



Vendepunkt i Slaget ved
ASSANDUN

Tym Sjallandsfar samler sprete Kamp-
faller om et nyt Merke, en Gyren fra Skoven.
Streon med sin Klyke forlader Slaget.

from The Danish Conquest of
England, Frederiksborg Palace,
Denmark, artist Lorenz Frølich



The Battle of Assandun 1016

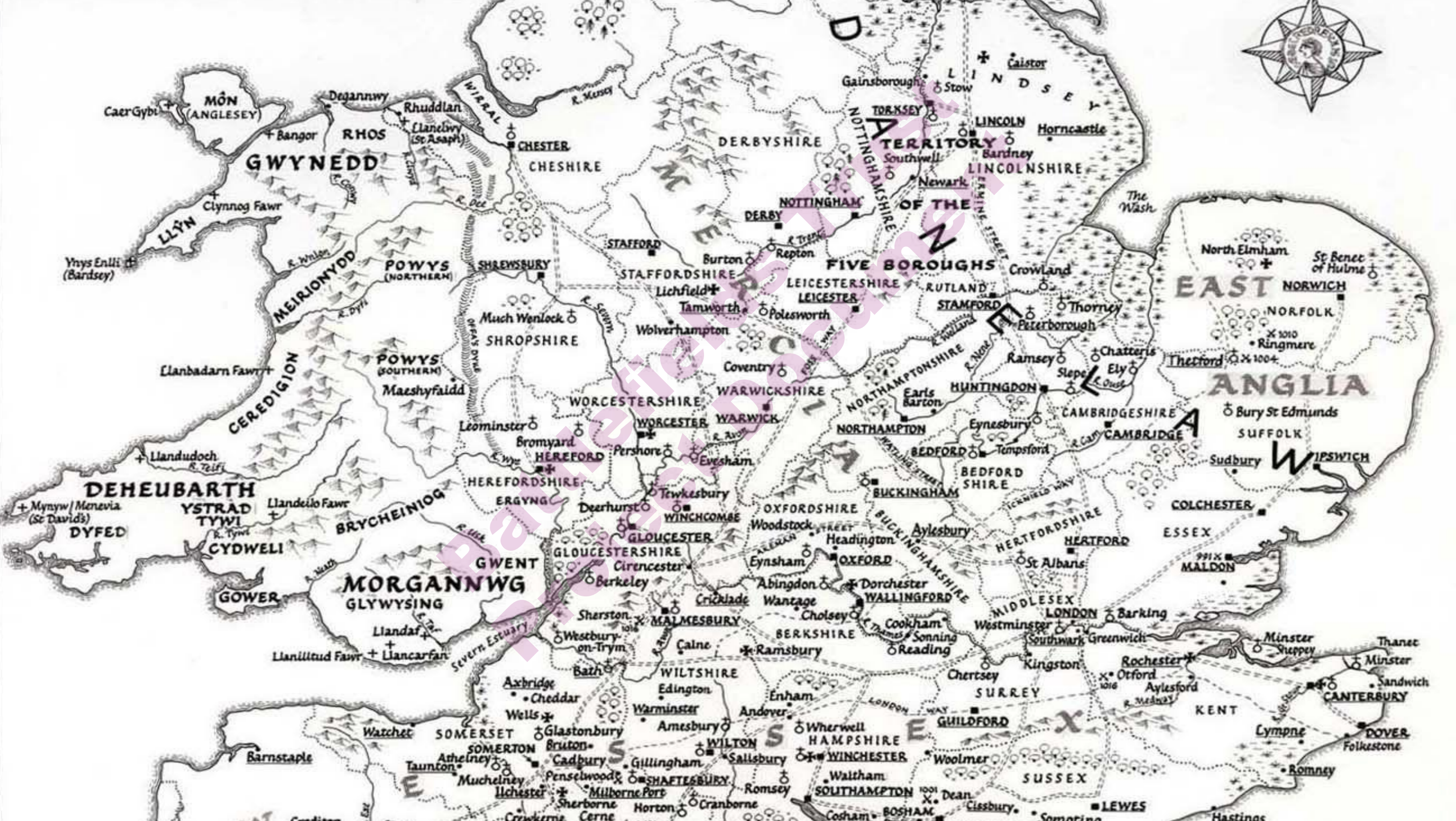
- The Sources
- England at the beginning of the 11th Century
- The Danish Invasion 1013-1015
- 1016 – the year of five battles
- The aftermath of Assandun
- The long term effects



The Sources

- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles
- Encomium Emmae Reginae
- 12th Century Chronicles
- Scandinavian Sources
- Abbey Chronicles

