Grimsby and Cleethorpes Place-Names

by

Richard Coates

Nottingham
The English Place-Name Society
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Grimsby and Cleethorpes
Place-Names

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To the memory of my parents and to the good people of the north-eastern corner of Lincolnshire

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Contents

Introduction 1
Picture credits 9
Linguistic notes 10
Sources and abbreviations 12
How to read the entries 14
The place-names 17
Select bibliography 161
About the author 167
Introduction

This is one more of a new kind of book from the English Place-Name Society (EPNS). It deals with the main place-names found on modern maps of some of England’s larger towns and cities, and also includes some lost or forgotten older names which were once locally important.

The book covers the principal districts (officially or unofficially recognized), a few striking monuments and the largest open spaces in Grimsby, Cleethorpes and the inner commuter belt around them.

Lincolnshire, like other counties where Scandinavian influence was strong, was divided administratively into groups of parishes known as wapentakes, corresponding to hundreds in other parts of England. The book covers the whole of Bradley wapentake (in which Grimsby sat) and parts of adjacent Haverstoe and Yarborough wapentakes. It also covers (though not by design) the entire modern unitary authority of North-East Lincolnshire, and a little beyond its boundaries to the north-west and west, and to the south-east. If the extent of the coverage seems arbitrary, it is: it defines a subjective area that my childhood experiences led me to think of as “the Grimsby area” or “home”. The one semi-objective factor taken into account is that the industrial zone of the Humber Bank as far west as Killingholme is regarded as part of that area. More surprising to readers may be the inclusion of selected place-names from the opposite bank of the Humber. There is not much traffic directly across the Humber at this point (many Grimbarians will never have been there, and I have only been twice), but the Holderness area of the East Riding of Yorkshire has at various times been a trading competitor, and helped to shape the development of Grimsby in the Middle Ages; the two banks have shared in the defence of the realm through the positioning of the Humber forts; and of course the Yorkshire coast is ever-present on the
skyline viewed from the promenade at Cleethorpes. In that sense, the southern rim of Holderness in the East Riding is part of “home”.

Grimsby – Great Grimsby – was created a chartered borough in the North Riding of Lindsey, Lincolnshire, by king John in 1201. It was a settlement in coastal marshland alongside the navigable channels known as the (Old) Haven and the West Haven, close to the mouth of the river Freshney (which was eventually largely diverted into the West Haven), with a narrow access to the rest of Lincolnshire along the dry land of the line of the present Bargate. Its periphery was marked by a number of marshland islands and some enormous hills, about which much remains to be discovered and never will be, because they have been levelled to supply building material and roadmetal. They were undoubtedly natural landscape features of glacially deposited sand and gravel, but it is not known to what extent they were artificially modified (as Toot Hill and Cun Hu were at least to some degree, both being topped by a tumulus containing burials). They are shown on W. Smith’s map, published in 1825 as the frontispiece to George Oliver’s *Monumental antiquities*. One of these mounds, Toot Hill, was of very considerable size, and Cun Hu not inconsiderable. If they still existed, archaeologists might have viewed Grimsby as in the same league as Avebury in Wiltshire. Compare the dimensions recorded in the nineteenth century of three of the Grimsby hills (Oliver, repeated by Shaw and others) with those of Avebury’s Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric artificial mound in Europe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mound</th>
<th>Perpendicular height</th>
<th>Maximum slope length</th>
<th>Maximum base diameter</th>
<th>Base circumference</th>
<th>Base circumference</th>
<th>Ground coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silbury</td>
<td>130 feet</td>
<td>316 feet</td>
<td>548 feet</td>
<td>2027 feet</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toot(e) Hill</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
<td>270 feet</td>
<td></td>
<td>over 2000 feet</td>
<td>nearly 6 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cun Hu</td>
<td>130 feet</td>
<td>450 feet</td>
<td></td>
<td>[elongated]</td>
<td>over 2 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holme Hill</td>
<td>(entirely natural?, but associated with a feature which contained a burial)^1</td>
<td>180 feet</td>
<td>[elongated]</td>
<td>[elongated]</td>
<td>12 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Smaller hills included Sand Hill, Abbey Hill and the three low but broad Ellyll Hills, all now vanished or built over.

Smith’s map (1825), rotated to show north at the top. Cun Hu Hill and Toote Hill are in or by the marsh at the left. The Ellyll Hills are like stepping stones across the marsh just to the south. Holm(e) Hill is the long hill alongside the “Old Haven” on the right. The site of the town of

University Press, pp. 213-226, at p. 215. Some other low mounds in the marshland east of Holme Hill may have been salterns.
Grimsby is the large almost-island in the centre; but other details on the map are inaccurate, including an invented “Old Haven”. The real Old Haven is marked as West Haven. The map is shown unrotated on p. 166.

The Haven consisted of two linked tidal creeks, the (Old) Haven and the West Haven which flowed into it. The Haven divided the West Marsh from the East Marsh, and it is where Grimsby’s maritime activity took place from time immemorial. Various solutions to the problem of silting-up were put in hand over the centuries, culminating, as mentioned above, in the diversion of the main flow of the river Freshney into the West Haven, and thence into the Old Haven at River Head. Parts of the Marsh have been drained, and the town has expanded onto the East and West Marshes to provide housing to service the new docks. The town has also expanded over the land drained by the original Haven, south of the town centre and Simwhite Bridge, where some houses, e.g. in Ainslie Street, needed underpinning in the mid to late 20thC because of subsidence.

The essence of Grimsby’s inhospitable geography lies in the relation between the oldest fishing community, whose location has not been demonstrated archaeologically but must have been at the landward end of the Haven, and the farming communities on terra firma, represented in the first instance by what became Nuns’ Farm at the southern end of Bargate, the site of the University College in 2018. This was out beyond at least some of the common fields and meadows. The physical link is shown by what looks like an incomplete causeway on Smith’s rather “speculative” map, which shows the Old Haven in the wrong place, on the wrong side of Holme Hill. This link is geologically a rather low peninsula of Till or Boulder Clay protruding into the marshes which allowed the fulcrum of the farming-and-fishing system to develop close to where Till meets Humber silt, in the region of St

James' parish church (now Grimsby Minster), the Bull Ring and the Old Market Place: the historic and present Top Town.

Grimsby survived medieval competition from Hull and Ravenser, and especially from the planned and planted townlet Ravenser Odd, on the Yorkshire side of the Humber. It continued in a desultory way in its chartered state, living from farming, fishing and an element of overseas trade, until its built-up area expanded massively as a consequence of the development of its freight and fish docks in the mid-19thC. The boundaries of Grimsby borough (county borough from 1891) were extended to include Humber marshland reclaimed for the building of the new docks in 1849-52, Wellow and the majority of the parish of Clee-with-Weelsby (within which was developed New Clee) by the Grimsby Extension Act of 1889, the majority of the parishes of Little Coates and Scartho in 1927, and the parish of Great Coates in 1968. In 1974, the county borough was abolished and Great Grimsby was reconstituted by the Local Government Act 1972, within the same boundaries, as the non-metropolitan district of Grimsby in the new county of Humberside. In 1979 this non-metropolitan district reverted to the ancient name of Great Grimsby (which has also been the name of the corresponding parliamentary constituency for much of its existence). When Humberside was in its turn abolished in 1996, the former area of the Great Grimsby district merged with that of Cleethorpes to form the core of the unitary authority of North East Lincolnshire, which is still the state of affairs in 2018.

It will become clear even on a casual reading of books about Grimsby that, whatever the formal arrangements for its governance

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and development were, much depended on the enterprise, opportunism and cooperation of its major landowners. Four families owned much of the land: the earls of Yarborough (the Pelham family), seated at Brocklesby Park, owning 46% of the borough in the mid-19thC; the Heneage family of Hainton, near Market Rasen (who had acquired the lands of Wellow Abbey at the Dissolution), 17%; the Thorolds of Weelsby Hall; and George Tennyson (1750-1835) of Tealby, with land especially in Scartho. Some role was also played by the Tomlines of Riby Hall; by the freemen of the borough in their complex relations with the corporation; and in due course by the directors of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, who included Lord Yarborough. This cast of characters will appear regularly in the present book.

Outside Grimsby town, the only inhabited places represented in this book are a significant arc of former farming villages such as Healing, Laceby, Barnoldby le Beck and Holton le Clay, which have all been sucked in, to a greater or lesser extent, to a dormitory belt for Grimsby. The only exceptions to this pattern are the small fishing community in the parish of Clee that became the late 19thC resort town of Cleethorpes, and the Humberside parishes which have become industrial hubs in their own right, namely Immingham and Killingholme.

The book is arranged alphabetically. Explanations of the origins of the names are presented wherever possible, and the documentary evidence which permits these explanations is set out. For continuity with the EPNS county survey volumes, the places whose names are discussed are assigned to the historic parish(es) within whose boundaries they are situated, not necessarily to the modern civil parish in which they sit at present. Places are assigned to the parishes to which they belonged in 1830, and any later changes are noted. They are either said to be parishes themselves, or to be in parishes, the great majority in Lincolnshire. This should not be taken as implying that there is an exact fit between medieval and modern administrative boundaries.
The overwhelming majority of unpublished documents cited in evidence for the history of a name are in The National Archives (TNA), formerly known as The Public Record Office (PRO), now at Kew in south-west London, or in record offices in Lincoln and Grimsby. If there is no indication of where an unpublished document can be found, it can be assumed it is in TNA. PRO/TNA and various national and local record societies have edited, printed and published many such documents. Some series of these have begun to appear online in pdf format (for example Patent Rolls in TNA) or in searchable database format (for example Feet of Fines, also in TNA).

In the case of many older published documents, full publication details can be found in the introductions to the seven volumes which have appeared so far of EPNS’s Lincolnshire survey (1985–2010), edited by Kenneth Cameron and his collaborators. The bare names of such documents have to suffice for the present work, as in the EPNS’s own Survey web-site at https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/.

Important regional documents have been published by Lincoln Record Society, and any such new publications relevant to place-name history can be found in the reference-list at the end of the book. Other new evidence appears from time to time in articles in such regional journals as Midland History, Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and Lincolnshire Past and Present.

This material, mainly taken from Cameron’s EPNS survey but reduced in amount, sometimes reordered into related groups of spellings, and occasionally corrected, is supplemented by a small amount of new evidence collected by the author from a range of sources, including local historical works, published medieval material and manuscripts in various record offices and their online catalogues.\footnote{\textit{Domesday Book} means Great Domesday Book (the Exchequer Domesday).} Professional historians and linguists should be aware that not every spelling taken from a catalogue has been checked against the original document, but all such spellings have been approached with reasonable scepticism.\footnote{Professional historians and linguists should be aware that not every spelling taken from a catalogue has been checked against the original document, but all such spellings have been approached with reasonable scepticism.}
Where the EPNS volumes and the national dictionaries give no catalogue reference or shelfmark, none appears here; in the few instances where I have collected the information, a full reference is given. Interpretations of the original meanings of names found in works by the older linguistic and historical authorities have been debated or updated where necessary in the light of new findings and new thinking. Interesting modern names not featuring in the EPNS survey volumes often receive treatment which is fuller than that of older and more difficult names which have long been well understood.

Access to and use of the Lincolnshire material of the EPNS was facilitated by use of the research web-site of Digital Exposure of English Place-names (DEEP), funded by JISC, through the good offices of Dr Jayne Carroll of the EPNS and the University of Nottingham, and to the DEEP public web-site The Historical Gazetteer of England’s Place-Names, http://www.placenames.org.uk/. The EPNS’s public web-presence is at https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/ (the Survey web-page) and https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns/ (the Society web-page).

All web-sites mentioned in references were live when accessed at various dates between November 2017 and June 2018; the links were finally re-checked on 27 November 2019.

Richard Coates
Shirehampton and Stoke Gifford, Gloucestershire
Images are photos taken by the author, or are believed to be in the public domain, except where stated otherwise in captions.

The black and white image on p. 23 derives from a painting of mayor Frank Barrett by Thomas Benjamin Kennington (1856–1916) which hangs in Grimsby Town Hall.

A plan of the town, harbour and lordship of Great Grimsby, surveyed by W. Smith (?1820), engraving by G. Parker (1893), in Anderson Bates’ book A gossip about old Grimsby (1893). Downloaded from https://www.flickr.cm/photos/britishlibrary/11221736093/sizes/c/
Linguistic notes

Languages
During the Roman period, the language of the mass of people was British Celtic, whilst Latin was in use for administrative and other official purposes. British Celtic developed into Brittonic (about 400–650 C.E., the years of the main Anglo-Saxon advance from east to west), and thence into Welsh and Cornish. Evidence for British/Brittonic in the area covered by this book is restricted to the river-name Humber and the base of the district-name Lindsey. English is generally described as falling into three main periods: Old English in the Anglo-Saxon period, Middle English between the Norman conquest and the start of the Tudor period, and Modern English since then. The language of the period from about 1485–1700 is called Early Modern English. As a result of settlement from Scandinavia from the later 9thC onwards, Old Scandinavian (Old Danish) was spoken in this area, and has had an important impact on dialect vocabulary, pronunciation, place-names and the personal (given) names represented in place-names.

Technical terms of grammar
Old English nouns, including names, could be inflected; that is, they took on different forms according to their grammatical function in particular sentences. The basic form, the nominative case, is the one used regularly in mentions of Old English words in this book. Reference is sometimes made to the dative case, which is used after certain prepositions such as in and mid ‘with’, and to the genitive case, which generally indicates possession. So a male given name, Æðelmōd, could appear in the dative case as (mid) Æðelmōde and in the genitive case as Æðelmōdes. Similar considerations apply to Old Scandinavian, where the personal name rendered as Grim in the Middle English poem Havelok represents an Old Scandinavian name which might appear in the classical form of that language as Grímr (nominative), Grími (dative), Gríms (genitive).
Specialists should note that Scandinavian name- and word-forms are given with a final hyphen (as with *Leif-* and *bý*- ) to indicate that the cited form is a stem-form, used because there is little or no evidence for a word-final nominative case-inflection *-r* in Scandinavian usage in England.

**Special characters**
The Old English and Old Scandinavian spelling systems included the following unfamiliar characters:

æ, known as æsc (pronounced “ash”), was a sound rather like the a in modern cat

þ, known as thorn, represents the voiceless “th” sound in that word, and also its voiced counterpart in rather; the symbol ð is used in an equivalent way

Written Old English distinguished long vowels from short ones by (inconsistently) placing a macron or other accent over them; here, long vowels are consistently marked by a macron, thus: ð. Long vowels in Old Scandinavian are traditionally indicated by an acute accent, thus: ó.

Pronunciations are sometimes indicated using the International Phonetic Alphabet ([https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/ipa-chart](https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/ipa-chart); simplified at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English)), but an approximation using conventional English-type spellings is also attempted.

Abbreviations within documents are expanded as shown here: al. >> al[ias].
Sources and abbreviations

Documentary sources: for information about all published and unpublished documentary sources, which are mostly given in this book in a terse form if not a full abbreviation, see the introductory material in volumes 1, 2, 4 and 5 of Kenneth Cameron’s *The place-names of Lincolnshire*, Survey of English Place-Names vols 58, 64/65, 71 and 73 (Nottingham: English Place-Name Society, 1985, 1991, 1996 and 1997). Many of the documents have been published by Lincoln Record Society, and for some of their more recent publications see the end of the reference-list in this book. Unpublished documents are referred to in *italics*. The collection of spellings is almost entirely due to Professor Cameron and his collaborators; I have added a few here and there, for which a specific reference is given. Cameron’s own collection is huge, and I have slightly reduced the number of spellings mentioned in his books to those which illustrate the main lines of a name’s development and those illustrating points of special interest.

Documents are generally identified by their type (e.g. Patent Rolls, *Terrier*) rather than as a specific manuscript, except as noted above. They can be found in the following archives:

British Museum, now in the British Library, St Pancras, London

LAO = Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln

NELA = North East Lincolnshire Archive, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, previously known as South Humberside Area Record Office
TNA = The National Archives, Bessant Drive, Kew, Richmond, previously known as the Public Record Office (PRO)

The following deposits or collections of original documents mentioned at various places in the book are to be found in:

British Museum: *Harley*

LAO: *Bishop’s Transcripts, Brace, Cragg, Emeris, Foster Library, Haigh, Heneage, Higgins, Hill, Holywell, Lincoln Co-operative Society, Maddison, Massingberd, Massingberd Mundy, Miscellaneous donations, Nelthorpe, North Willingham, Pretyman Tomline, Radcliffe, Tennyson d’Eyncourt, Thorold, Yarborough;* unpublished *inventories* and *terriers* referred to are generally also in LAO

NELA: *Grimsby Bailiffs’ and Mayors’ court books, Grimsby Chamberlains’ Rolls, Grimsby court leet verdicts, Grimsby court rolls* (volume numbers given in small roman numerals) and a range of other documents identified as “Grimsby”, along with some *Thorold collection* documents

South Carlton Manor: *Monson*

TNA: all others except where explicitly stated otherwise
How to read the entries

**Clee**, parish

From Old English *clǣg* ‘clay, clayey soil’, the place being on the Till (a. k. a. Boulder Clay), though why this rather than some other village deserves the name in this bare form is not clear (note for instance **Holton-le-Clay**). The historic centre of the village, represented by the partly late Saxon church of Holy Trinity and St Mary, is close to the boundary of the Till with more recent tidal deposits.

*Cleia* 1086 Domesday Book, *Cleiam* 1191-4 Pipe Rolls
*Cleie* 1206 Assize Rolls, *Cleye* 1314 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum
*Cley* 1362 Cotton Charter Rolls

*Cle* about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1155-58 (copied 1334) Charter Rolls, 1197 till 1206 Pipe Rolls, 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1304 Fine Rolls and frequently in this form until 1594 **Inventory**

*Clee* 1232 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1281 Pleas of Quo Warranto, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1314 Patent Rolls, 1327 **Subsidy Rolls**, 1335 Patent Rolls, 1341 *Extent in TNA*, 1351 *Coroner’s Rolls* and generally in that form until the present day

*Clee al[ia]s Cley* 1316 through till 1759, all in **Bishop’s Transcripts**

*Clye* 1537 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic, 1551 Patent Rolls, 1576, 1597 **Inventory**

Early forms ending in -a or -am are Latin. The development from *Clay* to *Clee* is unexpected in this dialect area, seemingly not commented on before, and unexplained; but compare the history of **Healing**.

The entire parish was once called simply *Clee*, but the original village nucleus has come to be called **Old Clee** since the growth of **Cleethorpes**, which was originally within Clee parish, and latterly also of **New Clee**, now in Grimsby. I have not found the name **Old Clee** early in the record; the earliest instance is from about 1870, understandably at about the same time as the founding of New Clee.

Hence also **Clee Field(s)**:
*campis de ... Clee* [Latin form] 1421 Ancient Deeds
*Clee Feilde* 1687 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, *Clee feild* 1690
*Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, Clee Field* 1734 Terrier in Sidney Sussex College Cambridge, 1828 Bryant’s county map, 1871 Census

and a lost coastal feature called **Clee Ness**, a sand or mud promontory, often recorded in earlier times., e.g. as *Cly Ness* 1681 Collins’ chart, *la Bouée* [French for ‘buoy’] *de Cly-Ness* 1803 Dictionnaire universel de géographie maritime, *Clee Ness* 1773 *Map in TNA*, 1856 Ordnance Survey first edition.
The heading of each entry gives a short indication of the place or site's historical status and administrative history. The entry proper starts with a linguistic explanation in brief, then where necessary presents a list of spellings from a range of old documents, which are dated and named. If the symbol ۞ appears after a dated document reference, the spelling mentioned before the date is that of a surname deriving from the place-name in question, not a spelling of the place-name itself. The document names are to help readers to understand the nature of the sources, or to locate them if they feel so moved. As mentioned above, in the case of many older published documents, full publication details can be found in the seven volumes published so far of EPNS’s Lincolnshire survey (1985–2010), edited by Kenneth Cameron, and in the JISC-funded Historical Gazetteer of England’s Place-Names, at placenames.org.uk/sources. If the titles of sources appear in normal roman type in the lists, they have been published (as with Patent Rolls); if they are in italic they remain unpublished (as with Assize Rolls). Some of these are in the British Library; “British Museum” appears rather than “British Library” in the titles of some older publications. The set of evidence is then followed by any other information or discussion that seems relevant or interesting to the author.

Where it is relevant, Old English (Anglo-Saxon) words are given in the Anglian dialect form proper to the Midland and most eastern seaboard counties. If a historic spelling is preceded by an *asterisk, it is not actually recorded but linguists are confident that it once existed.

Non-specialists sometimes have trouble with lists of dated spellings of the type offered here. The forms for Clee should not be interpreted as meaning that the name Cleie in 1206 changed into Cleye in 1314 and Cley in 1362, but rather that there was a consistent pronunciation not unlike the modern word clay. Spelling was much more volatile than local pronunciation. While pronunciation does change over the long term, usually in well-understood ways, and while this can often be deduced from variation or definite shifts in spelling, a varying set of documentary spellings represents an approximation to a stable spoken form until spelling starts to be standardized from the mid-seventeenth century onwards. The evidence shows that the oldest pronunciation, with the diphthong [ei] represented in
Cley, was challenged during the early part of this period by a monophthong [e:], as in Scottish pronunciations of day, and then replaced by [i:] in modern times, when Clee rhymes with sea.

Dates of Ordnance Survey maps should be treated as approximate; a large range of maps has been consulted, at various scales, but not all of the frequently revised states of these maps have been inspected. Dates in the summary administrative histories may be the dates of Acts of Parliament permitting the creation of councils, and sometimes the dates of the inauguration of the councils themselves where those are different.

Cross-references between entries are in bold type.
**The place-names**

**Abbey Hill** in Grimsby

The low hill on which the conventual buildings of the Austin Canons’ Wellow Abbey were situated. It is a patch of glacially deposited sand and gravel at the junction between the Till or Boulder Clay and the silt deposits of an inlet forming the landward end of Grimsby’s **Haven**. The centre of the patch is represented approximately by Abbotsway and the southern end of Abbey Drive West. See also **Wellow**.

**Ashby cum Fenby**, parish


*Asbie cum Fenby* 1577 Terrier  
*Ashbye cum fenbye* 1594 Bishop’s Transcripts  
*Ashby cum Fenby* 1595 Bishop’s Transcripts and generally in this form until the present day  
*Asbye cum Fenby* 1658 Bishop’s Transcripts

The place originated as two farms. Ashby is the present village nucleus near the main A18 road; Fenby is, as its name implies, out in the parish’s drained lower ground near the present South Farm, including Fenby Hall and **Fenby Wood**. *Ashby* is an Old Scandinavian name *ask(a)-bý-* meaning either ‘ash-tree farm’ or ‘farm of Aski [an Old Danish male given name]’; *Fenby* has Old English *fenn* ‘marsh, fen’ + the same second element. Both may be scandinavianizations of earlier English names which would otherwise have
become *Ashton* and *Fenton*, but Ashby at least may be an original Danish settlement. 13thC spellings with <sch> probably represent the Scandinavian pronunciation, because indisputably English ones do not appear before the early 14thC.

Ashby appears as:

*Achesbi, Aschebi* 1086 Domesday Book  
*Askebi* 1196 Chancellor’s copy of Pipe Rolls, 1202 *Assize Rolls*  
1205 Curia Regis Rolls and frequently in this form until 1428 Feudal Aids  
*Haskebi* 1212 Book of Fees, *Haskeby* 1256-57 Registrum Antiquissimum  
*Askby* 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1388 Peace Sessions, 1402 Feudal Aids  

*Ascheby* 1275 Hundred Rolls  

*Ashby* 1303 Feudal Aids, 1557 Patent Rolls  
*Ashebie* 1557 Institutions to Benefices, 1576 Foster: Lincoln Episcopal Records  
*Ashby* 1601 Terrier and generally in this form until the present day  

*Assby* 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1553 Patent Rolls, 1576 Saxton’s county map

Before Ashby is ‘with’ Fenby it is described as being ‘near’ or even ‘in’ various places:

*Askebi iuxta* [Latin for ‘near’] *Grymmesby* 1287 Assize Rolls  
*Askebi juxta Fanneby* [i.e. Fenby] 1300 Originalia Rolls  
*Askebi “by” Waltham* 1328 Banco Pleas  
*Askebi juxta Briggsby* [read mistakenly for *Briggesly*] 1346 de l’Isle manuscripts  
*Ashbye iuxta Fenby* 1623 Hill papers  
*Ashby in fenby* 1728 Miscellaneous deposits 16
Fenby appears as:

_Fendebei_ 1086 Domesday Book (and in _Fenbi_ hundred also Domesday Book)
_Fenbi_ 1190-2 Pipe Rolls, _Fenby_ 1231 Close Rolls and generally in this form until the present day
_Fenbe_ 1498 Patent Rolls

_Fenneby_ 1261 Feet of Fines, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1295 Inquisitiones post mortem and frequently in this form until 1362 Inquisitiones post mortem, _Feneby_ 1338 _Harleian Charters in British Museum_

_Fanneby_ 1299 Patent Rolls, _Fannebie_ 1556 Lincoln Chapter Acts

Hence also **Fenby Top**.

**Aylesby**, parish

‘Áli’s farm or village’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Álí, in the Middle English genitive case form with -es, + bý-: an English name using borrowed Scandinavian elements.

_Alesbi_ 1086 Domesday Book, about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1130 Pipe Rolls, 1160-66 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, 1185 Templar Records, 1202 Assize Rolls, _Alesby_ in the reign of Richard I (1189-99; copied 1318) Charter Rolls, 1221 Gisburn Cartulary, 1225 Curia Regis Rolls, 1240 Feet of Fines, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1276 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, about 1300 Gisburn Cartulary, 1322 Patent Rolls, 1325 Close Rolls and in this form frequently until 1634 _Terrier_, 1742 _Foster Library document_, _Alesbye_ 1536-37 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum vi, 1563 _Bishop’s Transcripts_, 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map, _Alesbie_ 1592 _Bishop’s Transcripts_, 1601 _Charters of Lincoln Dean and Chapter_, 1626 _Nelthorpe Collection document_. 

