
1r.

The document begins with a copy of the commission’s writ. This took the form of a dedimus potestatem – a commission that delegated royal authority to private individuals and allowed them to take and record deponents’ evidence. This was a right that normally belonged exclusively to the Exchequer barons in their capacity as judges. The writ is in Latin. It is dated 4th July 1582. It names Sir William Winter, Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Richard Pate and Thomas Hannam as the four appointed commissioners for this task, makes reference to the attached interrogatories and orders them to return their findings under their seals into the Exchequer. The writ also states that the commission was due to be returned to the Exchequer by the Octave of Saint Hilary – which meant the 20th January 1583. However, it is clear that this was not the original return date inscribed – there are erasure marks on the document and this date has been written in the original return date’s place. Fortunately, a copy of this writ has survived in the records of the city of Gloucester and this copy includes the original return date – which was the Morrow of All Souls – or the 3rd November 1582. Another document found in the records of the city of Gloucester notes that the date was changed because ‘the commissioners cowlde not come in place’ in time for the commission to be executed before the commission was due to be returned to the Exchequer.

2r.

Interrogatories to be ministred to merchants masters of Shippes Pilottes & skilfull mariners of their knowledge of and conceninge the River of Severne betwene kingrode and the Bridge of Gloucester.

1. Imprimis do you knowe the Ryver of Severne and the creekes and Pills betwene kingrode and

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1 The National Archives: Public Record Office, UK [TNA:PRO], E134/25Eliz/Hil3. The following conventions were employed when transcribing this document: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, erasures, insertions, underlining and punctuation follow the manuscript; ‘u’ and ‘v’ have been rendered according to the document rather than to modern usage. Square brackets indicate editorial additions. Reconstructions of suspensions are in italics and all suspensions have been extended – for example ‘city of Glouc’ has been extended to ‘city of Gloucester’. The only exception to this is when the name of a county has been contracted – so ‘county of Glouc’ remains as ‘county of Glouc’.

2 GBR, B/2/1, fol. 98v.

3 See Appendix 5. I would like to thank Margaret Condon for her help and advice regarding this Latin writ.

4 ‘Pillotes’ – in this context, a pilot was a mariner who guided ships through dangerous or congested waters – in this case, the River Severn.

5 King Road – the bay and roadstead that stretches two miles west from Avonmouth to Portishead.
2. Item do you know that circuyte by water that is called the welshe roade⁶ yf ye Then whether doth the same extende harde to the shore of the English side, yea or noe.

3. Item Whether do you knowe the Creekes and Pills⁷ called Barkley Newenam and Gloucester, yea or no. yf yea. Then whether may a Shippe of Conuenient Burden fleete and Come to safely ride and abide in the same as in a place or places sufficient & meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge. And for the maineteynance and continiall keepinge of Shippes yea or no yf yea Then of what Burden must the shippes be that soe can continue and be ther And Whether may they come and goe passe and repasse at all tides and tymes (of winde & Weather serve.) yea or noe yf not Then at what tyde and tymes may they safely fleete to & from with sufficient water for all tempestes and weather.

4. Item do you know, the creeke called Gatcombe,⁸ yea or noe, yf yea Then what serviceable shippes⁹ and of what Burden may att all tymes in safty fleet & come to and from the said Creeke called Gatcombe. And whether may shippes of all manner of convenient Burdens, safty come & goe unto that creeke and ther ryde and abide as in a sufficient Portes, to receave and mainteyne shippes of Convenient Burden for service or defencible for the trade of merchandiz. yf not at all tymes, Then at what tyde or tymes may shippes of convenient Burden, come and goe in safty to the said creeke and ride & abide there and howe manie shippes may ride ther at on tyme And of what Burthen must the shippes be that shall come & goe at all tydes & tymes and of what Burthen must the shippes be of, that shall come & goe at quarter springe tyde And of What Burthen at half a springe tyde And so at

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⁶ Welsh Road – the Welsh side of the River Severn.
⁷ ‘Creekes and Pills’ – In the Customs administration of Great Britain, a ‘creek’ is an inlet of insufficient importance to be considered a separate port. Creeks could however by included within the jurisdiction of other ports. A ‘pill’ was a local term for tidal creeks.
⁸ Gatcombe served as the main outport for the port of Gloucester. It lies on the west bank of the River Severn – approximately twelve miles southwest of Gloucester or twenty-two miles by water.
⁹ ‘serviceable shippes’ – refers to ships large enough to have the capability of serving in the navy when required. Ships of 75 ton burden were considered the minimum size for such purposes: B. Dietz, ‘The royal bounty and English merchant shipping in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries’ Mariner’s Mirror, LXXVII (1991), 6.
a thirde and soe at a full springe tyde.\textsuperscript{10} And in your iudgment or opinion whether
is that, or thother three creekes or all they meate to be a porte or portes of ladinge &
discharginge of Shippes to and from the sea yea or no.

5. Item What Towne of populus village is ther nere unto that creeke called Gatcombe
that reasonablie may have Intelligence or make restraine, yf her Majestie sholde
be deceaved in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of vittailes and prohibited wares

6. Item What be the Comodities or merchandize that the City of Gloucester and the people
of the countres ther aboute do vent\textsuperscript{11} and transporte from thence and wherewith or with
What trade be their small Barkes\textsuperscript{12} or Boates mainteyned and sent to the sea.

7. Item Whether doe you thinke or are perswaded (all thinges Considered) that it will
stand with or be against the Comon-Welth\textsuperscript{13} of that countrie that the said creekes shold
be a porte or portes, or a place of ladinge and discharginge yea or no

8. Item Whether doe you thinke or by reason understande that if ther be a custome house
allowed & kepte at Gloucester And the said creekes continued to be portes or places of
ladinge & discharginge will the same be a spoile of Graine & vittailes & prohibited
wares and so raise a derth of the same aswell in the Countries uppon Severne as
in the City of Bristowe yea or noe./

9. Item Whether doe you understande or thinke that if the said custome house at
Gloucester and the said creeke shall Continialy be portes of ladinge and discharginge will
the same be a hinderannce unto the trade of the City of Bristowe and a decay and dimminishinge
of the serviceable Shippinge & skilfull mariners of the same City yea or noe

\textsuperscript{10}‘full springe tide’ – this refers to the strong tides that occur twice-monthly, after a full moon and new moon. The high tides of a spring tide are very high whilst the low tides are very low.
\textsuperscript{11}‘vent’: to sell.
\textsuperscript{12}‘Barkes’ – a bark was a general term for any sailing vessels of a small size.
\textsuperscript{13}‘Comon-Welth’: in this context, the common good.
10. **Item** What distance of place is ther by water betweene kingrode and the said Creeke called Gatcombe And What distance betwene Gatcombe and Gloucester.

11. **Item** What do you thinke or What is your opinion. Will her Majesty be better served if the said creekes uppon Seaverne were under the serch survey and Controlment of the officers of the parte of Bristowe (as hertofore they have ben) dwellinge and lyinge betwene that parte of Severne and the sea, or els by officers of the Custom house of Gloucester beinge and dwellinge so farr behind them inwarde toward the lande.

