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## EDITORIAL

This ninth volume of NOMINA sees a number of changes. Most obviously we have moved from ring binding to perfect binding. The main reason for this has been to avoid a substantial rise in binding costs. The loose-leaf format is far from ideal but, as one of my editorial colleagues has observed, not for the first time, so-called perfect binding is by no means the perfect binding, and we shall lose the advantage of being able to open up the volume completely flat. If any readers experience serious inconvenience with this new binding of NOMINA, please make your views known to the Editor.

Perhaps only those who literally read NOMINA from cover to cover will have noticed that the journal is no longer published by English Name Studies but by the Council for Name Studies. This will simplify the administration of the journal.

There are two changes to the membership of the Editorial Board. Mr R.L. Thomson has succeeded Professor D.Ellis Evans as Chairman of the Board. On behalf of the Board I should like to thank Professor Evans for his unfailing helpfulness during his term of office. It is also a great pleasure to welcome Miss Cecily Clark as Assistant Editor. Her meticulous scholarship has contributed in countless ways to the preparation of this volume of the journal.

Finally I should like to mention a special debt of gratitude to Dr Alexander Rumble who as Deputy Editor for this volume has skilfully taken over many of the general editorial chores during a year in which I have been indisposed.

This is, sadly for me, the last issue of NOMINA that I shall edit. I have greatly enjoyed my time as Editor not least for the opportunities it has given me for getting to know so many scholars in different parts of the world. My warm thanks go to all those contributors and subscribers who have enabled the journal to flourish during the last nine years.

P.McC.

TOPOGRAPHY, HYDROLOGY AND PLACE-NAMES IN THE CHALKLANDS OF SOUTHERN  
ENGLAND: \*FUNTA, ĀWIELL AND ĀWIELM

This article examines the hydrological characteristics, distribution and usage of three OE words thought to mean spring or stream: \*funta, a loan word, via Primitive Welsh \*funtōn, from Latin fontāna 'spring, fountain'; āwiell, WSax (= Angl āwell, Kt ēwell) 'a river spring, the source of a river'; and āwielm, WSax (= Angl āwel̄m, Kt ēwel̄m) 'a river spring, the source of a river' (EPN).

## I. HYDROLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION

The Anglo-Saxons used at least six different words to mean 'spring'. Leaving aside the very rare celde and cille, the commonest is wiella (WSax = Angl, Kt wella, Merc wālla) appearing in some 280 place-names in DEPN, while \*funta, āwiell and āwielm between them account for about 40 place-names. Since wiella is so much more common than any of these other place-name elements it seems that it is the unmarked form referring to an ordinary spring and that \*funta, āwiell and āwielm are marked forms referring to springs with some unusual attribute.

Since springs are necessarily closely associated with ground-water flow and this in turn depends on rock type, whether or not it is a good aquifer and how quickly and in what quantities water will flow through it, all the surviving examples of names in \*funta, āwiell and āwielm were plotted on a geological map of southern England. This exercise showed that over half of them were closely associated with the Chalk outcrop or the Upper Greensand beds lying directly beneath it. (See Map 1). Although all the examples of these place-names have been included on Map 1 it must be pointed out that Awell Barn (Sussex) has a rather late first mention, in 1526; that Funtington (Sussex) may contain some other element rather than \*funta (cf. PNSx 60); and that Fontmell (Dorset) and Fonthill (Wilts.) are both combined with Primitive Welsh elements and may have been borrowed by the Anglo-Saxons as PrW place-names. These four places have been included in the discussion on hydrology to see if they possess the same characteristics as the other places whose names contain \*funta and āwiell.

The Geological Survey Memoirs provide a lot of information on wells, but usually rather little on springs, and these only very rarely in places named with the elements \*funta, āwiell and āwielm. However some information can be gleaned and related to the structure of the Chalk and other rocks and the movement of ground-water through them.

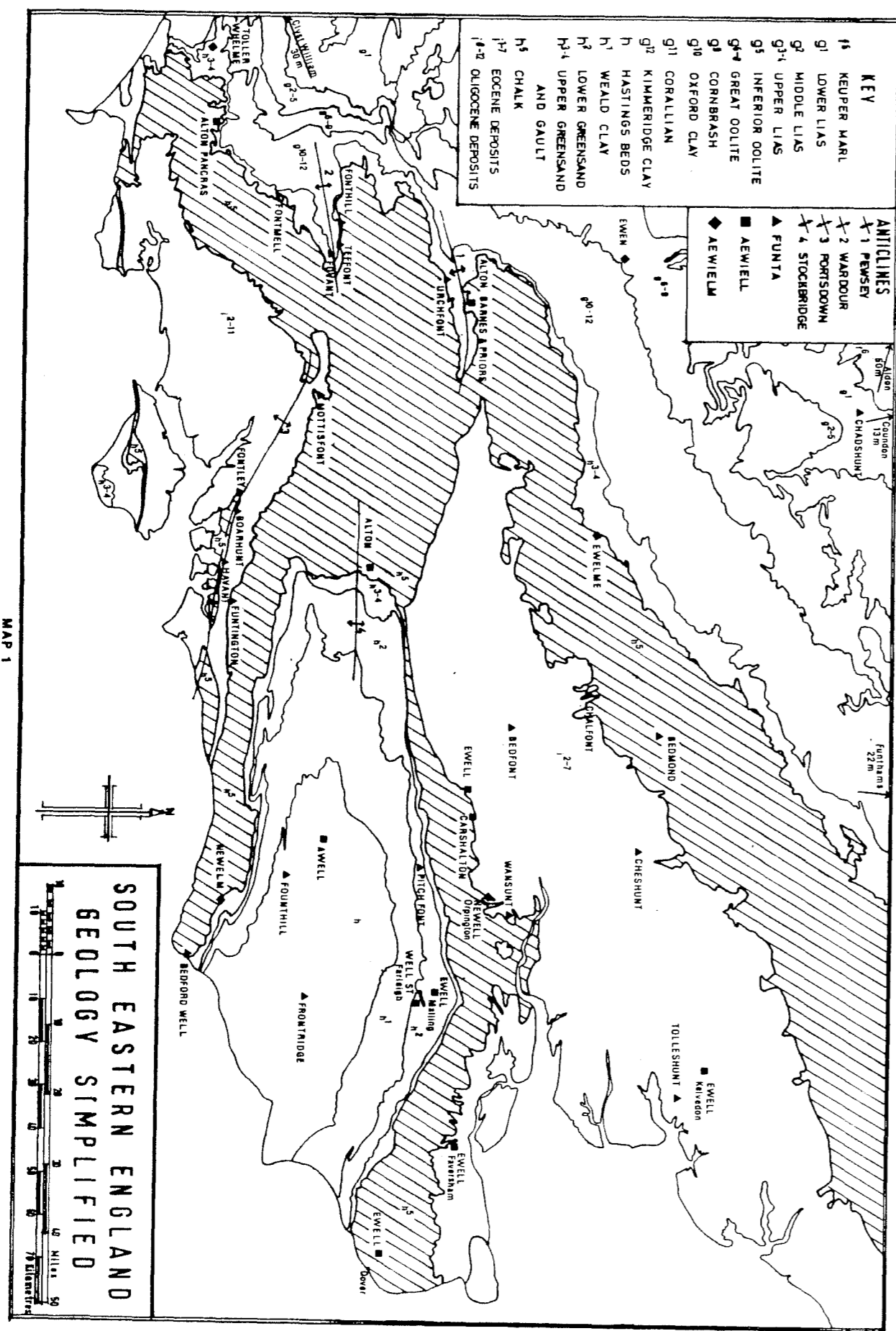
Firstly, some basic hydrological characteristics should be noted -