_Ferneby_
Names of this kind, apparently Scandinavian but with clear English influence on their grammatical structure, raise difficult questions about the nature of the language or languages spoken here in early medieval times and the relations between them. The name in the next entry, *Barnoldby*, while formed in a partly similar way, does not show the Middle English genitive case form with -es. A brief run of forms in the 13thC has the appearance of deriving from the expected original, unanglicized, Old Scandinavian form *Áli* in the genitive case form *Ála + bý*:

*Áleby 1226 Curia Regis Rolls, 1268 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1303 Feudal Aids

Hence also *Aylesby Park*. 

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**Alysby** 1245 Feet of Fines, 1278 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1341 Extent in TNA, 1526 Subsidy, *Alysbye* 1551 Patent Rolls

**Aylesby** 1259 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1331 Close Rolls, 1461 Patent Rolls, 1620 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1703 Terrier and generally in that form until the present day

**Aylesbie** 1566 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 14, 1586 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1625 Terrier, *Ailesby* 1593 until 1612, 1810, *Ailesbie* 1627, all in Bishop’s Transcripts

**Ailsbye** 1551 Cragg Collection document, Ailsbie 1603, 1623 Cragg Collection document, 1656 Foster Library document, Aylsby 1730, Ailsby 1753, 1808 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1826 Church Commissioners’ leases, 1840 Tithe award

**Halesbi** 1155-60 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, 1218 Assize Rolls, Halesby 1210 Red Book of the Exchequer, *Halesbia* [Latin form] 1212 Book of Fees, *Halesb’* 1225 Close Rolls, all with a decorative, i.e. silent, <H->

**Alesbi in Lindesia** 1212 Feet of Fines, *Alesby in Lindesya* 1229 Charter Rolls
**Barnoldby-le-Beck**, parish

‘Bernulf’s farm or village’, from the Anglo-Scandinavian male given name *Bernulf* (Old Norse *Biǫrnúlfr*) + *bý*-. References to the beck, alluding to the upper course of *Waith Beck*, are added only in the modern era, and it is not clear why, because there are no other Barnoldbys to distinguish this one from. Perhaps confusion with Barnetby, about 15 miles away, was feared, and this did occasionally happen in the documentary record; Barnetby in its turn could be distinguished as *Barnetby le Wold*, but this is not found before the 19thC. *Le* is the Anglo-Norman French definite article ‘the’, often used in English bureaucratic documents of the early-modern period to indicate that an unfamiliar non-English word follows; it alternated with *upon the*, *by the*, and so on, before the present form stabilized in the 18thC.

*Bernulfbi* 1086 Domesday Book, 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls,
*Bernulfby* 1230 Close Rolls

*Bernoluebi* 1178 Pipe Rolls [where <u> means <v>]

*Bernoleby* 1202 Assize Rolls ©, 1231 Charter Rolls, *Bernolby* 1220-40
*Foster Library document*, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1280 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1293 *Nun Cotham Cartulary*, 1304 Close Rolls, 1314 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum and in that form frequently after that until 1526 Subsidy

*Bernalby* 1240 Feet of Fines ©, 1298 Chancery Warrants


Early forms with <-d-> in the spelling, persisting till the present day, may indicate that the name was thought to contain the Anglo-Scandinavian name-element *-vald*; and/or there may be a phonetic explanation.

Forms showing lowering of the [e] in the first syllable to [a] before [r] + another consonant:
Forms showing radical reduction of the second syllable:

*Barneby* 1402 Feudal Aids, 1610 Speed’s county map, *Barnabye* 1576 Saxton’s county map, *Barnaby* 1653 Parliamentary Survey, 1695 Morden’s county map

Forms including a reference to the beck:

*Barnoldby upon Becke* 1662 *Terrier*, *Barnoldby upon ye Becke* 1668 *Terrier*

*Barneby by the Beke* 1675 Gainsborough Friends’ First Minutes Book i, *Barnalby in the Beck* 1715 *Terrier*

*Barnolby le Beck* 1706 *Terrier*, *Barnoldby le Beck* 1770, 1816 *Miscellaneous donations* 140, 1822 *Terrier* and generally in this form until the present day

A few forms from the Middle Ages show signs of a Middle English genitive case form of the personal name with the suffix -(e)s. It is unclear whether this is authentic, or by analogy with other local names ending in -sby like Aylesby and Grimsby. But if the name were originally fully Scandinavian, *Bernulfs bý* (giving something like modern *Barnolsby*) would be expected.

*Bernolesbi* 1202 *Harleian Charter Rolls*, 1202 (copied 1342) Patent Rolls
The village nucleus is on a patch of Glacial Sand and Gravel, which makes for a more suitable habitation site than the surrounding Clays.

**Barrett Recreation Ground(s),** typically just called **Barrett’s,** in Grimsby

Barrett Recreation Ground(s), typically just called Barrett’s, in Grimsby

Sports pitches located between Lansdowne Avenue and Scartho Road, given to the town by Alderman Frank Barrett (*left*) in 1925, the year after his second mayoralty. The site was recently disfigured (in or before 2017) by being given a sign saying *Barratt.*

**Barton Street**

A name found since the 17thC for the trackway at the foot of the Wolds escarpment leading from Louth towards Barton on Humber, where it was once possible to cross the Humber with relative ease. Barton Street is widely thought to be of pre-Roman origin, and is now embodied by the A18.

**Beacholme Holiday Camp** in Cleethorpes

Opened in 1938, and adding caravans to its repertoire from 1951, this holiday camp has a name simply put together out of *beach* + the local word *holm* ‘island, dry land in marsh, flat riverside land’ found in such place-names as **Holme Hill** and **Conisholme.**

**Beacon Hill** in Cleethorpes

The name is no longer current, but the beacon is referred to in **Beacon Avenue.** It is the site of Cleethorpes Cemetery. Most such names refer to
Tudor-period military signalling beacons, but origin of this one may be earlier – it was a beacon site in 1377.6

**Beaconthorpe** in Cleethorpes

An antiquarian-inspired 19thC name for a district of Cleethorpes. *Thorpe* ‘secondary settlement’ was no longer a current vocabulary word by this time, but this is an indirect reference to the historic *Thorpes* which make up Cleethorpes. The name refers to a white beacon (*Cleethorpes Beacon*) erected in 1834 by the Admiralty at a point where many wrecks had occurred, off the end of modern Poplar Road.7 The beacon was removed in 1864, but the district name has persisted in that of Beaconthorpe Methodist church.

**Beelsby**, parish

‘Beli’s farm or village’, from the Scandinavian male given name *Beli* found in Lincolnshire in medieval times, in the anglicized genitive case form with -*es*, + *bý*·

*Bilesbi* 1086 Domesday Book


*Bellesby* 1234 Feet of Fines, 1327 Subsidy Rolls, 1553 Patent Rolls

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8 Note that these days the early-13thC bishop is generally known as Hugh of Wells.
A brief run of forms in the 13thC has the appearance of deriving from the expected original, unanglicized, Old Scandinavian form Beli in the genitive case form Bela + bý-, but their true significance is unclear:

Belebi 1198 Curia Regis Rolls ☐, 1202 Assize Rolls ☐, 1202 Pipe Rolls ☐, Beleby 1268 Charter Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica

Beesby, deserted medieval village, now united in a parish with Hawerby

‘Besi’s farm or village’, from the anglicized form of the Scandinavian male given name (here in its Danish form:) Bøsi, in the genitive case form Bøsa, + bý-.

Basebi 1086 Domesday Book, Baseby 1320 Originalia Rolls

Besibi 1086 Domesday Book, 1180 Pipe Rolls ☐, in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied 1314) Charter Rolls, before 1184 (copied 1409) Gilbertine Charters, 1204 Pipe Rolls, Besebi late in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied 13thC) Alvingham Cartulary, 1208 Curia Regis Rolls ☐, 1219 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1311 Inquisitiones post mortem and frequently in that form until 1431 Feudal Aids
Besby 1294 Assize Rolls, 1316 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1331 Close Rolls, 1370 Patent Rolls, 1483 Ancient Deeds

Beseby alias Beysbye alias Bleysbye [sic, an error] 1554 Patent Rolls, Besebye 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map

Beasby 1548 Patent Rolls, Beesbie before 1567 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 5, Beesby 1765 Yarborough documents and generally in this form until the present day

The spellings above represent the main line of development. A few that appear to suggest a diphthong pronounced like <ay> in bay in the first syllable include:


The Blow Wells, several instances

(in Grimsby, in Freshney Bog, West Marsh:)

blowe welles 1571 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iv
the Blow wells 1676 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts
Blow Wells 1742 Woodhouse and Toms map
Blo Wells about 1775 Grimsby map in NELA
Blow Wells 1820 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xv

(in Cleethorpes, on the boundary with Weelsby:)

the blowe well 1601 Terrier
Blow Wells 1831 Monson manuscript at South Carlton, 1838 Brace document

(in Great Coates:)

Blow-well Plot 1841 Tithe Award

(in Little Coates:)

Blow Well Close 1844 Tithe Award
The coastal plain of north-eastern Lincolnshire has several water sources formerly mentioned as blow wells. The local term, which appears in names in Cleethorpes, Grimsby, Great Coates and Little Coates (and other places including Fulstow, North Thoresby and Tetney) from the 16thC onwards, means an artesian well, where water emerges from the ground under natural pressure. But with the exception of those at Tetney, the British Geological Survey maps these springs as “wells”, not as “blow wells”, despite there being a special symbol available for the latter type. Our ancestors clearly perceived and categorized the wells differently. According to Thomas Allen’s History of the county of Lincoln (1834, vol. 2: 243), they formed “deep circular pits … the water of which rises even with the surface of the ground but never overflows.”

The Blue Stone on the boundary between Grimsby and Cleethorpes, with others

\begin{quote}
*the blew stone 1639 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii, *ye blewstone 1656 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii, *ye blew Stone 1694 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts

Blue Stone 1707 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, 1822 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xv, 1831 Monson manuscript at South Carlton, 1838 Brace document, 1840 Enclosure Act, the Blue Stone 1822 Baker: Story of Cleethorpes, 1846 Enclosure Act
\end{quote}

This is a common local term for a glacial erratic boulder, especially one used as a boundary marker. Blue presumably covers the range of bluish-grey. Such wayside stones have often been broken up for roadmetal in the last two

\footnote{Artesian well: ‘a well bored perpendicularly into water-bearing strata lying at an angle, so that natural pressure gives rise to a constant supply of water with little or no pumping’ (Oxford English dictionary). The OED has a quote of 1924 in its entry for blow-well: “On the warp-lands [‘land subject to silt depositing’, RC] of … the Humber estuary there bubble up with great vigour a series of springs known as ‘blow-wells’ …a natural artesian discharge [up through alluvial deposits, RC].” Kenneth Cameron (Place-names of Lincs vol. 5, pp. 50-51) notes that the earliest of the references in the text are earlier than the earliest ones in the OED entry.}
centuries. This one was placed in 1824 near the point on the coast where Grimsby and Clee parishes abutted one another (see map on following page), i.e. just before the Grimsby Enclosure Act of 1827. It was placed near the later Bath Street / Victor Street junction at what was still the borough boundary in 1888, and which remained a ward boundary after the absorption of Clee in 1889. It was recorded from the 1630s till Victorian times. Another such stone was the *Havelock Stone*, named after the prince in the medieval poem mentioned under *Grimsby*, which used to be at the eastern end of Brighowgate but has not been heard of since about 1700,\(^\text{10}\) and several others are recorded in the history of Grimsby and Louth. There was also a Blue Stone in *Immingham*, which gave its name to a prominent pub at the spot, and stones are referred to in the name of the ancient *Wolds* road called the *Bluestone Heath Road*.

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\(^{10}\) According to an undated “Grimsby history” placed on the web by the Francis Frith historical photography company, the Havelock Stone could be seen outside Welholme Galleries in Hainton Avenue, the former Congregationalist church, as late as the 1990s; [www.francisfrith.com/grimsby/history](http://www.francisfrith.com/grimsby/history), accessed 17 April 2018.
Blundell Park in Cleethorpes

The stadium of Grimsby Town Football Club, but actually in Cleethorpes. Land for the ground was purchased in 1899 from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, to whom Peter Blundell had bequeathed money in 1616 which enabled the college to buy this and other land in what is now Cleethorpes.

The Boating Lake in Cleethorpes

Opened in 1928 as part of Thrunscoe Recreation Ground, and extended in 1929. The name is an established phrase, which the *Oxford English dictionary* records first from colonial Colombo, Ceylon, in 1834.

Hence also Lakeside for the surrounding public amenity area.

Boulevard Gardens in Grimsby

This area was called *the Boulevard* because of a fancied resemblance of the Duke of York Gardens to the wide tree-lined ways originally forming arcs of a circle around, but not entering, the centre of Paris. (Boulevard Avenue, named after it, is exactly such a road which does not approach the town centre. The street is on the track of a former goods branch line leading into the docks from the direction of Great Coates.) The Boulevard Gardens, are mapped in 1904 and houses in 1936.

Sometimes heard abbreviated as *The Bully*.

Bradley, parish and village giving its name to the wapentake which included most of the Grimsby area

‘The broad wood or glade’, from Old English *brād* with the suffix of an inflected form of this word showing up as -e + lēah. The Domesday Book form suggests that the second element is *hlāw* ‘hill, burial mound’, but this record is unique and should be discounted. Some spellings with <e> and especially with <ai> and <ay> in the first syllable suggest the influence of Old Scandinavian *breiðr* also meaning ‘broad’, and that the place was known to Scandinavian speakers as “Braidley”. The <th> in *Braithela* in a document written before 1180 points in the same direction, but it is a one-off. In the 17thC the name was occasionally rationalized to the modern form *broad*. 
Bredelou 1086 Domesday Book
Bredelai about 1115 Lindsey Survey, Bredelay 1177 Pipe Rolls
Bredela [possibly a Latin form] late in the reign of Henry II (1154-89) Stenton: Danelaw Documents
Bredel’ 1197 Feet of Fines, 1254 Valuation of Norwich

Bradela [possibly a Latin form] 1163 Pipe Rolls, Bradelai 1170 and frequently in that form until 1210 Pipe Rolls, Bradelay 1179 Pipe Rolls

Bradelea 1177 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls

Bradelay 1179 till 1197 Pipe Rolls, 1533 Nelthorpe Collection document
Bradelea [Latin form] 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, 1200 Pipe Rolls
Bradeleg’ 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, 1223 Curia Regis Rolls, 1251 Inquisitiones post mortem
Bradel’ 1197, 1205 till 1230 Pipe Rolls, 1275 Hundred Rolls
Bradeleya [Latin form] 1201 Charter Rolls
Bradeleye 1268 Patent Rolls, 1292 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1311 Originalia Rolls, 1327 Subsidy Rolls, 1351 Fine Rolls
Bradelegh’ 1261 Close Rolls, 1291 Inquisitiones post mortem, Bradeleigh 1287 Inquisitiones post mortem

Braidela [possibly a Latin form] 1175-81 Stenton: Danelaw Documents
Braidelai late 12thC Registrum Antiquissimum ix
Braillede 1232 Patent Rolls, Braydeley 1538 Nelthorpe Collection document
Braithela [possibly a Latin form] before 1180 (copied the early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary

Bradleie 1196 Curia Regis Rolls
Bradle 1361 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1381 Peace Sessions, 1431 Feudal Aids, Bradlee 1428 Feudal Aids
Bradley 1385 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 1402 Feudal Aids, 1419 Nelthorpe Collection document, 1475 Patent Rolls, 1506 Close Rolls, 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus and generally in that form until the present day, Bradlay 1501 Nelthorpe Collection document, 1505 North Country Wills

Braddeley 1396 Patent Rolls

Braydlay 1543, Braydley 1574 Nelthorpe Collection document

Brodley 1610 Speed’s county map
Broadley 1662 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1688 Nelthorpe Collection document

Bradley is sometimes distinguished as ‘by Grimsby’ despite there being no other place of this name in Lincolnshire:

Bradeleigh “by” Grymesby 1297 Patent Rolls
Bradeley (juxta [Latin for ‘near’] Grymesby) 1274 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, 1387 Patent Rolls, 1439 Ancient Deeds
Bradlay juxta [Latin for ‘near’] Grymesby 1519 Nelthorpe Collection document, Bradley next Great Grymesbye 1558 Nelthorpe Collection document, 1679 Bishop’s Transcripts

Braddele (“by” Grymmesby) 1310 Patent Rolls

Forms ending in -ia are Latin, and some of those ending in -a may also be.
On late-20thC and current Ordnance Survey maps the name is applied not only to the historic village but also to the housing within Grimsby borough between Laceby Road and Little Coates Road, adjacent to Bradley Crossroads.

Hence also **Bradley Crossroads, Bradley Hollow** (a depression at a marked bend in Laceby Road), **Bradley Recreation Ground, Bradley Wood(s)** and:

**Bradley Gairs** in Bradley parish

*Gair* is an obsolete dialect word deriving from Old Scandinavian *geiri* ‘triangular piece of ground; gore’, here in the English plural form. It often appears in Lincolnshire in the derived form *garing* or *gareing* ‘odd-shaped bit of ground’.

*the Gares* 1634, 1709 *Nelthorpe Collection document*  
*Gairs* 1811, 1838 *Nelthorpe Collection document, 1839 Tithe award*  
*Bradley Gears* 1828 *Bryant’s county map*

**Bradley Park Estate**

See *Nunsthorpe*.

**Briggsley**, parish

A more difficult name than it appears at first sight. It seems to be from the ancestor of dialectal *brig* ‘bridge’ (from Old Scandinavian *bryggja* ‘landing-stage’; in England ‘bridge’), or a scandinavianized form of the corresponding Old English *brycg, + Old English lēah* ‘wood, clearing’, so in either case ‘the wood by the bridge’. But if so, the *-s* is unexpected because the ‘bridge’ word is feminine in both languages and such feminine nouns do not form a genitive case in *-s*. However, the name also appears in an early tradition without the *-s*. It seems possible that Scandinavian speakers may have taken up the pronunciation of an English name *Brycg-lēah*, in which *<cg>* is as like *<dge>* in modern *bridge*, rendering it as *Brigs-* because their language did not have this sound (though the recorded medieval spellings unanimously favour *Briges-*), which results in a form making no grammatical sense from a Scandinavian point of view); but they also must have had a parallel tradition
in which the name was rendered *Brigeley* and similar, as in the alternative Domesday Book spelling, making a kind of sense (‘the *ley* at the brig’), where the <g> was pronounced [ɡ], as in the modern name. Difficulties of detail remain with this explanation. But there is a suitable bridge site: the one on the B1203 across Waithe Beck, the boundary with *Ashby cum Fenby*. In the late 17thC, the name seems not only to have been understood as “Bridgeley” but occasionally written as if to suggest that.

Forms with <s>:

*Brigeslai* 1086 Domesday Book
*Brigeslea* 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls

*Brigesle* early 13thC (copied in the reign of Edward I, 1272-1307)
*Newhouse Cartulary*, 1219 *Assize Rolls*, 1290 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls,
1428 Feudal Aids, *Brigesley* 1490 Close Rolls, *Brigesleye al[ia]s*
*Briggesleye* 1620 *Lincoln Cooperative Society document*

*Brighesle*, *Brichisle* 1212 Book of Fees

*Brygesley* 1406 Close Rolls, *Brygeslay* 1531 Wills iii, *Brygslay* 1539
Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xiv

*Brygsley* 1505 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1577 *Terrier*, *Brigsley* 1593
*Bishop’s Transcripts*, 1664 *Terrier* and generally in that form since then

*Brigesla* [possibly a Latin form] about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1213
Placitorum Abbreviatio, *Brighesla* [possibly a Latin form] about 1115
Lindsey Survey

*Briggesle* 1202 Feet of Fines, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1300 Originalia
Rolls and frequently in that form until 1361 Close Rolls, *Briggeslee*
1295 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1316 Feudal Aids
*Briggesley* 1327 Subsidy Rolls, 1349 *Coroner’s Rolls*, 1388 Patent
Rolls, 1423 Fine Rolls, 1526 Subsidy and frequently in that form until
A case might be made that what Scandinavian speakers made of the first part of the original English name, however incongruously, was \( *\text{bryggju-áss} \) ‘bridge-pole’, which was then re-anglicized as \( *\text{Brigas-} \), later \( \text{Briges-} \), but that is probably two steps too far. Whatever change was made, it might be seen...
as deliberately avoiding the unwelcome similarity of Old Scandinavian *brigzl* ‘shame’. Spellings with <ch> are probably for the sound /k/, here representing its voiced counterpart /ɡ/.

**Brocklesby, parish**

From Old Scandinavian *bróklauss*, found in the late-12thC *Sverris saga*, literally ‘trouserless or breechless’, + *bý* ‘farm, village’. *Bróklauss* may have been used here as a personal nickname for a man who dressed unconventionally for his time, but what it might imply beyond the bare fact, or be a metaphor for, is unknown.\(^{11}\) There are four other recorded men with this name in medieval northern Lincolnshire. The place is recorded in 55 spellings differing in minor ways from each other, and a selection is given here. They vary mainly in the faithfulness of the original third syllable to the Scandinavian original (*-laus*, *-lous*, *-los*) or the lack of it (*-les*), in the number of syllables indicated (4 or 3), in the completely typical variable use of <k> versus <ch> (in early documents) or <k> versus <c> (in later ones), and in the use of <i> versus <y>.

Forms clearly indicating Scandinavian origin:


- *Broclausbi*, *Broclousbi* about 1150 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, *Broclusby* 1242-3 Book of Fees, 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1338 Patent Rolls, *Broclusby* about 1155 (copied early 13thC) *Nun Cotham*

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**Cartulary, 1291** Taxatio Ecclesiastica, **Broclosby 1274** Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls


Other forms (anglicized or phonetically reduced):

*Brochelesbi* 1086 Domesday Book, *Brokelesbi* 1200 Curia Regis Rolls, *Brokelesby* 1238 (copied early 13thC) *Nun Cotham Cartulary*, 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1298 Patent Rolls, 1346 Feudal Aids and frequently in this form until 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1536 *Yarborough documents*, *Brokelysby* 1428 Feudal Aids


*Brocleseby* 1205 Curia Regis Rolls, *Brokeleseby* 1205 Feet of Fines, *Brockelesseby* 1281 Pleas of Quo Warranto

*Brokelsby* 1316 Feudal Aids, 1543 *Yarborough documents*, *Brokylsby* 1428 Feudal Aids, 1443 *Yarborough documents*, *Brokelsbye* 1549 Patent Rolls, 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map

There are two brief traditions that appear to be aberrations, one in which the <-s-> disappears:

Brocelby 1233 Close Rolls, 1322 Patent Rolls, Brocilby 1233 Close Rolls, Broccelby 1325 Patent Rolls

and one in which the <l-> disappears:

Brochesbi about 1115 Lindsey Survey, Brokesby 1254 Feet of Fines, 1566 Patent Rolls, Brockesby 1353 Papal Registers

Brocklesby is included in this book as the home and estate of the earls of Yarborough (the Pelham family) who have played such a prominent role in the development of Grimsby.

**Buck Beck**

This watercourse, rising in Waltham and flowing to the Humber at the southern end of Cleethorpes, is recorded as buckbeck in 1724, but as Holywell in 1298. The modern name may simply include buck ‘male fallow or roe deer’; the surname Buck appears in Grimsby about a hundred years after the 1724 record.

**Bull Sand Fort** in the River Humber off Kilnsea parish, East Riding of Yorkshire

The First World War fort is one of a pair with Haile Sand Fort on the Lincolnshire side of the Humber estuary. Many maritime features are named after animals, the precise reason usually being unclear, as here.

**Burcom**

Burcom is a shoal or sand in the Humber, commemorated in Burcom Avenue, Humberston. It appears on the following Humber charts, and one book mention:
Being obscure, it may be an old name despite not appearing in the record until fairly recently. If so, perhaps the likeliest explanation is that it is from the Middle English descendant of an Old English *burg-cyme ‘arrival at the town’, which has been reformed like other words containing cyme as if it were from cuma ‘comer, someone who arrives’. Perhaps simpler would be an explanation involving a personification of the shoal as *burg-cuma ‘arriver at the town’, whose structure would be like that of the recorded burh-wita and burh-sæta both meaning ‘citizen’; perhaps instead from a corresponding Scandinavian *borgar-koma, or an anglicized version of this. Grimsby received its charter from king John in 1201 and has been referred to as a burgh since at least as early as 1198, even if the term was in that year being used loosely.\textsuperscript{14} Morden’s county map to accompany a new edition of Camden’s Britannia (1695) shows Burcom as the last shoal on the larboard side of a ship before entering the port of Grimsby. All other map sources place it upriver, off Stallingborough, and therefore to starboard, but it is still the last shoal, the one whose sighting directs you into the Haven.

\textsuperscript{12} The information in the list to this point is taken from a contribution on 3 June 2014 by “Amiguru” to Rod Collins’ web-page www.rodcollins.com/wordpress/burcom-sands-near-grimsby-in-lincolnshire (now defunct). The previous day, “Amiguru” had quoted a description of “The Burcum” from J. W. Norrie (1823) Sailing directions for the navigation of the North Sea.

\textsuperscript{13} Sheppard, Thomas (1912) Lost towns of the Yorkshire coast. London and Hull: A. Brown, pp. 228-229.

Caddle Beck in Keelby

‘Cats’ stream’, from Old English *catt* in the genitive plural form *catta + wella* ‘spring, stream’, + in recent times the local word borrowed from Old Scandinavian *bekk*- . The spring or the stream is:

*Catewell’* 1233 (copied in the reign of Edward I, 1272-1307)  
*Newhouse Cartulary, Catewelle 1333 Inquisitiones post mortem,  
Caddle 1844 Lindsey deposit 29*

and the stream itself is

*Catwellstrem, Catewellestrem 1344 (copied in 14thC) Selby Coucher Book*

The Central Market in Grimsby

Developed by the Freemen of Grimsby as the *New Market Place* in the early 19thC as a commercial opportunity related to the opening of the nearby new haven (the site of the present *Alexandra Dock*) in 1800. It became the *Central Market* when Freeman Street Market, further east, was opened in 1873. The clock tower seen in the image on the next page was erected in 1869 and demolished in about 1959, the clock finding its way to Cadwell Park motor racing circuit near Louth. See also The *Old Market*.

