

Date

Ellingham

Kirby Cane

<p>1066</p>	<p>In December, Stigand and his brother Bishop Athelmar of East Anglia both of who had supported Edgar Atheling's claim to the throne, after Harold's death at Hastings, surrendered to the Normans. After a spell as a captive in Normandy he resumed his duties in 1070. Later the same year William I dismissed Stigand and other English prelates and replaced them with Norman appointees.</p>	
<p>1067 <i>William I</i> <i>14 Oct 1066 -</i> <i>(crowned</i> <i>25 Dec)</i> <i>9 Sep 1087</i></p>	<p>William the Conqueror, himself, took over all Stigand's lands, including Ellingham.</p> <p>It is recorded as having 5 sokemen (possibly freemen of Viking origin) who had a half caracate and 15 acres between them and ½ plough (i.e. 2 oxen). The church was endowed with 24 acres.</p> <p>William de Noiers was the king's steward and the land was valued and accounted for in Stockton (became part of the soke of Stockton, or Stockton Socun). The lord of this soke which comprised Stockton, Geldeston, Ellingam. Kirby Cane, Wyndel, Winston and Gillingham was responsible for justice and to provide taxes and soldiers to the Crown. The soke manors could change hands as their owners wished.</p> <p>Thus Ellingham seemed to have about 5 households that were worth taxing.</p>	<p>The lands of the Benedictine Abbot of St Edmund's seem to have retained the principal manor of Kirby, which at this time was being held by Ranfrid. They held 2 caracate of land (240 acres in demesne, for their own use), 1 villager, 11 smallholders. 3 ploughs in lordship (an increase of one over pre-conquest times); always 5 men's ploughs; 14 acres of meadow, enough woodland to pannage 6 pigs. The Abbey received ½ the rent of a mill before conquest and 1½ now. Mills in the Domesday Book were either horse mills or watermills. Perhaps the parish boundaries were different then, and the mill recorded was on the river and in the present parish of Ellingham. There may have been 2 churches; one was endowed with 20 acres in free-aims to Bury, the manor lord receiving only prayers for his family: The other, worth 1s-8d had 14 acres. Belonging to the lord were 4 cobs belonging to the manor, 4 head of cattle, 15 pigs, 100 sheep. 3 freemen had 3 caracate (360 acres) of land between them, 4½ ploughs, and 3 acres of meadow. This estate had risen in value from £2 to £6.</p> <p>Earl Hugh of Avranches (later created Earl of Chester) took over another portion of Kirby which had previously been held by a thane (a thane held 5 hides of land, 600 acres) of Stigand's, called Osmund, and then by Ralph of Beaufour. Earl Hugh was one of William's chief advisors, and brought 60 ships for the invasion. He was rewarded with vast lands in England. He is recorded as being obsessive about hunting, women and food, and came to be called Hugh the Fat. He seems to have spent most of his time fighting the Welsh, so it seems unlikely he ever visited Kirby. Earl Hugh put it into the hands of Waring. This property had 1 caracate (120 acres). There was one smallholder who had 1 plough of arable, 3 acres of meadow and enough woodland for 3 pigs. There were also 4 freemen under their lord's patronage, who together held 15 acres, ½ plough of, which was arable. 20 acres of the total belonged to the church. Earl Hugh's son succeeded him in 1101, but died tragically in 1119. It may have been at this point that the Bigod family took possession.</p>

