

GLOSSARY

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www.elizabeth-era.org.uk (dictionary)

Legal terms

alienate	transfer to ownership of another person. The most usual method is by conveyance, but could be by sale, gift, marriage settlement, devise etc.
appurtenance(s)	property that belongs to something else, such as yards and gardens to a building.
assign	an undertenant; a person nominated by someone else to fulfill a specific function.
assignment	a transfer from one person to another.
bargain and sale	the name of a special type of deed. It can be treated as a straightforward sale of land from one person to another. (Now obsolete) .
bipartite	involving two parties.
burgage	a type of land ownership involving lands in ancient boroughs.
cartulary	a volume containing copies of deeds etc., usually compiled by a monastery
close	an enclosed area of land.
conveyance	a means of transferring property; or, the deed by which this is done. It does not include wills.
copyhold	land forming part of a manor.
court leet	a court franchised to manorial lords to try certain offences committed within manorial boundaries.
deed	a legal document usually dealing with ownership or occupation of land.
deed poll	a deed involving just one party.
demise	a lease.
devise	a gift of land by will; a bequest.
easement	a right that a landowner has over the lands of someone else, such as rights of way, rights of light, rights of support, rights to a flow of air or water, etc.
entail	the settlement of a property which must descend to the owner's heirs in a specified fashion and not be sold or otherwise disposed of.
estate	the duration of possession or tenancy of land, freehold or leasehold
executor / executrix	a person chosen by someone else in their will to see that the clauses of the will are carried out. .
farm-let	to have the right to collect rents or profits.
fee simple	absolute title or ownership of land, clear of any limitations or restrictions.
feoffee	a person holding property on behalf of another without

feoffment	specification of the uses.
fine	a grant of land by one person to another. sum of money paid for granting of a lease or copyhold tenement, or (Final Concord) a record of a fictitious court case provided as two matching copies - the feet of fines are the third copy kept by the court.
freehold	to all intents and purposes this now means absolute ownership of land.
gift	transfer of real property.
gressom, gressum	payment on change of tenancy
hereditament	property that can be inherited, including rights and profits associated with land.
indenture	a deed, usually with two or more parties, wavy line at top or bottom.
lease	when the owner of the property allows a tenant to occupy it for a (specified) length of time, usually in return for payment of rent.
lease and release	the name of a special type of deed. It can be treated as a straightforward sale of land from one person to another. (Now obsolete).
leasehold	land that is occupied by someone other than the owner for a certain length of time, i.e., land that is leased.
lett	obstruction.
letters patent	a royal grant for disposal of property (as obtained by the Crown at the time of dissolution of the monasteries). Authorization to enjoy some privilege - less solemn than a charter.
livery of seisin	the formal, ceremonial handing over of land from one person to another. (Now obsolete).
memorial	a summary of the important parts of a deed that has been registered at a land registry.
messuage	a house, including gardens, outbuildings, courtyard and orchard.
mortgage	a transfer (usually temporary) of property for the purpose of securing the repayment of a debt.
mortgagee	the person to whom property is mortgaged, i.e., the person lending the money.
mortgagor	the person who mortgages his property as security for the mortgage debt, i.e., the person borrowing the money.
mortuary	payment from estate to local parson for tithes unpaid - sometimes second best beast or chattel
moyety / moiety	a half.
occupation road	normally a private access road.
parcel	a part or portion of land.
party	a person taking part in a transaction or legal proceeding.
recognizance	registration and acknowledgement of debt.
remainder	if someone leaves their land to X until X dies, and then to Y and his heirs after X's death, Y's claim on the land is called a remainder.
remise	a transfer or surrender of property.
reversion	after a landowner leases his property to a tenant for stated length of time, when the land 'reverts' to the landowner after the time has elapsed, and this is known as a reversion.
revocation	cancelling or revoking an earlier agreement.
right of way	a right of passage over the lands of another person or

	body. Some rights of way are public, i.e., for everyone, but some (usually known as easements or servitudes) are enjoyed by specific groups or individuals only.
servitude	an obligation on a landowner either a) to refrain from making full use of his lands so as not to detract from the property next to them, or b) to allow another person to use his lands for a specific purpose. The main categories are support of buildings, light and prospect, taking water and right of way.
set over	transfer or let on lease.
statute staple	a bond acknowledged before the mayor of the staple conveying powers of land and property seizure against an outstanding debt. Staple is a body of merchants or a place with exclusive rights to purchase goods for export.
tenement	a house.
toft	land upon which a building once stood.
tripartite	involving three parties.
trust	where one person (or persons) holds property on behalf of and for the benefit of another (or others).
trustee	a person who holds property on trust for another; a manager.
turbary, common of	the right to dig peat for fuel upon another man's land.
turnpike road	a road upon which a toll had to be paid by the traveller, usually managed by a turnpike trust.
unadopted road	normally a road for the use of residents and maintainable at their own expense.
warrant	guarantee or authorization
waste	land not used but not desolate

Household terms

camlet	light cloth for cloaks or other garments
knop(pe)	a large tub or washing tub
fat	vat, a large tub or vessel
guile fat	the tub in which ale or beer is worked before it is tunned or put in barrels
rove or reeve	to twist yarn into a ropy form before spinning
bridewayne	wain is a cart
dubler	large plate or dish of wood or pewter
arke	chest
kist	chest
sconce	screen, fireside seat
frennet	a garment?
sallet	a helmet
big(g)	barley
brande(d)	brand mark on cattle, or brindled (streaked brown or spotted)
trentall	set of 30 masses for the dead
kirtle, kyrtle, kyrtill	man's tunic or coat, woman's gown or outer petticoat
kirtall	
herden	coarse linen cloth
bord clogge	
tenter	framework for cloth stretching and drying

bedstocks
frees, freza
nail fast
shone
almery, almory, ambrie
aumbrie, allmoirie
hoise
quishing
barn
barrel
hattock

coockestool
Animals

fillie
baie
stagge
coulte
kyne
stot
yawe, yowe
meer, meare, mayer
faill
stoned
gimmer, gymer, gymber
hog(g)
why, whie, quie, quye,
kye, kie
wedder, wether
stirk
sorel nage
gor

Farm terms

raving or reaving
gavelock
hacke
yock, yoake
wain, wayne
cowpe
cowpe raithes
culter
filthe
sheyres
trantree
layne yocke
lathe

Landscape

bed frame
coarse woollen cloth with a nap
fixtures
shoes
ornate cupboard or wardrobe

hose
cushion
AngloSaxon store of barley
berewelle c1300 barley
stook of sheaves of grain and a tithe unit
(court of Chancery dispute, Giggleswick 1649)
ducking stool

young horse
bay
colt one to three years old
colt or plough cutting blade
cattle
a young ox
ewe
mare
foal
castrated
ewe lamb between first and second shearing
young sheep before first shearing

a female calf
castrated ram
bullock or heifer, one to two years old
sorel horse
OE goat

movable side parts for a cart
crowbar
mattock
yoke
cart, waggon
cart
removable boards to heighten a cart
coulter for plough
manure
shears
part of a cart
part of a cart
fodder barn - coincides with Celtic names

au
feild
hall
liffe
willy/willian

OE hill
felling of trees
OE slope
hill slope
OE corner or bend