The Origins Of Open-field Agriculture

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The Origins of Open-Field Agriculture Croom Helm Historical.

History of countryside and agriculture 1100ad - UK Agriculture 1100ad - UK Agriculture

The open field system developed by the Saxons was widely adopted by 1100AD. Its origin is uncertain but its cooperative nature may have been influenced by the Saxons' adoption of open-field agriculture. The open field system, also known as 'convertible husbandry', allowed for the agricultural production of a surplus, which was distributed among the community. This system was based on the division of land into strips, which were allotted to individual farmers for cultivation. The open field system was prevalent in much of Europe from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, when it began to be replaced by the enclosure movement. The replacement of the open field system with individual farming led to the fragmentation of the landscape and the loss of many traditional agricultural practices.

References: