• Usually women

• Men were also accused, the number and ratio of men to women depends on the time and the place. In the witch-trials of Moscow far more men were accused than women, but in the Essex trials around 80% of the accused were female. This may be due to the less standardised beliefs in 'witches' in Russia, and more commonly held beliefs of sorcerers who were often male.

• In Britain, men were often only accused as a result of being linked to the main, female witch in some way, usually by being related by birth, marriage, or being their husband.

• Women were more likely to be accused if they were old or widowed.

• Alice Kyteler, Irish 'witch' and first recorded trial was married four times and had been accused of murdering one of her husbands, an example of a woman widowed three times and accused of witchcraft.

• Widows were also more vulnerable members of the community, as they had no husband to protect them, and due to their misfortunes they may be seen as more likely to wish harm on their more well-off neighbours.

• Most areas of Britain and Europe in these periods was rural, cities were enclosed and small by today's standards, and many peasants lived on their own, or their landlord's land.

• Small communities were more likely to spread rumours, gossip, and be generally more ignorant of the wider world. Magic was someone that would have been very strongly believed in, and peasants were happy to take matters into their own hands at times.

• Generally the 'witches' were accused of making others in their community ill, affecting crops/harvests badly, bringing bad weather and storms, inflicting physical illness on livestock, creating diseases and impotency in humans, and making others in love.

• Wise women and folk remedies would have been common, often a wise woman/man would serve one village or community, and act as physician, midwife, and various other roles as required. These people may have been easy targets to blame things on when they went wrong.