Battlefields Trust
Project Document



England at the beginning of the 11th Century

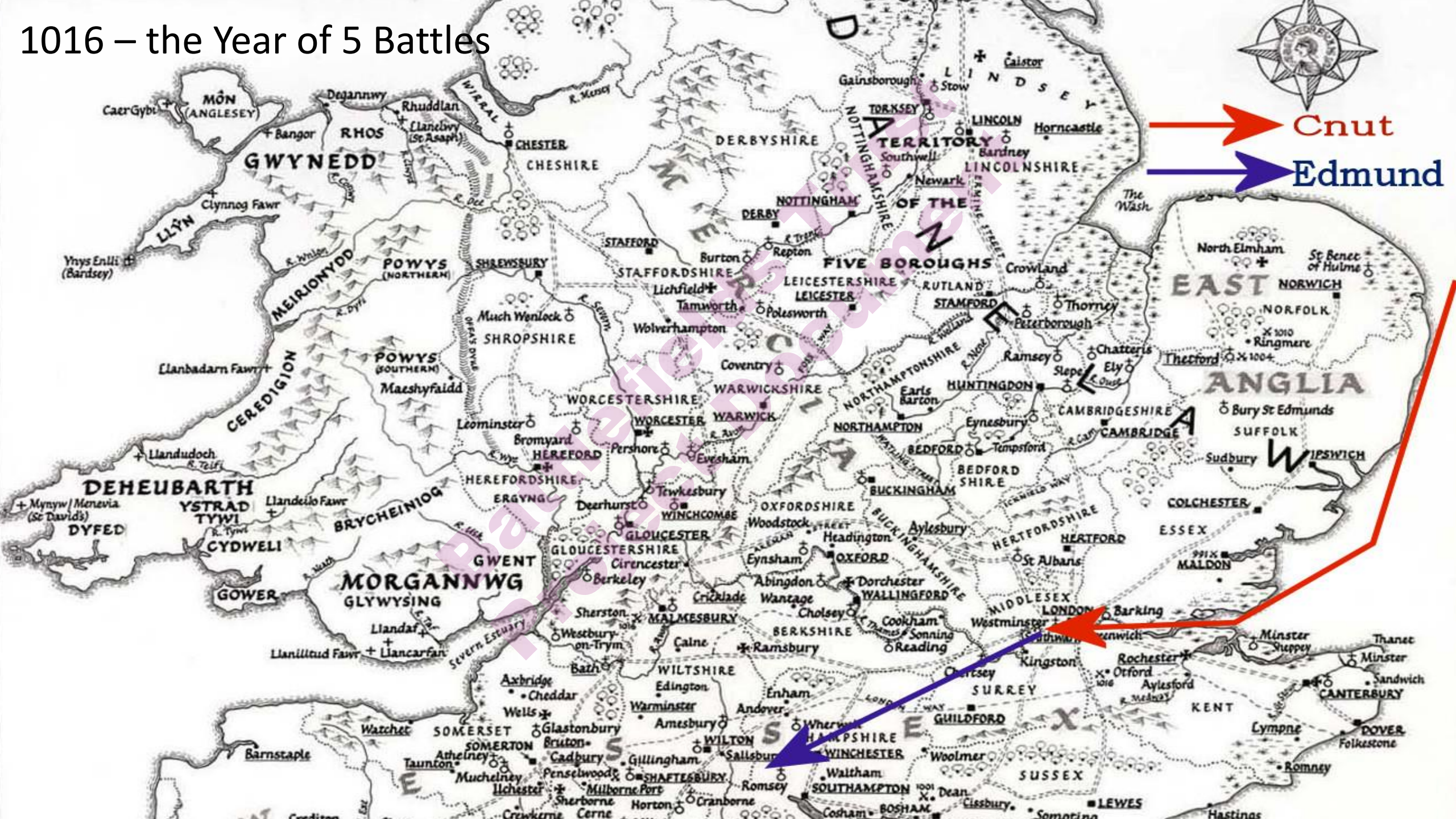
- Relative peace from the middle of the 10th century
- Aethelred II succeeded to the throne in 978
- Viking raids start up again
- Agreement with Richard I of Normandy
- Tension between ex-Danelaw parts of England and rest of England
- St Brice's Day Massacre 1002



