

## GLOSSARY

**biconical:** the shape of a ceramic vessel with an outwardly flared lower and middle body above which is a shoulder ('carination') and then an inwardly angled neck.

**brickearth:** a surface deposit of homogeneous loam or silt deposited during the Pleistocene geological period.

**burh:** fortification or defended settlement.

**carination:** the angle formed where the shape of a pottery vessel changes direction, usually forming a shoulder (particularly clear in 'biconical' forms: see above).

**carucate:** Latinised version of the Old English *plogesland* (ploughland: notionally the area of land that could be ploughed by a team of eight plough-oxen over the course of the year), sometimes used instead of 'hide'.

**cassati:** variant of 'hide'.

**charter:** written record of the granting of land from one person or institution to another.

**civitas:** an administrative district within a Roman province.

**co-axial landscape:** a landscape containing a series of long, roughly parallel elements (roads or field boundaries).

**comes:** companion.

**Devil's Dyke:** a substantial ditch and bank in south-eastern Cambridgeshire and north-western Suffolk built in the seventh century and which appears to have marked the south-western boundary of the East Anglian kingdom.

**earthfast:** a wooden post that is placed within a posthole in the ground backfilled with soil and sometimes stones.

**feet of fine:** the written copy of the agreement between two parties in a law suit, most commonly the final concord of a conveyance.

**folk moot:** a communal assembly.

**folk territory:** a district within which communities had a common sense of identity, but which were not owned by an individual or institution.

**furlong:** a subdivision of a medieval open field that contained a block of long, narrow, strips of land.

**grog:** crushed pottery (used in the tempering of potting clay).

**Grim's Dyke:** a substantial ditch and bank in northern Middlesex built in the early medieval period and which appears to have marked the southern boundary of a community living to the north.

**Grubenhaus:** Anglo-Saxon building containing a shallow (c.0.3–0.5m deep), sub-rectangular (c.3×4m), steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit that lay beneath a suspended wooden floor.

**hide:** a unit of assessment in the early medieval period used to apportion liability to *feorm* (food render) and *gafol* (tax) paid to the king. According to Bede, a hide was the amount of land

- needed to support the extended family of a free man and their slaves and retainers. A hide at this time was not a fixed unit of area, the oft-stated figure of 120 acres being a post-Conquest notion.
- hulled:** (cereals) varieties of cereals in which grains are held within tightly adhering 'glumes' (cases).
- hundred:** administrative districts into which counties/shires were subdivided.
- manentes:** variant of 'hide'.
- macrofossil:** a preserved plant remain that is visible to the naked eye (although a microscope is usually required to make a species identification).
- manor:** an estate nominally held from the king.
- mansiones:** variant of 'hide'.
- messuage:** house.
- minster:** early church serving the pastoral needs of a local community and associated with a relatively large ecclesiastical territory – the *parochiae* – that may have been co-terminus with existing secular entities such as early folk territories and the 'great estates' into which they fragmented.
- open field:** a form of medieval field system in which there were no fixed boundaries (such as walls or hedges) and in which the land belonging to numerous farmers was arranged in long, narrow strips scattered across blocks known as furlongs.
- pagus:** small, district-scale territorial unit in Roman Britain and early medieval England.
- parochiae:** the territories associated with early medieval minsters.
- pays:** a particular area of countryside with its own personality and distinctive way of life, influenced by both the natural environment and human interaction with the landscape over many generations.
- polyfocal:** (central place) a cluster of places with important functions that were not carried out in exactly the same place.
- pre-modern land capability:** an assessment of the relative agricultural potential in different areas before the Agricultural Revolution.
- productive site:** a location producing a large amount of metalwork, particularly coins, through metal detecting.
- province:** a small, district-scale territorial unit in early medieval England.
- regio:** a small, district-scale territorial unit in early medieval England.
- reeve:** a local administrative agent of an Anglo-Saxon king; the term is later used for a manorial officer responsible for overseeing the discharge of feudal obligations.
- sceattas:** seventh- to eighth-century coins minted in England and the near continent.
- Schlickung:** roughening of the surface of a pottery vessel, including the application of a gritty slip, that in Anglo-Saxon vessels is generally regarded as a fifth-century feature.
- shire:** a subdivision of an early medieval kingdom.
- slip:** a very fine-grained clay slurry added to the surface of a pottery vessel as a form of colouration or decoration.
- strap end:** copper alloy fittings designed to finish a flat strip of fabric or leather.
- sulung:** a Kentish unit equivalent to two hides.
- Tribal Hidage:** a list of 35 peoples/territories, probably written between the mid-seventh and the ninth centuries, that includes large independent kingdoms through to far smaller territories, and which gives the number of hides (see above) assigned to each one.
- vill:** the smallest territorial entity defined in Domesday Book, that in southern England was sometimes equivalent to an ecclesiastical parish (or a township in northern England). There was sometimes a single manor in a Domesday vill, suggesting that they may have been coterminous, while in other cases a vill contained several manors.