

LORDINGTON MANOR, SUSSEX HAS AN INTERESTING PAST:

Lordington appears in the **Domesday Survey** under the guise of 'Harditone'. Before the Conquest the Saxon **Ulfstan** held it as **allodial tenure (freehold)** from **King Edward the Confessor**. In **1086 King William the Conqueror** held it of **Earl Roger**. It was assessed at 4 hides and had a Mill: later it appears as 1 knight's fee. The overlordship of the manor descended with the **honor of Arundel** until **1244**, when it formed part of the portion of **Roger de Somery** and **Nichola**, **one of the four coheirs of Hugh de Aubigny**. It came to **Robert de Tateshale** before his death in **1303**, and then to his niece and coheir **Alice** and her husband **William Bernak**, Alice, as a **widow**, holding in **1341**.

During the 13th Century a mesne lordship seems to have been established in the family of **Beauchamp**.

A **mesne lord** was a lord in the **feudal system** who had **vassals** who held land from him, **but who was himself the vassal of a higher lord**. Owing to **Quia Emptores**, the concept of a mesne lordship technically still exists today: **the partitioning of the Lord of the Manor's estate among co-heirs creating the "mesne lordships"**.

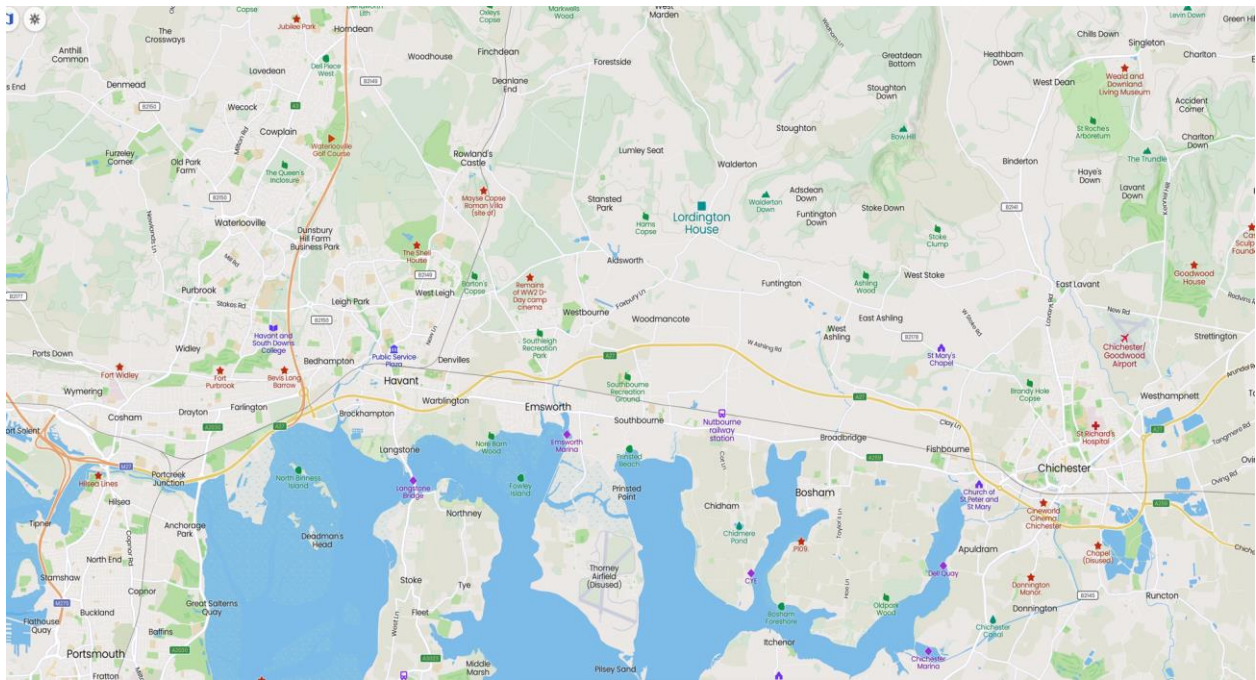
A **mesne lord** did not hold land directly of the **King**, that is to say he was not a **tenant-in-chief**. His **subinfeudated** estate was called a "**mesne estate**" or **Afterlehen** in the **Holy Roman Empire**. Traditionally, he is a lord of the manor who holds land from a superior lord and who usually lets some of the land to a tenant. He was thus an intermediate or "**middle**" tenant, which status is reflected in the Old French word "**mesne**" and in the modern French language "**moyen**".

