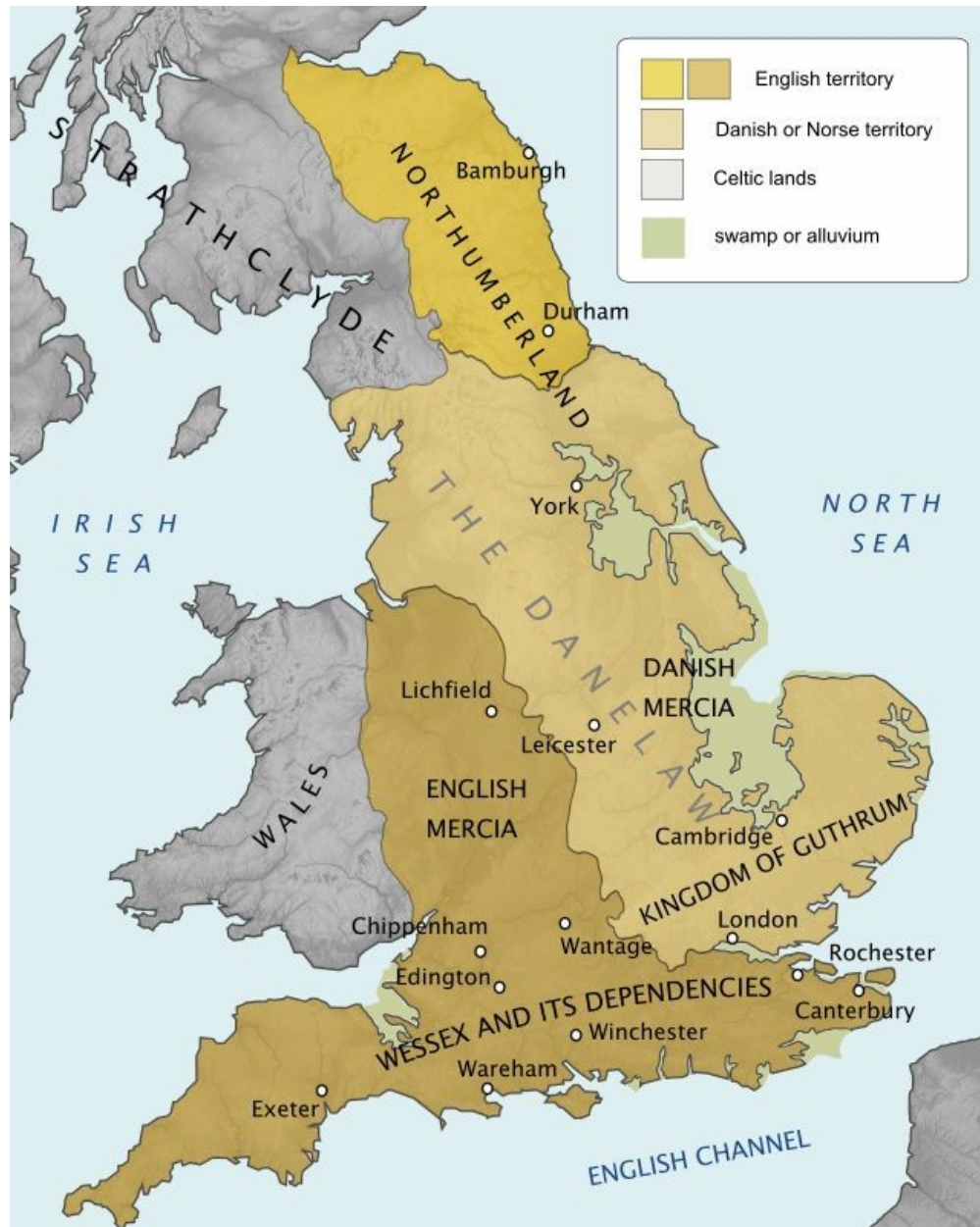


When strangers became family:
thoughts on the Old Norse contribution to the
English personal name stock, 9thc-19thc

Peter McClure
Institute for Name-Studies
University of Nottingham

SNSBI conference,
The King's Manor, University of York, 2019



<http://viking.archeurope.info/index.php?page=the-danelaw-map>



+ ED EL SAN RE CUNT●ERE

+ Edels[t]an re[x] Guntere

Silver penny of Guthrum al. Æðelstān, king of E Anglia 879–890,
minted by a (Frankish?) moneyer named Guntere

From the Cuerdale hoard (British Museum)

Alfred's father was ***Æthelwulf***.

Three of Alfred's older brothers, who preceded him as king, were ***Æthelbald***, ***Æthelberht*** and ***Æthelred***.

Two of Alfred's children were named ***Æthelflæd*** and ***Æthelweard*** (a daughter and a son).

Two of his nephews (sons of his brother ***Æthelred***) were named ***Æthelhelm*** and ***Æthelwold***.

**The children of
Godwine (son of Wulfnoð) and Gytha Thorkilsdottær**

Sons:

Swēn, Harald, Tōsti, Gyrth, Lēofwine, Wulfnoð (note the repetition of the grandfather's name)

Daughters:

Ēadgýð, Gunhild, Ælfifu

J. Bossy, 'Blood and Baptism: Kinship, Community and Christianity in Western Europe from the Fourteenth Century to the Seventeenth Centuries', in D. Baker (ed.), *Studies in Church History*, 10 (Oxford, 1973), 129-43.

Michael Bennet, 'Spiritual kinship and the baptismal name', in L. O. Frappell (ed.), *Principalities, Powers and Estates* (Adelaide, 1979), pp. 1-13.

Philip Niles, 'Baptism and the naming of children in late medieval England', *Modern Philology*, 3 (1982), 95-107.

Louis Hass, 'Social connections between parents and godparents in late medieval Yorkshire', *Modern Philology* 10 (1989), 1-21.

The last three articles are reprinted in Dave Postles and Joel T. Rosenthal (eds), *Studies on the Personal Name in Later Medieval England and Wales* (Kalamazoo, Michigan, 2006).

About 80 festermen for the estates of Peterborough Abbey in Northants, dated 983 x 985 (Sawyer 1448a)

30 or so (c. 40%) have ON names

There are also over 30 examples of named relationships (mainly naming sons and fathers, and naming brothers)

13 fathers with an OE baptismal name,

12 of whom have sons with an OE baptismal name

E.g. *Æthelnoð Ætþelferðes sune*

and one with perhaps an ON name:

Vlf Dodes sune (but *Ulf* may be for OE *Wulf*).

8 fathers with an ON baptismal name,

3 of whom have sons with an ON name

E.g. *Cytel Clacces sune*

and 5 have an OE name:

E.g. *Leofsie þurlaces sune*

In two instances brothers have names from each name

stock: *Eadric on þorp ... Grim his broðor*

Osulf 7 Fastolf 7 Beorneh

72 Festeren around York in or before c. 1050

c.70% of their names are Old Norse

See John Insley, 'Anmerkungen zu skandinavischen Personennamen in Nordengland', in W. Haubrichs and H. Tiefenbach (eds), *Interferenz-Onomastik. Namen in Grenz- und Begegnungsräumen in Geschichte und Gegenwart* (Saarbrücken, 2011), 301-11.

Anglicised ON names

Iustan = ON *Jósteinn* + substitution of OE *-stān*.

Frana and ***Forna*** = ON *Fráni* and *Forni* + OE weak nominative *-a* substituted for Old Norse *-i*.

Blih and ***Berħdor*** (= ON *Blígr* and *Bergþórr*) show late OE pronunciation of [g].

Scandinavianised OE names

Wulstain = OE *Wulfstān*

Ardolf = OE *Eardwulf*

3 mixed-language patronymics

Þorcetel unbainasu[na] and

Hálwærð sæfugala suna

may preserve the ON weak genitive singular *-a*.

Yet *Unbain* is probably an anglicised form of ON *Úbeinn*. *Sæfugal* may be an Anglo-Scandinavian coinage using OE *fugol*.

Raganald asbeornnas suna shows retention of ON *Ás-*, but it has anglicisation of ON *-bjorn* to OE *-beorn* and the genitival inflexion is Old English *-es*, not ON *-ar*.

Charter dated 1045–6 (Sawyer 1474).

Agreement between Bishop Ælfwold and the community at Sherborne, and **Care, son of Toki**, concerning land at Holcombe Rogus, Devon.

*[...]ealra scire betwyx Alfwolde bisceope 7 þam hirede æt Scireburnan 7 **Care Tokies suna** æt þam lande æt[...]*

F. M. Stenton, *Danelaw Charters = Documents Illustrative of the Social and Economic History of the Danelaw* (London, 1920)

F. M. Stenton, *The Free Peasantry of the Northern Danelaw* (Oxford, 1969)

Gillian Fellows Jensen, *Scandinavian Personal Names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire* (Copenhagen, 1968)

John Insley, *Scandinavian Personal Names in Norfolk* (Uppsala, 1994)

Gunniue (ON *Gunn-* and OE *-gifu*), e12thc. Lincs Assize Rolls

Cecily Clark, 'Clark's three laws of applied anthroponymics', *Nomina*, 3 (1979), 13-19, repr. in Jackson, *Words, Names and History*, pp. 77-83 at 81-2.

**Of male Insular names in Northern Danelaw
60% - 65% are ON**

Sources:

Registrum Antiquissimum of Lincoln Cathedral (S Lincs);

Feet of Fines for Lincs 1199-1216;

Newark rental (Notts) c.1175.

**Of male Insular names in Southern Danelaw
25% - 35% are ON**

Sources:

Ramsey Manor Survey;

Northamptonshire Charters;

Assize Roll (early 13th-cent.) for Northants, Hunts,
Cambs and Beds

**Of male Insular names in Eastern Danelaw
10% - 40% are ON**

Sources:

Norfolk *Feet of Fines* 35% - 40%;

Suffolk *Feet of Fines* c.25%; Bury Rental c.20%;

Essex *Domesday* list (c.270 Colchester burgesses) c. 10%

Cecily Clark: 'many Viking men ... [may have] arrived unaccompanied and married into the English population'.

['Clark's three laws', in Jackson, p. 81.]

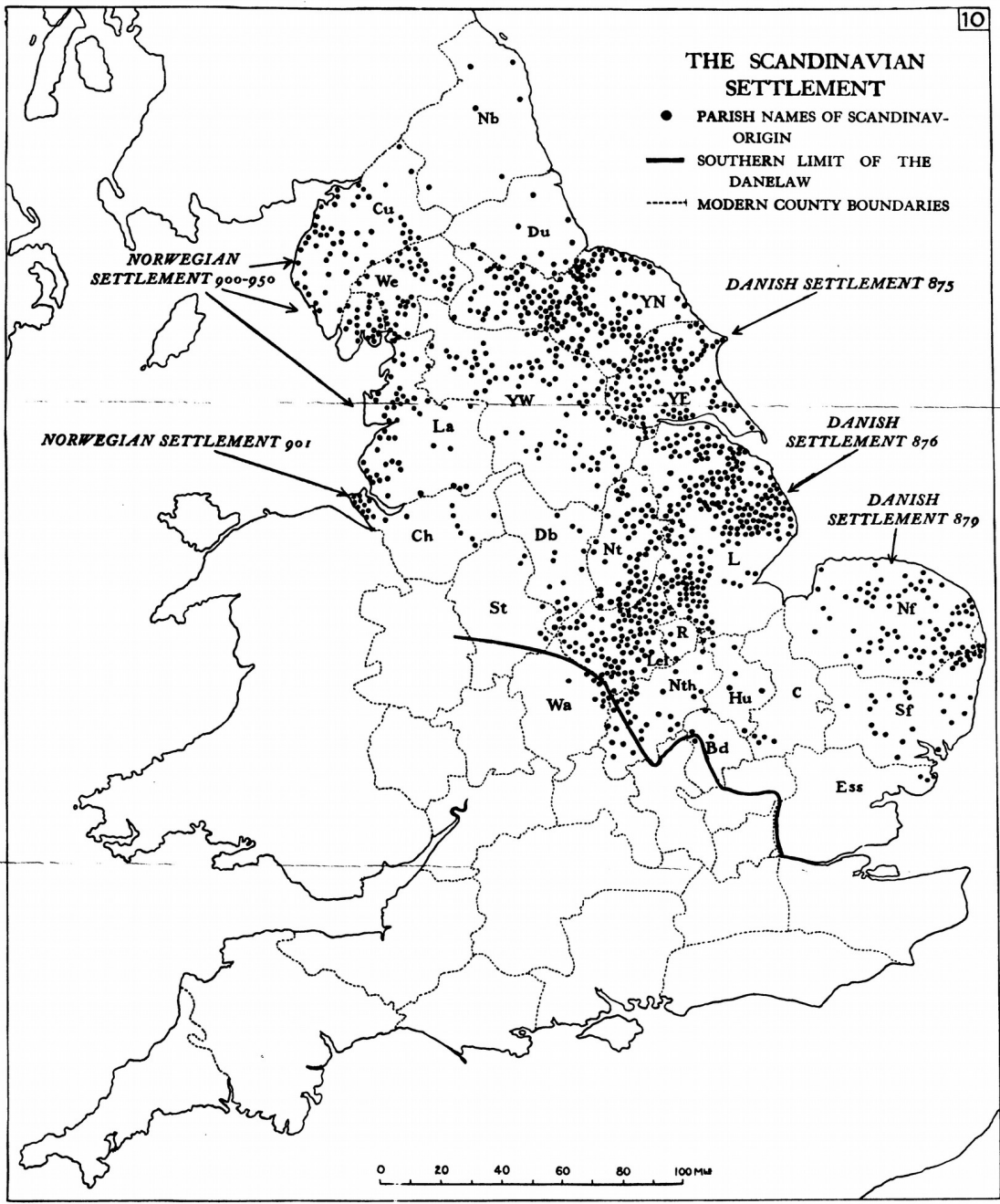
Jane Kershaw,

Viking Identities: Scandinavian Jewellery in England (Oxford: 2013)

V. J. Smart, 'Moneyers of the late Anglo-Saxon coinage, 973-1016 '
Commentationes de nummis sæculorum ix-xi in Suecia repertis,
pt 2,
Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar:
Antikvariska Serien XIX (Stockholm, 1968), 191-276

THE SCANDINAVIAN SETTLEMENT

- PARISH NAMES OF SCANDINAV-ORIGIN
- SOUTHERN LIMIT OF THE DANELAW
- - - - MODERN COUNTY BOUNDARIES



MAP OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SETTLEMENT
 A. H. Smith, *English Place-Name Elements* 1.

Winton Domesday:

ON given names = 4 % of occurrences of insular names in early 12th-cent. Winchester

C. Clark, 'The early personal names of King's Lynn, I', *Nomina* 6 (1982), p. 54.

**Percentage of male Insular names that are ON
in 12th & early 13thcent. documents**

Northern Danelaw (S Lincs, E Notts)

65% - 60%

Eastern Danelaw (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex)

40% - 10%

Southern Danelaw (Northants, Hunts, Cambs, Beds)

35% - 25%

Southern England (Winchester, Canterbury)

4% - lower

**P. Hanks, R. Coates and P. McClure (eds),
*Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain
and Ireland* (Oxford, 2016)**

2nd expanded and corrected edition in
preparation

Surnames excluded from the analysis

1. from ON names that were commonly used by Normans in England,
2. from names that were more likely Old English or Continental Germanic,
3. from ON names whose derived surnames are more or less exclusive to Scotland,
4. homonyms where an ON name is only a minor, theoretical possibility.



The British 19th Century
**Surname
Atlas**

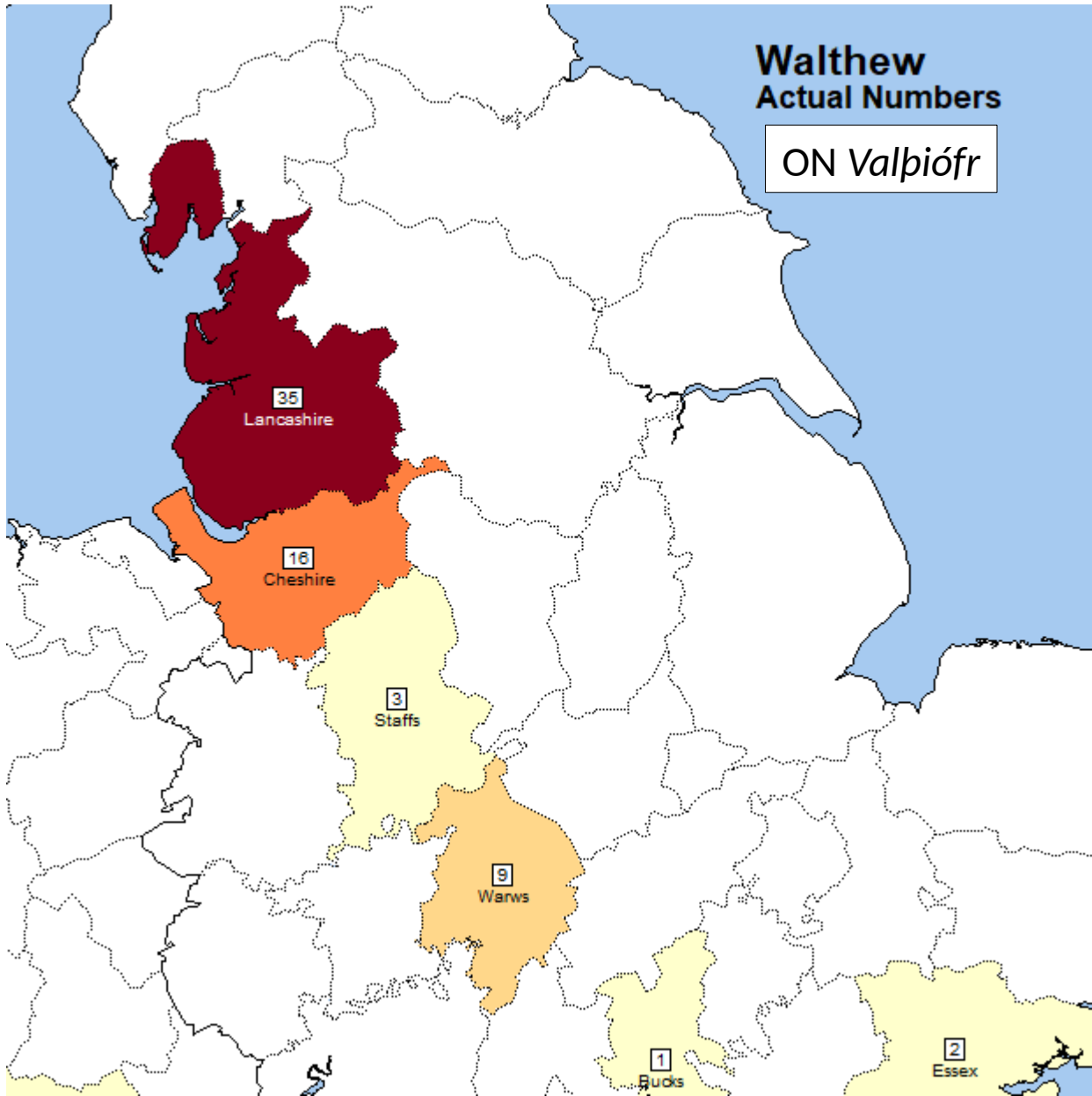
*Display & print maps
for any surname
or forename*

