

# The Norman Yoke...

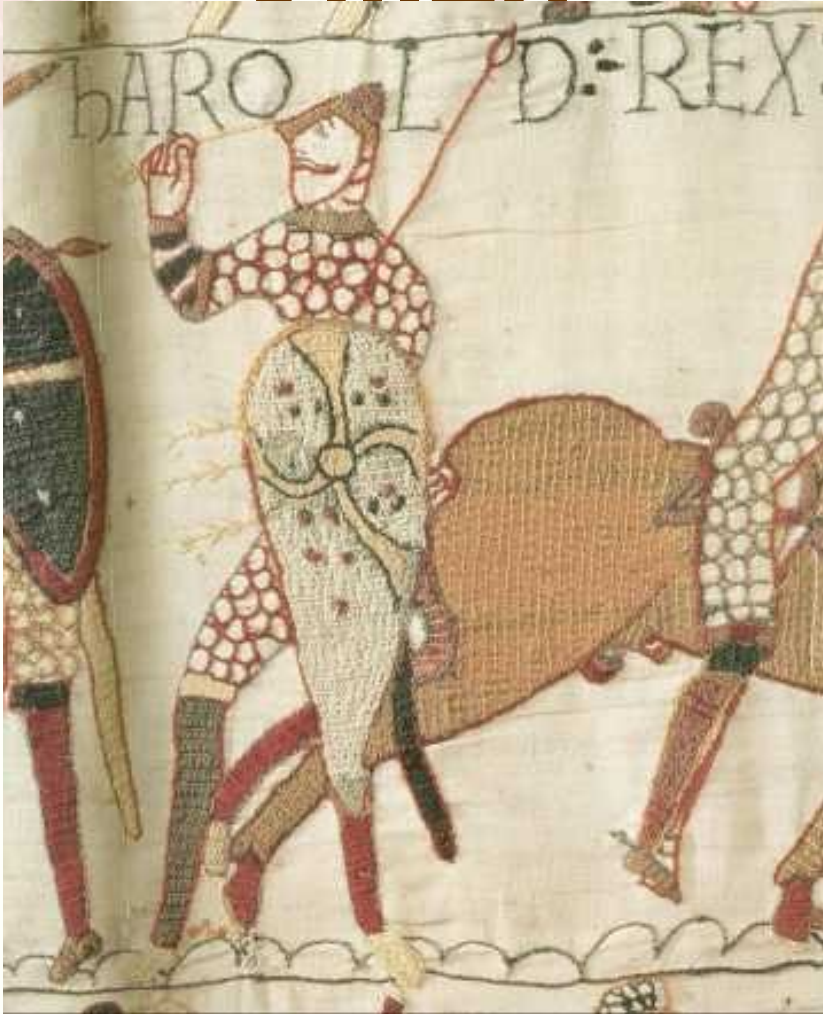
- **conquest**
- **castles**
- **war & waste**
- **forest law**
- **rebels & outlaws**
- **merrie England**

