

Glossary

This is a draft glossary for the initial consultation phase of the toolkit. We welcome your comments.

Cart shed

A building for housing and protecting from the weather carts, waggons and farm implements.

Cart sheds are open-fronted buildings sited close to a road or track into the farmstead. In some areas, especially in the west and north of England, they could be incorporated into barns.

One or more bays of a cart shed may be portioned off and provided with doors to create a secure storage area for smaller implements, or space for a coach or pony trap. These did not appear in any great numbers until the mid-19th century, when horse-drawn hoes, and later reapers and mowing machines, became more prevalent.

In many areas cart sheds are combined with first-floor granaries, accessed by external steps.

Examples of pre-19th century date are of extreme rarity. They are mostly found on estate farms and in lowland areas where corn was grown and farms were generally larger. Cartsheds on larger farms and in arable areas can be very large, whereas only one or two bays were needed on smaller farms in pastoral areas.

Catch meadow system

Similar to watermeadows. A system of drains cut along a hillside and made to overflow onto the pasture below in winter, encouraging the early growth of grass. Also known as field gutter systems.

Cattle housing

Characteristic features of cattle housing include:

- Externally, lower and wider doorways than stables.
- Limited light and ventilation. Openings are largely confined to ventilation slits in the walls and holes in gable ends or side walls for the throwing out of muck: the latter was especially the case in areas with limited straw from corn crops for bedding, such as in the northern uplands.
- Windows were more widely introduced from the 19th century, especially from the 1830s. A common form of window is the hit-and-miss ventilator, and air ducts and ridge ventilators were increasingly common from this period. It was not until the later 19th century that the importance of a well-ventilated cow house became fully appreciated.
- Internally, ceilings were typically low and there was very little light. Hay was stored above in lofts, and in some examples (such as the Pennines) on one or both sides in 'sink mows', increasing the warmth and airlessness.
- Interior stalling and feeding arrangements. Cows were usually tethered in pairs with low partitions of wood, stone, slate and, in the 19th century, cast iron between them. As the breeding of stock improved and cows became larger, the space for the animals in the older buildings became limited and an indication of the date of a cow house can be the length of the stalls or the width of the building. Feeding arrangements can survive in the form of hayracks, water bowls and mangers for feed.
- Variations in internal planning, cattle being stalled along or across the main axis of the building and facing a wall or partition. They were fed either from behind or from a feeding passage, these often being connected to fodder rooms from the late 18th century.

Evidence for cattle housing is very rare before the 18th century, and in many areas uncommon before the 19th century. It is largely confined to **cow houses** in East Anglia and the Welsh borders, the **longhouses** of north and west England, where the family and animals used the same entry and the cattle were stalled at the lower end, the **bastle houses** of northern England, the linhays of South West England and **combination barns** which are concentrated in the anciently-enclosed landscapes of south and east England and again the north and west.

Throughout the country, early housing for cattle can also be in the form of lean-tos or **outshuts** built against other buildings – usually barns.

There is hardly a farmstead without 19th-century, and more rarely late 18th century, adaptations for increased livestock accommodation. The agricultural improvements of the 18th century emphasised the importance of farmyard manure in maintaining the fertility of the soil. It was also recognised that cattle fattened better and were more productive in milk if housed in strawed-down yards and buildings, and fed with carefully measured quantities of nutritious turnips and imported feed.

Shelter sheds, open-fronted structures facing onto cattle yards, mostly date from the late 18th century. The folding of stock in strawed-down yards and feeding them with root crops became more general in the nineteenth century, together with the subdivision of yards into smaller areas and the construction of **loose boxes** (identified by multiple doorways to small individual cubicles) and other distinctive building types, including bullpens, associated with more intensive fattening and management.

The most significant examples of **covered yards** – developed to house cattle and conserve their manure - are on the most expensively designed planned and model farms of the 1850s to 1870s. It became increasingly common from the 1880s to roof over former open yards with timber or metal-framed superstructures.

20th century and later change

Very few cow-house interiors of the nineteenth century or earlier have survived unaltered because hygiene regulations for the production of milk have resulted in new floors, windows and stall arrangements being inserted

The introduction of hygiene regulations early in the 20th century for the production of milk resulted in new floors, windows and stall arrangements being inserted. Animal welfare standards are now rendering traditional housing redundant; cows on farms seeking Soil Association assurance require more than double (at 6 square metres) the space of tethered beasts in traditional cow houses. Some, particularly under split-level barns, are too low for modern usage and so have been preserved by abandonment or occasional use by sheep.

Dialect terms

There are great regional differences in the management of cattle and the buildings that housed them. This extends to how they are described in different parts of the country: for example, 'shippon' in much of the South West, 'byre' in northern England, 'hovel' in central England. Stalls, drains and muck passages have also been given their own local vocabulary.

