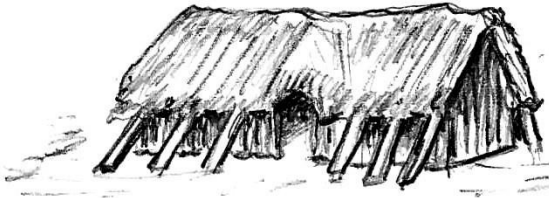


**Date****Ellingham****Kirby Cane**

430	<p>Angles liked river valleys and fen edge for their settlements, and about this time the area became the 'ham' (homestead) of Ella's people or the ham ending might be from Eyelinyham (homestead on the little island?) or maybe from a later term meaning a low lying meadowland. It was probably a community made up of Ella's extended family with their slaves who lived in a defendable enclosure. Village names ending with 'ham' are considered to have been settled quite early. There is as yet no direct archaeological or documentary evidence to show where in the area the ham might have been, but it seems likely that it was on the bluff overlooking the river or beside the beck.</p>	<p>We don't know if Kirby Cane had a Saxon name before the Vikings came, or whether it was part of Ella or some other Saxon's domain.</p> 
550	<p>Wehha was the first king of East Anglia in 550 and it remained a kingdom with variable boundaries for the next three hundred years.</p> <p>By the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity had been reintroduced under King Sigbert (c 630AD), so we may have had our first church building about then, probably a simple wooden structure, or even just an open air cross around which village meetings were held. It seems more than likely that this was on the same site as our present churches. St Felix was bishop of East Anglia and Sigbert gave land in <i>Dumnoc</i> (possibly Dunwich) for his centre and later St Fursey began a monastery at Burgh Castle. By 669 AD the see of East Anglia had grown so much that it was split in two, and we came under Elmham (North Elmham).</p> <p>Rædwald was the first East Anglian king to be baptised (604) though he hedged his bets by keeping altars to his former gods in place. He died in 624. The East Anglian populace seems to have resisted conversion.</p>	
635-654	<p>Penda killed King Annah of the East Angles near Blythburgh.</p>	
794	<p>After 794 the Kingdom of East Anglia became dominated by King Penda of Mercia. We did regain our independence from Mercia for short periods, but it was not until 825 that a rebellion by Aethelstan and his alliance with Wessex at last freed us from Mercia.</p> <p>East Anglia at this time was expanding in population, and governed by laws which formed the basis of our present day system. It is worth noting that at least in the upper classes, men and women were equal in terms of holding land, defending their rights in court and inheritance. No wonder that this rich and fertile land was so attractive to invaders.</p> <p>Northmen (Vikings) began raiding the east coast from about 800, though it seems they were not at first intent on conquest and settlement.</p>	

