mab ME, ‘slattern’, recorded by OED from 1557/8, is probably a derogatory application of ME Mab fem. pers.n. (cf. mag, magot and malkin). Distinguishing the common noun from the pers.n. or the derived surname in p.ns is scarcely possible – Mabbes Stalles (a fishery in Chester) 1328 Ch:5i-74 (stell), for instance, might be connected with the family of one Robert son of Mabbe 1293. Still, the combinations with gata and lane (and perhaps similarly geat and stigel) are suggestive of the indelicate ‘Smock Alley’ street-name type (cf. Room 1992:48–9, and see also mag, magot and maegden).

(a) Mabacres (f.n.) 1547 Ch:3-130 (acer), Mabs Copse (f.n.) n.d. Ha [Grundy 1927a:304] (copeis), Mab Croft (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-233 (croft), Mab Gate (st.n. Leeds; viam voc’ Mabyate 1487) YW:4-126 (gata), Mabbesorde (f.n.) 1431 YW:2-98 (geard), Mabbes gate (f.n.) 1567 Ha [Gover:245] (geat), Mab Croft (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-233 (croft), Mab Gate (st.n. Leeds; viam voc’ Mabyate 1487) YW:4-126 (gata), Mabbesorde (f.n.) 1431 YW:2-98 (geard), Mabbes gate (f.n.) 1567 Ha [Gover:245] (geat), Mab Croft (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-233 (croft), Mab Gate (st.n. Leeds; viam voc’ Mabyate 1487) YW:4-126 (gata), Mabbesorde (f.n.) 1431 YW:2-98 (geard), Mabbes gate (f.n.) 1567 Ha [Gover:245] (geat), Mab Croft (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-233 (croft), Mab Gate (st.n. Leeds; viam voc’ Mabyate 1487) YW:4-126 (gata), Mabbesorde (f.n.) 1431 YW:2-98 (geard), Mabbes gate (f.n.) 1567 Ha [Gover:245] (geat), Mab Croft (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-233 (croft)

~ probably ME Mab fem. pers.n., a short-form of Mabel/Mabil < Amabel/Amabil. MED –; EDD mab sb.1; OED-2 mab n.; OED-3 mab n.1; DES Mabb.

macche ME, ‘wick, match’, seems likely to appear in The Match Walk (st.n. Stepney) 1746 Mx:159 (walk). It might also be found in Match Croft (f.n.) 1839 Ch:1-246 (croft).

~ OFr (AN) meche ‘wick’ < Lat myxa (late Lat *micca).
AFW meche; OFED meche; AND-1 meche; MED meche; EDD match sb.1; OED-2-3 match n.2; DES –.

macecrer OFr, m. ‘butcher’ is also attested as a surname. A side-form macecrer with loss of [k] (cf. Fransson:75) occurs in a Lincoln street-name, the marcer rowe (le macrerrowe 1466–7) L:1-80 (raw). Note the equivalent Lat macerarius in an early reference to The Butchery (st.n. Gloucester; Vico Macerrariorum c.1250) Gl:2-128.

~ OFr maçacre ‘shambles, slaughter-house’ (see OED-3 massacre n.).
AFW maçaer; OFED maçaer; AND-1 maçer, macecr; MED mace-gref; EDD –; OED-2 – (cf. macegriefs); OED-3 macegreg; DES Massacrier, Maskery; DML macerarius.

maçon OFr, m. ‘mason, stone-worker’, appears in the ONFr form machon alongside central OFr mason, each undergoing ME vowel lengthening (Jordan:§§221, 224). Both types are well represented and widely distributed in the p.n. material, the former generally recorded earlier and the latter not noted before the 16th century. Both give rise to common ME surnames (Fransson:175) which doubtless appear in some p.ns (Masonrigg Cu:114, for instance, might be connected with one Henry le Maceoun 1332, and Masons Meadow (f.n.) 1636 Sa:3-233 with one Ed. Mason). The occupational term should reasonably be preferred to a surname in the recurring combinations with geard and garðr. Other potentially telling generics are stān in Masons Stones Ch and perhaps wall in le Machuneswallë Gl. For an overview of medieval masons see Parsons 1991:1–4, and on the rôle of masons as bricklayers Moore


(a) Machinber (f.n.; Machanberg 13th) YW:6:224 (berg), Masons bottom (f.n.) 1793 We:2:67 (botm), Masons dole (f.n.) 1630 Db:208 (dāl), Masons eynge (f.n.) 1523 We:2:135 (eng), Machens felde (f.n.) 1570 St:1:65 (feld), Machonesford (f.n.) 1413 Ess [EssPNP] (ford), Mason’s garth (f.n.) 1634 L:5:13 (garðr), Masongartheende (f.n.) 1620 YW:4:44 (garðr, ende), The Mason’s Yard 1662 L:3:17ii, Masons Yard (f.n.) 1839 Sa:3:247, Masons Yard (f.n.) 1844–9 Sa:3:266, Masons Yarde (f.n.) 1618 Nf:3:118, Masons Yords 1549 Ch:3:33, the Mason yard (f.n.) 1649 L:1:184 (geard), Masons ground (f.n.) 1839 Do:1:309, Masons Ground (f.n.) 1846 Do:2:62 (ground), Mason Hays (f.n.; Mason Heyes Close 1724) Db:279 (ge-hæg, clos), Mason Holes 1859 We:2:105 (hol), Massone rigge (f.n.) 1577–80 L:3:14 (hrycg or hryggr), Machon House (f.n.) 1766 Db:202 (hūs), Mason’s Hill (Masons Hill 1504) K [PC] (hyll), Mason Land (f.n.) 1838 K [PC] (land). Machonyslane (st.n. Bocking) 1386 Ess:413, Mason’s Lane 1792 W [JEPNS:2:51] (lane), Masons Meadow (f.n.) 1712 Sa:5:174 (měd), Mason’s Piece (f.n.) 1840 Sa:5:132 (peece), Machen Sytch (f.n.) 1611 Db:571, machunsik (f.n.) 1307 L:6:161 (sc or sik), Masons Stones (f.n.) 1839 Ch:2:41 (stān), le Machuneswalle (f.n.) 1282 Gl:3:232 (wall or welle), Masons Wast (f.n.) 1669 Sa:5:210 (wast).

– Gallo-Romance *matsjo, probably < Gmc *mak-jōn ‘to make’; cf. oil-maker.

AND-1 mason; AFW maçon; OFED maçon; DML mazioni, mazunus; MED māson; OED-2-3 mason n.1; DES Mason, Mayson, Meacham.

mad ME ‘mad, insane’, late in Mad Allen’s Hole 20th Ch:4:4, Mad Doctor’s 1773 W:153, Mad Dog Shaw 1839 K [PC], Madkirk (f.n.) 1780 Db:196, Mad Wharf 1842 La [CDEPN], Madwoman’s Stones 1840 Db:121.


made ME, past part. adj. ‘made, produced’ appears in Madelymepittehill (f.n.) 1576 Do:3:80 (lim-pytt, hyll), presumably in the sense ‘produced by burning limestone’, though it is unclear whether made directly qualifies lim-pytt or hyll (cf. OED-3 sense I. 2b ‘composed of recently accumulated material’), or perhaps simply lim (cf. OED-2-3 limemaker s.v. lime n.).

– OE ge-macod, past part. of macian ‘to make’. For the ME development see Jordan:§178 remark 4.

MED made s.v. māken v.1; EDD made ppl. adj.; OED-2 made ppl.a.; OED-3 made a.; DES –.

madge ModE, ‘owl (especially barn owl), magpie’, is, like mag, an application of the ME fem. pers.n. Magge. The pers.n. itself no doubt
appears in some p.ns, such as Auntie Madge’s Big Hill (f.n.) 1968 Lei:2-79. See magdalen for another possible source of the hypocorism. In other cases a common noun madge must be reckoned with.

The sense ‘owl’ is well recorded from the 16th century, often (and earliest) in the combination madge-(h)owl, a term which appears in Madge Owletts (f.n.) 1841 K [PC] (cf. hulot), see Lockwood 1993:99. Although EDD reports simplex madge ‘owl’ only from Nth, the material in OED-3 indicates much wider use. The compound madge-howlet is noted by EDD in Nf and Wo, alongside the interesting forms mag-owl (and (s.v. meg sb.) meg-owl, meg-ulat ‘owl, large moth’ from L which suggest that ‘owl’ should be considered a possible meaning of mag also. Of course, as ME spellings in magg- might indicate either a velar stop [g] or palatal affricate [dʒ], some names noted under mag may rather belong here. An attempt is made to treat the two separately because the meaning ‘owl’ is securely recorded only for madge.

The sense ‘magpie’, on the other hand, is not noted by OED-3 before 1823 (the earliest citation lists Madge, Mag and Meg as Suffolk terms for ‘magpie’), but given the evidence of the related mag (whence magpie) and magot, we have good reason to suspect that it is older. EDD records madge ‘magpie’ over a considerable area (Ch, Db, La, Nth, Sf, Wo, YW), and it is largely in these counties that the p.n. evidence is found. For further discussion see Whaley 2008:293–7. It may also be observed that Madghill Stone Db is a boundary stone near Magpie Mine 1837 Db:28.

However firmly established madge seems to be as a bird-name, it must be conceded that no p.n. example with nest has been noted (contrast magpie and nanpie). There is the slight possibility of a meaning ‘target’, hinted at in the EDD sense ‘jack in ninepins’ and by comparison with mag, if Madge Butts Leasow St contains but ‘archery butt’ rather than butte ‘short strip of arable land’.

An early and mysterious name for which no solution has hitherto been offered is pasture’ ... vocat’ ... Madge of the More (f.n.) 1542 L:6:215. It might tentatively be suggested that the reference is to marshfire, ignis fatuus, a credible phenomenon in the marshland (mór) of Willoughton. A common name for ignis fatuus is Peggy-with-(her-)lantern (cf. Jack-o’-lantern, Will-o’-the-wisp); Peggy is an altered form of Meggy < Meg (≈ Madge), and indeed a form Meg-o’-lantern is evidenced in Megaloughton Lane Db (see mag). There is also a YW field-name Magdelaughton 1709 which may, as Smith (YW:3:41) suggests, contain OE lēac-tūn ‘herb garden’, but which upon comparison with Madge of the More and Megaloughton looks rather like a *Madge-o’-lantern.

On slightly firmer ground, the word madge or the pers.n. appears as specifier in a number of minor names with a variety of generics:
(a) Madge Acre (f.n.) 1651 Ch:2:133 (aecer), Madge Butts Leasow (f.n.) 1848 St:1:139 (but or butte, lâs), Madgcroft (f.n.) 1675 Ch:2:313, Madge Croft (f.n.) 1849 Ch:1:289 (croft), Madge Field (f.n.) 1844 Ch:1:252, Madge Field (f.n.) 1849 Ch:1:261, Madge Field (f.n.) 1849 Ch:1:287 (feld), Madge Flatt (f.n.) 1622 Db:463 (flat), Madge Haugh (f.n.) 1616 Nb [Beckensall:65] (haga)n, Madge Hays (f.n.) 1839 Db:519 (ge-hæg), Madge Hill (f.n.) 1839 K [PC] (hyll), Madghill Stone 1617 Db:28 (hyll, stân), Madge Intake (f.n.) 1811 Ch:2:175 (inntak), Madge Lane Garden (f.n.) 1840 Db:621 (lane, gardin), Madge mott (f.n.) 1639 St:1:127 (mote).

~ ME Magge fem. pers.n., a hypocoristic form of both Margaret and Margery (McClure 1998:118–23); cf. mag, magot, magpie.

MED –; EDD madge sb.² (cf. madge-howlet, mag-owl); OED-2 madge¹; OED-3 madge n.¹; DES Madge.
mag ModE, ‘magpie, talkative person, scolding woman’ and ModE meg ‘wench, magpie’ are applications of the closely related ME fem. pers.ns Mag(g)e and Meg(g)e. The two types are here treated together as they alternate a great deal in the p.n. record (witness the run of forms for Megdell Hrt, Magyherdwynt YW, Meg Hey YW, Magge Howse Db, Maghills St, Meg Hill Wa, Maglane Hrt, Meg Lone Ch and Meg Royd YW below). A West Country form with -o- appears in Mogglane Gl and Mogge meade Ha, also showing alternation with -e- in Megges house (howse called Moggges) Do. The house-name seemingly involves a pers.n. (see McClure 1998:109 on the vowel alternation, and cf. Hey 2000:64 for the West Country surname Mogg < Margaret), but the others may equally involve the lexical item mog ‘calf, cow; mouse; cat’ (cf. EDD moggy sb.1 & sb.2, OED-2 mog n., and see Coates 1982:208). So too with mag and meg p.ns generally: some may contain the pers.ns or derived surnames (cf. Megbeck Well 1857 We:1-85, probably named after one Margrett Becke 1651), while we have reason to suspect a common noun in others, particularly in recurring compounds (twelve examples with lane being the most frequent, and many with croft and fair few with hol).

The meaning ‘magpie’ does not appear in OED before 1802, but the compound magpie (recorded from 1598) suggests that the application is older, as might the use of the related pers.n. Magot for the magpie from at least the 16th century (see maggot). For further discussion see Whaley 2008:293-7. A sense ‘(female) chatterbox, scold’ (cf. dialect chattermag and chatterpie ‘chattering magpie, talkative woman’) is widely recorded throughout England (EDD mag sb.), along with ‘country girl; ugly or ill-dressed person; coarse woman’ (EDD meg sb.; George 1986:39), and there is also a meaning ‘mark or stake used as a target’ (EDD mag st.) to consider, as has been suggested for Magstone Lei (stān). Thus, as well as the shared sense ‘magpie’, mag/meg may be used like magot in uncomplimentary reference to a woman, and like madge of some kind of target. For the possibility of mag/meg ‘owl’ see madge (and cf. EDD meg-owlet s.v. meg sb.). There are of course formal difficulties to consider when attempting to discern differences in the application of these closely related terms, given the alternation between mag and meg mentioned above (cf. Sr:275, reporting an account of 1719 that “a poor wench named Meg cured the Itch by washing with the water” at Mag’s Well Sr) and the problem that ME names with magg- spellings may represent either mag or madge. Such ambiguous instances are included below.

A special formation is Megalcoughton Lane (Megaloffin or Megalaughton Close 1785, Meg oth Lanthorn 1825) Db:606, referring to marsh-fire (see madge for discussion). Possibly of a similar construction is the obscure Magyherdwynt (f.n.) 1409 (cloase called Mogg in Wintr 1607) YW:2-172. Noteworthy are Long Meg and her Daughters (Meg with hir daughters ... long meg 1601) Cu:238, a prehistoric stone circle with Long Meg a taller outlier, said to be a mother and her daughters turned to stone for dancing on a Sunday, and a nearby stone circle called Little Meg Cu (see Darvill et al. 2002:120-1). There is also an unexplained Long Meg (f.n.) 1840 Nf:3-59. We might compare these names with the early 18th-century use of Long Meg for ‘a very tall woman’, and perhaps with the name of the notorious 16th-century character Long Meg of Westminster (see OED-2 s.v. Meg for both).

