

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/middleton/middletonofwollatonhall.aspx>

Middleton of Wollaton Hall



The bulk of the Middleton collection was deposited at University College Nottingham by the 11th Baron Middleton in 1947 and is now in the care of Manuscripts and Special Collections in the University of Nottingham Library.

There have been a number of accruals since that date. This very substantial family archive is divided into separate groups, with their own catalogues, although many contents overlap.

The collection now contains:

- (Mi 1-7) Papers of the Willoughby family, including title deeds, estate records, family papers, legal and manorial records; c.1175-1833. This is the first part of the main collection acquired in 1947, which retains the original order used in the Muniment Room at Wollaton Hall.
- (Mi A-X) Family and estate papers of the Willoughby family; 12th-20th centuries, including title deeds, estate records, literary manuscripts, correspondence, family papers and manorial records. This is the second part of the main collection acquired in 1947, which complements and overlaps with the content of Mi 1-7 in many ways. It has been arranged according to the form of the material. Title deeds from the 12th to the 20th centuries (Mi D 1-4855) form a major part of this collection, but the descriptions appear as a separate entity on the Manuscripts Online Catalogue due to constraints of size.

- (Mi 2 C-S) Papers of Admiral Sir Nesbit Josiah Willoughby (1777-1849), Captain Francis D. Willoughby (d 1846), and additional estate papers of the Willoughby family; 1641-c.1986. This is a catalogue of some of the accruals made to the collection primarily between 1947 and 1960, with related additions made in 2000.
- (Mi 3 E-G) Legal papers of the Willoughby family; 1628-1953. This is a catalogue of principally 19th and 20th century deeds and settlement papers, and estate papers collected by the London solicitors of the family.
- (Mi 4 C-X) Estate and legal papers of the Willoughby family; 1680-1970, including title deeds, estate papers, correspondence and solicitors papers. This is a catalogue of accruals made to the collection between 1964 and 1974.

The typescript catalogues to this collection are available online through The National Archives Access to Archives (A2A) web site.

Some of the printed items and medieval literary manuscripts, formerly part of the Library at Wollaton Hall, were withdrawn from the Middleton Collection in 2007 to be separately managed by the University. They now form the Wollaton Library Collection (WLC).

Principal Subject areas within the collection

The Middleton collection is a large and diverse collection, offering opportunities for research into a wide range of areas. It is a prime source for **Nottinghamshire local history** , and provides evidence for **land ownership and estate management** in general.

Deeds and estate papers form a large proportion of the Middleton collection, and range in date from the 12th to the 20th centuries. They document the growth of the family's principal estates in Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire (and their sale during the 19th and 20th centuries), and also refer to estates in other counties. There are a particularly significant number of **medieval deeds** in the collection, and **cartularies** , including a 15th century example from the Abbey of Burton on Trent, Staffordshire. **Manorial records** such as court rolls, compoti, rentals and surveys are also well represented, and include an important group from the **Peveril Court** in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The estate papers contain many references to the family's **industrial interests** , in woods, ironworks, woad growing and glassworks. Also included are a rare group of accounts and other papers relating to **coal mining** from the 14th to the 17th centuries. There are also 19th and 20th century coal mining papers relating to the Cossall Colliery Company, the Wollaton Colliery Company, and the Stapleford Colliery Company. There are 16th and 17th century **household accounts and inventories** . **Legal and cause papers** , particularly for the 17th century, exist in the main Middleton collection. Mi 3 contains papers generated by the family's London

