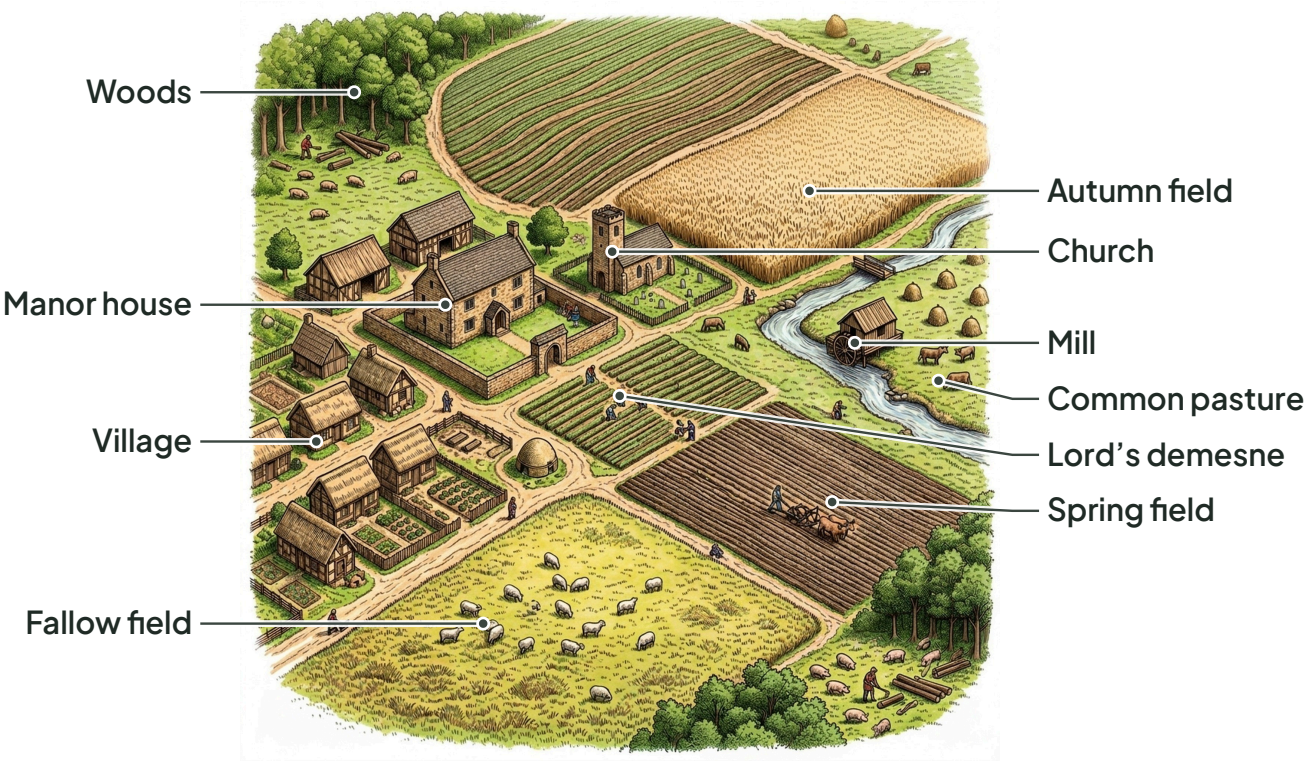
HOW A MEDIEVAL MANOR WORKED

A manor was a lord's estate, about 1250, with the village of peasants who farmed it. Towns could be far away and peasants had little money, so the manor made most of what its people needed: food, cloth, tools and ale. Salt and iron came from outside. Its fields were farmed under the three-field system, so the three fields took turns each year.



◆ THE PARTS ◆

Manor house The lord's home and the center of the estate, with barns for the lord's crops.

Church The parish church, where the priest served the village; villagers paid it a tithe.

Village The peasants' small cottages with garden plots, where most people lived.

Mill The lord's watermill, which ground grain into flour. Peasants paid a fee to use it.

Autumn field Sown in autumn with wheat or rye, harvested the next summer.

Spring field Sown in spring with oats, barley, peas or beans.

Fallow field Left unplanted for a year so the soil could rest; animals grazed on it.

Lord's demesne The lord's own strips, worked by his serfs several days a week.

Common pasture Grazing land that all the villagers' cows and sheep shared.

Woods Forest for firewood and timber, where pigs fed.