Jones, E. T. Survey of the Port of Bristol, 1565

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Evan T. Jones (ed.), ‘Survey of the Port of Bristol, 1565’ (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011)\(^1\)

In 1565 the Exchequer issued a series of commissions ordering the survey all the ports of the country. Each commission was accompanied by a detailed set of instructions (the ‘Articles to be enquired upon’) for the commissioners. The following document records these articles and provides the response of the men who surveyed the port of Bristol.

[The document begins with a copy of the commission. This took the form of letters patent issued under the seal of the Exchequer, and was in Latin. It was dated 15 January 1565. It is addressed to Anthony Standbank, mayor of the city of Bristol; Richard Berkeley, esquire; David Harris, alderman of the city of Bristol; and Nicholas Williams. It orders them (or four, three, or two of them at the least) to make enquiry according to the terms of certain articles or instructions annexed to the commission, and to do so immediately; and to return their findings under their seals into the Exchequer. This is followed by a copy of the following schedule of the ‘Articles or Instructions’]

**Bristoll ~ Articles**
to be enquired upon towchyng the porte of Bristoll & the ~ creekes’ belonging to the same/ [1] In primis \(^3\) whether the ~ saide porte be comenly frequented & haunted \(^4\) with trafique of ~ mercantauntes & merchundizes bothe inwarde & outwarde and whether it be mete \(^5\) to be contynued for the saide purpose/ [2] Item whether the saide porte be decayed & not so mucho frequented & haunted with mercantauntes & merchundizes as some of the Creekes thereunto belonging nowe commonlye are And howe longe the same hath ben decayed & by what occasyon And if it be decayed whether it be necessarie the same to be repayred & what costes & chardges thereof wolde be/ [3] Item what custome howse dothe belonge to the same porte & whose inheritauence \(^6\) the same house ys and if it beanye other then her majesties what yerely Rente is paide for the same and howe commodious it stondeth for the service of her highnes there And in what good state it ys of reparacions \(^7\) [4] Item what nombre of Crekes do belonge to the saide porte & howe farre every of them ys distante from the saide porte / And howe farre every of them be distante from other / And into what Sheres \(^8\) every of the saide Creekes doo extende / [5] Item whiche of the saide Creekes be most frequented & haunted with the trafique of mercantauntes & merchundizes & are mete to be contynued for the same [6] Item whether any of the saide Creekes be decayed & not mete to be

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\(^1\) The National Archives: Public Record Office, E159/350 *Recorda*, Hil., rot. 348. I would like to thank Margaret Condon (University of Bristol) for her assistance on the transcription / translation of these documents and Michael Hare for identifying the location of the following Gloucestershire pills: Mere pille, Hallow Hasyll pill, Dynnmore pill, Churche pill, Gibile Gutters pill, Stockwell pill, Fulmede pill and Perry pill. The following conventions were employed when transcribing the survey: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, underlining, deletions, emphasis (in bold) and punctuation follow the manuscript; reconstructions of suspensions are in italics. Squared brackets indicate editorial additions.

\(^2\) ‘creekes’: creeks. To the Exchequer, the ‘creeks’ of a port were the places where lading or unlading of goods could potentially take place but where no permanent customs officer was stationed.

\(^3\) ‘in primis’: firstly.

\(^4\) ‘haunted’ – i.e. frequented.

\(^5\) ‘mete’: meet – i.e. fitting or suitable.

\(^6\) ‘inheritaunce’: inheritance – i.e. ownership.

\(^7\) ‘reparacions’: reparations – i.e. repair or condition.

\(^8\) ‘Sheres’: shires.
Bristol port survey, 1565  
TNA:PRO, E159/350  
Recorda, Hil., rot. 348

continuued for trafique & howe longe the same hath byn decayed & by what ocasyon / And whether it be necessarye for the service of her majestie & for the common weale of the Countrye thereabowte to repaire the saide decayed Creke / And what the chardges therof wyllbe / [7] Item what Custome Howses doe belonge to every of the saide Creekes And who are owners of the inheritunce of the ~ same / And what yerely Rente her highnes stondes chardged with for the same house / And howe commodiouslye the same howse stondeth for the service of her majestie & in what state of reparacions it ys [8] Item what other house or place either where the saide porte ys or where anye of the saide Creekes be ~ stondeth more fytte & commodious for the better service of her ~ highnes then the howse or howses nowe used for the same And who be the owner or owners of the saide howse or places & what the value of them are to be purchaced or hyred for her majestie [9] Item in howe many of the saide Creekes the Customers of the saide porte have had Deputies or servauntes that have taken entrees bothe Inwarde & outwarde⁹ within tenne yeres ~

