

## **Jumbo, Lancashire: a toponomastic study**

**John W. Taylor**

Jumbo is unique in the corpus of English place-names. Its etymology and meaning are discussed, and an attempt is made to determine if it is exotic or indigenous. Jumbo is placed within a family of *jumb*-root toponyms, whose geographical distribution is defined, and compared to that of a related group of Dumble place-names. Within this *jumb*-root area, occurrences of *jump*-root place-names are also considered. Jumbo's semantic relationship to *jumble* and the concept of disorder is discussed within a diachronic framework that includes both English and Scots. Metaphorical links to 'landscape as container' are noted. PIE and continental etyma are discussed in the context of the Norse settlement of northern England, which is seen as the home of *jumb* as an expression of a riverine feature. It is argued that *jumb* is the Danelaw equivalent of West Saxon *cumb* and its variants, and the result of a process of West Germanic velar palatalisation.

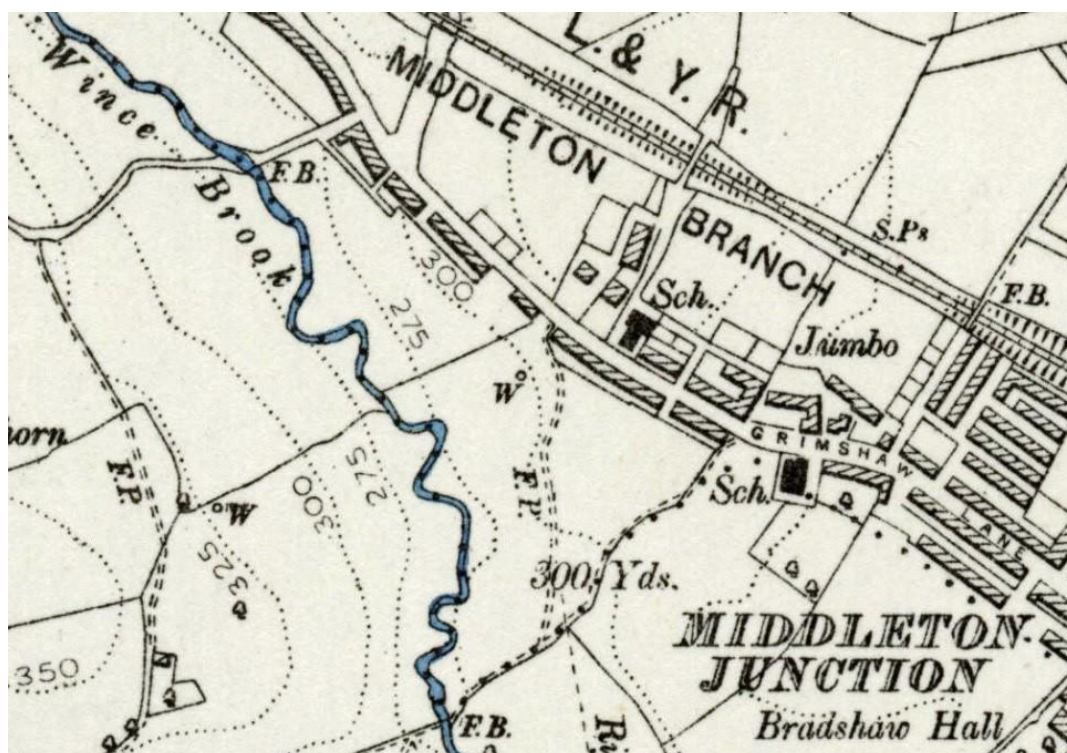
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### **1. The geographical and historical setting**

Towards the close of the nineteenth century, the pseudonymous Ion (1882: 364) asked the question: 'Jumbo. – How came this place near Middleton and Oldham to obtain its extraordinary name?' Today, we are still without a definitive answer, but Ion was correct in describing Jumbo's name as extraordinary. It represents a *hapax legomenon* in the corpus of British place-names. The question we struggle with here is whether its naming was the product of indigenous Lancashire dialect or an import from abroad.

Paradoxically, while the word *jumbo* is synonymous with things large, our namesake hamlet was actually quite small. Few gazetteers mention it, and it has now been subsumed into the conurbation of Middleton Junction. The only modern vestige of its once discrete identity is preserved in the name, Jumbo Community Centre (53°32'38.2"N 2°10'46.5"W). Historically, Jumbo belonged in the County of Lancashire and the township of Tonge, a constituent part of the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Prestwich cum Oldham in the Hundred of Salford. It is now part of Greater Manchester and the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale.

Jumbo came into being in 1777–78, when a branch of the Chadderton family, situated at Bradshaw Hall, Alkrington, leased a portion of their estate, which was located to the north of Grimshaw Lane. This was done in response to the explosive demand for cottages needed by the workforce of hand-loom weavers (Ivers 2014; Thompson 1966: 275). The German textile entrepreneur, Ludwig Knoop, reported to Sir Frank Warner, a silk manufacturer, that a revival in silk weaving took place on the outskirts of Middleton in 1778, which must certainly refer to, or include, Jumbo (Warner 1921: 150). The context for this resurgence was the competitive edge afforded to the local weavers by Britain’s policy of protectionism, involving the prohibition of fully manufactured foreign silk imports and a reduction in the duties levied on imported raw silk (Hertz 1909: 711). The earliest official mention of Jumbo is found in the Lancashire Courts of Quarter Sessions Recognizance Rolls and is dated to 18 September 1781.<sup>1</sup> The census for 1851 details the hamlet’s earliest recorded birth, when John Hilton, a silk weaver, declared that he had been born in Jumbo in 1791. The Jumbo colony of silk weavers grew steadily, and by 1832, there were 2,121 silk looms in the Middleton area, which included ‘Jumbo-Tonge’ (Select Committee on the Silk Trade 1832: 818).



**Figure 1:** Jumbo and Middleton Junction.

From OS 6" Lancashire XCVI N.E., surveyed 1889–91 (1894).

<sup>1</sup> Lancashire Archives QSB/1/1781/Oct/part 4/46, Recognizance for John Moors of Jumbo within Tonge, Fustian Weaver.

What is considered to be the first, modern, detailed map of Lancashire was surveyed by William Yates in 1787, but it makes no mention of the recently established Jumbo (Harley 1964: 110). However, the hamlet does appear on a map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, surveyed in the years 1828 and 1829 (Hennet 1830). It is also present on Elias Hall's *Mineralogical and Geological Map of the Coal Field of Lancashire*, which was produced about 1834–36 (Torrens and Ford 2011: 249–61).<sup>2</sup> The Ordnance Survey's County Series six-inch sheet map, Lancashire XCVI, surveyed between 1844 and 1845, breaks with the traditional spelling in giving the place-name Jumba. It would be attractive to dismiss this as a simple transcription error, but on page six of *The Manchester Guardian* for Saturday, 4 January 1862, we read:

The cottages in the vicinity of Bradshaw Hall are occupied by silk weavers, farm labourers and cotton spinners and commonly known by the singular name 'Jumba' which significant title is supposed to be conferred there-on from the jumping gambols and athletic exercises of the residents on Saint Mondays and other holidays.

This informed etymology relies on the similarity of *Jumba* to the Middle English word *jambē* 'active, nimble', from Old French *jambe* 'leg', and ultimately from Late Latin *gamba* 'a hoof', the etymon of *gambol* 'to leap about playfully or frolic'. It is difficult to explain this aberrant spelling, except that it may be the result of Lancashire dialect.<sup>3</sup> All subsequent Ordnance Survey maps convey the name Jumbo.

## 2. Mumbo-jumbo

In its discussion of *jumbo*, the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) declares that its origin is uncertain, but it refers to three aspects of its usage. The first entails its possible relationship to *mumbo-jumbo*. This term was first encountered in 1738 by Francis Moore, a British agent for the Royal Africa Company, who sailed up the Gambia River to explore the Guinea highlands. The indigenous peoples he encountered spoke Mandinka, which belongs to the Mande family of West African languages. In modern Mandinka the phrase *maama jombo* means 'a masked figure' (Gamble 1967: 84). In the upper reaches of the Gambia River, dialect expresses the first element as *maamoo*. Whatever changes Mandinka pronunciation may have experienced since 1738, it is likely that *mumbo-jumbo* represents only

<sup>2</sup> This map can be viewed at <<https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/s/3f020g>>.

<sup>3</sup> Bobbin's (1819: xxi) opening remark in his work on the local dialect is: 'In some places in Lancashire we sound *a* instead of *o*, and *o* instead of *a*.'

a proximate rendition of the original thanks to Moore's *interpretatio britannica*. According to our source, *mumbo-jumbo* was part of a cant language, reserved only for males, and it referred to a dreadful bugbear that was invoked to intimidate and discipline their women (Moore 1738: 40). This practice was reiterated some sixty years later by Mungo Park (1799: 39–40), who spoke of 'a sort of masquerade habit', which served as a disguise. This agrees with the modern definition of 'a masked figure'. In the context of place-name formation, *Mumbo-Jumbo* would have to be disarticulated, and there is no rationale to explain why only the second element would be used. On balance, it is difficult to frame a coherent argument to show how a West African socio-religious conception relates to a place in Lancashire.

### 3. Jumbo the elephant

The second facet mentioned in the OED's definition is the international celebrity, Jumbo the Elephant (1860–85). Once a denizen of the *Jardin des Plantes* in Paris, and the London Zoo, this Sudanese pachyderm was sold to P. T. Barnum of circus fame in 1882. Jumbo the Elephant's massive size is the basis for the modern usage of *jumbo* in describing anything large or outsized. The uncertain origin of the elephant's name has given rise to much speculation. It has been postulated that it derives from *mumbo-jumbo*, though Cole (1983: 40), Professor of Bantu Languages at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, states that there is 'no semantic connection between *jumbo*, elephant or elephant-like thing, and any of the concepts expressed by *mumbo-jumbo*'. He prefers to see the etymological source in South Mbundu, an Angolan Bantu language, namely in the expression, *on jamba* 'elephant'. Others have looked to the Zulu word *jumba* 'large packet' (Chambers 2008: 63; Bryant 1905: 282) and the Swahili words *jumbe* 'leader, chief' and *jambo* 'a greeting' (Shoshani et al 1986: 87; Madan 1903: 120). Whatever the origin of Jumbo's name, it has little bearing on our investigation, because he arrives on the scene decades too late. However, before we leave Africa, it must be noted that on the 10th of January 1796, Mungo Park visited a small village called Jumbo which was located north of the Senegal River, in a kingdom formerly called Kasson (Park 1799: 81; MacQueen 1840: 279; Royal Geographical Society 1856: IV, 416). Incidentally, the map which accompanies the text of Park's exploits records the village's name as Jumba. Again, it is difficult to define a context that might explain why an insignificant Senegambian village would have been used to name an equally small hamlet in Lancashire, though Gambia did export small amounts of raw cotton to Britain during the early eighteenth century

(Beckert 2014: 41). Moreover, Park's report is too late.<sup>4</sup> The account of an Angolan river named *Jumbo* (Cooley 1852: 12) is a corruption of *Jombo*, which was reported by earlier Portuguese explorers (Burton et al 1873: 220–21).

#### 4. A Kashmir connection?

Leaving Africa, we now examine the possibility that the community of Lancashire weavers who established and named Jumbo did so in recognition of an internationally famous centre of weaving and textile trade in distant Kashmir. It might be interpreted as their declaration that they were as good as the best, much in the same way that Amritsar called itself 'Manchester of the Punjab' a century later (Chishti 2018: 277). In this context, it is noteworthy that the OED (s.v. *jumbo*, n.1) includes a semantic extension of the word, *jumbo*, which relates 'to a person of great skill or success'. However, this is a nineteenth-century development.

Modern Jammu is a city located in the south-western corner of the Indian province of Jammu and Kashmir. It stands at the interface of the Himalayas and the Indo-Gangetic Plain, astride a strategic and ancient trade route that linked India to Central Asia, Tibet and China. Historically, exotic commodities such as lapis lazuli, silk, tea, and saffron were traded along this route, along with the much-prized *pashm*, the wool of the cashmere goat, *Capra aegagrus hircus*, whose habitat is the cold slopes of the mountains that form 'The Roof of the World'. This species produces a two-layered fleece, an outer, coarse-haired, guardian layer, and an inner, soft, down undercoat (Bamzai 1994: I, 235). This inner coat was used to produce the matchless wool that Kashmiri weavers transformed into high-value shawls or pashminas. These labour-intensive finished goods were of unrivalled quality and craftsmanship, and rank among the finest woven artefacts in the world. They were used as diplomatic gifts among royalty and items of luxury and prestige in international trade.

