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

Jasmine Higgs

Introduction

The corpus listed details forty place-names from the county of Essex (see Appendix). As is the case for much of England, the dominant nomenclature is Old English but the corpus also exhibits other languages such as British, Latin, Old Norse, Old French, and Middle English. We can extract details about the history and languages of this area of Britain through examining place-names, which fossilise these details, first looking at the other languages of the corpus and then finishing with the dominant Old English names.

1. Languages

Pre-Anglo-Saxon

The Germanic migration to the British Isles results in British, a Celtic language, having limited influence on the place-names of North Essex. Evidence for a continued pre-English presence after the migration through place-names is sparse in comparison with the West of the country, being in Jackson's Area 1 with a low number of Celtic-derived names.[1] Nonetheless there is British influence in the corpus, including the river names Stour and Colne. Colne, an ancient pre-English river name of uncertain meaning,[2] features as an element in the Colne village names in the corpus, Wakes Colne, Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, and White Colne. These names are likely to have survived because they were known to a great many number of people and this gives the name a greater survival chance.[3] Indeed, topographical features that are prominent in the landscape means that the name for it in the native language would be continually used even if the language is replaced; but for that to happen there either needs to be frequent trade between the two peoples, or co-habiting an area.[4] Walton-on-the-Naze challenges the assumption that the Britons did not live with the Germanic tribes in the East. Walton-on-the-Naze means 'farmstead or village of the Britons', from OE *walh*, 'Briton'. Names featuring OE *walh* suggest that the settlement is recognisably British[5] and Gelling suggests that these names are evidence for cohabitation for a time between the Germanic tribes and the Britons.[6]

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[1] Kenneth Jackson, *Language and History in Early Britain: A Chronological Survey of the Brittonic Languages, First to Twelfth Centuries* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1953), p. 15
[2] David Mills, *A Dictionary of British Place Names* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
[3] Margaret Gelling, *Signposts to the Past: Place-names and the History of England* (Chichester: Phillimore, 2010), p. 92
[4] John Baker, *Cultural Transition in the Chilterns and Essex Regions 350-650AD* (University of Hertfordshire Press, 2006), p. 138
[5] Baker, *Cultural Transition in the Chilterns and Essex Regions 350-650AD,* p. 198
[6] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past*, p. 17

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Dovercourt's element *dŵr* 'the waters' describes its position on the coast and at the mouth of the Stour estuary; British elements typically describe topographical features.[7] Instances of Latin being borrowed into Old English nomenclature are rare:[8] though Latin was the administrative language of the Romans in Britain, it is possible that the Latin spoken by the Romano-British appears in Dovercourt. Dovercourt features the specific element *cort, from Latin *cohors* meaning 'piece cut off', which describes Dovercourt's geographical position.[9] Gelling notes that *corte is a single instance borrowing and is thus likely directly borrowed from Latin speakers.[10] Therefore, Dovercourt could be a continuum of the name used before the Germanic migration due to the use of both British and Latin.

Another unclear name is Colchester. Colchester's earliest recording is Camulodonum, Reaney suggests is Celtic for 'the fort of Camulos'.[11] Later names featuring the element 'colonia' include *veteranorum colonia*, indicating a Roman veteran's colony. Though the first element of Colchester could be a syncopated form of 'colonia', it is unlikely that the early names contribute to the Colneceastre in the 10th century and beyond. Whilst the *caster* element is a borrowing from Latin into Old English, the element 'colne' is most likely related to the River Colne nearby, like the Colne villages. The naming process appears to undergo metathesis, a transposition of letters within a word, with the entry Colneceastre going to Colenceaster and remaining so for several attestations possibly before the unstressed syllable (underlined) in Colenceaster disappears, leaving Colcestre (12th century) and other variations.