[dorse]

next before the first yere of her majesties Reigne¹⁰ / And who be presently there Deputies their / And howe longe they have so continuued / [10] Item whether there be any placys within the lymyttes of the saide porte or severall Creekes that wares or merchaundizes be used to be taken in, or dischardged other then at the accustomed place of the saide porte or Creekes / And if there be any suche places howe longe the same hath byn used for that purpose / And whether it be mete to continewe or dampne¹¹ the same for the better service of her majestie & of those parties ye or not: [11] Item what other places be within the said Shire where wares merchaundizes victuallers or other commodities of the Realme be transported into any of the parties of beyonde the Sea, or to anye port or Creeke within the Realme / [12] Item whether any merchauntes or other that use to trafique beyonde the Sea, or from porte to porte within the ~ Realme have any warehouses or storehouses or any other device or meanes nighe unto the porte or anye of the Creekes or places where ladyng or unladyng ys or hath bynne used to be whereby her majestie hath byn or maye be defrawded of her majesties duties & customes/

[The ‘articles of enquiry’ are followed by a brief formal note, in Latin, confirming that the commission was executed as instructed. A date of 21 May 1565 is indicated, although this may be the date of receipt into the Exchequer, rather than the date the commission itself was completed.]

Bristoll. The certificate of Anthony Standbank maiour¹² of the Citye of Bristow Richarde Barkley

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⁹ ‘taken entrees bothe Inwarde & outwarde’: taken entries both inward and outward – i.e. made entry of imported or exported goods in the customs accounts.

¹⁰ Elizabeth came to the throne on 17 Nov. 1558. So the article is concerned with the period since 1548.

¹¹ ‘dampne’ – i.e. supress.

¹² Anthony Standbank, mayor of Bristol, 1564/5.
Esquier\textsuperscript{13} David Harrys Alderman\textsuperscript{14} & Nicholas Wylyams\textsuperscript{15} ~
Commyssyoners named & appointe by the quenes highnes Commission
to them & othes directed & to thies presentes\textsuperscript{16} annexed comprehendyng
the execuyon of the same accordyng to tenour & purporte\textsuperscript{17} of the
same Commyssyon & of the Articles of the same fixed aswell at
there assemble\textsuperscript{18} at the saide Citie of Bristowe the viijth\textsuperscript{16} daye of
Aprell Anno Regni Regine Elizabeth etc / Septimo\textsuperscript{19} / As also at Bristowe
& Lawffordes gate\textsuperscript{20} in the Countie of Glouc
tester at diverse tymes after as hereafter ensueth /.

[1] **In prims** to the first Article we the
saide Commissioners saye that the saide porte of Bristowe is ~
commenly frequented and hauntted with traffique of merchauntes & ~
merchaundizes bothe inwarde and owtwarde and ys mete to have ~
contynuance for that purpose & ys one of the principall portes of
thys Realme & a place where great traffique & trade of merchaundizes
ys used / [2] **Item** to the seconde Article we saye that the same porte
ys not decayed but in good state and well frequented and hauntted with
merchauntes and merchaundizes (as above saide) & no Creeke thereunto ~
belongyngyn so frequented / [3] **Item** to the thirde Article, we saye ~
that no custome house dothe belonge to the saide porte, but that
the Customers do heare\textsuperscript{21} a howse for that purpose of one Wyllyam
Tucker\textsuperscript{22} of Bristowe Draper from yere to yere, whiche Wyllyam ~
Tucker hathe a State for Tearme of yeares\textsuperscript{23} in the same / And the
saide customers paye to hym for the same house xlvjs viijd a
yere & that the inheritauce of the same apperteyneth to Rowlande ~
Okever of London myllyner / And that the same howse stondeth
very aptelye for the ser\textsuperscript{24}vice of the quenes highnes & ys in good
repara\textsuperscript{25}cions, & that the same reparations ys borne by the saide ~
Wyllyam Tucker / [4] **Item** to the fourthe Article we also saye
that to the saide porte doo belonge fiftie and nyne Creekes
kayes\textsuperscript{24} pylles\textsuperscript{25} and havens, which be in thies presentes hereafter named
with their distances from the saide porte & their distances

\textsuperscript{13} ‘Richarde Barkeley’: Richard Berkeley of Stoke Gifford, which lies four miles northeast of Bristol. The
Berkeley’s were a gentry family with a long connection to Bristol, Richard himself being later buried in the Lord Mayor’s Chapel.

