

THE ANGLO-SAXON CHARTER BOUNDS OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT PART 1: THE WEST MEDINE

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Abstract

This paper is the first of a two-part study of the Anglo-Saxon charter bounds of the Isle of Wight. The aims of the study are outlined, being primarily the reconstruction of the landscape in the later Anglo-Saxon period. A catalogue of charters relating to the Isle of Wight is provided and charters with reliable topographical information selected for study. Charters defining estates in the western half of the Island are examined: Ningwood, Atherfield, Watchingwell and Calbourne. The charter bounds are located in the modern landscape, inferences made about the Anglo-Saxon landscape, and bounds related to Domesday manors. The study of Calbourne concludes with an analysis of links between estates in mainland England and the Isle of Wight. A further paper will examine the charter bounds and landscape of the eastern half of the Island and will relate the charter evidence to a wider picture of the landscape in the later Anglo-Saxon period.

Introduction

Before the advent of maps, an area of land making up an estate was often defined by a description of the topographical features along its boundary. This was common practice in the Anglo-Saxon period, particularly in the tenth and eleventh centuries. A charter documented a grant of land, or a confirmation of a grant, which was issued by the king and witnessed by the leading men of the realm. It was usually a Latin document to which was appended a boundary clause written in Old English. The boundary clauses of pre-Conquest land charters provide contemporary evidence for features in the landscape of Anglo-Saxon England. The Isle of Wight is fortunate in having ten sets of such Old English charter bounds. These form the basis of this study of the later Anglo-Saxon landscape of the Island.

The aims of the study are as follows:

1. To publish the Old English texts of all the charter boundary clauses relating to the Isle of Wight and to provide accurate modern English translations made by the author with assistance from Dr Margaret Gelling;
2. To define Anglo-Saxon estates in the modern landscape through identifying the boundary features mentioned in charter boundary clauses wherever possible;
3. To use the boundary clauses of charters as evidence for the appearance of the landscape of each estate in the later Anglo-Saxon period;
4. To relate the areas of later Anglo-Saxon estates to the manors of Domesday Book, and
5. To examine connections between mainland estates and estates on the Isle of Wight from the evidence of Anglo-Saxon charters and Domesday Book.

The present paper will present the evidence for the western half of the Isle of Wight (S 543, ECW 103, S 766, S 274, S 1581)¹¹. A further paper will examine the charter bounds and their interpretation for the eastern half of the Island (S 1662, S 1663, S 842, S 1391). This second paper will be concluded with a discussion of the wider landscape of the Isle of Wight in the later Saxon period.

The Study of the Isle of Wight Charter Bounds

The charter bounds of the Isle of Wight have been studied by various researchers for over eighty years. Grundy (1921;1926) examined several boundary clauses relating to the Island in his work on the charters of Hampshire. Kökeritz (1940) published most of the relevant Old English boundary clauses in *The Place-Names of the Isle of Wight*, developing the interpretive work of Grundy. Forsburg

(1950,209-10) published his own interpretation of one of the charters in the Bathingbourne area. Finberg (1964) also commented on the various charters relating to the Isle of Wight in *The Early Charters of Wessex*. Some of Kökeritz's interpretations of the locations of boundary markers were mapped by Arnold (1975) in his undergraduate dissertation. Other studies such as Cahill (1980) and Sewell (2000) have drawn on previous research. The present author has produced studies of individual charters (Margham 2000,119-120; forthcoming) and has used the bounds and their interpretation in reconstructing the Isle of Wight landscape in the later Anglo-Saxon period (Margham 2003). The latter study includes an analysis of the productivity of different types of landscape.

Identification of features in the modern landscape which are referred to in documents originating before the Norman Conquest is a fascinating occupation, involving documentary research, map work and field work. The presentation of the results of such research can however give a false sense of being definitive. Once a set of charter bounds are published with identifications in the modern landscape and maps produced, the 'solution' tends to take on a life of its own. These sentiments have been admirably summarised by Brooks:

"Tracing the boundaries of an Anglo-Saxon charter on the modern map and on the ground is one of the most rewarding forms of research. The excitement of discovering how a particular landscape has changed or remained the same over a thousand years cannot easily be equalled. But it is difficult to present the results of such work without suppressing the uncertainties and difficulties that remain" (Brooks 1982,196, quoted by Klingelhöfer 1992,27).

The interpretations of the location of Anglo-Saxon boundary features in the modern landscape in this study are not presented as being definitive. Just as the research presented here has built upon the work of Kökeritz, further work on the place-names, topography and historical geography of the Isle of Wight may very well refine some of these interpretations²².

The Reliability of Charter Bounds

Anglo-Saxon charters are usually referred to through the numbers given by Sawyer (1968) in his *Anglo-Saxon Charters: an annotated list and bibliography*. This convention has been followed for this study; reference has been made above to this system of indexing, S 543, S 766 *etc.* Sawyer's indexing relates to extant documents³³. The exception to this are references to 'lost' charters, which although no longer in existence are referred to in later secondary sources. In this study these are referenced through the numbers given by Finberg (1964) in *The Early Charters of Wessex*, for example ECW 103. A complete list of Anglo-Saxon land charters relating to lands on the Isle of Wight is given in Table 1 using these reference numbers.

Information about the reliability of individual charters is presented below where appropriate. The present study excludes charters pre-dating 900 AD, although it does include S 274, purportedly dating from 826, but more likely to date from the tenth century (below). With the possible exception of S 274, none of the charters pre-dating the tenth century had bounds appended. The absence of a boundary clause may not prevent the reconstruction of an estate. An interpretation of ECW 1 has been published in a previous paper by the author (Margham 2000,119-120) and it is quite possible that the estate at Arreton listed in King Alfred's will was coterminous with the later manor (Hockey 1991, map 3). In the present study, two estates are included which do not have boundary clauses, but can be reconstructed using other evidence. ECW 103 (Atherfield) is a lost charter referred to in a secondary source, and S 1391 (Wroxall) is an exchange of two properties where the bounds are not defined.

Most extant charters are copies of the original documents, having been reproduced by scribes working in cathedral and monastic libraries (Hooke 1994,3). All the charters relating to the Isle of Wight are later copies. The copying of charters provided scope for altering documents deliberately, and the possibility that transcriptional errors may be made. Forgery of documents usually involved the dates

claimed for documents and the witnesses involved (Hooke 1994,3). S 274 and S 281 are examples of this (Edwards 1988,155-6). The bounds themselves, however, are normally of authentic pre-conquest origin, but may occasionally be later additions to an earlier grant (*ibid.*). There is nothing to suggest that the bounds relating to the Isle of Wight are later additions, but in the bounds of Bathingbourne in S 1662 and *Meolocdune* (Ashey) in S 842 there is evidence for transcriptual errors.

Lost Charters and Bookland

The charters listed in Table 1 are not a complete record of all the charters that were produced during the Anglo-Saxon era concerning lands on the Isle of Wight. Reference has been made to ECW 1 and ECW 103, neither of which are extant documents but are referred to in *Annales Monasterii de Wintonia*, a compilation dating from c. 1300 (Luard 1865). ECW 4 was also recorded in the same source. In addition to these lost charters, there is evidence that at least one other charter formerly existed documenting a grant of land on the Isle of Wight. A medieval place-name of *Bockland* referred to a location in the Ryde area (Hockey 1982,67) and in 1337-8 Robert de Bokland was farming the demesne of Ashy. Although Old English *boc* can mean ‘beech’ (Sweet 1896,26), the first element in the place-name *Bockland* is almost certainly derived from OE *boc* meaning ‘book, charter’ (Mills 1991,379). *Bockland* thus means ‘estate created by an Anglo-Saxon royal diploma’ or ‘estate granted by charter’ (Rumble 1987,227). The Ryde area would have been granted by a charter before the Norman conquest, but apart from this place-name, there is no other evidence for such a transaction. It is however very likely that other areas of land were granted by charter in the Anglo-Saxon period (*ie.* ‘bookland’), for which no documentary or place-name record now exists. A possible example of this is the manor of Hide in Brading parish, first recorded in 1287-90 as *la Hyde* (Kökeritz 1940,56), the name relating to an area of land, which may very well have been granted in a pre-conquest charter.

The amount of land that had been granted by charter before the Conquest was therefore more extensive than the documentary sources that are available to us suggest. It is however uncertain exactly how much land was regarded as *boc-land*. This was a type of landholding which had a great significance by the later Anglo-Saxon period: “It seems clear that by the early tenth century land in England was held either as *folc-land* or *boc-land*: it was held either in accordance with the obligations of generally accepted folk-custom or by the special terms inscribed in a royal *boc* or diploma” (Rumble 1987,220). ‘Folkland’ was really a type of royal land, being held in life tenure and owing dues to the king. It had not been alienated from royal lands by the granting of a charter. It could, however, in due course be granted to a theign. In the words of King Alfred:

“Every man, when he has built a village on land leased to him by his lord [ie. the king], with his help, likes to stay in it sometimes, and to go hunting and fowling and fishing, and to support himself in every way on that leased land, both on sea and land, until the time when through his lord’s mercy he may acquire bookland and a perpetual inheritance” (Finberg 1964,191, quoting Whitelock 1955,844).

Royal estates of the late Anglo-Saxon period were not ‘bookland’ as they had not been granted by the king to individuals or institutions. In addition to ‘folkland’, royal estates can be regarded as belonging to one of two other categories (Klingelhöfer 1992,36-37). Firstly, there were the royal demesne lands, which were held directly by the king. Secondly, there were the personal lands of the royal family, which were inherited and bequeathed. S 1507, the will of King Alfred, is an example of a document listing some of this type of royal land, which included the estates of Arreton and possibly Wellow⁴⁴.

‘Bookland’ was therefore part of a continuum of different types of land ownership and land holding in later Anglo-Saxon England. With the exception of the estates on the Isle of Wight mentioned in King Alfred’s will (S 1507), all the charters relating to lands on the Isle of Wight can be regarded as ‘bookland’.

The Charter Bounds of the West Medine

The Ningwood Charter, S 543

This was a grant made in 949 by King Eadred, King of the English and ruler of the other peoples round about, to his man Ælfsige, for his services as goldsmith and silversmith. It consisted of 1 *mansa* in *Vexta insula* [the Isle of Wight] and 1 at *Winterburnan* [Winterborne, Wiltshire] in the land of the Gewisse, and was free of all but the three common dues⁵⁵ (Finberg 1964,no.70).

The bounds of S 543

bis his þæs hiwisces land gemæro þe þær to hyrþ on whit. fram hyrste 7lang slades to wullafes hlipan. þonon 7lang lanan to beorhtnapes stáne. of þam stane 7lang lanan to þæs móres heafde ðonon 7lang slades ut on scós fleot þonne 7lang streames ut on scealdan fleot. þonnen 7lang scealdan fleotes up to hyrste. (Kökeritz 1940,207).

‘These are the boundaries of the hide which belongs to it⁶⁶ on the Isle of Wight. From the wooded hill along the slade to Wullaf’s leap thence along the lane to Beorhtnoth’s stone. From that stone along the lane to the end of the marsh thence along the slade out to the shoe fleet then along the river out to the shallow fleet up to the wooded hill’.

Identifying the Bounds (Fig 1)

The bounds of S 543 on the Isle of Wight have been discussed by Kökeritz (1940,207) but were omitted from Grundy’s work on Hampshire charter bounds. Arnold (1975) has plotted the bounds, based upon the interpretation of Kökeritz. The estate on the Isle of Wight is not named in the charter. Page (1912,220) identified it with Watchingwell, but as Kökeritz has pointed out, the reference to *7lang scealdan fleotes up to hyrst* strongly suggests that the estate was located in the area to the south and west of Shalfleet. Kökeritz has suggested that the *unam mansam in Vexta insula* can be identified with the one hide of Ningwood which was held by Gerin in 1086.