# Hastings, 13 October 1066

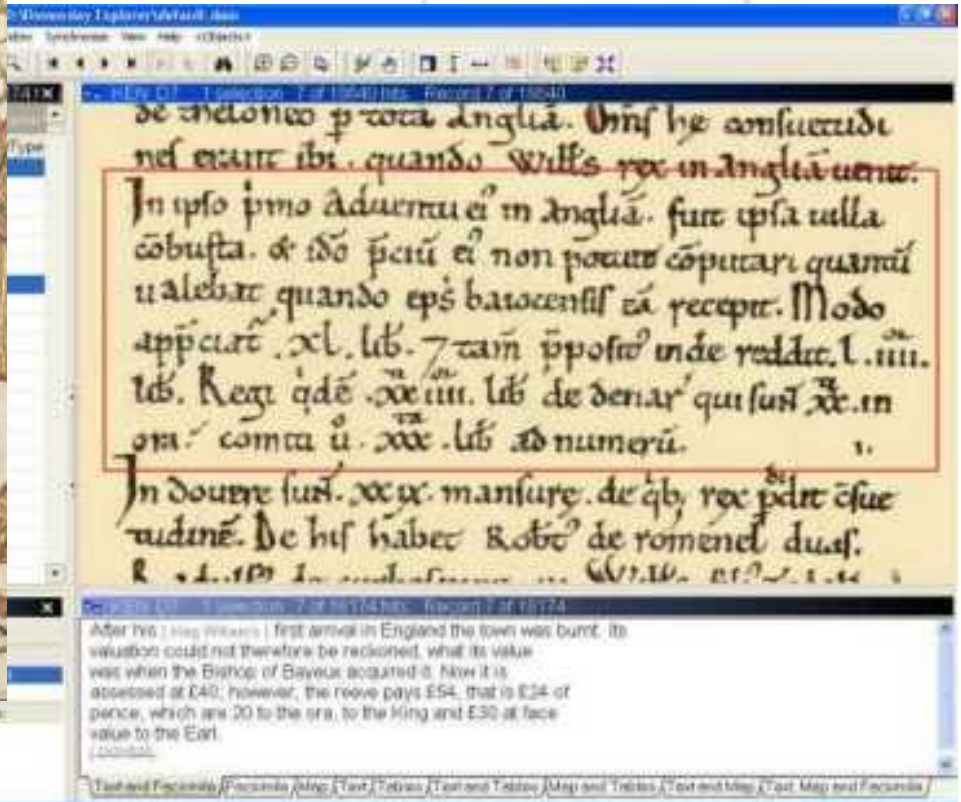


**The day England  
acquired a new  
royal dynasty, a  
new aristocracy, a  
new Church, a new  
language, a new ...**

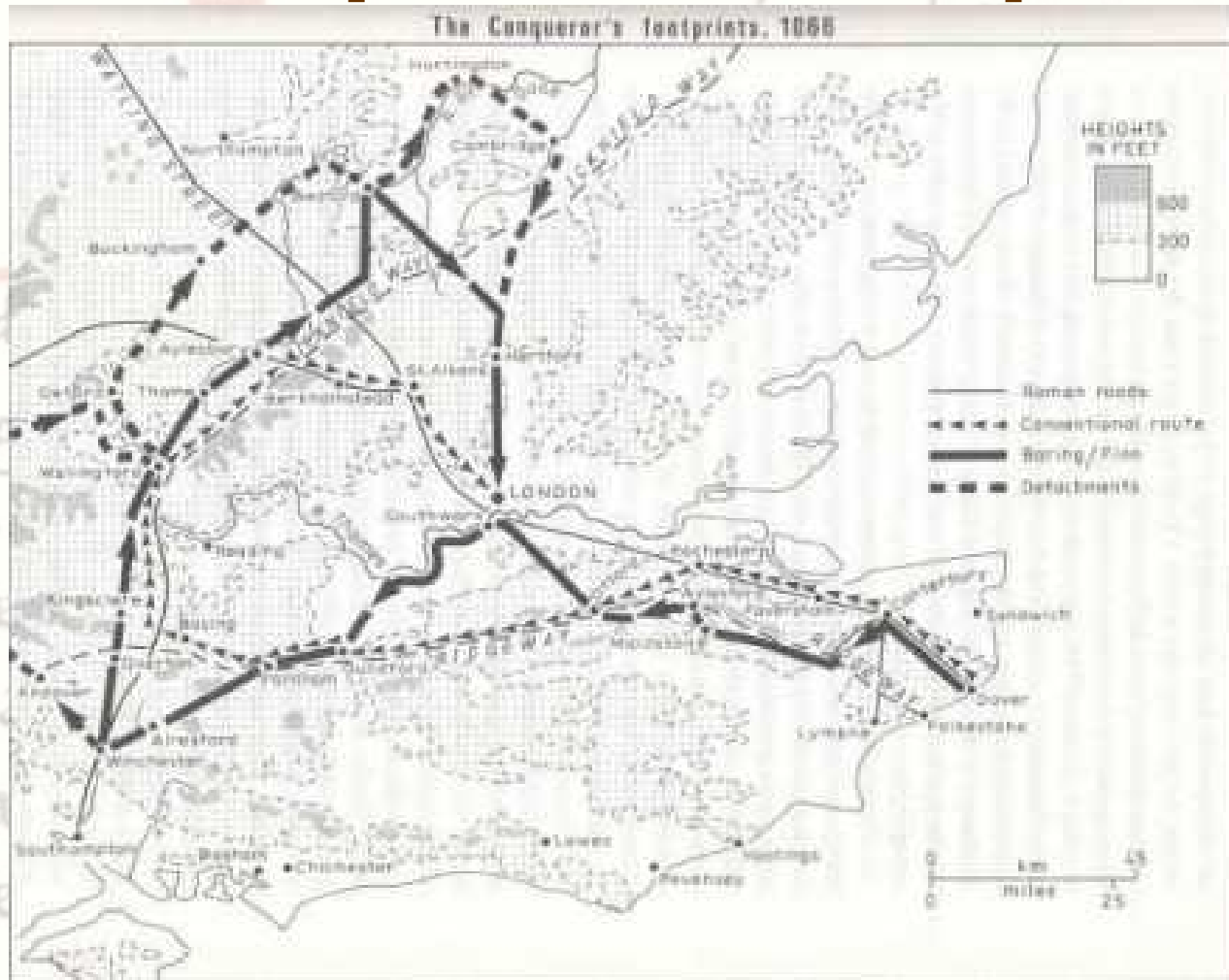
# Harold killed



# Dover burnt



# The Conqueror's footprints



Plotted by the destruction recorded in  
**Domesday Book**

# Castles of the Conquest

**The castle was introduced into England by the Normans, who built them:**

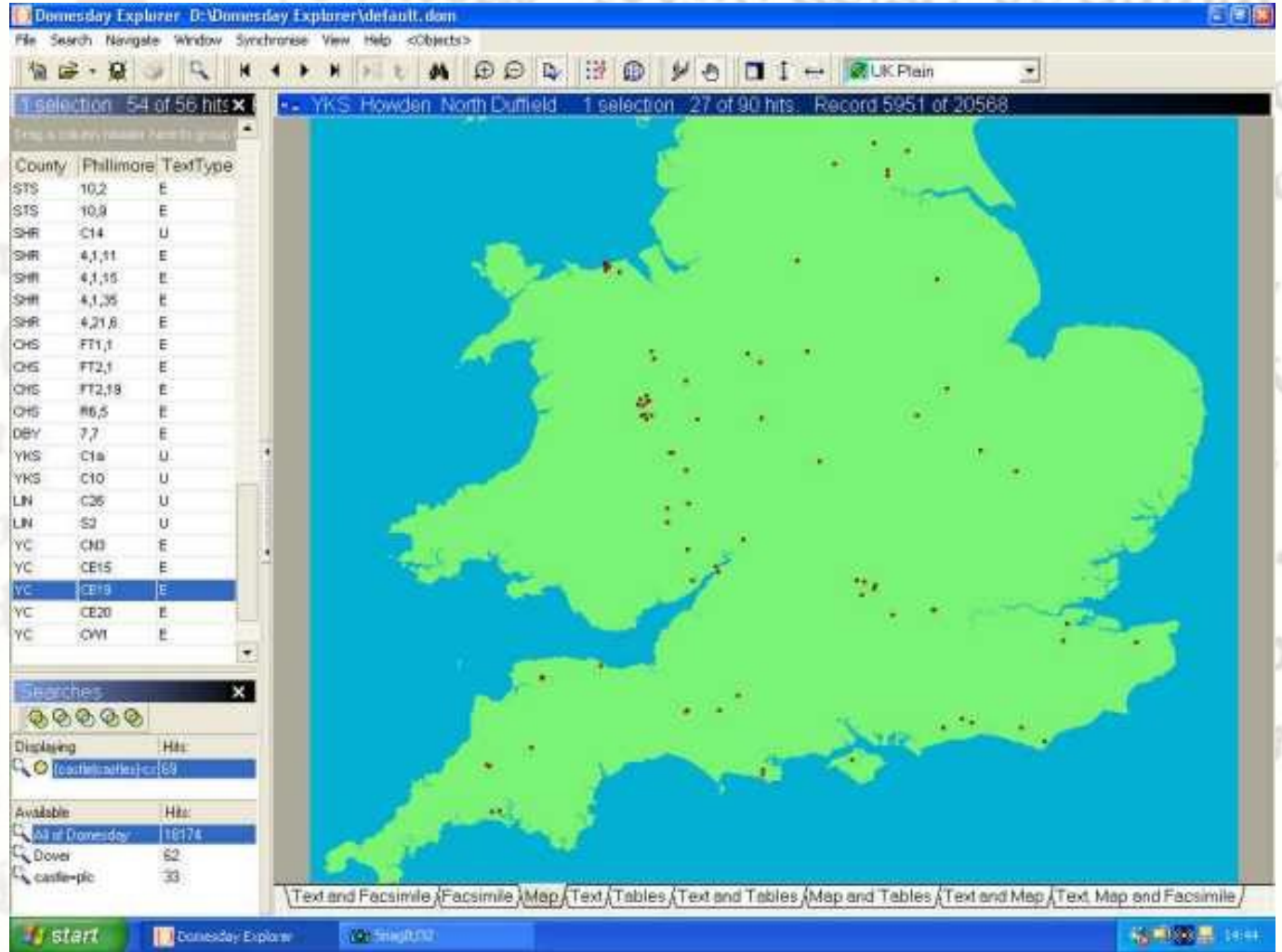
**‘far and wide throughout the country, and oppressed the wretched people’**

***(Anglo-Saxon Chronicle)***

**It has been estimated that possibly 500 castles were built by the end of the eleventh century, an enormous capital investment; but fewer than 100 can be securely documented**

# Castles of the Conquest

**Domesday Book names the majority of those castles known to have existed by 1086**



# Castles of the Conquest



Æþeore regis EDWARDI  
.xxviii  
habebat  
Godwin



**Chepsto**  
**w**

William the Conqueror's great tower at Chepstow is the oldest surviving medieval stone fortification in Britain. The castle was one of the seven towers from which King William perhaps issued much of central and western Britain before 1077.



**Ludlo**  
**w**



**Shrewsbury**



**Chepsto**  
**w**

# Genocide in

## Yorkshire

The Conquest, the rebellions which followed the Conqueror's coronation, and the ferocity with which some were suppressed, laid waste large areas of England.

The infamous **'harrying of the north'** between 1069 and 1070 was an act of genocide which left much of northern England uninhabited for a generation.

One chronicler, Ordericus Vitalis, wrote of this 'harrying':



# Genocide in Yorkshire

**'He [the Conqueror] harried the land and burnt homes to ashes. Nowhere else had William shown such cruelty. In his anger he commanded that all crops and herds, chattels and food of every kind, should be brought together and burned to ashes with consuming fire, so that the whole region north of the Humber might be stripped of all means of sustenance.**

**In consequence, so serious a scarcity was felt in England, and so terrible a famine fell upon the humble and defenceless populace, that more than 100,000 Christian folk of both sexes, young and old, perished of hunger'**

