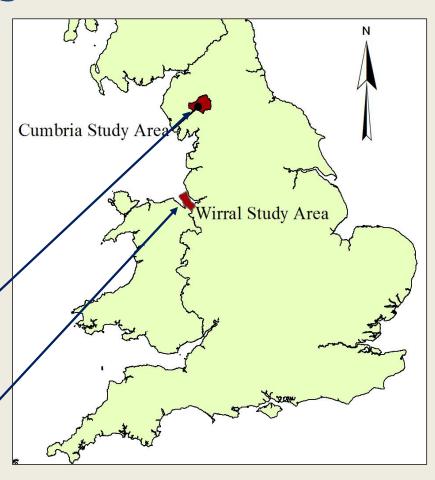
Norðmenn and their names? Languages and dialects in contact in Viking-Age England

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PhD: 'Dialect in the Viking-Age Scandinavian Diaspora: the evidence of medieval minor names'

- Based on 'minor names': the names of places smaller than settlements
- A quantitative study:
 compared Old English and Old
 Norse contributions to place name vocabulary in two areas:
 - the West Ward of Westmorland Barony in Cumbria
 - the Wirral in the north-west midlands.



Scandinavian settlement in Wirral

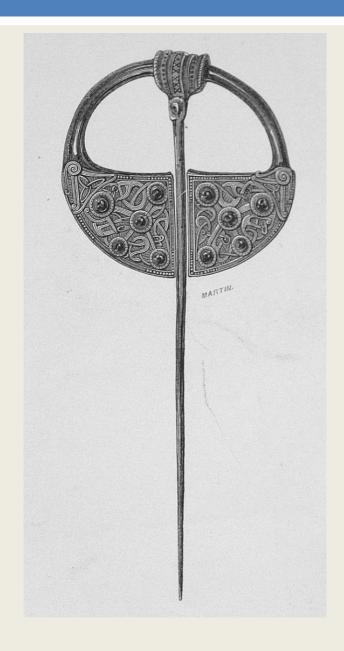
- Scandinavian major placenames.
- Settlement reported in Fragmentary Annals of Ireland.
- Jewellery and sculpture of types associated with Scandinavian spheres of influence.
- Genetic survey (Bowden et al. 2008): 47 ± 5% Norwegian male ancestry in pre-industrial population.

R.N. Bailey and J. Walley, 'A miniature Viking-Age hogback from the Wirral', *Antiquaries Journal* 86 (2006), 345–56 (p. 346).



http://www.itv.com/news/granada/st ory/2012-06-15/wirral-villageunveils-new-viking-sign/





Orton Scar Brooch

Scandinavian settlement in the West Ward

- Major place-names
- Jewellery and sculpture of forms associated with areas of Scandinavian settlement.
- Genetic survey (Penrith): 37 ± 3% Norwegian male ancestry in modern population (Bowden et al, 2008).

Society of Antiquaries of London Catalogue of Drawings and Museum Objects (2005) [Archaeology Data Service; doi: 10.5284/1000409].

Outline

- Quantifying Scandinavian vocabulary in minor placenames from northwest England:
 - •how can this be done and what can it tell us?
 - findings from case-studies
- The legacy of English-Scandinavian contact: English and Scandinavian vocabulary in the Middle English period.



Quantifying Scandinavian vocabulary in minor names: material

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WESTMORLAND

xv. Newbiggin

NEWBIGGIN (83-6328)

Neu-, Newbig(g)ing(e), -y- 1179 HolmC, 1199-1225 CW xvii, 228, 1200-10 Crk 37, 1256 Ass 13 (p), 1265 Pat (p) et passim to 1543 Tullie 78, -bbigging 1223 Pat, -biching 1232-5 Weth (p), -bigig 1265 Cl (p), -biggen 1365 TestKarl, 1604 PR, -biggin 1704 Terr, -begin 1712 PR(Mlb)

Neuebyggingh 1278 Ass 9d, -bigging 1292 QW, Newebig(g)ing(e), -y- 1341 Cl, 1422 Cl et freq to 1425 Pat

Nubigin 1581 PR(B), -begin 1626 PR, -biggin 1688 PR(Brm) 'New building', v. nīwe, bigging, cf. Newbiggin (i, 37 supra).

