Some Aspects of the
Pronunciation of English Place-Names (I)

Christopher Powell

Part I

The discrepancy between orthography and pronunciation is a major problem for learners of English - that goes without saying. One particular area is harder than the rest, and even causes trouble to native speakers sometimes. This is the pronunciation of proper names, both of people and places. The difficulty here is analogous to the notorious one of *ateji* (当て字) in Japanese. In both languages, a combination of factors - linguistic evolution, historical considerations, folk etymologies, even personal taste - have led to certain names being pronounced in a way different from that which we would expect from the way they are written. The problem can be got round in Japanese by writing the appropriate *kana* by the side of the name or (on the telephone) by explaining the relevant *kanji* by referring to other words. Thus, the place where I live is 鶴甲 pronounced 'Tsurukabuto', and I can show this in writing by putting down the *kana* equivalent つるかぶと or explain it over the phone by saying "'kabuto' is written with the character for 'kō' in 'Rokkō'." In English, too, we can solve the problem, rather less efficiently, in similar ways. A person may write in a letter "My name is Featherstonehaugh, pronounced 'Fanshaw'." On the telephone, he will say "My name is ['fænʃə], spelt F-E-A-T-H-E-R-S-T-O-N-E-H-A-U-G-H."
Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names

In the case of doubt over the pronunciation of personal names, embarrassment may arise; with place-names embarrassment is less likely than confusion and even serious inconvenience, as in the legend of the English tourist who spent a long and fruitless time poring over the road map trying to find his destination in Norfolk, which he had been told was ['heizbərə], He was unaware that it was spelt Happisburgh.

It is with English place-names that this paper will deal. Its object is to list and discuss the most common cases in which the pronunciation of English place-names cannot be deduced from the spelling. This will be done according to criteria which will shortly be presented. First of all, however, I would like to consider two factors which affect the whole approach to this very complex subject:

1) Even among native speakers, there are many types of pronunciation, and for any given place-name there may be many different pronunciations in use according to the age, education, social class or locality of the user. Thus, an aged Sussex countryman may refer to Heathfield as ['hefl]; a Geordie coal-miner will call his hometown ['nju:kaiz] (accent on the second syllable); a well-educated Northumbrian, speaking Received Pronunciation might say ['nju:kaiz], with a standard vowel but still a stress on the second syllable: an educated member of the middle class elsewhere in England will probably refer to these places as ['hi:fəld] and ['nju:kaiz], stressing the first syllable in both cases. Plainly any study of place-name pronunciation must adopt some standard, which may place a greater or lesser emphasis on local usage.

2) A study of pronunciation will be facilitated by taking into account that place-names can be classified according to their elements: certain aspects of pronunciation may become more meaningful if they are related to these elements. A semantic and etymological breakdown of English place-names yields the following categories:

1) Simplex names; these originate from a single word or idea and are mainly monosyllabic, though two syllables are sometimes found. Examples
are Leigh, Thame, Clun, Ruckinge (the last appears to have two elements but is probably derived from a single Old English word meaning 'a rookery').

2) Names having only one word (although it may originally have been set out as more than one) and with two or more distinct elements of meaning. Thus, Norfolk, 'home of the North people', Oadby, 'the village or homestead of Audi', Beaulieu, 'the beautiful place', Newcastle, Heckington, 'the enclosure of Heca's people', Piddletrenthide, probably 'the marsh measuring thirty hides'.

3) Names made up of two or more words, which can be sub-divided as follows:

i) Cases in which there is a basic name, to which is added a description of its size, location, nature or purpose. This may come first (as in Much Hadham, Little Gidding, Market Bosworth, Marsh Baldon, Cold Ashby, Chipping Norton (OE ceping = market) or afterwards (Wickham Market, Chesham Bois, Colney Hatch, Charing Cross). Longer instances are Stratford upon Avon, Stow on the Wold, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, Weston super Mare.

ii) Names linked with other names denoting ownership or some other connection with people: Kings Langley, Abbess Roding, Newton Abbot, Lyme Regis, Sutton Poyntz, Combe Raleigh, Stoke Mandeville. There are a great many of these cases, and as the personal names concerned are frequently of Norman French origin, there is a high incidence of irregular pronunciation.

iii) Saints' names, either alone or in conjunction with other elements. Examples are St Ives, St Osyth, Mary Tavy, Burton Leonard, Ayot St. Lawrence, Bury St. Edmunds, St. Just in Roseland, Llanrothal.

iv) Place-names which do not appear to fit into any other category: Cat and Fiddle, Cross-in-Hand, Westward Ho!

The names listed above will remind us that English place-names are derived from Celtic (Avon), Old English (Norfolk), Scandinavian (Oadby), French (Beaulieu) and later English (Newcastle). This fact has relevance in a study of pronunciation; for instance, place-names on the Welsh border and of Celtic origin may be pronounced by some English people using phonemes
Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names

not found in standard English (e.g. Llanrothal as [læn'rɒθəl], and the original pronunciation of place-names of Norman French origin may influence some of the ways they are pronounced today (e.g. Jervaulx as ['dʒə:vɔl]. In Cornwall, the old Celtic speech-patterns may account for a tendency to stress many names on the second syllable where a different stress might be expected from the habits of standard English: Penwith [pen'wɪθ], Lanivet [læn'ɪvɛt], Penzance [pen'zæns].

The above classification is according to semantic and etymological criteria. A study of the pronunciation of English place-names must cover the same corpus but not necessarily in the same way.

Bearing these points in mind, let us formulate criteria for listing problematic pronunciations of English place-names.

**Coverage** This survey will cover place-names in England within the boundaries established by the Local Government Act, 1972, according to which England was divided into 46 large County Authorities. These are as follows, with their abbreviations in this paper in brackets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avon</td>
<td>(Avon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire</td>
<td>(Beds.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkshire</td>
<td>(Berks.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckinghamshire</td>
<td>(Bucks.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>(Cambs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>(Ches.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>(Cleve.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall</td>
<td>(Corn.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumbria</td>
<td>(Cum.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derbyshire</td>
<td>(Derby.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devonshire</td>
<td>(Dev.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>(Dor.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>(Dur.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex</td>
<td>(E. Sus.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>(Ess.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire</td>
<td>(Glos.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Manchester</td>
<td>(G. Man.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>(Hants.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereford &amp; Worcester</td>
<td>(Here.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
<td>(IoW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>(Kent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>(Lancs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicestershire</td>
<td>(Leics.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>(Lincs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>(Lond.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merseyside</td>
<td>(Mer.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>(Norf.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N'Yorkshire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfordshire</td>
<td>(Oxon.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shropshire</td>
<td>(Shrops.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>(Som.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Originally denoted Salop in the Act, the county has now reverted by popular demand to the old English name of Shropshire (1980).
Christopher Powell

South Yorkshire (S.Yorks.) Tyne & Wear (Tyne) West Sussex (W. Sus.)
Staffordshire (Staffs.) Warwickshire (War.) West Yorkshire (W.Yorks.)
Suffolk (Suff.) West Midlands Wiltshire
Surrey (Sur.) (W. Mid.)

