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978-0-521-07244-1 - Lords and Peasants in a Changing Society: The Estates of the
Bishopric of Worcester, 680-1540

Christopher Dyer

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*Lords and Peasants in
a Changing Society*

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Lords and Peasants in a Changing Society

*The Estates of the Bishopric
of Worcester, 680–1540*

CHRISTOPHER DYER

*Lecturer in Medieval History
University of Birmingham*

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Preface

My chief debt is to Professor R. H. Hilton, who first suggested the subject to me, has been a source of constant stimulus and encouragement, and has patiently read and criticized early drafts. I have gained a great deal from discussion with fellow students, colleagues, and my own students. Dr H. B. Clarke, Professor H. A. Cronne, Professor P. A. Rahtz, Dr W. E. Davies, and Mr P. Sims-Williams helped my understanding of the early medieval material, and Dr I. S. W. Blanchard gave me many insights into the later middle ages. Dr E. W. Ives helped me with legal and palaeographical problems. Dr Z. Razi helpfully criticized my work on demography, and Dr M. Walsh saved me from statistical blunders. Versions of some chapters have been read to seminars at the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Sheffield, and to the Annual Conference of the British Agricultural History Society, and I have benefited from the ensuing comments. Mr K. Down, Mr M. J. Morgan, and Miss M. Jackson-Roberts put their knowledge of the episcopal and priory registers at my disposal. The staff of various libraries and record repositories have given me every assistance, particularly Miss M. Henderson and her colleagues at the Worcestershire County Record Office. The Trustees of the Earl of Berkeley Will Trust allowed me to make use of the Berkeley Castle Muniment Room. I am grateful to Professor S. T. Bindoff for allowing me to see unpublished drafts of biographies written under his direction for the projected Early Tudor volumes of the *History of Parliament*. I received ready co-operation from the staff of the National Register of Archives, the Ordnance Survey, and Worcestershire County Museum. The authors of various unpublished theses listed in the bibliography allowed me to quote from their works. Illustrations have been made available by the courtesy of Mr C. J. Bond, University of Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography, Mr E. G. Tasker, and Worcestershire County Record Office; Mr R. Swift helped with their preparation. I am indebted to Mr T. H. Aston for expediting the publication of this book. I am grateful for the assistance of William Davies, Nalini Chapman and the staff of Cambridge University Press. Mrs K. Coe coped gallantly with typing from my appalling handwriting, and

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tactfully saved me from spelling errors. My wife has supported my work in many ways. None of the people named here shares any responsibility for my errors.

CHRISTOPHER DYER

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Abbreviations

The titles of most periodicals and publishing societies have been abbreviated so that they should be readily intelligible, e.g. *Journ.* for *Journal*, *Rev.* for *Review*, *Trans.* for *Transactions*.

<i>Annales ESC</i>	<i>Annales, Économies, Sociétés, Civilisations</i>
AR	Account Roll(s)
CR	Court Roll(s)
CS	<i>Cartularium Saxonicum</i> , ed. W. de Gray Birch, 3 vols. (London, 1885–93)
<i>DB</i>	<i>Domesday Book</i> (Record Commission, 1783)
<i>DNB</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
GRO	Gloucestershire County Records Office
<i>HC</i>	<i>Hemingi Chartularium Ecclesiae Wigorniensis</i> , ed. T. Hearne, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1723)
<i>Lib. Alb. Pri.</i>	<i>Liber Albus of Worcester Priory</i> , ed. J.M. Wilson (Worcs. Hist. Soc., 1919)
Lib. Alb. Pri.	WCL, Dean and Chapter Register AIV
<i>P and P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
PRO	Public Record Office
<i>RBW</i>	<i>Red Book of Worcester</i> , ed. M. Hollings (Worcs. Hist. Soc., 1934–50)
Rec. AR	Receivers' Account Roll(s)
<i>Reg. Giffard</i> etc.	Printed episcopal registers of Worcester diocese. See Bibliography for full references
Reg. Maidstone etc.	Manuscript episcopal registers of Worcester diocese, now in Worcestershire County Record Office. See Bibliography for full references
SBT	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, Stratford-upon-Avon
<i>VCH Glos., Warks., Worcs.</i>	<i>Victoria County Histories of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire</i>
WCL	Worcester Cathedral Library
WCRO	Worcestershire County Record Office
White Book	<i>Liber Albus</i> of the bishopric, WCRO ref. 821 BA 3814

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To avoid unnecessarily lengthy and numerous footnote references to the series of manorial documents, no reference is given if the source of the information is clear from the text. If the source is not readily apparent, the footnote will state the place, type of record and date, e.g. Hanbury AR, 1486–7. The archival reference can be found from the list of manuscript sources in the bibliography.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

qr =quarter

b =bushel

p =peck

NOTE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

In both text and maps the counties mentioned are those that existed between 1935 and 1974, the boundaries of which are substantially similar to those created in the late Anglo-Saxon period. However, it should be noted that the bishopric properties in the extreme north of Gloucestershire and the southern tip of Warwickshire, notably the demesne manors of Blockley and Tredington, lay in Worcestershire for the whole of the middle ages and until the boundary adjustments of 1931–5.

Since 1974 the bulk of the historic county of Worcestershire has been incorporated into the new county of Hereford and Worcester, and the south-west of Gloucestershire, including the bishopric property of Westbury, later known as Henbury and Stoke, has been transferred to the new county of Avon.