

Medieval Fact Sheet

Appleby in Westmorland



St Lawrence's Church and the Boroughgate, Appleby

Introduction

Appleby in Westmorland is in the Eden Valley in Cumbria. The name is of Scandinavian origin meaning a town with apple trees and it is believed to have been first settled by Scandinavian settlers in the ninth century. However, it is possible that the site was settled earlier as it is close to the Roman road from York to Carlisle and to a ford over the River Eden that connects the Roman road with the road south to Lunesdale. It is also surrounded by villages that bear Anglo-Saxon place-names such as Bolton, Dufton and Murton so there may have been Anglo-Saxon settlements in the area.

Appleby was originally two separate towns. The first was established by Scandinavian settlers on high ground on the east bank of the Eden at the junction of the Roman road and the road that leads down to the ford. It is sometimes said that the town was founded by Halfdan in 875. The name Halfdan signifies a man who was half Danish. This settlement was (and still is) known as the Bongate – a Scandinavian place name that signifies a street occupied by bonded men. The second was established following the Norman conquest on lower ground to the west of the river in an area that was easily defensible being surrounded on three sides by the river. This was (and still is) known as the Boroughgate – a Scandinavian place name that signifies a street occupied by Burgesses or free men.

Appleby is not mentioned in the Domesday Book because at that time most of Cumbria was part of Scotland. The Norman conquest of Cumbria did not take place in 1066, but in 1092 when King William II of England invaded Cumbria. He gave Appleby to Ivo Taillebois. A castle was built at Appleby by Ivo Taillebois on high ground to the west of the river overlooking the ford and Appleby became the county town of Westmorland. Appleby is first mentioned in a document of 1130 as 'Aplebi'.

The castle has been inhabited ever since 1092 and has been developed and altered down the centuries. It boasts a Keep – sometimes called Caesar's Tower – curtain walls, defensive ditches and other medieval towers and buildings. The Boroughgate also retains its medieval street plan being a broad street accessed by narrow lanes (called wiends) that could easily be barricaded and defended when the town was under attack. There are two medieval churches, St Lawrence's in the Boroughgate and St Michael's in the Bongate. Other medieval buildings have been lost but are known about through the historical record and archaeology. It has been suggested that, at its height, Appleby extended southwards as far as the village of Burrels that is so named because it used to be the site of the 'Borough Walls'. However, this appears unlikely.

Being relatively close to the Anglo-Scottish border, Appleby was involved in the Anglo-Scottish wars. The English invasion of 1092 was followed by a Scottish invasion in 1136 and another English invasion in 1157. During the medieval period, English kings established strong baronial families in counties close to the Anglo-Scottish border whose role was to organise the defence of the borders. They did this by maintaining large private armies. In 1265, Appleby Castle came into the ownership of the Clifford family who were to hold it for most of the medieval period. They were also hereditary sheriffs of Westmorland, that meant that they could exercise royal authority by right rather than by appointment.

The late twelfth and thirteenth centuries were relatively peaceful but at the end of the thirteenth century King Edward I of England determined to conquer Scotland. Lord Robert Clifford became one of the English commanders so soldiers from Appleby must have played a prominent part in the war. After the death of King Edward I his son, King Edward II continued the war but with less success. In 1314, Robert the Bruce led the Scots to victory over the English at the Battle of Bannockburn. One of the casualties was Lord Robert Clifford. Robert the Bruce followed up his victory by raiding northern England, attacking Appleby twice – in 1314 and again in 1322. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the English border counties experienced many Scottish raids and invasions as the Scots attempted to create a 'buffer zone' between the two countries. Appleby was attacked more than once, most notably in 1388 and in the late fourteenth century a Scottish attack on the town was prevented by an English victory at the Battle of Hoff some two miles away.

The fifteenth century saw a decline in law and order in Cumbria. The King's courts refused to sit in Appleby because it was too dangerous. People had to look to their Lords for justice. Feuding between the local Lords became commonplace – a fact that contributed to the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses in which three generations of the Cliffords played a major role. This led to them being dispossessed and the Castle passing first to the Earl of Warwick and then to the Duke of Gloucester, who later became King Richard III and was himself deposed in 1485. Following this, Appleby Castle was returned to Henry Clifford.

