

Tax List of 1576

(WANHS Records Branch Volume X ed G D Ramsay 1954)

The taxes were levied by Elizabeth I to support her commitments in Ireland, the Protestant cause in France and the Netherlands and the looming war with Spain. They were levied in two instalments on every person with income from land including leasehold, copyhold, rents or annuities. The first rate was at 2s/8d in the pound and the second 16d in the pound. Alternatively tax could be payed on moveable objects if worth more than £3. These included plate, stocke of merchandise, all manner of corne, graine, household stuff and was taxed at 20d in the pound for the first and 12d in the pound for the second instalment.

Wiltshire was split into 6 districts and the Earl of Pembroke appointed two commissioners to assess the taxes. Constables gave details to the commissioners on the value of each inhabitants property. It was meant to be fair. And not overburden the poor or allow the rich to escape. The high assessment of Richard Kingsmill (see below) was possibly a result of a special enquiry involving a jury.

List of Taxpayers for Benevolence 1576 Hundred of Everley and Elstob – Easte Overton

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Robert Popejoye	10				16	8
John Benger	9				15	
Nicholas Smythe	7				11	8
William Godwyn	4				6	8
Richard Smythe	5				8	4
Thomas Streche	4				6	8
Thomas Stevens	10				16	8
Summa	4	20				

List of Taxpayers for Benevolence 1576 Hundred of Selkley – Overton

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Katherine Smith	5				8	4
William Smyth	3				5	
John Mortymer	3				5	
Robert Kinsman	10				16	8
Edmund Wilmot	6				10	
John Dismore	6				10	
Richard Kingsmill arminge "by office"	90			12		

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