

## ***Onwent*: a curious East Anglian agricultural term**

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The term *onwent* is unrecorded in works on agricultural history and field-name terminology, yet occurs several times in East Anglia. An examination of this term reveals that even the more common base term *went* is poorly understood. This article suggests that the word *went* at first denoted a contiguous group of strips with a shared headland in an open field, and that an *onwent* was the shared headland brought into cultivation. Intriguing parallels with similar and much more widespread Dutch and German words are explored.

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The term *onwent* or *unwent* occurs in about a dozen records concerned with land management from Suffolk, and one from Norfolk, yet it is in none of the dictionaries, and it is not mentioned in any of the standard works on English field systems and field-names.<sup>1</sup> Though apparently a compound of the much better-known term *went*, a precise meaning is difficult to determine from the recorded examples. This article therefore has the aim of displaying the evidence for *onwent*, and considering its origin and meaning.

Before moving to the main matter, some consideration of the base term *went* is necessary. There are already problems of interpretation here, for there are clear examples in which the term is applied to a piece of land, yet the dictionaries are largely silent on this particular sense. The noun *went* is generally agreed to be derived from the ME verb *wenden* ‘to turn’.<sup>2</sup> This term *went*, in its concrete senses, is said by OED only to mean ‘a course, path, way, or passage’.<sup>3</sup> The semantic development from an

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<sup>1</sup> The following works have been searched in vain for *onwent*: OED, MED, EDD, NDEFN, Seebohm (1883), Candler (1891), Rye (1895), Gray (1915), Smith (1956), Butlin (1961), Fisher (1968), Baker and Butlin (1973), Dodgshon (1980), Rowley (1981), Field (1989, 1993), Hunter (2003), Hall (2014), and McKerracher & Hamerow (2022).

<sup>2</sup> Thus Modern English *wend* ‘to turn’, also the source of the suppletive past tense of ‘to go’.

<sup>3</sup> OED *went*, *n.*, <<https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/227819>>, viewed 2023-02-20.

original meaning of ‘a turn’ is not completely clear, but the recorded compound *fourwent* ‘crossroads’ is plausibly a place of ‘four turnings’. OED notably does not record any sense such as ‘field’ or ‘field portion’. The senses given in EDD include ‘a way’, ‘a road’, ‘a narrow lane or passage’ (these mostly from northern England), but perhaps there are clues to another meaning in ‘two furrows ploughed by the horses going to one end of the field and back again; also used of harrowing’, and ‘a corner separated from the remainder of a field by some obstacle, such as a road’ (these from Kent and Sussex). The ‘two furrows’ sense could plausibly be derived from the root meaning of *wenden* ‘to turn’, here applied to the turning of the plough. MED gives ‘a path, lane, road; a passageway, an alley’, but copies from EDD the extra sense (though queried) ‘?a corner or part of a field cut off by some obstacle such as a road’.<sup>4</sup> Smith (EPNE 2 254) defines *wente* as ‘a path, a way’, saying that it belongs chiefly to East Anglia, the East Midlands, and the north country.

Let us consider some East Anglian field-name examples with context potentially helpful to clarifying the meaning of *went*. Candler (1891: 177) has undated examples like a went called *Eighteen Acre Went*, and a went called *the Stythe Went, Coney Weston*, showing that the term must have meant ‘open field’ or similar. In an Essex fine of 1240, a place *Pondwente* is explicitly said to be a *campo* ‘field’ (Kirk 1899–1910: 137). A fifteenth-century rental from Bury St Edmunds printed (but not identified) by Addy (1901) has *Half acre of lond lyeth in the same went; and ix acres & j halfe rode . . . lyeth att Nettyl merewent and Grenehowe*. These two examples are unfortunately still ambiguous between the meanings ‘path’ and ‘field’, since to say that a piece of land lay in a *went* might mean that the *went* was part of an open field, or that the piece was accessed from a path called a *went*.

A reference to *one triangle wente* 1577 in Walsham-le-Willows is clearer, showing that *wente* here denotes a piece of land (Dodd 1974: 115). In Coleman (2018: 191), with reference to a document of 1626, it is said that the heath at Fakenham Magna was worked in small strips, many described as *wents*. These might be examples of the ‘two furrows’ given in EDD. The term also occurs in medieval surnames such as *de la Wente* 1275, and *de le Wente* 1327 (Carlsson 1989: 114).<sup>5</sup> Again, it is uncertain whether these people lived on a path, or in (or near) a piece of land called

<sup>4</sup> MED **went(e, n.,** <<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary/MED52214>>, viewed 2023-02-20.

