

# Place-Names and Topography in the Upper Thames Country:

## A REGIONAL ESSAY

By W. J. ARKELL

IN future the etymological study of English place-names must no longer be a game of hide and seek with abstruse and unintelligible personal names, but a carefully conducted study of topography and word-lore, likely to throw much fresh light on both the history of the English nation and the history of words.' Zachrisson (1932, p. 60) here placed topography first, and every geographer and geologist will agree with him. It is certain that our forefathers from whom our place-names are handed down were hypersensitive to topography. Just as the Arab has a score or more words for a camel, so the Anglo-Saxon had at least forty words for a hill, each appropriate to a particular shape, size, or context. Many other topographical names, too, show refinements of meaning now lost on us, and there is much to be learnt and much delight to be derived from attempting to unravel them.

If it be conceded that topography should be the basis of place-name study, then it follows that the most satisfactory way to treat place-names is by natural geological or topographical districts. This has been brought home to me while mapping certain geological formations on the 6-inch scale from east of Oxford to west of Swindon. Here are two natural districts determined by geological structure: the clay lowland of Otmoor with the old Shotover and Bernwood forests and the surrounding hills on the one hand; and the White Horse and upper Thames valleys, subdivided by the Corallian ridge, on the other. Yet these districts are arbitrarily distributed between the five counties of Bucks., Oxon., Berks., Wilts., and Gloucester, and the literature of the place-names is correspondingly scattered.

The two essays that follow are based almost entirely on scholarly spade-work done by others. The publications listed at the end, by Alexander, Ekwall, Gover, Grundy, Mawer, Skeat and Stenton, have been drawn upon for the early forms of names wherever any are known. The only pretensions to originality are in the approach and treatment. Such speculations and reinterpretations as are offered are based on close acquaintance with the topography and geology, which was acquired walking the fields from Brill to Wootton Bassett with the 6-inch ordnance maps over a period of many years.

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Professor F. M. Stenton and Mr. J. N. L. Myres have saved me from a number of pitfalls by their kind criticism. I have, however, clung to several solutions of which they do not approve, and I take sole responsibility for the suggestions made. I have endeavoured to distinguish clearly between accepted etymologies and my own suggestions.

Geological maps on the scale of 2 inches to the mile and descriptions of the area dealt with will be found in the publications listed in Appendix III.

All Anglo-Saxon or Old English (O.E.) and Celtic words and names are written in italics. The numbers placed after them in brackets are the dates of the documents in which they occur.

### I. EAST OF OXFORD: OTMOOR AND SHOTOVER FOREST

The dominating feature of the country to the east and north-east of Oxford is the broad tract of clay lowland lying between the Elsfield-Beckley-Stanton St. John-Wheatley range of hills and the range running parallel with it from Muswell Hill through Brill and Long Crendon to Thame. The northern part of this tract is occupied by Otmoor; the southern part, separated by a low broken ridge at Studley and Arngrove, is better drained by brooks running south-eastward into the Thame and was until comparatively recently covered by Shotover Forest. The view eastward from Stanton St. John is still mainly over woodland—Stanton Great Wood, Holton, Waterperry, Studley and Shabington woods—beyond which Brill and Muswell hills ride like ships upon a sea of tree tops. The lesser hills around are occupied mainly by cornfields and villages.

At first sight it would be supposed that two of the most obviously descriptive names were Forest Hill and Boarstall (the latter reminiscent of Boar's Hill). But how deceptive such names may be is shown by the facts that the former was *Fostel* in Domesday Book (1086) and *Fforsthull* in 1158, which may either mean 'frosty hill' or come from a lost Old English word *forst* meaning 'ridge-shaped hill,' akin to Middle Dutch *vorst*, 'ridge of a roof';<sup>1</sup> while the latter was *Burchestala* in 1158, which proves that it comes from Old English *burgsteall*, meaning 'site of a burg' or fort.

But of names with a direct topographical meaning, less corrupted, there is no dearth. Descriptive names of hamlets on the fringes of the moor are Murcott (*Morkote*, 1149) 'cot or house(s) on the moor;' Fencott (*Fencote*, 1194) 'cot on the fen;' Merton (*Meretone*, 1086) 'tun, hamlet, settlement by the mere;' Horton (*Hortone*, 1086) O.E. *horh-tun*, 'tun on muddy land;' Menmarsh, probably O.E. (*ge*)*maena mersc* 'common marsh;' Worminghall (*Wermelle*, 1086) 'healh, hollow, frequented by reptiles.' Otmoor itself, so I am

<sup>1</sup> Tengstrand, quoted in Gover, Mawer and Stenton, 1939, p. 245.

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informed by Professor Stenton, appears in an unprinted Beckley charter of 1005-11 as *Ottanmere*, 'Otta's pool or lake.' It seems likely, however, that *Ottanmere* was only a part of *Ottanmor*, for that all the moor cannot have been still a lake is proved by the fact that the Roman road runs across the middle of it. In the charters a *mere* can be a pool or pond however small (see Grundy, 1922, p. 64).

References to the forest survive in Woodeaton (as opposed to Water Eaton on the Cherwell); Noke, which is proved by early forms to be a corruption of 'aet thaem acum,' 'atten oke,' ' (at) the oaks; ' Woodperry, 'the pear tree by the wood' (as opposed to Waterperry on the Thame); Oakley, from O.E. *ac-leah* 'oak glade'; Polecat End (in Waterperry Wood);<sup>1</sup> Thorn Hill (spur of Shotover); while on the other side of the Brill hills in similar country are Ashendon, from O.E. *aescen dun*, 'hill overgrown with ashes'; Notley, 'nut glade'; Woodham and Wootton Underwood, 'wood tun in the wood,' i.e. Bernwood Forest. Holton, on the other hand, although in Old English *holt* means 'wood,' was *Healhtun* in 956, and the site conforms admirably to Grundy's definition (1922) of the meaning of O.E. *healh*, 'a small hollow in a hillside or slope.' A fold in the rocks has been hollowed out to form almost a natural amphitheatre in the side of the Wheatley hills.

Around the edges of the clay lowland stand the small dry hills of Corallian sands and limestones where crops could be cultivated, wells could be dug giving pure water, and houses could be built of rubblestone in situations safe from flooding. Here the principal villages were founded, and their names often embody the Old English word *leah*, 'open land' or 'clearing,' sometimes 'glade,' or the Old English word *feld*, from which our 'field' is derived, but which meant a much larger unenclosed tract of land. Thus we have Lye Hill and Wheatley (*Watele*, 1208) from Old English *hwaete leah*; Studley, 'pasture for horses'; Beckley (*Bechelic*, 1086), 'Becca's leah?'; Thomley (*Tumbeleia*, 1086, meaning uncertain); Oakley, 'oak glade'; Elsfield, '*Elesa's feld*'; Wadley Hill (near Elsfield), either *Wada's leah* or 'wood glade.' Breach Farm, near Stanton St. John, represents a widespread Old English word *braec* or *brec*, meaning 'strip of land recently taken into cultivation.' Stanton, O.E. *stantun*, also a common name, is so called presumably from the stony subsoil (Coral Rag).

The larger hills of the district, built of outliers of Upper Jurassic clays, sands, and limestones, and capped with Wealden ironsands, bear some of the most interesting names of all. Brill, the highest, was *Bruhulla* in 1156, *Brehull* in 1198, *Brehilla* in 1230. It is a British name identical with Welsh *bre* 'hill'

<sup>1</sup> The Purple Emperor butterfly may still be seen in these woods, and a little more than a hundred years ago the Large Copper (now extinct even in the Fens) lived on Otmoor.

