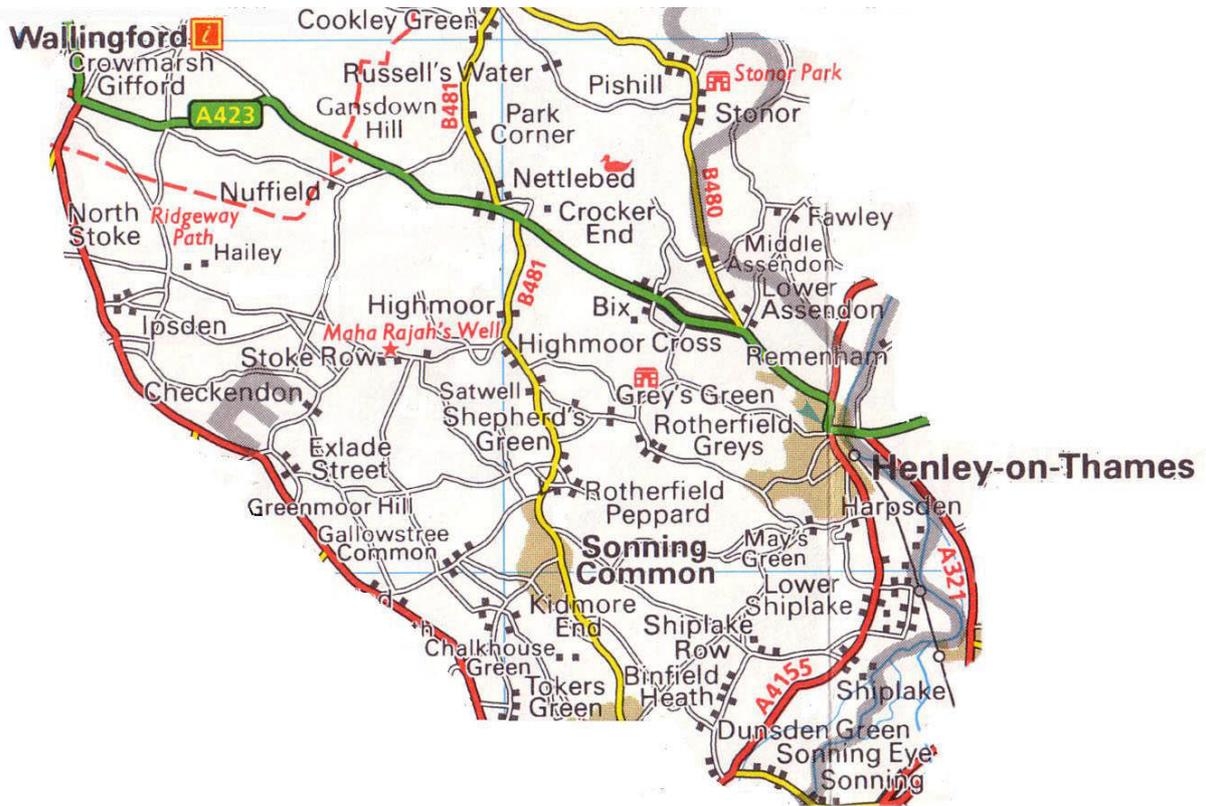


South Oxfordshire Place Names

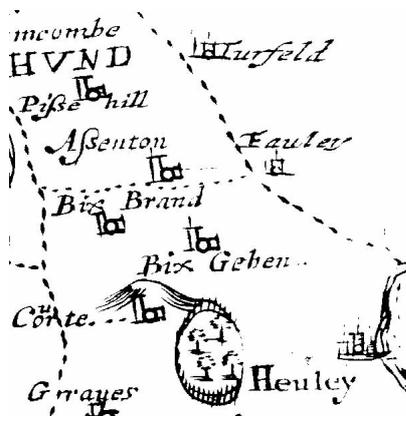


Assendon

The name derives from Assundene in the late 10th century meaning valley of the ass, or of a man called Assa. There have been three villages of that name, Lower Assendon, Middle Assendon and Upper Assendon. The latter is now known as Stonor, after Stonor Park.

Assendon has had other spellings on the county maps of Oxfordshire;

Blome 1673 (*Afsenton*)



Kitchin 1764 (*Afsenton*)



Cary/Stockdale 1805 (*Afsington*)

