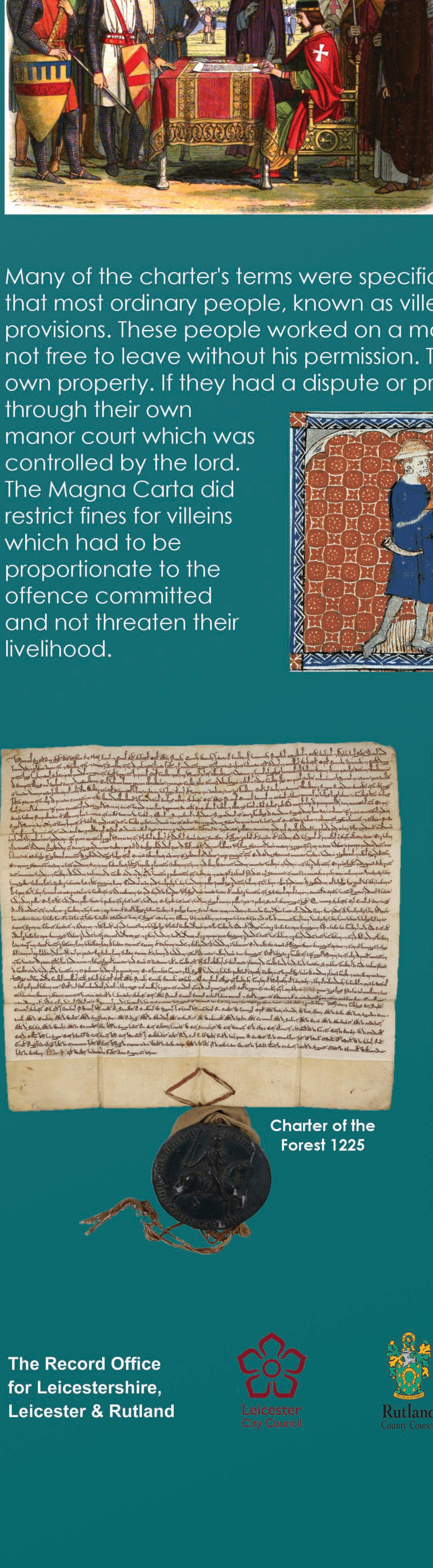
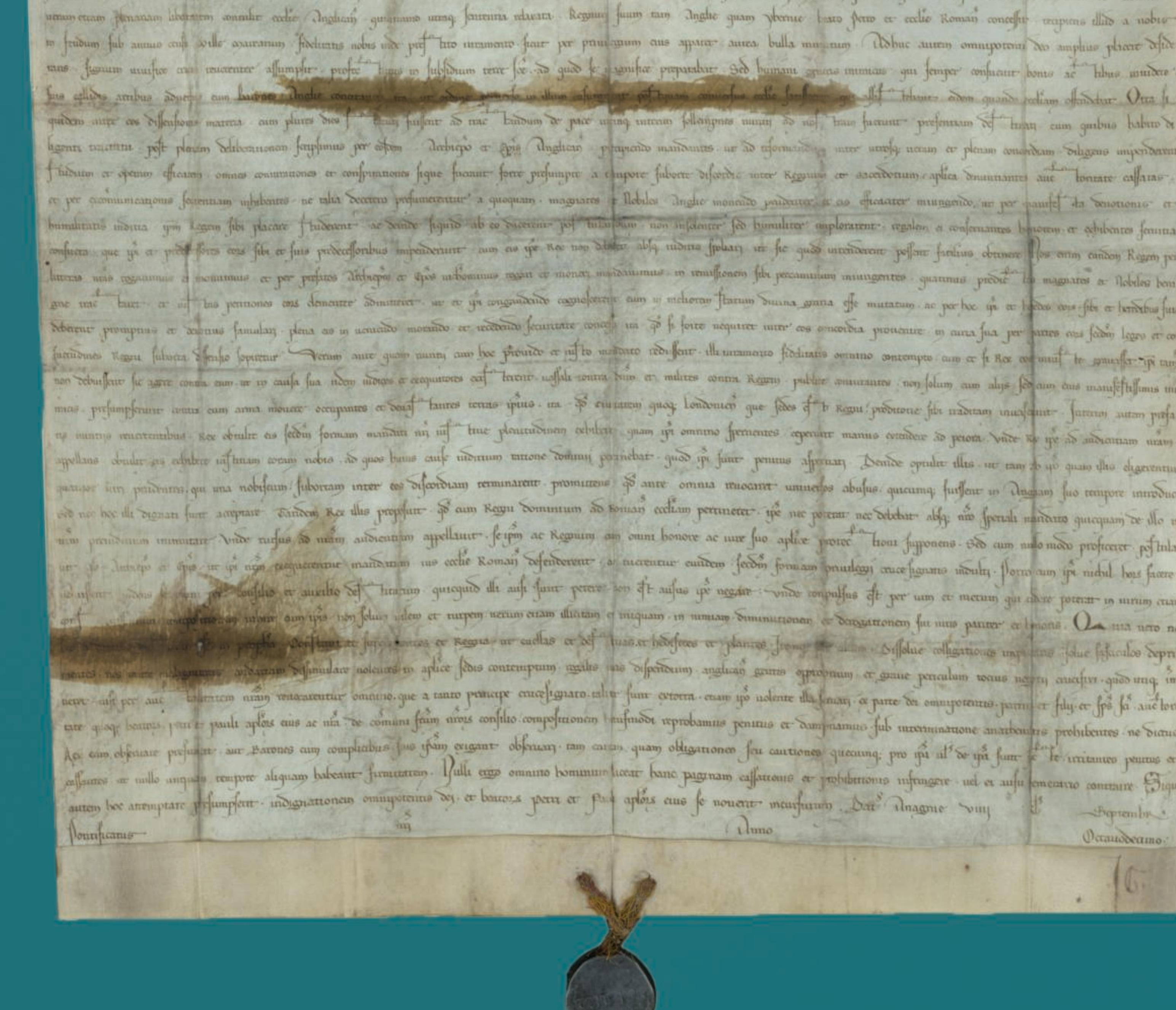


