



# Magna Carta (1297)

1297 CHAPTER 9 25 Edw 1 cc 1 9 29

X1

X2

THE GREAT CHARTER OF THE LIBERTIES OF ENGLAND, AND OF THE LIBERTIES OF THE FOREST; CONFIRMED BY KING EDWARD, IN THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN.

## Editorial Information

- X1 The original text of this Act was not modern English. The traditional translation appears first with obsolete characters modernised. The original text (as an image) appears second. The full reference to the chapter numbers of this Statute includes c. 37 of which has been partly repealed.
- X2 The Latin Indorsement beginning “Magna Carta” is at the bottom of Membrane 38, of the Roll, being the last of the three Membranes on which are entered The Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Great Charter and of the Charter of the Forest, the Charter of Confirmation in French, and the King's Pardon; in Order as they are printed from hence [Statutes of the Realm, volume 1, page 114] to the End of page 124. In all former Printed Copies the Great Charter and the Charter of the Forest, as granted by King Henry III. and confirmed by King Edward I. have been inserted under the ninth year of K. Henry III. See the Collection of Charters of Liberties preceding the Statutes [in Statutes of the Realm, volume 1], and Chapter II. of the Introduction prefixed to [the same] Volume. The Various Readings marked *L.* are from the Charter of Inspeximus 25 Edw. I, under the Great Seal preserved among the Archives of the City of London. See page 33, of the Charters of Liberties [in Statutes of the Realm, volume 1].

EDWARD by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Guyan, [<sup>X3</sup>to all Archbishops, Bishops, &c.] We have seen the Great Charter of the Lord Henry sometimes King of England, our Father, of the Liberties of England in these words:

## Editorial Information

- X3 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *To All to whom these present Letters shall come; Greeting.*

HENRY by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Guyan, and Earl of Anjou, to all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons,

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Sheriffs, Provosts, Officers, and to all Bailiffs, and other our faithful Subjects, which shall see this present Charter, Greeting: Know Ye, that We, unto the honour of Almighty God, and for the salvation of (<sup>X4</sup>) the souls of our Progenitors and Successors [Kings of England,] to the advancement of Holy Church and amendment of our Realm, of our meer and free will, have given and granted to all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, and to all [Freemen] of this our Realm, these Liberties following, to be kept in our Kingdom of England for ever.

**Editorial Information**  
X4 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *our Soul and*

**I Confirmation of Liberties.**

FIRST, We have granted to God, and by this our present Charter have confirmed, for Us and our Heirs for ever, that the Church of England shall be free, and shall have all her whole Rights and Liberties inviolable. We have granted also, and given to all the Freemen of our Realm, for Us and our Heirs for ever, these Liberties under-written, to have and to hold to them and their Heirs, of Us and our Heirs for ever.

**II–VI** ..... F1

**Textual Amendments**  
F1 Cc. 2–6 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

**VII** ..... F2

**Textual Amendments**  
F2 C. 7 repealed by [Administration of Estates Act \(1925\) \(c. 23\)](#), s. 56, Sch. 2 Pt. I, [Administration of Estates Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1955 \(c. 24\)](#), s. 46, **Sch. 3** and [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\)](#), **Sch. Pt. I**

**VIII** ..... F3

**Textual Amendments**  
F3 C. 8 repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\)](#), **Sch. Pt. I**

**IX Liberties of London, &c.**

THE City of London shall have all the old Liberties and Customs [which it hath been used to have]. Moreover We will and grant, that all other Cities, Boroughs, Towns,

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and the Barons of the Five Ports, and all other Ports, shall have all their Liberties and free Customs.

**X** ..... **F4**

**Textual Amendments**

**F4** C. 10 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\)](#)

**XI—** ..... **F5**  
**XII.**

**Textual Amendments**

**F5** Cc. 11, 12 repealed by [Civil Procedure Acts Repeal Act 1879 \(c. 59\)](#), [Sch.](#)

**XIII** ..... **F6**

**Textual Amendments**

**F6** C. 13 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

**XIV** ..... **F7**

**Textual Amendments**

**F7** C. 14 repealed by [Criminal Law Act 1967 \(c. 58\)](#), [Sch. 3 Pt. I](#) and [Criminal Law Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1967 \(c. 18\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I](#)