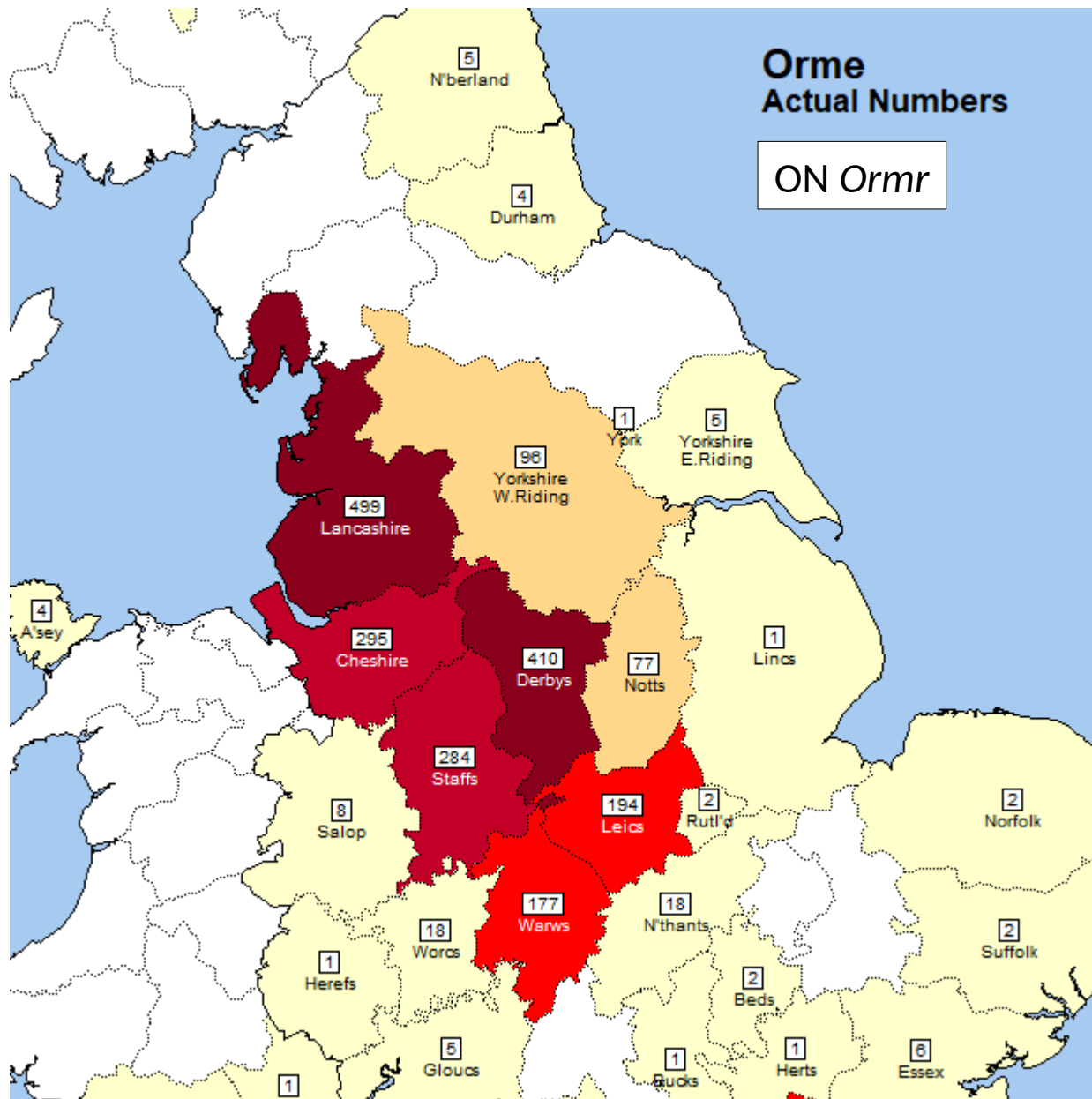
Steve Archer's maps of the surnames in the 1881 census
(2003-13)

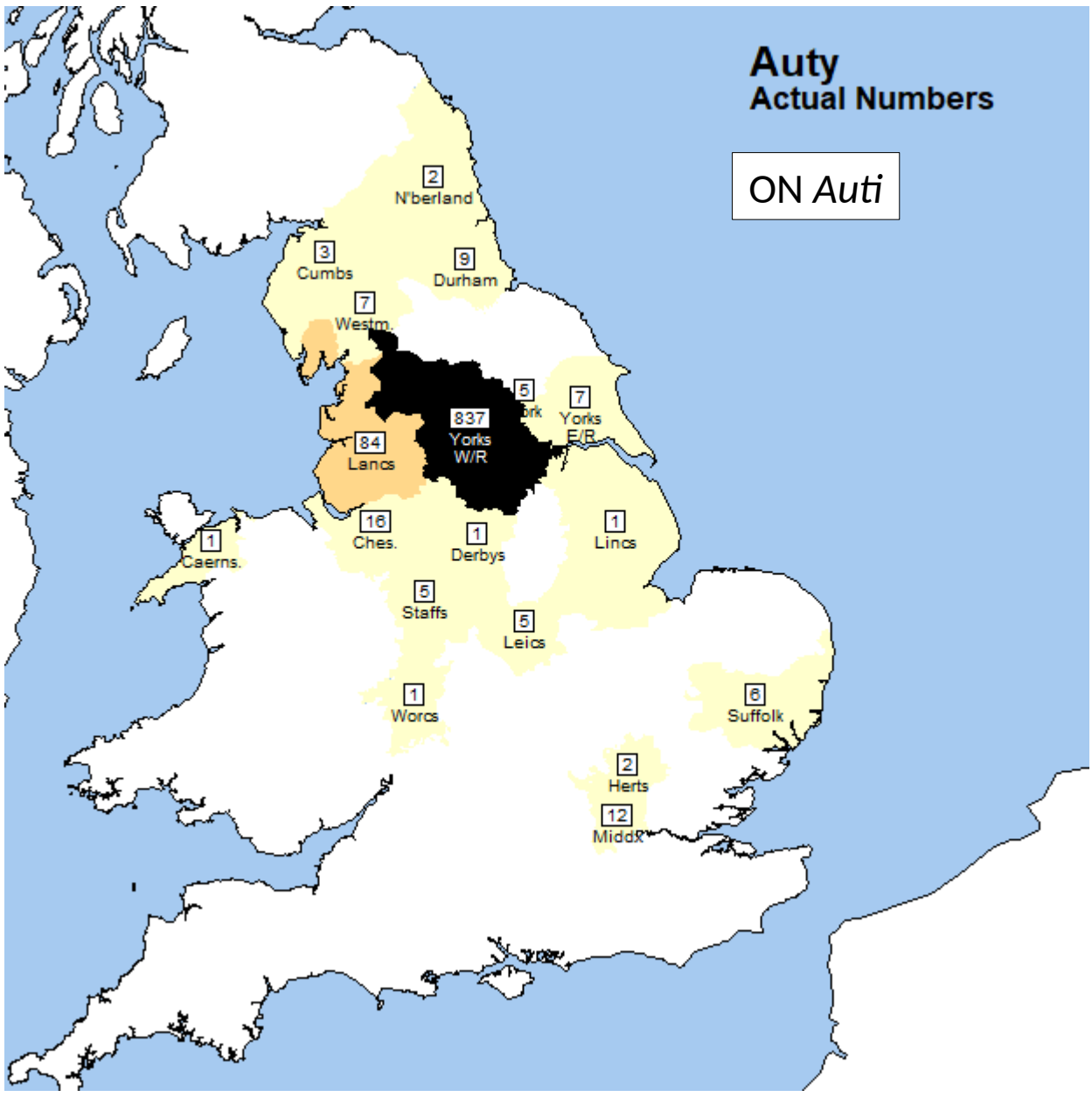
"Discover your surname's origins"

**Walthew
Actual Numbers**

ON Valþiófr

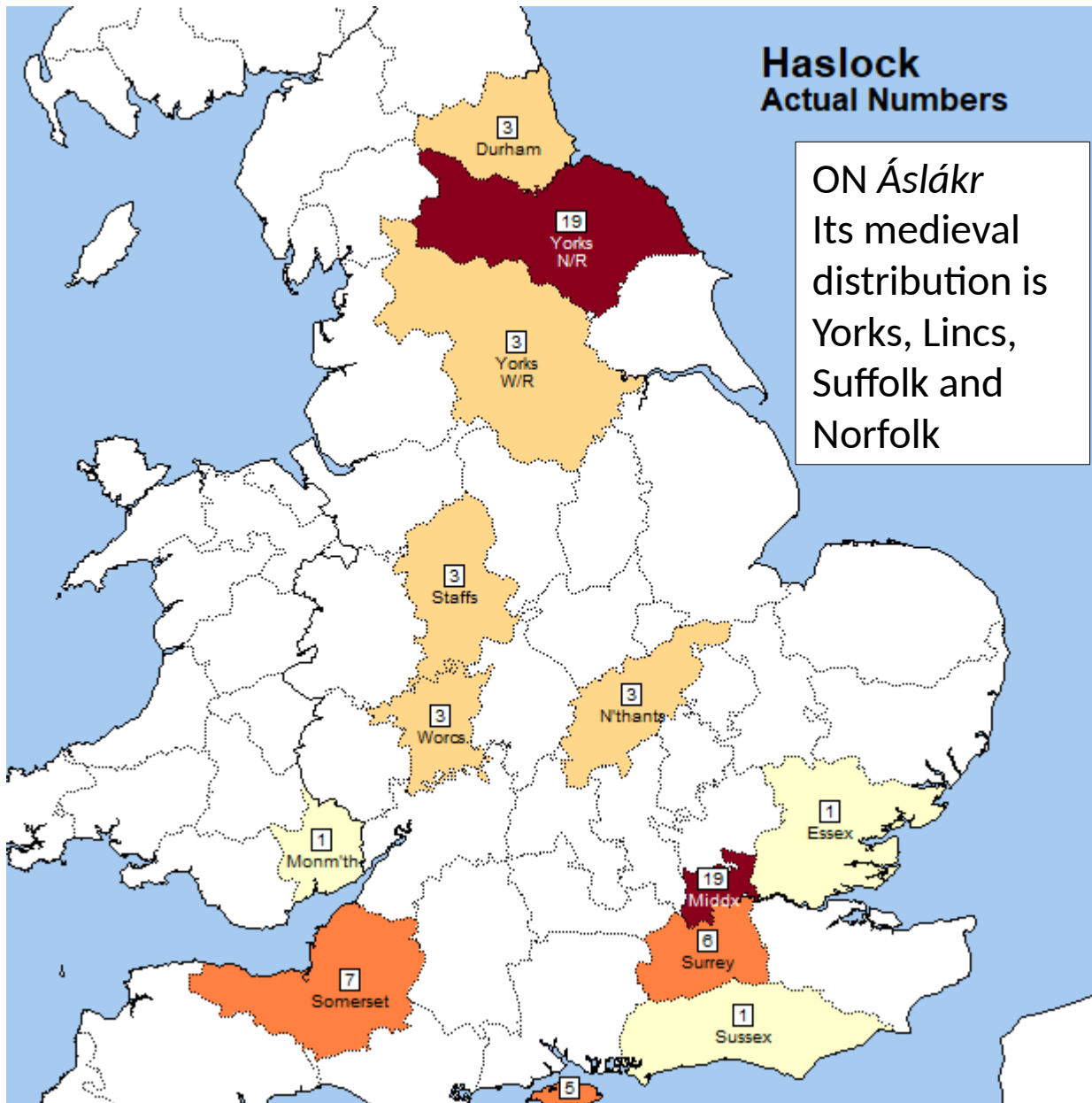


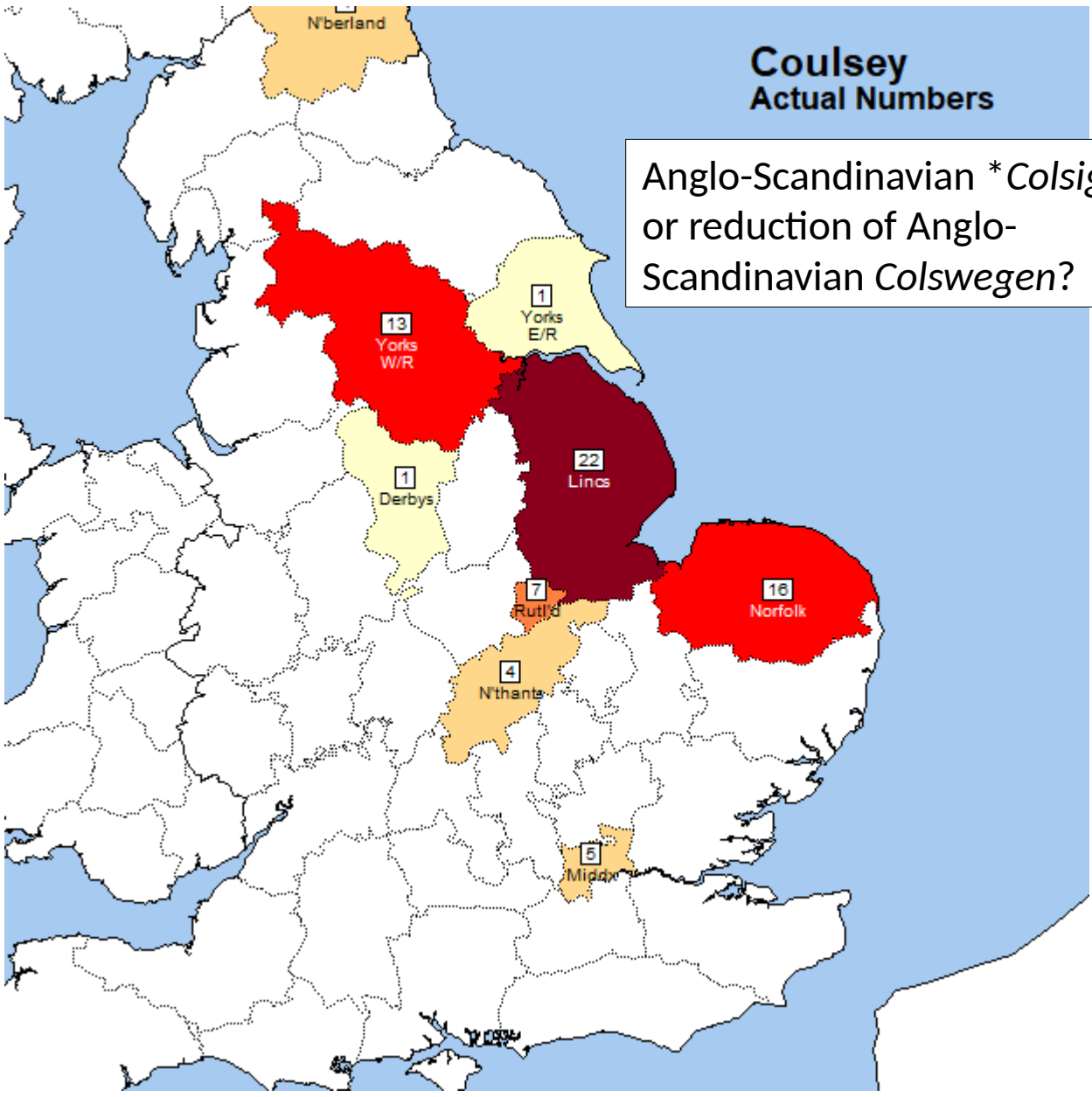




Haslock Actual Numbers

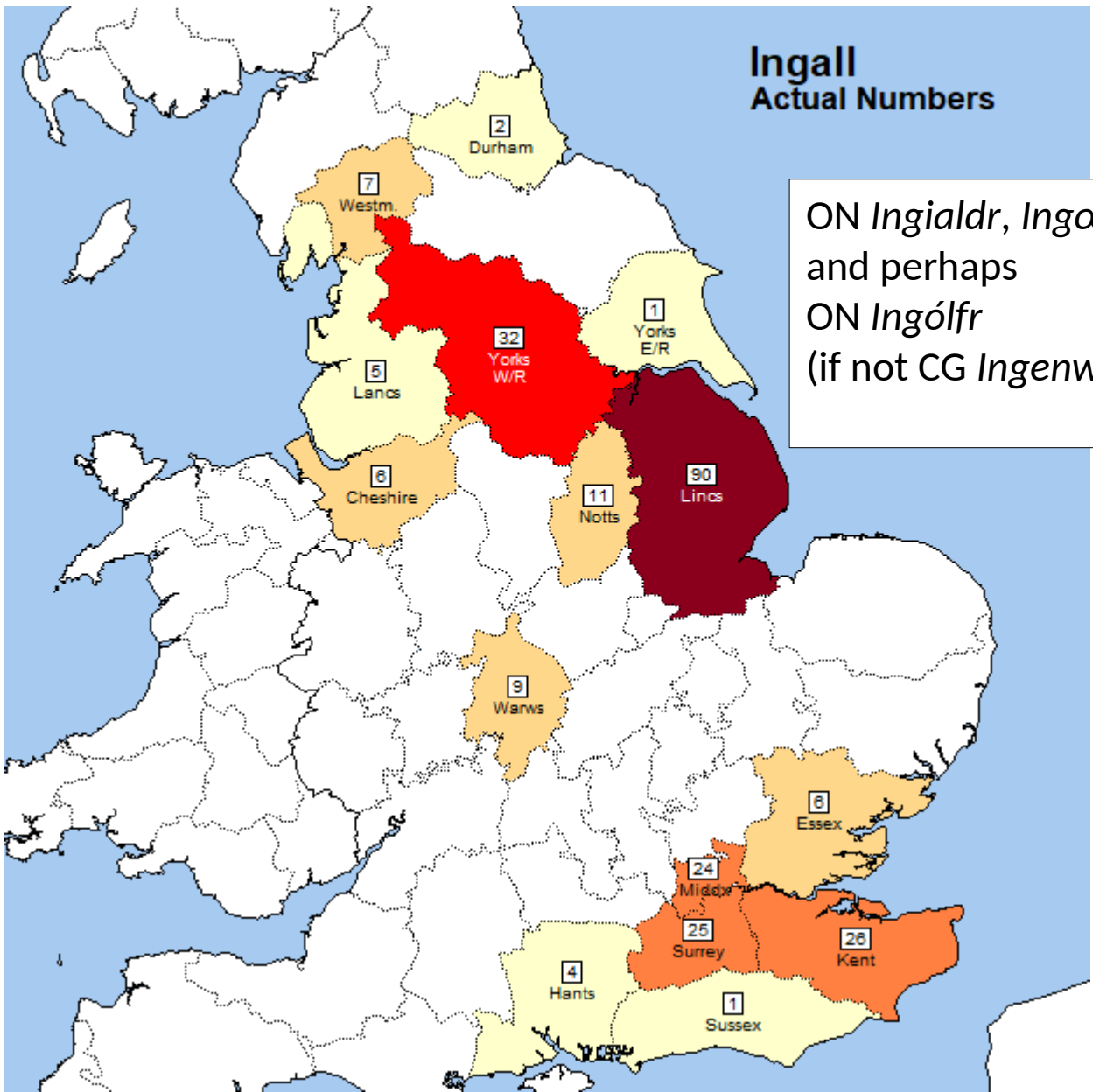
ON *Áslákr*
Its medieval
distribution is
Yorks, Lincs,
Suffolk and
Norfolk





**Coulsy
Actual Numbers**

Anglo-Scandinavian * *Colsige*
or reduction of Anglo-
Scandinavian *Colswegen*?

