'A kind of horse-race in which the second or any succeeding horse had to follow accurately the course of the leader, like a flight of wild geese.'

So the Shorter Oxford Dictionary defines a wild goose chase. The unwary scholar who enters such a chase in the field of onomastics, however, sometimes finds himself pursuing the erratic tracks of wild horses by mistake. The aim of this paper is to determine which, if any, of the following three interpretations of the toponym Chopwell is the leading horse that he should follow accurately.

The township 2 and village of Chopwell lie in the triangular-shaped parish of Ryton-on-Tyne, close to the Northumberland border, and detached from the rest of Co. Durham by the course of the river Derwent as it flows down towards the river Tyne. Any signs of prosperity have long since vanished as a consequence of local pit-closures and the fate of the Durham coal-mining industry as a whole, leaving as their residue an isolated self-contained community with a high rate of unemployment. The character of the village is paralleled in the surrounding landscape: to the north and west are bleak moorland ridges and tracts of marshland which are quite unsuitable for cultivation; 3 to the south and east stretch the extensive Chopwell Plantations. 4 The historical forms of Chopwell are as follows:

Choppwell(e) 1153x1159, 1163x1169, 1240x1248, 1261x1283, 1305x1307, 1313, 1315, 1317 (all mid 14th c.) Newm.; 1242(g) Ass.; 1316 Pat.
Chapwell(e) late 12th c. MC490; 1312 (twice) RPD2; mid 14th c. Newm.I.
Chapwell 1342 RPD3.
Chaphill 1530 HeBlj.
Chopwell 1564(p), 1586(p), 1574, 1576(p), 1579 Pat; 1562 DKB3; 1569 Wills; 1647 PS.
Chappell 1636x1642 HeBlj; 1715 Parsh.
Chappell 1686x1687.
Choppell 1697x1699.
Chopple 1794 Parsh.

The second element is OE wella 'a spring of water, a stream fed by a spring.' 5 The 1862 O.S. (6th) map clearly shows a stream which runs down the steep hillside on which Chopwell stands (see Map 1). A visit to the area reveals that the main part of the modern village has been built beneath the old site on a flat ledge of dry land (marked by the line A-B on Map 1). The old spring and the section of the stream lying between the two village sites, the old and the new, have been
buried by industrial waste. However, a new spring has re-asserted itself just below the newer buildings (close to point A). 6

The first element is rather more difficult. In 1920 Mawer suggested, with great confidence and without further comment on the personal name he supplied, that Chopwell was 'Ceappa's well'. 7 At first glance this seems to be an excellent idea. The double 'p' of the earliest form of the p.n., which recurs in the seventeenth-century spellings, implies that the vowel quality of the first element was short in origin. An OE pers.n. Ceappa would contain the required short vowel.

The problem is that there is no trace of such a pers.n. in PNDB 8 Redin, 9 OEB 10 nor in any of the EPNS volumes. It is only found again in NbDu under the entry for Choppington (Nthumb.) 11 where Ceapa would appear to be a variant of an OE pers.n. Ceabba, 12 although Mawer does not explain the association. The origin of an OE pers.n. Ceappa remains obscure. 13

A further query is raised by the early 'e' and 'a' spellings in the forms of the p.n. extant in the twelfth century. In the North, Middle English 'e' spellings are normally expected from an element which has an original long vowel quality, for example, ëa or ëe. The OE ëæ, IOE æ in an OE pers.n. Ceappa would provide only Middle English 'a' spellings. 14