# Magna Carta - 800 Years

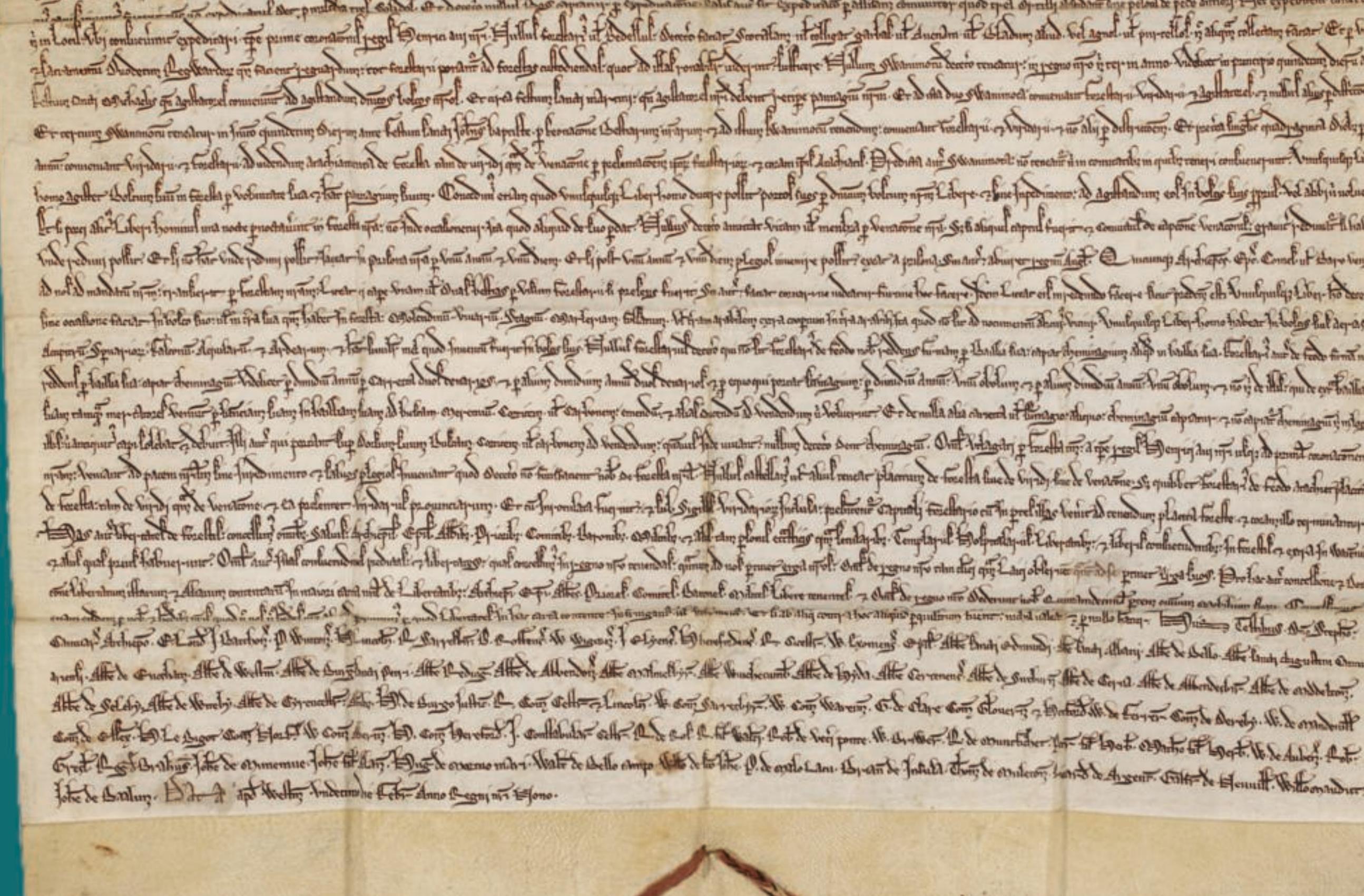
