

Norðmenn and their names?

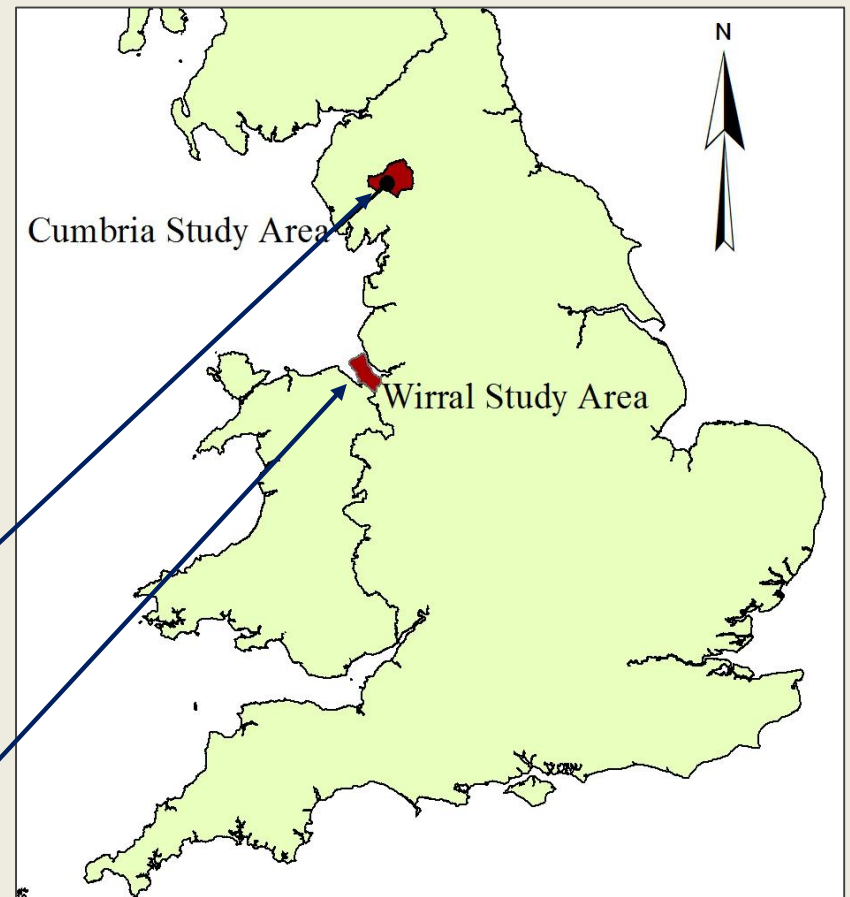
Languages and dialects in contact
in Viking-Age England

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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 place-names.
- Settlement reported in *Fragmentary Annals of Ireland*.
- Jewellery and sculpture of types associated with Scandinavian spheres of influence.
- Genetic survey (Bowden et al. 2008): $47 \pm 5\%$ 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).

