### The Place-Names of Foxhall in Suffolk

## **Keith Briggs**

Foxhall parish is situated on the eastern fringes of Ipswich, in Carlford Hundred. It is remarkable for the richness of its surviving records of placenames of particular linguistic interest; these include several Domesday manors. This is despite the parish never having had a village settlement. It is possible that the current depopulation was caused by the medieval expansion of Ipswich. The soil is sandy heathland, and the land today is partly arable and partly wooded (Martin 1999; Williamson 2005). This part of the Suffolk heathlands is noted for its Bronze-Age barrows, and other early occupation is evidenced by Roman coins and pottery, and a Saxon brooch (Loader 2009; Martin 1976). The history of the parochial boundaries is complex and will not be discussed here. To the west was the former parish of Hallowtree, and to the south-west, extending down to the River Orwell, was the extra-parochial region of Alnesbourne. Parts of these are now in Foxhall, and other parts are in the new parish of Purdis Farm. There was once a church at Foxhall Hall (TM 229437), but this was converted to a barn in the 19th century.

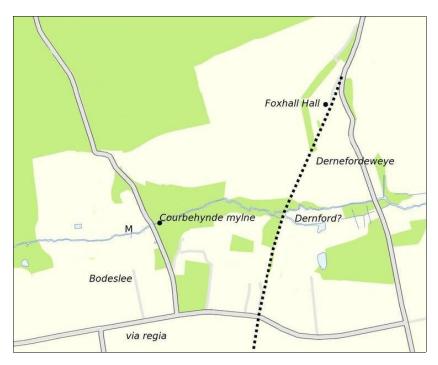
The current farmsteads of Monument Farm, Lodge Farm, Foxhall Hall and Valley Farm may well be on sites long occupied; they all lie in the small valley of the Mill River, and the fresh water of this river, which is fed from numerous springs, is very likely the reason for the siting of these farms. The neighbouring parishes of Brightwell ('bright stream') and Newbourne (perhaps 'nine springs', Briggs 2006), downstream to the east, get their names from the same river and from springs in the same geological formation.

In Foxhall was located Dernford Grange, an outlying farm of Sibton Abbey (about 30km to the north-east), and it is largely from the surviving records of this abbey that we get our information on the lost place-names of Foxhall. Most other data in this paper come from unpublished documents in the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich (SfRO). A rare early map (SfRO HA93/12/1, here indicated *Map*) is also valuable in locating some of these places. It is undated, but post-1545, since it mentions 36 Henry VIII; on the other hand it also shows *Breuer Abbot de Siuiton* (with a curious misspelling

of Sibton), so cannot be dated too long after the dissolution of Sibton Abbey in 1536. Also important is an unpublished cartulary of c.1300 from the Priory of SS Peter & Paul in Ipswich (SfRO HD226/4253/3, here SSPP), which has two charters concerning Foxhall on folio 37.

An important recent archaeological investigation found remains of a Saxon-period settlement and possible church at TM 206423. In the report (Loader 2009) there is much speculation that what had been found is the lost DB *Brihtoluestuna*, and this speculation is based on the fact that DB records *Brihtoluestuna* between Nacton and Levington, both within 5km of the site of the dig. But the evidence presented below, which securely locates *Aluredestuna*, and *Isleuestuna* within or near Foxhall, suggests that these might be better candidates for the site found. Loader also has useful material on the lost site of St Petronilla's chapel and the church of Hallowtree.

The 19th-century OS 6" map has the following names: All Saints Church; Brookhill Cottage; Brookhill Wood; Duke's Hill Wood; Ford; Foxhall; Foxhall Hall; Foxhall Heath; Foxhall Lodge; Gravel Pits; Hightree Covert; Holly Lodge; Knight's Heath; Long Strop; Mill R.; Monument Farm; Mound; Pole Hill; Sand Pit; Seven Hills; Straight Road; Straightroad Covert; Valley Farm; Walk Barn; Wood House; and Woodhouse Lane. This indicates that all of the ancient names (except Foxhall itself) which I will discuss are lost.



Foxhall with suggested locations of lost places. M is Monument Farm. (The river flow is easterly.)

