

外国語要旨

The Lifestyle of the North-Western Upland in the Late Medieval England:

A Study of Windermere Manor of Westmorland

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This article is a case study of agriculture and lifestyle of the north-western upland in the late medieval England. It uses the Windermere Manor that had spread to the east of Lake Windermere in the Lake District as an example.

For more than a century, most studies of medieval rural society have focused on the common field system and lowland areas where the core activity of crop production. By contrast, little attention has been given to the 'marginal' area that was unfit for growing crops and uncultivated land. However, it has been recognized that medieval rural society was diverse, and the concern about the 'marginal' area and the use of natural resources in uncultivated land has been growing.

In north-western upland, one of the 'marginal' area, the notable features of the late medieval period were transhumance and grazing animals in the 'forests' where these were designed as hunting special jurisdictions. However, because historical records are few, the lack of a case study is an issue. Therefore, this article takes Windermere manor as an example and examined the following points: 1) how residents (including farmers) use the forest; 2) whether there is a difference in agriculture and lifestyle between the area within the forest and outside the forest; 3) what the relationship was between manor and lords, and manor and greater gentries.

In the first part, we summarized the previous studies and researched recent local historical trends, especially study of marginal areas, 'forest', woodland, and common land.

In the second part, we have discussed the main historical sources (customary law records and manorial court records of Windermere) and manor lords of Windermere. Most lords of Windermere were non-resident, and Windermere manor is considered to have consisted of two areas: upland 'forest' area and relatively flat area facing the lake.

In the third part, we discussed above-mentioned three points. First, we discussed the 'forest' of Windermere. We showed that there was no special court in the forest, and regulation and collection of fines against vert and venison in the Windermere forest was carried out by manor officials along with the rest of the manorial trespass. In addition, we showed that only residents living in the forest were permitted to graze in the forest, but both residents living in the forest and those living outside the forest were permitted to obtain wood.

Second, we discussed agriculture and lifestyle between 'forest' area and non-forest area. It is clear that transhumance has been practiced in the 'forest' area in the late medieval period. However, since there were grazing places where the usage period was not limited, like common pasture and intakes, and relatively flat land, it is

possible that transhumance was not practiced in the non-forest area. We concluded that a variety of economic activities, such as grazing, cultivation, fishing and woollen cloth production, may have been practiced in the non-forest area.

Third, we discussed the relationship between manor and lords, manor and greater gentries. Windermere manor, especially its 'forest', clearly had a high asset value for lords and landed gentries. We concluded that the 'forest' system was used by the lords to restrict to use of natural resources by rights of common, and to fine the residents for the use of natural resources. In the short term, there were also gentry families who were closely involved with Windermere and would have influenced resident's lives. However, no family had a consistently strong interest, rights and profits in Windermere in the late medieval.

In conclusion, our consideration of this article leads us to the following three points: 1) what the lords used as 'forest' system to protect their interests may have been one of the characteristics of north-western upland forest; 2) since Windermere had a typical north-western upland area, as shown by previous studies, and an atypical area where a variety of economic activities, such as fishing and grazing, may have been practiced, the landscape and lifestyle in the north-western upland may have been diverse; 3) in Windermere, a number of frameworks such as forests and townships existed within the manor, and accordingly, there might have been a multi-layered community.