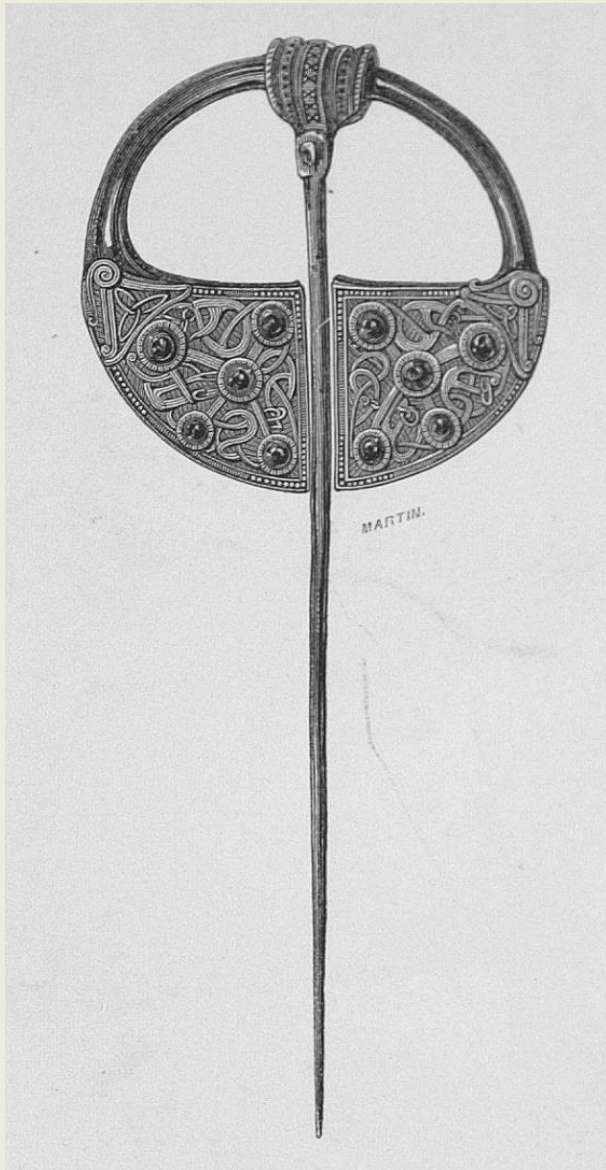


<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/story/2012-06-15/wirral-village-unveils-new-viking-sign/>



Scandinavian settlement in the West Ward

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



Orton Scar Brooch

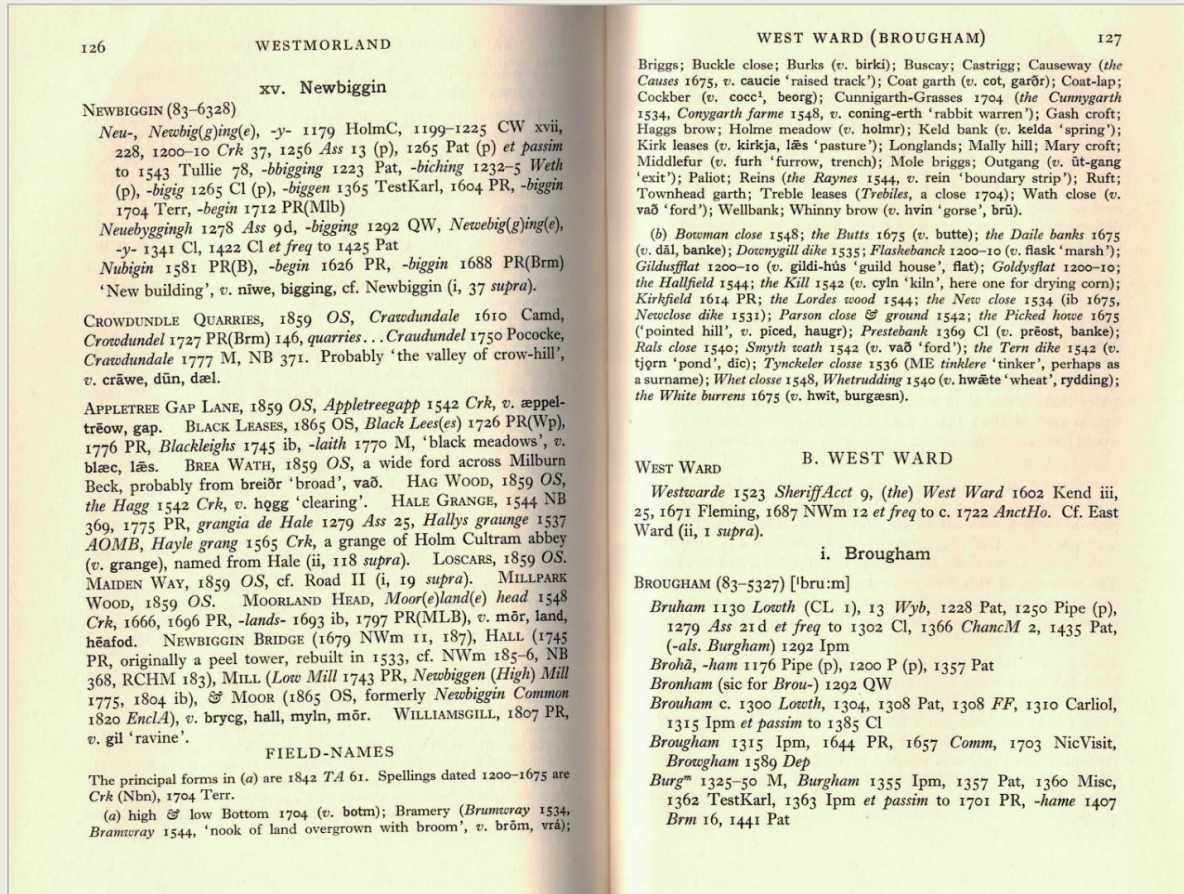
Society of Antiquaries of London Catalogue of Drawings and Museum Objects (2005) [Archaeology Data Service; doi: 10.5284/1000409].