For the use of Roaring Meg (OED-2) as a name for a noisy stream (developed from the 15th-century application ‘a loud piece of ordnance’), as in Roaring Meg (f.n.) n.d. Sa [Foxall 1980:70], see Roaring Megg Plantation (Roaring Meg c.1840) Hrt:115. As this stream-name
gives rise to The Meg and Meg Cottages nearby (cf. *Meg Plantation* c.1840) Hrt:112–13, we should perhaps allow that ‘(Roaring) Meg’ as a stream-name might underlie some other *meg* p.ns. One such could be the simplex *Meg* (f.n.; cf. *Megge Spitte Spoute* 1603–25) Db:620.

It is unclear what we should make of the cheeky Mogs Small Behind (f.n.) 1849 Db:30 (Db:759 treats it as a “reference to shape”).

As with *madge*, no p.n. example with *nest* has been noted (again contrast *magpie* and *nannpie*).


~ ME *Mag*(*ge*), *Meg*(*ge*) fem. pers.ns. hypocoristic forms of both *Margaret* and *Margery* (McClure 1998:118–23); cf. *madge*, *magot*, *magpie*.

(i) *mag*: MED ≤; EDD *mag* sb.1 & sb.2; OED-2 *Mag* n.2; OED-3 *mag* n.4; DES *Maggs*.

(ii) *meg*: MED ≤; EDD *meg* sb.; OED-2 *Meg* 1; OED-3 *Meg* n.1; DES *Meggs*.

*mag* OE, *m*. ‘maw, stomach’ has been cautiously suggested (first by
Gelling 1978:103) to occur in Maund (Magana 675–90 [13th] S:1798, Mage, Magene 1086, Mawene 1240) He:12–13, an old district-name surviving in MAUND BRYAN He:38, ROSEMAUND He:85 and MARDEN (Maurdine 1086, Magewurdin 1177) He:143 (worōign) as well as appearing in the OE folk-name on Magonsetum 811 S:1264, in pago Magesetna 958 S:577 (sāte), referring to this district’s inhabitants (see Pretty 1989). Observing that earlier attempts to explain Maund as a reflex of Romano-British Magnis are unsound (see *magno-), Gelling 1988:101–5 discusses the OE option at length, plausibly suggesting that a name in the dat.sg. magan or dat.pl. magum, ‘at the stomach(s)’, may have been applied to the flood-plain of the River Lugg, but expressing reservations on two counts: (1) the many OE anatomical terms found in p.ns denote external features while maga is internal; (2) maga has not been noted in any other p.n. The idea ‘has understandably not found general acceptance’, she later reports (Gelling 1992:82); cf. CDEPN:403–4 for a recent lukewarm reception, though Mills 2003:322 allows it as a possibility. Freeman 2008 proposes instead an etymology based on Brit *magos ‘plain’ (see *magestu-).

Supporting evidence for maga as a p.n. element is to be found most directly in the East Anglian simplex de la Mawe (surn.) 1275 Sf (also 1336 Nf) [Carlsson:75]. Armed with a consistent run of spellings, Carlsson convincingly argues in favour of maga over OE *māwe ‘meadow’ (proposed in DES s.n. Maw), since OE āw ‘generally appears as aw in this area, only occasionally as aw’. Though seemingly unaware of Gelling’s discussion, he suggests a transferred topographical sense of maga for a lake or a creek in allusion to its form, pointing to the use of OSwed magbi in lake-names such as Swed Magsjön and Magtfjärn (see Hellquist 1903–6:386–7, though Strid 1981a:36–7 rightly removes Magelungen in Södermanland from the corpus). Strahle 1986:177–80 notes the names of bays such as Lillmagen and Stormagen in the Stockholm archipelago, as well as a recurring type Modermagen ‘the womb’ seemingly applied to bays protected by having a narrow entrance (also found elsewhere in Scandinavia, cf. Strandberg 1991:98). Dan mave is also applied topographically to depressions or low stretches of land: DSÅ:5:50–1 (s.n. Maveput) discusses two examples of Maven ‘the stomach’ as a p.n. in Denmark (the simplex use is noteworthy). Such parallels make credible the applicability of OE maga to a flood-plain, the type of major landscape feature which often qualifies sāte (cf. Langenfelt 1920:82–7). There is probably no need to follow Carlsson in allowing for a sense ‘creek’ such as that proposed for ON magi in Norway (NGI:39, NG:1:289), which is at best doubtful (see Hoel 2004).

OE maga would not, in fact, be the only internal anatomical term among OE p.n. elements. We might compare the topographical application of OE wamb ‘womb, belly’ in the simplex del Wambe (surn.) 1338 Cu [SMED:1:11] and as generic in two OE charter forms, Pubbanwambe S:865 W and on ondoncilles pombe S:1327† Wo [Hooke 1990:281–3] (the latter identified by Kitson (forthcoming:§6.17.4) as the combined outflow valley of two small streams at SO 854531). Again there are many useful Scandinavian parallels. Våmsjön, a lake in Dalarna, with the simplex alias Våmen (Wåmen 1640, OSwed vamb ‘(first) stomach’), is envisaged by Ståhl 1982:74 as the paunch of a ruminant, the river Våmän being the gullet (cf. SOL s.nn. Våmhus and Vamlingbo), and Strahle 1986:82–3 lists similar examples in the names of bays and lakes in the Stockholm archipelago. Vammenes (Vambanes c.1400) in Østfold contains the simplex waterfall-name Vamma (ON vomb, *vamba ‘stomach’ with a topographical sense ‘gully’, see NSL s.n. Vamma). Olsson 1994:35 details further examples of Vambi / Wamben as well as Swed dial. salsare ‘third stomach’ denoting waterlogged meadows in
Swedish field-names, while the use of OSwed *blavamb, Swed dial. löpper ‘fourth stomach’ and OSWed belgher ‘belly’ in the names of bodies of water is discussed by Strandberg 1991:97–100.

As the qualifying element in a compound, OE maga (or ON magi) conceivably occurs in May Moss (Mawemose 1335) YN:95 (mos), though the related ON by-name Magi (Lind 1920–1:250–1), or its ME reflex Mawe, is equally possible. An OE *maga ‘poppy’ is a further potential homonym (cf. OHG mago), but seems unlikely in May Moss and most implausible as a simplex name.

~ OFris maga, MLG mäge, MDu mag(h)e, OHG mago, ON magi (see further Kluge-Seebold:531 s.v. Magen).

MED maue n.; EDD maw sb.1; OED-2-3 maw n.1; DES – (cf. Maw).

magazin ModE, ‘storehouse’, specifically ‘a building for storage of ordnance and provisions in readiness for use in war-time’, appears in Magazine Gate (the Storehouse or Magazin of the Towne 1642, the Magazene 1647) Lei:1-99 with reference to the use of the Newark gatehouse as a storehouse for arms and ammunition for the defence of Leicester during the Civil War and later. Magazine Brow & Lane and Magazines Promenade Ch:4:327 represent the site of Powder Magazine 1831 in Liscard, while in Magazine Road (st.n. Ashford; cf. Magazine Field 1842) K [Cullen 1997:95] the reference is to ‘magazines of biscuit for the men and forage for the horses’ established in readiness for a Napoleonic invasion (Ruderman 1994:63–4). The word has also been noted in Magazine Marsh (f.n.) 1841 K [PC] (mersc) and The Magazine (f.n.) 1867–71 Lei:3:37.

~ MFr magasin < Italian magazzino (Hope 1971:43) < Arabic makhzan “storehouse” (pl. makhāzin).

AND-1 –; AFW –; OFED –; MED –; EDD – (cf. magazine ‘a quantity’); OED-2-3 magazine n.; DES –; DML –.

magdalen ModE, ‘home for the refuge and reformation of prostitutes’ is suggested as the origin of the Maudlyn (bdg.n. Shaftesbury; Maudelyn 1535, Magdalen 1574) Do:3-150, a poor-house whose name survives in Magdalene Lane Do:3:146. The full run of spellings shows a mixture of Maud- and Magd-forms, both types antedating OED in this sense (1603 and 1766 respectively). The term is explained by OED-3 as a shortened form of Magdalen-house, a compound with hūs which is not securely attested in this sense until 1758, with the opening of the Magdalen Charity or Magdalen Hospital in London, though we may note that the Magdalen Charity, an almshouse and former leper hospital in Bridport Do, is reportedly termed ‘the Magdalene house’ in 1268 (VCH Do:2:98–100). Here too should be recorded Mawdeleynhous 1364 in New Romney K [PC], Mawdelyn house 1546 in West Tanfield YN [YChant:108], and Maudlin House, a 13th-century hospital in Bramber (Mawdelayne 1490) Sx:224.

A great number of leper hospitals (or leper houses) dedicated to St Mary Magdalen are to be found, a circumstance ascribable to medieval misidentification of various Biblical figures called Lazarus and Mary (see Cullum 1991:45). Among them are Maudlin, a leper hospital in Westhampnett (Hospitale Sancte Magdalene c.1275) Sx:78, St Mary Magdalene Hospital in Grimsby (leprosorim Sancte Marie Magdalene 1291) L:5:87–8, and medieval leper hospitals dedicated to St Mary Magdalen at Bath So and Launceston Co (Sweetinborough 2004:30). The hospital of St Mary Magdalen in Gloucester (Hospital called the Magdalens 1598) Gl:2:135 was founded in the 12th century as a leper hospital for women only (VCH Gl:2:122). See maladerie for discussion
of Holy Innocents Hospital in Lincoln.

The surname de le Maugdelene 1336 Nf [Carlsson:138] relates to the Chapel & Hospital of St Mary Magdalene (de domo sancte Marie Magdalene 1257–66) outside Norwich (see Magdalen Gate Nf:1·19). A chapel in Fordington is called la Maudelene 1335 Do:1·349, and another stands in ruins at Marlin Farm (La Magdeleine 1274, La Maudeleine 1275) Hrt:49 in Northchurch. Magdalen Street (st.n. Exeter; Maudeleynestrete 1419) D:23 (strēt) is named from an almshouse so dedicated, and Orme 1996:240 indexes a dozen or so further examples of this dedication in Devon and Cornwall, most of them borne by hospitals. Presumably ye apertin’ ... in þe towne & feldes of Wathe called Mawdelayn (i.e. Waithe) 1477 L:4·181 is some such establishment.

Foundations which are known to be early include the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene in Hedon YE:40 [VCH Y:3·308], founded before 1179, Magdalen’s Farm in Ripon (hospitalis beate Marie Magdalenæ 1228, the Mawdeleyns 1485) YW:5·170, founded in the early 12th century, and St Mary Magdalen Hospital in Winchester (Maudlaine 1579) Ha [Gover:11], founded in 1180.

Maudlin Riding close (f.n. in Molescroft) n.d. (*ryding, clos) YE belonged to the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene in Bishop Burton (Hospitalis S. Marie Magdalene 1327) YE:192 [VCH YE:6·289], and Maudeleynlane (st.n.) 1373 and le Mawdelyns crofte (f.n.) 1537 Gl:3·85 & 89 (lane,croft) relate to St Mary Magdalene in Bristol (hosp’ sancte Marie Magdalene 1248) Gl:3·58. Local investigation might also reveal an institutional connection in Maudlin acre (f.n. in Penrith) 1709 Cu:1·233 (æcer), Mawdelyn feld (f.n. in Berwick) 1451 Nb [Fine:18·216] (feld) and le Mawdelyn thing (f.n. in Shipton) 1507 Gl:1·182 (bing). The allusion in Magdalen Bridge (Maudlin Bridge 1661–6) O:35–6 (brycg) and Magdalen College woods (f.n.) 1717–18 O:173 (college, wudu) is to the University of Oxford’s Magdalen College.

There is probably enough evidence in the above collection to suggest that in Middle English the term maudelen could be used as a common noun to mean ‘leper-house’, whereas the sense ‘refuge for prostitutes’ is harder to discern in the early material.

Complicating factors affect a couple of names. Magdalene mead well (f.n.; Mawdelen mede 1496) Gl:1·113 (mēd) is possibly to be connected with into mægðan wyllan s:145. A hypocorism Madge (cf. madge) of the fem. pers.n. Magdalen (a post-Reformation introduction in England, cf. Withycombe 1950:193) is proposed in YW:2·284 to explain Magde Knoll 1849 and its relation to Magdalen Clough 1843 and Magdalen Hill in the same parish.

~ ME the Magdalen (i.e. the biblical saint (Maria) Magdalenæ ‘of Magdala’, identified as a reformed prostitute, hence patron of repentant sinners) < Lat (María) Magdalēna. The maudlin type derives from OFr Maudelaïne < Lat Magdelēna (cf. Jordan;§240).

MED Maudelaine; EDD – (cf. maudlin); OED-2-3 Magdalen and maudlin n.; DES Maudling.

*maglo- Brit, ‘prince’ is widely used as a personal name theme (cf. LEIA), and as such appears in the place-names Tremail 1086 Co [Padel 1988:168], Treveal Co [Reaney 1964:67], Trevellick Co [Reaney 1964:67] (‘trewbä) and, perhaps as a later surname, Mailscot (Mailescoyt c.1275) Gl:3·212 [cf. CVEP:299] (*kaito-).

The word itself has been plausibly proposed as a p.n. element in maelmin 731 [Bede], probably surviving in Milfield (Melfelde n.d., Melfeld 1637) Nb [CDEPN] (feld), for which Coates (CVEP:323) suggests *maglo- + *min, ‘prince(ly) edge’, with reference to the high hill overlooking Milfield from the south-west. The name has alternatively
been interpreted as *mailo- + *monijo- (Cox 1975–6:24, CDEPN), and the first element as Brit *mal ‘ decayed, rotten’ (Breeze 2001), but these solutions are less attractive on formal grounds.

Possibly *maglo- combines with the plural of Brit *lukk- ‘ pool’ in the difficult district-name Mawfield (Mais Mail Lochou 6th [c.1130], Campo Malochu 7th [c.1130], Malfelle 1086, Malcfeld 1243, Malghfeld 1306) He:14–16 & 24 (with variously *magestu-, Lat campus, feld), though as Coates remarks, ‘folk-etymology has probably been at work on something ancient’ here (CVEP:305).


GPC mael2; CPNE –; cf. LEIA mál; MED –; EDD –; OED–3–2; DES –.

magot ME, ‘maggot’, of uncertain origin, can seldom be distinguished from ME Magot fem. pers.n. (St Margaret’s Mount C:85 is Maggots Mount c.1825) or from the derived surname (Maggot Field (f.n.) 1842 Sr:390 may be connected with one Robert Magot 1332, and Maggotts 1497–8 Ess:483 with one Geoffrey Magot 1280–2). Supporting evidence for ‘maggot’ in any single name is admittedly wanting, though the ModE adj. maggoty ‘infested with maggots’ seems to occur in the late-recorded names Maggoty (f.n.) 19th Nt:309, Maggety Field (f.n.) 1841 K [PC], Maggotly Hill (f.n.) 1792 K [PC], Maggotly Hole (f.n.) c.1840 K [PC], Maggotly Plot (f.n.) 1845 Do:4 (forthcoming) and Maggoty Wood Ch:1:69 (see OED–2:3 maggoty and EDD maggoty s.v. maggot sb.1).

There are possibly slight traces of related terms in p.ns. OE maða ‘maggot, worm, grub’ (MED mathe, EDD mad sb.2, maithe) has been suggested (Gl:4:154) for Marybrook St (Madebrokestretre 1516) Gl:2:212 (brōc, strēt). Intriguingly, three distinct examples of a name ‘Mawkes Hall’ have been noted in a restricted area of north-east Lincolnshire, Manor Farm (Mawkes Hall 1828, Maux Hall 1830) L:2:175, Maux Hall 20th L:2:223, and Mauxhall 20th L:2:270, tentatively explained (L:2:175) as a derogatory nickname for a dilapidated building, ‘Maggots Hall’, i.e. Northern dial. mawk ‘maggot’ (ME mawke < ON maðkr; cf. EDD) + hall.