Cattle shed See **Cattle housing**

Cattle yard

Also known as a fold yard. Cattle yards were commonly sited so that they faced south to catch the sun. Whilst cattle could be left to wander within yards bounded by fences, walls, stock-proof hedges and other buildings, cattle yards began to develop as a specific farmstead type from the mid 18th century. They were usually bounded by shelter sheds and other livestock sheds, and were subject to subdivision as the need to manage different types of stock became more important in the 19th century.

Chaff box/chaff house

Storage for the chaff, or outer husks of crops, a typical by-product of threshing. Chaff was used as fodder for horses.

Churn stand

A stand for milk churns, often built at the farm gate to save the milk cart or lorry from having to come to the farmstead.

The sale of liquid milk had become massively important in many areas by the early 20th century. The stand for milk churns, and the abandonment of all but a handful of farmhouse dairies and cheese rooms for new milk-production plants were the other visible consequences of these developments.

Cider house

A building for the milling and pressing of cider, found in the South West and the West Midlands. It usually forms part of a combination range, and is marked by a wide doorway.

Cider houses are frequently incorporated into other buildings ranged around the yard. Where the cider house is a

separate building it usually does not have any particular external characteristics, other than a wide doorway allowing for the passage of barrels, although occasionally the press survives within the building. Cider houses that retain mills and/or presses are of particular importance. If removed, they can leave distinctive scars within the interior.

Cider could be kept for far longer than beer, and thus on some farms where cider was grown for export cider houses were built with storage for barrels.

Cob

A term used for earth-walled buildings in the south and west of England. Cob buildings are heavily concentrated in Devon and Dorset and are also found in Wiltshire and Hampshire.

Closed parish

A parish in which most of the land is owned by a single estate.

Combed wheat reed

A method of thatching in which all the straw is laid in the same direction with butts down. The stems of the straw are not bruised or crushed as with longstraw. The finished roof resembles reed thatch rather than longstraw.

Combination barn

A threshing barn that also housed cattle or horses, and sometimes other functions such as cart sheds and granaries. Combination barns can be two-storey or single-storey buildings, the latter typically having the threshing barn located on the first floor. They include **bank barns**.

They can include some of the earliest evidence in England for stabling and cattle housing.

Convertible husbandry

A system whereby some fields were brought into arable cultivation for a short period – usually until the soil was exhausted – and then returned to pasture for a number of years. This system was commonly found in south west England, where it appears to have appeared in or around the 7th century in association with the resiting of isolated farms and distinctive layouts of fields. It is also found in some wood pasture areas of the country, such as the Weald of Kent and Sussex, and some upland areas of the country.

Coping

Usually flat stones but sometimes bricks laid on the top of a wall to prevent water getting into the core of the wall: for example, on the top of a gable wall of a building where the roofing material abuts the gable wall rather than covers it.

Covered yard

A cattle yard that is fully covered by a roof – the aims of which were to protect the nutrients in the manure collecting in the yard from being washed away by the rain and to provide an environment where cattle would fatten more quickly.

By the 1850s it had been proved by agricultural chemists that the nutritional value of manure would be better preserved if it were under cover, and as costly feeds produced richer manures, the incentive to protect them was great.

Covered yards needed adequate ventilation, and could be provided with complex systems of louvres and shutters.

The best-known examples of covered yards are on the most expensively designed model farms of the mid- to late 19th century, almost all of them being estate-owned. The introduction of roofs to existing yards became general in fatstock areas from the late 19th century and especially after 1940. Dairy cattle are now typically housed in portal-framed sheds erected in the post-war period.

Cow house

An enclosed building for cattle in which the animals are normally tethered in stalls.

This section will be fully illustrated with captions to a range of examples.

Croft

Also known as a garth – a piece of enclosed land adjoining a house.

Cruck

A pair of curved timbers, usually halved from the same tree trunk, that form an A-frame extending from the ground to the apex of the roof. A raised cruck has the feet of the crucks raised off the ground, usually embedded in a masonry wall. Jointed crucks are individual cruck blades formed by two timbers joined together.

Distribution map and illustrations to show full range of types.

Dairy

A building, or more often a room within the farmhouse, where milk was processed to make cheese and butter.

Dairying for urban markets was already a specialised enterprise by the 1750s. Commercial cheese making and foreign imports (from the colonies) made inroads from the 1860s, and by around 1914 farmhouse butter was being sold only in Devon and Cornwall, and cheese made only in Cheshire, Leicestershire and the vales of Dorset and Somerset. The production of liquid milk from the mid 19th century also affected the commercial production of butter and cheese.

Changes in hygiene regulations and the centralisation of production through the 20th century had a major impact on dairies, with the majority becoming redundant to their original use.

Original fixtures, such as slate or stone shelves for cooling the milk, are now very rare. Cheese rooms are now especially rare and hard to identify.

Daub

A mixture of clay and straw applied to wattle infill of timber-framing to make a wall.

Deer park

A large park for keeping deer. In medieval period the prime purpose was for hunting and as a display of status.

Demesne farm

A manorial farm managed directly as opposed to land within the manor farmed by tenants.

Dipping

The washing of sheep by immersing them in water.

