

## FEN AND SEA BANKS

The fenland farming communities had to be protected from both sea and inland waters; Pinchbeck and Surfleet had from pre-Conquest times a number of ancient fen and sea banks. Part of the earliest seabank is thought to have been constructed after 870 and inside several smaller ones were built, probably by the Anglo-Saxon settlers, who during the 8th and 9th Centuries were moving into communities on the siltlands around The Wash. Outside the main seabanks later ones were constructed to protect the new reclamations.

Gibbesdyke, which was regarded by the men of Pinchbeck as their principal seadyke, is believed to be of 12th Century date, created to counteract the silting-up of the River Glen; behind it lies Pinchbeck's first recorded "newland", which dates from 1229 on land reclaimed at the mouth of the Glen, a farm called "Newland" is still on the site.

Inland waters were kept back by the Old Fendyke, first referred to in the 13th Century, but believed to be of Saxon origin, which started against the present Vernatts Drain as well as by the New Fendyke and Marsh Dyke, both of which are of pre-12th Century date; all of these can be traced on a modern map today.

## THE RIVER GLEN-BRUMME EAU

The River Glen forms the north-western border of the Pinchbeck drainage area, from medieval times it was an important waterway for trade and communication as well as for drainage. Originally called Brumme Eau, by 1323 it was referred to as Glen when the Court of Sewers described it as only 20 feet wide and said that unless it was widened "Pinchbeck would be overflowed" every year.

This was not done until the beginning of the 16th Century when Thomas Lovell's scheme for reclamation of Deeping Fen included the Glen.