Layer Breton, Layder de la Haye, and Layer Marney, all have the same element with manorial affixes attached; however, 'layer' is contested, like Colchester. Whilst it is possible that it comes from ON *leirr*, 'clay'[12], the settlements are on superficial deposits of sand and gravel. Instead, a lost Celtic stream name Leire has been suggested.[13]

Old Norse

There had been Viking settlement in the British Isles from around 870AD, and in 886AD, the Treaty of Guthrum and Alfred was formalised, creating an area of Britain now under administrative control of the Danes,[14] "up on the Thames, and then up on the Lea, and along the Lea unto its source, then straight to Bedford, then up on the Ouse unto Watling Street".[15] This means that the corpus area was part of the Danelaw.

The names of the corpus suggest Norse contact in Essex. Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soke both feature common ON elements. Gelling notes that the name Kirby, 'a village with a church', are usually settlements that are appellative, describing their dominant feature, which in this case would have been a church. ON *þorp*, meaning 'secondary settlement', is difficult

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[7] Kenneth Cameron, *English Place-names* (London: B T Batsford, 1996), p. 36

[8] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past*, p. 81

[9] P H Reaney, *The Place-names of Essex* English Place-name Society 12 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), p. 377

[10] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past,* p. 82

[11] Reaney*, The Place-Names of Essex*, p. 367

[12] Harald Lindqvist, *Middle-English place-names of Scandinavian origin* (Uppsala:Uppsala University Press, 1912), p. 72

[13] Mills, *A Dictionary of British Place-names* (Oxford, 2011)

[14] Matthew Townsend, 'Contacts and Conflicts: Latin, Norse and French', in Mugglestone, Lynda [eds.], *The Oxford History of English* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), p. 94

[15] Wallace Notestein, and Albert White [eds.] *Source Problems in English History* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1915) https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/guthrum.asp

to distinguish from it's cognate, OE *throp*[16]; however, the closeness to the other ON name in the corpus means that it is probable that Thorpe-le-Soken is Norse in origin.

Supporting this is an OE name, Harwich (OE *here-wīc*, 'army camp'); though there is no Norse element, indicating that the Vikings did not name the settlement themselves, historical context could suggest that this area was a Viking army base due to the area being close to warring Wessex, supporting the notion of Scandinavian influence in the area, but little widespread settlement.

Norman French and French

Though the Norman French dialect had a profound impact on the English language as a whole,[17] this affect was not seen widespread across place-names due to being the language of the elite[18] resulting in little bilingualism and few complete Old English name replacements, but resulting in a change in phonology.[19]

There is only one instance of all elements in a place-name being of French origin in the corpus, and that is Beaumont-cum-Moze, being OFr *bel* + *mont*, 'beautiful hill'. The site's first recorded name was *Fulepet* in the 1086 Doomsday Book, meaning 'foul pit'. Thus the site undergoes a re-naming in French after the Conquest; many of the names of Norman origin in England are "deliberate creations of the builders… not spontaneous descriptions of the site that arose in natural speech"[20] and reflect aspiration aspects of French naming practise in England.

Gelling notes that the Normans made "violent changes… to render English names pronounceable".[21] Phonetic change over time can be seen in the earliest recordings of place-names. Elmstead Market's earliest recordings suggest influence from a Norman scribe: both Elmesteda and Almestedā are early recording in 1086 from the Norman scribe written Doomsday Book, and Aunestede in 1248, with *alm-* and *aun-* being due to such influence.

1. Old English

1. I Topography.

Woodland

Gelling explains that there is "relationship between what is plentiful in the landscape and the objects selected as defining features".[22] There are diverse woodland names, suggesting that these were prominent features of the landscape when being named.
The wood-related names are clustered together (fig. 'woodland related names'). Examples include Mistley (mistletoe), Oakley (oak), Weeley (?willow), Little and Great Bromley (broom), Little and Great Bentley (bent grass), Elmstead Market (elm), and Boxsted (beech). Ardleigh, Bromley, Bentley, Mistley, Oakley contain *lēah*, 'woodland, woodland clearing', but two, Boxsted and Elmstead Market, have OE *stede* 'place'.
Three names stand out with the elements OE *feld* and OE *leah*, Bradfield, OE *brād* 'broad' + *feld* 'open land', and Ardleigh and Bromley, suggesting patches of less dense woodland.