It is more likely that Chopwell is a compound of OE wella and OE Ëæp 15 'saleable commodities, price, sale, bargain, business, market', corresponding to ON kaup; OFris kăp; OSax kæp. By normal development ëæ in Ëæp becomes 'e' in Middle English orthography, and 'a' if shortening from OE ëæ to ëæ to IOE æ takes place. 16 Thus both ME chæp and ME chap are possible. Indeed, EDD 17 notes that the verb chap 'to buy and sell, make a bargain, close with' may be found occasionally as chæp in the North. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, however, 'o' spellings proliferate in the p.n., a development which is the inverse of expected patterns in dialect and Standard English. 18 In this case, unless there was a dialect change of ëæ to ëæ, the ëæ must be original; thus chæp-well, associated with chap-well, must have been formed in its own right from chæp rather than chap. The verb chæp 'to exchange, barter' 19 looks like an apophonic variant 20 of chap 'to buy and sell', just as chap 'to cut with a quick and heavy blow' is of chap 'to strike, cause to crack' and chip 'to break off small fragments'. 21

There are no other examples of OE Ëæp compounded with OE wella. In 1964 A.H. Smith recorded that the field-name chæp aker 1286 in Long Marston (Glos.) was one of thirty-three such chæpacres in the area, 'probably 'acres of low
rental".22 This idea is taken up by Dr. Gelling for cheplond 1.12th c. in Lambourn (Berks.) and chepe(s)acre 1519 in Ashbury (Berks.).22 In addition to Smith's 'of low rental' she suggests 'obtained by bargaining' for OE cēap. A similar sense can be found in Chipley (Devon): Cheplegh 1333, Chyplegh 1505, Chyplegh 1597 'woodland clearing which has been bought',24 based on cēap land 'purchased land' in BCS 1020 (Sawyer 1527).25 These interpretations may seem plausible for the names cited above, but 'spring of low rental', 'spring obtained by bargaining' and 'spring which has been bought' do not seem to be appropriate for the p.n. Chopwell.

The third explanation was suggested by Ekwall in DEPN 26 where he says of Chopwell: 'Perhaps OE cēap-wella "spring where commerce took place"'27 If this is correct, the implication is that medieval Chopwell was a place of some considerable importance in the local area as a centre of trade, in spite of its geographical position.28 The remainder of this paper will outline the historical and toponymic evidence which supports this theory, and will attempt to clarify the connotations of the term 'commerce' in this context.

The mid twelfth-century charter which recorded the initial grant of the lands of Chopwell to Newminster Abbey mentions, in the description of the boundaries thereof, a lost name Fulscaleside 'land extending along the edge of the dirty shieling'29 which is probably modern Guards Wood (O.S. 114609). Such a name suggests that the abbey was taking possession of an area of land where there was already a well-established practice of shieling economy. The same charter refers to ledehepes weye, modern Lead Road (O.S. 159698),30 a track from Corbridge (Nthumb.) which crosses the Northumberland / Durham border at Leadgate (Durham), and then turns north-east towards Greenside and the river Tyne (Map 2). This was probably a drovers' road.31 As it runs along the moorland ridge near Leadgate a second medieval track branches off from it towards the east and the farms at Horse Gate and Hooker Gate 'pedlars' road',32 a name which reinforces the idea of trade taking place in the vicinity (Maps 1 and 2). Hooker Gate Farm is situated at the point where the track marks the medieval eastern boundary of Chopwell, and thus where pedlars might enter and leave the area.

In the hands of Newminster Abbey, Chopwell soon became established as an outlying farm of the type favoured by the Cistercian Order. From 1244 (Newmi) it was styled grangia de Cheppwell, and in the fourteenth century names such as: Le Escot de Cheppwell, Le Escotesche, le Stokeskall, le Tunesstede, and Le Escroft iuxta le ladgate,33 suggest that there was an extensive sheep farm situated a little to the north of Leadgate.

