



## Examine the value of place-names as evidence for the history, landscape and language(s) of your chosen area.

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This corpus contains place-names from an area directly to the south-east of Nottingham, stretching as far as the Lincolnshire and Leicestershire borders. This area is wholly within the Danelaw, and therefore it is expected that there will be a large amount of evidence of Scandinavian influence in the area as well as settlement by other peoples.

The only linguistic evidence of British settlement in the place-names of this area is in the naming of the river Trent, with its probable meaning of ‘trespasser’. This meaning is just as apt today as it must have been at the time of naming, as the Trent’s flood plain is very wide, and flooding of the banks has a devastating effect, as can be seen in this photograph taken by the British Geological Survey of flooding in November 2000. Although named in Old English rather than British, the *wīg* in Wysall possibly shows evidence of pre-Anglo-Saxon culture and religion in the area.



The Fosse Way (A46) runs straight through this area, but surprisingly there is no linguistic evidence in the corpus which indicates the presence of a Roman road. However, field- and farm names in the area may well contain indicators of the road upon examination. There certainly was Roman settlement in the area, as indicated predominantly by the Fosse Way but also by archaeological evidence of a Roman settlement at or near Willoughby-on-the-Wolds. The etymology has no Latin elements, but instead is Old English and probably Old Scandinavian, which suggests (in agreement with archeological evidence) that the settlement has no connection to the Roman settlement of *Vernemetum* and developed and was named later and separately.

Across the corpus there are, as is to be expected, a huge number of OE elements, some existing as simplex names like Hose, others with two OE elements such as Langar, and yet more which contain a mixture of OE and OScand elements, for example Gamston and Long Clawson. It is difficult, therefore, to determine when and by whom these places were named, but some names give more specific clues. Saxondale, for example, indicates firmly

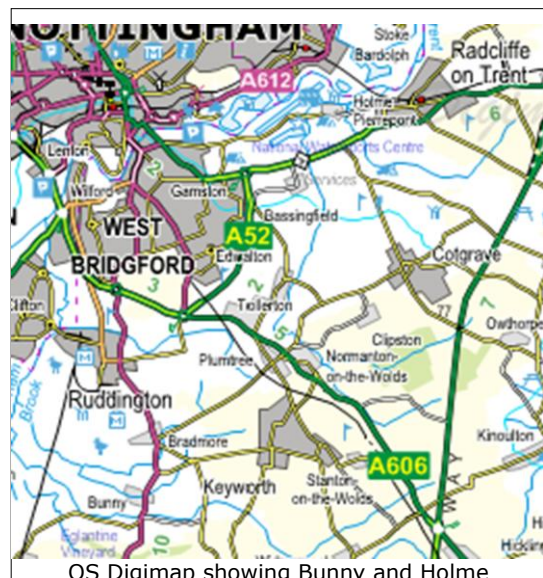
that, firstly, there was a settlement of Saxons living at this site, described by Cameron as an ‘enclave’ of Saxons;<sup>1</sup> and secondly, that for this fact to be worth remarking upon, those people doing the naming must *not* have been Saxons, and most of the Anglo-Saxon population of the area must instead have been Angles. This onomastic evidence supports the generally acknowledged fact that it was the Angles, rather than the Saxons or the Jutes, who settled in the East Midlands.<sup>2</sup>

This area contains, too, as would be expected, a large number of OScand naming elements, and as with OE names it is impossible to suggest how many of these were actually named by OScand-speaking settlers rather than OScand elements being borrowed into OE or used to partially rename existing Anglo-Saxon settlements. Names like Grimston and Gamston, however, are likely, according to Kenneth Cameron, to indicate ‘the earliest phase of Viking settlement here’.<sup>3</sup> The first settlers would have been part of the initial invading armies, and it has been hypothesized that the use of a Scandinavian personal name like *Grímr* or *Gamall* with OE *tūn* indicates manorial ownership by a member of the Viking aristocracy. Although this does suggest that, as Cameron states, these hybrids are evidence of some of the earliest Scandinavian settlement, it is worth noting that if the ownership was manorial in nature, the settlements may not have been inhabited by their namesakes. There are a large number of these “Grimston-hybrids” in the corpus, such as Clipston, Colston Bassett, Long Clawson and Tollerton as well as Grimston and Gamston. This confirms what is already known about the high density of Scandinavian settlement in the East Midlands.

Margaret Gelling has suggested that names using the OScand elements *by* and *thorp* are likely to indicate new Scandinavian settlements built on land which was not in use at the time of Viking immigration.<sup>4</sup> Names like Tythby, Old Dalby and Ab Kettleby are, therefore, evidence of a second wave of Viking immigration chronologically following the wave of settlement which resulted in Grimston-hybrids.

