

Sample paragraph from Chapter 5, p.142

With his eyes firmly fixed on the north, and preoccupied with taming the Northumbrians and the Welsh, in the following years it is likely that Egbert had little time or inclination to deal with the Cornish on his western flank. They may have been an irritant but, given their relatively slender resource base, they hardly threatened his ambitions. By the 830s however, Egbert had to settle for being merely king of Wessex, his claims to overlordship of the north thwarted or sated. It was at this time that Cornish leaders again decided to risk a military adventure across their border with Wessex. Their decision appears to have been prompted by the appearance of a Danish fleet. This may have been the same fleet that was recorded as pillaging the Loire Valley in 834, and which, returning northwards in 836, 'rampaged along the north coast of Somerset and the Severn estuary', defeating Egbert's army, though not comprehensively, at Carhampton in Somerset.