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Excerpt  
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*ENGLAND*

## BEDFORDSHIRE

## BEDFORD

*A Schedule of the records and other documents of the corporation of Bedford*, 1883, p. 6, mentions an illegible charter of Edward III, probably confirmatory.

1396 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 356: conf. with clause licet of 1227 and 1189; the former grant of the laws and liberties of Oxford extended so as to include the liberties and laws of London.

1401 = *C.P.R.* 1399-1401, 439: conf. of 1396.

1423 = *C.P.R.* 1422-29, 158: conf. of 1401.

1447 = *C.P.R.* 1446-52, 36: release for 60 years of £22 of the town's fee farm.

There were further confirmations in: 1462 = *C.P.R.* 1461-67, 248; 1495 = Conf. Roll 6-10 Henry VII; 1504 = *C.P.R.* 1494-1509, 368; 1509 = Conf. Roll 1 Henry VIII; 1515 = Conf. Roll 7 Henry VIII; 1547 = Conf. Roll 1 Ed. VI, pt. 3 no. 5; 1553 = Pat. Roll 1 Mary, pt. 11; 1559 and 1605: *Schedule*; *Schedule*, p. 19, mentions another patent of Queen Mary granting 2 fairs and 1 market.

## BERKSHIRE

## ABINGDON

There was a short-lived medieval charter, secured by the burgesses during their struggle with the monastery in 1327 (*C.P.R.* 1327-30, 22; see also Trenholme, *The English Monastic Boroughs*, p. 43): to elect provost and bailiffs to have custody of the town.

1555 = B. Challenor, *Selections from the records of the borough of Abingdon*, 1898, prints a translation of the year 1665; there is a summary in J. Townsend, *A history of Abingdon*, 1910, p. 107; formal incorporation with all legal and constitutional implications; title of the corporation, the mayor, bailiffs and burgesses of the borough of Abingdon; boundaries; the corporate body to consist of 12 men of the better and more honest and discreet sort, inhabitants of the borough called the principal burgesses; the capital burgesses to co-opt 16 other inhabitants, called the secondary burgesses; both bodies together to form the common council of the borough; power to make by-laws; creation of a number of higher offices; 1 M.P.; first appointments for life; mayor to be coroner, and no outside coroner to interfere; to possess a council house; method of

electing mayor: the secondary burgesses to nominate 2 capital burgesses; acting mayor, bailiffs and rest of the principal burgesses to choose 1 of them as mayor for 1 year from Michaelmas; election day 1 September; oath; fine on refusal of office; similar procedure on vacancy of office through death or unforeseen events; the mayor to elect 1 bailiff, subject to approval by the whole community, the inhabitants to elect the other 1; similar penalty on refusal of office; oath; vacancies; the council to co-opt future members on vacancies; oath of clerk of market; the mayor to appoint town clerk and 2 serjeants-at-mace; the corporation to have assize of victuals and of weights; grant of a court leet; a weekly market and 5 fairs with pie-powder court and tolls; return of all writs; gaol; mortmain licence to the yearly value of £40; recital of several leases; grant of certain properties.

1565 = Challenor 37-41; Townsend 110: grant of new court of record to be held before the mayor instead of before the bailiffs.

16 Feb. 1610 = Challenor 42 (date corrected after inspection of Patent Roll, P.R.O.): grant of properties together with the liberties and franchises of the former monastery; existing debts remain valid.

3 Mar. 1610 = Challenor 56 (similar correction of date): re-incorporation as a free borough; recorder, first appointment; in future mayor and principal burgesses to elect one; oath; the acting and the ex-mayor together with the recorder to be J.P.s; mayor, bailiffs and principal burgesses to be exempt from serving on juries without the borough; conf. of court of record and of fairs and markets and tolls; grant of weights as in Woodstock; general conf. of former charters.

1621 = Challenor 69; Townsend 110: recital of grants of markets as under Phil. & Mary and Jas. I; conf. of prior grants; grant of tolls of grain, corn and malt and of other tolls, to hold at the former rents.

#### MAIDENHEAD

1352 = mentioned in 1452: endowment and foundation of a bridge guild.

1452 = *C.P.R.* 1446-52, 576: conf. of the bridge guild; election of guild wardens; the chaplain and his successors to be surveyors of the guild; surveyors, wardens and members to have corporate character in law; common seal; grant to acquire lands to the yearly value of 10 marks for repair and maintenance of bridge; pontage and fishery rights.

