



## ***Account of Purley on Thames***

### **Chronicles 1000-1099**

**510**

Silchester fell to Aella of the Angles after he had moved the standing camp of the Angles to Englefield in order to sever communications from Silchester to the crossing places of the Thames to the north (at Reading, Pangbourne, Streatley and Moulsoford)

**511**

At the Council of Runnymede, attended by Aella and Cerdic it was agreed that Cerdic and the Saxons would invade the west and Aella and the Angles would consolidate the newcomers' hold on the lower Thames valley up to about as far as the Pang Valley This effectively defined the boundary between Anglia and Wessex as being along the bottom of the Pang Valley, a dividing line which can still be seen in modern Parish boundaries.

**518**

Aella died

**519**

The kingdom of Wessex was founded under Cerdic, but extending the agreed boundary between Wessex and the Angles to what is now the Berkshire/Surrey border. Thus Purley became incorporated into Wessex. (ref 5)

**635**

What is now Berkshire was included in the new diocese of The West Saxons which was established by St Birinus. His seat was at Dorchester on Thames which he had been given by King Cynegils of Wessex whom he had baptised. (ref 17-6)

**648**

King Cenwalh gave 300 hides to Cuthred, his kinsman. It is believed this was the effective creation of Berkshire.

**661**

Wulfhere of Mercia invaded Berkshire and King Cenwalh was defeated around Eastertide as Posentesburgh(?) Berkshire now became incorporated into Mercia.

**675**

A Mercian bishopric was established at Dorchester. Bishop Seaxwulf of Mercia exercised jurisdiction.

**685**

Caedwalla became king of Wessex and set about recapturing much of the area conquered by Wulfhere. Berkshire was one of the first areas to return to the rule of Wessex.

**705**

The seat of the bishops of Wessex was formally transferred from Dorchester to Winchester. It had

already been there in effect for several years as Dorchester had been under the control of Mercia.

**758**

Offa the Terrible defeated king Kinewulf of Wessex and seized a large part of Berkshire, including Purley, which now became part of Mercia again (ref 17-6)

**834**

The Parish of St James the Less was established at Pangbourne (ref 17-7)

**844**

Coelred, Bishop of Leicester, granted fourteen hides in Pangbourne to Brihtwulf, king of Mercia, who then granted it to Ealdorman Aethelwulf. This shows that the area was indeed under the control of Mercia at the time and ecclesiastically part of the diocese of Lincoln (the bishop's seat was at Leicester) (ref 19-i-480)

**851**

King Beorhtwulf was defeated by the Danes and as a result the Purley area came back under the control of Wessex

**871**

The Danish Pirate host which had landed and stormed Winchester in 860 arrived in Reading after years of rampage and pillage. Three days later two Jarls set off west where they were met by Aethelwulf of Wessex and battle raged at Englefield. The actual site of the battle is however believed to have been near Maybough Corner in Dark Lane which used to be known as Dead Man's Lane. One of the Jarls named Sidroc was killed. Four days later King Aethelred and his brother Alfred arrived with a great levy of Saxons, however the Danes won and Aethelwulf was killed. It is highly likely that there was a Saxon settlement at Purley at the time and its able bodied men would not have escaped the bloodshed. At least one man would have been called to join the fyrd (Saxon Army) as part of the village's assessment. (ref 5-71)

**909**

Berkshire became part of the new diocese of Ramsbury after the old Diocese of the West Saxons had been split into two. (ref 17-6)

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