# Tintinhull
# The derivation of its name?
# Scenario 2

What follows is <u>scenario 2</u> for how the current name could have *developed* from a Saxon origin.

When Norman scribes first heard and recorded Saxon names they sometimes altered the original Saxon spelling and later, with the subsequent changes in pronounciations from Saxon English to Middle English via Norman French, the name of the village *evolved*  into its present form.

We start with the modern name where the last component *Hull* is generally accepted as meaning *Hill.* The Saxon word for Hill was written *Hyll.* In Old English (Anglo-Saxon), the letter y represented a sound not used in modern English. It was similar to the German ü in über or the French u in lune so *Hyll* was pronounced *Hull.* This points to it being an part of the original Saxon name.

(By way of further illustration. In Old English, the word for  King was *cyning* (later shortened to *cyng* then king) and would have been pronounced roughly as "KU-n-ing.")

When the Normans brought Old French to England after 1066, Saxon words with the letter y were usually rendered in French using u or i, because Old French did not have the same y sound .The letter y itself was not commonly used in French spellings at the time, so Norman scribes often replaced it rather than preserve it.

 Around the 11c to 12c  during the Middle English period, the y sound gradually shifted and became pronounced like the  short i in bit. By the 15c, after the Norman influence and Great Vowel Shift , y and i were interchangeable in sound and spelling.

As a result of the above I have deliberately focused only on early village name spellings which I think illustrate this drift in the prononceation and spelling of the village name.
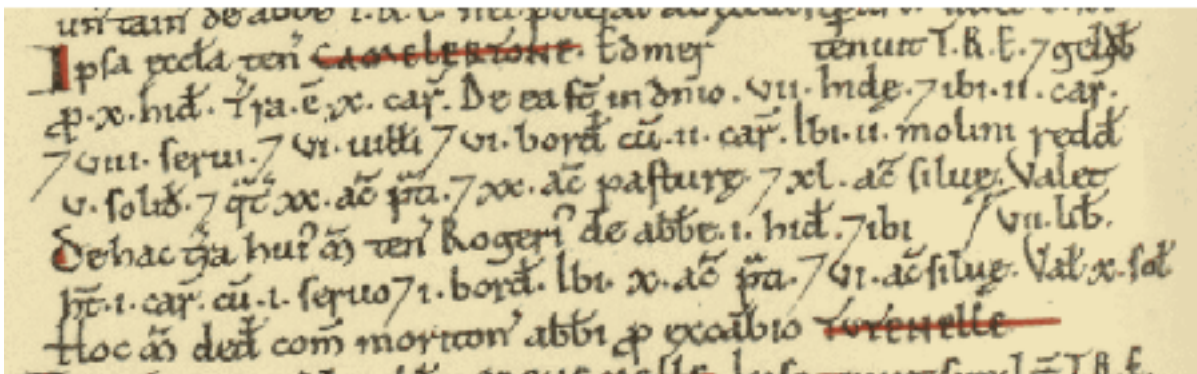
# 1086 to 1540

 The earliest extant script to mention the village name is in the Exon Domesday book <u>manuscript</u> . French scribes wrote the details, some dictated and others most probably from orignal Saxon records. Details from this were copied shortly after in abbreviated form by French scribes into the Gt. Domesday Book.

<u>So the sequence I have chosen is as follows:</u>

1086 In the Exon manuscript  readings of the name (written twice) look like Tuttenella and Tuttehella ( Ref F Thorn)
In Great D. BOOK it is again Tuttenella and Tutenelle. (At  SOM 8.31 Thorn)
In the D.BOOK entry for Camerton, Camerton is written as exchanged with Tutenelle



In 2nd list of hundreds by same scribe it is Tuttenella (Thorn)

In 1135  the Hundred of Tutenelle is fined 40/- for a murder (Lorch Tintinhull Local History Group)

1273 Tyntenhulle ( Lorch Esse doc Tintinhull Local History Group)

1275 Tyntehulle(Thorn)

1312 Tyntenhulle (Lorch Montacute Priory Valor Tintinhull Local History Group)

1316 Tyntehull (Thorn)

14c   Tyntehulle ( Lorch Charter. Exeter College )

By the end of the 14c  the letters y and I had become interchangeable and:

1428 Tintenhull (Thorn)

The sequence illustrates how after 1200 a Saxon word *Tyn* (pronunced *Tun*) had, by the 15c, become *Tin*.


