William II grants the manor of Haddenham to Bishop Gundulf for which, in return, Gundulf builds Rochester Castle: Textus Roffensis, ff. 173r–174v
Translated from Latin and edited
Dr Chris Monk

Abstract:
‘How King William, son of William the king, at the request of Archbishop Lanfranc, granted and confirmed as the living of the monks of the Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle the manor named Haddenham, for which, by his own means, Bishop Gundulf built, completely of stone, Rochester Castle for the king...’

To cite this report:

To link to this article:
https://rochestercathedralresearchguild.org/bibliography/2018-02
Published online: 3rd January 2018

General Queries:
jacob.scott@rochestercathedralresearchguild.org

Produced by permission of Dr Chris Monk. All rights reserved to the author.

Any views and opinions expressed in this work are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of either the Research Guild or the Dean and Chapter.
Textus Roffensis, Rochester, Cathedral Library, MS A. 3. 5, f. 173r
brodo prib qui ej filia habebat calide extisit. & poeta punitet ei & ga muentem et uctum & vestitui qui diu unueret. ucti indestet de celular quoratium un monacho. & uter hoc unum ferului de carne estor dieb: inebdomada. vestitui ut de camera homo tabile quae ei data & ploma deceret

vma aut ei fermenti & un pedissusque qui ei ferument tale donec uctum quale cestis cecidie fermentivi; suphac onia daret ipse die uffini solidos

singulis annis quibus fermentes sibi soli daret & vestret. & cestis sibi necesse

va puer vellit ipsa petuvaret. Ci aut

obiet: conventus cem sepeltaret & an

nuertari ei singulis annis faceret

hui conventus se retret. Redbit prib

fili goldumni pribi. Orde prib de ho.

Redult cleric. Hugot cleric. Vinsetus

cleric. Goldumi gregas est ei Endum

i. Endumi iot. Redbi secretari. Gu

red fel dictung. & ali multet.
Textus Roffensis, Rochester, Cathedral Library, MS A. 3. 5, f. 174r
Textus Roffensis, Rochester, Cathedral Library, MS A. 3. 5, f. 174v
William II\(^1\) grants the manor of Haddenham to Bishop Gundulf\(^2\) for which, in return, Gundulf builds Rochester Castle: *Textus Roffensis*, ff. 173r–174v

Translated from Latin and edited by Dr Christopher Monk © 2017

Date: 1108–c.1123\(^3\)

HOW KING WILLIAM,\(^4\) SON OF WILLIAM THE KING,\(^5\) AT THE REQUEST OF ARCHBISHOP LANFRANC,\(^6\) GRANTED AND CONFIRMED AS THE LIVING OF THE MONKS OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE THE MANOR NAMED HADDENHAM, FOR WHICH, BY HIS OWN MEANS, BISHOP GUNDULF BUILT, COMPLETELY OF STONE, ROCHESTER CASTLE FOR THE KING.

Another thing, no less remarkable among those things of blessed memory, is that Bishop Gundulf conferred a benefit on everyone, or rather, on all coming worlds, a thing worthy of veneration. That is to say, the castle, which is situated in the more beautiful part of the city of Rochester, in exchange for the royal court granting that gift which the aforesaid archbishop had ordained for the livelihood of the monks of the aforesaid church: to give the manor which, evidently, is situated in the shire of Buckingham by the name of Haddenham. Nevertheless, it remains a fact that he was able to give it to this very church without the king’s grant, because the father of the king had given it to the archbishop,\(^7\) so that the beneficiary of the land was in his archdiocese. Whence William his son, succeeding the father himself in the kingdom, responded to the archbishop and bishop’s request for his confirmation of the very same manor with his desire to have one hundred pounds in silver for this very grant.

And after the archbishop and bishop simultaneously heard this, equally and greatly dismayed they answered, that such an amount of money neither one had ready to hand, nor indeed knew from where they would be able to acquire it. They, however, consulted with two friends, supporters of both sides, namely Robert son of Haimo,\(^8\) and Henry earl of Warwick\(^9\) – on the one hand observing

---

\(^1\) King of England (r.1087–1100), third son of William I (‘the Conqueror’) (r. 1066–1087), also known as William Rufus.

\(^2\) Bishop of Rochester and abbot of St Andrew’s Priory from 1077 to 1108.

\(^3\) Though the events described in this charter, penned by the principal scribe (c. 1123), relate to the period 1088–89, the first-person statement at the end of the charter shows the account to have been written down some time after Gundulf’s death in 1108. It is quite possible that bishop Ernulf (r. 1114–24), who supervised the writing of *Textus Roffensis*, is the author of this charter, though his predecessor Ralf d’Escur (r. 1108-14) is another (r possibility.

\(^4\) i.e. William Rufus.

\(^5\) i.e. William the Conqueror.

\(^6\) Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury (r.1070–89), appointed by William I.

