

The National Archives' calls Domesday Book 'the archival crown jewel'.¹ It consists of two volumes, "Little Domesday" (covering [Norfolk](#), Suffolk, and [Essex](#)), and "Great Domesday" (covering much of the remainder of England – except for lands in the north that later became Westmorland, Cumberland, Northumberland, and the [County Palatine of Durham](#) – and parts of Wales bordering, and included within, English counties)

The British Library notes that Domesday was:

commissioned by [William the Conqueror](#) at Christmas 1085 and using a detailed list of questions to record who owned which estate. Completed a mere seven months later, by 1 August 1086, the survey provided a detailed record of 13,418 settlements in England in thirty-four counties (omitting London, Winchester, Westmorland and Cumberland).²

Domesday is Britain's earliest public record and is the most complete record of pre-industrial society to survive anywhere in the world.

In compiling this bibliography I have used:

1. The National Archives
2. Jstor
3. Wikipedia
4. Hull Domesday Project
5. A Bibliography of Domesday Book³
6. The British Library

Printed and Online Editions of Domesday Book

Farley, Abraham, ed., *Domesday Book, seu Liber Censualis Willelmi Primi Regis Angliae inter archivos regni in domo capitulari Westmonasterii asservatus. Jubente Rege Augustissimo Georgio Tertio praelo mandatus*, 2 vols (London, printed for Parliament in 1783).

This is the first printed edition of the Domesday Book. It has no indices or supplementary information. It is a transcription, and uses a special font created to copy the Domesday script. In 1816 Henry Ellis compiled indices to Farley's edition.

[Ellis, Henry](#), ed. *Libri Censualis, vocati Domesday-Book, Indices: accesit dissertatio generalis de ratione hujusce libri*. (London, 1816)

¹ E.Cloos, 2017. *Domesday Book - a brief material history*
<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday-book-brief-material-history/>

² <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/great-domesday-book>

³ D. Bates, 1985 *A Bibliography of Domesday Book* (Suffolk, Boydell Press, 1986)

Ellis also produced an edition of four Domesday satellite surveys.

Ellis, Henry, ed. *Libri Censualis, vocati Domesday-Book, additamenta ex codic. antiquiss.: Exon Domesday, Inquisition Eliensis, Liber Winton, Boldon Book*, (London, 1816)

None of these editions did anything to make the Domesday Book more accessible to the general public.

A photozincograph edition was made by the Ordnance Survey in the mid nineteenth century.

James, H., *Domesday Book, or The Great Survey of England of William the Conqueror...Fac-Simile of the Part Relating to Cornwall*, (Southampton, by H.M. Command, 1860)

This is the first part of the Domesday facsimile that James produced, as an experiment to see if it would prove successful. He then completed the remainder of Domesday.

From 1900 the Victoria County History has been publishing translations of the Domesday entries for various counties. See, for example:

Cockburn, J. S., and others, eds., *Domesday Survey: Introduction I, in A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 1, ... Domesday ...*(London, 1969), 80-88.

Various scholars provided translations and introductions to the different counties included in Domesday. These entries contain a wealth of additional information as well as the text of Domesday in English. The table of contents enables specific information and its page numbers to be easily identifiable. A really useful resource for research. An online edition makes the VCH entries for Domesday accessible to any one with access to a computer, anywhere in the world. This is available at British History Online.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Erskine, R.W.H., ed., *Great Domesday Fac. Folios 0-188*, (London, Alecto Historical Editions, Addison Publications Ltd. 1986)

Domesday book was rebound in 1985 and Alecto published editions of a colour facsimile of Great and Little Domesday between 1985-1992. They published three editions; the Penny Edition, the Millenium edition and the Domesday Book Studies Edition edition contains an index of places and a translation as well as a glossary of the terms used in Domesday Book. These editions are beautiful, printed on specially made paper and in small editions. They are extremely expensive and therefore not very accessible for the general reader or researcher.

Faull, Margaret L. and Marie Stinson eds, *Domesday Book, vol. 30: Yorkshire, 2 vols* (Phillimore, 1986)

Phillimore published separate volumes for each county between 1975 - 1992; the reference above is an example of one volume.. They used the Farley Latin transcription with an English translation on the facing page. They contain footnotes and short introductions and maps. There are cumulative indexes to persons, places and subjects. The series includes a supplementary volume: the Boldon Book, a survey made in 1183 that covers much of Northumberland and Durham, two counties not included in Domesday. It is an easy to use, accessible version though it has been criticised for a degree of oversimplification.

Williams, Ann, ed., *Domesday Book: A complete Translation*, (Hardback, Penguin Books, London, 2002, repr.paperback Penguin Classics 2005)

This single volume contains the Alecto translation and an index of places. It Includes an extensive glossary of terms used in Domesday. The original text is not included.

Online editions

Hull Domesday Project

Palmer, J. (2010). *Electronic Edition of Domesday Book: Translation, Databases and Scholarly Commentary, 1086; second edition*. [data collection]. 2nd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 5694, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-5694-1>

Palmer J. and Anna Powell-Smith, *Open Domesday*, <https://opendomesday.org/>

Open Domesday includes maps and facsimiles of the original folios as well as lists of all names and places mentioned in Domesday Book. It describes itself as the first free online copy of Domesday Book.

The Online Victoria County History

British History Online, Version 5.0 <www.british-history.ac.uk> [accessed 1 November 2020]

The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (PASE)

PASE Domesday, <www.domesday.pase.ac.uk>, [accessed 1 November 2020]

Pase Domesday is a research project to name all the Domesday landowners. It has a useful bibliography; aimed at the academic audience though the information contained could be useful to, and used by, interested individuals.

The National Archives will supply downloaded copies of any of the colour facsimiles of Domesday, published by Editions Alecto, but these are not free.

Bibliography

Bates, D. 1986. *A Bibliography of Domesday Book* (Suffolk: Boydell Press)

Cloos, E. 2017. *Domesday Book - a brief material history*

