

Collections

Cecil Papers

The Cecil Papers are the core collection in Hatfield House Archives. They consist of the papers of William Cecil (1521-98) Lord Burghley and his son Robert Cecil (1563-1612) First Earl of Salisbury. There are also a few papers of William Cecil (1591-1668) Second Earl of Salisbury. The Cecil Papers comprise about 30,000 documents. They include grants from the Crown, legal documents, state papers, treaties, correspondence and political memoranda. There are some papers of the Earl of Essex and letters from Sir Walter Raleigh and Queen Elizabeth I.

The Cecil Papers have been digitised and are available to view at the British Library, as well as at some universities

Other papers of Lord Burghley survive amongst the State Papers in [The National Archives](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) <www.nationalarchives.gov.uk> and in the Lansdowne Collection in the [British Library](http://www.bl.uk) <www.bl.uk>. Similarly, many of the papers of Robert Cecil are to be found in the State Papers in The National Archives.

The Cecil Papers have been comprehensively catalogued and described in the *Calendar of the Salisbury (Cecil) Manuscripts* which was published in 24 volumes by the Historical Manuscripts Commission between 1883 and 1976. It is advisable to look at the calendar before making any inquiry about the Cecil Papers. Sets are available at The National Archives, the British Library and in various academic and reference libraries.

Estate Papers

We hold estate papers relating to various Cecil properties, scattered among many counties. They consist of title deeds, manorial records, wills, conveyances, leases, accounts and legal papers. <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

The principal properties are situated in Hertfordshire (there were 13,389 acres in 1883) and Dorset (3,118 acres in 1883). Records relating to property in Liverpool, which was acquired through the marriage of the Second Marquess of Salisbury to Frances Gascoyne in 1821, are on deposit in [Liverpool Record Office](http://liverpool.gov.uk/archives) <http://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Personal Papers

We hold the private papers of many members of the Cecil family, mostly dating from the late 18th century onwards. Only a very few of those of the First Marquess of Salisbury (1748-1823) have survived. Those of the Second Marquess (1791-1868) and later holders of the title

are more complete. We have the personal correspondence of many of their wives and other family members; these include Bamber Gascoyne (1758-1824), Lord Cecil of Chelwood (1864-1958), Lord Quickswood (1869-1956) and Lady Gwendolen Cecil (1860-1945).

Catalogues

The *Calendar of the Salisbury (Cecil) Manuscripts Papers*, published in 24 volumes by the Historical Manuscripts Commission between 1883 and 1976 can be found at the British Library, The National Archives and in various academic and reference libraries.

R.A. Skelton and John Summerson. *A description of maps and architectural drawings in the collection made by William Cecil First Baron Burghley now at Hatfield House*. (Oxford. 1971) This sumptuous catalogue was privately printed for presentation to members of the Roxburghe Club and is available at the British Library and other copyright libraries.

Many of our collections were calendared, catalogued and/or indexed in the 19th century and are therefore not yet in an electronic format. These are searchable in the archives office only.

Some of our catalogues are available through the [National Register of Archives](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

These include:

- NRA 10632 (Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood Papers). A larger collection of the papers of Lord Cecil of Chelwood is in the British Library (Add. Mss. 51071- 51204).
- NRA 32925 (Gascoyne-Cecil family, Marquesses of Salisbury: family and estate papers, HMC survey)
- NRA 10535 (Hugh Richard Heathcote Gascoyne-Cecil, Baron Quickswood Papers)
- NRA 9226 (Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury: Private Foreign Office Correspondence)