This article examines the hydrological characteristics, distribution and usage of three OE words thought to mean spring or stream: *funta, a loan word, via Primitive Welsh *funtu, from Latin fontina 'spring, fountain'; *swell, WSax (= Angl swell, Kt swell) 'a river spring, the source of a river'; and *aewielm, WSax (= Angl aewelm, Kt aewelm) 'a river spring, the source of a river' (EPN).

I. HYDROLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION

The Anglo-Saxons used at least six different words to mean 'spring'. Leaving aside the very rare celde and cille, the commonest is wiella (WSax = Angl, Kt wella, Merc aewielm) appearing in some 280 place-names in DEPN, while *funta, *swell and *aewielm between them account for about 40 place-names. Since wella is so much more common than any of these other place-name elements it seems that it is the unmarked form referring to an ordinary spring and that *funta, *swell and *aewielm are marked forms referring to springs with some unusual attribute.

Since springs are necessarily closely associated with ground-water flow and this in turn depends on rock type, whether or not it is a good aquifer and how quickly and in what quantities water will flow through it, all the surviving examples of names in *funta, *swell and *aewielm were plotted on a geological map of southern England. This exercise showed that over half of them were closely associated with the Chalk outcrop or the Upper Greensand beds lying directly beneath it. (See Map 1). Although all the examples of these place-names have been included on Map 1 it must be pointed out that Awell Barn (Sussex) has a rather late first mention, in 1526; that Funtington (Sussex) may contain some other element rather than *funta (cf. PNSx 60); and that Fontmell (Dorset) and Fonthill (Wilts.) are both combined with hydrology to see if they possess the same characteristics as the other places whose names contain *funta and *swell.

The Geological Survey Memoirs provide a lot of information on wells, but usually rather little on springs, and these only very rarely in places named with the elements *funta, *swell and *aewielm. However some information can be gleaned and related to the structure of the Chalk and other rocks and the movement of ground-water through them.

Firstly, some basic hydrological characteristics should be noted -

(1) Ground-water does not flow equally easily through all parts of an aquifer. It flows most readily:

a) where the rock is fractured or fissured most, such as on the crest of an anticline where stretching and bending of the surface has opened the fissures;
b) where there is a good hydraulic gradient, i.e. a steeply sloping water table;c) where rivers and streams and the ground-water flowing into them have widened cracks and fissures by solution. This is particularly applicable to Chalk and Limestone in valleys.

(2) Ground-water flows least readily:

a) where cracks and fissures have closed up either in a syncline or where the weight of rock on top has caused compression;b) where the hydraulic gradient is very low (Ineson 1962, pp.449-63).
An examination of the structure of the Chalk and other rocks in the neighbourhood of names in *funta, Swell and Zwelm reveals a link with areas of high transmissibility (rapid ground-water flow).

Alton Barnes and Alton Priors, twin villages, and Urchfont are in the western part of the Pewsey anticline. (See Map 1). Erosion has removed the centre of the anticline leaving two inward facing scarps of Chalk and Upper Greensand. The more strongly fissured Chalk lies at the western end where springs are more copious and streams stronger. Alton Barnes and Priors lie at the foot of the northern scarp where a many-headed spring emerges near the Chalk and Upper Greensand junction. There are two fine clear streams leading from this cluster of springs. They separate Alton Barnes from Alton Priors. Urchfont lies at the foot of the southern scarp and its many springs emerge from the Upper Greensand in a deep little valley.

Teffont and Fovant are on opposite sides of the Vale of Wardour, another breached anticline with inward facing scarps of Chalk and Upper Greensand. The springs are in Chalk in both cases. Fonthill, a short distance to the west, is in a very similar situation. There are records of spring flow and well yields for these villages. In order to appreciate these, some sort of norm for well yields in Chalk areas must be given. Most wells in Chalk areas would yield less than 96,000 gpd (gallons per day) at a 10 ft equilibrium depression of water level. This means that if the water level in the well was to be maintained at 10 ft below its natural level by pumping, it would yield x gpd. The well at West Farm, Fovant, yields 220,000 gpd and the natural level of the water in a well 4½ ft deep is only 7 ft below the surface. The spring at West Farm yields 7000 gpd. Therefore a shallow well near an unexceptional spring, can, in areas of high transmissibility, yield very large amounts of water. This is because the well, when down-drawn, increases the hydraulic gradient so that water flows freely into it. The Romans are known to have been skilled well diggers and Gelling (1978, p.86) has suggested that *funta is a place-name element associated with Roman waterworks of some kind. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Romans increased the flow of water at Fovant and other places by well digging, and that the large quantities of water with their associated Roman buildings attracted the attention of the Anglo-Saxons who called it by the element *funta, a loan-word from PrW ultimately from Latin. The close cluster of springs at Teffont yields an abundant supply of water and those at Fonthill Bishop and Fonthill Gifford yield 41,500 gpd and 36,000 gpd respectively (Whitaker and Edmonds 1925, pp.67-8, 62). Wells at these places would yield much more.