As a general guide, places have been chosen which appear both in the *BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names* (1971) and *Johnston and Bacon's Road Atlas of Great Britain (3 miles to 1 inch)* (1963), though some items have been taken from Eckwall's *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (1960), the *Blue Guide to England* (1972) and relevant volumes of the *Publications of the English Place-Name Society*. These works are henceforth abbreviated as BBC, Johnston, Eckwall, BG and EPNS (followed by the volume number) respectively. The places listed are mainly cities, towns and villages, but there are a few mountains and rivers and a few buildings (colleges, priories, historic houses, etc.) have also been included. The list does not pretend to be exhaustive. Names presenting no problems of pronunciation to the educated native speaker or proficient foreign student of English have been left out, except for a few instances where they have been used for contrast. Thus Ibstock and Horsepool do not appear, but Painswick does, as it is an example of a regular pronunciation of -wick in contrast with cases in which the w is not pronounced. Some smaller localities have had to be omitted because, although I feel doubt about their pronunciation, they do not figure in the works I have mentioned and I can get no clear information about them. Thus Dulcote, near Wells, does not appear, despite my uncertainty whether it is pronounced [-kət], [-kæt] or [-kəut]. A host of tiny places have been left out because, although they appear in BBC as examples of problematic pronunciation, they do not figure in the index to Johnston and I have been unable to find them mentioned anywhere else. Thus Vogue Beloth [ˈvɒɡ bɪˈlɒθ], picturesque though its appearance and pronunciation may be, is not in any of the lists which follow.
Still, the coverage is quite large and the would-be pronouncer (native or foreign) will be able to look up the names of a great many places in England, see how they are pronounced, compare these pronunciations with those of other places of the same name, see how the individual elements are pronounced in other names and, in certain cases, learn something of the geographical distribution of certain pronunciations.

**Type of Pronunciation Shown**  Earlier in this paper I posed the question of how to decide the type of pronunciation to be listed. I have elected to follow the criterion given by G.M. Miller in the introduction to BBC: "……..place names should be pronounced as they are locally, with perhaps rare exceptions where there is a recognized 'national' pronunciation." It is presupposed, however, that a standard RP accent is a desirable basis. My aim has therefore been to show the pronunciation of the educated Englishman referring to a place in a way which can be understood by another educated Englishman and still be felt appropriate by the well educated, or even not so educated, local inhabitant. It represents a compromise between tradition, courtesy to local custom, intelligibility and socially acceptable diction. Although my debt is heavy to BBC, *Eckwall*, *BG* and *EPNS*, especially the first of these,* I have drawn extensively on my personal knowledge of place-name pronunciation and that of other native speakers known to me. Excellent as are the works referred to, they have a number of shortcomings. Some of the spellings in BBC may be incorrect, certain of the pronunciations listed there are (as I shall point out) obsolete and some confusion arises from the fact that the counties where most of the places are situated are not specified. This is unfortunate, for where there are several places of the same name in different counties (or even in the same county) they may have different pronunciations. In my own listings I have tried to clarify these cases. *Eckwall*, who is mainly concerned with etymology, does not always show unusual pronunciations and when he does so, he may be wrong (as with *Caterham* (Sur.)). The *BG* is not always clear by reason of its

---

* Except where noted, all pronunciations are to be found in *BBC*.  

inconsistent way of representing pronunciation without phonetic symbols. EPNS sometimes gives local pronunciations but these may not represent modern or educated usage. In doubtful cases I have given the various forms shown in the works mentioned and made appropriate comments.

**Phonetic Transcription**  All the works referred to above use different systems for showing pronunciation. BBC and EPNS both use the International Phonetic Alphabet, but BBC employs a version of Gimson’s transcription while EPNS appears to follow Daniel Jones. *Eckwall* uses the figured pronunciation of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*. BG, as stated, uses a very inconsistent figured pronunciation of its own. I have reduced all these systems to the broad transcription given on pages vii to ix of Gimson’s *Introduction to the Pronunciation of English* (1962), which is almost identical to that used by BBC. It is as follows:

**Vowels**

- i: as in *see*
- ɪ as in *dog*
- u as in *sin*
- æ as in *bed*
- a as in *cat*
- ɔ as in *cup*
- ɑ: as in *car*

**Diphthongs**

- eɪ as in *may*
- əʊ as in *out*
- ə as in *my*
- ə as in *bay*
- əʊ as in *go*

**Consonants**

- p, b, t, d, k, m, n, l, r, f, v, s, z, h, w as customarily used in English.

Otherwise:

- ɡ as in *get*
- ɪ as in Welsh *llan* (voice-less *l*)
- tf as in *church*
- ʃ as in *jet*
- θ as in *thin*
Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names

δ " there ʃ as in shut
η as in eaten (syllabic n ) ʒ " measure
η " sing j " yes
l " bottle (syllabic l )

Main stress is indicated by the symbol' preceding the stressed syllable and secondary stress by the symbol,. Following the example of BBC, I have reserved the use of the syllabic l and n to midword positions where they remove ambiguity, e. g. Chittlehamholt ['tʃɪltəmhoʊlt].

Order of Presentation Names will be presented in four alphabetically arranged lists, according to elements.

List A will be of final elements (-BURY, -HAM, -WORTH, etc.) and will include some simplex names (e. g. Bury, Ham, Worth) where these also figure commonly as final elements.

List B will be of initial elements (AC-, CLAV-, HAIGH-, SHOTTIS-, etc.) and will include some simplex names (e. g. Haigh, Haulgh, Quay) where these also figure commonly as initial elements or have not occurred in the previous list.

As the (very few) phonetically problematic words indicating size, purpose, location, etc., will be included in one or other of these lists (e. g. Bois), along with any problem names resisting standard classification (like Hall-i'-th'-Wood), these two lists will effectively cover the cases classified semantically above as types 1, 2, 3(i) and 3(iv).

List C will be of place-names incorporating family or personal names or titles of the type classified above in 3(ii) (e. g. Lyme Regis, Buckland Monachorum, Shipton Bellinger, Combe Raleigh).

List D will be of place-names incorporating the names of saints, as classified above in 3(iii) (e. g. St. Budeaux, Newton St. Cyres, Hoo St. Werburgh).

Names will appear in those lists appropriate for the part or parts of the name presenting difficulty and consequently a certain amount of duplication is inevitable. Thus Melton Mowbray will appear only in List C and Quay
in List B, but Combe Raleigh will figure in Lists A, B and C, since Combe is a name which can be a simplex, a first element or a final element, offering several pronunciation alternatives, and the personal name Raleigh also offers variants of pronunciation. Likewise, Halstead will be found in List A and List B, since the initial element HAL- is rendered [hæl-] in some names and [hɔːl-] in others, while -STEAD is realised sometimes as [-sted] and sometimes as [-stɪd].

