

## *THE EARLY MANORS OF LONGBOROUGH*

*by Margaret Shephard*

A big question mark hangs over the early history of the manors of Longborough, or Langeberge as it was known in the Middle Ages, which may be why the history of this large parish has been neglected by modern writers on the Cotswolds. I hope this article may encourage them to look again at the mystery surrounding the entries for Langeberge in the Domesday Book.

Three Domesday manors are listed under LANGEBERGE, two of which are in Witley Hundred,

and there is no dispute that these two entries refer to the present parish of Longborough. The third entry, under Kiftsgate Hundred, refers to the Royal Manor of LANGEBERGE with a member named Mene. This is the only reference to the Kiftsgate Hundred in Domesday book, and, in spite of the fact that the whole of Longborough was in Kiftsgate Hundred by at least 1221<sup>1</sup>, a theory that the Royal Manor of LANGEBERGE was not part of the present Longborough, but situated elsewhere in Gloucestershire, seems to have become

generally accepted. I hope to show how this misunderstanding arose; that the Royal Manor of LANGEBERGE formed the largest part of the present parish of Longborough; that all available documents between 1086 and 1286 mentioning LANGEBERGE refer to land in the present parish of Longborough, and that there is no evidence of another Langeberge or Longborough elsewhere in Gloucestershire or adjoining counties.

### *Domesday Entries for Langeberge*

The following entries are taken from the Phillimore edition of the *Gloucestershire Domesday Book*, ed. J.S. Moore:

29, 1. In Witley Hundred the count of Mortain holds Longborough. Tovi held it before 1066. 2 hides. In lordship 2 ploughs. 3 villagers and one smallholder with 1 plough. 4 slaves. The value was £4, now 40s. It pays tax.

69, 1. In Witley Hundred Humphrey the Chamberlayne holds Longborough from the King. 4 hides which pay tax. Alston, Blackman, Edric and Alric held it as four manors and could go where they would. In lordship there were 4 ploughs; 3 villagers and 5 smallholders with 3 ploughs; 9 slaves. The value was £16, now 100s.

1, 12. In Kiftsgate Hundred King Edward held Upper Clopton with a member named Mene. There were 8 hides in each. In lordship 3 ploughs; 10 villagers and 4 smallholders with 6 ploughs. A mill at 5s.; 6 slaves; meadow at 10s. Before 1066 the sheriff paid to the revenue what came from this manor; now with the two Hundreds which the Sheriff had placed there, it pays £15.

The original entry in Domesday Book under 1,12 reads "Langeberge". and Moore has substituted "Upper Clopton" with the following explanation under Notes: 'As Finberg and Smith have pointed out, this holding is not Longborough'. Referring to the phrase 'There were 8 hides in each' he says '*Uterque* can mean 'each' or 'both'...which appears to mean that together the two places total 8 hides.' [A hide was about 120 acres.]

### *The Case for Langeberge at Upper Clopton*

The theory that the Royal Manor of Langeberge was situated in the far north of Gloucestershire was first suggested by the late H.P.R. Finberg in 1957, who, following Ekwall, identified Mene with Meon Hill, 10 miles from Longborough. Finberg suggested that the name Kiftsgate could mean the gap between Meon Hill and the Cotswold escarpment, in the vicinity of the Kiftsgate Stone. As Langeberge with Mene was the only manor in Kiftsgate Hundred in 1086, he assumed that Langeberge, as the head of the Manor, was somewhere close to Meon Hill, and suggested Long Hills Farm in

Mickleton as a likely location<sup>2</sup>. Finberg was commenting on an article by C.S. Taylor, who placed the Royal Manor at Longborough, and suggested that the present Kiftsgate stone may originally have been the meeting place of a different Hundred<sup>3</sup>.

In 1965 the argument was taken up by A. H. Smith in *The Place Names of Gloucestershire*, who associated the name Kiftsgate with the present Kiftsgate Court, and placed the Royal Manor of Langeberge in Mickleton<sup>4</sup>. By the time the Phillimore edition of *Domesday Book* was published in 1982, Finberg's original suggestion was apparently accepted without question, and the editor, J.S. Moore, placed the Royal Manor of Langeberge in Upper Clopton, in the old far north of Gloucestershire<sup>5</sup>.