Dispersed settlement

Settlement that predominantly consists of scattered, isolated farmsteads and small hamlets with few village centres. Dispersed settlement is the predominant settlement form over much of western parts of England, and an area extending from East Anglia to the South East. Dispersed settlement is typically associated with small and irregular fields, and the creation of farms in the medieval period or earlier from wood, marsh and moor.

Dovecote

A building, or part of a building, providing nest boxes for pigeons or doves.

In the medieval period the keeping of doves or pigeons was usually restricted as a manorial right. The birds provided fresh meat and eggs as a supplement to the already varied diets of wealthier people, while the manure was also valued.

Dovecotes are usually square or circular towers with pyramidal or conical roofs, but a number of varying forms have been found. Internally the walls were lined with nest boxes. In the earliest examples the nest boxes were sometimes formed in the thickness of the wall but usually they were in stone, brick or wood. Dovecote doorways were low to discourage the birds from flying out and often a potence, a central pivoted post with arms supporting a revolving ladder; provided access to the nest boxes for collection of the squabs and eggs. Surviving internal fittings are of great rarity, notably potences and nest boxes (especially the removable wooden types).

As the keeping of pigeons became more widespread, nesting boxes were incorporated into other farmyard buildings, for example the gable ends of barns.

Downland

The higher land of the chalk areas of the country. These areas typically had a poor, thin soil and were the preserve of sheep which grazed on the extensive, unenclosed areas. This form of management suppressed the growth of scrub and allowed a rich flora to establish.

Dutch barn

Now used to describe an iron-framed, open-fronted building for the shelter of hay or corn. They typically date from the late 19th to the mid 20th centuries.

Enclosure

Enclosed land. Enclosure of land may have occurred at an early date – possibly medieval and in a few rare cases, in the prehistoric period. In other areas open fields or common land was enclosed either by agreement or, in the 18th and 19th centuries, by act of parliament. §§§§

Fallow land

Land left uncultivated, allowing it to rest. In a 3-field open field system one field was left fallow by rotation each year.

Farmstead

The homestead of a farm where the farmhouse and some or all of the farm buildings are located.

Fatstock

Farm animals reared for meat.

Field Barns

A building set within the fields away from the main farmstead, typically in areas where farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other.

Field barns could be:

- Shelters for sheep, typically with low doors and floor-to-ceiling heights.
- Shelters for cattle and their fodder (hay).
- Threshing barns with yards.
- Combination barns with a threshing bay and storage for the crop, and housing for cattle.

In the Yorkshire Dales, for example, the small and numerous field barns of Swaledale were built for a specialist dairy industry. In the southern Craven Dales, where more corn was grown, they could be multi-functional buildings for cattle, corn and hay. These have large doors to the threshing floor, and often lean-to outshuts for cattle.

Field barns have always been vulnerable to dereliction once redundant. The widespread introduction of artificial fertilisers, bale silage production and the centralisation of farming activities are key factors in the abandonment and dereliction of field barns and outfarms.

Flail

An implement comprising two linked wooden sticks used to beat grain from the ear (see Threshing).

Fold yard See **Cattle Yard**

Garth

Also known as a croft - a piece of enclosed land adjoining a house.

Goose housing See **poultry housing**.

Granary

A building or room for storing grain after it has been threshed and winnowed in the barn. Granaries are usually at first-floor level to prevent rodents and damp damaging the grain. Pre-1750 examples are of great rarity. Complete granary interiors, with plaster walls and wooden partitioning to grain bins, are very rare. Typical features are:

- A separate external stair that gave access to the granary door.
- Ventilated openings - either louvers, shutters, sliding vents or grilles.
- Grain bins, or the slots in vertical timbers for horizontal planking used to make them.
- Close-boarded or plastered and limewashed walls, and a strong load-bearing floor construction with tight-fitting lapped boards to prevent loss of grain.

Grain was typically accommodated in:

- The lofts of farmhouses, a practice common before 1750. Evidence for this is now very rare.
- Small, square or rectangular structures raised above ground level on mushroom-shaped staddle stones or brick arches and accessed by moveable wooden steps. Most are of late 18th or 19th century date, earlier examples being of great rarity. Examples are concentrated in East Anglia and southern England from Kent to Cornwall. The larger free-standing granaries were of two, or even three, floors.
- The upper floors of barns. Evidence for this survives from the 14th century. Evidence for this is now rare.
- The upper floors of stables and **cart sheds**, and combined cart shed/granary ranges are found from the eighteenth and even the late-17th centuries in parts of the south and east.
- The upper floors of mid-late 19th century **mixing barns**.

Most granaries are of late 18th and 19th century date, the need for more storage for grain often coinciding with the necessity for more cart and implement space at a time when commercial farming and markets were expanding and more implements introduced on farms.

Pre-1750 examples are of great rarity. Complete granary interiors, with plaster walls and wooden partitioning to grain bins, are very rare.

A very small number of pre-18th century detached granaries have survived, and timber-framed granaries – detached or located over cart sheds or stables – are clearly far less likely to have survived to the present day than examples in stone or brick. Interior fittings such as grain bins and features such as louvered windows are particularly vulnerable when a change of use is contemplated.

Grange

A farmstead belonging to and run by a monastic house.

Grazier

A person who farms grazing animals, typically for meat or wool.

Half-hipped roof

A roof in which the gable wall rises above the height of the eaves but does not extend to the apex. The upper part of the gable has a short sloping roof with rafters lying axially (in the same line of the orientation of the building). In a fully hipped roof, axial rafters are of the same length as the rafters of the main roof slopes.

Hay barn

A structure to shelter but ensure the adequate ventilation of hay. They are typically open-sided structures with roofs supported on high brick, stone, timber or iron piers.

A very small number, mostly in Yorkshire, of timber hay barns with adjustable roofs – as commonly survive in the Netherlands – survive intact.

The agricultural depression from the 1870s meant that dairy farming was one of the few branches of farming to remain profitable, leading to an increase in the production of hay. This period saw the introduction of some of the first mass-produced iron farm buildings, such as Dutch barns for hay storage, and also of airtight clamps for the preservation of **silage**.

Hay was also kept in lofts over cattle housing and stables.

Hay loft

Storage for hay above cart shed or stables.

Hayrack

A rack made of wood and from the later 19th century often made in iron, in which hay could be placed to be eaten by cattle, horses or sheep.

Heather thatch

Heather thatch was once general in upland areas of northern England above the area where straw or reed thatch was

found, but had also been used in the lowlands. It is now very rare.

Heather is a poor roofing material in that it lacks the tight, even form of straw or reed; water does not run along it so much as through it. Consequently, speed in discharging the water is important and this gives rise to steeper pitches than for lowland thatch. Proof that thatch was once commonplace is seen in the steep roof line (typically 60 degrees) evident as a scar on the gable of many buildings where the roofline has been altered – typically in the later 18th or 19th century - to accommodate the shallower pitch required by stone slates or tiles.

Hemmels

Small open-fronted cattle shelters with their own yards, mostly found in the North East.

Hen house See **Poultry housing**.

Hipped roof

A roof with slopes at the gable ends of equal or similar length to the side slopes. The gable walls do not rise up to the apex but are of similar height to the side walls. The top ends of the rafters that do not extend to the ridge are carried on a hip rafter.

Hit-and-miss timber boarding (also called **Yorkshire boarding**)

Usually vertical boarding forming a wall to animal housing which has gaps between the boards to provide ventilation for the animals.

Holding

A farm.

Hovel

A dialect term for cow house, formerly common in parts of the Midlands and central southern England.

Hurdle work

Hurdles, usually made from hazel or another pliable wood woven to form fence panels, were arranged to form temporary enclosure for animals, especially sheep.

Husbandry

Farming, the management of the production of crops and animals.

Infield-outfield system

A type of agriculture practised in pastoral (usually upland) areas, where the fields closest to the farmstead or settlement were the most intensively cropped and animals were only permitted to graze after the hay or corn crop was cut. Beyond was rough grazing for sheep and cattle, which was occasionally ploughed for corn.

Irregular fields

Patterns of fields of variable size and form, lacking any form of overall planning and generally reflecting a piecemeal or erratic process of creation. May date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods, but are invariably pre-18th century. Often associated with dispersed settlement, commons and greens.

Iron Age

Period of human social development crudely defined by the use of iron tools and weapons between about 1,000BC and the beginning of the Roman Conquest of Britain in AD43.

Kiln

Small kilns for drying corn and particularly malt for brewing have been recovered through excavation and a small number of much larger and more solidly constructed examples survive from the 17th century, especially in the North West and South West.

Surviving examples of corn drying kilns, concentrated in upland farming areas, are extremely rare.

The term kiln is also used in Herefordshire and Worcestershire for **oast houses**.

Kneeler

A stone, often shaped, which supports the stone coping to the gable end.

Laithe house

A linear range of one construction comprising a farmhouse with attached barn and usually a stable. There is no internal link between the house and the agricultural element of the range.

The house and farm buildings are usually of one build, but there is no cross passage or inter-connection between them. Typical of the central Pennines, but also found in Cumbria and Bowland and Rossendale in Lancashire, examples date from the mid-17th century but are not common until after 1750, with a concentration in the 1780–1840 period.

Laithe houses typically served farms of about 30 acres or less, and are most densely concentrated in the Pennine part of West Yorkshire and Lancashire, where dual income from farming and industry – primarily textiles, but also lead working – enabled smallholdings to be economically viable.

The word 'laithe' or 'lathe' is a northern English dialect word for a barn, or a combined barn and cow house.

Lean-to

A building, usually a later addition, which is constructed against the side of a larger building. Lean-tos typically have a mono-pitch roof.

See **Outshot**.

Lias

A form of limestone, typically split into thin pieces.

Linear farmstead

A farmstead where the farmhouse and agricultural buildings are ranged in a line, usually attached to each other.

