

This charter *confirms* the right to hold a fair at Elstow, originally granted by Henry 1<sup>st</sup>. (No copy has been found of Henry 1<sup>st</sup>'s original grant.)

**Copy of a Charter Henry 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Abbess of Elstow Abbey – Date uncertain, but contained in Confirmation Roll 2 Henry VIII**

HENRY, King of England, and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou, to the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Sheriff, and all Barons of Bedfordshire, greeting.

*I grant to the Nuns of Elnestou that they may have one fair at Elnestou for four days, namely, on the Vigil of the Invention of the Holy Cross, on the day of the Feast (3rd May), and two days afterwards. And that they hold it well and peaceably. And that all those who come to the same fair have from me sure peace in going and returning, so that no one thereupon offer them injury or insult, under penalty to me, just as King Henry, my grandfather, granted it, and his Charter confirmed it.*

Witnesses, Ric[hard] of Hum[et], Constable, and Man[asser] Biset, Steward. At Canterbury."

Extracted from; "Chronicles of the Abbey of Elstow" Reverend S R Wigram 1885

Wigram sourced this copy of the Charter from the "Confirmation Roll of 2 Henry VIII", a copy of which is held in the Bodleian Library Oxford.