



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Kingham

Landownership

In 1086 Kingham manor was assessed at 10 hides, and on later evidence probably included all or most of the present-day parish.¹ From the 11th to the 13th century it was held by the prominent Norman barons the Mandevilles, several of whom resided, and under whom it was divided among three female heirs. One part passed by the 14th century to the resident Chastiluns, and in 1392 a later owner granted that share to the newly founded New College, Oxford. By the 19th century the college owned c.22 of the parish's c.64 yardlands, in all around 610 a. or a third of the total.² Another part (covering 16 yardlands in 1662) passed to a succession of minor non-resident lords,³ and in 1829 was bought by James Langston of Sarsden, whose successor the earl of Ducie sold it in the 1880s--90s to Charles Baring Young (d. 1928) of Daylesford, the founder of Kingham Hill school. By 1910 Young was the parish's largest landowner, holding three fifths of the parish, although New College (which retained its estate until the 1950s) was by then sole lord, the other lordships having lapsed. Numerous small-scale freeholds (some of them reputed manors) were recorded from the Middle Ages, medieval ecclesiastical owners including Hurley priory (Berks.) and nearby Bruern abbey.⁴

Kingham Manor

In 1086 Kingham was held from the king by Geoffrey de Mandeville (d. c.1100), and descended to his son William (d. 1105 x 1116) and grandson Geoffrey de Mandeville (d. 1144), 1st earl of Essex.⁵ His son Geoffrey (d. 1166), the 2nd earl, granted a knight's fee in Kingham to his illegitimate elder brother Ernulf (d. 1179), who conveyed it to his son Ralph.⁶ Their branch of the family retained it in the 1230s when Philip de Mandeville, who kept a prison at Kingham, held it from Maud (d. 1236), countess of Essex, and later from her son

¹ DB, f. 159v. (incl. land for 16 ploughteams, 109 a. of meadow, and 33 a. of pasture); below.

² OHC, tithe and enclo. awards; cf. New Coll. Arch. 1433; 3810 (giving slightly different figs).

³ *Woodward's Progress*, 52, 63--4.

⁴ Below (other estates); econ. hist. (parl. enclo. and later).

⁵ DB, f. 159v.; *Complete Peerage*, V, 113--16; *ODNB*, s.v. Geoffrey de Mandeville (d. 1144).

⁶ J.H. Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville: A Study of the Anarchy* (1892), 230--2, citing charters in Bodl. MS Dugdale 15 (Beaufort of Emscote charters); *ibid.* MS Ch. Oxon. d.5/57 (Wm de Mandeville's confirmation); C.T. Clay and D.E. Greenway (eds), *Early Yorkshire Families* (Yorks. Archaeol. Soc. Rec. Ser. 135, 1973), 56--7.

and heir Humphrey de Bohun (d. 1275), earl of Hereford.⁷ Philip was succeeded before 1242 by his brother William,⁸ whose heirs were his sisters Hilary, Margery, and Alice. Alice's daughter Clemence and Clemence's husband Giles de Grenhurst sold their share in 1254 to Sir Walter de Grey (d. 1268), while the remaining thirds passed to Hilary's husband Ralph Carbonel and Margery's son Robert of Thorley. In addition, Philip's widow Bibelisa (d. 1258) and William's widow Margery both held portions in dower.⁹ In 1279 the lordship was still divided amongst William de Mandeville's (unnamed) heirs, but by 1302 the joint lords were John Flambard and Ralph Chastilun, each of whom apparently held half the manor for a quarter of a knight's fee.¹⁰ Flambard's share may actually have been closer to two thirds, however, since in 1327 Joan Flambard paid 14s. 6d. in tax compared with Chastilun's 8s. 6d.¹¹

Ralph Chastilun's portion passed by 1346 to his son Gilbert, who the following year was licensed to crenellate his manor house at Kingham, and who was granted free warren there in 1355.¹² Gilbert's son John predeceased him, and on his own death (by 1359) he was succeeded by his brother Roger Chastilun, rector of Barcheston (Warws.).¹³ Roger conveyed the manor to Sir Thomas de Langley (to whom he was in debt) in 1361,¹⁴ and following Thomas's death that year it passed with Langley to his widow Alice, who retained it in 1374.¹⁵ Soon afterwards, however, it passed to Edward III's mistress Alice Perrers, and in 1377 (following Richard II's accession) it was forfeited to the Crown, being let to a local man (William Hawkin) the following year at an annual rent of 24 marks (£16).¹⁶ In 1380 it was restored to Perrers's husband Sir William Windsor, who conveyed it to trustees prior to William Wykeham, bishop of Winchester, using it to endow New College, Oxford.¹⁷ The college finally acquired the manor in 1392,¹⁸ and at enclosure in 1850 received 611 a. for its

⁷ *Book of Fees*, I, 449, 454, 457; *Oxon. Eyre, 1241*, no. 1024; *Complete Peerage*, V, 134--5.