The Central Market, postcard image sourced from the Tappin family web-site,  
https://www.tappin-family.org.uk, used with permission
Chapman’s Pond in Cleethorpes

A large pond off Suggitt’s Lane, the last visible evidence for the claypit of Chapman’s Brick and Tile Works, and locally known as “the bottomless pit”. The life of the pond began when the diggings breached the Wolds aquifer in 1904 and started admitting fresh water. This inflow was kept under control with steam pumps which were turned off during the First World War\(^{15}\) (or the Second according to other sources); the pit filled up and was never drained again. It is not, as supposed by some, connected in any way with the adjacent waterworks.

Clee, parish (later amalgamated with Weelsby, and absorbed by Grimsby)

From Old English clǣg ‘clay, clayey soil’, the place being on the Till (a. k. a. Boulder Clay), though why this rather than some other village deserves the name in this bare form is not clear (note for instance Holton-le-Clay). The historic centre of the village, represented by the partly late Saxon church of Holy Trinity and St Mary, is close to the boundary of the Till with more recent tidal deposits.

Cleia 1086 Domesday Book, Cleiam 1191-4 Pipe Rolls
Cleie 1206 Assize Rolls, Cleye 1314 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum
Cley 1362 Cotton Charter Rolls

Cle about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1155-58 (copied 1334) Charter Rolls, 1197 till 1206 Pipe Rolls, 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1304 Fine Rolls and frequently in this form until 1594 Inventory

Clee 1232 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1281 Pleas of Quo Warranto, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1314 Patent Rolls, 1327 Subsidy Rolls, 1335 Patent Rolls, 1341 Extent in TNA, 1351 Coroner’s Rolls and generally in that form until the present day

Early forms ending in -a or -am are Latin. The development from Clay to Clee is unexpected in this dialect area, seemingly not commented on before, and unexplained; but compare the history of Healing.

The entire parish was once called simply Clee, but the original village nucleus has come to be called Old Clee since the growth of Cleethorpes, which was originally within Clee parish, and latterly also of New Clee, both Clees being now in Grimsby. I have not found the name Old Clee early in the record; the earliest instance is from about 1870, understandably at about the same time as the founding of New Clee.

Hence also Clee Field(s):

- campis de ... Clee [Latin form] 1421 Ancient Deeds
- Clee Feilde 1687 Tennyson d'Eyncourt Collection document, Clee feild
- 1690 Tennyson d'Eyncourt Collection document, Clee Field 1734
- Terrier in Sidney Sussex College Cambridge, 1828 Bryant's county map, 1871 Census

and a lost coastal feature called Clee Ness, a sand or mud promontory, often recorded in earlier times, e.g. as Cly Ness 1681
Collins' chart, (la Bouée [French for 'buoy'] de) Cly-Ness 1803
Dictionnaire universel de géographie maritime, Clee Ness 1773 Map in TNA, 1856 Ordnance Survey first edition.

Cleethorpes, former borough, originally in Clee parish

The place may have been originally called just Thorp, from a word for a secondary (? typically arable farming) settlement within a parish, in this case within Clee. It came to be distinguished as Clee Thorp, because Thorp was a common minor place-name, and as soon as references to this one were necessary in documents with a wider geographical scope (e.g. those of the
whole county or diocese), such a name could be ambiguous. It is clear that the original location was also known as Itterby – see the records of 1593 Clee Thorpe al[ja]s Itterbie and Cleethorp called Itterbie. It was not long after that the name first turned up in the plural form, but singular and plural forms alternated well into the 19thC and the singular form persists in Cleethorpe Road in Grimsby. The plural form presumably reflects the fact that the new “super-village” swallowed up not only Itterby but also Oole/Hole (see Oole), and eventually also Thrunscoe a little further down the coast, inland from the site of the modern Boating Lake. As noted in the relevant entries, Oole was also called Fore Thorpe (1861), Low Thorp (1851) and Near Cleethorp (1826), whilst Itterby was Middle Thorpe (1741), Upper Thorpe (in Dobson’s book of 1850) and Far Cleethorpes (1842). The fact that Itterby could be called Middle Thorpe confirms that at that point in time Thrunscoe was also viewed as one of the Thorpes: note as confirmation Thronschothorp (1588), the Thorpe of Thrunscoe (1761).

Forms without <-s>:

*Clee Thorpe* 1406 Patent Rolls

*Cleethorpe* 1552 Inventory, 1652 Radcliffe document, *Cleethorpp* 1581 Historical Manuscript Commission Report 14, *Cleethorp* 1593 Inventory, 1606 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, 1723 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, *Cleethorpe* 1582 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, 1593 Inventory, 1622 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, *Clee Thorpe* 1694 Haigh Collection document, 1831 Monson manuscript at South Carlton, 1838 Brace document, 1840 Enclosure Act

*Clee Thorpe al[ja]s Itterbie, Cleethorp called Itterbie in the parishe of Clee* 1593 Inventory

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16 For the argument that this 1406 reference to *Thorpe* is the earliest one to Cleethorpes, see Kenneth Cameron, *Place-Names of Lincs* vol. 5, p. 16; the published text of the Patent Rolls for that year may have been misleadingly punctuated by the editor.
Cleathorpe 1802-10 G. A. Cooke: Description of Lincolnshire, 1818
John Eyre’s diary, the township of Cleathorpe 1831 Lewis:
Topographical Dictionary of England\textsuperscript{17}, Cleathorpe 1856 Ordnance
Survey 1" first edition
Cleythorp 1697 Abraham de la Pryme: Diary

Forms with \textit{-s}:

\textit{Clethorpes} 1588 Inventory, 1695 \textit{North Willingham deposit, Clethorps} 1685 \textit{North Willingham deposit}

\textit{Cle thorpes} 1606 \textit{Inventory, Cle thorps} 1609 Duchy of Lancaster
Miscellaneous Book 119, 1670 \textit{Inventory, Cle Thorps} 1707 Bishop’s
Transcripts, 1736 \textit{Inventory}

\textit{Clee thorpes} 1598 \textit{Inventory, Clee Thorpes} 1723 \textit{Inventory, 1755 North Willingham deposit}

\textit{Cleethorps} 1604, 1690 \textit{Inventory, Cleethorps} 1612 Historical
Manuscript Commission Report 14, 1648 Administrations in the
Consistory Court of Lincoln, 1671 \textit{Inventory, 1838 Brace document}
and generally in this form until the present day

\textit{Cleythorpes} 1597 \textit{Inventory}
\textit{Cley Thorps} 1684 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection \textit{document}
\textit{Cleathorps Inn} 1791 John Byng’s diary vol. II, p. 387

It is very interesting that the first edition Ordnance Survey 1" map (sheet 85, 1856; see image on next page) shows both Itterby and Oole separately as \textit{Clee – thorpe} in the singular:

\textsuperscript{17} For these forms, see Alan Dowling (2012) Memories of Cleethorpes. \textit{Cleethorpes Chronicle}, 15 March 2012, pp. 18 & 23.
Probably the oldest surviving building in Cleethorpes, in Wardall Street

The place-name is duplicated in Claythorpe, south-west of Mablethorpe, and Cleythorpe (Norfolk), a Domesday manor. Evidently, both these names are much older than Cleethorpes, but they have a common linguistic origin. Claythorpe seems to have been named from the outset ‘the clay farm’, whilst Cleythorpe is ‘the thorp within (Cockley) Cley (parish)’. The latter is

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therefore the exacter parallel to *Cleethorpes*. There is a further *Clethorpe*, not so far analysed, in Stanton (Suffolk).

There is unclarity about how many *thorpe* truly made up the place now called *Cleethorpes* in the plural. Oole, Itterby and Thrunscoe are beyond dispute, but the waters are muddied by the title of C. Ernest Watson’s well known book of 1901: *A history of Clee and the Thorpes of Clee; an account of the townships of Clee, Hoole, Itterby, Thrunscoe, Weelsby, Holm, Cleethorpes, New Clee, Beacontorpe and New Cleethorpes*. This gives the impression of a larger number of contributing hamlets. Local materials sometimes refer to “the six thorpes of Clee”, but on what basis is not clear.\(^{19}\)

Hence also *Cleethorpes Country Park*.

The Promenade

**Cleggy**

See *Meggies*.

Cleveland Bridge in Grimsby

A bridge formerly carrying the Grimsby and Immingham Electric Railway (a rural tram service carrying factory workers between the two places) and Gilbey Road over a Great Central Railway dock railway line. It was named after the Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Company of Darlington which built it in about 1912, but it was also locally known as The Tip.

Cliff Gardens in Cleethorpes

Self-explanatory for this public open space above the Promenade. Mapped as Pier Gardens in the later 20thC (e.g. on an OS plan at 1:2500 (1965) and at 1:1250 (1973)).

Coates

See Great Coates and Little Coates.

Corporation Bridge in Grimsby

Technically a single-leaf Scherzer rolling-lift bascule bridge, this is the second bridge over the Old Dock (the precursor of the Alexandra Dock) on the present alignment. It was opened in 1925, replacing a swing bridge of 1872–3. It is now rarely operated. So called because it affords the main access to Corporation Road, commemorating the burgesses who ran the local authority from 1835 till 1974 and sold land for urban development here on the West Marsh in the early 1880s.

Cottagers Plot / Plat in Laceby parish

This small hamlet on the boundary with Grimsby was the site of one of the Grimsby area’s isolation hospitals (Laceby Hospital) from 1902-68. Plot or plat (with unrounding of the original vowel) is a word for a small piece of land, or possibly a notably flat one (but everything is quite flat here). The cottagers must have been tenants of nearby Laceby manor.

cottagers’ plot 1779 Pretyman Tomline document

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It was always known, and signposted, as Plat after the Second World War, but has now reverted to Plot. A Laceby rectory inventory of 1634 mentions a close called Cotchers Plat, but says that that is in Irby.\(^{21}\)

**Crowhill** in Cleethorpes

No particular reason for this transparent name is known. It was the site of a mill (Clee Mill) in the 18thC and 19thC.

*Crowhill 1851 Census
Crow Hill 1861, 1871 Census*

The name survives in *Crowhill Avenue*.

**Cun Hu**, hill in Little Coates (no longer in existence)

A large artificially shaped hill occupying land which now forms part of Grimsby Golf Course. It has been almost totally levelled (see Introduction, and compare **Toot Hill**). Its name is recorded only late, but it may represent a much reduced Old Scandinavian form consisting of konungr ‘king’ + haugr ‘mound’.\(^{22}\) If (a big if) the surviving modern spelling is reliable, it could be better explained by having *kona* ‘woman’ (in the genitive singular form *konu*) as the first element. It is accepted that the mound was probably natural, but that its top was modified, perhaps before Danish occupation. In that case, the Danes will have given a new name to an existing feature.

**Cuttleby**, street in Cleethorpes

This was obviously once a farm name (from Old Scandinavian *bý*- ‘farm, village’), but is now reduced to a street name. Its origin is obscure. It may be from a male nickname *Kudli* (related to Old Danish *kodle* >> Norwegian *kaule* in the dialect of Møre og Romsdal, meaning ‘cuttlefish’), in the genitive

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singular form *Kudla, with the same change of [d] to [t] that is found in the history of the English word itself (Old English cudele >> cuttle).

Cuttleby Dale 1734 Terrier in Sidney Sussex College Cambridge
Cuttleby Lane 1784 Terrier
Cuttleby Lane 1861, 1871 Census

Cuttleby cannot have been far from Oole, named from being in a hollow, so dale may mean ‘valley’, though usually this word names much larger features, as in Irby Dales; more likely it is from deill ‘share of land, allotment’. Could Cuttleby have been an earlier name for the hamlet of Oole, marginalized through use of the transparent English name meaning ‘the hollow’?

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital** in Grimsby

The site of the former Union workhouse, right on Grimsby’s boundary with Scartho, which became Grimsby Infirmary/General Hospital. The new hospital was opened by Diana on 26 July 1983, and renamed in her honour after her death in 1997.

The **Dock Tower** in Grimsby

*The Dock Tower, with the clouds gathering*

*Copyright unknown; downloaded from https://www.lincsinspirelibraries.com/web/arena/local-landmarks*
A brick hydraulic tower, built 1851, for operating the lock gates of the Royal and Fish Docks. Mimicking the Sienese style, it is Grimsby’s iconic building. 

**Duke of York Gardens**, along the Freshney in Grimsby

The gardens date from 1894, and the Duke of York in question was the future King George V. He was unable to attend the ceremony, which was performed instead by the Lady Mayoress, Lady Doughty. Now the location of a parkour ground.

**East Marsh** in Grimsby

Self-explanatory name for the housing development on former marshland mostly east of the present position of Freeman Street, but occasionally used in earlier writings for the whole of the area east of the ancient **Haven**. Before it was built over, the area was sometimes referred to in the singular, sometimes in the plural. After the opening of Grimsby’s first fully artificial dock in 1800 on the line of the Haven, the Haven Company’s Dock or Old Dock, i.e. what became the **Alexandra Dock**, and especially after the first new docks of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company opened in 1848–56, the original uninhabitable common marshland was stabilized and made available for building from the 1820s onwards (see the 1831 reference). See also **Grimsby Docks**.

\[ \text{the marshes on the} \text{side the haven} 1587 \text{ Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts} \]

\[ \text{the Estmarsh} 1471 \text{ Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i, the East marsh} \]

\[ 1607 \text{ Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books vii, (the) East Marsh} 1625 \text{ Heneage document, 1665 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, 1707 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts and frequently in that form after that, the east mar} \text{she} 1669 \text{ Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books ix} \]

\[ \text{orient’ marisco} \text{ [Latin for ‘(on/in the) east marsh’]} 1500 \text{ Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, orientate [for orientale] marisco} 1582 \text{ Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, le orien’ Marisc} 1630 \text{ Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts} \]
(the) East Marshes about 1600 Grimsby map in TNA, 1678 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts and generally in this form until 1832 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xvi, ye east Marshes 1648 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii

(the) East Marsh upon which the New Town is built, was an open field 1831 Monson manuscript at South Carlton

Notice that the housing was referred to as The New Town in 1831.

East Ravendale

See Ravendale.

Ellyll Hills, three mounds in Grimsby (no longer in use)

This is the name found on Smith’s map (before 1825) for the feature(s) recorded earlier as:

hell hyll 1547 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts
Hell hill about 1600 Grimsby map in TNA
hellhill 1634 Terrier
Hell Hill 1686 Terrier, about 1832 Yarborough document

in the singular, presumably originally a name for just one of them. These broad low mounds, now levelled and built over, were in what came to be called Grimsby Field, presumably an open field, now represented by the Cambridge Road area. Their traces can be found on the British Geological Survey labelled as patches of glaciofluvial sand, which have survived relatively undisturbed while the greater mounds of Toot Hill and Holme Hill have been quarried away completely.

In the absence of definite contrary evidence, it seems that the name is truly ‘Hell Hill’, for unknown reasons. The first element might otherwise be Middle English helde ‘slope’ (there was a field in Grimsby in 1492 called Heldecroft). But these features, hundreds of feet long and six feet high in the 19thC, hardly sloped at all and only comic exaggeration would have called them slopes. Smith’s spelling clearly suggests that he knew the Welsh word ellyll
‘goblin’ or other faery being, and made a connection with the Ancient Britons who, he was sure, inhabited the area. He also suggested that the other two mounds here were called Rye Hill and Thorn Hill. Rye Hill appears, from its situation, certain to be from Middle English ei ‘island, dry ground in marsh’, with the final -r of the Middle English preposition + definite article atter ‘at the’ attached; and Thorn Hill seems self-explanatory.

**Europarc** in Healing parish

An industrial park opened in 1999 as part of a local strategy to diversify employment away from the collapsed fishing industry. The spelling is conspicuously French.

The **Fitties**

A once well-known local term for grazing land on the seaward side of a seabank, overflowed by the highest tides. It is an anglicization of Old Scandinavian fitjar, plural of fit, which means exactly ‘waterside grassland’.

*the Fytthes 1537 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, the Fyttes 1553 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls*
*the Fytties 1569 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iv, Fytties 1573 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, The Fitties 1612 Shaw papers, 1695 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, 1840 Enclosure Act*
*the fittys 1665 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, le Fittes 1683 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, fittyes 1694 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, the Fittys 1697, the Fittees 1723 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document*

Best known now in *Humberston Fitties*, but formerly in the *West* and *East Fitties*, either side of *The Haven*, along the coastline at Grimsby and elsewhere too.

**Freeman Street** in Grimsby

This name of this street, the main approach to the new docks that were opened around 1850, relates to the fact that the area was developed as a
commercial proposition by the freemen of the borough from 1859 onwards (Freeman Street Market dates from 1873), and became one of Grimsby’s two main shopping areas. It is often used as the name for the commercial area itself, contrasted with Top Town, the shopping area around the former Bull Ring and Victoria Street. The abbreviation Freemo is nowadays in common use. The shopping street itself has been in serious commercial decline since the collapse of the fishing industry.

River Freshney

‘The fresh river’, by contrast with the saltwater creeks found along the Humber; perhaps a river whose estuary had no significant tidal inflow. From Old English fresc (pronounced “fresh”), in the dative case form with -an, + ēa ‘river’. Early records often show it with an Old Scandinavian pronunciation indicated by <-sk-> (compare Friskney near Wainfleet), but the original English pronunciation has won the day.

The river rises at several local springs, including Welbeck Springs and one near Beelsby, and it is joined in its course by Team Gate Drain flowing from Waltham. It originally ran into the Humber close to Pyewipe, on the joint boundary of Great Coates and Little Coates, west of the town and outside its jurisdiction, but at its seaward end, for a short distance, forming the boundary between Great Coates and Grimsby. Some of its water was culverted into the Haven in the Middle Ages, and in 1700 its main course was finally fully diverted to flow into the West Haven and thence into the Haven proper, i.e. what is now the southern arm of the Alexandra Dock. This was to help scour silt out of the Haven – a problem which had been complained about from time to time from the later Middle Ages but which had been recognized as serious in the 1660s and was noted by the diarist Abraham de la Pryme in 1697.23 The Freshney’s original course is roughly followed by that of New Cut Drain, well to the west of the ancient town. The upper reaches of the Freshney are known by other names, the main channel being Laceby Beck.

Hence also Freshney Bog, a washland and nature reserve created by the Borough Council in 2001 between Little Coates and The Willows to help with flood management. It is near the start of New Cut Drain, and is fed by one of Grimsby’s Blow Wells.

**Freshney Place** in Grimsby

A modern shopping mall (1968-71) containing the name of the adjacent (canalized) river. Originally known as The Riverhead Centre (see River Head), it covers the site of ancient streets such as The Bull Ring, Baxtergate and Flottergate.

**Fryston Corner** in Grimsby

Named from a house on the corner of Bargate and Weelsby Road, previously called Southfield from its relation to the field system of Nuns Farm. The

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23 He attributed the silting problem to “the Humber’s wearing away the huge cliff at Cleythorp”.

house was presumably renamed, directly or indirectly, after one of the several villages of this name in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

**Gooseman’s Drain**

A drainage channel incorporating a well-recorded local surname, peculiar to Lincolnshire, especially east Lindsey, since at least the 16thC.

**Grainsby, parish**

‘Gren’s farm or village’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name *Grein* in the genitive case form with -s (or more likely the Middle English equivalent -es) + by- ‘farm, village’. The first element could be *grein* ‘branch, fork in a river’; the village nucleus is indeed in such a fork but it is not a marked feature, the streams are not major watercourses, and the genitive case form suggests a personal name is more likely. Spellings in the form *Gren-* in the first set could suggest a specifically Danish (rather than Norse) pronunciation.

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Graynesby before 1155 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1245 Feet of Fines ☐, 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1295 Bishop Sutton’s Register, 1315 Inquisitiones post mortem and frequently in this form until 1588 Bishop’s Transcripts, Graynesbi 1333 Papal Registers, Graynsby 1475 Patent Rolls, Graynesbie about 1577 Terrier, 1586 Bishop’s Transcripts, Graynesbye 1623 Hill papers

Granesby 1390 Papal Registers, 1427 Patent Rolls, 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1554 Patent Rolls, Granesbye 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map

Granysby 1428 Feudal Aids, 1509 Inquisitiones post mortem, Granysbe 1562 Bishop’s Transcripts

Graynsby 1556 Maddison Deposit document, 1591, 1665 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1668 Terrier, Graysnbye 1563, 1662 Grainsbye 1562, Grainsbe 1570, Grainsbie 1594 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1601 Terrier, Grainsby 1638 Terrier, 1690 Haigh documents and generally in that form till the present day

The village nucleus is on a patch of glacial sand and gravel surrounded by the Boulder Clay (Till).

Hence also Grainsby Healing. In latter years a fox covert, this is called Heeling in 1745 Terrier. Its origin is unknown, as is its relationship, if any, to the name of the village of Healing. There are springs here, but I have seen no report of any healing properties.

The Grange Estate in Grimsby

A council housing estate begun in the late 1950s, built on the fields of the farm called Grimsby Grange on late Victorian maps. Coincidentally or otherwise, William Grange was Town Clerk of Grimsby for an astonishing 52 years (1861-1913).
Grant Thorold in Grimsby

A modern informal district, now also an electoral ward, adopting the name of Grant Thorold Park. The park was named after Alexander Grant-Thorold, a scion of the Thorold family of Weelsby Park, who gave nine acres of land to Grimsby on condition that the new park bore his surname, which had been double-barrelled by one of his forebears to secure an inheritance.

The park was opened in 1904 by his son Henry, and it is said locally that the dignitaries’ luncheon marquee blew down. As luck would have it, Colonel Buffalo Bill Cody’s travelling show was performing in the next field, and members of his team put the marquee up again.24

Great Coates, parish, partly absorbed by Grimsby

‘The bigger of two places called Coates’; compare adjacent Little Coates, which was probably a later settlement detached from Great Coates.

Cotes 1086 Domesday Book, 1176 and frequently in that form until 1206 Pipe Rolls, 1212 Book of Fees, 1223 Feet of Fines, 1265 Miscellaneous Inquisitions and generally in this form until Cotes “by” Grymesby 1426 Close Rolls
Cotis about 1115 Lindsey Survey

Cotun about 1115 Lindsey Survey, Kotun 1182 Pipe Rolls
Cothum 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, Cotom 1374 Peace Sessions

With great in Latin:

Magna Cotes 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1272 Assize Rolls, 1281 Feet of Fines, 1303 Feudal Aids, 1327 Subsidy Rolls and frequently in that form until Magna Cotes juxta Grimesby 1584 Miscellaneous donations 238
Magna Cotis 1503 Inquisitiones post mortem

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24 Steve Beasant, stevebeasant.4mp.org.uk/2008/08/31/the-park-was-opened-by-captain-h-grant-thorold-and-buffalo-bill-was-there-to-see-the-event/, accessed 11 January 2018.
**Place Names**

*Cotes Magna* 1526 Subsidy, *Cotts Magna* 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, *Cootes magna* 1570 Bishop’s Transcripts, *Coates magna* 1602 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1686 Terrier, *Coats Magna* 1689 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1697 Terrier

With *great* in French:

*Grawencotes, Grauncotes* in the reign of Henry III (1216-72; copied early 14thC) Selby Coucher Book

With *great* in English:


*Great Cootes* 1562 Bishop’s Transcripts, *Great Cottes* 1576 Lincoln Episcopal Records, *greate Cotes* 1596 Foster Library document, *Great Cotes* 1610 Speed’s county map, *Great Coates* 1702 Bishop’s Transcripts, *Great Coats* 1741 Pretyman Tomline papers and in this form generally till the present day

The name is pronounced with the stress on *Great*.

The farming estate was at first simply called, in Middle English, *Cotes*, meaning ‘the cottages’ or ‘the shelters’, and this sometimes appears in the form *Cotum* which descends from the dative case form of the word’s Old English ancestor (compare *Nun Cotham*). It may have been a secondary settlement from the ancient village of *Healing*, but that is speculation. The word for ‘big’ is expressed in a number of ways: *Magna* in Latin (with the position after *Coates* being preferred from the 16thC onwards), *Graun* for *graunt* in Anglo-Norman French (these two being the languages of medieval
bureaucracy), Mikel in Middle English, a form derived from Old Scandinavian mikill, and finally Great in Modern English.

St Nicolas’ church, Great Coates

Great Grimsby

The formal name of Grimsby, and also of its parliamentary constituency, reflecting the fact that there is a small village with the same name near Louth, now called Little Grimsby. The origin of the two names is the same. For fuller discussion, see Grimsby.

Great Limber, parish

See Limber.

Greedy Gut

A shallow channel in the mudflats on the Humber estuary side of Spurn Head. Gut is widely found in the sense ‘channel’, but why greedy is not clear, unless it is just an elaboration of gut using the common expression.
**Grimsby**, former county borough

‘Grim’s farm or village’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name *Grím*, in the genitive case form *Gríms*, + *bý*. Early forms mostly show the personal name in its Middle English form with -*es*.

