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WHO

DO YOU THINK **THEY WERE** <sup>TM</sup>?

USING PLACE NAMES TO UNDERSTAND MIGRATION IN  
VIKING AGE CLEVELAND



# Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Manuscript A, 876 AD

And in that year Healfdene shared out the land of the Northumbrians and they were ploughing and providing for themselves









Þaðan sigldi hann suður fyrir Skotland og svo fyrir England og kom þar við land sem heita Kliflönd.

From there he sailed south of Scotland for England and came to the land called Cleveland.

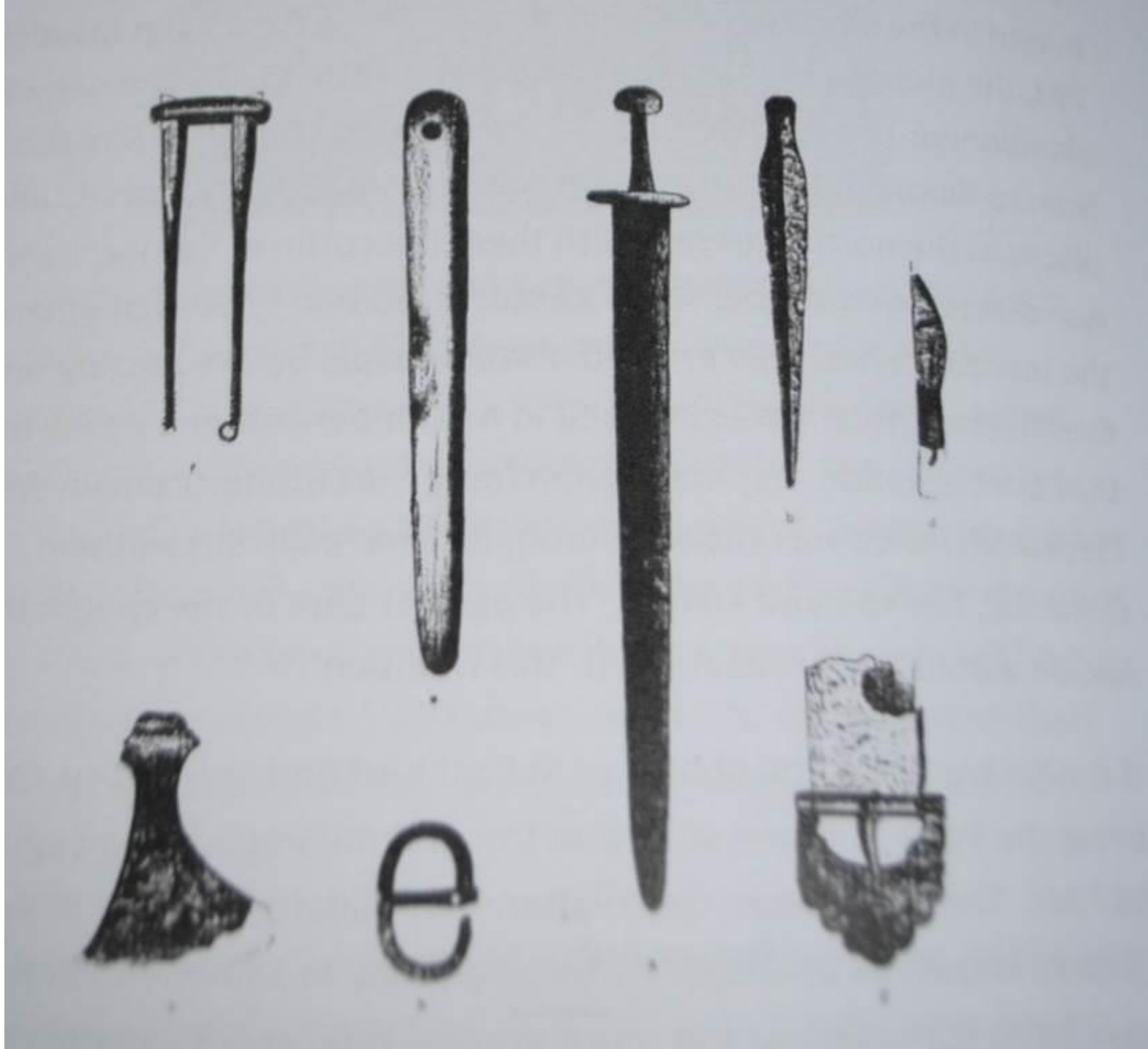
~ *Heimskringla, Haralds saga Sigurðarsonar*





