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Where in Suffolk was *Wicklaw*?

Keith Briggs

The large land-holding in south-east Suffolk belonging to Ely Abbey was called *Wicklaw*. This has always been assumed to be the name of a mound (OE *hlāw*), but the exact location of this feature and the meaning of the specific *wic-* have never been clear. Here we add some new evidence, from surnames, and from a site recorded as *Wikelohel*, to deduce a location in or near Hacheston or Rendlesham. The *wic-* element is probably to be associated with Wickham Market, both names denoting the same Roman settlement.

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Dorking, Surrey

Rob Briggs

Published assessments of the place-name Dorking have noted it has some interesting aspects, in particular the possibility that it derives from a combination of Brittonic and Old English elements. Despite this, a full exploration of the etymological implications of the early attestations of the name has never been offered, and some ‘tricky’ issues skirted around or ignored. This article revisits all previous suggestions and enters new one into the debate, based upon British and continental European toponymy, as well as the archaeology and topography of the Dorking area. Subjecting all of the possibilities to critical evaluation, it finds the exact etymology cannot be established on the strength of the information presently available, but reveals Dorking to be a name formation of much greater complexity and interest than previously considered.

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Two lost place-names in the west Midlands: *Gaia* in Lichfield and *The Gay* in Shrewsbury

Richard Coates

The purpose of this article is to note the existence of two, or probably three, related unexplained names, to present possible further examples of the element involved, and to review how far it is possible to explain them.

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Two Chiltern place-names reconsidered: Elvendon and Misbourne

Ann Cole

The meanings of Chiltern place-names were covered in comparatively early volumes (2, 23 and 24) of the Survey of English Place-Names. In the light of a greater understanding of topographical elements, combined with fieldwork and another look at the sources, it is evident that the meanings of Elvendon, Oxfordshire, and Misbourne, Buckinghamshire, should be revised.

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Medieval place-names in a landscape: Branscombe

John Torrance

Inspired by the approach of Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole to place-name studies, and taking Branscombe as an instance, the article seeks to locate medieval topographical minor names in a village landscape. Old and Middle English elements in the place-names are identified, although the antiquity of many names is very uncertain. The aim is to enlarge understanding of how this landscape was seen and lived in during the Middle Ages. The subjects discussed are the influence of topography on the parish boundaries, medieval names for valleys and hills, medieval and later names for the hamlets composing the village, medieval awareness of prehistoric remains, and medieval farm names that signposted routes in and out of the village.