

*From Deer to Ducks and  
Toponymy to Archaeology in  
Medieval Gloucestershire*

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Kishli Laister  
Cardiff University

# Archaeology

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- Settlement formation/development
  - Rural settlements
  - Urban settlements
  - Religious / high status settlements
- Evidence from burials – including osteoarchaeology
  - Diet/ disease
  - Use of animal material as amulets and other grave goods
  - Animal images found on metalwork.

# Zooarchaeology

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- Middens – recovery of bones from food/waste can help provide picture of diet.
- Burials – during Anglo-Saxon period, cows and horses were part of high-status burial practice (and some dogs), as well as cuts of meat.
- “Special deposits” – parts of animals (particularly cows) buried apparently as part of ritual behaviour, particularly in doorways and foundation trenches of buildings.

# The evidence sometimes lies...

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Excavation from Anglo-Saxon settlement, Bishop's Cleeve

Animal	% of Total
Cattle	3%
Sheep/goat	4%
Pig	5%
Horse	60%
Dog	28%
Birds (chicken)	0.2%
Fish	Nil
Deer	Nil
Other:	
Mole	0.2%
Water Vole	0.2%

# Historical sources

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## ■ Anglo-Saxon sources

- Laws
- Charters
- Wills
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

## ■ Conquest sources

- Domesday Book
- Bayeux Tapestry
- Chronicles

## ■ Medieval Sources

- Exchequer records
- Manorial records including court records
- Laws
- Charters / leases
- Estate management documents
- Hunting manuals

# Other sources

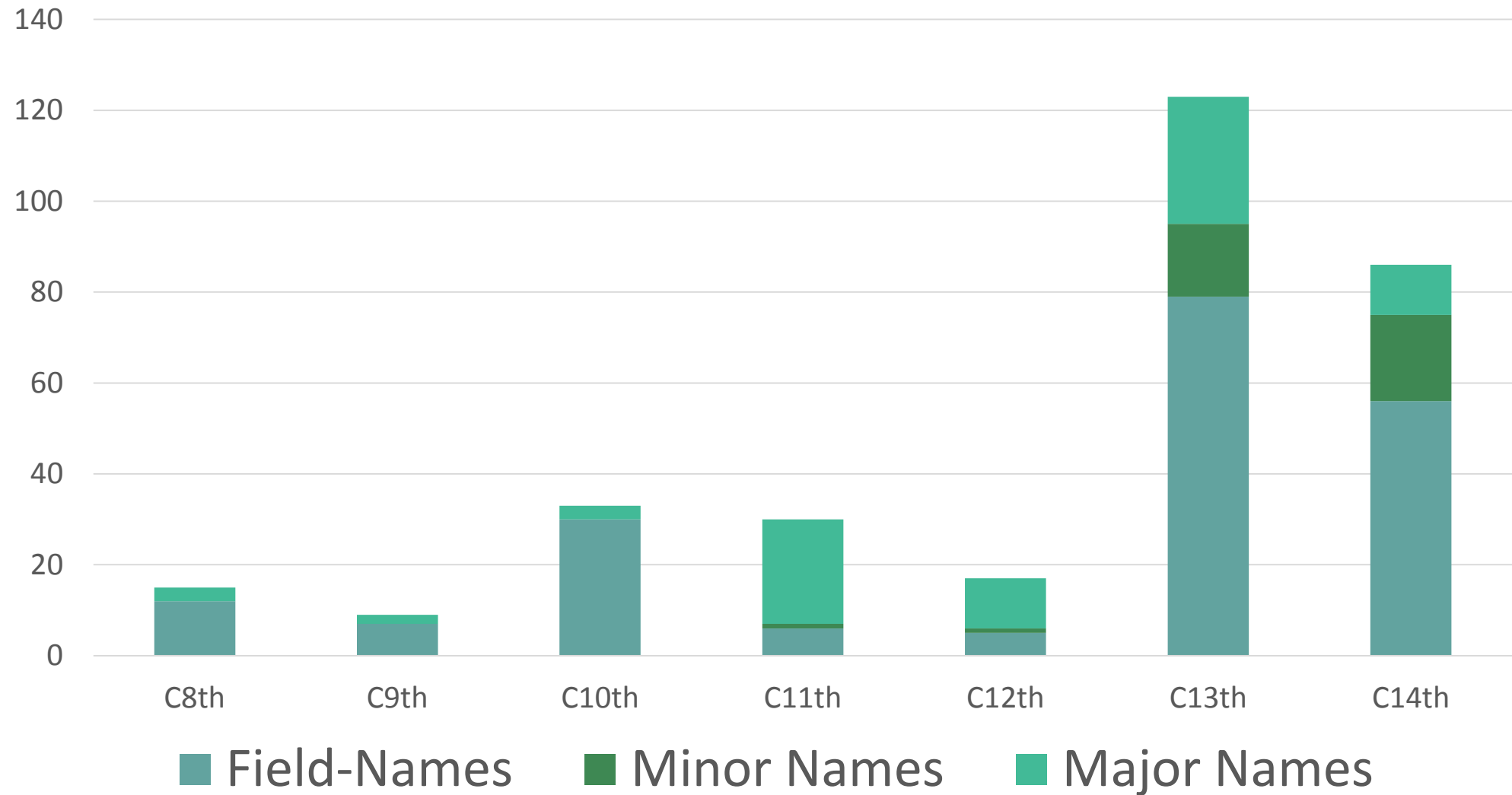
- Old English / Middle English literature
- Encyclopaedias/ bestiaries
- Religious texts
- Medical texts
- Hunting treatises
- Illuminated manuscripts
- Animal representations in metalwork/stonework



