



STAFFORDSHIRE PLACE-NAMES AND THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

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STAFFORDSHIRE PLACE-NAMES AND THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. What are place-names and how do they work? Where to find out more about them.

2. What can place-names tell us about the rural environment?

WHAT ARE PLACE-NAMES?

Lapley

➤ *Lepelie* 1086, *Lapeleia* 1200

- Pers.n. **Hlæppa* or Old English *lappa* 'edge' + *lēah* 'open woodland', perhaps 'open woodland on the edge (of the district)'

Penkridge

➤ *Pennocrucio* 4th c., *Pencric* 858 (?958), 11th, *Pancriz* 1086

- Brittonic **penno-* 'head, end' + **crūco-* '(abrupt) hill'

Rodbaston

➤ *Redbaldestone* 1086

- OE pers.n. **Rædbald* + *tūn* 'farm or estate of Redbald'



IMPORTANCE OF EARLY FORMS

Amerton (near
Stowe)

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OE pers.n. *Eanberht* + *tūn* ‘estate or farm of Eanberht’

➤ *Aunbriton, Ambrihiton* 1230

➤ *Embricton* c.1300

➤ *Ambrighton* 1309

➤ *Ambrython* 1349

➤ *Amarton* 1539

(see Horovitz 2005, 85)

PLACE-NAMES OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Countywide works:

- D. Horovitz, *The Place-Names of Staffordshire* (Brewood, 2005)
- W.H. Duignan, *Notes on Staffordshire Place-Names* (London, 1902)

National dictionaries

- E. Ekwall, *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th ed. (Oxford, 1960)
- D. Mills, *Oxford Dictionary of British Place-Names* (Oxford, 2003)
- V. Watts, *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Cambridge, 2004)

WHAT ABOUT MINOR NAMES?

pudding Croft

Med butts

Butterbank

Halditch c.1725

Ashcroft Hole 1738

Shirleywich

Hertimaux leasow c.1725

Tomty willy [sic], Tomty wilty c.1725

PLACE-NAMES OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Detailed county survey:

- J. Oakden, *The Place-Names of Staffordshire Part 1* (EPNS, 1984)
- Cuttlestone Hundred only

BASWICH OR BERKSWICH

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WALTON, *Waletona* 1086 DB, *Waletona* c. 1166 StCart, *Waleton* 1199 Ass, 1200 Cur to 1236 FF (p), *Walton* 1285 Ch *et passim* to 1577 Wills, 1585 *Comm* to 1836 O, *Walton super Canoke* 1326 StThomas, *Walton under Canocke* 1587 QSR, 'the farmstead of the Welshmen', v. walh, tūn.