\textsuperscript{14} David Harris was a Bristol apothecary / grocer, who had been mayor in 1550/1: Stanford, *The Ordinances of

\textsuperscript{15} Nicholas Williams was a Bristol tailor who had progressed to become a draper / cloth merchant: E. Ralph and
N. M. Hardwick (eds.), *Calendar of the Bristol Apprentice Book, 1532-1565*, Part II (Bristol Record Society
Publications, Vol. XXXIII, 1980), nos. 695, 872, 1354, 1682; E. Ralph (ed.), *Calendar of the Bristol Apprentice
Book, 1532-1565*, Part III (Bristol Record Society Publications, Vol. XLIII, 1992), no. 404. He was mayor of

\textsuperscript{16} ‘thies presentes’: this presence – i.e. the present writing / document.

\textsuperscript{17} ‘tenour & purporte’: tenor & purport – i.e. sense or meaning.

\textsuperscript{18} ‘assemblie’: assembly – i.e. the meeting of the commissioners.

\textsuperscript{19} ‘the viijth daye of Aprell Anno Regni Regine Elizabeth Septimo’ – i.e. the 8th day of April in the seventh year
of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1655).

\textsuperscript{20} ‘Lawffordes gate’: Lawfords Gate – the east gate of the city at the start of the London Road, 51°27’23” N
2°34’48” W.

\textsuperscript{21} ‘heare’: hire.

\textsuperscript{22} William Tucker had been sheriff of Bristol in 1557/8 and was to be mayor in 1570/1: Stanford, *Ordinances of
Bristol*, pp. 25, 44.

\textsuperscript{23} ‘a State for Tearme of yeares’ – i.e. a leasehold for a fixed number of years.

\textsuperscript{24} ‘kayes’: quays.

\textsuperscript{25} ‘pylles’: pills. A regional name for a tidal stream. Given the high tidal range of the Severn there were many
pills that might be only a yard across at low tide, but which were wide and deep enough to accommodate a sea
going vessel at high tide.

\[\text{3}\]
one from another together with names of the Shires in to the which they doo extende Videlicit26 / Comitatu Somerset27, In Primis the keye of Bristowe28 ys three myles from St Katheryns pylle29 / From St Katheryns pyle to Crokarne pille30 a quarter of a myle / From Crokarne pille to the haven mowthe31 of the porte of Brystow two myles The haven of Bristowe / The ~ haven movthe, From the keye of Bristowe to the Seamyll32 pille is two myles / From Seamyll pille to Brode pille33 a myle / From Brode pille to the haven movthe of the porte of Bristowe three myles / From the haven movthe to Skeys pille34 a quarter of a myle / From Skeys pille to mere pille35 a quarter of a myle / From mere pille to Battens pill36 a quarter of a myle / From Battens pill to Stope pill37 dimidium 38 mile / From Stope pill to Newpill39 dimidium myle / From Newpill to ~ Chesell pill40 two myles / From Chesell pill to Awst pill41 three myles / From Awst pill to Litletton pill42 two myles / From Litletton pill to Cowhill pill43 one mile / From Cowhill pill to Oldbery pill44 dimidium mile / From Oldbery pill to Shepperdysns pill45 two miles / From Shepperdysns pill to Newark pill46 a quarter of a mile / From Newark pill to Newthrough pyll47 a mile / From Newthrough pill to Connynger pill48 half a mile / From Connynger pill to Barkeley haven49 a quarter of a myle / From Barkelye haven to Hallow Hasyll pill50 half a mile / From