⁸ *Book of Fees*, II, 828, 839; New Coll. Arch. 11773 (undated charter calling Philip Wm's brother).

⁹ *Oxon. Fines*, 170; A.H. Hershey (ed.), *Special Eyre Rolls of Hugh Bigod 1258--60*, II (Selden Soc. 133, 2021), pp. 384--5; TNA, JUST 1/701, mm. 10d.--11. A memory of the manor's division 'among three sisters' was preserved in the 1660s: *Woodward's Progress*, 49.

¹⁰ *Rot. Hund.* II, 733; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 160.

¹¹ TNA, E 179/161/9; cf. E 179/161/8 (for 1316), when Chastilun paid 16s. 2d. and John de Rothynge (possibly Flambard's lessee) 30s. In 1304 Flambard held two thirds of an estate in Kingham, not mentioning the manor: *ibid.* CP 25/1/285/26, no. 302.

¹² *Feudal Aids*, IV, 184; *Cal. Pat.* 1345--8, 218; *Cal. Chart.* 1341--1417, 147; TNA, CP 25/1/189/17, no. 21.

¹³ TNA, CP 25/1/190/20, no. 41; CP 25/1/190/21, no. 39; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* III, pp. 132--3.

¹⁴ TNA, C 241/140/29; New Coll. Arch. 11771; 11778; 11791--3; 11796.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIII, p. 139; *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 48. Langley (bordering Wychwood forest) lay in Shipton-under-Wychwood parish.

¹⁶ *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, III, D.410; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* IV, p. 5; *Cal. Fine* 1377--83, 95.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1377--81, 503; *Cal. Close* 1381--5, 105; New Coll. Arch. 11776--7; 11782; 11785--7; 11790; 11798; BL, Add. Ch. 38810; TNA, CP 25/1/289/52, no. 46.

¹⁸ New Coll. Arch. 11767--9; 11783; 11802; *Cal. Close* 1396--9, 85 (incl. confirmation by the Chastilun heir John atte Hall in 1397).

Kingham copyholds and leaseholds.¹⁹ In 1874 it sold the 340-a. Manor farm (encompassing the site of the medieval manor house) to Robert Byass of Daylesford, who sold it to Charles Baring Young with the rest of the Daylesford estate in 1883.²⁰ By 1910 the college retained only 109 a. in Kingham,²¹ but nevertheless remained sole lord, the parish's other lordships having apparently lapsed.²² The college sold its remaining land in the parish in 1957--8.²³

John Flambard's share may have been subsumed into a Kingham estate held by Ralph fitz Bernard (d. 1306) and his successors, the lords of neighbouring Cornwell.²⁴ In 1350 Sir John fitz Bernard granted Kingham and Cornwell manors to Sir John de Grey, Lord Grey of Rotherfield, releasing them to him in 1354.²⁵ Grey obtained free warren in the manors in May of that year, and in October settled them on his younger son Robert.²⁶ By 1356 Kingham had passed to John Beaufeu, and was held by a later John Beaufeu in 1428.²⁷ It descended to his son Richard (d. 1461), to Richard's widow Alice (d. 1472), and to their son Humphrey (d. 1485), who held it from the earldom of Warwick (in succession to the earldom of Hereford).²⁸ Humphrey's son John (d. 1516) inherited as a minor, and was succeeded by his son John (d. 1529) and grandson John (d. 1583), all of Emscote in Milverton (Warws.).²⁹ In 1615 the last John's son Sir Thomas Beaufeu sold the manor for £300 to Christopher Scott (d. 1640), rector of Chastleton, who conveyed it in the 1630s to his brother or nephew John Scott (d. 1641).³⁰ His successor was his sister Elizabeth, wife of the wealthy clothier John Ramsden of Haworth (Yorks. WR), followed by their son Joseph, grandson Thomas (d. 1698), and great-grandson Thomas (d. 1727), all of Crowstone in Halifax (Yorks. WR).³¹ In 1745 the last Thomas's son Walter, who took the surname

¹⁹ OHC, enclo. award and map; New Coll. Arch. 7838. For its tenants and lessees, below, econ. hist.; social hist.

²⁰ New Coll. Arch. 7784; *Oxf. Jnl*, 18 Aug. 1883; A.F. Jarvis, *Charles Baring Young of Daylesford 1850-1928* (1950), 19, 32; below (manor ho.).

