

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey



Postgraduate/Distance Learning Assignment coversheet & feedback form

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For completion by the student:		
Student Name: John Cooper-Hammond		
Module code: HPHI7016 Module title: Past Peoples, Present Societies: Research Methods & Skills	Student ID number: 2022129	Educational support needs: No
Module tutor: Alex Scott		
Assignment due date: 14 th November 2021		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☒ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☐ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐ Assessment 1: Archival Exercise		
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Archival Exercise

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Date:

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Shaftesbury Abbey has been chosen as it is one of the sites of pilgrimage in Dorset that it is hoped to include in dissertation research. It should be noted that, as Cousins remarks:

It is a common perception that few primary monastic records survive for the Dorset monasteries, especially for the period 1300-1540. The author's survey of original sources, both manuscripts and published edited transcripts, record offices and the National Archives has confirmed the scarcity of these records... Indeed fewer documents relating to Dorset's monasteries have survived than for monasteries in many other counties. Documents relating to their internal organisation and management are almost totally lacking and only a handful of obediatory accounts exist. In some cases, the reasons for the lack of survival of these documents are known. For example, Shaftesbury Abbey's muniments passed into the hands of Thomas Arundell, following his purchase of the abbey site and many of its estates. These documents were held in the 'evidence house' at Wardour Castle in the early seventeenth century. Almost all appear to have been destroyed when the castle was ransacked by parliamentary forces in 1643¹.

Due to geographical and Covid situation, appropriate archives were sought using internet resources – finding and using database websites that were 'archives of archives'. These included the National Archives Discovery catalogue², The Monastic Manuscript Project,³ DMMapp,⁴ Medieval Manuscripts on the Web,⁵ The British Library catalogue,⁶ the Electronic Sawyer⁷ & the Cathedral Libraries Catalogue.⁸

These led to a range of potential archival sources, most of which had on-line catalogues. These were searched to find whether, or not, each showed it had relevant documents concerning Shaftesbury Abbey. In the appendix are listed the archives that had such documents, along with samples of the types of documents they hold.

The archives selected were:

1. The British Library

¹ David Cousins, 2013, 'Monasteries and Monasticism in late Medieval Dorset (1290-1540)', Doctoral thesis at the University of Winchester

² <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

³ [Monastic Manuscript Project Home Page \(earlymedievalmonasticism.org\)](http://MonasticManuscriptProjectHomePage(earlymedievalmonasticism.org))

⁴ [DMMapp - Digitized Medieval Manuscripts app](http://DMMapp-DigitizedMedievalManuscriptsapp)

⁵ [Medieval Manuscripts on the Web – Siân Echard \(sianechar.ca\)](http://MedievalManuscriptsOnTheWeb-SianEchard(sianechar.ca))

⁶ www.bl.uk/catalogues-and-collections

⁷ [Electronic Sawyer: The Electronic Sawyer \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://ElectronicSawyer-TheElectronicSawyer(cam.ac.uk))

⁸ [Cathedral Libraries Catalogue \[CERL\]](http://CathedralLibrariesCatalogue[CERL])

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

2. The National Archives and Public Record Office
3. Wiltshire Record Office now the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre
4. Dorset Record Office – now the Dorset History Centre
5. Salisbury Cathedral Library
6. The Bodleian Library
7. The Fitzwilliam Museum
8. Somerset Heritage Centre (South West Heritage Trust)
9. Family & estate papers still held locally such as: Longleat House archives and the Berkeley Castle Muniments
10. Sheffield University Taxatio Database

The documents sought were, for the purposes of this exercise, all medieval manuscripts. As thinking about the putative research topic is at an early stage, for this exercise, references to Shaftesbury Abbey were sought. These were not narrowed down to specific topics and therefore, the resulting archival sources refer to a wide range of topics concerning the life of the Abbey. These range from manorial and Reeve's accounts to wills, land grants and relevant events, such as the death of an abbess. Many of these may well be surplus to the requirements of the actual research topic and will be discarded. However, a few have already been noted that may well be of relevance. Particularly the reports in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to the death of Edward, king and martyr, the recognition of his sanctity and translation to Shaftesbury Abbey; and the Domesday reference to Saint Edward's Abbey, Shaftesbury – indicating his importance to the institution.

When undertaking future archival searches as part of a particular research focus, it would be necessary to refine the filters in order to seek specific data and information in support of the topic. Given the current situation it was important that all these archives had accessible on-line catalogues, luckily this a growing facility in many academic fields. In some instances, for example the National Archives' 'Discovery' search facility permitted several layers of filters to refine the search. In other cases this was less easy, and searches had to be conducted using a variety of terms to access the desired records.