# Animals in Place-Names

- Place-names using animal terms which were recorded for the first time prior to 1400
- Most names have come from the EPNS volumes covering Gloucestershire
- A total of 313 direct names were recorded:
  - Major names – 79
  - Minor names – 37
  - Field names – 195
  - Hundred Names – 2

## Distribution of the first recording of place-names



# Selection of animal terms recorded in Gloucestershire place-names prior to 1400

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## **Wild mammals:**

Badger/ Brock

Beaver

Cat

Fox

Hare

Mouse

Otter

Rat

Wolf

## **Birds:**

Cock/hen

Crane

Crow

Dove

Duck

Eagle

Finch

Goose

Hawk

Lark

Raven

Rook

Sparrow

Swan

Wren

Woodpecker

## **Managed/domesticated:**

Deer/hart

Rabbit

Horse/stallion/stud/mare

Dog

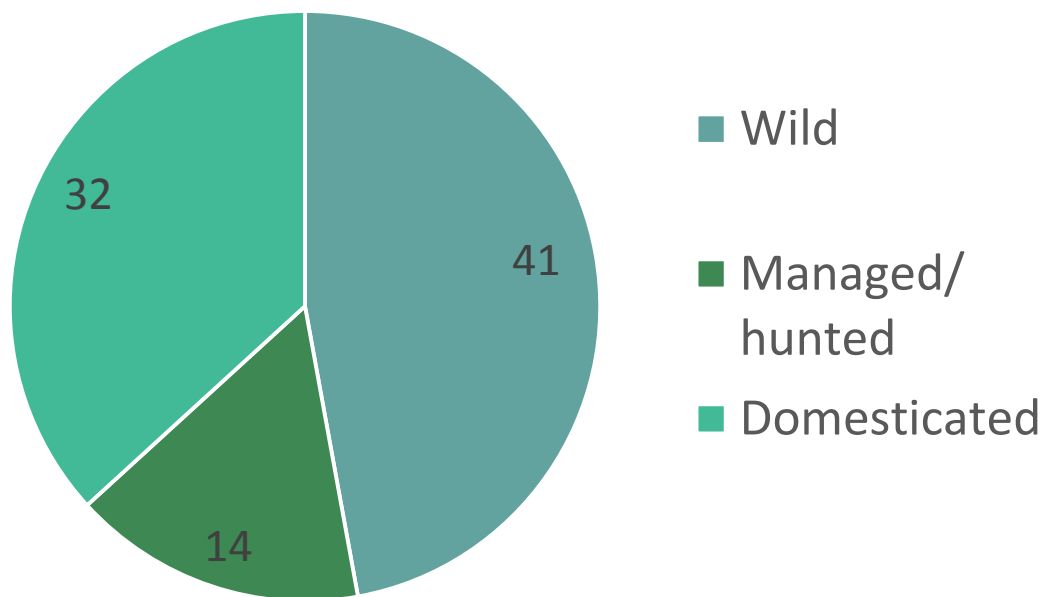
Goat/buck

# Domesticated animals

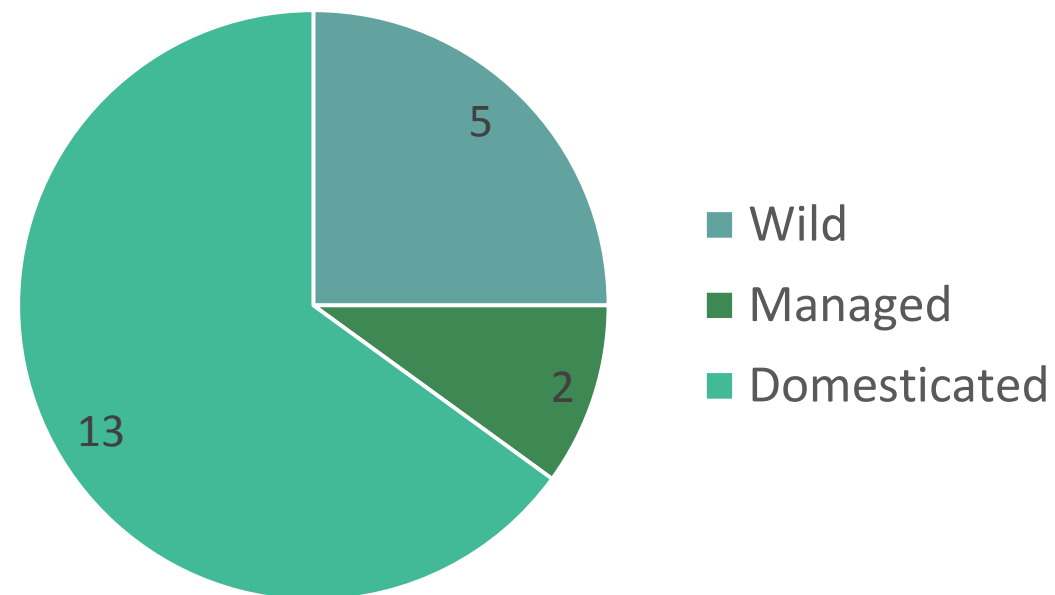
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Bull	8	Lamb	3	Hog	2
Calf	14	Ram	5	Pig	4
Cow	14	Sheep	16	Swine	7
Cattle	2	Wether	1		
Oxen	14				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>13</b>

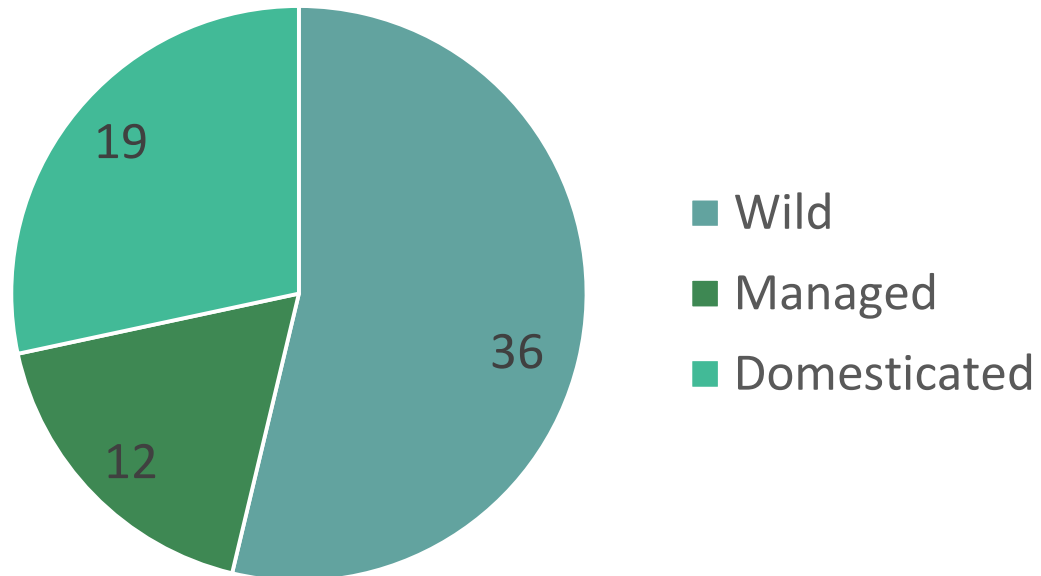
Animal groups first recorded in place-names 8th - 11th centuries