BARNFIELDS, 1836 O, 'the fields with a barn', v. VCH v, 4. BASWICH BRIDGE & LANE. BROCC HILL, 1836 ib, 'hill frequented by the badger', v. brocc, hyll. BROCTON LANE. BUILDINGS FM. CHASE COVERT, with ref. to Cannock Chase. CHERRY TREE SLADE (local), 1821 *Map*, v. slæd 'valley'. THE CHIMES. CONGREVE HO (local), with ref. to Sir Wm Congreve. CREMORNE. CROSSFIELDS. GREENFIELDS COTTAGE. GREEN WICKET SLADE (local), 1821 *Map*. HANGMAN'S OAK (local), 1821 *ib*. HARTS HILL, v. heort, hyll. HAYWOOD WARREN (local), 1821 *Map* v. wareine 'game preserve'. HOBLEY WOOD SLADE, cf. *Hobbely Hill* 1570 *Surrey*, *Hobb Hill* 1847 *TA*, v. hobb(e), leah. HOLDFORD BRIDGE, 'ford in a hollow', v. hol², ford, with brycg. THE HOLE, v. hol¹ 'hollow'. THE HOME FM. HORSE HILLS (local), 1821 *Map*. LODGEFIELD BRIDGE. LONG MERE, 'the long lake', v. lang, mere¹. MAIDEN'S OAK (local), 1821 *ib*. MILFORD, 1836 O, *Millford* 1775 Yates, v. myln, ford. MILFORD COTTAGE, 1836 O. MILFORD COMMON, 1821 *Deed*. MILFORD HALL, 1771, 1810 *Deeds*, 1836 O. MILFORD HO & LODGE, 1880 Kelly. NEAR CROSS. NEW LANE. OAT HILL, 1836 O, v. âte, hyll. OLDACRE LANE, v. sub Brocton. POOL LANE (local). THE PUNCH BOWL. RADFORD, 1836 ib, 'ford suitable for riding over', v. rād, ford. RADFORD BRIDGE, 1775 Yates, perhaps a bridge replacing the old ford. RADFORD RISE, v. hrīs 'brushwood'. RODD FM (local), v. rod¹. ST THOMAS BRIDGE, named from St Thomas's Priory, Staff. SAND PIT. SATNALL HILLS, 1686 Plot, 1836 O. SAWPIT LANE (local). THE SEVEN STEPS, 1836 ib. SHAWMS (FM), possibly a place where shawm players traditionally played. UPPER & MIDDLE SHERBROOK, 1821 *Map*, v. scīr, brōc. SPRING HILL, v. spring 'copse'. STAFFORD LODGES. STOCKTON FM, v. supra. STOCKTON LANE. STONEFORD BRIDGE. SYCAMORE HILL, 1821 *Map*. TOWNHILLS, *The Town hills* 1836 ib, v. tūn, hyll. WALTON BURY, v. beorg 'hill'. WALTON FM. WALTON LODGE, 1836 ib. WALTON MEAD (FM), v.

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mād. WALTON ON THE HILL, 1812 RegDiss. WEEPING CROSS, 1668 ParReg, 1775 Yates, 1836 O; according to tradition a wooden cross for penitentiary purposes stood here in the reign of Edward VI, v. VCH v, 2. WEEPING CROSS FM & HO. WHITE LODGE.

FIELD-NAMES

The undated forms in (a) are 1847 *TA*, except where stated, and those dated 1570 are *Survey*; the undated forms in (b) are 1570 *Survey*, those dated 1199, c 13th, 13th are StThomas, 1585 *Comm*.

(a) Ashmore (v. aesc, mōr¹); Blacknall Fd (v. blæc (blacan wk. obl.), halh); the Bomb (perhaps 'field where a meteorite fell' from *bomb* NED); Bonfire Hill (i.e. 'bonfire'); Bow Headlands (v. boga, hēafodland); Bushmore (*Byshmere* 1570, 'a mere with bushes', v. (ge)bysce, mere¹); Chapel Hill & Lsw; Church Bank; Coat Lsw (v. cot(e), lās (dat. sg. lāswe) as elsewhere in this par.); Cocks Fd (v. cocc¹ or ²); Crabb Tree; Deep Moor Mdw (v. mōr¹ 'marshy land' or mere¹ 'pool'); Filfords (perhaps 'ford(s) over which hay was carried', v. fileðe, ford); Finger Dale (v. dæl¹); Froggall Lsw (v. frogga, hol¹); Gt Bingham (perhaps v. bing, hamm); Green Gore (v. grēne¹, gāra); Halfpenny Butts (*Halfpeny buttes* 1570); Hammer Stone Flat ('flat piece of ground with a rocky stone cliff', v. hamor (ii), stān, flat); Hanging Hill (v. hangende, hyll); Gt Hen Coop; High Lows (*Hyelowes; the hye loue fflate* 1570, v. hēah, hlāw, flat); Nr & Far Hough Fd (v. hōh); Hunts Lsw (cf. *Huntes mede & mede fflate* 1570, v. hunta, mād or surn. Hunt); Mill Croft; Mill Dam Fd (*mylledame fflate* 1570, v. myln, damm, flat); Nr & Far Milford Lsw (cf. *Mylleforde fflate, Milforde wichale* 1570, v. myln, ford, with flat and wīce, halh); Plumb Tree Stile (cf. *Plumtre stile fflate* 1570, v. plūm-trēow, stigel); Poultry Yd; School Lsw 1778 *Deed*; Shackleford (v. sc(e)acol, ford); Sitch Mdw (v. sīc); Stockton Croft (*Stocton ffield* 1570, *Stockton meadowe* 1585 *Comm*); Stoneford Mdw (v. stān, ford); Stonepit Bingham (cf. *supra*); Swallows Moor (*Swallowes more* 1570, v. swalwe, mōr¹); Townsend Pce (cf. *Townsend(e) fflate* 1570, v. tūn, ende); Vicar's Mdw (*the Vicars mede* 1570); Nr, Middle & Far Wetreins (v. wēt, reinn).

