

# Witherley Parish NDP Supporting Document

## Historical Place Names

Our place-names and their meanings derive from the languages of our forebears. Tracing back, spellings vary from their current form:

### Witherley

Recorded as Withredele in 1086 (Domesday Book) (1) (2) (3) (4)

*'Wigthryth's wood/clearing'*

Elements and their meanings

pers.n. (Old English) Wigthryth a feminine personal name

lēah (Old English) A forest, wood, glade, clearing; (later) a pasture, meadow.

### Atterton

Recorded as Aeperedes dun circa 972, Altreton in 1173

*A farm or settlement connected to Athelred/Apelred/Eadred maybe* (4) (2)

Elements and their meanings:

Athelread/Apelred/Eadred (Old English) personal name

tūn (Old English) An enclosure; a farmstead; a village; an estate

### Fenny Drayton

Fenny Drayton is situated on heavy, marshy ground along the Roman Road from Mancetter to Leicester.

*A portage farm/settlement' or a 'dragging-place farm/settlement'*. (1) (3) (4)

Elements and their meanings

dræg (Old English) A drag, a portage, a slip-way; a dray, a sled.

tūn (Old English). An enclosure; a farmstead; a village; an estate.

fennig (Old English) Dirty, muddy, marshy.

### Ratcliffe Culey

The manor was held by Johannes de Cuyly in 1228 (5).

*'Red cliff' connected to 'Culey'* (4) (2) (3) (1)

The village is set on the steep banks of the Rivers Sence and Tweed/Sence Brook. Here the soil is deep red in colour.

Elements and their meanings

rēad (Old English) Red.

clif (Old English) An escarpment, a hill-slope

- 
1. Watts, Victor. The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place Names. 2004.
  2. Ekwall, E. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names. 1960.
  3. Mills, A D. Dictionary of English Place Names.
  4. Bourne, J. Understanding Leicestershire & Rutland Place-Names : Heart of Albion Press, 2003.
  5. Nichols, John. History and Antiquities of Witherley in the County of Leicester; Including the Hamlet of Atterton in the Same County. London : Nichols, Son and Bentley, 1813. p. 1007.