

David Boulton

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**The geographical context of
Scandinavian place-names
in East Anglia**

Background

PhD research project

Differing patterns of Viking migration and settlement in East Anglia:

an analysis of Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in their landscape context

Research objectives:

- to explore different phases and patterns of Viking settlement in East Anglia;
- to analyse Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names as a means of identifying different groups of Viking settlers;
- to test this analysis against other forms of evidence;
- to explore the nature of the Viking migration process.


Corpus of Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names


PLACE-NAME	EARLY NAME-FORMS	ETYMOLOGY	GEOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND SOIL INFORMATION	SETTLEMENT INFORMATION
Claxton (Loddon)	<i>Clakestona</i> , DB 177b, 203b <i>Clarestuna</i> , DB 177x2, 203b <i>Clakeston</i> , 1200 <i>Claxtone</i> , 1254, 1275	'Clacc's settlement or estate'; late OE pers. name <i>Clacc</i> (prob. representing ON pers. name * <i>Klak</i>), gen. sing. <i>Clacces</i> + OE tūn (W141; Ek110; Ib53; FJd134; Ia264; SPNLY172; SSNEM25,41; SSNY56; vF305) <u>Cf. Claxton (NYorks)</u>	<u>TG 33 03</u> (OS OL40 S) 5-15 m, lower slopes just above flood plain of river Yare, nr small stream (The Beck). <u>Soil</u> Altcar 2 Association (1022b); close to Burlingham 3 Association (572p)	Only hall & a few houses remaining in 1838; remains of castle nr settlement
Coston (Forehoe?)	<i>Kar(e)ston</i> , 1198 (Ek) <i>Corestone</i> , 1254 (Ek) <i>Corston</i> , 1291 (Ek)	'Karr's settlement or estate'; OScand. pers. name <i>Kārr</i> + OE tūn (Ek124; Ia251; SPNLY161)	<u>TG 06 06</u> (OS 237 W) 30-40 m, S slope of small river valley (upper Yare). <u>Soil</u> Isleham 2 Association (861b); close to Burlingham 1 Association (572n)	Only church & hall remaining in 1838
<i>Grenstein</i> [nr Tittleshall] (Launditch)	<i>Greineston</i> , 1198-1251 <i>Greyneston</i> , 1209-1333 <i>Greinston</i> , 1285 <i>Greynston</i> , 1356-87 (all early forms – EAA10: 96, from O.K.Schram)	'Grein's settlement or estate'; ON pers. name <i>Grein</i> + OE tūn (EAA10: 96; Li55; Ia141; SPNLY104; SSNEM25,50) <u>Cf. Grainsby (Lincs)</u>	<u>TF 90 19</u> (OS 238 W) 65-80 m, N slope of small stream valley (trib. of river Nar) <u>Soil</u> Beccles 1 Association (711r); Newport 4 Association (551g). Contrast between fairly marginal location of now-deserted Grenstein on hill slope of heavy boulder clay & earlier, surviving A-S village of Mileham (2 km to SE) on well-drained soil of dry valley. (EAA10: 94-95)	Deserted village (DViN77) Late Saxon pottery found in small area at N of deserted village – maybe the site of 11th c. hamlet with Anglo-Scand. name that expanded down the hill to form village in 12th/13th c.? (EAA10: 160)
Grimston (Freebridge)	(<i>æt</i>) <i>Grimastun(e)</i> , 1035x40 (S1489, Wills no. 26) <i>Erimestuna</i> , DB 183 <i>Grimestuna</i> , DB 142, 160b, 161, 267b <i>Grimeston</i> , 1198	'Grimr's estate or settlement' ; ON pers. name <i>Grímr</i> (gen. sing. <i>Gríms</i> , ME gen. sing. <i>Grimes</i>) + OE tūn (W263 – useful analysis; Ek206; M216; Ib49,53; Ia144-48; SPNLY 105-07; SSNEM192; SSNY203; vF276) <u>Cf. Grimston (Sfk, Leics, NYorks, etc.)</u>	<u>TF 72 21</u> (OS 250) 20-30 m, E slope of small stream valley. <u>Soil</u> Isleham 2 Association (861b); Wickham 2 Association (711f)	
Griston (Wayland)	<i>Gres-</i> , <i>Gristuna</i> , DB 110x2, 126b, 166, 183, 252, 265b, 277 <i>Gerdestuna</i> , [c.1150]1391 <i>Greston</i> , 1166	Prob. 'Gyrth's settlement or estate'; ODAN pers. name <i>Gyrth</i> (gen. sing. <i>Gyrths</i>) + OE tūn (W264; Ek206; Ia168; SPNLY120; SSNY127; vF280)	<u>TL 94 99</u> (OS 237 W) 45-60 m, undulating land, no nearby river or stream? <u>Soil</u> Beccles 1 Association (711r); Ollerton Association (552b)	


Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in East Anglia

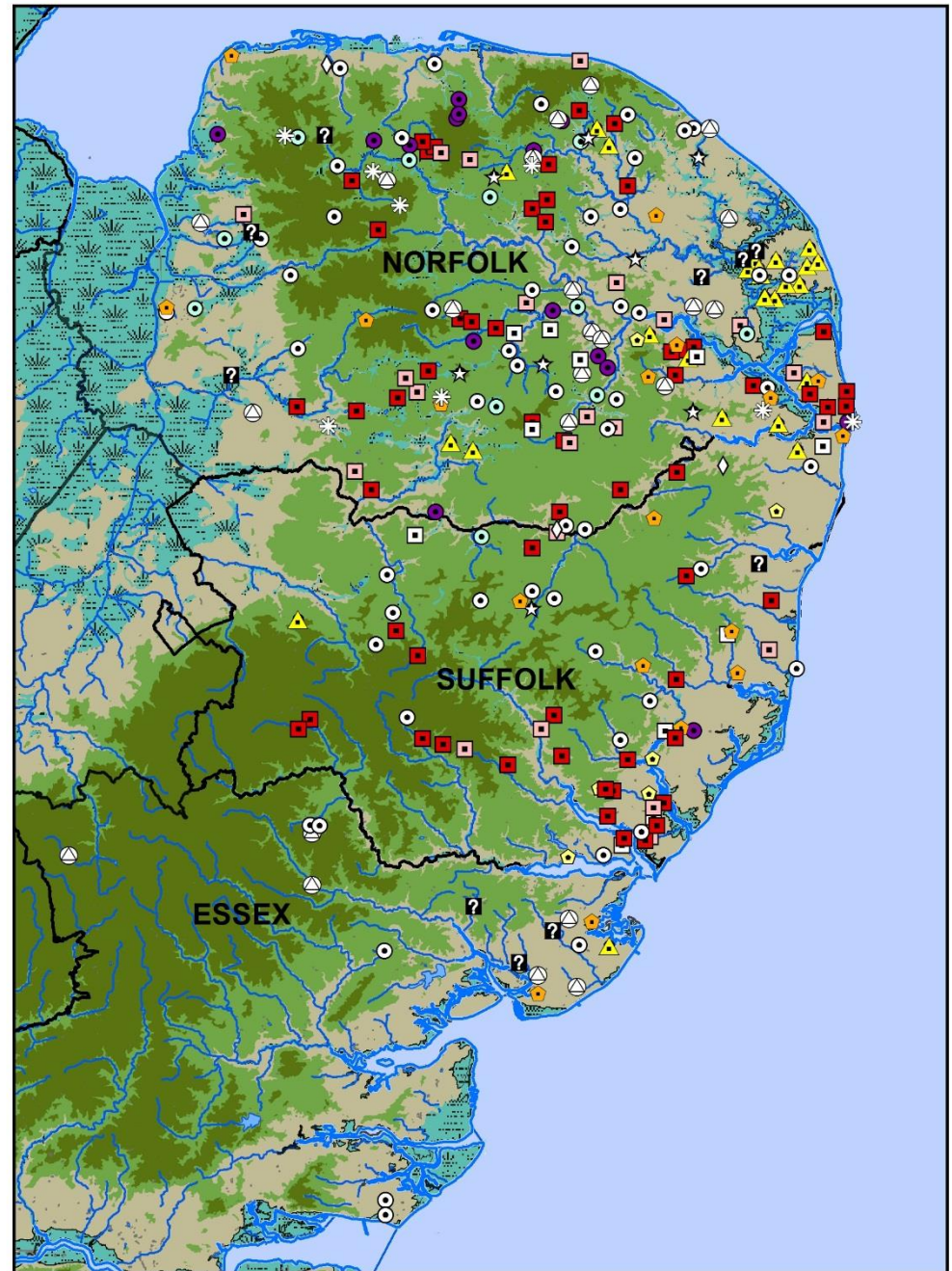
Place-name types

- 'Grimston-hybrid'
- ◻ possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
- ◻ other ON ton
- ▲ by
- ON thorp
- ⊙ ON thorp?
- ⊙ other thorp
- ◇ habitative
- ☼ toft
- ☆ thwaite
- ◆ topographical
- ◇ possible topographical
- ⊙ hybrid
- ❓ uncertain

 Peat & alluvium soils

 Land over 30 m OD

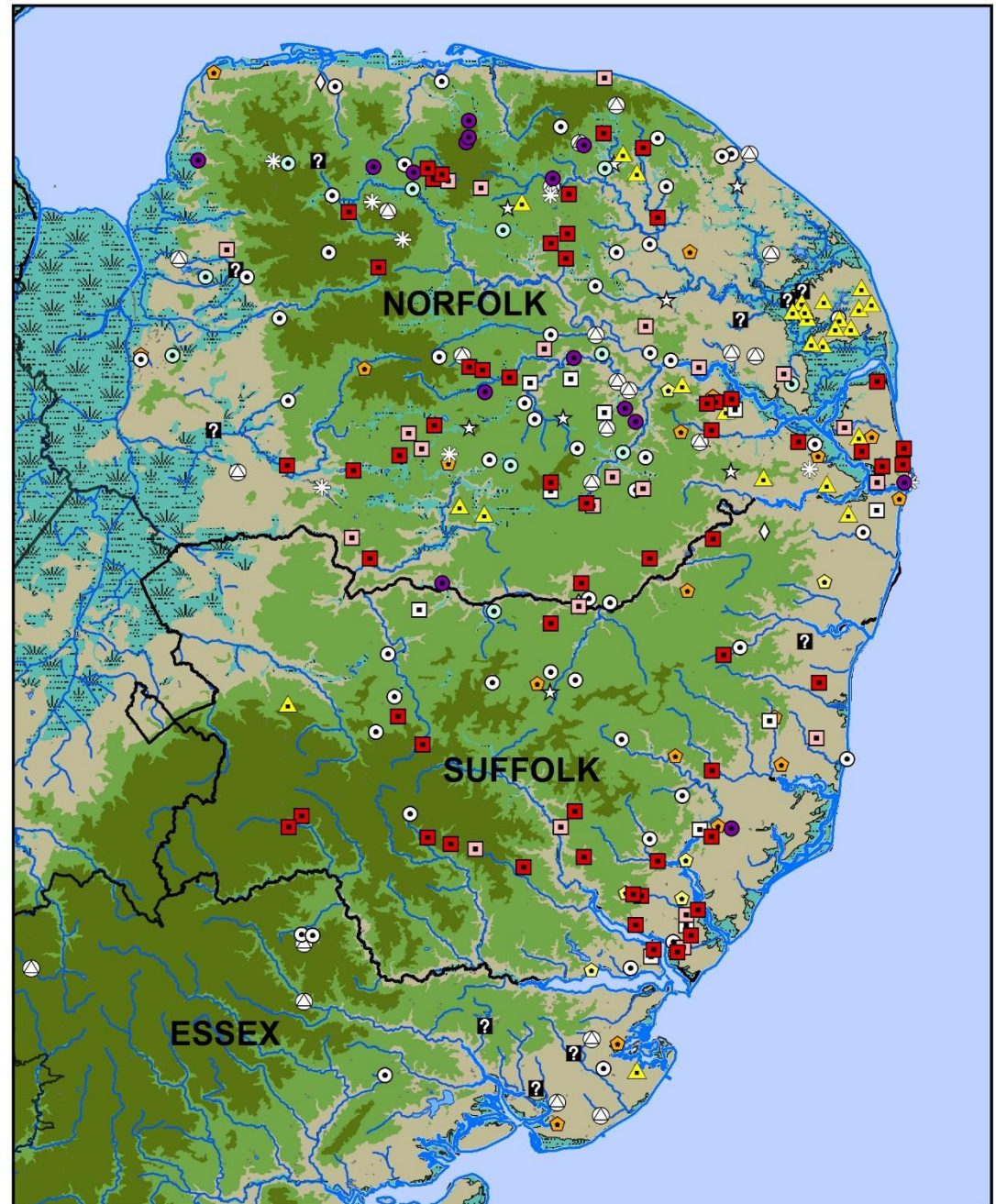
 Land over 60 m OD



Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in East Anglia















Place-name types

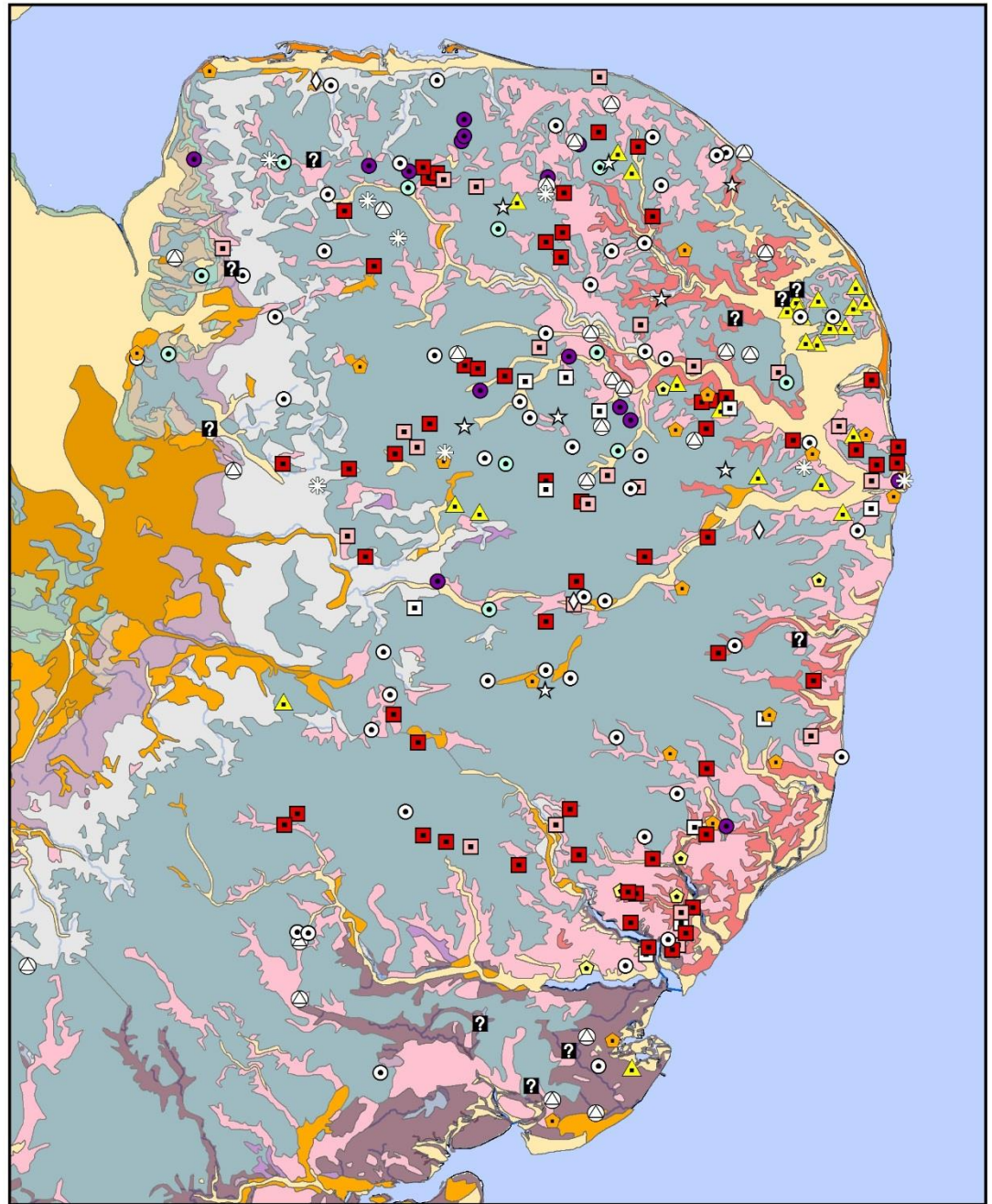
- 'Grimston-hybrid'
 - possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
 - other ON ton
 - ▲ by
 - ON thorp
 - ON thorp?
 - other thorp
 - ◇ habitative
 - ✱ toft
 - ☆ thwaite
 - ⬠ topographical
 - ⬠ possible topographical
 - ◐ hybrid
 - ? uncertain
-
- Peat & alluvium soils
 - Land over 30 m OD
 - Land over 60 m OD