There is no tithe map for Foxhall. Place-names in double quotes ". . . " are artificially normalized non-recorded headforms.

#### FOXHALL

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Foxehola 1086 LDB 386r, 386v
Foxhol' 1196 FF, 1286 Ass
Foxhole c.1225 Sib2, 1281–2 Sib2, c.1291 Sib2
Foxhele c.1200–50 Sib4
Foxhle(e) 1285 Ass
Voxhale 1316 FA
Foxholl' 1344 LS
ffoxhole 1381/2 SfRO rental SA/15/23/8
ffoxall 1571 SfRO final concord HA93/2/365
ffoxoll 1579 SfRO final concord HA93/2/366
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**fox**, **hol**. A common compound referring to a fox's burrow. It is not known where this fox-hole was, but the present site of Foxhall Hall is a reasonable conjecture. The same compound occurs in the pre-Conquest charters S 119, S 1590, S 1599, S 343, S 575, S 647, S 685, S 858. DB also has a hundred-name *Fexhole* in Warwickshire, surely a scribal error for *Foxhole* (EHN1: 135). The items FF, Ass, Tax, and LS above are taken from Baron (1952), to which reference should be made for full source information.

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"Alfredston"
Aluredestuna 1086 LDB 425r
Alfredestun', Aluertun' c.1225 Sib2
Asredestun' c.1245 Sib2
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Ælfræd, tūn 'Alfred's farmstead'. The DB Aluredestuna was previously unlocated, but the data here from the recently-published Sibton cartulary make this identification quite certain. No other candidate sites are known.

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"Alston . . ."

Alstone' c.1300 SSPP

Alstonstuft c.1300 SSPP

Aystonysfford 1574 SfRO HB31/6174

Ayst[on]s or Hailestons 16th Map
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It is quite uncertain whether all these belong together. The first two at least may continue *Aluredestuna*, since another *Aluerdestone* in DB is the

present Alstone in Staffordshire (Horovitz 2005: 84). However, for Alstone, disyllabic forms do not appear until 1586, and we would not normally expect the genitive construction seen in *Alstonstuft*. So we may have 'Alstan's enclosure', from the personal name *Alstān* and **toft**. Or we may have a surname from the lost *Alteston* or *Alston* in Trimley. There is a remote possibility that the last two are corrupt forms actually connected to "*Isleton*" below.

#### **BIXLEY**

Bischelea 1086 LDB 293r, 386v, 406v Biskle 13th Hunt (Trinity rentals) Biskle(e) 1381/2, 1442/3 SfRO rentals SA/15/23/8,9 Bexley 1783 Hod

Various types of place-name containing box or \*byxe, referring to box trees, have been discussed by Coates (1999). However, for this Bixley in Foxhall, all early forms have the sequence -sk-, and the metathesis is very late, and Coates (1999: 33) states that the soil at Bixley is unsuitable for box trees. There are two Bixleys in Norfolk; the major one is in Henstead Hundred and is just south of Norwich near Trowse (TG 258049). It is Biskele, Fiskele, Bischelai, Bichesle DB, and is mentioned in charters of Norwich Cathedral Priory as follows: Bischeleaiam, Bischel', Byskeleyam c.1157; (de) Byskele c.1200; viam de Biskel', (de) Biskele c.1225-50; Biskele c.1250–1300; Biskelee 1272–c.1280; (de) Biskeleye c.1275–c.1300 (Dodwell 1974, 1985). The minor one is Bixley Farm in Silfield near Wymondham (TM 121986), which has been confused with the first Bixley by Coates (1999: 26). The surname of a prominent East Anglian family of Biskleys is recorded in the 12th and 13th centuries, always with a spelling Bisk-, such as William de Biskeley 1203-4 in Hamme, i.e., East or West Ham, in the Essex Feet of Fines (FF Essex 1), and probably derives from the Bixley near Norwich. I examine the place-name Bixley in detail in a forthcoming paper, where I suggest that both the Suffolk and Norfolk Bixleys are from an OE collective derivative of busc 'bush', namely \*bysce, with -sk- from Scandinavian phonetic influence or from a cognate byski for which there is some evidence in place-names, compounded with *leah* 'clearing'.