Outline

- Quantifying Scandinavian vocabulary in minor place-names 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

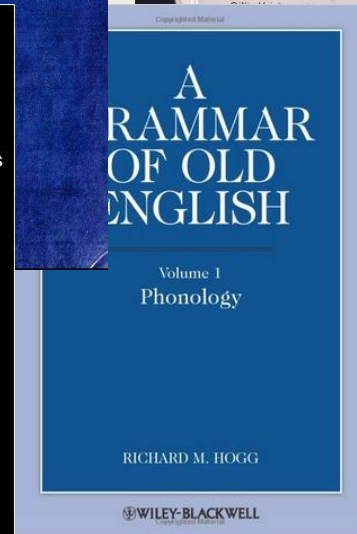
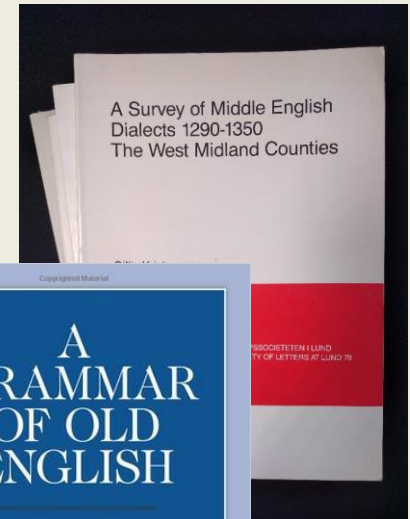
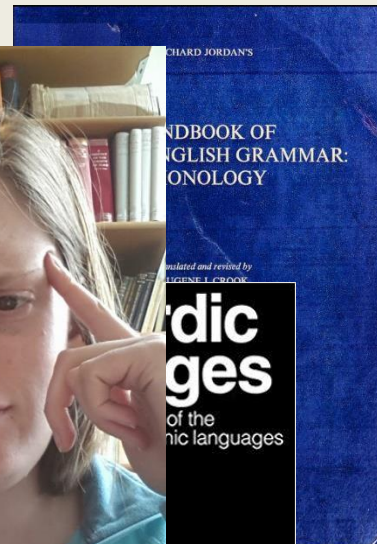
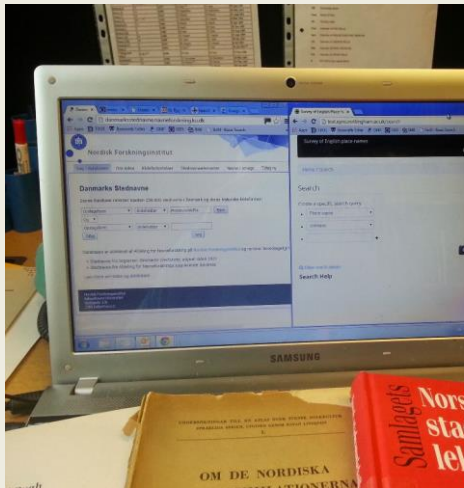


- All minor names recorded before 1500 excerpted from volumes of the Survey of English Place-Names
- Wirral: 584 names
- West Ward: 555 names

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 vocabulary.