## Possible meaning of *Tutte(n)*?


Up to the end of the 12c Tut(t)e(n) seems to be the most frequent beginning of the village name. But why the ending changed from *Elle* to Saxon *hulle by the 13c now* needs further investigation though AElle was a male Saxon name.

Also Totta and Tutta were used in Anglo-Saxon names. Over time these evolved into surnames like Tutt, Tutton and Tuten (Chat GPT).

So did *Tuttenella* in the Exon Book manuscript just men *Tuten's Hill* however disappointing that might be?


F Thorn pointed out that the village name in the Exon Book could be read either as Tintehella or Tuttehella but he was in favour of the former because of the more frequent use of the *Tin* beginning in the earliest documents.

He also references two earlier 10c charters which spell the name as *Tintanhulle*. But this is a reference to 2 underline copies of lost charters made when the pronunciation of letter *y* had probably already shifted to *i* .

For the same reason if *Tin* came later than *Tyn* perhaps one should also not dismiss Collison's 16c suggetion that the beginning could be *Tut* + hyll which might mean *Lookout Hill.*
But a remaining puzzle then is that **none** of the earliest names end in the Saxon word Hyll?


E. Lorch
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F.R. Thorn & C.M.J. Thorn 24.6.2009  and Lorch. All References .In Tintinhull Local History Group Version 1 Database 2022.

Information on Saxon spellings and pronunciations from Chat




# Thorn's full summary is given in  Appendix below

Appendix Thorn's summary 2009

TINTINHULL. Great Domesday Tintehalle here, Tutenelle at SOM 8,31. In the Exon manuscript the forms (the terminations here restored to the nominative case) are Tinte- nella (or perhaps Tuttenella: 170a5 = SOM 8,31), Tintehella (or perhaps Tuttehella: 266b1 = SOM 19,9) Tuttehella (512b5 = the Terrae Occupatae), Tintehella (63b = the first list of hundred names) and Tintenella (or perhaps Tuttenella: 64a = the second list of hundred names). The forms in the printed edition of Exon (Ellis, Libri Censualis) are Tin- tenella, Tintehella, Tuttehella, Tintehella and Tintenella respectively. However, in the manuscript they resemble Tuttenella (twice) and Tuttehella (twice); the -in- or -ut- are basically formed of minims, but the first two are joined at the bottom (as for a u), and the third is not joined to the second (as for an n) while the cross-bar on the low t before the first e extends over the top of this third 'minim' (suggesting it is also a t). The scribe is the same for the entries in the main Exon and for the second hundred-name list, but a differ- ent scribe wrote the entry in the Terrae Occupatae and yet another wrote the first hundred-name list; however, they may have misread the minims in their exemplars.
The second element in the name is Old English hyll ('hill'). The first element is re- garded as obscure by Ekwall, Dictionary of English Place-Names, but is derived from hypothetical Old Celtic din ('fort'), with an extension of uncertain form and meaning by Mills, Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names. Thus the name has yet to be fully elu- cidated, but Collinson's attempt to identify this as a 'toot-hill', though of potentially great significance, is pre-scientific; see Collinson, History of the County of Somerset, iii. p. 297. He describes the place as being named from 'an eminence anciently called Tutenelle ... where the courts were formerly held'. His form (Tutenelle) is presumably derived from Great Domesday (SOM 8,31) and he suggests it is connected with Anglo-Saxon totan (to which he assigns the meanings 'to examine or speculate'). He presumably means totian ('to peep out' or 'to protrude') whose etymological ancestor is tōt ('a projection') which is also the origin of hypothetical Old English tōt(e) meaning 'look-out (hill)'; see Bosworth and Toller, Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. Collinson's chosen form in Tut- although reproduc- ing one certain form in Great Domesday and probably representative of several in Exon, is, nonetheless, aberrant, since both earlier and later forms of the name (Tintanhulle (939 x 946 and 959 x 975), Tintenhille (1168), Tintehull (1219), Tintehille and Tyntehulle (1275-76), Tyntehull and Tyntehulle (1284-85), Tyntenhull and Tyntehull (1316), Tinten- hull (1428)) show that the Great Domesday and Exon forms in Tint- are the correct ones and rule out any connection with a 'toot'. Moreover, Collinson has assimilated a 'toot' to a moot by assuming that the hundred court met on the hilltop.