(as in Bredon) to which was added an explanatory Old English *hyll*. The neighbouring Muswell Hill (649 ft.) means 'mossy spring(s),' a name reflecting its geological structure, since springs are given off freely at the junction of the sands and clays. Dorton village is so called because it stands at the 'door' or gap between Brill and Ashendon hills now used by the railway. Red Hill, near Forest Hill, is so called from the colour of the ironsands. Shotover may also be named by reference to a geological peculiarity. It was *Scotorne* (for *Scotorve*, for *Scotovre*) in 1086, *Scottover* in 1227. The second element is generally agreed to be O.E. *ofer*, 'hill, slope.' The first element is said by Ekwall (1936 a, p. 147) to be probably derived from an O.E. word *sceot*, 'steep,' cognate with O.E. *sceotan* 'to shoot,' i.e., 'place that shoots up and down.' Middendorff (quoted by Alexander, 1912, p. 187) however, compared it with Low German *Schott*, 'something shot out.' This suggests to a geologist comparison with modern German *Schotter*, gravel, the reference being to the gravelly ironstone which overspreads the summit. 'Shotter-wick' is a curious dialect term for chert in the Isle of Wight.

A name of special interest is Islip, the village standing both at the gap through which the River Ray leaves the enclosed basin of Otmoor and at the confluence of the Ray and Cherwell. It was *Githslepe* in about 1050, *Gihtslepe* in 1065, *Ichteslep* in 1242. *Geht, Giht, Ychte, Ight* is the old British name for the River Ray. O.E. *slaep* means literally 'slippery place,' and is connected with O.E. *slipan* to slip. Ekwall (1936) states that it is related to Middle Low German *slēpen* and Old High German *sleifen*, 'to drag,' and suggests 'a meaning such as "place where things are dragged, portage."' A more suggestive cognate, however, is Norwegian *sleip*, 'rollers for boats' (Alexander, 1912, p. 137), which introduces the idea of a 'slipway' for launching or drawing up boats, and hence perhaps 'ferry.' Before the building of the bridge, Islip would have been well named 'Ight ferry.' There is no other place where the Ray can be crossed, for on one side lies the Cherwell and on the other Otmoor. Islip in Northamptonshire likewise stands at a crossing of the Nene (formerly here called Ise?). Slepe, on Poole Harbour in Dorset, is no more slippery than the surrounding heaths, but it lies at the head of a little creek which would be a likely place for keeping boats. Slapton in South Devon is opposite the narrowest point of the mere separating Slapton Sands from the mainland, just where the road runs down to what may have been in early days a ferry to the beach. Slapton (Northants.), Slapton (Bucks.), St. Ives (*Slepe* in Domesday Book), Ruislip, are all on rivers or streams. Hanslope (Bucks.) and Postlip (Glos.), which contain the same element, are neither slippery places nor near a river, and the meaning was probably 'slope;' if the 'lip' element in Postlip was not something altogether different as in Birdlip.

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The exhaustive discussion of this word by Ekwall (1936 a, pp. 184-9) was not seen until the above was written. He concluded his discussion with the following: 'One might postulate some contrivance for dragging goods across a river at a place where carts could not be taken across, perhaps something made of slippery logs. Even a sense 'ferry' might be thought of. Such a sense would be very suitable for the Islips and for Slepe, Hunts.'

### II. WHITE HORSE VALE, THE UPPER THAMES, AND THE FARINGDON RIDGE

The valley of the upper Thames above Oxford is underlain by the Oxford Clay, but it is much better drained than the clay tract to the east of the city and a large part of its surface is overspread with clean-washed river gravels. Meadow and flood-land run in a strip along the river, but at a little distance dry gravel flats yield good cornland and prosperous villages are numerous.

Similarly the vale of White Horse, formed by the Kimeridge and Gault Clays, is drained by the river Ock which flows through it longitudinally, parallel to the upper Thames.

Between the two clay vales runs the Faringdon ridge, the outcrop of the sands and limestones of the Corallian formation. The hard strata present a steep escarpment to the north and slope gradually down southward into the Ock. The gently-tilted plateau-topography is moulded by small streams flowing south-eastward, tributary to the Ock. Beyond Faringdon, however, the streams (of which the chief are the rivers Cole and Ray) running northward off the Chalk downs cut through the Corallian ridge by winding gorges and join the Thames. The resulting topography about Coleshill, Highworth, and Purton, is much bolder and more varied.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS

The names of rivers and streams embody more Celtic survivals than any other class of names upon the map. The names of the principal rivers, the Thames, Thame, Colne, Windrush and Ock (*Eoccen*, 931), are corruptions of Celtic words. The Ock had two Celtic names, *Cern* and *Eog* or *Ehoc* (cf. the Welsh and Cornish for salmon), of which only the latter survived, the Old English word for salmon being almost the same (Bradley, 1910, p. 25). Other smaller streams were still called by Celtic names in the Anglo-Saxon charters but have since lost them. For instance, the small Appleton Brook was in 942 the *Wasa*, probably cognate with Ouse, and the same name was applied to a still smaller stream running from the junction of the Oxford Clay and Calcareous Grit at Buckland into the Thames. Sandford Brook was the *Lucringe*, a curious name recalling Lockinge,

Ginge, Wantage and Balking (Grundy, xxvii). Of the two Rays, at Islip and Swindon, the former was once the *Ight* and the latter the *Worfe*. Ray and Rea are common contractions of O.E. *aet thaere ea*, meaning 'the river.' The Cole formerly had three names, Cole or *Colne*, *Smite*, and *Lenta* (see below, p. 17).

THE IMPORTANCE OF STREAMS IN EARLY DAYS AS SHOWN BY PLACE-NAMES

The most numerous class of names are the 'fords,' where roads cross the Ock, the Thames, or the streams flowing into one or the other. Above Oxford the next ford over the Thames was Swinford (now Swinford Bridge), Eynsham. Both these names are self-explanatory (oxen and swine). The next, Shifford, was *Scipford* in Domesday Book and comes from Old English *sceap-ford*, 'sheep ford.' But the next, Duxford, is deceptive, for in Domesday Book it is *Dudoch esforde*, from a personal name, 'Duduc's ford.'

On the Ock and its tributaries are Gosford (goose ford); Frilford (*Frithela's* ford); Dry Sandford (sandy ford); Stanford in the Vale (stony ford); Garford (O.E. *gara*, 'triangular piece of land,' as in Gore Farm, Hannington); Hatford (*Hevaford*, 1086, from O.E. *heafod*, 'headland ford,' with reference to the little projecting plateau on which the village stands);<sup>1</sup> Lyford (*Linford*, 1034, from O.E. *lin*, flax, cf. Lyneham near Wootton Bassett and Flaxlands near Purton); Shellingford (*Scaringaford*, 931, probably named after a tribe); Lashford Lane near Wootton (O.E. *laece*, Middle English *lache*, *leche*, 'stream,' the same word as in Lechlade and the River Leach).