CROWDUNDLE QUARRIES, 1859 OS, Crawdundale 1610 Camd, Crowdundel 1727 PR(Brm) 146, quarries . . . Craudundel 1750 Pococke, Crawdundale 1777 M, NB 371. Probably 'the valley of crow-hill', v. crāwe, dūn, dæl.

APPLETREE GAP LANE, 1859 OS, Appletreegapp 1542 Crk, v. æppeltreow, gap. Black Leases, 1865 OS, Black Lees(es) 1726 PR(Wp), 1776 PR, Blackleighs 1745 ib, -laith 1770 M, 'black meadows', v. blæc, læs. Brea Wath, 1859 OS, a wide ford across Milburn Beck, probably from breiðr 'broad', vað. HAG WOOD, 1859 OS, the Hagg 1542 Crk, v. hogg 'clearing'. HALE GRANGE, 1544 NB 369, 1775 PR, grangia de Hale 1279 Ass 25, Hallys graunge 1537 AOMB, Hayle grang 1565 Crk, a grange of Holm Cultram abbey (v. grange), named from Hale (ii, 118 supra). Loscars, 1859 OS. MAIDEN WAY, 1859 OS, cf. Road II (i, 19 supra). MILLPARK WOOD, 1859 OS. MOORLAND HEAD, Moor(e)land(e) head 1548 Crk, 1666, 1696 PR, -lands- 1693 ib, 1797 PR(MLB), v. mor, land, hēafod. Newbiggin Bridge (1679 NWm 11, 187), Hall (1745 PR, originally a peel tower, rebuilt in 1533, cf. NWm 185-6, NB 368, RCHM 183), MILL (Low Mill 1743 PR, Newbiggen (High) Mill 1775, 1804 ib), & Moor (1865 OS, formerly Newbiggin Common 1820 EnclA), v. brycg, hall, myln, mör. WILLIAMSGILL, 1807 PR, v. gil 'ravine'.

FIELD-NAMES

The principal forms in (a) are 1842 TA 61. Spellings dated 1200-1675 are Crk (Nbn), 1704 Terr.

(a) high & low Bottom 1704 (v. botm); Bramery (Brumwray 1534, Bramwray 1544, 'nook of land overgrown with broom', v. brom, vrá);

WEST WARD (BROUGHAM)

Briggs; Buckle close; Burks (v. birki); Buscay; Castrigg; Causeway (the Causes 1675, v. caucie 'raised track'); Coat garth (v. cot, garðr); Coat-lap; Cockber (v. cocc1, beorg); Cunnigarth-Grasses 1704 (the Cunnygarth 1534, Conygarth farme 1548, v. coning-erth 'rabbit warren'); Gash croft; Haggs brow; Holme meadow (v. holmr); Keld bank (v. kelda 'spring'); Kirk leases (v. kirkja, læs 'pasture'); Longlands; Mally hill; Mary croft; Middlefur (v. furh 'furrow, trench); Mole briggs; Outgang (v. ūt-gang 'exit'); Paliot; Reins (the Raynes 1544, v. rein 'boundary strip'); Ruft; Townhead garth; Treble leases (Trebiles, a close 1704); Wath close (v. vað 'ford'); Wellbank; Whinny brow (v. hvin 'gorse', brū).

(b) Bowman close 1548; the Butts 1675 (v. butte); the Daile banks 1675 (v. dal, banke); Downygill dike 1535; Flaskebanck 1200-10 (v. flask 'marsh'); Gildusfflat 1200-10 (v. gildi-hús 'guild house', flat); Goldysflat 1200-10; the Hallfield 1544; the Kill 1542 (v. cyln 'kiln', here one for drying corn); Kirkfield 1614 PR; the Lordes wood 1544; the New close 1534 (ib 1675, Newclose dike 1531); Parson close & ground 1542; the Picked howe 1675 ('pointed hill', v. piced, haugr); Prestebank 1369 Cl (v. preost, banke); Rals close 1540; Smyth wath 1542 (v. vað 'ford'); the Tern dike 1542 (v. tjorn 'pond', dic); Tynckeler closse 1536 (ME tinklere 'tinker', perhaps as a surname); Whet closse 1548, Whetrudding 1540 (v. hwæte 'wheat', rydding); the White burrens 1675 (v. hwit, burgæsn).