During the Kashmir Sultanate, Zain al-Ābidīn (1420–70) invited experienced weavers from Turkestan into his kingdom and laid the foundation of the area's textile industry (Zutshi 1976: 203). However, it was during the succeeding Mughal period that the production of Kashmiri shawls blossomed under royal patronage, revolutionizing the local economy (Mattoo 1978: 185). Under the Mughals, production was organised into *karkhanas*. These were workshops mainly run under state supervision and represent the beginnings of a factory system (Hasan 1936: 250–51). The industry continued to flourish under the prudent and

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<sup>4</sup> A letter from Mungo Park, dated 1 December 1795, shows that he had foreknowledge of Jumbo village (African Association 1807: 402).

enlightened leadership of Ranjit Dev, Raja of Jammu, who ruled 1730–81 (Gupta 1973–91: IV, 334–35). Ranjit Dev was a scion of the ruling Dogra dynasty, which traced its origin to Jambu Lochan, legendary founder of the city of Jammu (Koul 1925: 153). Jammu was originally called *Jambu Nagar* ‘the town of *Jambu*’ (Ganhar 1875: 173; Hutchison and Vogel 1994: II, 521). It was also transliterated into English as *Jammoo* (Khan 1902: i–iii). George Forster (1798: I, 225–52), an English explorer and civil servant of the British East India Company, visited Jammu in 1783, just after the death of Ranjit Dev. An account of his journey from India, through Central Asia, to St Petersburg was published posthumously. In his account, he refers to Jammu as *Jumbo*, which is the earliest known written reference to this designation. Forster was used as a source by subsequent authors, perpetuating the *Jumbo* place-name (Wilkes 1812: XI, 516; Worcester 1817: I, 822; Rees 1819: XIX, s.v. *Jummoo*; Brookes 1820: s.v. *Jummoo*; Landmann 1835: s.v. *Jummoo*; Chesney 1850: 370; Maunder 1853: II, 103).<sup>5</sup>

However, Forster’s account raises a chronological problem. We have documentation for a probated will of Ann Wood, dated to 1781, at Jumbo, Lancashire (Irvine 1902: 167), in addition to the entry in the Recognizance Rolls for the same year, mentioned above. So our Lancashire place-name clearly pre-dates Forster’s visit to Jumbo, Kashmir. Nevertheless, there is the possibility that Lancashire weavers had heard reports of Kashmiri ‘Jumbo’ and seen the products of their distant counterparts. It would be a mistake to dismiss the weaving community of Lancashire as rustic bumpkins. They were canny and aware of events in the wider world (O’Neil 1982: viii–xvii). Many were involved in radical politics, which led to Peterloo and Chartism, and it was in Jumbo, at Lowbands Farm (Figure 3), that the Cooperative Movement was born (Redfern 1913: 19).

In the eighteenth century, the British East India Company had gathered a vast amount of commercial intelligence with a view to opening new markets in northern India and Tibet (Bowen 2002: 469). This information no doubt circulated throughout the textile industry of Lancashire. In fact,

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<sup>5</sup> Such things take on a life of their own, and we read in the *Times of India* for the 10th of September 2016 that the Forestry Department of Jammu is planning to open the ‘King Jumbo Lochan Zoo’. Forster’s report seems to have spawned a cartographic tradition based on the misunderstanding that Jumbo and Jammu were different places, and the two appear separately, though close, on a map published for the Royal Geographic Society in 1836 (Hügel, 1836: facing 349), followed by Sohr and Handtke (1846), where it is seen on the maps *Der Sikh-Staat* and *Westliches Hochasien* as *Dschummu* and *Dschumbo*. The situation became further confused when Forster mistakenly placed Jumbo on the River Ravi instead of the Tawi. Consequently, Jumbo became conflated with Chamba (Thornton 1844: I, 146).

Lancashire weavers were finding it increasingly difficult to compete with the low-wage weavers of India, and the quantity of imported Indian textiles into Britain before 1770 was huge (Broadberry and Gupta 2005: 30–31). When Edinburgh started producing imitation Kashmir shawls in 1777, it did so not in a vacuum. Exemplars had been arriving throughout much of the eighteenth century, brought to Britain by agents active in the service of the British East India Company (Maskiell 2002: 37).<sup>6</sup> For centuries, India had been the world's foremost textile producer, and even though Britain had been steadily appropriating its markets, at the end of the eighteenth century fabrics from the Indian subcontinent still defined quality (Beckert 2014: 50, 150). While the world of textile production provides a plausible and interesting context for the naming of Jumbo, the lack of any conclusive evidence linking the weaving centres of Lancashire and Kashmir renders this particular premise circumstantial.

### 5. English *jumbo*

Finally, the OED makes reference to Badcock (1823: 107), who attests, for the first time, that *jumbo* is English slang and refers to 'a clumsy, unwieldy fellow'.<sup>7</sup> This brings us to the possibility that the place-name Jumbo is indigenous and not an exotic. Tim Bobbin (1708–86) and Samuel Bamford (1788–1872) compiled 'a glossary of words and phrases chiefly used and understood in the rural districts of South Lancashire' in which *Jumbo* is mentioned as 'a place near Middleton' (Bobbin and Bamford 1854: 192). They give no other information, but both were local and Bobbin was contemporary with Jumbo's beginnings.<sup>8</sup> The two authors appear to accept, and single out, the place-name as if it was part of the local *patois*.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, a quick look in the OED reveals that English is not rich in *jum-* words. Consequently, place-names using this word-initial formation are not common, and are discussed below. *Jum*, *jumm* and *jumb* are considered here to be spelling variants of the same element and will be

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<sup>6</sup> Letters from Britons serving with the East India Company and its army were also an avenue of communication, and we know of one such letter from India reaching Oldham in 1799 (Rowbottom 1887–89: 49).

<sup>7</sup> Badcock looked to Mungo Park's *Mumbo Jumbo* as the source. The -o suffix is a classic element in constructing slang nouns (Quinion 2002: 163).

<sup>8</sup> Tim Bobbin is a pseudonym for John Collier. He was a caricaturist and poet, and born in Urmston, Lancashire.

<sup>9</sup> A typically Lancashire implement called a *jumbo* was used to harvest cockles (Farrer and Brownbill 1906–14: II, 411).

referred to collectively as *jumb*.<sup>10</sup> *Jumb* does not appear in any edition of the OED. It does, however, survive in English place-names.

### West Yorkshire

Most of the place-names in this section are from Smith 1961–1963 PN WRY. Where available, a Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) or Unique Street Reference Number (USRN) has been added, which are mapped online.<sup>11</sup>

**Humble Jumble Row**, Alverthorpe (2 169; 7 72; 7 214). Smith records an early manifestation of this place-name as *Humbleomble* 1392.<sup>12</sup> It appears to be a different place from that cited by Taylor (1886: app. lxiii), who uses a Bailiff’s Account for 1391, written in Latin, which refers to ‘Humble Jomble in *Rustanes*’. If Smith’s tentative identification of *Rustanes* with Royston is correct (2 162), this moves Taylor’s *Humble Jumble* away from Alverthorpe. Humble Jumble Row and nearby Humble Jumble Bridge are named on OS 6” Yorkshire 248, surveyed in 1849–51 (1854). The bridge 1607 (2 169), along with its variant spelling, *Humble Jumble brigg* 1688, is mentioned in the records of Wakefield Manor (Charlesworth 1939: 86; Fraser 2004: 16). Also mentioned in these records are *Humble Jumble Field* 1584 (Weikel 1984: 27–28), 1688 (Fraser 2004: 8–23); ‘a field in Alverthorpe called *Thornewell alias Humble Jumble*’ 1651 (Robinson 1990: 85); *Humble Jumble Feild* [sic] 1572 (PN WRY 2 169), 1664 (Fraser and Emsley 1986: 30), 1709 (Charlesworth 1939: 189); *Humble Jumblefeild* 1665 (Fraser and Emsley 1986: 101); *Humble jumble closes* 1709 (Charlesworth 1939: 188); *Humble Jumble beck* 1689 (Fraser 2004: 78–79); *Jumbelfield* 1607 (PN WRY 2 169) and *Jumble Field* 1709 (Charlesworth 1939: 84). The West Riding Sessions Rolls record *Homble Jomble close* 1598 (Lister 1888: 135). Walker (1934: 99) reports a reference to *Humbill Jumbyll* in the Court Rolls for 1531.

Smith states that ‘this is doubtless e.ModE *jumble* “a disorderly muddle”’. If so, this place-name provides an important early occurrence of

<sup>10</sup> Diachronically, using German comparanda, we can postulate the following developmental reduction: *jumb* > *jumm* > *jum* (Parker 1981: 34). In reality, hypercorrection disturbs this scheme by reintroducing the terminal <b>, see *Jum Hole*, *Cliviger*. In the case of *Jumb*, *Trawden*, *Jum* and *Jumb* are used contemporaneously during the eighteenth century.

<sup>11</sup> UPRN <<https://www.findmyaddress.co.uk/search> USRN <https://www.findmystreet.co.uk/map>>.

<sup>12</sup> Smith cites his source as *Ministers’ Accounts 1266–1636 (PRO) 88*. This is no longer readily identifiable. The *Ministers’ Accounts* are a sizeable corpus, but he may be referring to National Archives SC 6/1088/8 *Wakefield Manor ministers’ accounts* (all graveships except *Sandal*), though this covers only 1389–91.



the word. The OED defines *humble-jumble* as ‘a confused jumble’ (s.v. *humble-jumble* n.), and cites a 1550 context for ‘a confusion, an humble iomble or hotch potch’; with *iomble* looking to *jumble* 1529 (OED s.v. *jumble*, v.).<sup>13</sup> Smith describes the *humble* component as an ‘onomatopaeic [sic] intensifier’. This could be debated in that onomatopoeic words are sound-imitative, and, if we follow Thun’s classification of reduplicative words, *humble jumble* is categorised not as a sound but as a state of ‘strife and tumult, mixture and confusion’ (1963: 88, 95). On the other hand, *-umble* has been described as ‘symbolic of indistinct humming or rumbling noises’ (Marchand 1960: 340; cf. HT 2021<sup>14</sup>). The OED (s.v. *humble* v.2) confirms this position, as does Skeat (1910 s.v. *jumble* ‘to make a confused noise’). Formations such as *humble-jumble* are referred to as ‘rhyming compounds’, which are not common in English before the fourteenth century, but a few examples appear in *Beowulf* (Thun 1963: 254–71). Benczes (2012: 303) divides rhyming compounds into two general groups: the nonsensical and the meaningful. In our context, *humble jumble* belongs to the latter where both constituents have meaning in their own right. So this formation seems to reach beyond the obvious rhyming to intensify and signify. In fact, *humble* is polysemous. Humble Jumble Row might therefore be understood as ‘a noisy and ramshackle row of buildings’. Equally, *humble* (OED s.v. *humble* adj. 2b) meaning ‘low-lying, not elevated’ could describe an aspect of local geography. Humble Jumble Bridge crossed Humble Jumble Beck (now lower Alverthorpe Beck), which is part of the Calder catchment area. The beck forms a shallow valley and is prone to flooding.<sup>15</sup>

**Jum Beck and Jum Beck Wood**, Hawksworth (4 200). A stretch of Jum Beck flows through Jum Wood. The OS 6" map Yorkshire 186, surveyed in 1847–48 (1851), refers to it as Jum Wood, with nearby Jum

<sup>13</sup> The ‘humble iomble’ formation in 1550 (Cranmer 1551: 321). Cf. Yorkshire dialect: *hummel-jummel* ‘confusion, jumble’ and West Yorkshire variant, *umle-jumald* ‘mixed or jumbled together’ (EDD III, 277; VI, 300; Castillo and Tweddell 1878: 57, 68; Dickinson 1859: 56). Scots cognate *hommilty-jommeltje* 1506–08 (DOSL s.v. *almosar* b); continental cognates: West Friesland, *hummeltje tummeltje* (Zwaagdijk 1950: 236; Cornelissen and Vervliet 1903: IV, 1775) and Nynorsk, *huml-i-duml* (Torp 1919: 226).

<sup>14</sup> *The Historical Thesaurus of English*, 2nd ed. (version 5.0), s.v. 01.09.09.02.03.08|01 (vi.) ‘Continuous/protracted sound, roll/rumble’, <<https://ht.ac.uk/category/?id=60570>> (accessed 22 January 2021).

<sup>15</sup> In this context, it may not be too fanciful to suggest that Smith’s *Humbleomble* is a compound of *humble* ‘low-lying’ and ME *omble* ‘originally of a flow of water’ (OED s.v. *amble* 2b) (see Addy 1888: 165). Cf. *Dennam que vocatur omble* (a denne called omble) ME *denne* ‘a hollow’ (OED s.v. *den* n.1); OE *denu* ‘valley’ (PN WRY 7 178); Cooper 1856: 155; Robertsbridge 1873: 134.

Dam, Jum Bridge (spanning the beck), and Jum Delf, which was the result of sandstone quarrying. A *delf* is defined as ‘a hole or pit dug in the ground; a trench or ditch’ (OED s.v. *delf*, n. 1 a, b).

