



River Severn



M54 Motorway



What Was Here First?

Shrewsbury



Millions
of years
ago

c. 901

1975



River Severn



M54 Motorway



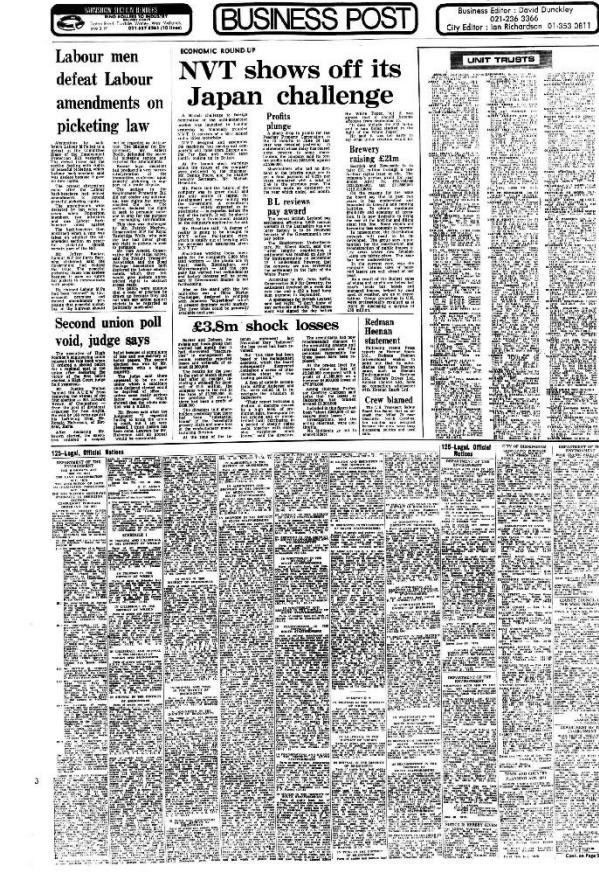
Man-made or Natural?

Shrewsbury

Documentary Sources

Documents like this Anglo-Saxon charter tell us that Shrewsbury was a settlement from at least the year 901. That's more than 150 years before William the Conqueror came to England!

Documents like this newspaper tell us about what happened in the modern period. This 1975 newspaper – *The Birmingham Post* – mentions the construction of the M54 motorway in Shropshire.





The Vikings
Spoke Old Norse



The Anglo-Saxons
Spoke Old English



The Normans
Spoke French



The Romans
Spoke Latin



The Britons
Spoke British

750-500
BC

43
AD

c. 450

793

1066

c. 901

1975

Millions
of years
ago

Living in Britain

Can you work out when
these people lived in Britain?