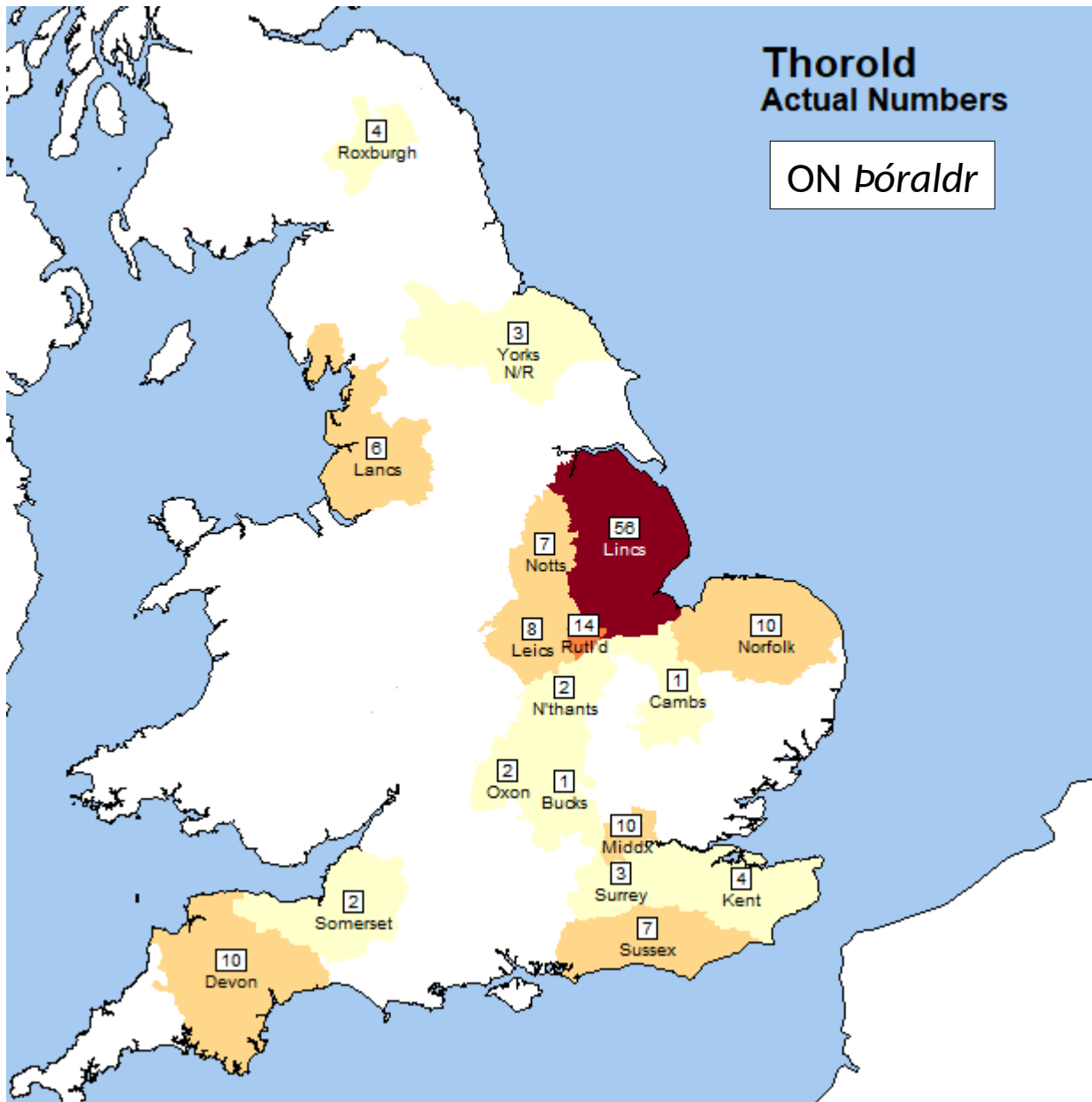


Ingall Actual Numbers

ON *Ingialdr*, *Ingœld*,
and perhaps
ON *Ingólfr*
(if not CG *Ingenwulf*)