#### **Bodesle**

Bodesle c.1225 Sib2, c.1245 Sib2, 1300–50 Sib2 Bodesle, bodisleway 1574 SfRO HB31/6174 Bodeslee 16th Map \*Bod(d), lēah 'Bod's clearing'. The personal name is postulated by Cullen (1997: 150) for Bodsham Green. There is a unique Bode in Wiltshire in DB, but this is probably for Boda (von Feilitzen 1937: 204). Boda is common, for example in Bodham in Norfolk. DB also has a Bodeslege in Somerset, but this is apparently the modern Butleigh and has a different personal name. Map shows Bodesle in the south-western part of Foxhall. It is marked on the western side of meadow way, the present Monument Farm Lane (see map above). Matildis de Bodesle occurs 13th in Casenel, a manor which was in or near Foxhall (Trinity rentals). John de Bodeslee occurs 1248 in Fine Roll C 60/69, 56 Henry III (1271–2). Willmo de Bodesle and Rogero de Bodeslee occur in this neighbourhood in the 1327 Subsidy Roll (Sf 1327).

# Courbehynde mylne

Courbehynd, Courbehende 1574 SfRO extent HB31/6174 Courbehynde mylne wasted 16th Map

In HB31/6174, this mill and Dernford mill are described as molendina fullonia 'fulling mills'. The name Curebehind recurs in three other places: (1) molendinum quod dicitur Curebihind (variants Curebehynden, Curebehind', Curebehinden) c.1200 in Icklingham in Suffolk (Kal: 135); probably identical to the molendino de Curebehinden in manerio de Heryngwelle in the unpublished Registrum Sacristae from Bury St Edmunds (Luard et al. 1856-67: 383, 392) which is dated to the 13th or 14th centuries (Bury Arch: 148) and to Curebehynden, courebehinden in a deed of 1250-90 (SfRO 449/2/167); (2) molendino meo quod vocatur Curebehinden 1263 on the Stour near Clare in Suffolk (Stk2: 162); and (3) Curbehind Mill in Itton near Chepstow in Gwent, apparently recorded only from 1650 with the name later being corrupted to Goodbehind (Waters 1958: 28ff. Birbeck 1973: 68, 70, 124, 127, 150). The name probably means 'cower behind', referring to the situation of the mills behind another (the Foxhall Courbehynde mylne was upstream from Dernford Mill). See further Briggs (2010).

## Derneford

Derneford 1086 LDB 442v, mid 13th Sib4, 1363–4 SibEst
Derneford' 1180s Sib2, c.1225 Sib2, 1220–40 Sib2, c.1245 Sib2, 1245
Sib2, c.1265 Sib2, c.1291 Sib2, 1300–50 Sib2
Dernfordeweye late 13th Sib2
Dernford (mylne wasted) 16th Map
Dernford, Dernefford 1574 SfRO extent HB31/6174

derne, ford 'hidden ford'. The previously (and appropriately) unknown site of *Derneford* can be located to the south of Foxhall Hall at about TM 228433, since *Map* marks *Dernford mylne wasted* on the Mill River between Foxhall church and *Courbehynde mylne wasted*, which was near the present Monument Farm. Possibly the pool and earthworks in Lodge Farm are the site of Dernford Mill. A field boundary pointing northwards to Foxhall Lodge may indicate the path (*Dernfordeweye*) crossing *Derneford*. Aerial photographs show a mark extending south from Foxhall Hall to this point, and these may be the remains of *Dernfordeweye*. This alignment continues north-eastwards to join the present Dobbs Lane at TM 231441 and a footpath through the Martlesham Heath housing estate, eventually reaching Martlesham bridge (TM 252473). This complete route is shown on Hodskinson's 1783 map (Hod). Thus this is plausibly a road maintained by the monks of Sibton to reach their grange (see map above).