²¹ OHC, DV/X/68.

²² *Harrod's Dir. Oxon.* (1876); *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1877); *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883--1939 edns); cf. *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1869) ('manorial rights are divided'); below.

²³ New Coll. Arch. register of properties (1953 with later annotations), s.v. Kingham.

²⁴ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 164 (Flambard); *Cal. Close* 1307--13, 301; 1323--7, 628; TNA, SC 8/112/5575; above, Cornwell, landownership.

²⁵ TNA, CP 25/1/190/20, no. 38; *Cal. Close* 1354--60, 81.

²⁶ *Cal. Chart.* 1341--1417, 140; TNA, CP 25/1/190/20, no. 71; above, Cornwell, landownership.

²⁷ Bodl. MS Dugdale 15, p. 130; TNA, CP 25/1/287/45, no. 526; *ibid.* DL 25/3328/2853; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIII, p. 139; XVII, p. 380; XVIII, pp. 48, 56, 291; *Cal. Close* 1377--81, 392; New Coll. Arch. 11802; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 188.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Com.), IV, 356; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, I, p. 52; *VCH Oxon.* IX, 20 (Barford St John); XXI, 312 (Salford).

²⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1485--94, 160--1; TNA, C 1/76/35; C 1/905/27--32; *ibid.* C 142/200/27; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 312.

³⁰ TNA, CP 25/2/340/13JASIMICH; *ibid.* C 10/36/164; *ibid.* PROB 11/183/336; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 115/3/11; above, Chastleton, relig. hist.

³¹ TNA, C 10/36/164; C 7/339/11; *Woodward's Progress*, 51--2, 63; *Alumni Oxon. 1500--1714*, III, 1230--1.

Hawksworth, sold the manor for £700 to John Townsend (d. 1757), amongst whose descendants it was partitioned in 1760.³²

Townsend's manorial rights were sold to Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker (d. 1768) of Churchill, who left the 'reputed manor' of Kingham to the Oxford surgeon John Bulley. He took the surname Hacker, and the estate passed with Coldstone farm (in Ascott-under-Wychwood) to Revd Nicholas Marshall Hacker (d. 1827) of Enstone.³³ In 1829 Nicholas's brother Edward sold it with 121 a. to James Langston of Sarsden for £3,450, increased by later purchases to 241 a. by 1842.³⁴ Between 1888 and 1897 Langston's son-in-law the 3rd earl of Ducie sold an enlarged estate of c.700 a. (no longer called a manor and including Churchill mill) to Charles Baring Young, the founder of Kingham Hill school, who already held part of the former New College estate and became the parish's largest landowner, holding 1,136 a. by 1910.³⁵ On his death in 1928 the estate passed to the Kingham Hill Trust, which managed the school and let the surrounding farmland,³⁶ much of the latter passing by the late 20th century to Sir Anthony Bamford's Daylesford estate.³⁷

Manor House

The manor house which Gilbert Chastilun was licensed to crenellate in 1347 was probably associated with a medieval moated site on the village's north-western edge.³⁸ In 1392 it passed with his manor to New College, Oxford, which in the late 14th and 15th centuries let it with the demesne, having rebuilt or repaired the hall, chambers, kitchen, latrine, barn, and dovecot using stone from Taynton as well as from its own parish quarry.³⁹ In the 1630s it was occupied by the lessee Anthony Bromsgrove,⁴⁰ and in 1662 it was probably the house occupied by the college bailiff Richard Archbould (d. 1670) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1671) and assessed on three hearths.⁴¹ Henry Fowler (d. 1850), the lessee by 1839, occupied an

³² TNA, CP 25/2/1187/19GE011HIL; OHC, Far. XXVI/1; *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 155/1/12; 68/1/8; *ibid.* Chap. I/ii/1; *ibid.* Fi. V/i/e/1 (presumably fictitious sale to Thos Hailes); V/ii/2 (partition); NHLE, no. 1367807 (Townsend memorial in churchyard) (accessed Mar. 2024).

³³ OHC, Fi. V/i/e/2--5; V/i/f/12--14; V/ii/2; TNA, PROB 11/944/279; PROB 11/1724/286; W. Pearse, 'Coldstone: An Ascott Anomaly', *Wychwoods Hist.* 25 (2010), 9; *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 97.

³⁴ OHC, Fi. V/i/f/36--8; *ibid.* Marshall I/v/4; *ibid.* Lo. VI/10; *ibid.* enclo. award; Bodl. R. MS C17:49 (177) (copy of 1828 map).

