



# DOMESDAY BOOK

## Rowde

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 Alfred of Marlborough**

William, 18 hides, Gilbert, 1 hide and Whufgear, 1 hide, hold Rowde from Alfred. Before 1066 it paid tax for 20 hides.

Land for 8 ploughs. In lordship 4 ploughs; 4 slaves;

4 villagers, 8 smallholders, 11 cottagers and a priest with 4 ploughs.

2 mills of William's which pay 9s 8d; meadow, 20 acres; woodland 6 furlongs long and 1½ furlongs wide.

The value of the whole was £6; now £8.

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**