An interesting old name has survived almost intact in Bablockhythe Ferry, which is 'the landing-place (hythe) by *Babba's* stream,' or '*Babba's* cut.' The O.E. word *lacu*, 'stream,' recurs near by in Standlake (stony stream), and perhaps in Lockinge near Wantage and Balking near Uffington (*Lakinge* and *Bedalacinge*). According to Dr. Grundy (1922, p. 61) '*Lacu* means a stream with a slow or perhaps imperceptible current. In the Berkshire charters it is used again and again of backwaters of the Thames.' He remarks that the dialect term 'lake' is still used in this sense in Hampshire, but has died out in Berkshire; but C. J. Cornish (1902, p. 147) stated that '*Lake* is still the local term for all side streams and artificial cuts from the Upper Thames.' At Standlake the Anglo-Saxon term was apparently used for the Windrush, which is there a swift stream with a gravelly bottom. This usage also has its modern parallel in Dorset; for example Luckford Lake is the stream forming the western boundary of the 'Isle' of Purbeck. Other 'lakes' are channels through the mud in Poole Harbour.

Wytham (*Wihtham* 957), according to Ekwall (1931, p. 94) takes its name from an unrecorded O.E. word *wiht*, a 'bend,' in reference to the great loop of

<sup>1</sup> Not because it is near the head of the stream, as stated by Skeat (1911, p. 47).

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the Thames round Wytham Hill. The word is found in several other counties.

Places wholly or partly surrounded by streams bear the suffix *-ey* from O.E. *-eg*, or *-ieg*, island. Some are appropriately named to this day, for all or part of the parishes are islanded among branches of the Thames: for instance, Osney, Binsey and Hinksey (*Osa's*, *Bynni's* and *Hengest's* islands) near Oxford, and Chimney near Shifford (*Ceommenige*, c. 1070, probably '*Ceomma's* island'). Charney (*Ceornei* 821, *Cernei* 1086) is similarly situated on a large island of the Ock (formerly *Cern*) and one of its tributaries. Others, however, are survivals and sole witnesses of a time before the land was drained, when every stream presented an obstacle to travellers and a safeguard to settlers because its valley was choked with marsh and swamp and often flooded from side to side after rains. Nowadays, when the swamps have become alluvial meadows and the streams are crossed at every road by neat bridges in place of the fords, one sometimes has to consult a large-scale map to understand the origin of the names. A good example is Tubney (*Tubbeneia*, 1166, *Tobenie*, 1086) '*Tubba's* island,' which is on relatively high ground but almost completely surrounded by streams. Goosey (*Goseig*, 821) '*goose* island,' and West Hanney (*Hannige*, 956, *Hannei*, 1086), apparently from O.E. *hanena ieg*, '*wildfowl* island,' are not on true islands but are divided by the Ock tributaries flowing north from the downs—Stutfield, Land, Childrey and Letcombe brooks. Rosey Copse is islanded between the Ock and the Rosey or Holywell Brook, south of Shellingford; the derivation is probably from O.E. *risc*, '*rush*.' Pusey (*Pesei*, *Peise*, 1086), '*peas* island,' presumably takes its name from the peninsula between streams at Pusey Lodge Farm, east of the village.

### MARSHES AND SWAMPS

Close to Pusey Lodge Farm, at the confluence of the two streams of '*peas* island,' is the smallest and most interesting of all the islands, crowned by the iron-age ramparts of Cherbury Camp (FIG. 1). At the present day it appears that the builders of the camp chose an indefensible site on a small rise among flat meadow land, overlooked by higher ground from three sides. But when the plough turns up the meadows the earth is white with the shells of millions of water snails and marsh snails, which prove that before the country was drained the camp was surrounded by a belt of swamp (see Arkell, 1939). The wood on the west side is still called Turf Pits Covert, although all the peat has long since been dug away. No doubt all the streams in the district were in much the same condition when the Anglo-Saxons founded their settlements.

The name of Cherbury Camp presents a puzzle not satisfactorily solved. It was *Chereburk* in 1217, which closely resembles contemporary early forms of Charborough, Dorset (*Chereberge*, 1212, *Chernebrug*, 1219; Fägersten, 1933,

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p. 75), named after the adjoining River Cerne. Cherbury Camp, however, is a mile away from this Cerne (Ock), on a small tributary.

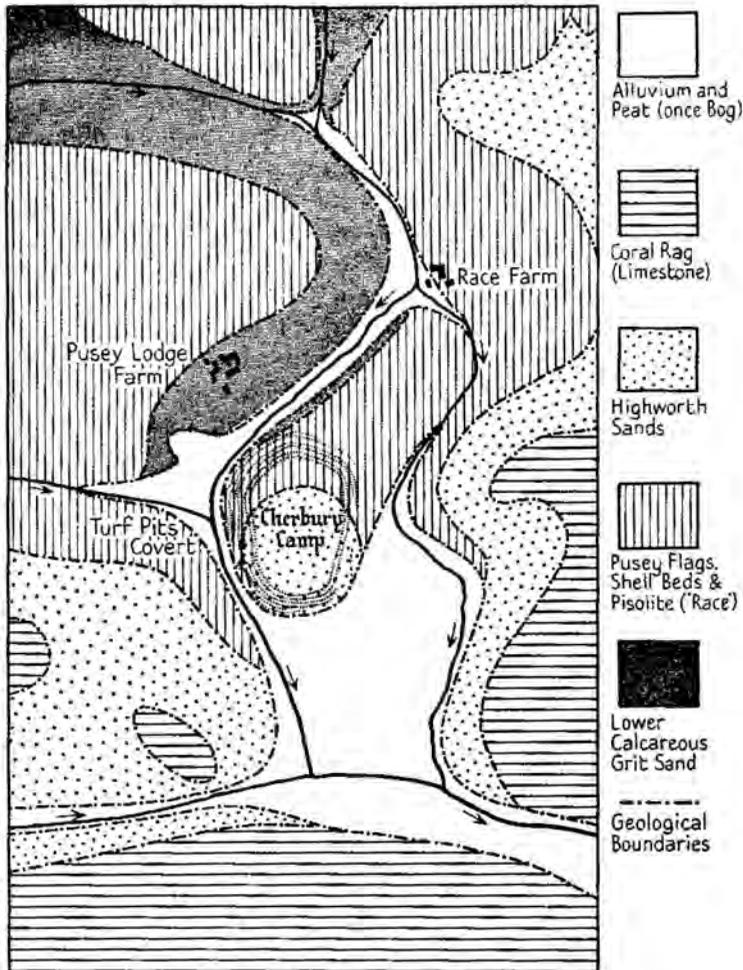


FIG. I  
GEOLOGICAL MAP OF CHERBURY CAMP AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

(This map corrects that in the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, vol. I., 1939, plate 30, in the light of fresh information).

Sc. about  $4\frac{1}{4}$  ins. = 1 mile

Based on the Ordnance Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

The most extensive of the marshes was probably that called *Baccan Mor* in the Ashbury and other charters of the 10th century, which Grundy describes

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as follows : ' Bacca's Marsh was evidently the name of an extensive fen which stretched along the Ock from north of Woolstone down the stream. It appears in the Shellingford charter on the southern boundary of that parish. On the opposite side of the Ock from the point just mentioned it appears as a field name Bagmore on the NW. boundary of Balking ; and farther still along the Balking boundary we get the name Bagmore Brook. It occurs again in the field names of Charney Basset. So Bacca's or Bacga's Moor or Marsh extended in former days for a good many miles down the Ock.' (Grundy, xxvii, p. 32). Just south of Charney Bassett the 6-inch map shows also a Bagmere Barn. The bounds of the marsh coincide with a broad tract of alluvium (now lush meadows) between and on either side of the branches of the meandering Ock between Balking and Charney.