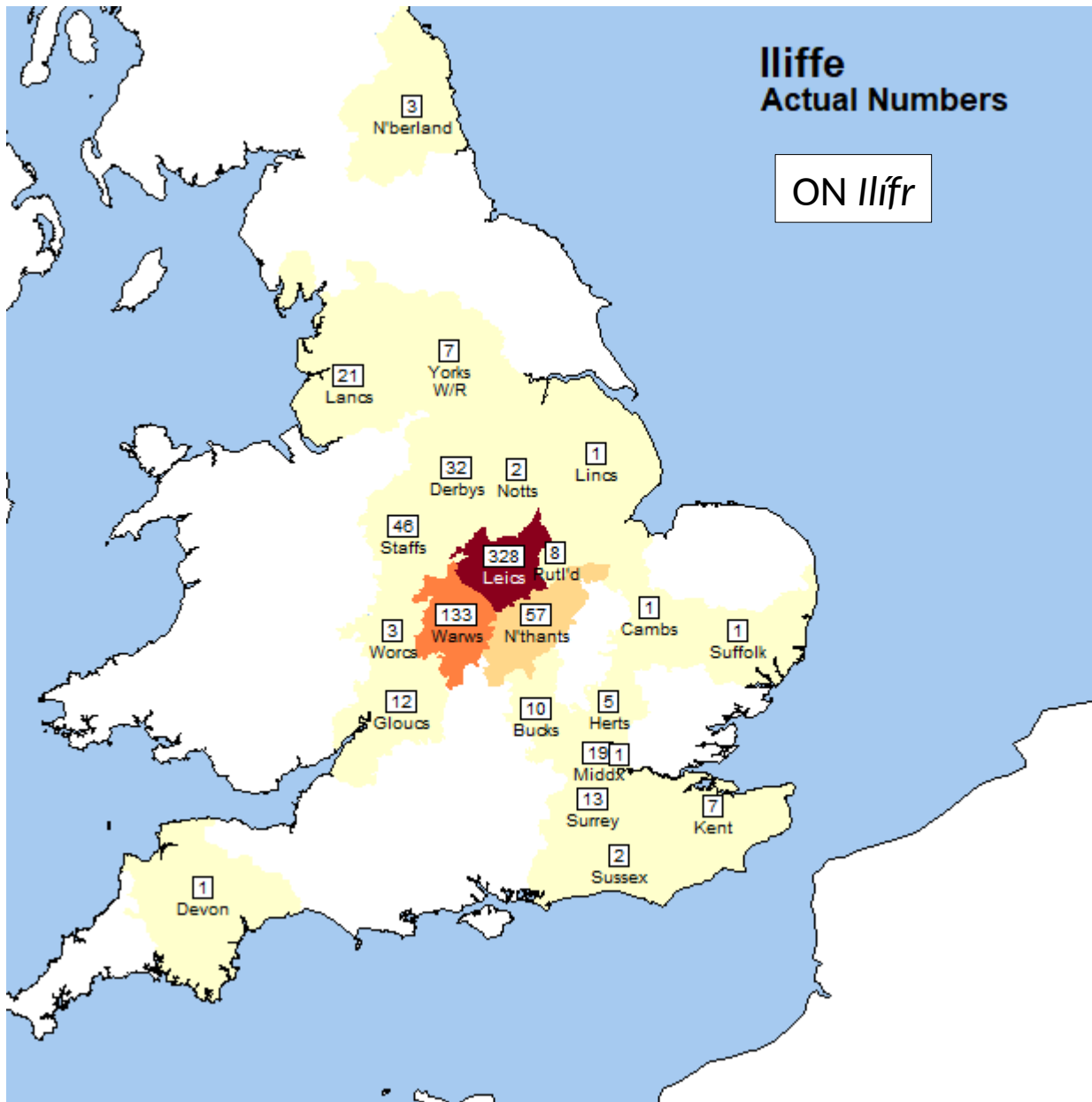
Thorold Actual Numbers

ON *póraldr*



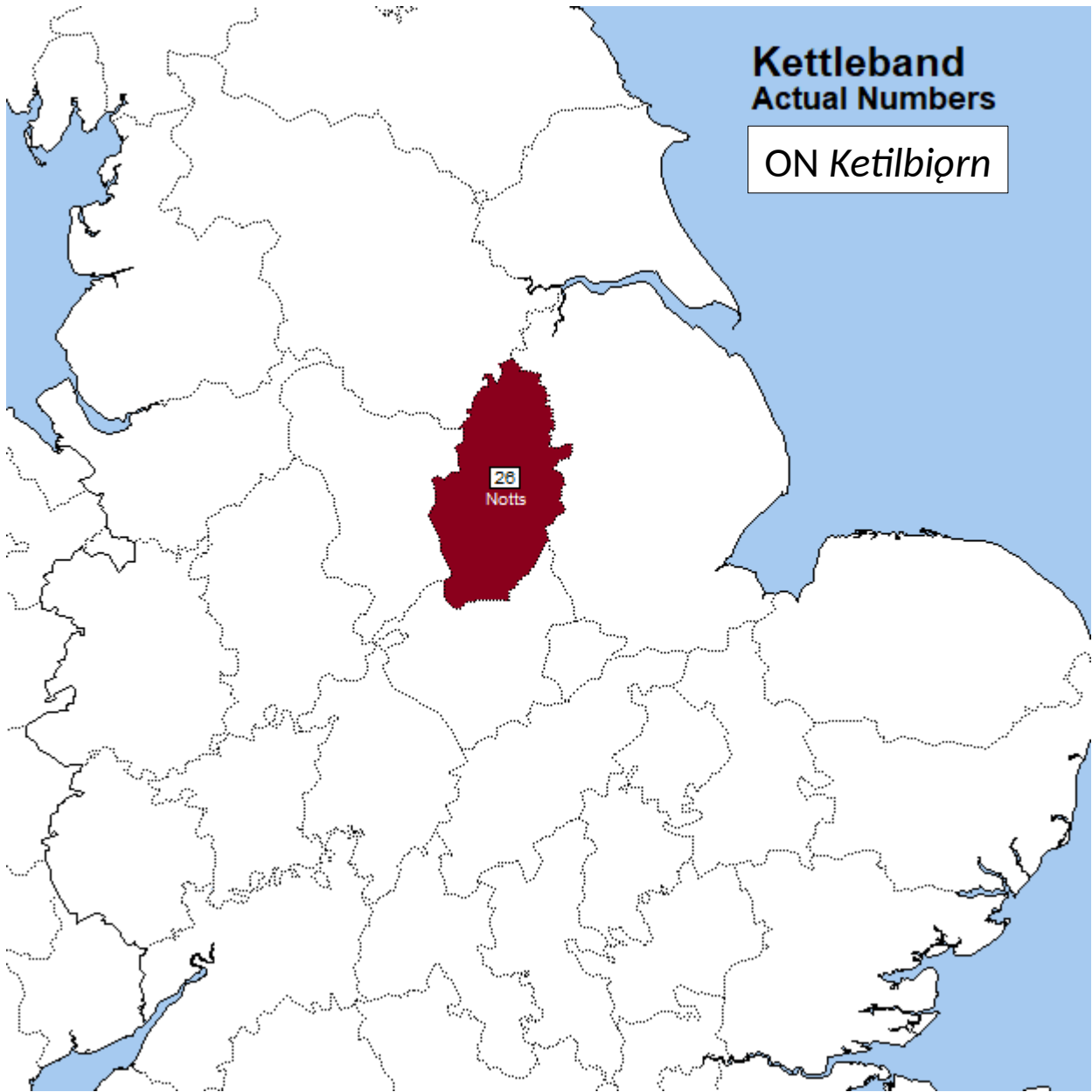
Iliffe Actual Numbers

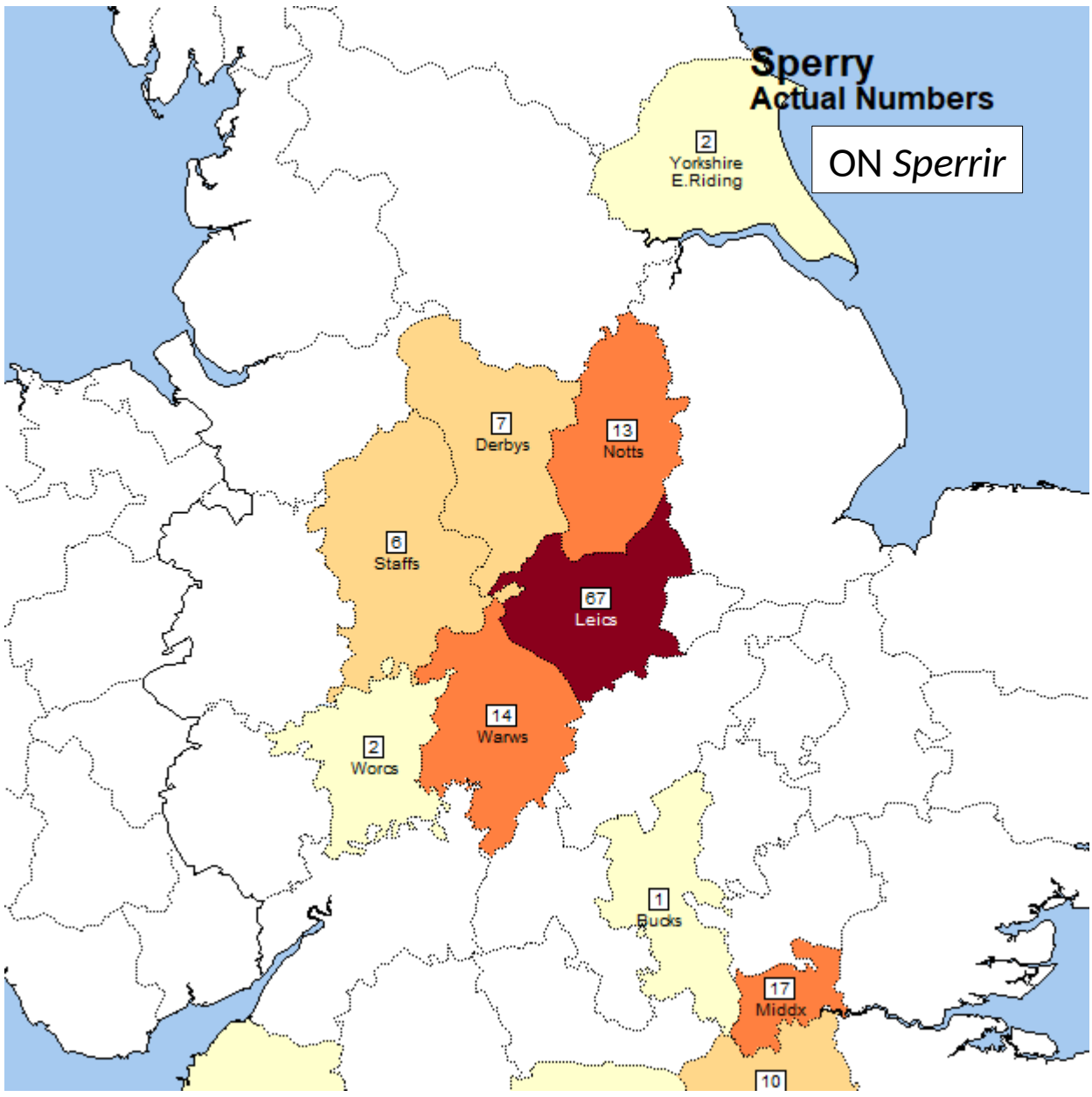
ON *Ilifr*



**Kettleband
Actual Numbers**

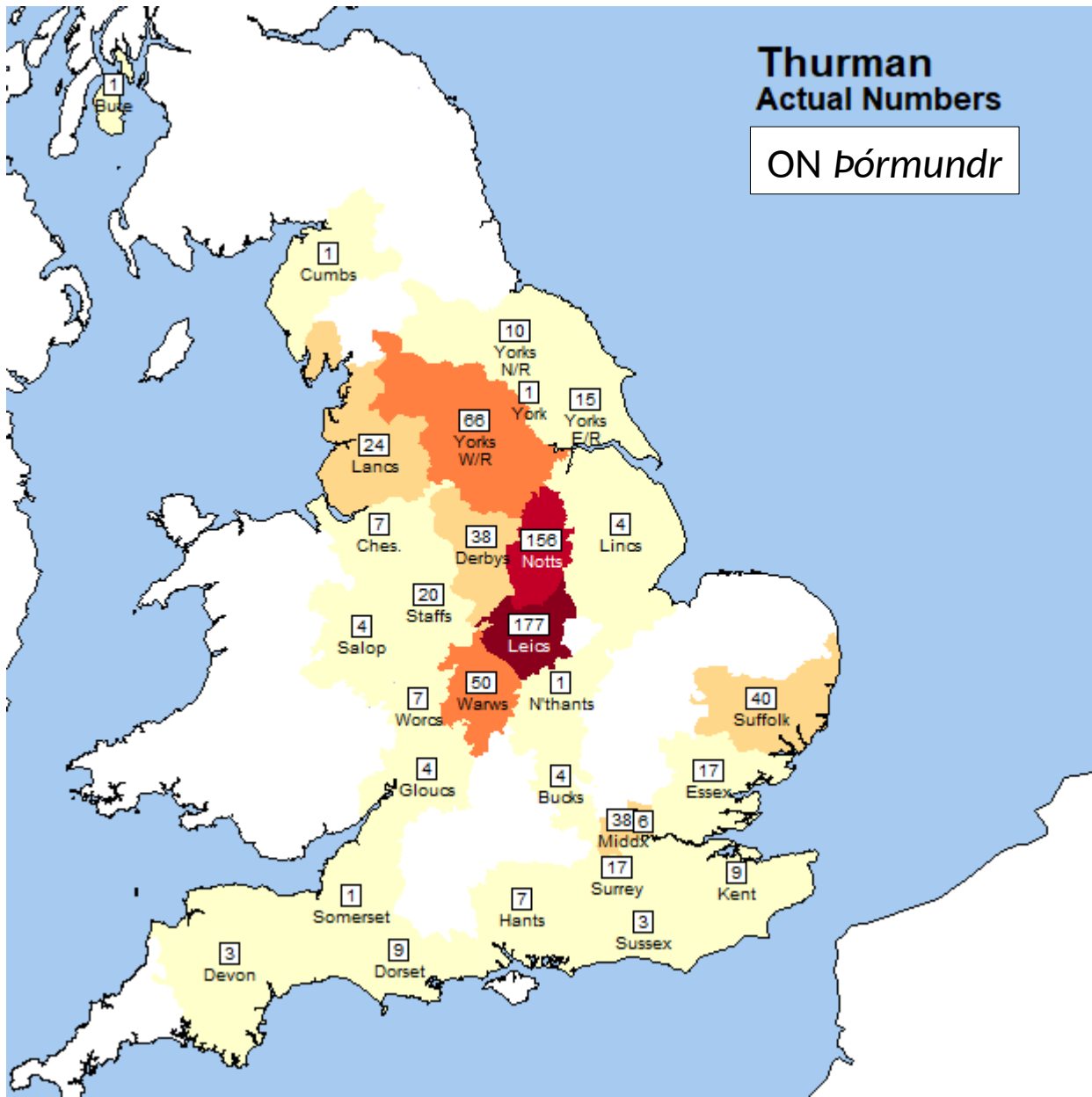
ON *Ketilbiørn*

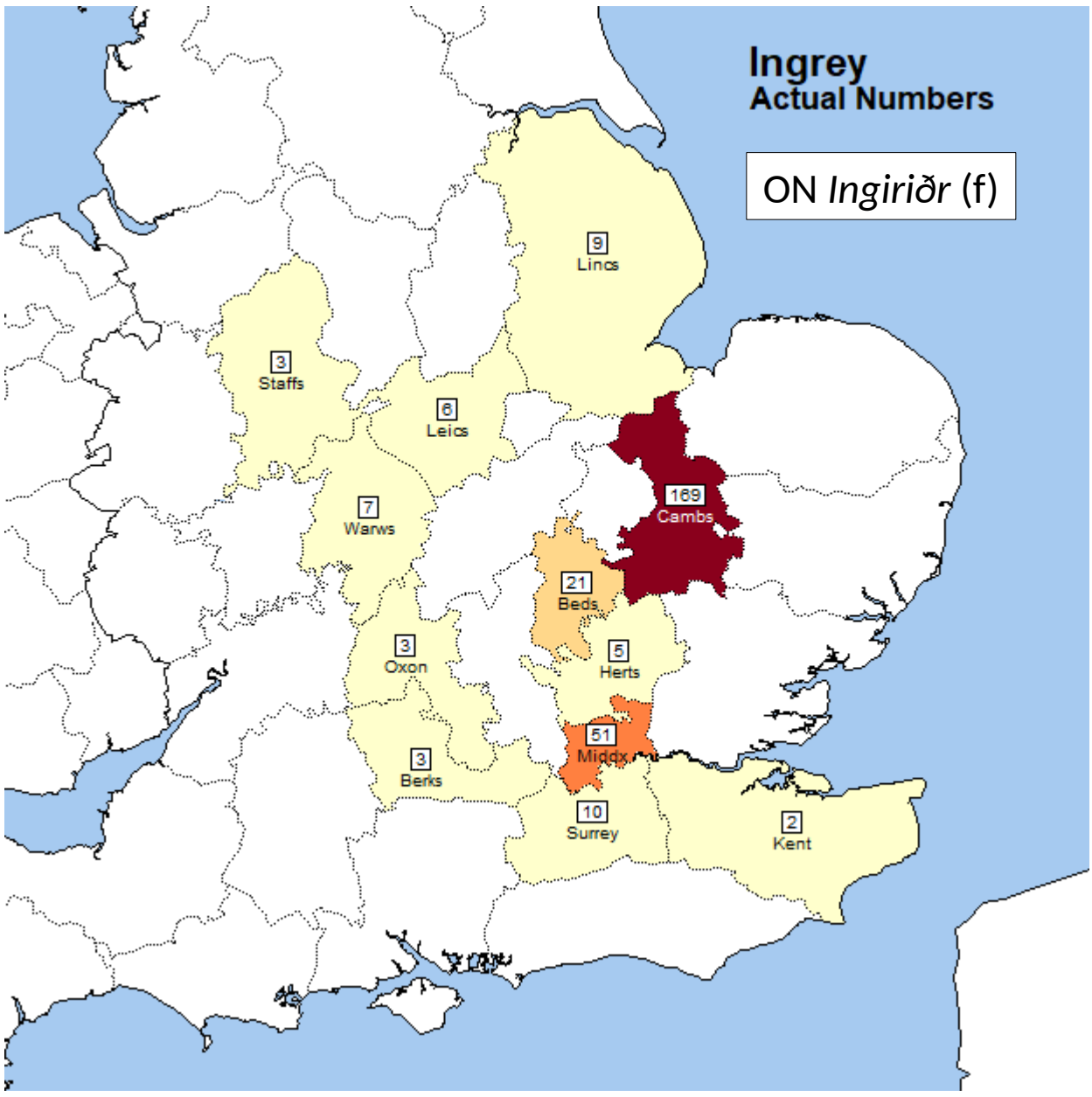


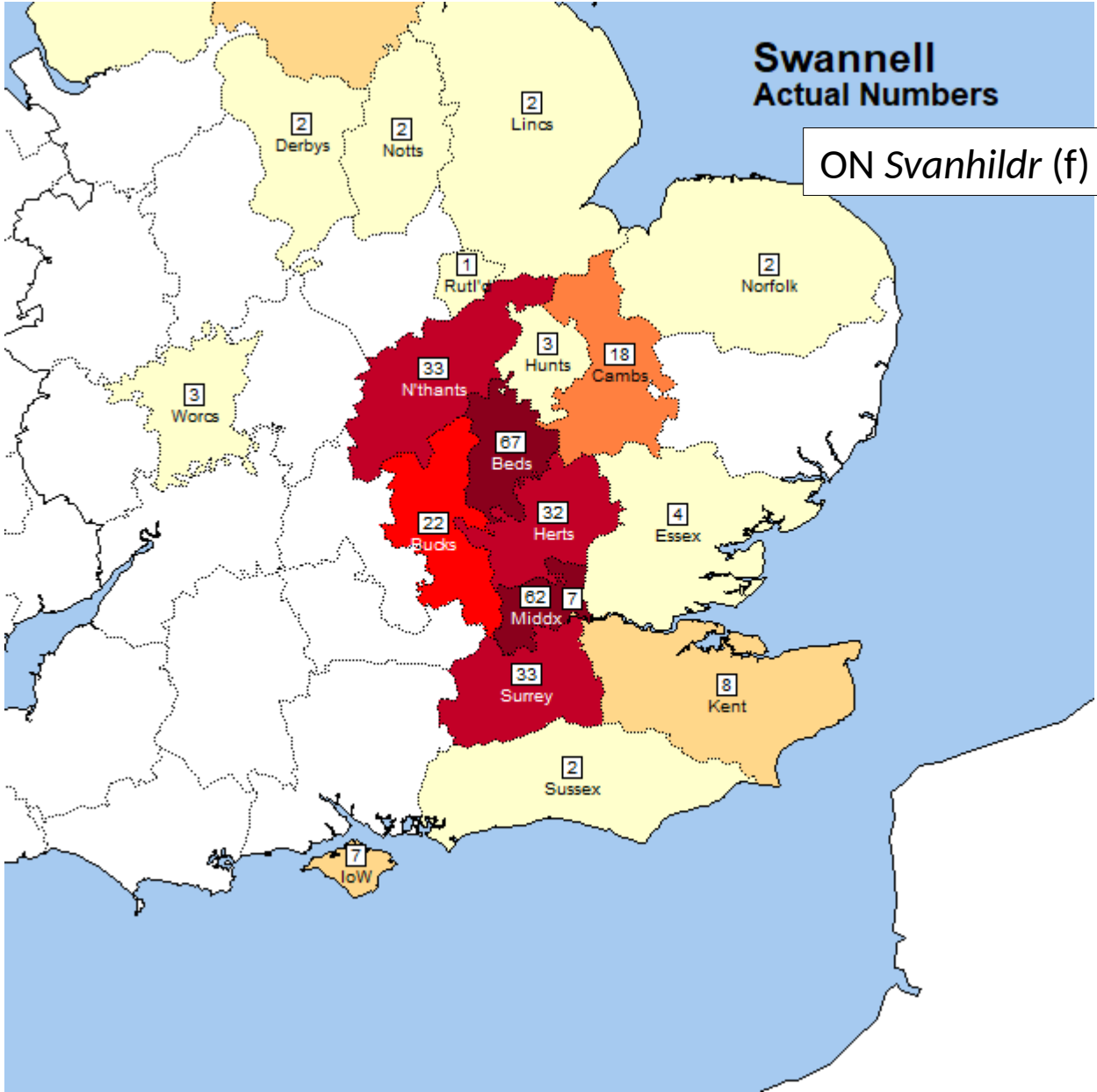