**Jum Hole Beck**, Hipperholme (3 101; UPRN 10010184477).

**Jumb Beck Farm**, Burley Woodhead (4 198; UPRN 10002324399, cf. Jumb Beck Close, Burley in Wharfedale, USRN 7742005). The farm is named on OS 6" map Yorkshire 186, surveyed in 1889–91 (1895).

**Jumb Mill**, Lumbutts. The site is named on the OS 6" Yorkshire 229 SE, revised in 1905 (1908); with adjacent Jumb Cottages. Jumb Mill was built about 1801–03 and named in a sales agreement of 1847 (WYAS West Yorkshire Archive Service FIE 46).

**Jumb Wood**, Langfield. This woodland appears in a document of conveyance 1802 and is also rendered as Jumbwood in other documents 1802–15 (WYAS FIE 51–56). Goodall (1914: 186) records nearby Jumb Hill, Langfield.

**Jumble Dyke**, Rastrick. The dyke (dike) is a tributary of the River Calder, and now largely constrained by a culvert and unnoticeable. It is remembered in the street name Jumble Dyke (UPRN 100051299836).

**Jumble Field**, Dobcross (London Gazette 1812, pt 2, no. 16682 (15–19 Dec., p. 2533). The field was located in the area of Wickens, parish of Saddleworth.

**Jumble Field**, Lockwood (2 276), is mentioned in the Tithe Award for 1842.

**Jumble Head**, Barkisland (3 60; UPRN 100051315321), is a farmstead.

**Jumble Hole**, Ecclesfield (1 251), is situated near Jumble Lane (USRN 34408999) and Jumble Hole Plantation, a now-diminished woodland. Citing the Fairbank Collection (Sheffield Archives) and a date of 1785, Smith suggests an etymology that looks to ModE *jumble* ‘a confused medley’ and *hol*<sup>1</sup> ‘hole, hollow’. He remarks that it was ‘no doubt a disused mining shaft used for rubbish’. In fact, a confused medley of holes describes the area perfectly. It was pockmarked with the annular spoil heaps of ‘bell pits’, formed by the shallow mining of iron ore used in the local production of nails and cutlery during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Hey 1969). These bell pits are recorded on early Ordnance Survey maps of the area and have recently been detected by means of aerial laser surveying (Marchant et al 2008: 403–04). A few of these features are local sandstone quarry hollows. Jumble Hole Plantation was formerly called Jumble Hole Wood, which is shown on a map, c.1850 (Sheffield City Archives: ACM/MAPS/She/171/ 21S; MD7180/1).

**Jumble Hole**, Todmorden (3 183), is recorded along with Jumble Hole Clough (UPRN 10010184259), Jumble Road (UPRN 100051348388), Jumble Mill (UPRN 10006738515) and Jumble Bridge, on the OS 6" map Yorkshire 229, surveyed in 1848 (1853).

**Jumble Hole** (Addy 1888: 121) 'a field in Ecclesall, anno 1807'. Addy cites an index to a survey undertaken by Fairbanks in 1807 (cf. Jumble Hole, Ecclesfield *supra*).

**Jumble Hole** (Addy 1888: 121) is described as 'a three-cornered field at Beauchief. The post office now stands upon a portion of it.' This would place the field just north of the River Sheaf in an area called 'Millhouses'. The triangular field in which the post office sits can be seen on OS 6" Yorkshire 298 NE, surveyed in 1890 (1893).

**Jumble Lane**, Manningham, is seen on OS 6" Yorkshire 201, surveyed in 1847–48 (1852). It appears simply as 'Jumble' on the Bradford Local Studies Library map of Manningham (1811).

**Jumble Lane**, Barnsley (Elliot 2002: fig. 6), was located in the city's ancient core, and was documented in Fairbank's survey of 1777–78. It appears on a map of 1800 (Barnsley Archives and Local Studies). The street is no longer extant, but the name survived in a local level-crossing and its signal box 1974 (National Archives MT 114/1631).

**Jumble Mill**, Marsden 1805 (Brooke 2020). This woolen mill was built sometime before 1790.

**Jumble Wood**, Lepton (2 231). The name of the woodland has been transferred to a modern street (USRN 19401661). Smith cites an unpublished Tithe Award with a date of 1847. Jumble Wood is named on the OS 6" map of Yorkshire 261 NW, rev. 1904 (1908).

**Jumbles Lane**, Lofthouse (2 137; UPRN 72748818), appears on the OS 6" map Yorkshire 233, surveyed in 1848–51 (1854). The Tithe Award for 1841 refers to it as Jumble Lane. This may have been named after an earlier Jumbles Field (Roberts 1882: 13).

**Jumbles Well**, Pudsey, is found on OS 6" Yorkshire 217, surveyed in 1847 (1852). The name was remembered in Jumbles Terrace, OS 6" Yorkshire 217 NW, revised in 1906 (1909). Deeds relating to Jumbles Well go back to 1752 (WYAS WYL1879). Also in the area are Jumbleswell Road (Rayner 1887: 151), Jumbles Well Estate (*Leeds Intelligencer* 4 Feb. 1865: 1) and Jumbles Mill (Pudsey Parish Church, Burials 1801–20).

**Jumm**, Stansfield 1709 (WYAS DW A/212) and 'the Jumm' 1780 (DW A/241) was a parcel of land 'near upper end of a close called Clough Holm, Stansfield, adjoining Blackshey Clough on one side'.

**Jumm Wood**, Calderdale (3 166; UPRN 10010184228), can be found on OS 6" Yorkshire 230 SW, surveyed in 1892 (1894); see also Goodall 1914: 186.

**Jumpits Laithe**, East Marton (6 40), appears on the OS 6" map Yorkshire 167, surveyed in 1848–50 (1853) as Jumpits Lathe. Smith cites a Tithe Award for 1843, and states ‘doubtless e.ModE *jump* ‘a jump’ (cf. Jumps iii, 173 *supra*) and **pytt** (‘pit’). Smith’s etymology requires the loss of a consonant <p> through elision, jump + pits, which is plausible, but jum + pits is equally valid considering we have Jum Hole and a Jum Delf, which carry the same meaning.

**Jumwell Beck**, Brearton (5 107), is an upper tributary of the River Ure. It is mentioned in the Tithe Award for 1840, and is rendered as Jumble Beck in unpublished Enclosure Awards dated 1772. OS 6" map Yorkshire 154, surveyed 1847–49 (1854), records Jumwell Beck, Jumwell House and Jumwell Bridge.

**Jumwell Beck**, South Stainley (5 96). The beck is named on the OS 6" map Yorkshire 137, revised in 1907.

### Derbyshire

Derbyshire also boasts several *jumb*-related place-names, here given from PN Db, Cameron 1959.

**Jumber**, Eyam (1 92). This is a brook which runs through the bottom of a valley where the predominant vegetation is mature woodland and undergrowth. Since the brook flows over a permeable limestone substructure, sink holes develop in the stream bed (Beck 1977: 362). See OS 6" Derbyshire 16 NE, surveyed 1878–79 (1883).

**Jumble**, Hayfield (1 116; UPRN 10010728689). ‘The Jumble’ was a cluster of closely-packed houses in a suburb of Hayfield, which was built in a small worked-out quarry. Hayfield is home to Jumble Farm (1904 DRO Derbyshire Records Office D247/ES/246) and Jumble Lane (before 1719 Mel Morris Conservation 2011: 15, 51). Jumble is mentioned in a document dated 1699 (DRO D513/M/E/192) and in an agreement of 1703 (DRO D513/M/E/189). The burial of John Wyld at St Matthew’s Church, Hayfield in 1774 provides the variant spelling *Jumbel* (Ward 2006).

**Jumble**, Chapel en le Frith (1 67), a field, ‘presumably from *jumble* “confused mixture, disorder”.’ It is described in a lease 1595 as ‘a message called Jumble’ (Cheshire Archives and Local Studies DDS 8/13). A marriage settlement of the early seventeenth century mentions a message called ‘the Jumble’ (DRO D613/T/1). A will dated 1767 (SRO Staffordshire Record Office P/C/11) refers to Jumble, and the will of Henry Kyrke of Martinside (1704) mentions Jumble Field and Jumble House

(Ward 2006). Cameron cites Early Chancery Proceedings (PRO) 1547–51, and unpublished Feet of Fines records 1588.

**Jumble**, Hope Woodlands (1 129), a field.

**Jumble**, Tideswell (1 175), a field, is mentioned in an agreement to levy a fine in 1655 as ‘a croft called Jumble’ (DRO D7676/BagC/1432).

**Jumble**, Glossop. A mortgage arranged by Samuel Hyde of Gamble (i.e. Jumble) in 1676 (DRO D513/M/E/196) is no doubt the same Samuel Hyde of Gamble, Glossop, mentioned in a receipt of 1685 (D513/M/E/417), and also the Samuel Hyde of Jumble recorded in a 1687 bond (D513/M/E/191). Jumble, Glossop, is recorded in several wills (SRO B/C/11) dating from 1705–78, one of which is ‘Jumble, in Flitfield, Glossop’. The sale of Lower Jumble Farms, Glossop, is documented in a catalogue for 1890 (DRO D2968/1/3/9). Gumble House, Glossop is recorded in a document of 1632 (SRO B/C/11, see below *Gumble* in Jumble Hole, Brampton). Jumble Farm, Glossop (UPRN 10010753487) can be seen in a wooded area on OS 6" Derbyshire II SE, surveyed 1879 (1882). *Gamble*, at least in this instance, is a variant spelling of *Jumble*, and it is worth mentioning Gamble Hole in the West Riding (PN WRY 6 207) which might place it among the ‘Jumble Hole’ family.

Two articles in *The Glossop Chronicle* (‘Whitfield in the Past’ 4 Dec 1903; ‘Whitfield’ 21 Nov 1913), written by a local antiquarian named Robert Hamnett, report that Thomas Bagshawe, owner of the Whitfield Estate, divided the property into parcels and sold them to various buyers in 1606. Nicholas Charlesworth is reputed to have bought the 22-acre Jumble Estate, which according to ‘old deeds’ was called ‘Jumbo Land’.<sup>16</sup> There is also a mention of ‘a small mill at the Jumble’. Unfortunately, this is not best evidence, and attempts to find the original documents have been fruitless. However, if we give this report credence it is the clearest example of a relationship between Jumbo and Jumble.

**Jumble Coppice**, Baslow. This small wood appears on OS 6" Derbyshire 24 NW, surveyed in 1876–78 (1883). Heathy Lea Brook runs through Jumble Coppice, which is located in the northern part of the Chatsworth Estate. The site, also referred to as Jumble Hole, Baslow and Bubnell, is described in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record MDR7622 as a millstone-quarrying and manufacturing site (Tucker 1985: 56).

**Jumble Farm**, Brandside (UPRN 10010747122), 1922 (DRO D247/ES/236). This is probably the same site as Jumble Farm, Hartington Upper

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<sup>16</sup> The text of the 1913 article was reproduced by the Glossop Heritage Trust <<https://glossopheritage.co.uk/ghtarchive/whitham/>> (accessed 15 Dec 2020).

Quarter parish, an extant nineteenth-century farmstead recorded in Derbyshire Historic Environment Record MDR17551.

**Jumble Hole**, Brampton (2 223), 1698; Gumble hole 1761. *Jumble Hole* is mentioned in a lease of 1710 and an agreement of sale (1790, DRO D2575/T/66, D2575/T/75). It is recorded as *Jumble* in probate records of 1756 (DRO D2575/T/67-68) and in a mortgage contract as *Jumble-hole* (1790 D2575/T/77). *Jumble Hole* is located near Oxton Rakes, and is a wooded area adjacent to Sud Brook; see OS 6" Derbyshire 17 SE, surveyed in 1876 (1883). The site is associated with hollows or pits probably used to kiln-dry wood (Derbyshire Historic Environment Record MDR15552).<sup>17</sup>

**Jumble Hole**, Ashover (1 196), a field, 1780 survey.

**Jumble Meadow**, Edale (1 90), a field, 1840 Tithe Award.

**Jumble Road**, Dore (2 241), is seen on OS 6" Derbyshire 11 SW, surveyed 1876–80 (1882). ‘There is a Jumble road in Dore. Jumble road is a dyke several yards deep, and is covered with bushes, briars, &c.’ (Addy 1888: 121). The road follows the dyke, which is a tributary of Redcar Brook.

**Jumboe Close**, Castleton (1 90). This site is dated 1688 by an indenture (Hall and Thomas 1914: 183).<sup>18</sup> The original indenture has not been seen, and the spelling of *Jumboe* has not been confirmed. It is possible that the document was written in cursive, and the loop of the <ℓ> was misconstrued as an <o>. Accordingly, it may be *Jumble*.

