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ABBREVIATIONS OF COUNTIES AND EPNS COUNTY SURVEYS

Co	Cornwall
Ha	Hampshire
He	Herefordshire
K	Kent
La	Lancashire
Nb	Northumberland
Sf	Suffolk
So	Somerset
Wt	Isle of Wight

CPNE	<i>Cornish Place-Name Elements</i>
EPNE	<i>English Place-Name Elements, Parts 1 and 2</i>
PN BdHu	<i>The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire</i>
PN Brk	<i>The Place-Names of Berkshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3</i>
PN Bu	<i>The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire</i>
PN Ca	<i>The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely</i>
PN Ch	<i>The Place-Names of Cheshire, Parts 1–5</i>
PN Cu	<i>The Place-Names of Cumberland, Parts 1, 2 and 3</i>
PN D	<i>The Place-Names of Devon, Parts 1 and 2</i>
PN Db	<i>The Place-Names of Derbyshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3</i>
PN Do	<i>The Place-Names of Dorset, Parts 1–4</i>
PN Du	<i>The Place-Names of County Durham, Part 1</i>
PN Ess	<i>The Place-Names of Essex</i>
PN ERY	<i>The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York</i>
PN Gl	<i>The Place-Names of Gloucestershire, Parts 1–4</i>
PN Hrt	<i>The Place-Names of Hertfordshire</i>
PN Le	<i>The Place-Names of Leicestershire, Parts 1–7</i>
PN Li	<i>The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, Parts 1–8</i>
PN Mx	<i>The Place-Names of Middlesex (apart from the City of London)</i>
PN Nf	<i>The Place-Names of Norfolk, Parts 1–3</i>
PN Nt	<i>The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire</i>
PN NRY	<i>The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire</i>
PN Nth	<i>The Place-Names of Northamptonshire</i>
PN O	<i>The Place-Names of Oxfordshire, Parts 1 and 2</i>
PN R	<i>The Place-Names of Rutland</i>
PN Sa	<i>The Place-Names of Shropshire, Parts 1–6</i>
PN Sr	<i>The Place-Names of Surrey</i>
PN St	<i>The Place-Names of Staffordshire, Part 1</i>
PN Sx	<i>The Place-Names of Sussex, Parts 1 and 2</i>
PN W	<i>The Place-Names of Wiltshire</i>
PN Wa	<i>The Place-Names of Warwickshire</i>
PN We	<i>The Place-Names of Westmorland, Parts 1 and 2</i>
PN Wo	<i>The Place-Names of Worcestershire</i>
PN WRY	<i>The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Parts 1–8</i>

Jillian Hawkins, *The Significance of the Place-Name Element *funta in the Early Middle Ages*, BAR British Series 614 (Oxford: BAR Publishing, 2016). ISBN 978-1-4073-1375-7. Paperback, viii + 211 pp. £53.

Words loaned into Old English toponymy from the languages spoken in Britain at and subsequent to the end of the Romano-British period are of immense interest from a multiplicity of perspectives, and accordingly have been the subject of much discussion from both within and outside of place-name studies. Therefore, the publication of a book dedicated to one such element, OE **funta*, is a cause for celebration. This volume, based on a 2011 University of Winchester PhD thesis, represents a major contribution to the topic, being a remarkably thorough and thought-provoking evaluation of its subject matter.

Hawkins introduces the overall aim of the study of **funta* as ‘understanding the significance of this element in the British/Anglo-Saxon interface and then in the OE place-naming lexicon’ (p. 1). One of the strengths of her study is that it takes the linguistic material as far as it can be taken (which, arguably, is not all that far) but does not see it in isolation or accord it undue primacy. Instead, **funta* place-names are investigated in a broader cultural and chronological context, generating a much more multidimensional understanding of the issues than has been offered in previous published accounts.

