

## Scyt/scit/sceat entries in Alex Langlands' PhD database

Estate	Sawyer	Ref		
St Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Priors	359	100	þonne on ðone weg	then on the way
St Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Priors	359	110	þe scyt ofer ða dic	that shoots over the dyke
Sandford	405	200	oth cridian	up the Creedy
Sandford	405	201	oth thone broc	as far as the brook
Sandford	405	202	the scyt from fileth leage	that shoots from the hay clearing
Sorley, Churchstow	704	20	upon stream thaer rithe ut scyt	up by the stream where the streamlet shoots out
Nymed	795	50	thonne on adune on secgbroc	then down on sedge brook
Nymed	795	51	oth Seo lacu scyt west	as far as where the lake shoots west
Nymed	795	80	thanon adune andlang streames	thence down along the stream
Nymed	795	81	oth riscbroc scyt	as far as the rush brook shoots
Nymed	795	82	on nymed	to the Nymet
Treable	830	61	on hroces fen	to rook's fen
Treable	830	62	oth thaer risc broc ut scyt	as far as where rush brook shoots out
Treable	830	120	up andlang cucanbroces	up along cucan brook
Treable	830	121	oth thaer smael rith ut scyt	as far as the narrow streamlet that shoots out
Peadington	1547	11	on dertan stream	to the Dart stream
Peadington	1547	20	oth wede burne ut scyt	as far as to where the Webburn shoots out
Peadington	1547	200	on lymen stream	by lymen stream
Peadington	1547	201	oth woggawill	as far as wogga well
Peadington	1547	202	lacu utscyt	lake shoots out
Dawlish	1003	181	ut on exan	out to the Exe
Dawlish	1003	190	nither eft andlang exan	down back along the Exe
Dawlish	1003	191	thaer sciter lacu ut scit	where the shooting lake shoots out
Dawlish	1003	200	and swa up andlang sciter lace	and so up along shooting lake
Martyr Worthy (1)	273	10	Ærest ðer sæ dic	First to where the sea dyke
Martyr Worthy (1)	273	20	utt scæt æt þambihtæ	shoots out at the bend
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	240	þonon wæst to cealc grafon	then west to the chalk graves
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	250	þar horo weg utt sceat	where the harrow way shoots out
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	260	utt þurh cealc grafas	out through the chalk graves
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	360	to æscwaldes byge	to Ashwald's bend
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	370	þæt æft to bære dic	then back to the dyke
Whitchurch, fisesburnan, felghyrste and Ashmansworth	378	380	þær hio sciet of terstan	that shoots from the Test
Fontmell	419	470	of þære lege to þanen ealden herepape	from the leah to the old herepath
Fontmell	419	480	þæt schet to blinchesfelde	that shoots to blinches field
			of steortan leage . eall swa þæt heah hylte	from spit lea all so the high holt
Beauworth	444	90		
Beauworth	444	100	scæt to scagan	shoots to the shaw
Beauworth	444	110	of scagan eall swa þio wrid wale scæt	from the shaw all so the root wall shoots
Beauworth	444	120	of hit cymð to woh lincan	until it comes to the crooked lynch
Laverstock	543	60	þonne niper 7lang burnan	then down along the bourne
Laverstock	543	70	swa seo læfer scæt	so the læfer shoots
Laverstock	543	80	to healdan hlince	to the retaining lynch
Laverstock	543	90	þonen swa seo læfer scæt	then so the læfer shoots
Laverstock	543	100	on þæs deopan fordes ende	to the end of the deep ford
Laverstock	543	110	of þam forda swa seo læfre scæt	from the ford so the læfer shoots
Laverstock	543	120	on chypmanna ford	to traders ford
Laverstock	543	130	of þam forda swa seo læfer scæt	from the ford so the læfer shoots
Laverstock	543	140	on hors wylle	to horse well
Laverstock	543	150	þonon swa seo læfer scæt	then so the læfer shoots
Laverstock	543	160	eft on byrhtferpes hlæw	back to Byrhtferth's mound
Alresford (3)	589	290	7lang mearce	along the boundary
Alresford (3)	589	300	ut æt ricg sceate	out at the ridge it shoots
Sorley, Churchstow	704	81	oth tha brocas to gaedre sceotath adune	as far as the brooks shoot together
Sorley, Churchstow	704	90	onstream to wealding forda	downstream to Wealding ford
East Orchard	710	110	of þanne forde adune mid streame	from the ford down midstream
East Orchard	710	120	opes bissopes imare ut sceopap	as far as where the bishop's boundary shoots out
South Newton(2)	766	110	swa seo ealda furh	so it is the old furrow
South Newton(2)	766	120	scæt up to þam stænenan stapole	that shoots up to the stone post
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	60	oð hit cymð to ðæm wege	till it comes to the way
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	70	þe scæt fram hambres buruh	that shoots from hambres fort
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	80	to Æpelware byrig	to the noble folk's fort
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	90	oð hit cymð to þam wege	till it comes to the way
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	100	þe scæt eastan fram winter burnan	that shoots east from the Winterbourne
Avon, Stratford-sub-Castle	789	110	west to billan cumbe	west to bill combe

