

Where did the name “Stradbroke” come from and does the name give us any clues as to when Stradbroke came into existence?

The settlement known today as Stradbroke, existed long before the Norman Conquest in 1066 as it was a well established community at that time. Precisely when it was established is another question but it was certainly Anglo Saxon in origin. That gives a date of between say 350AD and 1066AD, a range of around 750 years which with a little research can be narrowed down to a more specific time.

The naming of a place in Anglo Saxon times would normally have been by way of:

- the name of the family, tribe (or of the individual head of the family or tribe) that had taken occupation of the place.
- a landscape feature that gave a physical description of the place in question
- the type of place in the sense of it being a farmstead, hamlet, village, town or city, or

Given the lack of written evidence for most place names before 1086, the Domesday Book(s) of that time are the most comprehensive list of England’s settlements that had thus far, been put on record.

It is that list that enables us to see how settlements were known to their inhabitants and the spelling and structure of the settlement name gives clues as to its origins and thus in many cases to the place of origin of its first settlers and possibly to a specific time period.

The name “Stradbroke” is a combination of the words “Strad” and “Broke” and those two words have specific meanings. Whilst they may have specific meanings the problem is that they have different interpretations, depending on where the words appear to originate from, and whose interpretation one favours.

The interpretation of place names is a vast subject with disputes between linguistic experts, historians and archaeologists filling book after book with detailed arguments for and against even the tiniest detail. With the lack of early written records it all comes down to opinion, but the debates have brought out a wealth of knowledge that enables some very sound conclusions to be drawn in many cases.

The generally accepted view of origin of the name Stradbroke has been taken from some of the general works that seek to give the source of place names across England. Once the view becomes common currency it gets repeated each time there is a new discussion thus reinforcing that interpretation as the definitive version. But repetition adds nothing to the answer nor asks fresh questions and as a result Stradbroke’s origins have never been researched in any great depth.

The popular interpretation that gets repeated is that it is where a roman road - “straet” in Latin - crosses a stream or brook - “broc” in Old English. Thus Straet Broc, which becomes Strat Brook, which ends up as Stradbroke.

Quite a neat solution and one that is found in the “Place name” books such as Mills in his work on English Place Names, where he interprets the two parts of Stradbroke’s name as OE (*Old English*) *stret*, and OE *broc* and thus records Stradbroke as perhaps deriving from ‘a brook by a paved road’, although he does qualify that by pointing out that “no Roman road is known”. In that respect he is correct. The nearest known Roman road is 10 miles to the west.

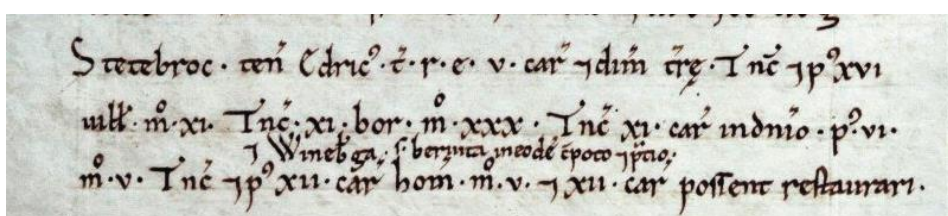
An alternative view is sometimes stated as Stradbroke “straddles a brook”, i.e Strad + brook which became Stradbroke. Again quite a neat solution which on the surface looks plausible. However this is quite a jump and makes a modern interpretation assuming “strad” was originally the word straddle. If the village was once known as Straddlebrook it was never recorded as such, and that interpretation can probably go down as a modern guess.

It is these interpretations which, in the absence of any other suggestions, have become the “probable” origins of the Stradbroke name. They are relatively easy interpretations as the two parts Strad and Broke can each be linked back to words of Latin or Anglo Saxon origin.

