gives *Wodnesbeorh*,¹⁸¹ Æthelweard *Vothnesbeorhge*,¹⁸² and Henry of Huntingdon *Wonebirih*.¹⁸³ In fact

¹⁶⁹ See Ozanne 1962-3: 41-7.

¹⁷⁰ Margary number 190.

¹⁷¹ A place called Wodens near Combridge is recorded in Redfern 1886: 88, but has not been traced.

¹⁷² 1902: vii-ix, 168.

¹⁷³ See Ekwall 1960: 503; Gelling & Cole 2000: 145.

¹⁷⁴ Stenton 1971: 40. The existence of King's Hill (q.v.) at Wednesbury, recorded from the early 14th century (perhaps to be identified with *Brynghull* (q.v.)), may be noted. For a legendary hill called (improbably) *Wodenfreseford*, perhaps near Drakelow or Stapenhill, see Shaw 1798: I 5. The name *Wadenesfale*, recorded in 1337 (SHC VI NS (ii) 158), is likely to be mistranscription for Waterfall, near the place where the river Hamps disappears underground, but poses the intriguing possibility that the place may have been known as 'Woden's pit or trap', i.e. the place where the waters of the river disappeared into Woden's domain.

¹⁷⁵ Ede 1962: 6.

¹⁷⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ Ede 1962: 7.

¹⁷⁸ Campbell 1962: 14.

¹⁷⁹ Ede 1962: 7.

¹⁸⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁸¹ *ibid.*

both battles are now held to have taken place at Adam's Grave, a burial mound at Alton Priors in Wiltshire (an identification reinforced by William of Malmesbury who records that the place was *apud Wodnes dic*, 'at Wansdyke'),¹⁸⁴ which was still a landmark in the ninth century.¹⁸⁵ A derivation from *beorg* would have an exact parallel in Woodnesborough, Kent, where the element, formerly thought to refer to a tumulus recorded near the church which lies atop a sizeable hill with a distinctively rounded profile, is now believed to refer to the hill itself.¹⁸⁶

Duignan's derivation deduced from the spellings he cites is correct, but since the spellings relate in the main to the two battles, they do not apply to Wednesbury in Staffordshire.

From the early spellings which do relate to the place in Staffordshire, the meaning of Wednesbury is beyond doubt 'Woden's earthworks or fortification', from OE *burh*, implying that the feature was believed to have been established or protected by the pagan god or dedicated to him. There is no firm evidence of any earthworks on the hill on which Wednesbury lies, but on the west and south-west of the hill, which stands between the headstreams of the river Tame, the ground falls away abruptly with a terrace-like feature on the eastern side of Church Street, suggesting that the church of St Bartholomew on the summit may stand within an ancient earthwork¹⁸⁷ - the OE element *burh* was frequently applied to Iron Age hillforts - and perhaps on the site of a pagan shrine. By tradition a castle on the hill was constructed by Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians,¹⁸⁸ and Shaw refers to a fortification here:

'some remains of which are still visible in a large graff¹⁸⁹ round the Church-yard hill, which, from its height and extensive prospect, was a very suitable situation for such a defence, and tradition likewise says there was a castle here in the time of the Saxons'.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸² Campbell 1962: 21.

¹⁸³ Ede 1962: 7.

¹⁸⁴ Earle & Plummer 1892-99: II 118. Ceolred is known to have been buried at Lichfield in 716 (Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 42; Lapidge *et al* 1999: 509), and it is possible that his death was not unconnected with the conflict, in which case a battle-site at Wednesbury, a mere dozen or so miles from Lichfield, is not inconceivable, although Ine's territory was the country south of the Thames. Plot 1686: 410 associates Bunbury in Staffordshire with the battle between Ceolred and Ine.

¹⁸⁵ Whitelock 1955: 158. Duignan 1902: viii notes 'There is only one Wednesbury in England (the *Wodensbeorg* in Alton [Hampshire] being out of the question)...'.

¹⁸⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 148-9.

¹⁸⁷ Sections of 'ramparts ?' are shown on a plan in TSSAHS 1990-1 XXXII 99, but the basis for the identification is unclear. It may be noted that Ric'o de Erbury is recorded in Wednesbury in 1327 (SHC VII 229). Erbury may be from OE *eorþburg* 'earthern fortification', perhaps providing further evidence of some earthwork here, though there can be no certainty that even if the derivation of the name is correct, it refers to an earthwork at Wednesbury.

¹⁸⁸ Recorded in Gough 1806: 495; see also Shaw 1798: I 37; Erdeswick 1844: 398 fn; see especially Ede 1962: 9-14. The association with Æthelflæd is due to the mistaken identification of this place with *Weard byrig*, fortified by Æthelflæd in 915, as recorded in the Mercian Register: *ibid.* 12-13, an identification first made by Camden: see Ede 1962: 13.

¹⁸⁹ 'a trench serving as a fortification': OED

¹⁹⁰ Shaw 1801: II 83. By local tradition the 'castle' was fortified by Æthelflæd. No evidence has been traced however of any documentary reference to a *bury* or *buri*, and there is no Bury or Berry road-name in the town, but a reference to Campfield Lane occurs c.1776: SRO 1317/1/13/1/1/1-8.

Wednesfield, 2 miles north-east of Wolverhampton and three miles or so from Wednesbury, means 'Woden's *feld* or open land'.¹⁹¹ The earliest spelling preserves the god's name, but a *feld* associated with a pagan god is perhaps not quite as easy to explain as a hill, fortification, ford or other specific feature. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records a great battle here or at Tettenhall c.910 when the Saxons vanquished the Danes. Wednesfield is three miles or so from Wednesbury, both of which lie close to a line drawn between the Roman sites of Pennocrucium and Metchley, near Edgbaston, which was almost certainly connected by a Roman road: there is a road running south-east from Pennocrucium in the direction of Metchley¹⁹² which is untraced after it reaches Wolverhampton.¹⁹³

The name *Wodesneswalle*, 'Wōden's spring or stream', has been found recorded only once, in Wednesbury, in 1315,¹⁹⁴ but may perhaps be seen as further evidence of the popularity of the cult of Woden in the area.

Weeford is a small village on the south side of Watling Street, 4 miles south-east of Lichfield. The first element of the name is generally held to be from OE *wīg*, *wēoh* 'an idol', and perhaps 'holy place, shrine'. *Wēoh* originated as *wīh*, broken to *wīoh* to give Kentish *wīoh*, later West Saxon *wēoh*, and Anglian *wīh* and the alternative later spelling *wīg*. The early spellings for Weeford are consistent with the use of *wēoh* in the Lichfield area between c.500 and c.750 AD. However, Lichfield is in the heartland of Mercia, where a West Saxon form would not normally be expected.¹⁹⁵ It is possible that the compound *wēo-ford* (with the *-h* of the first element dropped) dates from a time after *wīh* had broken, but earlier than the date of smoothing before *-h* in Anglian speech.¹⁹⁶ Whilst that theory is acknowledged to be not entirely satisfactory, no better explanation has yet been proposed.¹⁹⁷ The name (also probably found in Wyfordby, Leicestershire) is therefore likely to be 'ford by the heathen temple', the ford lying on Black Brook (which becomes Bourne Brook to the east), possibly where it is now crossed by Dog Lane.

The name has been seen as evidence of a remote area in which paganism survived longest rather than a name indicating an early phase of Anglo-Saxon settlement,¹⁹⁸ but since the place lies close to Watling Street, which remained a major road throughout the Saxon period, and is close to the important and early Christian centre of Lichfield, the longevity of such a prominently-located name is perhaps

¹⁹¹ Ekwall 1960: 503.

¹⁹² Margary number 190.

¹⁹³ The name is also recorded (but only in single spellings) in two lost field-names in Essex, *Wedynsfeld* in Theydon (1446), and *Wodnesfield* in Widdington (1303): PN Ess xxi; 579.

¹⁹⁴ SHC 1911 322. The location of the place has not been traced. It is unclear whether the modern name Waddens, found in various road names and a stream name (Waddens Brook) to the south of Wednesfield is ancient, but the possibility that it incorporates a corruption of *Woden* cannot be ignored. *Wodneslega*, recorded in SHC V (i) 63, would appear to be Wensley in Derbyshire: PN Db 411.

¹⁹⁵ cf. Weoley Castle in Warwickshire.

¹⁹⁶ See Gelling 1975: 100, 101-2.

¹⁹⁷ 'An etymology 'ford by the *weg-hōh' (perhaps just possible on topographical grounds) is ruled out by the earliest spellings. Those from 1086 and 1200 might certainly be expected to show the *-g* of *weg* if that word entered the name': Cameron 1987: 102.

¹⁹⁸ Gelling 1975: 104. See also Stenton 1971: 40.

surprising. It has been observed that most places incorporating in their name OE *wīg*, *wēh* lie close to Roman roads, and may have been road-side shrines. Indeed, it is possible that Weeford is to be seen as a name coined by the Anglo-Saxons to record the remains of a typical roadside Roman shrine, and that names of this type need not be associated with Anglo-Saxon pagan religion. In that respect, it may be noted that Weoley, which may contain OE *wēoh*, lies on a Roman road.¹⁹⁹

Freeford is a very small settlement 1½ miles south-east of Lichfield, on an ancient road between Lichfield and Tamworth where it crosses Darnford Brook on the edge of the former Whittington Heath.²⁰⁰ The forms indicate a straightforward derivation 'ford where no toll was payable' (from the OE adjective *frēo* 'free'), but as was noted a century ago,²⁰¹ the small stream here would almost certainly have provided a ford too insignificant to have been anything other than free, and indeed no evidence has been traced to show that fords were subject to tolls,²⁰² so possibly here meaning 'open, accessible, unimpeded, unrestricted, free from undergrowth or waterweed or vegetation', distinguishing this ford from nearby Darnford ('hidden or overgrown') further downstream.²⁰³ A derivation from the pagan goddess Frig (*Frēo*),²⁰⁴ though improbable, cannot be ruled out entirely; it may be significant that Weeford, another ford-name with possible pagan associations, is two miles to the south-east; both Weeford and Freeford were held by the bishop of Lichfield in 1086 (they are adjacent entries in Domesday Book); and both are ancient prebends of Lichfield Cathedral, perhaps dating from before the Conquest.²⁰⁵ It has been noted that some place-names with pagan associations are close to early Sees,²⁰⁶ and the proximity of Freeford to Lichfield may slightly strengthen the evidence for a pagan connection. It has also been suggested that places close together with pagan names may indicate sanctuaries set up by rival cults in opposition.²⁰⁷ For completeness, it may be noted that the leper hospital of St. Leonard existed at Freeford by the mid-13th century²⁰⁸ and if that community was the successor of a pre-Conquest leper house (and leprosy is well-recorded in the Anglo-Saxon period), the place may have been 'the ford with the sanctuary', from Old English *frið*, *freoðu* 'sanctuary', or possibly 'the fearful ford', from an earlier form of Middle English *fray* 'to make afraid, to frighten'. Another possible (but

¹⁹⁹ Gelling 1975: 102. It may be noted that Gelling herself questions the presumption of an early date for this name.

²⁰⁰ There is some slight evidence that Freeford may in early times have been of considerable extent, incorporating perhaps part of Whittington, Packington and Tamhorn, and possibly reaching the river Tame: Shaw 1801: II App. 14.

²⁰¹ Duignan 1902: 63.

²⁰² According to Shaw, Erdeswick stated that Freeford was so-called 'because the London way passeth over a ford of the Black-brook, it being well and deep for the most part in other places' (Shaw 1801: II 23), but the reference has not been traced.

²⁰³ As suggested in VCH XIV 253.

²⁰⁴ Possibly to be found in Fretherne, Gloucestershire; Fryup, Yorkshire; Freefolk, Hampshire, although OE *frið*, *freoðu* 'sanctuary' may be the root of Fretherne. Frey, or Frea, a god of fertility and plenty, was worshipped in Sweden and superseded an original female cult of Freyja. It is likely that her cult continued in England, but no direct evidence has been found: see Chaney 1970: 26; 50-1; 56; Fitzhugh & Ward 2000: 58. See also Cameron 1987: 99-100.

²⁰⁵ See TSSAHS 2 1960-1 38-52; VCH III 140-1.

²⁰⁶ '...the proximity of Woodnesborough and Wye to Canterbury is noteworthy, as is the proximity of Harrow to London, the site of another early see': Cameron 1987: 105.

²⁰⁷ See Meaney 1997: 228; also Gelling 1988: 257.

²⁰⁸ SHC V (i) 163; VCH XIV 274.

unlikely) derivation for the name is OE *fræge*, *frēge* 'known, famous', perhaps here 'the popular, the better known, the most frequented', to distinguish the ford from 'the hidden ford' nearby at Darnford.

One name of special interest is *Belstowe/Belstowa* (the name appears in both forms) found in the boundary clause of an Anglo-Saxon charter of Ashwood of 994.²⁰⁹ The name is evidently from Old English *bēl* 'funeral pyre', with Old English *stōw* 'place, a holy place, a place of assembly', here perhaps 'the assembly place at the funeral pyre',²¹⁰ perhaps to be associated with the religious practices of pre-Christian Anglo-Saxons. The location of the place has not been identified with certainty, but is likely to have been in the north-western part of Kinver on the west side of Smestow Brook, near Lodge Plantation.²¹¹ If that identification is correct, the place lies a mile or so west of the Roman forts at Greensforge, and close to the Roman road running in a westerly direction from Greensforge to Chesterton near its junction with a Roman road branching north-east through Hinksford.²¹² It is possible that the place was in some way associated with the Roman sites: the proximity of place-names associated with pagan religious beliefs and Roman roads has already been noted.

Of the four certain or likely Staffordshire place-names associated with pagan religious beliefs, Weeford, Wednesfield, Wednesbury, and *Wodeneswalle*, all lie well to the west of any known pagan-period cemeteries. It has been suggested that places of pagan worship

'which managed to survive for decades because they were not accessible to [early missionaries] would be more likely to give rise to place-names because they would by that time be felt to be remarkable, as they might not have been when paganism was the only form of religion among English speakers'.²¹³

However, all four Staffordshire places lie within a dozen or so miles of Lichfield, from which centre the Christian conversion of the region radiated from the mid seventh century, and they would have been readily accessible to early missionaries.²¹⁴ It is generally held therefore that the names must date from the second half of the seventh century or earlier,²¹⁵ perhaps coined by the first Mercian immigrants moving into the area from the Trent and Tame valleys, but the names (and the name Weoley in the extreme north of Worcestershire)²¹⁶ may indeed be surviving evidence of paganism from

²⁰⁹ S.1380. See Hooke 1983: 70; also Mander & Tildesley 1960: 14 fn.3.

²¹⁰ Cf. *Bēl-stede* 'place of the funeral pyre' in *Beowulf* 3097. See also Bell Field Farm.

²¹¹ At SO 846886: see Hooke 1983: 69-72. Aerial surveys have identified two rectangular enclosures 200 yards or so to the west and south-west of the Roman site at Greensforge (at SO 856888 and SO 857883), and a similar enclosure 1 mile north-west (at SO 840905). Excavations at the latter revealed Roman-type ditches, but charcoal within the enclosure was radiocarbon dated to 800 AD, indicating that at least one of the enclosures was being used in the Anglo-Saxon period: see Anon. 1985.

²¹² Margary number 192. Baugh 1808 shows the line of a rectangular camp at Camp Farm, but that is almost certainly a mis-placing of the well-known camp at Greensforge.

²¹³ Cameron 1987: 104.

²¹⁴ Those places are even closer to the Roman sites at Letocetum, and it has been noted that in Wessex and elsewhere the pagan Anglo-Saxons generally occupied areas which probably had a substantial rural population in the Roman-British period: see Bonney 1979: 43.

²¹⁵ Stenton 1970: 287 observes that '...it is probable, if not certain, that most of the heathen names which can now be identified arose before rather than after the year 600'.

²¹⁶ See PN Wo xiii.

the time of the powerful pagan king Penda,²¹⁷ or possibly from the reign of Peada's brother Wulfhere, who ruled from 658 to c.674 and, though a pagan, was not unsympathetic to the Christian mission in Mercia. It remains puzzling why these pagan place-names, where pagan practices and worship cannot have been carried out for longer than a few decades, continued to be tolerated in an area so close to a major Christian centre, and were not replaced as part of a cultural cleansing with the introduction of Christianity. There is other evidence for name-changes (for example Derby, formerly *Nordworþig*, though admittedly renamed by the conquering Danes), and it is indeed curious that the Church (including the clerical scribes) and a Christian population were willing to preserve and perpetuate the provocative names of pagan deities in close vicinity to what was the central hub of Christianity for the vast region of Mercia: changing a minor place-name is hardly to be compared with the difficulties associated with the change of the name of a week-day incorporating the name of a pagan god. It may also be noted that no priest or church is recorded in Domesday Book at Weeford, Wednesfield or Wednesbury,²¹⁸ but the inferences which might be drawn from that are unclear.

It is appropriate to consider whether alternative explanations might be put forward for some place-names involving the names of pagan deities. One possibility, which would admittedly run contrary to the great body of scholarly research which has built up over at least the last century, is that some place-names incorporating the names of pagan gods do not necessarily date from the pre-Christian era, and indeed may be considerably later. In that respect it should be emphasised that whilst place-name scholars have long held that a place-name incorporating the name of a pagan god is to be seen as firm evidence for the worship of that god at that place, no extrinsic evidence of any kind has been found to support that conclusion. The Anglicization of Western Mercia, where Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are rarely found, is held by some historians to have come about by the acceptance of Christianity by the incoming Germanic communities from the native population, with the Anglo-Saxons otherwise retaining their cultural practices, principally language, but possibly also their ancient rites and superstitions, although others agree with Bede that the Britons made no effort to convert the Anglo-Saxons.²¹⁹ It is not inconceivable that enclaves of non-Christians co-existed in parts of the West Midlands late into the Anglo-Saxon period.²²⁰ There is surprisingly abundant evidence²²¹ from references to pagan practices in laws from the time of Alfred, Edward the Elder, Athelstan, Edmund, Aethelred the Unready, and Cnut - i.e. after the Viking invasions - to explain why Pope Formosus

²¹⁷ Who reigned c.632-55 AD, and whose name may be commemorated in Pendeford, which lies less than four miles from Wednesfield. For a discussion on the possible association of Penda with Wednesbury see Ede 1962: 9-10.

²¹⁸ Domesday mentions neither priest nor church at Wednesbury, in 1086 a royal multiple estate, which included Bloxwich and Shelfield, and possibly Walsall (TSSAHS XIV 1982-3 1), which might suggest that the church is a post-Conquest foundation, though many churches recorded in pre-Conquest sources or with surviving Anglo-Saxon fabric are not recorded in Domesday Book. The first reference to a church at Wednesbury is c.1210: Ede 1962: 54; see also WL 40.

²¹⁹ N. J. Higham 2002: 65.

²²⁰ The *pagani* recorded in *Wreocensetun*, 'the territory of the Wrekin-dwellers', in a Mercian charter of 855, less than 60 years earlier than the date of the battle of Tettenhall/Wednesfield (S.206 - see Gelling 1992: 83; also Whitelock 1955: I 90; 485-6; Finberg 1961: 48 no. 77) are likely to have been Danish raiders rather than established occupiers.

found it necessary to write to the bishops of the English in the 890s, a decade or so before the battle of Tettenhall/Wednesfield, to warn that 'the nefarious rites of the pagans have sprouted again in your parts'. The warning was doubtless due to activities associated with the cult of heathenism in Anglo-Saxon England which had almost certainly never died out completely, but was strengthened by the influx of Viking settlers, with a particular resurgence on the heels of the Viking invasions, as evidenced by some dismissive references in Ælfric's tenth-century treatise *De falsis deis* to the cults of Odin, Thor and 'the shameless goddess' Frigg (alias Friya or Freya).²²²

There is no direct evidence of any worship of Woden, Thunor and the other deities of the old religion - indeed, Woden rarely appears in Old English literature, which was written entirely in the Christian epoch - but the cult survivals are evidenced in England by a continuation or resurfacing of the sort of superstitious practices which could be attached to a formal acceptance and worship of Christ, such as incantations and auguries, the veneration of stones, trees and wells, magic potions, ancient customs concerning the sun and the moon, and witchcraft. Woden, perhaps to be seen as the pre-eminent deity, was above all associated in Anglo-Saxon England with victory in battle - his very name, Woden *id est furor* - denotes his rôle as god of battles,²²³ and one particular form of sacrifice to the god for which evidence is found in England is the dedication to him of the war dead.²²⁴ He was the god of battles, and one source records that half the slain belonged to him and half to the god Freyja, a female deity who may have been replaced by Frey in Sweden.²²⁵ That the pagans sacrificed to him for the acquisition of victory and courage was known among the English, as confirmed by the tenth-century chronicler Æthelweard.²²⁶ But it should also be noted that Æthelweard, writing perhaps around the end of the tenth century, believed that Woden had been a real king from whom he (Æthelweard) claimed descent,²²⁷ and who had received divine honours after his death,²²⁸ and there is no reason to imagine that during the Anglo-Saxon period that view was not widely shared.

At first sight it seems improbable that the name Wednesfield could be interpreted as 'the field or plain upon which Woden gave victory to the English' (with reference to the battle of Tettenhall/Wednesfield), given that Woden was a pagan god. Equally improbable is the interpretation 'the field or plain upon which Woden was vanquished', coined after the Danish defeat as a contemptuous memorial to the site where a great slaughter occurred of those who worshipped the god, with the deaths of the pagans seen as evidence of the derisory protection afforded by their god and of the supremacy of the Christian beliefs of the victors. It might seem unthinkable that a Christian society

²²¹ See in particular Chaney 1970, on which much of the remainder of this paragraph is based, and North 1997.

²²² Niles 1991: 127.

²²³ Chaney 1970: 35.

²²⁴ *ibid.* 35, 39, 110.

²²⁵ *ibid.* 26.

²²⁶ Campbell 1962: 7.

²²⁷ Chaney 1970: 39.

²²⁸ *ibid.* xxi.

would incorporate in a place-name the name of a pagan god,²²⁹ but it is almost as difficult to explain how pagan place-names supposedly coined in the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon occupation remained unchanged throughout the centuries of Christianity, and indeed why some large areas of Anglo-Saxon England, notably East Anglia, are devoid of pagan place-names.

One possible explanation is that the name Woden in particular amongst the pagan gods should be treated as a name understood at two levels in tenth-century England, and possibly much earlier. Perhaps, like Æthelweard, who was clearly well educated, the Anglo-Saxons recognised Woden as a legendary but real king associated with victory in battle, who was proudly claimed as a lineal ancestor of Anglo-Saxon kings, and who was later worshipped by the pagans. The particular royal associations with Woden doubtless explains the relationship which, according to tradition, was made between Woden and the harvest, and even in Christian times Wednesday was considered a propitious day for sowing and planting crops, even though for other activities it was generally considered to be an unlucky day.²³⁰ On that basis, his name may have been incorporated by the Anglo-Saxons into particular place-names as that of a real king associated with victories, rather than in his capacity as a pagan god, at the sites of great battles, with Wednesfield representing a particularly late manifestation of that practice. Evidence for that possibility may be found in battles in 592 at 'Woden's mound or tumulus', and in 715 the battle between Ine and Ceolred at the same place.²³¹ It might be considered a remarkable coincidence if those battles, together with the great battle of Tettenhall/Wednesfield c.910, were all fought at places already incorporating the name Woden.

Furthermore, whilst OE *feld* is normally held to mean 'an open space, an area of unenclosed ground', the meaning 'the ground on which a battle is fought' is recorded from c.1300,²³² and it is not inconceivable that this meaning was understood and in popular usage some four centuries earlier.

Parallels for names incorporating real kings are numerous, for example place-names recording Penda, king of the Mercians, which are concentrated in the West Midlands.²³³ On the other hand, the chronicler Simeon of Durham records that in 937 King Athelstan defeated a combined army 'apud Weondune, quod alio nomine Aetbrunnanwerc vel Brunnanbyrig appellatur', which tells us that the site of the battle of Brunanburh was also known as *æt Weondune*, a name which, according to Stenton, seems to contain an inflected form of the adjective which is substantivised in the noun *weoh* 'idol,

²²⁹ Though it should be noted that Anglo-Saxon royal genealogies invariably (and presumably proudly) traced lines of descent back to Woden: Bede noted without any apparent reservations about promoting a pagan deity that Woden was the ancestor of Æthelberht of Kent, and Alfred the Great 'had no qualms in accepting the genealogy which carried his descent back to Woden': Hodgson 1939: 686.

²³⁰ Cheney 1970: 35.

²³¹ Swanton 1996: 42. Sir Cyril and Lady Fox held that Wandsdyke and the surrounding area in which place-names incorporating Woden's name are found was dedicated to the god Woden when it was constructed, whereas J. N. L. Myers felt that 'the name Wodnesdic is most naturally to be explained as a name given by the pagan Anglo-Saxons to an important monument whose origin and purpose they did not know and could not guess, and which was therefore attributed by them to supernatural agency': Cheney 1970: 36 fn.120.

²³² OED.

²³³ See Jones 1998.

image, shrine',²³⁴ usually associated with pagan religious practices - a battle site with a pagan, rather than kingly, connection. Finally, one slight piece of evidence that cannot properly be overlooked: *Brynghul*, in or near Wednesbury, is recorded in 1327,²³⁵ and as *Brynghull* in 1332²³⁶ and 1377.²³⁷ Is it possible that the name incorporates OE *bringe* 'that which is brought, an offering, a sacrifice'?

Stafford

The early history of the town of Stafford has yet to be unravelled, but Prehistoric and Roman finds have been recorded, charcoal from the last firing of pottery kilns in Tipping Street has been carbon-dated to the first half of the ninth century, and sherds of tenth-century pottery have been found throughout the town.²³⁸ The earliest documentary spellings for Stafford are *Stæf-forda*, *Stæfford*, *Staffordaburh* 913,²³⁹ *Stadford*, *Statford* 1086,²⁴⁰ *Statford* 1130,²⁴¹ *Stephordi* 1102,²⁴² *Stafford* 1162,²⁴³ but earlier spellings can be gleaned from silver pennies, which normally give the name of the moneyer and place of minting, usually in abbreviated form. The earliest abbreviations for Stafford taken from early coins are:²⁴⁴

Æthelstan (924-939)	STFOR, STF, STEF, STED, ST
Edgar (959-975)	STAEð
Æthelred II (978-1016)	STAEFð, STÆTH, STAF, STÆ, STÆð, STÆFORA, STAE, STAED, STAEF
Cnut (1016-1035)	STEF, STAE, STÆ, STÆðO, STÆF, STÆFFD, STA
Harold I (1035-1040)	STA, STAF, SAÆF, STF, STAEF
Edward the Confessor (1043-1066)	STAFORDE, STAFFO, STAE, STIE, STA
William I (1066-1087)	STAI, STEFFOR, STIEFF, STEFF, SIAEI, STAEFF, STAEF, STIEFR
William I or William II (1066-1100)	STEFFOR, STIFF, STAFFEO, STF
William II (1087-1100)	STAFRE, STF, STFRDI, STA, STAFFO, ST[?]D, STAFRED,

²³⁴ Stenton 1970: 290-1
²³⁵ SHC V (ii) 229.
²³⁶ SHC X 85.
²³⁷ SHC 4th Series VI 10.
²³⁸ Zaluckyj 2001: 215.
²³⁹ ASC 'C' and 'D', Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 96-7.
²⁴⁰ DB.
²⁴¹ SHC I 1.
²⁴² VCH VI 200.
²⁴³ SHC I 35.
²⁴⁴ Compiled from Cherry 1890: 140-7; Mander 1944-5: 13-8; Gunstone 1971; Blunt 1973: 13-22; Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge: http://www-cm.fitzwilliam.cam.ac/coins/emc_search_reply.php. No coins associated with Stafford earlier than the reign of Æthelstan are known: personal communication 4 April 2002 from Dr Anna Gannon, Assistant Curator of Early Medieval Coins, British Museum.

Numismatic evidence is usually considered particularly reliable for early place-name spellings since coins will have been minted at the place, as opposed to evidence from documents which might have been compiled in a different part of the country by authors unfamiliar with the place about which they were writing.²⁴⁵ The *d* in early spellings is not irregular philologically, nor its disappearance before *f*. There are parallels for *-d-* and *-t(h)f-* developing into *-f(f)-*, for example Blyford, Suffolk (*Blideford* 1086), Cloford, Somerset (*Clatford* c.1150, *Cloford* 1327), Parford, Devon (*Pathford* 739, *Patford* 1086, 1249); Trafford, Lancashire (*Statford* 1206, *Straforde* 1212).²⁴⁶ The spellings for Stafford conform to this pattern. Occasional early spelling with *Ste-* could reflect West Midlands dialect *e* for *æ*, or, since they are generally found only in coins, may be attributable to epigraphical practice or accident: *Æ* on coins can appear very like *E*. Post-Conquest *e*-spellings for *æ* are common, as are *a*-spellings from the 10th century.

The town of Stafford lies on a tongue of Keuper marl overlain by gravelly deposits or fluvioglacial drift laid down at the end of the last ice-age by the melting ice sheet amidst alluvium in the marshland of the river Sow, with the medieval town walls tracing the limit of the gravel,²⁴⁷ and except for a route to the north, was effectively surrounded by the river on the west and south, and streams and marshes and the King's Pool (which may have been created out of one area of marsh) on the east.²⁴⁸ Many areas around the town are still subject to periodic flooding, and even areas within the town are still undrained marsh.²⁴⁹ If the word *ford* in the name Stafford was here derived from a ford proper, it would be logical to consider the crossing of the Sow on the south side of the town at Green Bridge (so-named by the 1590s, and probably to be identified as the 'great bridge' mentioned c.1200):²⁵⁰ the axis of the town has long been the main street between the North and South Gates, and a crossing of some kind must have existed hereabouts from a very early date, certainly by the Roman period, and very probably in

²⁴⁵ From identifiable moneyers' names, it is clear that STAF was also used on coins for the more prolific Stamford (Lincolnshire) mint, and it seems possible that some of the forms given above are properly to be identified with that town. It may also be noted that there was a private mint at Stamford, Northamptonshire, to which some STA coins might properly be assigned.

²⁴⁶ I am grateful to Dr. Margaret Gelling for drawing these examples to my attention.

²⁴⁷ VCH VI 185-6. The Saxon defences are likely to have enclosed a smaller area than the later defences: VCH VI 187; 199.

²⁴⁸ The first reference to the King's Pool is in 1157 (VCH VI 210), but there is little doubt that even if the pool itself was not in existence much earlier, a large area of land on the east side of Stafford will have been very wet and marshy. Pollen studies of sediment show that the first forest clearance was in the late Neolithic period, with a greater human impact in the Bronze Age, and particularly at the beginning of the Iron Age, where a period of forest clearance was accompanied by agriculture, and evidence for a high level of agricultural activity from about the end of the Roman period to at least the 11th century: Bartley & Morgan 1990: 193. For reasons which remain unclear the king had the King's Pool dam removed in 1257, but in the same year permitted the townspeople to rebuild it at their expense to reinforce the town's defences (VCH VI 210). In 1644 the King's Pool meadows (*Kings poole Medes* 1610 Speed) and other land around Stafford was deliberately flooded (or allowed to flood) to improve the defences to the town (VCH VI 199). See also SHC 1914 113.

²⁴⁹ Pennant 1782: 186 described Stafford as 'seated on a plain, bounded by rising grounds at a very small distance'.

prehistoric times. However, the OE word *ford* is often found where it is best translated as 'causeway',²⁵¹ and that may be the case here. In addition to the neck of land to the north of the town, there is some evidence to suggest that a causeway, which may have served as a dam at the southern end of King's Pool, carrying what is now Lammascote Road across the wet and marshy area on the east of the town beyond the former East Gate, long pre-dates the Anglo-Saxon period, and may have been constructed in the Iron Age,²⁵² in which case it will have formed a notable feature of the landscape, and it is not difficult to imagine that it might well be the topographical formation from which the element *ford* is derived.

As long ago as c.1600 the antiquarian Simon Degge deduced that: '...the true etymology is Stadeford, that is the strand, shore or bank of a ford, and we find it in Doomesday Booke writ Stadford',²⁵³ and most modern studies adopt the prosaic derivation 'ford by a *stæþ* or landing-place'.²⁵⁴ However, that derivation poses certain topographical difficulties. OE *stæþ*, an uncommon place-name element²⁵⁵, has the meaning 'a shore, river-bank; land bordering on water'. The *ford* element (one of the most common topographical terms found in English place-names, and perhaps one of the earliest place-name elements, recorded for at least nine places by AD 730),²⁵⁶ may be a later suffix, although the use of the element as generic could be evidence that Stafford was one of the earliest settlements in the region to acquire its English name.²⁵⁷ It has been suggested that the name might indicate that the place marked the limits of navigation on the river Sow, or imply that access to the settlement was primarily along the river Sow.²⁵⁸ However, the river Sow is modest in both width and depth, and (except in times of flood) was probably always so. It is difficult to believe that vessels of any size will have reached the town by

²⁵⁰ VCH VI 197 fn.64.

²⁵¹ See for example Gelling & Cole 2000: 72.

²⁵² TSHCS 1968-70 4-6. The conclusion is based on two red deer antler picks found in peat at depths of some 10' and 15' close together along the northern edge of Lammascote Road at approximately SJ 927232, traces of a possible Iron-Age hut in the lowest levels during the excavation of St. Bertelin's chapel in Stafford town centre, and evidence from pollen analysis at King's Pool of a period of forest clearance accompanied by agriculture in the early Iron Age: Bartley & Morgan 1990: 193. A parallel might be the enigmatic earthworks of unknown date at The Berth in Shropshire, which incorporate a causeway, and have produced pre-Conquest finds. Intriguingly, that site is considered to be the possible site of the legendary *Pengwern*, a possible successor to Viroconium before Shrewsbury became the county town, just as Stafford itself became a county town. Three worked timbers with pointed ends, identified as piles and radiometrically dated to the Iron Age, were discovered in 2002 in excavations on the site of a new filling station at ASDA in Queensway: *News From the Past* 2002, Stafford Borough Council, 2003 3.

²⁵³ SHC 1982 74-5. William Harrison, the Tudor topographer, noted the variations in the early spellings of place-names, but chose to mention one only, Stafford, which he observed was in earlier times Stadtford: Harrison 1877-1909.

²⁵⁴ For example Ekwall 1960: 435; Gelling 1984: 67; 70; Mills 1991: 305. 'There is no doubt about the identity of the word: it is *stæþ*...': Gelling 1981: 8.

²⁵⁵ See Gelling 1981: 8. The element is found as a simplex name in Stathe near Athelney, Somerset, and in the dative plural in Statham near Lymm, Cheshire, and as the second element in Bickerstaffe, Lancashire; Birstwith, Yorkshire; Brimstage, Cheshire, and Croxteth, Lancashire, although in the last example the word is probably the cognate ON *stǫð*, since the first element is an ON personal name Tóki: Gelling 1981: 8.

²⁵⁶ Cox 1975-6: 59.

²⁵⁷ Gelling 1992: 153. For the early history of the town see Zaluckyj 2001: 214-6.

²⁵⁸ Zaluckyj 2001: 214.

water - certainly there appears to be little documentary or other evidence of water-borne commerce²⁵⁹ - and small vessels would have had little difficulty discharging or taking on cargo at any point between Stafford and the Trent, some 5 miles to the east, of which the Sow is a tributary.

OE *hȳth* is the usual term used in place-names for inland ports,²⁶⁰ and the use of *stæp* in the sense of 'landing-place' is not otherwise evidenced until the 14th century, probably due to the influence of ONorse *stop* which had that meaning, although it has been proposed that the meaning 'landing place' was an earlier meaning than 'bank' in OE, and that it was revived from obsolescence by the influence of the Old Norse word.²⁶¹ Whatever the merits of that suggestion, it does seem improbable that a ford (in the usual sense of a shallow spot where a river could be waded) would be found at a place with a sufficient depth of water and sufficiently high banks to serve as a landing place or quay. Identifying *stæp* with 'landing place' is in any event problematic, for some places which are held to contain the element are in topographically inappropriate situations, e.g. Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, which is not on a river, but which stands on a sandstone ridge,²⁶² and Brimstage in The Wirral, which is on a very small watercourse.²⁶³ Such names may, it has been suggested, refer to '*settlements in marshes where communications were by log boat for part of the year*'.²⁶⁴ The early topography of Stafford would certainly support that meaning.

Alternatively, if the Lammascote causeway is to be identified as the *ford* element, it might also hold another explanation for *stæp*, for if the King's Pool existed (even if only as particularly wet marsh) in the centuries before the Conquest, the sense 'land bordering on water' would fit the causeway, the full interpretation of the name Stafford being 'the causeway bordered by water or very wet ground', or 'the causeway formed by a partially artificial bank'. It is unclear whether the ground from the south side of the Lammascote causeway to the river Sow was at any time permanently under water, but the ground is certainly low-lying, and at the very least would be very wet and marshy. Militarily, a settlement in very marshy ground is more of an obstacle to attackers than open water, and less vulnerable than hilltop fortifications to defeat by reason of thirst and hunger.

The original name *Stæp* or *Stæpford* was perhaps connected with OE *stapol* (ME *staddle*) 'foundation, base, support' (compound OE words beginning *stæp* have a meaning associated with stability and firmness),²⁶⁵ which may simply have denoted a paved ford or causeway or a settlement on firm ground by a river crossing. The meaning 'the firm road or causeway (through wet land)' might perhaps be associated with a suspected Roman road running south towards Pennocrucium (Water Eaton) from Blythe Bridge which may have crossed the river Sow at or near Stafford. Many Roman finds (including

²⁵⁹ Plot 1686: 43 states that the river Severn was the only navigable river in Staffordshire.

²⁶⁰ See Gelling 1984: 76-8.

²⁶¹ Gelling 1981: 8; 1984 80-1.

²⁶² It has been suggested that 'the interpretation of the second element in Bickerstaffe would more sensibly be that of 'place' rather than 'landing place' or river bank" [implying a derivation from ONorse *staðr*]: N. J. Higham 2002: 27.

²⁶³ See Gelling 1984: 80-1; PN Ch IV 235.

²⁶⁴ See Gelling 1981: 8.

pottery kilns and three granaries) have been recorded in the town, although there is (unsurprisingly) no firm evidence of continuous occupation into the Anglo-Saxon period.

Whatever the original meaning of the name, it seems that it evolved to reflect the meaning 'place of the ford (or causeway through wet ground) marked by stakes or posts', from OE *stæf*. There is other place-name evidence of the use of planks or posts to improve or mark a river-crossing: Stapleford (found in at least eight counties) denotes the existence of posts, and Stakenford Bridge (Worcestershire), stakes.²⁶⁶

Before it acquired its present name, Stafford is said to have been called *Betheney* or *Bethenei* or *Bethnei* (by tradition after St. Bertelin or Berthelin (Beorhthelm), a legendary Saxon hermit and disciple of St. Guthlac who supposedly had a hermitage here,²⁶⁷ but such a name could not in philological terms have had any association with St. Bertelin, whose cult seems to have been genuine even if the legend is baseless.²⁶⁸ The name Betheney (like Broadeye in Stafford) may well, if genuinely ancient, have as its second element Old English *ēg* 'island' (which would serve as further evidence of the wet areas surrounding the place), with an Old English personal name such as Betti as the first element,²⁶⁹ but the derivation may be associated with the biblical Bethany, a village two miles or so east of Jerusalem on the south-east slopes of the Mount of Olives, frequently mentioned in connection with memorable incidents in the life of Jesus, and now known as el-Azariyeh or Lazariyeh.

Angles, Saxons and others

Evidence of differing ethnic groups in Staffordshire may be detected in the place-names Engleton ('*tūn* of the Angles'), suggesting perhaps a small colony of Angles in Mercian territory, Normacott ('Northman's or Norwegian's cottage'), Seisdon ('Saxons' hill'), and possibly Wychnor (perhaps 'river bank of the Hwicce').²⁷⁰ The kingdom of the Hwicce, first recorded in the later 7th century, does not appear in documents after Offa's reign, when it was subsumed into Mercia. Its territory extended into north Worcestershire, and its people may have had a Celtic ancestry.²⁷¹ An analysis of the names included in this work has not produced any evidence to alter the generally accepted view that the Anglo-Saxon penetration of Staffordshire was led by the Angles penetrating from the east along the river Trent and its tributaries, and to a lesser extent the Saxons moving in from the south-west of the

²⁶⁵ Cf. Staddle Bridge, West Yorkshire: VEPN II 56.

²⁶⁶ PN Wo 150. See also Stableford.

²⁶⁷ Plot 1686: 409; SHC VIII (ii) 146; SHC 1914 112; VCH III 136; VCH VI 186; Oswald 1955: 7-9.

²⁶⁸ Thacker 1985: 1-25.

²⁶⁹ Ilam church has a shrine to St. Bertelin. The association of St. Bertelin with Stafford may be attributable to Æthelflæd, who built a burh at Runcorn (where there is another Bertelin dedication), in 915, two years after that at Stafford: VCH Ch I 253. Another church dedicated to the saint is at Thurstaston in The Wirral. The creation by Æthelflæd of Mercian cults (such as St. Milburg and St. Werburg) in newly founded *burhs* such as Gloucester is well recorded, and has been held to be a significant part of her strategy: Thacker 1984: 199-211.

²⁷⁰ For a survey of racial and tribal names see Ekwall (a) xli.

county. One intriguing name which incorporates the OE element *ware* 'dwellers' is *le Hulware*, recorded in Milwich, which means 'the people who lived at the hill'.

Early Christianity

The conversion of the pagan Anglo-Saxons to Christianity took place in Staffordshire from at least the time of Chad in 669.²⁷² Chad was given Lichfield as an episcopal seat by Wilfrid, who received it and other places in Mercia from Wulfhere,²⁷³ the Mercian king who by tradition had a palace at Bury Bank,²⁷⁴ the great earthworks near Darlaston, Stone, recorded in early records as *Wulfercester*, 'the camp or city of Wulfhere'.²⁷⁵ Lichfield thus became the first seat of the peripatetic bishops of the Mercians, but having been raised to an archbishopric by King Cenwulf in 788, it reverted to a bishopric in 803, and its fortunes declined as Mercia gave way to Wessex in political importance. Evidence for early Christianity in the county is provided by the name Eccleshall, which (from the *Eccles* element, representing the Welsh word for 'Christian community') indicates the existence of an early Celtic Christian community, perhaps surviving from the Romano-British period. Eccleshall, one of the largest parishes in Staffordshire, was the centre of a number of estates held by the bishops of Lichfield from an early date - perhaps as early as the third quarter of the seventh century - and the name suggests that the bishops were attracted to the place by the existence of an established Christian community, or chose to re-assert Christianity from a place named from a former Christian community. No firm evidence has been traced for the continuity of Christianity at Eccleshall from the fifth century to the seventh century,²⁷⁶ but such continuity is not improbable.

The other element of particular interest is *stōw*, meaning in many cases simply 'a place', but often with the specialised meaning 'a holy place'. The element occurs in three places in Staffordshire: Stowe in Lichfield; Stowe by Chartley, and Stow Heath, to the east of Wolverhampton.

Stowe in Lichfield has long associations with early Christianity, being the reputed site of a hermitage established by St Chad in the seventh century. The ecclesiastical history of Stowe by Chartley is unclear (the church of St John is essentially Norman in date), but there is no evidence that the name has

²⁷¹ See Lapidge *et al* 1999: 246.

²⁷² Chad's appointment may have followed a long period of missionary work undertaken from a Celtic community in the Lichfield area: TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 3. That might explain the enigmatic statement that Wulfhere gave Lichfield to Bishop Wilfrid in the 660s as 'a place made ready [paratum] as an episcopal see for himself or for any other': Colgrave 1927: chapter 15.

²⁷³ Colgrave 1927: chapters 14, 15 and 17.

²⁷⁴ See Shaw 1798: I 39, who also suggests that the Iron-Age hillfort at Kinver was constructed by Wulfhere. No archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation has been traced at Bury Bank: Studd 1993: 55.

²⁷⁵ Lichfield lies 22 miles from Bury Bank.

²⁷⁶ Eccleshall church contains a small Anglo-Saxon relief built into a wall, perhaps a fragment from a cross-shaft, showing a horseman possibly representing St Chad: Studd 1993: 59.

the meaning 'a holy place'. Stow Heath is the largest of the three manors of Wolverhampton,²⁷⁷ and lies on or close to the 'plain of Wednesfield', the reputed site of a great battle between an English army of Mercians and West Saxons which defeated the Danish Army in about 910 AD.²⁷⁸ The name Wednesfield incorporates the name of the pagan god Woden, and it is not inconceivable that a Christian centre was deliberately established at Stow Heath to exercise influence over a local centre of paganism. There is some slight evidence that Wulfrun, who founded, or perhaps more accurately refounded, the monastery at Wolverhampton (a place-name incorporating her own name) originally held land in or near Stow Heath,²⁷⁹ and it is not inconceivable that Stow Heath may mark the site of the original monastery.

The Hundred names and other meeting-place names

Even though all are of insignificant places - indeed in at least one case can no longer be precisely located - there are five Staffordshire place-names that demand particular consideration. The names are those of the five Staffordshire Hundreds of Cuttlestone, Pirehill, Totmonslow, Offlow and Seisdon. The Hundreds (in some Northern counties Wapentakes) were local administrative units consisting of an area of land (one hundred hides) served by a hundred-court at the Hundred meeting place.²⁸⁰ Whilst the county boundary utilises natural features, it is noticeable that the Hundred boundaries, when they do not share the county boundary, make few attempts to follow landscape features. It has been noted that the typical hundred meeting place was located away from settlements in 'neutral' territory, often near a main road or river crossing.²⁸¹ Of the Staffordshire meeting places, Offlow and Seisdon are more or less centrally placed within their respective Hundreds,²⁸² but Totmonslow is within a mile or so of the

²⁷⁷ Two of the manors (The Deanery and The Prebends) belonged to the church; Stow Heath was held by the king: Mander & Tildesley 1960: 25.

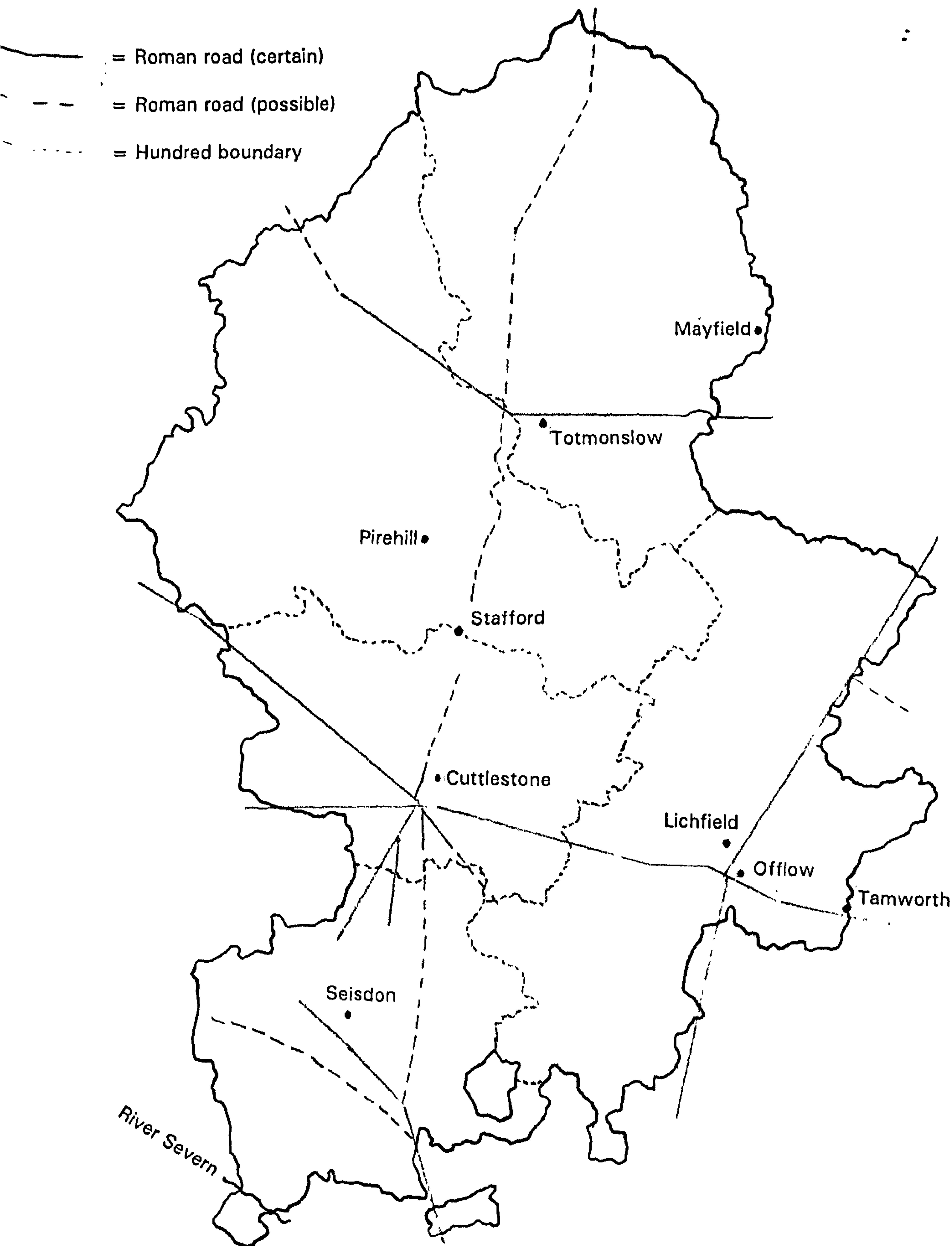
²⁷⁸ Earle & Plummer 1892-99: I 94.

²⁷⁹ From a 13th century reference to *fossatum Wulfrini* 'the entrenched place of Wulfrini' (Mander & Tildesley 1960: 28). Wulfrini is almost certainly to be read as Wulfrun, from the not unusual mistranscription of minims. No name Wulfrini has been otherwise traced, and is not included in Searle 1897.

²⁸⁰ Some of the duties of the hundred-courts, which met every four weeks, are set out in the mid-tenth century Hundred Ordinance: thieves were to be pursued by all the chief men of the hundred, those who failed to appear on appointed trial days were to be fined, and those who opposed the decisions of the hundred court were to be fined, and if they persisted, outlawed: see Lapidge *et al* 1999: 243. The five Staffordshire Hundreds are further evidence for the relative poverty of the county: Norfolk had 34, Shropshire 15, Worcestershire 12, and pre-Conquest Cheshire 12: Studd 1993: 58. It has been suggested that Wolverhampton and its members formed a separate Hundred and was independent of the Hundred courts: Mander & Tildesley 1960: 5.

²⁸¹ See Gelling 1988: 210. Meaney 1995: 29-42 places the earliest Hundred meeting places in three categories: primary, such as fords where people would expect to meet others when travelling; secondary, such as stones and other landmarks which may also have served as places of pagan sacrifice; and tertiary, such as pillars which might indicate places where heads were displayed before the coming of Christianity.

²⁸² Assuming that the early Hundred of Seisdon extended to the Severn.



The Staffordshire Hundreds and meeting places

boundary with Pirehill Hundred.²⁸³ In size, the adjoining Cuttlestone and Seisdon Hundred in the south-west of the county are about the same, and also the two smallest Hundreds, with Pirehill in the north-west the next largest. Totmonslow and Offlow, which adjoin and form the eastern part of the county, are about the same area. The size of the Hundreds in the north of the county has been ascribed to the inclusion of large tracts of unproductive upland.²⁸⁴

The age of these meeting places is not known, though the English names suggest that they are unlikely to be earlier than the seventh century, and there is even disagreement about the period at which the Hundreds (which the meeting places could well predate)²⁸⁵ were formed. By the time of Domesday, only one of the Hundred assembly places (Seisdon) was of sufficient importance to be listed as a vill in its own right, which might suggest that in 1086 the other places were insignificant, although it is also true that several significant places are ignored by Domesday Book. What is very noticeable, however, is that with the possible exception of Pirehill, all the Staffordshire Hundred meeting places lie on or very close to Roman roads,²⁸⁶ and in at least three cases close to junctions in those roads. That can be seen as evidence that most, if not all, of the Staffordshire Hundred assembly sites post-date the creation of the roads.

Typically, Anglo-Saxon meeting places were located in relatively out-of-the-way places away from other settlements and named after nearby prominent natural or topographical features. Indeed, those same features may have been sufficiently distinctive to make a place a suitable choice for assemblies to be attended by participants who might need to travel some distance. Two of the five Staffordshire meeting-places (Offlow and Totmonslow) are, not untypically, named after mounds which may have been prehistoric tumuli, but archaeological evidence from the majority of meeting-place mounds so far excavated suggests that they were often created by the Anglo-Saxons to serve as assembly points, and do not support the view that it was the usual practice of the Anglo-Saxons to utilise tumuli for this purpose, although this did sometimes happen.²⁸⁷ Two more meeting-places (Pirehill and Seisdon) are named after hills, and the fifth (Cuttlestone) takes its name from a stone. All the places are either on or close to high (or relatively higher) ground, and it may be that fire and smoke was used to signal the precise location to travellers on meeting days. One question that cannot be answered easily without further field work is the extent to which signals by fire or smoke from one meeting place may have been visible from any of the others.²⁸⁸

²⁸³ Thorn 1991 27 fn14 suggests that Totmonslow and Pirehill may have formed a single 'long' Hundred of 120 hides, given the small size of Totmonslow (18 hides 25 acres) and the fact that its meeting place was not centrally placed.

²⁸⁴ VCH IV 2.

²⁸⁵ 'The hundreds themselves often bear names of an earlier form, and met at places whose names suggest that they may have been places of assembly from early times... The later hundred seems to have taken over the meeting-place as well as the function of the earlier popular assembly': Whitelock 1952: 138.

²⁸⁶ The close relationship between Hundred meeting places and Roman roads has been noted elsewhere, for example Cambridgeshire (Meaney 1997: 228), and Leicestershire (Cox 1971-2: 14-21).

²⁸⁷ Gelling & Cole 2000: 178-9.

²⁸⁸ In his study of English Hundred names, Anderson 1934: I 147 states that 'Pire Hill is the highest point for some distance; there is none higher between it and the river [Trent], and it seems to have a

The ancient mound of Offlow, now ploughed to destruction, lay 500 yards north of Watling Street less than a mile from its intersection with Ryknild Street, on the west side of a rounded hill which rises to 367', and within yards of a parish boundary on the south. Totmonslow lies on a high point of the Roman road from Rocester to Stoke on Trent.²⁸⁹ Cuttlestone Bridge, which now tends to be treated (though without firm evidence) as the Cuttlestone meeting place, is 2 miles north of Watling Street, but it is possible that the actual meeting-place stone lay closer to Watling Street, where no fewer than eight Roman roads intersect, with another untraced road probably running north-east. Seisdon lies 1 mile north of a lost Roman road from Greensforge which runs below the ridge of Abbot's Castle Hill,²⁹⁰ and within a mile of the junction with the supposed line of a possible Roman road²⁹¹ running south from Giffard's Cross near Brewood which would meet the ridge of Abbot's Castle Hill where the county boundary bends one mile south-east of the western end of the ridge at Hillend.

No Roman road has been traced with certainty near Pirehill,²⁹² but it lies a mile or so from a cropmark of a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners on the west bank of the river Trent, south of Aston-by-Stone, which has the distinctive appearance of a temporary Roman marching camp, and from which site a Roman coin is recorded.²⁹³

In the mid-14th century there was seemingly a place called Cuttlestone,²⁹⁴ but its location remains unknown. Shaw states that

good view down the Trent valley'. However, Peasley Bank less than a mile south-west is 541' high (considerably higher than Pire Hill), is about the same distance from the Trent, and enjoys commanding views as far as Mow Cop and the high ground of Needwood, as well as to the south beyond Stafford. Browne's 1686 map of Staffordshire (in Plot 1686) shows two hills, the northern one named *Pyre Hill*. There is no name attached to the southern one. Bowen's map of 1749 is equivocal, since only one hill, captioned *Pire Hill*, is shown south-west of Aston. Yates' map of 1775 shows the northernmost of two hills as *Pyre-hill Hill*, with *Pyre Hill* on the west side of the southernmost hill, suggesting that the northernmost hill was 'the hill at (or near) Pirehill'. Yates' map of 1798 shows only the one name, *Pyre Hill*, at what is now known as Peasley Bank. The hill now known as Pirehill is shown but un-named. Teesdale's map of 1832 shows that hill as *Pyre Hill*. The 1836 1" O.S. map shows two Pirehills, one a short distance north-west of Peasley bank, the other at the hill which now bears the name, and *Hundred-acres* (q.v.) on the west side of Peasley Bank, which suggests an association with the hundred meeting place. A junction of three parishes lies on the south-east side of the hill. It seems possible, indeed likely, that the hundred meeting place lay somewhere near the summit of Peasley Bank, perhaps at this boundary junction or close to what is now Pirehill Grange Farm, at SJ 896302, with the Stafford to Stone road less than a mile to the east: See also observations in Burne 1913: 47-8. The name Peasley Bank indeed might seem more appropriate for a road than a hill: cf. nearby Yarlett Bank for the steep incline on the Stafford-Stone road.

²⁸⁹ Margary number 181.

²⁹⁰ Margary number 192. Another road from Greensforge to mid-Wales which ran below Abbot's Castle Hill has also been traced: TSAS LVI 1957-60 237-40.

²⁹¹ See Horovitz 1992: 34-5.

²⁹² The Independent, 11 June 1991, reported the discovery of a Roman road from Blythe Bridge via Fulford and Hilderstone to an undated earthwork at Hollywood (NGR SJ 932034), and from there to Common Road on the north side of Stafford; see also SOTMAS I 10-17; VCH VII 98; map in Phillips 1993: 50. The existence of such road has to date not been verified by archaeological excavation.

²⁹³ At NGR SJ 915309; see VCH I 192; Staffordshire Newsletter, 20 August 1993; Darlington 1994 11, 23; SMR 04606. Evidence of a Roman presence in the area is provided by a cache of 8 Roman coins found in the bank of Jolpool Brook near Yewtree Farm at Burston at SJ 938302: SMR 01810.

²⁹⁴ VCH IV 61. Bowen's road book of 1720, which seems otherwise accurate, shows *Cudleston* on the south side of Watling Street to the north of Aldridge, for which no explanation can be offered. An early Shropshire Hundred recorded in Domesday Book was Culvestan (which included Hope Bowdler, Munslow, Church Stretton, and part

'there is no appearance of any town or village from whence [Cuttlestone] hundred takes its name, but only a bridge so called over the river Penk', adding 'Tradition says, that at or near Cuddleston bridge was once a town or settlement of considerable magnitude and note'.²⁹⁵

As in Shaw's time, the name, which means 'Cūpwulf's stone', is preserved only in Cuttlestone Bridge,²⁹⁶ 1 mile south-west of Penkridge which carries 'an ancient thoroughfare called King Street'²⁹⁷ across the river Penk'.²⁹⁸ The exact location of the Hundred meeting place, which was presumably a prominent stone, possibly a glacial boulder or prehistoric megalith²⁹⁹ near the bridge (which itself is not associated with the name until the 13th century), is not known, but there is no evidence that the river-crossing itself was the meeting-place (where an ancient name incorporating *ford* or *bridge* might be expected), although Hundred meeting places are not infrequently at the junction of roads and rivers, and five roads meet at a river crossing here. However, all other Staffordshire Hundred meeting places are on hills: Offlow 355', Pire Hill 463' (or Peasley Bank 541'), Seisdon over 300', and Totmonslow 588'. The possibility cannot be discounted that the meeting place was a prominent stone on a nearby hill, perhaps what is now known as Beacon Hill (389'), 1 mile south-west of the bridge, which has, as the name implies, far-reaching views, and across which passes a lost Roman road running slightly to the east of north from The Ivy House on Watling Street and through Whiston Mill.³⁰⁰ In that respect, it is worthy of note that OE *bēcun* had a range of meanings including 'sign, signal, cross, memorial stone', and perhaps 'tumulus'.³⁰¹ Rather than a beacon site, the hill-name might conceivably record the existence of a lost stone or monument, possibly Cūpwulf's stone itself. It may be noted that Cuttlestone Bridge lies some two miles north of the Roman settlement of Pennocrucium (Water Eaton), the name of which, it has been suggested, 'could signify a special assembly point for the tribe, or a place of some local importance'.³⁰² That raises the possibility that the area (if not the actual meeting place) was the site of assemblies from pre-Roman times,³⁰³ and was associated with the Anglo-Saxon people known

of Cardington), and the name probably has the same derivation as Cuttlestone. The Hundred was combined with Patton Hundred to form Munslow Hundred in about 1100: PN Sa III 277-8.

²⁹⁵ 1801: II 291. No archaeological evidence has been traced to support the claim.

²⁹⁶ NGR SJ 9113, *Pontem de Cuthuluestan* early 13th century SRO D260/M/T/5/139, (*pons de*) *Cuthulueston* 1225-59 Deed, *Cothelstonbrugge* 1307 SHC VII 179.

²⁹⁷ Which ran westwards from the bridge: Yates 1798; O.S. 1833, the latter giving *King's Street* for the road running east to west to the north of Marston, and showing *Kingstreet Grange* 1 mile north-east of Sheriffhales. It is possible that the road is to be identified as an Anglo-Saxon Hundredway or Mootway, sometimes found mentioned in later records: see Bigmore 1979: 47-9.

²⁹⁸ Duignan 1902: 48. King Street is shown on modern maps running east from Great Chatwell.

²⁹⁹ Palliser 1976: 51.

³⁰⁰ Horovitz 1992: 32. It is suggested in SHC 1916 139, 151, without explanation, that the name Cuttlestone Bridge may have been applied originally to the bridge carrying Watling Street over the river Penk near the Roman settlement at *Pennocrucium* (Water Eaton), 2 miles south of here. No evidence has been traced to support that suggestion, although the bridge does mark the meeting place of three parishes. It may also be noted that a parish boundary running north from this bridge follows the river Penk as far as a former ford below Beacon Hill; see also Shaw 1798: I 31.

³⁰¹ See VEPN I 68.

³⁰² Webster 1991: 78. It is possible that Cuttlestone Hundred represents the ghostly remnants of the northern part of the territory of the Pencersten, and that the area was administered from Penkridge, which would explain why the charter of Edgar dated there in 958 (S.667), mentions *in loco famoso qui dicitur Pencric* 'in that famous place called Pencric'.

³⁰³ Aerial photographs show the corner of an earlier double ditched rectangular structure at an oblique angle to Watling Street and partly underlying (and so pre-dating) the north-west corner of the civil settlement that sits

as the Pencersætan whose territory (of which Cuttlestone Hundred might represent a fragment of the northern part) may have been administered from the Penkrige area.³⁰⁴

The Hundred name Totmonslow is from 'Tātmann's *hlāw* or tumulus'. The OE personal name Tātmann, recorded in charters of 947³⁰⁵ and 963,³⁰⁶ is found later as Tateman,³⁰⁷ and may possibly be associated with OE **tōt-mann* 'look-out man, watchman', an occupation perhaps connected with the 665' hill that lies close to Totmonslow on the north-west. The actual mound or tumulus to which the name relates has not been identified: it is unlikely that it is from the nearby hill itself, since in Staffordshire the term *hlāw* is invariably associated with tumulus-sized mounds, although it is possible that such a mound lay on the hill. A tumulus is recorded on Oakhill, a hill³⁰⁸ of over 600' half a mile south-east of Totmonslow, and this is perhaps a more likely candidate. Shaw implies that there was formerly a tumulus at Totmonslow, 'though not now extant', but that may be mere supposition from the place-name.³⁰⁹ It has been suggested that Totmonslow Hundred, the northernmost in Staffordshire, may have formed the southern part of the territory of the Anglo-Saxon peoples known as the Pecsæte.³¹⁰ It may be noted that a look-out association is probably to be found in the Hundred name Pirehill.

Offlow Hundred takes its name from 'Offa's *hlāw* or tumulus', a mound 2½ miles south of Lichfield, in Swinfen on the northern boundary of Shenstone parish, 500 yards north of Watling Street. The mound, now obliterated by ploughing,³¹¹ is well recorded by early historians,³¹² but is not known to have been excavated. It was probably of Anglo-Saxon date, since its proximity to Watling Street may not be coincidental, and mounds to which Old English personal names have been applied may be more likely to date from the Anglo-Saxon period, but the possibility that it originated as a prehistoric tumulus cannot be ruled out. There is no evidence of any connection with the great Mercian King, Offa,³¹³ who died in 796, long after the pagan period from which mound-burials date, but it may be noted that it lies little over a mile from the site of the pagan shrine at Weeford, one mile from Freeford, the name of which might signify a pagan site, six miles from Tamworth, Offa's seat of power, and a mile or so from the Roman site of Letocetum (Wall). The northern boundary of Offlow Hundred may represent the territorial limits of the tribal group known as the Tomsætan, whose name was taken from the river Tame.

astride Watling Street: see Current Archaeology 145 (November 1995) 23. The structure appears to have been in existence before Watling Street itself, since it lies at an angle to that road.

³⁰⁴ That could explain why the charter of Edgar dated there in 958 (S.667), mentions *in loco famoso qui dicitur Pencric* 'in that famous place called Pencric'.

³⁰⁵ S.714.

³⁰⁶ S.525.

³⁰⁷ 1190-1200, 1195 Anderson 1934: 147.

³⁰⁸ Possibly *Tattemaneshull* recorded in 1252 (Fees).

³⁰⁹ 1798: I 37.

³¹⁰ See Higham 1993: 176; Studd 1993: 58; Brooks 2000b: 214-237.

³¹¹ JNSFC LXVIII 1933-4 154-5.

³¹² See for example Shaw 1798: I 37.

³¹³ Who is said to have died on 29 July 794 and been buried in a chapel on the river Ouse, near Bedford: Florence of Worcester, DNB; but note also the doubts expressed by Shaw (1798: I 42) as to the site of Offa's burial, and Zaluckyj 2001: 161 (who gives Offa's date of death as 26 July). Offa was not an uncommon name: 15 individuals so-named are recorded in Searle 1897: 364.

Seisdon Hundred³¹⁴ covered the south-west corner of the county, which in 1086 may have extended as far as the river Severn, excluding Quatford. The meeting place lies close to the present Hundred (and County) boundary,³¹⁵ and is less than a mile from the long ridge (with its ancient and enigmatic linear earthwork) on Abbot's Castle Hill,³¹⁶ which marks those boundaries. The meeting-place was presumably the 300' hill to the west of the village, called c.1300 *Penn hill*, from British *penn* 'head, end, headland', near which was a junction of several parish boundaries.³¹⁷ By the late 16th century it was called *Round Hill* or *Whitney hill*. Fields on the boundary to the east of Seisdon called *Musters*³¹⁸ are from *le moustowe* (from OE *(ge)mōt* 'assembly' and *stōw* 'a (sacred) place') in 1298, meaning 'meeting place', and one of Seisdon's open fields is recorded as *Mustowe field*³¹⁹ and as *Mustowefyld* in 1549.³²⁰

The present study has revealed an intriguing possible cluster of meeting place-names in the Mayfield area. Mayfield is in north-east Staffordshire hard against the river Dove, which forms the boundary with Derbyshire. The name Mayfield itself has been held to incorporate Old English *mæddre* 'madder',³²¹ but botanists say that the plant is unlikely here, and the early spellings make a derivation from OE *mæthel* 'meeting, council'³²² with Old English *feld* 'field, open land'³²³ quite certain. The meeting place or places cannot now be identified, but the presence nearby of Harlow (for which early spellings have not been traced, but unparalleled in Staffordshire and perhaps from Old English *here* '(Viking) army, host, multitude', but also used for 'the whole people', with Old English *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', so perhaps 'the mound associated with the Vikings', or 'the mound where the people met'),³²⁴ and Motcarn Sprink (the age of the name being unknown, but possibly from Old English *mōt* 'a meeting, an assembly', with Welsh *carn* 'a heap of stones, a cairn', so 'spring at the cairn where assemblies took place')³²⁵ tend to suggest that at some period in history the area played host to

³¹⁴ Early references to the Hundred include *Saisdon(e) hvnd'*, *Seiesdon hvnd'* 1086 (DB), *hdr' de Saiesdona* 1130, *Seidon'hundredum* 1182, *Seisdon'hundredum* 1185 P, *Hundredum de Seisdon'* 1199 P, 1226-8 Fees, *hd of Seisduna* 1227 Ass, *Seysdon'* 1255 RH, *hd of Seylesdon* 1272 Ass, *Seesdon* 1285 FA, *Seysdon* 1316 FA, 1327 SR.

³¹⁵ But would have occupied a central position if the county had extended to the Severn. Indeed, the position of Seisdon might be seen as evidence for the county so extending.

³¹⁶ See for example Plot 1686: 387; VCH I 372.

³¹⁷ Gelling 1988 210.

³¹⁸ WSL Misc 339 5.

³¹⁹ VCH XX 185.

³²⁰ SRO D740/3/6.

³²¹ See for example Ekwall 1936: 110, 1960 318; Gelling & Cole 2000: 275.

³²² Which Clark suggests is one of the rarest place-name elements: Jackson 1995: 224. Aliko Pantos of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, (to whom I am indebted for sharing parts of her doctoral research on Anglo-Saxon assembly places) has traced 11 other place-names incorporating the element *mæthel*, 6 of which are also the names of parishes, and concludes that these sites were important meeting places named at an early date, and so more likely to give their names to parishes than tenth- or eleventh-century hundred meeting places which only came into existence once the settlement pattern was well established. That conclusion cannot necessarily be applied to the Staffordshire Hundred meeting places, which might long pre-date any well established settlement pattern.

³²³ As proposed by Duignan 1902: 100-1.

³²⁴ See Nicolaisen *et al* 1970; Ekwall 1960: 220. The mound or tumulus may be that which lies ½ mile south-west of Mayfield at SK 143005, perhaps that called *The Low* in 1677: SRO D1134/1/1. A tumulus called Mayfield Low, which cannot now be identified, was excavated in 1849 (VCH I 31), and tumuli called *The Rowleys* (*Rowlows* c.1765: SRO D626/A/10/1-13) are recorded in Mayfield in 1916 (SHC 1916 208). Supposedly pre-Conquest earthworks known as The Cliffs and Hollow Lane have also been recorded in Mayfield (*ibid.* 207).

³²⁵ *Mōt* in Old English and Old Scandinavian also meant 'stream junction', and since the place lies in the junction of two streams, there must be a strong possibility, if not likelihood, that the name in fact is so derived.

assemblies of some importance. From the reference to Mayfield in Domesday Book, and the absence in early records of any mention of meetings here, it can be concluded that the gatherings took place before the late Anglo-Saxon period, quite possibly before the creation of the county of Stafford, in which case they may be associated with the people known as the *Pecsētan*, 'the people of the Peak', mentioned in the mysterious document known as the Tribal Hidage, an 11th-century manuscript of earlier material listing 34 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms south of the Humber, and in a charter of 963 relating to Ballidon, Derbyshire.³²⁶ It may be noted that the first edition 1" Ordnance Survey map of 1836 shows that the Staffordshire boundary then extended beyond the Dove into Derbyshire opposite Church Mayfield. If the deviation is ancient, it may mark the former course of the river which continued as the county boundary,³²⁷ or simply reflect the not unusual arrangement whereby one authority has jurisdiction over both banks at a river crossing, or it may perhaps show that the river Dove served as a territorial boundary before Staffordshire was created, and two neighbouring peoples met on some 'neutral' territory on the east side of the Dove - it has been observed that 'it was a well-established custom for kings to negotiate with one another on the boundary between their territories'³²⁸ - but pending further research (which might reveal other lost place-names to reinforce the present indications that this area was an important area of assembly in Anglo-Saxon times),³²⁹ these matters must remain conjectural. It may be noted that Matlock in Derbyshire, 18 miles north-east of Mayfield, also incorporates the element *mæthel*, and stands on an important crossing of the river Derwent. Both Mayfield and Matlock might be thought of as strategically significant places, and a major river crossing would be a place where travellers would naturally tend to congregate. The noticeable absence of ancient markets at meeting places, where trading would otherwise have been expected, might be explained if the meetings were limited by custom to appropriate representatives to conduct formal legal, judicial and administrative business, and were not generally attended by non-participants in any numbers, or because distracting commercial activity or entertainment was discouraged or forbidden.³³⁰

The only other place-names which might provide evidence of early meeting-places in Staffordshire are Mottley Pits on the north-west side of Stone, and *Spellowe Field*, on the east side of Alrewas.

³²⁶ Brooks, Gelling & Johnson 2000. Ballidon is some 16 miles north-east of Mayfield. Whether the *Pecstan* were British or Anglo-Saxon is unclear. It may be significant that the only sizeable part of the northern Danelaw in which Edward the Confessor held a demesne was in West Derbyshire between the Noe at Hope and the river Dove at Alstonefield, i.e. opposite Mayfield: Stenton 1970: 163; VCH Db I 297, 312.

³²⁷ Plot 1686: 43 says: '...and the Dove sometimes will change its channel; which I suppose ha's been the cause that a part of Staffordshire in the parish of Mathfield lyes on Derbyshire side of the River, and a little below (near the bridge you pass over to Snelston) a part of Derbyshire on the Staffordshire side.'

³²⁸ Stenton 1971: 332.

³²⁹ The earliest spelling so far traced for Marten Hill, an 853' hill 1 mile north-west of Mayfield, is *Marting Hill* (1775 Yates). The name is perhaps from OE *gemærtūn* 'boundary tūn': three parish boundaries meet there. But the distinctive 1775 spelling suggests that the name may incorporate OE *þing* 'meeting, court of justice', a word normally limited to the Danelaw, so perhaps 'the meeting-place or tribunal at the boundaries'.

³³⁰ For completeness, it may be noted that a cluster of minor names incorporating Rice has been observed in the area around Mayfield, e.g. Bank Rice, Fords Rice, and two examples of *Rice* marked on the 1836 first edition 1" O.S. map, perhaps to be associated with *Rice house als. Rice* recorded in 1745 (SRO D1134/21/2). *Bank Rices* is recorded in 1810 (SRO D260/M/T/4/46B), and Woodside Farm in Mayfield was known as *Bagnolds Rice* before

Danish influence

Evidence of certain, likely or possible Scandinavian influence in Staffordshire place-names is rather more widespread than the traditional picture of Staffordshire outside the influence of the Danelaw might lead one to expect, although there is not a single *-by* name or any trace of *-thveit* names commonly found in the Danelaw.³³¹ That evidence is concentrated mainly, but far from exclusively, in the north-east part of the county closest to Derbyshire, and generally found near the principal rivers and in upland or even rugged country.³³² Those names include Basford, Beasley, Beeston Torr, *Beite Brige*, Car/Carr (several), Catton, Croxall, Dagdale, Densy Lodge, Denstone, Dodslow, Forsbrook, Foston, Gayton, Gill Bank, Gunstone, *Hacondale*, Hillswood, Holme, Houndhill, Hulme (a very common name, generally of minor places), Keele, *Ketelshul*, Kettle Moor, Kingstone, Knipe Wood, Knypersley, Ladderedge, Nabb Farm, Nabb Brook, Nabb End, The Neb, Ossoms Hill, Ranslow, Roe Lane Farm, Rolleston, Rocester, The Rowe, Snail's End, Snelsdale, Swainsmoor, Swinscoe, *Thoraldeswod*, Thorpe Constantine, Thursfield, Tucklesholme, Turner's Knipe Thursfield, Winnothdale and Yoxall. It may be noted that Gunstone, the southernmost name with Scandinavian associations, well away from the main areas of Scandinavian influence, lies on a lost Roman road³³³ running south-west from Pennocrucium (Water Eaton).

It has been observed that many if not most places with names of Scandinavian influence would not be habitation places of first choice, and that Scandinavian settlers may have been forced to take on land which remained unsettled by the Anglo-Saxons. One example cited³³⁴ has been Leek, which has been said to have a name perhaps of Danish origin. However, Leek, which lies on a prominent well-watered hill in a protective loop of the river Churnet, holds a strategic position above a pass known to geographers as the Rudyard-Churnet Gap,³³⁵ and has the remains of at least four pre-Conquest stone crosses, one perhaps as early as the ninth century,³³⁶ indicating that the place was a centre of some significance in the Anglo-Saxon period. It seems reasonable to assume that such an important site³³⁷ was first occupied at a much earlier date, and that if the place-name has been influenced by the Danes, they adapted a cognate Anglo-Saxon name-forming element.

1831 (SRO D514/M/38). Names incorporating Rice (no early examples of which have been traced in Mayfield) have not been noted in any other part of the county.

³³¹ The name Netherby House is shown on the 6" O.S. map of 1890, and Netherby on the 1" O.S. map of 1962, between Sedgley and Gospel End (SO 9193), and is evidently relatively recent, perhaps influenced by nearby Netherton.

³³² Domesday Book shows that almost half the landholders in Edward the Confessor's time had Norse names, but they must be seen as individuals rather than as part of any organised group: VCH IV 6. A rudimentary survey of Scandinavian place-names and personal names in Staffordshire is to be found in SHC 1916 150-4, and an analysis of Scandinavian personal names in Staffordshire in Tooth 2000a: 1-16, although the latter is based on the proposition that Watling Street formed the boundary of the Danelaw in Staffordshire.

³³³ See Horovitz 1992: 34-5. A settlement of Angles is commemorated in the name Engleton, which lies on the same road near its junction with Watling Street.

³³⁴ Gelling 1992: 137.

³³⁵ See Beaver & Turton 1979: 13.

³³⁶ SHC 4th Series 19 8.

³³⁷ See in particular SHC 4th Series 19 1995 5-12, where place-name and other evidence is presented to support the view that in the Anglo-Saxon period a large estate was centred on Leek.

Further evidence of Danish influence is found in the element *kirk*, a Scandinavianised form of Old English *cirice*, found in Kirksteads, *Kyrkesleye*, *Kyrkelond*, and *Kirkmedwe*, and associated with a number of other places, including Leek (i.e. *le Kirkebrok*) and Church Mayfield, and possibly from the lost Ratherseates, in Alstonefield. The likelihood that the name Keele is of Danish origin may be slightly strengthened by the consistent *K*-, and the proximity of Kettle Moor, which might incorporate a Scandinavian personal name. A number of names incorporate a form of *booth* (including Birchenbooth, Boosley Grange, Boothern, Boothlow, and Hardings Booth), an element which is probably of Scandinavian origin.³³⁸

Also noteworthy is the very sizeable number of names, mostly of minor or unlocated places, which incorporate the element *holm* or *hulme*, which may be seen as evidence of Scandinavian expansion: *holm* may have been used by the Anglo-Saxons, but it is evident from plotting the names on a map that they are concentrated, as might be expected of elements of Scandinavian origin, on the east of the county, and spread with decreasing frequency along the major rivers, including the Sow at Stafford. However, that evidence must be tempered by the fact that the major rivers in Staffordshire are on the east side of the county, and by the fact that the majority of names have been extracted from Stebbing Shaw's great History, which was never continued beyond the central, eastern and southern parts of the county. Whilst Staffordshire lay outside the Danelaw, the Danes will have penetrated at one time or another into many, if not most, parts of the county,³³⁹ and may for a time have occupied Stafford itself. There is possible evidence of more permanent occupation on the eastern edge of the county: characteristic Danish *gata* ('street') names - Aldergate, Ellergate, Gumpegate and Gungate - are found in the northern part of Tamworth, and further evidence of Danish links is the church of St Editha in the same town: Editha, sister of king Athelstan, was married at Tamworth to the Danish king Sihtric in 926. The only piece of clearly identifiable Scandinavian sculpture in the county is a wheel-head type cross at Rolleston.³⁴⁰

Domesday Book

The great majority of English towns and villages are first recorded by name in Domesday Book, a major source of evidence for place-name scholars. However, the great survey was not intended as a list

³³⁸ See VEPN I 134.

³³⁹ Whilst Tamworth and Repton are known to have been taken by the Danes in 940, there is, surprisingly, no evidence, either documentary or archaeological, or even legendary, of any Danish action or occupation at nearby Lichfield, but it is difficult to imagine that such an attractive target would have been ignored by the Danes: see TSSHS XXII 1990-1 31. Field names in Oakden 1984 provide evidence for a handful of Scandinavian personal names in Cuttlestone Hundred. An analysis of the sculptural monuments of the region has suggested a degree of Scandinavian influence in the northern half of Staffordshire, with the boundary running to the north of Lichfield and Stafford: see Sidebotham 1994.

³⁴⁰ Studd 1993: 57; but note that there is some question over the origin of the cross - StEnc 480 suggests that for many years the cross was part of the floor of Tatenhill church porch, and was removed to its present position in 1897.

of settlements,³⁴¹ and is a not altogether reliable source of linguistic information about Old English names, mainly because it was written in Continental Latin (rather than pre-Conquest Anglo-Latin), and the name spellings are attempts to render vernacular words in the orthography and grammatical norms of medieval Latin. The spellings of place-names reflect neither Norman French influence nor the actual pronunciation of either scribes or informants.³⁴² Moreover, in the entries for Staffordshire there are a number of notable omissions from Domesday. Places not given specific entries include, remarkably, the Mercian royal site of Tamworth, as well as Burton upon Trent, Colwich, Newcastle under Lyme, Rowley Regis, Stone and Stow, although some of those places are named incidentally. A number of areas of woodland seem to be omitted (for example the forests of Kinver and Morfe, both recorded as early 736),³⁴³ doubtless because by 1086 they already formed part of royal hunting reserves, adopted from the Frankish pattern and better known after Domesday as the Royal Forests. Again, while most places mentioned in Domesday are easily recognisable, possibly because earlier surveys were available against which to check spellings, a number are clearly aberrant, possibly due to the recording of names by roving commissioners who were unfamiliar with the area (and local dialect), or because the clerks responsible for transcribing the information for the final record misread the local returns. Examples of some less obvious places-names include *Cetquille* (Chatcull), *Ceruernest* (Charnes), *Estendone* (Huntington), and *Lvfamesles* (Painsley).³⁴⁴ Local charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries which offer consistent spellings are usually considered better evidence than an irregular form from Domesday Book, which might defy all laws of philology and represent a uniquely and inexplicably corrupt spelling.

Most place-names that appear in Domesday have now been identified with reasonable certainty. Two that have not been located are *Burouestone* and *Litelbech*, which are listed with Weeford as members of Lichfield. There is some slight reason to believe that *Burouestone* might be identified with the obsolete Broughton (or Brocton) at Longdon, or indeed Longdon itself, and *Litelbech* might be the same as (or close to) the lost *Bech* in Lichfield. The evidence is discussed in the alphabetical entries for each place. *Mersetone* recorded in Domesday Book has hitherto been identified as Amerton, on the basis that the (interpolated) name appears with that of nearby Gayton,³⁴⁵ and presumably in the light of the absence of any recognisable entry for Amerton. That identification may be correct but early spellings for Amerton bear no similarity to *Mersetone*, which may well be Marston near Stafford, some three miles from Gayton.³⁴⁶

³⁴¹ As indicated in ASC, the survey was intended to record the possible taxation yield of estates when they fell into the hands of the king by confiscation or death: Sawyer 1979: 3; Harvey 1979: 105-9.

³⁴² See Clark 1993: 317-31.

³⁴³ In a Grant by Æthelbald to Earl Cyneberht of land for a monastery at Husmere, Worcestershire: S.89; see Whitelock 1955: 453-4.

³⁴⁴ The Domesday Book spellings which appear in the present work are based on the facsimile of the Domesday folios for Staffordshire published in Alecto 1988, supplemented by observations in Thorn 1991, and differ in some respects from those given, for example, in the translated transcript found in VCH IV 37-60 (from which the forms for Staffordshire names erroneously entered in the returns for other counties have been taken). In particular, the common practice of reading *u* for *v* where the context has seemed to require has not been followed, mainly because there is a generally a clear distinction between the two letters in the Domesday Book palæography.

³⁴⁵ VCH IV 46 fn.87.

Norman influence

French influence on English place-names is generally small, but in Staffordshire French or French-influenced names include Armitage, (possibly) Barnville, Carmounthead, Dieulacres, Enville, *Frankvill*, Grosvenor, Pickards, the Roaches, (possibly) Reule, the mysterious manor of *la Desire*; transferred names such as *Doyle*, Foker, Fowlchurch, Jamage and Lysways; 'double-barrelled' names, where the name of a French family has been added as an indication of feudal overlordship to an existing (usually English) name, such as Clifton Campville, Drayton Bassett, Mavesyn Ridware and Weston Coyney; and derisory or laudatory names such as Beadesert and (possibly) Belmont, Beyvill, (possibly) Murdeford, and the mysterious Beuleg and Domvilles.

Frankvill and Le Desire

From the early thirteenth century references begin to appear in Staffordshire records to a place near Ellenhall, a few miles west of the county town, called Frankville. Since it is mentioned by the Staffordshire historian Walter Chetwynd in 1679³⁴⁷ without comment, its name and location were then presumably well known, or at least well remembered, although the place would then seem to have been depopulated and levelled for over a century: two documents of 1564 and one of 1599 refer to Frankville, some fields in it, and demolished tenements, etc., of the 'lost village'.³⁴⁸ Loxdale, the 18th century Staffordshire antiquary who knew the area well, speaks of 'a lane running from the Lawn [which] goes between Stubwood³⁴⁹ and the old depopulated village of Frankwell to the head of Broad Heath'.³⁵⁰ At the beginning of the twentieth century it was noted '...in a field near Ellenhall [is] a site known as Frankville, in which foundations have been dug up; one spot in the ploughland was known locally as the "Market place", and a kind of cobbled pavement has been exposed by the plough',³⁵¹ and in the 1920s a commentator mentions Frankwell Farm and a field named Frankwell Orchard where building rubble had been ploughed up.³⁵² The precise location of the vill of Frankwell is uncertain, but seems to have been at or close to SJ 844253.³⁵³ The Ellenhall parish boundary bulges hereabouts, possibly to incorporate Frankwell. But this Staffordshire Frankvill holds more interest for historians than as a mere deserted medieval village. The name is one of a handful of French origin in the county, and means 'the free or French town' (Old French *franc, ville*), with the substitution of *well* for *ville*

³⁴⁶ As accepted by Eyton 1881: 83-4.

³⁴⁷ SHC 1914 92.

³⁴⁸ SRO D798/1/6.

³⁴⁹ The place has not been located.

³⁵⁰ JNSFC LXIII 1928-9 165. Broad Heath is about a mile north of Ranton.

³⁵¹ JNSFC XXXVI 1901-2 118.

³⁵² *ibid.* It is possible that *Ann's Well (Wood)*, (*Anneys Wood* 1836 O.S.), 1 mile south of Ellenhall (SJ 8424) may incorporate the ghost of the place-name, but more likely that it commemorates the hospital of St Anne established in the later 13th century which lay within the precincts of Ranton priory (see VCH III 136; 252), or perhaps 'the virtuous Madam, Ann Cope', who lived at Ranton in the 17th century: Plot 1686: 112. *Frankwell Moor* in Hextall is recorded in 1509: SRO D798/1/6.

³⁵³ TSSAHS XII 1970-1

occurring from c.1600.³⁵⁴ It is one of only three places of the name recorded in Britain. The other two are in Shropshire and the Isle of Wight. Names incorporating an original *-ville* (to be distinguished from names where *-ville* has later replaced *-field*, e.g. Morville and Enville) are extremely rare, with Gelling citing Frankville in the Isle of Wight and Frankwell in Shrewsbury as probably the only examples.³⁵⁵

Frankwell in Shropshire is on the western outskirts of Shrewsbury. Its history is unclear.³⁵⁶ Whilst Domesday records a sizeable French population in 1086, with almost a third of 150 burgages held by Frenchmen,³⁵⁷ those burgages were near the castle, not outside the town, but may have housed the nucleus that eventually established itself outside the town walls.

Francheville, on the Isle of Wight, sometimes also called Newtown, is known to have been a planted town established by the Bishop of Winchester in 1256 as a trading settlement enjoying tax concessions, hence Frank in the sense 'free of impositions'.³⁵⁸ It is improbable that this explanation could account for the Staffordshire Frankwell, which lay in a rural area some distance from any urban centre.

What then might explain the origins of a medieval vill in an isolated position in rural Staffordshire with a name meaning 'the free or French town'? One possible clue may be detected in Domesday Book. The only specific references to Frenchmen (*franci[genae]*) in the Domesday folios for Staffordshire are two entries where four Frenchmen together with four thegns held eight berewicks of the manor of Sugnall, and two Frenchmen shared with a thegn four berewicks in the manor of Eccleshall, all as subtenants of the bishop of Chester.³⁵⁹ It has been suggested that the Frenchmen may have been Norman *milites*, professionals who had been settled on episcopal estates as part of the bishop's quota.³⁶⁰ It is known that the vill of Frankvill was given to the prior of Ranton (otherwise Ronton) by John de Frankville.³⁶¹ In the same area was another unlocated estate or settlement called Le Desire - perhaps near Badenhall or Eyeswall or near a lost place called Newbolt at Hilcote³⁶² - first recorded in the thirteenth century and not recorded later than the fourteenth century.³⁶³ It seems possible that a group of French ancestry, perhaps tracing their descent from half a dozen Norman settlers and their families moving into the area in the two decades after 1066, formed a small enclave near Ellenhall which gave rise to the name Frankville, with related members responsible for another settlement named Le Desire not far distant.

³⁵⁴ It may be noted that in the early 18th century Frankwell in Shrewsbury was also known as Frankville: SRRC 49/212.

³⁵⁵ Darlington 2001: Appendix.

³⁵⁶ See Gelling 1992: 166. Early spellings include *Frankeuill* c.1205 SHC 1928 277, *Frankevilla* c.1222, *Frankevill* 1333 SHC II NS 112, *Frankvyle* 1349 *ibid*.

³⁵⁷ Jackson 1995: 133.

³⁵⁸ See MedA 3 1959 202ff.

³⁵⁹ VCH IV 43.

³⁶⁰ Desborough 1991 17.

³⁶¹ SHC 1914 83; SHC IV 276.

³⁶² SHC VII (ii) 36.

³⁶³ Chetwynd refers in 1679 to this manor 'which...lay near to Eccleshall, but where I have not been able to discover', and to Sir Robert de Hastang who styled himself *dominus* [lord] *de la Desiree* in 1301: SHC 1914 60.

Further slight evidence of French influence may be the appellative adopted by or given to Robert le Frank of Wootton, near Eccleshall, who is recorded in 1351.³⁶⁴

However, there is other evidence that might be seen to support an alternative, and perhaps more likely, explanation for the name. Another lost manor in Ronton near Ellenhall was called Doyle, recorded in the mid-fifteenth century,³⁶⁵ and named after the Doyley or D'Oyly family, who held the place from the late 14th century.³⁶⁶ The surname is probably from one of the five Ouillys in Calvados: Ouilly-le-Basset, Ouilly-le-Vicomte, Ouilly-du-Houlley, Ouilly-la-Ribaude and Ouilly-le-Tesson. Doyle was subsequently known as Lewkenore's Manor, named after the Lewkenor or Lewknor family from Lewknor in Oxfordshire. Since both Doyle and Lewkenore's manor were family names, it must be equally possible that Frankville may have taken its name from the Frankville family whose name derived from the Shrewsbury Frankwell who held this place at one time. That explanation would avoid the difficulties posed by attempts to explain a 'free or French town' in a commercially undeveloped part of twelfth or thirteenth century Staffordshire.

Animal names

Domestic animals evidenced in Staffordshire names include the bull (Bonehill), calf (Caldon, Cauldon, Calf Heath, Calwich),³⁶⁷ colt (Colton), goat (Tixall), lamb (Endon), ox (Oxenford, Oxley), ram (Ranton), sheep (Seabridge), swine (Kingswinford, Oldswinford, Swindon, Swinfen, Swinscoe, Swynnerton), and wether (Weatherworth). Wild creatures include badger (Brockhurst), beetle/chafer (Charnes), deer (Dosthill), fox (Foxt), frog (Froghall), hare (Harehills, Herbage), hart (Hartwell), louse (Luzlow), mouse (Mousehall, Musden), toad (Padwick, Podmore), wild boar (*Wildboarsegreave*), and wolf (Woolley, Whittimere); and birds include bittern (Bemersley, Bitternsdale), bunting (*Hammersley*), cock (Hannell), crane³⁶⁸ (*Cornbridge*, Crane Brook, Cranmere, Cranmoor, Cronk Hill, Cronkledge), crow (Crowborough, Crateford, Cracow Moss), duck (Endon), eagle (Yarnfield), finch (Finchfield), hawk (Haukesclyf, Haukeshill, Haukesmor, Hawkbach, Hawksley, etc), jackdaw (Cowlow), kite (*Gleadley* and *Gledenhurst*), raven (Raven's Clough), snape (Snape Marsh), sparrow (Sugnall), and water rail (Crakemarsh). There is some evidence that the expression Frog-hole or Frog-hall may have been applied in the post-Conquest period to man-made excavations.

³⁶⁴ SHC 1913 144.

³⁶⁵ SHC 1914 95; see also SHC III NS 213.

³⁶⁶ SHC 1914 95-6.

³⁶⁷ But note observation about names incorporating *calf* in Archaeology *infra*.

³⁶⁸ Duignan 1902: 46 states that 'the dictionaries give [OE *cran*] as 'a crane'; but in the Midlands it meant, as it means now, a heron. It may have been otherwise in the fens, but I do not believe that cranes ever inhabited the Midland Counties'. It may be noted, however, that after the dove and the eagle, the crane is the most commonly illustrated bird in medieval manuscripts, and a significant number of crane bones have been identified from the Stafford Castle excavations.

Beacons and look-out places

There are surprisingly few early references to beacons, given the long period during which they must have formed a vital part of a sophisticated communication and warning system both regionally and nationally. Beacons appear to have existed in more recent centuries (and perhaps long before) near Penkridge, Stafford, Rolleston and Sedgley,³⁶⁹ and the name *Bekenfield* in Kingswinford, recorded in 1485,³⁷⁰ and *Bekenhurste* and *Beckenhurst*, recorded in Upper Penn in the 13th century and 1319,³⁷¹ suggest beacons in those areas. In addition, the Old English element *wearde*, *wearda* was sometimes used for a beacon, and the name may be found in Ward Hill near Dilhorne, Wardlow near Caudon, and War Hill near Maer.³⁷² Noddy Field (two places, one near Cannock Wood and the other in Compton, Kinver), and Noddy Park in Aldridge and Rushall are on high ground and may mark the sites of early beacons. Lees Hill may possibly incorporate Old English *lēg* 'fire', perhaps denoting a beacon. Beacon Bank Farm³⁷³ 1 mile north-east of Abbots Bromley, and Beacon House³⁷⁴ on the north-west side of Gillow Heath appear on modern maps, but older spellings have not been traced.

In early times advance warning of the approach of hostile or uninvited forces will have been a matter of considerable importance, and it seems reasonable to suppose that a network of look-out points will have been created. It is perhaps no more than coincidence that several names beginning Tat-, Tet-, To(o)t-, Tut- lie on high ground - in some cases with particularly commanding views - and (notwithstanding other established or suggested etymologies) it may be that if such names do not indicate a look-out point *per se*, they derive from the occupational name of an individual who undertook look-out duties. Those names include Tatenhill, Tettenhall, Tittensor, Toot Hill, and Totmonslow.

Brōc and burna

The most common naming elements for a stream in Staffordshire are Mercian OE *wælle*, generally 'a spring', but occasionally 'a stream', OE *brōc* 'brook', and sometimes OE *burna* 'a burn' is found. There is no evidence to support the theory that *burna* is earlier than *brōc*, but the two elements appear to have been applied to differing types of watercourse, with *burna* often applied to streams with gravel beds, clear water and submerged water plants, and *brōc* used of muddy streams with sediment-laden water. It has been noted that *burna* element is not uncommonly found in the area formerly occupied by the Anglo-Saxon sub-kingdom of the Hwicce,³⁷⁵ which covered what is now Worcestershire, most of Gloucestershire, and the south-western half of Warwickshire, but is rarely found elsewhere in the Midland counties outside this area: there is only one example in each of Huntingdonshire,

³⁶⁹ Shaw 1798: I 99 mentions a mound of earth on an un-named hill near Yoxall used formerly as a beacon.

³⁷⁰ Shaw 1801: II 229.

³⁷¹ SRO D593/B/1/17/1/3/5 and SRO D593/B/1/17/1/5/1.

³⁷² *Warda*, possibly in or near Ipstones, is recorded *temp.* Edward I: SRO D1229/1/4/41.

³⁷³ NGR SK 0925.

³⁷⁴ NGR SJ 8758.

Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Oxfordshire, and only two instances in each of Cheshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire and Shropshire. The examples in the area covered by this study (Boney Hay, Bourne Vale, Burnaham/Bornam, Guthersburn, Harbourne, Lilleborn, Luthburn, *Patyngehamborn*, *Stanburneford*, Swarbourn, Wombourne and Womburnshawe) are concentrated in the southern half of the county, closer to the Hwicce. It is possible that they reflect a Hwiccan place-naming vocabulary which differed from that of the Mercians.³⁷⁶ A study of OE charters has shown that the term was used by the 'old south-easterners', but not by the midland Anglians, Thames Valley Saxons or the new immigrants in the south-west'.³⁷⁷ The evidence tends to show that *burna* was in early use across most of the country, that it remained in use in particular areas such as the south-east and north-east longer than elsewhere, and that it was superseded by *brōc* before the later Anglo-Saxon period.³⁷⁸

'Corpse' names³⁷⁹

A number of minor names, many now obsolete, associated with dead bodies occur in Staffordshire, including Dead Woman's Grave, 2 miles west of Codsall,³⁸⁰ Dead Lad's Grave at the junction of Birches Barn Road and Trysull Road, 3 miles south-west of Wolverhampton,³⁸¹ Dead Knave 1 mile north-west of Sedgley,³⁸² Dead Man's Lane alias Marsh Street recorded in Newcastle under Lyme in 1778,³⁸³ Deadman's Dale or Dimsdale south of Bagot's Bromley, under what is now Blithfield Reservoir,³⁸⁴ *Deadman's Grave* recorded in 1689 near Cellarhead,³⁸⁵ *Ded(e)ma(n)n(e)smore* and *Dedmanneslowe* recorded in 1401 in Castle Church,³⁸⁶ *Dead Man's Lane* in Newcastle under Lyme in 1490,³⁸⁷ *the dead woman's Buryall* at Friar's Park Corner, Walsall, recorded in 1606,³⁸⁸ *dedmanslane* in Walsall recorded in 1545,³⁸⁹ *Deadman'slane* in Handsworth, recorded in 1851,³⁹⁰ *Deadman's Denne*, an unlocated place, possibly near Betley,³⁹¹ and Alice Hursts Grave, where in 1690 a suicide was buried in '...a certain parcel of ground parting Rolleston and Burton Road commonly called Alice

³⁷⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 10, which cites 3 examples in Staffordshire: Bourne Vale, Harborne and Wombourne.

³⁷⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 9-14.

³⁷⁷ Kitson 1995: 91

³⁷⁸ See VEPN II 90-93.

³⁷⁹ See also Field 1972: 60-61.

³⁸⁰ GR SJ 8404. *Dead Woman's Grave* 1676 Codsall ParReg. A name now applied to a glacial erratic at the junction of County Lane and Husphins Lane. By tradition named after a small house called Dead Woman's Grave, said to have taken its name from a woman who hanged herself there in a skein of wool, and was buried according to custom at the crossroads here: TSAS IV 1883 40.

³⁸¹ GR SO 8896. *The dead lads Grave* (1834 O.S.),

³⁸² GR SO 9094. *Dead Knave Field* 1736 SRO D3155/WH94, *Dead Knave* 1798 Yates, *The dead Knave* 1834 O.S.

³⁸³ SRO D593/B/1/13/42.

³⁸⁴ 1836 O.S.

³⁸⁵ Ward 1843: lx; also recorded in 1803: SHC 1933 150.

³⁸⁶ Oakden 1984: 80.

³⁸⁷ Pape 1928: 177.

³⁸⁸ Sims 1882: 50. The place, recorded as *Dead Woman's Burial Gate* in 1709 (Willett 1882: 188) is said to be associated with the discovery of human bones: Willmore 1887: 245.

³⁸⁹ Sims 1882: 31.

³⁹⁰ White 1851: 698.

Hursts Grave, who also hanged herself.³⁹² Many of the names have local traditions which have developed to explain them, but it is almost impossible to determine whether such traditions have any factual basis, although a violent death is recorded in a document which mentions Deadman's Grave in Cheddleton in 1689.³⁹³ It may also be noted that some names have been corrupted and associated with dead bodies, such as Dimsdale, which appears on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836 as *Deadman's Dale or Dimsdale*. The name is almost certainly Dimsdale, with a macabre association having developed via popular etymology. Likewise Deadman's Green near Checkley, which has been so-named only in recent centuries, and has its origins in the OE personal name *Dæda.³⁹⁴

Customs

The name Morrey (and perhaps the lost *Morghull*) incorporates traces of an expression associated with the ancient custom whereby money was given to a bride by her groom as her personal wedding settlement,³⁹⁵ and the name Dowry perhaps records property given as a wedding gift.

Hide

A number of places incorporating the OE element *hīd*, 'a hide of land', have been traced in Staffordshire., including The Hyde near Brewood, The Hyde at Kinver, and other places now lost at Freeford, Penkrige, Butterhill near Bradley, Weston-under-Lizard and Sheriffhales, as well as Halfhead, which means half-hide. The term originally meant not a fixed area, but as much ground as would support one family, depending on the quality and nature of the land, and later came to mean in Staffordshire an area of approximately 120 acres. The bounds of Wrottesley, set out in a charter of 1088 A.D.,³⁹⁶ show that the area, expressed to enclose *duas hidas* 'two hides', actually enclosed some 1,600 acres, indicating that at that date it was a term of assessment and valuation, rather than acreage. It has been suggested that the holder of a hide owed lighter and less servile duties than villeins.³⁹⁷

Dimmingsdale and similar names

Within Staffordshire is a handful of place-names which appear to incorporate a root *dimmin(g)*.³⁹⁸ Those places are Dimmings Dale 3 miles east of Cheadle, Dimmingsdale on the west side of Willenhall, Dimmingsdale south-west of Wolverhampton, Dimmins Dale on Cannock Chase, Dimsdale north of Newcastle under Lyme, and Dimsdale near Blithfield, first recorded in 1786, 1272, 1753,

³⁹¹ *Deadmansden* 1590 Betley ParReg, *Deadman's denne* 1592 *ibid*. The place is mentioned several times in the Betley parish registers, and was presumably a cave or hovel or suchlike where a body was found.

³⁹² Edwards 1949: 171.

³⁹³ Lost reference.

³⁹⁴ Redfern 1865: 348 notes that the place is recorded as Tetterton in Checkley ParReg.

³⁹⁵ See Fell 1984.

³⁹⁶ SHC VI NS (ii) 7.

³⁹⁷ Faith 1997: 20-23.

³⁹⁸ Demmings in Cheadle, Cheshire; Dimin Dale in Taddington, Dimmon's Dale in Blackwell, Dimmingsdale in Calke, and Dimons Dale in Cromford, *Dimmingesdale* Ed I *HardCh* (all in Derbyshire) may have the same root: see PN Db 69, 213, 358, 627

1840, 1086 and 1836 respectively. For the purposes of this analysis those names are assumed to have a common root. Ekwall³⁹⁹ suggests that the first element of Dimsdale near Newcastle might be ME *dimple* 'dip in the ground', with the *p* lost early and *ml* becoming *lm*, but that explanation seems somewhat contrived and unsatisfactory, and is not supported by the early spellings.

The word Dimmin(g)s⁴⁰⁰ seems to be found in place-names combined with no other element than Dale (from OE *dæl* 'valley'), and in Staffordshire appears to be associated with mineral workings and/or dams, where a valley might be expected to be associated. Early ironworking is recorded at Dimmings Dale near Cheadle,⁴⁰¹ a medieval dam, reservoir and pond have been recorded at Dimsdale near Newcastle,⁴⁰² there is a reservoir at Dimmingsdale south-west of Wolverhampton, Dimmins Dale on Cannock Chase lies at the head of Fairoak Pools, almost certainly artificial, and Dimsdale near Blithfield adjoins a reservoir, albeit created in 1953. Early iron-mining is known to have taken place in the area around Dimsdale near Newcastle, for example at Holditch in the 2nd century AD,⁴⁰³ in Madeley in 1293,⁴⁰⁴ and in Knutton in 1315,⁴⁰⁵ 1316⁴⁰⁶ and 1321.⁴⁰⁷ Support for an association with mineral working may be found in the place-name Dymdsale in Alwington, Devon, first recorded in 1371, which is believed to be from the topographical surname Dymmyngesdale, from a miner or miners from Derbyshire or Staffordshire working in the royal stannaries.⁴⁰⁸

A derivation from ME *dimmin* 'dim, gloomy' would not account for the -s endings in the place-names. OED records *diminue* 'to break up small' (e.g. crush ore?), and *dimane*, 'to flow different ways; spread abroad' (e.g. to create sluices for ore washing?), which may be associated with the root of this name. One possibility is that the root may be an OE word associated with ME *demming* 'a dam' (cf. OE **demman* 'to dam, to obstruct the course of water'), perhaps in some cases associated with mineral working, so giving 'the dale with the dam or sluice', although the persistent Dim- rather than Dem- is not readily explicable.

The element *lĕah*

³⁹⁹ 1936: 145.

⁴⁰⁰ Cf. Dimmings, in Bengeo, Hertfordshire, *Dymmynges* 1590 PN Hrt 217.

⁴⁰¹ Old Furnace (*Old Ffurness* 1685 Alton ParReg; *Old Furnace* 1694 SHC 1947 63; 1760 SRO D240/D/110) lies at the west end of Dimmings Dale, built in the 1590s: see Welch 2000: 53.

⁴⁰² SSMR 01196.

⁴⁰³ VCH II 108.

⁴⁰⁴ SHC XII NS 203.

⁴⁰⁵ SHC 1913 267.

⁴⁰⁶ SHC XII NS 67.

⁴⁰⁷ SHC IX 83. The Taddington, Blackwell and Cromford areas of Derbyshire (see preceding note) are all in the limestone area of the Peak District, and certainly had lead mining from early times. *Dimingdale* (lost) is recorded in the West Riding of Yorkshire, with the suggested meaning 'dark, dim place' (PN Y West Riding 108), and *Dimmings Dale*, a field-name in Berkshire, is recorded from 1647 (PN Bk 111; this latter name may however be transferred: personal communication from Dr M. Gelling). *Dymmerdayk* in Cornwall is recorded in 1325 (SHC IX (i) 109), perhaps from ME *demman* 'dam, stop up', with ME *dīc* 'dyke, ditch', possibly 'the watercourse associated with the dam'. Cf. Ricardo *Dymer*, recorded c.1250: SHC XI 313. Spellings for the Sussex hundred of Dumpford include *Dymford*, *Demesford* in ME documents; Mawer 1929: 40.

⁴⁰⁸ PN Db I xlv; Cameron 1996: 190.

In recent years considerable attention has been paid to the use of topographical place-name elements such as *lēah*, which is held to have meant in its earliest use 'a wood', developing later to mean 'a clearing'.⁴⁰⁹ In particular, it has been held that *lēah* is the generic which is frequent in wooded areas, while *tūn* is characteristic of open areas:

'[the] two elements...very much the commonest words in English place-names, have been shown to be characteristic of place-name formation in the period c.750 to c.950, and it is a reasonable supposition (though unfortunately no evidence survives for this) that some of the settlement names in which they occur are Mercian replacements for British names'.⁴¹⁰

The frequency with which the element *lēah* is recorded in place-names in a particular area has been taken as evidence of the extent of woodland within that area.⁴¹¹ However, the well-known map of an area in the West Midlands including parts of south-east Staffordshire⁴¹² used to illustrate the proposition may also be used to highlight inconsistencies in the theory. The area of what is now Cannock Chase, which can safely be assumed to have been heavily wooded in the early Anglo-Saxon period, is almost devoid of each element. The exercise is subject to a number of difficulties which make it necessary to treat the results of any such plotting with caution. Firstly, it assumes that all the names in a particular area were coined at about the same date. It is clear that there is rarely any firm basis for reaching that conclusion, and smaller areas of woodland may over a period of several centuries or more have been obliterated and created, although it must be acknowledged that the longevity of landscape features is a regular and noticeable conclusion in many landscape studies. Secondly, we have no means of knowing for certain just what size of woodland would have been described as a *lēah* in the earliest period, or what size clearing in what size of woodland may have been so described at a later period. In an area which was heavily wooded, it might be expected that place-names denoting woodland would be less common, for place-names in themselves were presumably coined to express the distinctive nature of the immediate area. The use of a word for woodland would suggest that the place was distinctive because of the very absence of woodland in the area as a whole. In an area with many woodland names, it might be argued that the area was relatively free of woodland, but dotted with small woods which were distinctive by the nature of the cleared area in which they lay. Indeed, that seems now to be recognised by place-name scholars, and the element is becoming increasingly flexible in its interpretation: Gelling observes that

'lēah should be translated 'clearing' when it occurs in a cluster of names, but 'wood' or 'meadow' when it is isolated',⁴¹³

and remarks of two *lēah* names in Shropshire:

⁴⁰⁹ See Johansson 1975. Wager 1998: 154-5 considers that the term is indicative of secondary woodland.

⁴¹⁰ PN Sa III x. See also Gelling 1988: 127; Gelling & Cole 2000: 237-9.

⁴¹¹ See especially Gelling 1988: 126-29; Gelling & Cole 2000: 237-42.

⁴¹² See Gelling 1988: 127; Gelling & Cole 2000: 44.

⁴¹³ Gelling 1988: 128. But the existence of an 'isolated' name today does not preclude the former existence of similar names which have not survived.

'it is possible that (despite the conventional translation 'clearing' given in the text...) the reference in the two names is to small, jealously guarded stands of trees rather than to woodland clearings. The sense 'isolated wood' is always to be reckoned with when *lēah* names occur in ones or twos in an area where *tūn* is the more common of the two elements'.⁴¹⁴

Furthermore, the nature of the woodland itself is uncertain. It is known that from the earliest date woodland was treated as a valuable commodity, and carefully tended. Woodland is often assumed to be part of the 'original ancient wildwood' (which by historical times may have been all but obliterated), but the term woodland might just as easily have applied to cultivated areas of coppice. Whilst Anglo-Saxon topographical terms have in many cases been shown beyond doubt to be very specific and precise, we can never be certain how many trees were needed to become a grove, or the distinction between a grove and a copse, or how a large copse differed from a small wood. No doubt the terminology varied according to the locality: in an area with many trees, it may have taken a larger number to create a wood than in an area sparsely scattered with trees. In general terms, it might well be that a heavily wooded region would show little evidence for woodland names, for they would not serve to distinguish the specific from the general. Again, only by surviving in early records will authentic *lēah* names be evidenced. Very many must have vanished without trace; others may be of relatively recent origin. Rackham has warned:

'Let us not make too much of the 'clearing' place-names. A clearing can arise as easily by the retreat of agriculture - by the surrounding fields becoming woodland - as by new fields being made. Place-names tell us nothing of when the clearings were made, or how, or by whom. Only archaeology can tell us how many leys and hursts were made by the Anglo-Saxons themselves'.⁴¹⁵

Finally, it is clear that several *-ley* names in Staffordshire, for example Moxley, Muckley Corner, Rowley and Stanley, have probably developed from *-hlāw* 'tumulus', and in some cases, for example Anslow, *-ley* has developed into *-low*, and the derivation of many apparent *-ley* names may in reality be uncertain. It is therefore suggested that mapping exercises for relatively common elements of this type, particularly where early spellings have not been traced, may produce results which are difficult to interpret or perhaps misleading, and that the absence of such elements cannot be taken as evidence that the feature would not have been found in that area.

Industries and occupations

Names reflecting industries and occupations include Quarnford and Milton (milling), Colwich, Coley Hill and Colton (charcoal burning), Hammerwich (smithing), Salt (salt-working), Butterhill and

⁴¹⁴ PN Sa III xiv.

⁴¹⁵ Rackham 1990: 56.

Butterton (dairying), Felthouse Wood, Fields Farm, and two places called Felthouse (felt-making), Glascote, Glass House, Glasshouse Farm, the lost *Glashoushay*, and Glass Lane (glass-making), Chatkull, *Culnehill*, High and Little Onn, Keeling Ford and Oulton House Farm (kiln-working), Biddulph Dilhorne, *Delph House* and Stonydelph (quarrying or mining), Huntington and Humpage Green (hunting), and Fisherwick (fishing).

Kings

Pendeford, Pendlestone, *Wulfercester* (Bury Bank) and *Wulfursyde* probably incorporate the names of Penda and his son Wulphere, early kings of Mercia.⁴¹⁶ It is noticeable that a number of names beginning *Wolf-* and *Wulf-* seem to be concentrated around Stone. Some at least may incorporate the name of Wulphere, who by tradition is associated with Bury Bank hillfort on the north-west side of Stone.⁴¹⁷ Consall, King's Bromley, Kingsley, Kingsnordley, Kingstone, Kingswood, King's Wood and Kingswinford probably indicate early royal associations.

Monastic retreats

Sinai Park (and possibly Coena's Well, Sena Park and *Seyneshaulwe*) marks the site of a monastic building used for breaks ('seyneys') by monks.

Salt

Salt has always been an important and valuable commodity. Evidence of salt-springs and the working and transporting of salt can be found in the names Salt, Salt Brook, Saltbrook Cottages, Saltwell, Salter's Well Farm, Salterford, Salter's Bridge, *Saltersholme*, Salters Lane, Salters Park Farm, Saltershall Farm, Salthouse (Farm), and *Saltmoor*.⁴¹⁸

Social order

Social order or status is reflected by reference to freeholders (Franklin), peasant landowners (Bond End, Boon Hill, and possibly Bowers), churls (*Cherlecot*, Chorlton), free tenants (Drointon), knights or young retainers (Knighton), beggars (Latherford), hermits (Armitage), monks (Monkford, Monks Wood, Monksbridge), and bishop, king and abbot are found in Bishton, Bushbury, Kingsley,

⁴¹⁶ It is said that apart from its occurrence in place-names, the only example of the name Penda is that of the king of the Mercians: PN Wo 223; see also Searle 1897: 386; Zaluckyj 2001: 2-3.

⁴¹⁷ The tradition is recorded by the 12th-century chronicler Hugh Candidus, a monk at Peterborough who wrote a history of his house from the time of Wulphere, its founder: see Mellows 1949: 152-3. See also SHC V (i) 9-10.

⁴¹⁸ Salt springs are also recorded near Adderley Hall, and at Branston (see Shaw 1798: I 98), Brierley Hill, Cradley Heath, Enson, Draycott, Ingestre, Kingstone, Sandon, Sugnall and Tixall (cf. Salt). See also Wychdon.

Kingswinford and Abbot's Bromley. An interesting group of names in and around Yoxall indicating social rank includes *Reeve End*, *Swaynefield*,⁴¹⁹ and Bond End, from OE *gerēfa* 'a bailiff, steward, official of rank', Early ME *swein* 'boy, servant, retainer,' and OE *bōnde* (ON *bōndi*) 'householder; free man'.

Superstitions

Superstitious beliefs are evidenced by the element *bug* 'goblin or boggart' (Buglaw), *scucca* 'demon or evil spirit' (Shugborough), *hob* 'hobgoblin, sprite, elf' (Hobs Hole, Hob Hill, Hobriding), *grim*, another name for Woden (Grimditch, Grymsyll),⁴²⁰ *pouke* (from OE *pūca*) 'demon, sprite, hobgoblin' (Pouke Hill), *thyrs* (from OE *þyrs*) 'giant, demon' (Thor's Cave, Thorswood (House)). Drakelow, the lost *Drakeford*, Wormhill, Wormhough and Woundon, from OE *draca* and *wrym*, record a belief in dragons. Grindley and *grendelsmere* may incorporate the name of Grendel, the monster in Beowulf, who lived in a lake or mere. The precise physiological distinction between a demon, goblin, hobgoblin, sprite, elf and boggart does not appear to have been the subject of any exhaustive academic research.

Treasure

Names suggesting the discovery of treasure include *Goltherdesbeuch*, Goldthorn, Goldthorn Acre, *Gooldburynes*, Hordle Spring, and Hurdlow.⁴²¹

Trees, vegetation, crops and soil

The types of trees evidenced Staffordshire place-names include alder (Aldershaw, Aldersley, Alrewas), apple (?Apedale), ash (Ashley), aspen (Aspley), birch (Birchills, Birchfield), hazel (Haselour, Hazelwood, etc), lime (Lynn), oak (Acton, Oaken), pear (Perry Hall, Perton), plum (?Blymhill), rowan (Wicken Walls, Wickeytree), and thorn (Castern). Shrubs, plants and crops include barley (Barton), bog myrtle (Gailey and Wyrley), briar (Brereton), broom (Bramhall and Broomhall), cress (Cresswell, Bilbrook), fern and bracken (Fawley), flax (Ellenhall), hocks or mallows (Hoccum and Oakham), hops or similar plants (Himley), misteltoe (? Moisty Lane), oats (Pillaton), wild celery (Marchington), wild garlic (Ramshorn, Ravenscliffe), and wheat (Wheaton Aston). A cluster of names in the Pershall area (including Pesecroft, Peafield (Coppice), and Persbutt, as well as Pershall itself and Peasley Bank)

⁴¹⁹ Recorded in 1665: NA DD/4P/24/99. The name is commemorated in Swainsfield Road. See also Stuart 1990: 7.

⁴²⁰ PN Ch V I:1 xxviii suggests that there may be an alternative meaning for *grym*, *grim*, for the OE and ONorse words mean 'mask' (cf. modern dialect *grim* 'skull face' recorded in Yorkshire (EDD)), and place-names incorporating the element may refer to places where ancient burials were discovered.

⁴²¹ The field-name *Gooldburynes* in Brewood is recorded in 1453 (Oakden 1984: 47), the name meaning 'burial-place where gold was found', and *Goldhorde stile* in the Shipley/Rudge Heath area is recorded in 1619 (SRRC 330/25).

attest to the cultivation of peas. A herb garden is found in the name Burlaughton, and Rue Barn (Farm.) may record the growing of the herb of that name. The nature of the soil is indicated in Clayton, Sandon, Gratwich, Gratton and Greets Green (clay, sand, and gravel/grit). Perhaps surprisingly, the name Orchard appears to be confined to high ground in the far north of the county.

Archaeology

It is perhaps in the field of archaeology that place-names provide the richest source of information.

There are a number of places incorporating the word Berry or Bury or Borough in Staffordshire (including Berry Hill, Berry Ring, The Bury, *Burwey*, and perhaps *Borwey Foordes*), almost always referring to an ancient earthwork, often prehistoric, and field-names incorporating these words in areas where no archaeological feature is recorded may justify research. In Staffordshire the element *hlāw*, which elsewhere has the general meaning 'hill, mound, tumulus', would appear to have a narrower meaning, and refer either to a burial mound, or an artificial (or possibly natural) mound resembling a burial mound. In places to which the element has been applied but no tumulus has been noted, local groundwork or an examination of aerial photographs may well provide evidence of the lost or unrecognised feature. It is possible that *arbour* has a similar meaning, from OE *eorð-burh*, though in many cases it will be the modern 'arbour', which appeared in ME from French.⁴²²

The word *ceaster* (from Latin *castra*) was adopted by the Anglo-Saxons to mark the site of Roman or Romano-British towns, and is found in the two Staffordshire Chestertons, one on the west side of Newcastle under Lyme, the other near Worfield. The first place has a Roman fort, the second lies above the iron-age earthwork known as The Walls, which from the adjoining Roman road was almost certainly occupied by the Romans. The element is also found in Chesterfield, with reference to the Roman site at Wall, and in Rocester, on the site of a major Roman settlement. Stratford, Stretton and Streethay contain OE *stræt* 'a paved street, a Roman road'. Place-names incorporating the word Grym or Grim are frequently associated with ancient earthworks, especially linear dykes, probably from the name Grim used as a giant's name in Northern Europe,⁴²³ rather than from OE *Grīm*, meaning 'the masked one', a nickname for Woden, who by tradition went about in disguise.⁴²⁴ The later element *castel* often indicates an ancient earthwork or fortification, to be distinguished from the traditional stone castle with turrets and towers. Local knowledge of minor places and field-names incorporating these various elements, and names found in early documents, particularly on the nineteenth century tithe awards and associated maps, can be invaluable in attempting to identify untraced archaeological features.

⁴²² See Gelling 1988: 147.

⁴²³ See Bronnenkant 1985: 72.

⁴²⁴ See PN W 15-6; Gelling 1988: 148-9.

Ancient names with *castle* often mark what was, or was thought to be, a castle in the conventional sense (e.g. Castle Church, referring to Stafford castle, and Castle Croft near Chesterfield, named from substantial stone walls of Roman date), but often a prehistoric or later earthwork, from OE and OFr *castel*, but such names may sometimes be from OE *ceastel* 'heap of stones', often with archaeological interest. Earthwork-type names include Burf Castle, Castle Ring, Castle Old Fort, and Knaves Castle, all of which are or were prehistoric earthworks. Occasionally the word *castle* is applied to castle-like rock outcrops or other natural features, or used in an ironical way for a humble dwelling, perhaps the case with Tinker's Castle.

Names incorporating OE *w(e)all* 'a wall, a rampart', suggest the existence at an early period of some man-made feature sufficiently distinctive to be specially named. Examples of place-names likely to incorporate this element are Wall Acre near Butterton, Wall Hill near Claverley, Wall Heath near Himley, Wall Hill near Rushton Spencer, The Walls (near Audley and at Chesterton), and Walton Grange. It is a curious fact that at every place in Staffordshire where Old English *calf* has been identified as a likely element in the place-name (i.e. Calf Heath, Calton, *Calver Croft*, Cauldon, Calwich, Hill Chorlton) there are well-recorded burial-mounds. The word 'calf' meant 'the young of any bovine animal, especially of the domestic cow', but the meaning 'a small island lying close to a larger one' is also recorded from an early date in the well-known case of the Calf of Man, an island lying close to the Isle of Man.⁴²⁵ Those Staffordshire places incorporating the word *calf* are not perhaps the most likely calf-rearing localities, and it seems conceivable that the Old English word may have a secondary meaning applied to tumuli, perhaps in particular an arrangement of one or more smaller tumuli associated with one or more larger tumuli, but further research into similar names elsewhere would be necessary to support or disprove the theory.

Caverswall

One curiosity highlighted by research for this work is the long existence of a 'second' Caverswall,⁴²⁶ in Loxley, some seven miles or so from the ancient and better-known Caverswall, otherwise Caverswall Castle, near Stoke on Trent. In 1643 *Carswall House* is recorded,⁴²⁷ evidently at Caverswall Castle, but the *Caverswall House* mentioned in 1671⁴²⁸ and *Caraswell* in 1679⁴²⁹ is likely to be the place near Loxley. If that is the case, it is puzzling that neither place adopted a descriptor to distinguish it from the other, and it seems possible that historians have assumed, doubtless in some cases wrongly, that early references to Caverswall must refer to Caverswall near Stoke on Trent.

⁴²⁵ OED. No other example of the use of 'calf' in this way has been traced; the Calf of Man is said to be from ONorse *kalf*.

⁴²⁶ Possibly associated with the de Caverswall family from at least the early 14th century: see for example SRO DW1733/A/2/7. *Caverswall* recorded in 1286 (SHC 1919 39) may be this place, since it is mentioned in association with Gayton, Blithfield and Bramshall.

⁴²⁷ SHC 4th Series I 5.

⁴²⁸ BCA MS3192/Acc1941-031/148.

Common elements

The Anglo-Saxons, whose language we now call Old English, had a very sophisticated vocabulary which included a vast range of precise topographical terms used as elements in the formation of place-names. Although many appear to be synonymous, an Anglo-Saxon peasant living much closer to the land would not have considered them so. Many Old English place-name elements developed to describe specific physical features of the landscape for which we have no one-word synonym today. Modern research and fieldwork is slowly unlocking those precise meanings. The following are some of the principal Old English (and other) place-name elements found in Staffordshire place-names, their meanings, and place-names which are likely to incorporate the elements:

bearu, dative singular *bearwe* 'a grove or small wood', found in modern spellings as -barrow, -bear, beare, -ber, -borough.⁴³⁰ Places which may incorporate the element include Ackbury, *Barewehull*, Barrow Hill, Barrow Moor, Bearwood, Crowborough, Fairboroughs, Hazel Barrow, and Sandborough.

bece 'a stream or steep-sided stream valley', found in the name Gradbach, Holbeche, Huntbache, Westbeech, and traced in the elements -batch, -badge, -bage, -beach, -bech.⁴³¹ Places which may incorporate the element include Batchacre, *Batchley*, Beech, *Comberbach*, *Goltherdesbeuch*, Gradbach, *Haselbache*, Hawkbach, Henbaches, Herbage, Holbeche/Holbeach, Humpage Green, *Sowsbetch*, and Westbeech.

beorg 'a small rounded hill', often found as -barrow, -beare, -ber, -berry, -borough, -burgh, -bury.⁴³² Places which may incorporate the element include Barrow Hill, Barrow Moor, Broughton, Fairboroughs, Gainsborough Hill, Hazel Barrow, Hollingbury Hall, Mobberley, *Mucheberge*, and Windy Arbour. Although in Staffordshire OE *hlāw* was normally applied to tumuli, or hills or mounds with the appearance of tumuli, in some cases OE *beorg* may have been used: cf. Barrow Hill, on the Staffordshire-Worcestershire boundary.

bold, *bōtl*, *bōðl* 'a dwelling, a house'.⁴³³ Places which may incorporate the element include Bold, Booden Farm, Bull Bridge, Newbold, Newbolds, and Nobut.

brēc, ME *breche* 'land broken up for cultivation' (literally 'breach'). Names incorporating this element are probably of ME origin.⁴³⁴ Places which may incorporate the element include The Bratch, Breach Mill, The Breach, The Breatch, Breech Coppice, Long Birch, and Pyebirch Manor.

brōc a very common place-name element in Staffordshire meaning 'a minor watercourse characterised by a muddy bed', often with grass-like plants, where the water is likely to come from rainfall run-off.⁴³⁵

⁴²⁹ SHC 1919 270: the place is listed after Gratwich, less than a mile distant.

⁴³⁰ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 221-2.

⁴³¹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 3-4, where Holbeche is cited as perhaps the only Staffordshire example.

⁴³² See Gelling & Cole 2000: 145-50.

⁴³³ EPNE i 43-5.

⁴³⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 266-7.

⁴³⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000 67.

Apart from numerous stream-names, the element is found in Brockley Moor, Brockmoor, Brockton, Brockton Grange, Broughton, and Stallbrook.

brycg 'a bridge', sometimes 'a causeway', giving -bridge, -brig.⁴³⁶ Places which may incorporate the element include Beobridge, Bridgeford, *Bridgewood*, Bull Bridge, Combridge, Dove Bridge, Hanging Bridge, Maidensbridge, *Monksbridge*, Salter's Bridge, *Stare Bridge*, *Stockenbridge*, *Welfordbridge*, Willowbridge, and *Wombridge(ford)*.

burh, *burg*, dative singular *byrig*, *byrg* 'a fortified place, an ancient earthwork or encampment, a Roman station or camp, an Anglo-Saxon fortification, a castle of post-Conquest date, a fortified house or manor, a monastery'⁴³⁷ and, later, 'a manor', 'a fortified town' and, later still, 'a town, a market town, a borough'. The meaning 'a fortified place' is the most common in older place-names, with 'manor' in most likely meaning in post-Conquest place-names.⁴³⁸ Found in *Aldeburge*, *Archberry*, Berry Hill, Berry Ring Farm, The Berth, Blithbury, Bloomsbury, Borrowcop Hill, *Borway Ford*, Broadfields, Brough Hall, Broughton, Bunbury Hill, *Bur Walls*, Little Burbrook, Burcot, Burf Castle, *Burford*, *Burhall*, Burleyfields, *The Burleys*, Burston, Burton, *Burtone*, Burton upon Trent, *Burwey*, Bury, Bury Bank, Bury Farm, Bury Hill, *Bury Hill*, Bushbury, Curborough, Gainsborough Hill Farm, Hanbury, Hobbergate, Knotbury, *Newborough*, *Oldbury*, Padbury (Lane), Shugborough, and Wednesbury.

burna in Old English had the meaning 'a stream or brook', generally denoting minor watercourses with clear water, often derived from springs, and with gravelly beds and grass-like plants. The same word is found in modern Scottish 'burn'. Places which may incorporate the element include Boney Hay, Bourne Brook, Bourn Brook, *Burnaham/Bornam*, *Guthersburn*, Harborne, *Lekebourne*, *Lilleborn*, *Ludburn*, *Patyngehamborne*, *Stamberlowe*, *Stanburneford*, Swarbourn, *Woburnshawe*, and Wombourne.

camp in its earliest use perhaps 'uncultivated land on the outskirts of a Roman villa or town', but later to mean 'an enclosed piece of land, a field',⁴³⁹ and later applied to earthworks, especially those considered to be Roman, found in Camp Farm, Camp Hill, Campfield (Wood), and *Tilbury Camp*.

car, *carr* a name found only in the north of the county, from ON *kjarr* 'marsh, wet moor, boggy copse'. The name is so often found linked to that of the alder that the word may mean 'wet place with alders'.⁴⁴⁰ Found in Alder Carr, Carry Coppice, *Car House*, Car House, Carr Wood, *Carr*, Carry Coppice, High Carr, Hole Carr, and Moss Carr.

cester 'a walled town, a city, a (Roman) town, an old fortification',⁴⁴¹ found in Chesterfield, *Chestrehurst*, Chesterton, and Rocester.

