

# **The Battle of Maserfeld 5<sup>th</sup> August AD 642**

Near to the Saxon village,  
later known as Winwick.

by  
Richard Ward  
2021



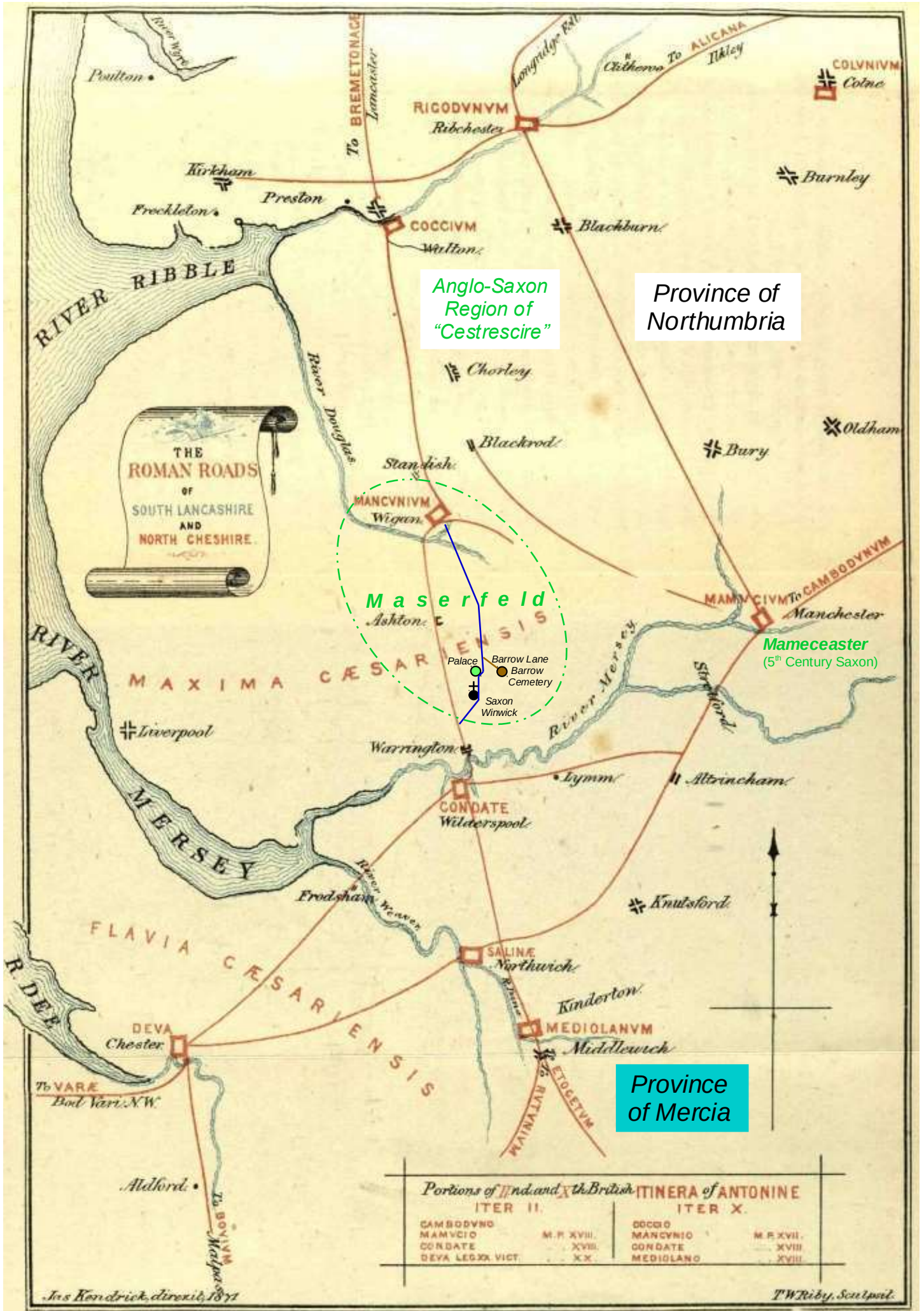
Saint OSWALD



King of Northumbria.

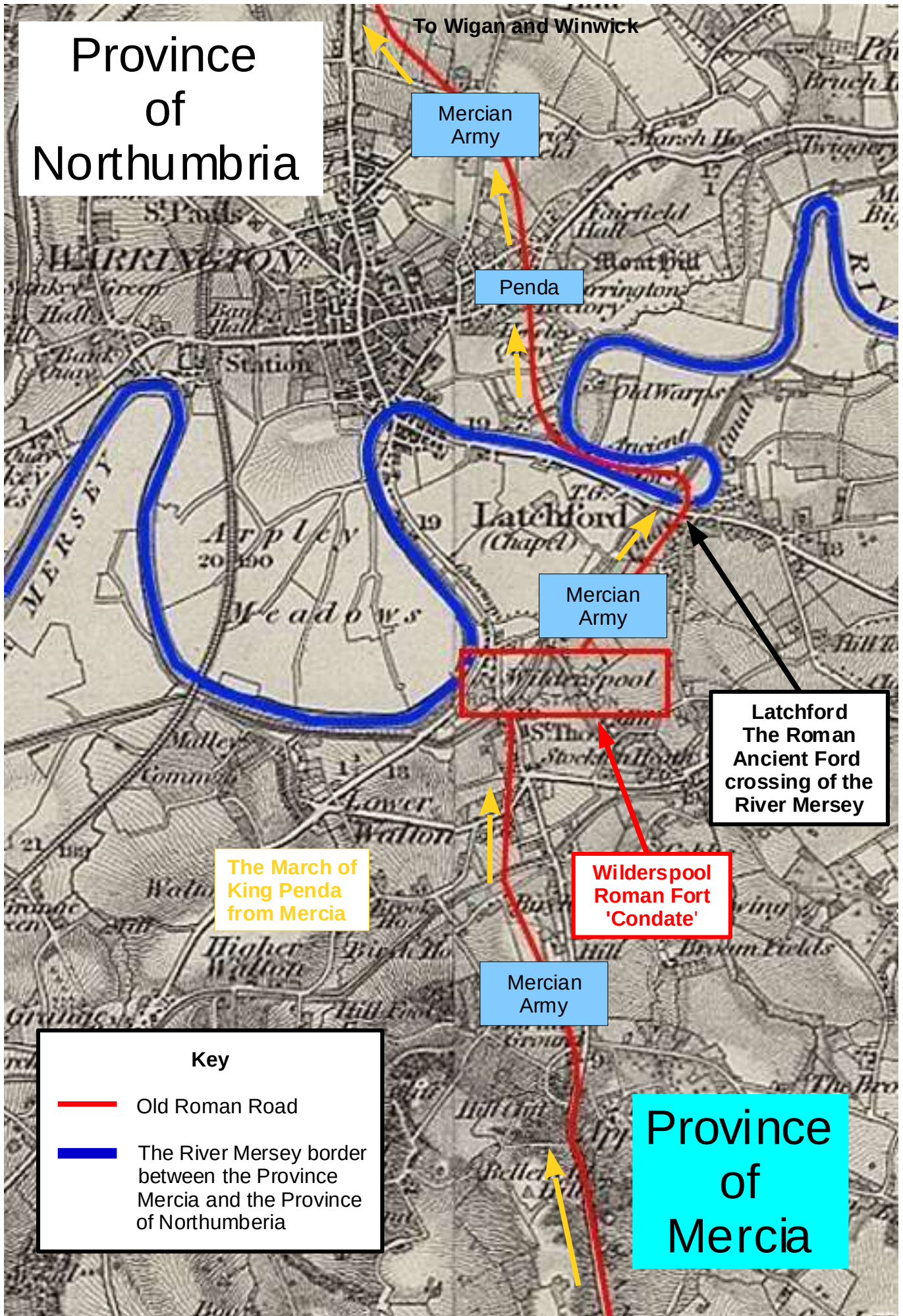
1981  
ANGELA  
LUDGANG

Anglo-Saxon England Post Roman circa A.D. 634



### Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642

King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.