Another useful facility, for some sources, was the ability to view the required documents, page-by-page on-line. From these images it is possible to glean information, depending on the skills of the reader – not everyone can read medieval Latin or early English, let alone the writing styles and usages.

This assignment was both intriguing and useful in that it provided another skill set to the researcher. Whilst being somewhat time consuming the excitement of the

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

hunt chase was evident. What was perhaps surprising was the comparative ease with which resources were found, so long as there was a skill in using the internet and in asking appropriate search questions of the web.⁹ This is, mayhap, also a potential problem for the researcher; the sheer volume of information that is available electronically could cause the investigator to disappear down an endless rabbit hole of possibilities. So a certain degree of self-discipline and close focus on the precise task-in-hand.

This exercise has demonstrated that it is possible to discover potentially useful archival material using on-line resources with comparative ease and in many instances gain virtual access the actual materials themselves. It is suspected that the next task is a more demanding one, that of making proper and appropriate use of those archival materials in pursuit of the research topic in hand.

Word count – text: 933

Word count – appendix: 2,264

⁹ A suggestion: all students undertaking research should have a learning session on how to best interrogate the internet. Being 'tech-savvy', as many young people are, does not always mean they know how to really use this potentially valuable resource.

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Appendix: Ten Archival sources with examples of documents they hold pertaining to Shaftesbury Abbey

1.London

The British Library

Generated by: Abingdon Abbey

Reference: Cotton Tiberius B I

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle C¹⁰

- 978 Martyrdom of King Edward
- 982 Death of Herelufu, Abbess of Shaftesbury
- 1035 Death of King Knut at Shaftesbury

Generated by: Worcester Cathedral Priory

Reference: Cotton Tiberius B IV

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle D:

- 978 King Edward killed, the poor disposal of his body, God's intervention, and the recognition of his sanctity
- 979 Translation of King Edwards remains from Wareham to Shaftesbury Abbey
- 1035 Death of King Knut at Shaftesbury

Generated by: Canterbury Cathedral Priory

Reference: Cotton Domitian A VIII

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle F:

- 1035 Death of King Knut at Shaftesbury

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Egerton 3135

Cartulary of Shaftesbury Abbey

Dated: 1400-1430

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference Egerton 3098

Inventory of deeds of Shaftesbury Abbey

Dated: 1500

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Harley 61

Shaftesbury Abbey cartulary, including copies of grants 9th-15th centuries

¹⁰ C= The Abingdon II Chronicle

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Dated 1400-1500

Generated by: Wynflæd (?)

Reference: Cotton Charters VIII 38

Will of Wynflæd concerning land at Ebbesborne, Wilts.; Charlton (probably Horethorne, Somerset); Coleshill, Berks.; Inngeneshamme (perhaps Inglesham, Wilts.); Facombe, Hants; Adderbury, Oxon.; and at Chinnock, Somerset; the beneficiaries including Shaftesbury and Wilton. English

Dated: C11th

Generated by: Winchester Cathedral Priory

Reference: Cotton MS Nero C IV

Winchester Psalter or Psalter of Henry of Blois. Ownership: Origin: Doubtless made at Winchester. Ownership history:(?)Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester (b. c. 1096, d. 1171), for whom this manuscript may have been made: see Ker, *Medieval Libraries of Great Britain*, p. 200, where the manuscript is attributed on liturgical grounds to the Old Minster, Winchester (Benedictine cathedral priory of SS Peter, Paul and Swithun); Shaftesbury Abbey (Dorset), Benedictine nunnery of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Edward the Confessor, on liturgical grounds.

Dated: Mid C12th – second half of C13th

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Lansdowne MS 383

The Shaftesbury Psalter with calendar and prayers.

Dated: second quarter of C12th

Generated by: French scribe and illuminator, Jean Mallard.

Reference: Royal MS 2 A XVIII

Book of Hours or the Beaufort Book of Hours. ... the calendar includes dates of the birth of her daughter Margaret Beaufort in 1443, the death of her second husband John Beaufort (b. 1404, d.1444), duke of Somerset and son of John Beaufort, marquis of Dorset, the investiture of her daughter Margaret Saint John as the abbess of Shaftesbury...

Dated: 1401- c 1500

2.London

The National Archives and Public Record Office

Generated by: The Crown

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: The Domesday Book [generic reference as there 8,193 references for Dorset taxation alone and 261 for Shaftesbury.] There are 22 places pre-Conquest and 24 post conquest associated with Shaftesbury Abbey
There are examples where places that are recorded as belonging to, or containing property of, Shaftesbury Abbey:

Dorset:

... Silton. Seltone: William de Falaise. 3 mills.. Sixpenny Handley.