<sup>5</sup> This survives as the modern surname Went, most common in Essex and Suffolk, with an outlier in Herefordshire (FaNBI).

a *went*. All this would be consistent with the idea that a *went* was at first a contiguous set of strips with a shared headland, in other words, a portion of an open field (Figure 1). Another compound which is found is *hedwent*, which, if meaning ‘head of the went’, would be virtually synonymous with ‘headland’.<sup>6</sup>

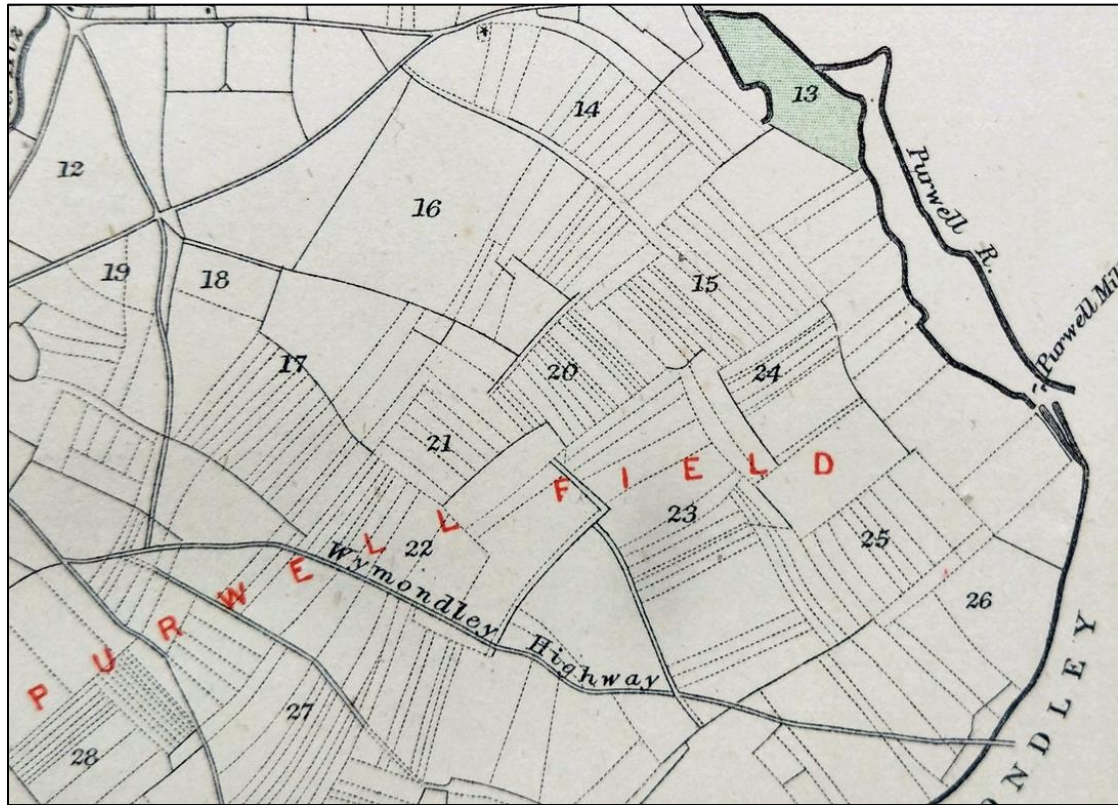


Figure 1: The frontispiece from Seeborn (1883), showing the open fields of Hitchin in Hertfordshire in about 1816.

It is suggested in the present paper that the term *went* originally denoted a group of strips with a shared headland, such as these numbered examples.

We may now examine the term *onwent*. The examples in the list below are all from Suffolk except the last, which is from Norfolk. No examples have been found in any other counties.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Suffolk examples of *hedwent* occur 1470 in Ufford (Suffolk Archives HD1538/402/73), and 1609 in Clopton (Suffolk Archives HB108/4/3/3/6). I thank Stephen Podd for alerting me to the Clopton example.

<sup>7</sup> Martin and Satchell (2008: 37, note 42) noted the term in the glebe terriers of Honington, Thelnetham, Troston, and Wortham referenced above (E14 series), but offered no comment on the meaning.