**XV—** ..... **F8**  
**XVI**

**Textual Amendments**

**F8** Cc. 15, 16 repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

**XVII** ..... **F9**

**Textual Amendments**

**F9** C. 17 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1892 \(c. 19\)](#)

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**XVIII** ..... F10

**Textual Amendments**  
F10 C. 18 repealed by [Crown Proceedings Act 1947 \(c. 44\)](#), **Sch. 2**

**XIX–** ..... F11  
**XXI**

**Textual Amendments**  
F11 Cc. 19–21 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

**XXII** ..... F12

**Textual Amendments**  
F12 C. 22 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\)](#)

**XXIII** ..... F13

**Textual Amendments**  
F13 C. 23 repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\)](#), **Sch. Pt. I**

**XXIV** ..... F14

**Textual Amendments**  
F14 C. 24 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

**XXV** ..... F15

**Textual Amendments**  
F15 C. 25 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\)](#)

**XXVI** ..... F16

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**Textual Amendments**

**F16** C. 26 repealed by the Acts 9 Geo. 4 c. 31 s. 1 and 10 Geo. 4 c. 34 s. 1

**XXVII** ..... **F17**  
**XXVIII**

**Textual Amendments**

**F17** Cc. 27, 28 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1863 (c. 125) and Statute Law (Ireland) Revision Act 1872 (c. 98)

**XXIX Imprisonment, &c. contrary to Law. Administration of Justice.**

NO Freeman shall be taken or imprisoned, or be disseised of his Freehold, or Liberties, or free Customs, or be outlawed, or exiled, or any other wise destroyed; nor will We not pass upon him, nor [<sup>X5</sup>condemn him,] but by lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the Law of the Land. We will sell to no man, we will not deny or defer to any man either Justice or Right.

**Editorial Information**

**X5** Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *deal with him*,

**XXX** ..... **F18**

**Textual Amendments**

**F18** C. 30 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1969 (c. 52), **Sch. Pt. I**

**XXXI** ..... **F19**

**Textual Amendments**

**F19** C. 31 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1863 (c. 125) and Statute Law (Ireland) Revision Act 1872 (c. 98)

**XXXII** ..... **F20**

**Textual Amendments**

**F20** C. 32 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1887 (c. 59)

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XXXIII. .... F21

XXXIV.

**Textual Amendments**

**F21** Cc. 33, 34 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

XXXV ..... F22

**Textual Amendments**

**F22** C. 35 repealed by [Sheriffs Act 1887 \(c. 55\)](#), s. 39, **Sch. 3**

XXXVI. .... F23

XXXVII

**Textual Amendments**

**F23** Cc. 36, 37 repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1863 \(c. 125\)](#) and [Statute Law \(Ireland\) Revision Act 1872 \(c. 98\)](#)

**General Saving. Observance of these Liberties. Subsidy, in respect of this Charter and Charter of the Forest.**

Reserving to all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Templars, Hospitallers, Earls, Barons, and all Persons, as well Spiritual as Temporal, all their [<sup>X6</sup>free Liberties] and free Customs, which they have had in time passed. And all these Customs and Liberties aforesaid, which We have granted to be holden within this our Realm, [<sup>X7</sup>as much as appertaineth to Us and our Heirs, we shall observe; and] all Men of this our Realm, as well Spiritual as Temporal, [<sup>X8</sup>as much as in them is, shall observe the same against all Persons, in like wise.] And for this our Gift and Grant of these Liberties, and of other contained in our Charter of Liberties of our Forest, the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Knights, Freeholders, and other our Subjects, have given unto Us the Fifteenth Part of all their Moveables. And We have granted unto them on the other part, (<sup>X9</sup>) that neither We nor our Heirs shall procure or do any thing whereby the Liberties in this Charter contained shall be infringed or broken. And if any thing be procured by any person contrary to the premises, it shall be had of no force nor effect. These being Witnesses; Lord [<sup>X10</sup>B.] Archbishop of Canterbury, E. Bishop of London, J. Bishop of Bathe, P. of Winchester, H. of Lincoln, R. of Salisbury, W. of Rochester, W. of Worcester, J. of Ely, H. of Hereford, R. of Chichester, W. of Exeter, Bishops; the Abbot of St. Edmonds, the Abbot of St. Albans, the Abbot of [<sup>X11</sup>Bello,] the Abbot of St. Augustine's in Canterbury, the Abbot of Evesham, the Abbot of Westminster, the Abbot of [<sup>X12</sup>Bourgh St. Peter,] the Abbot of Reding, the Abbot of Abindon, the Abbot of Malmsbury, the Abbot of Winchcomb, the Abbot of Hyde, the Abbot of Certesey, the Abbot of Sherburn, the Abbot of Cerne, the Abbot of [<sup>X13</sup>Abbotebir,] the Abbot of Middleton, the Abbot of Seleby, the Abbot of Cirencester; H. de Burgh [<sup>X14</sup>Justice,] H. Earl of Chester and Lincoln, W. Earl of Salisbury, W. Earl of Warren, G. de Clare Earl of Gloucester and [<sup>X15</sup>Hereford,] W. de Ferrars Earl of Derby, W. de Mandeville Earl

