

Words in Wills Glossary:

Accident/accidence	Grammar book that deals with the inflection of words.
Accompt	Account.
Adze	Similar to an axe but with the blade at right angles to the handle, for smoothing wood surfaces.
Alembic	Apparatus used in distilling. Also see limbeck.
Allhollantide	All Saints' Day, 1st November.
Almain rivets	Kind of light, flexible armour.
Almerye	Cupboard.
Alum	Potassium (or sodium or ammonium) aluminium sulphate used in dyeing as a mordant, and also in tanning.
Ambling mare	Amble is a term used to describe a four-beat gait, faster than a walk, but slower than a canter or gallop and gave a very comfortable ride for long distances.
Andirons	Pair of bars with brackets for supporting a roasting spit.
Angel noble	Gold coin introduced in 1465 worth between 6s. 8d and 10s.
Angelot	Gold coin, first used in France, also known as an angel, in 1340, and introduced into England.
Aniseed	Seed of the aniseed plant used for digestive disorders.
Answerable	Related to, responsible for.
Apparel	Personal clothing.
Apparitor	An official sent to carry out the orders of a magistrate, judge, or court.
Apple roaster	Iron utensil used for roasting apples over an open fire.
Apron	Floor to waist protective panel on the front of a woman's dress, sometimes practical, sometimes very decorative.
Aquavite	'Water of life', used to describe any form of distilled spirits, such as brandy.
Armiger	Person entitled to heraldic arms.
Arming sword	A straight, double-edged weapon with a single-handed cruciform hilt and a blade length of about 70 to 80 centimetres (28 to 31 in).
Armory	See Aumbry.
Arquebus	Early smooth bore muzzle-loaded firearm with matchlock firing action. The first gun to be fired from the shoulder but was supported by a tripod when being fired. Superseded by the musket.
Arras	Rich tapestry in which figures and scenes are woven in colour; a hanging screen of the same material. Originally from the town in Artois, France.
Auger	Tool for boring holes in wood.
Aumbry/ambry	Wooden cupboard containing provisions, usually prepared foods rather than stores, kept in a cool place e.g. a buttery.
Avail	Advantage or net proceeds.
Awn	Bristle like appendage on the spikelets of grasses and grains.
Back board chair	Chair with a solid back which could be turned to lie flat on the arms, forming a table or board.

Backside	Rear of a property, back yard or farm yard.
Bacon charnel	Box constructed in the joist beam of the ceiling immediately above the main fireplace in which hooks are fixed for hanging and curing bacon.
Baize	Originally a fine, light material introduced by Huguenot refugees and the 16th century; subsequently a coarse woollen cloth with a raised nap, made with a worsted warp and woollen weft, used for curtains, coverings etc.
Bale/bail	Hoop handle of a kettle or similar vessel.
Band	Waistband or white collar. Metal hoop on a wheel rim.
Bandoleer	Leather shoulder belt to support a musket and carry cases containing cartridges or charges.
Bandore/bandora	Musical instrument resembling a guitar or lute with 3, 4 or 6 wire strings used as a bass to the cittern.
Banker	Cloth used to cover a seat or bench; a cushion for a form.
Barley roll	Wooden cylinder or 'hummeller' pressed down and rolled across a heap of barley to separate the grain from the awns.
Barm	Yeast, fermenting agent, froth on a head of beer when poured out.
Barm cover	Cover for the barm tub.
Barm tub	Tub used for fermentation in brewing.
Barracan	Waterproof woollen fabric.
Barrel	Vessel smaller than a hogshead in which liquids are stored.
Barton	Farmyard or enclosed area of ground used for a specific agricultural purpose eg a rick barton.
Bason	Bench with a plate of iron, or a stone flag set in it, and a fire underneath, one which the first part of the felting process in hatting was performed.
Bass viol	Musical instrument similar to the present day cello.
Batteler	Rank of Oxford University students between commoners and servitors who were supplied with provisions from the buttery; almost equivalent to a sizar at Cambridge.
Bay oil	Oil made from infusion of sweet laurel (bay) leaves and perhaps berries.
Beame knife	Long, heavy, curved knife used by tanners for removing hair from skins.
Bearing	Term applied to items that are suitable for carrying, e.g. baskets, buckets, tubs etc.
Bearing blanket	Baby's christening robe, cloth used to carry a child to church for baptism or cloth used in child bearing.
Beckhorn	Small anvil, or the pointed end of an anvil.
Bedsteadle	Framework on which a bed is made but differing in some way from a bedstead.
Bedstock	Bedstead, or its front and back parts.
Beetle	Heavy mallet with large wooden head or small wooden household mallet.
Behoof	Benefit, advantage.
Bell metal	Alloy of copper and tin.
Belly pooce/piece	Triangular stiffening of buckram or pasteboard, sewn to the

	lining on either side at about waist level to form a corset like ridge down the 'belly'.
Bench/bench board	Long form with a wooden backrest; the frame of the bench may be mentioned separately from the 'board' i.e. the seat. Sometimes fixed to the wall.
Bend-leather	Strongest kind of leather used for shoe soles; the half of a hide of sole-leather that was trimmed and divided before tanning.
Besom	Broom, usually made by tying a bunch of broom, or similar, round a handle.
Bickhorn	Small anvil, with two tapering ends.
Biliment lace	Ornamental lace used for trimming garments.
Bill	Crescent shaped cutter for copse clearing, hedging. Or an infantry weapon. Also chisel for cutting grooves in millstones.
Billet	Thick firewood cut to length for the fire.
Billhook	Small cutting tool used for cutting wood, shrubs and branches.
Bing	Bin or box for corn or flour.
Bird work	Embroidery depicting birds.
Birding piece	See fowling piece.
Black bill	Polearm weapon similar to a halberd but 5 or 6ft (1.5 or 1.8m) long.
Black jack	Large leather beer jug coated with tar.
Blackwork	Type of embroidery done in black thread on a white background.
Bluet	A bluish woollen cloth.
Bodice	Linen garment for the upper part of a woman's body, strengthened with whalebone; also that part of a woman's dress above the waist, made separately from the kirtle.
Bodkin	Small pointed, multi-purpose tool, often used in hunting.
Bole Armeniac	Pale, reddish earth from Armenia, used medicinally and also as a constituent in gold size and canvas priming.
Bolster	Long stuffed pillow.
Bolt	Flour sieve, sifter.
Bolter	Cloth used for sifting meal or flour.
Bolting cloth	Fine cloth used for bolting i.e. sifting or sieving corn; the process of separating the flour from the husk.
Bolting house	Room where flour is sifted and bread made.
Bolting which/hutch	Tub into which grain is sifted from the husks, or flour from the bran.
Bone lace	Lace named after the immigrants from Mechelin and Lille who made it with bobbins made of bone.
Book of Martyrs	Work of Protestant history and martyrology by John Foxe , first published in English in 1563.
Boot	Make good or make up.
Boot-hose	Hose worn inside boots to stop under hose becoming soiled.
Boulter	Long fishing line with many hooks.

Bow handle/hurdle	Pole about six feet long on which a catgut string was stretched. The material from which hats were made was opened out on this construction.
Bow stave	Wooden part of a bow for shooting arrows.
Box iron	Hollow, triangular-shaped iron in which hot coals were placed.
Branches/branch candle	Chandeliers, often made of brass, with a number of arms or branches.
Brandiron	Alternative name for gridiron. A type of sword.
Brasen/brason	Made of brass.
Brauchin	Collar for a horse, made of old stockings and stuffed with straw.
Bread grate	Wooden slatted crate suspended from the ceiling for bread storage.
Brimstone	Sulphur, used medicinally.
Brish	Brush.
Broadaxe	Used to shape hewn logs and timber.
Broche/broach/brooch	Spit for roasting.
Broken wool	Tags picked from the fleece or collected from the floor of the shearing pen.
Brown bill	Kind of halberd painted brown, once used by foot soldiers and watchmen.
Buck leather	See Buckskin.
Bucking	Process of steeping clothes in lye to clean them when soap was expensive. After steeping the clothes were beaten with flat wooden bats.
Bucking tub	Vessel for steeping clothes.
Buckler	Small round shield held by a handle or worn on the forearm.
Buckram	Fine linen or cotton; subsequently coarse linen stiffened with paste or gum.
Buckskin	Leather made from the hide of a buck, mostly for breeches and sometimes gloves.
Budge	Lambskin with the wool dressed outside to resemble fur.
Bulchin	Bull calf.
Burling iron	Clothier's iron for removing unevenness in finished cloth.
Bushel	Eight gallons.
Buttery	Store room for drink and food; a cool room as opposed to the kitchen.
Buttress	Tool used to pare horses' hooves before shoeing.
Caddow/cadawe	Coarse woollen covering, made in Ireland, and used as a horse blanket or a bed covering.
Calash	Light carriage with two or four low wheels and a collapsible top. By the late 18th century also a woman's folding bonnet.
Calico	General name for light cotton cloths, originally plain, but later frequently printed with designs, and glazed.
Caliver	Light musket or blunderbuss.
Cambric	Originally a kind of fine, white, plain-weave linen cloth made at or near Cambrai.
Camel hair	Fabric spun from camel hair and imported from Turkey. The

