



THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AUTHORITY

Granted on the 7th of September 1971

COAT OF ARMS BLAZON

Arms

Vert, on a pale wavy Argent, a pallet wavy Azure, over all five crowns palisado in saltire Or

Crest

On a wreath Argent and Azure, a swan rousant proper, gorged with a Saxon crown Gules, supporting by the dexter foot a sword, point upwards, in its scabbard Or

Supporters

On the dexter side a stag Gules, attired and unglued Or, and on the sinister side, an ox Gules, armed Or, each gorged with a collar paly Argent and Azure, with a chain affixed thereto Or



Badge

In front of a mullet Argent, fimbriated Azure, a crown palisade Or

Motto

SIT PAX IN VALLE TAMESIS

"Let there be peace in the Thames Valley"

FORMATION OF THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The police forces of the Royal County of Berkshire, the County of Buckinghamshire, the County of Oxfordshire, the City of Oxford and the County Borough of Reading were amalgamated to form Thames Valley Constabulary, which has since changed to Thames Valley Police, on April 1, 1968.

Armorial bearings were granted to the Thames Valley Police Authority on September 7, 1971.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION of the ARMORIAL BEARINGS

The shield depicts a river against a green background and represents the Thames Valley. The five crowns, representing the five forces which were amalgamated to form Thames Valley Police, are the symbol of protection.

The crest and supporters are derived from features incorporated in the arms of the then (1968) five constituent councils. The sword in scabbard in the crest is the symbol of authority and the swan indicates the River Thames. The collars worn by the supporters are indicative of the police.

DERIVATIONS

The County Council of the Royal County of Berkshire

The crest of the County Council of Royal Berkshire shows a stag facing forward, or 'at gaze', which is a variation of the old Berkshire badge used at one time by the Royal Berkshire Militia. According to a poem written by Drayton in 1627, a banner with the badge, or something like it, was carried by the men of Berkshire who fought at the Battle of Agincourt.

Police Authority's Arms: STAG (the dexter supporter)



Berkshire County Council (1968)

Buckinghamshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council's arms also feature a stag - the dexter supporter is a stag proper.

A swan rousant is the principal charge on the shield and also the sinister supporter. A Saxon crown appears in the crest. The swan was a badge of the ancient family of de Bohun. It was derived, with the Earldom of Essex, from the Mandervilles, who may have adopted it as a token of descent from Adam FitzSwanne. Through the marriage of a de Bohun heiress, the swan passed as a badge to the Stafford Dukes of Buckingham and found its way into civic heraldry as a charge in the arms of the Borough of Buckingham and the County Council.

Police Authority's Arms: STAG (the dexter supporter); SWAN with Saxon crown (the crest)



Buckinghamshire County Council (1968)

Oxfordshire County Council

Oxfordshire County Council's arms had an ox's head in the 'fess point', or centre of the shield (since removed). The supporters wear collars round their necks and the arms include heraldic representation of the River Thames and its tributaries.

Police Authority's Arms: OX (the sinister supporter); RIVER (representation as principal charge)



Oxfordshire County Council (1968)

The City and County Borough of Oxford

The City and County Borough of Oxford's arms show a red ox passing over a ford of water - a pun on the name of Oxford. The supporters are chained.

Police Authority's Arms: OX (the sinister supporter) chained



Oxford City (1968)

The County Borough of Reading

The County Borough of Reading features five maidens heads in 'saltire', which in heraldic terms is a cross or an 'X'.

Police Authority's Arms: FIVE CROWNS in saltire



Reading Borough (1968)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE BLAZON

Argent	silver
Armed	the horns and hooves etc
Attired	the antlers
Azure	blue
Crown palisado	a coronet composed of a rim on which are placed pieces depicting defensive works
Dexter (side)	right; the right hand side of the shield from the standpoint of the man behind it
Fimbriated different colour	having a narrow edging of a
Gorged	encircled round the neck or throat
Gules	red
Mullet	a five pointed star
Or	gold
Pale	a vertical band occupying one third of the middle of the shield
Pallet	the diminutive of a pale
Paly	divided vertically by an equal number of alternatively coloured bands

Proper	of natural colour
Rousant	rising – about to take wing
Saltire	a diagonal cross (in saltire – charges so arranged, i.e. two, one, two)
Saxon crown	a simple circlet with four uprights (three shown in representation) each surmounted by a ball
Sinister (side)	the left hand side of the shield from the standpoint of the man behind it
Unguled	the hooves (when applied to ungulates)
Vert	green
Wreath	twisted silk (a representation of)

THAMES VALLEY
POLICE