### *The Case for Langeberge at Longborough*

After the publication of the Phillimore Domesday edition, Mr Allan Warmington of Chipping Campden wrote an article pointing out that Longborough is a large parish, and that a total of 12 hides in the three Domesday entries was a reasonable assessment<sup>6</sup>. (All available references to Meon refer to 2 hides, so 6 hides can be assumed for the Langeberge part of the Royal Manor<sup>7</sup>.) In correspondence with Mr. Warmington Finberg had expressed doubts about his own theory, but unfortunately died before the news got through to the other experts.

Mr Warmington's article refers to documents which show that at the end of the 13th Century the amount of land held in Longborough was equivalent to those 12 Domesday hides. He also quotes Samuel Rudder, who said in connection with the three Langeberge Domesday entries 'Two of these manors were afterwards confused and united<sup>8</sup>'. As the subsequent history of the Count of Mortain's two hides can be traced separately, Rudder must have meant that the Royal Manor was merged with the 4 hides of Humphrey the Chamberlayne.

The only public acknowledgement of Mr Warmington's arguments appears to be an article written by Mr Moore in 1990 in which he says 'A recent attempt to identify this holding as the main manor of Longborough is



Church Street, Longborough

unconvincing... Humphrey the Chamberlayne's manor of four hides... represented the main manor of Longborough.'

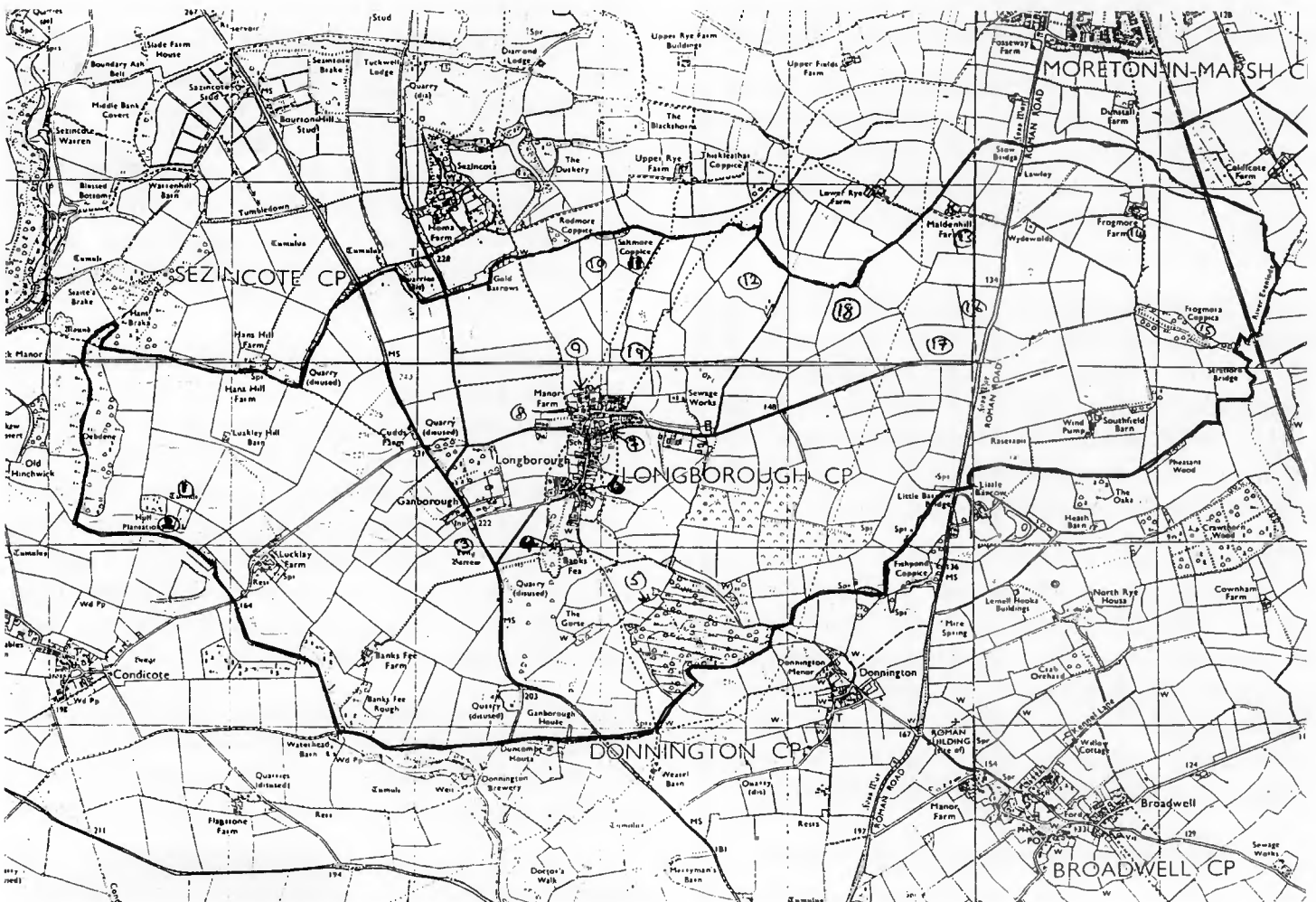
As a resident of Longborough I feel that another attempt should be made to set the record straight. I have been warned that I will be walking through a minefield, so for the honour of Longborough I take up my mine detector to find a path through the history of our manors for the two hundred years from 1086 to 1286.

