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

Introduction

The corpus (see Appendix) contains forty historic parish names from north-east Essex. The area selected is coastal, bordering the sea to the east and south, and the county of Suffolk to the north. Within this small area, the entire language strata of English place-names are represented: British, Latin, Old English (OE), Old Norse (ON), Old French (OFr), and Middle English. The area contains a Roman settlement, is assumed to have been ceded to the Danish Kingdom of East Anglia by the Kingdom of Wessex, and indicates land ownership by Anglo-Norman aristocracy. As is the case for England as a whole, the majority of place-names are Old English in origin. This assignment will first look at the significance of non-English influences on the corpus, in chronological order, followed by an analysis of the Old English majority.

British Influence

The history of Essex during the early stages of Germanic migration is shrouded: Stenton notes that no East Saxon king was of more than local importance, but that an early occupation is evident in 'place-names of primitive type'.[1] The proximity of Essex to better documented Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and the dearth of British nomenclature in contrast to some areas in the west and north of England, supports the notion of early settlement by Germanic peoples. Indeed, Essex is firmly within 'Area 1' of Jackson's map of Celtic zones, where few Celtic names have survived.[2] As a likely result of this early Germanic migration, British nomenclature within the corpus is limited to one, possibly two, river-names. Gelling notes that British river-names

survived in the east because they mark major landscape features, known to many people.[3]

The first element of Dovercourt is defined as a Celtic river-name meaning 'the waters', and the second element, discussed in the following section, indicates the area's importance during the Romano-British period. The first element of Colchester is likely derived from the River Colne, a British river-name, which runs through the urban area of the town. However, it has been argued that the element is a reduced form of Latin *colonia*, 'Roman colony for retired legionaries'. Rivet and Smith claim that the first element is derived from the Romano-British town name: *Colonia Camulodonum*. They suggest that whilst the river-name originally had a *Colne* name, this has nothing to do with the modern town-name, citing Lincoln and Köln as examples that do not refer to a river; they alternatively suggest that the river-name itself is derived from the town-name.[4] The contrast to Lincoln and Köln is somewhat moot as the major rivers running through those places are the River Witham and the Rhine, respectively. On the second suggestion, it can only be noted that multiple names immediately to the west of the corpus are definitely derived from the river-name: Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, White Colne, and Wakes Colne.

Whilst it appears only one of the river-names in the corpus can definitely be considered British in origin, there appears to be a reference to a British presence in the corpus area in the first element of Walton-on-the Naze. Reaney states that the early forms of the name (*Walentonie* 11th cent., *Waletun(a)* 12th cent.) suggest the etymology is OE *wēala-tūn*, 'farm of the Britons or serfs'.[5] DEPN considers it a reference to Britons. That the reference to Britons is made in Old English suggests cohabitation of Germanic settlers and Britons in the area, at least for a period of time. Indeed, Gelling notes that names of this type are the main evidence for peaceful cohabitation in the first decades of the post-Roman period.[6]

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Latin/Roman Influence

Due to Latin's status as an administrative language during the Romano-British period, direct Latin influence on the nomenclature of the corpus is as limited as British influence. Whilst the first element is contested, the second element of Colchester (OE *ceaster*, 'Roman town') is certain. The survival of the Roman wall, which stands today, coupled with potentially usable Roman buildings, made Colchester an attractive site for administrative purposes in the post-Roman period. Archaeological evidence suggests early Anglo-Saxon settlement.[7] The neighbouring parish of Stanway (OE *stan + weg*, 'stone way') is, as Reaney notes, a reference to the Roman road that ran from Colchester to London.[8] Mile End, 'the mile end from Colchester', a Middle English name, is evidently named with Colchester as a deictic origo, indicating that the importance of the Roman town continued through the later Middle Ages.

