



1001-1349 SHAFTESBURY ABBEY AND THE MANOR OF BRADFORD

In 1001 King Ethelred II ("the Unready" better translated as "the Ill Advised") granted the Manor of Bradford to the Abbess of the Benedictine Abbey of Shaftesbury. This may have been to atone for his mother's involvement in the murder of his half brother, King Edward the Martyr. What we now know as Barton Farm was included in that gift.

1964
50
2014



This carved stone bust known as "the Lady with a Wimple" is from this period and it rests in Holy Trinity Church where it was found.

Map Glossary:

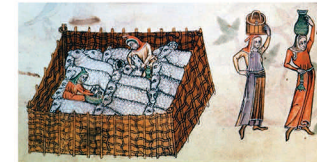
Wrindesholt Holt
Telfeforth Telisford
Ferseforth Freshford
Mitford Midford
Werleghe Warleigh
Farnleghe Monkton Farleigh
Attenwrthe Atworth
Witlege Whitley
Broctune Broughton Gifford
Chalfelde Great Chalfield



This map shows the probable extent of the Manor gifted to Shaftesbury Abbey based on the work of G.B.Grundy and Canon Jones as corrected by R.B.Harvey.



Shaftesbury Abbey had many manors, estates and demesne farms to administer. The Abbey's High Steward would visit regularly to ensure proper handling of the returns of goods and produce to the Abbey. This is what he would have looked like.



The seasonal pattern on the Manor was always the same as these few images from the Luttrell Psalter show; ploughing, harrowing, caring for animals, harvesting, amongst them.

Each farm or Estate would have its own Reeve, in charge of accounts, leases, manpower and the daily running of the business. As seen here they were often to be feared.

Around 1300 a large barn, cruciform in shape, was built and archaeological excavation has shown that its original crosspiece was on the site of our current West Barn. This is a picture of that excavation.



The Abbess of Shaftesbury might of looked like. She was always of high rank with royal or aristocratic connections. Most of her time was spent on devotional duties but she would also enjoy the pleasure pursuits of her class such as hawking.

The Great Seal of Shaftesbury Abbey. At the time of the king's gift Bradford seems to have been a prosperous place. The income to the Abbey from the manor of Bradford was twice that of any of the other estates (it had 44) from which it received revenue.



His Gift of 42 hides (approximately 5000 acres) was carefully described in a royal charter, pictured here, in which the boundaries were clearly defined by reference to local landmarks and adjoining land owners. The latter have long gone and apart from rivers and streams so have the land marks.

The Charter text has been translated and used to create the notes on the map.



A medieval portrait, painted some time after his death, of Ethelred.

By the early 14th Century the packhorse bridge was built providing a useful route to the Abbey's demesne land on the northern side of the river.



Two coins issued during the reign of Ethelred. One such coin was found in Bradford recently, very near Barton farm.



This period comes to an end shortly before the building of the farm as we see it today. In 1348 The Black Death came to England and decimated the population.