26 ‘Videlicit’: that is to say.
27 ‘Comitatu Somerset’: the county of Somerset.
28 ‘keye of Bristowe’: Bristol Quay, 51°26'57" N   2°35'52" W.
29 ‘St Katheryns pylle’: Chapel Pill, 51°28'57" N   2°40'03" W.
30 ‘Crokarne pille’: Pill, 51°28'54" N   2°41'03" W.
31 ‘haven mowthe’ – i.e. Avonmouth, 51°30'17" N   2°42'59" W.
32 ‘Seamyll’: Sea Mills, 51°28'48" N   2°39'03" W.
33 ‘Brode pille’: Broad Pill, 51°29'38" N   2°41'52" W. The pill itself no longer exists, presumably as a result of drainage work during the development of the Avonmouth Docks.
34 ‘Skeys pille’. Described on the 1880 OS map as Elbury Gout, 51°30'55" N   2°42'10" W.
35 ‘mere pille’. Described on the 1880 OS map as the New Gout, being the outlet of ‘Mere Bank Rhine’, 51°31'23" N   2°41'40" W.
36 ‘Battens pill’. Described on the 1880 OS map as ‘Mitchell’s Gout’, being the outlet of ‘Salt Rhine’, 51°31’47" N   2°41'14" W.
37 ‘Stope pill’: Stup Pill, Crook’s Marsh, 51°32’08" N   2°40'53" W.
38 ‘dimidium’: half.
39 ‘Newpill’: New Pill, Crook’s Marsh, 51°32’44" N   2°40'21" W.
40 ‘Chesell pill’: Chestle Pill, Redwick, 51°34'33" N   2°39'26" W.
41 ‘Awst pill’: Cake Pill Gout, Aust, 51°35'38" N   2°38'09" W.
42 ‘Litletton pill’: Littleton Pill, 51°37'05" N   2°35'55" W.
43 ‘Cowhill pill’: Cowhill Pill, 51°37'41" N   2°35'04" W.
44 ‘Oldbery pill’: Oldbury Pill, 51°38'00" N   2°34'48" W.
45 ‘Shepperdysns pille’. Described on the 1880 OS map as ‘Shepperdine Gout’, possibly 51°39'44" N   2°33'41" W.
46 ‘Newark pill’: Hill Pill, 51°40'26" N   2°32'33" W.
47 ‘Newthrough pyll’: Probably Clapton Pill, 51°40'58" N   2°31'02" W.
48 ‘Connynger pill’: Conygore Pill, 51°41'35" N   2°29'50" W.
49 ‘Barkeley haven’: Berkeley Pill, 51°42'02" N   2°29'23" W.
50 ‘Hallow Hasyll pill’: Holly Hazel pill, 51°43'09" N   2°28'59" W.
Bristol port survey, 1565  TNA:PRO, E159/350 Recorda, Hil., rot. 348

Com' Wigorn
upon the
Englyshside

Hallowe Hasell pill to Dynmore pill\(^51\) a quarter of a mile / From Dynmore pill to Framptons pill\(^52\) iiij miles / From Framptons pill to Churcher pill\(^53\) dimidium quarter of a mile / From Churcher pill to ~ Gible gutters pill\(^54\) a quarter of a mile / From Gible gutters pill to Hoke pill\(^55\) half a mile / From Hoke pill to olde pill\(^56\) a mile / From olde pill to Fromylode pill\(^57\) three miles dimidium / From Fromylode pill to Etneys pill\(^58\) a quarter of a mile / From Etneys pill to the key of the citie of Glouceester\(^59\) five miles / From the key of Gloucester to the key of Tewxbere\(^60\) seven miles / From Tewxbere kaye to the keye of Worciter\(^61\) in the Countie of Worciter\(^62\) xij myles. The Ryver of Saverne.\(^63\) Comitatu Gloucester
upon the Welshe side / Innar pill\(^64\) three miles distant from the passage called Becheley\(^65\) & to the haven mouthe of Bristowe sixe miles/ From Innar pill to Waldons pill\(^66\) a mile / From Waldons pill to Horsepill\(^67\) a quarter of mile / From Horsepill to Whale pill\(^68\) a mile / From Whale pill to Lee pill\(^69\) a quarter of a mile / From Lee pill to Conpill\(^70\) a quarter of a mile / From Conpill to Elberton pill xx\(^6\) paces / From Elbertons pill\(^71\) to Lydneye pill\(^72\) ii miles / From Lydneye pill to Pirton pill\(^73\) three miles / From Pirton pill

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\(^51\) ‘Dynmore pill’: Dinmore Pill. This pill no longer exists, but appears on an 1869 map drawn prior to the construction of Sharpness Dock (1870): Gloucestershire Archives, Q/Rum/365. It disappeared into or possibly under the old canal at 51°43'30" N 2°28'21" W and was heading north at that point. The original pill therefore probably discharged into the Severn at about 51°43'36" N 2°28'25" W.