	outer coarse guard hair was blended with wool, the soft undercoat was collected during the annual moult. Usually tan in colour.
Camlet	Fine, light linen made from a mix of wool, silk and hair particularly from the wool of angora goats.
Candlebranch	Socket for a candle or chandelier.
Candlemas	2 February.
Canopy	Tester cloth covering the upper rectangular part of a four poster bed.
Canvas	Coarse unbleached cloth made from hemp or flax, used especially for window curtains and for supporting mattresses; very popular for doublets.
Capcase	Small travelling case or band box. Small chest for linen and plate.
Card	Iron toothed comb use to part and comb out fibres of wool or flax in preparation for spinning or to raise the nap on cloth. Used in pairs, one of which was a fixed stock card, the other held in the hand.
Carnation tape	Probably a tape with a red or flesh-coloured tape, as in the colour of the flower.
Carpet	Heavily woven wool used as bed covering or table cloths. Not usually for the floor except in houses of the very wealthy.
Carpet cushion	Thin cushion for benches and seating.
Cart saddle	Small saddle for a horse's back to support the shafts.
Cart stroke/strake	Section of rim of wheel.
Cartebote	Right to wood or timber for the construction and maintenance of a cart and other agricultural implements; a right normally enjoyed by tenants.
Cassock	Long loose coat or gown, worn by both sexes.
Cast Back	Iron fire-back.
Castile soap	Fine, hard soap from Spain made with olive oil and soda.
Casting counter	A jetton or reckoning counter. Coin-like token for use in calculation of accounts.
Castor	Best quality beaver fur.
Castor hat	Hat made of beaver fur (in the 16th century); later of rabbit skin or mixed fibres.
Cathern	Cauldron.
Cattle	Word for goods. 'Chattel' was derived from the word cattle. The number of cattle owned was a measure of wealth so the word changed its meaning to goods owned.
Caudle cup	Cup used for drinks of hot milk curdled with wine or ale.
Cauldron	Large metal vessel with three legs for stewing over a fire
Caving rake	Rake for separating the chaff or cavings from grain spread out on a barn or threshing floor.
Ceiling	Canopy over a four poster bed.
Chafer	Small lidded dish for hot ashes or charcoal for heating food.
Chafing dish	Vessel to hold burning charcoal or other fuel, for heating anything placed upon it.

Chair stool	Chair with a back but no arms; stool with a back.
Chair table	Chair with a solid back which could be folded down on to its arms to form a table.
Cham(b)let	See camlet.
Chare	Plough share. Chair.
Charger	Large flat dish for serving meat.
Chattel	Movable possessions, including livestock.
Chattle lease	Leasehold farm or holding.
Cheese cloth	Open weave flax linen.
Cheyney	Printed woollen or worsted fabric sometimes used for curtains.
Chimney/iron chimney	Fire back, or more probably a flat iron base for a hearth.
Chipping knife	Also chopping knife and ranning knife, for cutting meat into strips.
Chirurgery	Archaic term for surgery.
Christening sheet	White sheet or robe worn by babies and children at baptism.
Cistern	Water container for the household sometimes called a lead and frequently located in the kitchen. Brewing vat.
Cittern/cithern	Guitar-like instrument but strung with wire and played with a plectrum or quill. Much used in the 16th and 17th centuries.
Cleft wood	Split wood.
Clensieve	A fine sieve, often used to strain honey.
Close	Hedged, fenced or walled piece of land.
Clowt leather	Leather for patching.
Coal rake	For raking cinders from an oven when it was hot enough to bake bread.
Cobiron	Bar with hooks which supported a spit over the hearth, used instead of andirons. They rested at an angle at the back of the fireplace with the spit placed on two hooks. Can also be a cradle for firewood.
Cockloft	Space between the ceiling and the roof, reached by ladder; perhaps an attic or garret. The room where fowl were supposed to roost.
Coffer	Wooden box or chest used for storing clothes and other valuables.
Coffin	Small chest or box.
Coif	Close fitting cap that covers the top, sides and back of the head.
Collar maker	Usually maker of bridles and halters.
Conduct	Hired man, usually applied to a singing man, whether lay or cleric; the term is still in use at Eton College for a chaplain.
Coney	Rabbit and hence its fur or skin.
Coop	Basket, probably wicker; small shed or hutch for poultry or other small animals; a cart with closed sides and ends for carting dung, like etc.
Coorse	Set of handles for shears.
Coploft	The cop or top of the house. May be a corruption of cock and loft, the room over the garret where fowl were meant to roost.

Copyholder	Tenant who held his land by copy of court roll.
Coral	Toy of polished coral given to teething infants.
Cord	Cords were attached to bed frames to form a tight web to support rush or straw mat. Also a measure of sawn wood.
Cord wood	Small branches cut in lengths of four feet or so and stacked in cords, for fuel and charcoal-making.
Cordwainer	Leather worker, usually a shoemaker.
Corselet/corslet	Light iron breast plate.
Cotland	Piece of arable land (of about 5 acres).
Cotlander/cotter	Cottager who keeps a horse for ploughing his small piece of land.
Cotted	Matted, tangled. Said especially of a fleece. Being so matted together and very difficult to separate.
Cotterell	Adjustable hook or bar for hanging pots over a fire.
Coulter/culter	Part of a plough supporting the share.
Counter/counter table	Dresser or side table. Desk or writing table where accounts could be prepared.
Counterpane/ counterpoint	Quilted coverlet; the uppermost covering for a bed.
Couple	Ewe and lamb together.
Course	Course of handles – a set of handles.
Court cupboard	Early form of sideboard built in two parts, one or both may incorporate a cupboard. Linen or plate was usually stored in the cupboard and the flat top used to display plate.
Coverlet	Top layer of bed covering, a quilt or counterpane.
Cozen	Trick or deceive.
Crab mill/wrench	Press for pounding or crushing crab apples in the making of cider or verjuice.
Cricket	Low foot stool, three-legged, perhaps used when milking cows.
Crock	Metal pot generally of brass or iron, with three short legs and a handle from which it could be hung. Small earthenware pan.
Crow/croe	Bar of iron with one end slightly bent used as a lever. A crow-bar.
Cruet	Small vessel for liquids etc. Or a small ecclesiastical vessel to hold wine or water for use in the Eucharist.
Cruse	Small glass bottle holding vinegar or oil, which could be poured out slowly through a narrow pipe on the side. Small earthenware jar or pot, usually for drinking.
Currier	Early firearm similar to an arquebus.
Curtilage	Court, yard or ground attached to a house; also one enclosed within.
Curver	Possibly a large, curved knife similar to a scimitar.
Cushion stool	Stool with a padded seat.
Cut work	Open work lace or embroidery.
Cypress	Wood from the Cypress tree. Various kinds of valuable textiles imported from Cyprus.
Damask	Patterned cloth originally made in Damascus. Twilled, linen