# Finds from the Kildale burial

*Photo: Jane Harrison*



# Roseberry Topping

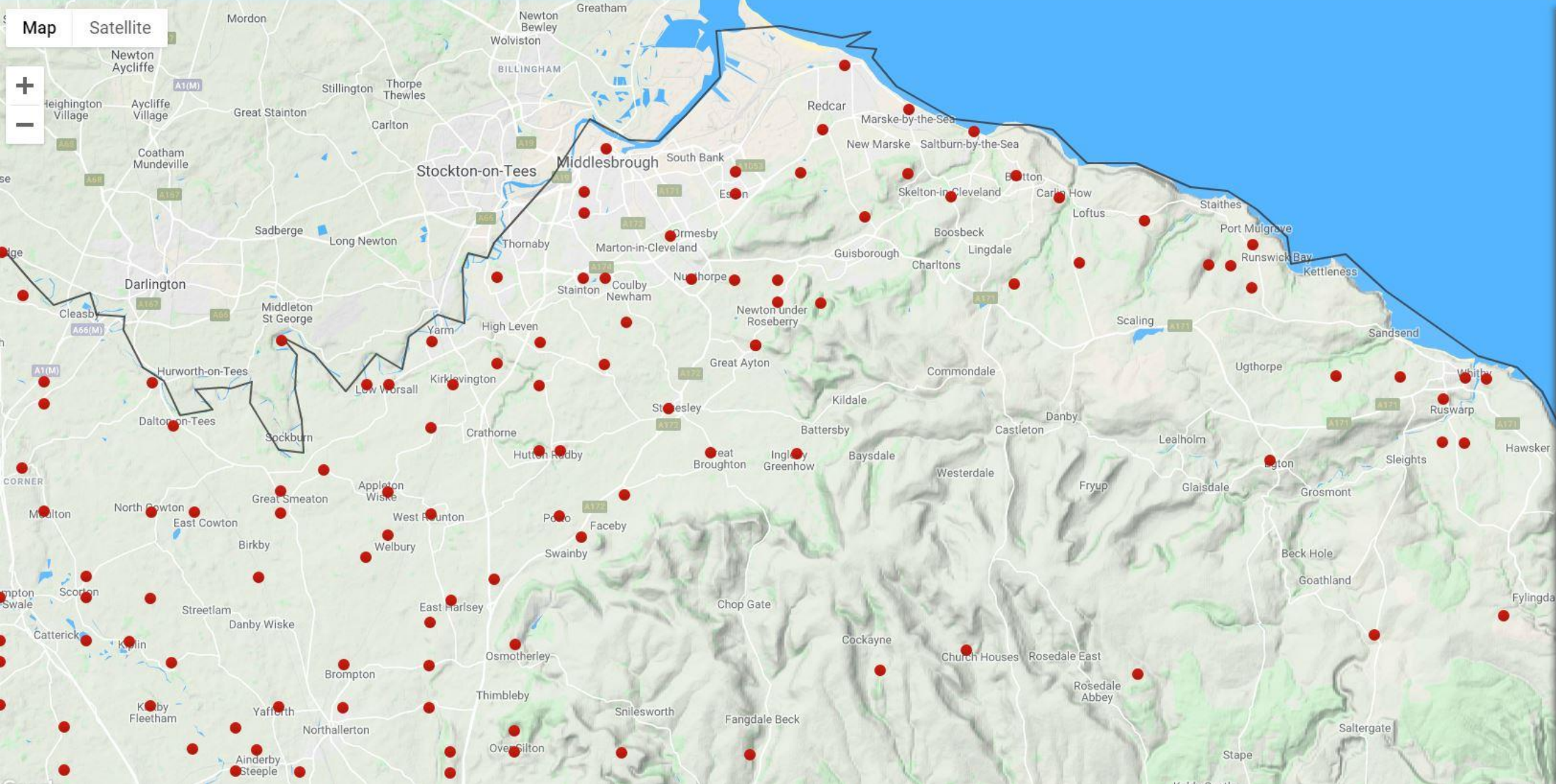
*Othenesberg* (1119), *Newetunie sub Ohtnebercg* (1140–53)