(1) Ground-water does not flow equally easily through all parts of an aquifer. It flows most readily:

- a) where the rock is fractured or fissured most, such as on the crest of an anticline where stretching and bending of the surface has opened the fissures;
- b) where there is a good hydraulic gradient, i.e. a steeply sloping water table;
- c) where rivers and streams and the ground-water flowing into them have widened cracks and fissures by solution. This is particularly applicable to Chalk and Limestone in valleys.

(2) Ground-water flows least readily:

- a) where cracks and fissures have closed up either in a syncline or where the weight of rock on top has caused compression;
- b) where the hydraulic gradient is very low (Ineson 1962, pp.449-63).



An examination of the structure of the Chalk and other rocks in the neighbourhood of names in \*funta, aewiell and aewielm reveals a link with areas of high transmissibility (rapid ground-water flow).

Alton Barnes and Alton Priors, twin villages, and Urchfont are in the western part of the Pewsey anticline. (See Map 1). Erosion has removed the centre of the anticline leaving two inward facing scarps of Chalk and Upper Greensand. The more strongly fissured Chalk lies at the western end where springs are more copious and streams stronger. Alton Barnes and Priors lie at the foot of the northern scarp where a many-headed spring emerges near the Chalk and Upper Greensand junction. There are two fine clear streams leading from this cluster of springs. They separate Alton Barnes from Alton Priors. Urchfont lies at the foot of the southern scarp and its many springs emerge from the Upper Greensand in a deep little valley.

Teffont and Fovant are on opposite sides of the Vale of Wardour, another breached anticline with inward facing scarps of Chalk and Upper Greensand. The springs are in Chalk in both cases. Fonthill, a short distance to the west, is in a very similar situation. There are records of spring flow and well yields for these villages. In order to appreciate these, some sort of norm for well yields in Chalk areas must be given. Most wells in Chalk areas would yield less than 96,000 gpd (gallons per day) at a 10ft equilibrium depression of water level. This means that if the water level in the well was to be maintained at 10ft below its natural level by pumping, it would yield x gpd. The well at West Farm, Fovant, yields 220,000 gpd and the natural level of the water in a well 41½ ft deep is only 7 ft below the surface. The spring at West Farm yields 7000 gpd. Therefore a shallow well near an unexceptional spring, can, in areas of high transmissibility, yield very large amounts of water. This is because the well, when down-drawn, increases the hydraulic gradient so that water flows freely into it. The Romans are known to have been skilled well diggers and Gelling (1978, p.86) has suggested that \*funta is a place-name element associated with Roman waterworks of some kind. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Romans increased the flow of water at Fovant and other places by well digging, and that the large quantities of water with their associated Roman buildings attracted the attention of the Anglo-Saxons who called it by the element \*funta, a loan-word from PrW ultimately from Latin. The close cluster of springs at Teffont yields an abundant supply of water and those at Fonthill Bishop and Fonthill Gifford yield 41,500 gpd and 36,000 gpd respectively (Whitaker and Edmonds 1925, pp.36-7, 62). Wells at these places would yield much more.

There is a fine example of a shallow and copious well at Mottisfont. An entry in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club for 1900 (Vol.IV, pt.11, p.137) reads:

On the line of the junction of the Chalk with the Reading Beds at Mottisfont occurs a spring of remarkable interest. It is undoubtedly the 'font' which partly gives the village its name and is one of the most beautiful springs in the county. This . . . 'font' is on the lawn of Mottisfont House. It is a well, perhaps 10 ft deep and 4 ft or 5ft wide, full of water as clear as crystal, ever flowing and yielding perhaps 2 million gallons of water daily (quoted in Whitaker 1910, p.29).

Just to the north of Portsmouth is another anticline in the Chalk. This is not a breached anticline as were the other two, but stands out as a ridge called Portsdown. In its vicinity is a notable cluster of names in \*funta: Fontley, Boarhunt, Havant, and further east, not on the anticline, the doubtful Funtington. To the north and south of Portsdown are synclines infilled with Eocene deposits creating areas where artesian water occurs.

On the northern side at and SE of Bishop's Waltham, at Havant, and Mislingsford and probably other places, artesian and sub-artesian water occurs. In Havant a boring produced an artesian fountain 6 ft high. It is possible that at Fontley, Boarhunt, and Havant the Romans tapped a supply of artesian water, provided that they sank the wells into Eocene Beds first and not directly into the Chalk. They might then have had a natural fountain, an attractive and desirable adornment for a villa or other settlement, and a cause of wonder to the Anglo-Saxons. Because there is no proof that the artesian water was tapped, as we do not know the exact position of the features described by the word \*funta, it should be pointed out that the springs at Great Fontley Farm, Offwell Farm 1 mile east of Boarhunt church, and along the coast east of Havant are all very copious. In Havant one spring yields 9 million gpd. This is just the area in which the names in \*funta occur. Funtington, 5 miles east of Havant, lies on the southern edge of the Upper Chalk where it disappears beneath Drift. There are good springs here at Northbrooke Farm and along Watery Lane just east of the church (Osborne White 1913, pp.88-90).