There is one instance of direct borrowing from Latin in the corpus, in the second element of Dovercourt. DEPN considers it the unattested OE **corte*, derived from Latin *cohors*, 'court'. Gelling notes that because this is the single instance of that word borrowed into English, it is likely directly borrowed from Latin.[9] Therefore, Dovercourt is potentially a direct transfer of the name that was in use during the Romano-British period.

Scandinavian/Viking Influence

It is generally accepted that Alfred ceded Essex to the Kingdom of East Anglia in his treaty with Guthrum, and that the county was then wholly within the Danelaw.

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However, Williams suggests that Viking settlement never penetrated further than the north-east of the county, the area of the current study.[10]

There are two definite Old Norse names in the corpus: Kirby-le-Soken and Thorpe-le-Soken. Kirby is a relatively common ON place-name meaning 'village with a church' (ON *kirkju-b9*). Gelling notes that while most –*b9* names were newly coined for settlements, Kirby was an appellative applied to 'particularly desirable situations', in many instances replacing a pre-existing English or Celtic name.[11] ON *Porp*, 'secondary settlement', is cognate with OE *Prop*, making it sometimes impossible to tell from which a place-name is derived. Given that it borders Kirby-le-Soken, it is probable that the element in Thorpe-le-Soken is ON in origin (see figure below). The affix shared by these parishes (OE *sōcn*, 'area under special jurisdiction') references that they, along with Walton-on-the-Naze, once belonged to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, London.[12]

A potential third ON place-name is in the final element of Beaumont-cum-Moze, as the two parishes were distinct before the seventeenth century. OE *mos*, 'marsh, moss', is cognate with ON *moss*, 'bog'. Gelling notes that while this is an isolated example of the element in use outside of the north-west, where place-name derivations from the ON word occur and *moss* remains a dialect term for 'bog', its appearance in Essex is likely an OE derivation.[13] However, Moze is directly opposite the parishes of Kirby- and Thorpe-le-Soken (see figure above). It is therefore plausible that this is an isolated ON derivation in the south due to localised Scandinavian influence on nomenclature.

Compared to other areas within the Danelaw in the north and east, there are relatively few Scandinavian place-names. Williams suggests that this is because Essex was not securely part of the Danelaw, but rather contested territory that was 'on the frontline of hostilities' between English and Viking forces'.[14] The first documentary record of Colchester supports this: Edward the Elder's expulsion of Danish forces from the town in 917.[15]

Place-name evidence within the corpus further supports this proposal. Harwich, like Walton-on-the-Naze, is probably an OE reference to another ethnic group: OE *here-wīc*, 'army camp', likely that of the Viking army. Williams notes that the fortifications and camps of the Vikings in Essex are 'symptomatic of military campaigns' rather than of permanent settlements.[16] That Scandinavian influence on nomenclature is localised to the corpus area in the north-east of the county – around the border with Suffolk, which as part of the Kingdom of East Anglia was certainly within the Danelaw – supports the notion of Scandinavian influence on the area, rather than Scandinavian rule.

Old French/Norman Influence

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Reaney states that '[n]o county bears so strongly as Essex the imprint of the Norman Conquest'.[17] Multiple names across the county are wholly or partly indicative of this: Pleshey, Grays, and Hatfield Peverel, to name a few.

There is one name of Old French origin in the corpus, in Beaumont-cum-Moze. Beaumont is a relatively common compound of OFr *beau/bel* + *mont*, 'beautiful hill'. The name is artificial: Gelling notes that names such as this were deliberate creations, rather than the type of spontaneous descriptions that define OE and ON nomenclature.[18] Beaumont replaced the OE name for the parish that was recorded in the Domesday Book, 1086: 'Fulepet'. *Fulepet* is a compound of OE *fūl* + *pyt*, literally 'foul pit'. This earlier name follows the Anglo-Saxon tradition of naming an area after its defining feature: Beaumont, along with Moze, is a particularly wet, muddy part of the local landscape. The later name relies on the less defining but more redeeming fact that Beaumont is slightly raised above Moze, and was evidently more suited to Norman taste. The picture below, taken from Beaumont, shows the slight decline to Moze.