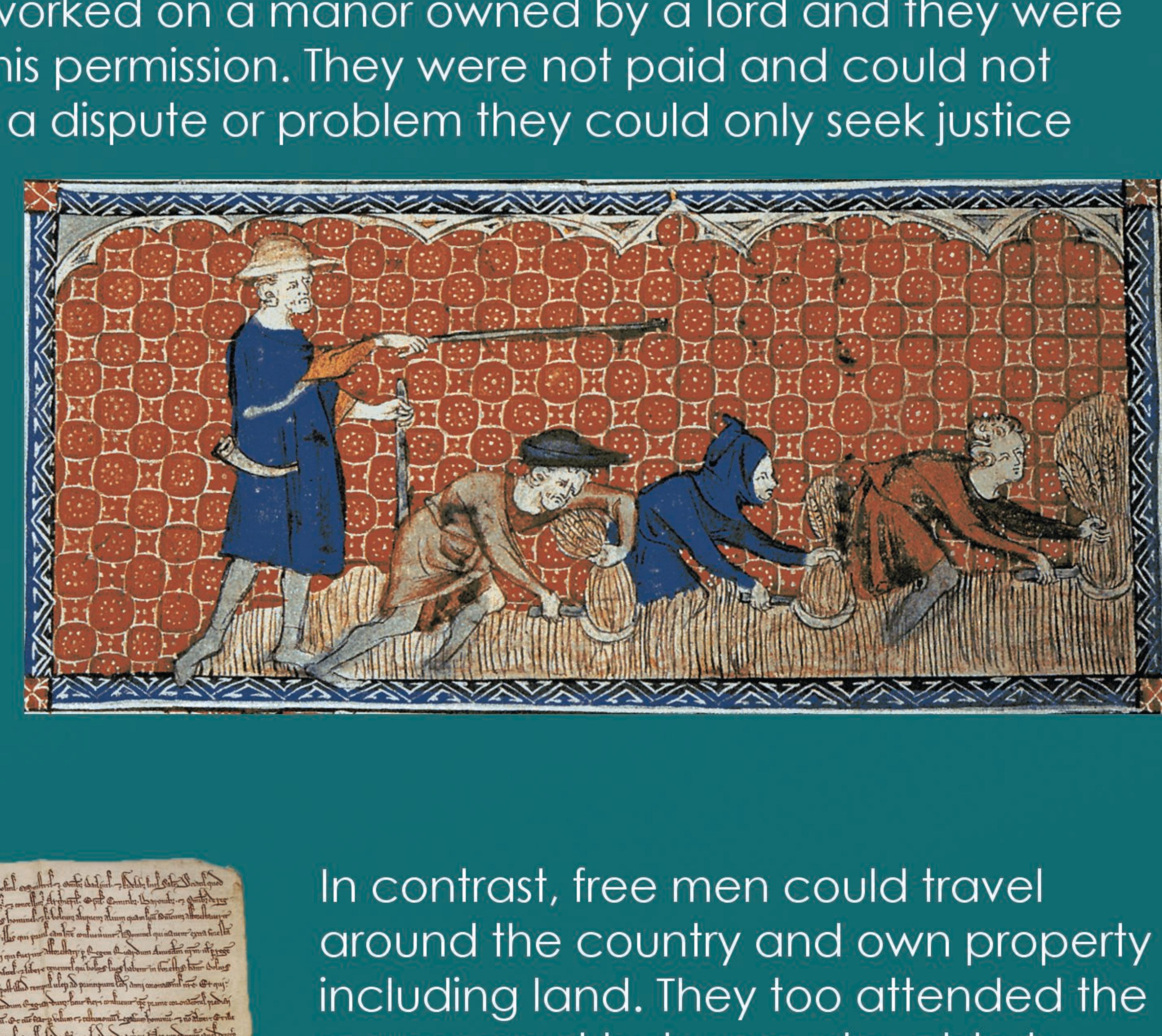
## The Great Failure?

