II. Old Norse Myth and Society
How Uniform Was the Old Norse Religion?

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One often gets the impression from handbooks on Old Norse culture and religion that the pagan religion that was supposed to have been in existence all over pre-Christian Scandinavia and Iceland was rather homogeneous. Due to the lack of written sources, it becomes difficult to say whether the ‘religion’ — or rather mythology, eschatology, and cult practice, which medieval sources refer to as forn .siðr (‘ancient custom’) — changed over time. For obvious reasons, it is very difficult to identify a ‘pure’ Old Norse religion, uncorroded by Christianity since Scandinavia did not exist in a cultural vacuum. What we read in the handbooks is based almost entirely on Snorri Sturluson’s representation and interpretation in his Edda of the pre-Christian religion of Iceland, together with the ambiguous mythical and eschatological world we find represented in the Poetic Edda and in the filtered form Saxo Grammaticus presents in his Gesta Danorum. This stance is more or less presented without reflection in early scholarship, but the bias of the foundation is more readily acknowledged in more recent works. In the textual sources we find a considerable pantheon of gods and goddesses — Þórr, Óðinn, Freyr, Baldr, Loki, Njörðr, Týr, Heimdallr, Ullr, Bragi, Freyja, Frigg, Gefjon, Iðunn, et cetera — and euhemerized stories of how the gods acted and were characterized as individuals and as a collective.

Since the sources are Old Icelandic (Saxo’s work appears to have been built on the same sources) one might assume that this religious world was purely Old

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1 See the discussion in Gro Steinsland, Norrøn religion: Myter, riter, samfunn (Oslo: Pax, 2005).
2 For a new and excellent handbook on Old Norse religion, see Steinsland, Norrøn religion.
Icelandic. However, evidence for the existence of this apparently Old Icelandic religious world is also found in other parts of Scandinavia, and the assumption that it is confined to Iceland is, as is well known, false. Some of the stories and mythical themes preserved in Iceland are also depicted on picture and runic stones, and alluded to in runic inscriptions in eastern Scandinavia during the Viking Age. One such case is the famous story of Þórr fishing for the Miðgarðsormr, a story that is told in the skaldic poem Ragnaradráp, the eddic poem Hymiskvida, in Gylfaginning in Snorra Edda, as well as being depicted on the Altuna runestone in Uppland, Sweden, on the Hørum stone in Thy, Denmark, and on a picture stone from Gosforth in England.3

There is one important source that can qualify our view of the pagan religion in early Scandinavia and that is place-name evidence. The problem with place names is that they represent only a fraction of the names once in use, although taken together the ones we know of represent a large body of evidence that provides clues to which gods and goddesses were worshipped and where. Place names therefore provide a means of discriminating between written sources. Another advantage with names is that they are unbiased; no individual determined which names should be coined, and no one had the power to control the naming process. The names therefore represent the beliefs and actions of the general population, with no hidden agenda or deliberate program. The other advantage with place names is that they provide a spatial dimension to the discussion, which makes it possible to use geography in the study of religion.

The study of place names related to the pre-Christian religion of Scandinavia has oscillated in intensity over the last two centuries. The field was very highly esteemed in the nineteenth century and in the beginning of the twentieth century,4 with a decline in interest from the 1950s, due to the contemporary critique of the romantic and nationalistic research agenda of earlier scholars and the lack of source criticism in earlier research. This trend was very strong and changed the

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4 The highlights in research on Scandinavia were Magnus Olsen, Hedenske kultminder i norske stedsnavne, Videnskapsselskapets Skrifter II. Hist.-Filos. Klasse 1914, 4 (Oslo: Dybwad, 1915), later contextualized in relation to pre-Christian Norwegian society in his Ættegård og heligdom: Norske stedsnavne sosialt og religionshistorisk belyst, Institutt for sammenlignende kulturforskning, Serie A, 9a (Oslo: Aschehoug, 1926), both groundbreaking works for their time.
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Direction of historical research in general in Germany and Scandinavia, especially during the 1960s. The loose extravagances early scholars allowed themselves in interpreting, reconstructing, and evaluating sources led to a backlash against the study of place names in relation to pagan religion. Today there is definitely a new trend of focusing on pagan religion in Scandinavia, and young scholars have dared again to engage in research which in the 1950s and 1960s was considered to be controversial. No doubt the major research project Vägar till Midgård in Lund has also been important in supporting this trend.

An important, but in many cases misleading contribution was by Jan de Vries. In the second volume of his Altgermanische Religionsgeschichte he presented several distribution maps with names of gods and goddesses in Scandinavian place names, such as Óðinn, Þórr, Ullr/Ullinn, Njörðr, Freyr, and Freyja. Unfortunately de Vries missed many names and, more problematically, mapped a lot of names that did not have a theophoric background or were very doubtful; the latter names were mainly field names he had found. De Vries’s results were therefore very unreliable, and the reviews of his attempt were, in many cases, scathing. This present article is an attempt to present more reliable maps, although it is only a preliminary work.

For toponymic research on Scandinavian pagan religion, a turning point was a short article by Lars Hellberg in 1986 on pagan place names in the province of Uppland, Sweden. This programmatic article was later followed up by two symposia, in 1987 (‘Old Norse and Finnish Religions and Cultic Place-names’ in...
Åbo, Finland) and in 1990 (the 16th NORNA symposium ‘Sakrale navne’ in Gilleleje, Denmark). Shortly thereafter came three Stand der Forschung articles written by the three doyens of Scandinavian onomastics at that time, Professors Thorsten Andersson (Sweden), John Kousgård Sørensen (Denmark), and Jørn Sandnes (Norway), which represented the new attitude in the field. The most important modern work in the field, however, came in 2001 with a PhD thesis by Per Vikstrand on the sacral place names in the Lake Mälaren region, a seminal work, which is the obvious landmark for future research in this field.

In the present study I have chosen to analyze theophoric place names containing the names of the gods/goddesses Freyr, Óðinn, Þórr, Ullr/Ullinn, ‘Njærjer/Njörðr, and Tyr. In order not to drown in problems I have left out Freyja since there are particular linguistic difficulties involved in determining whether place names contain the name of the goddess or a word fraþ (< ‘fraiw’) referring to ‘(good) growth’.

As I stated above, but must emphasize again, the names presented here are the ones that I am as certain as I can be are theophoric, and they represent only a fragment of what once existed. Apart from the names discussed here, there are many other place names that are also theophoric, namely settlement names with no medieval name evidence and minor names, of fields and natural features, which also nearly always lack older written forms. Such names are

11 For a short historical overview of research, see Lennart Elmevik, ‘Fornnordiska gudagesalter och svenska ortnamn’, Saga och sed (1995), 11–19.


15 Vikstrand, Gudarnas platser.

16 The name of the goddess has even been thought to be unattested in place names, a stance presented by Elmevik in ‘Svenska ortnamn med förleden Frö’, in Ortnamn i språk och samhälle: Hylningskrift till Lars Hellberg, ed. by Svante Strandberg, Nomina Germanica, 22 (Uppsala: Uppsala University Press, 1995), pp. 107–15.
extremely interesting to analyse and have a huge potential, but the collection and analysis of material is overwhelmingly time consuming. It is notable, however, that the spatial distribution of these later names corresponds closely to the names presented here; hence they emphasize rather than contradict the spatial pattern I present below in the Appendix.

The theophoric place names formed using the name of the god Freyr are indicated by the genitive -s- (Frœyslandum, Frœyshof, Frœsakir, Frœsvi). For Sweden I have included thirty-eight ‘certain’ Frœs- names, and for Norway twenty-two names, but here a larger proportion are uncertain. In Denmark we only have one ‘certain’ name with the god Freyr, namely the district name of Frœs Herred on Jutland. This presents, of course, a considerable imbalance across Scandinavia. This uneven distribution is actually even more pronounced. The Freyr names are very much concentrated in two regions: the first region — and by far the most important one — has its core around Lake Mälaren in central Sweden, with names running along the eastern coast to the north and to the south, and to eastern Västergötland. The second region is around Viken in Norway. Significantly, Freyr names are totally lacking in Trøndelag, Nordland/Troms, and Rogaland. They are very rare in all of western Norway, and the few cases we have here are problematic and more or less uncertain. We can also see that the Freyr names are practically absent — apart from Frœs Herred — in all of Denmark and southern Sweden. We therefore get a very distinct pattern: Freyr has a documented cult in the old Svea-dominanted region in eastern Sweden and in south-east Norway, around Viken, incorporating Vestfold, Østfold, Hedmark, and Oppland (see Fig. 1).

