

Extracts from Rochester's Anglo-Saxon charters relating to land in and around the city

(1) Campbell 1973, no 1, from Priv, fo 119r--v -- ostensibly a charter of king Æthelberht, dated 28 Apr 604, for Saint Andrew and the church of Rochester, manifestly not authentic in this form.

Hic est terminus mei doni. Fram suðgeate west andlanges wealles oð norðlanan to stræte, 7 swa east fram stræte oð Doddinghyrnan ongean bradgeat.

This is the boundary of my gift. From south gate west along the wall as far as north lane to street, and so east from street as far as Doddingherne opposite broad gate.

(2) Campbell 1973, no 5, from Priv, fos 122r--3r -- a charter of king Sigired for bishop Eardwulf, dated 762.

aliquam particulam terrę iuris mei id est quasi unius et semis iugeri in ciuitate Hrofi ... cum omnibus scilicet ad eam pertinentibus rebus. Hęc autem terrula ab aquilonali portę [? r parte] monasterii tui iacet, et pertingit usque ad septentrionalem murum pefatę ciuitatis, intra terras uidelicet quas antea ab oriente et occidente possedisti, et ideo hęc tibi satis accommoda quia in medio iacebat.

some small portion of land belonging to me, that is, about one acre and a half in Hrof's city, ... with all things belonging to it. This piece of land lies on the north [? side] of your minster and reaches as far as the north wall of the city, between the lands which you previously possessed to the east and west, and therefore this is rather suitable for you, because it lay in the middle.

(3) Campbell 1973, no 7, from Priv, fos 126v--7v -- a charter of king Ecgberht for bishop Eardwulf, dated 765.

terram intra castelli moenia supranominati, id est Hrofiscestri, unum uiculum cum duobus iugeribus adiacentem plateę quę est terminus a meridie huius terrę.

land within the walls of the said castle, that is, Hrofiscester, one haw with two acres, [the haw being] adjacent to the street which is the boundary of this land on the south.

(4) Campbell 1973, no 11, from BL Cott Ch vi 4 -- ostensibly a

charter of king Æthelberht for bishop Deora, dated 861 (altered to 781).

aliquantulum terre iuris mei intra menia supradicte ciuitatis in parte aquilonali, id est fram Doddinchyrnan oð ða bradan gatan, east be wealle 7 swa eft suð oð ðaet eastgeat, 7 swa west be strete oð Doddinchyrnan, 7 ðreo hagan be eastan porte butan wealle, 7 ðar to feower aeceras mæde be westan ee.

a little something of land belonging to me within the walls of the said city on the north side, that is, from Doddingherne [north] as far as the broad gate, east by the wall and so afterwards south as far as the east gate, and so west by the street as far as Doddingherne, and three haws to the east of the city outside the wall, and furthermore four acres of meadow to the west of the river.

(5) Campbell 1973, no 13, from Priv, fos 133r--4r -- a charter of king Offa for bishop Wærmund, dated 789.

aliquam particulam terrę iuris mei id est quasi unius et semis iugeri in ciuitate Hrofi ... cum omnibus scilicet ad eam pertinentibus rebus. Hęc autem terrula ab aquilonali et ab oriente ciuitatis iacet, et pertingit usque ad septentrionalem murum prefatę ciuitatis intra terras uidelicet quas antea ab oriente et occidente possedisti, et ideo haec tibi satis accommoda quia in medio iacebat.

some small portion of land belonging to me, that is, roughly one acre and a half in Hrof's city, ... with all things belonging to it. This piece of land lies to the north and to the east of the city, and reaches as far as the north wall of the city, between the lands which you previously possessed to the east and west, and therefore this is rather suitable for you, because it lay in the middle.

(6) Campbell 1973, no 21, from Reg temp, fo 4r -- a charter of king Æthelwulf for a man named Ceolmund, dated 842.

terram iuris mei unius aratri notissimis terminis circumdatum, et unum uiculum ab oriente ciuitatis Hrobi.

land belonging to me of one plough surrounded by well-known boundaries, and one haw to the east of Hrob's city.

(7) Campbell 1973, no 22, from Reg temp, fo 9r -- a charter of king Æthelwulf for a man named Ealhhere, dated 850.

aliquantulam partem terre iuris mei, id est unum dimidium agrum quod nostra lingua dicimus **healue aker**, in orientali plaga extra murum ciuitatis Roffi in meridio parte quod multis notum est, et in illa terra est ecclesia dedicata in honore sancte Marie uirginis, ut habeat et perfruat, cum pratis et pascuis, cum omnibus rebus que ad illam pertinent.

a little piece of land belonging to me, -- that is, one half acre (in our language we call it **half acre**) in an easterly direction outside the wall of Roff's city on the south side (many people know about it), and on that land there is a church dedicated in honour of Saint Mary the virgin -- for him to have and enjoy, with the meadows and pastures and with all the things that belong to it.

