

- **William Smith (1550-1618).** Cartographer. In 1588 Smith completed *'The Particular Description of England. With the portraitures of certaine of the cheiffest citties & townes'* (BL Sloane MS 2596). This relatively unknown work consisted of drawings of 16 English cities and towns in a traditional bird's eye view style, and combination drawings amalgamating the bird's eye view and plan. Both the view and plan of Chester, dating from 1585, are possibly preparatory drawings for this full work. They show Chester as a walled city, fortified by towers. The prominent coat of arms that feature on both drawings reveal Smith's heraldic interests.

In the year 1602–03 William Smith anonymously published maps of Chester, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Leicester, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire and Worcester. These were probably engraved in Amsterdam and were intended to form sheets of a new atlas. After the publication of Christopher Saxton's (1542x4–610/11) county maps in the 1570s, cartographers attempted to improve on Saxton's atlas and replicate its success. Unfortunately for Smith, another cartographer, John Speed (1551/2–629), was also preparing county maps at that time and competition proved too great, Speed being the victor.

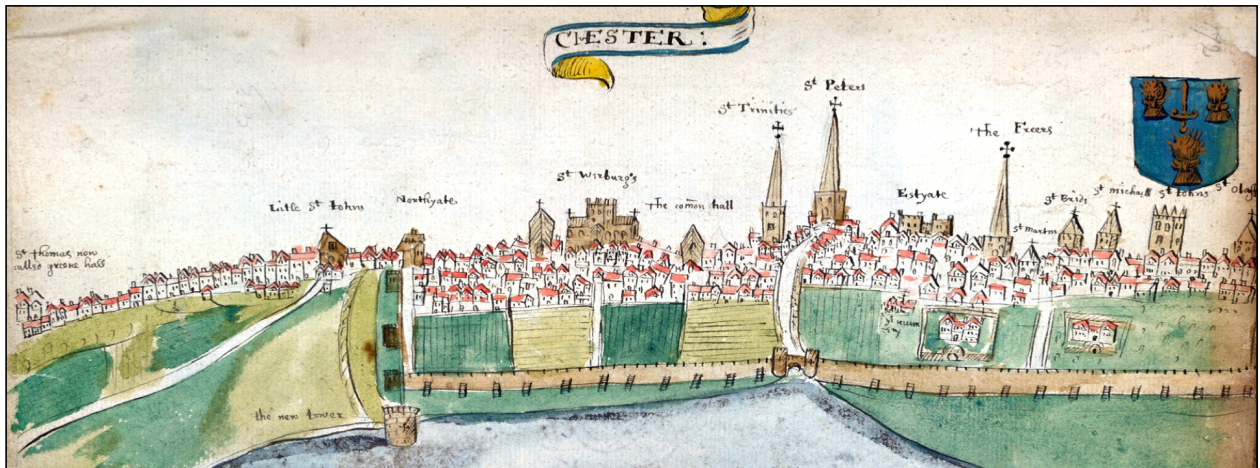


Fig. 41. The William Smith view and plan of Chester, dating from 1585, are possibly preparatory drawings for the later full work of *The Particular Description of England. With the portraitures of* From: British Library, Shelfmark:Harley MS 1046 f. 172. © British Library Board. Also published by the CSG in *'Castles: History, Archaeology, Landscape, Architecture and Symbolism'*. 2019, p. 307.

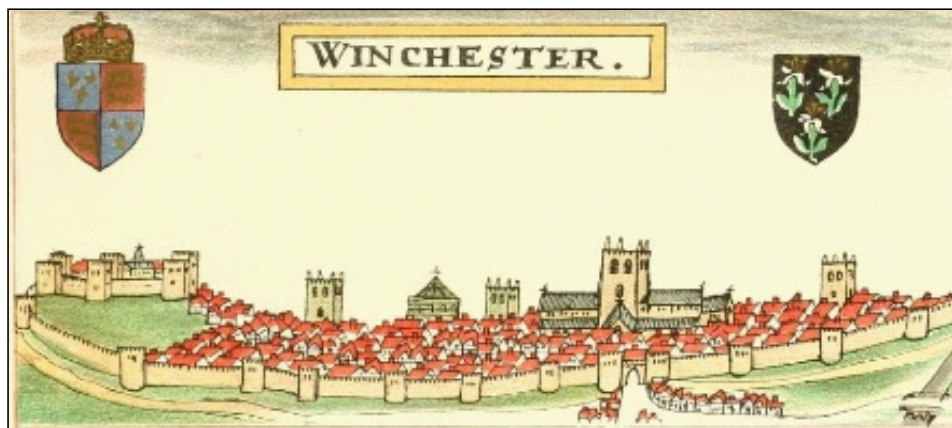


Fig. 42. Winchester from the east: William Smith *'The Particular Description of England. With the portraitures of certain of the cheiffest cities & townes'*. 1588, (Sloane MS 2596), Plate 20. The castle (mainly lost) follows the general outline with approximately the correct placement of towers - with the four-towered upper bailey to the left. However, through excavation, all the towers on the east (frontal view) have so far proved to be 'D'-shaped (curtain) or circular. It does show the great hall in the lower bailey with a striking louvre.

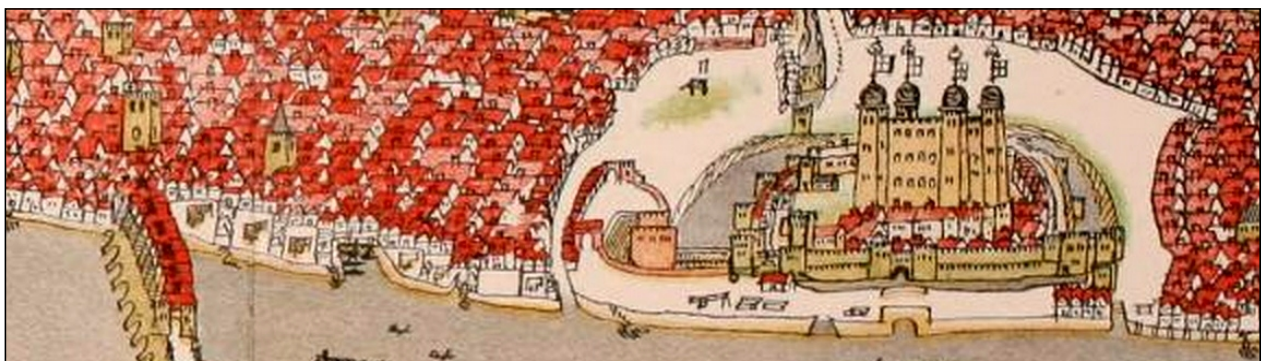


Fig. 43. The Tower of London and the Thames from the south (cropped).: William Smith *'The Particular Description of England. With the portraitures of certain of the cheiffest cities & townes'*. 1588, (Sloane MS 2596), Plate 28. Cf Wyngaerde, 1544.