³⁵ OHC, Lo. IV/1--10; *ibid.* DV/X/68; A.F. Jarvis, *Charles Baring Young of Daylesford 1850--1928* (1950), 32--3; *below*, social hist. (educ.).

³⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1931--9 edns); TNA, MAF 32/915/92, nos. 11, 34.

³⁷ OCC Register of Landowner Statements, no. 1049 (accessed online); *below*, econ. hist. (parl. enclo. and later).

³⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1345--8, 218; R. Chambers, 'Kingham Manor Farm', *SMA* 10 (1980), 145--6; HER, PRN 11854.

³⁹ New Coll. Arch. 6583; 6585--7.

⁴⁰ OHC, Burton II/x/1; Bodl. MSS Ch. Oxon. 1441--2.

⁴¹ TNA, E 179/255/4. Elizabeth was Anthony Bromsgrove's daughter, and mother of Anthony and John Ball, non-resident lessees of the college manor: *ibid.* PROB 11/336/178; PROB 11/196/164;

extensive range of buildings and yards stretching from the village street to the edge of the open fields.⁴² New College sold the house and farmland in 1874,⁴³ and in 1922, when the house was divided into three cottages and was thought to be 16th-century, it was demolished by Charles Baring Young, who replaced it with a row of three new stone-and-slated gabled cottages. The architect was W.H. Seth-Smith, who reused a medieval cylindrical chimney with trefoil-headed vents taken from the old house, while two pairs of lancet windows were probably reused in other cottages. A dovecot formerly at the house's west end appears not to have survived.⁴⁴ No manor house for the Flambard portion of the manor is known.



Manor Cottages, built in 1922 on the site of New College's earlier manor house (OHC, POX0193916). Note the reused medieval cylindrical chimney.

Woodward's Progress, 47, 51, 53, 57; Bodl. MSS Ch. Oxon. 1449--51; 1462--3; OHC, par. reg. transcript.

⁴² OHC, tithe award and map; TNA, PROB 11/2125/221.

⁴³ Above (manor).

⁴⁴ Called Manor Cottages: Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 387; Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 266--7; W. Warde Fowler, *Kingham Old and New: Studies in a Rural Parish* (1913), 14--15, 23; illust. in OHC, POX0193916; POX0194040. For the lancets, above, landscape etc. (built character).

Other Estates

Ernulf de Mandeville (d. 1179) granted Hurley priory (Berks.) a hide in Kingham, to which his son Ralph added a second hide, whilst in 1259 William Marshal and his wife Juliana gave a yardland in return for their board and lodging at the priory.⁴⁵ By 1279 Hurley's estate was reckoned at only two yardlands, and at the priory's suppression in 1536 it passed first to Westminster abbey, then from 1541 to a succession of lay landholders.⁴⁶ Catesby priory (Northants.) was given 8s. rent in Kingham by William de Mandeville probably in the 1240s, which New College, Oxford, paid from its manor until the Dissolution when the rent reverted to the Crown.⁴⁷ Bruern abbey held a meadow in Kingham until its suppression in 1536,⁴⁸ while the 15th-century guild established at Brailes (Warws.) held £1 6s. 8d.-worth of land until 1548.⁴⁹ By the 17th century its former estate covered two yardlands and was held by freeholders.⁵⁰

A total of c.16 yardlands were held in free tenure by 1279, including Hurley priory's estate and two yardlands held by Richard de Matham for a twentieth of a knight's fee.⁵¹ In the 17th century New College's manor included c.7¼ yardlands also held for free rents,⁵² while the Langstons of Sarsden owned 42 a. in the parish before their purchase of the manor in 1829,⁵³ probably as part of Churchill manor, which had earlier belonged to the Barentins, Hattons, and Walters.⁵⁴ The largest freeholders at enclosure in 1850 were John Lockwood (418 a.), James Langston (241 a.), Sarah Trenchard (106 a.), and Mary Hayward (92 a.), whilst a further 18 people shared c.330 a. between them.⁵⁵ By 1910 around two thirds of the parish was owned by New College and Charles Baring Young, and the rest by several dozen smaller landowners.⁵⁶

Reputed Manors Three other estates claimed seigneurial rights between the 16th and 19th centuries. A so-called manor of Kingham, held with Cornwell manor by Charles Hyett in the

⁴⁵ F.T. Wethered, *St Mary's, Hurley, in the Middle Ages* (1898), pp. 92--3, 117; *Book of Fees*, I, 626; *Oxon. Fines*, 177; *VCH Berks.* II, 73--5.