(b) *Birchyns heys* (v. bircen, (ge)hæg); *Blackewellfelde* (v. blæc, wella, feld); *Black Haddlond* (v. blæc (blacan wk. obl.), hēafodland); *Bradewey*, -ncei 1199 to 13th (v. brād, weg); *the brende hill* (v. brende², hyll); *Brode mede* (v. brād, mād); *Bromy-*, *Broomley fflate* (v. brōmīg, flat); *Bronhill fflate* (v. brand); *Crowthorne fflate*, over *Crowthorne* (v. crāwe, porn, cf. Craythorne K 584 which has identical forms); *Crosexwall gate* (v. cros, wælla, geat); *Croseye yate* (v. cros, weg, geat); *Dep(pe)dale* 1576 (v. dēop, dæl¹); *Depedale shorte fflate*; *Dunstall feld* (v. tūn-stall, feld); *Dunstall fflate*; *Emedue* c 13th (v. ēa, mād); *ffoxeclove* 1585 (v. fox, clof(a)); *Foxholwei* 1199 (v. fox, hol¹, weg); *Fyshepole fflate* (v. fisc, pōl¹); *ffyshepole greve fflate* (v. grāfe); *Gorstylhill flat* (v. gorstig); *le halgh* 13th StThomas (v. halh); *Hartebettes fflate* (v. heort, butte);

PLACE-NAMES OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Detailed county survey:

- J. Oakden, *The Place-Names of Staffordshire Part 1* (EPNS, 1984)

Place-Names of Staffordshire project (University of Nottingham, Prof. Jayne Carroll)

- 42,400 forms collected so far!
- with thanks to all those involved in the project, especially the volunteers at Stafford Record Office and Lichfield
- thanks also to Matthew Blake, Jennifer Lewis and Melanie Williamson



The screenshot shows the website for the 'Place-Names of England: Staffordshire Pilot Project' at the University of Nottingham. The page header includes the University of Nottingham logo and navigation links: Home, Search, Map, Place-Names, Sources, and Contact. A user is logged in as 'John Baker'. The main content area features the project title and introductory text: 'Place-Names of England is a tool to collect and view place-names recorded by volunteers across England. The early stages of the website will be collecting the place-names of Staffordshire. Please note that the data collected on this site has yet to be interpreted. Everyone is free to browse and search for Staffordshire place-names in this site, using the Search and Map pages. If you would like to volunteer to record place-names, please register on the website. When the website supervisor has confirmed your account, you will be able to log in and start recording place-names.' Below this is a section titled 'Adding and editing place-names' with instructions: 'Place-names are added and edited on the "Place-names dashboard" page (which is only available once you have logged in). This will show any place-names you have already entered. Records that have not yet been validated by the supervisor can be edited, and you can record new place-names using the "Create New" button.' At the bottom of the page is a photograph of a black metal signpost with several wooden directional signs. The visible signs are labeled 'CANNOCK', 'NORTON CANES', and 'LICHFIELD'.

