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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