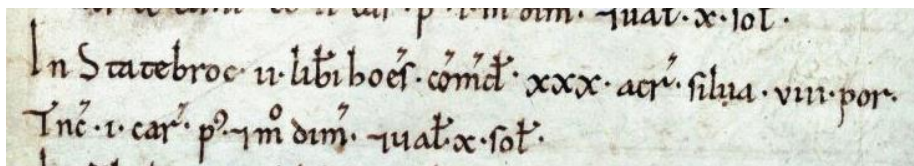
They also sound logical, particularly the straddling the brook. However the “straddle” element seems rather too obvious and simplistic (and here is a good example of the complexity of interpretation). Having said that it seems rather too obvious and simplistic, the origin of straddle in Old English is *stridan* “to straddle,” which in turn can be linked to the Lower Middle German word “*strede*” meaning stride, so the complexity and seemingly endless possibilities of defining a place name continue. Does *Strede Broc*, i.e. “straddling a brook”, work? – possibly in Lower Middle German, but still a long shot in defining the origins of the village name.

So *Straet Broc* the “roman road crossing the brook” seems the favourite, but there is another way of approaching the problem. That is not taking today’s wording and trying to attach it to similar words from Latin or Old English, but to go back as far as one can, to see how the village was named in documents and to see what clues that might throw up.

The Domesday Book entry is a good place to start but again with care. This was a survey conducted by French speaking “civil servants” working with the local priest and also the sheriff of the Hundred, usually an Anglo Saxon, who would provide the local knowledge. In recording names there was always the difficulty of interpreting the local dialect versus accurate spelling even if it were known. Nonetheless the end result was the defining and putting of placenames on record. Stradbroke was duly recorded in Little Domesday in 1086 to show that “*Edric held Stetebroc in the time of K. Edward*”. So *Stetebroc* it is... that is how the translation from the Latin is shown and that is how the name appears on the original Domesday entry below.



However a subsequent entry in Little Domesday clearly shows it as Statebroc.



So we have Statebroc and Stetebroc and saying the names out loud shows how difficult it would be for the surveyor to interpret the name that he has to write down. Having written it down it would be of little use asking the local sheriff to confirm his written word as being correct as it would be unlikely that he would be able to read Latin. The best confirmation of its correctness (in Latin) would probably be the priest but he would not necessarily have been a “local” .

Nonetheless it seems clear that the name would have sounded very much like “Stetbrock”. So we have an existing Anglo Saxon village, its name made up of two Anglo Saxon words “stete” (or a word sounding very similar) and “broc”. Both these words would have had a logical meaning either, as mentioned before, being derived from :

- the name of the family, tribe (or of the individual head of the family or tribe) that had taken occupation of the place.
- a landscape feature that gave a physical description of the place in question
- the type of place in the sense of it being a farmstead, hamlet, village, town or city, or

The “broc” part of the name is a landscape feature (a stream of some sort) and is relatively easy to confirm even down to the pronunciation. It is unlikely to have been the Celtic word “broc” as very few Celtic words survived the Anglo Saxons, certainly not in the east and south of the country. Broc in the Celtic language meant a badger (Mr Brock the Badger as we know him today) but a Celtic village in East Anglia named because of a “roman road crossing a badger” doesn’t seem likely.

So Anglo Saxon “broc” is likely to be the second part of the name. This was pronounced with a hard “c” sounding like a “k” as (unsurprisingly) in “broke”. (*In O.E. the consonant “c” is represented by two sounds with the back consonant sounded as “k”*),

Whereas today we would use the word “stream” to describe a flow of water, the Anglo Saxons had specific words that described the type of stream. A good clear stream was a “burna” which is prevalent today particularly in Scotland (burn). A ‘broc” by contrast was a slow and muddy stream that had no clearly defined banks probably in a rather marsh like area.

The description of “marsh” is particularly relevant as “water meadow” or “marsh” is the regular meaning of the Low German word *brook* (or in Dutch *broek*; in German *Bruch*, in Old High German *bruoh*). Given that East Anglia was settled after 400 AD by people from these areas it is likely that the area being described, i.e. Stradbroke, was indeed a marshy area with a slow moving stream running through it.

In the book “Words in time: diachronic semantics from different points of view” by Regine Eckardt, Klaus von Heusinger, Christoph Schwarze the word “broc” is discussed at some length

“Brook ...the word is Old English “broc” meaning muddy, deep cut opaque watercourse with clayey riverbed. (Rundbald 1998:54-56 see also Cole 1991: 37-47) The word originally meant fenland or marsh though this meaning is entirely unaccounted for in English records and hence the sense development of the word may have taken place before the Anglo Saxon invasion...”

