

THE MIDDLE AGES 1154 - 1485

At this period, it seems likely that the common and the open fields of Ellingham and Kirby Cane already existed (see the [Medieval Landscape](#)). The common would have been bounded by deep ditches and thick hedges to prevent animals wandering onto arable land. In places these boundaries are still visible. At the end of Mill Road near the playing field there was a gate, the Bud Fengate, the field behind the garage was called Bud Piece. There was another gate between Dairy Farm and Dockeney called Westglebe Falgate leading into the island of arable strips (the open field) amidst the sea of common grazing, which maybe where the concept of Ellingham Island came from.

<i>Henry II</i> 19 Dec 1154 – 6 July 1189	Hugh Bigod was deprived of Bungay Castle, but it was restored in 1163 and he spent the next ten years building a keep. This must have amazed the locals.	
1173	Those who owed Hugh Bigod military service may have fought in his army of rebellion. Henry II defeated him and confiscated most of his properties.	
<i>Richard I</i> Sep 1189 - Apr 1199	In the reign of Richard I, Nevill's Manor at Ellingham, was held by the abbot of Bury St. Edmund, and in this year it was held by Ernold de Charneles from the abbot for one knight's fee and the payment of 20s scutage (a tax paid instead of the military service), and to the Norwich caille guard (castle guard).	William son of Godbold held the manor. On his death it passed to his brother, Alexander.
1196	Hugh, son of Sturmi, held 18 acres in Ellingham from Walter de Ellingham for 20 shillings sterling.	
1197 <i>John</i> 27 May 1199 - 19 Oct 1216	Conveyance of half of Ellingham watermill between Alexander de Kirkeby (son of Gobold) and William (son of Roger de Hales) his part of the mill with rights to the water and fishing.	Abbot Samson of St Edmunds Bury let to Alexander, son of Godbold de Kirkebia for one Knight's fee and the acquittance of all arrears. A knight's fee was the military service owed to a feudal lord in return for land. Later it was replaced by a tax called scutage and by 1662 this had become a monetary payment only. Alexander seems to have been one of the Knights of St Edmund who provided the military service owed by the Abbey to the King. Walter de Cam let a mill to Thomas de Longville and possibly a lordship here.

