

INVASION OF ENGLAND, SUBMISSION TO WILLIAM

The story of Berkhamsted Castle begins with the Norman Conquest in 1066 when Edmer, a thane of Earl Harold's, held the manor of Berkhamsted. After the defeat of Harold at the battle of Hastings, October 1066, Duke William marched with his army through southern England, pillaging as he went. Crossing the Thames at Wallingford he made his way towards

London. At Berkhamsted* he was met by Archbishop Ealdred, the bishops of Worcester and Hereford, Earls Edwin and Morcar and the chief men of London, who swore allegiance to him and offered him the crown. Duke William was crowned King in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066. He granted the Honour and Manor of Berkhamsted to his half-brother Count Robert of Mortain.



1

2



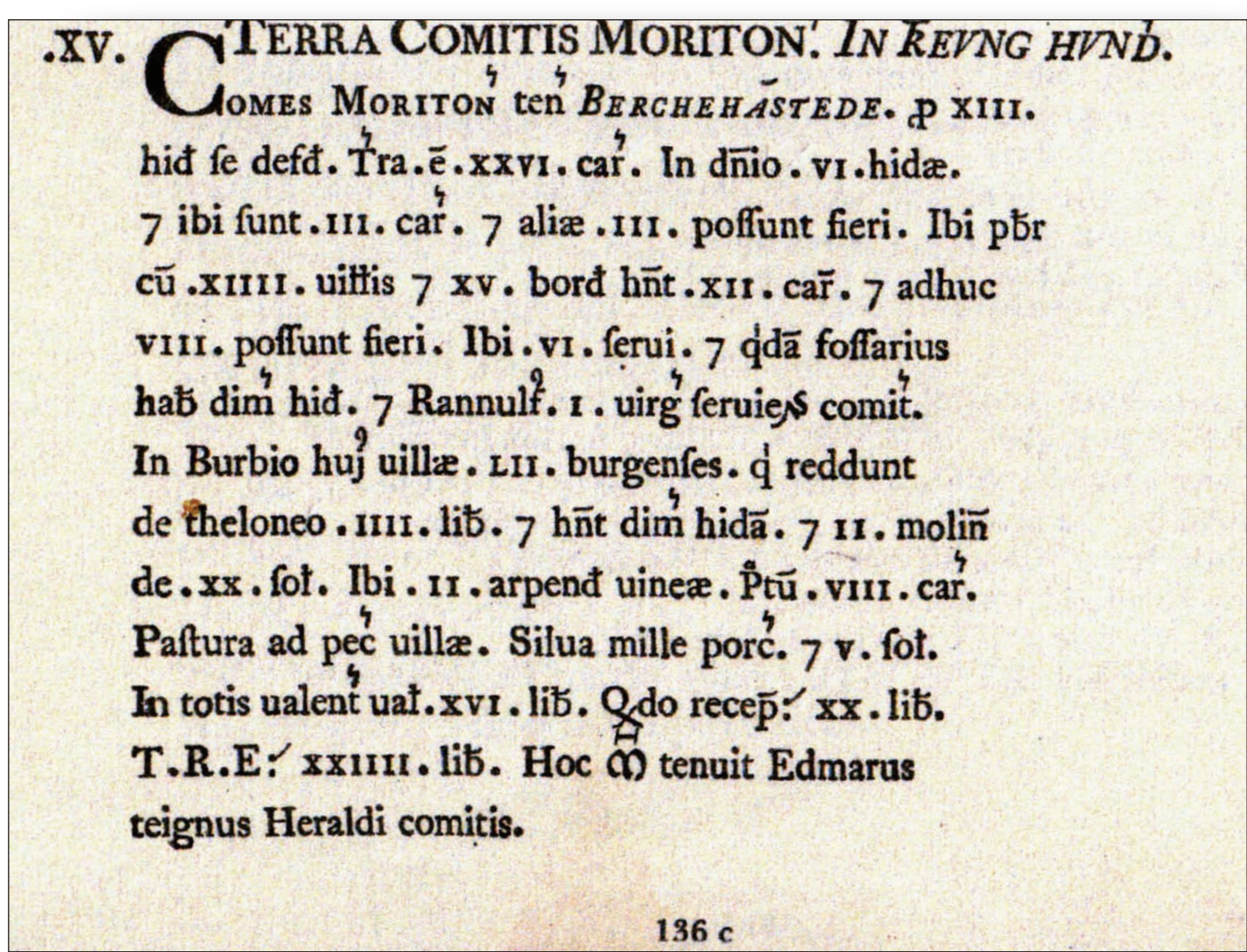
4

- 1 The Normans sail to England, a French print.
 - 2 The chief men of London meet William.
 - 3 Extract from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle)
 - 4 William's route.
 - 5 Extract from Domesday Book relating to 'Berchehastede'
 - 6 The Bayeux Tapestry reconstruction of last missing panels by Jan Messent, 1997, showing submission at Berkhamsted and William on the throne of England.
- * Some believe this was Little Berkhamsted

THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE

[Duke William] marched inland with what was left of his host, together with reinforcements lately come from over sea, and harried that part of the country through which he advanced until he came to Berkhamsted. There he was met by bishop Ealdred, prince Edgar, earl Edwin, earl Morcar, and all the best men from London, who submitted from force of circumstances,.....They gave him hostages and swore oaths of fealty, and he promised to be a gracious lord to them.'

3



5



6