As mentioned already, many of the names from Norway are problematic and cannot be described as ‘certain’. Only a couple of names seem secure, namely Frœshov in Tørogstad, Østfold (Frœyshof 1391) and Frœshov in Hole, Buskerud (a Frœyshofue 1342). Also the three names †Frœsli (Frœsli 1669), †Frœysland (Frœyslandt 1592), and †Frœysaker (Frœssager 1592) in N. Land, Oppland, look fairly ‘secure’, occurring more or less together in a small district, although all lack old name forms. An interesting but problematic name in Norway, which has been used as a parallel in connection with the famous name Njarðarløg, is the farm name Frœitlog in Sokndal in Rogaland, western Norway, reconstructed as †Frœyslog.18 This

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17 For important contributions on this matter, see especially Vikstrand, Gudarnas platser.
18 See for example Sophus Bugge in NG, xvi, 279; Magnus Olsen in NG, x, 9–10, and in Det gamle norske onavn Njarðarløg, Christiania videnskabs-selskabs forhandlinger for 1905, 5 (Oslo: Dybwad, 1905); and NSL, p. 118. For these and other abbreviations used below, see the list of Abbreviations at the end of the Appendix.
Figure 1. The distribution of theophoric place names in Scandinavia containing the name of the god Freyr (open circles are uncertain).
reconstruction is not obvious when we consult the fairly young written forms of the name: Fretlandt 1500s, Fretlonn 1500s, Føtland, Frøtlannd 1563, Frødloff 1567, Frøtolff 1610, Frotleff 1616, 1668, Frøtoľv 1723. Sophus Bugge took the liberty of seeing the god’s name Freyr here and the word log ‘laws’, and assumes the name was once used for a law district where Freyr had a special role, presumably in a communal cult. ¹⁹ This interpretation must be considered uncertain.

In Sweden, on the other hand, there are many Freyr names that seem to be very ‘secure’: eleven Frøslund(a), eight Frösvi, two Frösåker, a Fröske ‘the oak grove dedicated to Freyr’, and two names ending in -tuna. In Uppland we have a parallel to the Danish Frös Herred in the old district name of Frösthult (frøstolpt 1314), containing the word OSw tolpt, referring to a minor district in the ancient naval organization, the ledung.

The distinct pattern of Freyr names found in the old Svea-dominated area of eastern Sweden seems to corroborate the evidence of Old Norse literature, where Freyr is often called a sviagod (‘god of the Sviar’), ²⁰ and in poems such as Haustløng, which names the Swedes as allar áttir Ingvifreys (‘all Ingvi-Freyr’s family’). There is also Saxo’s mention in Book I of Gesta Danorum of a Freysblót (‘sacrifice to Freyr’) among the Swedes, and his claims that ‘the most valiant of the Svear […] were kinsmen of the divine Frø’ and that Freyr was a Swedish ruler (‘Rex Suetiae Frø’). ²¹ In addition Adam of Bremen describes a well-equipped Freyr in the pagan ‘temple’ in Uppsala in his Gesta (4:26). A cult of Freyr therefore seems to have been strong among the Sviar in Svíþjóð. On this point the literary and the toponymic evidence are in harmony.

Theophoric place names with the name of the god Óðinn normally occur as Ons- or Ódens-. In my material I have identified approximately seventy names: forty-nine in present-day Sweden, eleven in Norway, and eleven in Denmark. These names have a more even distribution than the Freyr names: they are found more or less in all the major regions of Scandinavia, with the exception, once again, of western Norway. For Sweden the majority of the Óðinn names are again to be found around Lake Mälaren, but names occur all over Götaland down to Skåne in the south; there are also occasional names in northern Sweden, in Dalarna and Jämtland. The distribution of Óðinn names in Denmark is fairly even. The exception is therefore western Norway (see Fig. 2).

¹⁹ NG, xvi, 279.
²⁰ Sundqvist, Freyr’s Offspring, p. 165.
²¹ Sundqvist, Freyr’s Offspring, p. 165.
Figure 2. The distribution of theophoric place names in Scandina
vìa containing the name of the god Óðinn (open circles are uncertain).
Many of the names found in Norway are uncertain to some degree. Most certain are Onsåker in Våler, Østfold (Odensakr BB); the two, obviously connected, Onsø the parish and Onsø the hundred in Østfold; and the lost Odhinsaalr, very probably to be understood as the predecessor of Huseby in Onsø. A parallel to the latter name is a lost Odhinsaalr in Trøndelag. In Denmark we have a couple of very interesting names, especially three ODa Othenshille (Vönsild, Onsild, Vönsild) and five ODa Othensvæ (Oddense, Oens, Vojens, Odense, Onsved), which all seem very secure. In Sweden we again have several fairly certain names, such as Onsicke in Hagunda, Uppland (Odhenseke 1409) and Odensicke on Selaön, Södermanland (odhinseke 1365), seven Odensland(a), five Odensvi, etc. It is noteworthy that there are two OSw Odbensalr in Sweden as in Norway, one in Halland (Onsala) and one in Jämtland (Odensala). The Odensala in Ärlinghundra, Uppland should not be counted among these names, since it is a corrupted form of OSw Olpinsborg ‘the cult site (borg) dedicated to Óðinn’. Notable too are the many Óðinn names referring to topographical features, such as lakes, wells, islands, and mountains or hills (Odensholmen, Onsjo, Onsberga, Odenskalla, Odens kulle); an interesting case are names referring to rapidas, such as Odensfors in Tierp, Uppland, and Odensfors in Gullberg, Östergötland. Difficult to interpret and assess, however, are the many Odensland/Onsland found especially as minor names in Uppland.

The god Þórr might perhaps be expected to be well represented in place-name evidence with examples evenly spread all over Scandinavia (see Fig. 3). This is in fact the case, but with some exceptions. Again the majority of the Scandinavian Þórr names are in central eastern Sweden, where the greatest number is to be found in the province of Uppland. Þórr names are scattered thinly but evenly over southern Scandinavia (southern Sweden and Denmark). In Norway we again find the majority of Þórr names around Viken. In western Norway there is an occasional name of rather uncertain background; in Trøndelag these theophoric names are missing altogether. It would come as no surprise if, after closer analysis, western Norway also turned out to lack Þórr names. It is also noticeable that there are regional differences on a smaller scale. So for example western Västergötland, Dalsland, Värmland, western Västmanland, and Närke lack Þórr names; western


23 These names will be discussed by Per Vikstrand in a forthcoming article.
Figure 3. The distribution of theophoric place names in Scandinavia containing the name of the god Þórr (open circles are uncertain), and also the problematic Norwegian Totland names (+).
and northern Jutland likewise. The most plentiful occurrences are to be found around Oslo, in Uppland, and in southern Södermanland.

In Norway the majority of the Þórr names are ON þórhof; there are ten in all, all found in the south-east part of Norway (Östfold, Akershus, Buskerud, Hedmark, and Opland); in addition there are six more or less certain instances of þórsnes. There are some very problematic names, most surviving in the form Totland, all found in western Norway (Vest-Agder, Hordaland, and Sogn and Fjordane). The reason for an identification with Þórr is one instance, Totland in Alversund, Hordaland (af þorslande c. 1175, þorsland 1427, Thotland 1463, Torsland 1490, Totland 1500s), whose older forms point in the direction of the first element being the god’s name Þórr. The other Totland cases have only young written forms, and they do not help us very much. The exception is Totland in Daviken, Sogn and Fjordane (i Þothlandi BK, Thodlandt 1563), which has an early form with Poth-, not Þors-. The Totland name in Daviken needs to be borne in mind in any discussion of these names, and suggests it would be unwise to assume automatically that all instances of Totland are survivals of an older *Thórsland.

For Sweden, the overwhelmingly most frequent name containing Þórr as an element is Torslund(a), with twelve cases found, nine in Uppland and one each in Södermanland, Östergötland, and Öland. Next most frequent is Torsåker, which occurs five times. Several of these have become parish names. Semantically interrelated to Torsåker are Torsång in Dalarna (< Thorsvanger) and Torsvallen in Valbo, Gästrikland (< Thorsvalder). There is one Törsvi in Trögd, Uppland, and a lost †Thorsvågle in Uppsala, Uppland, where the second element is the word ‘hugl(e)’ (‘mound’, probably ‘grave mound’). We may also note the famous hill fort Torsburgen on Gotland and the town name Torshälla in Södermanland, which is a corrupt form of Thorsbarg (in thorshargi 1288). In southern Scandinavia there is a Torske in Villand, Skåne, a Torslunde on Själland and Fyn, and a Torsager on Djursland, Jutland.

The place-name evidence makes it clear that in the cult of Þórr, the god cannot have been exclusively a god of the sky. Names such as Torsåker, Torsager, and Torsvang indicate that Þórr must also have been connected to agrarian activities. It has therefore been assumed that Þórr, like Freyr, should be considered a fertility deity in the pagan Scandinavian pantheon. It is clear from the toponymic evidence, at least for central Sweden, that Þórr was one of the most important gods, perhaps the most important, and was connected to agrarian activities, as is indicated in names such as Thorsakir. The character of Þórr place names indicates
a very different type of god from the picture we get from Snorri and from Old Norse poetry, as has been noted by several scholars.\textsuperscript{24}

A most elusive god in the pagan Scandinavian pantheon is Ullr, known in Old Norse literature as, inter alia, a winter god, although he is not a central figure in Snorri’s stories of the gods. The place names containing his name paint a very different picture. One gets the impression that Ullr must have been a major god, but the Ullr names also reveal that the cult of Ullr was never pan-Scandinavian. His occurrence in the toponymic material is confined to two distinct regions: the provinces around Lake Mälaren, including central parts of Östergötland, and the area around Viken, principally restricted to Østfold, Vestfold, and Akershus. Even more interestingly, we have some indisputable Norwegian place-name evidence of what has been assumed to be a by-name for Ullr, namely Ullinn.\textsuperscript{25} Trøndelag totally lacks names in Ullr or Ullinn; nor do southern Sweden or Denmark have any trace of Ullr. The southernmost Ullr name is Ulelevi in Gårdby on Öland, a name typical for the Mālar provinces and found in an area that was clearly Svea dominated, the south-east coast of Sweden, including Öland and Gotland (see Fig. 4).