The OScand personal name *Tithi* has been identified as specifically Danish,<sup>5</sup> although there is little other evidence in the corpus to suggest whether the Viking settlers in the area were predominantly Danish, as might be expected. As is the case with Saxondale, however, the presence of the name Normanton, indicating ‘Northmen or Norwegian Vikings’, indicates that Norwegian Vikings may well have been a minority in the area, and that a settlement of Norwegians was, therefore, notable. Rather than being named, however, in the language of the settlers being described, as Saxondale is, Normanton is named entirely in OE rather than OScand, perhaps suggesting that these Norwegians might have been distinguishable by the Anglo-Saxons from the Danish settlers, although for what reasons it would be impossible to say.

Even in place-names which do not refer to specific individuals or to groups of Scandinavian settlers there is clear evidence of Scandinavian influence. Holme Pierrepont, for example, originally had the simplex name *Holmo*, from OScand *holmr*. This choice of an OScand simplex



1 'Scandinavian place-names' in *English Place-Names*, new edn. (London: Batsford, 1996), pp. 73-87 (p. 77)

2 Margaret Sharman, *Britain Through the Ages: Anglo-Saxons* (London: Evans Brothers Limited, 1995), p. 6

3 'Scandinavian place-names', p. 75

4 'Scandinavian and French place-names' in *Signposts to the Past*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. (Chichester: Phillimore, 1988), pp. 215-40 (p. 233)

5 J.E.B. Gover, Allen Mawer and F.M. Stenton, *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*, ed. Allen Mawer and F.M. Stenton (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press / English Place-Name Society, 1979), p. 254

name is particularly significant when the name Bunny is also considered. The OE element *ĕg* has the same meaning as OScand *holmr*, so the use of the OScand alternative in a settlement less than ten miles away (both shown in map) is good evidence of both Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian populations living in the area.

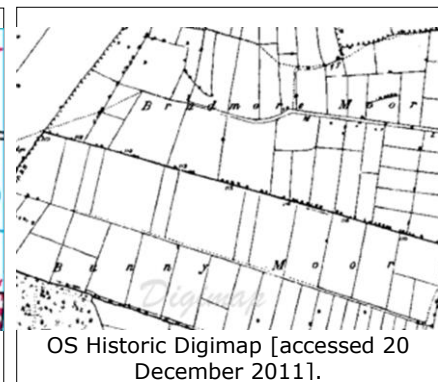
As elsewhere in the country, there is little linguistic evidence of a Norman French-speaking population, but the presence of Norman aristocracy and landowners, if not a peasant population, is instead indicated by manorial affixes to earlier names. These include the *Bassett* family of Colston Bassett, the *de Perpount* family of Holme Pierrepont, and the *Butler* family of Cropwell Butler. There is even a post-Norman manorial affix in Cropwell Bishop referring to possession by the Archbishop of York.

As well as forming evidence for the peoples and languages of the area, the place-names of this region also provide information about the landscape and the way the land was used. Some of the features described by the labels given to settlements are still visible today, for example the hill-spurs referred to in Hose. Others, however, are long gone or dramatically changed, and the names are therefore invaluable in providing evidence for the way this area used to look.

The area around Bunny and Bradmore contains names hinting at watery, marshy ground. The *brād mere* of Bradmore was, according to the research of the Keyworth & District Local History Society, drained for farming long ago.<sup>6</sup> However, the *ĕg* of Bunny is not so easily dismissed: the etymology suggests that the land around Bunny was marshy, but on a modern Ordnance Survey map the land is described as 'Bunny Moor' and 'Bradmore Moor', with no reference to marshland. This is repeated as far back as the 1880s, the oldest available Ordnance Survey Digimap, so it is not a recent change of label. At some point between the settlements of Bunny and Bradmore being named, then, it is reasonable to assume that drainage of the land occurred, presumably to improve the land for agricultural use. Nottinghamshire County Council's 'Countryside Appraisal' suggests that in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, following enclosure of the region, 'a start had also been made on draining the moors',<sup>7</sup> and drainage ditches can even now be seen on the moorland, as shown in this photograph.



OS Digimap [accessed 20 December 2011].



OS Historic Digimap [accessed 20 December 2011].



Drainage channel viewed from the footpath between Bradmore and Bunny  
<<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1771522>> [accessed 12 January 2012].

The naming of places according to their proximity to and relationships with water sources are important evidence showing how crucial these natural features were to the local population. East Leake is named after the two brooks which pass close to it, as are Upper and Nether Broughton, perhaps advertising the areas' suitability for farming due to their close proximity to water, or otherwise using the brooks as natural features by which to navigate.