1. *Onwend* Rendlesham 1205 (Dodwell 1958: 444).
2. *le Onwente que iacet in longum* Yoxford 13th century (Brown 1987: 365).
3. *Vnwente* Culford 1435 (BL Add MS 42055).<sup>8</sup>
4. *close with le unwente attached* Stanton 1494 (Dymond 2009: 359).
5. *le Onwent* Palgrave 1563 (Manning 1890: 237).
6. *lands called the Layes and the Unwent* Sapiston 1608 (TNA E134/6Jas1/East26).
7. *Onewent* Barningham 1613×1807 (Redstone 1903: 279).
8. *Onewent* Knettishall 1613×1813 (Redstone 1903: 290).
9. *tres rodas . . . quar' voc' Little Reydon et est quodda' Le unwent* 'three roods in the quarantena called Little Reydon formerly the *unwent*' Thelnetham 1613 (Suffolk Archives E14/4/1).
10. *I piece ground . . . called an onwent* Troston 1613 (Suffolk Archives E14/4/1).
11. *one roode of land wch is an unwent* Wortham 1613 (Suffolk Archives E14/4/1).
12. *One part of land lying in ye furlonge, . . . and it is an onwent* Honington 1638 (Suffolk Archives E14/4/3).
13. A messuage of 2.5 acres in the Westend near an *unwent* of the manor of Illington in Wretham in a document of 1657 (Norfolk Record Office DUN82, 107X3). The location is about 10 km from the border with Suffolk.

Some initial conclusions can be drawn as to distribution and meaning. The two thirteenth-century examples are near the east coast of Suffolk, and the later examples are all clustered in an area of north Suffolk, close to the border with Norfolk (Figure 1). To some extent this distribution may be an artefact of the accidental survival of records; items 6 to 11 are all from a single collection of glebe terriers. The spelling *unwent* (rather than *onwent*) occurs only in the later records. The description in the Yoxford example *iacet in longum* means 'lying lengthways' (at right angles to the strips or furrows), a strip configuration frequently found in East Anglia under the vernacular term *thwart*, and this would be consistent with a meaning 'headland'.<sup>9</sup> In Stanton, *close with le unwente attached* would suggest that

<sup>8</sup> This example was misread as *buwente* by Bailey (2002: 80) in an edition of part of the text of this survey. The reading *Vnwente* is clear in the original document.

<sup>9</sup> Early manuscript maps showing strips in open fields do not normally show the headland, making deductions concerning the precise layout difficult. There is analysis of the layout of headlands, furlongs, and balks in the west fields of Cambridge in Hall and Ravensdale (1976: 16). Similar maps are in Dodgshon (1980). On the layout of fields generally, see Hall (2014).

the *unwente* was small in area. Two other *unwents* above are described as being of size one rood and three roods; a rood was generally a quarter of an acre, so these are small. In the Sapiston example, the *Unwent* is associated with *the Layes*, which is fallow ground.

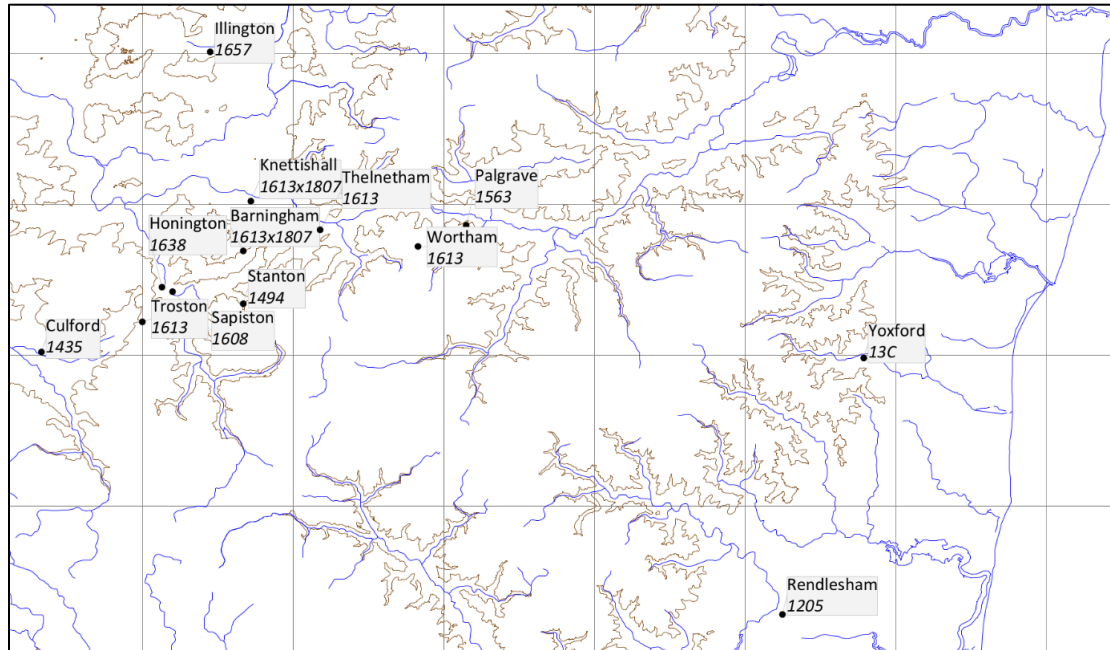


Figure 2: An area of north-east Suffolk and south-east Norfolk with the location of thirteen examples of *onwent*. The 40-metre contour is shown. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011.