1547 = *Report of 1835*: enlarging corporate revenues.

1578 = J. W. Walker, *A history of Maidenhead* (2nd ed.) 1931, p. 51: preserved in borough archives; conf. of 1452.

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1582 = Walker 51: recital of dissolution of chantry; incorporation as a free borough under the title: the warden, bridge masters, burgesses, and community of the town of Maidenhead, the corporation to be successor to the old guild; a market and 2 fairs; court of record and pie-powder; the governing body to consist of a warden, 2 bridge masters and 8 burgesses.

1604 = *C. St. Pap. Dom.* 1603-10, 138; Walker 52: conf. of the foregoing; re-incorporation under same title; first appointments for life; 2 serjeants-at-mace to attend on warden; additional fair; 3 oak trees from Cookham Woods granted yearly for the repair of Maidenhead Bridge.

## NEWBURY

1596 = *C. St. Pap. Dom.* 1596-98, 44; W. Money, *The history of . . . Newbury*, 1887, pp. 227-29: formal incorporation as mayor, aldermen and burgesses of Newbury; governing body to consist of mayor, high steward, recorder, 6 aldermen and 24 capital burgesses, town clerk and other officers; court of record before mayor or 1 alderman; cognizance of debts and other matters, not exceeding 20 marks; 4 fairs; pie-powder court; the mayor and 1 alderman to be J.P.s; felonies excepted; all former and prescriptive rights to be continued under new title.

## READING

1344 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 31: conf. of 1253.

1379 = *C.P.R.* 1377-81, 326: conf. of 1344.

1401 = *C.P.R.* 1399-1401, 432: conf. of 1379.

1417 = *C.P.R.* 1416-22, 115: conf. of 1379 (Coates, *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.*, and Trenholme assign this to 1427; Coates enumerates further confirmations during the course of the fifteenth century; strong presumption of confusion).

1510 = *Lett. & Pap. Henry VIII*, i. (2nd ed.) pt. 1 g. 563 (2): conf. of 1417; annual election of 2 serjeants-at-mace; supervision and correction of clothmaking; to be exempt from assizes, juries, etc. outside the town.

1528 = *Lett. & Pap. Henry VIII*, iv. pt. 2 g. 4445 (12): mortmain licence to the yearly value of £5.

1542 = *Lett. & Pap. Henry VIII*, xviii. g. 285 (1); part of it printed in *Reading Records*, ed. J. M. Guilding, i. 176-7: conf. of 1253 and 1510; formal incorporation as mayor and burgesses of Reading; 7 aldermen, 1 of them mayor; mayor to be J.P.; mayor and burgesses or majority to nominate, elect and establish as burgesses any of the trading inhabitants.

1547 = P.R.O.: Conf. Roll 1 Ed. VI, pt. 3 no. 2: conf. of 1542.

1560 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll 2 Eliz. pt. 2 (Coates says 1562): conf. of all former charters; governing body of mayor and 9 capital burgesses to co-opt 12 secondary burgesses; boundaries; appointments of a steward, 2 cofferers, 2 serjeants; mayor to be clerk of the market; disposal of former church buildings; clauses referring to bridge and grammar school.

1638 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll 14 Chas. I, pt. 10 no. 10; long paraphrase in Coates, pp. 65–70: re-incorporation as mayor, aldermen and burgesses; 13 aldermen, 1 of them mayor; 12 assistants; mayor elected by governing body; full description of municipal jurisdiction; ordinances against aliens.

1649 = Coates, 70: conf. of 1638.

## WALLINGFORD

1335 = *C.Ch.R.* iv. 328: conf. of 1267 and 1156.

1396 = mentioned in 1400: temporary release of part of the fee-farm.

5 Feb. 1400 = *C.P.R.* 1399–1401, 201: conf. of 1396.

10 Feb. 1400 = *C.P.R.* 1399–1401, 190: conf. of 1335.

1416 = *C.P.R.* 1416–22, 60: converting the release of 1396 into a permanent reduction.

1425 = *C.P.R.* 1422–29, 285: conf. of 10 Feb. 1400.