WEST WARD

B. WEST WARD

Westwarde 1523 SheriffAcct 9, (the) West Ward 1602 Kend iii, 25, 1671 Fleming, 1687 NWm 12 et freq to c. 1722 AnctHo. Cf. East Ward (ii, 1 supra).

i. Brougham

Brougham (83-5327) ['bru:m]

Bruham 1130 Lowth (CL 1), 13 Wyb, 1228 Pat, 1250 Pipe (p), 1279 Ass 21d et freq to 1302 Cl, 1366 ChancM 2, 1435 Pat, (-als. Burgham) 1292 Ipm

Brohã, -ham 1176 Pipe (p), 1200 P (p), 1357 Pat

Bronham (sic for Brou-) 1292 QW

Brouham c. 1300 Lowth, 1304, 1308 Pat, 1308 FF, 1310 Carliol, 1315 Ipm et passim to 1385 Cl

Brougham 1315 Ipm, 1644 PR, 1657 Comm, 1703 NicVisit, Browgham 1589 Dep

Burg** 1325-50 M, Burgham 1355 Ipm, 1357 Pat, 1360 Misc, 1362 TestKarl, 1363 Ipm et passim to 1701 PR, -hame 1407 Brm 16, 1441 Pat

• All minor names recorded before 1500 excerpted from volumes of the Survey of **English Place-Names**

- Wirral: 584 names
- West Ward: 555 names

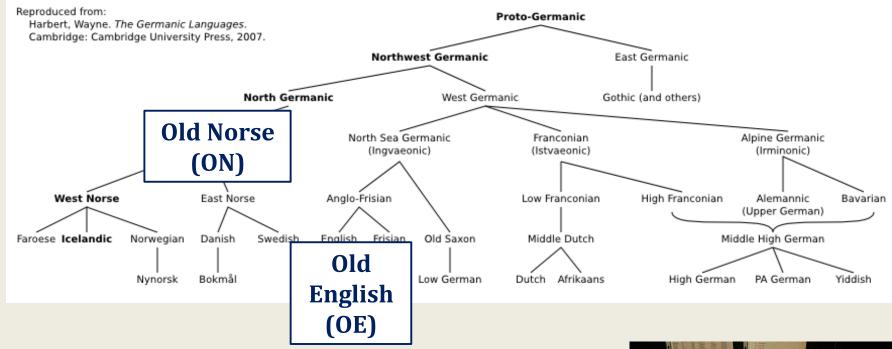
Smith, A. H. (1967), *The Place-Names of Westmorland. Part 2* (Cambridge: English Place-Name Society), pp. 126-27.

Quantifying Scandinavian vocabulary in minor names: method

 Count both English- and Scandinavian-derived words in order to assess the *relative* Scandinavian contribution to minor name



Identifying Scandinavian place-name elements



- Closely related languages: some words indistinguishable, especially cognates (e.g. OE hūs, ON hús 'house', OE land, ON land 'land')
- BUT: some cognates only used in place-names in one of the languages, e.g. ON holmr 'island, water-meadow' (cf. OE holm 'sea, wave')