Hanlege: **Shaftesbury Abbey**....

...Hinton St. Mary. Haintone: **Shaftesbury Abbey**...

Sussex: ... Felpham. Falcheham: St. Edward's **Abbey, Shaftesbury**, ...

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference E322/211

Surrender, 23 March 1539, to Henry VIII, memo. of acknowledgement by John Tregonwell, LLD, king's commissioner. Signed by abbess, conventual seal of two impressions

Dated: 1539

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference: E132/2/13

Exchequer, K.R., Transcripts of Deeds & Charters. Transcripts of charters rel. Cranborne, comprising Robert fitz Hamon's grant of tithes in Cranborne to the priory, a confirmation of this by William de Clare (d. 1183), earl of Gloucester [m. 1], and a second copy of the latter [m. 1 dorse]; other membranes are rel. Cranborne Chase etc. (including an agreement of the abbess of Shaftesbury with Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, 25 Mar. 1251) and do not concern the priory. Five membranes.

Dated 1275-1325

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference: E315/245

Exchequer, Augmentation Office, Misc. Books List of pensions, totalling 431, assigned to the abbess, Elizabeth Zouche (133 6s. 8d), and 55 nuns, on 22 March 1539 (the day before the abbey was surrendered).

Dated 1539

3. Chippenham, Wiltshire

Wiltshire Record Office now the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre¹¹

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference 2667/22/4/2

¹¹ [Catalogues \(wshc.org.uk\)](http://wshc.org.uk)

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

From the Arundell of Wardour Estates Copy of the surrender of Shaftesbury Abbey and its estates

Dated 1538

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: 2667/3/3

Deeds under great seal – lease by the Abbess of Shaftesbury to Sir Thomas Arundell of the manors of Tisbury, Berwick St John, Donhead: Handley, Tarrant, Encombe and in Corfe castle, Dorset. Conventual seal of Shaftesbury

Dated 1538

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: 1742/6786

Reeve's accounts for Bradford upon Avon (Wilts.), Michaelmas 1372 - Michaelmas 1373 [rot. 3], Michaelmas 1376 - Michaelmas 1377 [rott. 2 and 4; each lacks foot] and Michaelmas 1391 - Michaelmas 1392 [rot. 7; lacks foot]; with a bailiff's account for Bradford parsonage, i.e. rectory, 1383-4 [rot. 5; fragment only], and an account of the exitus grangie for Bradford, 1383-4 [rot. 6; fragment only].

Dated 1373-1392

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: 2667/16/291-300

Accounts for the manor of Tisbury (Wilts.), comprising a roll with accts. of the reeve and rent-collector for 1449-50, 1460-1, 1466-7, 1467-8 and 1468-9 [16/291]; roll with accts. of the bailiff, 1460-1, and rent-collector, 1478-9, 1499-1500, 1506-7, 1509-10, 1519-20, 1532-3 and 1536-7 [16/292]; reeve and rent-collector, 1464-5 [16/293]; rent-collector 1475-6 [16/294]; and rent-collector, 1477-8 [16/295], late 15th cent. [16/296; not fit for production, 2005], 1491-2 [16/297; not fit for production, 2005], 1496-7 [16/298; not fit for production, 2005], 1504-5 [16/299; not fit for production, 2005], and 1527-8 [16/300; not fit for production, 2005].

Dated: 1450-1537

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference 1728/70

From Grove family papers: the Court and account book of the estates of Shaftesbury Abbey: Donhead Hundred & manor, Barton in Sedgell, Tisbury manor & parsonage, Dinton, Bradford On Avon prebend & manor, Berwick St Leonard, Kilmington, Coombe in Donhead, all in Wiltshire. Sixpenny Hundred,

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Fontmell, Hanley, Tarrant, Chesilbourne, Melbury, Iwerne, Stower, Caundle, all in Dorset. Kelston, Somerset. Unidentified, Almere, Kingston. Felgham.