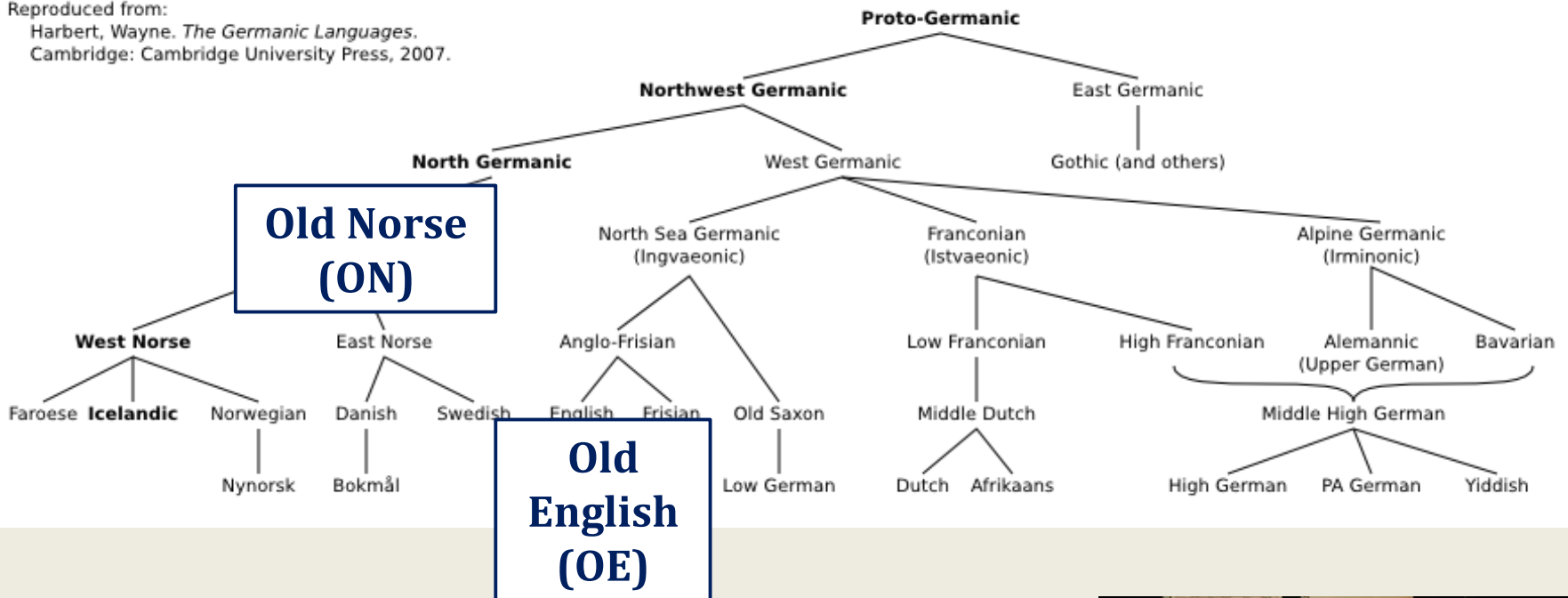


Identifying Scandinavian place-name elements

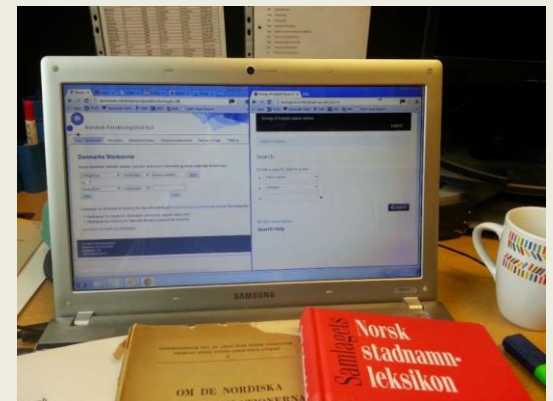
Reproduced from:

Harbert, Wayne. *The Germanic Languages*.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.