### Cumberland

**Humble Jumble Gill**, High Ireby, OS 6" Cumberland 46, surveyed 1864–65 (1867), cf. Humble Jumble Row (Yorkshire).

### Westmorland

The *jumb*-element place-names of Westmorland appear as outliers, and are documented in PN We, Smith 1967.

**Buckstones Jum** is a waterfall on Rydal Beck. It is named on OS 6" Westmorland 19, surveyed in 1859 (1863). It appears as Buckstones Jump on Westmorland 19 SW, revised in 1897 (1899).

**Force Jumb** (1 166). Smith used the Kendal Corn Rents (now Kendal tithe and corn rent, 1836–[c.1932], Cumbria Archive Service WDB 35/4/15/1) as his source to date this entry 1836. He explains the first

<sup>17</sup> <<https://her.derbyshire.gov.uk/>>.

<sup>18</sup> Sheffield City Council ref. JC/5/112-113 (JC/625 and JC/627) Indentures of Lease and Release between Edward Haigh of Thornehill and Richard Torr of Castleton, Derbyshire.

element as ON *fors* ‘waterfall’ (2 252), while leaving the second element unexplained.

**Jumb Quarry**, Kentmere Fell (1 167), is actually a multi-level slate mine. The shaft of the main level is 100 metres in length. OS 6" Westmorland 27, surveyed in 1858 (1863).

### Lancashire

**Jum Hole**, Cliviger, is on OS 6" Lancashire 64, surveyed in 1844 (1848), and rendered as Jumb Hole on OS Lancashire 64 SE, surveyed in 1892 (1895). The Church of St John the Divine, Cliviger, parish records (Baptisms 1841–79, p. 126, entry 1002, 1867) reads Jumb Hole. Nearby Jum Hall is mentioned in Bates (1926: 60).

**Jumb**, Trawden. The Index of Surrenders for the Manor of Colne (LCCA Lancashire County Council Archives DDHCL/1/24–27) records: Jum (1740), Jum in Trawden (1768), Jum &c in Trawden Forest (1796); Jum Croft in Trawden (1807); Jum Estate in Trawden Forest (1819); Jumb (1782); Jumb in Trawden (1790); Jumb in Trawden Forest (1792); and Jumb Croft (1816). Bannister (1922: 42) mentions Jumb Estate and Jumb Pit.

**Jumb Fields**, Ashton-under-Lyne (Butterworth 1823: 83).

**Jumble Hole**, Leck Fell (Speight 1892: 272), has been variously described as a chasm, a pothole and a sinkhole. A 50 metre deep shaft serves as the entrance to an underground labyrinth. It is more commonly known as Rumbling Hole.

**Jumbles**, Turton, appears on OS 6" Lancashire 79, surveyed 1844–47 (1850). Jumbles is a wooded area, south of Turton Bottoms, which sits astride Bradshaw Brook, and lends its name to an area of Turton now called Jumbles Beck (UPRN 20000450308), Jumbles Reservoir (UPRN 200004510526) and the adjacent Jumbles Country Park. Jumbles Quarry is now submerged at the northern end of the reservoir.

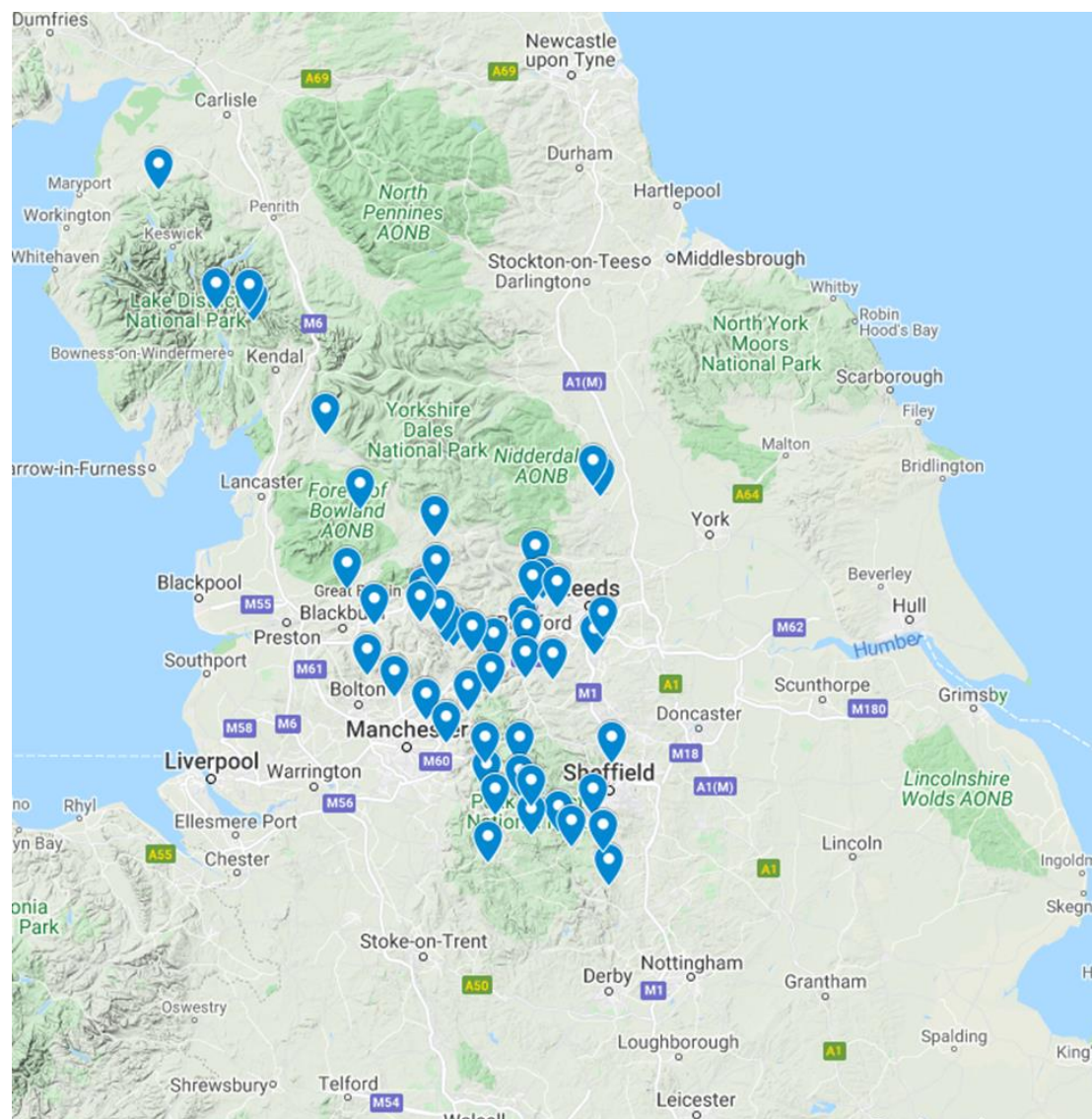
**Jumbles**, Lamb Hill Fell, is named on the OS 6" Lancashire 36 NE, revised 1910 (1919). It gave its name to Jumbles Quarry, which was established in the 1920s.

**Jumbles**, Bury, Records of Bury Leases (Earls of Derby) (LCCA DDK Box 200), 1688, a close called *The Jumbles*.

**Jumbles**, Hurst Green, is a farmstead (UPRN 200001888702). It is dated to the late seventeenth century (Historic England 1362222), and is located in the parish of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley. It is described as ‘a message called the The Jumbles’ in a document of conveyance in 1827 (LCCA DDPT 3; Farrer and Brownbill 1906–14: vii, 14). Nearby, outcrops

of limestone form natural weirs and a ford across the River Ribble, which are called Jumbles Rocks.

**Jumbles Head**, Accrington, Manor of Accrington records (LCCA DDHCL/1/1) 1771.



**Figure 2:** Distribution map of *Jumb*-element place-names (Google maps).

## 6. Some observations

In English place-name formation, all the variants, Jum, Jumm and Jumb, are used, but Jumble(s) predominates. While occasionally a variant form acts as a simplex, it usually appears as the first element of the place-name, and is apparently adjectival (e.g. Jum Beck). The rare exceptions are Force Jumb and Blackstones Jum, where the usual relationship between modifier and modified is reversed. According to the EDD (III, 389), *jumble-hole* is defined as a ‘rough, bushy, uncultivated hollow’. This is certainly reflected



in our sample, with *hole*, OE *hol* ‘hollow place, cave, pit, deep place, hole’, cf. *holh* (DOE 2018 s.v. *hol* n. 1a), taking first place as the modified constituent. It is noteworthy that several of the places cited above are associated with quarry hollows, pits (Jumpits) and wells (Jumwell). However, it is important to our argument, outlined below, that *hole* also refers to ‘a deep place in a stream’ (OED s.v. *hole* n, 1a). *Jumb*- elements also exhibit a significant link to riverine components such as beck, dyke and gill, and the River Jumber itself is associated with sink holes. Another noticeable feature is that *Wood* is often modified, along with fields, meadows and closes. Over time, the *jumb*-related place-names, initially associated with natural features, were extended to nearby man-made constructs, such as mills, bridges, farms, roads or lanes.<sup>19</sup> However, the general picture is one of a valley, clough or hollow (OED s.v. *hollow* n.2) associated with a woodland environment, through which runs a stream or brook.

A fortuitous reference describes the Jumbo area in such a natural setting: ‘Jumbo Clough, now filled in and partially built upon, wound beside the Lowbands Farm down to the stream, which ran clear for bathing. Three or four little stretches of woodland lay round about’ (Redfern 1913: 20). A clough is ‘a ravine or valley with steep sides, usually forming the bed of a stream or torrent’ (OED s.v. *clough* n.). The community of Jumbo was established less than 175 metres from Wince Brook, which once meandered through a wooded hollow.<sup>20</sup> Holyoake (1900: 132) recalls Jumbo Farm being in a relatively low-lying area. Figure 3 shows Lowbands Farm, sometimes called Jumbo Farm, in 1860, before the area was developed. It shows the ground sloping down toward the brook, and it is concluded that the place-name Jumbo is a local expression of its geographical setting; such naming is a practice common in the origination of nomenclature throughout Britain (Gelling 2000: 6).

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<sup>19</sup> Considering the association of mills with *Jumb*, *Jumble(s)*, *Jumples* and *Jumps*, it is interesting to note that *Gumpen* in the Alsatian dialect refers particularly to a ‘deepening in the water, especially below the mill’s wheels’ (ElsWB s.v. *Gumpen*).

<sup>20</sup> Wince Brook, formerly called *Wink’s-brook*, marks the boundary between Tonge and Alkington (Bamford 1844: 206). It has been stated that ‘Wince’ is a Lancashire form of ‘winch’, and that ‘winch-well’ is a whirlpool, suggesting it may mean ‘a whirling, eddying brook, or the winding, twisting brook’ (Harland 1861–62: II, 426). Winch-well is certainly at home in Gloucestershire (Huntley 1868: 69; Wright 1886: II, 1024), with the element *winch* occurring in place-names such as Winchcomb (PNGI 2 30). However, without recourse to winch-well, it is likely that Wince Brook means ‘a swiftly moving brook’ from Middle English *wincen* ‘to turn or move quickly’ (MED s.v. *wincen* 1b).

However, the terminal <o> of Jumbo is difficult to explain, especially when one considers that the great majority of words ending with <o> in English lexis are loanwords. Named in the late eighteenth century, Jumbo does not have the historical depth or the linguistic milieu of those terminal <o> place-names found in Scotland (Ó Maolalaigh 1998: 39-41; Taylor and Márkus 2006–11; Nicolaisen 1996), nor is it comparable to Cambo in Northumberland (Mawer 1920: 38), which owes its final element to OE *hōh* ‘a heel; a spur of land’ (EPNE 1 256; OED s.v. hoe, n.1). Jumbo’s paragogic <o> may have been a response to what the OED (s.v. -o, suffix) describes as ‘casual or light-hearted use’.



Figure 3: Lowbands or Jumbo Farm in 1860 (Redfern 1913: frontispiece).

## 7. Jump and Jumb

It would be erroneous to conclude that all English place-names containing the element *jump* (e.g. Jump, Jumps, Jumpers, Jumbles) are related to the *jumb*-root place-names listed above. Our sample, while not exhaustive, is large enough for us to appreciate its limited geographical distribution (Figure 2). Place-names featuring the *jump* element are more widely dispersed. For example, Jump, Devon is a considerable distance from Jump, South Yorkshire. Jump place-names present a more complex picture, requiring a separate, more detailed, study.

