

NOTES

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARISH NAMES: SOME AMENDMENTS

This note is to correct some of the definitions of parish names which appeared in the appendix to my paper in *Records of Bucks*, 40, pp. 68-9. The necessity for conciseness in the original meant that some names were interpreted in a way which was too definite, given the current state of research. Almost all relate to names in which the qualifying element is a personal name. I have set out below the relevant parishes, together with a brief statement of the most likely (or in some cases, possible) meaning, which should supersede those in *Records*, 40. Adjustments will also need to be made to the tables in the body of the paper, and these are summarised below.

Saunderton: First element is unclear, may be pers. name Sandhere, or OE **sængde treo*, 'burned tree/blasted by lightning'. Second element is *dun*, 'hill'.

Winchendon: First element may be from OE *winca*, 'bend', or *wince*, 'reel, roller, pulley', used in some topographical sense, or from pers. name Wineca.

Horsenden: Spellings are mixed; may be from either *denu*, 'valley', or *dun*, 'hill': the topography fits either. First element probably 'horse', rather than pers. name.

Soulbury: First element may be OE *sulh*, 'plough', or pers. name Sula.

Pitchcott: First element may be OE *pic*, 'pitch, resin', although it is difficult to see what the context might be, unless the cottages were noted for the collection of resin.

Hitcham: May be from Huhha, rather than Hycga, and hence not related to Hughenden.

Akeley: First element may be OE *ac*, 'oak tree',

hence 'oak-tree wood or clearing'.

Charndon: First element may be a Celtic hill-name, *Carn*, related to the modern word 'cairn'. In this case, it would be another of the group of pre-English names surviving in NW Bucks.

Poundon: First element perhaps not known, rather than a pers. name.

Missenden: First element possibly *mysse*, some type of water plant, growing in the headwaters of the Misbourne.

Turville: First element OE *þyrre*, 'dry', hence 'dry area of open land'.

Chalfont: First element OE *cealf*, 'calf', hence 'calf spring'.

Assuming that all of the above changes are made, then the figures in Table 1 of the original paper should read:

Personal + Habitative	29
Personal + Topographical	39
Qualifier + Habitative	60
Qualifier + Topographical	71
Group names	2

In Table 4, 1 needs to be subtracted from the *tun* line of entry and 1 added to that for *dun*.

On the revised basis, 70 parish names have personal name qualifiers (35%), compared with 78 in the original analysis (39%), which makes the significance of non-personal qualifying elements even greater than at first appeared to be the case.

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