Linhay

Two-storeyed building with open-fronted cattle shelter with an open-fronted hay loft or tallet above characteristic of Devon, eastern Cornwall, west Dorset and south Somerset. The tallet may be constructed as a conventional floor or simply created from poles. Historically the term linhay was used to refer to a wider range of buildings including field barns.

The linhay comprises one of the earliest forms of cattle housing that can be found in England. Examples date from the 16th century, and many are pre-19th century in date. The shorter and milder winters in south-west England enabled cattle to be housed open-fronted buildings.

Linhays can range in size from a single bay to L- and U-shaped ranges of over twenty bays, and are always associated with yards for cattle. The linhay can face into the principal farmyard or be set within its own yard.

It is quite usual to find that part or all of the open-fronted side, especially the upper part, was later boarded up: this was an alteration associated, at least in parts of the Region such as north Devon, with the development of the dairying industry (and the need to shelter cattle indoors) in the later 19th century.

Loose box

An individual cubicle for housing fatstock, found in the form of lean-tos attached to barns or other buildings, or as continuous ranges with an optional central or rear feeding passage.

Loose boxes were either built as individual boxes or more usually in a row with a central or rear feeding passage, distinguished externally by continuous rows of doors. Double rows would have a central feeding passage and were to be found on many farms by 1860.

Often the floor of the boxes was sunken and the manure would build up in them during the winter. They reflected a realisation that warm and dry conditions would promote weight gain (through minimising heat loss) and retain the quality of the manure.

Longhouse

A building that housed humans and cattle under one roof and in which there was direct access from the accommodation into the cow house (byre). The byre was always built down-slope from the accommodation.

Each longhouse had a common entrance for the farmer's family (accommodated at the up-slope end of the building) and livestock, the cow house being marked usually by a central drain and a manure outlet at the lower gable end.

As living standards changed the animals were often provided with separate access. This development could also result in the demolition of some byres and the conversion or rebuilding of others to domestic or new agricultural use (barns, for example).

Longhouses were often found grouped together and associated with strip farming of the surrounding fields.

Documents and archaeological excavation indicate that they had a widespread distribution in the north and west of the British Isles in the medieval period, but that in much of lowland England they were either absent or being replaced by yard layouts with detached houses, barns and cow houses from the 14th century.

Longhouses, and their variant types with separate entrances for livestock and farmers, continued in use in parts of the South West, the Welsh borders and the northern uplands and vales into the 18th and 19th centuries.

The piecemeal rebuilding and conversion of both lower end and house-part are clearly visible in the buildings, as is evidence about the size and layout of the original byres, and of the arrangement of the passage (against which the stack heating the main part of the house was positioned) that once formed the common entrance to these longhouses as a whole. The initial dominance of the longhouse in some areas is significant, since, as a house type capable of almost infinite adaptation, it exerted considerable influence on the subsequent evolution of farmsteads.

Longstraw

Term used to describe a thatching method where the ears and butts of the straw are mixed. The stems of the straw are bruised and crushed and the result is a generally looser coat than combed wheat reed or water reed. The appearance of the roof is quite different from combed wheat reed and water reed, with a much thicker covering of straw.

Maltings see **kiln**.

Manger

An open trough in a stable or cowshed from which horses or cattle could eat.

Mass-walled building

Buildings where the walls are constructed of solid materials such as stone, earth or brick as opposed to timber-framed walling.

Meadow

A field maintained for providing grass for grazing and for making hay.

Medieval

Broadly speaking the period from the emergence of the English settlements in the 7th century through to the Dissolution and Reformation in the early 16th century. More commonly used to define the period following the Norman Conquest.

The term early medieval is often used to cover the period of Norse, Danish and Anglo-Saxon settlements from the 7th century to the Norman Conquest.

Mesolithic

'The Middle Stone Age': period of human development which saw the spread of hunter-gather communities across north west Europe after the end of the glaciation (c. 8,000- 4,000BC).

Midstrey

Term used in southern England and East Anglia for the projecting porch to a threshing barn.

Mill

The processing of corn to flour was undertaken in mills normally powered by water or wind. Mill buildings are often found isolated from farmsteads but occasionally they can form part of the farmstead.

Mud and stud

This is a type of earth walling tradition which uses an inner core of timber stud walling. It is found in parts of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Many examples of this walling technique may survive behind later brick skins.

Neolithic

'The New Stone Age': the period of human societal development characterised by the introduction of agriculture and use of stone tools, spanning the period 4,000-2,000 BC.

Nucleated settlement

Settlement pattern consisting mainly of villages with relatively few isolated farmsteads or hamlets. Large, nucleated, villages are concentrated in a central band running from Northumberland into Somerset and Dorset. The communally-managed farming strips around them, grouped into blocks of 2 or more common fields, were typically subject – at varying rates – to amalgamation and enclosure by tenants and landlords from the 14th century. The enclosure of remaining common fields and grazing land from the 18th century typically produced more large-scale and regular fields. This process of enclosure was often associated with the creation of new holdings and farmsteads.