In his treatment of Jumbles Ho in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Smith (3 115) remarked that ‘the word seems to fluctuate between *jumble* and *jumble*’. *Jumbles* is limited to a very small area near Illingworth. The place-name is encountered in deeds and land grants as *Jompyll bryg* (1494), *Jompyles* (1525), *Jompyls* (1532) and *Gompyles* (1535). It appears as a simplex, as in ‘the close at Jumbles’ (1543), Jumbles or ‘the Jumbles’, but

generally it modifies elements such as Water (1542), Ing (1538), Syke (1545), Brook (1538), Mill (1524) and Hole (1538) (Hanson 1912: 113–17). More recently, the Ordnance Survey (OS 6" Yorkshire 230 NE 1894) shows Jumps Crag overlooking Hebble Brook along with nearby Jumps Lodge and Jumps House (OS 6" Yorkshire 230 NE 1908). The local stretch of Hebble Brook was once called Jumps Beck (Hanson 1920: 224). In the 1840s there are references to Little Jumps (Wentworth 1841: 238). The names of modern roads, Jumps, Jumps Court and Jumps Crag, echo the original place-name.

Within the area roughly defined by Figure 2, there are the following ‘jump’ place-names.

**Jump**, Jump Valley, Jump Pit (a coal mine) (OS 6" Yorkshire 283 1858; 283 NW 1905; PN WRY 1 103). Jump Valley contains a stream, and its wooded area is part of the local green belt.

**Jump Clough**, Todmorden (Watson 1775: 10, 13); also Jump Clough Bridge.

**Jump Hill**, East Ardsley (Roberts 1882: 6), a field.

**Jumps** and Jumps Lane, Lydgate (OS 6" Yorkshire 229 1858), with nearby Jumps Mill.

**Jumps**, Great Jumps (mid-seventeenth-century farmhouse), Little Jumps (farmhouse), and Jumps Lane, Erringden (OS 6" Yorkshire 230 NW 1894).

**Jumps**, Stansfield (Watson 1775: 684; PN WRY 3 183) a farmstead, cf. Jumm, Stansfield, *supra*.

The relationship between *jump* and *jumb*, and their respective derivatives, is not straightforward. Firstly, some cases involve orthoepy and consonant shift. In the case of *jumbles* and *jumps*, the consonant pair, /b/ and /p/, are virtually identical homorganic bilabials, with /b/ voiced and /p/ unvoiced, facilitating substitution. While these two place-name elements are spelled and pronounced differently, they represent the same concept. Hanson (1912: 113) notes that in the case of Jumps, ‘the place-name is always associated with a narrow clough where the beck tumbles over a rocky course under trees’. This, of course, is identical to our understanding of the meaning of *Jumb* as outlined in the preceding section.

Secondly, the obscurity of the element, *Jumb*, has generated some confusion. In 1886 Mary Armit (1851–1911), the talented ornithologist and naturalist, retired to the Lake District and lived there until her death. In her posthumously-published account of the Rydal Valley, Armit (1916: 175) records the two variant spellings, Jum and Jumb. It is most likely that

she was following local tradition. The above-mentioned Ordnance Survey map of the area, Westmorland sheet 19, surveyed in 1859, uses one of these spellings in Buckstones Jum. However, when this sheet was revised in 1897, Jum was ‘corrected’ to Jump. Is it that the cartographer responsible for the revision thought that Jum was a misspelling? Whatever his reason, he unwittingly initiated a transition in the rendering of the place-name which continues to this day. Internet searches for ‘Buckstones Jum’ and ‘Buckstones Jump’ confirm this. Jump and Jump Clough, referred to above, may also be place-names that have been subjected to hypercorrection.

Lastly, there remains the case that sometimes there is no relationship. Smith (PN WRY 3 173) remarked in his examination of Jumps (Erringden), ‘probably e.ModE *jumpe* “a jump” used in some topographical sense such as “an abrupt descent” or the like (probably similar in sense to *hlēp* “leap”); Jumps is on the very steep hill-side below Cock Hill Moor’. This may also be the case with the above-mentioned Jump Hill or Jumps at Lydgate and Stansfield. Recourse to the action verb may explain place-names such as Devil’s Jumps (PN Sr 180) or Horse Jump Pond, Northampton, but its application is not universal. However, a case for a proximate semantic relationship between *jumb* and *jump* can be made (see section 9). According to the *Historical Thesaurus of English* (HT 2021), both *jump* and *jumble* appear in the English lexicon about the same time: *jump* in 1511 and *jumble* in about 1529. Each appears in the category ‘move in a specific manner’, with *jump* in the sub-category ‘make a sudden movement’ and *jumble* in the sub-category ‘move irregularly, be agitated’. The dates, of course, represent a *terminus ante quem* reflecting the written record, but not the spoken word.

Could ‘jump’ become ‘jumb’? Phonologically, it is possible. The /p/ in ‘jump’ is a plosive and unvoiced. By comparison, the final [b] in ‘jumb’ is silent, yielding an /m/ sound which is also bilabial, but nasal and voiced. The feature that is important to this potential phonetic change is that /p/ is an oral stop and /m/ is continuous, making the latter easier to pronounce. This is a significant aspect of the ‘principle of least effort’, or, as it has been called, ‘linguistic economy’ (Martinet 152: 26). *Jumples* and *Jumbles*, however, are bisyllabic, where the [b] and [p] are pronounced. It is likely that *Jumples* is an isolated occurrence, because ease of articulation favours *Jumbles*.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> In *Jumbles*, the [m] is a nasal consonant followed by a voiced obstruent [b] (i.e. post-nasal voicing), as opposed to [p] which is unvoiced. Many of the world’s languages favour a phonetic pattern whereby obstruents appear as voiced when following a nasal consonant. Also, the /mb/ cluster, when pronounced, exhibits a shorter

### 8. The Middle English to Early Modern English interface

In Middle English, new spelling conventions were introduced, and <j> was used as an allograph of <i>; as we will see these two letters were used interchangeably into the seventeenth century (Nevalainen 2012: 132, 153–54). The verbs *jumpen* and *jumperen* occur in Middle English. The former is tentatively defined as ‘to walk quickly, run, jump’, while the latter is translated as ‘to put (words) together in a disorderly manner’ (MED 2019 s.v. *jumpen* and *jumperen*).<sup>22</sup> Effectively, *jumperen* means ‘to jumble’. Depending on which edition of *Troilus and Criseyde* one consults, Chaucer expresses the verb-root *jumperen*, as *iompre and iombre*, with the <p> and <b> transposable (Skeat 1894–1900: II, 221). We also encounter *jompre* ‘jumble’ (Benson and Robinson 2008: 503). Thomas Usk (fl. c.1354–1388) appears to use *jumpere* in his work, *The Testament of Love*. However, the original is not extant. Our source is a version found in William Thynne’s *The Workes of Geffray Chauceer*, published in 1532, which Thynne may have ‘edited’ and which some might consider to be Early Modern English.

According the *Middle English Dictionary* (MED), the past participle, *jumbeled* also appears in Middle English. It has been defined as ‘of a sphere: made double’, with an etymology that looks to ‘gemelled & jumelles’ (MED 2019 s.v. *jumbeled*).<sup>23</sup> This entry cites Lydgate’s *My Fayr Lady* as the sole source for the word.<sup>24</sup> In the context of Lydgate it is possible that both the dictionary’s etymology and definition are incorrect. *My Fayr Lady* is a satirical rhyming poem, which describes a certain woman in the most unflattering terms. The work is attributed to the Benedictine monk, John Lydgate (c.1370–1451), but his authorship is contested, making the date of the poem uncertain (MacCracken 1908: xxviii; Pearsall 1970: 77–79). The translation offered below is an expression of ‘jumble’ in the sense of ‘to move about in mingled disorder; to flounder about in tumultuous confusion’ (OED s.v. *jumble* v. 1). A fitting synonym would be ‘lumbered’, ‘to move in a clumsy or blundering manner’ (OED s.v. *lumber* v.1). The relevant lines are:

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duration than /mp/. The post-nasal environment is the most difficult context for a voiceless obstruent to maintain voicelessness (Hayes 1999; Hayes and Stivers 2000: 29–31).

<sup>22</sup> ‘Jumpred’ is not included, which is an emendation. The original (or a digitised facsimile thereof, at <<http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/digital/collection/gawain/id/235/rec/16>> shows *jūpred*, which looks to be a form of *jūparten* (MED 2019).

<sup>23</sup> Related to OED s.v. *jumbal* | *jumble*, n.; *gimbal*, n.; *gimmal*, n.

<sup>24</sup> *My Fayr Lady* is better known as *A Satirical Description of his Lady*, London, British Library, Harleian MS 2255: <[http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=harley\\_ms\\_2255\\_f155r](http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=harley_ms_2255_f155r)>.

*Hire lemys not smal but liche a spere,  
But jumbelyd, but lyke as is an olyvaunt.*

(Her limbs [were] not small, but like a sphere [i.e. a rounded mass: cf. OED s.v. sphere n. 9b],<sup>25</sup> And *moved awkwardly*, just like an elephant.)

This may suggest an Early Modern English date for the poem when viewed in the light of OED's statement that the term, *jumble*, is known only from the sixteenth century (s.v. *jumble* v.). However, the dictionary does not take into account the place-name evidence seen in the discussion of Humble Jumble Row, where the place-name element *Jomble* (Jumble) was in use by the end of the fourteenth century. In the sixteenth century *jumble* appears as *jumbyll* c.1517 (Scattergood 1983: 243), *iumble* 1583 (Stanyhurst 1836: 15, 58, 69, 95–96), *iomble* 1530–62 (Allen 1908: 275; Wigand 1562: unpaginated), and *jomble* 1583 (Record Commission 1830–52: VIII, 77). Andrew Boorde, who published a book on dietary health in 1542, employs *gombel* (Furnivall 1870: 266). Elizabethan renderings are found in *jumble* and in *iumble* (Elderton 1620: ID 20077; Grosart 1876: 57). By the second half of the seventeenth century the spelling of *jumble* had become reasonably standardised.

Skeat (1884: 229) states that the word *jumble* is a frequentative form of the verb to jump, used transitively. This would require a not implausible <p> to <b> consonant shift, but it is argued that *jumb* is the root, with the addition of the frequentative terminal <-le>. In fact, this formation is mentioned by Skeat (1887: 469) in his discussion of Scandinavian verb suffixes. He is referring to the Scandinavian use of <-la> suffixes (Björkman 1900–02: I, 14–15). The proposal by Becket (1815: II, 152–53) that *jumb* is a contraction of *jumble* is discounted as an unnecessary emendation of *iumpe* in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*.<sup>26</sup> There is no question that Shakespeare intended to use anything other than *jump*, which was a perfectly legitimate word denoting 'venture, hazard, risk' (OED s.v. *jump* n.1, 6b).

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<sup>25</sup> Cf. Shakespeare, *Comedy of Errors* 3.2.120–25,  
Dromio. ... an ell and three quarters, will not measure her from hip to hip.  
Antipholus. Then she bears some breadth?  
Dromio. No longer from head to foot than from hip to hip: she is spherical, like a globe.

<sup>26</sup> See *Coriolanus* 3.1.54, Oxford, Bodleian Library, Arch. G c.7 (facsimile of First Folio) <<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/390fd0e8-9eae-475d-9564-ed916ab9035c>>.

### 9. The underlying concept of disorder

The Chaucerian use of *iompre* (see section 8) denotes disorder, and, by extension, confusion, mixing things up chaotically, and clumsy incoordination. This concept may look back to Old English *gȳme-lēas* ‘negligent, careless’, cf. *for-gȳman*, *for-gumian* ‘to neglect, disregard, ignore’ (DOE 2018 s.v. *gȳme-lēas* 1). A *jumble* is the epitome of disorder, as Smith pointed out in his comments on the place-name Humble Jumble Row (*supra*). However, the concept is not limited to *jumble*, but can be found in other *jumb*-root words. For example, we can see the concept of disorder in the name of the wheat-like plant darnel, *Lolium temulentum*, which was known to English countryfolk as *Jum* (Horwood 1919: II, 158–59; Britten and Holland 1886: 281).<sup>27</sup> Darnel is well-known for its intoxicating properties, and is reflected in its binomen, *temulentus*, which is Latin for ‘drunk’ (Pratt 1857: 190–93; Henslow 1901: 180–82). In naming the plant *Jum*, disorder is exemplified by drunkenness. In English and Scots, *jum*, and its variant spelling, *jumm*, is defined as ‘a clumsily built, awkward looking house’ (Warrack 1911: 297; EDD IV, 389; Jamieson 1879–82: II, 711; cf. DSL 2004 s.v. *jamb* 5).

