

MORDEN: The Sunday after St Andrew's Day in the abovesaid year [3 December 1312].

Of **wheat** in the granary 7 bushels wheat, 5 bushels curall wheat. Likewise estimated in the grange 16 quarters of which 6 quarters poor wheat. Sum 16 quarters 6 bushels.* Of which in household expenses in harvest, in expenses of boonworks as regards reaping corn, with *serviens*' livery 5½ quarters. In maslin for servants' livery 6 quarters 5 bushels poor wheat and curall. Also delivered to Westminster upon the View 6 bushels. Sum 12 quarters 7 bushels. And so there remain for sale 4 quarters 5 bushels.†

Of **mixstillio** estimated in the grange 2 quarters. Sum 2 quarters. And all in servants' livery.

Of **barley** estimated in the grange 10 quarters. Sum 10 quarters. And the whole accounted in sowing.

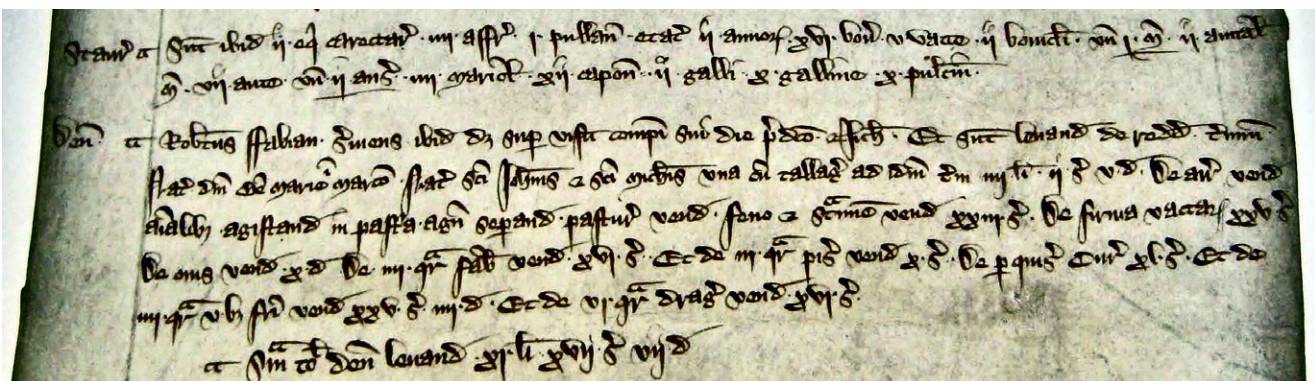
Of **beans** estimated in the grange 7 quarters. Sum 7 quarters. Of which in sowing 3 quarters. And so there remain for sale 4 quarters.

Of **peas** estimated in the grange 12 quarters. Sum 12 quarters. Of which in sowing 4 quarters. In servants' livery 5 quarters. Sum 9 quarters. And so there remain for sale 3 quarters.

Of **dredge** estimated in the grange 8 quarters. Sum 8 quarters. Of which in sowing 2 quarters. And so there remain for sale 6 quarters dredge.

Of **oats** remaining in the granary 1 quarter 2 bushels. Likewise estimated in the grange 40 quarters. Sum 41 quarters 2 bushels. Of which in sowing 40 quarters by estimation. In meal for servants' pottage, fodder for carthorses, fodder for oxen and calves 21 quarters. In fodder for the bailiff and Roger atte Doune 1½ quarters. Sum 62½ quarters. And so the purchase of 21 quarters 2 bushels is ordered to supply the deficiency thereof as appears below.

Of **maslin** of issue of the mill by estimation 18 quarters. And the whole accounted in servants' livery.



LIVESTOCK

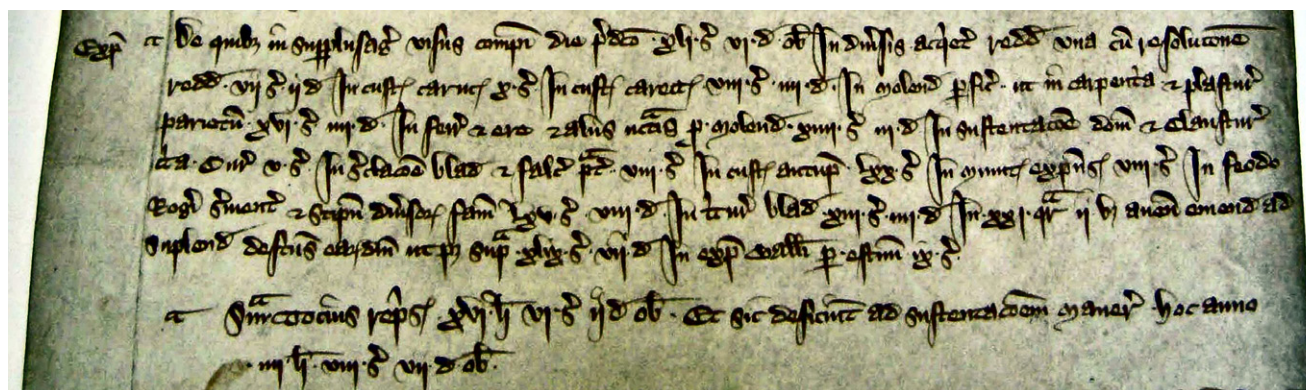
There are at the same place 2 carthorses, 4 draught horses, 1 colt aged 2 years, 16 oxen, 5 cows, 2 bullocks of which 1 male, 2 male yearlings, 7 geese, of which 2 ganders, 4 breeding females, 12 capons, 2 cocks, 10 hens, 10 chickens.