To obtain an idea of the primitive state of *Baccan Mor*, and indeed much of the valley of the Ock and its tributaries, one cannot do better than visit the Parsonage Moor, now the Ruskin Reserve, at Cothill. Above a constriction in its valley the little Sandford Brook there widens into a marsh overgrown with reeds which has given sanctuary to a flora and fauna of great interest.

Ekwall (1936) thinks that *bacga*, which occurs again in Bagley Wood, may have meant a fox or badger. That such a long, straggling marsh should have been named after an animal frequenting it rather than after a man seems probable.

On the low-lying clay outcrops there are many names on the maps, and still more field-names, commemorating swampy land long since drained and brought under cultivation ; for example, Moorton, Northmoor and Buckland Marsh near the Thames ; Hinton Marsh Farm, South Marston (marsh *tun*), Roughmoor and Kitemore on the Kimeridge Clay ; Compton Marsh Farm, Idstone Marsh Farm, and Harpit or Hawpit on the Gault Clay,—the last *Horput* (1249) from O.E. *horh pytt*, ' muddy hollow ' (cf. Horton, p. 2).

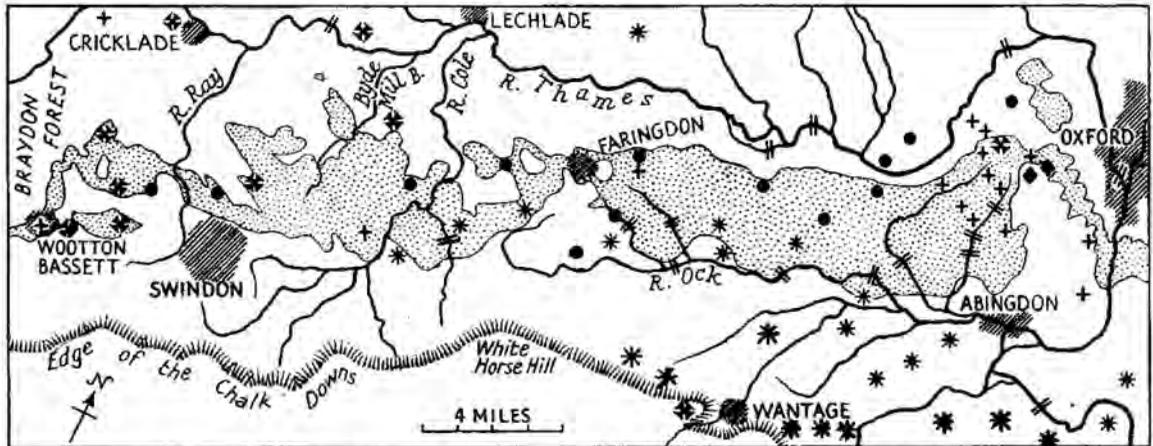
## PLACE-NAMES AND THE FORMER DISTRIBUTION OF FOREST

It was remarked how frequently place-names ending in *-ley* occur on the cultivable small hills that surround the clay lowlands of the ancient Shotover and Bernwood forests to the east of Oxford.

In the area to the west the distribution of these and other forest names is even more striking. They are virtually confined to the eastern end of the Corallian ridge, where they are centred around the village of Wootton (' wood *tun* ') and in close proximity to the considerable tracts of woodland which still survive as Bagley, Tubney and Appleton woods. Thus we find Bagley itself (*Bacgan leah*, 955, *Bacga's*, or 'foxes' *leah* ?) ; Botley (*Botta's leah* ?) ; Bessels

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Leigh (formerly *Earmundes leah*); Radley (red *leah*?); Chawley (*Ceawa's leah* as in Challow); Long Leys; Bradley and Little Bradley ('broad *leah*'); Whitley and Lower Whitley ('clear, open *leah*'); Row Leigh ('rough *leah*'). There are recorded also at least five other *leah* names near by which have disappeared (see Stenton, 1911, p. 3). In the same group are Cumnor and Chawley Hursts, the only occurrences in the whole area of the word *hyrst*, which specifically denoted a wooded hill (FIG. 2).



+ *leah* names & Woottons. ◆ *hyrst* hills. ● *mor* names. = fords. ✦ Possible Celtic hill names. \* *field* names.

FIG. 2

SKETCH MAP OF THE UPPER THAMES AND OCK VALLEYS AND THE FARINGDON RIDGE showing the distribution of certain names discussed in the text. The outcrop of the Corallian Beds forming the ridge is stippled.

There are many interesting relics of the forest in the insect fauna of the Tubney and Bagley Wood area. In 1940 hornets nested in Bessels Leigh Park and in 1941 I caught a queen hornet in my garden at Cumnor. Purple Emperors survived as they still do in the woods east of Oxford, at least until 70 years ago. The Wood White and the White Admiral have also been taken. Nightingales sing every year in the woods of Bagley, Boars Hill, Tubney, Cumnor and Appleton, but are unheard of a few miles to the west. Alfred Williams told me (and I believe it is recorded in his last unpublished book on the upper Thames) that he saw a polecat at Bessels Leigh.

There are no other indications of extensive woodlands in passing westward until Braydon Forest is reached, at the opposite end of the district treated here.

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From the virtual absence of *leah* names<sup>1</sup> in the intervening country it is to be inferred that the Anglo-Saxons did not have to clear forests in order to till the soil. Further light on the primitive condition of the vale and the Corallian ridge is supplied by the place-names.

### MOORS AND HEATHS

On the clay outcrops waste tracts above the water-level were no doubt overgrown with grass and thorn bushes, as is suggested by names such as Haxmore (*hassukes*, 'coarse grass'), Roughmoor, and Bampton in the Bush, with its hamlet of Weald a mile to the south-west. Clanfield, two miles to the west, means 'clean *feld*' and probably commemorates the clearing of the bush. But although the word *mor* may generally mean a marsh or swampy ground in the charters, it was also applied to higher land that cannot have been permanently water-logged.

An interesting string of 'moor' names is to be found along the top of the Corallian ridge, near the edge of the escarpment (FIG. 2). From east to west they are Draycot Moor near Fyfield, Welmore Farm (O.E. *welig*, 'willow?') near Hinton ('high *tun*'), Broadmoor Cottages S. of Buckland, Haremoor Farm (O.E. *har*, 'grey?') near Littleworth, Collymore Farm on the ridge connecting Badbury Hill and Coleshill (see below, p. 17) and Highmoor Copse and Cottages near Highworth, which last probably preserve an earlier name for the high plateau now called Friars Hill. In these situations the O.E. *mor* must have had the meaning usual in the west and north of England, a bare upland waste (as in Dartmoor and Exmoor). Farmoor near Swinford Bridge belongs to this group also, for although the farm stands on low Oxford Clay ground the name almost certainly means 'fern moor' and must be taken from Beacon Hill near by, which is still bracken-clad. Southmoor (approximately south of Northmoor) is a sandy place a little way down the dip-slope, comparable with Frilford Heath and Buckland Warren.

All the *mors* have long since been brought entirely under cultivation. Those along the Corallian ridge have certainly been farmed for centuries. Only the names remain to show where the last patches survived.

It is otherwise with the 'heaths.' There are only four 'heath' names in the area, and three are still uncultivated and heather-clad (*Calluna vulgaris*, really *ling*): two, Picketts Heath and Wootton Heath, are on the Lower Greensand on the top of Boars Hill. The third, Frilford Heath, is on the Corallian sands in the Tubney Wood area, and the soil is so sandy that before the golf course was made there was a fauna of beetles characteristic of coastal dunes and

<sup>1</sup> Exceptions are Wadley near Faringdon and Priors Farley Farm near South Marston.