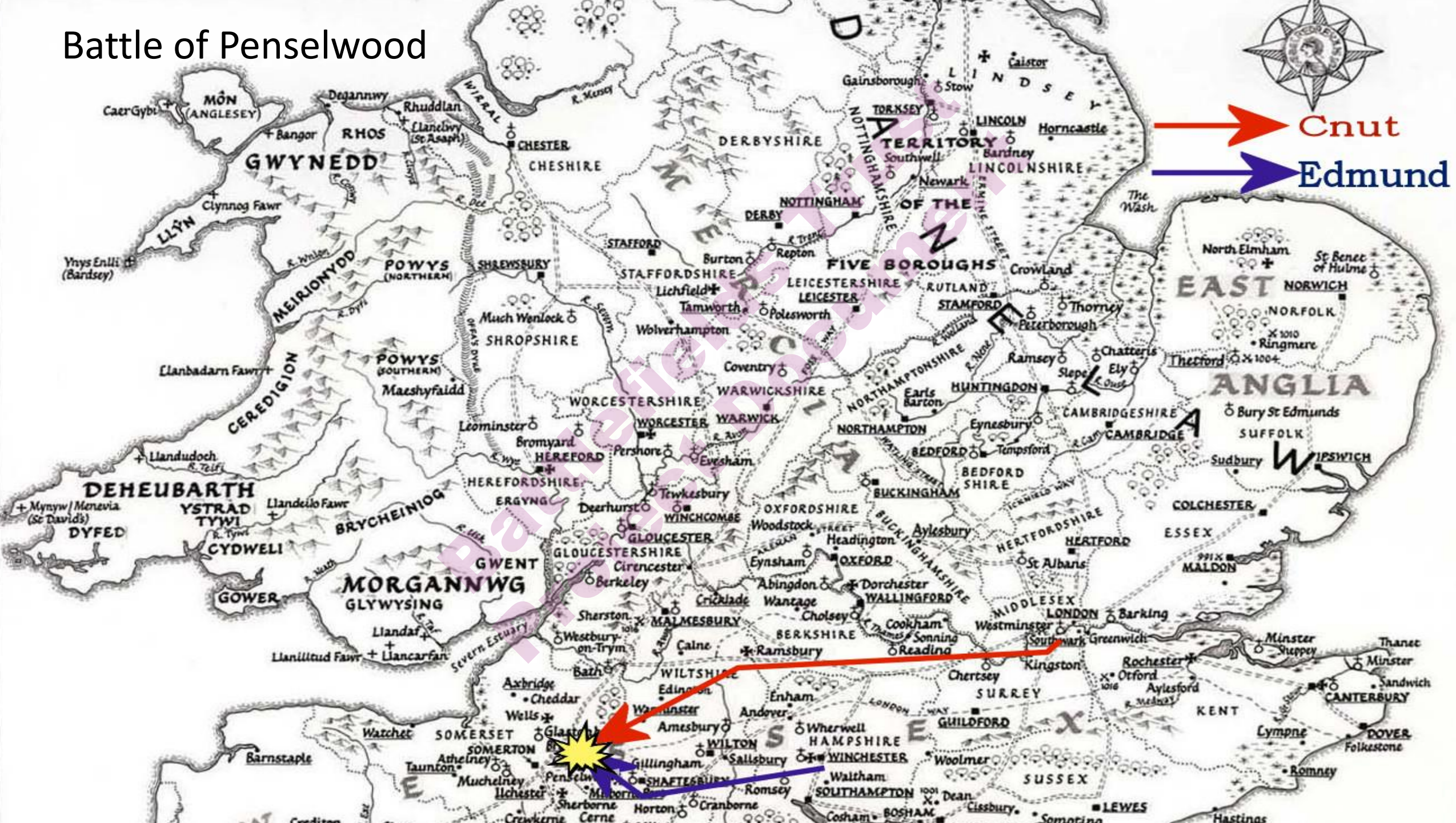
The Danish Invasion 1013-1015

- Sweyn Forkbeard leads full-scale invasion of England
- Aethelred flees to Normandy with his family
- Sweyn confirmed as King of England but dies in early 1014
- Cnut supported by Danelaw but Council call back Aethelred
- Aethelred gathers an army and drives Cnut back to Denmark
- In early 1015, Aethelred returns to his old ways
- Cnut invades Wessex
- Aethelred falls ill
- Edric switches sides to follow Cnut
- By end of 1015 Cnut in control of large parts of the country