⁴⁶ *Rot. Hund.* II, 733; *L&P Hen. VIII*, XI, p. 84; XVI, pp. 328--9; XIX (1), pp. 377, 387; *Cal. Pat.* 1590--1, p. 16.

⁴⁷ New Coll. Arch. 11773 (undated charter); 11803; 6585; 3811--12; *Valor Eccl.* II, 257.

⁴⁸ TNA, E 210/3934; *ibid.* E 326/8553; *ibid.* C 146/10551; *Valor Eccl.* II, 202; *Cal. Pat.* 1566--9, p. 69.

⁴⁹ *Chant. Cert.* 38; *VCH Warws.* V, 25; *Cal. Pat.* 1575--8, pp. 186--7; TNA, E 134/8JASI/MICH24.

⁵⁰ New Coll. Arch. 3808--10.

⁵¹ *Rot. Hund.* II, 733; below, social hist. (Middle Ages).

⁵² New Coll. Arch. 3810 (dated 1633); cf. *ibid.* 3808--9; 3811--12.

⁵³ OHC, Lo. VI/7; VI/9; above (manor).

⁵⁴ New Coll. Arch. 3819, p. 115; 4781; 3809; TNA, CP 25/2/340/16JASIEASTER; above, Churchill, landownership.

⁵⁵ OHC, enclo. award.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* DV/X/68; above (manor).

1560s,⁵⁷ derived from an estate occupied by Thomas Blaket of Cornwell in the 1320s, which passed to his son Bartholomew and his successors, and to which New College owed 7½*d.* annual quitrent.⁵⁸ In 1617 it was held by Thomas Hyett of Harescombe (Glos.), and in 1641 by Walter Thayer, while by the 1660s it belonged to John Dyer, described by New College's warden as a Londoner with 'a little land and lordship, as he pretends'.⁵⁹ By the 18th century the annual quitrent (reduced to 5*d.*) was paid to the rector Robert Foley (d. 1783), and in the 19th to his successor John Lockwood (d. 1879), who at enclosure held 418 a. in a private capacity, and who in the 1840s--60s was called lord of the manor.⁶⁰ The bulk of Lockwood's estate, however, derived from a separate so-called manor previously held by Thomas Loggin (d. 1647) and his son John, who settled it on his daughter Mary on her marriage to John Barber in 1653.⁶¹ That remained in the Barber family until the mid 18th century, passing thereafter to the Burrs (or Bournes) and finally to Lockwood.⁶² The land was later owned by Baring Young, although by then the supposed lordship had apparently lapsed.⁶³

In the 17th and 18th centuries the owners of Shipton-under-Wychwood manor and (later) of Shipton Court were entitled to hold a court leet at Kingham in connection with their jurisdiction over Chadlington hundred.⁶⁴ New College enquired about purchasing the court, but in the 1720s the right was still held by the Lacys of Shipton, and in the 1790s by their successors the Reades.⁶⁵ Sir John Chandos Reade (d. 1868) was called 'paramount lord' in 1839, although his only land in Kingham was the manorial pound, which by 1910 belonged to the parish council.⁶⁶

⁵⁷ TNA, CP 25/2/196/5ELIZIHIL; above, Cornwell, landownership.

⁵⁸ *Cal. Close* 1323--7, 628; TNA, DL 25/3328/2853--4; New Coll. Arch. 6583; 6585; 6587--8; *Valor Eccl.* II, 257; above, Cornwell, landownership.

⁵⁹ TNA, CP 25/2/340/15JASITRIN; OHC, P246/D/1; New Coll. Arch. 3811--12; *Woodward's Progress*, 62, 69; above, Cornwell, landownership (Hyett).

⁶⁰ New Coll. Arch. 1433; 7838; OHC, enclo. award and map; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847 and 1854 edns); *Dutton, Allen & Co.'s Dir. Oxon.* (1863).

⁶¹ Bodl. MSS dd Risley A II 3/16; A XIII 1/2/14; *Oxon. Visit. 1669--75*, 48; OHC, par. reg. transcript; below, social hist. (for Barber).

⁶² Bodl. MSS dd Risley A XII 1/39--42; OHC, QSD/L/175; *ibid.* enclo. award; New Coll. Arch. 1433.

⁶³ OHC, DV/X/68 (and map).

⁶⁴ *Woodward's Progress*, 49 (mentioning [Sir Rowland] Lacy); *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 25, 44; below, local govt (manor courts).

⁶⁵ *Woodward's Progress*, 51; *Par. Colln.* II, 194; New Coll. Arch. 1433.

⁶⁶ OHC, tithe award, no. 752; *ibid.* DV/X/68, no. 213; *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 45.