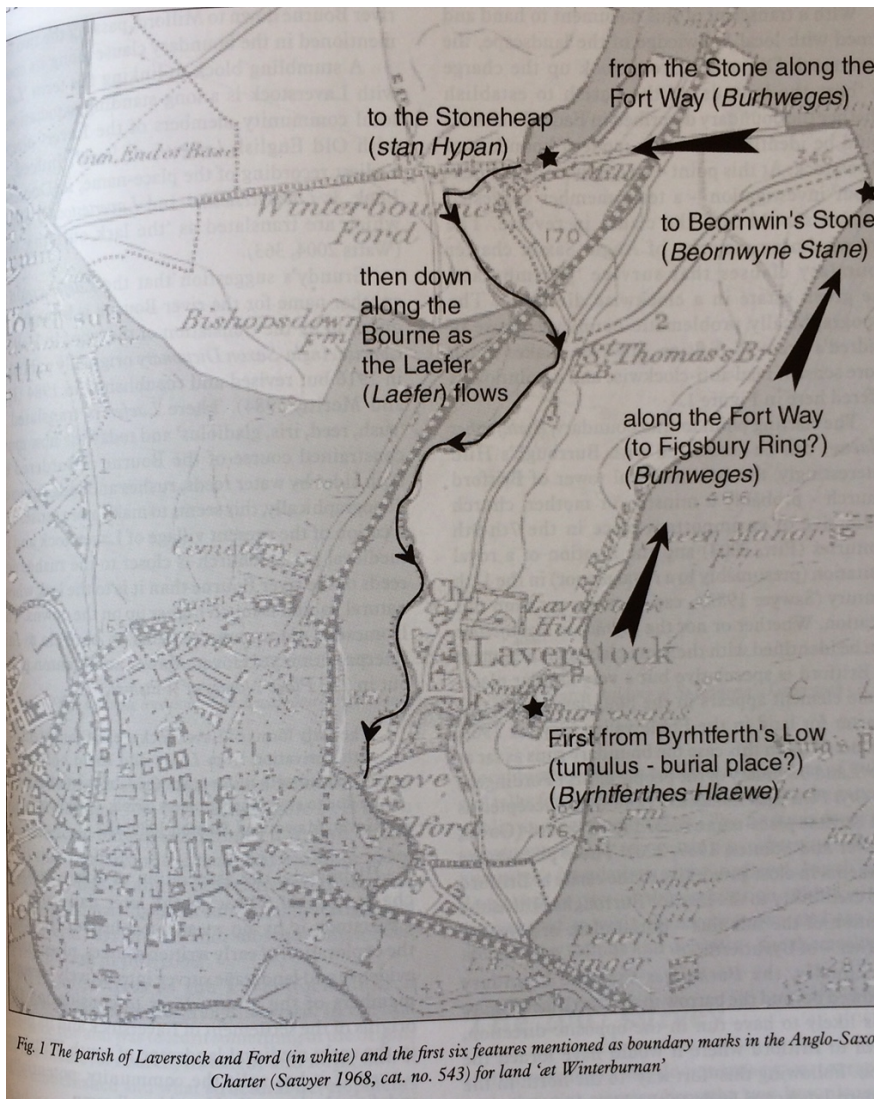
I have previously suggested that the word **scyt/scit** in boundary clauses indicates a right angle turn in a boundary. The word combines movement with a change in direction. In the Romsey charter I think the word describes the outflow of Test into the start of the Fishlake. The Test 'corners' where its water enters the Fishlake. The word also appears in the charter we looked at for North Stoneham referring to a slade, a **haga**, and the Itchen. Our mapping of the charter points located two of these at corners of the boundary.