Among the twenty-seven Norwegian names containing Ullr, some are ‘uncertain’, such as Ulreng in Skedsmo, Akershus (Vllerengh RB) — one would not expect a god’s name in a place name with -engh ‘meadow’ as the second element — and as many as eight instances of Ul(e)land. More certain are Ullevål in Oslo (a Ullaruale 1309), †Ullral, an old name for a part of Haug parish on the west side of Randseleven in Norderhov, Buskerud (i Vllærrale 1355), and a couple of places named “Ullarvin, such as Ulleren in Oslo (i Ullarini RB), Ulleren in southern Odalen, Hedmark (Ullerni RB), Ulleren in Hole, Buskerud (Ullaryn 1291), and Ulleren in eastern Eiker, Buskerud (a Ullaryn 1445). There are several names for topographical features, such as inlets, lakes, islands, and peninsulas, containing the god Ullr’s name, as well as, and perhaps rather remarkably, a couple of names in -þveit ‘minor field, clearing’.

\textsuperscript{24} See for example Vikstrand, \textit{Gudarnas platser}, pp. 162–64, and references there.

\textsuperscript{25} The pair Ullr/Ullinn looks like an identical construction to Óðr/Óðinn, but as, for example, Magnus Olsen has pointed out (\textit{Hedenske kultminder}, p. 104), if Ullinn was to be derived with the same suffix as Óðinn (< Pr.-Germ. *Wōdanaz) one would expect a form *Ollinn, not Ullinn. Instead Olsen deduces an older Pr.-Germ. *Wulōnaz for Ullinn, with an adjectival suffix -(a)n ‘belonging to, part of’. It is easier perhaps to look upon Ullinn as a derivative parallel to the variant form of the god Óðinn that we find in OE Wōden and OSax Wōdin < Pr.-Germ. *Wōdanaz (de Vries, \textit{Altgermanische Religionsgeschichte}, ii, 416), hence a Pr.-Germ. *Wulōnaz; in this way a parallel between Ullr/Ullinn and Óðr/Óðinn may be maintained.
Figure 4. The distribution of theophoric place names in Scandinavia containing the name of the gods Ullr (●) and *Ullinn (✚) (open circles are uncertain); also the even more problematic Norwegian Ull(e)land names (open square).
For Sweden we have an astonishing twenty-three instances of *Ullevi*, making Ullr the god by far the most frequently connected to a *vi* (‘pagan cult site’). There are five *Ullunda*, two *Ulleraker*, and one *Ultuna*, the latter a farm or a chieftain’s ‘manor’ in the district called *Ulleraker* in Uppsala, Uppland. As in Norway we also have a couple of instances of *Ullarvin*. There are also some elusive names, such as *Ullbolsta*, a parish district in Ullerakers hundred district, Uppland (de *villabolstad* 1316), *Ulbersta*, a parish district and a hundred district in Särkönd, Östergötland (af *villabolsta* 1367, af *villabolstadh* 1371, j *villabolstadhe* 1375), *Ullstämma* in Trögd’s hundred district, Uppland (i *Villastempne* 1419), *Ullstamma* in Landeryd’s parish district, Hanekind’s hundred district, Östergötland (villastempn 1317), and *Ullekale* in Högby parish district, in Göstring’s hundred district, Östergötland (villacalff 1337, i villakalfwe 1384), which seems to contain the god’s name, but how these names are to be interpreted is a matter of debate.26

In Norway we seem to have place-name evidence for the cult of the god ON *Njörðr*, and in Sweden evidence of the cult of the goddess *Niærþer*, and not the other way around. This strange circumstance is probably an artefact of the early history of research into these names.27 In Norway the names were connected early on with the god *Njörðr* mentioned in Old Norse literature, whereas in Sweden the names beginning in *N(i)ærdh-* were instead connected to the goddess Nerthus, mentioned by Tacitus in his *Germania*. No one has yet tried to reconcile this discrepancy, which is undoubtedly illusory. According to Magnus Olsen there are around a dozen place names in Norway containing the name of the god *Njörðr*.28 The most certain of these are the two *Norderhov*, in Løiten, Hedmark (a Nærdrhofue 1370) and in Ringerike, Buskerud (Nierdarhofs sokn *RB*). Then in addition we have five instances of *Njarðarheimr* and four of *Njarðarland*. These names are found all over southern Norway, but not in Trøndelag, Nordland, or Troms.

For Sweden, Per Vikstrand reckons up sixteen place names with *Niærher*: five *Närhunda*, five *Niardhau*, three *Nälberg(a)*, and the island name *Norderön*.29 Of particular interest is *Näls* in Spånga, Stockholm (nærthastaff 1354), as it is an OSw form of *Nierdhastaf*; the same may be the case for *Näls* on Selaön in

26 For a discussion of these names, see Vikstrand, *Gudarnas platser*, passim.
28 *Hedenske kultminder*, pp. 50–56.
29 *Gudarnas platser*, p. 98.
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Södermanland (nerddestum 1334, nærdistom 1411), and these names probably denoted some kind of standing idol connected to *Njærþer. The distribution of the Njård-names in Sweden is distinct and regional. These names occur in central eastern Sweden, with the sole exception of Norderön in Jämtland. Denmark has only a few uncertain names that may contain the name of the god/goddess Njærth: one is Nerum close to Copenhagen on Sjælland (Niartharum 1186); two others are the two Nerà on Fyn, which, according to John Kousgård Sørensen is a corruption of Niarþarhøgh. 30

The geographical distribution of the god Týr (< Pr.-Germ. *Tiwaz, cf. Lat. *deus) in Scandinavian place names is highly uneven. Sweden has no examples of this god’s name in any place name to my knowledge. It was assumed in earlier scholarship that the name of the large forest that divides the provinces of Västergötland and Närke, Tiveden (< Tiviper), had the god’s name as the first element, but this is impossible. Instead it may very well contain the related word ON plur. tívar ‘gods’, giving the meaning ‘the forest where gods and deities dwell’. In Norway there is one place name containing Týr that has never been disputed, namely Tysnes (Tysnes 1330, Tynæss BK), a parish and hundred on the island ON Njardarholg in Hordaland. 31 The other place name discussed in this connection is Tislauan in Melhus, Southern Trøndelag (Tisle NRJ, Tislagh, Tyslag 1559). Since we do not have any medieval forms of this name, it is very difficult to draw definite conclusions, but it is clearly possible that this name contains the name of the god Týr. The traditional interpretation is that the name is an ON Týslög, hence a parallel to Njardarholg, with a meaning ‘the legal district dedicated to the god Týr’, 32 and this possibility must be considered. A third Norwegian name is the lost † Tésal(î)r in Råde, Østfold (Tesala kirke RB, i Tesale 1403). No one has seriously proposed seeing the name of the god Týr in the first element in this name: the older form’s Te- is an insurmountable obstacle. The first element in this name is utterly elusive. The original and brave scholar Magnus Olsen had a suggestion of course. 33 Té- in Tésal(î)r is, in his opinion, the name of another god *Tér (< *Tewa-) closely related to Týr (< *Tiwa-). Although he adduces some linguistic parallels in Sanskrit and Old Greek, this suggestion must be considered a philological shot in the dark. To sum up, in Norway we have one, perhaps two place names indicating the cult of the god Týr.

31 NG, xi, 171.
32 NG, xiv, 279.
33 Olsen, Hedenske kulturneder, p. 231.
In Denmark the picture is totally different. Here we have at least thirty-three place names that could potentially have the name of the god Týr as the first element.\(^{34}\) There are six Tislund, three Tiset (< Tisvidh), four Tisbjerg, and three Tisbøj. The most well-known name is probably Tisø on Sjælland (Tisøe 1452), with a couple of parallels denoting a small lake which must have been dedicated to the god. Tisø has become one of the most important sites for understanding Viking-Age society in Scandinavia, thanks to the extensive archaeological excavations there.\(^{35}\) There can be no doubt that the cult of the god Týr, connected to war and legal matters, was extensive in Denmark. It is however notable that Týr names are lacking in Fyn, Langeland, Lolland, and Falster, making a strange lacuna in the distribution in the middle of Denmark (see Fig. 5).

These are the gods and goddesses that we find in the Scandinavian place-name corpus (with the exception of Freyja, which I have not discussed). There are a few place names which have been assumed to contain the names of other gods and goddesses known from Old Norse literature, such as Baldr, Forseti, Viðarr, Frigg, and the otherwise unknown *Fillinn.

The name of the god Baldr is evidently nonexistent in Swedish place names, but has been assumed in a couple of Danish and Norwegian place names. The Danish ones, Baldersbæk and Bollesager, are not conclusive, with only the former as a strong candidate in my opinion. Among the few Norwegian names in contention, only Ballesbol in Nes, Hedmark (a Balldrshole 1356, but a Baldissole 1358) and Balsnes in Fillan, Nordmøre (Balldrsnes 1342, af Baldaznese AB, Bollisnes 1559) warrant serious consideration; even more uncertain is Basberg in Sem, Vestfold (j Baldzbergi RB, Baldraasberg (1320) 1409).\(^{36}\) Unfortunately the older forms vary considerably, and it is not obvious that the names have Baldrs- as the first element. To conclude, there may be a few names in Denmark and Norway.