Old English

It is evident from the place-name evidence in the corpus that the area's history in the early medieval period was directly influenced by all the major groups of peoples, from a Roman *colonia* to a local Norman administration. Despite this, the national trend is evident: thirty of the forty names in the corpus are wholly of OE origin. Of this majority, twenty-one of the place-names are topographical. The prevalence of sub-categories of topographical names is significant.

The coastal area of the corpus is relatively flat, which is indicated by the small number of hill-names: Langenhoe, Fingringhoe, Wivenhoe and Holland. They all share the generic OE element *hōh*, 'hill spur', and the first three are within four miles of each other. Wivenhoe's specific element contains a fossilised weak genitive (OE personal name **Wife* + genitive *–n*) and Langenhoe's a dative ending (OE *lang*, 'long', + dative *–an*). That Langenhoe contains a fossilised dative indicates that the place-name arose from a spoken description, which contrasts it with the artificial hill-name in Beaumont-cum-Moze. ODEPN suggests that the specific element OE *finger* in Fingringhoe is a reference to Roman River: the river is a small 'finger' of the River Colne. It is more likely a reference to the shape of the land: as can be seen on the map, Fingringhoe is a 'finger' of land between the River Colne and Roman River (see figure below). The *–inga* element is therefore a reference to the people living on the hill-spur, not the river. Finally, the second element in Holland (OE *land*, 'cultivated land') is likely a reference to farming by the hill-spur.

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Three names in the corpus refer to a drop in the land: Lexden, Wrabness and Walton-on-the-Naze. Lexden, OE personal name *Leaxa + denu*, 'valley', undoubtedly refers to the contrast in elevation with neighbouring West Bergholt (ON *berg*, 'hill/barrow' + holt, 'woodland') and the hills around Stanway. Wrabness and Walton-on-the-Naze both contain the OE generic element *n3/4ss*, 'headland/promontory'. This is a coastal feature: both areas are defined by slightly raised land that drops abruptly to the beach. DEPN, ODEPN and PNEss all suggest that the specific element of Wrabness is a reference to a man called **Wrabba*, with ODEPN suggesting this is a nickname cognate with OE *wrabbed*, 'perverse'. Gelling considers this a 'long shot', and instead postulates an OE adjective with the sense of 'crooked'.[19] Based on topography, Gelling's suggestion appears more plausible: the promontory of Wrabness has a notable kink on its eastern side, in contrast with the smoother curvature of the headland at Walton-on-the-Naze (see figure below).

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19 Gelling and Cole, *Landscape*, p. 199.

Ramsey and Brightlingsea share the OE generic element *ëg*, 'island'. Ramsey is not an island in the modern sense; Gelling notes that the characteristic usage in place-names is to describe raised ground wetland,[20] and Ramsey falls in this category. Brightlingsea (OE personal name *Beorhtric/*Beorhtling* + *ëg*) is now a peninsula surrounded on three sides by Alresford Creek, the River Colne and Brightlingsea Creek. On this evidence it appears to be an *ëg* in the same sense as Ramsey. However, Reaney notes that Brightlingsea is recorded as an island in the modern sense in 1295, and marked on a sixteenth century map as such.[21]

Nine place-names are references to woodland or clearings in woodland, evidently more defining features in the local landscape than hills of any significant size. Six of these (Ardleigh, Bentley, Bromley, Mistley, Oakley, Weeley) share the generic OE element *lëah*, 'wood or clearing', with their specific elements referring to various trees or other plants. Reaney proposes that Weeley was an early Saxon settlement and a 'heathen sacred-place', with the specific element *wih/wëoh* referring to an 'idol/temple'.[22] The area may have been a place for worship, but OE *wilig*, 'willow' is more likely. The area is still

populated with willow trees, a feature that distinguishes it from surrounding areas, and the entrance to Weeley is marked with a willow tree (see picture below).