Alex's database includes a number of occurrences of **scyt/scit** and **sceat**. All are presumably forms of the verb **sceotan**. Alex translated these words as 'shoots'. As we found with the charters in our area, the verb was applied to both aqueous and non-aqueous subjects. The first category includes brooks (**broc**), steamlets (**rith**) and lakes (**lacu**) as well as the Webburn, a **burne**. The lake at Dawlish is a 'shooting lake'; what can **sciter** mean as an adjective? As a verb the word has often been translated as 'flows' or 'runs'. This translation would only make sense where the boundary circuit was proceeding downstream. To me 'shoots' also has the sense of going with the flow. The Peadington boundary follows the Dart 'as far as where the Webburn shoots out'. The Webburn is a tributary of the Dart, flowing into, not out of, it. At Sorley the boundary goes 'up by the stream where the streamlet shoots out'. I would expect a small watercourse to flow into a larger one. The 'shoot' word appears to be used from the perspective of the line of the boundary circuit, not the flow of the water.

There are a variety of non-aqueous subjects that 'shoot' along the boundaries in the database. Most are clearly linear, but not necessarily straight, features. There are four references to a 'way' and one **herepath**. Whitchurch has a dyke and Martyr Worthy a sea dyke. At South Newton the 'old furrow shoots up to the stone post'. The boundary at East Orchard goes 'from the ford down midstream as far as where the bishop's boundary shoots out'. What sort of feature defined the bishop's boundary? The circuit at Alresford seems to be following a physical boundary: 'along the boundary, out of the ridge it shoots, along the boundary'. At Beauworth 'the high holt (wood) shoots to the shaw (thicket), from the shaw all so the root wall shoots'.