(8) Campbell 1973, no 23, from Priv, fos 139v--40v -- a charter of king Æthelwulf for a man named Dunn, dated 855.

unam uillam, quod nos Saxonice **an haga** dicimus, in meridię castelli Hrobi, et decem iugera a meridiano plaga uilluli illius adiacentia, necnon et duo iugera prati, et x carros cum siluo honestos [r onustos] in monte regis, et communionem marisci que ad illam uillam antiquitus cum recto pertinebat.

one haw (which in English we call **one haw**) to the south of Hrob's castle, and ten acres in a southerly direction adjacent to that haw, and furthermore two acres of meadow, and ten carts loaded with wood on the king's hill, and the right of access to the marsh which anciently belonged by right to this haw.

(9) Campbell 1973, no 24, from BL Cott Ch viii 29 -- ostensibly a charter of king Æthelberht for [? bishop Cuthwulf], dated 860 (altered to 790).

terram iuris mei, id est lx xx **æcra**, et unum uiculum dimidium ciuitatis Hrobi, et unum mariscum que ad illum pertinet.

land belonging to me, that is, 60 20 **acres**, and one half haw of Hrob's city, and one marsh which belongs to that [haw].

The following boundaries are written at the foot of the charter.

Ðanne sint ðes londes gemæra, an westhealfę Scipfliot, an norðhalfe Meodowæge, an easthealfę Liofwynnemearc, ðanne fram Cioldryðelonde west be ðaræ aldan strætę, swæ sio twoentig ęcra.

Then [these] are the boundaries of the land: on the west side Ship fleet, on the north side the Medway, on the east side Liofwynn's boundary, then from Cioldryth's land west by the old street, so as to make twenty acres.

(10) Campbell 1973, no 26, from Priv, fos 140v--lv -- a charter of king Æthelred for bishop Cuthwulf, dated 868.

aliquam partem terre iuris mei, hoc est in duo loco, alia in ciuitate Dorobreua, alia in aquilone ciuitate.

some portion of land belonging to me, that is in two places, one in the city of Dorobroevia, the other to the north of the city.

At this point, for no assignable reason, we are given a poetical description of the second piece of land, in an untranslatable travesty of Latin.

Then we get the English boundaries, first of the land inside the city (beginning with a line of verse):

+ Her sint ða gemæra oð Miadowegan,

fram Doddinghyrnan west andlanges stræte ut oð weall, 7 swa be norðan wege ut oð Liabingescota, 7 swa be Liabingescotum oð þæt se weall east sciat, 7 swa east binnan wealle oð ða miclan gatan angæn Doddinghirnan, 7 swa ðanne suð an geriaht fram ða gatan andlanges weges be eastan ði lande suð oð Doddinghyrnan.

Here are the boundaries, as far as the Medway.

From Doddingherne west along the street out as far as the wall, and so by north lane out as far as Liabing's cottages, and so past Liabing's cottages to where the wall runs east, and so east inside the wall as far as the great gate opposite Doddingherne, and so then south and straight from the gate along the lane to the east of the land, south as far as Doddingherne.

and then (all in verse) of the land to the north of the city:

þanne be norðan wealle,

mers 7 meða, oð Mediwægan
sindan þa gemæra, fram Miadawegan
binnan twam fliatum tiala sint genemde:
Pirifliat 7 Scipfliot, ða gesceadað þæt land
westan 7 eastan oð ðæt weallfæstenn,

þus hit is befangen mid friodome, amen.

Then to the north of the wall,

marsh and meadow, as far as the Medway,
these are the boundaries, from the Medway
between two creeks, rightly they are named
Peartree creek and Ship creek, that delimit the land
westwards and eastwards, as far as the wall-fortress,
thus it is encompassed, with freedom, so be it.

This is all very strange, but it does make sense of a sort.

(11) Campbell 1973, no 37, from Priv, fo 155r--6v -- agreement
between bishop Godwine and Leofwine Ælfheah's son, datable to
995×1005.

7 ageaf þa swutelunga þe he to þam lande hæfde þe ær of þære
stowe geuotod wæs, 7 þa hagan ealle þe he be westan þære
cyrcaan hæfde into þære halgan stowe.

and [Leofwine] surrendered the writings that he had for the
land [at Snodland] which was previously alienated from the
place, and all the haws that he owned to the west of the
church, to the holy place.