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[16] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past,* p. 229
[17] Townsend, 'Contacts and Conflicts: Latin, Norse and French', in *The Oxford History of English*, p. 95
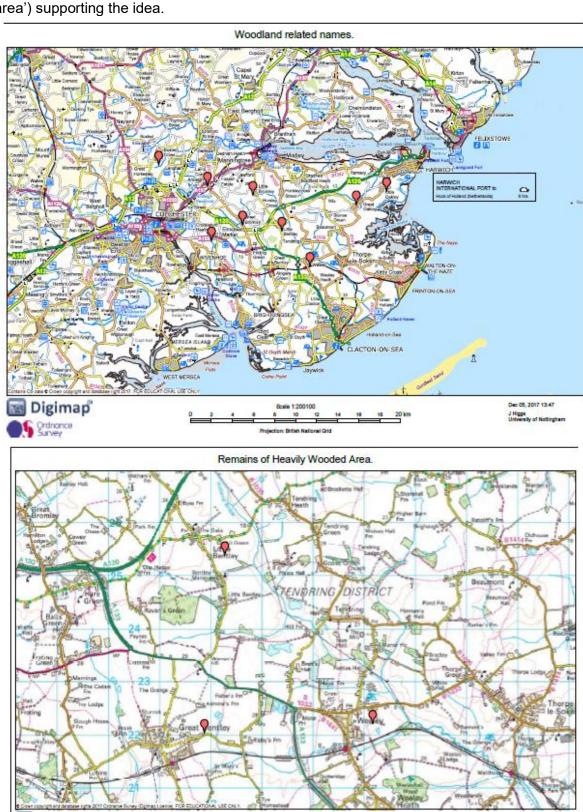[18] Dick Leith, *A Social History of English* (London: Routledge, 2005), p. 22
[19] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past,* p. 238
[20] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past,* p. 239
[21] Gelling, *Signposts to the Past,* p. 242
[22] Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, *Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford: Shuan Tyas, 2000), p. 1

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These tree-related names suggest that the area was once heavily wooded; the maps can show us that the patches of woodland are close together (fig. 'remains of heavily wooded area') supporting the idea.
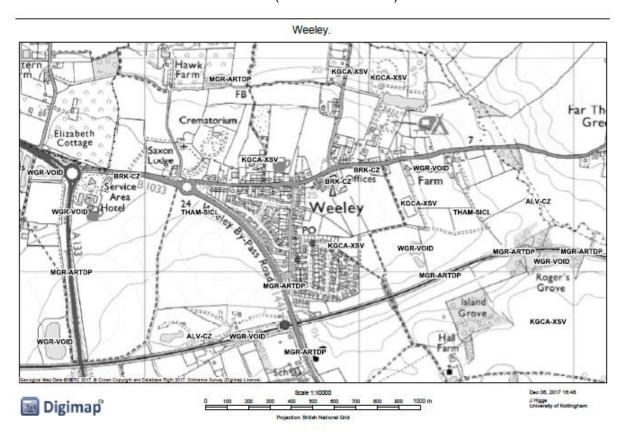

Woodland related names.

Remains of Heavily Wooded Area.

Water

The area of the corpus has two major rivers, the Colne and the Stour, as well as an eastern coast with the Stour estuary, which is the tidal mouth of the river Stour. There are names in the corpus that reflect the water's dominance of the area.

Several names such as Dovercourt, Earls Colne, Wakes Colne, and Colne Engayne, feature the river names Colne and Dŵr, demonstrating their proximity to the river. Wrabness and Walton-on-the-Naze feature the element OE *ness*, 'headland', where it is used for low-lying land jutting into water or marsh, common in Essex.[23]

Marsh or wetland is also indicated through the names. Element OE *ēg*, 'island', features in two names and the names suggest that *ēg* is not 'island' in the modern sense. Though Brightlingsea is surrounded by water, the OE *ēg* in Ramsey describes a drier area surrounded by wet ground as mentioned by Gelling,[24] not an island surrounded by water. A marsh is indicated in the name Lamarsh (OE loam + marsh).