<sup>6</sup> 'A Potted History of Bradmore' <<http://www.keyworth-history.org.uk/histories/bradmore.htm>> [accessed 15 December 2011]

<sup>7</sup> 'Countryside Appraisal – South Nottinghamshire Farmlands' <<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/environment/land-improvements/landscapecharacter/countrysideappraisal/countrysideappraisal-chapterten.htm>> [accessed 18 November 2011]

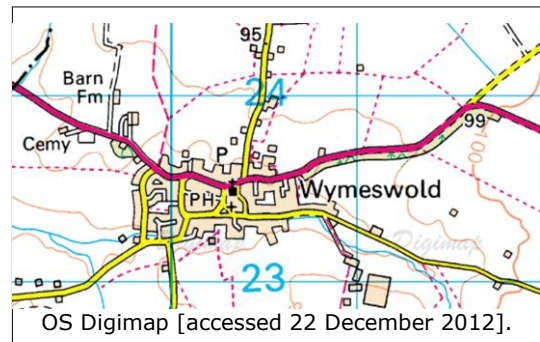
Wilford and West Bridgford, alternatively, are both named because of their positions along the river Trent: although the first element of Wilford is disputed, but is most likely a personal name, the second indicates a place where it was possible to ford the river. The use of this fact in naming the settlement confirms how important it was to be able to locate these river-crossings. West Bridgford contains evidence of both a fordable stretch of the river, and also the construction of a bridge here at some point prior to the first attestation of the name in Domesday Book. This is confirmed by historical sources, as ‘the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states that Edward the Elder built the bridge over the Trent at Nottingham in 920’.<sup>8</sup> This was clearly, then, an important crossing both for the local population and nationally, whether or not this is the bridge referred to in the name, so the reference to it in the place-name is unsurprising.

It would be impossible to ford the Trent as it flows today at either Wilford or West Bridgford, so it must be assumed that the river was much shallower at the time of naming, although it is difficult to say whether the change is due to natural erosion or to human intervention. Either way, these two names suggest a very different picture of the river from the deep, fast-flowing Trent which passes through West Bridgford today, which can be seen in this photograph.



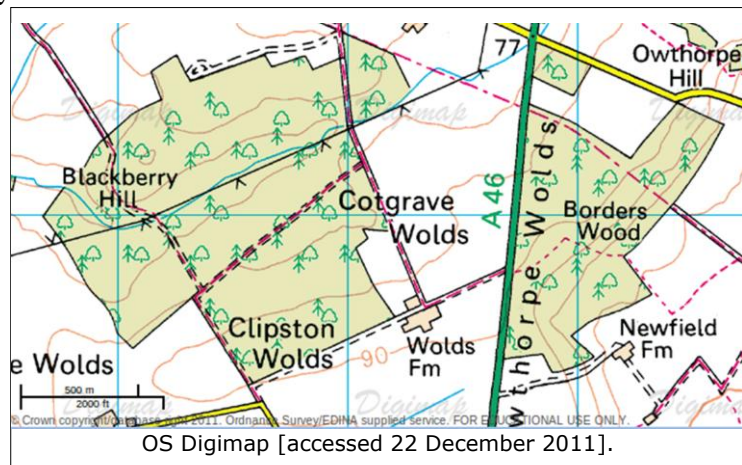
The modern Trent Bridge  
<<http://www.urban75.org/photos/nottingham/nottingham-2006.html>> [accessed 15 Jan 2012].

There are several names within the corpus which have the addition of ‘Wold’, suggesting firstly that much of the area may once have been wooded, but also that some of this woodland may have been cleared for farming by the time of naming. Stanton-on-the-Wolds and Old Dalby both have 13<sup>th</sup>-Century ‘Wold’ affixes, but the former also indicates a farmstead on stony ground, which would presumably have been named otherwise was the area still wooded, and may not have been suitable land for farming for this reason as well as for its stony soil. There is



OS Digimap [accessed 22 December 2012].

evidence of forest in the area in other names such as Cotgrave and Wymeswold, but in modern Wymeswold there is little evidence of the woodland after which it was named, as can be seen on an Ordnance Survey map. Cotgrave, however, retains some woodland on the Cotgrave Wolds, if not immediately surrounding the village.



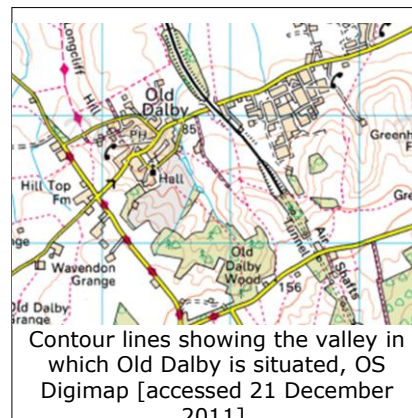
OS Digimap [accessed 22 December 2011].