Either ON *Óðinn* + *berg* 'Odin's hill' or *Auðunn* + *berg* 'Auðunn's hill'





# Key to English Place-Names



Filter names by source language

- Celtic
- Old English
- Old Norse
- Old French
- Latin
- Middle English
- Modern English
- Unknown

▶ Places with the same name

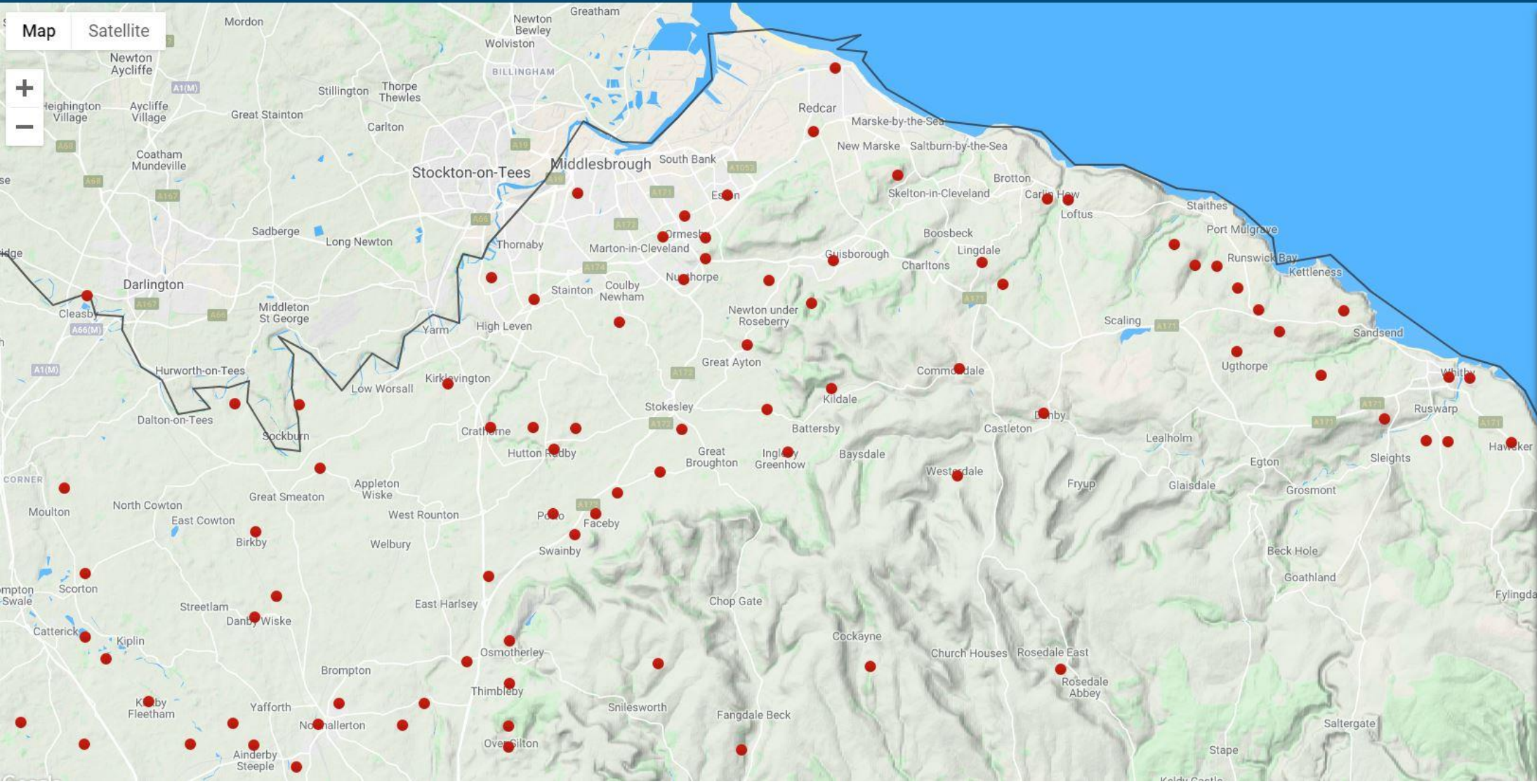
▶ Places with the same elements

▶ Other counties

▶ A note on languages



# Key to English Place-Names





# Old Norse in Cleveland Place names

- 41 place names with elements derived from Old Norse
- 14 (out of 41) carry relatively clearly identifiable Old Norse personal names
- 4 (out of 41) have elements that may be Old Norse personal names
- 4 (out of 41) have elements derived from Goedelic loaned into Old Norse





# Old Norse and Old English in Cleveland Place names

- 36 place names with elements derived from Old English and Old Norse
- 4 (out of 36) carry relatively clearly identifiable Old Norse personal names with an Old English suffix