⁴³⁶ See Gelling & Cole 67-70.

⁴³⁷ Stenton 1970: 320-1 notes that one meaning of *burh* was 'monastery', perhaps from the enclosure which surrounded the monastic buildings; see also VEPN II 77.

⁴³⁸ EPNE i 58-62.

⁴³⁹ See Gelling 1988: 75-8.

⁴⁴⁰ A meaning favoured by Rackham 1990: 108. Camden 1674: 121 notes 'Car, a low watery place where alders grow, or a pool'.

⁴⁴¹ See Gelling 1988: 151-3.

clif 'a cliff, a bank, a rock', and giving the suffixes -cliff, -cliffe, -ley. The element is generally applied to slopes exceeding 45 degrees, with *helde* used for less steep slopes.⁴⁴² The element is found in the names *Castle Cliff*, *Cliff*, *Cliff Vale*, *Cliff Wood*, *Clifton Campville*, *The Clive*, *The Clyves*, *Haukesclyf*, *Middle Cliff*, *Ravenscliffe*, *Rea Cliff Farm*, *Sharpecliffe*, *Stoney Cliffe*, and *Thorncliff*.

clough a common name in the North Staffordshire moorlands and with variants in the northern counties, but not found south of Stone. From OE *clōh*, not independently recorded, which Duignan⁴⁴³ believed to mean 'a ravine or narrow valley with steep sides', usually forming the bed of a stream, but which seems to have been applied to less pronounced or secondary features.⁴⁴⁴ The old pronunciation was as in 'bough', but is now 'cluff'. Examples include *Bullclough*, *Clough Head*, *Clough House*, *Harper Cloughh*, *Hawkeswall Clough*, *Hoarse Clough*, *Hollinsclough*, *Oakenclough*, *Outclough*, *Pyecclough*, *Raven's Clough*, and *School Clough*.

cot, dative singular *cote*, dative plural *cotum* 'a cottage, a shelter, a hut',⁴⁴⁵ found in *Allscott*, *Amblecote*, *Beffcote*, *Bescott*, *Bitterscote*, *Brancote*, *Broncott*, *Calcot Hill*, *Cherlecot*, *Cotes*, *Coton* (6 places), *Cotwalton*, *Dalicott*, *Draycott* (5 places), *DunCow's Grove*, *Glascote*, *Goscote*, *Halfcot*, *Normacot*, *Northycote*, *Oscote*, *Swancote*, *Syrescote*, and *Trescott*.

croft 'a piece of enclosed land, a small piece of arable'.⁴⁴⁶ The element is found in *Badger's Croft*, *Bancroft*, *Calverecroft*, *Calver Croft*, *Castle Croft*, *Castlecroft*, *Crow Crofts*, *Gorsty Croft*, *Grimescroft*, *Hobcroft (Farm)*, *Horsecroft Farm*, *Huntcroft*, *Leacroft*, *Lime Croft*, *Longcroft (Farm)*, *Lyncroft*, *Mesty Croft*, *Penny Crofts*, *Ryecroft*, *Rye Croft*, *Salter's Croft*, *Westcroft*, *Woodcroft*, and *Wooliscroft*.

crūc, *crȳc* (cf. PrWelsh *crūg*) 'a hill, a tumulus', found as *crich*, *crook*.⁴⁴⁷ The element is found in *Penkridge*.

cumb 'a short, broad valley, usually with three fairly steep sides', also 'a cup, vessel', perhaps found in place-names in a transferred topographical sense. The word is generally held to derive from the ancestor of Welsh *cwm*, but may be associated with OE *cumb* 'cup, vessel', used in a topographical sense influenced by the Welsh word.⁴⁴⁸ The names *Combes Brook*, *Combridge*, *Compton* (6 places), *Congreve*, *The Coombes*, *Coombesdale*, *Cumbwell Brook*, *Hoccum* and *Romescumbe* probably incorporate the element.

dæl (ME *dale*) 'a dale, valley'. Names incorporating *Dal-* and *-dale* tend to be found in areas of Scandinavian influence, and will usually contain ON *dalr*, Old Norse and Old Swedish *dal* 'valley'. It has been noted that late OE *dæl* may also have meant 'pit, hollow'.⁴⁴⁹ Places incorporating the element include *Bugsdale*, *Dagdale*, *Dale Brook*, *Dale House*, *Dale Torr*, *The Dale*, *Dalesgap*, *Dearndales*, *Dearnsdale*, *Dimming's Dale*, *Dimmingsdale*, *Dimmins Dale*, *Grendale*, *Grindley*, *Hetelsdale*, *Holedale*, *Holindale*,

⁴⁴² See Gelling & Cole 2000: 153-6.

⁴⁴³ 1902 42.

⁴⁴⁴ See Gelling 1984: 88; Gelling & Cole 2000: 101-2.

⁴⁴⁵ EPNE i 108-9.

⁴⁴⁶ EPNE i 113.

⁴⁴⁷ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 159-63.

⁴⁴⁸ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 103-7.

⁴⁴⁹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 110-2.

Huddale (Farm), Leadendale, Mickledale, Milldale, Mill Dale Farm, *Quennedale*, Rakes Dale, *Stagdale*, and *Strattondale*.

denu 'a main valley', found as -dean, -den, as in Croxden and Musden Grange.⁴⁵⁰ Places which may incorporate the element include Ballington, Croxden, Dean Brook, Dydon, *The Holden*, *Horden*, Kniveden, Merridale, Musden Grange, and Ounsdale.

dūn 'a hill'. The various names used by the Anglo-Saxons to mean 'hill' were not synonyms, but each described a particular type or shape of landscape feature. A *dūn* is generally (but not invariably) of moderate height with a relatively flat area on or near the summit offering a preferred settlement site. The element would indicate to an Anglo-Saxon both the topography and the probability that the settlement would be of a high status.⁴⁵¹ The word occurs in Acton Hill, Ankerton, Brereton, Butterton, Calton, Cauldon, Hill Chorlton, *Cuttledon*, Down House Farm, Dunwood, Elkstone, *Elmdon*, Endon, Grindon, Haddon, Haden Hill, Hatherton, Highdown (Cottage), Hixon, *Hoddesdone*, Huntington, Knivedon, Longdon, Longsdon, Ludstone, Lyndon, Ribden, Rowdon Lanes, Sandon, Saredon, Seisdon, Shebdon, Slindon, Snowdon, Standon, Swindon, Wetton, Woundon, and Wredon.

ēa 'a major river', as opposed to a minor watercourse,⁴⁵² found in Water Eaton (but not Church Eaton, where the first element is *ēg*, denoting a settlement on a raised area in wet land).

ēcels 'an addition, land aded to an estate', a common element in the North Midlands,⁴⁵³ and found in Echells and Neachells.

ēg 'island' in the conventional sense, but also raised ground which provided safe habitation sites in marshland. The element used in this sense almost certainly dates from the earliest Anglo-Saxon period - of all the elements found in place-names recorded before c.730, it is the most common - and the gradual disuse of the term after that period probably accounts for the use of various other words (such as *dūn*, *hamm*, *halh*, *hop*, and ON *holmr*) to describe this type of site.⁴⁵⁴ Examples of these early names are Andressey, Anglesea, Bradney, Bradney Wood, *Broad Eye*, Chebsey, Doxey, Church Eaton, Gamesley, Goldie (Brook), Kemsey Manor, *Mungesfordeseye*, Nield, Pinchley, Tuppenhurst and Wood Eaton. All the places are close to rivers or streams, or form higher points of dry land in wet ground.

feld 'open land' (cf. Modern *veldt*), probably used by the Anglo-Saxons from the earliest period for uncultivated areas used for common pasture, and incorporated into settlement names when arable encroachments forming part of new settlements were made.⁴⁵⁵ Found in Alstonefield, Ashfield Brook, *Bernefeld*, *Betsfeilde*, Black Field, Blithfield, *Bowelles Felde*, Broadfields Farm, Brownsfields, Chatfield, Chesterfield, Christiansfield, *Cokefeld*, *Cumberfield*, Enville, Fauld, Fawfieldhead, Field, Field House (Farm), *Fieldhouse*, Fieldhouse Farm, Finchfield, Highfields, Leafields (Farm), Lichfield,

⁴⁵⁰ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 113-5.

⁴⁵¹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 78, 164-7.

⁴⁵² Gelling & Cole 2000 14-6.

⁴⁵³ EPNE i xxviii.

⁴⁵⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 37-40.

⁴⁵⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 310-11.

Mayfield, Ounsdale, Priestfield(s), Shawfield, Shelfield, Statfold, Stychfield, Thursfield, Upfields, *Watherfeld*, Wednesfield, Whitfield, Worfield, Yarnfield, Yieldfields Hall.

fen perhaps a special term for a linear marsh,⁴⁵⁶ found in Fennel Pit Farm, Fenton, Fulfen, Swinfen, and Yarnfield.

ford an element in use from an early date which has not changed its meaning, and (as one of the most common elements) found in numerous Staffordshire place-names. The element *(ge)wæd* was also used for fords, but the only trace of the word found in Staffordshire is Wade Lane.⁴⁵⁷ Names incorporating the element *ford* include Apesford, *Asshforde*, *Ayleslade Ford*, Blithford, *Boreway Ford*, Great Bridgeford, Brindley Ford, *Broad Ford*, *Chelsford*, Clanford, Comberford, Crateford, *Crawford*, Darnford, Denford, *Drakeford*, Elford, Elford Heath, Ford Brook, Ford Farm, Ford Green, Fordhouses, Ford Wetley, Hanford, Hollyford, Keeling Ford, Kingswinford, Latherford, *Lymford*, *Mareford*, *Robins Hood Ford*, *Rocheford*, *Salterford*, *Saltford*, Sandyford, Seighford, Somerford, Stableford, Stafford, *Stanburneford*, Standeford, Stanford Brook, *Stockford Green*, Stonyford, *Stonyforde*, Strongford, Swynnerton, Teanford, Walford, *Warwicksford*, Watford Gap, *Weldfordbridge*, Whitleyford, Wigford, *Wombridge(ford)*, Woodford, Woodford Grange, Wyndford Mill, Wynford Brook, and *Yeolbridge Ford*.

grāfe meaning 'coppice', probably a prominent managed wood of modest size which could be described by its colour (e.g. Whitgreave), shape (? Orgreave), or relationship with a topographical feature (e.g. Congreve). The element is particularly common in the West Riding of Yorkshire and West Midlands.⁴⁵⁸ The word is found in Boarsgrove, The Chuckery, Dun Cow's Grove, Gillity Greaves, Merrill Grove, Orgreave, and *Wildboarsegreave*. The word *grāfe* (also found as *grāf*, *grāfe*, and *grāfa*), is probably associated in some way with OE *grafan* 'to dig', *grafa*, *græf* 'pit, trench'. It has been suggested that 'grove' is the more likely unless the first element suggests 'pit' or similar, or there is such a feature in the vicinity.⁴⁵⁹

(ge)heg 'a fence, an enclosed piece of land', a very common element in Staffordshire, often with the meaning 'an administrative bailiwick within a Forest area'.⁴⁶⁰ Found in *Bennetshay*, Boney Hay, The Bosses, Bowhill Farm, Bryan's Hay, Calf Heath, *Childerhay*, *Cockshut Hay*, Cowhay, Fawley, Fegg Hayes, *Fensay*, Freehay, *Glashoushay*, *Golling Gate*, Hay House, Hayhill, Hays, Hayes Head, Haysgate, Great Haywood, Little Haywood, Heath Hayes, Hey House, Hey Sprink, High Carr, Hollin Hay, Horton Hay, Ivetsey, Jeffryns Hays, *Levenodeshay*, Little Hay, *Longhay*, Maple Hays, Medleywood Barn, Newhay, New Hay, Oldhay Top, Ox Hay, Oxhey, Pearce Hay, Pipehay, Ring Hey, Rough Hay, Rowney Farm, Ryder's Hayes, Scot Hay, Stockley Park, Streethay, Wildhay Brook, *Wolfedalehey*, and Wolfhay.

⁴⁵⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 44-6.

⁴⁵⁷ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 71-2.

⁴⁵⁸ see Gelling & Cole 2000: 226-8.

⁴⁵⁹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 226-30.

⁴⁶⁰ EPNE i 214-5.

hæð 'heath, heather',⁴⁶¹ found in Hadley End, Hamleyheath, Hatton, The Hattons, Heathylee, Headless Cross, Heath Hayes, Heath Hill, Heath House (Grange), Heath Town, Heathcote Grange, Heathton, and Heathylee.

halh, dative singular *hale* related to *holh*, modern 'hollow', and usually meaning in the Midlands 'a remote narrow valley or sunken place', commonly described as 'a nook or corner', but also with other quite different meanings. In an administrative sense the word can mean 'a piece of land projecting from, or detached from, its main administrative unit', although there are no obvious examples in Staffordshire. Another meaning is 'a nook, taking the form of land between rivers or almost enclosed by a river bend, a piece of low-lying land by a river, a haugh', or perhaps 'raised ground in marshland',⁴⁶² for example Edingale, north-east of Lichfield. It is worth repeating the observations of Mawer,⁴⁶³ who felt that 'it is at times difficult to feel that it necessarily means anything so precise...and one is inclined to be as general as Simeon of Durham was when he speaks of *Hearrahalch*, quod interpretari potest locus Dominorum, and makes it mean simply place'. *Halh* is a very common element, and is found in Abnalls, *Aluredeshale/Haluredeshale*, *Anewardeshale*, Baden Hall, Black Hough, Blackhalves, Blakenhall, Blundies, Broom Hall, Broomhall Grange, Brough Hall, Bucknall, Chestall, Codsall, Coppenhall, Cracow Moss, Cronk Hill, Croxall, Eccleshall, Edingale, Ellenhall, Ettingshall, Ferny Hill, Gighall Bridge, Gnosall, Gornal, Haughton, Lonco Brook, Moddershall, Morghull, Muchall, Pelsall, Pillaton, Pottal Pool, Ravenshall, *Romenhale*, Rownall, Rushall, Sheriffhales, Stonnal, Tettenhall, Thornhill, *Tymburhale*, Walsall, Wethal(es), Willenhall, Wormhough and Yoxall.

hām 'a village, manor, homestead'.⁴⁶⁴ Place-names likely to include the element are Audnam (/), *Burnaham/Bornam*, Gateham, *Hampton*, Hamstead, Marchington, Oakham, Pattingham, Hamstall (Ridware), Trentham, and *Wulfhampton*. See also Berkhamstych, Upper and Lower.

hamm, *homm* 'an enclosure; a meadow, especially a flat low-lying meadow on a stream',⁴⁶⁵ perhaps more specifically 'a place hemmed in by some feature of the topography, often by water or marsh',⁴⁶⁶ often found as -ham, and easily confused with *hām*. Found in Barthomley, and Hamley (House).

hangra 'a slope, a wood on a slope', found in Clayhanger, and in modern names as -hanger, honger.⁴⁶⁷

heafod 'a head or end (of anything)', found as a topographical term in the sense of a headland. The element is found in Fawfieldhead, *Leleheved*, and Shareshill.

helde 'a slope', found in *Romeshelde*, Yeld House, Yells Farm and Yieldfields.

⁴⁶¹ EPNE i 219-20.

⁴⁶² See Gelling & Cole 2000: 123-8.

⁴⁶³ 1929 43.

⁴⁶⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 47-9.

⁴⁶⁵ See Gelling 1984: 41-9.

⁴⁶⁶ See Gelling 1988: 114-15.

⁴⁶⁷ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 230-1, which notes that the element is very rare in Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

hlāw 'hill, burial mound'.⁴⁶⁸ In the Midlands the term usually (and in Staffordshire almost invariably) means 'tumulus' (or perhaps 'a mound with the appearance of a burial mound'), a characteristic landscape feature of the Bronze Age and late 6th and early 7th centuries AD, and indicating either an Anglo-Saxon burial mound, or a prehistoric tumulus with Anglo-Saxon secondary inhumations. If a tumulus cannot be linked to a *hlāw* name, it is likely that the feature has been destroyed, but in some cases the word may possibly refer to a natural hill-spur or abrupt hill. Found very frequently in Staffordshire, including Ablow, Beelow Hill, Blakelow, Boothlow, Botteslow, *Buglawe*, *Castlow Cross*, Catshill, Cattleslowe, Cauldon Lowe, Clulow, Copley, *Coppedlowe Cloughs*, Counslow, Cowlow, Wakelow, *Derneslowe*, *Dorueslau/Doresley*, Drakelow, Elford Low farm, *Farlawe/Ferlawe*, Garmelow, Gillow Heath, Greenlow Head, Groundslow Fields, *Guendelawe*, Harlow Wood, Heatonlow, Horninglow, *Horninglow Cross*, Horseley Fields, Hurdlow, King's Low, Lamber Low, Long Low, Low Hill, Lowe Hill, The Low, *Luzlow*, Martin's Low, Merryton Low, Morrilow, Moxley, Muckley Corner, Nailor, Offlow, Orslow, Painley Hill, Pikelow, Queen's Low, Ranslow Farm, *Rollowe*, Rowley, Rowley Hill, *Rudlow*, Rue Hill, Ruelow Wood, *Rumbelows (Farm)*, *Shakerlowe*, Southlow, *Spellowe Field*, *Stamberlowe*, Stanley, Stanley Fields, Stanlow, Stanlow Hall, Stoneylow, Totmonslow, *Twamlow*, Twillow, *Waldreslowe*, Wardlow, Warrilow Brook, Warslow, Wentlow, *Westlowe*, *The Whitelowe*, Wicken Low, Wold Low, and Wormlow Farm. Cases also occur where a *-lēah* name has developed into *-low* (e.g. Anslow). It should be noted that in Scotland and the northern counties as far south as Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire the dialect word *low(e)* (from ON *loge*, Danish *lue*) was used for 'a flame, a blaze, a light',⁴⁶⁹ and may have been attached to hills used as beacons. It is possible that some *-low* places in north Staffordshire have been so named, but it would be very difficult to differentiate the meanings if the hill had a known tumulus: tumuli and beacons are both associated with hilltops. Although in Staffordshire OE *hlāw* was normally applied to tumuli, or hills or mounds with the appearance of tumuli, in some cases OE *beorg* may have been used: cf. Barrow Hill, on the Staffordshire-Worcestershire boundary, which may indicate Hwiccan influence.

hōh 'a hill-spur' (literally 'a heel', cf. the hock of a horse).⁴⁷⁰ The element, common in other parts of the country but less common in Staffordshire, is found in Bignall Head, Birchall, Black Hough, Ferny Hough, The Hoo, The Hoe, Hoo Brook, Hoo Mill, Hose Wood, The Hough, Houghwood, *Melleshohe/Maleshou*, and Whitehough.

hol 'a hole, a hollow', found in *Brockholes*, *Foxholes*, Froghall, *Hen Hole*, Holbeche/Holbeach, *The Holden*, Holditch, Hole Brook, Hole Carr, Hole House, and *Holedale*.

OE *holm*; ON *holmr*, *holmi* 'a small island, a piece of dry land in a marsh; a piece of land partly surrounded by streams or by a stream', found as modern Holme and Hulme. Spellings with *-u-* are unlikely to be Danish rather than Norwegian, but dialectal variants.⁴⁷¹ In the Danelaw the term is used sometimes of 'an island', but mostly for 'higher ground in marshland', or perhaps 'cultivated land on the

⁴⁶⁸ See Gelling 1988: 134-7; Gelling & Cole 2000: 46-9.

⁴⁶⁹ EDD.

⁴⁷⁰ See Gelling 1988: 167-9; Gelling & Cole 2000: 186-8.

⁴⁷¹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 55.

edge of moors', and more generally as 'a piece of flat ground'.⁴⁷² The term is not necessarily to be taken as direct evidence of Scandinavian settlement, but from the geographical distribution in Staffordshire it may not be unreasonable to see the element as evidence of Scandinavian influence, with English settlers using a borrowed term.⁴⁷³ The element is very common along the river Trent in the east of the county. Many names, including places which cannot now be located, have been traced, including *the holm of St. Edithe* at Timmor (I 375), *Editheholm* (presumably the same place) (II 359), *Hylbertsholme* near Pipe Ridware (I 187), *Holme Flat* near Wiggington in 1534 (I 314), *Little Bradholme* near Pipe Ridware (I 181; perhaps the same place as *Lyttell Brodeholme* recorded in Mavesyn Ridware in 1551: SHC 1912 189), *Penkholme* near Pipe Ridware in 1600 (I 183), *Wildblood's Holm* on the river Tame in 1692 (I 140), *Wigodesholm* in Timmor (II *28, 359), *Roberts Holme* recorded in 1730 on the river Blithe at Hampstall Ridware, and *Over Holme* near Saddlesall (I 160). Other names incorporating the element include *Chaddesholm* 1176 SHC 1914 137, *Mulneholm* (*ibid.*), *Wulsiesholm* 1227 (CalChRolls); *Hicwetesholme*, *Alesholme*, *Pecokesholme*, and *Barleholme* (SHC NS XI 215); *Aldwinesholme* (possibly near Blithfield) pre-1279 SRO 109[7925]; *Cokkesholm* (in Rickerscote) 1349 SRO 89[7904], and (in or near Rocester) *Childerholme* 1871 (SRO D1529/145), *Coppingholme* 1781 (SRO D1529/115), *Bottsholme* 1738 (SRO D1529/90), and (near Blore/Swinscoe) *the Brimsholme* (SRO D1529/26). Also recorded are *Cleaty Holme* and *Obholme* or *Hobholme* 1534 in Tutbury (SRO D3453/2/98-117), *Hobholme* 1598 (SRO 4273/1), *Hobholme*, *Hobholmes* 1601 (1798, Shaw I 56); *Obb Holme* near Colton Mills 1807 (SRO D615/D/77), *Goldrich's Holme* 1733 in Denstone (SRO D3487/1/1-3), *Horse Holme*, perhaps the island in the Trent at the southern end of Andressey (1844 6" O.S.); *Olffrage Holme*, *Olfryge Holme* at Timmor 1540 (SHC X NS (i) 125-7); and *the Lordes Holme* in Elford c.1540 (SHC X NS (i) 127). *Le Holm* in Edingale is recorded in about 1290 (SRO 3764/36). *Eccleshall Holme* is recorded in 1597 (SRO Q/SR/57, and in 1602 (SHC 1935 IV 423). *Cowesholm* and *Cockesholm* are recorded in Silkmore in 1295 (SHC VIII (ii) 129-130). *Paunholme* and *Barley Holme* in Blythbury are recorded in 1644 (SHC 4th Series I 190). Dent & Hill 1896: 115 mention a record of 1510 of *Acres holme*, *Brethel holme* and *Clerks holme* on the Trent, and *ye holm near Pollfrogg* on the Tame. *Branston Holm* is recorded in Burton upon Trent in 1771 (SHC 1931 91). *Brednokholme* (unlocated) is recorded in 1531 (SHC 1912 48). *Hemp Holme* (1325) is recorded on the south side of the river Trent at Rugeley: Shaw 1798: I 176; 1834 O.S.; VCH V 158. *Le Fenholme* and *le Holmes* are recorded in Okeover in 1508 (SHC VII NS 73), and *Holme* in 157 (*ibid.* 73). *Bartsholme* is recorded in Branston in 1775 (SRO D603/N/3/9), *Fromholm* and *Stainholm* in Wetmore in the late 13th century (SHC 1937 58), the last place (which is incorrectly spelt *Stamholm* in the printed source) found as *Staniholm* in 1286 (SHC 1937 84). *Nutholme* in King's Bromley is recorded in 1398 (SHC VI (ii) 189). *Brednokholme*, perhaps in the Leek area, is recorded in 1531: SHC 1912 48. *Owfreyge Holme* is recorded in 1539 on the river Tame near Timmor (SHC 1912 133). *Holme* and *Mouseholme* are recorded in Mayfield in 1613 (SRO D514/M/14). *Horseholm*, probably in Wigginton, is recorded in 1308 (BCA MS3669/Acc1938-049/506530). *Freeholm Meadow* by the river Trent is recorded in

⁴⁷² See Gelling 1984:51.

⁴⁷³ It should be emphasised, however, that the great majority of names cited here are extracted from Shaw 1798 and 1801, which (together with the 'unpublished sheets' included in the 1976 facsimile reprint by E. P. Publishing

Tittensor in 1561(SRO D6415/5/T/1/11). *a holme* is recorded in Elford in 1539 (BCA MS3878/73). *Williholme Meadow* is recorded in Hamstall Ridware in 1687 (SBT DR18/22/7/10), and as *Willyholme* 1711 (SBT DR18/22/7/20). *Caves Holme* is recorded in Fauld in 1696 (SRO D15/11/12/5), and *Sweetholme* in Moreton near Colwich in 1672 (SRO D1781/9/2/30). *Ofrynge Holme* and *the Lordes Holme* are recorded in Elford c.1538 (SHC NS X (i) 127). *Studmare holme* (n.d.) is recorded in Wychnor: Shaw 1798: I 124. *Asheholme* is recorded in the north of the county (perhaps near Butterson) in 1490 (Okeover O10), and *Gorsty Holme* in Sheen in 1735 (Okeover T771-2).

holt 'a wood', usually when found in place-names meaning a wood of one species,⁴⁷⁴ found in Bagnall, Birchall, Crowholt, Holt Hill, Kingsley Holt, Sherholt, Shirrall (Hall), and *Stare Wood*.

hop in the West Midlands probably meaning 'enclosure in a marsh or enclosure in heathland', an example of the former being Hopwas, and of the latter Hopton, and in some cases, particularly in the west of the region, from the ME period with the particular meaning 'remote valley', as in Bradnop.⁴⁷⁵ Other examples of name incorporating the element include Hope, Hopedale, and Hopstone.

hyll 'a hill', generally applied to hills with pointed summits or with broken edges, perhaps belonging to the later stages of Anglo-Saxon name formation, and usually less attractive as habitation sites than places with the element *dūn* in their names.⁴⁷⁶ *Hyll* is found in ten major place-names in Staffordshire: Blymhill, Keele, Patshull, Penkhull, Shelfield, Stapenhill, Stramshal, Sugnall, Tatenhall and Winshill.

hrycg 'a ridge',⁴⁷⁷ found in Baggeridge, *Barridge Moor*, Cobridge, Coldridge Wood, Combridge, *Flotheridge*, Ladderedge, Longridge, *Lyversegge*, Morridge, Oldridge, Ridgacre, Ridgeway, Rudgeway, Rudge, *Rudge bank*, *Rudge Strete*, Rugeley, and Seabridge.

hyrst 'a wood, a copse, a wooded eminence, a hillock'.⁴⁷⁸ The element is found in *Ashenhurst*, Barnhurst, *Baxstonehurst*, Beamhurst, Brakenhurst (Farm), Brieryhurst, Brockhurst (Farm), Burndhurst Mill, *Chesterhurst*, *Cobshurst*, Copshurst, *Edritheshurst*, Elmhurst, *Gledenhurst*, *Hasallhurst*, Hazalhurst Brook, Henhurst, Hurst Hall, Hurst Wood, Ravenshurst, Redhurst Wood, Tuppenhurst, Turnhurst, and Whitehurst.

-ing an ending in place-names meaning 'place or river',⁴⁷⁹ as perhaps in Easing Farm.

-inga an OE suffix added to a personal name which developed to mean 'the dependents of or people of', strictly a group-name rather than a place-name proper, but a formation widely found as place-names.⁴⁸⁰

-ingatūn 'the tūn of x's people', a rare element in Staffordshire. Examples are Essington and Werrington.

Limited) cover only the eastern, southern, and some of the central parts of the county, so creating an imbalance which will inevitably distort the analysis.

⁴⁷⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 233.

⁴⁷⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 133-9.

⁴⁷⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000 192.

⁴⁷⁷ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 190.

⁴⁷⁸ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 234-5.

⁴⁷⁹ EPNE i 282-98.

⁴⁸⁰ See Cameron 1996: 66-72.

-ingtūn 'tūn associated with...'. Examples are Ackleton, Bobbington, and possibly Almington.

launde (ME, from French) 'open space in woodland, a forest glade, woodland pasture',⁴⁸¹ found with the meaning 'grassy ride in woodland' most notably in a cluster of names in south-west Staffordshire: Blymhill Lawn, Coven Lawn, Landywood, Langley Lawn, Laund (Farm), *Lawn*, Lawnhead, and Oaken Lawn.

lēah 'a wood, woodland, a rough open space or clearing in a wood, a glade; woodland clearing, especially one used for pasture or arable', and later 'a piece of open land, a meadow'.⁴⁸² A very common element, giving the endings -ley, -leigh, -le. It should be noted that in Staffordshire the common element *hlāw* very often becomes -ley, and if a tumulus or tumuli are known to exist in a place with a modern *ley* ending or similar, there is a strong possibility that the derivation is from *hlāw*. *Lēah* is found in Abbots Bromley, Adderley, Adderley Green, Agardsley, *Alburley*, Alder Lee, Aldersley, *Aldredeslega*, Alveley, Andersley, Anslow, Areley Kings, Ashley, Aspley, Astley, Audley, Baddeley, Bagot's Bromley, Balterley, Barnsley, Barthomley, *Batchley*, Bemersley Green, Bentilee, Bentley, Betley, *Birchinlee*, Birdsley Farm, Bishop's Offley, Black Lees, Blakeley, Blakeley Green, Blakeley Lane, Boley Park, Boosley Grange, Bordesley, Bradley, Bradley Green, Bradeley, Bradeley Farm, Bradley in the Moors, Brandy-Lea, *Bridley Moor*, Brierley Hill, Brindley Heath, *Brockley Moor*, Bromley, Bromley Farm, Bromley Green, Bromley Wood, *Burgardeslee*, Burleyfields, The Bursleys, Chartley, Chatterley, Cheadle, Checkley, Chestall, Chorley, Claverley, Cockley, Coley, Coley Mill, Copley, Coseley, Cowley, Crackley Bank, Cradley Heath, Crawley, *Cromsley*, Darley Oaks, *Dawley*, Dods Leigh, Doley Common, Doley Gate, Dudley, Dunlea Farm, Dunsley, Eardleyend, Farley, Fazeley, *Flitley*, Fotherley, Farlea Brook, Foxley, Fradley, *Fundesley*, Gerrard's Bromley, *Gleadley*, Godley Brook, *Gothersley*, Graiseley, *Greasley Side*, Great Wyrley, Grindley, Hadley End, Hagley, Hamley (House), Hamleyheath, *Hamley Park*, *Hammersley*, Hanley, *Harley*, Harley Thorn (Farm), Hartley Green, *Haseley*, Hatchley, *The Hawkleys*, Hawksley Farm, Headless Cross, Heathylee, Heatley, Heighley, High Offley, Himley, Hobble End, Hockley, Horseley, Horseley Heath, Huntley, Hyde Lea, Iverley, King's Bromley, Kingsley, *Kingsley*, Kingsnordley, Knightly, Knypersley, *Kynesley*, *Kyngesleye Heth*, *Kyrkesleye*, Langley, Langley Lawn, Lapley, The Lea, Lea Farm, Lea Heath, river Lea, Leacroft, Leamonsley, leaton, Lees Hill, Leese Jouse Farm, Church Leigh, Litley, Loxley, Madeley, Maple Hays, *Maydinlegh*, The Meadleys, Mobberley, Moseley, Mosslee Hall, Mossley, Mottley Pits, Moxley, Napley Heath, Oakley, Ogley Hay, Onneley, Ousley Brook, Ouseley Cross, Oxley, Paynsley, Peasley Bank, Pinchley, *Pottersley*, Putley, Radley Moor, Rawnsley, *Rileyhill*, Romsley, Rowley, Rowley Gate, Rowley Regis, Rugeley, Rushley, *Ryppeleyelond/Rypley Meadow*, Saverley Green, Scounslow Green, Seckley Wood, Sedgley, Sharpley Heath, Shipley, Shirley, Smedley Sytch, Stanley, Stansley (Wood), Stockley Park, Streetly, *Stubbeley*, Swythamley, *Tappeley*, Teddesley, Thornyleigh, Throwley, Tyrley, Ubbesley, Upper Arley, Waggersley, *Walkley Bank*, Warley, Wetley Moor, Wetley Rocks, White Lee Farm, Whitley Heath, Whitleyford, Wilderley (Barn), *Wimersley*, *Wimundeslie*, *Wolfelega*, Wolseley, Woolley, Wordsley, Wrottesley, and *Wystansley*.

⁴⁸¹ EPNE ii 17. Camden 1674: 124 notes: 'Laund, a plain among trees'.

⁴⁸² See Gelling & Cole 2000: 237-9.

(ge)māre 'boundary',⁴⁸³ found in Mare Brook, Meer Oak, Meerbrook, Meir, Mere Farm, Mere Hall, and Mere Hill.

mere 'a mere, pool, lake' (in the south of England used for pools of almost any size, and in the Midlands and Lake District to larger pools and lakes), and sometimes 'wetland'.⁴⁸⁴ The element often becomes *more* or *moor* in Staffordshire, and is found in Aqualate Mere, Ashmore Brook, Blakemore (House), Bradmore, Brockmoor, Cop Mere, Cromer Hill, Goosemoor, *Kingemere*, Maer, Mere Hill, Meretown, Monmore, Pickmere/Picmoor, Swansmoor, Wetmore, and Whistamere.

mersc 'a marsh',⁴⁸⁵ found in Crakemarsh, The Marsh, and Marston.

mōr applied not only to low-lying marsh, but also to bleak upland areas, both wet and dry.⁴⁸⁶ Most names incorporating the element in Staffordshire refer to low, wet sites, such as the three Moretons and Silkmore on the south-east outskirts of Stafford, but Whitmore, south-west of Newcastle, may use the word in its other sense. Other places incorporating the element are Ashmore Brook, Ashmore Heath, Ashmore Park, Audmore, Barrow Moor, *Bexmore Farm*, Boscomoor, Bullmoor Lane, Caldmore, *Cippemore*, *Cobb Moor*, Cranmere Farm, Cranmoor, Fullmoor, Hademore, Hurst Hull, Kiddemore Green, Leamore, Moor Hall, The Moorlands, Moreton Brook, Morridge, Norton in the Moors, Radmore Lane, Radmore Wood, Redmoor Brook, Romer Farm, Rumer Hill, *Saltmoor*, *Shackamore*, Swainsmoor, *Wetmoor*, Wetmore, The Whitemoor, Whitmore, Whitmore Reans, Wigmore, and Wolmore Farm.

myln, mylen 'a mill',⁴⁸⁷ found in Dam Mill, Hazel Mill, Mill Brook, Mill Fleam, *Mill Holmes*, Mill House Farm, Milldale, Millian Brook, Millmeece, Milton, and Milwich.

ofer, ufer 'a bank, a flat-topped ridge with a convex shoulder', or (for spellings without -u-), perhaps 'river-bank',⁴⁸⁸ found in Ashmore Park, *Birchover*, Haselour, Lindore Farm, Longnor, Nore Hill, *Northovere*, Nurton, Okeover, Orton, Overton, Ramshorn/Ramsor, Tittensor, and Wychnor

penn (PrWelsh), pen (Welsh) 'head, headland, end' and (as an adjective) 'chief'. The word has long been interpreted by place-name scholars to mean also 'hill', but there is continuing debate as to whether the word was ever used in that sense for English place-names.⁴⁸⁹ In Staffordshire the element is probably found in Pen Farm, Pen Fields, Penn, and Penn Hill.

pyrle 'bubbling', often applied to springs and streams,⁴⁹⁰ found in Pearl Brook and *Pirlewallsicke*.

ME *queche* 'a thicket', found in Squitch House near Abbots Bromley.

*ryding 'a clearing', found as -ridding, -riding.⁴⁹¹ The element is found in Coldriding Farm, Henridding Farm, and Ridding Farm.

⁴⁸³ EPNE ii 33-4.

⁴⁸⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 21-6.

⁴⁸⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 36-7.

⁴⁸⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 58-9.

⁴⁸⁷ EPNE ii 46.

⁴⁸⁸ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 199-202.

⁴⁸⁹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 211.

⁴⁹⁰ See PN Sa III 130.

scaga 'a copse, a grove, a small wood'.⁴⁹² Found in *Ametesawe*, *Ashnough*, Blackshaw Moor, Bradshaw, Coldshaw, Colshaw, Gentleshaw, Longshaw, Marnshaw Head, Oldershaws, Ramshaw, Redshaw, Shaw, Shaw Hall, *Shawmoor Farm*, Shaw House, Shay Lane, Shuttershaw, Trubshaw, Wilshaw, and *Woburnshawe*.

scelf 'a rock, a ledge, shelving land'.⁴⁹³ The element is found in Bramshall, Shareshill, and Shelton.

**scerde* 'a gap, a cleft, a pass',⁴⁹⁴ found in Hawkesyard (Priory).

seten 'a plantation', perhaps found in Woodsetton.

slæd 'a flat-bottomed, especially a wet-bottomed valley',⁴⁹⁵ found in *Ayleslade*, Hazel Slade, Queslett, Slade Heath, Slade House, and Spring Slade.

ON *slakki* 'a small shallow valley, a hollow in the ground', found as northern dialect *slack* 'a hollow, especially one in a hill-side; a dip in the surface of the ground; a shallow dell; a glade; a pass between hills', found in The Slack, Stonyslack and Waterslacks.

spring, *spr yng* (Middle English), 'a copse, a young plantation, coppiced trees with new shoots', from OE *springan* 'to burst forth', sometimes found in the region as *sprink*. OE *spring* also meant 'place where water issued from the ground',⁴⁹⁶ but in Staffordshire Mercian OE *wælle*, ME *walle*, was generally used for a spring of water. The element is found in Hey Sprink, Spring Hill, and Springslade.

stān 'stone', found in *Bacstonesley*, *Baxstonehurst*, Beeston Torr, Featherstone, The Hailstone, Hanging Stone, Harston Rock and Wood, Hexton's Farm, Hopestone Farm, Ipstones, Mucklestone, *Roughstone Hole*, Shenstone, Shushions, Stallington, *Stamberlowe*, *Stanburneford*, Standeford, Standon, *Stanford Brook*, Stanley, Stanley Fields, Stanlow, Stanlow Hall, Stanshope, Stansley (Wood), Stanton (Wood), *Stone Edge*, Stonydelph, Stony Brook, *Stonyfields*, Stonyford, Stonylow, Stonyslack, Stonywell, Warstone, War Stone, Warstones.

steort 'promontory, hill spur', found associated with Aquitch House in Bagot's Park.

stoc 'a place, a religious settlement, a secondary settlement',⁴⁹⁷ found in Stockton, Stoke by Stone, Stoke Grange, Little Stoke, Stoke on Trent, *Stokedoilly*, and *Walkeres Stoke*.

stōw 'a place, a holy place, a place of assembly',⁴⁹⁸ found in *Kelmestowe*, *Peckstowe*, Stow Heath, Stowe, and Stowe by Chartley.

stræt, *strēt* The Anglo-Saxons seem to have applied the term *stræt*, *strēt* to 'a paved (Roman) road, a street'.⁴⁹⁹ Whether those who used the term realised that the roads to which the name applied were invariably Roman in origin is unclear. *Stræt* is from late Latin *strata*, for *via strata* 'paved road'. An

⁴⁹¹ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 244.

⁴⁹² See Gelling & Cole 2000: 245-6.

⁴⁹³ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 216-8.

⁴⁹⁴ EPNE ii 108.

⁴⁹⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 141-2.

⁴⁹⁶ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 278.

⁴⁹⁷ EPNE ii 153-6.

⁴⁹⁸ EPNE ii 158-61. A perambulation of Walsall manor in 1617 refers several times to *a perle* in the sense 'a stream': Willmore 1887: 440.

Anglo-Saxon *stræt* was a paved road, which in reality will have limited the term to Roman roads, for very few others (if any) will have been paved. The element *stræt*, *strēt* is found in The Streights, *Stratford*, *Strattondale*, Streethay, Streetly, Stretton, and *Stretwile/Stretwyle*.

torr 'a rock, a rocky peak',⁵⁰⁰ a word generally found only in the South West and the West Midlands,⁵⁰¹ and found in Apes Tor, Beeston Tor, *Dale Torr*, Gib Tor, and Yelpersley Tor.

tūn the precise meaning of this element varied during a long evolution from the original Germanic concept of a fence or hedge, to the modern English 'town'. The word is by far the most common element in English place-names, and can be translated variously as 'a dwelling, an enclosure, a farmstead, a manor, an estate, a vill, a hamlet, a village, and (rarely, and later) a town'. The word was used in the formation of place-names for a very long period, as early as the 7th century meaning 'a village', and increasingly until after the Conquest, in those examples normally meaning 'manor', but it is probably safer to interpret the element as 'estate'.⁵⁰² Few *tūn* names are likely to predate the 7th century. The use of the word *tūn* in connection with that of a topographical feature or a personal name is particularly common in the West Midlands, but it is generally impossible to determine the exact meaning in a particular place-name. The common use of this word has been dated to the period c.750 to c.950, and when the first element is a personal name, such as Darlaston, it is likely that the person named was a king's thegn who was given the overlordship of the manor at a relatively late date in its history, probably replacing an earlier topographical name. *Tūn* names were not used for settlements in a forest area, which indicates that the areas in which they lay were relatively clear of woodland,⁵⁰³ but are widely found in the West Midlands in a compound formed by the possessive case of a personal name, such as Darlaston and Admaston. The element is found in Abbey Hulton, Acton, Adbaston, Admaston, Almington, Alstone, Alton, Amerton, Amington, Ankerton, Apeton, *Armiston*, Aston, Astonsitch, *The Austrells*, Barlaston, Barton, Barton under Needwood, *Bedintun*, Beeston Tor, Beighterton, *Berdingeston*, Billington, Bilson, Bilston, Bishton, Blurton, Bobbington, The Brampton, Branston, Brineton, Brockton Grange, Brockton, Broughton, Burston, Burton, *Burtone*, Burton upon Trent, Butterton, Calton, Catton, Chedleton, Chesterton, Chillington, Chapel Chorlton, Hill Chorlton, Clayton, Clifton Campville, *Cobintone*, Cold Norton, Colton, Compton, Cotwalton, Creighton, Croxton, Darlaston, Denstone, Derrington, Drayton, Drayton Bassett, Drointon, Dudmaston, Dunstall, Dunston, Church Eaton, Water Eaton, Wood Eaton, Ecton, Ellastone, Ellerton Grange, Elston, Engleton, Enson, Essington, Essington House Farm, Fenton, Forton, Foston, Garstones, Gayton, Gratton, Gunstone, *Hampton*, Hampton Loade, Harlaston, Hattons, Haughton, Haunton, Heathton, Heaton, Hextons Farm, Hilderstone, Hilton, Hinksford, Hollington, Hopton, Horton, *Hortone*, Johnson Hall, *Ketelbernestona*, Kibblestone, Kingston, Kinvaston, Knighton, Kniveden, Knutton, Leaton, *Leighton*, *Leighton Hay*, *Lodyngton*, Loynton, Ludstone, Lyntus, Marchington, Marston, *Middleton*, Middleton Green, Milton, Mitton, Moreton, Mucklestone, *Netherton*, Nethertown, Newton, Norton in the Moors, Norton Green, Nurton, Ogley Hay, *Olton*, *Orbeton/Herbeton*, Orton, Otherton, Oulton,

⁴⁹⁹ EPNE ii 161-2.

⁵⁰⁰ EPNE ii 184.

⁵⁰¹ EPNE i xxviii.

⁵⁰² Cameron 1996: 143.

Oulton House Farm, Overton, Packington, Perton, Preston, Ranton/Ronton, Rodbaston, Rolleston, Rushton James, *Rushton Grange*, Rushton Spencer, Scropton, Shelton, Stallington, Standon, Stanton (Wood), Stockton, Stourton, *Strattondale*, Stretton, Sutton, Swynnerton, Tamworth, Tillington, Tipton, Tunstall, Tunstead, Walton, Walton Grange, Walton Hill, Werrington, Weston, Weston on Trent, Weston Coyney, Weston Jones, *Weston Moor*, Weston under Lizard, Whiston, Whiston Eaves, (Whiston) Lees, Whittington, Wigginton, Wilbrihton, Winnington, Withington, Wobaston, Wolgarston, Wollaston's Coppice, Wolstanton, Wolverhampton, Woodsetton, Wootton, Wootons, Wootton under Weaver, *Wulfhampton*, *Wulredeston*, and *Yatton*.

**wæsse* related to, but not identical with, modern 'wash'. The word is only found in place-names, and the precise meaning is a low-lying plain, adjacent to a significant river prone to sudden flooding and draining. Examples in Staffordshire include Hopwas on the Tame, Alrewas on the Trent, Pur Brook on a tributary of the Blithe, and the unlocated *Pirewasse* on Pur Brook and *Wassebroc* near Hanchurch.

wald, *weald* a district name, probably of early date, meaning 'woodland, forest, high forest-land', later 'open upland'.⁵⁰⁴ No place-names certainly incorporating the element have been traced in Staffordshire, but it might be found in Cotwalton, Prestwood near Ellastone, Wolmore (Farm), and *Wymundewalde*.

Mercian Old English *wælle*, usually in the West Midlands 'a spring', sometimes 'a stream', and (rarely) 'a well',⁵⁰⁵ probably found in Ablewell, *Anc's Hill(s)*, Blackwell, Bradwell, Canwell, *Caudy Fields*, Caverswall, Chadwell, Great Chatwell, Coldwall, Cotwall End, Cotwalton, Creswell, *Cronkhal*, Cumbwell Brook, Eastwall, *Eyeswall*, Farewell, Fennel Pit Farm, Fole, Fradswell, *Hannell*, Hartwell, *Hawkeswall Clough*, *Hawkewallsych*, *Hawkswell (Rough)*, Hayes Wood, Hewell Grange, Heywood Grange, High-Hall-Hill, Holloway Farm, Holly Wall Farm, *Holywell Park*, Honeywall Farm, *Keywell Green*, Knowl Wall, *Lud-Wall*, *Normaneswell*, Oakamoor, Oakeswell, *Padwalle*, *Pearl Well*, Pell Wall, *Pirlewallsicke*, Red Hall, Sandwell, Scotch Hill, Showell/Showells, Spring Hill, St Chad's Well, Stockwell Heath, Stockwell End, Stonewalls Farm, Stonywell, Strangleford Birch, *Tywall Green*, Walford, Wall Acre, Wallbridge, Walton Grange, Washerwall, Wicken Walls, *Windswell Pool*, *Wombewell*, Woodwall Green, and Woundale.

wīc, dative plural *wīcum* 'a dwelling, a building or group of buildings used for special purposes, a trading place, a farm, a dairy farm', and, in the plural, 'a hamlet, a village'. Names incorporating *wīc* can be divided into two main categories, those with palatalisation (for example Aldridge, Bromwich, where the element is pronounced [ɪtʃ]), and those without (for example Smethwick, with the pronunciation [ɪk]). The palatalised and assibilated forms probably contain *wīc* in the singular, and the unpalatalised in the plural, though this is not always the case. It is usually not possible to determine the precise meaning of *wīc* in a place-name, but it has long been observed that the names of many salt-producing places have the ending -*wīc*, for example Droitwich, Nantwich, Northwich, Middlewich. This is a specialised use of the 'trading place' meaning, and was well-established by the Middle Saxon period. The element is found in Aldridge, Baswich/Berkswich, Bloxwich, West Bromwich, Calwich, *Chetewik*,

⁵⁰³ See Gelling 1988: 128.

⁵⁰⁴ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 253-6.

⁵⁰⁵ See Gelling & Cole 2000: 31.

Colwich, Fisherwick, Gratwich, Hammerwich, Hardiwick, Millwich, Padwick, Plardiwick, Shirleywich, Smethwick, Wigford, *Wyke*, and Wyken.

No trace has so far been found in Staffordshire of the place-name compound *wīc-hām*, to which place-name scholars have given particular attention, since the term has been found to be associated with Roman roads and Romano-British settlement sites.

wincel 'nook, corner', perhaps found in Winkhill.

wamb 'womb, belly', found in Hombridge, Wombewell and Wombourne, and possibly Wemberton, Weymouth and Womere.

worþig 'farm, homestead, enclosure',⁵⁰⁶ found in Tamworth and Tittesworth, though the latter may incorporate the OE synonym *worþ*.

worþign 'farm, homestead, enclosure',⁵⁰⁷ probably found in Bulwardine, Cheswardine, Harden, Ruiton, and Weymouth.

wudu 'a wood, a forest, timber', generally used for larger stretches of woodland, but rarely used before c.700.⁵⁰⁸ The element is found in Ash Wood/Ashwood, Bearwood, *Bridgewood*, Brockwood Hill, Dunwood, Wood Eaton, *Harewood*, Great Haywood, Hazelwood (House), *Horwood*, Lightwood, Lightwoodfields, *Lightwoodde Heathe*, Littywood, Lockwood (Hall), Micklewood, Prestwood, Shortwood Farm, Smallwood, Weatherworth, Wedgwood, Wetwood, Woodcroft, Woodend/Wood End, Woodford, Woodford Grange, Woodgate, Wood Green, Wood Hall, Woodham Green, Woodhead, Woodhouse, Woodhouse Farm, Woodhouses, Woodland, Woodseaves, Woodsetton, *Woodshutts*, Woodwall Green, Wootton, Woottons, Wootton (under Weaver).

Personal names found in Staffordshire place-names

Although masculine forms are generally given in the place-name entries, it is in many cases impossible to distinguish masculine and feminine personal names in place-names. The following list gives masculine names, with certain feminine names marked (*f*).

ContG = Continental Germanic

Fr = French

ME = Middle English

OE = Old English

OFr = Old French

OG = Old German

ON = Old Norse

< = derived from

⁵⁰⁶ EPNE ii 275-6.

⁵⁰⁷ EPNE ii 277.

⁵⁰⁸ JEPNS 8 1975-6 43; see also Gelling & Cole 2000: 257-8.

Ab(b)a	OE	Ablow, Abnalls, Apeton
*Ægel	OE	Ayleslade Ford
Ælf	OE	Elston
*Ælfa	OE	Alton
Ælflēd (<i>f</i>)	OE	Alfledeway, Alfledeford
Ælfgȳþ (<i>f</i>)	OE	Alveley
Ælfhēah	OE	Allscott
Ælfrēd	OE	Aluredeshale, Haluredeshale, Alstone
Ælfstān	OE	Alstanesax, Alstonefield
Ælmēr	OE	Elmhurst
*Æmela	OE	Amblecote
Æpelheard	OE	Ellerton Grange
Ætti	OE	Yeatsall
Alda	OE	Olton, Oulton
Aldgȳþ (<i>f</i>)	OE	Audley
Aldrēd	OE	Adderley (Green), Aldredeslega
Aluburg or Alhburg (<i>f</i>)	OE	Alburley
*Amma or Earmmund	OE	Amington
Andrew	ME	Andersley, Andressey
Annot	ME	Annot's Dale
Aquart	OFr	Abbot's Castle Hill
Arblaster	ME	Arblaster
Archer	ME	Archford Moor
Austyn	ME	Austin's Wood
*Baldprȳþ (<i>f</i>)	OE	Balterley
Bad(d)a	OE	Baddeley (Green), Baden Hall
*Bad(d)ing	OE	Batchacre
Badeca or Bacga	OE	Bagnall
Batman	ME	Batman's Hill
Bēda	OE	Bednall
Beffa	OE	Beffcote
Beloc	ME	Belockes Bridge
*Benning	OE	Bennystoils, Benynscrosse
Beorcol	OE	Baswich/Berkswich
*Beord	OE	Beardmoors

*Beording	OE	Beardmoors, Berdingeston
Beorhthere	OE	Beighterton
Beorhtmund	OE	Bescot
Beorn	OE	Barnsley
Beornwulf	OE	Barlaston
Bernart	OFr(<OG)	Barnswood, Barnardscroft, Bernardsmore
Bertran(t)	OFr(<OG)	Bertramscote
Bette	OE	Betsfeilde
? Bic(c)a	OE	Bickford
? Bill or *Billa	OE	Billington
? Biscop	OE	Bushbury
? *Blocc	OE	Bloxwich
Bochard	OFr(<OG)	Badger's Croft
Börkr or Barkr	ON	Basford
Bøsi	ON	Beasley, Beeston Tor
Bourchier or Boucher	OFr	Bourchiers Wood
*Brant	OE	Branston
Brian	ME	Bryan's Hay
*Bridd	OE	Briddeshus, Briddeshall
Brihthere or Beorhthere	OE	Bitterscote
Brūn	OE	Brinsford
? Brūn(a) or Brȳni	OE	Brineton
Bubba	OE	Bobbington
Bucca	OE	Bucknall, Bukkeleg, Bukkelyh
*Bula	OE	Bullclough
*Bunt	OE	Bunster
Burgweard	OE	Burslem
? *Can(n)a	OE	Canwell
*Catt	OE	Castern, Cat Hayes, Catshill, Catstree, Catteslowe
*Ceacca	OE	Checkley
*Ceatta	OE	Chatwell, Chatcull
*Cebbi	OE	Chebsey
? *Cilla	OE	Chillington

*Cocc	OE	Cokesalle or Coxall, Cokkesholm
Crōc	OE	Croxall, Croxden, Croxtan
*Crūda	OE	Crowdicote
Cūpwulf	OE	Cudel(s)ford, Cuttlestone
*Cybbel	OE	Kibblestone
Cyne	OE	Kinesbroc
Cyneheard	OE	Kynesley
Cynehelm	OE	Kelmstowe
Cynewald	OE	Kinvaston
? *Dæda	OE	Deadman's Green
Dealla	OE	Dawley
*Dene	ON	Densy Lodge, Denstone
Dēorlāf	OE	Darlaston
*Docc	OE	Doxey
Dod(d)a	OE	Derrington
Dot (?Dottr)	ON	Dodslow (Horninglow Cross)
Dudda	OE	Dudley
Dudeman	OE	Dudmaston
Dunn	OE	Dun Cow's Grove, Dunsley
Dunnic	OE	Dunkford
Ēadbald	OE	Adbaston
Ēadgār	OE	Agardsley
Ēadlāc or *Æpelāc	OE	Ellastone
Ēadmund	OE	Admaston
Ēadpryp (f)	OE	Edritheshurst
Ēalāc	OE	Elkstone
*Ēan	OE	Enson
Ēanbriht	OE	Amerton
Ēanswīp	OE	Anslow
*Earp	OE	Apesford
Ecca	OE	Ecton (Hill)
Ēden or Ēadwine	OE	Edingale
Ella	OE	Elford
Esne	OE	Essington
Farulf	ContG	Foston

?*Folc	OE	Forkhill
Fōt or Fótr	OE/ON	Forsbrook, Foston
Frōd	OE	Fradley, Fradswell
*Gāga	OE	Gayton
?*Gāga	OE	Gaywode Hall
*Gāring	OE	Garshall Green
Godrīc	OE	Gothersley
Gunni	ON	Gunstone
Gūphere	OE	Guthersburn
Hákon	ON	Hacondale
? Hana	OE	Hanford
Hagona or Hagene	OE	Haunton
*Hand	OE	Handsacre
*Heddīn	OE	Hednesford
Hengest or Hynca	OE	Hinksford
? Heortla	OE	Hartlebury
Herbert	OFr(<OG)	Herberdesmulne
? Hiddi	OE	Hedesdale
Hildebald	OE	Hildersholme
Hildewulf	OE	Hilderstone, Oldershaws
?*Hille	OE	Hillswood
*Hlūd	OE	Ludstone
*Hod	OE	Hoddesdone
? Horsa	OE	Orslow
Houel	OW	Hollinsclough
? *Hræfn or Hrafn	OE/ON	Rangemore
Hrani	ON	Ranslow
?Hraði	ON	Ratherseates
Hrōþwulf or *Hróðulfr	OE/ON	Rolleston, Rocester
Hud(d)a	OE	Huddale (Farm)
*Hud(d)el	OE	Huddelsford
Hulcok	ME	Hullocks Pool
Hūn	OE	Handsworth
?Hunta	OE	Huntley, Huntingdon
Hwīta	OE	Whittington
?Hwīta	OE	Withnall
?Hwīt or *Witi	OE	Whiston
Hwittuc	OE	Quixhill
Hyd(d)el	OE	Hillsdale
Hyht	OE	Hixon

?*Ippa	OE	Ipstones
Jevon	ME	Jeffryns Hays
Jókell	ON	Yoxall
Johannes	ME	Johnson Hall
Káti or *Catta	ON/OE	Catton
Lang	OE	Longsdon
Lēofa	OE	Loynton
Lēofede	OE	Levedale
Lēofhere	OE	Leycett
Lēofnōþ	OE	Levenodeshay
Lēofrīc or Lēofhere	OE	Lyversegge
Lēofstān	OE	Stansley Wood
*Mad(d)a	OE	Madeley
Malbert	OFr	Maple Hays
*Mocc	OE	Moxley
Mōdrēd	OE	Moddershall
Moll	OE	Moseley
Mucel	OE	Mucklestone
*Ord	OE	Ordsey
?Orda	OE	Orgreave
? Ordbriht	OE	Orbeton
? Ōsmund or Ásmundr'	OE/ON	Ossoms Hill
*Pættel	OE	Patshull
*P(e)atta	OE	Pattingham
Penda	OE	Pendeford
*Pēofel	OE	Pilstones
Pēol	OE	Pelsall
Pinchon	OFr	Pinchley
Rēdbald	OE	Rodbaston
Rodbert	OFr(<OG)	Rodberdes Land
*Sceob(b)a	OE	Shebdon, Shobnall
*Scēot	OE	Shettesford
?*Searu	OE	Saredon, Shareshill
Secg	OE	Seckley Wood, Sedgley
Sigerīc	OE	Syerscote
Sigeward	OE	Siwardesmor
Skropi	ON	Scropton
Snell or Sniallr	OE/ON	Snail's End, Snelsdale
*Stān	OE	Stanshope
Steinn	ON	Steynesmor

*Strangrīc	OE	Stramshall
Sveinn	ON	Swainsmoor
Tāta	OE	Tatenhill
Tātmann	OE	Totmonslow
*Tēotta	OE	Tettenhall
*Tetti	OE	Tittesworth
Þoraldr	ON	Thoraldeswod
Þorkell	ON	Tucklesholme
Tibba	OE	Tipton
Tilli	OE	Tillington
*Titten	OE	Tittensor
Þorfreðr	ON	Thursfield
Tot(t)a	OE	Tutnall
? Tubba	OE	Tuppenhurst
Tutta or *Stūt	OE	Tutbury
*Tynni	OE	Tynsall
? *Ucga or *Hycga	OE	Hug Bridge
Ufegēat	OE	Ivetsey
?Wælgist	OE	Worstead Green
Waldhere	OE	Waldreslowe
*Wer	OE	Werrington
Wicga	OE	Wiggenstall
Wīgbald	OE	Wobaston
Wīglāf	OE	Wooliscroft
Wīgmund	OE	Wymundewolde
Wīgstān or Wīnestān	OE	Whistamere
*Wihta	OE	Wightwick
Wilbriht	OE	Wilbrighton
? Wilfrīþ	OE	Worston
Wille	ME	Willslock
Willa	OE	Willenhall
*Willing	OE	Willingsworth
Wilmund	OE	Wilnecote
Wilþrýþ	OE	Wilderley (Barn)
? Wine	OE	Winscote
Wine	OE	Windswell Pool,
		Winshill
Wōden	OE	Wednesbury,
		Wednesfield
Wolfhād	OE	Wolfotebridge

*Wrott	OE	Wrottesley
Wulfgār	OE	Wolgarstone
Wulphere	OE	Wulpherecester
Wulfrūn	OE	Wolverhampton
Wulfsige	OE	Wolseley
Wulfstān	OE	Wilstaneswude, Wolstanton
Wulfweard	OE	Wordsley
*Wuttuc or Hwittuc	OE	Uttoxeter
?Wynna	OE	Winnington

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations printed in roman type refer to printed sources and those in italics to manuscript sources. County names are abbreviated in accordance with the convention now adopted in place-name studies.

* = see Bibliography

ABG	<i>Aris's Birmingham Gazette</i>
Act	Act of Parliament
AD	<i>Catalogue of Ancient Deeds</i> (PRO), London 1890 and in progress, referred to by volume
<i>AD</i>	<i>Ancient Deeds</i> in PRO (C 146, E 40, 210, 326)
<i>AddCh</i>	Additional Charters in BrMus
ArchIng	<i>Archaeological Evaluation of a Prehistoric Pit Alignment and Associated Deposits at Ingestre, Staffordshire</i> , 2000, Shrewsbury: Archaeophysica Limited.
AJ	<i>Archaeological Journal</i>
AngleseyCh	<i>Calendar of Staffordshire Charters in the possession of the Marquis of Anglesey</i> , ed. J.H. Jeayes and deposited in SRO (W)D 1734
<i>AngleseyCh</i>	Unpublished Charters and Deeds in the Anglesey Collection, transcribed by I.H. Jeayes and deposited in SRO (W)D 1734
Ant	<i>Antiquity</i>
AntJ	<i>Antiquaries Journal</i>
<i>Antrobus</i>	Deeds deposited by Col. Antrobus of Eaton Hall, Congleton in SRO(W) D 1490, 1535, 1761, 1921
<i>AOMB</i>	Augmentation Office Miscellaneous Books (E 315) in PRO
app.	Appendix
<i>Aqualate</i>	Deeds from Aqualate in SRO(W) D 1788
ASC	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> , ed. B. Thorpe (RS), London 1861; <i>Two of the Saxon Chronicles Parallel</i> , ed. C. Plummer, Oxford 1892-9
AScand	Anglo-Scandinavian
Ass	<i>Staffs Assize Rolls (1216-1405)</i> , SHC IV, VI, VII, IX, XI, XII, XIII,

	XIV, XV, ed. Gen. Wrottesley 1883-94; <i>Justices in Eyre for Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire</i> , 1221, 1222, ed. D.M. Stenton, Seld. Soc. 59, 1940
Ass	Unpublished Assize Rolls in PRO
ASWills	<i>Anglo-Saxon Wills</i> , ed. D. Whitelock, Cambridge 1930
ASWrits	<i>Anglo-Saxon Writs</i> , ed. F.E. Harmer, Manchester 1952
Bacon	J. Bacon, <i>Liber Regis</i> , London 1876
Bagot	G. Wrottesley, <i>A History of the Bagot Family with copies of the deeds at Blithfield</i> , SHC NS XI, 1908
Banco	<i>Banco Rolls 1216-1485</i> , ed. by Gen. Wrottesley, SHC III, IV, IX, XI, XII, XIII, XV, XVI, XVII, NS III, IV, VI, 1882-1903; <i>Index of Placita de Banco 1327-8</i> (PRO Lists and Indexes 32), London 1909
BAR	<i>British Archaeological Reports</i>
Bateman	T. Bateman, <i>Ten Years Digging in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills</i> , London 1861.
Baugh	Baugh's Map of Shropshire 1808 (SRRC)
BCA	Birmingham City Archives
BCS	<i>Cartularium Saxonicum</i> , ed. W.G. de Gray Birch, 3 vols, London 1885-93
Bede	<i>Historia Ecclesiastica in Venerabilis Baedae opera Historica</i> , ed. C. Plummer, Oxford 1896
Beresford	W. Beresford and S.B. Beresford, <i>Beresford of Beresford : A History of the Manor of Beresford</i> , Leek 1908
Bk	Buckinghamshire
BL	British Library
Blaeu	Johann Blaeu, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> , 1648 (SRO)
BLARS	Bedfordshire & Luton Archives & Record Service
Blithfield	D.S. Murray, <i>Notes on the Early History of the Parish of Blithfield</i> , SHC 1919; <i>Deeds from the Blithfield Papers</i> in R.F. Parker, <i>Some Account of Colton</i> , Birmingham 1897
Blome	R. Blome, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> , 1671, 1673 (SRO)
Blymhill	<i>The History of the Parish of Blymhill</i> , ed. by G.T.O. Bridgeman, SHC I, II (ii), and suppl. xii (ii), 1880-91
Blythe	<i>Bishop Geoffrey Blythe's Visitations, c. 1515-25</i> , ed. P. Heath, SHC 4th Series, no. 7, 1973
BodCh	<i>Calendar of Charters and Rolls in the Bodleian Library</i> , Oxford, 1878
Bosworth-Toller	Toller 1898*
BM	<i>Index to Charters and Rolls in the Br.Mus.</i> , 1882-1900, 2 vols, 191-2
Bowen	E. Bowen, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> , 1749 & 1755 (SRO)
Bret	Breton

Bridgeman	C.G.O. Bridgeman, <i>Staffordshire Pre-Conquest Charters</i> , SHC 1916
Brk	Berkshire
BrMus	British Museum; documents preserved in the BrMus
Brocklehurst	P.L. Brocklehurst, <i>Swythamley and its Neighbourhood</i> , London 1874
Browne	J. Browne, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> , 1682 in Plot 1686
BSE	Suffolk Record Office, Bury St.Edmunds
Burton	<i>Descriptive Catalogue of the Charters and muniments of Burton Abbey belonging to the Marquis of Anglesey</i> , ed. by I.H. Jeayes and M. Deanesly, SHC 1937
BurtonAbSurv	<i>The Burton Abbey Surveys</i> (12th century), by C.G.O. Bridgeman, SHC 1916 (pp. 209-300)
BurtonAn	<i>Annales de Burton</i> , in <i>Annales Monastici</i> , vol. 1 (RS), 1864
c.	circa
CA	Constables' Accounts
CalComp	<i>Committee for the Compounding of Delinquents 1643-1660</i> , 5 vols, 1889-93.
CartAnt	Exchequer Transcripts of Charters (PRO)
Cary	J. Cary, <i>Map of Staffordshire 1787 to 1832</i> (SRO)
CC	Calendar for Compounding
CensusRet	<i>Census Returns of Great Britain & Enumeration Abstracts</i> , 1841
CEC	Barraclough 1988*
cf.	compare
Ch	<i>Cheshire</i>
CHS	<i>Cheshire Historical Society</i>
Ch	<i>Calendar of Charter Rolls</i> (PRO) 6 vols, 1903-27
Ch	Unpublished Charter Rolls in PRO
ChancM	<i>A Gnosall Lawsuit of 1395 from Chancery Miscellanea</i> (PRO), SHC 1927
ChancP	Unpublished Chancery Proceedings in PRO
Chell	<i>Chell Deeds from AddCh (BM)</i> , in SHC 1911
Cherry	J.L. Cherry, <i>Stafford in Olden Times</i> , Stafford 1890
ChwAccts	Churchwardens' Accounts in various parishes
CIR	<i>Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum</i> , (RC), 2 vols, London 1833-44
CKS	Centre for Kentish Studies
Coins	<i>Catalogue of English Coins, Anglo-Saxon Coins</i> , 2 vols, 1887, 1894; <i>Anglo-Norman Series</i> , 2 vols, 1916
Comm	Exchequer Special Commissions in PRO (E178)
CoramR	<i>Coram Rege Rolls</i> (1307-1474), SHC X, XIV, XVI, XVII, NS III, IV ed. Gen. Wrottesley, 1882-1903; <i>Placita coram domino Rege 25 Ed I</i> (BRS 19), 1898

Court	<i>Calendar of County Court, City Court & Eyre Rolls of Chester 1259-97</i> , Chetham Soc. NS. 84
Croxall	R. Usher, <i>An Historical Sketch of the Parish of Croxall</i> , London 1881
Ct	Unpublished Court Rolls in PRO, SRO(W), and in private hands
Ct	Published Court Rolls (Alrewas SHC 10, Standon v. Salt, Gnosall v. Hone, Tatenhill v. Hardy, Horton in TNSFC 1926, Audley <i>ibid</i> 1926, Norton in the Moors <i>ibid</i> 1926-29, Tunstall <i>ibid</i> 1924-32
CtAugm	Records of the Court of Augmentations in PRO (E 321)
Cur	<i>Curia Regis Rolls</i> (PRO), in progress
D	Devon
Db	Derbyshire
DB	Domesday Book; the St portion in VCH vol. iv, pp. 1-60; H.M. Fraser, <i>The Staffordshire Domesday</i> , Stone 1936
DbA	<i>Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society</i>
DbCh	Jeayes 1906*
DCL	Madge 1938*
Deed	Unpublished deeds in SRO, Br.Mus., PRO and in private hands
DEPN	Ekwall 1960*
DES	Reaney & Wilson 1997*
Dieul	<i>The Cartulary of Dieulacres Abbey</i> , ed. Gen. Wrottesley, SHC NS IX, 1906 (a 17th century MS)
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
DRO	Derbyshire Record Office
Du	Dutch
Dugd	Dugdale 1817-30*
Duig	Duignan 1902*
DuLaMB	<i>Duchy of Lancaster Miscellaneous Books</i> in Hardy's History of Tatenhill Vol. 2, pp. 216-20
ECP	<i>Early Chancery Proceedings</i> (PRO) Lists and Indexes, 12, 16, 20, 29, 38, 48, 50); <i>Early Chancery Proceedings 1377-1509</i> , ed. by Gen. Wrottesley, SHC NS VII, 1904
EDD	J. Wright, <i>The English Dialect Dictionary</i> , Oxford 1898-1905
e.g.	exempli gratia
Egerton	Egerton MSS in BrMus
EHD	Whitelock 1955*
EHNMR	English Heritage National Monuments Record
Eliz ChancP or Eliz	<i>Elizabethan Chancery Proceedings</i> in PRO (Series II) Lists and Indexes 7, 24, 30, London 1896; <i>Calendar of Proceedings in Chancery in the reign of Queen Elizabeth</i> (RC), London 1827-32
EnclA	Enclosure Awards in SRO, PRO and in private hands

EPNE	Smith 1956*
EPNS	Publications of the English Place-Name Society
Erdeswick	S. Erdeswick, <i>A Survey of Staffordshire</i> , c. 1600 (1717), in Harwood 1844*
ERN	E. Ekwall, <i>English River-Names</i> , Oxford 1928
ES	Wolverhampton <i>Express & Star</i>
ESRO	East Sussex Record Office
Ess	Essex
etc.	<i>et cetera</i> ; and the like
<i>et freq</i>	<i>et frequenter</i> ; and frequently (thereafter)
FA	<i>Feudal Aids</i> (PRO), 6 vols, London 1899-1920; <i>Testa de Nevill, Monina Villarum</i> , ed. Col. Wedgwood, SHC 1911
Faden	W. Faden, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> (2nd ed. of Yates <i>op. cit.</i>), 1799. (SRO)
Fine	<i>Calendar of Fine Rolls</i> (PRO), in progress: <i>The Fine Rolls</i> , t. Ed II, 1307-27, SHC 1888, ed. Gen. Wrottesley
FineR	<i>Excerpta e rotulis finium</i> (RC), London 1836
fn.	footnote
Fr	French
FrD	<i>Documents preserved in France</i> , Rolls Series 1899
freq.	frequent(ly)
GDR	<i>Gaol Delivery Rolls 1294-1307</i> , ed. Gen. Wrottesley, SHC VII, 1886
Gervase	Gervase of Canterbury, <i>Mappa Mundi</i> , Chron. and Mem. 28 (1867-9)
Gibson	Gibson 1695*
GKNB	<i>Gregory King's Notebook 1679-80</i> , SHC 1919, ed. by G.P. Mander
GM	<i>Gentleman's Magazine</i>
Greenwood	C. & J. Greenwood's map of Staffordshire 1820 (SRO)
Hales	<i>Court Rolls of the Manor of Hales</i> , Worcestershire Historical Society 1910-12
HAME	Woolgar 1993*
HantsRO	Hampshire Record Office
Hardwicke MS	Hardwicke*
<i>Harl</i>	Harleian MSS in BrMus
HaRO	Hampshire Record Office
Harrison	W. Harrison, <i>Description of Britain</i> in Holinshed's <i>Chronicles</i> (vol. 1), 1577 & 1586
Hatherton	<i>Calendar of Lord Hatherton's Charters</i> , ed. H.L.E. Garbett, SHC 1928 & 1931
HB	<i>Historia Brittonum cum additamentis Nenni</i> , ed. Mommsen, MGH, Auct. ant. xiii (1899)
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission

HLS	Staffordshire Deeds, Harvard Law School Library
HOK	Harrison 1986*
HRO	Herefordshire Record Office
Hrt	Hertfordshire
Huntbach	Huntbach MSS, WSL
ICG	<i>Inventory of Church Goods</i> (SHC NS VI (i); Hutchinson 1893; Sleight 1883 199-301)
IE	Indo-European
Inq aqd and Indexes (17,22)	<i>Calendarium Inquisitionum ad quod damnum</i> (RC), London 1803, <i>Inquisitiones ad quod damnum</i> (PRO), Lists and Indexes (17, 22), London 1904, 1906
IOW	Isle of Wight
Ipm	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem</i> (PRO), in progress; <i>Inquisitiones post mortem</i> 1223-1366, SHC 1911, 1913; unpublished Inquisitions post mortem in PRO
Jansson	J. Jansson, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> 1646 (SRO)
JEPNS	<i>The English Place-Name Society Journal</i> , in progress
JHMS	<i>Journal of the Historical Metallurgy Society</i>
JNSFC	<i>Journal of the North Staffordshire Field Club</i>
John of Worc	<i>The Chronicle of John of Worcester 1118-1140</i> , ed. J.R.H. Weaver (Anecdota Oxoniensis), 1908
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
K	Kent
Keer	P. Keer, <i>Map of Staffordshire</i> , 1880 (SRO)
Kip	Kip's map of Staffordshire 1607 (SRO)
Kitchen	T. Kitchen, <i>An accurate map of Warwickshire</i> , 1770
Kelly	Kelly, <i>Directory of Staffordshire</i> , 1880
La	Lancashire
Leland	Toumlin Smith 1906-10*
Li	Lincolnshire
LLRRO	Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Record Office
Loxdale	Collections of the Rev. Thomas Loxdale, SRO(W) 237M
Loxdale	<i>Deeds from the Loxdale MSS in the William Salt Library</i> , SHC 1911, pp. 438-443
LP	<i>Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII</i> (PRO) London 1864-1933 (in progress)
LRMB	Land Revenue Miscellaneous Books in PRO
LyttCh	<i>Charters of the Lyttleton Family</i> , ed. J.H. Jeayes, London 1893
M	Middle
MA	Monastic Accounts

ME	<i>Middle English</i>
MED	<i>Middle English Dictionary</i> , ed. H. Kurath, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in progress; Stratman 1891*
MedA	Medieval Archaeology
Mercator	Mercator's Atlas of Europe, 1564
MidA	Carter 1882-7*
Middleton	University of Nottingham Middleton Collection
MinA	Ministers' Accounts in Lists and Indexes (PRO) 5, 8, 34
ModE	Modern English
MLR	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
Moll	H. Moll's map of Staffordshire 1701 (SRO)
Morden	Morden's map of Staffordshire 1695 & 1701 (SRO)
MR	Muster Roll
MRA	<i>Magnum Registrum Album (1317-28)</i> , ed. by H. E. Savage, SHC 1924.
MS, MSS	Manuscript(s)
N&Q	<i>Notes and Queries</i> , in progress
N	note
n.d.	No date/not dated
NGR	Ordnance Survey National Grid reference
Nt	Nottinghamshire
n.p.	No publisher named
NS	New Series
NSFC	North Staffordshire Field Club
NSJFS	North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies
Nightingale	J. Nightingale, <i>The Beauties of English and Wales, Staffordshire</i> , vol. xiii, London 1813
Nomina	<i>Nomina : A Journal of Name Studies relating to Great Britain and Ireland published by English Name Studies</i> , in progress
O	Old
O	Oxfordshire
OblR	<i>Rotuli de Oblatis</i> (RC), London 1835.
OBrit	Old British.
ODan	Old Danish
OE	Old English
OEBede	<i>The Old English Version of Bede's Ecclesiastical History</i> , ed. Th. Miller, Early English Text Society 95ff (1890 etc.)
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
OEN	<i>Oxford English Newsletter</i> , Richard Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research, Western Michigan University
OFr	Old French

Okeover	Okeover Deeds in DRO
Okeover Deeds	<i>The Okeover Family of Okeover</i> , ed. Gen. Wrottesley, SHC NS 7, 1904
ON	Old Norse
Ord	Ordericus Vitalis, <i>Historia Ecclesiastica</i> , ed. A. le Prévost (Société de l'Histoire de France), Paris 1838-55
Orig	<i>Originalia Rolls</i> (RC), 1805-10; Pipe Roll Society NS vol. xxi, 1943
ORO	Oxfordshire Record Office
OS	Ordnance Survey
OS	Original Series
OSS	Transactions of The Old Stafford Society
Oxf	<i>Facsimiles of Early Charters in Oxford</i> . Oxford, 1929.
(p)	Place-name used as a personal name or surname
P	<i>The Staffordshire Pipe Rolls 1155-1216</i> , ed. R.W. Eyton, SHC I & II, 1880-81; The Pipe Roll Soc., in progress; <i>The Pipe Rolls</i> (RC), 3 vols, 1833-44; <i>The Great Roll of the Pipe for 26 Henry 3</i> , ed. Cannon 1918
PA	Parliamentary Accounts
ParReg	Parish Register(s)
ParSurv	Parliamentary Survey
Pat	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i> (PRO) in progress
PCC	<i>Index of Wills proved in the prerogative Court of Canterbury</i> (BRS), in progress
PDNPAS	Peak District National Park Archaeology Service
Peniarth	Peniarth MS 390 (14th century) in the National Library of Wales
PIR	<i>Plea Rolls</i> (1189-1327), ed.Gen. Wrottesley, SHC III, IV, VI, VII, X (1882-9)
PMA	Post Medieval Archaeology
PNEF	Owen 1994*
PN	Place Names
PN Sa	Place Names of Shropshire
PO	Post Office Directory
Poll	Copy of A Poll Taken for the County of Stafford the 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th Days of July, in the Year of Our Lord 1747, before George Hunt, Esq., High Sheriff for the said County
Pr	Primitive
PR(H)	<i>Shropshire Parish Registers</i> , Shropshire Parish Register Society, Hereford Diocese
PRO	Public Record Office
ProcJP	B.H. Putnam, <i>Proceedings before the Justices of the Peace in the 15th & 16th centuries</i> , London 1928
PrWelsh	Primitive Welsh

QJF	<i>Quarterly Journal of Forestry</i> , Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales & Northern Ireland
QSR	<i>Quarter Session Rolls for Staffordshire</i> (1581-1609), ed. S.A.H. Burne, G.P. Mander and D.H.G. Salt, SHC 1927, 1929-30, 1932, 1935, 1940, 1948-9
QSREnr	<i>Quarter Sessions Rolls Enrolled 1580-1621</i> , SHC 1934
q.v.	<i>Quod vide</i>
RB	Wilson 1907*
RBE	<i>Red Book of the Exchequer</i> , 3 vols, 1896
Reg	<i>Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum</i> . Oxford, 1913, 1956
RegDiss	B. Donaldson, <i>The Registrations of Dissenting Chapels & Meeting Houses in Staffordshire 1689-1852</i> , SHC 4th Series 3 1960
Rental	Unpublished rentals in BrMus, PRO, SRO, and in private hands
RH	<i>Rotuli Hundredorum</i> , 2 vols., 1812-1818; <i>Hundred Rolls 1255 & 1275</i> , ED. Gen. Wrottesley, SHC V(I), 1884; <i>The Offlow Hundred Roll of 39 Hen III</i> , printed by Stebbing Shaw 1798-1801
RHP	Johnson & Cronne 1956*
RontonC	<i>The Ronton Priory Cartulary</i> , ed. Gen. Wrottesley, (Text and Introduction), SHC IV 1883
RRAN	Cronne & Davis 1968*
RydewareCh	<i>Rydeware Family Cartulary</i> , ed. I. H. Jeayes and Gen. Wrottesley (Text & Introduction), SHC XVI, 1895
SaDeeds	<i>Old Shropshire Deeds</i> . Shropshire Archaeological Society
SAHS	<i>Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society</i>
Saints	<i>Die Heiligen Englandes</i> , ed. F. Liebermann, Hanover 1889
SBT	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office
SCH	<i>Staffordshire Catholic History</i>
Senior	The Survey of Wetton; MS of William Senior's Plans in Chatsworth House, 1617, belonging to the Rt Hon. Lord Cavendish (copy in SRO)
SHC	<i>Staffordshire Historical Collections</i> (formerly <i>Transactions of the William Salt Archaeological Society</i>)
SHT	The Staffordshire Hearth Tax, 1666, ed. G. E. Grogan, SHC 1921 (Pirehill), 1923 (Seisdon and Offlow), 1925 (Totmonslow), 1927 (Cuttlestone), and for Lichfield ed. P. Laithwaite, SHC 1936.
Sketchley	<i>Sketchley & Adam's True Guide; or an Universal Directory for the towns of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley [etc.]</i> , 4th edition 1763
Sleigh	J. Sleigh, <i>A History of the Ancient Parish of Leek in Staffordshire</i> , London & Leek 1883
Smith	Smith's MS map of Staffordshire 1599 (SRO); Smith's map of

	Staffordshire 1801 (SRO)
SMR	Sites & Monuments Record (Staffordshire County Council Planning Department unless other county shown) with index ref.
s.n.	sub. nom. = under the name of
SOT	Stoke on Trent City Archives

SOTMAS	City of Stoke on Trent Museum Archaeological Society
SP	<i>Staffordshire Pedigrees</i> (Harl. Soc. Pubs 63), 1912
SPDom	State Papers Domestic in PRO (SP 14 16)
Speed	Speed's map of Staffordshire 1610 (SRO)
SPI	J. S. Roper, <i>Sedgley Probate Inventories 1614-1787</i> , Dudley n.d., n.p.
SR	<i>Subsidy Roll 1327, 1332-33</i> , ed. Gen. Wrottesley SHC vols viii & x 1886-9; <i>Subsidy Roll of 1640</i> ed. S.A.H. Burne, SHC 1941
Sr	Surrey
SRO	Staffordshire Record Office
SRRC	Shropshire Records & Research Centre
SRS	<i>Shropshire Records Series</i> (Keele: Centre for Local History)
SS	Seldon Society
St	Saint
<i>StEnc</i>	Cockin 2000*
StaffAcc	The Earl of Stafford, Manors, SRO D641/1
StarCh	<i>Star Chamber Proceedings T.Hy 7 & Hy 8 1516-1549</i> , ed. W.K. Boyd, SHC 1910-1912, and X ns (i); <i>Lists of Proceedings in the Court of Star Chamber 1485-1558</i> (PRO Lists and Indexes 13)
StCart	<i>The Staffordshire Cartulary</i> , ed. R.W. Eyton, SHC II (i), 1881 and Gen. Wrottesley, SHC III, 1882, and SHC 1911 (pp. 416-37), ed. Col. Wedgwood; <i>Two Early Staffordshire Charters</i> , ed. C Swynnerton, SHC 1926
StComm	<i>The Committee at Stafford 1643-45</i> , ed. G.D.H. Pennington & I.A. Roots, SHC 4th Series, Vol. I, 1957
Stockdale	J. Stockdale, <i>Two Maps of Staffordshire</i> in ?
StSt	<i>Staffordshire Studies</i>
Stratmann	Stratmann 1891*
StThomas	<i>Deeds of St Thomas Priory Stafford</i> (Text and Introduction), ed. F.P. Parker, SHC VIII, 1887
StV	<i>The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire 1614, 1663, and 1664</i> (SHC VII) 1884
<i>Survey</i>	Unpublished Surveys in PRO, SRO and in private hands
Sx	Sussex
TA	Tithe Award
Taliesin	J. G. Evans, <i>Facsimile and Text of the Book of Taliesin</i> , Llandovery, 1910
<i>TallAss</i>	Tallage Assessments in PRO (E 179/237/13)
Taylor	Taylor's map of Wolverhampton 1751 (SRO)
TBAS	<i>Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society</i>
Teesdale	J. Teesdale's map of Staffordshire 1832 (SRO)

<i>temp.</i>	Temporore, in the time (reign) of, followed by the monarch's name
<i>Terrier</i>	Unpublished Terriers in various hands
TNFSC	<i>Transactions of the North Staffordshire Field Club</i> , from 1961 <i>North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies</i>
TOE	Roberts, Kay & Grundy 1995*
TPS	<i>Transactions of the Philosophical Society</i>
TRS	<i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</i>
TSAS	<i>Transactions of Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society</i>
TSAHS	<i>Transactions of Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society</i>
TSHCS	<i>Transactions of Stafford Historical & Civic Society</i>
TSSAHS	<i>Transactions of South Staffordshire Archaeological Society (formerly Lichfield and South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society)</i>
Tunnicliff	Tunnicliff's map of Staffordshire 1786 (SRO)
(Tw)	F.R. Twemlow, <i>History of the Manor of Mere, Co. St, which includes the Township of Mere or Meretown, Acqualate, Forton, Sutton & Wharton</i> ; copy in typescript 1916-20, SRO (W)182/261
TWHS	<i>Transactions of Worcester Historical Society</i>
ValEccl	<i>Valor Ecclesiasticus</i> . Record Commission 1810 ff.
VCH	<i>Victoria County History</i> (of St unless otherwise indicated)
VE	<i>Valor Ecclesiasticus</i> (RC), 6 vols, 1810-34
VEPN	Parsons & Styles 1997*
Visitation	<i>The Visitation of 1583</i> , ed. by H.S. Grazebrook, SHC III (ii), 1881.
W	Wiltshire
Wa	Warwickshire
WALS	Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies Library
WC	<i>Wolverhampton Chronicle</i>
WaCRO	Warwickshire County Record Office
<i>Wills</i>	Unpublished Wills at Somerset House, the Lichfield Registry & in private hands
Wills	<i>A Register of Stafford and other local Wills</i> , ed. G.P. Mander, SHC 1926.
WJ	<i>Wolverhampton Journal</i>
WL	J. B. Hughes (ed.), <i>The Register of Walter Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 1296-1321</i> , Vol. I, The Boydell Press for The Canterbury and York Society, 2001.
WMA	<i>West Midlands Archaeology</i>
WMANS	<i>West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet</i>
Wo	<i>Worcestershire</i>
Wodehouse	<i>Deeds at the Wodehouse, Wombourne</i> , ed. G.P. Mander, SHC 1928.
Worc	<i>Itineraria Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre</i> , ed. J.Nasmyth,

	Cambridge 1778
WRO	Worcestershire Record Office
WSL	William Salt Library, Stafford
Wulst	Annals of the Hospital of St. Wulstan, with Cartulary, ed. F.T. Marsh 1890
Yates	William Yates' maps of Staffordshire 1775 (based on a survey made 1769-75) and 1798 (SRO)
Yo	Yorkshire

Arrangement of Entries

The modern name of each place is given in the gazetteer in bold capitals, and underlined if the place is recorded in Domesday Book. Places not found on a modern map, whether identifiable or not, are shown in ordinary capitals. A place identified as Ancient Parish is an ancient parish as defined in Youngs 1991, i.e. parishes which existed before 1597. An arbitrary selection of unlocated place-names has been included for the possible interest of researchers, though with the important caveat that some may lie outside Staffordshire. Each identified name is followed by an approximate location (with approximate distances, given, without apology, in traditional English miles), including where possible a four-figure Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference. The word 'lost' indicates that the name does not appear on the latest maps, and 'unlocated' that the exact location has not been identified. 'Obsolete' indicates that the name has fallen out of use. When available, early spellings are given in italics, in chronological order, with their date and an abbreviated reference to the source. References are given by the Harvard system, with the author's name, the year of publication (or edition), and page number. A question mark before a name indicates uncertainty whether the name refers to the place; a question mark after the name shows that the spelling is uncertain; and a question mark before a date indicates that the date is uncertain. A second date in brackets is the date of the document or publication in which the first date appears. The letter *S* followed by a number (in brackets) after a spelling indicates, in accordance with current convention, that the name is taken from an Anglo-Saxon charter of that number as listed in Sawyer 1968, though the spelling itself may well be taken from another source, e.g. Finberg 1972 or Hart 1975. (p) after a name indicates that it is recorded as part of a personal name. An asterisk before a word indicates that it is not recorded in early sources but its existence can be deduced with some certainty from philological research. An element that appears in italics indicates that the meaning will be found under Elements (above), or in EPNE. Where appropriate, references to Roman roads cite the standard reference number from Margary 1973.

Contrary to the practice long adopted by the English Place-Name Society, names have not been assembled into their relevant parish. The reason is that such a system only partly satisfies the desirability of relating adjoining or nearby names, for the names of adjoining places separated by a

parish boundary will not be grouped together, and in any event place-names within individual parishes (some of which are particularly sizeable in Staffordshire) are conventionally listed alphabetically. In this volume names are simply listed in alphabetical order. Although Forster 1981 contains a number of pronunciations for Staffordshire names,⁵⁰⁹ many of which are inaccurate, it has not proved possible to identify the modern pronunciation of every place-name listed in this work, though many names which have unusual pronunciation have been dealt with.

Gazetteer

ABBEY GREEN 1 mile north-west of Leek (SJ 9757). *Abbey Green* 1611 SRO DW1702/1/23, *Abbie Green* 1634 Leek ParReg, *Abbey Green Farm* 1677 SRO DW1702, *Abbey Green* 1696 Leek ParReg, 1842 O.S. 'The grassy open place at the abbey', from Dieulacres Abbey which lies nearby to the east.

ABBEY HULTON near Burslem, 3 miles north-east of Stoke on Trent (SJ 9148). *Helton* 1086 DB, *Hiltona* 1166 SHC 1923 297, *Hultone* 1242 SHC XI 314, *Hylton* 1281 SHC VI (i) 120, *Hulton* 1358 HLS, *Abbehilton* 1587 SHC XV 180, *Abbie-Hulton* 1591 SHC XVI 114, *Hilton Abbey* 1601 SHC 1935 341, *Abby Hulton* 1678 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg, *Hilton Abbey* 1749 Bowen. From OE *hyll* and *tūn*. 'Hill *tūn*': the place is on high land. *Abbey* is an addition from the Cistercian abbey founded in 1219, with a charter of 1223 (VCH III 235), probably a much later forgery (Tomkinson 1994: 73-102). *Thabbay Mill*, recorded at Hulton in 1539 (MA), is evidently 'Th' Abbey Mill'.

ABBOTS BROMLEY - see **BROMLEY, ABBOTS**.

ABBOT'S CASTLE HILL a 2-mile long escarpment on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border 2 miles west of Trysull (SO 8294). *Aquardescastell* 1295 SHC 1911 224, *Aguardescastel* 1295 SHC VII 29, *Aquardescastel* 1295 VCH XX 185, *Akewardes castel* 1298 TSAS LXXI 1996 27, *apewardes castel* 1301 Rees 1975: 248, *Apeward* and *Apeis Castle* 15th century VCH XX 185, *Abbots or rather Ape-wood Castle* 1686 Plot 397, *Abbots Castle Hill* 1752 Rocque, *Abbots Castle* 1775 Yates. The element *castel(l)* is found in Welsh, Cornish, OE, OFr, ME, from Latin *castellum* 'a fort', but is usually a post-Conquest element introduced by the Normans. Occasionally it is from OE *ceastel* 'a heap of stones', but that is not likely here. *Aquard-* and *Aguard-* may, given the *castel* element, be from the OFr personal names *Achart*, *Aquart*, which are probably from OGerman *Agihard*, *Akihart*. The change from *Aq-* or *Ag-* to *Ap-* is curious, and may perhaps be explained as misreadings. Whatever the derivation of the name, there is no connection with any abbot. Hardwick 1822 suggests that the hill was at that date also called *the Frife*, perhaps for Frith (q.v.). An intermittent ditch, which may be of Anglo-Saxon or earlier date, extends along the crest of the escarpment (*la Ruge* 'the ridge' in 1294: SHC 1911 224), and Plot 1686: 397 records 'a very ancient and considerable fortification'; see also VCH I 372. The county boundary formerly ran along the crest of the escarpment, but since 1895 only the northern part of the ridge marks the boundary. The 'castle' (almost certainly some kind of earthwork) from which the escarpment was named appears from its sequence in early perambulations and from early maps (e.g.

⁵⁰⁹ For example Bushbury, Keele, Kinver, Leek, Pattingham.

Yates 1775) to have been at the north-west end of the escarpment, at what is now Hillend, where the county boundary turns around the steep headland and forms a pronounced curlicue. William atte Castell mentioned in a Pattingham court roll in 1327 and 1373, and William Castell mentioned in 1412 (Brighton 1942: 159; 24; SHC 1939 191) may have taken their surnames from this place: Pattingham is 2½ miles to the north-east, and no castle (other than the iron-age fortification at The Walls (q.v.)) is recorded in Pattingham or elsewhere in the area. That part of the escarpment cut by the road from Seisdon to Upper Aston is called Tinker's Castle (q.v.). A Roman road (? *stonystrete* 1298 TSAS LXXI 1993 27; ? *Tom or Thom Street* 15th century VCH XX 65, perhaps for Town Street: see Foxall 1980 7; cf. Tomhill Cottage, Tom Lane) from Greensforge lies below the ridge. At the south-eastern end of the ridge is a '...small square intrenchment with a single ditch, situated on a round promontory...' (VCH I 192), recorded as *Bekwyneburynesse* in a perambulation of 1295 (SHC 1911 224). This name (which Duignan associates with Beckbury, Shropshire: see TSAS IX 1897 388, where Duignan also notes correctly that '[the term ness] is usually applied to physical features such as a tongue or nose of land running out into the Sea, a cape or promontor', but adds inexplicably 'I am not aware of anything of that kind in the locality') would appear to contain a personal name (Duignan suggests Berchtwine: *ibid.* 388), with OE *burh*, dative singular *byrig*, 'earthwork, fortification', and Mercian OE *ness* 'a promontory, a headland, a projecting piece of high land', so giving 'Bekwin's fortification on the promontory'. Shaw 1801: II 278 mentions two small camps near the Hoar Stone (War Stone q.v.), of which *Bekwyneburynesse* is likely to be one. The location of the other earthwork is uncertain, although aerial photographs have located an irregular quadrilateral cropmark at approximately SO 8392.

ABBOTTS FOREST (unlocated, in Leekfryth.) *Abbotts forest* 1539 SHC IX NS 301. The place was held by Dieulacres abbey.

ABLEWELL in Walsall (SO 0198). *Abelwellsych* 1309 VCH 17 147, 221, *Able Well* 1398-9 VCH XVII 143, *Abulwall Streets* 1511 BCA MS917/1258, *Ablewell (Street)* 1756 SHC 1910 255. Duignan 1880: 26; 1902: xi gives a spelling *Avalwalle* from the 13th century, and a derivation from Norman French *aval* 'below' with ME *walle* 'earthwork, entrenchment', linking the place to a street called The Ditch, from an earthwork still visible in the mid 19th century. However, the little evidence available suggests that the second element is from Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', and (rarely) 'a well'. The first element is uncertain, but could be an unidentified personal name such as Eadbeald in abbreviated form, or the surname Abel(l): see for example SHC 1910 212-7. *Sych* is from OE *sīc* 'water-course'. The name *Ablecott* is recorded in the Wednesbury area in 1684: BCA MS3145/91/2,

ABLOW (obsolete) between Graiseley and Wolverhampton, above Graiseley Brook on the south-west side of Wolverhampton (SO 9098). *Abbelowefeld* 1361 BCA MS3145/117/1, *Ablowfild* 1481 SRO D593/B/1/26/6/17, *Ablowfyld* 1498 SRO D593/B/1/26/6/29/12, *Abloo* 1516 SRO D593/B/1/26/6/29/11, *Ablowe (Field)* 1671 SRO D4092/C/1/57, *Ablow field* 1699 WA II 37. Perhaps 'Ab(b)a's *hlāw* or tumulus'. The mound was evidently still in existence c.1800, when it was said to be planted with a bush called *Iseley Cross (sic)*: Shaw 1801: II *172; SHC 1982 72, and is said to lie

beneath St Paul's church: Hackwood 1908: 7. The place, which gave its name to one of the open fields of Wolverhampton, is remembered in the name Ablow Street.

ABNALLS 1 mile north-west of Lichfield (SK 1010). *Abbenhale* 1274 SHC 1924 264, 1293 SHC VI (i) 255, 1347 SHC 1913 122, ? *Habenhale* 1332 SHC X (i) 110, *Abenhale* 1349 SHC XVIII 117, *Abbenall* c.1537 SHC 1931 223, *Abnall* 1543 SHC XI 284, *Abbenall* 1601 SHC XVI 208. Probably 'Ab(b)a's *halh*'. Cf. Abinghall, Gloucestershire.

ABOVE PARK - see **CHEADLE**.

ACARD (unlocated, perhaps near Tutbury: SHC 1912 222.) *Acard* (undated) SHC 1912 222.

ACKBURY HEATH 1 mile south of Brewood (SJ 8706). *Herkebarowe* 1199-1209 St Cart, *Erkebarghe* 1305 SHC VII 130, *Erkbarue*, *Erkbarwe*, *Erkbarow(e)* 1306, 1332 Ct, *Erkenaroheth* 1424 Ct, *Arkeborrowe heath* 1587 Ct, *Ackburyes* 1724 Survey, *Hackbury Heath* 1834 O.S. The first element is uncertain, but is unlikely to be the same as that in High Ercall, Childs Ercall, and The Ercall (an outlying outcrop of The Wrekin massif), all in Shropshire, as suggested by Oakden 1984: 36. A derivation from OE *earc* 'ark, chest' (see Gelling & Cole 2000: 118), perhaps used in a topographical sense for a flattened roof-like ridge with slight summit reminiscent of the lid of an early wooden ark or chest (which might fit the topography here, with nearby Giffard's Cross standing on the crest of a ridge formed by the Upper and Lower Avenue of Chillington), is unlikely, since OE *earc* would give ME *ark*, which is not found in the early spellings. Early ME *erk* would appear to be from OE **eorc*, but any such word is unrecorded. For completeness it may be added that there is an OE charm 'For unfruitful land' (BL MS Cotton Caligula A vii, Fol 176a-178a) which contains a verse passage referring to a pagan deity '*Erce, Erce, Erce, mother of earth*', but nothing is known of this Erce from any other source, and the name in any event was probably pronounced Erch. The first element must therefore be considered unresolved. The early forms show that the second element of Ackbury is OE *bearu* 'wood, grove', and cannot be OE *beorg* meaning 'mountain, hill', and especially 'a barrow or tumulus'. The place is a farmstead at the fork of a lost Roman road (Margary number 191; see also Horovitz 1992: 34-5) running south from Pennocrucium (Water Eaton), which might provide some clue to the meaning of the first element.

ACKLETON 2 miles north-east of Worfield (SO 7798). *Akelington* 1238x1250 Eyton 1854-60: III 112, *Akinton* 1256 *ibid.* 112, *Akelinton* 1272 *ibid.* 112, *Acliton* 1291 Eyton 1854-60: II 76, *Akulton* 1505 TSAS 3rd Series III 120, *Aculton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 117, *Acleton* 1552 TSAS 3rd Series IX 1909 120, 1562 Worfield ParReg, *Ackleton* 1752 Rocque. Perhaps from OE *āc-hyll* 'oak hill', with OE *tūn*, but the earliest spellings suggests an *-ingtūn* derivation giving 'the *tūn* associated with the oak hill', or 'the *tūn* associated with [an unidentified personal name]'. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

ACRE HEAD (obsolete) 1 mile east of Meerbrook (SK 0060), *Acre Head* 1842 O.S.; **ACRE, UPPER** 2 miles north-west of Butterson (SK 0458), *Upper Acre*, *Lower Acre* 1842 O.S. From OE *æcer* 'field, ploughed land', in which case the first place is 'the top or head of the place with the ploughed land', and the second place 'the northern or higher place with the ploughed land'. It is unclear whether *Aker*, recorded in 1696 (Leek ParReg), refers to either of these places.

ACTON (unlocated, in Congreve.) *Acton* 1689 SRO D1057/G/1/3. Seemingly 'oak *tūn*'.

ACTON HILL 1 mile south-east of Eccleshall (SJ 8328). *Haketon* 1170 SHC I 61, 1190 SHC II 14, *Hakedene* 1254 SHC 1924 168, *Hokedon* 1343 SHC XI 153, *Haketon* 1471 SHC IV NS 174, *Hakedonhill* 1588 SHC XII NS 96, *Hakedon, commonly called Acton, Hill...* 1679 SHC 1914 57, *Acton Hill* 1833 O.S. The earliest form suggests a derivation from OE *haca* 'a hook', with inconsistent terminals which could be OE *tūn*, OE *denu* 'a dene, a valley', or OE *dūn*, giving 'the hook-shaped or twisted *tūn* or hill or valley'. The hatchuring on the first edition O.S. map indicates that the place lies at the end of a long ridge with a hook-like spur at the south-east end, so perhaps 'the hook-shaped hill'.

ACTON TRUSSELL in Baswich parish, 3 miles south-east of Stafford (SJ 9318). *Actone* 1086 DB, *Actona Willelmi* 1166 SHC 1923 296, *Trussel'* 1204 OblR, *Aketon'* (p) 1206 Cur, *Acton'* 1242-3 Fees, *Acton Trussel(l)* 1481 Coram R, 1507 Ipm; **ACTON** 1 mile north-east of Whitmore (SJ 8241), *Acton* 1589 SHC 1929 326. 'Oak *tūn*'. Willelmi (William) was presumably an early owner, and Trussell is from a local family who owned land here from at least 1342: VCH V 13. A full discussion of the name Acton which, it has been suggested, may have had the specific meaning 'subordinate settlement where the handling of oak timber was a specialised function', can be found in PN Sa I 1-4. (The *Actun* mentioned in the Will of Wulfric Spot of 1002x1004 (11th century, S.1536) could be this place or any of the Shropshire Actons).

ADBASTON Ancient Parish 4½ miles west of Eccleshall (SJ 7627). *Edboldestone* 1086 DB, *Edbaldestone* 1175 P, *Edbaldeston* 1200 SHC III 68, *Albodestun* 1224 SHC IV 30, *Atbaldestone*, *Ambaldeston* 1278 SHC 1911 170, *Atbaldeston* 1278 Ipm, *Adbaldestone*, *Albaldiston*, *Alboldestun* 12th and 13th century Duig. 'Ēadbald's *tūn*'. Ēadbald was a common OE personal name.

ADDERLEY 1½ miles east of Dilhorne (SJ 9943), *Aderdeleye* c.1316 SRO D1229/1/4/10, *Adderley* 1332 SHC X (i) 117, *Adderley Greene* 1597 SHC 1932 333, *Adderley* 1833 O.S.; **ADDERLEY GREEN** 2 miles north of Madeley (SJ 7747), *Adderley Green* 1654 Betley ParReg, *Adderley Gr* 1775 Yates; **ADDERLEY GREEN** 1½ miles north-east of Longton (SJ 9244), *Addredeleg'*, *Audredeleye* 1242-3 Fees, *Adderleigh* 1293 SHC 1931 263, *Adirdeeley* ? 13th century SHC XI 306, *Adderley* 1327, 1332, 1356, 1465 *ibid*, ? *Adurlegh* 1411 SHC XVI 76, *Adderley Green* 1582 Trentham ParReg, *Netherley Greene otherwise Adderley Greene* 1613 SHC 1934 (ii) 32, *Adderlegrine* 1655 *ibid*, *Atherley Green* 1693 *ibid*, *Upper Adderley Green(e)* 1663 SRO D3575/1, *Adderly Greene* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 100, *Atherley Green* 1836 O.S. From the OE personal name Aldrēd, so 'Aldrēd's *lēah*'. The first two names may be transferred from Adderley near Longton (see SHC 1910 263-6), or possibly Adderley in Shropshire between Audlem and Market Drayton. *Adderleys Wood* appears on the 1836 O.S. map ½ mile north of Drointon (SK 0227), but earlier spellings have not been traced. See also Shaw 1798: I 81.

ADDER'S GREEN 1 mile south of Flash (SK 0265). *Edders Grenehed* 1560s SHC 1938 99, *Eddersgreen* 1664 DRO D2375M/25/18, *Edars Green* 1688 Alstonefield ParReg. Perhaps from the recorded personal name Edda, rather than from OE *nāddre* 'snake, adder', for which E- could be explained by the normal development of *æ* to *e* in West Midland dialect.

ADELLAKESHUL (unlocated, in Swinscoe). *Adellakeshul* 15th century Okeover E192.

ADMASTON 4 miles north of Rugeley (SK 0523). *Ædmundeston* 1176 P, 1178 P, *Edmodeston* 1177 P, *Edmodistona* 1179 SHC I 92, *Ædmodeston* 1180 P, *Admodestun* 1181 SHC I 95, *Admundeston* 1203 SHC III 88, *Edmundeston* 1203 *ibid.* 101, *Edmodeston* 1249 SHC VI NS (ii) 37, *Admondeston* 1276 SHC 1911 165, ? *Acmundeston* 1277 *ibid.* 169, *Edmundiston* late 13th century SRO (57/7915), *Admundeston* 1304 *ibid.*, *Admodeston* 1306 SHC VII 151, *Oldmiston* 1341 SRO DW1781/1/43. 'The *tūn* of Æadmund', perhaps the person of the same name who held Blithfield in 1066 (DB). There is an Admaston 1½ miles north-west of Wellington, Shropshire, which probably has the same derivation: see Bocock 1923: 20.

ADSALL - see **YEATSALL**.

AGARDSLEY in Hanbury parish, 6 miles south-east of Uttoxeter (SK 1425). *Edgareslege* 1086 DB, 1280 Ass, (*ermitagium de*) *Adgaresleg'* 1192-1247 SHC 4th Series IV 79, *Adgarestes*, *Addegaresleye* 13th century Duig, *Adgaresle* 1324 SHC X 50, *Agersley* 1686 Plot. 'Æadgār's *lēah*'. The place is now known as Newborough (q.v.), although the name survives in Agardsley Park (SK 1327) in the north of the parish, recorded as *Aggarisbury Park* c.1659: DCL 393. The name *Eadgares lege*, found in a charter of land at Rolleston in 1008 (14th century, S.920), is associated with Agardsley by Hooke 1983: 96, but placed by Hart 1975: 217 between Rolleston and Marston-on-Dove. See also SHC 1912 222.

AGGER HILL FARM 1½ miles north-east of Madeley (SJ 7946). *Agger Hill Farm* 1834 O.S.

ALBURLEY (unlocated, possibly in or near Bagot's Park, perhaps marked by Abberley's Plantation (SK 1126).) *Alburghele* early 13th century SRO D986/43, *Alburleg* early 13th century SRO D986/67, *Alburley* c.1345 SRO D986/81, *Alburley (byrches)* 1402 SHC NS XI 208. Possibly 'the *lēah* of Aluburg or Alhburg', both female names. Cf. Alberbury, Shropshire (Ekwall 1960: 4).

ALDEBURGE (unlocated, in Brocton near Milford.) *Aldeburge* 1570 Oakden 1984: 35. From OE *ald, burh* 'old fortification'.

ALDEPORT (unlocated, possibly in the Wednesbury/Stonall area.) *Aldeport* 1286 SHC 4th Series XVIII 141, 176. From OE *ald, port* 'old (market) town', or possibly 'old gate'.

ALDER CARR north of Loxley Bank (SK 0631). *Alder Car* 1836 O.S.; **ALDER CAR** north-east of Ellastone (SK 1244), *Alder Car* 1836 O.S. From ON *kjarr* 'marsh, wet moor, boggy copse', a word so often found linked to that of the alder that the one word alone may mean 'wet place with alders': see Rackham 1990: 108; Field 1993: 40, 62. Alder is from OE *alor* 'alder'.

ALDER LEE at Meerbrook, 3 miles north of Leek (SJ 6199), *Alder Lee* 1775 Yates, *Alderley* 1842 O.S.; **ALDERLEY** on the south side of Meerbrook (SJ 9860), *Alderley* 1842 O.S. From OE *alor lēah* 'alder *lēah*'.

ALDERS BROOK a tributary of the river Dove. From OE *alor brōc* 'alder brook'.

ALDERSHAW 1 mile south-west of Lichfield (SK 1007). *Alreshagh* 1255 SHC IV 246, *Alreshawe* 1266 *ibid.* 162, *Alresawe* 1272 *ibid.* 252, *Alreschawe* 1272 SHC IV 189, *Allershawe* 1349 SHC 1913 137, 1363 SHC XIII 29. From OE *scaga* 'small wood, copse', which in place-names usually becomes

shaw, with OE *alor* 'alder', a frequent first element with words for a stream or wood, giving 'the alder copse'.

ALDERSLEY 1 mile north-east of Tettenhall (SJ 0109). *Allerleye* 1302 SHC VII 101, *Allerley* medieval VCH XX 13, 1332 SHC X (i) 131, 1412 SHC XVI 81, *Alderley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 147, *Atherley* 1588, *Alderley* 1592 SHC 1930 305, *Atherley* 1613 map of Tettenhall Hay PRO, *Alderley* 1649 map of William Fowler, *Aldersley* 1686 Plot, *Aldersley* c.1800. From OE *alor* 'alder', with OE *lēah*, giving 'alder *lēah*'. Aldersley has been the spelling since the 19th century, with Atherley used for the junction of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal here.

ALDREDESLEGA (unlocated) *Aldredeslega* 1129 SHC I 3. Seemingly from the OE personal name Aldrēd with OE *lēah*, hence 'Aldrēd's *lēah*'.

ALDRIDGE Ancient Parish 3 miles north-east of Walsall (SK 0500). *Alrewic* 1086 DB, *Alrewich* 1166 SHC 1923 295, 1271 SHC V (i) 149, *Alrewyz* 1236 Fees, *Alrewyz* 1286 SHC V (i) 175, *Alrewych* 1302 SHC I 203, 1356 SHC 1913 168, *Allerwych* 1334 SHC XV 57, *Alrewyche* 1398 SHC XV 83, *Alriche* otherwise *Aldriche* 1580 SHC XV 130, *Aldrich* 1686 Plot. 'Alder *wīc*', from OE *alor* 'alder', and OE *wīc*, with palatalisation. This place was an independent estate in DB, and 'dwelling' seems a more likely derivation than 'dependant farm'. The combination of a word for a tree with OE *wīc* is unusual, but alders are mentioned here frequently in medieval records. The name has evidently been interpreted as 'alder ridge' in more recent times.

ALFLEDEWEY, ALFLEDEFORD (obsolete, probably near Stafford Brook on Cannock Chase (SK 0218).) *Alfledewey*, *Alfledford* 1290 Ch; SHC 1924 285. From the OE feminine personal name *Ælfflēd*, so 'Ælfflēd's way or road', and 'Ælfflēd's ford'. See also Oakden 1984: 64.

ALLIMORE GREEN 1 mile south-west of Haughton (SJ 8519). *Aliasmore* 1401 Staff Acc, *Alley-more-greene* 1661 Gnosall ParReg, *Allamore Greene* 1686 Bradley ParReg, *Allmoore-Green* 1747 Poll, *Allymoor Green* 1775 Yates, *Allymoor Green* 1832 Teesdale. Perhaps from OFr *alee*, ME *aley* 'path, passage-way', so 'the marshy ground with the path or passage-way'. The 1401 form is almost certainly an error. The place is noticeably marshy: see NSJFS 8 1968 114. It may be noted that *Gannildes Mer* in Apeton is recorded in 1356 (SRO 137[7900]), perhaps from the Scandinavian personal name Gunnhildr (feminine), and it is not impossible that 'Gunhild's Moor' is the true derivation of this place-name.

ALLSCOTT 1 mile north-west of Worfield (SO 7396). *Halvescote* 1256 Eyton 1854-60: III 112, *Alvescote* 1272 *ibid.* 112, *Aluescot* 1327 SR, *Alveskote* 1504 TSAS 3rd Series III 117, *Alvescote* 1525 SR, *Alstott* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 118, *Alscott* 1602 SRRC 2028/1/5/8. From the OE personal name *Ælfhēah* or similar, with OE *cot* 'cottage'. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

ALMINGTON 2 miles east of Market Drayton, in Drayton-in-Hales parish (SJ 7034). *Almentone* 1086 DB, *Alcminton* 1242 Fees, *Aleminton* 1243 SHC 1911 395, *Alkemonton* 1316 *ibid.* 410, *Ammington* 1686 Plot. The first element may be a short personal name with *-ingtūn*, giving 'tūn associated with Alhmund', or perhaps more likely 'Alhmund's tūn', with the not untypical West Midlands form of a personal name without genitival inflection.

ALREWAS Ancient Parish (pronounced [ɔ:lɹəs], and reputedly the only word in the English language to rhyme with Walrus) 5 miles north-east of Lichfield (SK 1715). *Alrewasse* 941 (14th century, S.479), *Alrewas* 1086 DB, *Alrewæs* 11th or 12th century Sawyer 1979a: xxxvii, *Alrewas* 1166 SHC 1923 295, *Allerwych*, *Alerewas* 1262 SHC V (i) 136, *Allirwyche* 1307 SHC 1911 68, *Allerwas* 1320 SHC 1911 344, *Alderwasshe* 1485 SHC VI NS (i) 159, *Alderwaies* 1577 Saxton, *Alderwais* 1607 Kip, *Aldesways* 1691 SHC 1925 42. From OE *alor* 'alder', with the second element *-wæsse*, meaning 'the plain liable to sudden flooding and draining, with alders': cf. Hopwas, Pur Brook, Buildwas, Sugwas, Bolas, Rotherwas, Broadwas. A full explanation of the term *wæsse* meaning 'alluvial land liable to sudden floods', perhaps first recognised by Duignan 'fen, swamp, or land liable to flood' (SAS XL 1897 388), and Rev. C. H. Drinkwater 'a watery place washed by the sea or other water, land formed by flooding' (TSAS 3rd Series I 406) will be found in Gelling 1984: 59-60; see also Gelling & Cole 2000: 64. Amongst various entries made in the parish registers over a period of some 50 years by the vicar, John Falkner, is the following: 'This 21st day of December, anno 1581, was the water of Trent dried up, and sodenly falled so ebbe that I John Falkner, vicar, went over into the hall meddow, in a lowe peare of shoves, about 4 of the clocke in the afternoone; and so it was never in the remembrance of any man then living in that time in the droughest yeare that any man had knowen; and the same water in the morning before was banke full, which was very strange': Shaw 1798: II 137, also GM 1794 II 803. According to 'Nature' December 1930, 1581 was the driest year on record. See also *Pirewasse*. Cf. *Allerwash*, Northumberland.

ALSAGER BANK 2 miles south-east of Audley (SJ 8048). *Alsager Bank* 1833 O.S., *Alger Bank* 1850 Slater, *Alsager's Bank* 1851 White. *Alsager* is evidently transferred from the place of that name in Cheshire. Early spellings for the Staffordshire place have not been traced, and its history is unclear.

ALSTANESAX (unlocated, in Horninglow.) *Alstanesax* mid-13th century SHC 1937 65. Possibly 'Ælfstān's oaks'.

ALSTONE in Bradley parish, 5½ miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8518). *Aluerdestone* 1086 DB, *Aluredeston in Hylle* 1195 SHC II 47, *Aluredestona* 1197 P, *Aluredeston* 1199 Ass, *Alvedston* c.1200 SHC XIII 273, *Alvredeston* c.1235 SHC XII 273, *Alverestone* 1268 SHC 1911 141, ? *Dalvestones*, *Alvestones* 1278 SHC V (i) 88, *Alstaneston* 1304 *ibid.* 62, *Alvereston* 1324 *ibid.* 101, *Alderstone* 1406 SHC XVII 76, ? *Alderstone* 1420 SHC XVII 76, *Alson* 1586 SHC XVII 233, *Allston* 1666 Gnosall ParReg, *Alston* 1686 Plot. *Alured* is a form of the OE personal name *Ælfrēd*, hence 'Ælfrēd's *tūn*'. *Hylle* in the 1195 form has not been identified: see SHC II 107. See also *Aluredeshale*.

ALSTONEFIELD Ancient Parish 6 miles north-west of Ashbourne (SK 1355). *Ænestanefelt* 1086 DB, *Alfstanefeld* 1179 P, *Alstifeld* 1227 SHC IV 52, *Stanefeld* 1234 SHC 1910 295, *Allesfeld* 1290 SHC NS VI (i) 118, *Alstonesfelt* 1297 SHC 1911 253, *Alston Field* 1604 SHC 1940 125, *Alstonfield* 1686 Plot. 'Ælfstān's *feld* or open land': the place lies on a limestone plateau. The DB form results from a vocalisation of the consonant *f* represented by the letter *v*, written (in the usual way in DB) as *u* and mistranscribed as *n*: see Dodgson 1987: 121-137. *Alfstonewall* (undated) is recorded in Shaw 1798: I 171.

ALSTONEFIELD FOREST (obsolete). See Alstonefield. The forest existed by the early 12th century and covered an area including Fawfieldhead, Heathylee, Hollinsclough and Quarnford. By the 14th century it was known as the Forest of Mauban or Malbank Frith (*Mauban* 1302 SHC 1911 59, *Malbancfrith* 1329 SHC 1913 22, *Forest of Malbon or Malbanke* 1571 SHC 1931 125, *Malbon forest* 1608 VCH VII 6), from the Malbanc family who were lords of the manor of Alstonefield until 1176 (VCH VII 5) or 1214 (SHC 1912 22; SHC 1935 72). Nantwich in Cheshire was held by the Malbanc family, and was known as Wich-Malbanc or similar from c.1130: PN Ch III 30-31.

ALTON Ancient Parish 7½ miles north-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0742). *Elvetone* 1086 DB, *Aufeton* c.1247 SHC 1911 419, *Auneton* 1236 SHC 1911 404, *Alveton* 1283 *ibid.* 40, *Alneton* (frequently) 13th and 14th century Duig, *Alveton* 1798 Yates, *Alveton or Alton* 1836 O.S. '*Ælfa's tūn'. *Ælfa is an unrecorded personal name. It would be short for a compound in Ælf-. Until the mid-19th century the place was known as Alveton: Lewis 1849: I 52.

ALUMBROC (unlocated, near Dunwood.) *Alumbroc* 1275 SHC XI 334. Possibly a British stream-name (cf. river Alne, Northumberland; river Alham, Somerset (*Alum* 842, 14th century: S.292), which contains an unidentified, probably British, stream-name of unknown meaning: Ekwall 1928: 3-8), with OE *brōc* 'brook, stream'.

ALUREDESHALE, HALUREDESHALE (unlocated, possibly near Marchington: see Rees 1997: 68.) *Aluredeshale* c.1235 Rees 1997: 68, *Haluredeshale* c.1245 *ibid.* 68. 'Ælfrēd's halh'. See also Alstone.

ALVELEY Ancient Parish 6 miles south-east of Bridgnorth (SO 7684). *Alvidelege* 1086 DB, *Aluielea* 1160 P, *Ailuie'* 1162 P, *Alvepelea* 1177 P, *Aluedelega* 1191 P, *Aluitheleg* 1195 P, *Alveleia* (p) 1199 Cur, *Avitheleg'* 1199 Cur, *Auvillers* 1266 Pat, *Aveley* 1577 Saxton, 1675 Ogilby. Probably from OE 'the lēah of Ælfgȳp', a feminine name. The 1266 form may be an echo of French names ending in -vill(i)ers (see PN Sa I 17-8). In Shropshire since the 12th century. Cf. Adderley, Shropshire (PN Sa I 7-10); Aveley, Essex (Ekwall 1960: 19).

AMBLECOTE the Staffordshire portion of Old Swinford parish, near Stourbridge (SO 8985). *Elmelecote* 1086 DB, *Emelcote* 1236, *Amelcot* 1242, *Amelecote* 1255, *Hamelcote* 1317, *Amulcote* 1333, *Amelcote* 1338 (all PN Wo 309), *Amultone* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 9, *Cote Hamele* 14th century Hundred Rolls Duig, *Hamblecote* 1540 FF, *Amblecote* 1622 WillsP. The first *l* in the DB spelling is almost certainly an error, in which case the first element is probably from OE *æmel* 'caterpillar', or, less likely, from the OE personal name *Æmela, a weak form of the name Æmele (the name is found as a witness to a charter of King Offa in 722 (13th century, S.108)). The second element is OE *cot* 'cottage, shelter, hut', hence 'caterpillar cot' or 'Æmela's cot'. Now in Worcestershire.

AMERTON in Stowe parish, 5½ miles north-east of Stafford (SJ 9927). *Aunbriton*, *Ambrihiton* 1230 P, *Ambricton* 1251 Ch, *Embricton* c.1300, *Hambrighton* 1306 SHC VII 155, *Hambryton* 1307 *ibid.* 179, *Ambrighton* 1309 SHC 1911 73, *Ambrython (Brook)* 1349 SHC VIII 140, *Amarton nye Charteley* 1529 SRO 486[8015]. 'Ēanbriht's tūn'. The derivation Ēanbeorht's tūn', given in Ekwall 1960: 9 and Stenton 1970: 98 is not supported by the spellings. VCH IV 46 fn. identifies DB *Mersetone* with Amerton, on the basis that the name (interpolated in the DB entry) appears with that of nearby Gayton,

and presumably in the light of the passing resemblance to part of the modern name Amerton (and the absence of any readily identifiable reference to Amerton). However, early spellings for Amerton bear no similarity to *Mersetone*, which may well be Marston near Stafford, as accepted by Eyton 1881: 83-4. Marston in Church Eaton is *Mersetone* in DB.

AMETESAWE (unlocated, at or near Wall Bridge.) *Ametesawe* (probably for *Armetesawe*) 1275 SHC XI 334, perhaps 'the grove of the hermit', from ME *ermite* (from Latin *eremita*) with OE *scaga*, but the surname Armett is well recorded from an early date in this area, and may explain the derivation. Cf. Armathwaite, Cumberland.

AMINGTON on the north-eastern side of Tamworth (SK 2303). *Ermendone* 1086 DB, *Aminton(a)* 1150 Mon, 1198 FF, *Arminton* 1221 Ass, *Hamontona* 1224 Bracton, *Amington* 1232 Ass, *Amigton* 1262 Ass, *Amyton* 1285 Ass, *Magna Aminton(a)* 1299 Ass, *Amynton juxta Tamworth* 1315 Ass, *Muckelamynton*, *Littelamynton* 1356 AddCh., *Amenton Magna*, *Amenton Parva* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 20-21. Perhaps from the OE personal name Amma, with the OE element *-ingtūn*, so giving 'the *tūn* associated with *Amma'. However, if trustworthy, the DB and 1224 forms suggest that the original first element may have been the OE personal name Earmmund (cf. Appleton, Berkshire), which interchanged with a short-name Amma. The 1356 spellings show that there were at that time a Great and Little Amington. Cf. Arngrove, Berkshire and Devon.

ANC'S HILL(S) in Forton parish (obsolete). *Anx(e)well hills* 1635 Oakden 1984 147, *Anc's Hill* 1686 Plot. A curious name, attached to two sandy 50' knolls connected by a shallow saddle. The second element *well* has disappeared, but was unlikely to be ancient, since OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream' would normally give *wall*. The first element cannot be identified, but a derivation from OE *ancor* 'hermit' is possible: the name may have attached originally to the rock-cut so-called *Roman Well* here: see Erdeswick 1844: 171 fn; VCH I 190; 1946 O.S.; StEnc 481.

ANDERSLEY (obsolete, an 'outlying district of Coseley': Roper 1952.) *Andresley* 1539 Survey. Possibly 'Andrew's *lēah*'. See also Underhill 1941: 142.

ANDRESSEY (SK 2522) An island in the river Trent at Burton upon Trent ('that insulated meadow between the two branches of the river opposite to the church': Shaw 1798: I 1), the site of a church supposedly founded by St Modwen in the 7th century: VCH III 199. *Andreseya* 1229 VCH III 212, *Andreseya*, *Andresseye* 13th century SHC V (i) 9, *Andrew's Isle alias Mudwin's chappell* 1549 (1798) Shaw I 1. The name was evidently from St Andrew, to whom the church was dedicated, and OE *ēa* 'a river, a stream': VCH III 199. Shaw 1798: I 1 states that the place 'was sometimes from her name called Mudwennestow', i.e. St Modwen's *stōw* or holy place.

ANDREWSHALL - see CHILTERN HALL.

ANEWARDESHALE (unlocated, possibly near Rudyard or Woldale.) *Anewardeshale*, *Auewardeshaleg*, *Eafwardeshileg* 13th century SHC IX NS 313-4. Evidently from an OE personal name ending *-weard*, possibly the very common *Ælfweard*, with OE *hale*, from OE *halh*.

ANGLESEA COPPICE on the east side of Chartley Moss (SK 0228.) *Anglesea Coppice* 1836 O.S. An interesting name for which earlier spellings have not been traced. Possibly of recent origin for an

island of land in a wet area, but Anglesey in Cambridgeshire is perhaps 'the island of the Angle(s)', from OE *ēg* 'island': Ekwall 1960: 10. Englesea-brook (in Cheshire), ½ mile north-west of Balterley, appears as *Ingleshaw Brook* in 1733 (SHC 1944 12), *Inglesey Brook* in 1833 (O.S.).

ANKER, RIVER *Oncer* c.1000 Saints, *Ancre* 1332 Pat, c.1540 Leyland, *Auncre* 1295 Ipm, *Onker* 1421 SRO D187/1/5. Although Duignan 1902: 4 suggests a derivation from OE *ancra*, ME *ancre*, *ankre*, *anker*, 'anchorite, hermit, nun', associated with the two hermitages, both for anchoresses, and a nunnery (at Polesworth) along its course, the name is believed to be of pre-English origin of unknown etymology, but perhaps from Celtic **ankro* 'crooked, winding': see Ekwall 1928: 14-15. The Anker is a particularly winding river. Cf. Ankerwyke, near Staines.

ANKER'S LANE 1½ miles north-east of Leek (SJ 0057.) *Anker's Lane Farm* 1880 Kelly, *Anchorlane* 1890 O.S. Probably from OE *ancor* 'an anchorite, a hermit or recluse', possibly associated with Dieulacres Abbey.

ANKERTON 2 miles north of Eccleshall (SJ 8331.) *Emkerton* 1272 SHC XI 321, *Emkerdon* 1281 SHC 1924 300, 1292 SHC 1926 171, 1293 SHC VI (i) 219, *Emkerton*, *Emcorden* 1415 SHC XVII 55, *Emcurdon* 1421 *ibid.* 74, *Emcordon* 1423 *ibid.* 89, *Enkerton* 1581 *ibid.* 226, *Ankerton* 1606 Eccleshall ParReg, 1614-5 SHC 4th Series 16, *Ankerton farm* 1679 SHC 1919 230, *Ankerton* 1775 Yates, 1833 O.S. A curious name. The modern spelling suggests a derivation from OE *ancor* 'anchorite, hermit', with OE *tūn*, giving 'the *tūn* of the hermit', but the early forms show that the first element cannot be *ancor*. A personal name such as Emerca is possible, although that name is only recorded in the OE poem Widsith, so perhaps from an OE or ME word cognate with Modern German *imker* 'bee-keeper'. The second element is likely to be OE *dūn* 'hill': the place lies on a 398' hill. *Ewkarton*, recorded in 1534 (SHC 1931 162), and in 1562 (SHC 1931 162), may be transcription errors for this place, with *m* misread as *w*. See also Bentham.

ANNOTS DALE (obsolete) in Huntley, near Cheadle. *Annots Dale* 1732 SRO D1203/C/5/1-16. Presumably from the ME feminine personal name Annot: see PN Ch V (I:1) xxv.

ANN ROACH 1 mile south-west of Flash (SK 0165). *Ann Roach* 1842 O.S., *Anroach* 1870 Rental. Possibly from OE *ān* 'one', with ME *roche* 'rock', hence 'the lone rock or outcrop', but earlier spellings would be needed for a certain derivation. Cf. The Roaches. A parallel for *roche* producing Modern *roach* is Robert atte Roche, recorded at Roach Farm in Devon in 1330: PN D 578.