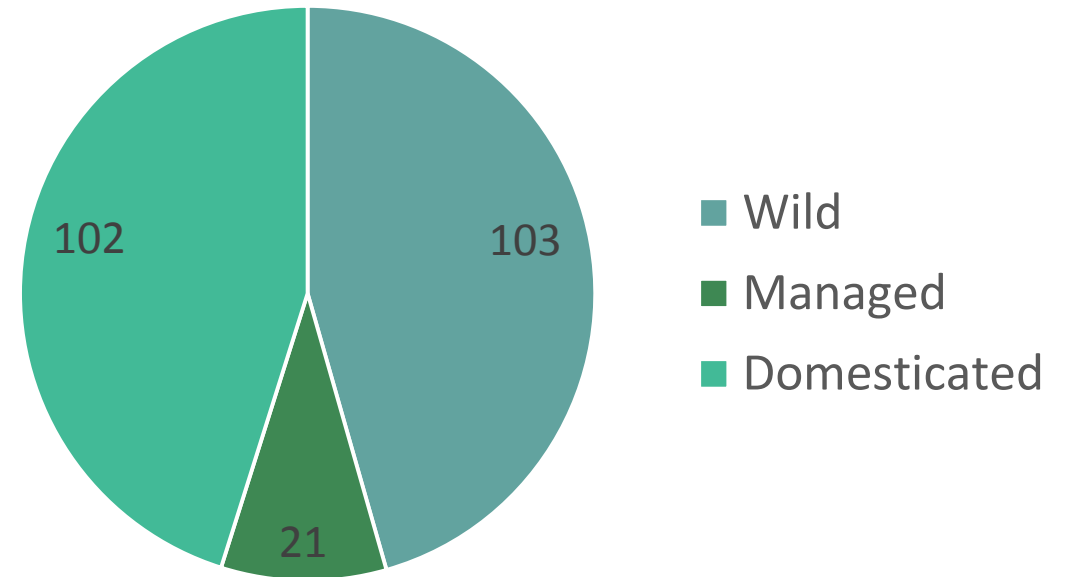
Animal groups in place-names first recorded in Domesday Book



Animal groups first recorded in place-names 8th - 11th centuries excluding Domesday Book