An examination of similar words in literary records is necessary. An initial important question is whether the verb *wenden* has ever been used with the meaning ‘to turn the soil’, in other words, ‘to plough, to till’. And if so, could *went* have meant ‘ploughed land’, with a corollary that *unwent* meant ‘unploughed land’? This sense is not given in the dictionaries, but there is one piece of literary evidence which supports it. In the set of twelfth-century English homilies (of East Midlands provenance) edited by Morris, the word *unwend* appears in the context *atlai þat lond unwend and bicam waste* ‘fallow lay the land unturned and became waste’ (Morris 1873: 163). Here *atlai* is the past tense of an obsolete verb *atlie* ‘to lie fallow’.<sup>10</sup> Thus *unwend* here means ‘untilled’, and this is confirmed by the inspiration for this homily, Deuteronomy 32.10, which refers to *terra deserta in loco horroris et vastae*, ‘a desert land, in a place of horror, and of vast wilderness’ in the Douai translation. But caution is needed; the sentence in the homily follows *ac seðen hie henen wenden* ‘but after that they went from here’, so that *unwend* here may have been chosen simply

<sup>10</sup> OED †*atlie*, v., <<https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/12543>>, viewed 2023-02-20.

to echo *wenden*. Apart from this uncertain example, there is no evidence for *wenden* in a meaning ‘to turn the soil’.

The field-name examples above are mostly written *onwent* rather than *unwent*, so even if ‘untilled’ is a possible sense of *unwent*, this word is unlikely to have been consistently spelled *onwent*. Other etymologies need to be considered. OE had a verb *onwendan* ‘to change, to overturn, to turn aside, to amend, to pervert, to return’. But a noun *\*onwent* derived from this verb should become ME *\*awent*, like OE *onweg* > ME *awaye* ‘away’, and several other examples.<sup>11</sup> OED records †**awend**, *v.* ‘to turn, move’, with various extended senses, and considers it to be of multiple origins. In ME, *anwende* ‘get away, escape’ is recorded. But though these words are formally close to the required forms, the senses appear too abstract to have given rise to a field-term.

A quite different proposal would be that *went* was at first simply another word for headland, the end of a field where the plough turns. This seems promising, since *went* could then have acquired its two distinct senses by extension from this one source: ‘a portion of an open field’ by association of the portion with its headland, and ‘path’ from the use of the headland for access to the field. We could then derive *onwent* from the phrase ‘on (the) went’, a piece of land on (or next to) the went or headland. This type of compound occurs in ME words with the prefix *on-* followed by a noun, such as *oncome* ‘a coming on’, or *onfalle* ‘a falling on, an attack of disease’.<sup>12</sup>

Before returning to *onwent*, a diversion to consider OE words for ‘headland’ may be useful, in order to emphasise the importance of this feature to early farmers. OE had *andhēafd*, *anhēafd*, *onhēafd*, as well as simply *hēafod*. Kitson (forthcoming: 119) glosses *andhēafdu* as ‘anti-heads’, but seems to think it means the same as *hēafdu* ‘heads’, the difference being ‘ideolectal’. OE *and-* was a prefix forming nouns and other words with the senses ‘against, opposite, in reply, in return’.<sup>13</sup> If ‘anti-heads’ is correct as a literal interpretation of *andhēafd*, it should probably be taken more realistically as ‘opposite the heads’, or ‘against the heads’.

<sup>11</sup> Wright and Wright 1928: §156; Jordan 1968: §144.

<sup>12</sup> The Yorkshire field-names *Nordwendinge* c.1185 and *le Wending* 1286 are interpreted in PN ERY 328 as ‘turning (in a path or the like)’. The term *waindincq* or *vindinc*, which occurs in Normandy, was suggested to be derived from OE *wending* ‘turning (of the plough)’ by Navel (1936: 434–36). This interpretation has been promoted by Musset (1995: 269; 1996: 312; 1997: 149, 252), along with other apparent borrowings of agricultural terms from OE into Normandy dialect, such as *hovelland* ‘headland’, and *forlenc* ‘furlong’ (Musset 1997: 473). Cf. also modern German *Pflugwende*, literally ‘plough turn’, but used for ‘headland’.