Figure 5. The distribution of theophoric place names in Scandinavia containing the name of the god Týr (open circles are uncertain).
indicating the existence of a cult of the god Baldr, but the evidence is fragile and inconclusive.

The lost farm *Forsetlund* in Onsø, Østfold, Norway (in *Fossettelandi RB*, Forsettelund 1480) has a very interesting name in an intriguing local context, as it is, along with †Oðhinssalr, in Onsø (< Óðinsøy), a district with rich evidence of pagan cult. It has been assumed, with good reason, that the first element of this name is the name of the god Forseti, hence the name was ON *Forsetalandr*. Older forms of the name support such an interpretation. If this is correct, this name is the only evidence in the Scandinavian place-name material — to my knowledge — of a cult of the god Forseti. This elusive god is mentioned by Snorri as Baldr’s son, and in *Grímnismál 15* he is said to reside in Glitnir, a hall made of gold and silver, where he sits and mediates in legal disputes. The legal aspect of this god is also referred to in his name, which means ‘one who leads a legal meeting, a thing’.

In and around the parish of Vang — the old Rīðabu in Hedmark (east of Lake Mjøsa) — we have what is for Norway a unique ‘sacral landscape’, judging by the place names: Disen, Åker, Vang, Torshov, and Vidarshov. This place-name milieu has been observed and discussed for a long time. Unfortunately the evidence is not as clear as it appears from the present-day forms. The name *Vidarshov* has been understood as an ON *Víðarshof*, evidencing the cult of Viðarr, the son of Óðinn begot with the giantess Griðr, killer of his father’s killer at Ragnarök. The older forms of this place name are, unfortunately, not all that old — no medieval forms are known: Wirishaugh c. 1550, Wiersøgh 1578, Viirso 1574–97. From this it seems rather adventurous (to put it mildly) to reconstruct an ON *Víðarshof*. Instead the name seems to be an older ON *Virishaugr*, containing a man’s name *Virir*, or perhaps Virfir, known from *Völuspá*, and baugr (‘grave mound’). Such a name has at least a few Swedish parallels, with a man’s name as the first element and the word OSw *høger* ‘burial mound’ as the second, often referring to a grand grave mound, for example *Hilleshögen* (< Hildishøgh 1310) in Uppland referring to the grave mound *Hillesbœgen*. The usual explanation of the name *Torshov* is also questionable. Older forms of the name, such as *Torseg 1520* and *Torsogh 1578, 1593*, actually point in the same direction as Vidarshov, to an ON *Þórishaugr* or *Þórisbaugr*, the latter containing the man’s name Þórir. Although there are

38 Compare the title of Iceland’s president, ‘Forseti’ Islands.
parallels to the first element being a man’s name, one cannot rule out the possibility that we have here the names of the gods Þórr and Viðarr, while the second element in both names looks like -haugr ‘burial mound’. It is impossible to be certain in either case, due to the lack of old (medieval) forms of the names.

The goddess Frigg, Óðinn’s wife according to the Poetic Edda and to Snorri, does not occur very frequently in Old Norse literature, and the same is true for the toponymic material: we only have knowledge of her cult in a couple of place names. These are Friggeråker, a parish and hamlet in Gudhem, in the district of Falbygden, famous for its ancient monuments, in Västergötland (de frigieraker, in frigieraker 1311, in frigieraker 1323, i frigerachar 1390, i frigierakers sokin 1423); and the lost farm name †Friggjarsetr in Hegra, northern Trøndelag, Norway (af Fryggiosætre AB). The Swedish name has normally been seen as a definite instance of the name of the goddess Frigg. The earlier name forms correspond well with the expected Friggjar-, and the second element of the compound, the word akr (‘arable land’), gives the place name a main element that is semantically plausible. However, since this may be a unique case, Lennart Elmevik has presented a non-theophoric interpretation. He sees the word ON friðgerð (‘making peace, conciliation’) in the first element of the name. The name has, in his opinion, gone through the following development: *Friðgerð(ar)akr > *Friðgiørdakr > *Friggær(ð)akr. The etymological handicraft looks possible, but one has to admit there are many more or less problematic links in this chain of evidence. Personally I accept the traditional interpretation and see Friggeråker as an example of a name evidencing a cult of the goddess Frigg. More problematic is the Norwegian name. Magnus Olsen reconstructs a *Friggjarsetr from the forms in Aslak Bolt’s land register (1430s–40s), but this is not at all obvious from the preserved form Fryggiosætre. Instead the name looks to me like an ON *Friggiusetr, indicating a woman’s name *Friggsja, or perhaps an otherwise unknown weak variant of the goddess name Frigg. The Norwegian name is problematic and a connection with the name of the goddess Frigg can certainly not be taken for granted.

Finally we have the interesting case of the god(?) *Fillinn. In the central part of the settlement district of Våge in Gudbrandsdalen, Oppland, Norway, we have three vin-farms in a row: Ullinsyn, which also is the vicarage in the parish (a Vllinsin 1354, a Vllinsini 1356), Lyen (i Lygin 1345, i Lyghine 1360, a Lyghini 1361), and Fillinsø (a Fillinsin 1325, a Fillensœœ 1446): there are hence three
related names, ON *Ullinsin, *Lýgin, and *Fillinsin, which could be parts of an original, subsequently divided *Vin. Magnus Olsen, who first drew attention to these names, considered that one of them, *Ullinsin, must be a *vin-name containing the name of the god Ullinn.\footnote{Olsen, \textit{Hedenske kultminder}, pp. 103–30.} There can be no doubt that he is right. *Lýgin seems to have as the first element a stem *lýgi-, with a parallel stem in *ljúg-, found, for example, in Goth \textit{liuga} f. ‘marriage’ and OHG *\textit{liugi} ‘peace, agreement’ (in \textit{urliugi} ‘war’; cf. with ablaut OSw \textit{orlog}, MLG \textit{orloge}, orlich, MFr \textit{orloge} ‘war’). It is Olsen’s plausible idea that an Old Norse form *lýgi n. once existed, meaning ‘final agreement, pact’, with a toponographical denotation ‘a place which has become sacred and not possible to violate by oath-taking’, hence ‘a thing site’. Several names in Norway contain the stems *lýgi- and *ljúg-, such as \textit{Lye}, a vicarage in the parish of the same name in Time, Rogaland (a Lyghi 1384), and three instances of \textit{Lystad}, in Skiptvet, Østfold (i Lyghistadhum \textit{RB}), in Sørum, Akershus (Lygistad \textit{RB}), and in Ullensaker, Akershus (Lysistad \textit{RB}). In the name \textit{Fillinsø}, ON \textit{Fillinsin}, Olsen sees a toponymic compound parallel to ON \textit{Ullinsin}, so that the first elements in both names are the names of gods: *Ullinn and *Fillinn. Neither appears in Old Norse literature, only in place names, but at least for Ullinn, the evidence seems plausible and has never been questioned. The reconstructed *Fillinn is in Olsen’s opinion from a Pr.-Germ. *\textit{Filþinaz}, related to Pr.-Germ. *\textit{felþa} ‘arable land’, and he considered the god to be a hypostasis of Freyr. In support of this assumption Olsen points to the probably related name pair \textit{Ullinsakr}/\textit{Frøysakr} in N. Land, Opland, and to the Finnish god Pellonpekko. To cut a long story short, Magnus Olsen has drawn attention to a most interesting case in Våge, and our conclusion must be that his interpretation of the element *Ullinn in ON \textit{Ullinsin} is a cogent one; the derivation of *lýgi ‘thing site’ in \textit{Lýgin}, ON \textit{Lýgin}, is clever, potentially possible, and extremely interesting; and as for *Fillinn in \textit{Fillinsø}, ON \textit{Fillinsin}, this remains a bold, intriguing, and well-argued case, albeit highly speculative.

\textbf{Conclusion}

This spatial and toponymical exercise has revealed that the existence of cults of many gods and goddesses, as suggested by Old Norse literature, is not supported by the toponymical material. According to place-name evidence, only a few gods and even fewer goddesses were the objects of an actual cult in Scandinavia: Óðinn,
Þórr, Freyr, Ullr/Ullinn, Njörd/Njørðr, Týr, and probably Freyja. There are some isolated indications of a cult of Baldr, Forseti, and Frigg. The evidence presented here does not indicate that there was an actual cult of all of the gods and goddesses in the pantheon mentioned in *Snorra Edda*, the *Poetic Edda*, skaldic poetry, and by Saxo.