More details of the topography can be deduced by a charter of Adam of Dernford of the second half of the 13th century (Gervers 1982: 203-4). This states that Adam had land lying east of the way in front of his house between his mill and the Ipswich-Newbourne magna via, and also had heath lying to the east between that highway and the house of Brihtric of *Ingulveston*. It follows that Ingulveston was east of Derneford (i.e. downstream on the river). Somewhere nearby was a bridge; an expense of 2 shillings is recorded apud Foxhole for repairs in 1363–4 (SibEst: 117). This was perhaps on the site of the present bridge on Hall Road (TM 231433), which has masonry in its lower levels and modern brickwork above. Other Dernfords have existed or still exist in Suffolk: in Cookley (TM 345755); in Great Blakenham (TM 111501, lost under Column Field Quarry); and Dernford Hall near Sweffling (TM 352635). Dernford Farm in Cambridgeshire was *Derneforde* 956 (12th) (PN Ca 97). Great Durnford in Wiltshire was D(i)arenford DB. Dunford Farm in Surrey was derneforde in S 353 (AD 889) (PN Sr 109). Dornford (earlier Dern(e)ford) in Wootton in Oxfordshire has given its name to the River Dorn (PN O 2 293).

### "Hallowtree"

(Rober Buire de) Halewetre mid 13th SfRO HD1538/345/1/31 Halyetre, Halgetr' 1281–2 Sib2 Halutre c.1291 Sib2 Halgetre c.1344 Sib2 halgetre, halgetreyerd 1381/2 SfRO rental SA/15/23/8 Halwetre, Halloughtre 1574 SfRO extent HB31/6174 Hallowetree, Hallowtre 1571 SfRO final concord HA93/2/365 hallowetre 1579 SfRO final concord HA93/2/366

### Hallotre 1571 SfRO final concord HA93/2/367

hālgan (weak oblique of hālig), trēow 'holy tree', perhaps 'Christian cross'. The site is unknown; Hallowtree was formerly a parish in its own right. The adjective hālig in weak oblique cases is rather rare in placenames; a close parallel is Hallatrow in Somerset, *Helgetrow* 1086 DB, and we may compare Halstock in Dorset, *in Halganstoke* 998 (12) S 895 (PN Do 4 193). Hallytreeholme in Yorkshire has the more common nominative form (PN YE 72).

Hechstoneswalton
Hechstoneswalton c.1245 Sib2
Hechstoneswaltune c.1245 Sib2

An intriguing name, but the limited data allow only speculation. It is tempting to see a  $t\bar{u}n$  with high stone walls, but this would presuppose that  $t\bar{u}n$  was productive at this date. It seems more likely that we have a compound with the recorded OE name  $H\bar{e}ahst\bar{a}n$  (cf. Hexton in Hertfordshire, PN Hrt 112). Could there have been a  $walt\bar{u}n$ , some kind of enclosure, with OE walu 'raised strip of earth'? Hechstoneswalton is explicitly said to be a piece of marshland, and there is no evidence at all of a place called Walton in Foxhall. A field (cultura) called Waltune or Waltuna is recorded several times in Clare in the 12th and 13th centuries (Harper-Bill and Mortimer 1982–4), and we may note that Walton Hall in Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex (TM 262236) is on mud-flats embanked against the sea.

## Ingleston

Ingoluestuna 1096 LDB 386v, 413r, 442v
Ingoluiston', Yngolfeston', Yngolfeston' 1178–9 Insley (1994: 232)
Igulfestun' c.1225 Sib2, c.1245 Sib2
(de) Ingulvestun' c.1250–1300, Gervers (1982: 204)
Ing(e)leston 1488 SfRO rental V5/4/3.1

Ingulf ODan (Ingólfr ON, Ingulf Frankish), tūn. The DB Ingoluestuna was previously unlocated. There is another in Plomesgate hundred (LDB 317r), which may be an error for the same place. On the Scandinavian personal name, see Insley (1994: 229). Insley states that Ingoluestuna in Carlford is lost; with the present data this is no longer the case. An Ynggolford occurs in a charter entered on the reverse of an unpublished 13th-century rent roll from Holy Trinity Priory in Ipswich (SfRO HD1/9/4). This was probably in Tuddenham, about 5km north-west of Foxhall.