Oast house

A building for storing harvested hops (green hops), drying them in a kiln, storing them and putting them into bags (pockets) for export from the farm.

The green hops were laid out on a horse-hair mat on a slatted floor and turned periodically as heat from a kiln below passed through them. After drying, the hops were packed in readiness for transportation to a brewery.

The alternative to drying hops in a kiln was to dry them either in a malt house or more slowly in the loft of the house. The latter may have been the most common way of processing the crop across much of the country where hops were grown on a small scale.

Early purpose-built oast houses, small buildings which included a kiln and rooms for the green and dried hops, are extremely rare. Evidence for early kilns may survive in some barns.

During the 18th century efforts were made to improve the flow of air through the drying floor. This was affected by the construction of inverted funnels of timber and plaster in the roof space leading to a vent. At this time larger oast houses were built, typically with a kiln measuring between 12 and 18ft square with a rectangular stowage attached where the hops could cool on an upper floor before being pressed into 'pockets' and stored on the ground floor. The provision of a separate drying floor increased the efficiency and production capacity.

The circular kiln with its conical roof was a development of the early 19th century. It was believed that circular oasts were more efficient but this was eventually shown not to be the case and so later 19th-century kilns are usually square. In oasts built during the period of the brick tax (1784–1850) the upper part of the stowage was often built in timber frame and weatherboarded to reduce the cost.

Domestic conversion has generally resulted in the loss of the hearths of the plenum chamber where the kilns were located and the press where sacks or 'pockets' were filled. Surviving examples are of great rarity.

Outfarm

A complex of buildings set within the fields away from the main farmstead, typically in areas where farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other. They were built in some areas from the late eighteenth century. The outfarm saved on labour in that the harvested crop from the surrounding fields did not have to be carried back to the farmstead, and its straw turned into manure which, in turn, did not have to be carted back out to the distant fields.

Outfarms were typically built with shelter sheds for cattle flanking the barn and yard. A cottage for a farm worker could also be sited nearby.

Once redundant, they are very prone to dereliction and decay.

Oolite

An easily worked form of limestone from the Jurassic period.

Open-field system

A system in which farmland was held in common with the strips of individual farmers intermixed across several fields, in origin varying in date from the 9th century or even earlier to as late as the 16th century (in northern Northumberland). Open-field systems rarely had hedges between strips or fields. Over time the strips were usually consolidated and eventually enclosed. Enclosure of open fields results in characteristic field patterns where the boundaries form an elongated reversed 'S'.

Outfarm

A barn with animal accommodation either within the barn or separately, located away from the main farmstead, which avoided transporting straw and manure to and from distant fields.

See **field barn**.

Outshot

A lean-to structure, either integral or more commonly a later addition, which is constructed against the side of a larger building.

Ox house

Oxen were the favoured animals for draught work on the farm in the medieval period, although in some parts of the country they were already being replaced by horses. They survived in some areas into the 19th and even 20th centuries. Ox houses can be very difficult to identify, the most distinguishing feature being wide doorways and wider-than-average stalling.

Surviving examples are difficult to identify and are very rare.

Pantiles

Clay roofing tiles with a wavy profile. Originated in Holland and became popular along the north-east coast. Also made in Somerset.

Pastoral farming Farming system based predominantly on the rearing or fattening of stock. Pastoral areas are usually predominantly grassland but in some areas arable cultivation was also important, providing fodder crops for the animals as well as corn crops for domestic use.

Pasture/pasturage

Grazing land.

Pele tower

Small tower built for defence in the 14th - 16th century, concentrated in the border areas of Cumbria and Northumberland.

Piecemeal enclosure

The enclosure of areas of land field by field, possibly through assarting, as opposed to the wholesale enclosure of large tracts of land and the creation of large field systems.

Pigsty

A small building for housing pigs. Typically built as individual boxes, individually or in rows and with external feeding chutes. They were often built with their own individual yards. The only requirements for special accommodation were for farrowing, final fattening and accommodation of the boar.

On most farms only a few pigs were kept for domestic use and here they were normally fed on kitchen scraps or whey (a by-product of dairying) and so sties were often placed near the kitchen or dairy.

Pigs were most commonly kept in dairying areas or market-gardening areas, such as the Fens, where whey or potatoes were available for feed. Sometimes they were also integrated into the planning of the farmyard, commonly on larger farms where commercial fattening was practised. Any pre-19th century examples are of great rarity.

Characteristic features of pigsties are:

- Single-storey structures, with a gable entry to a first-floor hen house where lofts occur.

- Low entrances.
- Individual yards in some regions.
- Their construction in rows of three or more small and unlit boxes, often with a chute through the front wall into the feeding trough down which the swill could be thrown.
- A small chimneystack, marking the position of a boiler house for boiling swill for pig feed. These are most commonly found where pigs were kept on a commercial scale.

Imported feed sustained the growth of the pig industry in the inter-war period, more specialist producers taking the 'Danish' or 'Scandinavian' system as a model for the industrial housing of pigs. The American battery system of housing poultry was used for pigs from the late 1920s.

