

From a Translation of the Domesday Record - by Rev. William Bawden (1812)

Land of the King (around 540 acres -

Manor. *Sueneborne* was a village of Earl Harold's. It answered for four hides and a half. There is land to four ploughs. Three hides and three virgates are in the demesne, and there is one plough there, and another may be made. Three villaines have there one plough and a half, and as many may yet be made. There is one bondsman, and meadow for five ploughs. In the whole it, pays annually thirty shillings of white money. In King Edward's time thirty shillings by tale.

Land of the Earl of Moreton (around 600 acres - later WELDES MANOR)

Ralph and Almar hold five hides in *Sueneberne*. There is land to five ploughs. There is one there and four may be made. There are two villaines. Meadow for five ploughs. This land is worth forty shillings; when received six pounds; in King Edward's time one hundred. Of this manor Brixtuin a thane of King Edward's held four hides and a half; and Almar, a vassal of Earl Harold's one hide and a half and might sell them.

Land of Walter Giffard, Earl Hugh (around 930 acres)

William holds of Walter in *Soeneberne*, seven hides and three virgates for one manor. There is land to seven ploughs. There are two in the demesne; and seven villains with five bordars have four ploughs. There are two bondmen. Meadow for six ploughs. In the whole it is and was worth four pounds; in King Edward's time one hundred shillings. Two thanes held this manor. Alward (five hides, save one virgate) and Aluii (two hides and three virgates) had them for two manors, and might sell.

Land of William son of Ansculf (Fitzansculf) (around 30 acres)

Pagan holds of William one virgate in *Sueneberie*. There is land to two oxen. It is and was always worth two shillings. Oswi, a vassal of Brictric's, held this land and might sell it.

Land of Geoffrey de Mandeville (around 240 acres - later CLIFFORD'S MANOR)

Geoffrey himself holds two hides in *Suenberne*. There is land to two ploughs. One hide is in the demesne, and there is one plough there; and three villanes with two bordars have one plough. Meadow for two ploughs. It is and was always worth thirty shillings. Suen, a vassal of Asgar's, master of horse, held this manor. He could not sell it without his leave.

Notes:

A demesne was the land belonging to the new local lord and upon this everyone had to render customery service, thus retaining their own land.

A hide was around 120 acres. A virgate around 30 acres. An acre was the average for an ox drawn plough to cover in a day.

By this measure, the total area assigned for Swanbourne was around 2,340 acres. (Actual area 2,461 acres)

'Villanes' presided at the top of the peasant hierarchy. Each maintained a virgate or about a quarter of a hide.

'Bordars' cultivated less land than a villane, whilst 'bondmen' or 'serfs' held no lands and were simple labourers.

At the time of the Domesday book, Swanbourne was situated in the 'Hundred' of Mursley, which was one of the 18 hundreds which formed the basic administrative division of the county. Mursley (Murslalai) was subsequently linked to Coteslai and Erlai to form the hundred of Cottesloe. The original hundred was thought to be around 100 hides in extent, hence the name. It is not clear when the hundreds were first created, but they were important for administering taxation, justice, policing, law, and military defence. Mursley Hundred had 101¹/₂ hides (with 117 teams, 110 villanes, 70 bordars and 40 servants).

Swanbourne was unusual in having its land divided between 5 different landowners, with four manors. Of the other ten villages in the Mursley hundred, 5 were single manors (Dunton, Winslow, Horwood, Singleborough and Whaddon), 4 were double manors (Stewkley, Dratton Parslow, Salden, Shenley Brook End) and one had three manors (Mursley). The Earl of Moretain held land in Mursley and Salden as well as Swanbourne. Walter Giffard also held in Horwood, Singleborough and Whaddon (all single manors). Winslow was held by St. Alban's Abbey, (along with Granborough and Aston in Cottesloe).