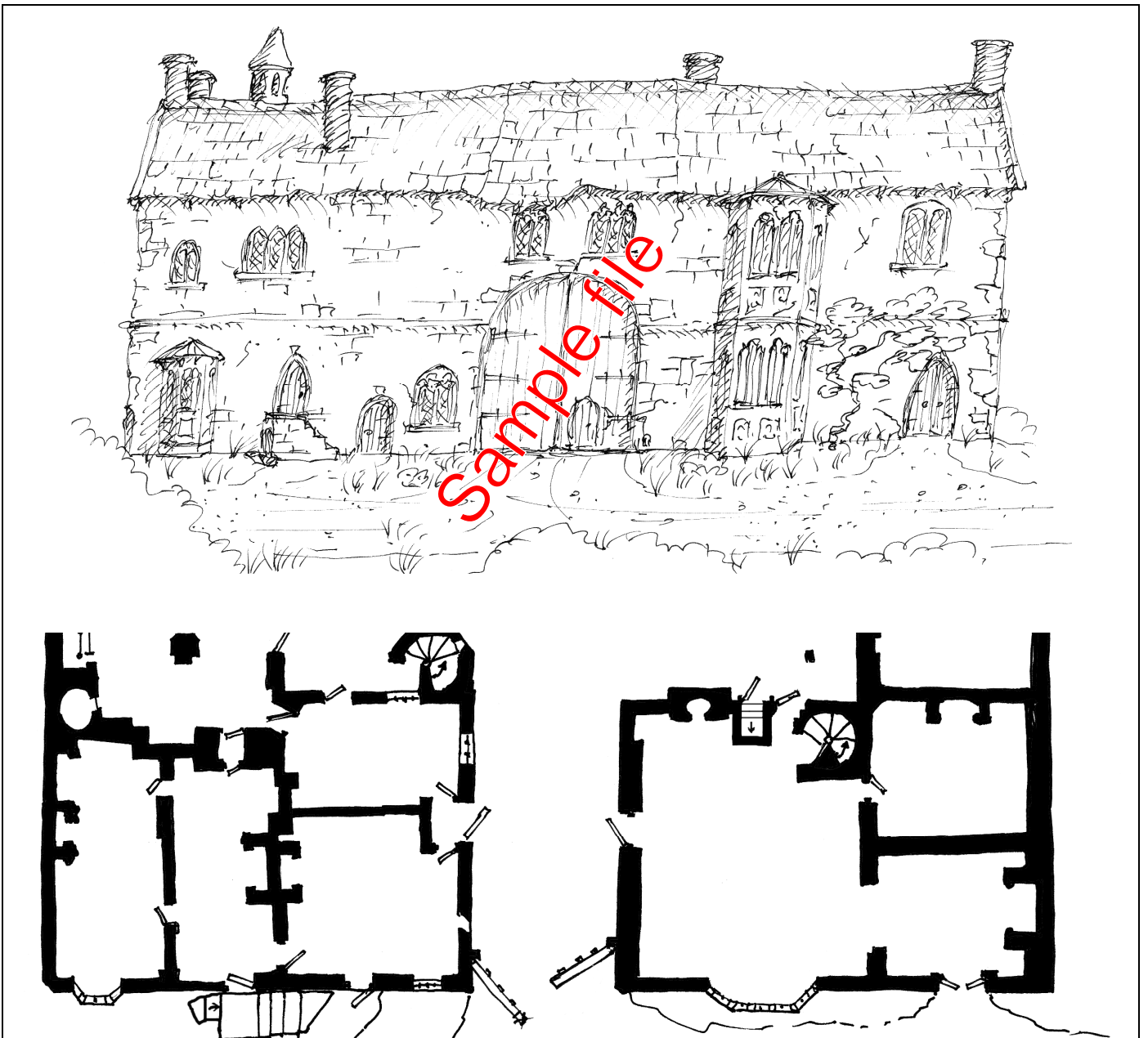


# FANTASY FLOORPLANS

## MEDIEVAL

# ROADSIDE INN



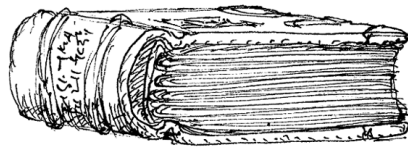
**CORNELIUS CLIFFORD**

# MEDIEVAL ROADSIDE INN FANTASY FLOORPLANS

This book contains maps, plans and descriptions of a large medieval Roadside Inn. These plans are inspired by real historic English pubs and have been drawn and described with role playing and gaming in mind. Includes maps & plans, room descriptions & some background. Written and illustrated by Cornelius Clifford.

