

Anglo Saxon Houses

Anglo-Saxons used wood to build their houses, and they thatched the rooves with reeds. The rooves had no chimneys, and so any smoke within the house had to escape through the thatch.

Inside the houses, families ate and slept in one room. A hearth would provide heating, and a means to cook the family meals.

Candles made from tallow would have been used to light Saxon homes. Tallow is another name for animal fat.

Houses were made secure with strong timber doors that were shut using latchkeys made from iron or deer antler.

Houses were small and built in groups that formed settlements, hamlets or villages.

In the centre of the settlement would be a large house, this was the Lord's Hall, later known as the Manor House.

In the Lord's Hall, people who were loyal to the Lord would gather for feasting and entertainment. They would listen to stories of heroes such as Beowulf and listen to music played on the lyre.