Field notes that some woodland areas were 'deliberately planted and systematically managed' areas of trees; among other uses, timber was used as fuel and building material, and leaves for animal feed and compost.[23] This management of trees could explain why the corpus contains multiple places named for a specific type of tree.

Two of the woodland place-names share the generic OE element *stede*, 'place': Boxted and Elmstead Market. The specific elements refer to beech trees (OE *bōc*/*box*) and elm trees (OE **elme*/*elmen*), respectively. Manningtree stands out from the two generic tree groups in the corpus, and has contested etymology. DEPN, ODEPN and PNEss all suggest that it either means 'many trees' (OE *manig* + *trēow*) or 'Manna's tree' (OE personal name + *trēow*). 'Manna's tree' is the more likely of the two suggestions, for two reasons. 'Many trees' is oddly non-specific in contrast to the other woodland names in the corpus, which specify the type of tree growing there. Manningtree is also on the boundary with

Suffolk: a single, distinctive tree may have marked a meeting point for regional leaders to discuss governance.

DEPN and ODEPN suggest that the place-name Thorrington is a reference to an enclosure of, or a farmstead defined by, thorn trees (OE *thorn/thyrne* + *tūn*, 'settlement, farmstead'), as the Domesday entry is for a *Torinduna*. PNEss alternatively suggests the first element is an Anglo-Scandinavian personal name: *Puri*. The former appears more likely as Thorrington is isolated from the limited Scandinavian influence on nomenclature to the north-east.

Two topographical place-names refer to open land: Bradfield (OE *brād*, 'broad' + *feld*, 'open land') and Greenstead, 'green place', possibly used for pasturing. Field notes that place-names containing OE *feld* may be contrasted with surrounding marsh, woodland, or hills.[24] Bradfield is indeed bordered by Mistley and Wix (Middle English plural of OE *wīc*, 'specialised farm'), areas that it can be distinctly contrasted to. Field further notes that *feld* names featured regularly in boundary charters;[25] it is therefore possible that Bradfield was once a communal no-man's land.

Alresford and Lawford are two topographical names that refer to infrastructure, sharing the generic OE *ford*. Both are associated with specific male individuals, a common feature of place-names with very common generic elements: OE personal names ®*gel Đ* PNEss states the 'r' in Alresford is late and irregular – and *Leaxa*, respectively. Alresford likely refers to a crossing over the River Colne, and Lawford is situated by the River Stour that forms a county boundary between Essex and Suffolk. Gelling notes that place-names such as these, which were part of a countrywide naming system, were an aid to travellers.[26]There are a limited number of habitative and folk names in the corpus. Dedham and Langham refer to the OE *hām*, 'homesteads', of men

with the OE personal names *Dydda* and *Lahha*, respectively. PNEss states the personal name *Dydda* is supported in a diminutive form: OE *Dyddel*. Langham preserves the connective –*ing* element that refers to the family or followers of *Lahha*. The coastal towns of Frinton-and Clacton-on-Sea share the generic OE element *tūn*, 'settlement, farmstead'. Clacton appears to refer to the land of a man with the OE personal name *Clacc*. Its present name has lost the connective –*ing* present in its Domesday entry, *Clachintune*, likely referring to the followers or family of *Clacc*. PNEss alternatively suggests the personal name is Anglo-Scandinavian *Klak*, though this suggestion is perhaps influenced by the proximity of the town to Thorpe- and Kirby-le-Soken. The specific element of Frinton either refers to a man with the OE name *Fritha*, or is derived from OE *frithen*, 'protected', perhaps a reference to a reinforced structure.