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# BACKGROUND & CHARACTERS

## The Abbot

An Abbot controls and effectively owns this Inn and keeps lodgings here, which are known as the Abbot's House. But he only stays here occasionally. The Abbey is many miles away and has no real connection with the Inn beyond it being a commercial enterprise which benefits the Abbey (or, more likely, lines the Abbot's pockets.) The Abbey was given this parcel of land long ago in a bequest, and monks at the abbey still pray for their benefactor weekly, as they do for many others who have given similar bequests. First a modest house, called the Abbot's House, was built on the land, and since this was by a busy road, the Abbot at the time decided to build a guest house which developed into the Inn. Religious orders or monks often provide lodgings to travellers, especially those of noble birth, and pilgrims on a pilgrimage. Indeed, hospitality can be a lucrative side-line for Abbeys, Priors, Nunneries and Monasteries.

The Abbot is not a religious man at all. He is in his early forties and is the third son of a count. He only possesses a couple of very modest manors in his own name. By taking up the post of Abbot when he was a young man, he has, with shrewd control of the Abbey's lands, now become rich and powerful in his own right. He probably has to make sure the Bishop receives a goodly regular income from the Abbey in order to let him keep running the Abbey's affairs in the way he wants to.

The Abbot rarely wears the robes of his order, just on a few important occasions a year at the Abbey Church: Christmas, Easter, and the quarterly meeting of the 'Chapter' (the ruling body of the Abbey, over which he has complete control) in the Chapter House, also at the Abbey. Under this Abbot's leadership such meetings are directed far more towards commerce and the acquisition of wealth than spiritual matters. The Abbey owns large tracts of land and many farms and small manors both near and far. It predominately uses this land for rearing and grazing sheep, and from them comes wool, a hugely important product in medieval times. A lot of the wool produced locally ends up stored in the Inn Attics for a time. It is sold at regular fairs to wool merchants who either pay weavers to make it into cloth, or export it to Flanders. From there cloth made from English wool is sold all over Europe.

The Abbey also receives large sums in rent and tithes from the tenant farmers and peasants all across this agricultural 'empire.' Much of the produce (wool, meat and grain) is sold for coin, some of which (presumably) finds its way into the Abbot's coffers. The Inn is only a very minor element of this 'enterprise' and is largely left to its own devices, just so long as the place generates plenty of income for the Abbey (and the Abbot!)

Most of the time the Abbot dresses, and acts, just like any other member of the nobility. He carries a sword and dagger and travels in chain mail hauberk, with a shield and Norman style conical helmet. He rides a great warhorse. The Abbot is tough, shrewd and brutal. An accomplished warrior, rider and knight, he is always accompanied by a retinue. This includes several servants (including ladies, one or more of which might well be his mistress/s) a squire, a clerk and at least half a dozen men-at-arms, sometimes more. These men are armed in a similar fashion to the Abbot, with the addition of crossbows.

The Abbot regularly comes to the Inn and stays for a night or two, perhaps with a month or six weeks in between visits. On these occasions he checks that all is in order, and collects any accumulated profits in the form of coin. Woe betides the Innkeeper if there is too little cash in the coffers when the Abbot calls! The Abbot might also dispense justice if needed, since he is the feudal overlord, for 'petty' offenses such as stealing. He has the right to order the hanging of anybody of low birth he sees fit, for whatever offense he thinks appropriate. Juries are relatively rare in this time and the 'King's justice' was usually reserved for more important people than peasants, outlaws and common miscreants.

# ROADSIDE INN ~ OVERALL PLAN