In **1214 Eudes de Beauchamp**, who was a member of the **Beauchamp's of Eaton Socon (Bedfordshire)**, claimed the advowson of the **Church of Lordington**, and in **1226** he was sued for the manor by **Hugh de Neville**, who seems to have had some claim to the estates of **Hugh de Gundeville**, the **Lord in Fee** (see below), through his wife Joan.

Advowson or patronage is the right in English law of a patron to present to the diocesan Bishop a nominee for appointment to a vacant ecclesiastical benefice or church living, a process known as presentation.

In **1242 Robert de Beauchamp** held a **Knight's Fee** in **Lordington**, and the manor was held of Ralf de Beauchamp in **1288**. Roger de Beauchamp, who held the fee in **1303**, seems to have got into debt and to have disposed of all his property to **Sir John Engayne**, of whom, as 'Lord Ingayne' the manor was held in **1369**, after which date no more is heard of this mesne lordship.

Sir John came from a branch of the D'Engayne family, long established at Taversham and Stowe-cum-Quy in Cambridgeshire, which also possessed the manor of Waresley in Huntingdonshire. In August 1363, on the death of his father, who had represented his native County in no fewer than 12 Parliaments between 1338 and 1362, he inherited certain properties in Great Wilbraham (near Teversham) which were held of the Crown by the unusual service of mewing a sparrow hawk.



Lordington may have been granted by King Henry I to Hugh de Falaise, who held 5 Knights fees of the honor of Arundel.

NOTE: A KNIGHT'S FEE In Feudal Anglo-Norman England and Ireland, a **KNIGHT'S FEE** was a unit measure of land deemed sufficient to support a **KNIGHT**. Of necessity, it would not only provide sustenance for himself, his family, Esquires and servants, but also the means to furnish himself and his retinue with horses and armor to fight for his overlord in battle. It was effectively the size of a **FEE** (or "**FIEF**" which is synonymous with "**fee**") sufficient to support one knight in the ongoing performance of his feudal duties (knight-service).

A knight's fee cannot be stated as a standard number of acres of land as the required acreage to produce a given crop or revenue would vary depending on many factors, including its location, the richness of its soil and the local climate, as well as the presence of other exploitable resources such as fish-weirs, quarries of rock or mines of minerals.

If a **KNIGHT'S FEE** is deemed co-terminous with a **MANOR**, an average size would be between **1,000 and 5,000 acres**, of which much in early times was still "waste" forest and uncultivated moorland.

About 1156 his son-in-law **Hugh de Gundevill** succeeded to the estate, but on his death in 1181 it came into the hands of the King, **Henry II** who in 1185 gave to **Peter Saracen** Hugh's lands of **Lordington**, then accounted for under the **honor of Petworth**. Peter held it until the middle of 1196, at which date it was part of the **honor of Arundel**.

It seems likely that the manor next came to the **Beauchamps**, as already noted, and that one of them sub-infeudated it to **William de Tracy**, who appears with his wife **Joan** in a suit concerning land and mills in Lordington in **1268**. Seven years later **William de Tracy** was reported to have obstructed a road within the manor to the injury of the neighbourhood.

Joan survived her husband and was twice remarried, claiming one-third of the manor in dower in **1276**, when wife of **James de Hampton**, and in **1292**, being then the wife of **John de Thumok**. The widow of **John de Tracy**, son of William, made a similar claim in **1297**. This John had in 1282 sold the manor to **Maud Estur** and her son **Walter de l'Isle** and the heirs of his body, **with contingent remainder to his brothers John and Godfrey**.