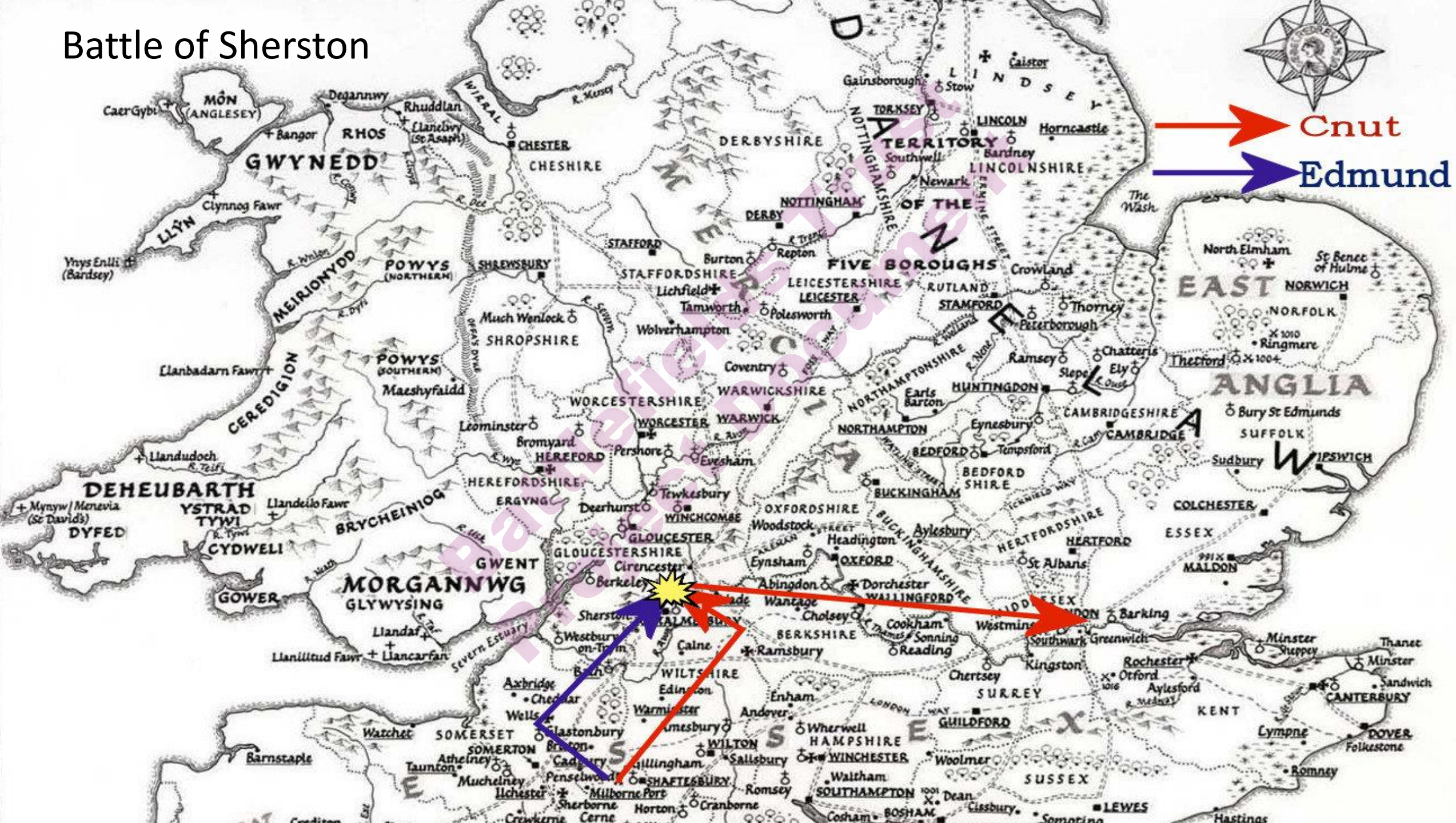
1016 – the Year of 5 Battles



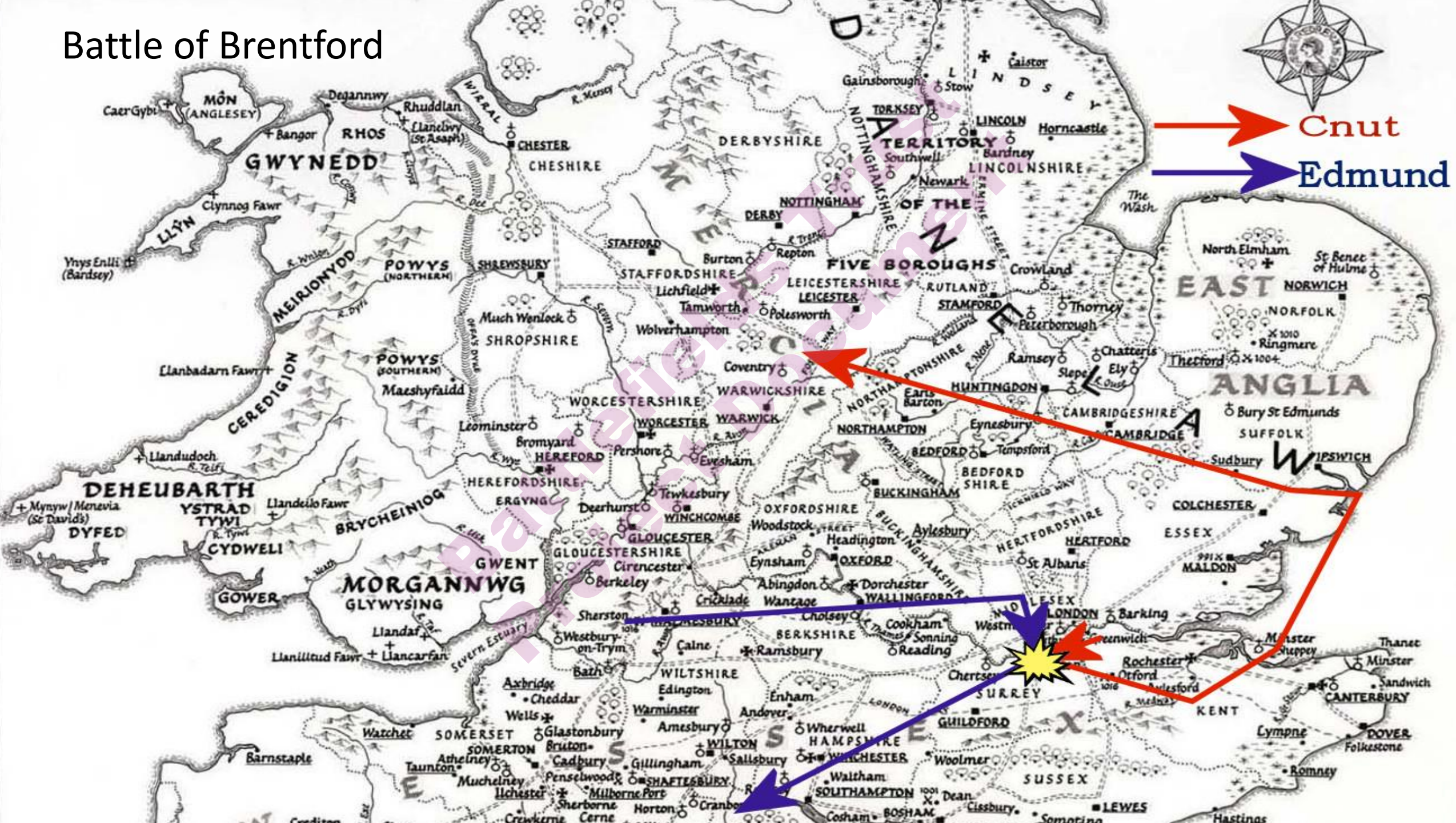
Battle of Penselwood



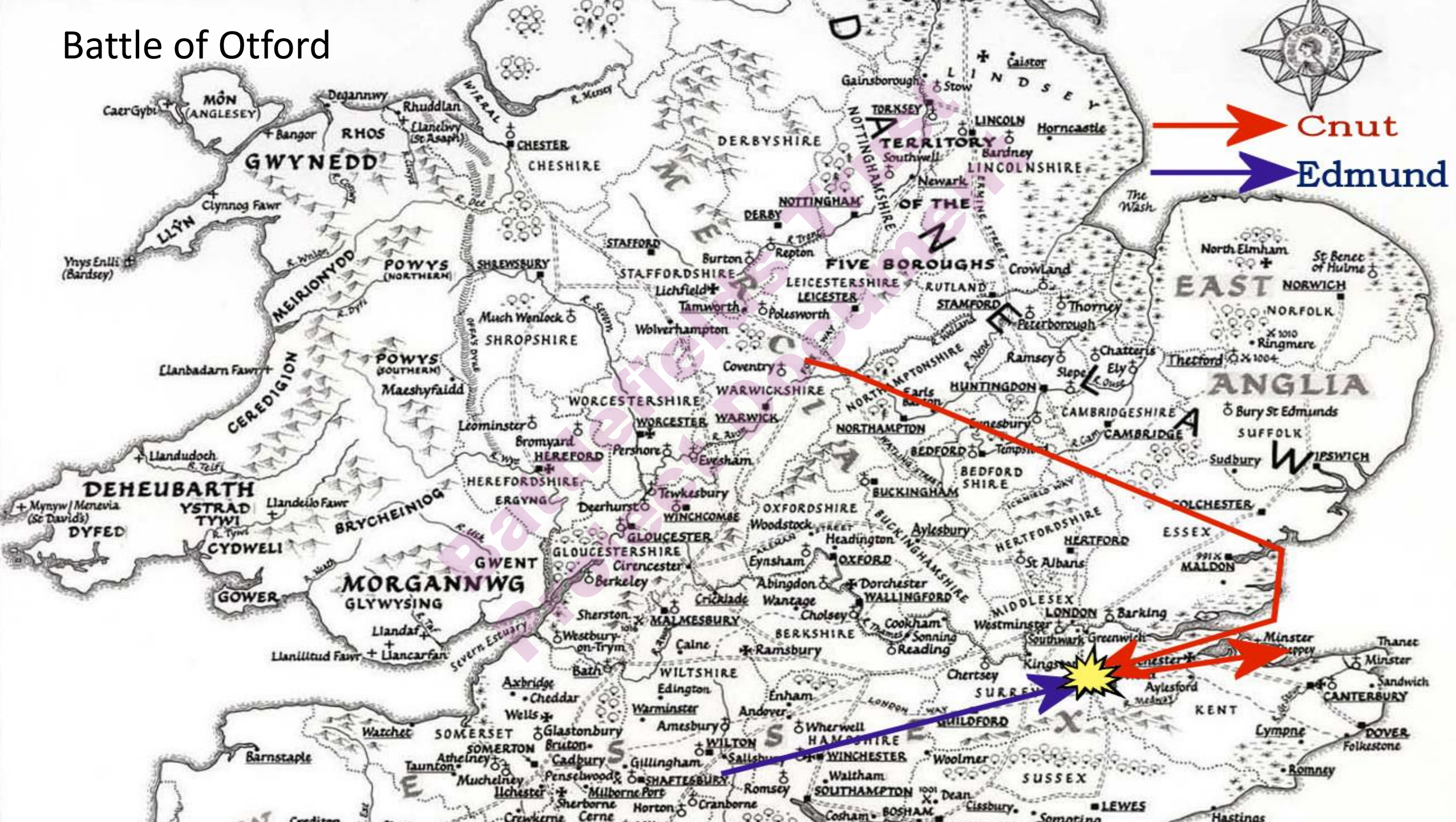
Battle of Sherston



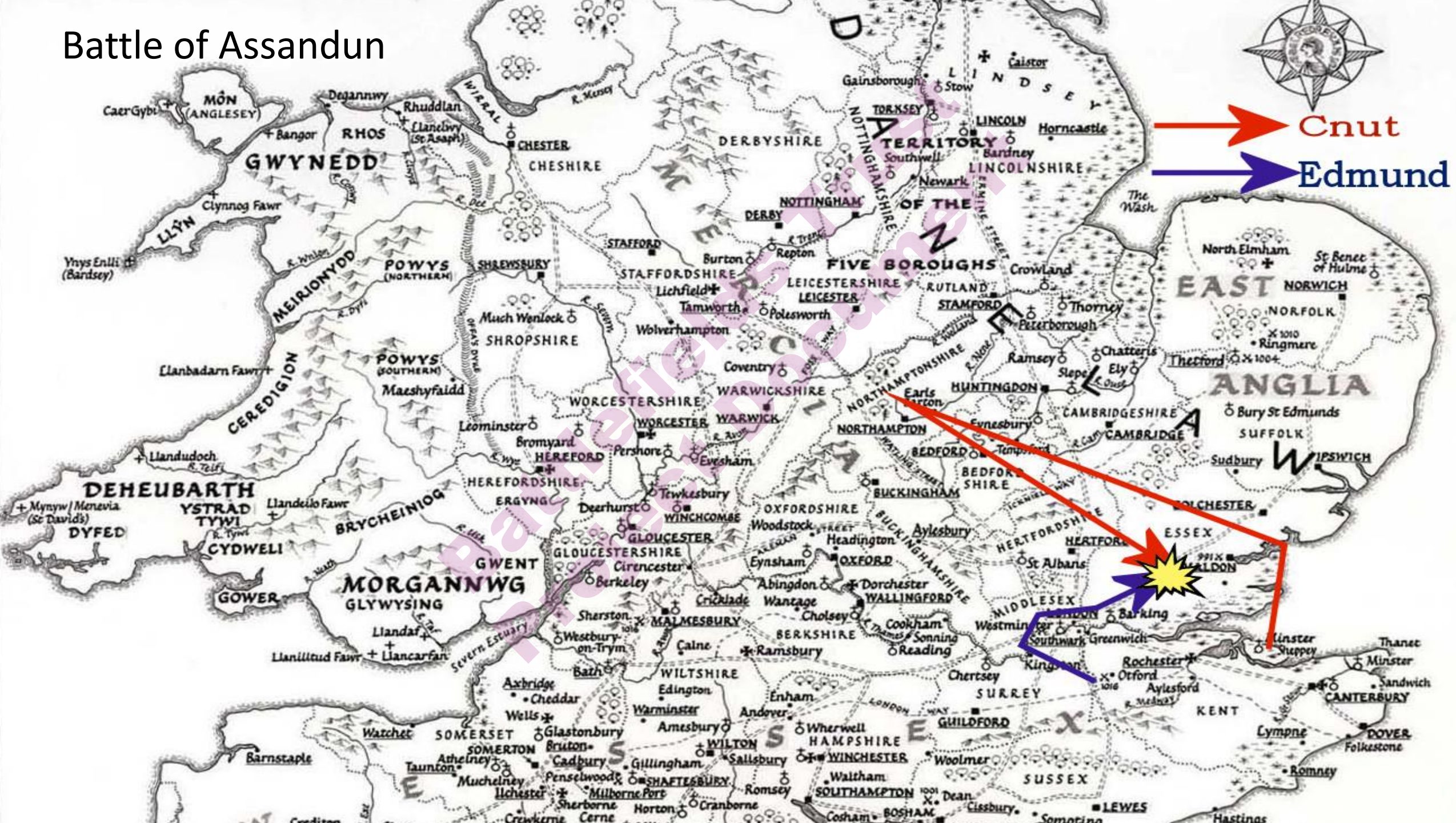
Battle of Brentford



Battle of Otford