"Isleton"

Isleuestuna 1086 LDB 386v, 413r Isleueston 1169–87 Baron (1952: 141) Isleuestun' 1180s Sib2, c.1225 Sib2

Isleuetun' c.1225 Sib2, c.1245 Sib2

Isletun' c.1245 Sib2

Isleueston 1571-80 SfRO final concords HA93/2/365, 366, 367

ON *İsleifr*, tūn. LDB 406r has an *Isteuertona* in Colneis Hundred which might be an error for the same place. On the Germanic prototheme *İs*-, probably originally meaning 'ice', see Forssner (1916: 164–7). İswulf is recorded in OE. The element -leof is very rare in OE personal names, and apparently in all cases an anglicization of ON -leifr, except for one case of Slavonic origin (Insley 2008). The DB manor of *Isleuestuna* was previous not located with certainty, though Copinger (CopManSf2: 70) equates both the DB Ingoluestuna and Isleuestuna with an Isleton which he places under Foxhall. He gives no source for his form Isleton. The first equation is impossible; we certainly have two distinct places here. For his form *Isleton* and the placement in Foxhall, Copinger probably relied on some document now lost. The survival of the archaic form Isleueston in three late 16thcentury final concords is suspicious, and suggests a mere rote legalistic copying from older sources, and possibly the name no longer had any real meaning. Darby and Versey (1975) give the form *Isleton* without sources; it is likely that they used Copinger. Baron (1952: 141) places Isleton in Brightwell, without evidence.

Purdis (Heath and Farm)

tenement callid purdyes 1561 SfRO HA93/3/47

Purdeys 1561 SfRO HA93/3/48

Purdis 1783 Hod

Roger Purde occurs in this area in 1282 (Sib2: 2) and his family must be the source of the name. A manor of Purdies or Purdews existed in neighbouring Nacton (CopManSf2: 70) and gets its name from the same family. The surname Purdey is of French origin, from 'pour Dieu' (Reaney and Wilson 1997). In a lease of 1364 (Cambridge University Library 8/100), John, abbot of the Convent of St Mary of Sibton grants a grange at Foxhall to Thomas le Warde de Ruschemere and William Purde de Halwetre for 10 years. Scarfe (1988: 144) says of Purdis "its name [is] curiously derived from the ancient church of St. Petronilla", which is impossible.

### **Minor Names**

Le bound ditch 16th Map 'boundary ditch'; survives as an embankment to about one metre high for much of the current boundary with Kesgrave parish, from TM 218445 to TM 234449. Possibly related are Will's Bundich' 13th in Hunt (Trinity rentals) and Rogero de Bundich 1327 (Sf 1327). Brodedole c.1300 SSPP: brād, dole 'broad portion'. Brunnildestoft late 13th Sib2: Brunhilde, toft. Cakeslond c.1291 Sib2, cf. the surname Cach, Chac (Sib4: 121). Cherchelond 1442/3 SfRO rental SA/15/23/9, 'church land'. campo qui vocatur Clac', c.1300 SSPP. The clapper of Tyrrellhall 16th Map, clapere 'rabbit warren'. Hallam is shown on several 19th-century maps of Foxhall in SfRO (e.g. HD11/475/274) at TM 232432. hamm is possibly indicated by Will's de Hame 13th (Trinity rentals) and An extent of sondrie landes pastures and fennes sometimes Hame 16th SfRO HB31/6174. Heddich c.1225 Sib2: hēafod, dīc 'head dyke', perhaps the same as micheledich 13th SSPP. Monument Farm: the name is explained in a letter to the Evening Star newspaper, 27 May 1954. The writer says that the monument is in a belt of trees on high ground, and was erected in honour of George Routh, Rector of Holbrook, who died in 1821. The 1889 10,560 OS map has "Monument" at TM 221433. The monument is inaccessible but visible from the nearby road in winter. Redwellefecd 13th Sib2, 'reed' (or 'red'?), welle 'stream', -fecd no doubt a misreading for -feud or -feld 'field'. sholands ... (unreadable) 1381/2 SfRO rental SA/15/23/8: 'shoe-lands', presumably to provide shoes for the monks of Sibton (Latham 1973: s.v. scolanda; Hart 1972). Scortelond c.1300 SSPP: scort, land 'short land'. Smalemedwe c.1245 Sib2, 1574 SfRO HB31/6174: smæl, mēd(we) 'small or narrow meadow'. Swemanstoft late 13th Sib2: perhaps the name Swetman and toft. Taynteland 16th Map: probably equivalent to 'tenterland', containing tenter frames for stretching cloth, or possibly 'tainted', i.e., disputed land. Turrells Hall 1783 Hod: perhaps on the site of the present Valley Farm. Surely identical to the manor of Tyrell's Hall in neighbouring Bucklesham (CopManSf3: 16). Cf. also 'Tenements called Tirelsfee. Alicia wife of John de Holebrok. I.P.M., 3 Edw. II. 51' in Copinger (CopSf2: 403). Walsheswell 1574 SfRO HB31/6174: at first sight appears to incorporate a surname, but we note Walteri de Walshewelle early or mid 13th (SfRO 1538/345/1/31) and Rob'tus de Walswelle 13th in Hunt (Trinity rentals), suggesting that this is a genuine old local place-name meaning 'Welshman's stream'. Via regia: SSPP has regiam viam que ducit de Brichewell ad Gipuicum 'the royal road which leads from Brightwell to Ipswich' and viam regiam que tendit de Gipuico apud birchtewele '... which stretches from Ipswich to Brightwell'. Though via regia is a common term for 'king's

