

Historic Towns & Villages

Lavendon

A Castle and a Mill



Part of Lavendon Castle mound and moat constructed in the late 11th century

Lavendon, or “Lauundene”, was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. In more recent times the River Great Ouse powered Lavendon Mill to grind corn. The mill building was demolished in the 1960s and only the 18th century Mill House now remains beside the modern-day Three Shire Way.

Lavendon also had a castle which was constructed in the late 11th century by the Bidun family. There are no remnants of the castle left to be seen above ground, apart from some striking earthworks, including the mound, some moats and also three baileys which can still be readily traced.

St Michael’s Church stands proudly in the centre of the village with a churchyard that was cut back in one corner in order to ease a sharp bend on the modern Bedford-Northampton main road. This fact is recorded with a plaque on the churchyard wall dated 1955, together with another commemorating the Jarrow Crusade that passed by in 1936 on its way to London. Lavendon was originally



Looking down the un-widened Northampton Road with Harley’s general store visible on the right.



Lavendon Mill and Mill House from a postcard dated before 1911. The mill was demolished in the 1960s.

served by no less than four turnpike roads in the 19th century. The further widening of these roads through the village centre occurred in the 1950s by demolishing several projecting roadside buildings.

www.lavendonconnection.com/Historical/Lavendon_History.htm