The Chalk outcrop continues eastwards as the South Downs. Newelm near West Firle and Bedford Well (olim Bedefonte) near Eastbourne occur along this stretch. This Chalk is so fissured that water seeps through it very freely and emerges at many small springs. This means that the water-table is not very high above sea level and the hydraulic gradient is therefore never very great. However, where the Chalk Downs reach their greatest height and have the steepest slopes the water-table is somewhat higher, the hydraulic gradient greater and the springs stronger. Two of these high points are Beddingham Hill overlooking Newelm and Willingdon Hill overlooking Bedford Well. Once again the places which probably have some of the strongest springs are those where the elements \*funta and æwielm are found.

There are three names in æwiell and one in æwielm along the dip slope of the North Downs; Ewell and Carshalton [(?) æt Aweltune 873x888 (c.1000); Aultone 1086] in Surrey, Ewell Farm in Faversham, and Newell in Orpington, Kent. The stretch of the North Downs between Epsom and Croydon is noteworthy for its numerous powerful springs. Springs at Ewell 'arise in 2 ponds beside the village street where they can be seen bubbling up from the bottom as numerous little fountains' (Dewey and Bromehead 1921, p.72). In Carshalton, four springs are listed: Grotto Spring Pond, Hogpit Pond, Upper Town Pool and Mill Head. The smallest yields almost 2 million gpd and the largest over 7 million gpd. Together the four yield some 17 million gpd. The eleven springs between Epsom and Croydon together yield 39 million gpd, clearly an exceptionally copious flow due to particularly favourable geological conditions. Newell is a lost settlement in the parish of Orpington and generally supposed to have been at the source of the Cray. The springs occur in Orpington Priory and are 'of considerable volume' (Whitaker 1908, p.61), filling the priory ponds. There is also a spring close to Ewell Farm near Faversham where the Chalk dips beneath Eocene deposits, but its volume is not given.

At the seaward end of the North Downs the River Dour flows out to sea at Dover. It derives its water from springs rising in two valleys which converge at Temple Ewell. These streams are winterbournes. One rises most years at Drellingore and can yield 400,000 gpd at the height of its flow. A little downstream at Wolverton, close to Ewell Minnis, an abundant spring adds to its flow. The two streams become perennial just before their confluence at Temple Ewell. This is the only river along this stretch of the Chalk. Other springs from the Chalk here are mostly along the beach between tide marks.

Pitchfont lies at the foot of the scarp slope of the North Downs. It is the name given to a lane just north of Limpsfield, bordering Titsey Park.

There are two good springs in the park, thrown up at the junction of the Upper Greensand and Gault.

Alton, Hants (Aweltona 1175; DEPN, p.8) lies at the foot of steep Chalk hills along the line of the Stockbridge anticline. It is supplied by springs at Willhall and others to the south of the town which yield 'a very great volume of water' (Whitaker 1910, p.36). The association of an anticline and a steep hydraulic gradient has here again produced strong springs which have been described by the place-name element æwiell.

Inside the Chalk rim of the Weald lies a ridge of Lower Greensand. This is a good aquifer, but the number and strength of springs varies from place to place. The area just to the east of the Medway has some particularly strong springs. That at Ewell Manor in West Farleigh yields 220,000 gpd. In East Malling there is another spring in the Lower Greensand which appears at Well Street. The volume is not given but it was sufficient to supply a paper mill about ½ mile away in the 1880s.

The heart of the Weald is made up of sands and clays. Where the Tunbridge Wells Sand overlies impervious Wadhurst Clays, springs occur round the sand outcrop. These are likely to be less prolific than those in Chalk, but more prolific than those in clay. Frontridge is well placed on the edge of a patch of Tunbridge Wells Sand underlain by Wadhurst Clay where a spring emerges. Founthill is again at the junction of sand and clay by a cluster of springs. Awell Barn lies at the junction of Tunbridge Wells Sand and Wadhurst Clay, but no spring is marked nearby, although there are numerous springs a mile or so to the north; it is odd to find a name in æwiell which is not close by a spring, but it may be that in Awell Barn we have a transferred name denoting association with a now-lost farm at one of the springs to the north. There are many other springs in this area of equal or greater flow. The location of the two names in \*funta and the one in æwiell is possibly more due to the presence of Roman roads nearby than to exceptional spring flow. Perhaps they attracted the attention of the Anglo-Saxons as they, in contrast to other springs, were in the more frequented parts of the Weald; this is further discussed in section II, below.

The London Basin has large tracts of clay with patches of gravel on it here and there. The clay yields little water, but the gravel patches yield useful amounts from shallow wells and often have springs round their edges.

In Essex between Colchester and Chelmsford lie Ewell Hall in the parish of Kelvedon, and Tolleshunt Knights, D'Arcy and Major. Ewell Hall is on a patch of River Terrace Gravel which overlies Boulder Clay and London Clay. A spring rises just west of Ewell Hall forming a 200 yard long stream leading to the River Blackwater. At Wicks Manor Farm about ½ mile from Tolleshunt Major there is a spring at the junction of the Glacial Sands and Gravels with the underlying London Clay, but Tolleshunt might equally well have been supplied with water by a shallow well in the gravel. There are many such gravel patches on the London Clay in this part of Essex which would yield more water from springs and wells than would the London Clay. As in the Weald, siting of the names in \*funta and æwiell seems to be more determined by the presence of Roman roads than by association with particularly good springs (see section II, below).

East and West Bedfont near Staines both lie on gravel, the Taplow Terrace, overlying London Clay. On the first edition of the O.S. 6 inch map West Bedfont is shown as having a well but no spring, whilst East Bedfont has no wells, but there is a spring near the Roman road and ½ mile from the church. Since we do not know the site of the feature described by the element \*funta we cannot tell whether the water came from the spring or from a shallow well in the gravel.

Wansunt in 1880 was a farm with a pond, but the 6 inch map of that date shows no spring or well. However, drainage ditches of the nearby Cray valley which were linked to the pond could have provided a water supply. The gravel upon which the farm stood might also have provided water by means of a shallow well.

Cheshunt lies on the NW edge of the London Basin. Here the Chalk dips beneath the Eocene deposits including the London Clay. On the surface is a variety of superficial deposits including alluvium, Brickearth and gravels. The church is on the Taplow Terrace. There are no springs or streams nearby. Quite possibly the source of water for the \*funta was a shallow well in Taplow Gravel.

In the London Basin, just considered, there were four place-names containing the element \*funta and one containing æwiell. The æwiell appears to be on a spring. Cheshunt apparently derived its water from wells in gravel, whilst Tolleshunt, Bedfont and Wansunt might also have derived their water from shallow wells but could have derived it from small springs, or from ditches in the case of Wansunt. It is noteworthy that it is the four places with names in \*funta which probably had a supply of water from wells not springs.