Pilaster

An ornamental rectangular column projecting from a wall.

Portal-framed shed

Mass-produced iron framed shed usually clad in metal sheeting.

Poultiggery

A building combining a pigsty at ground level with a poultry house in a loft over.

Poultry housing

Hens usually ran freely about a farmyard, but were encouraged to nest safely away from predators and so that the eggs could be collected. Hen houses usually included a small pop hole for the hens as well as a full-sized door for human access for feeding and egg-collection. The walls were lined with nest boxes. As is still the case, hen houses were usually relatively short-lived buildings and there are few survivals that can be described as historic. Where historic examples do survive they usually form part of another building, such as a pig-house: it was thought the chickens would keep the pigs warm and the pigs would frighten foxes away.

The combination of a hen house located above a pig house was described as a poultiggery in some areas (for example in North Shropshire and Northumberland).

Geese could be housed in free-standing pens or alcoves in farmyard walls.

Processing room

A room in a farmstead where fodder for animals would be prepared, usually with the aid of machinery such as chaff cutters, cake breakers and root crushers. See mixing barns, under barns.

Quoin

The stones or brickwork set at the corner of a building. Where poor quality building stone was used it was difficult to form corners to a building so the quoins would be made out of bricks or a better quality stone that could be worked square.

Regular fields

Rigorous rectilinear field system introduced over previously unenclosed land or to supersede earlier irregular enclosures. Mainly associated with the period of agricultural improvements from 1650, and especially from 1750.

Rick yard

A yard, usually sited close to the barn, in which the harvested corn crops could be stored in ricks or stacks to await threshing. The ricks would be built on raised platforms to protect the grain from rodents and thatched to protect from rain.

Also known in northern England as a stack yard.

Ridge and furrow

Long, parallel ridges of soil separated by linear depressions, caused by repeated ploughing using a heavy plough.

Ring-fenced

A term to describe a farm in which all the fields are held in a compact block as opposed to being intermixed with the fields of other farmers.

Root and fodder stores

Room often located close to or incorporated within the cattle housing.

As the use of fodder crops, such as turnips, and over-wintering of cattle became countrywide, there developed a need to store the fodder in earth clamps or small rooms. In some of the better-planned farmsteads the root and fodder stores would be incorporated into the cattle housing, usually located close to where the cattle were stalled with access between the two. On smaller farmsteads the root store was either a separate building or formed part of a combination building, perhaps being associated with a granary or workshop. At present, it is not possible to identify any particular features of these buildings, other than the building materials, that are regionally characteristic.

Salving

The rubbing of a tar-based mix into sheep, in order to guard against ticks etc.

Salving involved the boiling of Stockholm tar and tallow to make a mixture that was smeared all over the coat to protect against lice and scab as well as keep the fleece waterproof through the harsh winter. The practice of salving was carried out until the introduction of compulsory dipping as protection from scab in the early 20th century and very few of the sheds used for salving survive.

Shieling

Summer pasture for cattle or sheep with associated temporary huts for domestic or agricultural use.

Sheep housing

Evidence for sheep housing is very rare, as sheep rarely needed purpose-built structures. Barns, when empty, were sometimes used for shearing and sorting the wool.

The only times of year when all the sheep would be gathered together was for shearing and salving and dipping.

In medieval times it was common practice to provide sheep houses, or berceries, even in the south of England. Apart from possible medieval timber-framed sheepcotes in Hampshire there is only earthwork evidence for these buildings, but documentary sources show that in Gloucestershire at least they ranged from between eight and eighteen bays.

In Cumbria and elsewhere in northern England a building similar in appearance to a field barn was provided for the hogs or yearling sheep to give them protection over their first winter. Low floor-to-ceiling heights and upper floor haylofts are characteristic features of these buildings. The low ceiling to the ground floor below a hayloft is the characteristic feature of hogg houses. Sheep housing in other areas is associated with outfarms, such as on the southern downlands.

Before the adoption of enclosures of rough grazing in upland areas sheep were kept on both the low-lying commons and high moors to which nearly all farmers had access. Sheep stells are occasional and rare surviving features in the northern uplands.

Sheep washing was often carried out in ponds or streams where the watercourse might be artificially deepened or walled or, more unusually, sheep were dipped in specially constructed tanks. Enclosures funnelled towards the water's edge have been found.

In areas where watermeadows were a feature of the landscape sheep dips are sometimes found built in to the system of leats and sluices.

Shelter belts

Linear stand of trees, frequently but not exclusively conifer, planted to provide a wind break for settlement, livestock or crops.

Shelter sheds

Open-fronted structures for cattle facing onto cattle yards.

Shelter sheds, facing on to yards and either with haylofts above or simply single-storey, were increasingly built from the mid-18th century. Cattle yards with open-fronted sheds were typical of mixed farming areas where cattle were

housed on the steading as fatstock and for their manure. Common internal fittings were mangers and hayracks, and sometimes stalls.

