

the image of the Warwickshire Feldon and a Romano-British burial was perhaps located within Stoneton or Wormleighton itself.³

The charter boundary clauses of Wormleighton may have included Stoneton to the east,⁴ especially as the Domesday holdings of Wormleighton and Stoneton together amounted to only six hides – not the ten *mansæ* (hides) noted in the tenth-century charter – but this remains unclear and Stoneton by the time of Domesday Book was included within Northamptonshire. The first charter is a grant by King Eadwig to his *comes*, Ælfhere, in AD 956 and the second an undated boundary clause.⁵ Thorpe rightly notes that the western boundary in part followed the road from Banbury to Southam (the *hore pyt* or may have been a pit dug alongside it for roadstone) while the northern boundary was formed by a saltway running east–west across the county area.⁶ Much of the eastern boundary followed a ridgeway running between Claydon and Priors Hardwick, as Hooke’s maps show, a route which is still shown as a trackway on the 1:25000 map of 1957 but later marked by a belt of woodland. Where this routeway met the Claydon with Clattercote boundary it was marked by the Three Shire Stone – a marker for the meeting point of the counties of Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. However, Thorpe’s map was incorrect in identifying the present Wormleighton to Priors Hardwick road as part of the ‘ridgeway’ of the charters: as Peter Christopher has observed, the ridgeway appears to have continued northwards along the top of the ridge to Priors Hardwick (now a footpath). If the boundary clause indeed included Stoneton then the ‘white dyke’ may have referred to a ditch along the northern Stoneton boundary.

The charter-bounds contain other references to the features of the early medieval landscape – especially the studfold where horses would have been reared on Shirne Hill and a lost tumulus on the eastern boundary.⁷

³ Warwickshire Historic Environment Record 1307.

⁴ Contrary to the maps (on pp. 59 and 128) in Hooke, D., *Warwickshire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1999).

⁵ S.588 and S.1574 in Sawyer, P.H., *Anglo-Saxon Charters: An Annotated List and Bibliography* (London: R Hist Soc., 1968).

⁶ Hooke, D., *The Anglo-Saxon Landscape: the Kingdom of the Hwicce*, p.125, fig.31 (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1985, repr. 2009).

⁷ Christopher, P. M., n.d. ‘Track ways associated with parish boundaries in the vicinity of Wormleighton in Warwickshire and discussion with regard to their possible origins, destinations and antiquity’, unpublished typescript.