



The archbishop himself holds MONKS RISBOROUGH. It is assessed at 30 hides. There is land for 14 ploughs. In demesne [are] 16 hides, and there are 2 ploughs. There 32 villans with 8 bordars have 12 ploughs. There are 4 slaves, meadow for 6 ploughs, [and] woodland for 300 pigs. In all it is worth 16l; when received 100s; TRE 16l. This manor Esger the staller held of Christ Church, Canterbury, but with the condition that it could not be separated from that church TRE. WALKELIN, Bishop of Winchester, holds WEST WYCOMBE. It is assessed at 19 hides. There is land for 23 ploughs. In demesne [are] 5 hides, and there are 3 ploughs. There 27 villans with 8 bordars have 19 ploughs. There are 7 slaves, and 3 mills rendering 20s, and 1 fishery rendering 1,000 eels, meadow for 7 ploughs, [and] woodland for 1,000 pigs. In all it is worth 15l; when received 10l; TRE 12l. This manor was and is for the...

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE  
DOMESDAY BOOK FOR  
MONKS RISBOROUGH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
RISEBERGE

(11th Century translations are shown in **red**)

## A

**Acre** **acra, agra, ager** Measurement of land used in *Domesday* mainly for pasture, meadowland and woodland, which varied from region to region.

**Arpent** **arpent** Measurement of land originally a hundred square perches; used in *Domesday* for vineyards; about on modern acre.

**Assart** To clear land, to turn woodland into arable or pastureland.

## B

**B** Marginal abbreviation in *Domesday* used to mean a berewic, or outlying part of a manor.

**Before 1066 (TRE)** In the time of King Edward the Confessor.

**Berewic** See B above, and Outlier.

**Bodyguard** **Heuard** The obligation to provide a lord with a bodyguard, or the king with one, during a visit.

**Boor** **borus** A peasant or a villager.

**Bovate** **bovata** An eighth of a carucate. Used in *Domesday* like carucate for tax purposes.

**Burgess** **burgus** Holder of land or a house in a borough.

## C

**Cartage** **avera** The obligation to provide mules or draught horses for the king's use.

**Carucate** **carucata, carrucata** Measurement of land in Danish counties, the equivalent of a hide. Used in *Domesday* for tax purposes.

**Comnote** Welsh area or district.

**Cottager** **cotarius, coscat** A peasant of a lower class, probably with a cottage but often no, or very little, land.

**Customary due** **consuetudo** A regular fixed rent or service, or percentage of a tax.

## D

**Danegeld** An Anglo-Saxon tax that could be levied across England, so called because the money raised would be used to fight Danish invaders.

**Defence obligation** **wara** The obligation for military service or for payment in substitution of personal service.

**d Denarius** The English silver penny, the only coin in circulation in 1086.

**Dreng** Free peasant especially used in Northumbria; held lands in return for military service. Recorded in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

## E

**Escort** **inward** The obligation to provide the king with a mounted man for his service or protection.

**Exon** **Exeter Domesday** An early draft of *Domesday* covering Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, parts of Dorset and one holding in Wiltshire.

## F

**Fief** See holding.

**Forest foras** Not necessarily woodland, but land reserved for the King's hunting; usually under Forest Law controlled by the Forester instead of the sheriff. Forests are never mentioned by name in *Domesday* except for the New Forest.

**Freedman colibertus, quolibertus** A former slave, now of similar status to the lower class of peasant.

**Freeman liber homo and sochemann** The two Latin terms have similar meanings; a villager of higher class than a villanus, with more land and obligations; a soke man, for example, was liable to attend the court of his soke.

**Frenchman Francus homo, francigena** A French settler, usually a Norman, of similar standing to a freeman.

**Furlong ferlinus, ferdinus, fertinus** A quarter of a virgate, or a measure of length, originally Roman; commonly 220 yards, similar to the modern furlong used in horse racing.

## G

**Geld** See tax.

**Go where he will** Landholder free to place himself under the protection of a lord of his own choosing.

## H

**Hide hida** 120 acres, although this could vary, and sometimes was apparently around 240 acres. *Domesday* hide values were not real measurements of land, but figures on which tax (geld) was based (used in English areas, equivalent to a carucate).

**Holding feudum** Often translated as a fief; the land of a tenant-in-chief, or an under-tenant.

**Honour honor** A holding, or more often a group of holdings forming a large estate. Honor and feudum seem to be used interchangeably in *Domesday*.

**Housecarl** Equivalent to a thane, or thegn, in Scandinavian parts of the country.

**Hundred Hundredum** Subdivision of a county, with its own assembly of notables and village representatives.

## I

**Inland inland** Equivalent to 'in lordship'; such land was often exempt from tax.

## J

**Jurisdiction saca et soca** The right to administer justice, and keep the resulting fines. Soca also meant the area over which an individual or manor has jurisdiction.