Appleby Castle and the Cliffords

Appleby Castle is built on high ground in a loop in the River Eden and was protected on the landward side by the fortified town of Appleby. It was one of a chain of castles originally built in the twelfth century to control the strategically important route along the Eden Valley from the Scottish Border to Yorkshire.

Writing in 1817, Arthur Clifford describes the Castle as follows:

“Appleby (Castle)... is beautifully situated on a high cliff, at the foot of which runs the River Eden. Some part of this castle is very ancient, for the great tower, called Caesar’s tower, was undoubtedly built by the Romans... and the principal apartment... was called the Knight’s chamber or the Baron’s chamber in the reign of Henry III and Edward I.”

The tradition that the Castle was begun by the Romans is a long one, but it is not true, although there may have been a Roman signal station at the site.



Appleby Castle

The Castle was originally built by Ivo Taillebois following King William II's invasion of 1092. This was probably a Motte & Bailey castle built of wood. In about 1120 it was rebuilt by Ranulph de Meschin who probably built the Keep and completed the earthworks. He later ceded it to the Crown. The first documentary reference to it is in a pipe roll of 1130. When Appleby was taken by the Scots in 1136, the castle became the property of Hugh de Morville, who retained its ownership when Appleby was returned to England in 1157.

His son, also Hugh de Morville achieved notoriety in 1170 as one of the Knights who murdered Thomas Becket in the Cathedral of Canterbury. The other Knights were Reginald Fitzurse, William de Tracy, and Richard le Breton. At that time there was a dispute between King Henry II and Thomas Becket that prompted the King to ask:

"What miserable drones and traitors have I nourished and brought up in my household, who let their lord be treated with such shameful contempt by a low-born cleric?"

The Knights took this as an instruction and so proceeded to Canterbury where they murdered Thomas Becket in an especially brutal fashion as he knelt by the altar in the Cathedral on 29th December 1170. Following this, Thomas Becket became a saint, King Henry II did penance but Hugh de Morville (after taking refuge for a while at Knaresborough Castle in Yorkshire) continued his life as before. However, there is a legend that, when staying at Pendragon Castle, he was haunted by the face of Thomas a Becket in the clouds above the fells.

In 1174 the Castle was taken by King William the Lion of Scotland in a dawn raid and with the co-operation of the defenders. As a result of this Gospatric (son of Orme), the constable, was fined 500 marks, other officials were fined smaller amounts and Hugh de Morville forfeited the Castle. At this time, the Castle and Tower are recorded by Jordan Fantosme in his chronicle, showing both were present. In 1179 the Castle was granted to Theobald de Valoines, but it reverted to the Crown in 1190. Sometime between 1175 and 1189 the Keep was raised, the curtain walls were rebuilt in stone, and a Great Hall was built at the east end of the bailey. The bridge over the moat was rebuilt in 1198. In 1200 repairs were carried out by Thomas of Workington. In 1203 the Castle was granted to Robert de Vipont, but later in the century it was in decay.

In 1265, King Henry III granted the Castle to Roger Clifford as part of the barony of Westmorland in gratitude for the part he had played in defeating Simon de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham. The Cliffords were to play an important part in the defence of the Border. Roger Clifford married Isabella Vipont, the daughter of his predecessor. After he died in 1283, his wife succeeded him as Sheriff of Westmorland. Arthur Clifford tells us that:

"In her widowhood, she sat in person, as sheriffess of the County of Westmorland, in her castle of Appleby, with the judges."

King Edward II did not enjoy the support of his barons and conflict intensified as his reign progressed. In 1323, Lord Roger Clifford was one of the Barons who joined the opposition to King Edward II. According to Arthur Clifford:

"He was so regardless of the King's displeasure, that when the pursuivant served the writ upon him in the Baron's chamber at Appleby Castle, he forced him to eat and swallow the wax that the writ was sealed with."

Lord Roger Clifford was eventually beheaded at York! The Castle became the property of Andrew de Harclay until his execution for treason in 1323. The Castle was restored to Robert Clifford after King Edward II was deposed in 1327.

In 1323 the Castle was garrisoned by ten men at arms and thirty hobelars. It was repaired in 1383.

The Scots did not capture the Castle in their attack of December 1388 (see below) but in 1391 the Castle was described as 'ruinous'.

