

The Hundreds of Herefordshire

A *hundred* is an ancient administrative land division of a county or *shire*. The term *hundred* is first recorded in the mid-10th century. In Herefordshire the hundreds varied considerably both in number, name and extent from Domesday onward. Simplistically, the chief function of the hundred was to collect taxes in service, kind or money and to administer the law except in serious cases. See more about them under History>Land Divisions. As a generalisation, hundred courts met about once a month. Their importance for taxation records is that a hundred had officers who could supervise the process of collection and be responsible to the shire administration who would pass the resulting income on to the crown or government at country level.

The boundaries and names of Herefordshire hundreds varied considerably over time and there are no useful maps of the county until the 17th century. A map from volume 3 of the Royal commission for Historic Monuments of England can be found below.