### Land of the Count of Mortain

These two hides were confiscated by Henry I on the rebellion of the Count of Mortain's sons<sup>10</sup>. All authorities agree that they represent the present hamlet of Banks Fee, which took its name from the La Bank family. In 1195 Johanna, wife of Henry of Longborough<sup>11</sup>, complained

that Reginald of Blockley had dispossessed her of half a virgate in Longborough. From a later reference it appears that Reginald was married to Roes La Bank.

In 1220 there was a dispute between John de Montacute and Richard La Bank on the right to present a priest to the church<sup>12</sup>. The Montacutes appear to have been tenants in chief, or overlords of the La Banks. There is a possible connection here with the pre-Conquest owner, Tovi or Tovig the Proud, whose land at Bishopsgate in Somerset had been seized by the Count of Mortain and given to a number of his retainers, who later took the name of Montacute<sup>13</sup>. The two hides at Langeberge may have been an outlying part of the Bishopsgate manor. The La Banks were probably granted the land as half a knight's fee for protecting the village against attack. [A knight's fee was the amount of land which could support a knight and his family for a year - usually from four hides and upwards.]



LONGBOROUGH CIVIL PARISH IN THE 20th CENTURY

#### Key to Map

- |   |                                  |                         |                                   |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Round Barrow                                      | C1500 BC                         | 10 Upper Saltmore       |                                   |
| 2 Hollow Ground                                     | ?Hallowed Ground                 | 11 Lower Saltmore       | Saltemor 1275                     |
| 3 Long Barrow                                       | C3000 BC                         | 12 Bowham               | Bulenhams 1236                    |
| 4 Banks Fee House                                   |                                  | 13 Maidenhill Farm      | Medenhull 1275                    |
| 5 (Shaded area) Horsington Coverts of "Hossingtons" | Horsenden 1236                   | 14 Frogmore Farm        | Frogglemore 1275                  |
| 6 Ashell Green                                      | Aswelle 1275                     | 15 Frogmore Coppice     | Site of Romano-British Settlement |
| 7 Waterstyles Footpath                              | Watergallen 1236, Watergall 1275 | 16 Fossberry Leys       |                                   |
| 8 St James' Church                                  | Started 12th Century             | 17 Flint Hill           | Flinthill 1236                    |
| 9 Manor Farm  | Site of Manor House              | 18 Berry Bridge/Moorway | Buribugge/Merewelle 1275          |
|   |                                  | 19 Sapwell (Bean hill)  | Sapperwelle 1275                  |

In 1221 Richard Labank, who answered badly for his term of office as Sergeant, was fined half a mark for his transgressions<sup>14</sup>. The following year William de Montacute granted land to William Forho, but reserved the advowson to himself<sup>15</sup>. William Forho's name had already appeared in connection with Longborough on the Roll of Escheats for 1194.

The Montacutes then disappear from the records, and their place as overlords of the La-banks is taken by the de Mortimers. In 1235 Ralph de Mortimer is mentioned in the Testa de Neville Returns as holding land in Longborough, which, as discussed below under the Main Manor, has been identified as Banks Fee<sup>16</sup>.

