



William grants land to his vassals

Ralph Baynard held the remaining land. Here there was one freeman of King Edward's called Wulfmer who worked 30 acres. He seems to have owned fealty to a Robert Corbucion, who held land in Loddon and Ingloss.

There were 2 small holders and a slave. 2 ploughs of arable, 2 oxen, enough woodland for 2 pigs, 3 acres of meadow.

8 freemen had fold-rights and patronage in 20 acres, 2 ploughs of arable and half an acre of meadow. These later became the Fitz Walter fee, and then passed on to Bartholomew Sanzaver and Roger de Hales.

The fact that the woodland is expressed in terms of the number of pigs, which could be kept in it (i.e. pannage), which, suggests that the woodlands were not being coppiced, since pigs would have destroyed the young shoots in copice.

Kirby Cane had about 30 households, which were worth taxing.

1076

It was this year that under a reform by Bishop Lanfranc, the clergy were required to be celibate, though those already with wives were allowed to keep them. William I was busy rewarding those who had helped him to conquer Britain, by ousting native landowners and installing his henchmen. Land was split up into "manors", held from the king in return for "homage" or "fealty". This meant that they had to demonstrate their loyalty and obedience to the king, and provide military service. The baron then sub-let parcels of land to his dependent subordinates or vassals. So life for those at the bottom end of society probably did not change much, but the Anglo-Saxon landowners, were either ousted, or downgraded. It is worth noting that William did not kill the Saxon nobility except in battle. This was not an invasion like that of the Vikings or Saxons, who wished to populate the land with their own peasants, but simply a change in the relatively small ruling class. Government was conducted in French, mainly because William has replaced all the important officials with Normans. The Saxon earldoms were broken up, but many of the earlier administrative systems were maintained and developed by the new lords. The sheriff became the King's official in each shire. He collected revenues and dispensed justice. Documents might be written in Latin or French. So a peasant raised a sheep, but when it arrived on the Norman's table, it had become mutton, and we added some interesting words to our language.

Our part of South Norfolk was one of the most densely populated parts of the country at this time.