The pers.n. Magot is also applied to the magpie from at least the 16th century (see Lockwo 1993:99 s.n. Magot Pie), a meaning which may appear in the p.n. material (cf. mag). Less securely, comparison with Fr margot ‘magpie, doll’, margot(on) ‘tart, prostitute’, goton ‘country girl’ (< Margot(on) fem. pers.n., cf. George 1986:40–2) might suggest that a sense ‘wench’ is also possible in ME, in which case the four examples with lane below could be compared with similar compounds in mab, mag and mægden.

There seems to be some evidence for the use of magot as a generic, though the sense is wholly obscure. Of the simplex examples below, Maggots (f.n.) Gl may of course contain a pers.n., but the definite article in the Maggots (f.n.) Gl requires explanation. Might crucem quæ vocatur Maggot Nt reflect a dedication to St Margaret? The remarkable Swetemagote (f.n.) Ess is equally difficult to explain; possibly it preserves an otherwise unrecorded plant-name (see swēte). And quite baffling without earlier evidence, but worth noting for now, are Marston’s Maggot and Oak Maggot (f.ns) 1840 Nf:2:79.

Perhaps of incidental interest, Magote croftum (f.n.) Nt survives in Maggotts, the name of a stretch of the motor-racing circuit at Silverstone.

(a) Maggots Acre (f.n.) 1683 K [PC] (æcer). Maggots Grove (cf. Magottes close 1526–7) O:314 (clos), Maggot Clump 20th Do:2:74 (clump), Maggot Croft (f.n.) 1843 Db:332, Maggots Croft (f.n.) 1841
maggot ModE, ‘maggot’ appears in a few late-recorded p.ns: Magpie Bank (f.n.) 1838 K [PC] (banke), Magpie Coppice (f.n.) c.1840 He [HeFND] (copeis), Magpie Croft (f.n.) c.1840 He [HeFND] (croft), Magpie Field (f.n.) 1839 Sa:5-40 (feld), Magpie Mine 1837 Db:28 (mine, cf. madge), Magpies Nest (f.n.) 1858 YW:5-90 (nest), Magpie Piece (f.n.) 1840 Brk:500, Little Magpie Piece (f.n.) c.1840 He [HeFND] (peice) and Magpie Shaw 1841 K [PC] (sceaga).

As an inn-name, Cox 1994a:22 & 90 notes Magpie from 1710 in Cambridge. Just as Magpie Lane (st.n. Oxford) 1772 (lane) is named from the Magpie Inn 1814 O:41 (inn) and Magpie Square (st.n. Lincoln) 1826 (square) is named from an inn called Magpies 1826 L:1-81 & 169, so it seems likely that inns may account for Magpie Farm (The Magpye 1779) Nth:62 and for the urban magpies of Magpye Alley (st.n.) 1795 Ldn [EPNS] (alee), Magpye yard (st.n.) 1682 Ldn [EPNS] (geard) and Magpye lane (st.n. Ware) 1667 Hrt:207 (lane).

For further discussion see Whaley 2008:293–7.

~ mag, pie; cf. nanpie.

MED –; EDD magpie; OED-2-3 magpie (cf. maw-pie); DES –.
main ModW ‘narrow’, late, in Welsh names [Ch:4-28].

maire OFr, m. ‘mayor’. The word was also used (in ME as well as OFr) more generally for one in high judicial office (OED-3 sense 3), though as DES notes with Johnsonian dryness, ‘the term was limited in England to mayors of boroughs, much less numerous than the corresponding, but less dignified, “mayors” of France and Scotland’.

In the sense ‘chief officer of a city or borough’ the term evidently appears in two Leicester bdg.ns, the maeres howose 1530 Lei:1:160 (hūs) and Guildhall or Town Hall (le Mothall 1301, the Gilde hall otherwise cald the Maires hall 1466) Lei:1:105–6 (hall, cf. moothall), and it is found later in Lincoln in Mayor’s Chair 1828 L:1:29 (chaire) with reference to one William White, Mayor (Cameron quotes from The Date Book for Lincoln: “1732 Mayor’s chair erected on the steep-hill, to prevent accidents as a place for porters to rest their loads on”). Note also Lord Mayor’s Whins YE:75 (*hvin), the Lord Mayor of London being reportedly an overseer in 1632 of the possessions here in Brandesburton of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Where such context is wanting, there are a number of potential confusibles, at least in latish spellings, including mare (cf. Mayorho Nth:7 & li), ge-mère (cf. Moor Pot We:2-28) and mere (cf. Mayorhouse Sr:221), though for the consistent retention in ME of the diphthong ai before r see Jordan:§233.

maister ME, ‘master’ has a considerable range of applications, including ‘leader, employer, schoolmaster, trainer of apprentices, ship’s captain’, and is widely used as a title of office and rank. It is also well recorded as a surname (Thuresson:178–9). Either the noun or the surname occurs in Masters (f.n.) 1383 Ch:4-29, Maistre(s)feld (f.n.) 1447 K [PC], Masters Field (f.n.) 1844 Ch:1-255 (feld), Masters Ease (f.n.; Maistershey 1640) Gl:3-207 (ge-haggi), Masters Meadow (f.n.) 1849 Ch:1-289, Mastersmedewe (f.n.) 1461 St:1-48, Maystresmed (f.n.) 1376–7 K [PC] and, with ald perhaps qualifying a third ‘Masters Meadow’ rather than maister itself, Old Masters Meadow (f.n.) 1848 Ch:1-186 (mēd). The reference is to a schoolmaster in Maister’s School (earlier Schoolhouse 1792) Do:1-218 (sclô, cf. scole-maister).

As a title of rank maister combines with an occupational term in Maisterforesterplace (f.n.) 1453 We:1-185 (forester, place), and it is found with a ME given name (most often, unsurprisingly, John) or patronymic surname in Mr Andrews close and Mr Andrews Hedge (f.n.s) 1601 Lei:4-266 (clos, hecge), Master John’s Croft (f.n.) 1502 Sf [DP]
(croft). Master John’s Cross (f.n.) 1474–5 K [Cullen 1997:97] (cros), Maister Willellum Enes (f.n.) 1407 YE:322 (eng), Maysterioneslond (f.n.) 1426 Do:2:70 (land) and Maysterjonys lane (st.n. Colchester) 1352 Ess:371 (lane). A certain Magstro Johanne 1332 is associated with Master John’s Farm (Mf Johnes (Landes) 166) Ess:262 (land). Combined with surnames, maister occurs in Mr Lumnners bush (f.n.) 1635 Lei:3-67 (buse), Master Wodward’s Cross (f.n.) 1530 K [Cullen 1997:97] (cros), Mr wrights howse (bdg.n. Grimsby) 1673 L:5-102 (hūs), Mr Rookes Iron Celler (bdg.n. Poole) 1697 Do:2:43 (iren, celer) and Master Shaves rowe (st.n. Yarmouth) 1541 Nf:2:35 (raw).

The word is also employed as an adjectival qualifier meaning ‘chief, principal’. Context suggests that this may be the sense in The widest of the Carre called Mastercrike (f.n.) 1655 L:6-130 (kriki). OED-3 (sense C2, cf. OED-2 sense 26) notes master-borough, -drain, -furrow, -street and other terms embodying this meaning. The compound master-furrow (seemingly ‘chief drainage-ditch’, recorded from 1649) is noteworthy as the p.n. material provides an antedating in Maystreffure (f.n.) 1370 Brk:52 (furh).

Any of the senses set out above may underlie the following names in which no genitival -s has been noted: the Maister Bancke (f.n.; Mayster Bancke 1593) YW:4-171 (banke), Maister crofte (f.n.) 1633 Cu:122 (croft), Master Dike (Marsterdyke ende 1572) L [Payling 1940:55] (dik), le maysterfald (f.n.) 1304 Du:1:33 (fald), Maistrefeld (f.n.) 1415 Db:530 (feld), Master Flat (f.n.; Master Flatts Close 1691) Db:465 (flat, clos), Maistergate (f.n.) 1546 Nf:3-97 (gata), Maisterlondo 1403 Wa:82 (land), Masterland Hill (f.n.) 1606–7 O:256 (land, hyll), Maistermedowe (f.n.) 1389 Db:556, le Maystermede (f.n.) c.1300 Gt:3-207 (mēd), Master Royd (f.n.) 1851 YW:2:299 (‘rodu), le Maysterrudying’ (f.n.) 1313 Ch:1:316 (‘ryding), Master Sike 1687 We:2:105 (sīk).

The total of five names combining maister with mēd should be noted, though its significance is unclear.

~ partly OE megester, partly OFr maistre, both < Lat magister (magis ‘more’ (see magna), contrast menistre); see also hore-maister, maistres, scole-maister.

MED maister; EDD master sb.1 & adj.; OED-2 master n.1; OED-3 master n.1 & a.; DES Master; DML. – (cf. magister).

maistres ME, ‘mistress’ has a range of applications broadly comparable with those of maister, including ‘woman in charge, female employer, schoolmistress’, as well as ‘sweetheart, concubine’. The word is used as a title of respect, developing into the familiar schoolmistress”, as well as “sweetheart, concubine”. The word is used as a

Despite the erratic spelling, we find in ad terram dicte domine vocatam Menstryssmersshe 1460 [1581] K evidence of maistres used of the lady of the manor (i.e. Hadlow; see Thirsk 2007:128). Note also the interchange of Mrs Denton with madame in Madam’s Hedge O below.

The ModE contracted form miss (OED-2-3 miss n.2) may occur in Misses Field (f.n.) 1850 YW:3-12 (feld), Miss Plat (f.n.) 1842 Do:3-70 (plat) and Miss Stichings (f.n.) 1838 Do:2-241 (sticcen). The element appears with a surname in Miss Andersons Fields (f.n.) 1968 Lei:3-269 (feld), Mrs Leche’s Gorse 20th Ch:4:57 (gorst), M”e Clayton Green (f.n.) 1691 L:5-96 (grēne), Mrs Hudsons ground (f.n.) 1674 Lei:2-243 (grund), Aire’s Hollow (f.n.; Mrs Eyres Hallowe 1647) Db:512 (halle), Madam’s Hedge (f.n.; Mrs Denton’s Hedge 1760) O:429 (hecg), Mrs Days Crabtree Holm (f.n.) 1708 Lei:2-295, Mrs Gills Persons Yard (f.n.)
1745 Lei:2-297 (p.ns) and with both surname and given name in Ms Susanna Claytons Long Close (f.n.) 1731 L:5-98 (p.n.). Qualified by lytel but with no generic is Little Miss Vincent (f.n.) 20th Nf:2-63.

(a) Mistress Acre (f.n.) 1822 Db:567 (æcer), Mistress Close (f.n.) 1844 YW:4-139 (clos), Mistress Dole (f.n.) 1707 YW:3-274 (dāl), Mistress Field (f.n.) 1820 Db:267 (feld), Mistresses Grounds (f.n.) 1802 O:398, Mrs Ground (f.n.) 1839 Do:1-60 (grund), Mistress Mead (f.n.) 1845 Do:4 (forthcoming) (mēd), Menstryssmersshe (f.n.) 1460 [1581] K [Thirsk 2007:128] (mersc).

~ OFr maistresse < maistre (see maister) + fem. suffix -esse.
MED maistres(se); EDD mistress; OED-2 mistress n.; OED-3 mistress n. & a.; DES –.

*māker- Brit, ‘masonry wall, enclosure’, probably also ‘ruin’ (a sense which GPC records for ModW magwyr), is a borrowing from Lat māceria. Coates 2005b plausibly suggests that the word appears in MOGGERHANGER (Mogarhangr’ 1216, Mokerhanger 1276, Muerhanger 1289) Bd:91–2 (hangra), perhaps alluding to the ruins of a nearby Roman town at Chesterfield in Sandy Bd. Continental examples of the Lat word as a p.n. are widespread, e.g. Maceria 1222 in Luxembourg province (Belgium), Machera 1171 in Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany), Maisières 1179–80 in Hainault (Belgium), Maizières (Maceries 1066) in Pas-de-Calais (France) [Gysseling 1960:64 & 652–3]; see further Dauzat-Rostaing:455–6 and van Durme 1996:376–7.

A form with different vowel quantities, Brit *makēr(ja) from an insular Lat *macēria, whence PrW, PrCu *magūr, has been noted in MAKER Co and Magor Co (see CPNE *magoer) and in Magor (Magor c.1165) Monmouthshire [Morgan 2005:146–7]. At Magor Co is the site of a Roman winged-corridor villa (NGR SW 6342, see Scott 1993:48), perhaps the referent of the name. This form of the word seems also to occur, sometimes with genitive -s, in the old district-name MAKERFIELD (Macrefeld 1121, Makeresfeld 1204, Makerefeld 1213) La:93–4 (feld), perhaps with reference to the ruins of a Roman settlement at Wigan (NTC:41) or perhaps directly connected with the two Makerfields (f.ns) 16th La:94 in Ashton-in-Makerfield. Earlier evidence is needed to support Dodgson’s tentative suggestion that Maker Field, Makers Moor and Sweet Maker (f.ns) 1839–41 Ch:1:246 might contain the element.

~ Lat māceria ‘wall (of soft clay)’ (< mācerō ‘to make wet’, cf. Gk μάσσω “to knead”; see de Vaan 2008:357) for preservation of the long vowel in <moger> and its neglect in <magwyr> see Gratwick 1982:56.

GPC magwyr; CPNE *magoer; MED –; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES –; DML maceria, ~ies.

makerel OFr, m. ‘mackerel, sea-fish of the family Scombridae’. The word seems to recur with méd in Makerell mede (f.n.) 1541 Ha [Gover:257] and Makerelmede (f.n.) 1445 Do:1-203, and in a third Mackrele Mead (f.n.) Ha [Gover:239] which is earlier terra voc’ Makerell 1350 – a curious simplex. Although the Do name (in Broadway parish) lies within a few miles of the coast, the two Ha names (in Cheriton and Farley Chamberlayne) are far from the sea, as is Mackrelshire (f.n.; Makerelsshawe 1337) O:417 [Schumer 2004:114] (seeaga). The fish itself seems unlikely here, but the reference may be to (?mown) land of a dappled or striped appearance resembling the pattern of scales on a mackerel’s back (cf. ModE mackerel sky). This would better suit the simplex usage than the formally possible alternative OFr makerelle ‘procuress, female pimp’, or the ME surname Mackrell. The surname is, however, well evidenced, particularly in the South-West: Mackrel Close.
(f.n.) 1847 Do:2-171 (clos) may be connected with one Edward Makerell 1523 and Mackrells Plot (f.n.) 1843 Do:2-28 (plot) with one William Makerell 1664, while CHARLTON MACKRELL (Cherletun Makerel 1243) So takes its suffix from a family name. The surname may also underlie Mackerel Copse 1830 Brk:306 (copeis).

