

## STRETFORD HUNDRED

In another Paper I say *Townships were a constituent part of the 'Hundred', in our case 'Stretford' Hundred.*<sup>1</sup>

To give an overview of the Hundred a quotation from one of the earlier authorities on this subject is appropriate:

*Now the Hundred may be regarded.....It was the congregation of the freemen, or as we should say of the citizens of the district, of the mot-worthy, fyrd-worthy, and fold-worthy; and it was a territorial union of all the townships and estates of the district...*<sup>2</sup>

Bryant's Map, 1835<sup>3</sup>, shows four categories of boundary: County; Hundred and Borough; Parish; Township.<sup>4</sup> He gives an *Explanation*<sup>5</sup> of the ten symbols which he uses, including differing linear symbols for the boundaries. Whilst these are clear as set out separately in the *Explanation*, when, on the actual map more than one boundary follows the same course for some distance before later diverging, the result can be difficult to interpret. Matters are particularly confused when a *Lane or Bridle Way* is near a Township boundary, these being shown respectively as one side of the lane a continuous single line, the other a line of dots; a Township boundary as a single line of dots.

Of the four types of boundary which Bryant shows the other three are far enough within the County boundary to make any discussion of it, the County boundary, unnecessary.

It is within the boundary of the Hundred of Stretford that Eardisland is usually referred to as being situated. Speed's Map, 1612,...*marked in approximate outline the boundaries of the hundreds, those ancient Anglo-Saxon administrative and judicial subdivisions of the counties...*<sup>6</sup>

Smith later says *Late in the seventeenth century the maps of Richard Blome, John Seller and Robert Morden, each claimed as new, were still basically copies of Speed.*<sup>7</sup>

Of these Blome's Map, 1673 and Morden, 1695 include the Hundred boundaries, Seller does not. Both Blome and Morden show the north boundary of Stretford Hundred as a dotted line following exactly the north bank of the river Arrow:



<sup>1</sup> *Townships in the Parish of Eardisland*, herein.

<sup>2</sup> Vinogradoff P, *English Society in the Eleventh Century* page 98.

<sup>3</sup> HRO Maps 6/24/1-6.

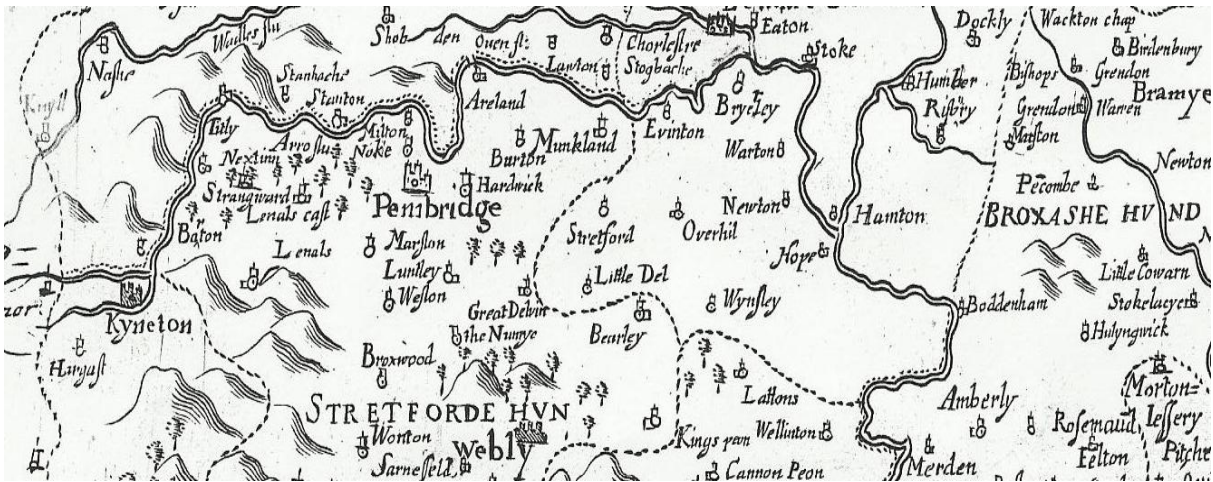
<sup>4</sup> He does not show Manor boundaries.

<sup>5</sup> HRO Maps 6/24/5.

<sup>6</sup> Smith B. *Herefordshire Maps 1577 to 1800* Logaston Press 2004, page 22.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, page 24.

It can be seen better when enlarged:



Part of Blome's Map of 1673

This position of the boundary leaves the parts of the parish and of the village of Eardisland itself which are north of the river Arrow as being in the Hundred of Wigmore, not Stretford.

It may be at least a partial explanation of an otherwise completely mysterious reference to *Eardisland Little*. This, dating to 1712, is in a list of *all the Hundreds in the county & the Parishes and Townships they contain* Within this, under the heading *Stretford Hund.* is *Eardisland Little*<sup>8</sup> There is nothing to suggest by what name the other part (or parts) of Eardisland was then known.

..... *Finis* .....

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<sup>8</sup> HRO CF50/125.