

ALIEN PRIORIES

During the recurrent wars with France in the 13th and 14th centuries the properties of religious houses owing temporal allegiance to an enemy power, were seized by the English crown and classed as "Alien Priories". This term applied to Ruislip and other Bec manors.

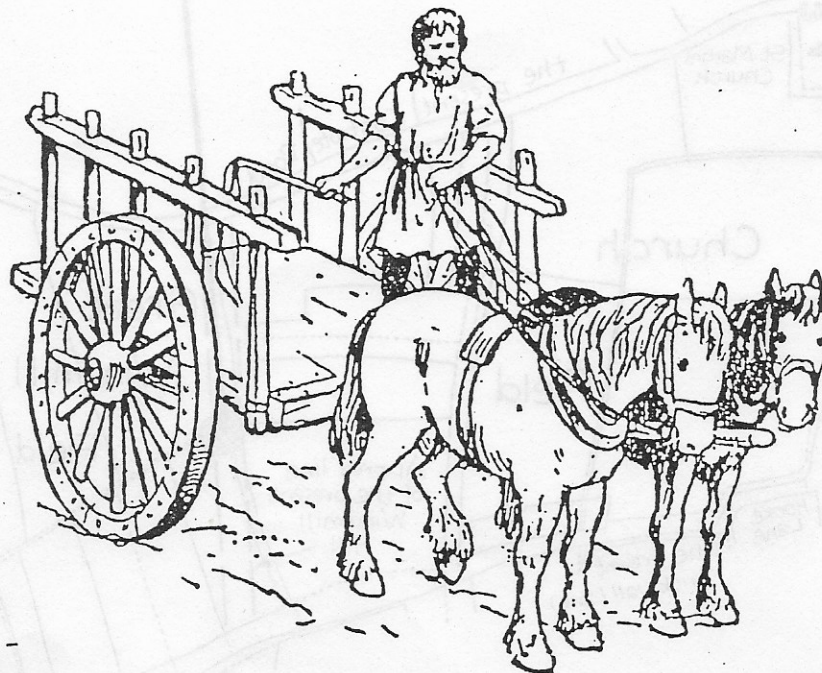
It is to these sequestrations that we owe some - and by no means the least important and interesting part - of our knowledge of these places in medieval times. The royal authorities, on taking the manors into their hands, acted in a businesslike fashion and drew up extents. They listed the quantities and values of land, crops, stock, chattels, rents and other dues, so that they might know what revenue the manor would yield, what it might fetch if they wished to sell or lease it, and more particularly perhaps, that they might judge what they could levy from the prior if they left him in custody of the estate.

Extents exist for the years 1293/4, 1324 & 1336. Neither in 1293/4 nor 1324 did the crown retain the manors for more than a very short time. After the Hundred Years War broke out in 1337, they passed again into the King's hands and remained there almost continuously - although the prior was permitted to remain in his post and manage the Abbey's properties until 1404. In that year the Bailiwick of Ogbourne was let to John of Lancaster (third son of Henry IV who later became the Duke of Bedford) for life or "as long as the war should last". Alien priories were finally suppressed ten years later in 1414.

Extents were made at the time of seizure by the King's representatives and again when the properties were returned to the prior.