There is a fine example of a shallow and copious well at Mottisfont. An entry in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club for 1900 (Vol.IV, pt.11, p.137) reads:

On the line of the junction of the Chalk with the Reading Beds at Mottisfont occurs a spring of remarkable interest. It is undoubtedly the 'font' which partly gives the village its name and is one of the most beautiful springs in the county. This . . . 'font' is on the lawn of Mottisfont House. It is a well, perhaps 10 ft deep and 8 ft or 9 ft wide, full of water as clear as crystal, ever flowing and yielding perhaps 2 million gallons of water daily (quoted in Whitaker 1910, p.29).

Just to the north of Portsmouth is another anticline in the Chalk. This is not a breached anticline as were the other two, but stands out as a ridge called Portsdown. In its vicinity is a notable cluster of names in *funta: Fontley, Boarhunt, Havant, and further east, not on the anticline, the doubtful Funtington. To the north and south of Portsdown are synclines infilled with Eocene deposits creating areas where artesian water occurs.
On the northern side at and S of Bishop's Waltham, at Havant, and Mislingford and probably other places, artesian and sub-artesian water occurs. In Havant and Drellingore an artesian flow in the Chalk is so fissured that water seeps through it very freely and emerges at many small springs. This means that the water-table is not very high above sea level and the hydraulic gradient is therefore never very great. However, where the Chalk is steep and the springs stronger. Two of these high points are Beddington Hill overlooking Newelm and Willingdon Hill overlooking Bedford Well. Once again the places which probably have some of the strongest springs are those where the elements *funta and wiell are found.

There are three names in *swell and one in *swiele along the dip slope of the North Downs. Ewell and Carshalton (?) at Awtelum 873x888 (c.1000); Aulten 870x891; and Swale Farm in Faversham, and Newell in Orpington, Kent. The stretch of the North Downs between Epsom and Croydon is noteworthy for its numerous powerful springs. Springs at Ewell 'arise in 2 ponds beside the village street where they can be seen bubbling up from the bottom as numerous little fountains' (Dowley 1902, p.72). In total, four springs are listed: Grotto Spring Pond, Hogpit Pond, Upper Town Pool and Willhall. This is the only river along this stretch of the North Downs between Epsom and Croydon. There are good springs here at Northbrooke Farm and along Watery Lane just east of the church (Osborne White 1913, pp.88-90).

The Chalk outcrop continues eastwards as the South Downs. Newelm near West and Bedford Well (olis Bedfordam) near Ewell. Along this stretch. This Chalk is so fissured that water seeps through it very freely and emerges at many small springs. This means that the water-table is not very high above sea level and the hydraulic gradient is therefore never very great. However, where the Chalk is steep and the springs stronger. Two of these high points are Beddington Hill overlooking Newelm and Willingdon Hill overlooking Bedford Well. Once again the places which probably have some of the strongest springs are those where the elements *funta and wiell are found.

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Wansunt in 1880 was a farm with a pond, but the 6 inch map of that date shows no spring or well. However, drainage ditches of the nearby Cray valley which were linked to the pond could have provided a water supply. The gravel upon which the farm stood might also have provided water by means of a shallow well.

Cheshunt lies on the NW edge of the London Basin. Here the Chalk dips beneath the Eocene deposits including the London Clay. On the surface is a variety of superficial deposits including alluvium, brickearth and gravels. The church is on the Taplow Terrace. There are no springs or streams nearby. Quite possibly the source of water for the *funta was a shallow well in Taplow Gravel.

