

Short list of early loanwords in Old English (not counting Celtic loanwords in Proto-Germanic).

Latin words in Proto-Germanic:

pund ‘pound’ < PGmc. **punda* ← *pondō* ‘by weight’

ċēap ‘purchase’ ←< PGmc. **kaup-* ‘trade’ ← *caupō* ‘merchant’

ċietel ‘kettle’ < PGmc. **katilaz* ← *catillus* ‘shallow dish’

Rūmwālas (dat. pl. *Rūmwālum*, 1x in the catalogue poem *Wīdsīþ*) ←< PGmc.

**Rūmō* ‘Rome’, **Rūmōnīz* ‘Romans’ (cf. Goth. *Rūmōneis*) ← *Rōma*,
Rōmānī

Early Greco-Latin words (almost certainly borrowed on the continent):

ċiriċe ‘church’ < PWGmc. **kirikā* (cf. OHG *kirihha*) ← κῦριακόν ‘(house) of the Lord’

dēofol (North. *dīofol*) ‘devil’ < PWGmc. **diubal* ← διάβολος ‘slanderer’

eṅgel ‘angel’ < PWGmc. **angil* ← ἄγγελος ‘messenger’

Crēcas ← Goth. *Krēkōs* (via other Germanic dialects) ← Γραικοί and/or *Graeci*

Early Latin words (mostly borrowed in England, though some might be older).

• Attested in *Beowulf*:

ancor ‘anchor’ ← *ancora*

camp ‘battle’ ← *campus* ‘field’

candel ‘candle’ ← *candēla*

ċeaster ‘walled town’ ← *castra* ‘camp’

cempa ‘warrior’ ← (late Lat.) *campiō*
‘professional fighter’

disc ‘dish’ ← (late Lat.) *discus*

draca ‘dragon’ ← *dracō*

gīgant ‘giant’ ← *gigās*, *gigant-*

mīl ‘mile’ ← *mīlle passuum* ‘mile, 1,000 paces’

orc ‘pitcher’ ← *urceus*

orc ‘demon’ ← *orcus* ‘hell’

scrīfan ‘to prescribe’ ← *scrībere* ‘to write’

seġn ‘banner’ ← *signum*

stræt ‘paved road’ ← (*via*) *strāta*

træf ‘building’ ← *trabs* ‘beam’

weall ‘wall’ ← *vallum* ‘rampart’

wīċ ‘settlement’ ← *vīcus* ‘village’

wīn ‘wine’ ← *vīnum*

- Attested in later texts (mostly in prose):

abbod ‘abbot’ ← *abbās, abbāt-*
biscop ‘bishop’ ← *episcopus*
byden ‘tub, cask’ ← (late Lat.) *butina*
cāsere ‘emperor’ ← *Caesar*
cealc ‘chalk’ ← *calx, calc-*
cemes ‘shirt’ ← *camisia*
čieren ‘new wine’ ← *carēnum*
čīese ‘cheese’ ← *cāseus*
čiest ‘chest, box’ ← *cista*
clīroc ‘cleric’ ← *clēricus*
copor ‘copper’ ← *cuprum*
cyčene ‘kitchen’ ← *coquīna*
cylen ‘kiln’ ← *culīna*
earc ‘chest, box’ ← *arca*
ēced ‘vinegar’ ← *acētum*
fefer ‘fever’ ← *febris*
ġimm ‘gem’ ← *gemma*
impian ‘to graft’ ← *imputāre*
inseġel ‘seal’ ← *sigillum*
Læden ← (*lingua*) *Latīna*
læfel ‘spoon, basin’ ← *labellum*
leahtrič ‘lettuce’ ← *lactūca*
lempedu ‘lamprey’ ← (late Lat.)
lamprēda
mearmstān ‘marble’ ← *marmor*
mentel ‘cloak’ ← *mantellum*
minte ‘mint’ (the plant) ← *menta*
mīse ‘table’ ← *mēnsa*
mortere ‘mortar’ (the receptacle) ←
mortārium

munt ‘mountain’ ← *mōns, mont-*
munuc ‘monk’ ← *monachus*
mynet ‘coin’ ← *monēta*
mynster ‘monastery, cathedral’ ←
monasterium
næp ‘turnip’ ← *nāpa*
nunne ‘nun’ ← *nonna*
pāwa ‘peacock’ ← *pāvō*
peru ‘pear’ ← (pl.) *pira*
pic ‘pitch, tar’ ← *pix, pic-*
pīnung ‘torture’ ← *poena* ‘punishment’
pinsian ‘to consider’ ← *pēnsāre*
port ‘port, harbor’ ← *portus*
pyle ‘pillow’ ← *pulvīnus*
pytt ‘well, pit’ ← *puteus* ‘well’
rādič ‘radish’ ← *rādīx, rādīc-* ‘root’
regol ‘(monastic) rule’ ← *rēgula*
sacc ‘sack’ ← *saccus*
scolu ‘school’ ← *schola*
sealm ‘psalm’ ← *psalmus*
sealtian ‘to dance’ ← *saltāre*
sester (a measure of volume) ←
sextārius
tæfl ‘game(-board)’ ← *tabula* ‘board’
tīġle ‘tile’ ← *tēgula*
torr ‘tower’ ← *turris*
ynče ‘inch’ ← *ūncia* ‘one-twelfth’
Sæterndæg, partial translation of
Sāturnī diēs

British Celtic words:

bannoc ‘bit, small piece’ ← British Celtic *bannōk, cf. Breton (Vannetais)

bannac ‘h; this is apparently not the same word as ModE *bannock*,
borrowed later from Scots Gaelic

binn ‘basket, bin’ ← BCelt. *bennā ‘wicker wagon-bed’, cf. Welsh *benn*

brocc, ‘badger’ < BCelt. *brokkos, cf. Welsh *broch*

carr ‘(large) rock’ < BCelt. *karr-, cf. Welsh *carreg*

luh (Northumbrian) ‘sea’ < Welsh *llwch*

hogg ‘young pig’, cf. Welsh *hwch*, Old Cornish *hoch?*; but the final consonant is problematic

Old Irish words:

assa ‘ass, donkey’ ← OIr. *assan*; the geminate *ss* shows that the word must have passed from Latin (*asinus*) through early Old Irish to OE; that is also passed through British Celtic is possible but less likely, since in that case the *i* in the second syllable should have umlauted the first-syllable vowel

bratt, ‘cloak’ ← OIr. *bratt* (possibly through British Celtic)

clucge ‘bell’ ← OIr. *cloc* (?)

dry ‘sorcerer’ ← OIr. *druí*, *druid-*

gabolorind ‘circle’ (attested only in glosses) ← OIr. *gabolorind*

mind ‘diadem’ (attested only in glosses) ← OIr. *mind*

There are a number of other words that might conceivably be British or Irish loanwords, but they are even more doubtful than any listed here.