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of Essex, H. de Bygod Earl of Norfolk, W. Earl of Albemarle, H. Earl of Hereford, J. Constable of Chester, R. de Ros, R. Fitzwalter, R. de Vyponte, W. de Bruer, R. de Muntefichet, P. Fitzherbert, W. de Aubenie, F. Gresly, F. de Breus, J. de [<sup>X16</sup>Monemue,] J. Fitzallen, H. de Mortimer, W. de Beauchamp, W. de St. John, P. de Mauly, Brian de Lisle, Thomas de Multon, R. de Argenteyn, G. de Nevil, W. de Mauduit, J. de Balun, and others. (<sup>X17</sup>)

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**Editorial Information**

- X6 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Liberties*
- X7 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *on our part, towards our men,*
- X8 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *shall observe on their part towards their men*
- X9 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *for us and our heirs,*
- X10 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *S*
- X11 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Battel.*
- X12 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Peterborough*
- X13 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Abbotsbury*
- X14 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Chief Justicer*
- X15 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Hertford*
- X16 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Monmouth*
- X17 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *Given at Westminster the eleventh day of February in the ninth year of our Reign.*

We, Ratifying and approving these Gifts and Grants aforesaid, confirm and make strong all the same for Us and our Heirs perpetually, and by the Tenor of these Presents do renew the same: Willing and granting for Us and our Heirs, that [<sup>X18</sup>this Charter and] all and singular his Articles for ever shall be stedfastly, firmly, and inviolably observed; [<sup>X19</sup>and if] any Article in the same Charter contained yet hitherto peradventure hath not been kept [<sup>X20</sup>We will and by authority royal command from henceforth firmly they be observed].

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- X19 Variant reading of the text noted in *The Statutes of the Realm* as follows: *even although*
- X20 Not in Original.

In Witness whereof We have caused these our Letters Patents to be made. [<sup>X21</sup>T. Edward our son at Westminster, the twenty-eighth day of March in the twenty-eighth year of our Reign.]

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**Magna Carta de libertatibz Angli, et de libertatibz forestre,**  
**confirmata a R. Edwardo, Anno r'sui vicesimo q'nto. 1297.\***

In dero  
Roth.

*Ex magno Rot. Stat. in Tur.  
Lond. m. 40, 39, 38*

"EDWARDUS dei gra Rex  
Angl Dns Hibi & Dux Aquil:  
Omnibz ad quos p'tenas litte  
p'venit salu. Inspecimus mag-  
nam cartam dai H. quondam  
Regis Angl p'ri nri de libertatibz  
Angl in hoc verbo. Henricus dei  
gra Rex Angl, Dns Hibe, Dux  
Norman. Aquil. & Comes  
Andegav. Archieps, Eps, Abba-  
tibz, Prioribz, Comitibz, Baro-  
nibz, Vicecomitibz, Prepositis,  
Ministris, & omibz, Bafis &  
fidelibz suis p'sentem cartam  
inspiciat salu. Sciatz qd nos  
intiatu dei, & p salute anime  
nre, & animaz antecessoz &  
successoz nroz, ad exaltandem  
sic eccle. & emendandem regni  
sui, spontanea & bono voluntate  
nra, dedim' & concessim'  
Archieps, Eps, Abbatibz,  
Prioribz, Comitibz, Baronibz, &  
omibz de regno nro, has libtates  
subscriptas, tenendas in regno  
nro Angl imppetual.

In p'mis concessim' deo, &  
hac p'senti carta nra confir-  
mavim' p nob & hered nris  
inspiciat, qd cetera Angli-  
cana libera sit, & habeat  
omnia jura sua integra, &  
libtates suas illestas. Conces-  
sim' eciam & dedim' omibz  
libris hominibz regni nri, p  
nob & heredibz nris imppetual,  
has libtates subscriptas,  
tenendas eis & hered suis, de nob & hered nris  
imppetual.

**II-VIII.** Civitas Londin' beat omnes  
libertates suas antiquas, & con-  
suetudines suas. Prefec-  
tulum & concivim' qd omnes  
Civitates alie, & Burgi, &  
Villie, & Baronies de quibz  
portabz, & res port', heat  
omnes libtates, & libas  
consuetudines suas.