~ uncertain.

makomet ME, ‘idol, pagan god’, an application of the name of the Arab prophet Mohammed (commonly though mistakenly believed by medieval Christians to have been worshipped as a god). The word is first noted in an English text c.1275 and as a surname 1161 (OED). It occurs early in Macamathehou (f.n.) 1216–72 L:6-211 (haugr), presumably to be interpreted as ‘heathen mound’. The later widespread use of the word (as mammet, mommit, cf. Malone 1922:197) for ‘a scarecrow, an effigy’ has surprisingly not been encountered in minor names.

~ OFr mahomet ‘idol’, MLat Machometus (< Arabic Muhammad).

maladerie OFr, f. ‘hospital, especially for lepers’. The 12th-century place-name material antedates other evidence for the word in England by some centuries.

A Lat form malanteria (see MED malantarī n., OED-3 malantary n.) may help to explain the n which appears sporadically in the record of Holy Innocents Hospital in Lincoln (le Malendry 1535, malandria 1544, the Mallendry 1698) and survives in Malandry Field & Closes L:1-29.

The leper-hospital called The Maldry in Sandwich K, dedicated to St Anthony, is first documented in 1315 (Sweetinbirgh 2004:187–8). The building no longer survives, but the name is still applied to a small piece of land at the site (Bentwich 1975:67). Of the two Lincolnshire examples below, Holy Innocents Hospital in Lincoln is believed to have been founded as a hospital before 1092 (cf. Sweetinbirgh 2004:36 n.86), and it is noteworthy that in 1346 its dedication is said to be to the Holy Innocents and St Mary Magdalen (whose connection with leper-hospitals is discussed under magdalen). The other, a lost maladerie, is in Brocklesby parish which also contains Coatham Nunnery (a Cistercian Priory of Nuns founded c.1150) and Newsham Abbey.

No medieval forms have been found for Maldry Field (f.n. in Edmondsham) & Wood (in adjacent Wimborne St Giles) 1838 Do:2-220 & 269.

(b) Holy Innocents Hospital (bdg.n. Lincoln; leprosis hospitalis Linc 1154–89 [1406], apud Hospitalem Innocencium extra Lincolniam domus illa vocatur maladria 1316, Magistro maladria extra Lincoln’ 1332, Le Maladrie 1334) L:1-13–14, ad maladerie (f.n.) 1154–89 [e.13th] L:2-73, The Maldry (bdg.n. Sandwich; le Maldrye 1408, the Mullery 1499) K:592, Malederie (f.n. in Ferry Fryston) 12th YW:2-69.

~ OFr malade ‘sick, leprous’ < Lat male ‘ill’ + habitus, past part. of habère ‘to have’ (DEHF s.vv. malade, maladrerie).

AFW maladerie; OFED maladerie; AND-1 maladerie; MED maladrie n.; EDD –; OED-2 maladerie; OED-3 maladerie n.; DES –; DML maladaria.
malander ME, ‘mallender, a sore in a horse’s knee’, surviving only in the plural mallenders ‘chronic dermatitis of horses’, seems to occur in Mallender (f.n.) 1714 Nt [JC] and Mallender’s Cottage (The Mallinder 16th, The two Malenders n.d.) Wo:181. The appearance of the definite article in the earliest form would correspond to its sporadic use with the common noun.

The motivation behind these originally simplex place-names is unknown. Wo:181 may be right to suppose that the ground was so called from an outbreak of mallenders upon it, but we might also consider a transferred topographical sense, perhaps alluding to patchy land which resembles the disease’s characteristic sores (cf. galla).

An obscure ME plant-name malandre, recorded once in a medicinal recipe (MED), looks an unlikely alternative.

- Ofr malandre < Lat malandria (neut.pl. & fem.sg.).
  MED –; AFW malandre; OFED malandre adj. [sic]; AND-1 –; EDD –; OED-2 malander; OED-3 mallender; DES –; DML –.


- Lat maledictum ‘curse’ (see Thurneysen 1946:§153 for OIr-ld- > MIr -ll-), cf. equivalent Brit borrowings ModW melldith, MCo molloth, Bret malloz.
  LEIA maldacht.

malkin ME, ‘wench, lower-class woman, servant girl’, is a jocular or contemptuous application of the ME fem. pers.n. Malkin (cf. mab). It is also recorded with the meanings ‘mop’, ‘effeminate man’ and, from the 16th century, ‘scarecrow’. In later northern dialects it refers to cats and hares (EDD). Although these senses can scarcely be distinguished from the pers.n. (or the derived surname) or from each other in p.n.s, the definite article in the Mawkins orchard (f.n.) Ch indicates that an element other than a personal name must sometimes be reckoned with. The sense ‘scarecrow’, well attested in EDD throughout England, seems likely to appear in the p.n. material (contrast northern flay-crow, ambiguous bugge and děad-mann, obsolescent shewels, and note the surprising absence of the term scarecrow).

In late-recorded names in the north, especially the north-west, confusion is possible with the locally restricted term malt-kiln, which sometimes appears as Maltkin following loss of -l- (note that Malking Greave YW below may be connected with Maltkin Close YW:4-151) Wainwright 1975:241 plausibly interprets the simplex Mawkin (f.n.) 1840 La as malt-kiln, and we should be similarly suspicious of Mawkin (f.n.) 1848 Ch:1-129.

A few names offer further difficulties of interpretation. The generic in Mawkinshire Lane Nt is uncertain, but it looks like scir used, perhaps jokingly, of a minor district or street (cf. Foghamshire W:90 and the division of the city of York YE:280 into shires). As Nt:322 observes, ‘Malkin and her maidenhood were a frequent subject of jest in medieval times and doubtless this lane was one of ill repute’. Compare the two examples with lane below (also perhaps Malkins lane 1842 in East Flintshire [Owen 1994:78]) and discussion of such names containing mab and mag.

The mysterious Mawkinherds (Mawkinhirds 1777) Ess:470 may or may not belong here. In Merkynhill (f.n.) 1451 Do:1-184 (hyll) we possibly have an early form of ModE merkin ‘merkin’, of uncertain origin (perhaps a variant of malkin, see OED-3 merkin n.1).


MED malkin; EDD mawkin sb. (cf. malkin, mailin); OED-2 malkin, mawkin; OED-3 malkin; DES Malkin.

mall ModE, ‘promenade’ (later specifically ‘sheltered promenade’), originally an alley in which the game of pall-mall was played. The Mall (st.n. Westminster; th’ Mell 1673, the Mall 1674, the Mulk 1706 [OED]) Mx [Mills 2004:146] is the most celebrated example, soon known as a fashionable open-air walk once the game’s popularity had diminished. The Mall (st.n. Hammersmith) 1813 Mx:110 and The Mall (st.n. Chiswick) Mx:89 are likely to be transferrals of the Westminster name. Two instances of The Mall (cf. Mall Ground 1823) occur in Wt [Mills 1996:70], that in Newport being a raised footpath running parallel to the main road, and OED also notes examples (whose status as names is uncertain) in Chelmsford Ess (1737) and Norwich Nf (1808).

~ mall.

MED –; EDD –; OED-2 mall\(^1\); OED-3 mall n\(^1\); DES –.

mallard OFr (AN), m. ‘mallard drake’, The word has been applied throughout the ME and ModE periods to the wild duck of both sexes, but has most often been limited to the male (Lockwood 1993:99). It appears in le Mallard acr (f.n.) 1412 Ch:4:244 (æcer) and probably Mallard Lake (f.n.) n.d. Ha [Grundy 1924:121] (?lake), perhaps also in Mallards Green
malt OE and ON, n. ‘malt’, i.e. barley steeped and softened for brewing, is found chiefly in combinations indicating its processing or storage (cot, hall; malt-hús, malt-kiln, malt-milne, rūm) and its trade (céping, cros, market, rāw, and presumably also strēt whether alluding to the product’s long-distance transportation or its immediate place of sale). Note that the Mault hall in Canterbury K is perhaps the malthalla of Christ Church Priory ‘where malting took place’ as detailed in Smith 1943:40 (cf. DML malthalla). Mautholm YE is said to be near to Barliholm (see barlíc).

We have a tool of the malt-making trade ME malt-shovele (MED s.v. malt; see scofl) in Malt Shovel 1853 Db:417, Malt Shovel (inn-name in Higham) 1900 K [PC] and other inn-names later recorded. Malt Shovel (f.n.) n.d. YE [Field 1993:137] may describe the irregular shape of the piece of land.

ModE malt-office ‘a malt-house’ (OED-3 s.v. malt n.1) appears in Malt Office Croft (f.n.) 1846 Db:383, Malt Office Croft (f.n.) 1843 Db:666 (croft), Malt Office Lane 1829 Sf [Arnott:26] (lane), Malt Office (f.n.) 1845 Db:445 and Malt Office (f.n.) 1842 Db:584; see office. A little earlier we find the Malting Office 1677 Sf [Arnott:21], antedating OED-3 malting-office (s.v. malting n.) recorded from 1710. ModE malting in the sense ‘a malt-house’ occurs in Malting Lane (st.n. Braughing) 20th Hr:189 (lane, “so named from a malting at one end of it”). In Maltingflete 1444 L [Payling 1940:80] (fleot) we possibly have a further antedating of this sense, or more likely ME malting ‘the act or process of making malt’ (MED malting(e) ger.).

The ODan masc. pers.n. Malti (gen. Malta), of uncertain origin but well recorded in independent use (SPNLY:194), is a possible confusible. It probably appears with hīh in the following Danelaw p.n.s: (1) MALTBY (Maltebi 1086) L [Cameron 1998:85] (2) MALTBY LE MARSH (Maltebi 1086) L [Cameron 1998:85] (3) MALTBY (Maltebi 1086) YN:171 (4) MALTBY (Maltebi 1086) YW:1:137 (5) MATUREY (Malteby 1086) Nf:2:10

It has been proposed that on or OE malt is the qualifier in these five names (SSNEM:58–9, CDEPN:394–5), partly based on concerns about the relative lateness of record of the pers.n. Malti in Denmark and partly on the grounds that malt was a common export from England to Scandinavia, but the case is weakened by the persistent spellings with medial -e- which, as Sandred 1987:315–16 observes, ‘it seems most natural to derive from the weak OScand gen. ending -æ (a genitival compound of the appellative, malt being a strong neuter, would show an -s or, if anglicised, -es)’. See Insley 1994:296–8 for more detailed discussion of these names and a reassessment of the evidence for Malti in England. A slightly different case is MAWTHORPE L in which Malti is possible, or malt might be preferred since the run of early spellings shows no sign of medial -e-, but really we should be cautious about even assuming <M> to belong to the first element rather than solely to -thorp.

Maultby Nf, Mautholm YE and Mawthorpe L show
vocalization of l to u (Jordan:§252).

Evidence in p.ns for ME *mālt* ‘malt-maker, malt-trader’ or the derived surname (OED-3 *mālt*, DES *Mal тер*; Fransson:79) is limited. It seems to occur in Malters Orchard (f.n.) 1841 Do:4 (forthcoming) (*orced*, unless this is a *malt-hūs* in disguise. Payling 1940:156 takes *Malterowe* L to contain *malt* rather than *malt*, which is possible but unprovable without further spellings.


DOE(s) *mealt; MED malt; EDD malt sb.; OED-2-3 malt n.; DES –.*

*malt-hūs* OE, n. ‘malt-house, building in which malt is made and stored’. The compound is recorded once in OE, as *mealthus* glossing *bracionarium* (see DML *bracionarium*). As a locative-cum-occupational surname it is on record from 1297 (Löfenberg:128), though there is nothing to indicate that the surname appears in the p.n. material.

Alternation with the term *malt-kiln* is seen in two Cheshire names below.


malt-kiln ModE, ‘malt-kiln’, i.e. ‘kiln for drying malt’, has not been noted in p.ns further south then Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, though EDD records it also in Suffolk and Somerset.

It is difficult to know what to make of the <Maltkin> spellings which appear in examples from Ch (x2) and YW below, and it is equally tricky to interpret the simplex <Mawkin> found in Ch and La (see malt for the vocalization of l to u). Loss of -l- in cylin is not expected, whereas the assimilation to -l- of final -n seen in EDD malt-kill and the Malt kill p.n. forms below is a common development (Jordan:§173; cf. myln). Influence from the word malkin would appear to be the motivation (so too for the loss of l), with confusion resulting, as also noted in East Flintshire by Owen 1994:10, 33 & 395 (including some debatable evidence that an otherwise unrecorded *marl-kiln might be involved in the mix). Wainwright 1975:241 may be right to see malt-kiln in more La f.ns than have been accepted here (e.g. Mawkin Hey 1840, included under malkin). In the case of Maltkin Close (f.n.) 1842 YW:4:151, as discussed under malkin, there may be a connection with Malking Greave 1577, in which case malt-kiln should probably be ruled out, though we might observe that clos (hardly a diagnostic generic, admittedly) appears repeatedly with malt-hūs. Fuller documentation or extra-linguistic context are required.


malt-man ME, ‘maltster, malt-maker or malt-seller’, though in modern dialect recorded by EDD only in Scotland, is earlier well evidenced in southern England, and a derived surname, on record from 1294 (Sundby 1963:151, cf. Thuresson:202), appears in O, Wa and Wo.

A unique form with medial -s- (possibly through contamination with ME malsman) seems to occur in the plural in the maltesmen’s chamber 1565 Do:3:153 (chambre), part of Shaftesbury Abbey named in a document which also lists the malthouse.

The following names may contain either the occupational term or surname.

(a) Maltmans Yard (f.n.) 1842 Sa:2:131 (gard), Maltman’s Hill 1841 K [CDEPN] (hyll), Maltmans way (st.n. Weston) 1630 Hrt:146 (weg).
malt, mann.
MED malt-man s.v. malt; EDD malt-man s.v. malt sb.; OED-2-3 maltman; DES Maltman.

malt-mill ME, ‘malt-mill, mill for grinding malt’ is particularly well represented in place-names in the central midlands, occurring sporadically elsewhere. The compound has not been found in OE, though continental cognates may be noted, e.g. Malzmühle (Malzmolen 1215) in Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany) [Gysseling 1960:656].
(b) Maltemyll (f.n.) 1485–1509 Ha [Gover:233], Malthouse Farm (one maulte mill 1609) Do:3-21, the Malt mill (f.n.) 1641 Lei:3-248, Maltmill (f.n.) 1608 Ru:174, le Maltmylle (f.n.) 1460 Hrt:258, Maltemyl 1434 YE [Fine:16:210], the Mault Mill (f.n.) 1706 Ru:23, ye Mault Mill (f.n.) 1670 Ru:210, the mault milne 1550 Lei:2-180.
(c) The Horse Malt Mill (be horse myln 1453, one Mawlte Mylne called the horse mylne 1607, the Horse Malt Mill 1709) Lei:1-149 (hors), Barlythorpe Mault myll 1611 (f.n.) Ru:66–7 (p.n.).

mammock ModE, ‘scrap, shred’ is found, presumably in the sense ‘untidy heap or mess, litter, dirty mixture’ (EDD), in Mammocks (f.n.; past’ voc’ the Mammock 1575) Gl:3-45.

manach OIr, m. ‘monk’ seems to appear in the ‘inversion compound’ Scarrowmanwick (Marisci Scalremanoch c.1240, Scalremanoc (surn.) c.1260) Cu:250 (skáli, in the pl. skálir).

mange ModE ‘skin disease’, uncertain in Manswood (Mangewood 1774) Do:2-142, Manswood Coppice (Mangewood 1618) Do:2-237; cf. Mangey Meadow (f.n.) 1838 K [PC].

mangere OE, m. ‘trader, dealer, merchant’ is often found in compounds (of which iren-mangere is the commonest in the place-name material) denoting ‘seller of’ particular types of goods. The uncompounded mangere is somewhat rarer in place-names (note that EDD records monger ‘trader’ only from Sx). A pejorative overtone, well evidenced from the 16th century, is possibly present earlier (cf. Swed månglare ‘hawker’).

