

PLACE-NAMES OF THE PARISH OF PILLATON

compiled by Dr Ken George

The list of place-names given below is not comprehensive, but it includes, as a base, practically all the names on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map {Explorer 108}. We may distinguish primary names (e.g. Pillaton) and secondary names (e.g. Pillatonmill). Only about 20% of the primary names in the parish are Cornish. For each name, as much of the following information as possible has been included:

- a. the name as it appears on modern maps; the primary name is in Bold Roman type, and the secondary part of the name is in non-Bold Roman type.
- b. the six-figure grid reference, to 100 m.
- c. one or more representative historical spellings, with dates (not the complete range recorded).
- d. a Cornish form is given in Bold Italic type; where an element is more or less certain, it has been underlined; elements which are uncertain are not underlined: many non-Cornish names have been translated into Cornish for the use of Cornish speakers: these, too, are not underlined. I have attempted to find a Cornish form for all of the names, but have had to admit defeat in a few cases. These are names with no recorded historical forms, and without an obvious meaning.
- e. the morphology and meaning of the name.
- f. notes on the name.

East Beria	380635	<i>Kelli Est</i>
West Beria	377636	<i>Kelli West</i>
<i>Labera</i> 1244 Old English <i>beara</i> 'grove'		
Beria Wood	382639	<i>Koes an Gelli</i>
Blindwell Wood	399653	<i>Koes Fentengoeg</i>
<i>Blindwell</i> 1841 Probably refers to a well which has dried up.		
Briston	396646	<i>Trevrythel</i>
<i>Briteleston</i> 1200 Cornish personal name <i>Brytthael</i> + Old English <i>tun</i> 'settlement'		
Bush	379621	<i>Bos</i>
No historical forms; appears to be English 'bush'		
Dean's Bridge	382622	
No historical forms: was the builder of the bridge a Mr Dean?		

Great Down Wood	382645	<i>Koes Meur an Woen</i>
East Down Wood	389638	<i>Koes Est an Woen</i>
North Down Wood	384638	<i>Koes North an Woen</i>

These names contain Old English *dun* 'hill'

Ford	393635	<i><u>Fordh</u></i>
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La forde 1200; *Foorde* alias West forth 1649

English ford does not fit the present location, so if it does refer to a ford, that is likely to have been in the valley 450 m to the west. The word was borrowed into Middle Cornish as *forth*, meaning 'road' (cf Welsh *ffordd* 'road'), so it is interesting to see this spelling in 1649.

Hornifast Cottages	411651	<i>Penntiow Karvugeledh</i>
Hornifast Wood	405652	<i>Koes Karvugeledh</i>

Herdenefast 1200

Old English *hierdena-fæsten* 'stronghold of herdsmen'

Howton	376632	<i>Treros</i>
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Hogheton 1345

Old English *hoh* 'spur' + *tun* 'settlement'

Kernock	373638	<i><u>Kerne</u>k</i>
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*Kerne*k 1302

Cornish *kerne*k 'abounding in corners'

Kernock Lodge	377637	<i>Loja <u>Kerne</u>k</i>
High Kernock	374644	<i><u>Kerne</u>k Wartha</i>

Leigh	381628	<i>Lannergh</i>
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Leigh 1284, some of the historical forms have the family name Durant appended
Old English *leah* 'clearing'

Moditon Wood	370628	<i>Koes Treleysek</i>
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No historical forms

English *muddy* + *tun* 'settlement.' It is not clear where the settlement was.

Mount Ararat	404650	
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A fanciful name, probably taken from the Bible; the original Mount Ararat is a dormant volcano in the extreme east of Turkey.

Mushton	373650	<i>Treueur</i>
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Mucheltoune 1626

Old English *micel* 'great' + *tun* 'settlement'

Mushton Cottage	373647	<i>Pennti Treueur</i>
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Paynter's Cross	400642	
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Liribeauton 1284

If this early name really refers to this place, then it has changed considerably over time. Its meaning is obscure.