In 1455, the Battle of St. Albans marked the start of the Wars of the Roses. Lord Thomas Clifford was loyal to King Henry VI but was killed at the battle by Richard, Duke of York (who claimed the throne). Lord Thomas' son, Lord John Clifford succeeded him at the age of twenty, swore revenge on those who had murdered his father and became one of the leaders of King Henry's army. At the Battle of Wakefield in 1460 he succeeded in killing Richard, Duke of York, and his son, Edmund, Earl of Rutland. Following this he was nick-named 'the Butcher' and 'Black faced Clifford' by his enemies. However, in 1461 he was killed in an ambush on the eve of the Battle of Towton at the age of 25. It is thought that many men of Appleby would have been with him and would have perished in the battle the following day that saw Henry VI deposed in favour of Edward IV (the step-son of the late Duke of York).

Following the death of Lord John Clifford, he was attainted as a traitor and the Castle passed to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick. After his death at the Battle of Barnet in 1471, the Castle passed to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III who leased it to Sir John Parr. When Richard was deposed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, the Castle was returned to Lord Henry Clifford by the new King Henry VII.

The Castle's inner ward has a maximum width of 53metres, and the outer ward has a maximum width of 42metres and a length of 80metres. Both wards were surrounded with walls and a ditch that was crossed by a causeway to the north. The wards are surrounded by several baileys. The Keep is in the centre of the inner ward. The original access to the Castle was from the Scattergate, so anyone approaching the Castle would have to pass beneath the curtain walls. The walls of the inner ward are two metres thick. There was originally a wall and ditch separating the inner and outer wards, but this is no longer present so it now appears to be a single ward. The Keep and walls were originally built in the twelfth century.

The twelfth century Keep, most of the curtain walls and ditch survive, and much of the earthworks that defended the castle can be seen in the parkland that surrounds the castle. The fifteenth century tower and wall survive in the northeast of the outer ward. The Great Hall built by Lord Thomas Clifford not only survives but is still in use. In fact, many of the buildings that appear at first sight to be seventeenth or eighteenth century in origin reveal on close inspection that they are medieval and contain, for example, grooves for a portcullis or arrow loops.

The Keep is built of squarish silver-grey stones and is capped with four turrets. It is 14metres square, 24 metres high and has walls 1.8metres thick. There is a round headed entrance on the ground floor (that is probably not original unless it originally led to a forebuilding that no longer exists). An external staircase leads to a first-floor entrance that was the original entrance to the Keep. The merlons on the battlements have slits. It still contains original latrines and windows. The interior of the Keep was remodelled in the seventeenth century and then damaged by fire in the 21st century. It is possible that the Keep was also heightened in the seventeenth century.

The curtain walls date from the twelfth century, but they were repaired in the seventeenth century following damage during the civil war. Originally, they had a wall walk and crenellations. A twelfth century postern gate is incorporated into later buildings to the east. There is a thirteenth century D-shaped tower with a diameter of 6.6metres. There is a fourteenth century tower on the north wall with a garderobe projection. There is also evidence of a fourteenth century tower on the south side and another garderobe in the northeast tower wall. A large gatehouse was built in 1418 and, despite it being remodelled in the seventeenth century it still contains some original masonry. Writing in 1817 about the building of this gatehouse by Lord John Clifford, who died at the Siege of Meaux in 1422, Arthur Clifford states that:

"He built the strong and beautiful arched gatehouse at Appleby Castle in Westmorland, whereupon were carved in stone, the arms of Vipont, and Clifford and those of Percy, which were the arms of his wife. This stately building was standing in the reign of Charles I but was defaced and take down during the civil war in the year 1648."

In the south wing close to the southeast tower there is a one-light window that is probably fourteenth century.

The medieval east range that was built in the fifteenth century was largely replaced in the eighteenth century by the house that still exists, but some of the original masonry survives. The house is built around a Great Hall that is believed to be in the same place as the medieval hall. The postern gate survives from the fourteenth century. It has a round single chamfered arch and in front of it, a large blank arch. The portcullis groove can still be seen.

The northeast tower survives from the fifteenth century with a tunnel vaulted sub-basement, a two-light window to the north and a doorway in the basement in the south wall. Inside the east range a former chapel retains a fifteenth century piscina.

These works are usually attributed to Lord Thomas Clifford who, in the years leading to the Wars of the Roses strengthened the Castle and added to its domestic buildings. He rebuilt the Hall, Chapel, and Great Chamber of Appleby Castle during 1454. Arthur Clifford described this in detail in 1817:

"Notwithstanding he was so much engaged in military affairs, Lord Clifford found time to attend to his estates in the North of England, and in particular to the repair of his castles in those parts, which had often suffered during the wars between England and Scotland.