The breakdown into elements, especially in Lists A and B, will be found to follow the vagaries of spelling rather than phonological or etymological criteria. Thus Wantage, Hathersage and Breage will all appear under -AGE in List A, although of quite different derivation and pronunciation. The first, according to Eckwall is from OE wæntingc broc, ‘intermittent stream’, the second from OE haefers-.ecg, ‘ridge of the he-goat’ and the third, a simplex, is probably an old Cornish saint’s-name. However, for the elucidation of their pronunciation (respectively, the endings are [-id3], [-eɪd3] and [-eɪɡ] or [-iːɡ]) they can be conveniently grouped under -AGE, which is where a reader interested in sounds rather than etymologies would be more likely to look. The same reasoning lies behind the inclusion of Breage in List A, its origin as a saint’s-name not being apparent from inspection (it also comes in Lists B and D for good measure).

In each list, every entry starts with the more common ways in which the element under consideration is pronounced, the most irregular forms being left till last. Thus for -ASH, Saltash[ˈsɔːlˈtæʃ] comes first and Prinknash[ˈprɪŋdʒ] last.

The four lists which make up the bulk of this paper, together with my concluding comments, will be presented in instalments. A full bibliography will appear at the end of the final instalment. I would like, however, to thank at this stage the various people who have so far provided information to help me. It seems invidious to mention only a few, nevertheless I am specially obliged to my mother, Mrs N.B. Powell of Carshalton, Surrey (for information on that place-name), to the Rev. Graham Emery (for data
on place-names in Staffordshire, Northumberland and elsewhere), to Mr Edward Light (for details of place-names chiefly in the West Country), to Mr Edward Costigan (for advice on place-names in Cornwall) and to Miss Y. Morita of the British Council Kyoto Centre for finding me reference books and helping me look for the locations of Althorp and Avishays. With all this help from books and people, any mistakes lurking in this paper are acknowledged as my own responsibility.

List A

Final Elements and Simplex Names which May Appear as Final Elements

-ACRE This is [eɪkə] in Acre (Norf.) and Long Acre (the street in London) (neither in BBC) and in the final in Benacre ['beɪnəkə] (Suff.), but [-əkə] in Gateacre (Shrops.), Gateacre (Mer.), both [ˈɡeɪtəkə], Linacre (Cambs.)

-AGE The commonest form appears to be [-dʒ] as in Wollage Green (Kent) and Wantage (Oxon.) Other realisations are found in Hathersage (Derby.), ['hæðəsædʒ], Breage (Corn.) ['breɪdʒ] or ['briːdʒ] and Meneage (Corn.) [ˈməniːdʒ] or [ˈmɪnɪdʒ].

-AGER Alsager (Ches.) ['ɔ:lseɪdʒ] or ['ɔ:lsədʒ].

-AKE Savernake (Wilts.) ['sævənək].

-AKER Halnaker (W. Sus.) ['hænəkə]. ('half an acre')

-AL Gomersal (W. Yorks.) ['ɡəməsəl], Wirral (Mer.) ['wɪrəl].

-ALL BBC indicates two common pronunciations: [-əl] and [-l]. The first is found in Bothamsall (Notts.) ['bəðəmsəl] and Ecclesall (S. Yorks.) ['ɛkləsəl] the second in Balsall (W. Mid.) ['bələsəl] Campsall (N. Yorks.), Crundall (Hants.), Gnossall (Staffs.) ['ɡnəsəl]. Walsall (W. Mid.) is given as ['wəlsəl,ˈwɔlsəl] or ['wɔlsəl]. (See also -HALL)

-AM Usually [-əm]: Abram (G. Man.) ['æbrəm], Spaedadam (Cumb.) [spɛd'ædəm], Wylam (N'hum.) ['waɪləm]. In the case of -IAM,
the villages of Bodiam and Northiam (E. Sus.) are given by BBC as ['bɒdiəm, 'bɒdəm] and ['nɔːðɪəm]. Eckwall and EPNS (¶) give the first as ['bɒdʒəm] and the second as ['nɔːdʒəm].

-ARD seems generally to be [-əd]. BBC gives Barnard Castle (Dur.) ['bærnəd], Herriard (Hants.) ['hɛriəd] and Lydiard Park (Wilts.) ['lɪdiəd]. Nothing is said about the pronunciation of Rudyard Lake (Staffs.), however, and in view of the fact that many people pronounce the name of Rudyard Kipling (who was named after the lake) as ['rʌdʒəd], it is possible that the place-name also has this pronunciation in some idiolects.


-ASH As a simplex this is ['æʃ] (Johnston gives Ash as the name of two localities in Kent, two in Somerset and one in Surrey). As a final element, the same pronunciation is found in Saltash [sɔːlt 'æʃ] and Warsash ['wɔːsəʃ, 'wɔːzəʃ], (note differing stress) both in Cornwall, but in Prinknash (Glos.) we find ['prɪŋdʒ], (See also -WASH)

-ASK [-æsk] in Matlask (Norf.) (sic in Johnston and Eckwall; spelt Matlaske in BBC).

-AUGH [-ɔː] in Pettaugh (Suff.); Belaugh (Norf.) is given in BBC as ['bɪləʊ, 'bɪlɔː, 'bɪləʊ, 'bɪləː]; Bylaugh, also Norf., as ['bɪləʊ, 'bɪləʊ 'bɪləʊ, 'bɪləʊ]. (See also -HAUGH)

-AULT Hainault (Ess.) ['heɪnəʊt].

-AVON As a simplex and as a final element, usually [eɪvən]: Stratford- upon-Avon (War.), Upavon (Wilts.) ['ʌpəvən]. However, the River Avon in Dev. is ['ævən].

-BACH [-bætʃ] in Comberbach ['kʌmbəbætʃ] and Sandbach (both Ches.) but note Debach (Suff.) ['debidʒ].

-BEAR(E) [-bɛə] in Aylesbeare, Shebbeare and Rockbeare, all Dev.
94  Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names (I)

-BECH  
Wisbech (Cambs.) ['wɪzbɪtʃ].

-BERGH  
BBC has Sedbergh (Cumb.) ['sedbɛ, 'sedbɪɡ]; Eckwall only gives the first of these. BBC gives Thrybergh (W. Yorks.) ['θraɪbɛ, 'θraɪbɛrɛ].

-BETH  
Lambeth (Lond.) ['læmbɛθ].

-BIGGIN  
Newbiggin (Cumb., Dur., N'hum., not in BBC) ['njuːbɪɡɪn].

-BIT  
BBC gives Cowbit (Lincs.) ['kɔbɪt]; BG rather ambiguously gives the figured pronunciation 'Coubit'.

-BOIS  
['bɔɪz] in Chesham Bois (Bucks.) ['tʃesəm'bɔɪz]. Otherwise BBC and Eckwall give Cambois (N'hum.) ['kæməs] (BBC also gives ['kæməs] and Great and Little Hautbois (Ess.) ['hɔbɪs].

