**How did the village name originate?**

The village name comes from an agricultural setting, although there are other possible meanings to the name. An ‘auster’ was a pen or an enclosed piece od land, for keeping sheep from wandering on the common land.

The village has links with nearby Roman remains and it is suggested by Abraham de la Pryne that a battle may have been fought on the land near the village between the Roma Army, under Publius Ostorius Scapula and ancient British tribesmen, the Coritani and that the village name may have come from ‘the site of Ostorius’s battle.

Other suggestions come from its Saxon name, Oestrefelda which translates as ‘Easter Field. At the 702 AD Synod of Austerfield, amongst other important decisions made was the acceptance of the modern day calculation of the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the [spring equinox](https://www.thoughtco.com/march-20-equinox-1435652). In practice, that means that Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after March 21. Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25, depending on when the paschal full moon occurs.

In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described:

***AUSTERFIELD****, a township-chapelry in Blyth parish, W. R. Yorkshire; adjacent to Notts, and to the Retford and Doncaster railway, 1½ mile NNE of Bawtry. Post Town, Bawtry. Acres, 2,776. Real property, £3,477. Pop., 389. Houses, 89. A Roman camp occurs here on the line of North Watling-street; and a great battle is supposed to have been fought adjacent between the Britons and the Romans under Ostorins. The living is a curacy, joined with Bawtry, in the diocese of Lincoln. The church is Norman.*

The sign, on entry to the village, notes that Austerfield is the birthplace of the Mayflower Pilgrim, William Bradford.

**Add in photo of village sign**