Moving now to the Chalk country of the Chilterns, Bedmond and Chalfont are located on the dip slope. Bedmond lies on glacial gravels deposited on Chalk. There are no springs or streams nearby, but there are wells on the local farms, suggesting that shallow wells in the gravels would give an adequate water supply. (The water-table of the Chalk at this point would be deep down.) Bedmond may thus be a fifth place named in \*funta which possibly derived its water from a shallow well in gravel. Chalfont lies in the Misbourne valley and there is a perennial spring at Chalfont St. Peter.

Along the north-western edge of the Chilterns is a fine series of scarp-foot springs. Unfortunately again no figures are available for their flows, but having visited them all many times I feel certain that the cluster of springs at Ewelme yield the most water; indeed they are the only ones here still to support commercial water-cress beds. This reflects the nature of the hydraulic gradient which is high in the vicinity of Ewelme. Once again the largest spring is that named with one of the place-name elements under consideration.

We are now left with a handful of miscellaneous names in \*funta, æwiell and æwielm beyond the main concentration of these elements. Ewen, Gloucs., lies on the dip slope of the Cotswolds. Here the Limestone is underlain by impermeable Fullers Earth which forces the ground-water to the surface. The topography concentrates the flow of ground-water into the valley and springs flow out at many points, especially at Lydwell, making the upper part of the valley very marshy. Since water has been abstracted in large amounts in the neighbourhood and the Fullers Earth has been punctured by a borehole, the flow from the springs is considerably less and the Thames above Ewen now behaves as a winterbourne. Ewen itself stands on a dry site on a low hill beside a cluster of springs,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the point of origin of the Thames.

To the north in Shropshire is Aldon (Eweldon 1318; DEPN, p.5). This is associated with the Aymestry Limestone. Numerous springs reach the surface in a valley where the Upper Ludlow Shales have been eroded away exposing the Limestone aquifer. Their water forms the stream which has cut this deep valley called Springhead Gutter and Aldon Gutter. Three of the springs are now concealed by small reservoirs and the water so collected is piped away. Nevertheless the stream is still large enough to maintain the lake at Stokesay Court. This group of springs is evidently one of the most reliable and prolific in the area. As the Gutter is so steep sided and

narrow the village has been built on the hill overlooking the spring, hence its name Aldon (\*æwiell-dŏn).

Counton (Cound-æwielm) near Coventry lies on Red Marls which yield little water. It is about 3 miles from the source of the Sherborne, possibly previously called the Cound, and is one of three places which do not fit so easily into the picture so far drawn, the other two being Toller Whelme and Clyst William.

Toller Whelme in Dorset lies at the head of a valley at the junction of the Chalk and Upper Greensand. The spring, or springs, which are the source of the River Hooke or Toller, maintain three ornamental lakes within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

Alton Pancras, also in Dorset, lies on Upper Greensand and is the perennial source of the River Piddle. The numerous springs rise behind the church in a marshy area of about 100 sq.yds; their prolific flow feeds three ponds. Fontmell Magna, Dorset, lies at the foot of a steep chalk scarp slope. The springs emerge in a cluster at the junction of the Chalk and Upper Greensand. The water, after being used to beautify the gardens at Springhead, goes on to feed two old mill ponds within the next  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, an indication of its considerable flow. Dorset is a county with a great many prolific springs; however, many of these do not have 'spring' or even 'water' names associated with them. It must be emphasised that a copious spring will not necessarily be associated with the elements æwiell, æwielm or \*funta, or any other element indicative of water, just as any prominent topographical feature will not necessarily be reflected in a nearby place-name.

Still in the West Country, the River Clyst rises at Clyst William (Clistewelme 1270; DEPN, p.114) on pebbly beds overlying Red Marls. There are four well-marked springs and many seepages in a marshy hollow. The flow, although less than that at Alton Pancras, is notable in the district and was maintained even in the very dry year of 1976. It was named æwielm since it was regarded as the source of the Clyst. This is analogous to the situation at Counton.

Finally there are two outlying names in \*funta to consider. Chadshunt, in Warwickshire, lies at the edge of a patch of Boulder Clay overlying Blue Lias, and a small stream arises near the church. Funthams, near Whittlesey, lies in the Fens. Whittlesey is built on a slight rise made of Oxford Clay capped with gravel, a dry point settlement. Funthams was a farm sharing the same rise. There was no shortage of water in the nearby Fens, but the gravel deposit would have yielded water from a shallow well close to the building.

Many of the springs described are in fact clusters of springs very close to each other, often in marshy areas. I have observed these clusters at Alton Barnes and Priors, Urchfont, Teffont, Newelm, Alton, Founthill, Ewelme, Ewen, Aldon, Alton Pancras, Fontmell and Clyst William. It is mentioned in the reference books quoted above in the additional cases of Ewell, Carshalton and Newell. It is possible that these three place-name elements, especially æwiell and æwielm, were used of many-headed springs, but not of single-headed springs, and that they were associated with marshy hollows, although this is hard to verify since most have been modified to make cress-beds, fish-ponds or mill-ponds.

In general, it is evident that many of the names in \*funta, æwiell and æwielm considered are indicative of springs with a copious flow, or at least of springs with a flow copious in their own neighbourhood, but it is also apparent that several places, particularly those named in \*funta, are not on springs at all. A brief summary of each group follows -

- (1) Of the 12 places named in æwiell, 10 were on copious springs in absolute terms: Alton Barnes and Priors, Ewell, Carshalton, Ewell near

Dover, Alton, Ewell in West Farleigh, Well Street, Aldon and Alton Pancras. Ewell in Kelvedon was on one of the stronger springs in the neighbourhood. However, Awell Barn did not appear to be associated with a spring at all.

(2) Of the 7 places named in æwielm, 4 were on copious springs: Newelm, Newell, Ewelme and Ewen. 3 were on rather less copious springs but these were important as the source of a river: Coundon, Toller Whelme and Clyst William.

(3) Of the 22 places apparently named in \*funta, 13 were on springs copious in absolute terms: Urchfont, Teffont, Fovant, Fonthill, Mottisfont, Fontley, Boarhunt, Havant, Funtington, Bedfordwell, Pitchfont, Chalfont and Fontmell. 3 were on springs with a flow good in that neighbourhood but not otherwise outstanding: Founthill, Frontridge and Chadshunt. 6 were on gravel patches where the water supply probably came from wells, but might in some cases have come from small springs or even ditches: Tolleshunt, Bedfont, Wansunt, Cheshunt, Bedmond and Funthams. Any definition of the element \*funta should take account of this last group.

II. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS

In this discussion the three doubtful examples of \*funta (Fonthill, Fontmell and Funtington) have been omitted, leaving nineteen surviving names in \*funta. There are twelve surviving names in æwiell and seven surviving names in æwielm including Awell Barn first recorded in 1526. They are listed on Tables 1 and 2, together with data on distances from Roman roads and trackways; pagan Saxon burials; place-name elements with which they are compounded; and river lengths and names. The three groups have several features in common, but also show some distinct differences.

Consider the archaeological context first. The distance from Roman roads and ancient trackways seems significant. Gelling (1978, p.84) has already pointed out that most names in \*funta lie on or very close to Roman roads or Roman remains. The Roman roads shown on Map 2 are derived from the O.S. Map of Roman Britain and some more recently identified stretches of road described in Margary, 1973. The O.S. map shows the major roads but omits local roads of minor importance such as those crossing the South Downs between Lewes and Eastbourne (Margary 1965, p.185). There must have been many other short stretches of roads of local importance of which no trace has been found, for instance both the Darent and Cray valleys in Kent have villas and other buildings in them and it is reasonable to suppose these were linked by local roads down the valleys to the London-Rochester road. The pre-Roman population of Britain had also established a number of important long distance trackways such as the Icknield Way and Ridgeway. These are described by Timperley and Brill, 1965, and some are also included on Map 2 and used in the data in Tables 1 and 2. Margary (1965, p.258) suggests other trackways along the E-W ridges of the Weald which could have provided useful cross-links with the Roman roads there. The tabulation of the distance of names in \*funta, æwiell and æwielm from Roman roads and trackways notes the distance from the nearest major Roman road or proven minor Roman road but in some cases also gives the distance from the nearest ancient trackway. If the existence of a minor Roman road has been assumed then a question-mark has been added.

It can be seen from Table 1 that most of the names in \*funta lie within 2 miles of a Roman road. The three that lie furthest from Roman roads (Frontridge 5 miles, Urchfont 5½ miles and Fovant 5 miles) are all within 2 miles of an ancient trackway. A Roman road leaves Colchester heading towards Tolleshunt but its course has yet to be fully determined. All three Tolleshunts would be within about 3 miles of this supposed road. Pitchfont