Furthermore, wet ground is indicated through the name Weeley. Reaney in his EPNS volume suggests that Weeley has the element OE *wīh* or *wēoh,* 'idol'.[25] However, Weeley (fig.'Weeley') is situated on a superficial deposit mixture of silt, clay and sand, silt being a material carried by running water. Willows enjoy wet ground, and thus willow would be a feasible name.

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[23] Gelling and Cole, *The Landscape of Place-names*, p. 196
[24] Gelling and Cole, *The Landscape of Place-names*, p. 37
[25] Reaney, *Essex*, p. 331

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Hills

Though it is clear through British nomenclature that the Anglo-Saxons had an extensive vocabulary around hills and valleys, the corpus does not exhibit a wide range.
Wivenhoe, featuring OE *hōh,* describes a particular type of hill shape that has a slow incline peaking then drops concave*. Hōh* is one of the names that, according to Gelling, are used persistently for a specific shape of hill; however, in East Anglia, *hōh* is used to describe any spur of land, which explains Wivenhoe's lack of conformity.[26] Another possible hill name is Coggeshall. Coggeshall, possibly 'nook of a man called *Cocc or *Cogg', alternatively the first element may be OE *cocc* 'cock, woodcock', **cocc* 'heap, hillock', or **cogg* 'cog wheel'. All of these possibilities except the personal name could suggest a description of the landscape surrounding the settlement, though it is notable that Coggeshall is not situated on a sharp incline.

The Norman French influence on the hill names for Essex can be seen in the names Mount Bures and Beaumont-cum-Moze, both featuring 'mount', with Mount Bures being from Middle English borrowed from French, ME *munt,* 'at the mount or hill', and Beaumont-cum-Moze from OFr *mont*, demonstrating the Norman influence on topographical naming.

Vegetation and farming

The system of the hundreds, first recorded by Edmund I, was an area of land that can have 100 households reliant on it, whilst also having farming, administrative and punishment responsibilities.[27] This appears to be the case for the nomenclature of the chosen area; the number of *tūn* names suggests that farming was one of the dominant industries. For example, names featuring the element *tūn*, 'farmstead', are Alphamstone, Frinton-on-Sea, Clacton-on-Sea, and Walton-on-the-Naze, with Alphamstone, Clacton-on-Sea, and Walton-on-the-Naze all featuring a personal name element, suggesting that particular people owned such farms. Nonetheless, Frinton-on-Sea's early attestation *Frientuna* causes some ambiguity: either 'farmstead of a man called **Fritha*' or 'protected farmstead' from OE **frithen*, 'protect'.
Another indication that farming was prevalent in the area is the use of more specific elements such as OE *hramsa* in Ramey, 'island where wild garlic grows', and OE *ersc* 'ploughed field' in Pebmarsh, 'ploughed field of a man called Pybba'. There are also more generic elements such as OE **tiege* 'enclosure' in Marks Tey, and *wīc*, 'specialised farm', used to form the simplex name Wix.

Habitative, group, and personal names

It can be noted in the corpus that from the abundance of names featuring personal names, personal names have played a sizeable part Britain's nomenclature. All of the names in this corpus are Old English, and the names that we can tell feature personal names almost

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[26] Gelling and Cole, *The Landscape of Place-names*, p. 186
[27] Sean Miller, 'Hundreds' in [eds.] John Blair, Simon Keynes, Michael Lapidge, Donald Scragg, *The Wiley Balckwell Encylcopedia of Anglo-Saxon England* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014), p. 249

certainly are Alphamstone, Braintree, Brightlingsea, Clacton-on-Sea, Dedham, Lamarsh, Lawford, Pebmarsh, Wivenhoe, and Wrabness. Further possible names with personal name elements include Alresford, Coggeshall, Frinton-on-Sea, and Manningtree. Some of these names are duethematic names (two themes in the name), such as Ælfhelm (Alphamstone) and Beorhtric (Brightlingsea), whilst others are monothematic, like *Clacc (Clacton), or monothematic with added final vowel such as the possible Fritha (Frinton-on-Sea). These place-names also demonstrate the fossilised Old English genitive case (weak gen. –n), such as Wivenhoe and the early attestations of Pebmarsh, *Benenhers*. Wievnhoe features 'Wīfe', either a woman's personal name or indicating notable female settlers; furthermore, St Osyth was named after the priory dedicated to a sainted princess Osgyth in the 7th century.