Kökeritz’s identification of the bounds (which were plotted by Arnold) are as follows: *hyrst*, unlocated, but near Shalfleet; *7langes slades* as far as *wullafes hlipan* the lower course of the Caul Bourne; the second *lanan* either the Newbridge/Wellow road or “the minor road just to the north of Dodpits” (ie. Warlands Lane), *þæs móres heafde* “may have been at Ningwood Farm”, the second *slades* the watercourse running northwards from just west of Ningwood Farm into Ningwood Lake, following the creek into Western Haven, and then turning southwards up Shalfleet Lake to *hyrst*.

The present study has identified the bounds more precisely and has resulted in a reconstruction consisting only of the Ningwood area, thus excluding Shalfleet and the Caul Bourne. This reconstruction is partially dependent upon the interpretation of the word *slades*, which occurs twice in the bounds of S 543. A study of the minor place-names and field-names of the Isle of Wight indicates that a slade can be defined as a very shallow valley which may or may not have a water course⁷⁷. This is supported by Field, “A *slade* is a shallow valley, a piece of greensward in a long depression in the fields, too marshy to cultivate” (Field 1993,47). The lower valley of the Caul Bourne is much more substantial than a slade and has a permanent watercourse. If it were to form part of the bounds in S 543 it would have been referred to specifically as *Cawelburnan*, as in the bounds of S 274.

Hyrste, the starting point of the bounds, can be identified with the small hill overlooking the Western Haven and just to the north of Woodslade Coppice, which was named Park Hills in the Shalfleet parish tithable apportionment of 1844 (IWCRO JER/T/294). The *slade* is the short shallow valley running up from the creek in a south-easterly direction, appropriately occupied by Woodslade Coppice. This brings the line of the bounds to the vicinity of the Shalfleet to Yarmouth road to the north of Warlands. *Wullafes hlipan* may refer to this road or a location nearby, a place which was leapt over

at one time. The natural topography of the area would exclude a ‘leap’ involving prominent rocks, but a deer leap is a possibility (below). Warlands itself would appear to have been named after Waleran, the son of Henry Trenchard, lord of Shalfleet, after the former had granted a house in *Hiestningewede* (East Ningwood) to Carisbrooke Priory, 1230x1240 (Hockey 1981, no. 181). This property was referred to as a *capital messuage called Waleron Trenchards* in 1617 (Mills 1996, 104). The thirteenth century document in the Carisbrooke cartulary therefore identifies Warlands as being within East Ningwood. The *lanan* in the bounds of S 543 would have formed the eastern boundary of Ningwood: land to the east of Warlands Farm and south of Shalfleet church was glebe in the mid nineteenth century, so would appear to have been formerly part of Shalfleet, rather than Ningwood. The north end of the *lanan* can thus be identified with the road south to Warlands farm. The continuation of this lane for more than 200 metres south of the farm is not supported by maps from the tithe apportionment onwards. However, the six-inch scale working drawings of the Ordnance Survey of c.1800 show a lane running southwards over at least three quarters of the distance between Warlands farm and Newbridge. This route, from the Shalfleet/Yarmouth road to Newbridge can be identified with the first *lanan* in the bounds of S 543. *Beorhtnapes stáne* can be located at the southern end of this lane, in the upper part of the present-day village of Newbridge. From this point the road in the modern landscape runs westwards towards Wellow. This is the second lane in the bounds of S 543. The road crosses a small watercourse on the western side of a cottage called Stoneovers (Stonewell on the 1866 six-inch Ordnance Survey map). This location, now arable farmland, would have been ‘the end of the marsh’ (*þæs mōres heafde*). The very shallow valley running north-westwards from this point can be identified with the upper course of *slades*, with the bounds following this valley to the west of Ningwood Farm. The watercourse has been diverted through a drainage ditch along the eastern side of the slade at a date prior to 1866, rejoining its original alignment just south of Ningwood Farm, on crossing the Ningwood to Wellow road. From adjoining Ningwood Farm, the watercourse runs northward and into the narrow estuary of Ningwood Lake (*scōs fleot*). The bounds followed the widening estuary in a north-easterly direction, to a point where it is now known as the Western Haven. This can be identified with *scealdan fleot*, ‘the shallow fleet’. This is an apt description of the Western Haven as well as the fleet now known as Shalfleet Lake further to the east. *Hyrste* (Park Hills), the starting point of the bounds, is a short distance above the Western Haven.

The Anglo-Saxon Landscape of Ningwood

Some of the items in the bounds of S 543 provide information about the tenth century landscape of the area. *Hyrste* is best translated as ‘wooded hill’ (Gelling 1984, 197-8). Although the small hill here is no longer wooded, the nearby slade (Woodslade Coppice) is. The mention of *Wullafes hlipan* in the vicinity of the present-day Shalfleet to Yarmouth road raises the possibility that there was a deer leap here. There was certainly a deer-park in the Shalfleet area by the later thirteenth century, for in 1298 Henry Trenchard complained that Amice, Countess of Devon, and her men “... drove off deer from his park at Shalfleet” (Page 1912, 272). The site identified as *hyrste*, a little to the north of *Wullafes hlipan*, was referred to as Park Hills in 1844 and Park Hill in an estate map of 1774, implying that the Medieval deer park was in this immediate area (Basford 1989, 16). Hooke discusses the Old English term *haga* which in rural areas seems “... to have been an enclosure directly linked with the reservation of land for the preservation and hunting of game” (1989, 126-7). Whilst a *haga* is not mentioned in the bounds of Ningwood, it does raise the possibility that the deer-park here had a late Anglo-Saxon precursor⁸⁸. The second instance of *lanan* attests to the presence of the lane running westwards from the Caul Bourne towards Wellow in the tenth century. This road is approximately on the northern limit of the Thorley/Wellow Bembridge Limestone area, a significant area of lighter soils within a landscape otherwise dominated by wetter clayland soils. The reconstruction of the bounds locate ‘the end of the marsh’ on or near this geological boundary. It is improbable that the free-draining

Bembridge limestone to the south of the road supported a vegetation which could be described as *mor*. It would thus appear that the habitat referred to was within the slade running north-westwards away from the road. This is consistent with the interpretation of *mor* as ‘low-lying wetland’ in lowland areas of England (Gelling and Cole 2000,58-9)⁹⁹.

S 543 and Domesday Book

The reconstruction of the bounds of S 543 encompass the whole of the Ningwood area. The one ‘mansa’ granted by Eadred to *Ælfsige* in 949 can be identified with the one hide of *Lenimcode* (Ningwood) in Domesday Book:

“Gerin has 1 hide in NINGWOOD. King Edward had it in his revenue. Then and now [it answered] for 1 hide...”
(Munby 1982,54a).

It is quite likely that Ningwood belonged to the royal manor of Breamore in the later eleventh century (Munby 1982,39a and note 1,37):

“BREAMORE belongs to the above manor [ROCKBOURNE] which the King holds and King Edward held To this manor belongs 1 hide on the Isle of Wight which Gervi holds;£9 came into the King’s revenue from there and a priest had 20s”

Munby has pointed out the discrepancy between the value of Ningwood (£6) and the detached portion of Breamore on the Island (£9 and 20s). However, the reference to a priest adds weight to the identification of Ningwood with this hide on the Isle of Wight. The now lost place-name of *Preston* was first recorded as *Ningewode cum Prestetone* 1151x1155 (Bearman 1994,82-3). *Preston*, ‘the priests’ *tun*’, would appear to refer to a small area of land or settlement held by a priest or priests¹⁰¹⁰.

The Atherfield Charter, ECW 103

This is a lost charter of King Edgar (959x975) granting lands to the church at Winchester consisting of 2 hides at *Aderingefeldam* (Atherfield). The only record of the former existence of this charter is in a list of Edgar’s gifts of land to Winchester recorded in the Annals of Winchester:

His ita factis, rex Edgarus novum monasterium ampliavit possessionibus; et Wintoniensi ecclesiae dedit manerium quod dicitur Awintonna [Avington], et apud Itinstokam [Itchenstoke] x. hidas, et apud Madanlegam [Madingley] iii. hidas, et apud Breodunam [Bredon] xiii. hidas, et apud Aderingefeldam ii. hidas, et apud Thucam vii. hidas (Luard 1865,12).

Aderingefeldam can be identified as Atherfield, Domesday *Avrefel* and *Egrafel*, being derived from **Æpelheringa-feld*, ‘the open land of *Æpelhere*’s people’ (Kökeritz 1940,217).

Reconstruction of the bounds

Although there are no Old English bounds extant for Atherfield, a plausible reconstruction of the bounds of the two hides can be made from later evidence (Fig 2). There were three detached portions of Brighstone parish within Shorwell parish in the nineteenth century. These encompassed a total area of 260 acres and had one feature in common. They all abutted the southern side of a small watercourse, which runs westwards to Shepherd’s Chine. In addition, the north-eastern boundary of the largest of these areas (Atherfield Farm) follows a tributary of this watercourse. It is very likely that the estate of two hides at Atherfield was the area bounded on the north by this watercourse and on the eastern

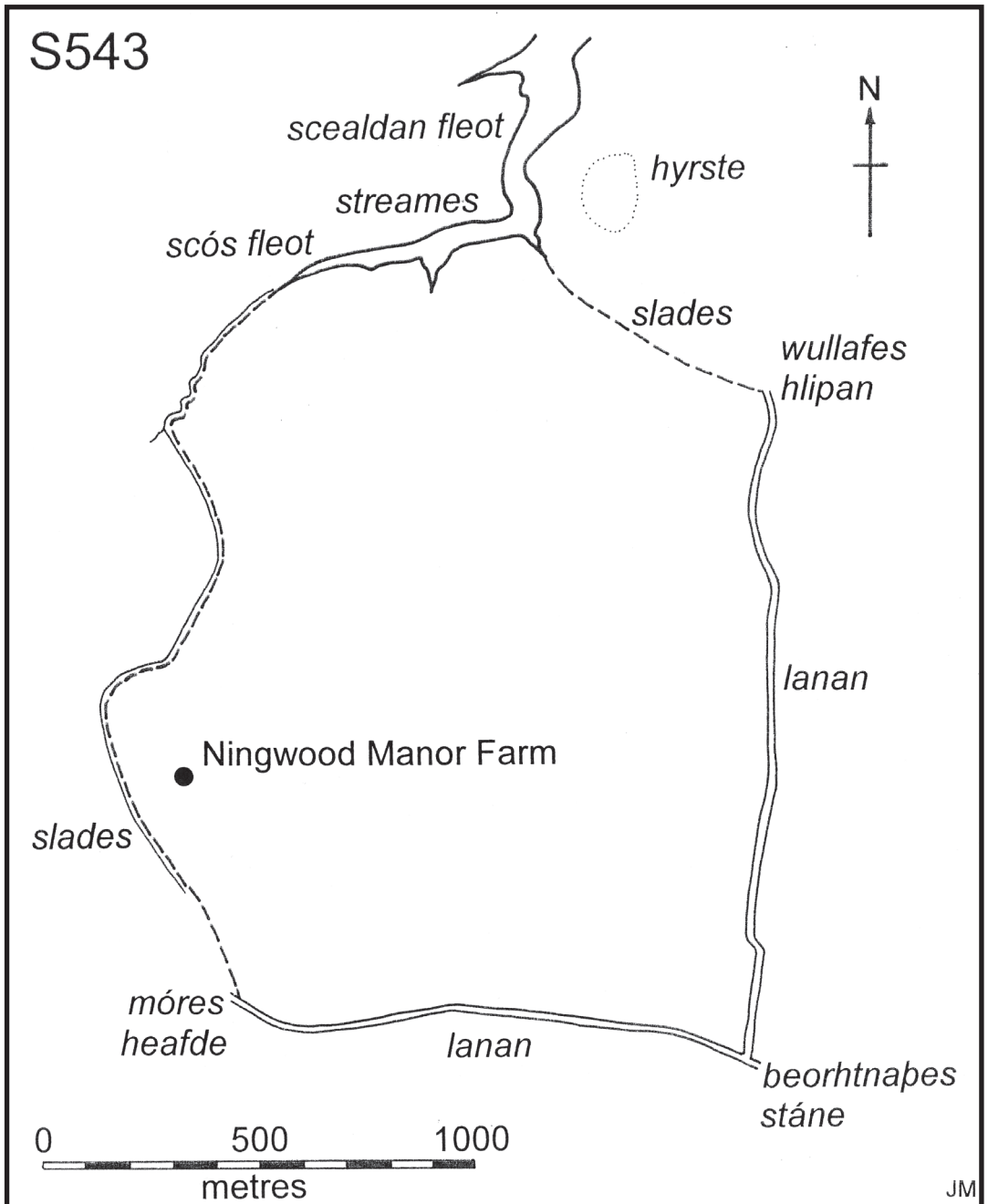


Fig. 1: S 543, grant of 1 manse in Vexta insula by King Eadred to Ælfsige, his gold and silversmith, 949AD.