12. **Item** what shipp or shippes of conveyent burden for servyce or for trade of merchandize have you knowen to be buylde by any merchannite or merchannites of Gloucester. yf you have knowne any suche, then whether were theye full buylde or fyndished with mastes & yardes or ells were theye brought downe from gloucester or from any creeke therabout, haulfie buylde & unfurnished or in what state were they when they came downe Severne, And what water myght they drawe beinge so farr buylde & unfurnished as ~ afore saide, And of what burden was the saide shippe or shippes yf any were suche were. And whether did or could the saide shippe or shippes retourne agayine to Gloucester or to any the creekes therabout, with conveyent ladinge, yf not, then at what rode or place was she kepte & maynteyned afterwaeres.

13. **Item.** howe longe or howe many yeares maye suche a shippe as maye come & goe ryde and fleeete at gatcome be kepte & maynteyned there, as in a parte of rest betwene dischardginge & ladinge, & indure & abyd all wyndes and weathers.  

    Thomas Hanam  
    Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmorton

3r.
Interrogatories to be minisered to merchanntes and owners of Shippes

Inprimis do you knowe or have harde of a porte or portes to be newlie erected upon or in the creeke of Severne betwene the Welsh Roade & Twexbury to be place of ladinge & dischardginge of shippes & of a custome howse latly erected & sett upp at Gloucester ye or noe

Item Whether Will to your reason or understandinge thereccion of the same custome howse and thappointinge of the Creekes to be portes be and turne to an encrease of small Barkes & a diminishinge of the nomber and trade of grete shippinge to the porte of Bristowe belonginge And wheather do you know or understande that the same is, or wilbe by meanes preiudicial or hurtfull to the inhabitantes of the Citie of Bristowe in provision & victuellinge of the said Citie with Corne graine & other victuells yf yea then what rison yeld ye for the same

Item Whether doth the state & mainteynance of the City of Bristowe stand chieflie uppon the makinge of collered Clothes for the sea & uppon the trad of merchanndize yea or no.

Item Whether have all the Creekes uppon Seaverne betwene Bristowe& Twexbury alwaies ben belonginge to the porte of Bristowe, as members of the same yf yea Then how you know the same to be true. Whether by annsweringe the Quenes Majestie's Costomes & duties at that custome house of Bristowe or otherwiese, or otherwiese. And whether you know ~ understand & can give reason that therreccion of the said Custome house and the Changinge of the said creekes to be portes wilbe with or against the Comon welth of the Citye & Countrie of Gloucester and of the Citie of Bristowe & the Countrie theraboutes.

Interrogatories to be minisered to Bakers, Brewers & victualls of the City of Bristowe. /

Inprimis do you know, or have hard of a port or portes to be newlie erected upon or in the creekes betwene the Welshe rode & Twexbury to be places of ladinge and dischardginge of shippes & of a

14 Although this additional set of interrogatories is found alongside the other sets of interrogatories pertaining to this commission, it would appear from the lack of corresponding depositions that the commissioners did not directly question any Bristol deponents using these interrogatories.

15 The clerk appears to have mistakenly repeated this phrase.
Custome house latly erected and sett upp at Gloucester yea or noe.

Item have the Citie of Bristowe, bene used for the most parte to be victualls with Corne &
graine and some other provision, out of & from the Creekes upon Seaverne, And Whether have
the merchannts of the same Citie uttered & vented the gretest parte of their merchandize by and
through the said Creekes. /

Item Whether did the said creekes belong unto and were directed by the Custome house and Port
of Bristowe. /

Item Whether hath or by comon reason will thereccion of the said Custome howse raise or bring
derth of Corne and graine aswell in & about the Citie of Gloucester and the Countries thervnto
adioyinge as to the Citie and Citizens of Bristowe and the Countries therabouts yea or no
yf yea Then what mouth you so to affirme or What reason yeld you for the same. /

Item What troble Charge or inconveniencie was ther for the Cittie of Gloucester, the Townes of Tuexbury
bewlie16 worcescor and Sherewsburie to make theire entries and take out their cockettes17 at the
Custome howse of Bristowe priore then to make entries and take out cockettes at the Custome howse
of Gloucester. /

Item to your knowled or understandinge who or what persons be they that are benifited or eased by
makinge entries & takinge out of Cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. And whether is
the same aldership18 allweis serviced comoditie to all the people therabouts poore and rich or is it
a private comoditie for farmors & Corne merchannts & a few suche other yea or no. /

Item Whether have there ben greater derth or scarsitie of corne & graine in & aboute the Citie of
Gloucester sitheence thereccion of the said Custome howse Then ther was before yea or no And whether
tolde or can you make provision of corne & graine from Gloucester & the countries from thence upp
Severne as good cheap as plenfull & without exaccions sethens thereccion of the said custome

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16 'bewlie' – probably referring to Bewdley, a small town a few miles west of Kidderminster and on the banks of the River Severn.
17 'cockettes': cockets. In this context, a customs certificate to allow prohibited wares to be sent coastwise.
18 'aldgership': aldership. In this context, aldership refers to the authority of the head port of Gloucester.
howse as you might & could before yea or noe yf not Then wherof riseth the derth or grete prices the scarsitie and the Charge that you are nowe putt unto, more then before to your knowledge or what reasones can you yeld for the same. /

Item Whether hath there ben more or greater transportinge & conveyinge awaye of Corne & graine from Gloucester and all the Countries upp Seaverne sithens 19 therreccion of the said Custome howse, then their was before yea or no. yf yea. Then What moveth you so to affirme or what reason yeld you for the same.

Articles to be minisered unto Bargemen and Trowmen uppon 
the River of Severne betweene the Citie of Bristow & the Towne of Shrewsbury.

Imprimis do you know or have harde of a port or portes to be newlie erected uppon or in the Creek betwen the Welsh rode & Tewexbury, to be place of ladinge & discharginge of Shippes & of a Custome house latlie erected and sett upp att Gloucester yea or noe.

Item when or in what Custome house do you now make your entries & take out cockettes for your Corne graine & other victuells which you do transporte carie or recarie betwene ye towne of Shrewsbury & the City of Bristowe, yf at Gloucester then Whether do you finde or have you ease profittes comoditie or troble charges & discomoditie 20 by makinge your entrie & takinge our your cockette at Gloucester or What difference find you therin in respecte of the comon welth of the Countrie.