The word broc was probably an existing word brought in by the Anglo Saxons and applied to landscape features they found here.

The “Stete” or “State” part is less straightforward. The words that might sound similar are

stræt f street, road (but is Latin and would have to refer to a Roman road that – as far as we know - doesn’t exist in Stradbroke). Also the earliest recording of the name did show the letter ‘r’ which was, it appears, only added some 100 years after the Domesday Book entry.

steten, stete is from Middle English and means 'to push, shove, kick' which doesn’t seem appropriate

stede - which is Anglo Saxon and means “place or dwelling place or site or position” and sounds very similar to stete when spoken. It also fits well with the meaning of broc as a “slow moving stream in a marshy area”

So the popular version of “the brook crossing a Roman road” may not be the correct version after all. So where did the stræt or street, or indeed the first part of the name “Strad” with a “r” in it, appear from and is it relevant?

There are few written records prior to the Norman Conquest and we only have the two Domesday entries to go on and neither of these have an “r” in them. The first time the spelling is seen with the “r” was around 1175 when it was recorded as Stradebroc. From that point on the first part of the name was invariably written as “Strad”. As the change was consistent from that point on it seems likely that the pronunciation made locally was more “Strad” rather than “Sted” and scribes were thus recording the word as they then heard it. In any event that is how it remained.

The “broke” part was shown as “broke” in what documents exist from 1086 up until 1400 when it was begun to be shown as “brook” in most documents until 1450. From

1450 to 1500, “brook” and “broke” seemed interchangeable. However from 1500 onwards it became “broke” and from that point “brook” disappeared from the written record and the village was known as Stradbroke as it is to this day. (*see below*)

The logical conclusion is that the original settlement was identified by a landscape feature as “the place by a slow moving stream in a marshy area” and in Anglo Saxon the name would have been “Stede broc”.

As for when that settlement came into being, it is unlikely to have been very early in Anglo Saxon times. The first settlements would have been in the coastal regions and as more groups arrived the movement would have been inland to occupy land either already being farmed or clearing virgin land for their use. It is probable that at first, it would have been reasonably strong groups who would have selected the land they wanted and that would probably have been the better land already under cultivation which they took over.

The logical staking of their “claim” to ownership would have been in the naming of their settlement. It would make a statement of ownership by their leader hence the considerable number of settlements whose name derives from a person, usually in the form of “the land of X” or “the land of the followers of X”. In the area around Stradbroke there are a number of such examples which have been interpreted as:

Fressingfield – the open land of the people of “the Frisian”
Wingfield – the open land of Wuffingas people
Bedingfield – the open land of the followers of Beda

In these cases:

The first part gives the name of the “leader” of those people
The ‘ing’ or ‘ingas” means “the people of...”
The “field” part comes from the Anglo Saxon word “feld” meaning open land (probably already cleared land)

Whilst the “ing” and “feld” are consistent across many named settlements, the named leader is often guesswork and interpretation by linguists and historians.

If this naming convention indicates possible early settlements (around 500-600AD?), then it may not have been necessary for subsequent settlement to have been so forcefully named. As the population of the established settlements expanded, small groups or even single families would have moved out to nearby land which may not at that stage have been cleared or was of poorer quality. A new satellite settlement would thus have been established and as an identifier would more likely to have been named after a landscape feature rather than a leader.

Admittedly yet another interpretation, but all this could logically indicate that in the early 600s AD a small Anglo Saxon group, possibly just one or two families to begin with, moved onto some land in an existing settled Anglo Saxon area (either as incomers or from an existing village) and that new settlement was known as “the place by a slow moving stream in a marshy area” or something that sounded to them rather like Stete Broc... which is where Stradbroke came into being.

All of this makes a good theoretical case for Stradbroke being an Anglo Saxon village, named for topographical reasons as being a “place by a slow moving stream in a marshy area” Unromantic it may be, but by Anglo Saxon standards it was simple and direct.

Where would these Anglo Saxons, these first ”Stradbrokers” have come from?