It is significant that pedlars travelling with their wares from Hooker Gate
would find their route converging on a drovers' road close to a sheltering, and later; a monastic grange, on the top of the hillside above 'čap-wella'. It would surely be unusual if they did not go down the path (see Map 1) to the flat ledge of dry, sheltered land to trade with each other by the 'spring where commerce took place'. Such meetings might evolve naturally into regular fairs for the buying and selling of livestock and agricultural goods. The fact that, by the fourteenth century, trading across the country as a whole was on a scale sufficient to warrant the organization of a regulated market system with rights and privileges granted by the Crown, suggests that a great many markets and fairs must have been in existence long before that time. Like the fair at Chopwell, they often do not appear in documentary records because they were simply customary gatherings rather than legal markets.

In the fourteenth century, the bursarial account rolls of Durham Cathedral Priory show that representatives of the priory were sent almost every year to sell wool at the fair in Boston, and to purchase certain items there. In 1299 they bought goods costing £125 at Boston Fair, but in addition to that they spent £120 on livestock, grain, and iron products at local fairs. Livestock, especially cattle, were frequently bought at Stagshaw Bank Fair near Corbridge (Map 2), which is only a short distance from Chopwell along the drovers' road ledehepes weye. It is probable that a fair existed at Chopwell long before the one at Stagshaw Bank. As traffic on the Haltwhistle to Tynemouth road increased, it would become more important to have a fair situated right next to the main road, and so over a period of time the fair site at Chopwell would gradually have become redundant.

A clue to the reason why the fair might be at Chopwell in the first place lies in the name of the farm just above the village: Horse Gate 1685 Pansh. This may have been either a road down which wild horses were brought from the surrounding moorland (OE hors + ON gata) or a place where they were rounded up and penned before being sold at the fair (OE hors + OE geat). Other 'horse' names in County Durham are:

(a) Containing the element OE hors 'a horse':

Horshleyburn (O.S. 9637-9738) Horshleyburnfeld 1382 Hatf, 'field by the stream in the clearing frequented by horses';

Horsley Head (O.S. 9637) 1647 PS, 'head of the clearing frequented by horses';

Horshelhope (O.S. 9647) Horselhoope c.1190 FP, 'valley of clearing frequented by horses'. Nearby are Horslelyhope c.1260 Pont, 'Horselhoope stream', and the minor names horsleyhopeleys' 1460, horshelberneys 1437 Mugg Acc.
(b) Containing ON bestr 'a horse, stallion':
   *Hisheope* (O.S. 0146) *Hisheope* 1153x1195 FPD, 'valley frequented by horses';
   *Hisheope Burn* (O.S. 0347) *Hysteheophurrd* c.1260 Pont, 'stream in the
   clearing and valley frequented by horses';
   *Histihach* 1153x1159 Newm, a lost name, 'meadow of the clearing
   frequented by horses'. This probably lies in the alluvial lands by the
   Derwent.

When these names are plotted on an area map of Co. Durham (see Map 3) a
pattern emerges: all the points lie relatively close together on a marked curve,
suggesting that this moorland region was indeed inhabited by fell ponies that
were penned and sold at Chopwell Fair. They may also have been an important
factor when the bursar of Durham Priory set up a stud farm at Bearpark in the
mid fourteenth century, producing colts for sale in local fairs.

The final piece of evidence which reinforces the idea of a fair at Chopwell
where horses were sold lies in the fact that the majority of the quotations used to
illustrate the meaning of *chap* and *chop* are associated with the buying and selling of
horses:

(1) **EDD** *chap* 'to exchange, barter';*42
   'He *chopped* his grey mare away at Scorton Shaw for a blind
   loss' (Lincla);
   'I *chopped* horses with him' (Norfolk);
   'War-o buy thik au?' 'Aay *dod*-n buy un - aay ad-n een u *chap.*' (Som.).
(2) **NED** *chop* 'to barter';*43
   'Horses that are jades ... may be *chop* away ... or sold in Smithfield';
   'The same person has *chopp* and *dispor* of several horses.'
   1706;
   'You buy and sell, *chap* and change your ecclesiastical offices ... as horses
   in a faire.' 1590.
(3) **EDNRS** *kop* 'good bargain, sale' (Lowland Scottish);*44
   'der*f guid *kop* for de kye or horses de year.'