*(i) grims bæ (miþivm)* about 1120 (copied about 1300) Orkneyinga saga


Grimsby 1328 Close Rolls, 1531 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic and in this form regularly until the present day, Grymmbys 1434 Fine Rolls, 1461 Close Rolls, Grimsbye 1576 Saxton's county map

Forms with <-mm->:


Grmmisby 1254 Valuation of Norwich, Grimmisbi 1271 Bishop Grosseteste's Rolls, Grymmysbe 1437 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xii, Grymminsby 1452 Fine Rolls

As ‘New Grimsby’:

Nova [Latin for ‘new’] Grimesbi 1155-58 Charter Rolls

“New” Grimesby in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied 1461) Patent Rolls

As ‘Great Grimsby’ in Latin form with magna(m):

magnam Grymesby 1293 Assize Rolls, magna Grymesby 1417 Grimsby Court Rolls, 1480 Papal Registers, magna grymmbys 1528 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i, Magna Grymesby 1557 Patent Rolls

Grymmyssby magna 1539 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iii, Grymmsby Magna 1543 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books ii, Grymesbie Magna 1574 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iv, Grymesbye Magna 1576 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iv, Grimesbie Magna 1581 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i, Grimsby Magna 1676 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books ix, 1678 Foster Library document
As ‘Great Grimsby’ in Scandinavian-derived form with *mikill*:

*mikill Grimesby* 1481 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* i

As ‘Great Grimsby’ in English form with *much*:

*mych Grymesby* 1500 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* i

As ‘Great Grimsby’ in English form with *great*:

*Grete grimesby* 1462 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* i, *Gret Grymesby* 1530 Wills iii, *grett Grymysby* 1540 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* iii, *Great Grymesby* 1508 Wills i, 1547 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* iii, 1563 Patent Rolls, 1615 *Miscellaneous deposits* 161, *Great Grymesbie* 1625 *Terrier, Great Grymesby* 1547 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* iii, 1681 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* ix, *Great Grimsby* 1557 Wills i, 1692 *Grimsby Court Rolls* and in this form regularly till the present day with minor further spelling variation including:

*Greate Grimesbie* 1612 *Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection* document, *Greate Grimsbie* 1654 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* viii

*Grim* is the English form of the common Scandinavian male given name *Grímr* (*Gríms* in the genitive (possessive) case form). The story, or myth, of its foundation is recounted in the anonymous early 14thC English poem “Havelok” (lines 734-749), as follows:

In Humber Grim bigan to lende,
In Lindeseye, rith at the north ende.
Ther sat is ship upon the sond;
But Grim it drou up to the lond;
And there he made a litel cote
To him and to hise flote.
Bigan he, there for to erthe,
A litel hus to maken of erthe,
So that he wel thore were
Of here herboru herborwed there.
And for that Grim that place aute,
The stede of Grim the name laute,
So that Grimesbi it calle
That ther-offe speken alle;
And so shulen men callen it ay,
Bituene this and Domesday.25

‘Grim proceeded to land by the Humber, right at the northern end of Lindsey. There his ship sat on the sand, but Grim drew it up on land, and there he made a little cottage for himself and his folks. He began to make a little house of earth there to dwell in, so that all was well with him there, lodged in their shelter. And because Grim owned the place, it got the name ‘the place of Grim’, so that everybody who mentions it calls it Grimsby, and so they ought to for ever from now till Doomsday.’ A bit wordy, but the point is clear.

Grimsby had already been recorded many times before the date of the poem’s earliest manuscript, usually as *Grimesbi* (five times in 1086 Domesday Book), *Grimesby* (1155-1157 Red Book of the Exchequer), *Grymesby* (about 1151 Registrum Antiquissimum), *Grimmesby* (1217 Patent Rolls), *Grymmesby* (1258 Charter Rolls), and occasionally in Latin as *Grimesbia*. The spelling *Grimsby* is first found in 1328 Close Rolls. These show that the linguistic origin of the name as set out in the poem is not in doubt, and that the town’s foundation (or at least its naming) can be placed in the period of Scandinavian dominance in eastern England between the ninth and eleventh centuries. The story of Grim and the Danish prince Havelok is first recorded in the *Estoire des Engleis* ‘History of the English’ in rhyming verse by the Anglo-Norman chronicler Geffrei Gaimar, which was written in the 1130s, and almost certainly completed in Lincolnshire. Gaimar mentions *Grimesbi* (lines 329 and 604), *Grimesby* (lines 307, 617 and 2580), but surprisingly does not mention the founding of the town by Grim.26 The

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connection is made in the later Anglo-Norman poem “Lai d'Haveloc” which derives from Gaimar’s chronicle and is a source of the English poem quoted above.

The town is first called Great Grimsby (in Latin, magnam Grymesby, in the accusative case form) in unpublished Assize Rolls of 1293, and in the 15thC in English as mekill, mych and grete Grimsby, all with the same meaning. But it had earlier appeared as “New Grimsby” (in Latin nova Grimesbi) in 1155-58 Charter Rolls. Whether this just means it was newer than the old (now Little) Grimsby near Louth, or whether it means that the main site of the place had shifted, perhaps because an earlier site was flooded or the haven silted up, is not known.

The most interesting early mention is perhaps that in chapter 51 of the 12thC Icelandic epic “Orkneyinga saga”, preserved in manuscripts of about 1300, including the phrase í Grímsbœ miðjum ‘in the middle of Grimsby’. In this, the wayfarer Rögnvaldr (Kali Kolsson) is said to have made a verse that went as follows, contrasting life on land with life at sea and returning in their longships to Bergen in Norway:

Vér hǫfum vaðnar leirur vikur fimm megingrimmar;
saurs vasa vant, es vôrum, viðr, í Grímsbœ miðjum.
Nús, þats mós of mýrar meginkáltiga lótum
branda elg á bylgjur Bjǫrgynjar til dynja.

Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages, 
https://skaldic.abdn.ac.uk/m.php?p=verse&i=3619 (spelling modernized)

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27 “Ceo fut el North, a Grimesbi./ A icel tens qe ieo vus di,/ Ni out onques home habite/
Ne cele hauene nert pas haunte./ Il i adresca primes maison;/ De lui ad Grimesbi a non.”
‘It was in the north, at Grimsby. At this time I’m telling you about no man had ever lived there and this haven hadn’t been in use. He was the first to put up a house there; from him it has Grimsby as [its] name.’ [RC’s translation.]
'We have waded through the mudflats for five mighty grim weeks; when we were in the middle of Grimsby there was no shortage of mud. Now it is that across the gull’s moor, mighty merrily, we make the prows’ elk boom over the billows to Bergen.'

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Rögnvaldr is making a deliberate pun on *Grimsby* when he describes their five weeks as *megingrimmr* ‘mighty grim, dire’, though it is not phonetically exact. Judith Jesch comments: “This description of Grimsby is entirely correct. In the Middle Ages, the town was surrounded by mudflats and saltmarshes, and there was only one road into it [represented now by Bargate, RC]. The Norwegian traders anchored out in the harbor and had to traipse through the mud every day to trade in the town.” 28 Grimsby’s historian Edward Gillett memorably said that “post-Conquest Lincolnshire appears as a kind of remoter suburb of Norway”, 29 and Scandinavian-speaking may have continued in this area for centuries, to judge by the number of Scandinavian words borrowed into local English dialect and appearing in place-names (e.g. *beck, dales, fitties, gairs, holm*).

Named areas of Grimsby currently mapped by the Ordnance Survey are *Bradley, East Marsh, Grange, Grant Thorold, Holme Hill, Littlefield, Old Clee, Weelsby, Wellow, West Marsh, The Willows* and *Yarborough*.

Hence also *Grimsby Docks*.

Grimsby’s first harbour was known time out of mind as The *Haven*. It was improved into a dock with lock-gates in 1800–1, on essentially the old site and alignment, and known as *The Haven Company’s Dock*, later still as *The Old Dock*, then reimagined in 1879/80–1884 as part of the enlarged, L-shaped, *Alexandra Dock*, named after the then Princess of Wales (see map on the next page but two). This dock was fed and scoured through The *West Haven* by the diverted river *Freshney*, the land at the Freshney’s new mouth being known as The *River Head*. Land was reclaimed from the *Humber*.


saltmarsh for the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway’s **Royal Dock** (opened in 1852) and **Fish Docks (nos) 1 and 2** (1857 and 1878), and the end of the dredged channel to the deep-water channel of the Humber was marked by a *dolphin* ‘mooring-post or bollard placed at the entrance of a dock or along a quay, wharf or beach, to make hawsers fast to’ on early Ordnance Survey maps. **Fish Dock (no.) 3 (Grimsby Dock East)** was opened on still more reclaimed marshland in 1934. **The Junction Dock** or **Union Dock** was constructed to link the Alexandra Dock and the Royal Dock, opening in 1879, the original lock allowing direct access to the sea from the Alexandra Dock being abandoned (see **Lock Hill**). Fish Dock 2 is now **Grimsby Marina**.

The three fish docks together were widely and proudly claimed as being the largest fishing port, and as having the largest fishing fleet, in the world from the 1930s through to the early 1960s. Visiting them was always referred to as going *down Dock*.
The Royal Dock is so called because the first stone was laid by the Prince Consort in 1849, and permission was given to commemorate his visit in the name. He and Victoria visited together a couple of years later. His life-size bronze statue, erected in 1879 and now with a fine green tarnish, still stands in front of the Dock Offices (see previous page).

The Docks in 1864 (Institute of Civil Engineers), showing the Old Dock. Note the “reclaimed land” which became the site of the Fish Docks. The historic town’s nucleus is just off the map to the right.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41728720

Grimsby Docks, mapped in about 1888, with inundated land north of the Alexandra Dock. Ordnance Survey 1:10560, Lincolnshire XXII.NE. Wikimedia. (Image on next page.)
Gunnerby in Hatcliffe parish

‘Gunnar’s farm or village’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Gunnar (without the expected genitive case form -s, except in the two earliest records) + bý-.

*Gunresbi* 1086 Domesday Book, about 1115 Lindsey Survey

The given name might be expected to appear in the genitive case form *Gunnars*, but this is suggested only by the two earliest records. Otherwise, as with the bulk of the evidence for *Barnoldby*, the name appears in its base form only.

**Habrough**, parish

The second element in the name seems clearly to be Old English *burg* ‘massive earthwork, fortification’, though nothing remarkable can be seen here now. The current village centre is by the railway station, near the ancient site of Newsham Farm (‘(at the) new houses’), but the original nucleus is around the parish church on a spur (now followed by the B1210) of slightly raised land (spot height at the “tip” 17 metres) in rather flat countryside, which might allow the interpretation of the first element as Old English *hēah* ‘high’. If so, it has been thoroughly influenced by the Old Scandinavian equivalent word *há(r)*. Conversely, we might envisage the anglicization of a Scandinavian name, originally *há + borg*, with *borg* as probably in *Scarborough* and *Flamborough* (Yorkshire, North and East Riding); this has not been suggested before for Habrough. A phrase linking these words is actually found in the Old Norse poem *Atlamál*: *á borg inni há* ‘on the high fortress’, so the concept is not out of the question.

In either case, therefore, possibly ‘high earthwork or fortification’, but in the absence of truly high ground or a fortification a better solution may be possible. The name was certainly understood in the Middle Ages as if this were its origin; the poor spellings *Alta Bargta* 1303 Feudal Aids and
Haltbaroc 1338 Patent Rolls contain as their first elements the Latin and Norman French words for ‘high’ respectively.

Habrough is recorded in a considerable range of spellings, mostly illustrating minor variation (e.g. occasionally without <H->, and in the 16thC occasionally with <Har->)\(^\text{30}\) but not enough to suggest a different interpretation, so a reduced selection is presented here.

Forms with <Ha->:

- *Aburne* 1086 Domesday Book, *Haburne* 1086 Domesday Book, *Haburn’* 1196 Chancellor’s copy of Pipe Rolls, *Haburn* 1218 Feet of Fines [these forms suggest Old English *burna* ‘stream’ but are generally regarded as aberrations]

- *Haburc* about 1115 Lindsey Survey, about 1150 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, 1159-81 (copied the early 13thC) *Nun Cotham Cartulary* and frequently in that form until the reign of Henry III (1216-72) Harleian Charters in British Museum, *Haburk* in the reign of Henry III (1216-72) Harleian Charters, *Haburch* 1143-47 Stenton: Danelaw Documents and in this form regularly until the reign of Richard I (1189-99; copied 1318) Charter Rolls, *Haburg(‘)* 1180 (copied early 13thC) *Nun Cotham Cartulary*, 1219 Book of Fees and frequently in this form until 1300 *Nun Cotham Cartulary*

- *Haburgh(‘)* 1259 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1281 Pleas of Quo Warranto, 1305 Patent Rolls and frequently in that form until 1817 *Yarborough documents*

- *Habur* 1159-81 (copied early 13thC) *Nun Cotham Cartulary, Haber* 1554 Ancaster papers

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\(^{30}\) The spellings in *Har-* suggest that the name was occasionally influenced by *Yarborough*, the name of the wapentake in which Habrough is situated.
Habrough 1569 Patent Rolls, 1602 Terrier, 1610 Speed’s county map, 1697 Terrier and in this form regularly until the present day, Habroughe 1586 Yarborough documents

Forms with <Hau->, with <au> as a spelling of long <á>, recalling the way that Anglo-Norman sauf has become safe with the same vowel as in Ha(brough), so probably a spelling using (Law) French conventions:

Hauburc 1197 Pipe Rolls, Hauburg(’) 1255 Close Rolls, Hauburgh 1298 Patent Rolls, 1399 Close Rolls

Forms with <Hay-> and similar showing the change of <a> in Scandinavian words with historic <á> to [ei] as in “hay”:


Haybur 1539 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xiv, Haybur alias Haybrugh 1570 Patent Rolls

Haile Sand Fort, from a sandbank in the river Humber offshore from Tetney parish

Along with Bull Sand Fort on the Yorkshire side of the Humber, one of two forts erected during the First World War but completed only in 1919.

Haile in Haile Sand may be from Old Scandinavian hali ‘tail’, in a topographical sense. This sandbank projected a significant distance from the coastline at the time of Morden’s map’s map (1695) on which it appears as Sand Hil, offshore from the ancient Saltfleet storm-beach, which is now under sand-dunes. Caution is due because of the lateness of the oldest records. Compare the modern Haile Sand off Humberston where Tetney Haven emerges from the sandbanks into the Humber proper, whose name may contain the same word. Hali has not previously been suggested as a
place-name element in England, except in the *kattar-hali ‘cat’s tail’ which may appear in *Catterall (Lancashire).

Haile could instead contain hale, from an oblique case form of Old English halh ‘nook, corner, etc.’, but there seem to be no other examples of this in offshore names.

**Hardy Recreation Ground** in Grimsby

Formerly Weelsby Recreation Ground, now often Hardy’s. The current name is due to Frank Barrett (see Barrett’s), who named this improved park after his wife’s family.\(^{31}\) Now “[a]n alarmingly desolate patch of grass between Ladysmith Road and Humberstone Road Precinct.”\(^{32}\) That is, at the southern end of Weelsby Street South.

**Hatcliffe**, parish

‘Hadda’s cliff’, from the common Anglo-Saxon male given name Hadda (with a lost genitive case form suffix -n) + clif, perhaps originally in its dative case form clife where the <f> would have been pronounced as the [v] often indicated in early spellings, but later replaced by the [f] of the base form of the word.

With spellings in <-d-> and <-v/-u->:

Hadeclyue 1086 Domesday Book, 1226-9 Book of Fees, 1252 Close Rolls, Hadeclyue 1204 Pipe Rolls, 1271 Assize Rolls, Hadeclyue about 1240 Institutions to Benefices, 1284 Harleian Charters in British Museum

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Haddecliuе about 1184 (copied in 15thC) Records of the Templars, about 1200 Registrum Antiquissimum iv, 1230 Close Rolls ◊, Haddeclive 1286 Bishop Sutton's Register ◊

Hadclyve 1313 Originalia Rolls, 1428 Feudal Aids

With spellings in <-d-> and <-f->:

Hadclif 1238-41 Book of Fees, 1271 Feet of Fines ◊, Hadeclyf 1327 Subsidy Rolls

Haddeclif 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1316 Feudal Aids, Haddeclif 1347 Coram Rege Rolls, 1399 Patent Rolls

Hadcliff 1309 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, Hadclif 1312 Patent Rolls, 1364 Close Rolls, Hadclyf 1437 Ancient Deeds, Hadclyfe 1510 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic i

Hadcleve 1397 Patent Rolls

With spellings in <-t->:

Hateclive 1328 Inquisitiones post mortem

Hatteclif 1364 Close Rolls, 1383 Patent Rolls, 1586 Bishop's Transcripts, Hatteclif 1374 Patent Rolls, 1431 Feudal Aids, Hattecliftyff(e) 1513 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic i, 1560 Bishop's Transcripts, Hattecliff(e) 1562 and frequently in those forms until 1566 Bishop's Transcripts

Hateclife 1596 Bishop's Transcripts, Hatecliffe 1635 Bishop's Transcripts

this form regularly until 1603 *Bishop’s Transcripts*, *Hatcliffe 1600*, 1666 *Bishop’s Transcripts* and in this form regularly until the present day

*Hatclif alias Hadclif* 1402 Patent Rolls

*Hakclyff* 1576 Saxton’s county map, *Hakcliff* 1610 Speed’s county map

*Hautecleue* 1202 Harleian Charters in British Museum, 1202 Dugdale: *Monasticon Anglicanum iv*

The original [d] becomes its voiceless counterpart [t] when preceding the voiceless sound [k], and the new sequence [tk] is in its turn sometimes simplified to [kk] as indicated in the late map spellings. *Hautecleue* (1202) is based on the idea that the first element is French *haut* ‘high’, in a natural association with *cliff*.

Hatcliffe is situated on the upper course of *Waith Beck*. The cliff might be that just west of the village, cut by the beck, or those of the dry valley of the road leading to *Ravendale* to the east. The former is closer to the village nucleus, which adjoins the parish boundary (the beck), but the latter is the one actually in Hatcliffe parish.

The **Havelock Stone**

See The **Blue Stone**.

The **Haven** in Grimsby

Grimsby’s maritime history is founded on the existence of two navigable waterways which came to be known as *the Old Haven* and *the West Haven*, the latter being excavated from common pasture in the 14thC. The landward end of the Old Haven, south of the junction with the West Haven, silted up and was abandoned in early modern times, but its troublesome ghost was betrayed by subsidence in (sub)urban streets such as Ainslie Street and Wintringham Road well into the second half of the 20thC. After the silting,
trade was focused on the remaining stub of the Haven, which was improved into what came to be called the Saltwater Haven, then the Wet Dock (a major project of the celebrated engineer John Rennie, 1796-1800), and then the Alexandra Dock. The main flow of the river Freshney was diverted into the haven system in stages, in the Middle Ages, in 1700, and then again in the 19thC, to contribute to the scouring of the West Haven. The term the Saltwater Haven presumably referred to that part of the Haven which was not completely flushed by the Freshney. The historic “old” exit from the dock into the Humber was demoted to a winding channel through the saltmarsh when the new exit of 1800 was effected through a lock (referred to in Lock Hill) and a new straight channel in the marshes, but that was abandoned in the long run (no longer mapped by 1933) in favour of a new exit created via the Union Dock through the Royal Dock and its tidal basin in 1857.


la havene 1359 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, del Hauen 1392 Grimsby Court Rolls ☚ [in Law French]

atte ['at the'] Hauen' 1401 Grimsby Court Rolls ☚

le havyn 1531 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i, le haven (de magna grymesby) 1547 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iii

the havyn 1471 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i, 1537 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, the haven 1582 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts and frequently in this form until 1735 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, ye Haven 1645 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii, the Haven 1641 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 1, 1649 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts and in this form frequently till modern times

the Haven or Wet Dock 1803 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xiv, 1833 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document
(The) Old Haven 1801 Grimsby map in NELA, 1811 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xv

the harbour before 1600 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, 1753 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books xii

the salt water haven 1639 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii, the Saltwater Haven 1663 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts

ye Creeke, or Harbour 1660 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books ix, Grimsby Creek 1666 State Papers Domestic

A large body of water mapped in the 19thC north of the western arm of the Alexandra Dock was a flooded brickpit, as testified by the Brickpit Coal Sidings of the Great Central Railway on the OS 1: 2500 map of 1908. See also Grimsby Docks under Grimsby.

Haverstoe wapentake

‘Hávarð’s mound’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Hávarð-, in the genitive case with -s, + haug- ‘mound’. The meeting-place of the wapentake was almost certainly a mound in Beacon Field in Hawerby parish, now levelled, but once having far-reaching views over the Marsh. Since Hawerby was ‘Hávarð’s farm’, the two names presumably commemorate the same person.33


33 The possibility of a meeting-place in Cabourne parish has been floated by Aliki Pantos (2001) Lincolnshire assembly places, no. 13 (unpublished, Lincolnshire Record Office MLI81175).
There is a minor but persistent medieval tradition omitting the -s, which is also absent in Hawerby. The modern spelling is established in the 18thC.

Haverstoe is also the name of a deanery of Lincoln diocese. Hence also the modern amenity Haverstoe Park in Cleethorpes, which was never in this wapentake but in that of Bradley. Haverstoe was merged with Bradley wapentake at some time before 1653 under the name Bradley Haverstoe.

Hawerby, parish in union with Beesby

‘Hávarð’s farm or village’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Hávarð + bý-. Unusually, the given name does not appear in the genitive case form with -s.
Hauwardeby 1204 Additional Charters, 1312 Fine Rolls, Houwerdeby 1312 Patent Rolls

Hawordeby in the reign of Henry III (1216-72) Harleian Charters, 1311 Patent Rolls, Hawerdeby 1428 Feudal Aids

Hawardby 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1356 Feet of Fines, 1385, 1438 Patent Rolls, 1610 Speed’s county map

Hawarby 1526 Subsidy, 1561 Patent Rolls

Hoverby 1535 Valor ecclesiasticus, Howerbie before 1567 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 5

Hawerby 1553 Patent Rolls and in this form generally through to the present day

Compare Haverstoe, along with its possible relation to this name.

Haycroft(s) in Grimsby

From a 59-acre field forming part of Grimsby’s open field system before the 1827 Act of Inclosure. This is rather large for a croft, generally meaning ‘small enclosure’, and the name may have been transferred from some smaller entity absorbed within it. According to a map of 1742, this field contained Blow Wells.

Healing, parish

‘The people associated with *Hægel’, from an unrecorded but plausible Old English male given name based on the word haga ‘enclosure, landed property’, seen also in hagustald ‘landless military follower, dependant, bachelor’, + the group suffix -ingas. The given name might in theory derive from Old English hægel ‘hail(stones)’. It duplicates the name of Hayling

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Island (Hampshire). Forms with -s are not richly represented, but they occur sporadically from the 12thC till the 15thC. This explanation is more convincing overall than one involving a singular suffix -ing, but the singular form is not impossible because singular -ing names based on given names apparently do occur.

The expected pronunciation of the village name is *Haling (as in Hayling Island). But the Hail-/Heil- type of spelling fades out towards the end of the Middle Ages. (Compare the history of Clee.) From time to time, from 1198 onwards, forms with Hel- are found, suggesting that the original name was understood as Middle English hélinge ‘curing, restoring to health’. Such forms eventually dominated, and they give rise to the modern pronunciation. The parish has two springs, one fresh and one chalybeate (at Healing Wells on the road to Riby), which must have helped the transition. Early commentators\(^\text{35}\) thought their existence accounted for the parish name, but that cannot be so; the effect came later, triggered by the accidental similarity of the original name and the word for ‘curing’. These springs must have been known in early times, but they were not exploited till the Victorian era.

Forms without <-s>:

*Hechelinge, Heghelinge 1086 Domesday Book, Heghelinga* [Latin form] about 1115 Lindsey Survey, *Heheling 1212 Book of Fees*


*Hegling’ 1201 Feet of Fines, about 1240 Institutions to Benefices, Heglinge 1212 Book of Fees, Heglyng’late 13thC (copied early 14thC) Selby Coucher Book, Heigling 1221 Guisburn Cartulary*


Healyng 1566 Bishop’s Transcripts, Healing 1590, 1668 Bishop’s Transcripts and generally in this form until the present day, Healinge 1664 Terrier

Forms with < -s>:

Hailinges 1180 Pipe Rolls, Heylinges 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1285 Bishop Sutton’s Register, 1353 Inquisitiones post mortem

Helinges 1212 Curia Regis Rolls, Helynges 1427 Close Rolls

In early forms with Heg-, the <g> was pronounced like <y>.

This name, formed with -ingas, is the sole representative in northern Lincolnshire of a kind widely regarded as a very early type of Anglo-Saxon place-name, and one more often found further south and east in England. But names including a form of this type can be found at Immingham,
Killingholme and Stallingborough. These four names make a tightly knit group of four adjacent parishes each on the south bank of the Humber.

Hewitts Circus in Cleethorpes

A road-junction with a roundabout named after the prominent local Hewitt family of brewers, who owned land in Grimsby and Cleethorpes around 1900. The roundabout is on the present boundary of Cleethorpes with New Waltham and Humberston civil parishes.

Hog Pit Hill in Irby upon Humber parish

The name now designates the modern course of the A46 main road, which bypasses the historic village centre. Pit alludes to chalk quarrying in the Irby Dales area, and represents an earlier field-name. The exact relevance of hog with pit is unknown; could it be a substitute for hob in the sense ‘hobgoblin’? (Compare the field Hob Hole in Peckleton, Leicestershire, and several depressions called Hob or Hob’s Holes in the west Midlands.\(^{36}\))

Holderness in the East Riding of Yorkshire

‘Headland of the high-ranking office (hereditary landowner)’, from an Old Scandinavian word represented by Old Norse hǫldr, hǫldr, in a genitive case form *hǫldar or one representing a possible ancient variant *høldr, + nes. The spellings with <e> in the first syllable are Middle English renderings of the *hølðr variant.\(^{37}\)

\[\text{Heldrenesse, Heldernes(se) 1086 Domesday Book, Heldernes(se) wap’}~\]
1166 until 1188 Pipe Rolls

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Helderneis 1130 Pipe Rolls

Heldrenesia [Latin form] 1098-1102 Early Yorkshire Charters no. 1300

Heuderness(e) 1195 Red Book of the Exchequer and frequently in that form until 1303 Knights' Fees, Heudrenesse 1298 Patent Rolls

Holdernes, Holderness, Holderness 1087-95 (copied 14thC) Early Yorkshire Charters no. 1299, 1298 Patent Rolls, and in the second form regularly until the present day, Holdrenesse 1322 Beverley Minster Chapter Act Book

Houderness(e) 1203 and frequently in that form until 1255 Patent Rolls

Hulldenesse 1300 Patent Rolls

Later Scandinavian forms appear to be adaptations of the anglicized name with <e>:

Hellornes early 13thC Heimskringla, Hallornes 13thC Orkneyinga saga

Originally the name of some or all the peninsula ending in Spurn Head, and also applied to an administrative unit. The administrative unit named is variously called in Latin a wapentake, fee, ballivate (bailiff's unit) or liberty:

Holdernes wapentacum, Holderness wapentacum, Holdernesse wapentacum 1178, 1183 Pipe Rolls and frequently in similar forms afterwards, Holdernes feoda, Holderness feoda, Holdernesse feoda 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, Holdernes balliuo, Holderness balliuo, Holdernesse balliuo 1305 Rental, Holdernes lib', Holderness lib', Holdernesse lib' 1339 Extent, 1348 Charter Rolls

Hole

See Oole.
Holm(e) in place-names

A word borrowed into Old or Middle English from Old Scandinavian holm- ‘small island’, ‘patch of dry ground in marshland’, as in Holme Hill and Killingholme. Some commentators give this as the name of one of “thorpes” of Clee. In that guise, it is Holme Hill, once in Clee with Weelsby parish, now part of Grimsby.