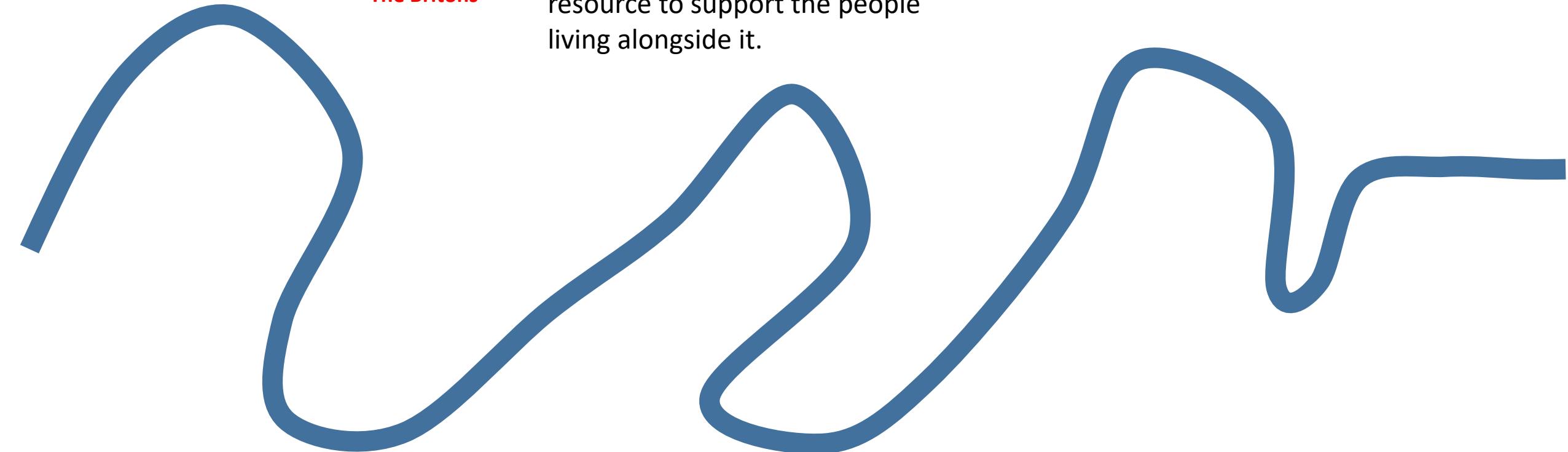


- The Britons were living here first
- The Normans arrived last
- The Romans came after the Britons, but before the Anglo-Saxons
- The Vikings came after the Anglo-Saxons

The River Severn through time



The British people called the river *Sabrina*. No-one is certain what it means, but it may mean 'milk', indicating its importance as a resource to support the people living alongside it.



The River Severn through time



The Britons

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The Romans

The Romans also called the river *Sabrina*. This tells us that the Britons shared the river-name with the Romans. This was because it was such an important resource.

