

Barony of Wallingford

Seat/County	Wallingford Berkshire/Oxfordshire	Principle source	English Baronies by IJ Sanders
Date	History of Lordship		Monarchs
Unknown	Siward is recorded as the equivalent of the Baron of Wallingford whose son Guy becomes Earl of Warwick in his wife's name.		Alfred the Great 871-899
871	Creation of the English Monarchy		
9 th /10 th Centuries	Wallingford is a key strategic fortress situated on the Thames at the border with Mercia. It plays a key role in defending against the Vikings and is of motte and bailey construction.		Edward Elder 899-924 Athelstan 924-939 Edmund I 939-946 Edred 946-955 Edwy 955-959 Edgar 959-975 Edward the Martyr 975-978
1006	Wallingford is burnt to the ground by King Sweyn of Denmark after invading England from Southampton.		Ethelred 978-1016 Edmund II 1016 Canute 1016-1035 Harold I 1035-1040 Harthacnut 1040-1042
1050	A seal has been found from this date confirming Godwyn as thegn and Godgytha his wife.		Edward the Confessor 1042-1066
Pre-Conquest	Wigod (a Danish name) holds the fortified burh of Wallingford, probably coming over with King Canute. He is believed to be a housecarl (part of Canut's royal bodyguard).		
Unknown	Wigod is a minister of the Crown and potentially a "pincerna" (butler) to Edward the Confessor. He also holds Wallingford.		
1066	Wigod is still holding Wallingford of King Harold and is titled a staller (military Governor). Wigod's son, Toki, has significant land holdings under his father. Wallingford is the chief town of Berkshire.		Harold II 1066
1066	Norman Conquest- Battle of Hastings		
1066	William the Conqueror is stopped at London Bridge. To take London he sets fire to Southwark and travels along the Thames to Wallingford where the Thames can be crossed without bridge or boat. He then takes London from the north.		William I 1066-1087
Post-Conquest	Wigod has <u>not</u> fought against King William so unusually retains Wallingford and is made Baron of Wallingford. Most Saxon thegns lose their lands to new Norman Barons. Wallingford is mostly agricultural but also has a royal mint.		

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1069	Wallingford's importance is shown by William the Conqueror granting a curfew (couvre feu) at 9pm for Wallingford whereas the rest of the country was an hour earlier when all fires had to be put out.	
1079	Wigod's son, Toki, dies saving the life of William the Conqueror at Gerberoy.	
1084	Wigod's daughter, Eadgytha, is given in marriage to Robert d'Oilly (Sheriff of Oxfordshire). Robert oversees the construction of the Norman castle of Wallingford. Wallingford town is only one of 18 towns in England to have a population over 2,000 people.	
1086	Domesday	
1090/2	Robert and Ealdgyth both die leaving a daughter, Matilda who inherits the honour and makes her first husband, Miles Crispin, Baron of Wallingford. He is also made Constable of the Castle of Wallingford.	William II 1087-1100
1107	King Henry I gives Matilda with her honours and lands, to Brian Fitzcount after the death of Robert.	Henry I 1100-35
1129	The Honour is recorded as having 135 manors with over half of these having Wigod still as Lord over the Manors.	
1139	Brien Fitzcount fortifies Wallingford castle and declares himself a supporter of Empress Matilda.	Stephen 1135-54
1150	They have no children and both give themselves to a religious life and Lord Henry (Duke of Normandy, to be Henry II), son of Empress Matilda is given the Honour of Wallingford. Brian retires to a monastery nearby to Reading Abbey (founded by Henry I and where the King's heart was interred, showing his devotion to Henry I). Matilda retires shortly after to Bec.	
1152	During Stephens reign Wallingford castle is besieged on many occasions. Brien Fitzcount and Roger, Earl of Hereford defend Wallingford. Roger makes peace with Stephen and changes alliance to him.	
1153	Henry finally takes possession of Wallingford Castle after a long siege. The Treaty of Wallingford is signed confirming Stephen as King but to be succeeded by Henry as Henry II.	