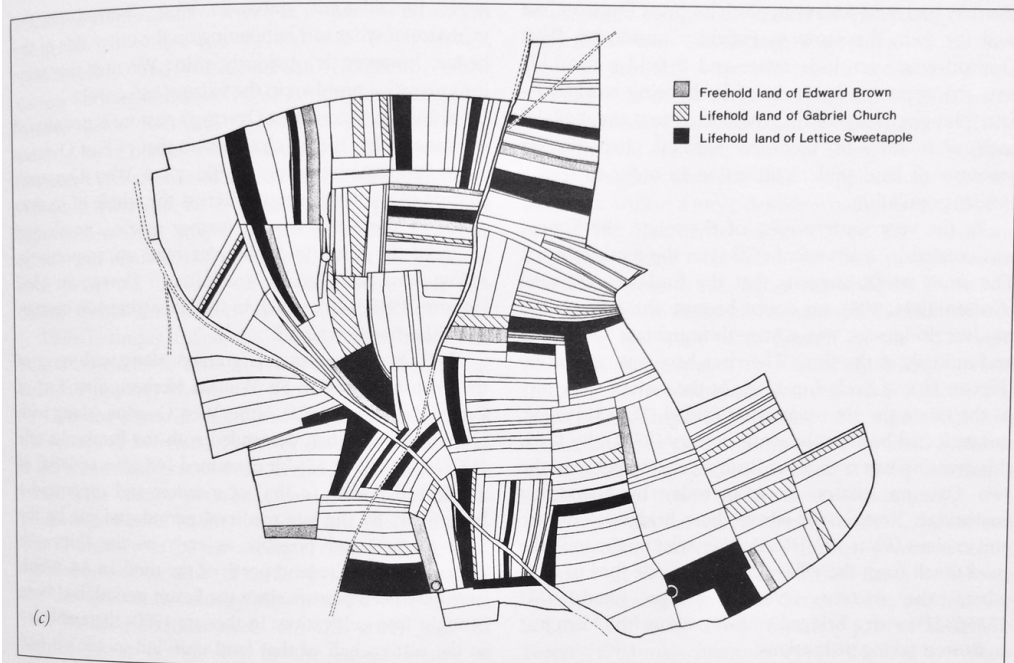
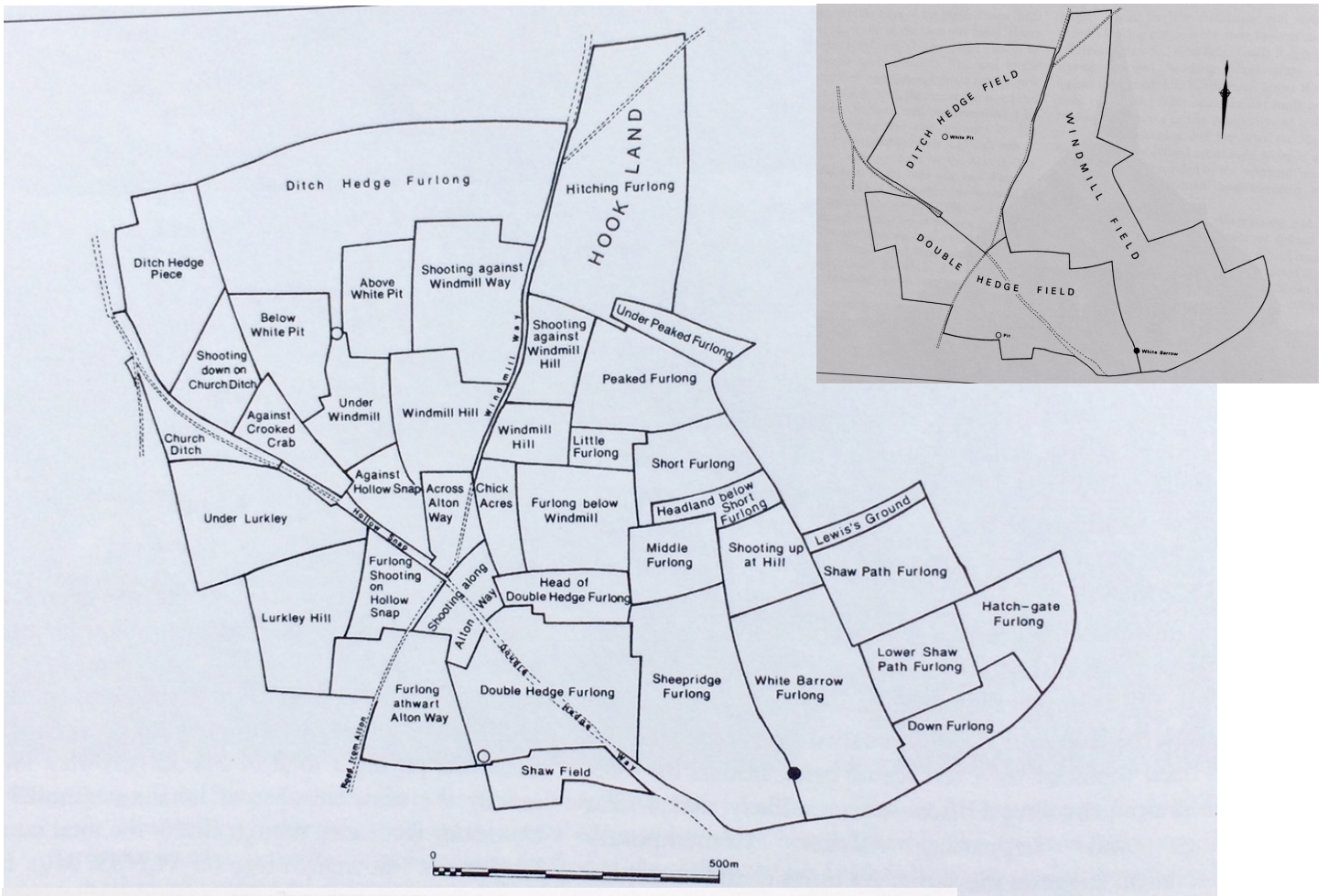
It is not possible to tell from the wording alone the precise meaning of the 'shoot' word in the boundary clauses. It must, however, have had a precise meaning, one that provided useful information for someone trying to follow the boundary. One definition of 'shoot' in Modern English, a word derived from OE **sceotan**, is relevant to the description of the landscape: to extend sharply in a particular direction, eg. "The road seemed to shoot upwards at a terrifying angle". For this usage to be applicable in a charter, the subject of the verb would have to have been visible for a distance from the point on the boundary where it was described. This would be possible in an open landscape particularly where the feature was extending across sloping ground. Solving the boundary clauses in which a form of the word is used would help to define the word. Conversely, a consideration of the possible meanings of the word could help to solve the boundary clauses in which it appears.

