

## **Fashion**

Saxon people wore woollen cloth or animal skins. They spun the wool from sheep and goats and used a loom to make cloth. The style varied and changed in time. Julius Caesar and Tacitus reported that early 'Anglo-Saxons' men wore a short cloak or cape, made of skin or fur (usually sheepskin), secured by lacing, sewing, tying, or wooden or leather toggles through loops of leather. Other type of cloak was a sort of poncho with a central hole for the head, and the hooded robe, or 'Gallic coat', made from skin or textile, but there are no evidences that they were worn by Anglo Saxons in England. They also wore long sleeved tunics, with tight trousers or leggings, wrapped around with strips of cloth or leather. The trousers could be rather loose, or closely fitting, fastened around the waist with a belt it depended on personal choice or tribal tradition. Usually they were worn beneath a tunic and sometimes only with a cloak.

As to women clothing, it is easier to reconstruct as there are consistent features of all early Anglo-Saxon women's costume. Their basic item of clothing was a 'peplos' dress: a tubular garment clasped at the shoulders by a pair of brooches, leaving the arms uncovered. The belt was usually around the waist or hips, and the folds of the gown usually concealed. In cold weather, they also wore an under-dress, a bodice or a full length 'gown'. The sleeves also seem to have varied in length from almost non-existent to full length. The typical way of dressing seemed to be: a bodice with long, tight sleeves with an aperture at the front closed by a brooch, with the peplos fastened to this by another central brooch. Many women also wore cloaks, capes or shawls and in the later periods they habitually covered their heads. They probably also used short linen trousers and puttee type leg bindings to keep their legs warm.

Shoes were round-toed, flat soled and reach to the ankle or just below or open topped sandals

The many combs found in Anglo-Saxon suggest that care of the hair was important. Probably the Anglo-Saxons cut their hair fairly short, many men wore moustaches occasionally with a beard, but most are clean shaven. Hair is occasionally shoulder length, but is usually collar length or shorter

Women's hair was worn long sometimes loose but often drawn back from the face, presumably into a plait or pony-tail.