The River Severn through time

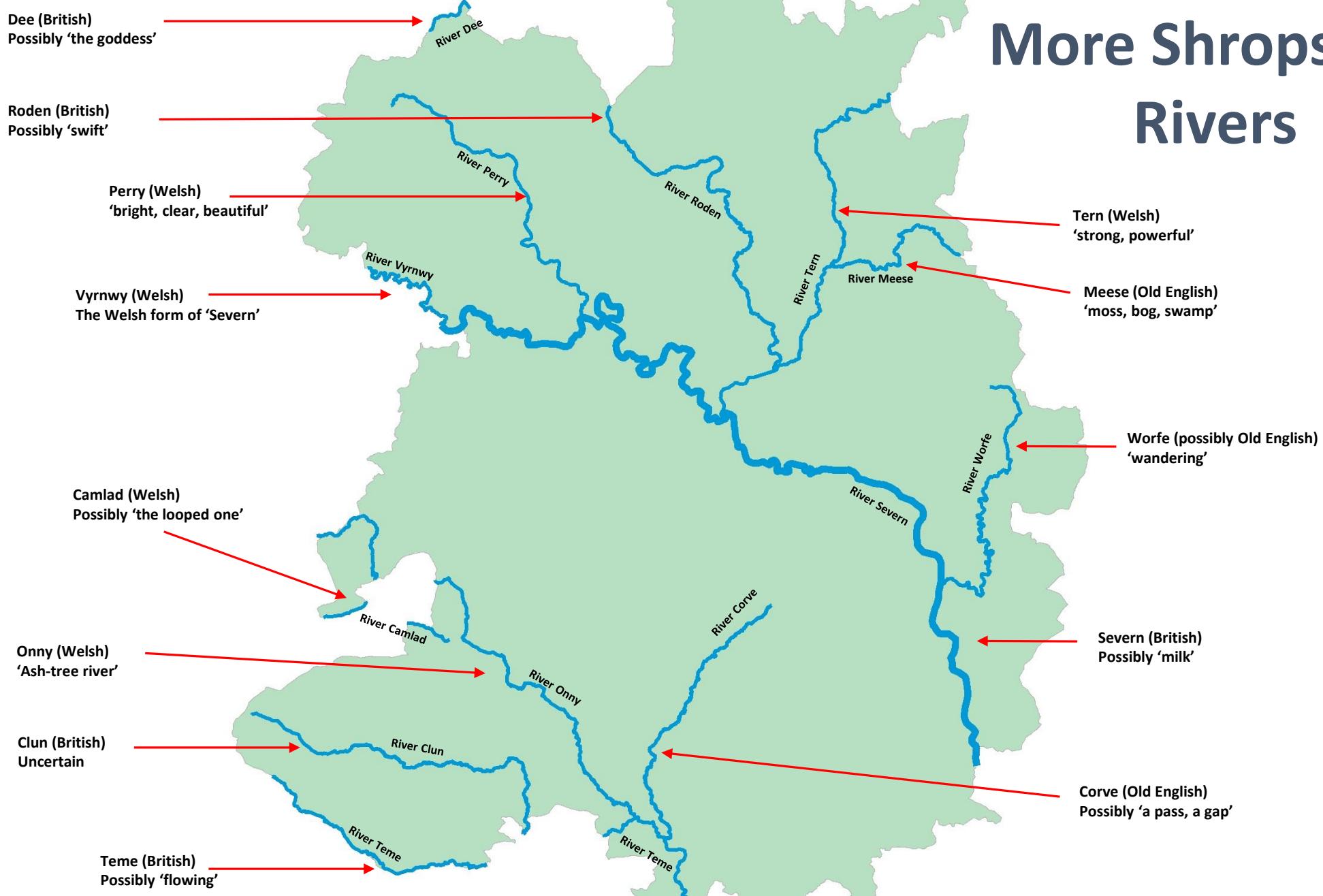


The Anglo-Saxons

The name *Sabrina* was also passed on to the Anglo-Saxons, so we know that they must have had contact with the British people living in Shropshire. Because of changes in the language, the Anglo-Saxon name eventually became *Severne*.

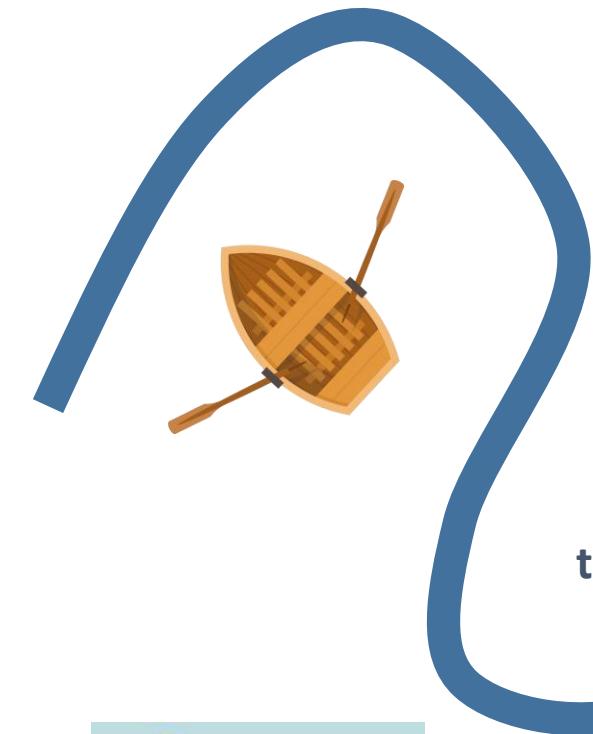
A medieval story suggests that Sabrina was a princess who was thrown into the River Severn and became a goddess – and that she still lives in the river today.

