

Domesday entries for Turvey

| Landholder | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Bishop of Coutances | | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 hides | 6 ploughs | 2 hides 3 ploughs | Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances. Geoffrey de Trailly, Gilbert de Blosseville, ? Gilbert, Abbot of Westminster | 3 villagers 3 ploughs | 8 smallholders | 1 slave | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | 1 mill (would have been a water mill – no wind mills for about another 100 years) | Enough for 2 ploughs | Enough for 40 pigs | | £6.00 (but only 40s when granted) | 3 Freeman, King Edwards men, they could sell and grant | £6.00 | | |

| Bishop of Bayeux | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| | 1 Hide(but let out) | 1 plough – it is there! | | Herbert (son of Ivo)holds from the Bishop Widmund (probably of Tessel)holds from Herbert | | | | (?Ivo Tallboys who was in Leighton Buzzard and appears to have answered directly to the King) (? Ivo, Hugh of Grandmesnil’s Steward who held land in Milton Ernest) | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | Enough for 1/2 a plough | | | 20s (and when acquired) | Alfwold of Stevington (Alfwold was a freeman who also held a lot of land in Stevington) | 40s | | |

| Count Eustace | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| (Brother-in-law of King Edward, from Boulogne) | 1 hide | 2 ploughs | Held from Count Eustace by Arnulf of Ardres (1 plough: another possible) | Arnulf? | 1 Villager | 1 Smallholder | | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | Enough for 1 plough | | | 10s (20s when acquired) | Alfwold, a thane of King Edward's – he was free to grant to whomever he would. | 20s | | |
| Hugh of Beauchamp | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
| | 1 hide | 2 ploughs | Held from Hugh by Warner (1 plough possible) | Warner? | 1 Villager with one plough | 4 small holders | | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | | | | 10s (as much as when aquired) | 2 Freemen, who could grant to whom they wished | 20s | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Nigel of Aubigny | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
| | 1 hide and ½ a virgate | 1 ½ ploughs (they are there) | Nigel of le Vast holds from Nigel of Aubigny | Nigel of le Vast | | 5 Smallholders | | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | Enough for 1 plough | Woodland for 20 pigs | | 13s as much as when aquired | Alfward – Bishop Wulfy’s man, he was free to grant to whom he wished | 30s | | |
| Robert of Tosny | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
| | 2 hides and 1 virgate | land for 4 ½ ploughs | | 2 men at arms | 3 villagers have 3 ploughs, ½ plough possible | 6 Small holders | 2 slaves | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | Enough for 1 plough | Enough for 10 pigs | | 40s when acquired 60s | Oswulf, a Thane of King Edwards | £70s | | |
| Walter of Flanders | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
| | 1 hide | Land for 1 ploughs | Hugh Land for 2 ploughs | Hugh | | 8 smallholders | 1 Slave (with 1 plough?) | | |
| | Mills | Meadow | Woodland | | Value | Previous landholder | Value pre-conquest | | |
| | | Meadow for 1 plough | Enough for 40 pigs | | 30s when acquired 10s | Leofnoth a Thane of King Edwards – he could sell his land | 40s | | |

| | Amount of land | Ploughs | Amount held in lordship | Under tenants | Villagers | Small holders | Slaves | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--|--|
| The King – (land granted to Reeves and almsmen) | A third part of ½ hide | Land for 2 oxen, they are there | | Alwin the priest | | | | Value The land is and was 3s. He held it himself before 1066 and he could do what he liked with it | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Terms used in Domesday for Turvey

- Freeman:** Before the Norman Conquest a man who could transfer himself and his land from one Lord to another
- Hide:** The standard unit of assessment used for tax purposes. It was meant to represent the amount of land that could support a family, roughly 120 acres. There were four virgates to every hide.
- Hundred:** A subdivision of the shire used for administrative purposes.
- Lordship:** In one sense, the land owned by a tenant in chief (a Lord or an Institution). It also sometimes refers to the land owned by a tenant –in-chief and farmed directly by them, rather than by peasants. In Domesday entries a recurring phrase is ‘is and always was in lordship’
- Manor:** An estate or unit of Lordship varying in size. The Domesday Survey was based on the Manor, not the Parish. It was usually a landed estate, comprising a demesne and lands held by villagers, bordars, or cottagers and sometimes also freemen, Frenchmen (usually foreigners of any kind) riding men etc, which could vary in size from part of one village to several villages over a wide area; power over men (and women), ranging from civil to criminal jurisdiction; an estate in land giving authority and prestige; a land title giving superiority and gentility
- Plough (land):** The number of ploughs refers to the taxable amount of land that can be ploughed by a team of eight oxen. So, land for half a plough (or for 4 oxen) means half a plough land.
- Riding men:** Anglo-Saxon free tenants rendering escort-duty and messenger-service to their Lord.
- Slaves:** Man or woman who was the property of the Lord and had no lands
- Smallholder/ Bordar:** Man or Woman usually holding between five and fifteen acres in a Manor, but sometimes identical with a Cottager; a person normally holding a Cottage and four acres or less in the Manor

