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The Armorial Bearings of the City of Chester



The armorial bearings are based upon the original arms granted in the reign of Elizabeth I (1580). The modern arms were granted by the College of Arms in 1977.

The shield contains half the arms of England (Gules, 3 lions rampant Or) and half the arms of the Earldom of Chester (Azure, 3 wheat sheaves Or).

The border is gold and contains acorns, which represent the rural surrounding area.

The animals around the shield are called the supporters. The left animal is one of the golden lions of England. The right one is the white wolf of the first Norman Earl of Chester Hugh Lupus (Lupus is Latin for wolf).

In the area above the shield are two oak branches and in the middle a sword. This represents the combination of the local authorities in 1974.

The City's motto is 400 years old and is in Latin.
'Antiqui Colant Antiquum Dierum'
'Let the Ancients worship the Ancient of Days'.