"Lord Clifford repaired Appleby Castle, and built the best part of it to the east, as the hall and chapel show; in the windows of which are to be seen the arms of Vipont, and Clifford, and also those of Dacre, impaling those of Clifford. In the hall window are the arms of Lord Clifford's father and mother impaled, and also his own and those of his wife, and the single coat of Vipont. In the windows of the chapel are the arms of Clifford, quartering those of Bromeflete, and at the bottom of the principal window is this inscription:

"This chapel was built by Thomas, Lord Clifford, Anno Domini One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Four."

Appleby Castle is privately owned and is sometimes open to the public. Visitors are often required to book in advance. The Appleby Castle website is at: <http://www.applebycastle.co.uk/AC/>

Boroughgate

The Boroughgate is a planned town set out in 1110 by Ranulph de Meschines. It was laid out to the north of the castle in the loop of the River Eden, with St Lawrence's Church and graveyard at the north end of the main street that provided a wide marketplace for trading. A new bridge was built across the River Eden, to link the new town to the old town of Bongate and the road to Carlisle and York via the Sands. The new town was also a 'borough', a place where the burgages were free from land taxes, but had other rights granted by the Lord of the manor in return for the rents they paid.



The Boroughgate

Access to the Boroughgate was through narrow roads called 'wiends' that were designed so that they could be easily barricaded and defended in the event of an attack. The road to the south followed the Doomgate and the Scattergate and the modern road from the south of Boroughgate did not exist. Neither did the modern entrance to the Castle exist as the Castle was entered via the Scattergate. In the seventeenth century the medieval defences were flattened to create the current direct 'ceremonial' route from the Castle to the church through the Boroughgate.

Each of the burgesses possessed a 'burgage plot' being a long, narrow strip of land fronting the Boroughgate with a house at the front and a garden (used to grow fruit and vegetables and to keep animals) behind. The modern houses are post-medieval, but it is thought that many contain medieval material and the land boundaries haven't changed!

From the end of the twelfth century to the end of the thirteenth century, Appleby prospered as a centre of trade, linked to the surrounding countryside through its market. Appleby received its first royal charter from King Henry II in 1174 and in 1177 it became the county town of the Westmorland. It received another charter from King John in 1200. The charters conferred 'Freedom from toll, stallage, pontage, and lastage, throughout England, except in the city of London' for which the borough paid forty marks, privileges like those were also conferred on major cities such as York. Rent was paid to the Exchequer at Christmas and Easter. In the reign of Henry III there was an exchequer at Appleby called the 'Scaccarium de Appleby'.

By 1240, Appleby had a Mayor and other corporate officers. The first record of Appleby returning members to the English parliament is in 1295 during the reign of King Edward I.

In the reign of Edward II (1307-31), the fee farm rent was in arrears of £60 so the town fell to the crown. However, in 1331, it was restored, by Edward III, to the burghers, who paid a fee farm rent of two pence per burgage that amounted to twenty marks a year. It has been calculated that there must have been 1,600 burgages, or a population of about 8,000. However, this appears to be a surprisingly large number to me as it would have made Appleby one of the largest towns in the north of England!

Several major building projects were undertaken at this time, including a leper hospital dedicated to St Leonard on an island now known as Holme Farm to the west of the town. However, by the end of the fourteenth century a combination of plague, climate change and Anglo-Scottish disputes had left large parts of the town in ruins.

A bridge was built between the Boroughgate and the Sands by the fifteenth century that included a chapel at the West end. However, this was in ruins by 1445. A Grammar School was founded by 1453, probably by Lord Thomas Clifford.

Between 1472 and 1475, Appleby was represented in parliament by Sir John Scott of Kent. This was during the time that the Yorkist Edward IV was King, the Cliffords were dispossessed and the Castle was owned by Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Presumably the Yorkist government could find no one suitable to join a Yorkist parliament in Appleby itself!

Bongate

In 1281 the Carmelite Whitefriars friary was founded in the Battlebarrow by the Lords Clifford, Percy and Vesey (the street that runs west from Appleby towards Carlisle). In 1300, when King Edward I visited Appleby, he stayed at the Friary. Nothing now remains of this friary. Old Hall farmhouse is thought to have originally been a long house.