Surface geology

Deposit type

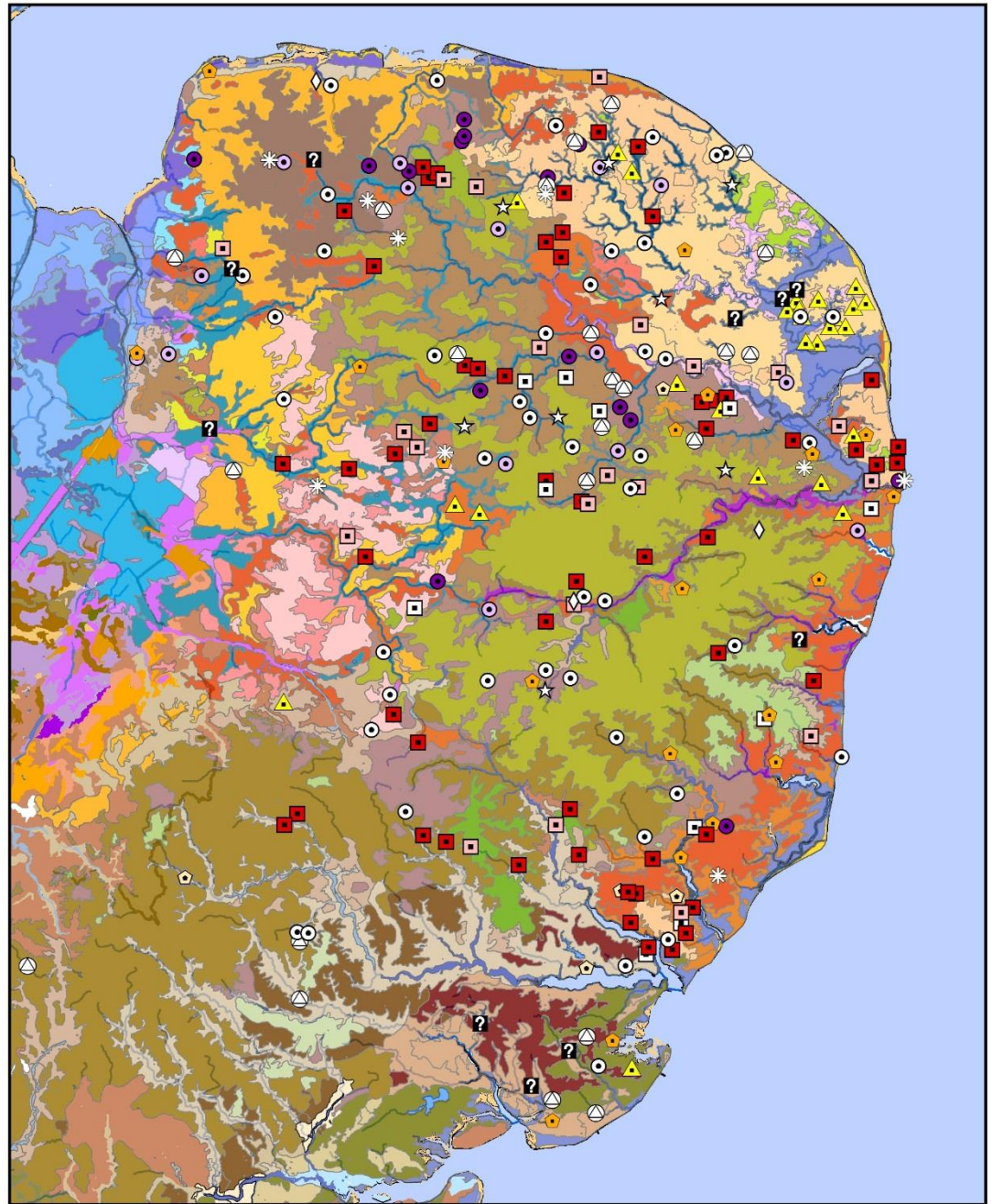
	ALV-CLSS Alluvium
	BRK-SILT
	BSA-SAND Blown sand
	CRAG-SAGR Crag
	CWF-DMTN
	GSG-SAGR Glacial sand & gravel
	LDE-CLAY
	PEAT-PEAT Peat
	RMD-SAGR
	RTDU-SAGR River terrace deposits
	SGAO-SAGR
	SLIP-UNKN
	TILL-DMTN Boulder clay
	UNKND-UNKN



Soil-types




















Soil Associations

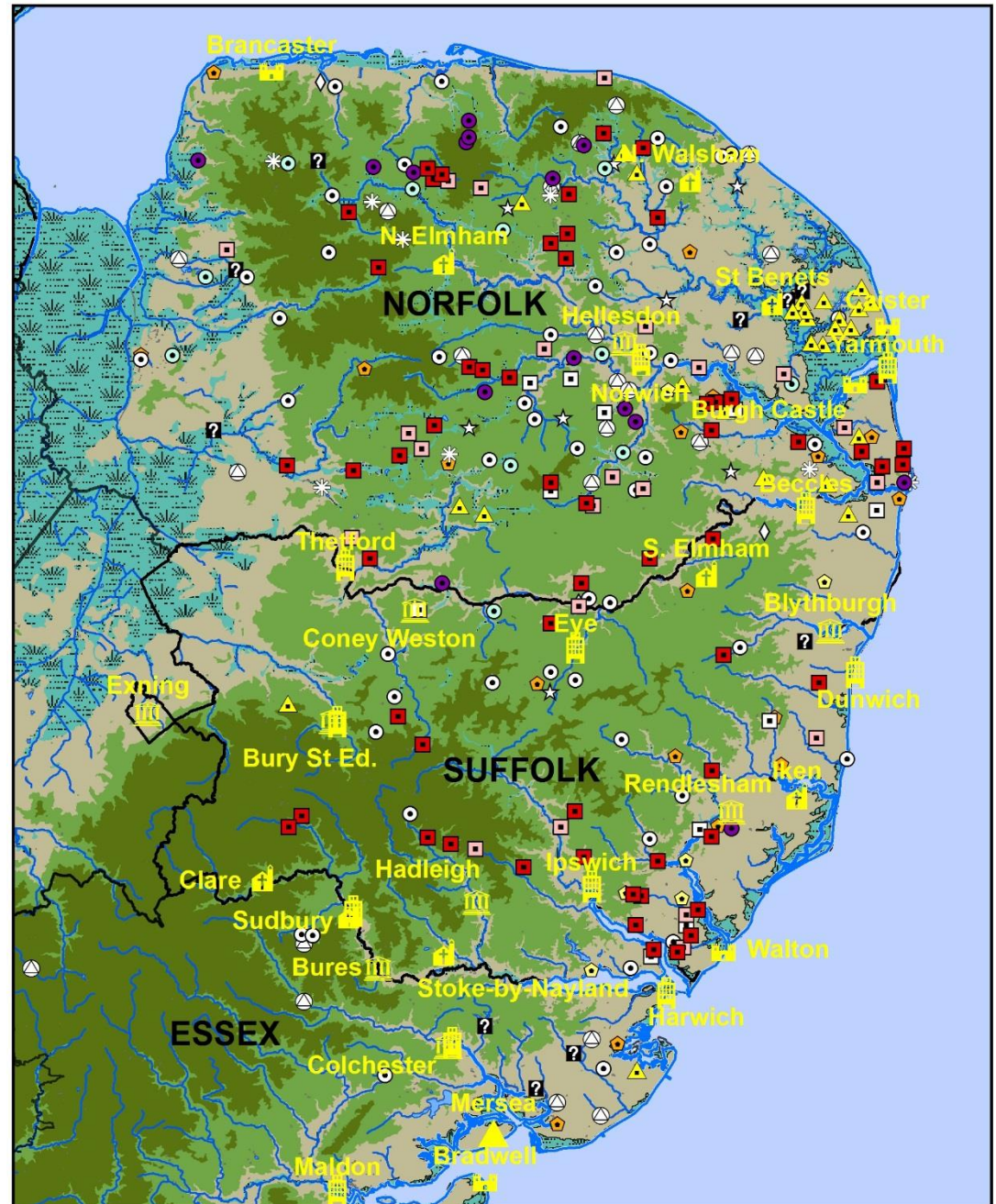
1022a Altcar 1	572p Burlingham 3
1022b Altcar 2	572q Ashley
1024b Adventurers' 2	573b Wix
1025 Mendham	581f Barrow
343f Newmarket 1	582d Hornbeam
343g Newmarket 2	582e Tendring
361 Sandwich	643d Felthorpe
411d Hanslope	711c Brockhurst 2
521 Methwold	711f Wickham 2
532a Blacktoft	711r Beccles 1
541s Wick 2	711s Beccles 2
541t Wick 3	711t Beccles 3
551d Newport 1	711v Gresham
551e Newport 2	712c Windsor
551f Newport 3	712g Ragdale
551g Newport 4	714c Oak
552b Ollerton	811e Tanvats
554b Worlington	812b Wisbech
555 Downham	812c Agney
571o Melford	813f Wallasea 1
571q Escrick 2	813g Wallasea 2
571r Hunstanton	821b Blackwood
571s Efford 1	851a Downholland
571t Efford 2	861b Isleham 2
571x Ludford	871c Hanworth
572n Burlingham 1	



Other locations





















Other locations

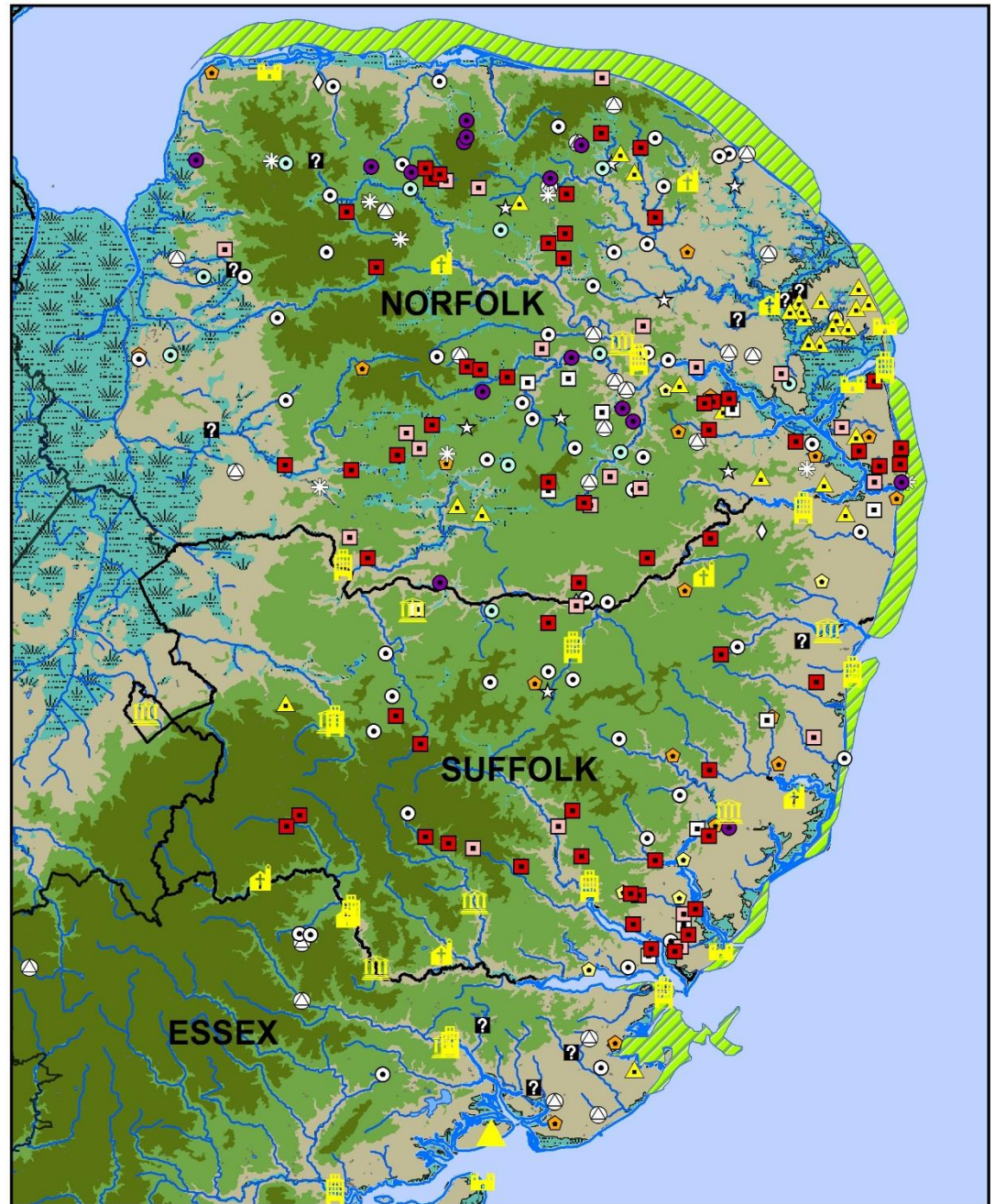
-  town
-  minster/monastery
-  royal vill
-  Roman fort
-  Viking camp
-  'Grimston-hybrid'
-  possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
-  other ON ton
-  by
-  ON thorp
-  ON thorp?
-  other thorp
-  habitative
-  toft
-  thwaite
-  topographical
-  possible topographical
-  hybrid
-  uncertain



Possible Roman coastline

Other locations

-  town
-  minster/monastery
-  royal vill
-  Roman fort
-  Viking camp
-  'Grimston-hybrid'
-  possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
-  other ON ton
-  by
-  ON thorp
-  ON thorp?
-  other thorp
-  habitative
-  toft
-  thwaite
-  topographical
-  possible topographical
-  hybrid
-  uncertain
-  Possible Roman coastline?