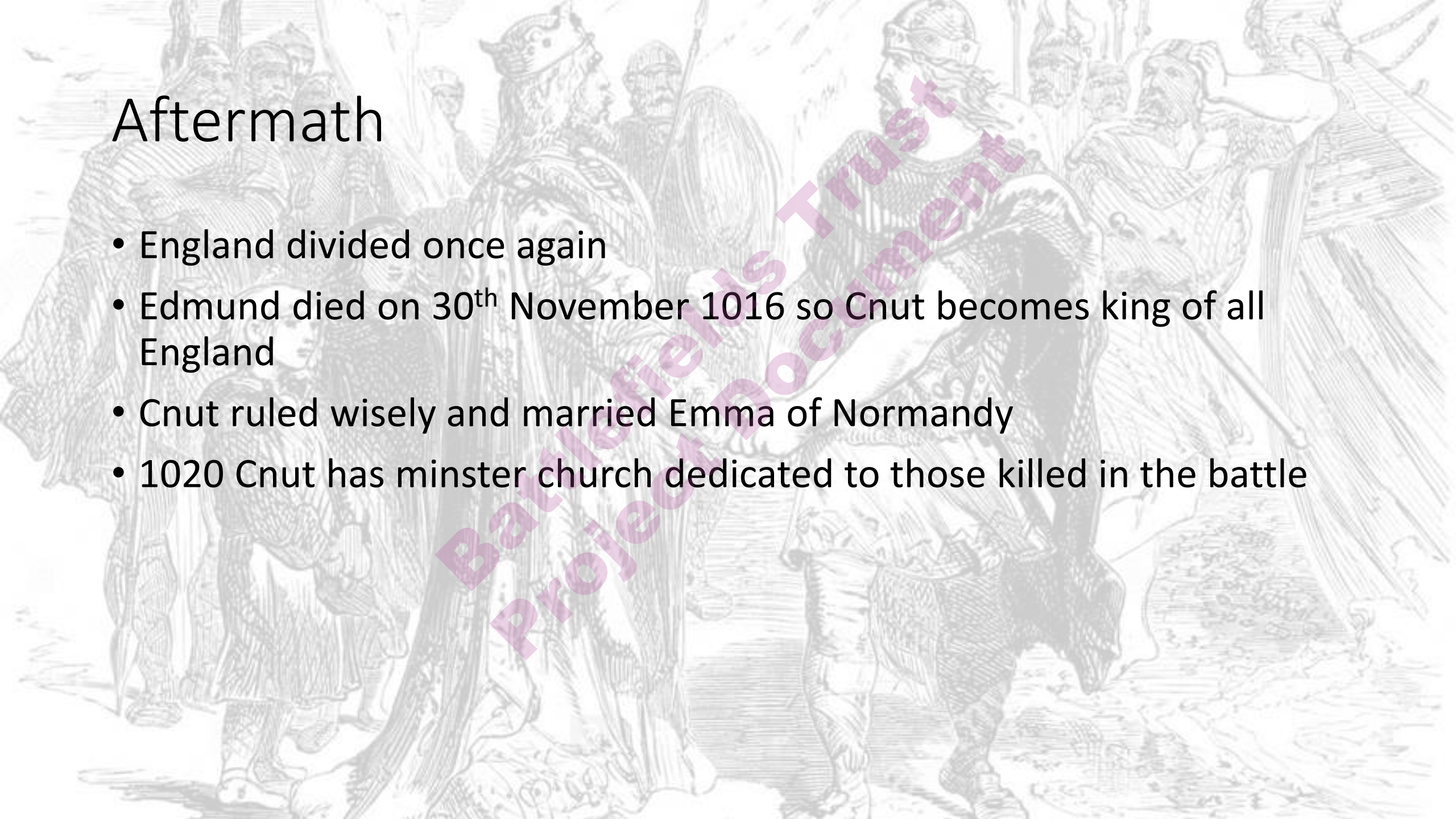
Battle of Assandun





Aftermath

- England divided once again
- Edmund died on 30th November 1016 so Cnut becomes king of all England
- Cnut ruled wisely and married Emma of Normandy
- 1020 Cnut has minster church dedicated to those killed in the battle