Again there are clues from the place names around Stradbroke. This wasn't just one small village set up in isolation. It was part of a continuous influx of peoples from across the North Sea taking up lands no longer defended and relatively easy to move into. It wasn't armed hordes raining death and destruction but small groups of people from various tribes and various family groups, farmers and traders who saw the opportunities and found little opposition and plenty of good land on which to “stake their claim”

As with most immigration the first settlers from a particular tribe or family group would get the message back to others in their homeland and they in turn would come over, usually moving into areas where “their” people had already established themselves. This would not have happened overnight but over generations, and as the newcomers intermarried and over time merged with other immigrant groups and the existing Romano-British people there was formed an amalgam of peoples whose language, religion, social structure and political structure coalesced into the Heptarchy or the seven kingdoms of England. That in turn, via the Vikings incursions and victories and defeats, through to King Alfred to Edward the Confessor, brought the country that was by then England to the Norman invasion and the Domesday Book wherein the village of Stetebroc was recorded – still there after generations had been living in the “place by the slow moving stream in a marshy area.”

And those first people that settled here, the founders of Stradbroke, can their place of origin be identified and their arrival dated?

It is highly probable that North Suffolk, in and around the Waveney valley and the area around Stradbroke saw some of the first incomers from directly across the North Sea both before and after the Roman armies had finally departed by 400AD. Initially those incomers were invited over to provide a defence force (known as *foederati*) for the existing population, now without the protection of Rome.

These *foederati* would have been effective at the start, focusing on the role they were invited in for, but it would not be long before the “open house” that was Britain with its stable population and its rich and fertile well tended land was seen to be there for the taking and taken it was. Not by sudden mass invasions of armed warrior bands but a relentless influx of many different groups and tribes from many parts of the European seaboard the Jutes, Angles, Saxons...and the Frisians. It is those Frisians that seem to be the logical early Stradbroke residents.

Suffolk holds a number of clues to a strong Frisian connection particularly in place names.

A nearby example already mentioned, is Fressingfield which is a compound name in three parts Fress + Ing + Field. The central part "Ing" is taken to mean "people of..." and usually is prefixed with a personal or tribal name. The Fress part is generally accepted as meaning either The Frisian (a person, or chieftan) or Frisian (a people or tribe) so "Fressing" would be seen as "the Frisian's settlement". The third part, "field" is a common Anglo Saxon suffix and is taken from "feld" meaning open land. Thus Fressingfield would be "the open land of the followers of Frisia (the Frisian)" or "the open land of the Frisians".

Either way it says that the parish of of Fressingfield that today shares a border with the parish of Stradbroke was almost certainly a Frisian settlement and probably a fairly early settlement.

We could make a reasonable case that the Frisian's followers, needing new land moved west (as most incomers had done, starting at the coast and edging further and further inland as new land was needed) and they wouldn't necessarily need to move any great distance, just far enough to relieve growing pressure on the primary settlement. Again this would not have involved masses of people in a big migration, it would have been a limited number of family groups seeking their own space but probably wanting to stay near the "protection" of the main settlement.

Perhaps that is when Stradbroke became the new settlement; incorporating the few dwellings that may have already existed in the area into a wider fledgling community in an area dominated by people of Frisian origins. They had moved down the road to the next useful area of land capable of supporting them.

In naming their "place" they would have looked at the topography of the area (and remembering that water levels were significantly higher 1500 years ago) and their new settlement area would have found a good place on high ground near to a water source (for the animals as much as anything). The largest water source would have been the stream that meanders south to north past Valley Farm and out to Hoxne. It would have been wider then and the valley in which it runs with its heavy clay soil would have created a waterlogged marshy landscape. Not a place to build your dwellings but a good source of water and only half a mile west of the higher flat area where the village has been centred ever since.