Animal groups first recorded in place-names in 12th - 14th centuries



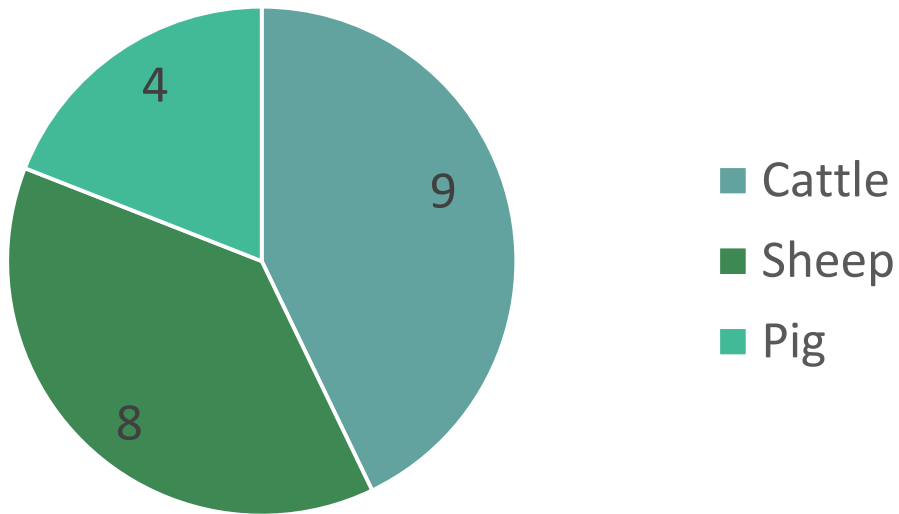
# Trends/patterns

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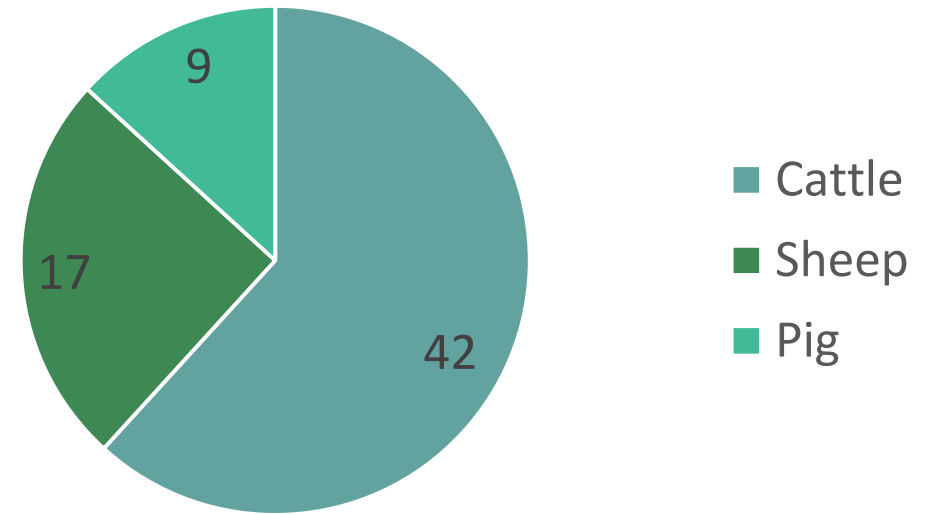
# Growth of the wool trade?

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Comparison of cattle/sheep/pig terms in place-names first recorded 8th - 11th centuries



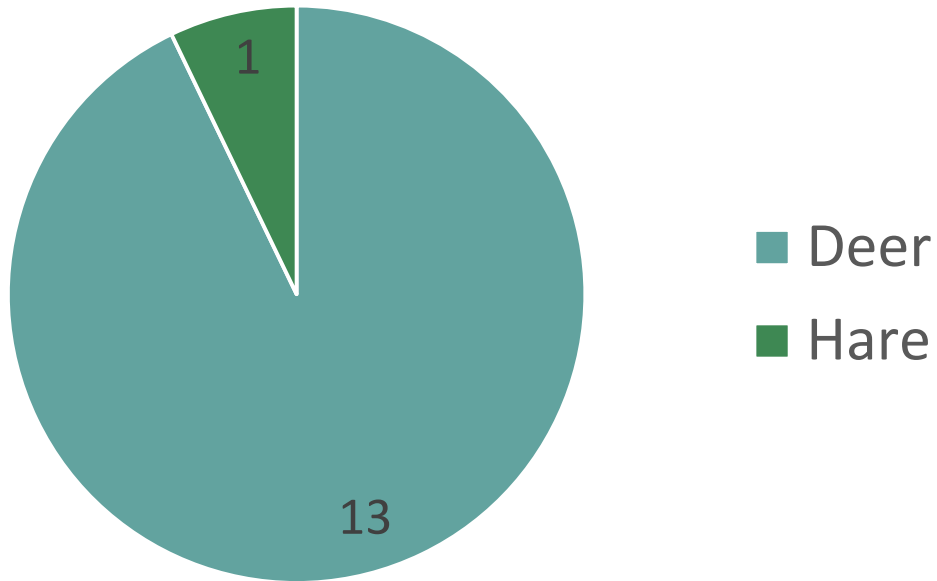
Comparison of cattle/sheep/pig terms in place-names first recorded 12th - 14th centuries



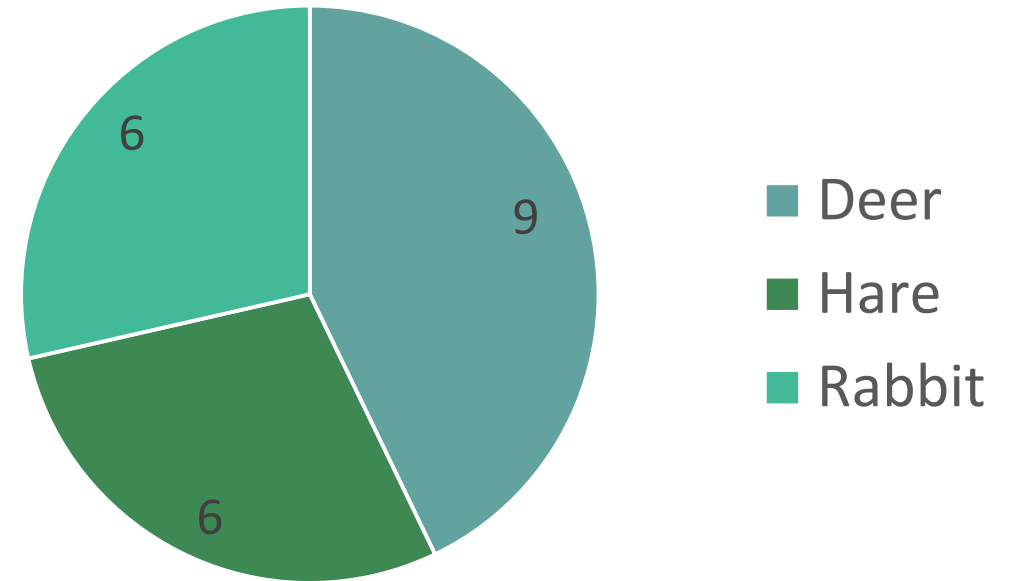
# Growing importance of deer hunting?