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about landscape and soil quality:

- *Slade field* 1714, *Sladefield* 1718, 1722 (Lapley), OE *slæd* 'valley', sometimes used of flat, marshy ground
- *The Marsh* c.1725 (Penkridge)
- Littleholme Field 1864 (Penkridge), ON *holmr* 'island', later used of land by water
- Pudding Croft 1824 (Penkridge)
- Butterbank 1857 (Penkridge)



<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/news/wildlife-thriving-at-cambridgeshire-fenland-oasis>

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about
flora:

- Big Ling Plantation 1853
(Norbury)
- *Fernifurlong* 1305-1306 (Colwich)
- *Ffarndale flat* 1698 (Elford)
- *Gosty Leasow* 1755 (Lapley)



Calluna Vulgaris (Ling), by Aqwis (Wikimedia Commons)

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about flora:

- *(Ye) Bent Meadow* 1741, 1824 (Leek)
 - OE *beonet* 'bent-grass, course grass'
- *Little Rushy Hurst* 1779 (Hanchurch in Trentham)
- *grassy furlonge* 1612 (Grindon)
- *Claver grass close* n.d. (Blithfield)



A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about flora:

- Near wheat riding, Farther wheat riding
1810 (Penkrige)
- *Oat leasow* c.1725 (Penkrige)
- *Rye furlong* c.1725 (Penkrige)
- *Barley Dole* c.1750 (Alstonfield)



Hordeum Vulgare (barley), by Jurema Oliveira (Wikimedia Commons)

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about flora:

- Ash Meadow 1810 (Penkridge), *Ashcroft Hole* 1738 (Kinvaston)
- *le Olleresshawe* 1340 (Abbots Bromley), OE *alor* 'alder' + *sceaga* 'small wood'
- Oak flat, Near oak flat 1810, *The oake fflatt* c.1725 (Penkridge)
- Crab Pool Piece 1777 (Kingswinford), *Crabtree thinge* 1585 (Longdon)
- Sweet aple meadow c.1725 (Penkridge)

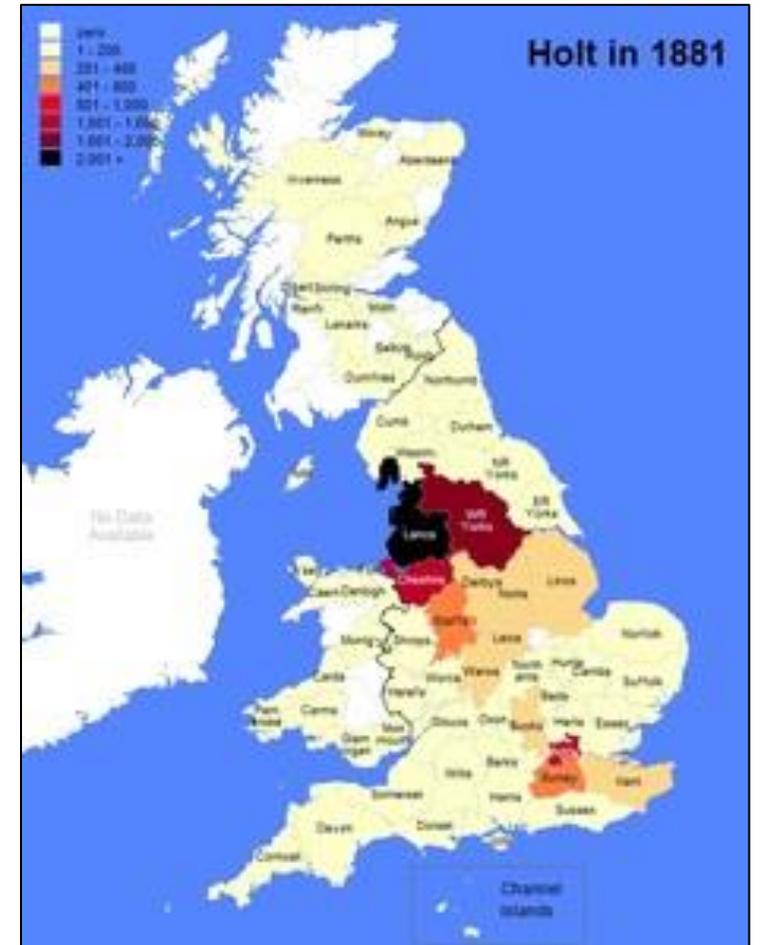


Crabapple blossom (with a peacock butterfly)