There are two potential folk names in the corpus: Frating and Tendring. Frating appears to refer to the settlement of the family or followers of *Fr3/4t(a)*, or simply '*Fr3/4t(a)*'s place' (OE personal name + -*ingas*/-*ing*). Tendring's etymology is contested. ODEPN suggests it is derived from *Tendringas*, an –*ingas* name referring to 'the people from Tündern'. DEPN suggests 'place where tinder or fuel is gathered' (OE *tynder* + -*ing*). ODEPN also expands on this possibility, claiming that OE *tynder* may refer to 'a beacon'. It should be noted that Tendring is also a Hundred name; Hundred names often refer to distinctive features that mark an administrative meeting-place. A site with a distinctive feature such as a lit beacon may have served such a purpose.

Conclusion

As a result of early subjugation to the Kingdom of Kent, and therefore little mention in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*,[27] Essex's history during the medieval period is relatively mysterious until Edward the Elder's expulsion of the Danes is recorded in 917. It is

evident from this study of only forty place-names in the north-east of the county that place-name research can offer some insight into the history of the county.

Naturally, the folk name recorded in the county-name itself, a reference to 'East Saxons', offers an indication of the early Germanic settlement. Place-name evidence in the north-east also appears to counter the assumption that Essex was wholly ceded to the Danelaw by Alfred, and was rather a frontier of the conflict between Danish and English forces. The place-name Walton-on-the-Naze also potentially offers evidence for cohabitation between Britons and Saxons in the east, a notion that was dismissed in favour of theories concerning war and genocide for decades. Some of this historical 'evidence' is guesswork without documentary evidence to support it. However, a wider study of the area outside of the corpus area may offer further insight into the local history.

Footnotes

[1] Sir Frank Stenton, *Anglo-Saxon England*, 3rd. edn. (Oxford: OUP, 1971), p. 53.

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2 K.H. Jackson, reproduced in Kenneth Cameron, *English Place-Names* (London: B.T. Batsford, 1996), p. 46.

3 Margaret Gelling, *Signposts to the Past: Place-Names and the History of England*, 3rd edn. (Chichester: Phillimore and Co., Ltd., 1997), p. 92.

4 A.L.F. Rivet and Colin Smith, *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (Cambridge: CUP, 1979), pp. 312-13.

5 P.H. Reaney, *The Place-Names of Essex* (Cambridge: CUP, 1935), p. 355.

6 Gelling, *Signposts*, pp. 17-18.

7 A.P. Baggs, Beryl Board, Philip Crummy, Claude Dove, Shirley Durgan, N.R. Goose, R.B. Pugh, Pamela Studd and C.C. Thornton, 'Medieval Colchester: Introduction', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 9, the Borough of Colchester*, ed. Janet Cooper and C.R. Elrington (London, 1994), pp. 19-26 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol9/pp19-26> [Accessed 02/04/15].

8 Reaney, *Essex*, p. 398.

9 Gelling, *Signposts*, p. 68.

10 Ann Williams, 'The Vikings in Essex, 871-917', in *Essex Archaeology and History 27* (1996), p. 93.

11 Gelling, *Signposts*, p. 234.

12 Reaney, *Essex*, p. 355.

13 Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford: Shaun Tyas, 2000), p. 61.

14 Williams, 'The Vikings', p. 94.

15 Baggs, et al., 'Medieval Colchester', p. 19.

16 Williams, 'The Vikings', p. 93.

17 Reaney, *Essex*, p. xxx.

18 Gelling, *Signposts*, p. 237.

20 Gelling and Cole, *Landscape*, p. 37.

21 Reaney, *Essex*, p. 331.

22 Ibid., p. xxi.

23 John Field, *A History of English Field-Names* (London: Longman Group UK Ltd., 1993), p. 54. 24 Field, *Field-Names*, p. 270.

25 Ibid.

26 Gelling and Cole, *Landscape*, p. xvi.

27 Reaney, *Essex*, p. xviiii.

Abbreviations

CDEPN = Watts, Victor, John Isley and Margaret Gelling (eds.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names: Based on the Collections of the English Place-Name Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

DEPN = Mills, A.D., *A Dictionary of British Place Names*, 1st edn. revised (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).

