The information contained in the place-name entry for each township is based on '**The Historical Gazetteer of England's Place-Names**', produced under the auspices of the English Place-Name Society, administered at the University of Nottingham. This is a key piece of digital infrastructure for use in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Its aim is to associate disparate content through place - everything happens somewhere, after all - and therefore to facilitate accurate searches across resources. Gazetteers of contemporary place-names have been available for some time, but the Historical Gazetteer's historical place-name forms add chronological depth to the mix. These forms have been collected over the last ninety years as part of the English Place-Name Society's Survey of English Place-Names.

The Digitisation of English Place-names project was licensed to Jisc by the English Place Names Society and released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License; as access to that database has been discontinued, this database has its own entries taken from the original sources.

PLACE-NAME ORIGINS – Elements and meanings

The entry for each township is taken from the corresponding source for that county viz:

The Place-names of Cumberland, (Armstrong et al., Cambridge University Press,1952)

The Place-names of Westmorland, (Smith , Cambridge University Press, 1967)

The Place-names of Lancashire, (Ekwall, Manchester University Press, 1922)

 (the full text of this book is available online (and can be downloaded) from the Robarts Library, University of Toronto: https://archive.org/stream/placenamesoflanc00ekwauoft/placenamesoflanc00ekwauoft_djvu.txt.)

The Place-names of West Riding, (Smith, Cambridge University Press,1961)

There are a significant number of cases where the experts offer alternative interpretations without there being any clear-cut answer, and some where no explanation is offered. For more information the original sources above should be consulted.

HISTORICAL PLACENAME FORMS - BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Each entry has a source reference, many of which are mediaeval and will require considerable expertise to read. If the reader wishes to pursue any of these, the identification of the source is given in the original publications listed above which should be consulted.

These are found as follows:-

The Place-names of Cumberland, Part 3, 1952 pages xlv ff.

The Place-names of Westmorland, Part 1, 1967 pages lviii ff.

The Place-names of Lancashire, 1922, pages ix ff., xvi ff.
The Place-names of West Riding, Part 7 1961 pages 96 ff.
Note:

a) in the case of all forms for which reference has been made to unprinted authorities (manuscript), that fact is indicated by printing the reference to the authority in *italic* instead of roman type, e.g. ' 1350 *Lowther'* denotes a form derived from a MS in contrast to '1673 CaineCP which denotes one taken from a printed text.

b) Where two dates are given, e.g. 'c. 1150 (c. 1225),' the first is the date at which the document purports to have been composed, the second is that of the copy which has come down to us.

c) Where a letter in an early place-name form is placed within brackets, forms with and without that letter are found, e.g.' *Glassynby(e)'* means that forms *Glassynby* and *Glassynbye* are found.

General readers may find the following useful.

WELSH/OLD WELSH/BRITISH: this was the language of the original Celtic inhabitants of Britain. This survived in the western fringes of the country long after the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons. 'Cumberland' itself is 'the land of the Cymry' i.e Welsh.

IRISH-GAELIC: at the same time there was some influence from the Irish at a time when the sea was the focus of contact, trade and communication.

OLD ENGLISH: The Anglo-Saxons arriving in the 6th ,7th and 8th centuries brought their Germanic language with them and this spread throughout the country that became England. It became the vernacular language and with many additions is now 'English'. Cumbria was mainly under the influence of the Northumbrian kingdom of the Angles.

OLD NORSE: In the 9th and 10th centuries, there was an influx of mainly Norwegian origin, into Cumbria, most probably from their base in Dublin. The presence of so many place-names of Norse origin here indicates they became a significant proportion of the population. Many words became established in 'English' vocabulary.

OLD FRENCH: The Norman conquest of the 11th century led to French becoming the official language of government in the 12th century for several hundred years with many French words entering the language, but in general this did not affect the place-names of the area.

MIDDLE ENGLISH: The 'English' language continuing to develop probably uncoordinated until the arrival of printing in the 15th Century which changed the scene completely. This eventually led to a largely coherent language with local dialects gradually diminishing.

Each of the source books listed above includes a substantial chapter explaining what the impact of these influences had on the place-names of that part of the county.