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about organisation of landscape:

- Grass Copsy 1698 (Hamstall Ridware), ME *copeis*
- Shaw 1810 (Penkridge), OE *sceaga* ‘small wood’
- Big Spongreave 1853 (Gnosall) OE *spōn* ‘wood shaving’ or perhaps ‘wooden shingle tile’, OE *græfe* ‘grove’
- Holt meadow c.1725 (Penkridge), ModE dial. ‘wood, grove’ (EDD) or surname?

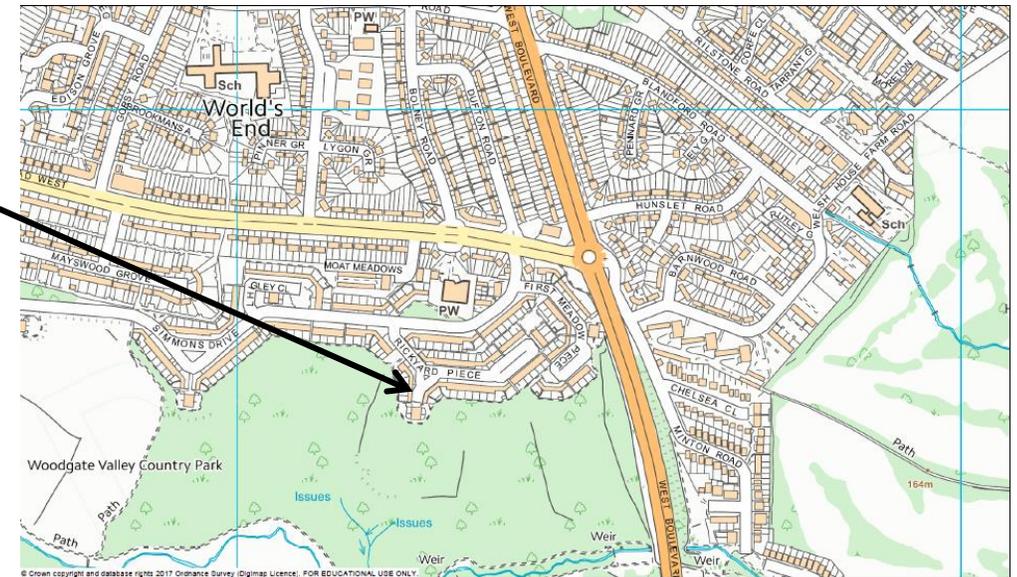


Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about organisation of landscape:

- Cross leasow 1810 (Penkridge)
- Dovehouse meadow c.1725, Dove house meadow 1810 (Penkridge)
- Rickyard Piece (Harborne), ModE *rick* 'heap or stack of hay'
- Intake 1868 (Harborne), 'land taken in for cultivation'
- Great Innage 1868 (Harborne), ME *inheche* 'intake'
- Reddings 1868 (Harborne), OE **ryding* 'clearing'
- Pool Britch, Dykes Britch, Gorsty Britch 1868 (Harborne), OE *bryce* 'land broken up for cultivation' (OE **gorstig* 'abounding with gorse')

