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978-1-108-41967-3 — Early Common Petitions in the English Parliament, c.1290–c.1420

Edited by W. Mark Ormrod , Helen Killick , Phil Bradford

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PREFACE

This collection of early common petitions in the English parliament has been some years in the making, and we owe thanks to a number of organizations and individuals who have made it possible to bring it to fruition. The original identification of the relevant body of material in the National Archives was completed for Mark Ormrod by Dr Lisa Haworth Liddy under a small grant from the Department of History, University of York; this work was supplemented by further identifications and the creation of critical editions of documents, undertaken by Mark Ormrod and Helen Killick, and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; we are grateful to Professor Alexandra Gillespie and Professor James Ginther, the Principal Investigators on these projects, for their interest, commitment, and support, and to Dr Kitrina Bevan, Dr Gwilym Dodd, Dr Holly James-Maddocks, Professor Linne Mooney, Professor Anthony Musson and Dr Matthew Phillips, who participated in workshops arising from these grants and have given freely of their knowledge in the making of this edition. Phil Bradford joined the editorial team at a later stage to assist particularly with the historical notes. We are especially grateful to Dr Shelagh Sneddon for her expert assistance in the reading and interpretation of some problematic documents, and to Dr Gwilym Dodd for giving so freely of his expert knowledge of petitioning in the medieval English parliament. Throughout, Caroline Kennan's assistance in managing grants, organizing editorial meetings and co-ordinating text files has been invaluable. We acknowledge the considerable assistance and support that we have received from the National Archives over a sustained period, and especially the former and current staff, Dr Nick Barratt, Dr David Crook, Dr Sean Cunningham, and Dr Paul Dryburgh. We are very grateful to Miranda Bethell for her expert advice and copy-editing, and to the team at Cambridge University Press, particularly Melanie Howe and Daniel Pearce, for a very efficient production process. Finally, the intellectual stimulation and practical support of the Department of History and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York have been crucial to the successful outcome of this project.