Item Whether have you bene so freighted or laden with corne and graine to the Citye of Bristowe, sithens the erectinge of the said Custome howse at Gloucester, as you were before yea or no yf not Then what know you, or take you thoccasion therof to be And Whether in What Barke or Botes is the same Corne & graine conveyed or transported And Whether more corne & graine have bene shipped for the sea Sithens thereccion 21 of the said custome howse of Gloucester then ther was before, yea or no. Whether is ther therby risen a derth and scarcite of corne & graine

19 'sithens': since. 20 'discomoditie': archaic term for inconvenience. 21 'thereccion': the erection.
in and about the Citiie of Gloucester & in and about the Citiie of Bristowe ye or no. /  

Thomas Hannam  
Rychard pate ~  
Thomas Throkmorton

4r.

deposicions of wytnesses sworen and examined taken at Berckley in the countie of  
Gloc the xvij and xviij dayes of Januarie in the xxvth yere of the raigne of our soveraine  
ladie Elizabeth th by the grace of god of England Frannie and Irelande Queene defendor  
of the fayeth 

betwene before Thomas Throkmarton Richarde Pate and Thomas  
hanam Esquire by vertue of the Queenes majesties Comission out of her graces heigh  
courte of excheaquer unto Sir William Wynter knight and them addressed for the  
examinacion of wytnesses touchinge matters in controversie in the same same court  
dependinge betwene, the mayor and comunaltie of the cytie of Brystoll and the compt  
and the mayor and Burgesses of the cytie of Glocester defendeth.

Ex parte quer23  
Walter Stanfast of the citie of Brystoll merchant borne at Arlingeham24  
in the countie of Glouc of the aige of three skore years and upwardes sworen and examined  
to the fyrst Inrerrrogatory he sayeth That he knoweth the River of Seaverne verie well  
and the most parte of the Creekes and Pilles betwene kingerode and the bridge of Glocester  

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth that cirquite by water which is called  
the Welshe Roade and that the same doth extende harde to the shore of the englyshe syde. ~  

To the thyrde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creekes and Pilles called  
Barkley, Newneham and Glocester and sayeth alaso that there cannot any shyp of

22 ‘xxvth yere’ – Elizabeth’s twenty-fifth regnal year ran from 17th November 1582 to the 16th November 1583.  
23 ‘Ex part quer’: on one side.  
24 ‘Arlingeham’ – Arlingham is a village on the east bank of the Severn, approximately eleven miles downstream of Gloucester.
conveniente burthen Flee and come to, sañelie ryde, and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficient and meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge nor fytt for the maintenence and contynewall kepinge of Shipps And he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or barke of above twentie or fyve and twentie tonnes be nor contynewe there, and he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or vessall drawinge myndfoole of water beinge noe trogh come and goe passe and repasse to Glocester at all tydes and tymes though wynd and weather serve except onlie at a Springe tyde.

To the fowerth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creeke called Gatcombe and that noe serviceable Shyppe or any other of above fortie tonnes can at all tymes in safetie fleet and come to and from the said Creeke called Gatcombe and he farther sayeth that shipps of convenient burthen cannot sañelie come and goe unto that creeke and there ryde and abyde as in a sufficient porte to receive and mayneteyne shipps of convenient burthen for service or defencible for the trade of marchandizes except onlie at springe tides and he farther sayeth that there cannot ride there at one tyme aboue vij or viij both in the pills and stande Creakes there which most all lie agrounde at loe water and he farther sayeth that noe shipp of any burthen can come and goe there at all tymes and tydes / at quarter springe tydes onlie vessells of x tonne or xij tonnes at the moste can passe to gatcombe at halfe springe tyde a vessell of xxtonnes may come thither yf she have a good wynde / at a full springe tyde a vessell of fortie tonnes and not aboue can come thither and he farther sayeth that neither Gatcome nor the other iij creekes nor all they are meet to be a port or portes of ladinge and discharginge of Shipps.

To the fyveth Interrogatory he sayeth that there is noe towne or populus place neere the said creeke of Gatcombe that reasonablie maye have intelligence or make restraynte yf her majestie shoule be deceived in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of victualls and prohibited wares.

To the syxe Interrogatory he sayeth that the onlie comodities or marchandizes which the citizens of Glocester and the people of the cuntrie there aboute doe vente are for the

25 ‘burthen’: burden.
26 ‘trogh’: trow. In the context of the River Severn at this time, a trow was a small flat-bottomed sailing barge.
most \textit{par}te Corne and fruite and some waxe.

To the seventh \textit{Interrogatoy} he sayeth that he thinketh that it is against the common welthe of the cuntrie that the said creekes should be a porte or portes or a place of ladinge and discharginge.

To the eyght Interrogatoy he sayeth that yf there be a custome howse q allowed and kept at Glocester and the said Creekes contynewed to be portes or places of ladinge and discharginge the same wilbe a spoyle of grayne and victualls and prohibited wares and soe rayse a dyrth\textsuperscript{27} of the same aswell in the cuntries uppon Seaverne as in the cytie of Brystoll

To the nth Interrogatoy he sayeth that yf the custome howse of Glocester co contynewe there and the said Creekes contynewed to be portes of ladinge and discharginge the same wilbe a hinderance unto the trade of the cytie of Brystoll and a drayne of the servicable Shippinge and skylfull marreners of the same citie.

To the tenth Interrogatoy he sayeth that that is Betwene the creek of Gatcombe and Glocester Kingeroade distance by water syxetene or seventene myles and betwene gatcombe and Glocester there is distance xij or xiiij myles.

To the eleventh Interrogatoy he sayeth that in his oppinion yf the custome howse were kept onlie at kingeroade and Brystoll the same woulde be more beneficall to her majestie than yf the custome howse nowe newlie erected at Glocester should have his contynewance the same beinge soe farr from thence behinde in towardes the lande and he farther sayeth that the erection of the custome howse at Glocester both is and wilbe a greate increase of smale barkes and a great increase of smale barkes and a great diminisshinge of the number and trade of the greate shippinge belonginge to the port of Brystoll and a great hinderance of the provision of victualls and grayne in Brystoll and he sayeth that he is perswaded to thincke soe for that these smale vessells doe and will furnish the cuntie\textsuperscript{28} all upp Severne with oyles Iron

\textsuperscript{27} ‘dyrth’: dearth.
\textsuperscript{28} ‘cuntie’: country.
trayne\(^29\) and spisons\(^30\) and suche lyke wares wherewith the great shippinge of Bristoll were woertie\(^31\) to be maynteyned and sett as woorke. And further sayeth that the estate and mayntenance of the citie of Bristoll standeth cheefelie uppon makinge of cullored clothes for the sea and uppon the trade of marchandize and further sayeth that all the creekes betwene Bristoll and Tewxburie have allwayse before the erection of the said custome howse at Glocester bin belonginge to the porle of Brystoll as members of the same.