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found at no other inland locality but the Brecklands of East Anglia; the lizard is also established here and in the similar and still wild Buckland Warren farther west. The fourth heath, Eaton Heath, is now only a name written on the maps across the sloping Oxford Clay pastures below Cumnor and Eaton, between the Thames and the Corallian ridge. Such a soil can never have grown heath or ling, but it was until quite recently covered with a scrub of hawthorn, bramble, and some gorse (of which traces can still be found in the hedges). The stretch between Eaton and the Long Leys was cleared in the memory of old inhabitants of Cumnor. Bladon Heath near Woodstock, Ramsden Heath, Wychwood, and Clifton Heath near Nuneham Park, outside our immediate area, are other examples in the Oxford district, and all are still uncultivated. (Rockley Heath, Bessels Leigh, although on the 6-inch maps, is only a field name at the present day, the last bit having been ploughed up in 1941).

From these considerations it may be surmised that the 'heath' names in the Oxford district are relatively modern. It is probable that they displaced *mor* names when the word 'moor' changed its meaning. When cultivation obliterated the 'moors' in early times the names became attached to farms, and their meaning was forgotten and troubled no one; but where small tracts of rough country survived the term 'moor' may have come gradually to seem inappropriate or old-fashioned and have been displaced by 'heath.'

The process may be compared with the supersession of *dun* by modern 'hill' as in Blunsdon Hill, Mouldon Hill, etc., the word 'down' being now reserved for places that still exhibit its original meaning. There are neither downs nor moors in the modern sense any longer on the Corallian ridge, only hills and a few heaths.

### 'FIELDS' AND EARLY CULTIVATION

The meaning of the Old English word *feld* was almost the opposite of the modern 'field': more akin to the Dutch *veldt*. 'Never in the charters does it denote anything we should call a field. Its meaning seems to be "wide stretch of land devoid of timber or brushwood." . . . It is uncertain whether it could be applied to arable land.' (Grundy, 1922, p. 54). According to the N.E.D. it is first attested in 1025 in the sense of land appropriated for tillage and pasture.

South and south-west of Abingdon and Dorchester the gravel-covered plains of the Kimeridge and Gault Clays and Lower Chalk which stretch to the foot of the downs are to this day almost unfenced. It is a peculiarity of this stretch of country that the maps (especially the older 1-inch Ordnance maps) are strewn with 'field' names, which cover the open plains of arable land between the villages and each embody the name of the nearest village. Thus we have

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Drayton Field, Sutton Wick Field, Steventon Field, East Hanney Field, Garford Field, and many others (see FIG. 2, p. 10.)

Farther west up the Ock valley the Fields cease to be separate entities upon the modern map, but they can be traced for some miles in the names of farms on the cornlands of the Corallian upland: for instance, Sheephouse Field Farm, Eastfield Farm, in a typical 'field' between Charney and Stanford in the Vale, Gainfield Farm a short distance to the north (formerly a Hundred name, meaning 'games field'). Field Farm and Lowerfield Farm continue the series to beyond Shrivvenham. The only village is Watchfield (*Waecclesfeld* or *Wachenesfeld*, 931) 'Waeccin's field.' Fyfield is spurious; in Domesday Book it appears as *Fivehide*, 'estate of five hides,' and it therefore belongs with the Hyde Farms.

On the south side of the Goring gap, in the wooded country south-west of Reading, there are numerous villages with the suffix 'field' as an integral part of their names: for instance, Winkfield, Warfield, Shinfield, Arborfield, Swallowfield, Heckfield, Burghfield, Bradfield, Stratfield, Englefield. The fact that with the sole exceptions of Watchfield and Elsfield the term *feld* was not used as an integral part of the village names in the upper Thames region constitutes a striking difference between the two sides of the Goring gap. The 'field' villages south of the gap were apparently founded when the forest was cleared and the term *feld* was used in the sense in which *leah* was used when the woods between Oxford and Abingdon were cleared and settled. From this it may be inferred that the settlement took place at different periods on the two sides of the gap. And since in the Abingdon region the numerous 'field' names are evidently later than the foundation of the villages, the presumption is that the villages on the south side of the gap are less ancient than those on the north.

The reason for the concentration of 'field' names in the country south of Abingdon and Dorchester and their gradual disappearance westwards is an interesting subject for speculation. If the general term for open, unwooded and unfenced, land between the villages everywhere had been *feld* there might be expected to have been survivals of 'field' names over the whole area. But the last surviving patches of uncultivated land along the Corallian ridge were called *mors*. This suggests that the naming of the great 'fields' in the Abingdon district dates from the time when they were first taken wholesale into cultivation; and that this approximately coincided with the clearing of the forest on the south side of the Goring gap, a process involving the opening up of a tract of country with far fewer existing villages than on the north side of the gap. On the other hand it is arguable that the present patchy distribution of 'field' names is due simply to the survival of lacunae of 'open-field' cultivation after

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comparatively recent enclosures. More information is needed as to the date of enclosure of the western and major part of the district, and documentary evidence as to the former existence of 'field' names there, and as to the age of those which survive so abundantly in the eastern part of the district.

There appear to have been the following changes of word-meanings in the area: *leah* (which originally meant forest or wood, later glade or clearing) was superseded by *feld*, which later came to mean 'arable tract' and was superseded in its original meaning by *mor*; and finally that in turn has been superseded by 'heath.'

### PLACE-NAMES AND GEOLOGY

Peculiarities of the subsoil among the Corallian hills are sometimes accurately reflected in the old names of farms. In contrast to Horton, Harpit and Blackacres on the clays, we find Sandhill Farm (Shrivenham), Stone Farm (South Marston), and Rag Farm (Highworth). The last is surrounded by ancient quarries in the Coral Rag. The contention that the name refers to the ragstone formerly quarried there rather than to vanished woodland as maintained in the *Place-Names of Wiltshire* (see Arkell, 1940, p. 222) has been strengthened by references to the word 'rag' in this sense going back to the 13th century. I owe these to the Rev. J. Fowler of Sherborne. One is in an account roll at Sherborne almshouses, where a wall was built 'petrarum ragg' in 1429-30. He also points out that N.E.D. gives 'Pro . . . pedes de ragis' (1395-6, Abingdon Abbey), and 'Pro magnis lapidibus qui vocantur ragghes' (1278, Bursar's a/c, Merton College). Raglans Wood, near Coleshill bridge, and Ragnell Farm near Barcote, on the other hand, are on Oxford Clay and represent the meaning 'rough piece of wood.'

Another soil name is Catsbrain (Middle English *Cattesbragen*) which is said to refer to 'coarse soil consisting of rough clay mixed with stones; the reason for the name is obscure' (N.E.D., and see Mawer, 1929, p. 49). The description is appropriate for the Catsbrain at the junction of Kingsdown Lane and the Highworth-Swindon road near Stanton Fitzwarren, where the soil is a clayey facies of the Coral Rag. There are other examples in Wiltshire and elsewhere.

Race Farms, of which two examples occur near Kingston Bagpuize, are to be explained by the dialect word 'race,' meaning 'small concretionary calcareous nodules,' and occasionally adopted in the vocabulary of geology like so many similar terms (lias, marl, malm, rag, etc.). Both farms are situated on or adjacent to the outcrop of a band of pisolite in the Corallian beds and the arable fields are smothered with the little white pellets about the size of a pea.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I offer this explanation as an alternative preferable to the meaning 'stream' adopted by Dr. Grundy in his 'Berkshire Charters.'

