

Corston is about 3 m. W. of Bath.

First Charter.

B.767, K.388 is a charter recording the grant of 10 hides of land *aet Corsantune* to the thegn Aethelnoth by King Eadmund in A.D. 941.

Both Kemble and Birch identify the grant with Corston, Somerset.

Survey.

The survey may be the original survey of the grant. In any case the forms of the Saxon words do not forbid the assumption that it at least goes back to a document of the 10th century.

1. *Aerest on Corsan Stream up oth thone Ealdan Stan Weall south oth tha Hyrnan* : 'First to Corsa Stream up as far as the Old Stone Wall south as far as the Corner.'

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The *Corsa*, now Corston Brook, forms the whole of the E. by. of the parish. Thus the survey starts on the Avon where that brook enters it, and goes up the brook.¹ The Stone Wall and the Corner must have been at the SE. angle of the parish, at the lower of the two fishponds of Newton Park.

2. *Thonan westrihte oth Cilda Stan* : 'Then due west as far as Children's (?) Stone.'

The survey now turns W. along the S. by. *Cilda Stan* is mentioned in the Stanton Prior charter. It must have stood at re-entering the angle in the S. by. of the parish a short $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due W. of the upper fishpond in Newton Park (OM1).

3. *Of etc. on Mercas Burh northwards* -

7. *Thaet on thone Anlipian Stan* : 'Then to the Stone which stands by itself.'

The landmarks which follow shows pretty clearly that this stone must have stood on the W. by. of the parish probably at the re-entering angle of the by. about 300 yds. NW. of Stantonbury House (OM1).

8. *Thonan north rihte on Maere Maede westewearde* : "Then due north to the west side of the Mead on the Boundary.'

This was probably the field on the by. about 350 yds. NNW. of Stantonbury House (OM1).

9. *Thonan rihte on thone Herepath oth Wifeles Cumbes Heafod* : 'Then straight to the Highway as far as the Head of Beetle's Combe.'

The *Herepath* is the road running N. from Stantonbury House (OM1) which forms the N. part of the W. by. of the Parish. *Wifeles Cumb* is the valley on the N. by., the head of which comes up to the NW. angle of the parish, the point here indicated.

10. *Thonne of Wifeles Cumbes suth ecge on Aesc Wyller* :¹ "Then from the south edge of Beetle's Combe to the Spring of the Ashtree."

It will be seen that the N. by. of the parish passes, as here described, along the S. edge of *Wifeles Cumb*. *Aesc Wyll* was probably one of the springs marked in OM6 near the head of the combe.

11. *Thonan suth on Ecge oth thaet Niehste Slaed* : 'Then south on the Edge of a Slope to the Lowest Slade (Wooded Valley).'

The previous landmark seems to be intended to carry the survey along the N. by. to a point where, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the Avon, the by. turns SE., the *suth* of the present landmark. After going in this direction for a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. the by. turns NNE. down a depression to meet the Avon. I take it that this depression is the *Niehste Slaed* of the landmark.

12. *Thone of, etc. on Stanwealles Broc of dune on Afene* : "Then from the Lowest Slade to the Brook of the Stone Wall down to the Avon."

¹ The use of *ecge* here tends to support what I have suggested elsewhere—that *ecge* in Saxon topography is used of the top of a slope, not of a ridge. After all the Saxons had the term *hrycg* in their vocabulary.

This brook must have run down the depression mentioned in the last landmark.

13. *Up on Afene oth Corsan* : 'Up the Avon as far as the Corsa.'

See landmark 1.

A Second Charter.

B.957, K.457 is a charter recording the grant of 10 hides *aet Corsatune* to Aelfswyda by King Eadwig in A.D. 956.

Identifications. Birch : Corston, near Bath.

Kemble : Corston, Wilts.

Survey.

The survey is either an original, or a copy of an original survey of the Saxon age.

It is curious that the surveyors, though defining the same area of land as that of the previous charter, have taken an almost wholly different series of landmarks.

1. *Aerest of Afene up andlang Corsan on Ecles Cumb suthewardne* : 'First from the Avon up along Corsa (Corston Brook) to Ecel's Combe on its south side.'

For Corsa see 1. of the previous charter.

Ecles Cumb is the small valley which runs up W. from the lower of the two fishponds in Newton Park (OM1). It will be seen that the parish by. passes, as described in the survey, along its S. side. The field at the head of this valley is called *Elcombe Sleight*.

2. *That west be Wealle* : 'Then west by the Wall.'