Holme Hill in Grimsby, formerly in Clee (with Weelsby)

This is the former marshland settlement of Holm, from the Old Scandinavian word holm- ‘island, raised ground in marshland’, borrowed into English as holm. The place was formerly referred to as South Holm, but appears as Salt Holm in one run of central government documents in the 1190s. This may be an alternative name for a place in the saltmarsh, but it seems more likely to be a mistake for “Sutholm”.

As for South Holm itself, it can hardly be so named because it was south of Grimsby as Kenneth Cameron presumes38 (it was east of the historic centre), and it was certainly not south within the boundaries of Clee parish. The best guess is that it was south of some other, now unidentifiable, mound within the East Marsh. There are references to North Holm Meer and South Holm Meer as late as 1784 in a Clee local terrier. But the early dropping of South suggests at very least the downgrading in status, or even the washing away, of North Holm.

The simple name was expanded to Holm(e) Hill in early modern times, the need for the change being not entirely clear. But this was certainly appropriate, because the holm was an enormous mound of glacially deposited sand and gravel, well over 150 feet high and at least 700 yards long (depending which date and source you prefer), which was flattened for building material as the area was developed during the housing expansion of the later 19thC. The paltry remnant, which barely shows as a superficial trace on the British Geological Survey map, is now topped by St Mary on the

38 Cameron, Kenneth, Place-names of Lincs, vol. 5, pp. 17-18.
Sea Roman Catholic church (built 1883) at the corner of Wellington Street and Heneage Road.

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13406113

Sotholm 1182, Sudholm 1184 Pipe Rolls, Sutholm’ 1212 Feet of Fines ◊, 1282 Feet of Fines, Sutholme about 1300 Gisburn Cartulary

Saltholm 1191 until 1199 Pipe Rolls, 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls

Holm 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1313 Patent Rolls, 1332 Subsidy Rolls ◊, 1366 Grimsby Final Concords ◊, in the reign of Elizabeth I Chancery Proceedings, Holme 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1314 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, 1327 Subsidy Rolls ◊, 1387 Close Rolls and frequently in this form until 1547 Patent Rolls, Hulm 1313 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum
Cleholme [i.e. the holm in Clee] 1316 Patent Rolls

Holm' Hyll 1508 Grimsby Mayor's Court Books ii, Holm hill 1518
Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, holme hill 1635 Terrier, 1720 Grimsby
Court Leet Verdicts, Holme Hill 1710 Tennyson d'Eyncourt Collection
document, 1828 Bryant's county map

The place was formerly in Clee parish (note Cleholme in 1316), but seems to have been reckoned to Grimsby since around 1500. The name is now used as that of an informal district and electoral ward.

At the southern end of Holme Hill was Ket Bank, a feature of unknown origin or purpose. It is recorded only in the 19thC, by George Oliver, who says that it was associated with popular ceremonies. Its name may contain Old Scandinavian ketta ‘female cat; giantess’, but that is pure speculation.

Holton-le-Clay, parish

‘Hill-spur farm or village’, from Old English hōh ‘heel, spur of a hill’ + tūn ‘farm, village’. The <l> in the modern name gets established in the 17thC, probably as an inverse response to the change which allows cold to be pronounced /kɔːd/ (rather like code) in this area.39 The <l> appears in Domesday Book, but that indicates a sound like [w] in this position in the word in Norman French and this ancient spelling does not survive into medieval documents.

Holtun, Holtone 1086 Domesday Book

Houtona [Latin form] about 1115 Lindsey Survey, Houton(’) 1200
Pipe Rolls ©, 1212 Book of Fees, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1291 Taxatio
Ecclesiastica, 1303 Feudal Aids and frequently in this form until 1602 Terrier

Howtona [Latin form] in the reign of Henry III (1216-72; copied
1409) Gilbertine Charters, Howton 1406 Close Rolls, 1431 Feudal

Aids, 1496-98 Ministers’ Accounts, 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus and in this form regularly until 1576 Foster: Lincoln Episcopal Records, Howtonne 1610 Bishop’s Transcripts

Hotton’ 1166, Hottuna [Latin form] 1167 Pipe Rolls

Hocton’ 1202 Assize Rolls, Houcton 1276 Close Rolls

Hauton’ 1254 Valuation of Norwich, Hawton al[.] Holton in le Clay 1723 Speculum Dioeceseos Lincolniensis

Houghton 1352 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1475-77 Ministers’ Accounts, 1519 Diocesan Visitations i, 1609 Ministers’ Accounts, 1779 Enclosure Award, Howghton 1496-98 Ministers’ Accounts, Howgeton 1534 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic vii

Holton 1565 Bishop’s Transcripts, and in this form generally till the present day

Howlton 1563 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map, 1653 Parliamentary Survey, 1703 Terrier

Houlton 1610 until 1623 Bishop’s Transcripts

The place is described or named over the centuries as being near (iuxta) Grimsby, Humberston, Tetney and Waithe. It is “in the clay” to distinguish it from Holton le Moor south-west of Caistor and Holton cum Beckering north-west of Wragby, both of whose base-names have the same origin. Le ‘the’ derives from the bureaucratic tradition of using Law French, where it is often used simply to indicate that an English word is about to follow, and the designation “in the clay” dates from the 17thC. Holton church is on a low projecting rise (about 15-20 feet spot height) in the Till or Boulder Clay, enough perhaps to keep its feet dry, but there is no dramatic landscape feature anywhere in the parish.
Houton(‘) “by” Grimesby 1291 Inquisitiones post mortem, ---- iuxta Humberstan 1295 Assize Rolls, ---- “by” Wathe 1396 Ancient Deeds, ---- iuxta Greate Grimsbie 1590 Bishop’s Transcripts, Houlton nexte to great Grimsby 1614 Bishop’s Transcripts

Howtonne juxta Tetteney 1503, ---- next tetnay 1584 Foster Library document, ---- iuxta great grimsbe 1588 Bishop’s Transcripts, ---- iuxta grimsbie 1607 Bishop’s Transcripts

Howtonne in Le clae 1604 Bishop’s Transcripts, Howlton in le Claie 1615 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, Holton in le Clay 1633 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1698 Middleton document, University of Nottingham, 1724 Haigh documents, Holton in le Claie 1635 Bishop’s Transcripts, Houlton in le Clay 1668, 1719 Haigh documents, 1678 Bishop’s Transcripts

Houlton in the Clay 1626 Bishop’s Transcripts, Houlton in Clay 1649 Lincolnshire Wills proved at Canterbury

Houlton le Clay 1652 Radcliffe document, 1682 Haigh documents, Holton le Clay 1671, 1690 Terrier and in this form regularly until the present day, Houton(‘) le Clay 1720 Bishop’s Transcripts

River Humber

A pre-English river-name of unknown origin and meaning, found also as the name of several smaller rivers in England. The only serious suggestion is due to the Swedish scholar Eilert Ekwall: that it comes from a British Celtic prefix *su- ‘good’ ([s] becomes [h] at the beginning of words in late British Celtic) + a form of a river-name type which is widespread in Europe, *Ambr-.

(The) Humber Bank

Self-explanatory. The name today most often refers to the industrial works, including chemical works, between the West Marsh, the river and Killingholme.

**Humberston**, parish

A village taking its name from the Humber Stone (Old English *stån*). The name was given the current spelling by the Post Office in the 1930s to try to differentiate it from Humberstone, Leicestershire, whose name has a different origin.

A significant number of early spellings indicate that the village was often and persistently known by an equivalent Old Scandinavian name with *stein* as the second element.


*Humerstain' 1228, Humerstein' 1230 Curia Regis Rolls*
A third tradition spells the name with -stan or -stane. These forms, especially the earlier ones, are best taken as representing the Old English name rather than the Scandinavian one, though eventually both names would have come to be pronounced the same because of phonetic reduction in the last, unstressed, syllable.


The Humber Stone was a boulder mentioned in 1634 by the historian Gervase Holles in his Memorials as being on the shore “just at ye place where Humber looseth himselfe in ye German Ocean”. It must have had this title
from far back in the Anglo-Saxon era, and is sometimes claimed locally as the place where the Vikings first landed in Lincolnshire. But it must have got lost, because the glacial erratic which passes at present for the Stone was dug up in a field in Midfield Farm in the winter of 1956/7. This stone, which is not particularly remarkable in shape or size, presently sits with a small wall-plaque, but without fanfare, outside a tea-shop (the former library) in the village centre, a little way south of the site of Midfield Farm.

**Humberston Fitties**

See **Fitties**.

**Immingham**, parish, modern town and port

‘The homestead or major farm of the group of people called the *Immingas’*, with Old English *hām*, preceded by *Imminga*, the genitive case form of *Immingas* ‘people associated with a man named *Imma’*. This name is on record; Imma was a 7thC prince of Northumbria mentioned by Bede in his *Ecclesiastical history*, but he is not necessarily the man commemorated.

*Imungeham, In Mingeham* 1086 Domesday Book, *Immungheham* about 1115 Lindsey Survey [all possibly mis-spelt or miscopied, though some medieval place-names with <-ung-> for <-ing-> are known]


*Immingham* 1100-15 (copied about 1240) Early Yorkshire Charters ii, 1233 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1249 Charter Rolls, 1276 Close Rolls, 1315 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1610 Speed’s county map and frequently in this form until the present day, *Immyngham* 1281 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1327 Subsidy Rolls and frequently in this form
until 1428 Feudal Aids, 1576 Saxton’s map, Ymmingham 1157-80
Early Yorkshire Charters iii, 1203 Pipe Rolls, Ymmyngham 1545
Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xx

Iningham about 1190 Stenton: Danelaw Documents ✟, 1242-3 Book of Fees, 1559 Institutions to Benefices, Inymingham 1259 Close Rolls, 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1308 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, 1338 Close Rolls and frequently in that form until 1565 Patent Rolls, Ymingham 1202 Assize Rolls ✟, 1265 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, Ymyngham 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus


Emmingeham before 1135 (copied about 1240) Whitby Cartulary, 1216 Oblate Rolls

Emmingham about 1078 (copied about 1240) Whitby Cartulary, Emmingham about 1148 Yorkshire Deeds vii, 1166-80 Early Yorkshire Charters xi, Emyngham 1136 (copied about 1240) Early Yorkshire Charters ii, 1539 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xiv, Emyngham 1389 Close Rolls, 1424 Yarborough documents

Iningham 1276 Hundred Rolls, Inyngham 1501 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1566 Patent Rolls [almost certainly mistranscriptions]

Imingham alias Innyingham alias Iningham 1566 Patent Rolls [the scribe is playing safe]

Spellings with <H-> show a typical medieval usage avoiding initial vowel letters (compare the record of Irby, but not Itterby); the letter was not pronounced. Spellings with <E-> fall within the expected range of variation for initial <I->. The unique form Himmingehaim in Charter Rolls of about
1163 shows the use or influence of Old Scandinavian *heim-* ‘place, home’ instead of *hām*.

**Irby Dales** in Irby upon Humber parish

Contains the name of *Irby upon Humber* + a Middle English plural form adapting the Old Scandinavian *dal-* ‘valley’. Irby Dales farm is at the point where two valleys diverge to make an island of high ground on which the historic village is perched.

**Irby upon Humber**, parish

‘The farm of the Irishman/-men’, from Old Scandinavian *Íri* in the genitive case form *Íra* + *bý*-. The term *Íri* could mean not just ‘Irishman’, but also ‘Irish viking’, i.e. a Norseman resident in or coming from Ireland.


*Irreby* about 1240 Registrum Antiquissimum iv, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1316 Feudal Aids, 1375 Peace Sessions, 1428 Feudal Aids

*Irbi* 1275 Hundred Rolls, *Irby* 1303 Feudal Aids, 1327 Subsidy Rolls and generally through to the present day, *Irbie* 1576 Lincoln Episcopal Records, 1724 *Terrier*


*Hirby* in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied 1409) Gilbertine Charters, 1383 Peace Sessions, *Hyrby* 1267-73 Registrum Antiquissimum ix
Urby 1303, 1428 Feudal Aids

Erebye 1576 Saxton’s map, 1610 Speed’s county map, Ereby 1577 Harrison

Eirby 1504 Close Rolls, Erby 1589 (copied 1658) Holles: Memorials, 1625 Terrier, Erbie 1613, Earbie 1623 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, Eareby 1638 Terrier


Irby alias Ireby alias Erby be Swallow 1741 Pretyman Tomline papers

Irby church is on a prominent Chalk spur overlooking the coastal plain. The village’s name is remarkable because it stands high on the escarpment of the Wolds, five and a half miles from the river Humber and a couple of hundred feet above its level. Irby by Laceby or Irby by Swallow, both occasionally found in the record, would be more honest. It contrasts with Irby in the Marsh, near Spilsby, fully 36 miles to the south-east, but, like Irby upon Humber, in Lindsey.

Itterby in Cleethorpes (no longer in use)

‘The outer farmstead or village’, from Old Scandinavian ytri + by-. It is ‘outer’ from the perspective of the historic parish nucleus, Old Clee, by being a quarter of a mile south of the nearer Oole. It is strange in that it might be expected to be named from the start with thorp, the usual word for a secondary farmstead in a parish. But it comes to be referred to in the later 16thC as Itterby Thorp, and also as Middle Thorpe and Upper Thorpe in still later records, being one of the thorps which justifies the name of Cleethorpes. It was eventually also Far Cleethorpes. Compare Thrunscoe (which was south of Itterby, near the Boating Lake) for the late explicit designation as a thorp.
Itrebi 1086 Domesday Book, Ittreby 1459 Ancient Deeds vi, Iterby, Yterby 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer

Ytterby 1273 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1467 Lincolnshire Wills proved at Canterbury, Ytterbi 1275 Hundred Rolls, Itterby 1294 Assize Rolls, 1327 Subsidy Rolls ◯, 1351 Coroner’s Rolls, and frequently in this form till the place drops out of the record

Itterbye 1530-31 Ducatus Lancastriæ, 1594 Inventory, Itterbie 1564 Inventory, 1635 Terrier

Itterbie thorpe 1587, Itterby thorpe 1589 Inventory

It is not clear whether the following forms represent an alternative spelling tradition for this place, or are the result of confusion with Utterby near Ludborough (which never has spellings beginning with <I->):

Utterby 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1303 Feudal Aids, 1544 Inventory, Utterbye 1545 Inventory, Vtterby 1543, 1627 Inventory, Vtterbie 1546 Inventory

The Kasbah in Grimsby Docks

An informal name for the former commercial hub of the docks developed between the Royal Dock and Fish Dock 2 in the 1870s, with its fish curing houses and warehouses, at the time of writing (2018) to become a conservation area.

The word derives from North African Arabic qaṣba ‘castle’, for Westerners denoting especially the castle of Algiers and the adjacent quarter. It isn’t clear whether the Grimsby allusion is more to a hive of activity, to narrow streets, or to the tradition of haggling over prices. The age of the name is also unclear, but such imported names tend to carry topical references, and this may date from Charles Boyer’s apocryphal invitation to “Come with me to the Casbah” in the Hollywood film Algiers (United Artists, 1938).
Keelby, parish

‘Farm on the keel-shaped ridge’, from Old Scandinavian *kel- ‘keel’ (Old Norse kjöldr), in a genitive case form with -a instead of the expected -ar, + bý- ‘farm, village’.

Chelebi 1086 Domesday Book, about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1157-81, in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, Chilebi 1086 Domesday Book, 1171-75 Stenton: Danelaw Documents

Kelebi 1143-47 Stenton: Danelaw Documents ☺, 1190 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1238-43 Book of Fees, Keleby about 1150 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, 1233 (copied in the reign of Edward I, 1272-1307) Newhouse Cartulary and frequently in that form until 1634-42 Holles: Memorials, Kelaby 1364 Coram Rege Rolls

Kelebya [Latin form] 1200 Charter Rolls, Kelebye 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map

Kileby 1208 Feet of Fines, 1292 Originalia Rolls, Kyeleby 1218 Assize Rolls, Kyleby 1268 Close Rolls, 1303 Feudal Aids, Keileby about 1215 Registrum Antiquissimum ii, 1576-77 Ministers’ Accounts, Keylbye 1545 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xx

Kelby 1376 Close Rolls, 1463 Fine Rolls, Kilby 1635 Foster Library document

Keelby 1380 Peace Sessions, 1536-37 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum vi and in this form regularly until the present day, Keeleby 1629 Yarborough documents, Kielby 1634 Gibbons: Notes on Visitation

Keylby 1500 Louth Churchwardens’ Book A, 1539 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xiv, Keilbye 1553 Patent Rolls

<Ch-> in early spellings means the sound /k-/.
The old village nucleus is sited close to a discernible but not very striking watershed consisting of a ridge of glaciofluvial sand and gravel, about 15-20 metres above Ordnance Datum, between two patches of alluvium (one drained and the other still containing Caddle Beck), and above what was once carr-land or wet woodland. The ridge must have been more important in practical terms than visually.

**Ket Bank** (no longer in use)

See Holme Hill.

**Killingholme**, parish

Probably from Old English *Cēolwulfinga hām* ‘farming estate of people associated with a man named Cēolwulf’, a fairly frequent high-status given name made up of the elements ‘ship’ + ‘wolf’; another possibility is the rare Cēollāf ‘ship’ + ‘remainder, legacy’. In either case, the second element hām has been replaced by Scandinavian haugr ‘mound’ (or apparently so, in one form in Domesday Book; probably a mistake), otherwise by Scandinavian and Middle English holm ‘raised land in marsh’. The latter would be appropriate here. Phonetic reduction of the last syllable results in the numerous forms spelt in early-modern times with -ham; these are unlikely to be simple survivals of the proposed original Old English form. The fact that the modern pronunciation begins with /k-/r, rather than the /ʧ-/ (the sound at the beginning of chip) which occurs in the suggested Old English personal name, is consistent with Scandinavian influence. None of this is certain, and the name is linguistically difficult.

Forms with “Kilv-” and the like and 4 syllables:

*Chelvingehou* 1086 Domesday Book [with <ch> pronounced [k]),

*Cheluingeholm* 1086 Domesday Book, 1180 Pipe Rolls,

*Chiluingheholm* about 1115 Lindsey Survey
Kiluingeholm about 1141 British Museum Charter Facsimiles, about 1155 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, 1194 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, 1205 Oblate Rolls, 1218 Assize Rolls, Kiluingehom’ 1206 Feet of Fines

Forms with “Kilv-” and the like and 3 syllables:

Cheluingholme 1086 Domesday Book, Chiluingholm 1150-60 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, chilvinholm 1159-81 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary


Kelwyngholm 1303 Feudal Aids, Kilwyngholme 1346 Feudal Aids

Kylvingholm alias Killingholm 1305 Inquisitiones post mortem

Forms with “Kil-” and the like and 4 syllables:

Killingeholm 1194 Pipe Rolls, 1205 Curia Regis Rolls ☉, 1218 Assize Rolls, 1235-36 Book of Fees ☉, Killingehum’ 1216 Oblate Rolls ☉

Forms with “Kil-” and the like and 3 syllables:

Kilînungholm 1148-56 Hatton: Book of Seals ☉, 1198 Curia Regis Rolls ☉, 1212 Book of Fees, 1240 Feet of Fines and frequently in this form until 1353 Inquisitiones post mortem, Kilyngholm 1336 Harleian Charter Rolls, 1407 Close Rolls, Kylingholm(e) 1266 Miscellaneous
Inquisitions, 1291 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1316 Fine Rolls, 
*Kyllyngholm(e)* 1317 Patent Rolls, 1327 Subsidy Rolls and frequently in this form until 1428 Feudal Aids

*Killingholm(e)* 1190 (copied 1301) Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum vi, 1197 Pipe Rolls, 1208 Feet of Fines, 1268 Charter Rolls, 1275 Nun Cotham Cartulary and frequently in these forms until 1373 Peace Sessions, 1507 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1556 Institutions to Benefices and frequently in these forms until the present day, 
*Kyllyngwhome* 1486-93 Early Chancery Proceedings xx

Forms with “Kel-” and the like and 3 syllables:


*Kellingholm* 1213 Oblate Rolls, 1327 Banco Pleas, *Kellynghollme* 1494 Inquisitiones post mortem

Mainly late forms with “-ham”:

*Kiluingeham* 1176 Pipe Rolls ☐, *Kylvengeham* 1225 Curia Regis Rolls, 
*Kylvingham* 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls


*Kelingham* 1519 Diocesan Visitations i, *Kelynham* 1549 Patent Rolls

Hence the subdivisions **North** and **South Killingholme**, sometimes known as *Killingholme North End* and *South End*; and from them **North** and **South Killingholme Haven**. The former was originally just *Killingholme Haven* 1779 Yarborough documents.

**Kilnsea**, parish (until 1935) in the East Riding of Yorkshire, now united with Easington

‘The pool or lake near the kiln’, from Old English *cyln* + *sǣ* which meant ‘lake’ as well as ‘sea’.

*Chilnesse* 1086 Domesday Book

*Chinlesei* 1115 Early Yorkshire Charters no. 1304, 1160-2 Early Yorkshire Charters no. 1307

*Kilnese, Kylnese* in the reign of Henry III (1216-72) Index to Charters and Rolls in the British Museum, 1228 *York Magnum Registrum Album* and in these forms frequently until 1359 *Subsidy Rolls, Kilnesse 1246 Assize Rolls*, 1276 *Placitorum Abbreviatio*, 1293 *Pleas of Quo Warranto*

*Kilnesey* 1273 *Meaux Cartulary* and in this form frequently until 1519 *Feet of Fines*

*Kilnse, Kylnse* 1301 Patent Rolls, 1333 *Subsidy Rolls*, 1364 Patent Rolls

*Kelnsey* before 1678 *Map in British Library*

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41 A critical edition of this cartulary was prepared by George V. Orange for his University of Hull doctoral dissertation (1965), which is now available online at [https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668](https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668), accessed 6 June 2018.
Kelsay 1725 Sheppard: Lost towns of the Yorkshire coast

A very large lake is still to be found 27 miles to the north at Hornsea Mere, but if there was ever one of that scale at Kilnsea it has disappeared through drainage, evaporation or coastal erosion. However, there are still large permanent pools in Kilnsea on the coastline, caught between the dunes and terra firma, and also adjacent to artificial banks in the north of the parish. Kilnsea, which includes Spurn Head, has been subject to regular serious flooding, coastline shifts and coastal erosion.

There is no sign of an ancient (pottery) kiln here, but the presence of kilns in this area is evident from Kiln House in nearby Tunstall; they will have been for burning the Chalk which is the bedrock formation in the Holderness peninsula for use in mortar and flooring. The place-name was locally pronounced /ˈkɪlsi/ “Kilsea”, as the spelling of 1725 hints.

Hence Kilnsea Clays, in a muddy-bottomed bay west of Spurn Head.

King George V Playing Fields (now Stadium) in Grimsby

Downloaded from https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/grimsby-news/memories-king-george-v-stadium-793913, photo by Rick Byrne

The fields were named by the king’s eldest granddaughter in 1958, and the stadium was officially opened in 1965. They are perhaps most remarkable for having spawned the adjacent street-names Goldgarth, Silvergarth and
**Bronzegarth.** George V is commemorated as part of a nationwide project to honour him with sporting facilities; there is also a field commemorating him in Cleethorpes. More locally to Grimsby, compare also **Duke of York Gardens.** The broader area was previously known as **Clee Fields** (see also **Clee**), a name now restricted to the football pitches north-west of the stadium.

**Laceby, parish**

An Old Scandinavian name, ‘Leif’s farm’, from the male given name *Leif-* in the genitive case form *Leifs*, + *bý-* ‘farm, village’, recorded in a remarkable array of spellings.


*Laifsebi* late in the reign of Henry II (1154-89) Stenton: Danelaw Documents

*Leyseby* about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1204 Feet of Fines ☐, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1266 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 1272 **Assize Rolls, Leysebi** 1276 Hundred Rolls, Leisebi 1145-54 (copied 1394) Patent Rolls, *Leiseby* 1272 **Assize Rolls**


Laisby 1293 Assize Rolls, 1602 Bishop’s Transcripts, Laysby 1344 Inquisitiones post mortem, Laysbye 1402 Inquisitiones post mortem, Laisbie 1592 Bishop’s Transcripts

Layceby 1327 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1349 Coroner’s Rolls, 1373 Peace Sessions, 1409 Close Rolls, 1428 Feudal Aids, Laiceby 1387 until 1395 Peace Sessions

Lessebi 1177 Pipe Rolls ☃ and frequently in that form until1203 Curia Regis Rolls ☃, 1230 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, Lesseby 1201 Memoranda Rolls, 1227 Charter Rolls, 1260 Feet of Fines and frequently in that form until 1374 Inquisitiones post mortem Lesebi 1178 until 1188 Pipe Rolls ☃, 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, Leseby 1230 Pipe Rolls, 1282 Close Rolls

Laceby 1327 Fine Rolls, 1395 Close Rolls, 1431 Feudal Aids, 1487 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1526 Subsidy and in this form generally until the present day, Lacebye 1566 Patent Rolls, 1609 Bishop’s Transcripts, Lacebie 1564 until 1607 Bishop’s Transcripts

Laseby 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map

Lasbye 1565, Lasbie 1600, Lasby 1601 all Bishop’s Transcripts

Hence also Little Laceby, on the Grimsby side of the village, and Laceby Beck, containing the common local dialect word beck ‘stream’.