- 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’)

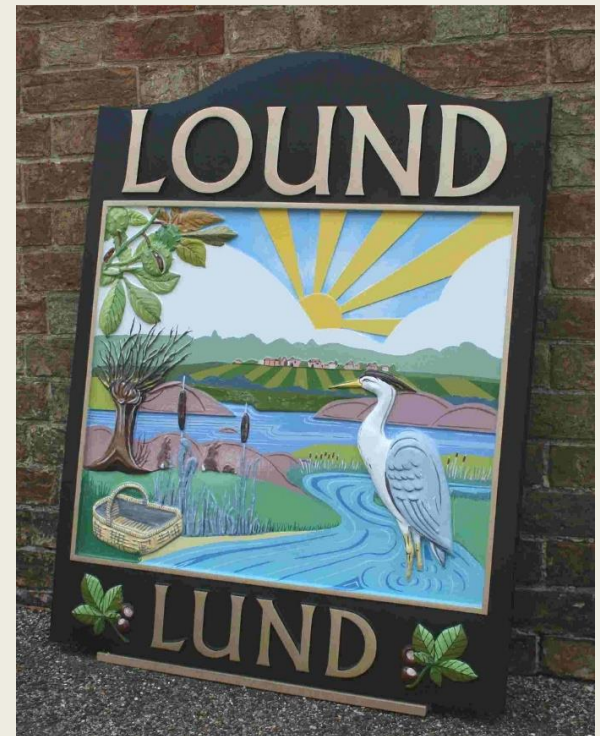


Identifying Scandinavian vocabulary: sounds

Old English	Old Norse	Modern English
[ɑ:] (as h arm) <i>stān</i> 'stone'	[aɪ] (as bu y) <i>steinn</i>	<i>nay</i>
[tʃ] (as ch urch) <i>ċiriċe</i> 'church' [sometimes!]	[k] (as k ite) <i>kirkja</i>	<i>kirk</i> 'church' (Scottish and northern)
[j] (as y es) <i>ġeard</i> 'enclosure' [sometimes!]	[g] (as g ate) <i>garthr</i>	<i>garth</i> 'enclosed land' (eastern and northern)
[ʃ] (as sh ip) <i>scip</i> 'ship' [sometimes!]	[sk] (as sk in) <i>skip</i>	<i>skirt</i>
[æɑ] <i>hlēap</i> 'leap'	[aʊ] (as l oud) <i>hlaup</i>	<i>loup</i> 'leap' (Scottish and northern)

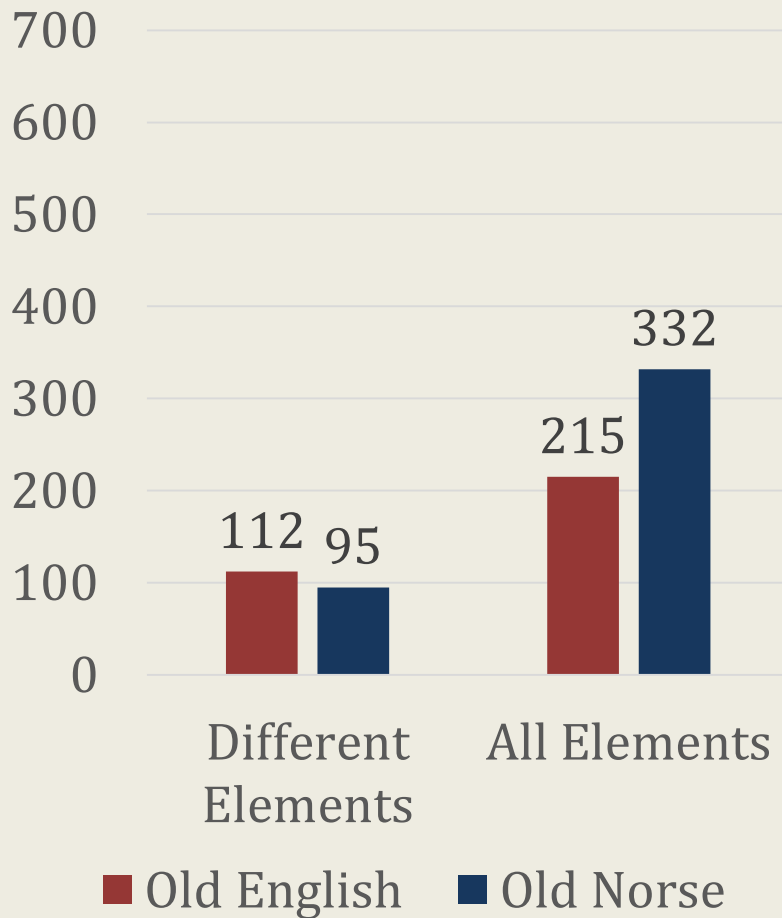
Differences in vocabulary, personal names and grammar