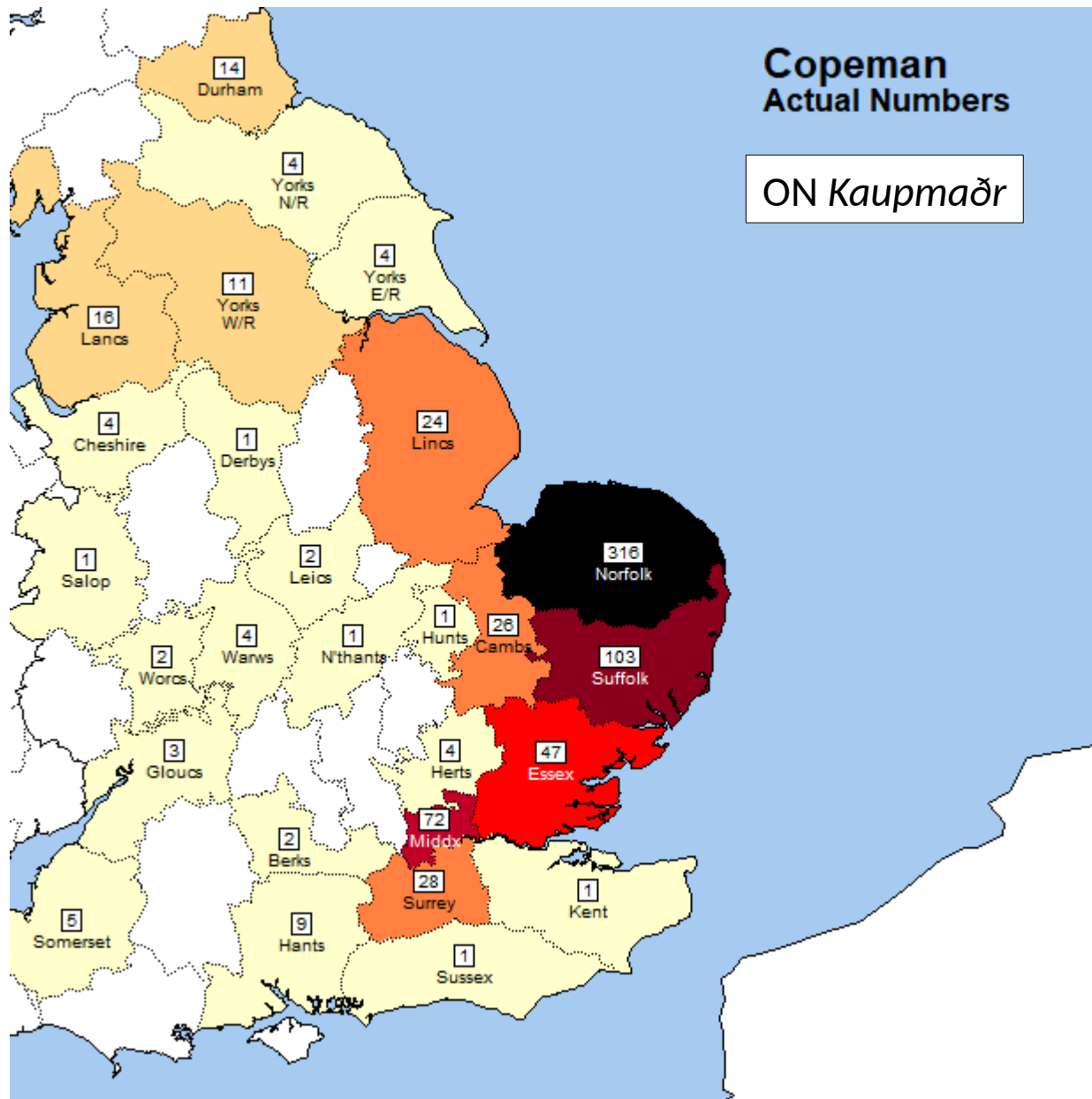
Thurman Actual Numbers

ON þórmundr



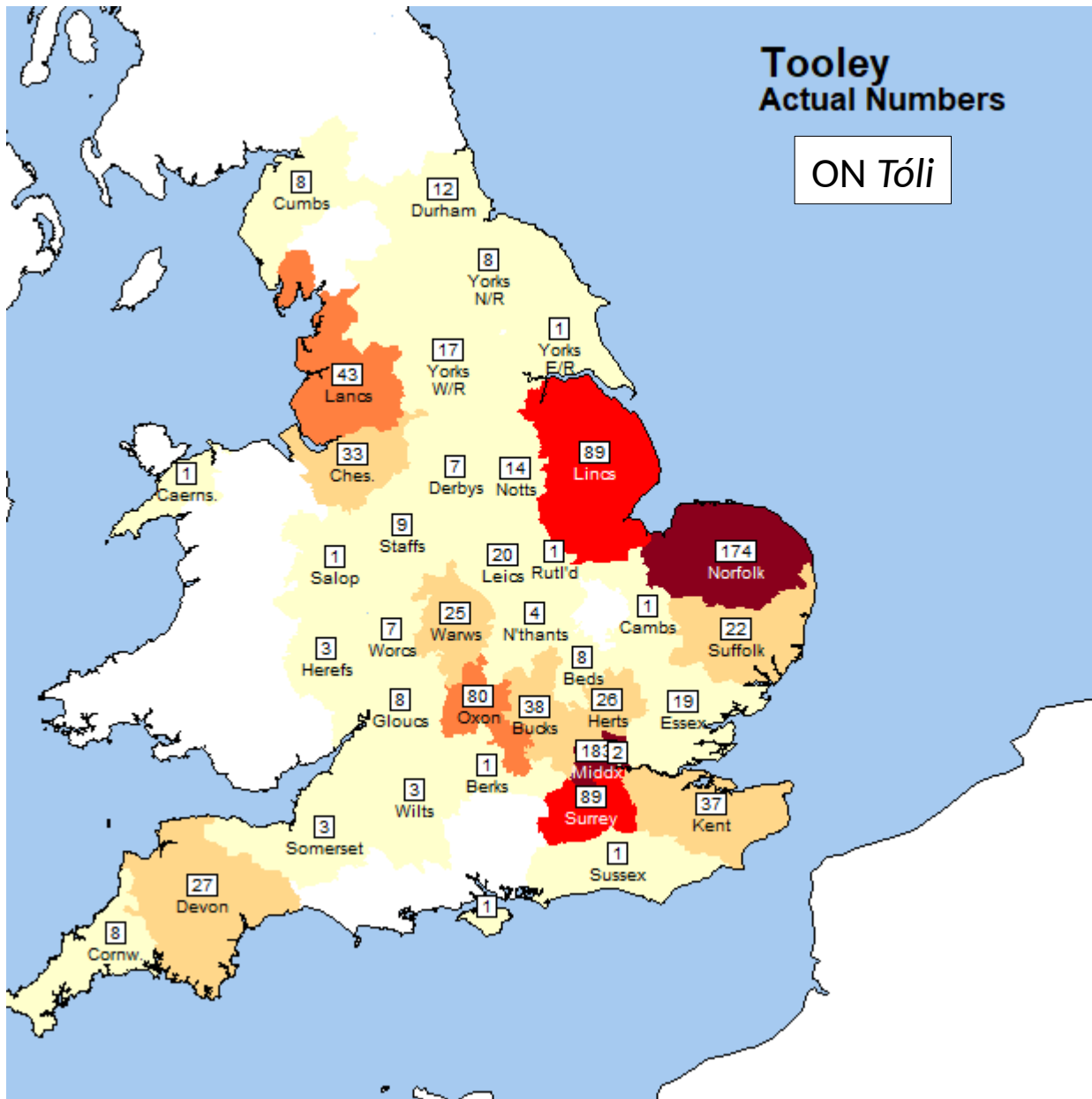






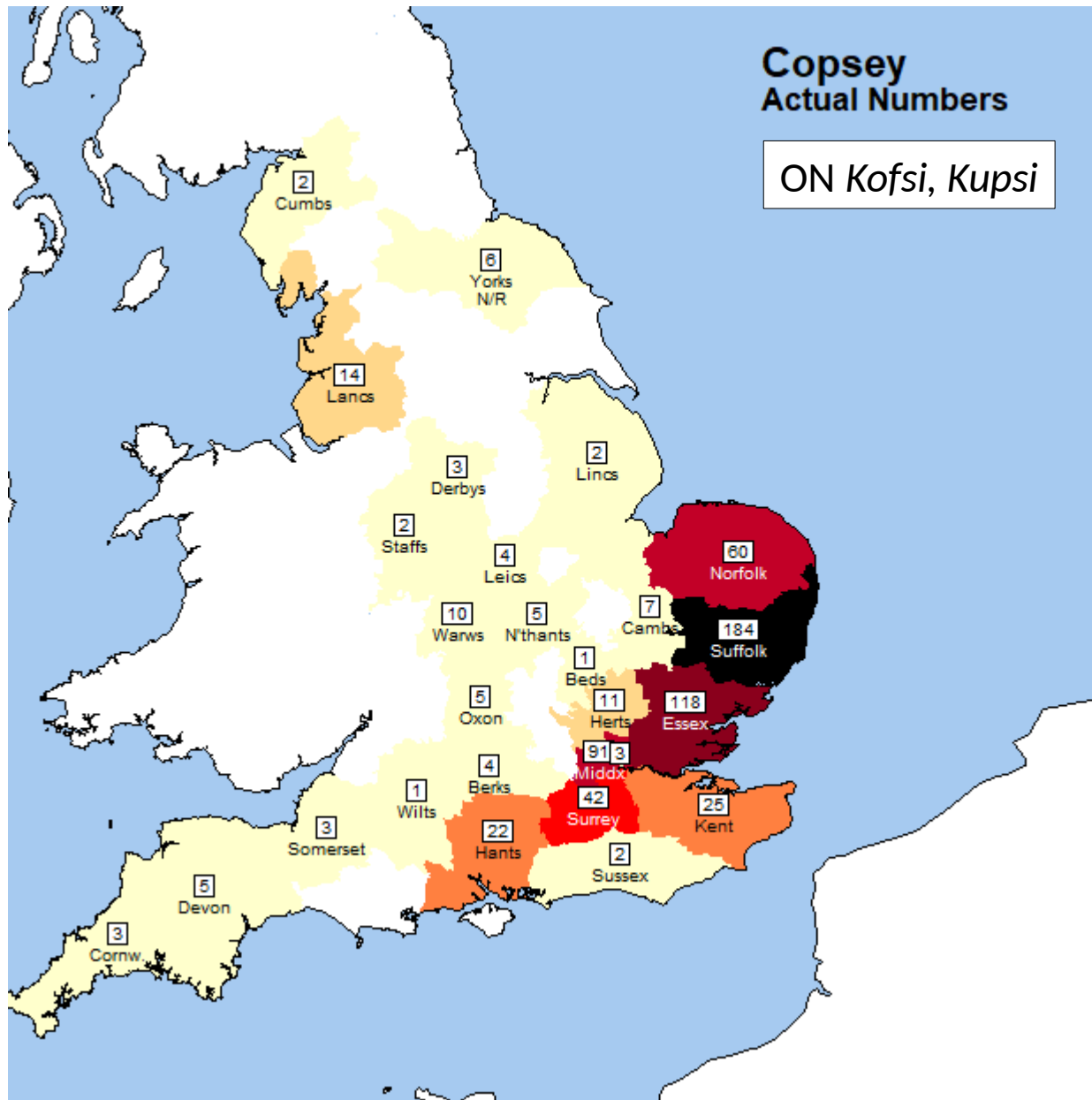
Tooley Actual Numbers

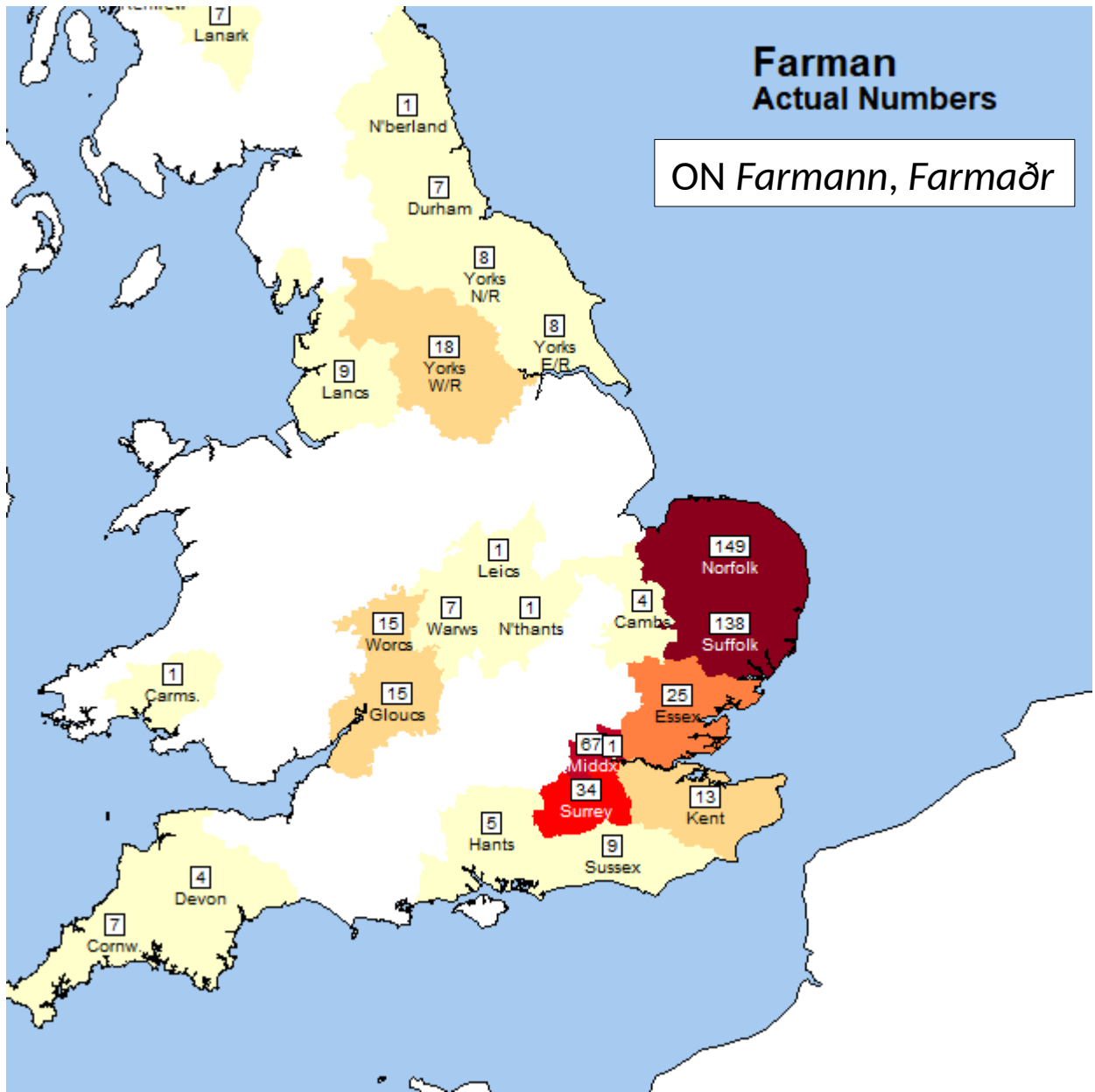
ON Tóli



Copsey Actual Numbers

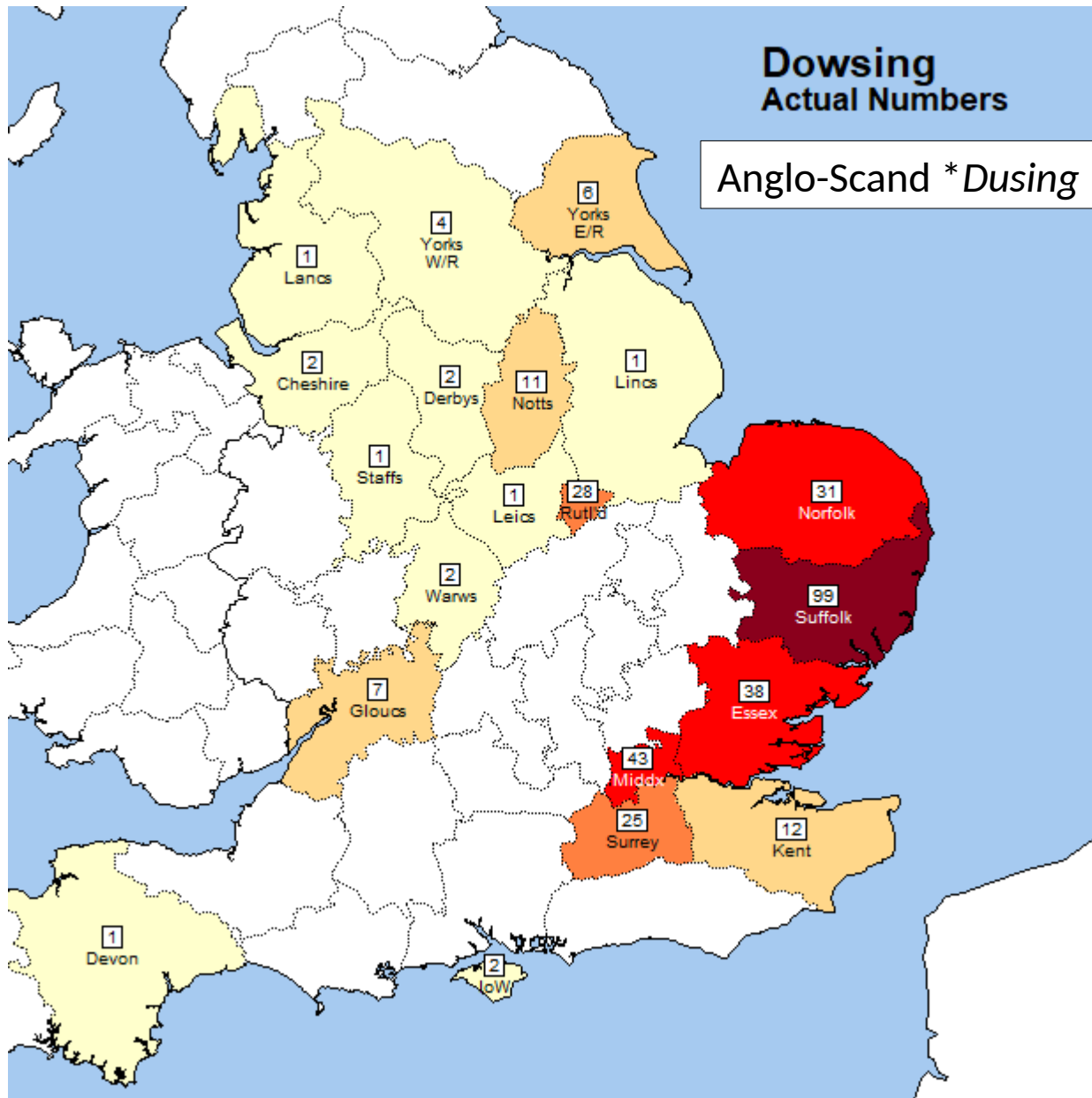
ON *Kofsi, Kupsi*

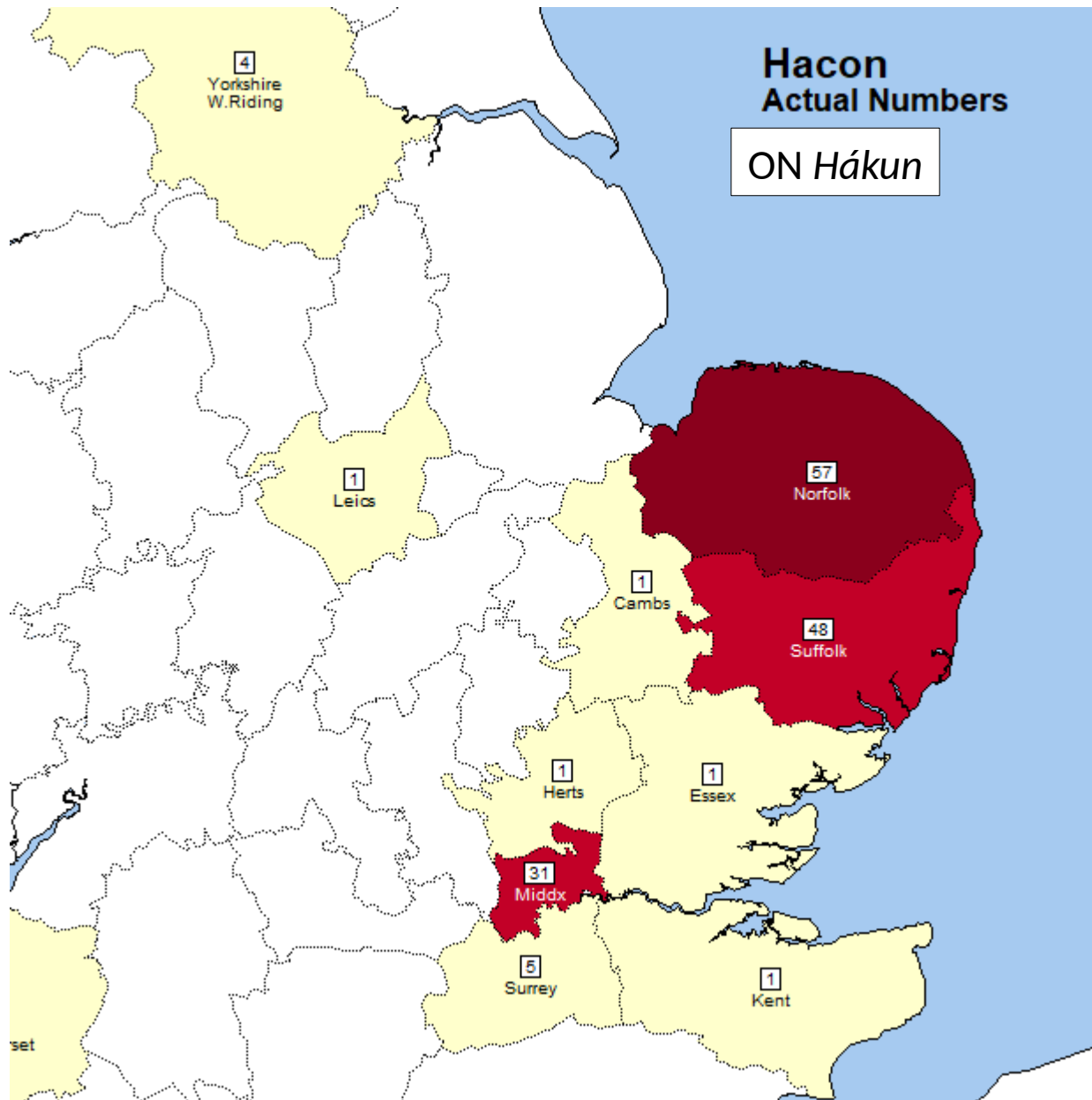


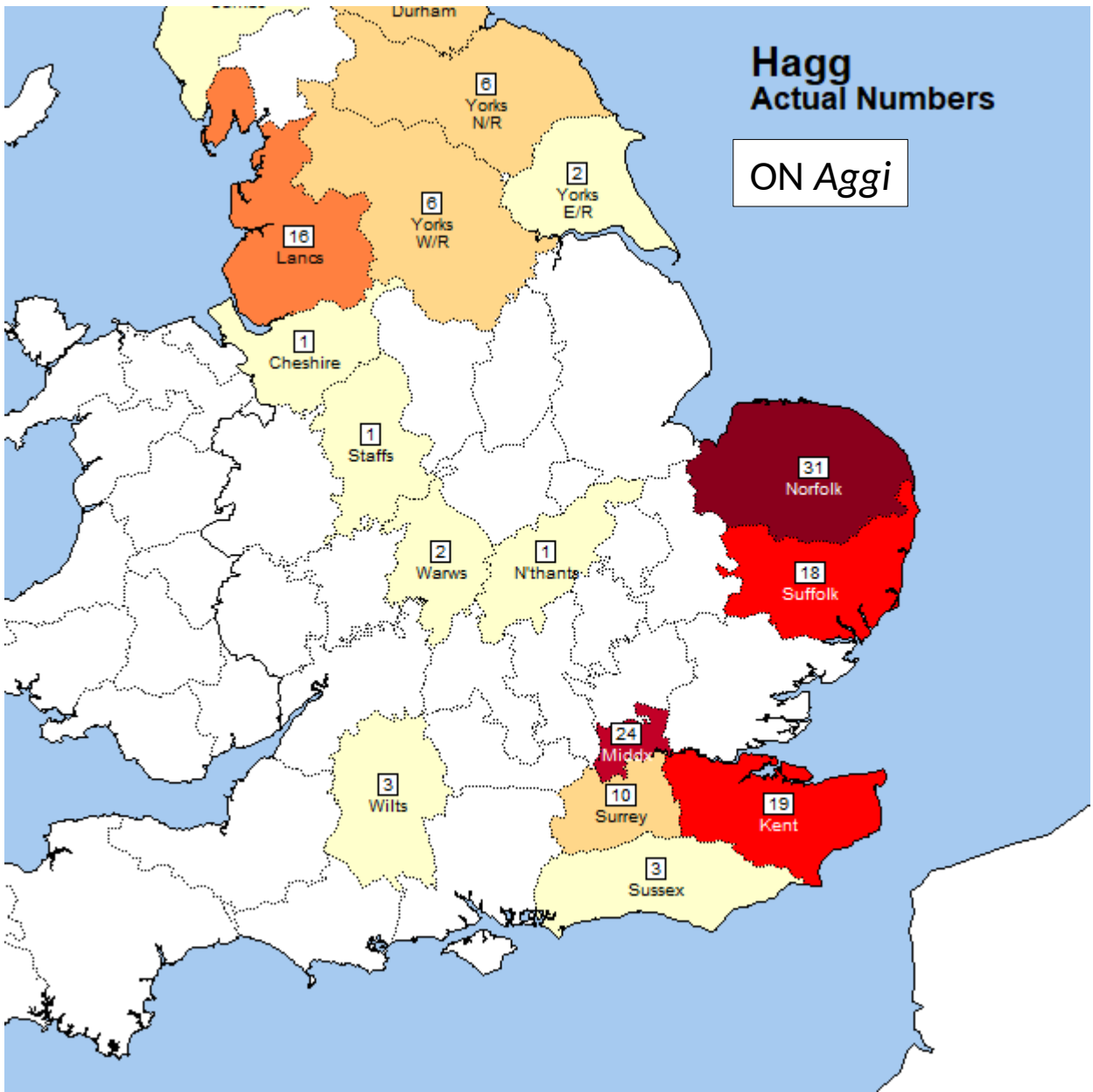