As well as labelling land for its distinctive features to navigate by, place-names label which areas were deemed suitable for farming. This varies

<sup>8</sup> Alan Cooper, *Bridges, Law and Power in Medieval England 700-1400* (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2006), p. 50

from description of the ground, such as in Stanton-on-the-Wolds and Bunny, to describing hills and valleys. As the latter are features less easily manipulated by human influence, they can often be seen much more easily in the modern landscape. Bassingfield is a more positive indication of ‘open land’ suitable for farming, but Hose and Old Dalby indicate hill-spurs and a valley, respectively. Both of these features can be clearly seen in contour lines on an Ordnance Survey map, although it is worth noting the far greater significance the landscape would have had for travel without the aid of machinery or modern roads.

Not all the hills in this area are so dramatic, but there are others indicated in the corpus: Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler both describe rounded hills, and there are many hills named in the area around the villages. The photographs below show two examples, Fern Hill and Mill Hill, both of which fit the description of the kind of rounded hills after which the villages would have been named:



Fern Hill <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-468000-333000>> [accessed 12 December 2011].



Mill Hill <<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2641753>> [accessed 12 December 2011].

Wysall, too, is named for a hill-spur, but this time in the context of the ‘heathen temple’ associated with it.

As well as naturally occurring features, the place-names in this corpus also indicate what kinds of resources were useful to the local population. The *bune* in Bunny may have been reeds collected for industry, and the plum tree at Plumtree might indicate naturally growing fruit trees which provided food for local people. As well as making the most of existing resources, however, place-names hold evidence of particular kinds of farming. The number of *tūn*-names already suggest that this is an area where a lot of farming took place, but the name Whatton points to wheat being grown for food, and the *gāt* indicates that goats were farmed in Gotham. All these place-names clearly show that the people of this area both made the most of its resources and also used the land to their own ends where possible.

It is possible to use place-name elements to establish a loose (although by no means definitive) idea of which settlements may have been the earliest. Names containing the *-ingas-* connective element would have been used to describe groups or tribes of people before these groups settled in a particular area and the name became associated with a geographical location.<sup>9</sup> Some of these names, therefore, will be amongst the oldest Anglo-Saxon names in the corpus, but probably not, according to Gelling, the first Anglo-Saxon settlements to be

<sup>9</sup> Cameron, ‘Early English settlement-names’ in *English Place-Names*, pp. 66-72 (p. 71)

named: instead, they belong to a ‘colonizing’ phase in Britain.<sup>10</sup> The personal names used in this corpus in conjunction with the *-ingas-* element – *Bassa* (Bassingham), *Bynna* (Bingham), *Cort* (Costock), and *Hicel* (Hickling) – are names which would probably never have been recorded if not for place-names, especially the names *Cort* and *Hicel* which are otherwise unattested. However, as Cameron says, ‘they may well have been leaders of “the folk who made Britain England”’,<sup>11</sup> and these names are therefore a great part of the history of this region, especially with so little other contemporary evidence available in other fields.

These *-ingas-* names could have indicated a kind of manorial ownership, as the people after which the settlements were named may not have lived in them. Names containing the *-ing-* conjunction, however, suggest a more direct association with the individual named, rather than their followers. The two examples of this kind of name in this corpus are (Sutton) Bonington and Ruddington. The names *Rudda* and *Buna* are therefore equally as important as the above names of Anglo-Saxon leaders, as it is likely that these men did, at one time, live in the settlements named after them. It is possible that names containing both personal names and topographical elements may also indicate a more direct rather than manorial ownership, such as Cotgrave (*Cotta’s* grove) and Wymeswold (Wigmund’s forest). These contain a genitive ending rather than the *-ing-* connective, but the resulting meaning would be very similar. It is, however, also possible that these names could indicate land granted to an individual, and therefore would be manorial in nature, so it is important to take into account both possibilities.

In this corpus, the proportion of OE and OScand names is slightly weighted towards OScand, which at first glance would suggest that there were more OScand speakers than OE speakers living in the area, but this is not necessarily the case. The use of OScand names was by no means limited to OScand speakers, and OScand names were almost certainly used by the Anglo-Saxon population in the period following invasion, either because of intermarriage, contact with OScand speakers, or even aspirational naming. It is likely, as discussed above, that Grimston-hybrids such as Tollerton and Clipston were named after Viking settlers called *Thorleifr* and *Klyppr*, but the *tūn* element indicates that the settlements existed prior to invasion and that they were partially renamed by the first Viking settlers. Other names such as Wartnaby and Saxondale, which contain both OScand and OE elements suggest either a partial renaming at the time of Viking settlement; or, particularly in the case of Saxondale where OScand *denu* became OE *dæl*, these names could be evidence for an OScand- and OE-speaking population intermingling and living side-by-side.