Forms with and without -s- occur in the examples below, but it is difficult to read much into the variation. The derived ME surname Mangere/Mongere, while not common (Fransson:52), is of course
possible in some cases; it is thought to appear in *mang-thorn ME, a word unknown to the dictionaries, is cautiously interpreted in O:458–9 as a plant-name. It appears in a handful of place-names within a very limited area (Nth, O). There is also a Manthorn Farm (NGR SP 6329) in Chetwode Bk, though no early forms are available.

The first element of the compound is obscure, the second clearly *mang<le>. We might compare Mangle Thorn Field (f.n.; Mangle Thorne 1656) Bd [Schneider 1997:43 & 52] and suggest a connection with OED-2:3 *mangle v.1 ‘to hack, cut, lacerate by repeated blows, to mutilate’. Given the plentiful examples of *lopped ‘beheaded’, cuttede ‘cut’ and (in the south-west) *loppede ‘lapped’ with *born in place-names, presumably with reference to pollarding, it seems legitimate to wonder whether we have in *mang<le>*born another regional term for a thorn-pollard. This is of course very uncertain, and a specific plant-name is probably the safest supposition. We must concede that on the evidence available <mang<le>> is not formally parallel to *lopped, cuttede and *born, though medial -ed- would be readily lost in compound names in ME, especially before the -th- of *born, cf. the developments to *Cop- (e.g. Copthornfeld 1433 Hrt:83), Cut- (e.g. Cutthorne 1517–19 K [PC]) and *Lop- (cf. Lobthorn (f.n.) n.d. So [Grundy 1935:85]).

If the Bk and Bd names mentioned above do indeed belong here then the term is found in four contiguous counties.

(a) Mangthorne leyes (f.n.) 1566 Nth [Whittlewood] (lēs).

~病人

MED --; EDD --; OED-2-3 --; DES --.

**mansion** OFr (AN), *f*., ‘dwelling-place, house’, used in ME of important residences. Outside the compound **mansion-house**, this term has been noted only rarely. In a phrase such as *The Mansion or vicaridge house* 1724 L:6-24 we should perhaps assume ellipsis of *-house.*

(a) the mansion place of the petite Chanon (bdg.n. Chester) 1327–77 [c.1574] Ch:5i:78 (place).

(b) the mansion place of the petite Chanon (bdg.n. Chester) 1327–77 [c.1574] Ch:5i:78 (place).

(c) the chyffe mansion (of Frome) 1531 Do:1:244 (chef).

~ Lat mansion; AFW mansion; OFED mansion; AND-1 mansion; MED mansioun n.1; EDD --; OED-2-3 mansion n.; DES --; DML mansio.

**mansion-house** ModE, ‘mansion-house’, when first recorded in the 16th century, is used both in the general sense ‘dwelling house’ and more specifically of a chief or official residence. It is this latter application which is most often met in p.ns, thus Withcote Hall in Withcote parish is the mansion house 1625 Lei:2:284 and Moreton House in Moreton is *The Mansion House* 1774 Do:1:136. Many more examples are to be found, of which Manor House (the *Mansion House* 1597) Do:3:320, the mansion house (f.n.) 1601 (cf. *One Capitall Messuage or Mannor House* 1721) L:4:60, *Mansion House* (f.n.) 1732 L:6:178, *The Mansion House* (f.n.) 1593 YW:4:137 and Old Hall (*Mansion House* 1813) Sa:3:27 are typical.

We may note the status of some occupants: the aforementioned *Capital Mansion House called Berkley’s* 1792 Lei:2:66 is connected with the family of *the lord Barkley lord of Melton* 1550, while the Lord Mayor of London inhabits the Mansion House (built 1739–52) during his term of office (Mills 2004:146). There is an apparently similar connection between the Mansion House in York and its Lord Mayors.

A particular sense ‘official residence belonging to the benefice of an ecclesiastic’ (OED-3 sense 2a) is well illustrated in p.n. material, for instance the mansion house of the Parsonage 1550 Lei:2:179, Rectory (the mansion house or rectorye 1601) L:6:208, The Rectory (the mansyon house 1625) Lei:2:135, the Rectory House (one mansyon house 1579, the Parsonage house l.17th) L:4:44, The Vicarage (the mansion house 1601) Lei:2:78.

One Lincolnshire spelling, *the Mancent house* (f.n.) 1601 L:6:215, illustrates a form of mansion otherwise noted only once (OED-3 has mansyant howse 16th century).

~ mansion, hūs.

MED --; EDD --; OED-2 mansion-house; OED-3 mansion house; DES --.

**man-slaughter** ME ‘manslaughter’, uncertain in (a place called) *Manslaughter* (f.n.) 1290 YN:331.

**mapelen** ME, *adj.*, ‘of maple’, is a rare term: MED notes a single 15th-century occurrence (glossing Latin *acermus*), while EDD’s *maplin-tree* is
limited to one GI example. Place-names provide earlier evidence. The exact sense may vary from name to name. The *hecc of *Le Mapelenehacche 1301 Sa:3·244 (here a gate giving access to a wood) may be either ‘made of maple’ or ‘growing with maple-trees’, the *welle of *le Mapelen(e)walle (f.n.) 1317 Db:386 is presumably ‘growing with maple’, while the *stōl of *La Mapelene Stolle (f.n.) c.1275 Brk:308 may be either ‘seat made of maple’ or ‘stump of a maple-tree’. The word appears to alternate with *mapul in Mablins Lane (Mable Mosse 1541, Maplin Moss Lane 1831) Ch:3·24 (mos).

~ *mapul.

MED mápelin; EDD – (cf. maplin-tree); OED-2-3 –; DES –.

*maplet OE, ‘clump of maple-trees’, a word unknown to the dictionaries, appears in Maplet 1103–6 Sx [Löfvenberg:128].

~ *mapul, -et.

MED –; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES –.

marché OFr (AN), m. ‘trade, gathering for commerce, market’ appears occasionally as a medieval affix to an earlier name, though never surviving to the present day, interchanging with cēping, market and mercatum.

The word is also sometimes met in the record of English p.ns in translation in French-language documents, e.g. Cheesemarket (st.n. Norwich; Forum Casei 1333, Chesemarket 1345, le Marche de furmag’ c.1350) Nf:1·72, Fishmarket (st.n. Norwich; Forum Piscatorum 1216–72, Fresfismarket 1251, le Marche de pessoun c.1350) Nf:1·73–4. Compare the early forms of Marazion (de Petitmarche (surn.), de Parvo Foro (surn.) c.1220 [14th], Marghasbigan c.1265 [14th]) Co [Padel 1988:115], MCo marghas + byghan ‘little market’.

(d) CHIPPING SODBURY (Cheping- 1269, -Marche 1280, -mercata 1284) Gl:3·51–2, STOWMARKET (Stowemarket c.1190, Stowemarch’ 1286) Sf [Baron:87], TORPE MARKET (Marketes Thorp 1225, Torpmarch’ 1269, Thorp mercato 1281) Nf:3·42.

~ Lat mercatum (on the phonology see Pope:§§496, 510); on AN é for ié see Short 2007:§§2·2–2·6).

AND-1 marché; AFW marchié, OFED marché; MED – (cf. marché n.4); EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES –.

marcheant1 OFr, m. ‘merchant, shopkeeper, trader’ is found in urban street-names combined with lane, rāw and strēt. It also seems to occur in a number of field-names, though these might rather contain the derived surname (Fransson:51).

OFr had variants of the word with ar and er, both of which, after ME lowering (Jordan:§270), give ar in the earliest place-name material. The ‘etymological spelling’ er which wins out in ModE (and affects the standard pronunciation) likewise appears increasingly in the place-names from the 16th century onwards (cf. Dobson 1957:§66 n.1).

(a) marchamntt feld (f.n.) 1510 K [PC], Merchants Field (f.n.) 1848 St:1·139 (feld), le Marchantelett (f.n.; Marchant flatt 1603) Cu:69, Merchant Flat (f.n.) 1845 Ch:1·317 (flat), merchauuntte Howse (f.n.) 1535–46 L:6·100 (hūs), Marchante Lane (st.n. Colchester) 1246 Ess:372 (lane), Merchants Meadow (f.n.) 1840 Do:1·51, Merchants Meadow (f.n.) 1841–4 Sa:5·9 (mēd), Merchant’s Piece (f.n.) 1841 Db:517 (pece), Marchants Row (st.n. Kingston upon Hull) 1610 YE:212 (rāw), Merchant Street (st.n. Bristol, Mer-, Marchaunt(e) Strete 1537–45) Gl:3·89, Merchant Street 1776 K [PC] (strēt).
marchent\textsuperscript{2} OFr, adj. ‘mercantile, commercial’ interchanges with cēping as the affix in early forms of CHIPPING WYCOMBE (Wycombe Marchaunt 1340, Chepingwycomb 1478) Bk:200. It also appears in La Rue Marchaunande (st.n. Bury) c.1250–60 (cf. in vico mercatorum 1335) Sf [DP], presumably translating an English name ‘Market Street’ or similar.

~ as marcheant\textsuperscript{1}.

marcheant\textsuperscript{1} OFr, adj. “merchants” (f.n.) 1541 Do:224.

~ Lat *mercātus- (< mercāri ‘to trade’); cf. mercer.

marchant sense 1; AFW marchant s. & adj.; OFED marchant sb.; MED marchaunt; EDD merchant; OED-2 marchant n. & a.; DES Marchant; DML –.

mareschalcie OFr, f. ‘office or jurisdiction of a marshal’. The Marshalsey in Southwark (Marescalcie 1311, prisoine marescalcie 1461) Sr:31 was the prison of the Marshalsea court, held before the knight marshal of the royal household. The term came to be used generally to mean ‘prison’; possibly the Marchalsy (f.n. in Selby) 1472 YW:4:32 is an early example of this extended application. Note however that the OFr word also meant ‘stable, farriery’ (cf. mareschal), senses almost unknown in ME but perhaps to be reckoned with here.

~ mareschal.

AFW mareschauke; OFED mareschauke; AND-1 mareschalcie; MED marcheslie n.; EDD – (cf. Marshalsea money); OED-2 marchalsey, marshalsea; OED-3 marshallcy n., marshallsea n.; DES –.

marigold ME, ‘marigold’ (Calendula officinalis, the common marigold) appears in Marygold Field (f.n. ×2) n.d. Ess [Field 1993:72] (feld), Marigold parke (f.n.) e.17th L:2:98 (pare) and Marygolds (Marigolds 1777) Ess:396. It may also occur in Marigold Field (f.n.) 1849 Db:279 (feld), if this is not an erroneous form for Mangold Field in the same parish.

~ ME Mari fem. pers.n. (< Lat Maria < Hebrew Maryam < Egyptian (perhaps ‘beloved of Ammon (Moses)’) < past part. of mraj ‘to love’ + inn ‘Ammon’, see Hösl 1952:80)), golde, i.e. the Virgin Mary’s medicinally useful golde ‘marigold’ as opposed to yellow weeds called golde (Grigson 1974:89 & 134–6).

MED mari-gold(e) n.; EDD marigold sb.; OED-2 marigold; OED-3 marigold n. & adj.; DES –.

marle-pit ME, ‘marl-pit’. The place-name material antedates that in the dictionaries, the earliest evidence being Merleput 1220 Nf and le Gretmarleput 1272 Sr.

Straker 1931:xiv defines marlpit as ‘an open pit, the primary purpose of which was to obtain marl for improving the soil, a frequent secondary one being the extraction of the iron ore below the marl’ (see also pp.106–8, with illustration p.107). Plural forms are fairly common in the simplex examples below (note also Manymarlpits 1573 St), presumably indicating multiple excavations in close proximity.

See marling for discussion of the alternation of forms in e.g. Marling Pit (the Marle pit, the Marling pitt 1522) Sr [JEPNS:3:23]; cf. Marling Pits Field Do below.

(a) the Marle pitts close (f.n.) 1685 YW:2:82, Marlpit close (f.n.) 1689 Nc:312 (cloes), Mapit Field (f.n.; Marlpulfeld 1436) Mx:210, Le Marlepit feld (f.n.) 1629 Sx [Nth:xlix], marleputfeld (f.n.) 1297 Ess:586, le
Marleputfeld (f.n.) 1335 Wa:348, Marling Pits Field (f.n.; Marlepytts 1621) Do:2-214, Marlpit Field (f.n.) 1746 Wa:368 (feld), the marle pitt flatt (f.n.) 1646 Ch:2-272, Marle pitt flatt (f.n.) 1577 Db:590, Marl Pits Flat (f.n.) 1839 YW:5-48, Merlepytte Flatt (f.n.) 1457 Db:600 (flat), Marle Pitt Furlong (f.n.) 1647 Db:424, Marlepit furlong alias Oldmarle (f.n.) 1629 Nf:3-58, Marlepytfurlong (f.n.) 1450 Do:1-184, Marlpitt furlong (f.n.) 1674 Lei:3-234, Marlpitt furlong (f.n.) 1637 Nf:2-21 (furlang), Cross Marle Pitt Furlong (f.n.) 1726 Nt:324 (furlang, + cros), marlepittgate (f.n.) 1601 Lei:3-124 (gata), marpettsgrove (f.n.) 1479 K [PC] (grāf), Marlepyt greene (f.n.) 1670 St:1-74 (grēne), Marlepyt hades (f.n.) 1625 Lei:3-83 (hēfod), Marlepytekerr’ (f.n.) 1415 Db:530 (kjarr), Marlpitt Leasow (f.n.) 1666 Sa:3-86 (lās), Marlepitt parrocke (f.n.) 1698 We:1-59 (pearroc), Marlepitte Ridinge (f.n.) 1575 Gl:3-46 (*ryding), Marlpit shoot 1763 Wa:51 (scēat), Marlepytong’ (f.n.) 1467–84 Lei:3-204 (vængr).
(b) a maralpett (f.n.) 1510 K [PC], Marlep (f.n.) 1490 Mx:203, le Marlepit (f.n.) 1467–84 Lei:3-24, le Marlepit (f.n.) 1322 Lei:3-119, le marlepit (f.n.) 1330 L:4-46, Marle Pit (f.n.) 1649 Wa:343, Marlepite (f.n.) 14th Db:498, the Marlepit (f.n.) 17th YW:1-39, Marlepit (f.n.) 1642 Gl:3-232, Marlepit’ (f.n.) 1467–84 Lei:3-67, Marlepitte (f.n.) 1550 Nt:289, le Marle pitte (f.n.) 1576 Gl:2-202, le Marlepittes (f.n.) 1334 Ch:3-75, Marle pittes (f.n.) 1601 Lei:2-161, Marle pittes (f.n.) 1657 St:1-100, the Marle pitts (f.n.) 1667 YW:5-135, Marleput (f.n.) 1306 Db:746, le Marleput c.1300 He [MED], atte Marleput (surn.) 1281 Sx [MELS:128], le Marleput (f.n.) 1311 Wo:332, marleput (f.n.) 14th Wo:391, Marlepitt (f.n.) 1376 Db:203, Le Marlepit’ (f.n.) c.1380 Sa:2-23, atte Marlepitthe (surn.) 1327 Gl [Carnes:362–3], le Marlepit (f.n.) 1444 YW:5-37, The Marlepitt (f.n.) 1612 Sa:2-189, Marlepyttee (f.n.) 1439 C:341, (f.n.) 14th Nth:268, Marlpit (f.n.; Marlepitte (surn.) 1327) Gl:2-215, Marlpit Hill (Marlepittes 1486) YW:2-84, Marl Pits (f.n.; Marlepittes 1608) Ess:616, Marlittes (f.n.) 1638 Gl:2-201, Le Marlpit (f.n.) 1315 Ch:1-217, the marlpett (f.n.) 1313 Ch:1-75, les Marlpittus (f.n.) 1306 Ch:4-249, Merlepittes (f.n.) 1379 Ht:258, Merleput (f.n.) 1220 (cf. Marlputlond c.1300) Nf:2-18, le Merleputte (f.n.) 1341 YW:4-114, Old Marl Pits (a place called Marlepit 1694) Ch:3-231.
(c) Flax Marlepet (f.n.) 1472 Ch:4-43 (flex), le Gretramarpet (f.n.) 1272 Sr:364 (grēat), the Great Marlpit field (f.n.) 1643 K [PC] (grēat, + feld), Hallamarpett (f.n.) 1371 Wa:348 (hali), Hethmarleput (f.n.) 1469 St:1-151 (hādō), Lady’s Marl Pits Field (f.n.) 1842 K [PC] (hlēfdige, + feld), le Whytemarlepit (f.n.) 1320–40 [1467–84] Lei:3-243 (hwít), Manymarlits (f.n.) 1573 St:1-163 (manig), Merslemaupett (f.n.) 1286 Db:535 (mersc), ij marle pitfield (f.n.) 1597 Sx [Vivian 1923:201] (prōo, + feld), Colens marle pyt 1565 Db:667 (ME masc. pers.n.), Da(u)wemerleputteslone (f.n.) 1335 St:1-64 (ME masc. pers.n., + lane), Burton Marlepyttes (f.n.) 1394 Lei:2-71, Fennilache marleput (f.n.) 1306 Db:558, Haiwod Marlepyttes (f.n.) 15th Brk:75 (p.n.s), Souwelmersmarlepitt (f.n.) 1416 Wo [Sundby 1963:115] (surn.), Trowsamarleput (f.n.) 1347 Wo [Sundby 1963:115] (uncertain).