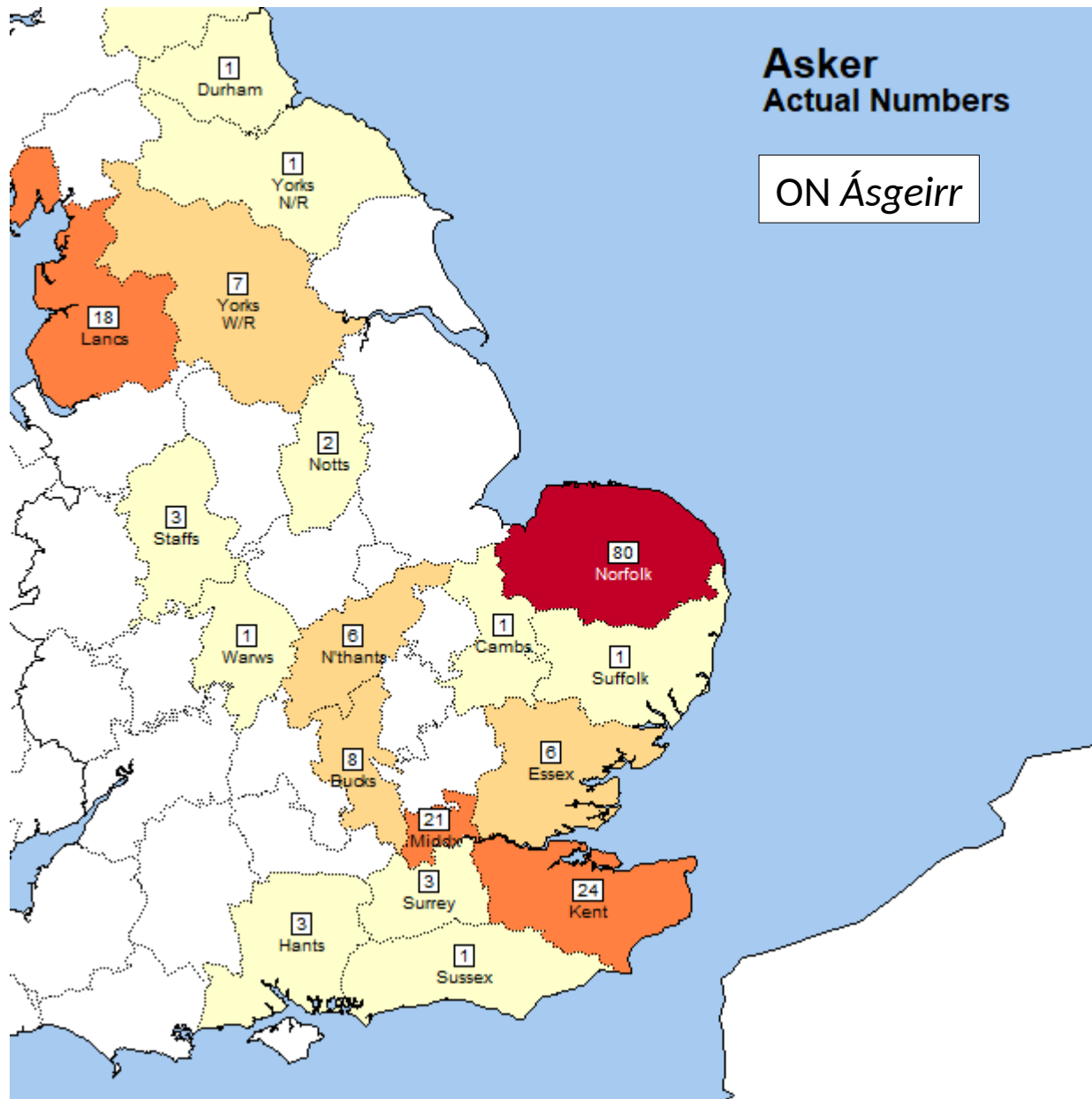
Dowsing Actual Numbers

Anglo-Scand * *Dusing*



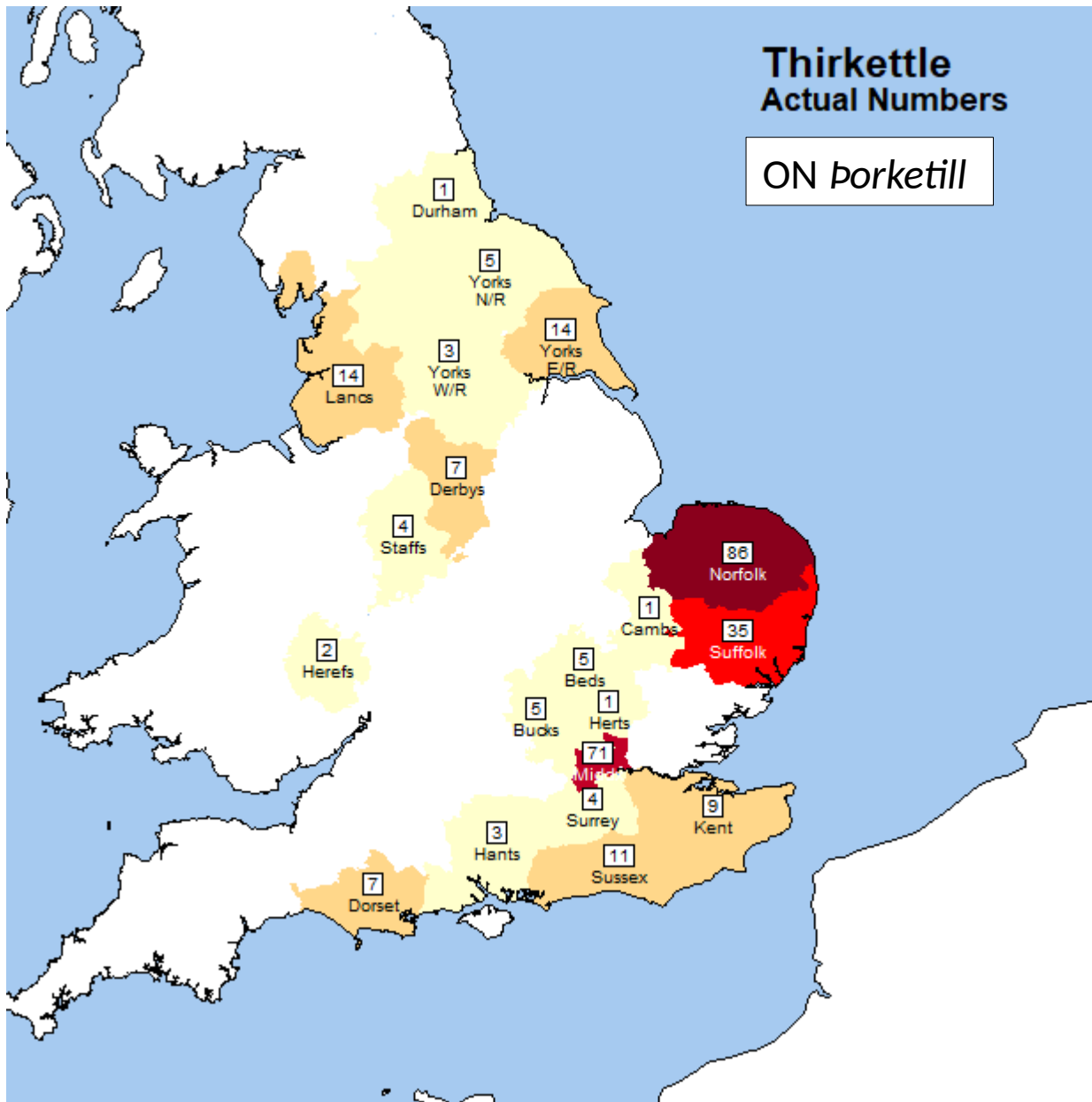






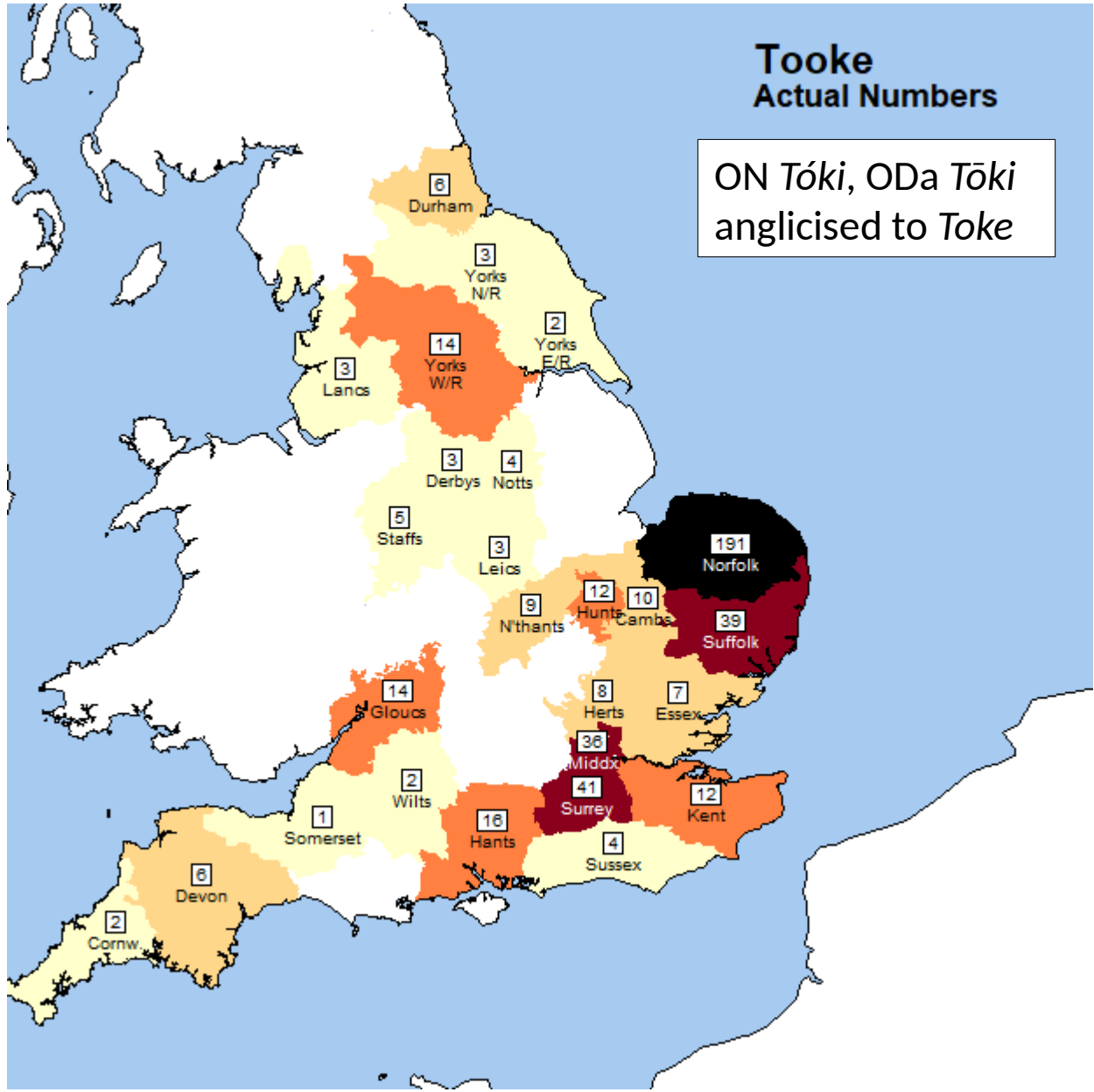
Thirkettle Actual Numbers

ON *porketill*



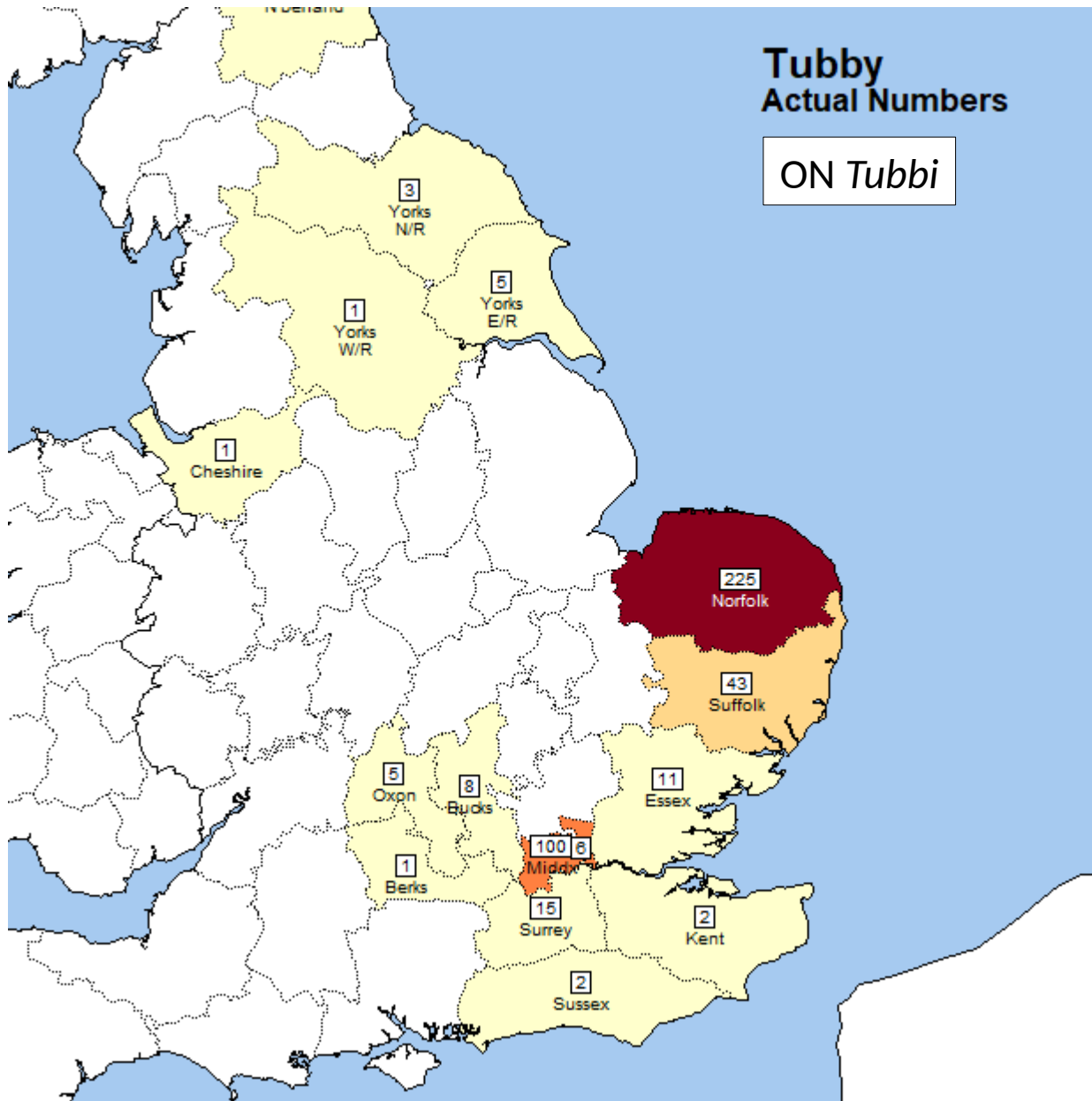
Tooke Actual Numbers

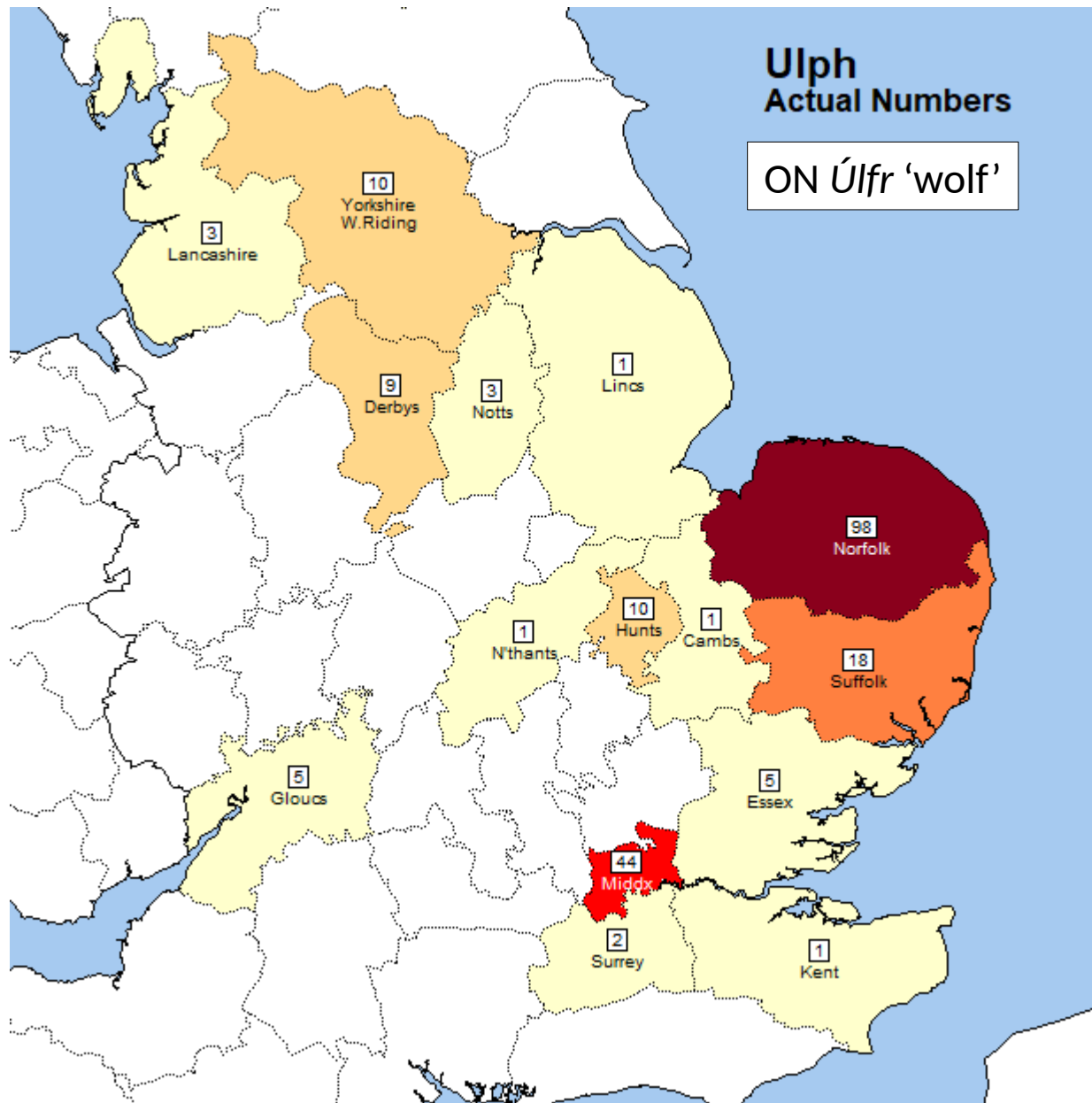
ON *Tóki*, ODa *Tōki*
anglicised to *Toke*