-BORN  
[-bɔn] in Holborn (Lond.) ['hʊlbɔn] or ['həulbɔn].

-BOROUGH  
This very common English element exists as a simplex in the old popular name for Southwark: the Borough ['bɒrə]. As a final element it normally has two weak vowels: [-bɔrə] in Attleborough (Norf.), Loughborough (Leics.) ['lʌfbərɛ], Stallingborough (Lincs.) ['stælɪŋbərɛ].

-BOURNE  
There is hesitation between [-bɔn] and [-bɔn] Cabourne (Lincs.) ['kɛbɔn], Church and Cow Honeybourne (Glos.) ['hʌnbɔn], but Shipbourne (Kent) ['ʃɪbɔn] and Weybourne (Norf.) ['weɪbɔn]. BBC gives Faulkbourne (Ess.) as ['fɔːbɔn] or ['fɔbɔn].

-BOW  
Barnbow (W. Yorks.) [bɔn'bɔʊ].

-BROKE  
[-brɔk] in Ladbroke (Warw.) (given as Ladbrooke by Eckwall) Ladbroke Grove (Lond.) and Pembroke College (Oxford).

-BROUGH  
An East Midlands and Northern version of burgh/borough. Usually [-brə, -bərə] as in Aldbourne (Hum.), Conisbrough (S. Yorks.) ['kɒnɪsbərɛ] Masbrough (S. Yorks.) ['meズbərɛ]. Further North the pronunciation is [-braf] in Hemingbrough (N. Yorks.) and Newbrough (N'hum.), but Middlesbrough
Christopher Powell

(B cleve.) is [-bra].

-BURGH

['bærə] as a simplex: Burgh-le-Marsh (Lincs.) ['bærə la 'mɑːʃ], Burgh Heath (Sur.) (also ['bɔː]); as a final element usually [-bærə]: Aldeburgh (Suff.) ['ɔlˈbærə], Grunyburgh (Suff.) ['ɡrʌndzˈbærə], Southburgh (Norf.: not in BBC), Yarburgh (Lincs.). This spelling and pronunciation of the element, which is cognate with -BOROUGH, are both common in the East of England. Note the irregular pronunciation of Bawburgh (Norf.) ['beibə], which BBC shows as coexisting with the regular ['bɔːˈbærə]. Note also Winfrith Newburgh (Dor.) ['wɪnfrɪð 'njuːbɔː]. In the North of England -BURGH appears as [-bra] in Burgh-by-Sands (Cum.) and Carrawburgh Fort (N'hum.) on the Roman Wall; it may be pronounced this way in other places as well. (See also Lists B and D.)

-BURY

As a simplex this is ['beri]: Bury (G. Man.), Bury St. Edmunds (Suff.), the first vowel weakens in final elements: Albury (Sur.) ['ɔlˈbærɪ], Westbury (Wilt.; not in BBC).

-CAR

A North-eastern final element. [-ka] in Elsecar (W. Yorks.) ['elsɪkə:], Ravenscar (N. Yorks.), Redcar (Cleve.)

-CASTER

A widely-found final element (from Latin castra; cf.-CESTER, -CHESTER); usually [-kæstə] as in Lancaster(Lancs.), Muncaster (Cum., not in BBC), Ancaster (Lincs.). BBC gives Tadcaster (N. Yorks.) as ['tædˈkæstə]; I suspect the [æ] represents Northern rather than RP usage and it is certainly common in local pronunciations of Northern places with this element. Eckwall indicates that -CASTER is only found in the North and East.

-CASTLE

[kɑːsl] as a simplex and as a final element: note that while Newcastle-under-Lyme (Staffs) is stressed ['njuːkɑːsl], Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Tyne) is locally stressed on the second syllable. BBC gives it as ['njuːkɑːsl] or ['njuːkæsl], in defe-
Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names (1)

Reference to the local broad A. BBC rather surprisingly gives Boscastle (Corn) as either [ˈbɒskæzl] or [ˈbɔskæzl]; the latter is unexpected so far south.

-CAWEN Boscawen (Corn.) [bɒsˈkwɛn].

-CAY Billericay (Ess.) [bɪlərɪki].

-CESTER Usually [-stə]; Alcester (War.) [ˈælstə], Bicester (Oxon.) [ˈbɪstə], Gloucester (Glos.) [ˈɡlɔstə], Worcester (Here.) [ˈwʊstə]. BBC has Cirencester (Glos.) [ˈsərənsɛstə] or [ˈsɪstə] and comments: 'The latter, although no longer commonly heard, has not entirely disappeared from use. For some, it is particularly associated with one of the older spellings, Cicerter.' BL says that it is locally called [ˈsərəʊn].

-CEUX Herstmonceux (E. Sus.) [ˈhɜstmɒnˈsjuː] or [,hɜstmɒnˈsuː].

-CHAMP [-tʃəm] in Beauchamp Roding (Ess.) [ˈbiːtʃæmˈrɒdɪŋ]; [-tʃəm] in Belchamp Otton (Suff.) [ˈbelʃæmpˌətən]. Curiously, BBC gives the neighbouring village of Belchamp St. Pauls as [ˈbelʃæmp]. It does not list Belchamp Walter.

-CHESTER As a simplex, [ˈtʃɛstə]: Chester (Ches.), Chester-le-Street (Dur.). As a final element, the usual form is [-tʃɪstə]: Chichester (W. Sus., not in BBC) [ˈtʃɨstə], Porchester (Hants., not in BBC), Grantchester (Cambs.) [ˈɡræntʃɪstə] or [ˈgræntʃɪstə], Winchester (Hants.) [ˈwɪntʃɪstə]. Although BBC does not state this, in many RP idiolects the realisation is Chichester [ˈtʃɪstə] etc. Manchester (G. Man.) is either [ˈmæntʃɪstə] or [ˈmæntʃɪstə], the second form showing the influence of Northern dialect, even though it may be used by RP speakers. Godmanchester (Cambs.) [ˈɡɒdmanˈtʃɪstə] has the full value to the vowel on account of stress. The Rev. G. Emery tells me that a pronunciation of archaic origin, [ˈgɒmpstə], may exist or have existed, and this is borne out by an earlier form of the name recorded in EPNS (Ill., p. 256).
Beauchief (Derby.) ['bi:tʃi:f]. (This name, which means ‘beautiful hill or headland’ in Norman French, is the same as that of Beachy Head (E. Sus.) ['bi:tʃi:]).

Bapchild (Kent) ['bæptʃaɪld].

Burghclere ['bɜ:kleɔ], Highclere ['hɑːkləʊ], Kingsclere ['kiŋzkləʊ], all in Hants. (only the first is in BBC).

Eccles (G. Man.) ['ɛklz], Beccles (Suff.) ['bɛklz] (neither in BBC).

Catcleugh Shin ['kætklɛf] or ['kætklɪf], a hill in N’hum.

