

What is a Census?

What does this enumeration tell us?

- Almar's land lost value
- It has arable land that needs 6 ploughs to cultivate
- There's tenants and slaves
- Fisheries
- Meadows
- 70 pigs
- Kings land lost value too

The King (William) holds in demesne Earley (in lordship – that is, by and for himself; he has not let it out to a sub-tenant). Almar (an Anglo-Saxon) held it in alod (freehold) from King Edward. Then (in 1066, it was assessed for tax purposes) at 5 hides, now (in 1086 it is assessed) for (the equivalent of) 4 hides. (There is) Land for use by 6 ploughs. In demesne (on the lord's land there is land for) 1 plough and (there are) 6 villans (villagers) and 1 bordar (smallholder) with 3 ploughs. There (are) 2 slaves (owned by the King) and 1 site (or close) in Reading (presumably owned by or part of the manor) and (there are) 2 fisheries worth (rendering) 7s and 6d (per year) and 20 acres of meadow. (There is) Woodland for (feeding) 70 pigs. At the time of King Edward (1066) it was worth 100s, and afterwards (when William acquired the manor) and now (1086) it is worth 50s.

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What can we learn?

- 13,418 places
- 48 castles
- 112 boroughs
- 60 major religious houses
- 300 parish churches
- 6,000 grain mills
- 45 vineyards
- Woodlands, markets, mints....

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