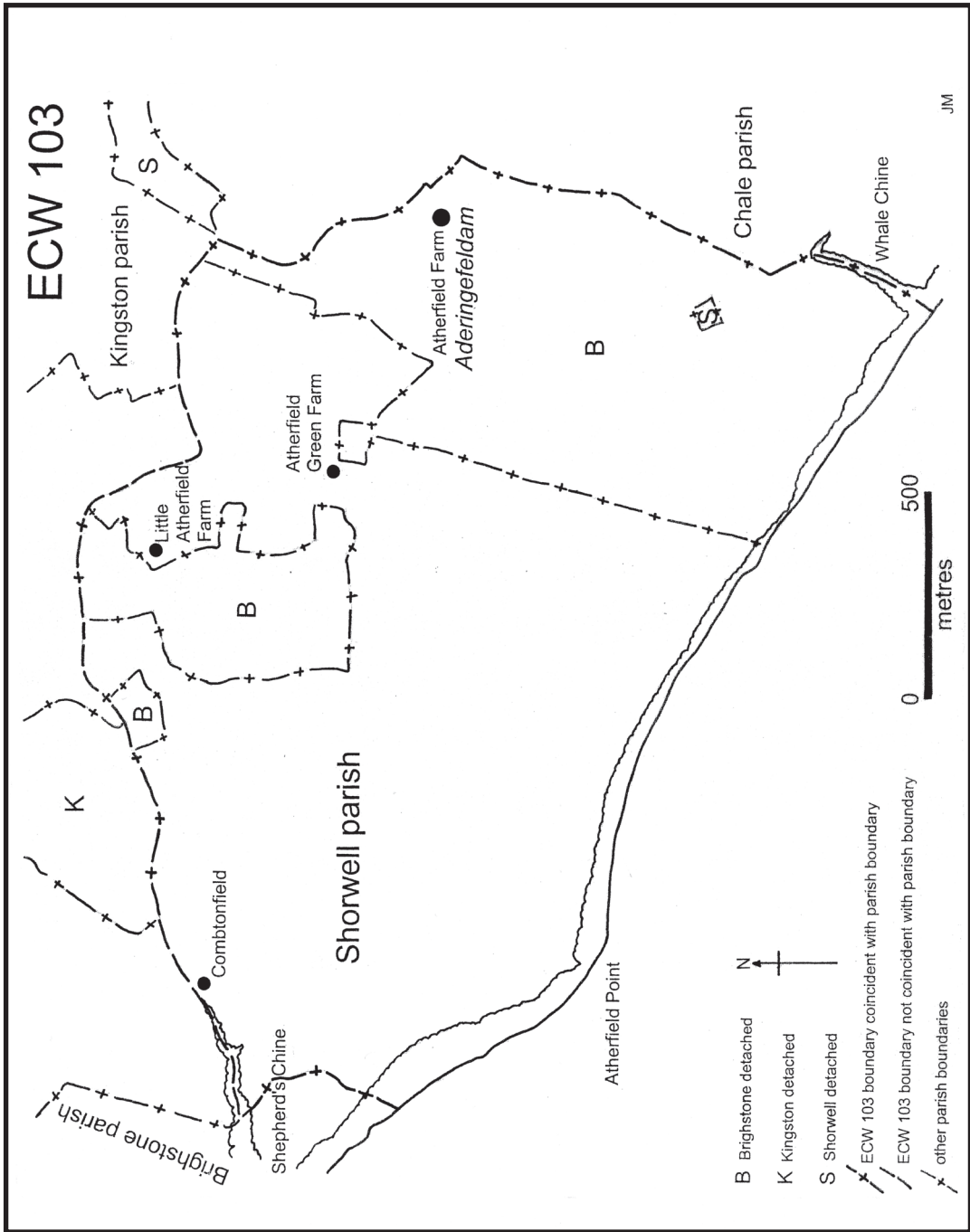


Fig. 2: ECW 103, lost charter of King Edgar, grant of 2 hides at Atherfield to the church at Winchester, 959 x 975 AD. Medieval parish boundaries are shown.

side by the Chale parish boundary. All Atherfield place-names are within this area: Atherfield Farm, Atherfield Green, Little Atherfield and Atherfield Point. This reconstruction is partially supported by the evidence of the tithe apportionment maps and schedules for the area (Brighstone, Shorwell and Kingston). The areas of Atherfield Farm and Atherfield Green Farm respected this watercourse, Combton Fields, a post conquest place-name derived from the Compton family of Freshwater parish, also respected this watercourse with the exception of two small parcels of land adjoining the settlement site on the north side of the stream. The only one of the four farms which did not respect this watercourse as a property boundary in the mid nineteenth century was Little Atherfield Farm, with lands either side of the stream (IWCRO JER/T/309,310).

The eastern boundary of this reconstructed pre-conquest estate of Atherfield later became the parish boundary between Chale and the largest detached portion of Brighstone parish, which was coterminous with Atherfield Farm in the nineteenth century. This boundary reaches the sea at Whale Chine. This mirrors the westernmost part of the reconstructed boundary at Shepherd's Chine, which was referred to as *Eadgylses muþan* in the bounds of S 274. Further west, Chilton Chine can be identified as having formed part of the bounds of Calbourne, as well as being on the parish boundary between Mottistone and Brighstone. The identification of Whale Chine as a point on the bounds of an Anglo-Saxon estate reinforces the significance of chines as boundary markers along the south-eastern coast of the Isle of Wight.

ECW 103 and Domesday Book

By 1066, most, if not all of the Atherfield area, would appear to have lost any connection with the church of Winchester. Atherfield is itemised twice in Domesday Book:

“The King also holds three manors, ATHERFIELD [*Avrefel*], DUNGEWOOD and WALPAN. Three thanes held them. Then [they answered] for 3 hides; now for 1 hide” (Munby 1982,52c).

“William [son of Stur] also holds ½ hide in ATHERFIELD [*Egrafel*]. Travers holds it from William. Wulfgeat held it jointly. Then and now it answered for ½ hide” (ibid.,52d).

It is however possible that perhaps half a hide was still held by Winchester and that this area of land was enumerated in the Domesday entry for Calbourne (Swainston). The detached portions of Brighstone parish in the Atherfield area owe their origin to the grant of Atherfield to Winchester in the tenth century. Their configuration in the nineteenth century when recorded on the Ordnance Survey six-inch map of 1862 may have some relationship to the tenurial situation at Domesday. The larger of the two areas of Brighstone detached, which encompassed a combined area of 256 acres, were both worked from Atherfield Farm in 1838 (IWCRO JER/T/45) and may possibly reflect the retention of these areas by Winchester at the time of Domesday. If this is the case, however, Atherfield Farm can not be identified with either of the two Domesday place-names of the area. Alternatively, Atherfield Farm can be identified with *Egrafel* or *Avrefel* and that this property retained an ecclesiastical connection with Winchester via Calbourne or Brighstone church despite having no tenurial connection with Winchester.

The Watchingwell Charter, S 766

This charter dates from 968, being issued by Edgar, king of the English, ruler of the Northumbrians and the heathen and British peoples, to the nuns of Wilton. It was a confirmation of their title to the estates which he had formerly granted to *Wulfthryth*. It consisted of land at South Newton, Sherrington, Deverill, Baverstock and *Frustfield* [all in Wiltshire], and *Hwætting* (Watchingwell), and was free but for the three common dues (Finberg 1964,no.108).

The bounds of S 766

hwætincg le þis synt þare x. hida land gemære to hwætincg le þehyrað in to niwantune. Ærest of þære sæ 7lang stides fleotes heafod. of þā heafde on þa ge clyppedan treowa of ðà treowan on heort lege. þ'ón þa wylle þ'ón þa ræwe on ðane haliganstan. þanon on þære ealdan heort heges ræwe ón mot beorh. þanon on hrecescumbes heafde on þane lim pyt. þañ ón hrece leage middewardre. þonð on æsc stede. of æsc stede þ'eft on þa sæ. (Kökeritz 1940,90).

‘These are the boundaries of the ten hide estate of Watchingwell which belongs to [South] Newton¹¹¹. Starting from the sea along the head of the stiff/firm fleet (or creek of a man named *Stith*). From that head to the named (or embraced) tree, from the tree to the hart [wood?] pasture. Then to the spring (or stream), then to the hedgerow to the holy stone. Thence to the old hart hedgerow to the moot mound (or hill). Thence to the head of the valley of the stack to the lime pit. Then to the middle of the stack [wood?] pasture. Thence to the place of ash trees then returning to the sea’.

The second word in the heading of the Old English bounds, *hwætincg le*, would appear to represent the word *leah* ‘forest, wood, glade, clearing’ (Gelling 1984,198-207). “*Hwætinc(g)* ‘the wheat place’ seems originally to have been the name of the district, to which *wella* ‘spring, stream’, and earlier *leah* ‘woodland clearing’, were added (Mills 1996,105).

Identifying the Bounds (Fig 3)

The bounds of S 766 have been discussed by Kökeritz (1940,90-91), and his interpretation was plotted by Arnold (1975).

The starting point of S766 has been identified by Kökeritz: “..the *fleot* is the mouth of the little river to the west of Sticelett, which here forms an estuary...The *heafod* must refer to the upper course of the river, which the boundary followed probably as far as modern Rolls Bridge...”. The former extent of this estuary is indicated on the 1:50,000 geological map (1976, drift edition), which indicates that the southernmost limit of alluvial deposits is at Rolls Bridge. The next point on the bounds was *þa geclyppedan treowa*. This was interpreted by Kökeritz as ‘clipped, trimmed or polled tree’, but Gelling prefers ‘named tree’ or ‘embraced tree’, and if the latter perhaps referring to ivy (personal communication). This tree obviously can not be located in the modern landscape but the boundary to the south of Rolls Bridge may be related to a former boundary recorded as an earthwork on military photographs of the 1940s (Luftwaffe GX 10113 SG/159 (16/8/43); RAF 106G/UK 1665 4181 (4/7/46), held by IWCAC). This former boundary ran south-south-west in the area to the west of Stagwell Farm, parallel to and to the east of the stream flowing down to Rolls Bridge. This boundary has been reinstated since the 1940s as it is a hedgerow in the present day landscape. The place-name Stagwell is of significance. It was first recorded as a field-name in 1608 (*Stackell*), and would appear to have been derived from OE *staca* and *wella*, ‘the spring or stream marked by a boundary post’ (Mills 1996,97). The actual line of the bounds of S 766 would have been some 160 metres to the east of the stream in the Stagwell area, and did not follow the stream as the stream was not mentioned in the bounds at this point. The stream referred to in the place-name may have been a tributary stream which the bounds crossed, somewhere in the vicinity of *ge clyppedan treowa*. The next feature on the bounds of S 766 was *heort lege*, ‘the hart pasture’, which would appear to have been adjoining the former/modern field boundary to the west of Stagwell Farm. This is an appropriate name for an area of pasture located just beyond the later bounds of Parkhurst Forest. Whilst *lege*, the dative of *leah*, can be taken to have its latest sense of ‘pasture’ (personal communication, Margaret Gelling), it may refer to an area of wood-pasture. As Della Hooke has pointed out, the association of *leah* with wood-pasture would account for the apparent changes of meaning of this term, ranging from woodland to pasture (Hooke 1981,154). Wood-pasture, just to the west of the area which was to become known as

the King's Forest at Domesday, is a distinct possibility. *þa wylle*, the West Saxon form of *well*, *wella*, *welle*, 'spring or stream' (Gelling 1984,30), refers to the upper course of the small stream already mentioned above, probably on the parish boundary between Northwood and extra parochial Parkhurst Forest. The next boundary mark, *ðane haliganstan* 'the holy stone', cannot be located exactly. The 'stone' marked on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1908 on the Carisbrooke/Parkhurst Forest extra parochial area boundary, just to the west of the stream, would appear to have been a forest boundary stone of an eighteenth century date, which is no longer extant (field visit March 1997). *þære ealdan heort heges ræwe* 'the old hart hedgerow', is likely to be the hedgerow running south-west from the boundary of Parkhurst Forest towards Whitehouse Farm, which forms the Northwood/Carisbrooke parish boundary. This hedgerow is also on the line of the pre-enclosure boundary of Parkhurst Forest when mapped in 1770 (Chatters 1993, map 2). *mot beorh*, 'moot mound (or hill)', would appear to be the hill at Bunts Hill Farm, as suggested by Kökeritz. The summit of this hill is to the north-west of Whitehouse Farm, 150 metres from the point where the Northwood/Carisbrooke/Shalfleet detached parish boundaries meet. These boundaries meet on the southern side of Bunts Hill.