highway' or simply 'public road', this one is of special interest because it can be identified with confidence with the surviving track and road from TM 204425 to TM 232429, the current Purdis Farm Lane (Sandlings Walk), Purdis Road and Kennels Road. This can be seen running across the bottom of the map above.

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## Errata to 'Clare, Clere, and Clères', JEPNS 41, 7-25 (2009)

The character  $\bar{a}$  is missing three times: p. 15 bottom, for 'an occasional spelling for OE' read 'an occasional spelling for OE  $\bar{a}$ '; p. 16 middle, for 'unavailable for the sound' read 'unavailable for the sound  $\bar{a}$ '; p. 17 middle, for 'OE r' read 'OE  $\bar{a}r$ '.

## Errata to 'OE and ME cunte in place-names' JEPNS 41, 26–39 (2009)

p. 31 top, insert 'and' before Cropelane; pp. 37 and 39, for 'Thompson' read 'Thomson'.

# Addenda to 'OE and ME cunte in place-names', by Keith Briggs

Dr Mark Page of the Centre for English Local History in the University of Leicester has kindly sent me another example. The account for the sub-manor of Holway of the bishop of Winchester's manor of Taunton, Somerset, in 1409–10 records the transfer between tenants of a large holding including 1 acre of overland called *Gropekunteleye* in the tithing of Henlade. The account is printed in *The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester 1409–10*, ed. Mark Page, Hampshire Record Series, 16 (1999), p. 19, where this name is mis-transcribed as *Gropekinteleye*.

A *Gropecuntlane* in Orford, Suffolk, is mentioned in 1500, W. D. Macray, ed., *Records of the dissolved Corporation of Orford, Suffolk*, in *Reports on manuscripts in various collections*, vol. IV, Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1907, pp. 255–78, at p. 259.

It is pointed out by Heather Wallis in *Excavations at Cinema City, Norwich, 2003–6:* late Saxon and medieval occupation, Norfolk Archaeology XLV (2009), 469–87 at p. 472, that PN Nf 1122 mislocates *Gropecuntelane* in Norwich by identifying it with Opie St. The correct location is a lost lane on the Cinema City site, which is immediately east of St Andrews church on the opposite side of St Andrews Hill, and on the south side of St Andrews St, TG 231087.

The reference to *Cuntesik* 1348–9 in Nettleham, Lincolnshire, on p. 34 is more precisely PN L 7 69. There is another Lincolnshire case: *Cuntewade* 1547–80 in Algarkirk, A. E. B. Owen, ed., *The records of the Commissioners of Sewers in the Part of Holland, 1547–1603*, vol. 3, Lincoln Record Society, 1977, p. 24.