



DOMESDAY BOOK

Potterne

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”.

Hundred of Rowborough

Land of the Bishop of Salisbury

The Bishop of Salisbury holds Potterne. Before 1066 it paid tax for 52 hides. Land for 40 ploughs. Of this land 10 hides in lordship; 6 ploughs there; 4 slaves; 5 freedmen.

29 villagers and 40 smallholders with 30 ploughs

6 mills which pay 43s 4d; meadow, 40 acres; pasture 2½ leagues long and 1 league and 3 furlongs wide.

The value of the Bishop's lordship is and was £60.

Of this manor's land 2 Englishmen hold 6 hides and 1 virgate of Land. One of them is a man-at-arms by the King's command ; he was the nephew of Bishop Herman. Alfward holds 3 hides which Wulfward White bought from Bishop Herman before 1066 for his lifetime only, so that afterwards they should return to the Bishop's revenue because they were part of the Bishop's lordship. These thanes have 4 ploughs with 2 slaves and 9 smallholders.

Value £7; value of what the priest of the manor holds, 40s.

Of this manor's land Arnulf of Hesdin holds 3 hides and 1 virgate from the King. But the Bishop claims them, since the holder before 1066 could not be separated from the Bishop.

Land of Arnulf of Hesin

Arnulf also holds in Potterne 3 hides and 1 virgate of land which tax with the Bishop of Salisbury's manor of Potterne before 1066. Bishop Osmund claims this land. Algar, who held it before 1066, could not be separated from the church.

Robert holds it from Arnulf. Land for 2 ploughs. They are in lordship.

1 villager has ½ plough; 6 slaves; 3 smallholders.

A mill which pays 7s 8d; meadow, 14 acres; 3 furlongs long and 1 furlong wide.

The value was £4; now 100s.

Land of Odo and other thanes of the King

Alfward holds 3 hides in Potterne. Before 1066 it paid taz with the Bishop's manor. Land for 3 ploughs. In lordship 1;
3 villagers and 4 smallholders with 2 ploughs.

.... 4 furlongs long and 3 furlongs wide.

Value 70s.

Bishop Osmund claims it.

hide: a unit of land reckoned as 120 acres

virgate: a varying measure of land, typically 30 acres.

thane : a man who held land granted by the king or by a military nobleman, ranking between an ordinary freeman and a hereditary noble.

**Source: Domesday Book of Wiltshire, published by
Phillimore & Co. Ltd and © Mrs. Susan Morris 1979**