The Anglo-Scottish Wars

In 1314, Robert the Bruce followed up his victory against the English at Bannockburn with an extensive raid on northern England. The Lanercost Chronicle reports that:

"Afterwards, reuniting their forces, they all returned by Swaledale and other valleys and by Stanemoor, whence they carried off an immense booty of cattle. Also they burnt the towns of Brough and Appleby and Kirkoswald... trampling down the crops by themselves and their beasts as much as they could, and so... they entered Scotland, having many men prisoners from whom they might extort money ransom at will."

Appleby was attacked again by Robert the Bruce in 1322.

English state records include a document dated 4th July 1327 that records that the previous Friday, when the writer was going to bed, news was brought that the Scots were at Appleby.

However, it appears that better relations existed in 1333, with Arthur Clifford reporting that:

"Edward de Baliol, King of Scotland, came to hunt in the forests and chases of Lord Clifford in Westmorland and was hospitably entertained by him in his castles of Appleby and Brougham."

Appleby was attacked again on 26th December 1388. The Castle wasn't taken but the town was burned to the ground. Afterwards it was said that Appleby:

"Lay dismembered and scattered, one street from another, like so many scattered villages; and one could not know but by records that they belonged to the same body."

Later in the reign of Richard II (1377-99) a Scottish attack on Appleby was repulsed when the English succeeded in preventing the Scots from crossing the bridge at Hoff, some two miles south of the town. This encounter is known as the Battle of Hoff. The remains of those who died in the battle have been found in the fields around the bridge.

Further Scottish raids were experienced in 1457 and 1458.

Lawlessness in the Fifteenth Century

In a royal warrant of 1447 Cumbria was described as a "far country", and it appears that by this time, royal authority in the region had become even weaker than during the early medieval period. After 1440, there are no records of Cumbrians petitioning the Kings Court of Chancery, and very few criminal cases were taken to the Kings Bench. An itinerant royal commission of assize and gaol delivery had been established to visit the northern counties every summer and had heard cases principally relating to theft of animals, in the courts of Newcastle on Tyne, Carlisle, and Appleby. However, in the fifteenth century the visits to Carlisle and Appleby were abandoned as being too dangerous. In other words, the King's law did not apply in Cumberland or Westmorland.

Reports from North Westmorland tell of bands of armed men, hundreds strong, roving the countryside destroying crops and attacking houses. Indeed, records of tenants of the Clifford's feuding with their neighbours in Westmoreland go back to the reign of Henry V. These records also demonstrate that recourse to law was pointless in fifteenth century Westmorland. The only defences available to a man were his skill at arms, the strength of his family ties, and his attachment to a great Lord. The greatest Lords in Westmorland were, of course, the Cliffords.

As Sheriff of Westmorland it was the responsibility of Lord Clifford to enforce justice in the County, but as this example shows it was not always easy.

In 1434 news reached Appleby Castle that Cliburn Hall, the home of John Cliburn, had been attacked at dawn by a mob led by Dame Katherine Lancaster, Sir Henry Threlkeld and William Thornburgh. A justice of the peace, Robert Crackenthorpe, and two assistants, Hugh Salkeld and Sir Christopher Moresby, were sent out with a suitable retinue to investigate. They arrived at mid-day to find that Cliburn Hall was still holding out despite having been assailed by over a thousand arrows. Having the larger force, the Sheriff's men persuaded Dame Lancaster and her accomplices to leave.

Lord Thomas Clifford ordered an investigation into this breach of the peace to be held at Appleby but the jurors (witnesses) were all intimidated by Threlkeld and Thornburgh and so refused to offer evidence. The inquiry was abandoned, and some days later Robert Crackenthorpe was lucky to escape with his life after being ambushed in Whinfell Forest. After further attempts on his life, he complained in vain to the Lord Chancellor and was ultimately murdered at Brampton in August 1438. Following this, Crackenthorpe's widow suffered from thefts of her cattle and burning of her corn.

The Chancellor established a commission of enquiry that established that Crackenthorpe had been murdered by William Thornburgh and his sons Roland and Oliver. However, they suffered no punishment. William was pardoned in 1442 and his sons in 1443.