# Genocide in Yorkshire

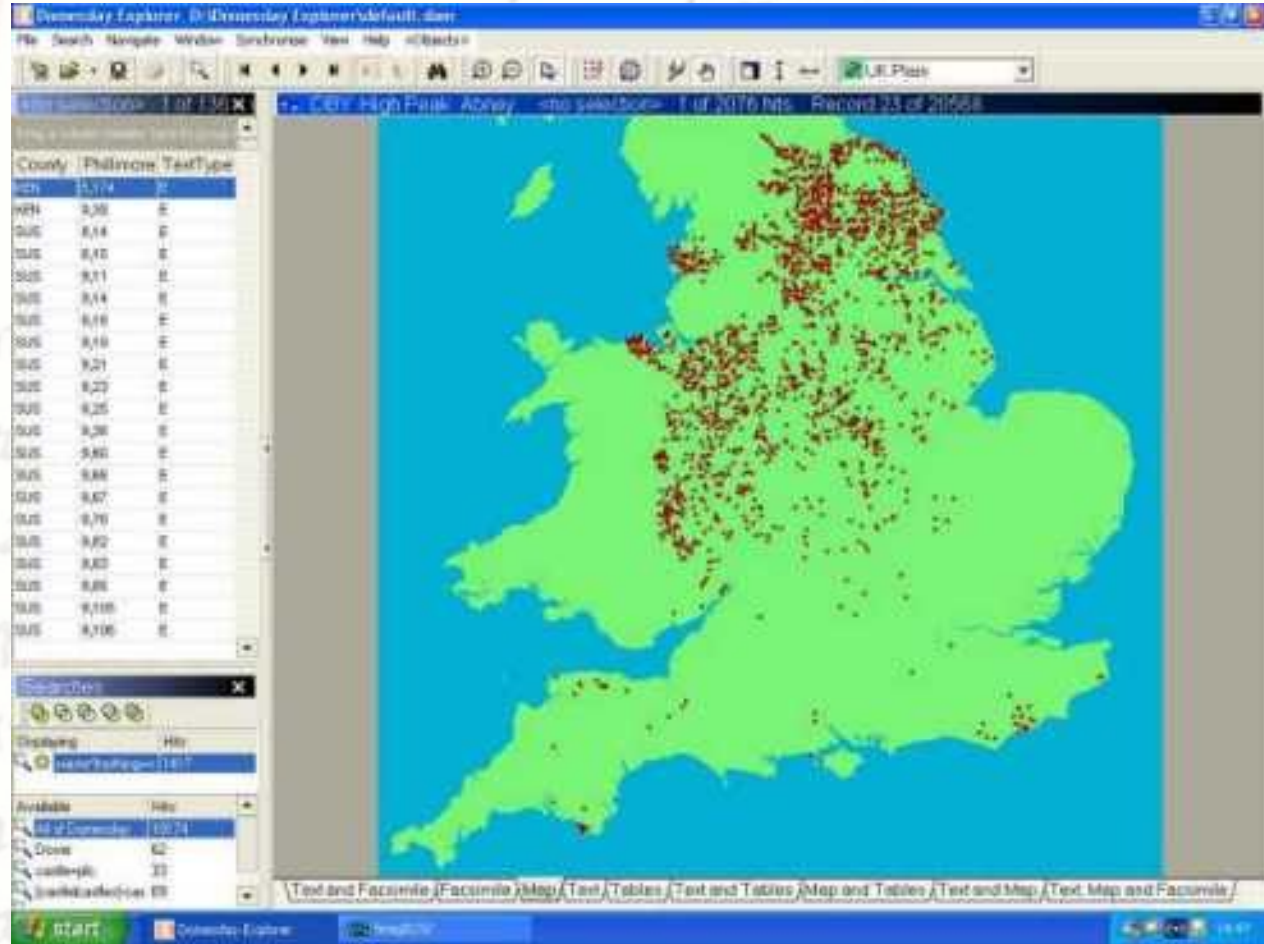
**The same writer says that this act haunted the Conqueror to his dying day. On his death-bed, he repented:**

**'I ... caused the death of thousands by starvation and war, especially in Yorkshire. In a mad fury, I descended on the English of the north like a raging lion, and ordered that all their homes and crops, and all their equipment and furnishings, should be burnt at once; and their great flocks and herds of sheep and cattle slaughtered everywhere.**

**So I chastised a great multitude of men and women with the lash of starvation and, alas, was the cruel murderer of many thousands'**

# Genocide in Yorkshire

On the basis of recorded waste in Domesday Book, it has been calculated that 15 years after the 'harrying' Yorkshire still had only 25% of the men and ploughs there had been on the day in 1066 'when King Edward was alive and dead'



recorded waste in Domesday Book

# Forest Law

**Forest law was another oppressive feature of Norman rule. One chronicler, half-Norman himself, described the death of two of the Conqueror's sons in hunting accidents in the New Forest as a just punishment for his excesses committed in the name of the royal sport of hunting:**

**'Now, reader, let me explain why the forest ... is called 'new'. That part of the country had been populous in earlier days ... But after William I conquered the realm of England, so great was his love of woods that he laid waste more than 60 parishes, forced the peasants to move to other places, and replaced the men with beasts of the forest so that he might hunt to his heart's content.**

**There he lost two sons, Richard and William Rufus, and his grandson Richard ... by which the Lord plainly showed his anger'**  
**(Ordericus Vitalis).**

# Forest Law

**Domesday Book shows many depopulated areas in what is now the New Forest, where the ploughs and peasants of King Edward's days had been replaced with royal forest by 1086**

The screenshot displays the Domesday Explorer application. On the left, a table lists various land parcels with columns for County, Parish, and TwoTys. The main window shows a map of the New Forest area with several red dots indicating specific locations. Below the map, a detailed view of a land record is shown, featuring a transcription of the original Latin text and a modern English translation. The translation describes the land held by Ranulf Flambard in 1086, noting its status as a forest and its value.

