



# The Hundred Parishes

## An introductory article about THE BATTLE OF ASSANDUN, 1016

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In October 1016, the Danes led by Canute defeated the Anglo-Saxons in battle at a place called Assandun. The thousand-year anniversary was marked by activities in two locations that may be the site of the battle, including our own Ashdon.

While the name of the site of the battle was recorded as Assandun, its location has never been firmly established. It was also recorded that, after the battle, King Canute erected a minster church at Icanho to honour those who died in the battle. The site of the minster has also never been definitively established.

There are two principal claimants, both in Essex - Ashdon in the north of the county and Ashingdon, near Rochford in the southeast of the county.

Each has archaeological evidence to support their respective claims to be the sites of the battle and the minster.

Hadstock's Anglo-Saxon Church, dedicated to St Botolph and pictured here, possibly stands on the site of King Canute's minster. The church door has been dendro-dated to 1034 to 1042 AD.

The people of Hadstock have tried hard to establish whether Hadstock really was the site of the battle or of King Canute's minster. A geophysical and archaeological investigation in 2005 is recorded on an interpretation panel near St Botolph's church.

No firm conclusion was reached but the possibility remains open.



In 2016, the ladies of the village produced four “Hadstock Millennium Banners”, in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry, to commemorate one thousand years since the battle. One of the four tapestries is pictured below.



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