

U DWE Account Rolls and Charters c.1240-19th cent of Selby Abbey

Historical background:

Selby Abbey is located approximately 22 kilometres south of York, close to the Ouse river. It was an independent Benedictine house which came under the diocese of York. The first sacrist, Benedict, came from St Germanus, Auxerre, in 1069. The abbey was medium-sized, usually inhabited by around 30 monks, and it owned considerable lands, from which it earned most of its income. Medieval manorial records at DWE include court rolls for 1377-1403; judgements 1490-1544, 1603, 1606, 1613-1614, 1618; 17th century fines and pains of the abbey court and leet court and miscellaneous deeds dating from the 13th century to 1586. Manorial records and abbey title deeds are also to be found through U DDLO and U DDLO2.

In addition to the manorial records, U DDLO/20 and U DWE together comprise most of the abbey's surviving account rolls, mostly from the 15th century. Many of these have been translated and printed by John Tillotson in *Monastery and society in the late middle ages: selected account rolls from Selby Abbey, Yorkshire, 1398-1537* (1988). Tillotson has located 132 account rolls for Selby Abbey, 65% of them at U DDLO/20 and the remaining third transferred from the Westminster Diocesan Archives and catalogued as U DWE. From these Tillotson has reconstructed life at the abbey.

The abbey's finances were run by the obedientiaries, or monks holding certain offices or obediences. At any one time, about half the monks at the abbey held an obedience. These ranged in responsibility and importance from the bursar at the top to the keepers of the choir and refectory. The most successful administrators held several offices at once: for example, Peter de Roucliff was a full member of the house for at least 55 years and held the offices of bursar and extern cellarer together several times and eventually became prior in 1407 (d.1432-3). The bursar's income from rentals and tithes was in the order of £600 per annum during his time and this money was employed widely in the running of the abbey: for example, he paid servants (stewards, minstrels, choristers etc.), paid out pensions, gave money to beggars, bought wine, bought barrells to put the wine in, paid out for the repair of buildings, buying iron for ironwork made by local craftsmen and so on.

Obedientiaries of medium importance included the kitchener, whose job it was to provision the abbey with the help of the granger (grain supplies) and the extern cellarer (livestock and wool) and the pittancer, who paid out £1 per annum to all the monks, but also picked up other bills such as the repair of farm cottages, paying ferry costs and some farm wages. The kitchener and the pittancer also received their income through rentals and tithes, amounting to approximately £40-£80 per annum. At the bottom of this hierarchy were obedientiaries like the infirmarer, whose job it was to tend the sick on £2-£3 per annum, and this income was also gained through rentals.

The monks clearly ate well. The kitchener purchased meat including piglets, capons, partridges, geese and ducks, fresh and dried fish, eggs (probably from ducks), salt for preserving, spices, especially cumin, for flavouring (at 2d a pound compared with 18d a pound for pepper and 9s 6d a pound for saffron), honey for sweetening food

(at 10d a gallon compared with the occasional splurge on almonds at almost 3s for a dozen) and beans, peas and oats, figs and raisins. They also drank well, much grain going towards making ale. By the early 15th century the Benedictine rule forbidding the consumption of meat had fallen into abeyance and the bursar was not averse to ordering three bullocks to fatten for Easter.

The earliest visitations of Selby Abbey in the 13th century revealed extreme relaxation of Benedictine rules and abuses such as nepotism and incontinency; one abbot was accused of financially supporting several women in the town, another of spending abbey funds on a sorcerer 'in an attempt to get the corpse of his drowned brother out of the Ouse'. Criticism of houses such as Selby led to a movement for reform and Tillotson suggests that the Selby records bear out the fact that this was largely successful by the early 15th century.

Notwithstanding the reform Selby Abbey joined the other religious houses in being dissolved at the reformation. U DDLO and U DWE contain surveys and valuations of Selby and its surrendered properties dated circa 1540, as well as 16th century grants of abbey property to various lay landowners, notably Leonard Beckwith. Some 16th century rental and account books post-dating the reformation are in U DDLO2 and the record of Sir Anthony Nevil's sale of Selby land to Beckwith in 1551 can also be found in U DDLO2. An idea of the value of this property can be gleaned from the sale in 1595 of the manor and rectory of Selby for £6200 (U DDLO/20/95). Old abbey lands changed hands a few times, being owned by the Petre family during the 18th and early 19th century before passing to the Denison family and being incorporated into the diffuse estates of the earls of Londesborough in the mid 19th century. The Petre family continued to hold Selby papers until the beginning of the twentieth century when they deposited them in the Westminster Diocesan Archives.