County	Parish	TwoTys
HAM	MF12	2
HAM	MF13	2
HAM	MF14	2
HAM	MF15	2
HAM	MF16	2
HAM	MF17	2
HAM	MF18	2
HAM	MF19	2
HAM	MF20	2
HAM	MF21	2
HAM	MF22	2
HAM	MF23	2
HAM	MF24	2
HAM	MF25	2
HAM	MF26	2
HAM	MF27	2
HAM	MF28	2
HAM	MF29	2
HAM	MF30	2
HAM	MF31	2
HAM	MF32	2
HAM	MF33	2
HAM	MF34	2
HAM	MF35	2
HAM	MF36	2
HAM	MF37	2
HAM	MF38	2
HAM	MF39	2
HAM	MF40	2

**Record 1086 of 1086**

*Ranulfus flambard tenet unam hida in hida. Alueld tenuit in parago. Et se desit p una hida in p nichilo. Et tota e in foresta. et p. m. ad p. De hanc tenuit in ipsa uilla. i. hida. 7 p. tunc se desit. T. & E. Modo. e tota in foresta. et p. m. acris p. T. p. fuit. un. car. He due rre. uith. m. lib.*

**Record 1086 of 1086**

**1086 MF31**

**1086 MF31**

Ranulf Flambard holds 1 hide in ~~the~~ from the king. Alueld held it jointly. Then it answered for 1 hide, now for nothing, because it is all in the **Forest**, except 4 acres of meadow. Ranulf also held 1 hide in the village itself and it answered for as much before 1086. Now it is all in the **Forest**, except 4 acres of meadow. The land was for 4 ploughs. The value of these two lands was £4.

**the New Forest in 1086**

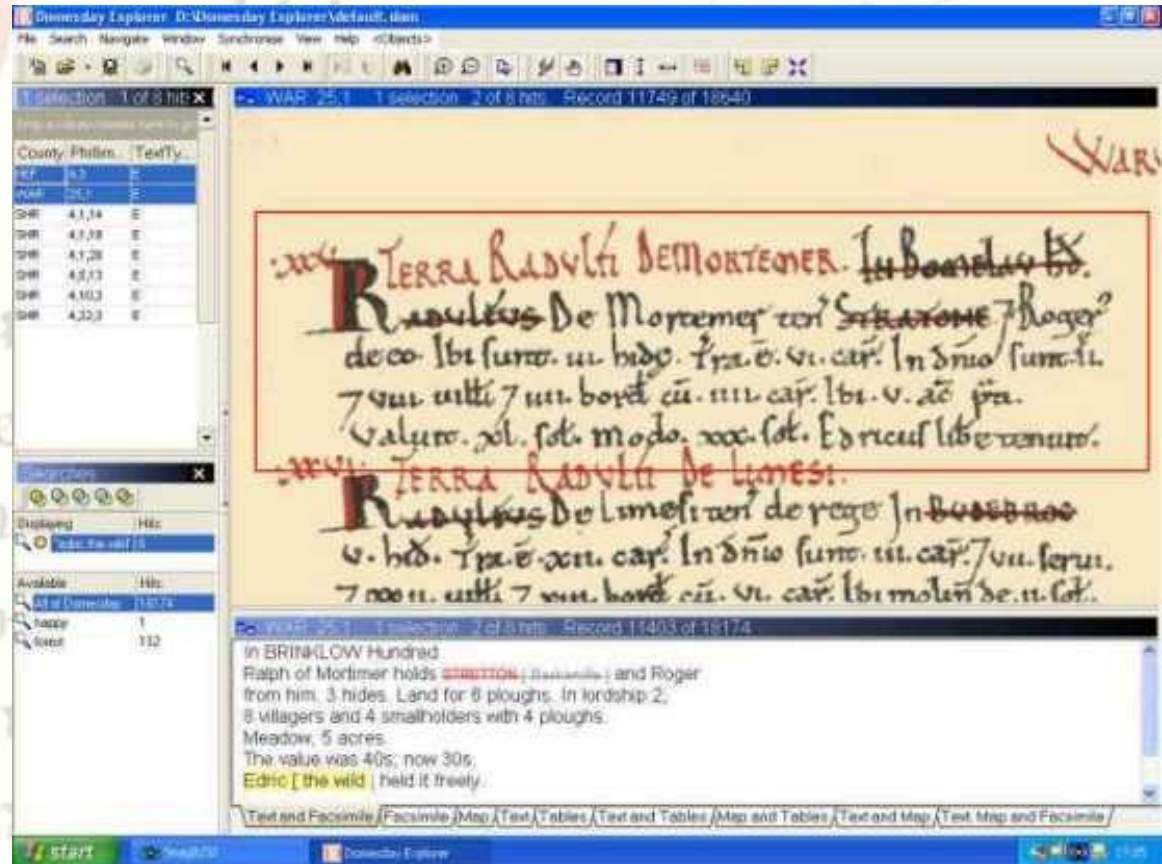
# **Rebels and outlaws**

**Small wonder then that the forest features largely in myths of the Norman Yoke from the days of Hereward the Wake and Edric the Wild to Robin Hood**

**These and other disinherited native nobles fought back against Norman tyranny from the shelter of the forests the Normans had created**

# Rebels and outlaws

**Edric the Wild**  
- or Edric of  
the Woods -  
was, like Robin  
Hood after  
him, a  
disinherited  
nobleman who  
took to the  
forest to fight  
Norman  
tyranny



