

**AQUE**  
**in the Chester county pleas,**  
**CHES 29/1–22**  
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Rivers and streams in Cheshire appear in the early county pleas in three main contexts: in coroners' returns, when a mishap has resulted in a drowning, sometimes with deodands arising from the event; in boundary disputes; and cases claiming that some particular course of water had been diverted. Although Cheshire is a maritime county, little indication arises in these records. One matter was the conflicting claim of the justices, on behalf of the king (or earl of Chester), that the county jurisdiction included the whole of the rivers (bank to bank), and the mayor and community of the city of Chester and the abbot of Vale Royal, who seemed to believe that their liberties extended into the rivers (Dee and Weaver respectively), perhaps to the middle line, so that they could claim deodands arising from accidental drownings. In both cases the county justices seem to have prevailed.

[See also **BRIDGES**, **FISHERIES** and **MILLS**]