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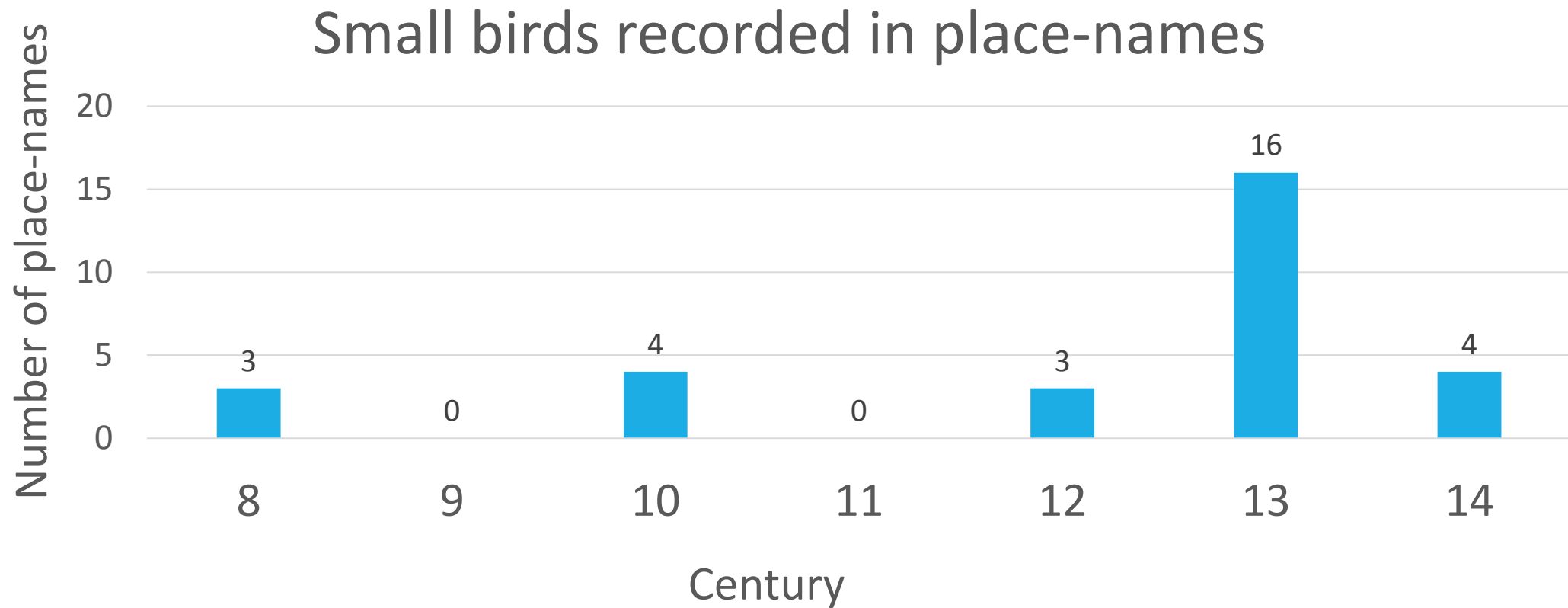
Managed/hunted animals in place-names 8th - 11th centuries



Managed/hunted animals in place-names 12th - 14th centuries



# Growing popularity of lark pie...?



## Next steps...

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- More analysis of relationship between animal terms and landscape features
- More work on written records to ascertain possible reasons for some of the trends identified – are they real or result of bias in material?
- Integrate the different types of evidence

