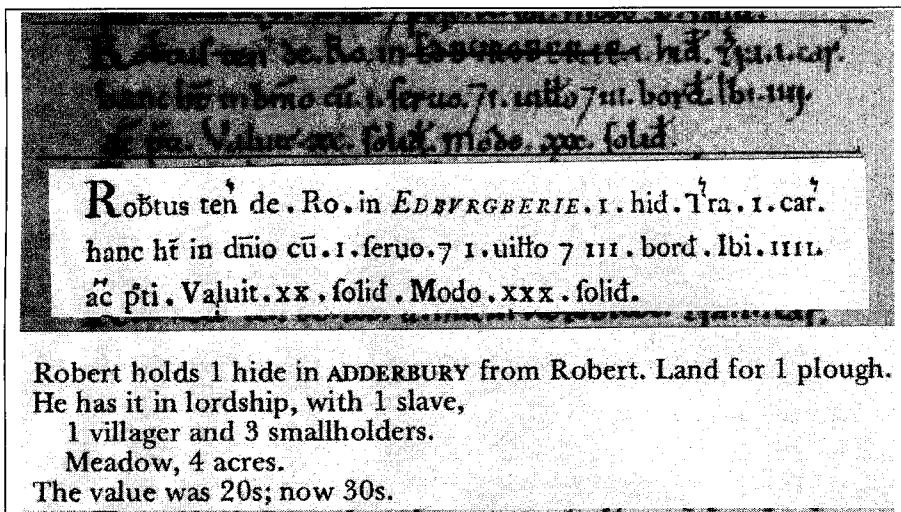


To cement his place in Anglo-Norman society Robert d'Oilly married Alghtha daughter of Wigotu, a Saxon thane who owned the manor of Wallingford. D'Oilly was tasked, by King William, to build a motte and bailey castle at Oxford; this he did in the typical Norman manner by annexing some meadowland by the Thames, west of Oxford, belonging to the Benedictine monks at Abingdon. When completed d'Oilly was appointed King's Constable of the Castle.

In 1086 the Conqueror had extensive land holdings in Oxfordshire which included 34½ hides of the composite Hundred of Bloxham and Adderbury (a little over 4,000 acres of prime Oxfordshire agricultural land).



*The page from the Oxfordshire section of Domesday Book, 1086, which records the single hide of land held in Adderbury by Robert (of Stafford) and sub-let to Robert (d'Oilly).*

Walkelyn, the then bishop of Winchester, held 14½ hides and the remaining one hide (in Adderbury) was held by Robert de Stafford, who had sub-let it to Robert d'Oilly. This is the first mention of a d'Oilly holding land in Adderbury. In due course the large royal estate was broken-down into three manors one of which encompassed contiguous land in Milton and Adderbury; later to become known as St Amand's, it was valued at half a knight's fee (a knight's fee was an obligation imposed upon a manorial lord to provide and support a fully armed knight for forty days at a time of war).