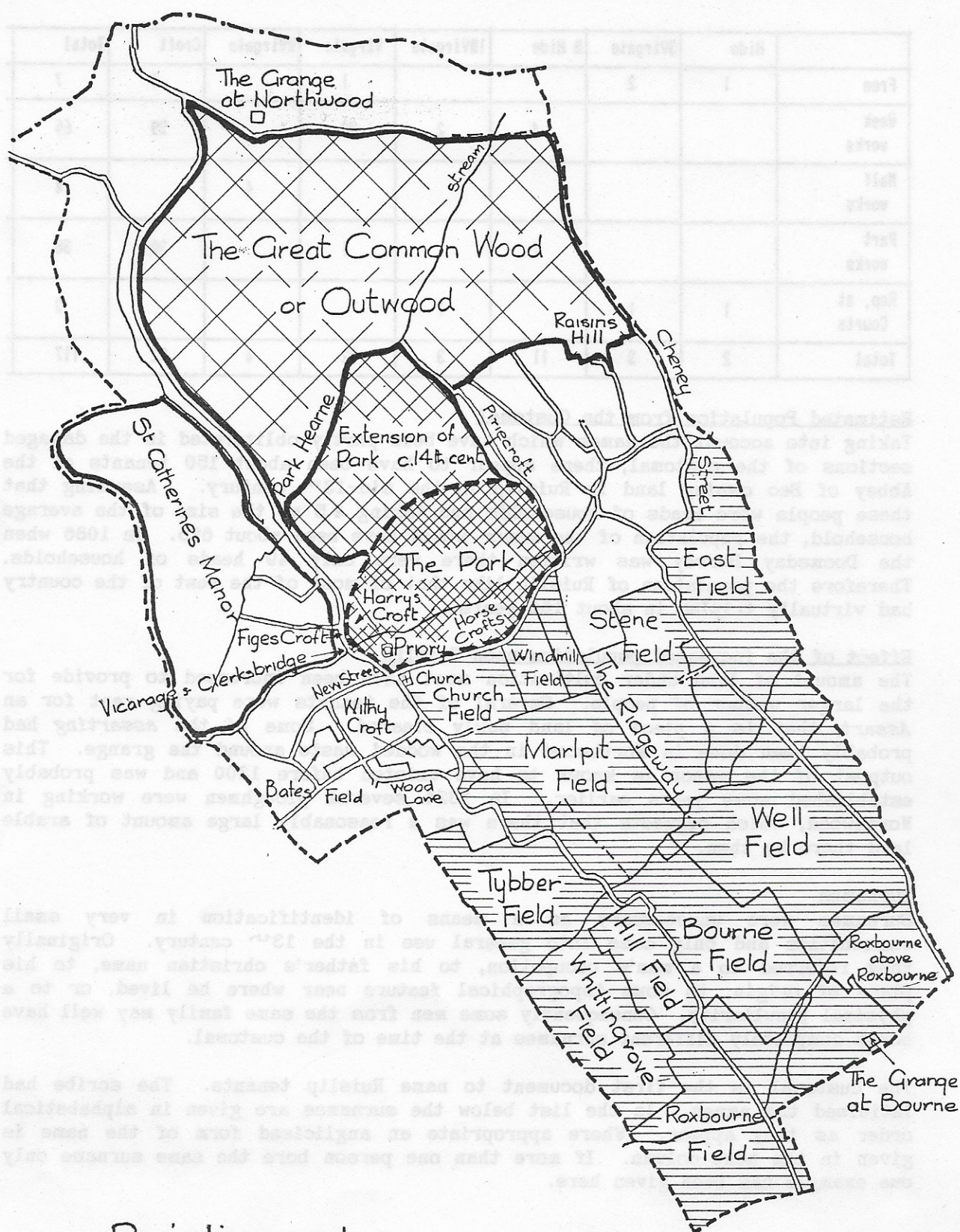




Ruislip under
the Abbey of Bec

TABLE SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAND HOLDINGS & LABOUR SERVICES

	Hide	3Virgate	½ Hide	1½Virgate	Virgate	½Virgate	Croft	Total
Free	1	2			1		3	7
Week works			4	2	30		29	65
Half works						4		4
Part works			7		1		30	38
Rep. at Courts	1	1		1				3
Total	2	3	11	3	32	4	62	117

Estimated Population from the Customal

Taking into account the names which have been partly obliterated in the damaged sections of the customal, there appear to have been about 150 tenants of the Abbey of Bec owning land in Ruislip in the mid-13th century. Assuming that these people were heads of households and taking 4.5 as the size of the average household, the population of the manor would have been about 675. In 1086 when the Domesday Survey was written there were only 49 heads of households. Therefore the population of Ruislip like that of most of the rest of the country had virtually tripled in about 160 years.