The other finding of my analysis of the place-name material is that different cults seem to have been distinctly regional in many cases. Óðinn is found all over Sweden and Denmark, around Viken and in Trøndelag in Norway, but strangely enough never in south-western Norway. Þórr had a cult in Sweden, Denmark, and in south-east Norway, but place names formed using Þórr’s name are lacking in Trøndelag and northern Norway and the ones found in western Norway are uncertain. Freyr had a distinct cult in the Svea-dominated area, with a core around Lake Mälaren; in Norway we find Freyr names in the south-eastern region, in Østfold, Vestfold, Hedmark, Buskerud, and Oppland. Again there are no names in Trøndelag and northern Norway, and the ones in western Norway are of uncertain origin. Denmark lacks Freyr names altogether, except for Frøs Herred on Jutland. Úllr has a similar spread to the cult of Freyr, with two distinct areas, the Svea region in eastern Sweden and the Viken region in Norway, whereas Trøndelag has no names and western Norway has some uncertain ones. Denmark has no evidence of a cult of Úllr. A regional cult of Úllinn is demonstrable for the central and western areas of Norway, and only there. Týr was obviously an important god in Denmark — probably the most important — according to the place names there. His name does not occur in Swedish place names. In Norway we find Týr names in western Norway and possibly in Trøndelag.

This is a strong indication that the pagan ‘religion’ in early Scandinavia was never homogeneous. There were obviously regional cults of certain gods and goddesses. Úllr and Freyr had a distinct regional cult in the Svea-dominated area in Sweden and around Viken in Norway. The cult of Úllinn was a local cult in central Norway. What is striking is that western Norway seems to have been distinctive; it differs considerably from the Viken region, for example. Here gods such as Þórr, Óðinn, and Freyr were not worshipped; instead there are indications of cults of Njördr and Týr in this region. In Denmark the cult of Týr seems to have been particularly strong, with many place names bearing his name. Gods and goddesses such as Loki, Heimdallr, Bragi, Gefjon, and Íðunn never occur in Scandinavian place names, which may indicate that there was never an actual cult of these deities.
Appendix

**Theophoric Place Names in Scandinavia**

Freyr

**Norway**

1. Frøshov, Tørogstad hd, Østfold (Frøehof 1391)
2. Frelsøyd, S. Odalen hd, Hedmark (Frøsuëll RB)
3. Fros, Lom hd, Oppland (Frosso 1520)
4. Frøis, O. Gausdal hd, Oppland (Frøysynar 1329, a Frøsene 1459)
5. Frosid, Lønner hd, Oppland (Frossiidt 1520)
6. Frosid, N. Land hd, Oppland (Frossl 1669)
7. Frosland, N. Land hd, Oppland (Frosslandt 1592)
8. Frosåker, N. Land, Oppland (Frossager 1592)
9. Froishov, Hole hd, Buskerud (a Frøshofue 1342)
10. Froisaker, Gol hd, Buskerud (Froisaack 1500s)
11. Frest, Ramnes hd, Vestfold (i Frøysteig RB)
12. Fresti, Sem hd, Vestfold (a Frøystechi RB)
13. Frestv, Hdrum hd, Vestfold (Frøysueit RB)
14. Froisnes, Bygland hd, Aust-Agder (Froissnes 1601)
15. Froisland, Sogne hd, Vest-Agder (Froilandt 1601, Froessland 1610)
16. Froisti, Vanse hd, Vest-Agder (Froistienn 1594)
17. Frovik, Ullensvang hd, Hordaland (Frysiug 1500s)
18. Fretland, Sogndal hd, Sogn og Fjordane (i Froyslandi BK)
19. Fresvik, Leikanger hd, Sogn og Fjordane (i Frøysvik 1317)
20. Froisland, Forde hd, Sogn og Fjordane (Frossland 1608)
21. Froise, Stranda hd, Møre (af Frois AB)
22. Froiset, Veø, Møre (Froisseter 1500s)

**Sweden**

1. †Froshögarna, Uppala, Uppland (frøshogana 1497)
2. Fröslunda, sn, Lagunda hd, Uppland (De froslundum 1314)
3. Frösi, Tillinge sn, Åsunda hd, Uppland (j frösi 1467)

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4. Frösthult, sn, Simtuna hd, Uppland (De fröstolpt 1314)
5. Fröslunda, Altuna sn, Simtuna hd, Uppland (ji fröslundum 1356)
6. Frösvik, Ö. Ryds sn, Danderyds skl, Uppland (Frösvik 1369, j fridzwik 1424)
7. Frösäker, hd, Uppland (in frösakir 1344)
8. Fröslunda, Harakers sn, Norrbo hd, Västmanland (fröslandir, Fröslandum 1288)
9. Fröboberg, Västerås, Västmanland (in Fröbobergh 1357)
10. Fröshammar, Arboga lgs., Åkerbo hd, Västmanland (frøshammar 1291)
11. Frös, Kolbäcks sn, Snevringe hd, Västmanland (in frøswi 1331)
12. Frösvi, Romfartuna sn, Norrbo hd, Västmanland (in fröswi 1357)
13. Frösäker, Kårbo sn, Siende hd, Västmanland (frösaker 1291)
14. Frösvi, Edsbergs sn and hd, Närke (fruoswi 1216, de frösui 1341)
15. Frösvidal, Kils sn, Närke (i Fröswi 1438)
16. Fröslunda, Överselö sn, Selebo hd, Södermanland (i frayslutum Sö 208, fröslunda 1314)
17. Kilfröslunda, Överselö sn, Selebo hd, Södermanland
18. Fröslunda, Fors sn, Eskilstuna, Södermanland (in fröslundum 1346)
19. Frustuna, sn, Daga hd, Södermanland (fröstuna 1331)
20. Frösvi, Österåkers sn, Oppunda hd, Södermanland (ji frösi 1397)
21. Fröslund, Kårna sn, Hanekinds hd, Östergötland (ffröshella 1435)
22. Fröslunda, Bankekinds sn and hd, Östergötland (in fröslundum 1337)
23. Frösvik, Oppeby sn, Kinda hd, Östergötland (fröswy 1307)
24. Fröstad, Rystads sn, Akerbo hd, Östergötland (in Fröstadium 1354, in Fröstatum 1354)
25. Fröstad, part of Östra Tollstads sn, Vifolka hd, Östergötland (frösta 1530)
26. Fröseke, Alghults sn, Uppvidinge hd, Småland (i Fröseke 1404)
27. Fröset, Fröderyds sn, Västra hd, Småland (fröstryth 1296)
28. Fröset, Hängers sn, Ostbo hd, Småland (ji frösecin 1414, frösserät 1538)
29. Fröslunda, Stenäsna sn, Möckelby hd, Öland (in fröslundum 1312)
30. Frösve, sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (Frösvi 1397)
31. Fröslunda, Sunnersbergs sn, Källands hd, Västergötland (frösund 1470s)
32. Fröslunda, Kakinds hd, Västergötland (i fröslunda 1494)
33. Fredsberg, sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (frösberg 1279, frösberg 1279)
34. Frösö, Vallda sn, Ingelstads hd, Skåne (i Frösollf 1477, Frösollf 1491)
35. Frösten, Jättendals sn, Hälsingland (frösten 1483, frösten 1542)
36. Fröst, Alnö sn, Sundsvall, Medelpad (i frösether 1535)
37. Fröslund, Bjarträ sn, Ängermanland (i fröslunda 1500, i fröslund 1519)
38. Frösö, island and sn, Jämtland (De frösö 1314)

Denmark
1. Frös Herred, hd, Jylland (Frøsheret 1231)

It is very difficult to determine which Fröslunda in Överselö parish (Fröslunda or Kilfröslunda) older forms in medieval documents are to be identified with.
Njørør/*Nørør

**Norway**
1. Nerdrum, Fet hd, Akershus (i Nærdrarini 1363)
2. Norderhov, Østre hd, Hedmark (a Nærdrhofue 1370)
3. Norderhov, sn and hd, Buskerud (ON Njárðarhof; *NSL* p. 234)
4. Nærland, Nærbo hd, Rogaland (Nordelandi c. 1520)
5. Nærland, Finno hd, Rogaland (Nærland 1308)
6. Nærland, Masfjorden hd, Hordaland (Nerelandt c. 1520)
7. Nerland, Eresjord, Neset hd, More (Nordlande sokn *AB*)
8. †Nardo, Strinda hd, S. Trondelag (i Nirdole *AB*)
9. Nærum, Rygge hd, Østfold (af Nerdheimum 1320)
10. Nålum, Brunlanes hd, Vestfold (Nardiheim *RB*)
11. Næreim, Suldal, Rogaland (Nerenn, Nerem 1567, Nerimb 1602, Nerim 1610)
12. Næreim, Fjelberg hd, Hordaland (Nardiheims sokn 1326)
13. Næreim, Sylte hd, More (af Nerdheime *AB*)

**Sweden**
1. Norderön, sn, Jämtland
2. Närtuna, sn, Långhundra hd, Uppland
3. Nälsta, Spånga sn, Sollentuna hd, Uppland
4. Närlanda, Ekerö sn, Färentuna hd, Uppland
5. Närlanda, Badelunda sn, Sjunde hd, Västmanland
6. Närlanda, Gåsinge sn, Daga hd, Södermanland
7. Närlanda, Husby-Oppunda sn, Oppunda hd, Södermanland
8. Nällberga, Tystberga sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland
9. Nällberga, Svärta sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland
10. Nalavi, Kräcklinge sn, Hardemo hd, Närke
11. Nälberg, Hardemo sn and hd, Närke
12. †N(i)ærdaivi, Viby sn, Grimstens hd, Närke
13. Närlanda, Bälefs sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland
14. N(i)ærhavi (Närby), Drothems sn, Hammarkinds hd, Östergötland
15. Mjärdevi, Slaka sn, Hanekinds hd, Östergötland
16. Mjärdevi, Hugstads sn, Göstrings hd, Östergötland
17. †Nällsta, Ytterselö sn, Selebo hd, Södermanland (nerđdestum 1334, nærdistom 1411)