ANSLOW 2 miles north-west of Burton upon Trent (SK 2125). *ansidelege* 1008 (14th century, S.920), *Ansythlege*, *Eansydelege* 1012 (13th century, S.930), *Ansedl(ega)* c.1180 Fr, *Andesley* c.1185 SHC 4th Series IV 111, 1412 SHC XVI 78, *Ansedeleg* c.1245 SHC 1937 39, *Aunsedeleye* 1297 SHC VII 45, *Ansedele* 1300 BM, *Aunsedeleye* 1303 SHC 1911 59, *Aunesdele* 1309 SHC 1911 296, *Anzdeley* 1332 SHC X 108, *Ansedele* 1349 HLS, *Anesdeleye under Nedwode* 1366 SHC XIII 53, *Andusteye*, *Andusleye* 1373 HLS, *Anzedele* 1374 SHC XIII 111, *Anseley* 1546 SHC 1937 187, *Anneysley* 1563 HLS. Probably from the OE feminine personal name *Ēanswīp* (see Stenton 1970: 321), possibly a saint (found in a charter of 716x757 (13th century, S.100)), with OE *lēah*, to be preferred to

the suggestion in Ekwall 1960: 10 *ānsetllēah* 'lēah with a hermitage'. The *low* element is a late corruption: there is no connection with OE *hlāw* 'hill, tumulus'.

ANSONS BANK 1½ miles south-east of Brocton, on Cannock Chase (SJ 9817). From the Anson family of nearby Shugborough Hall.

APEDALE 3 miles north-west of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8149). *Apedal* c.1230 Eyton 1854-60: XI 26, 1277 Misc, *Apedale* 1283 Ipm, 1371 SHC VIII NS 57. Perhaps OE *æppel-dael* 'apple valley', with the *l* lost by dissimilation, or the first element may be from the ON personal name *Api*. It is unclear whether *Appelton*, recorded in 1185 and 1186 (SHC I 121, 126), refers to this place, but it is certainly associated with nearby Audley. *land called Apedale Moor near Pershall* is recorded in 1837 (SRO D641/3/R/5/4), but further references have not been traced. Cf. *Ape Dale* in Rushbury, Shropshire (PN Sa III 192); *Apethorpe*, Northamptonshire. *Apes Dale* (*Apesdale* 1832 O.S.) is 2 miles north-east of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (SO 9972) but early spellings have not been found.

APESFORD 1 mile south-east of Bradnop (SK0153). *Apesford* 1223 VCH iii 235, *Arpisford(e)* c.1270 SHC 1911 429, 442, *Arpsford* c.1280 *ibid.* 442, *Harpesford* c.1286 *ibid.* 443, *Arplisford* 1304 *ibid.* 433, *Harpeford* 1307 SHC VII 180, *Arpesforde* 1317 *ibid.* 433, *Arpisford* late 13th century SRO DW1761/A/4/161, *Arpesford* 1343 SRO D3272/5/13/7, *Arpisford* 1564 WSL 163/63, *Apysford* c.1573 SHC 1931 203, *Orpesford* 1637 Leek ParReg, *Alpesford* 1656 Okeover T699, *Orpsford* or *Apes Ford* 1836 O.S. Probably from the OE personal name **Earp*, so '**Earp's* ford'. The foundation charter of Hulton Abbey of 1223 naming *Arpesford*, printed in Ward 1843: app. ii, is almost certainly a much later forgery: Tomkinson 1994: 73-102.

APES TOR a hill on the river Manifold east of Warslow (SK 0958). *Apes Tor* 1842 O.S., *Apestor* 1884 O.S. The name incorporates OE *torr* 'a rock, a rocky peak', a word generally found only in the South West and the West Midlands. If ancient, the first element may be from the ON personal name *Api*.

APETON in Bradley parish, 5½ miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8518). *Abetone* 1086 DB, *Abbetona* c.1200 SHC XII 273, *Ab(b)eton* 1203, 1242 Fees, 1272 Ass, *Abbeton*, *Albeton* 1253 SHC IV 128, *Apeton* 1285 SHC 1911 189, *Abbeton*, *Abbetone* 1302 SHC VIII 141, *Albeton* 1307 SHC VII 179, *Aboton* 1311 SRO (126/7900), *Apedon* 1320 Coram R, *Abbeton* 1253 Ass, *Apton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 97. From the OE personal name *Ab(b)a*, with OE *tūn*. *Apetunesway*, perhaps near Maer, is recorded c.1235: SHC VIII 175.

AQUALATE 1 mile west of Newport (SJ 7719). *Aquilade* 1227 SHC IV 41, *Aquilad(e)*, *Aquilode*, *Aculote*, *Aculott*, *Akilade(e)*, *Akylod* 1240-70 *Aqualate Deeds*, *Aquilado* c.1255 VCH IV 107, *Akilot* 1275, *Akilote* 1282 Ipm, *Aquilade*, *Aquilone* 13th century Duig, *Aquilot* 1327 SR, *Aquylott* 1535 VCH IV 107, *Acquilate*, *Acquylate* 1547 Pat, *Acquylott* or *Ackelatt* 1593 WCRO CR1291/233, *Aqualat* 1686 Plot. A name of particular interest to philologists, who have put forward various theories, many based on an erroneous connection with Latin *aqua* 'water'. Duignan 1902: 5 suggested that the name is from the family name *de Aquila* or *L'Aigle* (recorded in 1129: SHC I 12-3), citing transferred Continental names such as *Cause* in Shropshire and *Montgomery* in Montgomeryshire. The derivation proposed by

Mawer (SHC 1923 303-4), and endorsed by Ekwall 1960: 11 and Oakden 1984: 146, is from OE *āc* 'oak', with OE *gelād*, meaning 'way, passage, path, road, course, ferry', (a word found twice in Beowulf), perhaps in the sense of 'difficult passage over water or wet ground, by the oak trees' (part of the ridge on which Aqualate stands is called Oakley Bank: TNSFC 1937 64). A very full discussion of the element can be found in Gelling 1984: 73-6, where doubt is cast on this derivation, since the spellings show a development to *-lot(e)*, which is not found in other *gelād* names, but those doubts are overcome in Gelling & Cole 2000: 81. The second element may have been influenced by OE *lād*, ME *lode* 'way, journey, course', dialect 'road', or 'a watercourse; an aquaduct, channel; an open drain in fenny districts'. Both the *gelād* and *lād* might suit the topography of this place: 'There has been a road through Aqualate from the earliest times, inevitably because it occupied a ridge of sound ground, with swamps on either side of it. The present main road from Newport to Stafford has been made since 1800. Before that time the route was less direct and passed by Meretown, Pinker's Hill, and through the middle of the present deer park of Aqualate. The line of the old road is still shown by the lines of trees, mostly oak and beech, which bounded it': SHC 1923 303-4; see also NSJFS 6 1994 27-43. It is very likely that such ridge explains the derivation of this name. Walkley Lane below Broom Hill runs across a bog and suffers from subsidence; the Staffordshire-Shropshire boundary to the west runs through very marshy land prone to flooding; and the Pennocrucium to Chester Roman road to the east of Aqualate (Margary number 19) crosses some very boggy ground: see Nomina 17 1994 10. Indeed, the 'difficult passage' may refer to the Roman road itself, since the element has been found to apply to other Roman roads: cf. Cricklade, Wiltshire *ibid.* Cf. Hampton Loade. *Aquilone*, recorded in 1227 (SHC IV 225), may have been in or near Brocton near Milford.

AQUALATE MERE 2 miles north-east of Newport (SJ 7720). *Water of Mere* 1227 Ass. From OE *mere* 'lake'. The mere took its name from Aqualate (q.v.). There is a reference in 1593 to *the river Ee of the [Aqualate] mere*: WRO CR1291/233. The name is from OE *ēa* 'river', and may refer here to the river Mease (q.v.).

AQUAMoor to the east of Marston (SJ 8213). *Hackeymoor Pits* 1833 O.S. Possibly from the dialect adjective *haggy*, with several meanings including 'soft bog in a moor or morass; islet of grass in the midst of a bog; rough, broken or boggy land' (EDD). Whatever the case, the name is not from Latin *aqua*.

ARBLASTER (obsolete, near Broughton Hall in Longdon (SJ 0913).) *Arblaster* 1379 SHC XVI 168. The place took its name from the Arblaster family (see SHC 1925 1-24) who lived here for many centuries. The family name is from 'a soldier armed with an arbalest, a cross-bowman, a maker of cross-bows' (DES 4). A pedigree of the Arblaster family is given in Shaw 1798: I 225; see also SHC 1925 1-24. For Robert le Arbelastir 1227 see SHC IV 53. Shaw 1798: I 223 mentions '*...Leswes (afterwards called Arblaster) hall...*': see Lysways.

ARBLASTER HAYES (obsolete.) *Arblaster Hay* c.1598 Erdeswick 1844: 243. The place appears from a survey made in 1763 (SRO D603/N/5/2) to have been what is now Brereton Hayes (Wood), 2 miles south of Rugeley (SK 0414). *Arblaster Hays* 1568 SRO D603/E/3/4, *Arblaster Hayes* 1595 (SRO D1720/13), *Arblaster Hays* 1615 SHC VI NS (i) 5, *Arblaster Hay* 1801 Shaw II 223. Held by the

Arblaster family until sold to the Pagets in 1615: SRO D/603/A/3/12-26. See also Shaw 1798: I 223 fn.5; SHC 1925 3; StSt 12 2000 68.

ARBOUR, THE 1 mile north-west of Mucklestone (SJ 7137). *Windy Arbour* 1833 O.S., *Arbour Farm* 1946 O.S. Possibly from OE *eorþ-burg* 'earthen fortification', or OE *here-beorg* 'shelter or protection for a number of men; army quarters' (EPNE ii 244): to the north of the farm of this name is said to be a rectangular earthwork some 900' by 700': see TNSFC 1908 114-5; TNSFC LXXII 1937-8 117-8; TNSFC LXXIII 1948-9 112; but see also TSAS XLIX 1937-8 88. *Arbar leso* ('Arbour leasow') is recorded in Gorsebrook, near Wolverhampton, in 1537: SHC 1912 93. Shaw mentions *Arbour-close*, a tumulus 2 or 3 miles north-west of Okeover (1798: I 33), and a tumulus on *Arbour Hill* near Throwley Hall is mentioned in VCH I 171, suggesting that the word arbour may have been applied to archaeological features such as tumuli. *Arbor*, on the north-west side of Grindon (? SK 0854), appears on Yates' map of 1775. *Arbories*, lately called *The Near Arberry*, *Little Arberry*, etc., is recorded at Pillaton in 1712 (SRO D260/M/T/5/77), to be associated with *Arborow Flatt meadow other wise Stoneyford Meadow* recorded in the 18th century (SRO D260/M/T//5/54). See also Beechenhill; Windy Arbour.

ARCAL - see **ERCALL, HIGH**.

ARCHBERRY (obsolete) ½ mile north-east of Whiston near Cheadle (SK 0447). *Archberry* 1815 *EnclA*, 1837 O.S, *Archbury* 1840 TA. A name of uncertain origin. Possibly from OE *byrig*, dative singular of OE *burh* 'fortified place'. The first element is unidentified: *arch* is a French word first recorded in 1297, and it is unlikely that it is to be found here. Possibly OE *ersc* 'a ploughed field, a stubble field'.

ARCHFORD BRIDGE (unlocated, in Alstonefield: VCH VII 10-11 suggests that the bridge, recorded in 1403, was on the river Manifold on the west side of Hulme End (SK 1059).) *Archford Bridge* 1608 SHC 1934 (ii) 143, SHC 1948-9 81, *Archard Bridge* 1678 Alstonefield ParReg, *Archers Bridg* 1682 *ibid*, *Archford Bridge* 1686 *ibid*. 'The bridge at Archford (q.v.)'. The bridge presumably replaced the ford.

ARCHFORD MOOR 2 miles north-west of Alstonefield (SK 1158). *Archer Moore* 1686 Plot 115, *Archel Moor* 1840 O.S. Perhaps 'the moor (or ford) of the archer or the man named Archer'.

ARCHILL BROOK (obsolete) 'Archill-brook, issuing from rising ground of that name, near the Holly-hall...serves as the [Staffordshire-Worcestershire] county boundary': Scott 1832: 138-140. Perhaps associated with High Ercall (q.v.), near Sedgley.

ARELEY KINGS 1 mile south of Stourport-on-Severn (SO 8070). (*H*)*erneleia* c.1138, *Ernele* 1156 (1266), *Ernleie* c.1200 and c.1250, *Arneley* 1275 (all PN Wo 29-30), *Suth Erlee* 1276 SHC VI (i) 80, *Alrelege* 1283, *Arleye* 1291, 1428, *Ardley Regis*, *Kyngges Arley* 1405, *Areley* 1453, 1535, 1549 (all PN Wo 29-30), *Lower Arley alias Arley Kings* 1749 SRO D666/19/11. Duignan 1894: 3 suggested a derivation from OE *ærn* 'a house, a habitation, a building', in place-names usually in the sense 'a building used for a specific purpose', which might be considered appropriate for a site at an early river crossing, but the element is normally found in compounds to define a specific use, for example *mædel-*

ærn 'meeting-place', *wīn-ærn* 'tavern'. The derivation is therefore more likely to be from OE *earn* 'eagle', probably the white-tailed eagle (see Gelling 1987: 173-81), and OE *lēah*, giving 'the *lēah* of the eagle', although a derivation from the OE personal name Earna, a pet-form of OE names beginning Earn- cannot be ruled out. The place is 7 miles down the Severn from Upper Arley (q.v.), too far away for the same *lēah* to be referred to in both names. In the Middle Ages it was in the royal manor of Martley, hence *Kings*. It was also known as Nether Areley in contrast to Upper or Over Arley. Since 1895 in Worcestershire.

ARKALL FARM 1½ miles north-east of Tamworth (SK 2206). *Arcull(suche)* 1524 (1798) Shaw I 314, *Arkhall* 1834 O.S. It is unclear whether Rad'o Arkle, recorded in Elford in 1332 (SHC X (i) 105) can be associated with this place. The place-name is possibly 'the hill (or the hall) shaped like a coffer or ark'. The earliest spelling is from 'Arcall stream', from OE *sīc*.

ARLEY, UPPER Ancient Parish 3 miles north-west of Bewdley (SO 7680). *Ernlege* 963 (14th century, S.720), *Earnleie* 994 (17th century, S.1380), *Ernlege* 1086 DB, *Ernlege* 1100 P, *Erneslea* 1166 SHC 1923 298, *Erneleche* pre-1172 SHC 1924 152, *Erleia* 1188 P, 1197 P, 1200 Cur, *Arnlege*, *Arnleye* 1276 Pat, 1316 FA, 1327 SR, *Ar(e)leye* 1330 SR, 1401, 1408, FA, 1465 Pat, *Arneley vel Arley* 1432 Pat. For the likely derivation see Areley Kings. PN Wo 30 mentions a river name Earn associated with Earnshill, Somerset, and notes that there is a stream that joins the Severn at Arley, but concedes that compounds of *lēah* with a river-name are unlikely. The place was also known as Over Arley and Arley de Port, from the Port family (from Port-en-Bessin) who are recorded here from the 12th century: VCH Wo III 5. The appellation Upper or Over was not to distinguish this place from a Lower Arley that has disappeared, as suggested in VCH IV 45, but from Areley Kings in Worcestershire: PN Wo 29. Finberg 1972: 111-2 prefers to identify the first form with this place rather than Arley in Warwickshire, as suggested by Ekwall 1960: 12. Since 1895 this place has been in Worcestershire.

ARMISTON (unlocated, said to be in the parish of Stowe: SHC NS IV 147.) *Armiston* 1467 SHC NS IV 147. Possibly from ME *ermite* (from Latin *eremita*) 'hermit'. The second element is uncertain: 'the hermit's *tūn*' seems improbable, as also 'the hermit's stone', so possibly a mistranscription of Armistow, 'the holy place associated with the hermit', from OE *stōw* (which had a variety of meaning, including 'hermitage'), in which case the place is perhaps more likely to have been at Stowe, Lichfield, rather than Stow by Chartley .

ARMITAGE Ancient Parish 5½ miles north-west of Lichfield (SK 0716), *Hermitage* 13th century Duig, *Ermytage* 1306 SHC VII 164, 1432 SHC XVII 138, *Hermytage* 16th century Duig, *Armytage* 1520 BM, *Armetage* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 77, *The armitage* 1577 Saxton; **ARMITAGE (HILL)** between Barton and Tatenhill (SK 1919), *Harmytage* 1503 Ct, *Upper Armitage*, *Nether Armitage* 1661 DRO D3155/WH13; **ARMITAGE** 1 mile west of Rocester (SK 0939), *the Armitage* 1664 SRO D786/25/3i. From the root OFr (*h*)*ermite*, ME (*h*)*ermite* 'hermit', giving 'the hermitage'. There was a hermitage at the first place in the 13th century: Shaw 1798: I *209 mentions a local tradition that it lay to the north of the church. The name is not uncommon in Staffordshire: *The Hermitage* is recorded c.1530 between Ellenhall and Ranton (SHC 1912 46), doubtless associated with Ranton abbey, and *the*

Armitage in Newcastle under Lyme is mentioned in 1619 (SRO D1229/1/3/43). See also Admaston; The Hermitage.

ARMSHEAD 1½ miles north-west of Cellarhead (SJ 9348). *Armshead* 1708 Stoke on Trent ParReg, *Armes head* 1709 *ibid*, *Gt. Arms Head* 1816 SRO DW1909/E/9/1, *Armishhead* (p) c.1836 SRO D1798/579/6/1-10. If ancient, the first element may be an abbreviated form of an OE personal name such as Æadmund or Earnmund, with OE *hēafod* 'headland, summit': the place lies on high land on Wetley Moor. No spellings earlier than the 18th century have been traced, however, and the name may be relatively modern, with the second element perhaps influenced by nearby Cellarhead (or vice versa).

ARNOTT'S GRAVE 1 mile north-west of Cannock (SJ 9711). *Arnott's Grave* 1887 O.S.

ASH BROOK a tributary of the river Blithe. From OE *æsc-brōc* 'ash-tree brook'. A watercourse called *Aschbroke* is recorded between Ranton and Ellenhall in 1531: SHC 1912 46.

ASHCOMBE 1 mile south of Cheddleton (SJ 9751). *Ashcomb(e)* 1813 Nightingale; 1844 Garner, *Ashcombe Hall, Park & Wood* 1837 O.S. The estate was created 1806-10, and the name would appear to have originated at that date: previously the house in Ashcombe Park was known as Botham Hall: Erdeswick 1844: 496. See also Bothom.

ASHCROFT FARM on the north-west side of Shenstone (SK 1005). *Ashcrofts* 1794 Sanders 1794: 110, *Ash Crofts* 1834 O.S. From the Ashcroft family who lived here.

ASH HALL, ASH BANK 1 mile north of Hulme (SJ 9247). *Asse* ?1283 SHC 1911 182, 1303 SRO D847/1, *Asshe* 1306 *ibid*. 1911 67, 1346 SRO (463/8016), *Aysshe* 1327 SHC VII (i) 198, ? *Ash otherwise Hales* 1599 SHC XVI 196, *Ash* 1663 SRO D664/A/1/A, *The Ash* 1934 SHC XII NS 33. From OE *æsc* 'ash-tree'. See also SHC XII NS 33 fn.

ASHEHAY (lost, a wood in Weeford). *Ashehay* 1289 Erdeswick 1844: 565, Shaw 1801: II 3, ? *Hastay* 1295 BodCh. 'The hay or enclosure with the ash-trees'.

ASHENHURST (obsolete) 1 mile south-west of Bradnop (SK 0154). *Ashenhurst* 1275 VCH VII 172, 1318 (1883) Sleigh 1883: 108, 1586 SHC 1927 158, 1634 (1883) Sleigh 1883: 17, 1686 Plot 387, 1836 O.S., *Asshunhurst* 1401 SHC XV 95, *Ashun Hurst* 1786 Tunnicliff. From OE *æscen* 'ashen', in place-names usually 'growing with ash-trees', with OE *hyrst* 'hillock, knoll, copse, wooded eminence', hence 'the small hill with the ash-trees'.

ASHENWOOD (obsolete) in Woodhouses (SK 0809). *Ashenwood* 1834 White 104. From OE *æscen* 'ash-trees', so 'the wood with the ash-trees'.

ASHES, THE 2 miles west of Horton (SJ 9256). *Ashes* 1623 JNSFC LXIV 1929-30 131, 1626 Burslem ParReg, *Ashes* 1656 Leek ParReg, 1775 Yates, 1815 *EnclA*, 1842 O.S. 'The ash-trees'.

ASHFIELD BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. From OE *æsc-feld* 'the open ground with the ash-trees', with *brōc* 'brook, stream'.

ASSHFORDE, OVER ASHFORD (unlocated, in Kingswinford). *Assheford(slade)* 1342 SHC 1913 91, *Over Ashford* 1360 SHC IX (ii) 59. From OE *æsc, ford* 'the ford with the ash-trees', Perhaps to be

associated with *Asford* in Kingswinford, recorded in 1273: SHC 1911 157. See also Ashwich Foord, Ashewood Foord.

ASHLEY Ancient Parish 5 miles north-east of Market Drayton (SJ 7636). *Eselie* 1086 DB, *Eslega* 1203 SHC III 94, ? *Eslea* 1203 *ibid.* 110, *Esseleg* 1231 SHC IV 81, c.1235 SHC 1911 424, *Essele* 1243 SHC 1911 117, *Astheleye* 1259 *ibid.* 133, *Assel* 1253 *ibid.* 135, *Asseleye* 1273 *ibid.* 149, *Asscheleye* 1290 *ibid.* 197, 1300 *ibid.* 263, *Assyngelegh* 1293 SHC VI (i) 250, *Asshelegh* 1302 SHC VII 98, *Asshele* 1318 *ibid.* 91. From OE *æscen lēah* 'the *lēah* growing with ash-trees'. A derivation from the OE personal name *Æsca* cannot be ruled out, but is unlikely.

ASHMORE BROOK 2 miles north-west of Lichfield, a farmstead (SK 1011) and tributary of the river Trent. *Estmorebroc* 1242 Fees SHC 1911 402, *Estmeresbrok* 1254 CoramR, *Essemeresbrok* c.1270 SHC 1924 264, *Asschmorebroke*, *Ashmeresbroke* 13th and 14th centuries Duig, *Ashmores* 1558 SHC XVII 229, *Ashmers Park* 1686 Plot 235, *Ashen brook* 1695 Morden. Originally a stream name which gave its name to the nearby settlement. It would seem that the first element originated from OE *ēast* 'east', which was replaced by *æsc* 'ash-tree'. It is uncertain whether the second element is OE *mōr* 'marshland' or OE *mere* 'a pool', but the latter element was also sometimes applied to wet ground.

ASHMORE HEATH 2 miles south-west of Rushton Spencer (SJ 9160). *Heighassemore* 1369 *Antrobus*. From OE *hēah*, *æsc*, *mōr* 'high ash moor'. See also Tallash.

ASHMORE PARK 1 mile north-west of Wednesfield (SO 9601). *Assever* 1262 SHC 4th Series XVIII 36, *Assenovere* 1286 *ibid.* 143, *Asshemore* 1427 SHC XVII 122, *Ashemores* 1604 SHC 1940 177, *Ashmores* 1665 WA I 327, *Ashmers* 1686 Plot, 1747 Bowen, *Ashmoor Hall* 1834 O.S., *Ashmore Park Farm* 1895 O.S. The first element is OE *æsc* 'ash-tree', with OE *mōr* 'marshland', though the earliest spellings suggest an original derivation from OE *ofer* 'hill, steep slope', and a derivative **yfre*: see Gelling & Cole 2000: 199-202.

ASHNOUGH 1 mile south-east of Talke (SJ 8352). *Assenesaue* c.1223 SHC 1911 444, *Assenesawe* c.1281 *ibid.* 445. Perhaps from OE *æscen*, *scaga* 'the small wood or copse of ash trees'.

ASHWICH FOORD, ASHEWOOD FOORD (obsolete) on Smestow Brook at Greensforge (SO 8688). *Aschwycheford* 1296 SHC 4th Series XVIII 188, *Ashwich Foord or Ashewood Foord* 1608 Foley Deeds E12/F/V1/KAC/58. From Ashwood (q.v.). See also Ashford, Over.

ASHWOOD, ASHWOOD LODGE 1½ miles west of Kingswinford (SO 8887). (*Epswich, for*) *Eswich* 994 (17th century, S.1380), *Haswic* 1086 DB, *Estwood* 1240 SHC 1911 8, *Estwode* 1262 SHC 4th Series XVIII 67, *Aswode* 1286 SHC V (i) 158, *Aswude* 1232 Cl, *Asshewode* 1292 Ch, *Asshewode* 1306 SHC 1911 289. From OE *æsc-wīc* 'wīc with the ash-trees', later *æsc-wudu* 'ash-tree wood'. Ashwood was one of the Hays of Kinver Forest. At Greensforge, on Ashwood Heath, a number of Roman forts have been identified: VCH I 190, 344; TNSFC 1964 27; Ant XL 1966. Plot 1686: 406 records that the place was 'commonly known as Wolverhampton churchyard', perhaps explained by the fact that the manor of *Eswich*, which has been associated with this place, formed part of Wulfrun's endowment to Wolverhampton Church in 994: SHC 1916 111; SHC SHC 1927 185-206; also VCH IV 45. For a legend connecting 'Wolverhampton churchyard' with the devil see Shaw 1801: II 233. For the

association of *Haswic* with this place see SHC 1916 111-2. It has been suggested that *Eswich/Haswic*, if not Ashwood itself, perhaps lay between modern Ashwood and the southern border of Kinver parish: VCH IV 45 fn.65. See also Ashwich Foord, Ashewood Foord; Ashford, Over.

ASH WOOD, ASHWOODHEAD FARM 3 miles south of Eccleshall (SJ 8224). *Ayswode* 1327 SHC VII (i) 240, *Hasshwode* (p) 1381 Tax, *the Ashwood-head* 1638 Gnosall ParReg, *Ashwood Head* 1833 O.S. From OE *æsc-wudu* 'wood consisting mainly of ash-trees'. The wood from which Ashwoodhead Farm takes its name lies to the east.

ASKEW BRIDGE 2 miles east of Himley (SO 9091), *Askew Bridge* 1808 Baugh, 1814 Himley ParReg, 1834 O.S. Presumably to be associated with *Hasco*, recorded here in 1626 (TSAHS 1996-7 XXXVIII 61), and *Hascod* and *Horsecroft*: StEnc 272. The derivation of the name is uncertain, but John Askewe is recorded in 1576 in Sedgley ParReg.

ASHOLME (unlocated, perhaps near Grindon or Beresford). *Assheholme* 1480 SHC NS VI (i) 121, *Asholme* 1611 SHC NS IV 8. From OE *æsc, holmr* 'the island or dry land in the marsh with the ash-trees'. *Asholm*, recorded in 1277 (SHC 1911 168), appears to have lain in the south-west of the county.

ASPLEY 3 miles north-west of Eccleshall (SJ 8133), *Haspeleia* 1086 DB, *Aspleg* 1227 Duig, *Espelega* 1310 SHC IX 20, *Aspley* 1566 SHC XIII 258, *Asplaye* 1600 Eccleshall ParReg; **ASPLEY** in Brewood parish, 1 mile east of Coven (SJ 9207), *Aspelega* 1227 Ass, *Esp(e)leg'* 1253 Ipm, Hy 3 Wodehouse, *Espele* c.1275 SHC 1928 108, *Aspeley(e)* 1309, 1511 Wodehouse, 1557 Eliz Chanc P, *Aspley* 1605 Lane, 1834 O.S. From OE *æspe-lēah* 'lēah with aspen trees', or possibly OE **æspen-lēah* 'the lēah growing with ash-trees' (cf. Ashley). Aspley in Brewood is not mentioned in DB, *contra* the entry in Oakden 1984: 36, which confuses the place with Aspley near Eccleshall.

ASTLEY 1 mile north-east of Alveley (SO 7785). *Estleg* 1211 Eyton 1854-60: III 152, *Estleye* 1305 *ibid.* 153, *Astley* 1601 SRRC 2028/1/2/87, *Asly* 1697 SRRC 2922/11/5/6. From OE *ēast-lēah* 'eastern lēah'.

ASTON 2 miles south-east of Stone (SJ 9131), *Estone* 1086 DB, *Estona* 1166 SHC 1923 297, *Eston'* 1203 Pleas, *Eston* c.1220 SHC VI (i) 18, c.1226 SHC III (i) 231, *Little Aston* 1266 Ass, *Aston near Stanes* 1276 SHC VI (i) 84, *Aston juxta stone* 1403 SHC XI 308; **LITTLE ASTON** 4½ miles west of Walsall (SK 0900), *Eastun* 957 (12th century, S.574), *Little Aston upon Colefeld*, *Little Aston upon le Colefield* 13th century, *Aston on le Colefeld* 14th century Duig, *Aston in Colfeld* 1422 SHC XVII 84, *Aston on the Colefeld*, *Aston super le Colfeld* 1435 SHC XVI 151, *Little Aston in Coffilde* 1608 SHC 1948-9 32; **WHEATON ASTON** 4 miles north-west of Brewood (SJ 8512), *Estone* 1086 DB, *Estona* 1166 SHC 1923 296, *Wetenaston* 1248 Ipm, *Eston* 1281 SHC VI (i) 151, *Aston by Brewode* 1293 SHC 1911 49, *Weetnaston* 1413 SHC XVII 47; **ASTON** 3 miles south-west of Madeley (SJ 7541), *Aston* 1298 SHC 1911 57, *Aston in Hales under Lyme* 1472 SHC NS IV 184, *Aston Meyreway* 1609 SHC III NS 46; **ASTON** 2 miles west of Stafford (SJ 8923), *Estone* 1086 DB, *Aston* c.1243 SHC 1914 89, 1666 SHC 1921 107, 1836 O.S.; **ASTON** 1 mile east of Claverley (SO 8093), in Shropshire since the 12th century, *Aston* 1221 Eyton 1854-60: III 93, c.1266 SHC V (i) 142, 1271 SHC 4th Series XVIII 68, 1419 SHC XVI 65. From OE *ēast-tūn* 'eastern tūn'. Aston-by-Stone was perhaps east of Pirehill; Little

Aston east of Aldridge; Aston near Madeley perhaps of Whitmore (SHC XII 237 suggests Maer); Aston near Stafford perhaps of Coton Clanford; and Wheaton Aston perhaps of Brockhurst. Colfield was a vast heath, partly in Cannock Forest and partly in Sutton Chase. The name, recorded from at least 1269 (PN Wa 12, 49; see also TSSAHS XX 1978-9 50), which formed part of the place-name Sutton Coldfield, is said to be from OE *cōlfeld* 'the cold open land', (from OE *cōl* 'cool') rather than 'the open land where charcoal was made' (see TSSAHS XXXII 1990-1 87-95; and for imaginative etymology Shaw 1798: I 10 fn.), although in Staffordshire *cald* is the usual term for 'cold', and the regular spellings for Colfield (with *o* and without *d*) do not prevent a derivation from charcoal burning, recorded from at least the early 14th century: TSSAHS XX 1978-9 50. The first part of Wheaton Aston is from the OE adjective *hwāten* 'wheaten, growing with wheat' (the significance of which is unclear, since wheat will have been widely grown), to distinguish it from other Astons, though Aston Eyre near Morville in Shropshire is said to have been sometimes called Wheaton Aston (see TSAS VI 1883 33; TSAS 2nd Series IV 1892 xv), for example *Wheaton Aston* 1545 Eyton 1854-60: I 41; 1602 TSAS LI 1941-3 7. *Meyreway* refers to the way or road to Maer Hills, which lie south-east of Aston near Madeley. Plot 1686: 398 mentions *Aston*, 'A place under Kinfare edg' [Kinver Edge], which has not been traced.

ASTONSITCH 1 mile south-east of Bradnop (SK 0254). *Astonsich* 1668 Okeover E5018. Possibly from OE *ēast-tūn* 'eastern *tūn*', with OE *sīc* 'watercourse'.

ASTONTHYNK (unlocated, near Tamworth.) *Astonthynk* 1509 SHC 1923 321.

ASTRELL (unlocated, in Worfield parish.) *Esterhul* 1238x1250 Eyton 1854-60: III 112, *Astenhull* 1292 *ibid.* 113, *Asterhull* 1327 SHC X 103, 1349 SHC XII 63, *Astell* 1602 SRRC 2028/1/5/8. From OE *ēasterre hyll* 'the eastern hill'.

AUDLEY Ancient Parish 4½ miles north-west of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 7950). *Aldidelege* 1086 DB, *Aldedeslega* 1130 SHC I 3, *Aldithelega* 1182 P, *Aldedalega* 1185 SHC I 121, *Aldithlege*, *Aldithleia* 12th century Duig, ? *Aldithelee* c.1235 Rees 1997: 68, *Auditheleg'* 1242 Fees, *Auddedeleg*, *Audedeleye* 1271 SHC V (i) 152, *Audeyeleg* 1272 SHC XI NS 242, *Aldithlegh* 1679 SHC 1926 215. 'The *lēah* of Aldgȳp', an OE feminine name. Stratton Audley in Oxfordshire takes the second part of its name from a family who probably came from this place.

AUDLEY'S CROSS 1 mile south of Muckleston (SJ 7135). A much-repaired medieval stone cross erected as a memorial to Lord Audley, who led the Lancastrian forces to defeat and was killed at the battle of Blore Heath here on 23 September 1459. A cross is mentioned by Plot 1686: 449, and may have been erected soon after the battle: the adjoining field was known as *Barn Cross* (JNSFC LXVI 1931-2 186) or *Cross field* (SHC 1945-6 93 fn.) in 1553, and may be associated with the pasture called *le brocken Crosse* mentioned in 1594 (SHC XVI 59). See also StEnc 24.

AUDMORE 1 mile north-east of Gnosall (SJ 8321). *Aldermore* 1597 HRO F78/II/327, *Aldmore* 1645 ParReg, *Oldmore* 1677 Gnosall ParReg, *Aulmer* c.1680 GKNB, *Auldmore* 1880 Kelly. The earliest spelling suggests 'the moor with the alders', with later spellings pointing towards an abbreviated form rationalised as 'the old marshland', with the modern form reflecting the typical Staffordshire dialect

pronunciation of 'old'. The precise meaning of the term 'old' here is unclear: the word is ambiguous, and could mean 'disused' or 'in use for a long time', but here (if ancient, which seems doubtful) possibly indicating a former, drained, marsh.

AUDNAM 2 miles south-east of Kingswinford (SO 8986). ? *Aldenham* 1312 SHC X (i) 11, *Audenhām (brook)* 1727 Will, *Audenhām Brook*, *Audenhām Bank* 1774 canal map, *Audenhām* 1775 Yates, *Audenhām Bank* 1834 O.S, *Audnam* 1895 O.S. Early certain spellings have not been traced (Audnam glassworks was built here on land bought in 1662 (VCH II 226), but it is unclear whether the name pre-dates the glassworks), but if ancient perhaps **æt þām aldan hām* '(at) the old village, estate, manor, homestead', or the final element may be OE *ham(m)*, *hom(m)* 'meadow, especially a low-lying meadow near a stream, a hemmed-in place', since the place is on the north side of the river Stour, which forms the boundary with Worcestershire here. However, it has been noted that place-names with *hām* are generally early in date and often close to major Roman roads, and this place lies 1 mile east of the Roman road which runs between Greensforge and Droitwich (Margary number 192), which might point to an early origin. Audnam Brook is said to have run through Pensnett Chase to Audnam: StEnc 24. Cf. Aldenham, Hertfordshire.

AUST(E) - see THE AUSTRELLS.

AUSTIN FRIARS on the south side of Stafford (SJ 9222). *the Freers Augustines* c.1540 Leland. From the Augustinian friary established here in 1343 or 1344: see VCH III 273-4; VCH V 92.

AUSTINS WOOD (obsolete) north of Bucknall (SJ 9049). *Austins Wood* 1836 O.S. The name is unlikely to be from 'Augustinians' (the place lies ½ mile north-east of Abbey Hulton), since Hulton was a Cistercian foundation. John Austyn is recorded in this area in 1316 (SHC 1911 86), so almost certainly from a personal name.

AUSTRELLS, THE (unlocated; described in Duignan 1902: 8 as fields standing on high ground at Aldridge.) *Estrehull* 1277 SHC 1911 167, *Asterhul* 1286 SHC V (i) 173, *Asterhull* 1312 SHC 1911 315, 1313 SHC IX (i) 36, *Aschul* 1315 SHC 1911 326, *Asturhull* 1328 SHC XVII 271, *Ostrill* (undated) SHC 1931 82, *Asterhall* (undated) 1801 Shaw II 102. Possibly 'hill of the hearth', from ME *aster* 'hearth', from a simple forge or iron-bloomery, of which several are known to have existed in the area, although the word is not normally found in place-names. However, a more likely derivation is from OE *ēasterra* 'more easterly', given the existence nearby of Aston ('east-tūn') Forge, recorded from at least 1329, hence 'the more easterly hill', or from OE **ēstr*, *eowestre* 'sheepfold'. An unlocated Staffordshire place-name *Auste* is recorded in 1284 and 1312 (SHC 1911 315, 40), *Aust* in 1343 (SHC XII 25), and the context in both cases suggests that it may have been in the same area as, or indeed been, this place, in which case the name is almost certainly 'sheepfold hill'. *Auster*, recorded in 1650 (Sedgley ParReg), has not been located. Cf. Asterleigh, Oxfordshire; Asterley, Shropshire; Austhorpe, Austby, Owston, Lancashire; Austwick, Owstwick, Yorkshire.

AVERILL SIDE 2½ miles west of Hulme End (SK 0659). *Averellsyde*, *Overelsyde* 1527 SHC NS IX 63-5, *Overelside* 1570 *ibid.* 97, *Arillsyde*, *Avrilsyde* 1600 Alstonefield ParReg, *Averilside* 1602 *ibid.*, *Aprillside* 1633 Rental, *Averyside* 1653 PCC, *Avril Side* 1775 Yates, *Averil(l) Side* 1839 EnclA, *Aver*

Hill 1840 O.S, *April Side* 1851 White. 'April hill-side', from ME *averil* (from OFr *Avril*), an association that has been made since at least the 16th century. The precise meaning behind the name is uncertain, but *Winter Side*, seemingly near Hollinsclough, is recorded in 1683 (Alstonefield ParReg), and may provide a clue to solving this name. It may also be noted that April Hill in Ewloe Town, East Flintshire, is said to be from the wild or single daffodil, called locally April: PNEF 144. Some of the spellings suggest the possibility of 'over hillside', but the early forms show that this is not the derivation.

AVIS HEIRON (unlocated) south of Draycott in the Clay (? SK 1527). *Avis Heiron* 1686 Plot, *Hieron* 1695 Morden, *Avis Hieron* 1747 Bowen. From a '*messuage called Avis Hyron*' mentioned in 1609/10 (SRO D786/22/5). A curious name for a place evidently of sufficient importance to appear on early county maps. *Heiron* and *Hieras* are perhaps from the alternative disyllabic forms *hyren* or *hyryn*, from OE *hyrne* 'an angle, a corner', frequently used in a topographical sense of 'a recess in hills, a curving valley, a spit of land in a river bend', and often found in ME field-names (cf. John in *le Huyron* of Branston recorded in 1416: SHC 1937 194; see also Foxall 1980: 22; PN Ch V (II) 348-50). *Avis* is Latin for 'bird', but it is improbable that it is used in that sense here (although ME *heirōn* means 'heron'). A derivation from the personal name *Avis*, from OFr *Avice* (see DES 20), seems the most likely explanation, giving 'the corner of land held by Avice'. Cf. unidentified land called *Avice bruche*, *Avys Bruche*, *Avysbrych*, *Auetzbrucce* recorded in SHC 1928 76, 77, 82, 84, 86, 93, 106.

AXE EDGE END 1 mile north-east of Flash (SK 0268). *Axe Edge* and *Axe Edge Moor* lie in Derbyshire, but this place straddles the border with Staffordshire, *Axeedge* 1533 Bateman, ? *Axen* 1564 SHC 1938 99, *Axen* 1795 Aitken, *Ax Edge Common* 1775 Yates, *Axe Edge* 1842 O.S.; **AXE EDGE GREEN FARM** on the west side of Flash (SK 0167), *Axe Edge Green* 1842 O.S. Perhaps from ON *askr* or a Norse-influenced form of Mercian OE *esc* 'ash tree(s)', giving 'the steep ridge with the ash-trees': such trees often marked boundaries. The river Dove rises from a natural spring on *Axe Edge* at a height of 1,684': VCH I 46.

AXSTONES SPRING ½ mile south of Heaton (SJ 6295). *Axstones Spring* 1842 O.S. A curious name of uncertain age. The name may be associated in some way with a cylindrical stone shaft which is recorded here: see StEnc 24. The word *spring* could mean either a water source or a young wood or copse, but here probably in the former sense: a spring of water is shown here on the 1898 O.S. map.

AYLESLADE FORD (obsolete) to the south of Stafford Brook Farm on Cannock Chase (SK 0114). *Eyleslate Forde* 1554 Survey, *Ayleslade Ford* 1826 SRO DW1781/11/1 map. Probably from the OE personal name *Ægel, with OE *slæd* 'valley, dell', so 'the ford in Ægel's valley'.

AYLEWARDSTY WAY (obsolete) *Aylwardesty* 1192x1247 SHC 4th Series IV 79, *Aylewardsty way* 1558 (1798) Shaw I 60. A path through Needwood Forest from Tatenhill Gate to Ravensnest Gate, via Byrkley Lodge: VCH II 350 plan, 352 (where the spelling given is *Aylwardley*). The root is presumably a personal name.

BABYLON (unlocated, in Gnosall parish.) *Babylon* 1757 SRO DW1736/iv/11. Evidently a biblical name, perhaps for particularly fruitful land.

BACSTONESLEY (unlocated, possibly near Elkstone.) *Bacstonesley* 1332 SHC X (i) 116. Perhaps from OE **bæc-stān* 'a baking stone, a flat stone for baking', when found in place-names usually denoting a place where such stones were obtained. Cf. Baxstonehurst.

BADDELEY, BADDELEY GREEN and BADDELEY EDGE 3 miles north-west of Hanley (SJ 9151). *Baddilige* 1227 Ch, *Badeleye* 1270, *Badilegh* 1271 Ass, *Baddylegh* 1347 SHC XII 69, *Badgley* 1572 SHC XIII 287, *Badeley Edge otherwise Baxley Edge* 1601 SHC XVI 212, *Boddeley*, *Baddeley greene* 1613-4 SHC 1934 31, *Baddeley Green* 1771 SRO HL SRM14. Perhaps 'the *lēah* of Bad(d)a', but the recurring medial *-i-* is noteworthy, and may be an abbreviated form of *-ing*.

BADEN HALL 2 miles north-east of Eccleshall (SJ 8431). *Badehale* 1086 DB, *Bladenhala* 1172 SHC I 68, *Badenhale* 1228 SHC 1914 42, *Badenal* c.1250 SHC XI 319, *Badinghale* 1284 SHC 1914 42, *Badenhale* 1296 *ibid.* 42, 1314 SHC XII NS 278, *Badenshall* 1568 SRO D5721/1/24//1-24, *Badenhall* 1679 SHC 1914 55. 'Bad(d)a's *halh*'. Chetwynd suggests that during the reign of Henry VIII *Alde-Badenhall* and Chebsey were disposed of as Newbold (q.v.): SHC 1914 68. The reference to *Alde-Badenhall* implies the existence of a 'New' Badenhall.

BADGER'S CROFT 3 miles north-east of Upper Hulme (SK 0463). *Bochardescroft* 1307 SHC XI NS 257, 1422 SRO D2375M/1/1, *Badgers Croft or Butchers Croft* 1571-3 SRO D2375M/105/36, *Bacherscroft* 1601 Alstonefield ParReg, *Bogerscroft* 1602 *ibid*, *Butchers Croft* 1623 SRO D2375M/54/3/10, *Badgers Croft* 1842 O.S. From the personal name Bochard, the French form of the Old German Burchard (cf. Botcherby, Cumberland), and OE *croft* 'a piece of enclosed pasture land, a small piece of arable land adjoining a house'.

BAGGERIDGE 4½ miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8993). (*chase of*) *Baggerugge* 1286 SHC V (i) 160, *Bagerugh* 1295 SHC 1928 23, *Baggeruggefild* 1317 *ibid.* 28, *Bagerwge (wood)* 1424 *ibid.* 68. From OE **bagga*, thought to have been the name of a wild animal, an element often found with terms denoting woods and sometimes hills, probably identical with OE **bagga* 'a bag', so 'a bag-like or fat animal', perhaps 'a badger' (a word not recorded independently by OED before 1523). Alternatively used in a topographical sense 'hill resembling a bag' (which might fit the topography here), with OE *hrycg* 'ridge'. The place lay within Kinver Forest. For *chase* see Cannock Chase. *Baggaridge* in Wightwick (Tettenhall parish) is recorded in 1728 (SRO D571/A/PO/161), *Bagridge* 1730 (SRO D1364/2/27), presumably *the Chase of Baggeridge which is in the Forest of Cannock*, recorded in 1286 (SHC 4th Series XVIII 119, to be distinguished from 1286 form given above), but further details have not been traced. *Sedgley Hay*, recorded in 1255, may be Baggeridge Hay or Wood, recorded in the early 13th century: VCH II 344. Cf. Begeridge, Dorset; Beggeridge, Somerset.

BAGNALL 5 miles north-east of Stoke on Trent (SJ 9250), *Baggenhall* 12th century Duig, *Badegenhall* 1203 Ass, *Baginhal* 1269 SHC 1910 127, *Baginholt*, *Bagynholt* 1271 Ass, *Badegenhall* 1273 *ibid*, *Bagenholte* 1278 SHC 1911 170, *Bagenhold*, *Baginhold* c.1280-6 Loxdale, *Bagenholt* 1281 Ass, *Bakenholt* 1293 *ibid*, *Bogenholt* (p) 1297 Ipm, 1298 SHC XI NS 248, *Bagenald* 1329 Banco, 1417 (p) Fine, *Bagenhalt* 1332 SHC X 112, *Bagenhald* 1332 SR, *Baknold* 1435 FF, *Bagnald(e)* 1470 MinA, *Bagnald* 1512 FF, *Bagenold* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 54, *Bagnall* 1547 HortonCt; **BAGNALL** on the west side of Alrewas (SK 1614), *Bagenhale* early 13th century SRO DW1851/8/33, *Bagganhal*,

Baginhal 13th century Ct, *Baginhale* c.1300 c.1300 TSSAHS XX 1978-9 loose map, *Bagnold Field* 1703 SRO DW1851/8/12. See also SHC 1910 102; TSSAHS XX 1978-9 loose map. The first element comes from an OE personal name Badeca or Bacga, the second is OE *halh*, but in Bagnall near Stoke on Trent the spellings show variation between OE *holt* 'a wood', *hall* and *halh*. *Bagnallditch* appears on modern maps 1½ miles south of Church Eaton (SJ 8415), but the history of the name is not known.

BAGOTS BARN 1 mile south-west of Shenstone (SK 0908). *Bagots Barn* 1834 O.S. 'Bagots are certain lands lying to the upper part of Fotherley...formerly the property of Edward Fryth...': Sanders 1794: 159.

BAGOT'S BROMLEY - see **BROMLEY, BAGOT'S**.

BAGOTS LITTLEMORE (unlocated, in Uttoxeter.) *Bagots Littlemore* 1763 SRO D(W)1721/3/12/12. Seemingly land held from at least 1412 by the Bagot family: see SRO D(W)1721/3/31/10; D(W)1721/3/8/9.

BAILEY'S WOOD on the north side of Biddulph (SJ 8859). *Bailey Wood* 1791 SHC 4th Series XIII 132.

BALD STONE 2 miles north of Upper Hulme (SK 0164). *Bald Stone* 1842 O.S. From a large boulder of this name, from *balled* 'rounded or smooth'. See also TNSFC XLVIII 162.

BALDWINS GATE 1½ miles south-west of Whitmore (SJ 7939). *Baldwin's gate* 1676 SHC 1914 16, *Balding Gate* 1775 Yates, *Balding gate* 1834 White 646, *Baldwins Gate* 1833 O.S. The place may have taken its name from William Baldwin, the parker of Madeley Park, who is recorded in 1293 (NSJFS 3 1963 39) - Baldwin's Gate is at the south end of the former park (*ibid.*), and marks the site of a gate to the park. He or a relative may have been associated with the name *Baldewynesforlong*, recorded in this area c.1275 (SHC 1913 242), *furlong* probably meaning here 'a division of the common field'. *Baldwynes-pitte* is recorded in this area in 1450-1: NSJFS 3 1963 42.

BALLAMONT GRANGE 1 mile south of Winkhill (SK 0649). *Bellyband Grange* 1769 map, *Ballington Grange* 1836 O.S. A bellyband was the girth-band of a pack-horse, but the significance of the word in the 1769 spelling is inexplicable, unless a jocular corruption of another (possibly the present) name. See also Ballington.

BALLANCE HILL on the south-west side of Uttoxeter (SK 0832). *Ballonds Hill* c.1584 SRO DW1733/A/2/52/A-B[7], *Balance Hill (croft)* 1674 *ibid.* [53], *Balance Hill* 1836 O.S. The name is presumably to be associated with a street called *Baulond*, recorded in 1439 (SRO DW1733/A/2/48), and as *Balondes* in 1466 (SRO DW1733/A/2/49). Perhaps from a personal name Bolland or similar (see Bolland's Hall). Cf. Balance, a field-name in Dunchurch, Warwickshire: Field 1993: 16.

BALL BANK 1 mile south of Hollinsclough (SK 0665). *Balebank* 1444 DRO D2375M/1/1, *Ballebank* 1461 *ibid*, *Balebancke* 1601 Alstonefield ParReg, *Barr banke* 1651 Rental, *Bawbank* 1655, 1659 ParReg, *Ballbank* 1690 Alstonefield ParReg, *Ball Bank* 1842 Miller 1891-1900. The word 'ball' was often applied to a rounded hill or boundary mound: Field 1972: 11. The hill here is 1391' high.

BALL EDGE ½ mile west of Endon (SJ 9252). Perhaps to be associated with *Ball Heath*, recorded c.1664: Okeover T754. Perhaps 'the ridge or steep slope associated with the rounded hill': the word 'ball' was often applied to a rounded hill or boundary mound: Field 1972: 11. *Ball Torre* (from OE *torr* 'a rock, a rocky peak', hence 'the rounded rock or outcrop', recorded c.1664 (Okeover T754) may be associated with this area.

BALLFIELDS 1 mile south of Bradnop (SK 0053). *Ballfields* 1635 Leek ParReg, *Ball Fields* 1638 *ibid*, *Ball Field* 1775 Yates, 1837 O.S. 'The fields with the rounded hillock'. Yates' map of 1775 shows the old road deviating to the west of a conspicuously rounded hill here.

BALL GREEN on north-east side of Tunstall (SJ 8852). *Ballgreene* 1623 JNSFC LXII 71, 1625 BCA MS917/1670, *Ball Green* 1836 O.S. Possibly 'the green with the ball-shaped mound or hillock', or 'the green where ball games were played', but the context of the 1625 spelling mentions Richard Ball, so perhaps from a personal name.

BALL HAYE GREEN ½ mile north of Leek (SJ 9857). *Balle Heys* c.1539 LRMB, *Ball(e) Haye* c.1540 AOMB, *Ball-haye* 1565 (1883) Sleigh 1883: 86, *Ball Heys Greene* 1615 FF, ? *Ballyes Hay* c.1615 SRO D3272/1/17/4/6-8, *Bawhey* 1667 Leek ParReg, *Ball Hay* 1697 Leek ParReg, 1798 Yates. Not recorded before the 16th century, and of uncertain origin. Sleigh 1862 suggests a derivation from French *la belle haye* 'the fair enclosure' (perhaps with nearby Dieulacres in mind), but although French *haie* is well-recorded, the spellings show no evidence of *belle*. It is possible that there is a connection with ME *bal(le)* 'a ball', used in place-names to mean 'a rounded hill, a hillock', sometimes meaning 'a mound of earth set up as a boundary mark'. Balle is an ODan personal name (cf. Balby, Yorkshire), and Adam Balle is recorded in Leek in 1332: SHC X (i) 115.

BALLINGTON 1 mile south of Leek (SJ 9954). *Baliden* c.1220 StSt 5 3 (p), 1241 SHC IX NS 315, ? *Baglington* 1278 SHC 1911 35, *Balydone* 1332 SHC X (i) 115, *Ballidon* 1618 SHC VI NS (i) 45, *Burlington Wood* 1836 O.S., *Ballington Wood* c.1862 map. Perhaps from OE **balg* 'bulging, rounded' with OE *denu* 'the bulging or rounded valley': cf. Balladen, Lancashire; Ballidon, Derbyshire. The name of Cowhay Farm (? *Cowhey* 1608 SHC 1948-9 103, *Cowhay Farm* 1608 VCH VII 89, *Cow Hay* 1775 Yates, *Cowhay* 1836 O.S.) was changed to Ballington Grange c.1960 (local information). The 1836 form for Ballington is evidently an error. The first edition of the 1" O.S. map of 1836 shows Ballington Grange, 1 mile south of Winkhill (SK 0549), at what is now Ballamont Grange.

BALLS HILL on the north-west side of Walsall (SO 0198). *Balls Hill* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from the Boweles family: see Bowelles.

BALTERLEY in Barthomley parish, 6½ miles north-west of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 7650). *Baltrypeleag(e)* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Baltredelege* 1086 DB, *Baldrithalega* 1279 SHC VI (i) 144, *Baltedereleye* 1282-3 SHC XI NS 246, *Baltredeleghe* 1289 Ct, *Balridele*, *Barderdeleye* 1327 SHC 1913 8, *Balturdeley* 1357-8 JNSFC 1924-5 51. '*Baldþrýþ's lēah'. The female name *Baldþrýþ is otherwise unrecorded. See also Stenton 1970: 321.

BANCROFT 1 mile north-west of King's Bromley (SK 1117), *Banecroft* 1323 SHC IX (i) 94, 1335 SHC 1939 119, 1345 SHC XII 48, *Bancroft* 1327 SHC VII (i) 230, 1367 SHC VIII NS 40, 1414 Hardy

1908: 106, 1592 SHC 1930 216, 1695 Morden, 1749 Bowen, 1834 O.S.; BANCROFT (unlocated, in Chell), *Banecroft* 1272x1290 SHC 1911 445, *Banchrofte* (p) 1459, *Bancroft(e)* 1467 Ward 1843: app v-vi. Perhaps from OE *bēan* 'bean', and OE *croft* 'a piece of enclosed pasture land, a small piece of arable land adjoining a house', so 'the croft where beans were grown'. Some of the spellings shown for the first place may refer to the second place.

BANES BROKE (unlocated, in the Swynnerton area.) *Banes Brook* 1368 SRO D641/5/T/1/1.

BANGLEY FARM 1 mile east of Penkridge (SJ 9414). *Bangley Park* 1601 Comm, 1963 O.S. The history of this name has not been traced, but possibly from ME *bank(e)-ley*, with *bank(e)* here meaning 'hill'. See VCH V 106, 128.

BANGLEY (GREAT & LOWER) 4 miles south-west of Tamworth (SK 1500 & SK 1601). *Bangeley* 1397 TSSAHS XXX 1988-9 45, *Bangle* 1538 SHC 1912 128, *Bangeley parke* 1601 (1798) Shaw I 76, *Bangly* 1798 *ibid.* 9, *Great Bangley*, *Lower Bangley* 1834 O.S. Possibly from ME *bank(e)-ley*, with *bank(e)* here meaning 'hill': the places are near the summit and near the foot of a 437' hill. For Bangley Park see TSSAHS XXX 1988-9 45.

BANK END FARM 1 mile north-east of Norton-in-the-Moors (SJ 9053). *Banke House* 1576 HLS 588, *ye Bancke end* 1613 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg, *Bank End* 1836 O.S. '(The place at) the end of the bank'.

BANK HOUSE (obsolete) on the north side of Caverswall (SJ 9543). *Bank House* 1640 Caverswall ParReg, 1836 O.S. Presumably 'the house on the bank'.

BANK TOP in Tunstall (SJ 8751), *Banke House* 1576 HLS, *Bank House* 1836 O.S.; BANK TOP 1 mile east of Kingsley (SK 0246); BANKTOP 1½ miles south-west of Consall (SJ 9746), *Bank Top* 1836 O.S. From ME *bank(e)* 'a bank, the slope of a hill or ridge'. *the Bank Toppe* is recorded in 1660 (Kingsley ParReg), and probably refers to Banktop on the east side of Kingsley Holt (SK 0246).

BANNERSTONES (unlocated, near Leek). *Bannerstones* c.1665 Leek ParReg, 1684 *ibid.* The printed Leek ParReg I 167 notes that the location of this place is 'not known'.

BANNSALL (unlocated, in Balterley or Betley.) *Bannsal* 1611 BCA MS3810/125.

BANNUTT TREE (THE) in Compton, near Kinver (SO 8284); BANNUT TREE FARM 1 mile south-west of Upper Arley (SO 7579), *Banuttred house* 1695 Morden, *Bannut-tree* 1756 (1801) Shaw II 254. Bannut (ME *banne-note* 'a nut, probably a walnut') is a word of unknown origin used in the western counties for 'the walnut, fruit of *Juglans regia*; also applied to the grown tree itself and in Warwickshire and Shropshire to soft-shelled walnuts of a larger kind' (EDD; see also PN Sa III 173; VEPN I 47-8). In place-names the word is almost always combined with *tree*. Halliwell suggests that in Worcestershire the word, dating from at least 1609 (VEPN I 48), was only used for the growing tree, with the timber known as walnut. The second place lies on the west side of the river Severn, and has been in Worcestershire since 1895.

BANTOCK PARK on the north-west side of Wolverhampton (SJ 8997). *Merridale Farm*, built in 1788, and sold in 1854 to Thomas Bantock: ES 5 April 2003 6.

BARDELEY (unlocated) *Bardeley* 1611 SHC NS III 45.

BAREWEHULL (unlocated, near Drinton.) *Barewehull* 1249 SRO 510[7922], *Barwhul* pre-1284 SRO 543[7902]. From OE *bearu* 'wood, grove', with OE *hyll* 'hill', so 'the hill with the grove'.

BAR HILL 1 mile south-west of Madeley (SJ 7643). *Barr Hill* 1698 Betley ParReg, 1698 SRO DW1082/B/7/1-22, *Barhill* 1749 Bowen, *Bar Hill* 1775 Yates, 1833 O.S. Almost certainly a pre-English name from Welsh *barr* 'top, summit' (cf. Great Barr), though it may be noted that the name is not included in Coates & Breeze 2000.

BARLASTON Ancient Parish 3½ miles north-west of Stone (SJ 8938). *Bernvlvestone* 1086 DB, *Berliston* c.1142 SHC III 322, *Barlaston* 1166 SHC 1923 297, *Berleston* 1212 SHC 1911 387, 1287 *ibid.* 43, *Berleston Bolnton* c.1235 (1798) Shaw I xxv, *Borlaston* 1293 *ibid.* 49, *Barlaston* 1300 *ibid.* 259, *Borweston* 1303 *ibid.* 49, *Berlaston* 1316 *ibid.* 411, *Borlstone* 1466 SHC NS IV 138. 'Beornwulf's tūn'. *Bolnton* in the Shaw reference is unexplained, but may be another place altogether. *Beorelfestune* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536) may refer to this place (see Whitelock 1930: 154; Hart 1975: 98), but is more likely to be Barlestone, Leicestershire: Sawyer 1979a: xxiv.

BARLEY FIELDS in Callingwood (SK 1924). *Barley-fields Farm* 1649 (1798) Shaw I 30, *Barley Fields* 1836 O.S. Self-explanatory.

BARNDEGNOST, BERNEDEKNOST (unlocated) *Bernedeknost* 1199 SHC III (i) 49, *Barndegnost* 1204 *ibid.* 123, *Bernetnoste*, *Bernecnoste*, *Bernecost* c.1205 Rees 1997: 45-7. Bosworth-Toller gives OE *gnāst* to mean 'spark', while Stratmann offers 'burning ashes', so perhaps 'the ashes at the burned place', from ME *bernde*, *brende* 'burnt'. *Barndegorst* near Caverswall, or possibly near Hardwick, is recorded in the late 13th century (SRO 3764/21[27574]), and may be associated with this place.

BARN FARM 1 mile south of Handsacre (SK 0914). Possibly associated with *Barne Leasowes*, recorded in 1676: WCRO CR1291/169.

BARNHURST 3 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8902). *Barinhurst* 1250 (1801) Shaw II 204, *Barnchurch* 1305 SHC VII 168, *Barnehurst* 1327 SHC VII (i) 255, *Barehulst* 1337 SHC VI NS (ii) 158, *Barndhurst* 1377 HRO B47/524, *Barnthurst*, *Barnehurst*, *Barnhurst*, *Barnthurst* 14th century Duig, *Bernthurst* 1414 SHC XVII 24, *Barndhurst*, *Barnhurst* 1419 SRO D593/A/2/16/6, *Barndhurst* 1515 SHC 1928 90, *Barneshurst* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 148, *Barneshurst More* 1649 TSSAHS XXI 1979-80 16, *Barnehurst* 1686 Plot. The earliest spellings suggest a derivation from OE *bere-ærn* 'barn', with later spellings pointing towards ME *barnde*, *brende* 'burnt', with OE *hyrst* 'copse, small wood on a hill' (cf. Burntwood). The 1305 spelling is evidently an aberration. Shaw 1801: II 201 and Jones 1894: 84 mistakenly identify this place as Bovenhill (q.v.): see VCH III 319 fn.91.

BARNS LEE near the north end of Rudyard Lake (SJ 9360). *Barnards Lee* 1566 SRO DW1761/A/4/179, *Barnslee* 1659 ParReg, 1725 *Will*, *Barns Lee* 1775 Yates. 'Bernard's woodland

glade'; the personal name derives from the OFr name Bernart. Perhaps the same person gave his name to Barnswood (q.v.), 1 mile to the east.

BARNSLEY 1½ miles south of Worfield (SO 7592). *Barndeleg* 1301 Rees 1975 249, *Barnesley* (p) 1516 (1801) Shaw II 208, *Barnley* 1525 SR, *Berndeley*, *Berneley* (p) 1539 SHC VI (i) NS 70, *Barnsley* 1602 SRRC 2028/1/5/8, *Barnesley* 1731 SRRC 5586/1/509, *Barnsley* 1752 Rocque. Confusingly, some spellings suggest a derivation from a personal name Beorn or similar, with others pointing towards OE *brend* 'burnt', with OE *lēah*. In Shropshire since the 12th century. Shaw 1801: II 209 suggests that the surname Barnsley found in this area is from *Barnsley-hall* in Worcestershire.

BARNSWOOD on the east side of Rudyard Lake (SJ 6094). *Bernardiswode* c.1330 (1883) Sleigh, *Bernarduswoodes* 1389 *ibid*, *Barnswood* 1606 VCH VII 218, 1644 Leek ParReg, *Barnswood Farm* c.1680 SP, 1842 O.S. 'Bernard's wood'. Possibly associated with *Bernardscroft* and *Bernardsmore*, recorded in the 13th century (SHC IX NS 313-4), and *Bernardscroft* recorded in 1315 (SHC 1911 326). See also Barns Lee.

BARNVILLE A name frequently found in early records, possibly to be associated with one or more of Barnfields Farm at Oulton Heath, 1½ miles north-east of Stone (SJ 9036); a lost *Barnfields* (1836 O.S.) at Cauldon (SK 0849); Barnsfields (*Barnfield* c.1889 O.S.) on the south-west side of Leek (SJ 9755); or Barnfields (*Barnville* 1327 SHC VII (i) 213, *Barnfield* 1775 Yates, *Barnfields* 1836 O.S.), 2 miles south-east of Stafford: although the history of the last name is not known, an ancient barn incorporating early stonework is recorded (see VCH V 4), and it may have been the site, or associated with the site, of a medieval leper house - the hospital of St Lazarus of the Holy Sepulchre (perhaps connected with *Spyttellfield*, recorded in 1422: SHC XII (i) 311) - at Radford, recorded from the mid-13th century: StEnc 31, 297. *Berneville* 1269 SHC IV 175, *Banville* 1272 Ass, *Baumvyle* c.1280 St. Thomas Ch, *Barnevill* 1293 Ass, 1302 Ass, *Barneville* 1327 SHC VII (i) 197, *Barnevyle* 1332 SR, *Bernewell* 1374 SHC XIII 107, *Barnevyle* 1375 *ibid*. 126, *Bernewale* 1383 *ibid*. 177, *Barnevyle* 1405 SHC XVI 41. The first element is likely to be from OE *bere-ærn* 'barn', but the second element is uncertain: sometimes OE *feld* 'open land' has been influenced by French *ville*: cf. Enville. However, in this case -ville is early and surprisingly consistent in the forms (if indeed the forms relate to the same place), and it is possible that it is a genuine *ville* name, though with an English first element is unlikely. The surname Barnvyll, Barnevyle, Bernevyle is recorded in association with Shenstone in the 14th century: see MidA III 99; SHC XVII 289-91. See also Bernefeld.

BARR, GREAT in Aldridge parish, 3 miles south-east of Walsall (SP 0599). *æt Bearre* 957 (12th century, S.574), *Barra* 1086 DB, *Little Barre* 1208 FF, *Barr* 1209 Pleas, *Bare*, *la Bare* 1242 SHC IV 96, *Great Barre* 1322 Ipm, *Magna Barra* 1428 SHC XII 313. From Welsh *barr*, from OCeltic **barro-*, Welsh *bar* 'top, summit' - Barr Beacon (*Barbeacon* 1686 Plot) is a conspicuous 744' hill. The prefix *Great* in Great Barr is a ME addition, referring not to the hill, but to distinguish this manor from the adjoining manor of Perry Barr or Barr Parva (*Parva Barra* 1242 Fees). Beacon, from OE *bēacon* 'sign, signal, cross, memorial stone', later 'beacon fire', is a common name for a commanding hill, but the name Beacon Hill is a surprisingly rare hill-name before the sixteenth century, although there is a reference in a boundary clause in a charter of Little Aston and Barr of 957 AD to an *ealdan ād* 'an old

beacon', which may refer to Barr Beacon: Forsberg 1970; Hooke 1983: 45 (but see also Gould 1987: 82-9; Forsberg 1987: 82-89). Round Hill, an ancient earthwork, stands on the hill. For early observations on the name Barr see Shaw 1798: I 11 fn. For observations on the 957 form see Forsberg 1970: 20-82. See also Perry Barr. It may be noted that *Barre-moor* is recorded in Colton in 1492, and *Barre Moor* 1538 (Parker 1897: 119 & 370), perhaps to be associated with the 367' hill on the east side of Colton.

BARRE (unlocated) *Barre* 1086 DB. Probably with the same derivation as Bar Hill and Great Barr (q.v.). This may be the same place as *Parva Barr* ('Little Barr') mentioned in the 1327 SR, where it is linked to Perry Barr: VCH IV 55 fn.

BARRIDGE MOOR (unlocated, near Horton.) *Barridge Moor* 1810 SRO DW1909/N/2. Possibly from Welsh *barr* 'top, summit', with OE *hrycg* 'ridge', so 'the ridge at the hill called Barr', but in the absence of early spellings the derivation must remain speculative.

BARROW COP HILL - see **BORROWCOP HILL**.

BARROW HILL 1 mile north of Rocester (SK 1040), *Barrow Hill* 1662 SRO D1380/1/1, *Barrowhill* 1834 O.S.; **BARROW HILL** a 518' hill 2 miles south of Lower Gornal on the Staffordshire-Worcestershire border (SO 9189), *Barrow-hill* 1686 Plot 175, 414, 1695 Gibson, *Barrow Hill* 1775 Yates, 1799 (1801) Shaw II 6, 1834 O.S. Probably from OE *beorg* 'hill, mound, tumulus' (for the first place see Redfern 1865: 71-2; for the second place VCH I 376 records a 99' diameter circular tumulus thirty feet east of Pensnett churchyard; see also JNSFC 5 1965 43; White 1834: 265), or possibly OE *bearu* 'grove, small wood': *Burwe* and *Berwe*, recorded in 1286 (SHC 4th Series XVIII 114, 119) may have been associated with Barrow Hill near Pensnett, in which case that name is from *bearu*. *Two Barrow Hills*, recorded in 1713 (Okeover T740) is evidently to be associated with Rocester.

BARROW MOOR 1½ miles south-west of Hollinsclough (SK 0564). *Barrow Moor(e)* 1670 Dep, *Barrow Moor* 1735 Alstonefield ParReg, *Barrow Moor Side* 1839 EnclA. Probably from OE *bearu* 'grove, small wood', rather than OE *beorg* 'hill, mound, tumulus', with OE *mōr* 'moor, upland waste, fen'.

BARTHOMLEY Ancient Parish 1½ miles north of Balterley (SJ 7652). *Bertemeleu* 1086 DB, *Bertamelegh* temp. Henry III, *Bertumleg'* early 13th century et freq, as *Bertumlega*, *Bertumlehga*, *Bertumley(e)*, *Bertumlegh(e)*, *Beretumle*, *Bertumleigh* to 1518 (all from PN Ch III 5-6), *Birchinley* 13th century Dieulacres, *Bertoveleye* 1282 Ct, *Bartumilegh* 1287 Ct, *Berethumlegh* 1288 Ct, *Birchinlegh* 1289 Ct, *Birthingleg'* 1289 Ct, *Bertomlegh* 1290 Ipm, *Bertmil'* 1291 Tax, *Bertymleg'* 1297 PN Ch III 5-6, *Bartomelegh* 1325 *ibid.*, *Bartomlegh* 1337 *ibid.*, *Bertumeley* 1419 *ibid.*, *Burtumlegh* 1459 *ibid.*, *Barthomley* 1549 Pat. Place-name scholars disagree about the origins of this difficult name. Perhaps 'glade at (a place called) *Brighthamm', from OE *lēah* with a compound place-name **beorht-hamm* or **beorht-homm*, in which *hamm/homm* sometimes alternates with *hemm* (PN Ch V (II) xx), or 'woodland clearing of the dwellers at a place called Brightmead or Brightwell or the like', or from a personal name having a first element with a final *t*, perhaps *Beorht*, or OE *beorht* 'bright' or similar, with OE *hāme*, *lēah* (PN Ch V (I:1) xxxiii; Mills 1998: 27), or from OE *beretūnum* 'at the granges' (PN

Sa I 194-197, but see PN Ch V (I:1) xxxiii). The place was part of Balterley township until 1866 when it was taken into Cheshire.

BARTHON, BASTON (unlocated) Possibly near Dilhorne or Tean. *Barthon* 1244 SHC IV 112, *Baston* 1272 *ibid.* 211. From the two inconsistent spellings (assuming they relate to the same place) no suggested derivations can be offered for this name.

BARTON ½ mile west of Bradley, 5 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8618). *Bernertone* 1086 DB, ? *Berderton* 1199 SHC III 54, *Berthertan* 1203 *ibid.* 91, *Becterton* 1243 VHC IV 77, *Bertherton* 1314 *ibid.*, *Berton*, *Benton* 1387 to 1460 *ibid.*, *Betherton* 1391 SHC XV 45, ? *Bertherton* 1403 *ibid.* 105, *Barton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 97, 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 21, *Upper & Lower Barton* 1834 O.S. The forms are too varied for any certainty, but the name may contain an OE personal name, perhaps a compound of Beorht-, with OE *tūn*. The name *Bederetan*, which appears in a fragment of charter possibly dating from 982x1006 (SRO D603/A/Add/3; see also SHC 1937 6-7), has not been identified, but may be associated with this place or Bedinton (q.v.). *Bartons More* in *Kynston* (? Kingstone) is recorded in 1560: SHC XIII 209.

BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD in Tatenhill parish, 5 miles south-west of Burton-upon-Trent (SK 1818). *Barton* 942 (14th century, S.479), *Bertone* 1086 DB, *Barton sub Nedwode temp.* Henry III BM, *Barton (Park)* 1296 SHC 1911 251. 'Demesne farm or outlying grange in Needwood Forest (q.v.)', from OE *bere-tūn*, in the Midlands variant *bær-tūn*, originally 'barley enclosure, barley farm', later 'outlying grange, demesne farm (especially one retained for the lord's use and not let to tenants). The first spelling is from the 14th century, with the *a* representing an earlier *æ*. *Under Needwood* is a medieval addition to distinguish it from other Bartons, and because it lay below the Forest of Needwood.

BASFORD 1½ miles east of Cheddleton (SJ 9951). *Bechesword* 1086 DB, *Barkeford* 1199 (1265) Ch, *Barchisfort* c.1250 SHC 1911 426, *Barclesford* c.1255 *ibid.* 440, *Barclisford* 1261 *ibid.* 427, *Blacford*, *Barkeford* 1265 Rees 1997: 136-7, *Barkesford* 1273 SHC VI (i) 52, *Barkisford* 1281 Ipm, *Barclesford* c.1282 SHC 1911 442, *Barsford otherwise Basford* 1590 SHC XVI 106, *Basford* 1686 Plot 43. A puzzling name. The spellings with a medial *-l-* suggest the possibility of a derivation from the OE personal name Beorcol (cf. Baswich), but if so one would expect ME spellings with Berc-, so possibly from the ON personal name Börkr or Barkr (cf. Barkestone, Leicestershire; Barkisland, Yorkshire; Barkston, Lincolnshire), with ME genitive singular *-es* (cf. PN Ch III 48-9), although that would not explain the spellings with *-l-*. There is a Basford 1 mile north-east of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8646), early spellings for which have not been traced, and other places of the same name in Cheshire and Nottinghamshire, though the latter has a quite different derivation.

BASFORD BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet. *Barkesfordebroc* (ancient deed without date: see Oakden 1984: 5) - see Basford.

BASSET'S CROSS (unlocated) *Bassets Crosse* 1447 SHC III NS 178, *Basset's Cross* c.1540 Leland. Leland mentions the cross in describing 'the right way to Coventrie from Lichfeld' (Toulmin Smith 1906-10: II 103). The place has been assumed to be Drayton Bassett, but Leland adds that 'there is no

building' there, and the context of the 1447 reference shows that it was close to *Hillewode* (Hillwood, 1 mile north-west of Little Sutton (SK 1200)) and *Theffesoke* ('Thieves Oak', a place where thieves were hanged). The latter name is of interest since the stream forming the Staffordshire-Warwickshire boundary a mile or so to the east of Basset's Pole (q.v.) is Gallows Brook. It seems likely that Basset's Cross was a mile or so to the west of Bassett's Pole.

BASSETFRYTHE (unlocated, possibly in the area around Bradnop or Hollinsclough, although the 1414 spelling is associated with *Asshenfeld* (? Alstonefield).) *Bassetfryth* 1401 SHC XVI 82, *Bassetfrythe* 1414 SHC XVII 13. The first element is presumably from the Basset family who held estates in various parts of Staffordshire. For the second element see Frith.

BASSETTHAYES (unlocated, in Swinfen.) *Bassetthayes* 1480 SRO D948/3/68. *Bassetesfeld*, recorded in 1306 (SHC 1911 65), 'the *feld* or open ground of the man named Basset', has not been located, but may be associated with this place.

BASSETTS HEATH (obsolete.) The extensive heath at Bassetts Pole on the west side of Drayton Bassett: Duignan 1902: 11. *Bassetts heath* 1756 Duignan 1902: 11, *Bassettes heath* 1798 Shaw I 9, *Bassetts Heath* c.1800 SHC 1941 11.

BASSET'S MILL (unlocated, in Pattingham: VCH XX 178.) *Basset's Mill* 1403 VCH XX 178. Associated with Ralph Basset who held land in Pattingham in 1257 (*ibid.*). See also Pasford.

BASSETTS POLE 4 miles south-west of Tamworth (SO 1499). Formerly within a vast heath, on the boundary of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and the meeting point of the manors of Sutton Coldfield, Middleton, Canwell, Drayton Bassett, and the ancient boundaries of Cannock Forest and Sutton Chase: Duignan 1902: 11. From at least the 17th century a tall pole, presumably to guide wayfarers, existed at the place (at 485' the highest point in the area), which took its name from the Bassetts of Drayton Bassett. The pole appears in Ogilby (111 miles and 4 furlongs from London, on the east side of the road), and on Bowen's map of Staffordshire 1749. 'Basset's Pole, which is a noted mark and guide for travellers, as it stands just on the spot where the road from Tamworth to Birmingham cuts the great road from Lichfield to London at right angles. It used to stand like a May-pole, twenty five or thirty feet high; but is worn to a stump...': the Staffordshire historian Pipe Wolferstan 1756 quoted in Shaw 1801: II 9. See also Basset's Cross; StEnc 35.

BASWICH, BERKSWICH Ancient Parish 2 miles south-east of Stafford (SJ 9422). *Bercheswic*, *Berchesuuic* 1086 DB, *Berchlewich* 1151 MRA, *Bercleswich*, *Bercleswych* 1174 StThomas, *Bercclswitgh*, *Berceleswich* 1161-82 SRO (1/7972), *Bercleswiz* 1241 MRA, *Berkswich* 1259 AngleseyCh, *Berkewic* 1259 MRA, *Bertelewyk* 1293 SHC 1939 74, *Bersewych* 1475 Banco, *Baswiche als Berkeswiche* 1617 FF, *Baswidge* 1690 VCH V 10. Perhaps 'Beorcol's *wīc*', or from OE **bircel*, a rare diminutive of OE *birce* 'birch tree' (cf. the recurring name Bircheles in Cheshire and Derbyshire, possibly from the same word: VEPN I 103), with OE *wīc*. *Baswich* is the name used by the Ordnance Survey, *Berkswich* the form used for the ecclesiastical parish. From the 16th century the manor of Baswich was usually referred to as the manors of Sowe and Brocton: VCH V 5. See also Sowe.

BATCHACRE 1½ miles south-west of Adbaston (SJ 7525). *Badingesacre* 1272 SHC 1924 243, *Batingacre* 1275 SHC IV 283, *Batyangacre* 1313 Ipm, *Battysacre* 1540 SHC V NS 118, *Bachaker* c.1567 SHC IX NS 57, *Bachecar* 1680 SHC 1919 247, *Beacher* c.1538 Erdeswick 1844: 126, *Batchacre* 1833 O.S. Although the later forms suggest a derivation from OE *bece* 'steep-sided valley with a stream', with OE *æcer* 'plot of arable or cultivated land' (and the Lonco Brook runs through a steep-sided valley here), the earlier spellings indicate that the name is '*Bad(d)ing's plot of arable or cultivated land'. A grange of Ranton Abbey lay here: StEnc 36.

BATCHLEY (obsolete) 1 mile west of Redditch (SO 0267). *Bacheley* 1464 Pat. From OE *bece* 'steep-sided river valley', with OE *lēah*. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

BATES FARM on the east side of Maer (SJ 7838). *The Holme* 1833 O.S. The present name is from a family name. For the earlier name see Hulme.

BATH FARM 2 miles south-west of Brewood (SJ 8507). *Bath* 1775 Yates, *Bath Farm* 1808 Baugh, *The Bath* 1834 O.S. From a cold bath which existed here from at least 1727: see Horovitz 1992: 327. It is uncertain whether Roger de Bathe, recorded in 1358 as a witness to a deed relating to nearby Weston under Lizard (SHC II NS 65), was connected with the place.

BATH HILL (unlocated, in Wolstanton.) ? *Bathull* 1362-3 JNSFC LIX 1924-5 58, ? *Bathon* 1427 SHC XVII 117, *Bath House* 1620 SRO D997/V/2/1-4, 1656 Wolstanton ParReg, *Bath Hill* c.1787 SRO D997/1/1. Presumably from some pool or bathing place.

BATHIS HILL (unlocated, near The Lowe in Worfield.) *Bathis Hill* 1858 SRRC 1190/87/21. Perhaps to be associated with *Bathehill*, recorded in 1585 (SHC 1929 145).

BATH POOL 1 mile east of Talke (SJ 8352). ? *la Bathe* 1343 SHC 1913 102. Possibly from the use of the pool for bathing, or with reference to an artificial water container: see Gelling 1984: 13.

BATMAN'S HILL (obsolete, on north-east side of Coseley (SO 9494).) *Batesman Hill* 1652 Sedgley ParReg, *Batman's Hill* 1655 Assessment, *Batemans hill* 1667 Sedgley ParReg, *Batmans (Colliery)* 1834 O.S. Probably from the personal name Batman (recorded in Dudley in 1681: Roper 1980: 147), meaning 'the servant of Bartholomew': DES 31.

BATTLEFIELD an area adjacent to the Stourbridge road east of Wombourne (SO 8893). *Battlefield* 1841 VCH XX 197, 1895 O.S. Probably a 19th century name from supposed tumuli here called *Soldier's Hill* (c.1750 (1798) Shaw I 38) which were thought by Plot 1686: 397 to be Roman burial mounds, and by the 18th century antiquary Richard Wilkes to be connected with the battle of Tettenhall c.910 (cf. Tettenhall, Wednesfield): Erdeswick 1844: 368. See also StEnc 682. The place is commemorated in Battlefield Lane.

BATTLESTEAD HILL on the east side of Tatenhill (SK 2022). Early spellings have not been traced, but *Battlestead Lane* is recorded in the area in 1820 (SRO D615/M/7/7). OE *stede* had the meaning 'place, site', so possibly 'the site of a battle', but no evidence has been found to suggest that the name is ancient.

BATTRIDGE NEST (obsolete, in Chesterton near Newcastle.) *Partridge Farm* c.1715 Heathcote MSS xviii, *Betteridge Nest* 1767 SRO D1229/1/3/91, *Battridge Nest* c.1775 Heathcote MSS xviii. It has been suggested that a 40' high furnace in Springwood Road known as Partridge Nest or Throstles Nest gave its name to this place (see StEnc 532), but the furnace is said to have been constructed c.1765, in which case the furnace name seems to have been a whimsical version of the farm name.

BAXSTONEHURST (unlocated, in Whitmore.) *Baxstonehurst* (undated) SHC 1913 240. OE *bæc-stān* 'a baking stone, a flat stone for baking', with OE *hyrst* 'hillock, copse, wooded eminence'. See also Bacstonesley.

BAYSHALL (unlocated, in Handsworth.) *Bayshall* 1549 (1798) Shaw I 108.

BEACON HILL 1½ miles north-east of Stafford (SJ 9425), *Beacon feild* 1646 SHC 4th Series I 290, *Beacon Farm* 1798 Yates, *Beacon Hill*, *Beacon Farm* 1836 O.S.; **BEACON HILL** 1½ miles south-west of Penkridge (SJ 8913), *the Beacon Hill* 1612 Penkridge ParReg, *Beacon (flatt)* 1652 Survey, *Beacon Hill* 1706 Penkridge ParReg, 1720 SRO D1057/A/1/5/1-7, *Beacon hill* 1725 Ct, *Beacon-hill* 1798: Shaw I 31; **BEACON HILL** ½ mile south-east of Rolleston (SK 2426), *Beacon Hill* 1836 O.S.; **BEACON HILL** 1 mile north of Sedgley (SO 9194), *Beacon* 1798 Yates, *Beacon Hill (Quarry)* 1834 O.S.; **BEACON BANK (FARM)** 1 mile north-east of Abbot's Bromley (SK 0925); **BEACON BANK** 1 mile south of Milwich (SK 9730), *Bacan Bank* (sic) 1775 Yates. From OE *(ge)bē(a)con* 'a sign, a signal, a beacon', so 'the hill (or bank) with the beacon'. All places are on hills or high ground with commanding views. It is perhaps surprising that no spellings pre-dating the 17th century have been found for any of these places, but VEPN I 68 records only one example (in Essex) before 1600. Stukeley 1776:II observes of Beacon Hill near Stafford: '...a large parcel of rocks, laid on a level eminence, and covered with grass, having a steep ascent on every side, like a Camp...'. The name *Bekenfeld*, possibly in Kingswinford, is recorded in 1485: Shaw 1801: II 229.

BEACON STOOP (obsolete. At 1217' the highest point of the Weaver Hills (SK 0946). *Beacon Hill* 1775 Yates, *Beacon Stoop* 1836 O.S. From OE *(ge)bē(a)con* 'a sign, a signal, a beacon'. *Stoop* is from dialect *stulpe*, *stolpe*, from ON *stólpi* 'a post, a pillar, a stake, a stump', recorded in English from the 15th century (EPNE ii 157): Yates' map of 1798 shows a beacon here, which perhaps once took the form of an iron brazier mounted on a post. The element *stólpi* was also sometimes applied to boundary-posts or similar (see PNEF 127). See also Stoop.

BEAM HILL 2 miles north-west of Burton-upon-Trent (SK 2326). *Beinhull* 1247 BL Stowe Ch 173, *Bemhull* c.1293 SHC V (i) 68, *Bernehull* 1385 SRO DW1734/2/1/103[iii],m.21d, *Beanhill (Field)* 1710 SRO D603/H/5/49, *Beamhill (Field)* 1737 SRO D4219/8/49. The spellings show that the derivation is probably from OE *bēan* 'bean', so giving 'hill where beans were grown'. OE *bēam*, a word with various meanings, including 'tree, beam, piece of timber, post, footbridge, cross (of the crucifixion), long, straight, gallows, vein of ore, balance for weighing' (see VEPN I 63). If this is the root here, the meaning is uncertain, but perhaps 'wood where timber was obtained', or 'hill with a post'. The precise purpose of any such post, if such is the meaning, cannot be known, but a beacon (and Beacon Hill a short distance to the north-east may be noted) or gallows or gibbet might be expected to have given

their name to the hill. Hart 1985: 240 associates Beam Hill (which is not named on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836) with *hunger hylle* in a charter relating to Wetmore of 1012 (14th century, S.930). *Hunger* is normally held in Staffordshire to be a West Midlands development of OE *hangra* 'slope, wood on a steep hill-side', from OE *hangian* 'to suspend'. See also Beamhurst.

BEAMHURST 2 miles north-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0636). *Bemhurst* c.1250 SHC XII NS 44, *Bemhurst* 1327 SHC VII 206, *Beymhurst* 1477 SHC VI NS (i) 111, *Beamehurst* 1544 SHC 1910 76, *Beamehurst* 1563 SHC 1938 36, *Bemhurst* 1580 SHC XV 129, 1601 SHC 1935 392, *Beamhurst* 1599 Smith, 1646 SHC 4th Series I 283. From OE *bēam*, literally 'tree, beam', but often in place-names with the meaning 'foot-bridge, bridge formed by a single beam'. The road from Uttoxeter to Upper Tean crosses the river Tean at Beamhurst Bridge, with two streams flowing from the north to join the river Tean passing through Beamhurst. The second element is OE *hyrst* 'hillock, wooded eminence', so perhaps 'the wooded hill near the foot-bridge': Oldwood (*Old Wood* 1836 O.S.) lies on higher ground to the north-east, and may be associated with the hurst. *Beamhurstleys*, recorded in the 16th century (Erdeswick 1844: 18) could be Bemersley (q.v.). Cf. Bamford, Derbyshire; Benfleet, Essex. See also Beam Hill.

BEARDA 1 mile north of Heaton (SJ 9664). Evidently associated with *Berdeholm* 1340 VCH VII 186, *Berdehulme*, *Bordhulm mill in Heyton* 1539 MA, *Berdehulme (Mill)* 1546 SHC 1912 350, *Berdhulme* 1601 BL AddCh 46709, *Berdehulme* 1605 (1883) Sleigh 20, *Beardhall or Berdhulme* 1677 SRO DW1702/1/2, *Beardall* 1697 Leek ParReg, *Bard Hall* 1707 *ibid*. The place lies on the side of the Dane valley very close to the Staffordshire-Cheshire border. Ekwall 1936: 163-4 discusses OE **byrde*, a derivative from OE *bord* 'border, rim'; see also VEPN I 127. This may be the root of this name. ON *barþ* has the meaning 'edge, rim, margin', and is found in Norwegian, Danish and (especially) Icelandic place-names in the sense 'verge, edge of a hill', and ME *berde* is given the meaning 'rim of a vessel'. It has been suggested that Beard in Derbyshire (*Berd(e)* 1236, *Brede* 1251 PN Db 151) is perhaps from OE *beard* 'beard', in the sense 'hillside, edge', or from OE *brerd* 'brim, margin, hill-side', with the loss of the first *r* by disassimilation: Bearda Farm (perhaps, with a mill here, the property listed as belonging to Dieulacres at the Dissolution: VCH VII 189-90) stands on a hillside. The second element is evidently ON *holmr*, usually meaning 'a small island, a piece of ground near water'. See also Hulme.

BEARDMOORS (unlocated, in Farley.) *Berdesmor* 1290 SHC 1911 199, 1361 (1883) Sleigh 51, *Berdemore*, *Berdemor* 1296 SHC VII 41-2, *Berdmor* 1310 *ibid*. 303, 1311 SHC 1911 303, *Berdmore* 1481 (1883) Sleigh 182, *land in Farley called Beardmores* 1798 SRO D554/41. The spellings suggest a derivation from an OE personal name **Beord*, with OE *mōr*, so '**Beord's moor*'. The place is the origin of the common Staffordshire surname Beardsmore: see Tooth 2000b:136-7.

BEARNETT (FARM, HOUSE, DRIVE, LANE) in Lower Penn, 3 miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8894). Perhaps from the Burnett family, who held land here from at least the 16th century: see for example SHC 1928 5, 56, 59; SHC NS III 17, fn.1. See also Putley.

BEAR'S BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. No early spellings have been traced.

BEARSHAY (unlocated, 'between Lichfield and Alrewas turnpike road and the Coventry Canal': SRO D615/M/1/6.) *Bears Hay* 1775 Yates, *Bearshay* c.1800 SRO D615/M/1/6.

BEARSTONE MILL 1½ miles north of Mucklestone, on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border (SJ 7239). *Bearson mill* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 114.

BEARWOOD in Smethwick, 3 miles west of Birmingham (SO 0286). *Barewood* 1736 BCA MS917/1774, ? *Berwood (Meadow & Moor)* 1773 BCA MS3369/Acc1961-9/82, *Berwoods Hill Farm* 1796 BCA MS3602/284. Possibly from the Bear Inn (*Bear of Smythwick* 1798 Yates, *Bear* 1808 Baugh, *Bear Inn* 1834 O.S.) which may have existed in 1718 (VCH XVII 96), but the area was heavily wooded until the late 18th century (*ibid.*), and a plot of arable on the south side of Three Shires Oak Road was known as *the Bear Wood* in the 1830s (VCH XVII 96), so perhaps from OE *bær* 'pasture, especially woodland-pasture for swine', with OE *wudu* 'wood', so 'swine pasture wood', i.e. one where rights of pannage were exercised, or possibly from OE *bearu* 'grove, wood', giving a tautological 'wood called Bearu' when the meaning of *bearu* was forgotten, with the inn-name a natural successor. It is unclear whether *Berewode Strete*, recorded in Eardington *temp.* Edward I (MidA I 140), is to be associated with this place.

BEASLEY on the east side of Chesterton near Newcastle (SJ 8349). *Little Beasley* 1801 SOT SD4845, *Beaseley* 1836 O.S. The origins of this name are uncertain, but if ancient (and it may be a field-name), perhaps 'Besy's woodland clearing', and possibly to be associated with the surnames Beezly (1725) and Beasley (1875) recorded in the area: Tooth 2000b: 80. The personal name Bæsi (recorded in Lincolnshire in DB) is ON: see PN Li 12; Ekwall 1960: 35 *sub nom* Beesby.

BEATTY HALL in Yarnfield (SJ 8634). One of a number of Government establishments built in the area in the early 1940s and named after naval heroes. See also Drake Hall, Duncan Hall, Frobisher Hall, Howard Hall, Nelson Hall, Raleigh Hall, Rodney Hall.

BEAUDESERT (pronounced bo-dussair [bəʊdəsɛə(r)]) 4 miles west of Lichfield (SK 0313). *Beaudesert* 1259 SHC 1924 101, 1291 SHC VI (i) 277, *Bellum desertum* 1332 SHC I 258, *Beudesherd (parke)* 1385 BCA MS3415/200, *Bewdethert* 1461 SHC 1939 109, *Bewdesert* 1546 *ibid.* 110, *Bewdysert* 1576 BCA MS3069/Acc1930-02/371503, *Bewdezarte* 1578 SRO D1734, *Bewdeserte* 1589 *ibid.* 112, *Bewdezert Parke* 1594 *ibid.* 80, *Beawdezarte* 1594 *ibid.* 139. 'Beautiful wilderness', a Norman name, from OFr *beau desert*. *Desert* in English is often used for 'wild, mountain or forest land'. There is another Beaudesert in Warwickshire, east of Henley-in-Arden (see PN Wa 199), and *Beaudesport* is recorded in Shropshire in 1391: SHC XV 33.

BECH (unlocated, recorded in DB in Offlow Hundred.) *Bech* 1086 DB. Perhaps the place of the same name south-east of Stowe in Lichfield recorded in the 12th or 13th century (VCH XIV 7), presumably to be associated with *Bechefyld temp.* Edward II, *Bechefield temp.* Edward III & Richard II (SHC VI (ii) 185), which is possibly the same place as *Bechefeld* (near Stow Street) recorded in 1336 (SHC 1939 94) and 1374 (SHC 1939 100). *Bech* is recorded in 1179 (SHC I 93), 1199 (SHC III (i) 43), *Bec* 1208 (SHC III 141), and *Bec* (1220 SHC IV 12). See also Litelbech.

BECHETON (unlocated, in or near Audley.) *Becheton manor* 1492 SHC 1912 257.

BECKMINSTER on the south-west side of Wolverhampton (SO 9097). *Beckmaster* 1647 Manorial Survey, 1839 Tithe map. No suggested derivation can be offered for the curious early spellings of this name.

BECKNELLS FIELD (obsolete, 1 mile north-east of Kingswinford (SO 8989).) ? *Bickenhill* 1671 Tipton ParReg, *Bickingsfield* 1749 Bowen, *Becknells Field* 1834 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but if ancient, possibly from ME *bigging* 'a building', later 'an outbuilding, an outhouse'. Cf. Bickenhall, Somerset; Bickenhill, Warwickshire.

BEDINTUN (obsolete.) 1½ miles south-east of Penkridge (SJ 9413). *Bedintun* 993x996 (11th century, S.879), 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Beddintone* 1086 DB, *Bedintonæ* 11th century Sawyer 1979a: xxxv. The earliest spellings suggest 'Bēda's tūn'. The half hide held here in DB was in the early 12th century in two equal parts called *Bedintun* and *Pilatehala* (Sawyer 1979a: xxix), where *Bedintun* is described as *vasta* 'waste', and is later represented by *Pillaton* (q.v.): VCH IV 44 fn. The personal name Bēda is found in *Bednall* (q.v.), three miles away: the same person may have given his name to both places. It is unclear whether *Bederetan* (q.v.) refers to this place.

BEDERETAN The name *Bederetan* which appears in a fragment of charter possibly dating from 982x1006 (SRO D603/A/Add/3; see also SHC 1937 6-7), has not been identified, but might be *Bedintun* (q.v.) or *Barton* near *Bradley* (q.v.).

BEDNALL in Baswich parish, 4 miles south-east of Stafford (SJ 9517). *Bedehala* 1086 DB, *Bedenhal'*, *Bedenhala* (p) 1194 StCart, *Bodenhale* 1242 Fees, *Bedenhale* 1257 (p) FineR, *Bedenhale*, *Bedenhulle* 1271 SHC V (i) 145, 149, *Bydenhale* 1323 CoramR, *Bedenhal* 1332 SHC X (i) 118, *Bedenall* 1369 RB 1907 127, *Bednoll* 1610 Speed. From the OE personal name Bēda with OE *halh*, in this case with the sense 'valley' or 'hollow': the place lies in a large shallow basin. The same personal name is found in *Bedintun* (q.v.), three miles away, and the same person may have given his name to both places.

BEECH in the Hanchurch Hills, 5 miles south of Newcastle under Lyme (SJ 8538). *la Bech* 1178 SHC I 93, *Beche* 1199 SHC II 83, *Bleche* (sic) 1235 SHC 1911 43, *Beche* 1240 (1798) Shaw I xxv, 1288 SHC 19 1 43, 1311 SHC X (i) 9, 1550-1 SHC 1939 36, 1566 SHC 1931 207, *le Beh* 1284 SHC I 173, *Le Bech* 1284 FA, *La Besch* 1306 SHC VII 162, *The Beach* 1673 Blome, *Beche Beach* 1747 Bowen. From OE *bece* 'stream, stream valley': there is a ravine-like valley here which has long been worked for building stone. Philologically a derivation from OE *bēce* 'beech tree' is possible, but can probably be discounted not only on topographical grounds, but because beech is generally held to have been native in England south of a line from The Wash to south Wales (Clapham, *et al* 1962: 74; Rackham 1980: 10, 141, 211; Rodwell 1991: 23; Rackham 1990: 5), though some authorities question whether it is native at all (see QJF April 2002 97). *Beech Eyrs*, recorded in this area c.1684 (SRO D641/5/T/2/49), is probably to be associated with this place, though the second word is unexplained.

BEECH DALE 1 mile south of Trentham (SJ 8537). *Beech-dale* 1741 Synnerton ParReg, *Beech Dale* 1836 O.S. 'The dale or valley at Beech (q.v.).

BEECHENHILL (FARM) 1 mile north-west of Ilam (SK 1252). *Bychenne Hill, Bychen Hill, Bechenhill, Bechen Hill* 1542 SHC 1912 144-6, *Bytchyn Hyll Bothome* 1552 SHC 1912 184, *Bitchen hill* 1611 Senior, *Beechin Hill* 1732 Ilam ParReg, *Beechin Hill* 1880 Kelly. The earliest spellings support a derivation from OE *bicce* 'a bitch', perhaps used in names for a place haunted by bitches, or where hounds were bred and kept (EPNE i 34; VEPN I 96), with the not unusual change to *beech* when the word bitch became used as a term of opprobrium, probably in the 15th century, so 'hill of the bitches' becoming 'hill of the beeches': this place lies on the side of a hill of 1103' on which burial mounds and earthworks are recorded: see VCH I 190; StEnc 42. The appearance of *bicce* in a number of names with 'hill' has not been satisfactorily explained, but see VEPN I 96. Two burial mounds are recorded in 1845 (Bateman 1861: 152) as *Bitchinhill Harbour*, the Harbour element perhaps from OE *eorþburg* 'earthen fortification': a D-shaped earthwork and enclosure of Iron Age/Romano-British date lies south of the farm: PDNPAS. See also VCH I 376; WMA 1987 30 28. Cf. Beechingstoke, Wiltshire; Beechen Cliff in Bath, Somerset.

BEELOW HILL an 852' hill ½ mile east of Oakamoor (SK 0644). *Below Hill* 1775 Yates, *Beelow* 1787 SRO D240/D/239, *Bee Low Hill* 1798 Yates, *Beelow Hill* 1836 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced (and the name might result from 18th century antiquarianism), but if ancient possibly from OE *bēo*, *hlāw* 'bumblebee tumulus': there is a tumulus near the summit. The name is not unique in this region: see PN Db 160, 184

BEESTON TOR a pronounced hill ½ mile south of Wetton, on the river Manifold near its junction with the river Hamps (SK 1054). *Grene Beston* c.1547 SHC 1910 63, *Beistone, Grene Beistone, Greene Beyston* 1552 SHC 1912 197-8-9, *Bystorn* 1671 Alstonefield ParReg, *Beeston Torr* 1686 Plot 89, *Beeston Ptar* 1750 Boccocke, *Beeston Tor* 1836 O.S. A name of uncertain derivation. There are four examples of Beeston in Norfolk, one in Nottinghamshire, and one in Cheshire. The latter is probably from OE *byge* 'commerce', with OE *stān* 'stone', hence 'the stone where trading took place': Ekwall 1960: 35. Perhaps here from OE *bēos* 'coarse grass', or possibly from the ON personal name Bōsi, with OE *tūn*, but neither suggestion seems entirely satisfactory. It has been noted (StEnc 42) that the hill contains many small holes in the rock, so possibly from OE *bēo* 'bumblebee'. The 1552 forms are probably an aberration. The name *Bisech* (recorded in 1199 SHC III 36) may possibly be associated with this place. *Ptar* appears to be Boccocke's idiosyncratic rendering of *tor*, a word found in moorland areas meaning 'a high outcrop': see Yelpersley Torr. It is unclear whether *Beeston*, recorded in 1281 (SHC 1911 107), is to be associated with this place.

BEFFCOTE in Gnosall parish, 5 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8019). *Beficote* 1086 DB, *Beffecote* 1277 FF, *Deffecote* (sic) 1293 SHC VI (i) 289, *Berscote, Bescott, Besscot* 13th century Duig, *Beofscote* 1343, 1352 Banco, *Berscote* 1367 SHC VIII NS 35, *Beffcott* 1618 SHC VI NS (i) 53, *Beffcote* 1833 O.S. From the OE personal name Beffa, with OE *cot* 'cot, cottage, shelter, hut', so 'Beffa' cottage'. It is evident that medieval scribes confused the place with Bescot (q.v.), possibly due to *f* and *s* being much alike in early writing, an error often repeated: Bowen's 1749 map of Staffordshire shows the place as Bescot. But the many examples of misspellings of Beffcote itself, even in the parish registers, suggest that locally the names were interchangeable.

BEGGARS BUSH (obsolete) at New Oscott, 2 miles south-west of Sutton Coldfield (SO 0994), *beggers bush* 1686 Plot, *Beggar's Bush* 1821 PN Wa, 1834 O.S.; **BEGGARS BUSH** (obsolete) on the Stourbridge-Wolverhampton road, 1 mile south of Wombourne (SO 8792), near the north-west corner of Himley Park, *beggers bush* 1686 Plot 213, *Beggars Bush* 1834 O.S.; **BEGGARS BUSH** (unlocated, fields in Castle Church), *Near and Far Beggars Bush* 1788 Oakden 1984: 78; **BEGGARS BUSH** (unlocated, between Whiston and Penkridge), *Congreve Field voc' the Beggar's Bush* ('Congreve Field called the Beggar's Bush') 1732 perambulation (Oakden 1984: 99); **BEGGARS BUSH** (unlocated, north-west of Wigginton), *Beggars-bush* 1798 Shaw I 432; **BEGGARS BUSH** at The Lea, Wolverhampton (SO 9097), *Beggars Bush* 1832 WA I 385. It has been suggested that this common name may be a derogatory term for a poor dwelling or infertile land: see PN Nt 298; PN Sr 371; PN Wo 338; Field 1993: 108; VEPN I 67-8. Halliwell states that 'To go by beggar's bush' is to go on the road to ruin, confirmed by Brewer 1894, which adds that Beggars Bush is the name of a tree which once stood on the left hand of the London road from Huntingdon to Caxton, so-called because it was a noted rendezvous for beggars. *Beggar* is not recorded in OE: Duignan 1902: 12 cites *Beggares-thorn*, but the name is from a spurious charter of 975 (12th century, S.804), which contains ME names. It seems possible that the name has been linked to particular bushes. The name Beggars Bush at New Oscott is associated with a large hawthorn on the boundary of the parishes of Sutton Coldfield and Perry Barr, and of the counties of Stafford and Warwick. Beggars Bush near Wombourne may be associated with a great white thorn recorded in the area in 1317 (1801 Shaw II 213), perhaps *le Merethorne* (from OE *(ge)māre* 'boundary, border', hence 'the boundary thorn') recorded in 1320: SHC 1928 31. It is also possible that some places are so-named ironically: from medieval times a bush was the symbol for a beerhouse, and a 1622 comedy by Fletcher and Massinger was called *The Beggar's Bush*. Teesdale's map of 1834 and the tithe map of 1838 show *Tinker's Bush* on the north side of Brome. Cf. *Beggar's Bush* in Powys, 3 miles west of Presteigne.

BEIGHTERTON 1 mile south-west of Blymhill, in Weston-under-Lizard parish (SJ 8011). *Bertone* 1086 DB, *Bethertona* c.1200 SHC VIII 194, *Becterton'* 1242 Fees, *Bertherton* 1534 W, *Beghterton* (p) 1302 Ass, *Beyghterton* 1392 CovRoll (p), *Beytharton* 1565 SHC XVII 214, *Biterton* 1682 Browne, *Beighterton* 1833 O.S. Perhaps 'Beorhtthere's *tūn*', or possibly from OE **bēg-þorn* 'berry thorn', perhaps the Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), known as the waythorn in Shropshire (Grigson 1958: 154; see JEPNS 1999-2000 32 21-2).

BELANESTON (unlocated) *Belaneston* 1227 SHC IV 53. Possibly Barlaston.

BELLAMOUR 2 miles north of Rugeley (SK 0420). *Bellamore* 1680 SHC 1919 285, *Bellamore hall* 1747 Bowen, *Bellamour* 1778 SRO D538/A/5/52. Named after a house built here in about 1639 by Herbert Aston, of the Astons of Tixall, which was given the name *Bell amore* (Italian 'good love') because it was completed by the benevolence and assistance of his friends, and probably with reference to his wife: see Erdeswick 1844: 225; SHC 1914 155-6; Parker 1897: 143; StEnc 43. The name survives in Bellamour Lodge Farm.

BELL FIELD FARM on Watling Street, 1 mile south-west of Wheaton Aston (SJ 8610). Perhaps to be associated with *Belle*, recorded in 1356 (SHC XI 173). Shaw (1801: II 304) records *Belne* in this

area in 1307; Elienor' de Belle is recorded in Engleton in 1332 (SHC X 121), Rad'o de Belne is recorded in Stretton in the same year (*ibid.* 122), and Rog'o de Belle of Stretton in 1327 (SHC VII 244). Ann Bell of Stretton is recorded in 1605 (Penkridge ParReg). Engleton and Stretton both lie within a mile or so of Bell Field Farm. Belvide Reservoir (q.v.) lies immediately south of this place, and The Bell public house (*Bell* 1775 Yates) nearby to the east is recorded (as *Bleu Bell*) from at least 1648 (PA). It is possible that the name is from OE *beolone* 'helbane', perhaps applied to a stream (cf. Belbroughton, Worcestershire, *on (aqua que vocatur) Beolne, (aqua de) Beolne* 1300: Ekwall 1928: 32-3; PN Wo 274-5) in the sense 'the stream on whose banks henbane grows', perhaps the brook that runs on the south side of Watling Street through Horsebrook. Henbane appears to have been widely found in Staffordshire: see Shaw 1798: I 105. It has been suggested that OE *beolone* is a word of Celtic origin, derived from Belenos, the name of a deity, but see Ekwall 1928: 33; VEPN I 83. Other possible derivations for this place are from OE *bēl* 'fire' (the place lies on a hill on Watling Street with far-reaching views east and west: cf. Beacon Hill; VEPN I 78), or OE *belle* used as a hill-name: there are long rising approaches along Watling Street from both west and east.

BELMONT HALL 1 mile west of Ipstones (SK 0049). *Bellemont* 1775 Yates, *Belmont* 1798 Yates, 1836 O.S. Evidently from French *bel mont* 'beautiful mount'. The name is said to date from the building of Belmont Hall c.1770: Brighton 1937: 44. Curiously, the 1836 O.S. map shows two places called Belmont south-west of Ipstones. It is unclear whether the names *Beumund* recorded in 1176 (SHC 1924 239), *Belmunt* c.1177 (*ibid.* 83), *Bellomonte* 1203 (SHC III 117), 1280 (SHC VI (i) 108), *Bealmonnd*, recorded in 1344 (SRO DW1733/A/2/20), and *Bellemont*, recorded in 1378 (SHC VIII NS 74), are to be associated with this place.

BELMOT GATE 2 miles south-west of Tutbury (SK 1926). *Bellmott gate* 1559 (1798) Shaw I 60, *Belmot* 1686 Plot, *Belmoat* 1798 Yates. The age of the name is uncertain, but perhaps from ME *belle* 'bell' and ME *mote* 'hillock, mound, tumulus', so 'the bell-shaped mound or tumulus'. Possibly one of the gates to Stockley Park.

BELOCKES BRIDGE (unlocated, on the river Tame, possibly near Salter's Bridge (q.v.)) *Belockes bridge* 1609 (1798) Shaw I 138. DES 38 gives Bellock as a dialectal form of the common French place-name Beaulieu, from which there seems to have been also a personal name Beloc, so 'the bridge associated with a man named Beloc'.

BELVIDE RESERVOIR 2 miles north-west of Brewood (SJ 8610). *Belvide Reservoir* 1895 O.S. Built as a feeder for the Shropshire Union Canal in 1834 on Belvide Fields (*Belvide Fields* 1832 Teesdale), perhaps from dog-French *bel vide* 'beautiful view', but see also Bell Field Farm, which lies on the north side of the reservoir, and which doubtless influenced this name.

BELWOODE (unlocated) *Belwoode* 1526 SRO D1810/f290.

BEMERSLEY GREEN 3 miles north-east of Tunstall (SJ 8854). *Bemreslega* 1199 SHC III (i) 40, *Bemeresleg* 1252 Ch, *Bemblersleye* 1326 JNSFC LIX 1924-5, *Bemerusley* 1362-3 *ibid.* 58, *Bemblersley* 1426 SHC XVII 109, *Bemmasley* 1581 Biddulph ParReg, *Bemmersley* 1616 SHC IV NS 90, *Bemersley* 1619 SHC VII NS 204, *Bemersley Green* 1635 SHC 1910 251. Literally 'the *lēah* of the trumpeter',

from OE *bēmere* (OE *bēme*, *bȳme* 'trumpet'), but the word is now also believed to mean a type of bird, perhaps a bittern, also called in modern English 'boomer', named from its trumpet-like call, so in this case more likely to be 'the *lēah* of the bittern': see Hough 1998: 60-76. The word *bittern*, not recorded in English before the 14th century, is apparently from OFr. Cf. Bemerhills and Bemerton, Wiltshire.

BENNETSHAY (unlocated, in Keele.) *Bennethay* 1410 Harrison 1986: 21. 'The hay or enclosure of the man called Bennet), from Mercian OE (*ge*)*heg*.

BENNYSTOILS (unlocated, in the Bentley/Rushall/Great Bloxwich area.) *Benyngheshale (brouk)* 1300 SHC V (i) 177, *Bettyngeshale* 1306 SHC VII 171, *Beryngeshale* 1362 SRO DW1082/A/4/5, *Brennydhalle* 1396 SHC 1950-1 25, *Mag's Benyngsale in Great Bloxwich* 1430 SRO D593/B/1/26/6/5/8, *Benyngsall (alias Hathes leasow alias Wylbruche in Wednesfield)* 1542 SRO D593/B/1/26/1/8/14-15, *Benningsalls in Great Bloxwich* 1668 SRO D260/M/T/2/63, *Benningsalls in Rushall* 1703 SRO D260/M/T/2/63, *Bennystoils* 1734 SRO D260/M/E/426/2. Presumably connected with Benynscrosse (q.v.). Henr' Benynes is recorded at Wrottesley in 1327 (SHC VII (i) 251), and Ric'o Benyn in 1333 (SHC X 131). From the OE personal name *Benning (DES 39), with OE *halh*.

BENT END FARM 1 mile north-east of Heaton (SJ 9663), *Bent* 1842 O.S. Probably from OE *beonet* 'bent-grass'.

BENT FARM between Blymhill and Wheaton Aston (SJ 8312), *The Bent* 1832 Blymhill ParReg, *Bent Farm* 1833 O.S.; **THE BENT** 1 mile south-west of Longnor (SK 0762), *The Bent* 1642 ParReg, 1775 Yates. From OE *beonet* 'place with rough coarse grass': cf. Bentley.

BENTELEE (WOOD) 1½ miles north of Whitmore (SJ 8143). ? *Bentlee* 1240 (1798) Shaw I xxx, ? *Bentelee* c.1295 SHC 4th IV 243, *Benteleghe* 1348 SHC 1913 248, *Benteley* 1586 SHC 1927 172;

BENTILEE PARK 2 miles south-east of Abbot's Bromley (SK 1022), *Benetleyahurst*, *Benethleyehurst*, *Benethlega* ? 13th century SHC V (i) 71, *Bentileghehurste* c.1305 SHC 1937 27, *Benethelehurst* c.1245 *ibid.* 63, *Beneteleyehurst temp. Edward I* *ibid.* 113, *Bentylee Farm* 1741 DW1734/2/3/159, *Bentilee* 1836 O.S.; **BENTILEE** on the north side of Ubbertley (SK 9146), *Bentteley* 1775 Yates. From OE *beonet* 'coarse wildgrass, bent-grass', sometimes alternating with the ME adjective **benti* 'growing with rushes or coarse grass' (see VEPN I 83, 81, which cites a similar alternation in West Yorkshire), with OE *lēah*, hence '*lēah* overgrown with rushes or coarse grass', with the second example showing influence from the OE proposition *beneoþan* 'beneath, under, below', perhaps for 'beneath Le Hurst'. *Hurst(e)* is from OE *hyrst* 'hillock, copse, wooded eminence'.

BENTHAM (obsolete, 1 mile north of Eccleshall (SJ 8331).) *Bentham* 1833 O.S. The age of the name is unknown, and the place is now known as Little Ankerton. The earlier name may be associated with the Bentham family: see Shaw 1801: II app. 5-8.

BENTHEAD ½ mile north-east of Bradnop (SK 0155). *Benthead* 1836 O.S.; **BENT HEAD** ½ mile west of Upper Hulme (SK 0061), *Bent Head* 1842 O.S. Probably from OE *beonet* 'bent-grass', with OE *hēafod* 'head, headland, summit, upper end'. There was a dialect word *bent* 'the slope or hollow of a hill', which might be appropriate with *hēafod*, but it is mainly recorded in the south of England (OED). *Benthead*, recorded in 1637 (Leek ParReg), may refer to either (or neither) of these places.

BENTLEY 2 miles west of Walsall (SO 9899), *Benætlea*, *Benetlegh*, 12th century Duig, ? *Benetcle*, *Benetcle* 1250 Fees, *Beneytleg* 1255 Fees, *Benetley*, *Benetleye* 13th century Duig; **BENTLEY FARM** 1½ miles west of Hamstall Ridware (SK 0818), *Benetlegh* 1277 SHC 1911 169, *Bonedleg*, *Bonedle* c.temp. Richard I (1798) Shaw I 200, *Benteleyes* 1627 SBT DR18/1/1908, *Old Bentley* 1834 O.S.; **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOTE** 3 miles south-east of Bromsgrove (SO 9866). *Beneslei* 1086 DB, *Benetlega*, *Benetlege* 1185, *Bunetleg* 1280, *Benetley in Fekenham forest* 1281, *Benteley in Tardebigg* 1499, *Stretch Bentley* 1578 (all PN Wo 366), *Bentley-Pauncefoot* c.1616 Erdeswick 1844: 377; **BENTLEY** (obsolete) between Hoccum and Swancote, 1 mile south-west of Worfield (SO 7493), *Bentley* 1752 Rocque, 1833 O.S. From OE *beonet* 'bent-grass', a word found only in place-names and later meaning a coarse, stiff reedy or rush-like grass found on the acid soils of high moorland, with OE *lēah*, hence 'lēah overgrown with bent-grass'. Bentley near Walsall was one of the Hays of Cannock Forest. *Pauncefote* is from Richard Panzeuot who held land here in 1185, and *Stretch* is from the Streche family who held land here in 1275: PN Wo 366. Bentley Pauncefote is in Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire. *Fenney Benteley*, recorded in 1315 (SHC 1911 87), has not been identified.

BENTLEY BROOK a tributary of the river Trent, *Bentley Brook* 1769 Survey; **BENTLEY BROOK** a tributary of the river Tame. From OE *beonet* 'bent-grass' with OE *lēah* and OE *brōc* 'brook'. Cf. Bentley.

BENTS, THE on the south-west side of Withington (SK 0234). *bent* 1327 Tax, *The Bents* 1836 O.S. from OE *beonet* 'bent-grass'.

BENTY GRANGE 1 mile north-west of Waterhouses (SK 0650). *Benty Grange* 1836 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but perhaps from a ME adjective **benti* 'growing with rushes or coarse grass'.

BENYNOSCROSSE (unlocated, near Oldfallings.) *Benynscrosse* 1431 SHC XVII 130. Presumably associated with Bennystoils (q.v.).

BEOBRIDGE 1 mile south of Claverley (SO 7991). *Beebrugiam*, *Bewbridge*, *Beebrugia* c.1180-6 Rees 1985 48., *Beebrugge* 1194, *Bebrig* 1200, 1203, *Bebrug* 1255, *Bewbrugge* 1272-81, *Bebruge* 1274, *Bebrugg* 1292 (all from Bocock 1923: 41), *Bebrugger* 1298 TSAS LXXI 1996 27, *brugg* 1301 Rees 1975 248, *Bewbreche* 1525 SR, *Baybryge* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 125, *Bewbridge* 1535-6 Bocock 1923: 41, *Beybriche* 1536 MA, *Bewbridge otherwise Bebridge* 1588 SHC XVII 236, *Beabridge* 1700 Bocock. Perhaps from OE *bēo brycg*, here meaning 'the bridge at which bees were found' (cf. Beeford, Yorkshire). In Shropshire since the 12th century.

BERDINGESTON (unlocated) *Berdingeston* 1235 Fees. Perhaps from an OE personal name **Beording* (a derivative of **Beord*: see Beardmoors), so here '**Beording's tūn*'.

BERESFORD 2 miles south-east of Sheen, on the river Dove (SK 1259). *Beveresfort* 1275 SHC V (i) 117, *Beveresford* 1277 SHC 1911 168, 1304 SHC VII 120, 1306 *ibid.* 177, 1307 *ibid.* 172, *Bereresford* 1304 *ibid.* 280, *Beresford* 1414 SHC XVII 13, *Berisford* 1561 *ibid.* 210. 'Beaver's ford', from OE *beofor* 'beaver': the animal is said to have become extinct by about the 12th century in southern Britain

(JEPNS 34 2000-1 19). A mistaken etymology of the name led the Beresford family to adopt a crest of arms incorporating a bear: VHC VII 11.

BERKHAMSYTCH (UPPER & LOWER) 2 miles north-east of Ipstones (SK 0452). *Birkham Sitch* 1678 Okeover T755, *Birkemstich* 1851 White, *Upper Bircumsitch*, *Lower Bircumsitch* 1890 O.S., *Bircumsych* TNSFC 1908 133. A curious name. The last element is evidently OE *sīc* 'stream'. The first word may be from OE *berc* (usually found in place-names as Bark-, Berk-: see EPNE I 28-9) 'birch-tree', with OE *hām* 'village', although no such place has been traced in the area.

BERKSWICH - see **BASWICH**.

BERLEG unlocated, perhaps near Callowhill, between Newton and Bagot's Bromley, or at Stansley: SRO D603/A/Add/117-8. *Berleg* 1252 SHC 1937 47, *Hay de Berley* 1257 StThomas, *Burleya* 1271 SHC 1937 71, *Berleye* 1300 SHC VII (i) 71, *Berley* 1304 SHC 1911 273, *Birleye* 1323 SHC 1937 123, *Berleye* 1325 *ibid.* 124. The various forms preclude any firm derivation. See also Stansley (Wood).

BERNARDSCROFT, BARNARDSMORE (unlocated, possibly near Rudyard or Wolve Dale.) *Bernardscroft*, *Bernardsmore* 13th century SHC IX NS 313-4, *Bernardescroftes* 1343 SRO D3272/1/14/1/14-19. See also Barns Lee, Barnswood.

BERNARD'S HALL (unlocated, in Morfe Forest: Eyton 1854-60: III 114.) *Bernard's Hall* 1292 Eyton 1854-60: III 114.

BERNARDUM (unlocated) *Bernardum* 1203 SHC III 104.

BERNE (unlocated, possibly near Swynnerton.) *Berne* 1304 SHC 1911 273, 1415 SHC XVII 55.

BERNEFELD (unlocated, in Tipton.) ? *Bernesfeld* 1306 SHC 1911 65, *Bernefeld* 1396 SHC XV 68.

BERRY HILL 1 mile north of Fenton (SJ 9046), *Berihul* 1212 SHC 1911 386, *Buryhill* 1567 SHC XIII 264, *Berryshill* 1573 SHC 1938 138, *Berriehill* 1586 SHC 1927 128 (but may refer to Berryhill Farm near Barlaston), *Bury Hill* 1798 Yates, 1799 Faden, *Berry Hill* 1836 O.S.; **BERRYHILL FARM** 2 miles east of Barlaston (SJ 9238), *Beryhulle* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 12, 1549 SHC IV NS 114, *Bere Hill* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 134, *Beryryhill* 1552 SHC XII 209, *Buryhill* 1567 SHC XIII 264, *Berriehill* 1586 SHC 1927 128, *Berrihill* 1697 SHC 1910 231; **BERRYHILL** 2 miles north-east of Stafford (SJ 9525), *Berry Hill* 1836 O.S.; **BERRY HILL** 1 mile north of Maer (SJ 7939), *Berry Hill* 1833 O.S.; **BERRY HILL** between Tixall and Milford (SJ 9722), *Berry Hill* 1950 O.S.; **BERRYHILL** ½ mile east of Oat Hill, Cannock Chase (SJ 9820), *Berry Hill* 1949 O.S.; **BERRYHILL** (unlocated, in Tutbury), *Berryhill* 1782 SRO D15/11/14/87. *Buri* is a ME form of *byrig*, dative of OE *burh* 'fortified place' - many of these names mark the site of ancient earthworks. Some names may be from OE *beorg* 'hill', but the element appears to have been used for hills with a regular well rounded shape, and whilst the element is recorded as meaning 'mound', *hlāw* is the usual term for mounds and tumuli in Staffordshire. See also Bury Hill; Burouestone.

BERRY RING an iron-age hillfort 2 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8821). *Bury* 1278 SHC VI (i) 88, *Buryhil* 1470 Rental VCH I 335-6, *Buryhill* 1471 VCH IV 74, ? *Les Buroughs* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 21. *Buri* is a ME form of *byrig*, dative of OE *burh* 'fortified place'. The name *Billandbury* (SHC VIII (i)

122) may refer to this place, but its meaning is uncertain unless a corrupt form of 'Billington bury': see Billington.

BERRY RING FARM 2 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8821). *Bury Farm* 1836 O.S. From OE *burh* 'fortification, fortified place', with reference to the nearby Berry Ring (q.v.) hillfort.

BERTH, THE an iron-age hillfort ½ mile north-west of Maer (SJ 7939). ? *Erthbiri* 1227 SHC IV 43, ? *Burth*, *Burgh* 1281 SHC VI (i) 121, *the Broughe*, *Brugh* c.1565 SHC 1938 24-5, *the Borough* c.1598 Erdeswick, *The Brough*, *Bruff* 1686 Plot 408, *The Borough* 1747 Bowen, *Byrth* 1775 Yates, 1812 GM Pt II 602-6. From OE *burh* 'a fortified place'. OE final *-h* of *burh* can develop into modern *-f* (cf. the pronunciation of Modern *laugh*, *tough*), and this had led to *burh* becoming Burf rather than Borough in names such as Abdon Burf and Clee Burf (Shropshire), and Burfa Banks (Radnorshire), which are all hill-forts (Gelling 1988: 144), see also Burf Castle. In areas where the form Burf was common, the confusion of *-f* with *-th* has led to the names of some hill-forts developing into Berth, for example The Berth near Baschurch, Shropshire: see Gelling 1988: 144. The earliest spelling is evidently from OE *eorð-burh* 'earthen fortification'. The 1281 spellings may refer to Brough Hall near Gnosall: SHC VI (i) 121.

BERTHERTON (unlocated, in or near Blithfield.) *Bertherton* 1391 SRO D986/40.

BERTRAMSCOTE (unlocated, possibly Bescot (q.v.)) *Bertramscote* 1302 SHC VII 100. 'Bertram's cottage'. Bertram is from OFr *Bertran*(t), OGerman *Bertram*, *Bertran*(d): DES 30.

BESCOT 1½ miles west of Walsall (SP 0097). *Bresmvndescote* 1086 DB, *Bermonscot* 1240 (1801) Shaw II 89, *Bercumdescote* 1271 SHC IV 183, *Bermundescote* 1273 Ass, *Bermondscote*, *Bermonscote*, *Beremundescote*, *Bermundescote* 13th century Duig, *Bertmescote* 1306 (1798) Shaw I 71, *Berkumscote* 1345 *ibid.* 94, *Berscote* 1349 Sims 1882: 13, *Berpmescote* 1350 SHC 1928 78, *Berkescote* 1356 SHC 1913 168, *Berkumscote* 1360 SHCVIII NS 6, *Berkmondscote* 14th century Duig, *Bascot* 1686 Plot 315, *Berkenscote or Bescote* c.1727 SOT D260/M/T/2/74. 'Beorhtmund's cottage', from OE *cot* 'cot, cottage, shelter, hut'. Shaw 1801: II 81 suggests that the place was anciently called *Berkenscote*. It would appear that the place was also known as Littleton in the 16th century (*Littleton* 1596 SHC 1932 183, *Lytteldon* 1597 *ibid.* 347). See also Bertramscote.

BESSY BANKS GRAVE (obsolete) on the north-western side of Lichfield (SK 1010). *Bessy Banks Grave* 1815 O.S. No information has been traced to explain this name.

BETHENEY, BETHENEI - see STAFFORD; BROAD EYE.

BETLEY 6½ miles north-west of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 7548). *Betelege* 1086 DB, *Bettelega* 1175 P, *Betteleg* 13th century Duig, *Bettileg* 1272-3 SHC XI NS 245, *Betunleg* 1289 SHC 1911 45, *Bettyleye* 1325 *ibid.* 365, *Betteley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 46, *Betle* 1605 SHC 1940 223. Perhaps from an OE masculine personal name *Betta, with OE *lēah*. The *-an* genitive singular ending, thought to be represented by persistent *-e-*, only indicates a weak noun, not its gender. It was at one time said (e.g. Ekwall 1960: 40) that this place, and nearby Audley, Balterley and Barthomley (the last in Cheshire) all have the names of females, but this place need not, and it is not certain that Barthomley (q.v.) is from a personal name.

BETSFEILDE (unlocated, between Newport and Market Drayton.) *Betsfeilde* 1598 SHC 1935 158. Perhaps from the OE personal name Bette or similar, with OE *feld* 'open ground', so 'the open ground associated with Bette'.

BEULEG (unlocated, said to be Bewley, near Pendeford (SHC 1928 111), which has not been traced, though *Clewley* is recorded (1946 O.S.) ½ mile north-east of Pendeford Mill (SJ 8904).) *Beuleg* 1310 SHC 1928 111. An interesting name, perhaps from French Beaulieu 'beautiful place': see Bewdley.

BEVERLEY HALL (obsolete.) A prebendal manor-house in Gnosall. *Beverley Hall* 1366 Lich Episc Reg, *Berlay hall* 1399 Pat, *Beverlehall* 1496 SHC 4th Series VII 169, *Beverly hall at Gnostall* c.1502 Bod. 28. Probably after Thomas de Beverley, a prebendary of Gnosall in 1223: SHC 1927 110; 1923 271. The hall was still standing in 1580, but not by 1677 (VCH IV 115). It may have been on the Stafford to Gnosall road in a field called Barley (Beverley ?) Orchard, where moated remains have been recorded: SHC 1927 110.

BEWDLEY 3 miles south-east of Upper Arley (SO 7875). This extra-parochial place was included in Staffordshire in the 15th century, but usually considered to be in Worcestershire, to which it was assigned by statute in 1543: Youngs 1991: 403. *Beuleu*, *Beauleu*, *Beaulieu* from 1275 SR to 1424 Ipm, *Bellum Locum* 1308 Pat, *Buleye* 1316 Ipm, *Beudle* 1335 Ipm, *Beudeley* 1349 Pat, *Beaudeley* 1381 Ipm, 1365 Pat, *Bewdeley* 1547 Pat. The name, from French *beau* 'beautiful, fine, splendid', and *lieu* 'place, locality, spot', so 'beautiful place', is a common type of laudatory French place-name. See also Beuleg.

BEYVIL (unlocated; if in Staffordshire possibly near Chelle, or perhaps simply a family name, from Biéville in France: see CEC 191.) ? *Boevilla* 1171 CEC 191, *Beyvil*, *Beyvill* 1250 SHC XI 319, *Beville* c.1250 *ibid.* 310, *Beville* 1254 SHC 1911 123, *Bevvul* 1256 *ibid.* 126, *Beyvile* c.1230 SHC 1911 445, *Boyville* 1326 SHC 1911 372, *Bevil*, *Burville*, *Buivil*, *Beville*, *Beyvil* ? 14th century SHC XI 309. The spellings *Buville*, *Bevill*, *Beuvil*, *Beuvilla* are also recorded: SHC XI 320-1. Possibly *beau ville* 'beautiful village', a Norman-French name. See also SHC 1911 445.

BEXMORE FARM (obsolete.) 1 mile east of Lichfield (SK 1310). *Berkesmoor* 1574 VCH XIV 277. Perhaps from the OE personal name Beorcol or similar, or OE *berc* (usually found in place-names as Bark-, Berk-: see EPNE I 28-9) 'birch-tree', with OE *mōr* 'moorland', so 'Beorcol's moor' or 'birch moor'.