The most prolific use of a 'shoot' word is in the charter for Laverstock: **swa seo læfre scaet** is repeated five times. I found it hard to picture the course of this boundary using my rough definition of 'corner' for the verb. Then I found an illustration of a solution to the clause in an article by Alex Langlands (The past on your doorstep: community history and archaeology in Laverstock, *Wiltshire Studies*, vol. 102 (2009), pp. 306-314). This shows the boundary turning through a series of right angle bends as it follows the **læfre**. If the boundary is following a stream, why are intermediate points mentioned along its course? Had the stream, or sections of it, been canalised to flow on an artificial course? The bounds record the **læfre** 'shooting' to various features, first to a retaining lynchet and then to two fords. The fords indicate routeways; the traders' ford must have been crossed by an important route in the local transport network. The boundary was running through a developed landscape. The canalisation of the bourne could have been an aspect of its management.



Alex's map uses Grundy's translations. He thought that **læfre** was another name for the river Bourne and that the verb meant, logically, 'flows'. Following the flow of the river necessarily produces an anti-clockwise circuit, a direction that Alex thinks fits in with the other boundary points. However, he questions the suggestion that the river was called the Læfer. The word appears in Old English dictionaries as 'rush, reed, iris, gladiolus'. I think that there is a clue to the translation of the clause in the name of the estate - **Æt Winterburnan**. A winter bourne is a stream that only flows in the winter, in periods of heavy rainfall. Was its course marked in drier weather by rushes, reeds and, perhaps, yellow iris (yellow flag) growing in the damp stream bed? Yellow iris grows up to a metre and a half in height and would have been especially notable when in flower from May through July. Were the boundary surveyors following the line of the vegetation along the course of the intermittent bourne when the stream wasn't flowing?

The maps below are from *Landscape Plotted and Pieced, Landscape History and Local Archaeology in Fyfield and Overton, Wiltshire* by Peter Fowler, 2000. The book presents the conclusions from a study of the area carried out over four decades. The furlong names of 1794 include a number Shooting furlongs. The map showing the individual strips demonstrates the meaning of those names. Strips shooting on or against meet the adjacent feature at a right angle. The strips in the furlong Shooting along Alton Way run parallel to the road. In all the names 'shoot' is used to describe the relative orientation of the landscape elements.