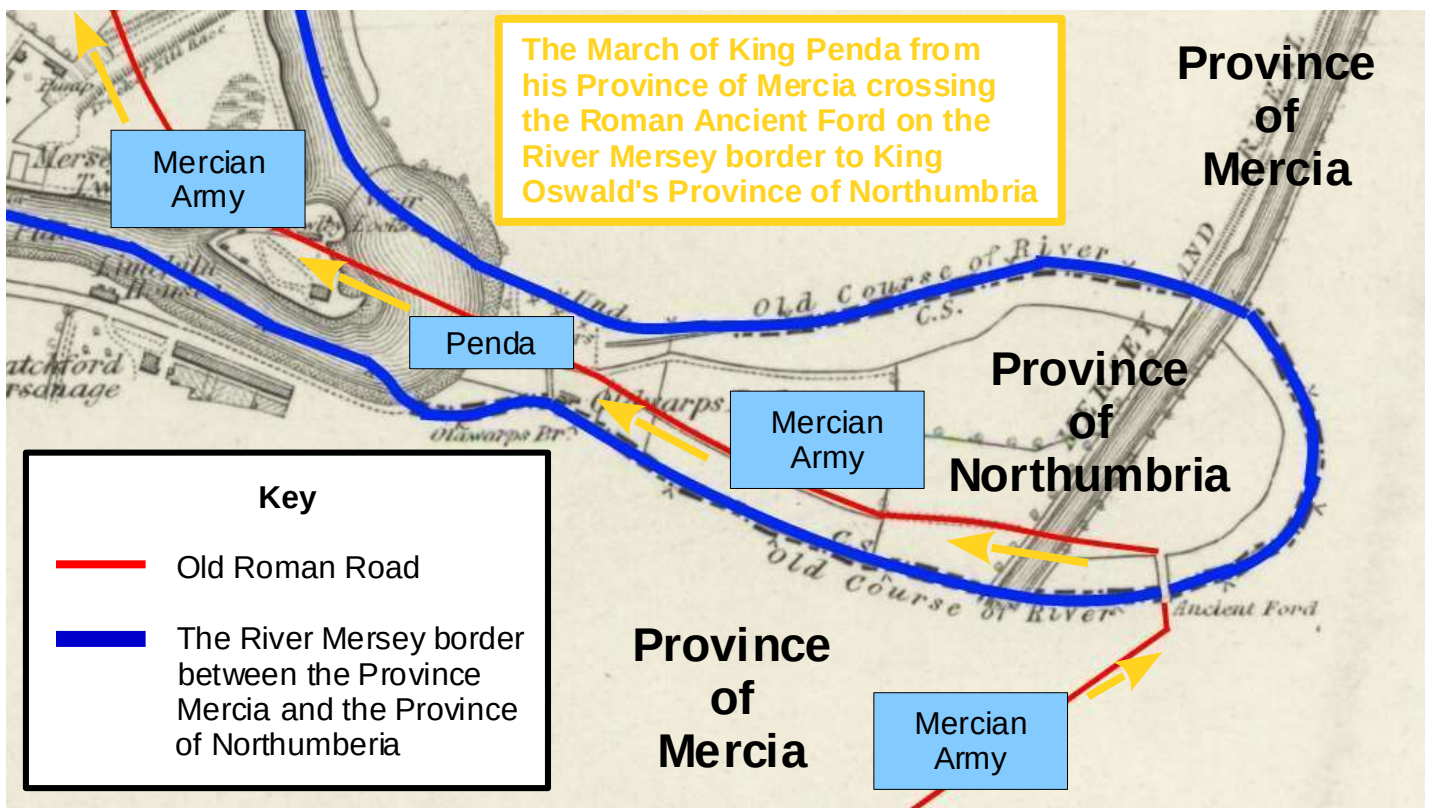


Battle stage 1 of 13 Penda crosses River Mersey heads for Winwick

**Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642**

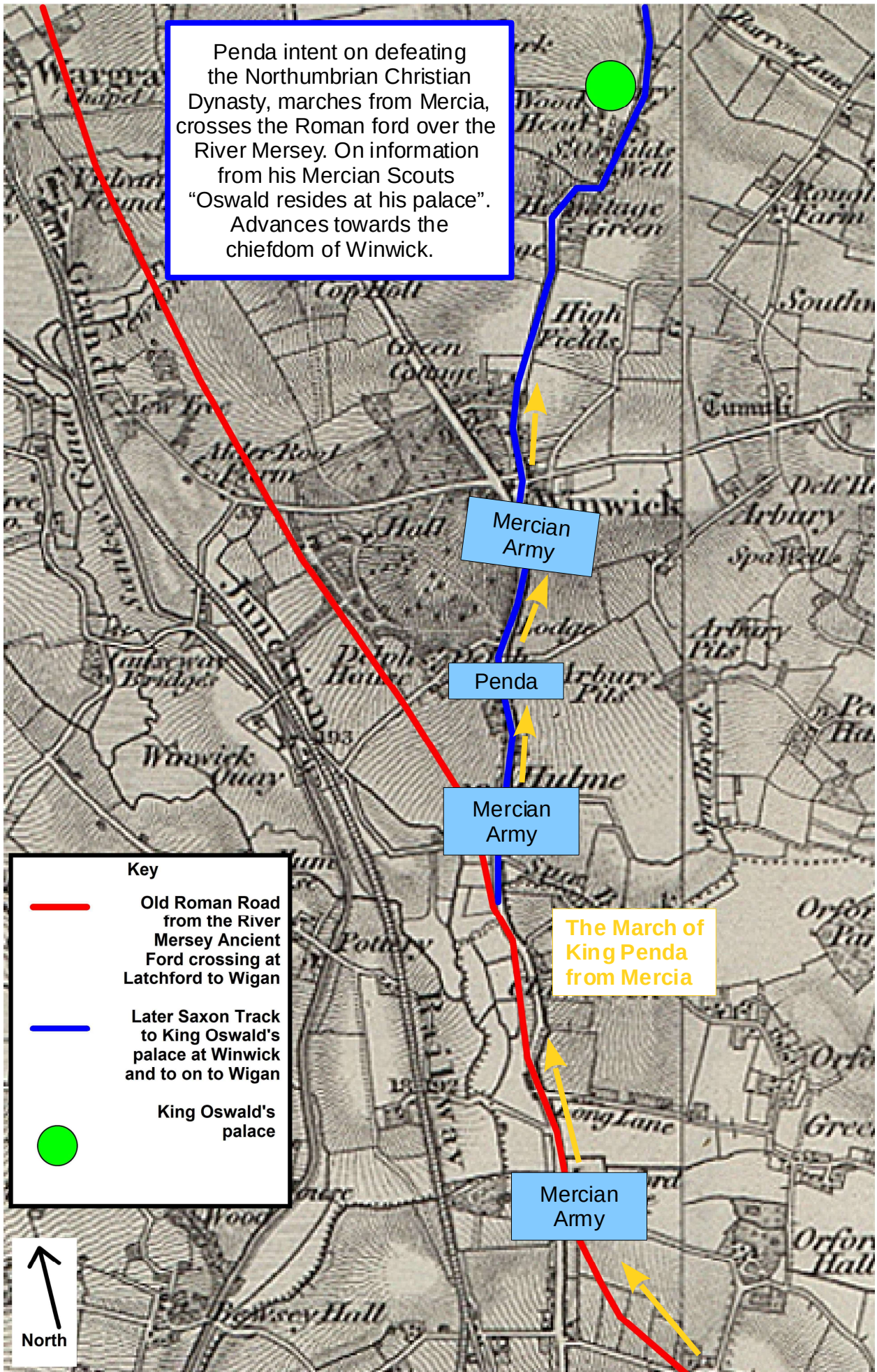
King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.

The original course of the River Mersey at Warrington before the 19<sup>th</sup> Century 'man-made' alteration



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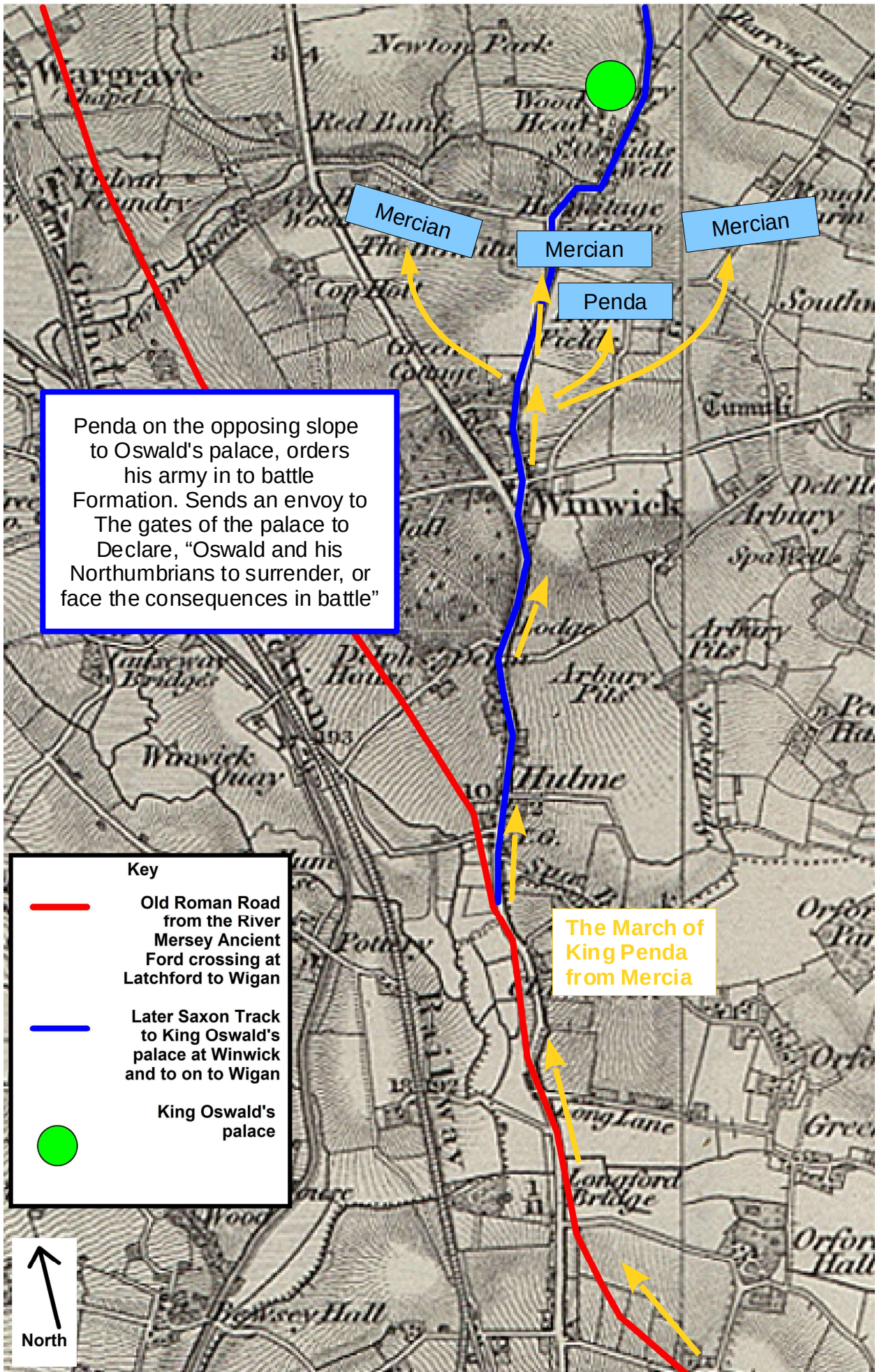
King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