Kökeritz (1940,91) claimed that "Both *hrecescumbes heafde* and *hrece leage* refer to the district round Rodge Brook". A much more satisfactory resolution of these two boundary locations is that they refer to an area much further to the south (below). This in turn implies that the bounds of S 766 must have followed an almost straight course until *hrecescumbes heafde* was reached. This is consistent with the almost linear nature of the Shalfleet detached/Carisbrooke parish boundary to the south of Bunts Hill, once an allowance has been made for the area west of Youngwoods Farm as having been formerly part of the Watchingwell estate. The parish boundary makes a detour to the west in the Youngwoods Farm area, before rejoining its former alignment. It would appear that the parish boundary in this area reflects the extent of Youngwoods Farm when the parish boundary was defined here, some time before 1294, when *la Yengwode* was first recorded (Kökeritz 1940,112), and probably in the twelfth century. The former alignment of the boundary is marked by a green lane to the south of Youngwoods Farm. This lane is not shown in the six-inch scale survey of the Isle of Wight of c.1800 but its alignment follows the western boundary of Parkhurst Forest at that time. *Hrecescumbes heafde* 'the head of the valley of the stack' can be located through reference to the next two points on the bounds, *lim pyt* and *hrece leage middewardre*. Kökeritz was unable to locate *lim pyt* 'lime pit', as he assumed that it was further north in the area of Rodge Brook. *lim pyt* can be identified with 'old marl pit' marked on the first edition of the six-inch scale map, immediately to the north of the Shalfleet detached/St Nicholas detached parish boundary which follows the line of the Carisbrooke to Calbourne road for a short distance to the west of Apesdown Copse. This is on the northern limit of the Upper Chalk, the lime pit could not be located any further north than this due to obvious geological constraints. *hrece leage middewardre* ('the middle of the stack pasture') is the next boundary location beyond *lim pyt*, so must be located somewhere on the lateral chalk ridge. The Shalfleet detached/Carisbrooke parish boundary passes within 160 metres of a solitary round barrow on the summit of a prominent hill to the east of Ashengrove. This hilltop barrow can be identified as the 'stack', with the ridge to the south-east as 'the stack pasture'. The 'stack' is also referred to in the boundary location to the north of the lime pit, *hrecescumbes heafde* 'the head of the valley of the stack'. This can be identified with the upper course of the stream which flows north-westwards from near Apesdown, joining Clamerkin Brook to the north of Lower Watchingwell. The head of this shallow valley is overlooked by 'the stack', thus 'the head of the valley of the stack'. The precise location where the bounds of S 766 crossed the upper course of this stream can be identified from the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map. This map shows the configuration of the parish boundary between St Nicholas detached and Carisbrooke parish. In the area to the south of Great Park, a short length of this parish boundary preserves the bounds of S 766, before part of the estate was lost to form the King's park (Great Park) between 1066 and 1086 (below). This short length

of boundary runs for c.300 metres from just south of Great Park to the stream. In addition to this length of parish boundary, the northernmost 300 metres of the eastern boundary of S 766 within the Kings park is shown as a soil mark on an aerial photograph dating from 1946 (106G/UK 1665 4137, held by IWCAC). This linear feature was not plotted as a field boundary in the survey of c.1800. It would appear to predate the creation of the park in the period between 1066 and 1086. The soil mark and the short length of parish boundary allow the reconstruction of the line of the bounds of S 766 within the area of the park southwards from the north/south boundary between Shalfleet detached and Carisbrooke parishes and along the parish boundary south of Great Park to the stream. From the stream the line of the bounds can be projected west-south-west to *lim pyt* from where the bounds again follow the Shalfleet detached/Carisbrooke parish boundary, up to *hrece leage middewardre*. The last location in the bounds of S 766 before the boundary returned to the sea was *æsc stede*, 'the place of the ash trees'. This is in the vicinity of Ashengrove, either at the farm site or 600 metres to the south at the south-western extremity of Shalfleet detached. *æscstede* also features in the bounds of S 274 (Fig 4). From at or near Ashengrove, the bounds of S 766 followed the eastern boundary of S 274, also the boundary of Calbourne and Shalfleet detached and Northwood parishes, northwards to the sea beyond Elmsworth Farm.

The Anglo-Saxon Landscape of Watchingwell

The bounds of S 766 provide information about the landscape in the tenth century. The starting point of the bounds, *stiðes fleotes* is no longer an estuary. Its former extent can be reconstructed from the 1:50,000 solid and drift geology map. At its maximum extent, it would have provided a tidal inlet running 950 metres inland. All of this area is now silted up. This former fleet has parallels elsewhere along the northern coast of the Isle of Wight. Further west, Thorley Haven was a significant feature in the topography of the Western Yar until it was reclaimed in the later seventeenth or eighteenth century, and to the east the former Barnsley Haven was protected by a harbour wall in the medieval period.

To the south of this former haven, several of the boundary descriptions give valuable information about the contemporary landscape within the northern claylands of the Island. It is quite possible that *þa ge clyppadan treowa* was located in an area of wood-pasture. Other indicators of land use in this area are *heort lege* 'hart [wood?] pasture' and the two instances of hedgerows (*þa ræwe* and *þære ealdan heort heges*). These are consistent with a landscape consisting of wet heathland and wood-pasture. Hooke (1989, 123) observes that hedges in charter bounds were frequently recorded in areas where woodland was being assarted and had been pushed back largely to the estate margins. However, *ealdan* in the phrase *ealdan heort heges* refers to the hedge, rather than the hart (Margaret Gelling, personal communication). It therefore follows that this hedge ('the old hart hedgerow') was not newly formed in the mid tenth century. In the later eighteenth century this hedgerow formed the north-western boundary of Parkhurst Forest. In the tenth century it would appear to have formed the boundary of the unenclosed area later to become the King's Forest, as was the boundary of S 766 in the area which was later known as Youngwoods¹²¹². The significance of *ðane haliganstan* 'the holy stone' is uncertain. Bunts Hill (*mot beorh*) has a parallel in the bounds of S 274, *gemot beorh* (Gallibury Hump). However, the Bunts Hill site is a hilltop with no evidence for a barrow, whereas Gallibury Hump is a prominent round barrow. Both would appear to have been meeting places on or near significant boundaries. Beyond *hrecescumbes heafde* (head of the valley of the stack), *lim pyt* was on the margins of the lateral chalk ridge, where chalk was obtained. Margaret Gelling comments that "*lim pyt* was probably a pit in which limestone [*ie.* chalk] was burnt, for whatever purpose" (personal communication). It is possible that this pit was used to produce lime mortar, as even though it was in a relatively remote location in relation to centres of population, the product could be easily transported (*ibid.*). However, other such pits must have existed in more convenient locations for the production of mortar. It is quite possible that the burnt chalk had more than one use. A likely use

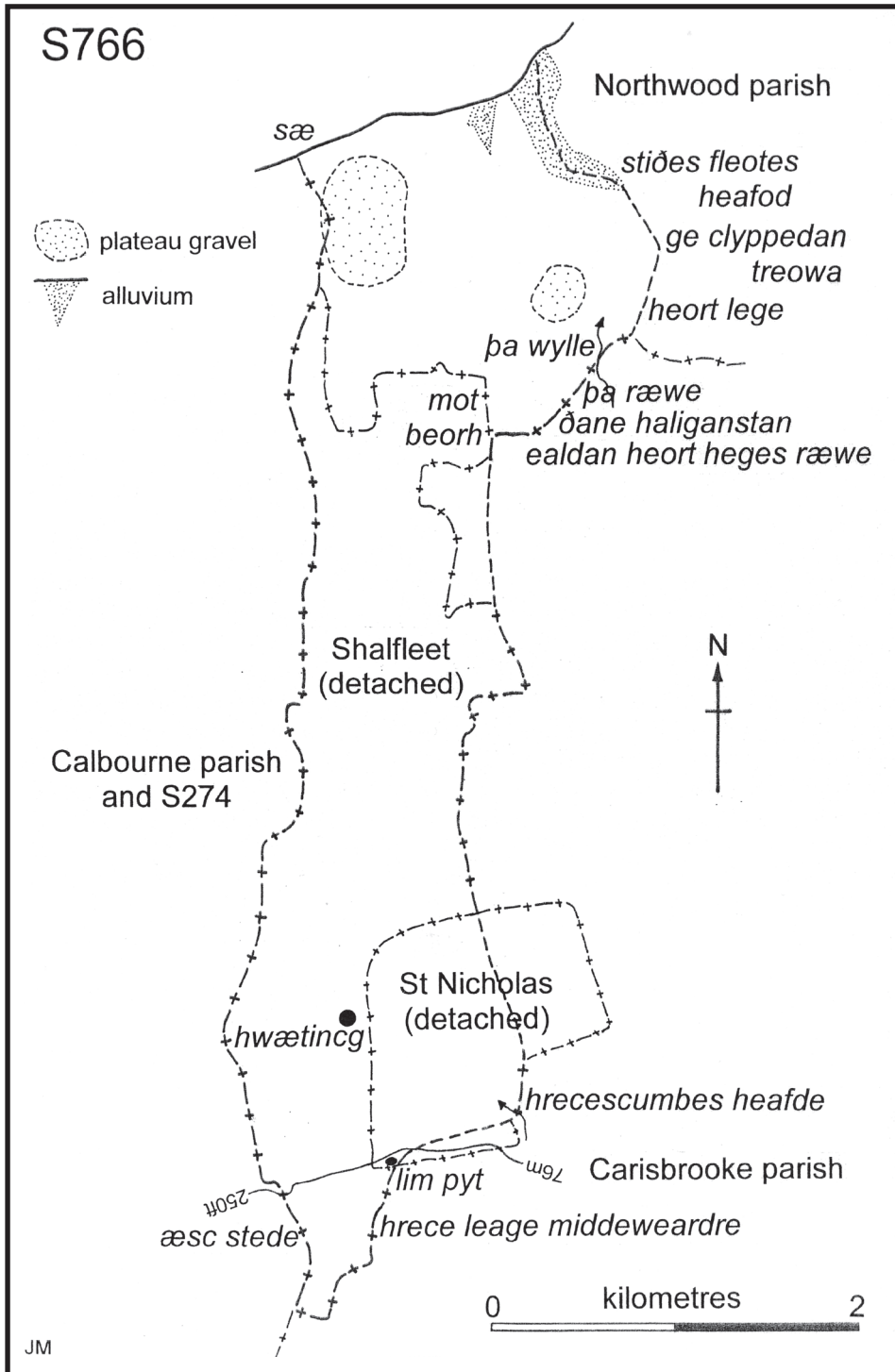


Fig.3: S 766, confirmation of a grant of 10 hides at Watchingwell by King Edgar to Wilton Abbey, 969 AD. Medieval parish boundaries are shown.