\(^7\) William the Conqueror had previously granted Haddenham to Lanfranc. Lanfranc’s ownership is confirmed by the entry for Haddenham in the *Domesday Book*: [http://opendomesday.org/place/SP7408/haddenham/] [accessed 06.01.2018], a copy of which was added to the Rochester customs book, known as *Custumale Roffense* (c.1275–c.1325), added there in the early fourteenth century. Legally, then, Haddenham was Lanfranc’s to dispose of as he wished. But William Rufus evidently objected to this. For the digitised facsimile of *Custumale Roffense*: [http://enriqueta.man.ac.uk/luna/servlet/detail/Man4MedievalVC~4~4~990828~142730] [accessed 06.01.2018]. The *Domesday* document is found on folio 8r (type ‘n25’ into the page search box; the text is on the right-hand folio).

\(^8\) Robert Fitzhamon (d. 1107).

\(^9\) Henry de Beaumont, earl of Warwick from 1088 to 1119.
the honour and complete will of the king; on the other, in truth, observing the goodwill of friendship and a splendid and useful honour for the love of God’s aforementioned church – about whether instead of the money to the king which was required for the granting of the manor, bishop Gundulf, seeing as he was in masonry work the greatest in understanding and the ablest, might from his own means build a stone castle for him in Rochester.

When to the archbishop and bishop it became known that the king’s court was to wholly reject the concession, and, furthermore, would rather wish this very manor be allowed to go into the depths of the sea than be delivered up by royal command to the aforementioned church of Saint Andrew, at that time, undoubtedly more alarmed, they spoke:

> For whenever by chance, from some misfortune in the castle, that either the weakening of the city wall or fracturing of stone would happen, it would be examined immediately by the bishop or the church, and so with skill it would be continually repaired. Thus, the bishop – and the church – at all times in the future would be put under exaction by the utmost strictness of the royal court.

> And so, on that matter, both with dread and terrified, God forbid,¹⁰ this was said by me the archbishop, and likewise, God forbid, it was said by me the bishop.

Having heard this response Earl Henry, wakened by honour and stirred as if by spurs of restrained anger, giving a swift outcry, said:

> Till now, by my estimation, I have regarded Archbishop Lanfranc to have been one of the wisest of men in the whole world; now, moreover, I speak not to be foolish, God forbid, but presently I dare to declare such wisdom, which a little while ago was certainly being experienced, to be strong in every respect.

> Indeed, one must ask, what is burdensome in this: to finally make, at the king’s will, a greater castle for 40 pounds – a deed, in truth, it would give pleasure to an earl or sheriff of the shire, or to anyone else besides, to show to the King – and thereafter be shown to be set free completely, once and for all, from its every function, in truth, liberated thoroughly to disengage, neither at some time afterwards to become involved with or else provide for that place?

> On this matter, to have the king against the bishop or the church in future servitude is an option by no means to pursue. On the contrary, it is preferable to liberate them from every servitude; moreover, as a king it is fitting, for the fear of God and the honour of the world, to wish to keep them in the highest degree of liberty.

Well, with these and several other reasonings of this sort, the archbishop finally acquiesced. Consequently, by this agreement, entered upon in the presence of the king, bishop Gundulf made the castle out of all that he had, at the cost I believe of sixty pounds.

¹⁰ Or, more literally, ‘far be it’.
For as long as anyone will remain in the world, on behalf of bishop Gundulf I make known the evidence as if he were speaking, indeed, eternally bringing testimony to this, that the manor of Haddenham of the church and monks of Saint Andrew will remain for all time most free and most quiet from all exaction and sophistry\textsuperscript{11} of the king and of every person.

\textsuperscript{11} Latin ‘ab… calumnia regis’; ‘from… the objection of the king’ would be a kinder translation.
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 ‘n353’ into the page search box. The text begins with the rubric (red ink), seven lines from the top of the right-hand folio, and continues for three further pages, finishing before the subsequent rubric at the bottom of the page.

Editorial notes: the layout approximates that in the manuscript (and thus includes words split over two lines, indicated by hyphens); expansions of Latin abbreviations and contractions are indicated by italics; < > indicates a scribal insertion; ( ) indicates a scribal erasure; punctuation has been modernised; capitals have been used for all personal and place-names; coloured font represents coloured ink in the manuscript.

---

*Quomodo Willelmus rex filius Willæmi regis rogatu Lanfranci archiepiscopi concessit et confirmavit Rofensi ecclesiæ sancţ ANDReæ apostoli ad uictum monachorum manerium nomine Hedenham, quare Gundulfus episcopus castrum Rofense lapideum totum de suo proprio regi[s] construxit. 12* 

Aliud 13 quoque beatæ memoriae Gundulfus episcopus non minus memorabile illius contulit beneficium, sed omni potius omnibus secelis venteris dignum veneratione. ( ) Castrum et enim quod situm est in pulchriori parte ciuitatis Hroucestræ pro regia concessione illius doni quod sepedictus archiepiscopus predicte ecclesiæ ad uictum monachorum disposerat dare manerium ui-delicit quod situm est in comitatu de Bucinge ham nomine Hedenham, quæ Gundulfus episcopus non minus memorabile illius confirmavit. 

