Weights, measures, values, and boundaries

The units used in this book are those that contemporaries used:

Weight:

English weights are based on the pound avoirdupois:

16 ounces (oz.)	=	1 pound (lb.)	=	0.4536 kilogram (kg)
2,240 lbs.	=	1 ton	=	1.016 tonne
14 lbs.	=	1 stone	=	6.3504 kg
16 stones	=	1 wey	=	101.6064 kg
10 weys	=	1 ton	=	1.016 tonnes

Volume (dry):

8 gallons	=	1 bushel (bus.)	=	35.238 litres (l)
8 bus.	=	1 quarter (qtr.)	=	2.819 hectolitres (hl)

Area:

40 perches (per.)	=	1 rod	=	0.1012 hectares (ha)
4 rods	=	1 acre (ac.)	=	0.4047 ha
640 acres	=	1 square mile	=	259 ha

Volume by area (a measure of yield):

1 bus. per ac.	=	0.8707 hl per ha
1.1485 bus. per ac.	=	1 hl per ha

Length:

3 feet	=	1 yard	=	0.9144 metres (m)
1,760 yards	=	1 mile	=	1.6093 kilometres (km)

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Value:

12 pence (d.)	=	1 shilling (s.)
20 s.	=	1 pound (£)

Boundaries:

All counties and their boundaries are as they existed before 1974.

Statute versus non-statute (customary) measures:

The medieval acre was of a variable size. Statute acres were measured with a perch of 16½ feet. Non-statute acres were measured with perches that could be 16, 18, 20, 22 or even 24 feet, yielding customary acres equivalent to 0.94, 1.19, 1.47, 1.78, and 2.12 statute acres. Perches in excess of 30 feet are also sometimes recorded. Large customary acres in excess of 1½ statute acres were most characteristic of Cornwall and parts of northern and north-western England.

The size of the bushel also varied, especially according to whether it was heaped or struck. With a modest amount of heaping, 8 heaped gallons would actually have amounted to 9 struck gallons and 8 heaped bushels to 9 struck bushels; a difference of 12.5 per cent.

Multiples:

Millions and billions are abbreviated to 'm.' and 'b.' A billion is 10^{12}.

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