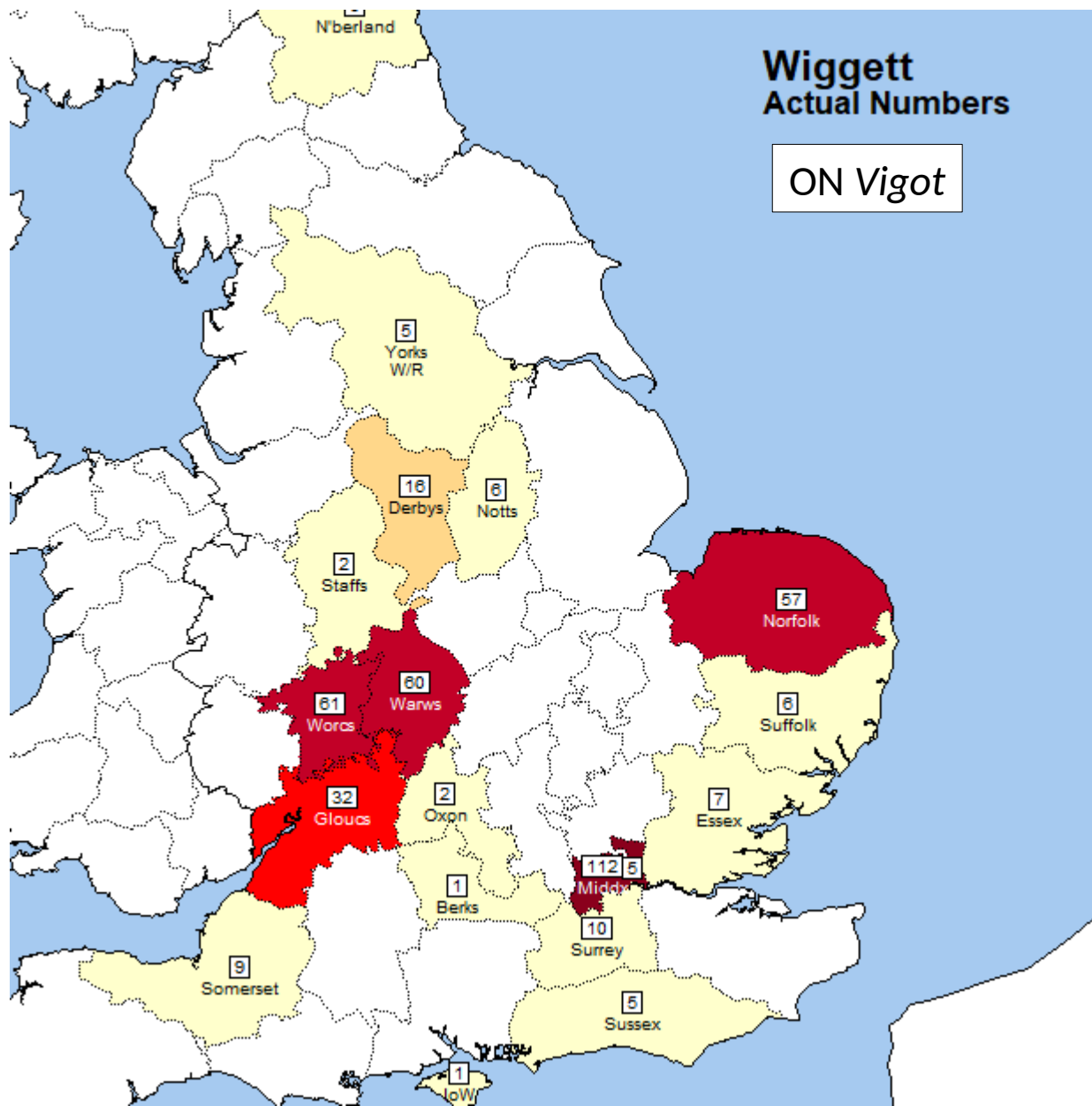


Tubby Actual Numbers

ON *Tubbi*

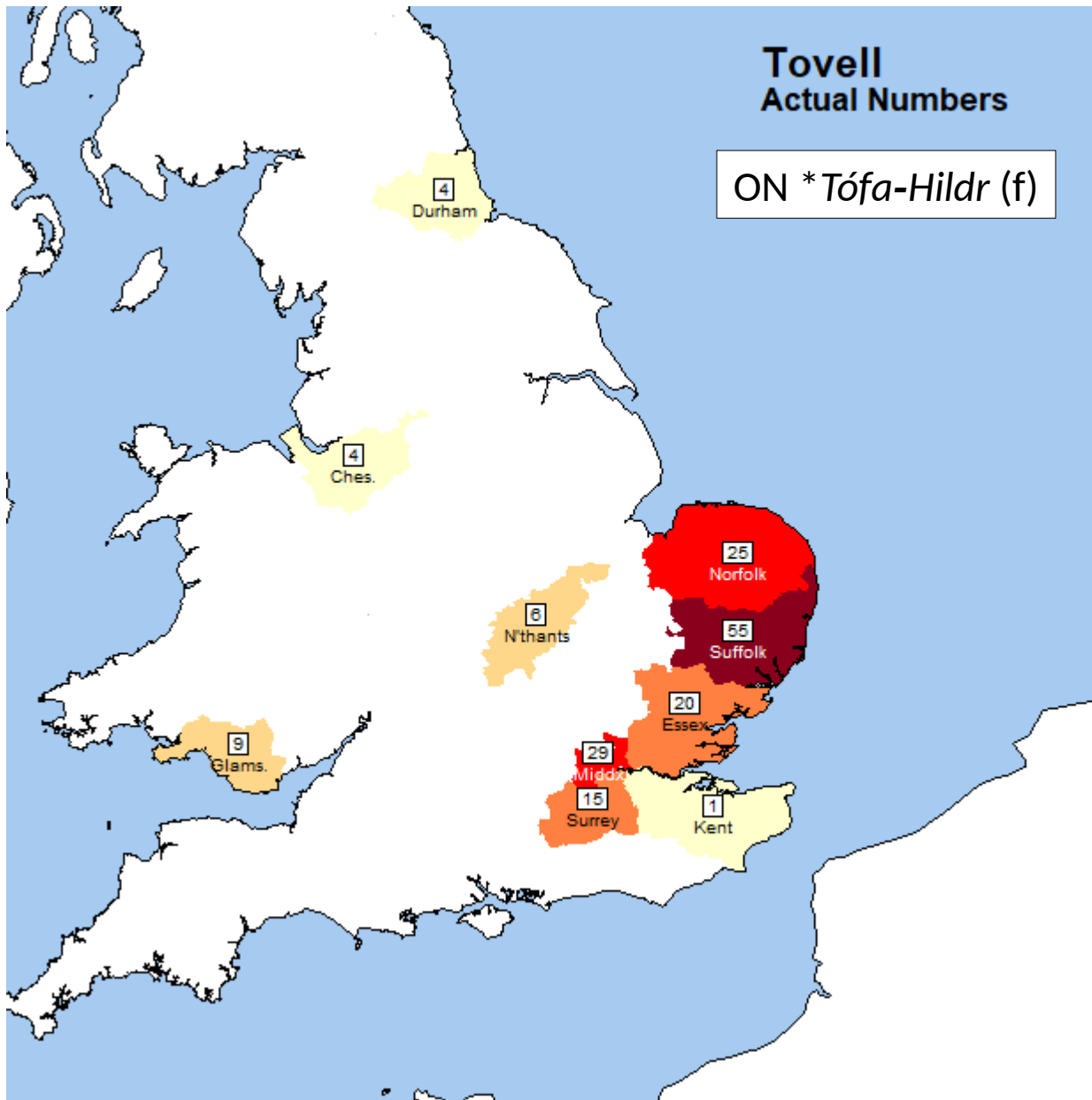


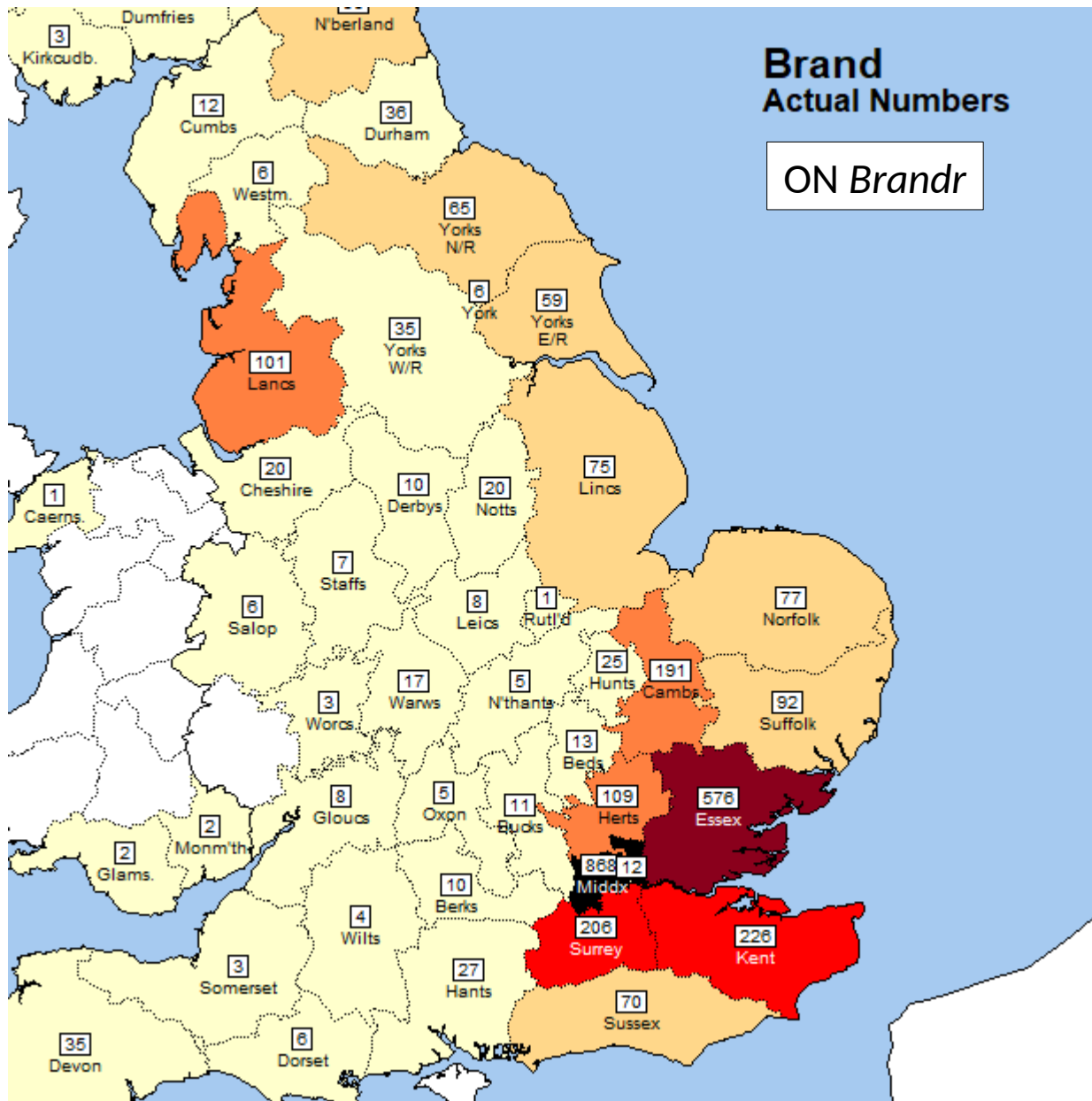




Tovell Actual Numbers

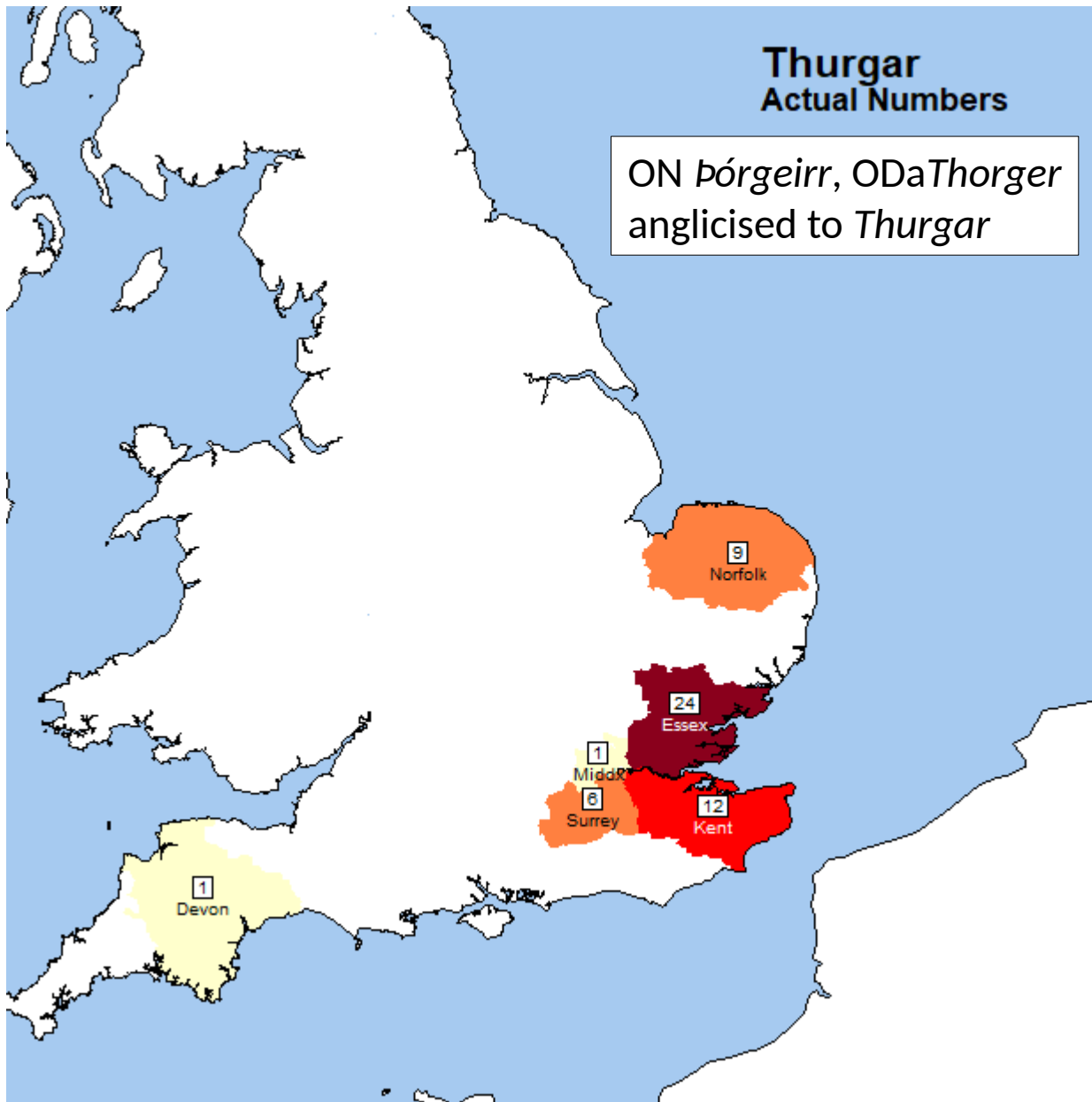
ON **Tófa-Hildir* (f)





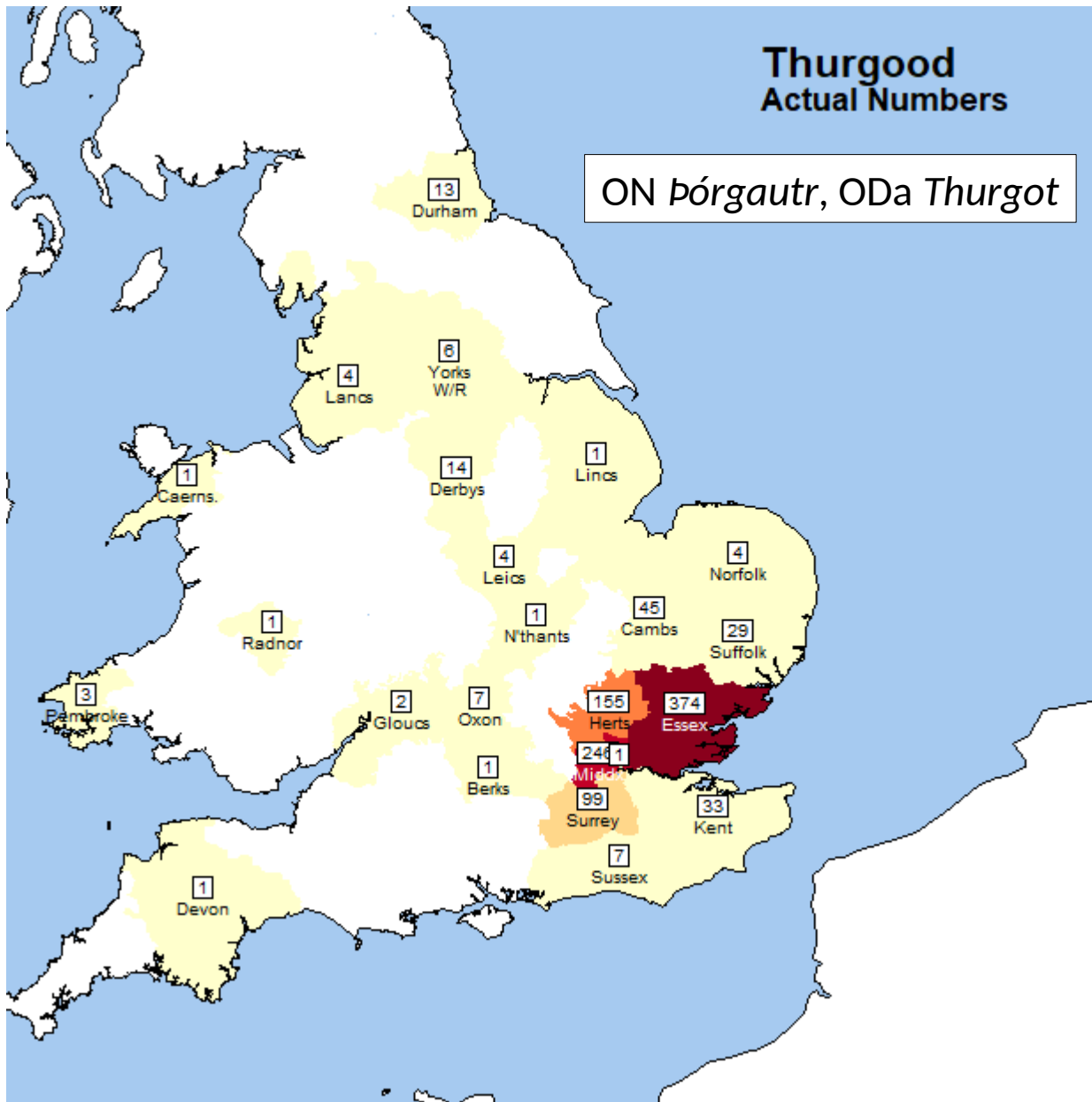
Thurgar Actual Numbers

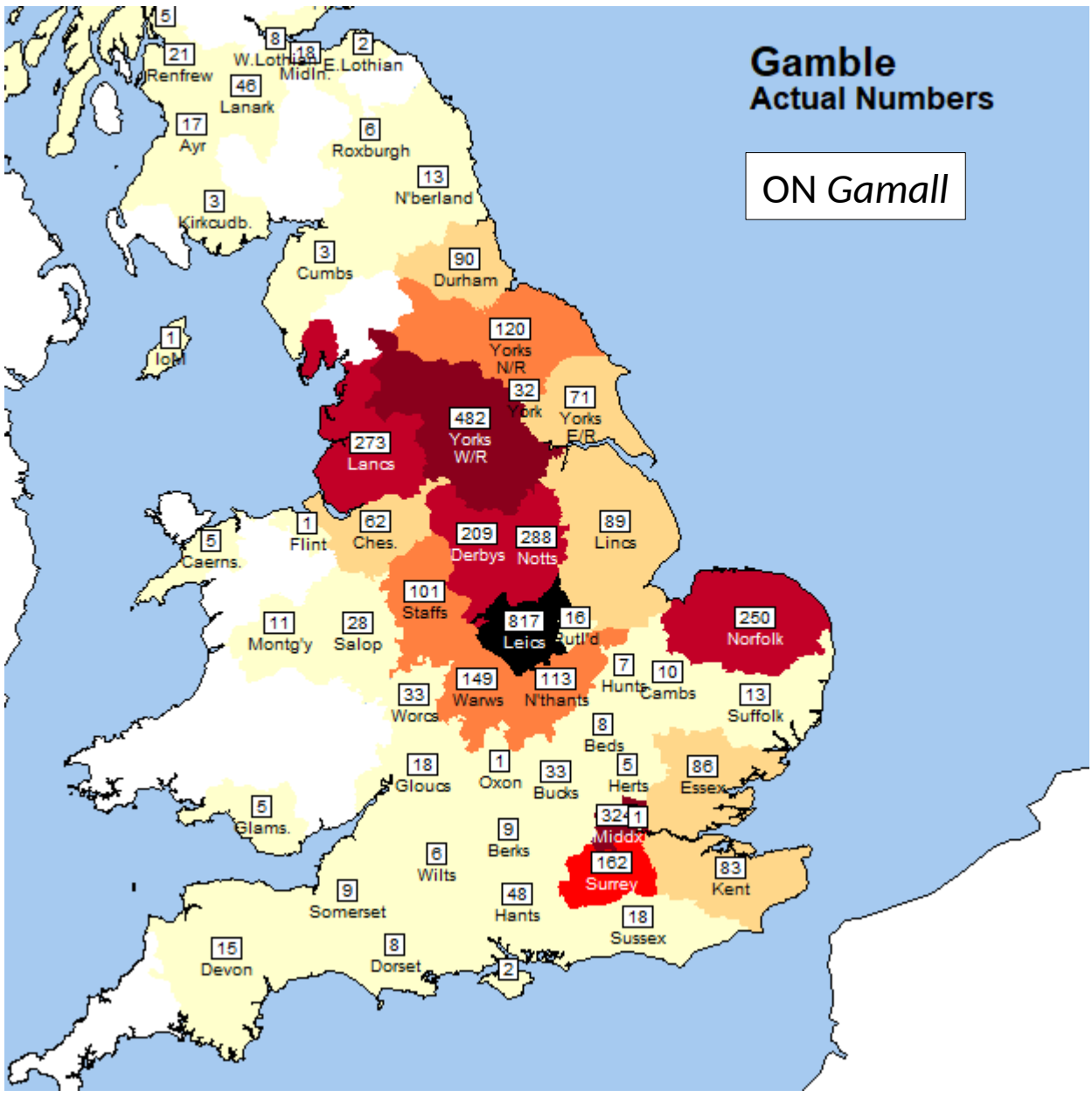
ON *bórgeirr*, ODaThorger
anglicised to *Thurgar*



Thurgoood Actual Numbers

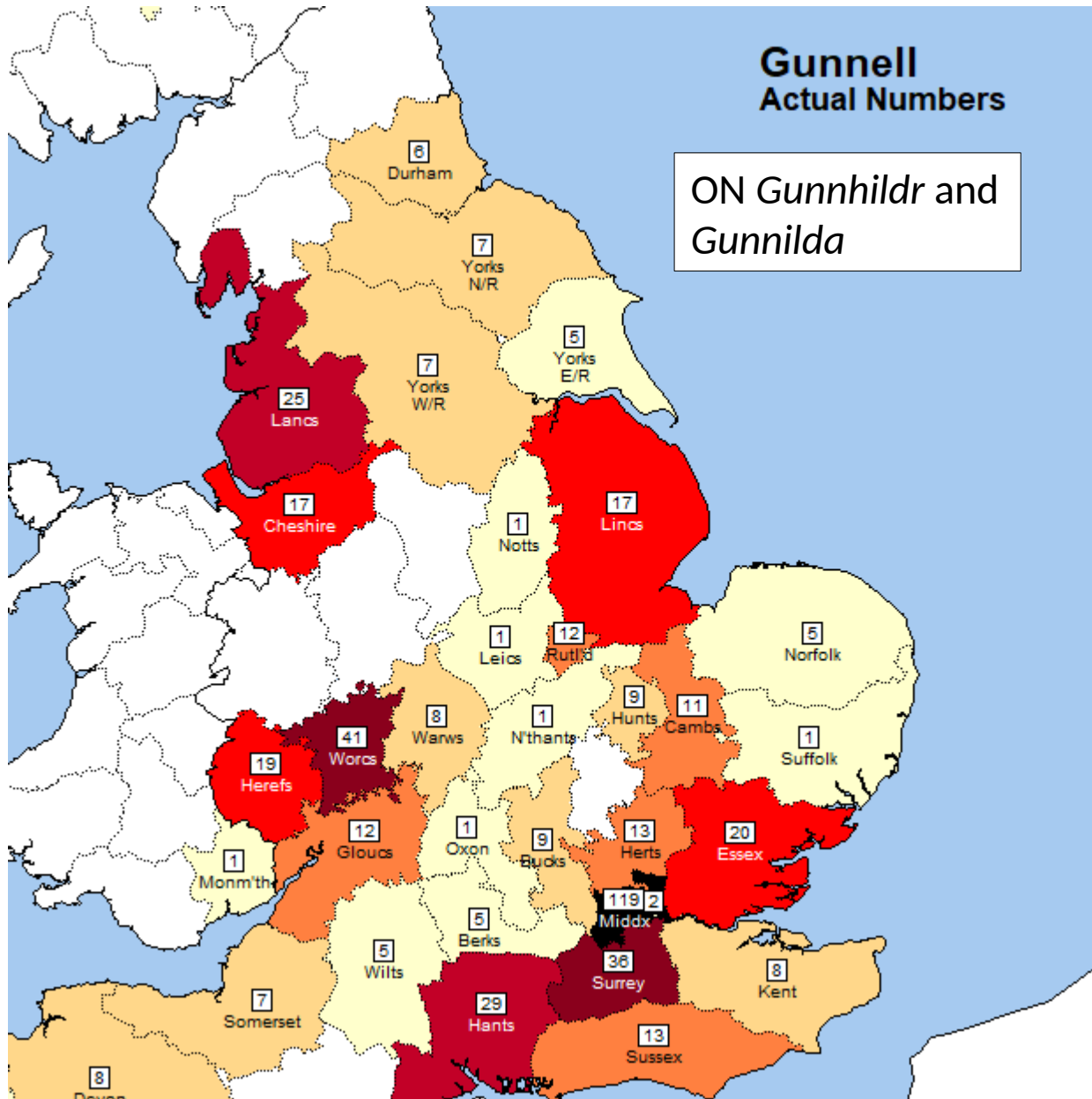
ON þórgautr, ODa Thurgoot





Gunnell Actual Numbers

ON *Gunnhildr* and
Gunnilda



Mainly found in:

Eastern Danelaw: (18 = 50%):

Asker, Brand, Copeman, Copsey, Dowsing, Farman, Hacon, Hagg, Hannant, Thirkettle, Thurgar, Thurgood, Tooke, Tooley, Tovell, Tubby, Ulph and Wiggett.

