

## Glossary of terms

**Chattels:** personal possessions (excluding land and money)

**Chirograph:** three versions of a 'fine' (a document recording the outcome of property litigation) were produced, with the parchment cut along a wavy line marked 'chirograph'.

**Concord:** purchasing leave to concord was a way of settling proceedings (and some proceedings settled in this way were fake legal actions, brought in order to convey landholdings).

**D.** This abbreviation represents *denarii*, or pence.

**Defendants:** the people defending themselves against the legal action.

**Dower:** a widow's share of her husband's estate.

**Lay brother:** a member of a monastic community who focused on manual labour.

**Mark:** this was a unit of account rather than a coin. It was worth thirteen shillings and four pence.

**Mort d'Ancestor:** 'death of an ancestor'. An action to enable an heir to claim a landholding formerly held by their relative.

**Novel disseisin:** 'recent dispossession'. An action to recover lands recently lost to the plaintiff.

**Oxgang:** the amount of land that could be ploughed by one ox in a season.

**Plaintiffs:** the people bringing the legal action.

**S. (shilling):** a shilling was worth twelve pence, and there were twenty shillings in a pound.

**Surety:** a person who takes responsibility to ensure that an action happens.

**V.:** versus 'against'

**Villein:** here translating *nativus*: a serf, an unfree person bound to the land.