*Jum*, and its variants, *jumle*, *jummle*, *jummel*, are defined as ‘a sudden jolt or concussion’ (Wedgewood 1859–65: II, 288; Warrack 1911: 297). This can be seen as a manifestation of incoordination in the sense of ‘to move up and down or to and fro in a jerky manner’ (OED s.v. *jolt* v.2 and 6), which highlights an early (1598) aspect of its definition involving the effects of travelling in a horse-drawn wagon or coach over a bumpy road. *Jumble* itself can be found with the same meaning (OED s.v. *jumble* v. 3b; Balfour [1922]: I, 202).<sup>28</sup> This state of affairs is reflected in the expression Jumble-Gut Lane ‘any very bad or rough road’ (Bailey 1776: s.v. *jumble*). *Jummock* ‘to jolt, work up and down’ is a related word (EDD III, 390). These *jumb*- words are clearly related to Danish *gumpe* ‘moving (driving, trotting, walking) in a very uneven way, with shocking movements (bouncing, etc.) up and down’ (Hjorth and Kristensen 2003–05, s.v. II *gumpe* 2). The Swedish equivalent is *gumpa* ‘move with clumsy and uneven movements’ (SAOB s.v. *gumpa*). When we consider the definition of *jolt* ‘to move up and down or to and fro in a jerky manner’ (OED s.v. *jolt* v. 6), there is a noticeable semantic connection to Early New High German (1350–1650) *gumpen* ‘to move wildly to and fro, jump, hop, dance, romp (both out of happiness and out of anger), and by extension,

<sup>27</sup> Cognate with the *Norderdithmarschen* (Schleswig-Holstein), *Dummel*, ‘*Lolium Temulentum*’ (Pritzel and Jessen 1882: 218); *Dümmel* (DWB).

<sup>28</sup> ‘[T]he road is so rough and the Britchka (an open carriage with a folding hood) jumbles me so terribly that my headache never can get well.’

doing mischief' (FWB s.v. *gumpen*). Moreover, we now see a relationship between the theme of disorder and the action verb *to jump*. *Jump* has several West Germanic cognates: Middle High German *gumpel* 'to jump, leap, or jest', *gampen* 'hop, jump, stomp', and *gumpen* 'to spring, hop, jump'.<sup>29</sup> In Middle Dutch *gumpen* means 'to jump, leap, hop' (Ihrig 1916: 23–24; Oudemans 1870–80: II, 763). In Danish dialect *gimpe* means 'to move or bob up and down' (Dahlerup 1919–56: VI, 960; Falk and Torp 1910: I, 311). This is related to Bavarian *Gumper* 'the piston of a pumping engine', derived from *gumpen* 'jumping up and down' (DWB s.v. *Gumpe* and *Gumpen* sense 5; Schmeller and Frommann 1872–78: I, s.v. *gumpen - gumpeln*). This 'up and down' theme and piston-like movement is reflected in English slang words for coitus, *jump*, *jumble*, *jumm*, *jumbling* and a *jumbler*, one who engages in venery (Farmer and Henley 1890–1904: IV, 81–82).<sup>30</sup> Semantically, *jumble*, as it relates to copulation, is used in the sense of 'to mingle together, especially in a shaking or jolting fashion' (Williams 1994: II, 751–52). The metaphor connection between disorder and licentiousness is mentioned in section 12.

Other cognates highlighting the theme of disorder include the Danish dialectal *gump* 'clumsy person' (Hjorth and Kristensen 2003–05, s.v. *gump* 3), which has the same meaning as its English slang counterpart *jumbo*, mentioned above. Its Middle High German cognate *Gümpel* is a 'simple-minded, awkward man'. Hence, the related terms *Gumpelman* (Gompelman) 'a buffoon or oaf' (FWB s.v. *gumpelman*); and *Gimpel* (late MHG *Gümpel*) 'a bullfinch' (DWB s.v. *Gimpel*), so named because of its awkward deportment (Suolahti 1909: 139; Fick, Falk and Torp 1890–1909: III, 127; Selous 1901: 250). A noticeable feature of these continental West Germanic cognates is that they all begin with word-initial <g> in contrast to English <j>.

## 10. Scots disorder

Though Scots belongs to the West Germanic language family, the word-initial <g> in the Middle Scots (1450–1700) word *geummill* 'to get mixed up confusedly, to brawl with; to mix or pile up in confusion or disorder; to stir or mix up a liquid' is a variant spelling of *jummil*, rather than evidence of a link to the continental West Germanic <g>-initial cognates (*DSL* 2004 s.v. *jummil*). *Jumble* is semantically identical to *jummil* and its variants *jumbil* and *geummill*, and it is easy to appreciate the similarities to English

<sup>29</sup> *Jumpen* is used in the dialect around Bremen (Low German), but appears to be a modern import from English. It does not appear in any of the older dictionaries that have been consulted.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. *gumpelbein* 'one who sleeps with a woman' (FWB s.v. *gumpen*).



variants *jummle* and *jummel*, mentioned above, and to *iombyll*, *jumbyll* and *iumbyll* (OED s.v. jumble v. forms). In Scots, the medial consonant cluster /mb/ was reduced to /m/, with the <b> either dropped or undeveloped, rendering ‘jumble’ as *jummil* (Macafee and Aitken 2002: 6.31.3; Grant 1931: § 62).

Bram Stoker’s (1902: 395) novel *Mystery of the Sea* is set in Scotland, and he uses the term *jumm’lt* in a passage, spoken in local dialect by a servant, to describe the chaotic state of a room. This is a contraction of *jummilt*, found in late nineteenth century Scots literature (Hunter 1896: 90). Ford (1889: 143–46) published a version of the *The Wife of Auchtermuchty* citing the Bannatyne Manuscript as his source, but he ‘modernised’ the spelling to *jummilt* to conform to the current standards of his time. His source, compiled in 1568 by George Bannatyne, an Edinburgh merchant, is one of the great resources for Middle Scots literature, and undoubtedly includes earlier material (Murdoch 1896: II, 344). His version of *Wyf of Auchtermuchty* uses *jwmlit* (*iwmlit*), the past tense or past participle of *geummill*, at a time when <w>, <v> and <u> were used interchangeably (DSL 2004: s.v. *jummil* and s.v. W.1). Later variations include *jumlit*, *jumblit*, *jummil* (*iummil*), *jummill*, *jumbil* and, eventually, *jumble* (Child 1898: VIII, 119; Duncan 1803: 12; Herd 1769: 258; Callender 1782: 160; Ramsay 1720: 98; Ramsay 1724: 10; Murdoch 1896: I, 79; II, 286; Pinkerton 1783: II, 23; Tytler 1783: 181; Anderson 1727, II, 84; James I 1643: unpagged; Duncan 1813: 26). *Upjumlet* is a related expression, meaning ‘jumbled up, stirred up in confusion’ (DSL 2004, Warrack 1911: 644, EDD VI, 320), as is *jumblety-pur* (Addy 1891: 32) and *jummlement* (Robinson 1876: 81).

*Jumble* embodies the chaotic mixing together of water, debris, mud and stones, which can be witnessed in the torrent of a stream in flood. This state results in turbulence, eddies and whirlpools. It is the reason why the Scots variants for turbid and muddy water are *gumlie*, *gumly* or *gummle* ‘to shake or stir, so as to muddle’ (DSL 2004 s.v. *gumlie* and s.v. *gummle*). However, more frequently, they are spelled with a <j> as in *jummle*, *jummlie*, or *jumly* (DSL 2004 s.v. *jummle* and s.v. *jummlie*). We can see the metaphorical use of this term as it applies to mental confusion in the phrase *jummle my jeedgement* ‘muddied my judgement’ (MacDonald 1875: 190).

### 11. Proto Indo-European and Continental etyma

At this juncture, it is emphasised that the German verb *gumpen* ‘to spring, hop, jump’, and the noun *Gumpe* with its homonymous plural *Gumpen* ‘pools of water, flowing waters, whirlpools, eddies and basin-like potholes in a river bed’ are different in meaning and, perhaps, etymology (Kroonen

2013: 178, 195, 310; DWB s.v. Gumpe f. and s.v. gumpen). The verb is from reconstructed Proto Indo-European (PIE) *\*g<sup>wh</sup>hemb-* (Pokorny 1959–69: 490), and the noun from *\*kumb<sup>h</sup>o-* (Pokorny 1959–69: 592; Turner 1962–85: I, 170; Mallory and Adams 2006: 239–40). Ultimately, the two words may look back to the same root, *\*keu<sup>-2</sup>* ‘to bend’, with its parallel formations (Pokorny 1959–69: 588–92).<sup>31</sup> Among the earliest strata of *\*kumb<sup>h</sup>o-*-related cognates are Sanskrit *kumbha* ‘water-jar’ (Monier-Williams 1872: 238); Classical Greek *kymbē* (κύμβη) ‘hollow of a vessel, drinking-cup, bowl’ (Liddell and Scott 1996: 2274); Proto-Celtic *\*kumbā* ‘valley’ (Matasović 2009: 229–30), and Proto-German *\*kumban* (*\*kumpan*) ‘basin, bowl’ (Kroonen 2013: 310).

The above PIE reconstructions are cognate with the following terms, which are selected for their relevance to the formation of place-names in the British Isles. The Old English cognate is *cumb*, which has two expressions, both metaphorically connected: *cumb<sup>1</sup>* ‘valley, hollow’, and *cumb<sup>2</sup>* ‘vessel (or perhaps a measure of capacity)’ (DOE 2018 s.v. *cumb*). In the Celtic family of languages is Welsh *cwm* ‘valley’ (Geiriadur s.v. *cwm*). In Classical Irish and Classical Scottish Gaelic, it is variously expressed as *cumar*, *cumra*, *comar*, and *commar* ‘a valley, dale or ravine (usually containing a stream), a river bed, a cave, or a confluence of waters (and by extension a meeting, union, or assembly)’ (Dinneen 1904: 215; eDIL 2019: 11507; MacLeod 1909: 172).

Romance cognates are found in Classical Latin as *procumbo* ‘to sink or bend down’ (Lewis and Short 1879: 1453), and in the Late Latin *cumba* ‘a bend or curve’; *comba* ‘a hollow or small valley’, and (*sub*)*cumbus* ‘a depression, cavity or hollow’ (Du Cange 1840–50: II, 697–98). The Italian *comba* ‘an elongated and narrow valley’ may be a loanword of Celtic origin (GDLI 1961–2009: III, 342), and in north-western Italy, formerly part of Cisalpine Gaul, we find Piedmontese *còmba* ‘a low-lying valley’ (Pozzo 1893: 114). The etymon was assimilated into Anglo-Norman, Middle French, Provençal, Burgundian and the *langues d’oil* as *cumbe*, *cumba*, *combe*, *coomb*, *comb* and *comme* ‘narrow valley’ (AND<sup>2</sup> 2000–06; DMF 2007; Diez 1861: I, 135–36; Mignard 1856: 39; Burguy 1856: III, 82). In modern French it appears as *combe* ‘a small valley or narrow depression formed by erosion’ (TLFi 1994). Its diminutive, *combele(te)*, occurs in Old French (Godefroy 1881–1902: II, 187).

<sup>31</sup> Cf. Beekes (1996: 223–27) *\*k/guP* ‘bent forms’, possibly a loanword. Pokorny’s (1959–69: 588–92) root *\*keu<sup>-2</sup>* ‘to bend’, Section D (nasalised *\*kum-bh-*, mostly *\*kum-b-*); and its probable derivative *\*gēu*. See PIE etymon and reflexes at <<https://web.archive.org/web/20190929214325/https://lrc.la.utexas.edu/lex/master/0953>> (archived 29 Sep 2019).

In the Germanic languages, there are in Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, East Frisian, German and Swiss German *kum* and *kumme* ‘a round deep bowl, basin’ (Falk and Torp 1910: I, 593; Dahlerup 1919–56: XI, 721; Doornkaat Koolman 1879–84: II, 402; DWB s.v. Kumme; Staub et al 1881– : III, 290; SAOB s.v. Kum). In Low German it takes the form of *Kump*, which is related to *Kümpel* ‘a hollow or depression in which water has collected’ (DWB s.v. Kump and s.v. Kümpel). In High German, *Kumpf*



**Figure 4:** *Gumpen im Pfandlgraben, südlich der Rotwand, Mangfallgebirge.*  
 Photographer: Luidger. Wikimedia Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0  
 Unported license and GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2.

relates to both ‘the deep spot in a river’ or ‘a deep receptacle’ like a cistern (WHM and DWB s.v. Kumpf). The *Oberdeutsch* language zone is an area encompassing Switzerland, Alsace and southern Germany. It is the

interface between the Italic, Celtic and Germanic languages, where local dialects weakened the sound of word-initial /k/ to /g/, or aspirated /g<sup>h</sup>/, and, eventually, to /h/ (Bloomfield 1938: 180–81).<sup>32</sup> We see the consonant shift in Alemannic, *Gumpe* ‘a wide round porcelain vessel’ (Birlinger 1864: 207; Staub et al 1881–: II, 312–16), and Late Middle High German (fourteenth century) *Gumpe* ‘deep place in the water, water vortex’, from Old High German *gumpito* (DWDS s.v. *Gumpe*).