Other interpretations of possible Roman coastline

Sources

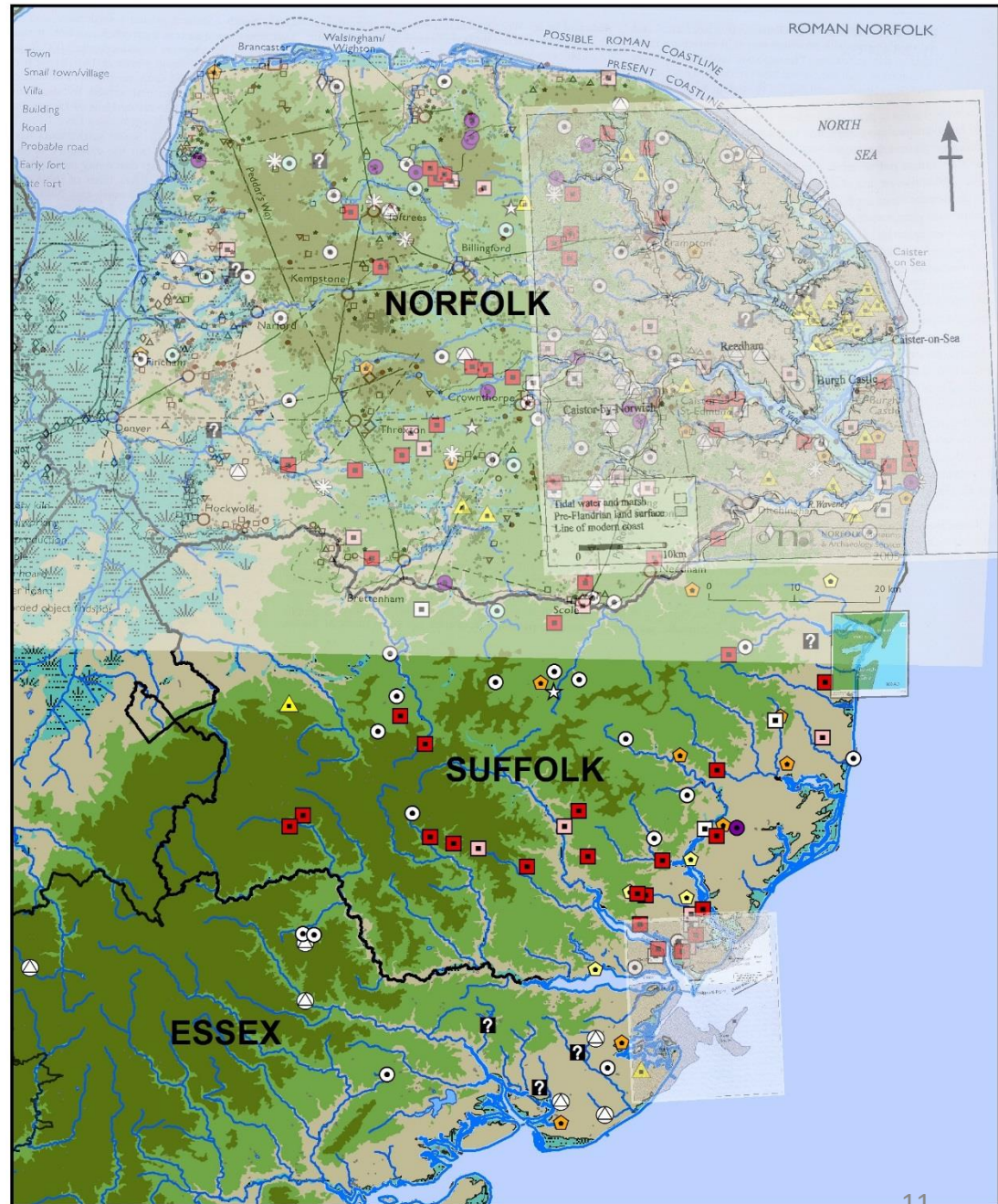
Cracknell, B.E., *Outrageous Waves: Global Warming & Coastal Change in Britain through Two Thousand Years* (Chichester, 2005)

Dunwich Museum
(www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk)

Fairclough, J., *Boudica to Raedwald: East Anglia's Relations With Rome* (Holbrook, 2010)





















Gurney, D., 'Roman Norfolk', in Ashwin, T. and Davison, A. (eds), *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* (Chichester, 2005), p.29

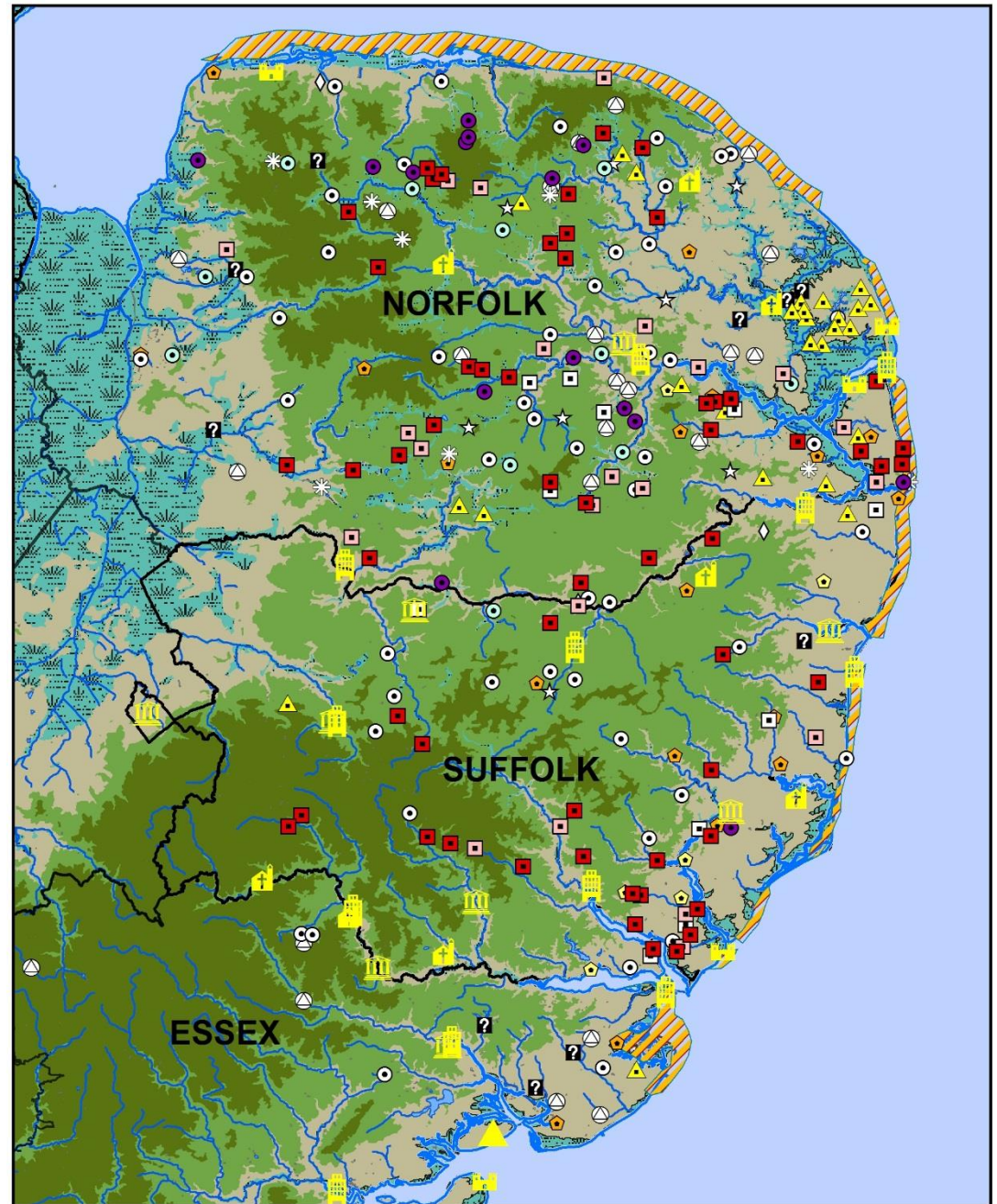
Pearson, A., *The Roman Shore Forts: Coastal Defences of Southern Britain* (Stroud, 2002)



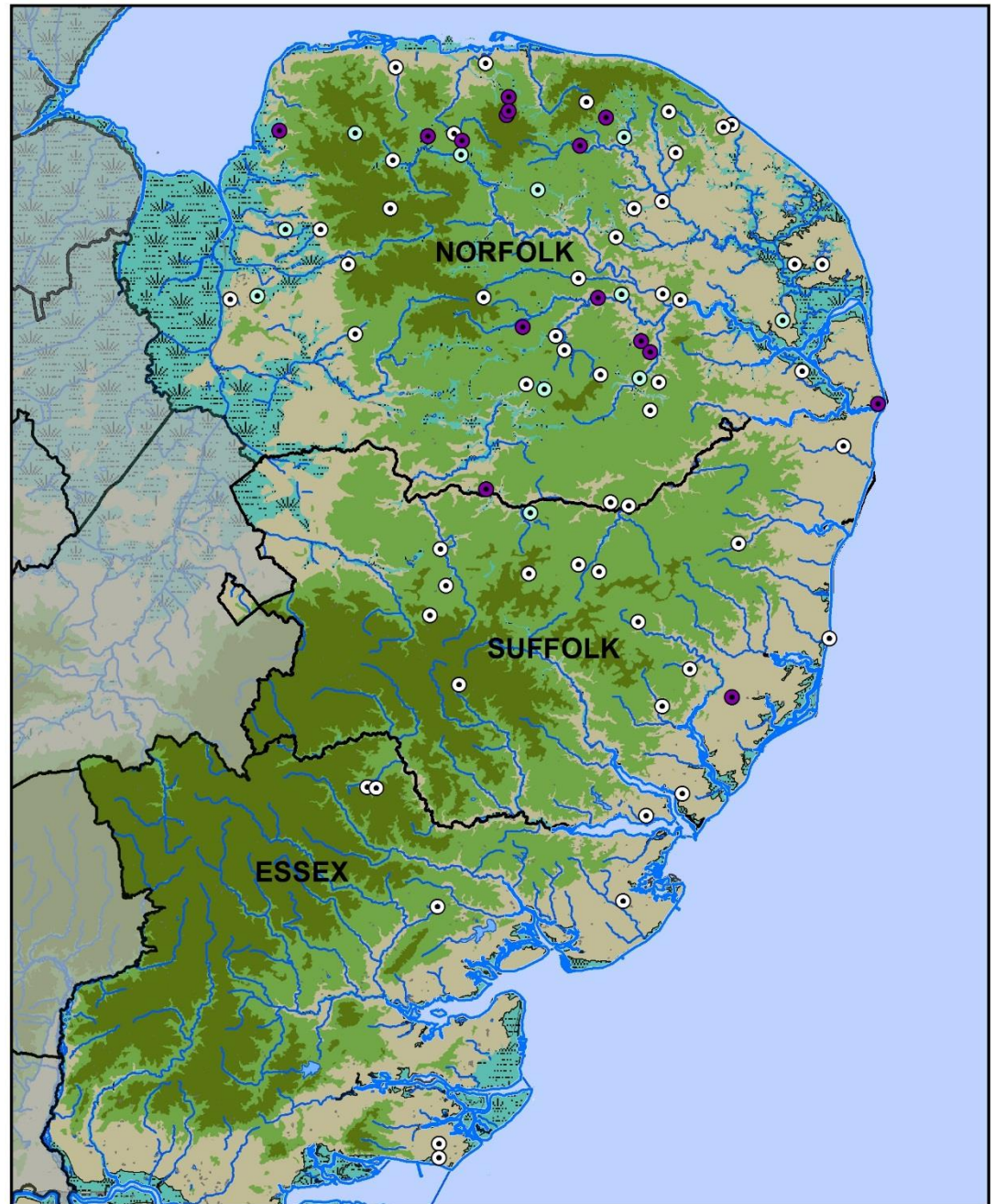
Possible Viking period coastline

Other locations

-  town
-  minster/monastery
-  royal vill
-  Roman fort
-  Viking camp
-  'Grimston-hybrid'
-  possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
-  other ON ton
-  by
-  ON thorp
-  ON thorp?
-  other thorp
-  habitative
-  toft
-  thwaite
-  topographical
-  possible topographical
-  hybrid
-  uncertain
-  Possible Viking Age coastline?