	with designs shown up by opposite reflections of light.
Dark lantern	Candle lantern with a sliding shutter so that it may conveniently be made dark without extinguishing the candle.
Delft/delph ware	Good quality blue and white tin glazed earthenware of a type originally made in Delft.
Demesne	Part of a manor not held by tenants but kept for use and profit of the lord of the manor; later farmed out to one man.
Demy lance staff	Lance with short staff used in 15th and 16th centuries.
Denizen	An inhabitant or occupant of a particular place.
Desperate debt	A debt having little hope of recovery.
Diaper	Linen with a diamond pattern in the weave.
Dicker	Number of ten, half a score, being the customary unit of exchange when dealing in certain articles eg hides or skins hence a package or lot of 10 hides.
Dight	To winnow.
Dimity	Stout cotton fabric with raised stripes or fancy figures, used undyed mainly for bed coverings and hangings.
Dornyx/dornick	Fabric used for hangings, carpets etc originating from Doornick, a Flemish town.
Doublet	Sleeveless jacket.
Dough break/brake	Machine for mixing and kneading dough.
Dower	A widow's share for life of her husband's estate.
Dowlas	Coarse linen or calico used by the poor for sheets, skirts, smocks etc. originally from Daoules or Doulas in Brittany.
Drag	Heavy harrow for breaking up ground.
Draught	Measure of wool.
Drawers	Garment for the lower part of the body and legs. Early instances - stockings.
Drawing knife	Carpenter's tool for shaving and smoothing wood.
Dredge	Mix of grains, mostly oats and barley sown together.
Dresser	Any tool used to dress or prepare objects, e.g. a shoemaker's tool for preparing leather. A table or flat board for preparing food, dressing meat or displaying plate or pewter.
Dressing	Trimming (as in edging for clothing).
Dripping pan	Vessel placed beneath meat roasting on spits to catch the fat.
Drugget	Coarse, woollen material, or half wool and half silk or linen. Also a coarse, felted woollen cloth used for floor coverings.
Dry vat	Container for corn, meal and other dry goods.
Dungpot	Tub which could be strapped to a horse for taking dung to the fields.
Dutch pink	Greenish yellow pigment formed of chalk, coloured by berries and vegetables.
Dyer's weed	Term given to <i>Tstatis Tinctoria</i> that yields a blue dye.
Ear	Handle of a dish or pot.
Ell	Measurement of length, formerly a cubit. Originally approx 45 inches; later 36 inches.
Enciente	Pregnant.

Enfeoff	Give someone freehold property or land in exchange for their pledged service.
Ex	Axle of a wheel.
Faggot	Bundle of sticks bound together for the fire.
Falling band	Turned down collar at first attached to a shirt but from c. 1585 a separate item. Worn as an alternative to a ruff.
Fann/van	Winnowing fan, shallow wicker basket from which the grain was thrown by hand.
Feast of St John the Baptist	24 June.
Feast of St Michael the Archangel	29 September.
Feast of St Philip & St James	1 May.
Feast of St Thomas	21 December.
Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	25 March.
Feeding	Grazing ground, pasturage.
Fell	Skin of an animal, including its hair or wool.
Fellmonger	Dealer in hides or skins, particularly sheepskins, who might also prepare skins for tanning.
Felloe/felly	Segment of a ring of wood just inside the iron tyre of a wagon wheel to which the spokes are attached. Usually made of ash or beech.
Felt	Felt hat.
Fenugreek	Leguminous herb of the pea family grown for its seed which was used as a diuretic.
Ferret	Stout cotton or silk tape, used for garters etc, often decorated. Also a domesticated polecat.
Fetches/Vetches	Bean like fruit of legume used for cattle fodder.
Fetter	Shackles, especially for a horse.
Field bedstead	Bed designed for rough use, rather like a modern camp bed.
Filleting	Narrow ribbon or tape.
Fir	Timber from a pine tree, for making chests and coffers.
Fire pike	Long poker used in the hearth.
Fire slice	Fire shovel.
Firelock	Musket in which the priming is fired by sparks.
Firkin	Small cask for 8 gallons ale, 9 gallons beer or 56lbs solid measure. Half a kilderkin or quarter of a barrel.
Fitch/fitchet	Fitch is the fur of the polecat. It has a yellow ground, with long, soft, black shining hairs on its surface, which are exclusively used for artists' brushes. The fur is not in great demand for fabrics as it emits an unpleasant odour.
Fitchew	Pole cat or weasel and hence its fur or skin.
Flag	Rush, reed or coarse grass wickerwork.
Flagon	Large cask or vessel containing a supply of drink for use at table.
Flagon chain	Chain bracelet to which a smelling bottle could be attached.

Flanders chest	Large wooden chest from Flanders often made from oak and decorated with elaborate carvings.
Flanders gridiron	Gridiron made in Flanders.
Flasket	Long shallow basket with a handle at each end, or an oval washing tub; A small barrel for taking beer to the field. Tub for washing clothes in or for clothiers to size their warp.
Flat iron	Solid metal smoothing iron, heated beside the fire.
Flaxen cloth	Cloth made from the flax plant.
Flesh hook	Bar with hooks at one end, for getting meat out of a pot.
Flitch	Side of an animal, usually bacon, salted and cured and hung.
Flittern	Young oak or strip of the bark preferred by tanners.
Flock	Stuffing made from woollen refuse.
Foins	Clothing or trimmings made of the fur of the beech-marten, polecat or weasel and similar animals.
Fold pitcher	Iron crowbar used in pitching or setting up hurdles.
Follower	Part of a cider or cheese press by which pressure is applied.
Foot	Ale warmer, metal utensil that could be thrust into the fire. Measure used in selling meat.
Forcer	Small chest, sometimes leather-covered and strengthened with iron band, used to hold documents, jewellery and other valuables.
Forehead cloth	Band worn by ladies on the forehead.
Forest bill	A billhook used by woodsmen.
Forfend	Forbid.
Foundered horse	Horse suffering from a debilitating disease of the foot, now known as laminitis.
Fowling piece	Narrow bore, long barrelled gun for shooting game.
French barley	Buck wheat, grown for animal fodder.
Frieze	Thick, coarse woollen cloth with nap on one side, used for outer garments.
Fuller's earth	Mixed with water, kneaded into woollen cloth to absorb lanolin, oils and other greasy impurities as part of the cloth finishing process.
Furnace	Large metal pot usually used for boiling or brewing.
Fustian	Rough fabric made from cotton and linen, often dyed in dark colours.
Gabardine	Cotton or silk material with a woollen lining. A coarse loose frock or smock.
Gainsay	Deny, dispute, contradict.
Gall	An excrescence from the leaves and young twigs of the oak, used to make ink and tannin as well as in medicines and in dyeing. Ox gall, used in painting and pharmacy.
Galloon	Narrow, close-woven ribbon or braid of gold, silver, silk or copper for trimming articles of apparel.
Gally pot	Small glazed earthenware pot.
Gallygaskin/galligaskin	Loose, wide breeches or hose as worn by men in the 17th century. Leather leggings as worn in the 19th century. Leggings or gaiters.

Garner	Chest, storehouse or small barn for storing corn etc.
Garnish	Set of table vessels – saucers, dishes, plates and chargers made of pewter; usually twelve of the first three items.
Gaskins	From ‘galligaskins’ – loosely fitting breeches. Leggings or gaiters.
Gate	Right to graze an animal on the common pasture.
Gawn	A gallon; a ladle or pail holding half a gallon.
Gimmel	See gymmowe.
Gimp	Type of mohair. Coarse lace on a wire or twine foundation used for trimming wearing apparel.
Girdle	Chain worn around the waist, knotted or buckled with the end left hanging almost to the ground and sometimes used to carry a purse or a sword. Griddle - round iron plate used in baking.
Goddard	Goblet.
Goodman	Courtesy term for men of substance beneath the rank of the gentry.
Goodwife	Female equivalent of goodman; the mistress of a house.
Gorget	Throat and neck armour. Article of female dress covering the throat.
Grammar	Book or treatise on grammar.
Grapple	Iron bar with claws on one end.
Grazier	Person who rears or fattens cattle or sheep for market.
Green skin	Untanned hide.
Gridiron	A short legged, long handled grate for broiling food over an open fire.
Grist	Corn about to be ground, or when it has just been ground.
Groaning chair	Chair for a nursing mother to sit in when receiving visitors after childbirth.
Groat	Silver coin worth four pence issued between 1351 and 1662.
Grosgrain	Stout, silk fabric of rich quality showing a cord, less obvious than in poplin, running from selvedge to selvedge.
Grout	A mix of herbs used to flavour beer. It was added to ground malt prior to mashing.
Gum Arabic	Gum obtained from acacia, used medicinally.
Gymmowe	Finger ring (rarely an ear-ring), so made that it can be broken into two or three rings.
Hack	Mattock, pick-axe or large hoe. Rack for drying cheeses or for holding fodder.
Hackbut/harquebus	Obsolete firearm with long muzzle loading barrel.
Hackle	Metal comb for splitting fibres of hemp and flax to make them straight and smooth.
Hair/hair cloth	Stiff, wiry cloth made of horse hair taken from the mane and tail. Can be used as a mat on which malt was spread to dry over a kiln, a sieve.
Halberd/halbert	Weapon, a combination of spear and battle-axe sharp edged blade on a 5-7ft long handle.
Hames	2 curved pieces of wood which formed a horse’s collar, with