Two names, Langham and Walton-on-the-Naze, are group names, being 'homestead of the family or followers of a man called *Lahha', OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *hām*, and 'farmstead or village of the Britons', from OE *walh* (genitive plural *wala*) + *tūn.*

There are several instances of additional suffixes in the corpus that denote ownership of land or of a settlement. These are not necessarily English in origin, instead denoting the Anglo-Norman families that dominated land ownership after the Norman Conquest; examples include Marks Tey, Layer Breton, Layer de la Hay, Layer Marney, Colne Engayne, and Wakes Colne. Most of these are familial affixes, but the 'earls' in Earls Colne related to the rank of the owners, the Earls of Oxford, and one hide of land in White Colne was held by Dimidius Blancus, Dimidus Blancus being contracted to 'miblanc' in Colne Miblanc in 1225 and then translated into English as 'white', appearing in the name by 1272.[28]

Administration, infrastructure, and boundary markers

The corpus demonstrates evidence of administration throughout the area. The OE *cæster* indicates a Roman settlement, and they are likely to have remaining structures. Colchester's extensive Roman buildings and remains would have been a suitable administration site and archaeology confirms that the Germanic tribes did indeed settle early in the town and in the surrounding areas, with graves between the 5th and 7th centuries.[29] Further structures referred to includes Layer Breton: an early name, *stokkeneleire*, comes from OE *stoccen*, 'made of logs', and indicates a wooden structure in the area. River crossings are suggested through the names Alresford, Lawford and Fordham, containing the OE *ford*, 'ford or river crossing'.

Administration and area organisation can also be found in the corpus. Colchester's previous attestation, c*olonia veteranorum* suggest that there was a Roman military colony in the town. Later administration and land ownership is shown through the affixes of the names Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soken. These names contain 'soken' from OE *sōcn*, 'area of particular jurisdiction', owned by the Chapter of St Paul's in London[30] and this additional element appears to be a recorded marker for the places since the 14th century.

Possible boundary markers or meeting places are shown through Braintree (tree of a man called *Branca*) and uncertain Manningtree (tree of a man called *Manna*). Manningtree is positioned at a narrowing in the River Stour, so would be a practical meeting place, whilst Braintree is positioned along the Roman road Stane Street.

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[28] P H Reaney, *The Place-names of Essex* English Place-name Society 12 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), p. 150

[29] Baker, *Cultural Transition in the Chilterns and Essex Regions 350-650AD,* p. 119

[30] Chris Thornton, *Victoria County History, Essex XII (work in progress)- Landownership: the Sokens* (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2007), p. 2

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2. Conclusion

The study of the place-names of North-East Essex can be hugely informative and a useful approach in the historical study of England. Place-names fossilise vocabulary of the every day speech of the people living in the British Isles that would otherwise not survive due to not being recorded in written documents, especially personal names found in the fore mentioned corpus such as *Ægil* and *Branca*. It also allows us to learn about how the Anglo-Saxons and others thought about their landscape like the extensive and precise-meaning water-names in this corpus. The corpus also demonstrates the extent of language contact in an area, and contributes to the discussion around cohabitation of Britons and the Germanic migrants. Therefore, it is clear that the study of place-names is an exceptionally valuable discipline in learning about the history and language of Britain.