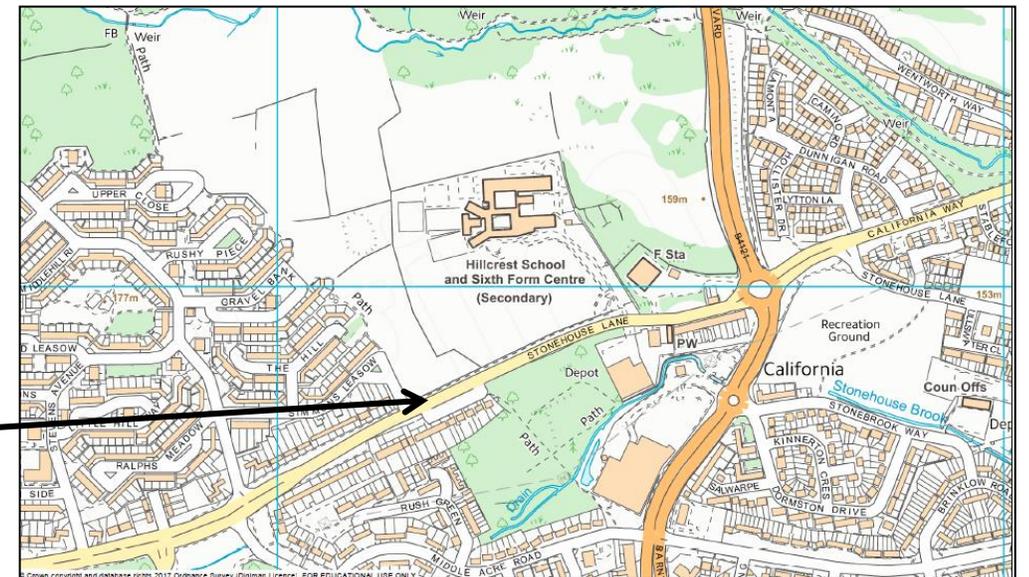


Modern map of part of Harborne parish

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about buildings:

- Shop Leasow 19th (Harborne), OE scop 'workshop'
- Stable Croft 19th (Harborne)
- *The mill house* c.1725 (Penkridge)
- *coat leasow, (another) coat leasow* 1725; Cote leasow, Big cote leasow, Little cote leasow 1810 (Penkridge), OE cot 'hut'
- Barn croft 1810 (Penkridge)
- Stone House Meadow 1868 (Harborne), compare Stonehouse Lane



Modern map of part of Harborne parish

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about animals and animal enclosures:

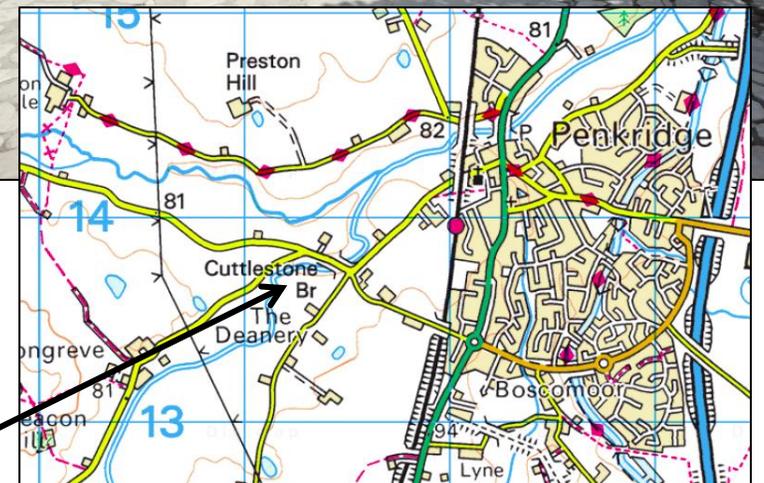
- *Hogsdale* c.1725, Hogs dale 1810 (Penkridge)
- Big oxbays 1809 (Trentham), OE *oxa* + *(ge)hæg* 'ox enclosure'
- The Shippon Barn 19th (Biddulph), ModE dial. *shippen* (OE *scype*) 'cowshed'
- *le Wolfputtes Wey* 1297-8 (Wolverhampton)



A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about animals and animal enclosures:

- *Horseholm* 1376-7 (Penkridge), OE *hors* + *holm* 'low-lying land next to a river'
- Lower horsbrooke, Hors brooke leasow c.1725, Horse brook meadow, Horse brooks 1810 (Penkridge)
- *The lower/middle/upper steadfolds* c.1725 (Penkridge), perhaps identical with *Stodfolds* 1652; OE *stōd-fald* 'enclosure for a stud of horses'

