

APPENDIX 3

POPULATION ESTIMATES

The estimates of total population and the population of adult males used in this book are based on a series of national taxation records that survive between 1327 and 1603. These consist of the 1327 lay subsidy, the 1377–81 poll taxes, the 1524–5 lay subsidies, and the 1563 and 1603 diocesan population returns, although the records do not survive for each return for all the case studies. In each case, the records only account for a varying proportion of the actual population of the communities surveyed, and thus various multipliers were applied to the numbers given in the documents to achieve estimated ranges of population. These multipliers are based on those found in relevant secondary literature.

Table A3.1 summarises the actual returns and multipliers applied, while the footnotes detail the sources of both the returns and the multipliers used. As a final set of caveats, it is vital to remember that these are very imprecise estimates of population, and likely reflect trends better than absolute levels of population. It is further important to remember that none of the returns used the manor as a basis for assessment, but rather the vill for the lay subsidies and poll tax, and the parish for the diocesan population returns. This means that these estimates are not necessarily related to the number of tenants, with inhabitants included who may not have held land in the manor, and non-resident manorial landholders excluded.

Table A 3.1 *Population estimates*

Manor	Date	Type (geographical unit)	Number of individuals	Method 1	Minimum–maximum multiplier unit	Method 2	Total population minimum–maximum	Method 3	Minimum–maximum adult males
Horstead	1327	Lay subsidy (vill)	51 taxpayers	Assume covers 25–33% of householders ¹	153–204 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75	727–969	Assume adult males 30% of population ²	218–291
	1379	Poll tax (vill)	96 listed (57 taxpayers)	–	96 adults 16 and over	Assume multiplier of 1.323–1.454 ³	127–140	–	57
	1524	Lay subsidy (vill)	27 taxpayers	Assume covers 72–97% of men ⁴	28–38 men	Assume multiplier of 3.33 ⁵	94–125	–	28–38
	1603	Diocesan register (parish) ⁶	c.100 communicants (given as estimate) ⁷	–	100 communicants	Assume covers 50–65% of population ⁸	154–200	Assume adult males 30% of population	46–60

¹ Following B.M.S. Campbell and K. Bartley, *England on the Eve of the Black Death: an Atlas of Lay Lordship, Land and Wealth, 1300–49* (Manchester, 2006), 329.

² Following B.M.S. Campbell, 'The population of early Tudor England: a re-evaluation of the 1522 muster returns and 1524 and 1525 lay subsidies', *Journal of Historical Geography*, 7 (1981), 145–54, at 152.

³ Following Poos, *Rural Society*, 299.

⁴ Following Campbell, 'Population of early Tudor England', 152.

⁵ Following *ibid.*

⁶ This excludes Stanninghall which was part of the civil but not ecclesiastical parish of Horstead: *Diocesan Population Returns*, eds. Dyer and Palliser, 411 n. 111.

⁷ Unfortunately, the census only states that the number of communicants were 'the like number' to Coltishall, where a number of 100 communicants is given. Therefore, these figures are very much estimates: *Diocesan Population Returns*, eds. Dyer and Palliser, 442 n. 112.

⁸ Following Tompkins, 'Peasant society', 190.

Cratfield	1327	Lay subsidy (vill)	33 taxpayers	Assume covers 25–33% of householders	100–132 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75	475–627	Assume adult males 30% of population	143–188
	1525	Lay subsidy (vill)	51 taxpayers	Assume covers 72–97% of men	53–71 men	Assume multiplier of 3.33	175–236	–	53–71
Little Downham	1603	Diocesan register (parish)	200 communicants	–	200 communicants	Assume covers 50–65% of population	308–400	Assume adult males 30% of population	167–217
	1327	Lay subsidy (vill)	31 taxpayers	Assume covers 25–33% of householders	93–124 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75	442–589	Assume adult males 30% of population	133–177
	1377	Poll tax (vill)	267 taxpayers (with Littleport)	Assume ratio of taxpayers the same as 1524 lay subsidy (102:93) ⁹	140 adults aged 14 and over	Assume multiplier of 1.323–1.454	185–204	Assume adult males 30% of population	56–61
Little Downham	1524	Lay subsidy (vill)	102 taxpayers	Assume covers 72–97% of men	105–142 men	Assume multiplier of 3.33	350–472	–	105–142
	1563	Diocesan register (parish)	80 householders	–	80 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75–5 ¹⁰	380–400	Assume adult males 30% of population	114–120

⁹ Unfortunately the returns of the Isle of Ely were given together in the tax (excluding the City of Ely), thus putting Downham and Littleport together. This methodology assumes population decline was similar in that in these neighbouring communities owing to their proximity. Pleasingly, the ratio between the 140 estimate for 1377 and the 31 taxpayers in 1327 of 1.4:52 is very close to that of 1.4:47 calculated for Cambridgeshire as a whole, suggesting a number that is at least plausible.

¹⁰ Following Tompkins, 'Peasant society', 190.

Table A 3.1 (cont.)

Manor	Date	Type (geographical unit)	Number of individuals	Method 1	Minimum–maximum multiplier unit	Method 2	Total population minimum–maximum	Method 3	Minimum–maximum adult males
Worfield	1327	Lay subsidy (vill)	60 taxpayers	Assume covers 25–33% of householders	180–240 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75	855–1140	Assume adult males 30% of population	257–342
	1524	Lay subsidy (vill)	112 taxpayers	Assume covers 72–97% of men	115–156 men	Assume multiplier of 3.33	384–518	–	115–156
	1563	Diocesan register (parish)	134 householders	–	134 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75–5	637–670	Assume adult males 30% of population	191–201
Fordington	1327	Lay subsidy (vill)	70 taxpayers	Assume covers 25–33% of householders	212–280 householders	Assume multiplier of 4.75	1,008–1,330	Assume adult males 30% of population	302–339
	1524	Lay subsidy (vill)	121 taxpayers	Assume covers 72–97% of men	125–168 men	Assume multiplier of 3.33	415–560	–	125–168
	1603	Diocesan register (parish)	361 communicants	–	361 communicants	Assume covers 50–65% of population	555–772	Assume adult males 30% of population	167–217

Sources: *Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely: Lay Subsidy for the Year 1327, Names of the Tax-Payers in Every Parish*, trans. J.J. Muskett and ed. C.H. Evelyn White (London, 1900); *Poll Taxes*, ed. Fenwick; *Lay Subsidy Returns*, ed. Sheail; *Diocesan Population Returns*, eds. Dyer and Palliser; Smith, *Worfield*; Farnhill, *Guilds and the Parish Community*; *The Dorset Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327*, ed. A.R. Rumble, Dorset Record Society, 6 (Dorchester, 1980); TNA, E179/149/7.