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Chisledon (*Cyseldene* c. 880), on the edge of the downs near Swindon, preserves the O.E. word *ceosol*, *cisel*, meaning gravel or shingle, found in Chesil Beach (Dorset) and Chislehampton south-east of Oxford. The name is probably due to the prevalence of Chalk flints, but it is puzzling because the *denu* or coomb is in Lower Chalk which does not contain flints and the flinty Upper Chalk is a considerable distance away.

The numerous Leazes and Sleights, as farm and field names in various combinations, are indicative of soils suitable respectively for pastures and sheepwalks.

Springs are often indicated by the names of neighbouring farms or villages. They are easily detected by the suffix '-well,' from O.E. *wielle*, *wylle*. Examples are Carswell Farm near Buckland ('cress spring'); Coxwell ('cock's spring'); the Cock Well is marked on the 6-inch map by the driveway south of Little Coxwell;<sup>1</sup> Cholswell near Abingdon (*Cealdan Wyl*, 985: 'cold spring'); Chilswell near Hinksey (*Cealfes Wyl*, 956: 'calf's spring'); Sunningwell ('the spring of Sunna's people'); Hardwell near Compton Beauchamp (*Hord-wylla* 924) from O.E. *hord*, 'treasure.' Welmore Farm, however, is more likely to come from O.E. *welig*, 'willow.'

### HILL-NAMES

It is in the hill-names as usual that many of the oldest and most interesting words are found, and this area is especially rich in variety. The following hill-names are ranged from east to west along the Corallian ridge.

Boars Hill and Beacon Hill are self-explanatory.

Cumnor Hurst (520 ft.) and Chawley Hurst embody the O.E. *hyrst*, 'wooded hill.' Cumnor village, which straggles down the edge of the limestone escarpment a mile away, is derived from a personal name *Cuma*, *Cymene*, or *Colman*, and O.E. *ora*, 'bank,' 'slope.' Grundy (xxviii) adduces evidence that Cumnor village was *Cumenora* (*Cymene's* slope) and that *Colmenora* (*Colman's* slope) was on Boars Hill. One of the steep coombes running north from the Hurst hills is called Slade Hollow or The Slade, which is O.E. *slaed*, 'valley;' and in the valley between Cumnor and Wytham hills is Dean Court, which embodies the commoner O.E. word *denu*, also meaning 'valley.' These two valley names are widespread.

Tumbledowns or Tumbledown Dick is the name of the steep descent on the road from Cumnor to Eynsham. The form with -s seems to show that this name is not to be taken at its face value. Ekwall (1936) says of Dumbleton in Gloucestershire: 'The first element may be a British name of the hill,

<sup>1</sup> Ekwall (1936) suggests that O.E. *cocc* may have had a meaning such as 'heap' or 'small hill,' as in 'haycock.'

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containing Welsh *moel* "bare hill" and *du* "black" or *dwn* "dark."'. Dumbleton and Tumbledown are similar enough to have had a like origin, the divergence being perhaps due to the inhabitants of Cumnor having had a livelier sense for 'folk etymology,' and the final element in Tumbledowns being *dun* instead of *tun* might have suggested tumbling more readily.

Harrowdown Hill (325 ft.), a conical outlier of Corallian sands rising 120 ft. above the river near Longworth, is a conspicuous feature in the Thames valley for many miles. There are villages called Harrowden in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire of which there are early forms proving that they 'must have been a hill marked by some place of heathen worship' (Gover, Mawer and Stenton, 1933, p. 126). The derivation in those cases is from O.E. *hearg*, 'temple,' and *dun*, 'hill,' but no early forms appear to have been found for the Berkshire Harrowdown.

Marriage Hill (360 ft.), a high projecting rim of the sandy escarpment west of Buckland Park, probably contains O.E. *maere*, 'boundary,' combined with O.E. *hrycg*, 'ridge.' The hill is not on a parish boundary at the present day, but its sharp edge forms a striking topographical boundary. Dogridge, a hamlet of Purton, stands on the edge of a similar ridge.

Waney Hill, on the same edge a little farther west, near Littleworth, may come from O.E. *wenn* or *waenn*, 'wen,' 'protuberance,' thence barrow or hill, as in Wanborough. But there is also an O.E. *waegn* or *waen* meaning wain or waggon.

Tagdown and Ewedown, south of Littleworth, are self-explanatory, at least to the local inhabitants (*teg*, *tag*, is dialect for a young sheep). There is a square earthwork on Ewedown, but probably both names are comparatively modern.

The Corallian ridge is as a whole calcareous, but the hills at Faringdon are made of Lower Greensand, which is free from lime. Accordingly the vegetation changes to the bracken and gorse association, and the geological change is reflected faithfully in the names. Faringdon is named after the *dun* now called Folly Hill at the side and foot of which it nestles; its early forms are *Faerndun* (924), *Ferendone* (1086), etc., meaning 'fern hill,' 'bracken-clad hill.' It therefore tells the same story as the village of Fernham at the south end of the same Greensand ridge. In between is Furzy Hill, which is self-explanatory.

Alfred's Hill is a modern name. Grundy (xxvii) has shown that in an Ashbury charter of 953 it is called *Mor Dune*, probably because at that time it was surrounded by marshes. The same applies to Moreton village north-west of Swindon.

Badbury Hill (530 ft.) west of Faringdon (*Baddebury*, 955, *Badeberie*, 1086), another Greensand outlier, crowned with an earthwork, is one of the possible

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sites of the battle of Mons Badonicus, which took place between A.D. 490 and 516 (Myres, 1937, p. 460). Ekwall remarks (1936, p. 20) that since at least three perhaps five, prehistoric camps bear this name in various parts of England, *Bada* may have been a legendary hero associated with ancient earthworks.

Coleshill (429 ft.) (*Colleshyll*, c. 950), like Faringdon, gave its name to the village, but there is some doubt whether the hill was named after the River Cole which laps its foot or whether the river took its name from the hill. Wanborough and Little Hinton charters show that the upper reach of the Cole was called the *Smite* in the 9th and 11th centuries, and that the parallel feeder which flows from Bishopstone was called the *Lenta*, a name which survives in Lint Bridge and Farm near Lechlade, and so must have been at one time the name for the main river. The headwaters near Wanborough, however, were apparently also called *Colne* as early as the 14th century (Gover, Mawer, and Stenton, 1939, pp. 5-6). That suggests that Coleshill was called after the river, *Lenta* and *Smite* being parallel forms which were eventually ousted. There are, however, other Coleshills in Bucks. and Warwickshire. Zachrisson and Ekwall favour the idea that they all contain an unrecorded O.E. word *coll*, 'hill,' corresponding to Old Norse *kollr*, 'head, top, hill,' and Middle Low German *kol*, *kolle*, 'head.' Huntingford (1934, p. 122) favours a personal name *Col(a)* and points to Cole's Pits near Coxwell; but they also are on the top of a high hill. If Collymore Farm, on the col between Coleshill and Badbury Hill is cognate, it favours *coll* the hill name; but the meaning may be 'dirty moor'.