would have been for marling the clayland soils in this area. As Osborne White has pointed out, “The Upper Chalk was formerly much dug for marling land on the Tertiary Beds, to which it could easily be carted down from the northern side of the Chalk Ridge” (1921,181). The existence of such a marl pit in the tenth century implies that some of the tertiary clayland was used as arable. This is reflected in the place-name of Watchingwell itself. The first recording of the name is in S766, *ie. Hwætinc, Hwætincg le*. The first element would appear to be OE *hwæte* ‘wheat’, with **Hwætinc* meaning ‘the place where wheat was grown (or grew)’ (Kökeritz 1940,89). The same place-name element, in the form of the adjective *hwæten*, would also appear to have been the origin of Wheaten Bread, 1.6 km north of the manorial centre of Upper Watchingwell, and just to the west of the bounds of S 766 (*ibid.*,91). Watchingwell and Wheaten Bread would have been atypical of this clayland landscape, with the growing of wheat being noteworthy. The occurrence of *le* appended to *hwætincg* in the heading of the bounds of the charter, *ie. Leah*, indicates the wooded nature of the immediate area around (Upper) Watchingwell at the time. *Hwætincg le* therefore means ‘the woodland clearing at the place where the wheat is grown’. At least some of the area beyond the margins of the chalk and along watercourses would have been meadowland, as can be inferred from Domesday Book. The area of *hrecescumbes heafde* was within the King’s park in the later eleventh century, where Wilton Abbey’s meadowland was located at the time of Domesday (below).

The land use of the southernmost portion of S 766, within the area of the lateral chalk ridge, can also be reconstructed from the Old English bounds in the area. *hrece leage middewardre* can be translated as ‘middle of the stack pasture’, with ‘pasture’ being appropriate for chalk grassland. However, as in the case of *heort lege* (above), an area of wood-pasture is a possibility. The pastoral nature of this area is also indicated by the name *æsc stede* ‘place of the ash trees’. The reference to ash trees and the later place-name of Ashengrove (first recorded in its present form in 1630 as *Ashingrove* (Mills 1996,24)) implies the existence of some woodland here of ‘grove’ proportions. The significant place-name element for a more open environment in the name *æsc stede* is *stede* ‘place’. Studies of this place-name element suggest that it had a specific meaning of an area of pasture land in an otherwise wooded area (Sandred 1963,134; Everitt 1986,171)¹³¹³.

S 766 and Domesday Book: The hidage of Watchingwell

S 766 documents the confirmation of a recent grant of ten hides to the nuns of Wilton. In 1066, Watchingwell was still held by Wilton, but there is a discrepancy between the ten hides of 968 and the three hides of a century later. In 1086:

“Wilton Abbey holds WATCHINGWELL [WATINGEWELLE]. It was always in the (lands of the) Monastery. Before 1066 it answered for 3 hides, now for 2½ hides, because ½ [hide] is in the King’s park the meadow is in the park” (Munby 1982,52d).

The area of Shalfleet detached was 1012 acres (Ordnance Survey 6 inch map, first edition). This connection of the Watchingwell area with the parish of Shalfleet originated in the early twelfth century when Watchingwell was alienated to the lay lords of Shalfleet (Hase 1994,77,n.73). However, Wilton would also appear to have maintained an interest in Watchingwell until the late thirteenth century, as it was last mentioned in a Wilton document in 1296 (Hockey 1982,65). The area of Shalfleet detached was however not coterminous with the bounds of S 766. By the time that the parish boundary of Shalfleet detached had been established in the twelfth or thirteenth century, a significant portion of S 766 had been alienated from Watchingwell. The northernmost part of S 766, the Thorness area, was part of Northwood parish and this area encompassed 595 acres. In addition to the Thorness area, half a hide had been lost between 1066 and 1086 to the King’s park. The area lost between 1066 and 1086 has been reconstructed and can be calculated as having been an area in the order of 215

acres. With 215 acres of clayland being quantified as half a hide, and the total area within the bounds of S 766 calculated as consisting of 1871 acres, the hidage of the whole estate should be about 4½ hides. Assuming that the Thorness area was alienated from Wilton before 1066, and that the northern boundary of Shalfleet detached reflects the southern limit of this alienation, a similar calculation can be made from the 595 acres of the Thorness area. This area was 32 *per cent* of S 766. This represents a little over 1½ hides when compared with the 3 hides of 1066, thus the hidage of S 766 can be inferred as having been a little over 4½. When an allowance has been made for the perhaps greater value of chalk pasture in the Ashengrove area compared with the less productive nature of much of the claylands, and for Anglo-Saxon estates to be given a hidage in round numbers (1 hide, 2 hides, 5 hides *etc.*), the 10 hides of Watchingwell can be corrected to 5 hides. South Newton (*Niwantune*) consisted of 10 hides. It is quite possible that the number of hides of Watchingwell was confused with that of South Newton when S 766 was transcribed.

It would thus appear that 5 hides were granted at Watchingwell by Edgar, which he confirmed in 968. By 1066, 2 hides in the Thorness area had been alienated in a transaction for which we have no written record¹⁴¹⁴. Between 1066 and 1086 a further half a hide had been lost to the King's park. A small area of S 766 (49 acres) was also alienated from the estate in the Youngwoods Farm area, probably after 1086 and before 1294 (see above).

The Calbourne Charter, S 274

This charter purports to record a grant made in 826 by King Egbert to the bishopric of Winchester. The estate consisted of 30 *mansae* at *Cawelburne* (Calbourne) in the Isle of Wight. The original charter was extant in 1643 but is no longer in existence. A copy of the charter is in the *Codex Wintoniensis*. The estate was to be "always free" (without stated reservations) and was to "serve no one but the bishop alone" (Finberg 1964,no.12).

The charter was considered to be authentic by Finberg, but this is no longer accepted. Edwards, in her study of *The Charters of the Early West Saxon Kingdom* has commented that:

"The unusual nature of the wording, the reference to earlier kings of the Angli and the emphasis on Winchester and on religious sanctions all combine to render this a suspicious document, more likely to be a fabrication of perhaps the tenth century than a genuine ninth-century charter. It may have been fabricated because Winchester owned Calbourne but had no title deed for it. The dating clause and witness list seem basically authentic although somewhat corrupt, but the charter in which they originated may not have been a grant of Calbourne to Winchester" (Edwards 1988,155-6).

Keynes (1994,1111,n.4) has noted that Bishop Ealhstan is absent from the lists of witnesses in S 274, 275 and 276 but that these do include an Ealhstan *dux* or *prefectus*, and he suspects that this is the result of interference by a forger. He comments that "Nor is there much to recommend the authenticity in their received form the glut of charters which purport to have been issued by Egberht in 824-6, and which are preserved in the archives of the Old Minster, Winchester" (*ibid.*,1110-1111). These would have included S 274. He does however conclude that "It cannot be doubted, however, that genuine charters of the mid 820s lie somewhere behind them" (*ibid.*).

Although accepting S 274 as authentic, Finberg has commented that "Nearly all of the diplomatic crimes which can justly be imputed to the Winchester monks arose from this desire to invest with a higher antiquity estates and privileges which in fact rested on unimpeachably valid title deeds" (Finberg 1964,227). This may have happened in the case of Calbourne, although there is some evidence which suggests that Calbourne may have belonged to Winchester before the ninth century (below).

The bounds of S 274

Dis synt þara. xxx. hida land gemæro to Cawelburnan. on Whit. Ærest óf sæ úp ón æscstede. þanon on þæne gemot beorh. of þam beorge ón swines heafod. þanon on suð sæ on Eadgylses muþan. and lang Eadgylses muþan. on bican dæne. þanon on Cawelburnan. and lang Cawelburnan. útt on norð sæ. (Birch 1885-1893,no.392).

‘These are the boundaries of the 30 hide estate at Calbourne on the Isle of Wight. Starting from the sea up to the place of the ash trees thence to the moot mound. From that mound to swine’s head, thence to the south sea at Eadgils’s river mouth along Eadgils’s river mouth to Bic(c)a’s (or the wedge shaped hill spur) valley thence to the Caul Bourne along the Caul Bourne out to the north sea’.

The estate of Calbourne documented by S 274 has a further set of bounds (S 1581) which will be discussed below.

Identifying the Bounds (Fig 4)

The bounds of S 274 have been discussed by Grundy (1921,137-8), Kökeritz (1940,77) and Currie (1999,11-13). The bounds have been previously mapped by Arnold (1975). Grundy commented that “The survey is of a very general character, giving very few landmarks considering the area of land included” (*ibid.*,137).

The eastern boundary of the 30 hides of Calbourne was the ecclesiastical parish boundary which ran from the Solent southwards to the English Channel, and which defined the eastern limits of Calbourne and Brighstone parishes, and the the western limits of Northwood, Shalfleet detached (Watchingwell), Carisbrooke, and Shorwell. From *óf sæ* the boundary runs south to Ashengrove, which as *æscstede* also features in the bounds of S 766. *Gemot beorh* can be identified with Gallibury Hump, a prominent round barrow almost on the highest point of the lateral chalk ridge on the parish boundary between Brighstone and Carisbrooke parishes, and adjoining the trackway following the line of the ridge¹⁵¹⁵. *Swines heafod* would appear to be a location on the parish boundary between Brighstone and Shorwell parishes, but its precise location is uncertain. The *heafod* (‘head’) may relate to a hill, so would refer to Fore Down to the north of the now deserted settlement site of Rancombe (Kökeritz 1940,77), or the un-named greensand ridge to the south of Rancombe. Alternatively, “... *swines* may be OE **swin* or **swin* ‘creek, channel’, and *swines heafod* thus be interpreted as ‘the head of the channel-like river’, perhaps the stream rising at Woolverton and emptying into the sea at Grange Chine...” (*ibid.*). The former is more likely, as the parish boundary crosses the stream in the vicinity of present-day Yafford Mill. The source of the stream and the head of the valley is a further 1½ km to the north-east, at North Court. The parish boundary between Brighstone and Shorwell reaches the sea near Shepherd’s Chine, which can be identified with *Eadgylses muþan*. This point also forms the westernmost boundary of the reconstructed bounds of ECW 103. The bounds of S 1581 are almost identical to those in S 274. S 1581 give more detail about the bounds of Calbourne approaching the ‘south sea’ and are consistent with the bounds following the parish boundary between Brighstone and Shorwell, reaching the sea just to the east of Shepherd’s Chine.

The reconstruction of the western boundary of S 274 is more problematic. *bican dæne* would appear to refer to a chine further westwards along the coast from Shepherd’s Chine. The first major chine is Grange Chine. It is possible that the bounds of S 274 followed Grange Chine up from the coast to the vicinity of Shate Farm, and followed the tributary stream northwards past Moortown. From here onwards the bounds may have followed the parish boundary between Mottistone and Brighstone northwards from the vicinity of Rock Roman villa up to the northernmost part of Mottistone parish in the col in the lateral chalk ridge. From here onwards the bounds may have followed the dry valley northwards down to the head of the *Cawelburnan*, and from thereon following the stream to the sea

via Shalfleet Lake. Such a reconstruction would accord with the simplicity of the western bounds of S 274, there being no boundary marks mentioned between the coast at *bican dæne* and the Caul Bourne. This reconstruction follows a relatively straight line from the coast to the Caul Bourne, and follows the entire valley of the Caul Bourne. However, the upper part of this valley formed the manorial boundary between Swainston and Westover. In 1086, both of these manors were referred to as *Cauborne*. This implies that Westover was formerly part of the bishop of Winchester's estate, and that Westover as a separate entity was a relatively recent creation in the later eleventh century. The place-name Westover 'the western (river) bank' (Kökeritz 1940,91), implies that the manor was named due to its geographical relationship to Swainston/ Calbourne.