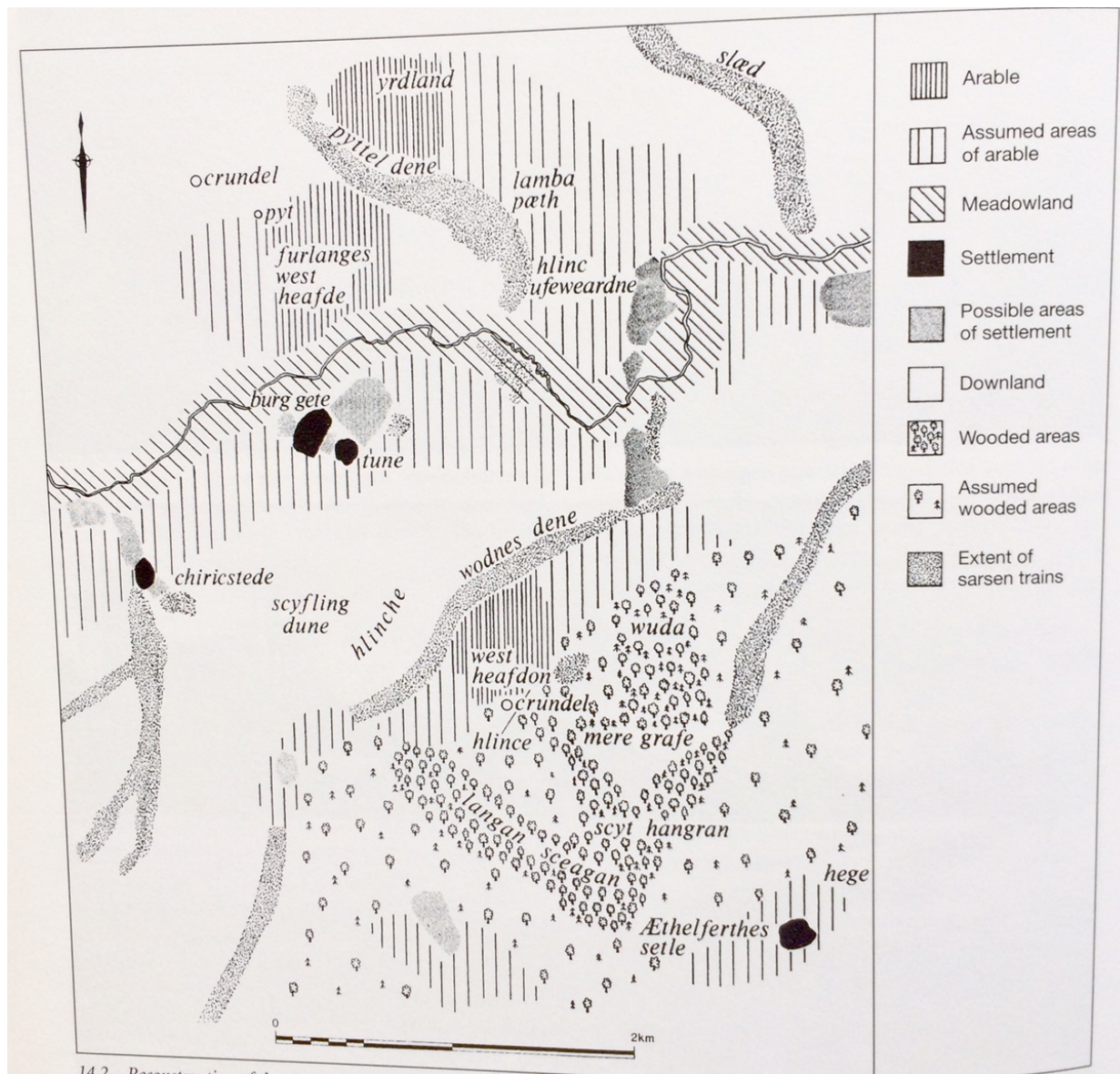


Another interesting name on the map is Peaked Furlong. There are several fields on the tithe schedules in our area with a related name - Picked Field. The peak or pick is a point. The outline of the furlong on the map here isn't particularly pointed. The name must have been derived from the orientation of the strips, converging towards a point.

8.3 Cartographic analysis of the pre-Enclosure open fields of the manor of West Overton, based on a map of 1794. They lay, somewhat unusually, in one contiguous block, over Windmill Hill south and south west of the village and manor farm. The map shows, opposite, top left, (a), the three fields making up the whole of the manor's common arable fields, with two large pits and a round barrow (also shown in the next two maps as visual markers for the reader); opposite, below, (b), the furlongs, with their names, as blocks of land making up the three open fields; above, (c), all the individual strips within the furlongs, with those of three named individuals selected to show the number and distribution of their strips across the thirty-nine furlongs making up the three open fields (cf Figure 16.2)