Crouch Hill (362 ft.), a conspicuous conical outlier of sands north of Highworth, is a corruption of British *cruc*, 'hill.' Brazen Church Hill about 2 miles to the north-west, on the Gloucestershire bank of the river, may be suspected of being another *cruc*, but the first element is obscure. Cricklade is probably another (with O.E. *gelad*, 'passage,' 'crossing,' as in Lechlade).

Lus Hill (372 ft.), a still more isolated outlier of sand and limestone north-west of the northernmost spur of the Corallian hills near Hannington, was *Lusteshulle* in 1166, *Losteshulle* in 1275. 'Lost hill,' in the sense of 'strayed, separated,' from O.E. *losian*, 'to be lost, stray' (? cf. Louse Hill and Loosebarrow (Dorset); Arkell, 1940, p. 221), would be most appropriate, but Professor Stenton informs me that the *-es* makes a personal name such as *Lusthere* more probable.

It is surprising that at Highworth no early hill-name seems to be preserved. In Domesday Book the town was called *Wrde* and it remained *Wurda* until the end of the 12th century (O.E. *worth*, 'enclosure,' a word supposed to have become obsolete before the Norman conquest). It was not until about 1200 that the particularly apt prefix 'High-' was added.

Genuine early hill-names are, however, preserved in the similarly perched

villages of Hannington and Blunsdon, which are personal names, *Blunt* and *Hana*, compounded with O.E. *dun*, 'down, hill' (*Bluntesdone* and *Hanindone* in Domesday Book). Moredon and Swindon are similar ('moor down' and 'swine down'). Castle Hill and Burytown or Bury Blunsdon are called after the prehistoric earthwork (O.E. *burh*).

Pen Hill, Stratton St. Margaret, another conspicuous projection of the Corallian ridge into the Oxford Clay vale, preserves the Celtic hill name *pen*, common in Wales and Cornwall. The same element is found in Hackpen Hill on the Wiltshire downs and Hackpen Hill near Wantage, in which it is combined with O.E. *haca*, 'hook,' a hill spur (*cf.* O.E. *hoc*, found in Hook between Purton and Wootton Bassett). The Wantage Hackpen in particular is a twisted or hooked projection which runs out parallel to the general edge of the downs. A similar combination might be suspected in Pennyhooks Brook, a tributary of the River Cole, which north-west of Shrivenham winds through a gorge between steep hill spurs like Yorkshire nabs. But the brook probably took its name from Pennyhooks Farm on the south bank, which is enclosed on three sides or 'penned in' between two of the nabs. It is more likely that the first element is from O.E. *penn*, a pound or enclosure, which gave rise to 'pennings' in Wiltshire names: 'Penning-hooks.' (An alternative and probably later name for the stream is Tuckmill Brook, which is the same as Tucking Mill in Wiltshire and means 'fulling mill.' The mill presumably stood at or near Tuckmill Cottage, Watchfield).

The two villages called Lydiard represent a Celtic survival. The second element of the name is considered by Ekwall (1936, p. 294) to be Celtic *garth*, 'hill.' Early forms are *Lidgerd*, *Lidegaerd*, 901, *Lidiarde* 1086. The hills around both villages are peculiar in consisting of outliers of Kimeridge Clay standing upon the limestone plateau of the Coral Rag. The hills are the mud-diast places in the district and on the summit of one is a withy bed. From this it appears possible that the first element is derived from another Celtic word *luta* meaning mud, which may enter into names like Lodon and Lodmoor (Dorset), (Arkell, 1940); but there are difficulties in accepting this on linguistic grounds.

The most prominent projection of the Corallian ridge, and the last, whether one is travelling westward or northward, is Paven Hill, Purton. It juts out into the clay lowland of Braydon Forest at the angle where the hills turn from striking westward to run southward for many miles. The only early form adduced so far is *Pevenhull*, 1257, after which there is a gap to *Pewenhill*, 1578, and *Peavenhill*, 1632. Gover, Mawer, and Stenton (1939, p. 38) leave the matter open, suggesting that the first element may be a personal name, a weak form of *Pefe*, found in Pewsey (Wilts.). 'A Roman pavement has been discovered here.

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This may have affected the latest forms of the name but clearly has nothing to do with its origin.' It was tempting to speculate that the second element might be derived from Celtic *vann* or *fan*, 'beacon,' a word common in Brecon and Carmarthen. But Black Ven Cliff, Lyme Regis, with which comparison might have been made, has been shown to be a corruption of 'fen,' a bog (Lang and Arber, 1942). 'Ven Hill' may therefore be equivalent to *Mor Dun* (which occurs at Moredon and Alfred's Hill) and the first element perhaps the same as in Purton.

Two miles south-west of Lydiard Tregoze are the Church Hills, which probably embody the Celtic *cruc*, since there is no church near them. (See Ekwall, 1931, for an exhaustive study of 'church' in English place-names).

Toot Hill (411 ft.), an isolated hill of Kimeridge Clay one mile west of Old Swindon, belongs to an interesting group of 'look-out' hills, of which there are several on the Dorset coast; from O.E. *totian*, 'to look out' (see Arkell, 1941).

Bincknoll Castle, on the edge of the downs above Swindon, represents another group much commoner in Dorset, derived from O.E. *cnoll*, 'little hill.'

Rowborough Farm, east of South Marston, is named after a neighbouring small hill of red sands (Upper Calcareous Grit) which must formerly have been left rough or uncultivated. The etymology is O.E. *ruh beorg*, 'rough hill.'

Red Down, near Highworth, owes its name to the same sands, which are highly ferruginous. They also underlie the hamlet of Redlands.

Bourton stands on a conspicuous isolated hill (360 ft.) of Portland Stone, a landmark in White Horse Vale. The derivation is O.E. *burh tun*, usually interpreted as 'fortified farm' or 'settlement round a manor'; but such a hill is likely to have been the site of a prehistoric earthwork, which would have been obliterated by the village, and *burh* or *burg* here may have its other meaning of 'fort.' The only other occurrences of the name in the district are Burytown Farms, Blunsdon, which are close to the big camp on Castle Hill, and Burton Grove Farm, South Marston, where there are also earthworks. The latter was called *Berton alias Berytoun* in 1688. It would be a strange coincidence if the only occurrence in the district of *burh tun* with its 'settlement round a manor' meaning happened to coincide with a village on top of a steep isolated hill suggesting such a perfect site for a camp. Grundy (1922) says 'In the charters this term (*burh*) is almost invariably applied to the earthen camps which still exist on the downs and in other elevated situations.' This verdict was strikingly borne out by Mr. Passmore's discovery (1928, p. 243) of a camp not marked on the 6-inch maps at Burderop near Swindon (*Burithorp*, 1249).

On the north bank of the Thames are some hill names which further illustrate the richness of the Anglo-Saxon vocabulary for physical features. Lew, opposite Marriage Hill, is a hamlet close to a small round hill of Oxford Clay.

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On top of the hill is a barrow. The name is from O.E. *hlaw*, *hlaew*, which generally but not always means a barrow. Here it probably refers to the barrow, as apparently in Challow, but it is possible that the name was suggested by the shape of the hill, as perhaps in Winslow Hill near Weymouth.

Farther east, between Northmoor and Stanton Harcourt, the rising gravel terrace which forms a promontory between the Thames and Windrush is called Linch Hill. The site may be compared with that of Linslade, Bucks (*Hlincgelad* 966), in a bend of the River Ouzel (Mawer and Stenton, 1925, p. 80). The O.E. word *hlinc* was applied to a rising bank or terrace and lies at the root of the word 'lynchet.' The Lynch Banks, Islip, a natural steep bank of the Cherwell, is another example.