The case for the south-western boundary of S 274 being much further to the west has been made by Currie (1999). He has argued that the existence of common pasture on the chalk downland at Rowborough documented *c.* 1240 and in 1400 implies that Calbourne and Mottistone may have once formed an estate which later became sub-divided (*ibid.*,11; Hockey 1991, nos.321,327). He suggests that *bican dæne* may be identified as Brook Chine. This reconstruction of the south-western boundary would have included the whole of Mottistone and Hulverstone within S 274. Alternatively, it is argued that *bican dæne* may have been a small chine or similar feature which formerly existed at the southern end of Hulvertone's western boundary which has now been lost through coastal erosion (*ibid.*,12-13).

The most plausible reconstruction of the western bounds of S 274 starts with the identification of *bican dæne* with Chilton Chine. This forms the southernmost part of the parish boundary between Mottistone and Brighstone. From here the parish boundary crosses Chilton Green and follows Pitt Place Lane up to the margin of the Island's lateral ridge. Much of Pitt Place Lane is a sunken way. Pitt Place Lane formed the westernmost extremity of the manor of Brighstone in the manorial survey of 1630 (Jones 1993,79). From the northern end of Pitt Place Lane at its junction with the east-west road, the bounds of S 274 would appear to ascend the lateral ridge at Harboro. Grundy has commented that "The present boundaries up on the high land of the downs are of a later creation, made probably at a period when more precise definition became necessary" (Grundy 1921,138). From Harboro, the bounds would have approximately followed the line of the Shalfleet/Calbourne parish boundary down to the Caul Bourne, and then along the stream and parish boundary out to Shalfleet Lake, and thus *útt on norð sæ*. This reconstruction includes the whole of the manor of Westover within S 274 and is consistent with the post-medieval geography of Brighstone manor.

The Anglo-Saxon Landscape of Calbourne

The bounds of S 274 provide some contemporary information about the landscape in the ninth or tenth century. *æscstede* would appear to have been an area of woodland of 'grove' proportions, which was reflected in the later place-name of Ashengrove. A full discussion of the tenth century environs of *æscstede* is more appropriate in an examination of the bounds of S 766 (above). *gemot beorh*, the round barrow now known as Gallibury Hump, would also have been in a relatively open landscape, due to its use as a boundary mark where it would have been visible from a distance, especially from the north, and as a meeting place. As mentioned above, the identification of *swines heafod* is problematic, and even if located accurately, gives little information about the Anglo-Saxon landscape. *Eadgylses muþan* would appear to record a former land holder on this part of the coast. The same could be said of *bican dæne* if this place-name refers to the personal name Bicca. The interpretation of the first element of *Cawelburnan* is not clear-cut. It may refer to cultivated cabbage, from OE *cawel*, *caul* meaning 'cole (wort), cabbage, kail', or to sea cabbage. Alternatively, it may be a pre English name which can be compared with the river Cale in Somerset (Kökeritz 1940,75-76).

S 274 and Domesday Book

In the later eleventh century, the bishop of Winchester's estate of Calbourne was described as consisting of 32 hides:

“Walkelin Bishop of Winchester holds CALBOURNE [*Cauborne*] in lordship. It was always in the (lands of the) Monastery. 32 hides, but before 1066 and now did not pay tax except for 17 hides Of this land, Robert holds 6 hides, Herpolf 2 hides and Alfsi 3½ hides. 7 freeholders held these hides from the Bishop, and they could not withdraw to another or from him ...” (Munby 1982,52c).

However, the area of S 274 consisted of more than just the bishop of Winchester's estate at Domesday. Other land holdings which can be identified as having been located within the bounds of S 274, with their hidages in 1066, were:

Calbourne/Westover (*Cauborne*), 3 hides less 1 virgate (52d)
Coombe (*Seutecome*), 1 hide (53c)
Chilton (*Celatune*), 1 hide (53c)
Chilton (*Celatune*), ½ hide (53c)
Shate (*Soete*), ½ hide (54a)
Brighstone (*Weristetone*), 2 hides (53c) ¹⁶

It is very unlikely that the total area of S 274 consisted of approximately 40 hides in 1066. The 32 hides of the bishop of Winchester's estate of Calbourne may very well reflect the grant in S 274 of 30 hides with the addition of the neighbouring 2 hides of Atherfield (ECW 103). The 32 hides in Domesday would therefore not reflect the situation on the ground in the later eleventh century, but the hidages of the two estates before any alienation of parts of these estates. The 'real' hidage of the bishop's landholding within the bounds of S 274 in 1066 would appear to have been approximately 22 hides. This can be calculated from the nominal 30 hides of the estate minus the 8 hides (less 1 virgate) of Westover, Coombe, Chilton, Shate and Brighstone. The 17 hides for which tax (geld) was paid in 1066 represents 'beneficial hidation', with a reduction of the number of taxable hides from approximately 22 to 17 hides. The practise of 'beneficial hidation' would appear to have originated in 844 with the first 'decimation' by King Æthelwulf, an alleviation of dues on one tenth of all inheritable lands in the kingdom of Wessex (Finberg 1964,187,206). A precedent was set by king Alfred for more substantial reductions, when he reduced the hidage of Chilcomb, an estate belonging to Winchester, to one hide from a probable assessment of 100 hides (Finberg 1964,no.27). A closer geographical parallel to Calbourne is Fareham. "Domesday Book records that Edward the Confessor reduced the assessment of Fareham, another Winchester manor, from 30 hides to 20 'on account of the Vikings, because it is on the sea'" (Finberg 1964,220-221;Doubleday 1900,462a).

By 1066, the estate recorded in S 274 no longer consisted of the whole of the Calbourne and Brighstone areas. The Domesday landholdings of *Seutecome*, *Celatune* (x2), *Soete* and *Weristetone* were all located south of the lateral chalk ridge. All of these were held by named individuals in 1066, with the exception of *Weristetone* which was held by three free men of King Edward in freehold. The fragmentation of Winchester's estate in the area to the south of the lateral chalk ridge was well under way by Domesday. The bishop would however retained direct control over some of the lands to the south of the ridge. These were the 6 hides held by Robert, 2 hides by Herpolf and 3½ hides by Alfsi in 1086, which had been held by 7 freeholders before 1066. These have not been identified in the modern landscape despite some educated guesses reported in Page (1912,211-2), but must relate to landholdings in the Brighstone area¹⁶¹⁷. Domesday Book thus provides a snapshot of two different

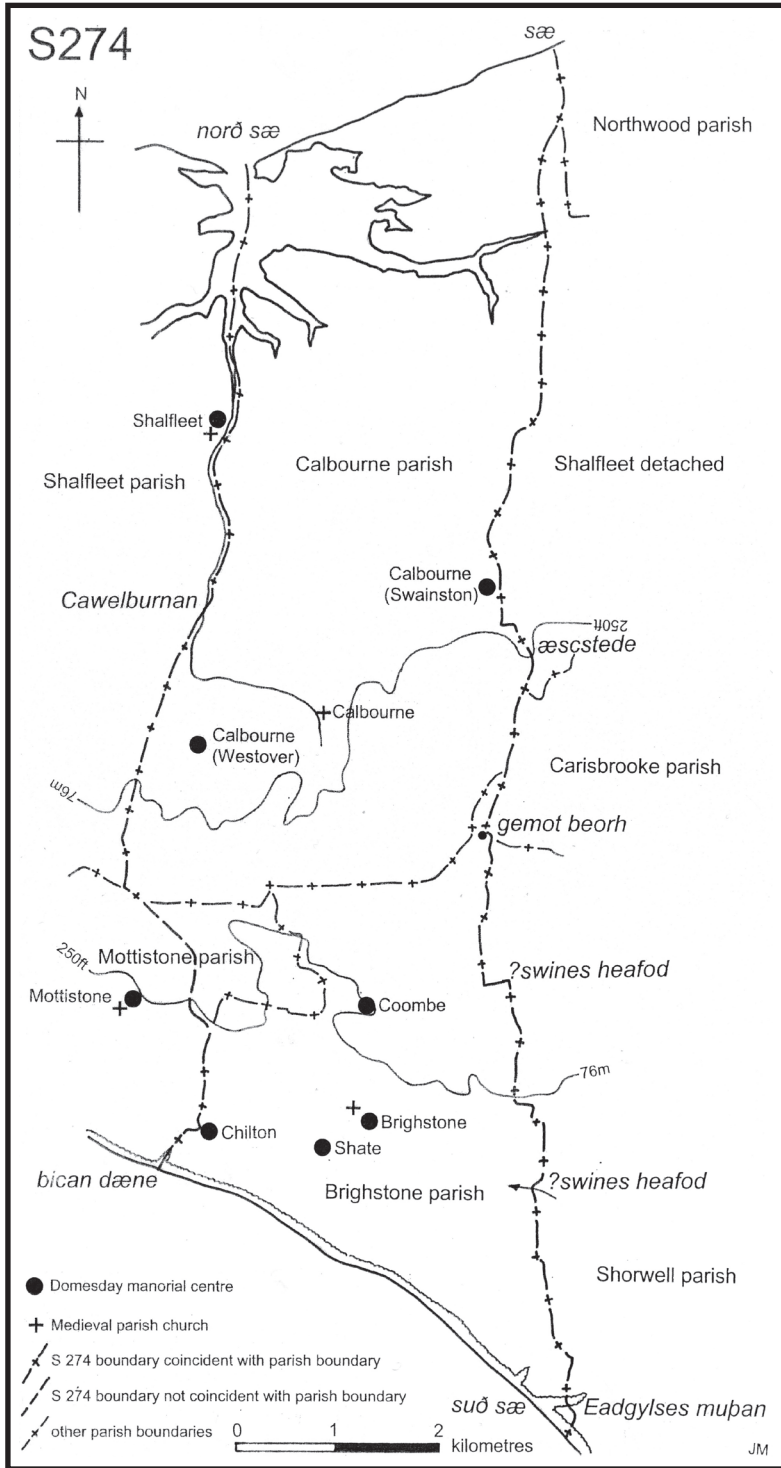


Fig.4: S 274, grant of 30 mansae in Caulbourne by King Egbert to the bishopric of Winchester, 826 AD. Medieval parish boundaries are shown.

stages in the alienation of Winchester's lands in the area to the south of the ridge, *ie.* the grants made by Winchester before 1066 and the three tenancies recorded in 1086. The situation to the north of the lateral chalk ridge was much simpler. This area consisted of the bulk of Winchester's estate and *Cauborne* on the western side of the stream. The alienation of the 3 hides less 1 virgate of the estate which was later known as Westover would appear to have been a relatively recent occurrence in 1066, as this estate was recorded as having the same place-name as the parent estate.

A further charter dating from 963x975 which refers to the restoration to the church of Winchester of 30 *mansae* at *Etdreðecumb* can be identified with Calbourne (S 821)¹⁷¹⁸. It would appear that there had been no fragmentation of Winchester's estate at Calbourne by this date.

The Calbourne Charter, S 1581

A second set of bounds exist for Calbourne, accompanied by the bounds of Downton (Wiltshire). "This survey, which has not been printed before, is found on fo. 61 of the Codex Wintoniensis (BM Add. MS. 15,350). It is not associated with any charter, but cf. No. 109 [S 821]. The text is as follows." (Finberg 1964,no.352):

This synt þa land ge mære to DUNTUNE This synt þara XXX dida land ge mære on wiht þe þær to hyrað. Ærest of sæ up on æsc stede; þonon on þone gemot beorh; of þam george on swines heafod; þonon on suð sæ; upp of þære suð sæ on Eadgylses muþan; andlang Eadgylses muþan on bican dæne; þonan on Cawelburnan; andlang Cawelburnan utt on norð sæ (Finberg 1964,no.352).

