



# Chippenham Museum

Chippenham Town Council

## What's in a name?

The origins of many place names can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxons. Towns were often named after nearby features. The name Chippenham is believed to come from CHEAPING meaning market and HAM meaning settlement in the bend of the river.

Here are a few more Anglo-Saxon words and their meanings can you complete the table with the place names below?

Anglo-Saxon Word	Meaning	Examples of place name
barrow	wood	
bury	fortified place	
ford	shallow river crossing	
ham, hamm	village/enclosure within the bend of a river	
hurst	wooden hill	
leigh, lee, ley	forest clearing	
mer, mar, mere	lake	
ney	island	
port	market town	
stead, sted	place	
stow, stowe	meeting place/holy place	
ton, tun	enclosed village/manor/farmstead	
wick, wich	produce of a farm	

Barrow-in-Furness

Shaftesbury

Athelney

Cromer

Stamford

Chislehurst

Stanstead

Padstow

Birmingham

Bridport

Norwich

Tonbridge

Henley

Can you think of any more? Use a map or the internet to help you.