Following are:-

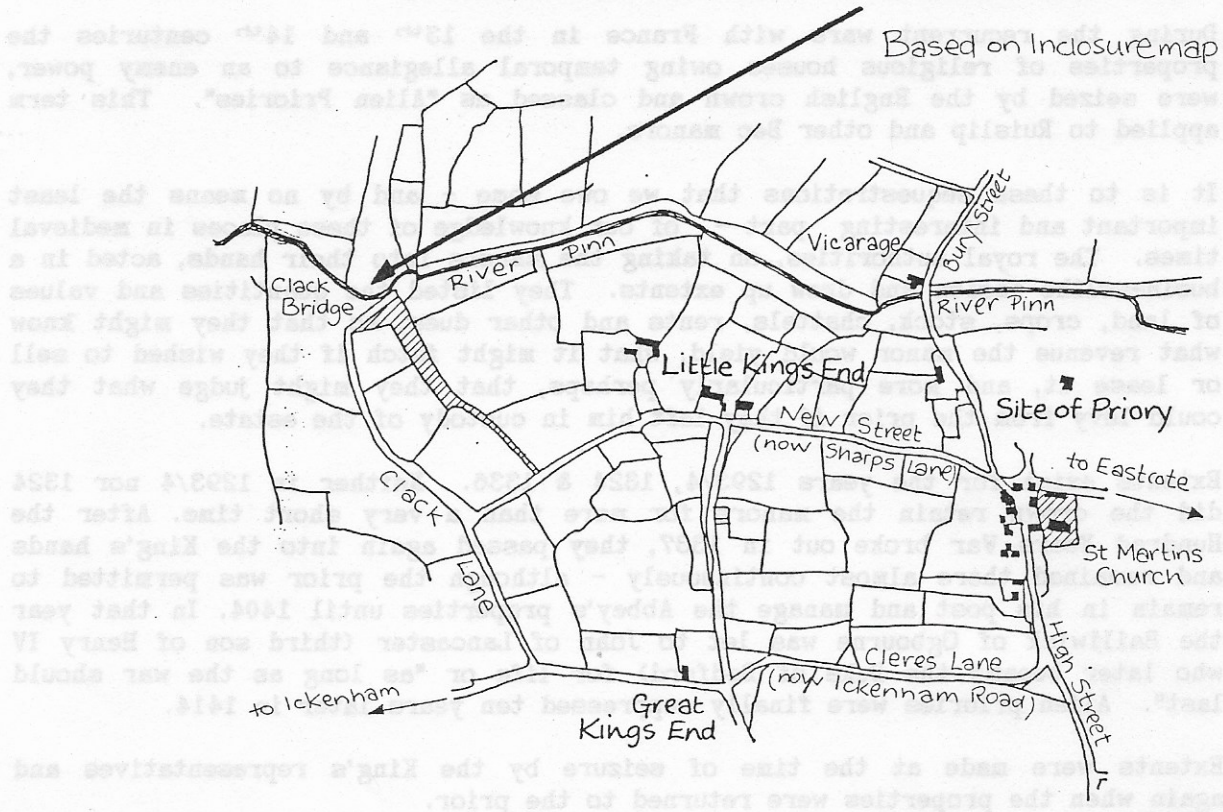
1. Translation of the 1293/4 Extent for Ruislip
2. Translation of the 1324 Extent for Wilsford
3. Translation of the 1324 Extent for Steventon
4. Translation of the 1324 Extent for Ogbourne
5. Translation of the 1324 Extent for Ruislip