BEYTE BRIGE (unlocated, in Alstonefield parish.) *Beyte Brige* c.1576 SHC 1931 186. Possibly from ON *beit* 'bite, pasture', so 'the bridge at the pasture called Beit'.

BIHYLLS 2 miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8797). *the bill*, *the Bills* 1647 Survey, *the Bill* 1775 Yates, *Bhylls* 1895 O.S. Possibly from OE *bill* 'a sword, a bill, a prominent hill', or OE *bile* 'a beak, a hill', used in a topographical sense of a promontory. The intrusive -h- appears to be a relatively recent affectation.

BICKFORD 2 miles west of Penkridge (SJ 8814). *Bigeford* 1086 DB, *Bykford*, *Bicford* 1251 Ass, *Bikeford*, *Bykeford* 1263 Ipm, *Bigesford* 1307 (p) GDR, *Whistone Bikforde* 1379-81 PollTax, *Bick(e)ford(e)*, *Byckford(e)* 1547 Pat, *Bickford* 1614 Ct, 1834 O.S. Bick forms the first element to a large number of place-names, such as Bickenhall, Bickenhill, Bickham, Bickley, Bicton, Bickmarsh,

etc. Possibly 'Bic(c)a's ford', or from OE **bica*, a word believed to denote a topographical feature having the appearance of a bill or a beak, and thought to be the root of names such as Purbeck, Dorset: see VEPN I 96. Cf. Bicton, Shropshire. The place lies near Whiston Brook at the eastern end of a pronounced ridge or promontory which may be the **bica*.

BIDDLE, RIVER or BIDDULPH BROOK a tributary of the river Dane. *Bidle water* 1577 Saxton. A back-formation from the place-name Biddulph (q.v.).

BIDDULPH Ancient Parish (pronounced biddle [bɪdl]), 7 miles north of Stoke-on-Trent (SJ 8856). *Bidolf* 1086 DB, 1227 CH, *Middle Bidolf*, *Holm-Bidolf* 1208 SHC III 173, *Middel Bidulf* 1272 SHC 1911 31, *Bydoulf* 1284-5 SHC 1910 299, *Bydulf* 1291 Tax, *Bydulfe* 1332 SHC X 97, *Bedell* 1425 SHC XVII 109, *Nether Biddulph* 1427 Ct, *Bedyll* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 35, *Biddle* c.1540 Leland. From OE **dylf* 'a digging', which would be expected to give *dulf* in the West Midlands, from OE *delfan* 'to dig' (cf. modern *delve*), with OE *bi* 'by' (typically followed by no definite article), giving '(the place) by the mine or quarry', almost certainly with reference to ancient stone quarries, which still exist. The 1208 *Holm* reference (from ON *holmr* 'a small island, a piece of land on a stream, dry ground in a marsh') is unclear. There were three manors in Biddulph: Over, Middle and Nether Biddulph: SHC IV 21. Chetwynd states that in 1769 Upper Biddulph was also known as Overton (q.v.), and Middle Biddulph as Middleston (q.v.): SHC XII 7. For a reference in 1563 to '*mines, delphes and quarries*', see SHC 1931 183.

BIDDULPH'S POOL 3 miles east of Cannock (SK 0309). *Biddulph's Pool* 1834 O.S. Created in 1734 by John Biddulph, the pool was also known as *Lichfield heath pool* in the early 19th century: VCH XIV 195, 214.

BIGNALL HILL, BIGNALL END, on the east side of Audley (SJ 8150, 8051). *Bikenhou* 1252 Ch, *Bicenhou* 1253 Ward 1843: app. iv, ? *Bydonue* 1278 SHC XI NS 251, *Bygmowe* 1306 SHC VII 163, *Bygenowe* 1306 *ibid.* 164, *Bygenon* 1307 SHC XI NS 263, *Bygenou* 1307 *ibid.* 266, *Bygemor* 1307 *ibid.* 265, *Bykenou* 1327 SHC VII 206, *Bygenowe* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 12, *Bugnall*, *Bignoo*, *Bygnohull* 1492 SHC 1912 256, *Bygnowe* 1492 *ibid.* 257, *Bignoll ende* 1576 SHC XIV 188, 1611 SHC III NS 60, *Bignall Hill* 1588 Audley ParReg, *Bygnowende* 1592 SHC XVIII 6, *Biggenhall* 1609 SHC III NS 34, *Biggnar-end* 1666 SHC 1921 113, *Signal-hill*, *Bignall hill* 1686 Plot, *Bigney Hill* 1744 Burslem ParReg, *Bignole Hill* 1775 Yates, *Signal End*, *Signal Hill* 1833 O.S. A curious and difficult name. The adjective *big* can be ruled out: *micel* is the usual term for 'big, great' in place-names. Some of the forms (which may have transcription errors) seem to suggest a derivation from OWelsh *genou*, the first element in Gnosall (q.v.), with the OE preposition *bi* 'by' (cf. Biddulph, 6 miles to the north-east), so perhaps '(the place) by the mouth (of a valley or stream)', but that combination is very unlikely, and the earliest spellings point towards OE *bican hōh* 'hill-spur with a point', or 'Bica's hill-spur', a fitting description for the 774' Bignall Hill on which stands Wedgwood's Monument: **bica* is an element found mainly in the West Midlands and the south of England (see VEPN I 96). For completeness, the possibility that the second element is from ON *haugr* 'a hill, a mound, a tumulus' cannot be ignored (cf. Wraggoe Wappentake, Lincolnshire (Cameron 1998: 143-4); Gelling & Cole 2000: 174; see also Houndhill). The word *end* (which is very common in this area) meant not a

terminal point, but simply 'a place', and was often applied to squatter dwellings on the outskirts of a settlement. The 1833 O.S. map shows Bignal End at what is now Bignall End Farm, 1 mile north of what is now Bignall End on Raven's Lane, suggesting that the original name was of sufficient importance to cover a considerable area.

BIKERSDALE WOOD 1 mile south-west of Tatenhill (SK 1921). Early spellings have not been traced, and the name is not shown on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836, but possibly (if ancient) from OE *bēocere* 'bee-keeper', so 'the dale or valley of the bee-keeper'.

BILBROOK 4 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8803). *Bilrebroch* 1086 DB, *Bilrebroc*, *Billebroc* 1166 SHC 1923 296, 1227 Ass, *Billebroc* 1167 P, *Balebroc* 1227 SHC IV 46, *Bulebroc* 1228 SHC XVII 46, *Bilroba* c.1250 SHC VI NS (ii) 49, *Bilrebroc* 1271 SHC VI (i) 51, *Byllerbrok* 1275 SHC VI (i) 70, *Billingbrok* 1307 SHC VII 178, *Billurbroke* 1327 SHC VII (i) 251, *Billerbrok* 1376 SHC XIV 140, *Billenbroke* 1425 SHC XVII 106, *Bulderbroke* 1419 *ibid.* 36, *Bellesbrok* 1434 SHC XII (ii) 22, *Bellerbrok* 1435 SHC XI 244, *Bylderbrok*, *Billerbrok* c.1457 SHC VI NS (ii) 101, 108, *Bylbroke*, *Bylderbroke* c.1482 SHC VI NS I 152, *Bilbrooke* 1635 SRO 3764/153. Probably 'brook of the billers or bilders', a dialect name for several water-plants, including watercress, cow parsley, etc. *Billers* (OE *billere*, ME *billure*, *byllerne*) may be of Celtic origin: cf. Welsh *berwr*: VEPN I 100. The brook here - in fact it is a short distance away - might have been expected to bear the same name (VCH I 48 gives it the name Billbrook, but cites no source). It is actually called Moat Brook (*ye mot-brooke* 1638 Codsall ParReg), possibly from moated sites at Moor Hall (obsolete) (q.v.) and Wood Hall (q.v.), Codsall, both on tributaries (cf. *the Mote House* in Codsall, recorded in 1783: WALS DX83/13). Billsmore Wood, Warwickshire (PN Wa 68), Billacombe, Devon (PN D 184), and Bilbrook near Minehead in Somerset (*Bilrebroc* 1227 Pat) are believed to have the same root as this place. *Over Billers Wood* 1 mile south-west of Madeley (SJ 7643) appears on the 1834 O.S. map. Its history and derivation are unknown. *Bilbroke* in the Clipston area of Derbyshire is recorded in 1613: DRO D3155/WH217.

BILL HEATH 2 miles south-west of Brewood (SJ 8706). *The byll heathe* 1562, 1569 Ct, *the Byll* 1567 Ct, *bill heathe* 1597 Codsall ParReg, *the Bill* 1842 TA. Perhaps from OE *bill* 'a sword, a bill, a prominent hill', or OE *bile* 'a beak, a hill', used in a topographical sense of a promontory (perhaps *Byle* recorded in 1414: SHC XVII 17). The place lies below a pronounced headland, and a short distance north of Moat Brook (see Bilbrook).

BILLINGTON in Bradley parish, 3 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8820). *Belintone* 1086 DB, *Billinton* 1204 SHC III (i) 101, *Biledon* 1208 *ibid.* 142, *Billenton* 1208 Cur, *Belinton* 1213 SHC III (i) 161, *Belintton* 1214 Cur, *Belinton* 1285 FA, *Bylington* 1299 SHC VII 64, *Belyngton* 1304 Ass, *Byllynton* 1307 SHC VII 178, *Belenton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 97, *Billington* 1602 SHC 1935 478. A difficult name. Possibly from OE **billing*, based upon OE *bill* 'a sword, an edge, a bill, a prominent hill', or OE *bile* 'beak', with an OE *-ing* suffix giving **tūn* at **Billing*; *tūn* at the **billing*, with **billing* meaning 'hill-place' (VEPN I 100-101; see also Finberg 1975: 41-5; PN Ch V (II) 282). Some place-names (as here) indicate a parallel formation from OE *belle* 'bell-shaped hill', and some point towards a folk-name *Bil(l)ingas/Belingas* 'people living at the *Bil(l)/Bell*', alternating with the topographical

terms (VEPN I 101), but other derivations for this name cannot be ruled out, such as 'Bill's or *Billa's *tūn*'. The place lies on a ridge, with the hill-fort of Berry Ring standing on a headland to the north-west, perhaps making a topographical or folk-name more likely.

BILSON 3 miles north-west of Lichfield (SK 0912). *Bilston* 1437 BCA MS3415/215, *Bilstone* (p) 1456 Harwood 1806: 277, *Bilston* (p) 1496 OSS 1936 48, *Bilson* 1589 SHC XVIII 4, *Bilston (Brooke)* 1608 SHC 1948-9 12, *Billson* 1623 SHC X NS I, *Bilson (Brook)* 1695 Morden, *Bilston (Brooke)* 1734 SRRC 1987/3/3, *Bilston Brook*, *Bilston Brook Farm* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from the OE personal name Bil(l) or the OScandinavian personal name Bildr, with OE *tūn*. Bilson Brook is said to have been previously known as Bourne Brook: VCH XIV 195.

BILSTON 3 miles south-east of Wolverhampton (SO 9596). *Bilsetnatun* 996 (17th century, S.1380) 17th century, *Bilsatena gemæro* 985 (12th century, S.860), *Billestone* 1086 DB, *Billistan* 1173 SHC I 68, *Billeston* 1190 Pipe, ? *Belsten* 1293 SHC 1911 229, *Bilestun*, *Billeston*, *Bilestone* 13th century Duig, *Billesdone* 1302 SHC VII 102, *Bylston* 1304 SHC 1911 277, *Bilstun* 1327 SHC VII (i) 250, *Bylleston* 1414 SHC XVII 49, *Bryerley Byllson* 1621 Worfield CA. 'The dwellers at Bil', from OE *sāte* (genitive plural *sātna*) 'settlers'. Bil might be a contraction of a longer name, but no such name is known locally. It cannot represent a personal name, since *sāte* is not added to personal names. Another possibility is that Bill may have been the name of a nearby hill, connected in some way with OE *bile* 'bill, beak', used topographically of a promontary or pointed hill, or OE *bill* 'sword', perhaps used in a similar topographical application: VEPN I 99-100. Cf. Billinge, Merseyside; Billingham, Cleveland; and Billingshurst, West Sussex. See also WA II 85-93. It may be noted that *Bilston Lane* is recorded between Colwich and Colton (presumably what is now Ballamoor Way) in 1759 (Burne n.d.: 21), but the history of the name is not known.

BINCLIFF (MINES) 1 mile south-east of Wetton (SK 1153). *Byncliff* 1547 AugOffice, 1861 Bateman 1861. Perhaps associated with the lead mines here.

BINE FARM 2 miles south-west of Bobbington, on the south side of a pronounced hill of 469' (SO 7789). *one parcel of wast 'The Binde'* 1614 SRRC 2922/2/25, *the Bynde* 1616 SRRC 2922/2/26, *The Bind* 1632 SRRC 2922/1/3/30, *Bind* 1751 Rocque, *The Bind* 1766 Claverley ParReg, *The Binde* 1833 O.S. Possibly from *bind* in the sense 'to subject to a specific legal obligation' (OED), or perhaps with reference to a plant such as honey-suckle or woodbine (OED), through neither suggestion seems entirely satisfactory.

BINNS FARM 1½ miles north-west of Lichfield (SK 1011). *the Beenes* 1640 VCH XIV 233, *Bean's Farm* 1834 O.S. From land here called *the Bynds* c.1468 (VCH XIV 235). Perhaps from a personal name, or from the type of crop formerly grown here.

BIRCHALL 1 mile south of Leek (SJ 9854). *Byrchehull*, *Byrcheshull* 1271 SHC VI (i) 52, *Birchel* (p) 1285, *Byrchulle*, *Birchull* 1292 SHC VI (i) 219, *Byrchoure* 1293 SHC 1911 217, *Byrchull*, *Birchull* 1296 Ch, 1327 (p) SR, *Birchow*, *Bircholt*, *Birchou*, *Byrch(e)holt(e)*, *Birch(e)holt(e)* 13th century Dieul, *Birchenehull* 1330 SHC XVI 4, *Byrcholt* 1538 (1883) Sleight 1883: 17, 1539 SHC IX NS 300, *Byrchold* c.1540 AOMB, *Byrcholte* 1546 SHC 1912 351, *Byrchehold* 1556 FF, *Byrcholt* c.1560 SHC

1938 159, *Byrche Holte* 1560 SHC XIII 207, *Birchowe als Bircholt* 1565 FF, *Berchall als Berholt* 1623 FF, *Birchall* 1641 Leek ParReg, *Big & Little Birch Hill* 1775 Yates. The first element is clearly OE *birce* 'birch', but the forms of the second element show much variation, and it seems possible that the alternate forms of OE *hyll* 'hill', *holt* 'wood', and *hōh* 'the end of a ridge where the ground falls away sharply' would all be appropriate here. There is no likelihood that the word 'hall' (a rare element in place-names) is incorporated in the name. Cf. Birchall Green, Worcestershire.

BIRCHALL GRANGE (obsolete, 1 mile south of Leek (SJ 9854).) *Burchehowgraunge* 1345 SHC 1938 159, SHC IX NS 296, *Graunge de Burch(e)holte*, *Graunge de Byrcholt(e)* c.1540 AOMB, *Birchhall Graunge*, *Birchhall Graunge* 1611 QSR. The place was the grange or outlying farm of Dieulacres Abbey at Birchall (q.v.).

BIRCH DALE (obsolete.) 2 miles south-west of Stone (SJ 8830). *Birch Dale* 1775 Yates, *Birchdale* 1836 O.S. 'The dale or valley with the birches'.

BIRCHEN BOWER (obsolete.) 2 miles south of Uttoxeter (SK 0729). *Byrches Bowers* c.1720 D240/E(A)2/157, *Birchen Bower* 1798 Yates, 1836 O.S. From the OE adjective **bircen* 'growing with birch trees', with OE *būr* 'cottage', so 'the cottage at the birches'.

BIRCHENBOOTH (unlocated, in Quarnford, near the Staffordshire-Derbyshire boundary.) *Birchinbooth* 1598 SHC XVI 170, *Birchenbough* 1682 Brown, 1749 Bowen, *Birchen Booth* 1798 Yates. From the OE adjective **bircen* 'growing with birch trees', and the north country dialect *booth* 'a cowhouse, a herdsman's hut', from ODan *bōð* 'a bothy, a temporary shelter', giving 'the shelter at the birch trees'.

BIRCHENFIELDS 1 mile north-east of Dilhorne (SK 9844). *Bouthes Birchenfeld* 1609 SHC III NS 52. 'Open land with the birches near Booth': Booth Hall and Booths Farm (q.v.) lie to the east.

BIRCHEN FIELDS (obsolete) on the south-west side of Armitage (SK 0715). *Birchen Fields* 1834 O.S. 'Open land with the birches'.

BIRCHES 1 mile south-east of Codsall (SJ 8702). *Birches* 1716 Ct, 1775 Yates, *ye Birches* 1730 Codsall ParReg, *the Birches* 1762 (1801) Shaw II 289. See The Bratches. The estate gave its name to Birches Bridge (which crosses a railway) here.

BIRCHES BARN 1 mile south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8997). *Barndeleye* 1327 WA I 282, *Birch-his-barne* 1654 Wolverhampton ParReg. The earlier spelling seems to be from 'the burnt *lēah*'; the later spelling suggests 'the barn of the man named Birch', or a rationalisation of *Birches-barn* 'barn in the birches', or '(at a place called) Birches'. See also WA I 282.

BIRCHES HEAD on south-east of Burslem (SJ 8948). *Bircheshead* 1641 Burslem ParReg, *Byrcheshead* 1697 *ibid*, *Bircheshead* 1755 DRO D3155/7037. 'The head or top end of the hill with the birches'.

BIRCHFIELD 1 mile south of Perry (SO 0690). *Birchfield House* 1834 O.S. 'This place derives its name from an ancient family named Birch, who long resided here': P.O. 1870 538. Hackwood 1905a:

162 suggests that the place 'was so called from the family of Wyrley-Birch, who were once owners of the manor of Hamstead'.

BIRCHILLS 2 miles north-west of Walsall (SK 0000). *Burchles* 1271 SHC 4th Series XVIII 78, *Byrchelles* 1587 SRO D260/M/T/1/12, *Bircheleses*, *Byrchylles*, *Burchelles*, *Rough Byrchells covered with a wood*, *Byrchells* 16th century Duig, *Bircheles* 1325 Willmore 1887: 241, *Burch-hills* 1686 Plot. Almost certainly from OE **bircel* 'little birch trees' (cf. Birchill, Derbyshire; Birtles, Cheshire: see VEPN I 103), even though the 1307 spelling suggests that the first element may be from OE *bryce*, ME *bruche* 'cleared or newly cultivated ground' - by metathesis, or shifting of the *r*, the words become *burche* and later *birch*. Birchills was within the bounds of Cannock Forest.

BIRCHINLEE (unlocated, in Rushton Spencer.) *Byrchynlee yate* 1485 SRO DW1761/A/4/36, *Great Birchen Lee*, *Birchinlee Meadows* 1673 SRO DW1761/A/4/92. 'The *lēah* with the birches'. *Yate* is from OE *geat* 'a gate'.

BIRCHOVER (unlocated, possibly near Butterton.) ? *Bircho* 1208 SHC III (i) 99, *Birchovre* 1293 SHC 1911 217, *Birchover* 1386 SHC XVI 25, *Bircheover* 1586 SHC 1927 139. From OE *birce* 'birch-tree', with OE *ofer* 'slope, ridge, hill', giving 'the ridge with the birch-trees'.

BIRCHWOOD PARK 2 miles south-west of Church Leigh (SK 0133). ? *Birchewode* 1396 SHC XV 69, *Birchwood parke* 1600 SHC 1935 365, *Birchwood Park* 1610 Speed, *Birchwood (Park)* 1686 Plot 107. Self-explanatory.

BIRDSLEY FARM 2 miles north of Tamworth (SK 2008). *Burgley Farm* 1834 O.S. The place lies on a 262' hill.

BIRKS BARN on south side of Belvide reservoir, Brewood (SJ 8609). *Birks Barn* 1834 O.S. From the Birk family who farmed here. The original farmhouse was originally some 400 yards to the east, and was relocated when the site was flooded in the creation of Belvide reservoir, constructed in 1835: Horovitz 1992: 222.

BISHOP'S HILL (unlocated, in Longdon, possibly near Arblaster.) *Bishop's Hull* c.1569 SHC IX NS 72. The place was a manor held by the Bishops of Lichfield. According to Shaw 1798: I 291 the prebend of Bishopshull (*Byshopshull* 1528 (1798) Shaw I 285) took its name from premises in Lichfield, but see also Bispill Plantation. VCH XIV 135 suggests that Bishopshull took its name from land at Lichfield later known as Bispels. See also Bisphill Plantation; Bisphills.

BISHOPS OFFLEY - see OFFLEY, BISHOPS.

BISHOP'S WOOD 2 miles west of Brewood on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border (SJ 8309). *Stryfwode* 1314 VCH IV 26, *Bishop's wood* 1538 VCH IV 26, 1549 (1801) Shaw II 303, *Bysshoppes woodd* 1597 SHC 1910 258, *Bishops Wood* 1624 Brewood ParReg, 1661 SRO D590/29/1, 1747 Bowen. DB records a wood in Brewood held by the bishop of Lichfield: VCH IV 41. The location is uncertain, but in 1139 and 1144 the Pope confirmed the bishop's possession of a wood of Brewood, and in 1314 an area of the same wood called *Stryfwode* (i.e. 'strife-wood', or 'the wood being the subject of dispute') was bought by the bishop of Lichfield from Sir Fulk Pembrugge, lord of Tong (VCH IV 26;

see also VHC V 25; SHC VI (ii) 109). This was the wood, probably the 'high wood' recorded in 1315 (WL 104) which gave its name to Bishop's Wood. The place lay in Brewood Forest. It is possible that *Bishopesbrewode*, recorded in 1302 (SHC VII 95) refers to Bishop's Wood: Brewood was also held by the bishop, but in the case of that place the descriptor would be unnecessary.

BISHOP'S WOOD an area of woodland, said to have contained 1300 acres (Erdeswick 1844: 132), 5 miles to the west of Eccleshall, lying against the Shropshire border (SJ 7531), which was held by the bishops of Lichfield. *Bishop's wood* 1798 Shaw I 93, 1801 Shaw II 113. The larger area of woodland, to the west of Blorepipe, is called locally Big Bishop's, and the smaller area to the east of Burnt Wood is known as Little Bishop's: local information.

BISHTON 2 miles north-west of Rugeley (SK 0120). *Bispestone* 1086 DB, *Bussepeston* 1199 SHC III (i) 53, *Bissopesdon* 1204 SHC III 114, *Bispbiston* 1273 SHC 1911 158, *Bispeston* 1278 SHC XI NS 245, *Bissopeston* 1283 SHC 1911 182, *Bissopestun* 13th century Duig, *Bysopeston'* 1316 WL 106, *Bisshopeston* 1324 SHC 1911 101, *Bisshopestone* 1337 SHC 1934 (ii) 60, *Byston* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 64, *Bisheton* 1618 SHC VII NS 193, *Bishton* 1798 Yates. From OE *biscop* 'a bishop', hence 'bishop's *tūn*'. It is not always clear whether the name is from the OE personal name Biscop (which as the title of a senior ecclesiastic is unlikely to have been common), or has ecclesiastical links. According to Duignan 1902: 16 the bishops of Lichfield had a residence at Bishton, but evidence supporting that statement has not been traced. There is another Bishton on the north side of Patshull Park (SJ 8001), just within Shropshire, recorded as *Byspeston* in 1437 (SHC NS III 135). Cf. Bushton, Wiltshire.

BISPHILL PLANTATION ½ mile north-west of Elford (SK 1711). Seemingly 'the bishop's hills': the prebend of Bishopshull in Lichfield cathedral is said to take its name from this place (StEnc 62), but see also Bishop's Hill; Bisphills.

BISPHILLS (unlocated, in Freeford: Shaw 1798: I 316.) *Bispells* 1664 (1798) Shaw I 316, *The Bispills* 1723 SRO (LJRO/D88), *Bispells* 1798 Shaw I 316, *Bispell's Farm* 1845 SRO D661/8/1/1/4. Seemingly 'the bishop's hills': according to Shaw (1798: I 291) the prebend of Bishopshull in Lichfield cathedral was 'denominated from premises in the liberty of Lichfield city'. VCH XIV 135 suggests that Bishopshull took its name from land at Lichfield later known as Bispels. *Bysphill Marsh* is recorded in 1558 (Shaw 1801: II *28), and may be associated with this place. See also Bishop's Hill; Bisphill Plantation.

BITHAM (obsolete, south-west of Penkridge, between Wolgarston and Otherton.) ? *Bucheme* 1261 SHC 1950-1 49, *Belehem* 1284 FA, *Betlehem*, *Bethem* 1332 SHC X 119, *Butheme* 1327 SHC VII (i) 242, SHC XII 47, 1340 SHC 1913 75, *Botheme* 1340 *ibid.* 75, ? *Bucheme*, *Buthene* 1345 SHC XII 41,47, *Buthem* 1398 SHC XV 82, ? *Bethum* 1428 FA, *Bedam* 1583 SHC III (ii) 4, *Bythom(e)* 1598 Ct, 1637 Penkridge ParReg, *Betham* 1599 *ibid*, *Bithome* 1657 SRO D260/M/F/5/98, *Bithom* 1673 Bradley ParReg, *Bitham* 1679 SHC 1919 219, 1695 Morden, 1749 Bowen, *Blytham* 1779 Bradley ParReg. A curious name, with inconsistent early spellings precluding a firm derivation (if indeed all relate to this place), but possibly from OE *byðme* 'head of a valley, valley bottom', an element that occurs in Mercian areas, and which may be a Mercian variant of West Saxon *botm* (see JEPNS 20 1987-8 46), later influenced by the name Bethlehem. *Bythom greene als Lynehill greene* is recorded in the bounds

of Penkridge in 1598 (Oakden 1984: 102). Will'o de Bethlehem is recorded in Tutbury in 1332: SHC X (i) 107.

BITTERNSDALE 2 miles south-east of Draycott in the Moors (SJ 9936). *Bitterns Dale* 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S. Self-explanatory. The name is unlikely to be ancient: 'bittern' in OE was *hæferblāte*, *raredumle*, *raradumbra*. The word *bittern*, not recorded in English before the 14th century, is apparently from OFr.

BITTERSCOTE 1 mile south-west of Tamworth (SK 1903). *Bittrescote* 1300 SHC V (i) 178, *Butrescote* 1391 SHC XV37, *Bytterscote* 1437 LLRRO 23D66/14, *Birtirscote* 1459 SHC NS IV 114, *Bythyrcote* 1459 *ibid.* 105, *Betercott* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 23, *Bistercote* 1556 LLRRO 23D66/17, *Bytteston* 1562 SHC 1938 123, *Bytterscote* 1585 SHC XVII 233, *Bitterscott* 1623 SHC X NS I 51, *Biterscote* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from the personal name Brihtthere (Beorhtthere), with the first -r- lost owing to dissimilation (cf. Bittering, Norfolk), with OE *cot* 'cottage, shelter, hut'; one of the forms suggests OE *tūn*.

BLACK BROOK occurs frequently (e.g. *Blakebrucke* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 18) for the upper reaches of several rivers, including Dane, Hamps, Manifold, Tame, and Smestow Brook. From OE *blæc* 'dark-coloured', perhaps from the black organic silt found in many headwaters.

BLACK COUNTRY a 19th century generalised expression first recorded in 1834 '...in the densely populated black country...', from C Young, 'Memoirs of C M Young', 1871 212 (OED) for the nebulous and indeterminate industrialised district to the west of Birmingham, the extent of which has been, and assuredly will continue to be, the subject of continuing debate, even though it is certain that when first coined the expression was not used with specific boundaries in mind. The expression by usage now tends to include (in Staffordshire) Aldridge, Bilston, Brierley Hill, Coseley, Darlaston, Rowley Regis, Sedgley, Smethwick, Tipton, Walsall, Wednesbury, Wednesfield, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton, but also including (in Worcestershire) Dudley, Halesowen, Oldbury and sometimes Stourbridge (see Oakden 1984: 2, which also includes, surprisingly, Tettenhall). The expression, which seems to have been in popular use by the mid-19th century (see *The Illustrated London News*, 14 April 1849 reporting a speech of J. P. Dyott, Mayor of Walsall on 9 April), came from the smoke and pollution caused by the collieries, quarries, blast furnaces, foundries, kilns, potteries, glassworks, ironworks, forges and factories based on the South Staffordshire coalfield, with its coal, iron ore, fireclays and limestone. It may be noted that OED defines the expression as 'a name given to parts of Staffordshire and Warwickshire [*sic*] blackened by the coal and iron trades', so including parts of Warwickshire without mention of parts of Worcestershire. One of the earliest references to the Black Country (with capitals) may be in White 1860: 6. *The Daily Telegraph* of 12 December 1864 recorded: 'By night the Black Country blazes up lurid and red with fires which...are never extinguished'. The expression doubtless became more widely known with the publication of Burritt 1868. No evidence has been traced to support popular folklore that the expression was associated originally with the extent of a particular coal-seam, notwithstanding Beaver 1945 which suggests that it could be associated with the exposed coalfield, and excludes the centres of Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich. See also StEnc 63.

BLACK FIELD in Bagot's Park, north-east of Dunstall (SK 0827). *Blakefeld* 1402 SHC XI NS 207.

BLACKFORDS (obsolete.) 1½ miles north-east of Cannock (SJ 9912). *Blacke fourdes* 1570 *Rental*, *Blackfords* 1834 O.S. 'The black fords'.

BLACKHALVES ½ mile south-west of Essington (SJ 9502). ? *Blackhalghe* SHC 1910 267, ? *the Blackhaghe* *ibid.* 267, *Blacke Hove* 1601 SHC 1935 345, *Blackhaughe* 1603 SHC 1940 60, *Blakehalfe* 1608 SHC 1928 120, *blackhalve* 1633 Wolverhampton ParReg, *Blackhalve* 1834 O.S. The earliest spellings suggests a derivation from ME *blæc halh*. OE final *-h* of *halh* sometimes develops into modern *-f* (cf. the pronunciation of Modern *laugh*, *tough*), and this may have led to *halh* becoming *halve*.

BLACKHILL (unlocated, in Hopton.) *Blackhull temp.* John SHC VIII 170.

BLACK HILL on the north-east side of Sandon (SJ 9529). *Blackehill (Filde)* 1591 SHC 1934 (ii) 19.

BLACK HOUGH (unlocated, in Haughton parish). *the Black Hough*, *Blakehalghe* Eliz ChancP, *the Black Hough* 1836 O.S. From OE *blæc*, *halh* 'black *halh*', with the second element later replaced by *hōh* 'a spur of land, a promontory'.

BLACKLADIES 2 miles west of Brewood (SJ 8409). *nigris monialibus de Brewde* c.1200-10 SHC 1939 185, *blakladys* 1362 Ipm, *Blackladies* 1632 SHC II (ii) 15, *Blacke ladies* 1666 SHC 1927 71, *Blackladyes* 1686 Plot. Named from the black habits of Benedictine nuns who had a priory here from c.1147: VCH III 220-2. The earliest deeds describe the nuns as 'of the church of St Mary of Brewood' (the dedication of the local parish church), and the description *Black* does not occur before the turn of the 12th century (SHC 1939 180), to distinguish the place from the Cistercian nuns of White Ladies (*Whitladies* 1384 SHC XIV 240), 2 miles to the west in Shropshire, who wore white habits. Both Blackladies and White Ladies lay within Brewood Forest, and early references to 'the nuns of Brewood' may refer to either house. See also VCH III 220-2.

BLACK LAKE 1 mile north of West Bromwich (SO 9992). VCH XVII 7 suggests that this was the name of a plot of land here (as *Whyte lake*) by the end of the 14th century, and of a house or cottage by 1502, but Willet 1882: 209 records a reference to *the Blake Lake* in 1474. OE *blæc* 'black' can be confused with OE *blāc* 'shining, white', which is apparently the derivation of this name.

BLACK LAKE in Forton parish. *Blake Layke* 1527 Survey, *Black Lake* 1686 Plot. Perhaps 'the black-looking lake', but see Black Lake above.

BLACK LEES 3 miles south-west of Cannock (SJ 9606). *le Blakele(ye)* 1290 Hatherton, 1342 Vernon, *Blakelye* 1342 VCH V 177, *le Blakelie* 1380, 1515 Vernon, *Great Blake Leys*, *the Black Lyese* 1526 Vernon, *Black Lees* 1608 VCH V 177, *Blake Leys* 1775 Yates. From OE *blæc* 'black, dark', with OE *lēah*.

BLACKSHAW MOOR 1 mile south of Upper Hulme (SK 0159). *Blakeschawe* 1250-9 SHC 1911 428, *Blakeshawemore* 1539 LRMB, *Blackshawmoor* 1648 Leek ParReg, *Blackseymore* 1656 *ibid*, *Blackshaw* 1775 Yates. 'Black copse', from OE *scaga* 'copse, small wood'.

BLACKWATERS 1 mile north-west of Croxton (SJ 7732). *Blackwater* 1696 Eccleshall ParReg. Self-explanatory.

BLACKWELL 2 miles north-east of Bromsgrove (SO 9971). *Blakewell* Henry III PN Wo 362. 'The black spring or stream', from Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. In Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

BLACKWOOD 1 mile west of Horton (SJ 9257). *Blacwode* 1299 SHC NS XI 253, 1325 SHC 1911 366, 1332 SHC X (i) 101, 1361 JNSFC LIX 1924-5 57, *Blakewood* 1514 JNSFC LX 1925-6 37, *Blackwood* 1579 Biddulph ParReg, 1608 SHC III NS 27. OE *blāc* 'pale, white, bleak', is difficult to distinguish from OE *blæc* 'black, dark', but the latter is more likely here.

BLACKWOOD HILL 2 miles south-west of Horton (SJ 9255). *Blackwood Hill* 1596 BCA MS3558/170, *Blackwood hill* 1662 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg. See Blackwood.

BLAKE BROOK a tributary of the river Manifold. Probably the same derivation as Black Brook (q.v.).

BLAKE HALL (obsolete.) 1 mile south-east of Dilhorne (SJ 9942). *Blakehagh* 1449 HLS 389, *Blakehalghe* 1538 SHC 1910 267, *Blackhaghe* 1583 *ibid*, *Blake Hall* 1836 O.S. The second element is from OE *halh*, so giving 'the black *haugh*'. The place may have been known formerly as *Heghe Halghe*: SHC 1910 265-6 (but see also Delph House). It seems likely that *Jakehall*, recorded in 1539 (MA), refers to this place.

BLAKELANDS on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, 1 mile north-east of Bobbington (SO8291). *Blakeland* 1433 VCH XX 68, 1452 SHC 1939 233, 1595 SHC 1932 127, 1663 SHC II (ii) 32, *Blakelands* 1749 Bowen. 'The black land'. *The Black Wall*, recorded in Bobbington in 1683 (SRO 3764/155[40683]) may be associated with this place, but see also Blakenhall. Shaw 1801: II 278 states that there were two places of this name in this area. The names mark the site of drained bogland.

BLAKELEY ½ mile east of Whiston (SK 0547), *Blake legh* 1292 Ipm, *Blakelegh* 1327 *ibid*, *Blakeleye* 1307 (p) GDR, *Blake Lee* 1775 Yates, *Blakeley* 1837 O.S.; **BLAKELEY GREEN** 2 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8900), *Blakelegh* 1334 SHC 1928 138, *blakeleye* 1338 Tooth 2000b: 79, *Blakeley Green* 1834 O.S.; **BLAKELEY LANE** 1 mile south-west of Consall (SJ 9747), *Blakeley Lane* 1607 QSR, *Blacklee Lane* 1606 *ibid*, *Blakelee* 1646 SHC 4th Series I 287, *Blake Lee* 1697 ParReg; **BLAKELEY (POOL FARM)** 1 mile north-west of Seisdon (SO 8295), *Blakeley (Common)* 1774 SRO cp443/788rot24. From OE *blæc*, *lēah* 'the dark woodland glade'. *Blakeleye* near Wrottesley, recorded in 1317 (SHC IX 62), may be Blakeley Green.

BLAKELOW 2 miles north-west of Stone (SJ 8635), *Blakelawe* ? 13th century SHC VI (i) 8, *Blakelowe* 1292 SHC VI (i) 233, 1327 SHC VII 207, *Blakelow* 1263 Duig, *Blakelowe* 1306 SHC 1911 67, 1475 SHC NS VI (i) 95, *Blaklowe* 1477 *ibid*. 111, *Blakelow* 1567 (1801) Shaw II app. 12, ? *Blakely* 1608 SHC 1948-9 177, *Blakelows* 1710 Swynnerton ParReg; **BLAKELOW** 2 miles south-west of Onecote (SK 0352), *Blakelow* 1836 O.S.; **BLAKELOW** 2 miles north-east of Hilderstone (SJ 9736), *Blakelow* 1891 O.S.; **BLAKELOW** (obsolete) 1 mile north-east of Bucknall (SJ 9148), *Blakeloue* 1263 SHC IV 157, *Blakelowe* 1332 SHC X 94, *Blakeley* 1775 Yates, *Blakelow* 1836 O.S.; **BLAKELOW**

(obsolete) near Warslow Green, *Blakelow grene under Orueslow* c.1284 *Loxdale*, *Bleaklow Quarry* 1822 *EnclA*. Probably from OE *blæc* 'black, dark', with OE *hlāw* 'tumulus, burial mound', but perhaps in some cases from an unrecorded early form of *bleak* 'bare of vegetation, exposed, wind-swept', not recorded by OED before the 16th century. *Hatton Blakelow* is recorded at The Hattons, near Brewood, in 1588 (SRO D260/M/E/428/2), and *Blakelow, Cheadulton* is recorded in 1687 (Caverswall ParReg), but has not been located.

BLAKEMERE 1½ miles east of Upper Hulme (SK 0361). *Blakemere* 1348 VCH VII 212, *Blakemere House* 1638 *ibid*, *black-meer of Morridge* 1686 Plot 1686: 44, *Black Mare of Morridge* 1749 Bowen, *Blake Meer or Black Meer*, *Blake Meer House*, *Blake Meer Holes* 1842 O.S. 'The black pool'.

BLAKEMERE POOL in Weston Jones parish, 1 mile north of Norbury (SJ 7824). *Blakemere* 1327, 1332 (p) SR, 1590 FF, *Blakemereheth* n.d. AD vi, *Blake meere* 1668 Survey, *Black Meer* 1686 Plot. 'The black pool'. See also *Blakemore (House)*, to which some of the spellings may relate.

BLAKEMORE (HOUSE) ½ mile south-east of Norbury (SJ 7875). ? *Blakemore* 1268 CoramR (p), *Blakemere* 1327 SHC VII (i) 240, *Blakemerehouse* 1413 VCH V 159, *Blake Morehouse* 1668 Ct, *Blakemore Ho* 1725 Deed, *Blakemere House* 1833 O.S. 'The dark mere or pool'. The *mere* element has later become confused with *moor*. See also *Blakemere Pool*, to which some of the spellings may relate. There is some slight evidence that a place called *Blakemore* may have existed in the Blymhill area (see SRO 155[7985]), where the surname is well recorded.

BLAKENHALL 1 mile south of Wolverhampton (SO 9297), *Blakenhall* 1895 O.S.; **BLAKENALL** 2 miles north of Walsall (SK 0099), *Blakenhullesfeld* 1375 SRO D4407/37[SF54], *Blakenhale* 1415 SHC XVII 54, *Blakenall Heath* 1834 O.S.; **BLAKENHALL** 1 mile west of Barton-under-Needwood (SK 1718), ? *Blakenhale* c.1235 Rees 1997: 68, *Blakenhale* 13th and 14th century Duig, *Blakenale* 1322 MinA, *Blakenall* 1536 SHC XI 275, *Blakenoll* 1549 SHC XII 203, 1613 SHC IV NS 50, *Blakenhall* 1559 (1798) Shaw I 117. Probably from the OE adjective *blæc* (nominative), *blacan* (in oblique cases), with the meaning 'dark coloured', rather than the OE personal name *Blaca*, which is unlikely to be found three times with *halh*. The second element is almost certainly from the more common OE *halh* rather than the rare element *hall*. *La Blakenalle* at Morfe, recorded in 1300 (SHC 1911 266) has not been identified, but may be associated with *The Black Wall*, recorded in Bobbington in 1683: see *Blakelands*.

BLAKE STREET the name of an ancient road, probably Roman, forming part of the boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and the parishes of Shenstone and Sutton Coldfield. *Blakestrete* 1300 SHC V (i) 177. From OE *blæc* 'black, dark'. Duignan 1902: 17 states that another ancient road called *Blake Street* (*Blakestret* 1294 SHC VI (i) 295, *Black street* 1595 Duig), once part of the great London to Chester road, ran across Cannock Chase between Brownhills and Hednesford, forming a manorial boundary. There is another *Blake Street* in Cheshire, 2 miles east of Nantwich.

BLAZING STAR (obsolete, possibly to be associated with *Old Star* (1836 O.S.)), 1 mile west of Ramshorn (SK 0645). *Blazeing Star*, *Blazing-star* 1686 Plot, *Blazeing Star* 1747 Bowen, *Blazing Star* c.1768 SRO D240/D/214. Possibly from a smelting furnace, or a public house name, or perhaps

commemorating Halley's Comet, which was seen in 1682, and popularised the expression 'blazing star', recorded by OED as early as 1460.

BLITHBURY 3 miles north-east of Rugeley (SK 0820). *Blidebire* 1200 SHC II 91, *Blitheburgh*, *Blithburie* 12th century Duig, *Blythbury* 1307 SHC XI NS 40, *Blythebury* 1414 SHC XI NS 40. From OE *burh*, giving 'the fortified place or manor on the River Blithe'.

BLITHE, RIVER a tributary of the river Trent. *blīðe*, *up æfter bliþe* 993 (11th century, S.878), *aqua de Blye* 1224 Stone Ch, *rivam de Blithe* 1279 SHC IV 280, *acqua de Bliye* 13th century St Thomas, *aqua de Blie* 1526 Trentham Ch, *Riva de Blithe* 14th century Ronton Ch. From OE *blīðe*, an adjective with various meanings, including 'gentle, quiet; cheerful, merry', chiefly as a river name, in which either of these extremes may be applicable, or the sense may be no more specific than 'pleasant': see VEPN I 115-6. The river is also known as the River Blythe, but Blithe is the spelling adopted by the O.S. There is also a tributary forming a loop with the river called The Little Blithe south of Abbot's Bromley. The Blithe has given its name to several places on its banks, including Blithewood Moat, Blithfield, Blithbury, Blythe, Blythe Bridge, Blythe Marsh, and the unlocated *Blythmore*, the latter recorded in 1407 (SHC XI NS 33).

BLITHEWOOD MOAT (obsolete) to the west of Dairyhouse Farm, Leigh (SK 9936). *Blithewood Moat* 1891 O.S. Redfern 1886: 87 mentions *Blithard Moat or Mot*, a square ditched earthwork. 'The moated enclosure at the wood near the river Blithe'.

BLITHFIELD Ancient Parish 2 miles south-west of Abbots Bromley (SK 0424). *Blidevelt* 1086 DB, *Blithefeld Ferrour* 1232 SHC XII 7, *Blithefeud* 1235 SHC 1911 387, *Blihefeud* 1236 Fees, *Blythefeld* c.1245 SHC XI NS 154, 1336 *ibid.* 218, *Blithefeld* 1367 *ibid.*, 1361 *ibid.*, *Blyffeld* 1467 SRO DW1733/A/2/91, *Blefeld* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 106. 'The *feld* or open land on the River Blithe'. For a possible explanation of *Ferrour* (? Ferrers) see SHC 1919 3, 8. Blithfield reservoir was created here in 1953.

BLITHFORD 2 miles south of Abbots Bromley (SK 0821), *Blithesford* 1322 Ipm; **BLITHEFORD** (obsolete) near Cookshill, *Blithesforde*, *Blithesford* 1255 SHC XI 306, 315, *Blythesfourde* 1544 SHC 1934 19, *Blythe Fourde* c.1555 SHC 1910 77. 'The ford on the River Blithe'. Ward 1843: app. ii mentions *Oldblithesford* in 1223, suggesting a new and an old ford at that date.

BLOOMSBURY on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, 1½ miles north of Sheriffhales (SJ 7614). *Blomesbury* 1695 Morden, 1749 Bowen. The second element would appear to be OE *burh* 'fortification, fortified manor, manor'. The first element is uncertain (see Blymhill), but it may be noted that Plot 1686: 159 mentions iron-stone to be found at Sheriffhales, a mile or so from Bloomesbury, so possibly from ironworking (cf. OE *blōma* 'a mass of iron').

BLORE Ancient Parish 3 miles north-west of Ashbourne (SK 1349), *Blora* 1086 DB, *Blore* 1203 SHC III 117, 1227 Ass, 1240 FF, *Bloie* 1204 SHC III (i) 119, *Blore on les Mores* 1408 FF, *Bloer* c.1540 Leland, *Blower* 1562 Pat, *Blowre* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 165, *Blore Ray* 1786 Bacon; **BLORE** 3 miles east of Market Drayton (SJ 7234), *Blore* c.1194 SHC II 266, *Bloie* 1203 SHC III 118, *Blora*, *Blore* 1209 Pleas, *Blore* 1237 Cur, 1239 SHC IV 90, 1293 Ass, QW, *Netherblore* 1339 SHC 1945-6 56,

Blorehales 1598 SHC XVI 40. An interesting name incorporating an element which would seem to be found nowhere outside Staffordshire, and for which no satisfactory derivation can be put forward. Almost certainly not from ON *blār* 'blue' and perhaps 'cold, cheerless', since (despite appearances), it would not account for the -r in the forms. Perhaps from the onomatopoeic word *blore* (not recorded in England before 1400) meaning 'a violent gust or gale', or perhaps associated with dialect *blore*, *blare*, *blair*, *blaar*, *blear*, *blar*, and similar, one meaning of which is 'to roar' (EDD), which might be appropriate for windswept places. An alternative possible derivation is from unrecorded (and uncertain) OE **blōr*, ME *blure* 'blister, swelling', associated with OE *blāwan* 'to blow, to inflate', which is the root of the obsolete words *blure*, *bloure*, *blowre*, given by the OED to mean 'a blister, a swelling', perhaps applied topographically to gently rounded hills or hillocks on rumps of rising ground or larger hills: see VEPN I 117. Blore near Ashbourne lies above the 650' contour on the slopes of Calton Moor which reaches 1088', and the particularly prominent feature in the immediate area is Hazleton (or Hazelton) Hill, the conical hill to the north-west, on which stands Hazleton Clump (*Hazel Clump* 1798 Yates, *Hazelton Plantation* 1836 O.S.), which forms a very distinctive 'blister or swelling'. Blore near Market Drayton lies at 477' on a lesser rounded hill which forms part of a massif of hills which reaches 714', and Blurton (q.v.) lies on the side of a 721' hill with ground reaching 833' two miles or so to the south-east. Though exposed, none of these places is the highest point in the area. The fact that all the places containing this element are close to the county boundary or (in the case of Blurton) another boundary is almost certainly coincidence. The *Ray* element in Blore near Ashbourne (the ecclesiastical parish is properly Blore Ray), for which there is no early evidence, is perhaps from OE *æt þære ēa* 'at the river' (probably to distinguish it from Blore near Market Drayton), with a later mis-division of the elements, a form likely to date from about the 13th century: see Ekwall 1928: 337. The river is either the Manifold or the Dove, both of which are overlooked by Blore: see also Ray Hall; Rea Cliff Farm. The word *ray* is sometimes derived from ON *vrá* 'corner', and that derivation may apply here, since Scandinavian influence is evident in the immediate area: cf. Swinscoe. *Hales* is from the parish in which the second place lies.

BLORE DALE ½ mile south of Mucklestone (SJ 7236). *Blore dale* 1679: SHC 1919 250. 'The dale near Blore (q.v.)'. See also Ekwall 1936: 130-1.

BLOREHEATH 2 miles north-east of Market Drayton (SJ 7135). *Blorehet* 1356 SRO 3764/12[40015], *Bloreheth* 1403 SHC XV 113, *Blore heathe* 1577 Saxton, *Boower Heath* 1752 Rocque, *Bloore Heath* 1776 DRO D3155/7345. From nearby Blore (q.v.). The site of the battle of Blore Heath on 23 September 1459. For an analysis of various medieval accounts of the battle see TNSFC 20 1980 9-17. See also Blorepipe.

BLORE PARK in Bishop's Wood, north-west of Blorepipe (SJ 7531). *Blore Park* 1298 NSJFS 4 1964 63, *Blore* 1351 SHC 1913 143, *the park of Blore* c.1540 Leland, *Blore Park* 1686 Plot 89, 1833 O.S. The name of the Bishop of Lichfield's park (sometimes called Eccleshall Park), in Blore Wood (*the Chace of Blore Wood* 1377 SHC 1939 74), some three miles from Blore (q.v.) and 1 mile from Blorepipe (q.v.). The north-east part of the park contains a 530' hill, but it is probable that the place takes its name from Blore. The *wood of Blore and Gongles*, recorded in 1292 (SHC VI (i) 251) may

refer to this place. The meaning of the *Gongles* element is uncertain, but may be from ME *gang*, *gong* 'privy', so possibly 'gong holes or privy holes', perhaps with reference to some natural feature in the area (see for example Blore Pipe). StEnc 236 mentions Gonder Hall, apparently in the Fair oak area, but the place has not been traced. StEnc 236 also mentions The Songles near Fair oak, and fields at Fair oak Grange near Hookgate called Songes. These places do not appear on maps, but the 1292 spelling may possibly be a misreading of Sondles. OED gives *songles* to mean 'a handful of gleaned corn' in counties near the Welsh border. For a map showing the probable boundaries of Blore Park in 1298 see Spufford 2000: 295.

BLOREPIPE 2 miles south-west of Croxton, on the river Sow (SJ 7730). *Bloore Pipe* 1617 Eccleshall ParReg, *Bloor-pipe* 1660 Blount 1660: 40, *Blore-Pipe* 1676 SHC 1914 16, *Blore-pipe* 1686 Plot 1686: 311, *Blore Pipe* 1798 Yates, *Blore pikes* 1834 White 1851: 638, *Blore Pipe* 1833 O.S. See Blore for the first element: the place lies at the foot of a hill of 572', which is (surprisingly) un-named on maps. There is a possibility that Blore was the name of the hill, which gave its name to this place and Blore Park (q.v.). However, the pipe element is from OE *pipe* 'a pipe, a conduit', perhaps here meaning 'a natural underground watercourse', possibly the feature described by Plot 1686: 89: '...there is a Rivulet comeing from West of Broughton Chappel, and running by Fair-oak, that two meddows below the houses, falls into the ground within Blore Park, belonging to the right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, which but two Meddows beyond, rises again under a flat stone before it comes to Blore Pipe: This 'tis true is but inconsiderable, it being but a small Rindle, and running underground but a little way, and not very deep; yet the greatest flood (as I was told) never causing it to run above ground, as Hamps and Manyfold doe...'. It is likely that the place was known originally as Pipe, with Blore added, probably from nearby Blore Park, to distinguish it from Pipe near Lichfield. A heath here (probably what is now Great Heath: SHC 1945-6 3) is recorded as *Bloreheth* 1355 SHC 1913 160, not to be confused with Bloreheath near Market Drayton.

BLOUNT'S GREEN 1 mile south of Uttoxeter (SK 0832). *Blunts green* 1686 Plot, *Blunts Green* 1747 Bowen. From the Blount family who held the place, which was known as *Blountes Hall* in the 16th century (SHC 1910 131, 1910 78), *Blowntis Hall* 1523 (SHC XI 264), *Blunt haule* c.1540 Leland, *Blounts'-hall* c.1595 Erdeswick 1844: 514. The moated hall here (probably built by Walter Blount, d.1524: SHC 1917-8 273) was demolished in 1770: Erdeswick 1844: 515. Blount's Green may be associated with *Grenesfield*, recorded in 1557 (SROD786/17/3), *Gryne Feyld* 1559 (SRO D786/17/4).

BLOW-O'RAM (unlocated, in Waterfall). *Blow-O'ram* 1851 White 787. A very puzzling name for which no explanation can be offered.

BLOXWICH 2 miles north-west of Walsall (SJ 9902). *Blocheswic* 1086 DB, *Blockeswych* 1286 SHC V (i) 172, *Blockeswyke* 1292 SHC VI (i) 251, *Blakeswych*, *Great Blockeswych* 1300 SHC V (i) 178, *Blockswich*, *Blockeswych* 13th century Duig, *Blocktuswych* 1303 SHC VII 105, *Blockeswich*, *Blakeswych*, *Blokkeswich*, *Bloxwych* 14th century Duig, *Great Blockeswyz*, *Little Blockewyz* 1307 SHC VII 186, *Greott Bloxsugh*, *Parva Bloxsuche* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 144, *Bleckysreyche* 1537 SHC 1912 101. Possibly from an OE personal name *Blocc (cf. *Bloccan leah* in Blockley, Gloucestershire), with OE *wīc*. There were evidently two distinct places, Little Bloxwich and Great Bloxwich.

BLUE HILLS 1 mile north of Upper Hulme (SK 0162). *blew-Hills* 1686 Plot 98, *Blue Hill* 1747 Bowen, *Blue Hills* 1842 O.S. Perhaps from ME *blew* 'blue', but also 'dark coloured, variegated', perhaps here 'the dark or variegated hills', or from the streams coloured by coal deposits mined here from at least the early 15th century, as suggested in VCH VII 33. Or possibly from Northern dialect *blae* 'cheerless, cold, exposed' (VEPN I 109), perhaps influenced by ME *blou* 'blast of wind': the gritstone hills here are particularly exposed and windswept. See also PN Ch III 145.

BLUNDIES ½ mile north-east of Enville (SO 8287). ? *Blundel* 1271 SHC V (i) 141, *Blunders* 1827 O.S., *Blundies* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from 'Blunt's *halh* or hill'. See also The Hoo.

BLURTON in Stoke on Trent, 2 miles south-west of Longton (SJ 8941). *Blozton* (sic) 1194 Pipe, *Blorton* 1195 f. P, 1248 FF, 1324 SHC X 45, *Blortun* 1250 SHC XI 309, *Bloerton* 1473 SHC IV NS 192, c.1540 Leland. For the first element see Blore. The second element is OE *tūn*. Blurton lies near a 721' hill at Cocknage (and near a boundary: cf. Meir). *Bloremedewe* ('the meadow at Blore') and *Blorewallesich* ('the stream of the spring at Blore', from Mercian OE *wælle* 'spring' and *sfc* 'watercourse') are recorded in Blurton c.1342: SHC XI 312. Cf. Blore.

BLURTON WASTE (obsolete) 1 mile west of Blurton (SJ 8842). *vaso de Blurton* 1302 SHC XI 311, *Blurton Waste* 1836 O.S. 'The wasteland at Blurton'.

BLYMHILL Ancient Parish (pronounced Blimmul [bliməl]). 6 miles south-east of Newport (SJ 8012). *Brymhelle* 1086 DB, *Blumehil* 1166 SHC 1923 296, *Blumenhall* 1194 (p) CartAnt, *Blumenhull* c.1199 SHC II NS 294, 1218 SHC VI (i) 32, *Blumhilla* 1221 Bracton, *Blumenhul* 1223 SHC I 292, *Blimhill* 1225 *ibid.* 292, *Blumhull* 1225 Cur, 1313 Banco, 1376 Pat, 1394 Fine, *Blimenhul* 1236 Fees, *Blimenhull* c.1240 SHC I 293, *Blomenhull* 1248 *ibid.* 313, *Blemenhull* 1254 SHC II NS 17, *Blumenhull* 1259 *ibid.* 293, *Blemenhull* 1276 SHC 1911 31, *Blimenhull* 1284 SHC I 294, *Blyminhill* 1290 SHC XII 9, *Blomenhale* 1306 SHC VII 157, *Dilmenhale* 1308 SHC II 81, *Blomhull* 1362 SHC XIII 16, *Blemhull* 1375 Ipm, *Blumonhull* 12th, 13th and 14th century freq. Duig, *Bleumenhull* 1331 SHC I 334, *Blomehill* 1355 SHC XII 132, *Plymylle* 1423 SHC XVII 89, *Blumhulle* 1432 *ibid.* 138, *Blemell* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 98, *Blym hill* 1682 Browne. A puzzling name. Ekwall 1936: 125 suggests a derivation from an original form *Plȳman-hyll* or *Plȳmena-hyll*, from OE *plȳme* 'wild plum-tree', which may well be correct: the change of *p-* to *b-* can be likened to the change from *t-* to *d-* (see for example Tunstall/Dunstall), but as observed in Gelling & Cole 2000: 194, no change from *p-* to *b-* is evidenced in other names containing plum.* The suggestion in Duignan 1902: 19-20 that the name may be associated with OE *blōma* 'bloom, metal ingot', meaning the site of a bloomery hearth (or perhaps a hill in the shape of a typical domed iron bloom) is doubtful, given the *Blimen-* and *Blemen-* spellings. The spellings seem to point towards an OE **blȳm(e)* 'bloomery' or similar, The oblique form **blȳman* would be expected to develop into ME *blumen-*, *blimen-*, *blomen-*. This derivation would require support from the presence of ironstone on or close to the hill, or traces of smelting. No such evidence has been traced, either documentary, archaeologically or from field-names (see Oakden 1984: 131-3), but it may be noted that Bloomsbury (wood), some three miles to the north-west of Blymhill, is shown on Morden's map of 1695 and Bowen's map of 1749 as *Blomesbury*, and appears as *Bloomsbury* in 1749 Blymhill ParReg, and Plot 1686: 159 mentions iron-stone to be found some three miles away at Sheriffhales (and, in

another reference not to this area, to iron ore or blemish called, intriguingly, Boylom (1686: 169). Before water power was used to power ironworks, bloomeries were sited on hills to utilise the wind as a draught for the furnace (cf. Gatherwynd Farm, Blymhill), and ironstone may have been conveyed to this area for processing. See also Bloomsbury.

**The plum, Prunus domestica, is not native to Britain, but is a post-Conquest introduction. The two native plum-like species (fruit having a single hard stone enclosing a seed) are the sloe (Prunus spinosa, the fruit of the blackthorn), and the bullace. The sloe was known in OE as sla(h), slag, so that could not have been a plyme. But the bullace (cf. Bolacetre 'bullace tree' in Wombourne, recorded in 1318 (1801) Shaw II 213) has a name said to be ME from OFrench belowe (although TOE records bulentse under 'unidentified plants'). It seems possible that OE plyme was what we now know as bullace, and that bullace (first recorded in OED in 1616) acquired its present name when the word plum began to be used for Prunus domestica. It is also of interest that the many dialect words for bullace include bullum and similar, which could provide a clue to the root of this name.*

BLYMHILL LAWN 1 mile south-east of Blymhill (SJ 8211). *Blymhill Lawn* 1812 *EnclA*, 1833 O.S. From Blymhill (q.v.) with ME *launde* 'an open space in woodland, a forest glade, woodland pasture', meaning in this area 'an open passage through woodland': cf. Coven Lawn and Langley Lawn.

BLYTHE BRIDGE 1 mile south of Caverswall (SJ 9541). ? *Blye* c.1230 SHC VI (i) 11, *Blythbryge* 1475 SHC VI NS (i) 94, *Blythebridge* 1573 SHC XIII 295, *Blithe-bridge* 1686 Plot. The place lies on the river Blithe (q.v.). It is unclear whether *Blitheforde*, recorded c.1250 (SHC XI 306) relates to this place. If it does, it would help to date the first bridge here.

BLYTHE, RIVER - see **BLITHE, RIVER**.

BOARSGROVE 2 miles north-east of Upper Hulme (SK 0462). *Borisgreve* 1566 *Deed*, *Boresgre(a)ve* 1582 FF, *Boorsgreene* 1605 Alstonefield ParReg, *Boarsgreene* 1624 *ibid*, *Boresgreave* 1655 DRO D2375M/58/3, 1700 Alstonefield ParReg, *Boarsgrove* c.1768 VCH VII 35. The first word is likely to be from the animal rather than OE **bor* 'elevation, hill', or the personal name Boar. The second element is from *grāfe* 'grove, thicket', hence 'the thicket of the wild boar'. The word *grāfe* (also found as *grāf*, *grāfe*, and *grāfa*), is probably associated in some way with OE *grafan* 'to dig', *grafa*, *græf* 'pit, trench'. 'Grove' is probably the more likely interpretation unless the first element suggests 'pit' or similar, or there is such a feature in the vicinity. Some of the parish register entries may incorporate misreadings of *n* for *v*.

BOBBINGTON 6 miles east of Bridgnorth (SO 8090). *Bvbintone* 1086 DB, *Bobinton* Eyton 1854-60: I 109, *Bubington* 1236 Fees, *Bobynton* 1588 SHC XVII 236, *Bovington* otherwise *Bubbington* otherwise *Bublington* 1600 SHC III NS 17, *Bovington* 1603 SHC 1940 40, *Bovington* or *Bobbington* 1689 SRO 5623/2. 'The *tūn* or estate associated with a man called Bubba'.

BODNETS, THE 2 miles west of Tamworth (SK 1703). *Bodnets* 1834 O.S. It is unclear whether *Bawndawns Hille*, recorded c.1524 (1798 Shaw I 314) is to be associated with this place.

BOKELEG(E) (unlocated, possibly in the Leigh area (SHC 4th Series VI 7); possibly associated with Leigh itself, in the sense 'Leigh granted in writing', i.e. bookland.) *Bokeleg* 1272 SHC IV 187, *Bokeleye* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 7. Perhaps to be associated with Bukkeleg, Bukkelyh (q.v.).

BOLD (obsolete.) North of Newton, on the west side of the river Blithe, 5 miles north of Rugeley (SK 0427). *la Bolde* 1175 SHC 1914 165, *Bold* 1199 SHC III (i) 41, *laboude* 13th century SHC XI NS 148, *Bolda* c.1240 (and later frequently) *ibid*, *la Bold* 1257 SHC VIII 145, *Le Bolde* 1290 SHC XI NS 112, *Boolde* 1309 SRO D59[7917]. From OE *bold* 'a house, dwelling-place', one form of an element which also occurs as *bōþl*, *bōtl*. The northern form is usually *bōþl*, but *bōtl* occurs both in the North and in the East Midlands. *Bold* is the only form found in the West Midlands. The place became known as Booth in the 19th century. See also SHC 1919 34-41; also Bull Bridge and Booden Farm.

BOLEHALL, BOLEBRIDGE on the north-east side of Tamworth (SK 2103). *Bolebrugge* 1166 P, *Bolebrige* 1198 FF, *Bollehall(e)* 1390 FF, *Bollumhulle* 1391 SHC XV 37, *Bol Hall* 1460 BM, *Bolle Bridge* 1497 SHC 1917-8 262, *Bow Bridge* 1508 *ibid*. 282, *The Bow Burge* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 19, *Bollebrigestrete* 1538 FF, *Bowbrydge* 1543 FF, *Bolehall* 1610 FF, *Bowl-bridg* 1656 Dugdale, *Bolehall streete* 1693 FF, *Bolebridge* c.1750 K, *Bolehall* 1872 P.O. Both names are to be associated with the ancient Bullring (*le Bulryng* 1314 Palmer 1845: 189) and Bullstake (*le Bolestake*, *Bulstake* *ibid*.), both connected with bull-baiting, *bol* and *bolle* being common ME forms of bull. Formerly in Warwickshire, the place became part of Staffordshire in 1965. See also Bonehill.

BOLEHEVED (unlocated, in Mavesyn Ridware.) *Boleheved* n.d. (1798) Shaw I: 170. From OE *bula* 'bull, bullock', with OE *hēafod* 'head, headland, summit', so 'the headland shaped like the head of a bull': cf. Swinchurch.

BOLEY PARK on the east side of Lichfield (SK 1309). *Bolele* 1215 TSSAHS XVIII 1986-7 9, ? *Boleleye* 1271 SHC IV 184, *Bollele* later 13th century TSSAHS XVIII 1986-7 9, *Bolley field* 13th century VCH XIV 110, later *Boley field* *ibid*, *Bowley* c.1535 SHC VI (ii) 166, *Boley* 1798 Shaw I 316. From OE *bola lēah* 'wood where logs were obtained': VCH XIV 38.

BOLLAND'S HALL on the north-west side of Butterton (SK 0656). Early forms have not been traced, and the age of the name is uncertain, but presumably from a personal name. See also Ballance Hill.

BOLTONGATE (FARM) on the north side of Weston Coyney (SJ 9344). *Bolton Gate* 1760 SRO D641/5/TS/4/20.

BOLTSTONE a bulky tapering standing stone in Compton, near Kinver, destroyed in 1840, which may have been a prehistoric monolith. It was known as *the Boltstone*, *Battlestone* (VCH XX 119), or *Baston* (Plot 1686: 397; Shaw 1798: I 13; see also VCH I 191), and seemingly gave its name to one of the open fields (presumably *Bothestonesfeld* VCH XX 137; 1342 SHC 1913 91) and perhaps to the later field-name *Bowstone Field*, *Boltstone Field* c.1831 (SRO D801/2/9): any connection with *Belstowa* (? 'holy place; place with the pyre') found in the boundary clause of Ashwood in an Anglo-Saxon charter of 985 AD (12th century, S.860) is doubtful, since the boundary mark seems to have

been further north: see Hooke 1983: 70-72. Matthew Bolestone is recorded in 1348: SHC XIV 66-72. See also Foxearth.

BOND END on south side of Yoxall (SK 1418). *Bond-end* 1499 (1798) Shaw I 98, *The Bondend* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 173, *Bond End* 1631 NA DD/P/6/3/40/1, 1798 Yates. From ME *bond*, derived from ON *bóndi*, ODan *bunde* 'a peasant landowner'. The element is remembered in Bondfield Lane on the west side of Yoxall. See also Reeve End; Burton Extra.

BONEFORD (unlocated, between Ingestre and Hopton.) *Boneford* 1291 SRO/ 416/7912.

BONEHILL 2 miles south-west of Tamworth (SK 1902). *Bolenhull* 1230 P, 1271 For, 1286 SHC V (i) 175, *Bulenhall* 1230 P, *Bollehul* c.1280 SHC 1921 5, *Bollenhull* 1327 SHC VII (i) 234, 1352 Pat, *Bolunhull* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 10, *Bollunhull* 1472 SBT DR3575 at 570, *Bonell* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 23, ? *Bonill* 1601 SHC 1935 366, *Bonehill* 1608 SHC III NS 19, 1834 O.S. Duignan 1902: 20-22 suggests a derivation from a word associated with ME *bole* 'a place where ore was smelted' (see VEPN I 123-4), citing Bole Hill in Derbyshire and elsewhere signifying a place where lead (or other metals) was smelted. However, it seems more likely that the name is from OE *bulena*, genitive plural of ME *bule* 'bull', giving 'hill of the bulls'. See also Bolehall.

BONEY HAY 1 mile north of Burntwood (SK 0510). *Le Brendewode called Le Burne hew* 1361 SRO DW1734/2/1/598, *Borne heymedwe* SRO DW1734/2/3/112D, ...*land lately called Bornehay, Borne Meadow...* 16th century SRO DW1734/2/1/744 258, *Bournhay Meadow* *ibid* 51, *Bourn Heay* LJRO D110, *Bourne Hay* 1679 SRO D1734, *Boney Hay* 1822 SRO D4045/7/2. The first element is OE *burna* 'spring, brook, stream'. The second element is perhaps more likely to be from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'an enclosure (especially in Forest areas)', notwithstanding the earliest spellings (especially *heymedwe*) which point towards OE *hæg* 'hay'.

BONTHORN 1 mile south-west of Barton under Needwood (SK 1817). ? *Borntthoun*, *Bonthoun* 1301 SHC 4th Series XVIII 195-6, *Bonethorn* 1495 Hardy 1908: 141, *Bochenthorn* 1503 *ibid.* 147, *Bonthorn* 1834 O.S. Perhaps 'Bana's or Bunt's thorn': the 1503 spelling which suggests a derivation from OE **bōcen* 'of beech' is doubtless an aberration, and in any event 'thorn of beech' is impossible.

BOODEN FARM ½ mile south of Haughton (SJ 8619). *le Hall of Bolde* 1548 Survey, *Boden* 1539 MR, *Bold Hall als Bowldhall* 1555 FF, *the hall of Bowle* 16th century Ct Augm, *Bouldhall* 1577 Saxton, 1605 FF, *Booden House* 1725 ParReg, 1836 O.S., *Boldon* 1775 Yates. The forms suggest a derivation from OE *bold* 'dwelling-place', with *hall* (cf. Bold), but the unlocated *Bowode* 1277 (SHC 1911 168), 1327 (SHC VII (i) 244), *Bouwood* 1290 (SHC 1911 198), *Bouwod* 1318 (*ibid.* 90), which is believed to have been in this area, could be early forms of this name, in which case the derivation may be from OE *boga* and *wudu* 'bow wood, wood where bows were obtained', or possibly 'the wood with bow-shaped boundaries'. *Bowode* in Stafford is recorded in 1436 (SHC XII 312).

BOON HILL 1 mile east of Audley (SJ 8050). *Boundhill* 1571 Audley ParReg, *Boondhill* 1733 SHC 1944 11, *Boon Hill* 1775 Yates, *Bound Hill* 1833 O.S, *Boond Hill* 1872 P.O. Possibly 'the hill of the unfree tenants', from ME *bond*, derived from ON *bóndi* 'a peasant landowner'.

BOOSLEY GRANGE 2 miles south-west of Longnor (SK 0662). *Bothesley* 1328 SHC 1913 21, *Boothesley Grange* 1571 (reciting earlier deed) VCH VII 27, *Booseley Grange* 1840 O.S., *Boozeley Grange* 1880 Kelly. The early forms indicate a derivation from ODan *bōð*, ME *both* 'booth, temporary shelter', with later spellings suggesting an association with OE **bōs* 'a cattle stall', found in the north country dialect word *boose*, with the same meaning, with OE *lēah*, giving '*lēah* with a cattle-stall'. The word Grange (ME *grange*, *graunge*) originally meant 'a granary, a barn', later 'a farm', and frequently denoted a monastic farm, but there is no record of any monastic landholding here, so the word may refer to buildings, perhaps used for a feudal lord, where crops were stored.

BOOT HALL on north-west side of Horton (SJ 9357). *Boot Hall* 1891 O.S. If ancient, perhaps from the Boot family, recorded in the early 18th century: VCH VII 65.

BOOTH - see **BOLD**.

BOOTH HALL, BOOTHS FARM 1½ miles south-west of Kingsley (SK 0045). *Kyngesleghe Bothes* 1293 SHC VI (i) 236, ? *Bothes* 1327 SHC VII (i) 215, *Bothehall* 1583 SHC III 9, 1609 SHC III NS 52, *Boothall*, *Boothes* 1598 SHC XVI 185, *Booths* 1610 Kingsley ParReg, *Booth Hall* 1836 O.S. An interesting name. ME *both-hall* had the meaning 'market-hall, town-hall', with examples of the term recorded in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and three Gloucestershire towns (VEPN I 132). That etymology is hardly appropriate for these rural places, which may be derived from ODanish *bōð* 'booth, temporary shelter'.

BOOTHEN 2 miles north of Trentham (SJ 8744), recorded in the early 15th century: VCH VIII 176. ? *Bothes* 1461 HLS, *Bowdon*, *Bowthon* c.1569 SHC 1926 104, *Bowthen* c.1560 *ibid.* 107, *Booden brig* 1683 Stoke on Trent CA, *Boothen (Bowden) Bridge* 1689 *ibid.*, *Boothen* 1755 Stoke on Trent ParReg, *Boden* 1803 *ibid.*, *Booden*, *Boothden*, *Boothen* 1806 *ibid.*, *Boothen Ville* 1836 O.S. Possibly from the dative plural of ME *both*, from ODan *bōð*, meaning '(at the) booths or temporary shelters'.

BOOTHLOW, OVER BOOTHLOW 1 mile south-east of Longnor (SK 0963). *Boothlo* 1670 Alstonefield ParReg, *Booth Low*, *Nether Booth Low* 1840 O.S. Perhaps from ODan *bōð*, ME *both* 'booth, temporary shelter', with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus'.

BOOTH'S HALL FARM, BOOTH'S WOOD 1 mile south-west of Ipstones (SK 0148, SJ 0048). ? *Buwothus* 1335 D1229/1/4/25, *le Bothus* 1352 SRO D1229/1/4/27, *the Bethes* 1593 SRO D1229/1/4/16, *Booth*, *Booth Wood* 1836 O.S. Perhaps from ODan *bōð* 'booth, temporary shelter', with ODan *hús* 'house', so 'booth-house'. See also Boothen.

BORDESLEY 2 miles north of Redditch (SO 0470). *Bordeslega* 1138 (1266) Ch, *Bordeslea* 1159 SHC I 29, *Bordesley*, *Borsly* 1535 VE, *Bursley* 1577 Saxton, *Boresley* 1650 Survey. From a personal name **Bord* (cf. *Borda*, Derbyshire), or from a genitival composition involving OE *bord* 'board, plank; border', with OE *lēah*. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire. Cf. Bordesley, Warwickshire; Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

BORESHANKY, BORESHANKS (unlocated, between Kiddemore Green and Broom Hall, Brewood (SJ 8709).) *Bereshankes* 1611 SHC 1934 (ii) 39, *Boreshanky* 1643 Brewood ParReg, *Boreshanck* 1683

Dep, Boreshanks 1685 *ibid.* A curious name, perhaps from OE *bār* 'boar', with OE *sc(e)anca* 'shank, shin, leg', hence 'boar's leg', perhaps with reference to the shape of the land - Halliwell gives a northern meaning of shank 'the projecting point of a hill, joining it with the plain': Broom Hall stands on a hill.

BORKESTALLES (unlocated, near Sedgley.) *Borkestalles* c.1270 SHC 1941 77. See also Bukstalles.

BORROWCOP HILL 1 mile south-east of Lichfield (SK 1208). *Burwey (field)* 1303 SHC 1939 91, *Burwhay* 1372 SRO 3764/60[27543], *Burghay* 1376 SRO 3764/71[40945], *Burghewhaye* 1380 SRO 3764/73[40945], *Burweycop* 1444 VCH XIV 110, *Burrowcop (Field)* 1514 SRO DW1851/8/50, *Bowwe Cope (Field)* 1547 SRO 3764/82[27543], *Borrowcopfeld* 1552 Harwood 1806: 390, *Boroughcop hill* 1577 Saxton, *Barrow-cop-fields* 1585 (1798) Shaw I 336, *Burwaycop* (before 17th century) VCH XIV 7, *Borrowcop* 1613 SRO D15/10/1/52, *Burway or Borrowcop* 1719 *ibid.* 110, *Boroughcop Hill* 1720 Bowen, *Barrow Cop Hill* 1834 O.S. From OE *burh* 'fortified place', with OE *weg* 'way, path, highway', hence 'the trackway of (or to) the fortification', with OE *cop* 'a hill-top'. SHC VI (ii) 186 records *Bradway alias Burghay*, and *Burghay or Burway*. There is some doubt whether such earthworks ever existed - Shaw 1798: I 231 states '...there are no remains of a camp on the top of it...', and see also SHC 1950-1 147. But a circular earthwork is shown on the 1882 6" O.S. map as 'Supposed site of Saxon fort'; and an earthwork 310' in diameter is recorded in OSS 1949-50 18; see also TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 15; VCH XIV 7, 40. The element *burh* is also found in Oxbury (*Oxenbury* 1391 SHC VI (i) 187), a name found north of the hill by a ditch known as Castle Ditch (*Casteldyke*, part of the moat of the Close, c.1535: SHC VI (i) 165-6. See also TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 112; 114). The *bury* element in *Oxenbury* is likely to be used there in the sense 'borough', and Castle Ditch probably referred to the Cathedral Close (see TSSAHS XXII 1980-1 114): Lichfield had no castle, although there were 'perimeter earthworks' (*ibid.* 112-4). It is possible that Borrowcop is to be associated with DB *Burouestone* (q.v.). See also Borwey Foordes; Bradway. Stukeley's reference to *Mawcop* in 1724 (Itinerary II 21) possibly refers to this hill.

BORWAY FORD (unlocated, but probably on the river Trent north-west side of Alrewas: see TSSAHS XX 1978-9 loose map.) *Borwey Foordes* 1573 SHC XIII 297, *Borway Ford* c.1745 SRO D615/D/148. The name is presumably to be associated with field-names *Oldeburwey* and *New Burwey*, recorded in 1327 (Alrewas Ct), *Burwey* recorded in 1331 (*ibid.*), *Borewey* recorded in 1334 (*ibid.*), *Burwaye House* recorded in 1617 (SHC 1934 25), and *Burway Meadow* recorded in 1658 (SRO DW1851/8/4; SK 174147). See also Burwey, Bradway. Probably from OE *burh-weg* 'the way to the fortification (or borough; see also Broadfields)', or possibly *burh-(i)eg* 'fort-island' (see JNSFC 21 18), but the significance of that form is not fully understood. PN Sa I 39 records three examples of *burh-(i)eg* regularly spaced along the river Thames (Laleham Burway, Surrey; Borough Marsh near Sonning, Berkshire; and Burroway near Bampton, Oxfordshire), and one (Burway) near Ludlow on the river Teme.

BOSCASTLE (unlocated, in Gnosall parish.) *Boscastle* 1650 SRO DW1736/1/ix11. A curious name for which no explanation can be offered.

BOSCOBEL a hunting-lodge built c.1600 by the Giffards of nearby Chillington Hall just inside Shropshire on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, 8 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8308). *Boscobell* 1624 SPDom, *Boskeville* 1631 (1680) SHC 1919 273, *Boscobell* 1632 Brewood ParReg, *Bascaveale* 1644 (*et freq.*) Brewood ParReg, *Bassobel* 1647 CC, *Boscabell* 1660 Blount, *Boscobel* 1680 SHC 1919 241, *Baskabell* 1707 *ibid.* The traditional derivation, given in Blount 1660: 12, is that 'John Giffard, Esq., who first built this house, invited Sir Basil Brook [1576-?1646, of Madeley Hall, Shropshire, and the grandfather of Frances Cotton who owned the Boscobel and Whiteladies estate c.1651] with other friends and neighbours, to a housewarming feast; at which time Sir Basil was desired by Mr Giffard to give the house a name, he aptly calls it BOSCOBEL (from the Italian *Boscobello*, which in that language signifies fair wood), because seated in the midst of many fair woods'. The traditional derivation may well be correct, but some of the spellings (including, curiously and perhaps significantly, that used locally in the parish registers) suggest an association with Boscherville-le-Perry, in the province of Eure west of Rouen in Normandy, or Baskeville (variously Bascquilla, Basqueville, Balkierville) in the Pays-de-Caux, which gave its name to the abbey of St George there (see Eyton 1854-60: I 231). It is possible that the Giffards, from Longueville-la-Giffard, in the valley of Scie in Normandy some 20 miles north of Boscherville (and also lords of Bolbec in Normandy), had connections with and named the lodge after Boscherville: various members of the Giffard family spent time in northern France around the latter part of the 16th century (see SHC V NS 144-61; 168). The family name Boscherville is frequently found in early records: at the beginning of the 13th century there were Boschervilles in Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, and Wiltshire: Eyton 1854-60: I 237-8. References in Staffordshire records include *Boesavilla* c.1130 (SHC II 201), *Boschervile* (c.1177 SHC III 228), *Boschervile* (1199 *ibid.* 34), *Baschervill* (1200 *ibid.* 66), *Boscherville* (c.1200 SHC XI 315), *Buschervill* (1224 SHC IV 32), *Boschomele* (1256 Selden Soc. 96 1980 232; see also SHC II 203, SHC XI 315 fn, SHC XVI 264, 265, 275, 296; SHC XII NS 106-7), but no connections with this place have been traced, other than a tenuous link between the Giffard and Baskerville families: Eyton 1864-60: I 237-8. The lodge at Boscobel sheltered Charles II after the battle of Worcester in September 1651. The Royal Oak, said to have been grown from an acorn of the tree in which the king hid, is nearby. The reference to *Bosco Bello Woods, near Madeley* (Shropshire) in 1648 (SHC X (ii) 30) is almost certainly an error, since Boscobel is nine miles from Madeley (and see also TSAS 3rd Series X 94-5), but if not may possibly explain the tradition recorded in Blount, above. Francis Baskerfeld is recorded in 1595 (SHC XVI 143), and Andreus Kelled de Baskerfield in 1597 (SHC 4th Series 9 70), and may be associated with *Baskerfelde House* (unlocated, between Quatt and Arley) which appears on a map of c.1560 of the Bridgnorth area (see Bellett 1856: 206), possibly to be associated with *Baskervile*, recorded c.1250: Rees 1997: 128. An intriguing reference to Andreus Kelled (cf. Avery Kellet of Knightley recorded in 1604: SRRC 1037/23/44) of *Baskerfield* in a Summons requiring recusants to appear at Stafford assizes in 1597 (SHC 4th Series IX 70) may refer to that place, but *Baskerfield* is said to have been in Staffordshire (Boscobel, which may well have housed recusants - the recusant Giffards of Chillington, Blackladies and Church Eaton, who owned Boscobel, are also named in the Summons - is just within Shropshire). *Baskeyfields Farm* appears on modern maps at Chatterley (SJ 8451), but the age and

history of the name have not been traced, although *Baskerville* is recorded in this area c.1337: SHC XI 73. On the Baskervill or Boskervill family see also Dugdale 1730: I 50.

BOSCOMOOR (pronounced Boozmoor [bu:zmɔ:]) ½ mile south of Penkridge (SJ 9213). *Bowes more* 1598 Ct, *Boothsmoor* 1644 Penkridge ParReg, *Boosemoore* (fflatt) 1646 Ct, *Boosmore* 1681 *ibid*, *Booth(s)moor* 1644 to 1763 *ibid*, *Boothmore otherwise Boscomoore* 1789 SRO D260/M/7/5/63, *Boosemore* 1823 Penkridge ParReg, *Boscomore* 1825 *ibid*, *Bosco Moor* 1832 Teesdale, *Boscomoor* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from a personal name Bows or Bowes, rather than from ODan *bōð* 'temporary shelter, bothy', with OE *mōr* 'moorland'. The change in spelling in the 18th century to *Bosco-* (Latin 'wood') suggests a learned affectation, probably influenced by Boscobel (q.v.), 6 miles to the south-west, but the earlier pronunciation has been retained.

BOSSES, THE an area of low-lying ground in Shenstone parish (SK 0902), over a part of which called Radley Moor passes the Roman road Rykniel Street (Margary number 18c). *in bosco suo de Boshay* 12th century Duig, *bosco de Bossay* 1209 SHC 1923 277, *Boscehay* 1262 SHC V (i) 137, *Boscehaya* 1262 SHC 4th Series XVIII 50, *Bossey* 1636 SRO DW1784/2, *The Bosses* 1798 Shaw I 41, *Great Bosses* 1834 White 377. Probably from OE **bors* 'a spiky or bristly plant', with *hay*, from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'fence, enclosure, clearing', now lost. Cf. Boasley, Devon; Boscombe, Wiltshire.

BOSTHAYE (unlocated, possibly near Stanton). *Bosthaye* c.1235 SHC 4th Series IV 200.

BOSTY LANE in the parishes of Rushall and Aldridge, part of an old drove road between North Wales and London. From the name *Bolstyle*, *Bolestile*, which appears frequently in medieval perambulations of Cannock Forest (e.g. *Bolestile* 1286 SHC V (i) 166, *Bolstyle* 1285-6 SHC 1924 330, *Boltestile* Inq. 1309-10), possibly derived from OE *bolt* 'bolt', and OE *stigel* 'stile, crossing place' (EDD), giving 'the bolted stile'. The word *bolt* is also recorded with the meaning 'bundle of withies' or 'wood from which lathes were split', and it is possible that the word is to be taken in that sense here. Duignan 1880: 60 gives a derivation from Boarstone Lane, later Boston, becoming Bosty, but no evidence to support such derivation has been traced.

BOTHAM HALL (obsolete.) 1 mile south of Cheddleton (SJ 9751). *Bothom* 1306 Banco, 1327 SHC 1912 253, 1530 SHC 1910 19, 1644 SHC 4th Series I 138, *Bottom Hall* 1775 Yates. From OE **boðm*, which seems originally to have referred to damp valley floors, but which came to mean 'a short, level stretch of valley floor with abruptly rising sides, prone to flooding': see Cole 1987-8; VEPN I 133. A house called Ashcombe (q.v.) was built on the site of Bothom Hall c.1806: see Erdeswick 1844: 496. *Bothom Feld* and *the Botham* are recorded in 1553 and 1698 respectively near Uttoxeter: SRO D786/11/1-3. A *Bothom* is recorded in Chell c.1275 (SHC 1911 442), and appears to be the same place as *Botham* 1586 (SHC 1929 145). See also Botham Hall.

BOTTERAMS (obsolete) on the south side of Smestow (SO 8591). *Botterams* 1834 O.S., *Bottrams* 1834 White, *Botterham (Lock)* 1895 O.S. Possibly from a personal name.

BOTTESLOW 1 mile north of Fenton (SJ 8946). ? *Bochilewe* 1307 SHC XI NS 259, *Buttelowe* 13th century SHC XVI 285, *Boteslowe* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 7, *Botteslowe* 1471 HLS, *Botteslowe* 1573 SHC 1938 138, 1590 SHC XVI 102, 1595 *ibid*. 149, 1607 SHC III NS 4. The first element is perhaps

an OE personal name *Bott or Botta, with OE *hlāw* 'burial mound', so 'Bott(a)'s tumulus'. See also Bukkeleg, Bukkelyh.

BOTTOM 2 miles north-east of Ipstones (SK 0452). *Bothum* 1309 SHC X (i) 6, 1566 SHC 1926 141, *le Bothome* 1344 SHC 1913 109, *Botham* 1562 SHC 1931 146, *Bothom* 1591 SHC XVI 110, *Bottom House* 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S. From OE **boðm* 'a short, level stretch of valley floor with abruptly rising sides, prone to flooding': see Cole 1987-8; VEPN I 133. Cf. Botham Hall.

BOTT'S COPPICE ½ mile south-west of Hanbury (SK 1627). From the Bott family, well recorded in this area from at least 1666: SRRC 513/2/18/7/22. *Bottscroft* is recorded hereabouts in 1666: SRRC 513/2/18/7/22.

BOUGHEY HALL FARM ½ mile west of Colton (SK 0420). *Boughey's Farm* 1773 SRO DW1792/1. From the Boghay or Boughey family who purchased the estate c.1579: SHC 1914 153 note, 155. William Buirghay recorded in 1379 (SHC XVI 168), and John Bogeys of Rugeley, recorded in 1430 (SHC XVII 136), may have been associated with this place. See also Bowhill Farm; Bowseywood.

BOUNDARY 1 mile south-east of Dilhorne (SJ 9842). *Boundary* 1836 O.S. The place lies at the junction of three parishes. The name appears to be relatively modern.

BOURCHIERS WOOD (unlocated, in Betley). *Bourchiers Wood, Bouchers Wood, Bowchiers Wood* c.1543 SHC X NS I 167-8; SHC 1912 142. From a surname Bouchiers, Bouchers or similar (see for example SHC XII (i) 310; cf. Boozer, DES 54). OFr Bouchier meant 'pursemaker'.

BOURKE GRANGE - see WINDGATES.

BOURNE (unlocated, in Longdon parish, possibly near Burntwood or Abnalls). *Le Bourn* c.1310 SRO D1734, *Bourne* 1318 VCH III 223, 1341 VCH XIV 217, 1377 SRO D1734. Possibly associated with Boney Hay (q.v.). It may be noted that the name Bilson Brook (q.v.) was formerly known as Bourne Brook: VCH XIV 195. This place may perhaps have taken its name from such brook: see Bourne Brook, Bourn Brook.

BOURNE BROOK running though Little Aston, *bradanburnan* 957 (12th century, S.574), *le Burne* c.1213 MRA, *aqua de Burne* 1235 Ch, 1276 RH, 1315 IPM, *La Burne, La Bourne* 1286 SHC V (i) 161, 166, 1379 Ct, *la Burne* 1307 SHC VII 173, *the old water course or stream of Bowrne* 1601 (1801) Shaw II 16, *the waters of Burne* 1601 SHC XVI 207, *Bourne* 1749 Bowen; **BOURN BROOK** a tributary of the river Trent south of King's Bromley, *Bourn Brook* 1834 O.S. From OE *burna* 'stream' (with OE *brād* 'broad, wide' in the first form), referring in the first case to a stream which formed the boundary between Cannock Forest and Sutton Chase: Duignan 1902: 23. The upper part of that brook was known as *Blakewatar* c.1540 (Leland ii 99), and *Black-brook* c.1595 (Erdeswick 1844: 431). See also Bilson.

BOURNE POOL 1 mile east of Aldridge (SP 0800). From OE *burna* 'stream': the pool was created in the 15th century for an iron mill, and reduced to its present size before 1902: TSSAHS XXXII 1990-190.

BOURNE VALE 1 mile south-east of Aldridge (SO 0699). *Bournevale* late 18th century StEnc 77, *Bourn Vale* 1834 O.S. From Bourne Brook (q.v.) which runs through this place. Vale is from ME *vale* 'a vale, a wide valley', from OFr *val*, a rare element in Staffordshire, but early spellings for the name have not been traced, and the name may be of relatively recent origin.

BOVENHILL (unlocated, in Tettenhall parish, perhaps near Barnhurst). *Bobenhull* 1369 SHC XIII 76, *Bovenhill* 1398 VCH III 317-8, XX 19, 1642 Ct. From OE *a-būfan* 'above', with OE *hyll* 'hill', hence '(the place) above the hill'. Shaw 1801: II 201 incorrectly identifies this place as Barnhurst (q.v.): a list of 1719 and White 1851 show Barnhurst and Bovenhill separately: VCH III 319. If near Barnhurst, the hill may be Pendeford Hill, which overlooks Barnhurst. *Buvenheorth*, recorded in 1228 (SHC IV 63), has not been located.

BOWELES (probably at Caudy Fields near Walsall: see Willmore 1887: 254). *Bueles* 1228 SHC IV 65, ? *Buell* 1242 SHC IV 96, *Boeles* 1242-3 Fees, *Boeles*, *Boweles* 1271 SHC V (i) 152, *Bowelis* 1276 SHC 1911 166, *Boueles* 1286 *ibid.* 174, *Bouwelis* 1300 *ibid.* 178, *Bouvelys* 1309 SSAHS XVII 1975-6 71. Perhaps associated with Bowelles Felde (q.v.). See also Balls Hill. The name is from the Boweles family: Alice of Rushall married Sir Hugh Boweles (d. before 1271): see Willmore 1887: 249-54. The family name is probably from Bouelles in Seine-Inférieure: DES 57. *Bowelles* in Shropshire is recorded in the 16th century: SRRC 2028/1/2/55.

BOWELLES FELDE (unlocated) *Bowelles Felde* 1550 SHC XII 204. See also Boweles.

BOWEREND ½ mile west of Madeley (SJ 7644). *Bowre-Ende* 1536 SHC XI 275, *Bowre End* 1602 AD, *Bower-ende* 1610 SHC III NS 31. From OE *būr* 'cottage', or possibly OE *(ge)būr* 'a peasant who held land in return for rent and services'.

BOWERS 4 miles north of Eccleshall (SJ 8135). *Boures* 1278 SHC 1911 170, 1286 SHC VI (i) 177, 1320 SHC 1921 23, *Bowres* 1401 SHC XV 114, *Boures* 1422 SHC XVII 85, *Bowers* 1597 SHC 1935 28, *Standon Bowers* 1807 SRO D615/M/7/37. Possibly from OE *būr* 'cottage', but the element is very difficult to distinguish in place-names from OE *(ge)būr* 'a peasant who held land in return for rent and services', but since the place lies 1½ miles south-east of Chapel Chorlton, which incorporates an element indicating the status of the occupiers, *(ge)būr* cannot be ruled out completely, though a simplex name of this type would be very surprising, and the term was in any event archaic by 1086, having been replaced by *villan*. The place is sometimes called Standon Bowers, from nearby Standon (q.v.).

BOWERS BENT on the east side of Bowers (SJ 8235). *Bent* 1696 Standon ParReg, *Bowers Bent* 1729 *ibid*, *the Bent* 1818 Salt 1888: 143, 1833 O.S. The *bent* element is from dialect *bent* 'the slope or hollow of a hill'.

BOWGAGE FARM ½ mile north-west of Grindley (SK 0329). *Bowgage Farm* 1909 EHNMR SC00936. Said to have been recorded as *Bow Gage* and *Beau Gage*: TNSFC 1886 38; StEnc 38. The second element is perhaps from OFr *cage* (see Cage Hill), used in place-names with reference to fenced enclosures, sometimes (perhaps especially) in parks (see VEPN II 122), so here possibly *beau cage* 'the beautiful fenced-off place' - the place lies near Chartley Park.

BOWHILL FARM, BOWHILL BANK ½ mile north-east of Betley (SJ 7648). *Bowhill Farm* 1705 SRO D1461/4/1, *Bowey* (?*Lone*) 1833 O.S. Although SHC 1933 31 states 'there does not appear to be any place-name in Staffordshire from which [the surname Boughay, Boghay, Bughay] could have been taken', there is evidence to associate this place with the name (recorded as *Boghay* 1199 SHC 1933 (ii) 31-45, *Bouheye* *ibid.* 32, *Boghay* 1332 SHC X (i) 101, *Boughay* 1407 SHC XVI 59, *Bughay* 1411 *ibid.* 75, *Boghay* 1432 SHC III NS 129, *Bowghey* 1460 SHC III NS 213, *Boghay* 1486 SHC VII 131): this may be the place in Balterley associated with the family in 1288 (SHC 1933 (ii) 32). It is unclear whether the place gave rise to the family name or vice-versa. The name may be from OE *boga* 'bow', possibly referring to the shape of the (*ge*)*heg* 'clearing, enclosure', or perhaps from a bend in a river, so 'the enclosure or clearing near the river bend'. This place lies to the north-west of a bend in a stream. See also Boughey Hall Farm; Bowsey.

BOWODE - see **BOODEN FARM**.

BOWSEYWOOD 1 mile south-east of Betley (SJ 7646). *Bowsiewood* 1583 Betley ParReg, *Bowseywood* 1592 *ibid.*, *Bowsyewood* 1600 *ibid.*, *Bowsywood* 1694 *ibid.*, *Bowsey Wood* 1795 SRO D3272/1/22/7/1, 1833 O.S. Perhaps from OE **bōsig* 'animal stall, cow-stall' or 'right of pasture', in the second sense applied to land on which an outgoing tenant was allowed to continue pasturing animals (see VEPN I 131). The wood was evidently of some size and lies on both sides of Checkley Brook.

BOYLES HALL ½ mile east of Audley (SJ 8050). *Boyleshall* 1492 SHC 1912 256, *Boylle hall* 1539 SHC NS V 270, *Boylshall* c.1569 SHC 1938 96, *Boyleshall* 1611 Audley ParReg, *Boyls Hall* 1733 SHC 1944 2, *Boils Hall (Colliery)* 1790 SRO D1788/58/10. The first element would appear to be the personal name Boyle (DES 58).

BOYLSTON (unlocated) *Boylston* 1599 SHC 1935 110.

BRABSON or **BRABASONS** (unlocated, in or near Uttoxeter). *Brabasons* 1514 (1798) Shaw I 87, *Brabsons* 1737 SRO D543/B/3/4/1-6, *Brabson* 1786 SRO D543/C/7/14/1-2. Presumably from occupiers of that name. Shaw 1798: I 16 records that Sir Edward Brabazon held Canwell in 1606.

BRADDOCKS HAY on east side of Biddulph (SJ 8957). *Braddockshey* 1662 JNSFC LXIV 1929-30 97, *Braddocks Hay* 1842 O.S. Perhaps 'the hay or enclosure with the broad oak', from OE *brād āc* with Mercian OE (*ge*)*heg*, or from the name Braddock.

BRADELIE in Pirehill (unlocated) *Bradelie* 1086 DB. The location is now uncertain, but possibly Bagot's Bromley or Bradley Green in Burslem: VCH IV 51 fn.30; SHC XI NS 11-12; SHC 1916 169. Perhaps to be associated with *Bradley Moor*, recorded in 1781: SRO D615/D/310/1, or *Brondeye Heath*, marked to the south-east of King's Bromley on Slater's map of Staffordshire 1850, though the latter may be an error for *Bromley Heath*.

BRADEMORE (unlocated, possibly in the Cheadle area). (*manor of*) *Brademore* 1275 SHC V (i) 118.

BRADENBROOK a tributary of the river Manifold. From the oblique case *brādan* of OE *brād* 'broad'. The early forms of nearby Bradnop show similar development: *Bradenhop(e)* 1219 to 1346 FF.

BRADEN HEATH (unlocated, between Blymhill and Sheriffhales: see Plot 1686: 161.) *Bradenham* ? 13th century SHC XIV (ii) 14, *Braden heath* 1686 Plot 161. 'The broad heath', from OE *brādan*, the oblique case of *brād* 'broad, spacious', and OE *hæð*.

BRADES VILLAGE 1 mile west of Sandwell (SO 9890). *Brades* 1654 Roper 1980: 97, *Brades (Hall)* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from the OE personal name Brægd.

BRADLEY Ancient Parish (pronounced Bradeley [breidlɪ:]) 4 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 8717), *Bradelie*, *Bradelia* 1086 DB, *Bradley* 1798 Yates; **BRADLEY** (pronounced Bradeley [breidlɪ:]) 1 mile south-west of Bilston (SO 9595), *Bradeleg* 1086 DB, *Bradele* 1222 SHC IV (i) 223, *Bradelea* 1227 *ibid.* 52, *Bradeleye* 1290 Misc, 1308 SHC X 4, *Bradele* 13th century, *Bradeleye* 14th century Duig; **BRADELEY** 1 mile west of Norton in the Moors (SJ 8851), *Bredleye* 1274 SHC 1911 161, *Bredley*, *Bredeleye*, *Bredelee*, *Berdele* 1293 SHC VI (i) 245; **BRADLEY GREEN** in Biddulph (SJ8857), ? *Baddele* 1243 SHC IV 98, *Bradlegreene* 1582 Biddulph ParReg, *Bradley greene* 1662 *ibid*, *Bradley Green* 1793 SRO D4842/14/1/61, *Bradley Green* 1842 O.S.; **BRADELEY (FARM)** 1 mile north-east of Dilhorne (SJ 9844), *Bradeley* 1836 O.S. The common medial -e-, and lengthened modern pronunciation, indicate a derivation from inflected OE *brādan*, from OE *brād* 'broad', with OE *lēah*, hence 'broad or wide *lēah*'. Bradley Hall (*Bradley Hall* 1801 Shaw II 233), a 17th century timbered mansion built in 1596 in High Street, Kingswinford, and originally occupied by Dennis Bradley, a local yeoman, was dismantled and rebuilt in Stratford-upon-Avon as Bradley Lodge in 1924. Early forms of the name have not been traced, unless *Bradleigh*, recorded in the early 13th century (SHC 1921 4) refers to this place, and the name may be from the surname.

BRADLEY IN THE MOORS 4 miles east of Cheadle (SK 0641). *Bretlei* 1086 DB, 1166 SHC I 225, *Bredelege*, *Bredleyge* c.1192 CEC 261, *Bredleye* 1274 Ipm, *Bredleye* 1327 SHC VII (i) 216, *Brodley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 111, *Bradley* 1695 Morden, 1706 SRO D240/A/2/13/1-3, 1836 O.S. From OE *bred* 'board, plank', with OE *lēah*, suggesting '*lēah* where boards were produced', or 'the broad *lēah*'. The element is sometimes found in the sense 'plank bridge', but this place lies on a slight ridge, not on a stream.

BRADMORE 2 miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8997). *Breadmere*, *Bradmore* 1303 SRO D593/B/1/17/1/4/5, *Brademere(heth)* 1318 SRO D593/B/1/17/1/4/13, *Bradmore* 1647 Manorial Survey, 1659 StEnc 80, 1895 O.S. From OE *brād* with OE *mere* 'mere, pool', which has developed into 'the broad moor'.

BRADNAYS (unlocated, possibly near Cheadle). *Bradnays* 1663 SHC II (ii) 63. Probably the same derivation as Bradney (q.v.).

BRADNEY ½ mile east of Worfield (SO 7695). *Bradeney*, *Bradeneye* 1327 SR, *bradeney (p)* 1514 Worfield CA, *Bradley* 1752 Rocque, *Bradney* 1833 O.S. From OE *brādan-ēg* 'the broad island or land beside a stream, or broad raised land in marshland': the place lies on the north side of Stratford Brook. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

BRADNEY (WOOD) on the south side of Penn (SO 8895). Probably from a personal name, perhaps to be associated with John Bradeney recorded in 1506 (SHC 1928 85), Richard Bradeney recorded in 1516 (*ibid.* 69). The place lies on high ground, which makes a derivation from OE *brādan-ēg* 'the broad island or land beside a stream' improbable.

BRADNOP 2 miles south-east of Leek (SK 0155). *Bradehope* 1167 Eyton 1854-60: X 36, *Bradenhop* 1219 FF, 1233 BM, *Bradnap(p)e* 1227 Harl to 1477 Banco, *Bradonhop* 1256 Ch, *Bradenap* 1522 FF, *Bradnop Syde* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 30, *Bradnoppe* 1564 *Antrobus*, *Bradnappe* 1616 SHC IV NS 91, *Bradnap* 1686 Plot. From OE *brādan* (weak oblique case of OE *brād*) 'broad, spacious' and *hop* 'small enclosed valley; a plot of enclosed land, especially in a marsh', probably here in the second sense, as the land is very marshy, so 'the broad plot of enclosed land in the marsh'. References to Great Bradnop (*Bradnipe-grete* c.1240 *Deed* (1883) Sleigh) and Lesser Bradnop (*Bradnipe-lesse* c.1240 *Deed* (1883) Sleigh) and to *Upper Bradnopp* in the 1260s (*Loxdale*) indicate that there was then another settlement, which was perhaps at the north end of the Bradnop valley: VCH VII 170.

BRADSHAW 1 mile south of Horton (SJ 9455), *Bradeschawe* 1325 SHC 1911 366, *Bradsehawe* 1333 (1883) Sleigh 188, *Bradeschagh* 1353 SHC XII (i) 122, *Bradshawe* 1357 (1883) Sleigh 80, 1409 SHC XVI 72, 1556 SHC 1938 43, *Bradschawe* 1359 SRO DW1761/A/4/14, *Bradshaw* 1586 SHC 1927 130, *Bradshaw juxta Horton* 1664 SHC II (ii) 63; **BRADSHAW** (unlocated) in Alstonefield, *Bradshaw* 1429 DRO D2375M/1/1, *Bradshawe* 1571 DRO D2375M/189/14. From the OE adjective *brād* 'broad, spacious', and OE *scaga* 'a small wood, a copse, a strip of undergrowth or wood', so 'the broad small wood'. The second element is commonly found in counties to the north, but is less common in Staffordshire: see Coldshaw.

BRADSHAWS FARM 1½ miles south-west of Codsall (SJ 8401). *Bradshaws Farm* 1920 O.S. The place would appear to be that shown as *Brandhill* on Baugh's map of Shropshire, 1808. If so, the name originated from ME *brend* or *brand* 'burnt', with OE *hyll* 'hill', so 'the hill where the fire occurred', and later took the name of an owner or occupier.

BRADSTON BOTHEs (unlocated, possibly in Rushton James.) *Bradston Bothes* 1430 SRO DW1761/A/4/25.

BRADWAY (unlocated, possibly at Borrowcop Hill near Lichfield). *Bradway* c.1195 SHC VI (ii) 186, ? *Bradeweia* 1199 SHC III 58. The forms suggest 'the broad road', from OE *brād*, *weg*, but SHC VI (ii) 186 records *Bradway alias Burghay*, and *Burghay or Burway*. The *burg* element suggests a possible association with Borrowcop Hill (q.v.). See also Borwey Foordes.

BRADWELL 2 miles north of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8449). *Bradewell* 1223 SHC IV 27, 1240 (1798) Shaw I xxx, 1260 SHC 4th Series 13 15, 1282-3 SHC XI NS 252, *Bradewulle* 1217x1227 CEC 393, *Bradwelle* 1302 SHC VII 102, *Bradewalle* 1325 SHC IX 107, *Bradwall*, *Bradwalle* 1332 SHC X 82, *Bradewalle* 1416 SHC XVII 58, *Brodewal* c.1540 Leland ii 172, *Bradwall* 1600 SHC 1935 283, 1686 Plot 152. 'Broad stream', from OE *brād* 'broad, spacious', and Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'.

BRAKENHURST (FARM), BRAKEN HURST (WOOD) ½ mile north and ½ mile south-west respectively of Newchurch (SK 1423 and SK1422). *bracanhyrst* 942 (14th century, S.479), *bracanhyrst* 1008 (14th century, S.920), *Brakenhurst* 1836 O.S. From OE **bræcen* (which may have an ON origin: see VEPN I 141), with OE *hyrst*, giving 'the wooded hill overgrown with bracken or fern'. The land rises to 429' at Newchurch. See also Hooke 1983: 96. It is unclear whether *Brakenhurst*, recorded *temp.* Edward I (Okeover T298), is to be associated with this place.

BRAMPTON, THE on the north-east side of Newcastle under Lyme (SJ 8584). *Brampton* 1616 SHC NS IV 83, *Brampton Cottage* 1836 O.S. From OE *brōm-tūn* 'tūn where broom grew'.

BRAMSHALL Ancient Parish 2 miles west of Uttoxeter (SK 0633). *Branselle* 1086 DB, *Brumeshel* 1195 P, *Brendeshulf* 1211 SHC III (i) 151, ? *Brimshill* 1306 SHC VII 161, *Bromschulf* 1327 SR, *Bronsulf* 1242 Fees, *Bromsshulf* 1366 SHC VIII NS 28, *Bromshell* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 67. From OE *brōm* 'broom', with OE *scelf* 'shelf, ledge, shelving land', hence 'broom-covered shelf'. The church lies on the rim of a conspicuously flat hill-top, which is almost certainly the shelf of the place-name (see also Gelling 1981: 11). For Little Bramshall (*Little Bramshall* 1662 SRO DW1733/D/18) on the north-east side of Bramshall see SHC XI NS 3-4; VCH IV 51 fn.42.

BRAMSTEAD, BRAMSTEAD HEATH 4 miles south-east of Newport (SJ 7917). *Brams(t)on Heath* 1674, 1749 ParReg, *Bromstead Heath* 1793 Open Fds, *Bromston heath recte Bromstead* 1795 Reg Diss. The earliest spellings point towards OE *brōm stān* 'the broomy place with the stone', with the alternative '-place where broom grew', from OE *brōm-stede*. Bromstead represents Staffordshire dialect pronunciation.

BRANCOTE 2 miles east of Stafford (SJ 9622). *Bromcote* 14th century freq. Duig, *Brancott* 1836 O.S. From OE *brōm* 'broom', and OE *cot* 'cot, cottage, shelter, hut', hence 'the cottage with the broom'. See also Broncott.

BRANDY-LEA ½ mile north-west of Heaton (SJ 9463). *Brandleyhouse* 1543 NSFC Vol. LXVII 51-70, *Brandylee* 1686 SRO C/8/12. Probably from OE *brand-lēah* 'burnt lēah'.

BRANKLEY (FARM, HOUSE, LODGE & COVERT 2 miles north-east of Yoxall (SK 1520, SK 1521, SK 1621). *Brankeley* 1658 DCL 380.

BRANSTON 2 miles south-west of Burton-on Trent (SK 2221). *Brontiston* 942 (14th century, S.479), *Branteston* 956 (not listed in Sawyer 1979) SHC 1937 6; Shaw 1798: I 21-2, *Brantestone* 1086 DB, *Brantisto* c.1114 (13th century) SHC 1916 215, *Brantheston* c.1132 SHC 1937 9, *Brantest* 1159-9 SHC 1937 13, *Brontestona* 1175 SHC I 81, *Bruntiston* 1284 SHC 1911 191, *Brawnston* 1569 SHC XVII 217. The genitive -s- indicates a derivation from a OE personal name *Brant (rather than from OE *brant* 'burnt'), with OE *tūn*. The place was renamed Branston from Branstone in 1958: Youngs 1991: 404. *Branston Holm* is recorded in Burton upon Trent in 1771: SHC 1931 91.

BRATCH, THE 1 mile north-west of Wombourne (SO 8693). *the Bratches* early 17th century VCH XX 210, *the Braches* 1612 SRO D740/8/7, *ye Brach* 1767 Trysull ParReg, *Bratch* 1775 Yates, 1825 *ibid*, *The Bratch* 1834 O.S. 'The new enclosure', from OE *brēc* 'land broken up for cultivation', commonly found as field-names as Brache, Breche, Breach, Bridge, Britch, Birch, etc. - see Foxall

1980: 33. The Bratches, 2 miles south-east of Cannock, probably has the same derivation. Cf. Breach Mill; The Breatch.

BRAZENHILL 1 mile north of Haughton (SJ 8621). *Brussenhull* 1238 SHC IV 89, *Brusenhulle* 1299 SHC VII (i) 54, *Bruzenhul* 13th century SHC IV 273, *Bresonhulle* 1381 SHC XVII 197, *Brasenell*, *Bressenell* Eliz Chanc P, *Brasenhill* 1557 SHC 1926 14, *Bressenell* c.1562 SHC IX NS 29, *Brasenell* 1566 SHC IX 86, *Brasnyll* 1586 SHC XVII 233, *Brasnill* 1686 Plot, 1747 Bowen. Possibly from OE *borsten* the past participle of OE *berstan* 'to burst, to crack' (see VEPN II 115), with OE *hyll*, hence 'the hill with the breach or landslip', perhaps explained by the fact that the place lies on a small deposit of glacial sand and gravel, presumably once quarried. Cf. Bristnall; Bristnall Hall, Worcestershire; Burshill, West Yorkshire.

BREACH MILL near Hagley; **THE BREACH** on the north-west side of Upper Tean (SK 0040), *The Breach* 1836 O.S.; **THE BREACH** in Halesowen; **THE BREATCH** near Belbroughton. 'The new enclosure', from OE *brēc* 'land broken up for cultivation', commonly found as field-names as Brache, Breche, Breach, Bridge, Britch, Birch, etc. - see Foxall 1980: 33. Cf. The Bratch.

BREADIHURST (unlocated) *Breadihurst* 1590 SHC 1930 (ii) 197.

BREDON, RIVER a tributary of the river Hamps. Although not marked on maps, Oakden 1984: 6 records that the name is widely used locally. Early forms are not available, but if it is ancient the name might be related to the river Bride in Dorset, perhaps of Celtic origin with the meaning 'boiling, bubbling': see Ekwall 1928: 52.

BREECH COPPICE in Bagot's Park (SK 0726). *le Breche* 1402 SHC NS XI 208, *Breech Close* 1724 Survey, *Breech Coppice* 1836 O.S. From OE *brēc* 'land broken up for cultivation', commonly found as field-names as Brache, Breche, Breach, Bridge, Britch, Birch, etc. The name is also recorded in Breech Lane here.

BRENDEHET (unlocated, near Blurton.) *Brendehet* 1302 SHC XI 311. 'The burned heath'.

BRENDWOOD (unlocated, in Okeover.) *Branwode* 15th century SHC VII NS 171, *Brentewode* 1439 *ibid.* 51, *Brendwoodd*, *Bryndwoodd* 1571 *ibid.* 73. 'The burned wood'.

BRERETON 1 mile south-east of Rugeley (SK 0516). *Brerdun* 1292 Banco, *Breredon* 1279 Cl, 1317 Ch, *Brerdon* 1329 SHC XI 8, *Brereton* 1412 AD 1, 1834 O.S., *Brewarton* 1547 FF, *Bruerton* 1577 Saxton, 1755 Bowen, *Brereton vulg Brewerton* 1675 Ogilby. From OE *brēr* 'briar, bramble, thorn', with OE *dān* 'hill'.

BRETELL, BRETELL LANE 1 mile south-west of Brierley Hill (SO 9084). *Breydehille* 1300 SHC VII (i) 80, *Bredhull* 1307 SHC VII 175, *Bredhul* 1327 SHC VII (i) 247, *Bredhull* 1332 SHC X 87, *Brethill* (p) temp. Henry VIII SHC X NS I 114, *Bretyll* 1539 SHC NS VI (i) 72, *Bretill* 1603 SHC 1946 63, *Brettell* 1614 Duig, 1663 SHC II (ii) 29, *Britwell* 1686 Plot, *Brettell Lane* 1834 O.S. Duignan 1902: 24 suggests a derivation from the personal name Brihtelm (Brihtelm), but the forms suggest that the root may be OE *brædu*, in the later recorded sense 'a space in a field', such as 'broad strip of cultivated land', or possibly OE *bred* 'board, plank', so 'the place from which planks were obtained', with OE

hyll 'hill'. Cf. Bredfield, Suffolk; Bredhurst, Kent. The name *Brechelemore* is recorded in the area in 1300 (SHC VII (i) 80), and may be associated with this place. Guttery 1950: 21 refers to *Bryt Hill* at Hawbush and *Brettell* on the western borders of Pensnett Chase. Some of the above spellings may relate to Bryt Hill.

BREWOD Ancient Parish (pronounced Brood [bru:d]) 6 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8808). *Brevde* 1086 DB, *Breoda* 1139 MRA, *Breode* 1151, 1166 MRA, *Broude* c.1150 Brewood Ch, *Brewuda* 1188 SHC I 137, *Browd(e)* c.1211-16 Brewood Ch, 1330 Ch, *Brewuda* 1188 to 1196 P, *Bri(e)wude* 1196 Chanc R, 1202 P, *Brewde* 1201 P, 1236 Fees et freq to 1559 Pat, *Bruwode* 1245 Lib, 1315 to 1496 Ipm, 1415 Coram R, *Brewod(e)*, *Brewud(e)* freq 1200 to 1834 O, *Breuud'* 1207 CIR, *Brehude* 1290 Ch, *Breuwode* 1306 GDR, 1322 Ch, *Brewod'* 1461 HAME 470, *Brude* 1462 CA, *Brywoode* 1562 SRRL 1514/310, *Breewood als Braywoode* 1571 Pat, *Bruwood* 1558 FF, *Bruyde* 1561 Will, *Breawood* 1643 Will. 'Wood at the hill called Bre'. A hybrid name, the first element from Welsh (and Cornish) *bre* 'hill' (although the place is centred on the edge of a steeply sloping stream bank, rather than a hill in the conventional sense), deriving from British **brīgā*, late British **brega*, with OE *wudu* 'wood' (a common element, but rare before c.700: JEPNS 8 43; see also Jackson 1953: 701-2), perhaps demonstrating that at the time of English colonisation there were still Welsh-speaking natives in the area, or that the colonists simply added *wudu* to a surviving hill-name Bre. Brewood, Charnwood (Leicestershire), Chetwode (Berkshire) and Crewood (Cheshire) are probably the only examples of a combination of *wudu* with an earlier place-name or pre-English element. Brewood gave its name to Brewood Forest (q.v.), in which it lay. The spellings suggest that the modern pronunciation may have developed in recent centuries. *Breudewode* in Fulfen, recorded in the 16th century (SHC XI 276, 284), is almost certainly a misreading of *Brendewode* 'burnt wood'.

BREWOD FOREST *foresta de Brewuda* 1187 SHC I 139. See Brewood. An area subject to Forest law dating from at least the 12th century which covered a large area of south Staffordshire to the west of the river Penk and extended into Shropshire, including Blymhill, Wheaton Aston, Bilbrook, Perton and (in Shropshire) Hawkswell (see SHC VI NS (ii) 49), Albrighton, Donington, White Ladies and Tong. The southern boundary ran more or less in line with, and may indeed have followed, the boundary between Cuttlestone and Seisdon Hundreds: see Anderson 1934: 145. Brewood Forest was disafforested in 1204: VCH V 18 fn.2.

BRIDDESHUS or **BRIDDESHALL** (unlocated, 'a small spot in [Tatenhill], not noticed on any of the maps, and with difficulty now to be discovered': Shaw 1798: I 107.) *Briddeshous* c.1262 (1798) Shaw I 107, *Briddeshale* 1277 SHC VI (i) 81, *Breyesdeshale* 1280 SHC 1911 177, *Briddeshus* 1290 Ch, *Briddleshall* 1301 SHC VII 79, *Briddeshall* 1301 *ibid.* 80, SHC XI 147, *Briddeshale* 1302 *ibid.* 102, *Briddeshalle* 1355 SHC 1913 158, *Bredshall* 1357 SHC XII NS 281, *Briddeshalle* 1380 Ipm XV 97, *Briddushalle* 1413 SHC XVII 46, *Byrdeshall* 1414 Ct, *Bryddesale(feldes)* 1422 Ct, *Birdhouse*, *Birdshill*, *Briddeshalle*, *Bredshall*, *Birdshouse* 1559 (1798) Shaw I 123, 107, *Birdsall* 1614 SHC IV NS 18, 1660 DRO D3155/7112. Perhaps from OE *bridd* 'a young bird', with OE *hūs* 'house', possibly meaning here 'the building where young birds were reared' or 'house or hall with the fowl or the coop'. However, a derivation from a personal name **Bridd* cannot be ruled out: William Brid appears in an

early undated deed in this area (Shaw 1798: I 109), and Robert Bridde is recorded in 1440 (SHC 1938 307). The personal name is probably a nickname from OE *bridd*: see DES 45. Hardy 1907: 132 states that this manor lay between Dunstall, Fernhill Farm, Rangemore and Highlands Park, and that the name survived in *Birdshall Meadow*, which lay near Rangemore Park next to the Dunstall Brook.

BRIDESTONES 2½ miles east of Congleton, on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border (SJ 9062). *Bridestones* 1766 Gough 1806: II 506, *Bride Stones* 1775 Yates, 1823 GM II 217-22, 1844 Garner, *Bryde Stones* 1791 SHC 4th Series 13 133, *Bridestones* 1831 Lewis. The remains of a gallery grave (first recorded in Rowlands 1766: 319-20), possibly built before 2,500 BC, associated until the 18th century with an elongated mound of stones variously recorded as 60 and 120 yards in length, about 14 yards wide, and orientated east-west, of which 'several hundred' loads were removed for road-making in 1764: JNSFC LX 1925-6 188; JNSFC 5 1965 33. 18th century accounts show that there were two other chambers covered by the mound, about 55 yards west of the gallery: AJ 120 1963 247. A detailed account and history of the monument is in VCH Ch I 43-6. Various fanciful legends have become attached to the stones. The age of the name is unknown, but a standing stone called *the Stepmother Stone* and a mound called *Mystylowe* recorded in the early 17th century may be associated with the monument: VCH VII 223. There may have been another monument called *Bride Stones* near Cheddleton (see Ring Hey): Shaw 1801: II 2 quotes from the notes to Holliday's poem 'The British Oak': '...Bride Stones, as they have been called time out of memory, have been found in or near Cheddleton...[t]hese Bride Stones the author has not yet had an opportunity of seeing...'. No such monument has been traced near Cheddleton. Other *Bride Stones* are said to have existed near Dilhorne: Shaw 1801: II 2. It is evident that *Bride Stones* was a colloquial name, certainly in Staffordshire, for prehistoric monuments. EDD suggests that in North Yorkshire, *bride-stones* was the name given to pillars of rocks found on the moors, at which marriage ceremonies were said to have been practised. See also JNSFC 5 1965 33; PN Ch II 291. A prehistoric burial chamber called *The Bridestones* is at Stansfield, Yorkshire.

BRIDEWODE (unlocated) *Bridewode* 1306 SHC VII 156.

BRIDGE CROSS 1 mile west of Burntwood (SK 0409). *Byrdes Crosse* 1578 VCH XIV 201 - perhaps from the name *Byrd* (DES 45), which by metathesis has become *Brid-* and so *Bridge*.

BRIDGE END over the river Churnet on the north-west side of Leek (SJ 9757). *Bridgend* 1695 *ibid*, *White's bridge or Bridge end* 1851 White. The place evidently had an alternative name (recorded as ? *Whitbige* 1692 Leek ParReg, *Whites Bridge* 1704 *ibid*, *Whitesbridge* c.1800 SRO D3272/1/4/3/17-20, *White's Bridge* 1842 O.S.), presumably from a personal name.

BRIDGEFORD (unlocated, perhaps near Tutbury: SHC 1912 222.) *Bridgeford* (undated) SHC 1912 222.

BRIDGEFORD, GREAT in Seighford parish, 3½ miles north-west of Stafford (SJ 8826). *Brigeford* 1086 DB, *Bruggeford* 13th century Duig, *Bregeford* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 66, *Bridgford* 1586 SHC 1929 111. 'The ford with the bridge', from OE *brycg* 'bridge, causeway'. Little Bridgeford (*Little Bridgford* 1679 SHC XII NS 100) lies ½ mile north-west of Great Bridgeford. The division of Great

and Little Bridgeford had occurred by 1333: SHC 1914 98. This is a rare Staffordshire example of a pre-Conquest place-name incorporating *brycg*. *Bruggefordia*, recorded in a spurious charter 1191x1194, has been associated with this place (CEC 261), but that is unlikely; the place may be East Bridgeford in Nottinghamshire.

BRIDGEWOOD (unlocated, in or near Biddulph.) *Brugge Wode*, *Bruggewode* 1327 SHC VII 198, *Bruggewode* 1332 SHC X 94, *Brygewode* 1447 HLS, *Bridgwood* 1646 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg. From OE *brycg* 'bridge', with OE *wudu* 'a wood, a forest', so 'the wood at the bridge or causeway'. See also Tooth 2000b: 48-9.

BRIDLEY MOOR (obsolete) on west side of Redditch (SO 0367). *Bridleymore* 1464 Pat, *Bridley Moor* 1832 O.S. Possibly from OE *bridd* 'bird', with OE *lēah*, and OE *mōr* 'moorland, marsh'. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

BRIERLEY HILL 3 miles north-east of Dudley (SO 9186). *Brerelay* 1248 SHC IV 106, *Brierley* 1273 SHC 1911 155, *Brerley* 1396 SHC XV 70, *Brereley* 1417 SHC XVII 63, *brireley hill* 1619 Guttery 1950: 3, *Breerley otherwise Bryerley* c.1621 SHC VII NS 235, *Brierley Hill* 1642 Guttery 1950: 4. 'The thorny *lēah*', from OE *brēr* 'brier, brambles, thorns'. Another Brierley (unlocated) existed in Coseley (*Brerleia* c.1175 SHC 1941 73; *Brereley* 1594 Sedgley ParReg, *Briarly* 1655 *ibid*, *Brayerley* 1696 BCA MS3549/276): some of the above forms may relate to that place.

BRIERYHURST 1 mile north of Kidsgrove (SJ 8455). *Bryeris Hurst*, *Bryerie Hurst* 1597/8 SHC 1935 31, *Breeryhurst* 1608 SHC 1948-9 113, *Brerehurst* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 175, *Bryery-Hurst* 1738 BCA MS3375/447261, *Brerehurst or Brieryhurst* 1834 White 551. From OE *brērig* 'growing with or overgrown with briars', with OE *hyrst* 'a hillock; a copse, a wood, a wooded eminence', here meaning 'the wooded hill overgrown with briars'.

BRIGGEND, BRIDGGEND - see WOLSELEY BRIDGE.

BRIMLANDES (unlocated, in Charnes.) *Brimlandes* 1227 SHC IV 73. The single spelling does not allow a derivation to be put forward (*brim* meaning 'border or edge' is not recorded before the 16th century: OED), but the second element is OE *land*, a common second element in English place-names, with meanings ranging from 'estate; landed property', to 'district; portion of a village or estate', and even to the nature of the soil where the first element is a descriptive word.

BRIN - see MARSH, THE.

BRINDLEY FORD 1 mile south of Biddulph (SJ 8854). *Brindley Ford* 1872 P.O. A place said in 1872 to have '...sprung into existence during the last few years; its inhabitants are chiefly employed in the extensive coal and iron works...': P.O. 1872 532. The place appears to have been named after James Brindley (1716-72), the canal engineer, who lived at nearby Turnhurst, near Tunstall.

BRINDLEY HEATH 2 miles north-east of Cannock (SJ 9914), *Brinsy Coppice* 1698 Fiennes, *Brindley Heath* 1708 Constables Book, 1833 O.S.; **BRINDLEY POOL (UPPER & LOWER)** (obsolete) 1½ miles north-east of Hednesford (SK 0014), *Brindley Pool* 1743 SRO D1057/F/2/2,

Upper Brindley Pool, Lower Brindley Pool 1834 O.S. From ME *brend* 'burnt', and OE *lēah* 'clearing', giving 'the woodland cleared by burning' (cf. Burntwood). It is unclear whether *Breyndelehalghe*, recorded c.1300 (SHC 4th Series XVIII 189) is to be associated with either place.

BRINEPITS (obsolete) at Shirleywich (q.v.). *Brinepits* 1686 Plot, *Brine Pitts* 1747 Bowen. See Shirleywich.

BRINETON 1 mile north of Blymhill (SJ 8013). *Brvnitone* 1086 DB, *Brintona* 1116 RBE (p), c.1182 SHC II 256, *Bruntan* late 12th century SRO 620[7910], *Brienton* 1204 Cur, *Brininton* 1211 Cur, *Brim(s)tona* 1221 Bracton, *Brunton* 1223 Blymhill, 1225 Coram, 1301 Ass, 1306 GDR, 1327 SR, *Brumton* 1225 Cur, 1279 Blymhill, *Brimengton* 1236 Fees, *Bruminton* 1272 Ipm, *Brimton*, *Brimtone* 1305 SHC 1911 63, *Brynton*, *Brinton* 1305 Cur, 1242 Fees, 1252 Cl (p), 1305 FF, *Bruynton* 1310 Banco, 1348 Ass, 1373 FF, *Broynton* 1364 Banco, *Brugnton* 1436 Banco, *Brineton* 1775 Yates. The forms are inconsistent, but some appear to show traces of *-ing-*, so possibly 'the *tūn* associated with ? Brūn(a) or Brȳni', or (as proposed by Ekwall 1960: 65) 'the *tūn* of Brȳni's people'. Some of the spellings may have been influenced by the spellings of nearby Blymhill (q.v.).

BRINSFORD 4 miles north of Wolverhampton (SJ 9105). *Brenesford*, *Brunesford* 996 (17th century, S.1380), *Brunesford* 1176 P, *Brunnesfort* c.1215 WA II, *Brunesford* 1227 Ass, *Brumesford* 1286 SHC V (i) 170, *Brunnesford* 1317 SHC 1911 111, *Bruynesford* 1381 Duig. 'Brūn's ford'. Brūn (modern Brown) was a common OE name.

BRISTNALL FIELDS 2 miles east of Smethwick (SO9986). *Brussenhulle* 13th century freq. Duig, *Bristnall Fields*, *Bristnal End* 1834 O.S. From ME *bursten*, *brusten*, past participle of 'to burst' (see VEPN II 115), with OE *hyll* 'hill', hence 'the hill with the breach or landslip'. Cf. Brazenhill. See also PN Wo 303.

BROADEYE a district on the north-west side of Stafford, within the town walls (SJ 9222). ? *Brodhe* 1290 SHC 1911 199, *Brodeye* 1290 Ipm, *Brodey* c.1610 map, *Broade eye* 1610 Speed. From OE *brād-ēg* 'broad or spacious island or land beside a stream or raised ground in marshland'. There was a tradition in Elizabethan times that a mound then known as Castle Hill to the south-east of Broadeye Bridge was the site of the fortification built in 913 by Æthelflæd, daughter of King Alfred and sister of Edward the Elder. Historians cannot agree whether the tradition is well-founded: see Eyton 1881: 20-1; VCH VI 189, 200; Darlington 1995. It is possible that 'the broad raised raised ground in marshland' was an early description of the site of what became the town of Stafford, and that the *ēg* element is also to be traced in the name *Betheney* or *Bethenei* (q.v.).

BROADFIELD near Goldenhill, Stoke on Trent (SJ 8553). *Brodfield* 1586 SHC 1927 133. 'The wide open space'. The name is preserved in Broadfield Road.

BROADFIELDS 1½ miles south-east of Alrewas (SK 1813). *Borough* 1325 Hardy 1908: 20, *Borough Field* 1775 Yates, *Broad Fields* 1798 Yates, 1834 O.S. Evidently from OE *burh* 'a fortification', presumably referring to some ancient earthwork here: see also Borway Ford. The present name appears to have been adopted towards the end of the 18th century.

BROADFIELDS FARM on north-west side of Edingale (SK 2112). *le Brodefylde, Brodfeld* 1541 Croxall. From OE *brād, feld* 'the wide open land'. Transferred from Derbyshire in 1894.

BROAD FORD (obsolete) a ford across the river Tame at Elford Mill (SK 1909). The ford is recorded in the 13th century, with the road crossing it *SropstreteweYe*, 'the street-way to Shropshire': VCH XIV 240.