More Shropshire Rivers



Why are rivers important in the past?

migration and communication



travel



trade



protection and defence



water-power

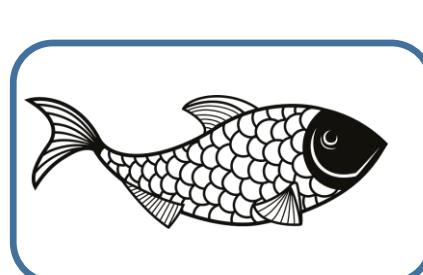
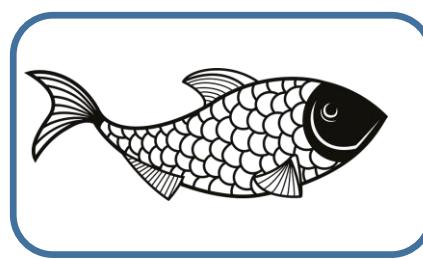
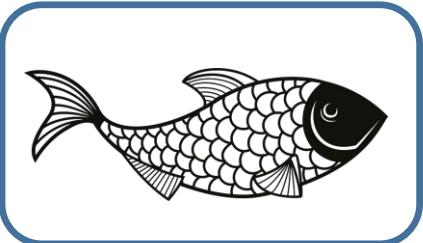