solicitors Messrs Purchase, Pollock and Treadwell, referring to the sale and purchase of properties, family settlements, mineral rights, and coal mining activities. The collection also documents the Willoughby family and their activities. **Family papers** include marriage settlements, wills and inquisitions. The **official duties** of many of the male members of the family are referred to in a series of commissions and appointments, and papers relating to the office of sheriff in Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. Unfortunately, a full series of correspondence between family members has not survived. However, papers of certain members of the family give insights into their particular interests. There is a series of personal papers of **Francis Willoughby (1635-1672)**, the noted mathematician and natural historian. This includes his illustrated manuscript volume describing games, a commonplace book, notes, drawings of birds and fish, and plant specimens. Letters to his widow **Lady Emma Child (née Barnard, 1644-1725)** are also present in the collection. Two volumes narrating the history of the family, by Francis's daughter, **Cassandra, Duchess of Chandos (1670-1735)**, include transcripts of many letters which have since been lost. The papers of **Admiral Nesbit Willoughby (1777-1849)** also form part of the collection, and include correspondence, reports and ships log books. The papers of **Captain Francis Willoughby (d 1849)** are chiefly correspondence. Other family correspondence includes a series of **First World War letters** from Francis George Godfrey Willoughby and Henry Ernest Digby Hugh Willoughby, sons of the 10th Lord Middleton. Finally, there is a fine series of **medieval literary manuscripts**, formerly part of the Library at Wollaton Hall.

Family history

- The Willoughbys of Wollaton and Middleton: A Brief History

Medieval family members

- Sir Richard Willoughby (c.1290-1362)
- Sir Hugh Willoughby (c.1380-1448)
- Richard Willoughby (d 1471)
- Sir Henry Willoughby (1451-1528)
- Sir Henry Willoughby (d 1549)

Tudor and Stuart family members

- Sir Francis Willoughby (1546-1596)
- Sir Percival Willoughby (d 1643)
- Sir Francis Willoughby (1588-1665)

- Francis Willoughby F.R.S. (1635-1672)
- Sir Francis Willoughby, 1st Baronet (1668-1688)

Barons Middleton

- Thomas Willoughby, 2nd Baronet, and 1st Baron Middleton (1672-1729)
- Francis Willoughby, 2nd Baron Middleton (1692-1758)
- Francis Willoughby, 3rd Baron Middleton (1726-1774)
- Thomas Willoughby, 4th Baron Middleton (1728-1781)
- Henry Willoughby, 5th Baron Middleton (1726-1800)
- Henry Willoughby, 6th Baron Middleton (1761-1835)
- Digby Willoughby, 7th Baron Middleton (1769-1856)
- Henry Willoughby, 8th Baron Middleton (1817-1877)
- Digby Wentworth Bayard Willoughby, 9th Baron Middleton (1844-1922)
- Godfrey Ernest Percival Willoughby, 10th Baron Middleton (1847-1924)
- Sir Michael Guy Percival Willoughby, 11th Baron Middleton (1887-1970)
- Digby Michael Godfrey John Willoughby, 12th Baron Middleton (b 1921)

Other Notable Family Members

- Cassandra Brydges, née Willoughby, Duchess of Chandos (1670-1735)
- Admiral Sir Nesbit Josiah Willoughby (1777-1849)
- Captain Francis Digby Willoughby (1819-1846)
- Henry Ernest Digby Hugh Willoughby (1882-1916)
- Francis George Godfrey Willoughby (1890-1915)

Collections held elsewhere

Other repositories holding archives of the Willoughby family:

- The National Archives holds Nottinghamshire manorial records including Wollaton, Willoughby-on-the-Wolds and the honour of Peverel, 16th century (SC 2/196/76-91)
- Nottinghamshire Archives Office holds copies of deeds, rentals, surveys and papers for Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, etc.; c.1568-1610 (M 475); Willoughby

letters, c.1521-1548, and militia papers, 1512-1628 (M 1205-1229); and a letter book of J.N. Martin, Lord Middleton's agent at Wollaton, 1808-1823 (M 11530)

- The British Library holds genealogical and other papers of Cassandra, Duchess of Chandos (MS 656)
- The Centre for Kentish Studies holds manorial, family and estate papers chiefly relating to the Willoughby family of Bore Place, Kent, 1258-1647 (U 1000/3)

Details of other smaller Willoughby and related collections can be obtained from the National Register of Archives

Useful published works on the Willoughby family and their papers

Details of printed works and theses held in the University of Nottingham Library are available via the Library's online catalogue . Reference numbers given here are to holdings available in the Manuscripts and Special Collections Reading Rooms.