<sup>13</sup> As in OE *andswaru* ‘answer’, *andswarian* ‘to answer’, literally ‘swear in reply’.



Kitson notes that only the two charters S 673 (from Berkshire) and S 881 (from Wiltshire) use both terms together, and then for non-adjacent features. This suggests that *anhēafd* and *andhēafd* had different, perhaps opposing, meanings. S 673 is printed and discussed in Gelling (PN Brk 3 707) and Kelly (2001: 84). S 881 (AD 994, bounds of Fovant and Stoke Mandeville), in its unique cartulary version, actually uses only *to þam anheafdan of þam anheafdan* and not *andheafdan*.<sup>14</sup> S 724 (AD 964, bounds of Hendred in Berkshire) uses *anheafdan*, but with the word appearing as simply *heafdan* in one of the charter copies; the variant readings are printed and discussed in Gelling (PN Brk 3 747) and Kelly (2001: no. 100). It is impossible to know whether this is simply a miscopying, or a replacement by a copyist with a word assumed to be synonymous. In any case, headlands were clearly important as boundary markers. If the term *onwent* is of OE age, it might have the same prefix as *andhēafd*, with loss of medial *-d-* and with the ME change [a] > [o] before the nasal consonant, which is normal in East Anglia (Kristensson 1995: 3).

The idea that *onwent* referred to a headland has promising links to an extensive set of continental parallels, which I now wish to explore in more detail. Early German and Dutch had a word taking forms such as *anwende*, *anwand*, or similar.<sup>15</sup> These are widespread and frequently recorded over a long period. The word occurs already in OHG, usefully glossed as *versura anauuanta* (Steinmeyer and Sievers 1879–1922: iv. 130); Latin *versura* has the explicit sense of ‘turning of the plough’. The word is found in MLG in Halberstadt: *bi dem anewende* 1385 (Kettmann 1963: 25). The fifteenth-century Low German vocabulary edited by Damme (1988: 144) has *Anewendinghe is en rum bi deme rogghen ackere dar de ploch auergheit sunder treddinghe des rogghen* ‘Anewendinghe is a space by the rye-field which the plough traverses without stepping on the rye’. Probst (2010: 119) has an example *ecker in dem anewendel* 1369 from Feudenheim near Mannheim. Dutch had *anewende* as a common field-name at least since the fifteenth century (Moerman 1930: 35; Schönfeld 1949: 65). More examples such as *die Anewe(e)nden* 1442, *de Anwende* 1478, *die Onewende* 1438 from the province of Drenthe are in Joosting (1901: 12, 15, 109, 113). Uffelte, also in Drenthe, records *die Anewende voer den Holte* and *die Oester anewende* in 1438 (Reinders 2013: 17). It is suggested by de Vries (1945: 8) that the origin of the term is an assimilated form of

<sup>14</sup> British Library MS Harley 436 f. 40r (cartulary of the Benedictine nunnery of Wilton), online at <[https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=harley\\_ms\\_436\\_fs040r](https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=harley_ms_436_fs040r)>.

<sup>15</sup> Götz 1925; Schmidt-Wiegand 1985; Schmidt 1989; Renes 2017: 154.

*an de wende* ‘on the turning’, but this is doubtful; the word more likely has as prefix MLG *ane* ‘on’.

The existence of a term *anwende* in German and Dutch is thus assured, and moreover it has a quite precisely determinable meaning. The MHG dictionary of Lexer (1961) has *anwande*, *-wende*, *-want grenze*, *grenzstreifen*; *acker*, *ackerbeet* ‘border, border strip, field, field-bed’. Moerman (1930: 35) offers the interpretation *de Anewende was de tegen een ander gewan liggende acker, die voor het wenden van de ploeg gebruikt werd en daarom wat breeder genomen was* ‘the Anewende was a field lying against another, which because it was used for turning the plough, had become somewhat broader’.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, it is clear why the *anwende* was an important concept. Götz (1925) is a study of *anwenderecht*, a legal right in many areas of Germany from the Middle Ages onwards, for a farmer to turn his plough on another man’s land. Götz cites numerous examples of this right from local statutes. It was clearly intended as a means of getting more land into agricultural production. This theme has been further studied in great detail by Schmidt-Wiegand (1985) and Schmidt (1989). Explicit mention of an equivalent right in English law codes appears to be absent; though Kitchin (1651: 207), in his recommendations as to the running of courts leet and courts baron, states on the basis of an unidentified precedent from 21 Edward IV (1481/2), that *Custome to turne his Plough upon the head-land of another, is a good custome*.