Custodial History:

In the possession of the Petre family of Essex from the eighteenth century, deposited in the Westminster Diocesan Archives at the beginning of the twentieth century and transferred to Hull University Archives on permanent loan on 10 November 1993.

Description:

The account rolls in U DWE do more than just fill gaps; they are a significant supplement to the larger group of records at U DDLO/20. They provide some earlier accounts for the bursar (1398-1399, 1416-1417, 1531); the pittancer (1362, 1412-1413, 1446-1447, 1453-1459, 1496-1497); the kitchener (1416-1417). U DWE also provides a few extra accounts for the abbot's proctor (1377-1378); the sacristan (1522-1523) and the extern cellarer (1492-1493). In addition U DWE contains a few supplemental accounts not found at U DDLO/20: for the keeper of the gatehouse (1413-1414, 1421-1425); for the refectorian (1421-1424, 1436-1437, 1459-1460) and the sacrist (1446-1447).

Arrangement:

U DWE/1	Selby Manorial Court Rolls, 1377 - 1727
U DWE/2	Account Rolls, 1466 - 1472
U DWE/3	Selby: Miscellaneous, 1277 - 1800
U DWE/4	Miscellaneous Deeds, circa 1240 - 1586

Extent: 6 boxes (1 linear metre)

Related Material:

Other archives of Selby Abbey are at U DDLO/20

Access Conditions:

Access will be given to any accredited reader

Language:

English; Latin

U DWE/1	Selby Court Rolls	1377-1727
U DWE/1/1	Courts and Assize of Bread 25 Courts; 2 Assizes of Bread 27 items	11 Nov 1377- 24 May 1378
U DWE/1/2	Courts and Views 41 Courts; 2 Views 43 items	14 Nov 1384- 6 Nov 1385
U DWE/1/3	Courts and Views and Assizes of Bread 53 Courts; 3 Views; 2 Assizes 58 items	3 Mar 1394- 24 May 1395
U DWE/1/4	Courts, Views and Assizes of Bread 46 Courts; 2 Views; 2 Assizes 50 items	2 Oct 1402- 24 Nov 1403
U DWE/1/5	View of Frankpledge 1 item	6 April 1490
U DWE/1/6	Courts 29 items	8 Oct 1492- 20 May 1493
U DWE/1/7	View of Frankpledge 1 item	6 Oct 1505
U DWE/1/8	View and Court 1 item	6 Oct- 6 Dec 1505

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U DWE/1/9	View of Frankpledge 1 item	5 Oct 1506
U DWE/1/10	View of Frankpledge 1 item	12 Apr 1507
U DWE/1/11	Courts 23 items	21 Sep 1507- 21 Aug 1508
U DWE/1/12	View of Frankpledge 1 item	28 Apr 1511
U DWE/1/13	View of Frankpledge 1 item	3 Oct 1513
U DWE/1/14	View of Frankpledge 1 item	31 Mar 1516
U DWE/1/15	View of Frankpledge: Thorpe (Willoughby) 1 item	2 Apr 1516
U DWE/1/16	Court 1 item	28 Jul 1520
U DWE/1/17	View of Frankpledge: Thorpe (Willoughby) 1 item	6 Apr 1524
U DWE/1/18	Court roll View of Frankpledge, 17 Sep 1541; Court, 17 Sep 1541; View of Frankpledge and Court, 3 Oct 1541 1 item	17 Sep-3 Oct 1541
U DWE/1/19	View of Frankpledge and Court 1 bundle	6 Oct 1542
U DWE/1/20	View of Frankpledge 1 bundle	21 Apr 1544
U DWE/1/21	View of Frankpledge with Court Baron Selby, 3 Oct 1603 Fryston, 13 Oct 1603 Brayton, 14 Oct 1603 Thorpe (Willoughby), 14 Oct 1603 Court Baron: Selby, 3 Oct 1603 1 bundle	3-14 Oct 1603
U DWE/1/22	Views of Frankpledge with Court Baron Selby, 28 April 1606 (Monk) Fryston, 1 May 1606 Brayton, 3 May 1606 Thorpe (Willoughby), 3 May 1606 1 bundle	28 Apr-3 May 1606