ODEPN = Ekwall, Eilert, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edn. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1960).

PNEss = Reaney, P.H., *The Place-Names of Essex* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935).

Notes on illustrations
All photographs are my own.
All Ordnance Survey maps are sourced and created with: *Ordnance Survey Online*
<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk> (2015).

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Appendix

1. Topographical names:

Alresford. PNEss ®*lesforda* c. 1000, *Eilesforda* 1086 (DB), *Alresford* 1309. PNEss suggests first element is pers. name ®*gel*, with 'r' late and irregular. OE pers. name + *ford*.

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Beaumont-cum-Moze. (i) First element: DEPN *Fulepet* 1086 (DB), *Bealmont* 12th cent. Earlier name means 'foul pit', OE *fūl* + *pytt*. Later name means 'beautiful hill', OFr *beau/bel* + *mont*. (ii) Second element: ODEPN *Mosa* 1086 (DB). 'Marsh, moss', OE *mos*. Formerly distinct parishes. Beaumont-cum-Moze created in 1678 by union of Beaumont and Moze.[28]

Bentley, Greater and Little. DEPN *Benetleye* c. 1040, *Benetlea* 1086 (DB). 'Woodland clearing where bent-grass grows'. OE *beonet* + *lëah*.

Boxted. DEPN *Bocstede* 1086 (DB). 'Place where beech-trees grow'. OE *bãc/box* + *stede*.

Bradfield. DEPN *Bradefelda* 1086 (DB). 'Broad stretch of open land'. OE *brad* + *feld*.

Brightlingsea. DEPN *Brictriceseia* 1086 (DB). 'Island of a man called Beorhtrīc or *Beorhtling'. OE pers. name + *ëg*.

Bromley, Greater and Little. DEPN *Brumleiam* 1086 (DB). 'Woodland clearing where broom grows'. OE *brãm* + *lëah*.

Donyland, East. ODEPN *Dunningland* c. 995, *Dunilanda* 1086 (DB). 'Dunning's land'. PNEss 'Dunn(a)'s land' with connective *-ing*. OE pers. name + *-ing* + *land*.

Elmstead Market. DEPN *Elmesteda* 1086 (DB), *Elmestead Market* 1475. 'Place where elm-trees grow'. OE *elme* or *elmen* + *stede*. Affix *market* from the early important market here.

Greenstead. DEPN *Grenstede* 10th cent., *Grenesteda* 1086 (DB). 'Green place', 'pasture used for grazing'. OE *grëne* + *stede*.

Holland, Great. DEPN *Holande* c. 1000, *Holanda* 1086 (DB). 'Cultivated land by the hill-spur'. OE *hãh* + *land*.

Langenhoe. DEPN *Langhou* 1086 (DB). 'Long hill-spur'. OE *lang* (dative *–an*) + *hãh*.

Lawford. DEPN *Lalleford* 1045, *Laleforda* 1086 (DB). Probably 'ford of a man called *Lealla'. OE pers. name + *ford*. PNEss and ODEPN concur.

Lexden. ODEPN *L3/4xadyne* c. 995, *Laxendena* 1086 (DB). 'Leaxa's valley'. OE pers. name + *denu*. Personal name attested in Laxfield, Suffolk.

[28] Frederic A. Youngs, Jr., *Guide to the Local Administrative Units of England, Volume 1: Southern England* (London: University College London, 1979), p. 130.

Mistley. DEPN *Mitteslea* [sic] 1086 (DB), *Misteleg* 1225. Probably 'wood or clearing where mistletoe grows'. OE *mistel* + *lëah*. PNEss and ODEPN concur.

Oakley, Greater and Little. DEPN *Accleia* 1086 (DB). 'Wood or clearing where oak-trees grow'. OE *ac* + *lëah*.