Walter De L'Isle died sole prole (without issue) and in **1288 Maud Estur and John de l'Isle** established their right to hold **Lordington** of **Ralph Beauchamp**, as a **Knight's Fee**. **Joan**, widow of a **later John de l'Isle**, married **Henry Romayn** and died in **1349**, leaving a grandson John, aged 6. His mother, **Joan de Bohun**, received a grant of the Manor for his sustenance during his **nonage** (ie. Age before maturity at 21-years).

The grandson John died in **1369** (aged 26-years), leaving as heir his sister **Elizabeth**, who married **John Bramshott**. In **1428** the manor was held by **William Bramshott**, and in **1449** by his son and heir **John**, whose younger daughter and coheir **Margaret** married **John Pakenham**. Their son **Sir Edward Pakenham** died in **1528**, leaving two daughters, **Constance wife of Geoffrey Pole** and **Elizabeth wife of Edmund Mervyn**, who in **November 1528** divided their inheritance, **Geoffrey Pole** and **Constance his wife** receiving the manors of **Lordington** and **Whiteway**.

Lordington House, Racton, West Sussex, England



Lordington House was built around 1500. It was acquired by **Hugh Speke** in 1609 and then by **Sir John Fenner** in 1623. **Phillip Jermyn** purchased the property in 1630 and sold to **Richard Peckham** in around 1689 and it passed to **Richard Peckham** (his great nephew) in 1718. After Peckham's death in 1734 it passed to his sister, **Sarah**, who married **Thomas Phipps** in 1742. It was passed down the Phipps family, the Peckham Phipps family and then the Phipps Hornby family.

The house was modified and extended by **Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Geoffrey Hornby** who died there in **March 1895**.

It then passed to his heir, **Admiral of the Fleet, Robert Stewart Phipps Hornby** who died in 1956.

Lordington House was sold to **Sir Michael Hamilton** in 1960 and now operates as a bed and breakfast facility under the management of the Hamilton family.



Admiral Robert Stewart Phipps Hornby (1866-1956)

LORDINGTON LAVENDER

Since 2002, LORDINGTON FARM has become world-famous and the only Lavender Farm in West Sussex producing a variety of essential oils, soaps and gifts, plus being a haven for wildlife.

Editor's Note: LORDINGTON is a "feudal estate" mentioned in the DOMESDAY BOOK prepared by King William the Conqueror in 1086. It passed from nobleman to nobleman until 1734, when Thomas Peckham Phipps inherited the property and later willed it to Admiral Sir Phipps Hornby. The property then passed to his son, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Geoffrey Hornby, who died there in 1895.

OUR HERITAGE - LORDINGTON LAVENDER

Nestled in the South Downs, Lordington Lavender was established in 2002 by local farmer Andrew Elms.

After selling his dairy herd he was looking for a new way to diversify and decided that Lavender would be a unique and exciting alternative. The crop is grown with conservation of habitat and the environment very much in mind. No fertilizers or pesticides are used, and it has become a haven for wildlife with at least 12 red listed species of birds including skylarks and barn owls found on the farm.

Now, 4 acres of Mailette lavender, a French Provençal variety famed for its high-quality oil is harvested once a year to produce a wonderful essential oil and the business has become a family affair. From originally just selling an essential oil a whole range has developed but all with one aim to produce simple, pure and honest products using only the highest quality ingredients.

Every summer the lavender field is full of bumble bees and butterflies and when the sun shines you can imagine being in Provence!





RACTON MANOR

Before the Norman Conquest, **RACTON** had been held by the Saxon **ULSTAN** under **allodial tenure (freehold)** from **KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR**. In **1086** it was held by **Ivo**, who also held **Mid-Lavant (aka Loventone)**, of **Earl Roger**. It was assessed for 5 hides.

The **overlord-ship** descended with the **Rape**, into the hands of the **EARLS OF ARUNDEL**.

A rape is a traditional territorial sub-division of the County of Sussex in England, formerly used for various administrative purposes. Their origin is unknown, but they appear to predate the Norman Conquest. Historically the rapes formed the basis of local government in Sussex.

There are various theories about their origin. Possibly surviving from the Romano-British era or perhaps representing the Shires of the Kingdom of Sussex, the Sussex rapes, like the Kentish lathes, go back to the dawn of English history when their main function would have been to provide food rents and military manpower to the King.

