

# Pilsbury Castle

SHEET 1

## Pupil Activities

### What Was the Doom in Domesday for the People of Pilsbury

Be a detective and find out what was the **doom in Domesday for the people of Pilsbury in 1086**. You can look for clues in the information on the following pages or look at the files in the 'REFERENCES FOR THIS FACT SHEET' scroll below, these can be found on the website in the 'Project documents' section, visit the web site at [www.pilsburycastle.org.uk](http://www.pilsburycastle.org.uk) to find out more.

*You will need a notebook to jot down your thoughts and ideas.*

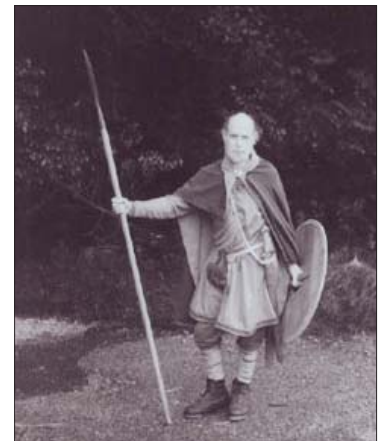
### Writing and acting a play -The Domesday Survey of Pilsbury - was it Doom?

#### References for this fact sheet

Domesday Survey - Glossary  
(hd\_1) Domesday Book  
(hd\_2) Domesday Survey  
(hd\_23) Life of the Normans  
& Hunting  
(hd\_13) Saxon Ploughman  
360° Panorama  
(hd\_18) Castles - Norman



Domesday Commissioner



Anglo-Saxon Thane

Write a play with a partner about the Domesday survey of Pilsbury. You can choose to write your play from the point of view of either:

When you have gathered all your information you can look at the scenario section and then choose the story board to fit the point of view from which you have chosen to write.

- a Norman, the commissioner, a very important and high ranking person,

**OR**

- an Anglo- Saxon who is representing the people who had lived at the manor of Pilsbury

### **You are now ready to start writing your play**

**When you have written your play you can act it out to the other groups and see whether they agree that it was doom for the people of Pilsbury!**

# Pilsbury Castle



SHEET 2

## **The Domesday Survey**

In 1086, William the Conqueror sent out his commissioners to gather information for the Domesday Book and to survey all his lands to find out how much tax he could charge.

We don't know exactly how the Domesday survey was carried out around Pilsbury, nor who conducted it, but we do know that William's barons did not work in the same area in which they held land. Henry de Ferrers, who held Pilsbury, was sent far away to Worcester to help carry out the Domesday survey there.

We do know, however, how the survey was made at Ely from the Domesday Book itself.

*It is written below in modern English*

### **How the survey was made at Ely**

*The King's officials met the priest, the reeve and six men from each village. They enquired what the manor was called and who held it at the time of King Edward; who holds it now; how many ploughs, villans, cottars, slaves, freeman; how much woodland and meadow; what the estate is worth now.*

We also know what they recorded for the manor of Pilsbury in 1086

### **Domesday survey of Pilsbury**

*In Pilesberie and Lodewelle (Pilsbury and Ludwell) Elsi had 2 carucates of land assessed to the geld. There is land for 2 ploughs. It is waste. There are 12 acres of Meadow. In King Edward's time it was worth 10 shillings.*

The information from the Domesday book on Pilsbury seems to suggest that there were no people living at Pilsbury at the time of the survey in 1086 and historians have suggested a number of reasons, such as:

*Henry de Ferrers decided to use the land at Pilsbury for hunting and the people were moved away*

*Families fled when the Normans built Pilsbury Castle*

*Henry de Ferrers removed the people onto one of his larger manors at Tissington, 9 miles away*

# Pilsbury Castle



SHEET 3

## Scenario

You are now going to imagine that the villagers of Pilsbury had been forcibly removed by Henry de Ferrers to another of his larger manors - the one at Tissington, 9 miles away and that although they are now living at Tissington they have to give evidence about Pilsbury to the commissioner for the Domesday survey.

## Here are some Norman and Anglo-Saxon names which you can use in your play

Anglo-Saxon	Norman
Men - Elsi, Godwin, Ligulf, Cola, Wulfic, Baldric	Men - Henry, William, Simon, Robert
Women - Goda, Godiva, Aethelflaed, Aelfeva	Women - Matilda, Adela, Emma, Alice

## Here are the questions which the commissioner asked

- 1 What is your manor called?
- 2 Who held the manor when King Edward was King in 1066?
- 3 Who holds the manor now?
- 4 How many ploughs are there?
- 5 How many villains, cottars, freeman?
- 5 How much woodland and meadow?
- 6 What is the manor - estate worth now?

## To help you start planning the play here are some ideas to help you

### Story board for the Anglo-Saxon villagers group

**Scene 1** At Tissington village before you go to meet the commissioner at Wirksworth Court (you are all feeling very nervous, worried and frightened, but you also want to tell the commissioner what happened to you and your families)

**Scene 2** At the court at Wirksworth where you meet the commissioner and have to answer all his questions

**Scene 3** Back at Tissington when you tell the rest of the villagers about your ordeal.

### Story board for the commissioner.

**Scene 1** At the Wirksworth court with his scribe (who writes down all the information) before the villagers arrive. The commissioner, whom we will imagine is called Hugh of Montgomery, has ridden over from Tutbury over 30 miles away in the rain and is wet and bad tempered.

**Scene 2** At the court at Wirksworth when he meets the villagers and tries to understand why they are now living at Tissington. He also asks them the same questions he asks about each manor.

**Scene 3** The commissioner talking to his other assistants and his scribe after the villagers had left, about how and why Henry de Ferrers has moved the villagers from Pilsbury to Tissington.