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U DWE/1/23	Views of Frankpledge Selby, 6 Oct 1606 (Monk) Fryston, 2 Oct 1606 Brayton, 10 Oct 1606 Thorpe (Willoughby), 10 Oct 1606 1 bundle	6-10 Oct 1606
U DWE/1/24	Extracts of fines, etc., taken at Views of Frankpledge Selby, 6 October 1606 (Monk) Fryston, 2 October 1606 Brayton, 10 October 1606 Thorpe (Willoughby), 10 October 1606 1 bundle	6-10 Oct 1606
U DWE/1/25	Views of Frankpledge Selby, 4 Oct 1613 & 9 May 1614 (Monk) Fryston, Oct (1613?) Thorpe (Willoughby), 13 Oct 1613 & 6 May 1614 (Brayton), 13 Oct 1614 1 bundle	4 Oct 1613- 13 Oct 1614
U DWE/1/26	Views of Frankpledge: Selby 1 bundle	13 Oct 1618
U DWE/1/27	Extracts of fines and ameracements 1 bundle	Oct 1601
U DWE/1/28	'Paines' laid at the Court Leet for the King's Majesty 1 bundle	26 Oct 1625
U DWE/1/29	Pains laid in the Court Leet 1 bundle	18 Apr 1626
U DWE/1/30	Monk Fryston with Hillam: extracts of surrenders 1646; 1647; 1648; 1649; 1650; 1651 1 bundle	1646-1651
U DWE/1/31	Selby: Evidences of Alterations, 1646, 1649 & 1672 And a MS. of Evidences of Deeds attesting to, 1546, 1632, 1669 and 1670-1671 1 bundle	1546-1672
U DWE/1/32	Selby: Alterations found at Courts held in 1652, 1653, 1655, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1664 & 1665 And a MS. of Evidences of Deeds relating to, 1628, 1630, 1650 & 1668 1 bundle	1628-1668

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U DWE/1/33	Pains laid at Court Leet, and governing the inhabitants' behaviour 1 bundle	17 Apr 1662
U DWE/1/34	Pains laid at Court Leet 1 bundle	12 May 1663
U DWE/1/35	Pains laid at Court Leet 1 bundle	26 Apr 1664
U DWE/1/36	Pains laid at Court Leet 1 bundle	24 Apr 1666
U DWE/1/37	Alterations found at the great Court Leet 1 bundle	24 Apr 1666
U DWE/1/38	Pains laid at the Court Leet 1 bundle	23 Apr 1667
U DWE/1/39	Pains laid at Court Leet 1 bundle	19 Apr 1670
U DWE/1/40	Pains laid at the Court Leet 1 bundle	5 Oct 1670
U DWE/1/41	Pains laid at the Court Leet 1 bundle	12 Apr 1681
U DWE/1/42	Extracts Extracts of fines and amercements, 3-9 Oct 1683 Extracts of alterations, 3 Oct 1682 - 9 Oct 1683 1 bundle	3 Oct 1682- 9 Oct 1683
U DWE/1/43	Extracts of fines and amercements 1 bundle	15 Oct 1695
U DWE/1/44	Extracts of fines and amercements 1 bundle	28 Apr 1696
U DWE/1/45	Alterations of houses and leases by death and purchase 1 bundle	29 Sep 1717- 29 Sep 1718
U DWE/1/46	Presentments given in Great Court Leet 1 bundle	24 Oct 1727

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U DWE/2	Account Rolls	1362-1531
U DWE/2/1	Account: Sales of timber 1 item	1466-1472
U DWE/2/2	Account: Pittancer 1 item	1362
U DWE/2/3	Account: Abbot's Proctor at Whitgift ... Redness 1 item	1377-1378
U DWE/2/4	Account: (Monk) Friston 1 item	1393-1394
U DWE/2/5	Account: Bursar 1 item	1398-1399
U DWE/2/6	Accounts: Fragments 1 item	[1280-1335]
DWE/2/7	Account: Pittancer 1 item	1412-1413
U DWE/2/8	Account: Keeper of the Guesthouse: 1421-1422; 1422-1423; 1423-1424; 1413-1414 1 bundle	1413-1425
U DWE/2/9	Account: Bursar 1 item	1416-1417
U DWE/2/10	Account: Kitchener 1 item	1416-1417
U DWE/2/11	Account: Refectorian 1 item	1421-1422
U DWE/2/12	Account: Stayner 1 item	1421-1422
U DWE/2/13	Account: Refectorian 1 item	1423-1424
U DWE/2/14	Account: Keeper of the Guesthouse: 1425-1426; 1426-1427; 1427-1428; 1428-1429; 1429-1430; 1430-1431; 1431-1432 1 bundle	1425-1432
U DWE/2/15	Account: Refectorian 1 item	1436-1437
U DWE/2/16	Account: Pittancer 1 item	1446-1447