In the London Basin, just considered, there were four place-names containing the element *funta and one containing *swiell. The Swiell appears to be on the spring. Cheshunt apparently lies in a valley between the London clay and gravel, whilst Tolleshunt, Bedfont and Wansunt might also have derived their water from shallow wells but could have derived it from small springs, or from streams in the case of Wansunt. It is noteworthy that it is the four places with names in *funta which probably had a supply of water from wells not springs.

Moving now to the Chalk country of the Chilterns, Bedmond and Chalfont are located on the dip slope. Bedmond lies on gravel deposits on Chalk. There are no springs or streams nearby, but there are wells on the local farms, suggesting that shallow wells in the gravels would give an adequate water supply. (The water-table of the Chalk at this point would be deep down.) Bedmond may thus be a fifth place name in *funta which possibly derives its name from a shallow well in gravel. Chalfont lies in the Misbourne valley and there is a perennial spring at Chalfont St.Peter.

Along the north-western edge of the Chilterns is a fine series of scarpe-foot springs. Unfortunately again no figures are available for their flows, but having visited them all many times I feel certain that the cluster of springs at Ewelme yield the most water; indeed they are the only ones here still to support commercial water-cress beds. This reflects the nature of the hydraulic gradient which is high in the vicinity of Ewelme. Once again the largest spring is that named with one of the place-name elements under consideration.

We are now left with a handful of miscellaneous names in *funta, *swiell and *zwielm beyond the main concentration of these elements. Even, Gliacs., lies on the dip slope of the Cotswolds. Here the Limestone is underlain by impermeable Fuller's Earth which forces the groundwater to the surface. The topography concentrates the flow of ground-water into the river valleys. The springs flow out at many points, especially at Lydwell, making the upper part of the valley very marshy. Since water has been abstracted in large amounts in the neighbourhood and the Fullers Earth has been punctured by a borehole, the river flow from the springs is considerably less and the Thames above Ewen now behaves as a winterbourne. Even itself stands on a dry site on a low hill beside a cluster of springs, 1¾ miles from the point of origin of the Thames.

To the north in Shropshire is Aldon (*AldoUNCTION, DPN, p.5). This is associated with the Aymestry Limestone. Numerous springs reach the surface in a valley where the Upper Ludlow Shales have been eroded away exposing the Limestone aquifer. Their water forms the stream which has cut this deep valley called Springhead Gutter and Aldon Gutter. Three of the springs are now concealed by small reservoirs, but the water so collected, particularly those named in *funta is piped away. Nevertheless the stream is still large enough to maintain the lake at Stokeley Court. This group of springs is evidently one of the most reliable and prolific in the area. As the Gutter is so steep sided and narrow the village has been built on the hill overlooking the spring, hence its name Aldon (*AldoUNCTION).

Coundon (Cound-Exwiell) near Coventry lies on Red Marls which yield little water. It is about 3 miles from the source of the Sherborne, possibly previously called the Cound, and is one of three places which do not fit so easily into the picture so far drawn, the other two being Toller Whelme and Clyst William.

Toller Whelme in Dorset lies at the head of a valley at the junction of the Chalk and Upper Greensand. The spring, or springs, which are the source of the River Hooke or Toller, maintain three ornamental lakes within ½ mile.

Alton Pancras, also in Dorset, lies on Upper Greensand and is the probable source of the River Piddle. The numerous springs rise behind the church in a marshy area of about 100 sq.yds; their prolific flow feeds three ponds. Fontmell Magna, Dorset, lies at the foot of a steep chalk scarp slope. The springs emerge in a cluster at the junction of the chalk and Upper Greensand. The water, after being used to beautify the gardens at Springhead, goes on to feed two old mill ponds within the next ½ mile, an indication of its considerable flow. Dorset is a county with a great many prolific springs; however, none of these do not have 'spring' or even 'water' names associated with them. It must be emphasised that a copious spring will not necessarily be associated with the elements *swiell, *swiell or *funta, or any other element indicative of water, just as any prominent topographical feature will not necessarily be reflected in a nearby place-name.

