North Wiltshire Muster Roll
Anno 30 Henry VIII (Year 1539)

In Tudor times each village was responsible for maintaining the necessary arms to defend themselves - this was known as the furnishing of harness. Muster commissioners would inspect the harness (which would include long bows, bills, salets (helmets), brigandines (torso armour) and gorgets (neck and shoulder protectors) and ensure each individual was also assessed with his quota of the cost. The muster roll records who owned the arms, along with value of land (valor terr et tent) or value of goods (valor bonorum) held by the other residents of the village who were liable to provide financial support if necessary. (These values have not been transcribed in the Wiltshire Roll)

There were two main arms used in this period. The bill had a point at one end and a blade at the side, so had a dual purpose in battle, while the bow was a long bow used for archery.

The Hundred of Chippenham
The Parish of Castle Combe

Surname	Given Name	Status	Notes
Allway	Thomas		Billman
Andrewe	John		Billman
Aust	Richard		Archer
Baker	Thomas		Archer
Baten	John		Billman
Berser	William		Archer
Bollo	Elysaunder		Archer
Boxe	Richard		Archer
Bruer	Robert		Archer
Cornocke	Robert		Billman
Crede	Willyam		Archer
Davis	Hughe		Archer

Estmede	John		Billman
Estmede	Thomas		Archer
Glover	John		Archer
Grace	John		Archer
Harvard	Robert		Archer
Hawkyns	Richard		Billman
Herfford	John		Archer
Hollwey	Richard		Archer
Kaynell	Thomas		Archer
Lotts	John		Billman
Lovell	George		Archer
Lyght	William		Archer
Norwey	Richard		Archer
Ossebourn	Nicholas		Archer
Polleyn	William		Archer
Reynold	Wyllyam		Billman
Richards	John		Archer
Rudeman	Richard		Archer
Shylton	Robert		Billman
Slade	Robert		Billman
Smyth	Edward		Billman
Stephyns	Richard		Archer
Swayn	Lawrence		Archer
Taylor	John		Archer
Whytyng	John		Archer
Woodeland	Anthony		Archer
Wyllyams	Nicholas		Archer
Wynlett	Thomas		Archer

The whole Tything hath yn a redynes ij harnes with other small wepyns.

For other transcripts of these records visit Rootschat