In conclusion, it does indeed seem most likely that Chopwell is from OE
*ceap-wella* 'spring where commerce took place', a fair where traders used to meet
to buy and sell livestock, particularly horses, and other goods.*45

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NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

This is a revised version of the paper given on 27th March 1988 at the XXII.
Annual Study Conference organized by the Council for Name Studies, held at the
University College of Wales, Swansea.

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1 Wild goose chase 1685. +1 C. T. Onions, ed., *The Shorter Oxford English
2 Co. Durham comprises four *wards*, each of which contains a number of *parishes*
   which are subdivided into *townships*.
3 Wherever small stretches of land have been recovered from the waste, we find
   minor names containing elements such as OE *mâr* 'baren wasteland'; OE *mos* 'a
   bog, swamp'; ON *fjall* 'moorland ridge'; ON *kjarr* 'marshy ground overgrown with
   bristowh; and ME *bog* 'bog, marsh'. Also dialect words such as *struther* 'place
   overgrown with bristowh'; *swang* 'marsh, swampy land'; and *sike* 'small stream

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**Original sources:**

**EP**<sub>Ryt</sub> Durham, County Durham Record Office, EP / Ryt3 / 1
**HC**<sub>Bro</sub> University of Durham, Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic.
**HcMicro** Halmcote Court Book, no. 78, to. 435
**HC**<sub>Micro</sub> Ibid., Microfilm of Halmcote Court Book, fo. 153
**MC** Durham Cathedral, The Prior's Kitchen, Miscellaneous Charters
**Mugg**<sub>Acc</sub> Ibid., Muggleswick Livestock Accounts
**Pont** Ibid., Pontificales
**Pansh** Hertford, Hertsfordshire County Record Office, Panshanger Papers

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**Ass** K. E. Bayley, *Two Thirteenth-Century Assise Rolls for the County of
**DKR** 'Calendar of the Curator's Records: Chancery Enrolments' in *The 37th
**EDD** J. Wright, *The English Dialect Dictionary being the Complete
   Vocabulary of all Dialect Words still in Use, or Known to have been in
   Use during the last Two Hundred Years*, 6 vols (London & Oxford,
   1898-1905).
**EDNLS** I. Jakobsen, *An Etymological Dictionary of the Norn Language in
   Shetland*, 2 vols (Leirwick, 1985 repr.).
**FDP** Rev. Wm. Greenwell, ed., *Feodarium Prioratus Danesmitan*, Surtees
   Society LVIII (1871).
**Goth** Gothic
**Hatf** Rev. Wm. Greenwell, ed., *Bishop Hatfield's Survey*, Surtees Society
   XXXII (1856).
**Nb**<sub>Du</sub> A. Mawer, *The Place-Names of Northumberland and Durham
   (Cambridge, 1920).
   LXVI (1876).
**Newn**<sub>mid</sub> mid fourteenth-century Index to Newn
**OFris** Old Frisian
**OS**<sub>se</sub> Old Saxion
**Pat** Calendar of Patent Rolls AD 1274- (London, 1908-).
**PS** D. P. Kirby, ed., *Parliamentary Surveys of the Bishopric of Durham II,
   Surtees Society CLXXXVIII* (1972).
**RPD** Sir T. Dufftus Hardy, ed., *Registram Palatinum Danemense*, Vols I-IV
   (London, 1873-6).
**Surt**<sub>II</sub> R. Surtees, *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of
**Wills** I. Raine, ed., *Wills and Inventories Illustrative of the History,
   Manners, Language, Statistics etc. of the Northern Counties, Surtees
   Society II* (1835).
in marshy land'. See EPN II, 42, 43; I, 174; II, 4; I, 40. For dialect words see EDD I, V, 826, 863, 452.