Effect of the increased population upon Ruislip

The amount of land under cultivation must have been increased to provide for the larger number of people. Several of the tenants were paying rent for an *Assart*, that is a piece of land newly cleared. Some of the *assarting* had probably been done in Northwood in the wooded waste around the grange. This outpost of the manor is known to have existed before 1300 and was probably established some years earlier. In 1324 several ploughmen were working in Northwood, which suggests that there was a reasonably large amount of arable land there by then.

Surnames

Surnames were unnecessary as a means of identification in very small communities and only came into general use in the 13th century. Originally they referred to a man's occupation, to his father's christian name, to his place of origin, to some topographical feature near where he lived, or to a physical peculiarity. Consequently some men from the same family may well have borne completely different surnames at the time of the customal.

The customal is the first document to name Ruislip tenants. The scribe had latinised the names. In the list below the surnames are given in alphabetical order as they appear. Where appropriate an anglicised form of the name is given in the next column. If more than one person bore the same surname only one example has been given here.

SURNAMES CUSTOMAL c.1245

Alphabetical List of Surnames	English equivalent		
0 Aelanus 0 Agnus 0 Albus 0 Aldred 0 Andrew Y de Arbore Y de Assarto Baldvynne Balle + Berkarius Beyvin Y Bisuthe Blakemere iuxta Boscum Bradefer Y del Brok Brun Brunman Brutewine Y de Burna le But Y de Campo Camule + Canon + Capellanus 0 Capra + Caretarius 0 filius Clerici + Clericus + Cocus + Cok Cole + le Corder Coyn Croys Druet Y de Felda Fige Y de Fonte Y de Forda Fray + la Fugelare + le Fulun le Gest Y de Grena Y de la Hache Y de le Hale 0 Hamundson Harding + le Hayward Hereward	Lamb White Tree Assart Ball Shepherd By South By the Wood (Atwood) Brook Brown Brownman Bourne Field Chaplain Goat Carter Clarkson Clarke Cook Cook Field Fountain Ford Fowler Fuller Guest Green Hatch Hale Hayward	+ Honte + Horseman 0 Humberti Y de Hulla Iovant King Lamb 0 Leonardus Lofred Longus Love Malehere Maleville + Marlward Messor + Molendinarius Y de Molendino Nothel 0 de Ockebourn Ogere 0 Osberti + Parker 0 filius Petri 0 de Pinnore 0 de Ponfrayt Y de Pont Y de Porta Pyewit Y Radding Y de Rading 0 Raisun 0 Robin 0 filius Sacerdotis Salvage Seefugel 0 Sigar Slipere Stikewricte Y de Strata Y de la Strete Sumwyle 0 de Suthcote 0 de Swyncombe + Taillor + Tector Thure + le Truler 0 filius Walteri Wit Wynes Vigars	Huberts Hill Leonard Long Miller Mills Ogbourne Osberts Peterson Pinner Brokenbridge Bridge Gate Reading Reading Priestson Street Street Southcote Swyncombe Taylor Thatcher Mason Walterson
+ Occupational name 0 Name derived from father's forename 0 Place of origin 0 Name now a place name within Ruislip Y Topographical 0 Nickname		Bras de fer; Hatch; Hale; Brokenbridge; Reading; King; Canon;	Arm of iron gate into wood nook, recess Brackenbridge clearing King's End Cannonsbridge

References to Ruislip occur in the customals and account rolls of other manors:-

Customal of Swyncombe

"John the Shepherd ought to act as drover at Ruislip and Okeburn, to convey the lord's folds and thresh and hoe and wash and shear sheep and lambs and have a loaf and a half."