St. Michael Mile End. CDEPN *Milend(e)* 1156x80, *La Milhende iuxta Colecestr*, 'the mile end by Colchester', 1285, *Mi-Mylende* 1291, *Myle End alias Myland* 1561. ME *mile* + *ende*. About one mile from Colchester. St. Michael's is the name of the parish church.

<u>Stanway.</u> DEPN *Stanw3/4gun* c. 1000, *Stanwega* 1086 (DB). 'Stony road'. OE *stan* + *weg*.

<u>Weeley.</u> DEPN *Wilgelea* 11th cent., *Wileia* 1086 (DB). 'Wood or clearing where willow-trees grow'. OE *wilig + *lëah*. PNEss suggests 'idol/temple in the wood/clearing'. OE *wīh/wëoh* + *lëah*.

<u>Wivenhoe.</u> DEPN *Wiunhov* 1086 (DB). 'Hill-spur of a woman called *Wīfe'. OE pers. name (genitive *Đn*) + *hãh*.

<u>Wrabness.</u> DEPN *Wrabenasa* 1086 (DB). Possibly 'headland of a man called *Wrabba'. OE pers. name + *n3/4ss*. ODEPN suggests *Wrabba* is a nickname cognate with OE *wrabbed*, 'perverse'. PNEss states existence of OE pers. name *Wrabba* is supported in the surname of a *William Wrabbe* in Somerset Assize Roll 1256.

2. Habitative names

<u>Clacton, Greater and Little.</u> DEPN *Claccingtune* c. 1000, *Clachintune* 1086 (DB). Probably 'estate associated with a man called *Clacc', OE pers. name + *-ing* + *tUn*. PNEss considers OE pers. name likely, but suggests Anglo-Scandinavian pers. name *Klak* as an alternative.

<u>Colchester.</u> DEPN *Colneceastre* 10th cent., *Colecestra* 1086 (DB). 'Roman town on the River Colne'. Ancient pre-English river-name + OE *ceaster*. Alternatively, first element reduced form of Latin *colonia*, 'Roman colony for retired legionaries'. Romano-British name being *Colonia Camulodunum*, last element a British name meaning 'fort of the Celtic war-god Camulos'. PNEss states the latter is unlikely.

<u>Dedham.</u> DEPN *Delham* [sic] 1086 (DB), *Dedham* 1166. 'Homestead or village of a man called *Dydda'. OE pers. name + *ham*. PNEss states OE pers. name *Dydda is attested in its diminutive form by OE *Dyddel*.

<u>Frating.</u> DEPN *Fretinge* c. 1060, *Fratinga* 1086 (DB). '(Settlement of) the family or followers of a man called *Fr3/4t(a)', or '*Fr3/4t(a)'s place'. OE pers. name + *-ingas* or *Đ ing*. PNEss supports *Đingas*, and states that the pers. name is a nickname derived from OE *fr3/4te*, 'wanton, shameful, foul'.

<u>Harwich.</u> DEPN *Herewic* 1248. 'Army camp', probably that of a Viking army. OE *here-wic*. PNEss supports proposal of a camp of the Danish *here*.

<u>Kirby-le-Soken.</u> DEPN *Kyrkebi* 1181, *Kirkeby in the Sokne* 1385. 'Village with a church'. ON *kirkju-b9*. Affix from OE *sãcn*, 'district with special jurisdiction'.

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

Langham. DEPN *Laingaham* 1086 (DB). Possibly 'homestead of the family or followers of a man called *Lahha'. OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *ham*. ODEPN suggests 'The *ham* of *Lãwa*'s people'.

Thorpe-le-Soken. DEPN *Torp* 12th cent., *Thorpe in ye Sooken* 1612. ON *Thorp* 'outlying farmstead or hamlet, dependent secondary settlement'. Affix from OE *sãcn*, 'district with special jurisdiction'.