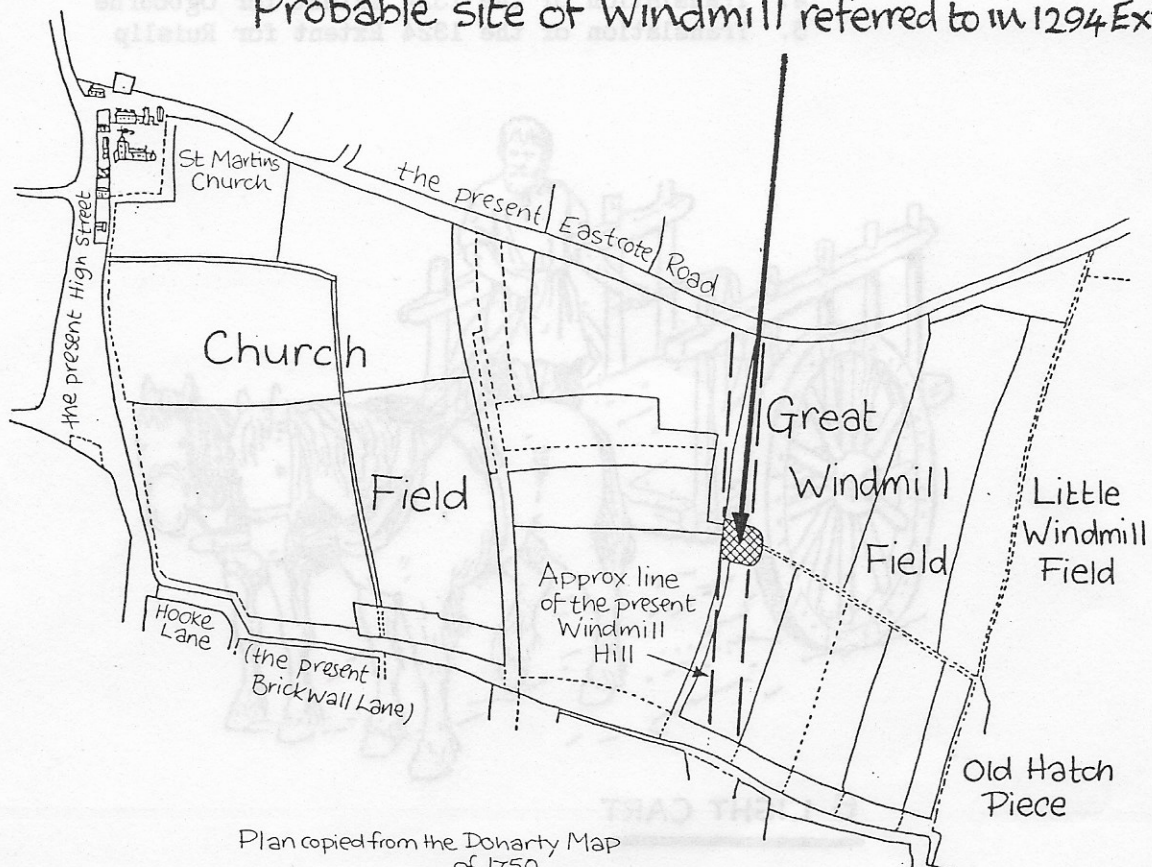
6 LIGHT CART

Probable site of Watermill and Mill Pond

Based on Inclosure map of 1806



Probable site of Windmill referred to in 1294 Extent



Plan copied from the Donarty Map of 1750

POSSESSIONS OF THE ABBEY OF BEC IN RUISLIP 1293

Particulars of the possessions of the Abbey of Bec in the Priory and Manor are given in an "Extent of Manors belonging to Alien Priorities" 22 Edward I (1293-94) when the possessions of foreign houses in England were taken over by the Crown as a result of the declaration of war with France. The Ruislip cell may have only furnished accommodation for one or two monks but the manor itself was of considerable value, the work of course being done by the bond servants of the Abbot.

Here is the stock and its value:-

Belonging to the Abbot of Bec

	£	s	d
1 palfrey	2	13	4
6 carthorses each 13s.4d	4	0	0
1 horse for the mill		6	8
30 oxen each 5s	7	10	0
3 steers and 3 foals	2	0	0
in the park 4 steers, 4 foals, 1 mule, 1 ass	1	2	0
63 oxen each 8s	25	4	0
25 cows each 6s.8d	8	6	8
item 60 bull calves each 1s		15	0
89 sheep each 10d	3	14	2
18 goats each 10d		15	0
1 lamb			6
50 pigs each 1s.4d	3	6	8
60 piglets each 10d	2	10	0
11 sucking pigs each 4d		3	8
2 swans each 3s		6	0
17 peacocks each 1s		17	0
ornaments in the chapel	2	13	4
fields sown with wheat, 330 acres, 3s/acre	49	10	0
" " " barley, 15 acres, 3s/acre	2	5	0
" " " oats, 330 acres, 20d/acre	26	10	0
45 acres mowing grass, 18d/acre	3	7	6
TOTAL	157	16	6

Extent of the same Manor

The jurors say that the commodities and easements belonging to the court are valued per annum at	16	0
rents of free tenants	2	7
rents and services of customary tenants as could be estimated for certain	26	17
value of 807 acres of arable land in demesne, 4d/acre	13	9
value of 45 acres of meadow in demesne, 2s/acre	4	10
14 acres of separate pasture, 18d/acre	1	1
80 acres of pasture in the park, 4d/acre	1	6
pannage of pigs, "foreign & domestic"	5	0
1 windmill & 1 watermill	2	0
profits & perquisites with fines & land & with tallage of bondsmen	6	0
tithes of the church in Ruislip	16	13
certain tithes in Hayes		8
Total	£ 81.	6. 6½

	£	s	d
for a breviary (<i>a book containing the Office</i>)		13	4
for boots and shoes for the boys		6	2
carrying of writs for sheriff's tourns		1	4
for marl		18	6
livery made to Walter de Rokesle (<i>an allowance of food</i>)	20	0	0
livery made to the lord	23	0	0
and so from all accounts and allowances	5	2	6½
to the said bailiff which the lord owed him from the last account, the bailiff now owes to the lord	5	3	3
afterwards he paid upon account		3	3
and so he owes to the lord clear	5	0	0

