

Derivation and alternatives of the name Nash

"Nash, A Buckinghamshire Village", Duncan C. and King J., 1987.

The name Nash is derived from the old Celtic word, "Asshe", meaning a place where clay was cut. During Norman times it became "La Nasshe", implying in the old Norman French "a flat area", a word having a similar root to "l'assiette", meaning "the plate". This is odd as Nash is built on a hill, but in early times the community linked up with Whaddon, and the clearing in the "Whaddon Chase" probably included the piece of valley on either side of the old Whaddon road.

"Victoria History of the Counties of England"., Page W. ed 1905-1928 (Whaddon with Nash).

Nash (Esse, Asshe, La Nasshe), a parish and village, formerly a hamlet included in Whaddon, was constituted a civil parish in 1896-9.

"The Place-names of Buckinghamshire", Mawer A. and Stenton F. M., 1925.

Nash

Esse	1231 (Calendar of Close Rolls)
	1302 (Feudal Aids 1899-1920)
Asse	c. 1275 (Chronica Monasterii S. Albani 1863-1876)
Essche	1346 (Feudal Aids 1899-1920)
Asshe	1389 (Calendar of Patent Rolls)
Nassche	1520 (Victoria County History 1905-1928)

v. *æsc*. 'At the ash-tree.'

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The place-name Nash doesn't derive from a Celtic word, but from the Old English (ie Anglo-Saxon) words 'aet' + 'aesc' (pronounced ash), meaning 'at the ash[tree]'. 'The locational sense required that the preposition 'aet' be in the dative case, in which it becomes, in Middle English, 'atten', so the name was 'atten ash', which was shortened to 'nash'. This is not controversial - there are many placenames and surnames in which this shortening ('elision') occurred (eg Noke = atten oak, Nalder = atten alder, Nye = atten eye, Nore = atten ore), and this is the explanation given in all place-name and surname books, including A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton, *Place-names of Buckinghamshire* (Cambridge, 1925), p. 71.