water



food





migration and communication

travel

trade

water-power

water

food

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protection and defence

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London – River Thames



Paris – River Seine



Cairo – River Nile

Rivers and World Cities



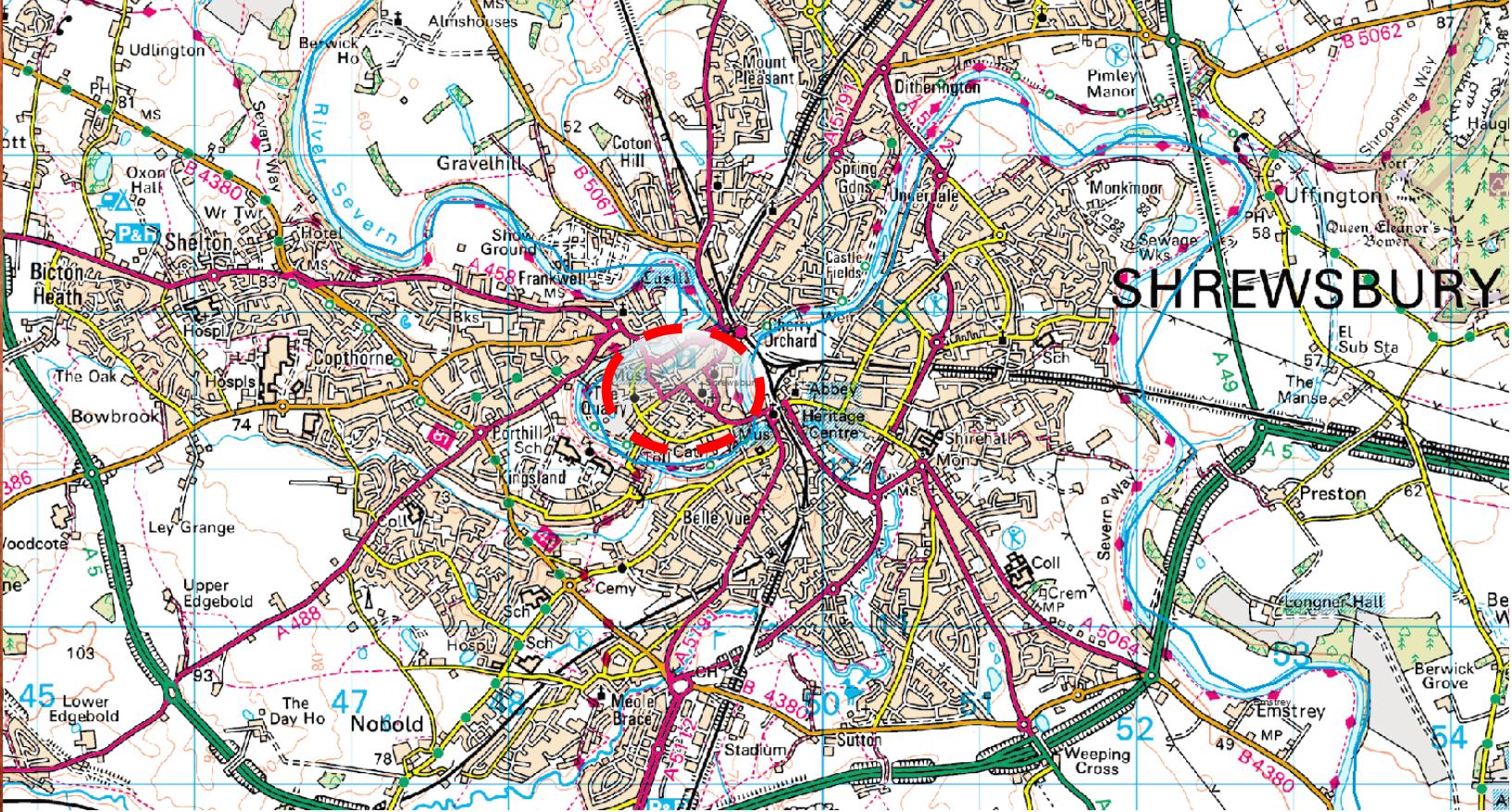
New York – Hudson River