This completes the list (which is probably not exhaustive) of no less than 23 words for various kinds of hill represented in the district studied, 5 of them Celtic if the surmises here made are correct. There remain Barrowbush Hill north of Uffington and Mouldon Hill near Moredon, which at first sight might be taken to embody the Celtic hill-words *barro* and *moel*, but other explanations could be suggested and, in the absence of early forms, it is only possible to speculate.

### APPENDIX I

The district under review contains the following ancient (and occasionally modern) topographical words. Those in groups 1 to 6 are Old English unless stated to the contrary.

#### 1. Hills

##### (a) *British (Celtic)*

*bre* (Brill)  
*cruc* (Crouch Hill, Church Hills)  
*garth* (Lydiard)  
*moel* (Tumbledowns ?, Mouldon Hill ?)  
*pen* (Pen Hill, Hackpen Hill)

##### (b) *Anglo-Saxon (Old English)*

*beorg* (Rowborough)  
*cnoll* (Bincknoll)  
*coll* (Coleshill ?)  
*dun* (Harrowdown, Blunsdon, etc.)  
*forst* (Forest Hill)

*haca* (Hackpen)  
*heafod* (Hatford)  
*hlaw* (Challow, Lew)  
*hlinc* (Linch Hill)  
*hoc* (Hook, Pennyhooks)  
*hrycg* (Marriage Hill, Dogridge)  
*hyll* (Coleshill, Brill, Lushill, etc.)  
*hyrst* (Cumnor Hurst, Chawley Hurst)  
*ofre* (Shotover)  
*ora* (Cumnor)  
*tot* (Toot Hill)  
*wenn* (Wancy Hill ?)  
*yfer* (escarpment) (*Brockwere* ?)

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### 2. *Valleys, hollows, passes*

*byd* (Bydemill and Brook)  
*cumb* (Compton, Foxcombe)  
*denu* (Dean Court, Fresden, Chisle-  
don)  
*dor* (Dorton)

*health* (Holton, Worminghall,  
Midgehall)  
*pytt* (Harpit, Stallpits, Bullockspits)  
*slaed* (Slade Hollow, Cumnor, Slade  
Lane, Shrivenham)

### 3. *Rivers, streams, springs, islands*

*broc* (many brooks)  
*burna* (Rodbourne)  
*dic* (Shire Ditch)  
*ea* (Eaton (3), R. Ray)  
*eg, ieg* (numerous)  
*ford* (numerous)  
*glad* (Lechlade, Cricklade)  
*gill* (Brown Gill Piece, a field name  
N. of Balking.—Grundy)

*hythe* (Bablockhythe)  
*ithe* (M.E.) (Nythe Farm)  
*lacu* (Standlake, Bablockhythe)  
*laecc* (Lechlade, Lashford Lane)  
*rith* (Childrey—*Cillariithe*, 947, Hen-  
dred—*Hennarith*, 956)  
*slaep* (Islip)  
*wielle* (Coxwell, Carswell, etc.)

### 4. *Marshes, swamps*

*fenn* (Fencott, Venn Mill)  
*hreed* (Rodbourne)  
*mere* (Merton, Bagmere)  
*mersc* (Marston, Menmarsh, etc.)

*mor* (Kitemore, Moredon)  
*risc* (Rosey Brook, Rushey Platt)  
*strod* (Stroud Copse, near Swinford  
Bridge)

### 5. *Soils*

*cattesbragen* (M.E.) (Catsbrain)  
*cisel* (Chiseldon, Chiselhampton)  
*claeg* (Claydon, Clay Lane)  
*horh* (Horton, Harpit)  
*luta* ? (Celtic) (Lydiard ?)  
*race* (M.E. ?) (Race Farm)

*rag* (M.E.) (Rag Farm)  
*sand* (Sandford, Sandhill Farm,  
Sandy Lane)  
*sceot* ? (Shotover)  
*stan* (Stanton, Stanford, Standlake)

### 6. *Woods, clearings, trees*

*ac* (Oakley, Noke)  
*aesc* (Ashbury, Ashendon)  
*bearu* (wood) (Barrowbush Hill ?)  
*braec* (brake) (Breach Farm (3))  
*bremel* (bramble) (Bremell Farm)  
*brom* (Broom Manor, Broomhill  
Copse)  
*bysc* (bush) (Barrowbush Hill ?)  
*ellen* (elder) (Elcombe)  
*fearn* (bracken) (Fernham, Faring-  
don)  
*feld* (numerous)  
*fyrhth* (woodland) (Frith Copse)  
*fyrz* (gorse) (Furzy Hill)

*graf* (grove) (Grove, Blagrove)  
*holt* (copse) (Sparsholt, Oaken Holt)  
*land* (Buckland, Land Brook, Red-  
lands, Pentyland)  
*leah* (numerous)  
*rag* (Raglans Wood, Ragnell Farm)  
*sceaga* (thicket) (Shaw)  
*thorn* (Thorn Hill, Blackthorn Hill)  
*wad* (woad) (Wadley Hill)  
*wald* (Weald)  
*welig* (willow) (Welfare Farm ?)  
*wice* (wych-elm) (Wicklesham and  
Wickwood Farms ?)  
*wudu* (Wootton, Woodeaton)

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### 7. *Crops*

apples (Appleton)  
barley (Barcote ?)  
beans (Bincknoll: *Benecnoll*, 1251)  
cress (Carswell)  
flax (Lyneham, Lyford, Flaxlands)  
hay (Haydon)  
nuts (Notley)  
peas (Pusey)  
pears (Purton, Woodperry)

rye (Ryedown, Rycote)  
spear shafts (Sparsholt, Sparcell's Farm)  
staples (Staplers Hill and Lane)  
reeds (Rodbourne)  
wheat (Wheatley)  
withies (Widhill Farms)  
woad (Wadley Hill)

### 8. *Animals*

oxen (Oxford, Oxpen, Oxleaze, Cowleaze, Chilswell)  
horses (Studley, Horshill or Hossil Lane)  
pigs and boars (Boars' Hill, Swindon, Swinford, Swanhill, Hogs Lane)  
polecats (Polecat End)  
sheep (Shippon, Shifford, Sheepstead, Sheephouse, Ewedown, Tagdown)  
dogs (Dogridge, Doghouse)  
foxes (Foxcombe, Foxbridge)  
badgers (Brockhurst Wood: *Brokouere*, 796, *Brochuvere*, 1257, O.E. *brocc*, 'badger,' *yfer*, scarp ?)  
hares (Haremoor, near Littleworth; but possibly O.E. *har*, 'grey')  
rabbits (many Warrens; at least one Coneygre in Purton)

squirrels (Acorn Wood, Farm and Bridge ? : O.E. *acweorna*)  
birds (Hendred, Hanney, Coxwell, Goosey, Gosford, Rockley (O.E. *hroc*, rook), Warnhill Copse (O.E. *waerna*, wren), Sugworth (O.E. *sucga*, hedge-sparrow), Larkhill, Owls Copse, Cuckoopen, Pewit House, Nightingale Farm, Kitemore, Bittern Pond).  
reptiles, etc. (Worminghall, Frog Hall, Frogpit Barn, Tadpole Bridge (2))  
insects (Beckett (*Becote*, 1086); Midgehall; Maggots Mill; Wig-hill and Wigmore (O.E. *wicga*, beetle or similar insect, as in 'earwig')

## APPENDIX II

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### APPENDIX III

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