	hooks to which the traces were attached so that the horse's shoulder did the pulling.
Hamper	Large wicker basket with cover, used as a packing case for clothes.
Handleband	Tape made of coarse hempen cloth.
Hanger	Loop or strap on a girdle for attaching a scabbard to carry a sword, or for carrying keys. Also a short sword.
Hard corn	Annually grown cereal grass bearing grains or kernels on large ears.
Harness	Body armour for a soldier whether a cavalryman or foot-soldier; a suit of mail. Also the mounting or metalwork of a girdle. Also the frame on a loom that holds the heddles.
Harrateen	Linen fabric used for bed curtains.
Hay	Net used for catching wild animals especially rabbits. They were stretched in front of their burrows.
Hay	Hedge, fence. Enclosure. A park (1630).
Hay/hay mow	Hay loft over a cow house.
Hayse	House – either a dwelling house or a building to keep animals.
Head piece	Head armour, helmet.
Heckferth	Heifer, young cow that has not had a calf.
Heddle	Cord or wire on a loom with an eye in the centre through which the warp passes, held in a frame or harness.
Hedge-bill	Tool used to trim hedges and trees.
Hedgeboot	The right to take timber for hedges.
Heling	A coverlet on a bed.
Helm	Straw, especially when tied up in bundles ready for thatching. A quantity of rye or oats. The haft of a hammer, spade or other tool; a handle.
Heriot	Render due to the lord on the death of a tenant, usually the best beast, but cash payments might also be accepted.
Hide	Skin of an animal, raw or dressed, more particularly applied to the skin of larger beasts and such as may be tanned into leather.
Hocktide	Season of Hockdays: Hock Monday, Hock Tuesday (the second Monday and Tuesday after Easter day), long kept as a festival with various traditional customs.
Hog	Usually a castrated boar for slaughter.
Hoggerel	Yearling sheep not yet shorn.
Hogshead	Cask for beer etc usually holding 63 old wine gallons (52½ imperial gallons).
Hogswash	Swill when a hogshead is washed out; it was fed to pigs.
Holland cloth	A high quality, fine linen fabric originally made in the Netherlands.
Hollantide	Corruption of Allantide and Allhallowtide. Celebrated on 31 October.
Hoop	Quart measuring cup for meal used in cake-making.
Horn	Thimble used in conjunction with a knife.
Hornbook	Teaching aid containing a page with the alphabet, religious

	material etc. covered with a film of transparent horn or mica.
Horse lock	Hobble or shackle for a horse's foot to prevent it straying or whilst it was being shod.
Horseman's Staff/Pick	Weapon of Islamic origin used by cavalry. A type of war hammer that had a very long spike on the reverse of the hammer head. Usually the spike was slightly curved downwards, much like a miner's pickaxe.
Hose	Thigh length stockings usually of wool, worn by men.
Housewife cloth	Middling grade of cloth for various uses.
Hovel	Storage shed or outhouse, usually without sides, used to store farm implements, produce or cattle. Also the frame of stand on which a rick of corn is built, or on which peas or hay can be dried, perhaps with a thatched cover.
Huckaback	Linen fabric with weft threads thrown up alternately to make a rough surface as in towelling.
Hull cub	Chest or bin for storing pods or husks of peas or beans, wheat or bran.
Hulme	Mass of pea pods, stalks and leaves.
Humber barrel	Barrel of 42 gallons. Humber is also a grayling freshwater fish of the salmon family.
Humberkin	A barrel containing 36 gallons.
Husbandman	Smallholder tilling the land.
Hutch	Small lightly built boarded chest, box, coffer or cupboard on legs or sometimes on the wall, used for the storage of corn, meal etc.
Imprimis	In the first place.
Inderkins	A coarse narrow cloth from Germany: made of the worst of hemp.
Indico	Indigo.
Ink horn	Ink pot, originally made of horn.
Inkle	Coarse linen tape or braid, or the yarn from which it was made, much used for shoelaces, girdles, apron strings etc.
Intromitter	One who interferes or deals with the property of another.
Irish stitch/work	White embroidery on a white background.
Iron back	Fire back, protecting the back of the hearth, usually decorated.
Item	Likewise.
Jack	Labour saving device that turns a spit. Leather bottle for holding liquor. Buff jerkin worn by soldiers otr type of jacket worn by women.
Jag	Bundle, as of hay.
Javelin	Pike or lance; a pointed weapon with a long shaft for thrusting.
Jennet	Carpenter's adze.
Jerkin	Close fitting jacket, short coat often made of leather.
Joined	In furniture, joins made by the use of mortice and tenon; a better class than trestles for instance.
Jointure	An estate settled on a wife for the period during which she survives her husband, in lien of a dower.

Jordan almond	A fine quality, large almond for eating with raisins. Grown in Spain and the name may derive from the French 'jardin'.
Joule	
Keb house	Shelter erected for young lambs in the lambing season. The keb house was divided by small stalls or partitions called perricks.
Keb/kebber	Ewe that has lost her lamb. In Hampshire a young sheep unfit to join the main flock but of value for fattening for meat.
Keel/kell	A tub or vat for holding liquor.
Kerchief	Woman's head cloth; a handkerchief.
Kersey	Coarse narrow, ribbed woollen cloth woven from long wool. Originally from Kersey in Suffolk.
Kettle	Deep, open cooking pot with handles to suspend it over a fire.
Kilderkin	Cask for 18 gallons of beer or 16 gallons of ale. Butter may also be stored in kilderkins of various sizes.
Kine	Cows, usually for milking.
Kine-vat	Cattle trough.
Kip	Osier basket, broad at the top and narrow at the bottom.
Kirtell/kirtle	Short gown or petticoat; a man's coat or tunic reaching at least to the knees.
Kit/kitt	Staved wooden vessel, especially a milking pail with a cover and one or two ears; a bucket, small barrel or brewing vessel.
Kive	Vat or barrel used in brewing, washing clothes or bleaching.
Kiver	Shallow wooden vessel or tub.
Knee	Bent piece of wood used as a brace. Protuberant woody growth on certain trees.
Knot	Quantity of yarn or thread.
Lade	Framework fixed to the side of a cart or wain for high loads.
Lade gorn/pail	Pail with a long handle to ladle out water.
Lanon	Andiron.
Lanthorn	Variation of lantern; a transparent case e.g. of horn enclosing a light.
Last	Mould of the human foot in wood on which boots and shoes are shaped or repaired.
Lath	Strip of wood used to form a wall or partition and in building work; also used as a framework for slates and tiles.
Latten	Mixed metal of yellow colour, the same as or closely resembling brass.
Lattice	Structure made of laths used as a screen in windows without glass.
Laver	Metal wash basin or jug; a cistern, trough or cistern.
Lawn	Fine linen resembling cambric.
Lease/leas	Quantity of wheat from which impurities had been removed prior to threshing.
Leasow	Pasture or meadow which might be enclosed or common.
Leavings	Remainder, what is left, residue. Poorest sort, shreds, fragments.

