

FWP07a

Raddon

this is an amalgam of Hare & Kempson by iwb 14/11/96

'Raddun' presumably means red down, a name which may derive from the colour of the soil. The Winchester Cathedral manuscripts give the name 'Raddun' for the period 1247-8, but 'Raddon' between 1267-1318. The Pembroke Survey noted 'Rodden', as did the 1773 Andrews & Dury map and the Enclosure Map of 1815/16. At present the wooded area is referred to as 'Wroughton Copse' and the enclosed area, which includes the medieval settlement of Raddun, 'Wroughton Mead'. This change to 'Wroughton', clearly similar in sound to Raddon, would appear due to a faux-ami; the village of Wroughton situated about six miles to the north, or by the fact that Wroughton Copse was used as a shooting ground for Colonel Wroughton at the turn of the century.

For Raddon, the evidence of the account rolls can be supplemented by those of the custumal, an account of the terms by which the tenants hold their land. In the C13th, a Richard of Raddon is included in the list of tenants of the manor of Overton, with a distinct entry unlike the standard entry for other viragtors and half virgators. It seems likely, judging by these entries, that his half virgate was attached to the sheep house at Raddon.

Certainly a place called 'Raddon' existed before 1248, as in that year there is a reference to land formerly held by a Richard of Raddun. In 1248 a croft at Raddon was enclosed, possibly in response to pastoral provision or to hold the oxen of the ploughteams. That oxen were kept at Raddon is shown by 'The Customs of Richard of Raddon' from the 'Custumal of St. Swithun's Priory, Winchester', here translated by Kempson;

'Richard of Raddon holds ½ a virgate of arable for which he must look after his lord's two ox-teams at his own expense from devastation by wolves and from theft of thieves and robbers. He must drive the said teams to ploughing and bring them back when the ploughing work is done. And whatever damage the said ox-team commits, the said Richard is responsible. Moreover he will look after the field under corn between Hill and Aist. If any damage is done there, he shall pay sheaf for sheaf, until it is safely stored in the barn. And daily in autumn he shall supervise the reapers and hand over them a sheaf, which they shall receive if the land is properly reaped. And when he carries the corn he shall himself collect the remains of the ears with a rake; and in carrying the lord's hay, he shall have a rake to help. He must concern himself with the ploughing for the field of the oxen, in seeing that it is properly ploughed. In the ploughing taskwork he shall himself help with the ploughing and sowing. He ought too to keep safe the two downs of Hackpen and Raddon, when they are hedged off from the cattle and to answer for the damage from outside. He must give the seventeenth hen as Cherchsett at Christmas and 200 eggs at Easter. He is to help at the lord's sheep-shearing in packing up the fleeces and shall receive one fleece and one lamb when they are separated from their mothers. And he is to have one cheese and one acre of corn at his free choice from the cornlands, except for the one plot set aside for the lord's choice'.

Kempson also noted in a letter to PJF of 22/03/63, that 'Richard of Raddun also held a half virgate of land in Alton in 1248 which continues to be called after him, right up to the 16th century'.

Richard, the shepherd, thus held a half-virgate of land (probably between 11-18 acres) which, by virtue of being in charge of two teams of oxen, he held without having to pay the normal rent of fifteen pence. Furthermore, the documents note that in 1248 the 'land has been brought back into the demense', indicating that prior to this date it was managed separately from the manor. Perhaps this custumal is in response to the taking into

demesne of the croft at Raddon from a crofter who had profitted so much from his activities he could no longer be ignored. On the other hand, as this earlier C13th period shows the largest flock in this part of the priory estate, the custumal may be indicating that a croft had been recently built to help manage this large downland flock. If so, perhaps the custumal is laying down for the first time the arrangements by which Richard holds his half-virgate, the sheepcote and ox house. According to Kempson 'the documents refer to walls (*muri*) at Fyfield & Overton, but only to partitions (*parietes*) at Raddon [sheepcote]. The sheepcotes appear to have had three entrances (*hostia*) and one door (*porta*). They were regularly lined with wattle and straw' (140).

In 1248 the target of chickens & eggs the prior had demanded was not reached, though it seems the reeve was to blame. That Richard of Raddon had to give every seventeenth hen to the Prior as '*chersef*' and at Easter provide two hundred eggs points to quite a large number of hens. By 1267 Richard no longer holds the land, as it is now referred to as 'late Richard of Raddon's'. Activity, and presumably habitation, continue nonetheless as three bushels of wheat from the holding at Raddon were paid as tithe that year. In 1282 some of the internal partitions at the sheep house at Raddon and Hackpen were rebuilt and in 1283 the target of chickens and eggs was again not reached. In 1299 the three sheepcotes on the combined manors of Overton and Fyfield are named; '*Berceriae de Raddon*', '*Attele*' and '*Hacan penne*' (Kempson's notes).