To the twelveth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knewe a Shipp called the Marie Fortune which was beginned to be buylde at Glocester by one master Roberte Poole and there the Hull was in a manner full buylte and so was brought downe to Gatcome as light as she might be and was afterward finished at Gatcombe beinge then a shippe of aboute fower score tonnes burthen and he hath harde saye by one that wento in ther that the said Shipp goinge to sea tooke in a parte of her ladinge at Gatcombe and the rest of her ladinge was brought downe to her at Inwarde Pill where she had more

Thomas Hanam
Rychard pate ~
Thomas Throckmorton

\(5r\)

water, and she never returned thither againe but was vsuallie kept in Chepstowe as longe as she endured and he further sayeth that he knowe one other shipp of three skore and tenne tunnes or neer fower skore tonnes beginne to be byltt at Fromeloude\(^32\) by one William Bullock which was brought downe to Brystoll in lyke manner as the other shipp was brought to Gatcombe and was at Brystoll kept and maynteyned

\(^{29}\) ‘trayne’: this is probably a reference to trayne oil - now known as cod liver oil. This was used to light lamps.
\(^{30}\) ‘spisons’: spices.
\(^{31}\) ‘woertie’: worthy.
\(^{32}\) ‘Fromeloude’: Framilode – a small village on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles downstream of Gloucester.
which shipps did drawe\textsuperscript{33} as this deponent thincketh nyne or tenne foote water where they were brought downe Severne.

To the thyrtenth Interrogatory he sayeth that the roade\textsuperscript{34} at Gatcombe is verie dangerous and therefore he thincketh a Shipp cannot longe contynue and indure there.

\textbf{Patricke Carter} of the cytie of Brystoll marener havinge dwelt there aboute three yeres and beinge before that an Inhabitante of the cytie of Glocester by the space of fowertene yeares or thereabouts, of the aige of Fortie yeares or thereabouts sworen and examined to the Fyrst Interrogatory he sayeth That he knoweth the ryver of Severne verie well and hath bin alwayes for the most parte durng the terme aforesaid bin usinge in trowes boates and Barkes uppon Severne betwene Glocester and Brystoll and by meane thereof knoweth the Creekes and Pills betwene Kingeroade and the bridge of Glocester and all the shelfes and dangers therein aswell those under water as those aboue water.

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the cirquite by water that is called the Welshe roade and sayeth that the same doth extende harde to the shore of the Anglyshe syde.

To the thyrde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the creekes and Pilles called Barkeley Newnemha and Glocester and sayeth that noe shipp of convenient burthen maye Fleete\textsuperscript{35} and come to safelie ryde and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficiente and meete to be portes of land ladinge and discharginge and for the mayntenance and conynewall keepinge of Shipps and that the barkes and Shipps which maye convenyenthie contynewe and be there most bee but of twentie or fyve and twenty tonnes, and yf he be of thyrtie tonnes he is not conveniente for that ryver and farther sayeth that even those Shipps and Barkes of xx\textsuperscript{ie} and xxxv\textsuperscript{ie} tonnes

\textsuperscript{33} The amount of water that the ‘shipps did drawe’ refers to the depth of water that a particular vessel required in order to float.
\textsuperscript{34} In this context, ‘roade’ refers to the river at Gatcombe.
\textsuperscript{35} ‘Fleeete’: float.
cannot ryde passe and repasse at all tydes and tymes though wynde and weather serve, but sayeth that they maye onlie passe at the springe tydes with sufficiente water.

To the fowerth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the creeke called Gatcombe and sayeth that noe shipp of conveniente fytt for service or of aboue thyrtie tonnes maye at all tymes safelie Fleet and come to and from the said creeke called Gatcombe and that noe shipp of conveniente burthen or fytt for service can safelie goe unto that Creeke and there ryde and abyde as in a sufficiente porte to receive and mayneteyne shipps of conveniente burthen for service or defencible for the trade of marchandize for he sayeth that there is noe good moringe place for them there / and sayeth that there maye ryde at Gatcombe V fyve or syxe barkes of twentie tonnes apeare at one tyme and that more then that number of v or vi cannot well ryde there at one tyme And farther sayeth that at Nepe tydes\textsuperscript{36} or tymes a boate of fyve tonnes cannot come and goe to gatcombe / at quarter springe tydes a barke or boate of fyvetene tonnes cann but hardlie come to Gatcombe / at halfe springe tydes a barke or boate of eyghtene tonnes or thereaboutes can but come to Gatcombe / at thyrde quarter springe tydes a barke or boate of twentie tonnes maye come thither at full springe tydes a shipp or barke of fyve and twentie or neer thyrtie tonnes can come thyther And farther sayeth that in his judgement and oppinion the said creeke called Gatcombe and the other three creekes mentioned in the thyrde Interrogatory nor they all are meete to be a porte or portes of ladinge and discharginge of Shippes to and from the Sea for that none but such smale barkes as are aforesaide can come thither

To the fyveth Interrogatory he sayeth that there is noe towne nor populus place neer vnto the creeke called Gatcombe that maye have intellegence and make restraynte yf her Majestie shoulde be deceived in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of victualls or prohibited wares, but sayeth that in Gatcombe there are the howse of one master Baring (whoe is verie seldom or not at all there dwellinge) and fyve other howses inhabited

\textsuperscript{36} ‘Nepe tydes’ – Nepe tides occur just after the first or third quarters of the moon, when the high-water level is lowest and there is the least difference between high and low water levels.
by verie poore people and the men inhabitinge there beinge verie fewe are all such as twoe excepted are abrode from that place at worke for their lyvinge and the Inhabitantes of Etlowe are all husbandmen and marreners which travaile abroad for their lyvinge and lyve elsewhere as those of gatcombe.

To the syxth he sayeth that the comodities or marchandizes that the cytie of Glocester and the people of the cuntres there abouts doe vent and transeport from thence are enlie cheeflie aples and corne and farther sayeth that yf it be not a good apple and fruitefull yere they of Glocester and the said other creekes maye moare upp the most parte of their owne shippinge and boates for any thinge they have to doe for them And farther sayeth that their smale boates and barkes are maynetayned and sent to sea with such fruites as the cuntrie doth yeald and with apples and peares syder and corne and such lyke fuites.

To the seventh Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh and is verelie perswaded that it will stand and be against the common wealth of that cuntrie that the said creekes should be a port or portes or a place or places of ladinge and discharginge for he sayeth that he hath harde the people of that cuntries much to mislyke and speake against the havinge of a porte there for that corne thereby is verie much conveyed awaye and the pryce of corne thereby much inhannsed and little brought to the markette for that they which have corne to sell covett to sell it in grosse quantities togeather.

To the eyghth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth of his owne knowledge that synce the custome howse hath bin at Glocester the price of corne is raised both in the cuntie uppon Seaverne and in Brystoll.

37 ‘husbandmen’ – men who till or cultivate the soil, farmers.
38 ‘aples’: apples.
39 The claim here is that Gloucester men only had a need for their boats when there was a good apple harvest and they consequently had surplus fruit to trade.
40 ‘inhannsed’: enhanced. The claim here is that so much corn was being illicitly exported by Gloucester men that there were local shortages and subsequent inflated prices.
41 ‘covett’: covet – desire. The implication here is that it was more profitable for corn sellers to export their produce in larger quantities rather than selling it in smaller quantities at local markets.
To the ninth Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh that if the custome howse at Glocester have his contynewance and the said creekes contynewe to be portes of ladinge and discharginge, the same wilbe a hinderance to the trade of Brystoll and a decaye of the greate shippinge and skylfull marreners there.