Hence Stradbroke, the Stetebroc of the Domesday Book, would have been an Anglo Saxon settlement of Frisian origins, not of a particularly early date, but probably around 600AD

Frisian links to East Anglia are well documented but the particular piece of "evidence" that gives great weight to the theory is mentioned in one of Norman Scarfe's excellent books "The Suffolk Landscape". In it he mentions research carried out by J.N.L. Myers, who in 1936 noted that in the marshlands of the north German coast and Frisia, there were great artificial mounds or *terpen*, "many of them covered by villages bearing names strongly reminiscent of eastern England"

Scarfe takes this further by noting some of villages in Frisia that seemed to fit the view expressed by Myers that Frisian village names were replicated in eastern England. Villages such as Barrum (Barham), Blya (Blythe - and the modern Dutch

word “bly” means “blithe” in modern English) , Hyum (Higham) Jislum (Gisleham) Nyland (Nayland). It is an established fact that there is a substantial early connection between Frisia and eastern England, although the village name similarities are but a small and often overlooked part of that connection.

Following up on Scarfe’s view, could Stradbroke have had (or even still have) a counterpart in Frisia and does Frisia still exist today? The answer to both those questions and one that almost certainly confirms Stradbroke’s name and early existence is a resounding ‘yes’.

Frisia is today an area of the Netherlands. It is on the coast and has much land reclaimed from the sea.



Frisia today



Frisia in the 6th Century



DESCRIPTIVE FILE OF THE CITY

	STEE BROEK	
Name in West-Frisian (Frysk)	Stêde Broec	
Name in North-Frisian (Frasch)	Stee Broek	
Name in East-Frisian (Seeltersk)	Stee Broek	
Name in Low-German (Plattdüütsch)	Stee Broek	
Name in German	Stede Broec	
Name in Dutch	Stede Broec	
Population	21 785	Year 2009
Rank	39 / 145	
Area	16 km²	Density 1 439 inh./km²
ZIP	1610-1614	
Website	http://www.stede-broec.nl	



A

sample of documents in the National Archives that record the village name (it needs to be stated that the original documents have been transcribed by the National Archives. The originals have not been seen. by the author)

strad	strat(e)	strade	stede	Stet(e)	Year	Recorded as	broc(k)	brook(e)	broke
					1086	Stet broc			
					1119	Stede broc			
					1175	Strade broc			
					1296	Strade brok			
					1338	Strade brok			
					1359	Strade brok			
					1363	Strade brok			
					1365	Strate broc			
					1397	Strade brok			
					1398	Strade brook			
					1398	Strade brook			
					1400	Strad brook			
					1405	Strat brook			
					1411	Strade brokke			

				1420	Strad brook		
				1425	Strad brook		
				1428	Strade brook		
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				1449	Strad broke		
				1455	Strad brook		
				1502	Strat brooke		
				1592	Strad broke		
				1699	Strad broke		
				1704	Strad broke		
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				1711	Strad broke		
				1715	Strad broke		
				1717	Strad broke		
				1723	Strad broke		
				1787	Strad broke		
				1787	Strad broke		

not of a complicated character. The urns found at Stade as well as those from Eye and Little Wilbraham, are, however, beaten out and embossed, the raised parts most likely pressed out with the thumb.' 'The urns embossed like those at Eye, at Wilbraham, and at Stade stand by themselves.'¹ This is a remarkable coincidence, for near Eye that we find such old place-names as Fressinfield and Hoxne, names that are probably traces of Frisians and Hocings—*i.e.*, Chaucians. Stade is in the old Chaucian county, and Hoxne is written in the Domesday Book in the genitive plural form Hoxna.

Among many places which have old tribal names

Settlers in Essex and East Anglia. 285

The absence in East Anglia of fixed runic inscriptions, except a late example about A.D. 1050 in the church at Aldborough,¹ therefore suggests the inquiry whether East Anglia was not originally occupied partly by settlers of Frisian and German origin rather than exclusively by colonists of the Anglian race. It is evidence also that its early colonists came mainly from north German lands rather than from the original homes of the people known as Angles. Viewed in this light, the original settlement of the eastern counties must be regarded as more Saxon than Anglian, more Frisian than Gothic or Scandian. As regards the Goths, Beddoe² has, however, pointed out that the name of Tytila (A.D. 586), son of Uffa, King of East Anglia, is very like that of Totila, King of the Ostrogoths.

king of the Ostrogoths.

In the eastern counties, as elsewhere, the place-names derived from people are probably as old as the settlement. The places must have been the abodes of men after whom they were named, and where they were designated by tribal names it probably was because their occupants were of these tribes.

