

References to Bletsoe in documents of the 1291-2 Taxatio

The *taxatio* database contains the valuation, plus related details, of the English and Welsh parish churches and prebends listed in the Spiritualities part, as distinct from the Temporalities part, of the ecclesiastical taxation assessment of 1291-2. This was often called the Pope Nicholas IV *taxatio* because it was carried out on the orders of that pope.

For nearly 250 years virtually all ecclesiastical taxation of England and Wales was based on this extremely thorough and detailed assessment. It is a unique source for the medieval period: no other complete survey of its kind survives for any part of medieval Europe.

Work to establish the database online began in 1986 at the University of Manchester by a research team under the supervision of the late Jeffrey Denton, Professor of Medieval History. It was transferred to the Digital Humanities Institute of the University of Sheffield in 2003, and this version was published online in 2014.

The main source used for the database was the 1802 Record Commission edition: *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae Auctoritate P. Nicholai IV*, ed. T.Astle, S.Ayscough and J.Caley. Professor Denton also carried out detailed researches into the many other scripts of the assessment which survive in record offices and this work is fully described in his Prose Introduction to each diocese. It resulted in much additional information being added to the listed benefices.

At the same time the research team undertook to identify each medieval-named church with its modern placename, dedication and OS grid reference and these were added to the database together with information regarding ownership, patronage and appropriation where possible

Benefice of BLETSOE

(LI.BD.CL.09) [variants](#)

BLETCHESHO

British Library, Cotton Vespasian E xxii, fos 121-144v (archdeaconries of Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon & part only of Northampton, excepting also the deanery of Rutland) (edited in RegPeterborough 300-40) p.133

BLECHESHO

T 30-40 (from PRO E164/14 fos 44v-63; for this Exchequer version the roll that was the source is not extant) (archdeaconries of Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon and Northampton except deanery of Rutland) p.34

BLECESCHESHO

Oxford Bodleian Library, Bodley Roll 25 (archdeaconries of Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon and Northampton except deanery of Rutland) p.9

BLETESHO

Oxford Bodleian Library, MS Hatton 89 (two versions here of deanery CL.DE.DE are designated OHa and OHb) p.153

Assessment for tax: £ 8. 13s. 4d.

Benefice Details: BLETSOE [TL023583](#) *ded:* ST MARY THE VIRGIN

The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Bedford, ed. H.Arthur Doubleday et al., 3 vols & index vol. (Westminster & London, 1904-14) *vol* 3 p.42

Patronage: *secular*, John de Pabenham ¹

The Rolls and Register of Bishop Oliver Sutton 1280-1299, ed. R.M.T.Hill, 8 vols (Lincoln Record Society, 39, 43, 48, 52, 60, 64, 69, 76, 1948-86) *vol* 8 p.113

Full entry: **Ecclesia de Blechesho que est integra (margin: prioris Belli Loci)**

Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincoln Dean and Chapter Muniments, A1/11 p.23

[variants](#)

£ 8. 13s. 4d.

13m.

Notes: ¹ The marginal comment in LA 23, suggesting at the very least links with the priory of Beadlow (Beaulieu), is perhaps an error; for the exclusively secular patronage of this church see VCHBeds3 43.

The Taxatio



The **taxatio** database contains the valuation, plus related details, of the English and Welsh parish churches and prebends listed in the ecclesiastical taxation assessment of 1291-2.

Main URL

www.dhi.ac.uk/taxatio/

Description

A **taxatio** is an assessment for taxation and the assessment digitised for **The Taxatio** database is often called the Pope Nicholas IV **taxatio** because it was carried out on the orders of that pope. For nearly 250 years virtually all ecclesiastical taxation of England and Wales was based on this extremely thorough and detailed assessment. It is a unique source for the medieval period: no other complete survey of its kind survives for any part of medieval Europe.

The Taxatio project provides a comprehensive new edition of the listing and valuation of the ecclesiastical benefices of England and Wales. For each of the twenty-one dioceses all the contemporary or near-contemporary versions of the assessment, generally comprising a dozen or so different copies, were analysed and their contents brought together in the database, which was refined over a period of fifteen years to cope with every aspect of the extant evidence.

The result is a new text for each diocese, with variant readings from all manuscripts, variant spellings of place-names, and indications of the early recensions brought about, notably, by the addition of taxable items in the years immediately following 1291. The database constitutes, in effect, a medieval ecclesiastical gazetteer for the whole of England and Wales. The project aim was to create an edition that would be flexible enough for historical research and provide the basis for a new ecclesiastical geography of England and Wales.

Scope

This resource is of particular interest to **ecclesiastical, economic and local historians** and for the study of **place names**.

The Taxatio database was compiled from the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae Auctoritate Papae Nicholai IV* (1802), supplemented by information derived from many other sources including different versions of the **Taxatio**. All the detailed material concerning the values of ecclesiastical benefices in this printed edition (the 'spiritualities' part of the assessment as distinct from the 'temporalities' part) has been entered onto the database.

The information currently available is as follows: the line(s) of text from the printed edition of the assessment concerning a specific church or prebend; and the modern identification of the church or prebend, with a list of its parts (for example, vicarage, portion,

pension), each given a value, and the dedication and the grid reference for the church where these are available, with basic information concerning identification, dedication and patronage where the patron of the church was monastic or ecclesiastical.

Introductory reading

S.Davnall, J.Denton, S.Griffiths, D.Ross & B.Taylor, 'The "Taxatio" database' in *Computers and the Humanities*, ed. G.Neal et al. *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, 74, no. 3 (1992), 89-108.

J.H.Denton, 'The valuation of the ecclesiastical benefices of England and Wales in 1291-2', *Historical Research*, 66 (1993), 231-50.

J.H.Denton, 'Towards a new edition of the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae Auctoritate P. Nicholai IV Circa A.D.1291*', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, 79, no. 1 (1997), 67-79.

Technical Methods

The Taxatio database is a MySQL database.

About the project

The database was established by a research team at the University of Manchester working under the supervision of the late Jeff Denton, Professor of Medieval History. The website was originally created by Manchester Computing staff, and is now hosted and maintained by the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Sheffield.

Contact

<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/contact/>