In 1236 Reginald of Blockley and his wife Roes La Bank granted 7½ acres in Longborough to the monks of Worcester<sup>17</sup>. This document contains field names that can be identified by comparison with present-day names (see map). A mention of a "Roger Templar" could be connected with a reference in the Pipe Rolls of 1193 to Knights Templar and the Kiftsgate Hundred, which appears next to an item on Longborough. If these items are connected, Longborough was in Kiftsgate Hundred in 1193.

The Hundred Rolls of 1274 state that Thomas Labank was accustomed to make suit at the Kiftsgate Hundred in respect of land at Longborough, but that Brian de Brompton held it by purchase, now held by 'Richard de la Bank'<sup>18</sup>. Kirby's Quest (1283) clarifies the position: 'Richard La-bank holds 2 plough tillages of Brian de Brampton for half a knight's fee. Brian holds them of Edmund Mortimer. Edmund holds them of the King'<sup>19</sup>. There is a further complicated statement in the Quo Warranto Proceedings of 1286, but this will be dealt with below under The Main Manor.

### *The Main Manor*

According to the experts, this manor represented the four hides of Humphrey the Chamberlayne. Humphrey was Chamberlain to Queen Matilda, and originally held the land from her. On Matilda's death in 1083 the king became Humphrey's overlord<sup>20</sup>. I hope to show that Humphrey's land accounted for less than half of the main manor, the major part of which represented the Domesday Manor of Langeberge in Kiftsgate Hundred.

An article published in 1888/9 suggests that the main manor was granted to the de Ferrars Family during the 12th Century. In 1205 Isabella de Ferrars, the second wife of Roger de Mortimer, inherited Lechlade and Longborough on the death of her father. The 1888/9 records show that in 1210/11 Roger de Mortimer held these two manors by the inheritance of his wife. Roger died and his son by Isabella, Hugh de Mortimer, died without issue in 1227. Isabella died in 1251, and her land

escheated to the Crown<sup>21</sup>. Another source states that Isabella paid 300 marks and a charger for the two manors, and that on her death Longborough escheated to the crown *as land of the Normans*<sup>22</sup>.

In the meantime Ralph de Mortimer, believed to have been the son of Roger and his first wife Millicent de Ferrars, had become the overlord of the Labanks(see above). Ralph died in 1245. If he had been Isabella's son, the argument goes, then his son Roger would have inherited the main manor. Ralph's descendent Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March and lover of Queen Isabella, made an unsuccessful claim to the main manor in the 14th Century. Some authorities, however, insist that Ralph was Isabella's son and that Millicent never existed<sup>24</sup>.



An early 20th century view over Longborough

In 1256 Henry III gave Longborough to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall and later King of the Romans, as part of the dowry on his marriage to Sanchia of Provence, a sister of Queen Eleanor. Richard died in 1272 and was succeeded by his son by Sanchia, Edmund Earl of Cornwall, known as Edmund of Alemagn<sup>25</sup>. In 1274 it was confirmed in the Hundred Rolls that Edmund held the manor of Longborough in chief by the gift of the King. An Inquisition dated 1275 describes the extent of the manor as 300 acres of arable, 61 acres of meadow, 16 acres of pasture, 4 virgates (a virgate was some 30 acres) of the villeinage in Frogglemore and one place of herbage, and 23½ virgates in the villeinage of Longborough<sup>26</sup>. The pasture includes names that can be identified today on the map. Maidenhill, which according to the Phillimore Domesday book was listed as one hide under the adjoining parish of Sezincote in 1086<sup>27</sup>, is shown here as part of the main manor. Frogmore, between the Fosseway and the River Evenlode, is on the site of a Romano-British village, and the reference to 'villeinage in Frogglemore' could mean that a mediaeval village existed there until, at the least, the 13th century.

The Inquisition also states 'and in the vill of Wynchecumbe of the rent of assize by the year 4s. 4d., which belong to the said manor of Langheberge'. There is a Domesday reference to Longborough having three

burgesses in Winchcombe<sup>28</sup>, so the Inquisition makes it clear that this refers to *the main manor*.