DOMINIONS OF CNUT

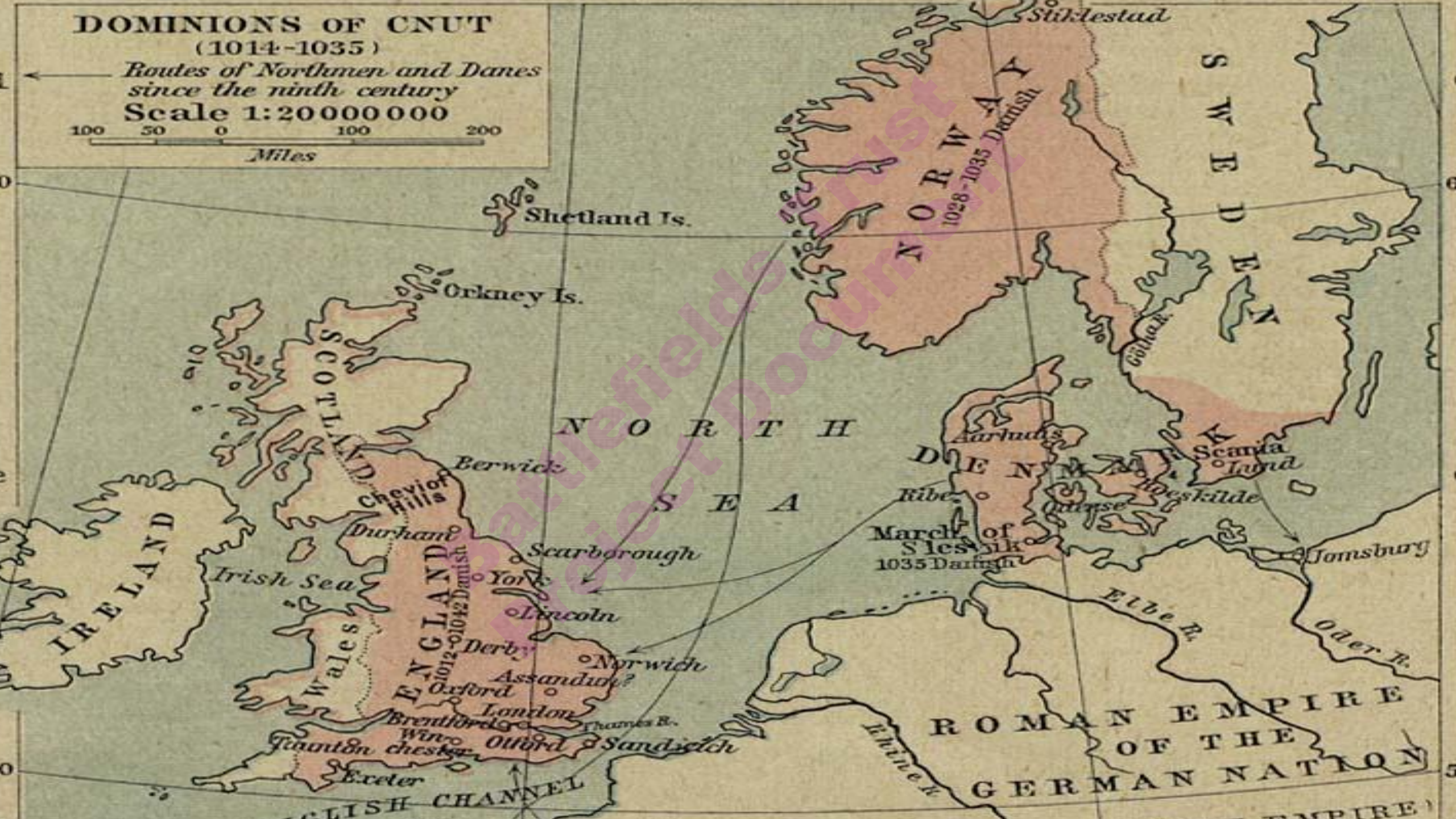
(1014-1035)

Routes of Northmen and Danes since the ninth century

Scale 1:20000000

100 50 0 100 200

Miles



DOMINIONS OF CNUT

(1014-1035)

*Routes of Northmen and Danes
since the ninth century*

100 Miles

Long Term Effects

- England and Normandy are now closely tied together
- Harald Hardrada claims Cnut's empire in England
- Would William of Normandy have had a claim to the throne of England if Edmund had continued as King?
- Would Harold have been defeated at Hastings if he hadn't first had to rush north to fight off Hardrada?