- Vocabulary, e.g.:
 - **by** ‘farm, village’ (Derby; Raby, Ch.)
 - **holmr** ‘island’, raised ground (Durham; Levenshulme, La.).
 - **lundr** ‘small wood’ (Lound, Nt.)
 - **toft** ‘building plot’ (Lowestoft, Sf.)
 - **pveit** ‘clearing’ (Crosthwaite, Wml.)
- Personal names: e.g. *Þorsteinn* (Thurstaton, Ch.), *Ragnhildr* (Raynildes Pool 1330, Ch.)
- Distinctively Scandinavian grammatical endings, e.g. Helperby (North Yorks) < ON fem. personal name **Hjalp** (genitive singular *Hjalpar*) + **by** ‘farm, village’.

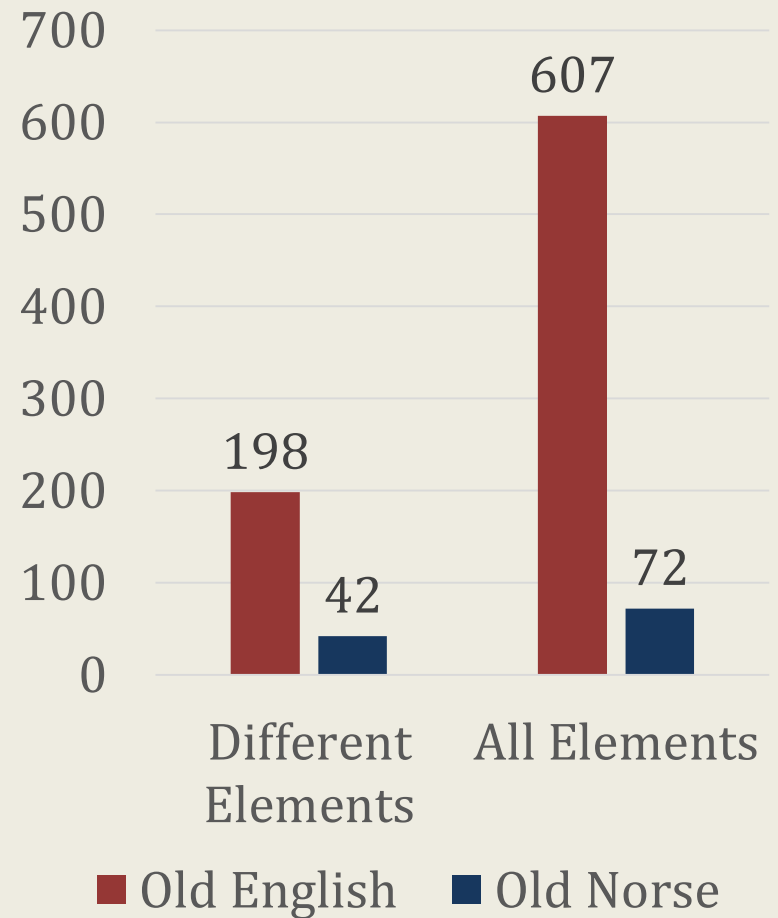


Results

West Ward, Cumbria

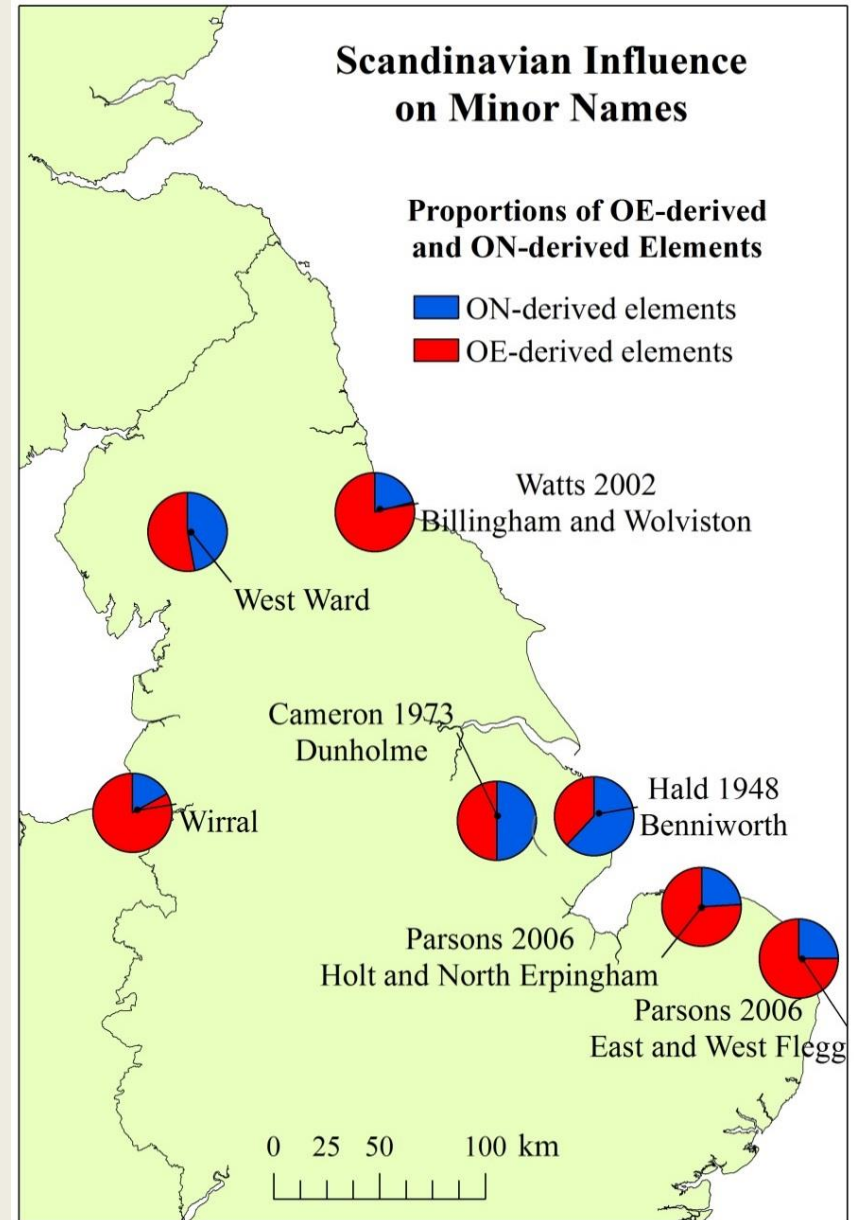


Wirral



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 *þveit* ‘clearing, meadow’ (cf. ~~OE ?*þwīt~~)

- (Related English element**þwīt* very rare).

- Wirral (1):

le Thwayt iuxta le Newemedewe (1357), *le Thwaytes* (1357), *Oldetwayt* (1357)

- 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.

Old Norse [ai]

vs.

Old English [a:]

Cognate elements: OE *brād*, ON *breiðr* ‘broad’

Wirral

OE *brād* (6):

- *the Brode Rene* (1454) (OE/ON **ræn/rein* ‘boundary ditch’);
- *Bradestiche* (1305) OE *sīc* ‘stream’;
- *boscus de Bradegreue* (1294) OE *græfe* ‘grove’;
- *le Bradlond* (1340) OE/ON *land*;
- *le Brodmed* (13th) OE *mæd* ‘meadow’;
- *Broderenes* (1398); *les Brodereenes* (1432), *-renes* (1440) OE/ON **ræn/rein*.