Lent corn	Corn sown in lent.
Lettice	Grey or whitish fur.
Lily-pot	Flower pot with a lily growing in it; frequently as a symbolic accessory in pictures of the Annunciation. An ornamental vase imitating this. A tobacco jar.
Limbeck	Copper or glass apparatus used in distilling; a still. Also see alembic.
Lime	Solution for removing hair from skins.
Line	Rope, cord, string.
Linsey	Coarse twill fabric, a type of kersey.
List	The selvage, border or edge of a cloth, usually of a different material from the cloth itself. Strips of cloth or patchwork.
Listen/lysten	A coarse cloth or yarn.
Liten	Cemetery.
Livery	Supply of food and drink. Distinctive clothing bestowed by an employer on his household staff.
Livery cupboard	Cupboard for keeping clothes. Cupboard with perforated doors for the storage of food. Cupboard used for bread and wine in the sleeping quarters.
Livery table	Large side table or one on which a livery cupboard was placed.
Lock	Quantity of wool hanging together; the short wool or fragments from a fleece.
Lockeram/lockram	Coarse, loosely woven linen.
Logger	Log or block of wood fastened to a horse's feet to prevent it straying.
Loom	Open vessel such as a bucket, tub, vat etc. – perhaps for use in brewing. Or machine for weaving yarn or thread into fabric. Or an implement, tool, or utensil of any kind.
Lop wood	Small branches and twigs lopped from a tree.
Loring	Teaching, instruction.
Lug	Long stick or pole; the branch of a tree.
Lumber	Disused furniture, useless odds and ends.
Lye	Alkaline solution used as an alternative to soap.
Lysten/listen	A coarse cloth or yarn.
Mace	Dried outer coating of a nutmeg used in cooking and medicines.
Mailing Cord	Cord used to tie or wrap up eg a sack of cloth.
Malmsey	Sweet fortified wine originally made in Greece and now produced mainly in Madeira.
Malt mill	Hand operated mill for grinding malt before brewing.
Malt mill	Mill for grinding or crushing malt.
Mandrel	Shaft or spindle in a lathe, to which work is fixed while being turned. Also a rod round which metal or other material is forged or shaped.
Manger	Trough from which animals eat.
Mantel	Piece of timber or stone above the front of a fireplace, at the base of the flue often having a shelf or mantelpiece.
Mantle	Loose sleeved cloak or overcoat. Blanket of woollen cloth.

Manure	Dung or compost used as a fertiliser. To hold property and administer, carry out.
March beer	Strong beer brewed in March.
Marl	Lime rich clay used as a soil conditioner.
Martinmas beef	Fattened cattle slaughtered on 11 November at a time of feasting when autumn wheat seeding was completed.
Maslin	Mixed grain especially rye mixed with wheat.
Mat	Plaited rush or straw mat placed over the cords of a bed; a mattress.
Mattock	Kind of pick axe with one end of the blade arched and flattened at right angles to the handle.
Mazer	Hard wood (maple wood) used as material for drinking cups. Bowl, cup or goblet without a foot originally made of mazer, sometimes ornamented with silver; could be wholly of metal.
Medley	Cloth woven from wool of various colours.
Mercer	A dealer in textile fabrics especially in silks, velvets and other costly materials. Also a small-ware dealer.
Messuage	Dwelling house and its appurtenances i.e. outbuildings, garden etc.
Met	Measure of 1 or 2 bushels.
Milan fustian	Some of the earliest fustians were manufactured in Milan, hence the name, sometimes Anglicized as 'million fustian'.
Milch kine	Milking cow.
Mill bill	Chisel ended tool used for dressing or sharpening the grinding surface of a millstones. Also called mill chisel.
Mill puff	Type of flock used for stuffing mattresses.
Misling	See maslin.
Mockade/mockado	Fine cloth originally made of mohair, but subsequently of either silk and wool or silk and linen, with a pile surface. It originated in Flanders and was made by Huguenot refugees in Norwich. Much used for clothing.
Moiety	A half.
Monmouth cap	Knitted cap with tall crown and no brim or turn up. Worn by Welshmen, sailors, soldiers and others for comfort. Made at Monmouth and also Bewdley, Worcs.
Montains/muntins/ mountains	In panelling, the central vertical piece of wood between two panels.
Months mind	Memorial service held one month after death. Legacies to pay for the candles used in this service were often included in pre-reformation wills.
Mordant	A reagent that fixes dyes to cells, tissues, or textiles or other materials.
Morris pike	Pike thought to be of Moorish origin.
Moulding board	Board for kneading dough or metal plate on a plough which turns over the furrow slice.
Moulds/moles	Mules or a kind of slipper.
Mouse latch	Mouse trap.
Mouse snatch	Mouse trap.
Mow of hay/moughe	Stack, a heap and later the part of a barn where hay is

	kept.
Muffatees	Worsted cuffs worn on the wrist; fingerless mittens.
Mustard ball/pellet	Fire ball used for kindling fires.
Nail	Unit of cloth measure equal to 1/16 th of a yard, or 2¼ inches.
Napery	Table linen.
Nave	See stock.
Neck rail	Kerchief worn around the neck.
Neckinger	Kerchief worn around the neck.
Noble	Angel noble. Gold coin introduced in 1465 worth between 6s. 8d and 10s.
Nock	Small tip of horn fixed at each end of a bow provided with a notch for holding the string. Also small piece of horn fixed in the butt end of an arrow provided with a notch cut into it.
Noggin	Small drinking vessel, sometimes holding a quarter of a pint and made of earthenware; also refers to the quantity it holds.
Nonage	Condition of being under age.
Nuncupative	Will declared verbally.
Nut	Cup made from, or resembling, a coconut shell, mounted on a metal foot.
Nutmeg	Nut used for culinary and medicinal purposes. Small nuts were often ground into a semi-solid mass called mace butter.
Nycette	Breast cloth or light wrapper for the bosom and neck.
Oast hair	Used to cover the frame on which barley was spread during the malting process.
Obit	Service of remembrance for one dead, usually kept annually, but sometimes monthly. Also called a yeremind.
Obligation	Legal agreement whereby a person becomes bound to another for the payment of a sum of money or performance of some service.
Obsequies	Funeral rites, funeral service.
Orpharion	Musical instrument similar to a lute.
Orris	Lace patterned with gold or silver; embroidery made with gold lace.
Ostrey	Hostelry, inn.
Over leather	Upper leather of a shoe.
Pad	See panel.
Painted cloth	Canvas with painted pictures, used as draught excluders, wall hangings; cheap form of tapestry.
Pale	Stake for fencing.
Pancheon	Large, shallow earthenware bowl in which milk was allowed to stand in order to allow the cream to separate.
Panel/pannall	Piece of cloth placed under the saddle of a horse.
Pantofle	High heeled slipper or light shoe.
Pap pan	Pan used to keep food and drink warm.
Parcel	Piece or quantity of things, e.g. a piece of land or indefinite quantity of items.

Parcel gilt	Lightly or partly gilded silver, often having inner surface gilded.
Parch	Dry or scorch corn by heating in an oven prior to grinding.
Parrock	Croft, small field or paddock.
Partizan	Pike with a long, double-edged blade, with various projections on each side which were mirror images of each other. Usually used by an officer.
Partlet	Woman's garment covering the neck and upper chest, usually ruffled.
Patten iron	Oval iron ring with wooden sole attached with a leather loop passing over the instep of the foot to raise the wearer above the dirty ground.
Pauncer/pauncher	Belt or girdle for the breeches, a breech-belt. Part of the armour of 14th -15th centuries which covered lower part of body.
Peal/peel	Paddle shaped blade with a long handle used for placing bread etc into and from the oven.
Peck	Measure for 2 gallons of dry goods.
Penistone	Coarse woollen cloth for garments made in Penistone, Yorkshire.
Pennyweight	Weight equal to ounce troy or 24 grains (1.5552 grams).
Pepper corn, powne, quern	Hand mill for grinding pepper.
Periwig	Wig made of long hair, often with curls on the sides, and drawn back on the nape of the neck. Also called a peruke.
Perk	Wooden frame over which cloth was drawn so that it could be examined.
Perpetuana	Durable wool serge fabric.
Perrick	Small stall or partition in a keb house.
Peruke	Wig made of long hair, often with curls on the sides, and drawn back on the nape of the neck.. Sometimes called a periwig.
Petticoat	Woman's skirt worn externally. A man's small coat worn beneath the doublet.
Pewter, garnish of	Full set of 12 pewter platters, dishes, saucers and including one or more chargers.
Piddle	Small field or enclosure.
Pier glass	Looking glass designed to be placed on the wall pillar between two windows.
Pightle	Small field or enclosure.
Pillion	Light saddle for a woman or cushion attached to the rear of a saddle to enable a second person to ride a horse.
Pillow bere/beer	Pillow case.
Pillow tie	Pillow case.
Pipe	Large barrel holding 126 gallons of wine or ale; a butt.
Pipkin	Small earthenware pot or pan.
Planchers	Planks for flooring.
Plank table	Table top made of boards held together by battens, set up on trestles and taken down after use.