To the tenth Interrogatory he sayeth that Gatcombe is distante by water from kingroade about twentie miles and that Glocester is distante from Gatcombe by water neer twentie miles allso.

To the eleventh Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh it verie inconvenient that the custome houese of Glocester beinge soe farr into the lande and behinde the trade shoulde have his contynewance therefore he sayeth that he hath knowne a shipp called the Minion comeinge out of Spayne whoe had a leake fallen on her at sea and by that tyme she came to kingeroade her men were even almost tyred with avoydinge the water out of the said Shipp, now yf the said Shipp shoulde have sent to Glocester for enteringe her custome there she must of necessitie bin cast awaye before she could have had annswer from thence but beinge a shipp bounde for brystoll she sent to enter her custome there and lyters were sent to her from Bristoll and thereby she was saved.

To the twelveth he sayeth that he knowe ef a shipp of about three skore tonnes called the grayehounde beinge begonn to be biltye aboue Glocester which was brought downe to Bristoll beinge without mastes or yardes and onlie biltyt twoe or

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42 ‘avoydinge’: avoiding.
43 ‘lyter’ – a boat or vessel, usually a flat-bottomed barge, used in lightening or unloading (sometimes loading) larger ships that could not be discharged (or loaded) at a wharf.
three strakes above the wale⁴⁴ which coulde hardelie be brought to brystoll from Glocester as she then was havinge three or fower whole springes to come from Glocester to Brystoll and yet was lyke to have, but cast awaye in comminge be means of the smale depeth of the water which shipp in that estate he thincketh did then drawe about eyght or nyne foote water which shipp beinge afterwardes full buylte coulde never come aboue the suites⁴⁵ but hath alwayes sythens bin kept and mayneteyned in the harbor and haven of brystoll.

To the thyrteenth Interrogatory he sayeth that the roade off at Gatcombe is not passinge a cables length long⁴⁶ and halfe a cables length brode rockes beinge a head and a sterne⁴⁷ and dangerus groundes on the Seaberde syde soe that it is a place inconveniente for any shipp of service to be kepte in, for that there they are agrounde at three quarters flud yf it be a shipp of any burthen, and by reason of the badnes of the haven and the face of the tyde of the ryver of Severne she cannot be longe kept and maynteyned there. And he farther sayeth that yf they of Glocester happen to have any vessell of shipp of about fortie tonnes they keepe them for the most part and lade them and discharge from either in kingeroade hungeroade or the welsh roade or in some place belowe Gatcombe, for the said Ryver of Severne is so dangerus that they dare not adventure neither their ship nor goodes in to Glocester nor the other said Creekes yf the shipp drawe above nyne foote of water except it be uppon a good rounde springe.

**John Barrett** marrener of dwellinge in Brystoll and borne at minsterwood⁴⁸

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⁴⁴ ‘twoe or three strakes above the wale’ – wales were the horizontal planks or timber that extended along the sides of a vessel. The implication here is that only the most basic framework of the vessel had been constructed in Gloucester. This primitive structure was then floated down the Severn to Bristol with significant difficulties. The deponent claims that the building of the ‘grayehounde’ was then completed in Bristol, where it was also furnished with masts and yards. The deponent claims that it would have been impossible for the completed boat to return to Gloucester.

⁴⁵ ‘aboue the suites’: above the river chute, i.e. the mouth of the River Severn.

⁴⁶ ‘a cables length long’ – a cable’s length is a nautical unit of measure equal to one tenth of a nautical mile or one hundred fathoms. One cable’s length is approximately 185 metres.

⁴⁷ ‘rockes beinge a head and a sterne’ – the implication here is that any ship coming to Gatcombe would be surrounded by dangerous rocks and would struggle to moor safely.

⁴⁸ ‘minsterwood’: Minsterworth – a village on the west bank of the River Severn, approximately four miles downstream from Gloucester.
in the countie of Glocester of the aige of fortie fower yeres or thereabouts sworen
and examined to the fyrst Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Ryver of Severne
and the creekes and Pills betwene kingroade and the bridge of Glocester

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth as Walter Stanfast before hath sayed.49

To the thyrde Interrogatory he sayeth he knoweth the Creekes and Pills called Barkley
Newneham and Glocester and that noe shipp of conveniente burthen can fleet
and come to and safelie ryde and abyde in the same as in a place or places
sufficienete and meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge neither for the mayntenance
and contynewall keepinge of Shipps of Burthen and sayeth that shypps of
twente fyve tonnes maye be an contynewe there And farther sayeth to the said
Interrogatory as Walter Stanfast before him hath sayed.

To the fowerth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the creeke called Gatcombe
and that serviceable Shipps cannot at all tymes fleet and come to and from
the said creeke called Gatcombe neither maye Shipps of convenient burthen
with safetie come to the said Creeke and there abyde and Ryde as in a sufficient
porte to mayneteyne shipps of Convenient burthen for service and farther
sayeth as Patrick Carter before him hath sayed.

To the fyveth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth noe towne nor pupulus place
neither is there any towne or populus place or village neer unto the creeke
called Gatcombe that maye (or convenientelye) have intelligence and make restraynte
yf her majestie shoulde be dismissed deceaved in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge
of victualls and p[ro]hibited wares.

To the syxth Interrogatory he sayeth that the commodities and marchandizes which the
cytie of Glocester and the cuntries there aboute doe vente and transporte

49 The initial responses made by deponents would be copied down onto paper by the scribe. When all the depositions had been made, the scribe would then copy these
depositions on to parchment. It seems that the scribe saved time here by stating that the deponent’s answer to this interrogatory was so similar to a previous deposition that it
would not be worth copying it out in full. Bryson, Equity Side of the Exchequer, 139.
from thence and theryewith where with their smale barkes and boates be maynteyned are corne apples and such lyke fruiites.

Thomas Hanam

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmarton

7r.

To the seven and eyghth Interrogatory he cannot depose any thinge materiall

To the nynth Interrogatory he sayeth as Patrick Carter hath sayed.

To the tenth Interrogatory he sayeth that Gatcombe is from kingeroade by water aboute twentie myles and that Glocester is from Gatcombe aboute twelve myles.

To the eleventh twelveth and thyrteenth Interrogatory he cannot depose

Thomas Foster of Sherehampton\(^{50}\) in the countie of Gloc sayler of the aige of fyftie yeres of thereaboutes one of the Pylottes of the Ryver of Severne sworn and examined to theffecte of all the Interrogatories he sayeth that aboute mydsomer last past there came a shipp called the Grayehounde which belonged to Miles dickenson of Brystoll and to one Richarde Lydger of the burthen of fortiefower tonnes laden with Salte into kingeroade which ladinge the said myles dyckenson woulde have discharged at Gatcombe and therefore sente t up Severne to get some skylfull pilott to bringe the same shipp thither with his burthen but as he hath harde the said dickenson and Lydger to reporte whoe were owners of the said Shipp noe Pilott of the said Ryver would take the charge uppon him to bringe the said Shipp with for ladinge unto Gatcombe the said Shipp drawinge then but tenne foot of water and stayinge in kingeroade about fyve dayes to be brought to Gatcombe, and therefore was not brought

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\(^{50}\) ‘Sherehampton’: Shirehampton, a village on the edge of Bristol situated approximately two miles away from where the mouth of the River Avon meets the River Severn.
and discharged at Gatcombe but went to Hungeroad where she was discharged.