- 5 (out of 36) carry relatively clearly identifiable Old Norse personal names with an Old English suffix
- 3 (out of 36) carry relatively clearly identifiable Old English personal names with an Old Norse suffix
- 2 (out of 36) carry possibly Old English personal names with an Old Norse suffix
- 1 (out of 36) clear Grimston hybrid; 1 (out of 36) possible Grimston hybrid



# Ethnonyms in Cleveland Place names

- Birkby (1) [*Bretar* (Briton) + *-byr ON*]
- Danby (2) [*Danir* (Dane) + *-byr ON*]
- Ingleby (3) [*Engle* (Angle) + *-byr ON*]
- Normanby (1) [*Norðmann* (Northman) + *-byr ON*]
- Irby (1) [*Írar* (Irish) + *-byr ON*]
- Irton (2) [*Írar* (Irish) + *-tun OE*]





# Social Clues in Cleveland Place names

- Upleatham (*Upelider*, 1086) [*hlíð* ON with 'ir' nominative/accusative plural ending]
- Carlton [*karl* ON + *tun* OE]
- Lazenby [*leysingr* ON + *-byr* ON]
- Upsall [*upp* ON + *sallr* ON]
- Stanghow [*stǫng* ON + *haugr* ON]
- Thingwall\* (Tingwal 1145–48) [*þing* ON + *vellir* ON]

