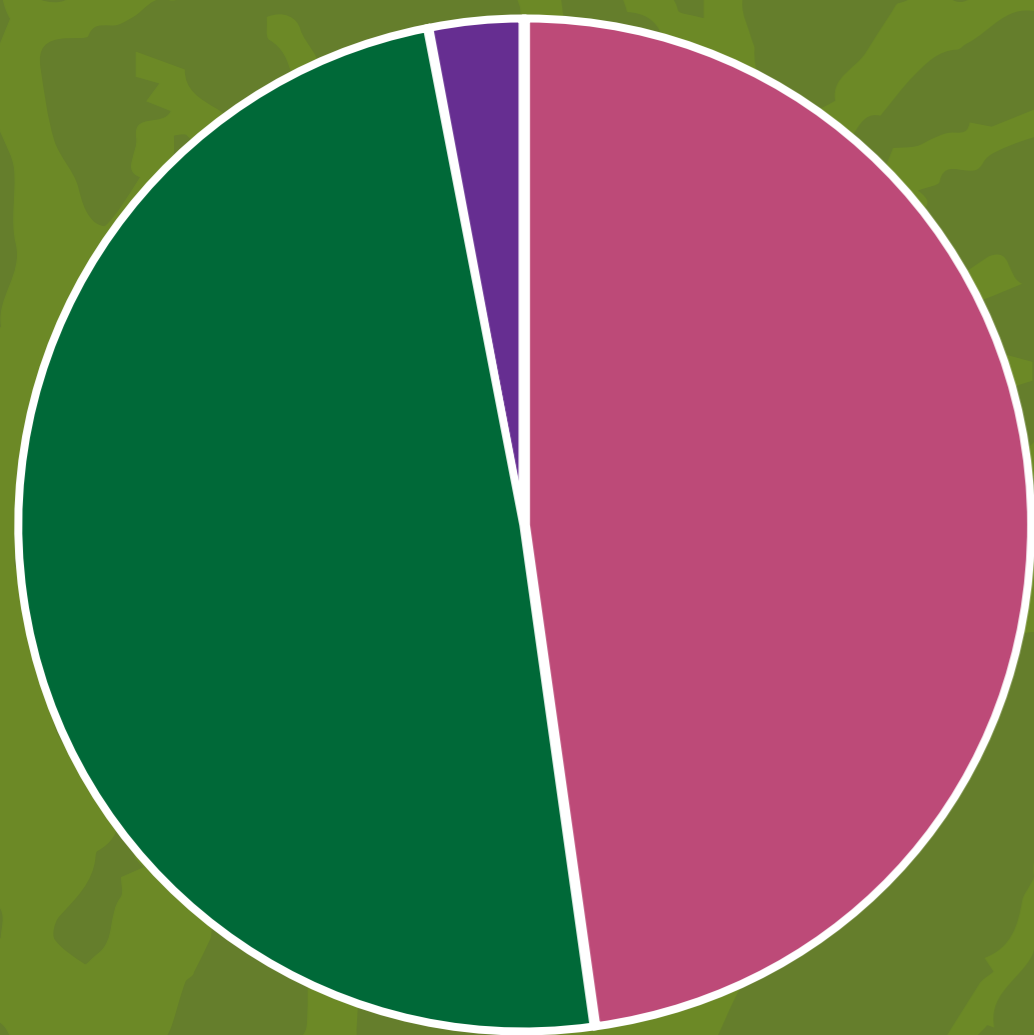




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BALANCING THE BOOKS AT TORPEL



SOURCES OF TORPEL MANOR'S INCOME IN 1300

- 48% of its income came from rents, fines and taxes paid by the common people
- 49% came from sales and rents from other land.
- Only 3% came from the sale of produce. This may be slightly misleading as the various manors held by Peterborough Abbey used a tally system when they exchanged produce.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT IN 1300

The year 1300 is a significant landmark. Before this nearly all the work on the lord's land was done as a compulsory service. It marks the beginning of a money-based economy.

- External Expenses which included:**
 - visit of the Abbot, his groom and bread for his horse 7s 10 3/4d
 - William, the clerk for drawing up accounts 2s 2d
 - Bailiff's expenses 20s
- Cash Payment to Peterborough Abbey amounting to over £21**
 - In 1292 after the death of Queen Eleanor, Peterborough Abbey was named as tenant in chief and paid rent due from all its manors to the king.
 - £21 was the contribution due from Torpel manor for its land in Ufford.
 - This arrangement lasted less than 20 years. Abbot Godfrey's Accounts miraculously have survived and provide us with a snapshot of Torpel in 1300.
- Wages and annual stipends were paid to certain workers:**
 - payments were made for boon work at busy times, such as harvesting and workers were provided with ale, meat, herrings and cheese
 - there were payments for piecework, such as threshing, winnowing, repairs to wall and hedges round park 6s 4d
 - annual stipends were paid, for example forester 6s 8d; shepherds 7s 6d; king's huntsman 3s 5 1/2d
- Minor Expenses of the manor:**
 - Repairs to equipment, such as steel and iron for work on ploughs, wheels, axles and grease for carts
 - Upkeep of livestock, such as horseshoes, collars and bridles, ointment for sheep, hurdles for sheep fold.
 - Other requirements, such as preserving hide of one draught animal which had died, sacks, salt, sieves, carts borrowed to bring in hay and corn, new key for park gate.