Battle stage 3 of 13 Penda crosses River Mersey heads for Winwick From Warrington

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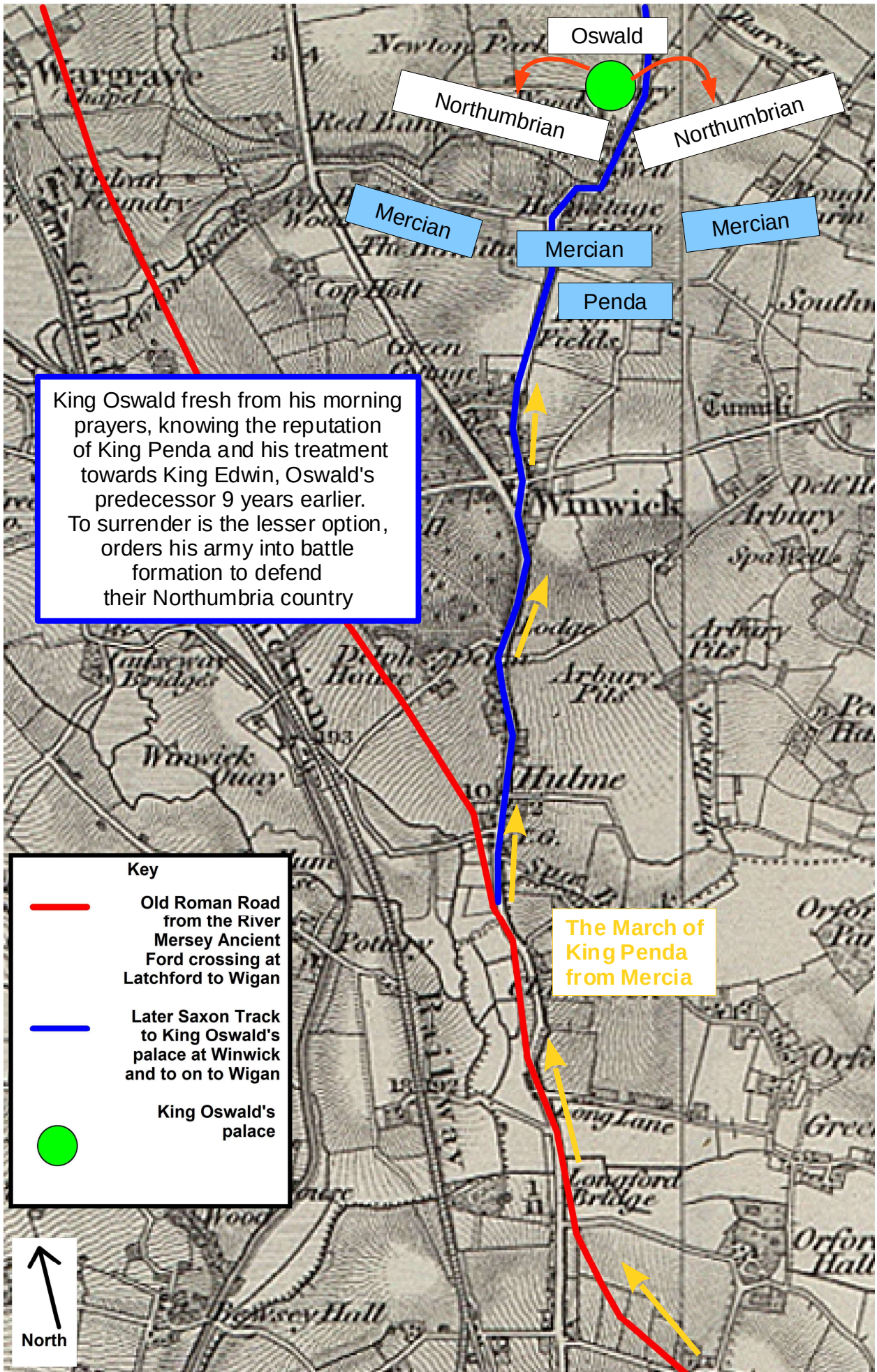


Battle stage 4 of 13 Penda prepares to attack Oswald's palace

From Warrington

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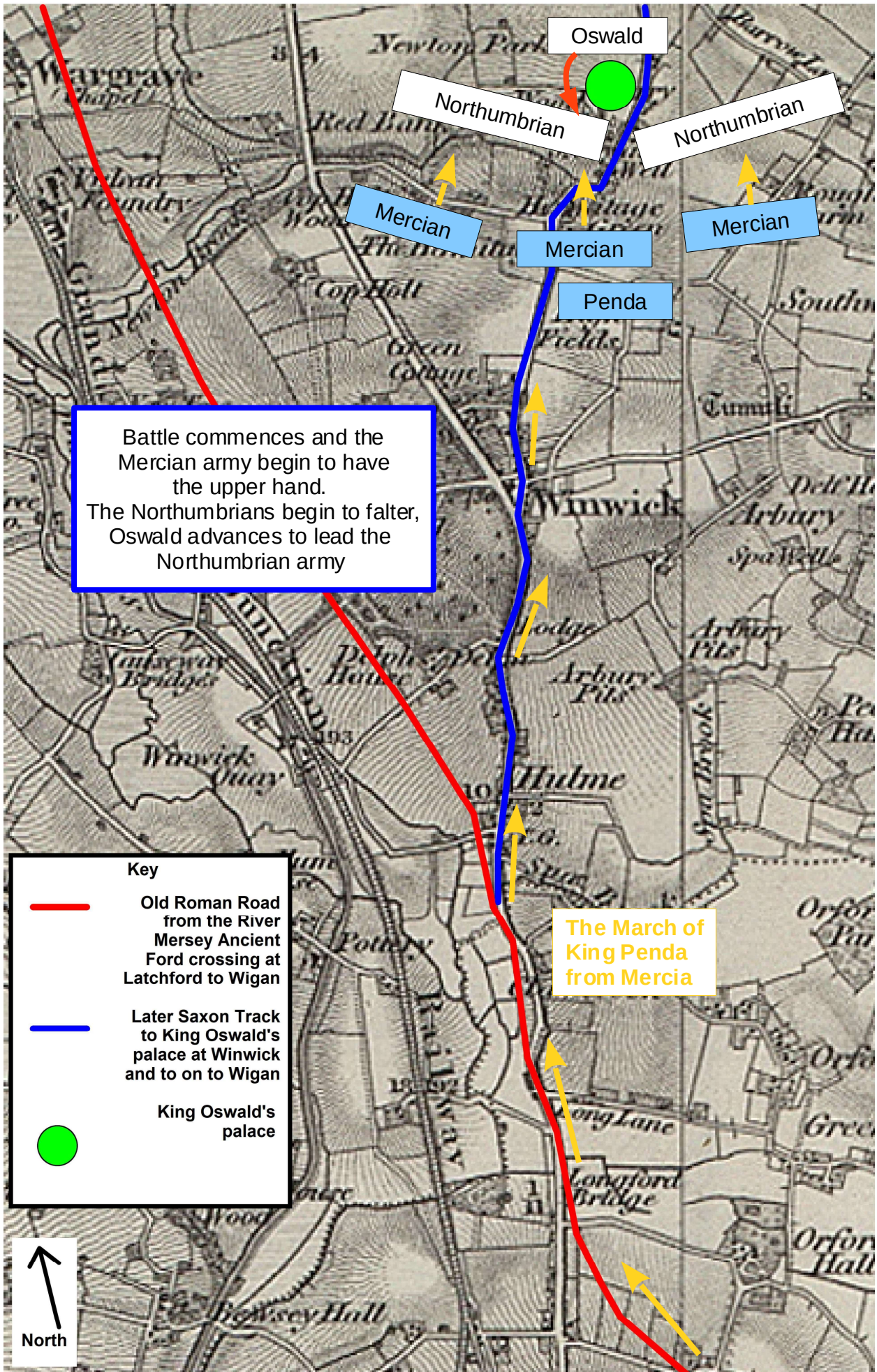
Battle stage 5 of 13 Northumbrians prepare a defence