\(^52\) ‘Framptons pill’: Frampton Pill, Frampton, 51°45'32" N 2°22'55" W.

\(^53\) ‘Churcher pill’. Probably the drain that runs west from St Mary’s Church, Frampton, 51°45'40" N 2°22'48" W. This pill would have been disrupted by the construction of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal in the eighteenth century.

\(^54\) ‘Gible gutters pill’. Probably Buckle Brook, which was a substantial stream running through Frampton-on-Severn. Following the construction of the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal, which cut the stream’s path, the western end of the pill probably became a mere drainage ditch, discharging at about 51°45'52" N 2°22'43" W.

\(^55\) ‘Hoke pill’ / ‘Hoke pill’: Hock Pill / Ditch, 51°46'32" N 2°23'02" W.

\(^56\) ‘olde pill’: Possibly Hope Pill, 51°47'11" N 2°25'43" W or Passage Pill, 51°47'59" N 2°26'38" W.

\(^57\) ‘Fromylode pill’: Framilode Pill, Upper Framilode, 51°47'34" N 2°21'41" W.

\(^58\) ‘Etneys pill’: Epney Pill, 51°47'52" N 2°20'51" W.

\(^59\) ‘keye of Gloucester’: The Quay, Gloucester, 51°51'57" N 2°15'09" W.

\(^60\) ‘key of Tewxbere’: Tewksbury Quay, 51°59'44" N 2°09'31" W.

\(^61\) ‘keye of Worciter’. Presumably South Quay, Worcester, 52°11'25" N 2°13'25" W.

\(^62\) ‘Countie of Worciter’: Worcestershire.

\(^63\) ‘Ryver of Saverne’: River Severn, which, in contemporary usage would encompass what would today be called the Severn Estuary.

\(^64\) ‘Innar pill’: Sturch Pill by Inward Rocks, 51°39'09" N 2°37'33" W.

\(^65\) ‘Becheley’: Beachley, 51°36'52.56" N 2°38'52.01" W.

\(^66\) ‘Waldons pill’: Walden’s Pill, 51°40'12" N 2°36'42" W.

\(^67\) ‘Horsepill’: Horse Pill, 51°40'21" N 2°36'32" W.

\(^68\) ‘Walke pill’: Grange Pill, 51°40'50" N 2°35'29" W.

\(^69\) ‘Lee pill’: Ley Pill, 51°40'58" N 2°34'58" W.

\(^70\) ‘Conpill’: Cone Pill, 51°41'27" N 2°34'08" W.

\(^71\) ‘Elberton pill’: Aylburton Pill. The coastline at this point has changed somewhat since the 1880 OS map was drawn. Aylburton Pill is presumably a reference to what was described in 1880 as ‘Aylburton Warth Brook’, which then discharged about a quarter-of-a-mile upriver of Cone Pill. Today the stream discharges half-a-mile upriver from Conepill at 51°41'38" N 2°33'22" W. The statement in the 1565 survey though that Aylburton Pill was just twenty paces from Conpill suggests that the two pills discharged at almost the same point at that time. If so, ‘Elberton pill’ would have discharged at about 51°41'27" N 2°33'57" W.

\(^72\) ‘Lydneye pill’: Lydneye Pill. While there is no pill now, on the basis of the 1880 County Series OS map, its outlet used to be at 51°41'59" N 2°32'26" W.