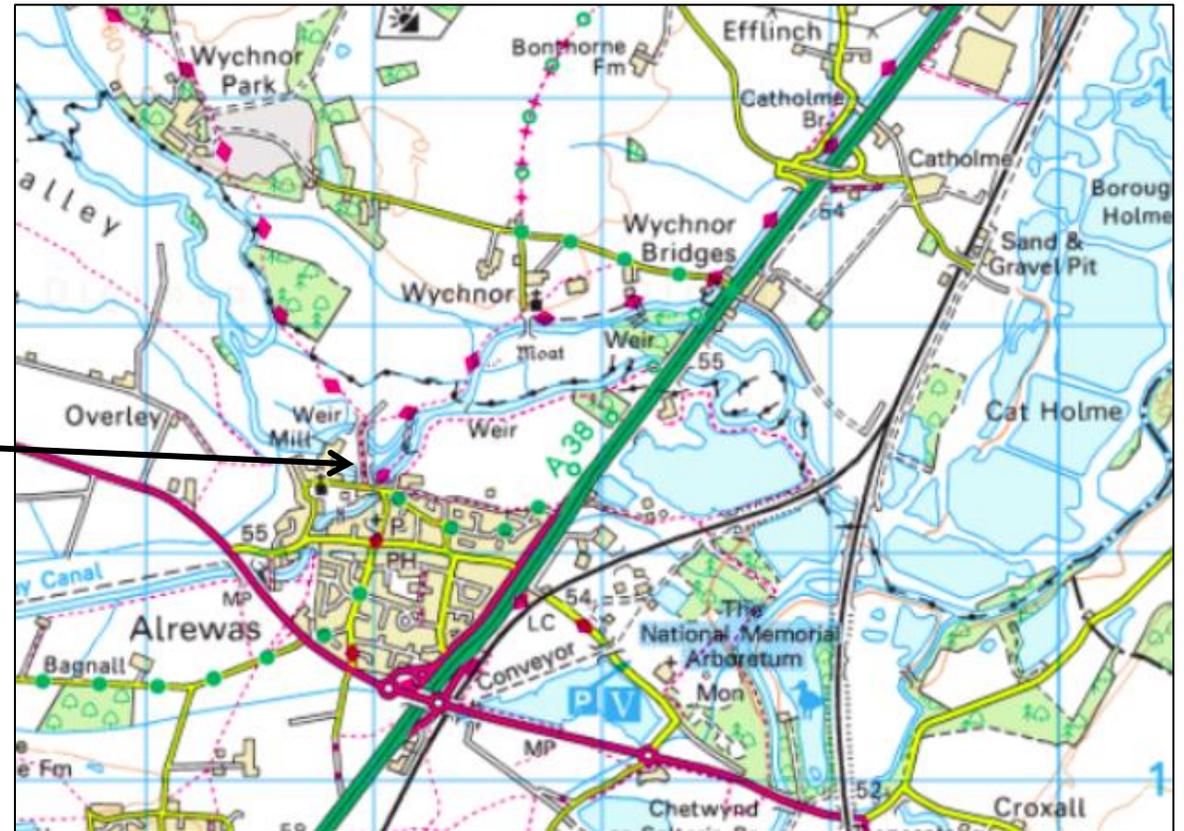


Cuttlestone Bridge – site of medieval meeting-place

A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about rural activities:

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- Statfold 1840, *Stoffold* 1332 (Alrewas)
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A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about rural activities:

- Catholme (early medieval high status residence)
- Statfold 1840, *Stoffold* 1332 (Alrewas)
- Spellow 1840, from OE *spell* 'speech' + OE *hlāw*, ON *haugr* 'mound', or OE *hōh* 'hill-spur'



A RECORD OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Minor names tell us about rural activities:

- Catholme (early medieval high status residence)
- Statfold 1840, *Stoffold* 1332 (Alrewas)
- Spellow 1840, from OE *spell* 'speech' + OE *hlāw*, ON *haugr* 'mound', or OE *hōh* 'hill-spur'
- *Plawestude* (1327–8), OE *pleg-stede* 'place of sport (or entertainment)'





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