



Domesday Book Extract

Burbage

The Domesday Book is a record of the great survey which was completed in 1086, of much of England and parts of Wales. The survey was executed for William I of England (William the Conqueror) to determine how much each landholder had in land & livestock, and what it was worth. From this, it could be determined how much tax was liable. The judgement of the Domesday assessors was final – whatever was written in the books about who held what material wealth or what it was worth, was law and no appeal was available. It was written in Latin and the text was highly abbreviated. The Domesday books were referred to as “the Book of Judgement” “because its decisions, like those of the Last Judgement, are unalterable”.

Burbage was a settlement in the Domesday Book, in the hundred of Kinwardstone and the county of Wiltshire. It had a recorded population of 15 households in 1086 and is listed under 4 owners in the Domesday Book.

Land of King William

1 Church with 0.25 Church lands
Value to the Lord: One pound in 1086
Tennant in Chief: King William
Lord: Vitalis the priest
Phillimore Reference: 1,23b
Wiltshire Folio: Page 3

Land of Humphrey de L'Isle

Households: 2 Villager and 3 other population
Ploughland: 2.5
Plough Teams: 1 Lords Plough team and 1 men's plough team
Lord's Land: 1.5
Woodland: 3 * 2 Furlongs
Value to the Lord: 2 pounds in 1086 Rising to 2 Pounds 10 Shillings with new owner.
Tennant in Chief: Humphrey De L'Isle
Lord in 1086: Blaecmann
Lord in 1066: Edric
Phillimore Reference: 27,4
Wiltshire Folio: Page 13

Land of Richard Sturmy

Households: 1 Villager, 1 slave and 4 other population
Ploughland: 2
Meadow: 2 Arpents
Woodland: 4 * 2 Furlongs
Value to the Lord: 1 pound 10 shillings in 1086
Tennant in Chief: Richard Sturmy
Lord in 1086: William
Lord in 1066: Aelfric (the hunter)
Phillimore Reference: 68,4

Wiltshire Folio: Page 21

Land of Ralph of Hauville

Households: 2 Villagers, 1 Smallholder and 1 slave

Ploughland: 2

Woodland: 3 * 2 Furlongs

Value to the Lord: 1 pound 10 shillings in 1086

Tenant in Chief: Ralph of Hauville

Lord in 1086: Ralph of Hauville

Lord in 1066: Alric

Phillimore Reference: 68,11

Wiltshire Folio: Page 21

Explanation of Terms:

Value: Total value of the estate, probably for taxation purposes.

Ploughland: An area that a team of 8 oxen could plough in a year. (approx 120 acres)

Plough Team: A team of 8 oxen

Woodland: Indicated by the number of pigs that could be supported

Meadow: Grazing land for animals (usually sheep)

Tenant in Chief 1086: Usually a Norman knight granted the lands after the conquest

Lord 1086: Lord over the peasants, sometimes a tenant granted the estate in return for a tax

Lord in 1066: Owner of the lands before the conquest

Slave: The term slave used in the Domesday book is not what we might automatically assume to be a person of colour. Slaves during this time were generally made up of criminals, prisoners of war, sold into slavery by their own families (to ward off starvation etc) or even born into it. After the Norman Conquest, the Normans quickly outlawed slavery, as early as 1102.