**X-XXVIII.** Nullus liber homo capiatu'r vel  
imprisonet', aut distinetur de  
libo t'ri suo, vel libertatibz, vel  
libis consuetudinibz suis, aut  
vilage' aut exlet aut aliquo  
modo destruat', nec sup eum  
ibimus, nec sup eu mittim', nisi  
p legitie iudicii p'ri suo, vel  
p legem terre. Nulli vendim',  
nulli negalim', aut differem'  
rectum vel iusticiam.

**XXX-XXXVII.** Et salve sint Archieps, Eps,  
Abbatibz, Prioribz, Temp'al,  
Hospitalibz, Comitibz, Baronibz,  
& omibz aliis, tam ecclesiasticis  
potent' q'm secularibz, omnes  
libtates & libe consuetudines,  
quas prius fuerit. Omnes autē  
consuetudines & libertas p'di-  
ctas, quas concessim' in regno  
nro tenendas, q' nri ad nos p'tinet  
etia nros, Omnes de regno nro,  
tam cl'ci, q'm laici, observet,  
q' nri ad se p'tinet, etia suos.  
Pro hac autē donacione et con-  
cessione libtati ista, & aliis  
contentis in carta nra de libertatibz  
foreste, Archieps, Eps,  
Abbes, Priores, Comites, Baro-  
nes, Milites, libe tenentes, &  
omnes de regno nro, dederit nob  
quintam decimam partem omniu  
mobiliu suoz. Concessim'

eciam eisdem, p nob & hered  
nris, qd nec nos, nec heredes  
nri, aliquod p'petuum, p quod  
libtates in hac carta contente  
infirmand' vel infirmam'. Et si  
ab aliquo contra hoc aliquid  
petitum fuerit, nichil valeat, &  
p nullo Rege. His testibz dicit  
S. Cantuar Archieps, E. Lon-  
don Epus, J. Balton Epus, P.  
Wynon, H. Lincoln, R. Saus, W.  
Roff, W. Wygorn, J. Elieri, H.  
Hereforden, R. Cusert, W.  
Escol Epus, Abbe Sci Edmundi,  
Abbe Sci Alhisi, Abbe de  
Bello, Abbe Sci Augustini Can-  
tuar, Abbe de Eves'm, Abbe  
de Westh, Abbe de Burgo Sci  
Petri, Abbe de Reading, Abbe de  
Abyndon, Abbe de Malmesbur,  
Abbe de Wyke, Abbe de  
Hida, Abbe de Certeseye,  
Abbe de Shirborn, Abbe de  
Cere, Abbe de l'Abbeodun,  
Abbe de Middilton, Abbe de  
Selety, Abbe de Cirencestr,  
H. de Burgo l'Archieps, H.  
Comite Cest', & Lincoln, W.  
Comite Salu, W. Comite Waret,  
G. de Clare Comite Gloucestr &  
Hertford, W. de Ferrat Comite  
Derb, W. de Mandevill Comite  
Essex, H. le Bygod Comite

\*Almshousy L.  
†Anno 1297.

Norff, W. Comite Albemarle,  
H. Comite Hereford, J. Con-  
stabul' Cest', R. de Rex, R.  
de Walf, R. de Veli Ponte, W.  
de Bruer, R. de Muntfichet, P.  
de Herbi, W. de Aubeny, F.  
Gresly, F. de Brou, J. de  
Montemac, J. fit Alani, H. de  
Mortuo Mari, W. de Bello  
Campo, W. de SCo Joh'e, P. de  
Malo Lacu, Britano de Insula,  
Thoma de Multon, R. de Argen-  
tein, G. de Nevill, W. Manduill,  
J. de Balun & aliis. Dat apud  
Westm' xj. die Febr' anno r. b.  
nono.

Nos autem dona'des & con-  
cessiones p'dictas ratas hentes &  
gratas, eas p nob & Hereditibz  
nris, concedim' & confirmam',  
easq tenore p'senciu immovam',  
volentes & concedentes, p nob  
& hereditibz nris, qd carta p'dicta  
in omibz & singlis suis articul  
impetui firmi & inviolabilif  
observet', eciam si aliqui articuli  
in eadem carta contenti, hucusq  
forsitan non fuerint observati.  
In cuj rei testimoñ has lit'as  
nras fieri fecim' patentes. T.  
Edwardo filio nro apud Westm',  
duodecimo die Octob' anno r. b.  
Vicesimo Quinto.

**Editorial Information**  
**X21** The Old Translations read These Reverend Fathers being Witnesses; R. Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of England, A. Bishop of Duresme, and other; Given at Westminster, with our own hand, the twenty-eighth day of the month of March, the twenty-eighth year of our reign.  
This agrees with the Old Printed Copies of the Latin Text:  
But read  
*Witness Edward our Son at Westminster, the Twelfth day of October in the Twenty-fifth Year of our Reign.*



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