\(^73\) ‘Pirton pill’: Purton Pill, 51°44'22" N 2°28'38" W.
to Gatcombe Creke 74 half a mile / From Gatcombe Creoke to ~ Bromespill 75 one mile / From Bromespill to Oldlandes pill 76 a quarter of a mile / From Oldlandes pill to Throughpill 77 a quarter of a mile From Throughpill to Stockwell pill 78 a mile / From Stockwell pill to Fulmede pill 79 a quarter of a mile / From Fulmede pill to Perry pill 80 a quarter of a mile / From perry pill to Bullowe pill 81 half a quarter of a mile / From Bullowe pill to Callowe pill 82 a quarter of a mile / From Callowe pill to Caporne pill 83 xxti paces / From Caporne pill to Newnam Creeke 84 a quarter of a mile / From Newnam Creeke to Hawkeybridge pill 85 a quarter of a mile / From Hawkeybridge to Brode Oke pill 86 a quarter of a mile / From Brode oke pill to Gamespill 87 a quarter of a mile / From Gamespill to the bridge or keye of Glocester seven miles / From Glocester bridge to Hanley Creke 88 xj miles in the Countie of Worcster From Hanley Creeke to Worceter bridge or key eight miles/ [5] Item to the vth Article we saye that the above saide keys of Worcester Teuxbery & Glociter, Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe key be most frequented & haunted with trafique of merchants & merchundizes & are all meete to be continued for the same purpose (savinge ~ Gatcombe key) whiche key of Gatcombe liethe so covertlie 90 upon the same Ryver that great conveyance of grayne lether & other commodities prohibited to be transported beyond the Seas ys used there to the great hurte & discomoditie of the countrey thereabout & to the great advauncement of the prices of grayne lether & other commodities afore saide / [6] Item to the sixth Article we aunswer that none of the saide Creekes havens keys nor pilles is decayed /

74 ‘Gatcombe Creke’: Gatcombe, 51°44'47" N   2°27'55" W.
75 ‘Bromespill’: Brimspill, 51°45'33" N   2°26'14" W.
76 ‘Oldlandes pill’: Possibly a pill marked on the 1880 OS map as discharging at 51°46'48" N   2°25'40" W.
77 ‘Throughpill’. Possibly the stream that discharges one mile upriver from Brimspill, 51°46'00" N   2°25'34" W.
78 ‘Stockwell pill’. A c.1795 map shows a ‘Stockwell Spring’ just southeast of Northington Farm at about 51°46'37" N   2°25'51" W: Gloucestershire Archives, D3270/348. The original outlet into the Severn would have been at about 51°46'54" N   2°25'34" W.
79 ‘Fulmede pill’. In the Awre tithe award and apportionment ‘Full Meadow pasture’ adjoins the pill which enters the Severn at 51°46'55" N   2°25'28" W: Gloucestershire Archives, GDR/T1/T12.
80 ‘Perry pill’. Presumably the name for the stream that, at least at the time of the 1880 OS map, ran parallel to Bullo Pill and discharged a quarter of a mile downstream from it at 51°47'02" N   2°26'49" W. On the other hand, it may be noted that the parish boundary between Awre and Newnham-on-Severn follows this stream for almost its entire course. Yet, seventy-five yards short of the river, the stream diverted to the south-east in what appears to be an artificial cut, while the parish boundary goes straight to the river. If the parish boundary marks the line of the original stream, the pill would have discharged at 51°47'06" N   2°26'55" W.
81 ‘Bullowe pill’: Bullo Pill, 51°47'12" N   2°27'00" W.
82 ‘Callowe pill’: Colow Pill, 51°47'54" N   2°27'07" W.
83 ‘Caporne pill’. Given that this is described as being twenty paces upriver from Callowe Pill, it is presumably the pill marked on the 1880 OS map as discharging c.60 yards upriver at 51°47'56" N   2°27'05" W.
84 ‘Newnam Creeke’. Newham, 51°48'20" N   2°26'45" W.
85 ‘Hawkeybridge pill’: Hawkins Pill, 51°48'42" N   2°26'29" W.
86 ‘Brode Oke pill’: Broadoak Pill. According to the 1880 OS map, the pill running through Broadoak discharged at 51°48'56" N   2°26'07" W.
87 ‘Garnespill’: Garden Pill, 51°49'05" N   2°25'00" W.
88 ‘Hanley Creke’. This was presumably close to Hanley Quay, 52°04'33" N   2°13'38" W.
89 ‘Worceter Bridge’: Severn Bridge, Worcester, 52°11'28" N   2°13'34" W.
90 ‘covertie’: covertly – i.e. concealed / hidden. Gatcombe lies in a small, steep-sided wooded valley. This would presumably have made it difficult for those passing along the river to see what was happening on the quay.
Item to the viijth Article we aunswere that no Custome House doth belonge to any of the saide Creekes havens keys or pilles for that the Customs & other duties due to the queens highnes for any merchundize or Wares taken in or dischardged in any of the saide places be answered at the Custome House of Bristowe & there the merchantaunes receive there Cockettes & Certificates for the same upon there entries & not elles where / Item to the viijth Article we saye that there is no other house or place either where the porte ys, or where any of the places afore saide be, that stondeth more fitte & commodious than the Customhouse scituat at the saide porte of Bristowe, for that we suppose her Customes & duties groweng within the saide Creekes & other places will not be able to aunswere suche charges as the prince shalbe at in the erectinge & maynteyning of any other Custome Howse or howses/ Item to the ixth article we Aunswere that the Customers of the saide porte have had no Deputies or servauntes that have taken entries Inwardes & owtwardes within tenne yeres next before the said first yere of her majesties Reigne / Item to the xth Article we saye that Stopepill Chesell pill Awstpill Oldbery pill Littleton pill Cowhill pill Sheperdynes pill Newark pill Conntyger pill Newthrough pill Hallowhasell pill Dymore pill Framptons pill Oldpole Hockpill Hanley key Gamespill Bromespill Pirtins pill Lyndes pill Aileberton pill Conpill Leepole Wawk pill, Horsepill & Inner pill Parcell of the keys pill & Creekes ~ above recyted are places where wares & merchandizes to be taken in have of longe tyme & yet be used to be taken in & dischardged ~ And notwithstanding be not onye of the places appointed for that purpose for the accustomed places lymyted for wares & merchandizes to be taken in & dischardged be Worceter key, Tewxbery key Glocestere

