

- * Watts CDEPN (2004): “OE pers.n. *Filica* + *stōw*. [...] There does not seem to be any connection with St Felix [...].”
- * Anon. KEPN (2013): “**Filica*’s place’ — **Filica* may be a form of Felix; the latter has certainly replaced it later.”

Felixstowe — the theory of Coates (CVEP 238): **Filica* (**Filica*?) is an Anglicized form of Felix (< Latin stem *Fēlic*): *Filchestou* < *Filican-stōw*. Latin *ē* is borrowed as OE *ī* in stressed syllables (Campbell 1959, §506). Vernacular **Filica* was later “improved” to Felix.

Some refinements of and/or support for the theory of Coates: The vernacular form of Felix may have been strong, with genitive *Filices*. Other saint’s names have vernacular versions: Christopher/Kitt, Simon/Sim, Gregory/Grigg, Vedast/Foster, Bridget/Bride, Michael/Miles, *Osgyþ*/Sise, James/Jim, Julian/Gillian. Note the prevalence of the vowel *-i-* in these, even when not etymological. Other names possibly derived from **Filic*: Filkins in Oxfordshire (*Filching* 1173–4, PN O 2, p. 320). *Mariote Filche* 1327 from Hoxne (Sf 1327). *Fillyxchurche* 1578 for Felixkirk in Yorkshire; PN YN, p. 199

Conclusions: There are six cases of saint + *stōw* in Suffolk. The significance of these as a group has not been appreciated. They provide a good context for interpreting Felixstowe as really containing the saint’s name. The parallel example of **Climstou* containing an anglicized saint’s name gives additional mutual support. The vanished *Climstou* was undoubtedly once more important, probably as a ferry crossing to Michaelstowe in Essex. Its existence is a valuable addition to the corpus of Clement chapels (nearly all associated with sailors; see Crawford).

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