From Warrington



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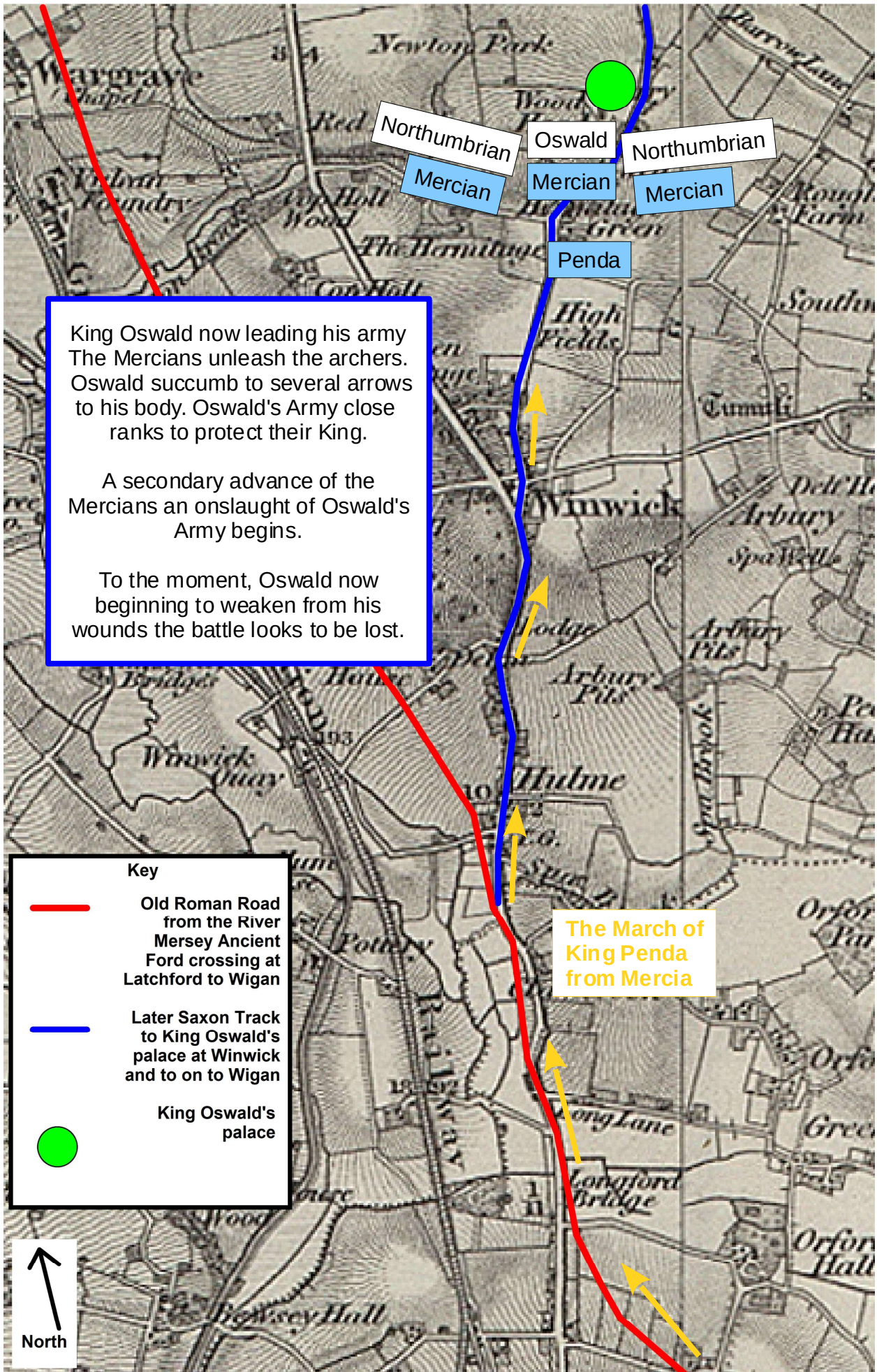


Battle stage 6 of 13 Oswald moves to head his army

From Warrington

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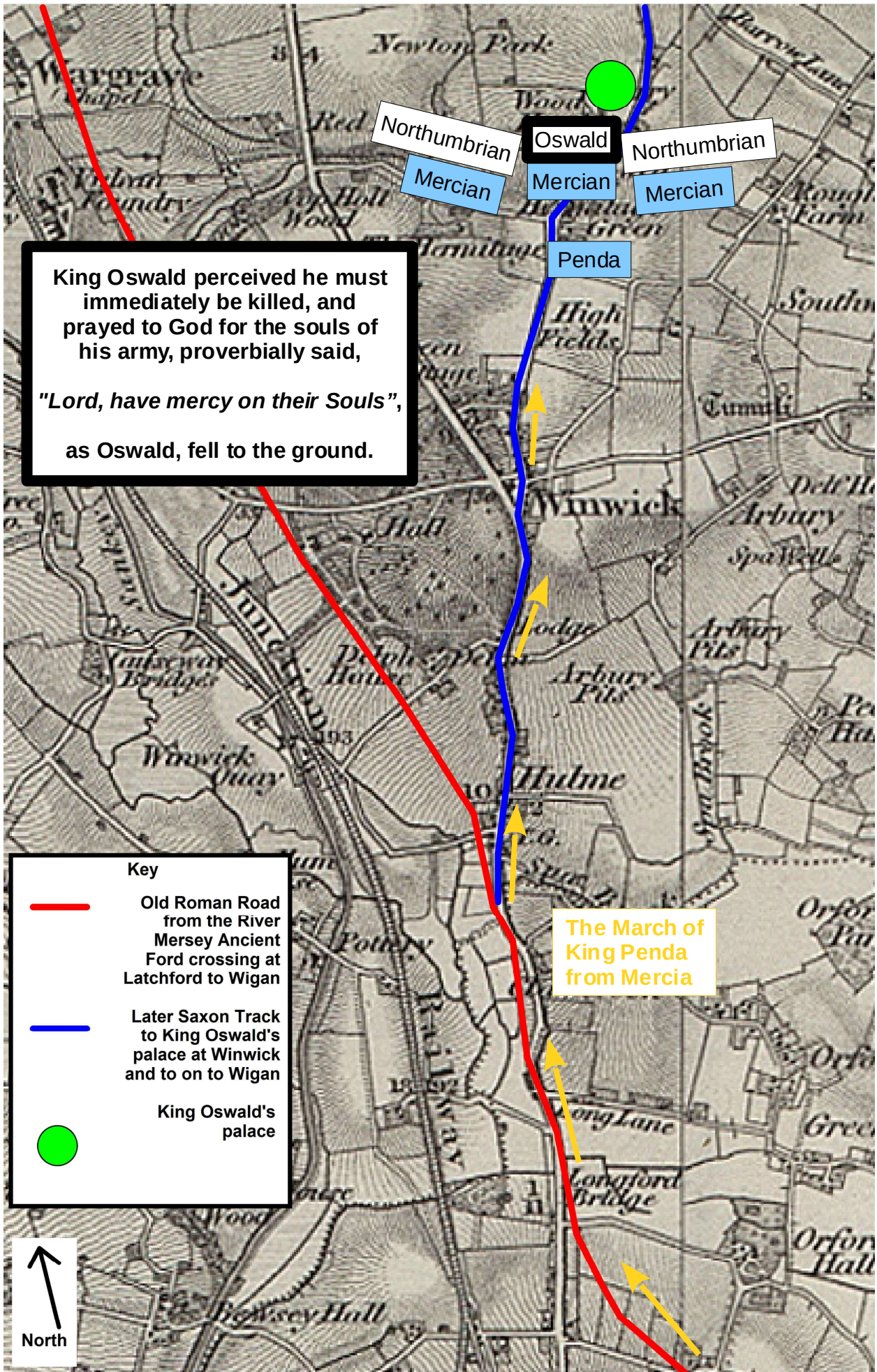