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U DWE/2/17	Account: Sacrist 1 item	1446-1447
U DWE/2/18	Account: Pittancer 1453 -1454; 1454-1455; 1455-1456; 1456-1457; 1457-1458; 1458-1459 1 bundle	1453-1459
U DWE/2/19	Account: Refectorian 1 item	1459-1460
U DWE/2/20	Account: Cellarer (External) 1 item	1492-1493
U DWE/2/21	Account: Pittancer 1 item	1496-1497
U DWE/2/22	Account: Sacristan 1 item	1522-1523
U DWE/2/23	Account: Bursar (probably) Fragment 1 item	c.1531
U DWE/2/24	Account: Rental: Fryston 1 item	c.1450
U DWE/3	Selby: Miscellaneous	1277-1800
U DWE/3/1	Copies (i) Letter from Pope Alexander (IV?) to Albinus de Saleby (Dioc. Linc.) and others (named) regarding property of the Abbot and Convent of Selby, 25 October An Pont [2] (ii) As (i), 5 January An Pont 1 (Sealed 6 April 1277) 1 item	1277-1278
U DWE/3/2	Roll of copies of pleas in the King's Court 1 item	1366-1367
U DWE/3/3	Lease by John, Abbot of Selby, to Robert Beleby alias Bilby 1 item	1 Apr 1446
U DWE/3/4	List of 20 names; on dorse, a prohibition of the carrying of clubs, etc. 1 item	1473

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U DWE/3/5	Lease by Sir Ralph Sadler and Henry Whiterson, both of Hackney, Middlesex Of the site of Selby Abbey to Oswald Sysson of Selby for 21 years at £20 16s. 8d. a year 1 item	29 Nov 1540
U DWE/3/6	Plea, Roger Beckwyth v. George Fernley 1 item	1567
U DWE/3/7	Appointment by John Harper, Stewrad, of William Harper to post of Deputy Steward 1 item	2 Apr 1800
U DWE/3/8	Transcript of charter by John de Lasceles granting Archel and his land to Selby Abbey 1 item	19th cent.
U DWE/4	Miscellaneous Deeds	1250-1586
U DWE/4/1	Grant by William Tallun to Nicholas and Canons of Drax 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/2	Grant by William Tallun to Nicholas and Canons of Drax Seal 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/3	Grant by Hugh, son of William Tallun, to Nicholas and Canons of Drax Seal 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/4	Grant by Alan, Prior of Drax, to Hugh de Birn 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/5	Confirmation by Alice de Riston to Adam de Riston 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/6	Release by Alan, son of Christina de Gyseburne, to Abbot of Salley (Selby?) 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/7	Illegible document 1 item	13th cent.
U DWE/4/8	Agreement between Abbot and Convent of Rievaulx and Prior and Convent of Bridlington regarding tithes in Ledbuston 1 item	c.1240

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U DWE/4/9	Order by Maurice de Berkeley for gaol-delivery 1 item	1377
U DWE/4/10	Receipt by Gilbert de Borodon to Adam le Charpentere of Titlington and acquittance of debt by Gilbert to Prior and Convent of Kirkham 1 item	1340
U DWE/4/11	Inquest before Justices and the jury of Blackburnshire regarding allegations of extortion by local officials 1 item	9 Mar 1369
U DWE/4/12	Appointment of Abbots of Walton and Salley (Selby) as visitors of Cistercian houses in England and Wales 1 item	13 Oct 1381
U DWE/4/13	Settlement of a family quarrel over places in parish church of Mitton 1 item	25 Feb 1431
U DWE/4/14	Attachment for trespass committed in Nether Acaster 1 item	1431
U DWE/4/15	Grant by William del Crosse to William Clifton 1 item	1444
U DWE/4/16	Release by John Blakeburn to Thomas [] 1 item	25 Jan 1481
U DWE/4/17	Acknowledgement of debt of £20 by Francis Wylstthrop esq., of Wylstthrop, Yorkshire, to Edward Ridge, gentleman, of London 1 item	23 Feb 1560
U DWE/4/18	Release by Roger Beckwyth to Edward Ellerker and John Sawmon 1 item	5 Apr 1586
U DWE/4/19	Quitclaim by Roger Beckwyth to Edward Talbot (son of Edward of Shrewsbury) and Robert Stevenson, gentleman 1 item	5 Apr 1586