

Glossary of Terms used in Domesday Book

ACRE	(Latin <i>acra</i> , from <i>ager</i> , field). (1) Unlike the modern acre, the medieval acre could be used to estimate the length as well as area. As a square measure 4 x 40 perches; as a linear measure 66ft. (2) A unit of assessment to GELD; in some areas 120 geld-acres equalled 1 HIDE
BODAR	(from Old French <i>borde</i> , a wooden hut). A cottager; a peasant of lower economic status than a VILLAN. Since <i>Domesday Book</i> distinguishes bordars from COTTARS and both from COTSETS, there must have been some distinction between them now not readily apparent. All three are commonly associated with towns.
BOVATE	(from Latin <i>bos</i> . An ox). One eighth of a CARUCATE; The Anglo-Scandinavian translation is OXGANG
CARUCATE	(From Latin <i>caruca</i> , a plough) A ploughland: notionally the area which could be ploughed with an eight-ox team, used in the north and east as a unit of assessment to tax instead of HIDE
COTTAR	(from Old English <i>kot</i> , a cottage) A cottager. See BODAR
COUNT	(Latin <i>comes</i> , companion) A continental title, denoting a man in authority over a specific area (county) with administrative and judicial powers, used to translate the English EARL
DEMENSE	(Latin <i>dominium</i> , Old French adj. <i>demeigne</i> , owned) Land 'in LORDSHIP' whose produce is devoted to the LORD rather than to his tenants: (1) MANORS held in the LORD's personal possession as opposed to those granted to his men (2) that part of an individual's estate exploited directly for the LORD's 'home-farm'. Also expressed as INLAND (Old English), as opposed to WARLAND
GELD	(Old English, money, tax). The English land-tax (DANEGELD, HEREGELD) assessed on the HIDE
HIDE	(Old English <i>hid</i> , <i>hida</i>) The standard unit of assessment to tax, especially GELD. Notionally the amount of land which would support a household; divided into four VIRGATES
MANOR	(Latin <i>manerium</i> , from <i>manere</i> , to dwell Old French <i>manoir</i>) An estate, varying in size; the estate centre as opposed to the outlying BEREWICKS. The capital manor (CAPUT) was the administrative centre of the HONOUR where the LORD's chief resident, often his CASTLE, was situated, and where his COURT was held.
SAKE and SOKE	Old English <i>sac</i> and <i>soc</i>) Literally 'cause' and 'suit'; the case heard in a COURT and the duty of attending it. Used to denote the judicial and dominical rights associated with the possession of land, especially BOOKLAND
TRE	(abbr. for Latin <i>Tempore Regis Edwardi</i>) The formula commonly used in <i>Domesday Book</i> to indicate the position 'in the time of Edward I', i.e. before the Conquest in 1066. In EXON a more exact phrase is sometimes used; 'the day when King Edward was alive and dead', i.e. 5 January 1066
VASSAL, VASSALAGE	(Latin <i>vassus</i> ; Old Celtic <i>gwas</i> , a boy or servant) A man, usually of noble rank, who subordinates himself to a LORD. Vassalage is the status of a vassal, which was entered by COMMENDATION