This wall must have run along the short piece of by. just E. of the re-entering angle in the by. about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the fishpond above mentioned. The by. is going WNW. rather than W. as described in the charter; but then the orientation of the charters, though sometimes good, is mostly approximate; and surveyors seldom use any save the four cardinal points.

3. *Eft suth be Welle* (read *Wealle*) : 'Again south by the Wall.'

This apparently carries the survey round the angle above mentioned along the other arm of it running SW. along the edge of a part of Newton Park.

4. *Thaer up ofer Feld on tha Riht Landgemaere on thone Sidlingweg to Wuda* : 'Then up over the Open Country to the Straight Balk of Ploughland to the Way which runs along the side of the hill to the Wood.'

Sidling in this landmark is the only instance of the use of that word which I have so far come across in the charters. As a field-name of the present day it is comparatively common. The survey is going along the S. by. of the parish. The *Sidlingweg* is probably the road which runs N. from the S. by. to Stantonbury House (OM1) and beyond. The Wood was possibly on the site of the wood which stands on the N. slope of the hill on which Stantonbury Camp stands (OM1).

5. *Of, etc. be Ecge on tha Threo Land Gemaere* : 'From the Wood by the Top of the Slope to the Three Balks of the Ploughlands.'

The *Ecge* is the top of the slope on which Stantonbury Camp (OM1) stands. The Three Balks were at the crossroads close to Wansdyke House (OM1) where the boundaries of Burnett, Stanton Prior, and Corston meet.

6. *Thanon north to Wege on gerihte on Wimundes Stan* : 'Then north to the Way straight to Wimund's Stone.'

This was probably a stone on the road running N. from Stantonbury House (OM1) where the parish by. meets that road a long $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the house. The survey rather slurs over the bends in the by. between this and the last landmark.

7. *Of, etc. north andlang Weges* : 'From the Stone north along the Way.'

This is that part of the road from Stantonbury House (OM1) N. which forms the N. part of the W. by. of the parish.

8. *Thaer est of tham Wege on gerihte to Brynes Cumb suthweardne* : 'Then east from the Way straight to the south side of Brin's Combe.'

The survey now passes along the N. by. of the parish. *Brynes Cumb* is the *Wifeles Cumb* of the first charter. The variation of name is due to the fact that topographical names were not always stereotyped before the days of maps. The parish by., as described in the survey, passes along the S. side of the combe.

9. *A north be Ecge* : 'Continuing north by the Top of the Slope.'

The orientation is imperfect, as the by. goes only slightly N. of E. But it follows the top edge of the S. slope of thecombe for some distance.

10. *Of, etc. east on Stanwell Broc* : 'From the Top of the Slope to the Brook of the Stone Wall.'

11. *Andlang Broces eft on Afene* :

For the last two landmarks see landmark 12 of the previous charter.

Field Names.

Measured from the church in the village :

Old Hill Sleight : $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NW. (V). Redfield : $3\frac{1}{4}$ fur. NW. Drang Close : $2\frac{3}{4}$ fur. NE. by N. Enox : $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NE. by N. (V). Cold Sleight : $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. (V). The Cleeve : $3\frac{1}{4}$ fur. slightly S. of W. (V). Cleeve Tyning : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. by S. (V). Ashen Hill : 3 fur. W. by N. (V). Cold Harbour : $4\frac{1}{2}$ fur. slightly N. of W. (V). Stewberries : $4\frac{1}{2}$ fur. W. Rickbarton : 180 yds. WSW.

From the S. point of the lower fishpond in Newton Park (OM1) :

Elscombe Sleight : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. (see charter) (V). Little Cooks Barrow : $4\frac{1}{2}$ fur. WNW. by W. Rudges : $4\frac{3}{4}$ fur. W. (V). South Cleeve : 3 fur. W. (V). Upper Bullham : $1\frac{1}{2}$ fur. WNW. From Wansdyke House (OM1) :

Stearts : 1 fur. NNE. (V). Little Stearts : 3 fur. NE. by E. (V). Bury Close : $3\frac{1}{2}$ fur. slightly N. of E. Named from Stantonbury Camp.

From Stantonbury House (OM1) :

Dolly Mead : $1\frac{1}{2}$ fur. S. Holly Pits : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSE. Field of same name in Weston near Bath. Witch Hazel : $1\frac{3}{4}$ fur. NNW. Mere Meads, immed. NE. (V). The Moors : $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNE. (V). Great Moors : 3 fur. NE. by N. (V). West Street Tyning : $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. (V). Ducks Puddle : $2\frac{1}{2}$ fur. slightly N. of E.

A.D. 941 De x hides de cost

Anglo-Saxon boundary description from a
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. Then to the solitary stone. Then north
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