

GLOSSARY

BENEFICE.	Ecclesiastical living; property held by a rector, vicar or similar.
BOOR.	Lowly free peasant.
BORDAR.	Feud; Villein of lowest rank, who rendered menial service in return for a cottage. Smallholder or tenant farm labourer.
BUNTING MILL.	Sifting of flour.
BURGAGE.	Plot of land as held by a Burgess.
COTTAR.	Tenant farmer holding only about 3-5 acres.
CURTILAGE.	Yard and outbuildings of a house.
DEMESNE.	Majorial reserve of the lord's own land, worked by serfs of vassals as a duty.
GAD.	A heavy steel or iron wedge with a pointed and chisel shaped edge used in mining to break coal, rock or ore from the rock face.
GELD.	An extraordinary tax based on the amount of land possessed.
GLEBE.	Portion of land allocated within a clergyman's benefice.
GLEBE TERRIER.	Survey of church land and benefices compiled by the Incumbent or churchwarden.
HARQUEBUS.	An early firearm about 3 feet long, which was fired by igniting gunpowder in a pan by means of a wick.
HEAD-RACE.	Water channel above the mill wheel.
HEREDITAMENT.	Any property that can be inherited.
HIDE.	Area of ploughable land meant to support a family and its dependants (varying from 60-130 acres according to locality).
HUNDRED.	Administrative division of a county having its own courts, theoretically enough land to support 100 families.
INDENTURE.	Originally a document divided roughly into two parts so that it could be authenticated between an apprentice and a master.
LEAGUE.	Varying measure of distance (usually one and a half or three miles).
MOIETY.	Portion of an estate, supposedly half.
MUNTIN.	Vertical member used between the stiles in a framed door or in panelling.
PERCH.	Measure of length, especially for land (five and a half yards).
REEVE.	Chief magistrate of town or district; or other similar officer.
RELIEF.	Related to the conveyancing of property. A relief (a fee) was paid by the purchaser to the Crown or feudal tenant-in-chief.
ROD.	Same as 'perch', often used as a square measure of thirty and a quarter square yards. (square rod).
SERF.	Labourer; peasant - whose services were tied to the land in a condition of servitude or modified slavery.
SHELLING MILL.	Used to remove husk of oats or maize.
SUBSIDY ROLLS.	Various taxpayers lists (13th Century ñ 1689).
TAIL-RACE.	Water channel below the mill wheel.
TENEMENT.	Any kind of permanent property as lands, rent, held of a Superior.
TERRIER.	Book recording site, boundaries etc. of land or collection of acknowledgements of vassals or tenants of a lordship. Members of the lowest rank of Anglo-Saxon aristocracy.
THANE.	Member of the lowest rank of Anglo-Saxon aristocracy.
TITHE.	One-tenth of yearly produce and income taken to support clergy and church, any similar tax.
VILLEIN.	Tenant farmer worker of the lord of the manor.
VIRGATE.	Quarter of a hide (usually about 30 acres).
WATER-GLASS.	A mill for grinding corn.