These observations raise two possibilities. East Anglian *onwent* might be a precise cognate of the continental *anwende*, with an identical etymology and meaning. Or it might be a borrowing, introduced by Flemish or Frisian immigrants in the post-Conquest period. The latter possibility would be consistent with the exclusively East Anglian distribution of *onwent*. Borrowings into English from Dutch are studied by Llewellyn (1936) and Trudgill (2013, 2021: 129–32). They do include words for mundane topographical concepts, a surprising fact as it might be thought that there was no need for such borrowings. Examples include *doole* ‘boundary-stone’, and *shingle* ‘pebble beach’ (Briggs 2020b). Both are found in East Anglia, so viewed in this context *onwent* is not implausible as a borrowing.<sup>17</sup>

Ultimately it is not possible to determine a definite etymology and meaning for *onwent* from the available evidence. But consistent with that evidence would be the hypothesis that *went* at first denoted a headland, the

<sup>16</sup> Moerman also suggests a confusion with an unrelated term *wenning*, referring to the ‘winning’ of land by one field of another.

<sup>17</sup> I have also proposed that *girl* is such a borrowing (Briggs 2020a, 2021).



place where the plough turns, but later came to mean simply ‘a portion of an open field’ in East Anglia, and ‘path’ elsewhere. The derivative term *onwent* then denoted a piece of land, either a headland brought into cultivation, or a piece adjacent to a headland. These tentative conclusions raise new questions for agricultural historians. Was there anywhere in England a concept equivalent to *anwenderecht*, possibly introduced from the continent, and was the term *anwende* borrowed into English as *onwent*, in order to describe this right? And furthermore, was the cultivation of the *onwent* a response to a need to bring more land into production at some specific point in time?

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### Abbreviations

OHG = Old High German; MHG = Middle High German; MLG = Middle Low German.

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## Abbreviations

Please note: all abbreviations are given in Roman type, regardless of publication status. Suggestions for additions to the list of abbreviations may be sent to the editor at <jepns@nottingham.ac.uk>.

BCS	Birch, Walter de Gray, ed. (1885–99), <i>Cartularium saxonicum</i> , 3 vols + index (London: Whiting, Charles J. Clark)
Bd	Bedfordshire
BL	The British Library
Bodl	The Bodleian Library
Bosworth-Toller	Bosworth, Joseph, and T. Northcote Toller (1898), <i>An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press), available online as the <i>Bosworth-Toller Anglo-Saxon Dictionary</i> [2013] (Prague: Charles University) < <a href="http://bosworth.ff.cuni.cz">http://bosworth.ff.cuni.cz</a> >
Brk	Berkshire
Bu	Buckinghamshire
Ca	Cambridgeshire
CDEPN	Watts, Victor (2004), <i>The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
Ch	Cheshire
Co	Cornwall
CPNE	Padel, O. J. (1985), <i>Cornish Place-Name Elements</i> , EPNS 56/57 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Cu	Cumberland
D	Devon
Db	Derbyshire
DBPN	Mills, A. D. (2011), <i>A Dictionary of British Place-Names</i> (Oxford: Oxford UP)
DEPN	Ekwall, Eilert (1960), <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i> , 4th edn (Oxford: Clarendon) [this edn unless otherwise indicated]
Dict Du	Watts, Victor (2002), <i>A Dictionary of County Durham Place-Names</i> , EPNS Popular Series 3 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Dict IoM	Broderick, George (2006), <i>A Dictionary of Manx Place-Names</i> , EPNS Popular Series 4 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Dict LD	Whaley, Diana (2006), <i>A Dictionary of Lake District Place-Names</i> , EPNS Regional Series 1 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Dict LeR	Cox, Barrie (2005), <i>A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names</i> , EPNS Popular Series 5 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Dict Li	Cameron, Kenneth (1998), <i>A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names</i> , EPNS Popular Series 1 (Nottingham: EPNS)
Dict Sf	Briggs, Keith, and Kelly Kilpatrick (2016), <i>A Dictionary of Suffolk Place-Names</i> , EPNS Popular Series 6 (Nottingham: The Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History in association with the EPNS)