[173v] 

concessione potuit dare, quia pater regis illud dederat archiepiscopo ( ) tantum ut su-limatus fuit in archiepiscopio. Vnde Uuil-lelmo filio eius ipsum patrem succedente in regno ab archiepiscopo et episco po de eiusdem maneri manerio concessione requitus, respondit centum libras

---

12 The rubric (red text) has been written over an erasure: the original text has been scraped away, and this has resulted in giving the present text a rougher appearance than the rest of the text on the page. The rubric was not written by the principal scribe. This is evident from the formation of the abbreviation for -orum (in monachorum), which is not the same as that of the principal scribe.

13 Against the first line of the text proper, a ‘gallows-pole’ mark (or a Greek gamma) has been added by a later hand in the left margin, and a manicule (pointing finger) in the right.

14 It would seem that the spelling has been modified from ‘Hederham’ (the ‘r’ has been altered to an ‘n’).
denario rum habere se uelle pro ipsa concessione. Quod postquam archiepiscopus et episcopus simul audierunt, consternati ualde pariter responde- runt, illam tantam pecuniam neque tunc in promtu sese habere, nec etiam unde eam acquirere potuissent sese scire. Duo bus autem amicis utrique parte fauentibus, Rodberto uidelici et filio Haimonis, et Henrico comite de Uuar- uuic, hinc regium honorem et integrum eis obseruantibus uoluntatem, hinc uero amicitiae fauorem et pro dei amore et integrum ei us obseruantibus uoluntate hinc eramo amicitiae fauore et p ro dei amore promptam et integram, regi consulum quatinus p ro pecunia quae processione manerii exigebat, episcopus Gundulfus qui in opere cementarii plurimum sciens et efficax erat, castrum sibi Hrofense lapideum de suo construeret. Quod ubi archiepiscopo et episcopo innotuit, tunc prœculubio magis consternati

[174r] dixerunt, et regiæ concessioni ex toto se>se< abnuere, etiam et ipsum manerium in profundum maris potius situm iri malle, quam prædictam ecclesiam sancti Andreæ futuris temporibus regis exacti- onibus mancipari debere. Nam quotienscumque quilibet ex infortunio aliquo casu in castro illo continget aut infractione muri, aut fissura macerici, id potius ab episcopo uel ecclesia exigeretur usu riciendum assiduo. Sicque episcopus et ecclesia futuri secuti temporibus omnibus, summa distictione regiæ summitteretur exactioni. Esto itaque metu porterritus uterque, absit hoc a me inquit archiepiscopus, absit quoque a me inquit et episcopus. Responsum hoc >audiens< comes Henricus, quasi modestè stimulis iræ commotus honestatis dans concito fremitus, inquit, Hactenus mea estimatione ratum sum archiepiscopum Lanfrancum unum ex uiris uniueri orbis exitisse sapientissimus, nunc autem nec insipientem quod absit esse dico, neque illa quidem quæ dudum sapientia callebat in presentiar>um uigere<
>ull< ‘ull<\textsuperscript{16} added in the margin. Qu"	extsuperscript{17} endim graudinis

\footnotetext[15]{“episcopus… crat”, underlined by a later hand.} \footnotetext[16]{Added in the margin.} \footnotetext[17]{‘ull’ added in the margin.}
inquit in hoc est, castrum ad ultimum maius
pro xL libr>ı<s 18 ad voluntatem regis facere, factum vero comiti uel uicecomiti comitatus seu aliis

[174v]
etiam quibus regi placuerit monstrare, monstratum et ex omni parte integrum liberare, semel vero liberato sese penitus expedire, nec unquam ulterius inde se intromittere, nec etiam eo respicere? Ad hoc, regem ( ) aduersus episcopum uel ecclesiæ futuræ seruitutis occasione nullatenus querere, immo potius eos ab omni seruitute liberare, atque sicut regem decebat pro dei timore et seculi honore in summa libertate eos conseruare uelle. His ergo et aliis nonnullis huiusmodi rationibus, tandem acqueuit archiepiscopus. Igitur hoc pacto coram >reg< inito, fecit castrum Gundulfus episcopus de suo ex integro totum, costamine ut reor Lx. librarum. Quod quam diu in seculo subsistere poterit, pro Gundulfo episcopo manifesto indicio quasi loquens erit, eternum quidem illi ferens testimonium quod manerium Hede>n< ecclesiæ et monachis sanct Andreae ab omni exactione et calumnia regis et omnium hominum permanebit liberrimum et quietissimum in secula seculorum.20

18 'a' has been erased and replaced with 'ı'.
19 Spelling altered, probably from 'Hederham'.
20 The letters at the end of seculorum are stretched in the manuscript.