Identifying Scandinavian vocabulary: sounds

| Old English | Old Norse | Modern English |
|--|--|--|
| [ɑ:] (as h <u>a</u> rm) <i>stān</i> 'stone' | [aɪ] (as b <u>uy)</u> steinn | nay |
| [ʧ] (as <u>ch</u> ur <u>ch</u>) <i>ċiriċe</i> 'church' [sometimes!] | [k] (as k ite) <i>kirkja</i> | kirk 'church' (Scottish and northern) |
| [j] (as y es) <i>ġeard</i> 'enclosure' [sometimes!] | [g] (as g ate) garthr | garth 'enclosed land' (eastern and northern) |
| [ʃ] (as <u>sh</u> ip) <i>sċip</i> 'ship' [sometimes!] | [sk] (as <u>sk</u> in) <i>skip</i> | skirt |
| [æɑ] <i>hlēap</i> 'leap' | [aʊ] (as l <u>ou</u> d) <i>hlaup</i> | <i>loup</i> 'leap' (Scottish and northern) |

Differences in vocabulary, personal names and grammar

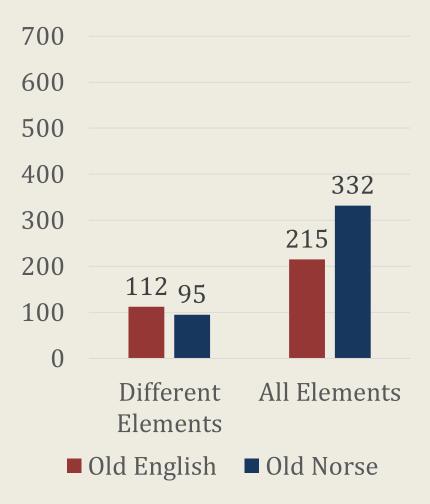
- Vocabulary, e.g.:
 - bý 'farm, village' (Derby; Raby, Ch.)
 - *holmr* 'island', raised ground (Dur<u>ham;</u> Levens<u>hulme</u>, La.].
 - lundr 'small wood' (Lound, Nt.)
 - toft 'building plot' (Lowes<u>toft</u>, Sf.)
 - *bveit* 'clearing' (Crosthwaite, Wml.)
- Personal names: e.g. *Porsteinn* (<u>Thursta</u>ton, Ch.), *Ragnhildr* (<u>Raynildes</u> Pool 1330, Ch.)



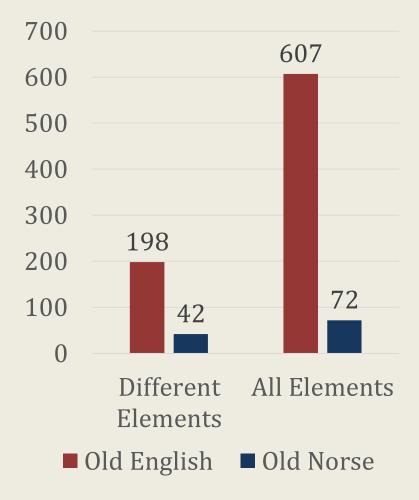
 Distinctively Scandinavian grammatical endings, e.g. Helperby (North Yorks) < ON fem. personal name *Hjalp* (genitive singular *Hjalpar*) + bý 'farm, village'.

Results

West Ward, Cumbria

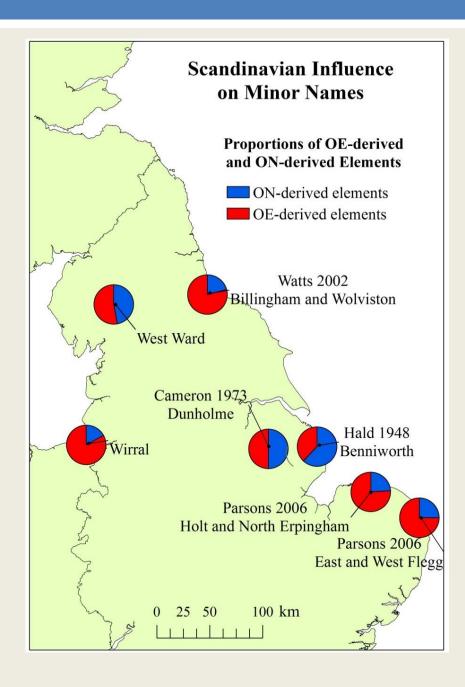






Summary

- Major names: Scandinavian place-names in both areas.
- Scandinavian vocabulary remained a very significant proportion of vocabulary used in minor names in the West Ward...
- ...and much less so in Wirral.
- Explanation?
 - Continued use of Norse in Cumbria into 12th century (runic and place-name evidence)