**Edric the Wild features in many  
Domesday entries**

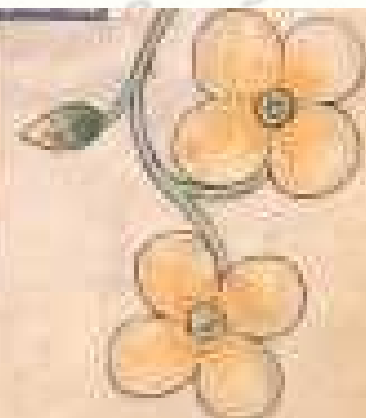
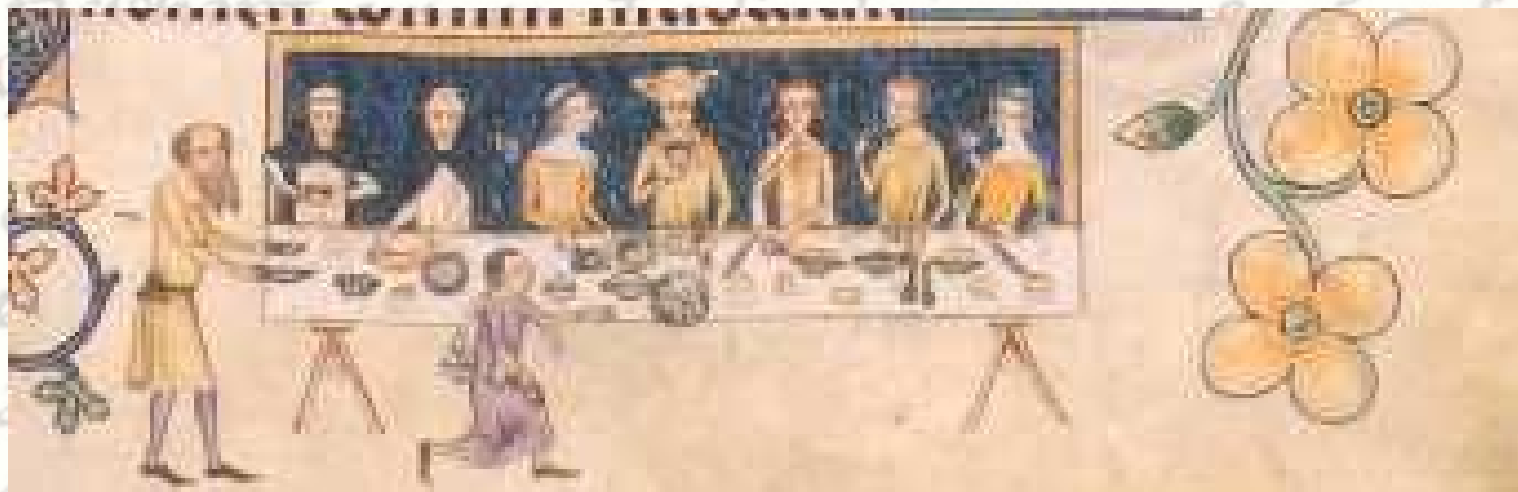
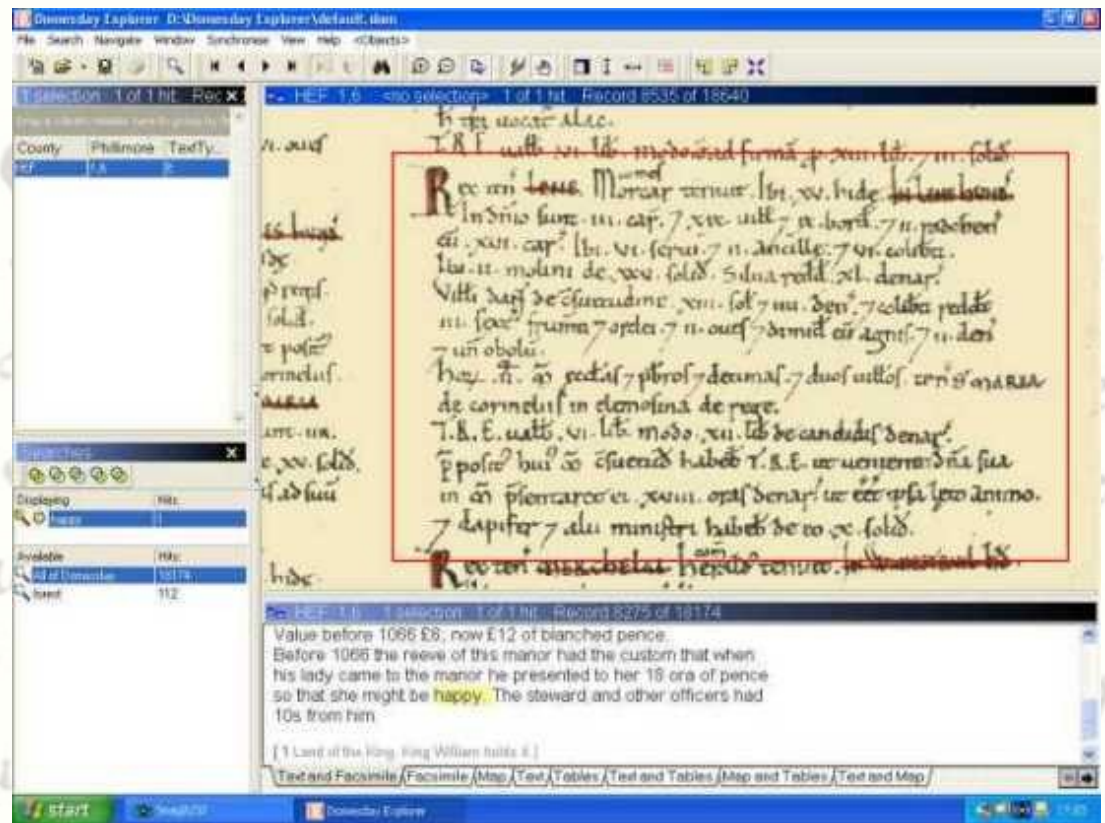
# Rebels and outlaws