Plat	Piece of ground, usually of small extent; a patch.
Playing tables	Pair of playing boards for playing games on.
Plock	Block of sawn wood, but sometimes roots or stumps, cumulatively measured in cords.
Ploughbote	Right to wood or timber for the construction and maintenance of a plough and other agricultural implements; a right normally enjoyed by tenants.
Plump	Pump.
Plush	Rich cloth with a long nap used in garments such as footmen's liveries and in saddler and upholstery.
Point	Tagged lace or cord for lacing up clothes e.g. attaching the hose to a doublet. Also a needle.
Pole	Stake. Long handle for a scythe. Long pole used in dyeing.
Poleaxe	Synonymous with a battle axe weapon; carried by the cavalry.
Poppet	Girl doll.
Porok	Paddock.
Porringer	Bowl shaped pewter or earthenware dish with handles, often with a cover, for porridge, soup etc.
Posnet	Small iron pot for use inside a larger pot e.g. for cooking porridge.
Pot hanger	Iron hook on a chimney breast for utensils.
Pot-hook	Hook for suspending a pot over a fire.
Pottinger	Porringer, a bowl shaped dish, often with lid and handles, for soup or porridge.
Pottle pot	Drinking vessel, pot or tankard holding a pottle or two quarts.
Powdering trough	Salting, pickling tub for preserving meat.
Preen	Instrument used by clothworkers for their handle dressing or picking of the wool flocks.
Presents	Document being read.
Press	Large cupboard with doors and usually shelves, for storing clothes, linen books etc. Sometimes placed in a wall recess, often the top portion is recessed.
Press board	Ironing board.
Primer	Book with very simple words designed to help a child to learn to read.
Pritchel	Sharply pointed tool for punching holes; especially used by cobblers and for punching nail-holes in horse-shoes.
Privy coat	Light coat of defence of mail, concealed under an ordinary habit.
Proctor	Qualified practitioner of law in ecclesiastical and certain other courts.
Psalter	Book of psalms.
Puke	Superior type of woollen cloth for making gowns; a bluish-black colour.
Pullen	Poultry; domestic fowl.
Purrock	Croft, small field or paddock.
Quarry	Square candle.

Quarter	Measurement of 8 bushels.
Quern	Small stone hand mill for grinding grain, malt etc.
Quicksilver	Mercury.
Quietus	Final settlement of.
Quill	Spool on which the weft is wound for placing in the shuttle.
Quire	Book of 24 or 25 loose pages, a 20th part of a ream.
Rabbet	Tool for making a groove or recess cut in the edge of a board, plank, etc. in such a way that another piece may be fitted into it to form a joint.
Rack	Iron bar supporting a spit or cooking utensil; frame for holding animal fodder; framework for storing plates etc.; support for a cross-bow.
Rail	A garment. A woman's neckerchief, shoulder cape, cloak or jacket.
Raiment	Clothing, apparel.
Randing knife	Also chipping and chopping knife, for cutting meat into strips.
Range/ranger	Iron fire grate, especially one with one or two ovens at its side. Also a sieve or strainer.
Rapier	Long, pointed two edged sword.
Rash	Smooth textile of silk or worsted cloth.
Rat stock	Rat trap.
Rath	See Rave.
Rave	In weaving: a bar fitted with teeth or pins used to separate and guide the threads of a warp while it is being wound on the beam.
Ream	500 sheets of paper.
Reap hook	Scythe with a curved steel blade and a serrated edge, about 18" long.
Relict	Widow.
Riddle/ridder	Large, coarse-meshed sieve for separating seed from corn.
Ring	Cider press. Table mat. Circular pewter plate or part of a horse's harness.
Rip hook	Reaping hook; scythe with a curved steel blade about 18" long, having a serrated edge.
Road saddle	Riding saddle.
Rochet	Outer garment similar to a smock-frock, coat or mantle. Vestment of linen like a surplice usually worn by bishops and abbots.
Rood-light	Taper or oil lamp kept continually burning placed on or about the rood beam of a church.
Rook	Heap, stack or small pile.
Rose-nail	Wrought nail having a round head, made with, or cut into triangular facets.
Rother	Horned cattle; an ox.
Rowle/rowler	Rolling pin. Horse roller, used to crush clods and smooth the ground. Possibly a barley roller.
Rudder	Coarse sieve or paddle like utensil for stirring malt in the mashing vat.

Ruff	Starched linen frill for neck and wrist wear, crimped or fluted extravagantly, worn by both sexes, but only by the wealthy.
Rug	Coverlet (when used in conjunction with other bed linen); also a rough woollen material similar to frieze.
Runlet/rundlett	Cask of varying capacity particularly for wine or for holding wort when brewing. Also a circular wooden trencher.
Russells	Ribbed or corded woollen fabric probably of Flemish origin. (Rijssel is the Dutch name for Lille.)
Russet	Coarse home-spun woollen cloth of a reddish brown, grey or neutral colour, formerly used for the dress of peasants and country folk.
St Leonard's Day	6 November.
St Luke's Day	18 October.
Sack	Measure, particularly of hops, varying according to locality. When listed indoors, especially in bedchambers or parlour, probably a sack used for window covering. Dry white wine imported from Spain and the Canaries.
Sack cloth	Coarse fabric used for making bags and sacks. In 16 th century it was less coarse than in later and earlier times and was used for outer garments. It varied in colour and quality, may be marbled or striped.
Sad	Dull dark sombre colour.
Saddle tree	Frame of a saddle.
Safe	Food cupboard or chest with sides of woven hair allowing ventilation, but keeping out flies and other insects; an aumbry.
Safeguard	Outer skirt of petticoat, worn by women over their kirtle as a protection against dirt when riding.
Sallet	Salad dish; iron vessel; close-fitting armoured helmet with a protective backpiece, and perhaps with a visor, made of steel.
Salt	A salt cellar or box for salt.
Salver	Broad flat piece of plate, usually with a foot, commonly used as a tray.
Sarplier	Large sack of coarse cloth for wool.
Sarsenet	Very fine soft silk used for quilts, linings, bed hangings etc.
Satinet	Thin silk satin or imitation satin.
Say	Fine cloth, similar to serge, formerly partly of silk, but subsequently entirely woollen used for bedding and wall hangings, table coverings etc. Also called serge.
Scabbard	Sheath or case for a sword to protect the blade.
Scaffold	Also staddle. Raised platform on which ricks were built to keep the crop off the ground and protected against rodents.
Scarf	Broad band of material worn by soldiers or officials diagonally across the body or around the waist.
Sconce	Candle holder, often fixed to a wall, perhaps with screen to protect the flame. In wealthy households it would have a polished backplate or mirror to reflect the light.
Scottish dagger	Short handled knife similar to a dirk or ballock dagger.

Scouring axe	Billhook for stripping bark.
Scraw	Frame upon which textile fabrics are hung to dry.
Screen	Wire sieve on a frame used to separate grain from chaff, dust and other impurities.
Scull	Armoured head-piece to go with a cap.
Scummer	See skimmer.
Sea coal	Coal. The name is usually explained by the fact that London was supplied with coal by sea from Newcastle upon Tyne. But not all sea coal was carried by sea, and this explanation has been questioned.
Sealing	Wainscot or panelling. Also furniture such as beds and chairs which are panelled, with a solid frame.
Seam	A packhorse load or cartload; measure of corn; fat, grease, hogs lard.
Seaming lace	Wide net lace of cut-work, bone lace or needlework without edges. Used instead of a seam to unite pieces of linen in a shirt or smock.
Search/searcher	Fine sieve, sometimes made of sheepskin in which small holes have been drilled and used for sifting flour. Also made of bristles or cloth and used in a dairy.
Seedlip	Basket shaped to fit the waist with shoulder strap used to carry seed when it is being sown.
Senna	Dried leaves of the <i>Cassia</i> genus of plants used as a laxative.
Serge	Woollen fabric used for hangings, bed coverings etc. Sometimes called say.
Serpler	Large sack of coarse, canvas for wool; sack or bale of wool containing 80 tods. Also a large sack for hops, in Hampshire and Surrey, containing 14 bushels.
Servitor	Oxford undergraduate performing menial duties in exchange for assistance from college funds.
Set cloth	Cloth or fabric set in woad and coloured sad or light blue. Occasionally second dyed and sold as red as well as blue.
Settle	Long wooden bench, with a high back, arms and cupboards underneath, capable of seating several people.
Severalty	Land held by one individual in a consolidated, enclosed area of land, as opposed to scattered strips in the open field held in common.
Seville oil	Olive oil from Seville.
Shaft	Part of the driving mechanism of a loom.
Shag	Thick piled, long haired cloth, usually worsted, with a velvet nap on one side.
Shalloon	Closely woven woollen cloth often used for linings.
Shave	Tool for smoothing or paring wood.
Shawle/shaul	Wooden shovel without a handle, used for putting corn into a winnowing machine.
Shear board	Padded board on which cloth was stretched for cropping with hand shears.
Shear hooks	Used to stretch cloth on the shear board for removal of the