1499 = *C.Ch.R.* vi. 273 (translation with incorrect date in Hedges, *Wallingford*, ii. 72–3): 2 yearly fairs.

1558 = Hedges ii. 98–100 (translation): conf. of 1425 and 1499.

1562 = mentioned in 1609: conf. of release of farm.

1609 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll 6 Jas. I, pt. 4 no. 2: renewed conf. of all former releases, inclusive of 1562.

## WINDSOR

1316 = *C.Ch.R.* iii. 306: conf. of 1277.

1328 = *C.Ch.R.* iv. 95: conf. of 1316.

1379 = *C.P.R.* 1377–81, 370: conf. of 1328.

1439 = *C.Ch.R.* vi. 5: conf. with clause licet of 1277; freedom from toll; all fines, forfeitures and amercements; full internal jurisdiction; mayor and bailiffs to be J.P.s, felonies excepted; pleas to be held in the guildhall; assize of victuals; chattels of felons, etc.; return of all writs and summonses; waifs and strays and treasure trove; mainour; free devise of lands by will, except in mortmain.

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1462 = *C.P.R.* 1461-67, 248: conf. of 1439.

1466 = *C.P.R.* 1461-67, 551: formal incorporation as “community” with all legal implications; pardon of arrears and reduction of yearly farm; 1 fair.

1499 = *C.P.R.* 1494-1509, 355: conf. of 1462.

1515 = *P.R.O.*: Conf. Roll 6 Henry VIII: conf. of 1499.

1549 = *P.R.O.*: Conf. Roll 3 Ed. VI no. 8: conf. of 1515.

1559 = *P.R.O.*: Conf. Roll 1 Eliz. no. 3: general conf.

1603 = *P.R.O.*: Pat. Roll 1 Jas. I, pt. 19; Tighe and Davis, *Annals of Windsor*, 1858, ii. 53-6: conf. of 1549; re-incorporation as mayor, bailiffs and burgesses; governing body to consist of 28-30 of the better and more responsible inhabitants, called the brethren of the guildhall; 13 of them the “Benchers of the Borough” and 10 of the 13 “Aldermen” or “Chief Benchers”; 1 alderman to be mayor; 2 bailiffs to be elected out of the brethren; court of record; fines; mayor and 1 alderman to be J.P.s; gaol; return of all writs; mayor to be clerk of the market; a market and 3 fairs; no foreigner to sell by retail; conf. of all lawful former liberties; fee farm at £10; power to purchase in mortmain lands to the yearly value of £40; assignment of several monastic possessions.

## WOKINGHAM

1583 = *P.R.O.*: Pat. Roll 25 Eliz. pt. 2; abstract in Carrington, “Ancient state of Wokingham”, *Wiltshire Magazine*, xi. 56-7: conf. of former prescriptive liberties, viz. court leet and court baron with election of officials; pleas of debts and damages under 40s.; market and 2 fairs; 1 minor town official to gather toll, keep the market clean and to have the keeping of the clock-house; profits of the court.

1612 = *P.R.O.*: Pat. Roll 10 Jas. I, pt. 5 no. 9; abstract in Carrington, 58-9: incorporation as alderman and burgesses of Wokingham; governing body to consist of 1 alderman, 7 capital burgesses and 12 secondary burgesses; first appointments for life and establishment of a high steward, recorder, common clerk, 2 serjeants-at-mace; alderman, high steward and recorder to be J.P.s; court of record; guildhall and gaol; weekly market and 3 fairs; conf. of lands and tenements.

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## AYLESBURY

1554 = R. Gibbs, *A history of Aylesbury*, 1885, pp. 116-22 (translation): recital of loyalty; formal incorporation as bailiff, aldermen and burgesses of Aylesbury; governing body to consist of 1 bailiff, 10 aldermen and

12 capital burgesses; boundaries; election of 1 serjeant-at-mace and 1 constable; co-optation; right to issue ordinances; conf. of former liberties and customs; first appointments for life; weekly market and 2 fairs with pie-powder court; full internal jurisdiction; justiceship of the peace with all implications and profits therefrom; return of writs; bailiff to be coroner, escheator and clerk of the market; assize of victuals; not outside interference; gaol; mortmain licence to the yearly value of £20; two M.P.s, to be elected by governing body.

