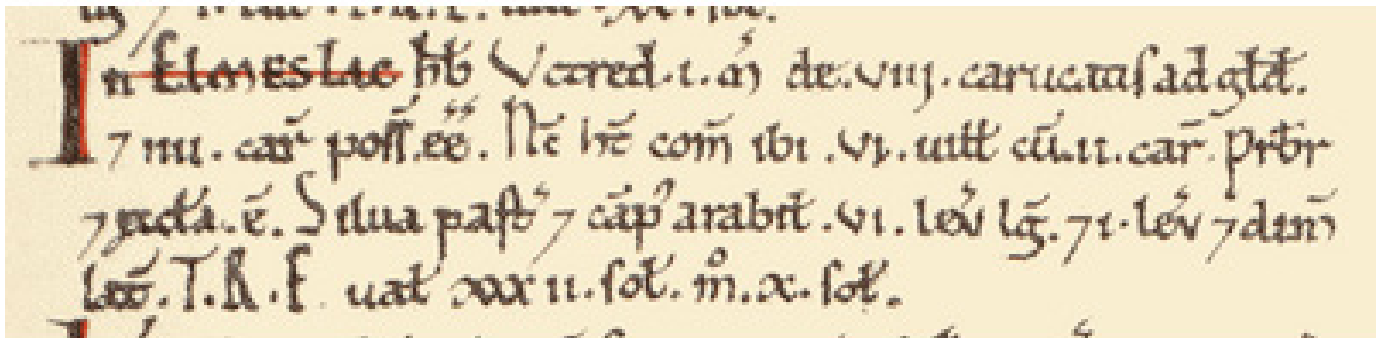


HISTORICAL SOURCES



Details of entry:

Place: Elmeslac

Hundred: Maneshou

Area: North Riding

County: Yorkshire

Total population: 7 households (quite small).

Total tax assessed: 11.5 geld units (very large).

Head of manor: Helmsley I.

Taxable units: Taxable value 8 geld units.

Value: Value to lord in 1066 £1.6. Value to lord in 1086 £0.5.

Households: 6 villagers. 1 priest.

Ploughland: 4 ploughlands (ploughs possible). 2 men's plough teams.

Other resources: Woodland 6 * 1.5 leagues. 1 church.

Lord in 1066: Uhtred.

Lord in 1086: Count Robert of Mortain.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Count Robert of Mortain.

Extract from the Domesday Book entry for 'Elmeslac', 1086. The Domesday Book was a survey of all landowner's property in England and parts of Wales, created by order of William the Conqueror in 1086.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, Helmsley was a small town, surrounded by forests and crop fields. It is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Elmeslac'. The area's name changed over the later centuries from 'Haumesley', 'Haumelac', 'Hamelak' and 'Helmeslegh' and, finally, Helmsley.

HISTORICAL SOURCES

Fursan 'raised the castles of Helmislai and of Wark'

Extract from Chartulary of Rievaulx, 12th century. A chartulary is a medieval manuscript that records information, especially about the foundation of a religious establishment (such as a monastery) or an estate.

An old man and full of days, quick-witted, prudent in council, moderate in peace, circumspect in war, a true friend and a loyal subject. His stature was passing tall, his limbs all of a size as not to exceed their just proportions, and yet to be well matched with his great height. His hair was still black, his beard long and flowing, his forehead wide and noble, his eyes large and bright, his face broad but well featured, his voice like the sound of a trumpet, setting off his natural eloquence of speech with a certain majesty of sound.

Extract from Relatio de Standardo (An Account of the [Battle of the] Standard), 1153/1154. York Minster Archives XVI.I.8; this text cited in J. Fletcher, *The Cistercians in Yorkshire*. London, 1919.

A description of Walter Espec, by Cistercian monk Aelred of Rievaulx. In 1132, Rievaulx Abbey was established on lands donated by Walter Espec. Aelred presided as abbot of Rievaulx from 1147 until his death in 1167.

An Account of the [Battle of the] Standard describes the battle in 1138 between the King of Scotland and a Norman army fighting in support of King Stephen of England. It praises the English and Normans and is critical of the Scots and Galwegians. The Norman forces are described as fighting under the protection of the saints.

HISTORICAL SOURCES

“And who’s yon chiefe of giante heighte,
And of bulke so huge to see?”

“Walter Espec is that chiefe’s name,
And a potente chiefe is hee.

“Hys stature’s large as the mountaine oake,
And eke as strong hys mighte:

There’s ne’ere a chiefe in alle the northe
Can dare with hym to fighte.”

Extract from *The Ballads and Songs of Yorkshire: Transcribed from Private Manuscripts, Rare Broadsides, and Scarce Publications* by C. J. Davison Ingledew, Bell and Daldy, 2015.

A Yorkshire ballad about *The Battle of the Standard*, first printed in 1784.