Walton-on-the-Naze. DEPN *Walentonie* 11th cent., *Walton at the Naase* 1545. 'Farmstead or village of the Britons'. OE *walh* (genitive plural *wala*) + *tUn*. Affix means 'on the promontory', from OE *n3/4ss*.

PNEss (i) Naze element: *Eduluesn3/4sa* c. 940, *®lduluesnasã* 1086 (DB) (ii) Forms of Walton: *Walentonie* 12th cent., *Walton* c. 1300, *(at the Naase)* c. 1545, *(in the Sooke)* 1714. Originally 'Eadwulf's/Ealdwulf's promontory', OE pers. name + *n3/4ss*. Later name said to mean 'wall enclosure', OE *weall* + *tUn*, referring to failed sea-embankment. However, early forms suggest *wëala* + *tUn*, 'farm of the Britons or serfs'.

Wix. DEPN *Wica* 1086 (DB). 'The dwellings or specialised farm'. OE *wic* in a ME plural form *wikes*.

3. Names with multiple possible meanings

Ardleigh. DEPN *Erleiam* [sic] 1086 (DB), *Ardlega* 12th cent. Probably 'woodland clearing with a dwelling place'. OE *eard* + *lëah*. ODEPN suggests first element may be *eard*, or OE *erP*, 'ploughing'. PNEss suggests '*Earda's clearing'. OE pers. name + *lëah*.

Dovercourt. DEPN *Douorcortae* c. 1000, *Druurecurt* 1086 (DB). Possibly 'enclosed farmyard by the river Dover'. Celtic river-name (meaning 'the waters') + OE **cort(e)* (perhaps from Latin *cohors*, *cohorten*). ODEPN suggests **corte* may be cognate with OE *ceart*, 'a rough common'.

Fingringhoe. (i) DEPN *Fingringaho* 10th cent. Possibly 'hill-spur of the dwellers on the finger of land'. OE *finger* + *-inga* + *hãh*. (ii) ODEPN notes Fingringhoe is on Roman River, and suggests this may have been *Finger-ëa*, with *Fingringas* as 'the people on Roman River'. (ii) PNEss supports DEPN, stating place-name is a reference to the broad finger of land between Roman River and Geeton Creek.

Frinton-on-Sea. DEPN *Frientuna* 1086 (DB). 'Farmstead of a man called *Fritha', or 'protected farmstead'. OE pers. name (genitive –*n*) or OE **frithen* + *tUn*.

Manningtree. DEPN *Manitre* 1248. 'Many trees', or 'tree of a man called Manna'. OE *manig* or OE pers. name + *trēow*. ODEPN and PNEss concur on both possible meanings.

<u>Ramsey.</u> DEPN *Rameseia* 1086 (DB). Probably 'island where wild garlic grows'. OE *hramsa + ēg*. ODEPN concurs, but PNEss suggests 'raven's island'. OE *hr3/4fn + ēg*.

<u>Tendring.</u> DEPN *Tendringa* 1086 (DB). Possibly 'place where tinder or fuel is gathered'. OE *tynder + -ing*. ODEPN suggests two alternatives. *Tynder* may mean 'beacon'. Therefore, 'the people at the beacon'. Or *Tendringas*, 'the people from Tündern (Germany)'.

<u>Thorrington.</u> DEPN *Torinduna* [sic] 1086 (DB), *Torritona* 1202. Probably 'thorn-tree enclosure or farmstead. OE *thorn* or *thyrne + tūn*. ODEPN concurs, but PNEss suggests alternative 'Þuri's farm'. Anglo-Scandinavian pers. name + *-ing + tun*.

4. Other

<u>St. Osyth.</u> DEPN *Seynte Osithe* 1046. From the dedication of a priory here to St Ōsgyth, a 7th cent. princess. Early name *Cice* 1086 (DB) is from OE **cicc*, 'a bend'.