dorse

Key Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe Creeke And so by means of takyng in and dischardgyng of wares & merchandizes in the saide places not lymyted for that purpose, great converyaunce of ~-grayne lether & other commodities is used to the great ympoverishment of the Countrey thereaboute & therefore the saide places are not mete to have contynuaunce, but some devise & means to be used to lett the commynyg in of vesselles & botes thither, And notwithstanding the same places not to be dammed because they be places by the which the water avoideth owt of the lowe Countryes thereaboutes & be places to lande wood & other thynges that the inhabitauntes there aboutes carye & recarye from place to place / Item to the xjth Article we Awnswere that diverse persons do with their plowes bringe Corne grayne lether Calfe Skynnes Victuall & other commodities of this Realme to Botes Barckes & vesselles lyeng at the bankes of the saide River of Severne at full Sea / And there doom lade the same in to the saide botes & Vesselles secretlye in the night & from thense doom transporte the same into diverse partes beyonde the Seas & to other portes and Crekes within the Realme without licence or aunsweryng of the quenes ~dueties / Item to the xijth article we saye that at Conpill ~

91 'scituat': situate – i.e. located.
92 ‘Parcel’ – i.e. part of / included among.
93 ‘lett’: let – i.e. hinder or stop.
94 ‘plowes’: ploughs. This is a West country term for teams of draught animals harnessed to carts or wagons.
Gatcombe Creeke & Brodeoke pill be diverse store howses & Sellers\(^95\) by the whiche secret convyeaunce of grayne lethar & other commodities is used, whiche storehouses & Sellers ware verie expedient to be subverted & taken awaye, for that bothe the quenes majestie ys thereby deceived of her Custome & duties & the Countreys thereabowtes muche dampnyfied & hurte. / All which premyses we the above Commyssyoners have to the uttermoste of our knowledge examyned perused & viewed aswell by conference with thinhabitauntes inhabityng in the saide porte & aboute the Creekes & other places above saide as also by our personall repaire & access\(^96\) to the saide porte & to all the Creekes & places above saide & by the veredictes\(^97\) of juries ~ sworne in that behalf ./.

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95 ‘Sellers’: cellars.
96 ‘repaire & accesse’: repair & access. They thus claim to have actually visited all the places mentioned.
97 ‘veredictes’: verdicts.