Still in the West Country, the River Clyst rises at Clyst William (Clistewelme 1270; DPN, p.114) on pebbly beds overlying Red Marls. There are four well-marked springs and many seepages in a marshy hollow. The flow, although less than that at Alton Pancras, is notable in the district and was maintained even in the very dry year of 1766. It was named Fewielm since it was regarded as the source of the Clyst. This is analogous to the situation at Coundon.

Finally there are two outlying names in *funta to consider. Cheshunt, in Warwickshire, lies at the edge of a patch of Boulder Clay overlying Blue Lias, and a small stream arises near the church. Funthame, near Whitelry, lies in the Fens. Whitley is built on a slight rise made of Oxford Clay capped with gravel, a dry point settlement. Funthame was a farm sharing the same rise. There was no shortage of water in the nearby Fens, but the gravel deposit would have yielded water from a shallow well close to the building.

Many of the springs described are in fact clusters of springs very close to each other, often in marshy areas. I have observed these clusters at Alton Barnes and Priors, Hurstfont, Teffont, Newell, Alton, Fourthill, Ewelme, Even, Aldon, Alton Pancras, Fontmell and Clyst William. It is not surprising that the reference books quoted above are punctuated by a borehole, the flow from the springs is considerably less and the Thames above Ewen now behaves as a winterbourne. Even itself stands on a dry site on a low hill beside a cluster of springs, 1¾ miles from the point of origin of the Thames.

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ANN COLE

Dover, Alton, Swell in West Farleigh, Well Street, Aldon and Alton Pancras. Swell in Kelvedon was on one of the stronger springs in the neighbourhood. However, Awell Barn did not appear to be associated with a spring at all.

(2) Of the 7 places named in *Swelm, 4 were on copious springs: Newelm, Newell, Evelme and Even. 3 were on rather less copious springs but these were important as the source of a river: Coundon, Toller Whelme and Clyst William.

(3) Of the 22 places apparently named in *Funta, 13 were on springs copious in absolute terms: Urchfont, Teffont, Fovant, Fonthill, Mottisfont, Fontley, Bearhunt, Havant, Puntington, Bedford Well, Pitchfont, Chalfont and Poutnem. 3 were on springs with a flow good in that neighbourhood but not otherwise outstanding: Fonthill, Frome and Chadshunt. 6 were on gravel patches where the water supply probably came from wells, but might in some cases have come from small springs or even ditches: Tolleshunt, Bedford, Wansunt, Cheshunt, Redmond and Funtham. Any definition of the element *Funta should take account of this last group.

II. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS

In this discussion the three doubtful examples of *Funta (Fonthill, Fontmell and Puntington) have been omitted, leaving nineteen surviving names in *Funta. There are twelve surviving names in *Swelm and seven surviving names in *Faint which include Awell Barn first recorded in 1526. They are listed on Tables 1 and 2, together with data on distances from Roman roads and trackways; pagan Saxon burials; place-name elements with which they are compounded; and river lengths and names. The three groups have several features in common, but also show some distinct differences.

Consider the archaeological context first. The distance from Roman roads and ancient trackways seems significant. Gelling (1978, p.84) has already pointed out that most names in *Funta lie on or very close to Roman roads or Roman remains. The Roman roads shown on Map 2 are derived from the O.S. Map of Roman Britain and some more recently identified stretches of road described in Margary, 1973. The O.S. map shows the major roads but omits local roads of minor importance such as those crossing the South Downs between Lewes and Eastbourne (Margary 1965, p.185). There must have been many other short stretches of roads of local importance of which no trace has been found. For instance both the Darent and Cray valleys in Kent have villas and other buildings in them and it is reasonable to suppose these were linked by local roads down the valleys to the London-Rochester road. The pre-Roman population of Britain had also established a number of important long distance trackways such as the Icknield Way and Ridgeway. These are described by Timperley and Brill, 1965, and some are also included on Map 2 and used in the data in Tables 1 and 2. Margary (1965, p.258) suggests other trackways along the E-W ridges of the Weald which could have provided useful cross-links with the Roman roads there. The tabulation of the distance of names in *Funta, *Swelm and *Swelm from Roman roads and trackways notes the distance from the nearest major Roman road or proven minor Roman road but in some cases also gives the distance from the nearest ancient trackway. If the existence of a minor Roman road has been assumed then a question-mark has been added.