## BUCKINGHAM

1554 = B. Willis, *The history and antiquities, etc., of Buckingham*, 1755, pp. 86–96 (translation): formal incorporation as bailiff and burgesses of Buckingham; governing body to consist of a bailiff and 12 principal burgesses; first appointments for life; court of record; all fines and ameracements; minor officials to be instituted by the governing body; mortmain licence: yearly value 20 marks; market and 2 fairs with all liberties and customs belonging thereto; gaol; view of frankpledge; boundaries; assize of victuals; power to make by-laws; method of electing officers; governing body to co-opt principal burgesses and new burgesses; 2 M.P.s; bailiff to be J.P., escheator and clerk of the market; return of writs; no interference of any royal officials.

## COLNBROOK

1543 = *Lett. & Pap. Henry VIII*, xviii. pt. 2 g. 107 (60): formal incorporation; weekly market and 2 annual fairs with pie-powder court.

1635 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll 11 Chas. I, pt. 20 no. 3: re-incorporation as bailiff, burgesses and community of Colnbrook; governing body to consist of a bailiff and 12 capital burgesses; conf. of markets.

## WYCOMBE

1400 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 394; translation in J. Parker, *The early history and antiquities of Wycombe*, 1878, Appendix, pp. 18–21: conf. of 1285 and 1237.

1553 = Parker, App. pp. 22–5: conf. of the foregoing charters.

1558 = Parker, App. pp. 26–39 (translation): general conf. of former liberties; formal incorporation as mayor, bailiffs and burgesses of Wycombe; governing body to consist of mayor, 2 bailiffs and 12 principal burgesses; appointment of first officers for life; court of record in the guild-hall; pleas of debts not exceeding £20; fines and profits to go to the corporation; under-bailiff; mortmain licence: £20 yearly value; market and

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2 fairs with pie-powder court and tolls; gaol; view of frankpledge; boundaries; assize of victuals and fines therefrom; power to make by-laws; the whole community to take part in elections; steward to be elected by governing body; oaths; 2 M.P.s; justiceship of the peace with all fines; mayor to be J.P., escheator, coroner and clerk of the market; no outside interference; freedom from toll; fines for trespasses to go to the corporation; fines meted out to burgesses and forfeited outside the town to go to the corporation; also chattels of felons, etc.; waifs and strays, deodands, treasure trove, mainour.

1559 = P.R.O.: Conf. Roll 1 Eliz. no. 13: general conf.

1598 = Parker, App. pp. 46–63: elaborate re-incorporation as mayor, bailiffs and burgesses; no change in governing body; court of record for all manner of pleas concerning debts, contracts or personal actions arising within the borough, not exceeding £40; elections confined to governing body; general conf. of liberties.

1608 = Parker, App. pp. 64–76: conf. of all charters of Elizabeth, inclusive of a grant (of 1562) to found a grammar school; right to appoint a recorder.

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## CAMBRIDGE

For a full edition see *The charters of the borough of Cambridge*, ed. F. W. Maitland and M. Bateson, 1901.

1313 = *C.Ch.R.* iii. 226: conf. of several thirteenth-century charters; clause licet; freedom from pavage, murage and pickage; to plead and be impleaded only within the borough; free devise of land and tenements within the borough; saving the rights of the university.

1377 = *C.P.R.* 1377–81, 76: conf. of 1313.

1382 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 277. After the revolt of 1381, the borough had lost several liberties; restitution of former liberties, except assize of victuals and cognizance of forestallers, etc. transferred to the university; fee-farm fixed at 105 marks yearly.

1385 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 301: all fines, ransoms, amercements and forfeitures; chattels of fugitives, felons and outlaws.

1394 = *C.P.R.* 1391–96, 428: clarification of right to fine burgesses and scholars.

1405 = *C.P.R.* 1401–05, 492: conf. of 1385 and 1394, saving the rights of the university.

1419 = *C.P.R.* 1416–22, 247: conf. of 1405.



1424 = *C.P.R.* 1422-29, 207: conf. of 1419.

1437 = *C.P.R.* 1436-41, 45: conf. of 1377 and 1405.

1466 = *C.P.R.* 1461-67, 555: conf. of 1437.

1510 = *Lett. & Pap. Henry VIII*, i. (2nd ed.) pt. 1 g. 449 (16): conf. of 1466 and 1405.