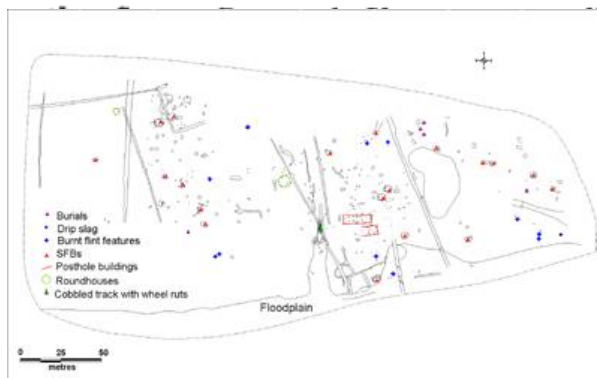
When we think how few must have been the original places of settlement in any county compared with the total number of inhabited places at the present time, the survival of even a few place-names which may be referred to clan or tribal names must be regarded as remarkable. Many very old tribal or family names have, however, survived, of which only a few of each type can be quoted, such as Hunn and Finbo. Hunn is a family name at the present time at Old Hunstanton in Norfolk, which derived its name, apparently, from one or more settlers that were called Hunn. Finbo also sur-

Many years ago some remarkable burial urns of the Anglo-Saxon age were found at Eye in Suffolk, and at Little Wilbraham in Cambridgeshire. Another large collection was found at Stade in the old Chaucian county of North Germany. Kemble says of these collections 'Generally the urns in sepulchres of North Europe are not of a complicated character. The urns found at Stade as well as those from Eye and Little Wilbraham, are, however, beaten out and embossed, the raised parts most likely pressed out with the thumb.' 'The urns embossed like those at Eye, at Wilbraham, and at Stade stand by themselves.'¹ This is a remarkable coincidence, for it is near Eye that we find such old place-names as Fressinfield and Hoxne, names that are probably traces of Frisians and Hocings—*i.e.*, Chaucians. Stade is in the old Chaucian county, and Hoxne is written in the Domesday Book in the genitive plural form Hoxna.

antecessours.' 'And zif the heritage be parted betwixen hem by her comoun assent, thanne have the eldere par-cener avauntage to chesyn which part that he wil.'¹ This custom points to the Frisians or Goths, and that Frisians largely settled in the eastern counties there can be no doubt. The general custom of inheritance among the Frisians was the partibility of the property equally among all the children, males and females. It will be noted that the burgesses of Ipswich had the same privileges as those of London and the people of Kent in regard to devising their estates or conveying them to others, and the evidence is strong that both Kent and the neighbourhood of London was partly settled by Frisians.

MOOD OF LONDON WAS PARTLY SETTLED BY FRISIANS.

In the eastern counties there are a considerable number of manors in which some form of the custom of borough-English or junior right survived as the customary mode of inheritance. Corner, who investigated this subject, tells us that he found it on eighty-four manors in **Suffolk**.² He also states that there were fourteen in Essex and twelve in Norfolk known to him.³ Among the Norfolk manors are Kenninghall, Gessinghall, Herling Thorp, Semere Hall, and Thelton. Among the **Suffolk** manors are Sibton and its members, Yoxford and its members, Aldborough, Hoxne, Brockford near Woodbridge, Fres-singfield, Elmswell (Framlingham), Geslingham, Pakenham, Middleton, and Mendlesham. The members of



The Field Team spent 5 months at Hartismere High School Eye, excavating 4.74 hectares in advance of the construction of a new playing field. The site lies on a south facing slope, part of the River Dove valley and within a broad area of known archaeological finds including a Saxon cemetery at nearby Yaxley. The topsoil was stripped under archaeological supervision by the main contractor and during this archaeological finds and features were identified across the whole site.