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

Cognate elements: OE *brād*, ON *breiðr* ‘broad’

West Ward

OE *brād* (6):

- **Brademilland** (1345) OE *myln* ‘mill’, OE/ON *land*;
- **le Bradeacre** (1366) OE/ON *æcer/akr* ‘acre’;
- **Bradeleye** (13th); **-leggh** (1320), **Bradley** (c. 1300) OE *lēah* ‘woodland, clearing’;
- **Bradrane** (a. 1300) OE **rān* ‘boundary strip’;
- **le Braderidding** (1340) OE *ryding* ‘clearing’;
- **(le) Bradeheng** (a. 1290, 1345) ON *eng* ‘meadow’

ON *breiðr* (1):

- **Braythetwayt** (1265) ON *þveit* ‘clearing’

Old English
[ɑ:], [d]
vs.
Old Norse
[ɑi], [ð]

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

West Ward, Cumbria

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.

bræc OE, 'thicket'. II (*ð*) *Bracks* (II, 180).

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), *Brackenbergh*e (1390–4), Brackendale, -how(e) (2), -intake, -rig(g) (*b*), -thwaite (2), *Brackentwhait* (l.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.

brēg OE, 'brow of a hill'. II (*d*) *Herclebrav* (1567).

breiðr ON, 'broad'. I Brathay; II Braeslacks (1560), *Braithetweit* (1200), *Braythetwayt* (1265), Breesty.

Old English
[ɑ:], [d]
vs.
Old Norse
[ɑi], [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 *sīc*, 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)



Old Norse [k]
vs.
Old English
[tʃ] and [k]

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

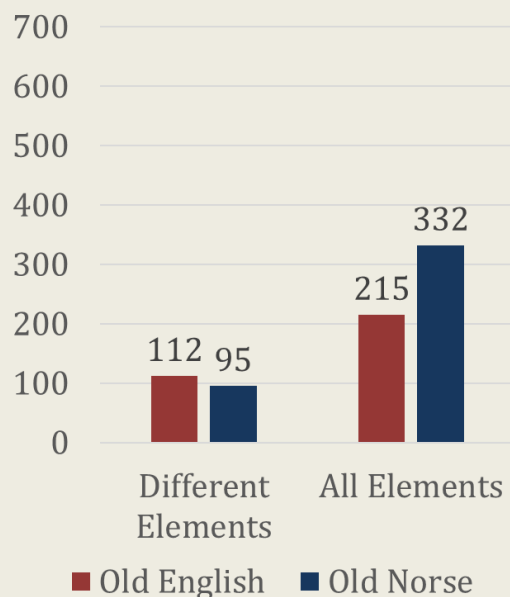
- ***Methilrig*** (1235)
- ***Medilknott*** (1220–47)
- ***Myddelrig*** (1250)
- ***Medil Scogh*** (1471)

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

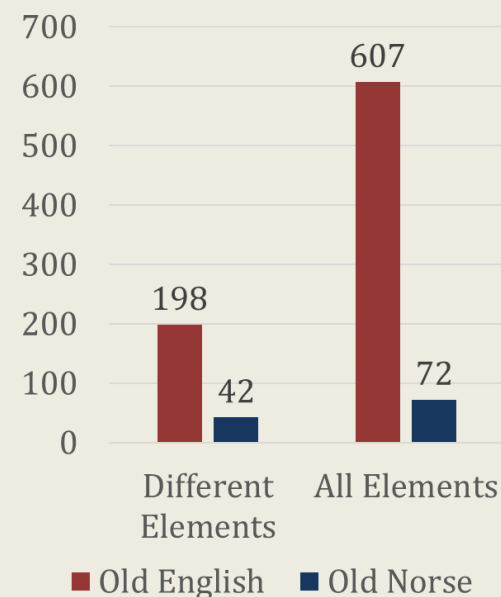
Conclusions

- 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.

West Ward, Cumbria



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.