**Anthonye Phyllipes** of the citie of Brystoll Baker aiged fyftie fower yeres to the fy rst *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he hath harde of the erectinge of the custome howse in Glocester and hath lykewyse harde of certeyne portes betwene the welshe roade and Tewexk Tewexburie.

To the seconde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that the inhabitan tes of Brystoll have bin vitled from Tewexburie and Glocester from Tewexburie especiallie *with* corne victuall and other provision and from other the creekes of Glocester.

To the thyrde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that before this tyme they the citizens of Brystoll payed for the sight of everie Cockett comminge from the custome howse of Brystoll and goinge through Glocester bridge fower pence onlie.

To the Fowerth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that they the bakers of Brystoll have not bin *served with* graine from the cytie of Glocester in such sort as they were wonte to be for he sayeth their cockettes brought from bristoll would not be allowed by the officers of Glocester but sayeth where they have demanned corne there by their trowe men annswere have bin made the countrie could not spare it, the reason of the skercitie thereof this deponent knoweth not.

To the fyveth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thincketh it noe more trouble not charge for the townes of Glocester Tewexburie woorceter Bewdl ey and Shrewesburie to make their entries and take out their cockettes out of the custome howse of Brystoll then to have and take out the same at Glocester for he sayeth that those townes aboue Glocester vsed to sende for their cockettes and warrantes

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51 ‘lykewyse’: likewise.
52 ‘vitled’ – victualled.
53 ‘wonte’: wont – accustomed.
54 ‘skercitie’: scarcity
By their trowemen to Brystoll to serve there townne from springe to springe and more easylie he thinketh they cannot have them from Glocester.

To the syxth Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh that it is for the ease of such as be corne marchantes at or about Glocester but he thinketh it hurtfull to the common people rather than any benefeite\textsuperscript{55} to them to take out their cockettes at Glocester.

To the seventh Interrogatory he sayeth that sythens the erection of the custome howse at Glocester they cannot nor coulde not have their provysion of corne and grayne from Glocester and the cuntries from thence upp seaverne as they coulde have before, the reasons whereof he this deponent cannot sett downe because he hath not of late travailed\textsuperscript{56} in his owne person and farther to the said Interrogatory he cannot depose....

By pate richard Thos Hanam

Thomas Throkmorton

\textsuperscript{55} ‘benefeite’: benefit.

\textsuperscript{56} ‘travailed’: travelled.
Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses to be examyned on the
parte and behaullf of the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester
againste the maior and comunaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll. /

1 Inprimis of what age be yowe / and are yowe, or have yowe benne, owner, or master, of any shippe
barcke, boate, or trowe, upon the River of Severne or a searcher deputie or seruannt to any searcher
there and howe longe tyme, and are yowe, or have yowe ben a marryner or officer in any shipp bark
boate or trowe, and howe longe tyme or have yowe vsed any trade of Carriadge ventringe ladinge
or passinge of any commodities wares or merchanndizes by thesaid River of Severne, to Bristoll devonshire
Cornewall wales and Irelande, or any other partes beyonde the seas and howe longe tyme. /

2 Item wheather the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes there be frequented or haunted with
traffique of merchanntes and merchanndizes bothe inwarde and outwarde, and whether it be meete to
be contynued for the same purpose / and wheather the same be necessary to be meynteined & advancned
in your judgment. /

3 Item howe many villadge howses creekes or townes are betwene the said Cittie of Bristoll / and the Roades
for shippes and barckes called hungroade and howe farre distant is the villadge of Shirehampton
from the said Roades of hungroade and kingroade.

4 Item do yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Berckley
newnham and Gloucester, and the townes of Twexbury worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth, & Shrewisburie
and howe longe tyme. And declare what distanance is betwene the said creekes of Berckley ~
Gatcombe and newenham kingroade hungroade and Bristoll. / everie one from thother, booth by water
and lande / and what number of miles is from kingroade and Shrewisburie by water and lande as yowe
judge / And doe yowe judge that the key of Gloucester and the creekes of Berckley Gatcombe and ~
newnham be meete and apte places for ladinge unladinge and dischardginge of wares merchandizes
and commodities and declare your knowledge of the key of Gloucester and the state thereof And have you

57 ‘meynteined’: maintained.
58 ‘iudge’: judge.
knowne any shippes or barckes made and builte there, or about Gloucester by whome and of what burdens. / 

5 Item wheather there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places vsed vppon the River of Severne, since the Queenes Majestie’s grant of the custome howse in Gloucester. / then there were vsed before. that grant made, And wheather were the creekes of Gatcombe Backley and newenham vsed for places of ladinge and vnlandinge before the said grant made to Gloucester. And wheather the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that Come to Bristoll with any merchandizes doe lade and unlade at hungroade of kingroade and wheather there is not good harboughs for shippes lyenge uppon the Forreste of Deane side

6 Item what depth of water is the river of severne at Gatcombe uppon a full sea and what shippes of burden may fleete riste and lye at Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme and with what expedicion may the same come from to gatcombe from kingroade. and what barckes boates or trowes have yowe knowen to come from gatcombe to Gloucester and with what expedicion.

7 Item wheather are the saide creekes of Gatcombe and newenham sufficient and convenyent places to discover all shippes barckes and boates passinge the same River of Severne, or have sufficient numbers of dwellinge howses and people there or neare unto the same places for meete service unto her majestie / And howe broade is the same river of severne at Gatcombe & newenham

8 Item doe yowe knowe or iudge wheather there have bynne any greater or small number of trowes or barckes within vj yeeres paste then there were in other yeeres before upon the said River of severne betweene kingroade and Shrewisburie / And whether there have benne any greater trafyque from Gatcombe to Gloucester, and the portes there adioyninge within that tyme then were used before /

9 Item doe yowe knowe of have harde whether any more and greater number of shippes boates barckes or trowes within vj yeeres paste have benne made and builte in any of the creekes or townes betwene Gatcombe and Shrewisburie then weere before in the same places durante the

59 ‘vj yeeres paste’ – the past six years, presumably referring back to the point at which Gloucester became a member port of Bristol in 1575.
lyke tyme before those vj yeeres / And wheather the merchanntes of Bristoll have not nowe as
free and greate vente for all kindes of merchanndizes wares and comodities to all townes
and places above and beneath Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grant made of the
custome howse to Gloucester /

10 Item wheather doe yowe not iudge that the said cittie of Bristoll hath benne aswell servued &
prouided with commodities and wares from Gloucester Twexburie, and other places adioyninge within
vj yeeres laste paste as in other tymes before. /

11 Item do yowe knowe or have harde wheather nowe there be any lesse carryadge of mawltie
and other places commodities and wares from Twexburie to Gloucester for the relief of Bristoll
then in times paste. And whether the said Inhabitanntes in Gloucester Twexburie and other places
near adioyninge doe not sufficienly searve them of Brystoll as in tymes paste they did
or weere used.

