An agreement made by the monks of Rochester with the wife of Robert Latimer, concerning land in Frindsbury: Textus Roffensis, ff. 200v–201r
Translated from Latin and edited
Dr Chris Monk

Abstract:
‘This woman held certain land from Frindsbury which was called Thornden, and for that paid twenty shillings each year to the aforementioned Frindsbury, and must hold that land until her death. After her death, however, it must be [the property] of Saint Andrew and the monks...’

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Textus Roffensis, Rochester, Cathedral Library, MS A. 3. 5, f. 200v
brodo pribi qui e filia habebat calide extulist. & poetae suntet et
qua muenient er tumum & vestiti qui dixum eret. inerti iundecet de
celari quanti um monacho. et per
hoc unum ferocii de carne estus &
medesmagad. vestriti ú de camara bono
rubile quale ei siterate & ploni deceret.

V in aeté ei sermenti & uni pedissequae
qui ei sermentum tale darent tumum
quale eetis celicie sermentib. Suphce
omia darent ipsi die cum in solidos
singlib annus quib; sermente sibi soli
daret & vestret. & cuma sibi neciæ
ria put vellet ipsa petinavit. Ec aiut
obinet. convenitiam sem sepeliret. & an
mueritari ei singlib annus faceret.
Hui convenitiam se estet. Rodbi pribi
fili goldunni pribi. Ordel pribi de ho.
Radul cleric. Hugo cleric. Vingercus
clericus. Goldunig gre gret ei cadem
n. Edunum for. Rodbi secretari. Gu
dred fili diorigni. ealiumultet.
An agreement made by the monks of Rochester with the wife of Robert Latimer, concerning land in Frindsbury: *Textus Roffensis*, ff. 200v–201r

Translated from Latin and edited by Dr Christopher Monk © 2017

Date: c. 1100–c. 1123

This is the agreement made between the Rochester monks and the wife of Robert Latimer. This woman held certain land from Frindsbury which was called Thornden, and for that paid twenty shillings each year to the aforementioned Frindsbury, and must hold that land until her death. After her death, however, it must be [the property] of Saint Andrew and the monks, not any of her kindred, as she herself affirmed. For a long time, therefore, before her death it pleased her that she might return the very same land to Saint Andrew and the monks for the salvation of her husband’s soul and her own and [the souls] of their parents. And so, one Sunday after the procession, before the altar of Saint Andrew, with the monks and many French and English standing by, she returned this very land to the holy apostle and the monks to be held eternally, giving with the land all things which were being held upon this very land. In truth, to be reassured further about the matter, the monks gave sixty shillings – which afterwards Brod the priest, who was to have her daughter, extorted cunningly – and in addition they promised her that they should find for her sustenance and clothing for as long as she may live, evidently sustenance from the cellarer at the amount for one monk, and in addition to this one dish of meat four days a week. Indeed, from the chamberlain clothing honourable and befitting her age and person. Moreover, to one [maid-]servant and one manservant of hers, who may serve her, such sustenance as they might give to others who are servants of the church. In addition to all this, they would give to the lady herself twenty shilling each year for those servants whom she would support and clothe, and for other things necessary to her, that she might procure for herself what she wanted. When, however, she should die, the monastery would bury her, and keep her anniversary each year. These are the witnesses of this agreement: Robert the priest, son of Goldwin the priest, Ordheah the priest of Hoo, Ralf the cleric, Hugh the cleric, Guy the cleric, Goldwin the Greek and his brother Edwin, Edwin Fot, Robert the secretary, Guthred son of Dioring, and many others.

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1 Since the account concerns the wife of Robert Latimer and her disposal of the land she inherited from him, his death around 1100 provides us with the earliest date of the agreement. The charter was written by the main scribe who completed his work about 1123, which provides us with the latest date. See H. Tsurushima, ‘The fraternity of Rochester Cathedral Priory about 1100’, Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1991, *Anglo-Norman Studies* 14 (1992), 313–337, at 329–331.

2 Tsurushima gives ‘Hornden’.

3 Or, ‘who was to marry her daughter’.

4 Or, Hugo

5 Tentative; Latin Wigetus, cf. Wyat, which is a form of Guy.
Latin text, directly from *Textus Roffensis*

The digital facsimile of this text is located at:
http://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/detail/Man4MedievalVC~4~4~990378~142729?page=0.

Type ‘n409’ into the page search box. The text begins at the top of the left-hand folio and continues for approximately two further pages.

Editorial notes: the layout approximates that in the manuscript (and thus includes words split over two lines); expansions of Latin abbreviations and contractions are indicated by italics; ( ) indicates a space by the scribe; punctuation has been modernised; capitals have been used for all personal and place-names; coloured font represents coloured ink in the manuscript; xxxxx represents the crossing out on top of an erasure.

[200v]

hec conuentio habita est inter monachos Rofenses et uxorem Rodberti Latimariae. Hec mulier tenebat quandam terram de Freondesberia quae uocabatur Thorniduna, et reddebat inde uiginti solidos praeposito Freondesberie per singulos annos, et debebat terram illam tenere usque ad mortem suam. Post mortem autem suam debebat esse Sanct Andreæ et monachorum, non alicuius parentum illius sicut ipsa affirmabat. Diu ergo ante mortem suam placuit ei ut terram eandem redderet Sancto Andreæ et monachis pro salute anime uiri sui et suæ et parentum suorum. Veniens itaque die dominica quadam post processionem ante altare Sancti Andreæ astantibus monachis et Francis et Anglis multis reddidit terram ipsam apostolo sancto et monachis æternaliter possidendum,

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx6 dans cum terra omnia quæ habebantur super ipsam terram. Monachi uero pro hac re magis confirmanda dederunt illi sexaginta solidos, quos postea

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6 Text has not only been erased, most probably by one of the monks later in the twelfth-century, but the space left has been vigorously crossed out, which suggests strong disagreement with what was originally there. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing what that was.
[201r]

Brodo presbyter qui eius filiam habebat cal- 
lide extorsit, et praeterea promiserunt ei 
quae inuenirent ei uictum et uestitum 
quam diu uiueret, uictum uidelicet de 
celario quantum uni monacho, et praeter 
hoc unum ferculum de carne quattuor diebus 
in ebdomada. Vestitum uero de camera hono-
rabilem qualem eius etatem et personam deceret. 
Vin autem eius seruienti et uni pedisequæ 
qui ei seruirent talem darent uictum 
qualem ceteris ecclesiæ seruientibus. Super hec 
omnia darent ipsi dominæ uiginti solidos 
singulīs annis quibus seruientes sibi soli-
daret et uestiret, et cetera sibi necessa-
ria pro ut uellet ipsa procuraret. Cum autem 
obiret, conuentus eam sepeliret, et an-
nuersarius eius singulīs annis faceret. 
Huius conuentionis sunt testes: Rodbertus presbyter 
filius Golduini presbyter, Ordegus presbyter de Ho, 
Radulfus clericus, Hugo clericus, Vuigetus 
clericus, Golduinas Grecus et frater eius Eaduui-
nas, Eaduinas Fost, Rodbertus secretarius, Gu-
dredus filius Doringi, et ali multi.