- 'Principal Family and Estate Collections: Family Names L-W' (The Stationery Office, 1999), pp 144-47 [King's Meadow Campus Ref DA9.H4]
- Bloom, M.R., *The Careers of Sir Richard II de Willoughby and Sir Richard III de Willoughby, Chief Justice of the King's Bench (1338-40) and the Rise of the Willoughbys of Nottinghamshire* , D.Phil., Oxford, 1985 [King's Meadow Campus Ref Not 1.V32 WIL]
- Cameron, A., 'Sir Henry Willoughby of Wollaton', *Transactions of the Thorton Society* , 74 (1970), 10-21 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Periodicals]
- Chandos, Cassandra, Duchess of, *History of the Willoughby Family* . Published in Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, *Report to the Commissioners on the Manuscripts of Lord Middleton Preserved at Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire* (1911) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Em. D2 HIS]
- Chandos, Cassandra, Duchess of (ed. Wood, A.C.), *The Continuation of the History of the Willoughby Family* (The University of Nottingham, 1958) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 4H.V38 WIL]
- Cram, David, Forgeng, Jeffrey L. and Johnston, Dorothy, *The Book of Games of Francis Willoughby (1635-1672). A Seventeenth-century Treatise on Sports, Games and Pastimes* (Aldershot, 2003) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 1.W8 WIL]
- Denham, J.F., 'Memoir of Francis Willoughby', *Naturalist's Library* , 16 (1843), 17-146

- Friedman, A.T., 'Portrait of a Marriage: The Willoughby Letters of 1585-1586', *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Chicago, 11 (1986), 542-555
- Friedman, A.T., *House and household in Elizabethan England: Wollaton Hall and the Willoughby family* (1989) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 4H.D64 WOL]
- Hagglund, E., '*An account of the journeys I have taken & where I have been since March 1695: the travel journal of Cassandra Willoughby, a critical edition*', MA dissertation, University of Birmingham, 1996
- Hodson, J.H., 'The Wollaton Estate and the Civil War, 1643-1647' in Hodson, J.H. and others, eds., *A Nottinghamshire Miscellany* (Thoroton Society Record Series 21, Nottingham, 1962), 3-15 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 1.D4 NOT]
- Johnson, Joan, *Excellent Cassandra. The Life and Times of the Duchess of Chandos* (Gloucester: Sutton, 1981) [Shakespeare Street LRC DA483.W4.J6]
- Lawrance, H., 'The Heraldry of Willoughby', *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, 48-49 (1926-1927), 22-36 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Periodicals:Der]
- Lee, G.A., 'The Francis Willoughby Executorship Accounts, 1672-1682: An Early Double-Entry System in England', *Accounting Review* 56 (1981), 539-553
- Marshall, Pamela, *Wollaton Hall and the Willoughby Family* (Nottingham Civic Society, 1999) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 4H.D64 WOL]
- Mason, Michael, *Willoughby the Immortal: an Account of the Life and Actions of Rear-Admiral Sir Nesbit Willoughby, Kt., C.B., K.C.H. (1777-1849), "The Hero of Mauritius"* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1969) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 99.V38 WIL]
- Middleton, E.M. Willoughby, Baroness, 'Sir Admiral Nesbit Willoughby, Admiral of the Blue', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 9 (1905), 57-78 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Periodicals]
- Reynolds, C.J., *The Willoughby Story* (Carbonear [Newfoundland] Heritage Society, 1986) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Pamphlet Not 4H.V38 WIL]
- Smith, R.S., 'A woad-growing project at Wollaton in the 1580s', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 65 (1961), 27-46 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Periodicals]
- Smith, R.S., *The Willoughbys of Wollaton, 1500-1643, with Special Reference to Early Mining in Nottinghamshire*, Ph.D., Nottingham, 1964