12 Item doe yowe iudge that any greater of quantitie of leather butter or cheese hath ben commonly
before vj yeeres paste transported and broughte from the portes and costes of wales to Gloucester /
otherwise than before that time.

13 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather thinhabitanntes of the cittie of Bristoll
duringe vj yeeres paste have not had cockettes grannted to them at Gloucester whensoeuer they
have soughte for the same and by whence, and whether any grayne hath ben restrayned in
Gloucester at any time to be carryed unto Bristoll and declare by whome howe often and when /

14 Item what plentie of Corne or grayne doe yowe iudge to have benne commonly transported & landed
in Cornwall Devonshire and wales from Gloucester porte / And wheather the Cittie of Bristoll
can furnishe and searue the countrey of Cornwell wales or Irelande with Corne &
grayne better cheape than the cittie of Gloucester or as good cheape as the townes of Gloucester and Twexburie
and other places adioyninge. /

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60 ‘costes’: coasts.
Item doe yowe knowe wheather the Queenes majestie’s provision of mawlte and wheate for Irelande may be provided and furnished from the Cittie and countie of Glouc as good cheepe and better cheepe as it is was or mighte be from Bristol if there weere noe custome howse in Gloucester.

Item doe yowe know howe many Citizens of Gloucester doe nowe use or late did use, xx/xx/xx/xx and exercise husbandry or grasinge And declare the names of those persons / And whether were they free houlders of inheritannce or Indenture holders thereof And whether the trades of Cappers & clothiers be not mouche decayed in Gloucester within xx or xxx yeeres paste /

8v.

Item doe yowe knowe or can yowe judge that the smalle boates barckes and trowes uppon severne have brede or can, or doe breede and increase able and sufficient marryners apte for sonndry\textsuperscript{61} service by sea, and fitte for greater shippes. And wheather her majestie in tyme of service hath not ben prouided of sonndry good marryners from the townes or places neer adioyninge to the river of severne and bredde in those small boates barckes or trowes And do you know wheather the small boates barckes or trowes in severne, be or have ben employed for her majestie’s service into Irelande or noe /

Item doe yowe knowe wheather any barckes uppon severne doe used or have used to traveill into Ireland or any partes of Skotland or unto any other places beyonnd the seaes

Item do yowe knowe what stoare of fruite and sider by reasonable accompte is commonly every yeere transported in those barckes and boates from the county of Glouc into Cornewall devonshire Ireland wales and Bristol / And wheather greate quantities of herringe and fishe be not retorned from all those places (excepte Bristol ) back agayne to serve the countreyes of Glouc wigorn\textsuperscript{62} Salopshire\textsuperscript{63} Staffordshire warwick & other countreis aioyninge.

Item wheather one hundred tonnes of small shippinge doth not meinteyne and brede as many

\textsuperscript{61} ‘sonndry’: sundry.
\textsuperscript{62} ‘wigorn’: Worcester.
\textsuperscript{63} ‘Salopshire’: Shropshire.
and more marryners then a greate shipp of like burden / And Declare the reason thereof
And doe yowe knowe or have harde whether any searcher or deputie or seruannt of souche
searcher hathe used to attende, and doth commonly attende aswell at Gloucester as at ~
Gatcombe and newenham / at everie springe and other tymes for tryell searche and ~
vnderstandinge of thinges belonginge to that office /

21 Item doe yowe knowe or have yowe harde wheather there is a custome howse of late
yeeres errected in Gloucester / And howe neere unto the River of severne / And whether the same
standeth commodious and apte for the Queenes Majestie’s officers and service there. / And what
stoare howses or places be there fitt to place wares in. /

22 Item do yowe iudge that a greate parte of all Corne & grayne vsed to be transported to Bristoll
devonshire Cornewall and wales hath benne lade at the key of Gloucester and at Twexburie
And wheather there hath benne any more carried of late yeeres from those twoe townes
or the countie of Glouc then in tymes paste /

23 Item wheather there be not mouch money saued in all the countrey and townes above Gloucester by
havinge, and obteyninge of their cockettes at Gloucester for the which they did before the said vj
yeeres traveill to Bristoll.

24 Item wheather any searcher his deputie or seruannt haue dwelte or remayne or both dwell or
remayne betweene Bristoll and Hungroade or kingroade or any of them and declare the names
of souche persons and the place or places of their habitacion.
9r.

**Interrogatories** to be ministered unto witneses to be examyned on the parte
and behaulf of the maiour and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester againste the maiour
and communaltie of the citty of X X X X Bristoll . . ht/ 64

1 **Inprimis** of what adge be yowe or are ye, or have yowe byynne owner or master of any shippe bunt boate,
or trowe uppon the Ryver of Severne or a searcher deputie or seruannte to any searcher there and howe longe tyme, or are ye
or have ye byynne a marrynner of officer in
any of the same shippes barckes boates or trowes, and howe longe tyme, or havyng use any trade of carriidge –
ventringe ladinge, or passinge of any commodities wares, or marchanndizes by the said ryver of Severne to Bristoll
devonshire Cornewall, wales Irelannde, or any Partes beyonnde the seaes and howe longe tyme./

2 Item wheather the citty and Porte of Gloucester and Creeke theere be not frequented, or haunted with traffwyk
of marchanntes and marchanndizes booth inwarde and owtwarde / And wheather it be mete to be contynewed
for the same purposses. / Or wheather the creeke there be decayed and not soe mouche frequented with merchants
and marchanndizes as the same hathe byynne heretofore, or mighte be convenently / and declare the causes
therrof / And wheather the same be necessarie to be contynewed and aduannced in your judgment and shewe
the Reasones therof. /

3 Item howe many villadge howses creekes or Townes are standinge uppon the ryver of Aven goeinge vnder the bridge
of Bristoll betwene the citty of Bristoll, and the Roade for shippes and barckes called hungroade And
howe farr a distance is the villadge of Sheerehampton from the said Roade of hungroade, and howe many
howses are in every souche villegde and howe neare dothe the Countie of Glouc extende to the
Cittie of Bristoll and wheather kingroade and hungroade be within the Countie of Glouc yea
or noe. /