Customal of East Wretham

"Eustace Fitzwilliam ought also whenever work was due to carry and collect the lord's revenue at Ruislip and elsewhere and likewise attend the monks and servants of Bec and bring bread as maintenance; and he ought to care for the Abbots of Bec coming to English parts with gift and aid and assist the proctors in the urgent business of their church and pay scott and lot in all common gifts and aids."

From an Account Roll - Weedon

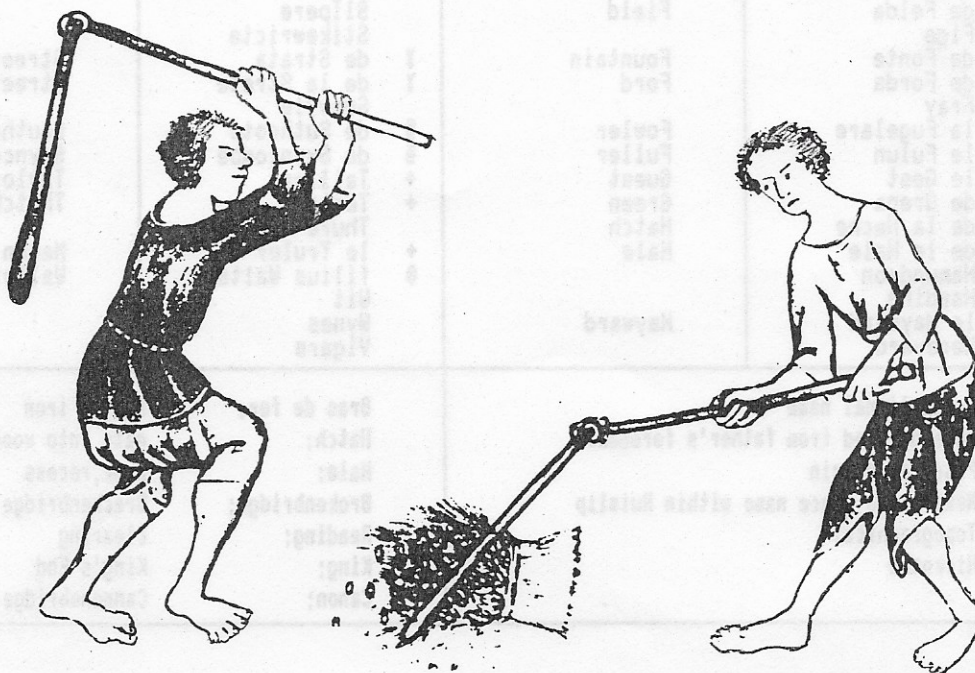
"For the bailiff's expenses for 2 journeys to Ruislip and Okeburn (Ogbourne) - 9s.3d."

From an Account Roll Combe

"Necessary expenses. For one man hired at Ruislip going to the lord to certify for one citation made against the lord at Winchester - 6d."

Sources:

- i The customal translated by M. Chibnell, in "Select documents of the Abbey of Bec"; Camden 3rd Series Vol. LXXIII.
- ii L.E. Morris: "Life in 13th century Ruislip"; Journal of the Ruislip & District Natural History Society - 1953.



Grain being threshed with flails. This was done in autumn and winter.

More details of the lives of people mentioned in the customal have emerged from the court rolls

The extracts below are taken from the rolls of *courts* held on:-

Tuesday after Ascension Day, 1246

Tuesday after the Purification of the Blessed Virgin (2nd Feb.) 1248

Saturday after the Purification of the Blessed Virgin 1248

(The courts appear to have adjourned from the Tuesday to the Saturday.)

Roisia the Miller's wife (Roisia Molendinarius)	1246	Fined 6d for breaking the assize (of ale) (assize=standard or ration)
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William White (Willelmus Albus)	1246	Fined 6d for breaking the assize. Fined 12d for trespassing on Hugh Cross's land. 12 jurors found against him concerning the bank & hedge which lay between them which were in dispute.
	1248	He paid 6s.8d to have seisin (take possession) of Richard, his father's land.

