

Medieval Village Occupations



A scene depicting people in a medieval village. The molander (1) rides towards one of the abbey's water mills whilst talking to a local neatherd (2). His cattle pound is nearby. A boscar (3) can be seen chopping down trees as a hayward works behind him. Behind the little priory, a fur (4) runs out of the wood with a rabbit. To the left a hind (5) harrows the field whilst behind him on the road a rogator (6) and a mendicant friar (7) head towards the village with their hands out in a begging posture. A wain (8) ploughs the field with his oxen and looks towards the stocks where a common cursitor (9) sits. Along the river bank a haggard (10) calls to falcons on a nearby tree whilst his wife washes clothes in the river next to him.

Waters, Colin. *A dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations*. Countryside Books, 2005, p. 315.

boscar: woodsman

cursitor: Chancery Court clerk dealing with writs, wills, etc.; a common cursitor was a rogue or a vagabond

fur: thief

haggard: a hawk or falcon trainer

hayward: an official who supervised fences and enclosures; later a fence maker

hind: farm laborer

mendicant: originally a type of travelling religious friar who did not work and owned nothing, hence he begged for a living; later another word for a beggar

molander: miller

neatherd: official appointed to stop cattle straying; later a cowherd

rogator: beggar

wain: ploughman