Highcliffe (Dor.), but BBC lists Trot-tiscliffe (Kent) as ['trotɪsklɪf] or ['trosli].

A common element or simplex in the North. Usually [klɛf] as in Clough (N. Yorks.), Hollinsclough (Staffs, not in BBC.), BBC gives Oakenclough (Lancs.) as ['ɔʊkənklʌʃ], ['əʊkənkləʊ] or ['əʊkənklɛf]. (See also List B.)

Lincoln (Lincs.) ['lɪŋkən].

[‘kəm] as a simplex, [-kɛm] as a final element. Combe Down, Combe Hay, Monkton Combe ['mɑŋktən'kʊm], all in Avon, Combe Florey ['kʊm 'flɔrɪ and Combe Raleigh ['kʊm 'ræli, 'ræli] or ['ræli], both in Devon, and many others exemplify the simplex form. Chilcomb (Hants.), Balcombe (W. Sus.), Chettiscombe (Dev.) ['tʃɛtɪskəm] or ['tʃeskm], Winchcombe (Glos.) show the pronunciation of the element in final position. Only the last three of these are given in BBC.

[-kɔt] in Charlcott (Shrops.), Didcot (Oxon.), Prescot (Lancs.) (none in BBC).

[-kɔt] in Codicote (Herts.) ['kɒdɪkət] Condicote (Oxon.) ['kɒndɪkət], Wilnecote (Staffs.) ['wilnɪkət] or ['wɪnkət]; but [-kəut] in Charlcote Park (War.)

[-kəuts] in Bevercotes (N’hants.) ['bɛvəkəuts] and Somercotes (Derby.) ['sʌməkəuts].
-Cough [-kəʊ] in Burscough ['bɜːskəʊ] and Myerscough ['mɛrɪskəʊ], both in Lancs.

-Dale Usually [-dəl], as in Langdale (Cum.) and Swaledale (N. Yorks.) (neither of these is in BBC). Note, however, Longsleddale (Cumb.), given in BBC as [lɒŋ 'slɛdl] and in EPNS (Vol. II) as locally [læŋ 'slɛdl]. This is a Northern place-name element of Scandinavian origin, but sometimes appears further south apparently with standard pronunciation, as in Botesdale ( Suff., not in BBC).

-Del [-dəl] in Adel (W. Yorks.) ['æedl] and Arundel (W. Sus.) ['ærəndl].

-Den Usually [-dən] as in Bethersden (Kent) ['beðəzdan] and Morden (Lond.). In some areas of Kent and E. Sus. there is (or used to be) a tendency to give strong stress and a full value to the vowel of -DEN; BBC lists Benenden (Kent) as ['benən'dæn] or [benən'dɛn]; 'the latter is rarely heard now.' Also Cooden (E. Sus.) ['kuːdən] or [kuː'dæn], Smarden (Kent) ['smɔːr'dæn] or [smɔː:'dæn]. A very irregular case is Chaddesden (Derby.) ['tʃædzdæn] or ['tʃædzdən].

-Desert A Norman French element. Beaudesert Park (Staffs.) ['bɔːdɹzə]. BBC also gives Beaudesert ['bɔːdəzət, bɔːdɪ'zə] or ['bɛlzo], but this probably refers to a village in War.

-Deth Bewaldeth (Cum.) [bjuː'ældəθ].

-Dock [-dək] in Braddock and Ladock (Corn.) but [-dək] in Haydock (Mer.)

-Don [-dən] in the simplex River Don (S. Yorks.) but otherwise [-dən] Bladon (Oxon., Som.) ['bleɪdən], Wimbledon (Lond.).

-Dor Dinedor (Here.) ['dain'dɔː].

-Dough Snabdough, a mountain in Cum. ['snaɪbɔːf]

-Dour Chyandour (Corn.) ['ʃaɪəndɔːr, 'ʃaɪəndɔːr].
-DULPH  Biddulph (Staffs.) is given as ['bɪdɒlf] in BBC but ['bɪdl] in Eckwall. Landulph (Corn) is [lændˈdɑlf], with typical Cornish stress-pattern.

-EAT  Boxeat (N'hants.) ['bɔʊʒət] (BBC), ['bɒʒət] (EPNS (X)). Exceat (E. Sus.) ['eksi:t].

-EL  Often with syllabic l: Crichel Down (Dor.) ['krɪʃl 'dɒn], Tintagel (Corn) [tɪntəˈdʒil]. As [əl] in Withiel and Lostwithiel, both in Corn., [lɒstˈwɪðiəl]. BBC does not mention Withiel Florey (Som.), but from the derivation given in Eckwall one might expect the pronunciation to be like that of the Cornish examples.

-ERGH  Mansergh ['mænʒə] and Sizergh ['sæʒə], both in Cum. The former can also be pronounced ['mænsə] or ['mænsɚdʒə], according to BBC.

-ERNE  [-ən] in Crewkerne (Som.) and Pimperne (Dor.), but [-ən] in Iwerne Courtney (Dor.) ['juːənˈkærtn].

-ETER  These days appears to be regularly [-ɪtə] in Exeter (Dev.), Wroxeter (Shrops., not in BBC) ['rʊksɪtə] Uttoxeter (Staffs.) [juːtɒksɪtə]. BBC also gives the last as [ˈɒtɒksɪtə] and ['ʌksɪtə] and says ‘there are other less common variants.’ Eckwall gives ['ʌksɪtə] and ['ʌʃɪtə]. The Rev. Graham Emery, a Staffordshire man, tells me that now probably ‘only a few ancients’ use ['ʌʃɪtə]. Apparently the use of ['ʌtɒksɪtə] by a BBC announcer during the Second World War caused ‘headshaking in Staffordshire’ but perhaps it has now achieved respectability.

-ETT  Brenzett (Kent) ['brenzɪt].

-EY  [-i] in Binsey (Oxon.) ['bɪnzi] and Surrey, but [-ei] in the London Borough of Haringey ['hærɪŋgi].

-FANT  Rowfant (W. Sus., not in BBC) ['rəʊfænt].

-FIELD  Universally [-fɪəld]; I have already mentioned the EPNS(Ⅱ)
local pronunciation of Heathfield, which may still be in use, though probably not by speakers of RP: ['hefl].

- FOLD [-fəld] in Alfold ['ɔlfəld, 'ælfəld, 'əfəld], Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, all in Sur., and Slindfold (W. Sus.) (Only the first of these is in BBC).

- FOLK [-fɔk] in the county name Norfolk and Suffolk, but [-fɔk] in the name of the village of Freefolk (Hants., not in BBC).

- FONT [-fɔnt] in Urchfont (Wilts.) ['ɔrfont] and in Mottisfont (Hants., not in BBC), but weakened in Chalfont St. Giles (Herts.) ['tʃɛlfɔnt] or ['tʃɪfɔnt].

