There was an earlier muster in 1522, plus an attempt to survey the wealth of the kingdom. Although the detailed returns do not survive for Dorset, the number of ablemen returned for Dorset was 2,834. This compares with an estimated 4,315 ablemen in the 1539 Muster, 4,236 in 1542 and 3,747 in 1569.

With a French invasion threatened, the 1539 Muster Roll was intended to list all men aged between 16 and 60 available for home defence. Men were listed according to whether they were an archer (A), billman (B), or not able (no designation), and the weapons they had (if any). Poor subjects who have neither ability nor habiliments are omitted referring them to pray to Almighty God for your most royal estate long time prosperously and joyously to endure.Ô(J. J. Goring)

Often, ablemen (even archers) are recorded as having no equipment of their own. This is despite edicts from Henry VIII that all men under 40 should have bows and arrows (1511) and that all men over 17 should provide himself with a bow and four arrows (1514) Ôparents also had to provide boys aged between 7 and 17 with a bow and two arrows. A shefe of arrows Ôsheaf) generally contained 24 arrows. A harness was a general term for armour and could mean the plate metal Ôalmain rivets Ôor the leather and metal Ôbrigandine Ô(both of which protected the chest), as well as a collar, helmet and/or splints (to protect the forearm).

Dorset Muster Roll 1539

The Hundred of Sexpenhanley

In the tething of Fontmell

A  Thomas Hascall an archer  
A  Willyn Hascall an archer  
A  John Hascall an archer  
B  Thomas Ploughman a billman  
B  Henry Ploughman a billman  
  Henry Hascall is no ableman but he hath a bowe and a shefe of arrows allotdy to Wyllym Hascall aforeseyd  
  Henry Ploughman sen. is no ableman but he hath a bowe and a shefe of arrows allotdy to Henry Ploughman aforeseyd his son.
B  Thomas Vyncent a billman and hathe a bill  
B  Henry Hyscocke a billman  
B  John Daue a billman  
B  John More a billman  
B  John James a billman  
B  Robert Browne a billman  
A  Henry Skynner an archer  
B  Thoms White a billman and hathe a bill  
B  John Barckle a billman and hathe a bill  
B  Henry Yong a billman and hathe a bowe and vj arrows  
A  William Hascoll an archer and hathe a bowe
Robert Fell is no ableman butt he hathe vj arows
A  John Styll an archer and hathe a bowe
A  William Styll an archer and hathe a bowe
   Willym Mouton is no ableman but he hathe a bowe and iiiij arows
B  John Daue a bilman and hathe a bowe
A  John Swetman an archer and hathe a bowe and a shefe of arows.

Horgrove Tithing

A Robert Bemont A has bow 6 arr
B John Foyle  B has bill
B Richard Boxley B has bow ½sh.arr
B William Meter B has bow 6arr
B John Keyne  B has bow sh.arr
B William Couerd B has bow ½sh.arr
B Thomas Trymme B has bill
A Henry Trymme A has bow 6 arr
A John Bowdon A has bow
   William Skynner NA has bow sh.arr
A Thomas Rydoute A has bow ½sh.arr

Henry Rydoute A has bow 6 arr
John Monton NA has pr al. rivets allotted to Hen Monton his son
B Henry Monton B has nil
B John Weyte   B has bill
B John Uppyd  NA has nil
A William Pyllarde A has nil
B John Rydoute B has nil
B John Baker   B has nil

West Orchard Tithing

A William Combe A has bill
   Walter Hiscoke NA has bow sh.arr
B Roger Cose  B has bill
A John Combe A has bow
   John Mayo  NA has 2 pr al.rivets one of which is allotted to Steven Seber
   A John Bayly A has bow 6 arr
   B Thomas Bayly B has bill
   A William Sebron B[?] has bow
   A Stephen Semer A has nil
A John Abott A is allotted to a pr harness of Jn Mayo
   B John Smete B has nil
A William Combe A bow 6 arr
   B John Exton B has bill
**Dorset Muster Roll 1542**

For this Muster, only names (which appear to be a mixture of all three of the tithings in the 1539 Muster) are available and not their ability or equipment.

**The Hundred of Sexpenhanley**

**Tithing of Fonntmell**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Barter</th>
<th>Thomas Cryne</th>
<th>Walter Lusshe</th>
<th>Henry Rydoute</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Bemont</td>
<td>John Davye</td>
<td>Walter Mayowe</td>
<td>Thomas Rydoute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Boxley wid</td>
<td>John Davye</td>
<td>William Metyar</td>
<td>Henry Skynner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Boxley</td>
<td>John Dubyn</td>
<td>Walter Metyarre</td>
<td>William Skynner</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Chaper</td>
<td>Robert Dunne</td>
<td>William Monkton</td>
<td>John Styll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Collys</td>
<td>John Foyle</td>
<td>Henry Monnketon</td>
<td>Philip Swetnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Combe</td>
<td>Robert Garland</td>
<td>John Monnketon</td>
<td>John Upwode</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Combe</td>
<td>Thomas Greene</td>
<td>Henry Monton</td>
<td>Robert Vyncent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Come jun</td>
<td>Henry Hascall</td>
<td>Henry Ploughman se</td>
<td>Thomas Vyncent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Come</td>
<td>John Hascall</td>
<td>John Plowman</td>
<td>John Wytte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Cooke</td>
<td>Thomas Hascall</td>
<td>Thomas Ploughman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Couerdr</td>
<td>Walter Hiscoke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cryne</td>
<td>Henry Loder</td>
<td>Philip Rogers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dorset Muster Roll 1569**

**The Hundred of Sexpenhanley**

**Fowntemyll Tithing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Thomas Whitt</th>
<th>A Christopher Metyer</th>
<th>P Christopher Gyle</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A William Vincent</td>
<td>P Richard Coome</td>
<td>B Nicholas Crespy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Thomas Plowman</td>
<td>B Walter Come</td>
<td>H Robert Swetnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Walter Rydeowte</td>
<td>B Manuel Daborne</td>
<td>B John Metyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Robert Byrte</td>
<td>B Henry Monke</td>
<td>P John Upwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P William Yellowe</td>
<td>A William Younge</td>
<td>B Henry Hascoells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Stephen Horforde</td>
<td>H Richard Wyliams</td>
<td>B John Bradley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P John Daye jun</td>
<td>A John Collyns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Roger Weste</td>
<td>B William Monke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ablemen were Horsemen (HO), Harquebusiers (H), Archers (A), Pikemen (P) and Billmen (B).