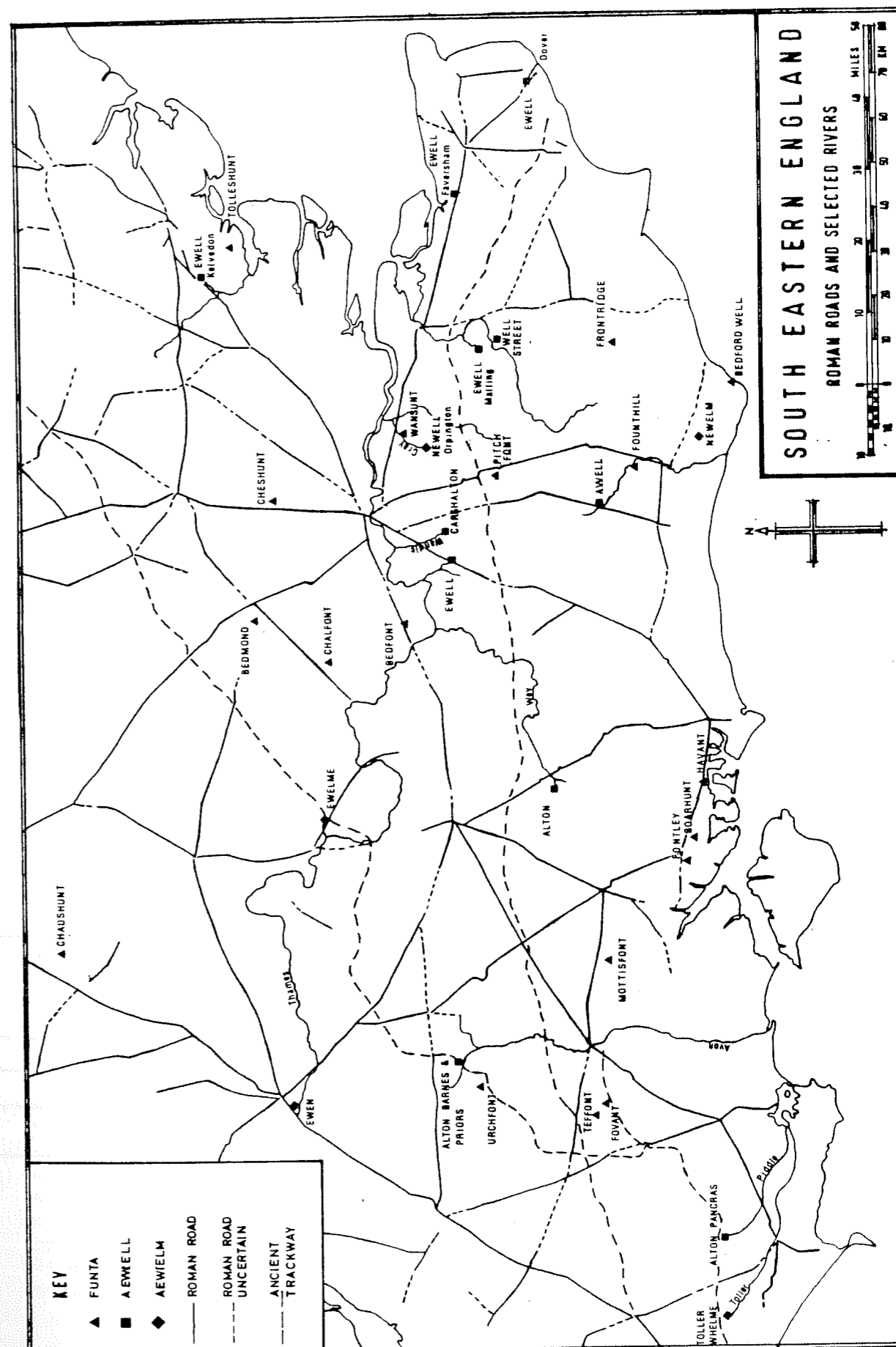


TABLE 1	ROMAN ROADS AND ANCIENT TRACKS				PAGAN SAXON BURIALS		PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS					
	COUNTY	WITHIN 1 MILE	APPROX 1-2 MILES	APPROX 2-3 MILES	OVER 3 MILES AND DISTANCE	NUMBER WITHIN 5 MILE RADIUS	NUMBER WITHIN 8 MILE RADIUS	SIMPLEX	HABITATIVE	PERSONAL NAME	OTHER	ASSOCIATED ELEMENT AND MEANING OR PERSONAL NAME
*FUNTA												
BEDFONT	Mx	R				4	7				x	byden- 'vessel'
BEDFORD WELL	Sx			R		3	7				x	byden- 'vessel'
BEDMOND	Hrt	R				0	1				x	byden- 'vessel'
BOARHUNT	Ha	R				4	6		x			byrh- 'at the fortified site'
CHADSHUNT	Wa			R		4	11			x		*Ceadel
CHALFONT	Bk	R				0	3				x	cælf- 'calf'
CHESHUNT	Hrt	R				0	1		x			ceaster- 'Roman settlement'
FONTLEY	Ha		R			3	5				x	lēah- 'clearing'
FOUNTHILL	Sx		R			0	5	x				-hill is late addition
FOVANT	W		AT		R5	4	10			x		*Fobba
FRONTRIDGE	Sx	AT			R5	0	0				x	hrycg- 'hill, ridge'
FUNTHAMS	Ca		R			3	3+	x				dat.pl., 'at the fountains'
HAVANT	Ha	R				4	5			x		Hama
MOTTISFONT	Ha			R		2	10				x	mōtere- 'speaker'
PITCHFONT	Sr		R			0	5			?	?	pīc- 'pitch, tar' or Pychard
TEFFONT	W		R			3	11				x	*teo- 'boundary'
TOLLESHUNT	Ess			?		2	2			x		*Toll
URCHFONT	W	AT			R5½	4	14			x		*Eohric
WANSUNT	K	R				6	12			x		Wont

R = MAJOR ROMAN ROAD

AT = ANCIENT TRACKWAY

+ = PLUS 4 PAGAN SAXON VILLAGES

is adjacent to Titsey Park which contains a Roman villa-site.

From Table 2 it can be seen that most of the names in Æwiell lie within 2 miles of a Roman road. Alton Barnes and Alton Priors lie on the Great Ridgeway, although they are 5½ miles distant from a Roman road. Alton Pancras is ½ mile south of this ancient track.

Of the four simplex names in Æwielm, three lie within 2 miles of a Roman road; the other, Newelm, lies adjacent to a minor Roman road over the South Downs. Of the compounded names, Toller Whelme is 1 mile from the Great Ridgeway but Clyst William and Coundon are much more distant from any ancient road than any of the other places listed.

The element \*funta derives (via PrW) ultimately from Latin fontāna meaning 'spring, fountain'. In three instances it is combined with OE byden, a tub or vessel. One suggestion is that the water was directed into a trough and used by travellers at a watering place or overnight halt. A spring adjacent to a Roman road or well-frequented trackway was obviously ideal. However, certain roads and tracks follow ridges in chalk, and other, country where water would not be available by the roadside and so a diversion of 2 or 3 miles off the ridge into the valley would be necessary to reach a good spring. This is the case with Teffont, Fovant and Chadshunt. There is no archaeological evidence yet to show exactly what would be described as a \*funta, but association with Roman building works of some sort seems very likely. As shown, the names in Æwiell and simplex Æwielm are as near to Roman roads and ancient tracks as those in \*funta are, and the fact that the Anglo-Saxons distinguished between the groups of hydrologically very similar springs supports the argument that the features called by the loan-word \*funta were in some way Romanised. Places named in Æwiell or with uncompounded names in Æwielm may also have been used as watering places or overnight halts, but remained more or less in their natural state. All three place-name elements could have been in use at an early period in Anglo-Saxon England but the existence of Alton Pancras (Dorset) and Aldon (Sa) beyond the area containing names in \*funta, in parts of England probably not settled by the Anglo-Saxons until the second half of the seventh century, suggests that Æwiell was in use for a longer period than \*funta as a place-name forming element (assuming that the hypothetical \*funta-type constructions were widespread over Roman Britain). The examples of Æwielm compounded with a river name are also more northerly and westerly, again suggesting later usage than the simplex term which occurs mainly in the south and east.

If \*funta, Æwiell and Æwielm were among the earliest place-name elements used by the Anglo-Saxons, there should be some correlation between areas of early Anglo-Saxon settlement as indicated by pagan burials and these place-name elements. This has been explored in a very general way. Tables 1 and 2 list the numbers of pagan burials of any kind within a 5 mile and an 8 mile radius of each name in \*funta, Æwiell and Æwielm, using the O.S. Map of Britain in the Dark Ages.

Of the names in \*funta, Founthill, Frontridge and Pitchfont have few pagan Saxon burials nearby and are in the late-settled Weald. Bedmond, Cheshunt and Chalfont also have few burials nearby, being in the late-settled Chilterns. The group Fontley, Boarhunt and Havant have modest numbers of burials nearby. Portsdown was attractive to early settlers but was restricted in extent by the marshes and inlets to the south. One could not expect large numbers of burial sites nearby. A similar argument can be applied to Bedford Well, also near the coast. The remaining names in \*funta all have considerable numbers of pagan Saxon burials within 8 miles, but usually not so many within 5 miles as have the names in Æwiell.