The use of personal names as the specific element in place-names is one of the simplest ways in which land ownership or association is indicated. However, manorial affixes indicate a different kind of land ownership, as land was granted to the family or individual named at some point after the settlement was originally named. The majority of manorial affixes are Norman, as settlement by the Normans involved predominantly the aristocracy being given land by the king, rather than Norman French-speaking peasants settling and naming places. Unusually, however, this corpus contains an alternative manorial affix in Ab Kettleby, from either the OScand name *Abbi* or the OE *Abba*. It would be easy to assume that this affix pre-dates the Norman invasion, but the Domesday Book entry lists the settlement as *Chetelbi*, without the affix, and *Abekettleby* does not appear until 1236. This first attestation does not mean, however, that ownership dates from this time. Quite frequently a manorial affix took a significant amount of time to become fossilized into a place-name, as can be seen in the example of Holme Pierrepont: the first attestation of the affix is in 1571, but Mills states that the *de Perpount* family took ownership of the estate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Colston Bassett’s affix did not take quite so long to become fossilized, as the gap between the family

<sup>10</sup> ‘The chronology of English place-names’ in *Signposts to the Past*, pp. 106-29 (p. 112)

<sup>11</sup> Cameron, p. 70

being granted the land in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and the first attestation of *Coleston Bassett* in 1228 appears to be smaller. Cropwell Butler was also granted to the *Butler* family in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and took a similar length of time to be fossilized, as its first attestation is in 1265. Land ownership was not limited, however, to aristocratic Norman families. Cropwell Bishop was owned by the Archbishop of York, with the land being granted at a similar time to many other Norman manorial affixes, and this too took until the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century to become fossilized. This shows the importance the church had to the country's Norman leaders, if not to the local area itself.

Some of the names in this corpus are easily recognisable from their earliest attested forms, such as Bingham, which has only lost the unstressed syllable of *Bingheham*; and Whatton, which has lost a syllable from the end of *Watone* rather than the middle of the name. Others have undergone much more dramatic phonological changes, and there appear to be two main reasons for this: the first is that names naturally change in order to aid pronunciation. One of these common changes is the weakening of unstressed vowel sounds, as can be seen in the change from the two distinct vowel sounds in *Worcnodebie* to the schwa sound in *Wartnaby*. The loss of these unstressed syllables can be seen in the gradual progression from *Worcnodebie* through *Wartnadeby*, and *Warkneby* to reach *Wartnaby*, losing first the last syllable of the personal name, then the unstressed *-e-*. The *c* sound has also become a *t*, assimilating the dental consonants of *t* and *n* to make pronunciation easier. A similar development appears to have taken place in *Saxondale*, with a dental *n* now preceding the dental *d* sound. Rather than gaining a consonant, *Normanton* has lost the *th* of the element *Northmen*, also presumably to ease pronunciation.

The other visible reason for phonological change is confusion or “mangling” of place-names, which seems to have happened for various reasons. Any written attestation of a place-name is an approximation of pronunciation, and particularly in the case of *Domesday Book*, written by Norman scribes who would be relatively unfamiliar with some sounds of the English language, it is understandable to find irregularities. *Clipston*, for example, comes from the name *Klyppr*, which contains a *p*, and its modern form retains the *p* sound, but the *Domesday* form is written as *Cliston*. It may be that this is an accurate representation of contemporary pronunciation, but it is also possible that this is a mistake. *Tollerton* seems to have the most dramatically anomalous *Domesday* form, *Troclauestune*, and The English Place-Names Society attribute the huge variations in spelling of this name through time as ‘confusion with *Pórleikr*’ and *Pórleifr* as the first element.<sup>12</sup> Two personal names also appear to have become confused in the attestations of *Costock*, namely *Cortel* and *Cyrtel*, according to Gover, Mawer and Stenton.<sup>13</sup> *Old Dalby*, on the other hand, has become *Old* from *Wold*, which could be explained by mispronunciation on the part of French-speakers, or to an incorrect representation of pronunciation by medieval scribes, as the affix *super le Oldes* appears in 1555 and is later shortened to *Old* in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It is difficult to guess why this *Wold* has been changed when many other ‘Wold’ place-names in the corpus have remained the same, but this development has led to the modern form bearing little resemblance to the first attestations.

Some place-names, of course, have been deliberately altered as those with manorial affixes were. These are predominantly to differentiate between settlements, such as *West Bridgford*, *Upper and Nether Broughton*, and *Normanton-on-the-Wolds*. One example, however, of a place-name changing to describe a change in the settlement itself is that of *Sutton Bonington*, which began life as *Sudtone* and *Bonniton* but by 1332 had become one place, named *Sutton cum Bonyngton*.