Laceby Acres in Grimsby

A modern (1980s-90s) housing estate at the western end of Grimsby, adjacent to the A46 Laceby Road, but given a rural “feel”.

Great Limber, parish

‘Lime-tree hill or mound’, from Old English lind + beorg. The hill or mound in question may well be the small eminence just north of the village centre crossroads, on which the Pelham family mausoleum (built 1787) now stands.


Lynberge 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, Lynbergh 1332 Inquisitiones post mortem

Linnebergh 1305 Inquisitiones post mortem

Linbergham 1086 Domesday Book


Lingeberch 1185 Templar Records, Lingberge in the reign of Richard I (1189-99) Stenton: Danelaw Documents ☉, Lyngeberc’ 1361 Coram Rege Rolls
PLACE-NAMES

Lymber 1430 Patent Rolls, 1526 Subsidy, 1568 Institutions to Benefices, Limber 1576 Foster: Lincoln Episcopal Records and generally in this form until the present day

The forms in <-mb-> reflect the change in pronunciation of [n] to a lip consonant [m] before the following lip consonant [b]. Linbergham in Domesday Book, referring to Little Limber (see below), has a seemingly gratuitous -ham added, but it is not clear whether this somehow references the secondary status of this hamlet. Forms in Ling- or Lyng- suggest the name was sometimes understood as containing Middle English ling 'ling, heather'.

Great Limber is frequently and consistently documented as magna (Latin for ‘great’) in the Middle Ages, with this word usually coming after the basic place-name. When English starts to be used in records, mainly in the modern era, the words used are mickle (mikel, 1329 Assize Rolls), great (gret, 1529 Wills ii), and much (moche, 1493-1500 Early Chancery Proceedings xx). Great is pretty consistent from 1551-3 Patent Rolls onwards. The contrasting Little Limber is in Brocklesby parish.

Lindsey

The name of the ancient division of Lincolnshire in which this area sat, more fully called The Parts of Lindsey. This was the residue of an early Anglo-Saxon kingdom based on Lincoln, and appears to have meant ‘Lincoln island’, respecting the fact that it was surrounded by water in different guises: the Humber, the Trent and the Fens bordering the Witham. The name is from Lindis-, an Old English rendering of British Celtic *Lindēs from Latin *Lindenses ‘inhabitants of Lindum (from British *lindon, ‘pool’, i.e. Brayford Pool)’ + Old English ēg ‘island’.

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42 The context forbids taking it as a Latin accusative case form in -am.

43 Some aspects of the transmitted history of this name are complex and debatable, and these are awarded detailed discussion in Kenneth Cameron, Place-names of Lincs, vol. 2,
(in prounicia [Latin for ‘in the region (called)’]) Lindis(s)i 731 Bede: Historia ecclesiastica

(on ‘in’) Lindesse annal 838 (written about 899) Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Lindeseia [Latin form] 1040-1 (copied late 13thC) Ramsey Chronicle

Lindesey 12thC-16thC in many documents, Lindsey 1326 Close Rolls

**Little Coates** in Grimsby

‘The smaller of two places called Coates’; for the linguistic history, see adjacent **Great Coates**. It is distinguished first as “South” Coates, then as “Little”, or in administrative Latin Parva, with the elements preferred in reverse order from the 16thC onwards.

**Sudcotes** 1086 Domesday Book, **Sut Cotum** about 1115 Lindsey Survey

With ‘little’ in Latin:


*Cotes Parva* 1313 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, 1526 Subsidy, *Cotes parva* 1595 *Bishop’s Transcripts*, *Cotts Parva* 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, *Coots Parva* 1539-40 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum iv, *Cootes parua* 1563, *Cottes parva* 1570 Bishop’s Transcripts

With ‘little’ in English:

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pp. 2-7. An extensive list of historical spellings is also presented as evidence, of which a few are given here.
As with Great Coates, the name is pronounced with the stress on the first word.

**Little London** in Stallingborough parish

A common place-name since the Middle Ages, mostly given ironically to a small place, perhaps one with some pretensions to busyness. Some have associated the name-type with cattle-droving routes, but any such connection is unproven for this one.

There are at least four others in Lincolnshire alone. This one originates as a farm on the high road from Stallingborough to **Immingham** near its junction with the road to **Keelby**.

**Little Russia** in Grimsby

A purely local name, well-known in the mid-20th century for the once vigorously socialist west end of the **West Marsh**. Alan Dowling\(^44\) suggests

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the further possibility that the name may have been influenced by the presence of yards at the nearby Alexandra Dock importing Baltic timber, but that hardly seems sufficient or necessary; most transferred names of this sort are copied from places in the news.

**Littlefield** in Grimsby

An informal district name, from Littlefield Lane, itself from the name of one of the pre-Inclosure open fields of Grimsby which was used as common pasture by the Freemen. The form of 1511-1512 equates the English name with the equivalent Latin form; that of 1544 is an odd mixture – as if *Feld* were an independent place-name. It was sometimes called ‘the’ little field with ‘the’ in English (*the, ye*) or Law French (*lee*); sometimes this word is absent right from the earliest records.


*paruo campo vocat lyttyll feld* 1511-12 Grimsby Court Rolls *parvo campo* 1541 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iii, *paruo campo* 1569 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iv, 1684 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts

*paruo Feld* 1544 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books

*(the) little field* 1625 Heneage document, *(ye) little field* 1696 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, *(the) Little Field* 1719 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document
**Lock Hill** in Grimsby

*Lock Hill* 1842 White: History of Lincolnshire, 1888 OS 1: 500 town plan

The lock in question is the exit of Rennie’s dock of 1796-1800 (see The Haven). It was referred to as the Lock 1799 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Book xiv, and it was to be approached by the Intended Road to the Lock 1801 Grimsby map in NELA. It is best known today as the site of a major road junction (A16 and A180) and roundabout. There is no current evidence of a hill, though various enigmatic mounds in the former marshland were once noted and imprecisely mapped.

**Love Lane Corner** on the Grimsby/Cleethorpes boundary

The generally used name for the roundabout and junction where Weelsby Road, Clee Road and Humberston Road meet. Love Lane itself morphed into a straight footpath long ago, but its name is one of the commoner local names in England for a secluded lane (well over 120 survivors at my most recent count). The one here is on the historic boundary between Clee and Weelsby. The name is also used loosely for the adjacent ground of Cleethorpes Town Football Club.

The **Marsh**

The *Marsh*, or more fully the *Lincolnshire Marsh*, is a belt of reclaimed saltmarsh and sand dunes between the Wolds and the North Sea coast, or, more loosely in modern usage, including the flanking zone of Till (Boulder Clay). The name is most often used for the area southwards from Humberston, and is enshrined in Marshchapel. The marshy nature of the area is emphasized by the ‘island’ names of villages such as Tetney and Conisholme.

See also **East Marsh** and **West Marsh** housing developments in Grimsby.
Meggie

A widely-used place-nickname for Cleethorpes. It is the plural of Meggie, a word for a person born and bred in Cleethorpes, meaning from stock originally living in the town’s historic and commercial centre before the suburbs started to spread.

One story touted on a local electronic discussion list is that “before the sea retreated” the modest rise bounded by the bottom of Isaac’s Hill and Lower St Peter’s Avenue, with High Street at the top, was known as Meg’s Island, and that people born within these limits were called Meggies.45 Another version has Meg’s Isle as a small island visible “off the Brighton [Street] slipway end” of the promenade in the 19th century. Not a shred of evidence supporting either version has come to hand.

The term Meggie itself has been attributed to the megworm, a kind of worm dug for bait on the foreshore by local anglers, but this species of worm turns out to be as elusive as the island. A possibility not suggested before is that it

is simply an application of the local word *meg* '[pre-decimal] halfpenny coin', applied in a derogatory way by Grimsby folk who no doubt judged themselves worth a full penny, or that it relates in some obscure way to the local expression *the far end of Meg’s arse* (“signifies either someone giving a long-winded explanation or expecting too much information or detail in reply”).46 The implication either way is that, viewed from Grimsby, Cleethorpes is out in the wilderness.

An apparent hybrid *Cleggy* is sometimes, though rarely, met.

**Meridian Lakeside Arena** in Cleethorpes

A self-explanatory name from the Greenwich Meridian, which passes through the feature.

**Middle Thorpe** in Cleethorpes (no longer in use)

An alternative name for *Itterby*. It is between *Oole* and *Thrunscoe*.

*Middle Thorpe* 1749 Baker: Story of Cleethorpes
*Middle Thorps* 1751, *Mid-Thorp* 1755, *Mid-Thorps* 1757, *Mid Thorps* 1766 all *Bishop’s Transcripts*

**New Clee** in Grimsby

*New Clee* 1871 Census

A district of Grimsby close to the Fish Docks and housing workers in the fishing industry. It was developed from the early 1870s and rapidly became notorious for its squalid housing. It took its name from *(Old) Clee* parish in which it was originally situated, but was absorbed into the borough of

Grimsby in 1872. It appears on some early 20thC maps, I believe in error, as *New Cleethorpes*.

**New Cut Drain**

The main course of the river *Freshney* was diverted in around 1700 to improve the supply of fresh water to Grimsby and to counteract the problem of silting in the *Haven*. New Cut Drain is a drainage channel in the *West Marsh* designed to take excess water from the Freshney to the *Humber* along approximately the old course of the river, entering the river at *Pyewipe*.

**New Waltham** in Waltham parish

A development within Waltham consisting originally of cottages built at Waltham Humberston station on the East Lincolnshire Railway in 1848, with a significant increase in population in the 1950s leading to its becoming a parish in its own right in 1961.

*New Waltham* 1933 *Kelly’s directory*

**Newsome** or **Newsham Lake** in Brocklesby parish

With Newsham Lodge, this is the last hint of Newsham Abbey, a house of Premonstratensian canons, the first founded in England (1143), dissolved in 1536. The name (as in *Neusum* 1222 *Curia Regis Rolls*) is from Old English *niwan hūsum* ‘(at the) new houses’ or its Old Scandinavian equivalent, and is clearly the name of a hamlet in Brocklesby which was there before the abbey. This name shows the dative plural suffix -*um*. But in many early medieval documents the name is in the singular form *Neuhus* and the like (as in *Neuhus* 1143-7 Stenton: *Danelaw documents*, *Newehus* 1191 *Pipe Rolls*). The lake is part of Lancelot Brown’s artificial landscape of *Brocklesby Park*.

**Norman Corner** on the Brigsley/Waltham boundary

A sharp bend in the B1203 road, recorded in *Normangate* since 1601. The latter, though recorded late, may represent an Old Scandinavian *norðmannagata* ‘Northmen’s road’, or if it is not so old, may contain the surname *Norman*, though I have found this surname no nearer than Grimsby before
1600. The more or less direct course of the B1203 continues southwards as a track, and no reason for the westward deflection of the road is known. The current name, now also applying to a group of early 20thC houses, appears sometimes as Norman’s Corner in recent documents.

**North East Lincolnshire (NELC)**

A unitary authority created in 1996 out of the ruins of the county of Humberside (1974-1996), formerly in the Parts of Lindsey of the ceremonial and historic county of Lincolnshire. In 2018 it is divided into the following wards: **Croft Baker, East Marsh, Freshney, Haverstoe** (including south Cleethorpes and north Humberston), **Heneage, Humberston and New Waltham** (including Humberston only south of North Sea Lane), **Immingham, Park, Scartho, Sidney Sussex, South, Waltham, West Marsh, Wolds, Yarborough**. All these names have an entry in this book except:

- **Croft Baker**: a traditional (pre-NELC) name of a ward covering much of central Cleethorpes, commemorating Sir Jack Croft Baker (1894-1962), a prominent local politician of the 1930s and early 1940s, later president of the British Trawlers’ Federation and a significant player in the international politics of fishing.

- **Heneage**: from Heneage Road in Grimsby, itself commemorating the family from Hainton, Lincolnshire, who owned 17% of the borough in the mid-19thC. See also People’s Park.

- **Park**: from the People’s Park.

- **South**: south within Grimsby, centred on the Grange and much of Nunsthorpe estates.

- **Wolds**: a vast ward covering the arc of villages from Wold Newton to Great Coates, the southern part of which is on the Wolds.

This book covers the whole of NELC with small parts of the adjacent non-metropolitan county of Lincolnshire (in East Lindsey district: Grainsby,
Holton le Clay, North Thoresby, Tetney, Waithe; in West Lindsey district: Brocklesby, Great Limber, Keelby, Riby, Swallow) and of the unitary authority of North Lincolnshire (North and South Killingholme).

North Killingholme

See Killingholme.

Hence also North Killingholme Haven.

The North Sea

The North Sea was for long known by a variety of transparent names such as The German Ocean/Sea and The Frisian Ocean/Sea, translated from their Latin equivalents. As early as Roman times, however, it was also recorded as oceanus septentrionalis ‘(the) northern ocean’, and it is this type of name which has triumphed in modern times. The frequency of designations involving the word German plummeted after the First World War. However, the Dutch call it de Noordzee and the Germans die Nordsee ‘the north sea’, translating the alternative Latin tradition, and this was favoured in English in direct correlation with the growing unpopularity of German. In Germany, Deutsche See ‘German sea’ is known only as the name of a modern seafood company based in Grimsby’s twin town of Bremerhaven.

The existence of South Sea Lane in Humberston demonstrates that the important road North Sea Lane is the northern Sea Lane, rather than the lane leading to the North Sea.

North Thoresby, parish

‘The northern village called Thoresby’, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Þori (Thori) in the genitive case form Þoris, + bý- ‘farm, village’. The contrasting South Thoresby is on the Wolds west of Alford.

Toresbi 1086 Domesday Book, about 1115 Lindsey Survey, in the reign of Henry II (1154-89) Stenton: Danelaw Documents, 1202 Assize Rolls, Toresby 1275 Hundred Rolls

Thoresbi 1202 Feet of Fines ♦, Thoresby 1226-28 Book of Fees, 1240 Close Rolls, 1268 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1306 Patent Rolls, 1610 Speed’s county map, Thoresbie before 1567 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 5, 1608 Foster Library document, 1642 Goulding, Thoresbie alīas Northoresbie 1565 Yarborough documents, Thoresbye 1576 Saxton’s county map

Thuresby 1526 Subsidy, 1553-55 Early Chancery Proceedings

North Thoresby 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Register, 1437 Papal Registers, 1453 Fine Rolls, 1464 Patent Rolls and generally in this form until the present day

North’thoresby 1369 Feet of Fines, 1384 Peace Sessions, Norththoresby 1411 Patent Rolls, North Thoresbye 1557-58 Ducatus Lancastriae, North Thorisby 1671 Terrier

Norththorsby 1382 Peace Sessions, North Thorsby 1601 Terrier

Northoresby 1380 John of Gaunt’s Register, Northoresbye 1577 Terrier

Early spellings with <T-> rather than <Th-> are Anglo-Norman French forms.

Nun Cotham (or Coton) Priory in Brocklesby parish

A Cistercian priory of nuns founded about 1150 at a previously existing place called in Old and early Middle English Cotum about 1150, then Nuncottum 1268, both forms in Nun Cotham Cartulary. The priory was dissolved in 1539. From the dative plural form of the Old English word cot or cote ‘cottage’; for the structure compare Newsham in the same parish. The Nun-
was added to distinguish this from other local places with the same name, or with the same name in the nominative case, such as Coates near Stow, Great Coates, and North Cotes near Tetney.

**Nuns Corner** in Grimsby

From the former Nuns Farm, or The Nuns, sited by the junction of the Louth and Lincoln roads, close to where the present University Centre buildings are in 2018. The nuns were those of the adjacent poor Augustinian nunnery of St Leonard, dissolved in 1543 and secured by the earl of Yarborough. The land was farmed into the 1950s.

**Nunsthorpe** in Grimsby

A modern name, suggested by nearby Nuns Farm (see Nuns Corner), for a new council housing estate of the 1920s. Thorpe ‘secondary settlement’, as in (Clee)thorpe(s), is intended to recall ancient place-naming traditions, but
the <-s-> is a modern invention which is not grammatically accurate in earlier English. Compare Nunthorpe in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

After the Second World War, this estate was extended westwards, for a time under the name New Nunsthorpe, into land which was formerly part of Scartho parish. This area is distinguished by street-names commemorating Lincolnshire villages. A further westward expansion of development in the 1970s, west of Stainton Drive, is or was known as Bradley Park Estate, formerly in Bradley parish.

The nicknames The Garden City (especially for old Nunsthorpe) and The Nunny are, or were, sometimes heard.

Old Clee

See Clee.

Old Den in Kilnsea parish, East Riding of Yorkshire

In the 17thC this feature was an island with dunes and vegetation on the estuary side of Spurn Head, and it was also clearly mapped in 1540. Today it is just a shoal of muddy shingle submerged at every high tide. The origin of the name is unknown. Perhaps it represents ‘old dune(s)’, with den being the same word as is found in The Denes, the tract of sand-dunes at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Old Fleet Drain (1) in Grainsby, North Coates and North Thoresby parishes

The name of a “ditch” (1864), earlier called ye Narrow fleet in a terrier of 1697. It is described as follows: “Grainsby Beck comes thro Thoresby, which together with the vast number of Blow Wells forms the River called the Fleet.” The base word in the name is Old English flēot, often ‘arm of the sea’, apparently used here in the sense ‘stream, rivulet’; but taking into

48 Joseph Wright's English dialect dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1898‒1905) gives den as an alternative for dene in this sense.
49 Unpublished Grainsby document of 1774 in the Hill collection in LAO.
account possible topographical changes in the Marsh over the centuries, it may once have denoted a substantial tidal creek. In its modern drainage function, it is supplemented by the New Dike.

Old Fleet Drain (2) in Great Coates and Stallingborough parishes

This drain originates as a creek called the ‘hollow fleet, fleet in a hollow’, recorded as holflet in Stallingborough in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied in the 13thC Nun Cotham Cartulary).

Old Waltham

See Waltham.

Oole, formerly Hole, in Cleethorpes (no longer in use)

Self-explanatory, from Old English hol ‘a hollow or hole’. This is a seaward-facing hollow between the areas of higher ground indicated by the street-names Isaac’s Hill to the north and Knoll Street to the south, with Beacon Hill to the west. It was still sometimes referred to as The Hole even in early-modern times (17thC–18thC). Its situation is marked by the present Oole Road, the only surviving representative of the name but a relative latecomer as a street.

The initial <H-> finally disappears as late as the 19thC. The pronunciation as “Oole” rather than “Ole” is amply documented, and seems to be due to a local pronunciation of Middle English long /oː/ as [uə], i.e. roughly like the <oe> in “doer”. It seems to be established as an alternative already by late-medieval times (as clearly indicated in Hule in 1372).

Hol about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, 1242-43 Book of Fees, 1259 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1298 Assize Rolls ☉, Hole 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1292 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls ☉, 1332 Subsidy Rolls ☉, 1346 de l’Isle manuscripts, 1373 Close Rolls and frequently in this form until 1649 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, Whole 1587 Inventory

Ole 1345 Placitorum Abbreviatio
Hule 1372 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, *Hulle* 1545 *Inventory*

Hool 1386 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 1784 *Terrier, Hoole* 1443
Ancient Deeds vi, 1518 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books*, 1530-31
Ducatus Lancastriæ, 1551 *Inventory*, 1613 *Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document* and frequently in this form until 1822 *Terrier, Hooll* 1562 *Inventory*

*the hoole* 1664 *Thorold Collection document, the Hoole* 1725 *Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document*, 1756 *Thorold Collection document*

Hoyll 1531 Wills iii

*Howle* 1538-44 Early Chancery Proceedings, 1579 *Inventory*, 1582
Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, 1603 *Inventory*, 1635 *Terrier*, 1853 *Miscellaneous donations* 328, *How(i)ll* before 1567
Lincolnshire Notes and Queries 5

*Houle* 1558, 1613 *Inventory*, 1631 *Miscellaneous deposits* 118

*Oole Road* 1843 *Higgins Collection document*, 1846 Enclosure Act,
*Oole Drain* 1846 Enclosure Act

Medieval (pre-1500) spellings with <oo> indicate an ‘œ’ type of pronunciation as in *toe*; later ones indicate ‘oo’ as in *too*.

The place was alternatively known as *Fore Thorpe, Low Thorpe* (faintly echoing the ‘hole’ name) and *Near Cleethorpes*, i.e. the nearest of the thorps to the historic parish nucleus at *Old Clee*, contrasting with the “outer farm” at *Itterby*.50

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50 Paradoxically, it is *High Thorpe* on a copy of a 1749 map of the open field system once at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, printed by Frank Baker (1953) *The story of*
Patrington, parish in the East Riding of Yorkshire

Apparently ‘farm associated with Patrick’, from an otherwise unknown Old English form of Latin *Patricius* + Old English *-ing* (a particle denoting association) + *tūn*; but most of the spellings suggest that the first element may be a different unidentified given name: perhaps an adaptation of the name *Paternus*, as borne by a famous 6thC Breton saint, but if so from a Latin source rather than a British Celtic one. It would be very unusual to find such a name in an English *-ingtūn* place-name.

\[(æt, to) \text{ pateringtune, paterins(a)tune} 1033 \text{ (copied 14thC) York Magnum Registrum Album [in the second form the } \langle s \rangle \text{ is probably an error for } \langle g \rangle)\]

*Patrictone* 1086 Domesday Book

*Patringetone* 1283 Yorkshire Inquisitions

*Patrington, Patryngton* 1150-3 *York Magnum Registrum Album* and in these forms generally until 1786 Tuke’s map of Holderness, and as *Patrington* until the present day


Patrington’s church of St Patrick is prominently visible on the skyline from Cleethorpes promenade. Its dedication may have been inferred from the place-name; there is no other evidence of any association of the saint with the village.

Hence also *Patrington Haven*.
Peaks Parkway in Grimsby

A major arterial road, now part of the A16, completed in 1998 on the trackbed of the East Lincolnshire Railway, the former Grimsby to Peterborough main railway line, out as far as Low Farm in New Waltham. It takes its name from Peaks Farm, a farm of the Weelsby estate whose name is supposed by Kenneth Cameron to contain the word peak – presumably for the noticeable rise on which the farm sits, though it is hardly dramatic. Perhaps rather it comes from the surname Peake, which is found in gravestone records for Grimsby’s Scartho Road cemetery from the late 19thC onwards. Parkway is used in the sense originating in America in the 1870s: ‘broad arterial road planted with trees; an open landscaped highway or boulevard’, though any such pretensions of Peaks Parkway are modest.

An object of interest here was the former Peaks Tunnel. This, despite its name, was a conventional brick bridge carrying a farm track over the railway. The farm is now accordingly Peaks Tunnel Farm, though the “tunnel” has gone, replaced by a bridge over what is now the A16.

The People’s Park in Grimsby

Opened in 1883 as an early example of local and municipal philanthropy, aimed at providing a wholesome space for the recreation of all and sundry, but especially working people who might otherwise be confined to the unhealthy streets around their workplaces. The major benefactor was landowner and local MP Edward Heneage, who is also commemorated in Heneage Road about half a mile to the east of the Park. Many of the street-names of this area commemorate his domains and his family members.

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51 Cameron, Kenneth, Place-names of Lincs, vol. 5, p. 167.
53 Oxford English dictionary, parkway.
is interesting to see on the British Geological Survey map\textsuperscript{55} how the People’s Park occupies almost exactly one lobe of a significant tongue of silt or tidal alluvium (giving relatively poor soil), stretching very far south within the boundaries of Grimsby.

**Pier Gardens** in Cleethorpes

See **Cliff Gardens**.

**Pleasure Island** in Cleethorpes

A recently closed theme park by the foreshore at Cleethorpes. It was in business from 1993 to 2017. It seems to have taken its name from a 1933 movie directed by Roy Mack, but the more likely immediate source is a zone of the Disney Springs shopping, dining and entertainment district at Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida, opened in 1989 and therefore still topical in 1993. However, the name is a pretty obvious one for its purpose, and has also been used for other, slightly earlier, theme parks in America. It plays on the title of R. L. Stevenson’s novel *Treasure Island*.

**Pyewipe** in Great Coates

‘Lapwing’, *Vanellus cristatus*.

\textit{Pyewipe Inn} 1828 Bryant’s county map  
\textit{Pewet Inn} 1838 Brace document  
\textit{Pywipe} modern maps

An industrial area named from a 19thC pub close to the bank of the Humber, and once famed especially for its foul-smelling fish-meal factory, i.e. one making agricultural fertilizer out of discarded fish remnants. Like many another remote farm or house in Lincolnshire (e.g. one in *Aylesby*, and one formerly between *Humberston* and *Tetney*), this one had a name including the dialect word for a peewit or lapwing.\textsuperscript{56} In early records, the name of both

\footnotesize
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{55} British Geological Survey, \url{http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html}, accessed frequently.
\end{itemize}
these places alternates between Pewit (or similar) and the more local Pyewipe. The latter has definitely won the day.