18th century examples are very rare.

Shippon

A dialect term for cow house, commonly used in the North West and the South West peninsula.

Silage clamp

An airtight container for the storage of freshly cut grass. Silage was grown and stored from the 1880s.

Stable

A building for housing horses or working oxen.

After the barn, the stable is often the oldest building on the farmstead. A few stables dating to before 1700 have been identified in local surveys, while many more date from the 18th century. One of the reasons for this rise in number was the decline in the use of oxen.

A building for housing horses or working oxen. Stables were larger in corn-producing areas, where farms were larger and more horses were needed for ploughing and many other tasks. Fewer horses were needed in cattle-rearing or dairying areas.

They are usually two-storey and well-lit buildings, with ground-floor windows, pitching openings and ventilation to the first-floor loft and an external staircase. They can be distinguished from cow houses as they have tall and relatively narrow doors. Single-storey stables, commonly with cast-iron ridge vents, were built from the later 19th century.

Stable interiors are characterised by:

- Horses commonly stalled in pairs with stall divisions between them to stop them kicking each other. Cast-iron stable fittings often replaced wooden ones.
 - A manger and hayrack, the latter often accessed from a drop from the hayloft above.
 - Floors, cobbled and from the mid-19th century of engineering brick, sloping to a drainage channel.
 - A ladder to the loft. Also common in cowhouses.
 - The harness was usually kept in a separate room and chaff boxes were built in to the structure for storing feed. Small cubby-holes for keeping grooming brushes, medicines or lanterns were often built into the walls.
-

Stackyard

A northern English word for a rickyard.

Staddle barn

Threshing barn, usually timber framed and raised on staddle stones. Staddle barns date from the later 18th and early 19th centuries and may be an attempt to counter the greater predation of the brown rat. They are concentrated in the chalk downland areas of Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

Staddle stone

Staddle stones usually comprise two stones: an upright column that is capped by a circular stone of larger diameter, typically with a rounded top, together forming a mushroom shape. Staddle stones prevented rodents climbing up into granaries, ricks and staddle barns.

Stall

A standing for a cow or horse within a byre or stable. Stalls are usually divided by wooden or stone partitions to prevent animals biting and kicking each other.

Thrashing (or Threshing)

The removal of grain from the ears of corn crops. Thrashing by hand involved hitting the ears with a flail.

Thrashing barn See **barn**.

Tillage

The tending of land to prepare it for a crop.

Tithe

A payment of a tenth of crops and produce paid to the Rector of the church for his maintenance. Payment in kind was generally changed to a cash payment in the mid 19th century although this occurred earlier in some parishes.

Toft

The footprint of a house, sometimes raised or marked by earthworks where the house has been removed. Often adjoining a garth or croft.

Tower house

Multi-storey fortified hall house with one cross-wing raised in the form of a crenellated tower. 14th-17th century.

Topography

The features of the landscape; its hills, rivers, roads, woods and settlement.

Transhumance

Process of seasonal transfer of livestock between highland and lowland pastures.

Vaccary

A stock farm for cattle. Most vaccaries are of 12th or 13th century origin, and were built for ecclesiastical or lay lords. They are concentrated in the Pennines.

Vertical boarding

This comprises timber boarding applied vertically to a timber frame, with cover strips to prevent the ingress of rain. Surviving examples are concentrated in the South East, and date from the late 19th century.

Watermeadow

A valley floor meadow that was subject to controlled flooding using a system of drains and sluices to encourage early grass growth, providing spring food for sheep. The flooding brought nutrients onto the land, improving hay crops. Watermeadows were first developed in the West Midlands but became a characteristic feature of the chalk river valleys of Wessex.

Wattle

An interwoven panel usually made from hazel used to infill timber framing. Wattle could be covered in daub or left uncovered if more ventilation was required.

Well House

Farmsteads in some areas – especially on chalk downs - often had a well within or close to the farmyard which could be enclosed within a well-house.

Wheel house

A structure which housed a horse-engine for powering threshing machinery, and typically found projecting from barns. Also known as a gin gang in northern England.

The introduction of machine threshing after its invention in 1786 led to the erection in existing barns of additions to house machinery, for chopping and crushing fodder as well as threshing grain. Early machines were powered by horse engines in special-purpose semi-circular buildings, which projected from the barn and were commonly known as 'gin gangs' in the north of England. Steam, water and wind power were also used. The uptake of machinery varied across the country. In areas where labour was expensive mechanisation found favour; horse engine houses and evidence for water power being most common in the lowlands of Yorkshire and the Humber and the North East, in parts of the West Midlands and in the South West peninsula (especially Cornwall). In the southern counties, where labour was cheap and abundant until the 1850s or later, few barns bear evidence for the introduction of machinery.

Surviving horse wheels are extremely rare.

Winnowing

The separation of grain from the chaff, usually achieved by throwing the grain into the air and using the wind to blow the lighter chaff away from the grain.

Yorkshire boarding See **Hit-and-miss boarding**.