BROADGATE HALL 1 mile north-east of Checkley (SK 0438). *Bradenhevet* 1255 SHC 1911 124, *Bradehened* 1281 Okeover E5104, *Bradhode* 1323 SHC IX (i) 93, *Bradhead Haull* 1559 SHC 1938 40, *Brodhead Haull* 1569 *ibid.* 29, *Brodheadhall* 1592 SHC 1930 (ii) 343, *Broadgate Hall* 1836 O.S. From OE *brād* and *hēafod* 'the broad headland'. The name was presumably changed to protect the sensibilities of the occupiers.

BROAD HEATH 1 mile north of Ranton (SJ 8525). (*The Graunge upon*) *the Heyth* 1539 SHC V (i) NS 322, *Broad heath [grange]* 1679 SHC 1919 227, *Broad Heath* 1720 SHC 1931 90. The site of a grange of Ranton Abbey. See also Frankwell.

BROADHURST GREEN on Cannock Chase (SJ 9815). This may be the same place as *Braddockes Green* recorded in the 1590s (SRO D1720/13), which appears as *Box Green* in the 1820s (map).

BROADOAK 3 miles north-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0535), *Brodhok* 1277 SHC VII NS 20, *Brodok* 1280 SHC VI (i) 147, ? *Brodeoke* 1296 SHC VII 37, ? *Brodock* 1569 SHC XVII 217, *Broade Oke*, *Broad Oke* 1599 SHC 1935 106; **BROADOAK** 1 mile south-east of Consall (SJ 9847), ? *Brodehoc* 1253 SHC XI 310, ? *Brodeoke* 1297 SHC VII 37, *Broodwoke*, *Broodoke* 1482 SHC VI NS (i) 144, 147, *Brodde Oke* 1585 SHC 1929 116, *the Broad Ocke* 1668 Kingsley ParReg. Self-explanatory. *Brodhok* on Cannock Chase is recorded in 1292: SHC VI (i) 273.

BROCKHILL FARM 2 miles south-west of Alvechurch (SO 0169). *Brokhyll* 15th century PN Wo 362, *Brockehull* 1535 *ibid.* Probably from OE *brocc, hyll* 'badger-hill'. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

BROCKHOLES, BROKHOLES (unlocated, in Abbot's Bromley), *Brokholes* 1230 SHC 1937 61, *Brocholis* 1272 *ibid.* 71, *Brokholis* 1283 *ibid.* 83, *Brocholis* c.1292 *ibid.* 95, *Brockholes* c.1300 SRO DW1721/3/6/2; **BROCKHOLES** (obsolete) 1 mile north-west of Ipstones (SK 0151), *Brockholes* 1836 O.S.; **BROCKHOLES** (unlocated) in Tixall, *Brockholes* 13th century SHC VIII (i) 192. From OE *brocc-hol* 'badger hole or burrow'.

BROCKHURST 1 mile south-east of Blymhill (SJ 8211). *Ruscote* 1086 DB, *Brokhurst* 1322 SHC IX (i) 87, 1349, 1365 Ipm, 1361 Pat (et freq), *Brokehurst* 1421 SHC XVII 97, *Brokehurst* 1424 Banco, *Bruchhurste* temp. Henry VIII SHC VIII 111, *Brockhurst(e)* 1533, 1544 Staff Acc, *Brockhurst Farm* 1673 SHC II (ii) 123. From OE *brocc-hyrst* 'the copse frequented by badgers'. There are other Brockhursts in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and in Hampshire, near Gosport. This place has been identified with *Ruscote* in DB (SHC 1923 31-2; VCH IV 53) from OE *rysc-cot(e)* 'rush cottage', perhaps meaning 'the cottage by the rushes', or possibly 'the cottage thatched with rushes (rather than the usual straw)'.

BROCKHURST (FARM) 1 mile south-west of Hints (SK 1501). *Brockehurst* 1312 (1801) Shaw II 14, *Brockhouse (moore)* 1606 (1801) Shaw II 16, *Brockhurst* 1834 O.S. From OE *brocc-hyrst* 'the copse frequented by badgers'.

BROCKLEY MOOR (obsolete) 2 miles south-east of Market Drayton (SJ 6932). *Brockley Moor* 1696 SRO 828/6, *Brockley Moore* 1699 SRO D681/E/5/21. Probably from OE *brōc* 'brook', hence 'the moor at brook *lēah*'. OE *brocc* is 'badger', but where a stream or river runs through a place, as here, the brook derivation is far more likely.

BROCKMOOR 1 mile south-east of Kingswinford (SO 9087). *Brockmeer* 1749 Bowen, *Brochmeer* 1775 Yates, *Brockmoor* 1834 O.S. Probably from OE *brōc* 'brook', rather than OE *brocc* 'badger', with OE *mere* 'mere, lake (and sometimes marsh)', since 'badger lake' is improbable. The 1834 O.S. map shows Brockmoor further east than the place marked on modern maps.

BROCKTON 1½ miles north of Eccleshall (SJ 8131), *Broctune* 1086 DB, *Brocton* 1295 SHC VII 27, 1297 SRO D (W)1734/J2268, 1327 SR, 1332 SHC X 98, 1679 SHC 1914 16; **BROCKTON GRANGE** 4½ miles south-east of Newport, in Sheriffhales (SJ 7913), *Brotone* 1086 DB, *Brocton* c.1215 Rees 1997: 28, *Brokton Graunge* 1422 SHC XVII 83, *Bocton* 1534 Eyton 1854-60: XI 91, *Broketon* 1537 *ibid.* Probably from OE *brōc* 'brook', hence '*tūn* or settlement on a brook'. OE *brocc* is 'badger', but where a stream or river runs through a place, as with these places (there is a stream to the east of Brockton Grange, and Brockton lies on Brockton Brook), the brook derivation is far more likely. It has been noted that Brockton Grange (in Shropshire since 1895) was also known as Brocton Oliver (Sheriffhales printed register iv), perhaps from an early owner or occupier, although no evidence of that alternative name for the place has been traced. PN Sa I 59-60 observes that there are six names derived from OE *brōc tūn* in Shropshire, with five now Brockton and one Bratton. As well as the two Staffordshire examples, and others in Somerset and Yorkshire North, which have become Bratton and Brotton, elsewhere *brōc tūn* has evolved into Broughton in at least 19 major settlement names. See also Brocton; Broughton.

BROCKWOOD HILL 2 miles north-west of Audley (SJ 7852). *Brockwood Hill* 1733 SHC 1944 19, 1833 O.S. From OE *brocc-wudu hyll* 'badger-wood hill'. Perhaps to be associated with *Brockwall Hill*, recorded in 1573 (Audley ParReg.), *Brackwall Hill* in 1609 (*ibid.*).

BROCTON in Baswich parish, 4 miles south-east of Stafford (SJ 9619), *Broctone* 1086 DB, *Broctune* 1176 Blymhill, *Broctuna* 1166 SHC 1923 296, *Brocton* 1199 Ass, 1221 FF, 1242-3 Fees, 1272 SHC VIII (i) 148, *Brohton* 1227 SHC IV 65, *Broghton* 1289 SHC 1911 195, *Borchton* 1294 SHC 1911 227, *Brocton o' the Cank* 1325 Banco, *Brocton juxta Bedenhale* 1345 Banco, *Brocton next Bastwyche* 1545 SHC XI 287. Probably from OE *brōc* 'brook', hence '*tūn* or settlement on a brook'. OE *brocc* is 'badger', but where a stream or river runs through a place, as here (the place lies on Oldacre Brook), the brook derivation is far more likely. See also Brockton; Broughton.

BRODEWOOD (unlocated, possibly near Audley.) (*Hay in*) *Brodewood* 1493 SHC 1912 257.

BROMBAR (unlocated, possibly between Pershall and Eccleshall.) *Brombar* 1298 Spufford 2000: 295.

BROMEhurst (unlocated, near St Thomas' priory, between Stafford and Hopton.) *Bromehurst* 1454 SHC III NS 212.

BROMISPITT (unlocated) *Bromispitt* 1602 SHC 1935 467.

BROMLEY (FARM) 1 mile north-west of Upper Arley (SO 7581), *Bromley* 1295, 1317 PN Wo 30; **BROMLEY GREEN** 1½ miles north-west of Whitmore (SJ 8043), *Bromley*, *Bromleye* 1281 SHC VI (i) 121, *Bromeleye* 1324 SHC 1913 232, *campum quod vocatur Bromleye* ('the open land which was known as Bromleye') 14th century SHC 1913 227, *Bramley* 1558 SHC 1926 22, ? *Bromylowe* 1608 SHC 1948-9 134, **BROMLEY** 1 mile east of Kingswinford (SO9088), *Bromle* 1300 SHC VII 80, *Bromley* 1749 Bowen, 1798 Yates; **BROMLEY** 1½ miles west of Worfield (SO 7395), *Bromley* 1525 SR, 1563 Worfield ParReg, 1752 Rocque; **BROMLEY LANE (FARM)** 1½ mile north-east of Armitage (SK 0916), *Bromley Lane* 1836 O.S.; **BROMLEY FARM, BROMLEY WOOD** 2 miles north-east of Hilderstone (SJ 9735): **BROMLEY** (unlocated, in Blymhill), *Bromley* 1332 SHC X (i) 123, *Bromley Hawk Bank*, *Bromley Hay Meadow* 1735 Terrier; **BROMLEY** (unlocated, on the border of Teddesley Hay), *Bromley* 1586 Oakden 1984: 122; see also SHC 4th Series XVIII 131. The spellings for Bromley near Upper Arley suggest a derivation from OE *brōmig* 'broomy', with the other places derived from OE *brōm* 'broom', with OE *lēah* 'broomy clearing'. The first place has been in Worcestershire since 1895, and Bromley near Worfield has been in Shropshire since the 12th century. *Bromleymore*, recorded in 1385 (BCA MS3415/200), may have been near Beaudesert, and is perhaps to be associated with Bromley Lane (Farm) (q.v.).

BROMLEY, ABBOTS Ancient Parish 6 miles south of Uttoxeter (SK 0824). *Bromleage* 942 (14th century, S.479), *Bromleg(e)* 996 (11th century, S.878), *Bromleage* 1004 (11th century, S.1536), *Brvnleage* 1086 DB, *Bromleia Abbatis* 1203 SHC III 107, *Bromleigh Abbatis* 1304 Ass, *Bromley the Abbottes* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 100, *Pagetsbramley* 1577 Saxton, *Pagettesbromlye* c.1578 SHC 1926 80, *Heckley otherwise Heckeley Abbottes otherwise Pagettes Bromley* 1614 SHC NS IV 53, *Pagettes Bromley* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 18, *Pagets Bromley formerly Bromley Abbots* 1749 Bowen. From OE *brōm-lēah* 'broom *lēah*'. The place belonged to Burton Abbey, to which it was given in 1004 by Wulfric Spot. After the Dissolution it was granted to Sir William Paget, hence *Paget's*. Hart 1975: 105 corrects Sawyer's date for S.878 to 996 from 993, and suggests (p.91) that the reference in S.479 is to both Abbot's Bromley and King's Bromley. *Heckley* in the 1614 form is Heatley (q.v.).

BROMLEY, BAGOT'S 1½ miles north-west of Abbots Bromley (SK 0626). *Brumley Bagod* 1290 SHC VI (i) 197, *Bromlega Bagot* ? 13th century SHC V (i) 71, *Bromleghe Bagot* 1314 SHC 1911 83, *Brompleye Bagot* 1325 *ibid.* 103, *Bromleghe Bagod* 1338 SHC XI NS 188, *Bagottes Syde* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 101, *Bromley Barcottes* 1586 SHC 1927 166. From OE *brōm-lēah* 'broom *lēah*'. *Bagot's* is from the family who held the place. *Syde* is from OE *sīd* 'side', ME 'slope of a hill'. It has been suggested that Bagot's Bromley might be the place recorded in DB as *Bradellie* in Pirchill (SHC XI NS 11-12), but that name has also been associated with Bradley Green in Burslem (SHC 1916 169).

BROMLEY, GERRARD'S 1½ miles south-east of Ashley (SJ 7734). *Bramelie* 1086 DB, *Bromley-in-halys* 15th century Duig, *Bromley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 103, *Bromley Gerards* 1695 Morden, *Gerrards Bromley* 1798 Yates. From OE *brōm-lēah* 'broom *lēah*'. Gerrard is from Sir Gilbert Gerard who acquired the place in the time of Elizabeth I. *In halys* (hales) means 'in the meadows', or is a reference to its proximity to Hales, 4 miles to the west, to distinguish it from other Bromleys.

BROMLEY HURST 1 mile south-east of Abbot's Bromley (SK 0822). *Herst* 1204 SHC III (i) 105, *The Hurst* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 101, *Bromley hurst* 1643 SHC 4th Series I 16. 'The hurst or wooded hill near Bromley'.

BROMLEY, KING'S Ancient Parish 5 miles north-west of Lichfield (SK 1216). *Bromlege*, *Bromle* 942 Duig, *Bromelei* 1086 DB, *Bramlea Reg[is]* 1166 SHC 1923 295, *Bromley Regis alias Bromley Corbet* 1358 SHC 1913 322, *Bromley the Kynge* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 108. For Bromley see Abbots Bromley. *King's* records the holding of the manor by the king at Domesday and afterwards. *Corbet* is from Roger Corbet who held the place in 1358. The chronicler 'Florence' (John) of Worcester (d.1118) records that earl Leofric died in 1057 at *Bromlege*, which has been identified with this place: SHC 1916 134, Sawyer 1979a: xxix.

BROMLEY, PAGET'S - see **BROMLEY, ABBOT'S**.

BROMLEY WOOD east of Abbot's Bromley (SK 0924). *Bromley Wood* 1836 O.S. The first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836 shows two places of this name, one almost a mile east of Abbot's Bromley, the other almost a mile to the south-east of the first place.

BROMLOW EDGE (unlocated, probably to the north of Winkhill near the river Hamps.) *Bromlow Edge* c.1753 SRO D260/M/T/4/89. Perhaps from OE *brōm* 'a thornbush or thorny shrub', with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', so 'the burial mound with the thorny bush', with OE *ecg* 'edge', used in place-names in the sense 'the crest of a sharply pointed ridge, a steep hill or hillside'. Remembered in Bromleyhedge Lane between Winkhill and Waterfall Cross.

BROMWICH, WEST Ancient Parish 6 miles west of Birmingham (SO 0091). *Bromwic* 1086 DB (listed under Northamptonshire), 1199 SHC III 49, *Bramvic* 1203 SHC III 123, *Bramwic* 1224 SHC IV 31, *Bramwys* 1275 SHC VI (i) 56, *Brumwyc* 1275 *ibid.* 58, *Westbromwich* 1322 Ipm, *Bromwic*, *Bromwig*, *Bramwic*, *West Bromwich*, *West Bromwych*, *Bromwych* 12th and 13th century Duig. From OE *brōm* 'thorny bush or shrub, furze, gorse, bramble, brier', hence '*wīc* on the heath' or '*wīc* where broom grew', or even '*wīc* where broom was worked or traded': the element *wīc* had several meanings, including 'a building for a particular occupation'. The place was becoming known as West Bromwich by the early 14th century to distinguish it from Castle Bromwich (which had no castle, but was named after the de Castello family: SHC V (i) 78) and Little Bromwich, both in Aston (Warwickshire).

BRONCOTT (obsolete) on east side of Upper Hulme (SK 0160). *Bromkote* 1282-3 SHC XI NS 257, *Broncott* 1299 VCH VII 32, *Bramcote* 1302, 1580 FF, *Bromkot* 1307 Ipm, *Bramcott* 1620 FF, *Broncote* 1591 FF, *Broncott* 1620 FF, *Bramcott* 1842 O.S. From OE *brōm cot* 'the cottage where broom grew'. See also Brancote.

BROOKEND on the south-east side of Combridge (SK 0937). *Brookend* 1695 Morden, 1836 O.S. Self-explanatory.

BROOK (FARM) 1 mile north-west of Audley (SJ 7851). *Brooke* 1589 Audley ParReg. From OE *brōc* 'a stream, a brook'.

BROOK HOUSE (obsolete, south of Brindley Ford (SJ 8854).) *Brochouse* 1326 JNSFC LIX 1924-5 38, *Brockehouse* 1609 JNSFC LXIII 63, *Brook House* 1836 O.S. Probably 'brook house' rather than from OE *brocc* 'badger', since the latter element is less common and this place lay on a stream.

BROOKHOUSE 1 mile south of Bagnall (SJ 9147). *Brookhowse* 1586 SHC 1927 172, 1598 SHC 1935 79, *Brookhouse* 1704 Stoke on Trent ParReg. The 1836 O.S. map shows *Little Brookhouse*, *Big Brookhouse*, *Brookhouse Green* and *Brookhouse* spread along the stream running east to west to the south of Bagnall.

BROOKHOUSES 1 mile south-east of Dilhorne (SJ 9942). *Brookhowses* 1598 SHC XVI 185, *Brockhowses* 1610 SHC III NS 52. Self-explanatory. The place lies on the river Tean.

BROOM(E) Ancient Parish 4 miles south of Stourbridge (SO 9078). *Brome* 1169 P, *Broome* 1343 PN Wo 278, *Brome* 1379 SHC XV 32. From OE *brōm*, originally meaning 'a thorny bush or shrub', and applied to furze, gorse, bramble, etc. Since 1844 in Worcestershire. The O.S. shows Broom as the name of the village, Broome as the parish; see also Youngs 1991 474.

BROOM EDGE (obsolete) 1 mile south-west of Hollinsclough (SK 0565). *Brooms Edge* 1687 Alstonefield ParReg, *Broom Edge* 1840 O.S. From OE *brōm* 'a thornbush or shrub', with OE *ecg* 'edge', used in place-names in the sense 'the crest of a sharply pointed ridge, a steep hill or hillside'.

BROOM HALL 1 mile north-west of Brewood (SJ 8710), *Brom(e)hale* 1150-2 St. Cart, *Bromhale* 1266 SHC 1913 317, *Brumhale* 1306 SHC VII 159, *Bromhale* 1332 SHC X 121, *Bromhaste* 1423 SHC XVII 90, *villa de Brome* c.1538 AOMB, *Brumhall* 1664 Brewood ParReg; **BROOMHALL GRANGE** on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, east of Market Drayton (SJ 6834), *Bromhale* 1166 SHC I 227, c.1177 Rees 1997: 55, 1266 SHC 1945-6 317, 1271 Eyton 1854-60: IX 193, *Brumehull* c.1300 SHC 1913 251, *Bromhall* c.1300 SHC 1945-6 30, *Broomehall alias Broomewell grange* 1600 SHC 1945-6 123, *Broomer Grange* 1775 Yates, *Broomhall Grange* 1833 O.S. 'The *halh* where broom grows', a common name. The second element has become confused, as often happens, with OE *heall* 'hall', an element rarely found in Staffordshire. *Bromeshall* (unlocated) in Checkley is recorded in 1562 (SHC 1938 127), and may be *Bromale* recorded in 1377 (SHC 4th Series VI 12), *Brumeshel'* in 1195 (Pipe Rolls); *Bromehill* is recorded in Seabridge/Clayton in 1162 (Pape 1928: 98); *Bromhal*, *Bromhullewey* in Chebsey are recorded in 1326 (SRO 3764/28[27576]); and *le Bromhull* is recorded in Lichfield temp. Edward II (SHC 1939 94), perhaps the same place as *Bromihyll* in Streethay recorded in 1470 (SHC 1939 122).

BROUGH HALL 1½ miles north-east of Gnosall (SJ 8322). *Buchale* 1086 DB, *Burgh* c.1182 SHC II 256, *Burgo*, *Burht* 1199 VCH IV 125, ? *Bure* 1208 SHC III 173, ? *Ourbure*, *Ourburg* 1213 SHC III 161-2, ? *Burre* c.1233 Rees 1997: 82, *Burgo extra Romtona* 1262 SHC 4th Series XVIII 67, *Burgo extra Ronton* 1271 SHC V (i) 142, *Burgo* c.1280 SHC 1928 107, ? *Burth*, *Burgh* 1281 SHC VI (i) 121,

Burgh' 1283 Ass, ? *Burgh* 1285 SHC VIII (ii) 27, ? *Burgo* 1290 SHC 1911 198, ? *Burgh* 1333 SHC X 125, ? *Bourgh* 1326 SHC X 75, *Bourgh* 1346 VCH IV 125, *Over Bourgh* 1393 *ibid.* 126, *Burgh* 1417 VCH IV 126, ? *Burby* ?1434 SRO DW1721/1/363-385, *Burg'* 1472 SHC 1912 223, *Burrowehall* 1537 MinA, *Brough Hall* 1550 VCH IV 126, *Broughall* 1578 SHC IX NS 208, *Borough hall* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 21. From OE *burh*, usually meaning 'fortification, fortified place, manor', here probably 'the fortification': JNSFC XXXVI 1901-2 118 states 'Brough Hall is a strongly entrenched position on high ground...connected with Ranton by a remarkable earthwork or vallum about 25' wide, traces of which are also to be seen in the wood to the north of Ranton Abbey on the way to Ellenhall', such earthwork (presumably the 'vallum or raised road in the neighbourhood of Ranton Abbey' mentioned in VCH I 186) perhaps the *Wal* (from OE *w(e)all* 'a wall, a rampart of earth or stone') recorded in 1213 (SHC III 161), or *Burgo extra Ronton* recorded in 1271 (SHC V (i) 142), or *Netherburgh* recorded in 1471 (SHC NS IV 175). The second element is OE *halh*. It appears that the place was also known as Over Burh 'Upper *burh*', or perhaps 'the place above the earthworks', to be distinguished from Nether burh 'Lower *burh*', perhaps 'the place below the earthworks'. For the identification of Buchale (VCH IV 49 gives incorrectly *Bughale*, following Shaw 1798: viii, *xi, Eyton 1881: 31, 98-9, SHC 1916 167 and SHC 1919 158) with this place see SHC I 229; SHC 1919 158; VCH IV 49; also SHC II 119-20. The 1281 spellings may relate to Berth Hill (q.v.).

BROUGHTON 1½ miles south-east of Claverley (SO 8091). *Burghton* 1194 P, 1292 Ipm, *Burton* 1300 SHC 1911 266, *Bureton* 1212 Fees, *Burton* 1296 SHC 1911 266, *Borughton* 1327 SHC VII 211, *Burgh'ton* 1327 SR, *Burghton* 1516 (1801) Shaw II 208, *Broghton* 1525 SR, *Broughton* 1752 Rocque. From OE *burh-tūn* 'tūn at the fortified place' or 'fortified tūn' or 'tūn at the manor-house'. *Burh-* became *Bruh-* owing to metathesis. No fortification has been recorded here, but the place (first recorded in 1191: PN Sa I 40) lies on the course of a suspected Roman road from Greensforge to Central Wales: see TSAS LVI 1957-60 237. See also PN Sa I 38-41. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

BROUGHTON 6 miles north-west of Eccleshall (SJ 7633). *Hereborgestone* 1086 DB, *Borchton* 1258 SHC 1914 31, *Borton* 1275 *ibid.* 29, *Burghton* 1281 Ass, *Burghton*, *Burghton* 1311 SHC 1914 30-1, *Borghthon*, *Borughton* 1327 SHC VII (i) 211, *Burghton* 1472 SHC NS IV 173, *Broughton* c.1560 SHC IX NS 130. Although Erdeswick 1844: 544 believed the DB spelling referred to Horsley, historians (e.g. Eyton 1881: Table VI, VCH IV 42) are satisfied that the name is connected with Broughton. Most Broughtons derive from *Brōcton*, but in this case the DB form points to OE 'Hereburh's tūn' (the personal name is feminine), although one would not expect the medial -s-, and the absence of the first part of the DB form in later spellings suggests that the name may in fact be from OE *here* 'army', with OE *burg* 'fortified place, manor', emphasising a special military connection (see JNSFC 21 1981 18), perhaps the site of a defended military post created during the political expansion of Mercia in the 8th century (Gelling 1981: 5-7, 17-18; Studd 1993: 56), although no earthworks or other archaeological features appear to have been recorded here, and a derivation from OE *here-beorg* 'shelter or protection for a number of men; army quarters' (EPNE i 244) seems more likely. The second element is OE *tūn*. *Hereburge byrig* mentioned in the foundation deed of Burton Abbey and the will of Wulfric Spot

c.1004 (11th century, S.1536) almost certainly refers to Harbury, Warwickshire: SHC 1916 38; Whitelock 1955: 543; Sawyer 1979a: xxxiii.

BROUGHTON (obsolete, in Longdon Green (SK 0813).) 'Brocton or Broughton Hall is situated about one furlong North-east of the turnpike road at Longdon green, and near to Liswis-hall': Shaw 1798: I 226; see also VCH V 6; SHC 1921 7. In about 1596 it was stated that the place (*Brocton*) lay next to Arblaster: Erdeswick 1844: 245. *Broughton temp.* King John (1798) Shaw I 226, *Brocton* c.1308 *ibid.* 148, *Broughton* 1316 *ibid.*, *Brocton* 1403 *ibid.*, *Broughton or Brocton* 1798 *ibid.* Most modern Broughtons are from OE *brōc tūn* 'tūn at the brook', and the spellings support such a derivation here. Erdeswick 1844: 244 mentions a brook, and Brook House appears on modern maps to the east of Lysways Hall. Some Broughtons are from OE *burh-tūn* 'tūn at the fortified place', with *Burh-* becoming *Bruh-* owing to metathesis (cf. Broughton near Eccleshall), and an ancient earthwork, Longdon Camp, is recorded near Longdon church (see VCH I 346; SHC 1916 207), with Borough Lane, a road running south-west from Longdon, shown as *Burrough Lane* (perhaps from OE *burh* 'fortification') on Yates' map of 1775. (*Burrowfield* and *Burrowfield Meadowe* are recorded in Longdon in 1661 (WCRO CR1908/23), and *Burrow Lane* appears as a place on the south side of Upper Longdon (SK 062141) on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1834). However, the medieval spellings with *Broc-* show that a derivation of this place-name from *burh* can be ruled out, although the place may be associated with the unlocated DB *Burouestone* (q.v.), which might indeed relate to Longdon, which is recorded before 1086 but not in DB itself. A possible moat to the east of the Moat House, some 400 yards west-south-west of Longdon has been tentatively identified as the site of Broughton Hall: TSSAHS XXIV 1982-3 44.

BROWN BROOK a tributary of the river Dove. Self explanatory

BROWN EDGE 2 miles south-east of Biddulph (SJ 5390), *Browenage* 1298 SHC XI NS 248, *Browene Edge* 1572 SHC XIII 287, *Brome Edge otherwise Browne Edge* 1601 SHC XVI 212, *Brown Edge* 1630 JNSFC LXII 1926-7 74, 1695 Morden, 1747 Bowen, 1836 O.S.; **BROWNEGE** 2 miles south-east of Bradnop (SK 0252), *Brown Edge* 1836 O.S. Probably from the colour of the vegetation at these places, both of which are on high ground which slopes steeply, although ON *brún* 'a brow, the edge of a hill' may be found in some Brown Edge names, giving 'the edge of the brow called Brun': see VEPN II 49.

BROWNHILLS 5 miles north-east of Walsall (SK 0405), *Browne Hills* 1683 Armitage ParReg, *Brownhill* 1686 Plot, *Brown Hill* 1747 Bowen, *The Brown Hills* 1834 O.S.; **BROWNHILLS** (obsolete) on the south side of Burslem, (SJ 8650), *Brownhills* 1590 Ward 1843: 152, *Brown Hills* 1765 SRO SD4842/14/1/1, *Brownhills* 1836 O.S. Perhaps from the colour of the soil or vegetation, possibly bracken. *Brownehill* in Streethay is recorded in 1604: SHC 1940 205.

BROWN LEES on south-west side of Biddulph (SJ 8756). *Brown Leise* 1596 SRO D1229/1/3/18, *Brownlees* 1637 Wolstanton ParReg, *Brown Lees* 1836 O.S. From OE *lās* 'meadow, pastureland'.

BROWN'S GREEN on the north side of Hamstead (SO 0491). *Brown's Green* 1695 Morden, 1749 Bowen. Probably from Richard Browne who held a croft here in 1538: StEnc 96.

BROWNSETT ½ mile north of Roche Grange (SJ 9963). *Brownesford* 1608 SHC 1948-9 118, SRO D538/A/2/4, 1631 SHC II (ii) 15, *Brownsford* 1634 Leek ParReg, *Bromsford* 1636 Stoke on Trent ParReg, *Brownsort* 1666 Leek ParReg, *Brownsott* 1668 *ibid*, *Bronsot* 1669 *ibid*, *Bromsott* 1680 *ibid*, *Braunsote* 1673 *ibid*, *Brownsword* 1675 Leek ParReg, *Brownsort* 1680 LJRO B/C/11 Edmund Brough. The name is evidently from 'Brown's ford', with the -f- dropped from the difficult consonantal cluster -nsf-, and the later confusion of the second element with 'sword', reduced to 'sett'.

BROWNSFIELDS 1 mile north-east of Lichfield (SK 1210). *Brounfeldes* c.1535 SHC II (ii) 166, ? *Brownfeldes* otherwise *Brownes feldes* 1562 SHC XIII 221, *Browns Fields* 1834 O.S. Evidently from the Brown family of Lichfield, who held land here from the 1440s: VCH XIV 278.

BROWNSHORE in Essington (SJ 9603). *Upper Broune Share* 1685 *Vernon*, *Broune shares* 1665 *ibid*, *Brownshaw* 1834 O.S. From OE *brūn* 'brown', or the name Brown, with OE *sc(e)aru* 'a share of land, a share of the common land'.

BROWNSPIT 2 miles north-west of Sheen (SK 0863). *Broun(e)spit(e)* 1599, 1604 ParReg, *Brounds Pit* 1656 Leek ParReg, *Brounespitt* 1626, 1633 Rental, *Browne spitte* 1651 *ibid*, *Brown Spit* 1775 Yates. Probably 'the dark-coloured spit or tongue of land', rather than 'Brown's spit or tongue of land': the place lies on a blunt headland on the side of a stream valley.

BRUND 1 mile west of Sheen (SK 1061), *Brunde* 1598 SHC 1935 147, *Brund* 1840 O.S.; **BRUND, UPPER & LOWER** (obsolete) 1 mile south-west of Cheddleton (SJ 9651), ? *Broned* 1695 Lek ParReg, *Brund* 1729 ParReg, *Lower Brund* 1837 O.S. From ME *brend* 'burnt', generally in the sense 'cleared by burning' (as of a wood, field, etc.), or sometimes 'consumed by fire' (as of a house or village); the element is frequently found in minor names and field-names. Cf. Barnhurst; Burntwood.

BRUND HAYS 1 mile north-west of Butterson (SK 0557). *Brand Hays* 1775 ParReg, *Brund Hees* 1778 *ibid*, *Burndheys* 1880 Kelly. From OE *brand* 'fire, flame; place where burning has occurred', with OE **hæs* 'brushwood', so 'the place where brushwood has been cleared by burning'.

BRYAN'S HAY ½ mile south-west of Longsdon (SJ 9554). *Brianshay (House)* 1613 SRO DW1702/8/21, *Bryan's Hay* 1815 *EnclA*, *Brineshay (House)* 1837 O.S. Perhaps from the ME personal names Brian, with Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'a fence, an enclosure'.

BRYNGHULL (unlocated, in or near Wednesbury.) *Brynghul* 1327 SHC V (ii) 229, *Brynghull* 1332 SHC X 85. Possibly from OE *bringe* 'that which is brought, an offering, a sacrifice', in some uncertain sense, though the association of the name Wednesbury (q.v.) with the god Woden (and possible shrine to the god) should be noted. It is uncertain whether *Brichull*, recorded in 1307 (SHC 1911 287), is to be associated with this place.

BUBELENHAY (unlocated, possibly near Horninglow.) *Bubelenhay* 1248 (1798) Shaw I 23.

BUCKNALL (pronounced locally as Buckner [bʌknə]) 1½ miles east of Hanley, in Stoke-on-Trent (SJ 9047). *Bvchenole* 1086 DB, *Buchenhale* late 12th century Rees 1997: 42, *Buccenhal* 1227 Ch, *Becchenhale* 1253 SHC 1911 123, *Buccanhal* 1274 SHC 1911 161, *Boukkunhall cum Bydoulf* 1284 SHC 1910 299, *Bukenhale*, *Bokenhowe* 13th century, *Bockenahale* 1327 SHC 1913 8, *Bokenhale* 1447

HLS. From the OE personal name Bucca, or from OE *bucca* (*buccan* genitive singular, *buccena* genitive plural) 'buck, he-goat' (see VEPN II 61-2. The second element is more difficult, possibly OE *halh*. The element *hall* is extremely rare in pre-Conquest place-names. There were two manors in Bucknall, Bucknall cum Bagnall and Bucknall Eaves (? *Eves* 1586 SHC 1927 172; *Buckenhall Eves*, *Bucknall Eves* 1591 SHC XVI 110): SHC VI (i) 71 fn; SHC XII NS 32). See also Bukkeleg, Bukkelyh.

BUDDILEIGH ½ mile north-west of Betley (SJ 7449). ? *Bothilih*, *Bothilige* 1227 Ch, *Buderlea* 1654 Betley ParReg, *Booddeleighe* 1607 *ibid*, *Buderlea* 1654 *ibid*, *Buddyley* 1798 Yates. The forms are too disparate for any suggestion to be offered for this name.

BUGHOLE on north-west side of Darlaston Green (SO 9797). *Bug Hole* 1775 Yates. The name survives in Bughole Bridge, over the Walsall Canal. Probably from ME *bugge* 'boggart, goblin', so 'the goblin's hole or hollow'. See SHC 4th Series VI 174.

BUGLAWE (unlocated, possibly in the north-west of the county.) *Buglawe* 1478 SHC VI NS (i) 115. Probably from ME *bugge* 'boggart, goblin', with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', so 'the goblin's tumulus'. It is difficult to believe that this place is not to be associated with Buglawton in Cheshire, 1½ miles north-east of The Cloud, and within a mile or so of the Staffordshire border, but the context in which the name appears suggests that Buglawe lay in Staffordshire. A field-name Buglaw is recorded in Cheshire: PN Ch I 191; VEPN II 63-4.

BUGSDALE (obsolete) 2 miles north-west of Whitgreave (SJ 8930). *Bugsdale* 1890 O.S. Perhaps from the ON personal byname Buggi, with OE *dæl* 'valley'.

BUKKELEG, BUKKELYH (unlocated, perhaps near Bucknall, possibly Botteslow.) *Bukkeleg* 1223 Hulton, *Bukkeley* 1223 VCH III 235, (*a lawn called*) *Bukkelyh* 1227 Ch. Perhaps to be associated with Bokeleg (q.v.), and *Bulkylegh*, recorded in 1358 (SHC XII (i) 149). The name may be from OE *bucca* 'he-goat, male deer', or a personal nickname Bucca from the same word: DES 70.

BUKSTALLES (unlocated, possibly in the Tatenhill area.) *Bukstalles* 1424 Hardy 1908: 113. From a ME word meaning 'deer traps'. See also Borkestalles.

BULL BRIDGE on the north side of Penkridge, over the river Penk (SJ 9214). (*le*) *Bold(e) brugge* 1375 Vernon, *the Bouldbridge* 1587 Extent, *Bull Bridge* 1754 Plan, *Bole Bridge* 1749 Bowen. From OE *bold* 'dwelling place', with OE *brycg* 'bridge'. *le Bold(e)* (p) is mentioned from 1327 (SR), and was almost certainly *le Bolde*, possibly near Dunston, mentioned in 1342 and 1547-8: SHC 1950-1 25; 1589 SHC 1934 20. Cf. Booden Farm.

BULLCLOUGH 1½ miles west of Grindon (SK 0554). *Bull's Clough* 1635 D694/1-6/1, *Bull Clough* 1775 Yates. From OE *clōh* 'a ravine or narrow valley', so 'the narrow valley with the bull', or from a personal name such as *Bula.

BULL GAP on the west side of Swinscoe (SK 8048). *Bull Gap* 1728 SOT D240/D/269, 1836 O.S. The place lies in a deep stream-valley.

BULLMOOR LANE the lane running north-west from Chesterfield near Shenstone (SK 0905). *Bolmore* 1274-5 SHC 1923 275, 1316 SHC 4th Series XVIII 200, *Bulmore* 1549 SHC VI (ii) 190,

Churche Bomers, Bulmers otherwise Church Bulmers 1564 SHC 1931 145-6, *Bulmores* 1616 *ibid.* 196, *the Bulmores* 1646 SHC VI (ii) 196, *Bullmoor Lane* 1834 O.S. Possibly from OE **bol* 'a smooth, rounded hill' (a rare element in place-names), but much more likely to be from OE *bula* 'bull', with OE *mōr* 'moorland, marsh', so 'the marsh or moorland with the bull'.

BULWARDINE 1½ miles south-east of Claverley (SO 9991). *Bulewardin* 1228 Eyton 1854-60: III 100, *Bolewardyn* 1326 *ibid.* 93, *Bollewardyn* 1410 Peace Roll, *Bulwardine* 1833 O.S. From OE *bula* 'a bull', with OE *worþign* 'an enclosure', which is often found as *-wardine* in the West Midlands, for example Ellardine, Ingardine, Leintwardine, Ridgwardine, Shrawardine, Stanwardine, Wrockwardine (all in Shropshire), Bredwardine, Lugwardine, Pedwardine (Herefordshire). In Shropshire since the 12th century.

BUNBURY HILL north of Alton (SK 0742). *Bunbury* 1686 Plot 410, 1798 Shaw I 36, *Banbury (Wood)* 1836 O.S., *Bunbury* 1849 Lewis 1849: I 52. Perhaps 'Buna's *burh*', from OE *burh* 'fortified place', from the iron-age hillfort on the hill: see VCH I 334; StEnc 98. The place is by tradition associated with a battle in 716 A.D. between Ceolred, King of Mercia, and Ine, King of the West Saxons, at nearby Slain Hollow (q.v.). The tradition appears to date from John Brompton's '*Chronicon*', an untrustworthy compendium of material based on other authors, compiled c.1437, which refers to a battle at *Bonebury* (cited in Plot 1686: 410; Shaw 1798: I 36-7), which may or may refer to this place. Although early O.S. maps mark a battle here in 716 A.D., there is no evidence that such battle ever took place. Brompton's material is evidently a corrupt account of the only battle between Ine and Ceolred recorded in ASC, which occurred in 715 at a place now held to be Adam's Grave in Wiltshire: Earle & Plummer 1892-9: i 42, ii 38; PN W 318; Swanton 1996: 42; Ashley 1998: 309. Cf. Bunbury, Cheshire. See also Ina's Rock; Yornburi.

BUNSTER HILL 1 mile north-east of Ilam (SK 1451). *Bonster(re)* 1542 StarCh, *Bunsterre* 1542 SHC 1912 144, *Bonster* 1542 *ibid.* 144, *Bunster* 1543 SHC XI 285, c.1579 Okeover F18, 1836 O.S.; *Bounster* 1586 SHC XV 169. Perhaps from the OE personal name **Bunt* (Searle 1897: 120; DES 73), with OE *stæger* 'stair', perhaps used in a topographical sense of 'stepped hill', or possibly *torr* 'a rock, a rocky peak', a word generally found only in the South West and the West Midlands. The name **Bunt* is found only in place-names, including Bonsall, Derbyshire (*Bunteshale* DB, PN Db 345), as well as Birchgrove, Sussex (PN Sx 271), Bountisborough Hundred (Hampshire), and the weak form in Benton, Devon (PN D 30).

BURBROOK, LITTLE 1 mile north of Seisdon (SO 8396)). The age of this name is not known, but the place lies on Smestow Brook (known in its upper reaches as Black Brook). The name, if ancient, could be from OE *burh* 'manor, fortification'. No earthwork or other fortification is recorded in the area, but a quadrangular cropmark is recorded at SO 84029682 (SMR 04025), and another at SO 83689654 (SMR 04045). See also Cocortone; Trysull.

BURCOTE 1 mile south-west of Worfield (SO 7495). *Burechote* 1086 Eyton 1854-60: I 109, *Burchota* 1176 P, *Burcote* 1283 Eyton 1854-60: III 113, *Burkot* 13th century Misc, *Wurcote (sic)* 1301 Rees 1975: 249, *Burcott*, *Burcot* 1562-3 Worfield ParReg, *borcote* c.1575 Worfield CA. From OE *būr-*

cot 'dwelling-place, cottage', or, perhaps more likely, since the place was a component part of a large estate, OE *burh-cot* 'cot belonging to a fortification or manor'. The place has been in Shropshire since the 12th century. Other Burcot(e)s are recorded in Wrockwardine, Shropshire; Homer, Herefordshire; Bierton and Wing, Berkshire; Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; and one in Somerset: see PN Sa III 75.

BURDON MILL (unlocated, possibly near The Wergs or Dam Mill.) *Bordensmulne* 1381 SHC VI NS (ii) 153, *Burdon Mill* 1441 *ibid.* 207, 1463 *ibid.* 208. From a personal name Burden: Richard Burden of Tettenhall is recorded in 1315: SHC IX (i) 50.

BURF CASTLE the site of an ancient earthwork 1½ miles east of Quatford (SO 7690). *Burf Castle* 1833 O.S., 1840 TA. Almost certainly from OE *burh* 'fortified place', with the common dialectal confusion between *f* and *th* (see The Berth near Maer). The suggestion in Lias 1991: 85 that in some cases places with this element may take their name from Welsh *perth* 'thornbush, thicket', on the basis that early earthworks may have succeeded strongholds defended by thorn hedges alone, or the defences strengthened by thorn hedges, is highly unlikely. The *castle* element is post-Conquest and was often applied to earthworks. In Shropshire since the 12th century. See VCH Sa I 379-80.

BURFORD (unlocated, possibly in Coppenhall.) *Burford* 1601 SHC 1935 368. Seemingly from OE *burh* 'fortified place', so 'ford at the earthworks or fortification'.

BURGHANDESLEGH (unlocated, possibly in the Eccleshall area, but probably Broseley in Shropshire: see PN Sa I 63-4.) *Burwardelega* 1227 SHC IV 56, *Burwardele* 1232 SHC IV 80, *Burgardeslee* c.1233 Rees 1997: 82, *Burghandeslegh* 1326 SHC IX (i) 113. A name of archaeological interest, since it would appear to be 'the *lēah* of the fort-guardian'. The 1326 form is evidently a mistranscription.

BURHALL (obsolete) near Ewdness. A field-name (cf. *Burhull* 1283 Eyton 1854-60: III 112) recorded in the 18th century (Shropshire SMR), possibly associated with cropmarks of a complex of irregular enclosures at SO 727983 in a field known as *Burhall* in the 18th century (*ibid.*).

BURLAKE HEAD (unlocated, on the river Trent.) *Burlake Head* 1510 Dent & Hill 1896: 115.

BURLAUGHTON on Watling Street, 1 mile south-east of Sheriffhales (SJ 7711). *Brerelectone* 1166 Red Book of the Exchequer, *Brecletteon*, *Brellet*', *Brellect*' 1215 Rees 1997: 28, *Brereletona*, *Brerlatton* 1217 (1285) Ch, *Brelatthon* c.1236 Rees 1997: 123, *Brerlatton* 1265 *ibid.* 136, *Brerlahton*' 1271-2 Ass, ? *Brelaughton* 1346 SHC 1921 184, *Burlaghton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 99, *Burlaughton* c.1565 SHC 1938 196, *Burlaton* 1577 Saxton, *Burlawton* 1608 SHC 1948-9 44, *Burlauton* 1686 Plot, *Burlington* 1783 ParReg, *Burlaughton commonly called Burlington* 1909 ParReg. Although Roman forts have been found here (see JRS lix 104; lxii 223-4), which might suggest a derivation from OE *burh* 'fortification', the earliest spellings show that the name is from OE *lēac-tūn*, literally 'leek enclosure', meaning 'herb garden', and later 'kitchen garden, vegetable garden', with OE *brēr* 'brier'. Since 1895 in Shropshire. Burlaughton was the name applied to the area to the north of Watling Street, Burlington (q.v.) to the south. Both share the same derivation. The O.S. now shows both places as Burlington.

BURLEYFIELDS 1 mile west of Stafford (SJ 9023). ? *Burley* 1275 SHC VIII 132, *Burleighton nigh Stafford Castle* 1705 Penkridge ParReg, *Burley field* 1722 SRO D641/2/D/1/2, *Burley Fields* 1775

Yates, *Burley Fields (Farm)* 1788 VCH V 83, *Birley Fields* 1836 O.S. From OE *burh* 'fortification', with OE *lēah*: the place lies on the north side of Stafford Castle.

BURLEYS, THE (unlocated, in Chesterton near Newcastle under Lyme.) *Burlegh* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *The Burleys* 1767 Heathcote MSS Box XIII. From OE *burh* 'fortification' (cf. Chesterton), with OE *lēah*. *Burley Cottage* is ½ mile north-east of Podmore (SJ 7836), but early spellings have not been traced.

BURLINGTON 1 mile south-east of Sheriffhales (SJ 7710), *Burlington or Burlaughton* 1833 O.S. The derivation is the same as Burlaughton (q.v.), of which this name is a variant. Since 1895 in Shropshire.

BURNAHAM, BORNAM (unlocated, possibly in the Stonnal/Shenstone/Bosses area, perhaps to be associated with Bourne Brook.) *Bornam* 1209 SHC XVII 247, *Burnaha*, *Burnaham* 1209 SHC 1923 277. The spellings are variant transcriptions from the same deed. Seemingly from OE *burna* 'spring, brook, stream', generally denoting a more substantial stream or even a river, with OE *hām* 'a village, a manor, a homestead', here probably 'the homestead at the stream', though the medial -a- is curious. The place appears to have been in the Stonnal/Shenstone/Bosses area, perhaps to be associated with Bourne Brook, and close to a number of Roman sites centred on Wall and the junction of the Roman roads of Watling Street and Ryknild Street. It has been noted that *burna* is found combined with *hām* but not with *tūn* (except in the Northumberland name Brunton), whereas OE *brōc*, the word later used for 'a brook, a stream', is very often combined with *tūn*, but never certainly with *hām*: EPNE i 224 fn.3; VEPN II 36-9.

BURNDHURST MILL on the river Blithe, 1 mile south-east of Gratwich (SK 0431). *Bournhurst Mill* 1798 Yates, *Burnt Hurst Mill* 1836 O.S., *Burndhurst Mills* 1851 White. The 1798 spelling suggests a possible derivation from OE *burna* 'spring, brook, stream', with OE *hyrst* 'copse, wooded eminence', perhaps from a minor watercourse in a nearby wood, but the combination of *burna* and *hyrst* seems improbable, so perhaps 'the burnt small wood'.

BURNED HILL (unlocated, in Rugeley.) *Burndhill* 1623 WCRO 1908/3/1-26, *Burnt-hill* 1653 WCRO 1908/17/1, *Brundhill* 1730 WCRO 1908/6, *Burned Hill* 1732 SOT DW1885/1/2. From ME *brend hyll* 'the burnt hill'.

BURNHILL GREEN 2½ miles north-west of Pattingham, on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border (SJ 7800). *Byrnhill* 1279 SHC XI NS 133, *Birnhulle* 1309 SHC 1928 24, *Byrunhull* 1327 SHC VII (i) 251, *Brynhull* 1333 SHC X (i) 131, *Burnhull* 1334 (1801) Shaw II 281, *Birnhull* 1413 SHC XVII 46, *Burnell Grene* 1566 SHC 1931 132, *Burnell Greene* 1599 SHC 1930 90. It is possible that the name is from OE *byrgen-hyll* 'burial mound hill; hill with a tumulus' (cf. Burnhill, Buckinghamshire, *Burnhill* 1276, where there is a hill marked by a tumulus; Bernwood, Berkshire, *Byrnewuda* 921; and Burn, West Yorkshire, *Byrne* c.1030, *Birne* 1279-81). Although there is no tumulus recorded at Burnhill Green, in 1841 the curate of nearby Beckbury wrote in the burial register about 'several mounds' in the district, some of which may have been artificial, and fields north of Beckbury are said to have been

called Golden hill and Urn field: VCH Sa X 240, but see PN Sa III 105. Smith 1990: 220 fn.2 suggests that the element *byrgen* was probably coined during the Christian Anglo-Saxon period out of traditional folk-memory and antiquarian interest to describe heathen burial sites, but *byrgen* is well-recorded, and there seems no reason to believe it was restricted to heathen burials. The county boundary follows a marked deviation to include this place which would otherwise lie in Shropshire. See also Goldthorn.

BURNT OAK HOLLINS 1 mile west of Meerbrook (SJ 9760). *Brandockholyns* c.1539 LRMB, *Burnt Oak Hollins* 1662 Leek ParReg, 1775 Yates, 1842 O.S. From ME *brend*, *ȳc* 'burnt oaks' with OE *holegn* 'holly', so 'the hollies at the place of the burnt oaks'.

BURNT TREE on the north-east side of Dudley (SO 9590). *Burnt Tree* 1749 WRO 1/1/354/34, *Burnt-Tree* 1851 White. Self-explanatory.

BURNTWOOD 3 miles north of Brownhills (SK 0609), *Brendewode* 1298 SRO DW1734/J2268 fl, *Brendwode* 1370 SRO DW1734/2/1/598, *Brendwodde* 1546 SHC 1939 111, *Brundwood* 1571 SRO DW1734/2/1/609 m19, 1600 SHC 1935 205, *Brandewodd* 1570 SHC XIII 277, *Brendwood*, *Brendewoode* 16th century Duig, *Burndwood* 1680 SHC 1919 268; **BURNT WOOD** 5 miles east of Market Drayton (SJ 7434), *The Brand Wood* 1567 SHC 1945-6 152, *Burnt Wood* 1712 SRO 828/236, 1833 O.S. From ME *brend* 'burnt', hence 'the burnt wood'. The first place is in the parish of Hammerwich, which lay within Cannock Forest. In 1262 a Forest jury determined that 'a certain heath was burnt by the vill of Hammerwich, to the injury of the King's game': VCH XIV 198. But fires, accidental and deliberate, within the Forest must have been frequent, and the names doubtless arose from the practice of clearing areas for agricultural use by burning. The spelling *Brundwood* became normal in the later 16th century, and the modern name by the 17th century: VCH XIV 198. For Burnt Wood near Market Drayton - which may have taken its name from charcoal burners who provided fuel for iron (and wood for glassworkers) here, and is said (StEnc 99) to have formerly been called *Rowney Wood*, then *Rounhay*, then *Brand* - see SHC 1945-6 24; 156. *Burnt Hill* in Rugeley is shown on the first edition 1" O.S. map 1834. Cf. Brandwood and Brantwood, Lancashire; Brentwood, Essex.

BUROUESTONE (unlocated) *Burouestone* 1086 DB. A puzzling name. The spelling strongly suggests that it is to be identified with Burston (q.v.) in Pirehill Hundred, as proposed in Duignan 1902: 28-9 and implied in Ekwall 1960: 77, and whilst that may be correct, it is recorded in DB under Offlow Hundred (SHC 1907 227-30; Derby & Terrett 1971: 173; VCH IV 43). Since it is listed in DB together with *Weforde* (Weeford) and the unidentified *Litelbech*, historians have tended to locate it in the area around Weeford, and it may indeed be associated with Borrowcop Hill (q.v.), the name of which may share the same root (see SHC 1916 170), or Berryhill, south of Lichfield, but the three places in DB might have been listed together because they were held by the same person, and they may well have been some distance apart. Clues to the location of *Litelbech* and *Burouestone* are few. All three places were members of the manor of Lichfield. A possible contender for Burouestone may be Broughton (otherwise Brocton) (q.v.), in Longdon: Longdon was a prebend of Lichfield cathedral, possibly before DB (see SHC II 89-90; VCH III 141). Although Longdon is not mentioned in DB (which might also make it a contender for *Burouestone*), its existence is confirmed in earlier charters (11th century,

S.906; 11th century, S.1536), and it was granted to the community at Tamworth in the Will of Wulfric Spott 1002x1004 (Whitelock 1955: 543). Plot 1686: 406 mentions traces of an ancient square earthwork (later known as Longdon Camp), on the east side of Longdon church (see also VCH I 346; StEnc 366), perhaps to be associated with Borough Lane, a road running south-west from Longdon shown as *Burrough Lane* (from OE *burh* 'fortification') on Yates' map of 1775, perhaps associated with *Burrow Lane*, marked as a place on the O.S. map of 1834 to the south of Upper Longdon, and *Burway Lane* recorded in 1506 (OSS 1936 51), although the *burh* may be Castle Ring (q.v.): see also Burwey; Longdon. Intriguingly, Milo de Beche (cf. Litelbech) is recorded in Longdon in 1189-90: SHC II 83. Another curiosity is the reference to an unidentified *Burestan* (which may be Burston) in the Armitage Parish Registers in 1814 and 1815: cf. *Burgeston* 1208 SHC III (i) 145, *Bureston* 1212 *ibid.* 160. Curborough (q.v.), which was a prebend of Lichfield cathedral, is also a possible location for *Burouestone*. The name *Burouestone* itself (if not corrupt, which is very possible) is unlikely to incorporate OE *stān* 'stone' (which would give *-stan*), and the terminal is almost certainly OE *tūn*, probably preceded by a personal name (perhaps Burgwine or Burgwulf: see Ekwall 1960: 77 *sub. nom.* Burston) with a genitive *-s-*. See also Litelbech.

BURSLEM 3 miles north of Stoke on Trent (SJ 8745). *Barcardeslim* 1086 DB, *Burewardesleg' Lime*, *Borewardeslyme* 1242 Fees, *Burewardeslime* 1252 Ch, *Borewardeslyme* 1363 SHC 1909 40, ? *Burghashelam* 1423 SHC XVII 94, *Burseleym* 1485 SHC VI NS(i) 160, *Byrdyslyme*, *Burdeslyme*, *Bureslyme* 1539 MA, *Burselem* 1576 HLS, *Burslem* 1599 Smith. The first element is a contracted form (with the possessive *s*) of the OE personal name (or occupation) Burgweard meaning 'fort-watchman, fort-guardian': the DB spelling is evidently a scribal error. The second element is from Lyme Forest (see Lyme), which itself means literally 'elm place', and is found in several nearby places, including Newcastle under Lyme. The meaning is therefore 'estate in the district called Lyme belonging to a fort-guardian', or 'estate in the district called Lyme belonging to Burgweard'. Cf. Broseley, Burwarton and Treverward, Shropshire; Burwardesley, Cheshire; Buscot, Berkshire. See also Borewardes Croft.

BURSNIPS ½ mile east of Essington (SJ 9703). *Birches nape* 1290 Vernon, *Bursnape* 1384 SRO D1790/A/6/3, *Birchenapps* 1543 SRO D593/A/2/1/15, *Burs(e)napps* 1556 to 1631 Vernon, *The Bursnips* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from OE *birce* 'birch tree', and OE **snæp*, probably meaning 'a boggy piece of land', hence 'the boggy land with birch-trees'.

BURSTON 4 miles south-east of Stone (SJ 9330). *Burexton'* 1235 Fees, *Bautharston* 1234-40 TestNev, *Bureweston* 1242 Fees, 1255 Ass, *Burcheston* 1278 Ass, *Burgheston* 1293 SHC 1913 193, *Burghstone* 1310 SHC X 7, *Burgheston* 1314 SHC 1911 81, *Borgheston* 1321 SHC 1913 205, *Bourgweston* 1326 SHC 1911 371, *Burnstone*, *Burneston'* 1333 SHC X 92, *Borwgheston* 1381 SHC XVII 181, *Bureston*, *Burweston* freq. 14th century Duig, *Boroostone* 1477 SHC VI NS (i) 108, *Borrowston* 1550 SHC XII 202, *Borrowston* 1557 SHC XII 226, *Burston alias Burweston* 1621 SRRC 11/68, *Burston* 1749 Bowen, 1836 O.S. A difficult name. The first element may be from OE *burh* 'a fortification' with OE *west-tūn*, so 'the fortification at the west *tūn*' (perhaps here meaning west of Sandon), or even 'the fortification at the east *tūn*', or the first element may be an unidentified OE

personal name (Ekwall 1960: 77, having associated *Burouestone* (q.v.) with this place, suggests Burgwine or Burgwulf) with OE *tūn*.

BURTHEY (unlocated, probably in the Lichfield area.) *Burthey* 1297 SRO DW1734/J2268.

BURTON in Castle Church parish, 2 miles south of Stafford (SJ 9122). *Burtone* 1086 DB, *Burton juxta Stafford* 1295 FF, *Burghton* 1480 Banco, *Burton* 1749 Bowen. From OE *burh* 'fortified place', with OE *tūn*, meaning 'the farmstead by the fortification, the fortified manor, *tūn* by or belonging to a *burh*'. Cf. Burton upon Trent, Broughton.

BURTONE Domesday Book (f.248v) identifies two different lost places named *Burtone*. The first is stated to be on the site of Henry de Ferrers' castle at Tutbury, perhaps a prehistoric earthwork, and was presumably subsumed when the castle was constructed, and the location of the second place remains unknown: see Thorn 1991: 26, 40. Both places are likely to have names deriving from OE *burh* 'fortified place', with OE *tūn*, meaning 'the farmstead by the fortification, the fortified manor, *tūn* by or belonging to a *burh*'.

BURTON EXTRA on the south side of Burton upon Trent (q.v): see Shaw 1798: I 11. *Burton Extra* 1595 SRO D1734, 1836 O.S. The suffix is from Latin *extra* 'without, outside', to denote parts of a parish outside the bounds of a town. White 1834: 319 suggests that the place was also known as *Bond-End* (*Bondende* 1373 SRO D1734, *le Bondhyerd* 1454 Underhill 1976: 68, *le Bondende* c.1500 *ibid.* 154, *Bondende* 1554 SHC XII 194), probably from ME *bond*, derived from ON *bondi* 'a peasant landowner': Joh'e le Bonde and Will'o Boonde are recorded in Rolleston in 1327 (SHC VII (i) 227). However, both Bond End and Burton Extra appear on the 1877 O.S. map. See also Bond End.

BURTON HALL (unlocated, in Tutbury.) Shaw 1801: II 56 records *Burton hall*, *Burton Holmes* and *Burton Bache*, named from the Burton family of Leicestershire.

BURTON UPON TRENT Ancient Parish on the eastern edge of Staffordshire on the river Trent (SK 2423). *Byrtun* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536); 1012 (14th century, S.929), *Bertone*, *Bvrtone* 1086 DB, *Birtune* 11th century Sawyer 1979a: xxxv, *Burton super Trente* 1234 Ep. Burton is a very common place-name, and in most cases derives from OE *burh-tūn*, but occasionally (as here) from OE *byrh*, genitive singular of *burh* 'stronghold, fortification, fortified manor', hence '*tūn* by or belonging to a *burh*'. The *burh* may well have been nearby Tutbury, which is actually recorded as *Burtone* in DB, but probably as a result of a misreading of Burg- as Burt-: see VCH IV 48 fn.7; but see also Burton Hall. Trent, the river on which Burton lies, has been added to distinguish it from many other Burtons. 84 names have been recorded incorporating OE *burh-tūn*, and it has been suggested (see PN Sa I 40) that in Mercia, which has at least 43 examples, the name may refer to places forming a network of fortifications for the defence of the country until the Danish wars of the late 9th century (cf. Burton, Broughton (q.v.)), although further research, presently unpublished, is throwing doubt on such theory. The place is also recorded as *Mudwennastow* (Shaw 1798: I 1), after the bones of St. Modwen which were reburied in the monastery here after it was rebuilt following its destruction by the Danes in the 870s. In fact St. Modwen was a fiction based on the life of St. Monenna, an early Irish royal abbess saint who never left Ireland: the 11th century biographer Conchubranus muddled the 5th century

Darerca alias Moninna with the 7th century Monenna alias Modwenna: SHC 4th Series 11 2-3; Bartlett 2002. OE *stōw* meant 'place' or sometimes (as here) 'holy place'.

BUR WALLS (unlocated, near Wolseley Bridge.) *Bur walls* 1798 Shaw I 105. Possibly from OE *burh* 'fortified place', so 'the walls of the fortification', perhaps marking some early earthworks.

BURWEY (unlocated, probably near Longdon.) *Boreweya* 1250 SHC 1911 119, *Boruwey* 1269 SHC 1910 103, *Borewey* 1269 *ibid.* 108, *Burway* 1269 *ibid.* 130, *Burewey*, *Le Burywey* 13th century BCA MS 3415/137-8, *le Bury Weystrete* 1322 BCA MS3415/153, *Burywey* 1325 BCA MS3415/158, *Burwey* 1327 SHC 1912 250, *Boreweye* 1347 SHC 1913 121, *Borewey* 1347 SHC XII 48, *Buriwey* 1362 BCA MS3415/88, *Burway*, *Burwaye* 1376 SHC X NS (ii) 93, *Berewey* 1383 BCA MS3415/196, *le Berywey* 1383 BCA MS3415/197, *le Bureway* 1444 BCA MS3415/217. Perhaps to be associated with Borough Lane, a road running south-west from Longdon shown as *Burrough Lane* (from OE *burh* 'fortification') on Yates' map of 1775, presumably associated with *Burrow Lane*, marked as a place on the O.S. map of 1834 to the south of Upper Longdon, and *Burwaye Lane* recorded in 1506 (OSS 1936 51), although the *burh* may be Castle Ring (q.v.): see Longdon. The name is from OE *burh* 'fortification, fortified place, manor-house', with OE *weg* 'a way, a path, a road', hence 'the road to the fortification or manor-house'. Borough Lane runs in the direction of Castle Ring (q.v.), but an earthwork is said to have existed at Longdon (q.v.), though the evidence is inconclusive. See also Borrowcop Hill; Borway Ford.

BURY an iron-age hillfort at Kinver (SO 8383), *Bury* 1293 VCH XX 122; BURY (unlocated, in Stapenhill) *le Bury* 1436 SHC 1937 166. From OE *burh* 'a fortified place'.

BURY, THE - see SPRINGHILL.

BURY BANK an iron-age hillfort at Darlaston, 1 mile north-west of Stone (SJ 8835). *Wulfcestre...le Buri* 13th century SHC VI (i) 10; SHC XII NS 10, *montis qui vocatur Wulfcestre* n.d. SHC VI (i) 9, *Wulfcastre* n.d. SHC VI (i) 10, *Welfercester* n.d. (1798) Shaw I 36, *Byri hille* c.1540 Leland v 20, *Berry-bank* 1686 Plot 406, *Berry Bank* 1718 SRO D593/B/1/28/11, *Wulfercester*, now *Bury Bank* 1798 Shaw I 232 fn.8, *Wulferecester* 1946 O.S. Bury Bank is from OE *burh* 'a fortified place', with OE *banc* 'a bank'. By ancient tradition the old name of this place (shown as *Wulferecester* in Gothic script on the 1920 1" O.S. map) is from Wulfhere, the son of Penda and king of Mercia 658-75 ('not veri far from Stone priori appereth the place wher King Woulphers castel or manor place was. This Byri hille stode on a rok by a broke side. Ther appere great dikes and squarid stones': Leland c.1540 v 20; see also Plot 1686: 406), with OE *cester* 'castle, fortress'. No archaeological evidence has been found to support the Wulfhere tradition, but two 12th-century charters refer to *Wulf(e)cestre*, and in one case the name by which the place was known in the 12th-century, *le Buri*, an OE term for a fortification: neither charter uses the name Darlaston, the estate in which the place lay, probably coined between c.750 and c.950, which may imply that the name *Wulf(e)cestre* predates the mid-8th century: see Studd 1993: 55; SHC VI (i) 9-10. It is noteworthy that *cester*, generally applied to Roman towns and ancient fortifications, was preferred to the more usual OE *burh* 'fortification', suggesting that the name may have been coined as 'Wulfhere's city' in the post-Conquest period to support the legend. One survival from the legendary

place-name is the Staffordshire surname Walchester. See also Jones 1998: 29-62 (which does not mention this place). See also Wolfesbrigg; Woolley.

BURY BROOK on the north side of Wolverhampton. Bury Brook is recorded (as *Byri-broc* in 994 (17th century, S.1380; see Hooke 1983: 72-5)), from OE *burh* (dative *byrig*) 'fortification', to the north-east of Bushbury Hill (see StEnc 110), and as Berry Brook (or Waterhead Brook) formed the boundary between Bushbury and Wolverhampton. It may have taken its name from a *burh* on Bushbury Hill (see Bushbury) or in or near Wednesfield: *Burycroft* is recorded frequently in Wednesfield in the 14th and 15th centuries - see for example SRO D593/B/1/26/6/92. The junction of Seisdon, Offlow and Cuttlestone Hundreds lies on Bury Brook: see Mander & Tildesley 1960: 29.

BURY FARM 1 mile south-west of Aldridge (SO 0499). *Berry Farm* 1775 Yates, *Bery F(arm)* 1798 Yates, *Bury* 1834 O.S., *Bury Farm* 1895 O.S. From OE *burh* 'fortification, fortified place', presumably with reference to ancient earthworks here.

BURY (FARM) (unlocated, at Branston.) *Bury farm, Bury or Brampton hill* 1551 (1798) Shaw118. From OE *burh* 'fortification, fortified place', presumably with reference to ancient earthworks here.

BURY HILL (obsolete) in Moreton near Newport: see JNSFC 1937 62; StEnc 110. From OE *burh* 'fortified place', possibly associated with the 'raised work here...which seems to be of [Roman] fashion': Plot 1686: 395. See also JNSFC 1902 119.

BURY HILL a 402' hill on the north side of Knowle Farm, 1½ miles south of Lichfield (SK 1107). *Berry Hill, Bery Hill* 1552 Harwood 1806: 389-90, *Berry-hill* 1585 (1798) Shaw I 336, *Broughton Hill* 1599 Smith, 1610 Speed, *Bury Hill* 1619 Erdeswick 1844: 310, *Berryhill (Field)* 1649 SRO D15/10/2/17, *Lyttlyle Beryhyll, Lytle Bery Hylle* 1659 (1798) Shaw I 313, *Bury Hill* 1775 Yates, 1834 O.S. From OE *burh* 'fortified place'. This place is likely to be *Broughto(n) hill* which is shown between Swinfen and Wall (with a drawing of a rounded hill) on Smith's MS map of Staffordshire 1599, and is also found on Kip's and Speed's maps of 1610: it seems likely that the hill and name were taken from Saxton's map of 1577 where the name appears as *Borugcop hill*, which could well have been 'regularised' by the later map makers. A Bury Hill (*Burihul, Byryhyll* 1325 SHC 1928 129) lay on the north side of Wolverhampton (see Hooke & Slater 1986: 39-44), and another is recorded in Meretown (JNSFC LXXII 1937-8 62), possibly the same place as *Buryhill* recorded in Forton in 1487 (Oakden 1984: 151). See also Bushbury; Berry Hill; Bury (Farm).

BURY RING - see BERRY RING.

BUSHBURNE (unlocated) *Bushburne* c.1567 SHC IX NS 159.

BUSHBURY Ancient Parish 2 miles north of Wolverhampton (SJ 9202). *Byscopesbyri* 994 (17th century, S.1380), *Biscopesberie* 1086 DB, *Bisopisbury* c.1250 SRO D938/178, *Bissopesbiri, Biscopesbiri, Bishbiri, Bischbury, Bissopeburi* 12th and 13th century Duig, *Bissopbure* c.1272 SHC 1928 73, *Bissopburi, Bussopburi* 1275 SHC VI (i) 56, *Byspesbury* 1315 SHC 1911 331, *Bisshebury* 1374 BodCh, *Bysbere* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 112, *Bushbury* 1749 Bowen. Evidently 'the bishop's manor'. However, OE *burh* from which the second element derives has several meanings, including 'fortification', 'fortified manor house', and 'manor'. It is impossible to determine the precise meaning in

this case (though PN Sa I 300 suggests that, in the West Midlands, nominative *burh* often has reference to an ancient feature, while dative *byrig*, as here, may more commonly denote a manor-house), but the place lies on the side of a particularly prominent 590' hill (? *Hulle*, recorded in 1249: SHC 1911 118), and a lost earthwork may explain the meaning - a large tumulus (now destroyed) is recorded on the south end of the hill (see Low Hill), and the summit has been heavily quarried, although 'the bishop's fortification' seems unlikely. No bishop is known to have had any connection with the place, but it has been suggested that Bushbury may have formed part of Wolverhampton (SHC 1916 197), or of Brewood and the bishop of Lichfield's holdings, on the basis that the extra-parochial portion of Wolverhampton to the north was surrounded by the bishop's lands (SHC 1919 183-4). Stenton 1970: 320-21 holds that one specialised meaning of OE *burh* was 'monastery', perhaps from the enclosure which surrounded monastic buildings: cf. Hanbury. Cf. Prestbury, Gloucestershire, and Abbotsbury, Dorset, with OE *prēost* 'piest' and OE *abbod* 'abbot'. It is possible that the first element is from the OE personal name Biscop: there is evidence that names such as Bishop and King (perhaps nicknames or from roles in pageants or similar) were not unusual (e.g. Bishopdale, North Yorkshire): see Redin 1919: 18 fn.1. In the 19th century the name was still pronounced Bishbury by local people. See also Bury Brook.

BUSHTON 1½ miles south of Tutbury (SK 2026). *Busson(ibus)* 1201 SHC III (i) 73, *Bussums* 1253 SHC 1911 125, *le Bussons* 1286 SHC VI (i) 168, *Busschones* 1327 SHC VII 209, *Busshumes* 1305 SHC 1911 63, *Boussones* 1326 HLS 267, *Busshones*, *Busshonnes* 1332 SHC X (i) 89, 108, *le Busshonnez* 1384 HLS 413, *Bussons* 1396 SHC XV 73, *Bushouses* 1414 (1798) Shaw I 46, *Bushouse* 1415 (1798) Shaw I 43, *Bussuns* c.1450 SHC 4th Series IV 220, *Bushtons* 1657 SRO DW1743/T/283. Almost certainly from the dative plural **byscum*, from OE **bysce* 'a copse of bushes', or *buscum* from OE **busc* 'a bush'. The suffix *-ton* is an arbitrary modern alteration of the second syllable.

BUSTLEHOLME (MILL) (obsolete) 1 mile north-east of Stone Cross, 3 miles south of Walsall (SO 0293). *Bustelhome alias Bustleholme* 1594 Willett 1882: 186; Dilworth 1976: 58; *Bustellhome temp. Elizabeth I* MidA III 72-3, *Nether Bustley Holme*, *Over Bustley Holme* 16th century SOT D260/M/T/1/1b, *Bustleholme* 1628 TSAHS 1996-7 XXXVIII 72, 1669 WHS New Series 9 (i) 114, *Bussleholme* 1669 *ibid.* (ii) 6, *Buslam* 1820 Greenwood, *Bustleholm*, *Bustleholm Mill* 1834 O.S. The second element may be from ON *holmr* 'river island, meadow'. Bustleholm is marked on the 1834 O.S. map ½ mile south-west of Bustleholm Mill, and it is likely that the mill was named from that place. At Bustleholm Mill was an island formed by a loop in the river Tame. The first element may incorporate the word *bustle* (recorded from 1622: OED) in its conventional sense: a mill existed here from at least 1595 (VCH XVII 32), and iron-works, including a slitting-mill, operated hereabouts from at least 1633 (VCH II 114). Bustle, meaning 'activity with excitement, noise and commotion', would be particularly apt for such an activity. The word *holm* is not necessarily evidence of any early origin, and indeed the 1594 spellings suggests that it may be a relatively modern alternative, though OE *homm*, *hamm* 'an enclosure, a meadow, a water-meadow' is unlikely, and the consistent spellings with *holm(e)* are noteworthy. There is some slight evidence that the mill may have been known formerly as Grinder's Mill: cf. *Gryndersford* 1526 Dilworth 1976: 53, *Grinder's Ford* 1585 *ibid.* 53.

BUSTOMLEY LANE, BUSTOMLEY FARM on the south-east side of Morrilow Heath (SJ 9835). *Bustomley Farm* 1836 O.S.

BUTTERBANK BROOK a tributary of the river Sow. *ye broke* 1496 Ct. Probably from the name of a field adjoining the brook, *Butter Bank*, perhaps meaning 'the bank which gave rich grazing for the cows'. Cf. Butterton, Butterhill.

BUTTERHILL 3 miles south-west of Stafford, in Bradley parish, near the boundary with Coppenhall parish (SJ 8919). *Buterales* 1160 Stone Ch, *Buterhale* 12th century, *Buttrehelle* c.1251 SRO 75[7909], *Buterhale*, *Butrehale* 13th century Duig, *Butterall* 1558 VCH V 138, *Butterall* 1590 SHC 1930 105. The first element is from OE *butere* 'butter', and the name perhaps means 'the place with rich grass for plentiful butter'; the second element appears originally to have been OE *halh*, which from the proximity of the neighbouring hill has developed into modern 'hill'. Cf. Butterbank Brook, Butterton. It may be noted however that there is an intriguing reference in Plot 1686: 111 to a phenomenon which caused the teeth of cattle to turn a golden or brassy colour. This gilding, according to Plot, had also been widely observed in Westmorland, and was tentatively attributed to feeding on particular types of plant. No evidence has been traced to prove or disprove the phenomenon (by tradition Staffordshire gentry took delight in 'humbugging old Plot' with implausible tales), but if true it seems at least possible that such gilding might explain some names with the element *butter* (and perhaps *golden*).

BUTTERLANDS 1 mile north of Biddulph Moor (SJ 9159). *Butterlands* 1842 O.S. 'The place with rich grass for plentiful butter'.

BUTTERMILK HILL a 491' hill 2½ miles south-west of Marchington (SK 1028). *Buttermilk hill* 1695 Morden - see Butterhill.

BUTTERS GREEN 1½ miles east of Audley (SJ 8150). *Butters Fields* 1733 SHC 1944 23. Named after the Butters family: SHC 1944 23.

BUTTERTON 6 miles east of Leek (SK 0756), *Buterdon* 1201 SHC III 72, *Buterden* 1222 Pleas, *Butterdon* 1223 FF, *Boterdon* 1236 FF, *Buterdon* 1277 SHC VII NS 20, *Boterdone* 1337 SHC VI NS (ii) 157, *Boturton* 1422 SHC XVII 91; **BUTTERTON** 3 miles south of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8242), (some of the following forms may relate to the other Butterton) *Botertun*, *Buterton*, *Buterdon* 12th century, *Boterdon* 1200 SHC III 69, *Buterdon* 1201, *Botterton-juxta-Lyme* 1208 SHC 1913 234, *Butterdon*, *Buterden*, *Buterdon* 1223 SHC III NS 10, *Botredon* 13th century *ibid.* 10, *Botterton* 1335 SHC 1913 235, *Bottertone* 1342 *ibid.* 238, *Butter otherwise Butterton otherwise Butterdon* 1608 SHC III NS 10. Almost certainly from OE *butere* 'butter', supposedly meaning 'land which gave rich grazing for cows'. The terminal element is clearly from OE *dūn* 'hill' in the Leek name. The Newcastle name is less clear, and may well be from OE *tūn*, although the topography does not exclude OE *dūn*. *Butterton Clowes* is recorded in Mayfield in 1774 (SHC 1931 91), but has not been located. Cf. Butterbank Brook; Butterhill (q.v.).

BUXTON BROW 1½ miles north-west of Upper Hulme (SJ 9864). *Buckstone Brow* 1640 VCH VII 194, *Buxton Brow* 1842 O.S. Presumably 'the brow or summit on the road to Buxton', but a derivation

from dialect *buck-stone* 'a stone on which linen is beaten as part of the process of buck-washing' (see PN Ch V (I:1) 121) cannot be discounted.

BYANNA ½ mile north of Eccleshall (SJ 8321). ? *Byyondence* 1351 SHC 1913 144, *Boyondeney Dales* 1509 SHC XI 256, *Byyonney* c.1511 SHC X NS I 169, *Byanwey* c.1532 *ibid.* 135, *Byonney* 1571 SHC XIII 285, *Beonny otherwise Berondeney* 1603 SHC XVIII 33, *the Hall of Byony* 1606 Eccleshall ParReg, *Bionna* 1628 *ibid*, *Bianno where the Bishop lives* 1680 SHC 1919 230, *Byanna* 1686 Plot, 1747 Bowen, *Biana* 1721, 1745 SHC 1912 289-90, 1833 O.S. A name, probably originally a field-name, which became identified with an ancient timbered house of '...the Bosvile family, whose ancient seat, Byam (sic), situated to the north-east of the palace, was afterwards converted into a farmhouse...': GM 1823 II 217-22. The various spellings indicate a derivation from OE *begeondan* '(place) beyond, on the other side of', with the (unusual) survival of the initial *be-*, with the second element OE *ĕa* 'river': the place lies on the north side of the river Sow, which separates it from Eccleshall. The 1351 spelling may be a mistranscription of *Byyondenee*. The place-name 'beyond the river' is not uncommon: see VEPN I 72-3. Johanna de Bienheshal is recorded in 1199 (SHC III (i) 31), and may be associated with this place, and the surname Andyence is recorded in the area in the 16th century (SHC IX NS 221), and may be associated with this place-name. See also SHC 1914 57; Shaw 1801: II (unpublished plates 24). Cf. *Byendeyebrok* 1322-54 SHC 1937 121, *Byondebrok* 1324 *ibid.* 123.

BYCARS in Burslem (SK 8750). *The Biker* 1658 Ward 1843: App. viii, *Bykers (Colliery)* 1836 O.S. The place is remembered in Bycars Lane. Probably from the OE preposition *br* 'by, beside', with ON *kjarr* 'a marsh', so '(the place) near or by the marsh' (cf. Bicker, Lincolnshire; Byker, Northumberland). A derivation from ME *biker* 'a fight, a dispute' cannot be ruled out completely (see EPNE i 35; VEPN I 99), but seems improbable as a simplex name.

BYRKLEY (LODGE) 1 mile south-west of Needwood (SK 1723). *Birkeleye* 1337 Ct, *Birkeleyloge* 1524 Hardy 1908: 200, *Birkley Lodge* 1658 DCL 380, *Berkley Lodge* 1798 Shaw I 66, *Byrkley Lodge* 1836 O.S. 'Thomas de Berkley, baron of Berkley in Gloucestershire, was keeper of Tutbury ward, and resided at Berkley Lodge': Shaw 1798: I 66.

CABBATIE (unlocated, in Bramshall.) *Cabbatie* 1636 SRO D5684/8.

CADEBRIGE (unlocated) *Cadebrige* c.1570 SHC 1931 222.

CADEHAM (unlocated) *Cadeham* 1190 Pipe.

CADSEY (unlocated, possibly in the Longridge/Preston area, to the west of Penkridge.) *Cadsey* 1547 SHC 1950-1 41.

CAGE HILL on the south side of Chartley (SK 0027). Early spellings have not been traced, but almost certainly from OFr, ME *cage*, used in place-names with reference to fenced enclosures, sometimes (perhaps especially) in parks, usually a pen for deer or livestock and occasionally for enclosures for fish: see VEPN II 122-3. Cf. Cage Hill, Cheshire (PN Ch I 199). See also Bowgage Farm.

CALCOT HILL an 800' hill 1 mile south-east of Clent (SO 9478). *Caldecote* 1327 SR, *Kalotthyll* 1609 PN Wo 280. From OE *cald* and *cot* 'cold cottage'. In Staffordshire from the early 13th century until 1844, when it became part of Worcestershire.

CALDHOCK (unlocated, in Penkhull.) *Caldhock* c.1249 SHC 1911 145.

CALDMORE (pronounced Karmar [kɑ:mə]) 1 mile south-west of Walsall (SO 0097). *Caldemor* 1306 SHC 1911 288, *Caldmore* 1513 SHC XI 258, *Coldmore* 1564 SHC 1938 41, *Calmore* 1596 SHC 1932 233, *Caldemore* 1605 SHC 1940 319, *Caldmore* c.1621 SHC VII NS 228, *Cauldmore* 1632 SHC II (ii) 42, *Callmore* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 191, *Calmoor* 1808 Baugh, *Colmore* 1834 O.S. From OE *cald* 'cold', and OE *mōr* 'marsh'. The 1922 O.S. map shows *Cauldmore* (*Caldmore Meadow* 1796 SRO D1066/7) on the north side of Wheaton Aston (SJ 8513), perhaps to be associated with *Caudwell Leasow* recorded in 1735 (SRO DW1738/C/31). The name is remembered in Cauldmore Lane.

CALEAWAY EDGE (unlocated) *Caleaway Edge* 1663 Leek ParReg.

CALF HEATH 3 miles west of Cannock (SJ 9309). *Kalfre heie* 994 (17th century, S.1380), *Calnheth* 1286 SHC V (i) 165, *Caleshuve* c.1290 Hatherton deed, *Calonhethe* 1300 SHC V (i) 177, *Calwehet* 1311 SHC 1911 311, *Calghet* 1332 SHC XIV 21. Although the earliest spelling (if reliable) suggests 'the enclosure of the calves', from OE genitive plural *calfra* 'calves', with Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'hedge, enclosure', the later spellings evidently incorporate OE *hæþ* 'heathland'. Formerly a vast heath and part of Gailey Hay, one of the Seven Hays (*the vii Hayes* c.1540 Leland v 22) of Cannock Forest. It is possible that the 'calves' were the tumuli which stood on the heath until destroyed by gravel working in the early 20th century (see SHC 1938 297): it is not unknown for adjoining large and small hills and islands to have names like Cow and Calf (cf. Cowes). See also Hill Chorlton.

CALLINGWOOD 4 miles west of Burton-on-Trent (SK 1923). *Le Chaleng* 1247 Ch, *Borschaleng* 1251 Ch, *Borcheslang* 1252 Ch, *Calyngewode* 1280 Ass, *Kalangewode* c.1290 SHC 1937 97, *Calyngewode*, *Chalengwode*, *Boscum Calumniatum* 13th century SHC XVI 276, *Bosco Calumpniato* 1273 SHC 1911 28, *Boischallenge* 1306 SHC VII 165, *Chalaungwode* 1327 SHC VII 224, *Kalangewode* 1332 SHC X (i) 106, *Callenwood* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 141, *Chalyngewood* 1577 Saxton. This name is a French-English hybrid, originally the ONFr *calenge* 'challenge', to which was added ONFr *bois* 'wood', the latter replaced by ME *wode* 'wood', hence 'disputed wood': the place lies near a parish boundary. The dispute was presumably post-Conquest, given the French root. By local tradition Robert de Ferrers I promised before the battle of Northallerton in 1138 to award the forest to the bravest of his troops, hence the 'challenge' (VCH II 349). The tradition is not recorded earlier than the 19th century, and may be apocryphal, but the simplex form of the earliest spelling is noteworthy. Cf. *Calyngwoodleys*, recorded in 1462 in Castle Church: Oakden 1984: 80; Callans Wood, Worcestershire.

CALLOW HILL 1½ miles north of Blithfield (SK 0426), *Caluhull* 1257 SHC 1919 20, *Caluhull*, *Kalewhull* 13th century SHC VIII 145-7, *Calughull* 1323 SHC 1937 123, *Calvhull* 1325 *ibid.* 124, *Kalughulle* 14th century Duig, *Callowehill* 1583 SHC 1927 178, *Calohill* 1610 SHC III NS 41, *Calley Hill* 1775 Yates, *Callow Hill* 1798 Yates; **CALLOWHILL** 1 mile south of Dilhorne (SJ 9742), *Callow*

Hill 1836 O.S.; CALLOWHILL (unlocated) possibly near Thornes, 2 miles north-east of Aldridge (see SHC XVII 245), evidently 'the lost township of Caunhulle' mentioned in SHC 1923 274, but see also Willmore 1887: 68, which locates the place at Calder Fields near Longwood Bridge, *Calewenhulla* c.1190 SHC XVII 244-5, ? *Calvehul* c.1200 SHC VI (i) 20, *Calewenhulle* c.1205 SHC 1923 274, *Kallowhull* c.1238 SHC 1923 274, *Calewenhulle* c.1200 SHC 1923 274, *Grange of Calewenhull* 1329 (1801) Shaw II 71; CALLOWHILL (unlocated, in Dunston), *Kanhull-meirs*, *Caluhulmeres* 13th century SHC VIII 161, 165; KALEWHULL (unlocated, in Tillington), *Kalewhull* late 13th century SRO 3764/114[36347]. A common name, from OE *calu* 'bald, bare, lacking vegetation', with OE *hyll* 'hill'.

CALTON 1½ miles west of Ilam (SK 1050). ? *Canton* 942 (14th century, S.1606), *Caltone* 1191x1194 CEC 261, *Kalton* 1227 SHC IV 44, *Caldon* 1228 Pat, *Calton(e)* 1229 Harl, *Kouton*, *Couton* 1236 Fees, *Caltone* 1311 SHC 1911 303, *Calveton* 1340 Ipm, *Calton* c.1450 SHC 4th Series IV 253, *Calton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 10, *Cawton* 1577 Saxton, 1644 SHC 4th Series I 237, *Caulton* 1666 SHC 1925 194, 1682 Brown. The 1340 spelling strongly suggests a derivation from OE genitive plural *calfra* 'calves' (possibly also meaning 'tumuli' in Staffordshire: see Calf Heath), but the other spellings do not support that etymology, and point towards OE *cald* 'cold' with OE *dūn* 'hill', giving 'the cold or bleak hill' - the place lies on a hill of 1034' - or OE *tūn*. The spellings support the latter, the topography the former. Calton and Cauldon are in such close proximity that there is often confusion between the forms. A footnote in SHC 1925 109 observes: 'Hitherto Calton has generally been described as in Derbyshire, but...[i]t seems to be an indeterminate place on the border of the two counties, and in four or five parishes'. The areas which form Calton are in fact in four Staffordshire parishes, but in a random arrangement, with alternate fields and farms sometimes in different parishes. *Calton Buds* (also known as *Buds* and now *The Budds*) was the name for the steep ground above the river Hamps at Calton: SNSFC 1948 44. The term is unexplained, but perhaps from *butt*, a word of obscure derivation found in place-names, such as The Butt of Lewis, with the meaning 'a headland or promontory': OED. There is a Calton in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

CALVEHUL (unlocated, near Tittensor: SHC VI (i) 20.) *Calvehul* ?13th century SHC VI (i) 20. 'Calf hill'. See also Calton.

CALVERECROFT (unlocated, near Abbot's Bromley), *Calverecroft* 1260 SHC 1937 61; CALVERCROFT (unlocated, in Caverswall), *Caln(er)croft* 1562 SRO D5100/24, *the Calver Croft* 1630 SRO D1275/3. From the OE genitive plural *calfra* 'calves', with OE *croft* 'a piece of enclosed pasture land, a small piece of arable land adjoining a house', so 'the croft of the calves', but see also Calf Heath.

CALVERHAY (unlocated, in Caverswall.) *Calverhey (Meadow)* 1652 SRO D593/B/1/20/20, *Calverhay* 1813 D593/B/1/23/30. From the OE genitive plural *calfra* 'calves', with Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'a hedge, an enclosure', so 'the enclosure of the calves', but see also Calf Heath.

CALVING HILL in Cannock parish. *Calwehet* 1311 SHC 1911 311, *Calughul(l)* 1304 MRA, 1369 Ct, *Calughhul(le)feld* 1341 to 1370 Ct, *Caloughehyllfild* als *Calfe hylles fylde* 1580 SHC 1939 79, *Calloughe-Hyll...als...Calf Hylls...* 1580 SHC 1939 79, *Calving Hill* 1840 TA, *Calven Hill* 1843 VCH V 60. From OE *calu* 'bare, bald, lacking vegetation', later corrupted to *calf* and *calving*.

CALWICH ½ mile east of Ellastone (SK 1243). *Calwich* c.1130 VCH III 237, *Calewiz* c.1175 SHC VII NS 134, *Calowic* 1177 SHC XII NS 278, *Calewich* 1197 P, *Calowic temp.* Henry II (1314) Ch, *Caleviz* c.1200 DRO D258/27/1/6, *Culewich* 1203 SHC III 107, *Calewiz*, *Calewis* c.1235 SHC 4th Series IV 200, *Calwyche* 1521 SHC 4th Series VII 60, *Caldwich* 1539 Ellastone ParReg, *Caldewiche* 1543 SRO D626/A/1/1-2, *Caldwiche*, *Caldwich*, *Callowiche* 1566 SHC 1926 93-4, *Calewiche* 1583 SHC III 7, *Calwithe* 1599 SHC 1935 139, *Colwich-common* 1686 Plot 404. Possibly from OE *calf-wīc* 'farm where calves were kept', but the -o- is puzzling, perhaps explained as a voiced 'glide' between *Cal-* and *-wīc*. There was a priory here founded c.1125, possibly on the site of a hermitage - a *heremitorium de Calwich* is recorded at an early date: VCH III 237. *Calwidge* and *Colwich*, recorded in 1604 (SHC XVIII 43) would seem to be two separate but adjoining places: it is unclear whether they refer to this place or Colwich (q.v.).

CAMP FARM on the Shropshire border, 2½ miles south-west of Adbaston (SJ 7324), *Camp Farm* 1775 Yates, *Camp* 1808 Baugh, *The Camp* 1833 O.S.; **CAMP FARM** on the Warwickshire border, 2 miles south of Shenstone (SK 1101), *Camp Farm* 1895 O.S.; **CAMP FARM** 1 mile south-west of Swindon (SO 8489), *Camp* 1775 Yates, *Camp Hill* 1819 GM 1819 i 396, *Camp Farm* 1834 O.S.; **THE CAMP** (unlocated, in Adbaston: SHC 1924 191), *The Camp* 1924 SHC 1924 191. *Camp* may be a perpetuation of the term *campus*, used in the late Roman period for areas of uncultivated land on the fringes of a villa or town, which was reintroduced in later times as *camp*, meaning simply 'ancient earthwork, especially from the Roman period' (see Gelling 1988: 74-8), but it is unlikely that these are ancient names. The first place is on the Roman road from Pennocrucium (Water Eaton) to Chester (Margary number 19), on the west side of which (in Shropshire) Yates' map of 1775 identifies 'Lines of a very Ancient Incampment' by a gently undulating line which seems to run roughly parallel with the Roman road; the second is in an area in which many Roman finds have been made; and the third is near Greensforge where several Roman forts have been identified: see SHC 1927 185-206; VCH I 344-6. Baugh's map of Shropshire, 1808, shows the outline of a rectangular camp (at SO 851892) at Camp Farm itself, but Baugh probably misplaced the nearby camp at Greensforge (q.v.). *Joh'e de Campo* is recorded in Kinver in 1327 (SHC VII (i) 246), and may be associated with this last place, but *campo* is Latin for 'field, plain'. For The Camp in Adbaston see also Chesterfield.

CAMP HILL 1 mile north-west of Maer (SJ 7840). *Camphills* 1686 Plot, *the Camp Hills* 1768 (1801) Shaw II xviii. The hill stands above Berth Hill (q.v.), and evidently takes its name from the earthwork on that hill.

CAMPFIELD (WOOD) at Hollywood, 2 miles south-east of Stone (SJ 9333). *Campfield* 1908 VCH I 192. From a small rectangular earthwork here: VCH I 192; SSMR 00215.

CAMTON (unlocated) possibly near Ilam or Musden. *Camton* 1569 SHC XVII 217.

CANK THORN or CANNOCK THORN on Cannock Chase, marking the boundaries of the manors of Teddesley, Baswich and Cannock (SJ 9815). *Naughmarethorn* 1290 SHC 1924 286, *Nantmarethorn* 1294 SHC VI (i) 296, *Canck Thorne*, *Cannock Thorne* 1595 Duig, *Cannock Thorn* 1719 Baswich ParReg, 'a small circular bank of earth about 10 yards south-west of the old London road': 1805 perambulation of Rugeley. The 13th century forms may be *mere-thorn* 'boundary thorn', from OE

gemære 'boundary' (the tree stands at the junction of three manors), with an unrecognisable first element, but there is a possibility that they incorporate OE **niht-maere* 'nightmare': c.f. field-names *Negtmereslond* and *Nahtmarefurlong* recorded in Cheshire (PN Ch IV 70, 87). A nightmare was a female monster which supposedly settled on sleeping people and animals and caused a feeling of suffocation (OED). This isolated boundary thorn may have been thought to be haunted. The decayed bush (which could not be found during perambulations of Walton and Brocton in 1728 and 1732: Baswich ParReg) was replaced by a blackthorn in the early 18th century, and in 1949 was said to be a Cockspur thorn, a North American species: JNSFC LXXXIV 1949-50 119. That tree was uprooted in 1972, but cuttings taken for replanting: NSJFS 12 1972 141. A map of Teddesley Warren of 1754 is endorsed with a note of 1886 concerning the position of Cank Thorn, which is shown on the map some three quarters of a mile to the north of the position accepted by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1814: see SRO D260/M/E1-424 11; SRO D260/M/430/143; SRO D260/M/E/353a. See also StEnc 116.

CAN LANE (obsolete, 1 mile east of Sedgley (SO 9394). *Can Lane* 1834 O.S. Supposedly named after the Cann family, originally from Devon, famed for its champion wrestlers in the 18th century: see StEnc 117. Now known as Hurst Road: *ibid*.

CANNOCK Ancient Parish 8 miles north-east of Wolverhampton (SJ 9810). *Chenet* 1086 DB, *Chnoc* 1130 P, *Can(n)oc*, *Can(n)ok(e)*, *Kan(n)oc*, *Kan(n)ok(e)* c.1135-40 St Cart, 1153-1272 MRA, 1198, 1212, 1236 Fees, *Kanot* 1187 P, *Can(n)ock(e)*, *Kannock(e)* 1151, 1285, MRA, *Cancia* (sic) 1155 St Cart, *Cnot* 1156-1196 P, *Canot* 1157-1215 P, *Chenot* 1162, 1173 P, *Knot* 1166 P, *Chnot* 1170 P, *Canet* 1203 Ass, *Gannok vel Kannok* 1221 CIR, *Gan(n)ok*, *Gan(n)oc* 1245 BM, 1262 Lib, *Canocbir'*, *Kanocbir'*, *Kanocbur'* 1259 Ch, *Kannokbury*, *Cannokbury* 1286 SHC V (i) 167, *Cankbur'* 1293 QW, *Cannokburi* 1327 SHC VII (i) 245, *Cannocbury* 1348 SHC 1939 75, *Kankbury* 1352 Banco, *Kannockbury* 1319, 1377 (1801) Shaw II unpublished sheets 316, *le Cank(e)* 1403 Cl, 1415 Coram R, *Cannock als Canck* 1493 Ipm, *le Cank* 1415 SHC VIII 30. It was formerly thought that this name was of Celtic origin, from the form *Canuc* in a charter of 956 in a 12th century copy (S.608), interpreted as a supposed word **cunāco-*, 'hill'. It has now been shown not only that the charter in question refers to a place in Hampshire or Wiltshire, not Staffordshire, but that the word **cunāco-*, and the suggested PrWelsh **cuno-*, 'high', may not exist: see Oakden 1984: 56; but also JEPNS 16 1983-4 1-24, where **cunāco* is held to be pre-British and non-Celtic, a hill-name but not necessarily 'hill'. The name Cannock is now believed to derive from Welsh *cnwc* 'a hill, a lump, a hillock', or OE *cnocc* 'hill' or 'hillock', a native Germanic word (cognate with Danish dialect *knok* 'little hillock', and related to ON *knjukr* 'a high steep rounded hill'), modified by Norman pronunciation to *canoc* with the usual insertion of a vowel between two consonants, in the same way that King Cnut came to be known as Canute. The hill in question has been taken to be the 650' Shoal Hill (q.v.), 1 mile north-west in nearby Huntington (see Nicolaisen *et al* 1970: 66; Oakden 1984: 56), but that can hardly be called a hillock. It seems more likely that the feature after which the place was named was 'the slight hill of gravelly soil' (VCH V 52) on which the place lies. However, early writers and historians record a 'great stone' in a field south of Cannock Church: Erdeswick 1844: 192 fn. states 'near the church is a stone of great weight and magnitude, which has been sunk under the surface of the ground, and the plough passes over it. Several large single stones there are objects of antiquity...'; see also Dudley 1665; Plot 1686: 397; Shaw 1801:

II 13; and note *Great Stone Field* recorded in 1594 SRO D260/M/T/6/132; *Great Stone Stile Field* recorded c.1843 VCH V 60). It is conceivable that the name might be from Welsh *cnwc* 'lump' with reference to that particular feature, although a more appropriate Welsh word, such as *maen*, might perhaps have been expected. The reference in Plot suggests that the stone may have been something more than a rounded boulder: 'And for other British antiquities that are in any way probably such, I met with none, unless the great stone in a field South of Cannock Church...may be accounted such'. Shaw 1798: I 13 observes that '...the great Stone in a field South of Cannock church may also be numbered amongst the British antiquities...'. The *bury* element in some of the spellings is from OE *burh* 'fortification', probably referring to Castle Ring (q.v.), which lies in the north-east corner of the parish, but it is possible that a fortification of some kind once existed in Cannock itself: Shaw (1801: II unpublished sheets page 316) mentions a record in Dugdale of a payment in the time of Henry I to the Constable of the Castle, but no other reference to a castle has been traced, though Duignan believed that the foundations of the stone structure within the earthworks of Castle Ring were the remains of a 12th century castle which was never completed: MidA III 141-2; Hackwood 1905b: 146. For early observations on the name Cannock see Shaw 1798: I 10 fn. Cf. Knook, Wiltshire. See also Cank Barn, Warwickshire (PN Wa 292); Cank in Inkberrow, Worcestershire; Knook, Wiltshire. *Cnokomalay* (possibly in or near Audley) is recorded in 1307: SHC XI NS 265.

CANNOCK CHASE to the north of Cannock. *Chaciam de Kannock* 1175x1209 SHC VIII (i) 134. From OFr *chace* 'chasing, hunting, a hunting ground, wild park-land', which was a term applied to an area subject to Forest law but not held by the king. The Chase, granted to the bishop of Lichfield in 1290 after some 60 years of dispute between the bishop and the king (VCH II 338, 343, map 336), strictly consisted of the bailiwicks of Trumwyn and of Puys (or Rugeley), and descended with the manors of Cannock and Rugeley: VCH V 59. It is now a vast area of heath and woodland. For details of some early woodland names in Cannock Chase see Welch 2001: 17-73. Cf. Cannock Forest.

CANNOCK FOREST created or enlarged by William I, the Forest (an area subject to Forest law, and not necessarily wooded), was known as such by the 1140s (VCH II 338), and occupied a vast area in the centre of the county extending from Radford Bridge near Stafford in the north to Wolverhampton and Walsall in the south, and from the river Penk in the west to the Tame on the east. The original nine Bailiwicks or Hays (from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'hedge, fence, enclosure') of Cannock Forest were Alrewas, Bentley, Cheslyn, Gailey, Hopwas, Ogley, Teddesley, Cannock and Rugeley. They were reduced to seven (*the vii Hayes* c.1540 Leland) when Rugeley and Cannock were granted to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry in 1189 (SHC X NS I 213; see also VCH II 338, 342-3). That area became Cannock Chase (q.v.). Cannock had the largest single wood recorded in DB, possibly 24,000 acres: Rackham 1980: 115-7. The name Cannock Forest is now applied to that part of Cannock Chase which was the subject of the Rugeley *EnclA* of 1885: StEnc 121.

CANNOCK WOOD 4½ miles north-east of Cannock, below Castle Ring (SK 0412). *Conikwode* 1564 Mercator, *Canckwood* 1623 PCC, *Cannock Wood* 1666 SHT, 1775 Yates. It is unclear whether these references are to the relatively modern village of Cannock Wood. *The Survey of the Cankewood*,

made in 1554 (SRO (DW1734/2/3/43), covers the wooded parts of the manors of Cannock and Rugeley, and it seems likely that Cannock Wood was so defined in earlier times.

CANTERTON (unlocated) *Canterton* 1199 SHC III (i) 48.

CANTRELL (unlocated, possibly in the Alstonefield/Calton/Throwley area.) *Cantrell* 1439 SHC III NS 146

CANWELL 5 miles south-west of Tamworth (SK 1400). *Canewell* c.1120 (1801) Shaw II 2, *Kanewell* c.1185 SHC XVII 251, *Canewelle* 12th century Duig, later *Canewall*, *Canwalle*, *Kanewall*, *Kanewell*, *Canwell*, *Canwelle*, *Canewelle* Duig, *Canewell* 1209-35 Ep, *Canewall* 1272 SHC IV (i) 214, *Kanewell* 1285-6 Rees 1997: 178, 1332 SHC X 104, 1391 SHC XV 37, *Kannewell* 1370 SHC VIII NS 240, *Canewella* 1410 Mon, *Cawnoll* 1606 (1798) Shaw I 16, *Cannall* 1640 SHC XV 212, 1686 Plot, 1694 (1798) Shaw I 16, 1749 Bowen. Perhaps from the OE personal name *Can(n)a, with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', hence '*Can(n)a's spring'. A derivation from OE *canne* 'a receptacle or vessel for holding liquids', meaning 'the spring provided with a cup', would have numerous parallels (e.g. Beardwell, Wiltshire; Bedlars Green, Essex and Hertfordshire; Biddles, Berkshire; Bidwell, in Bedfordshire, Dorset, Northamptonshire and Somerset, all with OE *byden* 'a vessel, a tub, a butt' as the first element), but here the absence of spellings with *-nn-* makes such a derivation unlikely (but see also Cumbwell Brook). There is little likelihood that the name has any connection with Welsh *can*, *cain* 'beautiful, clear'. A spring known as St Modwen's Well is at Canwell: see Burton upon Trent.

CAPAXWODE (unlocated) *Capaxwode* 1481 SHC VI NS (i) 130.

CAPE HILL a district in Smethwick (SO 0387), so-named from the Cape of Good Hope inn recorded in 1814 which stood at the junction of Grove Lane and Cape Hill: VCH XVII 94.

CAR HOUSE (obsolete) 1 mile south-west of Audley (SJ 7850), *Carre House* 1599 SHC 1935 182, (1801) Shaw II Appendix 12, *Car* 1609 Audley ParReg, *the Carr* 1612 SHC 1944 83, *Carr* 1649 Audley ParReg, *Carr House* 1733 SHC 1944 4, *Car House* 1775 Yates; CAR HOUSE 2 miles south-east of Stone (SJ 9231), *Carre* 1549 SHC XII 202, *Carrhouse* 1594 SHC 1932 79, *Carr (Hill)* 1834 White 1834: 681, *Carr House* 1836 O.S. Possibly from OE *carr* 'rock', but see also Carr Wood, Carr Bank. Bowen's map of 1749 records *Car* between Maer and Shelton under Harley, but no other evidence has been traced to confirm the existence of such place.

CARMOUNTHEAD 1 mile south-west of Bagnall (SJ 9150). *Keversmunt* 1218 SHC XI NS 219, *Hay of Kenvermunt* 1223 SHC XII NS 30, *Kevremunt* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *Kenermunt*, *Keversmunt* 1228 (17th century) SHC XII NS 218-9, *Kevermunt* 1228 SHC IV 67, *Keuermunt (closed hay of)* 1256 Ch. Rolls, *Couremunt*, *Kevermunt* 1288 SHC VI (i) 167, 175, *Kevermund* 1293 *ibid.* 239, *Kenmund* 1299 SHC XI 311, *Kervermund* 1303 Stafford MS (Erdeswick 1844: 98), *Kermond* 1394 SHC XV 60, 1402 SHC 1912 242, *Carmonhead* 1606 SHC 1946 299, *Carman head* 1608 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg, *the Carmountside* 1744 Burslem ParReg, *Car Mount* 1775 Yates, *Carmountside* 1836 O.S. A name showing clear evidence of Norman influence: Chevremont is common in France, and Quevremont is also found. The initial K- is evidence that the influence is likely to be from the Norman-Picard variant

of this name, since the Central French form would have been expected to have an initial Ch-: see PN L 75. Kirmond le Mire, Lincolnshire, is *Cheuremont* (1086), *Kuermunt* (c.1150), and *Keuermunt* (c.1152). The name means 'goat hill', with the second element here developing via ME *munt* (from OFr *mont*) 'mound, hill' into modern *mount*, with the *head* suffix a late addition, denoting the end or head of what was evidently a Hay (from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'an enclosure; an area, often part of a forest, fenced off for hunting') of a sizeable area in the region of what is now Wetley Moor, since several places on the margins of that high ground have the name Kevermunt as a qualifier: Weston Coyney, Norton in the Moors and Hulme appear as *Weston sub Kevermont* (1242 Fees), *Norton under Kevremunt* (1227 SHC XI NS 240), and *Holm under Kevermund* (1293 SHC VI (i) 239) respectively. The name was evidently applied originally to a single hill. The form *Caermuned*, recorded temp. Henry III (Erdeswick 1844: 98), suggests the intriguing possibility of an original derivation from Welsh *caer mynydd* 'fortification on the hill', which was later Normanised into the similar-sounding Kevermont, but it is more likely that Keveremont is the authentic name and the 'Welsh' form is an early indication of the pronunciation recorded in 1394 as Kermond. See also Barns 1907-8.

CARNCOE, ROUGH (obsolete) ½ mile south-west of Willoughbridge Lodge (SJ 7338). *Carnecole* 1585 TSAS LI 1941-3 114, *Garnecoale* 1617 SHC 1917-8 390, *Rough Carncoe* 1833 O.S. A curious name. If the 1617 spelling can be trusted, possibly from *garner* 'a bin in a mill or granary; a store-room of any kind', so 'the store-place for coal', though the word-order is puzzling. Curiously, *coe* is an element found in Derbyshire mining districts meaning 'a little shed in which the miners dressed ore and stored tools': PN Db I xlvi. The earliest spelling, however, suggests 'a cairn or pile of charcoal', although the word order is curious.

CARROWAY HEAD 5 miles south-west of Tamworth (SO 1599). *Caraway-head* 1686 Plot, *Caraway head* 1695 Morden, *Caraway head* 1747 Bowen, *Carway Head* 1775 Yates, *Caraway Head* 1777 Bowen, *Carr-way or Carraway-Head* 1801 Shaw II 9, *Carroway Head* 1834 O.S. Possibly from the Caraway plant (*Carum carvi*, the source of the seed for seed-cake), which was once grown in England, although the name is rarely found, and then in the south of England (see Field 1993: 100; also Shaw 1801: II i Adv. iv). Or, if the name is ancient, possibly from OWelsh **carrou*, plural of *carr* 'a rock' (cf. Carraw, Northumberland): Plot 1686: 157 states: '...in the hollow way between the hills on Weeford heath, as you pass between Swynfen and Cannel yate [Canwell Gate], there lie divers little heaps [of stones], and one great one at the top of the hill at Weeford Park corner, which according to the tradition of the Country, was placed there in memory of as Bishop of Lichfield, who rideing thither with a large attendance, was set upon by Robbers; and Himself and all his men being slain, that these heaps of stones were layd where each dead body was found: whence by the Country people and travellers they are call'd the Bishops stones. But this is merely a fable of them, the truth follows, as I received it from the learned and judicious Antiquary Sr. William Dugdale Kt. Garter King of Armes. About the later end of the raigne of King Henry the 8 or shortly after, John Vessy then Bishop of Exeter, a man of publick spirit, and borne close by, at Sutton Cofield in Warwickshire, resolving with himself to become a benefactor to that place and the parts adjacent, procured for that towne not only a Mercat and fairs, but...finding the road above mention'd much annoyed with these rolling pebbles, which frequently accasion'd travellers horses to stumble and sometimes to fall, amongst others of his

works of Charity, He hired poore people to gather them out of the way, and lay them thus on heaps; and this is the true reason they are call'd Bishops Stones [*Bishop's heap of Stones* 1720 Bowen]...'. The *Head* element means 'top, end', so possibly giving 'the top or end of the way to Carrow'. The Staffordshire historian Samuel Pipe Wolferstan was clearly bemused by the name, since in 1756 he observes 'perhaps it should be Carriage-way Head' (Shaw 1801: II 9). For completeness, it may be added that Dent & Hill 1896: 150 associate this place (which they call *Garroway Head*, a form cited by Duignan in MidA II 172) with a verse from a ballad of c.1564, 'The Tanner of Tamworth', which refers to a 'payre of gallowes' here, suggesting that the name may be a corruption of Gallow-way Head: the stream which forms the Staffordshire-Warwickshire boundary to the east is called Gallows Brook. Duignan (MidA II 172) suggests a derivation from Welsh *garw* 'rough', and records that 'It was a rough bit of road when I was a boy [i.e in the second quarter of the 19th century], but is now good'. It may be noted that Thomas Galawey of Willenhall is recorded in 1482 (SHC NS VI (i) 136), and William Callawey is recorded in Lichfield in 1540 (SHC 1912 137).

CARR WOOD, CARR BANK on the north side of Oakamoor (SK 0645), *Cares* 1593 StSt 12 2000 70, *Carr* 1594 SHC 1932 49, *Carr Bank* 1860 SRO D953/34, *Car Wood, Car Bank* 1836 O.S.; CARR (unlocated, in Barton under Needwood), *the Carr* 1720 DRO D3155/WH92-92a. From ON *kjarr* 'marsh, wet moor, boggy copse'. The name is so often found linked to that of the alder that the word may mean 'wet place with alders': see Rackham 1990: 108. Shaw 1798: I 149 records *the Carr* in Yoxall in 1735.

CARRY COPPICE two small woods, 1 mile west of Bramshall (SK 0432) and 1½ miles west of Bramshall (0332), doubtless the remnants of a larger single wood. *Carr Coppice* 1775 Yates, *Car Coppice* 1798 Yates, *Carriscopice* 1865 Redfern 1865: 87. From ON *kjarr* 'marsh, wet moor, boggy copse'. The name is so often found linked to that of the alder that the word may mean 'wet place with alders'. The place is also marked by Carry Lane.

CARTER'S GREEN West Bromwich (SO 9992). *Carter's Green* 1764 VCH XVII 7. Self-explanatory, from a personal name or occupation. Hackwood 1895: 7 suggests a connection with John Carter, High Constable of the Hundred in 1647.

CARTLEDGE 1½ miles north of Bradnop (SK 0057). *Cartelage by Knivedon* c.1290 SHC 1911 432, *Cartelache* 1356 SRO D3272/5/13/10, 1598 Alstonefield ParReg. ME *carte* 'a cart' seems improbable as the first element, so possibly from OE *cert*, *cært* 'rough ground', cognate with ON *kartr* 'rocky ground', Norwegian *kart* 'rocky ground', with OE **lece* 'a stream, a bog, swampy boggy land', hence 'the swampy ground with rocks'. The evidence of an OE personal name **Cearda* (EPNE i 91) is doubtful. Cf. Cartmel, Lancashire.

CARTLEDGE BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet, not marked on maps - see Cartledge.

CASHHEATH FARM 1 mile south-east of Caverswall (SJ 9642), *Cash Heath* 1836 O.S. A name of uncertain origin (perhaps to be associated with the word in its monetary sense, recorded from the late 16th century: OED), but possibly from the family name Cash. See also Whitleygreaves; Whitley Heath.

CASTERN 1½ miles north-west of Ilam (SK 1252). *Cātesþyrne* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Casterne*, *Casturne*, *Chatesturne* 1116-33 Burton, *Chatesturne* 1150x1159 SRO D603/A/Add/21, *Catesturne* 1185 *ibid*, ? *Cathesthorne* 1199 SHC III 38, *Catsterne* 1203 Ass, *Catesturn* 1227 Ass, *Cattesterne* c.1240 SHC 4th Series IV 117, *Casterne* 1327 SR, *Castern* 1428 DbCh, *Kasterne* 1436 Fine, *Castorn(e)* 1493-1500 ECP *et freq*, *Coston* 1569 Pat, *Casterton* 1600 Alstonefield ParReg to 1851 White. The first element is possibly a OE personal name *Catt, with OE *þyrne* 'thorn bush', so '*Catt's thorn bush'. Upper and Lower Castern (now obsolete) are recorded as *Overcasto(u)rne*, *Overcasterton* 1538 Ipm, *Over Casterne* 1565 to 1617 FF, and *Nethercastorne* 1538 Ipm, *Over & Nether Casterne* 1568 FF.

CASTERS BRIDGE over Black Brook, a tributary of the river Dane, near Gradbach. *Caister's Bridge* 1862 (1883) Sleigh, *Castor's Bridge or Smelter's Bridge* 1874 Brocklehurst. Possibly from *caster*, from casting, as in smelting. A forge lay close to the bridge: NSFC LXVII 51-70; Elliott 1984: 50.

CASTLE CHURCH Ancient Parish ½ mile south of Stafford (SJ 9022). *Castell* 1208 SHC III 172, *villa castri Stafford* 1293 Ass, *Castello* 1293 SHC VI (i) 238, *Castre* 1307 SHC VII 179, *Castel* 1332 FF, *le Castelparke* 1439 MinA, *Castell Parysshe* 1553 SHC XII 212, *Chastel chuerche* 1562-6 Harl, *Stafford Castle alias Castle parish* 1715 WRO 705:24/1109. Originally simply 'the castle'. The place is close to the hill on which stands Stafford Castle. The manor may also have been known as Forebridge (q.v.): VCH V 86. It became a separate parish from Stafford c.1546. Possibly the same place as DB *Monetvile* (q.v.): VCH IV 53 fn.

CASTLE CLIFF (obsolete) in Newcastle under Lyme. (*haiya de*) *Clive* 1234-40 TestNev, (*the King's wood called*) *Le Cliff* 1263 SHC 1911 134, (*haya nostra de*) *Clyf juxta novum castrum subtus Limam* 1271 SHC V (i) 155, ? *Scherteclivie* 1297 SHC 1911 245, *Castelcliff* 1422 SHC VIII 219, SHC XII NS 74, SHC 1912 219. From the castle at Newcastle under Lyme.

CASTLE CLIFF ROCKS near Ludchurch (SK 9865). Early spellings have not been traced, but the outcrop is possibly the *knokled knarrez with knorned stonez* mentioned in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (see Elliott 1984: 47; see also Flash; Knotbury; Ludchurch), perhaps associated with Castle Cliff across the river Dane in Derbyshire (*Castell Clyff*, *Castell Cliff* 1503 ChFor, *the Castle Cliff* 1611 LRMB 200), which appear castle-like in profile. See also SHC 1910 304.

CASTLE CROFT near Chesterfield, 2½ miles south-west of Lichfield (SK 0905), *Castle-croft* 1695 Morden, *the castle* 1776 Stukeley; **CASTLE CROFT** at Huntley Hall, 1 mile south of Cheadle (SK0041), *Castle Croft* 1686 Plot, 1747 Bowen, 1775 Yates; **CASTLECROFT** 4 miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8697), *Castle Crofte* 1647 Survey, *Castle-croft* 1686 Plot 156, *Castle Croft* 1798 Yates, *Castlecroft* 1801 Shaw II *221, *Castle Croft* 1834 O.S. Ancient names with *castle* often mark what was, or was thought to be, 'a castle, a camp, an earthwork', from OE, OFr *castel*, but sometimes from OE *ceastel* 'heap of stones'. Of Castle Croft near Chesterfield, Horsley 1732: 420 recorded certain Roman walls called Castle Croft which encompassed about two acres, which were still visible in 1817 (Pitt 1817: 128-9). The remains had disappeared by 1872, but excavations revealed traces of a

wall 150' long and 11' thick: TSSAHS V 1963-4 1; see also Erdeswick 1844: 301. There are earthworks at Huntley Hall, also said to have been known as *Huntley Castle*, *Mobberley Baen* and *Castle Cop* (SHC 1926 159-65), but no record of any early remains at the place near Wolverhampton (unless *Tilbury Camp*, or 'some remains of an old fort or earthworks' opposite (*sic*) Wightwick Mill, recorded in Jones 1894: 7, 10; or a square cropmark at Pool Hall (SO 86209740: see StEnc 461) are to be associated with the 'castle'), although the place lies on a steep bank on the east side of Smestow Brook. The age of the name *Tilbury Camp*, and its site, are uncertain, but the name is remembered in Tilbury Close on Castlecroft Hill. *Castle Croft* in Longdon, near Russell's Bank, is recorded c.1737 (SRO D260/M/T/5/125); a field-name *Castle Croft* is recorded adjoining the south side of Colton church (Parker 1897: 7), and *Castle Croft* is marked in Gothic lettering on the north-west side of Tamworth (SK 2104) on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1834. See also Chesterfield; Mobberley.

CASTLE HAYES PARK (FARM) 1 mile south-west of Tutbury (SK 1927). *Le Castelhay* 1297 SHC 1911 251, *Castelhay* 1324 *ibid.* 359, *Castellhay*, *Castell Haye* 1540 SHC 1910 45, *Castlehey*, *Castelhey* c.1540 *ibid.* 49, *Castle Hayes* 1702 SRO D3629/9/1. One of the hays (bailiwicks or clearings) of Needwood Forest, from Mecian OE (*ge*)*heg*. The name is doubtless from Tutbury Castle. A gate to the park is recorded as *Nedewodeges* in 1540: SHC 1910 47.

CASTLE HILL in Audley (SJ 7950). The site of a flat-topped mound of Audley castle, dating from 1227: SHC 1944 xviii.

CASTLE HILL ½ mile north of Ashley (SJ 7637). *Castle Hill* 1920 O.S. The age of this name is unknown, but if ancient, perhaps indicates ancient earthworks. *Castle Hill* in Beech is recorded in 1814: SRO D641/5/T/12. See also Castle Old Fort.

CASTLE OLD FORT an iron-age hillfort 3 miles north of Aldridge (SK 0603). *Castle-old-ford*, *Castle old-fort* 1686 Plot 396, *Castle Old Fort* 1834 O.S. From OE *castel* (from Latin *castellum*) 'a castle, a camp, a fortification, an earthwork', a word often applied to ancient earthworks. Shaw (1798: I 12 footnote) notes that the place is called *Castle-old-ford* in 'ancient writings'; see also VCH I 373; NSJFS 1964 34; StEnc 124. The name is remembered in Castlehill Road (cf. *Castle Hill* 1798 Shaw I 53) and Castlebank Plantation.

CASTLE RING an iron-age hillfort 5 miles north-east of Cannock on the highest point (801') of Cannock Chase (SK 0412). *Castle-hill* 1686 Plot 39, 418, *Castle hill* 1798 Shaw I 221, *Castle Ring* 1907 O.S. Such earthworks are commonly known as castles, from OE *castel* 'a castle, a camp, a fortification, an earthwork', but in this case the stone foundations of a rectangular medieval structure in the north-west corner of the earthworks may account for this element (see also Cannock). *Ring* is from the roughly circular (but actually pentagonal) shape of the earthworks here, the northern ramparts of which lie on the boundary between Cuttlestone and Offlow. A coalmine near here is described as *Subter Castrum* ('below the fortification') c.1445: VCH II 72 fn.32.

CASTLOW CROSS (unlocated) on Cauldon Hills. *Castlow Cross* 1686 Plot. Possibly from OE *ceastel* 'a pile of stones', with OE *hlāw* 'tumulus', hence 'burial mound with a cairn'. Perhaps the same place as *Astlow Cross*, mentioned in Hackwood 1924: 74.

CASY, THE a stretch of road which runs south-west from Winkhill towards Foxt. The age of the name is unknown. Brighton 1937: 11 describes the road as Roman, which is unlikely. The name is from *causee*, *causey* (see VEPN II 51-2), from ME *cauce* 'a mound, an embankment, a raised way across low wet ground'.

CAT HAYES (FARM) 2 miles west of Horton (SJ 9157). ? *Cateshouse* 1531-2 SRO DW1400/109. If the spelling is correctly identified as this place, perhaps '*Catt's house'.

CAT HOLME 2 miles north-east of Wychnor (SK 1916). *Catholm* 1325 Hardy 1908: 20, *Catholme* 1415 *ibid.* 72, 1495 *ibid.* 141, *Barton Catholme* 1561 DRO D3155/7512, *Cats Holme* 1834 O.S. The first element is possibly the OE personal name *Catta or *Catt (or OE *catt(e)*, the animal), with ON *holmr* 'a piece of land in a marsh or almost surrounded by a stream'. The place lies in what was a loop of the river Trent, which marked the border with Derbyshire, but the flat alluvial meadow land (on which an Anglo-Saxon settlement has been excavated: see Losco-Bradley & Kinsley 2002) is remarkably dry. Across the river lies Catton, which probably incorporates the same first element, and to which this place was presumably linked when it was named: a ford is recorded across the river here in the 15th century: Faull 1984: 101-14. The O.S. shows *Catholme* at SK 1915, and *Cat Holme* to the north at SK 1916. To the north *Burrow Holme* (in Derbyshire) and *Fat Holme* (q.v.) appear on the 1834 O.S. map, and *Tucklesholme* (q.v.) lies nearby. Individual fields named *Thornholme* and *Reedholme* are also recorded: Faull 1984: 101-14. See also *Hulme*, *Upper Hulme*.

CATCHEMS END ½ mile north-east of Brewood (SJ 8908), *Catchems End* 1834 O.S., *Catchems Inn* 1838 TA; **CATCH 'EMS CORNER** in Ettingshall (SO 9396), *Catchems Corner* 1775 Yates, 1813 Nightingale, *Catchem Corner* 1791 Penn ParReg, *Catchems Corners* 1808 Baugh, *Catch 'ems Corner* 1834 O.S., *Ketchem's Corner* 1845 *doc.* A not uncommon name of unexplained derivation, but probably whimsical in origin and not ancient (but note Willam Cattecham recorded in Wyken in 1524: SRS 3 34). It has been suggested that the place at Ettingshall is 'a humorously descriptive name for the toll-bar erected at Ettingshall to 'catch' the tolls of those who had used this 'back way' from Wolverhampton to evade the toll-gate on the main road': Hackwood 1898: 7; and that by local tradition it was the custom for those beating the bounds of Sedgley and Bilston to meet here for a friendly fight: printed Sedgley ParReg. *Catchems Inn* is recorded in Alrewas in 1801 (SRO DW1851/3/1/1), and *Catchams End* appears near the northern boundary of Worfield, near Badger Mill, in 1839 (TA). The fact that *Catchems Inn* is recorded at two places suggests that the name may have originated, or been used in some cases, as a colloquial term for a beerhouse. Cf. *Catchems End* in Hatton, Warwickshire; *Catchems End* to north of Bewdley, Worcestershire.

CAT'S EDGE 2 miles west of Cheddleton (SJ 9452). *Catsall Edge* 1731 ParReg, *Catsaw Edge* 1728 *ibid*, *Cats Edge* 1836 O.S. The first word is from *Catswall* (q.v.), with OE *ecg* 'escarpment'.

CATSHILL ½ mile north-east of Walsall (SK 0505). *Catteshulle*, *Kateshulle* 1251 SHC XVI 287-8, *Cuttesslowe* 13th century Duig, *Cattesslowe* 1300 SHC V (i) 177, *Cattes Lowe alias Cattes Hill* 1576 VCH XVII 278, *Cattlowe als Catshill* 1617 Willmore 1887: 440, *Catts-hill* 1686 Plot 403, *Cat's Hill or Canute's Hill* 1851 White. From a now-vanished tumulus on the south of the old Chester Road, cut by the canal, which formed the boundary of the manors of Walsall, Ogle Hay, and Little Wyrley: see

JNSFC 5 1965 46. The name is probably from the OE personal name *Catt, or OE *catt(e)*, the animal, with OE *hlāw* 'tumulus, burial mound' alternating with OE *hyll* 'hill'. The 1851 alternative name is an example of popular etymology. See also Catteslowe.

CAT'S HILL CROSS 1 mile north of Eccleshall (SJ 8230). *Catsell Cross* 1655 Eccleshall ParReg, *Catchill-cross* 1692 *ibid*. Cats Hill lies a short distance to the north. Perhaps from the OE personal name *Catt or *Catta, or OE *catt(e)*, the animal, with OE *hyll* 'hill'. A cross was seemingly at some time set up at this place, which lies at crossroads.

CATSTREE 1 mile north-west of Worfield (SO 7496). *Cattystre* (p) 1500 Worfield CA, *Catstre* 1525 SR, *Catstree* 1752 Rocque, 1833 O.S. Perhaps '*Catt's tree'. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

CATSWALL (obsolete) 2 miles west of Cheddleton (SJ 9452). *Catteswall(e)* (p) 1340 AD 5, *Catswall* 1651 Deed, 1775 Yates, *Catswall* 1836 O.S. From 'Catta's or Catt's spring or stream', or 'the spring or stream of the wild-cat', with the Mercian OE *wælle*, which frequently becomes *-wall*. See also Cat's Edge.

CATTESLOWE (obsolete) A tumulus some 40 yards in diameter and 18 feet high which lay on the south-west side of Leek, between Waterloo Road and Spring Gardens, destroyed in 1907: VCH VII 85. *Catteslowe* 1587 (1883) Sleight 22, later 16th century VCH VII 85, *Cocklow* 1686 Plot 404, *Cock Lowe or Great Lowe* 1723 VCH VII 85. '*Catta's or *Catt's *hlāw* or tumulus', or 'the tumulus of the wildcat'. The change from *Catte-* to *Cock* is curious. See also Leek; Lowe Hill; Catshill.

CATTON in Croxall parish, 2½ miles east of Alrewas (SK 2115). *Chetun* 1086 DB (listed under Derbyshire), *Cathton(a)* 1162-3 SHC 4th Series IV 23, *Katton* 1198-1208 *ibid*. 43, *Catiton* 1208 Cur, *Catton* 1236 Fees, 1307 SHC VII 173. Probably from the ON personal name Kāti, or (less likely) from the OE personal name *Catta, with OE *tūn*, or 'the *tūn* of the wild cat', from OE *catt*. Croxall contains a Scandinavian personal name, which increases the likelihood that this name has a Scandinavian derivation. There are other places of this name in Norfolk, Northumberland and Yorkshire.

CAUDEWELL (unlocated, in Blurton, perhaps associated with Coldriding at SJ 9140), *Caldewall* in 1275 SHC XI NS 243, SHC XI 311-2, *Caldwelle* 1300 SHC XI 307, *Caudewell* 1302 SHC XI 307, SRO D593/B/1/23/3/1/9. *Caldwallefeld* is recorded in Codsall in 1349 (SRO D593/A/2/5/7), *Caldwell Field* in 1522 (SRO D593/A/2/5/16); *Colewele*, *Colewall* in Haywood c.1225 (SHC VIII 155); *Caldewall Mulne* is recorded in Orton or Wombourne in 1362 (Inq.), and as *Caldwalls* in 1489 (1801) Shaw II 215, *Caldwalles* in 1576 (SRO D740/8/1), *Cawdells alias Caldwelles* 1681 (SRO D740/8/18). From OE *cald* 'cold', with Mercian OE *wælle*, 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. See also Caudy Fields; Coldwall.

CAUDY FIELDS (obsolete, 1 mile east of Walsall (SO 0398).) *Caldwell* 1317 SHC IX (i) 64, *Caldwelle* 1332 SRO D1790/A/2/906, *Caudy Fields* 1834 O.S. From OE *cald* 'cold', with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', a common name in Staffordshire. It is unclear whether *Caldwallemore* near Cheslyn Hay, recorded in 1300 (SHC V (i) 177), and in 1340 as *Caldewallemore* (SRO D593/B/1/26/6/2/11), are to be associated with this place. See also Boweles.

CAULDFORD (unlocated, on the river Tame.) *Caldefford, Caldford* 1798 Shaw I 433. The place lay on the boundary of Hopwas: Shaw 1798: I 433. 'The cold ford'.

CAULDON 6 miles north-east of Cheadle (SK 0749). *Cealdun, Celfdun* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Caldone* 1086 DB, *Caluedon* 1196 FF, *Calfdon* c.1200 Bodl, *Caldon'* 1224 Cur, 1228 Pat *et freq*, *Caldona* 1226 SHC V (i) 54, *Chauledon, Caldon'* 1242 Fees, *Calveduna* c.1270 SHC 1913 318, *Caldone* 1311 SHC 1911 303, *Coldon* 1332 SR, *Caldon* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 9, *Calden* 1562-6 Harl, *Caudon, Cawdon* 1598 Dep, *Cauldon* 1599 Smith, *Cawdon* 1601 SHC XVI 225, *Cauldon* 1686 Plot. 'Calf hill', from OE Mercian *cælf, dūn*. *Cælf*, the i-mutated form of *calf*, in the West Midlands normally becomes *calf*, which might conceivably refer to tumuli in some Staffordshire place-names (see Calves Heath), perhaps in this case associated with Cauldon Lowe (q.v.). The O.S. used the spelling Cauldon for the village, but Caldons for the Caldons Canal here which opened c.1777. *Cauldon Grange* is recorded c.1650: DRO DD/SR/225/140. It is possible that some of the above forms may refer to nearby Calton (q.v.). It is unclear whether *Kalwedun*, recorded in 1236 (Fees), is to be associated with this place. Some spellings above may relate to Chorlton (q.v.), and vice versa.