- FORD ['fɔrd] as a simplex: Ford (W. Sus. and many other counties); Old Ford (Lond.); also in Andoversford (Glos.) ['ændəvəzfɔrd]. Otherwise [-fɔd] as a final element: Chelmsford (Ess.) ['tʃælmzfɔd] or ['tʃæmzfɔd], Oxford (Oxon.), Stafford (Staffs.) etc.

- FORTH Appears mostly as [-fɔθ]: Ampleforth (N. Yorks.), Seaforth (Mer., not in BBC). However, EPNS (XXXIV) gives Spofforth (N. Yorks.) ['spɔfəθ].

- FRACT These days, Pontefract (N. Yorks.) is pronounced ['pɔntɪfɪrækt], but BBC gives ['pɒmfrɪt] or ['pɒmfrɪt] as ‘an old local form, which survives in the name of the liquorice sweets known as Pomfret cakes.’ Eckwall gives ['pɔntɪfɪrækt] ‘locally ['pɒmfrɪt].’

- FYLDE The Fylde ['faɪld], a district of Lancs., appears in a number of local place-names, e.g. Poulton-le-Fylde ['pʊltən lə 'faɪld], Thornton-le-Fylde.

- GAN Wigan (G. Man.) ['wɪɡən].

- GAR Ongar (Ess.) is ['ʌŋgə], but I suspect that Binegar (Som.) is ['bɪnəɡə], though it is not mentioned in BBC.

- GATE(S) Margate and Ramsgate, both in Kent, have [-ɡeɪt], but Highgate (Lond.) is ['haɪɡeɪt] or ['hɑɪɡeɪt]. Whether the same
alternative existed for the old London prison of Newgate I do not know. Oakengates (Shrops., not in BBC) is ['ɔukəŋeɪts].

-Geo

Bengeo (Herts.) ['bendʒəʊ]. This must sound strange to Japanese people.

-Ger

[-dʒə] in Abinger (Sur.) ['æbɪndʒə] and Bovinger (Ess.) ['bɒvɪndʒə]. [-gə] in Clehonger (Here.) ['klʌŋgə].

-Gest

[-dʒɪst] in Fingest (Bucks.) ['fɪndʒɪst] and [-gɪst] in Hergest Ridge (Here.) ['hæːɡɪst ˈriːdʒ].

-Gill

Always [-gɪl] as in Gaisgill ['geɪzɡɪl] and Sleagill ['sliːɡɪl], (only the first is in BBC).

-Hale

Finchale Priory (Dur.) is ['fɪŋkl].

-Halgh

Greenhalgh (Lancs.) ['ɡriːnholə] or ['ɡriːnholə] (BBC also lists a place-name Fernyhalgh ['fɜːnɪhælf] or ['fɜːnɪhælf], but I have not been able to find whether it is in England.)

-Hall

This element shows some variety in pronunciation. The H may or may not be pronounced, a preceding S may be pronounced [ʃ] and sometimes the whole element is elided to a syllabic l. Here are some of the principal realisations:

[-hɔl]: Chrishall (Ess.) ['krɪʃəl], Courteenhall (Northants., in Eckwall, not BBC) ['kɔːtənholə], Mildenhall (Suff.) ['mɪldənholə].

[-ɔl]: Asthall (Oxon.) ['æstəl], Benthall (Shrops.) ['bentəl] or ['benθəl] Buxhall (Suff.) ['bʌksəl].

[-l] Benthall (Suff.) ['benl], Broughall (Shrops.) ['brʌfl], Great and Little Saughall (Ches.) ['sɔːkl].

-Shall=-[-shɔl]: Tivetshall St. Margaret and St. Mary (Suff.) ['trɪvɪtʃəl].

-Shall=-[-ʃl]: Coggeshall (Ess.) ['kəɡəl] (or ['kʌksəl]),

Gomshall (Sur.) ['ɡəməl] or ['ɡəməl],

Ludgershall (Wilts.) ['lʌdʒəl] or ['lʌdʒəl]
-SHALL=[ʃl] or [ʃɔl]: Eccleshall (Staffs.) ['ekʃl] or ['ekʃɔl]. Coltishall (Norf) is ['kɔltʃsl, 'kɔltʃl, 'kɔltʃsl, 'kɔltʃsl].

BBC says that Mildenhall (Wilts.) is sometimes pronounced ['m ʃldə nɔl] and sometimes ['m ʃmə nɔl], in which case it is spelt Minal.

-HAM

This element offers similar complications to those of -HALL. The H is sometimes pronounced, sometimes silent, and preceding elements may be modified. The following analysis is suggested: it is by no means exhaustive.

Simplex: ['hæm]: Ham (Dev., Glos., Kent, Lond. near Richmond, Som., Wilts.), East and West Ham (Lond.).

Final: [-əm]: Aldenham (Herts.) ['ɔldənəm], Alkham(Kent) ['ɔlkəm] or ['ɔkəm], Ashburnham(E, Sus.) ['æʃbənəm], Balham(Lond. not in BBC) ['bæləm], Padiham (Lancs.) ['pædəm], Westerham (Kent, not in BBC) ['westərəm].

-GHAM=[ʃəm]: Hargham(Norf.) ['hɑːfəm], Ulgham(N’hum.) ['ʌfəm].

-PHAM=[ʃəm]: Burgham(Sur., W. Sus., not in BBC) ['bərəm], Reepham(Lincs. Norf.) ['riːfəm].

-PHAM=[pəm]: Meopham (Kent) ['məpəm], Wepham (W. Sus., not in BBC) ['wepəm].

-PHAM=[ʃəm] or [pəm]: Deopham(Norf.) ['diːfəm, 'diːpəm].

-SHAM=[ʃəm]: Abbotsham (Dev.) ['æbətʃəm], Bisham (Bucks.) ['bɪʃəm], Sidlesham (W. Sus.) ['sɪdləʃəm].

-SHAL=[ʃəm]: Amersham (Bucks.) ['æməʃəm], Bottisham (Cambs.) ['bɒtɪʃəm], Garboldisham (Norf.) ['ɡɑːblıʃəm].
- SHAM = [-ʃəm] or [-səm]; Chesham (Bucks.) ['tʃɛʃəm, tʃɛsəm], Bluntisham (Cambs.) ['blʌntɨʃəm, 'blʌntɪsəm].
- SHAM = [-zəm]; Bosham (W. Sus.) ['bɒzəm], Mersham (Kent, BG only) ['mɜːzəm].
- THAM = [-təm]; Merstham (Sus.) ['mɜːstəm].
- THAM = [əθəm]; Grantham (Lincs.) ['ɡrænθəm].
- THAM = [təm] or [θəm]; Altham (Lancs.) ['ɔːltəm, 'ɔːθəm], Bishops Waltham (Hants.) ['bɪʃəps 'wɔltəm, 'wɔːltəm], Whelnetham (Suff.) [wel'niːθəm, 'welnetəm].