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1155	Henry II holds a Great Council in Wallingford and gives the town its charter. The citizens of Wallingford are given “firm peace throughout the whole land”. It also exempts Wallingford from certain taxes and confirms earlier rights specifically held by Wallingford.	Henry II 1154-89
1156	Prince William, Count of Poitiers, dies aged 2 at Wallingford castle.	
1176	Henry II creates the Grand Jury, which is brought about by the Assize of Clarendon. This shows the significance of the Barony of Wallingford in that it is specifically mentioned in two clauses stating that “the Honour of Wallingford is even included in the provisions”.	
1191	Richard the Lionheart leaves for the 3 rd Crusade and grants the honours of Wallingford and Peverell to his younger brother John, but specifically excludes the castles as this would give him too much power. Wallingford castle is given to Walter de Coutances, Archbishop of Rouen. Earl John takes possession of the castle but it is besieged by the Earl of Leicester and is re-taken.	Richard I 1189-99
1193	The castle is put into the possession of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen Dowager.	
1195	Richard the Lionheart holds tournaments at Wallingford.	John 1199-1216
1204	King John is a frequent visitor to Wallingford. Many knights are taken prisoner and kept at Wallingford Castle prison.	
1212	The Baron of Wallingford is recorded as being liable for 102 ½ knight’s fees. King John meets discontented Barons at Wallingford apparently to make a reconciliation through the Pope’s legate.	
1215	On 5 th May rebel Barons renounce their allegiance at Wallingford. They name Fitzwalter as their leader.	
1215	Magna Carta	
1215	Wallingford is specifically mentioned in Magna Carta as one of four, as an example of a Barony where the new baron will not have to pay taxes on the death of the previous Baron.	

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Date	History of Lordship	Monarchs
1215-1217	First Barons War	Henry III 1216-72
Unknown	Wallingford Castle is one of the castles held by King John during the First Baron's War.	
Approx. 1220	Ranulph III de Blundeville Le Meschines, Earl of Chester (a guarantor of Magna Carta) is briefly made Baron of Wallingford.	
1231	Henry III grants the castle, town and honour of Wallingford to Prince Richard, Earl of Cornwall, son of King John and brother of Henry III.	
1232	Although no longer Baron, Ranulph is buried at Wallingford	
1264	Prince Edward (to be Edward I) is held prisoner at Wallingford Castle by Simon de Montfort.	
1264-1267	Second Barons War	Edward I 1272-1307
1267	Henry III grants a charter to Wallingford granting that the death penalty can be avoided in Wallingford for certain crimes, however the convicted would have to have their eyes put out.	
1272	Richard dies leaving Edmund his son and heir, Earl of Cornwall.	
1275	The Ragman inquest describes the Honour of Wallingford as a "liberty". This means that the Honour not only has its usual privileges but also those of the assizes of bread and ale, view of frankpledge, pleas of vee de naam (right to enforce court orders), right of gallows, return of writs, view of frankpledge (right to organise tithings) and probably the most important, the right to execute royal warrants. It is not known how long these privileges were in force however they gave the Baron the same powers as the sheriff and excluded the sheriff from interfering in the honour.	
1300	Edmund dies and the honour is escheated to the Crown.	
1307	The honour is once again granted, this time to Peter (or Piers) de Gavaston. His first act as Baron is to proclaim a tournament at Wallingford in which he demands his opposers to attend. At the tournament he insults them.	Edward II 1307-27
1308	Piers is banished due to his unpopularity.	

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1312	Piers returns and receives back the honour. Unfortunately he is challenged again by the Barons and is beheaded by the authority of the Earl of Lancaster. The honour once again escheats to the Crown.	
1317	Edward grants the honour to his wife, Queen Isabella for the term of her life.	
1326	Isabella takes a lover, Roger de Mortimer and King Edward II offers £1,000 for the head of Mortimer. There is a battle at Bristol which Edward loses and is imprisoned in Kenilworth Castle. Roger de Mortimer is made Constable of Wallingford Castle and there is a Royal feast in celebration which Queen Isabella attends.	
1328	Mortimer is executed and Edward III takes the castle from his mother and gives it to his son, John of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall.	Edward III 1327-77
1335	An Act of Parliament makes the Duchy of Cornwall and all castles and honours (including Wallingford) to be bestowed on the eldest sons of the Kings of England. The first is Edward, later known as the Black Prince.	
1361	Edward marries Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, and Joan makes Wallingford her primary residence.	
1376	The Black Prince dies and the honour and castle of Wallingford are held in dower by Joan.	
1385	Joan dies at Wallingford, supposedly of a broken heart, after Richard II condemns his half-brother, John Holland, to death for the accidental killing of a court favourite.	Richard II 1377-1399 Henry IV 1399-1413
1399	Richard II goes to Ireland and his fiancée, the 11 year old Queen Isabella de Valois, is moved to Wallingford Castle. Henry of Bolingbroke (to be Henry IV) takes advantage of his absence to seize power. The Queen sets out from Wallingford with the Earl of Kent but is seized at Cirencester. Richard II has already been captured. Henry IV executes William le Scrope, Constable of Wallingford Castle and makes Thomas Chaucer, son of the writer Geoffrey Chaucer, the Constable of Wallingford Castle and Steward of the honour, for life.	Henry V 1413-22
1400	Edward Plantagenet, Prince of Wales is recorded as owner of the honour of Wallingford.	