- Smith, R.S., 'Sir Francis Willoughby's ironworks, 1570–1610', *Renaissance and Modern Studies* , 11 (1967), 90–140 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 4H.V38 WIL]
- Smith, R.S., *Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton Hall* (Nottingham: City of Nottingham Art Department, 1988) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Pamphlet Not 4H.V38 WIL]
- Smith, R.S., *Early coal-mining around Nottingham, 1500–1650* (University of Nottingham Department of Adult Education, 1989) [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 1.O46 SMI]
- Stevenson, W.B. 'The Willoughby Family', *Nottingham Catholic Magazine* , 8, 6-12 and 9, 1 (1953-1954)
- Stevenson, W.H. (ed) *Report to the Commissioners on the Manuscripts of Lord Middleton Preserved at Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire* (Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 1911) Includes the first volume of Cassandra, Duchess of Chandos's *History of the Willoughby family* [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Em. D2 HIS]
- Welch, M.A., 'Francis Willoughby F.R.S. (1635-1672)', *Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History* , 6 (1972), 71-85
- Welch, M.A., 'Francis Willoughby of Middleton, Warwickshire, and Wollaton, Nottinghamshire: A Seventeenth-Century Naturalist', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* , 81 (1977), 33-40 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Periodicals]
- Welch, M.A. (ed), 'Willoughby Letters of the First Half of the Sixteenth Century' in Storey, R.L. (ed), *Nottinghamshire Miscellany* , no. 4 (Thoroton Society Record Series, 24, Nottingham, 1967), 1-98 [King's Meadow Campus East Midlands Collection Not 4H.V30 WIL]

Title The Family and Estate Papers of the Willoughby Family, Lords Middleton, of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, Middleton, Warwickshire and Birdsall, Yorkshire; 12th century [c.1150]-1986

DatesOfCreation 1150-1986

Extent 774 boxes

Extent 130 volumes

Extent 38 files

Abstract Title deeds, literary and artistic works, family and personal correspondence, manorial records, maps, surveys and financial papers.

The Willoughby family can trace its descent back to Ralph Bugge, a Nottingham merchant, who bought lands in Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Nottinghamshire in the thirteenth century.

By the fourteenth century the family held lands in Derbyshire and Leicestershire. They acquired the manors of Wollaton and Cossall in Nottinghamshire, Risleigh and Mapperley in Derbyshire, and Dunsby in Lincolnshire through the fourteenth-century marriage of Sir Richard Willoughby (d 1362) to Isabel, daughter of Sir Roger Morteyn. Most of this estate then passed down to Sir Edmund Willoughby, Sir Richard's son by his second marriage.

AdminHistory Sir Edmund's grandson, Sir Hugh Willoughby (c.1380-1448), received further lands in Nottinghamshire (Gunthorpe, Lowdham, etc.), Staffordshire and Herefordshire, and the important manor of Middleton in Warwickshire, through his marriage to Margaret, the sister and co-heir of Sir Baldwin de Freville of Tamworth, Staffordshire.

Sir Henry Willoughby (1451-1528), grandson of Hugh and Margaret, bought land in Holborn, Middlesex. His son, Sir Edward Willoughby (d 1540), married Anne Filoll, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Filoll. This brought the Woodlands estate in Dorset, as well as property in Hampshire, at Standon in Hertfordshire, and at Steeple Hall in Essex, to the Willoughbys.

Sir Francis Willoughby (1546-1596), grandson of Anne and Edward, built the present-day Wollaton Hall but sold off land in Leicestershire and left the estate in considerable disarray on his death in 1596. He had no surviving sons. This led to a division of

lands between Sir Francis's son-in-law Henry Hastings, the husband of his second daughter Dorothy, and his illegitimate brother, George Fox alias Willoughby. However, the core Wollaton and Middleton estates passed to the husband of Sir Francis's eldest daughter Bridget, Sir Percival Willoughby (d 1643) of Bore Place, Kent. Sir Percival was a descendent of the Willoughby family of Eresby, Kent. He was forced to sell his own estates in Kent, Essex and Cheshire, as well as the Willoughby-on-the-Wolds estate in Nottinghamshire, in order to retain the Wollaton and Middleton properties, which were highly mortgaged.