(East and West) **Ravendale**, parishes

‘Raven valley’, from Old Scandinavian *hrafn* + *dalr*. Only three of the Domesday spellings suggest that *hrafn* might be in the genitive plural form with -a, so they can be discounted. A few, although persistent, spellings in non-local documents suggest that the first element may be *Hrafn* used as a male given name, in the genitive singular form with -(e)s, but they too can be discounted.57

*Ravenedal, Ravenedale, Rauendal, altera* [Latin for ‘the other’]


*Rauendal(‘) 1235 Institutions to Benefices, 1246 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1257 Feet of Fines


*Randall* 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1539-40 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum iv, *Raindall* 1675 Ogilby’s map

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57 Kenneth Cameron, in *Place-names of Lincs*, vol. 4, p. 151, leaves open the possibility that the first element may be the corresponding Old English *hrafn* ‘raven’, but seeing that it occurs with Scandinavian *dalr* that appears unlikely to me.
The *dale* is the gorge with Chalk cliffs between West and East Ravendale villages, the valley of a dried-up river that once flowed into Waithe Beck at Hatcliffe. The local pronunciation indicated by *Ra(i)ndall* cannot have been heard for many a long year.

East Ravendale, the larger village, is *Est Ravendale* 1238-41 Book of Fees, *Estrauendale* 1272 Assize Rolls, whilst West Ravendale is *West Rauendale* 1202 *Harleian Charters in the British Museum, West Ravendale* 1241 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls.

Hence also the slight ruins of the Premonstratensian West Ravendale Priory, which was founded in about 1202 as a cell or daughter house of Beauport abbey in Brittany.

**Ravenser** in Easington parish and **Ravenser Odd** in Kilnsea parish, East Riding of Yorkshire

Ravenser:

*Rauenser(e), Ravenser(e)* in the reign of John (1199-1216) Additional Charters, 13thC, 14thC Chronica de Melsa, about 1265 Knights’ Fees, 1285 Kirby’s Inquest and frequently in that form until 1361 *Meaux Cartulary*\(^{58}\)

*Raueneser(e), Raveneser(e)* 1230 Pipe Rolls ⚈, 1240 Feet of Fines and frequently in that form until 1359 Inquisitiones post mortem


*Reveneser’* 1315 Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense

*Vetus* [Latin for ‘old’] *Ravenser(e)* 1297 Lindsey Survey

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\(^{58}\) A critical edition of the Meaux cartulary was prepared by George V. Orange for his University of Hull doctoral dissertation (1965), which is now available online at [https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668](https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668), accessed 6 June 2018.
Ald Ravenserre, Ravenserre 13thC Chronica de Melsa, Ald Ravenser(e)
1306 Yorkshire Inquisitions, 1349 Meaux Cartulary, Old Ravenser(e)
about 1400 Chronica de Melsa

(In Old Norse:)

(al) Hrafnseyri 13thC Heimskringla, 13th Orkneyinga saga

Ravenser Odd:

'Pointed headland near Ravenser', from Ravenser + Old Scandinavian
(Danish) odd-.

burgo del Odd juxta Ravenserre ['borough of the Odd near Ravenser']
1235-49 Chronica de Melsa

Ravenserot 1251 Charter Rolls

Odrauenser 1260 Yorkshire Inquisitions

Rauenserhod 1260 Rental, Raueneser Hodde 1260 Yorkshire
Inquisitions

Rauenser-, Ravenserod, -odd, -odde 1273 Meaux Cartulary and in such
forms frequently until 1342 Subsidy Rolls

Raveneserod, -odde 1286 Patent Rolls and in these forms frequently
until 1349 Meaux Cartulary

Ravensere Odd, Ravenserre Odd 1347 and in these forms frequently
until 1369 Meaux Cartulary

It is occasionally recorded simply as Odd or similar.

Ravenser is first recorded, presumably as a new settlement, in the time of
king John. It appears in spellings indicating derivation from the Scandinavian
male given name Hrafn 'raven' in the genitive case form with -s (anglicized
as -es), + Old Danish ør, from Old Scandinavian eyrr ‘sandbank’. The name presumably existed for a sandbank before the town was begun. It features in the Old Norse Orkneyinga saga and Heimskringla (Haralds saga Sigurðarsonar (Harald Hardrada’s saga) early 13thC) with reference to events following the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066. But the mention of Hrafnseyrr in Heimskringla implies it was already a port; Harald sailed out of the place. Ravenser was washed away by the sea at an unknown date in the 14thC.

It is sometimes called Old Ravenser to distinguish it from Ravenser Odd, a town and port to the west in adjacent Kilnsea parish which was founded as a business enterprise by the Count of Aumale in the mid 13thC, quickly grew into a substantial place, had a Member of Parliament in 1295, and was elevated to a borough in 1299, only to be abandoned in its turn because of flooding in 1356/7 in advance of its complete obliteration in 1362. It took the additional element in its name from a feature called in Old Danish odd ‘point’, which must have denoted a precursor of Spurn Head.

Some writers (including Shakespeare: Rauenspurgh in error for Ravenspurn in Richard II (1597)) seem to have thought that the town of Ravenser and Ravenspurn were one and the same, but Ravenser was the town and Ravenspurn (i.e. ‘Ravenser’s spur’) was a later incarnation of the elongated headland. Some commentators still appear to confuse or conflate Ravenser and Ravenser Odd, but they were distinct places in separate parishes and lordships. See also Spurn Head and Sunk Island for the changing topography of this area.

Ravenser and Ravenser Odd, in their days, must have been major commercial rivals of Grimsby, and were briefly more significant than Kingston upon Hull as trading places.

Riby, parish

Probably for *Ryton ‘rye farm’, from Old English rýge + tūn, with the final element replaced by the corresponding Old Scandinavian bý- in the era of intensive Scandinavian settlement towards the end of the first millennium. The first element could instead be Old Scandinavian rið ‘steps, winding
stairs’ with lengthening of the vowel, or ríf- ‘abundant’, but these words have not previously been identified in a place-name in England. Consideration might be given to an ancestral relative of Scandinavian words (e.g. dialectal Swedish) of the form ri ‘pole’.

Ribi 1086 Domesday Book, about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1177, 1205 Pipe Rolls ☄, about 1300 Registrum Antiquissimum iii, Riby about 1150 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1210 Placitorum Abbreviatio, in the reign of Henry III (1216-72; copied the early 14thC) Selby Coucher Book, 1247-8 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1290 Bishop Sutton’s Rolls, 1316 Feudal Aids and generally in this form until the present day


Ryby 1200 Oblate Rolls, 1226, 1251 Feet of Fines, 1276 Hundred Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1310 Close Rolls and frequently in this form until 1530 Wills ii, 1713 Pretyman Tomline papers, Rybi 1211-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, Ryby all[a]s Rybye 1664

Pretyman Tomline papers

Rybe 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus

Rybye 1538 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xiii, 1544 Pretyman Tomline papers, 1576 Saxton’s map, 1610 Speed’s county map, 1674 Pretyman Tomline papers, Ribie 1556 Institutions to Benefices, 1589 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1606 Terrier, Rybie 1570 and frequently in this form until 1706 Bishop’s Transcripts

Ribye 1596 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1733 Pretyman Tomline papers
The spelling *Rybie* is an interesting example of the way in which one particular spelling can create a lengthy tradition only in a particular category of documents emerging from the same office.

Hence also **Riby Cross Roads** and **Riby Gap**, a slight rise (i.e. a gap between potentially waterlogged fields) allowing a dry walk (now the A1173) from Riby to **Stallingborough**.

**Riby Square** in Grimsby

Formerly a hub of commercial and transport activity between the north end of Freeman Street and the Docks entrance, now decayed and no longer square. Named from **Riby** because of the commercial interests of the Tomline family who owned Riby Hall.

**River Head** in Grimsby

The place in the centre of town where the modern course of the river **Freshney** discharges into the West **Haven** and therefore into the **Alexandra Dock**. Now also the usual name for the site of Grimsby's main bus station.

**Ross Castle** in Cleethorpes

Situated on a low cliff overlooking Cleethorpes promenade, Ross Castle is a mid-Victorian folly, masquerading not very convincingly as the ruins of a castle (image on next page). It is more like a once-fashionable spiral mound, and has a Romantic grotto. It takes its name from the secretary of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, Edward Ross. The MS&LR reached Cleethorpes in 1863, and set about developing this remote place as a holiday resort. They found it necessary to build a mile-long promenade to prevent erosion of the cliff, which they crowned with the “castle”.

Ross Castle

**Roxton Siding**, alias **Immingham Siding**, in Immingham parish

Roxton Farm, the remnant of a deserted medieval village, is frequently recorded between the early years of Henry II's reign (1154-89) and 1231 in the *Nun Cotham Cartulary* as *Roxton*, and as *Ruxton* in a range of documents from 1212 Fees to the present day, with only occasional variants:

*Roxthon* 1286, *Rokesdon* 1291 Inquisitiones post mortem

*Roxston* 1415 Patent Rolls

This may be 'Hrōc's farm', from the Old English male given name *Hrōc* in the genitive case form with -es, + *tūn*. But *Hrōc* is an adaptation of the ordinary word for 'rook'. There is no major linguistic barrier to the name simply alluding to a rookery, except in that Old English *tūn* names are rarely formed with bird names, and if they are, they never appear with the -es suffix.

The only other trace this former village has left (apart from *Roxton Wood*) is in the name of the defunct *Immingham Siding* on the adjacent main railway line from **Grimsby** to **Habrough**, which was renamed *Roxton Siding* in 1905 as the port of **Immingham** developed with its many sidings, but on a branch line.
The **Royal Dock** in Grimsby

See **Grimsby Docks** under **Grimsby**.

**Sand Hill** in Grimsby

One of a number of now-vanished mounds of sand and/or gravel standing above the flatness of the marshes. This one was between Westward Ho! and Littlefield Lane allotments.\(^{59}\) Compare **Cun Hu Hill**, **Ellyll Hills**, **Holme Hill** and **Toot Hill**.

**Scartho**, parish

‘Mound at or with a notch or gap’, from Old Scandinavian *skarð + haug-* The exact significance is unclear. The original village centre was presumably by the ancient church of St Giles & St Matthew, where there is a low patch of Glacial Sand and Gravel, but whether this was ever conspicuous enough to be called a *haugr*, or whether there was ever an artificial mound, for instance a burial mound, and if so whether it had a depression or gap in it, can only be for speculation. There is no major feature worth calling a gap in the wider landscape here.


*Scarhou* 1086 Domesday Book, 1271 Close Rolls, 1323 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, *Scarho* 1178 Pipe Rolls

*Scarffhou* 1177 Pipe Rolls, 1196 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, *Scarfoo* 1191 until 1214 Pipe Rolls, *Scarfou* 1195 Pipe Rolls

*Scartho* 1190 Pipe Rolls, 1208 Chancellor’s Pipe Rolls, 1218 Assize Rolls, 1231 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1278 Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1554 Institutions to Benefices, 1576 Saxton’s county map, 1610 Speed’s county map, 1652 Radcliffe document and frequently in this form until the present day, *Scarthoo* 1499 Patent Rolls, 1552 Patent Rolls, *Scarthoe* 1699 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, 1726
Yarborough documents and frequently in this form until almost the present day


Skartho 1240 Feet of Fines, 1601 Terrier, Skarthoe 1545 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document


Scardho 1209 Pipe Rolls ☐, 1219 Assize Rolls, Scardhowe 1327 Subsidy Rolls

Schartho 1231 Patent Rolls, 1256 (copied 1318) Charter Rolls

Scharthou 1276 Hundred Rolls, Scharthowe 1431 Feudal Aids, 1626 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document, Scharthow 1548 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document

Scratho 1268 Close Rolls, Scrathou 1328 Banco Pleas
It is not quite out of the question that the first element is really a given name or nickname Skarði ‘Gappy’, as suggested by Eilert Ekwall, in which case the place-name would probably mean ‘Skarði’s (burial) mound’, but in that case some spellings indicating an extra syllable between the two elements might have been expected, and there are none. Gillian Fellows-Jensen has suggested that the first element was Old Scandinavian skarfr ‘cormorant’, but spellings with <f> appear only in the untypical 12thC Pipe Rolls of central government. The name was formerly pronounced locally as */ˈskæθə/, i.e. rhyming with “mathe(matical)”, and this can still be heard.

Hence also the slight elevation Scartho Top, now the name of a 1990s housing development centred on Wren Crescent and Caspian Crescent; and Scartho Wood near Bradley Wood. The acute-angled junction at which Waltham Road and Louth Road diverge is sometimes called Scartho Fork.

**Sidney Park** in Cleethorpes

From the fact that the land became part of the endowment of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in the 17thC. This also accounts for **Sussex Recreation Ground**. The college was a significant landowner in Cleethorpes.

**Simwhite Bridge** in Grimsby

A bridge over the present mouth of the Freshney, by the River Head, commemorating a man named Sim White, possibly the Simon White mentioned in *Grimsby Court Rolls* around 1400. This name was stable until the mid 17thC when it must have been decided that recalling the man by his pet-name was not good enough, so the bridge became that of Simon White. Later in the 17thC some less justifiable and inconsistent alterations were made, to Seaman and Seymour White, suggesting that it was still known as Simwhite in ordinary conversation and that formalistic legal clerks were unsure what to do about it. The modern footbridge over the mouth of the

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Freshney formally restores the ancient name, but the original bridge spanned the **Haven** itself, a little east of the present site.

*The sign of the modern Simwhite Bridge*

The earliest mentions show that the structure was originally called by the word *brig(g)*, from the Old Scandinavian word equivalent (in England) to *bridge*. *Bridge* muscles its way in in Tudor times and displaces *brig* finally by the middle of the 17thC.

*Symewhytebrigg* 1492 Grimsby Bailiffs’ Extent in TNA


*Simwhit bryg* 1628, *Simwhite bridge* 1664 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts

*Symon white Brigg* 1640 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books viii, *Symmon white bridge* 1664 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts, *Symon White Bridge* 1685 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls
Seaman white bridge 1683 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, Seman white bridge 1707 Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts

Seymor White Bridge 1695 Grimsby Chamberlain’s Rolls, Seamore white Bridge 1714 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books

Only a selection of many partly similar spellings is presented here.

**Skeffling Clays**

A maritime muddy bottom feature named from the **Holderness** village of Skeffling (Sheftling 1154-60 Early Yorkshire Charters no. 1825, Sceflinges 1204 Feet of Fines, Skeflting 1268 Patent Rolls). The name of the village is of uncertain origin. It appears to be an Old English group-name *Sceafingas derived from a male given name *Sceftel(a) based on sceaft ‘shaft’ (as seen in actually recorded names like Sceftere, Sceftwine, all these having <sc-> pronounced /ʃ/ “sh”), the group-name then being used as a place-name. The 12thC spelling of the place-name clearly indicates /ʃ/. If that is the original form, it has been subjected to the scandinavianization of /ʃ-/ to /sk-/ A purely Scandinavian origin is also possible, given the former existence in Sweden of a place-name Skeftling(quærn) noted by Elof Hellquist; this means ‘person from Skaftarp’, but that place-name is also of uncertain origin. If that is the original form, the 12thC spelling shows anglicization.

**South Killingholme**

See Killingholme. Hence also South Killingholme Haven.

**Springfield Hospital** in Scartho parish

The name of this now demolished hospital, once an isolation and tuberculosis hospital, is apparently straightforward, but it is mysterious. No field of this name has been recovered from the extensive records of Scartho or Grimsby, no spring has been found on early Ordnance Survey maps, and Springfield Road was formerly called Carr Lane (‘lane to the marsh’). A

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62 Hellquist, Elof (1904) *Om de svenska ortnamnen på -inge, -unge och -unga*. Göteborg: Göteborgs högskolas Årsskrift, p. 132; advice from Dr Mats Wahlberg on the Swedish name is gratefully acknowledged.
number of boreholes have been dug south of the line of the road, meeting water at about 2 metres, but no spring is mapped by the British Geological Survey. So Springfield may be taken from, or imitate, a typical Victorian or Edwardian two-part house-name. Part of the hospital’s nurses’ accommodation is now private housing called Springfield Grange.

**Spurn Head** or **Spurn Point** in Kilnsea parish

This conspicuous feature on the north side of the mouth of the Humber was first recorded as Ravenserespourne in 1399 (Patent Rolls), ‘Ravenser spur’, taking its name from Ravenser, the lost town whose site is in Easington parish. Spurn seems to be from a variant of the word spur in a sense alluding to its long, thin, curving shape, like the spur of a fighting cock, or perhaps even from an archaic plural form of this word. Before 1399 we find references only to Ravenser Odd, a town and port in Kilnsea parish which was swallowed up by the river or sea in 1362. There is no firm agreement on which side of the future Spurn it was, though a site on the exposed seaward side of any headland seems less likely. Odd is from an Old Scandinavian word (Old Norse oddr ‘point’), which presumably relates to a promontory existing here before Spurn Head. The modern Spurn Head must date from after the destruction of Ravenser Odd. There have been massive changes in the topography of the Yorkshire side of the Humber hereabouts, with islands and channels appearing and disappearing in a cycle of about 250 years, and with the neck of the Head moving slowly westwards until it is finally breached before re-forming with material washed out of the cliffs of Holderness.63 Ravenser Odd is one casualty, and Spurn Head continued to exist in the late 20thC only thanks to considerable engineering works intended to stabilize it. It was last breached by storm tides in 2016 and 2017, and the decision was taken to allow it, with its nature reserve, to remain a tidal island.

Hence also Spurn Bight, a geographer’s name for the tidal bay between Spurn and Sunk Island.

**Stallingborough**, parish

‘Fort or massive earthwork of a group of people known as the Stælingas’, from Old English *Stælinga* (genitive plural form) + *burg*; or ‘earthwork near or consisting of a *ståeling* or *ståling* or more than one of them’, *ståeling* or *ståling* being a word based on *stålu* ‘stem, (upright) post’. No significant earthwork has been identified, and the origin of the name of the group (if that is what we have here) has not been satisfactorily explained.

**Forms with one <l>:**

- *Stalingeburg* 1086 Domesday Book, 1204 Charter Rolls,
- *Stalingburgh’* 1288 Feet of Fines, *Stalyngeburgh* 1303 Patent Rolls,
- *Stalingaburg* 1155 (copied in about 1200) Cartae Antiquae Rolls

- *Stalinburg* 1086 Domesday Book, about 1150 (copied in early 13thC)
- *Nun Cotham Cartulary, Stalinburc* about 1115 Lindsey Survey,
- *Stalynburgh* 1299 Charter Rolls, 1371 Inquisitiones post mortem,
- 1428 Feudal Aids, *Stalinburgh’* 1453 Papal Registers

- *Stalingburg* 1109-19, 1154-62, 1230 (copied in 13thC-14thC) Selby Coucher Book, 1235 *Nun Cotham Cartulary*, 1254 Valuation of Norwich and frequently in this form until 1344 Selby Coucher Book,
- *Stalingburch* 1185 Templar Records, *Stalingburc* 1190 Pipe Rolls,
- 1238-43 Book of Fees, *Stalyngburg* 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1328 Banco Pleas and frequently in this form until 1564 Patent Rolls

- *Stalingburgh* 1154 (copied in 13thC-14thC) Early Yorkshire Charters i, 1190 (copied in 1301) Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum vi, 1263 Feet of Fines and frequently in that form until 1553 Patent Rolls


**Forms with double <ll>:**
Stallingeburc' 1200 Curia Regis Rolls, Stallingeburc 1202 Feet of Fines, 1263 Feet of Fines

Stallingburg early in the reign of Henry II (1154-89; copied in the early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1245 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls


Stallingburghe 1576 Saxton’s county map, Stallingburgh 1601, 1690, 1822 Terrier

Stallingborough 1557 Lincolnshire Wills, 1592 Holywell and in this form regularly till the present day

Stallinbur’ 1664, Stallinburgh 1700, Stallinburg 1709 all Terrier

The following spellings appear to be aberrations:

Stalingburn 1200 Charter Rolls, Stallingburne 1577 Harrison: Description of Britain

Staningeburc’ 1225 Curia Regis Rolls, Staningeburgh 1267 Placitorn Abbreviatio, Stanynburg 1295 Close Rolls, Stanyngburgh 1490 Close Rolls

Stanyngbroke 1540 Augmentation Office miscellaneous books 402

The ancient village nucleus was around the church, to the west of the modern settlement. Some earthworks of this village are preserved and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (legacy UID 34711), but the excavated remains are largely domestic. The site of the Ayscough family’s manor house, demolished in the mid 18thC, may offer a clue to where and what the burg might have been. Also, a Roman settlement has recently been investigated in
the north-east quadrant of **Stallingborough Interchange** on the A180.\(^{64}\) This yielded evidence of a significant stone building and for the process of malting. It is just possible that the name of the group was built on Old English *stall* 'site of an (unspecified) building', but the earliest spellings, especially those in Domesday Book, the Lindsey Survey and the *Nun Cotham Cartulary*, do not really support this, having mainly a single <l>. The hypothetical word *stæling* or *staling* might mean a structure of some kind; the early spellings indicate that such a word might be present in the Old English genitive plural form ending in -a. Carole Hough suggests a further possibility,\(^{65}\) that the first element contains *stalling*, although that is a word attested only later, in Middle English, meaning 'young tree'; but if that is right, it could imply that an abandoned *burg* here had become overgrown.

**Stony Binks**

This is a curving system of shoals branching off in a seaward direction near the tip of the **Spurn** peninsula. The Binks lie along the line of a submerged ridge of glacial Till. A similar Till ridge about 2.5 km to the north runs beneath **Spurn Head**, coinciding in part with the position of the **Old Den**. *Bink* is a variant of the widespread northern dialect word *benk* 'shelf, bench', itself a relative of *bank*. The feature is **Stone Bank** on the 1595 Cecil map and on Samuel Thornton’s chart of 1707.\(^{66}\)

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**Sunk Island**, parish, now in Kilnsea parish, East Riding of Yorkshire

*Sunk Island 1678 Map, 1707 Samuel Thornton’s chart [on which it is still an island]*

A self-explanatory name dating from the 17thC, implying either that there was an earlier island at this spot which subsequently disappeared and then re-emerged in changing tidal conditions, or that one was in the process of disappearing (which is what Thornton’s map seems to imply). The island does not appear on Speed’s map of 1610, but does on a local map of 1678. The channel between the island and the mainland has now silted up, and Sunk Island is no longer an island. Since the date of its first recording, the land here has been reclaimed by constructing embankments which encourage the depositing of silt by tidal action. See also **Ravenser** and **Spurn Head**.

Hence also **Sunk Island Sands** or **Sunk Sand**, a feature whose mapped name varies somewhat.

**Sussex Recreation Ground** in Cleethorpes

See **Sidney Park**.

**Swallow**, parish
A village on the Wolds with a name deriving from a local word for a place where a stream disappears underground.

Sualewa [Latin form] 1143-47 Stenton: Danelaw Documents, Sualewe 1175 Chancellor’s copy of Pipe Rolls, 1188 Pipe Rolls and frequently in that form until 1230 Bishop Welles’ Rolls

Swale before 1155 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, 1212 Book of Fees, 1288 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1428 Feudal Aids, Swalua [Latin form] before 1180 (copied early 13thC) Nun Cotham Cartulary, Swalwe 1163 Registrum Antiqissimum i, 1272 Assize Rolls, 1327 Subsidy Rolls

Swalewe 1196 Chancellor’s copy of Pipe Rolls, 1211-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, 1227 Charter Rolls, 1242-43 Book of Fees and frequently in this form until 1361 Close Rolls

Sualowe 1212 Book of Fees, Swalowe 1303 Feudal Aids, 1359 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1393 Patent Rolls and frequently in this form until 1531 Foster Library document

Swalou 1332 Subsidy Rolls, 1339 Fine Rolls, Swalow 1346 Feudal Aids, 1535 Valor Ecclesiasticus, Swallowe 1369 Ancient Deeds, 1499 Historical Manuscript Commission Report 14, 1526 Subsidy, 1552 Patent Rolls, 1576 Saxton’s county map, Swallow 1610 Speed’s county map, 1658 Foster Library document, 1680 Pretyman Tomline papers and generally in this form until the present day

Kenneth Cameron explains this as a pre-English, even pre-Celtic stream-name. But that cannot be right. British Celtic */sw-/* develops as *[xw-]*, in general, and the several river-names of this type cannot therefore be Celtic, as Eilert Ekwall noted whilst at the same time leaving the door open for exceptions. If the name is pre-Celtic, the same applies: a pre-Celtic name will have passed through the filter of British Celtic, and an original */sw-/* cannot have survived intact until the days of contact with the English. Cameron

says\textsuperscript{69} that “... it does seem very likely that [an] O[ld] E[nglish form] *swalwe is the source of Swallow”, and then goes on to a discussion of some European river-names, with a variety of suggested origins, before latching on to a root *swel- ‘shine’ which he believes would yield the Germanic *swalwōn required for Old English *swalwe; he concludes that “[t]his is the most plausible explanation of the etymology of Swallow which can be made with our present state of knowledge”. This hypothetical *swalwe happens to be identical with the bird-name.

It is strange that successive commentators have resisted connecting the name with the English words swallow(-hole) and swallet, terms which apply to places where streams disappear underground (e.g. in Surrey, Glamorgan, Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset – limestone or Chalk country – see the entries for these words in the \textit{Oxford English dictionary}). That is exactly what the Chalk stream at Swallow did; it departed from the pool which marks its source in the rectory grounds west of the village and flowed a little way east before vanishing just north-east of the village where the valley turns sharply north. Even more puzzlingly, Cameron explicitly drew attention to this fact\textsuperscript{70} The basic meaning of swallow as a noun appears to be ‘abyss, hole in the ground’, and the association with water is frequent, often in allusion to whirlpools.\textsuperscript{71} We need look no further to explain the Lincolnshire village-name. There is a field-name the Swallow Holes in 18thC Stainton le Vale,\textsuperscript{72} some six miles to the south, which is, like Swallow, on the Chalk Wolds. This confirms that the suggestion is appropriate from both the geological and the dialectal viewpoint.

