

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Bernard Cornwell

THE LAST KINGDOM



With Most of Britain conquered by the Danes,
the fate of England—and the course of history—
depended on one man: King Alfred the Great

The Last Kingdom

Bernard Cornwell

 HarperCollins e-books

The Last Kingdom

is for Judy, with love.

Wyrð bið ful āræd

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PLACE-NAMES

The spelling of place-names in Anglo-Saxon England was an uncertain business, with no consistency and no agreement even about the name itself. Thus London was variously rendered as Lundonia, Lundenberg, Lundenne, Lundene, Lundenwic, Lundenceaster, and Lundres. Doubtless some readers will prefer other versions of the names listed below, but I have usually employed whatever spelling is cited in the *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* for the years nearest or contained within Alfred's reign, A.D. 871–899, but even that solution is not foolproof. Hayling Island, in 956, was written as both Heilincigae and Hæglingaiggæ. Nor have I been consistent myself; I have preferred the modern England to Englalund and, instead of Northhymbraland, have used Northumbria to avoid the suggestion that the boundaries of the ancient kingdom coincide with those of the modern county. So this list, like the spellings themselves, is capricious.

Æbbanduna	Abingdon, Berkshire
Æsc's Hill	Ashdown, Berkshire
Baðum (pronounced Bathum)	Bath, Avon
Basengas	Basing, Hampshire
Beamfleot	Benfleet, Essex
Beardastopol	Barnstable, Devon
Bebbanburg	Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland
Berewic	Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland
Berrocscire	Berkshire
Blaland	North Africa
Cantucton	Cannington, Somerset
Cetreht	Catterick, Yorkshire
Cippanhamm	Chippenham, Wiltshire
Cirrenceastre	Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Cridianton	Crediton, Devon
Cynuit	Cynuit Hillfort, near Cannington, Somerset
Contwaraburg	Canterbury, Kent
Cornwalum	Cornwall
Dalriada	Western Scotland
Deoraby	Derby, Derbyshire
Defnascir	Devonshire
Dic	Diss, Norfolk
Dunholm	Durham, County Durham
Eoferwic	York (also the Danish Jorvic, pronounced Yorvik)
Exanceaster	Exeter, Devon
Fromtun	Frampton-upon-Severn, Gloucestershire
Gegnesburh	Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
The Gewæsc	The Wash
Gleawecestre	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Grantaceaster	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Gyruum Jarrow,	County Durham
Hamanfunta	Havant, Hampshire
Hamptonscir	Hampshire
Hamtun	Southampton, Hampshire
Haithabu	Hedeby, trading town in southern Denmark
Heilincigae	Hayling Island, Hampshire
Hreapandune	Repton, Derbyshire
Kenet	River Kennet
Ledecestre	Leicester
Lindisfarena	Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Northumberland
Lundene	London
Mereton	Marten, Wiltshire
Meslach	Matlock, Derbyshire
Pedredan	River Parrett
The Poole	Poole Harbour, Dorset
Pictland	Eastern Scotland
Readingum	Reading, Berkshire

Reading, Berkshire

Sæfern

Scireburnan

Snotengaham

Streonshall

Sumorsæte

Suth Seaxa

Synningthwait

Temes

Thornsæta

Tine

Trente

Tuede

Twyfyrde

Uisc

Werham

With

Wiire

Wiltun

Wiltunscir

Winburnan

Wintanceaster

Reading, Berkshire

River Severn

Sherborne, Dorset

Nottingham, Nottinghamshire

Strensall, Yorkshire

Somerset

Sussex (South Saxons)

Swinithwaite, Yorkshire

River Thames

Dorset

River Tine

River Trente

River Tweed

Tiverton, Devon

River Exe

Wareham, Dorset

Isle of Wight

River Wear

Wilton, Wiltshire

Wiltshire

Wimborne Minster, Dorset

Winchester, Hampshire

PROLOGUE

Northumbria, A.D. 866–867