

# Old Sarum Cathedral and the move to New Salisbury

## From the decrees of the Council of London, 1075

iii. Following the decrees of Popes Damasus and Leo and also the councils of Sardis and Laodicaea, which prohibit the existence of episcopal sees in small townships, by the generosity of the king and the synod permission was granted to three of the bishops mentioned above to move from townships to cities: Hermann from Sherborne to Salisbury, Stigand from Selsey to Chichester, and Peter from Lichfield to Chester.

From *The Letters of Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury*, edited and translated by Helen Clover and Margaret Gibson (Oxford, 1979), p. 77

Townships = *uillis*

Cities = *ciuitates*

## From Domesday Book for Wiltshire, 1086

Folio 64r:

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Folio 64v:

From half a mill at Salisbury the king has 20s by weight.

From the third penny of Salisbury the king has £6.

Folio 66r:

The same bishop holds SALISBURY. TRE it paid geld for 50 hides. There is land for 32 ploughs. Of this land 10 hides are in demesne, and there are 8 ploughs. There are 25 villans and 50 bordars with with 17 ploughs. 7 burgesses in Wilton belonging to this manor pay 65d. In the manor [are] 4 mills rendering 47s 7d, and half a mill rendering 30s, and 142 acres of meadow. [There is] pasture 20 furlongs long and 10 furlongs broad, and elsewhere pasture 5 furlongs long and 1 furlong broad. [There is] woodland 4 furlongs long and 2 furlongs broad.

Of the same land of this manor Edward holds 5 hides: Odo 5 hides: Hugh 5 hides less 1 virgate. Those who held them TRE could not be separated from the bishop. There are in demesne 5 ploughs: and 3 villans and 17 bordars with 2 ploughs.

The demesne of the bishop is worth £47; what the men hold is worth £17 10s.

From *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*, edited by Anne Williams and G. H. Martin (London: Penguin Books, 2002), pp. 161–2, 166.

### From William of Malmesbury's *Deeds of the English Bishops*, c. 1125

... after the conciliar decree that bishoprics must be transferred from villages to cities, he transferred his headquarters from Sherborne to Salisbury, a fortress playing the role of a city, on a hill and mightily walled. It has other supplies in tolerable abundance, but it suffers from a shortage of water, selling which is a trade there, sadly enough.

From William of Malmesbury, *Gesta Pontificum Anglorum*, i., edited and translated by Michael Winterbottom (Oxford, 2007), p. 289.

### From Peter of Blois, letter civ, 1190s

To his beloved lords and friends, Peter of Blois, archdeacon of Bath, sends most cordial greetings. I was glad when he said to me that you intend to move the seat of the church of Salisbury. Moreover, I congratulate you on this proposal wholeheartedly. For that place was at the mercy of the wind, barren, dry deserted and mean. ... But the church of Salisbury was captive within that hill, and like the ark of God in Mount Gilboa was once a prisoner enslaved by foreigners, ... Let us therefore in God's name go down on to the level, where the valleys yield much corn, and where the fields are especially fertile, where each person, beneath their own fig tree, will be inspired by their own life, and a day in your courts will be better than a thousand. ...

From Christian Frost, 'The Symbolic Move to New Sarum: An Investigation into the Move from Old Sarum to New Sarum using Two Contemporary Sources', *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 98 (2005), pp. 155–64, at 163, abridged and modified slightly.