2 The manor of Chopwell belonged to Durham Cathedral Priory until Hugh du Puiset, bishop of Durham, granted it and the saltworks on the river Blyth near Morpeth to Robert, abbot of Newminster in 1153x1159, in exchange for Wolsingham near Durham. The manor remained in the possession of Newminster Abbey until the Dissolution when the woods were retained by the Crown and Chopwell Manor was sold. See Rev. J. T. Fowler, ed., The Newminster Cartulary, Surtees Society LXVI (1878), 45-51.

3 The area has always been an important commodity in Co. Durham, as is illustrated by the complaint of 1306 that the bishop was laying waste the woods of his see with forges for iron and lead, and for the burning of charcoal. In addition, 14th cent. account rolls of Durham Priory record the sales of bark from Bearpark Wood near Durham City, which was probably used for tanning. See C. M. Fraser, The Pattern of Trade in the North-East of England, 1265-1350', Northern History IV (1969), 44-65, esp. 53, 64.

4 EPN II, 250-3.

5 I should like to thank my supervisor, Victor Watts, for his unfailing encouragement and support during the preparation of this paper, particularly during our perilous descent of the rubbish dump beneath Chopwell Village, and the removal of sundry items which were obscuring the spring itself (a car bonnet, mattress, tractor tyre, etc.)

6 NbDu, 46-7.


8 M. Redin, Studies on Uncompounded Personal Names in Old English (Uppsala, 1919).

9 G. Tengvik, Old English Bynames, Nomina Germanica IV (Uppsala, 1938).

10 Chingford (Bedlington), NbDu, 46; Type I: Chadbon 1181; Chadbon 1325; Type II: Chaynton 1310; Chaynton 1359. Type I is OE Ceabsing(a) = farm of Ceabs or his sons. Type II, if it is not due to an otherwise unparalleled development of medial b to p, suggests the existence of a name Cepson instead of Ceabsa. (Type III is not relevant to this discussion and has been omitted.)

11 The pers.n. Ceabsa is also found in Chadnor (Herefs.) and Chobham (Surrey); DEPN, 93, 106.

12 Hypocoristic names of this sort and Lallwärter 'Lall-words' with affective genitivus are discussed in H. Krahne and W. Miel, Einleitung und Leitfahre - Germanische Sprachwissenschaft I, Sammlung Göschen Band CCXXVIII (Berlin, 1969), 121-4, § 111.


15 Jordan and Matthias, Handbuch der Mitteldeutschen Grammatik I, 43, § 22 Anm 2; 51, § 32 Ann 2.

16 EDD I, 561.


18 EDD I, 595.

19 For a full discussion of apophasic variation see G. V. Smithers, 'Some English Ideophones', Archivium Linguisticum VI (1954), Fasc. 2, 73-111.


21 'cep akber 1286, -er 1540, -acres, -meadowe 1575, the Chepe acres 1632. PNGlos., I, 249.

22 PN Berks., III, 857.

23 DEPN, II, 685.

24 This is based on: ñecep st.m. Kuaf, Kauf-, Handels-; ñecep land (gekaufes Land) BCS 1020; H. Middendorff, Althängisches Flurnamenbuch (Halle, 1902), 235, BCS 1020; C. J. Sayer 1527; D. Whitelock, Anglo-Saxon Wills (Cambridge, 1930), 113; 13th cent. copy of the authentic vernacular will of Thurtel of Palgrave, including bequests of land, made before A.D. 1038. The accents on ñecep and ñecep land were added by Middendorff. (A.R.R.)

25 DEPN, 107.

26 See also: Chipstead (Surrey), Cheshute 675 (13th c.), 933 (13th c.), 'Place where a market existed', PN SURREY, 290; Chipstead (Kent), Chestseda 1191, OE ñecestede market-place'; DEPN, 105; and Kepwyc (Yorkrs., NR), Cap-, Chipeac 1068 GDB, Chepwich 1166, 'market-place', DEPN, 273. It should be noted that Smith disagrees with Ekwall about this last name: 'On topographical grounds this name cannot reasonably be connected with OE ñecep, 'market', with Scandinavised initial consonant'. Smith prefers Keph's vik see PN Yorks. (NR), 201.

