

**Westminster Abbey Muniments Book 11: 'The Westminster Domesday', fo. 169b
Westminster Abbey Muniments 1915***

Charter concerning four shillings received annually from the Prior of Merton [c.1239x1246]

To all the faithful in Christ to whom this present writing shall have come, Robert prior of Merton and the convent of the same place, eternal greetings in the Lord. Know that we have received confirmation from our beloved in Christ, the lord Richard by grace of God, Abbot of Westminster and of the holy convent of the same place, concerning the land which we have in Westmorden by the gift of William of Wauton, which is of the fee of the aforesaid lords the Abbot and convent, under this form. To all the faithful in Christ, about to see or hear the present script, Richard by God's grace, Abbot of Westminster and the convent of the same place, eternal greetings in the Lord. We wish to bring to the notice of you all that we, by the consent of our chapter, have granted, and by this present writing, have confirmed to God and the holy church of St Mary of Merton and the canons serving God there, the service and the whole land with pertinences in Westmorden, which is of our fee, which the aforesaid canons have by gift of William de Wauton, except twelve acres of land with pertinences which Nicholas of Purley and Joan his wife held there towards the free marriage of the same Joan, and which land the same William held from us by the free service of two shillings a year for all service, just as by the charter of the said William to the said canons, fair and full witness is made thereof. However, on condition that where the aforesaid canons were accustomed to render to us for the said William and his heirs through the attorney of the aforesaid William, two shillings on the feast of Blessed Peter ad Vincula, at Westminster, they shall render to us on the aforesaid feast {henceforth} at Westminster by the hands of the heirs of the aforesaid William or their attorneys, four shillings annually. Whereby we wish and by our present writing have granted for us and our successors and our church that the aforesaid canons and their successors and their church of Merton, shall hold all the aforesaid land with pertinences in Westmorden thus freely and peacefully, just as in the abovesaid charter is fully expressed, saving however to us and our successors the increase in rent just as in the present writing above is contained. However, on condition that neither we nor our successors, if by chance the aforesaid land is impleaded, shall be able to be called to warrant, because we do not wish about the aforesaid land that it should be held by either the same canons nor their successors in any warrant. In witness whereof we have confirmed the present writing, by our seal in chapter. These being witnesses, the lord Walter Duredent, Master Phillip de Hammes, William de Wandsworth, Simon de Suwelle, John de Berkinge, William Falcacii, Thomas de Heyforde, Roger Champeneys, William de Eyton, Robert de Cyrecestre and many others.

The great Merton Abbey seal (see Birch 3637)

* *de cetero* is omitted in WD fo. 169b

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NOTES:

The date assigned to this confirmation is set by the dates of the heads of the two convents involved. Richard de Berkyng was Abbot of Westminster 1222-46. Robert de Hexham was Prior of Merton 1238-1248/9.

The remaining 12 acres, which Joan and Nicholas held, had also passed into the hands of Merton Priory by a legal settlement made on 9th July 1237, during the priorate of Robert de Hexham's predecessor, Henry de Basinges, who was Prior of Merton 1231-1238. See TNA CP 25/1/225/10

In Trinity term 1231 Maud, widow of William de Walton, had brought an action of *dower nominatim* against the prior of Merton for a carucate at Morden. See *Curia Regis Rolls XIV* [Published calendar or transcription of TNA Curia Regis Roll 108 m7 [entries 1346 and 1841].

This grant of land in West Morden was presumably the nucleus of Merton Priory's Hobbalds estate, though the first mention by that name is in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535, where Hobbollys is valued at £10. Hobbalds Mead is mentioned earlier.