CAULDON LOWE a 1190' hill 1 mile south of Cauldon (SK 0748). ? *montem de Caldona* c.1220 SHC V (i) 52, *la Lowe* (p) 1322 AddCh, *Caldon Low* 1799 SRO D240/D/240, 1836 O.S. From OE *hlāw* 'tumulus, burial mound', from a burial mound to the south of Caldons. The name has become 'the low or tumulus at Cauldon (q.v.)'. The 7th Series 1" O.S. sheet shows Cauldon Lowe as the hill name, with Caldons Low to the north-east.

CAVE in Upper Elkstone (SK 0457). ? *Kave* 1286 SHC 1911 40, ? *Cave* 1287 SHC *ibid.* 192, 1288 SHC VI (i) 185, *Cave* 1775 Yates, 1870 P.O. Presumably from a cave here.

CAVERSWALL Ancient Parish 5 miles south-east of Stoke-on-Trent (SJ 9542). *Cavreswelle* 1086 DB, *Cauereswell* 1167, *Keverswell* 1177 SHC XII NS 278, *Chaverswella* 1186 I 126, *Chauereswella* 1189 *ibid.* 140, *Kavreswall(e)* 1221 P, *Kaveriswalle* c.1230 SHC VI (i) 11, *Caverswal* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxvi, *Cavereswall* 1242 Fees, *Caveriswelle* c.1266 SHC 1924 360, *Chawerreswell* 1269 SHC IV 177, *Caverswall* 1272 Ass, *Cariswell, Cariswel* 1274 SHC 1911 160, *Kavereswell* 1275 SHC VI (i) 69, *Kaverswalle* 13th century Dieul., *Careswell* 1327 SR *et freq*, *Carriswall* c.1355 NA DD/FJ/4/26/7, *Kareswall* 1388 Fine, *Cariswall'* 1461 HAME 485, *Caerswall* 1561 SHC 1931 230, *Careswall* 1601 SHC XVI 223, *Careswall als Caverswall* 1618 FF, *Cariswall* 1643 SHC 1957 6. The first element is almost certainly a personal name connected with OE *cāf* - perhaps *Cāfhere, or a derivative with an -r suffix (cf. Caversfield, Oxfordshire; Caversham, Berkshire). The second element is Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. See also Caverswall in Loxley. A field-name *Caverswalle* is recorded in Lilleshall, Shropshire: PN Sa III 31.

CAVERSWALL in Loxley 3 miles south-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0431). ? *Caverswall* 1286 SHC 1919 39, ? *Caverswalle* c.1286 NA DD/FJ/1/180/1, ? *Careswelle* 1296 SHC VII (i) 41, ? *Caverswall* 1493 SRO DW1733/A/2/33, *Caverswall House* 1671 SRO DW1733/C/1/4, *Caraswell* 1679 SHC 1919 270, *Caverswall* 1836 O.S., *Caveswall* 1851 White. This place was evidently associated from an early date with the Caverswall family from the better-known place of the same name (see e.g. references *temp.* late Edward I: SRO DW1733/A/2/7), and it is possible that some of the spellings which appear for that

place are properly to be associated with this place. It is curious and unusual for two places with the same name and no distinguishing elements to have existed in such close proximity, and it is possible that some records or episodes associated with the other, better known, Caverswall actually refer to this place. Oddly, Yates' map of 1775 shows two buildings some distance apart in this area, one shown as *Cavers*, the other as *Wall*.

CAWARDEN SPRINGS 1½ miles east of Rugeley (SK 0618). ? *Cawardyn* 1414 SHC XVII 17, ? *Kawardyne* 1437 SHC III NS 135, *Cawardyne* 1439 SHC III 149, 1528 SHC 1939 78, *Cawardyn* 1453 *ibid.* 206, *Cawerden* 1551 SHC 1912 189, *Carden-spring* 1798 Shaw I 187, *Cawarden-spring* 1798 *ibid.* 200, *Cawarden Springs* 1834 O.S. The name is from the Cawarden family of Cawarden in Cheshire who acquired the place by marriage at about the end of the 13th century: Shaw 1798: I 180. The *spring* element is not connected with water, but from *spring* 'a newly-planted wood; a coppice': it 'had its name from an ancient adjoining spring wood, formerly owned by the Cawardens...': Shaw 1798: I 187; 200. The pronunciation is recorded by Shaw (*ibid.* 205) as Ca'rden. See also Shaw 1798: I 196 fn.4.

CAWBROOK a tributary of the river Manifold. Early forms are unrecorded, but perhaps from *caw-*, a local version of OE *cald* 'cold'.

CAWNE HILL (unlocated, near Cannock Wood: SRO D603/E/3/25.) *Cawne Hill* 1608 SRO D603/E/3/25.

CAWNEY HILL ½ mile south-east of Dudley (SO 9589). *Cawenhal* 1655 Roper 1980: 100, *Cawney Hill* 1834 O.S., *Cawney (Moor, Meadow and Grounds)* is recorded in Aston, north of Birmingham, in 1652: BCA MS3369/Acc 1961-9/13a.

CAWYTON unlocated, perhaps near Ranton. *Cawyton* 1539 SHC V NS 322.

CELLARHEAD 4 miles east of Stoke on Trent (SJ 9547). *Sellarhead* 1736 *EnclA*, *Cellar Head* 1775 Yates, *Sellar Head* 1794 GM II 1078, *Cellar Head* 1803 SHC 1933 150, 1836 O.S. Elsewhere the element *cellar* is associated with land endowed for the office of an ecclesiastical cellerar (see Cellers Grove (unlocated), Worcestershire: PN Wo 104), but no ecclesiastical connections with this place have been traced. Although twice-yearly fairs were formerly held here (White 1851; VCH VI 94), it seems likely that the name is not ancient. EDD gives *cellar-head* as 'the landing or shelf at the top of the stairs leading to the cellar', and Halliwell gives *cellar* to include 'a canopy', so perhaps an 18th century jocular name, or from one or more of the public houses here, or possibly 'the high ground with the shelter': the place lies at a high, exposed crossroads. However, the expression *cellar-head* seemingly in the sense 'public-house' is recorded in 1798 (see Shaw 1798: I 200 fn.1), and it seems very likely that this is the meaning here. Yates' map of 1775 shows only one building (which may have been the feature from which the place was named) on the south-east corner of the crossroads here. The second element may have been influenced by nearby Armshead (q.v.), or vice versa.

CHADDESHOLM unlocated, perhaps near Wolseley or Colton. *Chaddesholm* 1176 SHC 1914 137, *Chaddeholm* 12th century SRO DW1781/1/2, *Chadholme field* 1546 SRO DW1781/5/2/1, *Chadholme*

1587 SRO DW1781/9/2/2. Seemingly from ON *holmr* 'an island, higher ground amidst marshland', so perhaps 'St. Chad's island or dry ground in a marsh'.

CHADSMOOR 1 mile north of Cannock (SJ 9811). *Chadsmoor* 1895 O.S. A 19th century housing development named after St. Chad, the patron saint of the church built here in 1891: VCH V 67.

CHADSMOOR 2 miles north-east of Cannock (SJ 9912). Duignan 1902: 34-5 records that the north-western boundary of Cannock manor was marked by a deep, broad ditch called in ancient deeds *Fossa beati Cedde* (1549 (1801) Shaw II 312) *the fosse of the Blessed St. Chad* (SHC VI (i) 296; also NSJFS 8 1968 44-6; StEnc 128), the patron saint of Lichfield Cathedral, the manors of Cannock and Rugeley being held by the bishops of Lichfield to the time of Henry VIII. The ditch also defined part of the boundary of Cannock Chase: JNSFC 8 1968 49. A gate called *St. Chad's Gate* stood on the ditch, and the adjoining moor was called *Chad's Moor*. See also SHC 1924 286.

CHADWELL 2 miles north-west of Blymhill (SJ 7814). *Little Chatwall* 1356 SRO DW1082/L/17/1, *Little Chetwell* 1547 SHC XI 292, *Lyttel Chatwalle* 1570 SHC IV NS 185-6, *Lyttle Chattwall* 1592 SHC 1934 18. 'Ceatta's spring', from OE Mercian *wælle* 'a spring', or (sometimes) 'a stream'. The terminals *welle* and *wall* are frequently interchanged in ME forms. The name was seemingly pronounced Chattle in the 19th century: Hope 1893: 160. The 1833 O.S. map shows *St Chadds Well* at Little Chatwell (now Chadwell), showing that the former name became popularly but erroneously linked with St Chad, a saint with strong Staffordshire connections. There are still springs in Chadwell, the largest, which feeds the pool of Chadwell Mill, being St Chad's Well. It has been suggested (see StEnc 197) that *Elder-well* recorded in Plot 1686: 106 may be this well, but Plot locates Elder-well between Blymhill and Brineton, which if correct rules out St Chad's Well. Chadwell has been in Shropshire since 1895. See also Chatwell, Great & Little, and St Chadds Well.

CHAPEL ASH on the south-west side of Wolverhampton (SO 9098). *Chapel Leasowe* 1515x1547 TSSAHS XXXVII 1995-6 130, *Chappell Ash* 1707 BCA MS3145/63/1a&b, *Chapel Ash* c.1743 (1801) Shaw II 163, 1810 Codsall ParReg, 1834 O.S. In 1550 there is reference to a chapel of the Hermitage here, with a burial ground and adjacent croft, probably the place recorded as *Chapel Leasowe*: TSSAHS XXXVII 1995-6 122; see also Roper 1966: 8-9. The place was formerly known as *Oxenford* (q.v.). Wilkes notes c.1750 the discovery of medicinal springs here which gave rise to the name Wolverhampton Spa: Shaw 1801: II 163.

CHAPEL CHORLTON - see **CHORLTON, CHAPEL**.

CHAPEL HOUSE FARM on the south-west side of Tutbury (SK 2027). From a chapel which once stood here: see Shaw 1798: I 56, 57.

CHARLEMONT 2 miles south-east of Wednesbury (SO 0193). *Charlemont* 1723 VCH XVII 21, 1806 SRO D742/A/33/1-9, *Charley Mount* 1758 *ibid*, BCA MS3375/456901, 1775 Yates, *Charleymount* 1834 O.S. Charlemont is said to have been called originally Crump Hall, built by John Lowe (d.1729), with the name changed to reflect its owner's Whig sympathies after Charlemont, a French fortress on the Meuse built in 1555, or Charlemont castle in Munster: see Hackwood 1895: 70-71. However, after the Dissolution, Sandwell Priory and much of the surrounding land (including the

area incorporating Charlemont) passed eventually to the Legge family. William Legge (?1609-1670) was the son of Edward Legge, Vice-President of Munster, and spent his youth in Ireland. William served Charles I and Charles II, and his son was created Baron Dartmouth in 1682. This place may have been named by the family after the castle in Munster (for very tenuous evidence see SRO D742/N/2/40), or perhaps after the Earls of Charlemont. See also StEnc 128.

CHARNES 4 miles north-west of Eccleshall (SJ 7733). *Ceruernest* 1086 DB, *Chauernese* 1197 P, *Chauernes* 1242 Fees, *Chaunes* 1227 SHC IV 73, *Cauernessa* 1230 P, *Chavernes*, *Charneves*, *Charneles*, *Chaunes*, *Chavernesse* 13th century Duig, *Charnez* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 15, *Chavernes* 1380 SHC XVII 202. Possibly from OE *ceafor* 'a beetle', with Mercian OE *ness*, a term related to modern *nose*, meaning 'headland, promontory', thus 'headland infested with beetles'. It is unlikely that the second element is OE *nest* 'nest'.

CHARTLEY 5 miles south-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0028). *Certelie* 1086 DB, *Certelea* 1192 P, *Cerdel* 1232 Cl, *Scerteley* 1236 Fees, *Certele*, *Cartesleg* 1242 Fees, *Certeley* 12th to 14th century Duig, *Chartley (Castle & Park)* 1798 Yates. Probably from OE **cert* 'rough ground' (cognate with ON **kartr* 'rough, rocky soil'), in which case the element may be plural, but the word is little used outside south-east England, and an OE personal name such as **Cearda* cannot be ruled out completely. The second element is OE *lēah*.

CHARTLEY HOLME (obsolete) an extra-parochial liberty corresponding roughly with Old Chartley Park, containing Chartley Castle and Chartley Hall: see Erdeswick 1844: 55 fn.a; Youngs 1991: 407; StEnc 131. *Charteley holme* 1586 SHC 1927 167, *Chartley Holme* 1592 SHC 1930 295, 1640 SHC XV 208. *Holme* is from ON *holmr* 'a small island, a piece of dry land in a marsh; a piece of land partly surrounded by streams or by a stream': there are large areas of marshland at Chartley.

CHARTLEY MOSS a 104-acre raft of floating peat to the east of Chartley (q.v.) (SK 0228). The name is from OE *mos* 'a moss, a bog, a marsh'.

CHASEPOOL (LODGE) 2 miles west of Kingswinford (SO 8589). *Catespelle* 1086 DB, *Chacepel* 1271 SHC V (i) 155, *Cachepol* 1273 SHC 1911 155, *Chacepol* 13th century, *Chaspell otherwise Chasboll* 1580 SHC XVII 225, *Chaspell Chase* 1581 SRO D260/M/F/1/2/f100d-101d, *Chaspell* 1598 SHC VI NS (ii) 289, *Chasbold otherwise Chaspell* 1624 SHC NS X (i) 64, *Chasphill* 1686 Plot 397. Formerly assumed (e.g. by Erdeswick 1844: 551 and Eyton 1881: 68) to be at Gospel End in Sedgley, the DB place is now held to have been in Kinver Forest (see SHC 1944 89): the name is believed to survive in Chasepool Lodge, near Swindon (SHC XI 253; VCH IV 54 fn.). The derivation of the name is uncertain, but may be from OE **ceas* 'a heap'. The second element is not identified. It is unclear whether *the King's forest of Chaspeth*, recorded in 1543 (SRRC 2089/2/2/46), refers to Chasepool.

CHASE TERRACE 1 mile west of Burntwood (SK 0409). A mining village which had developed by 1870: VCH XIV 201. The name is from nearby Chasetown (q.v.).

CHASETOWN 2 miles north of Brownhills (SK 0408). Created in the mid-19th century to house colliers for the local mines, the place was first known as Cannock Chase, and later as Chasetown (a

name possibly created by George Poole, vicar of Burntwood and his wife, or Elijah Wills, a local schoolmaster) by 1867, when it became an ecclesiastical parish: VCH XIV 199; Youngs 1991: 407.

CHASEWATER a lake 1 mile east of Norton Canes (SK 0307). Crane Brook on Norton Bog was dammed c.1798 to create Norton Pool, a reservoir to feed the Wyrley & Essington Canal: VCH XIV 195. The pool was renamed Chasewater (from Chasetown to the east) in 1956.

CHATCULL 4½ miles north-west of Eccleshall (SJ 7934). *Cetquille* 1086 DB, *Chatkull* 1199 SHC III 56, *Katkulne* 1199 *ibid.* 169, *Chatculne* 1199 FF, *Chatkiln* 1200 SHC III 65, 1327 SR, *Chatkull*, 12th century, *Chachull*, *Chatchull*, *Chatculne* 13th century Duig, *Shatkelve* 1227 SHC IV 43, *Chatkehull* 1273 SHC 1911 149, *Scatculne* 1327 SHC VII (i) 92, *Chekkulne* 1332 SHC XI 173, *Chatkyll* 1551 SHC 1914 23, *Chattell* 1666 SHC 1921 118, *Chat-Kilne* 1676 SHC 1914 22. The second element is from OE *cyl(e)n* 'kiln, a furnace for baking or burning materials', so perhaps '*Ceatta's kiln'. It is unclear what material might have been processed in the kiln. It is unlikely that the first element is from PrWelsh **cēd*, British **cēto* 'a wood', since other spellings with *Cet-* would be expected.

CHATFIELD (unlocated, possibly remembered in Chatfield Place in Longton (SJ 9142).) An interesting name, found as a surname in the northern part of the county (see Tooth 2000: 51), which is perhaps a hybrid with the first element from PrWelsh **cēd*, British **cēto* 'a wood' (cf. Modern Welsh *coed*), with OE *feld* 'open land', probably used by the Anglo-Saxons for uncultivated areas used for common pasture, and incorporated into settlement names when arable encroachments forming part of new settlements were made.

CHATTERLEY 3½ miles north of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8451). ? *Cattelega* 1187 SHC I 131, *Chaderleg* 1212 Fees, *Chaderlyhe* 1217x1227 CEC 393, *Chaterlyh* 1227 Ch, *Chaderleia* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *Chadderley* 1252 Ch, *Chaddenelle* 1273 SHC VI (i) 59, *Chatterley* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 14, *Chadderlegh*, *Chaddendelle* 13th century Duig, *Chetterton* (sic) 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 49, *Chatterley* 1592 SHC 1935 219, 1643 Erdeswick 1844: 26, *Chaterley* 1686 Plot, *Big Chatterley*, *Little Chatterley* 1836 O.S. The first element is almost certainly from PrWelsh *cadeir* 'chair' from Latin *cathedra*, used of a hill or elevated place, hence 'wood by a hill called Cader'. The second element is OE *lēah*, but there appears to have been a variant with OE *dell* 'dale'.

CHATWELL, GREAT 4 miles south-east of Newport (SJ 7914). *Chattewell* 1203 SHC III (i) 99, 1273 FF, *Chatewell* 1275 SHC 1911 29, ? *Schadewall* 1294 SHC 1911 222, *Chattwelle* 1315 SHC 1911 318, *Chatewall* 1327 SR, *Chatwalle* 1331 SHC 1913 34, *Chetewalle* 1349 SRO D590/127, *More Chatwalle*, *Lytel Chatwalle* 1473 SHC IV NS 185-6, *Moche Chatwall* 1535 SHC 1912 82, *Chatwel* 1454 ECP, *More Chatwalle* 1570 SHC IV NS 185-6, *Challeton otherwise Great Chatwell* 1592 SHC XVI 119, *Chattwell* 1608 Gnosall ParReg, *Chatwall* 1666 SHC 1927 70. '*Ceatta's spring', from OE Mercian *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. The personal name is not recorded in early records, but is inferred from place-name evidence: see PN Sa III 120; VEPN II 149-50. The terminals *welle* and *wall* are frequently interchanged in ME forms. The name was seemingly pronounced Chattle in the 19th century: Hope 1893 160. *Moche* (i.e. Much) in the 1535 form means 'Great': cf. Much Wenlock. Little Chatwell is now known as Chadwell (q.v.). See also St Chadds Well.

CHEADLE Ancient Parish 8 miles east of Stoke on Trent (SK 0043). There were two manors in Cheadle, one held by the family of Bassett (of Sapcote) from at least 1176 (SHC 1923 36), the other by the Bishops of Lichfield and later Croxden Abbey (SHC 1923 35-41). The latter is almost certainly the *Cedla* of DB, which became Hounds Cheadle (recorded from at least c.1236: SRO D593/A/2/23/23) and later Cheadle Grange (q.v.). *Celle* 1086 DB, *Chedle* 1162x1173 CEC 170, *Chelle* 1176 SHC III (i) 225, *Chedelea* 1195 Pipe, *Chedele* c.1196 SHC II 68, *Chedle* 1227 Ass, 1253 FF, *Chedlhe Basset* 1236 Fees, *Chedele Basset* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxviii, *Chedlee* 1293 SHC VI (i) 229, *Chedille* 1377 SHC XIII 141, *Chetelle* 1423 SHC XVII 90, *Chedyll* c.1447 SHC 4th IV 239, *Chedyll* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 27, *Chedull* 1597 SHC 1934 (ii) 4. The first element is British *cēto* (Welsh *coed*) 'wood', an element in a form which has not undergone an 8th-century Welsh change (see PN Ch V (II) 296), with OE *lēah* 'forest, wood, glade, clearing', and later 'pasture, meadow'. If the meaning here is (as seems quite possible) 'forest, wood', the result is the tautologous '*chet* wood' or 'forest called Ched', which does not necessarily indicate that the meaning of the first word had been forgotten when the element was added. For the association of DB *Celle* with this place see SHC 1923 35-7. Cheadle was divided into four 'quarters': Above Park (*Above Parke* 1596 SHC XVI 185; *Above Park*, *Little Above Park* 1836 O.S.), Cheadle (town), Huntley (q.v.) and Cheadle Grange. The first three were included in Basset Cheadle. The fourth (with some other places including Thornbury Hall and Woodhead) was effectively Cheadle Grange (q.v.): SHC 1926 155-6; JNSFC 48 142-161. See also Parkhall.

CHEADLE GRANGE There were two manors in Cheadle, one held by the Bassetts, the other by the Bishops of Lichfield and later Croxden Abbey. The latter became Hounds Cheadle and later Cheadle Grange: see SHC 1923 35-41. *Cedla* 1086 DB, *Dogg(e)-Chedle*, *Dogg-Chedile* c.1275 SHC V (i) 118-9, *Chirche Chedle* c.1282 SHC 1923 39, *Doggechedile* 1290 SHC VI (i) 203, *Doggechedle* 1323 SHC IX (i) 92, *Hundchedial* c.1536 SHC 1947 50, *Hundchedull*, *Hundis Chedull* 1539 MA, *Houndes Chedull* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 9. For the first element see Cheadle. The element *Dogg(e)-*, with the variant *Hound's* (which survived until the 17th century: SHC 1947 50), remains explained, but Basset was an old word for a short-legged dog (not recorded in the OED before 1616), and it seems possible that Dog and Hound developed as jocular canine alternatives to the *Basset* suffix for the other manor of Cheadle held by the Bassetts, and perhaps to distinguish this place from Cheadle Bulkeley and Cheadle Moseley (otherwise Cheadle Hulme) in Cheshire. The name *Chirche Chedle* may have been a variation used after the place was granted to Croxden Abbey by the Bassetts: SHC 1923 39.

CHEBSEY Ancient Parish 2 miles east of Eccleshall (SJ 8628). *Cebbesio* 1086 DB, *Chebesey* 1220 SHC III (i) 210, *Chebbesee* 1222 FF, *Chebbeshey* 1236 Fees, *Chebbesey* c.1272 SHC III (i) 213, ? *Shepefeie* 1291 (1798) Shaw I xvi, *Schebseye* 1325 SHC 1911 365, *Chebbeseye* 1351 SHC 1913 143, *Chebbesey* 1461 HAME 485. OE *Cebbi is a normal formation from the name Ceabba or Ceobba, hence '*Cebbi's island or raised dry area', from OE *ēg* 'island, place near water': the place lies on the river Sow. At the time of DB it included the area later known as Cold Norton, which is not listed in DB. See also Badenhall; Newbold.

CHECKHILL 2 miles south of Swindon (SO 8587). The name of this place is believed to derive from the Forest of Sechhulle: see SHC 1925 244-5; VCH II 335 fn.1. *Forestæ de Schechell* 1191 SHC II

11, *Forestæ de Scethelle* 1192 *ibid.* 17, *Forestæ de Schethell* 1193 *ibid.* 24, ? *Sethill*, *Sethull* 1194 Pipe, *Forestæ de Secchevill* 1197 SHC II 64, *Forestæ de Secchulle* 1198 *ibid.* 71, *Forestæ de Sechull* 1199 *ibid.* 78, *Forestæ de Secchenil* 1201 *ibid.* 101, *Sechehulle* 1201 SHC 1925 244, *Cekhull* 1286 SHC 1925 244, *Great Checkhill Common*, *Little Checkhill Common* 1801 SHC 1931 94, *Check hill (Mill)*, *Check hill Plantation* 1834 O.S. The place lies on a promontory in a particularly boggy valley in an angle between two streams, but the root of the name is uncertain. There is a hill reaching 366' to the north-west, and a steeper mass to the south which reaches a height of 443'. Perhaps from OE *scēat* 'corner, angle, edge, point, promontory', with OE *hyll* 'hill'. All the early references describe the Forest, mentioned until the time of Edward I, as waste: VCH II 335 fn.1. See also VCH II 335 fn.1; SHC 1925 244-5. Cf. Checkendon, Oxfordshire; Checkley, Herefordshire. The early spellings attributed to Shottle in PN Db 573 almost certainly relate to this place.

CHECKLEY Ancient Parish 3 miles south-east of Cheadle (SK 0237). *Cedla* 1086 DB, *Checkele* c.1187 SHC II 261, *Checkelega*, *Checkelee* 1196 SHC 1923 41, *Cekkesleye*, *Checkele* 1227 Duig, *Chagewell (sic)* 1276 SHC VI (i) 78, *Cekkeleye* 1292 *ibid.* 208, *Chekeley* 1569 SHC 1938 41, *Checkley* 1580 SHC XV 129. If the DB form (which is identical to the DB entry for Cheadle) is discounted as a scribal error, the later forms suggest an OE personal name *Cæcca or similar, but may be from OE West Mercian **cecce* (see VEPN II 154), perhaps 'a lump', as applied to a hill, with OE *lēah*. For the identification of DB *Cedla* (perhaps a scribal error for *Cekla*) with this place see SHC 1923 35-6. The 1276 spelling is obviously an aberration. Cf. Checkley, Cheshire (PN Ch III 56).

CHEDDLETON Ancient Parish 3½ miles south-west of Leek (SJ 9752). *Celtetone* 1086 DB, *Chetilton* 1201 Cur, *Celtilton* c.1216 Rees 1997: 61, *Cheteltun* 1227 Ass, *Chetulton* 1325 SRO DW1781/1/41, *Chetelton* 14th century Duig. '*tūn* in a narrow valley', from OE *cetel* 'kettle', generally with a topographical meaning such as 'deep valley surrounded by hills', which is particularly appropriate for the topography here, where the hills fall steeply to the river Churnet.

CHEEKS HILL the northernmost point in Staffordshire, 2 miles north of Flash (SK 0269). *Cheeks Hill* 1842 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but Cheek is a surname recorded in this region: SRO D1229/6/6/6.

CHELL, GREAT & LITTLE 2 miles north of Burslem (SJ 8652). *Chelle* 1200-5 *et freq* SHC 1911 443, 1217x1227 CEC 393, *Ceolegh* 1313 Duig, *Chelle Parva* 1334 SHC XVI 6, *Chell* 1576 HLS, *Chell otherwise Great Chell* 1581 SHC XV 137, *Great Chell*, *Little Chell* 1583 *ibid.* 146, *Chell Heathe apud Norton* 1597 Eccleshall ParReg, *Great Chell*, *Little Chell*, *Chell Green* 1836 O.S. The place lies at the southern end of a long ridge, with a narrow valley running parallel on the west, so possibly from OE *ceole* 'throat', used topographically in the sense of 'a channel, gorge, ravine', or (though much less likely) from OE *cēol* 'keel', from the resemblance of the ridge to an upturned boat: *c* before *e* in OE would be pronounced [tʃ]. It may be noted that modern 'keel' is from the OScandinavian word, rather than the OE word, which explains the *k*. Great and Little Chell probably reflect the division of the manor at some date before 1212: VCH VIII 89. It is unclear whether *Chelhall*, recorded in 1308 (SHC XI NS 261), is to be associated with these places.

CHELSEFORD (unlocated, possibly in Reule.) *Cheteleford* c.1290 SHC XII (i) 277, *Chenesford (Br)* 1564 Ct, *Chentford (Br)* 1597 Ct, *Chednesford (bridge)* 1599 Ct, *Chednesford (meadow)* 1599 Ct, *Chelsford (Highway, Footway & Sandy)* 1838 TA. An intriguing name. Oakden 1984: 145 suggests 'the ford over the stream called Kennet', a well-known British river-name, from British **cunētiū*, the meaning of which is uncertain (see Ekwall 1928: 225-8; Ekwall 1960: 271-2; Jackson 1953: 331-2, 676), but this seems improbable. The forms are inconsistent, but are evidently to be associated with *Ched(d)nes(se)fordbrigge*, a field-name recorded in 1460 in nearby Bradley (Oakden 1984: 139), which Oakden suggests is from 'Cedda's headland', from OE *ness* 'nose, headland'. The various spellings might point towards 'Ceadela's ford', with the not unusual confusion of *n* and *l*. Or, less likely, from Chednete, a form of the family name Cheney or Cheyne - cf. Chenies, Berkshire: a very tenuous association of the Cheney family with this area is recorded (see SHC IV (ii) 80), but is doubtless coincidental. The ford/bridge may have been where the road from Church Eaton to Bradley crosses the Church Eaton Brook at Church Eaton Common. Cf. Chaddenwick alias Charnage, and Chadlanger, Wiltshire (PN W 178-9, 158-9).

CHERE, LE (unlocated, possibly in the Swinnerton/Shelton under Harley area.) ? *la Char* 1308 SHC XI NS 265, *le Chere* 1368 SRO D641/5/T/1/1. An interesting name. Possibly from ME *chaere*, *chaiere* 'a chair', used in some topographical sense, or perhaps from OE *scearu* 'a cutting, a division', used for a share or portion of land.

CHERLECOT (unlocated, possibly in the Eccleshall area.) *Cherlecot* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxvi. From OE *ceorl* 'free peasant', with OE *cot* 'cottage', so 'the cot of the *ceorls* or free peasants'. Possibly associated with Chorlton (q.v.). Cf. Charlcott, Shropshire. See also Bowers.

CHERRY EYE BRIDGE 1 mile north of Kingsley (SK 0148). A bridge over the Caldon Canal named after the nearby Cherryeye Mine (which closed in 1921) from which was extracted a bright red iron ore which by tradition is said to have made the miners' eyes red. If older, the name may be from 'the island of land or place by the river where wild cherries grew', from OE *ēg* 'island, piece of land on or between streams'.

CHESLYN HAY 2 miles south-west of Cannock (SJ 9707. *Chistlin* 1236 Fees, ? *Chystehaye* 1250 Fees (but which may be Chestall q.v.), *Chistelin* 1251 Ch, *Chisteling* 1252 Cl, *Hay of Chistelyn* 1293 Ass, *Chisteyn Haye*, *Chistlyn Haye*, *Chistline Haye*, *Chystline Haye* 1538 SHC 1912 117-8. The first element may be from OE *ci(e)st* 'a chest, coffin', perhaps applied to places where ancient cist burials have been found (although no such burials are recorded in this area), or from OE *cistel*, *cist* 'chestnut tree'. The second element is almost certainly OE *hlinc* 'a terrace, a bank, a ledge': see Gelling 1984: 163-5. Hay is from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'an enclosure, a clearing in the forest (cf. Haywood): Cheslyn Hay was one of the Hays of Cannock Forest, and was extra-parochial until 1857. The village here was formerly known as Wyrley Bank (*Wirley Banck* 1691 WCRO CR1291/194/1-3; *Wyrley Bank* 1788 Reg Diss): VCH V 100.

CHESTALL in Longdon parish, 3½ miles south of Rugeley (SK 0512). *Chirstalleia* 1129-40 VCH III 223, *Chistalea* c.1140 *ibid*, ?*Chystehaye* 1250 Fees (but which may be Cheslyn Hay q.v.), *Chestall* 1577 Saxton, 1584 Comm, 1603 PCC, *Chestals* 16th century Duig, *Cesthall Hall* 1682 Dep. The

meaning of this name is uncertain, but possibly a compound of OE *ceast* (c being pronounced [tʃ]), meaning 'strife, contention' (a word linked to places which lie on parish boundaries, as here), or OE *cistel*, *cist* 'chestnut tree', with OE *halh* and *lēah*. The compound has been noted in Chesthill, a lost place in Moreton Say, Shropshire: see PN Sa I 77. The brook which formed the southern boundary, now called Maple Brook (*Maplebrook* 1595 SRO D603/E/2/45-66), had the same name, recorded as *Christale brook* in 1376 (StSt 10 1998 97), presumably the brook called *Chistals* or *Chistalea* in 1140 (Shaw 1798: I 229; VCH III 223).

CHESTERFIELD 2½ miles south-west of Lichfield (SK 0905), *Cestrefeld* 1167 SHC I 47, *Chasterfeld* 1227 SHC IV 70, *Cestrefeud*, *Chestrefewde* 1262 Duig, *Cestrefeud* 1273 SHC VI (i) 61, *Cestrefend*, *Chesterfeld* 1332 SHC X 103, ? *Chesterford* 1419 SHC XVII 72, *Chesterffeld* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 165; **CHESTERFIELD** (unlocated, in Adbaston), *Chesterfield* ?c.1300 SHC 1924 191. From Mercian OE *cester* 'ancient fortification, city', with OE *feld* 'open country'. The first place lies half a mile south of Wall (q.v.), Roman *Letocetum* or *Etocetum*. Above Chesterfield is Castle Croft (*Castle-croft* 1695 Gibson), which has produced Roman remains. The fact that SHC 1924 191 associates the second place with The Camp (unlocated) supports a derivation from an early fortification.

CHESTERHURST (unlocated, in Dilhorne.) *Chesterhurst* 13th century SHC VIII 159, *Cestrehurst(well)* 14th century D260/M/T/5/134. From OE *cester* 'ancient fortification, city', with OE *hyrst* 'a hillock, a bank, a copse, a wood', but usually 'a wooded eminence'. Dilhorne lies to the north of the Roman road running between Rocester and Stoke on Trent (Margary number 181), and this lost name may record some ancient archaeological feature. *Well* is from Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'.

CHESTERTON 3 miles north of Newcastle under Lyme (SJ 8349), *Cestreton* 1201 SHC II 101, *Cestreton* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *Cesterhunte*, *Cesterton* 1280 SHC VI (i) 101, *Cestreton* 1282-3 SHC XI NS 268, *Chasterton* 1293 SHC VI (i) 214, *Castreton* 1298 SHC XI NS 250, *Chesterton* 1335 SHC XI 65; **CHESTERTON** 7 miles west of Wolverhampton (SO 7897), *Cheterton* 1272 Eyton 1854-60: III 112, *Chesterton* 1327 SR, 1349 SRO D593/A/1/19/1, *Chester* 1499 Worfield CA, *Chesterton* 1563 Worfield ParReg, 1602 SRRC 2028/1/5/8, 1636 Claverley ParReg, 1752 Rocque, *The Walls of Chesterton* 1798 Yates, *Chesterton* 1808 Baugh. From Mercian OE *cester* 'ancient fortification, city', with OE *tūn*. The first place is on the site of a Roman settlement (perhaps the 'old' castle, to be distinguished from the 'new' castle at Newcastle): Erdeswick 1844: 22 records c.1595 'ruins of a very ancient town or castle, there yet remaining some rubbish of lime and stone; whereby may be perceived that the walls have been of marvellous thickness'. It is possible that Adam de Camp, recorded in 1307 (SHC XI NS 266), took his name from the Roman remains. Adjoining the second place, which has been in Shropshire since the 12th century, is The Walls, an earthwork, probably of Iron Age date. The brook here is called *Stratford Brook* (1719 Reliq Galeanae 123, Eyton 1854-60: III 213; 1833 O.S.), and the road was known as *Stony Street* (TSAS 4th Series XI xiii), which suggests a Roman road or *stræt*, doubtless a continuation of the road from Greensforge which has been traced as far as the north-west end of Abbot's Castle Hill, and perhaps to be associated with Stretford (q.v.).

CHESWARDINE Ancient Parish (pronounced Chezadine [tʃezədain]) 4 miles south-east of Market Drayton (SJ 7129). *Ciseworde* 1086 DB, *Cheswardin* 1159-60 frequently, with *Cheswurthin*, *Cheswardin*, *Cheswerdyn*, *Cheswardyn*, *Cheswordyn* to 1428, *Chesworthin* 1210-12, *Cheswardine* 1662 (PN Sa I 78). From OE *cēse* 'cheese', with OE *worþign* 'an enclosure, a farm', alternating with OE *worþ*, with the same meaning, hence 'the cheese-making farm'. Since at least 1166 in Shropshire.

CHETEWIK (unlocated) *Chetewik* 1227 SHC IV 48. The place has not been identified, and may not be in Staffordshire.

CHETWYND BRIDGE - see **SALTER'S BRIDGE**.

CHEVELESDON (unlocated; perhaps Hill Chorlton) *Chevelesdon* 1240 SHC IV 237.

CHIBRICTON (unlocated, perhaps near Hints/Packington.) *Chibricton* 1234-40 (1798) Shaw I xxvii, *Chibritton* 1243 SHC 1911 396.

CHIDLOWE (unlocated) *Chidlowe* 1484 SHC VI NS (i) 159.

CHILDERHEY (obsolete, in the north-east part of Burntwood), *Childerhay* 1298 SHC XIV 199, *Childephay* 1302 SHC 1911 59, *Chylderhey* c.1563 SHC IX NS 36, *Childerhey* 1565 SHC XVII 214, *Childerhaye* 1599 FF; **CHILDERPLAY** (obsolete, south of Stadmorslow (SJ 8755)), *Childerplawe* 1320 Pape 1928 76, 1323 Ass, 1334 SHC XI 55, *Childerplaye* 1360 FF, *Chylderplaye* 1410 Ass, *Childerplay* 1426 SHC XVII 109, *Childerley* 1544 SHC 1910 247, *Childerpler* 1576 Biddulph ParReg, *Childerspleay* 1668 *ibid.* From OE *cildru hege* (or *(ge)heg*) 'enclosed area where children play', and OE *cildru plega* '(place where) children play', respectively. An area west of Childerhay in Burntwood around Spade Green was known as *Childerheyende* in 1608 (Farewell ParReg), *Chelderheyend* in 1609 (*ibid.*), and *Childerend Pipe* in the later 16th century (VCH XIV 199). For a 12th/13th century reference to *Childescroft* near Stapenhill, Burton upon Trent, see SHC V (i) 43. The field-names *Near*, *Far* and *Upper Childer Play* are recorded in Cauldon in 1845 (TA). The name Childerplay near Stadmorslow is preserved in Childerplay Road. *Childrecroft meadow* and *Childrecroft Gorstes* are recorded near Penkridge in 1471 (SHC 1931 237, 240), presumably to be associated with *Childercroft Barn near Pileton* (Pillaton) recorded in 1782 (SHC 1970 150).

CHILLINGTON 2½ miles south-west of Brewood (SJ 8606). *Cillentone* 1086 (DB, listed in Warwickshire), *Cildentona* 1129 SHC I 2, *Chi(l)linton(a)* 1162 to 1181 Giffard, 1292 *ibid*, *Chylinton*, *Chylynton*, *Chilinton* 1175-82 StCart, *Chilintonam* c.1180 SHC III (i) 203, *Chylton* c.1214 SHC III (i) 193, *Chyllington*, *Chillington*, *Chillyngton* 1236, 1278 MRA, 1278 to 1516 FF, *Chelenton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 86, *Chellnigton* 1577 Saxton. '*Cilla's tūn', or possibly from OE *cille* 'spring': see Gelling & Cole 2000: 285 (in OE *c* was pronounced [tʃ] when it appeared before *i*), meaning 'tūn at the spring'. Cf. Kellington, Yorkshire. There is another place of this name in Stokenham, Devon. See also Gelling 1988: 176.

CHILTERN HALL (obsolete) a prebendal manor house in Gnosall. *Chiltern(e)hall* 1395 Chanc M, *Chilternha* 1496 SHC 4th Series VII 169. Perhaps from Walter de Chilterne who was appointed

prebendary in 1347. Before this date it seems to have been known as *Andrewshall*: SHC 1927 110. The hall was still standing in the later 18th century: VCH IV 115.

CHIPNALL 1 mile north-east of Cheswardine (SJ 7231). *Ceppecanole* 1086 DB, *Cipenol* 1180 For, *de Chipnoll* 1250 Bowcock, *Chipknol* 1256 Rees 1997: 124, *Chippeknol* 1260 Eyton, *Chippechol* 1278 SHC 1911 170, *Chipnolesti* 1298 NSJFS 4 1964 63, *Chipknol* 1320 SHC IX (i) 76, *Schippenol* 1332 SHC X (i) 99, *Chipnolle* 1370 SHC VIII NS 233. Ekwall 1960: 105 suggests 'Cippa's knoll', but the personal name appears to be otherwise unrecorded, and a more likely derivation may be from OE *cipp(a) cnoll* 'the knoll or small hill where logs were obtained', from OE *cipp* 'a beam, a log': cf. Chippenham; Chipley, Suffolk and Somerset. Bowcock 1923: 70 suggests that the name may have been 'the chapman's knoll', where a market was held, but the later forms make this improbable. The place has been in Shropshire since at least 1166. *Chipcnollesmedewe* in Drointon is recorded in the mid-13th century (SRO 499[7922]), and *Chipenol* mid-13th century (SRO 521[7922]), *Chippenol* late 13th century (SRO 537[7922]), *Chippechnoll* 1272 (SRO 542[7922]), but it is unclear whether all forms relate to the same place, which has not been identified.

CHISBEMHULLE (unlocated, in Abbots Bromley: Stuart 1987: 50; SHC V (i) 46.) *Chisbemhulle* c.1220 SHC 1937 35, *Chisbill Hill* 1600 SRO DW1734/J/1134. From OE *cist-bēam hylle* 'chestnut-tree hill', a rare example of *cist-bēam*.

CHITLINGS BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. Perhaps an onomatopoeic name from the sound made by the stream.

CHITTA RIVER a tributary of the Manifold which flows from Grindon - see Chitlings Brook.

CHOLPESDALE - see **DIEULACRES**.

CHORLEY 3 miles west of Lichfield (SK 0711). *Churleye* 1306 SHC VII 160, *Scherleg* c.1310 SRO D1734, *Cherleymor* pre-1311 SHC 1921 7, *Chorley* 14th century, *Chorley* 1589 SHC 1929 326, *Chorley*, alias *Charley* 16th century Duig. Probably from OE *ceorl* 'free peasant', rather than the OE personal name *Ceorl*, with the second element *lēah*. Cf. Chapel Chorlton.

CHORLTON, CHAPEL 6 miles north-west of Stone (SJ 8137). *Cerletone* 1086 DB, *Cherletona* 1166 SHC I 147, *Cherleton* 1267 Ass, 1273 SHC 1913 245, 1278 SHC VI (i) 85, *Charleton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 176, *Chorleton* 1539 SHC V (i) NS 299, *Chawlton* 1559 SHC XVII 210, *Chorleton* 1565 SHC 1938 61, 1575 SHC 1926 85, *Chalton* 1586 SHC 1927 132, *Chauton* 1666 SHC 1921 119, *Chorlton* 1686 Plot, *Chorlton Devisover* 1747 Bowen. The original form was probably *Ceorlatūn*, a very common place-name compound from OE *ceorl* 'free peasant', with OE *tūn*, giving 'the settlement of a group of ceorls', or (more likely) 'the peasants' enclosure', denoting 'a village on an estate which includes more than one unit of settlement. It is not the principal unit, being situated a mile or more away from the seat of the lordship, but is subject to the same lord...': Finberg 1964: 159. The name indicates that other places had a different status (see for example Bowers, Cherlecot), and is evidence of early manorialism: see PN Sa III xii; 76. Evidence for the meaning 'enclosure' is found in the Anglo-Saxon Law of Ine (King of Wessex 688-726) which required *ceorles weorþig sceal beon betyned*: 'a peasant's homestead must be fenced (Law 40: EHD I 368). The French loan-word *chapel* is

a later addition: the place was a chapelry of Eccleshall parish. *Devisover* in the 1777 form is unexplained. It is clear that the names of Chapel Chorlton and Hill Chorlton (q.v.) have different derivations, and that Cherleton and its variations is now Chapel Chorlton, and Chauldon is Hill Chorlton, which is supported by the references to *Cherleton otherwise Chorleton, Chawton otherwise Chelvedon* 1604 (SHC 1945-6 169), and *Chaldon otherwise Chawton otherwise Chalvedon* 1613-4 (SHC 1934 32; see also SRO D593/B/1/6). See also Stableford.

CHORLTON, HILL 1½ miles south-west of Whitmore (SJ 7939). *Cerueldone* 1086 DB, *Hylle* 1194 P, *Hulle* 1227 SHC IV 43, 1267 ForPleas, *Chaveldona* c.1270 SHC 1913 318, *Chalvedon* 1273 SHC 1913 245, ? *Schelvedon* 1283 SHC 1911 183, *Chauelden temp.* Edward II SRO DW1082/L/12/4, *Chalveldon* 1323 SHC 1913 245, *Chauldon* 1323 (p) Ass, *Schaldon* 1326 SHC 1911 365, *Chalvedon* 1343 SHC 1913 245, *Charldon* 1386 SRO DW1082/A/3/3, *Callton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 177, *Chalden* 1539 SHC V (i) NS 297, *Chawton* c.1565 SHC 1938 61, *Chauton* 1666 SHC 1921 119, *Chawton on ye Hill* 1686 Plot. The name is probably derived from OE *calf* 'calf', genitive plural *calfra* (later *calver*), with OE *dūn* 'hill', so 'the hill of the calves': cf. Chaldon Herring or East Chaldon, West Chaldon, Dorset; Chaldon, Surrey. The pronunciation of *calf*, etc., would normally be expected to be *k-*, but parallels for a *ch-* pronunciation include Chalvey, Berkshire, and Chalvington, Sussex, though both are in the south. Over time a superficial similarity to the name of nearby Chapel Chorlton (q.v.), 1 mile to the south-east, led to both places using the name Chorlton, with distinguishing descriptors. It is possible that the word *calf* was applied to tumuli (cf. Calf Heath), and at least one tumulus some 15' high survives to the south of the hamlet (TNSFC 1983 12). See also Stableford.

CHORLTON MOSS 1 mile south-west of Whitmore (SJ 7939). *Mosseffeld* c.1270 SHC 1913 242, *Chorlton Moss* 1833 O.S. From OE *mos* 'moss, lichen', but also (as here) 'a bog, a swamp', with OE *feld* 'open land'. For Chorlton see Chorlton, Chapel.

CHOTER BRIDGE (unlocated, possibly near Alrewas.) *Choter bridge* 1612 (1798) Shaw I 138.

CHOTES - see **COTTON, NEAR & UPPER**.

CHRISTIANSFIELD on the south side of Stychbrook, 1 mile north of Lichfield (SK 1111). *Cristiannsfeld* 1365 TSSAHS XXVIII 1996-7 9. Plot 1686: 398-9 provides the following explanation for the name: 'said to be the place where St Amphibalus taught the British Christians converted by the Martyrdom of St Alban, who flying from the bloody persecution of Maximian raised in Britain An. 286, followed him hither 84 miles...from the place of their conversion; where the Romans that were sent after them (some say from Verulam, others from Etocetum now Wall as the tradition goes here) finding them in the exercise of their Religion, tooke them and carryed them to the place where Lichfield now is, and martyred 1000 of them there, leaving their bodies unburied to be devoured by birds and beasts, whence the place yet retains the name of Lichfield or Cadaverum campus, the field of dead bodies to this very day...'. The legend, for which there is no factual basis, is supposedly first recorded by John Rous of Warwick, a herald in the early 15th century (Shaw 1798: I 232; Beresford 1883: 7), but seems to date from marginalia by the chronicler Matthew Paris in his copy of William of St. Albans: 'Hoc apud Lichefeld evenit. Inde Lichfeld dicitur quasi campus cadaverum. Lich enim Anglice cadaver sive corpus dicitur' - 'This [massacre] happened at Lichfield. Whence it is called

“Lichfield”, as it were “field of corpses”. For “Lich” in English means a corpse or the body of a dead person’: TSSAHS XXVIII 1986-7 5. The discovery of quantities of human bones near here recorded in 1819 was held to be evidence in support of the derivation: see JNSFC 4 1964 28; TSSAHS XXVIII 1986-7 1-13. It seems possible that the name was applied in the light of the massacre legend after burials had been discovered in the area in the early medieval period. However, at some date before 1257 a *Christana Venatrix* (‘huntress’) owned land at Elmhurst and Stitchbrook, and may have given her name to the place. For a full account of the history of the legends see TSSAHS XXVIII 1986-7 1-13.

CHUCKERY, THE in south-east Walsall (SO 0197). *Chirche-greve*, *Chirche-grevefeld* 13th century Duig, *Church Grevefield* 16th century SOT D260/M/T/1/16, *Churchgreavefield* 1630 SOT D260/M/T/2/12. A development of ‘church grove field’ (from OE *grāfe* ‘grove, copse, thicket’, and in some cases ‘pit, trench’), one of the medieval common fields which existed by the late 13th century and remained open until at least 1735. See also VCH XVII 153, 180.

CHURCH GAUSE GREEN (obsolete, 1½ miles south-east of Consall (SJ 9947).) *Church gause Green* 1836 O.S. In the absence of early spellings no suggestions can be offered for this curious name, but a wood named Church Gorse on the north-west side of Enville (SO 8287) may be noted.

CHURCH LEIGH - see **LEIGH, CHURCH**.

CHURCHBRIDGE 1½ miles south-east of Cannock (SJ 9808). *Chyrche Brugge* 1385 Vernon, *Chirche Bridge* 1538 Deed, ? *Chirchebrygge* 1659 (1798) Shaw I 314, *Churchbridge* 1775 Yates. The land adjoining the bridge, which carries Watling Street, belonged to a Lichfield guild, which may have built or rebuilt a bridge here. The present bridge was described as new in 1830: VCH V 77.

CHURCHHOUSE (unlocated, probably at Chillington, although no church is recorded there.) *La Chirchehusse* 1289 SHC VI NS (ii) 185, *Chirchehous* 1327 SHC VII (i) 236, *Chirchehouse* 1332 SHC X 121, *Chirchehous* 1468 SRO D260/M/T/4/1, *The Churchehouse* 1538 SRO D260/M/E/428/2. ‘The church house’.

CHURCHSTEADS (unlocated, in Mayfield.) *Churchsteads* c.1637 D1132/1/19. ‘The site of a church’. Perhaps to be associated with *Church-towne field in upper Mathfield* recorded in Plot 1686: 404, and *Church-town field in Upper Chalkfield* (?) recorded in Shaw 1798: I 33, the latter doubtless a mistranscription of the former. The name may perhaps to be associated with the site of an earlier church from which Church Mayfield may take its name.

CHURNET, RIVER *Chirned* 1239 Su, *Chirnet* 1240 *et freq.*, Su, 1250 Dieul, 1293 Ass, 1318 AD 5, *Chirnete* 1284 SHC XI 333, *Chyrnet* 1318 AD 5, 1372 Croxden Chr, *Chyrned* 14th century AD 5, *Chernet(t)* 13th century AD 5, 1272 Ass, 1612 FF, *Churne* 1586 Harrison. A pre-English river name, possibly of British origin, of unknown etymology and meaning: see Ekwall 1928: 79-80. For details of early woodland names in the Churnet Valley see Welch 2001: 17-73.

CHYKNELL 1 mile west of Claverley (SO 7794). *Chekenhull* 1209 Eyton 1854-60: III 98, *Chikenehull* 1224, *Chykenhul* 1292, *Chikenhulle* 1316 (all from Bowcock 1923: 72), *Chickenhulle*

1326 Eyton 1854-60: III 93, *Chykenhull* 1327 SR, *Chikynhyll* 1538 SHC XI 277, *Chicnal* 1602 Claverley ParReg, *Chicknall* 1745 SRRC 867/280. From OE *cīcen hyll* 'chicken or chickens' hill'. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

CINDER HILL ½ mile north-east of Sedgley (SO 9294), *Synderhill* 1657 Sedgley ParReg, *Sinder Hill* 1749 Bowen, *Cinder Hill* 1798 Yates, 1834 O.S.; **CINDER HILL** ½ mile north-west of Normacot (SJ 9243), *Synderhill House* 1663 SRO D3575/1, *Syndrill House* 1700 Okeover T763. The name is normally assumed to be from cinders produced by iron-works, but in the first case it has been suggested that the name is from sundered or separated land on the border of Ettingshall manor which, though in Sedgley, was independent of it for manorial purposes: Hackwood 1898: 6. *Sinderhills* in Walsall is recorded in 1635 (SRO D260/M/T/7/8) and 1760 (SBT DR 42/706).

CIPPEMORE (unlocated, probably between Enville and Kinver: VCH II 343) *Cippemore* 1086 DB, c.1598 Erdeswick 1844: 343. On the questionable association of the first element with OE *scīp*, *scē(a)p* 'sheep', it has been suggested that this place may have been in Kinver Forest, or near Great Moor, Pattingham, or in Kinver (see The Compa), or the area of high ground known as The Sheepwalks south-west of Enville (possibly associated with *Scipricg* in Lady Wulfrun's charter of 994 (17th century, S.1380) to the monastery of Wolverhampton): SHC 1916 170; VCH IV 54 fn; VCH XX 93, 107. The name (if not corrupt, as are many DB spellings) may be from OE *cipp* 'a beam, a log', with OE *mōr* 'moorland, bog', meaning 'the moor or bog with the bog-oaks'. Seemingly Erdeswick knew of its location in the 16th century: Erdeswick 1844: 343.

CIRCHEBURY (unlocated, at Wallbridge.) *Circhebury* 1257 StEnc 359.

CIRCUIT BROOK a tributary of the river Trent.

CLAMGOOSE LANE 1 mile north-west of Cheadle. *Clamgoose Lane* 1836 O.S. The absence of early spellings makes any suggested derivation dangerously speculative, but the name possibly incorporates OE *clām* 'mud, clay', or OE **clāme* 'a clayey or muddy place'.

CLANBROOK on the north side of Trysull (SO 8484). Early spellings have not been traced, but almost certainly from OE *clān* 'clear, pure', with OE *brōc* 'a brook'.

CLANFORD 1 mile south-west of Seighford (SJ 8724). *Claneford* 1290 SHC IV 269, *Clanford alias Clamford alias Slamford Grange* 1589 SRO D3089/1/1, *Clanford* 1679 SHC 1914 13. From OE *clān* 'clear; free from undergrowth; pure', with *ford* (cf. Coton Clanford). A grange of Ranton Abbey lay here: VCH III 254. See also Coton Clanford; Down House Farm.

CLAN PARK FARM 1½ miles south-west of Trysull (SO 8392). *Clenn Park* 1834 O.S. The late spellings preclude any derivation, but the name is unlikely to be ancient.

CLAP GATE in Wombourne (SO 8693). *Clappgate* (p) 1666 SHC 1923 113. From dialect *clap-gate* 'a gate which shuts on either of two posts joined with bars to a third post; a small hunting gate wide enough for a horse to pass': EDD.

CLAREGATE 2 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8801). *Clare* 1260 SHC 4th Series 13 7, 1271 SHC V (i) 144, 1381 SHC 1928 81, *Claregate* 1699 VCH XX 7. Richard de Clare is recorded in this area in 1286 (SHC 4th Series XVIII 156), and Nich'o le Clare is recorded in Tettenhall parish (in which lies this place) in 1327 (SHC VII 252, VCH XX 7). No suggestion can be offered for this name. A derivation from a British stream-name (cf. Clare, Suffolk; Clere, Hampshire) is unlikely, since the place lies on relatively higher ground with no significant watercourses, though *Clare* may have been some distance from the present Claregate: the 1889 6" O.S. map, for example, shows *Clare Gate* at Lothians Road in Tettenhall (SJ 891007)..

CLAREHEYS (unlocated, said to be 'a mile from Enville': SHC 1912 73.) *Clareheyes*, *Clareheys* 1534 SHC 1912 73, *Clare Heyes* c.1535 SHC NS X (i) 141.

CLAUSTON (obsolete, on the south-east side of Kingslow (SO 793982).) *Clauston*, *Crawston temp.* Edward III, *Clayston* 1903 field-name map.

CLAVERLEY Ancient Parish 5 miles east of Bridgnorth (SO 7993). *Claverlege* 1086 DB, *Clauerlai* 1163 P, *Clauerlea* 1166 SHC 1923 298, *Claverleg* 1221 SHC IV 17, *Claverleghe* 1222 *ibid.* 21, *Claverleye* 1301 Rees 1975, *Claverlei* 1498 SHC 1928 69. From OE *clāfre-lēah* 'clover lēah'. Since the 12th century in Shopshire. *Claverley home* is recorded in 1745: SRRC 867/280.

CLAYHANGER 4 miles north of Walsall (SK 0404). *Cleyhungre* Hy III BM, *Cleyhungermore* 1300 SHC V (i) 177, *Cleohongre* 1392 Ipm, *Cleyhungre* 1407 SHC 1931 282, *Clehanger* 1606 Walsall ParReg. 'Clayey wooded slope', from OE *clæg* 'clay', or *clæig* 'clayey', with OE *hangra* 'hanging wood, i.e. wood on a slope'. There is a great deposit of red marl here, and a sloping bank. It is uncertain whether *Chyancland*, *Claneland*, mentioned in a charter of 1226 (WA I 296; Mander & Tildesley 1960: 30) refers to this place.

CLAY MILLS on the north-east side of Stretton near Burton upon Trent (SK 2627). *Clay Mills* c.1780 DRO D5236/32/55.

CLAYTON, CLAYTON GRIFFITH 2 miles south of Newcastle-under-Lyme (SJ 8543). *Claitone* 1086 DB, *Claiton* 1240 (1798) Shaw I xxx, c.1249 SHC 1911 145, *Cleyton* 1254 Ipm, *Clayton Griffyn* 1293 SHC 1911 51, 1487 SHC XI 329, *Cleyton* 1306 SHC VII 159, *Parva Clayton* 1487 SHC XI 330, *Clayton Griffin* 1526 SHC *ibid.* 329. 'Tūn on clayey ground', from OE *clæg* 'clay', or *clæig* 'clayey'. Clayton was divided by the mid 13th century, with Great Clayton, the southern portion, absorbed into Newcastle, and Clayton Griffith, or Little Clayton, lying between Great Clayton and Newcastle held by the Griffyn family: VCH VIII 77; see also SHC IV 170; SHC VI (i) 19.

CLEAT HILL a 370' hill on the south side of Longdon Green (SK 0812). *Cleithul* c.1175 SHC 1924 290, 1177x1183 *ibid.* 291, *Clehithul* c.1270x1298 SHC 1921 8, *Claychul* (? for *Claythul*) c.1293 *ibid.* 10, *Cleathill* 1798 Yates, 1834 O.S. Probably from OE *clæte*, a side form of *clāte* 'burdock', so 'the hill where burdock grew': see Mawer 1929: 50, 60. See also SHC 1924 93, 290, 291; VCH III 21; VCH Wa VI 122. See also Ridgeacre.

CLEDERE, GRANGE DE (unlocated) *Grange de Cledere* 1291 (1798) Shaw I xxiii.

CLENT Ancient Parish 4 miles south-east of Stourbridge (SO 9279). *Clent* 1086 DB, 1169 P, 1242 Fees, 1273 SHC 1911 152. A difficult name. Perhaps from OE **clent* 'stone, rock', related to OSwed *klinter*, ON and Icelandic *klettr* 'a hard, flinty rock' (modern Swedish *klint* 'a precipice, a cliff'), used in English before 1300 as *clint*. The word *clent* is found in a ME text c.1400 in the phrase *a clent hille*, perhaps meaning 'a hill of rock': PN Wo 279. The place stands at the foot of the Clent Hills, and since 1844 has been in Worcestershire. There is place-name evidence that the name once applied to a fairly large district: see Anderson 1934: 143-4. For a detailed discussion of this name see PN Wo 279. Cf. Clint, Yorkshire. See also Mawer 1929: 76; Cavill, Harding & Jesch 2000: 116.

CLEWLEY (COPPICE) ½ mile north-east of Pendeford Mill (SJ 9004). *Clewley* 1946 O.S. The name is remembered in Clewley Drive, Pendeford. See also Beuleg.

CLIFF (unlocated, in Abbot's Bromley.) *Clyf* 1330 SHC XI NS 187, *Clyve* 1345 SHC XII 43. From OE *clif* 'declivity, cliff, river bank'.

CLIFF'S ROUGH on the north side of Hanchurch (SJ 8441). ? *the Clyves* 1329 SRO D593/B/1/23/7/1/1.

CLIFF VALE 1 mile south-west of Hanley (SJ 8646). *Clyf* 1204 SRO 154[7969], *Le Clif* 1253 SHC 1911 121, *Le Cliff* 1263 *ibid.* 134, *Clyf* 1271 SHC V (i) 155, *Castlecliff* 1423 VCH II 348. From OE *clif*, which had varied meanings, including 'a slope, not necessarily steep', 'the bank of a river', 'escarpment', and 'cliff'. The meaning here is probably 'slope'. Vale is ME from OFr *val(s)*, a post-Conquest word meaning 'a wide valley', evidently used here in that sense but adopted relatively recently. Cliff or Clive was one of the Hays of The New Forest (q.v.): VCH II 348-9; *haiya de Clive* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxviii. *Castle* is from the 'new castle' at nearby Newcastle-under-Lyme. VCH VIII 200-1 fn.16-17 incorrectly assigns the 1204 spelling to Penkhull.

CLIFF WOOD 1 mile west of Horton (SJ 9257). *boscum le cliffe* 1253 IpmR, *Cliff Wood* 1842 O.S. Self-explanatory.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE Ancient Parish 5½ miles north-east of Tamworth (SK 2510). *Clyfton* 941 (14th century, S.479), *Cliftone*, *Clistone* 1086 DB, *Cliftun* c.1100 Duig, *Caunvilla*, *Clyftona* 1194 SHC III (i) 25, *Canvill*, *Kanvill* 1195 *ibid.* 27, *Kanvill* 1203 SHC *ibid.* 111, *Clifton* 1236 Fees, 1242 *ibid.*, *Clifton Caunvil* 1284 Ass, *Clifton-Chamville* 1293 SHC VI (i) 240, *Camvill* 1294 SHC VII 9, *Clifton Caunvill* 1298 WL 3, *Kaumpville*, *Clyfton upon Hundenho* 1306 SHC VII 169, *Clyston* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 69, *Clyfton Cambvyle* 1604 SHC 1940 167. 'Tūn near a cliff or bank or on the edge of a river', from OE *clif* 'cliff, bank'. The place was held by Richard de Camvill in 1231. Camvill is a family name from Canville in l'Eure-Inférieure in Normandy: Duignan 1902: 41; DES 82. *Hundenho* may be Haunton.

CLIVE, THE 5½ miles west of Wolverhampton (SO 8297). *Clive* 1327 Duig, *Clyve* 1332 SHC X 131, *The Clyff* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 186, *Clieve* 1686 Plot, *Cleive* 1695 Morden, 1749 Bowen. From OE *clif* 'cliff, bank'. The place lies on a pronounced ridge.

CLOCK MILL (obsolete) in Pelsall (SK 0102). *Clockmill* 1568 Walsall ParReg, 1576 Dilworth 1976: 79, *Clokmyll* 1613 *ibid.*, *Clock mill* 1617 Willmore 1887: 440. The name perhaps derives from ME

clack, meaning the clapper of a corn-mill, which by striking the hopper causes the corn to be shaken into the millstones, but the sound produced by the process may have led to the association with the ticking of a clock. The dandelion was sometimes called the clock, but the usage is late, and can be ruled out here. The mill evidently gave its name to Clock Mill Brook (...*Perle called Clock mill perle...* 1617 Willmore 1887: 440; Dilworth 1976: 93) in Pelsall. *Perle* is from OE *pyrle* 'bubbling', a common stream-name.

CLONEWOOD (unlocated, in Leek.) *Clonewood* 1562 SHC IX NS 113.

CLOUD, THE a prominent hill on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border, 2½ miles east of Congleton (SJ 9063). *Cloud* 1637 Leek ParReg, *The Cloud* 1747 Bowen. From OE *clūd* 'mass of rock, outcrop, hill', found in North Staffordshire (cf. Hen Cloud). Evidently associated with *Clowdewoods*, recorded in 1581 (SRO DW1761/A/4/49), *Clowde Wood*, *Clowdwood* recorded in 1590 (SHC 1930 72, 96). An outcrop known as Five Clouds (from its five buttresses) lies beneath The Roaches (q.v.).

CLOUGH a common name in the North Staffordshire moorlands and with variants in the northern counties, but not found south of Stone. From OE *clōh*, ME *clough* which Duignan 1902: 42 believed to mean 'a ravine or narrow valley with steep sides', usually forming the bed of a stream, but now believed to have been applied to less pronounced or secondary features: see Gelling 1984: 88. The old pronunciation was as in 'bough', but is now 'cluff'.

CLOUGH HEAD ½ mile south-east of Ipstones (SK 0248). *the Cloughehead* 1576 Brighton 1937: 193, *The Cloughhead* 1670 SRO D1065/1/2, *Clough Head* 1836 O.S. From OE *clōh*, ME *clough* which Duignan 1902: 42 believed to mean 'a ravine or narrow valley with steep sides', usually forming the bed of a stream, but now believed to have been applied to less pronounced or secondary features: see Gelling 1984: 88. The word head was applied to the top or end of something, so 'the top or end of the valley'.

CLOUGH HOUSE 1 mile north-east of Heaton (SJ 9663). Perhaps to be associated with *Clou*, recorded in the Heaton area in 1327: SHC VII (i) 219. From OE *clōh*, ME *clough* which Duignan 1902: 42 believed to mean 'a ravine or narrow valley with steep sides', usually forming the bed of a stream, but now believed to have been applied to less pronounced or secondary features: see Gelling 1984: 88.

CLULOW (unlocated, possibly in Leek.) *Clulow* 1568 (1883) Sleigh 33, 1604 SHC 1946 116, *Clewlo* 1576 SHC 1926 39, *Clulowe* 1594 SHC 1932 49, *Clewlow* 1666 SHC 1921 143, 1784 SHC 1947 81. Possibly from OE **clēo(w)* 'a clew, a ball' (see especially PN Sa I 82-7), with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', perhaps from some rounded tumulus or mound here. *Clewlow Sprink* (i.e. 'the coppice or newly-planted woodland at Clewlow') appears on the 1836 1" O.S. map ½ mile south of Whiston near Cheadle (SK 0346), but the history of the name has not been traced: see Tooth 2000b: 115. *Clewlow's Bank* is shown to the south of Stanley Moor on the 1890 O.S. map. Some of the spellings may refer to those places, or to Cleulow Cross (*Clulow Cross* 1842 O.S.) 1 mile north of Wincle in Cheshire (SJ 9467), the site of an Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft on a mound: see PN Ch I 165-6.

CLYVES, THE (unlocated, in Longton.) *Le Clyvis* c.1280 SRO D593/B/1/23/4/1/13, *the Clyves* 1329 SRO D593/B/1/23/7/1/1. From OE *clif* 'cliff, bank'.

CNOKOMALAY (unlocated, perhaps in the north-west of the county.) *Cnokomalay* 1308 SHC XI NS 265. The first part of this curious name (which may well be a corrupt transcription) might be Welsh *cnwc* 'a hill, a lump, a hillock', or OE *cnocc* 'a hill, a hillock': see Cannock.

COAL BROOK Drayton-in-Hales. A tributary of the river Tern. *colbrok* 1387 SHC 1945-6 61, *Colbrowke* 1554 *ibid.* 132. Probably from OE *cōl* 'cool'. It is uncertain whether *Colbrook*, recorded in 1328 (SHC XI NS 262) refers to this stream.

COALPIT HILL on the north side of Talke (SJ 8253), *Coalpitt Hill* 1733 SHC 1944 67; COAL PITS (obsolete) on the north side of Orchard Farm, near the northernmost point in the county (SK 0269), *cole pitts* 1599 Plan PRO MPC 214, *Coal Pits* 1834 O.S.; COAL PITS (obsolete) 1½ miles south-west of Flash (SK 0164), *the Colepyttes* 1564 SHC 1938 99, *Coal Pits* 1842 O.S. Self-explanatory. At Coal Pits near Orchard farm were mines which were worked from at least 1401 to c.1930: see StSt 8 1996 66-95. *Colepytford*, recorded in 1608 (SHC 1948-9 152), may be associated with those mines, or the ones south-west of Flash.

COAL POOL 2 miles north of Walsall (SO 0100). *Colepoole* 1580 Walsall ParReg, *Collpoole* 1615 *ibid*, *Coale Poole* 1620 *ibid*, *Colepool* 1627 *ibid*. A flooded coal-pit is a more likely derivation than 'cold pool'. See Colepool Brook.

COATESTOWN ½ mile south-west of Hollinsclough (SK 0666). *Coatestown* 1775 Yates. 'The farmstead of a man named Coates': Isaac Coates, a dealer and chapman recorded in the second half of the 18th century, may be associated with the place: VCH VII 38.

COBB MOOR (obsolete, on north side of Kidsgrove (SJ 8555).) *Cobbmore* 1656 Wolstanton PR, *Cobmore* 1660 *ibid*, *Cobmoore* 1713 JNSFC LXV 1930-1 46, *Cobb Moor* 1836 O.S. From OE **cobb(e)* 'roundish mass, lump, etc.', with OE *mōr* 'upland waste, marshy land'.

COBINTONE (unlocated) *Cobintone* 1086 DB. The place has not been identified, but is listed in DB in Seisdon Hundred. The places listed after the entry for this place in DB are all in Cuttlestone Hundred, starting with Sheriffhales, held by Rainald, who also held neighbouring Weston-under-Lizard, Beighterton and Brockton Grange in Sheriffhales. Cobintone may have been part of Sheriffhales (perhaps Cuttesdon (q.v.)), with the Hundredal heading (or the entry) inserted in the wrong place. Certainly those who held Sheriffhales from the 12th to the 14th century under the FitzAlans were also lords of Kibblestone (SHC II 224), which points towards that place being Cobintone (as suggested by Erdeswick 1844: 30-31), but (quite apart from the philological difficulties) Kibblestone is said to have been formed in the 12th century from a conglomeration of Moddershall, Cotwalton and other manors (see SHC 1911 388-9; SHC 1916 169), and not to be identified with Cobintone. The sequence in which Cobintone is recorded in DB (Claverley-Kingsnordley-Alveley-*Cobintone*), if correct, suggests that the place may have lain to the south of Alveley, or even in that part of Staffordshire that lay to the west of the Severn opposite Arley. The most likely identification of Cobintone, however, is Cubbington in Warwickshire (which is recorded once as *Cobintone* and twice as *Cubintone* in DB: VCH Wa I 305, 316, 327; PN Wa 169), rather than a lost place in Staffordshire. The name itself, which

appears to be 'Cubba's *tūn*', Cubba representing a pet-form of an OE personal name such as Cūpbeorht (PN Wa 169), offers no clue to its location.

COBLEY HILL 3 miles east of Bromsgrove (SO 0171). *Cobesleie* 12th century Dugd. v 409, *Cobbele(ye)* 1271, 1299 (18th century), *Cobley Hill* 1535 (all PN Wo 362). From the personal name Cobbe (cf. Cobley, Hampshire), or from OE **cobb(e)* 'roundish mass, lump', with OE *lēah* and *hyll* 'hill'. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

COBRIDGE between Hanley and Burslem (SJ 8748). *Cobbrage Yate* 1687 Stoke on Trent ParReg, *Cobridge gate* 1679 SHC 1919 258, 1733 Stoke on Trent ParReg, *Cobberidge* 1705 *ibid*, *Coe Bridge* 1799 Faden, *Corbridge* 1836 O.S. Since the place is on a ridge, probably from OE **cobbe* 'roundish mass, lump', with OE *hrycg* 'back, ridge'. A mis-division of the original elements has led to confusion with *bridge*. The earliest spelling refers to Cobridge Gate, said to be named after a gate opening into the lane from Rushton Grange to Hulton Abbey: Ward 1843: 273.

COBSHURST (obsolete, 2 miles south-east of Longton (SJ 9240).) *Copt hurst*, *Copshurst*, *Copte hurst*, *Coppehurst* 1544 SHC 1910 75-6, *Cobhurst* 1729 Okeover T768, *Copshurst* 1738 *ibid*. T769, *Cobshurst* 1836 O.S. The first element is uncertain, but perhaps from the OE adjective **coppod* 'having a peak or top', also 'polled, cut down somewhat', and frequently found with tree-names (EPNE I 107), with OE *hyrst* 'a hillock, a bank, a wooded eminence', so perhaps 'the pollarded coppice on the small hill' for the first place, and 'the nook frequented by woodcock' for the second.

COCKET KNOB (obsolete.) 2 miles east of Cheddleton (SK 0053), *Cocket-know* 1730 Alstonefield ParReg, *Cocket Knob* 1836 O.S., *Cocket Knowl* 1880 Kelly. Perhaps from *cocket* or *cocked* 'set erect, having a pronounced upward turn' (OED), or from OE *cocc* 'woodcock', with the OE noun suffix *-et* 'a place characterised by what is named', so giving 'place frequented by woodcock', or from OE *cocc-wudu* 'the wood frequented by cocks or wild birds' (cf. river Coquet, Northumberland), with OE *cnoll* 'knoll'.

COCKETS NOOK (obsolete), 1 mile north-west of Rugeley (SK 0138), *Cockets Nook* 1834 O.S.

COCKING FARM ½ mile north of Caverswall (SJ 9544). *Cocking*, *Upper Cocking* 1836 O.S., *Cocking* 1890 O.S. Probably to be associated with *Cocker*, recorded in 1691 (Okeover T762), in which case perhaps reflecting a British stream-name (see *Cocretone*): the first edition 1" O.S. map shows a stream rising at Cocking and running south to join a tributary of the river Blithe. The name may have been influenced by the word *cocking*, which appears to have been associated with places used for cock-fighting. It may be noted that Cocking Farm lies some three miles from Saverley Green (q.v.), a name which may be of British origin.

COCKLEY 1 mile north-east of Ellastone (SK 1343). ? *Cokkylegh* (p) 1372 SHC XIII 92, *Cockley Farm* 1785 SRO D626/A/2/1-2. From OE *cocc* 'cock', or OE *cocc* 'a heap, a hillock, a clump of trees', with OE *lēah*. It is uncertain whether the surname Cockeley, recorded in Coltsmoor in 1617 (SRO D3272/5/13/25), is associated with this place.

COCKNAGE 1½ miles north-east of Barlaston (SJ 9140). *Kokenache* 1194 Pipe, *Cokenache* 1195 ff, 1200 SHC II 91, *Cokenach* 1198 P, *Chokeneche* c.1208 SHC 1911 417, *Kokenache* c.1230 SHC 1921 18, *Cocsache* c.1231 SHC 1911 425, *Cokenach*’, *Kokenhache* 1240-1 Cur, *Cocenag* 1272-3 SHC XI NS 243, *Cockenegge* 1283 SHC 1911 184, *Cognage* 1575 SHC 1926 44, *Cockurge* 1598 SHC 1935 49, *Cockindge* 1600 *ibid.* 213, *Cockenage* 1605 SHC 1940 297. The first element is from the OE personal name *Cocca*. The terminal is perhaps OE *æc*, the dative of *āc* ‘oak tree’, which gives the ending *-age* in place-names (cf. Radnage; Cressage; Stevenage), rather than Mercian OE *hec(c)* ‘a hatch, a grating, a half-gate’ (cf. Cockenhatch, Hertfordshire), as suggested by Ekwall 1960: 115.

COCKSHUT HAY (unlocated, said to be 2 km west of Rudyard: CEC 384.) *Cockstuth*, *Cocsute*, *Cocksuth*, *Cocsuche* 1221x1226 CEC 384, *Cokshete* 1293 SHC VI (i) 220. Very commonly found as a minor name from the 13th century, especially in the south-west Midlands counties: EPNE i 104-5. The expression is said to mean ‘a broad glade in a wood, through which woodcock might dart or shoot, so as to be caught by nets stretched across the opening’, although Mawer 1929: 47-8 prefers ‘corner of land frequented by woodcock’. In this area the Anglian OE form **cocc-scyte* would be expected, giving *-shete*, but the spellings show that West Saxon OE **cocc-scȳte*, **coc-scȳte*, giving *-shute*, are closer roots. Hay is from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* ‘a fence, an enclosed piece of land’, often in Staffordshire meaning ‘an administrative bailiwick within a Forest area’. *Cockshoot Hill* is recorded south-east of Swindon (VCH XX 213), and *Cockshatt flatte* near The Delph House (q.v.) in 1605 (SHC 1934 47).

COCKSTER BROOK a tributary of Chitlings Brook, which flows into the river Trent. No early forms are available to suggest a derivation.

COCRETONE, COCORTONE (unlocated, between Trysull and Seisdon.) *Cocretone*, *Cocortone* 1086 DB, *Cocortone* 1288 SHC 1911 194, ? *Cokton* (p) 1286 SHC 4th Series XVIII 133, *Corcorton* c.1598 Erdeswick. Shaw 1801: II 208 misspells the name as *Colverton*. Erdeswick 1844: 541 lists the ‘Modern Name’ as *Cocretone*, without *Q[uare]* attached to other names he was unable to identify, implying that in the late sixteenth century the location of the place was still known., and indeed land called *Cockerton* is recorded in 1623 in the area later known as The Beeches to the west of Trysull (SO 841937): VCH XX 185-7 (where the spelling *Corcortone* is an error); VCH IV 38 fn, 54 fn. The land may have been called *Crockington* as recently as 1928: WSL Misc 339 5. The name survives in Crockington (formerly Cockerton) Lane connecting Trysull and Seisdon. TSSAHS XII 1970-1 34 locates the lost village (which was still inhabited in the later 13th century: SHC 1911 194) at SO 843943. It may be noted that DB records William fitz Ansculf holding both Trysull and Seisdon, as well as 1½ hides of this place, with ½ hide of this place belonging to Kinswinford held by the king. Both holdings in this place are described as waste (VCH IV 38). It has been suggested that the name is possibly ‘potters’ settlement’, from OE *croccere*, which could become *Cocor-* (see for example Morris 1976: 1,1; 12,16) but no archaeological evidence of pottery working has been recorded and no early pottery-associated surnames have been found. A more obvious derivation would be from a Celtic river-name Cocker (found in Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Somerset), probably from a British form **Kukrā*, which would give **Cocrā*, **Cocr* (Welsh *Cogr*) ‘crooked’: see Ekwall 1928: 83-4; Coates & Breeze 2000: 135; 361. Cf. Cockermouth, Cumbria; Cockerham and

Cockersand, Lancashire; Cockerton, Durham. However, while the nearby Smestow Brook could properly be described as 'winding, crooked', that suggested derivation faces the difficulty that the ancient name of this stream is well-evidenced as Tresel - see Trescott; Trysull. There is no other significant stream to which the name Cocker might apply, but the first edition 1" O.S. map shows a watercourse running from east of The Beeches into Smestow Brook, and it may have risen further west: the map shows an irregular line on the north side of The Beeches which might be part of the same watercourse. If not from a river-name, perhaps from OE *cokken* 'to fight', from which the ME surname Cockere is recorded (both noun and verb being recorded in 'The Proverbs of Alfred': see Clark 1995: 210), so giving here 'the settlement of the brawler', which has developed into Croc-. Henry of Cokton is recorded in 1286 (SHC 4th Series XVIII 133), and the surname Crochintones and similar is found in the 16th and 17th centuries in the Penn ParReg (but not in the Trysull ParReg). It should be noted that the names Crogeton, Crogyn-ton, and variants recorded in Worfield and the surrounding area from at least 1483 (see e.g. TSAS 3rd Series VI 12; SRS 3 34 and 101), are said to be from Crudgington in Shropshire, and Crochintones may have the same derivation. See also SHC 1919 164. See also Cocking Farm.

COCSTAL, COCKESTALL, COKSTALL (unlocated, near Longton.) *Kocstal* c.1260 SRO D593/B/1/23/4/1/15, *Kocstal*, *Cocstal* (undated) SHC XI 320-21, *Cockestall*, *Cokstall* (undated) *ibid.* 322. Possibly associated with Cookshill (q.v.).

CODNYNNESHEVED (unlocated, possibly in Horton.) *Codnynnesheved* 1307 SHC XI NS 255. The last element is from OE *hēafod* 'head', meaning topographically 'end, top. summit, head of a stream', with what appears to be the OE personal name Codda. Cf. *le Codyngeheye* in Cheshire: PN Ch V (ii) 281 fn.76. See also Codyngton.

CODSALL 4 miles north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 8603). *Codeshale* 1086 DB, 1271 Ass, *Coddeshal* 1167 SHC 1923 296, 1248 Cl, *Codeshal* 1293 SHC 1911 230, *Cotteshale* 1293 SHC VI (i) 260, *Cottussale* 1421 SHC XVII 40, *Coddessale* 1484 SHC VI NS (i) 152, *Codssowle* 1547 TSAS 3rd Series VIII 1908 138, *Codshall otherwise Codsall otherwise Codsoll* 1606 SHC XVIII 65. Probably 'Cōd's *halh*', although Gelling & Cole 2000: 127 suggests without further explanation that this derivation 'rests on slender foundations'. The same or a similar personal name (not found recorded other than in place-names: see PN Wo 116) is the first element of Cotswolds; Codnor, Derbyshire; Codford, Wiltshire; Cotheridge and Cutsdean, Worcestershire. Codsall Wood (*Codsall Woodde* 1592 Codsall ParReg) lies 2 miles to the north-west (SJ 8405), and Codsall Lanes (obsolete) lay on the west side of Codsall (SJ 8504), recorded as *le Lone* in 1334 (SHC XVI 3), *Codsall Lanes* in 1799 (Yates), *Lanes (near C.)* in 1805 (Codsall ParReg).

CODUSBAG (unlocated; possibly Cottesbach in Leicestershire: see SHC I 206.) *Codusbag* 1274 SHC 1911 162.

CODYNGTON (unlocated) *Codyngton* 1325 SHC X 57, 1395 SHC XV 65. Perhaps from an *-ing* suffix added to the OE personal name Codda. Cf. *le Codyngeheye* in Cheshire: PN Ch V (II) 281 fn.76. See also Codnynnesheved.

COENA'S WELL a spring which runs into a pool south-west of Wall Grange Farm (SJ 9754). *Cena de Wal* c.13th century Su, *Signe Wall(s)* 1627 (1883) Sleigh, *St Ann's Well*, *Senus Well*, *Sinners Well* 1849 *ibid*, *Coena's well* 1870s *ibid*. VCH VII 203 suggests a derivation from St Agnes' or St Ann's Well, but the spellings point towards 'the well of Sainte Cene', the name of several holy wells in Normandy, or possibly a derivation from *sene*, *senyie*, from French *sene*, *senne*, Latin *synodus* 'a meeting of clergy for deliberations, a synod': *seyney-houses* were buildings belonging to monastic houses where breaks ('seyneys') were taken by monks in need of rest and recuperation after the regular blood lettings they undertook for health reasons, or after illness: see Sinai Park. Perhaps to be associated with Ametesawe (q.v.).

COKEFELD (unlocated, in Rownall.) *Kokfeld* 1273 SHC VI (i) 54, *Kokfeud* 1275 *ibid*. 56, *Cokefeld* 1284 SHC VI (i) 136, *Cokefeud*, *Cokefeld* 1286 *ibid*. 166-7.

COKESALLE or **COXALL** (unlocated, possibly near Tatenhill.) *Cokeshalle* 1420 SHC XVII 75, *Cokesall otherwise Coxall* 1618 SHC VI (i) NS 57. The first element is more likely to be an unrecorded personal name *Cocc, rather than OE *cocc* 'wild bird' or OE *cocc* 'heap or hill', since the second element seems in this case to be *hall*, an element rare in Staffordshire, rather than the ubiquitous OE *halh*, although the latter cannot be ruled out.

COKKESHOLM (unlocated, in Rickerscote or Silkmore.) *Cockeshelm*, *Cocholm*, *Cockulm*, *Cokkesholm* 1349 SRO 89-92[7904], *Cockesholm* 1350 SHC VIII 130. Almost certainly the same place as *Cowesholm*, recorded in 1356 (SHC VIII (ii) 129), and *Kocholme* n.d. (SHC VIII (i) 134). The first element is an unrecorded personal name *Cocc, or OE *cocc* 'wild bird' or OE *cocc* 'heap or hill'. The second element is *holme*, from ON *holmr* 'small island, a piece of dry land in a fen, a piece of land partly surrounded by streams or by a stream',

COLCLOUGH 1½ miles north of Tunstall (SJ 8553). *Colleclogh* 1362 SHC 1913 328, *Colcloghe* 1376 *ibid*. 134, *Colclogh* 1413 SHC 1911 470, *Colclogh Lane* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 50, *Coulclughe* 1585 SHC 1929 56, *Coleclugh* 1582 Betley ParReg, *Colklowghe* 1590 SHC 1930 54. 'The steep-sided valley where charcoal was made or coal dug', from OE *col* 'coal, charcoal'. See also Clough.

COLDFIELD - see ASTON.

COLD NORTON - see NORTON, COLD.

COLDHAM 2 miles west of Brewood (SJ 8408). *Coldhome* 1581, 1660, 1729 Ct, *Coldham* 1594 SRO D590/446/1-5, *Colldome* 1626 Brewood ParReg. Probably a 16th century name 'cold home': the place is in an elevated position. See also Hilton near Brewood.

COLDMEECE 3 miles north-east of Eccleshall (SJ 8632). *Mess* 1086 DB, *Mes* 1208 Curia, *Coldemes* 1273 Ass, *Coldemeys* 1292 SHC 1926 172. From OE *mēos* 'moss, marsh, bog', or the nearby river Meece and Meece Brook (q.v.), with OE *cald* 'cold'. The place is near Cold Norton.

COLDRIDGE WOOD in Upper Arley, 1 mile south-east of Romsley (SO 8182). *Colrugge* (p) 16th century PN Wo 30. From OE *col-hrycg* 'coal-ridge'. The place lies on coal measures, but *col* also meant charcoal. In Worcestershire since 1895.

COLDRIDING FARM 1½ miles north-east of Barlaston (SJ 9140). *Cold Ridding* 1755 SRO D4092/C/2/18. From OE **ryding* 'clearing', so 'the cold clearing'.

COLDSHAW 2 miles north-west of Hollinsclough (SK 0467). *Coldshawe* 1429 DRO D2375M/1/1, *Cold Shaw* 1678 Alstonefield ParReg. From OE *cald scaga* 'the cold or exposed copse'. The second element is commonly found in the northern counties.

COLDWALL ½ mile east of Blore with Swinscoe (SK1449). *Coldewalle* 1245 Okeover T3, *Caldewall* 1275 SHC XI NS 243, ? *Coldewalle* 1293 SHC 1911 215, *Coldwell* 1309 SHC 1911 72, *Caldewell* 1311 Okeover, *Could Wall* 1775 Yates, *Cold Wall* 1640 Ipm, 1836 O.S.; **COLD WELL** 1 mile west of Farewell (SK 0611), *a well called le calde Walle* 13th century BCA MS3415/130, *Coldewalle* 1492 OSS 1936 47, *le Cold Walle* 1505 *ibid.* 51, *Cold Well* 1834 O.S.; **COLD WELL** between Gentleshaw and Goosemoor Green (SK 0511); **COLDWELL** (unlocated, in Streethay), *Coldervelle* 1271 SHC IV 184; **COLDEWALLE** (unlocated, in or near Wombourne), *Caldewalle* 1314 (1801) Shaw II 213, *Caldwalls* 1489 *ibid.* 215. A common name in Staffordshire, from OE *cald* 'cold', with Mercian OE *wælle*, 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. See also Caudewell.

COLEPOOL BROOK a tributary of the river Tame. *Colepool Brook* 1768 Survey. Probably from OE *col* 'coal, charcoal', with *pōl* 'pool', so 'the pool created by coal extraction' to which *broc* has been added, though a derivation from OE *cōl* 'cool' cannot be ruled out. See also Coal Pool.

COLEY 1 mile north-west of Colwich (SK 0122). *Colweleye* 1316 WL 106, ? *Coly* (p) 1368 SHC VIII NS 214, *Coley temp.* Elizabeth I SHC 1914 131, *Haywood Coley* 1625 *ibid.* 133, *Coley(mill)* 1656 *ibid.* 152, *Coley* 1768 Erdeswick 1844: 73, 1775 Yates, *Upper Coley*, *Near Coley* 1836 O.S. In 1916 Wedgwood suggested that *Scoteslei* in DB 'can I think be identified with Coley...[t]he transformation is in accordance with the laws of euphony' (SHC 1916 168), and that identification has been accepted since that date: see e.g. VCH IV 42. However, there is no philological reason to associate *Scoteslei* with Coley, and indeed there is no firm evidence that the name Coley is older than the 14th century (but note e.g. Nicholas Coli, recorded in 1300: SHC VII (i) 68). Possibly *Scoteslei* is to be associated with Colwich (q.v.). The name Coley is probably from OE *col-lēah* 'the *lēah* where charcoal was made', with the 1316 spelling a phonetic representation. See also Colton.

COLEY MILL 3 miles south-west of Gnosall (SJ 7819). *Coley Hall* 1540 StEnc 152, *Colyemill* 1656 ParReg, *Coley* 1775 Yates, *Coley Mill* 1798 Yates, 1833 O.S. From OE *col-lēah* and *myll* 'the mill at the *lēah* where charcoal was made'. No source is given in StEnc 152 for the 1540 form, but if correct there may have been a hall here.

COLLYHOLE 1 mile north-west of Ipstones (SK 0050). *Colleys Croft* 1749 SRO D538/A/5/52, *Collymoor* 1836 O.S. Seemingly from the surname Colly (DES 105).

COLSHAW 1 mile north-west of Hollinsclough (SK 0467). *Co(u)ldshaw* 1566 *Deed*, 1605 to 1680 Alstonefield ParReg, *Col(d)shaw(e)* 1626, 1651 *Rental*, *Coldshaw* 1842 O.S. From OE *cald*, *scaga* 'the cold or exposed copse'.

COLT (unlocated) *Colt* 1086 DB. Possibly Littlehay in Colton: VCH IV 46 fn.

COLTON Ancient Parish 2 miles north of Rugeley (SK 0520). *Coltone*, *Coltvne* 1086 DB, *Colton* 1176 P, *Coltuna* 1201 SHC II 105, *Coltun* 1227 Ass, 1240 SHC VIII 158, *Kuton* 1229 SHC XVII 75, *Knoleton (sic)* 1269 SHC IV 172, *Coltun* 1271 SRO D603/A/Add/202, *Cunton* 1280 SHC VI (i) 100, *Couton* 1288 SHC 1911 43, *Coltone* 1293 SHC VI (i) 273, *Colton, called Marshalles and Gryffyns* 1392 SHC XI 199, *Coulton* 1656 Barton under Needwood ParReg. Possibly OE *colt-tūn*, 'tūn where colts were reared', or (more likely, given the absence of spellings with *Colte-*), from OE *col* 'charcoal'. The presence of Coley (although no early spellings are available) and Colwich to the west, and references to the surname Coleman in 1322 (SHC IX (ii) 87) and Colemon in 1327 (SHC VII 198), and to *Coleman's-more* in Colton in 1374 (Parker 1897: 352) also suggests that charcoal burning is the probable origin. Colton was a double manor, each part held by a different overlord. One part was held by the Wasteneys and subsequently by the Gresleys, and the other part by the Griffins and Mareschalls, which explains the reference to *Marshalles* and *Gryffyns* in 1391: SHC XI 199. See also SHC II 247. Cf. Colwich.

COLTON HILLS on east side of Upper Penn (SO 9095). *Colton Hilles* 1593 SHC 1932 12, *Colton Hylls* 1598 SHC 1935 12, *Colton Hills* 1699 WA II 36. Seemingly a corruption of Coton (q.v.): some 97 acres of land here were subject to Coton tithes (*ibid.*).

COLTS MOOR 1½ miles north of Bradnop (SK 0057). *le Coltesmor* 1344 SRO D3272/5/13/8, *Colts Moor* 1345 VCH VII 171, *Coltsmore* 1586 SHC 1927 135, *Coletesmere* 1608 SHC 1948-9 41, *Coults Moore* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 192, *Coltsmoor* 1666 SHC 1925 242, 1836 O.S., *Coulch Moor* 1697 Leek ParReg. 'The marshland or moorland where the colts grazed', or perhaps from the Colt family, recorded c.1275 (SHC 1911 429, 430), 1319 (1883) Sleight 126. The present Coltsmoor Farm dates from the later 18th century. The site of the earlier Coltsmoor House is uncertain: VCH VII 171.

COLTSTONE ½ mile north-west of Ipstones. (SK 0150). *Coltstone* 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S, *Coldstone Heath* 1777 OpenFds, 1813 Deed, *Coltstone Heath & Common* 1780 EnclA. Possibly 'the stone where the colt was kept', or from the name Colt, hence 'Colt's stone'.

COLWICH Ancient Parish 3 miles north-west of Rugeley (SK 0121). *Calewich* 1166 Duig, *Colwich* c.1177 SHC XI 323, *Colwych* c.1180 SHC 1914 135, *Kolewich* c.1230 SHC VIII 156, *Colewich* 1240 CL, c.1255 SHC VIII 156, *Colewyz*, *Colwich* 1247 Ass, *Colwych'* 1461 HAME 463, *Colwhich* 1518 SHC 1910 10, *Colwyche*, *Calwyche* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 63, 131, *Collwyche* 1586 SHC 1927 167, *Collige* 1607 Kip, *College* 1761 Swynnerton ParReg, *Colledge* 1762 *ibid.* Possibly from the OE personal name Col(l)a, but more likely to be from OE *col* 'coal, charcoal', with OE *wīc*. Cf. Coley; Colwich, Nottinghamshire. A reference to *Scoteslei* in DB has puzzled historians. Erdeswick 1844: 545 identified the place as Scotesley, without the usual *Q[uare]* which appeared against names he was unable to identify, suggesting that he may have known of a place of that name, but no such place has been traced. Shaw 1798: I *12 (index to Domesday Book, etc.) gives no identification. Eyton 1881: 37 believed that *Scoteslei* (which precedes the entry for Moreton in DB) was in or near Colwich, which almost certainly existed in 1086 but is not recorded as such in DB. In 1916 Wedgwood suggested that *Scoteslei* 'can I think be identified with Coley...The transformation is in accordance with the laws of euphony' (SHC 1916 168), and that identification has been accepted without question since that date:

see e.g. VCH IV 42. However, there is no philological reason to associate *Scoteslei* with Coley, which one would expect to find recorded in early deeds if the place were ancient, and it is possible that *Scoteslei* is to be identified with Colwich itself: DB records that both *Scoteslei* and Moreton were held by the church of Lichfield with the same tenant. In OE *Scotes-* would be pronounced *Shotes-*, and it may be noted that Shugborough (for which early spellings include *Shutborrow* and *Shottboro*) lies in Colwich parish (an ecclesiastical peculiar; i.e. exempt from jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese), though there is no evidence to associate *Scoteslei* with Shugborough, which does not seem to have become established until the 14th century: see SHC 4th Series VI 89. It is not likely that land called *Shootersoake* recorded in Shugborough in 1629 and 1701 (SRO DW1781/2/7; DW1781/9/2/64/1-2) reflects traces of the DB name. Colwich was evidently a variant spelling of Calwich (q.v.): Plot 1686: 404 refers to *Colwich-common* between Mayfield and Ellastone. Colwich Home Farm lies to the east of Calwich Abbey.

COMBERBACH (unlocated, in Rugeley.) ? *Cumberbache* (p) temp. Henry VIII SHC X NS I 166, *Comberbach* 1570 Survey. From the OE loanword *Cumbre* (genitive plural *Cumbra*), from the PrWelsh ancestor of Welsh *Cymro* (plural *Cymry*), with OE *bece* 'valley or stream of the Britons or Welshmen', or 'valley or stream of the Welshman', possibly associated with Cumberledge Hill (q.v.).

COMBERFORD 2 miles north-west of Tamworth (SK 1907). *Cumbreford* 1183 SHC II (i) 259, 1186 SHC I 129, *Cumberford* 1247 SHC 1911 118, 1313 *ibid.* 312, *Comberford* 1266 *ibid.* 136, 1280 *ibid.* 172, *Cumbreford* 1278 *ibid.* 32, 1286 SHC V (i) 169, *Cumberford* 1467 Hatherton, *Coumbforde*, *Cumberford hall* c.1562 SHC 1938 193, *Cummerforde* 1608 SHC 1948-9 161. From OE *cumbre*, borrowed from the PrWelsh form of modern Welsh *Cymro* 'Welshman', probably meaning 'the ford of the Britons', perhaps a more courteous way of referring to Britons than *Walh*, since it is the OE version of *Cymro* (plural *Cymry*), the Welsh name for themselves. Cf. *Cumberstone Wood*; *Comberbach*; *Cumberfield*; *Cumberledge*.

COMBES BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet. *Cwms Brook* 1686 Plot 43, *Cooms Brook* 1810 *EnclA*. *Combes* is shown on the west bank 2 miles south of Bradnop on the 1836 O.S. map. The name is from OE *cumb* 'a cup, vessel', found in place-names in a transferred topographical sense 'a short spoon-shaped valley': the stream runs through a deep and narrow valley between steep hills here, draining the high moorland of Morridge into the river Churnet, but the valley could not be described as a *cumb*. It is uncertain whether *Cambes*, recorded in 1307 (SHC XI NS 258) refers to this place.

COMBRIDGE 2½ miles north of Uttoxeter (SK 0937). *Combrigge* 1191x1194 CEC 261, *Kanbrugge* 1246 Ch, *Combruggee* 1258 FF, *Combruge* 13th century frequently *Duig*, *Combruch* 1400 SHC XV 93, *Combrugge* 1467 SHC NS IV 152, *Combryge* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 109, *Canbridge* c.1595 Erdeswick 1844: 504, *Combridge* 1615 SHC VI (i) NS 4. Possibly from OE *camb*, ON *kambr* 'a comb, crest' (an element rare in place-names), with OE *brycg* 'bridge', perhaps denoting a comb-like handrail or rails, or with OE *hrycg* 'a ridge', so 'the ridge with the undulating profile'. A derivation from OE *comb* 'a cup, vessel', found in place-names with the transferred topographical meaning 'short spoon-shaped valley', with OE *hrycg* 'ridge' is unlikely: the valley here appears from the map not to conform to a typical *cumb* form.

COMMON PLOT on the north side of Stone (SJ 8935). *Common Plot*, *Common Plots* 1798 Act. The land was held by the town with certain residents having rights of pasture.

COMPA, THE in Kinver (SO 8483). ? *Coumbere* 1332 SHC X (i) 86, ? *Combere* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 9, ? *Compey* 1627 VCH XX 142. Perhaps from OE *cumb* 'a short spoon-shaped valley', but the name may be from ME *cumber* 'an encumbrance', probably used of ground encumbered with rocks, stumps, etc. (see PN Ch V (I:1) 152), or perhaps from OFr *combre* 'a heap of stones' (PN Ch V (I:1) 140). It has been noted, however, that second names or surnames ending in -er were common in medieval times, e.g. baker, bridger, laker. '[T]he family who lived at Coumbe became Cumber...the family of atte Compe (OE *comp* 'field') became Comper...': Mawer 1929: 68. Comber Road in Kinver may have the same derivation as The Compa, which it adjoins. Joh'e de Campo is recorded in Kinver in 1327 (SHC VII (i) 246), Thomas Cumber in 1428 (SHC XVII 119), William Comber in 1539 (SHC VI (i) NS 73), Edward Comber in 1584 (SHC 1930 73), George Cumber is recorded in the Hearth Tax returns of 1666 (SHC 1923 108), and Thomas Cumber in 1670 (SHC 1923 108). Comber has been tentatively identified as DB *Cippemore* (q.v.): SHC 1916 170; see also VCH IV 54 fn.70. There is no philological (or indeed other) evidence to support any such connection.

COMPTON 2 miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8898), *Contone* 1086 DB, *Conton* 1166 SHC 1923 298, *Cumpton* 1227 Ass, *Compthon* 1260 SHC 4th Series 13 6, *Comptone* 14th century Duig, *Cumpton* 1539 SHC VI (i) NS 64; **COMPTON** 1 mile north-west of Kinver (SO 8284), *Conton* 1166 SHC 1923 298, *Cumpton* 1227-8 SHC IV (i) 69, *Cumpton in Kenefare* 1293 SHC 1911 47, *Compton* 1577 Saxton; **COMPTON** on the south side of Leek (SJ 9856), *Cumton* 1256 Lib, *Compton* 1873 SRO D4855/3/1/1-12; **COMPTON** (unlocated) in Hanley (? SJ 8747), *Kumton* 1360 SHC XIII 11; **LONG COMPTON** 1 mile north of Haughton (SJ 8522), ? *Compton* 1327 SHC VII 244, *Long Compton* early 18th century SRO D590/364, 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S.; **LONG COMPTON (FARM)** 1 mile north-east of Swynnerton (SJ 8536), *Long-Compton* 1755 Swynnerton ParReg., *Long Compton* 1920 O.S.; **COMPTON HALLOWES** or **COMPTON WHORWOOD** (obsolete) 2½ miles west of Kinver (SO 8083). *Horewode* 1267 SRO C143/2/34, *Horewood* 1268 SHC 1911 140-1, *Horewood* late 13th century VCH XX 132, *Hawloo* 1327 SHC VII (i) 247, *Haulowe* 1387, *Horewood* 15th century, *Halowes in Compton* late 15th century, *le Horewood otherwise le Halowes* 1527 VCH XX 132, *Hallowes* 1565 SHC XIII 248, *Compton Hallowes* later 16th century, *Compton Hallowes alias Compton Wherewodes* 1631 SRO D660/19/2, *Whorwood, Compton Whorwood* 17th and 18th century VCH XX 132. 'Tūn in a *cumb* or short spoon-shaped valley'. There are 32 Comptons in DB, all with the spelling *Contone*. In the first place the name may refer to Compton Holloway (*Compton Hollowayes* 1586 SHC 1927 174), the steep road to Tettenhall Wood. The second place has narrow valley nearby (cf. Congreve). *Horwood (Whorwood* 1269 Ipm) appears on an 18th century estate plan at SO 813834 (WMANS 18 1975 9), and is from OE *horh*, *horu* 'filth, dirt', here probably meaning 'the muddy wood', and *Haulowe* is probably from the Haudlo family (from Hadlow, Kent) who held the place in the 14th century (*ibid.*). The moated site of the manor house is now occupied by (Compton) Park Farm. See also Camton.

CONDELEG(E) (unlocated.) *Condeleg* 1251 Ch, *Condelege* 1252 (1798) Shaw I 38. See also Cunateleg.

CONEYGREAVE 1 mile north-east of Draycott in the Moors (SJ 9940), ? *Le Conyecrofte* 1279 SRO 98[7939], *Conyngreve* 1334 SHC 1913 47, *the conyngree* 1592 SHC 1930 355; CONEY GREAVE 1 mile south-west of Whitmore (SJ 8040), *Coney Grey* 1833 O.S.; CONEYGREAVE HAFT 1 mile north-west of Norbury (SJ 7923), *Coneygreve (Pool)* 1833 O.S. A common name, from ME *coninger* 'rabbit warren'. EDD defines *haft* as 'a little island or raised bank in a pond on which water-fowl build their nests', and Halliwell, giving the same meaning, suggests that the word is a Staffordshire term. It is found in Plot 1686: 232-3, who describes '...Hafts or Islands in the pooles...' at Shebden, and provides an illustration.

CONGREVE 1 mile south-west of Penkridge (SJ 9013). *Comegrave* 1086 DB, *Cungrave* 1203 SHC III 122, *Conegrave* 1203 *ibid.* 122, *Cumgrave* 1236 FF, *Cunegrave* 1293 SHC VI (i) 289, *Cungreve* 1372 SHC XIII 92, *Connegrove* 1372 SHC 1931. OE *cumb-græfe* 'grove or small wood in a cumb or valley': there is a short spoon-shaped valley on the north-east side of Beacon Hill with its mouth between Congreve Manor and Congreve Farm (cf. Compton). The word *græfe* (also found as *grāf*, *grāfe*, and *grāfa*), is probably associated in some way with OE *grafan* 'to dig', *grafa*, *græf* 'pit, trench'. 'Grove' is probably the more likely interpretation unless the first element suggests 'pit' or similar, or there is such a feature in the vicinity (see Gelling & Cole 2000: 226-30), and it may be noted that quarrying has historically taken place on nearby Beacon Hill. See also Somerford.

CONIGRE PARK (obsolete, on the north-east side of Dudley.) *Cunhigre Parke in St Edmund* 1700 HRO E12/V1/NC/35. From ME *coningre* 'a rabbit-warren'.

CONSALL 2½ miles south of Cheddleton (SJ 9848). *Cyneshala* 1086 DB, *Cunshall*, *Cuneshale*, *Conleshale* 1227 SHC IV 49, 53, *Koneshull*, *Coneshill* 1265 Rees 1997: 136-7, *Conishale* 1281 Ipm, *Coneshill* 1285 Ch, *Coneshale* 1302 SHC 1911 59, 1309 SHC IX 6, 1456 SHC IV NS 95, *Conshale* 1306 GDR, *Consale* 1331 SHC XI 71, 1338 SHC XIV 51, 1339 SHC 1913 79, *Cunsale* 1348 to 1421 Banco, *Cunstall* 1386 Banco, *Conesale* 1456 *ibid*, *Cunsall* 1529 SHC 1912 30, *Co(u)nsall* 1561 AD 6, *Knut(e)shall* 1577 Saxton, *Counsall otherwise Counshall* 1583 SHC XV 147, *Consall* 1608 SHC III NS 26, *Knudshall* 1646 Jansson, *Cunsall* 1674 SRO 49/14/44. A difficult name. Names beginning with *Cun-* or *Con-* are found in Scandinavianised areas, generally from ON *kunungr* 'king', with the earliest form perhaps **Cyningesalh*, 'the king's *alh*', but tend to include some trace of the second syllable in early spellings. However, Conistone in West Yorkshire (*Cunestone* DB, *Conyston* 1285 (FA)) has the development of *cuniges* to *cunes* with the dropping of the medial *-i-*, with the pronunciation *kuns-*, and may be seen as a parallel for Consall, pronounced Kunsall by older inhabitants. It may also be noted that the adjoining parish of Kingsley (*Chingeslei* DB, Scandinavianised *Cunegeston* in 1166) is 'the king's woodland glade'. Another possibility is a river-name from British *Cun-* 'dog, hound': many rivers in present or former Celtic areas are named after animals (see Breeze 2001), and there is a powerful stream flowing through a pronounced stream-valley at Consall eastwards into the river Churnett. Possibly therefore 'the *alh* associated with the stream called Cun'. *Cunsall Smythes* is

recorded in 1662 (Kingsley ParReg), presumably Consallforge (*Consall Forge* 1836 O.S.), 1½ miles north-east of Consall (SJ 9949). See also Kingstone.

COOK'S COPPICE on the north-east side of Bagot's Bromley (SK 0726). Probably from a personal name - the Cook family are recorded in the area from an early date, e.g. Adam Cocus (Cook) in 1227 (SHC IV 52), Johannes Cook in 1402 (SHC XI NS 208).

COOKSGATE 1½ miles east of Betley (SJ 7648). *Cooks Gate* 1712 Audley ParReg, 1733 SHC 1944 34, 1798 Yates, 1833 O.S. From the surname Cooke: SHC 1944 34. The place may have been one of the gates to Heighley Park: TNSFC 1919 23.

COOKSHILL 1 mile north-west of Caverswall (SJ 9443). *Cookes Hill* 1608 SHC 1948-9 6, *Cook Hill* 1677 Caverswall ParReg, *Cookshill Green* 1836 O.S. Evidently from the personal name Cook (DES 108), with OE *hyll*. However, *Kocstall*, *Cocstal*, *Cokestall* recorded in the 12th-13th century (SHC XI 320-2), may be early spellings for this place, in which case the name may be from OE *cōc* 'cook', with OE *stall* 'a place, the site where a building or other object stood', so possibly 'the place where the kitchen stood'. See also Cocknage; Cocstal.

COOKSLAND ½ mile north of Seighford (SJ 8825). *Cvchesland* 1086 DB, *Cokeslonia* c.1145 SHC II 219, ? *Cuccessone* c.1150 VCH III 251, *Cokeslane* c.1180 SHC I 186, *Cokeslanie* c.1182 SHC II 256, *Cokeslone* c.1245 BodCh, *Cokeslond* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 14, *Cokeslane* 1534 SRO D(W)1721, *Cokslande* 1537 JNSFC LXI 1926-7 30, *Cokis Lane* 1539 MA, *Cookes Lande* 1608 SHC III NS 15, *Cookesland* 1610 *ibid.* 46. Possibly from OE *cōc* 'cook', with the second element OE *land*, a word with several meanings, but here perhaps in the sense 'newly cultivated land', alternating with OE *lone* 'lane'.

COOMBES, THE a coppice ½ mile south of Ashley (SJ 7535). Early spellings have not been traced, but probably from the plural of OE *cumb* 'short spoon-shaped valley': hatchuring on the the first edition 1" O.S. map shows what seems to be a group of short well-defined valleys here.

COOMBESDALE 1 mile north-east of Maer (SJ 8038). ? *Lechombas* 13th century D593/B/1/6/1D/3, *Coomes* 1676 SHC 1914 16, *Coombs Hole*, *Coombs Roughs* 1833 O.S, *Cooms Hole* 1832 Teesdale, *Coombs* 1872 P.O. From the plural of OE *cumb* 'short spoon-shaped valley', with the recent addition of modern *dale*. The place lies in a steep hollow. *Combeshurst*, *Cumbesiches*, recorded in c.1300 (SHC 1913 239), appear to have been in the Whitmore/Limepits area.

COOPERS GREEN (obsolete) 1 mile west of Audley (SJ 7850). *Coopers Green* 1612 SHC 1944 83, 1733 *ibid.* 3.

COPLEY 1 mile south-west of Pattingham (SO 8198). *Copley* 1314 VCH XX 173, 1490 SRO D593/A/1/18/18, 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 186, 1686 Plot, 1695 Morden, 1752 Rocque, 1833 O.S. From OE *cop(p)* 'a summit, a peak', in dialect 'a mound, a ridge of earth', with OE *lēah* or (perhaps more likely) OE *hlāw* 'tumulus' (of which there are others in this area: see Kingslow; Stanlow), so 'the peak or summit with the burial mound'. The tendency to substitute *-ley* for *-low* is not uncommon in Staffordshire.

COPLOW a tumulus between Camp Hills and Berth Hill, near Maer: Plot 1686 409. Coplow 1686 Plot 1686: 409. From OE *cop(p)* 'a summit, a peak', in dialect 'a mound, a ridge of earth', with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', so perhaps 'the summit with the tumulus'.

COP MERE 2 miles west of Eccleshall (SJ 8029). *Cockesmere* 1250 SHC IV 116, *Cokemere* c.1272 SHC IV 189, 1278 SHC 1911 35, *Cokkemere* 1274 SHC 1921 22, *Corkemear* 1606 Eccleshall ParReg, *Cockemayer* 1608 *ibid*, *Cockmere* 1651 *ibid*, *Cop Meer* 1747 Bowen, *Cockmere* 1775 Yates, *Cop Mere* 1833 O.S. The early forms suggest that the first word is from OE *cocc* 'cock, a wild bird', with OE *mere* 'pool'. *Cokkesmere* near Stapenhill, Burton-upon-Trent, is recorded in 1462 (SHC 1937 173), but has not been identified.

COPNAL (obsolete, on the east side of Shobnall (?SK 2423). *Copnal* c.1758 SRO DW1734/2/3/136. Perhaps the same derivation as Coppenhall (q.v.).

COPPEDLOWE CLOUGHS a deep ravine on the north side of Thorncliff (SK 0158). *Cowpedelowe Clowe* c.1280 SHC 1911 442, *le coppedlowesclogh* 1353 VCH VII 233. Perhaps from OE **coppod-hlāw* 'the flat-topped tumulus', from OE **coppian* 'to pollard', in this case meaning 'having had the top removed, polled, reduced'. See also Clough. *Le Coppedelowe* also occurs as a field-name in Derbyshire: Gelling 1988: 134.

COPPENHALL in Penkridge parish, 3 miles south-west of Stafford (SJ 9019). *Copehale* 1086 DB, *Coppenhale* c.1187 SHC II 261, *Kopenhale* 1235 SHC 1911 387, *Coppenhull*, *Copenhale* 1243 *ibid*. 395, 399, *Coppenhale* 1323 *ibid*. 98, *Copenhull* 1383 Rees 1997: 172. 'Coppa's *halh*' (cf. Coppenhall, Cheshire). See also Copnal.

COPPY HALL (obsolete, 1 mile north of Aldridge (SK 0602)). *Coppye hall* 1596 SHC 1932 235, *Coppie Hall* 1597 *ibid*. 256, *Coppiehall* 1608 SHC 1948-9 84, *Copyhall* 1767 SRO D1317/1/15/7/35, *Coppy Hall* 1775 Yates. Perhaps 'hall at the coppice'. It is unclear whether *Coppice Hall*, recorded in 1663 (SHC II (ii) 58), refers to this place.

COPSHURST 1 mile south of Longton (SJ 9240). *Copt hurst*, *Coppehurst*, *Copte hurst* c.1555 SHC 1910 74-6, *Cobshurst* 1836 O.S. Perhaps from OE **coppod*, from OE **coppian* 'to pollard', and OE *hyrst* 'hill, wood, wooded hill, so giving 'the wood on the hill with the pollarded trees'.

CORBIN'S HALL (obsolete) in Kingswinford (SO 8888). *Corbyns hall* 1650 Guttery 1950: 10, *Corbins-hall* 1686 Plot 212, *Corbin's Hall* 1798 Yates. 'Which took its name from the owners thereof': Shaw 1801: II 228. The place was acquired by marriage by Thomas Corbin in 1291: *ibid*. A genealogy of the Corbin family is given in Shaw 1801: II 230.

CORBRIDGE (unlocated, near Syerscote (? SK 2106)). *Corbrigge* 1302 SHC VII 97, *Corbrugge* 1302 *ibid*. 108. This name is linked to Syerscote in the 1302 records, but the place has not been identified. Bridge Cottages lie 1 mile south-west of Syerscote, and may be associated with the name, the precise meaning of which is uncertain.

CORNBRIDGE (unlocated) It appears that the bridge lay on the river Trent to the west of King's Bromley: SHC V (i) 176; Shaw 1798: I 132. *Cornbrugge* 1290 SHC XI NS 176, 1297 SHC I 213,

Cornbrug 1300 SHC V (i) 176, *Cornbrigge* 1455 SHC III NS 216. Probably from the OE bird-name *corn*, modern *crane*, or perhaps 'the bridge over which corn was carried'. It seems likely however that *Cornbrugge* 1266 (SHC IV 162) refers to Combridge, as may some of the above forms.

CORNPARK 1 mile south-east of Swinscoe (SK 1447). *Corn Park Farm* 1771 Okeover F425, *Corn Park* 1798 Yates.

COSELEY 3 miles south-east of Wolverhampton (SO 9493). ? *Coleshai* 1204 SHC III (i) 102, *Colseleye* 1292 Inq, *Colseleie* 1317 SHC 1928 27, *Coleseley* 1325 (1801) Shaw II 214, *Colseleye* 1336 SHC 1928 33, *Colseleghe* 1357 Hackwood 1898: 4, *Colseley*, *Coulsley*, *Colsley*, later *Coseley* 1357 to 1664 Duig, *Colsley* 1680 BCA MS3549/262. Probably 'the wood from which charcoal was obtained', from OE *col* 'charcoal', rather than from the OE personal name Cole or Col, with OE *lēah*.

COTES 4 miles north of Eccleshall (SJ 8335). *Cota* 1086 DB, *Cotis* 1260 SHC IV 142, *Cotes* 1280 SHC 1911 37, 1299 *ibid.* 257, 1308 *ibid.* 299, *Cotetes* 1324 *ibid.* 361, *Cottes* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 104, *Cootes* 1585 SHC 1928 163, *Cotes* 1590 SOT SD4842/17/6, *Coats* 1702 Eccleshall ParReg, *Coates* 1834 O.S. From plural forms of OE *cot* 'cottage, hut, shelter'. *Cotelandis*, recorded c.1130 (SHC II 204) may refer to this place, or Coton to the east of Stone, or may be an unlocated place.

COTON 6 miles east of Stone (SJ 9732), *Cote* 1086 DB, ? *Cottin* 1598 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg;

COTON 1 mile north-east of Stafford (SJ 9324), *Cote* 1086 DB, *Cotes* 1209 Cur, *Kotes juxta Stafford* 1235 Fees, *Coton* 1285 FA, *Cotus* 1292 SHC II NS 148; **COTON** in Wiggington, 1½ miles north-west of Tamworth (SK 1805), *Coten* 1313 Ipm, *Cotoun* 1324 SHC X 48, ? *Cawton* c.1570 SHC IX NS 238; **COTON** 1 mile south-west of Gnosall (SJ 8120), *Coten* 1327 SR, *Coton* c.1260 MRA, *Coton juxta Gnoushale* 1346, 1358 Banco, *Cotton*, *Coton* 1557 VCH IV 126; **COTON CLANFORD** 3 miles west of Stafford (SJ 8723), *Cote* 1086 DB, *Coton* 1291 Tax, 1356 SHC XII 130, *Cotun juxta Claneford*, *Cotus juxta Claneford* 1298 SHC IV 278, *Coton (Hayes)* 1414 Inq, *Coton juxta Clanford* 1421 BCA MS3525/Acc1935-043; **COTON IN THE CLAY** 1 mile north-east of Draycott in the Clay (SK 1729), *Cotton Bache* 1627 SRO D1522/1, *Coton* 1686 Plot, 798 Yates, *Coton in the Clay* 1836 O.S.; **COTON** 1½ miles north-east of Alveley (SO 7786), in Shropshire since the 12th century, *Coton* 1833 O.S.; **COTON** (obsolete, in Goldthorn Hill, Upper Penn, south of Wolverhampton (SO 9196)), *Cotes*, *Haye of Cotes temp.* King John Eyton 1881: 35, *Cotes* 1273 SHC 1911 154, *Coton* 1327 SHC VII (i) 249, 1332 SHC X (i) 126, *Cotone in Overpenne* 1375 SHC 1928 62, *Coton* 1457 *ibid.* 62; **COTON (HALL)** 1 mile north-east of Alveley (SO 7786), *Cotton Hall* 1752 Rocque, *Coton*, *Coton Hall* 1833 O.S. (in Shropshire since the 12th century). From OE *cot* 'cottage, shelter, hut' (*cotan* 'cottages'). *Clanford* is from the place of this name (q.v.) in Seighford; *Bache* is unexplained, unless from OE *bece* 'a stream or steep-sided valley'. *Cote*, recorded in DB, is clearly to be identified as Trescott (see SHC 1916 104; VCH IV 45), which was held by the church of Wolverhampton, under which it is listed in DB, even though Coton south of Wolverhampton lies closer to Bushbury and Tettenhall, the entries for which precede and follow it in DB: see VCH IV 45; SHC 1916 104. *Cotes* and the *Haye of Cotes* recorded *temp.* King John (? *Cotetes* 1324 SHC 1911 361) which lay against the boundary of Penn (Eyton 1881: 35, 67), may be Coton south of Wolverhampton. See also Trescott. *Showcotone* near Mansty is recorded in 1588 (SHC 1928 164-5), but has not been located.

COTON END Gnosall (SJ 8020). *Cotenend* 1573 Ct, *Cootenende* 1619 ParReg, *Coaten End* 1773 WALS DX3/11. 'The end quarter of Coton (q.v.)'. The word *end* did not mean a terminal point, but simply 'place', and was often waste or common land at the end of an inhabited area later used by squatters.

COTTON, NEAR & UPPER 2 miles south-west of Cauldon (SK 0646 & 0547). ? *Cotton* 1277 SHC 1911 30, *Cawton* 1610 Speed, *Cotton* 1686 Plot, *Upper Cotton*, *Nether Cotton* 1798 Yates. From OE *cotan* 'cottages'. It has been suggested that this place is to be associated with *Chotes*, recorded in 1176 (VCH III 226), the site of an early monastic house transferred to Croxden (q.v.) in 1179 (CEC 208), but there is no philological evidence to support the association.

COTWALL END ½ mile south-west of Sedgley (SO 9192). ? *Cottewwelle* c.1270 SHC 1941 78, *Cutwalle* 1327 SHC VII (i) 248, *Cotwalle End* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 115, *Cotwalend* 1578 Sedgley ParReg, *Cottwallend* 1591 SHC XVI 107, *Cotwall end* 1834 O.S. The spellings point towards OE *cot*, *wælle*, giving 'the place of the cottage or shelter with the spring'. Hackwood 1898: 105 states that 'the ancient name of Upper or Over Gornal is 'Sheep Cotwall' as appears by the Court Rolls', in which case 'the [sheep]cot wall' or 'the spring or stream at the [sheep]cot', but no evidence has been traced to support such derivation.

COTWALTON 2 miles north-east of Stone (SJ 9234). *Cotewaltune* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Codeuualle*, *Cotewoldestvne* 1086 DB, *Codewalton* 1176 SHC I 229, SHC XII NS 91, *Cotwaldeston* 1679 *ibid.* 86. The first element may be OE *cot* 'cottage, hut, shelter', or possibly the personal name Cotta, with OE *wald* 'wood' (a very rare element in Staffordshire), or (perhaps more likely), a stream-name with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', to which was added *tūn*.

COUDRY, CAWDRY (unlocated) in Bradnop. *Coudray* 1214-7 SHC 1913 314, CEC 371, *Cawdry* 1222 SHC 1911 423, *Le Coudray* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *Coundrey* c.1240 SRO DW1761/A/4/9-10, *Coudray* 1241, c.1265 SHC 1911 438, 1271 SHC V (i) 145, *Coudry* c.1250 SHC *ibid.* 426, *Koudrai* 1281 *Antrobus*, *la Coudrey* 1284 SHC VI (i) 140, *Cowdray* 1284 SHC XI 333, *Coudre* 1293 SHC VI (i) 224, *Coudrey* 1402 SHC XI NS 213, *Cowaderey* 1451 SHC III NS 194, *Cowdrey* 1776 *Butterton EnclA*, *Caudery* 1811 Census. Camden 1674: 129 notes 'Couldray, that is, Haslewood'; White 1834: 713 suggests that *Caudery* is recorded in association with Rudyard; and Sleigh 1883: 124 states that Cawdry adjoined Onecote, which seems to be confirmed by *Coudr(ey) Onecoat*, recorded in 1307 (SHC XI NS 257) - possibly there was more than one place of this name, which is from OFr *coudraie* 'a hazel copse': cf. Cowdray Park, Sussex. Clark observes 'There seems little reason to doubt that among literate English people of the mid-thirteenth century Old French co(u)dre and co(u)draie could have been familiar enough to have sprung to the mind of a dog-Latinist improvising terms for landmarks': Jackson 1995: 369.

COUNSLOW 1½ miles east of Cheadle (SK 0342). *Cundeslowe* 1284 SHC 1911 186, *Conndeslowe* 1318 SRO D1275/2, *Counesley* 1409 SHC XI NS 54, *Cownslowe* 1598 SHC XVI 185, *Cowneslowe* 1605 SHC 1940 270, *Comslowe* 1609 SHC III NS 52, *Counslow Plantation* 1836 O.S. The first element appears to be an unidentified personal name (perhaps Cundhere or similar), but see also

Scounslow Green (to which some of the spellings may relate). The second element is OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus'. The place lies on a hill of 829'.

COVELE (unlocated, possibly Cowley, near Gnosall.) *Covele* 1314 SHC XII NS 278.

COVEN (pronounced coh-vun [kəʊvən]) 2 miles south-east of Brewood (SJ 9006). *Cove* 1086 DB, *Couena* 1175, *Couene* 1176 P, *Koven* 1236 Fees, *Covene* 1242 Fees, *Cone* 1262-72 SHC 1939 30, *Covewode* 1283 SHC 1911 41, *Covene (wode)* 1311 SHC X 11, *Kovene* 1332 SR (p), *Covun* 1342 Wodehouse, *Cowyn* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 85. The meaning of this name remains unresolved: the root is generally held (see e.g. Ekwall 1960: 126; Oakden 1984: 37) to be OE *cofa*, dative plural *cofum* (later *cofan*), 'an inner chamber, a cell', a meaning well-attested in OE literary sources in compounds such as *bed-cofa* 'bed-chamber', *hord-cofa* 'treasure-chamber', etc. It is not until much later that the meanings 'hollow in a rock, cave, cove' become evident. The meaning 'small bay, cove, inlet' is not recorded by OED before 1590, and 'a sheltered place amongst hills or woods' not before 1786, although a reference to *þe coue* in the medieval poem *The Wars of Alexandrer* (line 5422), seemingly with the meaning 'vale' (Elliott 1984: 104) may be noted. The usual meaning 'chamber' is normally taken to include 'shelter, hut', with 'cave', or 'recess in the steep side of a hill' in later place-names, and the word may be connected with Middle Low German *cove*, *coven*, Modern German *koven*, ON *kofi* 'cell, hut, shed', Swedish *kofva*, dialect *kove*, *kuvi*, Norwegian *kove* 'hut'. None of the topographical meanings fits the local landscape of gently undulating countryside near the meandering river Penk. The accepted derivation for Runcorn (*Rumcofan* ASC, *Rumcofa* 1086) is 'wide or roomy bay', although that derivation would long pre-date the supposed age of 'cove' in the OED. *Cofa* may conceivably be associated with streams or water, perhaps '(place at) the coves or inlets or creeks', from some now obscure features in the nearby river Penk, possibly a widening on the south side of the river on the north-west side of the village, where the riverside meadows are low-lying: Ekwall 1960: 114 suggests that the element which occurs in Cobham, Surrey refers to a river bend. Cove in Hampshire (*Cove* DB) is, interestingly, also in level countryside for which the conventional topographical meaning would be inappropriate. As here, the derivation remains uncertain (see Coates 1989: 60), and tends to support the possibility that the name may be connected with some impermanent non-topographical feature. There is a reference to '*the wood of Covenhue*' (cf. *Covewode*, *Covene wode* above) in Whittington near Kinver (a place known for its ironworks: see VCH II 108) in an undated charter SRO T p.1273/12 Bk of Dds of Evidences 13, and Yates' map 1775 shows *Covern Brook* in the same area, but no obvious feature to account for the element has been noted there. A *Cove Wood* is also recorded on a tributary of the Coundmoor Brook in Harnage (Shropshire) in the 19th century: PN Sa II 132. Those associations with 'wood' (cf. Conholt, Wiltshire, *Covenholt* 1251) may provide some clue to the derivation of the name. The name *Karrecoein* is recorded in 1195 (Pipe), and may be associated with this place: see Kiddemore Green. *Covencestor*, recorded in 1268 (SHC 1911 141) has not been located. See also Cover river (Ekwall 1928: 100). *Pencovan*, possibly in Herefordshire, is recorded in 757x796: Finberg 1972: 140, and *stancofan*, recorded in the bounds of Old Swinford in 951x955 (S.579, 16th century) is tentatively interpreted by Hooke 1990: 162, 165 as 'stone cave', perhaps meaning the remains of a

prehistoric burial chamber (on which see also Featherstone, which lies a mile or so south-east of Coven).

COVEN LAWN 1 mile south of Coven (SJ 9005). *Coven Lawn* 1834 O.S. See Coven. *Lawn* is from ME *launde* 'an open space in woodland, a forest glade, woodland pasture', meaning in this area 'a cleared passage in woodland': cf. Blymhill Lawn and Langley Lawn.

COWALL 1 mile south east of Biddulph (SJ 9055). *Couhale* 1325 SHC 1911 366, 1327 SHC VII (i) 206, *Couhale*, *Cowale*, *Kowale*, *Couwale* 1348x1369 Tunstall Ct, *Cowall* 1594 SHC 1934 17. From OE *cū* 'cow' with OE *halh*, dative *hale*.

COWHAY 1 mile west of Warslow (SK 0658). *Cowhey* c.1615 SRO D3272/1/17/4/6-8, *Cow Hay* 1697 Leek ParReg. From OE *cū* 'cow' and Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'enclosure'. See also Ballington.

COWLEY 1 mile south of Gnosall (SJ 8219). *Covelav* 1086 DB, *Culeg'* 1215 MRA, *Kuleg(a)* 1199 Ass (P), *Couleg'* 1225 Cur, *Coulee* 1292 SHC VI (i) 226, *Cullega* 1293 *ibid.* 289, *Coule* frequently 12th and 13th century Duig, *Couleye* 1324 SHC 1911 101, *Caweleye* 1327 SHC VII 239. The DB form is probably to be read as *Coue-*, so probably from OE *cū* 'cow', with OE *lēah*, but Ekwall 1960: 126 suggests that some Cowleys may contain a descriptive first element, noting that Cowleys are near hills (this place lies in undulating countryside), and that there may have existed an OE word for a hill cognate with Norwegian *kuv* 'a rounded top', or even a word denoting something obtained from a wood, for example an OE **cufl* 'a block of wood, a log, a stump', similar to Swedish *kubb* 'a log'.

COWLEY ½ mile south-east of Hamstall Ridware (SK 1018). *Cuweleye* 1266 SHC IV 163, *Cowley* 1279 (1798) Shaw I 152, *Couleye* 1285 *ibid*, *Coulee* 1327 *ibid*, *Cowleas* 1585 SHC 4th Series 9 13, *Cowley* 1798 *ibid*, *Cowley (Hill)* 1834 O.S. See Cowley near Gnosall. This place has been identified as *Rideware* (DB): VCH IV 52 fn.50. From OE *cū* 'cow', with OE *lēah*. An unlocated *Cuweleye* (Park) is recorded in 1266: SHC IV 163.

