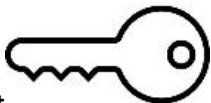


Village Life!

Key Words:

- Manor House
- Fallow
- Mill pond
- Manorial Court
- Lord of the Manor
- Open field system.



90% of people lived in the countryside during this period. There were small clusters of houses with between 100 and several 100 people. They were controlled by the lord of the manor, who lived in the manor house.

Roles and responsibilities

R e e v e	Senior officials who worked on behalf of the Crown in local areas, for example, as a chief magistrate. After the Conquest, the reeve's job was reduced to the day-to-day management of the manor and its peasants, an essential role to ensure the everyone did their jobs. The reeve was a peasant chosen by the Lord or through a vote by the peasants.
B a i l i f f	In charge of collecting taxes for the crown and ensuring that crops were gathered and debts repaid.
P r i e s t	Ran the local church, he was responsible for ensuring marriages were legal.
M i l l e r	Produced grain to make bread for the area. Bread had to be baked in the ovens of the lord of the manor and the lord decided how much money the miller paid for this.

Classes of Peasants!



97% of the population were peasants.

Freemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were free peasants who paid rent to the lord for their land. • Sometimes they had to carry out BOON WORK (extra days of unpaid work for the lord) • The number of free peasants fell significantly between 1066 and 1086 and many became villeins.
Villeins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on the Lord's land for no pay. • They had no freedom and could not leave the village without permission. • They were granted some land to farm for themselves.
Bordars and Cottars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorer villeins and they were given less land by the Lord.
Slaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made up about 10% of the population of 1066. • They had no freedom and no land. • Slavery rapidly declined after the Norman Conquest partly due to a change in attitude but also because it was probably easier to give land in return for labour than it was to support slaves.

	Change	Continuity
Taxes	The Normans increased the rent and taxes and much money raised was spent in Normandy.	
Freedom	The Domesday Survey shows the number of freemen declined dramatically as a result of the Conquest. Freemen who could not afford the increased rents had to revert to being villeins-working for the Lord with limited freedom.	
Forest Laws	The Normans created game reserves such as the New Forest in Hampshire and rove 500 families from the land. The Forest were Royal and Forest Law banned Anglo-Saxons from hunting in the forests. If they did they faced serious punishment such as being blinded. The rich hated it as they lost out of sport, the poor lots out on a source of food and their crops were damaged.	
Law and Order		There was no new manorial system imposed on England after the conquest the traditions and organisation stayed the same. Danelaw custom survived in the North and East of England.
Lord of the Manor		the relationship of the villein to his land as well as working for the Lord, he could not leave his land and he paid a fine – the 'merchet' when his daughter married and 'heriot' when he took over the land from his father. The villein could be taxed by his Lord.
Work		Ordinary peasants the structure of their village remain the same, they would see the same people doing their jobs around the village – the bailiff, the reeve, the miller, the parish priest. If they were villeins then there may be some free tenants who paid money for their property, and below them would be cottars who had smallholdings of about 2 hectares who worked on the Lord's land one day a week and provided hired labour.