Nineteen Early Saxon 'Sunken Featured Buildings' were identified, ranging in size from c.2.5m x 2m to c.5.5m x 4.5m, and with a variety of forms and structure suggesting different functions. Central to the SFB's

were two posthole buildings, a rectangular building c. 9.2m long x c.6m wide and a long aisled building c.17.4m long x 5.4m wide. This had eight paired arcade posts with the outer wall lines formed from closely spaced small postholes. The date of either building is yet to be confirmed. 14 rectangular burnt flint, or fire-reddened stone filled features were also found, these are at present undated but appeared



to be associated with the SFBs. There is the potential for radiocarbon dating these. In the extreme south-east corner of the site a small pit was found containing an 'in situ' drip slag, the result of iron ore smelting on the margins of the site. Early Saxon finds from the site included pottery, objects associated with textile working, dress accessories and a vast amount of butchered animal bone.

The names of some of the towns and villages of Norfolk and Suffolk are a memorial to the people who travelled from the Continent, some as early as the fifth century, to cut the forests and attempt to make a living out of the land. The earliest of these place names usually end in ing which is derived from the Old English ingas and originally meant 'dependants or relatives' of a certain man.

*Exning *Gyxen + ingas The settlement belonging to *Gyxen's people*

Gissing Gyssa + ingas The settlement belonging to Gyssa's people

*(An * before a name indicates a hypothetical form.)*

Sometimes the place names end in ingham or ington . This is because ham or tun meaning 'homestead' and 'farmstead' respectively (see below) have been combined with ingas . The

result is *ingaham* or *ingatun* meaning 'the homestead/farmstead of the people of ...'

Fressingfield was named not for a landscape features or the type of settlement but after the people or tribe living in the area. The inclusion of "ing" or "ingas" in a place name is generally held to indicate that the settlement consisted of the people of a named person. In the case of modern day Fressingfield, the name has three parts namely the field or land area, that is the place of "the Frisian's" people.

Handbuch des Friesischen: Pro und Kontra

By Horst Haider Munske, Nils Århammar

2.1.2. The Suffix -ingi

The suffix *-ing(e)* < *-ingi* < *-ingja* had the meaning 'belonging to'. It was especially in use as a suffix for family- or clan-names and thus developed into a suffix which could be used for the name of a village where a certain chief or a clan lived. Because of this in many cases the first element is a personal name. It is sometimes even impossible to decide whether a certain name is a personal name or a toponym. Later on the suffix was in broader use, »normal« appellatives also appear as a first element, especially in Low German-speaking areas (Kuhn 1968, 42).

Since Jacob Grimm names formed with a suffix have been considered older than compositions with appellatives. One of the oldest in this respect is *-ing-*. All scholars consider it to be common Germanic (cf. Udolph 1994, 149–161). It is thought to have been productive in the area of investigation since the 5th century (Gysseling 1970, 46). In Frisia we find a

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II.1. Das Friesische in den Niederlanden (Westfriesisch)

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A much more common name was *brook/broek* 'marshy land' with synonyms, which is still in use as an appellative. Contemporary forms are in West Frisia *Broek* and *Donkerbroek*, in Groningen *Westerbroek*, *Noordbroek* and *Zuidbroek*, and in Westfriesland *Benningbroek*, *Grootebroek*, and neighbouring *Lutjebroek*. A recorded old form in West Frisia is *Lammerbruke* 12th c.

In Westfriesland we find *Opperdoes* < *Those* 12th c., going back to *those* 'moor'. Another contemporary name of this type is *Doezum* (in Groningen), a dative plural.

West Frisian place-names can be considered to be (almost) completely Germanic. This means that names appear in a Frisian or sometimes Dutch variety with common Germanic elements. Besides the widespread use of the suffix *-ing*, the former appellatives Gmc. **-haim* and **-wurth*

were most productive in the clay territories. Other well-known elements (cf. Bach, 1970, 89; Miescher 1993, 74).

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gen might have been different, due to its geographical position. Spahr van der Hoek (1960) suggested that names based on **haim* were found especially on the relatively higher ridges in the clay area in West Frisia, the lower parts inbetween having more names in *-werth* or *-ing*. On the basis of geographical distribution his cautious conclusion was that these names might be older,

*The names of some of the towns and villages of Norfolk and Suffolk are a memorial to the people who travelled from the Continent, some as early as the fifth century, to cut the forests and attempt to make a living out of the land. The earliest of these place names usually end in *ing* which is derived from the Old English *ingas* and originally meant 'dependants or relatives' of a certain man.*