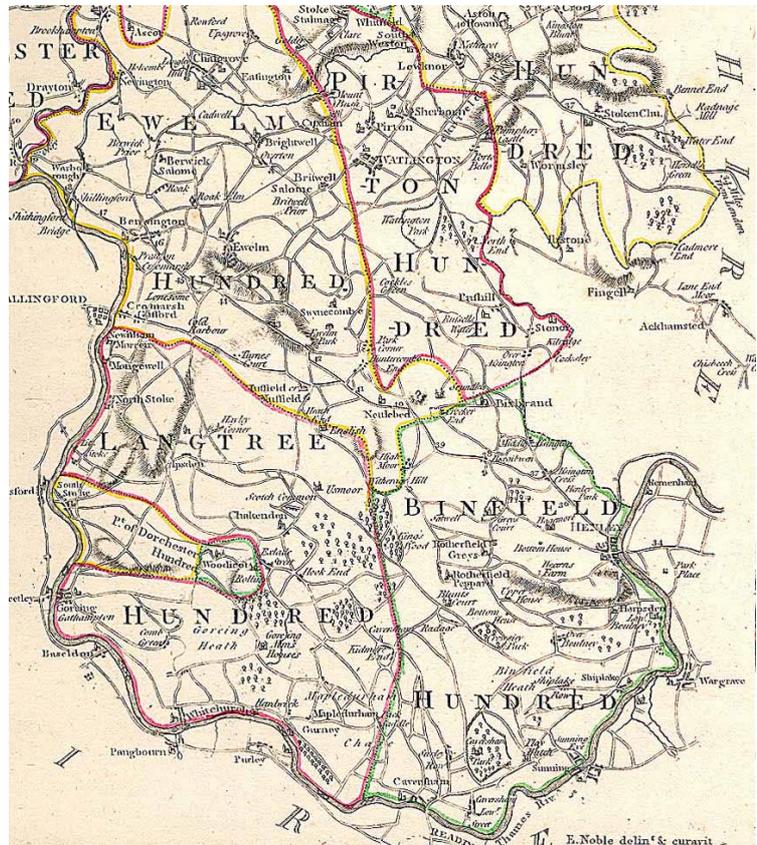


Binfield

The name Binfield was used for the Chiltern Hundred containing Assendon and Henley. It derives from the 12th century Benifield, meaning land where bent grass grows.

The village of Binfield is first recorded on Oxfordshire county maps in the 16th century. The suffix Heath was added to the South Oxfordshire village to make it Binfield Heath. Another village called Binfield is in Berkshire.

Kitchin 1764 (Binfield)



Cary/Stockdale 1805

Bix

The name is recorded in the Domesday Book as Bixa, meaning box-tree wood. In Old English the name was Byxe.

There are two locations called Bix.

What is now Bix Bottom has also been recorded as Bixbrand and Bix Brand. It was situated on the road from Assendon to Park Corner and was the site of the Norman St. James church. The road became less important and was allowed to deteriorate, being now just an unmade track.

Modern day Bix, on the A4130 (formerly A423) road north of Henley has been called Beckes, Becks, Bixgibwen and Bix Geben on the county maps of Oxfordshire. Its importance increased with the building of a turnpike road to Oxford from Henley.

The River Harp is a small stream that flows into the River Thames from Harpsden Court. It is usually not seen, but in the wet winter of 2000-2001, it flowed visibly.



The River Harp flowing in 2001



Henley-on-Thames

The name is recorded in the 12th century as Henleiam. Its meaning in Old English is chief wood or clearing. The suffix on-Thames was not added to the name until the 19th century, initially as Henley-upon-Thames. The name Thames comes from Tamesis in the 1st century BC and is an ancient Celtic name meaning dark river.

The spelling Henley has been consistently recorded on the county maps of Oxfordshire, as can be seen in the extracts shown for previous place names.

Highmoor and Highmoor Cross

Until the 20th century these villages were recorded as Highmore and Highmore Cross on the county maps of Oxfordshire:

Seller/Grosse 1773 (*Highmore*)



Letts 1900 (*Highmore and Highmore Cross*)



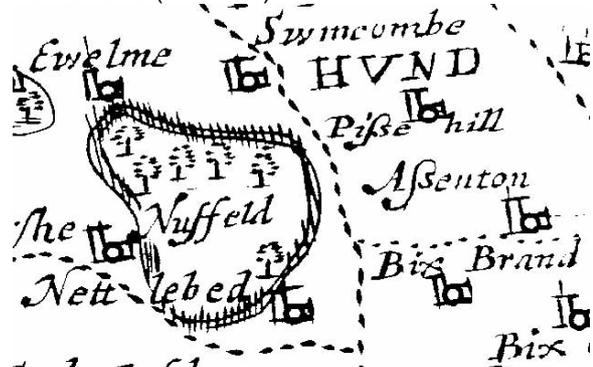
Pishill

The name is recorded in the 12th century as Pesehull, meaning a hill where peas grow. It has been variously recorded as Pifse Hill, Pusill, Pushill and Pishill on the county maps of Oxfordshire:

Caxton/Hole 1607 (*Pufill*)



Blome 1673 (*Pifse hill*)



Wallis 1812 (*Pushill*)



Moule 1837 (*Pishill*)



Rotherfield (Rotherfield Greys and Rotherfield Peppard)

In Old English, Rotherfield means land where cattle graze. The suffix Greys refers to the manorial land of the de Gray family and the suffix Peppard refers to the manorial land of the Pipard family. Greys Court, now owned by the National Trust, bears witness to the existence of the manor of Rotherfield Greys.

There are several variations on the names on the county maps of Oxfordshire:

Caxton/Hole 1607 (*Grayes court, Grayes, Rotherfeld pepp.*)



Blome 1673 (*Grayes Courte, Grayes, Rotherfeld peper*)



Kitchin 1764 (*Peppar Green*)



Wallis 1812 (*Rotherfield Greys, Rotherfield Peppard*)



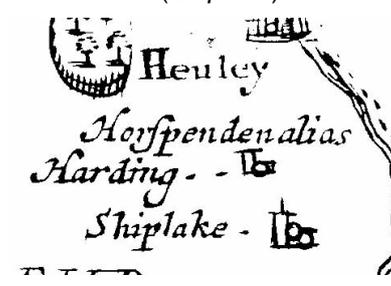
Shiplake

The name Shiplake derives from the 12th century Shiplac meaning sheep stream. The name Shiplake has consistently appeared on the county maps of Oxfordshire, with one exception:

Caxton/Hole 1607 (*Shiplake*)



Blome 1673 (*Shiplake*)



Wallis 1812 (*Shipstake*)



Sonning Common

Sonning is recorded in the Domesday Book as Soninges meaning a settlement of the Sunna family. This name however refers to the Sonning, which is on the Berkshire bank of the River Thames.

The village of Sonning Common got its name in the mid-20th century as the population of Rotherfield Peppard grew to the south. Consequently Sonning Common does not appear on the county maps of Oxfordshire.