Fowler's book discusses features mentioned in the Saxon charters for the area. West Overton's charter (S784) is contemporary with Romsey's. The estate of ten hides was granted by King Edgar in 972. An interesting point on the boundary is **scyt hangran**. The second word means a hanging wood, a wood on a slope. The woodland is now called Pumphrey and Pickrudge woods. Fowler (p. 149) cites PN Wiltshire for the suggestion that **scyt** possibly refers to the wood being at the corner of the estate. The charter also refers to a **straetford** where an extension of a **herepath** crossed the Kennet. Fowler (p. 215) interprets 'street' as a reference to a metalled road. He says that the ford is not on the line of a known Roman road and does not think the ford indicates a previously unrecognised Roman road. This is, of course, a good parallel for the street in our charter.

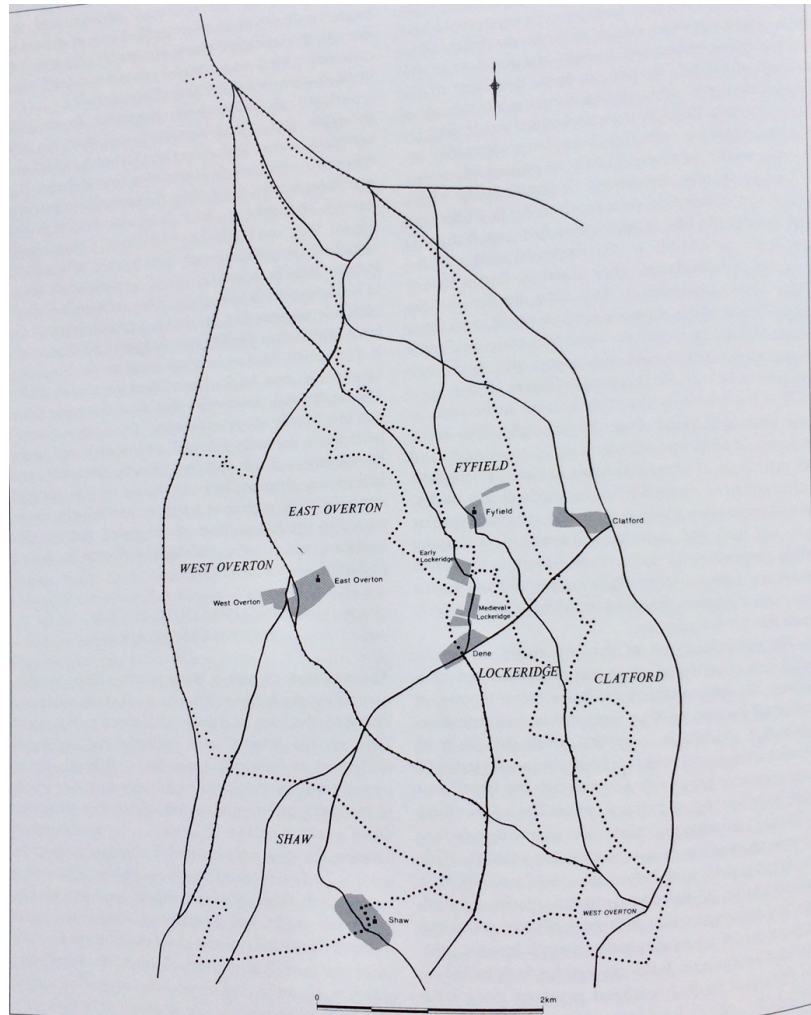
The neighbouring estate of East Overton was granted in 939 by King Æthelstan (S449). The location of the 15 hides in the Latin text of the charter refers to 'a series of off-takes from the Kennet'. Fowler (p. 140, 215) suggests that this refers to artificial water management, to the canalisation of the river. This could have been undertaken for flood protection and marsh drainage or possibly to actively manage the water as a resource. It could have provided water for a mill or controlled the water flow within an early form of water meadow. I think that all of these aspects of water management were undertaken in the development of the Fishlake and Fishlake Meadows.



