

The first known document which mentions Lenham

804 A.D.

In the name of the redeemer of the world. I Kenwlf, by the grace of God, king of the Mercians, and Cuðred, king of Kent, by divine love and kinship, grant to our common kinsman <Eanbert> by eternal gift the land of .xx. ploughs in the province of Kent in a place called Sewestralenham, with all things rightly and properly pertaining to it, with fields, woods, meadows, pastures, waters, according to the ancient boundaries as his earls had before, and thirteen denberende on Andrede pertaining to that land by ancient right. The first is Mæpulterhirst, the second Friððingden, the third Friðesleah, the fourth Cumbden, the fifth Suattingden, the sixth Wiflahirst, the seventh the second Mapulterhirst, the eighth Babbingden, the ninth the second Babbingden, the tenth the third Babbingden, the eleventh Tunlafahirst, the twelfth Plussingherst, the thirteenth Friðæleah and Færeden. Under this condition also we will give this land to the aforesaid Eanbert so that as long as he lives he may enjoy it happily and after his death he may have free will to give that land to whoever he wishes to possess in perpetuity. And from all secular servitude of kings or princes or even prefects we grant that the aforesaid land be free in perpetuity, except for these three things only, that is, expedition and the construction of the bridge and the fortification of the castle. If anyone wishes to infringe this freedom of kings or princes or prefects, let him know that he will be separated on the day of judgment from the company of saints unless he duly amends his crime before he does so. It was done in the year of the advent of the Lord .dccciii., by indiction .xii. and in the reign of King Coenewulf in the year .viii. The names of the witnesses who consented to this aforesaid donation and marked it with the sign of the holy cross are stated. + King Coenewulf I will give the reward. + Archbishop Wilfred. + Duke Cealward. Prefect Wilfheard. + Queen Æðrið. + Duke Kynhelm. + Bearnhard the regent. + King Cudreð. + Duke Tidulf. + Count Swyðun. + Bishop Aldulf. + Duke Wicga. + Count Sigheard. + Bishop Deneberth. + Count Ædilhæh. + Count Cyga. + Duke Heabeth. + Count Osulf. + Count Beartnoð. + Duke Beornoð. + Aedred the regent.