CASH

Robert Fabian, *serviens* at the same place, owes at the view of his account on the aforesaid day nothing. And there is levied for rents for the terms of Christmas, Blessed Mary in March, Nativity of St John and Michaelmas with tallage at the same term £4 2s 5d. For ploughing-services sold, animals agisted in pasture, lambs weaned, pasturage sold, hay and straw sold 23s. For farm of cows 25s. For eggs sold 10d. For 4 quarters beans sold 16s. And for 3 quarters peas sold 10s. For profits of court 40s. And for 4 quarters 5 bushels wheat sold 25s 4d. And for 6 quarters dredge sold 16s. Sum total of cash levied £11 17s 7d.

* The total should be 17 quarters 4 bushels.

† This does total 17 quarters 4 bushels.



EXPENSES

Of which in surplus of the view of account on the aforesaid day 41s 6½d. In various rent acquittances together with rents paid out 7s 2d. In plough costs 10s. In cart costs 8s 4d. In completing the mill as in carpentry and plastering walls 16s 4d. In iron and brass and other necessities for the mill 14s 3d. In maintaining buildings and closes around the court 5s. In hoeing corn and mowing meadows 8s. In harvest costs 70s. In petty expenses 8s. In fee of Roger the *serviens* and wages of various servants 65s 8d. In threshing corn 13s 4d. In purchasing 21 quarters 2 bushels oats to supply the deficiency thereof as appears above 49s 7d. In expenses of the bailiff by estimation 9s.

Total sum deducted £16 6s 2½d. And so there is a deficiency for maintaining the manor this year £4 8s 7½d.

The States of the Manors

Several manorial accounts mention visits to Morden by the monk-bailiff and his colleagues 'for superintending and regulating the state of the manor'.¹ All the convent's manors were inspected and more than 50 documents relating to these visits survive, some duplicates. Morden is included in 32 of these, of which only 5 are for years not covered by extant manorial accounts.²

Most of the 'States of the Manors' merely summarise the manorial accounts, listing stocks of grain and livestock remaining on the manor at the end of the accounting year, and noting deliveries of cash to the abbey, arrears still owing from the estate manager, and the value of the manor. However, the States of the Manors for 1312 was undertaken 9 weeks after the close of the accounting year, and reveals some interesting aspects of the accounting process. Fortunately the manorial account rolls survive for both 1311/12 and 1312/13, allowing comparisons to be made.³

There are several differences. Only 8 quarters of barley were sown in the year 1312/13, not the 10 quarters estimated in December 1312. No peas were allocated for servants' maslin. No dredge was sown. No oats were purchased in the year (other than 2½ quarters obtained from the abbey's manor of Aldenham), in spite of the instruction to buy 21 quarters. No pasturage was sold, nor hay and straw, and the income from 'Issues of the manor' was 3 shillings less than the total given in the States. Corn prices recorded in the manorial account seldom reached prices suggested in the States. The only anticipated expense to match actual expenditure was the 65s 8d for staff wages, which was a fixed amount, paid at the end of each quarter. So it is clear that most of the incomes and outgoings listed in the States were forecasts rather than real. And yet recommendations regarding future purchases and sales were based on these figures.

Surprisingly, of the 75 quarters of wheat threshed Michaelmas 1312–13, only 17½ quarters remained in the manor barns at the beginning of December 1312, most still awaiting threshing. 20 quarters had already been sown. 4 quarters had been sent to the abbey, though 6 bushels were still owed. Of the 30 quarters recorded as sold in the year, all but 4 quarters 5 bushels had already been sold, together with 11 quarters barley and 20 quarters oats, raising over £10. Of course, some expenses had already been incurred – more than half the harvest had already been threshed and winnowed, staff had received their first allocation of maslin, 2 oxen had been purchased, and 1 sold. Only 30s was set aside for completion of the new mill, suggesting that some £15 had already been accounted for. It is no wonder that the *serviens* had already overspent by 41s 6½d, despite having £7 12s in hand from the previous year.

It would seem that the manorial account had not yet been audited when the States was drawn up at the beginning of December, as the sum quoted for rent income was the uncorrected total shown on the manorial account roll for 1311/12. The corrected total was £4 2s 2d, and that was the figure quoted in the 1312/13 manorial account roll. The difference was merely an error, not the result of a deletion of an entry.

¹ WAM 27301, 27304, 27313, 27316–9, 27322–4, 27327, 27333, 27335

² See the list in Barbara Harvey *The Obedientiaries of Westminster Abbey and their Financial Records, c.1275–1540* (2002) pp.109–115 and the transcripts and calendars in Barbara F Harvey & Christopher M Woolgar *The States of the Manors of Westminster Abbey c.1300–1422* (2019). The records that include Morden are WAM 9298, 9289, 6176, 6194, 6185, 6184, 6198, 6148, 6173, 6160, 6164, 6144, 6138, 6140, 6151, 6129, 6168, 6136, 6131, 6135, 6134, 6132, 6130, 6122, 6123, 6155, 6119; ERO D/DM M153, 156, 157, 158, 159.

³ WAM 27303–4