Pentillie Castle	410646	<i><u>Kastell Penntylli</u></i>
Built and named by Sir James Tillie, c. 1698		
Pillaton	367643	<i>Trebeulyow</i>
<i>Piletone</i> 1086		
Old English <i>pila-tun</i> ‘settlement defended by stakes’		
Pillatonmill	366634	<i>Melin Trebeulyow</i>
Pillaton Bridge	365633	<i>Trebeulyow</i>
Polborder	389648	<i><u>Pollbodhowr</u></i>
<i>Polbother</i> 1200		
Cornish <i>poll</i> ‘pool’ + <i>bodhowr</i> ‘filthy water’		
Polborder Wood	383647	<i>Koes <u>Pollbodhowr</u></i>
Rowse	378644	<i><u>Ros</u></i>
<i>Rous</i> 1459		
Probably Cornish <i>ros</i> ‘spur’, borrowed early into English and affected by the Great Vowel Shift.		
Saunton	399648	
<i>Saunton</i> 1390		
English name with <i>tun</i> ‘settlement’		
North Sillaton	396636	
South Sillaton	397634	
<i>Seleton</i> 1349		
English name with <i>tun</i> ‘settlement’		
Smeaton	386633	<i>Trewovyon</i>
<i>Smitheneton</i> 1200		
Old English <i>smioa-tun</i> ‘settlement of the smiths’		
Trehill	388645	<i>Trevena</i>
<i>La Hylle</i> 1265; <i>Hille</i> 1349; <i>Trehill</i> 1616		
English <i>hill</i> , with Cornish <i>tre</i> ‘farmstead’ added.		
The top of the hill is 113 m above sea-level.		
Tremoan	395653	
<i>Tremon</i> 1327		
Probably Cornish, since <i>tre</i> ‘farmstead’ appears early. The second element is obscure, possibly <i>moen</i> ‘ore.’		
Trewashford	370648	<i>Trewolghrys</i>
<i>Washforde</i> 1360. Trewashford 1727		
English <i>wash</i> + <i>ford</i> . i.e. a ford at a washing-place.		
Cornish <i>tre</i> ‘farmstead’ appended later.		

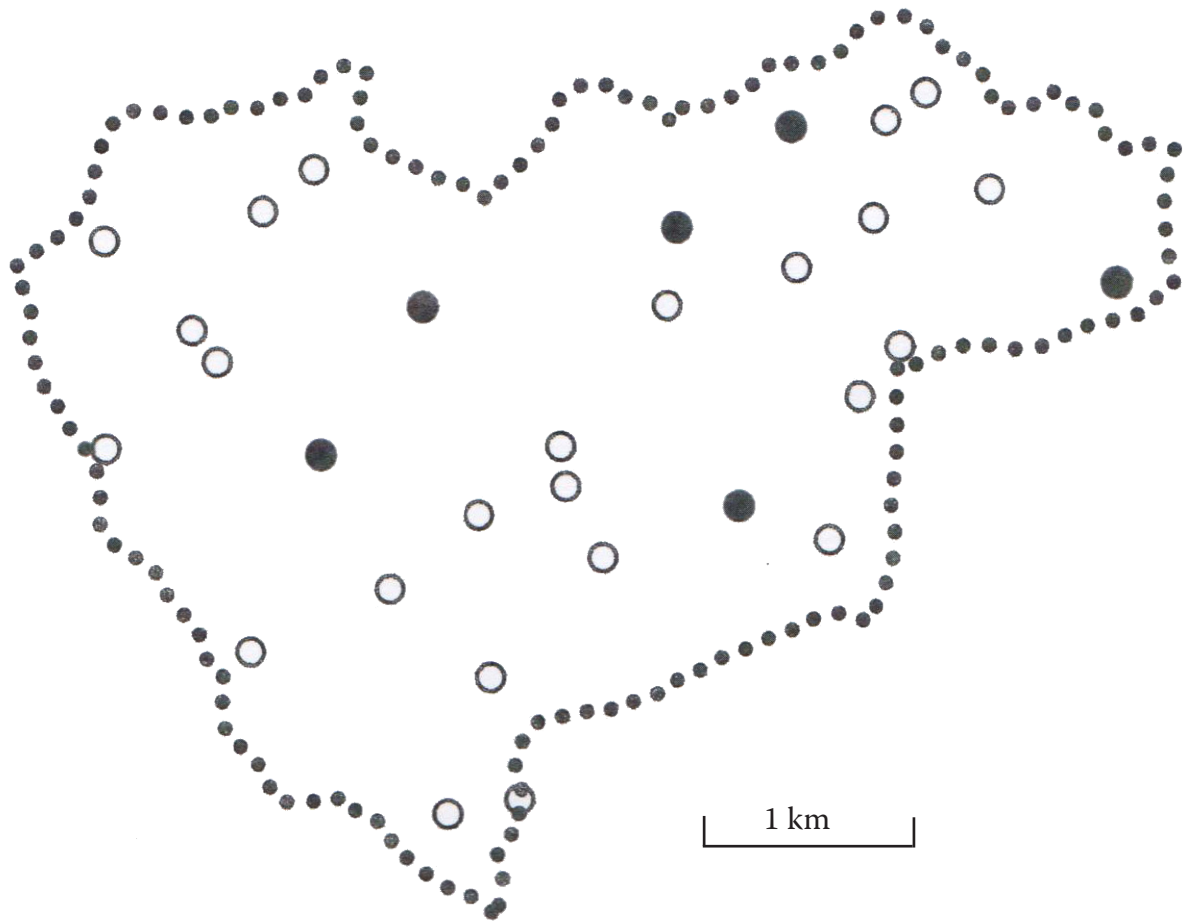
Lower Trewashford 365649 *Trewolghrys Woeles*

Washing Place 363638 *An Wolghva*
No historical forms, but meaning is self-evident; the location is on
a tributary of the River Lynher

Vinegar Hill 398640 *Menydh Aysel*
No historical forms; obviously English.

Primary Cornish Names ●

Primary English names ○



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