'These are the land boundaries of Downton [Wiltshire] These are the boundaries of the 30 hides on the Isle of Wight which belong to it [*ie.* Downton]. Starting from the sea up to the place of the ash trees, thence to the moot mound. From that mound to swine's head, thence to the south sea. Up from that south sea to Eadgils's river mouth, along Eadgils's river mouth to Bic(c)a's (or wedge shaped hill spur) valley, thence to the Caul Bourne, along the Cawel Bourne out to the north sea'.

The wording of the bounds of S 1581 for Calbourne is very similar to that of S 274. The only significant difference is that in S 1581 the bounds read '... thence to the south sea. Up from that south sea to Eadgils's river mouth ...' whereas S 274 reads '.... Thence to the south sea at Eadgils's river mouth'. This difference can perhaps be explained through reference to the parish boundary between Brighstone and Shorwell. This boundary reaches the sea to the south-east of Shepherd's Chine, having crossed the chine just to the north, rather than at the mouth of the chine (Fig 4). The version of the bounds in S 1581 thus more accurately reflects the relationship of the bounds of Calbourne to the topography of the area.

Calbourne and Downton

There is some evidence to suggest that Calbourne had been dependent on Downton for some considerable time by the later Anglo-Saxon period. In addition to the undated bounds of Downton and Calbourne in S 1581, the restoration by King Edgar of 30 *mansae* at *Etdrethecumb*, which can be identified with Calbourne, and 100 *mansae* at *Duntune* in S 821 (963x975), attest to a connection between the two estates in the tenth century. There is no dated evidence for a connection previous to this date, but a long-standing association is quite likely.

The Domesday entry for Downton makes no mention of a connection with Calbourne, but later documentary evidence suggests that Calbourne's dependent status continued for a few centuries afterwards (below). Domesday provides a picture of a substantial estate centred on Downton:

"The Bishop of Winchester holds DOWNTON. Before 1066 it paid tax for 100 hides less 3. 2 of these were not the Bishop's because they were taken away with the other three from the

church and from the Bishop's hand in King Canute's time. Land for 46½ ploughs. Of this land 30 hides is in lordship; 13 ploughs there, 40 slaves. 64 villagers and 27 smallholders who have 17 ploughs. 7 mills which pay 60s; meadow, 60 acres; pasture 2 leagues long and 1 league wide.

Of the land of this manor William son of Braose holds 14 hides, Waleran 5 hides, Ralf 5 hides, Ansgot 3½ hides. The king has 4 hides in his forest. The church of this manor has 4 hides. They all hold from the bishop. The holders of these lands before 1066 could not withdraw from the church.

Value when Bishop Walkelin acquired this manor, £60; value now of what he has in lordship. £80; of what the men-at-arms have, £23; of what the church has, £3" (Thorn and Thorn 1979,65c).

This Domesday entry for Downton would also have included the area of the Ebble valley which has been known as Bishopstone from the twelfth century onwards. From the later tenth century, Bishopstone was physically separate from the main part of the estate at Downton, a result of grants from the Downton estate in the period between it passing from Winchester to King Edward the Elder in 909 and its restoration to the Old Minster in 997 by King Ethelred (Crowley 1980,6). The relative significance of the two parts of the estate at this latter date are indicated by Downton being rated as 55 *mansae* and Ebbesbourne (Bishopstone) as 45 *mansae* (*ibid.*,28;S 891). Prior to the tenth century, the Downton estate was "... probably an unbroken tract of land extending from the Avon valley perhaps all the way up the Ebble valley ..." (*ibid.*,27).

Because of the 'diplomatic crimes' of the bishopric of Winchester in the later Anglo-Saxon period, which led to the drawing up of many spurious land charters, including four charters relating to Downton (S 229, S 275, S 393 and S 540), it is uncertain when Winchester first acquired Downton. However, one of these spurious charters may very well provide evidence of the original grant: "It seems more than likely that it was Offa who gave Downton.... to Winchester, for the charter of 'Cynevale' [*ie.* Cenwalh], ... relating to this property [S 229] has a purely Mercian witness list belonging to the last three years of Offa's reign" (Finberg 1964,218). The grant of Downton to Winchester may therefore date to the period 793x796, during a time when the Mercian king had much influence in Wessex.

A grant of Downton to Winchester in the late eighth century may give some indication as to when Winchester acquired Calbourne, *ie.* after obtaining Downton. However, it is possible that Calbourne was acquired before this date, and then became dependent upon Downton in or after the latter years of Offa. It has been argued that the connection between Calbourne and the church at Winchester may have originated in the granting of a quarter of the Isle of Wight to St Wilfrid by King Cædwalla in 686, as related in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* (Margham 2000,123-125). Although there was no specific connection documented between Calbourne and Downton at Domesday, there are hints of such a connection in the hundredal organisation of the two estates. Downton was the centre of a hundred which had originated in grants of immunity from paying dues to the crown by Anglo-Saxon kings to the bishop of Winchester. It thus became a private hundred, "... and the wide range of administrative and judicial liberties later held in respect of it, passed with the see" (Crowley 1980,1). The hundredal organisation of Calbourne at Domesday is an anomaly, for the land of the bishop of Winchester at Calbourne was said to lie "In CALBOURNE Hundred, which lies in BOWCOMBE Hundred" (Munby 1982,52c). Bowcombe hundred would appear to have been the western half of the Island which later became known as the West Medine. The bishop's estate at Calbourne thus also has some traits of being a private hundred administered solely by the church in the eleventh century, being

‘always free’ and to ‘serve no one but the bishop alone’ (Finberg 1964,no.12; S 274). This however, in itself is not unusual, for many of the Hampshire estates of the see of Winchester were coterminous with Domesday hundreds.

A connection between Downton and Calbourne would appear to have continued for some considerable period after the eleventh century, probably up until the seizure of the manor of Swainston by the king in 1284 (Page 1912,218). Calbourne would have been dependent upon Downton even after the building of the bishop’s residence at Swainston, probably by Richard of Ilchester, Bishop of Winchester, 1174-1188 (Page 1912,217). The charter for Newtown, a planned town within the Calbourne estate, was signed at Downton in 1255. By this time, the Downton estate was administered from the motte and bailey castle, now known as the Moot, which was constructed in 1137. This replaced an administrative centre which was either on the site of the Moot, or nearby in a field now known as Old Court (Haslam 1976,21).

It is quite possible that Calbourne church was in some way dependent upon the church at Downton. There is no evidence for a church at Downton until the Domesday survey specifically mentions the church there with its endowment of 4 hides. A reading of the Domesday entry for Downton may imply that these 4 hides were granted to Downton church between 1066 and 1086, but even this would not disqualify it from being a minster church of long standing (Crowley 1980,46).

Dependent Estates : The evidence of Charters and Domesday Book

In the discussion of the Calbourne charter (S 1581) it has been demonstrated that Calbourne was an estate dependent upon an estate centre in mainland England. Parallels for this type of relationship are to be found in other charters relating to the Isle of Wight and in Domesday Book.

The bounds of Ningwood in S 543, the grant of 1 hide in *Vexta Insula*, also include the phrase ‘which belong to it’ which would appear to refer to the 1 hide at *Winterburnan* in Wiltshire, the other estate which was granted to Ælfsige by King Eadred in the same charter. The bounds of Watchingwell are prefaced by the sentence ‘These are the boundaries of the ten hide estate of Watchingwell which belongs to [South] Newton’ (S 766).

Further examples of estates on the Isle of Wight being dependent upon estates in mainland England can be cited from the Domesday survey of Hampshire:

1. Eling was held by the King in 1086. It is not recorded who held it before 1066. It is however quite likely to have been King Edward as it was stated that the number of hides were unknown and that it paid half a days revenue before 1066. Eling had two outliers in the Isle of Wight of unspecified hidage which had been held by William FitzOsbern after 1066 (Munby 1982,38d).
2. Breamore was held by King Edward before 1066. Breamore is stated to belong to Rockbourne which also had been held by King Edward. Rockbourne appears to have been the *caput* of the estate, as “It has never paid tax or been assessed in hides”. Breamore was hidged, although its total hidage is not stated. It did however have “1 hide on the Isle of Wight which Gervi holds” (Munby 1982,39a). This hide can be identified with the 1 hide of Ningwood in Domesday (Munby 1982,54a) and the 1 hide in *Vexta Insula* of S 543.
3. Holdenhurst had been held by Earl Tostig and consisted of 29 hides and ½ virgate before 1066. Seven of these hides were on the Isle of Wight (Munby 1982,39a).
4. Ringwood had also been held by Earl Tostig. It consisted of 28 hides before 1066, of which six were on the Island. The mainland hides “never paid tax” (Munby 1982,44b).

5. The canons of Holy Trinity, Twynham held 5 hides and 1 virgate in Twynham (Christchurch) and one hide on the Isle of Wight. “These hides always were in the (lands of) the Church itself” (Munby 1982,44b).

There was also a connection between Stanswood, on the south-eastern margins of the New Forest, and the Island. It is stated in Domesday that “This manor lies in the revenue which he [*ie.* the king] has from the Isle of Wight” (Munby 1982,38d). This small estate of only 2 hides before 1066 and 1 hide in 1086 (1 hide became part of the Forest) was thus regarded as being subsidiary to property on the Island, rather than the other way round in 1086.

In addition to this information from mainland Hampshire, the Domesday survey of Wiltshire records the relationship between Amesbury and Bowcombe. Amesbury had been held by King Edward. “It never paid tax and was not assessed in hides”. It paid one night’s revenue:

“In this manor are enumerated the lands of 3 thanes, which they held themselves before 1066. Earl William [FitzOsbern] gave those to Amesbury in exchange for Bowcombe. King Edward when he was ill gave 2 hides of this manor’s land to the Abbess of Wilton, which she had never had before, but she held them afterwards. Earl William gave *QUINTONE* and Swindon and Cheverell, which were thanelands, for the Isle of Wight land which belonged to the Amesbury revenue” (Thorn and Thorn 1979,64d).

The reference to Bowcombe in the Hampshire Domesday survey records that “It was of King Edward’s revenue. Then it answered for four hides, now for nothing” (Munby 1982,52b). The relatively low assessment of 4 hides may have been the result of ‘beneficial hidation’.

The mainland estates which had outliers on the Isle of Wight can be categorised in the following way:

A. Substantial royal estates which were associated with minster or possible minster churches centred on major river valleys, with much smaller outliers on the Island:

- i) Eling, alongside Southampton Water, a royal estate which was not hid in 1066, which had a minster church. Eling was the administrative centre of Redbridge hundred (Page 1911,544; Hase 1988,46).
- ii) Breamore, in the Avon valley, belonging to the royal estate of nearby Rockbourne, and was not hid in 1066. Breamore has a substantial late Anglo-Saxon church which may well have been a minster church (Hase 1994, fig.3.3).
- iii) Amesbury, an important royal estate in the valley of the Avon, which was not hid in 1066. Amesbury had a minster church (Hase 1994,fig.3.3). Amesbury was a royal vill of long-standing, first recorded as such in the will of King Alfred (S 1507). Amesbury was also a hundredal centre.

B. Estates which were held by Earl Tostig before 1066, of moderate size, but were centred on major river valleys. They would appear to have been granted from more extensive royal estates, their former dependent status being reflected in their place-names associated with woodland, and having churches which were daughter churches of Twynham (Christchurch):

- i) Ringwood, in the Avon valley, consisting of 22 hides with a further 6 hides on the Island.
- ii) Holdenhurst, in the Stour valley, consisting of a total of a little over 29 hides, of which 7 were on the Island.