Sir Percival's grandson, Francis Willoughby F.R.S. (1635-1672), was bequeathed an estate at South Muskham and South Carlton in Nottinghamshire by Sir William Willoughby of Selston in 1671, leading to extensive lawsuits.

Francis's second son, Thomas Willoughby, was created Baron Middleton in 1712, having already acquired further lands in Nottinghamshire (Newark, North Wheatley, etc.) and Lincolnshire (Stapleford, etc.) through his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Richard Rothwell. Their second son, Thomas (1694-1742), married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Sotheby of Birdsall, East Riding of Yorkshire. Their son Henry became the 5th Baron Middleton in 1789.

In 1833 an estate was bought in Wharram Percy, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Lands, mainly in Gloucestershire and held jointly with the Colston family of Bristol, were sold off in 1858. The 8th Baron Middleton bought the Applecross estate in Ross-shire in 1862.

In 1921, estates in East Nottinghamshire (Saundby and North Wheatley) were sold and, following the deaths of the 9th and 10th barons in 1922 and 1924, most of the family's estates outside Yorkshire were sold, including Wollaton, Middleton, Stapleford and Applecross.

CustodialHistory The bulk of the collection was placed in the care of University College Nottingham (now The University of Nottingham) in 1947. Additional papers were received subsequently from the same source.

ScopeAndContent The collection comprises an extensive family and estate archive, which has been built up through a series of accruals.

ScopeAndContent It includes:

Title deeds from the 12th to the 20th centuries relating particularly to the main family estates in Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire, but also relating to many other counties. There are a particularly significant number of medieval

deeds.

Family documents, including wills, marriage settlements, and other documents having an impact on the ownership and succession of Willoughby lands from the 12th century to the 20th century.

Other family papers, including correspondence from the 12th to 18th centuries, 17th-century natural history collections of Francis Willoughby and his friend the scientist John Ray, and a volume of family history compiled by Cassandra Willoughby, Duchess of Chandos (1670-1735), featuring transcripts and extracts from papers which have not survived, c.1150-1959.

Personal papers and correspondence of family members, particularly Admiral Sir Nesbit Josiah Willoughby (1777-1849), and Captain Francis D. Willoughby (1819-1846). Disappointingly little family correspondence and personal papers survive from earlier periods.

Estate papers, including accounts, estate correspondence, inventories, maps and plans, surveys and rentals. Given the size and scope of the estates, the maps and plans are relatively few in number.

Legal papers, including the working papers of the family solicitors Messrs. Purchase, Pollock and Treadwell, comprising correspondence, drafts and copies of accounts. Later papers include correspondence, settlement and estate papers relating to the succession of the estate in 1926-1928 and the establishment of the Birdsall Estates Company, 1628-20th century.

Other significant series in the Middleton archive include correspondence, manorial records and official papers. There is a substantial amount of material relating to the family's coal mining activities from the late middle ages and other business ventures.

Further details about the contents of each of the separate accruals can be found in their individual catalogue entries. Users should follow the links in the 'Related Record' fields below to browse through each of the separate accruals.

MgtGroup Family and estate collections

MgtSubGroup Nottinghamshire

Arrangement This very substantial family archive is divided into separate groups, with their own catalogues. These in general reflect the various times at which the different parts of the collection have been acquired.

The first catalogue, Mi 1/1 - Mi 7/183, the first part of the main collection acquired in 1947, provides a brief description of every item. The items preserve the original arrangement in which they were received by the University. This catalogue has had to be split into two on the Manuscripts Online Catalogue due to constraints of size: Mi 1-4, and Mi 5-7.

