

Only in Staverton were bees kept, but wild swarms would have provided opportunities for windfall honey. Most important was the beeswax, for multiple uses, including candles, paints and polishes and to rainproof cloth. Honey was the sole sweetener and was used in the preparation of foods and in medicines. A mere two horses are noted. They will have been used for transport purposes when yokes and baskets and backpacks were insufficient, or when speed of travel was required. It may not be a coincidence that both the horses recorded were kept on manors with fisheries, the catch from which needed to get to the point of consumption fast. Hens, ducks and geese were not required to be listed, but will have been much in evidence; later medieval documents record rents and dues paid in poultry and eggs.

Mills and woods

The gentle topography of the area necessitated powering mills with either a vertical or a horizontal wheel turned by the stream below. Such undershot wheels were much less efficient than the overshot type, but obviated the capital investment and labour involved in the construction of a leet (elevated water supply). Not all settlements possessed a watermill. For women in most households the 'daily grind' will have meant just that - using a quern to make the flour for bread and pottage. It is a surprise to find no mill listed under Shottisham, Butley or Chillesford as these villages used their water power at a later period. Where Shottisham is concerned, a mill on Shottisham Creek may be listed under 'Halgestou' in 6,176.

Woodland receives little mention, as indeed was the case in surveys made in later centuries. Staverton's wood, subsequently emparked, was the only significant acreage here until the 1920s when much of the heathland became Forestry Commission plantations. In 1086 woods doubtless too small to be assessed grew in little combs and in the valleys of the Blackwater, Tang, Run, and Padley Water where they are found to this day.

Conclusion

It has been a time-consuming exercise to extract the scattered entries in the two volumes of the Phillimore edition of the Domesday Book for Suffolk. Aside from any incidental attractiveness, the resulting map creates a Norman landscape invisible in bare statistics. I hope that readers will take up the challenge to map the rest of the county - or at least to create a maplet of their own corner of it.

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References

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