**Denmark**
1. Nærum, Copenhagen, Sjælland (Niartharum 1186)
2. Nørå, N., Fyn
3. Nærå, S., Fyn

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45 See Vikstrand, *Gudarnas platser*, p. 98, supplement with Nällsta.
46 See Kousgård Sørensen, *Haupotypen sakraler Ortsnamen Südkandinaviens*.
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Óðinn

Norway
1. Onsäker, Våler hd, Østfold (Odensakr RB)
2. Onso, hd, Østfold (ON Óðinsøy, see NG, i, 309)
3. Óðinsalr, Onso hd, Østfold (Óðinsalr Fagrskinna)
4. Onsud, Ullensaker hd, Akershus (a Odenshofe 1331, a Odenshofe RB)
5. Óðinsaker, Gran hd, Oppland (Onsager 1667)
6. Óðinsaker, Hole hd, Buskerud (Onsager 1578)
7. Óðinssalr, Kirkebo hd, Sogn og Fjordane (a Odenslande 1322)
8. Óðinssalr, Kinn hd, Sogn og Fjordane (i Odalenande BK, Odhenslandh 1500s)
9. Óðinsøyen, Buviken hd, S. Trøndelag (a Odinsyn AB, Odhensøy AB)
10. Óðinsøien, Fagrahd, Akershus (Onsager 1667)
11. Óðinssalr, Beitstad hd, N. Trøndelag (see NSL p. 240)

Sweden
1. Onsicke, Skogs-Tibble sn, Hagunda hd, Uppland (i Odhenseke 1409)
2. Odensfors/Onskarby, Tierp, Uppland (Odensfors 1480/odenskarlaby 1486)
3. ?Onsta, Tierp, Uppland (odenstatt, odenslunde 1500s)
4. Onslunda, Tensta sn, Norunda hd, Uppland (apud villam Odinslunde 1302)
5. Odenslund, Söderby-Karls sn, Lyhundra hd, Uppland (j odhenslunde 1365)
6. Odenslunda, Fresta sn, Vallentuna hd, Uppland (de Ödhinslundum 1351, j Odhenslundum 1409)
7. ?Odensholmen, ?Östra Ryds sn, Daneryds skl, Uppland (in oþinsholmi 1315)
8. Odensholmen, Skånela sn, Seminghundra hd, Uppland (odens hálma 1634)
9. Odensala, sn, Ärlinghundra hd, Uppland (othinharg 1286, othinsaerg 1288, othinsharg 1291, in oðhinsharg 1310)
10. Óðinsalir, Sala sn, Övertjurbgo hd, Västmanland (Onsals backar 1785)
11. ?Odensvi, sn, Ákerbo hd, Västmanland (Odhenwi 1351, j oþinswij 1366)
12. Odensholmen, Irsta sn, Sjunde hd, Västmanland (odensholm 1449)
13. Óðonjö, Fagersta, Västmanland (Onso 1486, Ossyö 1539)
14. ?Odensö, probably in Munktorps sn, Snevinge hd, Västmanland (aff odizsöo, i oðinzöo, i oðinzo 1485)
15. Odensvi, Väby sn, Grimstens hd, Örebro, Närke (i odhinshwi 1385)
16. ?Odenslunda, Aspö sn, Selebo hd, Södermanland (Othinhinslundum 1100s)
17. ?Odensvi, Kattnäs sn, Daå hd, Södermanland (j Odensvi, j Odenswij 1361)
18. Onsberga, Runnuna sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (othensberge 1431)
19. Onsberga, Sättersta sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (odhinsbiärgh 1364)
20. Odensberga, Gryts sn, Daå hd, Södermanland (in Othindsberghum 1348)
21. Óðensicke, Ytterselö sn, Selebo hd, Södermanland (in oðinshheke 1331, j odhinseke 1365)
22. ?Odensjö, probably in Rönö hd, Södermanland (j oðensio 1462)
23. ?Odensfors, Vretaklosters sn, Gullbergs hd, Östergötland (i wdhens ass 1500, oðhensfors 1535)
24. ?Odensstomta, Kuddby sn, Björkekins hd, Östergötland (i odhinstomptum 1409)
25. Óðensåker, Kullerstads sn, Memings hd, Östergötland (j oðhensakre 1375)
26. Œodenstad, Gillberga sn and hd, Värmland (innan Odinstadum 1355, Odhenstadhum 1361)
27. Onsön, island, Segerstads sn, Grums hd, Värmland (ein öoo ok heter Odhinsöö 1480)
28. Vånggårde, Orsa sn, Dalarna (odensgerdh 1539)
29. Odensala, Östersund, Jämtland (i odhinsal 1410, jodinsall 1430)
30. Odensjö, Barnarps sn, Tvera hd, Småland (odhensioo, odhenssioo 1394, i Odhensio 1456)
31. Odensjö, sn, Sunnerbo hd, Småland (i odhinsredh soken 1389, Odhensoryth 1413)
32. Odenslanda, Vederslövs sn, Kinnevalds hd, Småland (i Odhenslandom 1406)
33. Odensvi, sn, S. Tjûts hd, Småland (i Odenszwij 1358, in odhinswji 1371)
34. Odensvi, Högby sn, Handbôrs hd, Småland (in Othenswi 1351)
35. † Odensö, probably a small island in Emån, Högby sn, Handbôrs hd, Småland (vsque insulam Odensoo 1344)
36. Odenskàlla, a well in Åkatarp, Gudhems sn and hd, Västergötland (widh othens kyåldu 1287)
37. Odensåker, sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (Othensaker 1292, odhensaker 1313)
38. Onsö, island in Lake Vänern, Torsö sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (insule dicte othenso 1371)
39. Oslunda, Flistads sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (Onslunde 1540)
40. Odens kulle, hill, Gökhem sn, Vilske hd, Västergötland (Odens kulle 1561)
41. † Onsered, Tvärreds sn, Kinds hd, Västergötland (Onsered 1482)
42. † Onsjö, Larvs sn, Laske hd, Västergötland (Onsky 1550)
43. Onsjö, Vassånda-Naglums sn, Våne hd, Västergötland (Onsjö 1397, i othinssio 1517)
44. Onsö, Dal-Eds sn, Vedbo hd, Dalaland (een gardh i othens 1421)
45. Oslala, sn, Fjäre hd, Hålland (de Othænsale c. 1300, aff Ottænsale 1403, i Odensale 1490)
46. Onsö, Vapnö o Söndrumms sn, Halmstads hd, Hålland (in Othænsale 1377, i Odhinsyo 1399)
47. Oslunda, sn, Ingelstads hd, Skåne (aff Othænslundæ 1401, Othinslunda 1430)
48. † Othænsualle kîelle’, boundary mark in Höör, Hóörs sn, Frosta hd, Skåne (aff Othænsualle kîelle 1517)
49. Onsjö, hd, Skåne (i odenshärdat 1245, in Othens H. 1351, i Odenshärdat 1351, in othænhæret 1297–1333, Othænsherer c. 1300 Vjb, in othinshæret 1330)

Denmark

1. Vognsbæk, Skærum and Hørnsted sn, Horns hd, Jutland (Wonsbech 1530)
2. Vonsild, sn, Gisum hd, Jutland (Othensild 1482, Vonssoild 1442)
3. Oddense, sn, Hindborg hd, Jutland (Othensogen 1410, Odens 1463, Othensæ 1464)
4. Onsild, hd, Jutland (Othensylle c. 1186)
5. Oens, Ølsted sn, Hatting hd, Jutland (Ottens 1464, Othens 1484)
6. Vonsild, sn, N. Tyrstrup hd, Jutland (Odenschulde 1436, Wonsyl 1452)
7. Vonsbæk, sn, Haderslev hd, Jutland (Odsbek 1413, Odensbeke 1462)
8. Vojens, sn, Gram hd, Jutland (Wodens 1421, Wodense, Wodenze 1475)
9. Onsbjerg, sn, Samso (Othseng 1424)

47 Many thanks to Dr Peder Gammeltoft, The Name Research Section, Dept. of Scandinavian Research, University of Copenhagen, for help with identifications and written records.
How uniform was the Old Norse religion?