It can be seen from Table 1 that most of the names in *Funta lie within 2 miles of a Roman road. The three that lie furthest from Roman roads (Frome 5 miles, Urchfont 55 miles and Fovant 5 miles) are all within 2 miles of an ancient trackway. A Roman road leaves Colchester heading towards Tolleshunt but its course has yet to be fully determined. All three Tolleshunts would be within about 3 miles of this supposed road. Pitchfont
TABLE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS</th>
<th>PAGAN SAXON BURIALS</th>
<th>ROMAN ROADS AND ANCIENT TRACKS</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Funta</em></td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Swiell</em></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Swielm</em></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Funta</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Wiell</em></td>
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<td><em>Wielm</em></td>
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<th>APPROX 5-10 MILES</th>
<th>NUMBER WITHIN 1 MILE</th>
<th>NUMBER WITHIN 2-5 MILES</th>
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<tr>
<td>BEDFON</td>
<td>Wx</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4 7</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>byden- 'vessel'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3 7</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>byden- 'vessel'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDMOND</td>
<td>Hrt</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>0 1</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>byden- 'vessel'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOARHUNT</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4 6</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>byden- 'vessel'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHADSHUNT</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4 11</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Ceodel</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHALFONT</td>
<td>Bk</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>0 3</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Celf- 'calf'</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHESHUNT</td>
<td>Hrt</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>0 1</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>ceaster- 'Roman settlement'</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOUNTLEY</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3 5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Ish- 'clearing'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUNTHILL</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>0 5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Hill is late addition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOVANT</td>
<td>W AT</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>4 10</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Foba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRONTIDGE</td>
<td>Sx AT</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Hrycg- 'hill, ridge'</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNTHAMS</td>
<td>Ca</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3 3</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Dat.pl., 'at the fountains'</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAVANT</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4 5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Hana</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTTISPONT</td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2 10</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Moter- 'speaker'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITCHFON</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>0 5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Pto- 'pitch, tar' or Pychard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEFFONT</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>3 11</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Tao- 'boundary'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOLLESHUNT</td>
<td>Ess</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Toll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBCHFON</td>
<td>W AT</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>4 14</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Eholtc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WANSUNT</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>6 12</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*Wont</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R = MAJOR ROMAN ROAD
AT = ANCIENT TRACKWAY
+ = PLUS 4 PAGAN SAXON VILLAGES

From Table 2 it can be seen that most of the names in *Swiell* lie within 2 miles of a Roman road. Alton Barnes and Alton Priors lie on the Great Ridgeway, although they are 3½ miles distant from a Roman road. Alton Pancras is ½ mile south of this ancient track.

Of the four simplex names in *Swielm*, three lie within 2 miles of a Roman road; the other, Newelm, lies adjacent to a minor Roman road over the South Downs. Of the compound names, Toller Wheime is 1 mile from the Great Ridgeway but Clyst William and Coundon are much more distant from any ancient road than any of the other places listed.

The element *Funta* derives (via PrW) ultimately from Latin fontina meaning 'spring, fountain'. In three instances it is combined with OE byden, a tub or vessel. One suggestion is that the water was directed into a trough and used by travellers at a watering place or overnight halt. A spring adjacent to a Roman road or well-frequented trackway was obviously ideal. However, certain roads and tracks follow ridges in chalk, and other, country where water would not be available by the roadside and so a diversion of 2 or 3 miles off the ridge into the valley would be necessary to reach a good spring. This is the case with Teffont, Fovant and Chadshunt. There is no archaeological evidence yet to show exactly what would be described as a *Funta*, but association with Roman building works of some sort seems very likely. As shown, the names in *Swiell* and simplex *Swielm* are as near to Roman roads and ancient tracks as those in *Funta* are, and the fact that the Anglo-Saxons distinguished between the groups of hydrologically very similar springs supports the argument that the features called by the loan-word *Funta* were in some way Romanised. Places named in *Swiell* or with uncompounded names in *Swielm* may also have been used as watering places or overnight halts, but remained more or less in their natural state. All three place-name elements could have been in use at an early period in Anglo-Saxon England but the existence of Alton Pancras (Dorset) and Aldon (Sa) beyond the area containing names in *Funta*, in parts of England probably not settled by the Anglo-Saxons until the second half of the seventh century, suggests that *Swielm* may have been in use for a longer period than *Funta* as a place-name forming element (assuming that the hypothetical *Funta*-type constructions were widespread over Roman Britain). The examples of *Swielm* compounded with a river name are also more northerly and westerly, again suggesting later usage than the simplex term which occurs mainly in the south and east.