TABLE 2		ROMAN ROADS AND ANCIENT TRACKWAYS				PAGAN SAXON BURIALS		RIVERS		PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS				
	COUNTY	WITHIN 1 MILE	APPROX 1-2 MILES	APPROX 2-3 MILES	OVER 3 MILES AND DISTANCE	NUMBER WITHIN 5 MILE RADIUS	NUMBER WITHIN 8 MILE RADIUS	LENGTH OF STREAM ARISING IN MILES	NAME OF STREAM OR RIVER	SIMPLEX	-TŪN	-RIVER NAME	OTHER	ASSOCIATED ELEMENT AND MEANING
<b>ÆWIELL, etc.</b>														
ALDON	Sa		R			0	0	1	-					dūn- 'upland, down, hill'
ALTON	Ha		R			1	2	35	Wey		x			
ALTON BARNES AND PRIORS	W	AT			R5½	3	12	65	Avon		x			manorial affixes
ALTON PANCRAS	Do	AT			R5½	0	0	20	Piddle		x			ecclesiastical affix
AWELL BARN (ARDINGLEY)	Sx	R				0	1	-	-	x				
CARSHALTON	Sr			R		15	16	9	Wandle		x		x	caerse- 'cress'
EWELL	Sr	R				10	23	1¼	-	x				
EWELL (Nr DOVER)	K	R				7	17	3½	Dour	x				
EWELL MANOR (FAVERSHAM)	K	R				5	11	1	-	x				
EWELL HALL (KELVEDON)	Ess	R				2	3	¾	-	x				
EWELL MANOR (WEST FAR-LEIGH)	K				R3½	6	11	½	Ewell	x				
WELL STREET (EAST MALLING)	K				R3½	5	25	1¼	-	x				
<b>ÆWIELM, etc.</b>														
EWELME	O	R				3	9	1½	Ewelme	x				
EWEN	Gl		R			4	6	209	Thames	x				
NEWELL (ORPINGTON)	K	RT?			R5½	2	8	8	Cray	x				
NEWELM (FIRLE)	Sx	RT				13	20	1¼	Spring Ditch	x				
CONDON	Wa				R11	0	1	8	Cound			x		
CLYST WILLIAM	D				R3½	0	0	12	Clyst			x		
TOLLER WHELME	Do	AT			R5	0	0	6	Toller			x		

Names in æwiell are in areas where there are numerous pagan Saxon burials. This is particularly true in Kent, Surrey and Wiltshire. Awell Barn in the Weald, Alton Pancras and Aldon have few pagan burials nearby. This is to be expected as these areas were probably settled after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity had begun. The very few pagan burials near Alton, Hants, is surprising. Ewell Hall, Kelvedon, lies on the clays and gravels behind the marshy coastlands of Essex and although a convenient landfall for invaders from the Continent it does not seem to have attracted much early Anglo-Saxon settlement. The few pagan burials that do occur are by the Chelmsford to Colchester Roman road, and in the neighbourhood of both Ewell Hall and Tolleshunt, the only names in æwiell and \*funta in the area.

The four simplex names in æwielm are in areas of pagan Saxon burials of modest numbers except in the case of Newelm, Sussex, which has many. The three names formed from æwielm plus river-name are well away from areas of early Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The evidence from pagan Saxon burials supports the suggestion that, in the South-East at least, \*funta, æwiell and the simplex æwielm were place-name elements that could have been in use by the Anglo-Saxons at an early date.

The other place-name elements with which \*funta, æwiell and æwielm are compounded are shown on Tables 1 and 2. The most obvious difference is that \*funta occurs only twice as a simplex element, in Funthams (dat.pl.) and Founthill (where 'hill' is a late addition), whereas seven of the twelve examples of æwiell are simplex and so are four of the seven examples of æwielm.

\*Funta is compounded with a personal name in six instances, unlike the examples of æwiell and æwielm which are never so compounded. Another name in \*funta, Mottisfont, is compounded with the word for a speaker (OE mōtere). Thus over one-third of the examples of \*funta are associated with particular people. Three names in \*funta consist of compounds with byden, as already mentioned. Two associated elements refer to habitations, Boarhunt (fortified site) and Cheshunt (Roman settlement). One place in \*funta is connected with a domestic animal, Chalfont (calf), where the \*funta might have been used as a source of water for young cattle. Two compounds refer to the nature of the countryside, Frontridge (hill) and Fontley (clearing). Teffont refers to a boundary. Pitchfont might refer to pitch or tar although no surface deposits are known from that area; alternatively an OFr personal name (Pychar) may be the first element. The names in \*funta compounded with personal names are among those most closely associated with pagan Saxon burials; otherwise there is no obvious link between the element with which \*funta is compounded and spatial distribution.

Æwiell is compounded four times with tūn and once with dūn. Most of the examples of æwiell are on springs giving rise to fairly short streams, but the four examples of æwiell-tūn are on the four longest streams (a 1 in 495 chance). They are also perforce more westerly than most of the examples of simplex æwiell and are all names of parishes. Three of the examples of simplex æwiell which are of non-parish status lie in Kent; another is in Essex; and one, Awell Barn, is in the Weald. Four of these five examples of minor names in æwiell lie in parishes whose place-names contain OE elements which are considered early - Faversham (\*fæfer and hām), Farleigh (lēah), Kelvedon (dūn) and Ardingley (lēah); the fifth lies in Malling (-ingas), also thought to be relatively early but not primary. This is consistent with the view that the Kent and Essex names in æwiell denoted habitation-sites established relatively early in the Anglo-Saxon period but in a situation where, by chance, a nearby site also of early name became more

important and achieved parish status at the expense of the place named in æwiell. (In one case, Ewell near Dover, the place named in æwiell did however achieve parish status.) The general theory would explain the comparatively large numbers of hamlets, farms and manors called Ewell today in the extreme east, but only one parish, and the villages of parish status called Alton today further west, the tūn being added to æwiell to indicate a settlement with the status of a separate estate-unit. The fact that the Altons are at the heads of rivers may be because one has to go fairly far west to reach the source of an eastward-flowing river, and by the time Anglo-Saxon settlement had reached this far the unitary type of estate was coming into being.

Æwielm is only compounded with river names, all Celtic. In each of the three cases the settlement is at or near the source of the river of that name, but none are particularly large or notable rivers, nor do they have very copious springs. These three examples of compounded æwielm appear to be later names than the examples of simplex æwielm and they are all north or west of the areas of earliest Anglo-Saxon settlement. On the other hand the four cases of simplex æwielm are by vigorous springs in areas regarded as being amongst the earliest settled by the Anglo-Saxons. One, Ewen, is the source of a major river, the Thames. Newell is the source of the locally important R. Cray and Newelm and Ewelme are at the sources of quite short streams.

### III. CONCLUSION

It is now apparent that Smith's definitions of the elements \*funta, æwiell and æwielm can be enlarged upon, as follows -

(1) \*Funta was often used of places sited by a spring, but which might alternatively have drawn water from a well. \*Funta could mean 'source of water' but is much more likely to mean 'some sort of Roman edifice associated with water, such as a fountain' as Gelling suggested (1978, p.86). The element seems to have come into use early in the Anglo-Saxon period and probably only for a short time, especially if the hypothetical features called \*funta ceased to function for lack of maintenance. \*Funta is compounded with a variety of other place-name elements, especially personal names.