27 See the introductory paragraphs of this paper, and n. 3 above.

28 Faluscales 1153x1159 (mid 14th c.) Newm: Falscales (woodsided called) 1363 Surt. II, òf ðuln, òf skul (ME scale); òf ðuln. A similar name is Foulsham (Doyle's shielings); PNYorks (WR), IV, 207.

29 ledehespe wyne 1153x1159 (mid 14th c.) Newm, 'path leading to the lead hills' (?). OE lef, lefpe, weg; Heddeley; Heddelei wi 1313 (mid 14th c.) Newm, òf weg 'way to Hedley', referring to that section of the track between Corbridge (Northumberland) and Leadgate (Durham) which passes through Hedley-on-the-Hill (Nuthmb.)

30 In a most enjoyable paper entitled 'Holm Names in NW. England' given at the Svanseke Conference (printed elsewhere in this volume), and in private conversation afterwards, Mrs Mary Adkin drew my attention to the fact that the holly was used by drovers as a foodstuff for their livestock, and as a sign of a good place to camp because it grows in places that are sheltered from frost. Thus names in OE holgan, dial. holm, holm are often found in the vicinity of drovers' roads. It is interesting to note that Hollings and Hollings Hill (Nuthmb.) (O.S.90577 and 907576), for which I have no early forms, lie about two miles SW. of Chopwell, while Holin Hill Frm (Durham, O.S. 172394) and Old Holingham (Durham, O.S. 15659) approximately four miles NE. of Chopwell.

31 Hooker Gate (O.S. 139591): Huckergate 1587 (NbDu, 117); Huckergate 1593 EPRyt. ME *huckere 'huckster' from ME hukken 'to hawk, sell', ON gata 'way, road'.

32 The following names are 1313 (mid 14th c.) Newm: Le Escot de Chopwell, Le Estotlescote, OE ðast 'east', cot 'seasonal shelter for livestock', laec(, ME leche) 'stream, slow-moving water'; le Str(ox)stall, OE stoc 'a religious place' or stoc 'tree trunk'; stall 'sheep stall'; le Tunesedales, OE ðun-staede 'a farmstead' probably referring to an abandoned farmsted site. Le Escroft Lusta le laigarde c.1394 HC Micr. OE ðast 'east', croft 'small enclosed field'. This lies next to Leadgate.

33 A similar sense may be found in Chipperfield (PNHerts., 45); Cheppervillwoode 1313, Chipfield 1375, 'probably the OE ðeepere meaning 'a trader', and the
whole name is to be interpreted as 'traders' open land';


24 For example, there is no trace of a commercial centre in Lancashire before the Norman Conquest, nor in Domesday Book, 'though as it is probable that the commissioners who conducted that inquiry were not interested in any market rights which did not yield revenue to the king, such negative evidence is not conclusive.'; G. H. Tupling, *Markets and Fairs in Medieval Lancashire*, in J.G. Edwards et alii, eds, *Historical Essays in Honour of James Tait* (Manchester, 1935), 345-56, esp. 347.


26 C. M. Fraser, *The Pattern of Trade in the North-East of England, 1265-1350*, *Northern History IV* (1969), 44-65, esp. 49. As regards the p.n. Stagshaw (Nthumb). Stagshau 1296, Staggeshaue 1315, Mawer (Nthu, 187) suggests 'stag-wood'. In a private discussion, however, Mr George Redmonds observed that the first element may be stagi, staggi (1700). This means (a) a young horse from one to three years old, of either sex, and not yet broken to work; (b) a stallion; see W. Grant and D. Murdoch, eds, *The Scottish National Dictionary* (Edinburgh, 1971). The term is applied to 'a year's old stallion' in Nthumb, and the North, and to 'a three year old horse' in Cumb. and Westm., EDD, V, 716.