Gilbert Bisuthe	1246	He held a croft over which Roger Hamo's son wanted an inquest of 12 to say it was his. He stood surety for Isabella, Peter's widow who was fined 18d because her son John trespassed in the lord's wood.
	1248	He stood surety for Richard Maleville who was trying to prove he did not take goods from the lord's servants. He stood surety for Walter Hulle who gave 13s.4d for a licence to dwell in the land of the Prior of Harmondsworth so long as he shall live. i.e. Walter was going to move into the St.Catherine's area of Ruislip. The sureties undertook that Walter should do for the lord all the customs and services which he would do if he dwelt on his lord's land & that his heriot (death duty) shall be secured to the lord if he shall die there. He was one of 12 jurors elected who said that Ragenilda had a greater right to a disputed piece of land.

Gilbert Lamb (Gilbertus le Lamb) Gilbertus Agnus	1246	He stood surety for Roger Hamo's son who was to give 20 shillings to have seisin for land which was his fathers.
	1248	He stood surety for Richard Brown's fine of 12d for the lord's wood.

Robert le King	1246	He stood surety for Roger Hamo's son q.v.
(Robertus le King)	1248	He was in mercy for the lord's wood. Fined 12d i.e. He may have trespassed, taken wood or let his pigs run in the woods when he should not have done so.
Richard Robin	1246	He stood surety for Roger Hamo's son q.v.
(Ricardus Robin)		
Richard Maleville	1246	He claimed that he was trying to prove that he did not steal goods from the lord's servants. He was to pay 20s.
(Ricardus Maleville)	1248	He gave 2s to be allowed to settle out of court with William of Pinner in a plea of trespass. He stood surety for Robert le King's fine q.v.
Richard Hubert	1246	He stood surety for Richard Maleville.
Hugo Tree	1246	Fined 6d for his beasts caught in the lord's garden
(Hugo de Arbore)	1248	He stood surety for Walter Hulle.
William Slipper	1246	He stood surety for Hugo Tree's fine.
(Willelmus Slippere)		In a boundary dispute with Widow Druet the jury decided the crest of the bank along the ancient boundary should be the boundary between them.
	1248	He stood surety for Richard Brown's fine and for Walter Hulle.
Robert Marlward	1246	Gave 13s.4d to have possession of the land which was his mother's beyond the wood.
William Baldwyne	1248	He stood surety for Robert Cok's fine and for Ailwin Bithewood, both in mercy for the lord's wood.
John Brasdefer	1248	In mercy for the lord's wood. Fined 6d.
William Cok	1248	He stood surety for John Brasdefer and Ailwin Bithewood
William Field	1248	He stood surety for Richard Maleville's licence.
Richard Brown	1248	In mercy for the lord's wood. Fined 12d.
Ailwin Bithewood	1248	In mercy for the lord's wood. Fined 6d.
(Ailwinus iuxta Boscum)		

Isabella Iovant 1248 Demanded a certain messuage with a croft which Arthur Gardener held and gave 12d to have a jury. If she recovers she will give 2s.

John of Hulla	)	
Robert Hale	)	
Walter But	)	
Walter Sigar	)	This jury of 14 found in Isabella's
Richard Horseman	)	favour.
Richard Leofred	)	The same jury was elected to say that
Richard Ponfreyit	)	Ragenilda of Bec had a greater right
William Maureward (Marlward)	)	to a certain messuage which belonged
William Brihtwin	)	to Robert le Bec and is now held by
William Johnson	)	Roger Loft and Juliana his wife. If
Hugh Cross	)	Ragenilda recovers she will give 5s
Robert Croyser	)	The jury found for Ragenilda. (She
John Bisuthe	)	had just married without a licence
Gilbert Bisuthe	)	and had to pay 2s for that).

Robert Fountain 1248 He stood surety for Isobella Iovant
(Robertus de Fonte)

John Gery 1248 He stood surety for Isabella Iovant
(Johannes Ogere ?)

Ragenilda widow 1248 Was in dispute with Richard Guest over a headland
of Andrew (strip at the edge of a field on which plough
teams turned) at Eastcot. She said that it could
not be settled until her heir came of age.

Richard Guest 1248 Gave 12d and if he recovers will give 2s to have
a jury to settle his dispute with Ragenilda.

John Brook 1248 He stood surety for Richard Guest.

Source: Maitland; "Select Pleas of the Abbey of Bec"