COWLOW in Holme End (SK 1059). *Calah* 1659 Alstonefield ParReg, *Cowloe* 1600 *ibid*, *Calowe* 1655 *ibid*, *Calah* 1658 *ibid*, *Cawlan* 1690 *ibid*, *Cawlaw* 1701 *ibid*, *Cawla* 1711 *ibid*, *Cawlow* 1715 *ibid*, *Cawlo* 1750 *ibid*, *Cawley*, *Cauley* 1767 *ibid*, *Cawlow* 1839 *EnclA*, *Cow low* 1840 O.S., *Cow Low* 1861 Bateman. Possibly from OE *cā* 'jackdaw', with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus'.

COWPERS GREEN (unlocated, in or near Audley.) *Cowpers Greene* 1577 Audley ParReg, *Coupers Greene* 1584 *ibid*. In Northern dialect a cowper is one who barter, deals, buys and sells: OED.

COXENGREEN on south side of Butterson (SK 0756). *Coxe Greene* 1616 FF, *Coxen Green* 1838 O.S. 'Cox's Green'.

CRABTREE (unlocated, in Wolstanton.) *Crabbetre* 1379 Pape 1928: 200, *Crabtree* 1619 Biddulph ParReg, *the Crabtree* 1672 *ibid*. 'The crab-apple tree'. An early example of the name: see EPNE i 110.

CRACKLEY BANK on Watling Street, ½ mile south of Sheriffhales (SJ 7610). *Crackeley banke* 1664 Sheriffhales ParReg, *Crackley banck* 1679 SHC 1919 243, *Crackley-bank* 1686 Plot 400, *Crackley Banke* 1692 Sheriffhales ParReg. The name is recorded c.1603: TSAHS LXXXVI 2001 75. Perhaps from OE **craca* 'a crow, a raven', with OE *lēah*. The suggestion in Duignan 1902: 116 that

the name is from a Germanic or Celtic word meaning 'boundary' is baseless, though the place lies on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border.

CRACOW MOSS 1 mile south-west of Betley (SJ 7447). *Cracalmosse* 1360 AD, 1429 *ibid*, *le Cracalmos* 1373 *ibid*, *Craca Moss* 1695 Betley ParReg, *Cracamoss* 1696 *ibid*, *Creca Moss* 1832 Teesdale, *Creka Moss* 1842 TA. Moss is from OE *mos* 'bog, marsh, swamp'. The first part of the name may be from OE **craca* 'a crow, a raven', with OE *halh* (note the adjoining name Ravenshall (q.v.)), but the spellings would also support a derivation from the surname Crachale (see DES 114). Corruption of the name has occurred, with the common loss of the medial *l*, influenced by Cracow (Krakow), Poland.

CRADDOCKS MOSS 1 mile east of Betley (SJ 7748). *Cradocks Mosse* 1733 SHC 1944 26. From the Cradock family: see SHC 1944 26ff. Moss here means 'bog, swamp, marsh', from OE *mos*.

CRADLEY HEATH (pronounced Crayd-lee [kreɪdli:]) 2 miles south-west of Rowley Regis near the Worcestershire border (SO 9486). From Cradley in Worcestershire, *Cradelei* 1086 DB, *Crandelega*, *Cradelega* 1179 SHC I 93, 96, *Cradelega* 1180-8 P *passim*, *Cradelea* c.1189 SHC II 2, *Cradele* 1204 SHC SHC III (i) 95, *Cradeleg'* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxvi, *Cradele(ye)* 1272 Ct, 1273 SHC IX (ii) 27, 1275 *Ass*, 1485 *Pat*, *Cratley* 1749 Bowen. The first element is probably an OE personal name **Crad(d)a* or *Cradel*, or (less likely) from OE *cradol* 'cradle', a word which seems originally to have meant something plaited or woven, perhaps here used for a place which provided material for making hurdle fences, or (as suggested by PN Wo 294) because with high ground to the north and south it lay in a cradle of land. The second element is OE *lēah*. The place, on the banks of the river Stour, was formerly an area of heathland.

CRAKELOWE ½ mile south-east of Sheen (SK 1160). *Crychelaw* (p) 1535 SHC 1912 79, *Crichelowe* (p) c.1556 SHC 1939 235, *Crycheloe* 1570 Alstonefield ParReg, *Crychloe* 1587 *ibid*, *Crychlow*, *Crichlowe* (p) 1598 SHC 1935 157, 173, *Crichlow* 1784 SHC 1947 85. The spellings indicates a derivation from OE *cryc* (from British *crŭc*) 'a hill' with OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', giving 'the hill with the tumulus'. It is possible that some or all of the spellings do not relate to this place, but the surname Crichloe is strongly associated with Sheen: see for example SHC 1925 203-4. If they do, the change from Crich- to Crane- is remarkable.

CRAKEMARSH 2 miles north of Uttoxeter (SK 0936). *Crachemers* 1086 DB, *Krakemers* 1235 SHC 1911 387, *Krakemerz* 1236 Fees, *Crakemers* 1242 Fees, *Crakemershe* 13th century Duig, *Crakemarche* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 5, *Craykemarsshe* c.1569 SHC 1926 109. From OE **craca* 'a crow or a raven', with OE *mersc* 'a marsh', hence 'marsh of the crows or ravens'. The place is in an area which is particularly flat and poorly-drained. Duignan 1902: 46 suggests that *crake* as part of a place-name is not found elsewhere south of Yorkshire. See, however, Crateford, in Brewood.

CRANE BROOK 4 miles south of Lichfield. *Cronebrouk* 1300 SHC V (i) 178, *Crone-brook* 1308 (1801) Shaw II 58. From OE *cran*, *cron*, in West Midlands perhaps meaning 'heron'. It is doubtful whether the crane was found in the Midland counties.

CRANMERE FARM 1 mile north of Worfield (SO 7597). *Cranmere (Farm)* c.1750 WRO 899:749/8782/83/v/1-75, *Cranmoor (Heath)* 1752 Rocque, *Cranmere* 1793 SRRC 2161/157-8. In Shropshire since the 12th century. From OE *cran*, *cron*, in the West Midlands possibly meaning 'heron', with OE *mōr*, probably here in the sense 'marshland'.

CRANMOOR 1½ miles north-east of Pattingham (SJ 8400). *Cranemore* 1088 SHC II 183, *Cranemere* 1598 SHC 1934 (ii) 11, *Cranmores (Oxe, Vpper & Calues)* 1634 map SRO D3548/1, *Cranmoor* 1686 Plot 214, *Cranmoor (Wood)* 1834 O.S. From OE *cran*, *cron* 'crane', perhaps in the West Midlands 'heron', with OE *mōr*, probably here in the sense 'marshland'. The 1843 Penn TA shows an area called *Cranmoor (Cronmore* 1324 (1801) Shaw II 210, *Cranmere* 1598 SHC 1934 (ii) 11, *Cranmoore* 1647 Survey) in Lower Penn, some 3 miles south-east of Cranmoor near Pattingham.

CRANNAGE (unlocated, in Worfield.) *Crannage* 1790 SRRC 445/241-2.

CRATEFORD 1 mile north-east of Brewood (SJ 9009). *Crakeford* 1327 SR (p), 1332 *ibid*, 1655 PCC, 1682 Browne, 1755 Bowen, *Crackford* 1660 PCC, *Crateford* 1834 O.S. 'The ford of the crows or ravens', from OE**craca*: see Crakemarsh. Another Crateford lies on the west side of the river Severn, ½ miles north-east of Chelmarsh (SO 7288), in Shropshire.

CRAWFORD (obsolete) on the east bank of the river Tame, 2 miles south-east of Whittington (SK 1806). *Crawford* 1834 O.S. An interesting name, possibly (if ancient) from Welsh *cryw* 'a ford'. Perhaps to be associated with *Crawelake*, *Crolake* recorded in 1498 and 1506 (OSS 1936 49-51), but the trackway leading to the west bank of the river Tame from the direction of Whittington is recorded as *Caldefordwey* 'cold ford way' c.1300 (TSSAHS XX 1978-9 loose map), so the name may be a corruption of Caldeford.

CRAWLEY on the south side of King's Bromley (SK 1216). *Crawley* 1744 SRO D357/A/4/1-7. From OE *crāwe lēah* 'the wood where crows nested'.

CRAWLEY BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. See Crawley.

CRAYTHORNE ½ mile south-east of Rolleston (SK 2426). This name may be associated with *greatan þorne* 'great thorn', a boundary mark in a charter relating to Rolleston of 1008 AD (14th century, S.920). The 1837 TA map gives the name *Craythorne Field*: Hooke 1983: 95.

CREAME (unlocated, in Worfield parish.) *Creame* 1815 SRRC 2161/113-4.

CREIGHTON 2 miles north-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0836). *Crectone* 1166 RBE, *Creighton* 1222 Ass, *Cratton* 1241 Duig, *Cracton* 1242 Fees, *Creghton* 1327 SHC XI 139, *Creygthon* 1337 SHC 1913 59, *Creghton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 4, *Croyton*, *Croyton (parke)* 1645 SHC 4th Series I 250, *Chreton* 1666 SHC 1925 225. From OWelsh *creic*, Welsh *craig* 'a rock', with OE *tān*. The 1222 and 1327 spellings indicates that the root is unlikely to be OE *cræt* 'cart'.

CRESSWELL FARM on the north-west side of Brewood (SJ 8809). *Creswell's Barn* 1834 O.S. From the Creswell family who farmed here from at least the 17th century: see SHC 1919 240.

CRESSWELL Ancient Parish. A lost medieval village, marked only by fragments of a 12th century stone chapel, 2 miles north-west of Stafford (SJ 8826), *Kersewell*, *Karsewell* 1203 SHC III 78-9, *Kerseuell* c.1206 SHC 1928 280, *Keyeswell* late 13th century SRO 3764/114[36347], *Cresswall* c.1595 Erdeswick 1844: 139; **CRESSWELL** on the river Blithe, 1 mile south-west of Draycott in the Moors (SJ 9739), *Cressvale* 1086 DB, *Cresswellam* c.1160 SHC III (i) 224, *Cresswella* 1190 P, *Creswal* c.1238 (1798) Shaw I xxvi, *Cresswelle* 1242 SHC I 228, *Crestewall* 1284 *ibid*, *Kersewelle* 1288 SHC 1911 194, *Creswall* 1611 SHC IV NS 13; **CRESSWELL GREEN** 2 miles west of Lichfield (SK 0710), *Cressewalle* 1380 VCH XIV 199, *Cressewelle* 1381 SHC XVII 178, *Cresswell Green* 1834 O.S.; **CRESSWELL** (unlocated, near Tettenhall), *Cressewalle* 1321 SHC X 37, *Cressewall* 1332 *ibid*. 131, *Creswall* 1539 SHC VI NS (i) 64. From OE *cærse* 'cress, watercress', with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', hence 'watercress spring'. Lewis 1849: I 724 records a 'copious spring' at Cresswell near Draycott in the Moors. Cresswell Ford (possibly *Karsewalle* recorded in 1293: SHC VI (i) 229), lies 2 miles to the north of Cresswell near Draycott (SJ 9743), and Cresswell's Piece 4 miles north-west (SJ 9545). The latter is likely to be from a personal name. *Cressewalle* in Whitmore is recorded in the early 14th century: SHC 1913 250.

CRISTAGE (unlocated, below Ribden.) *Cristage* 1686 Plot 89. An interesting name, probably from OE *Crist-æc* 'Christ's oak', with the second element in the dative form (though the absence of the genitive -s is curious), perhaps here meaning 'Christ's cross', an oak or cross at which the gospel was preached: cf. Cressage, Shropshire. The location of the place has not been traced; it is unclear whether there is any association with *Hoftons Cross* (q.v.).

CRISTEBRUGGE (unlocated, in Hatherton.) *Cristebrugge*, *Crysbrygge* ? 14th century SHC 1928 140-1. Possibly to be associated with *Kestbridge meadow but now known as Russells Meadow* recorded in 1813 (SRO D260/M/T/5/1).

CROFTIS (unlocated, perhaps to be associated with West Croft Plantation, 2 miles north-west of Wheaton Aston (SJ 8213).) *Croftis* 1279 SHC 1911 176.

CROKEMAREBOTH, CROKEMAREHOUS (unlocated, possibly in Audley). *Crokemareboth*, *Crokemarehous* 1308 SHC XI NS 264-5. Perhaps from ME *crook* 'to bend, to curve', with OE (ge)*mære* 'boundary', so 'the booth or house at the place where the boundary changes direction'.

CROMER HILL 1 mile south of Milwich (SJ 9631). *Crammer Hill* 1781 SRO D637/1/2. If ancient, perhaps from OE *cran*, *cron* 'a crane', or (more likely) 'a heron', with OE *mere* 'pool', so 'the hill at the mere or pool with the heron', although no pool appears on the modern map. OE *mere*, and *mōr* 'upland; moorland; marsh', often become interchanged in place-names, and may have done so here.

CROMSLEY (obsolete) 1 mile north-west of Bagot's Bromley (SK 0527). *Cromburley* early 13th century SRO DW1721/3/11/3, *Cromberley Welle* c.1321 SRO DW1721/3/21/1, *Cromburleye* 1375 SRO DW1721/3/23/11, *Cromsley* 1724 Survey. Possibly from OE **crumbe* 'a bend, especially in a river or stream', with OE *lēah*: the place lay near Tad Brook and the river Blithe.

CROMWELL'S GREEN - see **OLIVER'S GREEN**.

CRONKHALL (unlocated) 1 mile north of Tettenhall (SJ 8801). *Cronkwall* c.1225, *Kronekwall* 1271 SHC V (i) 144, *Cronetwell* 1286 SHC 4th Series XVIII 151, *Crunkwelle* 1302 SHC VII 100, *Croukewall* 1332 SHC X 126, *Croukwalle* 1347 SHC 1913 120, *Crougwalle* 1357 SHC XII (i) 146, *Croucwall* 1402 SHC VI NS (ii) 199, *Crouggewall* 1413 SHC XVII 8, *Cronkhall Green* 1419 VCH XX 173, *Croukwall* 1463 SHC VI NS (ii) 209, *Crankewall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 147, *Crankall* 1591 SHC VI NS (ii) 286, *Cronckall* 1612 Codsall ParReg, *Cronkhall* 1834 O.S. The first element is likely to be OE *cranuc* 'a heron, or similar bird', with OE Mercian *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', but an alternative derivation may be from OE **cronc* 'a winding path, bent, crooked, twisted', with OE *wall*, *weall* 'wall', giving 'the crooked wall'. For completeness it may also be noted that an unrecorded OE personal name Crannuc has been postulated: see PN Ch I 107. Cf. Cronk Hill, Shropshire; Conksbury, Derbyshire; Crankland, Devon.

CRONK HILL, CRANK HILL 2 miles east of Wednesbury (SO 0194). *Crank Hall*, *Crankhall Farm* 1834 O.S. Possibly from OE *cranuc*, *halh* 'the nook or corner frequented by cranes', although a derivation from OE **cronc* 'a winding path, bent, crooked, twisted', cannot be ruled out: the word is not recorded in England before 1552, but Duignan 1902: 46-7 records that the base of the hill is noticeably tortuous. Cf. Cronkhall. *Cronk Hill* appears 1 mile east of Upper Elkstone (SK 0659) on the first edition O.S. map of 1842. Earlier forms have not been traced. There is also a Cronk Hill in Atcham, Shropshire. The fact that the first element is not uncommonly found with 'hill' suggests that a derivation from **cronc* may be more likely.

CRONKLEDGE (unlocated, in Warslow.) *Cronkeslach* 1633 Rental, *Cronklach* 1660 Alstonefield ParReg, *Chronklidge* 1685 *ibid*. From OE *cranuc*, **lece* 'the boggy stream frequented by cranes'.

CROSS O' TH' HANDS (obsolete, near Ashmore Brook.) *Cross-o'th'hand* 1664 (1798) Shaw I 316, *Cross o'th' Hand* 1720 Bowen, *Cross in the Hand Close* 1766 SRO D661/4/13/2, *Cross o' the Hand Piece* 1767 SRO D 615/D/235/2, *the Cross-o'th'Hand* 1798 Shaw I 316. From a direction post in the form of a cross with a hand mentioned in the later 15th century. A post is recorded here in 1675, but had gone by 1828: VCH XIV 203. The post, which stood on the boundary of the city of Lichfield, is preserved in the name Cross in Hand Lane. See also Cross of the Hands.

CROSS OF THE HANDS 1 mile south-east of Abbots Bromley (SK 0822). *Cross in the Hand* 1775 Yates. Perhaps from a sign-post with traditional finger pointers which may have stood on the island in the centre of this crossroads. See also Cross o' th' Hands. Cf. Cross o' th' Hands, Hlland, Derbyshire (PN Db 576).

CROWBOROUGH 1 mile east of Biddulph (SJ 9057). *Crowebarewe* 1298 SHC XI NS 253, *Crowbarwe hows* 1299 SHC NS XI 253, *Crowebarwe* 1359 SHC XII 166, 1391 SHC XVI 29-30, *Crowbaro* 1514 JNSFC LX 1925-6 36, *Crowborow* 1634 Biddulph ParReg, *Crowbery* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 258, *Crowburrough* 1733 SHC 1944 11. 'Crow grove; rookery', from OE *crāwe* 'crow, raven', with OE *bearu* 'a wood'.

CROWCROFTS 1 mile north of Barlaston (SJ 8939). *Crowecroft* c.1342 SHC XI 312, *Crowcrofts* 1723 Barlaston ParReg, 1836 O.S., *Crow Croft* 1741 SRO D593/B/1/1/1. Possibly from OE *crāwe* 'a

crow', with OE *croft* 'a small enclosed field, a small enclosure of arable or pasture land, a pasture enclosure near a house', so 'the small pasture enclosure with the crows', but the first element may be the obsolete dialect word *crew(e)*, also found as *creuh*, *crow*, *crough*, *crue* (cf. Kidsgrove), meaning 'animal pen, sty, hovel, hut', giving 'the small pasture enclosure with the animal pen'.

CROWDICOTE (in Derbyshire) on east bank of the river Dove, ½ mile east of Longnor (SK 1065). *Crudcote* 1223 FF, *Croudecote temp.* John SHC 4th Series IV 73, c.1450 *ibid.* 225, *Croudecote* 1339 SRO 1110/1, *Crowde(n)cote* 1577 Saxton, *Crowdey Cote* 1775 Yates, *Crowdecote* 1840 O.S. Possibly from an unrecorded OE personal name *Crūda, hence 'Crūda's cottage': PN Db II 365. This place is said to have been a member of Wetton although situated on the Derbyshire side of the Dove: SHC 4th Series IV 73.

CROWESBRIDGE (obsolete, south of Hurst Hill, Coseley (SO 9393).) *Croksbridges* 1539 Survey, *Crowesbridge* 1637 Underhill 1941: 143. The place is said to have been near the junction of Upper Ettingshall Road and Coppice Road, and is also recorded as *Crows Britch*, *Croksbridge*, *Croksbritches*: Roper 1952. A curious name, the derivation of which is made difficult by the inconsistent forms, which suggest alternative names. The first element may be from the personal name Croc, with an uncertain second element: *bridge* is supported by the early forms, but there appears to have been no watercourse here, so possibly from OE *brāc* 'newly cultivated land'. *Crokebruge*, possibly in Marchington Woodlands, is recorded in 1482: Shaw 1798: I 86.

CROWGUTTER on the north-east side of Ipstones (SK 0250). *Crowgutter* 1650 BCA MS917/1556, 1668 Okeover T700, 1694 SHC 1947 64, 1775 Yates, *Crowgutter (Farm)* 1791 SRO D1134/18/1. See also Grimditch.

CROWHOLT 2 miles north-east of Cheddleton (SJ 9953). *Crowholt Farm* 1728 ParReg, *Crow Holt* 1837 O.S. From OE *crāwe*, *holt* 'the wood frequented by crows'.

CROWS HEATH (unlocated, near Rudge Heath.) *Crows Heath* 1806 SRRC 5586/13/5.

CROWTREES in Waterhouses (SK 0750). *Crowtrees* 1661 Ilam ParReg. '(the place) where crows nested'. Crowtrees in Elkstone is recorded c.1870 (*Rental*).

CROXALL Ancient Parish 6 miles north-east of Lichfield (SK 1913). *Crokeshalle* 942 (14th century, S.1606), *Crocheshalle* 1086 DB (listed in Derbyshire), *Croxhale* c.1200 DbCh, 1208 FF, 1259 SHC X NS I 269, *Crokeshal* 1209 Pleas, *Croxhall(e)* 1209 FF, 1296 Ipm, *Crokeshal(e)* 1239 FF, 1296 Ipm, *Crocsal(e)* 1276 RH, *Croxsale* 1291 Tax, *Croxall* 1577 Saxton. Perhaps 'Crōc's *halk*', although the early spellings with *-hall(e)* make a derivation from OE *h(e)all* 'hall', a rare element in Staffordshire, quite possible. Crōc is a Scandinavian name, originally a by-name from *krōkr* 'a hook': Ekwall 1960: 133. Part of Croxall (Oakley) was in Staffordshire in 1086. The remainder was transferred from Derbyshire in 1895. In 1934 Croxall parish and part of Alrewas were joined to the parish of Edingale to form the civil parish of Edingale: Youngs 1991: 409. See also PN Db 631-2.

CROXALL MILL ½ mile south of Croxall (SK 1912). *Myl(fylde)*, *Myl(meydowe)* 1541. See Croxall.

CROXDEN Ancient Parish 5 miles north-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0639). *Crochesdene* 1086 DB, *Crokesdene* ?1187x1194 CEC 208, *Crokesdene* 1212 Fees, *Crokesden* 1232 SHC IV 89, *Crokesdone* 1247 *ibid.* 109, *Crockesdene* 1290 SHC VI (i) 193, *Crokesdun*, *Crokesden* 1227 Duig. Probably from the personal name Crðc (cf. Croxall, Croxton), with OE *denu* 'valley'. Croxden abbey was known as *Hounds Chedull* abbey in 1543: TSSAHS XXXVII 1995-6 131 (see also Cheadle). There is some uncertainty about the history of Croxden parish - see Youngs 1991: 409.

CROXTON 4 miles north-west of Eccleshall (SJ 7831). *Crochestone* 1086 DB, *Croxton* 1327 SR, *Crofton* 1435 SHC XVII 151, *Croxson* 1583 *ibid.* 229. 'Crðc's *tūn*' (cf. Croxall, Croxden).

CRUMPWOOD FARM ½ mile east of Alton (SK 0842). *Crumpwood* 1742 SRO D240/D/91, *Crump Wood* 1775 Yates, *Crumpwood* 1836 O.S. Possibly from OE *crump*, a by-form of OE *crumb* 'crooked', or a family name Crumpe.

CRUMWITHIES 1 mile north-east of Ipstones (SK 0350). *Cromwitheyes* 1702 Okeover E5089, *Cromwillies* 1709 Okeover T739. Perhaps from OE *crumb* 'crooked', so 'the twisted withies or willows'.

CUCKOO LANE (FARM) on the south-east side of Withington (SK 0335). *Cucknow (Field)* 1788 SRO D543/B/3/1. The single spelling makes any derivation problematic, but the name is not necessarily from the bird: ME *cuck* meant 'to void excrement'.

CUCKOOSTONES 1½ miles north-west of Warslow (SK 0760). *Cuckoo Stone* 1840 O.S, c.1870 Rental. The precise meaning of the bird name here is unclear.

CUDEL(S)FORD unlocated, in Mucklestone: see Rees 1997: 84. *Cudelford*, *Cudeslesford*, *Chudelesford* c.1205 Rees 1997: 84, *Cudesleford*, *Cudeslesford* c.1305 *ibid.* 84. An interesting name, perhaps incorporating the OE personal name Cupwulf or similar.

CULLAMOOR (BIG, MIDDLE & LOWER) ½ mile south-east of Darlaston (SJ 9137, SJ 9138, SJ 9038), ?*Kellowe* 1596 SHC 1932 343, *Mayford Cullamores* 1701 SRO D/593/B/1/19/1, *Collow Moor* 1775 Yates, *Colmoor* 1798 Yates, *Coalamore Farm* 18th century SRO D3098/14/46, *Cull-moor* 1836 O.S.; **CULAMOOR** (obsolete) ½ mile south of Bucknall (SJ 9046), *Cole a Moore (House)*, *Collomoore* 1717 SRO D1798/590/16, *Culamoor* 1836 O.S., *Colamore* 1843 Ward 1843: 526. Difficult names. Perhaps from ME *colyer* 'charcoal maker, coal miner', hence 'moorland with the coal or charcoal worker' (the area overlies coal deposits - cf. *Colleyhale*, perhaps in the Cocknage area, recorded in 1495: SRO D593/B/1/23/7/1/9), but the lack of early spellings makes any derivation uncertain. Big Cullamoore is on steep and broken land. *Mayford* is Meaford, evidently applied to distinguish the place from other Cullamoors. *Coleamore* and *Colaymoor* are recorded in 1734 and 1746 respectively in Stoke ParReg, but it is unclear whether they refer to either of these two places. *the Cullinores* (on the Heath at Oulton, Stone) is recorded in 1699: SOT SD4842/42/42. *Colmoor*, on the north-east side of Hardings Wood, appears on Yates' map of 1775. Cullamore Lane (*Cullamore Lane* 1836 O.S.) is 1 mile south-west of Uttoxeter.

CULNEHILL (unlocated, near Munkford.) *Culnehill* 1274-90 SHC 1911 442. Presumably from OE *cyl(e)n* 'a kiln, a furnace for baking or burning', with OE *hyll* 'hill'.

CULVERDSLOW (obsolete, in Fenton (SJ 8944), 'on the Longton side of the former boundary between Fenton Culvert and Longton south of Grove Road': VCH VIII 205 fn.5.) *Culverdislow*, *Culverdslaw* 'Culverd's-low', from OE *hlāw* 'tumulus'. The name is found in a charter of the late 12th century: VCH VIII 212; SHC XII NS 12. The mound is also recorded as *Mole Cop*: VCH VIII 205, and *Cop Low*: TNSFC 1926 136. See also Fenton.

CUMBERFIELD (unlocated, in Seighford.) *Cumber Field* 1617 SRO D798/1/8/4, *Comberfield* 1652 SRO D798/1/8/7, *Cumbowe Field* c.1600 D748/1/8/7, *Cumber Field* 1617 SRO D798/1/8/4. From OE *cumbre*, borrowed from the PrWelsh form of modern Welsh *Cymro* 'Welshman', with OE *feld* 'open land', so originally perhaps 'the open land with the Welshmen'. The place is remembered in The Cumbers, a road in Seighford. Cf. Comberbach, Cheshire (PN Ch I 11; V (II) 297). See also Comberford; Cumberledge; Cumberstone Wood.

CUMBERLEDGE HILL a 671' hill on the west side of Cannock Wood, close to Castle Ring prehistoric hill-fort (SK 0412). The age of this name is unknown, but the surname Comberledge and similar is commonly found in the Walsall ParReg in the 16th and 17th centuries (see also SHC SHC 1923 140; SHC 1931 114), possibly from this place, which may be associated with Comberbach (q.v.). No place called Cumberledge is recorded in the adjoining counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire or Worcestershire, or has been traced elsewhere. The name suggests a derivation from OE *cumbra*, **lece* 'the boggy stream of the Welsh': see Cumberledge (Park).

CUMBERLEDGE (PARK) 1½ miles north-west of Cheddleton (SJ 9653). ? *Cumylache* 1539 SHC VI NS (i) 80, 1616 *ibid.* 18, ? *Comilatch* 1600 SHC 1935 266, ? *Cumberidge* (p) 1601 SHC 1935 393, ? *Comerlage* 1601 *ibid.* 309, ? *Comerledge* 1601 *ibid.* 361, ? *Cumberledge* (p) 1604 SHC 1940 173, ? *Comylache* 1606 SHC XVIII 54, *Cumberledge* 1635 Leek ParReg, *Cummerletch* (p) 1658 Leek ParReg, *Comilech* (p) 1666 SHC 1925 220, *Cumberledge Park* 1836 O.S. If the earlier spellings are to be relied on, then possibly from OE *cumbra*, **lece* 'the boggy stream of the Welsh'. See also Cumberledge Hill.

CUMBERSTONE (WOOD) 1½ miles north-east of Swynnerton (SJ 8637). *Cumbersome Hill* 'before 1830' VCH VI 100, *Cumberstone Hill* 1836 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but the first element may be from OE *cumbre*, borrowed from the PrWelsh form of modern Welsh *cymro* 'Welshman': the place is 3 miles north-west of Walton near Stone (q.v.), and 5 miles north-east of Walton near Eccleshall (q.v.). The second element may be OE *stān* 'a stone, a rock' (*cumbre* does not have -s in the genitive, so it could not be OE *tūn*), hence 'the Welshman's stone'. If so, the stone may be the *sceortan stane* (cf. Scortestona) mentioned in a charter of Darlaston 956 AD (12th century, S.601): Hart 1975: 178, but see also Hooke 1983: 88. However, *cumbersome* is recorded from the 18th century as meaning 'difficult of passage, presenting obstruction' when applied to places or ways (OED), and the present name may simply be 'the hill with the difficult way'.

CUMBER STETCH (unlocated, a field-name in Forsbrook.) *Cumber Stetch* 1841 TA. Earlier forms have not been traced, but is ancient possibly from OE *cumbre*, *stycce* 'the Welshman's meadow beside the stream', though it would be unsafe to rely on such a late spelling.

CUMBWELL BROOK a tributary of the river Smestow. *Cumbwelle* 1334 SHC 1928 138. From OE *cumb* 'short spoon-shaped valley' and 'a cup, vessel', perhaps found in place-names in a transferred topographical sense, with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (rarely) 'a stream', hence 'the spring or stream in the hollow', or perhaps 'the spring with the drinking cup': cf. Canwell. Beardwell (Wiltshire), Bedlars Green (Essex and Hertfordshire), Biddles (Berkshire), and Bidwell (Bedfordshire, Dorset, Northamptonshire and Somerset), are all names with OE *byden* 'a vessel, a tub, a butt' as the first element.

CUNITELEG (unlocated, in Cuttlestone Hundred, possibly near Haughton, or in the Maer area.) *Cuniteleg* 1234-40 (1798) Shaw I xxv, *Cunteleg* 1284 FA, *Cunleley* 1615 SHC NS IV 65. Possibly the same place as *Cunyton* recorded in 1208 (SHC III 173). The name may have as its root OE *cunet* or *cunete*, from British *cunētio* (cf. Cononley, West Yorkshire; Cound, Shropshire). See also Condelege.

CURBOROUGH 2 miles north of Lichfield (SK 1212). *Coreburhe* 1260 SHC X NS I 280, *Curborud* 1280 Ipm, *Curberue* 1280 SHC 1911 173, *Curbur'* 1285 FA, *Curburgh* 1290 (1798) Shaw I 119, *Corrun* 1291 StSt I 1988, *Corbrun* 1291 Tax, *Curburgh* 1291(1798) Shaw I 119, *Curborowe* 1293 *ibid*, *Little Carboru* 1297 SHC 1911 241, *Coreburgh* 1305 WL 59, *Corburgh* 1363 SHC X NS (ii)115, *Corburgh* 1392 SHC XV 44, *Curborowe*, *Curborough*, *Currebourgh* 14th century Duig, *Curborough Turvile* 1415 VCH XIV 233, *Curburn* 1428 FA, *Caurboro'* 1535 (1798) Shaw I 144, *Carborowe* 1540 *ibid*. *156, *Courboroughe-Somervyle*, *Courboroughe-Darvyle* 1567 SHC XVII 216, *Curborowe*, *Corborogh*, *Corboroughe* 1582 SHC XV 141, *Courboroughe Somervill*, *Courboroughe Darvile* otherwise *Courboroughe Dervill* 1601 SHC XVI 208. Ekwall 1960: 136, 137 explains this name as OE *cweorn burna* 'mill stream', with *cweorn* 'certainly' meaning here 'watermill', and *burna* replaced by *burg* 'fortification'; see also VCH XIV 229, but the forms do not conclusively support a derivation from *cweorn*. The identification of the first element must remain uncertain: Modern *cur* 'a dog' is not recorded in OE, but ME *curre* may possibly be found in some post-Domesday place-names, of which this may be one. If the second element was originally *burg* (the second 1280 spelling points towards OE *bearu* 'a wood, a grove'), it may be included in the list of possible sites of the unlocated DB *Burouestone* (q.v.): Shaw 1798: I 350 suggests that Curborough 'was antiently a member of the bishop's barony of Lichfield, as appears in Domesday Book...it was afterwards held of the manor of Longdon'. But there is no reference to Curborough in DB, and *Burouestone* is omitted from Shaw's list of DB names. Somervyle and Turvill (which later became Darvell or Darvile) were local families: John de Somerville held land in Little Curborough in the later 13th century, which by 1327 was known as Curborough Somerville (VCH XIV 278, 282), and Philip de Turvill was prebendary of Curborough 1309-37 (VCH XIV 233). VCH XIV 229 suggests that the two settlements of Great Curborough and Little Curborough are to be identified with the sites of what are now Curborough Hall Farm and Curborough House respectively. The former lies in a stream valley; the latter (from the hatching on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1834) on a long north-south ridge. Both places are named Curborough on that map. *Curborow* in Horton parish is mentioned in 1597 (Biddulph ParReg), but has not been traced.

CURSONS (unlocated, a manor in Alrewas.) *Curcun* 1203 SHC III 109, *Cursons* 1462 SHC NS IV 125.

CUTTESDON (unlocated, possibly in Sheriffhales, of which it was a member: see TSAS 3rd Series I 282; Eyton 1854-60: VII 286 fn.13.) *Cutteston juxta Hales* 1175 Eyton 1854-60: IX 163 fn.4, *Cuttested'* c.1226 Rees 1997: 107, *Cuttisd'* c.1227 *ibid.* 76, *Cuttledon* c.1228 *ibid.* 92, *Cutteston* early 14th century *ibid.* 153, *Couttesdon* c.1324 *ibid.* 156, ? *Cubbeston* 1547 SHC IV (ii) 123, TSAS 3rd Series VIII 1908 138, ? *Cubston* 1547 *ibid.* The second element is inconsistent, but the earliest spelling suggests OE *tūn*, alternating with OE *dūn* 'hill', so possibly '*Cutt's (or *Cūþ's) *tūn*', though that derivation must be very uncertain. In Shropshire since 1895. It is not likely that this place is the same as Kibblestone (q.v.), or DB *Cobintone* (q.v.); the other places with which it appears in SHC IV (ii) 123 show that it was almost certainly in or near Sheriffhales. See also Eyton 1864-60: VI 363, VII 388, VIII 286, XI 162, 163

CUTTLESTONE (*Hundredum de*) *Codwestan*, *Colvestan*, *Cudolvestan*, *Cudulvestan*, *Culvestan* 1086 DB, *Cuthulvestan*, *Cuthuluestan* 1203, 1227 Ass, *Cuthulfestan'* c.1255 RH, *Cuduluestan'*, *Cudeluestan'* 1130, 1185 *et freq* to 1202 P, *Kudolveston*, *Kudolvestan* 1199 Fees, 1199 Ass, *Codulvestan*, *Coduluestan* 1193 P, *Cuteluestan* 1187 P, *Cutolvestan* 1188 P. 'Cūþwulf's stone'. A more detailed discussion of the name will be found in the Introduction. See also Stretwyle.

DAB GREEN - see **PYE GREEN**.

DADNALL HILL (obsolete) 1 mile east of Pattingham (SO 8399). *Dadnall Hill* c.1650 VCH XX 173, 1801 Smith's map, *Dadnal Hall* 1808 Baugh, *Dodnall Hill* 1832 Teesdale. Possibly to be associated with *The Hill*, recorded in 1392: VCH XX 173. The derivation of the name is uncertain, but perhaps from an unidentified personal name with OE *halh*, or connected in some way with OE **dod* 'hill', represented by northern dialect *dod* 'rounded summit'.

DAFFODIL FARM (obsolete) 1½ miles east of Walsall (SO 0497). *Hurst's House* 1546 SHC XVII 175, *Hurst House or Wood End House* 1621 *ibid.* 175, *Daffodilly House* 1816 *ibid.* 175, *Daffodilly* 1834 O.S., *Daffydowndilly House* 1843 VCH XVII 175, *Daffodil Farm* 1907 O.S. Held by the Hurst family from the 14th century: VCH XVII 175, TSSAHS 1992-3 XXIV 50.

DAGDALE 2 miles west of Uttoxeter (SK 0534). *Dagdale* 1474 SRO D5684, 1480 SRO D5684/2, 1484 SRO D5684/2, 1503 SRO D5684/5, 1613 SHC IV NS 49, 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S., *Daggars Dale* 1656 Leek ParReg. A curious name, perhaps to be associated with *Dagdale Field*, recorded in Bramshall in 1851 (SBT DR636/32). The word *dag* was a dialect word used for light rain or heavy mist (EDD), so perhaps 'the misty valley', from OE *dæġ*. *Deggs Leasow* (*Deggs Leasow* 1836 O.S.) is 1 mile to the north-east (SK0635), but there is no evidence to connect the two names. *Tag Dale* (perhaps associated with the unlocated *Tag Moor*: SHC 1945-6 24), is recorded on the first edition 1" O.S. map in 1833 1 mile south-east of Mucklestone (SJ 7336). The history of the name is not known, but a possible derivation is OE **tacga*, *tegga* 'a teg or young sheep': see PN Wo 288; Foxall 1980: 43; but note also the surname Tag(g): the Tagge family of Chebsey is recorded in the 16th century (SRO D615/PM/1/4), and the surname appears frequently in Ellenhall ParReg.

DAGGER HALL a house that formerly stood at the junction of what is now Dagger's Lane and Salter's Lane, Mayers Green (SO 0292), demolished 1894-5: Hackwood 1895: 67; VCH XVII 4, 21. *Dagger Hall* 1625 Willett 1882: 165, 1639 SRO D742/A/17/1-7, 1754 SRO D1250/1, 1820 Greenwood, *Dager Hall* 1728 Willett 1882: 227. Presumably from the surname Dagger: see DES 12.

DAIRY HOUSE 2 miles south-east of Market Drayton (SJ 7032), *Derihouse* 1644 SHC 1945-6 187, *Daryhouse* 1687 SRO D 681/E/5/21, *Dayry House* 1709 SRO D 828/22; **DAIRY HOUSE FARM** 1 mile west of Eccleshall (SJ 8128), *ye deariehouse* 1672 Eccleshall ParReg, *Dearyhouse* 1691 *ibid*, *Dairyhouse* 1749 Bowen, *Dairy House* 1775 Yates, *Dairy* 1833 O.S.; **DAIRY HOUSE FARM** 1½ miles north-west of Church Leigh (SK 9936), *Dairy House Farm* 1886 Redfern 1886: 87, *Dairy House* 1891 O.S. Self-explanatory. Dairy House near Market Drayton was formerly known as Tagg Moor (*Tagmore* c.1570 SHC 1945-6 148); SHC 1945-6 187. *Dayry House* in Haughton parish is recorded in 1644 (Erdeswick 1844: 27), and *Dairy House Farm* in Cheadle is recorded in 1747 (SRO D260/M/E/1).

DAISY BANK 2 miles east of Walsall (SO 0497). *Deasy Bank* 1709 HRO E12/V1/NC/2. 'The bank with the daisies'.

DAISY LAKE 1 mile south-west of Muckleston SJ 7035). *Daisy Lake* 1833 O.S. The pool here is mentioned in 1669: SHC 1945-6 7. 'The lake with the daisies'.

DALE, THE 1½ miles south-east of Caudon (SK 0948). *the Dale* 1691 Ellastone ParReg, *Pantones in the dale* 1695 Morden, *Pantons in the Dale* 1749 Bowen, *The Dale* 1836 O.S. From OE *dæl*, or possibly ON *dalr*, 'valley'. The element *Pantones* is unclear: perhaps from the family of that name who held land in north Staffordshire: see Erdeswick 1844: 493-4; SHC VII NS 134, 136. It may be noted that the place-name Panton in Lincolnshire is probably from OE *panne* 'a pan', used in a transferred topographical sense for a depression or hollow, with OE *tūn*, appropriate for a place in a valley, but the terminal *s* points towards a family name.

DALE BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. From OE *dæl* 'valley', with *brōc*, hence 'brook flowing through a valley'.

DALE HOUSE on the south-west side of Cheddleton (SJ 9651). *Dalehouse* 1681 SRO D3272/1/4/3/25-36, *Dale House* 1836 O.S. 'The house in the dale or valley'.

DALE TORR (obsolete) 1 mile south of Calton (SK 1048). *Dale Torr* 1836 O.S. From OE *dæl* (ME *dale*) 'a dale, valley', with OE *torr* 'a rock, a rocky peak'. Perhaps to be associated with *Torr Piece* recorded on Calton Moor in 1802: SRO D3597/1-4.

DALESGAP 1 mile north of Rocester (SK 1140). *the Dale Gap* 1713 Okeover T740. From OE *dæl* 'valley, so 'the gap in the valley'.

DALICOTT 1 mile north-west of Claverley (SO 7794). *Dalicote* 1274 Eyton 1854-60: III 98, *Dedecott* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 123, *Dallicott* 1636 Claverley ParReg, *Dallicot* 1752 Rocque, *Dalicote* 1833 O.S. The 1532 spelling is clearly an aberration, but a derivation incorporating OE *dæl* 'valley' can be ruled out, since the place lies on a 280' hill. The second element is evidently OE *cot*

'cottage, shelter'. The first cannot be identified (unless from the personal name Dealla), but may be associated with Dallies and Dallimore in Warwickshire (PN Wa 182 offers no explanation for the element in those names). In Shropshire since the 12th century.

DAMBRIDGE MILL 1 mile south-west of Marchington (SK 1128). *Damberidge Mill* 1836 O.S.

DAM MILL 2 miles south-east of Codsall (SJ 8802). *Doun* 1300 WA I 267, *Dom mulne* 1341 SHC 1913 82, *Dommulne* 1412 SHC XVII 17-18, *Damme mylne* 1616 Codsall ParReg, *Damm Mills* 1652 WA I 268. From ME *damme* 'a dam, a pool formed by a bank across a stream', with OE *myl(e)n* 'mill'. The spellings (the first of which is evidently aberrant or mistranscribed) reflect the West Midlands dialect pronunciation of *o* for *a*. The Dean of Wolverhampton had a mill here which was working until at least 1616: VCH XX 85. See also WA I 266-8.

DAMGATE 1½ miles north-west of Ilam (SK 1253). *Dameyatte* (undated) CtRequests, *Dam Yate* 1775 Alstonefield ParReg, *Damgate* 1838 O.S. From ME *damme* 'a dam, a bank across a stream to form a pond, a pond so formed', with OE *geat* 'a hole, an opening, a gap'. The application of the first element is uncertain, but the place lies on a saddle of high ground, which is presumably the gap. The place may be associated with *the Mile dam* (? 'the Mill Dam') recorded in Alstonefield ParReg in 1658.

DAMPORT - see DEARNEFORD.

DAMSEN HILL (unlocated, in Marchington Woodlands.) *Damsen Hill* 1698 SRO D599/5.

DANDELIONS (obsolete) on the south side of Cheadle (SK 0042). *Dandillions Farm* c.1739 SRO D953/9, *Dandillions* 1836 O.S. The surname Dandelion is recorded: DES 125.

DANE, RIVER a tributary of the river Weaver, forming the boundary between North Staffordshire and Cheshire. *Davene* 13th century Dieul, 1345 Coram R, *Daan* 1416 AD 4, *Dane* c.1540 Leland, 1577 Saxton, *Daven* 1596 SHC XVI 158. Ekwall 1928: 112 proposes a derivation from MWelsh *dafn* 'a drop, a trickle', suggesting 'the slow, trickling stream', perhaps used ironically, since the description is hardly appropriate here, but another suggestion is from PrWelsh *daven*, derived from British **Damina* 'the river of the ox-goddess': see PN Ch V (II) 292.

DANEBRIDGE 2 miles north-east of Heaton (SJ 9665). *Sliderford* c.1190 VCH VII 187, *Slideresford* c.1255 SHC 1911 428, *Dauenbrugge* 1357 ChFor, *Sliderfordbrugge in Haukesyerd* 1347 Eyre, *Slyderford brugge* 1384 Rental, *Sliderford bridge* 1545 VCH VII 187, *Sliderford Bridge* 1608 SHC 1948-9 82, *Danebridge* 1703 SRO D1109/1, *Dane Bridge* 1842 O.S. From the river Dane. The earliest name, which evidently alternated with the present name, is from OE *slidor* 'slippery place', perhaps the only instance of this word in a place-name. *Haukesyerd* is from The Hawkesyord (unlocated), from ME **haeksherd*, **haekshord* 'a clearing in which hawks were flown': PN Ch I 166; see also Hawksyard (Priory). Cf. *Slideford-siche* ? 13th century SHC XII NS 12; n.d. Erdeswick 1844: 9; from OE *sīc* 'watercourse, stream'. See also SHC 1948-9 82.

DANE'S COURT - see TETTENHALL.

DANESFORD & UPPER DANESFORD 1 mile north-east of Claverley (SO 8093). *Danesford* 1833 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but it is improbable that the name is ancient. Almost certainly from local antiquarianism in the 18th or 19th century associating the place with the supposed passage of the Danish army which crossed the Severn and was defeated by an army of West Saxons and Mercians in the Tettenhall area c.910: Earle & Plummer 1892-9: i 95-7. There is no evidence of any kind to support such association.

DANESFORD on the river Severn 1 mile south-east of Bridgnorth (SO 7391). *Darneford* 1420 TSAS LVII 1961-4 39, *Danesford* 1833 O.S. In Shropshire since the 12th century. The name originated as 'the hidden ford', from OE *derne* 'hidden, secret, obscure', and doubtless developed into its present form as a result of later antiquarianism associating the place (and name) with the Danish armies which wintered in the area in 896 and crossed the Severn hereabouts c.910: Earle & Plummer 1892-9: i 89; 95-7.

DANEWOOD (unlocated, in Swythamley.) *Danewood* 1591 SHC 1930 174. From the river Dane (q.v.).

DANFORD on the north-west side of Kinver on the river Stour (SO 8483). The age of this name has not been traced. Perhaps from OE *derne* 'hidden, secret, obscure', but see also Danesford and Upper Danesford.

DAPPLE HEATH 1 mile north-east of Hixon (SJ 0426). *Dabble Heath* 1775 Yates. Perhaps 'the variegated heath'.

DARFUR BRIDGE, CAVE & CRAGS (obsolete) ½ mile north-west of Wetton (SK 0955). *Darffall* 1538 Survey, *Darfort Ptar* 1750 Pococke 1888-9, *Darfa* 1844 Garner, *Darfar Bridge* 1838 O.S. A curious name. It is here that the river Manifold disappears into the ground, to re-emerge near Ilam, and it would perhaps be surprising if the name did not relate to this phenomenon, so the second element may be from **(ge)fall* 'place where something falls'. The first element is more difficult, possibly from Welsh *dwfr* 'water, the waters', or from MWelsh *dafn* 'a drop, a trickle', so 'the place where the waters fall'. However, *dar* is sometimes found meaning 'deer', so perhaps 'deer fall', denoting a place where deer were chased over the crags, or simply 'deer fold' (cf. Deerfold, Herefordshire; Dorfold Hall, Cheshire), or 'deer ford'. *Ptar* appears to be an idiosyncratic spelling for *tor*: see Yelpersley Torr. Cf. River Dane; River Dove. It may be noted that Darfoulde House (? from 'deer-fold') lies near the river Dove on the north-west side of Stretton (SK 2527), but the history of the name is not known.

DARLASTON Ancient Parish 2 miles north-west of Stone (SJ 8735), *Deorlafestune* 956 (11th century, S.602, incorrectly indexed as 601), *Deorlafestun* 1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Derlavestone* 1086 DB, *Derlavestune* 11th century Sawyer 1979a: xxxv, *Dorlaveston* 1198 Fees, *Derlaweston*, *Derlaveston* 1277 SHC VI (i) 91, *Dorlaston* 1341 HLS; **DARLASTON** 1½ miles north of Wednesbury (SO 9796), *derlauest[onia]* c.1154 SHC 1941 61, *Dalaueston* 1166 SHC 1923 295, *Derlaveston* 1262 SHC V (i) 137, *Derlaveston* 1262 For, *Derlaston* 1316 FA. 'Dēorlāf's mōn'. Speed's map of 1610 inexplicably shows *Darlaston* on the north-west side of Wolverhampton.

DARLEY OAKS ½ mile south of Newchurch (SK 1422). *Darley* 1834 O.S. If ancient, probably from OE *dēor-lēah* 'wood frequented by deer'.

DARLING, THE a tributary of the river Sow. Presumably an affectionate pet-name for a favourite stream.

DARNFORD 1½ miles east of Lichfield (SK 1308). *Dernford* 1243 SHC 1924 97, *Darneford* 1260-1 SHC X NS I 289, *Derneford* 1274 SHC 1923 275, *Darneford* c.1285 SHC 1939 92, *Dorneford Mill* 1478 SHC VI NS (i) 115, *Danford (Mill)* 1834 O.S. From OE *derne* 'hidden, secret, obscure', an element commonly found with words for ford, water, etc., perhaps meaning here 'the ford overgrown with vegetation and the like': cf. Darnford, Suffolk. The place is perhaps to be associated with *Dernemoth*, recorded in the Lichfield area ?c.1175: SHC 1921 28. *Danford Lake* in Bordesley is recorded in 1797 (BCA MS3375/446231), and as *Dearnford* in 1657 (BCA MS3069/Acc1904-005/181602). See also Denford.

DAVENPORT HOUSE on the south-west side of Worfield (SO 7595). *Davenport House* 1752 Rocque. From the Davenport family who lived here from at least 1635: James 1878: 51. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

DAVETRIPORT (unlocated, perhaps outside Staffordshire, possibly Davenport, Cheshire.) *Davetriport* 1199 SHC III (i) 36.

DAW END in Rushall, 2 miles north-east of Walsall (SK 0299). *Dawende* 1597 SHC 1932 346, *Daw-end* 1686 Plot, *Daw*, *Dawe End* 17th century Duig, *Daw End* 1834 O.S. Duignan 1902: 49 suggests a derivation from the personal name David, abbreviated in the medieval period to Dau, Daw, Dawe, but the root may be OE **dawe* 'a crow, a jackdaw'. The word *end* meant not a terminal point, but simply a place at the edge of a settlement, hence perhaps 'the outlying property with the jackdaws'.

DAWFORD BROOK runs north of Great Chatwell.

DAWLEY (unlocated, near Wombourne, possibly between Lloyd Hill and The Woodhouse.) *Daweleye* 1313 SHC 1938 24, *Daueweie* 1316 *ibid.* 25, *Daueweie* 1316 *ibid.* 27, *Dawweleye* 1317 *ibid.* 27, *Dawley* 1322 (1801) Shaw II 213. Perhaps from the personal name Dealla with OE *lēah* 'the woodland clearing associated with Dealla' (see PN Sa III 3).

DAYHILLS (FARM) 1 mile north-west of Milwich (SJ 9633). *Day-hills*, *Day-hills Common* 1775 Yates, *Day Hills* 1834 O.S., *Dayhills* 1852 SRO D917/11/7. A curious name for which no explanation can be offered.

DEADMAN'S GREEN ½ mile east of Checkley (SK 0337). *Dadelond* 1317 SHC 1911 339, 1327 SHC VII 220, *Dadelound* 1323 SHC XIV 15, *Dadlond* 1327 SHC 1912 250, *Dadelound* 1329 SHC XIV 15, *Dadlands* 1520 SRO DW1733/A/3/11[12], *Dadland Grene* 1514 SHC XI 259, *Dodland Green* 1602 SHC 1935 457, *Dadland greene* 1644 SHC 4th Series I 198, 1647 BCA MS3307/ACC1927-020/337138, *Deadman's Green* 1872 P.O. Possibly from an OE personal name **Dæda*, giving 'the open space at **Dæda's* estate'. The relatively modern association with a corpse is doubtless the result of local popular etymology.

DEAKINS GRAVE (obsolete) - see **PYE GREEN**.

DEAN BROOK a tributary of the river Weaver. From OE *denu* 'valley'.

DEANERY FARM 2 miles west of Tatenhill (SK 1721), *Allotment Farm* 1836 O.S.; **DEAN'S HALL FARM** on the south side of Brewood (SJ8808), *Deanes Hall* 1629 WCRO CR1291/550/1-10, *Deans Hall* 1653 SRO D590/433/29-86, *Dean's Hill* (for *Dean's Hall*) 1680 SHC 1919 240. Both places belonged to the Dean of Lichfield, the first as rector of Tatenhill, and the second as part of the prebend of Brewood.

DEANS HILL between Stafford and Castle Church (SJ 9122). *Deans Hill* 1836 O.S. *Deanes Meadow* and *Deans Hill Meadows* are recorded here in 1629: SRO D4715/1-23.

DEARNDALLES 1 mile south-west of Uttoxeter (SK 0732). *Derndale Magna*, *Derndale Parva* 1474 SRO DW1733/A/1/1, the *Little Derndale* 1536 SRO DW1733/A/2/34, *Dearndales* 1836 O.S. From OE *derne* 'hidden, secluded', with OE *dæl* 'valley'. There were evidently two places here, *Magna* ('Great') *Derndale*, and *Parva* ('Little') *Derndale*.

DEARNEFORD (unlocated, in Hatherton.) *Damport alias Dearneford* 1629 SRO D260/M/T/4/60. From OE *derne ford* 'hidden or secluded ford'. The alternative name is unexplained.

DEARNSDALE 1 mile south-west of Derrington (SJ 8821). *Dearn(e)sdale* 1551 to 1616 FF, *Dermsdale* 1605 *ibid*, *Dearmesdall* 1605 VCH IV 84, *Dearnesdale* 1616 SHC VI NS (i) 20, *Darnsdale* 1682 Browne. There are several river-names similar to this name, perhaps derived from OE *derne* 'hidden, secluded', although the evidence is not altogether conclusive. This place is on the west side of the hill on which stands Berry Ring hill-fort, so a derivation 'valley of the stream called Dierne', from OE *derne*, with OE *dæl* 'valley' (see particularly Ekwall 1928: 116-7) must be speculative, although there is a stream to the east. Another possibility is a derivation from a personal name such as *De(a)rne: see Derneslowe. *Dearnsdale Wood* is recorded in this area in 1792: SRO D798/1/10/4.

DEEP MOOR 2 miles north-west of Sharesill (SJ 9208), *Deepemore* 1604 PCC; **DEEPMORE COPPICE** (obsolete) in Bentley near Willenhall (SO 9999), *Dupemore* pre-1290 SRO D1790/A/2/3, *Deepmore (Coppice)* 1834 O.S. 'The deep boggy marshland'.

DEEPDALE ½ mile south of Grindon (SK 0853). *Dup(p)edal(e)* 1227 Ass, *Depedal(e)* 1227 Ass, *Depedale* 1318 SHC IX (i) 71, *Deep Dale* 1775 Yates, *Depdale* 1796 ParReg, *Dip Dale* 1816 BCA MS3628/Ass-1937-059/4700100, *Deepdale* 1838 O.S. Self-explanatory. Curiously, Deepdale in Lancashire has the spelling *Dupedale* in 1228: Ekwall 1960: 141. *Depedale*, recorded in 1493 (SRO DW1733/A/2/33), appears to have been in the Lees Hill area.

DEEPFIELDS 2 miles south-west of Bilston (SO 9494). *Deepfield* 1834 O.S. The derivation of this name is uncertain. Hackwood 1906: 119 suggests that the name is from *Dip Fields*, associated with wells here, but that is unlikely.

DELPH HOUSE (obsolete.) 1 mile west of Cheadle (SJ 9942). *Delf* 1281 Ipm, *Huythehalg* c.1311 SHC 1911 436, *Huuehalgh* 1313 Ch, *The Heyghe Halghe* 1380 SHC 1910 265, *Delf* 1331 SHC 1913 27; 1384: SRO D1229/1/4/13, *Delf Felde* 1539 MA, *the Heyge Halghe* 1538 SHC 1913 266,

Hyghehawghe 1556 SRO D1229/1/4/1, *Delfehowse* c.1590 SHC 1930 54, *Delfhowse* 1598 SHC XVI 185, *the Delfe howse* c.1606 SHC 1934 (ii) 47, *Highhaugh al. Dephe House* 1615 SRO D1229/1/4/2, *Delphouse* 1677 SRO D1788/42/11, *Delphhouse* c.1697 SRO D1229/2/2/7, *Delf Ho.* 1798 Yates, *Delph House* 1836 O.S. From OE *(ge)delf* 'a digging, a trench, a pit, a quarry': in the 19th century the place was a colliery, but mining or quarrying has a much longer history here. An alternative name was evidently 'the high *halh* or *haugh*', but see also Blake Hall. See also Erdeswick 1844: 495.

DELVES, DELPH a name commonly-found in Staffordshire, particularly in the mining areas, from OE *(ge)delf* 'a digging, a trench, a pit, a quarry', in the plural meaning 'the diggings, the workings', for example The Delves and Delves Green, 2 miles south of Walsall (SO 0295), *Delves* 1575 Walsall ParReg, *Dalves* 1600 BCA D260/M/T/1/33, *Dealves Wednesbury* 1604 SHC 1940 137, presumably the *Walstwude* recorded in 1300 (SHC V (i) 177): see Walstead Green. Ironstone lies close to the surface here, and the area has been long been dug to extract it. Delph or Delves in Tunstall appears as *Deffes* in 1282-3 (SHC XI NS 253), *Delves* in 1307 (*ibid.* 265), and 1372 (SHC XIII 119), and the 'mines, delphes and quarries' there are recorded in 1563 (SHC 1931 183. Delves Hall in Apedale (*Delves Hall* 1679 SHC XII NS 46) was named from the Delves family who came originally from Delves Hall near Uttoxeter (SHC XII NS 45), recorded from at least 1303: see Shaw 1798: I xxxv.

DENFORD 4 miles south-west of Leek (SJ 9553). *Derneford* 1341 VCH VII 203, *Dernford bridge* 1529 SRO DW1490/106 n25, *Dern Ford* 1794 Stockdale, *Dearneford* early 19th century DW1761 Box 1 pt, *Denford* 1836 O.S. From OE *derne* 'hidden, secret, obscure', an element commonly found with words for ford, water, etc., perhaps meaning here 'the ford overgrown with vegetation and the like'. Sleigh 1883: 143 mentions, without explanation, '*Dearneford, formerly called Darple*'.

DENNE, LA (unlocated). *la Denne* 1283 SHC 1911 183.

DENNIS (PARK) in Amblecote (SO 9085). *Deneys* 1271 SHC 4th Series XVIII 70, *Dennis* 1798 Shaw I xxi, 1801 Shaw II 237, 1834 O.S. So-called from the Denis family of Amblecote who were living here in the 12th century: VCH XX 51.

DENSTONE 5 miles north of Uttoxeter (SK 1040). *Denestone* 1086 DB, *Denstun*, *Denstone* 1191x1194 CEC 261, *Deneston* 1199 SHC III (i) 53, c.1200 DRO D258/27/1/6, 1208 FF, c.1230 SHC VI (i) 11, *Daneston* 1201 SHC III (i) 70, *Devestona* c.1210 SHC 4th Series IV 105, *Benston* (sic) 1242 SHC IV 94, *Denstones* 1282-3 SHC XI NS 259, *Daneston'* temp. John-early Henry III *ibid.* 114, *Deneston* early 13th century SRO D593/E/6/15, *Denston*, *Denstyn* 1339 SHC 1913 77, *Denstone* 1366 SRO DW1733/A/2/78, *Denston* 1377 SRO DW1733/A/2/46. 'Dene's or Dane's *tūn*'. Dene was an OE (and probably ON) personal name, and this place-name may perhaps be seen as tentative evidence of Danish occupation. Cf. Densy Lodge.

DENSY LODGE 1 mile south of Sudbury (SK 1630). *Denseye* late Henry III TutCart, *Densey* 1632 SRO D15/33/4. This place evidently took its name from the first element of *deues broke* (*denes broc*) mentioned in a charter of land at Marchington dated 951 (14th century, S.557): see Sawyer 1979a: 18; Hooke 1983: 103. 'In the Needwood enclosures...several plots east of this Lodge are called Densey Meadow ...': Sawyer 1979a: 18. The second element is OE *ēg* 'island, land by water': the place lies

close to the river Dove. The root is perhaps the OE (and probably ON: cf. Halfdene) personal name Dene, so 'Dene's brook', perhaps to be seen as possible evidence of Danish occupation. Cf. Denstone.

DERCUSHALL (unlocated, in or near Bagot's Bromley.) *Dercushall* 1448 SRO DW1733/A/3/24. Perhaps to be associated with Darcel's Rough, 1 mile south-east of Kingstone (SK 0628).

DERHULL (unlocated, possibly near Rushall.) *Derhull* 1222 SHC IV 21, c.14th century SRO D260/M/T/7/1. From OE *dēor hyll* 'deer hill'.

DERNESLOWE (unlocated, in Whittington). *Derneslowe* 1227 SHC IV 42, 1272 *ibid.* 259. The second element is from OE *hlāw* 'tumulus, mound', with an unidentified personal name, which might also be found in other names, such as Dearnsdale.

DERPLAWE (unlocated, probably in Biddulph.) *Derplawe* 1327 SHC VII (i) 198, *Derplaus* 1293 SHC VI (i) 274, *Derplawe* 1313 SHC IX (i) 41, 1327 SHC VII (i) 198. From OE *dēor* 'deer', with OE *plaga* 'play, sport', found in place-names for 'a place for games or where animals played', so 'the place where deer play'. Cf. Deerplay, Lancashire; Deer Play, Yorkshire; Durpley, Devon.

DERRINGTON in Seighford parish, 2 miles west of Stafford (SJ 8922). *Dodintone* 1086 DB, *Duddinton* 1203 SHC III 107, *Dodinton* 1242, *Doddinton* 1228 Duig, *Dudington* 1236 Fees, *Dodington* 1242 SHC 1914 87, *Dudinton* 1242-3 Fees, *Dodinton* 1282 SHC 1911 39, *Dodinton* 13th century SHC IV 277, *Dodington* 1288, *Dudynton* 1318 SHC IX (i) 69, *Dotinton* 1290 SHC 1911 198, *Dodinton* 1294 *ibid.* 226, *Dudynton* 1320 SHC IX 69, *Dodynton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 65, *Derington* 1601 SHC 1935 398. 'The *tūn* associated with Dod(d)a'. The personal name Dod(d)a is well-evidenced in OE, and at least 20 places deriving from OE *Dod(d)ingtūn* have been identified. It has been suggested that not all contain the connective *-ing-* used to link a place-name generic to a personal name or other first element, and that some may be associated with an OE **dod* 'hill', represented by northern dialect *dod* 'rounded summit', creating 'place near a dod' with the addition of *tūn* to an earlier place-name **Dōding* - see more particularly PN Sa I 106-7. In that respect it may be noted that Derrington lies within a mile of the great rounded hill on which stands Stafford Castle. Chetwynd mentions *Derrington* in Mucklestone in 1679 (SHC XII NS 262), which is to be identified with Dorrington (*Derington* c.1205 Rees 1997: 84), now in Shropshire. For the interchange of *d* and *r* see Carrington (earlier Caddington), Hertfordshire (PN Hrt 30-1); Dorrington (earlier Doddington) in Northumberland & Durham.

DESIRE, LA (unlocated, possibly near Badenhall or Eyeswall or near the lost Newbolt at Hilcote (q.v.)) *la Desirée* 1216-72 SHC 1914 60, *la Disure* 1276 *ibid.* 80, *la Desire(e)* 1349 *ibid.* 57, SHC VII (ii) 36, 74, 81, *Desere* 1349 Erdeswick 1844: 112, *le Desirre* 1365 SHC XIII 52, *le Desirre* 1366 SHC XIII 52. Chetwynd refers in 1679 to this manor 'which...lay near to Eccleshall, but where I have not been able to discover', and to Sir Robert de Hastang who styled himself *dominus* [lord] *de la Desirée* in 1301: SHC 1914 60. A mysterious name, clearly of French origin, about which nothing further has been discovered. A more detailed discussion will be found in the Introduction.

DEUKERHULL (unlocated) *Deukerhull* 1315 SHC IX (ii) 51. Possibly Deuxhill in Shropshire: see PN Sa I 107-8.

DEVIL'S RING AND FINGER two large stones (not in their original position), one circular and perforated, which formed part of a Neolithic galleried tomb (see JNSFC 5 1965 44) on the Staffordshire-Shropshire boundary, 1 mile west of Muckleston (SJ 7037). ? *mere stones* 17th century map WSL H.M.10. The 17th century name is from OE *(ge)māre* 'a boundary, a border'. The age of the present name is unknown, but is probably relatively modern. The O.S. Archaeological Division record reads: 'Originally called Whirlstones (1. Meadow 7.3.27) (1) see Trans North Staffs Field Club 1909 xliii 195; see Staffs Sentinel 23.10.26; see T Pape 'Antiquity' 1 229 photo'. The word *whirl*, meaning a fly-wheel or similar (which might be considered appropriate for a perforated stone) is not recorded by OED before the fifteenth century. *le Stones*, recorded in 1332 (SHC X 101), may refer to this monument, and Joh'e de *Stone* of Oakley, recorded in 1327 (SHC VII 215), may have taken his name from the feature, rather than the place of this name. In the same year Will'o de *Beadeston* is recorded in nearby Muckleston (*ibid.*). The word *bead*, meaning a perforated object used as jewellery, is first recorded in 1400 (OED), but it is not inconceivable that the monument was once known as The Beadstone. However, since Will'o de Beadeston is not mentioned in 1332, but Will'o de *Bereston* (from Bearstone in Shropshire, 2 miles north of Muckleston) is recorded in 1327, the first spelling (if the second is correct) is almost certainly a transcription error.

DEVIL'S DRESSING ROOM, THE 4 miles west of Tamworth (SK 1703). *The Devils Dressing room* 1834 O.S. A name of unknown age, but possibly a jocular or ironical 18th or 19th century adoption for the site of a former quarry which is said to have provided the stone for Tamworth church. Possibly so-named because the stone was particularly difficult to extract. The devil is commonly linked with pits, hollows and depressions of various kinds, for example Devil's Pulpit is a deep declivity below Offa's Dyke in Tidenham; The Devil's Chapel in Newland, Gloucestershire, refers to Roman ironworkings in the Forest of Dean; and Devil's Dyke is a common name for ancient ditches in various parts of the country. It would appear that such places were associated with the devil's subterranean kingdom. It is not impossible that there is a link with OE *delfan* 'to dig'. Cf. Devil's Drumble; Grinditch.

DEYSEMORE (unlocated, in Handsworth.) *Deysemore* 1566 SHC 1938 77. Possibly 'daisy moor', from OE *dæges ēage* 'day's eye', so-called in allusion to the flower opening in the morning (OED), with OE *mōr*.

DIAL LANE (FARM) on the north side of Biddulph Moor (SJ 9061). *The Dyall* 1690 SRO DW1761/A/4/111-113[4]. Seemingly from ME *dial* 'a dial, a sun-dial', sometimes denoting a sundial cut in turf. The element is commonly found in field-names from the 16th century: Field 1972: 62; Foxall 1980: 55.

DICK SLEE'S CAVE on Cannock Chase, 1 mile west of Brocton (SJ 9919). *Old Dick Slee's Cave* 1867 Trubshaw, *Dick Slee's Cave* 1946 O.S. A former hermit's dwelling. One tradition is that Richard Slee, a 19th century hermit lived here in a two-roomed turf hermitage, under which was a brick vault in which Slee intended that he be buried (JNSFC LVIII 1923-4 142), but see also Trubshaw 1867, and StEnc 178, the latter citing without explanation the names *Abdullam's Cave* (later 19th century O.S.) and *Abdulalhs Cave*. Teesdale 1832 shows *Adullam's Cave*.

DIEULACRES (pronounced Jew-lack-ress [dʒu:lækres]) 1 mile north of Leek (SJ 9857). *Deulecresse* 1214-16 BM, 1228 CH, *Deulacresse* 1214x1216 CEC 371, *Deulacres(se)* c.1222-30 StCart, *Diolacchrescha* 1274x1296 JNSFC 10 1970 92, *Deulacresse* 1334 SHC 1913 43, *Dewenleucres* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 28, *Delencres* 1558 VCH III 234, *Dulencryst* 1561 SHC 1938 174, *Dieulacresse* 1566 SRO SD4842/42/5, *Delyencrise* 1594 SHC XVI 134, *De la Cress* 1686 Plot, *Del-a-cross* 1775 Bowen, *Dieu la Croix or Delacres Abbey* 1775 Yates. An abbey founded in 1214, when the place was seemingly known as *Cholpesdale* c.1200 (VCH III 230; VCH VII 193). Dugdale, quoting from Henry of Huntingdon's 'Historia Anglorum', records that Ralph, Earl of Chester, returning from abroad, abandoned his wife and married Clemence, of French family (see Fowlchurch). Whilst in bed, a vision of his grandfather Ralph instructed him to 'go to Cholpesdale, in the territory of Leeke, and in that place where there was formerly a chapel to the Blessed Virgin, you shall found an abbey of the white monks, and Clemence then said to him in French 'Deux encres', and the Earl thereupon determined that the place should be called Dieulacres. The precise meaning of Clemence's 'Deux encres' is uncertain, with various possibilities: *Deux lecre* 'God creates it', *Deux l'egree* 'God sanctions it', but the most likely seems to be from the Anglo-French verb *encrestre* 'to increase', giving ' [Que] Dieu L'encrease, 'may God increase it': see SHC NS IX 293; NSJFS 2 1962 85. Ekwall 1960: 144 observes that the name is analogous to *Dieulouard* 'Dieu le garde' and *Dieu s'en Souviene*, monasteries in France. The name Dieulacres is also recorded in 1279 as an assart in Clewer, Berkshire belonging to Salisbury Cathedral (Gelling 1978: 238), and an Irish Premonstratensian abbey named Dieulacresse is also recorded (VCH III 231). *Cholpesdale* may be associated with a small cave and inner chamber, which show evidence of a former attached structure, and may perhaps have been a hermitage with a grotto chapel, in a rock face between Abbey Farm and Abbey Green: see Fisher 1969: 14. The etymology of Cholpesdale (assuming it to be an authentic place-name) is not known.

DIGBETH in Walsall (SP 0198). *Digbathe* 1635 SRO D260/M/T/7/8, *Diggbath* 1638 SRO D260/M/T/1/71. See also Willmore 1887 99.

DIGLAKE 1 mile north-east of Audley (SJ 8151). *Viglake* [sic] 1632 Audley ParReg, *Diglake* 1646 SHC 4th Series I 237, 1733 SHC 1944 40, 1833 O.S., *the Dig-Lake* 1750 BCA MS917/1261. The derivation of this name, which is not uncommon in Staffordshire, is uncertain. *Digg Lake* is recorded on the boundary of Stoke-on-Trent in 1689: see Ward 1843: app lxiii. *Diglakes*, recorded in 1615 (Pape 1928: 127) and *the Diglake*, recorded in 1690 (JNSFC LXVI 1931-2 131), may refer to the latter place. Tipping Street in Stafford was formerly known as *Diglake*, though not before the end of the 16th century (VCH VI 187-8), and a field-name *Diggelake medowe* is recorded in Leek in c.1535 (LRMB), possibly to be associated with *Diglake* near Leek recorded in 1542 (1883): Sleight 71. A field in Forton known as *Diglake* in 1839 (TA) is recorded as *Dyglake* in 1487 (*Rental*). A possible derivation is from OE *dīc*, *lacu* 'watercourse in a ditch' (see PN Ch II 291; III 82; also PNEF 32, which suggests that *dīc* is sometimes used of historic defence works), but the persistent -g makes such derivation unlikely: Field 1993: 51 suggests that *dig* may be from the dialect word for 'duck' (see also Harrison 1986: 34 for *Dygge* meaning 'duck' in 1561), giving 'duck stream'.

DILHORNE Ancient Parish (pronounced Dillon [dɪlən]) 2 miles west of Cheadle (SJ 9743). *Dylverne* 1086 DB, *Dulverne* c.1187 SHC II 261, 1200 P, *Dilverne* 1236 Fees, *Dulverne* 1242 Fees, *Delverne* 1281 Misc, *Dilverne*, *Dylverne* 1286 Fees, *Dellren* c.1355 NA DD/FJ/4/26/7, *Delveron* 1387 Banco, *Dulron(e)* 1405 FF, *Dylryne* 1453 SHC NS III 204, *Dylren* 1503 Ipm, *Delos* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 137, *Dyllern* 1534 StarCh, *Dillerne* 1607 QSR, *Dilhorne* 1665 BM, *Dilhorne als Dillerne* 1786 Bacon. Perhaps 'place by a mine or quarry', from OE *(ge)delf* 'a digging, a trench, a pit, a quarry', with OE *ærn*, an element sparingly used in place-names with the specialised meaning 'place of production, workshop', normally associated with a product such as stone, charcoal, etc.

DILHORNE BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet.

DIMBLE - see **DRUMBLE**.

DIMMINGS DALE a deep gorge, 1½ miles long, 3 miles east of Cheadle (SK 0443), *Dimmingsdale* 1786 SRO D240/D/130, *Dimmings Dale* 1836 O.S.; **DIMMINGSDALE** on west side of Willenhall (SO 9698), *Dymmingsdale* c.1272 (1801) Shaw II 150, *Dymmesdale* c.1295 Mander & Tildesley 1960: 31, *Diminsdale* late 13th century SRO D593/B/1/26/6/39/5, *Dimmisdale* late 13th century SRO D593/B/1/26/6/39/5, *Dymmynggesdale* 1326 SRO D593/B/1/26/6/14/16; **DIMMINGSDALE** 4½ miles south-west of Wolverhampton (SO 8696), ? *Dimpoole* 1670 Survey, *Dimings Dale* 1753 WALS DX-240-22, *Dimmingsdale* 1813 Trysull ParReg, *Dimings Dale* 1815 O.S., *Dimmingsdale* 1840 TA; **DIMMINS DALE** on Cannock Chase 2 miles south-west of Rugeley (SK 0116), *Demon's Dale* 1840 TA. A more detailed discussion of these names will be found in the Introduction. See also *Dimsdale*.

DIMSDALE 1½ miles north of Newcastle under Lyme (SJ 8448), *Dvlmesdene* 1086 DB, *Dimsdal* 1212 SHC 1933 (ii) 11, *Dimesdal* 1212 SHC 1911 386, 1242 Fees, 1260 SHC 4th Series 13 15, *Dimmiesdale* 1228 SHC IV 72, *Demisdale* 1278 SHC XI NS 245, *Dimesdale* c.1278 SHC 1911 430, *Dymmesdale* 1282-3 SHC XI NS 252, 1315 SHC 1911 85, 1356 SHC 1913 166, *Dymnesdale* 1302 SHC VII 103, *Dymmesdale*, *Dymesdale* 1333 SHC X 80, 95, *Dimsdale* 1686 Plot 354, 1747 Bowen; **DIMSDALE** on north side of Blithfield Reservoir (SK 0525). *Deadman's Dale or Dimsdale* 1836 O.S. The DB form of Dimsdale near Newcastle under Lyme is almost certainly aberrant. A more detailed discussion of these names will be found in the Introduction.

DINGLE BROOK rises in Rushton Spencer and formerly joined the river Churnet to the west of Leek. Dammed in 1799 to form Rudyard reservoir. See also *Fule* (River).

DIPDALE (obsolete) on the south-west side of Lower Gornal (SO 9291). *Depedale* 1580 Sedgley ParReg, *Dipdale* 1627 *ibid*, *Dibdale* 1652 *ibid*, *Dibdale* in *Neither* g. ['Nether (i.e. Lower) G[ornal]'] 1659 *ibid*, *Dipdale Bank* 1669 SPI, *Dipdale Furnace*, *Dipdale Bank* 1834 O.S. The earliest spelling shows that the name is 'deep dale or valley'.

DIPPONS 3 miles west of Wolverhampton (SO 8699). *Dipping*, *Dippings* 1711 VCH XX 17, *Dippings* 1726 Sanders 1794, 1798 Yates, *Diptons farm* 1780 (1801) Shaw II 202, *Dippins* 1808 Baugh, *Dipen* 1834 O.S. A name of uncertain etymology: it seems unlikely that the name is from OE *dēoping* 'deep fen; hollow, depression in land': Deeping St James, Deeping St Nicholas, Market Deeping and West Deeping, all in Lincolnshire, are probably a very early example of a unique

formation. Possibly from a place where sheep were dipped, but it may be noted that c.1700 *dipping* was a term used in the area for baptisms (TSSAHS XXXIV 1992-3 37), though there is little likelihood of any association with baptism here. The name was originally attached to an area to the west of Tettenhall Wood, but is now found near Wightwick.

DIXON'S GREEN 1 mile south-east of Dudley (SO 9589). *Dixon's greene* 1655 Roper 1980: 101. From the personal name Dixon: the surname Dixsone/Dixon/Dickson is recorded in Dudley from at least 1618: see Roper 1980.

DODDEWELL (unlocated) *Doddewell* 1305 SHC VII 135.

DODDLESPool (HALL) 1 mile north-west of Betley (SJ 7449). *Daddlespoole* 1593 Betley ParReg, *Dadlespool House* 1733 SHC 1944 35, *Doddlespool* 1799 Faden. Possibly from an OE personal name such as Dædhild or similar.

DODEHAM (unlocated) *Dodeham* 1199 SHC III 169.

DODS LEIGH 1 mile south-west of Church Leigh (SK 0134). *Dedeslega* 1166 SHC 1923 296, *Dadesleia temp.* Henry I Burton, ? *Doddecota* 1266 SHC 1913 317, *Daddesleye* 1272 SHC IV 187, 1327 SHC VII 235, *Daddesley* 1323 SHC IX 94, 1332 SHC X 108, *Dadeles* 1572 SHC III 287, *Dadesleyfeld* 1590 SHC XVI 99. The first element may be an unrecorded OE personal name, with OE *lēah*. There is a reference to an adjoining place called *Bilestanes Legam*, 'Bilstone's Ley' in the first half of the 12th century: SHC V (i) 34. See also Church Leigh.

DODSLOW - see HORNINGLOW CROSS.

DOGGELEYHETHE (unlocated, possibly near Biddulph.) *Doggeleyhethe* 1401 SHC XV 96.

DOGKENNEL (obsolete) ½ mile north-east of Stewponey (SO 8685). *the Dogkennell* 1657 Sedgley ParReg, *Dogkennel* 1834 O.S. Self-explanatory.

DOGLANDS, THE 1 mile south-west of Fradswell (SK 9830). *Doglands* 1605 SHC XVIII 63, *Dog Lane* 1798 Yates, *Doglands* 1836 O.S.

DOGLANE ½ mile east of Calton (SK 1150). *Doggelone* 1390 SHC XV 18, *Doglane* 1419 SHC XVII 77, *Doglone* 1422 *ibid.* 77, *(the) Dog Lane* 1597 FF, *Doglon* 1584 SHC XVII 231, *Dog Lane* 1836 O.S. Presumably from a dog, perhaps memorably savage or vicious, with which the lane was once associated, but names of this type remain unexplained: see PNEF 133.

DOLEFOOT GATE (obsolete) in Needwood Forest, 1 mile north-west of Christchurch (SK 1424). *Dolesfore Gate* 1778 VCH II 350 map, *Dolefoot Gate* 1836 O.S. The place, which was one of the gates to Needwood Forest, is remembered in Dolefoot Lane.

DOLEY 1½ miles north-west of Adbaston (SJ 7429). *Doley* 1833 O.S. Early spellings have not been traced, but if ancient perhaps from OE *dole* 'a share of the common field', or (less likely) from Welsh *dôl* 'a meadow, pasture usually beside a stream', with OE *ēg* 'island; a piece of land in a marsh and land on a stream or between streams': the place lies on Waggs Brook, which forms the Staffordshire-

Shropshire boundary. There is no evidence to link this place with Doley Common or Doley Gate (q.v.), 7 miles to the south-east.

DOLEY COMMON, DOLEY GATE 1 mile north-west of Gnosall (SJ8121). *Darley* 1435 SHC XVII, *Dorley* 1586 Ct, *Dorel(e)y Common* 1686 Plot 214, *Dauley Common* 1833 O.S. Possibly from OE *dor* 'door, in the sense 'narrowing valley' with OE *lēah*: Doley Gate to the south may use OE *geat* 'a hole, an opening, a gap' in the same sense, perhaps associated with the topographical feature associated with the first element of the name Gnosall (q.v.). A derivation from OE *dēor-lēah* 'the wood or clearing frequented by deer', supported by the earliest spelling, is also possible. Cf. Darley Abbey, Derbyshire.

DOMVILLES 2 miles north-west of Audley (SJ 7751). ? *Damenevilla* c.1233 CEC 440, ? *Damvill* 13th century SHC XI 333, ? *Domville* (p) 1316 SHC X 68, ? *Donnuill*, *Donuyll*, *Donnuyll*, *Donnvyle*, *Domuill*, *Domnuyle* 1371-83 SHC VIII NS 59-85, ? *Dingles* 1775 Yates, *Dingles* 1799 Faden, *Dumbles* 1786 Tunnicliff, *Dumvells* 1833 O.S., 1890 O.S. A puzzling name, for which no suggestions can be offered, unless a transferred name from Donville in Calcados: see Dumville's Farm in Nether Alderley, Cheshire (PN Ch I 97). If all the spellings relate to this place, the inconsistencies are inexplicable, and the similarity between the earliest and present forms remarkable.

DORK, THE - see NEWFIELDS.

DORUESLAU, DORESLEY (lost, in Little Sugnall: SJ 800333 according to TSSAHS XII 1970-1 35, but see also StEnc 182.) *Dorueslau*, *Doresley* 1086 DB, *Deureslaw* 1187 SHC I 136, *Derueslawe* 1199 SHC III NS 74, *Derueslowe* 1199 SHC 1923 33, *Derneslowe* 1272 *ibid.* 34, *Derueslowe* 1281 *ibid.* 34, *Dorslow* 1284-5 *ibid.* 34, *Derselowe* 1327 SHC VII (i) 212, *Doreslowe* 1408 SHC XVI 64, *Doryslowe* 1433 SHC XVII 142, *Doreslowe otherwise Dorneslowe otherwise Doresley* 1584 SHC XV 158, *Derneslowe otherwise Dorslow* 1590 SHC XVI 101, *Dorslow* c.1600 Erdeswick 1844: 123, *Dorslowe* 1618 SHC VI NS (i) 59, *Doreslaw farm* 1610 (1679) SHC 1914 49. The place (still evidently known as Doreslaw in 1679: see SHC 1914 50) has been identified with Sugnall and Little Sugnall (SHC 1923 32-5, VCH IV 42 fn; Derby & Terrett 1971: 173; TSSAHS XII 1970-1 35), and a deed of 1553 mentions a pasture in Little Sugnall called *Doreslow Buttes*: SHC 1923 35, although there is an unexplained reference in 1539 to *Doreslowe in Hilreston*, i.e. Hilderstone (MA). The first element may be an OE personal name, such as Dēora, Dēore, but the varied forms preclude a certain derivation. The second element is OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus'.

DOSTHILL 2 miles south of Tamworth (SK 2100). *Dercelai* 1086 DB, *Derteulla* 1166 RBE, *Dercetehull* (p) 1195, *Dercetehille* 1242 Fees, *Dersethull* 1247 FF, *Derstill* 1273 Ass, *Donestholle*, *Dunesholle* 1309 SHC IX 6, *Dersthull juxta Kynnesbury* 1315 Ass, *Dorsthull* 1316 FA, *Dorsthull*, *Derchetehulle* 1391 SHC XV 37, *Dostell* 1526 FF, *Dorsthyll al. Dastyll* 1550 FF, *Dastell* 1549 Pat. It is possible that some of the forms are corrupt, *c* having been transcribed, as frequently the case, as *t*, and vice versa. PN Wa 17 and 267 is hesitant in offering a derivation, but the 1391 form supports Ekwall 1960: 149 which proposes 'hill with a shelter for deer', from OE *dēor-cēte* 'deer shelter',

perhaps a roofed shelter where deer could feed and shelter. Cf. Avon Dassett and Burton Dassett, Warwickshire. In Warwickshire until transferred to Staffordshire in 1965. *Kynnesbury* is Kingsbury, 1 mile south in Warwickshire.

DOVE, RIVER One of the main head-streams of the Trent, forming part of the boundary between Derbyshire and Staffordshire. *Dufan* 951 (13th century, S.557), *Dufan* 1008 (14th century, S.920), *Duve* late 12th century Okeover, *Dove* 1200-25, 1294 Derby, 1314 Abbr, c.1540 Leland, *Douve* 1255 BurtonAn, *Doue* 1298 Ipm, 1394 Pat, *Douue* 1290 Ass 147 m 17, 1281 Ass 148 m 33d, *Dowe* 1306 Ct, *Doff-water* 15th century Worc 357, *Dow* 1577 H. 'The dark river', from a Celtic adjective **dubo-* 'black, dark' (Welsh *du*, Irish *dubh*). River-names containing this element are common in Wales and Ireland. Not all Dove rivers have dark water, but they invariably have a dark bed or lie in a deep valley.

DOVE BRIDGE 1 mile north-east of Uttoxeter on the river Dove (SK1134). *Dubrige* 1086 DB, *Doubrig* 13th century Duig, *Dobbrugge* 1332 SHC X 113, *Dufbrigge* 1360 SHC VIII NS 177, *Dovebridge* 1593 Rocester ParReg, *Dove Bridge* 1836 O.S. 'Bridge on the Dove', from OE *brycg*.

DOVEDALE (unlocated, in Ellastone.) *Duvesdale* 1269 Pat, *Duuedale* 1296 Abbr, *Duvedale* 1293 SHC VI (i) 299, *Douvedale* 1326 SHC IX (i) 132, 1346 CoramR, *Douuedale* 1332 CPG, *Douvdale* 1369 RB IV 43, *Dowesdale* 1418 Banco, *Duffdale* 1542 SHC XI 285, *Dowffe Dale* 1542 SHC 1912 144. 'The valley of the river Dove (q.v.)', with OE *dæl* 'valley'.

DOVEFLATS on the north-east side of Rocester (SK 1140). *Dove Flatts* 1668 SRO D1380/1/4, *Dove Flat* 1836 O.S. Probably from ME *flat* (from ON *flōt*) 'flat', so 'the flat land by the river Dove'.

DOWN HOUSE FARM 2 miles north-west of Penkridge (SJ 8916). *Donne* 1273 SHC VI (i) 59, *la Duoune* 1289 SHC 1911 45, *la Doune* 1293 SHC VI (i) 217, *la Donne* 1294 SHC VII 18, *la Doune* 1295 *ibid.* 27, *la Dune* 1295 SHC 1911 54, *la Doune* 1300 *ibid.* 269, *Dunmowe* 1313 SHC X 78, *Doune*, *la Doune* 1332 *ibid.* 125, *The Downe* 1588 VCH IV 84, *The Downs* 1614 *ibid.* From OE *dūn* 'hill, an expanse of open hill-country', or (perhaps the meaning here) 'open country'. Cf. Gun. See also SHC VIII (ii) iv. A reference to *the Downe of Coton juxta Clanford* (Coton adjoining Coton Clanford) in 1421 (BCA MS 3525/Acc1935-043), suggests that some of the spellings cited above may relate to that place. *Down Top*, south of Marston, is shown on Yates' map of 1798; see also Highdown (Cottages).

DOWRY 1 mile south-west of Kingstone (SK0528). *Dowrey* 1775 Yates, *Dowry Farm* 1782 SRO D24o/E/V/1/17, *Dowry* 1836 O.S. Presumably the property was the subject of a wedding gift.

DOXEY 1 mile north-west of Stafford (SJ 9023). *Dochesig* 1086 DB, *Dokeseia* 1168 P, *Doteshay* 1203 SHC III 111, *Dokeseia* c.1205 Rees 1997: 84, *de Akesey* 1275 SHC VI (i) 72, *Dokushey* 13th century SHC IV 275, *Dokeseye* 1355 SHC VIII 99, *Docsy* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 65, *Doxie* 1666 SHC 1921 107. From the OE personal name **Docc*, with OE *ēg* 'island, land partly surrounded by water, dry ground in marshland', here meaning either '**Docc*'s dry ground in marshland' (the place is on the south side of the river Sow, and gave its name to Doxey Marshes, an area of low-lying wetland to the north-east), or '*Docc*'s island': the place lies above the 300-foot contour, with the river Sow on one

side and small streams on the other sides. The only other place where the personal name Docc has been recorded is Doxford, Northumberland.

DOXEY WOOD (obsolete) 2 miles south-west of Stafford, between Thorneyfields and Butterhill (SJ 9020). *Doxey Woods* 1591 Bradley ParReg, *Doxie Wood* 1680 *ibid*, *Doxeywood* 1704 *ibid*, *Doxey Wood* 1836 O.S. 'The wood associated with Doxey'.

DOYLE an unlocated manor in Ronton. *Doyle* 1454 SHC 1914 95. See also SHC III NS 213. Named after the Doyley or D'Oyly family, who held the place (which was later known as Lewkenore's Manor) from the late 14th century: SHC 1914 95-6. The surname is probably from one of the five Ouillys in Calvados: Ouilly-le-Basset, Ouilly-le-Vicomte, Ouilly-du-Houlley, Ouilly-la-Ribaude and Ouilly-le-Tesson. See also Lewkenore; Leukenore; Oils Heath; Stokedoily.

DRAITON *Draiton*, recorded in DB under Staffordshire as held by Turstin has been identified as Drayton near Wroxton, Oxfordshire: see VCH IV 55, fn.82.

DRAKEFORD (unlocated: an inquisition of 1467 implies that the place was in the Tunstall/Colclough/Ridgeway/Bancroft area: Ward 1843: App. v. Perhaps remembered by Drakeford Grove, in Norton in the Moors (SJ 8951).) *Drakeford* 1206 SHC III (i) 135; 1467 Ward 1843: App. v. The place is mentioned frequently in the medieval manor court rolls of Tunstall (Tooth 2000: 51), and is recorded as *Drakeforde* (1579) and *Drakesford* (1616) in the Norton in the Moors ParReg; also John Drakford of Whitfield recorded in 1634: BCA MS917/1329. From OE *draca-ford* 'dragon ford', perhaps in this case 'the ford with the water serpent'. The surnames Drakefeilde and Drakeforde are found in the Rushall/Goscote area in 1666 (SHC 1923 138-9), and in the early 18th century in Seighford (ParReg), and the surname Drakeford is recorded in Talke in 1666 (SHC 1921 114).

DRAKE HALL 1½ miles north of Eccleshall (SJ 8331). Originally one of a number of Government establishments built in the area in the early 1940s and named after naval heroes, now an open prison. See also Beatty Hall, Duncan Hall, Frobisher Hall, Howard Hall, Nelson Hall, Raleigh Hall, Rodney Hall.

DRAKELOW 2½ miles south-west of Kinver (SO 8180). *Brakelowe* 1240 WoP, *Drakelow*, *Dracloe* 1582 Wills, 1649 Survey, *Drakeley* 1832 O.S. From OE *draca-hlāw* 'dragon tumulus', a name which records the ancient folk belief that buried treasure (and mounds believed to contain it) are guarded by a dragons. One of the Anglo-Saxon poems known as the Gnomie Verses includes a reference to 'the dragon in the tumulus'. Other places of the same name include Drakelow 2 miles south of Burton-upon-Trent, in Derbyshire, close to the Staffordshire border. The field-name *Great Drakeley* is recorded in Seighford, perhaps near Cooksland, in 1762 (WALS DX240/40), and *Drakelow Covert* appears on modern maps ½ mile south of Great Bridgeford (SJ 8826), but their history has not been traced: Drakelow Covert appears as *Drakeley Pits* on the 1836 1" O.S. map. OE *hlāw* often becomes *-ley* in Staffordshire, and either or both places may be a genuine Drakelow name, but it may be noted that the surname Drakefield/Drakefoot is recorded in Seighford in the 1730s (ParReg).

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY in Hanbury parish, 5 miles south-east of Uttoxeter (SK 1528), *Draicote* 1086 DB, 1251 Ch, *Draycote* c.1286 NA DD/FJ/1/180/1, *Draicote* 1445-50 TutCart, *Dracote*

late Henry III Tut. Cart, *Draycote, Draycott under Nedwode* 1435 SRO DW1733/A/3/12; **DRAYCOTT IN THE MOORS** Ancient Parish 3 miles south-west of Cheadle (SJ 9840), *Draycote* c.1240 SHC 1925 77, *Draycoht* c.1248 SHC 1911 420, *Draicot* 1251 CH, *Draycote* 1291 Tax, *Drycote in le More* 1420 Oakden 1984: 3; **DRAYCOTT CROSS** 2 miles south-west of Cheadle (SJ 9841), *Draycott Cross* 1836 O.S.; **DRAYCOTT** 1½ miles east of Claverley (SO 8192), *Draicote* c.1250 Eyton 1854-60: III 99, *Dayncot* 1256 *ibid.* 99, *Draycot* late 13th century *ibid.* 99, *Draycote* 1833 O.S. (in Shropshire since the 12th century); **DRAYCOT** (unlocated) in Sandon, ? *Draycote* 1377 SHC 4th Series VI 13, *Dracote* c.1600 Erdeswick 1844: 44; **DRAYCOTT WASTE** (obsolete) on the north side of Bromley Wood, 2 miles north-east of Hilderstone (SJ9736), *Draycott Waste* 1836 O.S. A common name - there are 10 places called Draicote in DB - which has not been satisfactorily explained. The first element *dray-* is generally held (see Ekwall 1936: 151; EPNE i 134-6) to be from OE *dræg* (corresponding to ON *drag*), a word found (curiously, and perhaps significantly) only in place-names and derived from OE *dragan* 'to draw, to pull', also 'to go, progress, travel (usually on land)', and generally understood to be used in two senses in English place-names, namely 'a portage; a place where boats are dragged around an obstruction in a river' and 'a dray, something which can be dragged'. Ekwall 1936: 151 suggested also 'a steep slope where extra effort is required', but that has been questioned, since OE *cot* is not usually combined with topographical elements, and it would be surprising if, when so combined, it is always with *dræg*. It seems possible that at least one meaning of the element in some of place-names in which it is found is some kind of shelter or accomodation for travellers. The most common place-names with *dray-* are Drayton, followed by Draycott, but the element is also found (though much less frequently) with OE *dūn* 'hill', *stān* 'stone', *mere* 'pool', and *ford*. Curiously, there is little evidence, archaeological, pictorial or otherwise, to suggest that the Anglo-Saxons used horse-drawn carts. If manpower was normally used for haulage, places incorporating the element *dray* were perhaps so-named because they held horses or additional manpower to assist with haulage (and perhaps guiding) through difficult areas: in two of the Staffordshire names at least there is some indication in the descriptive locational elements of the nature of the difficult ground (*in-the-clay* and *in-the-moors*, which, perhaps significantly, are descriptors not - except for Bradley in the Moors and Norton in the Moors - found attached to any other Staffordshire place-names), suggesting perhaps that this meaning of the names was known when those elements were first attached. Drayton Bassett, for example, was in a vast heath where navigation may have been difficult. The proximity of Draycots and Draytons to Roman roads has been noted (see *Nomina* 17 1994 11-12): Draycott in the Moors lies on the Roman road from Rocester to Stoke on Trent (Margary number 181), and Draycott near Claverley lies between two lost Roman roads, running a mile or so north-east and south-west of the settlement. Drayton Hales lies on the north side of the lost Roman road from Pennocrucium to Chester (Margary number 19). Drayton near Penkridge lies a mile or so to the east of a lost Roman road from Pennocrucium which ran north from Watling Street through Preston Vale Farm: Horovitz 1992: 32. Drayton Basset lies on Watling Street. In that respect it is of interest that Shaw suggests (1801: II 1 note) that Dray may be from a Celtic word, which he does not cite, signifying a town lying on a straight road. For completeness it may be added that although the word *dray*, meaning 'squirrel's nest', is unrecorded before the 17th century, its derivation is unknown and it

may well have a much older origin with a differing meaning - Ekwall 1936: 151 proposed 'house of shelter at the head of a pass or long hill' for some Draycotts, including those in Staffordshire, although the 'house of shelter' was taken from the *cot* element. It is not impossible that some Dray- names incorporate OE *dræge* 'a drag-net'. Finally, it must be noted that Draycott in the Clay lies in a tiny dale created by Salt Brook, with a saline spring near Draycott Mill, 1 mile north-east of Draycott, which suggests a possible derivation from a word associated with OE *dryge* 'dry', perhaps a place where the water caused a thirst, or on particularly well-drained ground. The lost Draycot near Sandon is also in an area known for its salt: see Salt and Shirleywich. In that respect, a reference has been noted to 'a saltpan called in English Draiburne', recorded c.1150: PN Wo 390; EPNE i 135. The qualifying descriptions of the Staffordshire names serve to distinguish them from each other and similar names elsewhere. Cf. Drayton; Drayton Bassett; Glascote. The correct ecclesiastical form of Draycott in the Moors is Draycott le Moors: Youngs 1991: 409.

DRAYTON 2 miles north of Penkridge (SJ 1692). *Draitone* 1086 DB, *Drayton* 1194 SHC VIII 160, *Draiton* 1211 SHC III 151, *Dra-ton* c.1220 *ibid.* 161, *Drayton* 1327 *ibid.* 162, 1682 Bradley ParReg. A common place-name - there are 37 places called Draitone in DB. From OE *dræg tūn*: see Draycott; Drayton Bassett.

DRAYTON BASSETT Ancient Parish 3 miles south-west of Tamworth (SK 1900). *Draitone*, *Draiton* 1086 DB, *Draiton* 12th century Duig, *Dreyton Park* 1285 SHC 1924 330. From OE *dræg tūn* (see Drayton, Draycott) with the name Bassett from its early lords of the manor of that name to distinguish it from other Draytons. For Drayton Park see TSSAHS XXXX 1988-9 40-44. See also Bassett's Cross.

DRAYTON HALES - see HALES.

DRESDEN on south side of Longton (SJ 9042). An ecclesiastical parish formed in 1853. The history of the name is uncertain, but is probably transferred from the German city in the light of its ceramic connections with this pottery-making area. The parish is also known as Redbank: Youngs 1991: 410.

DROINTON 5½ miles north-west of Abbots Bromley (SK 0226). *Dregetone* 1086 DB, *Drengeton*, *Drengenton*, *Dregenton* 1199 SHC III 56, *Dreuton* 1294 SHC 1911 109, *Drengetone* 1299 SRO 553[7902], *Drenkton* 1372 SRO 571[7922], *Dreynton* 1619 SHC VII NS 195, *Drointon* 1836 O.S. The first element is from OE *dreng*, 'a free tenant holding by tenure combining rent, service and military duty', a word borrowed from ON *drengr* 'a young man, a servant'. Hence 'the *tūn* of the drengs'.

DRUIDS HEATH 1 mile north of Aldridge (SK 0501). *Druwode* 1326 (1801) Shaw II 98, 1343 *ibid.* 98, *le Drewed field* 1592 SRO 3005/13-14, *Drewed field* 1684 TSSAHS XX 1978-9 43, *Drude Meer* 1686 Plot 46, *Drewed Heath*, *Drewed Field* 1712 SRO 3005/91, *Drood*, or *Druid heath* 1798 Shaw I 11, *Druidsmeer* 1798 *ibid.* 40, *Druid Heath* 1798 Yates. Formerly heath in Cannock Forest adjoining Sutton Chase. According to Duignan 1902: 53, a Norman family of Dru, deriving their name from Dreux, department of Eure-et-loir in Normandy, were medieval lords of Aldridge, and acquired the heath here. The diminutive of Drogo (the Latinised form of the name) is Dru, giving Druwood, later Drewed and so Druid: see also TSSAHS XX 1978-9 47. Shaw 1801: II 93 mentions a Drew who was

granted the nearby manor of Bentley by William I. The name has no connection of any kind with druids.

DRUMBLE, DEVIL'S 1 mile east of Brocton, on west side of Sherbrook Valley (SJ 9819), *Devil's Dimble* 1605, 1618 Tatenhill ParReg; **DRUMBLE, PARROTS** 1 mile north-west of Talk (SJ 8252), *Parrot's Drumble* 1833 O.S.; **DRUMBLE, CARTWRIGHTS** 1 mile north-east of Caverswall (SJ 9644); **DRUMBLES, FOXLEY** on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border, 2 miles north-west of Audley (SJ 7852), *Foxley Drumble* 1833 O.S. Drumble is a common element in minor place-names in Staffordshire, from OE **dumbel*, **dymbel*, of uncertain origin but perhaps connected with OE *dimple*, recorded in the topographical sense 'depression in the ground' c.1205 (Ekwall 1960: xxxiii), or associated with 'dim' ('gloom, obscurity') and 'dingle', not evidenced before the 14th century when it appears in place-names in Midlands dialect as *dimble*, *dumble*, 'a hollow, a ravine through which a watercourse runs, a deep shady dell, a wooded valley, a belt of trees along the bed of a small stream' (perhaps with Scandinavian links: cf. Norwegian *dembel* 'a pool' - see Dembleby, West Yorkshire), or (from Jackson 1879: 127) 'a rough wooded dip in the ground; a dingle'. It often becomes *drumble*. Parrot is from the Parrott family (see SHC 1944 xviii), as also Cartwright. Foxley is from the place of this name 2 miles north of Audley. For Devil's Drumble, see also The Devil's Dressing Room. EDD records *dumble* in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire, in the sense 'a wooded valley, a belt of trees along the bed of a small stream, a ravine through which a watercourse runs': a full discussion of the word can be found in PN Nt 280-1. In Yorkshire *dumble-pit* appears to have been the name given to a pit or dell containing stagnant water: see PN Nt 279-80.

DRYBROOK a tributary of the river Pipe. *Driebrouk* 1286 For. From OE *drȳge* 'dry', presumably because the stream on occasions ran dry.

DRY STONES 1½ miles north-east of Upper Hulme (SK 0362). *Drystones (Road)* 1839 *EnclA*, *Drystones* 1842 O.S.

DUDHILL 2 miles south-west of Bobbington (SO 7887). In Shropshire since the 12th century. Early spellings have not been traced, but if ancient, possibly from northern dialect *dod* 'a rounded summit'.

DUDLEY Ancient Parish 5 miles south-west of Birmingham (SO 9490). *Dudelei* 1086 DB, 1199 Cur, *Duddelaeye*, *Duddelege*, *Duddeleye* c.1140 Chronicle John of Worc, 1229 Ch, 1264 Ipm, 1275 SR, *Duddele* c.1185 SHC III (i) 218, *Dudele*, *Dudeleia* c.1200 SHC III (i) 215, *Doddele(ye)* 1289 Wigorn, 1327 SR, *Duddeley* c.1540 Leland v 20. 'Dudda's *lēah*'. This is one of a group of names ending in 'ley' that are concentrated in the area immediately west of Birmingham, which may show that the area had a considerable area of woodland at the time of the Anglo-Saxon settlements: see Gelling 1988: 126-8. The place was an island of Worcestershire wholly within Staffordshire until 1966, when it became part of Staffordshire.

DUDLEY PORT 1 mile south-east of Tipton (SO9691). *Dudley Port* 1802 Rowley Regis ParReg, 1834 O.S. So-called because the settlement developed from 1777 as a port by the Birmingham Canal

Old Cut to serve Dudley, which was for long inaccessible by water, before the Dudley Canal tunnel was built in 1792: StEnc 190.

DUDMASTON 1 mile north-west of Quatt (SO 7488). *Dodemanestun temp.* Henry I Eyton 1854-60: III 186, *Dudemanneston* 1165 *ibid.* 187, *Dudemaneston* 1240 Bowcock, *Dudemoneston* 1253 *ibid.*, *Dudemaston* 1270 Eyton 1854-60: III 188, *Dodemanston* 1279 Bowcock, *Dodemoneston* 1296 SHC 1911 266, *Dudmanston* 1300 SHC VII 66, *Dodemoneston* 1300 SHC 1911 266, *Dudingston* 1562 SHC 1938 166. 'Dudeman's *tūn*'. Since the 12th century in Shropshire.

DUNBROOK in Longnor (SK 0864). *Dunbrook* 1884 O.S. Possibly from OE *dunn* 'dark brown'.

DUN COW'S GROVE 1 mile west of Hollinsclough (SK 0466). *Duncosgreve* 1566 *Deed*, *Duncote Greave* 1600 VCH VII 38, *Duncoategreave* 1601 Alstonefield ParReg, *Duncotes Greave* 1614 *ibid.*, *Dunkets greave* 1665 *ibid.*, *Dunkerd Greve* 1714 *ibid.*, *Dimcalf* 1803 *ibid.*, *Dun Cows* 1842 O.S. Probably from the OE personal name *Dunn*, with OE *cot* 'a cottage, a shelter', and OE *grāfe* 'grove, coppice' (and in some cases 'pit, trench'), so 'Dunn's cottage or shelter in the grove or at the pit', which has become much corrupted.

DUNCAN HALL in Yarnfield (SJ 8633). One of a number of Government establishments built in the area in the early 1940s and named after naval heroes. See also Beatty Hall, Drake Hall, Frobisher Hall, Howard Hall, Nelson Hall, Raleigh Hall, Rodney Hall.

DUNGEON (obsolete, in West Bromwich (SO 0093)), *Dungeon* 1775 Yates; **DUNGEONS** (unlocated, in or near Walsall, possibly at Rushall), ? *Little Donges* 1589 SRO D260/M/T/1/19, ? *Dungens* c.1593 (SRO D260/M/F/1/2/f33), *Dungeons* 1617 Willmore 1887: 440, 1708 SRO D260/M/T/1/120c. From ME *dungeon* 'an underground chamber', possibly with reference to deep pits, holes or caverns, natural or man-made, which are not uncommonly found in these areas.

DUNGE WOOD 1 mile west of Keele (SJ 7945), *le Dunge* 1476 NSJFS 3 1963 58, *Dunge Wood* 1833 O.S.; **DUNGE BOTTOM** 1 mile north-east of Alstonefield (SK 1357), *Dunge* 1840 O.S. A derivation from OE *dyncge* 'manured land', or ME *dunge* 'dung', perhaps meaning 'manured land', seems the most likely derivation, but the place lies in a valley in which the Hazeley Brook rises in a number of boggy hollows. The name in that case may therefore be 'the foul marsh or boggy place'. A reference to '...the 6 seats for the "dunge" or wilderness and garden are almost finished...' in 1725 (SRRL 112/1/2717) suggests that the word may have been applied to overgrown areas or perhaps grottoes. A derivation from OE *dung* 'dungeon, underground room', recorded only in poetic use, can be ruled out in the first place, but may have been applied to some natural feature such as a cave at the second place. Dunge Falls, Upper Hulme, are recorded in Dent & Hill 1896: 83; see also PN Sa III 110.

DUNIMERE FARM 1 mile south of Harlaston (SK 2109). *Donimere* 1798 Shaw I 402. Possibly associated with the *Dounfield*, recorded in 1758: BCA MS3878/631.

DUNKFORD BRIDGE (obsolete) at Hilcote, where the road between Eccleshall and Stone crosses the river Sow (SJ 8429). *Dunkesford temp.* Henry II SHC 1914 68, *Dunkesford* (in 'Alde-Badenhall') *temp.* Henry VIII (1679) SHC 1914 68, later *Dunforde (Bridge)*: SHC 1934 29, *Dunkford Bridge* 1621

SRO DE615/EX/1. Possibly from the OE personal name Dunnic or similar. The bridge was presumably erected during or after the time of Henry VIII.

DUNKIRK 1 mile north-east of Audley (SJ 8152); *Dunkerk Estate* 1776 SRO D738/8, *Dunkirk* 1833 O.S.; **DUNKIRK** in Newcastle under Lyme (SJ 8446); *Dunkirk* late 18th century SRO D593/T/10/12. Possibly so-named to commemorate the surrender of Dunkirk by the Spanish to English forces on 14th June 1657.

DUNLEA FARM 1½ miles north-west of Onecote (SK 0257). *Dunleigh over Morridge* 1674 Leek ParReg, *the Dunley* 1683 *ibid*, *Dunleigh* 1680 *ibid*, *Dun Lee* 1775 Yates, 1842 O.S., *Dunlee* 1962 O.S. Seemingly from OE *dunn* 'dark, dusky, swarthy', with OE *lēah*, giving 'the dark woodland glade', but VCH VII 211 identifies *Duncowleye*, recorded in 1405, in this area. If that name relates to this place, the derivation may be 'dun-cow *lēah*' rather than 'dun cowley' (see Cowley), but the loss of a complete element in such a relatively short period would be surprising. See also Dunley.

DUNLEY (unlocated, possibly near Abbey Hulton, or the same place as Dunlea (q.v.)) *Dunley* 1227 SHC XII NS 218. Probably from OE *dunn* 'dark, dusky, swarthy', with OE *lēah*.

DUNSLEY ½ miles east of Kinver (SO 8583). *Dunsley* 1274, 1316, 1324 SHC 1911 28-9, *Dunnesleye*, *Dunneslegh* 1324 *ibid*. 363, *Donnesleye* 1346 SHC 1913 113, *Dunnesley* 1412 SHC XVI 80, *Downysley*, *Dounysley* 1504 SHC 1928 89-90, *Dounsley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 15. From the OE personal name Dunn, so 'Dunn's-*lēah*'.

DUNSMOOR (obsolete) in the area around Bradshaw, 1 mile north-west of Longsdon (SJ 9455). *Dunnismour* 1278 Ipm, *Dunsmore alias Bradshaw More* 1558 SRO DW1702/2/1-10, *Dunsmore Meddowes near Rudyard (over against Herracles)* 1686 Plot. Possibly from the personal name Dunn: cf. Dunsmore, Warwickshire. It seems that the name of this place is not to be associated with Dunsmore Brook (q.v.).

DUNSMORE BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet which runs from Rushton James to the river Churnet, north of Harracles. *Dunsmore flu.* 1577 Saxton, *Dunsmore brook*, *Dun* c.1600 Erdeswick 1844: 493-4, 1610 Speed, *Dunsmore River* 1689 Lea. See also Dunsmoor.

DUNSTALL 1½ miles west of Tamworth (SK 1803), anciently within the Hay of Hopwas in Cannock Forest. *Tunstall (Wood)* 1300 SHC V (i) 176, *Tunstal* 1323 SHC IX (i) 102, 1324 SHC 1911 101, *Dunstall* 1472 SBT DR3/575 at 570, *Dunstal* 1798 Shaw I 433; **DUNSTALL** 4½ miles south-west of Burton-on-Trent (SK 1820), formerly in Needwood Forest, ? *Stunstull* 1269 SHC 1910 129, *Tunstall* 1272, *Tunstall* 13th century Duig; **DUNSTALL** 1 mile north-west of Abbots Bromley (SK 0726), formerly within Needwood Forest, *Tunstall* 1327, *Tunstal Maner* (Manor) 1355 Duig, *Tunstall* 1463 SRO D3155/7112; **DUNSTALL** 1 mile north-west of Wolverhampton (SJ 0000), *Tunstall* 1327, *Tunstall near Hampton* 1356, *Tunstall* 1450 and 1563 Duig, 1686 Plot 8. From OE *tūn-stall* 'site of a farm'. It has been observed that the name is frequently found on the borders of ancient wastes, as if they had been outlying farmyards without homesteads: see Field 1993: 215. There was a 'hermitage of the well of Dunstall' belonging to Trentham priory, probably near the priory itself, recorded in 1162: VCH III 136. See also Tunstall.

DUNSTON 2 miles north-east of Penkridge (SJ 9217). *Dvnestone* 1086 DB, *Doneston* c.1220 SHC VIII 161, *Doneston'* 1242 Fees, *Donston(e)* 1272 FF, 1403 Ipm, 1587 Survey, *Dunstone* 1281 SHC VI (i) 154, *Donston*, *Dunston* 1327 SHC VII (i) 244, *Dunstane* 1367 Pat, *Dunson* 1552 FF. Dunn (from OE *dunn* 'dark, dusky, swarthy') was a common OE personal name, hence 'Dunn's *tūn*'.

DUNWOOD 3 miles west of Leek (SJ 9455). *Dunewode* 1275 SHC XI 334, 1278 Ipm, *Dunewode* 1275 SHC XI 334, *Donewode* 1280 SHC VI (i) 100, *Dunwood* 1587 QSR, 1634 Leek ParReg, *Nether Longsdon otherwise Donwood* 1622 SHC X NS I 29. From OE *dūn-wudu* 'wood on or at the hill'.

DUTTON (it is unclear whether there was actually a place of the name in Staffordshire - see StEnc 721 - but if there was, it was possibly in the Maer/Aston area, or in or near Cheadle: see CEC 260 for a reference to the Dutton family of Cheadle). Documentary references include *Dutton* 1272 SHC IV (i) 193, 1304 SHC XII NS 278, 1313 SHC XI 334, 1316 SHC 1921 16, 1327 SHC VII 203, 1410 SHC XVI 71, 1594 SHC 1932 45, *Dotton* 1326 SHC 1911 368, *Dotton'* 1333 SHC X 100. The family of Dutton (from Dutton in Cheshire) are recorded in Staffordshire from the time of Henry III, when they acquired part of Maer and Aston by marriage: SHC 1913 233; SHC IX NS 257; SHC XII NS 242-5; SHC 1938 26. See also Salt 1888: 53; PN Ch III 112. *Dutton Water* (unlocated, possibly near Longdon) is recorded in the late 13th century: SHC 1921 7.

DYDON 1 mile east of Middle Mayfield (SK 1344). ? *Doiton*, *Doyton* c.1568 SHC 1938 143-4, *Dydon Wood Frm*, als *Dydon Farm* c.1705 SRO D626/A/9/1-29, *Dibden Mathfield* 1798 Yates, *Dydon & Dydon Woods* 1836 O.S.

EADMORE or IDMORE HEATH (unlocated, in Little Sugnall). *Eadmore als. Idmore Heath* 1725 SRO D1192/35.

EARDLEYEND 1 mile north of Audley (SJ 7952). *Erdele* 1332 SHC X (i) 101, *Yerdleyende* 1397 DRO D3155/WH42, *Erdeleyende* 1512 JNSFC LX 1925-6 34, *Yearley Ende* 1531 X NS I 166, *Yerdley End* 1540 DRO D3155/WH44, *Eardley* 1686 Plot 214, *Eardley End* 1833 O.S. Perhaps from OE *gyrd-lēah* 'wood where yards or poles were obtained'.

EARLSWAY HOUSE 1½ miles south-west of Rushton Spencer (SJ 9160). *Herlesweygrene* 1350 *Antrobus*, *Herleswey*, *Urlesweye* 1359 *ibid*, DW1761/A/4/15, *Earles Way* 1673 SRO DW1761/A/4/111-3[4], *Earles Way* 1673 SRO DW1761/A/4/111-113, *Earls Way house* 1775 Yates, 1862 (1883) Sleight. From OE *eorl* 'earl', with OE *weg* 'way', giving 'the earl's way', the *via comitis* of the Earls of Chester (or pre-Conquest Earls of Mercia: SHC 4th Series 19 11), which ran from Chester to Leicester and Nottingham, via Leek and Derby, also found in Yelsway or Yarlsway (Lane), Caldon. See also VCH II 279; Palliser 1976: 79-81; Elliott 1984: 64-5.

EASING FARM 2 miles south of Upper Hulme (SK 0157). *Hesing* 1250 SHC 1911 428, *Esyng* 1274 SHC 1911 429, *Esyngge* 1280 SHC VI (i) 109, *Esing*, *Essing* c.1292 SHC NS IX 314, *Esyng* 1332 SHC X 115, 1534 ValEccl, *Heysynge* 1535 SHC 1912 77, *Esyns*, *Esynges* 1546 SHC 1912 351, *Essynge* 1552 SHC IX NS 301, *Eesing*, *Essing* 1640 Leek ParReg. The Ising in Macclesfield, Cheshire, has the forms *Esyng* 1274, *Hessyng'* 1467, *Hesyng* 1508 (PN Ch V (II) 283), and it is suggested that the basis of that name may be OE *hās* 'brushwood, heath', giving '(the place called) the

hæs or brushwood or heath; that which has to do with brushwood or heath' (*ibid.*), but a more likely derivation may be from an early instance of late-ME *ēsing* 'the eaves of a house', hence 'a roof, shelter, dwelling', so giving 'the dwelling place' or 'the place at the edge of a wood or hill': see PN Ch I 119; also Wilson 1974: 32: this place lies on the long hillside of Morridge. For an example of *esyng* used *temp.* Henry VIII in the sense 'eaves' see SHC X NS I 160.

EASTWALL on the south bank of the river Churnet, 1 mile west of Oakamoor (SK 0344). *Esteswelle* c.1200 Cheadle Charter, *East Wall* 1836 O.S. If the early spelling is reliable, the medial -s- suggests that the first element of the name is an unidentified personal name, with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', which invariably develops into *wall* in the West Midlands. Modern maps show a small pool here, which may be associated with the name, but the pool does not appear on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1836.

EATON BROOK a tributary of the river Penk. From Water Eaton (q.v.).

EATON, CHURCH Ancient Parish 2 miles south-east of Gnosall (SJ 8417). *Eitone* 1086 DB, *Eitun* 1176 MRA, *Eton* 1198 CurR, 1242 Fees, *Eiton* 1200 Ass, 1203 Fine, *Eyton*, *Eaiton* 1236 Fees, *Chirch(e) Eyton* 1261 MRA, *Chirche-Eyton* 1293 SHC VI (i) 245, *Eytona* 1298 RontonC, *Chirche Eton* 1481 Pat, *Churche Eyton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 95, *Churcheton* 1570 Pat. From OE *ēg-tūn* 'tūn on an island or on dry ground in a marsh'. The place is on a small raised area in wet ground with the church on the highest point. It is possible that *tūn* is a later addition to an original name which was simply *ēg*, and although there was a church here before Domesday, the *Church* element is a medieval addition. Morden 1695 shows an *Eaton* on the north side of Crakemarsh. See also Wood Eaton.

EATON, WATER 2 miles south-west of Penkridge (SJ 9011). ? *Eatun* 940 (14th century, S.392), *Etone* 1086 DB, *Eton* 1242 Fees, *Eton* 1262 For, 1286 SHC V (i) 162, *Eten* super *Watlinstrete* 1315 SHC IV (ii) 106, *Watter Eyton* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 89. From OE *ēa* 'river', usually applied to a larger watercourse, with OE *tūn*, hence 'tūn on a river'. The place lies on the river Penk on the north side of Watling Street.

EATON, WOOD 2 miles south-east of Gnosall (SJ 8417). *Wode-Eyton* 1293 SHC VI (i) 245. From OE *ēg tūn* 'tūn on an island or dry ground in a marsh', with OE *wudu* 'a wood'. The place shares the same area of raised land as Church Eaton (q.v.), which it adjoins on the north-west.

EAVES, THE 1 mile south of Cheadle (SK 0141). *Cheadle-Eaves* 1663 SHC II (ii) 63, *Chedle-eves* 1695 Morden, *Cheadley eves* 1749 Bowen, *The Eaves* 1836 O.S. From OE *efes* 'caves; an edge or border, especially of a wood', and in place-names 'the brow of a hill, the edge of a precipice or bank', or as here, 'the place on the edge of the township (of Cheadle)'. See also Whiston Eaves.

EBON ASH (unlocated, in Horseley). *Ebon Ash* 1851 White.

EBSTREE 1 mile north of Trysull (SO 8595). *Epstree* 1759 Trysull ParReg, *Hebstry* 1794 *ibid*, *Ebstree* 1832 Teesdale, *Ebstrey* 1834 O.S, *Ebstree* 1840 TA, 1853 Trysull ParReg. A curious name, early spellings for which have not been traced. From spellings with *Ep-* in the parish registers possibly (though considerable doubt remains) from OE *hēope* 'fruit of the wild rose', from which derives

Modern dialect *hip*, *hep*, so giving 'the tree with the hips': in the 1840 TA the field name following *Upper Ebstree* is *Hepstile* 'the stile at the hips'. Or perhaps from the OE personal name *Hebbi: cf. Hepscott, Northumberland.

ECCELWALL (unlocated; possibly a scribal error for Eccleshall (q.v.), or perhaps Eccleswall, Herefordshire.) *Eccelwall* 1293 SHC VI (i) 215. If a genuine name, the second element is Mercian OE *wælla* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. The first is uncertain, but perhaps from the OE personal name *Eccel, a derivative of *Ecca* (cf. *Eccles*, La; *Ecclesall Bierlow*, West Yorkshire: Ekwall 1960: 159), though the absence of a possessive indicator would be difficult to explain.

ECCLESHALL Ancient Parish 7 miles north-west of Stafford (SJ8329). ? *Eccleshale* 1002x1004 (11th century, S.1536), *Ecleshelle* 1086 DB, *Eccleshale* 1227 Ass, *Eccllyshale* 1255 FF, *Ecclesale* 1262 SHC V (i) 136, *Eccleshall* 13th century, *Ekeleshale* 1319 SHC X 28, *Egles hale* 1415 SHC XVII 55, *Ekylsall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 102, *Eckleshall* 1577: Saxton, *Eccelshal* 1610: Speed. The second element is OE *halh*, often meaning 'sheltered place', sometimes applied to a small valley or hollow, which would be suitable for this place, which lies in a shallow curve of gently rising ground south of the river Sow (see Gelling 1988: 97). The first element is OE **ecles*, from Latin **eclēsia*, late British **eglēs*, Welsh *eglwys* 'a body of Christians, a church', found in three west Midlands place-names, of which this is one, with OE *halh*. (The others are the two places called Exhall in Warwickshire: see PN Wa 107-8, 208. There is another Eccleshall south-west of Sheffield with a similar derivation.). The **ecles* element (early OE had no medial -g-, and -c- was substituted for it) is found combined in place-names with a small range of second elements (or alone, as in *Eccles*, north-west of Chapel en le Frith, and near Hope, both in Derbyshire), but is never itself used as a second element, suggesting that the Anglo-Saxons did not attach a distinguishing name to one of these particular communities or churches, but occasionally used the community or church as a defining term when naming something else. Eccleshall is an exceptionally large parish at the centre of a composite estate revealed in DB: see Palliser 1976: 47. The bishops of Lichfield held property here from an early date - perhaps as early as the third quarter of the 7th century, during the reign of Wulfhere - and were possibly attracted to a place with an existing Christian community, or by a name and tradition recording the earlier existence of such a group. The name suggests that Celtic Christian communities (and perhaps churches) continued into the Anglo-Saxon pagan period, and the possible existence of a pre-English administrative unit, although Ekwall 1960: xxiii observes that **ecles* is a little too common to be sure that every name incorporating the element shows the adoption of a British place-name, and suggests that it is not improbable that the British word was adopted into English and used for some time before the word church (OE *cirice*) came into use, with Cameron 1987: 3 emphasising that there is no independent evidence that the British word was ever taken over into colloquial use in OE (see also EPNE i 145). The stress in Celtic was on the final syllable, but in English on the first, so that a change of stress eventually led to *Eccles*:- Cameron 1996: 32. *Eccleshall Holme* is recorded in 1602 (SHC 1935 IV 423), from ON *holmr* 'a small island, a piece of dry land in a marsh; a piece of land partly surrounded by streams or by a stream', presumably from an island in the river Sow near Eccleshall, or a piece of land enclosed by other watercourses. For a full discussion of names containing **ecles* see Gelling 1988: 96-9. For Eccleston Church near Leek see Elkstone.

ECHELLS a common minor name, from OE **ēcels* 'an addition, land added to an estate by reclamation'. Ekwall 1963: 33-5 cites Echeles near Wombourne (which has not been traced), Drayton Basset and Wolverhampton (see Nechells). See also Etching Hill.

ECLINGES (unlocated, possibly near Rowley Regis.) *Ecling* 1280 SHC VI (i) 108, *Eclynges* 1281 *ibid.* 117, *Eclynge* 1282 *ibid.* 121, *Eclingh* 1289 *ibid.* 187, *Eclingge* 1293 *ibid.* 242. An intriguing name. Perhaps from the OE personal name **Eccel*, a derivative of *Ecca* (cf. *Eccles*, La; *Ecclesall* Bierlow, West Yorkshire: Ekwall 1960: 159), with *-ingas* 'people of', hence '(the place of) **Eccles*' people'.

ECTON, ECTON HILL 3 miles south-west of Sheen (SK 0958). ? *Ekedon* c.1240 TutCart, *Ekeyton* 1293 QW, *Ecton*, *Brode Ecton* 1559 SHC IX NS 165, *Eekton* 1666 SHC 1925 189. From the OE personal name *Ecca*, hence 'Ecca's *tūn*' (cf. *Ecton*, Northamptonshire).

EDEFORD (unlocated, in the Cannock area, perhaps Hednesford.) *Edeford* 1531 SHC 1910 20.

EDGE HILL onb the north side of Stone (SJ 8935). *Edge Hill* 1891 O.S.

EDGELAND (obsolete) on the south side of Whiston Brook, south-west of Longnor Hall in Lapley (SJ 8614). *Hydesland*, *Hydeslond*, *Hidesland*, *Hideslond* 1263 Ipm, 1265 MRA, 1293 QW, *Hydeslaund* 1280 Ass, *Hydeslaund* 1280 SHC VI (i) 149, *Hysdelunde* 1292 Ch, *Hydeslond*, *Hudeslond* 1293 SHC VI (i) 247, *Hideslond* 1383 Rees 1997: 172, *Heddesland(es)* 1548 Pat, *Heddesland* 1574 SHC XVII 220, *Hyddeslaunde otherwise Hydgelande* 1576 SHC XIV 188, *Higdland* 1604 PCC, *Hidgland* 1616 StSt 13 2001 51, 1666 SHC 1927 63, 1680 SHC 1919 220, *Hildersland* 1765 SOT D15/10/3/7, *Edgeland* 1834 O.S. Probably from the OE personal name *Hiddi* (cf. *Hedgeley*, Northumberland), rather than from OE *hīd* 'a hide of land', a word normally found alone (cf. *The Hyde*), or as a second element. The second element of this name is OE *land*, rarely found as a first element, but common as a second, the precise meaning of which varies from 'estate, landed property', to 'district', and (as perhaps here) 'portion of a village or estate'. The name *Hideslond* is also recorded in Oswestry and Ercall Magna in Shropshire (Rees 1985).

EDGES, THE (unlocated, in Hanchurch.) ? *Super-Egge* 1227 SHC XII NS 219, ? *super Egge* mid-13th century SRO D593/B/1/23/7/21, *the Edges* 1660x1721 SRO D593/B/1/9/3.

EDIAL (pronounced Eddyall [ediəl]) 3 miles south-west of Lichfield (SK 0708). *Edichalewode* 1299 SRO DW1734/1/4/3A, *Edysale* 1379, *Edihall* 1416, *Edihale* 1453 SRO DW1734/2/1/603 m41, *Edyalewod* 1474 *ibid.* 598, *Edyall*, *Edihall* 16th century Duig, *Edgiall* 1686 Plot, *Edjall* 1834 O.S. The earliest spelling suggests a derivation from OE *edisc* 'enclosed pasture, a park', with OE *halh*. White 1834: 104 suggests that in the 1830s the place was known as *Edgehill*. The place appears originally to have been centred some distance to the east where Pipe Grange Farm now stands: VCH XIV 201. See also Walsall Wood.

EDINGALE 5 miles north of Tamworth (SK 2112). *Ednunghal(l)e* 1086 DB (listed in Derbyshire), *Edelinghal* 1100x1107 RHP 77, *Edenyghale* c.1170 SHC 1939 27, *Ederingehale* 1191 SHC II 11, *Eadinghall*, *Ederingehale* 12th century Duig, *Edeling(e)-hale* 1208 FF, *Edenighale* 1259-60 SHC X

NS I 273, *Hedenighale* 1269 SHC 1910 122, *Edenyng-hale* 1272 ff. Ass, *Yedyhale* 1457 SHC III NS 222. Possibly an OE *-inga-* name, giving 'the *halh* associated with Ēden's or Ēadwine's people': cf. Edensor, Derbyshire, 2 miles north-east of Bakewell, which may incorporate the same personal name. In 1086 Edingale consisted of two manors, one of which now forms part of the manor and parish of Croxall, Derbyshire, the other forming part of the parish of Alrewas in Staffordshire.

EDRITESHURST (unlocated) *Edritheshurst* 1255 (1798) Shaw I xxvii. Probably from the OE personal name Ēadþryþ (see Searle 1897: 189), with OE *hyrst* 'wooded hill'.

EDULUESMOR (unlocated, perhaps in the Pipe/Lichfield area). *Eduluesmor* 1292 *Deed*.

EE, RIVER - see AQUALATE MERE.