Other irregulars: Altrincham (G. Man.) ['ɔːltrɪŋəm], Averham (Notts.) ['ɛərəm], Babraham (Cambs.) ['bæbɾəm], Boultham (Lincs.) ['bʊːtəm] or ['bʊːðəm], Brougham (Cum.) ['bruːm], Offham (E. Sus.) ['ɔfθəm].

A further special category deserves attention: that of place-names ending in -INGHAM. There are very many of these and there are three ways of pronouncing them:

[-ɪŋəm]: Birmingham (W. Mid.) ['bɜːmɪŋəm], Buckingham (Bucks.) and most other places with this ending, including Chillingham (N'hum.).

[-ɪndʒəm]: Other localities in N'hum., including Bellingham, Edlingham, Eglingham['ɛglɪndʒəm], Ellingham, Eltringham, Whittingham.

Special case: Whittingham (Lancs.) ['wɪtɨŋhæm].

The alternative popular name for Birmingham, Brummagem, is still occasionally heard and is pronounced ['brʌmɪdʒəm]. It is related to Bromwich ['bɒmɪtʃ], and the north-west area of the city is still officially called West Bromwich.

-HAMPSTEAD BBC gives the simplex as ['hæmpstɪd] or ['hæmpsted]:
104 Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names (1)

**Hampstead** (Lond.). *Sulhamstead Abbots* and *Bannister* (Berk.) are given as [sʌl 'hæmpstəd]. The same applies to *Moretonhampstead* (Dev., not in *BBC*) ['mɔːtən 'hæmpstəd]. Back in Berk., note that *Hampstead Norris* (not in *BBC*) is neighboured by *Ashampstead* ['æʃəmstəd].

- **HAMPTON** There is free variation between [nɔː 'hæmpənt] and ['nɔː 'hæmpənt] *Northampton* (N'hants.); similarly for *Southampton* (Hants.). In other names the H is usually pronounced: *Roehampton* (Lond.) [rəʊ 'hæmpənt], *Minchinhampton* (Glos. not in *BBC*) ['mɪnʃɪn, 'hæmpənt].

The H is also kept when the name occurs as a simplex as in *Hampton Court* (Lond.), *Hampton-in-Arden* (W. Mid.).

- **HANGER** *Betteshanger* (Kent) ['betʃæŋə], *Moggerhanger* (Beds.) ['mɒɡəhæŋə], *Westenhanger* (Kent, not in *BBC*). *Chaddlehanger* (Dev.) is traditionally ['ʧædlɪŋə] (*BBC*, *EPNS* [Ⅳ]) or the modern spelling-pronunciation ['ʧædlhæŋə].

- **HAUGH** Both as a simplex and as a final element, this offers diversities of pronunciation:

  [hɒf]: *Blaydon Haughs* (Tyne) ['hɒfs]. The Rev. Graham Emery, who now lives in the area, tells me that *Humshaugh*, and perhaps other places in N'hum., can have the same pronunciation. *BBC* gives *Humshaugh* ['hʌmˌʃɔːf] and *Pauperhaugh* ['pəʊpəhɔːf] and makes no mention of other N'hum. names of this type, such as *Broomhaugh, Rotherhaugh*. Perhaps [-hɒf] and [-hɔːf] are both possible.

  [hɔːf]: *Nether and Upper Haugh* (S. Yorks.)

  [hɔ]: *Haugh* (Lincs.), *Thornhaugh* (Cambs.)

A totally irregular pronunciation is that of *Ashmanhaugh* (Norf.) ['æʃ 'mænə]. (See also List B.)
HAVEN  Newhaven (E. Sus.) [ˈnjuːheɪvən].
HAVERN  Goonhavern (Corn.) [ɡəˈnɛvən, gʊnˈhævən].
HAY  H is sometimes pronounced, sometimes not. Cotmanhay (Notts.) is [ˈkɒtməneɪ], Fotheringhay (Cambs.) is [ˈfʌðərɪngheɪ], but BBC points out that the Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was executed, is usually referred to as [ˈfʌðərɪnggeɪ]. Idridgehay (Derby.) is ['aɪdrɪdʒheɪ] or [ˈɪdɪʃi]. Brathay (Lancs., Cumb., not in BBC) is [ˈbreθeɪ], according to Eckwall. The Cumb. river Rothay is [ˈrɒθeɪ].
HAY(E) S  Avishays (Dev.) [ˈævɪʃeɪz]. BBC says that while the historic house is spelt and pronounced in this way, the modern housing estate is usually spelt Avishays [ˈævɪʃeɪz] or [ˈævɪʃeɪz].
HEAD  The H is apparently always pronounced: Birkenhead (Mer.) [ˈbɜːkənˌhɛd], Cadishead (G. Man.) [ˈkædɪʃed], Portishead (Avon) [ˈpɔːrtɪʃed]. Neatishead (Norf.) is [ˈniːtɪʃed] to the personnel at the RAF Station and ['niːtɪstɪd] to the villagers (BBC).
HED  The derivation of Shepshed (Lancs., Leics.) from ‘sheep’s head’ ought to give a pronunciation [ˈʃepsəd] or [ˈʃepsəd], but I can find no evidence on the subject.
HEIM  Only found to my knowledge in Blenheim Palace (Oxon.) [ˈblɛnəm].
HELE  Hele (Dev.) [ˈhɛl]; Cotehele House (Corn.) [ˈkɔːtɪl, kæˈtɪl].
HEY  Oxhe (Herts.) [ˈɔkshi].
HIDE  Piddletrenthide (Dor.) [ˌpɪdlˈtrentəd].
HILL  The H is sometimes pronounced, sometimes not. As with -HALL and -HAM, a preceding S may be assimilated to give [ʃ] in pronunciation.
[hɪl]: all simplexes: Mill Hill (Lond.) etc. Also Redhill
Some Aspects of the Pronunciation of English Place-Names

(Sur.), which was written Red Hill until early this century ['redhil] (not in BBC).

[-il]: Ashill (Dev., Norf., Som.) ['æʃil], Haverhill (Suff.) ['heəvril], Poughill (Corn.) ['pəfl] or ['pəfəl], Poughill (Dev.) ['pəfəl].

[-hil]or[-il]: Sedgehill (Wilts.) ['sɛdʒhil] or ['sedʒil].

-HITHE

Rotherhithe (Lond., not in BBC) ['rɔðəhæt],

-HO(E)

Again, H may or may not be pronounced. In addition, the vowel may be realised as [ə] or [u:].

[-həu]: Aynho (N'hants.) ['eɪnhəu], fingringhoe (Ess.) ['fɪŋɡrɪŋhəu], Irvinghoe (Bucks. not in BBC) ['aɪrɪŋhəu], Wivenhoe (Ess.) ['wɪvənhoʊ].

[-əu]: Stanhoe (Norf.) ['stænhoʊ].

[-həo] or [-əu]: Cogenhoe (N'hants.) ['kəʊknəʊ] or ['kəʊknəʊ], Prudhoe (N'hum.) ['prədəʊ] or ['prədəʊ].