Sydney – Parramatta River

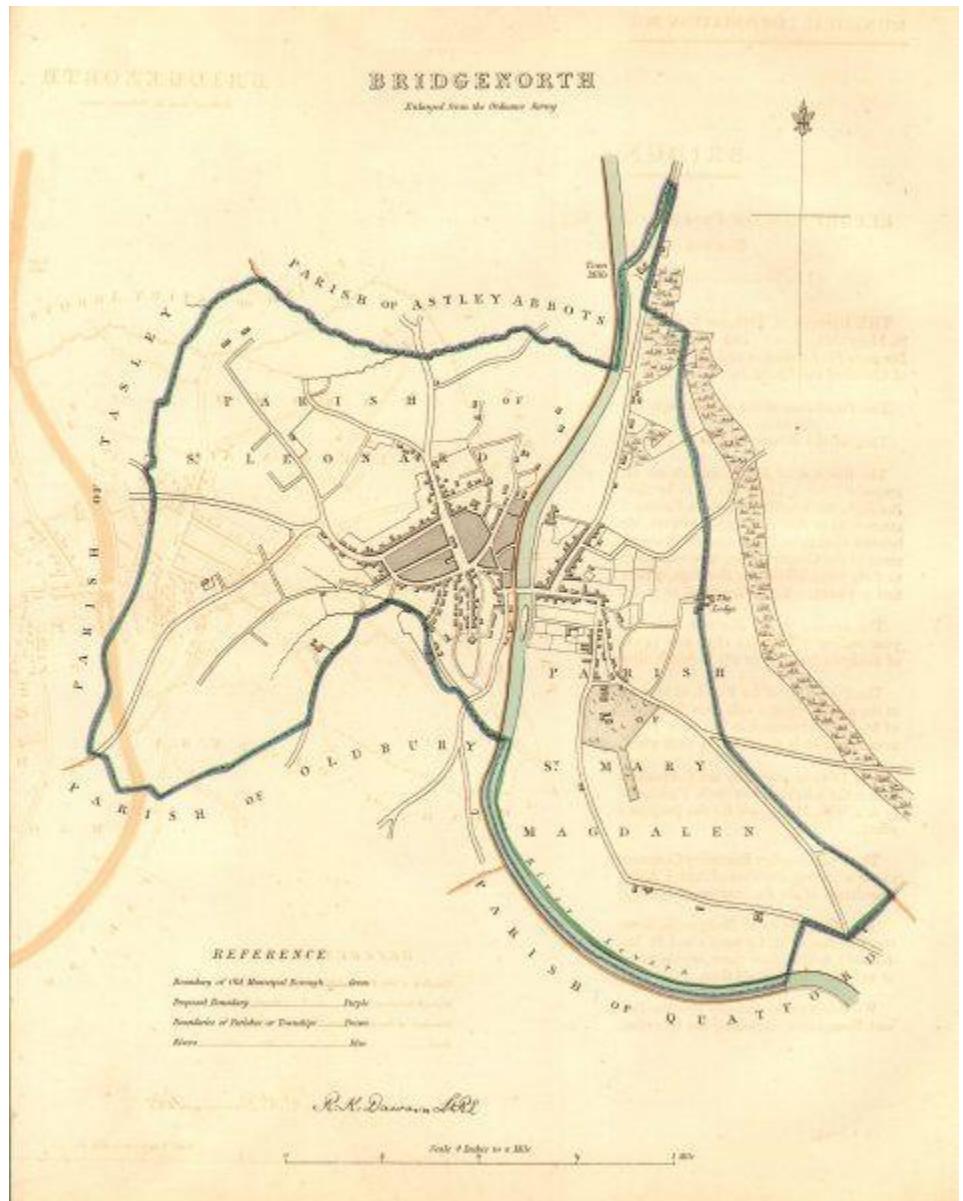


Rome – River Tiber

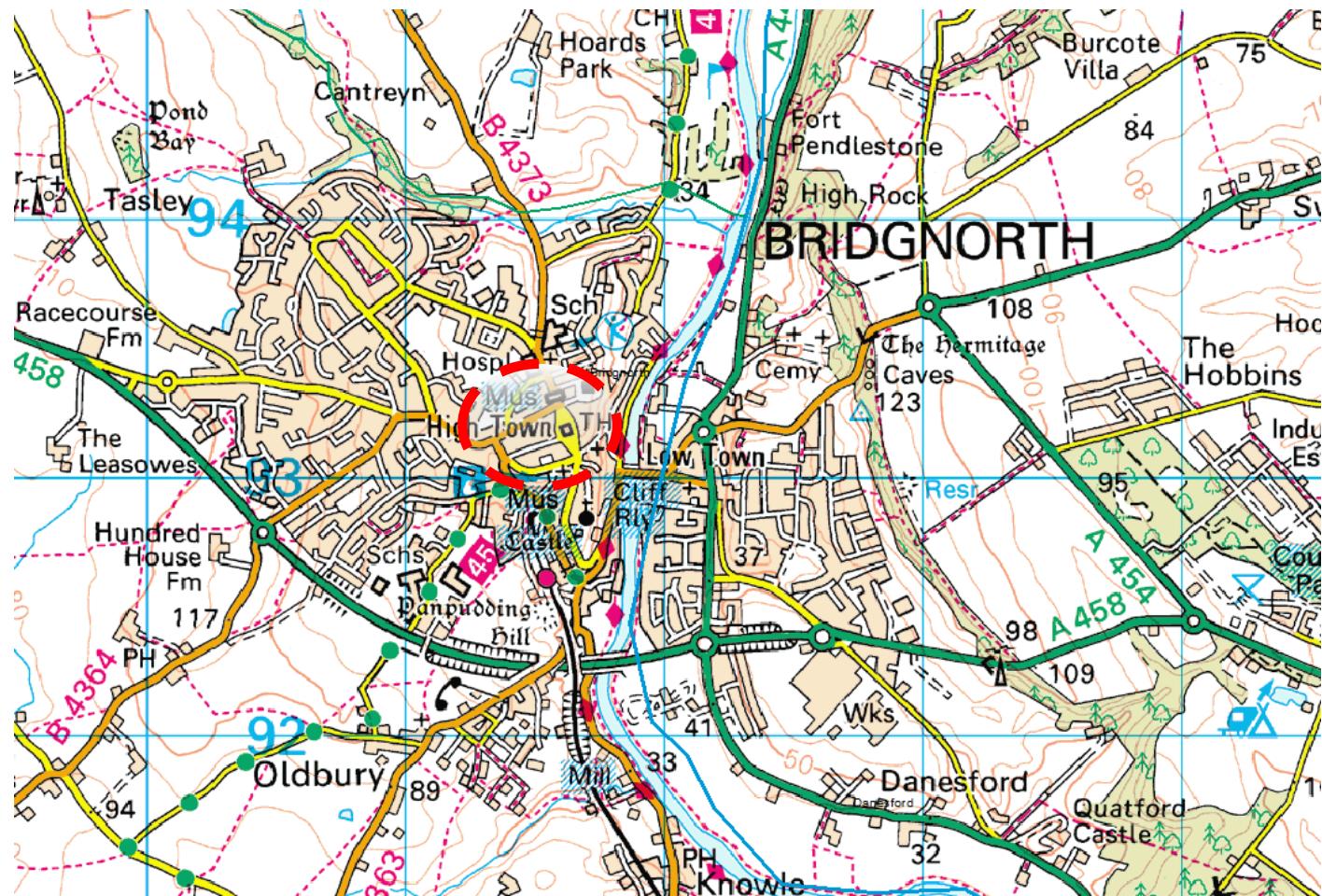


Shrewsbury - 1610

Shrewsbury today (over 400 years later)