- marle, pytt; cf. M Du marleput.
MED marle pyt s.v. marle n.; EDD marl-pit s.v. marl sb.1 & v.1; OED-2 marl-pit; OED-3 marl-pit n.; DES -; DML marlepittus.

mariere ME, ‘one who digs or spreads marl’. EDD reports these differing senses in adjacent counties, i.e. ‘a man employed to spread marl on land’ (La) but ‘a man who works in a marl-pit’ (Ch), and it is in Ch that the p.n. examples below occur (possibly also in Marl Field (f.n.; Marleruse Filde 1466) Ch:4-35 (feld), though the form is odd). The word is found as a ME surname from 1275 (Fransson:182, along with Marlehewer), which might
account for any or all of the p.ns. Potential confusion with marliere should be borne in mind.

(a) Marlersfield (f.n.) 1318 [1653] Ch:2-124 (feld), Marlers Hill (f.n.) 1839 Ch:3-200 (hyll).

~ marle.

MED marler(e) n.¹; EDD marler s.v. marl sb.¹ & v.¹; OED-2 marler¹; OED-3 marler n.¹; DES Marler.

marli ME, adj. ‘marly’. The f.n. Marliol’ 1335–8 Ch antedates nononomastic evidence for the word (c.1420).

(a) Marliol’ (f.n.) 1335–8 Ch:2-232 (hol), Marly Newearth (f.n.) 1838 Ch:4-29 (niwe, eorôe), Marly path (f.n.) 19th Bk [Whittlewood] (pæoð), Marly Pit Meadow (f.n.; the Marley Pitts 1552) K [Cullen 1997:159] (pytt).

~ marle.

MED marli adj.; EDD –; OED-2-3 marly a.¹; DES –.

marliere OFr, f. ‘marl-pit’ is clearly the etymon of le Marliere 13th Ha. In some of the examples below we have MLat marlera rather than the OFr word, though both types have probably played a part in giving ME marlere (thus MED). The Latin may translate various types of vernacular form, as indicated by such cases as Marl (Pit) Field (cf. marlera prope le Twisse cloch 1265–91) Ch:2-322 and Marlyngputtes (f.n., cf. ii puteos marler’ 1306 [1372]) Do:1-327.

See marlere for a possible confusible if the term were to appear as qualifying element in a compound.

(b) le Marler’ (f.n.) 1284 Do:2-90, atte Marler (surn.) 1332 Sx [MED], Marlera (f.n.) 1292 Ha [Gover;234], Marlera (f.n.) 1328 Sx [Coates & Dabbousy 2003-7:28], la Marlera (f.n.) 13th YW:2-210, le Marlera 1283 K:85, Marlerye (f.n.) 13th Ha [Gover;235], le Marliere (f.n.) 13th Ha [Gover;255].

~ Romance *margilarium; marle.

AFW marliere; OFED marliere²; AND marler¹; MED marler(e) n.¹; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES –; DML marlera, –ia, –ium, –un.

martyr OE ‘martyr’, late in Martyrs Field 1851 K [Cullen 1997:575].

mascle ME ‘spot, speck’, uncertain in Maskelawe (f.n.) c.1230 Cu:274.

mase ME, ‘maze’ (also ‘delirium, bewilderment’) is used of a man-made feature in Maze Do and presumably also Maze Court Sr (part of the Abbot of Battle’s Inn at Southwark), but Maze YW is said probably to refer to “the difficulty of finding a safe path through the marshy ground of the moor”. Compare discussion of troy-town.


The development of ge-mære with gen.sg. -s in Mazedale (mares deel 944 S:495) Nth:23 serves as a warning that Maze- in qualifying position, e.g. Maze Hill (f.n.) 1783 Gl:1-172 (hyll), may
require cautious handling.
(a) The Maze (f.n.; Maseplott 1547–53) Hrt:288 (plot).
(c) Wing Maze 1631 Ru:230 (p.n.).
~ uncertain, cf. OE ă-masian ‘to amaze, confound’ (DOE).
MED māse n.; EDD –; OED-2 māze n.; OED-3 māze n.; DES –.

mass-house ModE, ‘Roman Catholic place of worship’, chiefly applied as a term of contempt by Protestants in the 17th and 18th centuries (OED-3).
(a) Masshouse Lane (st.n. Birmingham; Mass-house lane 1731) Wa:38 (lane).
~ OE masse < Vulgar Lat messa (Lat missa) ‘religious service, the Eucharist’, hūs.
MED –; EDD –; OED-2 mass-house; OED-3 mass house; DES –.

materas OFr, m. ‘mattress’, or the derived surname (metonymic for ‘mattress-maker’, see DES Matters and cf. Thuresson:215), seems to appear in Matterisyerde (f.n.) 1461 K [Cullen 1997:202] (geard) – perhaps a yard used for mattress manufacture, though we might conceivably consider the meaning ‘protective covering (especially for plants)’ which OED-3 (sense 2) records from 1658. Alternatively, thinking figuratively, Dodgson suggests “perhaps a boggy or soft field” for Mattress Field (f.n.) 1840 Ch:2:293 (feld).
~ Italian materasso (Hope 1971:44) < Lat maturacium < Arabic matrah ‘place where something is strewn or thrown down’.
AFW materas; OFED materas2; AND-1 materas; MED materas n.; EDD –; OED-2 mattress1; OED-3 mattress n.; DES Matters; DML mattera, –acium, –acium.

*matt-mongere ME, ‘seller of mats’, a word unknown to the dictionaries and not recorded as a surname, appears (unless a misreading for Malt-) in Mattmongeresbreg (f.n.) c.1280 Nth [Ashley 1979:36] (brycg).
~ matte, mangere.
MED –; EDD –; OED-2 –; OED-3 –; DES –.

mattuc OE, m. ‘mattock’, found in the OE charter boundary on Mattuces feld s.360+ Ha [ASCh:9-3] (feld), seems to occur (with or without medial -s-) with a range of generics. It is difficult to establish the significance of its use in p.n.s, though ‘land (needing to be) worked by mattock’ seems the most obvious guess, or perhaps alternatively ‘mattock-shaped piece of land’ (cf. hond-axe, nafu-gār, etc.). Formally, either explanation might suit the simplex (plural) usage with the definite article in mores called the Mattockes 1565 Gl.
There is some evidence for a ME surname of this form, Mattok c.1311 Nf [MED], Mattok’ 1327 Gl [Carnes:364] (not in the same parish as the Mattockes Gl), which may underlie some of the p.n. material.
(b) mores called the Mattockes (f.n.) 1565 Gl:3:257.
~ uncertain, possibly Lat *matteŭca ‘club, cudgel’ (OED-3).
MED mattok; EDD maddock sb.; OED-2-3 mattock n.; DES –; DML mattocus.

**maul** ModE ‘clayey or marly soil’ (EDD), late [Ch:3:25, Gl:1:24, O:24].


**May-pole** ModE, ‘May-pole’, a tall pole used during celebrations on the first day of May. Confusion with *mapul* or with names in pōl is conceivable, but in general the examples seem secure. May Pole Farm 20th C:77 is named from a maypole which reportedly stood here until 1870, and we have the relatively early in loco ubi le Maypole antehac stetit 1625 Do:1:258.

As an inn-name we find Maypole (May-pole 1826) Ha [Coates 1991:56], Maypole 1723 K [PC] and Maypole Inn (The Maypole 1831) Ch:3:194.

First-of-May festivities are probably also referred to in May Game (f.n.) n.d. So [Grundy 1935:199] (gamen) and with dæg in May Day Field (f.n.) 1839 La [Wainwright 1975:244] (feld), Mayday Meer (f.n.) 1810 Db:108 (mere) and perhaps also May Days (Maydays 1558) Ess:321 as no surname of this form is known.

Possibly relevant, though particularly difficult, are Mayland (Mayland 1380) Du [Watts 2002:76] and Maylands (Maylond 1524) Ess:117 (land). For the former, Watts very tentatively suggests ‘land where May festivities are celebrated’, though he prefers a surname May, while for the latter Mills 2004:150 cautiously offers ME may ‘hawthorn’ (cf. May-thorn).

(a) May Pole close (f.n.) 1818 Gl:1:179 (clos), May Pole Ground (f.n.) 1806 O:64 (grund), Maypole Hill (f.n.) 1840 La [Wainwright 1975:244] (hyll), Maypole meadow (f.n.) 1839 Gl:3:200, Maypole Meadow (f.n.) 1840 Sa:3:114 (méd).

(b) The Maypole (The May Poll 1711) Ch:5i:59, Maypole (f.n.) 1838 Ch:3:291, the Maypole in Kirkland (f.n.) 1776 We:1:125, Maypole Farm 1831 Ch:1:62, May Pool (f.n.; Maypoole 1647) Ch:2:313.

(c) The North Gate May Pole (bdg.n. Chester) 1745 Ch:5i:67 (p.n.).

~ the fifth month of the year, May (OFr mai < Lat Māius (mēnsis) < the name of the fertility deity Jupiter Māius), pāl.

MED –; EDD – (cf. mail-pole); OED-2 maypole; OED-3 maypole n. & a.; DES –.

**mār-furh** OE, f. ‘boundary furrow’ appears in OE charters as and lang mārfrēh 8:49 W and on þa maer furh 8:977 Nth. The term may once have enjoyed a wide distribution (note too the Brk f.n. Le Merefur 1344), but its survival into ModE is chiefly limited to Lincolnshire and adjacent counties. It is well represented in L f.n.s (L:2:12 notes the frequent use of marfar as a common noun in north L documents, cf. a common Marfore or meerland 1634 L:3:41, two common Marfurrs 1649 L:2:29); likewise EDD records L (especially north) and neighbouring Lei dialect marfur, and OED-3’s ModE citations relate to L and neighbouring YE. There is some transfer of sense from ‘boundary-furrow, -ditch’ to ‘boundary-ridge, -fence’ by the ModE period (note a balke or maierefar called the inge mairfaire 1673 L:6:107; see balca ‘ridge’). Plural forms are quite common among the simplex examples.

Although there is often no reflex of the final -h in this compound (see furh for discussion), we occasionally find a full -furrow (e.g. the
Common meerfurrow 1733 L:2-93), and a form marfry, recorded in EDD, occurs occasionally in the place-name material below, as does an otherwise unnoted development to -forth, -furh (also as an apppellative, e.g. a mearfory called Brigslye street 1634 L:4-57, a Marforth called Beelsby gate mearfory 1638 L:4-56, a common marfurh called Tormor marforth 1601 L:4-57).

The element recurs with butte, commun, and perhaps more surprisingly with bula. A number of names refer to a neighbouring parish (e.g. Swallow marpher L), though Horkstow marfur L is a curious case, lying in the adjacent parish of South Feriby but nowhere near the shared border with Horkstow.

(a) the marfer end (f.n.) 1715 L:2-27 (ende), Marfarre furlong (f.n.) 1652 L:5-150 (furlang).

(b) le marefure (f.n.) 13th L:4-113, Mare Furrows (f.n.) 1848 Db:544, the marfarre (f.n.) 1664 L:4-176, Marfer (f.n.) 1693 L:2-133, the Marferr (f.n.) e.17th L:2-98, the marfers (f.n.) 1726 L:2-301, Marfor (f.n.) 1734 L:5-35, the Fields called Marfrays (f.n.) 1787 L:5-32, y' marfrey (f.n.) 1686 L:5-122, marfures (f.n.) l.12th L:2-209 (plus several later examples in the same parish L:2-201–3), metas vocat' mearfurs 1667 L:6-108 (see mete), Le Merefur (f.n.) 1344 Brk:52, Merefures (f.n.) 1260 YE:323.