Do	Dorset
DOE	Cameron, Angus, Ashley Crandell Amos, Antonette diPaolo Healey et al. (2018), <i>Dictionary of Old English: A to I Online</i> (Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project) < <a href="https://tapor.library.utoronto.ca/doe/">https://tapor.library.utoronto.ca/doe/</a> >
DOST	Craigie, William Alexander, et al. (1931–2002), <i>A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue from the Twelfth Century to the End of the Seventeenth</i> , 12 vols (Oxford: Oxford UP) [see also DSL]
DSL	<i>Dictionary of the Scots Language</i> (Scottish Language Dictionaries): < <a href="http://www.dsl.ac.uk">www.dsl.ac.uk</a> > [online edn of DOST and SND]
Du	Durham
EDD	Wright, Joseph, ed. (1898–1905), <i>English Dialect Dictionary</i> , 5 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
EFN	Field, John (1972), <i>English Field-Names: A dictionary</i> (Newton Abbot: David & Charles)
EPNE	A. H. Smith (1956), <i>English Place-Name Elements</i> , 2 vols, EPNS 25 and 26 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
EPNS	English Place-Name Society/English Place-Name Survey
ERN	Ekwall, Eilert (1928), <i>English River-Names</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press)
ERY	East Riding of Yorkshire
Ess	Essex
FaNBI	Hanks, Patrick, Richard Coates and Peter McClure, eds (2016), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland</i> , 4 vols (Oxford: Oxford UP)
Gl	Gloucestershire
GPC	Thomas, R. J. (1950–2002), <i>Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru</i> (Cardiff: University of Wales Press)
Ha	Hampshire
He	Herefordshire
Hrt	Hertfordshire
Hu	Huntingdonshire
IE	Indo-European
JEPNS	<i>Journal of the English Place-Name Society</i>
K	Kent
KCD	Kemble, J. M., ed. (1839–48; repr. 2011), <i>Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici</i> , 6 vols (London: Sumptibus Societatis; repr. Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
La	Lancashire
Le	Leicestershire
LHEB	Jackson, Kenneth (1953), <i>Language and History in Early Britain</i> (Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP)
Li	Lincolnshire
LPN	Gelling, Margaret, and Ann Cole (2014), <i>The Landscape of Place-Names</i> , new edn (Donington: Shaun Tyas)
ME	Middle English
MED	McSparran, Frances, ed. (2013), <i>Middle English Dictionary</i> (University of Michigan): < <a href="https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med/">https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med/</a> >
ModE	Modern English
Mx	Middlesex

Nb	Northumberland
NDEFN	Cavill, Paul (2018), <i>A New Dictionary of English Field-Names</i> (Nottingham: EPNS)
Nf	Norfolk
NRy	North Riding of Yorkshire
Nt	Nottinghamshire
Nth	Northamptonshire
O	Oxfordshire
ODan	Old Danish
OE	Old English
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> , online edition: < <a href="http://www.oed.com">http://www.oed.com</a> >
OIr	Old Irish
ON	Old Norse
OS	Ordnance Survey
OScand	Old Scandinavian
pers.n.	personal name
p.n.	place-name
PN BdHu	Mawer, Allen, and F. M. Stenton (1926), <i>The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire</i> , EPNS 3 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Brk	Gelling, Margaret (1973–76), <i>The Place-Names of Berkshire</i> , EPNS 49–51 (Nottingham: EPNS)
PN Bu	Mawer, Allen, and F. M. Stenton (1925), <i>The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire</i> , EPNS 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Ca	Reaney, P. H. (1943), <i>The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely</i> , EPNS 19 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Ch	Dodgson, John McNeal (1970–81), <i>The Place-Names of Cheshire</i> , parts 1–5(1:ii), EPNS 44–48 and 54 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP and Nottingham: EPNS); Dodgson, John McNeal, and Alexander R. Rumble (1998), <i>The Place-Names of Cheshire</i> , part 5(2), EPNS 74 (Nottingham: EPNS)
PN Cu	Armstrong, A. M., A. Mawer, F. M. Stenton and Bruce Dickins (1950–52), <i>The Place-Names of Cumberland</i> , EPNS 20–22 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN D	Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton (1931–32), <i>The Place-Names of Devon</i> , 2 vols, EPNS 8–9 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Db	Cameron, Kenneth (1959), <i>The Place-Names of Derbyshire</i> , EPNS 27–29 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Do	Mills, A. D. (1977–2010), <i>The Place-Names of Dorset</i> , 5 vols, EPNS 53–54, 59/60, 86/87 and 94 (Nottingham: EPNS)
PN Du	Watts, Victor (2007), <i>The Place-Names of County Durham</i> , EPNS 83 (Nottingham: EPNS)
PN Ess	Reaney, P. H. (1935), <i>The Place-Names of Essex</i> , EPNS 12 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN ERY	Smith, A. H. (1937), <i>The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York</i> , EPNS 14 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Gl	Smith, A. H. (1964–65), <i>The Place-Names of Gloucestershire</i> , 4 vols, EPNS 38–41 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)