\*lost

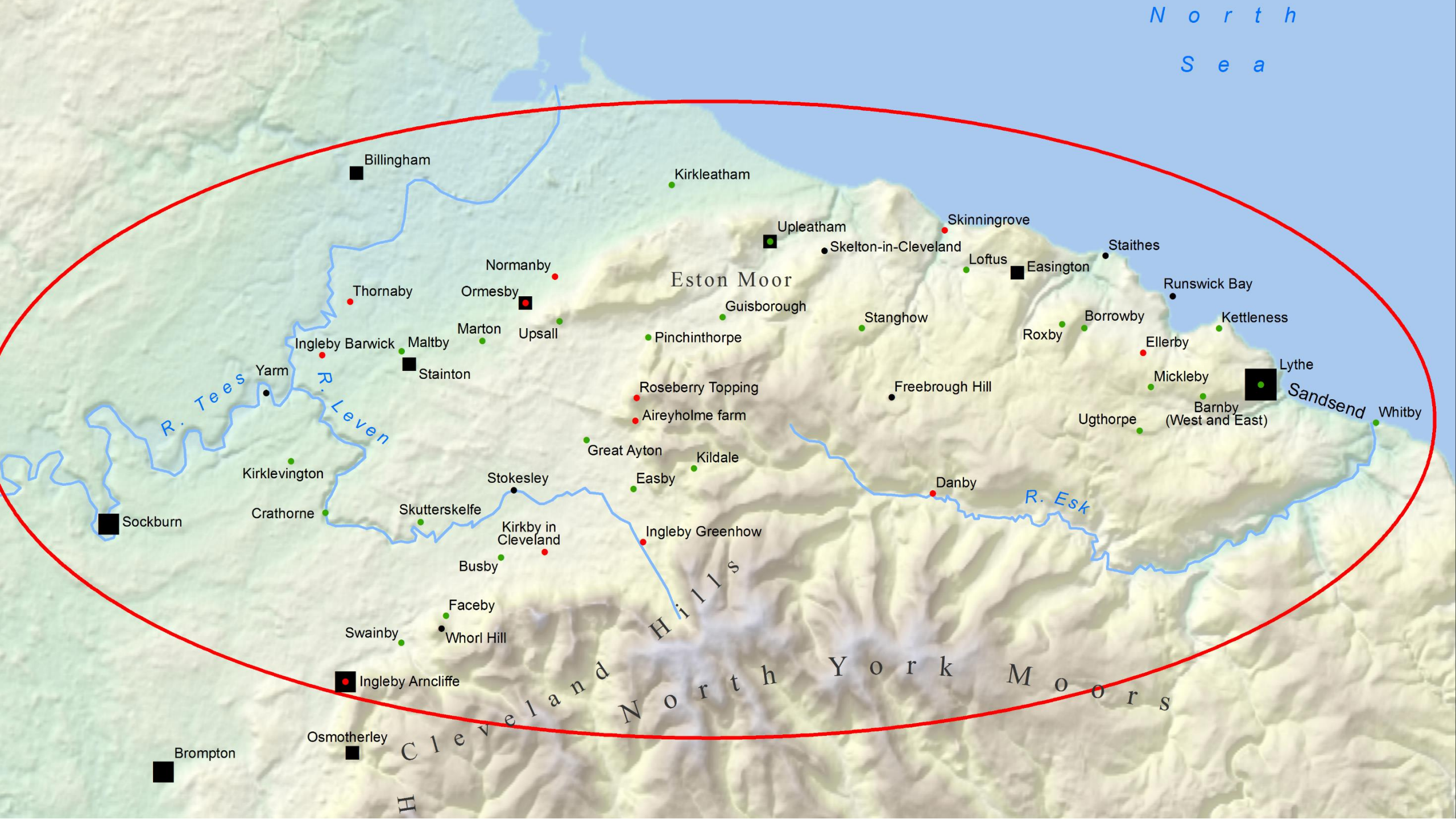




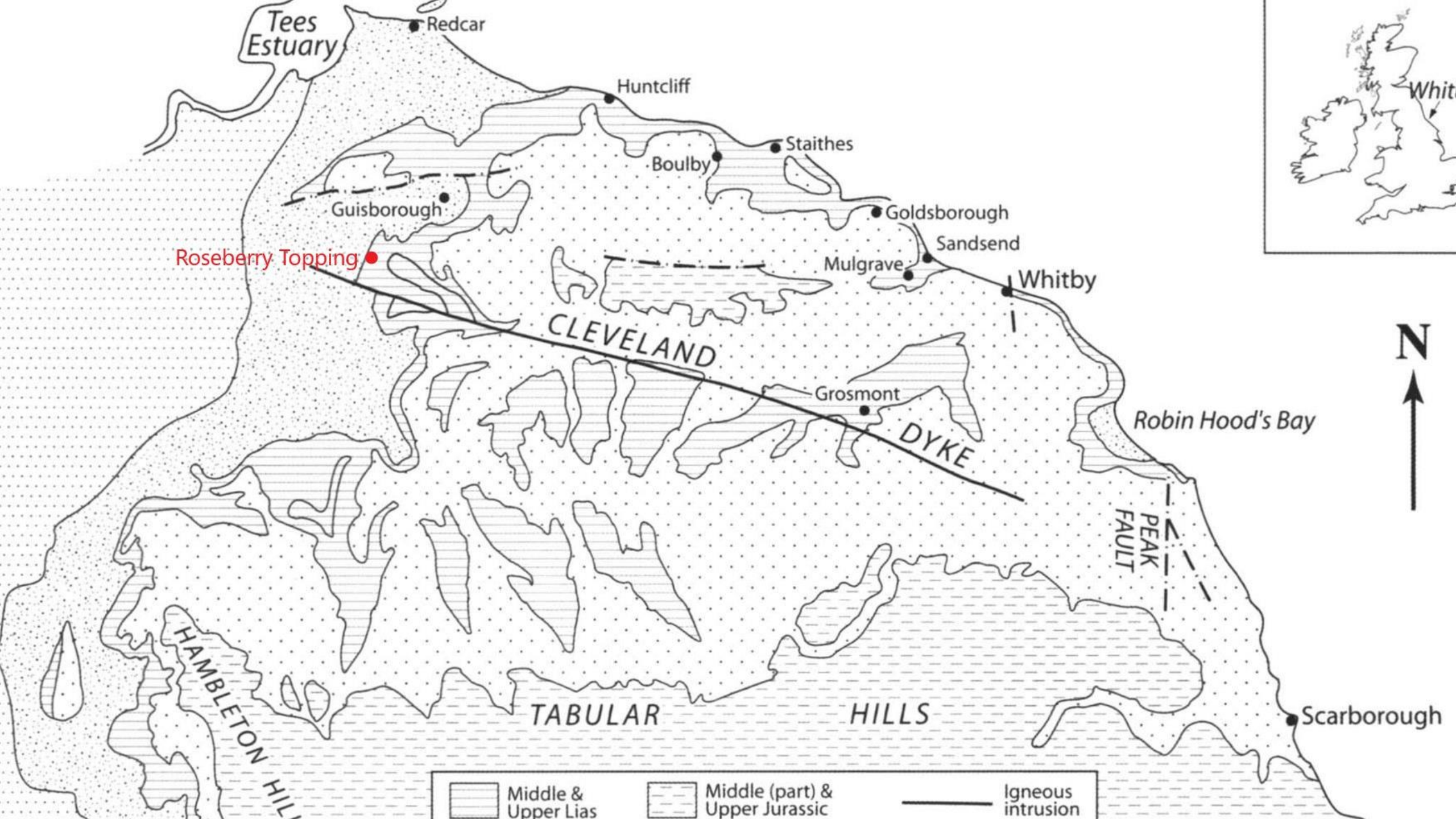
Orm Gamal suna  
bohte Sanctus  
Gregorius Minster  
ðonne hit wæs æl  
tobrocen and  
tofalan and he hit  
let macan newan  
from grunde Christe  
and Sanctus  
Gregorius in  
Eadward dagum  
cynig and in Tosti  
dagum eorl

~ St. Gregory's minster,  
Kirkdale  
Photo: Pragya Vohra











Views and access over the moors

# Aireyholme

*Ergun* (1086)

ON *ærgum* 'at the shielings' (borrowed from Old Irish *áirge*)

Land for crops

Higher land for grazing

Mineral resources





# Irish Sea Connections in Cleveland Place names

- Irby (1) [*Írar* (Irish) + *-byr* ON]
- Irton (2) [*Írar* (Irish) + *-tun* OE]
- Aireyholme (*Ergun*, 1086) [*ærgum* ON (from Old Irish *áirge*)]
- Commondale [*Kolmans* ON personal name (from Old Irish) + *-dalr* ON]
- Melmerby [*Máel Muire* Goidelic personal name + *-byr* ON]
- Crossby [*kross* ON (from Old Irish *cros*)]
- Lowcross [*Logi* ON personal name + *kross* ON (from Old Irish *cros*)]









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THANK YOU