<sup>12</sup> Gover, Mawer and Stenton, pp. 242-3

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 251-2

There is a huge amount to be learned from the study of place-names, and while some evidence can be assumed to be more or less factual, other elements require guesswork and hypothesis, or cross-referencing with archaeological evidence and other written sources, to be useful. This project has only touched on the wealth of evidence available in the place-names of this area, and with further research and study of this corpus a much more detailed picture of the area's history and population could be constructed.



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## Appendix

All entries taken from A. D. Mills, *A Dictionary of British Place Names*, unless otherwise indicated.<sup>14</sup>

### Ab Kettleby

Leics. *Chetelbi* 1086 (DB), *Abekettleby* 1236. 'Farmstead or village of a man called Ketil'. OScand. pers. name + *by*, with manorial affix from the name of an early owner of the estate, either the OE pers. name *Abba* or the OScand. pers. name *Abbi* (both masculine).

Also:

*Abbe* ~ 1236.<sup>15</sup>

### Bassingfield

Notts. *Basingfelt* 1086 (DB). 'Open land of the family or followers of a man called Bas(s)a'. OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *feld*.

### Bingham

Notts. *Bingheham* 1086 (DB). Probably 'homestead of the family or followers of a man called Bynna'. OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *hām*. Alternatively the first element may be an OE \*bing 'a hollow'.

### Bradmore

Notts. *Brademere* 1086 (DB). 'Broad pool'. OE *brād* + *mere*.

### Broughton, Upper and Nether

a common name, usually 'farmstead by a brook', OE *brōc* + *tūn*.

Also:

**Nether Broughton** *Nethyr Broghton* 1342 [...] [it is] some 100ft lower than [...] Upper Broughton<sup>16</sup>

**Upper Broughton** Over Broughton 1680<sup>17</sup>

### Bunny

Notts. *Bonei* 1086 (DB). Probably 'island, or dry ground in marsh, where reeds grow'. OE *bune* + *ēg*.

### Clipston

Notts. *Cliston* 1198 'farmstead of a man called Klyppr or \*Klippr', OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*.

### Colston Bassett

**Colston** 'farmstead of a man called Kolr', OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*: **Colston Bassett**  
Notts. *Coletone* 1086 (DB), *Coleston Bassett* 1228. Manorial addition from the *Basset* family, here in the 12th cent.

### Costock

Notts. *Cortingestoche* 1086 (DB). 'Outlying farmstead of the family or followers of a man called \*Cort'. OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *stoc*.

<sup>14</sup> Revised edn. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

<sup>15</sup> Barrie Cox, *The Place-Names of Leicestershire: Part Two, Framland Hundred* (Nottingham: English Place-Name Society, 2002), p. 157

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 45

<sup>17</sup> Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 231

Also:

**Costock** *Cortingestoche* 1086 DB; *Chirtlingastoca* 1158; *Curtlingestoke* 1211; *Costoke* 1539; *Courtlyngstock al. Costock* 1567; *Costocke al. Courtlinstock* 1605 [...] The early forms suggest confusion between two early English names of allied form and origin, viz. *Cortel* and *Cyrtel*.<sup>18</sup>

### **Cotgrave**

Notts. *Godegrave [sic]* 1086 (DB), *Cotegrava* 1094 . ‘Grove or copse of a man called Cotta’. OE pers. name + *grāf*.

### **Cropwell Bishop & Cropwell Butler**

Notts. *Crophille* 1086 (DB), *Bischopcroppehill* 1280, *Croppill Boteiller* 1265. ‘Rounded hill’. OE *crop(p)* + *hyll*. Manorial additions from possession by the Archbishop of York and by the *Butler* family, here from the 12th cent.

### **East Leake**

**Leake** ‘(place at) the brook’, OScand. *lækr*: **Leake, East** Notts. *Lec(c)he* 1086 (DB).

### **Edwalton**

Notts. *Edvvoltone* 1086 (DB). ‘Farmstead of a man called Eadweald’. OE pers. name + *tūn*.

Also:

*Edvvoltone, Edwoltun* 1086.<sup>19</sup>

### **Elton**

Notts. *Ailetone [sic]* 1086 (DB), *Elleton* 1088. Probably ‘farmstead of a man called Ella’. OE pers. name + *tūn*.

### **Gamston**

‘farmstead of a man called Gamall’, OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*: **Gamston** Notts., near Nottingham. *Gamelestune* 1086 (DB).

### **Gotham**

Notts. *Gatham* 1086 (DB). ‘Homestead or enclosure where goats are kept’. OE *gāt* + *hām* or *hamm*.

### **Grimston**

Leics. *Grimestone* 1086 (DB), ‘farmstead or estate of a man called Grímr’, OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*.