If *Funta*, *Swiell*, and *Swielm* were among the earliest place-name elements used by the Anglo-Saxons, there should be some correlation between areas of early Anglo-Saxon settlement as indicated by pagan burials and these place-name elements. This has been explored in a very general way. Tables 1 and 2 list the names of pagan burials of any kind within a 5 mile and an 8 mile radius of each name in *Funta*, *Swiell* and *Swielm*, using the O.S. Map of Britain in the Dark Ages.

Of the names in *Funta*, Founthill, Frontridge and Pitchfont have few pagan Saxun burials nearby and are in the late-settled Weald. Bedmond, Cheshunt and Chalfont also have few burials nearby, being in the late-settled Chilterns. The group Fountley, Boarhunt and Havant have modest numbers of burials nearby. Portdown was attractive to early settlers but was restricted in extent by the marshes and inlets to the south. One could not expect large numbers of burial sites nearby. A similar argument can be applied to Bedford Well, also near the coast. The remaining names in *Funta* still have considerable numbers of pagan Saxun burials within 8 miles, but usually not so many within 5 miles as have the names in *Swiell*. 
Names in *funta, *wielm, *aewielm in chalklands of S.E. England are in areas where there are numerous pagan Saxon burials. This is particularly true in Kent, Surrey and Wiltshire. Aewiel Barn in the Weald, Alton Pancras and Aldon have few pagan burials nearby. This is to be expected as these areas were probably settled after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity had begun. The very few pagan burials near Alton, Hants, is surprising. Ewell Hall, Kelvedon, lies on the clays and gravels behind the marshy coastlands of Essex and although a convenient landfall for invaders from the Continent it does not seem to have attracted much early Anglo-Saxon settlement. The few pagan burials that do occur are by the Chelmsford to Colchester Roman road, and in the vicinity of both Ewell Hall and Tolleshunt, the only names in *wielm and *funta in the area.

The four simplex names in *wielm are in areas of pagan Saxon burials of modest numbers except in the case of Newell, Sussex, which has many. The three names formed from *wielm plus river-name are away from areas of early Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The evidence from pagan Saxon burials supports the suggestion that, in the South-East at least, *funta, *wielm and the simplex *aewielm were place-name elements that could have been in use by the Anglo-Saxons at an early date.

The other place-name elements with which *funta, *wielm and *aewielm are compounded are shown on Tables 1 and 2. The most obvious difference is that *funta occurs only twice as a simplex element, in Funtshams (dat.pl.) and Founthill (where 'hill' is a late addition), whereas seven of the twelve examples of *wielm are simplex and so are four of the seven examples of *aewielm.

*funta is compounded with a personal name in six instances, unlike the examples of *wielm and *aewielm which are never so compounded. Another name in *funta, Mottisfont, is compounded with the word for a speaker (OE mæter). Thus over one-third of the examples of *funta are associated with particular people. Three names in *funta consist of compounds with byden, as already mentioned. Two associated elements refer to habitats, (fortified site) and Cheshunt (Roman settlement). One place in *funta is connected with a domestic animal, Chalfont (calf), where the *funta might have been used as a source of water for young cattle. Two compounds refer to the nature of the countryside, Prattridge (hill) and Funtley (clearing). Teffont refers to a boundary. Pitchford might refer to pitch or tar although no surface deposits are known from that area; alternatively an OFr personal name (Pichard) may be the first element. The names in *funta compounded with personal names are among those most closely associated with pagan Saxon burials; otherwise there is no obvious link between the element with which *funta is compounded and spatial distribution.