Dated 1517-1518

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference: 1728/3

Grant made in the 15th year of Edward I by Walter de Ferne to Roger Ygolf & Alice his wife, daughter of said Walter and the heirs of the said Roger & Alice of 2 messuages, 2 virgates of land in Charlton & Coombe in Donhead Manor, namely the messuages and lands which William Seman and John le Wryte formerly held paying the chief lords yearly 9 shillings, in payment of 60 shillings owed to the Abbess of Shaftesbury for the vill of Ferne

Dated 1286-1287

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey/Salisbury Cathedral

Reference: D1/2/14, f.217r

Will of Dame Joan Formage, Abbess of Shaftesbury 1372-1394, copied into Bishop Waltham's register [bishop of Salisbury 1388-1395]

Dated May 1394

4. Dorchester, Dorset

Dorset Record Office – now the Dorset History Centre¹²

Generated by: The Exchequer

Reference: D-1048

Letters patent (confirmation by Henry VI of grant made by Edward III to Shaftesbury Abbey)

Dated: 1442

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey (amongst the relevant papers in bundle)

Reference: D-WLC (Weld of Lulworth Castle)

Accounts (1640-1935); Correspondence (1637-1889); Estate (1436-1929); Family (1440-1951); Legal (1362-1895); Manorial (1361-1930); Lulworth Chapel Musical Scores (18th-20th Cent.); Maps and Plans (c.1675-1925); Religion (17th Cent.-1931); Deeds (1261-1907); Official (early 15th Cent.-1865); Parish (1689-1926); Miscellaneous (1338-1935)

Dated: 1261-1951

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Ph. 752

¹² [Dorset archive Catalogue - Epexio \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://dorsetarchivecatalogue.epexio.gov.uk)

Archival Exercise

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Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Part of a Shaftesbury Abbey cartulary

Dated: C15th

Reference: D-WLC/Z/5

Accounts of William Wolewale, granger of Shaftesbury Abbey [early C17th copy]

Dated: 29th September 1518- 29th September 1519

Generated by Salisbury Cathedral/ H. Sampson

Reference: D 1399

J. Harris, (extracted) 'Index book to Dorset Archdeaconry in the diocese of Sarum', (1880). This was copied by H. Sampson, in the clerk of the peace office, Sherborne. Index 1 (of 5) is a List of all the Monasteries and Cells in the County of Dorset. This manuscript volume was previously in the library of John Wordsworth, Bishop of Salisbury.

Dated 1399

5. Salisbury, Wiltshire

Salisbury Cathedral Library¹³

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey and Salisbury Cathedral Dean & Chapter

Reference: non stated

72 Shaftesbury Abbey documents from the 13th century, including items relating to elections of abbess 1290/1 and case of novel dissension against the abbess by the Dean & Chapter of Salisbury 1371

Dated 13th-14th centuries

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: 150

Continuous Gloss – possibly originating at Shaftesbury Abbey due to the inclusion in the manuscript of St Edward, St Aidan and St Maiolus which are particularly important saints for Shaftesbury

6. Oxford

The Bodleian Library¹⁴

Generated by: Peterborough Abbey

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle E:

- 978 King Edward killed, the poor disposal of his body, God's intervention, and the recognition of his sanctity

¹³ [Salisbury Cathedral Library - Collections & Access](#)

¹⁴ [Finding aids and catalogues | Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

- 979 Translation of King Edwards remains from Wareham to Shaftesbury Abbey
- 1035 Death of King Knut at Shaftesbury

Generated: The Crown¹⁵

Reference: Dodsworth 38 (S.C. 4180) [Also British Library Harley 61] Sawyer S485

King Eadred to Ælfthryth, a religious woman; grant of 8 hides (mansae) in the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset. Latin with English bounds

Dated: A.D. 948.

and:

S534

King Edmund to Wynflæd, a nun; restoration and confirmation of 7 hides (mansae) at Cheselbourne, Dorset, and grant of a further 8 hides there; with note, in English, of grant to Wynflæd of land in Winterbourne Tomson, Dorset. Latin with English bounds 1. London, British Library, Harley 61, ff. 7r-8r (s. xv in.)

Dated: A.D. 942

and:

S899 [also Lawrence. University of Kansas: Kenneth Spencer research Library MS E. 107]

King Æthelred to Shaftesbury Abbey; grant of the cenobium of Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts., with land at Bradford.

Dated: 1001

And:

Generated by: Wynflæd (?)