Battle stage 7 of 13 Mercians take the upper hand

From Warrington

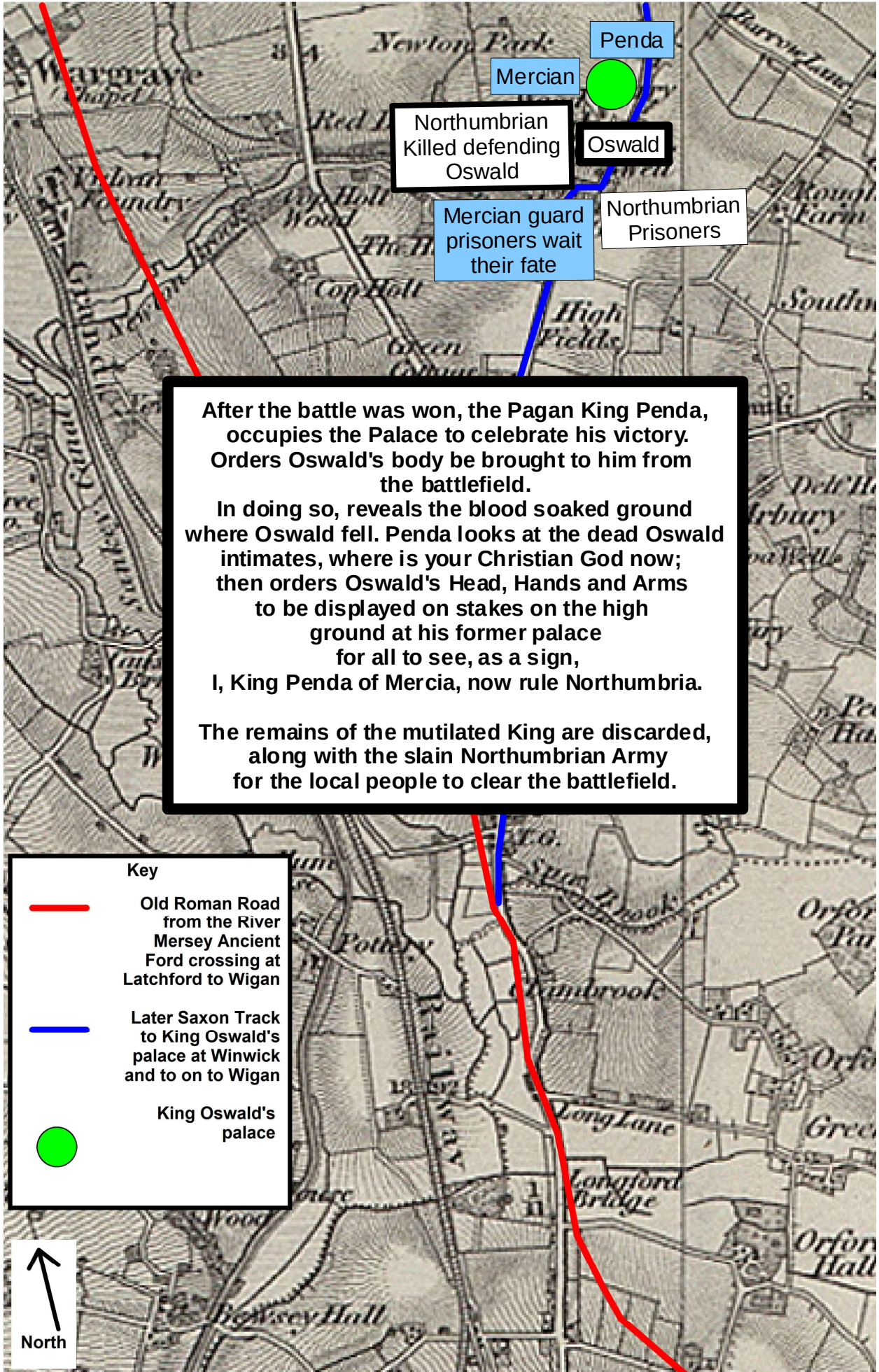
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King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



After the battle was won, the Pagan King Penda, occupies the Palace to celebrate his victory. Orders Oswald's body be brought to him from the battlefield.

In doing so, reveals the blood soaked ground where Oswald fell. Penda looks at the dead Oswald intimates, where is your Christian God now; then orders Oswald's Head, Hands and Arms to be displayed on stakes on the high ground at his former palace for all to see, as a sign, I, King Penda of Mercia, now rule Northumbria.

The remains of the mutilated King are discarded, along with the slain Northumbrian Army for the local people to clear the battlefield.

#### Key

— Old Roman Road from the River Mersey Ancient Ford crossing at Latchford to Wigan

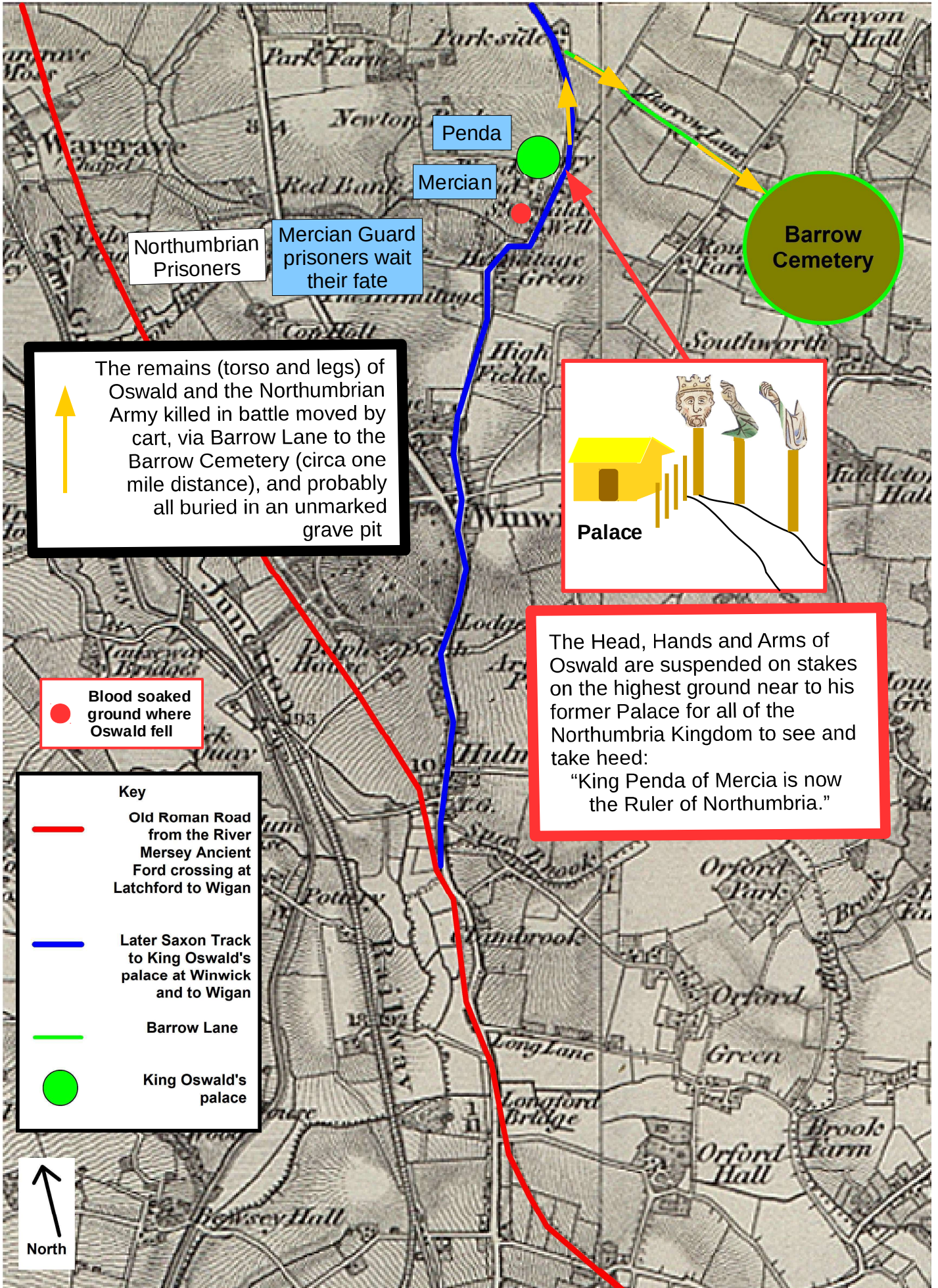
— Later Saxon Track to King Oswald's palace at Winwick and to on to Wigan