(2) Æwiell was used of a place where copious springs occurred, except possibly at Ewell Hall, Kelvedon. It was probably a place-name element in use early in Anglo-Saxon England but one which remained in use longer than \*funta. It is usually compounded with tūn when it is a village-sized settlement but often remains uncompounded if it refers to a hamlet, farm or manor. It probably means 'a cluster of strong springs' or possibly just 'strong spring', which may be the source of a locally important river, but more often was the source of a smaller tributary.

(3) The place-names in æwielm fall into two groups. Simplex æwielm was used of a place with a cluster of strong springs, or perhaps just one strong spring, which may or may not have been at the source of locally important rivers. Æwielm compounded with a river name referred to a place on a spring or springs at the source of that river even if the spring flow was not especially copious; this type of compound appears to have been coined later than names in \*funta, æwiell or simplex æwielm.

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### EDITORIAL NOTE

Readers may find the following additional bibliographical details and dates useful in following up the information collected in the above article. All apparently trustworthy pre-Conquest dates (some of them here in corrected form) are given with their source; the date 1086 means that the place was recorded in the Domesday Survey; otherwise the date given is that of first record.



The following abbreviations are used:

BCS = W. de G. Birch, Cartularium Saxonicum (London, 1885-99), quoted by number; DEPN = E. Ekwall, The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names (4th edn., Oxford, 1960); Gelling, ECTV = M. Gelling, The Early Charters of the Thames Valley (Leicester, 1979), quoted by number; Harmer, ASWrits = F.E. Harmer, Anglo-Saxon Writs (Manchester, 1952), quoted by number; KCD = J.M. Kemble, Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici (London, 1839-48), quoted by number; PN + county abbreviation = the relevant county volume of the English Place-Name Society's publications; Robertson, ASCharters = A.J. Robertson, Anglo-Saxon Charters (2nd edn., Cambridge, 1956), quoted by number; Sawyer = P.H. Sawyer, Anglo-Saxon Charters: an annotated list and bibliography (London, 1968), quoted by number; WKPN = J.K. Wallenberg, Kentish Place-Names (Uppsala, 1931); WPNK = Idem, The Place-Names of Kent (Uppsala, 1934).

1) Names in OE \*funta

BEDFONT. PNMx 12, 21; DEPN 34. 1086.

BEDFORD WELL. PNSx 427. 1486.

BEDMOND. PNHrt 76. 1331.

BOARHUNT (Ha). DEPN 50. 1033x1066 (mid 12th) BCS 1161 (Sawyer 1821); 1086.

CHADSHUNT. PNwa 249-50; DEPN 94. 949x955 (16th) BCS 883 [an addition to Sawyer 544; wrongly attributed to Chalfont Bk by PNBk and DEPN, see Gelling, ECTV 149]; 1086. [KCD 916 (Sawyer 1000) of '1043' (15th) and KCD 939 (Sawyer 1226) of 'c.1043' (15th) are both spurious.]

CHALFONT. PNBk 218-19; DEPN 94. 1086. Cf. preceding.

CHESHUNT. PNHrt 220; DEPN 100-1. 1086.

FONTLEY. [O.S. FUNTLEY] (Ha). DEPN 183. 1086.

FOUNTHILL. PNSx 317. 1296 (personal name).

FOVANT. PNW 214; DEPN 185. 901 (14th) BCS 588 (Sawyer 364); 994 (14th) KCD 687 (Sawyer 881); 1086.

FRONTRIDGE. PNSx 462. 1248.

FUNTHAMS. PNCa 260. 13th.

HAVANT (Ha). DEPN 226. 935 (1129x1139) BCS 707 (Sawyer 430); 980 (1129x1139) KCD 624 (Sawyer 837); 1033x1066 (mid 12th) BCS 1161 (Sawyer 1821); 1086.

MOTTISFONT (Ha). DEPN 332. 1086.

PITCHFONT. PNSr 324. 1391.

TEFFONT. PNW 193; DEPN 462. 860 (c.1400) BCS 500 (Sawyer 326); 940 (14th) BCS 757 (Sawyer 469); 964 (c.1400) BCS 1138 (Sawyer 730); 1086.

TOLLESHUNT. PNEss 306-7; DEPN 476-7. c.1000 (c.1125) Robertson, ASCharters 72; 1086.

URCHFONT. PNW 315; DEPN 488. 1086.

WANSUNT. WPNK 14. 1270.

Cf. also Fonthill PNW 190, DEPN 183; Fontmell (Do) DEPN 184; and Funtington PNSx 60; DEPN 190.

2) Names in OE æwiell, etc.

ALDON (Sa). DEPN 5. 1086.

ALTON (Ha). DEPN 8. 1086.

ALTON BARNES & PRIORS. PNW 317; DEPN 8. 1086. [BCS 390 (Sawyer 272) of '825-6' (1129x1139) is spurious]

ALTON PANCRAS (Do). DEPN 8. 1001x1012 Harmer, ASWrits 63 (Sawyer 1383); 1086.

AWELL BARN (Ardingley). PNSx 252. 1526.

CARSHALTON. PNSr 41; DEPN 88. [?] 873x888 (c.1000) BCS 553 (Sawyer 1507); 1086. [BCS 39 (Sawyer 1181) and BCS 697 (Sawyer 420) of '727' (13th) and '933' (13th) are both spurious]

EWELL. PNSr 75; DEPN 170. 1086. [For BCS 39 and 697, see preceding. KCD 824 (Sawyer 1043) of '1066' (12th) is spurious]

[TEMPLE] EWELL (near Dover). WPNK 560; WKPN 52; DEPN 170. 765x792 (15th) BCS 207 (Sawyer 140); 1086.

EWELL MANOR (Faversham). WPNK 286. 1226.

EWELL HALL (Kelvedon). PNEss 291. 1212.

EWELL MANOR (West Farleigh). WPNK 160. 1198.

WELL STREET (East Malling). WPNK 149. 1240.

3) Names in OE æwielm, etc.

EWELME. PNO 126-7; DEPN 170. 1086.

EWEN. PNGl I. 76; DEPN 170. '937' (12th) BCS 719 (Sawyer 436; spurious); 1289. [BCS 671 (Sawyer 415) of '931' (13th) is also spurious]

NEWELL (Orpington). WPNK 28; WKPN 84.

NEWELM (Firle). PNSx 361. 1386.

OUNDON. PNwa 159-60; DEPN 125. 1086.

CLYST WILLIAM. PND 568; DEPN 114. 1238. [Clist 1086.]

TOLLER WHELME (Do). DEPN 476. 1035 (12th) KCD 1322 (Sawyer 975).

A.R.R.