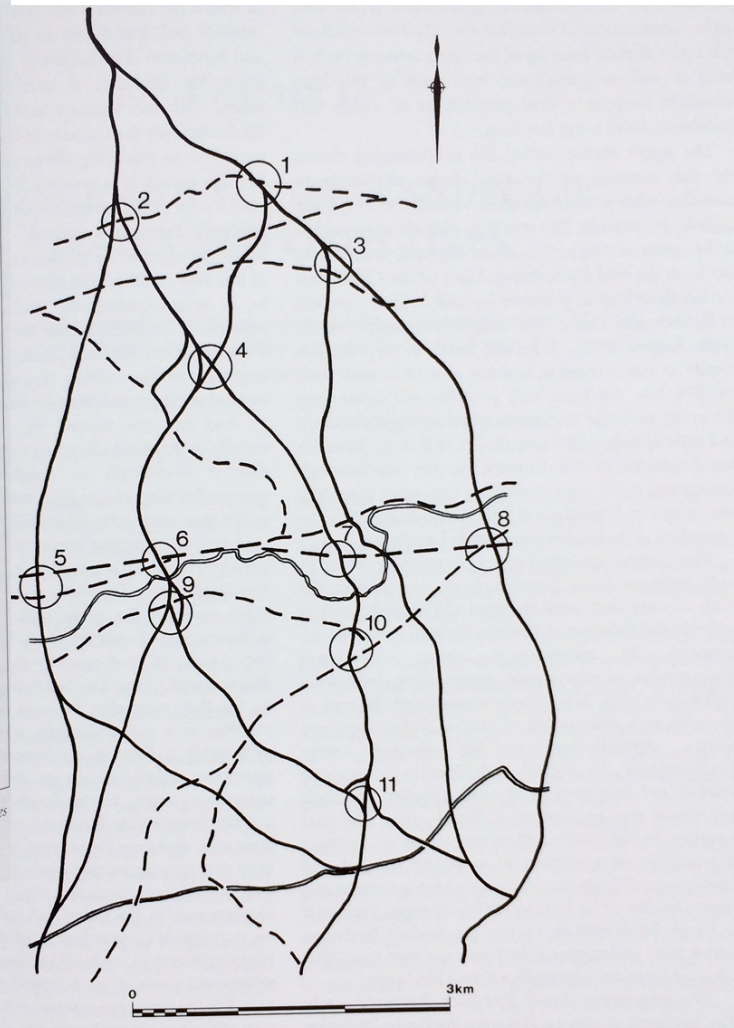
14.2 Reconstruction of the tenth-century landscape environment of the Kennet valley and an area to its south between 'old' West Overton (chiricstede), the south end of the Valley of the Stones (slæd) in the north east and Æthelferthes sette on the two tenth-century land charters for the area, and are correctly located on the ground

The map above shows the location of landscape features mentioned in the boundaries of East and West Overton. The wood **scyt hangran** appears in both charters, with the boundary of East Overton running through the wood. The name seems to be used as a place name rather than a description of a point by boundary surveyors. If the name refers to the position of the wood at the corner of an estate it must relate to a land division in existence before 939.

**Æthelferthes setle** is described in the book as an outlying farm and translated as Æthelferthe's house. It has a parallel in the Michelmersh charter - **Lullan setle**.



16.7 Map indicating those well-attested tracks through the study area which were certainly or probably drove-ways in historic times and are here suggested as transhumance routes, part of an all-embracing 'Ridgeway route', with origins in late prehistory



Diagrammatic map, in part based on Figure 16.7 but using all sources of evidence, plus inference, attempting to identify significant places, 'nodal points', in the landscape. Eleven are suggested, places that have been consistently 'busy' long term, particularly as habitations and meeting-points of roads, tracks and boundaries. None of the places circled could fairly be described as only 'prehistoric', 'Roman' or 'medieval': they all seem to be present in most landscapes irrespective of period.

Above are two further maps from Fowler's book. I have included these as examples of landscape analysis that we should carry out in our area. The map on the left shows drove roads as solid lines and boundaries as dots. The text notes that boundaries often follow drove ways. Are there transhumance droves leading to the New Forest west of the Test? Can we trace the movement of stock towards Hamwic? Charters refer directly or indirectly to routeways. We need to map them before we will be able to look for significant nodal points.