● King Oswald's palace



**Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642**

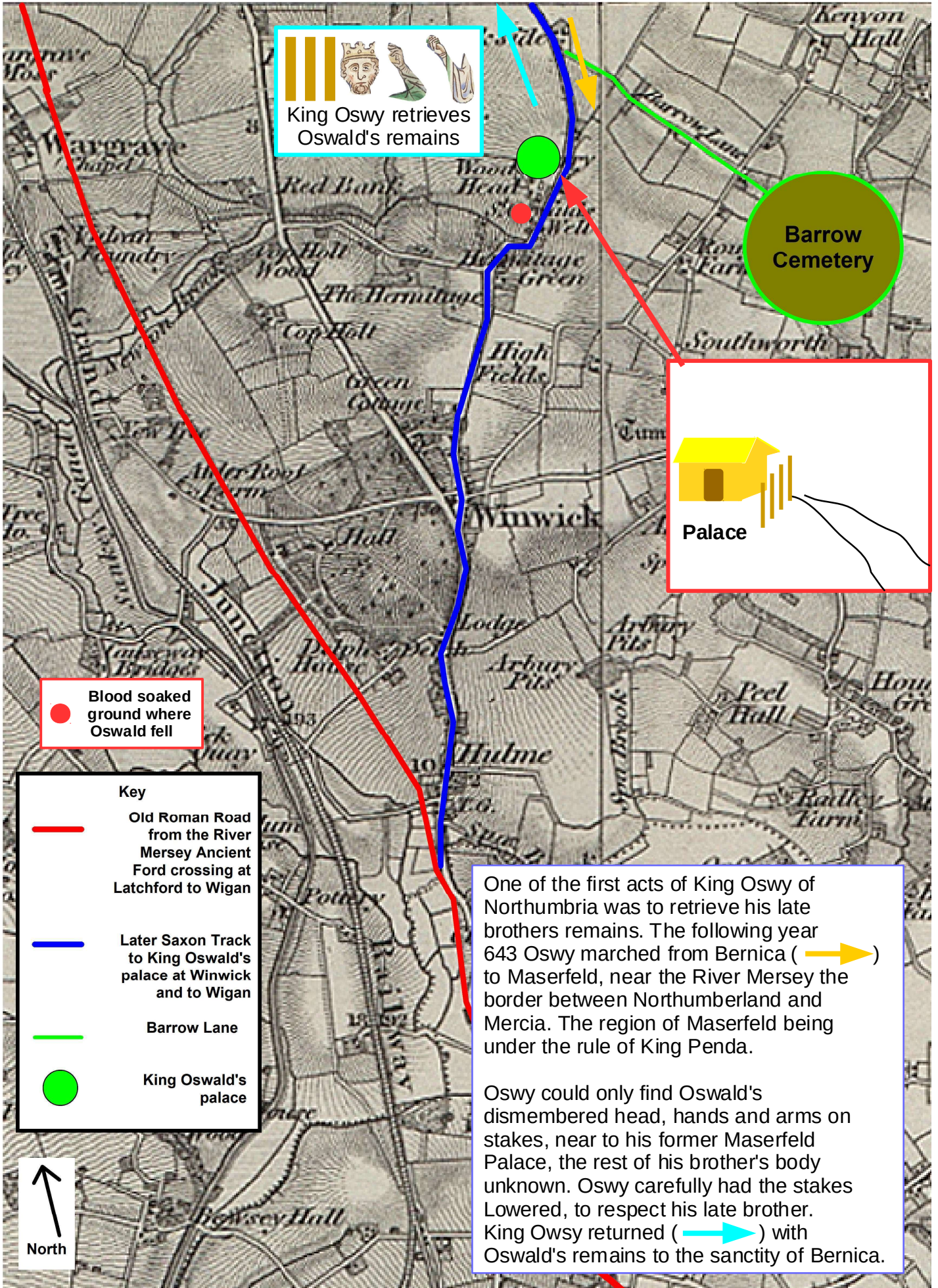
King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



Battle stage 10 of 13 after battle 06 August 642 Oswald's Head, Hands and Arms on stakes

**Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642**

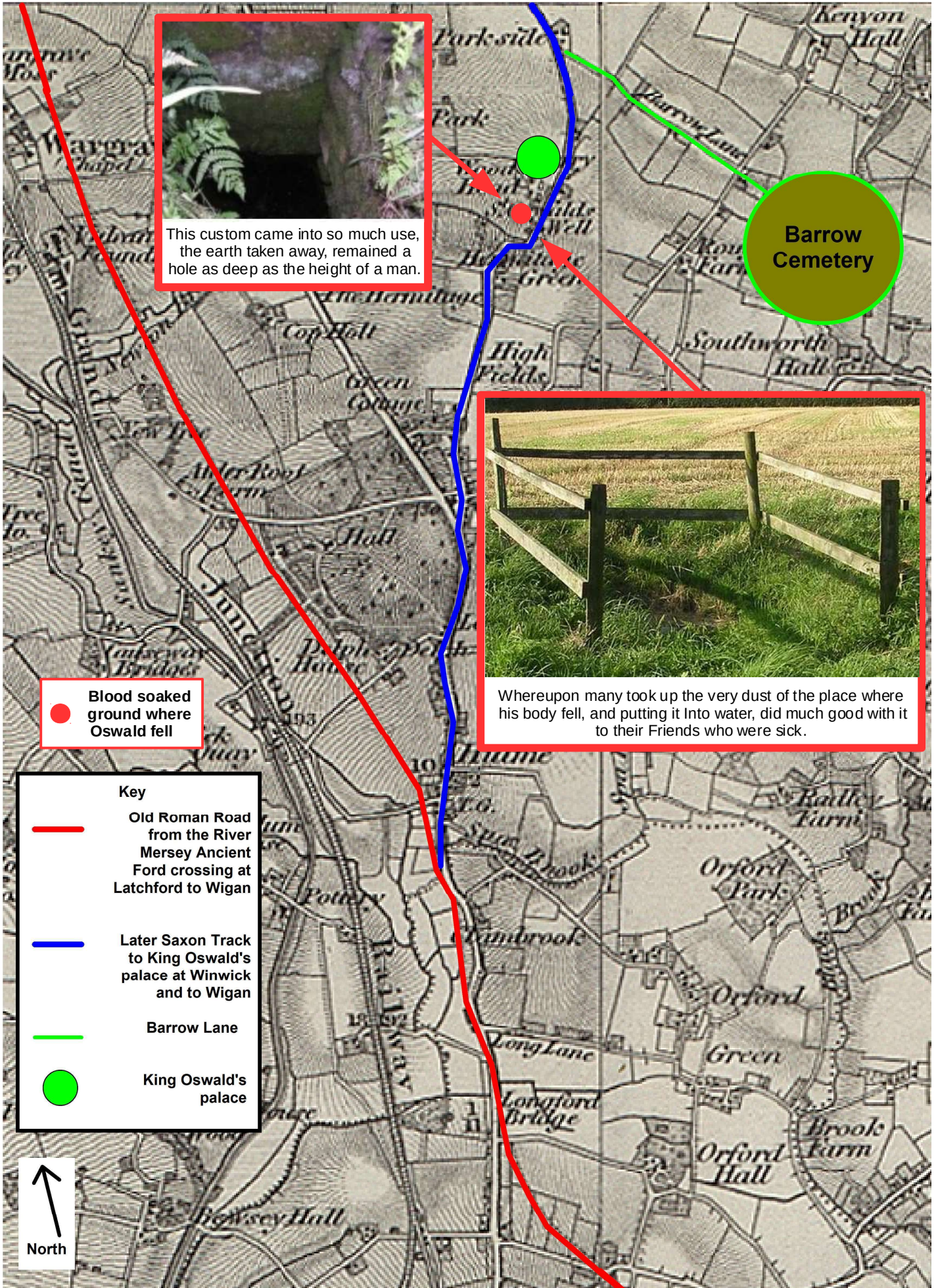
King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



Battle stage 11 of 13 after battle Oswy 643AD retrieves Oswald's remains from Maserfeld

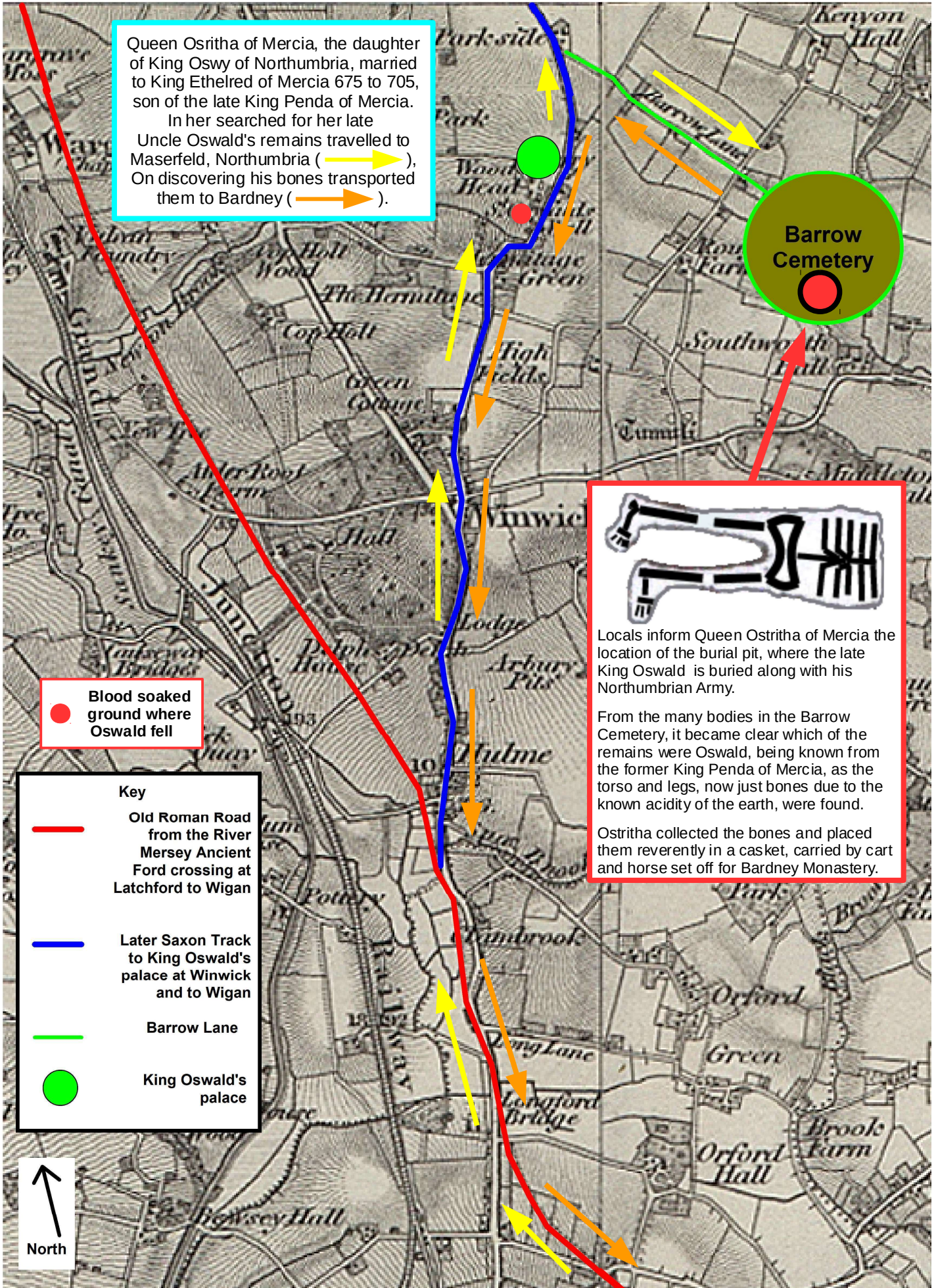
**Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642**

