

Susan Mayer

From: David Higgins [davidhiggins@googlemail.com]
Sent: 16 November 2011 20:15
To: tom.dunsdon@bristol.gov.uk
Cc: stoke.lodge@hotmail.co.uk; charlotte.leslie.mp@parliament.uk; john.goulandris@bristol.gov.uk; peter.abraham@bristol.gov.uk; archaeology@bristol.gov.uk
Subject: [?? Probable Spam] Fw: Stoke Lodge Parkland - an Anglo-Saxon legacy.

----- Original Message -----

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Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 6:21 PM
Subject: Stoke Lodge Parkland- an Anglo-Saxon legacy.

Dear Mr Dunsdon,

I am writing in support of the current TGA from the Sneyd Park Residents' Association with respect to the proposed lease of the Stoke Lodge Parkland to Cotham Academy. It is essential that the parkland be most carefully treated from the point of view of local history and archaeology, since the Stoke Bishop Charters of AD 969 and 984 clearly indicate that:

(i) the Parkland is the last piece remaining of genuine 'open field' (*filid leah*) attached to the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Stoke Bishop;

(ii) the Anglo-Saxon boundary of *Bisceopes stoc* (which divided the 'stoke' from the parent manor of Westbury-on-Trym) is formed in one of its most prominent stretches by the ancient earth embankment (*har maer*) which runs along what is now Ebenezer Lane, the northern boundary of the Parkland. The embankment has been mostly untouched since the 10th century and probably the 9th (Late Anglo-Saxon period). It is a monument of archaeological significance for Bristol's history in the Anglo-Saxon period, of which very little indeed remains within the city's boundaries.

It is essential that the City Archaeologist is informed of this proposed development and is aware of the potential danger it poses to what is a monument of local, county and therefore national significance.

The Registration Authority and all interested parties are referred to my article 'The Anglo-Saxon Charters of Stoke Bishop: a study of the boundaries of *Bisceopes stoc*', in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 120 (2002), pp. 107-131, with special attention to pp. 119-131.

Yrs faithfully, David H Higgins (Bristol University retd.).

8.8/1(a)

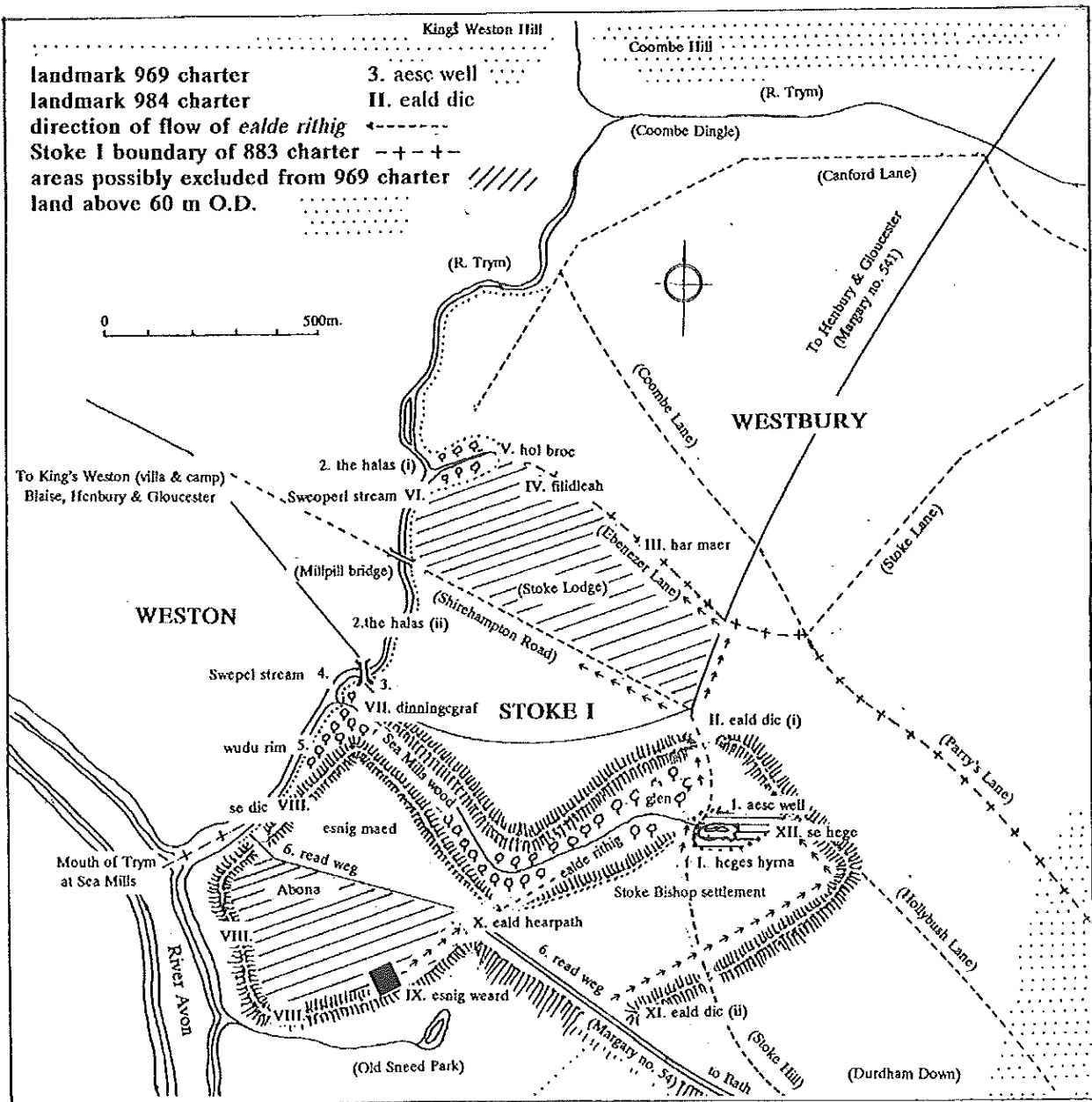


Fig. 5. The Stoke Bishop Charters of 969 and 984: landmarks of Higgins.

opposition to *se dic* (VIII.). The qualifier *eald*, lit. 'old', carries also the familiar, endearing and proprietary sense of the vernacular. *Eald dic* means therefore 'the old earthwork', in the sense of 'our (old) earthwork' or 'our people's (old) earthwork'. Used without a qualifier, a different sense of the noun *dic* obtains, implying a different earthwork. Thus landmark VIII. *se dic* arguably refers not to the 'familiar' outer earthworks of the Stoke Bishop settlement, but to what we might term the 'other' ramparts. These, from the evidence of the 984 charter's text, stood at some distance from the settlement around the site of *Abona*, and were arguably the outer defences of the Roman town. *Eald*, on the other hand, qualifies both *rithig* and *hearpath*, because

8.81 (b)