EFFLINCH 1 mile south of Barton under Needwood (SK 1917). *Heffallyngelake* 1415 Hardy 1908: 84, *Hethfallynglake* 1415 *ibid.* 89, *Effallyngelake* 1415 *ibid.* 90, *Efflinch* 1812 *EnclA*. Perhaps 'the fallow-land at the heath', from Mercian OE *fælgung* 'fallow land', with OE *hæð* 'heath' and *lacu* 'stream'.

EGG WELL at Roost Hill, 2 miles south-east of Leek (SK 0053). Early forms have not been traced, but if ancient (and this may be the un-named well at Ashenhurst mentioned by Sleight 1883: 106), perhaps from ME *egge* 'edge, ridge', or OE *ēce* 'perpetual', so 'the spring that does not dry up'. Or possibly from the shape of the well (which may however have taken its shape from the name of the well), or from the oval stone bearing an inscription which is said to have been placed over the spring by William Stanley of Ashenhurst Hall between 1744 and 1752 (VCH VII 171), or perhaps a jocular association with Roost Hill. It may also be noted that the Egge (later Edge) family are recorded from the 14th century in Horton (SHC 1912 350; VCH VII 71) and Caverswall (SHC X (i) 118): see also TSSAHS XXXVIII 1996-7 56; PN Ch IV xiii.

EGGERTON (unlocated, but possibly Egginton in Derbyshire.) *Eggerton* 1416 SHC XVII 57.

EID LOW in Wootton Park (SK 0944). *Eid Low* 1836 O.S. A curious name for which no derivation can be offered. The second element is OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus'. The name is remembered in Eid Low Plantation.

ELAND BROOK a tributary of the river Swarbourn. *Ealandbrook temp.* Henry VI (1798) Shaw I 66, *Ealands Brook* 1650 *ParSurv*. A back-formation from OE *ēa-land* 'land by a river': see Eland Lodge.

ELAND LODGE 1 mile south-west of Draycott in the Clay (SK 1427). *Eland Lodge* 1773 SRO D861/T/2/44/1-29, *Eland Lodge & Farm* 1792 PRO (DL31/244), *Ealand Lodge* 1798 Shaw I 67. From OE *ēa-land* 'land by a river': the place lies near Eland Brook (q.v.).

ELFORD Ancient Parish 4½ miles north-west of Tamworth (SK 1810). (*æt*) *Elleforda* 1002x1004 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Elefurd* 1086 DB, *Elleford* 11th or 12th century Sawyer 1979a: xxxvii, *Eyleford* 1286 SHC VI (i) 164, *Elfold* 1286 SHC 1924 334, *Elford*, *Eleford* 1413 SHC XVII 6, *Elleford* 1413 *ibid.* 16, *Earleford* 1537 SHC 1931 223, *Elseford* 1562 SHC 1938 123, *Eirleforde* 1567 SHC XVII 216, *Eireleford otherwise Elford* 1601 SHC XVI 208, *Elford* 1833 O.S.

Probably 'the ford of Ælla', a common OE personal name. Before the erection of a bridge here in the early 19th century, the river Tame was also forded at Willyford, 1 mile to the west.

ELFORD HEATH ½ mile west of Eccleshall (SJ 8229). ? *Hulleforde, Hullforde* 1351 SHC 1913 144, ? *Elmton* 1749 Bowen, *Helford Heath* 1833 O.S. If the spellings refer to this place, seemingly 'the ford by the hill'. It is unclear whether *Wollfordes Marshe*, recorded in 1603 (SHC 1934 (ii) 52), refers to this place.

ELFORD LOW FARM 1 mile south-east of Elford (SK 1909). *Elford-low* c.1750 (1798) Shaw I 381, *Elford low Farm* 1834 O.S. From a burial mound to the north-west of the farm, from OE *hlāw* 'mound, tumulus', recorded (and opened) by Plot: see Plot 1686: 405. See also Shaw 1798: I 381.

ELKSTONE, UPPER & LOWER 6 miles north-east of Leek (SK 0559). *Helkesdon* c.1175 (p) Okeover, *Olkesdon* 1210-5 SHC XI 331, *Elkesdon* 1227 Ass *et freq* to 1341 *ibid*, *Elkesdun* 1251 Ch, *Elkysdon* (p) 1332 SR, *Ulkeston* 1424 Banco, *Elkyston* 1491 Ct, *Elkeston* 1486 Ct *et freq*, *Elkyston* 1515 DRO D2375M/171/1/2, *Elkyston* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 41, *Elkerston* 1553 ICG, *Eccleston Ch.* 1599 Smith, *Elkinston* 1604 ParSurv, *Eccleston* 1607 Kip, 1610 Speed, *Elxton* c.1641 DRO D258/30/26, *Eccleston (church)* 1673 Blome, *Elkston (Upper & Lower)* 1689 Plot. '*Ēalāc's *dūn* or hill'. The name Ēalāc is a variant of *Ēanlāc. Upper Elkstone is recorded as *Over Elkesdon* 1272 Ass, and Lower Elkstone as *nether Elkysdon* 1286 Banco. Cf. Elkesley, Nottinghamshire; Elkstone, Gloucestershire; North & South Elkington, Lincolnshire. It may be noted that various early maps show Eccleston Church near Leek (e.g. *Eccleston Ch.* 1599 Smith, *Eccleston Ch.* 1607 Kip, *Eccleston Church* 1610 Speed, *Eccleston church* 1673 Blome). The name is in fact a perpetuated mis-spelling of Elkstone.

ELLASTONE Ancient Parish 5 miles south-west of Ashbourne (SK 1143). *Edelachestone, Elachestone* 1086 DB, *Athelast* 1177 SHC XII NS 278, *Adeloheston, Adelakeston, Edelaghestone* c.1196 SHC II 68, 70 (& index), *Aselacston* 1227 SHC IV 61, *Adlacston* 1236 Fees, *Adthelaxton* 1236 SHC 1911 393, *Athelaxton* 1242 Fees, *Ethelaston* 1327 SHC 1913 12, *Ellaston or Gaston* 1749 Bowen. 'Ēadlāc's or (though much less likely) *Æpelāc's *tūn*'. The 1749 variant presumably reflects local pronunciation. See also Verdon.

ELLENHALL Ancient Parish 2 miles south-east of Eccleshall (SJ 8426). *Linehalle* 1086 DB, ? *Linhale* 1203 SHC III 103, *Ellinhale* 12th century Duig, *Ælinhale* c.1200 DC, *Elynhale* c.1200 Rees 1985, *Elinhale* 1242 Fees, 1258 Ipm, *Helinhall* 1243 SHC 1911 396, *Elnal(park)* 1395 SHC 1927 105, *Elynhall* 1531 SHC 1912 46, *Elenall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 66, *Elnol, Elnehaul* c.1540 Leland. The regular -i- in the second syllable suggests that the DB form may be correct, with the original name OE *līn-halh* 'flax *halh*', later prefixed with OE *ēa* 'river', giving 'flax nook by a river': the place lies on a tributary of the river Sow.

ELLERTON GRANGE 3 miles south-west of Adbaston (SJ 7225). *Ellerton Grange* c.1569 SHC IX NS 94, 1749 Bowen, 1833 O.S. From nearby Ellerton in Shropshire, *Alarton* 1203, 1212 Bowcock, *Edlarton, Athelarton, Allarton* 1253-60, 1262, 1272 Eyton 1854-60: VIII 93, *Adhelardeston* 1272 SHC 1924 243. 'Æpelheard's *tūn*'. The place was a grange of Ranton Abbey: VCH III 253-4.

ELLIS HILL 1½ miles north-west of Mayfield (SK 1347). *Ellis Hyll* 1538 *AOMB*, *Ellyeshyll* 1539 *MinA*, *Ellis Hill Farm* 1768 SRO D3437/1/1-30, *Ellis Mill* (sic) 1836 O.S. From the surname Ely or Elly: Richard Ely is recorded in 1538 (*AOMB*), and the name Elly in 1539 (*MinA*).

ELLISHALL BROOK a tributary of the Ordley Brook, which flows into Northwood Brook, and via Tit Brook into the river Dove. See Ellis Hill, from which the brook takes its name.

ELLOWES HALL 2 miles south of Sedgley (SO 9192). *Ellenvale* 1242 Duig, 1273 SHC IX (ii) 29, SHC 1911 156, *Ellenualle*, *Ellenvalle* 1273 SHC 1911 156, *Ellavales* 1563 Erdeswick 1844: 241, *Elwells* 1736 SRO D3155/WH94, *Ellowes Hall* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from OE *ellern*, *ellen*, *elle* 'elder tree' rather than the OE personal name Elle or Ella, although it may be noted that *Ellsbarn Plantation* appears on the 1834 1" O.S. map on the north side of Upper Penn, some 2 miles to the north-west, and the surname Ellewalle is recorded in the same area c.1378: SHC 1928 39. The word *vale*, rare in Staffordshire, is French for 'valley', so not found in English place-names before the Norman Conquest.

ELMDON (obsolete, near Penkridge). *Helemdon* 1215 SHC VIII (i) 137, *Elemedone* 1279 SHC VI (i) 93, *Elmedon* 1292 *ibid.* 251, 1327 SHC VII (i) 240, *Elmedon'* 1332 SHC X 120, *Elmedon* 1317 SHC 1928 151, 1386 SHC XIII 196. From *elm-dūn* 'hill with the elm or elms'. The name may have been transferred from Elmdon in Warwickshire: the Walter family of Pillatonhall took their name from Walter de Elmedon, of Elmdon in Warwickshire, who held Pillatonhall *temp.* Edward I: SHC XII 101 fn.

ELMHURST 2 miles north of Lichfield (SK 1112). *Elmhurst* 1208 SHC III (i) 173, 1259 SHC 1924 207, 1271 SHC V (i) 151, 1283 SHC 1939 90, *Helmhurst* 1269 SHC 1910 122, *Henhurst* 1280 SHC VI (i) 106, *Elinghurst* 13th century Duig, *Elmhurst* 1416 SHC XVII 59, frequently thereafter *Elmhurst*, *Elmehurst*, *Elmeshurst*, Duig, *Elmehurste* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 183. OE *elm-hyrst* 'elm-copse'.

ELMHURST 3½ miles north-west of Stafford (SJ 9029). *Elberson Farm* 1832 Teesdale, *Elmerson* 1836 O.S., *Elmstone* 1890 O.S. Probably to be identified with *Elmershull* 1252 SHC VIII (i) 200. From the late OE personal name *Ælmēr* (representing earlier *Ælfmēr* or *Æpelmēr*, although the change in the ME terminal *hull* 'hill' is unusual, and also the further change to *hurst* 'wooded hill'. JNSFC XLII 1907-8 119 states: 'near the summit [of Pirehill] is a place formerly known as Elmstone'.

ELMSTONE - see ELMHURST, near Stafford.

ELSTON to the west of Bushbury (SJ 9102). *Alleston* 1527 (1801) Shaw II 182, *Elston Hall* 1694 Bushbury ParReg, *Elston or Ailston* 1798 (1801) Shaw II 182, *Elston Hall* 1834 O.S. The first element is evidently a personal name, so perhaps 'Ælf's *tūn*'. See also Erdeswick 1844: 347.

EMMOTTES HAY (unlocated, in Cheadle). *Emmottes Hey* 1599 SHC 1935 107.

ENDON 4 miles south-west of Leek (SJ 9253). *Enedvn* 1086 DB, 1227 Ass, *Enedon* 1252 Ch, *Henedon* 1274 SHC 1911 160, *Hennedon* 1298 SHC XI NS 253, *Henedun* 13th century Duig, ? *Yenn* 1586 SHC 1927 135, *Endon otherwise Yondon* c.1621 SHC VII NS 234, *Yen* 1665 Leek ParReg, *Endon or Enerden* 1747 Bowen. The first element is possibly OE *ened* 'a duck' (although more frequently found in place-names in combination with elements for 'water'), but more likely to be OE

**ēan* 'lamb' (which corresponds to Latin *agnus*, and is a word found only in place-names, unrecorded in any Germanic language except in derivations, e.g. *ēanian* 'to lamb', (*ge*)*ēan* 'with lamb'), or from the personal name Eana (cf. *eanan-dun* in a charter of 1003 (c.1300, S.1664) relating to Bengeworth, Worcestershire: see Hooke 1990: 344-6), with the second element *dūn* 'hill': the place lies at the end of a pronounced hill, and the earliest settlement may have been in the area of Endon Bank: VCH VII 177. The medial *e* in the early spellings rules against a derivation from OE *ende* 'end'. It is said that in the early 19th century the name was pronounced Yan by local people (GM 1829 II 28-31). The spellings suggest that Yen or Yan was an alternative pronunciation from at least the late 16th century.

ENDON BROOK a tributary of the river Churnet. *Yendon River* 1577 Saxton, 1689 Lea. Named from Endon village.

ENGLETON 1 mile north-east of Brewood (SJ 8910). *Hengleton* 1204 SHC III (i) 90, *Engleton* (p) 1206-30 StCart, *Hengleton* 1289 SHC VI (i) 184, *Engulton* 1330 Coram, 1391 FF, *Engletone* 1381 SHC XVII 183, *Ingleton* 1478 Coram R, *Inggylton* 1480 SHC VI NS (i) 126, *Yengylton* 1491 Hatherton, *Engleton* 1749 Bowen. From OE *Engle* 'the Angles', later in OE meaning 'the English', with OE *tūn*, hence 'the *tūn* of the Angles', perhaps referring here to an isolated settlement or group of Angles in a mainly British area. The name Brewood (q.v.) is held to form part of the evidence for the existence until well into the Anglo-Saxon period of a British community here. A Roman villa is by the river Penk west of Engleton Hall Farm: see SHC 1938 267-93.

ENGLONDFEILD (unlocated, perhaps in or near Bishop's Wood, west of Bishop's Offley.) *Englondfeild* 1609 SHC III NS 27.

ENDDELEY (unlocated, in Morfe Forest). *Enddeley in foresta de Morff* 1414 Kimball 1959: 107.

ENSON 4 miles north-east of Stafford (SJ 9428). *Hentone* 1086 DB, 1272 FF, *Eneston* 1275 Ass, *Enestan* pre-1290 SRO (393/7999), *Enson*, *Henestone*, *Enestone* 13th century Duig, *Enston* 1433 SHC XVII 147, *Henstone* 1471 SHC IV NS 172, *Enstone* c.1598 Erdeswick 1844: 48. Possibly '**Ēan*'s *tūn*', with the late disappearance of *-t-*.

ENVILLE Ancient Parish 5 miles west of Stourbridge (SO 8286). *Efnefeld* 1086 DB, *Evenesfeld* 1175-6 SHC I 78, *Euenfeld* 1183 P, *Efnefeld* 1194-1203 SHC III (i) 217, *Eveniford* 1206 SHC III (i) 138, *Inefeld* 1207 SS lxxxiv 3, *Evenefeud* 1240 FF, *Evenefeld* 1332 *et freq* SHC 1913 39, *Evil* 1610 Speed, *Envile* 1660 (1801) Shaw II 272, *Endfield alias Enviold* 1770 (1801) *ibid.* 272. The first element is the OE adjective *efn* 'even, smooth, flat, level', hence 'flat *feld* or open land'. The *-ville* substitution is 'partly due to a native change of *f* to *v*, partly to popular etymology': Ekwall 1960: xxix (cf. Evenwood, Durham). The place-name is particularly appropriate for the flat valley-bottom overlooked by the church here.

ERCALL, HIGH (obsolete) 1 mile south-east of Sedgley (SO 9292), *High Arcall* 1701-25 Sedgley RentRolls, 1813 Himley ParReg, *High Ercall* 1834 O.S.; **HIGH ARCAL** (*sic*) **WOOD** (obsolete) on east side of Himley Park (SO 9091), *High Arcal Wood* 1834 O.S. Both names, some two miles apart, are probably relatively recent, adopted in a transferred sense from High Ercall in Shropshire (see PN Sa I 124-6; Gelling 1992: 72), but see also Archill Brook, with which these names may be associated.

High Ercall Farm is said to have been formerly known as The Flaxhall (? *Flaxle* 1307 SHC VII (i) 173, *Flaxhale* 1273 SHC 1911 155; Hackwood 1898: 11).

ERCHENEBRUG (unlocated, near Clayhanger.) *Erchenebrug* 1300 SHC V (i) 177.

ERDYNTON (unlocated, in Stafford.) *Erdynton* 1436 SHC XII 312.

ESKEW BRIDGE 1 mile north-west of Brewood (SJ 8801), *Eskew Bridge* 1834 O.S. 'The bridge which crosses at an angle'. Skew Bridge, on the south-east side of Forton (SJ 7520), was a combined road bridge and aquaduct: VCH IV 103; see also Robinson 1988: 80.

ESSEX BRIDGE A narrow stone packhorse bridge of with 14 arches, 100 yards long and 4' wide, over the river Trent at Shugborough (SJ 9922). *Shutborrowe Bridge* 1647 Levy. The bridge was known as Shugborough Bridge or Haywood Bridge until the 19th century. There is no evidence to support the popular tradition, seemingly dating only from the 19th century (SHC 1970 90), that the bridge was so-named because it was built by the county as a compliment to the last Devereux, Earl of Essex, of Chartley. Chetwynd, writing c.1679, says that there was 'a Wooden Bridge, which being ruinous was in ye last Age rebuilt wth stone, & contains 43 Arches': SHC 1914 129. A levy in 1647 includes 'ffourescore pounds for building of 16 Arches of Shutborrowe bridge': AJ 120 1963 287. See also Erdeswick 1844: 72. Pennant 1782 remembered 42 arches; the 14 remaining still make it the longest packhorse bridge in England.

ESSEX FALL (obsolete) ½ mile south-east of Bridgnorth (SO 7392). *Essex Fall* 1739 TSAS IX 1886 196, 1752 Rocque. It is said that in the early 18th century there was a tradition that the place was named after the Earl of Essex or one of his men who fell and was killed here: TSAS IX 1886 196.

ESSINGTON 4½ miles north-west of Walsall (SJ 9603). *Esingetun* 996 (for 994) (17th century, S.1380), *Eseningetone* 1086 (DB, listed also in Warwickshire), *Esenington* 1227 Ass, 1240 FF, *Eselington* 1236 Fees, *Esynton* 1238 Lib, *Eseningeton* c.1250 SHC 1950-1 15, *Esenitigetun*, *Eseningent* 1255 (1798) Shaw I xviii, *Essington* 1271 For, *Essinton* 1279 Ass. 'The *tūn* of the family or followers of a man called Esne'. Esne was a common OE personal name, and although it meant 'servant', was often borne by men of high rank. Essington is a rare Staffordshire example of an *-ingatūn* name: see Gelling 1988: 178. The place lies on high ground of over 600'. It may be noted that the DB entry for this place is repeated similarly (though not exactly, as suggested in VCH Wa I 332 and Darby & Terrett 1971: 164) in folio 243 of the Warwickshire section: VCH IV 55.

ESSINGTON HOUSE FARM on the north side of Alrewas (SK 1715). Perhaps to be associated with *Esstinton* 1260 SHC X NS I 274, *Estintun* 1260 *ibid.* 280, *Essington meadow*, *Essington field* c.1750 TSSAHS XX 1978-9 loose map. Possibly from OE *ēast* 'east, with OE *hēan-tūn* '*tūn* situated on high ground', perhaps associated with *Hayntun* recorded in 1259: SHC X NS I 267.

ETCHING HILL a 454' hill topped by a sandstone outcrop 1 mile north-west of Rugeley (SK 0318). *Echulhul* 1408 SRO DW1781/6/1/7, *Eychilhill* 1504 VCH IV 54, *Echyngge hill* 1554 SRO DW1734/2.3.43, *le Echin*, *Ichinhill* 1584 Comm, *Eaching Hill* 1678 SHC 1927 13, *Itching Hill* 1698 Fiennes, *Hitching Hill* 1798 Yates, 1834 O.S. Probably from OE **ēcels* 'an addition, land added to an

estate', a common element in the North Midlands: cf. Etchells, Cheshire and Derbyshire; Hichells, Yorkshire.

ETHNESDICH (unlocated, possibly in the Blithfield area.) *Ethnesdich* c.1250 SRO D986/41. An interesting name, possibly from OE *hæðen*, *dīc* 'heathen's (i.e. Dane's) ditch', or from the ON female name Eithne (see Cheney 1970: 132).

ETINTON (unlocated, near Lichfield.) *Etinton* 1679 SHC 1914 125.

ETOCETO, LETOCETUM - see WALL; LICHFIELD.

ETRURIA in Burslem, 1 mile north-west of Stoke-on-Trent (SJ 8647). *Etruria* 173 BLARS L30/14/315/2, 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S. The village was created in 1769 by Josiah Wedgwood (d.1795) for workers from his ceramic factory and so-named in allusion to Etrurian (Etruscan) style pottery produced here from the second-half of the 18th century. Wedgwood's own house, built in the 1760s, was called Etruria Hall. The place was evidently called Ridghouse when acquired by Wedgwood: Erdeswick 1844: 20.

ETTINGSHALL 2 miles south-east of Wolverhampton (SO 9396). *Ettingeshale* 996 (for 994) (17th century, S.1380), *Etinghale* 1086 DB, *etingeshal'* c.1155 SHC 1941 61, *Ettingehal* 1175, *Etinghale* 1196 P, *Ettingeshale* 1261 FF, *Ettingestal* 1295 TSAS 3rd Series IX 1909 33, *Eltyngeshal Park* 1322 SHC 1911 351, *Odynsall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 115. From OE **etting* 'a pasturage, a grazing-place', with OE *halh*, or '*Etting's *halh*', from an unrecorded personal name. The -*ing* formation is compounded in the genitive singular: see PN Ch V (ii) 281.

EWDNESS 3 miles north-west of Worfield (SO 7398). *Hendinas* 13th century Misc, *Ewdness* (p) 1315 Jury List, *Eudenas* 1327 SR, *Eudenas* 1360 AD iv, *Hewdeness* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 117, *Yewdnes* 1597 Worfield ParReg, *Eudnes* c.1640 SRRC 5460/7/3/7, *Ewdness* 1752 Rocque. According to Ekwall 1936: 202 from Welsh *hyn* (feminine *hen*) 'old', and *dinas* 'city, fortification', where the correct Welsh form would be *Henddinas*. The spelling *Ew-* for *En-* is explained by the misreading of -*n-* as -*u-*. See also Coates & Breeze 2000: 326, where this derivation is categorised as 'confident'. However, that explanation does not seem entirely satisfactory on philological or archaeological grounds, and the name is more likely to be English (see Gelling 1976: 204; 1979: 114), perhaps OE *ēow wudu* 'yew wood', or OE *ēow dūn* 'yew hill' (cf. Eudon, Shropshire), with the addition of OE *ness* 'a nose, a promontory': the place lies on a pronounced headland. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

EYESWALL (obsolete) a former moated house on the west side of Eccleshall (SJ 8229). *Uireswell* 1265 SHC NS III 83, *Uselwalle* c.1270 SHC 1914 52, *Uselwalle* 1276 SHC NS III 84, *Ulshale* 1281 SHC 1911 36, *Ulsale* 1306 *ibid.* 66, 1320 SHC IX (i) 79, *Isewell* 1314 SHC NS III 91, *Iselewall* 1323 *ibid.* 93, *Isewold* 1568 SRO D260/M/T/5/138, *Illsalls* 1618 SHC VI NS (i) 59. The name is said to have come from 'a little perennial spring traditionally said to be good for sore eyes' (a belief probably associated with a folk etymology attributing the name to the word 'eyes') which fed the moat to the old house (SHC III NS 82 82), but the spellings suggest a derivation from OE *usel-* or *ysel-*, for which no explanation can be offered, with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream'. See also WMANS 25 1982 65-6. The name is remembered as Usulwall Close in Eccleshall.

FAIRBOROUGH 1 mile south-east of Heaton (SJ 9560). *Ferreborowes* 1291 (1798) Shaw I xxviii, *Feyreybrowes* c.1291 Tax, *Fajreborowes(weye)* 1318 SHC 1911 433, *the Fairbrederes*, *the Feyerbyroughs* 1532 StarCh, *Feirebarous* 1532 SHC 1912 57, *Fitzboredz* 1539 MA, *feirebarons temp.* Henry VIII StarCh, *Feburroughes* 1641 Leek ParReg, *Faerborough* 1663 StV, *Feaborrow* 1695 Leek RarReg, *Fairboroughs* 1842 O.S. From OE *fæger* 'pleasant' with OE *beorg* 'hill', so 'the pleasant hills'.

FAIRFIELD ½ mile south-east of Bradnop (SK0154). *Fayerfeildes* 1596 Okeover T697, *Fairfields* 1699 *ibid.* T757. From OE *fæger* 'fair, beautiful', so 'the beautiful fields'.

FAIRFIELDHEAD - see **FAWFIELD HEAD**.

FAIROAK 2½ miles south of Ashley (SJ 7632), *the fayre oke* 1553 SHC 1926 30, *Feare Ocke* 1600 Eccleshall ParReg, *Fayr Ocke* 1609 *et freq ibid*, *Fairoak* 1686 Plot; **FAIR OAK** (obsolete) 2 miles north-east of Huntington (SJ 9815), *Fair-Oake* 1686 Plot, *Fair Oak* 1834 O.S. 'The fair or fine oak-tree'.

FAR BROOK a tributary of the river Dane.

FAREWELL Ancient Parish 2½ miles north of Lichfield (SK 0811). *Fagerwell* 1200 Ch, *Faierwelle* 1200 SHC II 91, *Faurewell* 1251 Cl, *Faverwell* 1261 SHC IV 148, *Fayrwell*, *Fagerswell*, *Fagerwelle*, *Farewell* 13th century Duig, *Feirwalle* 1322 BCA MS3415/152, *Faurwell*, *Fagrovella* 1375 Dugd, *Ferwall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 111, *Farwal* 1561 HLS, *Farroll otherwise Farwall* 1586 SHC XV 168. 'Clear spring', from OE *fæger* 'clear, beautiful, pleasant', and Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream': a strong spring lies on the west side of the church here: see StEnc 211. There is a Farewall (*Far Wall Wells* 1836 O.S.) 1 mile north-east of Waterhouses (SK 1051) which probably has the same derivation, but early spellings have not been traced. A priory was founded at Farewell near Lichfield in 1129-48: VCH III 223.

FARGELOW 1 mile east of Alton (SK 0842). *Fargelow* 1836 O.S., 1877 SRO D240/K/14a & b, 1891 O.S.

FARLAWE, FERLAWE (unlocated, possibly in the Tamhorn/Hints area.) *Ferlowe* 1199 SHC III (i) 54, *Farlawe* 1202 *ibid.* 75, *Fernlawe* 1204 *ibid.* 95, *Ferlawe* 1208 *ibid.* 100. From OE *fearn-hlāw* 'the ferny mound or tumulus'

FARLEHAM (unlocated, possibly near Darlaston near Stone.) *Farleham* ? 13th century SHC VI (i) 8, 10, 21.

FARLEY in Alton parish, 4 miles north-east of Cheadle (SK 0644), *Fernelege* 1086 DB, *Farley* 1274 SHC 1911 160, 1646 SHC 4th Series I 259, 1686 Plot, *Farlegh* 1297 SHC VII 48, 1311 SHC 1911 303, *Farylee* 1309 *ibid.* 301, *Farleye* 1327 SHC 1913 9, *Fernelay* 1339 *ibid.* 77, *Fayrley* 1572 SHC XIII 291, *Pharley* 1666 SHC 1925 201, *Farley* 1706 SRO D240/A/2/13/1-3; **FARLEY FARM** 1 mile north of Great Haywood (SK 0024), *Farley* 1775 Yates, 1836 O.S. From OE *fearn-lēah* 'the ferny lēah'.

FARMCOTE 1½ miles south-west of Claverley (SO 7891). *Farnecote* 1209 Eyton 1854-60: III 96, *Farnecote* 1255 (p), *Farncote* 1326 (p) (both from Bowcock 1923), *Farncote* 1507 (1801) Shaw II 208, *Fornecott* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 125, *Farmcote* 1836 O.S. 'Fern cottage', from OE *fearn cot*. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

FARNAM (unlocated, possibly not in Staffordshire.) *Farnham* 1240 SHC 1911 8, 1266 SHC IV 161, 1332 SHC X (i) 114, *Farnam* 1274 1911 162.

FATHOLME on the river Trent 1 mile south-east of Barton-under-Needwood (SK 2017). ? *Flatteholme* c.1535 SHC VI (ii) 166, *Fat Holme* 1834 O.S., *Fatholme* 1832 Teesdale. If the earliest spelling (indexed in SHC VI (ii) as *Flatterholme*) relates to this place, which is likely, the first element is probably ME *flat* (from ON *flōt*) 'flat', or possibly OE *flēot* 'a stream, a creek': otherwise perhaps OE *fāt* 'fat' or OE *fæt* 'vat, vessel, jar, cup', used in some topographical sense, with ON *holmr* 'an isle, a small island, a water-meadow'. The place lies on the west side of the river Trent. Flat Holme in Somerset is held to be 'the island of the fleet' (from ON *floti*, OE *flota*), commemorating the use of the island as a base by Viking fleets (Ekwall 1960: 181). Such a derivation can be ruled out for Fatholme, although the place lies less than 10 miles from Repton, also on the river Trent, where the Danes wintered in 873-4.

FAULD 2 miles west of Tutbury (SK 1828). *Felede* 1086 DB, *Falede* 1236, 1242 Fees, *Falete* 1252 Rolls, *Fauld*, *Fald*, *Feld*, *Felde* 13th century Duig, *Falde* 1326 SHC 1911 107, *Fawlde* 1619 SHC NS VI (i) 51, *Fald* 1686 Plot. From OE *falod* 'a fold, enclosure for animals'. *Falde Holmes*, evidently near Fauld, is recorded in 1619 (SHC NS VI (i) 51). *Holmes* is from ON *holmr* 'a small island, a piece of land by a stream': Fauld lies near the river Dove. Cf. Fould.

FAWFIELDHEAD 1½ miles south-west of Longnor (SK 0763). *Fanfild* (? for *Faufeld*) 1308 SHC XI NS 257, *Faufilde hill*, *Fawfeild Hill* ?c.1555 SHC 1910 72-3, *Fawfeild hill Heydde*, *Fawfeild Hedd*, *Fawfeild hill*, *Fawfeld Head* 1571 SHC 1931 130, *Fawfieldhead Hill* 1603 Alstonefield ParReg, *Foesfield Heade* 1623 SHC NS X (i) 56, *Fawfieldgreen* c.1632 VCH VII 28, *Fawfield Way* 1651 Rental, *Fairfield Head* 1695 Morden. Since 1679 often recorded as Fairfieldhead, but which has now reverted to its older form, which probably derives from OE *fāh* 'variegated', with variously OE *hyll* 'hill' and OE *heafod* 'head', usually in place-names 'the top or end', both meaning 'the elevated place with the multi-coloured open land'. It may be noted, however, that Fawfieldhead lies on the south side of the river Manifold, with Fawside (q.v.) to the north, and Fawfieldhead may, notwithstanding the differing early forms, share the same root as Fawside.

FAWLEY 1 mile north-east of Hamstall Ridware (SK 1220). *Falday (park) temp. John* (1798) Shaw I 155, *Faldhay* 1798 Yates, *Fawley* 1798 Shaw I 155. Curiously, Shaw seems uncertain whether the earliest spelling relates to this place, although *Faldhay* appears on Yates' map in Shaw 1798: I. Perhaps from OE *falod* 'fold', with Mercian OE *(ge)heg*, so 'the enclosure with the animal fold'.

FAWSIDE 1 mile south-east of Hollinsclough (SK 0765). *Foosyde* 1419-21 DRO D2375M/1/1, *Foe Syde* 1599, 1601 Alstonefield ParReg, *fforside* 1626 Rental, *Foo syd* 1662 Alstonefield ParReg, *Fawside* 1775 Yates. This curious name is unexplained: a derivation from OE *fāh* 'variegated' (see

Fawfieldhead, for a *Foe*- spelling; cf. Vowchurch, Herefordshire for *Fowe*- spellings; cf. Fawside, Durham), is not supported by the forms. A derivation from a cognate of OBreton *fau*, *fou* 'beeches' (from Latin *fagus* - Faou occurs as the name of a stream in Brittany: Ekwall 1928: 164; 1960: 185; cf. River Fowey, Cornwall), can be ruled out, since beeches are not found this far north until well into the second millennia, so possibly from OE *fōh* 'measurable, moderate', here in the latter sense. However, the expression *foo cragge* is found in the 14th-century poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, which has been translated as 'forbidding crag' (Elliott 1984: 146), though the authority is unclear. The second element is OE *sīde* 'slope of a hill, especially one extending for a considerable distance'. Fawside lies under the point of a sharp projecting nose with steep sides above the river Manifold, with Fawside Edge 1 mile to the west. It is not impossible that Fawfieldhead (q.v.), which lies opposite Fawside on the south side of the river Manifold, shares the same root as this name (which might conceivably be a pre-English name of the river Manifold), notwithstanding the disparate forms. See also Fole.

FAZELEY 1 mile south of Tamworth (SK 2001). *Faresleia* c.1120 (1801) Shaw II 2, *Faresleia*, *Farisleia* c.1142 Dugd, *Faresleye* 1269 SHC IV 175, *Faresleye* 1335 Ch, *Faresleye* 1357 SHC XII 162, *Fareslee* 14th century Duig, *Faresley* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 23, *Faseley* c.1540 Leland, *Phaseley* 1590 SHC 1930 76, *Faseley* 1686 Plot 399. The first element is OE *fearr* 'bull, ox', with OE *lēah*, so 'the *lēah* with the bulls'.

FEATHERSTONE 3 miles north of Wolverhampton (SJ 9405). *Feoþer(e)stan* 996 (for 994) (17th century, S.1380), *Ferdestan* 1086 DB, *Federestan* 1187 SHC I 131, *Fetherston* 1271 Duig, *Fetherstan* 1280-90 Wodehouse, *Ferestan* 1292 SHC VI (i) 271, *Feverstan* 1292 *ibid.* 260, *Fayrston* 1292 *ibid.* 283, *Fethurstone* 1395 SHC XV 68, *Foderstone* 1414 SHC XVII 9, *Federstonne* 1506 SHC 1928 115, *Federston* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 73. Seemingly from OE *fēoðer*- 'four', used only in compounds, in this case with OE *stān* 'stone', generally held to mean 'the four stones or tetralith', and assumed to refer to a prehistoric cromlech of three uprights and a capstone (see, for example, Ekwall 1960: xxxi), although there is no evidence of any such monuments here or at Featherstone in Yorkshire (West Riding), and two stones are (or were) at *Fether stones* in Featherstonehaugh in Cumberland: Gough 1806: II 445. If this derivation is correct it is noteworthy that the forms give *stān* in the singular (unless a complete monument was called a *four-stone*, on which cf. Fourstones, Northumberland, *Fourstanys* 1236, *Fourestanes* 1256, apparently referring to a tetralith, with the plural *stones*). The local stone in this area is sandstone, which is easily worked but which does not weather well. Notwithstanding the earliest spelling (which is in any event from a corrupt copy of the original), it seems possible that the name may be from OE *feðer* 'feather', meaning 'the feather-shaped standing-stone'. It may be noted that all the places named Featherstone appear to lie on or near Roman roads or Roman sites. *The Four Stones* is ½ mile north-west of Clent (cf. Fourstones, Northumberland), from OE *fēower* 'four'. An area on the edge of Cannock Chase was evidently called *the Fethersty* in 1292: see SHC VI (i) 296. Cf. *the Fetstone in the Mosse* (in Quarnford) 1564: SHC 1938 99, possibly to be associated with *Four Stones* recorded in 1720; *4 Stones* recorded in 1730 (Alstonefield ParReg). Cf. Feasby, Yorkshire; Featherstone Castle, Northumberland.

FEENIE LEE ½ mile north of Swinscoe (SK 4813). *the Finayels temp.* Edward I Okeover T48, *Finhas temp.* Edward II *ibid.* E191, *Ffyneshas* 1324 *ibid.* T51, *Feenie Lee* 1885 O.S.

FEGG HAYES 1 mile north-east of Tunstall (SJ 8753). *Faghays* 1836 O.S. Halliwell 1850: 351 gives *feg* to mean 'rough dead grass', Jackson 1879 as 'long, rank grass', and Wilson 1974 as 'grass', from ME *fogge* 'rank grass'. *Hay* is from Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'a clearing or enclosure'. See also Fenneshay.

FEIASHILL 1 mile south of Trysull (SO 8494). *Fiershill Farm* 1722 VCH XX 187, 1775 Yates, 1834 O.S., *Feersale* 1774 SRO 466/M/21, *Fearshall* 1895 O.S., *Feiashill* 1908 O.S. Possibly from OE *fȳrs* 'furze', or perhaps OE *fearr* 'bull', with OE *hyll* 'hill', or OE *halh*.

FELTHOUSE 1½ miles south-west of Grindon (SK 0753), *Felthouses* 1327 SHC VII (i) 221, 1576 FF, *Felhouse* (p) 1333 SR, *Felhouse* 1333 SHC X 114, *Felthouse* 1660 SRO D924/7/3, *Felt House* 1838 O.S.; **FELTHOUSE (FARM, LANE & WOOD)** 1½ miles south-east of Cheddleton (SJ 9750), *felthous* 1327 SHC VII (i) 217, *Felt House* 1700 ParReg, 1837 O.S. Possibly from OE *feld* 'open country', but OE *felt* occurs as the first element of some plant-names, such as *feltwurma* 'wild marjoram', and *feltwyr̥t* 'wild mullein', and there may well have been a plant-name derived from *felt*, for example *felte*. There is a slight possibility that such word may be found here, but the word in combination with *-house(s)* indicates that the places are likely to have been the site of felt-making, so from OE *felt hūs*, which appears to have been a standard compound meaning 'a house or building where felt was made'. Felt was created from compacted wool fibres, often by water-powered hammer-mill, and was used mainly for hats. The trade seems to be unrecorded before the 12th century, and was not widespread before the 16th century: Blair & Ramsay 1991: 343. *Felthouses Wood* on the north side of Bagot's Park (SK 0828) is recorded in 1836 (O.S.), but the history of the name is unknown, and Feltysitch lies on Morridge (SK 0359), with the second element OE *sƿc* 'stream, watercourse': the place lies on the river Hamps close to its head. Cf. Feltham, Middlesex; Feltwell, Norfolk. See also Fields Farm.

FEMLEY PITS (obsolete) 1 mile south of Lichfield (SK 1107). *Fedmeleya* 1252 SHC VI (ii) 117, *Filumleye* 1314 SHC IX (ii) 44, *Odmoleges* 1473 (1798) Shaw I 306, *Fedemeleys* c.1535 *ibid.* 166, *Femley Pitts* 1736 SRO D15/11/14/34, *Femley Pits* 1834 O.S. A curious name for which no derivation can be suggested, other than OE *faðm*, ME *fedme* 'fathom', though in what sense is difficult to suggest. See TSAS 3rd Series 1901 147-50 and 282 for an implausible theory associating this area (Footherley) with the battle between Ceawlin and Cutha and the Britons in 584 AD at *Fethan leag* (on which see Stenton 1971: 29-30).

FENNEL PIT FARM on the north-west side of Featherstone (SJ 9503). *Fennallspitts* 1514 Vernon, *Fenalls pytte* 1590 *ibid.* From OE *fenn*, *wælle* 'the spring at the fen or marsh', with *pits*. The name is associated with *Fenwalle* 1312 Vernon, *Fen(n)wallemor*, *Fenwallehal*, *Fen(n)wallehul* 1296 *ibid.*, *Fenwallefurlong* 1321 *ibid.*, *ffenell flatte* 1635 Survey, *Fennel(l)moores* 1639 Vernon.

FENNY LODGE (unlocated, perhaps near Sinai Park: *Fenny* may be a particularly corrupt spelling of Sinai.) *Fenny lodge* 1607 Kip, *Fenny lodg* 1610 Speed. It is not uncommon for early maps to perpetuate errors.

FENSADE (unlocated, adjoining Knutton.) *Fensade* 1227 SHC XI NS 240.

FENSAY (unlocated, near Abbots Bromley.) *Feneshay* 1218-23 SHC 1937 35, 1332 SHC X (i) 93, *Fenneshai*, *Fenneshay* c.1225 SHC XI NS 88, *Fenneshay* 1227 SHC IV 64, 1327 SHC VII (i) 231, *Feneshay* 1332 SHC X (i), SHC V (i) 46, *Fenneshay at the Queche* 1376 SRO DW1721/3/23/9, *le Fensay* 1402 SHC XI NS 208. The first element of the name may be an unidentified personal name; *hay* is 'a clearing or enclosure', from Mercian OE (*ge*)*heg*. A document dating from the early to mid 13th century records '...Fenneshay on sides of Middlehay bro[c], in Ashbroc...': SRO D986/42. Ash Brook flows from the north-east to the south-east of Abbots Bromley into the river Blithe, and Ashbrook Lane runs east from Abbots Bromley. The suggestion that Fenneshay is south-west of Bagot's Park in PMA 31 1997 31 is incorrect, as is the identification of this place with Fegg Hayes (q.v.) in SHC IV 64. See also JNSFC XLIII 1909 145. The 1376 form shows that the place lay near Squitch House (q.v.), and was perhaps associated with *Le Fennes*, which seems to have been between Abbot's Bromley and Uttoxeter, recorded in 1291: SRO DW1733/A/2/38. A place called *Fenneshay* may have existed near Beam Hill on the west side of Burton upon Trent: SHC 1937 35. *Caremon fennshay* is recorded in the Abbots Bromley area in 1436 (SRO DW1721/3/32A/8), and *Caremonsfenshay* in 1471 (SHC XI NS 194), perhaps incorporating the OE personal name Carman. See also Burne 1915: 11.

FENTON Stoke-on-Trent (SJ 8944). *Fentone* 1086 DB, *Fentona* 1250 Fees, *Fenton* 1271 SHC 1914 8, 1274 SHC 1911 161, *Fenton Kylvert* 1276 SHC VI (i) 79, *Culverdesfenton*, *Fenton*, *Fenton-Vivian*, *Fenton-Culvart* 13th century Duig, *Fenton-Kylward* 1478 SHC NS (i) 119, *Fenton-Kilward* 1588 SHC XV 185, *Fenton Culwarte* 1589 SHC 1934 7, *Fenton Vivian otherwise Litell Fenton* 1593 SHC 1930 359. From OE *fenn* 'fen, marsh' (a rare element in Staffordshire), and OE *tūn*. Culverd is a local family name: see Culverdislow. The 1588 form incorporates a corrupt version of Culverd. In 1241 possession of Fenton was given by the king to Vivian of Standen: SHC 1914 8; VCH VIII 211. See also SHC 1911 394; SHC 1914 8-9.

FERNHILL 1 mile north-east of Forton (SJ 7522). *Fernyhale* 1229 to 1232, 1245 to 1265 Deeds (Tw), 1334 Deed (VCH IV 107). 'The fern covered *halh*'.

FERNYFORD 2 miles north-west of Warslow (SK 0661). *Ferniford* 1327 (p) SR, *Fernyforde* 1414 SHC XVII 17, *Ferneford* 1441 SHC II NS 156, *Fernyford* 1592 SHC 1930 (ii) 342. Self-explanatory. The place lies on Blake Brook.

FERNY HILL 1½ miles east of Cheddleton (SJ 9952). *Ferneyhill* 1600 PCC, *Fernehill* 1612 FF, *Ferny Hill* 1695 Morden, 1836 O.S. From OE *fearnig*, *halh* 'the ferny *halh*', which has become 'ferny hill'. Some of the spellings may relate to Ferny Hough (q.v.).

FERNY HOUGH (obsolete) 1 mile west of Endon (SJ 9053). *Fernihalu* c.1278 SHC 1911 430, *Fernihale* c.1282 *ibid.* 442, *Fernyhalg*, *Fernihalg* 1307 SHC XI NS 256, 1369 80, *Fernyhalgh* 1325

SHC 1911 366, ? *Fernihaleugh* 1327 SHC VII (i) 217, *Fernyhalgh* 1370 SHC VIII NS 249, *Fernehalgh* 1441 (1883) Sleigh 182, *Fernehall* 1535 SHC 1912 77, *Fernehall* 1546 SHC XI 288, *the Fernyhalgh* 1572 AD, *Fearnenaugh* 1589 SHC 1930 100, ? *Fernihough* 1619 StSt 10 1998 12, *ffernihow* 1683 Norton-in-the-Moors ParReg, *Ferny Hough* 1836 O.S. The second element is from OE *hōh* 'heel, spur of a hill', so 'the ferny hill spur'. See also Ferny Hill.

FIELD on the river Blithe, 4½ miles west of Uttoxeter (SK 0233). *Felda* 1114-8 Burton Survey B, *Felda* 1130 P, *Feldam* c.1177 SHC III (i) 227, *Field* 1686 Plot. From OE *feld* 'open land'. Cf. Church Leigh.

FIELDHOUSE (unlocated, perhaps near Worfield). *feldhous* 1327 SHC VII (i) 252; TSAS 3rd Series V 1905 244, *Feldushous* 1332 SHC X 129, *Feldehous* 1332 *ibid.* 130. This may be the same place as *Fieldhouse of Whittimere*, recorded in 1323: VCH XX 71. 'The house at the field'.

FIELD HOUSE (FARM) 2 miles north-west of Penkridge, on the south side of Levedale (SJ 8916). *Fieldoes* (p) 1578 Penkridge ParReg, *Fieldhouse* (p) 1598 *ibid.*, *Fieldhowse* (p) 1607 *ibid.* 'The house at the field'.

FIELDHOUSE FARM 1 mile east of Eccleshall (SJ 8428). *ye Fieldhouse* 1682 Chebsey ParReg, *The Fieldhouse* 1836 O.S. 'The house at the field'.

FIELDS FARM 1½ miles south-west of Horton (SJ 9355). *Felthouse* 1658 PCC, *The Fields* 1718 to 1794 Reade, 1837 O.S. The earliest spelling suggests that the name is from 'the house where felt was made', with the name reducing via *feltus* to *fields*.

FIGHTING COCKS on the east side of Wolverhampton (SO 9196). *Adjoining a close called Cockshutts...a little or small pleck of land used for a garden and commonly called the Fighting Cocks* 1737 WALS DX-240/7, *Fighting Cocks* 1834 O.S. Presumably where gaming birds were raised or fought.

FILANCE (BRIDGE) over the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal in Penkridge (SJ 9214). *le f(f)ylond* 1538 and 1541 Ct, *Fyland* 1598 VCH V 126, *Filand* 1653 *ibid.*, 18th century SRO D260/M/T/5/73, *Fylands* 1841 TA. EDD gives for *filands* 'tracts of unenclosed arable land', i.e. field-lands. The name was attached to one of the Penkridge open fields: SRO D260/M/T/5/73.

FILDESDALE (unlocated) *Fildesdale* undated (1801) Shaw II 288.

FILILODE (unlocated; said to be in Claverley parish: TSAS 4th Series VIII 1920-1 Misc. viii; probably near Astley: Eyton 1854-60: III 153.) *Fililodes-welle* 1305 Eyton 1854-60: III 153, *Fylilode* 1327 TSAS 3rd Series VI 1906 127, *Fyllilod* (p) 1341 Eyton 1854-60: III 153, *Fillode* 1386 TSAS 4th Series VIII 1920-1 Misc. viii. Possibly from OE **fylle* 'thyme' or some such plant, with OE *lād* 'watercourse, crossing'.

FILLEY BROOK - see PHILLEY BROOK.

FINCHFIELD 2½ miles west of Wolverhampton (SO 8898). *Fynchenesfeld*, *Fynchingefeld* 13th century Duig, *Fynchyngefeld* 1323 SHC VI (ii) 184, *Fynchenefeld* 1327 SHC VII 252, *Fynchenfeld*

1336 SHC 1928 34, *Finchfeilds* 1648 Wolverhampton ParReg, *Finchfields* 1662 BCA MS3307/Acc1927-020/337303. 'The *feld* or open land of the finches', from OE *finc*, ME *finch*, This may be the *feld* mentioned in a charter of 985 AD (12th century, S.860): Hooke 1983: 63-5. OE *feld* had the meaning 'open ground'.

FINNERS HILL ½ mile north-east of Colton (SK 0620). *Finners Hill* 1953 O.S.

FINNEY GREEN 2 miles north-east of Madeley (SJ 7946). *Finney Green* 1699 HOK 56, 1798 Yates, 1833 O.S. Perhaps from OE *fynig* 'moist, marshy', or from a personal name. See also Finney Lane.

FINNEY LANE 2 miles south-east of Leek (SJ 9953). *Harvey's Riddinge alias Finney Lane* 1596 (1883) Sleigh 172, *Fynney Lane* 1602 SHC 1935 426, *Fynney Layne* 1608 SHC 1948-9 67, *Fynney-lane*, als: *Harvey Riddinges* 1654 (1883) Sleigh 172, *Finney Lane* 1836 O.S. From the manor of Fynney (obsolete, in Cheddleton, adjoining Ashenhurst: *Fyneye* 1320 SHC 1911 93), said to have been a gift from William the Conqueror to his kinsman Fenis, or de Fiennes, from whom the estate presumably took its name: see Erdeswick 1844: 497-8. *Philip del fyneye* is recorded here in 1320 (Tooth 2000b: 98), *Ricardus Fenay* in 1451 (AD), *Wm Feyney de Feyney land temp.* Henry VIII (Survey), *Wm Feynney de olde Basseford* 1523 (Rental), *Wm Fynny of Fynney Lane* in 1556 (AD 5). See also SRO D538/A/2/4. It is unclear whether *Finees*, recorded in 1290 (SHC XI NS 177), is to be associated with this place: the context points to a place near Cheadle Moor.

FISHERWICK 3½ miles north-east of Lichfield (SK 1709). *Fiscerwic* 1167 SHC 1923 295, *Fischerewich* 1176 SHC I 78, *Fisherwic* c.1224 (1798) Shaw I 212, *Fisareswik* 1242 Fees, *Fisherewyk* 1279 SHC V (i) 140, *Fysherwyk* 1281 *ibid.* 121, *Fyshereswyke* 1293 *ibid.* 244, *Fisscherwyk* 1309 WL 103, *Fissherwyke* 1356 SHC 1913 169, *Fyssherewyk* 1421 SHC XVII 73, *Fisscherwyke* 1482 SHC VI NS (i) 148, *Fecherwyk* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 72, *Fisherwicke* 1588 SHC 1927 176, *Fishrike* 1607 Kip, *Fisherwick* 1686 Plot. From OE *fiscere* 'a fisherman', with OE *wīc* 'dwelling, village, a farm, a dairy farm, a building or collection of buildings for special purposes', hence 'fishermen's wīc', in this case perhaps in the sense 'building associated with a trade', here presumably processing of fish, possibly by salting: excavations here in the 1970s produced evidence of large-scale salt production from saline springs in the Iron-Age, which may have continued in the area into the Middle Ages - see BAR 61 52-7. Fisheries are recorded here in 1419 (SHC XVII 73) and almost certainly existed much earlier. The name may therefore be 'the place where fish were processed and salted'. See also Wigford.

FISHLEY 3 miles north of Walsall (SK 0104). *Thistley*, *Fishley*, *Fistley*, otherwise *Thistly Ridding*, *Lower Fistley otherwise Thistling Ridding*, *Thistley field* 17th century Duig. The area was part of Essington Wood, within Cannock Forest, and is perhaps to be associated with *Thystlymor*, recorded in 1286: SHC 4th Series XVIII 129. The name is from OE *thistel* 'a thistle', here used adjectivally. *Fissle* and *Fistle* are dialect forms of thistle; *ridding* means a clearing or a cultivated area of wild land.

FIVESTONES HEATH (obsolete) on Yarnfield Heath. *Fivestones Heath* 1664 SRO D641/5/T/2/39-46. A name with possible archaeological associations - see Featherstone.

FLASH 4 miles north-west of Longnor (SK 0267), and said to be the highest village in England (its school stands at 1526': VCH VII 49). ...*a close or pasture called The Flasshe heade in Wharneforde...* 1568 DRO D2375M/190/7, *Flasche* 1598 SHC XVI 170, *the Flashe* 1598 Alstonefield ParReg, *the Flash* 1599 DRO D2375M/25/18, *The Flashe* 1601 Alstonefield ParReg, *le Flasshe* 1605 SHC 1946 236, *the Flase* 1664 Alstonefield ParReg, *Flash* 1683 *ibid*, *the Flass* 1732 *ibid*, 1686 Plot. It is usually considered that the distribution of *flash* in place-names, mainly found in the northern counties, shows that the word is probably of Scandinavian origin, from ODan *flask* 'a swamp, swampy grassland, shallow water, a pool', leading to ME *flassche*, *flosshe*, with the substitution of ME *sh* for ON *sk* (EPNE i 175): cf. Bell Flask, Water Flash, Flash Dales, Flashley Carr, Yorkshire; Flash, Lincolnshire and Northumberland; Flass, Durham (*Flaskes* 1313, *Flassh* 1382 Ekwall 1960: 181); The Flash, Cumberland. *Flash* and *plash* are onomatopoeic synonyms (cf. Plaish, a parish 5 miles north-east of Church Stretton, Shropshire - *Plesc*, *Plæsc* 963 (12th century, S.723): see PN Sa I 236-7). OED gives a 1440 reference to 'Plasche or flasche, where reyne water stondythe', while Halliwell gives for *flash* 'a common term for a pool'; for *flosche* 'a pit or pool'; for *plash* 'a pool of water, a large puddle'; and defines *ploshett* as 'a swampy meadow (Devon)'. The words seem to be applied to grassy land where water lies after rain and gradually disappears: in Shropshire *Flash* is a common field-name with the meaning 'shallow pool formed by floodwater': Foxall 1980: 19. The modern word *splash* is the older *plash* with an added *s*. *Flash Farm* is 1 mile north-west of Woore, *Plashes Farm (the Plash(e)* 1675 Dep) is to the west of Bednall. *le Plashe* in Hednesford is recorded in 1362 (SHC I 338: the place lies on the south side of Splash Lane, between Hednesford and Wimblebury - VCH V 56-7), and a field there is *Middle plashes* in 1841: Oakden 1984: 63. The fact that Flash itself formerly lay at the meeting point of the boundaries of Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire; Flash House 1 mile east of Barthomley in Cheshire (SJ 7753), 2 miles north-west of Audley, is close to the Staffordshire-Cheshire border; Flash Farm 1 mile north-west of Woore (SJ 7243) lies on the Staffordshire-Cheshire boundary; *The Flash* (1834 1" O.S.) lay north of Oldbury on the Staffordshire-Worcestershire boundary; and *Flashcroft Coppy (Flashcroft* in the earlier 16th century (VCH VII 186), *Flascrofte* 1543 (1883) Sleigh 71, *Flash Crost (sic)* Yates 1775) is shown on the county boundary 1 mile north-east of Rushton Spencer (SJ 9463) on the first edition 1" O.S. map of 1842 (and very many other places called Flash elsewhere in the country lie on or very close to boundaries) is unexplained and may be no more than coincidence, but the name may in some cases be connected in some way with boundaries. In Cheshire there appears to be a particular association with salt-workings: PN Ch V 1, 180. Flash has been identified with *flosche* mentioned in the medieval poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Elliott 1984: 145-7; see also Flash; Ludchurch; The Roaches). It may be added that there is no basis for the popular folk-belief that this place took its name from the counterfeiting of coins, but see JNSFC LXVI 1931-2 184; VCH VII 51.

FLASHBROOK in Adbaston parish, 4 miles north of Newport (SJ 7425). *Fletesbroc* 1086 DB, *Floscebrok* 1240 SHC 1924 191, *Flocebroc*, *Flocesbroc* 1243 SHC 1911 396, 401, *Flotesbroc* 1253 SHC 1911 122, *Flotesbrok* 1271 SHC IV 185, *Floshbroc* 1278 SHC 1911 170, *Flotusbrok* 1284 SHC 1910 298, *Floxbrok* 1293 SHC VI (i) 282, *Flotesbroc* 13th century Ronton, *Flosbroc* 1303 SHC 1937 76, *Flosbrok* 1309 SHC 1911 301, *Flossebrok* 1315 SHC 1911 88, *Flosse Broke* 1327 SHC XII (ii) 14,

Flosbroke 1421 *ibid.* 73, *Flashbrooke* 1666 SHC 1921 125, *Flassenbroke* 1679 SHC 1914 72, *Flosebroke*, *Flossebroke*, *Flosbrook*, *Flossbrook*, *Flossebrook* c.1565-70 SHC IX NS, *Flashbrooke* otherwise *Flotesbrooke* 1589 SHC XVIII 3. The derivation of this name is uncertain, but the spellings (some of which seem to incorporate the not uncommon misreading of manuscript *t* as *c*) show that the first element is not from Flash (q.v.), and is unlikely to be from OE *flēot* 'stream', a word which has a restricted use inland and is rarely found in Staffordshire (but see Fleetgreen; The Flete). OE *flot-weg* 'floating way' is recorded, and has been proposed as the first element in Flotterton, Northumberland (Ekwall 1960 182). Sometimes the middle element of a name was dropped before DB, and it is possible (though unlikely) that the original name here was *Flotwegesbroc*, 'the brook at the floating way', perhaps connected in some way with the Roman road from Water Eaton to Chester (Margary number 19) which runs through the area, forming the county boundary: the 1833 O.S. map shows *Flashbrook* to the north of the road (in Staffordshire) and *Flashbrook Heath* to the south (in Shropshire). Gelling & Cole 2000: 9 suggests a derivation from *flotes*, from OE *flot*, perhaps some sort of causeway. An alternative possibility is an unrecorded OE form which developed into ME *flotise* 'froth, scum', giving 'the brook (i.e. Lonco Brook) with the scummy water'. Halliwell 1850: 365 gives 'Flotis: The foam or froth of anything boiling, etc.', and suggests the word is OE in origin (cf. OE *flotsmeru*, *flotsmeoru* 'floating fat; scum'), although it is not recorded in Bosworth-Toller. OED has *flottesse*, *flotyce*, *flotyse*, *flotes*, *flattesse*, *flats* (obsolete), 'scum or grease floating on the surface of a liquid', possibly an unrecorded French derivative of *floter* 'to float', first recorded c.1440, or from the plural of OE **flot* or ON *flot* 'scum'. The second element is OE *brōc* 'brook'. It has been noted that '...with so much unenclosed land at Flashbrooke Heath the county boundary may well have been a little uncertain. At the present day (1758) there is a conflict of opinion between the Staffordshire and Shropshire officials as to the exact course of the boundary at Whitley Ford Bridge...': JNSFC LXII 1926-7 40. See also SHC 1914 72-6. Cf. Forsbrook.

FLASH HEAD on the east side of Flash (SK 0267). *Flashhead* 1714 VCH VII 53. From OE *hēafod* 'head', used topographically of 'a headland, summit, upper end, source of a stream'. In this case probably meaning 'headland at Flash (q.v.)'.

FLEDISFORD (unlocated, possibly in or near Calwich.) *Fledisford* c.1235 SHC 4th Series IV 200.

FLEETGREEN, UPPER & LOWER 2 miles east of Upper Hulme (SK 0561). *Fleetgreen* 1514 VCH VII 27, *Fleet Greve* 1566 Deed, *Fleetgreen* 1592 SHC 1930 (ii) 328, *Fleete greene* 1598 Alstonefield ParReg, *Fleite Greene* 1606 *ibid*, *Fled Green* 1703 Leek ParReg, *Fleet Green* 1775 Yates. From OE *flēot* (or ON *fljóti*) *grēne* 'the grassy open land by the rivulet or stream'. There is a stream to the west.

FLETBRIDGE (unlocated, in Burton upon Trent.) *Fletbrugge* 1306 SHC VII 155. Perhaps where Fleet Street crossed an arm of the river Trent known as *the Flete* (q.v).

FLETCEAM (unlocated, perhaps near Handsworth.) *Fletcheam* 1526 SHC XIII 183, 1527 SHC XI 266, SHC XII 183.

FLETCHER'S FARM (obsolete, in Leacroft, Cannock.) *Fletchers Farm* 1635 SRO D603/N/16/3, *Fletcher's Farm* 1651, 1653 CC, *Fletcher's alias Rumer Hill Farm* 1622x1777 SRO D260/M/T/6/130. See also Rumer Hill.

FLETE, THE (obsolete) a short arm of the river Trent running west in Burton upon Trent. (*Thomas Juxta-*) *la-Flet* 1188x1197 SRO D603/A/Add/36b, *Le Flet temp.* Edward I SHC 1937 108, *Flet* 12th/13th century SHC V (i) 47, *Floet* 1257 SHC 1937 59, *the water of the Flete* c.1330 VCH III 212. From OE *flēot* (or ON *fljóti*), here meaning 'an arm or earlier channel of a river': cf. *Fleet* (1576), an arm of the river Trent north of Newark (Ekwall 1928: 159). The name is remembered in Fleet Street in Burton upon Trent. See also Fletbridge.

FLITLEY (obsolete), on the river Blythe, 4½ miles west of Uttoxeter (SK 0233). 'Flitlegh seems to be another name for Field, but it is now extinct': SHC XII 281. *Flitleg'* 1222 SHC IV 19, *Flitleye* c.1272 SHC XII 281, *Flyteleye* 1294 SHC VII (i) 9, *Flutteleye* 1327 *ibid.* 222, 1377 SHC XIII 128, 1379 SHC XIV 128, *Freteleghe* 1332 SHC X 97, *Flyttley* 1574 SHC XVII 220. From OE (*ge*)*flit* 'strife, dispute', with OE *lēah*, so 'the disputed *lēah*'.

FLORENCE on the south-west side of Longton (SJ 9142). So-called from Florence (d.1881), eldest daughter of the 3rd Duke of Sutherland of Trentham Hall who developed the area in the 1860s: TNSFC 1970 85.

FLOTHERIDGE (obsolete) 1 mile south of Swindon (SO 8688). *Flederich* 1330 SHC 1913 24, *Flotheridge (pool)* 1834 White ccix, *Flotheridge (Basin)* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from northern dialect *flother* 'a boggy place, a swamp', also recorded with the meaning 'foam, froth': (EDD). The second element appears to be OE *hrycg* 'a ridge, a long narrow hill', in which case giving 'the ridge at the boggy place'. The name (recorded from 1296: SHC 4th Series XVIII 188) was applied to a royal fishpond on or near Smestow Brook: VCH II 347 fn.96.

FOKER FARM 1 mile north-west of Leek (SJ 9757), *Foker* 1333s VCH VII 194, *le Fowker* 1539 MA, *Foocare* 1576 Loxdale, *Fooker* late 16th century WSL Sleigh Scrbk ii f.107v, *Leek Fowker* 1615 SHC IV NS 90, *Fooker in Leekefrith* 1642-60 ChancP, *Foker, Fowker* c.1645 Leek ParReg, *Lower Folker, Upper Foker* 1842 O.S., *Lower Foker Farm* 1850 SRO SA 20/7/1850 8; FOKER GRANGE 1 mile north-west of Leek (SJ 9757), *ffoker-graunge* 1543 (1883) Sleigh 71, *Fowkers or Fowker Grange* 1694 VCH VII 237; FOKER MOOR 1 mile north-west of Leek (SJ 9758), *Fokermor* 1394 Deed (1883) Sleigh, *le Fokermore* c.1539 LRMB, *Fowkermore Side* 1589 SHC 1934 7, *Fokar More* 1591 SHC 1930 167, *Foker Moor(e)* 1811 EnclA, *New House or Foker Moor* 1842 O.S. A derivation for these associated names from OE *fūl* 'foul, dirty, filthy', and ME *ker* 'a bog, a marsh, especially one overgrown with brushwood' (from ON *kjarr* 'brushwood'), hence 'filthy marsh', describing an area of common waste in the south-west corner of the township of Leekfrith, as suggested in VCH VII 194, seems improbable in the absence of any intermediate -l- and the persistent -o- in the various spellings. There is some uncertainty about the existence of granges of Dieulacres abbey at both Foker, probably on the north side of the abbey, and at Fowlchurch (VCH VII 194, 237), which makes it very difficult to establish which spellings relate to which place - see Fowlchurch, with which Foker almost certainly shares the same derivation. A farmhouse on the southern edge of the waste at Foker was known as

Lower Foker in 1770 and **Foker Grange** by the end of the 19th century (VCH VII 194): the house now known as **Foker Grange** (SJ 966575) would seem to have no connection with any ancient grange in the area. For the reasons given above, some of the cited spellings may relate to what is now **Fowlchurch** (q.v.), and vice versa..

FOLD, THE ½ mile south-west of Sheen (SK 1160). *Fould* 1842 O.S. From OE *fal(o)d* 'a fold, an enclosure for animals'.

FOLE on the river Tean, 4 miles north-west of Uttoxeter, in Leigh parish (SK 0437). *Fowall* c.1260 SHC VII NS 146, *Fowale*, *Foowale* c.1272 Dieul, *Fowell* 1290 SHC 1911 196, *Fowall* 1332 SHC X 112, *Fole* 1538 Ipm, *Foale* otherwise *Fole* c.1619 SHC VII NS 208, *Fole* alias *Foley* 1675 SRO 1057/A/1/9/1-7, *Fole* 1680 SHC 1919 272. A difficult name. Possibly from OE *fōh* 'measurable, moderate', here in the second sense, with Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring', and (sometimes) 'a stream', perhaps in this case the stream running from the hills to the north into the river Tean, so 'the moderate stream'. *Overfoale* and *Netherfoale* (Upper Fole and Lower Fole) are recorded c.1622: SHC X I 20. See also **Fawside**.

FOOTHERLEY 1 mile south-west of Shenstone (SK 0903). *Fulwardlee* 12th century Duig, ? *Fulwerhel* 1209 SHC 1923 277, *Folverle* c.1276 SHC XVII 261, *Fulverleye* 1311 SHC 1911 77, *Fullerleye*, *Folverleye*, *Fulverleye*, *Fulfordleigh* 14th century, *Fotherley* otherwise *Fulderley* 16th century Duig, *Foterley* 1686 Plot, *Footerley Hall* 1834 O.S. The various forms are inconsistent, but 'Folcweard's *lēah*' suggested in Duignan 1902: 62 seems the most likely explanation on the available evidence.

FORD 1½ miles south-east of Onecote (SK 0653). *Forde* 1240 *Deed* (1883) Sleigh, c.1265 SHC 1911 438, 1281 *ibid.* 178, 1477 SHC VI NS (i) 107, 1484 *ibid.* 155, Henrico de *la fford* 13th century Dieul, *Fourde* 1558 BM, *Ford* 1646 SHC 4th Series I 308. From the ford across the river Hamps here before the present bridge was built early in the 20th century.

FORD BROOK a tributary of the river Tame; **FORD BROOK** a tributary of the river Trent, *ffordebrooke* 1571 Ct. 'The brook with the ford'.

FORD FARM 2 miles south-west of Cheddleton (SK 9551). *Colepytford* 1609 QSR, *Colpitfurde* 1624 PCC, *Colepitford* 1696 ParReg, *Colepitsford* 1664 StV. 'The ford near the coal pits', with reference to former coal shafts, possibly including *Colepit* recorded in 1663 (SHC I (ii) 63).

FORD GREEN ½ mile south-west of Norton in the Moors (SJ 8950). *Fordegreene* 1590 SHC 1930 99, *Fourde Greene* 1609-9 SHC 1948-9 5, *Fourdgreene* c.1630 SHC II (ii) 17. Probably 'the green of the Ford family': the Fords were a notable family in this area: StEnc 220.

FORDHOUSES 3 miles north of Wolverhampton (SJ 9103). (*atte*)*forde* 1327 SHC VII (i) 251, *Forde of Bysshebury* 1349 SHC 1910 319, *la Fordhouses* 1480 SHC VI NS (i) 142, *Furdehousyn* 1538 SHC VII NS 63, *Fordhouses* 1591 SHC 1930 181, *Fordehowses* 1597 SHC XVI 168, *Fourde Howses* 1600 SHC 1935 338, *Fourd Howss* 1608 SHC 1948-8 72, *Fourdehowses* 1608 *ibid.* 73, *Forde* otherwise *Fordhouses* 1617 SHC NS VI (i) 14, *Fordhouses* 1686 Plot. As explained by John Huntbach c.1695: '[the place] hath its name from the houses erected upon the roadway leading from Wolverhampton

towards Stafford near the ford of Wybaston [Wobaston] brook': SHC 1982 72. The 14th century SR describe those living here *atte forde*. There are records in 1529 and 1555 of *Fourdhouse* in Wombourn: Shaw 1801: II 215, 216; in 1554 of *the Fordhowse in Womburne*: Wodehouse.

FORDS RICE 1 mile north-west of Upper Mayfield (SK 1447). *Fords Rice* 1795 SRO D3437/10/1-10, 1836 O.S. Earlier spellings have not been traced, but probably from OE *hrīs* 'brushwood', with a personal name. Yates' map of 1775 shows two places named *Rice* in the area, one at or near what is now Harlow Farm, the other on the north-west side of Upper Mayfield. *Yields or Healds Rice* is recorded in Mayfield in 1777 (Okeover F425), and *Bank Rices* in 1810 (SRO D3437/11/1-6). Those places probably record brushwood in the area. *Fords Rice Wood* lies to the south-west of Fords Rice on the 1836 1" O.S. map

FORD WETLEY 1½ miles south-east of Onecote (SK 0553). *Ford Wetley* 1639 Leek ParReg, 1836 O.S. Perhaps to be associated with *Wurtleg*, recorded in 1222 (Pleas).

FOREBRIDGE a former village immediately south of the bridge crossing the Sow outside the South Gate at Stafford, and another name for Stafford manor, otherwise Castle manor: VCH V 83; 86 (SJ 9222). *For(e)brigge*, *For(e)brugge* 1221 FF, *Forburgg by Stafford* 1289 SHC VIII 43, *Forbrugge* 1295 SHC VII 25, 1401 SHC XV 97, *Forbrygg* 1392 SHC XV 41, *Forde Bridg alias Stafford Grene* c.1540 Leland v 21. 'The bridge in front of the town', which later developed into an alternative 'the bridge at the ford': see SHC VIII (ii) 42-5, 50. There was also a Forebridge in Patshull: VCH XX 162.

FOREIGN - see **WALSALL**.

FORELHEYE (unlocated, perhaps in the Bramhall area.) *Forelhey* 1261 SHC IV 154.

FORGE HOUSE 1 mile south-east of Brewood (SJ 9007). *Forge houses* 1686 Plot, *Brewood Forge* 1686 Plot 311, 1834 O.S. From 17th century iron-works which lay on the river Penk to the west of Coven: see Horovitz 1992: 289-95.

FORKHILL 1 mile north-west of Warslow (SK 0759). ? *Folkishull temp.* Henry III SHC 4th IV 196, ? *Folkeshull* late Henry III *ibid.* 109, ? *Forkehull* c.1295 *ibid.* 243. It is not certain that all these forms relate to this place, but the spellings suggest 'the hill of the people', perhaps denoting a meeting-place, or '*Folc's hill', *Folc being the short form of OE names beginning Folc-.

FORSBROOK in Dilhorne, 3 miles south-west of Cheadle (SJ 9641). *Fotesbroc* 1086 DB, *Fotesbroc* c.1187 SHC II 261, *Fottesbroc* 1199 FF, *Focebroc* (p) 1200 P, *Fotebroc* (p) 1201 P, *Foddesbroc* 1227 Ass, *Fotesbroc* c.1230 SHC VI (i) 11, *Fotisbroc* 1258 *ibid.* 129, *Fotesbrok* 1276 *ibid.* 31, *Fossebrok* c.1290 *ibid.* 436, *Forsebroke* c.1355 NA DD/FJ/4/26/7, *Fotisbrok* (p) 1458 Ipm, *Forsebrocke* 1586 QSR, *Frostbrocke* 1596 SHC 1932 246, *Fossbrook* 1686 Plot, *Fossbrook* 1775 Yates, *Forsbrook* 1837 O.S. From the ON personal name Fōt, so 'Fōt's brook': *Fosse-* is a natural development from *Fotes-*. The *r* only began to appear in the name from the 16th century, and an alternative local pronunciation is Fossbrook.

FORSUONEBUTTS, FORSWORENBUTTES (unlocated, perhaps near Halfhyde.) *Forsuonebutts, Forsworenbuttes* 1255 SHC IV 123. Perhaps from *foresworn* 'perjured; falsely sworn', with ME *butt*

'thicker end; a mound for archery practice; a ridge dividing ploughed land; a small piece of land', but if so the precise meaning is unclear.

FORTON Ancient Parish 2 miles north of Newport (SJ 7521). *Forton* 1198 Fees, 1274, 1307 Ass, 1291 Ipm, et freq., *Fortone* 1292 Ipm, *Forton* 1563 SHC IX NS 147, *Fauton* 1610 Speed, *Forton* 1686 Plot. Probably 'the *tūn* by the ford', the *-d-* having disappeared as often the case with this common name. The place is on the river Meece.

FOSSEWAY a road running from south of Lichfield towards Pipehill. The road is recorded as *Falseway* in the late 15th century (VCH XIV 8), and that name, which may not be much older than the 15th century (in the 13th century the road was described as 'the way to Aldershaw': *ibid.*), the meaning of which (if not itself a corruption) is uncertain, was evidently influenced by the well-known Roman roads bearing the name Fosse Way. There is no evidence that the road is of Roman origin. VCH XIV 8 identifies Fosseway as the later Birmingham road, but the modern Birmingham Road runs south from Lichfield, and the present Fosseway is an east-west road.

FOSTON on the north side of the river Dove, 2 miles north-west of Tutbury (SK 1831). *Farulstun* 1086 DB (entered in Derbyshire), *Farleston* 1331 AddCh, *Fostun*, *Fostona(e)* (p) c.1138 Okeover, 1162 (p) Tutbury, *Foteston* early 14th century SaltCh. Evidently 'Farulf's *tūn*', from the OE personal name Farulf, and 'Fōt's or Fōtr's *tūn*' (Fōt is an OE personal name, Fōtr an ON personal name). PN Db 560 suggests that these were two close settlements, and Foston became the dominant. Cf. Foston (PN Y (North Riding) 39; PN Y (East Riding) 91). The administrative history of the place is complex. Historically in both Staffordshire and Derbyshire, part of the Derbyshire area was transferred to Staffordshire for civil purposes in 1844, and the Staffordshire part was taken into Tutbury, Tatenhill and Yoxall in 1890, leaving the remainder in Derbyshire: see Youngs 1991: 411.

FOTHEACRES (unlocated) *Fotheacres* 1166 SHC IV 280.

FOUCHERS POOL - see FOWLCHURCH.

FOULD 2 miles north-west of Leek (SJ 9758). *Fold*, *Fould* 1634 Leek ParReg, ? *the Foult* 1694 Leek ParReg., ? *the Fouls* 1691 *ibid.*, ? *Fould* 1695 Morden, *Fould* 1842 O.S. From OE *fal(o)d* 'a fold, enclosure for animals': cf. *Fauld*. The place is said to have been formerly known as *Austen's Tenements*, from a 17th century occupier or owner, and is also recorded as *Sheephouse* (q.v.): VCH VII 194.

FOULESHURST (unlocated) *Fouleshurst* 1367 SHC XIII 58.

FOUR ASHES 1½ miles east of Brewood (SJ 9108). *Four Ashes* 1683 PCC. By local tradition so-named from an inn which had four ash trees.

FOUR ASHES 1½ miles north-west of Enville (SO 8087). *iiii Ashes* 1590 SHC 1930 54, *Quator Asshes* 1586 SHC 1929 150, *Quatuor Aches* 1590 SHC 1930 80, *Foureashes* 1590 *ibid.* 81, *4 Ashes* 1686 Plot, *Four Ashes* 1775 Yates. Four ash trees are recorded here in 1496, and there were still four ash trees here in 1817: VCH XX 94. Cf. *Six Ashes* 1 mile north-west.

FOUR CROSSES an inn on Watling Street, 2 miles south-west of Cannock (SJ 9509). *Fowre Crosses* 1611 SRO D260/M/T/4/48, *the 4 Crosses* 1674 Wolverhampton ParReg, *Fower Crosses* 1682 Browne, *Foure Crosses* 1693 SHC 1938 220, *4 Crosses* 1686 Plot, *The Four Crosses* 1700 PCC, 1775 Yates. From a public house here, possibly so-named because it stands at the point where two roads intersect, although four crosses form the arms of the see of Lichfield. The 1834 1" O.S. map shows *Four Crosses* at Walsall Wood (SK0403). Jackson 1879: 160 cites public houses of this name at Bicton and Baschurch in Shropshire, with the crossroads derivation.

FOUR STONES - see **FEATHERSTONE**.

FOWLCHURCH (obsolete, on the north side of Leek (SJ 9857).) *Focher* 1240 *Deed* (1883) Sleigh, ? *Fonake* 1291 (1798) Shaw I xxii, *Foucher* (p) 1293 SHC 1911 215, *Fowthers* 1538 (1883) Sleigh 62, *le Litell Fowchers* c.1539 LRMB, *Graunge de Fowchers* c.1539 LRMB, *Fowcher's-grange* 1543 *ibid.* 72, *Fowchers grainge* 1561 SHC 1938 174, *Fowchers grange* 1552 VCH VII 237, *Fowchars* 1560 Pat, *Fouchers* 1597 (1883) Sleigh 26, *ffowcher* 1604 (1883) Sleigh 58, *Fowchurch* 1637 Leek ParReg, *Foo-Church* 1705 *ibid.*, *Fowlchurch* 1775 Yates, 1842 O.S., *Fowcher*, *Fowchurch* 1883 Sleigh 46 & index. The place-name history of Fowlchurch and Foker (q.v.) is confusing (but see below). VCH VII 237 records a grange at Fowlchurch in 1246 called in 1542 Foker Grange. However, whilst Fisher 1969: 19, 24 mentions a grange at Foker, 'the largest of the Staffordshire granges of Dieulacres', he does not include Fowlchurch as a grange on the map on p.13. It seems likely that both Fowlchurch and Foker were named after Clemencia de Fougeres or Feugeres (cf. *Roberto de Feugeres* recorded in 1194: SHC III (i) 26-7; see also SHC 1937 10, 13, 17, 84), second wife of the founder of Dieulacres, Ranulph III de Blundeville, Earl of Chester (who is mentioned in 'The Vision of Piers Plowman'). Clemencia, the daughter of Ralph de Fougeres/Feugeres (SHX IX NS 293), died in 1253 and was buried at Dieulacres. The only miracle recorded at Dieulacres involved a blind monk whose sight was restored at her tomb where he prayed daily (Fisher 1969: 17). The place-names Fowlchurch and Foker are almost certainly both from Fougeres in Ille-et-Villaine. The alternatives *Focher* (Fowlchurch) and *Fo(w)ker* (Foker) may have been rival pronunciations with *-ch-* and *-k-*, perhaps because *-ch-* is written for *-k-* in early Anglo-Norman records, for example DB. For the reasons given above it is uncertain whether all the cited spellings relate to Fowlchurch: it is possible that those with *-ch-* relate to this place, with those with *-k-* are properly to be associated with Foker (but note that *ffowchers*, *alias ffowkars* is recorded in 1604 (1883) Sleigh 58). The later association with *church* in the place-name is fanciful. *Fouchers Pool*, 1 mile west of Greensforge, is recorded in 1834 (O.S.), but the history of the name is unknown.

FOWLEA BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. *aqua de Foulehee* 1414 Rental, *ffowley broke* 1533-9 LRMB, *Fowley brooke* 1538 Survey, *the fowle lea* 1635 Stoke on Trent CA, *ffouley brooke* 1648 *ibid.* From OE *fūl-ēa* 'the dark-looking (literally dirty) river', with the second element later becoming confused with OE *lēah*. A fishery called *Fowleye*, probably near Tutbury, is recorded in 1327 (1798): Shaw I 40.

FOX EARTH 1 mile south of Cellarhead (SJ 9546). *Foxholes* 1836 O.S. Early spellings are not available, but there was an early compound *fox-e(a)rþ*, generally held to contain *earth* in the sense 'lair, burrow', although the word *earth* meaning burrow is not recorded until the 16th century. It is possible

that this and other similar names (cf. Foxholes; Foxt) were used in some places for cave-dwellings or rock-houses: the Kinver parish register of 1671 mentions *Maragaret of the fox earth*, and Plot 1686: 172 *Mag a Fox-hole* with reference to cave dwellings (known as *Nanny's Rock* by the 1880s: VCH XX 122) cut into the sandstone there: Will'o Fox, recorded in Kinver in 1332 (SHC X (i) 86) may have been a dweller in these caves. It may be that the modern name Foxearth was considered more refined than Foxholes.

FOXHALE (unlocated, in Claverley.) *Foxhale* 1309 SRRC 2089/2/2/3, 1388 *ibid.* 2089/2/2/8, 1435 *ibid.* 5735/2/7/6/4.

FOXHILLS, THE 1 mile north of Himley (SO 9288). Perhaps to be associated with *Foxeleislade* and *Foxeleie*, recorded in Baggeridge Wood in 1320: SHC 1928 31. See also SHC 1934 88.

FOXHOLES Hanbury (SK 1627), ? *Foxriddyng* 1323 SHC 1911 99, *Foxholes* 1836 O.S.; **FOXHOLES** Talke (SJ 8153), *Foxholes* 1642 Audley ParReg, 1733 SHC 1944 70, *Fox Holes* 1775 Yates; **FOXHOLES** in Fawfieldhead (obsolete), *Foxholes* 1428 DRO D2375M/1/1, *Foxholes* 1591 DRO D2375M/100/27, *Foxehooles* 1602 Alstonefield ParReg, *Foxhole* 1605 SHC 1940 220, *Fox holes* 1662 Alstonefield ParReg; **FOXHOLES** (unlocated) in Eccleshall, *Foxholes* 1351 SHC 1913 144. OE *fox-hol* had the meaning 'a fox-hole, a fox's earth'. See also Foxearth; Foxt.

FOXLEY, LOWER FOXLEY 2 miles north of Audley (SJ 7953). ...*a wood in the township of Awdeley, called Foxley*...1553 SHC 1912 203, *Foxley* 1629 Audley ParReg, *Foxey* 1795 SRO D3272/1/22/7/1; **FOXLEY** 1 mile south-west of Standon (SJ 8133), *Foxley* 1833 O.S. 'Fox-lēah'.

FOXLYDIATE 1½ miles west of Redditch (SO 0167). *Foxhuntleyates* c.1300 Pat, *Foxhunte Ledegate* 1386 SHC I 352, *Foxenlydeyate* 1464 Pat, *Foxlydiate* 1591 Will, *Fox Liddet* 1675 Ogilby. From OE *hlidgeat* 'swing-gate', so 'the swing-gate used by the fox-hunters'. The bounds of Feckenham Forest in 1300 (Pat) include a reference to *Foxhuntwey* voc. *le Ruggeway*, i.e. 'the way used by the fox-hunt called the Ridgeway'. In Tardebigge parish, forming part of Staffordshire from c.1100 until 1266, in Warwickshire until 1844, and since that date in Worcestershire.

FOXT 3 miles north-east of Cheadle (SK 0348). *Foxwiss* 1176 FF, *Foxiate* 1253, *Foxwist*, *Foxwyst* 1293 Ipm, *Foxiate* 1293 CoramR, *Foxwyss* 1327 SHC VII 217, *Foxxwyst* 1311 SRO D1229/1/4/39, *Foxhurst* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 37, *Foxt* 1578 Ipstones ParReg, *Foxeweist* otherwise *Foxewist* 1609 SHC III NS 27, *Fox* 1682 Browne, *Foxton* 1775 Yates. The second element is from OE *wist* 'dwelling', hence 'foxes' burrow'. Curiously, the 1253 form appears to have as the second element OE *geat* 'hole, opening, gap', so 'foxes' hole', with the same meaning as 'foxes' burrow'. The 1775 form with *-ton* (from OE *tūn* 'farmstead') explains the modern form which is probably a reduction from *Foxewist*, wrongly expanded to *Foxton* on Yates' 1775 map of Staffordshire. See also Foxearth, Foxwyst. Cf. Foxwist, Cheshire.

FOXWYST (unlocated, probably in or near Casterne.) *Foxwyst* 1562 SRO D1229/1/4/40. From OE *wist* 'dwelling', hence 'foxes' burrow'. Cf. Foxwist, Cheshire. See also Foxt.

FRADLEY 4½ miles north-east of Lichfield (SK 1513). *Fodresleye*, *Foderesleye* 1262 SHC V (i) 136, *Frodele* 1269 SHC 1910 127, *Frodeleye* 1286 Duig, *Fredeleg* 1295 SHC 1911 236, *Frodley* 1532

SHC 4th Series 8 169. The forms are inconsistent, but perhaps from the OE personal name Frōd, so 'Frōd's lēah'.

FRADSWELL 7 miles south-east of Stone (SJ 9931). *Frodeswelle* 1086 DB, *Frodesvella* 1155 BM, *Frodeswell* 1177 SHC XII NS 278, *Fredeswelle* 1206 SHC III 171, *Frotheswell* 1221 SHC IV 221, *Frodesuel* c.1275 SHC 1911 165, *Frodeswall* frequently 13th century Duig, *Frodyswall* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 59. 'Frōd's spring or (more likely) stream', from Mercian OE *wælle*. Fradswell Brook and Dutton's Brook run through the village and unite before joining Gayton Brook.

FRANKLINS 2 miles north of Leek (SJ 9859). *Franklinhayes* 1641 Leek ParReg, *Frankelinges Hey* 1658 *ibid*, *Franklyns* 1663 *ibid*, *Francklins Heages* 1703 *ibid*. From ME *frankelein* 'franklin, freeholder', with Mercian OE *(ge)heg*, so 'the hay or enclosure of the freeholder'.

FRANKWELL (obsolete) A vill near Ellenhall which John de Frankville gave to the prior of Ranton (otherwise Ronton): SHC 1914 83; SHC IV 276. *Frankeuill'* c.1206 SHC 1928 280, *Franchewyle* c.1270 SHC 1937 74, *Frankvyle*, *Frankvylle* 1283 SHC IV 276, *Frankeville* 1288 SHC VI (i) 217, *Frankevile* 1292 SHC IV 276, *Frankvile* 1294 SHC 1911 228, *Fraunkeville* 1306 SHC VII (i) 26, 1318 SHC X 25, 1339 SHC XI 82, *Frankvyle* 1348 SHC 1913 127, *Frankeville* 1359 IPM, *Frankwell* 1564 SRO D3089/1/4, *Frankwell (Moor)* 1586x1636 SRO D798/1/6, *Frankville* 1679 SHC 1914 92, *Frankwell (Farm)* 19th century JNSFC LXIII 1928-9 165. The name is French and means 'the free vill or the vill of the Frenchmen' (OFr *franc*, *ville*), with the substitution of *well* for *ville* occurring from c.1600. For a more detailed discussion of this name see Introduction.

FREARSALE (unlocated) (*the parish of*) *Frearsale* c.1540 SHC X NS (i) 127. No parish of this name is recorded in Staffordshire, and the spelling is evidently corrupt.

FRECHEWOODS (unlocated, possibly near Madeley in Checkley.) *Frechewoods* 1276 SHC 1911 31.

FREDA 'S GRAVE on Cannock Chase, ½ mile south-east of Brocton (SJ 9718). The burial place of Freda, a dalmatian bitch adopted as a mascot by the Fifth Reserve of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade stationed at Brocton Camp from 1917 to 1920. Freda died in 1918. See also StEnc 224.

FREEFORD 1½ miles south-east of Lichfield (SK 1307). *Fraiforde* 1086 DB, *Freiford* 12th century Duig, *Freford* 1242 Fees, 1271 Ass, 1311 SHC 1915 31, 1329 SHC XI 10, 1342 SHC 1913 88, 1343 SHC XVII 277, 1565 *ibid*. 215, *Ferford* 1273 SHC 1910 123, *Frefort* 1297 SHC 1911 241, *Feyrforde* 1332 SHC X 108, *Freyforde* 1470 OSS 1936 45, *Freyfforde* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 184, *Friesfords*, *Freysforde* 1567 SHC XVII 216, *Freyford* otherwise *Frefords* otherwise *Freaforde* 1582 SHC XVII 231, *Friesforde* 16th century Duig, *Freysford* otherwise *Frayford* 1602 SHC XVIII 21, *Freaforde* 1670 SHC 1923 225. The place lies on an ancient road between Lichfield and Tamworth where it crosses Darnford Brook on the edge of the former Whittington Heath. The forms suggest 'ford where no toll was payable'. A more detailed discussion of the name will be found in the Introduction. Freeford may in early times have been of considerable extent, incorporating perhaps part of Whittington, Packington and Tamhorn, and reaching perhaps the river Tame: Shaw 1801: II app. 14.

FREEHAY 2 miles south-east of Cheadle (SK 0141). *Free Hay* 1775 Yates, *Huntley Bushes als. Freehay* 1791 SRO D1203/C/9/1-10, *Free Hay* 1836 O.S. A new parish formed out of the old parish of

Cheadle in 1847: SHC 1926 153; Youngs 1991: 411. From Mercian OE *(ge)heg* 'a fence, an enclosure', so meaning here perhaps 'the enclosure which could be used free from service or rent'.

FREEZELAND (obsolete) on the north side of Millfields, east of Ettingshall; FRIEZELAND (obsolete) Walsall Wood; FRIEZELAND (obsolete) Tipton. A relatively common name, indicating the existence of ancient heathland, derived from OE *fȳrs* 'furze', which by metathesis (the shifting of the *r*) became *frise-land*.

FRENCHMAN'S STREET (unlocated, between Shatterford and Upper Arley.) *Frenchmanstreet* 1686 Plot, *Frenchman S* 1695 Morden, *Frenchman's Street* 1749 Bowen, 1801 Shaw II 253, *Frenchmans Street* 1775 Yates. The origin of the name, which is recorded in a deed of the 16th century (VCH Wo III 5), is uncertain, but since the forms relate to Frenchman in the singular, presumably from a French man who once lived here.

FRETHINGDENE (unlocated, perhaps near Marchington.) *Frethingdene* 1306 SHC VII 154.

FRIAR PARK 1½ miles north-east of Wednesbury (SO 9996). *fryer parke* (Smythie) c.1553 Dilworth 1976: 69, *Frier Parke* 1590 SHC 1930 69, 1609 SHC 1948-9 169, *Fryars Park* 1606 Duig. Ede 1962: 109 could trace no connection with either monks or friars, and suggested the name might be from a surname, but VCH XVII 6 states that the place belonged to Halesowen Abbey in the Middle Ages:

FRISEN HILL (unlocated, in Dilhorne.) *Frisen Hill* 1567 SRO D1229/1/4/3.

FRITH a name found in north Staffordshire (e.g. Leekfrith, 3 miles north of Leek (SJ 9861), *The Fyrthe* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 29, *the hamlet of the Fryth called Leekefryth* 1539 SHC IX NS 300, *Leeke Frith* 1598 StSt 13 2001 53, *Leekfrithe* c.1620 SHC VII NS 220; The Frith 2 miles north-west of Hollinsclough (SK0569), *Le Frith* 1534 ValEccl (or may refer to Leekfrith); Frith Bottom ½ mile north-east of Meerbrook (SJ 9961); Frith (in the valley to the south of Blithfield rectory: SHC VIII 143-4, Corrigenda before title page SHC X, SHC 1914 125, SHC 1919 7; SRO 50/7894, 52/7894, 53/7894), *le Frithe* 1253 SHC VIII (i) 144, *Le Frit* 1315 SRO D938/55), and elsewhere in the country, but not in the south of the county, which is generally applied to woods or uncultivated land forming part of ancient hunting forests. Found in OE as *fyrhth*, *fyrhthe* or *gefyrhth*, usually meaning 'poor woodland'. The word, by the shifting of the *r*, is sometimes found as *firth*: see Gelling 1984: 191-2, and was adopted into Welsh as *ffridd*, which in the 14th century meant 'barren land', and in moorland areas such as north Staffordshire may have meant 'mountain pasture'. Elliott 1984: 122 suggests that the term 'could be anything from a hedgerow to brushwood, and from a stretch of woodland to a deep forest'. See also Bassetfrythe.

FROBISHER HALL 1 mile west of Swynnerton (SJ 8335). One of a number of Government establishments built in the area in the early 1940s and named after naval heroes. See also Beatty Hall, Drake Hall, Duncan Hall, Howard Hall, Nelson Hall, Raleigh Hall, Rodney Hall.

FROGHALL 2 miles south of Ipstones, in a deep valley on the river Churnet (SK 0247). *Frogholle* 1434 Banco, 1481 SHC VI (i) NS 133, *Froghole* 1435 SHC XVII 152, *Frogholn* 1593 SHC 1932 37, *Froghole* 1608-9 SHC 1948-9 5, *Froggall* 1639 Leek ParReg, *Frog hall* 1686 Plot; FROG HOLE 1½ miles south-east of Longnor (SK 0962), *Frog Hole* 1775 Yates, 1840 O.S. Perhaps from a relatively

common field-name, from OE *frogga* 'frog', and OE *hol* 'small valley, hollow, depression, hole', sometimes upgraded into *Frog Hall*. It has been suggested that the name is found applied to marshy or muddy fields, or perhaps to 'land haunted by frogs': PNEF 86. There is a record of smithymen and colliers at Froghall in 1435 (SHC XVII 152), and it seems possible that the name was a colloquial expression attached to man-made excavations. Plot (1686: 399, 448) shows *Froghall* or *Frog(g)-Homer* near Watling Street, between Knaves Castle and Norton ('near the junction of Old Chester Road with Watling Street at Brownhills': MidA I 1883 123), an area which had then apparently been quarried for gravel. This is presumably the same place as *Far Frog Hall* in Little Wyrley recorded in 1815: SRO D3697/3/20. *Froghall* in Baswich is recorded in 1740 (SRO D240/B/1/50) and in 1891 (Census), and *Frog Hall Leasow* in Walton near Baswich c.1800 (SRO D615/D/33). Crop-marks of high-status timber halls dating probably from the Dark Ages have been traced in a field named Frog Hall at Atcham, Shropshire: WMANS 19 53-4. That name may be from a later quarry pit which has destroyed part of the site.

FROGMOOR (unlocated, in Dilhorne.) *Frogmore* 1214x1243 SHC 1914 91, *Frogmoor* 1672 D615/D/49. *Frogmore field* in Gatacre is recorded in 1657: SRRC 2028/1/2/135.

FULBRIDGE (unlocated, in Wednesfield.) *Fulebrig'* 1262 SHC 4th Series XVIII 36, *Folebrigge* 1271 *ibid.* 92.

FULE (RIVER) (obsolete) A tributary of the river Churnet with its source at Meerbrook. *Fulee* 1219-32 Dieul, CEC 385, *Ful(e)*, *Fulhee* 13th Century *ibid*, *le Fuythe* 1275 SHC XI 334, *Fulhe* 1330 Ch, 1345 Coram R, 1346 Pat. From OE *fūl-ēa* 'dark-looking (literally foul) river'. Ekwall 1928: 163-4 notes that the form *Fuythe* is remarkable, and may indicate that the name was really OE *Fyle*, a derivative of *fūl* with an *iðn*-suffix. SHC 4th Series 19 fn.6 identifies *Fulhe* as Dingle Brook. See also Fowlea Brook, *supra*.

FULFEN 3 miles east of Lichfield (SK 0510); *Fulson* 1327 SHC VII (i) 227, *Fulfen* 14th century Duig, *Fulfen* 1470 SRO DW1734/2/1/598 n53, 1576 *ibid.* 612; **FULFEN** (unlocated, in Blurton), *Fulfen* 1338 SRO D593/B/1/23/3/2/11. From the OE adjective *fūl* 'foul, dirty, filthy, muddy', and OE *fenn* 'fen, marsh, mud, mire', hence 'foul or muddy fen'. For Fulfen in Blurton see SHC XI 312.

FULFORD 4 miles north-east of Stone (SJ 9538). *Fvleford* 1086 DB, 1166 SHC 1923 297, *Fuleford* 1272 SHC IV (i) 199, *Fulleford* 1276 SHC VI (i) 80, *Fouleforde* 1280 SRO D593/B/1/23/4/1/10, *Folford*, *Fuleford* 13th century Duig, *Fulford* 1583 SHC II (ii) 39, 1686 Plot, *Foalford* 1614 SHC II (ii) 39. 'Dirty or muddy ford', from the OE adjective *fūl* 'foul, dirty, filthy, muddy', normally found linked to elements denoting water, and contrasting with Fairford.

FULL BROOK a tributary of the river Trent. From OE *fūl* 'foul, filthy, dirty'. It has been suggested that the name means more particularly 'a stream with muddy banks': see JEPNS 23 1990-1 48. Other streams of the same name are recorded at Barton under Needwood (*Fulbroke* 1414 Rental), and associated with the river Pipe (*Foulbrouk* 1286 For.). See also Fullbrook.

FULLBROOK 1 mile south of Walsall (SO 0196). *fulan sitere* 957 (12th century, S.574), *ffulbrooke water* 1617 Willmore 1887: 439, *Fullbrook* 1834 O.S, *Full Brook* 1895 *ibid.* This place takes its name

from Full Brook, a tributary of the river Tame, the earliest form of which is from the OE adjective *fūl*, oblique *fūlan*, 'foul, dirty, filthy', and OE **scitere* 'a sewer, a channel or stream used as an open sewer'. *Fullmore*, recorded here c.1572 (SHC 1938 19), and *Fulmores*, *Fulmares More* 1588 (SRO D260/M/F/1/2/f8d) are probably associated with this name. See also Full Brook.

FULLMOOR 2½ miles south-east of Penkridge. *Fulmore* 1505 Hatherton, *Fulmore Green* 1641 Penkridge ParReg, *Fullmore leasowe* 1657 Survey, *Foomoor (Road and Lane)* 1775 EnclA. From Fullmoor Brook - *þone fule broc* 996 (for 994) (17th century, S.1380), *Foulmire* 1686 Plot, *Full Moor Brook* 1754. From the OE adjective *fūl* 'foul, dirty, filthy, muddy', perhaps here meaning 'dark looking', with OE *mōr* 'moorland', but see also Fullbrook. See also Gailey.

FUNDLESS (unlocated, perhaps in Sedgley or Upper Penn.) *Fundemesleye* 1286 SHC VI (i) 162, *Fundomesle* c.1290 SHC 1928 23, *Fundemesle* 1291 SHC 1911 201, *Fundumesley* 1292 *ibid.* 209, *Fundesley* 1398 SHC 1928 277, 1425 (p) SHC XVII 118, 1428 SHC XVII 118, *Findesley* 1425 (1798) Shaw II 221, *Fundsleyes*, *Fundsley*, *Fudsley (leasow)* 1585 SHC X (ii) 56, *Funleys* 1635 Sedgley ParReg, *Founless* 1639 *ibid*, *Fudles* 1660 *ibid*, *the ffundlegs* 1664 *ibid*, *Fundlesse* 1664 *ibid*, *Funsley* 1670 Will, *Fundless* 1674 Sedgley ParReg. A curious name, perhaps from an unidentified personal name with OE *lēah*. Hackwood 1898: 14, 22 notes that 'Fundemesle is evidently the same as 'Fundesley' (SHC X ii 55) which is variously spelt Funles, Fundles or Funsley. It was probably an estate in Sedgley. In 1350 mention is made of one Hamon de Fundousley; there was also a Jo. Findesley de Seggesley...Fundesles is also variously spelt Fundsleyes, Fudsley, Fudles, Fundlesse, Fundless; but the exact whereabouts of the place is now unknown and its very name forgotten'. It has been suggested (SHC X (ii) 55) that this place may have been in Himley, but the evidence is not persuasive.

FURLONG, FURLONG LANE (obsolete, in Tunstall (SJ 8652).) *Forlonge* 1607 JNSFC LXIII 76, *Furlong* 1636 Wolstanton ParReg, *the Furelong* 1664 SHC 1934 (ii) 35, *the Furlong lane* 1743 Burslem ParReg. Self-explanatory. 'Furlong, generally called Smithfield from 1790, or Greenfield from 1800': printed Burslem ParReg III iv (index). The name is preserved in Furlong Road.

FURNACE GRANGE 1 mile north of Trysull (SO 8496). *ye furnace* 1641 Penn ParReg, *the furnnice* 1652 Trysull ParReg, *Grange Furnace* 1670 TWHS NS 13 7, *Grange*, *Furnace* 1798 Yates, *Grange Farm*, *Furnace Hill* 1834 O.S., *Furnace Grange* 1895 O.S. From a furnace established here in the 17th century. The Grange element is evidently from the Grainger family, who are recorded in the area from at least 1539 (SHC VI (i) NS 70), and occupied Grangemill in 1627: Trysull ParReg; SHC 1923 70. By 1636 Richard Foley had an iron-smelting furnace here: StEnc 227. See also SHC 1923 102.

FURNACE POOL (obsolete) 1 mile north-east of Hednesford (SK 0013). *Furnace Pool* 1649 SRO D1336/1, 1743 SRO D1057/F/2/2, 1834 O.S. From a furnace that stood here: see Shaw 1801: II 315.

FYNSPADE or FYNSPATHE in West Bromwich, probably what is now Wednesbury Bridge over the river Tame: see Dilworth 1976: 103-4. *Fynspade* 1415 SHC XVII 56, *Fynspathe* 1432 *ibid.* 141, *Fynspath* 1515 SHC 1928 90, *Fynspade* 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 163, *Fynchpath* c.1575 SHC IX NS

207, *Finspothill* 1686 Plot, 1749 Bowen. Evidently associated with the bridge over the river Tame, recorded as *Wynchespathebrigge*, *Wystibrigge*, *Pontem de Pynchespath* (for *Fynchespathebrigge*) 1287 SHC VI (i) 170, *vill of Vynspade* 1457 SRO 3764/118[27572]. Ede 1969 [108] states that the hamlet of Finchpath was at Hill Top, and Finchpath Hill was the ascent to it from Wednesbury Bridge, but see Dilworth 1976: 103-4 who locates the place on each side of the Wednesbury to Birmingham road from the foot of Holloway Bank (SO 989941 to SO 995923) extending some 700 yards to the west and 200 yards east of the road. Probably from 'the path frequented by finches' (cf. Finchfield), although Finch was a local surname from at least the early 17th century: Roper 1980. See also VCH XVII 6, SHC VI (i) 50, 166; 1928 277.

GADS HILL (obsolete) 2 miles south-east of Biddulph (SJ 9055). *Gadshill* 1775 Yates, 1880 Kelly, *Gadsill* 1815 *EnclA*, *Gads Hill* 1837 O.S. Possibly from the personal name Gadd (DES 181).

GAGS HILL 1 mile south-east of Quatford (SO 7590). *Gagshill* 1833 O.S., (Near) *Gags Hill* (Field) c.1840 T.A. The spellings are too late to suggest a derivation, but perhaps from the surname Gagg(e) (see DES 181), or possibly from OE *gēaces-hyll* 'cuckoo hill'. In Shropshire since the 12th century.

GAIA on the north-west side of Stowe Pool in Lichfield (SK 1110). *La Gaia* 1200 SHC III (i) 65, *Gaye Majoris* 1313 WL 94, *Gaia Majori* c.1358 SHC I 243, *Gaia Minor* 1370 SHC VIII 236, *Gey(field)* 1386 *Deed*. Gaia Major and Gaia Minor were two hamlets in St. Chad's parish, Lichfield (Shaw 1798: I 292) which existed before 1279 and formed the cathedral prebend of Gaia, created probably by 1150: VCH XIV 68. Duignan's suggestion that the name is from the Latin (and Old French) word for 'a jay' is most improbable, but no other derivation can be suggested. A parallel would seem to be Gay (Meadows) between the abbey and the river Severn in Shrewsbury, and two roads called Gay in Much Wenlock, the origins of which remain unexplained.

GAILEY in Penkridge parish, 4 miles west of Cannock (SJ 9110). *Gageleage* 1002x10044 (11th century, S.906; 11th century, S.1536), *Gragelie* 1086 DB, *Galeweye* 1270 SHC IV 180, *Galewey*, *Gaule*, *Gaeleye* 13th century Duig. From OE *gagel* 'bog-myrtle' (*Myrica Gale*), with OE *lēah*. The bog-myrtle, a shrub of the family Myricaceae, is known by various names, such as gale, gaul-bushes, gaul, sweet willow, bog-myrtle, moor-myrtle, etc., and usually grows from two to four feet high, with numerous twiggy branches, narrow short-stalked fragrant leaves bearing catkins and a dry berry. The plant was used for animal feed, brewing in place of hops, dying wool yellow and tanning leather. The boiled catkins produced a waxy scum used for candles. GM 1786, Pt i 408, records: 'At a place called Foulmire [i.e. Fullmoor q.v.], about a mile from the Four Crosses, an aromatic shrub of the myrtle kind grows spontaneously. It is called gale or sweet gale, and gives its name to a hamlet near it. Where it flourishes is a black morassy ground between two copses, greatly sheltered from the bleak winds, which no doubt contributes greatly to its safety. It thrives not anywhere else, and seems confined to this small spot of a few acres'. Gailey Hay was one of the Hays of Cannock Forest (q.v.).

GAINSBOROUGH HILL FARM 1½ miles south-west of Shenstone (SK 0702). *Greensberry Hill* c.1774 TSSAHS IX 1967-8 4, *Greensbury Hill* 1794 Sanders 1794 336, *Greensbury hill* 1801 Shaw II 41, *Greensborough Farm* 1824 *ibid.* 7, *Greensbury Hill* 1834 O.S. Perhaps from OE *byrig* (dative singular of OE *burh*) 'fortified place', so 'the mound or fortification of the man named Green', or from

OE *beorg* 'a hill, a mound, a tumulus'. In 1824 a rock-cut grave was found here, and nearby a hoard of 21 Bronze-Age objects, including swords, spearheads and palstaves: TSSAHS IX 1967-8 1-16.

GAITS HILL (obsolete) on Cowall Moor (SJ 9056). *Gaits Hill* 1836 O.S. Early spellings are not available, but possibly from OE *gāt* 'goat', with Scandinavianised pronunciation.

GALLESTONES (unlocated, possibly near Leek.) *Gallestones* 1286 SHC 1911 432.

GALLOWS BRIDGE 1 mile south-west of Branston (SK 2119). *Galoghbrugge* 1395 SRO DW1734/2/1/103[vi]m47, *Galowe brigge* 1503 Ct, *Galowbridges* 1578 SHC 1927 180, *Gallow Bridges* 1608 SHC 1948-9 81, *Gallowbridge* 1836 O.S. Presumably from gallows which stood on the bridge over the stream from Tattenhill to the river Trent. '...the highway called Gallowbridges which leads from the market town of Burton upon Trent to the city of Lichfield...' is recorded in 1586: SHC 1927 180.

GALLOWS GREEN ½ mile south of Alton (SK 0741). *Gallows Hill* 1834 White 724. Where felons were hanged. It is unclear whether *Galowestewe*, recorded in 1415 (Hardy 1908: II 95) is to be associated with this place. See also Olive Green. Shaw mentions *Gallows Green* in Hamstall Ridware: 1798: I 152 fn.

GALLOWS KNOLL (obsolete) on Wredon, 1 mile north of Ramshorn (SK 0846). *Gallows Knoll* 1686 Plot 404. From OE *cnoll* 'a hill top, the summit of a large hill', later 'a knoll, a hillock'.

GALLY MORE (unlocated, in Shenstone.) *Busseys Gallymore* 1629 SRO D4363/C/5/1, *Gally More* 1636 SRO DW1784/2. *Busseys* is *Bosses* (q.v.). See also Allimore Green.

GAMBALLS GREEN 1 mile north-east of Flash, on the Staffordshire-Derbyshire border (SK 0367). *Gamew Green* 1514 DRO D2375M/1/3, *Gambus Greve* 1566 *Deed*, *Gamon grenehed* 1564 SHC 1938 99, *Gambushe Green* 1599 Alstonefield ParReg, *Gambush greene* 1612 DRO D2375M/108/27, *Gambush Greave* 1612 DRO D2375M/52/1, *Gambush(e) Greane* 1651 *Rental*, *Gamble's Green* 1720 VCH VII 39, *Gamballs Green* 1775 Yates, *Gamboles* 1851 White. A puzzling name, with confusingly inconsistent spellings. Perhaps from the common OE personal name Gamel (ON Gamall), more usually found within the Danelaw (see Eyton 1881: 75-6), or from ME **gamen-busch* 'sport or game bush', i.e. a bush marking the place where games were held (cf. Upper Gambolds and Lower Gambolds, Worcestershire), with OE *grêne* 'a grassy spot'. See also *Gammthorn*, which may be an alternative version of Gambush, whatever its meaning.

GAMESLEY BRIDGE 1 mile south-west of Great Bridgeford (SJ 8726). From Gamesley Brook (q.v.).

GAMESLEY BROOK a tributary of the river Sow running through Seighford. *Gamelese* ?13th century SHC IV 269. From the common ON personal name Gamel, with OE *ēa* 'river, stream', or OE *ēg* 'island, land by a stream or between streams', so giving 'Gamel's stream', or 'Gamel's land near the stream', which then gave its name to the stream. Perhaps associated with *Gamyssey Lane ende* in Great Bridgeford recorded in 1538: SHC 1910 44. The name Gamesley is also found in Charlesworth, Derbyshire (PN Db 69), and in Lancashire (PN La 48).

GAMMTHORN (unlocated, probably near Moreton/Wolseley.) *Gammthorn* 1284 FA. See Gamballs Green.

GANDER WELL on the south-west side of Ramshorn (SK 0845). Early spellings have not been traced, but presumably associated with *Gandergrange*, recorded in 1681 (Alton ParReg), perhaps from OE *gand(d)ra* 'a male goose'. The *grange* element is unexplained.

GARARDESTHORP (unlocated) *Garardesthorp* 1483 SHC XI 242. A name which, if correctly transcribed (it has only been traced in this single record, and may well be an error for *Durandesthorp* (Donisthorpe) in Leicestershire (see SHC XIII 193; SHC VIII 166, and note that Peter de Durandesthorp appears to have been the Bishop of Lichfield's tenant at Little Ridware c.1218: SHC VI (i) 31; SHC XVI 265, 279; but see also Neuthorp) is of particular interest, and recorded in association with Blithfield, Bagot's Bromley, Colton and Abbot's Bromley, which suggests that if in Staffordshire, it lay in that area. It cannot be Gerrard's Bromley, for that place was only acquired by the Gerard family during the time of Elizabeth I. If the spelling is to be trusted, the name would seem to be 'Garard's or Gerard's thorp'. The name Gar(r)ard or Ger(r)ard is an OFr personal name of OGerman origin, and it seems possible that the same family gave its name to Gerard's Bromley (q.v.). John *Gerarde* is recorded in Rugeley in 1381: SHC XVII 186; and details of Gerard de Stafford, founder or co-founder of St. Thomas' Priory, are given in SHC VIII 131. The second element *thorp* is usually found only in the Danelaw areas, and rarely in the north-western counties, and seems to have been applied to insignificant places, where the very location is now lost (which would apply here, if a Staffordshire name). The general meaning is probably 'farm', perhaps a dependant or outlying farm belonging to a village or manor. In many cases an original place-name Thorp has been given a distinguishing first element, often an English or Norman personal name, in this case (if a true Staffordshire name) presumably to distinguish it from Thorpe Constantine (q.v.).

GARMELOW ½ mile south of Cop Mere (SJ 801284). *Garmilowe* 1665 SRO D5566/9/1-4, *Garmilow* 1775 Yates, *Garmelow* 1778 SRRC 1045/742, *Garmeylow* 1810 Gnosall tombstone, *Garmalow* 1834 White 1834: 635, *Garmelow* 1872 P.O. This place is not marked on modern maps, but was a hamlet at the junction of the lane from High Offley to Eccleshall and the lane south from Cop Mere. Early spellings have not been traced, but the forms suggest the name is from an unidentified OE personal name beginning Gærm or Garm, with OE *hlāw* 'mound or tumulus'.

GARRUSLEY (unlocated, possibly near Berryhill, north-east of Stafford.) *Garrusley* 19th century SRO E(A)2/17.

GARSHALL GREEN 4 miles east of Stone (SJ 9634). *Geringeshalew*, *Geringeshalow* 1327 SHC VII (i) 202-3, *Gerynshale* (lately called *Grendonshale*) 1376 SHC 1909 159, *Geringeshalgh*, *Geryngeshalgh*, *Geryngeshawe* 14th century Duig, *Geryngsale* 1542 SHC XI 283, *Garringshall* otherwise *Garshall* 1601 SHC 1935 399, *Garsall* 1608 SHC 1948-9 12, *Milwich Garingshall* 1679 SHC XII NS 156. The first element may be from an OE personal name *Gæring. The terminal is OE *halh*. The *Milwich* addition to the 1679 spelling is doubtless to help locate the place, rather than distinguish it from another place of the same name.

GARSTONES 1½ mile east of Bradnop (SK 0254). *Gastones* c.1288, 1302 Loxdale, *Gatestones Green* c.1288 SHC 1911 443, *The Gastones* c.1302 *ibid*, *Garstons* 1656 Okeover T669, *Gaston* 1686 Plot 154, 1747 Bowen, *Garston Rocks* 1836 O.S. The c.1288 spelling suggests a derivation from OE *gāt* 'goat' or *geat* 'gate'. Although the *stones* element perhaps points towards the latter, *geat* would be expected to evolve into *Yat-*. The remaining spellings would be consistent with a derivation from OE *gærstūn* 'meadow, grassy enclosure', sometimes with the meaning 'grazing farm': cf. Garston, Hampshire.

GATACRE 2½ miles south of Claverley (SO 7990), since the 12th century in Shropshire. *Gatacra* 1160 Eyton 1854-60: III 86, *Gathacre* 1176 Bowcock, *Gattacra* 1195 Cur, *Gatacre* 1208 FF, 1337 SHC VIII 59, 1298 TSAS LXXI 1996 27, *Gatacr'* 1313 SRRC 2089/2/2/5, *Gatakere* 1380 SHC XIII 154. From OE *gāt-æcer* 'goat field': OE *geat* 'gate' suggested in Ekwall 1959: 193 might be expected to have evolved into *Yat-*. *Æcer*, modern 'acre', probably had the very specific meaning 'a small piece of cultivated land on the margin of a settlement' (EPNE i 3 suggests that it probably meant here 'acre of land'), and examples tend to fall into three categories according to their relationship to heath, marsh, or high moorland. Gatacre is an example of a heathland site (cf. Ridgacre, Worcestershire; Alsager, Cheshire). Handsacre (q.v.) is the only Staffordshire example, and is connected with marsh. There is evidence that in Staffordshire the 12th century acre was the same size as the modern acre: SHC 1911 418.

GATEHAM 1 mile north-west of Alstonefield (SK 1156). ? *Gaham* c.1200 SHC 1921 5, *Gateham* 1253 VCH VII 17, *Gatham* 1626 DRO D2375M/52/1, *Gaytom* 1671 Alstonefield ParReg, *Gatom* 1678 *ibid*, *Gatham* 1703 DRO D3155/6495, *Gateham* 1775 Yates, 1840 O.S. From OE *gāt* 'goat', and OE *hām*, giving 'goat village'. It is possible that the first element is OScand *geit* 'goat', though less likely to be found mixed with an OE element. The earliest form may relate to Gotham, Nottinghamshire. It seems unlikely that *Gottham*, recorded in 1259 (SHC 1911 130) relates to this place.

GATEHAM GRANGE 1 mile north-west of Alstonefield (SK 1156). *Graunge de Gateham* 1655 PCC, *Gateham Grange juxta Austenfield* c.1680 SP, *Gateham Grange* 1839 *EnclA* - see Gateham. This was a grange of Combermere Abbey, Cheshire: VCH VII 13; 17.

GATHERWYND FARM ½ mile north-west of Blymhill (SJ 8012). *Gatherwynd* 18th century Oakden 1984 130, *Ryecorn Hill or Gatherwind* 1833 O.S., *Gatherwind* 1836 Blymhill ParReg. 'The hill exposed to the winds'.

GAULEDGE on west side of Longnor (SK 0865). *Gorlage* 1415 VCH VII 42, *Gorlege* 1564 Pat, *Gorlidge*, *Gorledge* 1600 to 1610 ParReg, *Gozledge* 1626, 1651 Rental, *Gorlige* 1669 Alstonefield ParReg, *Gawlid* 1848 TA, *Gauledge* 1840 O.S. Perhaps from dialect *gorl*, *goal* 'violent wind, howling wind' (EDD), with OE *ecg* 'edge', used in its dialect sense 'a ridge, a steep hill or hillside', either of which might be apposite for this place which lies at the foot of a pronounced ridge.

GAYFORD (unlocated, possibly near Pelsall.) *Gayford* 1310 SHC 1911 307.

GAYTON Ancient Parish 6 miles north-east of Stafford (SJ 9828). *Gaitone* 1086 DB, *Gaiton* 1203 SHC III 104, *Geiton* 1204 *ibid*. 126, *Gaidon* 1227 Duig, *Gayton* 1306 SHC VII 167, 1324 SHC X 45,

Gayton 1532 SHC 4th Series 8 58. Probably '*Gāga's tūn', from an OE personal name related to OE *gāgan* 'to turn aside', or (less likely) from the same name adopted as a stream name for Gayton Brook here. There is no trace of a ME Gatton that would be expected from OE *gāta-tūn* 'goat tūn', but a derivation from ON *geit* 'goat' is not impossible. The name is found in Cheshire and several Midland and eastern counties: see Ekwall 1960: 194.

GAYWODE HALL (unlocated, in Stretton, near Penkridge.) *Geiwode* 1203 SHC III 122, *Gaywode temp.* Edward I SRO DW1733/A/2/72, *Gaywode Hall* c.1317 VCH IV 167, ? *Gaywode* 1332 SHC X (i) 112, *Geywode Hallestede* c.1337 VCH IV 167, *Geywode Hallestede juxta Annwalle* c.1338 *ibid.* Possibly 'Gāga's wood'. *Hallestede* is from OE *stede* 'place, site of a building', so 'site on which the hall stood'. *Annwalle* is unlocated, perhaps from OE *ān* 'one', *āna* 'lonely', and Mercian OE *wælle* 'a spring, and (sometimes) a stream', so 'the isolated spring'. See also SHC XIV (ii) 10.

GENDALL'S COPPICE (obsolete) ½ mile west of Blount's Green (SJ 0732). *Gendall's Wood* 1865: 267, *Gendall's Coppice* 1887 O.S.

GENTLESHAW ½ miles north-west of Lichfield (SK 0512). *Gentylshawe* 1505 SHC XI 268, 1528 SHC 1939 77, *Gentleshawe* 1589 SHC 1931 250, *Gentleshore* 1788 SHC 4th VI 167. The name was originally attached to a grove of ancient oaks on a high part of Cannock Chase at Longdon. The terminal is OE *scaga* 'a grove, a copse'. In 1338 John Gentil was steward to the Bishop of Lichfield: SHC III NS 97. See also SHC XI 120; SHC 1912 250; SHC 1939 82.

GERRARD'S BROMLEY - see **BROMLEY, GERRARD'S**.

GIBBET WOOD 1 mile north-east of Whittington (SO 8683). *Gibbet Wood* 1895 O.S. From the hanging on a gibbet here in 1813 of William Howe, alias John Wood, for the murder of Benjamin Robins of Dunsley Hall (VCH XX 125). He was not, as sometimes claimed, the last man to be gibbeted in England. The name does not appear on the 1834 O.S. map. See also StEnc 224.

GIB RIDING (WOOD) 2 miles north-east of Cheadle (SK 0344). (*wood called*) *Gibberydyng* 1539 MA, *Gib-riding* 1836 O.S. The place is recorded from at least 1291: StSt 12 2000 60. From ME *gibbe* 'a hump', with OE **ryding* 'a clearing, an assart, land taken into an estate from waste'.

GIBRALTAR in Kinver, to the south of Dunsley (SO 8583), *Gibraltar* c.1780 VCH XX 124, *Gibraltar Rock* 1834 O.S.; **GIBRALTAR** south of Knightley Grange (SJ 8023), *Gibraltar* 1833 O.S.; **GIBRALTAR FARM** 1 mile south of Rudyard (SJ 9556). A transferred name, which is not uncommonly found applied to places which were remote or had rocky features. The first place, accessible only by foot and canal, lies at the foot of a sandstone cliff. The second place lies close to the Gnosall parish boundary. Some of the names may have been adopted during the siege of Gibraltar 1779-83: see Field 1993: 151.

GIB TOR 2½ miles north of Upper Hulme (SK 0264). *Gibtor*, *Gybtorr* 1481 DRO D2375M/1/1, *le Gybtorre* 1515 DRO D2375M/1/6, *Gybtor* 1559 DRO D2375M/1/3, *Gybter* 1564 SHC 1938 99, *Gib Torr* 1564 VCH 7 33, *Gyb(be)torre* 1566 Deed, *Gybbe Torre* 1584 Alstonefield ParReg, *Gybtoore* 1605 *ibid*, *Gibb Tarr* 1769 Alstonefield ParReg, *Gybtor* 1775 Yates, *Gibtar* 1832 Teesdale. From ME

gibbe 'a hump', with OE *torr* 'hill', usually in moorland areas meaning 'a rocky outcrop', hence 'the rounded hill with a rocky outcrop', from Gib Torr Rocks (*Gib Torr Rocks* 1842 O.S.) a quarter of a mile west of Gib Torr.

GIFFARD'S CROSS 1 mile south of Brewood (SJ 8707). *Gyffarde's Crosse* 1569 Ct, *Jiffards Cross* 1816 O.S. By tradition this ancient wooden cross commemorates an exploit in the early 16th century when a member of the Giffard family (the 1816 spelling reflecting the soft G-) from nearby Chillington Hall killed with a bow or crossbow a panther which had escaped from a menagerie at the Hall and was about to attack a mother and child. The legend has not been traced back earlier than the 1840s, and is almost certainly apocryphal: see Horovitz 1992: 168-72. The original cross was replaced by a replica in the 1980s, and is now at Chillington Hall.

GIGGETY on the south side of Wombourne (SO 8692). *Giggatree* (field name) 1840 TA, 1832 Teesdale, *Giggetty* 1895 O.S. Possibly from gibbet-tree, a tree or post from which the bodies of executed criminals were displayed.

GIGHALL BRIDGE over the river Dane. *Gig Hall* 1880 Kelly. From the local dialect word *gigge* 'a hole in the ground for a fire over which flax was dried' (EDD). Cf. Gig Hole, Kingswood, Cheshire. The *hall* element is from OE *halh*: there is no record of any hall here.

GILBERDE (unlocated, in Marchington.) *Gilberde* 1520 SRO DW1733/A/3/11.

GILBERT BRIDGE (obsolete) the bridge carryng the Leek-Ashbourne road over the river Hamps at Waterhouses (SK 0850). *Gilbert Bridge* 1764 JNSFC LXXXIII 1948-9 45.

GILBERTS (unlocated, in Farley.) *Gilberts* 1753 SRO D240/D/291.

GILBERT'S CROSS ½ mile west of Enville, at the junction of Morfe Lane and the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road (SO 8186). *Gilbert's Cross* 1834 O.S. If the name is ancient, perhaps from Gilbert who held Enville in DB (VCH IV 54; VCH XX 94), or from Gilbert, son of John Fitz Philip II, who held land in Bobbington in the second half of the 13th century: Eyton 1854-60 : III 171. The cross was perhaps a boundary mark between Enville and Morfe.

GILL BANK 1 mile south of Kidsgrove (SJ 8453). *Gilbank* 1625 SRO D1229/1/2/6, 1649, 1672 Wolstanton ParReg, *Gillbank* c.1727 SRO D997/1/1. Possibly from ON *gil* 'ravine, narrow valley': there is a narrow valley in the hillside here. See also Gillow Heath; Guild of Monks. *Gill Lane* and *Gillfield* are recorded in Audley in 1612: SHC 1944 82.

GILLEAN'S HALL 1 mile south-east of Abbot's Bromley (SK 1022). It is unclear whether this place is to be associated with *Gyllians Hayes* 1651 SRO D603/E/2/119, *Gillens Hays* 1730 SRO D603/E/2/165-6, *Gillian Hays* 1780 SRO D603/A/3/44-57. The surname Gillean and similar is found in various parts of the county, for example Gyllyans 17th century: Dudley CA.

GILLITY GREAVES (obsolete) 2 miles east of Walsall (SO 0197). *Gyllot in greves* 1525 VCH XVII 175, *Gillot in le Greves* 1614 SRO D260/M/F/1/2/f147d-148, *Gillott in the Goraves* 1617 Willmore 1887: 439, *Jennity Greave* 1832 Teesdale, *Ginity Greaves* 1834 O.S. Duignan 1902: 67 states that in the 14th and 15th centuries the place is regularly recorded as *le greve*. The name is from OE *græfe*

'grove, copse, thicket', a place-name element common in the West Midlands, especially Staffordshire. The name is later found as *greves* and *greaves* ('woods'), and later still as *Gillott o' th' Greaves* (Duignan 1902: 67), presumably from a family of that name who lived there, or perhaps from *gyllo* 'hussy': OED.

GILLOW HEATH 1 mile north-west of Biddulph (SJ 8758). ? *Gilleloh* 1227 SHC XI NS 240, *Gillow(e)* 1279 SHC XII NS 12-3, *Gylloowe Heth* 1427 Ct, ? *Gillow* 1551 SHC 1924 3, *Gylowe* 1576 Biddulph ParReg, *Gille heathe* 1660 *ibid*, *Gillow*, *Gilloe* 1663 *ibid*, *Gilloe heath* 1675 *ibid*, *Gillow* 1676 SHC XII NS 12, 1755 SRO D593/B/1/20/20/12, *Gillow Heath* 1744 BCA MS917/1258, 1842 O.S. The first element is uncertain. *Gillow* in Herefordshire is thought to be from Welsh *cil* 'retreat' and *llwch* 'pool', hence 'the retreat by the pool', but this can be ruled out here. ON *gil* 'ravine, valley' is possible (but unlikely) as the first element (this place lies near two streams in marked valleys), perhaps with OE *hlāw* 'mound, hill, tumulus', or possibly OE *hōh* 'a hill spur, ridge end'. It may also be noted that Plot 1686: 203 mentions the *stock-Gillo-flower*, evidently Gillyflower, which are recorded as 'clove gillie flowers' paid as rent in the early 14th century: see SHC 1912 346. See also Gill Bank; Guild of Monks. For *Gillihay* (unlocated) see Erdeswick 1844: 167.

GILPIN'S MILL (obsolete) 1½ miles south of Cannock (SJ 9609). *Gilpin's Basin* 1792 *EnclA*. From a mill which lay between the canal bridge and Watling Street, said to date from the foundation of William Gilpin's edge tool works here in 1790 (VCH V 49).

GLASCOTE 1 mile south-east of Tamworth (SK 2203). *Glascote* 1206 FF, 1262 SHC IV 152, 1276 SHC VI (i) 78, 1292 Ipm, 1307 SHC VII 174, 1432 IpmR, 1568 SHC IX NS 166, 1614 SHC IV NS 64, *Gloscot* 1565 ParReg, *Glascotte* 1667 HT. From OE *glæs* 'glass', and *cot* 'cot, hut, shelter', probably meaning here 'the glass workshop': the element *cot* is often found associated with industrial processes. Another possibility is that the first element may be from a river-name Glas, possibly the small stream on which the place stands: PN Wa 26. See also Ekwall 1928: 175.

GLASHOUSHAY (unlocated, in Wolseley Wood, possibly near Stafford Brook: see Welch 1997: 30.) *Glashouse hey* 1483 Welch 1997: 30, *Glashoushay* 1561 SHC NS IV 212. In this area were a number of early glassworks (see Welch 1997), from which this place took its name. *Hay* is from Mercian OE (ge)heg 'enclosure'.

GLASS HOUSE (obsolete) on the north side of Chesterton (SJ 8250). *Glassehouse* 1683 JNSFC LXV 1930-1 46, *Glass House* 1833 O.S. From early glass-works here: see JNSFC LXVIII 1933-4 74-121.

GLASS HOUSE on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, 2½ miles south-west of Ashley (SJ 7432). *the Glassehowse* 1600 JNSFC LXV 1930-1 47, *the Glashoush* 1679 Eccleshall ParReg, *the Glasshouses*, *the Glasshowse* 1704-5 SRO 828/17-19, *Glass House* 1833 O.S. From a glass-making industry carried out here in the 16th century: SHC 1945-6 12; 130; JNSFC LXV 1930-1 45-54; LXVIII 1933-4 74-121. This may be *Brass Hall* recorded in the Hearth Tax Roll of 1674 (SHC 1945-6 156 fn.), but see SHC 1945-6 175. The county boundary here has been modified since 1833.

GLASSHOUSE FARM 2 miles south-west of Marchington (SK 1029). *Glasshouse Bank* 1724 Survey. From medieval glassworks in Bagot's Park to the south: see PMA 31 1997 1-60.