The opening two chapters exemplify the interdisciplinary approach taken throughout the book. Chapter 1 provides the chronological context by means of archaeological and historical evidence. It is an adroit move to open with this rather than with issues of language and naming (which instead follow in Chapter 2), not least because Hawkins goes further than most authors of works concerning early OE toponymy in considering the implications of some of the recent advances in archaeological and historical thinking on the transition from the Romano-British to the Anglo-Saxon period. Chapter 2 acts as a useful primer to the general linguistic context, as well as the specific circumstances relating to **funta*, using relatively up-to-date scholarship (no use seems to have been made of works published after the 2011 completion date of the original thesis). Considerable space is dedicated to contemplating the precise route by which Latin *fontāna* was loaned into OE but not any cognate Germanic language. Hawkins favours **funta* representing the end result of a loan ‘mediated from insular Vulgar Latin via Brittonic’ as opposed to a direct loan from Late Latin to OE, and suggests a complex but credible evolutionary sequence of her own (p. 15).

Chapters 3 and 4 set out and synthesise the evidence of ‘pre-English names’ in the hinterlands of **funta* locations, encompassing those likely to be of Brittonic or earlier etymology as well as ones suggestive of the presence of Britons. ‘Non-English’ may have been a better phrasing here, given the probable lateness of the several *w(e)alaworth*, *-cot* place-name formations included, although this would still conflict with the wholly OE composition of such compounds. These toponyms are treated alongside the geological and Roman/early medieval-era archaeological contexts. Understandably, greater attention is paid to the circumstances of the five areas containing multiple **funta* place-names than the seven with only a single example. To judge from the associated maps, there seems to be no standard size for these areas, nor any requirement to have the centre point at a solitary **funta*-name or equidistant between multiple examples. Hawkins instead appears to cast her net in the direction of the most abundant and/or relevant archaeological and toponymic evidence. It could be argued that this precludes a fully objective assessment of the spatial associations of each **funta* place-name, because local-level detail is neglected in favour of a richer, ‘regional’ conspectus. However, the basic spatial analyses undertaken in Chapter 4, comparing **funta*-name locations with a series of features, yield a set of sound, statistically-underpinned conclusions that largely overcome such methodological objections.

The length of the book allows a far larger number of statements to be made and explored in greater depth than in the context of a chapter or article. The result is a study which feels unusually rounded and systematic in its approach. Of course, the book’s length is a luxury, and the effects are not universally positive. Its roots as a PhD thesis are frequently evident, particularly in the overlapping contents of Chapter 3 and Appendix 1. Much fuller etymological and archaeological analyses at the level of individual **funta* place-names are presented in Appendix 1, divorced from more succinct but otherwise often very similar discussions in the main text. To gain a full understanding of a single- or multi-**funta* area therefore requires either a very good memory or repeated checking back and forth. Full integration of these two sections would have been a major undertaking involving a large amount of rewriting, but would have made for a smoother, more seamless experience for the reader.

The many maps throughout the book are of varying quality. Some are crude adaptations of maps from books, road atlases, or the internet. It would not have been an onerous undertaking in the time between the submissions of the final thesis and the amended version for publication to create new maps, even if hand-drawn, that would have been clearer and more comprehensible than the ones published. Likewise, a number of

images are of very poor quality (especially Fig. 40), restricting or even negating their usefulness to the relevant text.

Hawkins has collated and now published an extraordinary mass of information related to **funta* place-names, almost too much to take in on first reading. The organisation of some of its chapters and appendices means it is not the easiest book to use; an index would have been a useful means of ameliorating this inconvenience. But this should not take away from the overall success of the book. The multi-disciplinary methodology, which effectively gives parity to the toponymic and non-toponymic evidence, is especially admirable, and it is to be hoped that it is one emulated in future analogous studies. The study of **funta*-named places, and of other elements loaned into the OE toponymicon, henceforth will owe a debt of gratitude to Hawkins for showing a way towards better comprehension of both processes and meanings. In Chapter 5, Hawkins bookends her conclusions with reference to Saussurean concepts of the sign, signified, and signifier. At the risk of misusing the terminology in aping it, this book signifies the next step in the turn towards more fully interdisciplinary study of English place-names, and deserves to be celebrated for the contribution it will doubtless make over the coming decades.

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