C. Ecclesiastical estates:

- i) South Newton in the Wylve valley, an estate of 10 hides which belonged to nearby Wilton Abbey. The estate at Watchingwell which belonged to it is described as consisting of 10 hides (S 766), but probably consisted of 5 hides (above).
- ii) Twynham, Holy Trinity (Christchurch), which held 1 hide on the Isle of Wight.
- iii) Downton, the 100 hides centred on the Avon valley with its estate of 30 hides at Calbourne. In many respects, Downton has much in common with the large royal estates listed above. The estate consisted of a substantial area with its *caput* in a major river valley. It is quite likely that it had a 'superior' church at the time of Domesday. Downton was the centre of a hundred.

Notes

1. The use of the terms West Medine and East Medine in the titles of these two papers is anachronistic as they were not recorded as hundred names until 1181 (Kökeritz 1940,3). The division of the Isle of Wight into two hundreds, with the Medina river and estuary as the boundary, has been claimed as a twelfth century development (*ibid.*,2-3) and it has been suggested by the same source that at Domesday the hundreds of the Island consisted of Bowcombe (most of the Island), Calbourne (the bishop of Winchester's estate) and *Hemreswell* (the manors of Yarmouth, Shate and Ningwood). Despite this suggestion the Domesday Book folios actually indicate that, apart from the anomalies of Calbourne and *Hemreswell*, the Island was divided into two hundreds separated by the Medina. All of the lands belonging to King William to the east of the Medina are not specified as belonging to a hundred, whereas those to the west were in Bowcombe hundred. Although the lands held by William son of Stur are headed 'In Bowcombe Hundred', all his manors to the west of the Medina are enumerated, followed by those to the east. No hundreds are mentioned for the lands of Jocelyn son of Azor, but the enumeration of his lands starts with his manors east of the Medina, followed by those to the west. The only inconsistency is the land held by William son of Azor, with the manor of Bonchurch listed with his two manors to the west of the Medina, then followed by the remaining manors to the east. It would appear that the Isle of Wight did consist of two main hundreds in the later eleventh century, Bowcombe hundred to the west of the Medina, and an un-named hundred to the east.
2. The process of reconstructing the Old English charter bounds was as follows:
 - i) Translations of the Old English bounds were produced with the assistance of Dr Margaret Gelling.
 - ii) The bounds were plotted on Ordnance Survey six-inch scale base maps (first editions published in the 1860s). The interpretations of previous researchers, particularly Grundy (1921;1926) and Kökeritz (1940), were taken into account during this process.
 - iii) The reconstructed bounds were walked and notes made about significant findings in the field. The boundaries of the two estates in the study without Old English bounds (ECW 103 and S 1391) were also walked.
3. Sawyer (1968) has been updated as the *Electronic Sawyer*, which can be consulted on the Internet.
4. Wellow, *æt Welewe* and *æt Welig*, is listed in the will of King Alfred. This may be Wellow on the Isle of Wight, but could refer to Wellow in Hampshire, in Somerset or in Wiltshire (S 1507).
5. The three common dues were the building or repair of fortifications, the building or repair of bridges, and military service.
6. "... which belongs to it ..." means that the main estate was elsewhere and that this was a detached property. Although it was more usual for such a detached property to be dependent on a larger estate

elsewhere, it would appear that the 1 *mansa* in *Vexta Insula* was dependent upon the 1 *mansa* at *Winterburnan*. The bounds of *Winterburnan* commence with the phrase “These are the bounds of the hide at Winterbourne ...” (Grundy 1920,22), the phrase “which belongs to it” not being used in the bounds of this estate. Attempts have been made to associate *Winterburnan* with Ford in Laverstock (Wiltshire), “but it is difficult to identify any of the boundary points and we must with Grundy (ii,22) leave the matter in doubt” (Glover *et al.*, 1939,xli).

7. There are nine field-names which include the word *slade* in the Tithe Apportionment schedules (c. 1840) for the Isle of Wight Seven of these were used as arable land and one was an area of woodland (Woodslade Coppice). In addition to these field-names, Haslett Farm in Shorwell is a *slade* place-name, first recorded as *de Hirslade* in 1299 (Kökeritz 1940,220). All of these names refer to shallow valleys which either have small streams or no water-course. Some of the minor valleys referred to in the field-names do have steep profiles, such as the simplex name *Slades* in Shorwell, in a shallow dry valley high up in the chalk of the Island’s lateral ridge, but most are in areas of more subdued topography. The two instances of *slade* in the bounds of S 543 accord with the observation made by Kitson that the word *slæd* in charter boundary clauses denotes ‘flat-bottomed, especially wet-bottomed valleys’ (quoted by Gelling and Cole 2000, 141).

8. Dr Maurice Turner has suggested that *Wullafes hlipan* may refer to a deer leap (personal communication). A deer leap would have enabled deer to enter an enclosure by jumping but was constructed in such a way as to prevent the animals from leaving. The Medieval deer-park of Shalfleet would probably have been in the area bounded by Western Haven to the north-west and Shalfleet Lake to the east, so would needed a relatively short park pale on its southern landward side, quite possibly following the reconstructed bounds of S 543 from Western Haven through Woodslade Coppice to *Wullafes hlipan*.

9. This also accords with the medieval useage of the term ‘moor’: ‘.. the ‘moors’ of the Isle of Wight are flat, low-lying areas bounded by watercourses, capable of producing a heavy cut of grass’ (Hockey 1970,71).

10. The place-name literature for the Isle of Wight does not mention *Preston* in Ningwood (Kökeritz 1940;Mills 1996). Mills (1996,83) gives the origin of *Preston* in Ryde as ‘The farmstead or estate belonging to the priests’, with the first element of the name from Old English *preost* (genitive plural *preosta*). The same origin, *ie.* plural ‘priests’, is given for *Presford*, near Shorwell (Mills 1996,83). The examples of *Preston* cited in his work on *English Place-Names* are also derived from the plural, with one exception (Mills 1991,263-4).

11. The reference to *niwantune* in the preamble to the bounds of *Watchingwell* is a reference to an estate of 10 *mansae* at *Niwantune* (South Newton) in the Wylve valley of Wiltshire, which had been granted by King Edmund to Wilton in 943, along with a meadow beside the Wylve and an estate of 3 *mansae* at *Fyrstesfelda* (Frustfield) in Whiteparish (Finberg 1964,260; S 492; Hooke 1998,53-4).

12. It is possible that the King’s Forest was not newly-created in 1066-1086 but was a Norman reordering of an Anglo-Saxon hunting area, perhaps with *ealden heort heges* as a boundary (personal communication, Maurice Turner).

13. A possible interpretation of *æsc stede* (S 766 and S 274) is ‘the ash-spear place’, *ie.* ‘place of battle’ (personal communication, Della Hooke).

14. Thorness is not recorded in Domesday. It does not enter the extant written record until 1198x1216 (*Torneyam*). The name in its early forms was derived from *thorn* and *hege* or *hæg*, ‘the thorn-tree hedge or enclosure’ (Mills 1996,102). Although it can be inferred as having been tenurally separate from Watchingwell by 1066, there are no obvious candidates for manorial centres within the area as having control over Thorness at Domesday. It would appear that Thorness was a sub-tenancy of a manorial centre elsewhere on the Island or an outlying portion of a mainland manor which was not specifically recorded as such in 1086.

15. It has been claimed that *gemot beorh* refers to an earthwork enclosure some 250 metres to the south of Gallibury Hump, and that this enclosure was the site of the *gemot* (moot-place) (Crawford 1949-52,138-9). This can be dismissed through reference to recent place-name research. *Beorg* means ‘rounded hill or tumulus’ (Gelling and Cole 2000,145). The meaning of ‘rounded hill’ is appropriate for *mot beorh* in the bounds of S 766 (Bunts Hill) and for *stan beorg* ‘stone hill’ in the bounds of S 1663 (identified as the carstone hill overlooking Sainham). This meaning however does not accord with the topography of the lateral chalk ridge in the Gallibury area, so *gemot beorh* in the bounds of S 274 is to be identified as the *beorg*-shaped tumulus of Gallibury Hump.

16. Domesday *Weristetone* can probably be identified with Brighstone (Mills 1996,33-4).

17. Page (1912,211-2) identifies Herpulf’s 2 hides with Waytes Court, Robert’s 6 hides with Limerston, and Alfsi’s 3½ hides with Uggaton.

18. S 821 is the restoration to the church of Winchester of 100 *mansae* at *Duntune* (Downton, Wiltshire) and 30 at *Etdreðecumb* in the Isle of Wight by King Edgar (963x975). It states that both estates were first given by King Cenwalh and subsequently by King Cædwalla, but were usurped by some of the king’s predecessors. It also includes the renewal of the church’s title to *Cyltancumb* (Chilcomb, Hampshire), which is to be administered by the bishop in order to provide food for the cathedral clergy (Finberg 1964,no.109). Kökeritz (1940,lix-lx) identifies *Etdreðecumb* with Bowcombe. At the time of Domesday, Calbourne Hundred formed part of Bowcombe Hundred (*ibid.*,2). This, the hidage of the estate, and the close connection between Downton and Calbourne documented in S 1581 indicate that the 30 hides at *Etdreðecumb* were coterminous with the 30 *mansae* (hides) at *Cawelburne* (S 274). The reference to King Cenwalh is implausible (Finberg 1964,217; Margham 2000,125).

Abbreviations

IWCAC Isle of Wight County Archaeological Centre

IWCRO Isle of Wight County Records Office

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Table 1: INDEX OF ANGLO-SAXON CHARTERS RELATING TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

ECW 1 688x726 lost, Ine to the church of Winchester.

30 hides in *Ewereland* [Yaverland]

50 hides in *Breredinges* [Brading]

ECW 4 740x756 lost, Cuthred to the church of Winchester.

40 hides in *Muleburnam* [unidentified]

25 hides in *Banewadam* [unidentified]

22 hides in *Wippingeham* [Whippingham]

S 274 826 B Egbert to the bishopric of Winchester

30 *mansae* in *Cawelburnan* [Calbourne]

S 281 838 Egbert to the bishopric of Winchester

40 *cassati* in *Scealdanfleote* [Shalfleet]

S 1507 873x888 Will of Alfred

Eaderingtune [Arreton]

Welig [Wellow?]

S 543 949 B Eadred to Ælfsige

1 *mansa* in *Vexta insula* [Ningwood]

1 *mansa* at *Winterburnan* [Winterbourne, Wiltshire]

S 1662 951x955 B Eadred to ?

2 hides at *Beaddingaburnan* [Bathingbourne]

1 hide at *Linlande* [unidentified]

S 1663 955x959 B Eadwig to Æthelgeard

5 *mansae* at *Beaddingaburnan* [Bathingbourne]

ECW 103 959x975 lost, Edgar to the church at Winchester

2 hides at *Aderingefeldam* [Atherfield]

S 766 968 B Edgar to the nuns of Wilton, confirmation

10 hides at *Hwætincg* [Watchingwell] and properties in Wiltshire

[South Newnton, Sherrington, Deverill, Baverstock, and *Frustfield*]

S 821 963x975 Edgar to the church of Winchester, restoration of

30 *mansae* at *Etdrethecumb* [Calbourne]

100 *mansae* at *Duntune* [Downton, Wiltshire] and renewal of Winchester's title to

Cyltancumb [Chilcomb, Hants]

JOHN MARGHAM

S 842 982 B Ethelred to the New Minster at Winchester, confirmation, various properties including
2 hides at *Heantune* [Branstone]
2 hides at *Beadingaburnan* [Bathingbourne]
2 hides at *Meolocdune/Meolcburnantune* [Ashey]
1 hide at *Stathe* [Fishbourne]

S 1391 1043x1044 Exchange between Bishop Ælfwine of the Old Minster and Osgod
[5 hides] at *Wrocceshele*

S 1581 no date B bounds of Calbourne and Downton [Wiltshire]

ECW: Charters which have been lost, but are referred to in the *Annales Monasterii de Wintonia* (Luard 1865) are referenced by their number in Finberg (1964)

S: Extant charters (surviving in later copies) are referenced by their number in Sawyer (1968)

Each reference number is followed by the date or date range of the granting or confirmation of the original charter

B indicates that the charter contains one or more Old English boundary clause