(c) the bull marfar (f.n.) 1671 L:3-41, y' Bull-Marfurre (f.n.) 1666 L:2-234, Bull-Marfare (f.n.) 1690 L:2-310, the Bull merfar (f.n.) 1601 L:4-187 (bula), le Brademfare (f.n.) 1311 L:2-204 (brād), the Bull marfer (f.n.) 1577 L:4-52, Butt Mear furre (f.n.) 1628 L:5-11, the Butt-mear-fore (f.n.) 1697 L:6-106 (butte), Claypitt marfar (f.n.) 1687 L:6-106 (cley-pit), the common marfore (f.n.) 1624 L:5-142, Common Marfur (f.n.) 1794 L:2-294, the Common Marfur (f.n.) 1854 L:6-41, le common marfurrs (f.n.) 1660 L:6-106, the Common meerfurrow (f.n.) 1733 L:2-93, the common merfar (f.n.) 1601 L:4-190, y' Common Merfer (f.n.) 1679 L:6-26, common mairfer (f.n.) 1585 L:2-205, the commown marfowre (f.n.) 1546 L:5-11 (commun), the Constables Merfare (f.n.) 1668 L:6-67 (conetable), Cow gate Marfur (f.n.) 1795 L:2-294 (cow-gate), the Dove coat Marfre (f.n.) 1705 L:5-42 (dove-cot), the inge mairfaire (f.n.) 1673 L:6-107 (eng), Gate marfer (f.n.) 1601 L:2-12 (gata), the grange marfer (f.n.) 1614 L:2-114 (grange), the Lords marfar (f.n.) 1697 L:6-107 (hlāford), Long Marfrey (f.n.) 1690 L:5-163 (lang), the milln marfer (f.n.) 1614 L:2-115 (mylyn), towe Marfers (f.n.) 1577 L:2-264 (twā), le Welmair'four' (f.n.) 1339 L:2-173 (welle), le marefare Willi' fil' Walti'i (f.n.) 13th [1272–1307] L:2-297 (ME pers.n., Lat word-order), havismarforthewang (f.n.) 1319 [c.1331] L:4-45 (ME fem. pers.n., + vangr), Brackendale Marfurr (f.n.) 1624 L:2-21, Brigsley marforth (f.n.) 1601 L:4-57, Catta Mar-fur 1664 L:2-233, deepdale mere fur (f.n.) 1579 L:3-41, Dock Hole Marfurr 1795 L:2-292–3, Dyckett Merefur (f.n.) 1579 L:3-41, the gareing marfar (f.n.) 1677 L:2-236, greendale Marferr (f.n.) 1651 L:2-26, green gate marpher (f.n.) 1611 L:2-228, Horkstow marfur (f.n.) 1692 L:2-114–5, the Kirklane dale marfur (f.n.) 1664 L:2-283, the Lords dayle Marfer (f.n.) 1625 L:6-18, Old Coulby Marfore (f.n.) 1668 L:6-67, Rowsgarth Marfurr (f.n.) 1649 L:2-21, rumarmarfur (f.n.) 13th [14th] L:2-171, Sower dayle merefurf (f.n.) 1579 L:3-46–7, Swall marpher (f.n.) 1611 L:2-231, a common marfurh called Tormor marforth (f.n.) 1601 L:4-57 (p.ns), Beelsby gate marforth (f.n.) 1601 L:4-56 (p.n., gata), Samesse marefore (f.n.) 1272 L:2-210 (surn.), y' by Marfar (f.n.; By-mar-fur 1664, Bymorfray 1709) L:2-234 (uncertain).

~ ge-māre, furh.

DOE(f)(c) mār-furh; MED –; EDD marfry, mearf-furrow or -fur s.v. meare sense 5; OED-2 mere-furrow s.v. mere, meare n.2; OED-3 mere-furrow s.v. mere n.2; DES –.

mēr-stān OE, m. ‘boundary-stone’ occurs in the OE charter boundary to
Its survival into the modern period as a lexical item is indicated by a great mearstone (f.n.) 1603 Cu:69 (grēat) and un mearston in Pickenes 1614 YW:1·309, and the properhood of some of the examples listed below might be questioned. It is noteworthy that there are several plural forms, presumably indicating a relatively precise level of linear demarcation. A parallel formation mark-stone is much less common (see mearc).

(a) Mere Stone Field (f.n.) 1845 Ch:3·181 (feld), Mere Stone Flatt (f.n.) 1838 Ch:3·300 (flat), Meerstone Hill (f.n.) 1650 O:263 (hyll).
(b) the mayre stone (f.n.) 1634 L:2·226, Meerestone (f.n.) 1649 Cu:298, The Meare Stone (f.n.) 1576 Sa:2·117, Mearstone (f.n.) 1617 Db:165, Meer Stone (f.n.) 1796 Cu:326, Meer Stone (f.n.) 1824 Db:603, Meer Stone (f.n.; Mere Stones 1744) W:459, Meerstones (f.n.) 1624 Cu:258, Meer Stones (f.n.; Meerestones 1750) W:459, Meerstones Road (st.n. Cheltenham; Meerestones 1650) Gl:2·103, ler Meerestones (f.n.) 1578 YW:4·86.

~ ge-mère, stān.

mearcere OE, m. ‘marker, scribe, notary’ would be indistinguishable from an OE *mearcere ‘one who keeps, or lives at, a boundary-mark’ (evidenced in ME and as a surname). Either is possible in the three names below, whose precise locations are unknown. An OG pers.n. Marcher (Forssner:286) or derived patronymic surname might also be considered, but could of course only account for those f.n.s which show no definite article.

(a) le Marcercroft (f.n.) 1362 Ch:4·27 (croft), Markarislond (f.n.) 1417 K [Cullen 1997:505] (land), Markeres Wong (f.n.) c.1260 Nth:279 (vangr).

~ (i) OE mearcian ‘to mark’, (ii) mearc.

(i) ‘scribe’: MED –; EDD –; OED-2 marker; OED-3 marker n.; DES Marker.
(ii) ‘boundary-dweller’: MED marcherie n.; EDD –; OED –; DES Marker.

mele-mongere ME, ‘seller of meal’ appears in Melemonger Strete (st.n. Salisbury) 1403 W:21 (strēt). The term is on record as a surname from 1288 (Fransson:60). The earliest quotation in OED-3 (‘like a covetous meal-monger’ 1766) may be compared with the pejorative overtones noted for mangere.

~ melu, mangere.

MENAGERIE ModE ‘menagerie’, late in Menagerie Wood (The Menagery 1794) Nt:111.

menestrel OFr, m. ‘minstrel’, with ME syncope of the medial syllable (Jordan:§248), is found in Mynstrelfurlong (f.n.) 1518 W:455 (furlang) and Minstrels Yard (f.n.) 1839 Sa:3·247 (geard). As well as ‘entertainer, musician, singer’, the word retains its earlier sense ‘servant, functionary’ in OFr and ME. Thuresson:183 and DES give instances in ME surnames (which MED antedates).
menistre OFr, m. ‘servant, minister’. The range of senses in ME, as in OFr, includes ‘personal assistant, representative, administrator, public official, ecclesiastic’, any of which is possible in the Minister Crofte (f.n.) 1684 YW:1.325 (croft). In the case of Ministers Field (f.n.) 1840 K [PC] (feld), listed in the Tithe Award between the church and the vicarage of Lynsted, the reference is presumably to a clergyman. The term also appears as a ME surname (Thuresson:168), though there is no evidence that this enters the p.n. material.

~ Lat minister ‘attendant, servant’ (minus ‘less’ (see minor), contrast maister); cf. menestrel.

mercier OFr (AN), m. ‘mercer, one dealing in textile fabrics (especially silk) or in haberdashery’, perhaps sometimes retaining the earlier more general sense ‘merchant, tradesman, grocer’, though The Mercers’ Company, or Mystery of Mercers, a guild incorporated by royal charter in 1430 (Hey 1996:209), is known to have owned Mercer’s Farm Bk:104, Mercer’s House Bk:89, Mercer’s Wood Bk:142 and land at Mercer Street Mx (see below).

A derived ME surname (Fransson:92) may underlie one or two of the examples below, but the use of the definite article in Le Mercers Rente (bdg.n.) Ldn tells in favour of the lexical item, as does the high proportion of street-names in the material (chiefly with rāw/rāw).

(a) Mercer Field (Mersers Field 1817) YW:3.184 (feld), Mercerkerr (f.n.) 1461 YW:3.158 (kjarr), Mercers Lane n.d. We:1.117 in Kendal (lane), Mercere raw 1486 YE:197 in Beverley, le Mercere Rouwe 1358 Db:31 in Bakewell, Mercer Row 1349 Db:233 in Chesterfield, Mercer Row 1454 L:3.98 in the market at Market Rasen, Mercers Row 1486–93 Nth:7 in Northampton, the Mercers’ Row 1493 (also le Mercerowe 1503) Ch:5.22 in Chester (rāw), the Mercerewe 1540 (alias the Mercery, see mercerie) Gl:2.130 in Gloucester (rāw), Le Mercers Rente (bdg.n.) 1445 Ldn [Fine:18.10 & 222] (rente), Mercers strete 1511 Wa:39 in Birmingham, Mercer Street 1682 Mx:180 in Westminster (strēt).

~ Lat merc-, merx ‘commodity’; mercerie, cf. marcheant.

mercerie OFr, f. ‘mercery, mercer’s shop or stall’ has been noted in the Mercery (Mar., Merceria 1263) Gl:2.130 in Gloucester (alias the Mersery Strete, see mercer), Mercery Lane (uico Mercerie 1187, The Mercery 1611) K [Cullen 1997:566] in Canterbury, and Mercery Lane (the Mersery Strete 1523) K [Cullen 1997:191] (strēt) in Folkestone.

~ mercer.

mermaid ME, ‘mermaid’. Depictions of mermaids on inn-signs give rise to the Mairmayd (Canterbury) 17th K [Cullen 1997:562], Maremaid (Gravesend) 1584 K [PC], the Mermaid (Dorchester) 1757 Do:1.356, the Mermaide (Sherborne) 1677 Do:3.367 and Mermaid Inn (Portland) 1892
Do:1·218. Taylor 1636 records eight further examples of (The) Mermayd as an inn-name in 1636 (in K, Ldn, Mx, O, Sr). See Cox 1994a:19–21 & 89 (and see OED for earlier examples).

Happily we encounter the real thing in Marmaydes Hole (in the river Colne) 1563 Ess:599 (hol), Mermaid’s Pool (Mermaid Pool 1840) Db:116 (pōl) and, reflecting the fuller ME form mermaiden (see OED) in its earlier spelling, Mermaids Pits (f.n.; Marmayden Pytte 1540) Sf [Reaney 1964:224] (pytt).

There is also the curious stream-name The Mermaid (“also called Aylsham Beck”) Nf:3 for which no early forms or explanation have been encountered.

~ mere, ME maid (see mægden).

mesaise OFr, f. and m. ‘ill-ease, discomfort, hardship’, occurs in Missies (Messese 1279–81, Meseise 1283) YW:5·212. Note the apparent antonym Beleies (f.n.) 1487 K [Cullen 1997:214] (bel’).

~ OFr mes- ‘ill’ + aise, eise ‘ease, comfort’.

Michaelmas ME, ‘Michaelmas’, i.e. the feast of St Michael (and All Angels) on September the 29th, one of the English quarter-days. The reference in p.ns may be to payment of a Michaelmas rent, though O:456 and Wa:353 plausibly compare f.ns containing lammas which denote cultivated land that reverts to common pasturage following a Lammastide harvest on August the 1st.

(a) Michaelmas Dole (f.n.) 1655 Db:442 (dāl), the Michaelmas Downs (f.n.) 1773 Gl:1·34 (dūn), Michaelmas Grounds (f.n.) 1797 O:299 (grund), Michaelmas land (f.n.) 1736–64 YW:1·190 (land), Michaelmas Slade (f.n.) n.d. Wa:335 (slæd).

~ the archangel St Michael (Hebrew Mīḵā‘ēl “who is like God?”), OE mæsse < Vulgar Lat messa (Lat missa) ‘religious service, the Eucharist’; occurring in OE as a genitival construction, (sancte) Michaelæs mæsse.

miche ME, ‘forked stake, prop, crutch’ survives in nautical use, both as Scots mitch ‘forked support for a lowered mast’ (EDD) and as part of the technical term mitchboard ‘prop with a semicircular groove for the support of a boom’ (Ansted 1956:179 & illustration p.62). A form with velar [k] also appears in ME. The word is generally explained, with some caution, as a borrowing from MDu mic(ke) ‘forked prop of wood or iron’ (Anderson 1977:137, Llewellyn 1936:72, MED, OED-3), though derivation from an OE *mic seems a reasonable alternative proposition (and would better account for the palatal [ʃ]). The OE charter boundary to micæs dæne 5·377 Ha (denu) may well be relevant.

A word of this shape is required for the otherwise unexplained Mich Field & Mick Close (f.ns; land subitus Mic 13th) Nth:284, originally a simplex name. Consider too the generic element in a furlonge called the Great micke (f.n.) 1625 L:4·30 (grēat), which clearly stands out from the otherwise consistent run of forms, relating to Micklemore L:4·169, with which it is listed in L:4·xv & 30 (micchelemare c.1200, Mickle moor gate 1686, etc.). Perhaps Meachland’s (atte Micche (surn.) 1327, ate Muche (surn.) 1332) K:71–2 is also relevant, though the forms rather point to an
original /y/ which is not easily explained.

The toponymic use of MDu mic(ke) is well exemplified by Mik (de Mica (surn.) 1272, Micke 1280) in Brasschaat parish, Belgium (van Osta 1995:806–9). The specific sense ‘fork-shaped gallows’ proposed by van Osta 1995:808 for this and other p.ns in mik- is possible in the English names.

When <Mich> or similar appears as specifier, e.g. Michcroft (f.n.) 1639 Bk [Whittlewood] (croft) and Mitch Ground (f.n.) n.d. Wt [Grundy 1921:147] (ground), we must of course allow for the chance of confusion with nicel or with various personal names.

~ cf. MDu mic(ke), ModDu mik, ModG micke ‘forked prop’ (see further de Vries 1971 s.v. mik¹).

MED mike n.; EDD mitch sb.; OED-2 mike n.; miche n.; OED-3 mike n.; mitch n.; DES –.

moine Ofr, m. ‘monk’ appears as an affix with reference to monastic establishments. A priory was founded at Monk Sherborne Ha in 1100–35, Monks Risborough Bk belonged to Christ Church Canterbury before the Conquest, and land at Monks Kirby Wa was given to the monks of St Nicholas of Angers in 1077. The medieval records show variation with munuc and monachus.

At Owermoigne (–Moigne 1314) Do:1:138–9 and Sawtry (–Moyyne 1279, –Moyns 1568) Hu:195–6 the affixes refer not to monks but to families bearing the well-recorded surname Moigne < moine (see Thuresson:176), though seemingly coincidentally Sawtry does also bear the affix Monachorum (see monachus) in the medieval record ‘from the holding of Ramsey Abbey or of Sawtry Abbey itself’ (probably the former, cf. Monks’ Wood (Monkeswod a Moynes de Sautre 1219, boscus monachorum de Sautr’ 1230) Hu:197 in this parish).


AFW moine; OFED moine¹; AND moine; MED –; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES Moyne.

moist adj. ‘moist, damp’ appears in Moisty Knowl 1813 Db:147 (cnonll) and Mostey Leyes (f.n.; Mostylegh 1386, Mostylegh 1413) Db:246 (leāh). We might also contemplate the conflicting forms for Moistdale (Croft) & Moisters Croft (f.n.s; Moysty c.1310, 1350 etc., Moisthill 1630 etc., Moistdale 1796 etc.) Ch:3-233, which Dodgson takes to be ME moist ‘moist’ with stig ‘path’, but which looks rather like moisti curiously used as a simplex.

~ ME moist ‘moist; moisture’ (< AN moiste < Vulgar Lat muscidus ‘mouldy, musty’) + adj. suffix < OE -ig.

MED moist adj.; EDD –; OED-2 moisty; OED-3 moisty adj.; DES –.

molin Ofr, m. ‘mill’ appears as an affix in Corfe Mullen (–le Mulin 1176, –Melyn 1268) Do:2:15, ‘referring to the valuable mill here, which rendered 20 shillings (a high value) in 1086 DB’.

~ late Lat molinum, molina (see myln); cf. melu. On AN u < o see Pope:§§1083 & 1085, Short 2007:§6.1.

