

# Oxford in the Civil War

## 4. Student Hints Handouts

*Source A1: 'An Exact Accompt of all Persons being strangers now resident with the parish of St Aldates Oxon' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 46)*

This handwriting is hard to read. Look carefully and see what you can decipher.

We have typed up parts of the document. See if you can find the text on the original source.

This is a list of visiting people, grouped by the name of the person who they were staying with.

Why do you think this list was made?

How many of the 'strangers' were soldiers?

How many were involved in making food for the King's court?

How many looked after the King's appearance?

How do you think the hosts felt about their guests?

*Source A2: Rector of Ducklington's diary (Bodleian MS. Top. Oxon. c. 378)*

Ducklington is a village 12 miles west of Oxford.

There are two entries here. Which talks about royalist soldiers, and which talks about parliamentarians?

What do these two episodes tell you about the experiences of local people living near Oxford?

What were the costs and losses linked to passing armies?

*Source B1: Restrictions on grazing at Wolvercote common and Port Meadow (Bodleian MS 11951)*

The language here shows us that this was a very formal agreement, binding on both sides. It is signed by the King (at the top) and the tenants and commoners of Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common at the bottom. But could the citizens really refuse?

How would this agreement have affected local people? Would it have had an impact on everyone, or only some people?

Most of the local residents are able to write their names. Can you find the ones who cannot sign?

*Source B2: 'What meale hath bin bakt for the Kings use.' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 42)*

This handwriting is quite clear. Look carefully and see what you can decipher.

What do you think 'meale' was?

Do you know what a bushell is? Can you find out roughly how much meale this source mentions?

Why would someone have recorded these amounts? What were they hoping for?

*Source B3: Bread and bisket sent by Kath: Moore for the kings use. (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 43)*

Which official is Katherine Moore dealing with?

Looking at the figures, what can you work out about the old system of money? As well as pounds and pence, what other denomination did they use?

What does this source tell us about women's role in the Civil War?

*Source B4: 'A List of how much Victualls & of what kindes I conceive necessary to be provided for 3000 men' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 94)*

Who do you think produced this document?

How much wheat did each man get each week? Can you find out what this means in today's measurements?

How much cheese, butter and bacon did a man get 'per diem' – and what does this mean?

What does the last part of the source tell you about the army's commander's plans for feeding his troops? How would this impact on civilians?

*Source C1: Making cannon baskets (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 92)*

Do you recognise any of these places?

A cannon basket was a large basket designed to be filled with earth or stones. What do you think it was used for?

What does this source tell us about job opportunities for Oxford locals during the Civil War?

*Source C2: Proclamation 'For the better Encouragement of such as shall bring Provisions into this City...' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 103)*

What was being stolen from people bringing provisions into Oxford?

Who was stealing them?

What impacts on public health were there when the King's army and court arrived in the city?

Why were the 'scavengers' not able to do their jobs?

*Source C3: 'Proclamation for the better securing of the marketts at Oxford, and the safe passage of Travellers unto and from that Citty' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 170-171)*

What does this source say royalist soldiers now require before they take horses or other goods from local people?

Why are they introducing this regulation?

What does this source tell us about the opportunities for criminals during the Civil War?

*Source D1: 1643 proclamation 'The Kings Majesties special direction concerning the finishing of the Fortifications, in and about the City of Oxford' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 22)*

Whose names are being collected?

How often are they expected to work on the fortifications?

How many hours a day would they have to work? What impact would this have on their daily lives?

How much do people have to pay if they do not work?

What tools are required for the work? Do you think their owners got them back?

Why would people with servants have an extra responsibility?

*Source D2: 1643 proclamation 'Concerning the Fortifications about the City of Oxford' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 43)*

Why is the King disappointed?

What are the two options if you do not want to work?

What is the argument used to justify making women work on the fortifications? Why might this have had a serious impact on some women?

Does this source suggest that certain groups of people had failed to work on the walls?

How are lodgers expected to pay?

What is the special penalty for royal servants who do not co-operate?

Looking at the original document, how many parishes are listed? And how many people eligible to work in the whole city?

*Source D3: 'The returnes of the names of the inhabitants & lodgers within each severall parish from 16 to 60' (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 17)*

Who is responsible for helping the royal commissioners' assistants? How do you think their neighbours would have felt about this new role?

What was used to summon the workers each morning?

Which county is the Governor of Abingdon told to search for more tools?

*Source D4: Receipt for payments in lieu of work on the walls. (Bodleian MS. Add. D. 114, fol. 36)*

Who do you think wrote this source?

Look at source D3 (the handwritten original) – how many people in St Aldate's Parish are eligible to work?

If each person who doesn't work pays 12 pence a day, and they have been working for five days, how many people have paid the fine? There were 240 pence in an old pound, and 12 pence in an old shilling.

*Source D5: Map of Oxford's fortifications (MS. Top. Oxon. B. 167)*

What shows you that this was a working document, used during the siege of Oxford?

Find the path of the parliamentary army.

Find a powder mill. What was this?

Compare the lines of the fortifications with the other map (D6).

*Source D6: David Loggan's 1675 Map of Oxford (Bodleian (E) C17:70 Oxford (113))*

Can you find the remains of the fortifications around the city?

How many years after map D5 was this map drawn?