The rapes may also derive from the system of fortifications devised by King Alfred the Great in the late ninth century to defeat the Vikings.

The Sussex rapes each had a headquarters in the developed south where the lord's hall, court, demesne lands, principal church and peasant holdings were located,⁴³ whereas to the north there were smaller dependent settlements in the marsh, woodland and heath.⁴⁴ Each rape was split into several hundreds.

The Manor passed soon after **1086** to **Savaric FitzCane** who also held **Stoughton, Up Marden,** and **Easebourne**. Savaric married **Muriel de Bohun** and their second son **Savaric de Forde, Lord of Ford**, was also known by the name of **Bohun**. In the reign of **King Stephen**, **Savaric** held 3 knights' fees of the **Earl of Arundel**. The **Bohun family** continued to be **mesne tenants** of **Racton** until **1199**.

In this year, **Ralf de Ardern** was granted a portion of the Bohun fee including the service of **Ralf Sanzaver** and **Ilbert de Rakindon** for land in **Racton**. However, **Engelger de Bohun** recovered this grant in **1212** by a writ of mort d'ancestor from **Thomas son of Ralf de Ardern**.

The Bohuns were still the overlords of the Sanzavers when Hugh died in 1284, as he held of **Sir John de Bohun**. After this, we do not hear of them again, and the lands reverted to the **Earl of Arundel** at the death of **Thomas Sanzaver** in **1349**.

The family of Sanzaver, of Bignor, were sub-tenants some time before the mention of them in 1196, as in 1206 a claim was made by Ralf Sanzaver from William de Rakindon for 2½ hides in Racton and Stansted, held by Ralf's father in 1135, but granted to Imbert father of William de Rakindon by the overlord Savaric de Forde while Ralf was in ward to him. Ralf, however, granted 2 hides of this land to William, to hold as a quarter of a knight's fee, Ralf retaining the mill, of which William had formerly held a moiety.

In 1233 the Estate of Racton passed to Henry Fitz-Richard of Spargrove in Somerset, son of Eve now wife of Hugh Sanzaver, in exchange for the manor of Spargrove. The Sanzavers continued to hold rents and the **Mill at Racton**. Ralf, grandson of Hugh (died 1284), is called '**Lord**' of **Racton** in 1316 (and of **Bignor** and **Madeherst**). The family disappears from Sussex with the death of Thomas Sanzaver.

Bignor is a lovely village in one of the quietest parts of West Sussex. Bignor is most famous for the **Roman Villa**, which lies on the slopes outside the village. These same slopes have a slightly Mediterranean feel to them too, **because of the vineyard planted in neat rows, facing south towards the sun.**

Although not as grand as **Fishbourne Roman Palace** near Chichester, which really was a genuine Palace, the **Villa at Bignor**, which is more manorial than palatial, is an important historical building and has provided historians with much knowledge of how the ruling classes lived during the **Roman occupation of Sussex.**

Their holding in Racton continued to pass with **Madeherst, Eartham, and Rogate** as one of the members of **Bignor**, for in 1353 there is mention of a common Bailiff for these lands, and they appear together among the **Earl of Arundel's lands** on the **Subsidy Roll of 1412.**

In 1424 Sir John Arundel was said to have died siezed of them, but they were claimed (1425) in dower by Beatrice, Countess of Arundel.

Holdings in Racton seem to have been connected with Aldsworth and Stansted, and the Manor of Racton is not referred to as such until 1511 at the death of John Gunter.

The family of Gunter already held in Racton by 1327, when Roger Gunter contributed to the subsidy there; in 1428 Roger Gunter was a landowner there. At his death in 1437 he held (a) land in Racton in chief of the King by service of two white capons 'when the King shall come into the district' and (b) lands and tenements in Racton of William de Watergate: (This is probably the holding connected with Stansted, as Watergate House is near Stansted).

The Aldsworth portion of Racton was acquired by John Gunter in 1475 by a fine with John Sulyard and Giles Gunter and Elizabeth his wife, giving him messuages, land, and rent in **Racton, Westbourne, and Aldsworth**, apparently the inheritance of Elizabeth.