- PN Hrt Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton (1938), *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*, EPNS 15 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN Le Cox, Barrie (1998–2019), *The Place-Names of Leicestershire*, 8 vols, EPNS 75, 78, 81, 84, 88, 90–91 and 93 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN Li Cameron, Kenneth (1985–91), *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, parts 1–2, EPNS 58 and 64/65 (Nottingham: EPNS); Cameron, Kenneth, with John Field and John Insley, *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, parts 3–6, EPNS 66, 71, 73 and 77 (Nottingham: EPNS); Cameron, Kenneth, and John Insley with Jean Cameron (2010), *The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, part 7 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN Mx Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, with the collaboration of S. J. Madge (1942), *The Place-Names of Middlesex*, EPNS 18 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN Nf Sandred, Karl Inge, and Bengt Lindström (1989), *The Place-Names of Norfolk*, part 1, EPNS 61 (Nottingham: EPNS); Sandred, Karl Inge, with B. Cornford, B. Lindström, and P. Rutledge (1996), *The Place-Names of Norfolk*, part 2, EPNS 62 (Nottingham: EPNS); Sandred, Karl Inge (2002), *The Place-Names of Norfolk*, part 3 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN NRY Smith, A. H. (1928), *The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire*, EPNS 5 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN Nt Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton (1940), *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*, EPNS 17 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN Nth Gover, J. E. B., and F. M. Stenton (1933), *The Place-Names of Northamptonshire*, EPNS 10 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN O Gelling, Margaret (1953–54), *The Place-Names of Oxfordshire*, 2 vols, EPNS 23–24 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN R Cox, Barrie (1994), *The Place-Names of Rutland*, EPNS 47–49 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN Sa Gelling, Margaret, in collaboration with H. D. G. Foxall (1990–2012), *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, 6 vols, EPNS 62/63, 70, 76, 80, 82 and 89 (Nottingham: EPNS); Baker, John, with Sarah Beach (2018), *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, part 7, EPNS 92 (Nottingham: EPNS); Baker, John and Jayne Carroll, with Sarah Beech and Helen Watt (2020), *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, part 8, EPNS 95 (Nottingham: EPNS); Cavill, Paul, with Sarah Beech (2020), *The Place-Names of Shropshire*, part 9, EPNS 96 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN Sr Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, in collaboration with A. Bonner (1934), *The Place-Names of Surrey*, EPNS 11 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN St Oakden, J. P. (1984), *The Place-Names of Staffordshire*, EPNS 55 (Nottingham: EPNS)
- PN Sx Mawer, A., and F. M. Stenton with J. E. B. Gover (1929–30), *The Place-Names of Sussex*, 2 vols, EPNS 6–7 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN W Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton (1939), *The Place-Names of Wiltshire*, EPNS 16 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
- PN Wa Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, in collaboration with F. T. S. Houghton (1936), *The Place-Names of Warwickshire*, EPNS 13 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)

PN We	Smith, A. H. (1967), <i>The Place-Names of Westmorland</i> , 2 vols, EPNS 42–43 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN Wo	Gover, J. E. B., A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, in collaboration with F. T. S. Houghton (1927), <i>The Place-Names of Worcestershire</i> , EPNS 4 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
PN WRY	Smith, A. H. (1961–63), <i>The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire</i> , 8 vols, EPNS 30–37 (Cambridge: Cambridge UP)
R	Rutland
S	Sawyer, P. H. (1968), <i>Anglo-Saxon Charters. An annotated list and bibliography</i> . Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks 8 (London: Offices of the Royal Historical Society) [The Electronic Sawyer: < <a href="http://www.esawyer.org.uk">http://www.esawyer.org.uk</a> > (2016)]
Sa	Shropshire
Sf	Suffolk
SND	Grant, William, et al., eds (1931–76), <i>The Scottish National Dictionary</i> (Edinburgh: The Scottish National Dictionary Association) [see also DSL]
So	Somerset
Sr	Surrey
St	Staffordshire
Su	Sussex
TNA	The National Archives
UP	University Press
VCH	Victoria County Histories published by the Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London
VEPN	<b>1</b> Parsons, David, and Tania Styles with Carole Hough (1997), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Á–Box)</i> (Nottingham: Centre for English Name-Studies); <b>2</b> Parsons, David N. and Tania Styles (2000), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Brace–Cæster)</i> (Nottingham: Centre for English Name-Studies); <b>3</b> Parsons, David N. (2004), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Ceafor–Cock-pit)</i> (Nottingham: EPNS)
W	Wiltshire
Wa	Warwickshire
We	Westmorland
Wo	Worcestershire
WRY	West Riding of Yorkshire
Wt	Isle of Wight
Y	Yorkshire