

Glossary

□

æfen: six to nine in the evening
ætheling: male in the line of succession; king-worthy; prince
Anglisc: pertaining to Angles (the people, the language)
Arawn: British (wealth) underworld
baldric: wide belt for weapons worn crosswise over the shoulder
basilica: main hall of old Roman administration building
Belenos: British god
Beli Mawr: legendary British figure
Blodmonath: November
Cait Sith: black cat of British legends
ceorl: freeman
chape: tip of a scabbard, usually metal, often highly decorated
Coel Hen: fifth-century British king
cyrtel: loose, long-sleeved dress; informal
dryhten: absolute lord
ealdorman: high lord (similar to viceroy)
ell: about thirty inches
Elmetsætne: the people of Elmet
Eorðe: Anglisc goddess
etin: giant
freemartin: female calf masculinised in the womb by male twin
gemæcce: formal female friendship or partnership; one of a pair
gesith: member of a king's personal war band; elite warrior
Gewisse: people of Upper Thames area; West Saxons
hægtes: supernatural figure; witch

Hel: Anglisc for hell, a cold place
 Hrethmonath: March
 Hwicce: people of the area around Worcester; Saxons
 hythe: landing place or harbour
 Idings: royal dynasty of Bernicia
 league: about three miles
 Loides: ruling tribe of British Elmet
 Lyr: legendary British god
 mene: valley
 middæg: middle of the day, noon to three o'clock
 morgen: six to nine in the morning
 nithing: oath-breaker; one who is shunned
 Northumbria: Bernicia and Deira
 Æstremonath: April
 Oiscingas: royal dynasty of Kent
 pace: two strides, about five feet
 principia: old Roman administrative building
 redcrest: Roman
 rhyne: ditch, canal
 scop: Anglisc bard
 seax: knife with a large, single-edged blade
 selkie: mythical creature who lives as a seal in the sea but becomes
 human on land
 sidsa: magic
 Sigel: Anglisc god
 Sirona: Romano-British goddess
 snakesteel: pattern-welded steel
 snakestone: ammonite (fossil)
 Solmonath: February
 thegn: lord
 thung: poisonous flowers (e.g., wolfsbane)
 Thunor: Anglisc god
 tree hay: chopped-up brush, used as winter fodder
 tufa: king's standard
 undern: nine in the morning to noon
 vill: royal estate
 wariangle: butcher-bird, or strike
 wealh: Anglisc for "stranger" and root word of current "Welsh"
 Weodmonath: August
 wic: king's trading settlement, usually a port
 wight: supernatural figure, ghost
 Winterfylleth: October
 Witganmot: assembly of notables, usually annual

Woden: Anglisc god
Wuffings: East Anglian royal
dynasty wyrð: fate
Yffings: Deiran royal dynasty
Yr Hen Ogledd: the Old North; kingdoms of northern
England and southern Scotland