Delving deeper into the Scandinavian impact on the areas' dialects

- Middle English dialect of West Ward contained a great deal more Scandinavian-derived vocabulary than dialect of the Wirral.
- The legacy of English- Scandinavian contact
 - •how was Scandinavian vocabulary integrated into the two areas' dialects?
 - Investigate what happens in the following situations:
 - element known in Old Norse only
 - elements for which Old English and Old Norse cognates exist and are used in place-names

ON *pveit* 'clearing, meadow' (cf. OE ?*pwīt)

- (Related English element* pwīt very rare).
- Wirral (1):
 le Thwayt iuxta le Newemedewe (1357), le
 Thwaytes (1357), Oldetwayt (1357)

Old Norse [aɪ]
vs.
Old English [ɑ:]

- West Ward (11):
 - [1] Braythetwayt (1265); [2] Crossethweit (12th); [3] Greswayt (p) (1350–60); [4] Holentwayt (1250), -twate (p) (p. 1291); [5] Loftthwatt (p. 1317); [6] Stanethwayte (1309); [7] Stokthawyte (1420), -thawayt (c. 1470), Stockthwayte (1425), Stokethwayte (1496); [8] Suyn-, Swynt(h)wayt (1279); [9] Swyne(s)styweyth,-thwayt (1278), -thueyt (1279); [10] Thorn(e)thwa(i)t(e), -thwayt(e), -twayt (1279, 1330, 1378, 1429); [11] Tranthwayt (1378).
- •Old Norse diphthong [ai] almost always preserved.

Cognate elements: OE *brād*, ON *breiðr* 'broad' **Wirral**

OE *brād* (6):

- the **Brode** Rene (1454) (OE/ON *ræn/rein 'boundary ditch');
- Bradesiche (1305) OE sīc 'stream';
- boscus de **Brade**greue (1294) OE græfe 'grove';
- le Bradlond (1340) OE/ON land;
- le **Brod**med (13th) OE mæd 'meadow';
- Broderenes (1398); les Brodereenes (1432),
 -renes (1440) OE/ON *ræn/rein.

Old English
[a:], [d]
vs.
Old Norse
[aɪ], [ð]

Cognate elements: OE brād, ON breiðr 'broad'

West Ward

OE *brād* (6):

- **Brade** milland (1345) OE myln 'mill', OE/ON land;
- le Bradeacre (1366) OE/ON æcer/akr 'acre';
- **Brade**leye (13th); -legh (1320), Bradley (c. 1300) OE lēah 'woodland, clearing';
- Bradrane (a. 1300) OE *rān 'boundary strip';
- •le Braderidding (1340) OE ryding 'clearing';
- •(le) **Brad**eheng (a. 1290, 1345) ON eng 'meadow'

ON *breiðr* (1):

Braythetwayt (1265) ON pveit 'clearing'

Old English
[a:], [d]
vs.
Old Norse
[aɪ], [ð]

Cognate elements: OE brād, ON breiðr 'broad'

West Ward, Cumbria

brēg OE, 'brow of a hill', II (d) Herclebray (1567)

(1200), Braythetwayt (1265), Breesty.