**The origins of the legend of Robin Hood are unknown; but the Norman Conquest would provide the perfect setting**

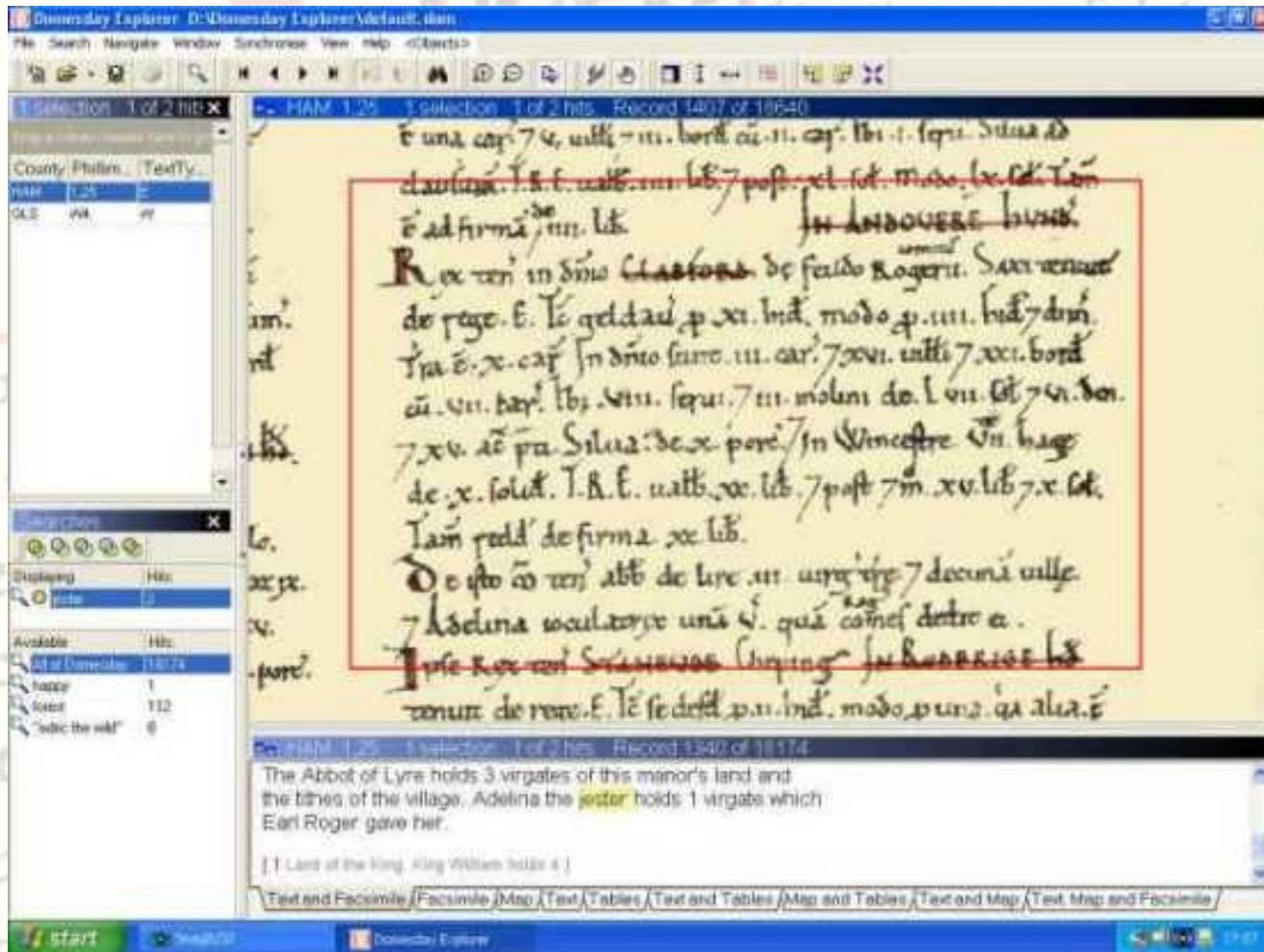




Unsurprisingly,  
nostalgia for the  
Good Old Days can  
be detected in  
Domesday  
as in this  
custom which  
made the Lady  
of the Manor  
'happy'