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1402	The honour of Wallingford is recorded as being part of the Duchy of Cornwall held by Henry of Monmouth, Prince of Wales.	Henry VI 1422-61 1470-71
1422	Queen Katherine, widow of Henry V is granted the honour of Wallingford.	
1428	Katherine's son, Edward (to be Edward VI) spends summers at Wallingford. Owen Tudor, a servant of Katherine is thought to have married Katherine, although this is never proved.	
1434	Thomas Chaucer dies and William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, becomes Constable of Wallingford Castle. He has married Alice Chaucer, daughter of Thomas.	
1437	Katherine dies and Owen Tudor is summoned to London to face charges.	
1438	Owen is imprisoned at Wallingford by Lord Beaumont.	
1448	William de la Pole, now Duke of Suffolk is charged by Parliament with, "building warlike munitions at Wallingford Castle and of selling the realm to the French". Henry VI expels him from the country for 5 years. The Duke is killed whilst on his way and William Lovel is made Constable of Wallingford Castle.	
1455	William dies and Alice de la Pole gains the Constable position by special decree.	Edward IV 1461-70 1471-83
1455-1487	War of the Roses	
1459	Edward of Woodstock, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall is recorded as owner of the honour of Wallingford.	
1460	John de la Pole marries Elizabeth Plantagenet, sister of Richard III and Edward IV.	
1465	Alice's son, John de la Pole, becomes Constable of Wallingford.	
1472	Henry VI is executed and his son Edward is killed at the Battle of Tewkesbury. Margaret of Anjou, Henry VI's consort is imprisoned at Wallingford.	

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1475	Rene, Duke of Anjou, pays a ransom for the release of his daughter.	
1481	Edward Plantagenet, Prince of Wales is owner of the honour of Wallingford.	
1484	John and Elizabeth have a son John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln. Richard III declares John as successor to the throne of England.	Edward V 1483 Richard III 1483-5
1487	Richard III's death and Henry VII's accession to the throne finishes the Earl of Lincoln's chances of becoming King. The Earl rebels and is killed at the Battle of Stoke.	Henry VII 1485-1509
1490	The Earl's brother, Edmund de la Pole also rebels against Henry and the Constablership is confiscated and given to Henry's son Arthur.	
1502	Prince Arthur dies and Wallingford castle passes to his brother Henry (to be Henry VIII).	
1518	Henry VIII marries Katherine of Aragon and brings his Court to Wallingford. The honour of Wallingford remaining with the Crown.	Henry VIII 1509-47
1534	The Act of Supremacy – Church of England	
1535	Henry VIII grants Henry Norreys (Norris) the Constablership of Wallingford Castle.	
1536	Henry Norreys and Anne Boleyn are arrested as it is suggested the Queen was sharing favours with him. Norreys is beheaded and Anne a couple of days later.	
1540	Henry VIII who dislikes the then unfashionable ruinous castle, demotes the honour of Wallingford to become an appendage of the Manor of Ewelme (also owned by the Crown). Ewelme is upgraded to an honour and takes over all of the privileges of Wallingford. The title of Baron of Wallingford has not been used since Peter de Gavaston due to Crown ownership. With the downgrading of the honour of Wallingford this ensures that the Crown will never grant the Barony of Wallingford again as a feudal title.	Edward VI 1547-53 Mary I 1553-58 Elizabeth I 1558-1603

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Date	History of Lordship	Monarchs
1642-1651	English Civil War	James I 1603-25 Charles I 1625-49 Charles II 1660-85 James II 1685-88 William III 1688-1702 Anne 1702-14
1750-1850	Industrial Revolution	George I 1714/27 George II 1727/60 George III 1760-1820 George IV 1820-30 William IV 1830-7 Victoria 1837-1901 Edward VII 1901-10 George V 1910-36 Edward VIII 1936 George VI 1936-52 Elizabeth II 1952-
2014	The title of Baron of Wallingford has not been used for 474 years since Henry VIII demoted the honour and upgraded Ewelme to replace it. The actual use of the title will have ceased in 1308 due to Peter de Gavaston being exiled.	