

Horseheath Names

Compiled by Stuart Miller 2011

Part of Horseheath Village Archives

Horseheath names

There are several possibilities for the origins and development of the Horseheath village name:

- 1 – In 1086 *The Domesday Book* lists it as Horsei, maybe indicating 'raised land in a waterlogged area'
- 2 – Also in 1086 *The Domesday* satellite text, *The Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis* (or Cambridge Inquisition), lists the village as Horseda, an amalgamation of the early spellings of 'horse' plus 'heath'
- 3 – A family in the 11th century called Horseth

We have two analyses, both from The Institute of Name Studies

The first is from P.H.Reaney in his 1943 book *The Place Names of Cambridgeshire and The Isle of Ely*:

Horseheath:

Horseda 1086, Horsede 1285, Hors(e)hed(e) 1411, Horside 1577
Horsei 1086, Horseye 1195, horsheye 1268
Horseg 1200, Horeseia, Horesey(e), Horeseya 1378
Horesathe 1198, Hortseth 1284, Horeseth 1285
Horset(e) 1199, Horcet 1383
Oreseie 1199, Orsey 1350
Horseth(e) 1218, Orsett 1547, Horsheth(e) 1272 Horseath 1307 Horseath 1311
Orset(t) 1230
Probably 'horse-heath'

Horseheath Park:

Parke of Horset 1515, Horseth Parkes 1553

Cardinal's Green

Associated with the family of Peter Carbonel and Wiliam Carbonell, appearing as Manor of Carbonell 1433, Carbonelles 1490

Limberhurst:

Associated with the family of Walter de Limberh, Lymbyri(g) 1268 and John de Lymbery 1298, probably from Limbury in Bedfordshire. Lymbury 1367, Lymbery(e)s 1480, Limberhurst Farm 1840

A second analysis comes from Paul Cavill, Institute for Name-Studies, University of Nottingham in 2007, who writes:

"This is an interesting name. It is usually given as 'heath for grazing horses', from the Old English elements *_hors_* and *_haeth_*.

The interest lies in the fact that the earliest spellings have two types of ending.

The names ending in *-da*, *-de* and *-dd* are naturally interpreted as a variant spelling of *-th*.

The names ending in *-ei*, *-ey*, *-eg* might be 'raised land in a waterlogged area' from the Old English *_eg_*."

He provided further thoughts in 2011:

"The additional question is whether the Horseheath/Horseda and Horseye/Horsei names referred to the same bit of land. Settlement tends to aggregate land and it may be that the two names were once two places. P.H.Reaney obviously saw the Horseye forms as a kind of aberration; but the spelling with *-H-* (Horsheye) might even suggest a horse enclosure (Old English 'gehaeg'), perhaps as well as the others...."

For the full entry from P.H.Reaney's book see 'Writings on Horseheath' section of The Horseheath Village Archives.

Place names in Horseheath

Former names (+ dates)

New name

Village

see above list plus

Horseth (1577), Horset (1515), Horsheath (1640 & 1787)

Horseheath

Areas

Carnells Green

Cardinals Green

Sherwood End (1629), Knox End (1871),

Wightings Green (1896), Sherwood Green

Church End

Town End, Town's End, Village End, Lion End

The Green

east end of the Village

the area by the Church

the area by the Red Lion

the area at the top of Howards Lane in

Cardinals Green

junction of Roman Road and West

Wickham Road

near Mark's Grave

opposite east end of Church?

?

Cross Lanes

Middle of the earth, Middle of the world

Broad Green (1851)

Goodnall Green (1851)

Roads

Church Street (1416 & 1851), Church Lane,

Church Road, Town Street (1860)

Netherstreet

Brick Bridge

Mill Road (1871)

Bartlow Road

Horseheath Street (1851), High Street (1861)

Shortcake, Green Lane

West Wickham Road

probably West Wickham Road

Alington Terrace

Red Lion to Mill House on the A1307

Linton Road

Haverhill Road

Track south of Stocks Green

opposite the Church

Howards Lane?

A1307 (1980's)

Wheeler Street (1861)

A604 (1923)

Pubs

The Unicorn (1728), The Red Lion (1790), The Sign

of The Red Lion (1835), The Red Lion

Deer Park House (1770), Lord Montfort's Arms (1775),

Montford Arms (1851), Montford House (1936 & 1945),

Montford Café & Transport House (1950), The

Welcome In (1970's & 80's), De Montfort Arms (1980's),

The Montfort Arms (1990's),

The Bell (1768)

The Chequers (1800's) Cardinals Green

The Old Red Lion Inn (1990's)

Montfort House (2009)

?

Waverley House

Houses

The Rectory (pre- and post-1600's)

The Rectory (1600's), The Old Rectory (1600's),

Church Farm Cottages (1920's)

Parsonage House (1959), The Rectory (1969),

The Vicarage (1960's and 1970's))

Prospect House (1871), Providence House

Sherwood (1957)

The Lilacs

The Cottage

The Surgery, The Old Surgery (1950)

Hartford House (1959)

The Old Rectory (1940's)

Hardwicke House (1990's)

The White House (next to Post Office)

Dawlish (1976)

Bromley House (1950's)

Minstrel's Hall (1970's)

Wig's Croft

Dove Cottage
The Shant, Railway Cottage
The Sidings, Limberus
Carbonnell's Farm
Lower Cardinal's Farm, The Mount
Read Farm (1861)
Sherwood Green Farm (1861), Rose Farm (1920's)
The Crofts (1871)
Crow Croft, Coat Croft (1973)

Drysdale
The Orchard
Limberhurst Farm
Cardinal's Farm
Mount Farm
?
Rose Cottage
Cottages in fields near racecourse
?

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