	nap from cloth.
Shearpin	Part of scissors or shears to remove the nap from cloth by shearing.
Shears	Type of large scissors, especially ones used for cutting nap on cloth or shearing sheep.
Sheep print/mark	Implement for making marks of ownership on sheep.
Sheer cloth	Light, see through cloth.
Shingles	Wooden tiles made of oak, used for roofs, steeples etc.
Shoeing	Metal tyre of a wheel.
Shoot	Young pig, or one castrated.
Shop board	Table or counter on which business was transacted or goods displayed.
Shovel tree	Handle of a spade or shovel.
Shredde/shreds	Patchwork.
Shredding board	Board used to mince meat on.
Shuffleboard	Table for a game in which a coin is driven by the blow of a hand across a highly polished surface marked with transverse lines as in shove halfpenny.
Shuttle	Tool to store a holder that carries the thread of the weft yarn while weaving with a loom. Shuttles are thrown or passed back and forth through the shed, between the yarn threads of the warp in order to weave in the weft.
Side bedstead	Bedstead which fitted against the wall and therefore had only two posts rather than four.
Sideboard	Table fixed against a wall, for eating, or for the display of household plate. Later ones had cupboards and drawers and the display function became more important.
Silk rash	See Rash.
Sirpcloth	Surplice worn by the minister of the church.
Skep/strike	Dry measure, usually half a bushel.
Skillet	Small iron cooking pot with handle and legs.
Skimmer	Utensil with long handle and spoonlike bowl with perforations. An iron one used for taking ash out the hearth; a brass one for removing scum from the cooking pot.
Skip/skep	Beehive made of straw; basket of hamper for grain or coal; bowl-shaped vessel with handles for ladling.
Skippet	Small round wooden box used to preserve documents and seals.
Skull	Close fitting armoured helmet.
Sledge	Sledge-hammer, a smith's large hammer used for beating out iron on an anvil.
Sley	Reed, a part of a loom resembling a comb. It is used to push the weft yarn securely into place as it is woven, it also separates the warp threads and holds them in their positions, keeping them untangled and guides the shuttle as it moves across the loom.
Slice	Fire shovel, used particularly for taking ashes out of a bread oven.
Small beer	Beer of a weak or inferior quality.

Smock	Woman's undergarments, a shift. A man's loose outer garment worn by farm labourers instead of a coat.
Snath	Crooked shaft or handle of a scythe.
Snead	Crooked shaft or handle of a scythe.
Snuffer	Scissors for snuffing out candles and trimming their wicks, with a closed box to hold the charred wick.
Soil	Soil. Lintel of a door or window sill.
Sole	Lower front timbers of a cart or wagon.
Sorrell	Red roan horse with red, white and yellow hairs.
Spanish brown	Type of earth yielding a reddish-brown pigment.
Sparable/sparrow bill	Small, headless, wedge-shaped nail used in shoe-making.
Specialty	Sealed bond often entered into as a security for a loan or debt.
Speer	Wooden framed screen on the inside of a door or by the fire to keep out draughts.
Spence/spense	Service room, pantry, larder, buttery etc. Sometimes a cupboard or a container for milk.
Sperate debt	A debt, likely to be recovered perhaps under a specialty or obligation.
Spitting/spit shovel	For digging a trench to sow root vegetables etc.
Splints	Flexible armour made of small overlapping plates to protect the arms and elbows.
Spoke	Part of a wooden wheel usually made of oak.
Spokeshave	Small plane with slightly curved blade. Used by carpenters, coopers, wheelwrights etc.
Spur-royal	Gold coin first made in the reign of Edward IV with a star on the reverse resembling a rowel of a spur. In the reigns of Elizabeth and James I worth fifteen shillings.
Staddle	See scaffold.
Staff	Weapon with a shaft of hardwood sometimes with a metal tip, ferrule, or spike at one or both ends. Can be long or short.
Stall	Hive, or stock of bees for a hive.
Stammel	Coarse woollen cloth used for under garments, usually dyed red. Red colour used in the dyeing of such cloth.
Stand	Wooden vessel to hold small beer.
Standish	Ink stand or tray for writing materials.
Statute lace	Lace woven according to statute for those forbidden to wear foreign lace.
Stays	Corsets.
Steel	Sharp cutting tool or weapon. Bar or rod of steel used for sharpening knives.
Steer	Bull or ox which has reached maturity in its third year of life.
Still	Stand for a barrel or tub. Also apparatus for distilling and an alternative name for a cooler.
Stillatory	Still or place for distilling.
Stilliard/steel yard	Balance with unequal arms for weighing.
Stirrup stockings	Long over-stockings with an under in-step strap instead of a sole; worn as a protection to finer stockings when riding.

	Serves the same purpose a boot-hose.
Stock	Alternative name for nave, the elm hub into which the wheel spokes are mortised.
Stock card	Card fastened to a stock or support, thus leaving both hands free to comb wool for weaving.
Stock lock	Lock for an outer door, fitted in a wooden case.
Stomacher	Kind of waistcoat worn by men, or a V-shaped ornamental covering for the chest and stomach worn by women.
Stone colt/horse	Uncastrated colt, male horse or stallion.
Stonen	Stoneware.
Stool work	Tapestry work made on a stool.
Store pig	Pig that has not yet been weaned.
Strake	Section of the metal rim of a cart wheel.
Strike/skep	Dry measure, usually half a bushel.
Stroake	See strake.
Stuff	Coarse worsted cloth without nap or pile; often dyed, patterned or printed; also used for any fabric.
Stump	Remains of a round haystack after the rest has been cut away.
Suit court	Court in which tenants owe attendance to their lord.
Surcingle	Girth for horse; the straps that keep the saddle or pack in its place.
Surplice	Loose white vestment worn by clergy. Labourer's smock frock.
Surrogate	Clergyman authorised to act on the behalf of a bishop.
Surtout	Man's long, close-fitting overcoat; knee-length sleeveless over-tunic.
Swaddle bands	Narrow lengths of cloth wound round a new born baby.
Swage	Tool used by workers in metal for shaping their work; a die or mould used in shaping wrought iron by hammering or pressure.
Swage block	Block of metal with variously shaped holes to hold and support a hot bar of metal for further shaping, bending, cutting and punching.
Swathe band/swathing	Band of woollen material in which something is enveloped; a wrapping; swaddle band wound round a new born baby.
Swayne	Country lad, especially a young shepherd.
Swift	Light kind of reel, usually of adjustable diameter, upon which a skein of silk, yarn etc. is placed in order to be wound off.
Swing/swingletree	On a plough or cart, the cross-bar pivoted in the middle to which traces are attached and which swings at the horse's or oxen's heels.
Tabby	Plain weave fabric.
Tach/tach hook	Device for fastening clothes together, e.g. a clasp, buckle, eye and hook etc.
Taffeta	Thin, plain, woven glossy silk, usually with a warp and weft of different colours.
Tammy	Fine worsted cloth of good quality, often with a glazed finish.