Rislep Outgoings of the barns per annum

of wheat	961 quarters	5 bushels
of which for seed	101 quarters	
for house bread p.a.	418 quarters	2 bushels
for brewing	47 quarters	
for liveries to the farm servants	168 quarters	
lost(?) in threshing & winnowing	23 quarters	7 bushels
sold	202 quarters	
in gifts of the lord	1½ quarters	
of barley	6½ quarters	
all sold		
of beans & peas	190 quarters	3 bushels
of which in seed	19 quarters	7 bushels
for bread	20 quarters	
in alms	29 quarters	6 bushels
in pottage	6 quarters	1 bushel
in pig feed	50 quarters	1 bushel
in provender for the horses	13 quarters	
sold	10 quarters	
in gifts	1½ quarters	
remaining in the granary	40 quarters	
of oats	912 quarters	5 bushels
of which for seed	212 quarters	6 bushels
for brewing	220 quarters	
for pottage	16 quarters	
for provender for horses & oxen	453 quarters	7 bushels
for geese & hens	6 quarters	
for gifts	4 quarters	

Total 2,074 quarters 1 bushel



milking

WILSFORD Feb 2nd 1325

In the hall

2 tables with trestles, 4d. each
1 fixed table, 3d.
2 forms, 1d. each
1 wash-basin 12d.

In the camera (room)

4 blankets, 2s. each
8 sheets, 12d. each

In the Chapel

2 vestments with 1 chausuble, 20s.
1 chalice, 20s.
4 altar-cloths, altog. 2s.
3 corporal cloths, 18d. each (*cloths which the host is blessed upon*)
1 missal, 10s. (*Mass Book*)
1 gradual, 3s. (*a book of Antiphons sung between the Epistle &*
1 service book for Saints Days, 2s. *Gospel from the altar steps*)

In the store-room

1 stean (jar) for bread, 4d.
3 cloths, 6d. each
2 towels, 4d. each
3 barrels, 4d. each
6 silver spoons, 10d. each
1 mazer, 1s.6d. (*a bowl or drinking cup*)
1 mazer, 12d.

In the kitchen

3 copper pots, 18d. each
2 posnets, 6d. each (*3-legged saucepan*)
2 copper pans, 12d. & 6d.

In the bakehouse

1 vat for fermenting, 6d.
1 stean, 3d.
2 tubs, 6d. each

In the brewhouse

2 furnace leads (*like coppers built-in*) 5s. each
3 tubs 6d. each
3 vats 4d. each
4 measures 3d. each

CHATELS DELIVERED TO THE PRIOR OF OGBOURNE DEC. 29TH 1324

In the hall

5 trestle tables with trestles, 2s.8d.
4 forms worth 8d.
2 wash basins, 2s.6d.

In the store-room

2 casks & a butt, empty. 2 casks for alms (*things given to the poor*)
1 bin for bread.
3 barrels, 3 tankards, & other small utensils, 7s.6d.
also 1 cloth, 2 pieces canvas, 1 towel, worth 12d.
2 bushels salt 12d.
1 small silver cup & 4 silver spoons, 5s.

In the bakehouse & brewhouse

2 furnace leads 20s.
2 steans for food, 1 flour bin, 12d.
7 tubs, 8 vessels, 3 vats, 2 bolting cloths (*for sieving*), 10s.