*Wielm is compounded four times with dun and once with *dun. Most of the examples of *wielm are on springs giving rise to fairly short streams, but the four examples of *wielm-dun are on the four longest streams (all in 495 chance). They are also perforce more westerly than most of the examples of simplex *wielm and are all names of parishes. Three of the examples of simplex *wielm which are of non-parish status lie in Kent; another is in Essex; and one, Aewiel Barn, is in the Weald. Four of these five examples of minor names in *wielm lie in parishes whose place-names contain OE elements that are considered early-Faversham (Fifer and ham), Faversham (Fifer), Kelvedon (dun) and Ardingley (Ingah). The fifth lies in Malling (Ingah), also thought to be relatively early but not primary. This is consistent with the view that the Kent and Essex names in *wielm denoted habitation-sites established relatively early in the Anglo-Saxon period but in a situation where, by chance, a nearby site also of early name became more

<p>| Table 2: Roman Roads and Ancient Trackways, Pagan Saxon Burials, Rivers, Place-Name Elements |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>WITHIN 2 MILES</th>
<th>OVER 3 MILES AND DISTANCE</th>
<th>RIVER NAME</th>
<th>PLACE-NAME ELEMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALDO</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTON</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTON BANES AND PRIORS</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTON PANCRAS</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEWELL BARN (ARDINGLEY)</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARSALTON</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWE</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWE (NORTHDOVER)</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWEHALL (FUVASHAM)</td>
<td>Eas</td>
<td>Eas</td>
<td>Eas</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWEHALL MANOR WEST FARLEIGH</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEL STREET (EAST MALLING)</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEWIELM, etc.</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWEW</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWELL (GORTING)</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWELM (FIRLE)</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>Sx</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNDON</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLYST WILLIAM D</td>
<td>R5</td>
<td>R5</td>
<td>R5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOLLER WHILME</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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important and achieved parish status at the expense of the place named in *Swiel. (In one case, Swell near Dover, the place named in Swiel did however achieve parish status.) The general theory would explain the comparatively large numbers of hamlets, farms and manors called Swell today in the extreme east, but only one parish, and the villages of parish status called Alton today further west, the Alton being added to Swiel to indicate a settlement with the status of a separate estate-unit. The fact that the Altons are at the heads of rivers may be because one has to go fairly far west to reach the source of an eastward-flowing river, and by the time Anglo-Saxon settlement had reached this far the unitary type of estate was coming into being.

Swiel is only compounded with river names, all Celtic. In each of the three cases the settlement is at or near the source of the river of that name, but none are particularly large or notable rivers, nor do they have very copious springs. These three examples of compounded *Swiel appear to be later names than the examples of simplex *Swiel and they are all north or west of the areas of earliest Anglo-Saxon settlement. On the other hand the four cases of simplex *Swiel are by vigorous springs in areas regarded as being amongst the earliest settled by the Anglo-Saxons. One, Ewen, is the source of a major river, the Thames. Newell is the source of the locally important R. Cray and Newelm and Ewelme are at the sources of quite short streams.

III. CONCLUSION

It is now apparent that Smith’s definitions of the elements *Punta, *Swell and *Swiel can be enlarged upon, as follows –

(1) *Punta was often used of places sited by a spring, but which might alternatively have drawn water from a well. *Punta could mean 'source of water' but is much more likely to mean 'some sort of Roman edifice associated with water, such as a fountain' as Gelling suggested (1978, p.86). The element seems to have come into use early in the Anglo-Saxon period and probably only for a short time, especially if the hypothetical features called *Punta ceased to function for lack of maintenance. *Punta is compounded with a variety of other place-name elements, especially personal names.

(2) *Swell was used of a place where copious springs occurred, except possibly at Swell Hall, Kelvedon. It was probably a place-name element in use early in Anglo-Saxon England but one which remained in use longer than *Punta. It is usually compounded with *Swiel when it is a village-sized settlement but often remains uncompounded if it refers to a hamlet, farm or manor. It probably means 'a cluster of strong springs' or possibly just 'strong spring', which may be the source of a locally important river, but more often was the source of a smaller tributary.

(3) The place-names in *Swiel fall into two groups. Simplex *Swiel was used of a place with a cluster of strong springs, or perhaps just one strong spring, which may or may not have been at the source of locally important rivers. *Swiel compounded with a river name referred to a place on a spring or springs at the source of that river even if the spring flow was not especially copious; this type of compound appears to have been coined later than names in *Punta, *Swell or simplex *Swiel.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to thank G.P. Jones of University College, London for advice on hydrogeology; Margaret Gelling of the University of Birmingham for help in identifying names in *Punta; and Professor Godfrey Tanner of the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, for information and helpful suggestions concerning Roman Britain.

