

The 1,311 hits for Banbury delivered by the first search (free text) are displayed in a summary table organised by originating government department. Thus, we can carry out an overall assessment of the success of our search. 184 results appear under the Chancery records (C), 159 under the Exchequer and related bodies (E), the Board of Trade (BT) provides a link to a further 138 hits, the records of the Home Office (HO) provide 91 and there are 89 relevant entries under the records of the Railway Companies (RAIL). The list of results for Banbury continues providing links to further results in the following areas of the catalogue: Ministry of Housing and Local Government (HLG), Department of Education (ED), War Office (WO), Ministry of Transport (MT), Ministry of Health (MH), Census of population (RG), Ministry of Agriculture (MAF), Ordnance Survey (OS), Treasury (T), etc.

This presentation of results by originating department allows users to focus their research and rule out sets of data from an early stage in the process. It also sums up quite well the variety of sources that The National Archives offers to those interested in researching about their local communities. If an initial search for a place name delivers an unexpectedly low number of results it may be worth investigating further by browsing the list for some of the department codes mentioned above.

The catalogue entries found under the Chancery records (spanning the years 1288-1903) can be split into two categories: hits for the name Banbury and an interesting combination of entries on this place. Amongst the latter there are a number of depositions and proceedings involving people, rents, and land in Banbury. The manors of Banbury, Broughton, Newington, some proceedings involving the mayor of Banbury and a master of the Leper hospital of St Leonard in Banbury stand out from the list.

The following is one of the colourful descriptions that can be found amongst the proceedings: *C 1/46/104 William Andrews, of Banbury, fishmonger. v. The mayor and bailiffs [of Oxford].: Verdict against him in action of trespass brought by John Kettill, of 'The Swan,' Oxford, fishmonger, relating to some garlic. Judgment deferred pending appeal to chancery. Certiorari 1386-1486.*

There is also an interesting entry under C 104 which is a series that contains court exhibits delivered by plaintiffs and defendants as evidence in their suits: *C104/264 Bundle No 20: Abstract of survey of land and*