## 12. The role of metaphor

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 56, 146) most of our normal conceptual system is metaphorically structured. Consequently, many natural features in the landscape are expressed as metaphors. Of particular interest is the metaphor, LANDSCAPE IS A CONTAINER, which can be seen as the conclusion of the following categorical syllogism.

**1. THE BODY IS A CONTAINER.** It is argued that our ‘skin-envelope or wrapping’ acts as the boundary between the self and the external world, a condition considered to be primal to human development (Anzieu 1995: 257–59). The ‘container-contained’ terminology was introduced by the British psychoanalyst Wilfrid Bion (1962: 102), and his terminology adopted by cognitive linguists to study metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson 1980: 29–30).

**2. THE LANDSCAPE IS A BODY.** ‘The metaphorical use of body imagery in relation to landscape is fundamental in the Western world’ and may be universal in its application. ‘The human body is the first landscape we encounter and explore. It is likely that we carry the cognitive imagery in our heads as well as the actuality of our own bodies as we approach the external environment. Landscape is our second major encounter’ (Porteous 1986: 2, 10). Using the *Metaphor Map of English* (MME 2015), Hough (2016: 13–18) has demonstrated strong links across various categories supporting this metaphor connection.

**3. Therefore: THE LANDSCAPE IS A CONTAINER** (Hough 2016: 20–21; 2020: 28–30). The *Container* metaphor is found in the MME at 3K05, which exhibits a strong connection with 1A05 *Landscape, High and Low Land*.

A *Gumpe* is an example of the LANDSCAPE IS A CONTAINER metaphor. Figure 4 shows two *Gumpen*, the small deep pools cut into the course of a stream-bed by the force of the water. These features of the landscape are

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<sup>32</sup> /k/ and /g/ are consonant pairs, both are velar stops, with /k/ voiceless and /g/ voiced, they are easily substituted (as in Modern Danish).

called *Gumpen* because the word looks back to the above-mentioned PIE etyma relating to water-jars, bowls, basins and cups. The main motivating factor is shape: the pools are bowl-like. They are containers, and they contain water. So, when you plunge into a *Gumpe*, you also plunge into water. According to Conceptual Metaphor Theory, the *Gumpe* is the ‘container object’, and the water is the ‘container substance’ (Lakoff and Johnson 1980: 30). The *Metaphor Map of English* (MME 2015) indicates a strong metaphor connection between 1L04 *Shape* and 3K05 *Containers*. It also shows a metaphor connection between 3K05 *Containers* and 1A09 *Rivers and Streams*, though it is weak.

In reference to section 9, *Disorder* (1P15) is a category in the *Metaphor Map of English*, which has a strong metaphor connection with 1A13 *Tides, Waves and Flooding* ‘whirlpool, turbulent, colluvies, and vortex’, all terms associated with the definition of *Gumpe*. However, *Disorder* has a weak connection with 1A11 *Lakes and Pools* and 2A17 *Foolish Person*. In addition, there are strong links with 3F07 *Licentiousness*, and with 1I13 *Hearing and Noise*, as discussed in the entry for Humble Jumble Row (West Yorkshire).

### 13. *Gumpe* and *jumb*

Just north of Nordhausen, in Thüringen, there is a tributary of the Zorge River which runs through a wooded area called Gumpebach. There is also a stream, Gumpenbach, in Vorarlberg, Austria. The element *Bach* is German for ‘brook, stream, or rivulet’. It is cognate with *beck* (Old Norse *bekkr*), found in the place-names of northern England. There is also a Bavarian farmstead, Gumbach (Utrecht 1912–13: I, 682). These formations look to be the equivalent of the English place-name Jumb Beck.

On a visit to the Lake District, Wordsworth describes a ‘little slip of a river above Rydale’, which tumbles down the mountainside with waterfalls and endless water breaks, and then relates how Mirror Pool is also called Buxton’s Jumb, modern Buckstones Jum (Knight 1907: III, 458). The geology of the area was discussed by Monkhouse (1964: 166–69), who describes how post-glacial conditions cut ‘an impressive gorge into the bedrock to form the attractive falls of the Jumb’. Jessica Lofthouse (1954: 31), in her brief list of field-names, mentions Jumb Paddock in relation to ‘a Kent cascade roaring nearby’, which is located above Kentmere. Also in the Lake District, Armit (1916: 275) records a feature

in the Rydal Head, where a deep pool below a fall still goes by the name of Buckstones Jumb or Jum. This is conjectured by the present beck-watcher to have been a rough boxing-in of the stream at a

suitable place, with a shutter or door that could be let down, to keep in the fish that had entered ... They are yet used at Baden-Baden ...

Armitt is referring to a type of fishgarth or trap, a device of high antiquity (IJsveld 2014).

Schneider and Korte (2005: 26) remark that the older and larger fish of some species prefer the deeper areas of streams which *Gumpen* afford. It is in this context that we turn to Germany's oldest book on the art of fishing, published in 1557. In section XXI, Mangolt (1557: 61–62) describes techniques used while fishing in *Gumppen* [sic], which facilitate the catching of fish by hand, and it seems reasonable to conclude that such techniques are embodied in the Scots cognate verb *gumping* 'to catch fish with the hands' (Jamieson 1879–82: II, 477; Heslop 1892–94: II, 349; EDD II, 762). *Gympel* is the Danish name for grayling, a fish of the salmon family, whose winter habitat is deep pools (Cove et al 2018: 33). Dahlerup (1919–56: VII, 411) suggests that *Gympel* may be cognate with *Gumpe* 'deep place in a stream'. Salmon and sea trout are famous for leaping as they migrate upstream to spawn, and one wonders if this facet of their behaviour is the basis for the association of *jump* / *gumpen* (to leap) and *jumb* / *Gumpe* (the deep pools in a stream).

We have seen how *Gumpe* can mean a 'whirlpool, vortex' or 'eddy'.<sup>33</sup> In this context, it is worth quoting Jan Wiltshire's (2010) description of the River Kent next to Jumb Quarry.

The sound of water was everywhere: becks in spate, tracks awash ... There is a rock-step in the river bed, a waterfall [i.e. Jumb Falls], and the river spreads wide about shoals of gravels, soft rippling silts. The stronger current blocked the weaker and turbulence whipped up a froth of bubbles, caught in a whirlpool ...

It is argued that the word-initial voiced velar plosive /g/ of *Gumpe* was subjected to a process defined by van der Hoek (2010) as West Germanic velar palatalisation. For example, the German word *geld* 'payment' was palatalised, and, in the context of Old Frisian, the closest linguistic relative to Old English, it became *djêld*. Following this pattern, we would expect *Gumpe* to approximate *\*djumpe*, which might be considered as an intermediate stage in the progression toward *\*jumpe* (dʒʌmpə). The movement from a /dj/ sound to /dʒ/, representing the j-sound in jumble, is called yod-coalescence (Ryfa 2013: 64). The initial palato-alveolar

<sup>33</sup> 1530 *Whirpole a depe place in a ryver, where the water tourneth rounde* (OED s.v. whirlpool n.2 sense 1).

affricate /dz/ was familiar to the speakers of Old English in the period before the Norman Conquest (Minkova 2014: 141; Knowles 2014: 76; Hogg 1992: 91, 93). In fact, within the West Germanic language family /dz/ was a distinctive feature of Old English and Old Frisian, (Minkova 2019: 158).

### 13. The Vikings

By AD 878, the Danish warlord, Guthrum, had carved out a kingdom in northern and eastern Britain known as the Danelaw. This is the area where our *jumb*-root place-names occur. About a hundred years later, the Danes established a powerful trading colony near the Polish city of Wolin on the Dziwna River. This entrepôt was strategically located to handle Baltic exchange with the interior via the Oder River. The name of this port-of-trade, according to Adam of Bremen, was *Jumne* (Tschan 1959: 66–67). This place-name appears on the Cursum Disc, which is inscribed +ARALD CVRMSVN+REX AD TANER+SCON+JVMN+CIV ALDIN+ ‘Harald Gormsson, King of Danes, Scania, Jumne, City of Aldinburg’ (Rosborn 2015: 5–6).<sup>34</sup> In the Norse sagas *Jumne* is generally referred to as *Jómsborg*. The etymology of *Jumne*, and its complex of variant spellings (one of which is a tantalizing fourteenth-century *Iumpne*), has been the subject of much discussion (Petrulevich 2009; Udolph 2014). It has been proposed that *Jumne* is cognate with Latvian *Jumis*, denoting ‘confluence’ (Schmid 1979: 266). *Jumis* is an ancient grain divinity, and, generally, a fertility deity whose emblem is a two-eared cereal stalk (Ström and Biezais 1975: 371–72). The name is considered to be related to the PIE etymon *\*jē-* which has an emphasis on twinning or doubling (double fruit), that is, two things growing out of one, the epitome of fertility and increase (Pokorny 1959–69: II, 505; Oinas 1981: 79). In this it is actually the inverse of confluence or merging, which is a reductive process. Consequently, it is difficult to accept this etymology. Other etymologies have been offered, involving Vedic and Slavic roots, which are beyond the scope of this paper and the expertise of its author. However, both *Jumb* and *Jumne* are associated with riverine conceptions, and considering the strong Danish connection between the two, it would be profitable to explore a West Germanic origin. In the area speaking Low German, with its close affinities to Frisian and English, there is the Jümme River in East Friesland, whose etymology is linked to Middle High German *Gumpe* ‘whirlpool’ and can

<sup>34</sup> The Cursum Disc is a ‘stray find’, so its authenticity has been called into question. Harald Gormsson is more commonly known as Harald Bluetooth. He died at *Jumne* in the 980s. He was the grandfather of Canute (Cnut), King of England, Denmark and Norway 1016–35.

be compared to the *Gumma Fluss* in Lower Saxony, the former name of the Ilmenau River (Greule 2014: 254). In the same region, local dialect preserved into the eighteenth century the word *jumfer* ‘vessel, container’, which serves as a metaphorical link between the *jumb*-root and its Proto-Germanic precursor *\*kumban* (Tiling 1767–71: II, 707–08). In Sweden, north-west of Uppsala, Jumkil Parish is recorded as early as 1317 (Thoméé et al 1859–66: IV, 57–58). It is also referred to as Jomkil, with the vowel-shift seen in *Jumne* / *Jomsburg*. The parish is rich in Viking runic inscriptions (RAÄ). The local river, Jumkilsån, has a steep drop, with rapids, waterfalls and deep pools (Berglund 2006: 10, 23). As defined here, it is a classic *jumb*-setting.

#### 14. Jumble and dumble

North of the River Trent, the forces of erosion sliced into the Triassic carbonate marl to create steep-sided ravines known locally as *dumbles* (McCullagh 1969: 36). The *English Dialect Dictionary* defines *dumble* as ‘a wooded valley, a belt of trees along the bed of a small stream; a ravine through which a watercourse runs’ (EDD II, 206). Place-names featuring *dumble* are plotted on Figure 5. The map is based on data extracted from the online version of the EPNS *Survey of English Place-Names*.<sup>35</sup> The nucleus of *dumble* place-names is situated to the south-east of the *jumb*-related place-names shown in Figure 2. While *jumble* and *dumble* are orthographically different, their pronunciation may have been the same. It is difficult to be certain, but, at some time in its history, *dumble* may have been pronounced with a word-initial [dj], much as in the Received Pronunciation of words like ‘duty’ [dju:ti] and ‘dune’ [dju:n] (Cruttenden 2008: 186).<sup>36</sup> In these instances, [dj] precedes a long-u vowel, as it may once have done in the case of *ioomble* (OED s.v. *jumble* v. forms), and, at least in Warwickshire, *doomble* (EDD II, 206). The pronunciation can be compared to Old Norse *djúp* ‘deep, deep water, deep place, pit’ and *ár-djúp* ‘pool in a river’, with the acute accent signifying a long vowel sound (Zoëga 1910: 36, 89).

