Among the derivatives of *exsartus*, *exartus* 'assart' listed by Du Cange is this entry:

**EXARTARIUS.** Operarius qui *exartat* silvas. Charta Alienordis Regiae Angl. apud Beslium pag. 598; *Exartarius pro fossorio 3 den. dabit.*

Of more recent dictionaries, only Maigne d'Arnis and Niermeyer have the word, taking it over unaltered from Du Cange. As the only example therefore of the Latin equivalent of OF *essartier*, it seemed worthwhile to trace the reference. Users of Du Cange will be familiar with the difficulties this can involve: here the page-number is wrong. The source of the quotation is a charter of Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine and Queen of England, printed by Jean Besly, *Histoire des comtes de Poictou et des ducs de Guyenne* (Paris, 1647), p. 498. The quotation occurs among the customs paid for plough-beasts, and is correctly glossed 'one who clears away woodland'; his *fossorium* 'spade' is as essential to him as a plough to a farmer. Besly gives as his source, 'Ex Tabulario sancti Hilarij Pictavens.', presumably the register or cartulary of Saint-Hilaire at Poitiers, from which he quotes frequently. This manuscript is not now traceable.

L. Delisle and E. Berger, *Recueil des actes de Henri II, roi d'Angleterre et duc de Normandie*, Chartes et diplômes relatifs à l'histoire de France, Introduction and 3 vols. (Paris, 1909-27), twice print a near identical document. It appears in *Actes de Henri II*, I, 425-6, at its proper place in the sequence, dated *ca* 1168. Apart from minor differences in the expansion of abbreviations and the number of witnesses names, the significant discrepancy is that Delisle and Berger's text lacks the sentence containing the word *exartarius*. The source is given as
a *vidimus* of 1256 in the Archives de la Vienne, fonds de Saint-Hilaire, Benassai no. 41. But the text is actually a reprint of Delisle’s text in the introductory volume to *Actes de Henri II*, pp. 411-12, supposedly from the manuscript source. No reference is made to the edition by Besly and no textual variant for our sentence is cited. It has simply disappeared, taking with it the only attestation of the word *ex(s)artarius*.

Delisle does refer to the edition of M. Louis Redet, ‘Documents pour l’histoire de l’église de Saint-Hilaire de Poitiers’, *Mémoires de la Société des antiquaires de l’ouest* 14 (1847), 1-362 (no. 153, pp. 180-81). Redet’s source was the manuscript *vidimus* in the Archives Saint-Hilaire, this time correctly cited as Benassai no. 4 (No. 41 exists, but is altogether different). His text differs slightly from Besly’s; thus where Besly has ‘xii den. Andegavensium’, Redet expands the abbreviated inflexions correctly as ‘xii denarios Andegavenses’. I quote the passage more fully:

> coloni illius Curtis et terre pro jugo boum arancium terram illam xii denarios Andegavenses, pro jugo assinorum vi denarios Andegavenses dabunt, exartarius pro fossorio iii denarios Andegavenses dabit.

Redet notes that the text was printed by Besly, p. 498. Besly had evidently omitted the third repetition of ‘Andegavenses’ and mistaken the sum, printing 3d. for 4d. Delisle, in copying Redet, left out the last seven words, omitted the reference to Besly, and corrupted the manuscript reference-number from 4 to 41. Berger then followed Delisle without checking the earlier printed editions. Fortunately, the document itself is still preserved in the Archives de la Vienne, where (I am kindly informed by the Directeur des Services) its modern reference-number is G 716.

Between Du Cange’s wrong page-number (perpetuated in derivative dictionaries) and the carelessness of the modern editors, the word *ex(s)artarius* might have disappeared from the lexicographer’s view. This would have been a pity. It clearly stands side by side with OF *essartier* (glossed ‘Arbeiter, der ausrodet’ in Tobler-Lommatzsch, *Altfranzösisches Wörterbuch*). One can hardly say that one is borrowed from the other.
It could easily be formed from the Latin words *exsartum*, *exsartare*, or by Latinization from the vernacular *essart* (for which Niermeyer has a ninth-century attestation), *essarter*, *essartier*. Since our documents were written by clerks bilingual in Latin and French, there is no need for an unequivocal answer.

In the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources*, examples will be found of the spellings *assartum*, *assartare*, showing the influence on Latin of the Anglo-Norman forms *assart*, *assarter*. There is also here an example of *assartarius*, though the meaning is different, ‘tenant of assart’:

1299 assartarii Willelmus et Simon Dun ... tene[n]t j assartum per servitium v s. vj d.

The document is edited from the *Red Book of Worcester* by M. Hollings, Worcester Record Society, 4 vols. (1934-50), 199. The form *assartier* is not recorded in Anglo-Norman sources.

Dictionary of Medieval Latin, R. Sharpe.
London & Oxford.