

Medieval farming



By Norman Bambridge

Plan of a Mediaeval Manor.



In this feudal system, the demesne was all the land retained and managed by a lord of the manor for his own use and support.



Einkorn Wheat is considered to be the oldest strain of wheat in existence, originally domesticated over 5,000 years ago in the mountains of Turkey.



An Anglo-Saxon village may have looked something like this.



The inside of an Anglo-Saxon communal house.



The Ard consists of a wooden frame with a horizontal beam (stilt) attached to a vertical shaft (pole), which was often drawn by oxen or even pulled manually. The key working component was the share, a wooden or later metal-tipped blade that scratched shallow furrows into the soil rather than turning it over.



Heavy plough, illustration. The development of this device revolutionised agriculture in medieval Europe.



Anglo-Saxon pottery



Anglo-Saxon pottery being loaded and made ready for firing in a kiln.



Once all the pots were loaded into the kiln, they were covered with hay to protect them from the dome.

A dome was built using roughly rectangular tiles, which were made a few days before, so they were dry but still flexible.