

Available transcriptions

This page contains a list of published books containing full-text transcripts of wills for various counties in England. It does not claim to be an exhaustive list - and in any case, new transcriptions are always becoming available - so if you know of a reference that should be added here, please contact us with details and we will add it.

The listing below also includes some transcripts that are available on-line, and links are given below to these.

County	Document description and source
Bedfordshire	Bedfordshire wills: volumes 58 and 76 published by Bedfordshire Historical
Berkshire	Berkshire wills pre-1558: quarterly journal of Berks Archaeological & Archite
Kent	Kent wills (a huge resource) available online at this site
Lincoln & Lincolnshire	Lincoln Wills, 1271-1526, Lincoln Record Society Vol. 5, Ed. Foster (1914) Lincoln Wills, 1505-1530, Lincoln Record Society Vol. 10, Ed. Foster (1918) Lincoln Wills, 1530-1532, Lincoln Record Society Vol. 24, Ed. Foster (1930) Lincolnshire Wills, 1500-1600, Ed. Maddison (1888)
London	London Consistory Court Wills 1422-1547 from London Record Society Consistory
Northamptonshire	Transcripts of 556 west-Northant wills by G.W. Hatton - see download elsewhere Transcripts of 145 early Northampton wills, Northamptonshire Record Society Wills for Rushden are available online at this site
Oxfordshire	Some Oxfordshire Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 139 Wills transcripts for Burford, Oxfordshire , available online at this site
Somerset	Somerset Medieval Wills, 1st series 1383-1500, this site F.W. Weaver, available Somerset Medieval Wills, 2nd series 1501-1530, with some Somerset wills p Somerset Medieval Wills, 3rd series 1531-1558, F.W. Weaver, available onl
Suffolk	Wills & Inventories from Registers of Commissioners of Bury St Edmunds, e Wills of Sudbury Archdeaconry, 1439-74, ed Northeast, Suffolk Record Soci Wills of Sudbury Archdeaconry, 1630-35, ed Evans, Suffolk Record Society (NB: there are more volumes, a full list is obtainable from Suffolk Record So
Yorkshire & North	Wills of North England (Surtees Society), available here online at (NB: there are many more volumes in this series)

Using the data

Some of the above transcriptions have already been put to use, in a study by Gren Hatton on variation in infant mortality in English counties in the period 1400-1700. This in turn has been incorporated into a further study by the same author on the evolution of vernacular architecture over the same period. In both studies, the evidence sifted from full-text wills transcripts was of

prime importance in deriving the results.