Northern Danelaw (13 = 36%):

Auty, Coulsey, Dolphin, Haslock, Herrick, Iliffe, Ingall, Kettleband, Orme, Sperry, Thorold, Thurman and Walthew

Southern Danelaw (2 = 5.5%):

Ingrey and Swannell

Plus: **Gamble, Gunnell, Kettle** (3 = 8.5%) found widely

Homonyms with different etymologies

Acey, Algar,
Carman, Cory, Crook,
Farthing, Flick,
Grime, Kell,
Otter,
Sarll, Scurr, Seagrim, Storey, Strutt, Syrett
Thurkell, Tunn, Tunney
Westman

Homonyms from meaningful words of same etymology

Bond,
Carl, Crook,
Dring,
Lawman, Longbone,
Raven,
Skeet, Snart, Swain,
Thain

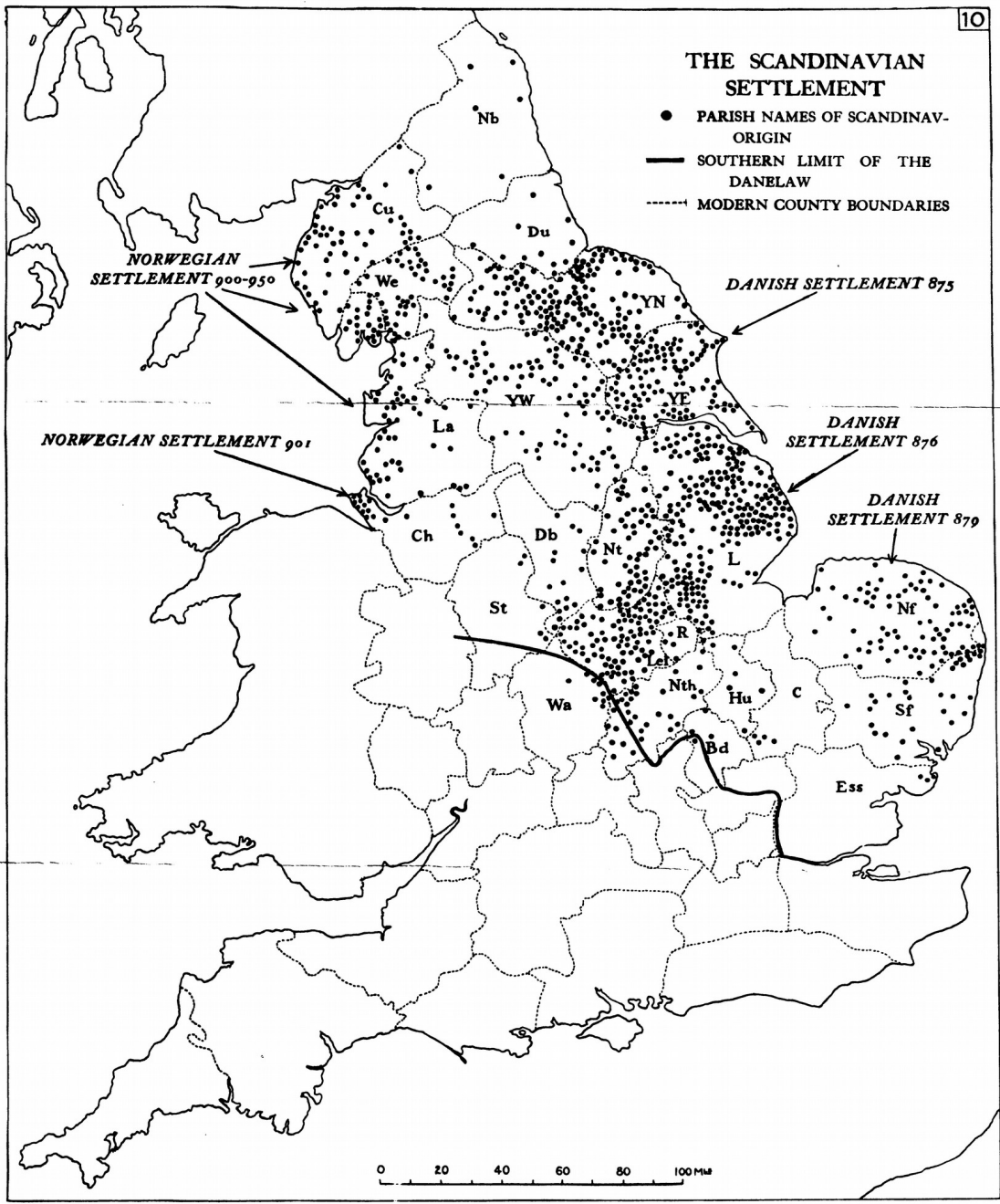
114 surnames in the 1881 census probably derived wholly or partly from ON personal names

ON male Insular names in 12th & early 13th cent. records

Eastern Danelaw:	41 = 36%	40% - 10%
Northern Danelaw:	34 = 30%	65% - 60%
Outside Danelaw:	28 = 24%	4% - lower
Southern Danelaw:	11 = 10%	35% - 25%

THE SCANDINAVIAN SETTLEMENT

- PARISH NAMES OF SCANDINAV-ORIGIN
- SOUTHERN LIMIT OF THE DANELAW
- - - - MODERN COUNTY BOUNDARIES

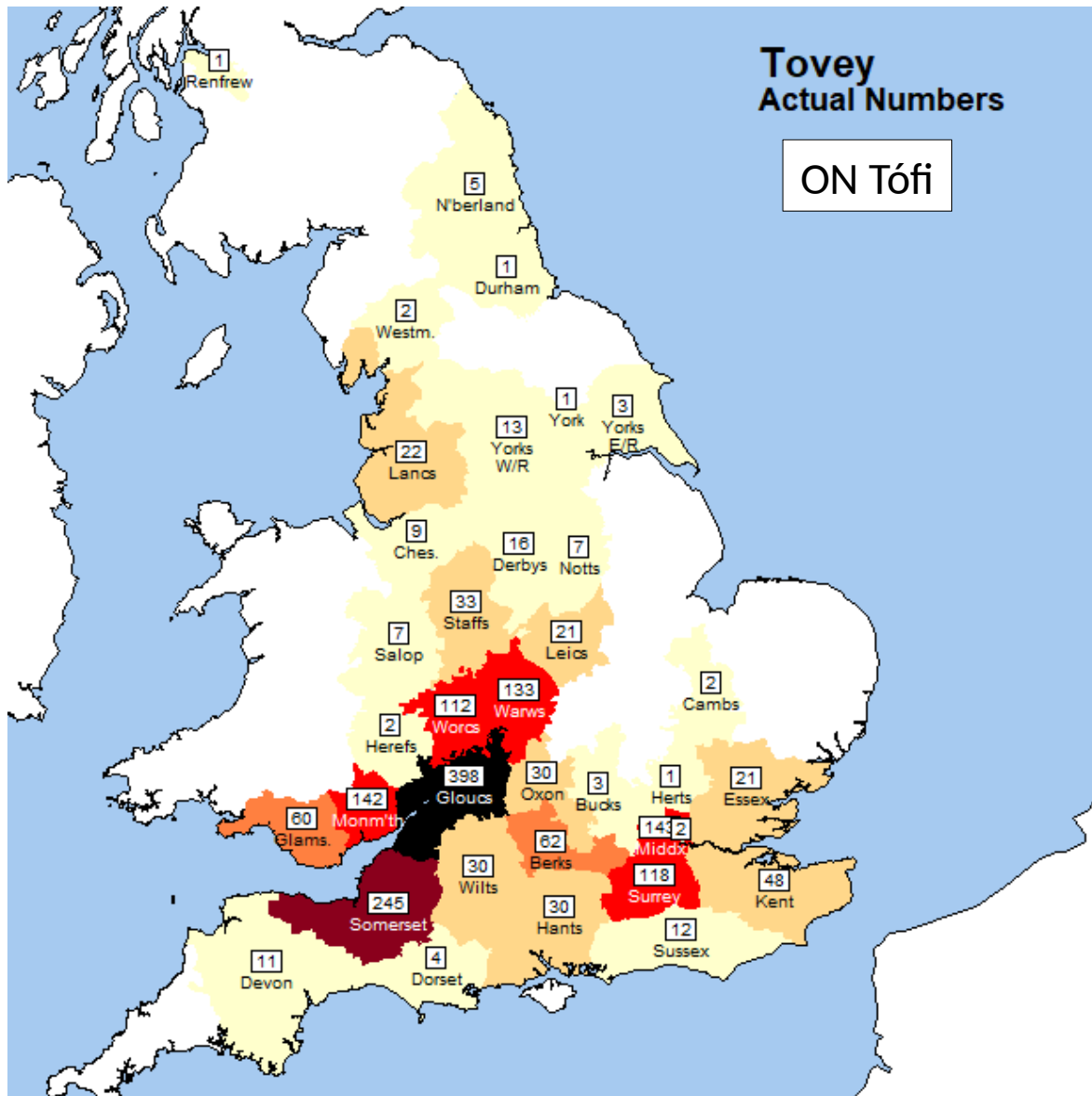


MAP OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SETTLEMENT
 A. H. Smith, *English Place-Name Elements* 1.

27 names occurring mainly or only outside Danelaw:

Arkell (Arkle), Askell, Ayliffe, Colban, Farthing, Kilvert, Okey, Tolfree, Tookey, Tovey (Toovey) + 15 others.

E.g. in Hants, Devon, Somerset, Gloucs, the W Midlands and Northumberland.

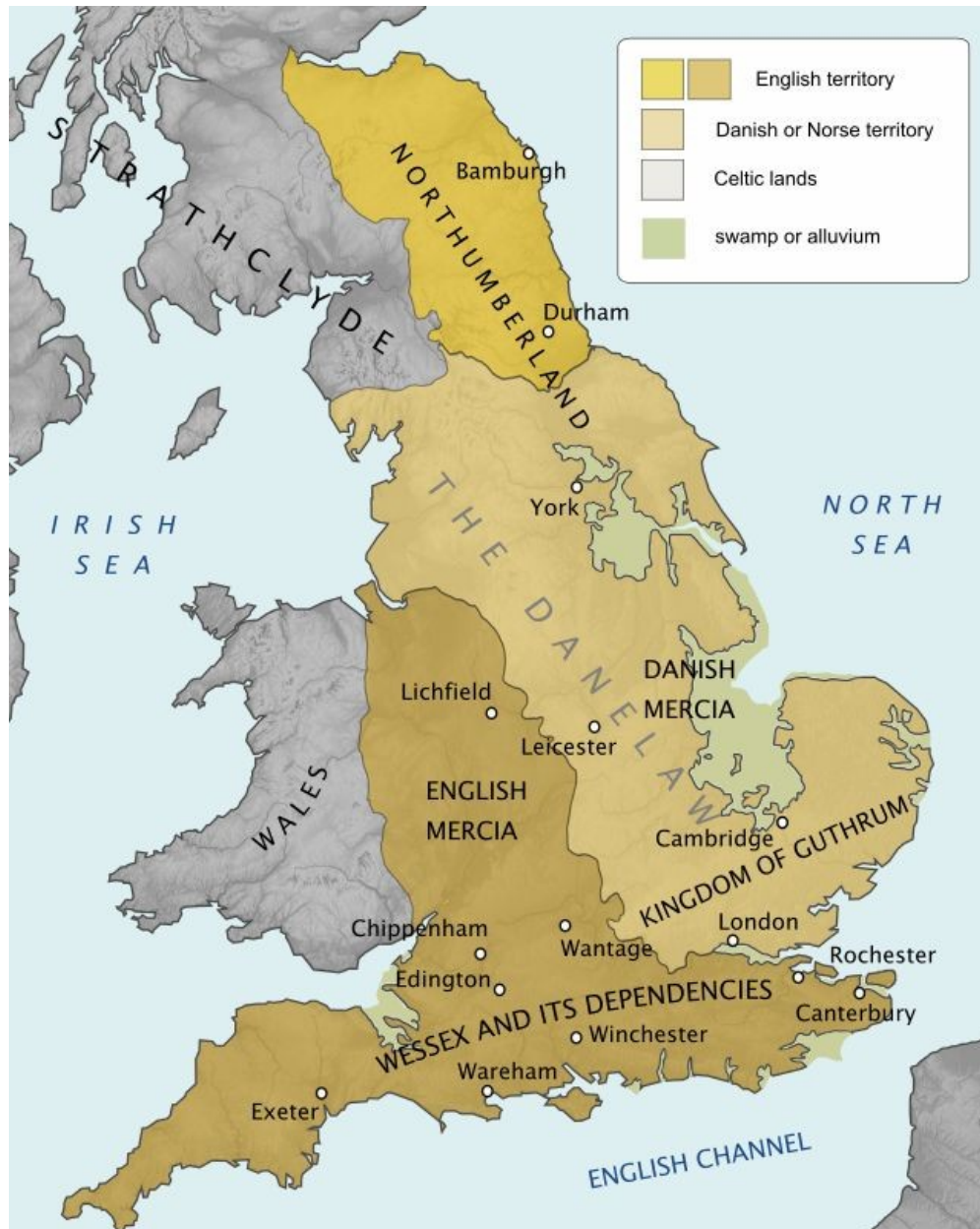


Ricardo filio Roberti *fili* *Toui*, 1181-2 in Pipe Rolls (Oxon);

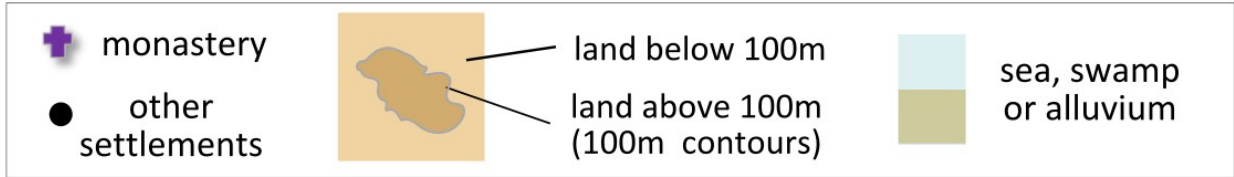
William *Toui*, 1200 in Pipe Rolls (Hants);

Gilbert *Touy*, 1332 in Subsidy Rolls (Colyton, Devon);

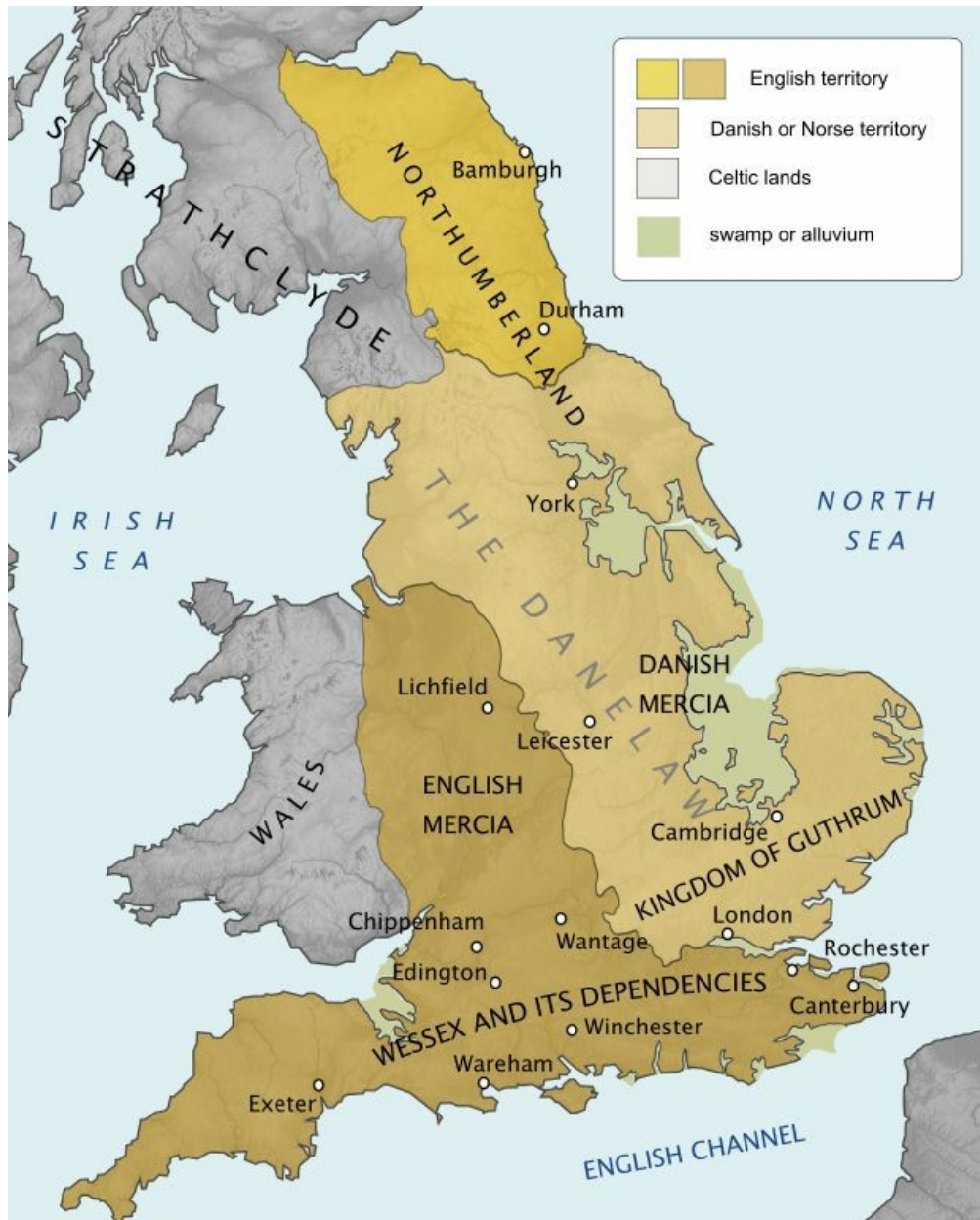
John *Tovey*, parson of the church of Saint John the Baptist, Bristol, 1399-1400 in TNA (Gloucs)



<http://viking.archeurope.info/index.php?page=the-danelaw-map>



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:East_Anglian_kingdom.svg



<http://viking.archeurope.info/index.php?page=the-danelaw-map>

END