In the kitchen

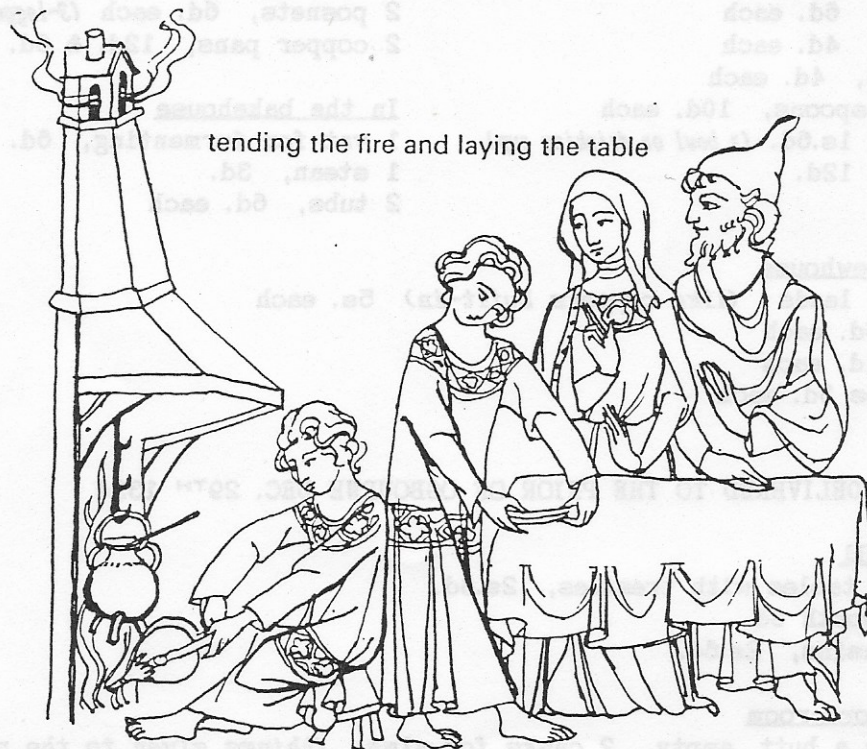
2 copper pots, 1 mark
2 small copper pots & 1 posnet, 3s.6d.
2 pans & 1 3-legged pot, 12d.
2 iron cauldrons, 10s.
a mortar with pestle, 2 gridirons, 1 small iron pan, 1 axe, 2s.

In the larder

1 stean, 1 other vessel, 1 bin without lid, 14d.

In the dairy

4 cheese presses, 1 churn, 4 tables to hold cheese, 2s.



STEVENTON OCT. 18TH 1324

Camera

43s. in cash
2 bed coverings, 4s.
6 sheets, 3s.
3 chests, 5s.

Total 61s.

Pantry & buttery

2 silver cups, 10s.
1 mazer bound with silver, 3s.
5 cloths, 3s.4d.
5 sanaps, 4d.
2 copper pots, 12d.
6 tankards, 3d.
() barrels for wine, 2s.6d.
1 box, 2s.
2 casks full of (), 10s.
6 empty casks, 3s.
6 barrels, 2s.

Total = 47s.11d.

Larder

14 small salted carcasses of pigs, 14s.

Total 14s.

Kitchen

4 copper pots, 10s.
3 copper pans, 3s
2 andirons, 12d.
1 3-legged cauldron, 3d.
1 skimmer 4d.
20 dishes, 20 plates & 20 saucers of wood, 7d.

Total = 21s.3d.

Brewhouse

3 large tubs, 3s.
6 small tubs, 2s.6d.
6 vessels, 8d.
2 vats, 4d.
2 buckets, 2d.
2 furnace leads, 10s.

Total 16s.8d.

Dairy

2 copper pans, 11d.
7 cheese presses, 7d.
10 cheeses, 15s.
18 cheeses, 2s.3d.

Total 18s.9d.

Hall

6 tables & 2 pair trestles, 18d.
9 poor cushions, 9d.
1 bench, 3d.
3 chairs, 3d.
1 wash basin, 2s.

Total 5s.

12 silver spoons, 8s.

4 towels, 16d.

1 saltcellar, 3d.

10 wooden cups, 3d.

1 empty butt, 4d.

1 cask for (), 4d.

Source: M. Chibnell; Inventories of three small Alien Priors 1324

TRANSLATION OF 14TH CENTURY INVENTORY TAKEN AT RUISLIP (1324)

This is the indenture made 10th day December in the 18th year of the reign of Edward son of Edward between Robert de Kellesaye and Robert de Asschele Guardians of the lands tenements goods & chattels of the religious men who are under the authority of the French King in the county of Middlesex and the City of London on the one hand and brother Richard de Bensenalle Prior of Ogbourn on the other hand Namely that the aforesaid Guardians have by writ of the King made on the aforesaid 10th Dec handed over to the same Prior all the goods & chattels below written in the Manor of Ruislip and its parts including Bourn and Northwood and existing namely in the grange of Ruislip

