

he could only pass it by will to his eldest son.

The trustees and beneficiaries in each of these trusts controlled the land, planted it, reaped the harvest, sold or used the results for profit and by law could ignore almost all other restrictions on the use of the land. The trustees usually did not participate in this use but allowed the beneficiaries to do as they wished. The beneficial or equitable interests in these trusts could be sold at will with no change in the trustees and usually without taxation. Normal sales of property had to be made public and were usually accomplished by elaborate procedures. Beneficial interests in trusts could be created and transferred secretly.

Early in the fifteenth century the king's chancellor began to enforce such trusted contracts and agreements in the king's own court. The relief offered by the chancery court was usually in the form of an order to refrain the trustees from doing some act, such as evicting the beneficiary or laying waste to the land. By the sixteenth century the concept of the trust was well developed.

The king having lost many of the former rights to lands held in trust, publicly criticized them. There were probably many abuses of the trust which led to this