Thorp place-names in East Anglia




Types of thorp place-names

- Old Norse personal name
- ⊙ possible Old Norse personal name?
- ⊙ other thorp

 Peat & alluvium soils

 Land over 30 m OD

 Land over 60 m OD

Thorp place-names in East Anglia



Types of thorp place-names

- Old Norse personal name
- ⊙ possible Old Norse personal name?
- ⊙ other thorp

Peat & alluvium soils




Land over 30 m OD

Land over 60 m OD

Thorp place-names in East Anglia

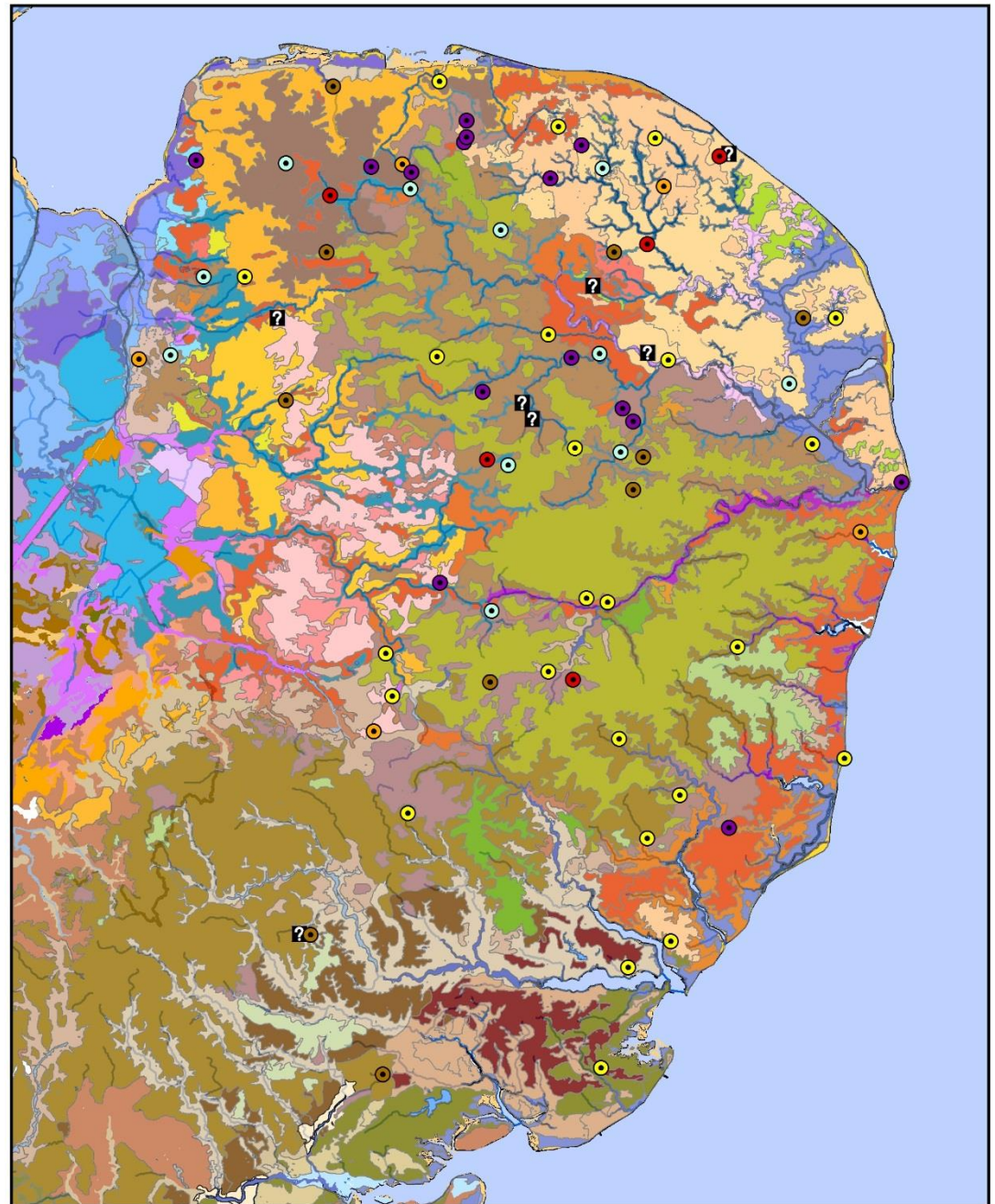
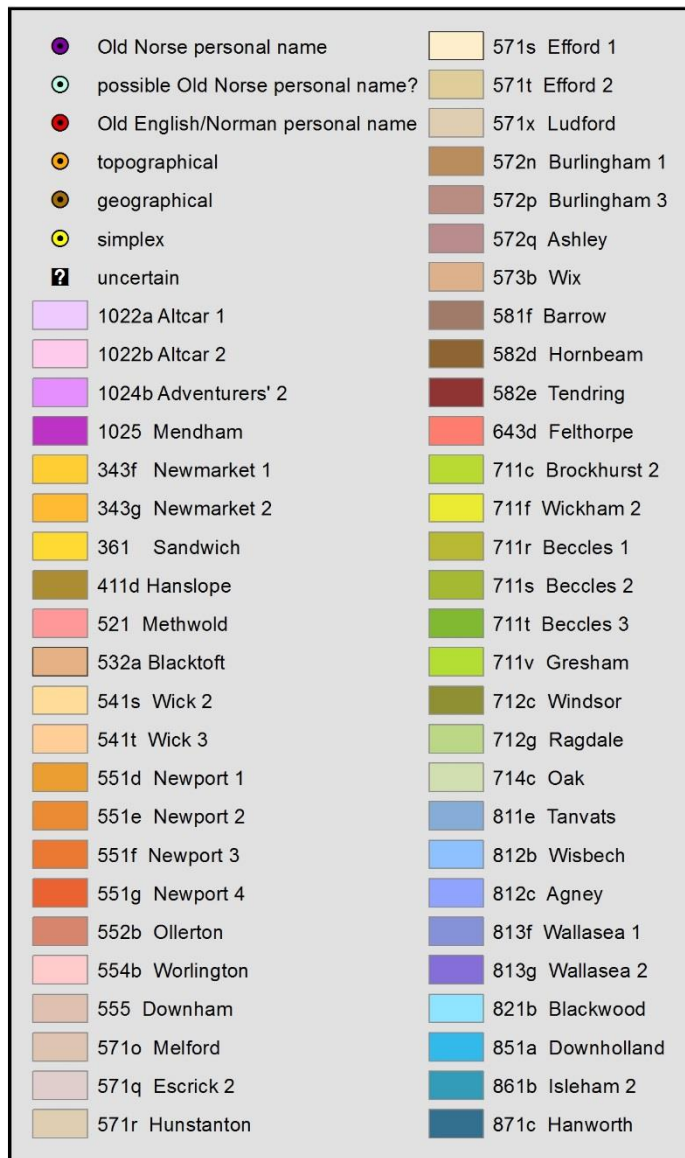
Types of thorp place-names

- Old Norse personal name
- ⊙ possible Old Norse personal name?
- Old English/Norman personal name
- topographical
- geographical
- simplex
- ⊙ uncertain

-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD



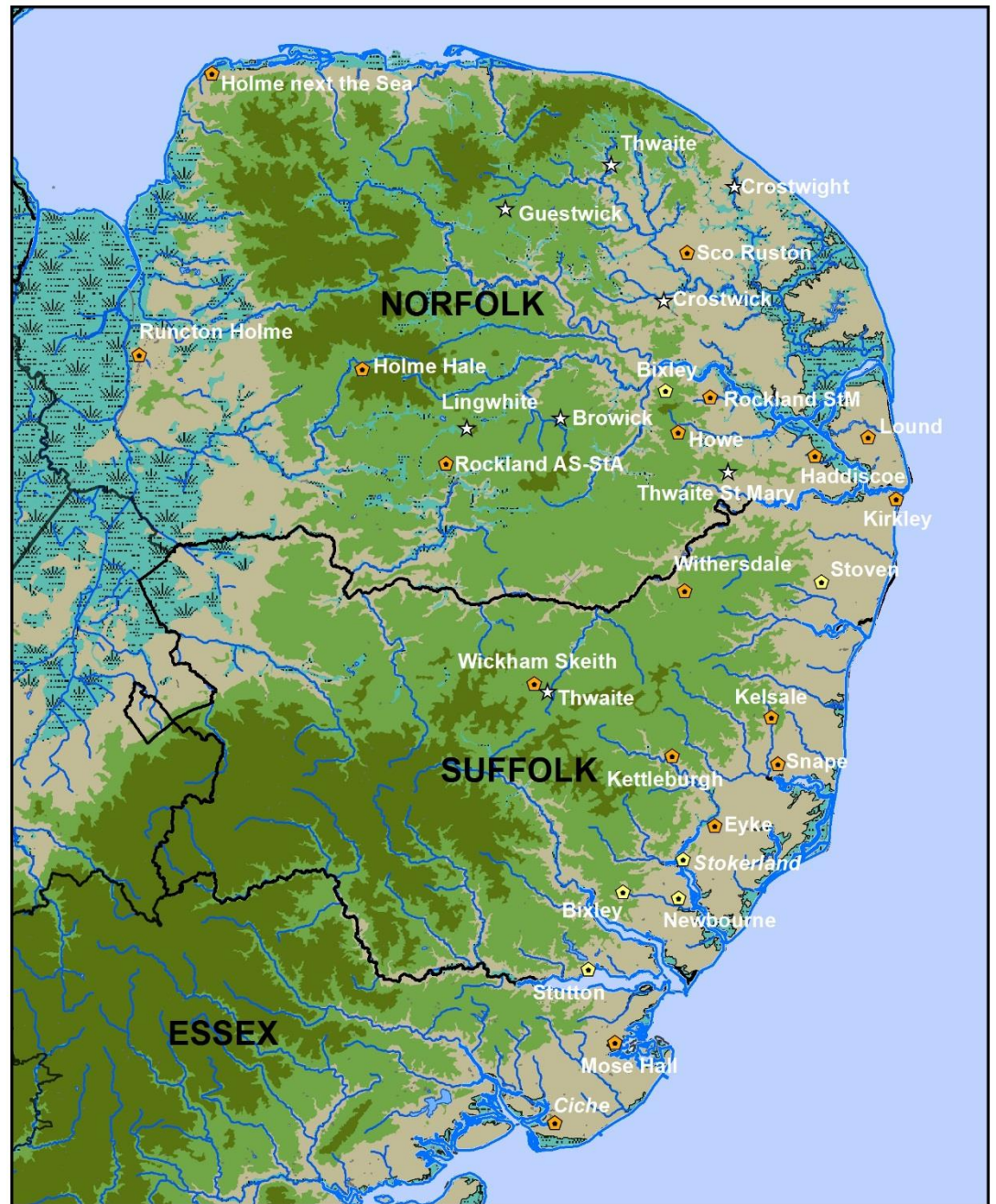
Thorp place-names - soil-types



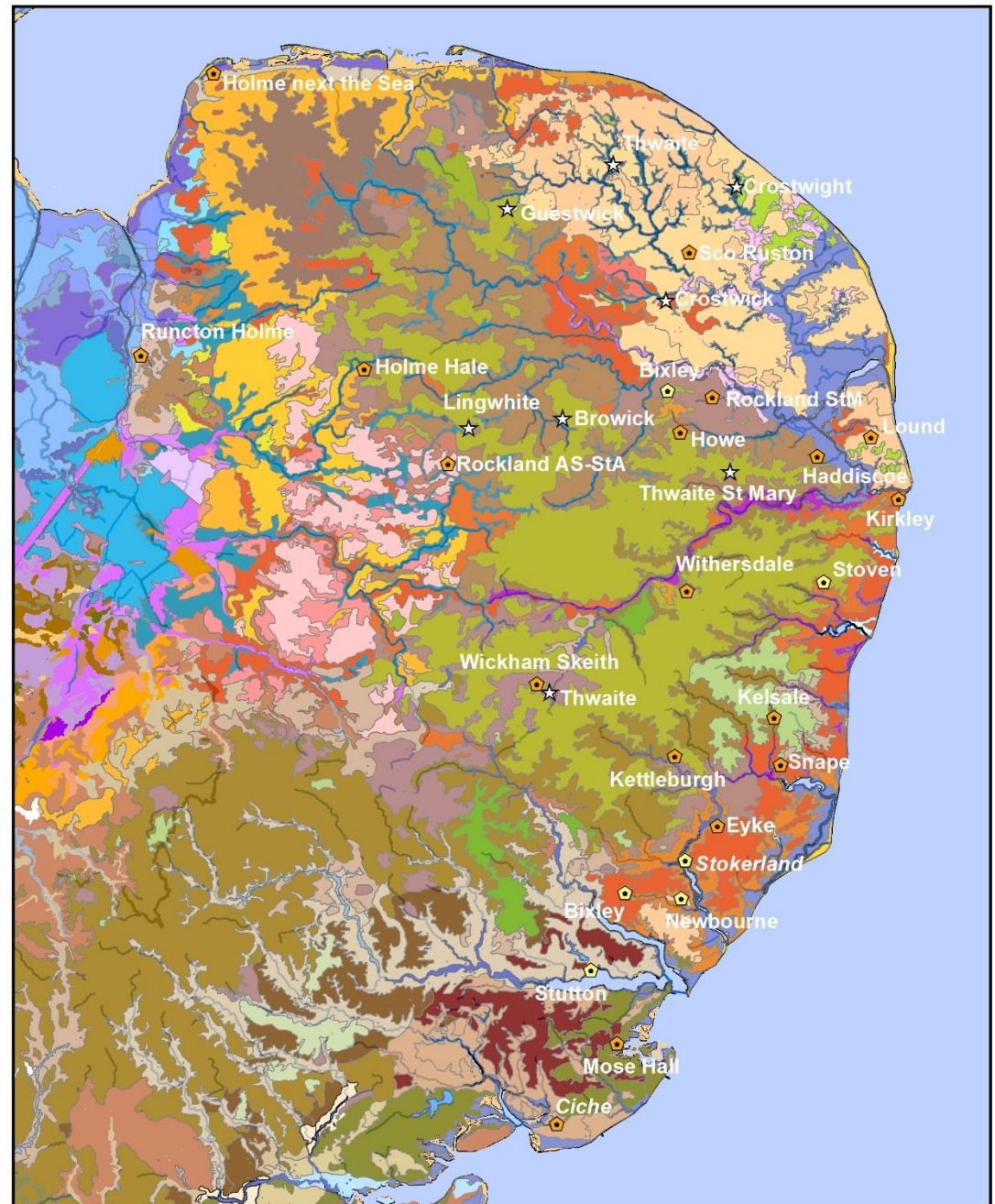
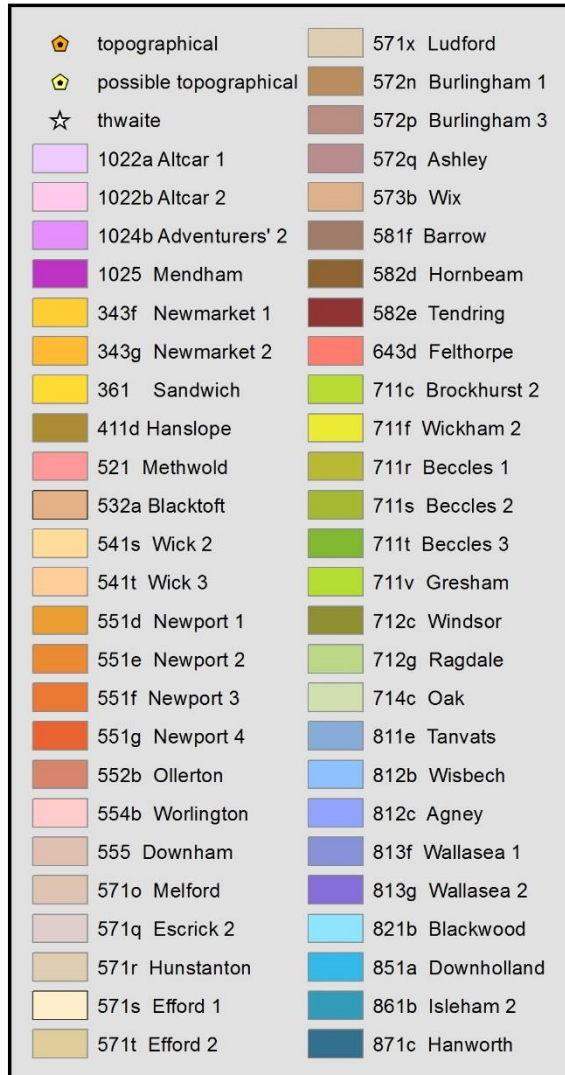
Scandinavian topographical place-names in East Anglia

Types of place-names

- topographical
- possible topographical
- thwaite
- Peat & alluvium soils
- Land over 30 m OD
- Land over 60 m OD



Scandinavian topographical place-names - soil-types



Scandinavian topographical place-names in East Anglia - with possible Viking period coastline

Types of place-names




-  topographical
-  possible topographical
-  thwaite
-  possible Viking Age coastline?
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD

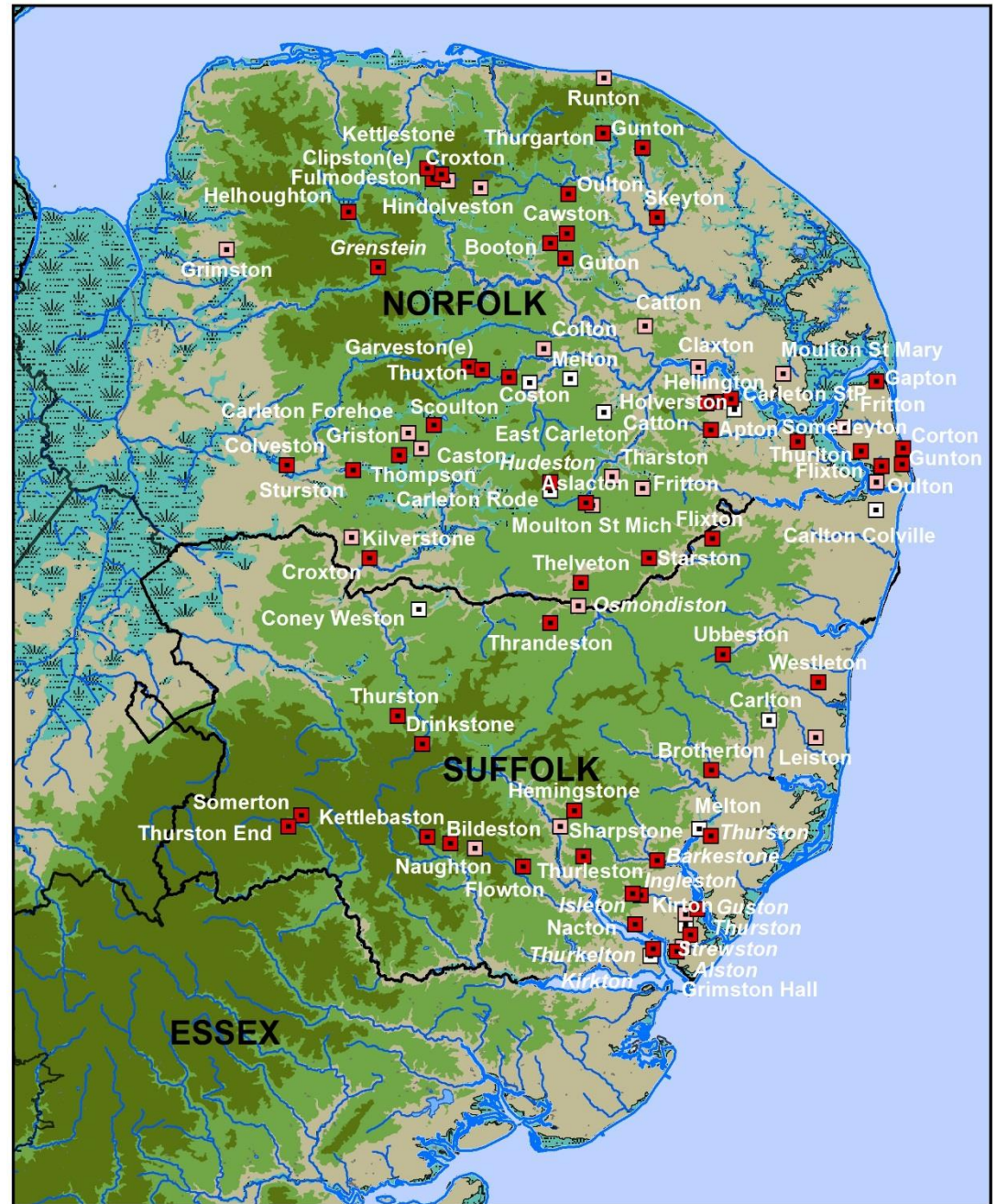


Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in '-ton'

Place-name types

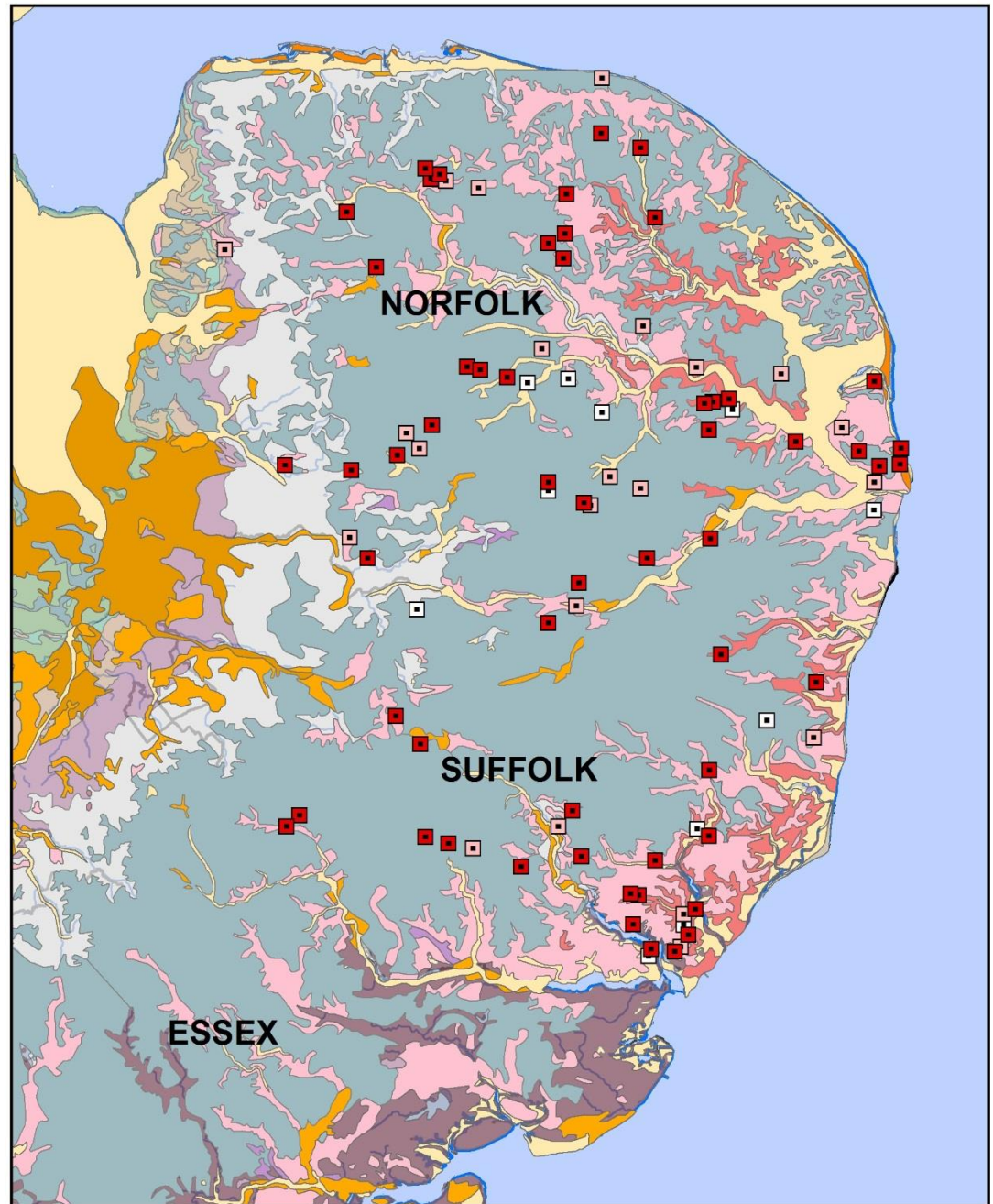
- 'Grimston-hybrid'
- possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
- other ON ton

 Peat & alluvium soils
 Land over 30 m OD
 Land over 60 m OD



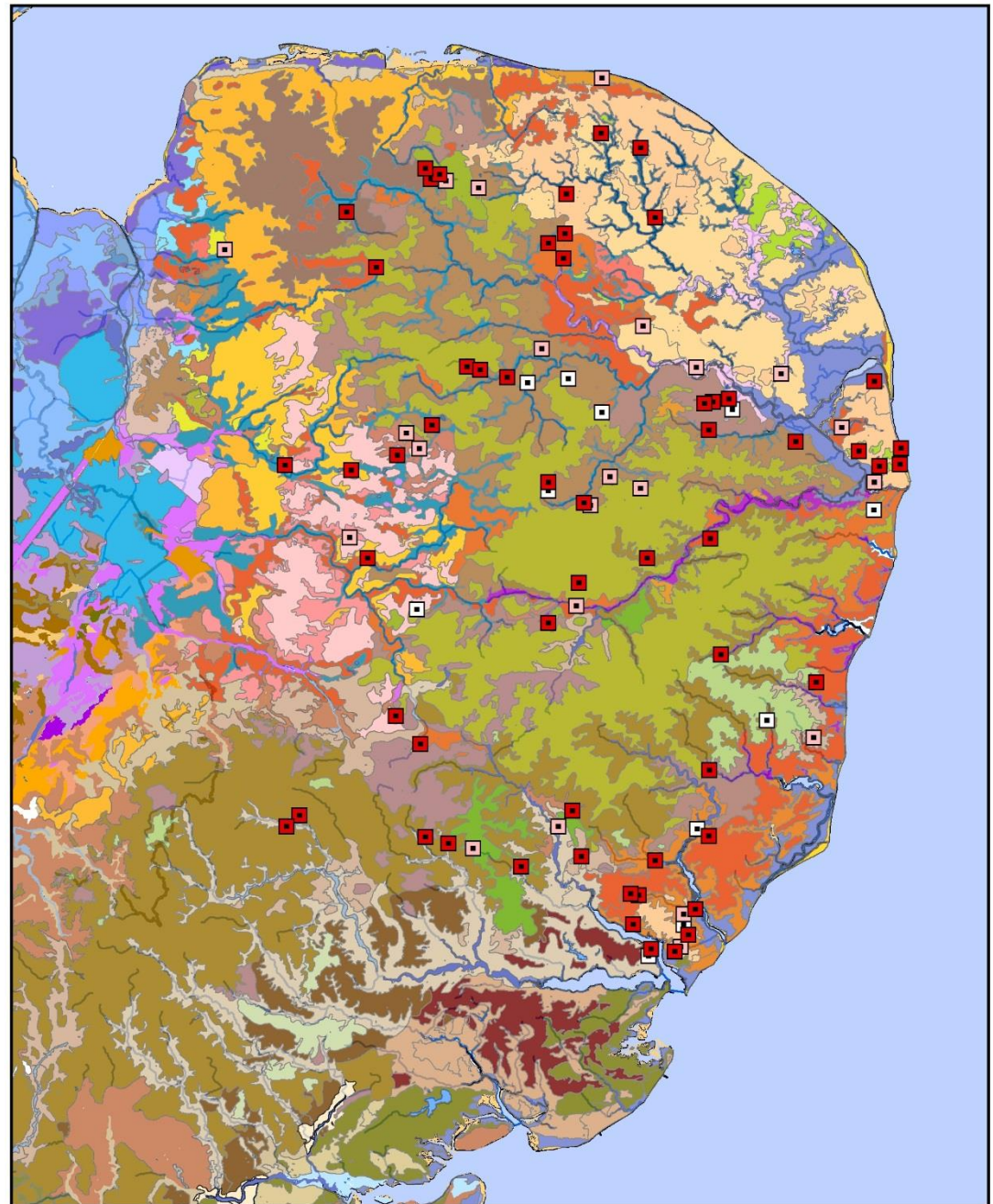
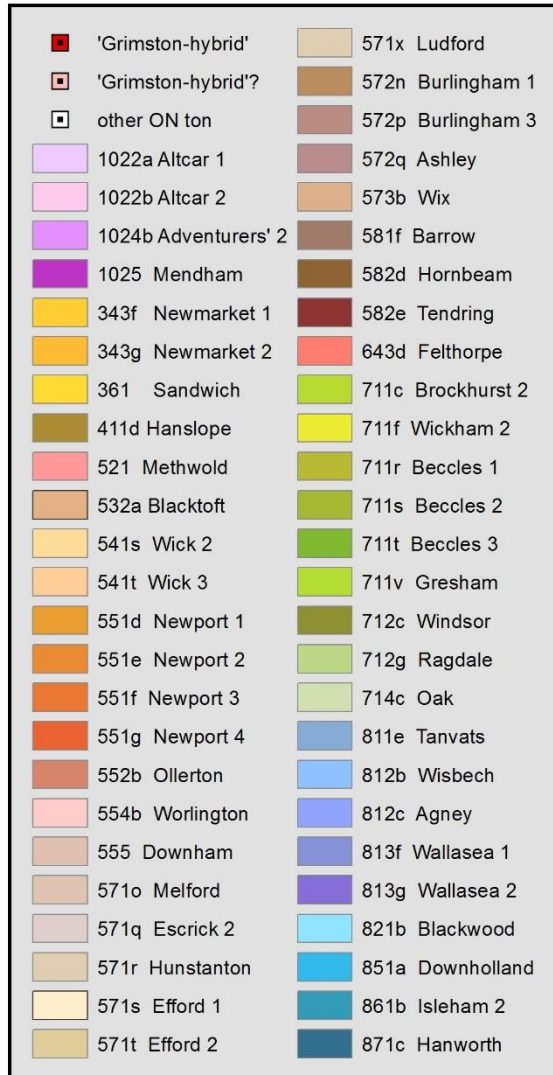
Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in '-ton'

- geology










Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in '-ton'

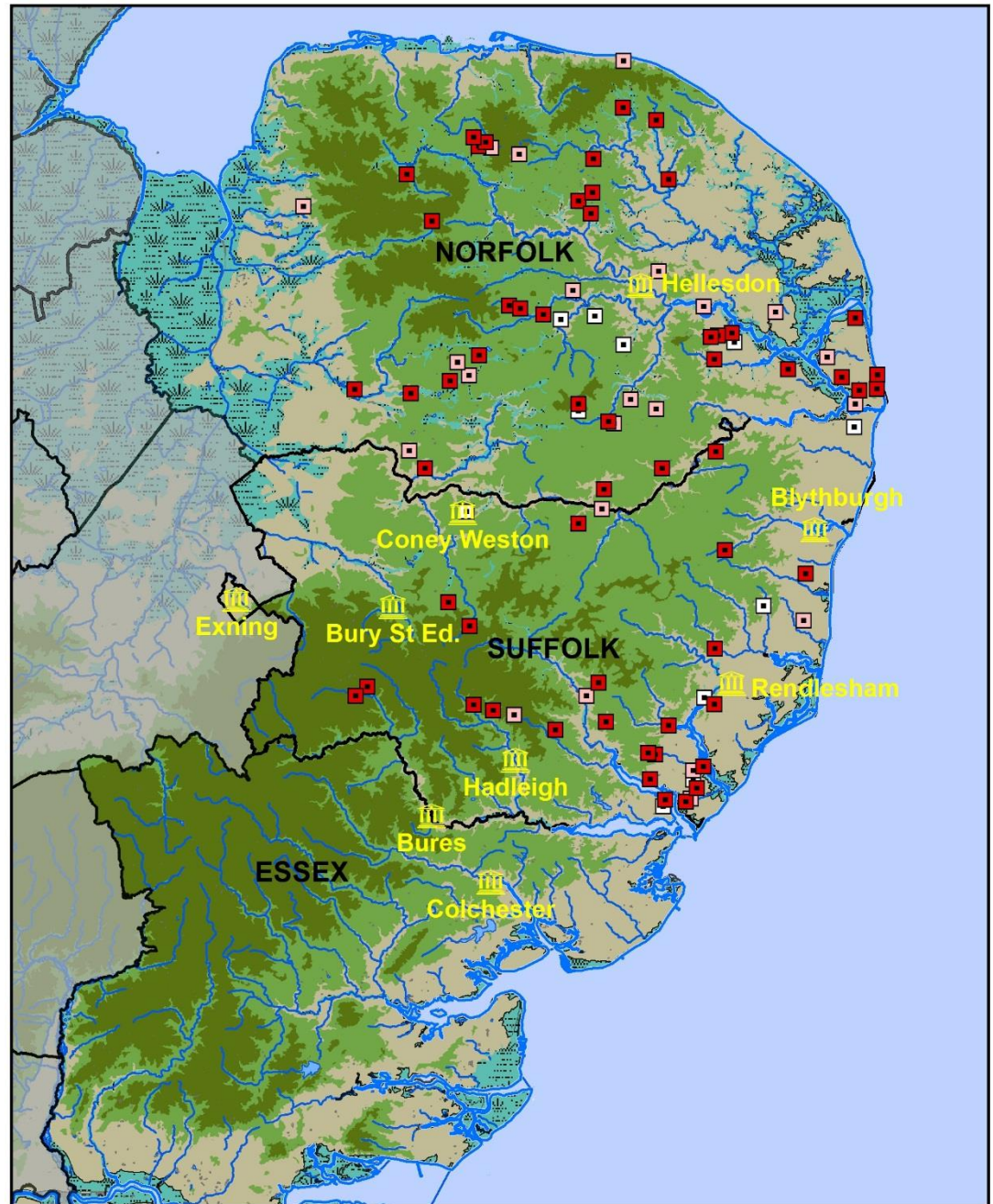
- soil-types



Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in '-ton' in East Anglia, plus royal villis








