**THE ENGLISH PROJECT**

# Location Lingo  - the names on our maps

Welcome to English Language Day 2010, when we are looking at, and listening to, the Language of Place – your place.

From the collection of the Hampshire Archives, we have assembled maps from the last 200 years, and we want you to think about place-names, why they are what they are, why they might have changed, and how places might be named in future.  As an example, look at the map of the estate at Beaulieu, on the edge of the New Forest, and the list of place-names alongside it. (p4)

The maps from the archives are very different from each other – why do you think they were made?

What do they mainly show?

Can you see any names you recognise now?

Are there any names you wouldn't use now?



**Why French Street?**

Are there any places you now call something else?

On the next page you'll find a list of some place-name origins. Can you find any places on the maps that use these names, or parts of names?

| | |
|---|---|
| **Find names that show ownership by**<br><br>**PEOPLE** | **Find names that might indicate**<br><br>**SIZE or IMPORTANCE** |
| **Find names that indicate features in the**<br><br>**LANDSCAPE** | **Find names with a RELIGIOUS connection** |

*In what ways have maps changed since these examples were made? What sort of maps do you use now?*

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY 13 OCT**

# Some notes to help you, and some new ( or old) words for you…..

**Etymology** – the study of changes in the meaning of words

**Toponymy** – the study of place names, their origin and meaning

Our oldest place names are linked to **landscapes**, the **type** of places where people lived, and the **tribes or families** who lived there. So, Fulbrook, from Old English *ful* and *broc* = a foul or dirty brook; Chesil Street, Old English *cyse,* or *ciese* = cheese + (later) Hill = place where the Cheese Fair was held; Basingstoke = an outlying farmstead (stoke) of the family or followers of a man called *Basa.*

The English language, and therefore the place names in the United Kingdom, reflects the languages of invaders and migrants who settled here over the centuries. Here are some examples:

| Invaders | Historical period | Where they came from | Examples of place names or components |
|---|---|---|---|
| Celts | 400BC | Central and northern Europe, from where they spread north, and into England via Wales and Scotland | Aber – mouth of a river Coombe – deep valley Glen – narrow valley |
| Romans | 43AD-410 AD | From Rome, Italy, this great empire spread across much of Europe. Julius Caesar tried to invade Britain twice in 55 and 54BC, but it was Emperor Claudius who successfully invaded and established Roman ruled after AD41 | Castra/chester/caster – a town or fort  Strata/strat/street – the roman road  Colonia/coln – a settlement |
| Anglo-Saxons (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes) | 449AD | Northern Germany, Denmark and Northern Holland | Dun – a hill          Ham – a homestead Leah/leigh/ley – a clearing in a wood Burn/borne – a stream |
| Vikings (Norsemen) | 789AD | Norway, Sweden, and Denmark  The Vikings were more settled in the north of England, so these place name origins are more common there | By – a farm, or later, a village Dalr – a dale or valley Holmr/holm – flat ground by a river Thveit/thwaite – a meadow |
| Normans | 1066AD | Northern France | Less influence on place names than on the language in general. But some Normans acquired manors, and gave their names to them |

In turn, migrants from the UK took place names with them abroad eg.  Wellington, New York.

# Hampshire Placenames and their Meanings

**Why is Hampshire sometimes called Hants?**

"Hampshire" is often abbreviated in written form to "Hants" and which sometimes gives rise to puzzlement. The abbreviated form is derived from the Old English Hantum plus Scir (meaning a district governed from the settlement now known as Southampton) and the Anglo-Saxons called it Hamtunshire. At the time of the Domesday Book (1086) this was compressed to Hantescire.

## Placenames
Where a place was recorded at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, the code "DB" has been added, and the earliest recorded spelling of the place is highlighted by italics.

- **Aldershot** - Halreshet 1171. "Projecting piece of land where alders grow".
- **Alresford** - Alresforda 701, Alresforde 1086 (DB). "Alder-tree ford"
- **Alton** - Aultone DB. "Farmstead at the source of a river."
- **Andover** - Anderferas 955, Andovere DB. "(Place by) the ash-tree waters".
- **Basingstoke** - Basingastoc 990, Basingestoches DB. "Secondary settlement or outlying farmstead of the family or followers of a man called "Basa"".
- **Bishop's Waltham** - Waltham DB. "Homestead or village in a forest". Affix from its early possession by the Bishop of Winchester.
- **Brockenhurst** - Broceste DB. "wooded hill of a man called "Broca"". Alternatively the first element could be from Old English brocen "broken up, undulating".
- **Eastleigh** - East lea 932. "East wood or clearing".
- **Emsworth** - Emeleswurth 1224. "Enclosure of a man called Æmele"
- **Fareham** - Fearnham 970. "Homestead where ferns grow."
- **Farnborough** - Ferneberga DB. "Hill(s) or mound(s) growing with ferns".
- **Fleet** - Flete 1313. "(place at) the stream, pool or creek".
- **Fordingbridge** - Fordingebrige DB. "Bridge of the people living by the ford".
- **Gosport** - Goseport 1250. "Market town where geese are sold."
- **Havant** - Hamanfuntan 935. "Spring of a man called Hama".
- **Hayling Island** - Heglingaigæ 956. "Island of the family or followers of a man called Hægel".
- **Liphook** Leophok 1364. Probably "angle of land by the deer-leap or steep slope".
- **Liss** - Lis DB. "A court, chief house in a district".
- **Lymington** -.Lentune DB. Probably "farmstead on a river called Limen."
- **Lyndhurst** -.Linhest DB. "Wooded hill growing with lime trees".
- **Petersfield** - Peteresfield 1182. Probably "(settlement at) the open land with a church dedicated to St Peter".
- **Portsmouth** - Portesmuthan (late 9th century). "Mouth of the harbour".
- **Romsey** - Rummæsig 970. "Island, or dry ground in marsh, of a man called Rum".
- **Southsea** Southsea Castle c1600. Self-explanatory. The present place grew up around the castle built by Henry VIII in 1540.
- **Southampton** - Suthamtunam 962, Hantone DB. "Estate on a promontory". See also origins of Hampshire.
- **Stockbridge** - Stocbrugge 1221. "Bridge made of logs".
- **Waterlooville** Named in 1815 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.
- **Whitchurch** - Hwitancyrce 909. "White church", that is, probably "stone-built church".
- **Winchester** - Ouenta c150, Uintancæstir c730, Wincestre DB. "Roman town called Venta.
- **Yateley** – Yatele 1248. "woodland clearing with or near a gate or gap