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PNSX, EPNS VI, VII (Cambridge, 1929-30).


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EDITORIAL NOTE

Readers may find the following additional bibliographical details and dates useful in following up the information collected in the above article. All apparently trustworthy pre-Conquest dates (some of these here in corrected form) are given with their source; the date 1086 means that the place was recorded in the Domesday Survey; otherwise the date given is that of first record.
The following abbreviations are used:

BCS = W. de G. Birch, Cartularium Saxonicum (London, 1885-99), quoted by number;
Gelling, ECTV = M. Gelling, The Early Charters of the Thames Valley (Leicester, 1979), quoted by number;
Harmer, ASWrits = F.E. Harmer, Anglo-Saxon Writs (Manchester, 1952), quoted by number;
KCD = J.M. Kemble, Codex Diplomaticus Evi Saxonici (London, 1839-48), quoted by number;
PN + county abbreviation = the relevant county volume of the English Place-Name Society's publications;
Robertson, ASCharters = A.J. Robertson, Anglo-Saxon Charters (2nd edn., Cambridge, 1956), quoted by number;
Sawyer = P.H. Sawyer, Anglo-Saxon Charters: an annotated list and bibliography (London, 1968), quoted by number;
WKPN = J.K. Wallenberg, Kentish Place-Names (Uppsala, 1931); WPNK = Idem, The Place-Names of Kent (Uppsala, 1934).

1) Names in OE *funta

BEDFORD. DEPN 12, 21; DEPN 34. 1086.
BEDFORD WELL. PNSx 427. 1086.
BEDMOND. PNSHrt 76. 1331.
BOARHUNT (Ha). DEPN 50. 1033x1066 (mid 12th) BCS 1161 (Sawyer 1821); 1086.
CHADSHUNT. PNSx 94. 1086. [KCD 916 (Sawyer 1000) of '1043' (15th) and KCD 939 (Sawyer 1226) of 'c.1043' (15th) are both spurious.]
CHALFONT. DEPN 4. 1086. Cf. preceding.
CHESBURY. DEPN 126-7; DEPN 4. 1086.
CHESWICK. DEPN 126-7; DEPN 4. 1086.
COUNDON. PNSx 317. 1296 (personal name).
CUNDON. PNW 317; DEPN 4. 1086.
COUNTY. DEPN K. 1331.
COUNTER. DEPN 126-7; DEPN 4. 1086.

2) Names in OE *wiell, etc.

ALDON (Sa). DEPN 5. 1086.
ALTON (Sa). DEPN 8. 1086.
ALTON BARNES & PRIORS. PNSR 217; DEPN 8. 1086. [BCS 990 (Sawyer 272) of '825-6' (1129x1139) is spurious]
ALTON FANCH厚厚的 (Do). DEPN 8. 1001x1012 Harmer, ASWrits 63 (Sawyer 1383); 1086.
AWELL BARN (Ardingley). PNSx 252. 1086.
CARSHALTON. PNSR 217; DEPN 8. 1086. [For BCS 39 and 697, see preceding. KCD 824 (Sawyer 1043) of '1066' (12th) is spurious]
[TEMPLE] EWELL near Dover. WPNK 560; WKPN 52; DEPN 120. 765x792 (15th) BCS 207 (Sawyer 140); 1086.
EWEll MANOR Faversham). WPNK 286. 1226.
EwELL HALL (Kelvedon). PNSs 291. 1226.
EWEll Manor (West Farleigh). WPNK 160. 1198.
WELL STREET (East Malling). WPNK 149. 1240.

3) Names in OE *wil, etc.

EWELME. PNO 126-7; DEPN 170. 1086.
KWEM. PNO 126-7; DEPN 170. 1086. [BCS 671 (Sawyer 415) of '931' (13th) is also spurious.]
NEWELL (Orpington). WPNK 28; WKPN 84.
NEWELM (Firle). PNSx 361. 1386.
COUNDON. PNW 317; DEPN 126-7. 1086.
CLYST WILLIAM. PNO 126-7; DEPN 126-7. [Clist 1086].
TOLLER WHELME (Do). DEPN 476. 1035 (12th) KCD 1322 (Sawyer 975).

A.R.R.