The second catalogue, Mi A-X, the second part of the main collection acquired in 1947, provides varying levels of descriptions. The catalogue includes a large number of medieval deeds (Mi D), many of which are described in detail in a separate online catalogue.

Some items in the remaining parts of this catalogue (Mi A-C and Mi E-X) are very briefly described, but many of the series are served by bundle-level descriptions. The items have been arranged by document type into different sections.

The third catalogue, Mi 2C-S, listing some of the accruals to the collection primarily between 1947 and 1960, with related additions made in 2000, provides a description of every item, or of bundles where papers of the same type were gathered together. The catalogue is arranged into different sections according to document type or provenance. The papers of Admiral Sir Nesbit Josiah Willoughby (1777-1849), and Captain Francis D. Willoughby (1819-1846) are to be found in this catalogue.

The fourth catalogue, Mi 3E-G, listing the 19th and 20th-century deeds and settlement papers, provides a brief description of every item or bundles of items. The items are divided into sections for general settlement documents (Mi 3G) and estate papers (Mi 3E). The estate papers are arranged by county and then by estate or document type.

The fifth catalogue, Mi 4, listing accruals to the collection between 1964 and 1974, provides a description of every item, or of bundles of similar documents. The items have been arranged into different sections according to document type or provenance.

Language English

Language Latin

Language French

Term Administration of estates - England - History

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In the Reading Room, King's Meadow Campus: 5 typescript catalogues and card catalogue place name index to Mi 1/1 - Mi 2/78.

At the National Register of Archives, London: 5 typescript Catalogues

On the World Wide Web: Catalogues for each of the sections are available on the website of Manuscripts and Special Collections, Manuscripts Online Catalogue. Click on the 'Related Record' buttons below to browse each of the entries for the five subfonds Mi 1-7 (Mi1), MiAX, Mi2, Mi3 and Mi4, and the entry for the main series of title deeds (MiD). The typescript catalogues are also available online on the national A2A (Access to Archives) website. Please note that the A2A catalogues are often less detailed than the ones available on the Manuscripts Online Catalogue.

Family and Estate Resource relating to the Willoughby family and their records, published on the Manuscripts and Special Collections website.

AccessConditions	<p>The majority of papers are accessible to all registered readers. Access is restricted to 20th century personal correspondence in the archive. A considerable number of items within the collection are fragile and access to these is restricted pending full conservation treatment.</p>
Copyright	<p>Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections (email mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk).</p>
ReprodnNote	<p>Photocopies and photographic copies can be supplied for educational use and private study purposes only, depending on access conditions, the physical nature of the documents, or other relevant constraints.</p>
RelatedMaterial	<p>The University of Nottingham; Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections: MS 111, MS 250, MS 434, MS 673 and WLC</p>
RelatedMaterial	<p>Nottinghamshire Archives: Copies of deeds, rentals, surveys and papers for Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, etc. c.1568-1610 (Reference: M 475); Willoughby letters c.1521-1548, and militia papers 1512-1628 (Reference M 1205-1229); Letter book of J N Martin, Lord Middleton's agent at Wollaton, 1808-1823 (reference M 11530)</p>

RelatedMaterial	The British Library: Genealogical and other papers of Cassandra, Duchess of Chandos (Reference MS 656)
RelatedMaterial	Centre for Kentish Studies: Manorial, family and estate papers chiefly relating to the Willoughby family in Kent, 1258-1647 (Reference: SC/2/196/76-91).
RelatedRecord	MS673
RelatedRecord	MS111
RelatedRecord	MS434
RelatedRecord	Mi1
RelatedRecord	Mi2
RelatedRecord	Mi3
RelatedRecord	Mi4
RelatedRecord	MiD
RelatedRecord	MiAX
RelatedRecord	WLC
PublnNote	W. Stevenson, 'Report to the Commissioners on the Manuscripts of Lord Middleton Preserved at Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire' (1911) 'Principal Family and Estate Collections: Family Names L-W', (The Stationery Office, 1999), pp 144-47