1548 = *Charters*, ed. Maitland and Bateson, no. xxiii (misprinted as 1549, but see Introduction, p. xxviii): conf. of 1510 and charters prior to 1307.

1589 = *Ibid.* no. xxv: grant of Sturbridge Fair.

1605 = *Ibid.* no. xxvi: elaborate formal incorporation as mayor, bailiffs and burgesses; right to make ordinances, etc.; mortmain licence up to £60; all former rights granted by the king's predecessors are confirmed to the formally created corporation.

1632 = *Ibid.* no. xxvii: re-incorporation under same style; confirms private council of 12 aldermen and common council of 24 burgesses; 2 treasurers; high officials to appoint deputies; admission to any trade in the borough after 7 years' apprenticeship; power to tax inhabitants; conf. of all liberties.

## WISBECH

1549 = *C.P.R.* 1548-49, 339: formal incorporation; the corporation to succeed to guild property; mortmain licence to the yearly value of £100; a schoolmaster to be provided for; continuation of purposes of former guild.

1611 = *P.R.O.*: Pat. Roll 8 Jas. I, pt. 39 no. 10: re-incorporation as "burgesses of Wisbech"; governing body to consist of recorder and 10 capital burgesses to be taken from the better and "opulentiores" men; mortmain licence unchanged; provision against non-election of capital burgesses.

## C H E S H I R E

## CHESTER

1327 = *C.Ch.R.* iv. 59: conf. of 1300 with clause licet; vacant places.

1354 = R. H. Morris, *Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor reigns*, 1893, pp. 495-9: conf. of 1327 by the Black Prince, with clause licet and further additions; chattels of fugitives and felons to the value of £30, the residue to go to the prince; mayor to be escheator and to swear and account for that office to the prince; boundaries; attachment on the Dee between Chester and The Red Stones, equivalent with admiralty rights.

1379 = *C.Ch.R.* v. 258; Morris 501-3: conf. of 1354.

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- 1399 = Morris 505: confirmatory; definition of jurisdiction.
- 1401 = Morris 505-6: Henry V, when Prince of Wales, confirms 1379.
- 1425 = *C.P.R.* 1422-29, 317; Morris 510-11: conf. of 1401.
- 1506 = Morris 524-40: formal incorporation as mayor and citizens of Chester and erection into a county of itself; yearly to elect 24 fellow-citizens for aldermen and 40 others for the common council; one alderman by unanimous consent of governing body to be recorder; the mayor to be elected by the full community in the following manner: the community at large to nominate 2 aldermen who have not yet been mayor or sheriff, or not sheriff for the last 3 years, and the sheriffs and aldermen to appoint 1 of them mayor; in case of equality of voices the acting mayor's vote to be accounted for 2; 1 sheriff to be elected by mayor, sheriffs and aldermen, the other 1 by the community at large; mayor to be escheator and clerk of the market; city courts; city sword; 2 coroners; 2 muragers; no interference of royal household officials; power to make by-laws; cognizance of pleas in town; municipal jurisdiction defined; gaol; citizens not to serve on foreign juries; all goods and chattels of felons, outlaws, etc.; freedom from toll; excepting customs of prize-wine and iron; assize of victuals; regulation of river Dee; market rights; mayor, recorder and several aldermen to be J.P.s; fixing the fee-farm; grant of waste lands.
- 1560 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll. 2 Eliz. pt. 3 no. 7a: conf. of a charter of Edward VI.
- 1574 = Morris 545-52: conf. of foregoing grants; mortmain licence: £100 yearly value; guardians of orphans and infants.
- 1605 = C. Brown, "Epitome of the charters of Chester, 1120-1836", *Arch. Jour.* xliii. 362: confirmatory.

## CONGLETON

- 1430 = R. Head, *Congleton, past and present*, 1887, p. 35: a yearly fair.
- 1451 = Head 36: grant to regulate the river.
- 1531 = Head 36: exemption from appearing in outside courts.
- 1542 = *Ibidem*: conf. of 1272-74.
- 1584 = Head 36-7: formal incorporation as mayor and community of Congleton and appointment of first mayor.
- 1585 = Head 37: freedom from toll.
- 1625 = P.R.O.: Pat. Roll 22 Jas. I, pt. 2 no. 1: elaborate re-incorporation as mayor, aldermen and burgesses of Congleton; aldermen also called