**The land described in the Inquisition amounts to over 1,200 acres, which calculated at 120 acres to the hide, gives the ten hides we are looking for, i.e. 4 hides of Humphrey the Chamberlayne's land and 6 hides of the Royal Manor.** One objection will obviously be that the Maidenhill hide was not listed under Longborough in 1086. In reply it could be argued that another hide (West Horsenden, or the Hossingtons identified as 5 on the map) may have been included with Longborough at Domesday, but was shortly afterwards put into Salmonsbury Hundred, and formed a detached part of the Parish of Condicote<sup>29</sup>. West Horsenden was transferred to Longborough in 1883<sup>30</sup>, giving a total acreage of 2,770. I am obviously now treading in the proverbial mine field, as quite apart from these problems it is impossible to correlate accurately units of measurement such as acres with units of land value, such as hides. There is, however, another land value unit to compare with the original hides - Knight's Fees.

### *Knight's Fees*

Kirby's Quest, carried out in the latter part of the 13th Century, was part of an attempt by Edward I to establish the rights of the crown. Part of the Longborough entry, referring to Banks Fee, has already been quoted above, where the two plough tillages (hides) are equated with half a knight's fee. A further entry reads 'The Earl of Cornwall holds a manor in Lechlade; the same Earl holds a manor in Langeberg of the King in chief, for three knight's fees'<sup>31</sup>. The Domesday entry for Lechlade shows that it contained 15 hides, so three knight's fees would be nothing like enough to cover both manors, and must refer to Longborough. The area of a knight's fee was usually four or five hides<sup>32</sup>. It seems from the Banks Fee entry that they were calculating the Longborough manors at four hides to the knight's fee, which gives twelve hides for the main manor of Longborough, and a grand total of fourteen for the whole parish.

Kirby's Quest was followed by the Quo Warranto Proceedings, held between 1278 and 1294, which required all those who claimed special jurisdictions or privileges to justify their claim by producing their title<sup>33</sup>. By the time the Longborough enquiry was held, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall had given his manor at Longborough to Hailes Abbey.

In 1286 the Abbot of Hailes was summoned to answer to the King by what right he claimed to hold view of frankpledge (control over corporate policing) and waifs (control over stray animals) in Longborough, to which he replied that the mensality (the feudal estate held directly from the crown or a royal prince) belonged to his fee, by

grant of Edmund Earl of Cornwall, but the Abbey did not hold jurisdiction in the vill of Longborough. Although the abbot claimed to have a charter from Henry III, this was disputed by the King's agent, who said the manor had been granted to Richard and Sanchia as a free dowry, and that it had been alienated contrary to the wording of the said grants. The Abbot offered to pay one mark (66.6p) so that he could continue to hold the manor until the next Hearing, but unfortunately died before the money was handed over! The new Abbot was summoned to answer by what right he held the manor of Longborough etc., *which is from ancient times the demesne land of the crown of the Lord*



Site of Longborough village's water supply until recent times

King. His defence was that there was no need to reply to the summons, as he did not hold the manor in its entirety. Richard Labank held 1 messuage and 3 carucates (3 hides) William le Brun held 1 messuage and 6 virgates; John de la Grange held 1 messuage and 1 virgate, the abbot of Bruerne held one acre, and Richard de Penebrugg held the advowson of the church<sup>34</sup>. It is interesting that the de Penebruggs held the manor of Meon direct from the King<sup>35</sup>.

We now have a complete picture of the Longborough manors just 200 years after Domesday. Can there be any real doubt that they represent the three Gloucestershire estates listed in 1086 under the name of "LANGEBERG"?

### Summary

1. The extent of the land in Longborough at the end of the 13th Century seems to equal, if not exceed, the area of the three Longborough entries in Domesday Book, taking into account the exclusion of Maidenhill in 1086.
2. The Inquisition of 1275 shows that the main manor of Longborough had affiliations with Winchcombe (See Evk.B.1(116) in Domesday Book.)
3. Every one of the references quoted refers to land in the present parish of Longborough, and there is absolutely no evidence that there was another Longborough or Langberge elsewhere in the County, or adjoining counties.
4. The Quo Warranto Proceedings involved searching enquiries into ancient rights of the Crown. The reference to the main manor of Longborough as somewhere "which is from ancient times the demesne land of the Crown of the Lord King" surely does not mean only the land of Humphrey the Chamberlayne, which was occupied before the conquest by four Freemen, but refers to the major part of the Royal manor of Langeberge cum Mene.

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### Notes

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18. *Hundred Rolls 1274*, Hundred of Kiftsgate, p.173.
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32. *Transactions BGAS* Vol. 16, 1895, p. 278 et. seq. *The Aid Levied in Gloucestershire in 20 Edw. III.*
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