	£	s	d
Of corn by estimation in the sheaf			
46 quarter 4 bushel value per quarter		6	8
Item in the same Priory 380 acres _____			
with reaped corn value per acre			40
Item beans by estimation in the sheaf			
38 quarter 2 bushel value per quarter			40
Item mixed corn in the granary			
1 quarter 2 bushel value per quarter			41
Item oats 22 quarter whereof in the granary			
11 quarter and in the grange by estimation			
in the sheaf 11 quarter value per quarter			22
Item malt barley in the granary			
8 quarter 4 bushel value per quarter		4	0
Item malt oats in the granary			
10 quarter 5 bushel value per quarter		2	6
Item 1 palfrey value		100	0
Item 1 horse for his companion value		50	0
Item 1 sumpter value		50	0
Item 1 hackney value		13	4
Item 6(?) plough horses value		4	0
Item 21 draught horses total value		60	0
Item 5 mares total value		13	0
Item 5 colts total value		7	0
Item 2 asses and 1 she ass total value		15	0
Item 50 oxen total value		13	16 8
per head		5	6
and further total value			20
Item 2 bulls value		13	4
Item 28 cows total value		7	3 0
Item 6 bullocks total value		12	0
Item 1 heifer value		2	0
Item 5 calves total value		2	0
Item 51 pigs each		14	½
Item 3 boars each		2	0
Item 26 geese each			2
Item 12 silver salt cellars		9	12 0
Item 12 silver salt measures [document damaged]			
Item 2 silver pitchers one for			
wine and the other for water value		33	4
Item 12 silver spoons [document damaged]			
Item 1 brass pot value		6	8
Item 1 brass pot value			40
Item 2 brass pots value		5	0
Item 1 small pot value			18

	l	s	d
Item 3 small pots value		3	0
Item 4 brass pestles value			22
Item 1(?) brass mortar with 1 iron pestle value	3	0	
Item 1 iron pot value			5
Item 1 oratory value			4
Item 2 trivits (tripods?) value			4
Item 1 stone mortar with pestle value 4 (?)			
Item 1 straw truss value			3
Item 1 axe value			3
Item 1 basin with ewer value			40
Item 1 table with trestle value	2	0	
Item 1 bench cover value			18
Item 2 andirons value			18
Item 1 sack with _____			
Item 3 table cloths 2 overcloths..... total value	2	0	
Item 3 empty tuns 3 empty casks and 3 empty cades (note: another sort of cask) total value			3 0
Item 2 bowls of maple wood			
Item 1 nut bowl with silver base value	5	0	
Item 6 cradles 1 tub 7 vats value	2	0	
Item 2 troughs 1 chest value			12
Item 1 iron plough value	4	0	
Item 1 unshod plough 6 copper straps 2 carthorse saddles (?) and 4 (?) value	3	0	
Item 6 ploughs 6 coulter 6 ploughshares with all apparatus value			11
Item at Northwood one enamel pot value			10
Item in the same place 3 ploughs 3 coulter 3 ploughshares value		5	6
Item in free cash	9	4	3½

In which things so sworn the aforesaid Prior and the aforesaid Guardians have affixed their seals in agreement to this Indenture

Source: King's College Muniments Dd 65/3



monk travelling

The Inventory taken when the Priory was seised by the King (P.R.O. S.C.6/1126/5) lists the Prior's servants

There was a reeve, 14 men concerned with ploughing, a swineherd, a cowherd, two men to look after the horses of the prior and the one other monk living at Ruislip with him, a carpenter who mended the ploughs, harrows "and other necessary things in the same manor", a smith who shod the horses and also made or repaired the ironwork of the ploughs and other farm equipment, a hayward (who looked after the hedges and fences and, by an extension of this duty, also kept his eye open for trespassing animals and presented the offending owners at the manor court).

At Northwood were 6 ploughmen and a maidservant "who makes the potagium (soup or porridge) of the servants and other things which have to be made there". There is no mention of farmworkers at Bourne. Possibly this grange had no permanently resident staff, but it had barns and an earlier record suggests that it had cattle-sheds and, at that time, a lad who looked after the oxen there. In addition to the farmworkers the prior also had domestic servants - a doorkeeper, cook, porter and gardener.

As to buildings, there was a chapel and there are also references to "the barn which is next to the gateway through which one enters into the main house"; "the south side of the same barn near the guesthouse" (hostellum); "the other barn which stands northwards and southwards", and "another barn", that is, three barns in all. At Northwood was a barn "which stands northwards and southwards" and "the other barn". In 1324 repairs were necessary to the "aula", which may mean the hall or main part of the house; to the "cameras", ie the separate rooms or subsidiary parts of the house, and to the barns.

The sum of 2s.4d. was paid for the hire of one tiler and his servant for seven days for roofing work.

Source L E.Morris; "Two Extents of the Abbey of Bec" J. R. Nat. Hist. 1955