## L

**Landholder** See tenant-in-chief.

**Lease for three lives** A term of a lease, usually for the life of the leasor, his son or wife and the grandson.

**Leet** Subdivision of Kent, similar to a Sussex rape.

**Livery** To be given ownership or rights of land as a gift from the king.

**Lordship dominium** Land held and farmed by the tenant-in-chief himself, or by the under-tenant himself (or herself).

## M

**M** Marginal abbreviation in *Domesday* used to mean manor.

**Man homo** To be someone's man, to owe obligations to, usually in the form of labour or service. A woman could also be someone's man in this sense.

**Man-at-arms miles** A soldier holding his land specifically in return for military service.

**Manor manerium, mansio** Equivalent to a single holding, with its own court and probably its own hall, but not necessarily a manor house as we think of it. The manor was the basic unit of *Domesday*.

**Mark marka** Money of accounting purposes. A silver mark was worth 13s 4d, a gold mark was worth £6.

**Mill** A watermill. There were no windmills in England for another 100 years.

**Moneyer** Coiners; a person licensed to strike coins, receiving the dyes from the government, and keeping 6 silver pennies in the pound.

## O

**Ora ora** Money of accounting purposes worth 16d or 20d.

**Outlier berewica** Outlying part of a manor; a holding separate from a manor, taxed as if it were part of that manor rather than as a separate holding.

## P

**Packload summa** A dry measure, used mainly for salt, corn, or sometimes for fish.

**Pannage pannequion** Mast, or autumn feed for pigs, which were allowed to graze freely on the acorns and beechnuts on the woodland floor. The right to pannage is still part of some forest laws.

**Plough caruca, carruca** In *Domesday* the word implies a plough team with its eight oxen and the plough itself. The measure of a carucate was originally the amount of land which such a team could plough in one day.

**Predecessor antecessor** Previous land holder or holder of an office. Using the term implied that the succession has been legally made, and the powers have passed rightfully to the present holder.

**Presentations presentationes** A payment for fishing rights.

## R

**Rape** One of five, later six, subdivisions of Sussex, each with its lord and castle.

**Reeve** **praepositus, praefectus** A royal official. Also a manor official, appointed by the lord, or sometimes elected by the peasants.

**Relief** **heriot** Money or kind paid to a lord by relatives after a man's death in order for them to inherit.

**Revenue** **firma** The provision which a manor owed the king, for example one night's keep for his court. In *Domesday* this is often translated into a money equivalent as cash replaced the barter economy.

**Rider, Riding-man** **radman, radcaitt** Riding escort for a lord, chiefly recorded in the Welsh Marches.

## S

**Seat** **caput** The principal manor of a lord. Still used today.

**Sester** **sextarium** Measure of volume, commonly used for honey, when it amounted to 32 ounces.

**Sheriff** The royal officer of a shire managing its judicial and financial affairs.

**Shilling** **solidus** Money for accounting purposes (there was no actual coin) worth twelve pennies.

**Slave** A man or woman who owed personal service to another, and who was unfree, and unable to move home or work or change allegiance, to buy or to sell, without permission.

**Smallholder** **bordariums** Middle class of peasant, usually with more land than a cottager but less than a villager.

**Soke man** See Freeman.

**Steersman** Commander of a ship.

**Sulong** Measurement of land in Kent, usually 2 hides; used in *Domesday* for tax purposes.

## T

**Tax** **Geldum** Periodic tax, first raised for the Danish wars, at a number of pence per hide, carucate or sulung.

**Tenant-in-Chief** **Dominus** Lord (or institution, such as a church) holding land directly from the king; also called the 'landholder'.

**Thane** **tainus, teignus** Originally a military companion of the king, later one of his administrative officials. In *Domesday* most thanes were Anglo-Saxons who had retained some of their land. Now known to most people through *Macbeth*, the thane of Cawdor.

**Third Penny** The local earl's share of fines in shire or hundred courts, often allocated afterwards to a particular manor or church as a regular income.

**TRE** **tempora regis Eduardis** In the time of King Edward the Confessor; by implication, when all in the realm was legally correct and ownership would have been rightfully secured.

## U

**Under-tenant** Tenant holding land from a main landholder or tenant-in-chief.

## V

**Village** **villa** Village; but the same Latin word was sometimes used for a larger village or a town.

**Villager** **villanus** Member of the peasant class with most land.

**Virgate** **virgata, virga** A quarter of a hide. Used in *Domesday* for tax purposes.

## W

**Wapentake** **wapentac** Same as a hundred, in the Danish counties of England.

**Warland** Land which was liable for tax, in contrast to inland.

**Waste** Land which was either unusable or uncultivated, and not taxed. Although sometimes waste was the result of William's wars in the north, it could also simply mean land not fit for agricultural use.

## Y

**Yoke** Measurement of land in Kent, a quarter of a sulung. Used in *Domesday* for tax purposes.