

The English economy before the Norman Conquest: agriculturalists, artisans and aristocrats

Start date 18 March 2016 **End date** 20 March 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge

Tutor Dr Debby Banham **Course code** 1516NRX095

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Debby Banham is a medieval historian based at Newnham College in Cambridge. Her research interests cover medicine, diet, and food production in early medieval England. She teaches Anglo-Saxon history, Latin and palaeography for the Departments of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic and History and Philosophy of Science in the University of Cambridge, as well as at the Institute. She also teaches for Birkbeck College and the Institute of Historical Research in London. Her publications include *Monasteriales indicia: the Old English Monastic Sign Language* (Anglo-Saxon Books, 1990), *Food and Drink in Anglo-Saxon England* (Tempus, 2004) and, with Rosamond Faith, *Anglo-Saxon Farms and Farming* (OUP, 2014).

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

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| 19:00 | Dinner |
| 20:30 – 22:00 | Introduction: An English economy without money |
| 22:00 | Terrace bar open for informal discussion |

Saturday

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|---------------|--|
| 07:30 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | An embedded economy: lords, commoners and slaves |
| 10:30 | Coffee |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | A subsistence economy: food production |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | Free |
| 16:00 | Tea |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | An elite economy: gift exchange, treasure and exotica |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | Free |
| 18:30 | Dinner |
| 20:00 – 21:30 | A monetising economy: Anglo-Saxon coinage |
| 21:30 | Terrace bar open for informal discussion |

Sunday

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|---------------|--|
| 07:30 | Breakfast |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | A commercialising economy: trade in Anglo-Saxon England |
| 10:30 | Coffee |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Session 7: An urbanising economy: Anglo-Saxon towns |
| 12:45 | Lunch |

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

How did people make a living when there was no money in England, and how did goods circulate with no market? Fundamental questions like these will be explored on this weekend course, and we shall then trace how Anglo-Saxon towns, trade and coinage began and developed as the early middle ages progressed.

Aims:

This course will introduce the economy of England before the Norman Conquest, giving participants the opportunity to examine the primary sources for the production, circulation and exchange of goods in that period, and explore the issues involved in understanding an economy without money, trade or towns, one very different from our own.

Content:

We shall cover the entire Anglo-Saxon period, from the settlements in the fifth century to the end in 1066 (although one of our most useful sources is Domesday Book, from 1086). We shall also examine evidence from as wide a geographic area as possible, covering all the main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. It has to be recognised, however, that our written evidence, in particular, is much fuller for some areas than others, and there is more of it from later in the period.

The course will include sessions on farming, crafts, how the elite were supported, coinage, trade, towns etc. At each stage we shall set England against its broad early medieval European background, as well as getting down to some nitty-gritty details. We shall be drawing on a wide range of primary source material, including archaeology, texts (in translation), pictures and language.

Presentation of the course:

Each session will begin with an introduction to the topic by the lecturer, using visual presentations where appropriate. We shall then study some of the relevant primary sources, whether written, visual or material and discussion will take off from there.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Discuss the implications of an economy without coinage or trade;
Analyse primary sources from the period, both written and non-written;
Trace changes in the English economy between the fifth and eleventh centuries.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

D. Banham and R. Faith, *Anglo-Saxon Farms and Farming* (OUP, 2014)

M. Blackburn, *Viking Coinage and Currency in the British Isles* (London: Spink, 2011)

John Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (OUP, 2005)

H. C. Darby, *Domesday England* (CUP, 1977)

Petra Dark, *The Environment of Britain in the First Millennium AD* (London, 2000)

Christopher Dyer, *Making a Living in the Middle Ages: The People of Britain 850–1520* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2002)

R. J. Faith, *The English Peasantry and the Growth of Lordship* (Leicester, 1997)

G. N. Garmonsway, ed., *Ælfric's Colloquy* (Exeter UP, 1978)

Helena Hamerow, David Hinton and Sally Crawford, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology* (OUP, 2011)

David Hill, *An Atlas of Anglo-Saxon England* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1981)

— and R. Cowie, eds, *Wics: Early Medieval Trading Centres of Northern Europe* (Sheffield Academic Press, 2001)

Lapidge *et al.*, eds, *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England* (Wiley Blackwell, 2013)

Kevin Leahy, *Anglo-Saxon Crafts* (Tempus, 2003)

K. Leahy and R. Bland, *The Staffordshire Hoard* (London: BM, 2009)

M. McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy: Communications and Commerce AD 300–900* (CUP, 2001)

Rory Naismith, *Money and Power in Anglo-Saxon England: The Southern English Kingdoms, 757–865* (CUP, 2012)

David Pelteret, *Slavery in Early Medieval England* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 1995)

T. Pestell and K. Ulmschneider, eds, *Markets in Early Medieval Europe: Trading and 'Productive' Sites, 650–850* (Macclesfield: Windgather, 2003)

Peter Sawyer, , *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (Royal Historical Society, 1968); revised edition by S. E. Kelly *et al.* online at eSawyer, hosted by King's College London

Dorothy Whitelock, ed., *Anglo-Saxon Wills* (reprint CUP, 2011)

Chris Wickham, *Framing the Early Middle Ages* (OUP, 2000)

Tom Williamson, *Shaping Medieval Landscapes* (Macclesfield: Windgather, 2002)

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

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