

Historic Towns & Villages

Hanslope

A Saxon Village



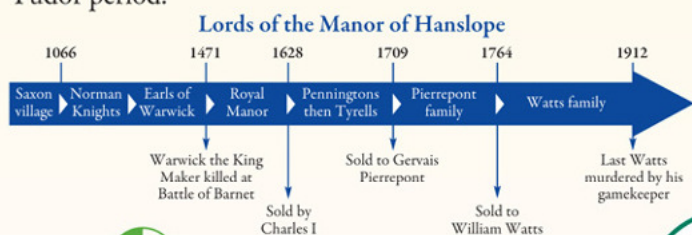
Hanslope Church from The Square in about 1910. The church is a Norman foundation with the tower and the side visible here added in the 15th century. The spire is said to be the tallest in Buckinghamshire.



Map of Hanslope village in 1779. Plots outline in green with houses coloured red were owned by the Lord of the Manor (Edward Watts by that time), and were rented. Other properties were independently owned, mostly by owner-occupiers.

Hanslope was a Saxon village. In the Domesday book, prepared shortly after the Norman conquest, Hanslope is recorded as having a population of 36 villans, 11 bordars and 8 slaves. A Villan was an unfree peasant who owed his lord labour services (two or three days per week) but who also farmed land for himself. Villans were the wealthiest and most numerous of unfree peasants.

Under the Normans Hanslope grew into an important village with a new church, market and annual fair. The Lords of Hanslope prospered and one eventually became Earl of Warwick. On the death of the last Earl Warwick, Hanslope became a Royal Manor which it remained throughout the Tudor period.



18th Century Hanslope

Early in the 18th Century the Manor of Hanslope was purchased by a member of the Peirrepont family, a wealthy Nottinghamshire family. The heir became Duke of Kingston.

Rent records of the Duke show that the rent of a typical cottage (no. 220 on the map) was £1.50 per year; and for a large house, used as a pub (no. 207), the rent was £2 per year.

The Duke's accounts show that his income from Hanslope represented about 7% of his property income and amounted to about £1,000 per year (roughly £130,000 in today's money). The Duke's agent regularly transported up to £100 (roughly £13,000 today) to London to deposit at the Duke's bankers, Hoare & Co.



The First Duke of Kingston and his second wife. They married in 1714 when he was 49 and she was 26

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