Other locations

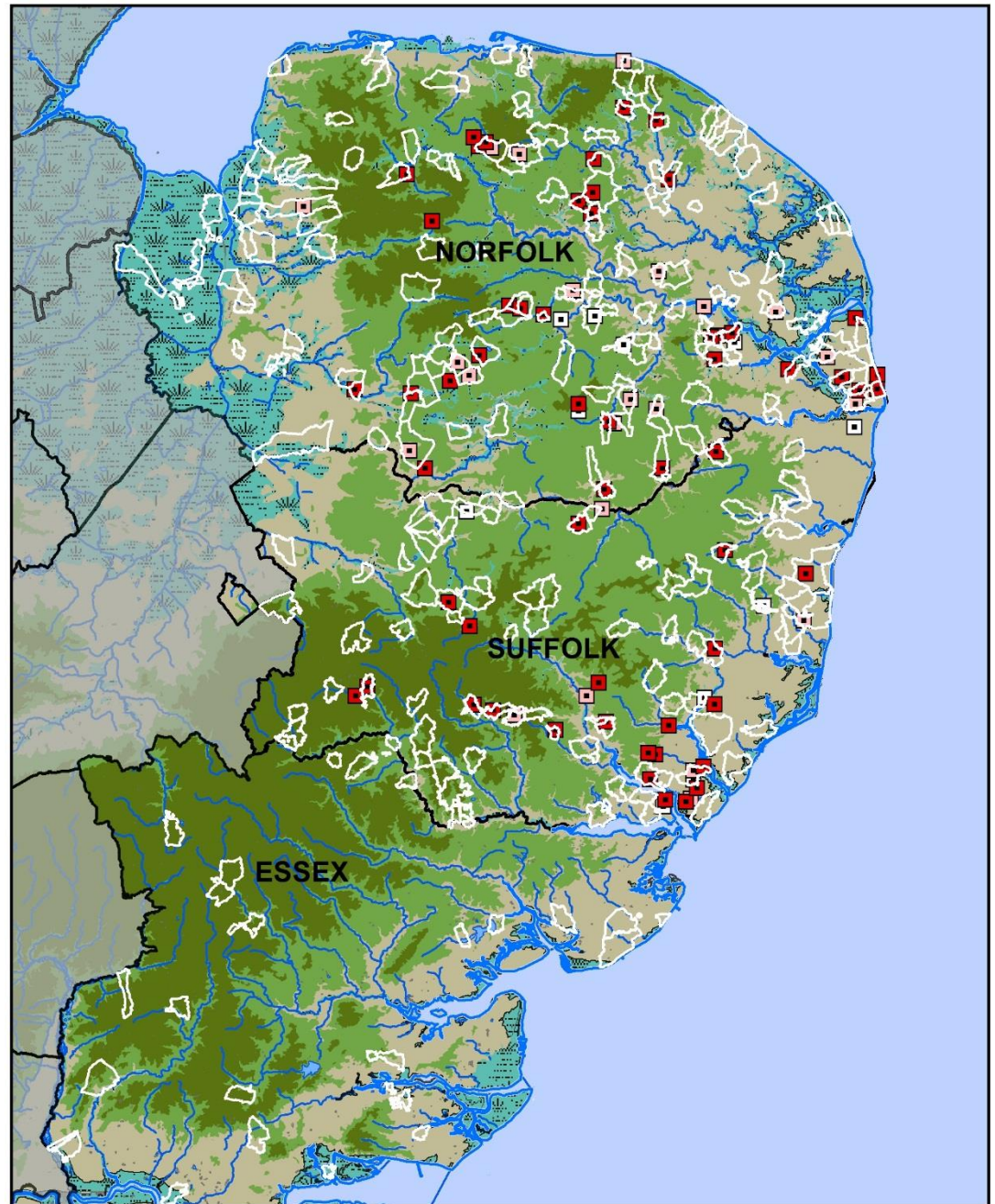
-  royal vill
-  'Grimston-hybrid'
-  possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
-  other ON ton
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD



Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in '-ton' & all '-ton' parishes in East Anglia










Place-name types

-  All parishes with ton-names
-  'Grimston-hybrid'
-  possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
-  other ON ton
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD



Old English '-ton' place-names in East Anglia





Types of OE ton-name

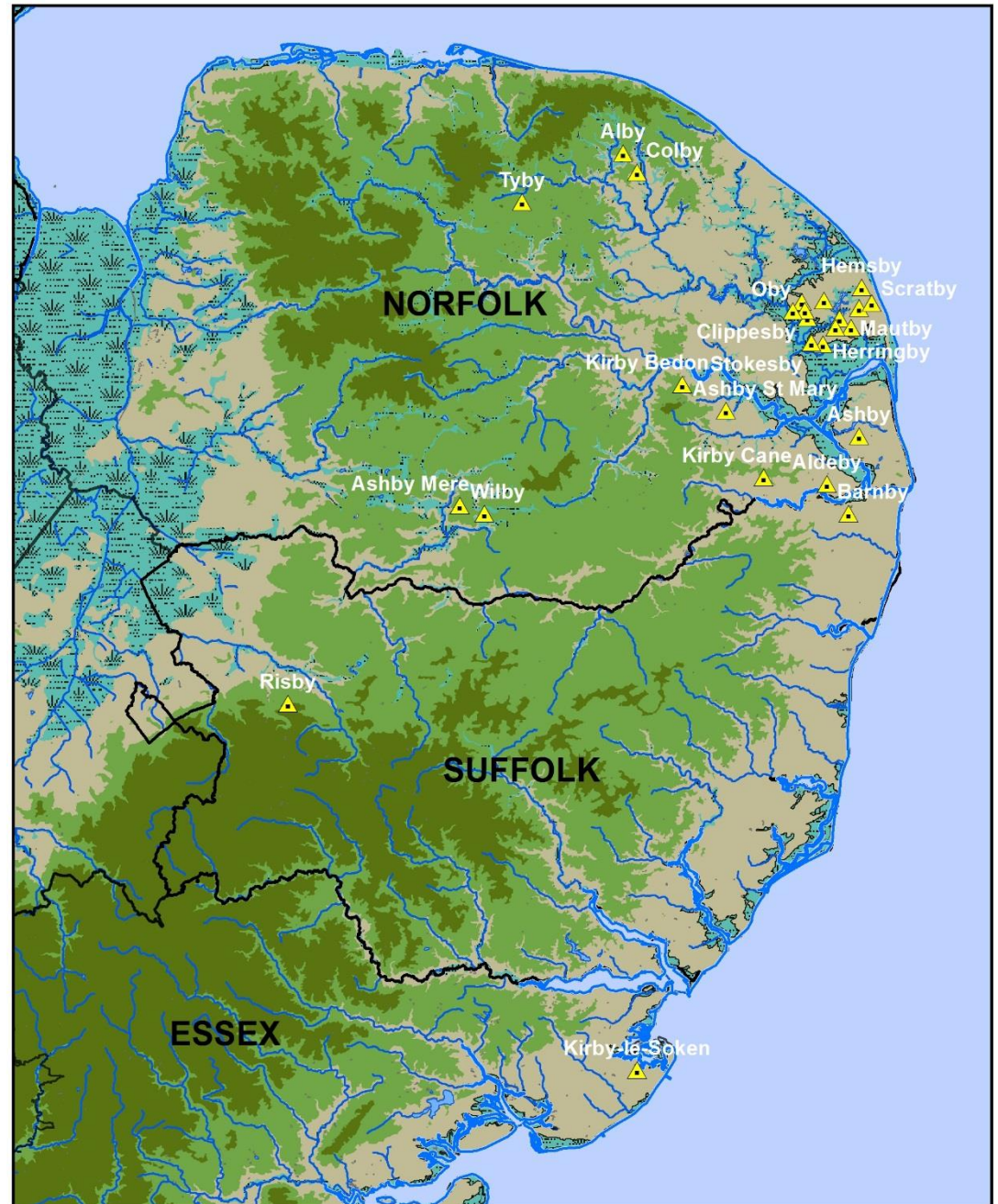
-  personal name
-  folk-name
-  functional
-  geographical
-  topographical
-  uncertain
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD



Scandinavian '-by' place-names in East Anglia

Types of place-names

-  by
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD



East & West Flegg - Scandinavian place-names

Place-name types

▲ '-by' place-names

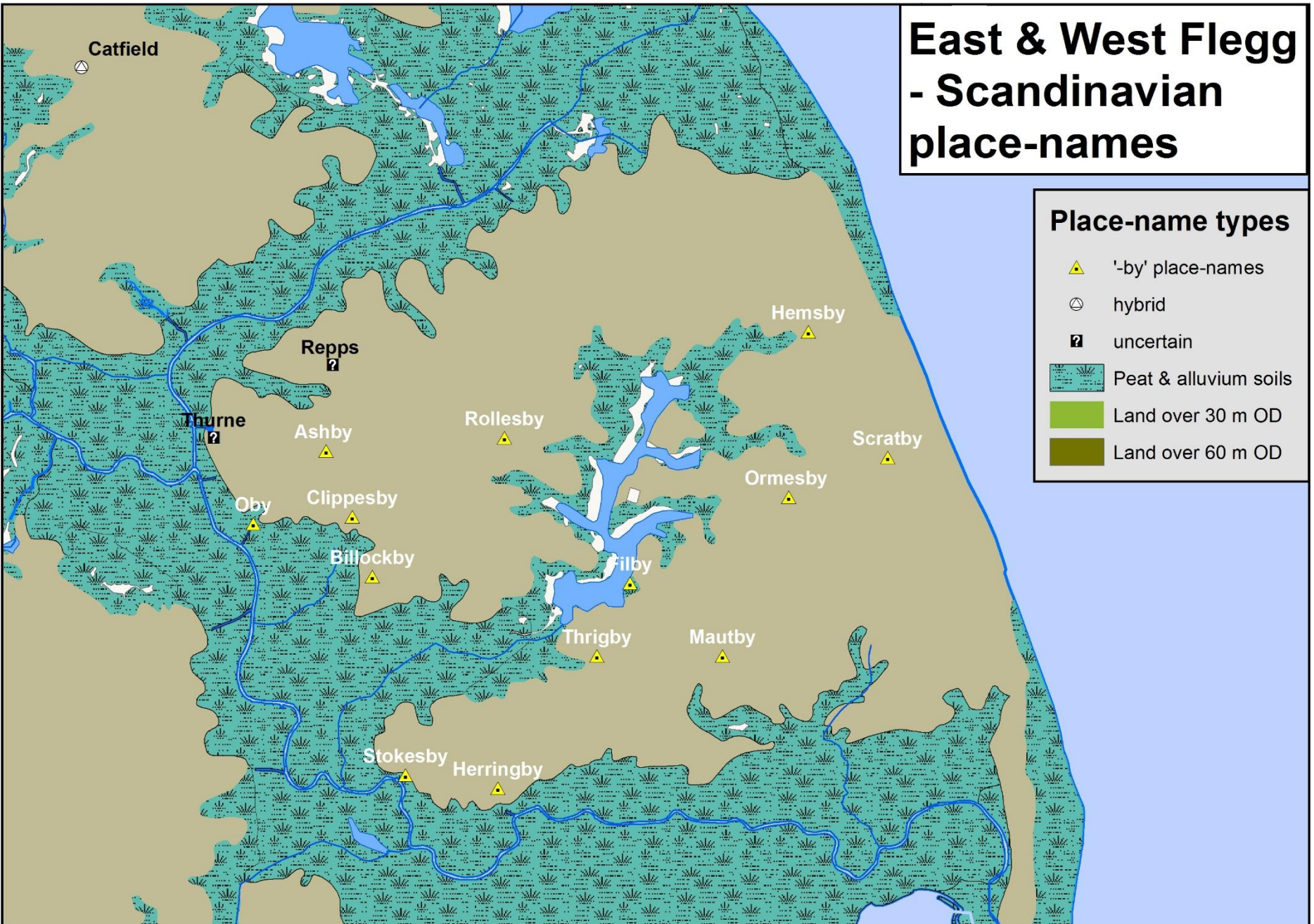
⊙ hybrid

⊛ uncertain

Peat & alluvium soils

Land over 30 m OD

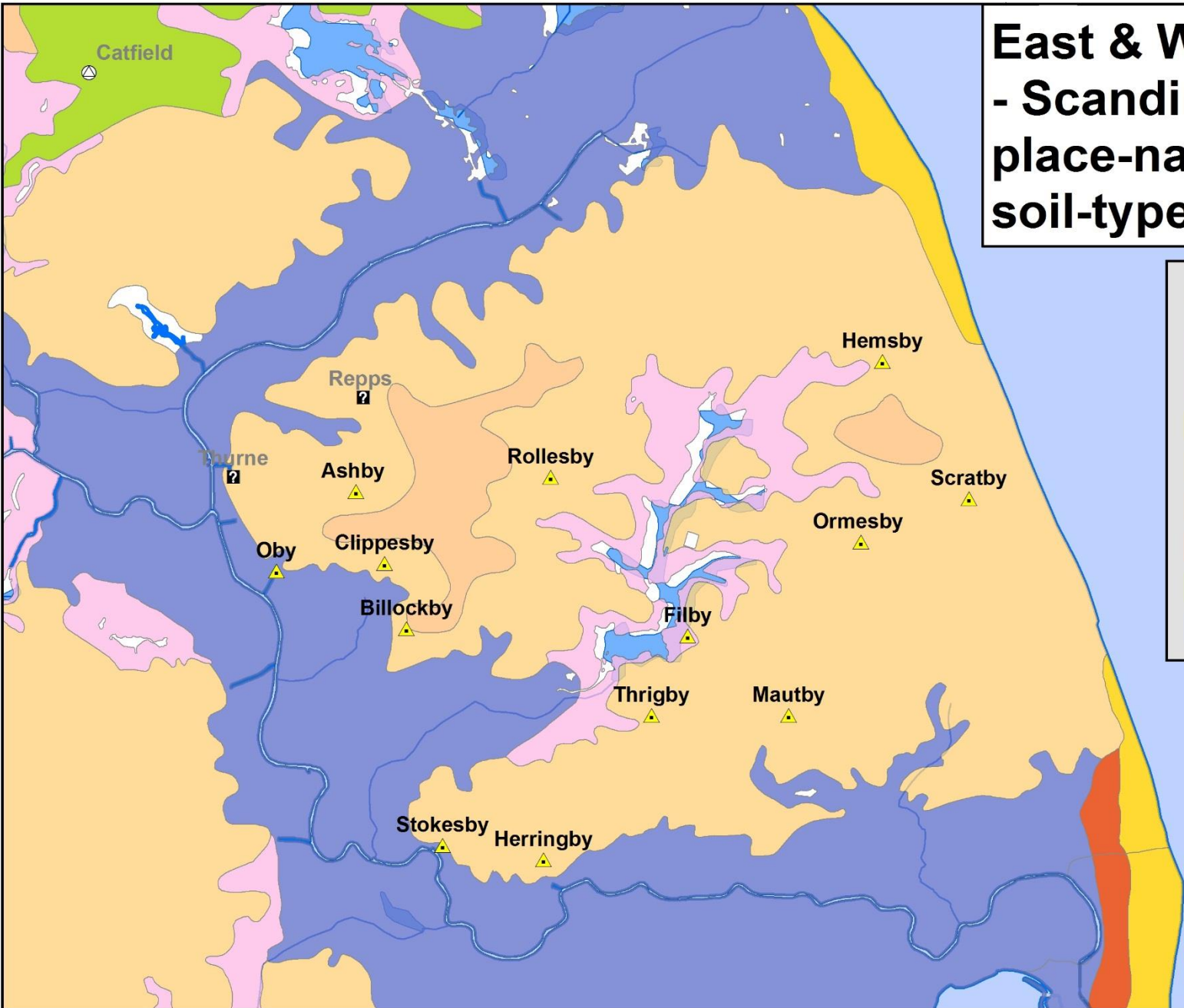
Land over 60 m OD



East & West Flegg - Scandinavian place-names & soil-types

Soil-types

- 1022a Altcar 1
- 1022b Altcar 2
- 361 Sandwich
- 541s Wick 2
- 541t Wick 3
- 551g Newport 4
- 711v Gresham
- 813f Wallasea 1