Appendix

All are David Mills, A Dictionary of English Place-names Names (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)*, except where interpretations differ; different interpretations are cited individually throughout the text.*

Alphamstone – *Alfelmestuna* 1086 (*DB*). 'Farmstead or village of a man called Ælfhelm'. OE pers. name + *tūn.*

Alresford- *Ælesford c.*1000, *Eilesforda* 1086 (*DB*). 'Ford of the eel, or of a man called **Ægel*'. OE *ǣl* or OE pers. name + *ford.*

Ardleigh- *Erleiam* [*sic*] 1086 (*DB*), *Ardlega* 12th cent. Probably 'woodland clearing with a dwelling place'. OE *eard* + *lēah.*

Beaumont-cum-Moze- 'beautiful hill', OFrench *beau* or *bel* + *mont.* Beaumont Essex. *Fulepet* 1086 (*DB*), *Bealmont* 12th cent. The earlier name means 'foul pit' from OE *fūl* + *pytt.*

Boxted- Bocchesteda, Bucchesteda DB, Bochesteda c1130 bodl, Bokestede 1180 P. Looks like OE *bōc*- *hāmstede* 'homestead among the beeches' [Erkwell, p. 56]

Bradfield-'broad stretch of open land', OE *brād* + *feld*; examples include: Bradfield Essex. *Bradefelda* 1086 (*DB*).

Braintree- *Branchetreu* 1086 (*DB*). 'Tree of a man called *Branca'. OE pers. name + *trēow.* The river-name Brain is a back-formation from the place name

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

Clacton- *Claccingtune c.*1000, *Clachintune* 1086 (*DB*). 'estate associated with a man called *Clacc'. OE pers. name + *-ing-* + *tūn.*

Coggeshall- *Kockeshale c.*1060, *Cogheshala* 1086 (*DB*). Possibly 'nook of a man called *Cocc or *Cogg'. OE pers. name +*halh.* Alternatively the first element may be OE *cocc* 'cock, woodcock', **cocc* 'heap, hillock', or **cogg* 'cog wheel', also perhaps 'hill'.

Colchester- *Colneceastre* early 10th cent., *Colecestra* 1086 (*DB*). 'Roman town on the River Colne'. Ancient pre-English river-name + OE *ceaster.* Alternatively the first element may be a reduced form of Latin *colonia*' Roman colony for retired legionaries' (the Romano-British name of Colchester being *Colonia Camulodunum*, this last being a British name meaning 'fort of the Celtic war-god Camulos').

Colne Engaine- *Colne c.*950, *Colun* 1086 (*DB*), *Colum Engayne* 1254, *Erlescolne* 1358, *Colne Wake* 1375, *Whyte Colne* 1285. '(Places by) the River Colne', an ancient pre-English river-name of uncertain meaning. Manorial additions from possession in medieval times by the *Engayne* family, the *Earls* of Oxford, and the *Wake* family. White Colne was held by Dimidius *Blancus* in 1086 (*DB*).

Dedham- *Delham* [*sic*] 1086 (*DB*), *Dedham* 1166. 'Homestead or village of a man called *Dydda'. OE pers. name + *hām.* 4262419 ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES Q33220 AUT 17-18

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Dovercourt- *Douorcortae c.*1000, *Druurecurt* [*sic*] 1086 (*DB*). Possibly 'enclosed farmyard by the river called *Dover*'. Celtic river-name (meaning 'the waters') + OE **cort*(*e*) (perhaps from Latin *cohors*, *cohortem*).

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

Fordham- 'homestead or enclosure by a ford', OE *ford* + *hām* or *hamm*: Fordham Essex. *Fordeham* 1086 (*DB*).

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

Great Bromley- usually 'woodland clearing where broom grows', OE *brōm* + B: Great & Bromley, Little Essex. *Brumleiam* 1086 (*DB*).

Harwich- *Herewic* 1248. 'Army camp', probably that of a Viking army. OE *here-wīc*.

Kirby-le-Soken- a common name in the Midlands and North, usually 'village with a church', OScand. *kirkju-bý*; examples include: Kirby le SokenEssex. *Kyrkebi* 1181, *Kirkeby in the Sokne* 1385. Affix is from OE *sōcn* 'district with special jurisdiction'.

Lamarsh - *Lamers* 1086 (*DB*). 'Loam marsh'. OE *lām* + *mersc*.

Langham- usually 'long homestead or enclosure', OE *lang* + *hām* or *hamm*: However the following has a different origin: Langham Essex. *Laingaham* 1086 (*DB*). Possibly 'homestead of the family or followers of a man called **Lahha*'. OE pers. name + *-inga-* + *hām*.