In 1307 the wethers were divided up among the shepherds, presumably those at Raddon, Hackpen and Attley, with the shepherd at Raddon sheepcote receiving a gift of a bushel of peas as 'an extra' on top of the annual wage of four shillings. In 1309 a livery of grain was given to the keeper of the cows and young cattle at Raddon for two weeks and eleven acres of meadow are noted. In the same year more than the usual amount of thatching was required to rethatch the sheepcote due to a great storm and £10 was spent on getting hay for sheep from Patney because of the bad winter. Two years later the acreage of meadow had been reduced to six. In 1311 the whole croft was ditched round and fenced in, with 1,500 cuttings (*planti*) were bought at a penny a hundred (=1s 3d) to make enclosure-hurdles (*loc-hach*). This led to the digging of 14 perches of ditch, with further protection coming from 700 thorns planted on it, whilst another ditch at the sheep house was renewed and mended and 800 thorns planted (suggesting, if 14 perches = 700 thorns, that this ditch measured about 16 perches). In the same year £9 2s 3¼d was spent on an ointment to cure or prevent murrain, a disease which killed many sheep. This ointment was made from pigs' fat, fortified with equal parts of quicksilver, verdigris (copper acetate?) and copperas (copper sulphate?). Although smaller sums were spent on this treatment in other years, £9 is the most mentioned.

In 1312, four bushels of barley were provided from store (at the *curia*) to improve the feed of '*some old cattle*' (113) then being kept at Raddon and flour was again granted to the shepherd at Raddon *bercarium*. This flour was sent to Raddon as it was so far away from the manor court, thus exempting the shepherd from coming to collect it. In 1316, the ewes were kept at Raddon and the shepherd's grain livery was increased because he had a boy helping him for four weeks, at the same date the acreage of meadow at Raddon had increased to 17 and cows and oxen were again being kept there. In 1318 a carpenter (*carpentarius*) was paid a salary for his work at Raddon, which would probably have included making and mending wooden ploughs and other agricultural instruments, as well as repairing buildings. No other references to Raddon have been found between 1318 and the end of the C15th.

The period from 1309 to 1312 (at least) seems to have been a particularly expensive time when one notes the amount of money spent during these years at Raddon. For example, the extra thatch and thatching work and the purchase of hay in 1309 cost about £10, the ditching and fencing work in 1311 cost a minimum of 15d and £9 was spent on the

murrain ointment. In 1318, the last documented date for Raddun before 1492, the carpenter would also have needed paying.

The cause of many of these financial burdens was probably due to bad weather. Kempson, quoting from the Custumal Records, mentions the 'great storm' of 1309. Titow (1960, 360-407) notes that the autumn of 1308 was 'wet and long' and that flooding was reported in the winter of 1309/10. At *Douttona* (Downton), for example, south of Salisbury on the banks of the Avon, '13 oxen, 32 cows, 11 boveti, 11 boviculi, 16 annales, and 99 pigs and piglets were lost *per inundacionem aque*' (ibid. 383). The latter part of 1310 and the year 1311, on the other hand, were dry and references are made to the repairs to *bladi* (blades; ibid, 384). However, from 1312 to 1319 flooding was reported every year, and *throughout* the years of 1315, 1316 & 1319, though 'the harvest of the hard winter of 1314 was very good indeed considering the very wet and long autumn of 1313' (ibid, 364). Correspondingly, the average price of wheat, as calculated by Titow, rose by over 250% between 1314 and 1317 (ibid. 383-87).

The above evidence would suggest that Raddon was a major centre of pastoral farming, as well as a satellite outstation for the arable farming of the manor. The transformation of the sheep farming activities on the manor of Overton between 1210 and 1248 would suggest that Raddon emerged during these years as a great flock centre. But was this a creation from deserted downland or did the prior use a pre-existing small downland settlement, such as existed at Shaw and Rockley? Either way, it is important to emphasise that it should not be seen as an obscure, unimportant downland farmstead, but as a vital and core element in the mass sheep farming that was such an important part of the commercial activity of this particular manor. Indeed, its emergence to this important role would make Raddon one of, if not *the*, most important sheep centre on the Winchetsre estates. As such it is likely that it would have been visited by estate stockmen and officials, including those monks who were active in estate administration.

The precise role of Raddon is difficult to establish, though clearly was above all an important sheep centre. The documentary references to cows, oxen and chickens, and the archaeoenvironmental evidence for pigs, horses and dog, not only suggest a permanent settlement, but also varied, flexible husbandry. The maintenance of such a large flock in permanent winter housing, as well as cattle, would have meant the need for hay for indoor feeding. Some would have been imported into the manor, particularly from the nearby estates of Patney and Wroughton, but some would also presumably have been produced in the mead at Raddon (Why else Wroughton Mead?).

The account rolls give us little indication of arable farming in the area immediately around, though the reference to 'the field under corn between Hill and Aist' in 1248 may refer to cultivation to the east of Raddon. The presence of the arable farming, however, is certainly suggested by the archaeology (ridge-and-furrow) and it would have been sensible to make good use of the considerable manuring capacity of the sheep flocks and, to a lesser extent, the cattle. The absence of any clear documentation is understandable. If any arable was regarded as part of the adjacent open fields of the villages, they would not have been referred to independently. As suggested earlier, there need not have been distinct and permanent fields, rather a shift in location from one year to the next in order to avoid overstraining the poor soils. However, the fact that some of the plough teams were kept at Raddon in 1248 and in 1316, suggests that the arable expansion had extended far enough away from the main settlement to make it worthwhile for the oxen to be housed there. Indeed, the growth of arable would have made a base on the fringes a valuable and time-saving device. Although the shepherd was granted and sent flour, this should not be taken as an indication of any favouritism but as a reinforcement of manorial restrictions, *i.e.* even at Raddon, so far from the *curia*, one was not allowed to grind one's own corn or meal. Clearly, the shepherd at Raddon remained

very much part of the demesne economy and Raddon a key element in the manorial economy and agrarian growth of the C13.