[-hu]: Piddinghoe (E. Sus.) ['pɪdɪŋ'hjuː] (note typical E. Sus. final stress).

-HOLE

Mousehole (Corn) ['mɔuzl].

-HOLM(E)

This element behaves in a similar fashion to -HALL and -HAM and -HILL:

[-həum]: Axholme (Lincs.), Bromholm (Norf.) ['bromhəm] Carholme (Lincs.), Denholme (W. Yorks.)

[-əm]: Barholm (Lincs.) ['bærəm], Dunholme (Lincs.), Marholm (Cambs.) ['mærəm].

Conisholme (Lincs.) is given by BBC as ['kənɪʃəʊm], ['kənɪʃəʊm] or ['kənɪʃəʊm].

-HOLT

['həult] as a simplex: Lion's Holt (Dev., not in BBC). The same in Chittlehamholt (Dev.) ['tʃɪltəhməʊlt]. -SHOLT = [-ʃəult] in Sparsholt (Hants.) and [-ʃəlt] in Eversholt (Beds.), according to BBC. EPNS (Vol. III) gives this
last as ['evəsəl].

-HOPE

Usually [-əp]: Ryhope (Tyne) ['raɪəp] and Stanhope (Dur.) ['stænəp].

BBC gives ['kɒnəp] and ['kɒvənəp] as alternatives for Covenhoe (Here.)

-HORNE

Ashorne (Warw.) ['æʃhɔrn].

-HOW

Carlinghow (W. Yorks.) ['kɑːlɪŋhəʊ], but Torpenhow (Cum.) ['trɪpənəʊ] or ['tɔpənəʊ].

-HUISH

['hjuːʃ] as a simplex: Huish (Dev., Wilts.), Huish Champflower (Som., not in BBC) ['hjuːʃ 'tʃæmpfləʊə].

Hardenhuish (Wilt.) ['hɑːdnjuːʃ] and Melhuish (Dev., not in BBC as a place-name) ['mɛljuːʃ] (EPNS(IX)).

-HULL

['hʌl] as a simplex: Hull (Hum.), the full name of the city being Kingston-upon-Hull. The same in Solihull (W. Mid.) ['sɒliŋhɔːl]. However, Minshull Vernon (Ches.) is ['mɪnʃəl 'vɔːnən].

-HULME

Hulme End (Staffs.) ['hjuːm, 'hʌm], Hulme (G. Man., Mer) ['hjuːm], Levenshulme (G. Man.) ['levənzhjuːm].

-HUNT

H pronounced in Tolleshunt Major, Knights and Darcy, three villages in Ess.: ['təʊldʒænt]; optional in Boarhunt (Hants.) ['bɔːrʒænt] or ['bɔrənt], Chadshunt (Warw.) ['tʃædʒænt] or ['tʃædzænt]. H not pronounced in Cheshunt (Herts.) ['tʃɛsənt].

-HURST

H normally pronounced, as in Crowhurst (Sur., E. Sus.) ['kroʊhɜːst] and Staplehurst (Kent) (neither of these can be found in BBC). In spite of misleading spelling, it is pronounced in Ashurst (Kent) ['æʃhɜːst]. Preceding orthographic T sometimes gives [θ] (? a spelling pronunciation) as in Gathurst (Lancs.) ['ɡɑːθɜːst] and Goathurst (Som.) ['ɡəʊθɜːst].

-INGE

[-ɪndʒ] in Lyminge ['lɪmɪŋdʒ] Ruckinge ['rʌkɪŋdʒ] and
other place-names in south-east Kent.

- ISLAND  
  *Barkisland* (W. Yorks.) ['ba:kɪslænd, 'baːslænd] and *Eardisland* (Her.) ['ɜːdzlænd] both contain an Old English genitive - they are nothing to do with islands.

- KEARD  
  [-ˈkɜːd] in *Liskeard* (Corn.)

- KNOWLE  
  ['nəʊl] as a simplex, e.g. *Knowle Hill* (Dor.), but otherwise in *Honiknowle* (Dev.) ['hɒnɪknəʊl] and *Puncknowle* (Dor.) ['pʌnkl]

- LACH  
  ['lætʃ] in the simplex *Lach Dennis* (Ches.) ['lætʃ 'denɪs], but *Shocklach* (Shrops.) ['ʃɒklæʃ].

- LAGH  
  An Irish element, but found in *Lanalaghd Gardens* ['rænəlæg].

- LAM  
  Weak vowel, as in *Bedlam* (the old *Bethlehem Hospital*, Lond.) ['bedlæm] and *Wylam* (N'hum.) ['waɪləm].

- LAND  
  [-lænd] as a final element: *Litherland* (Mer., not in BBC) ['lɪðəlænd], *Sunderland* (Tyne) ['sʌndəlænd] and former *Westmorland* (now part of Cum.) ['westməlænd].

- LAS  
  *Crowlas* (Corn) ['kraʊləs].

- LE  
  *Acle* (Norf.) ['eɪkl].

- LEIGH  
  As a simplex, *Eckwall* correctly says that 'the pronunciation varies between ['liː] and ['lai].'
  ['lai]: *Leigh* (Dor., Kent, Sur.), *Leigh Sinton* (Worcs.)
  ['liː]: *Leigh* (G. Man.), *Church Leigh* (Staffs.), *Leigh Green* (Kent), *Leigh-on-Sea* (Ess.), *Bessels Leigh* (Oxon.)
  ['lai] or ['liː]: *Leigh-on-Mendip* (Som.).
  *Great* and *Little Leigs* (Ess.) are ['lɛɪz].

As a final element, -LEIGH is usually [-lai]: *Stockleigh English* and *Pomeroy* (Dev.), *Tyldesley* (G. Man.) ['tɪldzli] or ['tɪldsl], *Umberleigh* (Dev.) ['ʌmbəl]. However, stress and a full vowel are found in *Buckfastleigh* (Dev.)
Christopher Powell

[ˈbækfaːstliː] and Eastleigh (Hants.) [ˈiːstliː].

- LEM
  [-ləm] in Audlem (Ches.) [ˈɔːdəm] and Burslem (Staffs.) [ˈbɜːzləm].

- LET
  Hunslet (W. Yorks.) [ˈhʌnslət].

- LIEU
  Beaulieu (Hants.) [ˈbuːliː].

- LISLE
  Carlisle (Cum.) [ˈkærliːl] or [ˈkɑːliːl]. BBC says ‘The first is national usage; the second is preferred locally.’

- LY
  In E. Sus. (and some parts of W. Sus. recently transferred from E. Sus.) -LY is stressed and pronounced [ˈlaɪ]. Instances are Ardingly (W. Sus.) [ˈɑːdɪŋli], Chiddingly [ˈtʃɪdɪŋli], Hellingly [ˈhɛlɪŋli], East and West Hoathly [həʊθli], all in E. Sus. (For last-syllable stress in the region, see -DEN.)

- LYE
  Wylye (Wilts.) [ˈwaɪli].

(to be continued)