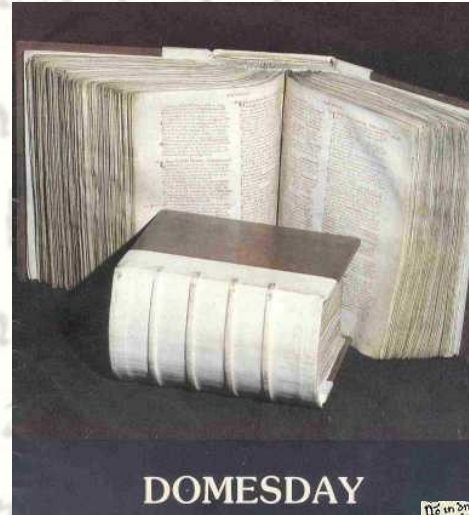
# Fools and jesters



one of two jesters named in Domesday (whose quips may have had a bitter edge)

# Domesday Book

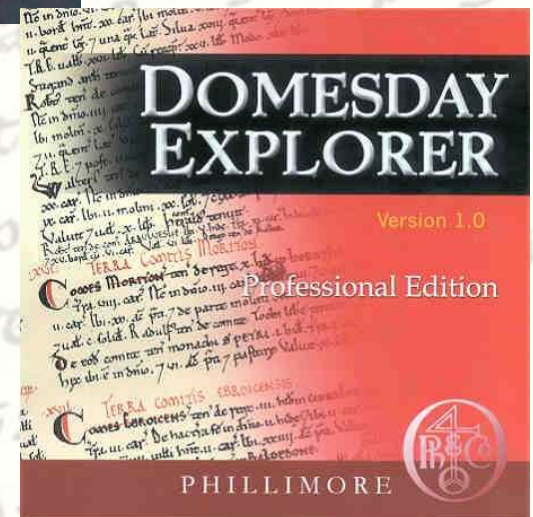
All this, and much more, is recorded in Domesday Book, the single most valuable source for early medieval history



**Domesday  
1086**

.....

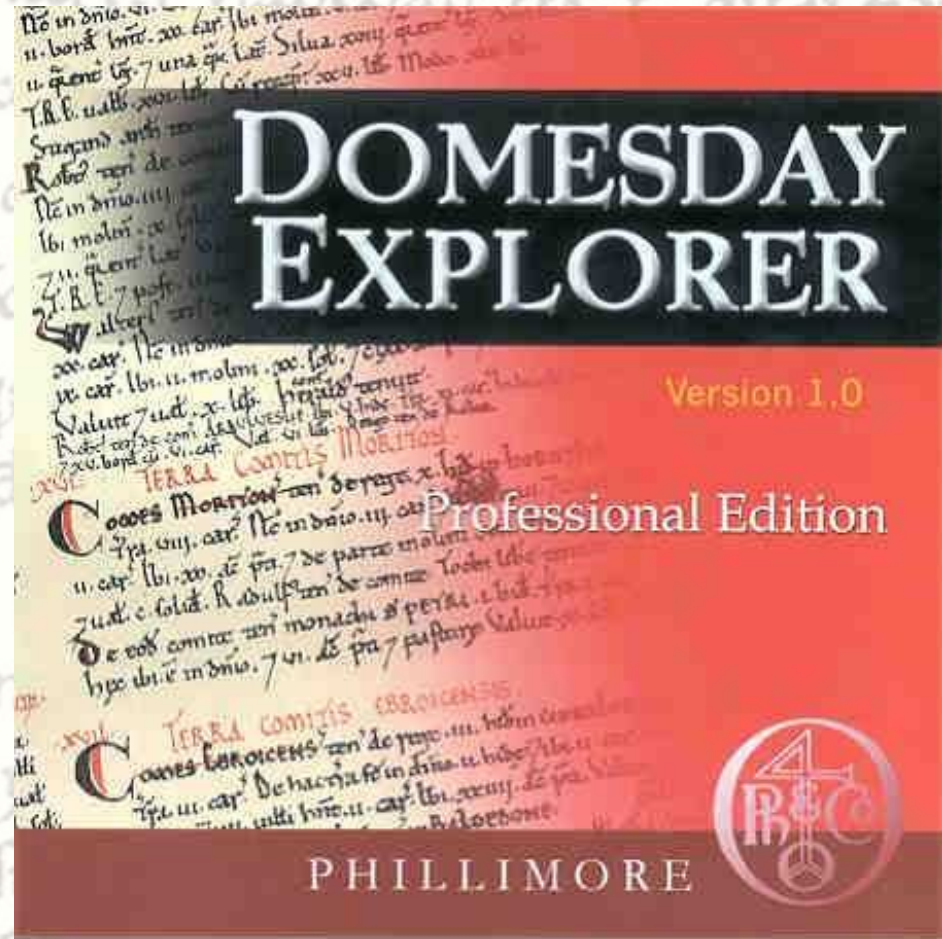
**Domesday  
2000**



# Domesday Book

Domesday Book is a major source for the disciplines of:

- Archaeology
- Geography
- Genealogy
- Law
- Linguistics
- Onomastics
- Palaeography
- Philology
- Prosopography
- Topography



# Domesday Book

**Domesday Book is known and studied world-wide. Scholars from the following countries have published significant work on Domesday Book:**

- **Australia**
- **Belgium**
- **Canada**
- **Denmark**
- **France**
- **Germany**
- **Holland**
- **Japan**
- **Norway**
- **Russia**
- **Sweden**
- **U.S.A.**
- **as well as the U.K.**

**A complete bibliography of Domesday Book would probably number 10,000 publications**



**Thank**

**you**

**for**

**watching**

conducebat. **A** festiuitate s. Michaelis usq; ad