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Tenant in chief: | The King's principal Barons and Churchmen who held land directly from him |
| Thegn/Thane: | The order of nobility in Anglo-Saxon England before the Norman conquest was Earl, Thegn, Median Thegn |
| Villager: | The normal peasant farmer of Anglo-Norman England, usually holding between 1 and 3 YARDLANDS from the LORD of a MANOR in 1086. |
| Villan/villain/villain: | An unfree peasant who owed his Lord labour services (perhaps two or three days a week) but who also held land and farmed for himself. They were the wealthiest and most numerous of unfree peasants |
| Yardland/Virgate | a quarter of a Hide. |

Analysis

Remember the system of Tenants in Chief who will have been granted land by the King. They did not necessarily farm the land themselves, or even live on the land. It was frequently someone else entirely who actually held and farmed the land.

Before the Conquest, most of the land in Turvey is listed as being 'owned' by King Edward. Edward died on January 6th 1066. Harold Godwinson was appointed by him to succeed to the throne. He was also elected by the English nobility and anointed and crowned by the Archbishop of York in Winchester Cathedral, soon after Edward's death. Harold then faced two major invasions – one from the North by Harald Hardrada, and his brother Tostig (Harold Godwinson's brother) and one from Normandy, led by Duke William. Harold G defeated Harald H and Tostig at the Battle of Stamford Bridge on 5th September 1066. William landed near Pevensey on 26th/27th September 1066. He faced Harold, who had had a quick march south, at Battle on 14th October. Harold was killed. His short reign (9 months) is not recognised in Domesday – hence the majority of land before 1066 is said to have belonged to King Edward.

Overlords in 1066 In 1066 four of the parcels of land in Turvey mentioned in Domesday had the King as their Overlord.

The Bishop of Lincoln was overlord of one parcel

Three Freeman are listed as Overlords of one parcel

Alwold of Stevington is also listed (he was also an under-tenant of King Edward)

Alwin the priest had a very small holding.

Subtenants in 1066

Three Freeman

Oswulf son of Frani

Alward, Bishop Wulfy's man

Alwold of Stevington

Two Freeman

Man, one

Leofnoth, son of Osmund

Alwin the priest.

Overlords or Tenants Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances

in chief in 1086

Robert of Tosney
 Nigel of Aubigny
 Arnulf of Ardres
 Hugh of Beauchamp
 Wimund of Tessel
 Bishop Odo of Bayeux
 Walter of Flanders
 Alwin the priest

Subtenants in 1086

Two men-at-arms
 Nigel of le Vast
 Arnulf of Ardres
 Warner of Turvey
 Wimund of Tessel
 Hugh of Flanders
 Alwin the Priest

| Overlord 1066 | Overlord/Tenant in Chief 1086 | Lord 1066 | Lord 1086 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| King Edward | Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances | 3 Freeman, King Edward's men | Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances. Geoffrey de Traily, Gilbert de Blosseville, ? Gilbert, Abbot of Westminster | |
| King Edward | Robert of Tosney (Todeni, Thosny) | Oswulf, Son of Frani, Thane of King Edward. | Two men-at arms | |
| Bishop of St Mary, Lincoln | Nigel of Aubigny, (Albini, Albingi) | Alward, Bishop Wulfy's man | Nigel of le Vast | |
| King Edward | Count Eustace of Boulogne | Alwold of Stevington, A Thane of King Edward | Arnulf of Ardres | |
| | Hugh of Beauchamp | Two Freeman | Warner of Turvey | |
| Alwold of Stevington | Bisop Odo of Bayeux | One man | Wimund of Tessel | |
| King Edward | Walter of Flanders | Leofnoth son of Osmund | Hugh of Flanders | |
| | Alwin the priest | Alwin the priest | Alwin the priest | |

At the time of the conquest, the names suggest that those who lived and farmed in Turvey were Anglo-Saxons. Twenty years later the land had been granted to those who had been loyal to William the Conqueror. The Tenants in Chief are all notable Normans, with the exception of Alwin the Priest whose holding was pitifully small anyway.

The Norman Tenants in Chief had clearly granted Manors and lands to those whom they wished to favour.