### **Hickling**

‘(settlement of) the family or followers of a man called \**Hicel*’, OE pers. name + *-ingas*: **Hickling** Notts. *Hikelinge* c. 1000, *Hecheling* 1086 (DB).

### **Holme Pierrepont**

**Holme**, a common place name, usually from OScand. *holmr* ‘island, dry ground in marsh, water-meadow’: **Holme Pierrepont** Notts. *Holmo* 1086 (DB), *Holme Peyrpointe* 1571. Manorial affix from the *de Perpount* family, here in the 14<sup>th</sup> cent.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., pp. 251-2

<sup>19</sup> Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 246

**Hose**

Leics. *Hoches*, *Howes* 1086 (DB). ‘The spurs of land’. OE *hōh* in a plural form *hō(h)as*.

**Keyworth**

Notts. *Caworde* 1086 (DB), *Kewurda* 1154–89. OE *worth* ‘enclosure, enclosed settlement’ with an uncertain first element, possibly OE *cæg* ‘key’ (used of a place that could be locked) or *\*cæg* ‘stone, boulder’.

Alternatively:

‘Jackdaw enclosure’. *Cauorde* -w- 1086, *Kaword(i)a* [1173]14<sup>th</sup>, -word -wurth’ 13<sup>th</sup>, *Caworth* 1499, *Kewurda* -worð -wurth -worth 1154x89-1359, *Keyworth* from 1482, OE *\*cā* + *worth*.<sup>20</sup>

**Kinoulton**

Notts. *Kinildetune* c. 1000, *Chineltune* 1086 (DB). ‘Farmstead of a woman called Cynehild’. OE pers. name + *tūn*.

**Langar**

Notts. *Langare* 1086 (DB). ‘Long gore or point of land’. OE *lang* + *gāra*.

**Long Clawson**

Leics. *Clachestone* 1086 (DB). ‘Farmstead of a man called Klakkr’. OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*.

Also:

*Long Claxton* 1632 [...] ‘Long’ refers to the linear shape of the village.<sup>21</sup>

Also:

*Longe Clauson* 1549.<sup>22</sup>

**Normanton-on-the-Wolds**

**Normanton** a fairly common name in the North and North Midlands, ‘farmstead of the Northmen or Norwegian Vikings’, OE *Northman* + *tūn*.

Also:

*Normanton super le Woulds* 1682<sup>23</sup>

**Old Dalby**

**Dalby** ‘farmstead or village in a valley’, OScand. *dalr* + *by*.

Also:

The current affix *Old* ~ is a late form of *Wold*. ~ *de Wauz* 1209; ~ *super le Oldes* 1555; Old ~ 1718.<sup>24</sup>

**Owthorpe**

Notts. *Ovetorp* 1086 (DB). ‘Outlying farmstead or hamlet of a man called Úfi or Ufa’. OScand. or OE pers. name + OScand. *thorp*.

**Radcliffe-on-Trent**

**Radcliffe** ‘the red cliff or bank’, OE *rēad* + *clif*: **Radcliffe on Trent** Notts. *Radeclive* 1086 (DB).

20 Victor Watts (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

21 Ibid.

22 Cox, p. 89

23 Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 238

24 Cox, p. 50

**Rempstone**

Notts. *Rampestune* 1086 (DB). Probably 'farmstead of a man called \*Hrempi'. OE pers. name + *tūn*.

**Ruddington**

Notts. *Roddintone* 1086 (DB). 'Estate associated with a man called Rudda'. OE pers. name + *-ing-* + *tūn*.

**Saxondale**

Notts. *Saxeden* 1086 (DB), *Saxendala* c. 1130, 'Valley of the Saxons', OE *Seaxe* + *dæl* (replacing *denu*).

**Stanton-on-the-Wolds**

a common name, usually 'farmstead on stony ground', occasionally 'farmstead near standing stones', OE *stān* + *tūn*.

Also:

*Stanton super Wold* c. 1240.<sup>25</sup>

**Stragglethorpe**

'stragglings *þorp*'<sup>26</sup>

**Sutton Bonington**

**Sutton**, a very common place-name, 'south farmstead or village', i.e. one to the south of another settlement, OE *sūth* + *tūn*: **Sutton Bonington** Notts. *Sudtone*, *Bonniton* 1086 (DB). Originally two separate manors, **Bonington** being 'estate associated with a man called Buna', OE pers. name + *-ing-* + *tūn*.

Also:

**Sutton** *Sudtone* 1086 DB; *Sutthona super Soram*, *Sutton super Soram* 1213; *Sutton super Soure* 1479.

**Bonington** *Bunnington* 1082; *Bonitone*, *Bonniton* 1086 DB; *Bynnyngton* 1340.

**Sutton Bonington** [first attestation] *Sutton cum Bonyngton* 1332.<sup>27</sup>

**Thorpe-in-the-Glebe**

**Thorp**, **Thorpe**, a common name, from Oscand. *thorp* 'outlying farmstead or hamlet, dependent secondary settlement'.