Any water feature suggesting a pull from below (perhaps by some agency or being, ill-understood from the modern scientific point of view), like a downward movement into a throat, will have been worthy of being named a *swalwe, and that image allows the association with the common verb to

\textsuperscript{69} Cameron, Kenneth, \textit{Place-names of Lincs}, vol. 5, pp. 145-146.\textsuperscript{69}

\textsuperscript{70} Cameron, Kenneth, \textit{Place-names of Lincs}, vol. 5, p. 145.\textsuperscript{70}

\textsuperscript{71} \textit{Oxford English dictionary}, \textit{swallow} n\textsuperscript{2}, 1.b.\textsuperscript{71}

\textsuperscript{72} Cameron, Kenneth, \textit{Place-names of Lincs}, vol. 3, p. 131.\textsuperscript{72}
swallow. Swallow is most likely named from its disappearing stream, itself named from its most obvious characteristic. Or, even more simply, the village may take its name directly from the hole, the spot where the stream in its heyday disappeared, just east of the church.

The spellings in Domesday Book, seven entries all ending in <-un> which is not found elsewhere, are not readily explainable. It may be from a reduced dative case form of the name, *Swalwan.

**Team Gate Drain** on the boundary between Barnoldby and Bradley

*Team Gate Drain* 1824 Ordnance Survey (1st edn), 1831 *Monson manuscript at South Carlton*, 1838 *Brace document*

This drainage ditch eventually feeds into **Laceby Beck**. The gate from which it takes its name was apparently on the Barnoldby to Bradley road, but the origin of the name has not been discovered. *Team* is used in some eastern dialects to mean 'chain' and 'brood of young animals'; or the reference might be to a gate wide enough to admit a (plough-)team.

**Tetney**, parish

'Island, raised land in a marsh, associated with Tǣte'; Old English, from the female given name Tǣte, in the genitive case with -an, + ēg. The given name derives from tāt ‘happy’. Tetney is not exactly on an island, but it is on a promontory into alluvial land, between the **Marsh** proper and **Waitha Beck**, adjacent to the northern end of a significant group of saltern mounds and to three significant blow wells.

Tetney is recorded in a large number of different spellings:

Forms with <-a->:

ablative case form] late 11thC (copied about 1331) Spalding Cartulary i, Tatany 1203 Feet of Fines, Thateneia in the reign of Henry II (1154-89) Stenton: Danelaw Documents

Forms with three apparent syllables and <e-> in the first, followed by single <t->:  


Tetenai 1201 Pipe Rolls, Tetenaea [Latin form] 1212 Book of Fees

Forms with three apparent syllables and <e-> in the first, followed by double <tt->:  


Forms with two syllables and a single <t->:

Forms with two syllables and a double <-tt->:

Tettnay 1536-37 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum vi, Tetnay 1537-38 Dugdale: Monasticon Anglicanum iv, 1545 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic xx

Forms with <Th->:


Thedeneye 1303 Feudal Aids, Tedeneye 1390 Patent Rolls, Tedeney 1391 Close Rolls

Forms with <-o->:


Despite the variety, the great bulk of the spellings above probably all represent the similar pronunciations “Tetta-ney” or the modern “Tetney”. Spellings in <Th-> are run-of-the-mill alternatives to <T-> and do not indicate a pronunciation like <th-> in modern thing. The spellings with <o> in the first syllable are probably misreadings or miscopyings of <e>, which can be very similar in some 14thC handwriting.

Hence also Tetney Drain, Tetney Haven, Tetney High Sands, Tetney Lock (where the Louth Canal meets Waithe Beck).
A spot named **Castles** used to be mapped in Tetney (e.g. Armstrong’s map of Lincolnshire, 1787).\(^{73}\) This has been shown to be the archaeological traces of abandoned salt-pans.\(^{74}\)

**Tetney Blow Wells**

See **Blow Wells**.

**Thorpe Park** in Cleethorpes

Looks like a blatant attempt to cash in on the name of the famous visitor attraction in Chertsey, Surrey, but it clearly has some justification in the name of Cleethorpes and its constituent hamlets.

**Thrunscoe** in Cleethorpes (no longer in general use)

‘Thorn-bush wood’, from Old Scandinavian *þyrni- + skóg-* (Old Norse *þyrnir + skógr*).

Forms with `<r-` in its original position (those beginning with plain `<T-` are written under Norman French influence):


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Forms with <r> before the first vowel:


*Thrinsco* 1503 Inquisitiones post mortem

*Throunscho* 1572 Inventory, *Thronslew* 1581 Inventory, *Thrunskoe* 1594 Inventory, 1758 Bishop’s Transcripts

*Thruncsow* in the reign of Elizabeth I Chancery Proceedings, 1663 Inventory and generally in this form until the present day, *Thruncsowe* 1609 Land Revenue Miscellaneous Books 256, *Thrunskoe* 1611, 1636 Foster Library document, 1846 Enclosure Act, *Thrunsco* 1627 through to 1690 Inventory, 1842 White: History of Lincolnshire

*Thrumscoe al[ja]s Thrumstow al[ja]s Thrumstowe* 1636 Lincolnshire Deeds in NELA

With *thorp*:

*Thronschothorp* 1588 Inventory, the Thorpe of Thruncsow 1761 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document

The site is now covered by suburban Cleethorpes south of Queen’s Parade. The name is preserved in *Thruncsow Road* and in the names of nearby schools and nurseries. Notice that, like *Itterby* (which was adjacent to the north), it is first referred to as a *thorp* only rather late in the record.

**Tickler’s Corner** in Laceby parish

Formerly a dangerous bend in the A46 near the 1928 (and present) boundary with Grimsby, taking its name from the surname of the owner of a
property close by; bypassed since 1963 by the modern dual carriageway, which was opened 30 years late. The surname is a Lincolnshire variant of Tinkler,\textsuperscript{75} and became famous as that of a jam manufacturer in Grimsby, who lived not far away from here at Bradley. Tickler's Orchard was close to Tickler's Corner.

The Tip

See Cleveland Bridge.

Toll Bar in Waltham parish

See Waltham.

Toot Hill in Grimsby, formerly in Little Coates (no longer in use)

A former enormous mound overlooking the marshland between Little Coates and Grimsby, whose location can be traced through the great shallow bend at the western end of Yarborough Road, which represents the curve of its northern flank. ‘Lookout hill’, no doubt from Old English *tōt(e) ‘lookout’ + hyll ‘hill’, though the name is recorded only very late.

\textit{Tout Hill} about 1757, about 1759 local maps in NELA

\textit{Toot Hill} 1824 Ordnance Survey (1st edn), 1831 Monson manuscript at South Carlton

\textit{Toote Hill} 1825 Oliver: Monumental antiquities, 1828 Bryant’s county map

Toot Hill was removed in stages, till its final clearance in about 1903, for the aggregate and roadmetal used in the building of the modern town and the sand to be used in the construction of roads, buildings and docks. Its name survives as that of the roundabout next to the Trawl pub, where Yarborough Road meets Little Coates Road and Great Coates Road.

\textsuperscript{75} Hanks, Patrick, Richard Coates and Peter McClure, eds (2016) \textit{The Oxford dictionary of family names in Britain and Ireland}. Oxford: Oxford University Press, under Tinkler.
There was a mound with a similar name, recorded since 1679, in Healing.

*The demise of the Little Coates Toot Hill in about 1903.*


**Top** in hill-names

Common in minor local place-names for the highest point in a locality, most notably in *Caistor Top* at the highest point of the *Wolds*, but also found locally for example in *Fenby Top, Hatcliffe Top, Scartho Top* and *Stallingham Top*.

**Top Town** in Grimsby

The general popular name for the older commercial area centred on the Old Market Place and Victoria Street, now *Freshney Place*, as opposed to the late-19thC development of *Freeman Street* on the *East Marsh*. An observation by Alan Dowling’s adult education class in 1995 suggests that, around 1900, *bottom town* may have been used for Freeman Street, but I

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have never heard it. Dowling’s group also found written evidence for *up town* and *down town* for the same areas respectively in 1860–1, 77 but I never heard these used when I lived in Grimsby (1949–1967/1971) and I have not on frequent visits since then.

**Town’s Holt** in Grimsby

First found on the 1841 tithe award. *Holt* is from the Old English *holt* meaning ‘single-species wood, grove’, here ‘grove belonging to Grimsby’. Earlier it had been called *Car Holt*, where *car* is a word deriving from Old Scandinavian *kerr*, Old Norse *kjarr*, ‘marshland growing with brushwood’.

**Trinity Open Space** in Cleethorpes

A modern planners’ designation for a playing field beside Trinity School in Trinity Road, itself named from land owned by Trinity College, Cambridge.

**Trinity Sand** in Easington parish, East Riding of Yorkshire

A tidal sand flat, a formerly notorious shipwreck hazard in the *Humber* estuary in the lee of *Spurn Head*, first named on Bowen’s map of 1750; two ships out of King’s Lynn bound for Hull were lost here on 31 January 1765. The reason for the name is unknown, but the dedication of Easington parish church is to St Giles, not the Holy Trinity. Some connection with the lighthouse authority Trinity House who had an office in Hull and maintained a light on Spurn Head might be suspected. Trinity Sand has been judged to include the site of *Ravenser*.

**Upper Thorpe**

See *Itterby*.

**Waithe**, parish

‘(The) ford’, where the Grimsby to Louth road (now the A16) crosses *Waithe Beck*. Waithe is a small, long and narrow parish with few houses but with a

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surprisingly ancient, 10thC, church of St Martin, now redundant, which was heavily restored and beautified in the 1860s.

*Wade* 1086 Domesday Book, 1213 Abbreviatio Placitorum, 1303 Close Rolls

*Wada, Uada* [Latin forms] about 1115 Lindsey Survey, 1212 Book of Fees

*Wadde* 1203 Feet of Fines, *Wadhe* 1231 Charter Rolls

*Waða* 1177 Pipe Rolls

*Wape* early 13thC Harleian Charters in British Museum, *Wathe* 1196 Chancellor’s copy of Pipe Rolls, 1210-12 Red Book of the Exchequer, 1229 Close Rolls, 1254 Valuation of Norwich, 1272 Assize Rolls, 1291 Taxatio Ecclesiastica, 1327 Subsidy Rolls and frequently in that form until 1681 *Haigh documents*

*Watha* [Latin form] 1275 Hundred Rolls


*Wath al[ias] Wath* 1723 Speculum of the Diocese of Lincoln


*Wai[th]* after 1561 Haigh documents, 1623 Hill papers, 1675 Emeris Collection document, 1679 Terrier, 1830 Ordnance Survey 1" first series
Wayte 1553 Patent Rolls, Waite 1653 Parliamentary Survey

The modern spelling, Waithe, does not seem to appear till the late 19thC (e.g. Ordnance Survey 1:2500 county edition, 1888).

Kenneth Cameron must be right when he sees this as a scandinavianized form of OE (ge)wæd ‘ford’ rather than as Old Scandinavian *wað (Old Norse vað) with the same meaning. Reinforced by the pronunciation of the related verb to wade, names containing the Old English noun invariably have a long vowel (e.g. Biggleswade, Bedfordshire), and so does Waithe (pronounced /weiθ/, i.e. rhyming with faith). Names containing the Scandinavian word have a short vowel (e.g. Wath (numerous places in e.g. Yorkshire and Cumberland), though the word in place-names is often replaced by similar ones such as worth and with). A. H. Smith suggests that the Lincolnshire Waithe is from an anglicized form of the dative case form of the Scandinavian ford-word (as in Old Norse vaði), but, in the light of the rest of the evidence, that looks like special pleading, and the explanation involving an English name pronounced with a final consonant influenced locally by Scandinavian speech looks best.

Hence also Waithe Beck.

Waltham, parish

‘Woodland estate’, from Old English wald ‘(high) woodland’ + hām ‘major farming estate’. This significant compound term, fairly common in place-names, is found as the name of royal estate centres founded in the first century of the Anglo-Saxon landtaking (about 450–550).

Waltham 1086 Domesday Book, 1177 to 1207 Pipe Rolls (sometimes as a personal name), 1217 Patent Rolls, 1231 Close Rolls, 1258 Feet

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78 Cameron, Kenneth, Place-names of Lincs, vol. 4, p. 178.
80 It is fully discussed by Rhona Huggins (1975) The significance of the place-name Wealdham. Medieval Archaeology 19, pp. 198–201.
of Fines, 1275 Hundred Rolls, 1291 Taxatio ecclesiastica, 1311
Inquisitiones post mortem and in this form generally until the
present day

Waltham juxta [Latin for ‘near’] Barnolbi, Waltham juxta Grimsby
1308 Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, Waltham iuxta Scarthou 1328
Feet of Fines

Waltham in Lyndesheymerssh 1400 Patent Rolls, Waltham in Lyndesey
1409, 1416 Patent Rolls

Walthame 1219 Bishop Welles’ Rolls, 1454 Close Rolls

Walteham 1275 Hundred Rolls

Wautham(’) 1230 Pipe Rolls, 1234 Feet of Fines

In the later Middle Ages, Waltham is described as ‘near’ various places
including Barnoldby le Beck, Grimsby and Scartho, and as ‘in’ Lindsey and
the Marsh.

See also New Waltham. Since the creation of New Waltham, the original
village is sometimes referred to as Old Waltham.

Hence also Waltham Toll Bar, a gate on the turnpike road from
Scartho to Louth, now best known in the name of a school.

Wanderlust Way

A modern circular long-distance path, starting from Bradley and rising into
the Wolds. It was named in 1990 after the Wanderlust Rambling Club, whose
name incorporates a word borrowed from German meaning ‘the desire to
ramble’ or ‘the pleasure of rambling’. It was originally called The Bradley 20,
from being 20 miles long in its fullest form.

Washing Dales in Irby upon Humber parish

Recorded as Weston dale hedge 1638, Weston-dale 1662, Washton dales 1762
all in local Terriers, of uncertain origin. There was also a Washing Dales in
adjacent Aylesby parish, recorded from 1824 Ordnance Survey, but both names denote the same place, usually credited to Irby but spanning the parish boundary. It may originally have been the ‘west farm’ in Aylesby; certainly not in Irby. The unusual linguistic change may be influenced by the functions of the stream which flows through the spot, now enhanced by a lake.

Weelsby in Grimsby, formerly a separate parish, later united with Clee

‘The farm or village of a man named Vífill, from the Old Scandinavian male given name Vífill in the genitive case form Vífils + bý-. A case has been made that the first element in names like this might instead be the word which underlies Vífill, or rather an Old English counterpart Wifel, namely a securely attested word meaning ‘weevil’ or a more controversial ‘spear’.’


Uiflesbi about 1115 Lindsey Survey, Wyflesby 1242-43 Book of Fees, Wiflesbi 1272 Assize Rolls, Wyflesbi 1275 Hundred Rolls

Wiflesbi alias Weelsby 1667 Tennyson d’Eyncourt Collection document

Wevelsby 1314 Inquisitiones post mortem, 1350 Close Rolls, Weflesby 1372 Ancient Deeds

With a reduced form of the given name, mostly from the 14thC onwards:

The name is now also used informally as a district name for the development at the southern end of Ladysmith Road, adjacent to Clee Fields. It is also the name of an electoral ward.

Hence also Weelsby Park Estate, an occasional name for the development centred on St Andrew’s Drive, and:

**Weelsby Woods** in Grimsby

A 130-acre public open space donated to the town in 1948 by the Boston Deep Sea Fishing and Ice Company, and opened to the public in 1951. The land had once been the park of the Weelsby Old Hall estate in the former parish of Clee with Weelsby, which had been the home of the Boston Company’s chairman, Fred Parkes, and previously of the trawler-owning family Sleight.
Welbeck Springs

Well-known springs adjacent to Barton Street, rising in a deep hollow and feeding a pond which was visited for bathing well into the 20thC. The place is the site of Roman finds and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

welbeck 1770 Enclosure Award
Welbecks 1820 Estate Map
Welbeck 1824 Ordnance Survey
Well Beck 1828 Bryant’s county map

The name Welbeck is that of the stream, ‘stream rising from a spring’, apparently from Old English wella (which can also mean ‘stream’)+ the word beck ‘stream’, borrowed from Old Scandinavian. This seems redundant, so it may be best explained as a Scandinavian name meaning ‘the beck called [by the English] wella’. It is also possible that the name is from Old Scandinavian vellu-bekkr, with the first element vella ‘boiling’; English names of the type ‘boiling spring’ are known. George Oliver, in the Gentleman’s Magazine for 1832, described the ambience of the place as follows: “.... in the month of February or March, a loud rumbling noise is heard in the ground for several days, and at length the water bursts forth in a hundred places as to fill in a few hours the whole area of the well or enclosure of earth where it is situated ....” The stream flows into Team Gate Drain and forms the boundary between Barnoldby-le-Beck and Irby upon Humber parishes for its entire length.

Welholme in Grimsby

Now used informally as a district name, this derives from Welholme Road, which forms its east-west axis. The road name does not appear before being mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1883, and its origin has not been established for sure. It is not a pre-existing place-name, but it appears to reflect the fact that the road connects Wellow and Holme Hill.
Wellow in Grimsby

‘The hill-spur by a spring’, from Old English *wella* or a similar form ‘spring, stream’ + *hōh* ‘spur’, with the second element influenced from time to time by Old Scandinavian *haug-* ‘mound’.


*Welhogh* 1314 Inquisitiones post mortem


*Wellehogh* 1314 Inquisitiones post mortem

*Wellou* 1322 Patent Rolls, 1366 *Grimsby Court Rolls*, *Wellowe* 1356 Patent Rolls, 1375 Fine Rolls, 1397 Papal Registers and frequently in that form until 1581 Historical Manuscript Commission Report 14, *Wellow* 1400 Papal Registers, 1508 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* ii, 1522 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books* i and generally in this form until the present day, *Wellow alias Welhow* 1755 *North Willingham deposit*


This place was the site of the Augustinian abbey of Wellow (also known as 
Grimsby Abbey, dedicated to St Augustine and St Olaf), which was dissolved 
in 1539, and almost all the early mentions are of the abbey itself. The hill 
or mound, with “a spring or well at the foot”, was noted into the 19thC. It 
was sometimes called Abbey Hill. The low promontory which the abbey 
occupied part of jutted into the marshland. Its remnant is visible on the 
British Geological Survey mapping as a sand and gravel deposit, centred on 
part of Abbey Drive West and Abbotsway, and right alongside a tongue of 
marine sediments stretching inland as far as the People’s Park. The abbey 
gave its name to the major early street Wellowgate, formed with Old 
Scandinavian gata ‘street’. In 1545 the site and its possessions were granted 
to Sir Thomas Heneage, beginning a connection between his family and 
Grimsby that was to prove very significant in the town’s expansion, 
especially from the 19thC onwards. He knocked the abbey buildings down 
and built a farmhouse.

The dedication of the abbey was picked up in that of the Edwardian church 
of St Augustine of Hippo in Legsby Avenue, as is made explicit in the church’s 
dedicatory hymn by its former vicar, Rev. Kenneth P. Richardson.

**West Marsh** in Grimsby

*the west marshe* 1528 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books i*, *le west marssche* 
1537 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books iii*, *the west marsh* 1632 *Grimsby 
Court Leet Verdicts*, *the west marshes* 1648 *Grimsby Mayor’s Court 
Books viii*, *the west Marshes* 1662 *Grimsby Borough Leases*, *West 
Marshes* 1678 *Grimsby Court Leet Verdicts* and frequently in that form 
until 1840 Enclosure Act

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82 Some sources, including *Victoria County History Lincs*, vol. 2, say 1536.
Inexplicably, Cameron (*Place-names of Lincs*, vol. 5, pp. 48-49) translates the name as “the 
spring by the hill-spur”.
westmarshe 1664 Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books ix, West Marsh 1692
Grimsby Mayor’s Court Books x, 1801 Grimsby map in NELA and
generally in this form until the present day

(in Latin)

unum mariscum [Latin for ‘a/one marsh’] 1201 Charter Rolls, in
marisco occident’ [Latin for ‘in the west marsh’] 1582 Grimsby
Chamberlain’s Rolls, in occidentali marisco 1670 Grimsby Court Leet
Verdicts, Occident’ Marisc’ [de Grimsby] 1691 Tennyson d’Eyncourt
Collection document

Self-explanatory for an early-20thC housing development serving the
Alexandra Dock and its related industrial area. The marsh itself was
common land which had been enclosed in 1514.

West Ravendale

See Ravendale.

The Willows, estate in Grimsby, the land being formerly in Great Coates
parish

A self-explanatory name for a housing estate on the north bank of the
Freshney and its New Cut. Building began in the late 1960s.

The (Lincolnshire) Wolds

The range of chalk hills west of Grimsby, whose name consists of the Old
English word wald ‘extensive woodland’, and later, but probably not in major
ancient place-names, ‘high country, hills’. Wolds is from the Middle English
plural form of this word, indicating that these hills got their present name
only after the word had acquired its later meaning. See also Waltham and
Wold Newton.

Wold Newton, parish

‘The new farm or village’, from Old English nīwe + tūn, but in existence as
early as Domesday Book; distinguished as ‘the Wold new-farm’ from the
13thC, but it is not clear from which other Newton(s) it was to be
distinguished. Lincolnshire, and specifically Lindsey, has more than one other, the nearest being Newton-by-Toft, just beyond Market Rasen. For *wald* ‘woodland’, later ‘upland’, see also **Waltham**.

*Newton* appears in 13 different spellings discovered so far, and *Wold Newton* in no fewer than 31. The display below is drastically reduced.

With no qualifying word:

*Neutone* 1086 Domesday Book, *Neutun* 1170-85 *Holywell document*

*Neutona* [Latin form] 1175, 1245 (copied 13thC) *Alvingham Cartulary*

*Neuton(‘)* 1204 Pipe Rolls, 1238-41 Book of Fees, 1281 Pleas of Quo Warranto and frequently in this form until 1431 Feudal Aids, *Newton(‘)* 1176 Pipe Rolls, 1220 Curia Regis Rolls, 1303 Feudal Aids, *Newton* 1428 Feudal Aids, 1526 Subsidy, 1566 *Bishop’s Transcripts*

*Niwetuna* [Latin form] about 1150 Durham Dean and Chapter Charters, *Niweton(‘)* 1193 Pipe Rolls

With *wald*:


*Waldeneweton(‘)* 1202 Assize Rolls, 1236 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1272 Feet of Fines, 1388 Patent Rolls

*Wand Niuueton*’ [meaning *Waud?* (with <n> for <u>), a Norman French-influenced spelling] 1213 Curia Regis Rolls

With the later form *wold*:
Woldneuton 1248 Bishop Grosseteste’s Rolls, 1297 Harleian Charters in British Museum, Woldnewton(‘) 1483 Ancient Deeds, Wold Newton 1557 Institutions to Benefices, 1570, 1622, 1674 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1736 Yarborough documents and generally in this form until the present day

Woldenewton 1510 Letters and papers, foreign and domestic i

Would Newton 1591 Bishop’s Transcripts, 1648 Middleton document, University of Nottingham and frequently in this form until 1734 Yarborough documents

Woold Newton 1724 Terrier

In part because of changes in the local dialect, the first word wold came to be (mis)understood as old, and it is that which is translated by the Latin vetera (not a classical form) recorded in 1386.

Oldenewton 1507 Patent Rolls, Oldenewtonne 1558 Administrations in the Consistory Court of Lincoln

Vetera Neuton’ 1386 Peace Sessions

Wybers Wood, estate in Grimsby, the land being formerly in Great Coates parish; and a wood in Aylesby

This name was adopted for a new housing estate begun in the 1970s, adjacent to Grimsby’s boundary with Aylesby. The wood which gives rise to the name is just within Aylesby parish, and is recorded in:

Wybers Covers 1824 Ordnance Survey (1st edn)

Wyburghs Hole Pl[antatio]n 1828 Bryant’s county map

The name Wybers appears several times over in Aylesby, especially in Wybers Farm. The basic farm-name must contain the surname Wyber, itself
derived from the Old English female given name Wigburg ‘battle’ + ‘stronghold’.

**Yarborough** in Grimsby

An informal district-name and electoral ward name deriving from Yarborough Road, which reflects the former ownership of much of the land in this area by the earls of Yarborough, especially the first four (1837-1936). Their seat is at **Brocklesby Park**, but the place-name from which the earldom’s title is taken is the **Yarborough** of Yarborough Camp, a probable Iron Age fort and definite wapentake meeting-place in Croxton parish. This name derives from Old English *eorð-burg* ‘earth fort’.

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Old postcard showing the avenue of trees in the People’s Park, Grimsby, in its prime
For explanations about archival material, see the Introduction.

**Primary literary sources**


**Secondary sources**


Baker, Frank (1953) *The story of Cleethorpes and the contribution of Methodism through two hundred years*. Cleethorpes: Trinity Methodist Church.

Bates, Anderson (1893) *A gossip about old Grimsby, with a complete list of the mayors [etc.]*. Grimsby: Albert Gait.


Dobson, Edward (1850) *A guide and directory to Cleethorpes* [etc.]. Privately published.


Grimsby Public Libraries and Museum Committee. [Cover title omits the words of Great.]


Other items with more restricted content or relevance are referenced in footnotes and not repeated here.

*Documentary sources published since the date(s) of the relevant Survey of English Place-Names volumes:*


A critical edition of the Meaux Abbey cartulary was prepared by George V. Orange for his University of Hull doctoral dissertation (1965), and it is now available online at [https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668](https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:6668). This is a medieval collection of documents relating to the properties owned by the Cistercian abbey of Meaux, just east of Beverley. [This abbey was also the source of the *Chronica monasterii de Melsa* ‘Meaux Abbey chronicles’ referred to several times in this book.]

*Smith’s map of the Grimsby area, downloaded from http://www.nelalhs.co.uk/?pageid=330. It is shown rotated on p. 3.*
Richard Coates was born in Grimsby, lived there for the first 18 years of his life, attended Wintringham Boys’ Grammar School, and has revisited several times a year for decades. He was Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sussex from 1991 to 2006, and held the same position at the University of the West of England, Bristol, till 2019. He is also President of the English Place-Name Society, which is based at Nottingham University, and was formerly Hon. Director of the Survey of English Place-Names. He has published many books, articles and web-contributions on language, names and local history.
A final tribute to what made old Grimsby famous: the mural on the former Seaman’s Mission building, Hope Street, showing one of Grimsby’s near-water seine net fishing boats

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