

# *Barwick Manor in 1425*

## PART II OUTWORKS, PASTURES AND MILLS

The 1425 'extent' or list of rentals of Barwick Manor shows the varied types of tenancy held by the inhabitants of the village and neighbouring hamlets who paid rents to the lord of the manor (see 'The Barwicker' No.25). The returns from arable land however were not the only source of income for the lord. The manor contained such large tracts of open common on Whinmoor and Brown Moor that they supplied summer grazing not only for the tenants of the manor but also for several other townships in the area. The returns for this are described in the extent as 'outworks'.

The rents are assessed in 'works', that is the labour of one man for one day in some task specified by the lord. The nature of the food supplied by the lord to the workers is also described. Thus the extent tells us that: 'The whole vill of Saxton ought to cut the lord's corn by eleven works, as for one day, taking daily for each work at breakfast a quarter of a loaf and a herring, and at dinner a loaf and two herrings, and drink twice, or shall give the lord 2d. for each work'. For their grazing rights, the vill of Towton paid by 23 works and the vill of Barston (Barkston) four works for cutting the lord's corn, the same conditions of food and money payment applying as did at Saxton. The inhabitants of Barghby (Barrowby) agreed 'to plough with lord with two ploughs as for one day at the Quadragesima sowing, receiving for each plough 1d., or shall give the lord 6d'. They were also to cut the lord's corn by four works, under the same conditions as for Saxton. For these services they were allowed to graze all their 'beasts' (presumably cattle) on 'Brounmore'.

Each man having beasts in the vill of Austrope (Austhorpe) agreed to plough the lord's land for one day at the lent sowing and cut with four men for one day, under the same conditions as above, 'for which works they claim common for all their beasts upon Scholes moor as far as Le Beck and Penwelldale'. This grazing land has now disappeared beneath the housing developments of Swarcliffe and Stanks.

The vill of Secrofte (Seacroft), then a small agricultural community, agreed that every man with beasts, except three named individuals, should find a man to cut the lord's corn for one day at Autumn and for each plough (estimated at five) they were to plough with the lord at the Lent sowing, with the same conditions for food and alternative payments as above. For these services they claimed the use of a road through the lord's pasture as far as 'Scales Woodbecke'.

The annual value of the services called outworks was 13s. 7d. We do not know to what extent these services were actually performed or whether they were paid for at the very low rates specified. The provision of herrings, presumably salted or otherwise preserved, points to a considerable trade between Barwick and the coast at that time. We must presume that the 'beasts' from the other vills grazed the common for most of the summer, in the charge of herdsmen who lived here for all that time, probably in temporary dwellings that they erected themselves. They would milk the cows and make cheese and other dairy products, though these were not used to pay the rent. The details of this lonely and uncomfortable existence we can only imagine.

There was land in the manor called 'Pasture with Underwood' from which the lord could raise money. The grazing of several plots of land was let to manorial tenants, including the rector, which is the only occasion he is mentioned in the document. This land includes 'a certain park called Le Roundhey', the 'herbage' of which was let for the large sum of ten marks (£6.13s.4d.). Roundhay was in the old parish of Barwick. Another saleable commodity was the mast, that is the fruit of forest trees that was used to feed livestock, especially pigs. In this document no value is placed on the mast as it was allowed to 'fall casually', and so was eaten directly from the ground. From this wooded pasture, the document notes the sale of 'underwood' and dead wood for burning. We must presume that the underwood was produced by some form of forest management.

Mills were an important and lucrative manorial monopoly. The 1425 extent lists two watermills at Hillome Burchard, a vanished medieval settlement on the banks of the Cock Beck between Ass Bridge and Aberford, close to Leyfield Farm. These two mills were let for an annual rent of 60s., the lord paying all the outgoinges including the cost of replacing the stone mill wheels used for grinding the corn. Archaeological digging at Hillome in the early 1980s revealed the presence of a corn mill and a fulling mill, both being driven by the water of the Cock Beck. Fulling is a process used in the preparation of cloth. The eroded mound of a windmill has also been found at Hillome but this must have operated at a later date.

The manorial court was also a source of income for the lord and such items as fines, entry of land and licences brought the total annual value to 60s. The lord also held the advowson of Barwick church, which allowed him to appoint the rector. This was a surprisingly valuable asset being worth 100 marks (£66.13.4d.). An item in the document, the presence of which cannot be explained, is the advowson of Thorner, which was worth 80 marks (£53 6s.8d.).

The extent also includes details of a number of other noteworthy features of the manor. At Potterton it says that 'Robert Elis holds a messuage, with pigeoncote built, which used to be the capital messuage (manor house) of the lord'. Is this Potterton Grange Farm? (See 'The Barwicker' No.22). Keeping pigeons for fresh meat was the prerogative of the lord or other prominent landowner. Thomas Elys, as a free tenant, held a fishpond, for which he paid the token rent of 1d. These sources of fresh food were important assets in the manor and were usually held by the lord.

There is an item in the document concerning an iron mine, which was obviously disused at that time as it was worth nothing except for the value of the wood collected there. There is no mention of the coal mines which were an important source of wealth in the manor at that time. We must assume that they were not rented out but worked under the direct control of the lord and so no record appears in the rentals.

There are a number of items referring to land and property out of Barwick; for instance at Saxton a watermill and a windmill were rented out, for which the lord received £4 a year. William Kynstan, the chaplain, held as a free tenant, a messuage in Tadcaster in 'Le Kirkgate' for a token rent of 2d. There was an acre of land in Thorner occupied by the reeve for which the lord received a rent of 12d. a year. Another acre of land in Thorner was held 'in the name of Church glebe' for an annual rent of 8d.

Another section of the document contains details of the rentals of the manor of Scholes also held at this time by the King. There are conditions of tenancy similar to those for Barwick. Nicholas Gascoigne is said to hold freely a messuage and two bovates of land at 'Leysingcrofte' at a yearly rent of one pound of pepper and foreign service. Did he fight or provide soldiers at the Battle of Agincourt ten years earlier? Medieval parks were used to provide grazing for the horses and cattle needed when an important person such as the King visited the manor. The park at Scholes in 1425 no longer served this purpose as a number of enclosures had been made and were rented out. The remainder of the grazing was let to John Grenfeld for 20s. a year.

The extent gives an incomplete picture of Barwick manor. It gives no details of lord's demesne, the land still occupied by him, nor of any freehold land held by the rector or others. But we must be grateful to those who compiled and those who preserved the document, which indicates something of the life and work of the people in the area in medieval times.

ARTHUR BANTOFT