The signing of the Magna Carta was intended to bring about peace between the King and the barons but within weeks the terms had been broken.

John objected to the enforcement clause 61 and would not submit to the authority of the barons. He sought help from the Pope who issued a papal bull or order (shown right) declaring the charter 'null and void'.



Many of the charter's terms were specifically limited to 'free men'. This meant that most ordinary people, known as villeins or serfs, were excluded from its provisions. These people worked on a manor owned by a lord and they were not free to leave without his permission. They were not paid and could not own property. If they had a dispute or problem they could only seek justice through their own manor court which was controlled by the lord. The Magna Carta did restrict fines for villeins which had to be proportionate to the offence committed and not threaten their livelihood.



Charter of the Forest 1225



By September the King and the barons were engaged in civil war which continued up to John's death on 18th October 1216. Prince Louis of France, assisted by the rebel barons, tried to take the English throne but did not have enough support. At the time of John's death the provisions of Magna Carta had not been implemented and it appeared that the great charter had failed.

In contrast, free men could travel around the country and own property including land. They too attended the manor court but were also able to bring cases to the royal courts which offered greater protection.

However, after John's death, Henry III issued a new version of the Charter and a Charter of the Forest which reduced the extent of the royal forest and abolished capital punishment for forest offences such as poaching. Both charters were reissued in 1225. Under Edward I the 1225 Charter was placed on the statute roll and became part of English law in 1297. Magna Carta was here to stay.