

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777952003321
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Titolo	Cultural transition in the Chilterns and Essex region, 350 AD to 650 AD // John T. Baker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hatfield : , : University Of Hertfordshire Press, , 2006
ISBN	1-905313-68-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Collana	Studies in Regional and Local History ; ; Volume 4
Disciplina	914.25
Soggetti	Civilization Chiltern Hills (England) Antiquities Essex (England) Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Copyright; Contents; List of Figures; General Editor's preface; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; Chapter 1 Introduction: Chilterns and Essex region; Chapter 2 Late Romano-British archaeology; Chapter 3 Early Anglo-Saxon archaeology; Chapter 4 Place-names and British survival; Chapter 5 Place-names and the spread of Old English; Chapter 6 Conclusion: cultural transition and the validity of a multidisciplinary regional study; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	With authority and sound methodology, this study compares archaeological evidence from the fourth to seventh centuries AD in the Chilterns and Essex region with the considerable body of data taken from the place names of the same area. The distribution of supposedly early Old English place name elements suggests that, contrary to orthodox opinion, these elements are not particularly useful indicators of early Germanic influence. Additionally, some elements traditionally thought to be relatively unimportant may belong to an earlier stratum of place name formation. By reexamining data, this