Tap hose	Strainer placed over the tap hole of a mash tub to prevent solid matter passing through.
Tapster	Person who draws and serves alcoholic drinks at a bar.
Taster	Small shallow cup, sometimes of silver, for tasting wines etc.
Taunton	Woollen serge.
Tawny	Woollen cloth, light yellowish brown in colour.
Teasel	Plant with burr-like head used to raise the nap in finishing woollen cloth.
Teg	Yearling sheep before the first shearing.
Tenement	Holding consisting of house and land.
Tenon saw	A backsaw with stiff edge opposite the toothed edge allowing more precise cutting.
Tester	Flat canopy of a four poster bed made of wood or cloth supported on the bed posts or suspended from the ceiling.
Thill	Either of the two long shafts between which an animal is fastened when pulling a cart.
Thurdendale	Drinking tankard with lid measuring a quart.
Tick/Ticking	Mattress case made of hard linen and containing flock or feathers etc. Cloth used for making the mattress case.
Tiffany	Semi-transparent French silk or muslin fabric, used in veils.
Tilt	Covering or awning of coarse cloth for a wagon or cart, a tent, a saddle cloth, boat etc.
Tine	Prong used in conjunction with a spit.
Tinnen	Made of tin.
Tod/todd	Approx 28 lbs of wool.
Torn	Spinning wheel. Churn. Can sometimes refer to a tool with a turning action.
Touchbox	Primer for a gun or musket.
Traces	Ropes, chains or leather straps by which a horse or oxen's collar is linked to the swingletree.
Train oil	Oil made from the blubber of whales.
Tray	As well as the modern meaning previously used to describe an open vessel.
Tree	Stave or piece of wood.
Treen	Wooden ware, small domestic articles such as platters and bowls.
Trefoil	Plant of the pea family with yellow flowers and three-lobed clover-like leaves.
Trencher	Flat piece of wood, square or circular, on which meat was served and cut up.
Trendle/trundle	Small wheel, roller or revolving disc.
Trental	Set of thirty successive masses for the soul of the departed, perhaps all said on the same day. Or a mass for the dead on the thirtieth day after death or burial.
Tried	Rendered or clarified fat. Sifted, fine flour.
Trist	Obsolete form of trest, meaning a trestle.
Trivet	Three footed metal tripod for standing a pot over a fire.
Trow	Trough.

Truckle/trundle bed	Low bed on wheels able to slide under a standing bed, often used for children or servants.
Trunnill bed	Truckle bed.
Truss bed	Portable bed which could be taken apart and trussed up for travelling, or perhaps a framed bed, using 'truss' in its architectural sense.
Try	Sieve or screen for sifting.
Tub	Wooden container, usually hooped and staved, capable of holding about half a barrel of water.
Tuft mockado	Mockado decorated with small tufts of wool.
Tuftaffeta	Velour with tufts of silk or of yarn in which silk was mingled.
Tun	Vessel holding 252 gallons, usually of wine, the largest barrel in common use. A mashing vat; cup or small drinking vessel; tundish.
Tundish	Shallow wooden vessel with a hole in the bottom used as a funnel in brewing or the dairy.
Tunnel	Funnel. (Also see Turnel.)
Turkey work	Woollen material woven in the same way as a Turkish carpet.
Turkey yarn	Yarn spun from the Angora goat and imported from Turkey.
Turn	Spinning wheel, spindle. Churn. Winding gear for a well or grindstone.
Turnel	Shallow, oval tub or half barrel used for salting meat, kneading bread, making cheese etc. Windlass over a well. Ring turning on a swivel, a terret, used on a horse harness.
Twain	Two.
Twibill	Axe or mattock with two cutting edges.
Upping stock	Mounting block.
Valance	Short curtain or border around the canopy of a bedstead.
Vantage	Profits arising, gain, profit.
Vargis	Vinegar made from crab apple juice.
Vat	Cask larger than half a barrel.
Venetians	Knee breeches, similar to gallygaskin, originally introduced from Venice.
Vermillion	Brilliant scarlet red pigment made from cinnabar.
Vetches	Leguminous plant e.g. clover used for cattle fodder and bedding.
Vicar General	Bishop's deputy.
Viol	15th-18th century musical instrument with 5, 6 or 7 strings played with a bow.
Virginal	Keyed musical instrument, set in a box or case without legs; similar to a spinet.
Wainscot	Oak wall panelling.
Waistcoat	Short garment worn on the upper part of the body usually beneath a gown, but so as to be seen.
Wallet	Bag for holding provisions or clothes on a journey; a pedlar's pack.
Want staff	Moling spear to catch moles.
Wantow	Rope used to secure a pack on a pack saddle, or a load on

	the back of a horse.
Wanty	See Wantow.
Ware	Collective term for the trade of goods of a merchant, pedlar, tradesmen etc; merchandise.
Warp	Threads that run lengthwise in the loom, at right angles to the weft, through which the latter must pass in the process of weaving.
Warping bar	Frame on a board on which the yarn was wound and measured to form a warp before transfer to the loom.
Washing stock	Bench on which clothes were laid and beaten with a bat; stand for a wash tub.
Watch bill	Concave axe with a spike at the back and a shaft ending in a spearhead; a halberd. A weapon often used by watchmen.
Watchet	Light blue colour, cloth or garment of this colour.
Weanling	Animal, usually a calf, being weaned or just weaned.
Weft	Threads that run from side to side of the loom at right angles to the warp.
Weld	The plant <i>Roseda luteola</i> which yields a yellow dye. Also the dye obtained from this plant.
Welsh hook	Type of polearm. A halberd type weapon with a hook on the back. Used by Welsh soldiers during the medieval wars against the English.
Welt	Strengthened or decorative border of a garment. Narrow strip of leather sewn around the edge of the upper and insole to which the sole is attached.
Wether/weather	Male sheep, usually castrated, in its second season.
Whetstone	Shaped stone used to sharpen the cutting edge of tools.
Which/whitch	Bin or tub made of split planks, wedged and pegged together.
Whipping yarn	Cord used for binding.
Whipsaw	Narrow pit saw 5ft – 7.5ft long.
Whisky	Light two-wheeled, one-horse carriage.
White mercury	Mercuric chloride historically sometimes used as a treatment for syphilis.
White money	Silver coin. When referred to a candlestick for instance, a metal of light colour, usually silver.
White work	Cut and slashed lace.
Willy/willey	Basket. Conical or cylindrical revolving machine with spikes inside for opening and cleaning wool, cotton, flax.
Wimble	Tool for drilling holes in wood similar to a brace.
Winding sheet	Large cloth on which corn was winnowed. Winnowing was the process of separating the grain from the chaff after threshing. The grain was sieved or screened in the wind (either natural or created by a winnowing fan). The chaff blew away, but the grain fell on the winnowing sheet. Also a shroud.
Windlass	Hand operated winding drum for raising buckets etc from a well. The device used to draw the bow of a crossbow.

Winsheet	Large sheet on which corn is winnowed.
Winton	Archaic name for Winchester
Wither lug	Wither is the highest point of a horse; the lug is a loop on the side of a harness through which the shaft of the cart passes.
Woad	Blue dye stuff prepared from the leaves of <i>Istatis tinctoria</i> powdered and fermented.
Woodwaxen	The plant <i>Genista tinctoria</i> (broom or greenwood) which produces a yellow/green dye.
Woolsey	Woolly, woollen.
Worm seed	Seed of a Levantine plant used medicinally to kill intestinal worms.
Wormwood	Plant, <i>Artemisia absinthium</i> , which when dried and crushed produces a dark green or blue oil.
Worsted	Woollen cloth made from long staple wool, twisted and combed.
Wort	Infusion of malt or grain which becomes beer after fermentation.
Wring	Cider press. Press for cheese.
Wrought	Worked, woven, knitted, embroidered, decorated, ornamented, hand-carved, shaped, fashioned etc.
Yard meal	Quarter of an acre.
Yardland	In Hampshire generally 30 acres, but can be between 20 and 50 acres.
Yate	Gate.
Yealing/yeeling/yelding house	Place where beer wort, the liquid portion of the mash of malted grain, was left to ferment.
Yearn ware	Earthenware.
Yeeling/yealing/yelding	Brewing.
Yeld	Animals that are barren.
Yelt	Female pig intended for breeding, up to the time she has her first litter.
Yeoman	Freeholder cultivating his own land; farmer of small or medium land.
Yeremind	Service of remembrance for one dead, usually kept annually, but sometimes monthly. Also called obit.
Yoting/yowting vat	Vat used for soaking malt.