Also:

**Thorpe in the Glebe** *Torp* 1086 DB, *Bochardistorp* 1235 [from John Bochard, early landowner], *Thorpynchleby* 1268, *Thorp in the Clott(e)s* 1287, *Thorp in gleb*' 1291.<sup>28</sup>

**Tythby**

'Tithi's village or farm'. *Tied(e)bi* 1086, *Titheby* c. 1190-1428 with variants *Tythe-* *Tydhe-* and *-bi*, *Tydby* 1338. ODan pers. n. \**Tithi*, genitive sing. \**Titha*, + *by*.<sup>29</sup>

25 Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 249

26 Ibid., p. 234

27 Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 256

28 Ibid., p. 257

29 Ibid., p. 254

**Tollerton**

Notts. *Troclauestune* 1086 (DB). ‘Farmstead or village of a man called Thorleifr’. OScand. pers. name + OE *tūn*.

Also:

**Tollerton** Notts. ‘Thorlaf’s farm or village’. *Troclavestvne* 1086, *Tur- Torlaueston(a)* 1165-c. 1300, *Torlaueton -tun* c. 1190-1221, *T(h)orlaton* 1280-1332, *Tollerton* from 1499, *Torlagheston -lawes-*, *Thorlaxton -las-* 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Pers. n. *Thorlaf* < ON *Thorleifr* + *tūn*. Some 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Spellings show confusion with pers. n. *Thorlac* < ON *Thorleikr*.<sup>30</sup>

Also:

**Tollerton** *Troclauestune* 1086 DB; *Turlaueston(a)* 1165; *Torlaveston(a)* 1316; *Torlouestun* 1226; *Torlagheston* 1231; *Thorlaweston* 1240; *Tharlaxton* 1272; *Thorlaton juxta Notyngham* 1280, *Tollaston al. Torlerton* 1709; *Tollerton* 1499 [...] This name has suffered a good deal of corruption. The Domesday form is isolated, and can hardly be made the basis of an etymology. The 12th-century spellings point to the ON personal name *Þórleifr* as the first element with substitution of OE *-laf* for ON *-leifr*. [...] Later there appears to have been confusion with *Þórleikr*, another Scandinavian personal name.<sup>31</sup>

**Trent**

A Celtic river-name possibly meaning ‘the trespasser’, i.e. ‘river liable to floods’.

**Wartnaby**

Leics. *Worcnodebie* 1086 (DB). Possibly ‘farmstead or village of a man called \*Wærncnōth’. OE pers. name + OScand. *by*.

Also:

*Wartnadeby* c. 1130; *Warkneby* 1444; *Wartnaby* 1507.<sup>32</sup>

**West Bridgford**

**Bridgford** ‘ford by the bridge’, OE *brycg* + *ford*: **Bridgford, West** Notts. *Brigeforde* 1086 (DB).

Also:

*Westburgeforde* 1572<sup>33</sup>

**Whatton**

Notts. *Watone* 1086 (DB), probably ‘farmstead where wheat is grown’, OE *hwæte* + *tūn*.

**Widmerpool**

Notts. *Wimarspol* 1086 (DB). ‘Wide lake (or willow-tree lake) pool’. OE *wīd* or *wīthig* + *mere* + *pōl*.

**Wilford**

Nott. *Wilesford* 1086 (DB). Probably ‘willow-tree ford’. OE *\*wilig* + *ford*.

Alternatively:

**Wilford** Notts. Partly uncertain [...] Probably OE pers. n. *Willa* + *ford*. But the specific might alternatively be OE *wilig* ‘a willow-tree’ or *wīle* ‘a weel, a basket, a fish-trap’.<sup>34</sup>

Also:

Probably ‘Willa’s ford’.<sup>35</sup>

30 Watts

31 Gover, Mawer and Stenton, pp. 242-3

32 Cox, p. 165

33 Gover, Mawer and Stenton, p. 231

34 Watts

**Willoughby-on-the-Wolds**

**Willoughby** usually ‘farmstead by the willow-trees’, OE \**wilig* + OScand. *by*, although some may be ‘circle of willow-trees’, OE \**wilig* + *bēag*.

**Wymeswold**

Leics. *Wimundeswald* 1086 (DB). ‘Forest of a man called Wīgmund’. OE pers. name + *wald*.

**Wysall**

Notts. *Wisoc* 1086 (DB), *Wisho* 1199. Possibly ‘hill-spur of the heathen temple’. OE *wīg* + *hōh*