10. Odense, Fyn (Othensusuigensem 988, OÄSVI 1018-35, Odansue c. 1075, Othense, Othensæ 1123)

11. Onsved, Skuldelev sn, Horns hd, Sjælland (Othense 1085, Othænsweth 1320)

Þórr

Norway

1. †Torshov, Tørgstad hd, Østfold (i þosófoobærghom RB)
2. Torsnes, Borge hd, Østfold (þorsnæs c. 1400)
3. ‡Tose (< Torshof) in Torsnes, Borge hd, Østfold (Tosse 1500s)
4. ‡Torsnes, Våler hd, Østfold (þoresnese 1433)
5. Torshov, Aker hd, Akershus (i þosofiuæ 1370, þorshof 1376)
6. Torshov, Enebakk hd, Akershus (a þossaue 1403)
7. ‡Torshov, Skedsmo hd, Akershus (Tousoeg 1578)
8. Torshov, Gjerdrum hd, Akershus (a þorshofue RB)
9. ‡Torshov, Yang hd, Hedmark (Torseg 1520, Torsog 1578)
10. Torshov, Loiten hd, Hedmark (Taasshaagh 1475, Torshoff 1529)
11. Torshov, Jevnaker hd, Oppland (þorsof 1361)
12. ‡Torshov, Sigdal hd, Buskerud (Tozog 1578, Thosseg 1617)
13. ‡Torsøy, Tjølling hd, Vestfold (þossøy RB)
14. Torstvet, Hedrum hd, Vestfold (Torsstwetit 1500s)
15. ‡Torsnes, Vikedal hd, Rogaland (Thosnes 1602)
16. Totland, Aversund hd, Hordaland (af þorslande c. 1175, þorsland 1427, Thotland 1463, Torsland 1490)
17. Torsnes, Jondal hd, Hordaland (þorsnæs BK, þorsnes 1314)
18. ‡Torsnes, Balestrand hd, Sogn og Fjordane (Torness 1500s, Torsnes 1603)
19. ‡Torsør, Y. Holmedal hd, Sogn og Fjordane (þorsètre BK)
20. ‡Torsnes, Hillesø hd, Trøms (Thorssnes 1614)

Totland (original Þórsland?)

1. Totland, Åserål hd, Vest-Agder (Todtzlanndt 1595)
2. Totland, Ø. Siredal hd, Vest-Agder (Thodland 1619)
3. Totland, Finnås hd, Hordaland (Totland 1500s)
4. Totland, Samnanger hd, Hordaland (Thotland 1610)
5. Totland, Hosanger hd, Hordaland (Totland 1500s)
6. Totland, Masfjorden hd, Hordaland (Totland 1500s)
7. Totland, Daviken hd, Sogn og Fjordane (i þothlandi BK, Thodlandt 1563)

Sweden

1. †Thorshugle, Uppsala, Uppland (i Torsvghom 1415, thorshugla land f. 1418, torsughlum 1430, j torsughlum 1440, een wreet nest sancti peders kyrkia Aff torsala bagga liggiandes 1479, vidh torsala bakka 1481)
2. Torslunda, Tierp sn, Uppland (torslunda 1544)
3. Torslund, Almunge sn, Närthinghundra hd, Uppland (torslunda 1556)
4. ‡Torsbro, Ramsta sn, Hagunda hd, Uppland (torsbro 1460)
5. Torslund, Frösundas sn, Lagunda hd, Uppland (i Torslundom 1420)
6. Torshyra, Vendels sn, Orbyhus hd, Uppland (j torskmyra 1471)
7. Torsvi, sn, Trögs hd, Uppland (De thorsvi 1314, thorswi 1303)
8. Torsholma, Frösundas sn, Semingunandra hd, Uppland (I ßorsulmi U 343, Jn thorsholmi 1296)
9. Torslon (Munkholm), Tärnsund, Uppland (in dorseh 1298)
10. Torslund, Täby sn, Danderyd skl, Uppland (j thorslundom 1457)
11. Torslund, vicarage, Ekerö sn, Färentuna hd, Uppland (in thorslundum 1342)
12. Torslund, Sanga sn, Färentuna hd, Uppland (Thorshlundum 1257)
13. Torslund, Husby-Lyhunda sn, Lyhunda hd, Uppland (i torskunda 1536)
14. Torslund, Haga sn, Ärlinghundra hd, Uppland (in thorslundom 1335)
15. Torsäker, hd, Uppland (i thorssakirshundare 1370)
16. Torstuna, sn and hd, Uppland (torstunum 1257, de Thorstunum 1287)
17. Torslund, Torstuna sn and hd, Uppland (Jn thorslundum 1296)
18. Torsmossen, Odensvi sn, Åkerbo hd, Västmanland (in thorssusa 1331)
19. Torsäker, sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (De þorsäker 1314)
20. Torsholm, (island in the lake Bäven) Helgesta sn, Villättinge gd, Södermanland (Thorsholm 1447, Thorsholmen 1480, Thorsholmen 1502)
21. Torshälla, town, Södermanland (thoresharchum 1252, thorshargy 1279, in thorshargi 1288)
22. Torsö, (island in Bäven) Ludgo sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (torssø 1476)
23. Torsberga, Stenkvista sn, Ö-Reskarne hd, Södermanland (j thorshbergum 1381)
24. Torsberga, Runtuna sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (torsberga 1353)
25. Torslund, Husby-Oppunda sn, Oppunda hd, Södermanland (j thorslundom 1375)
26. Torsnäs, Torsäkers sn, Rönö hd, Södermanland (thorsnäs 1384)
27. Torsjö, O. Ryds sn, Skärkins hd, Östergötland (j thorssidhi 1371, j thorssydhe 1376, j thorssydhe 1381)
28. Torslund, O. Stenby sn, Östkinds hd, Östergötland (thorslundh 1393, i Thorslunde 1412)
29. Torsnäs, O. Eneby sn, Norröping, Östergötland (thorsnäs 1453)
30. Torsnäs, V. Hargs sn, Vifolka hd, Östergötland (i Torsness 1488)
31. Torsnäs, O. Stenby sn, Östkinds hd, Östergötland (j thorsnesi 1377, j thorsnäs 1383)
32. Torsäker, Horns sn, Kinda hd, Östergötland (thorsäker 1545)
33. Torsbergen, Gotland (jors borg GutaLaw)
34. Torslund, sn, Algutsrumshd, Öland (de thorslundom 1283)
35. Torsrum, Ålems sn, Stranda hd, Småland (in thorsrumbni 1316, j toorsrwm 1461)
36. Torsås, sn, S. Möré hd, Småland (Thorsas 1290, thorsaas 1335)
37. Torsjö, Höreda sn, S. Vedo hd, Småland (j Torsjöd 1406, thorsio 1409)
38. Torsjö, O. Torsösn, Konga hd, Småland (in Thorsyo, parochia Thorsas 1348)
39. Östra Torsås, sn, Konga hd, Småland (j Thorssas sökn 1403, i torsas 1474)
40. Torset, Valldsjö sn, Västra hd, Småland (j torseryde c. 1500)
41. Västra Torsås, sn, Allbo hd, Småland (j thorsase 1376)
42. Torseryd, Odensjö sn, Sunnerbo hd, Småland (in Thorsrydh 1354)
43. Torset, Berga sn, Sunnerbo hd, Småland (j thorsdyhd 1424)
44. Torsö, Ottersdals sn, Kållands hd, Västergötland (jn thors oö 1311)
45. Torsundet, (strait between Lållandsö and Spårön) Kållands hd, Västergötland (j thorsund 1391)
46. Torsö, sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (de torsö 1293, in thorso 1309, thorsö 1310)
HOW UNIFORM WAS THE OLD NORSE RELIGION?

47. Þörse, Istorp sn, Marks hd, Västergötland (Thorzejdh 1434)
48. Torsås, Brunns sn, Redvågs hd, Västergötland (i Torsåesz 1540)
49. Torslanda, sn, V. Hisings hd, Bohuslän (j Torslandum 1388, Thorslanda RB c. 1400)
50. Torsång, sn, Dalarna (thorsanger 1288, thorsang 1356, Thorsunge 1357, Thorsange 1368, Torsang 1368, j thorsang sokn 1386)
51. Torsvallen, Valbo sn, Gästrikland (i Thorsvallen 1443)
52. Torsåker, sn, Gästrikland (De thorsakir 1314, Deinde thorsakir 1302–19)
53. Torsåker, sn, Ångermanland (De thorsakir 1314, in thorsakir 1316)
54. Þorsjó, Gunnarps sn, Halland (i torsridh, torsrid 1455)
55. Þorsjó, (small lake) Eslövs sn, Tönnersjö hd, Halland (Thoresjo 1452)
56. Þorsjó, Solberga and Orsjo snr, Vemmenhögs hd, Skåne (de Thorsyo 1349, thorssio 1428)
57. Þorseke, Fjälkestad sn, Villands hd, Skåne (y Thorsceghe 1551)

Denmark
1. Torslunde, Sjælland (Torslundæ 1308)
2. Torslunde, Lolland (Torslund 1200s)
3. Torslund, Fyn (Thorslundæ 1315)
4. Torsager, Djursland, Jutland
5. Torsbjerg, Schlesvig

