



HIBERN ð N ð RSE ð WIRRAL

FREEMEN - karl

Most people in Viking society fell into the social class of free men (Old Norse karlar, singular karl), under the Earls (Old Norse jarlar, singular jarl) being the top of the social hierarchy.

Most free men locally were farmers. Fishermen and crafts people. Some farmers owned and worked their own land, while others laboured for the wealthier farmers. They would often do this in exchange for permission to farm a portion of their employer's land.

Some free men would be fishermen making a living off the sea or what they could catch from the inland waterways of the Wirral.

Fishing would have been a substantial way to make enough food to survive the harsh winters.

Some free men were craftsmen or merchants, making a living from what they could make or sell. Meols was an important trade route and meant that the area would have had craftsmen and merchants that related to the ongoing trade routes.

Some freemen were blacksmiths making weapons and also making nails and parts for the boats on the shores.

The farmers would have traded the wool they could have sheared from their soay sheep reared on the damp rich pasturelands of the inland seas.

During times of conflict the freemen would be expected to come and fight for their Jarls or lords. They would be typically be armed with spears, shields and maybe a hand weapon if used in their everyday life.