King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



### Battle of Maserfeld 05 August AD642

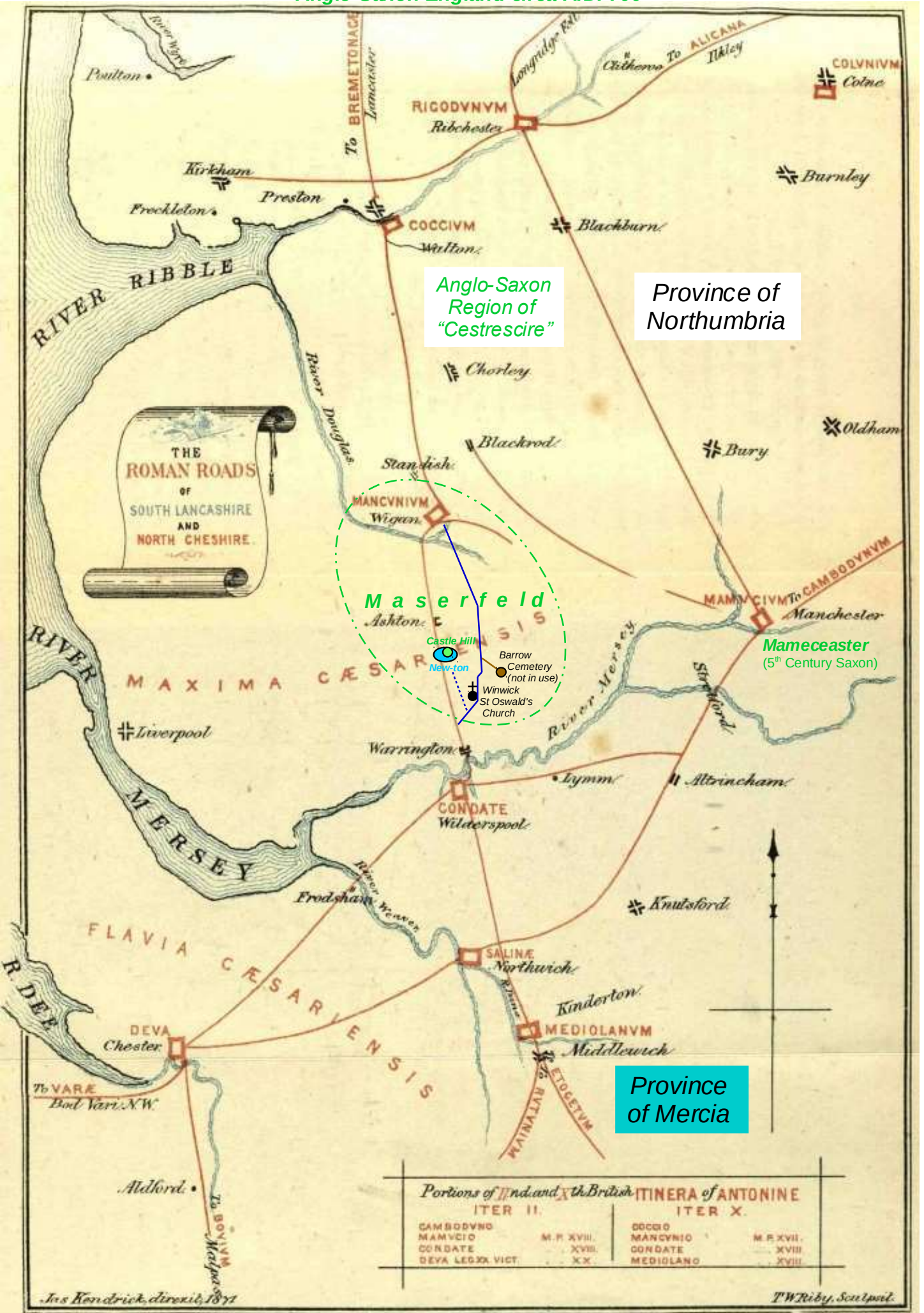
King Oswald and his Northumbrian Army defending his Kingdom of Northumbria against the attack from King Penda and his the Mercian Army from the Kingdom of Mercia.



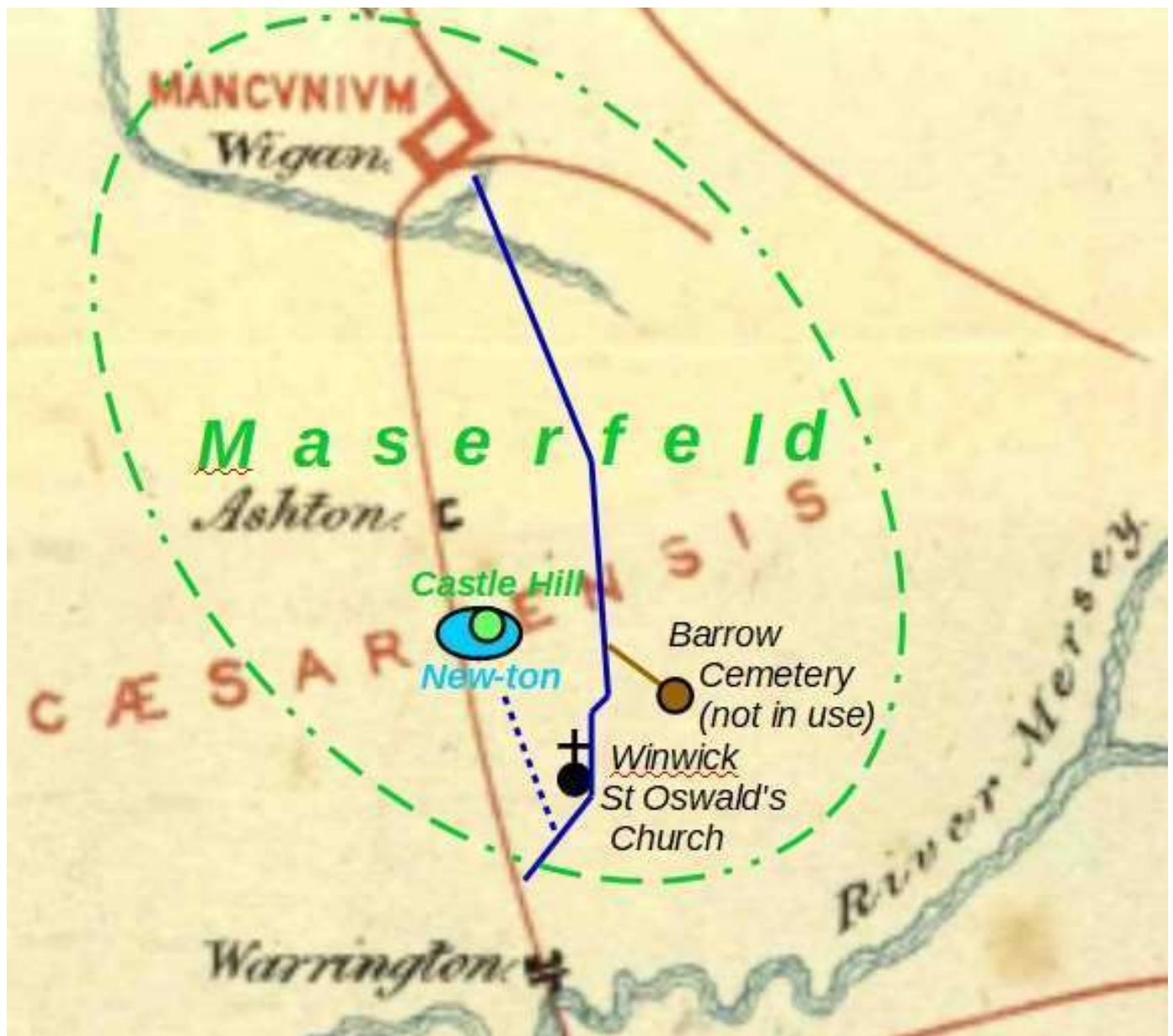


Aftermath  
of the  
Battle of Maserfeld  
642 AD

Anglo-Saxon England circa A.D. 700



Enlarged view of the Anglo-Saxon region of Maserfeld in the Province of Northumbria circa 700 AD