27 'Wild horses' is used here in the sense of 'running wild', that is, fell ponies that were unbroken and loose on the moor, rather than inherently wild and incapable of being trained.

28 Ms Jennifer Scherr informed me, in private correspondence, of the tradition that the horse fair in Chapel Broughton (Nthants) which lasted for several days, began with a procession from a holy well near the church.

29 N. Higham (The Northern Counties to AD 1000) (London, 1986), 179 discusses the way that Roman forts may have confiscated surrounding land for horse pasture. Perhaps escaped horses from *Windoruna*, the Roman Station at Rochester, were the origin of these fell ponies? Map 3 in the present article also shows these horse fair sites recorded in W. Owen, *Owen's New Book of Fairs published by the King's Authority, being A Complete and Authentic Account of all the Fairs in England and Wales* (London, 1820).

30 EDD, I, 595. Also: The last I saw of him he was chipping and chopping about at Barnaby ['= the great fair held at Boro'bridge], ibid, I, 561.

31 *NED*, 379. Also *chap* 'a buyer': Harry Wakefield was lucky enough to find a *chap* for part of his drove. (W. Scott, *Two Drayers*, 1827), NED, 274.

32 *EDNL*, I, 421.

33 Can it be mere coincidence that in such a financially impoverished, though rather attractive, area two fell ponies stand at the west end of the flat ledge on which the village of Chopwell lies, on the very edge of the moorland; two fell ponies, that is, which are cast in concrete? Why are they there if not to serve as a reminder of the fell ponies that used to run loose on the bleak moors? And if they simply commemorate the ponies that were used in the local coal-pits, what we may ask was the origin of such pit ponies?

HOLLIN NAMES IN NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

M. A. Atkin

While1 I am aware of Spray's admirable paper in which he discusses the possibility that *hollin* place-names may have arisen from the practice, especially in the southern Pennines, of using holly as a winter fodder,2 there is another possible, but not necessarily incompatible, derivation of the place-name which ought to be considered. In the course of examining pack-horse tracks and stock-drovers routes in Westmorland and parts of the adjacent counties3 it became evident that places with *hollin*4 names not only stood beside the stock tracks, but also had highly characteristic sites in relation to these tracks, and were probably associated with their use. It seems possible that they were resting places along the route which offered shelter and fodder for travellers and their animals, and were accordingly signposted with a branch of holly to indicate their significance; the *Hollin bush, -root* names may reflect this.

The two principal groups of travellers along the stock tracks had different requirements arising out of their task. Pack-ponies, carrying loads of about 2 cwt (50 kilogrammes) would normally be able to travel as much as 20 miles (32 kilometres) in a day, but at night would need to be unloaded and turned loose to graze, and the packs taken under cover for security. Their drivers therefore required shelter for the night for themselves and their goods, and grazing nearby for their animals. Cattle drovers, who had to give their animals time to graze during the day, moved at a slower pace. Their daily journey therefore was often relatively short, perhaps 5 or 6 miles (8-10 kms) and this may explain the close-spacing of *hollin* sites. The cattle drovers normally slept out of doors with their herds,5 but could make use of the pastures at the *hollin* sites, and enjoy the conviviality of the adjacent farmstead in the evening.

1. Characteristics of the *hollin* sites

A typical *hollin* farmstead usually stands alone, facing onto a small green or a group of little paddocks which separate the farm from the stock track (see Fig.1). There is usually an enclosed lane leading to the farm, and a second one returning to the main track. Generous water troughs, or a large pond are often found alongside these access-lanes, making it easy to water many animals at the same time. The farm is usually almost the highest settlement before the open moor. Many of the sites are close to township boundaries. This characteristic may arise purely because of the moor-edge siting, coupled with the tendency of the stock