S1359 [also British Library Cotton Charters viii. 38]

Will of Wynflæd concerning land at Ebbesborne, Wilts.; Charlton (probably Horethorne, Somerset); Coleshill, Berks.; Inngeneshamme (perhaps Inglesham, Wilts.); Faccombe, Hants; Adderbury, Oxon.; and at Chinnock, Somerset; the beneficiaries including Shaftesbury and Wilton. English

Dated: C11th

7. Cambridge

The Fitzwilliam Museum¹⁶

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Allsopp MS1

Generated by: The Fitzwilliam Museum

¹⁵ As 'The Exchequer' was not established in England until 1130, the term '@The Crown' is used to represent the Royal Court

¹⁶ [Fitzwilliam and University Library catalogues | Fitzwilliam College Cambridge](#) Note: this also gives access to the Cambridge University Library catalogue

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Book of Hours of Margaret Shelford, Abbess of Shaftesbury Abbey 1505-1528

Dated: pre-1529

and

Cambridge

Parker Library Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University

Generated by: Winchester Cathedral Priory

Reference: Laud misc. 636

8. Nottingham

Nottingham University Library, Department of Manuscripts & Special Collection¹⁷

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Mi/5/166/6

Accounts of Shaftesbury Abbey manor

Dated: 1452-1453

Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset

Somerset Heritage Centre (South West Heritage Trust)¹⁸

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: DD\SAS/C795/HV1

Shaftesbury Abbey deeds relating to Milverton

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey (for relevant document(s))

Reference: DD\SAS\C\795/HV1

Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society Collection & Haviland family papers, 6 documents with seals, including Shaftesbury Abbey.

Dated: 1170-1372

Generated by: Professor Alcock & Dr Radford

Reference: DD\CAM/MA/16/128

Miscellaneous documents: South Cadbury Archive, correspondence between Prof. Alcock & Dr Raleigh Radford and between Prof. Alcock and RCHM regarding Shaftesbury Abbey¹⁹

Dated: not known

9. Longleat Estate, Hornisham, Warminster, Wiltshire

¹⁷ www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/index.aspx

¹⁸ [Catalogues and Indexes – Somerset archives and local studies \(swheritage.org.uk\)](http://CataloguesandIndexes-Somersetarchivesandlocalstudies(swheritage.org.uk))

¹⁹ Leslie Alcock (1925-2006) Professor of Archaeology, Glasgow University. Dr Raleigh Radford, archaeologist & historian, Inspector of monuments for the Ministry of Works

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Longleat House archives²⁰

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: none stated

Accounts and papers of Shaftesbury Abbey

Dated: early 16th century

and

Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire

The Berkeley Castle Muniments²¹

Generated by: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference BCM/D/5/92

The Mowbray Estate – the Seagrave inheritance

Administrative history: 1249 Robert de Hatch & Juliana had been granted 1 carucate of land and the reversion of another carucate by Hamon de Hatch, who held of Shaftesbury Abbey. The manor was later held by the Seagraves.

Date: not known.

10. Sheffield

Sheffield University Digital Humanities Institute – Taxatio database²²

Generated by: Salisbury Cathedral

Reference: SA.DO.SH.31

Assessment for tax for the benefice of Shaftesbury Saint James under the patronage of the Abbess of Shaftesbury Abbey. (It seems most likely that the 5l.0s.0d. was the income of the benefice-holder, who in 1327 was in dispute with the abbess and convent of Shaftesbury as to whether he was rector or vicar. The abbey's portion was perhaps represented by the pension of 4l.0s.0d. Evidence of 1394 indicates that the abbey won its case to be considered rector, and thus to present to a vicarage: Reg. Waltham 162, and see Reg. Hallum 35, 68²³)

Dated after 1327 and before 1417

Addendum:

The Burghal Hidage was also considered as Shaftesbury is one of the 33 named burhs in the documentation. The archival sources for this are to be found:

London

British Library

Generated by: The Crown

²⁰ [Library and Archives | Longleat](#)

²¹ [Archives and library, Gloucestershire — Berkeley Castle \(berkeley-castle.com\)](#)

²² [Taxatio \(dhi.ac.uk\)](#)

²³ These registers of bishops of Salisbury, along with several others, have been published by the Canterbury & York Society

Archival Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129

Chosen topic: Shaftesbury Abbey

Reference: Cotton Otho B XI (c. 1025)

Generated by: the Exchequer

- I. Cotton Claudius D II, f. IV (c. 1320)
- II. Hargrave 313 (c. 1252)

Manchester

John Rylands Research Institute & Library, Manchester University

Generated by: The Crown

Reference: Rylands Latin Ms. 155, f. 3v (c. 1210)

London

National Archives

Generated by: The Exchequer compiled by Alexander of Sweford with additions by later writers

Reference: E 164/2

Liber Rubeus Scaccarii [the Red Book of the Exchequer] (c. 1220)

Cambridge

Corpus Christi College Parker Library

Generated by: Andrew Horn City Fishmonger & Chamberlain of the City of London

Reference: Ms 070: Leges Anglorum (c. 1300-1325)

Oxford

Oriel College Library

Generated by: unable to find this

Reference: MS 46, f 2v (c. 1330)