breiðr ON, 'broad'. I Brathay; II Braeslacks (1560), Braithetweit

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brād OE, 'broad'. I Bradley (2), Bradleyfield, Bradwood, Broadfold,
     -gate (2), -Ing(s) (3), -mire (2), -Oak(s) (3), -slack, -thorn; II
     Brad(e)gate, -holme (1393), -howes, -meadowe (13th), -mosse (1320),
     -myre (1282), -rane (1300), -ridding (1349), -ryddynges (1484), -slak,
     stanehals (1379), Bradwath, Broad flatt (1312), -foard, -ing,
     Broad Inges (1650), -mire, Broad Oake.
Dræc. OE, uneket. II (U) Dracks (II, 100).
brædu OE, 'broad strip'. I (c) Sockbridge; II (d) Robin bread (i,
     80 add.). v. also gār-brēde, scofl-brædu.
*brakni ON, braken ME, 'bracken, fern'. I (a) Brackenbar, -ber
     (b), -hill, -Howe, -slack, -thwaite (3); (c) White Brackens; II (a)
     Brackenbarr, Bracken bed(s) (3), -ber (3), Brackenberghe (1390-4),
     Brackendale, -how(e) (2), -intake, -rig(g) (b), -thwaite (2), Bracken-
     twhait (1.12th), Bracken Wreays, Brakanberch (1240).
brand OE, 'fire, place cleared by burning'. II Brand ridding,
brant OE, 'steep'. I Brant Fell, -field (2), Branthwaite, Brant Street;
     II Brantbank (2), Brantbarre, Brant brow, -dalt, -field, -healds.
brēc OE, break ModE dial., 'land broken up for cultivation'. I
     Breaks Hall (ii, 89), Brigbriggs.
bred OE, 'board'. I (c) Sockbridge.
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Old English
[a:], [d]
vs.
Old Norse
[aɪ], [ð]

OE sīc, ON sík 'small stream, ditch'

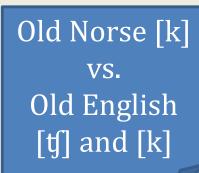
Very similar patterns with OE *dīc*, ON *dík* 'ditch' and OE *cirice*, ON *kirkja* 'church'.

(spelt with <ch>) < OE $s\bar{i}\dot{c}$, e.g.:

- Ingriessiche (1340)
- *Holesiche* (1278–81)

West Ward

- 17 forms indicating final [k] (spelt with <k,
 c>) < ON sík, OE sīcum (etc.), e.g.:
 - Modersike (1225)
 - Rudekeldesic (a. 1239)
- 1 form indicating OE *sīc* (spelt with <ch>):
 - Ronesiche (1286)



OE *middel*, ON *meðal* 'middle' and OE *midlest* 'middlemost'

Wirral

- Medlestehyard (1260–80)OE geard [referring to a fishery]
- the Medylfylde (1454) OE feld 'field'

Development of compromise form

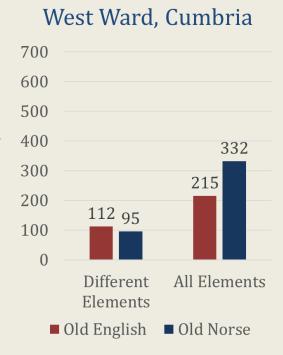
West Ward, Cumbria

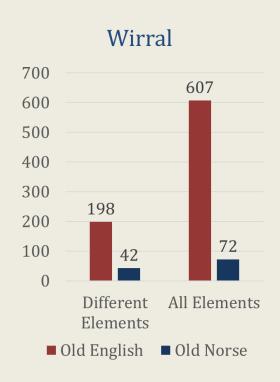
- Methilrig (1235)
- **Medil**knott (1220–47)
- **Mydde**lrig (1250)
- **Medil** Scogh (1471)

Old English [d], [i] vs.
Old Norse [ð], [e]

Conclusions

Norse-derived
 vocabulary
 constituted a very
 significant proportion
 of the vocabulary
 used in late-medieval
 minor names in the
 West Ward...and
 much less so in
 Wirral.





 These differences were most marked when all elements were counted (repeated elements counted multiple times).

Conclusions

Assessing use of Norse- and English-derived (potential) variants revealed:

- continued use of Norse-derived form (ON *þveit*) [no English-derived form]
- English-derived form dominant in both areas (OE brād, ON breiðr)
- English-derived form dominant in Wirral (OE sīc, dīc, cirice), Norse-influenced (ON sík, cf. OE sīcum) or Norse-derived (kirkja) form dominant in West Ward
- development of compromise form (ME medil < OE middel, ON meðal)
- Tendency for reduction in number of variants in both areas:
 - Increased selection of English-derived variants in Wirral.
 - Increased selection of Norse-derived variants in West Ward.