



RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

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Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW

Medieval Property Transactions in Rutland

Abstracts of Feet of Fines 1197 - 1509

edited and with an introduction
by **Bridget Wells-Furby**

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About this book

The medieval feet of fines in The National Archives record local property transactions. Arising originally in the late 12th century from legal disputes over land, the format was quickly adopted as the most secure form of property transfer. They continued to be couched in the same legal terminology long after that background became a mere fiction.

The 'final concord' or agreement of each transaction was copied in triplicate by clerks of the king's court; each party to the agreement kept one part while the third part, the 'foot', was retained by the court. By no means all such transactions were so recorded, but these 'feet' survive in large numbers as an unparalleled record of land transfers.

Here Bridget Wells-Furby provides a calendar of all 355 feet of fines in the single county series for Rutland. They are an important source for manorial histories and genealogical studies but they also record the transfer of smaller freeholdings which did not amount to manors, thus shedding light on lower ranks of society. Some include important topographical information on land holdings and other assets such as mills, fisheries, and advowsons; a few record names of tenants.

The edition runs to 108 pages and provides an English summary of each fine, with full indexes of the names of persons and places, the names of the justices, and of subjects, and a glossary. The introduction explains the format of the fines, and discusses some of the ways they may be used. It includes an analysis of the appearance of women in the fines, the relationship of the fines to the manorial and political geography of the county, and some examples of how and to what end the fines were used by contemporaries. It is an invaluable source of information for anyone interested in the early history of Rutland.

About the author

Bridget Wells-Furby is an independent scholar specialising in the social and economic history of fourteenth-century England. Her St Andrews University PhD on the Berkeley family of Gloucestershire in that century culminated in the 2004 publication of a calendar of the large medieval archive at Berkeley Castle and, most recently, *The Berkeley Estate 1281-1417: its economy and development* (2012). She has also published a calendar of a late-fifteenth century Suffolk cartulary, *The Bobun of Fressingfield Cartulary* (2012), and has written various articles on aspects of social and political history in the period.

The price of this publication is £10.00, or £8.00 for members of RLHRS, plus £2.00 UK postage & packing.

Overseas members and others wishing to pay by debit or credit card should order via www.genfair.co.uk (p&p rate may vary).

TO: The Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW

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