Ullr

Norway
1. Últvet, Eidsberg hd, Østfold (Vlleþueit RB)
2. Ullarøy, Skjeberg hd, Østfold (Vllaøy 1349)
3. Úlleren, Aker hd, Akershus (i Ullarini RB)
4. Ullevål, Aker hd, Akershus (a Ullaruale 1309)
5. Úlreng, Skedsmo hd, Akershus (Vllerengh RB)
6. Úlleren, Ul lensaker hd, Akershus (Vlreng 1520, Vllerudh 1500s)
7. Úlleren, S. Odalen hd, Hedmark (Ullerni RB)
8. Úllarøy (now Gjersøien), S. Odalen hd, Hedmark (i Vllaøy 1306)
9. Úlland, Fåberg hd, Opland (Wlleland 1604)
10. Úlleren, Hole hd, Buskerud (Ullaryn 1291)
11. Úllarål, Norderhov hd, Buskerud (i Vllrarel 1355)
12. Úlleren, Ø. Eiker hd, Buskerud (a Ullaryn 1445)
13. Úlleland, Ø. Eiker hd, Buskerud (Wllalanddh 1430)
14. Úlland, Flesberg hd, Buskerud (Wlleland 1500s)
15. Ullerviken, Sem hd, Vestfold (Vllervik RB)
16. Uleberg, Brunlanes hd, Vestfold (Wlleberg 1593)
17. Úllaren, Tinn hd, Telemark (Vlleren 1511)
18. Úlle dalen, Kvitscidi hd, Telemark (Vlledallen 1665)
19. Últvetir, Gjerstad hd, Aust-Agder (Vlthuerdt 1593)
20. Úllarøy, V. Moland hd, Aust-Agder (Ullerøen 1670)
21. Úllero, Spind hd, Vest-Agder (Vllerø 1594)
22. Úlleland, Fede hd, Vest-Agder (Wlleland 1594)
23. Ælland, Hitterø hd, Vest-Agder (Vlleland 1594)
24. Ælleland, Narbo hd, Rogaland (Ulleland 1668)
25. Ællenes, Rennesø hd, Rogaland (Vlnes 1563)
26. Ælland, Samnanger hd, Hordaland (Vlleland 1668)
27. Ælleland, Volden hd, Møre (or Villarlande 1324)

Sweden
1. Ællund(a), Kungshusby sn, Trögd, Uppland (j villalund 1457)
2. Ællbolsta, Jumkils sn, Ulleråkers hd, Uppland (de villabolstad 1316, in villabolstade 1316)
3. Ællunda, Tillinge sn, Åsuda hd, Uppland (ii Villalunde 1353)
4. Ællbro, Tillinge sn, Åsuda hd, Uppland (Vllabro 1444, j villabo 1445)
5. Ælleråker, hd, Uppsala, Uppland (vllarakir 1298)
6. Æltuna, Uppsala, Uppland (Werntune 1221, in villatunum 1316)
7. Ælle, Stora, Bro sn and hd, Uppland (in villawi 1326)
8. Ælle, Lilja, Bro sn and hd, Uppland (j Villawij 1486)
9. Ællfors, Tierps sn, Örbyhus hd, Uppland (vllafors 1326, i Ullafors 1357)
10. Ællståmmma, Litslena sn, Trögds hd, Uppland (i Villastempne 1419)
11. Ælleråker, Simtuna sn and hd, Uppland (vilerakyr 1346, j Villaraki 1360)
12. Ællberga, Räby-Rekarne sn, V.-Rekarne hd, Södermanland (j villabergh 1461)
13. Ællalunda, Jäders sn, Österrekarne hd, Södermanland (j villalunde 1344)
14. Ælle, Overjärna sn, Öknebo hd, Södermanland
15. Ælle, Sorunda sn, Solholms hd, Södermanland (villa 1400-t., i villawy 1452)
16. Ælle, Gåsinge sn, Daga hd, Södermanland (j villawij 1366)
17. Ælle, Nikolai sn (Nyköping), Jönåkers hd, Södermanland (vllaui 1330)
18. Ællunda, Ytterenhörna sn, Selbo hd, Södermanland (en by benempd Villlund j Enhörna sockn 1358)
19. Ællunda, Yterterelö sn, Selbo hd, Södermanland (i villalundum 1356)
20. Ælle, Ista sn, Siende hd, Västmanland (in Villawi 1371)
21. Ælle, Munktorps sn, Sneviringe hd, Västmanland (i villawy 1382)
22. Ælle, Köpings sn, Åkerbo hd, Västmanland (in Villawi 1349, j villai, aff villai c. 1400)
23. Ællekålv, Högbysn, Göstrings hd, Östergötland (villalff 1337, i villakalfwe 1384)
24. Ællståmmma, Landeryds sn, Hanekinds hd, Östergötland (villastempnu 1317)
25. Ælle(h), Örberga sn, Dals hd, Östergötland (in Ullervi 1313, in villerui 1320)
26. Ælle, Järstads sn, Göstrings hd, Östergötland (af Villawi 1358, ii villawy 1376)
27. Ælle, Kimstads sn, Memnings hd, Östergötland (i villawi 1381)
28. Ælle, St. Lars sn (Linköping), Östergötland (de villawi 1300, in villavi 1343)
29. Ælbersta, Skärkins sn and hd, Östergötland (af villabolsta 1367, af villabolstade 1371)
30. Ællavi, V. Stenby sn, Ask ahd, Östergötland (i Villawij 1434)
31. Ællnäs, Örberga sn, Dals hd, Östergötland (vllanäs 1432, j villanäs 1435)
32. Ællanäs, Nora sn, Närke (villanäs j noro snk 1415)
33. Ællavi, Askersund, Sundbo hd, Närke (j villawij 1405)
34. Ællavi (cf. Ullavisöen between Rinkeby and Glanshammar), Närke (Ullavi 1606)
35. Ællavi, Kilsp sn, Närke (Ullevi hampn 1554)
36. Ællersäter, Näsby sn, Fallingsbro hd, Närke (i Villassathrom 1413, i Villassathrom 1413)
37. Ælle, Sköllersta sn and hd, Närke (i j gärde i Villlewigh 1498)
HOW UNIFORM WAS THE OLD NORSE RELIGION?

38. Óllurud, Nedre, sn, Kils hd, Värmland (de vllæro 1326, Ullrø 1330–34)
39. Ólllene, sn, Vilske hd, Västergötland (Ollene 1330–34, vllene sokin 1447)
40. Óllervad, sn, Vadsbo hd, Västergötland (vllæri 1278, vlarwi 1293)
41. Óllasjö, sn, Kinds hd, Västergötland (de vllæsio 1314, vllasio 1406)
42. Óllerön, Dals-Eds sn, Vedbo hd, Dalslan (een gardh j wllero 1421)
43. Ullevi, Gårdsby sn, Möckelby hd, Öland (j vllawj 1448)
44. Ullevi, Gamleby sn, S. Tjists hd, Småland (in vllawi 1440, in vllawi, in vllawy 1436)
45. Óllavi (mentioned with Rottne, Söraby sn, Norrvidinge hd), Småland (Wllau 1350)
46. Ulvi, Leksands sn, Dalarna (j vlllevi 1450)
47. Óllberg, Njurunda, Medelpad (vilebergghe 1472, i vlleberg 1500, i Wllebärgh 1502, i vlleberg 1515)
48. Óllvi, Hackås sn, Jämtland

Ullinn

Norway
1. Óllensaker (< Ullinshof), hd, Akershus (Ullinshofs sokin 1300)
2. Óllershof, Nes hd, Akershus (a Vllinshofue RB)
3. Óllinshof (Nes vicarage), Nes hd, Hedmark (Vllinshofwe 1341)
4. Óllinsvin (Våge vicarage), Våge hd, Oppland (aVllinsin 1354, a Vllinsini 1356)
5. Óllensaker, N. Land, Oppland (Vllinssakær sokn 1337)
6. Ólsäker, Hemsedal hd, Buskerud (Vllesaack 1500s, Vllenssagger 153, Vllendtzagger 1604)
7. Óllenvang, sn and hd, Hordaland (Ullinsvangr 1309)
8. Ólleland, Førde hd, Sogn og Fjordane (i Ullinslande BK)

Abbreviations

AB Adaksi Bolts Jordebøg, ed. by P. A. Munch (Oslo: [n.pub.], 1852) [1430s–40s]
BK Bjorgynjar kaliaskinn, ed. by P. A. Munch (Oslo: [n.pub.], 1843) [c. 1360]
Goth Gothic
dl hundred district (herred, häradh)
lfs landsforsamling
MFr Middle Frisian
MLG Middle Low German
NG Norske Gaardsnavne, 19 vols (Oslo: Cammermeyer, 1897–1936)
NSL Norsk stadnamnleksikon, ed. by J. Sandnes and O. Stemshaug, 3rd edn (Oslo: Samlaget, 1990)
ODa Old Danish
OE Old English
OHG Old High German
ON Old Norse
OSax Old Saxon
OSw Old Swedish
Pr.-Germ. Proto-Germanic
Transliterations of Frequent Name Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ak(i)r/åker/ager</th>
<th>'arable land'</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>berg</td>
<td>'hill, mountain'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eke</td>
<td>'oak grove'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eng/äng</td>
<td>'meadow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fors</td>
<td>'rapid, stream'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hof/hov</td>
<td>'pagan cult site or building'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hol</td>
<td>'mound, small hill'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holme</td>
<td>'island, peninsula'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyllæ</td>
<td>'shelf, ledge'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hørg, harg</td>
<td>'pagan cult site (of some kind)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>källa</td>
<td>'well'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kulle</td>
<td>'small hill'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>land</td>
<td>'grassland, field, arable land'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lund</td>
<td>'grove'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log/lag</td>
<td>e.g. 'laws', and later 'law district'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nes/næs</td>
<td>'peninsula'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ø/ö</td>
<td>'island'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sal(r)</td>
<td>'(banqueting) hall'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sø/sjö</td>
<td>'lake'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vangr</td>
<td>'grass land, field'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi/vé/væ</td>
<td>'pagan cult site'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vin</td>
<td>originally '(kind of) meadow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vøl/vall</td>
<td>'grass land, levelled field'</td>
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</table>