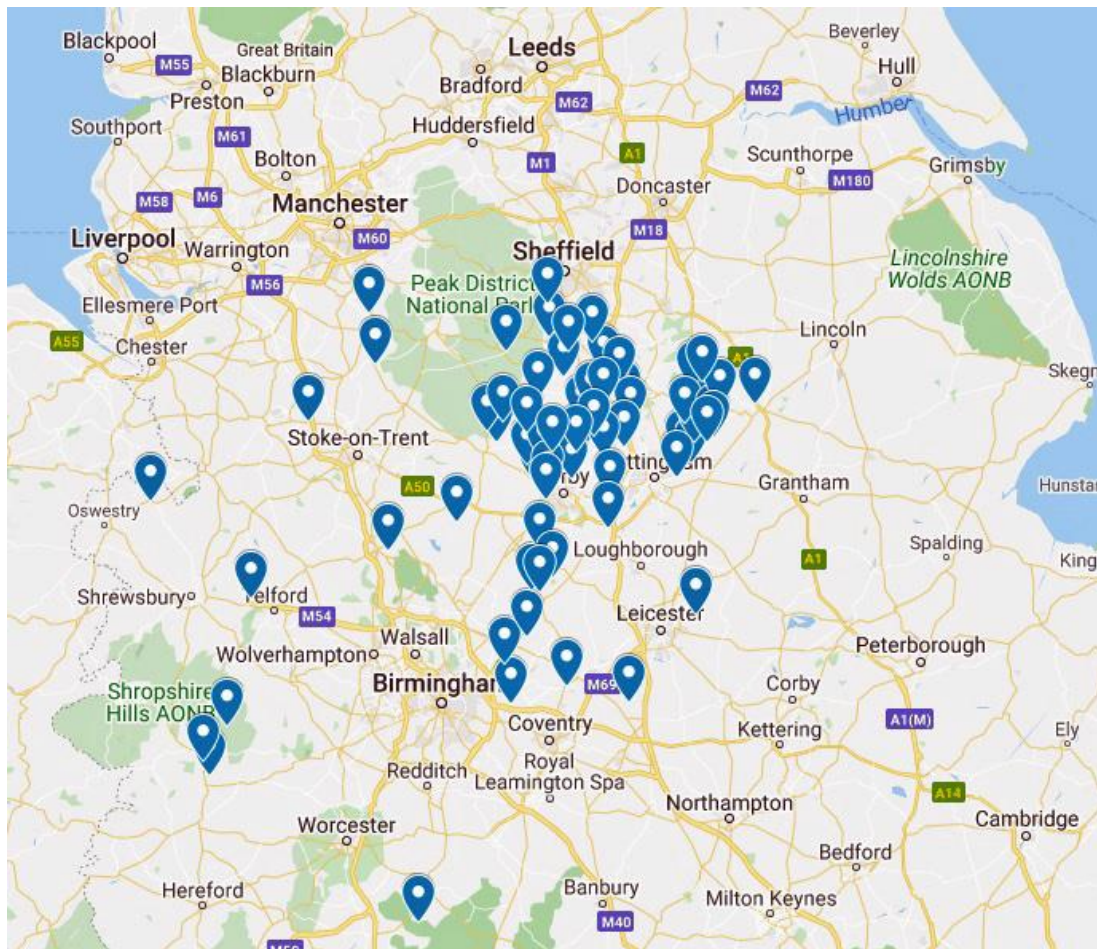
The triple consonant cluster /mbl/, found in *jumble* and *dumble* is a ‘specific marker of the Middle English Period’ (Burka 2021: 607). A comparison between *jumble* and *dumble* shows interesting correspondences. The /b/ and /p/ variance between *jumble* and *jumples* is duplicated in *dumble* and *dumple*. The apparent relationship between *Jumb* and *Jumble* is echoed in that of *Dumb* and *Dumble*, where *dumb* is found in

<sup>35</sup> <<https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/>>.

<sup>36</sup> On the lengthening of vowels before an *mb* cluster see Minkova and Stockwell 1992; Ritt 1994: 81–82.



place-names without an affix. For example, Dumb Hall (PN Db 329) is the equivalent of Jum Hall, mentioned above. Dumpit Hill corresponds to Jumpit (PN WRY 5 115; 6 101). Dumble Hole (PN Db 514) parallels Jumble Hole. There are other examples of equivalences, whereby Jumble and Dumble each modify farm, house(s), close and field, with Dumble Plantation and Jumble Hole Plantation, Dumber Clough and Jumber Brook. Duple Street in Scarborough was *the Dompyll* in 1500 (PN NRY 106–07) and can be compared to *Jompyll bryg* 1494 (Illingworth *supra*). In his discussion of Dimlington, Smith (PN ERY18) refers to *Dombles* (1339) ‘a pasture encircling a pool’ and *Domble* (1341), both in Holderness. These can be compared to the contemporary (1391) *Jomble* (Humble Jumble Row *supra*). However, there is a difference, especially in Nottinghamshire, where *dumble* is frequently modified, as in Lambley Dumble or Oxton Dumble. This is not the case in respect of *Jumble*. On the surface, it appears that *jumble* and *dumble* are effectively the same word, subject to regional difference, or, at the very least, synonymous.



**Figure 5:** Distribution of Dumble place-names (Google maps).

It is likely that the root of *dumble* / *dumple* is *dump* ‘a deep hole in the bed of a river or pond’ (OED s.v. *dump* n.3). *Dump* is cognate with German *Dümpel* and *Dümpfel* ‘whirlpool, deep place in flowing or standing water, pool’ (DWB s.v. *Dümpfel*).<sup>37</sup> In Norwegian *dump* refers to ‘a deepening or depression in the ground’ (Torp 1919 s.v. *dump*). It is cognate with Old Norse *djúp*, Modern Danish *dyb* ‘valley, ravine, deep water, hole, depression’,<sup>38</sup> and its OE equivalent *dióp* ‘deep’. Phonotactically, /mp/ and /mb/ consonant clusters loom large in the English language (Burka 2021: 609; Ritt, Prömer, and Baumann 2017). This leads to the speculation that OE *dióp*, in an uncertain dialectal but Middle English setting, was subjected to an epenthetic <m> to produce *\*dio[m]p*, seemingly the root of *Dompyll* and *Jompyll*.<sup>39</sup>

In relation to *jumble* and *dumble*, there are two etymological lineages, which probably originate from a common source. On one hand, there is the family of Proto-Germanic *\*Kumban* > *Kumme* ‘round deep vessel or container’ > *Kump/Kumpf* ‘vessel, container, large cup, deep bowl’ > *Kümpel* ‘deepening in which water has collected, puddle’ and *Gumpe* (DWB s.v. all terms; PFWb s.v. *Gump2*, *Gumpen2*, *Gümpel* 1). On the other, there is the *Dümpel* lineage from Old High German *dumphilo*. The two lineages are shown on the schematic diagram, Figure 6, in which some relationships are marked as uncertain, and represent possible phonological links.

Occasionally, *Dumple* mutates to *Dimple* and *Dympel*, which Ekwall (1903: 16) includes in the *Dümpel* family of cognates. While English orthography is notorious for not representing pronunciation, it is interesting that the use of vowels <u>, <i> and <y>, which form the variant spellings of *dumple*, are seen in the *humber* element of Northumbria, *Northimbriam* and *Norphymbre*.<sup>40</sup> The EPNS online *Survey of English Place-Names* reveals a concentration of *dimple*-element place-names in Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, with two outliers in Cumberland and one in Westmorland. They mirror the distribution of Figure 2, except for *Dimple*,

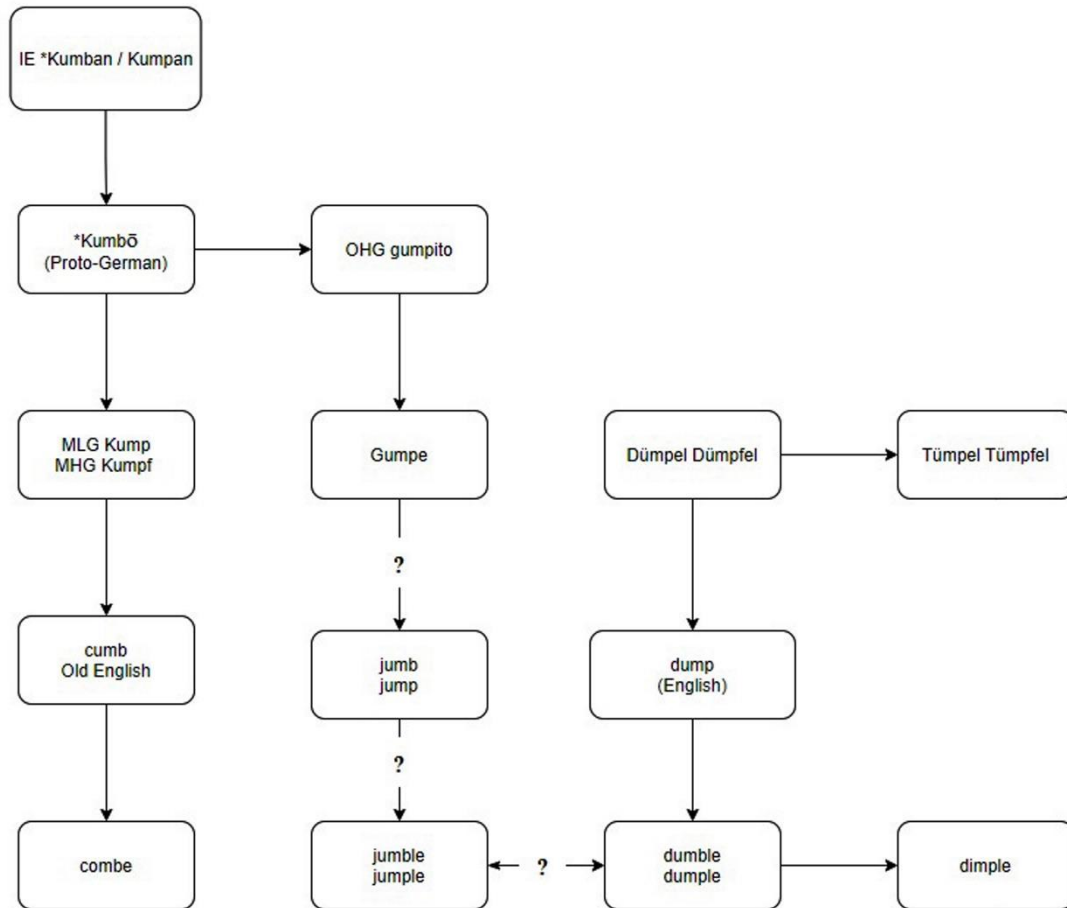
<sup>37</sup> As a result of the Germanic consonant shift (Grimm’s Law: word-initial /d/>/t/, and intervocalic /p/>/f/), *Dümpel* and *Dümpfel* became *Tümpel* and *Tümpfel* (DWB s.v. *Tümpel*), with the same meaning.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. *dub* ‘deep dark pool in a river or stream’ OED s.v. *dub* n. 1.2, northern English dialect.

<sup>39</sup> Cf. *mp* cluster formation in OE *émtig* > empty (OED s.v. *empty*). Following Prokosch 1939: 111, note 2), the <i> in *dióp* may not represent an actual vowel sound, but affrication, i.e. the equivalent of ON [j] in *djúp*.

<sup>40</sup> *Dimple* 1156–81 and *Dympelland* 1346 (PN WRY 4 172); *Northimbriam* second half of the twelfth century (Ekrem and Mortensen 2006: 127) and *Norphymbre* OE (Bosworth–Toller); see PN Db li).

a site near Solihull, Warwickshire, which is derived from a different root.<sup>41</sup> *Dimple* is found in Middle English (*MED* s.v. *dimple*), used in the sense of ‘a small hollow or dent’ (*OED* s.v. *dimple* n.1).



**Figure 6:** Etymological relationships.

## 15. Conclusion

At first sight, Jumbo appears to be both modern and exotic, redolent of oversized jets and far-away places. However, on closer examination, it is concluded that our place-name is rooted in the vocabulary of the Danelaw, and, therefore, of the West Germanic language family. Beyond this, our conclusions become postulations. Jumbo is a variant of *jumb*, and cognate with Germanic *Gumpe*. The word *jumb* developed through a progression of palatalisation. In England’s West-Saxon sphere of influence, the situation was different, and the ancient Germanic word-initial /k/ was maintained, manifesting itself in OE *cumb* and its modern equivalent

<sup>41</sup> *Stream of Dunepol* 13th; *Dunpolesbrugge* 1341; *Dunepol* 1377; *Dymples* 1638 “‘Hill-pool,’ v. **dun, pol**’, PN Wa 69.

*combe* and its variants. This contrasting phonological processing is rooted in the Norse settlement of northern England and its effect on local dialect. A *jumb*, in the strict sense of the word, can be defined as a deep pool in a stream or brook, formed by the erosional force of the current. The shape of these deep pools, or jumb holes, is the basis for their metaphorical and philological connection with basins, cups and other liquid-containing vessels. The distribution map Figure 2 shows that jumb-related place-names fall within Halford Mackinder's 'highland zone'. Consequently, the *jumb* is a feature of hilly or mountainous terrain, where the descent of a stream is distinguished by waterfalls and a stepped formation. Under flood conditions, the current becomes violently turbulent as it rushes over rocks and forms eddies and whirlpools. The force of its turbid waters sweeps along a mélange of debris resulting in a conceptual association with disorder and chaotic mixing, the very essence of *jumble*. *Jumb* is the root of *jumble*. The *jumb* became a *pars pro toto* synecdoche, where it, as the part, came to represent the whole watercourse of the stream. Jumbo, Lancashire, was so named because of its immediate proximity to Wince Brook by a people still sensitive to their natural surroundings.

**John W. Taylor**

jwtandpwt@gmail.com

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