*Exning *Gyxen + ingas The settlement belonging to *Gyxen's people*

Gissing Gyssa + ingas The settlement belonging to Gyssa's people

*(An * before a name indicates a hypothetical form.)*

*Sometimes the place names end in *ingham* or *ington*. This is because *ham* or *tun* meaning 'homestead' and 'farmstead' respectively (see below) have been combined with *ingas*. The result is *ingaham* or *ingatun* meaning 'the homestead/farmstead of the people of...'*

Dersingham Deorsige + ingas + ham Homestead belonging to Deorsige's people

Kedington Cydda + ingas + tun Farmstead belonging to Cydda's people

The Anglo-Saxons

The Angles, Saxons, and Jutes began to invade the British Isles in 449 AD. They came from Denmark and the coast of Germany and Holland. The Anglo-Saxons named their new country Engaland (the land of the Angles) and their language was called Englisc (what modern scholars refer to as 'Anglo-Saxon' or 'Old English').

Most place names in Norfolk and Suffolk were originally given by the Anglo-Saxons. The Old English words that they used in the place names are far too numerous to list here (see references to A.H.Smith in the suggestions for further reading). I have given a few of the common Old English place-name elements below:

burna (-borne) a brook, stream

dun - a hill

eg (-ey) an island

halh - a nook, corner of land

ham - a homestead

hamm - an enclosure, water-meadow

ingas (-ing) the people of...

leah (-ley) a clearing

stede - a place, site of a building

<http://www.englishplacenames.co.uk/>

tun - an enclosure, farmstead

well - a well, spring

worth - an enclosure, homestead

were Places were originally named in Old English, Norse, Scots, Welsh, Gaelic or Cornish, according to

- landscape features (topography),

- nature of settlement (habitat – city, town, village, fortifications) or
- the people or tribe living in the area,

Often combining two or three descriptive terms in one name. These names were then influenced and modified at various historical periods through language shift driven by socio-economic and political changes. These sometimes introduced new language influences, such as French from the Norman Conquest.

A word of caution... some modern names can deceptively cloak the true origins and meanings because these place names may have been modified quite dramatically over the centuries. Always try to look for the oldest usage of any place name for a more accurate interpretation of its original meaning.

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/didyouknow/placenames/>

The popular and most repeated interpretation of the origin of the word Stradbroke is that it derives from “a Roman road that crosses a stream”

Mills in his work on English Place Names, records Stradbroke as perhaps deriving from '*a brook by a paved road*', although he does qualify that by pointing out that “*no Roman road is known*”. In that respect he is correct. The nearest known Roman road is 10 miles to the west. He interprets the two parts of Stradbroke's name as *?OA stret, OE broc*

Domesday Book refers to it as “Statebroc / Stetebroc”

Place names can give clues to the origin of settlements. A simple example would be

Fressingfield

TM 26 77

Suffolk

'Open land of the followers of *Frisa (the Frisian)'. Or, possibly, 'furze-covered open land'.

?OE *fyrsen, ?OE pers.n., ?OE -ingas, OE feld

Stratford (*of which there are a number eg Stratford St Mary, Stratford St Andrew – both in Suffolk - Stratford on Avon, Stratford East London etc*)

Dennington

TM 28 66

Suffolk

'*Denegifu's farm/settlement'.

OE pers.n., OE tun

CDEPN 183

DEPN 142

Mills 151

A Key to English Place-Names

Stradbroke

TM 23 73

Suffolk

Perhaps 'brook by a paved road', though no Roman road is known.

?OA stret, OE broc

CDEPN 584

DEPN 449

Mills 441

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~aezins/kepndetailpop.php?placeno=15367>

Badingham

TM 30 68

Suffolk

'Homestead/village associated with B(e)ada'.

OE pers.n., OE -ing-, OE ham

CDEPN 31

DEPN 22

Mills 28

Tannington

TM 24 67

Suffolk

'Tata's farm/settlement'.

OE pers.n., OE -ing-, OE tun

CDEPN 599

DEPN 460
Mills 451

Horham
TM 21 72

Suffolk

'Muddy homestead/village'.
OE horu, OE ham

CDEPN 315
DEPN 250
Mills 249