St Lawrence's Church

St Lawrence's Church is located at the north of the Boroughgate. It is in the Perpendicular style with a low roof, battlements, pinnacles, north and south aisles and a west tower. The oldest part of the church is the Tower that retains a Norman base and a Norman window in the north wall. The south porch is thirteenth century and contains dogtooth and hollow chamfers. The aisles are fourteenth century and are in the decorated style with quatrefoil piers, semi-circular foils with fillets and double-chamfered arches. The tower and chancel arches and the chapel in the south aisle are of the same date. The screens in the chapels are of the late fifteenth century. In a former window opening between the chancel and the south chapel is a fourteenth century carving of a praying lady.



St Lawrence's Church

In 1175 the Church was burnt by the Scots but was rebuilt in 1177. The church was restored in the seventeenth century by Lady Ann Clifford and again in the nineteenth, so it also contains some post-medieval work and monuments.

The church is still in use as the parish church and is usually open to visitors at reasonable times.

St Michael's Church

St Michael's Church is in the Bongate at the junction of Bongate and the road that runs down the hill towards the river and the Ford. It is thought that the north doorway is pre-Norman and therefore dates to an Anglo-Scandinavian church. The nave is early Norman with an original narrow doorway that is now blocked. The south doorway is thirteenth century early English and contains dogtooth carvings and rolls with fillets. The north doorway uses a tenth century hogback tombstone as a lintel. The south aisle and transept with five bays are fourteenth century decorated with an early English arcade quatrefoiled with fillets. In a recess in the south wall there is a fourteenth century effigy with the arms of Roos and Vipont. The former vicarage across the road is now the Courtfield Hotel and includes fourteenth century stonework that has been reused including again the arms of Roos and Vipont. The church used to contain a chantry founded by Sir William English. In 1467 John Winton was the Chaplain.



St Michael's Church

The church is no longer consecrated and is used as a house and an artist's studio. It is not open to the public but can be viewed from the adjoining road.

Archaeology

Since 2016, the Appleby Archaeology Society have been carrying out archaeological investigations in Appleby as part of their 'Dig Appleby' project. Six separate locations were investigated across the town during 2016 and 2017, including some of the largest available gardens and open spaces in Boroughgate, a garden in the Bongate and a field at Castle Bank on the southern edge of Appleby. Archaeological remains of possible medieval and / or post-medieval date were found in six of the seven test pits excavated, and in both trenches. The artefactual evidence recovered indicated past activity dating from the prehistoric to the modern periods, but mainly focused on the medieval and post-medieval periods. Significant quantities of medieval pottery were recovered during the test pit excavations.

Further information about the Appleby Archaeology Society is available on their website at: https://applebyarchaeology.org.uk/index_main.html

In July 2019 the foundations of medieval buildings were found in the Sands area while contractors were demolishing a garage as shown below.



Conclusions

Appleby is not one of England's best-known medieval towns but, as demonstrated in this fact sheet it was a significant medieval town and the scene of several significant medieval events. Appleby is associated with several significant medieval figures including Hugh de Morville and Lord John Clifford and was visited by figures including King Edward I and Robert the Bruce. It also retains a well-preserved medieval castle, its original street plan and two medieval churches.

There is a photograph gallery for Appleby in Westmorland on my aw-history website at: <http://aw-history.co.uk/photograph-gallery-appleby>

Appleby also has a very helpful Tourist Information Centre with a website at: <http://visitappleby.com/tourist-information/>

Adrian Waite
August 2019

About the Fact Sheets

These fact sheets are written by me (Adrian Waite) unless otherwise stated. Their purpose is to provide basic information and some analysis and comment on medieval historical subjects. They therefore do not provide information about events prior to the fifth century unless this is needed to set events in the medieval period in context and do not cover events after the early sixteenth century. The subjects may be historical buildings, events, people; how medieval history is researched, managed or presented today or other subjects. They are published on the 'AW-History' website and are freely available. I hope that people enjoy reading them and that they encourage readers to explore medieval history further. Feedback about the fact sheets is always welcome and should be addressed to me at adrian.waite@awics.co.uk.

About AW-History

The address of AW-History is www.aw-history.co.uk

If you are interested in medieval history between the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century and the reformation in the sixteenth, this is the website for you! It contains information about the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Plantagenets, early Tudors and much more!

The website contains:

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- Other historically related items that can be bought by mail order
- Information about events that you can attend - organised by "AW History" and by other organisations
- Links with other websites containing information about medieval history

We welcome visitors and hope that they enjoy the website. Feedback about the website is always welcome and should be addressed to me at adrian.waite@awics.co.uk.