East & West Flegg



Scale 1:40000





Local landscape settings

estuary

large river valley

small river valley









coast

undulating land, no river

flat land or flood plain

East & West Flegg - 'by'-names & local landscape settings










Landscape settings

-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain



Old English '-ton' place-names in East Anglia

Types of OE ton-name









-  personal name
-  folk-name
-  functional
-  geographical
-  topographical
-  uncertain
-  Peat & alluvium soils
-  Land over 30 m OD
-  Land over 60 m OD

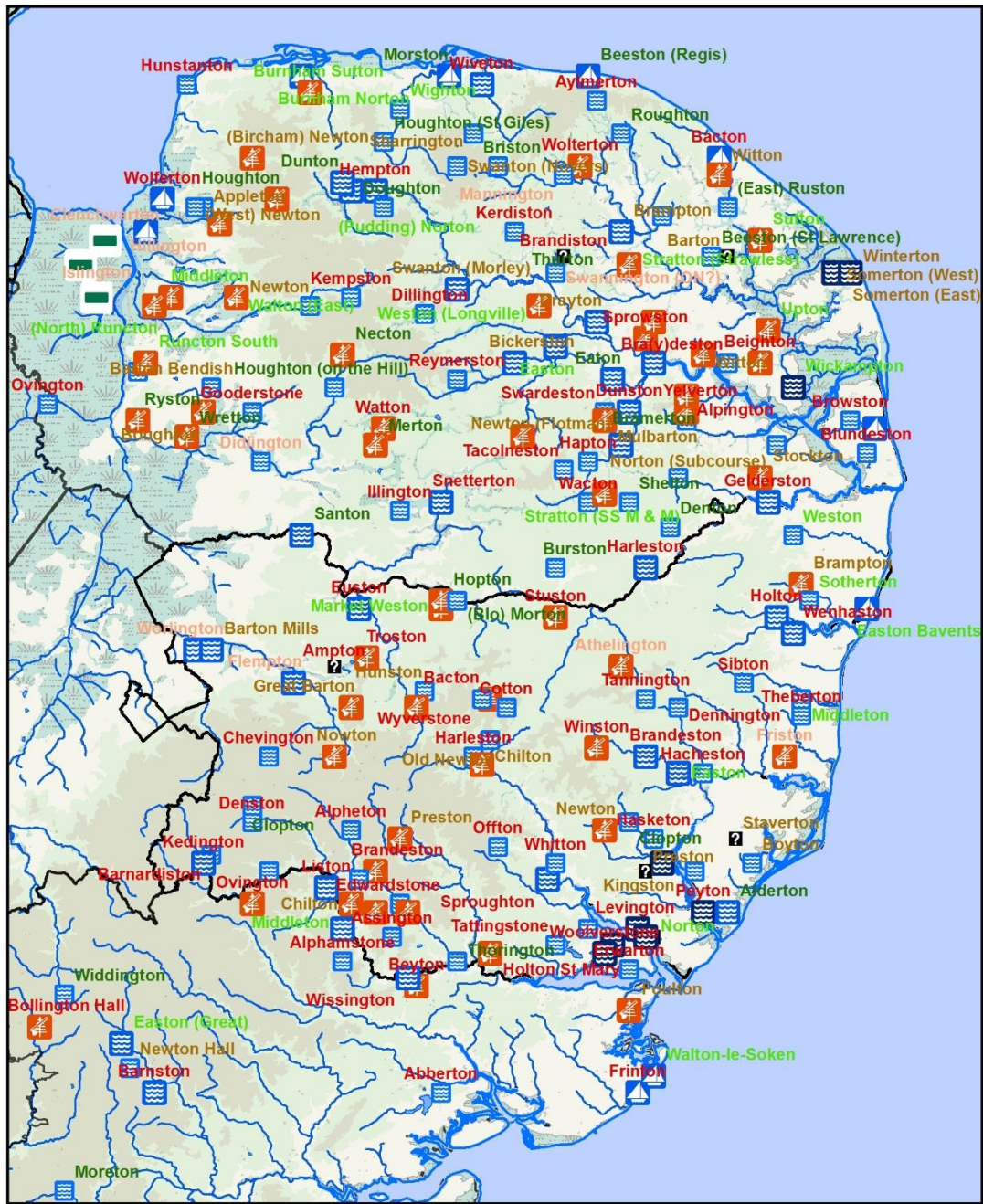


Old English '-ton' place-names in East Anglia - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS = -tun-NAME TYPE
 red = OE personal name
 pink = OE folk-name
 brown = OE functional
 lt green = OE geographical
 dk green = OE topographical

LANDSCAPE SETTING









-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain



'Grimston-hybrid' place-names in East Anglia - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS:
red = 'Grimston-hybrid'

LANDSCAPE SETTING

-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain











Thorp place-names in East Anglia - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS - THORP-TYPES:

- mauve = ON pers. name
- blue = poss. ON pers. name
- red = OE/Norman pers. name
- brown = topographical
- green = geographical
- yellow = simplex

LANDSCAPE SETTING

-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain











Thorp place-names in East Anglia (except ON personal names) - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS - THORP-TYPES:

- red = OE/Norman pers. name
- brown = topographical
- green = geographical
- yellow = simplex

LANDSCAPE SETTING









-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain

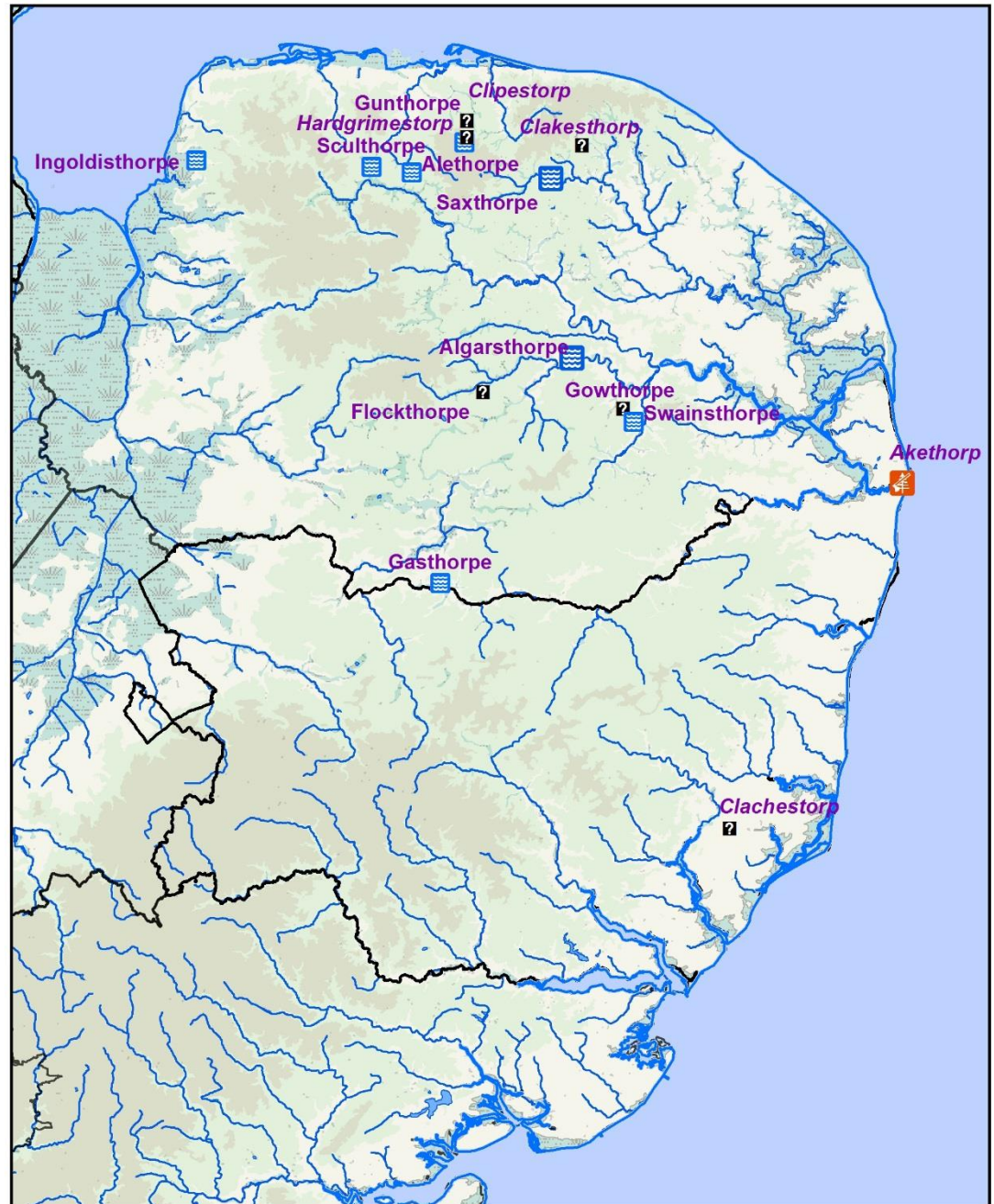


Thorp place-names in East Anglia with ON personal names - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS - THORP-TYPES:
mauve = ON pers. name

LANDSCAPE SETTING

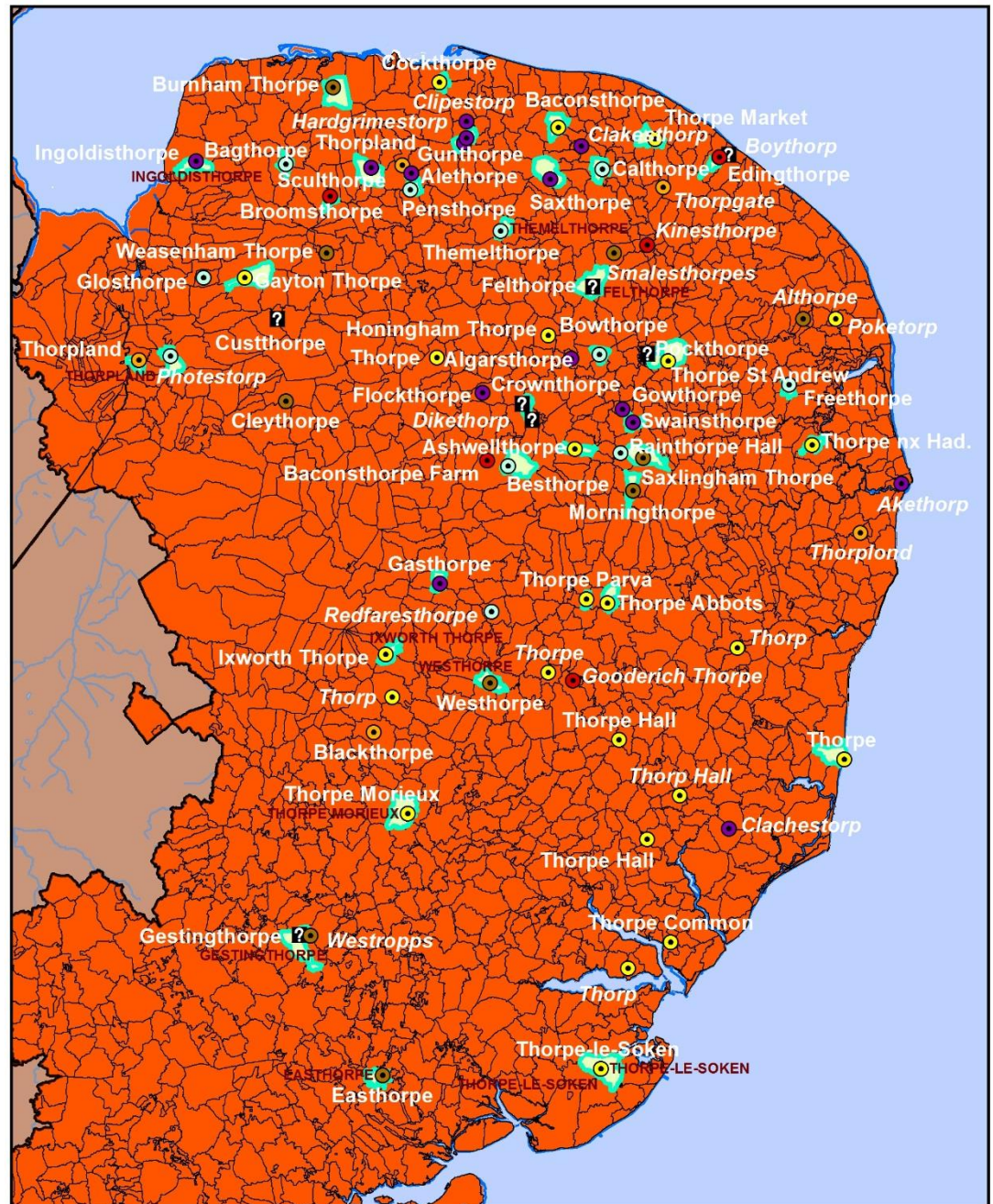
-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain



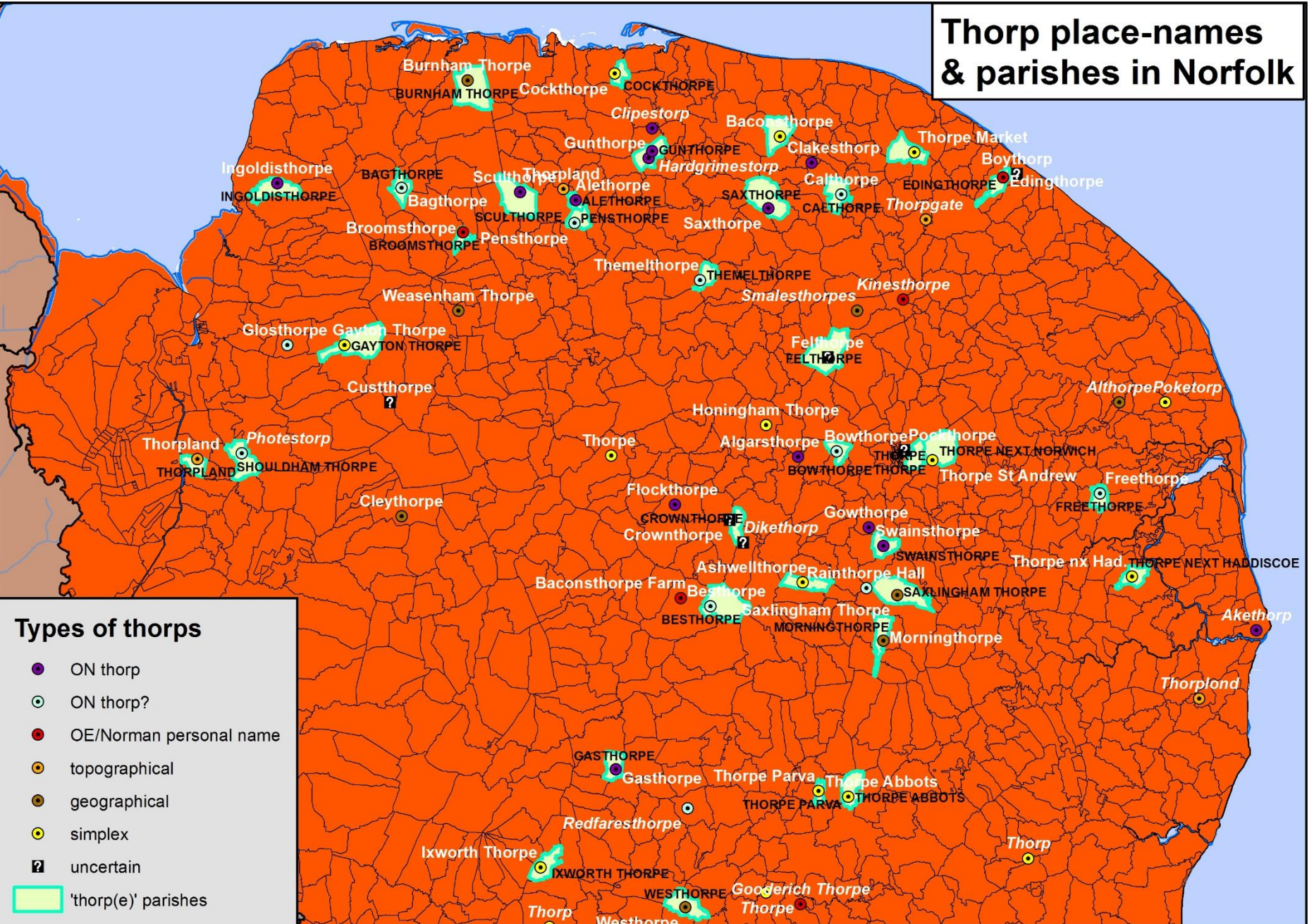
Thorp place-names in East Anglia, plus parishes with 'thorp(e)' names

Types of thorp place-names

- Old Norse personal name
- possible Old Norse personal name?
- Old English/Norman personal name
- topographical
- geographical
- simplex
- uncertain
- 'thorp(e)' parishes



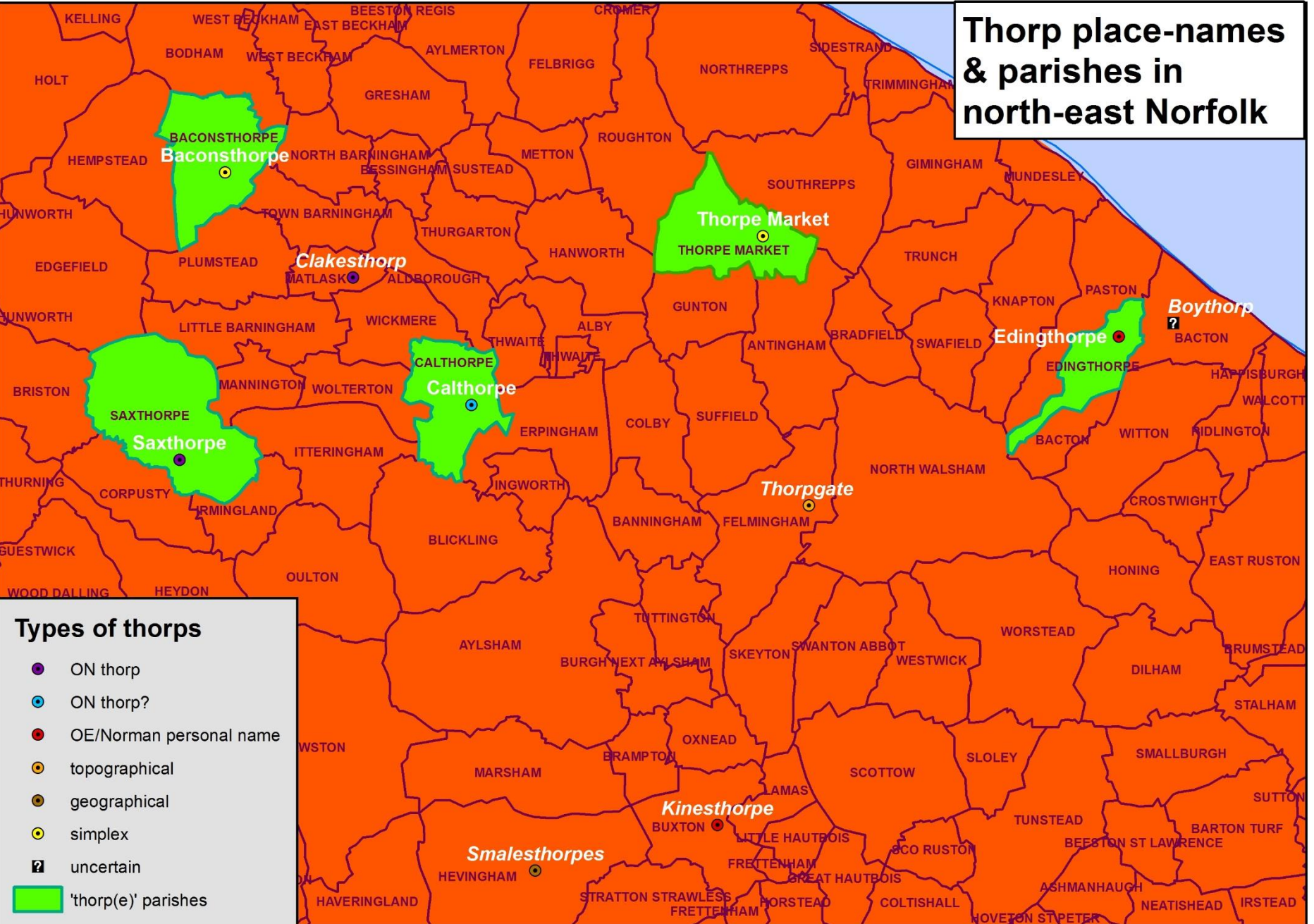
Thorp place-names & parishes in Norfolk



Types of thorps

- ON thorp
- ON thorp?
- OE/Norman personal name
- topographical
- geographical
- simplex
- uncertain
- 'thorp(e)' parishes

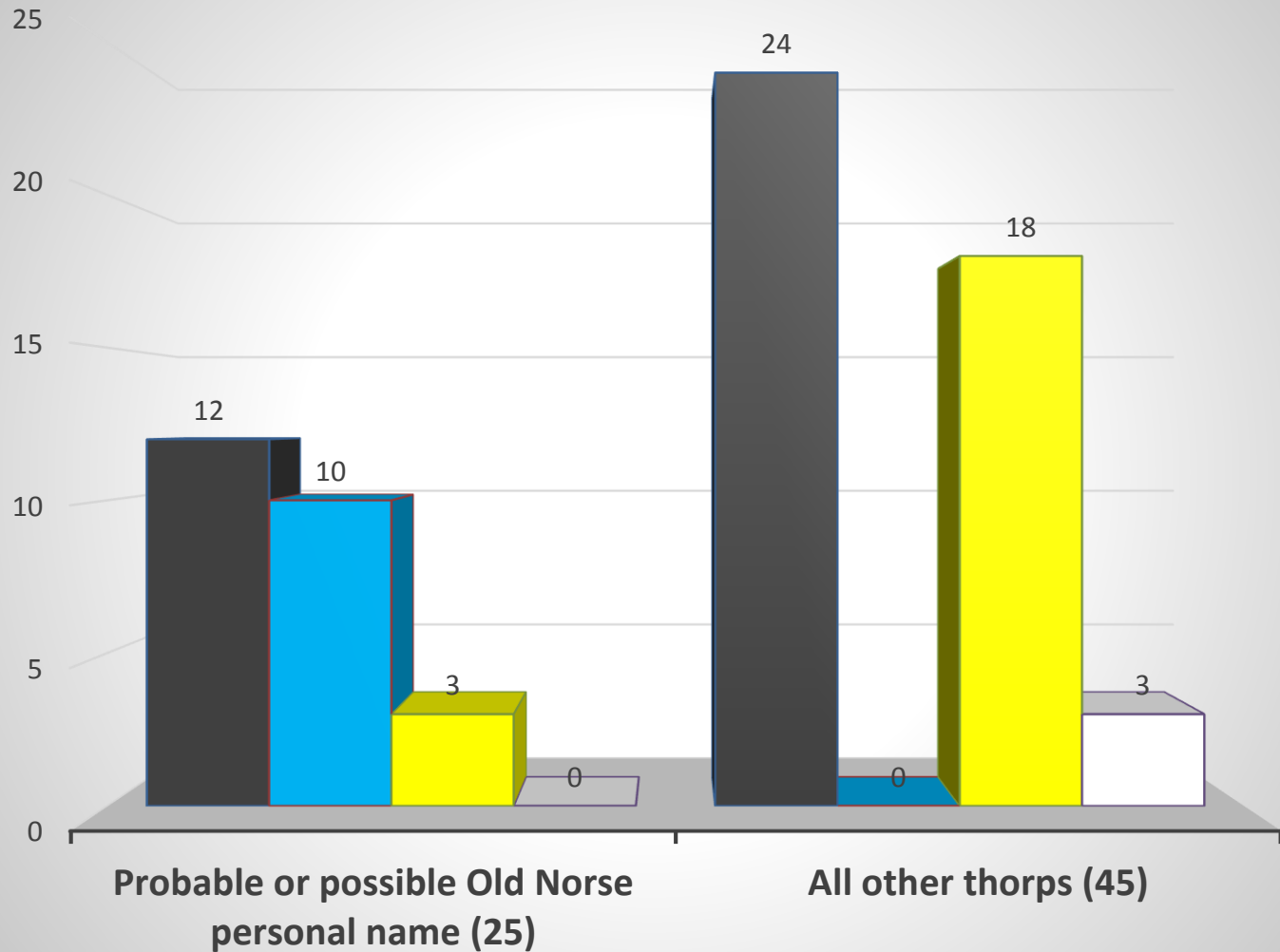
Thorp place-names & parishes in north-east Norfolk



Types of thorps

- ON thorp
- ON thorp?
- OE/Norman personal name
- topographical
- geographical
- simplex
- uncertain
- 'thorp(e)' parishes

Origins of thorp parishes in East Anglia?











■ Not survived ■ Original parish? ■ Formed from other parish? □ Uncertain

'Grimston-hybrids' & thorps with Old Norse personal names - local landscape settings

LABEL COLOURS:
 red = 'Grimston-hybrid'
 mauve = thorp with Old Norse
 personal name

LANDSCAPE SETTING

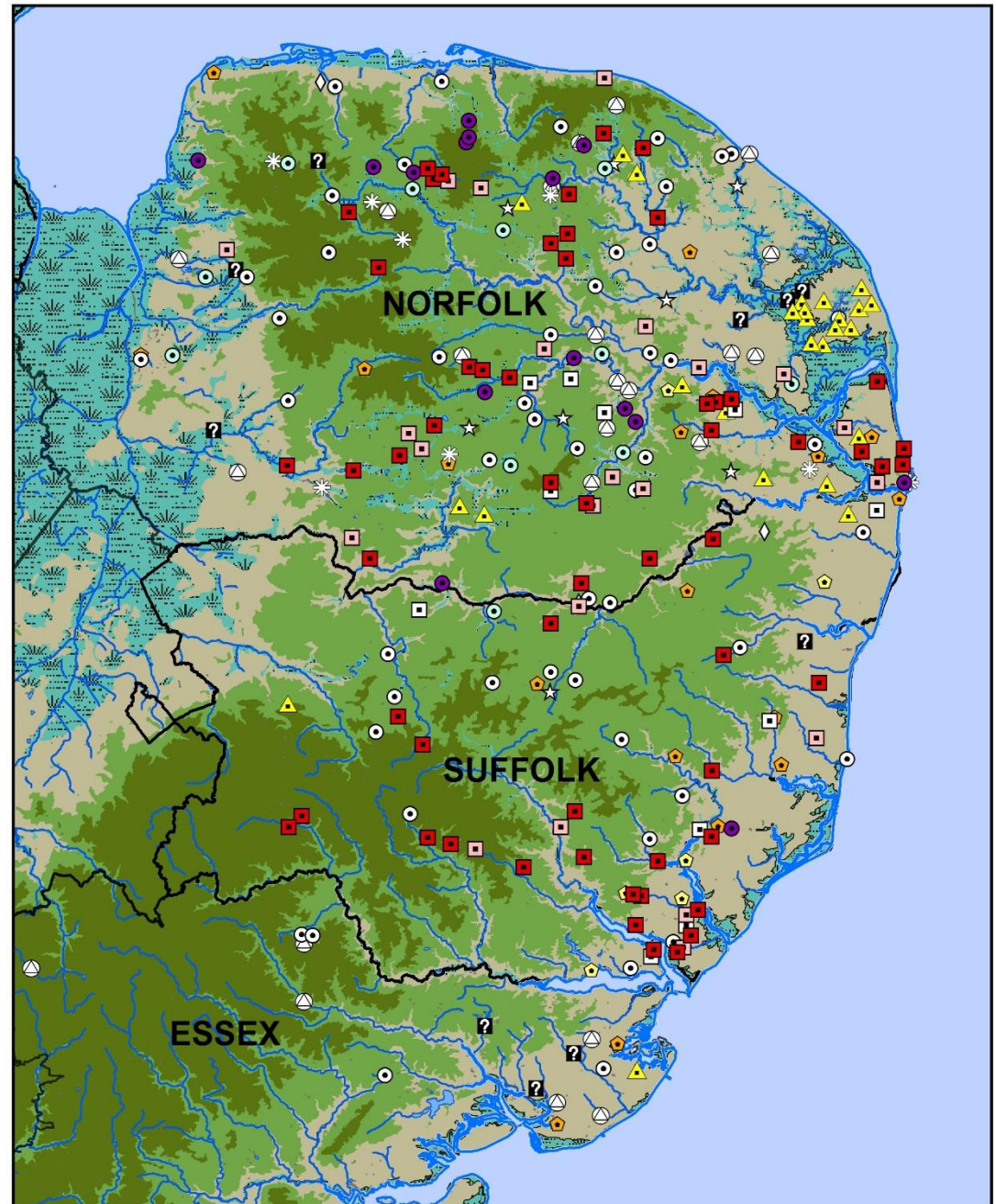
-  small river valley
-  large river valley
-  estuary
-  coast
-  island
-  undulating land, no river?
-  flat land
-  uncertain



Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian place-names in East Anglia

Place-name types

- 'Grimston-hybrid'
 - possible 'Grimston-hybrid'?
 - other ON ton
 - ▲ by
 - ON thorp
 - ON thorp?
 - other thorp
 - ◇ habitative
 - ✱ toft
 - ☆ thwaite
 - ⬢ topographical
 - ⬢ possible topographical
 - ◐ hybrid
 - ? uncertain
-
- Peat & alluvium soils
 - Land over 30 m OD
 - Land over 60 m OD



End