Lawford- probably 'ford of a man called **Lealla*', OE pers. name + *ford*: Lawford Essex. *Lalleford* 1045, *Laleforda* 1086 (*DB*).

Layer Breton, Layer de la Haye & Layer Marney- *Legra* 1086 (*DB*), *Leyre Bretoun* 1254, *Legra de Haya* 1236, *Leyre Marini* 1254. Probably originally a river-name *Leire* of Celtic origin. Distinguishing affixes from early possession by families called *Breton*, *de Haia* and *de Marinni*.

Little and Great Horkesley- *Horchesleia c.*1130. 'Woodland clearing with a shelter', or 'dirty, muddy clearing'. OE **horc* or *horsc* + *lēah*.

Little Bentley- a common name, 'woodland clearing where bent-grass grows', OE *beonet* + *lēah*; examples include: Bentley, Great & Bentley, Little Essex. *Benetleye c.*1040, *Benetlea* 1086 (*DB*).

Manningtree- *Manitre* 1248. 'Many trees', or 'tree of a man called Manna'. OE *manig* or OE pers. name + *trēow*.

Marks Tey- *Tygan c.*950, *Teia* 1086 (*DB*), *Merkys Teye* 1475. From OE **tīege* 'enclosure'. Manorial affix from possession by the *de Merck* family.

Mistley- *Mitteslea* [*sic*] 1086 (*DB*), *Misteleg* 1225. Probably 'wood or clearing where mistletoe grows'. OE *mistel* + *lēah*. 4262419 ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES Q33220 AUT 17-18

Mount Bures- *Bure, Bura* 1086 (*DB*), *Buras c.*1180, *Bures atte Munte* 1328. 'The dwellings or cottages'. OE *būr* (plural *būras*). Distinguishing affixes from the dedication of the church and from ME *munt* ('at the mount or hill').

Oakley, Great and Little- a fairly common name, 'wood or clearing where oak-trees grow', OE *āc* + *lēah*; examples include: Oakley Beds. *Achelai* 1086 (*DB*). Oakley Poole. *Ocle* 1327. Oakley, Great Essex. *Accleia* 1086 (*DB*).

Pebmarsh- *Pebeners* 1086 (*DB*). 'Ploughed field of a man called Pybba'. OE pers. name (genitive *-n*) + *ersc*.

Ramsey- probably 'island where wild garlic grows', OE *hramsa* + *ēg*: Ramsey Cambs. *Hramesege c.*1000. RamseyEssex. *Rameseia* 1086 (*DB*).

St Osyth- *Seynte Osithe* 1046. From the dedication of a priory here to St Ōsgȳth, a 7th-cent. princess. Its early name *Cice*1086 (*DB*) is from OE *cicc 'a bend'.

Thorpe-le-Soken- a common name, from OScand. *thorp* 'outlying farmstead or hamlet, dependent secondary settlement'. Thorpe-le-Soken Essex. *Torp* 12th cent., *Thorpe in ye Sooken* 1612. Affix is from OE *sōcn* 'district with special jurisdiction'.

Walton-on-the-Naze- a common name, often 'farmstead or village of the Britons', from OE *walh* (genitive plural *wala*) + *tūn*; examples include: Walton on the Naze Essex. *Walentonie*11th cent., *Walton at the Naase* 1545. Affix means 'on the promontory', from OE *næss*.

Weeley - *Wilgelea* 11th cent., *Wileia* 1086 (*DB*). 'Wood or clearing where willow-trees grow'. OE *wilig + *lēah*.

Wivenhoe- *Wiunhov* 1086 (*DB*). 'Hill-spur of a woman called *Wīfe'. OE pers. name (genitive *-n*) + *hōh*.

Wix- *Wica* 1086 (*DB*). 'The dwellings or specialized farm'. OE *wīc* in a ME plural form *wikes*.

Wrabness- *Wrabenasa* 1086 (*DB*). Possibly 'headland of a man called *Wrabba'. OE pers. name + *næss*. 4262419 ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES Q33220 AUT 17-18

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Illustrations

All maps throughout the project are created with http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/.