Questions???



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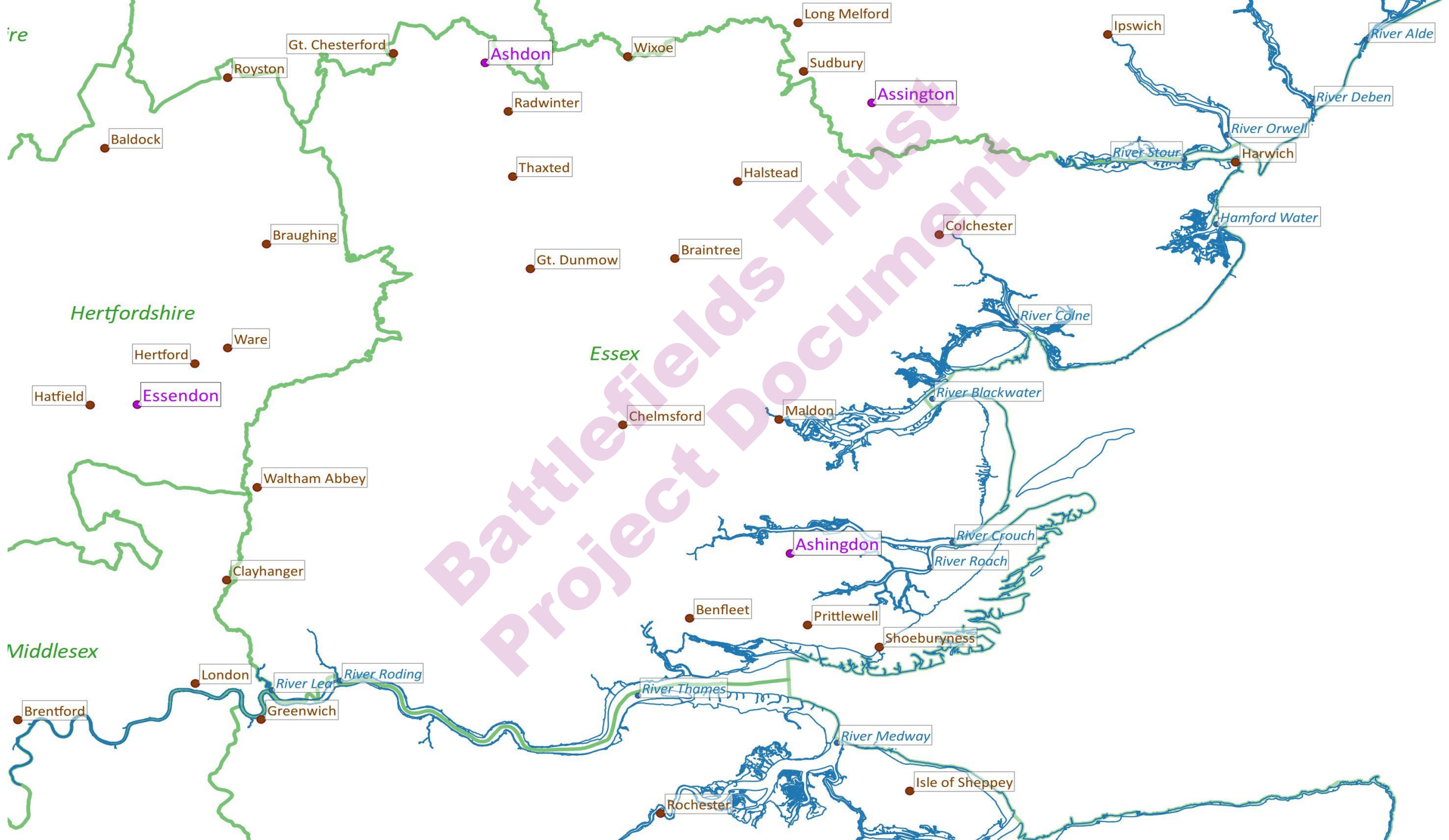


The Battlefields Trust

- Volunteer run registered charity dedicated to the protection, promotion and interpretation of Britain's battlefields.
- <https://www.battlefieldstrust.com>
- Hold study days, battlefield walks, annual conference
- Publish a quarterly magazine
- Run regular online talks

The Assandun Investigation Project

- Made up of volunteers from the Battlefields Trust and some of the villages where the battle may have taken place
- Assisted by a small number of experts
- Reviewed sources of information and now starting to carry out archaeological investigations
- Prioritising work in the most probable areas



A photograph of a Viking longship on a lake with mountains in the background. The ship is dark and filled with people, moving across the water. The background features rolling mountains under a cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "Battlefields Trust Project Document" is overlaid diagonally across the image.

Next.....Routes, Combatants and Battle Location

Richard Dolby