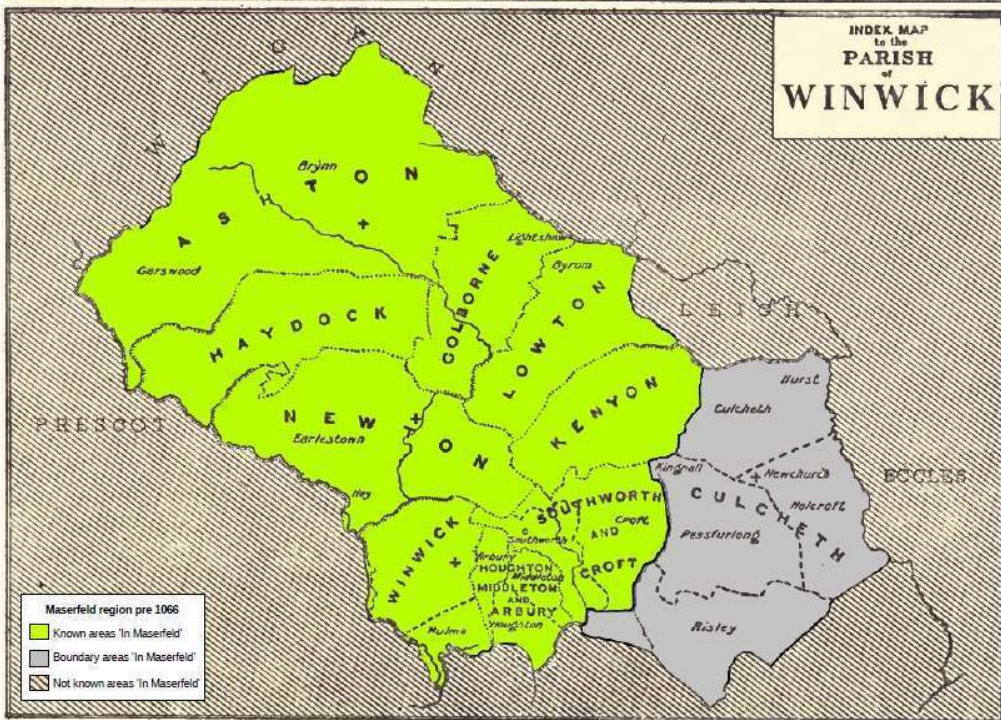
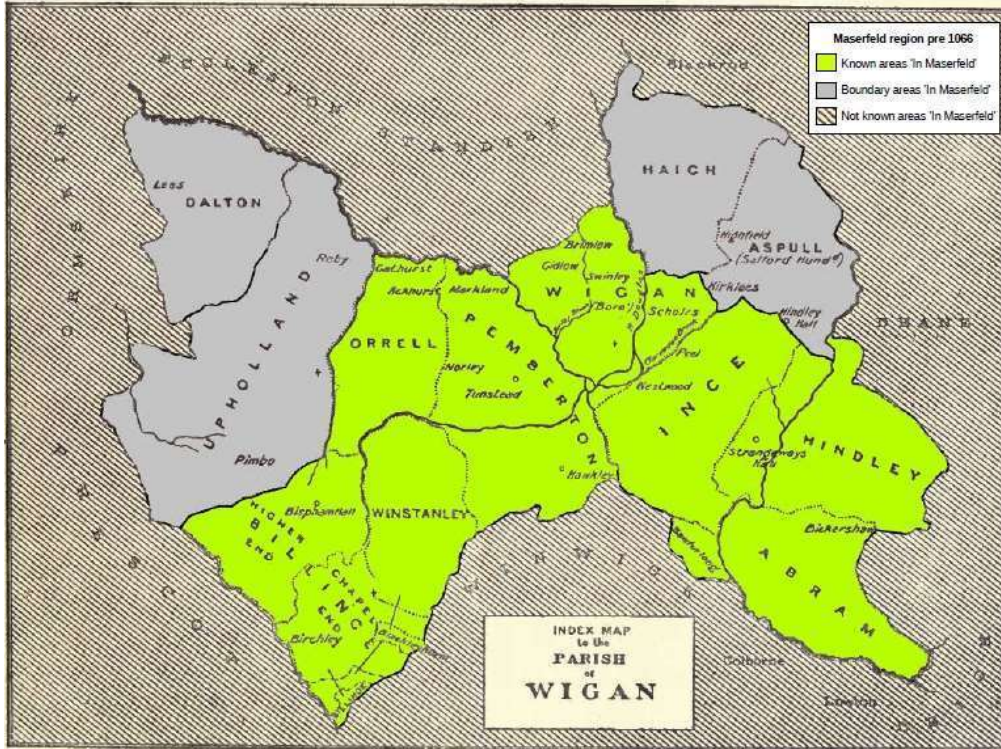
After the death of King Oswald the region of Maserfeld administrative place moved from the late King Oswald's Palace to a new town called Neweton.

The new town became the administrative place being known as Neweton-in-Maserfeld, under Danelaw as the Neweton Wepentake, or as the Anglo-Saxon Neweton Hundred.

The control of the Wepentake was also known as "The Fee of Maserfeld" and today (2021) is known by the derivation name as "The Fee of Makerfield".

The Fee of Makerfield after the conquest was increased due to grants from the post Norman Lords of the region, through gifts and purchase.

Saxon Maserfeld as at the year 642; and Conquest Newton Hundred 1066 (Domesday Book 1086)



From 642AD the first mentioning of region of Maserfeld to the north of the River Mersey by The Venerable Bede. Through to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Maserfeld(a) was referenced by eminent ecclesiastical historians. Changes of the Maserfeld area shown in the 642AD and 700AD maps, due to events through time the name Maserfeld was incorporated in town or hamlet names: Ashton and Ince. After 642AD after the death of King Oswald, a new town was constructed called 'Newe-ton' to the north-west of Where Oswald was defeated a small village where the nearby burial mound 'Castle-Hill' is situated. Originally, this new town was called Newton-in-Maserfeld, similar to Ashton-in-Maserfeld and Ince-in-Maserfeld; have also the Saxon town Winwick situated within the region of Maserfeld.

The importance of Neweton-in-Maserfeld within the region of Maserfeld Neweton became the head of Masserfeld, known as the Neweton Wapentake (Danelaw) or Hundred (Anglo-Saxon) as recorded in the Norman Domesday book 1086/7. After the Conquest The Hundred was also called the 'Fee of Maserfeld'. The succeeding centuries Maserfeld underwent a change in name to the current name in 2021, 'Makerfield'.

Therefore the region of Maserfeld in Northumbria became known as Makerfield in the County of Lancashire . Where the growth in the population several villages/towns appeared over the centuries, but what has survived the test of time is Maserfeld or Makerfield where the "Fee of Makerfield is still recognised and Ashton, Ince and Newton still survive the Maserfeld origins: Ashton-in-Makerfield; Ince-in-Makerfield and Newton-in-Makerfield.

The 1947 Ordinance Survey Map show the names are recognised. One interesting point the map shows is Newton-in-Makerfield is an area within the electoral boundary known as Newton-le-Willows.

The following sections from the maps:



## The 1947 Ordnance Survey Map

Series: New Popular Edition

Publisher: Ordnance Survey of Great Britain

Edition: Provisional

Sheet: 100 – Liverpool

Sheet: 101 - Manchester

Publication Year: 1945

Source: The British Library, [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk).

Download: Website, <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

*Published by the Director General at the  
ORDNANCE SURVEY OFFICE, SOUTHAMPTON 1947.  
Full revision 1919 with later Corrections.*

# Ashton-in-Makerfield



Ince-in-Makerfield, near Wigan





Newton-in-Makerfield  
part of the modern area known as Newton-le-Willows



## Winwick, in the 'Fee of Makerfield'



The Tumulus of the Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery (2000BC to 700AD), possible place King Oswald and his killed Army were buried 642AD; Woodhead (King Oswald's Palace); St Oswald's Well (where King Oswald was slain); and the Church of St Oswald's Church at Winwick, importance grew being the mother church of Maserfeld after the Saxon Codes of Law 695AD being granted tax-free land status, as detailed in the Domesday Book 1086 under the entry for the 'Neweton Hundred'.