AND molin; AFW molin; OFED molin; MED –; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES Molin & Mullin.

mong-corn ME, ‘mixed corn’, a mixture of two grains (especially wheat
and rye, though sometimes barley) sown together. The fairly limited geographical distribution suggested by the dictionaries (chiefly Sa, St, He and Wo in OED, though wider in EDD) is even more tightly restricted in the p.n. material, with only Sa represented. The use of the term as a ME surname is recorded once in MED (Nich. Mancorn 1255).


- OE ge-mang ‘mixture’, corn¹.  

MED mōng-corn s.v. mōng(e; EDD mangcorn; OED-2 mongcorn; OED-3 mongcorn n.; DES –.

mōns Lat. m. ‘hill, mount’ appears in modern affixes, usually in the acc.sg. form in the prepositional phrase super montem ‘on the hill’ (once sub montem ‘under the hill’). In many such cases mōns varies with other hill terms (berg, dūn and most frequently hyll, with or without prepositional phrases), and also occasionally with terms meaning ‘high(er)’ (Lat alta, haut, hēah, superior and uferra). The Lat form does not survive in any current affix in England, but can still be found in Peterstone-super-montem (Petston Chap Super Montem 1799) in Glamorgan (PNW:384). The ‘Thorpe sub Montem’ YW cited by Dickins 1935:339 seems to be a ghost name.

There are three p.ns in Essex, MOUNT BURES, GREAT EASTON and THEYDON MOUNT, which show a different pattern, appearing with Lat ad ‘at’ (+ acc.) or Lat de ‘of’ (+ abl. monte), and varying not with hyll or the like but with relatives of mōns (e.g. –atte Munte 1328; see mont for discussion of forms).

As well as the affixes, we should note the appearance of mōns in the Latin recording of numerous names, e.g. St Davids Hill (super montem S. David 1247) D:436, including hybrid forms such as juxta calvum montem 13th Gl [DML] (calu), and its influence on the development of the French name MONTACUTE (Montagud 1086, Montacuto 1156) So.


- stem monti- (for the syncopation in nom.sg. mōns see Sihler 1995:§§276.1b & 306.1) < IE *monti- ‘protrusion, height’ (de Vaan 2008:388); *monijo-, mont, montaigne, munt.  

DML.mons².
moss-pit ModE, ‘turf-pit’, i.e. a hole from which peat is dug in a bog, is evidenced earliest in the 1501 field-name below. Apart from one example in Berkshire, the place-name evidence is limited to Cheshire.

(a) Moss Pitt Flatt (f.n.) 1663 Ch:3-284 (flat), Mosspitt Meadowe (f.n.) 1610 Ch:3-276 (mēd).

(b) lez mospittes 1501 Ch:1-206, The Mosse Pytte (f.n.) c.1516 Brk:534, Mosspittes (f.n.) 1611 Ch:1-109, the Mossepittes (f.n.) 1611 Ch:1-136.

(c) þe old mosse pittes 1531 Ch:1-206 (ald), Fulshaw Moss Pitt (f.n.) 1840 Ch:1-224 (p.n.).

~ mos, pytt.

Moss Pitt Flatt (f.n.) 1663 Ch:3-284 (flat), Mosspitt Meadowe (f.n.) 1610 Ch:3-276 (mēd).

*modor OE, adj. ‘muddy’. Although the earliest independent evidence for the word in OED-3 is from the 15th century, the early occurrence in the major name MUDFORD (Mudiford 1086) So, together with the existence of an apparent doublet in Mudeford Ha, and the good sense and aptness of a name ‘muddy ford’, all strongly suggests that the word existed in OE (cf. discussion of modde, itself a Gmc word).

In later-recorded names there is the chance of confusion with the ME surname Mody, as in Modyoxgange (f.n.) 1492 (un’ bouat’ que quondam fuit Thome Modye 1419) YW:1-99, and apparently, despite the definite article, Moody Lane (st.n. Grimsby; Modie Lane 1563, the Mossepittes 1611 Ch:1-109, the Mossepittes 1611 Ch:1-136). (a) ?Marybrook Street (st.n. Berkeley; Modybrok’ (surn.) 1327) Gl:2-112, Muddy Brow 1836 We:1-139 (brū), the Muddy Croft (f.n.) 1637 Ch:3-276 (croft), Mudeford (Modelford 13th, Muddiford 1826) Ha:120 (croft), Muddy Gill (Muddigil, Mudegill 1738) We:1-258 (gil), Muddy Green (f.n.) 1849 YW:6-91 (grēne), Modihull (f.n.) 1250 Wa:328 (hyll), Muddy Meadow (f.n.) n.d. Ch:5i-288 (mēd), ?Muddipit (Modepitt (surn.) 1287, Modyputte (surn.) 1330) D:89 (pytt), muddy wath (f.n.) 1602 L:6-117, the muddy wath (f.n.) 1700 L:6-207 (vað).

~ modor, modde.

Mucked Field (f.n.) 1838 Ch:3-268 (mēd), Muckt ing (f.n.) 1839 We:1-208 (eng), Muck’d Field (f.n.) 1844 Ch:3-168, Mucked Field (f.n.) 1838 Ch:3-73 (feld), le Mokedelond (f.n.) 1290 Nth:266 (land), Mukedtwyth (f.n.) 1310 (also Muchthwait 1217–41) YW:3-32 (bveit).

~ muk.

Mullocks Ridding (f.n.) 1780 Db:196, Mullock 20th Do:2-17, Ox Mullock (f.n.) 1841 Ch:1-103.

mulok ME ‘(heap of) rubbish’, late in Mullocks Ridding (f.n.) 1780 Db:196, Mullock 20th Do:2-17, Ox Mullock (f.n.) 1841 Ch:1-103.

**myln-stede** OE, m. ‘mill place, site of a mill’ occurs in on þannon mylens stede S:630 Do:3:117 [ASCh:5:21], se mylnstede et Mannes bridge S:1012 Ha and þynne mylstenstede þe þær to gebryðed et Leoferes hagan S:885 K [ASCh:1:31]. A side-form mylyn-styde (see styde) is reflected in some of the Cheshire p.n. material in ME -stude spellings (cf. also as a lexical item le Polestydde et le Milnestyd vocat’ Kyngbroke mylyne 15th Ch:2:50). A parallel formation with stall is found in a mylanstéall S:418 Ha [ASCh:9:10] but has not been noted in p.ns. Sandred 1963:71–3 has further examples and discussion of each type, noting that in most cases ‘the context in the charters indicates situations on rivers’.

The fact that in the small collection below there are four examples qualified by ald might undermine the structure of the analysis ‘(site of) the old mill’ offered in L:4:76 but still leaves us wondering what precisely a recurring ‘old mill-site’ implies – long-established or disused?

(b) Melledest (f.n.) 1220 C:345, Millstede (f.n.) 1513 W:447, the Milnestede (f.n.) 1250–1300 Ch:4:5, Milnestede (f.n.) 1415 Db:607.

(c) Holdemilneste (f.n.) l.12th [e.13th] L:4:76, le Oldemulnestude (f.n.; Holdemilneste c.1303) Ch:3:227, Oldemulnestude 1365 Ch:3:242 (ald), ald mylnstede spornes (f.n.) 1379 Du:1:74 (ald, with *spurn), Bihouerthwertmilneste (f.n.) 1322 Lt:3:117 (bí, over-thwert), Alwomilneste (f.n.) 1322 Lt:3:116, Baldewynemylneste (f.n.) 1270 Nth:290 [cf. Ashley 1979:37] (OE pers. n. 2 or derived surname).

- myln. stede.

MED –; EDD –; OED-2-3 –; DES –.

**myln-weard** OE, m. ‘miller’ (literally, and originally, ‘mill-keeper’) glosses molendarus and molendinarius vel molinarius (BT). It is sometimes difficult to distinguish from milnere, e.g. Mulleners Tenement 1649 (also Milliners- 1654) Ch:4:104 (tenement).

There is no firm geographical boundary between areas that employ myln-weard and those favouring milnere, but a broad pattern is discernable, the former showing more strongly south and west of a line from Cheshire through Derbyshire to Essex, and the latter stronger to the north and east of that line. This p.n. distribution accords with the abundant ME surname evidence as set out by Fransson:56 (Milner) & 57 (Muleward). The surnames are so frequent as to inevitably appear in some p.ns, for instance Millward’s Park (cf. Millwardesfeld 1468) Hrt:129 (feld) is associated with the family of Henry Millward 1599, and Millward Croft (f.n.) 1842 Db:411 (croft) with one Mary Millward 1829. In the case of Milwards Meadow (f.n.; Le Milwards Medowe 1539–40, with the definite article) Sa:3:29 (mèd) it is noteworthy that one Thomas Millward was renting a mill in the parish in 1428–9.

On formal grounds a *mule-ward* might sometimes be a confusable (cf. mûl), though one hopes that in reality there was no call for such an occupation.

(a) le Mulewardes acres (f.n.) c.1300 O:268 (ãecer), Millewarde breche (f.n.) 13th Lt:3:282 (bréč), Milnewaresforlonge (f.n.) 1327 Db:628 (furlang), Milwardlond (f.n.) 1461 Do:1:238, Milwardlsld (f.n.) 1325 Sx:560, Myllwards Lands (f.n.) 1585–6 Sa:3:191 (land), le Melwardeslane (st.n. High Easter) 1359 Ess:481 (lane), Mulewardestrete (st.n. Bermondsey) n.d. Šr:17 (strêč), Mullards Wood (f.n.) 1747 Sa:2:144 (wudu).

(b) Millards (f.n.; Millwards 1673) Sr:394.

- myln. weard.

MED milne-ward s.v. milne n.; EDD – (cf. various -d forms s.v. miller); OED-2 millward; OED-3 millward n.; DES Millward.
ge-myðe OE, n. ‘junction’, chiefly ‘river confluence’, often appears in the plural (in effect ‘the mouths’). Senses discernible in OE boundaries include a meeting of enclosures in to hægæ gemyðum S:578 Brk:647–8 (haga’) and a meeting of ways in to þære wega gemyðan S:411 Brk:671–3 (weg). Gelling suggests ‘crossroads’ for of þæs gemyðan S:1001 O:316 as ‘junction of streams’ does not suit the topography. Identification of boundary points clearly shows ‘river confluence’ to be the commonest sense, as in æt þam gemyðum, of þæm gemyðan S:1540 Brk:704–5, to þam gemyðan S:179 Gl:2–28, in to þam gemyðan S:508 So [ASCh:13–7], to þæm gemyðan S:892? Wa:144, into þære gemyðe S:1036 Ess:135 (see Kitson 1990:216–17 on this unique feminine form), and to þæs cinges gemyðan S:414 Gl:3–64 [ASCh:13–5] (with cyning, a rare qualified instance of ge-myðe in the sense ‘river confluence’). Sometimes more than two rivers are involved, as at Mytham Bridge (NGR SK 2082) Db where Overdale Brook and the Nce both join the Derwent, and at Mytholme Cottage (NGR SK 1814) St where the Tame and Mease both join the Trent, but this is not usually the case.

Kitson (forthcoming:§6.19.1) discusses variation between ge-myðe and mūða in cases such as of temede gemyðan ... in temede mūðan S:142 Wo (r.n. Teme), and the development of a blend-form myðe, indicative of the process of obsolescence of ge-myðe.

The range of generics qualified by ge-myðe is very limited, with ford (cf. on myþ ford S:500 Brk:643–4) and tūn recurring. The word qualifies lēah in on Gemyðlege S:1441 Gl:1–116, which may or may not shed light on the difficult name Myddle (Mulleth 1086, Muthla 1121, Muhle, Mude 1242, Middell 1272, Medle 1308, Mytley 1421) Sa:1–216–17 [in DEPN as MIDDLE], whose spellings do not entirely preclude a doublet in lēah but are hardly compelling. Gelling’s cautious proposal of an OE diminutive *ge-mýdel ‘miniature stream-junction’ is accepted as a possibility by Mills 2003 and CDEPN. The topography is problematic in either case. We might throw into the mix the curious atte Middele (surn.) 1327 So [DES s.n. Middle, and MELS:132 with further forms], explained as probably ‘dweller in the middle (of the village, or between two more important places)’ (see middel), but conceivably from *ge-mýdel.

Among the simplex names the dative plural -um frequently survives, more so in the north than the south, often with an inorganic l in modern forms which is probably modelled on names in holm. The development to Maythorn Wo seems to be a folk-etymological one-off.

The preponderance of ME e spellings for meeth D and meethe Barton D has led a succession of commentators to derive them from mæð (dat mæðe) ‘mowing, hay-land’ (Blomé 1929:42 & 74, D:98–9 & 347, Wilson 1958:424, CDEPN), admittedly a genuine confusible, but Ekwall 1936a:115–18 points out that there are junctions of streams at both places and convincingly demonstrates that e for OE y following a labial consonant is a common feature in various parts of England.

In the following list, local topography offers clear support for ‘river confluence’ in every case except a handful whose exact location is unknown.

MYTON (Mytun 1033 [12th] S:967) Wa:265, MYTON (Mitun 1086) YE:213,
MYTON-ON-SWALE (et nyðume [sic], mytun 972–92 [11th] S:1453) YN:23,
MYTTON (Muton 1086) 1086 Sa:1:227 (tūn).

(b) Maythorn (Myethen 1586) Wo:55, Meath Green (atte Mathe (surn.)
1315) Sr:294, MEETH (Meda 1086, Meðe 1176, la Methe 1259) D:98–9,
MEETHE Barton (la Methe 1249) D:347, the Mytham (the Mitham where
the two river meet 1689) St [Horovitz 2005:390], la Mutha c,1230 [15th]
Wo:220, la Mathe (f.n.) 13th Wo:205 n., le Muthom 1413–22 La:142,
Mytholme Cottage (the Mytham 1601) St [Horovitz 2005:403 as
Mythaholme], MYTHAM BRIDGE (Mythom 1285) Db:39, Mythams alias
Muthams (f.n.) 16th St [Horovitz 2005:403], THE MYTHE (Muthe 1221,
Mithe 1287) GL:2:65, The Mythe (Mutha(m) 1287, le Maythe 1249, Mithe
1488) Lei [Cox 1971:541], Mythe Hill (Methe 1423) Do [Mills
1986:112], Mytheholme 1664 St [Horovitz 2005:403], Mytholm
(Mythome 1545) YW:3:135, Mytholm (the Mythome 1615) YW:3:189,
Mytholm Bridge (Mithomwode 1492, Mithambrigg 1709) YW:2:272,
Mytholme (f.n.: in þa myðan, of þam gemyðan 1009 S:922?) Db:500,
Mytholme (le Mythome 1512) YW:3:275, Mytholme Bridge 20th
YW:2:316, Mytholme Bridge (Mithom 1369) YW:3:92, Mytholme Lodge
20th La:142, Mytholmes (Mythomes 1639, Mytham Lane 1722)
YW:3:262, MYTHOLMROYD (le Mithomrode 1286–1323) YW:3:159 (with
*rodu), the Mythome 1551 La:142.

(c) ?Yeamethe (f.n.) 1575 Gl:3:46 (?œa), Trouden Mithum 1356 La:142
(p.n.), Loud Mytham (Lowdmythō 1614, Lowd Mytham 1677) La:142
(r.n.).

~ collective form, with i-mutation, based on mūða; cf. the
 corresponding ON mynni and OHG gimunti both well evidenced in the
sense 'river confluence' (Stahl 1950:74–5).