

'A certen territorie of wooddy grounds and fruitfull pastures, priviledged for wild beasts and foules of forrest, chase and warren, to rest and abide in, in the safe protection of the king, for his princely delight and pleasure'. (Manwood, 1598, in Cox)

11C.

[forests] in the great fee of Clitheroe subject at the same time [i.e. after the Conquest] to the family of Lacy. (Cox)

Rossendale strictly was a Chase rather than a Forest at this time as it was not under the direct possession of the king, but unusually was still subject to forest law. (Tupling, Shaw).

The main breaches of forest law related to encroachment, enclosure, venison trespass (i.e. any game) and vert trespass. Each dead animal was inspected and fines issued for lax custody. Any trespass with dog and bows was taken as poaching.

12C.

1193 approx.

Lands in Whalley parish transferred to the Abbey of Stanlaw, including 4 oxgangs in Rochdale and Brendewood (Brandwood, near Rochdale), including Cowpe. This included the right to graze and to cut hay. (Tupling).

13C

'In the first year of King John [1200], Benedict Gernet held the serjeanty of the forest of the whole county, for which he rendered an annual payment of £26 13s 4d. '(Cox)

'Also in 1200 the king granted leave by charter to the knights and freeholders dwelling in his forest of the honor of Lancaster to use their own woods as they willed, declaring them exempt from the regard of the forest' - on payment of £283 17s. (Cox)

'A perabulation of the Lancashire forests was undertaken in 1228 on the king's precept, by William Blundel, Thomas de Bethune, and ten other knights who said that the whole forests of Lancaster ought, according to the Forest Charter, to be

disafforested, save Quernmore, Conet, Bleasdale, Fulwood, Toxteth, Derby and Burtonwood. [Whilst this applied to the Lancaster forests, these indicate a relaxation of forest law in the area] (Cox)

Around this time deer parks were enclosed within forests and so not all forest was used for hunting. Much land was used for pasture via vaccaries (cow farms).

1293

11 vaccaries in Rossendale, each with about 50 cows, 50 young cattle and one bull (Winchester). Six areas around the north and south edges of Rossendale were used for resident's cattle with permission. The herdsmen lived in a 'booth'. Occasionally the herdsman was a woman, e.g. Cecilia de Welaye in 1296. (Tupling).

By the end of the thirteenth century there were in Rossendale a 'couple of' hamlets, a 'dozen or more' vaccaries, a home farm of the Lord and evidence of 'spasmodic' smelting efforts (Tupling)

Haslingden is outside the forest of Rossendale and was settled early, due to its proximity to the access routes to Whalley and Clitheroe. An Inquisition of 1241 valued Haslingden at £3 15s 5d to the Honor, probably being about 200-300 acres. Haslingden was a dependent chapelry of Whalley but 1296, with one oxgang or 15 acres. (Tupling).

1295-6

Sub-Instaurator for Rossendale: Henry of the Estock

Vaccary keepers: Henry of the Estock, John of Pycoppe, John son of Odousa, Robert of Couhoppe, Richard of Dunnockschae, Richard of Bencrofte, Thomas of the Estok, Henry of Hoghton, William of Dynley, Alan of Rocliff and William son of Andrew.

14C.

1305-6 Vaccary keepers of Rossendale: William of Dynlay, John of Cleges, Richard of Dunnockschae, Henry of the Stocks, Alan Franceys, Henry of Berdeshul, Thomas of the Stockes, Henry of Dynlay, William Cronschage, Henry of Reved and Robert of Couhope. (Shaw)

Inquisito post mortem of Henry de Lacey described 19 manors in Whalley parish, including Haslingden and Accrington. The forest was held by a succession of short term owners after Henry de Lacey's death and development stagnated or receded and the number of both vaccaries and cattle reduced

Musbury park was a deer enclosure, enclosed about 1304-5 and actually outside the Rossendale forest, so most of Rossendale probably not used for hunting after that. (Winchester)

1324,

2 folds constructed in Rossendale for the pounding of stray domesticated grazing animals. It is not known precisely where, although one was in Deadwinclough. Deadwinclough vaccary was known to be on the lower slopes between Rawtenstall and Waterfoot north of the Irwell. It was possibly used for breeding, with the cattle being fattened at lower lying farms. Let to Henry of the Stok for 26s 8d.

1341 Dedqueneclough as holding the queen's stock, ie not let.

1342, Rossendale foresters fined £3 8s9d for insufficient keepage of the queen's herbage (Tupling). Deadwinclough let out by this time, i.e. not managed by manorial bailiffs. (Shaw)

15C

1423, Henry de Houghton's accounts for Blackburnshire

'Under Rossendale, 7s. 7d. was received in woodmote perquisites held at Accrington, and 5s. 1d. for per-quisites of halmotes held at the same place.'

'In the same year, the collectors of Blackburnshire accounted for the receipt of £130 15s. 10½ d. from farm rents, herbage, etc., in Pendle; £14 12s. 2d. from Rossendale;'(Cox)

At about this time 6s 8d (i.e. about 2-3 months' work) was paid for cutting winter fodder in Rossendale, and a deer driver employed at 15s 6d. (Tupling)

1424,

Sir John Stanley made chief steward and master forester of Blackburnshire (Cox)

1427

Deadwenclough let to James de Greenhalgh

'During the 15th century after the cessation of demense farming a number of leases were granted of the former vaccaries throughout the Blackburnshire Forest:- The

vaccary of Declequene clough was leased by James Greenhalgh during the minority of Henry VI, the grant being witnessed by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, custodian of the realm' (Shaw).

1469, 22 June, Ralph Barton took a 12 year lease at £14 13s 4d of the pasture of Lench, half the pasture of New Hall Hey and of the vaccaries of Wolfenden Booth and Dedequeneclough.

16C

'In 1501 the Crown issued a series of warrants to the Earl of Derby and others, directing that "putre money" or "forester fee" be paid by the tenants to the foresters and keepers of the forests of Penhull, Rossingdale, Acrinton, and Trowden, in Lancashire, according to the old custom and use, as set forth in the account books of the duchy. It was stated that the old records also showed that the foresters had committed "divers displeasures and annoyances against the tenants, their wyfes and servants in sundrywise by their coming to their houses for their meate and drink," and that on the tenants' complaint the duchy had agreed that the tenants should pay yearly £12 13s. 4d. towards the foresters' wage, in recompense for the meat and drink which was no longer to be claimed. This composition was paid yearly until 1461, when for certain special causes this payment was put in respite for a certain season. The sum of £119 6s. 8d. had been thus respited. Stringent orders were issued for the future payment of this fee by the tenants.' (Cox)

1507 disafforested on petition of the inhabitants.

Apparently at deforestation there were 20 persons resident in the forest, by 1550 when the chapel was established as a parish, there were about 1000 of all ages. (Cox)

Cox, Royal Forests of England

Winchester, "Field, wood and forest - landscapes of medieval Lancashire" In:

Lancashire Local Studies (in honour of Diana Winterbottom) Ed Crosby, A, 1993

Shaw, The Royal Forests of Lancashire

Tupling, Economic History of Rossendale.