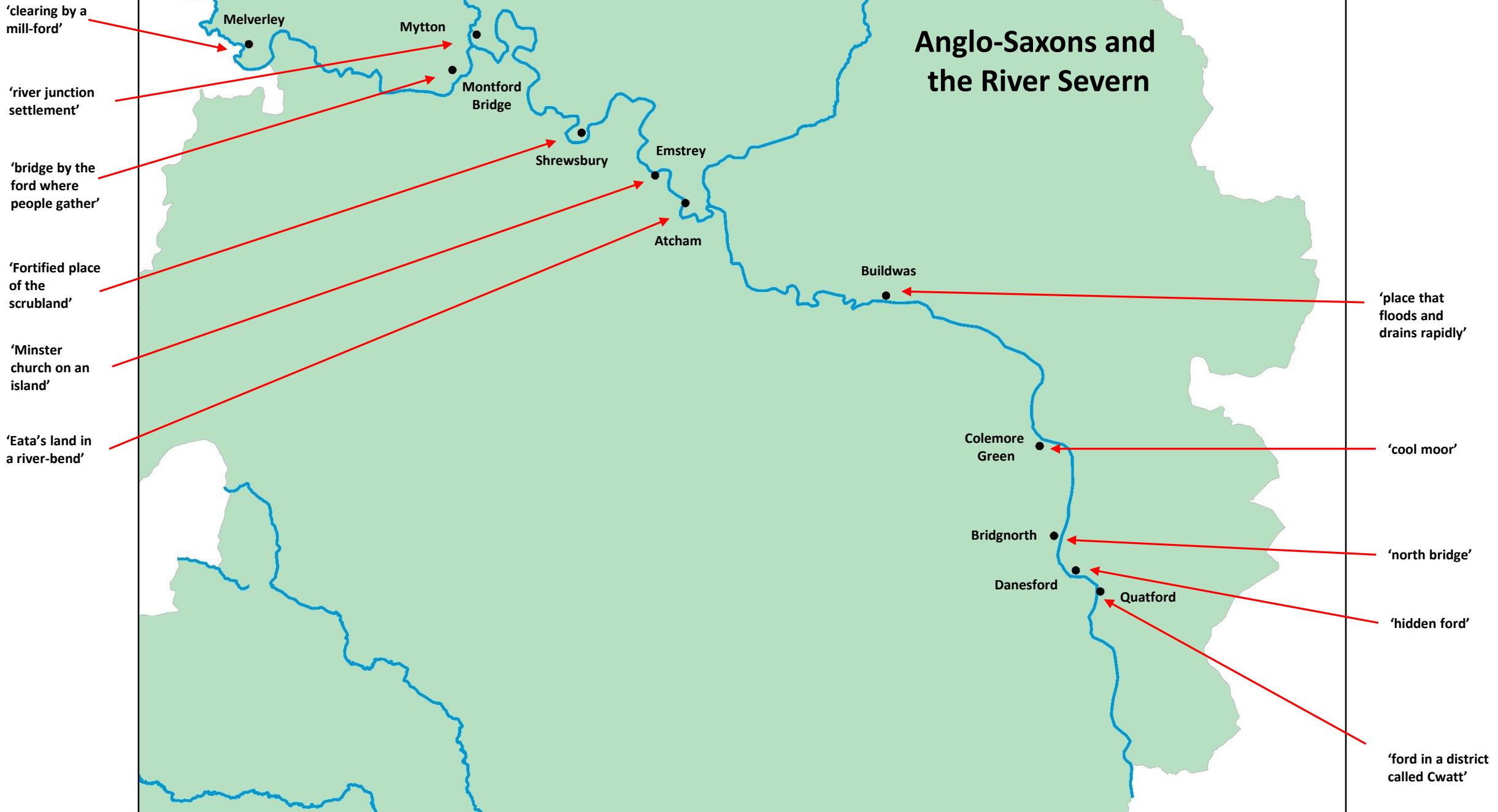


Bridgnorth - 1837



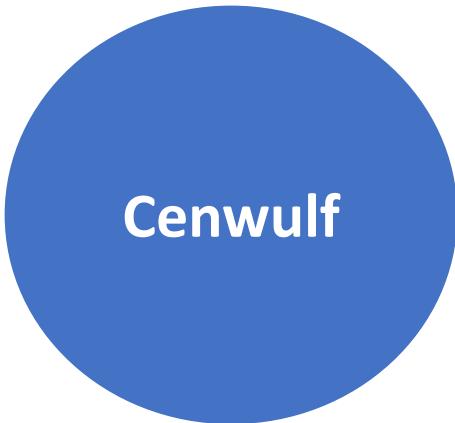
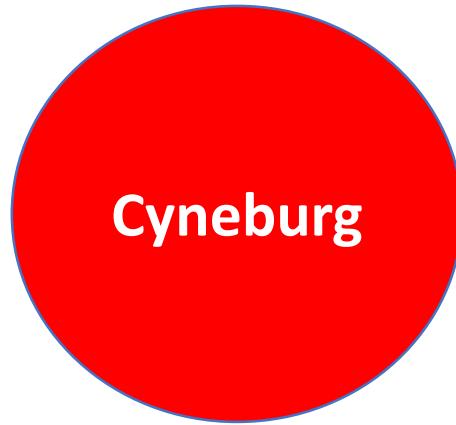
Bridgnorth today (nearly 200 years later)

Anglo-Saxons and the River Severn





A ford
at
Norbury



Melverley

Welcome to Melverley! You have been completely distracted by the new mill there. Miss one turn.

Montford Bridge

Welcome to Montford Bridge! You were expecting to cross at the ford, but there is a new bridge – much faster!
Move on to Shrewsbury.

Mytton

Oh dear! Although you know that Mytton means ‘river junction settlement’, you’ve taken the wrong turn onto the River Perry! Go back to Montford Bridge.

Shrewsbury

You’ve reached Shrewsbury, but it’s very well protected, and no one will let you in. Ask another team to send you wherever they like.

Emstrey

Welcome to Emstrey! Give a donation to the Minster church there. The monks are happy, and have prayed for you. Move on to Buildwas.

Atcham

Eata welcomes you to his home at Atcham. You drink too much ale and fall asleep. Miss a turn.

Buildwas

Ooh! The ‘was’ part of Buildwas means ‘flood’. Throw the dice again. If you get 1-3, you’re capsized, go back one. If you throw 4-6, your boat speeds on to Colemore Green.

Colemore Green

Oops! The ‘more’ part of Colemore Green means ‘moor’, and it’s a bit boggy. You’re stuck here! Miss one turn.

Bridgnorth

Welcome to Bridgnorth! The new bridge helps you to cross the Severn easily, go on to Danesford.

Danesford

Oh calamity! Danesford means ‘hidden ford’ and you are lost. Ask another team if they will tell you where the ford is. If they do, go on to Quatford. If not, it’s back to Bridgnorth for you!

Quatford

You’ve made it to Quatford! Well done. You’ve travelled a long way - along the River Severn from Melverley!