64 This set of interrogatories is very similar in content to the previous set of interrogatories. In general, these interrogatories are much wordier and sometimes a little confusing. It would appear from a report of the first commission found in the records of the city of Gloucester, that this set of interrogatories was the original set that was used at the start of the commission. However, at the end of the first day of the commission, Gloucester’s interrogatories ‘at nighte were abridg’d’ in order to simplify and clarify the questions being put to deponents. Although this set of interrogatories may therefore have been used when questioning the first Gloucester deponent, all deponents after this would have been questioned against the set of interrogatories inscribed on folios 8r. and 8v. See Appendix 5.
4 Item doe yowe knowe the portes towns and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Barkley newenham and Gloucester, and the townes of Tewkeisbury worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth and Shrewisbury standinge upon, or neere to the ryver of Seuern yea, or noe And howe longe tyne to your rememberance and declare what distance is betweene the said creekes of newenham Gatcombe Barkley kingroade hungrode and Bristoll every one from thother buothe by water and by lande and what number of myles is from kingroad to Shrewisburie by water and by lande, as you iudge. / And what number of dwellinge howses be builte and standinge in gatcombe or within hawlf a myle of Gatcombe / and doe you iudge that the key of Gloucester, and the creekes of newnham and gatcombe be meete & apte places for landinge ladinge unladinge & dischardginge of wares merchanndizes & commodities And declare your knowledge of the building & makinge of the key of Gloucester / and have you knoen any shippes or barckes made and builte betweene Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, and by whome & of what burdens /

5 Item wheather there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places used uppon the Ryver of severne synce the Queenes majestie’s grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester / made to the towne of Gloucester then there were used before that grannt made. And wheather the ladinge and unladinge at Gloucester newenham and Gatcombe be now more hurtfull to her majesty than before / and wheather weree the creekes of Gatcombe Berckley & newenham used for places of ladinge and unladinge before the said grannte made to Gloucester of the custome howse there / And wheather the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that come to Bristoll with any merchanndizes wares or commodities doe lade and unlade at hungroade or in any other place and declare the manner of that doeinge / and howe far distant is the same from Bristoll. / And wheather there is not better harborowge in tyme of greate springes for shippes lyenge in kingroade on the forreste side then on the side of Bristolle /

6 Item what depth of water is the ryver of severne at Gatcombe at full-sea / and what shippes of burden may fleete reste and lye at Gatcombe at full sea or at springe tyme / and with what expedicion may the same come to Gatcombe from kingroade / and what barckes and boates of burden / or trowes have ye knowne to come or may passe and come from Gatcombe to Gloucester and with what expedicion, and declare the same And what shippes, barckes of burden may passe from Gatcombe to Bristoll and from Bristoll to gatcombe. /

7 Item wheather are the saide creekes of Gatcombe & newenham sufficient & conveyent places whereby to discry and discover all shippes barckes and boates passinge the saide ryver of severne or have sufficient nombers of dwellinge howses and people there or veary neere unto the same places to that or any other

65 ‘discry’ – to perceive from a distance.
meetes service for her majesty / and howe broad is the same Ryver of severne at Gatcombe and ~ newenham / and declare youre knowledge and iudgment thereof /

8 Item wheather doe yowe knowe or remember or have yowe harde what number of boates trowes or barckes commonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the xviiith yeere of the Queenes majestie’s Raigne were belonginge to thihihabitantes of Gatcombe / Barkley, newenham and to the townes & villages about newenham / That is to say minsterworth Longney Ellmore Gloucester, Twexbury uppon severne worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth and Shrewisburie or any of them or to thinhabitanntes of any other townes or places upon or neere severne / and of what burdens the same were commonlye accompted or adivjudged to be / And doe yowe knowe or remember or have yowe harde what number or boates barckes or trowes commonly within vj yeeres paste are or weere belonginge to thinhabitantes of the townes portes and creekes before Recited and of what burdens / And doe yowe knowe or have harde what number of boates barckes or shippes commonly within twenty or fortie yeeres nexte before the said xviiith yeere did come from Irelande Devonshire Cornewall wales, or any other places beyonde kingroade with any wares or marchandizes to any of theforesaid xij Portes creeks or townes and of what burdens / And what number of shippes barckes boates or trowes commonly within vj yeeres laste paste have yowe knouen to come from Ireland Devonshire Cornewall wales or any other places beyonnde the seaes to any of the said portes Creekes or townes and of what burdens the same weere /

9 Item doe yowe knowe or remember what number of boates barckes or trowes have bynne belonginge to thinhabitantes of Bristol commonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the saide xviiith yeere of the Queene majestie’s Raigne 66 did come from Bristol unto the saide Portes townes, or places names in the viijth Interrogatory and of what burdens / And what number of boates trowes and barckes have come from Bristol commonly within vj yeeres laste paste to any of those places, and of what burdens / And doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather any more or greater number of shippes boates barckes or trowes within vj yeeres paste have bynne made or built, in any of the creekes or trowes betweene Gatcombe and Shrewisburie then weere before in the same places duringe the like tyme before those vj yeeres / And declare your knowledge herein and wheather the marchanttes of Bristol have not nowe as free and greate vente for all kynds of merchandizes wares and Comodities to all townes and places above and beneath Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grannte made of the custome howse to Gloucester /

66 ‘xviiith yeere of the Queene majestie’s Raigne’ – Elizabeth I’s eighteen regnal year ran from the 17th November 1575 to the 16th November 1576.
Item what kyndes or quantities of commodities have yowe knowne to be comonly transported or conveyed from the said portes Creekes townes or places mentioned in the said viij\textsuperscript{th} Interrogatory vnto Bristoll within twentie yeeres nexte before the said xvij\textsuperscript{th} yeere of the Queenne majestie's Raigne / And whetheyer doe yowe not iudge that the saide Cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell serued and Provided with commodities and wares from the said townes creekes portes and places within vi yeeres laste passe as duringe the like tyme those twentie yeeres before and declare your iudgment and reasons therein /

Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather nowe or of late yeeres there be any lesse vsuall and ordinary passadge and carriadge of mawltce and other grayne commodities and wares from Twexburie and Gloucester for the reliefe of Bristoll then in times past / And wheather the saide inhabitanttes in Gloucester Twexburie and other places neere adjoyninge are not aswell able sufficiently to furnishe the wantes and needs which the City of Bristoll shall have for mawltce and wheate and every springe doth sufficiently serve them as in tymes paste they did or were used / And what greater prices are comonly of those commodities in Bristoll nowe than in Gloucester or Twexbury

Item have yowe harde or doe knowe or iudge that any leather butter or chese have byn comonly before vj yeeres paste transported and broughte from the Portes and costes of wales to Gloucester yea or no. if yea then wheather in more lardge or ample manner before those vj yeeres paste within and sithence those vj yeeres And what quantities have yowe knowne commonly to have come within twentie yeeres paste and shewe the same.

Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather thinhabitance of the Citie of Gloucester duringe vj yeeres past have not had cockettes grannted to them at Gloucester whensoever they have sente for the same and by whome and wheather any grayne hathe ben restrayned in Gloucester at any tyme to be carried owte. And declare by whome howe often and when.

Item wheather any plentie of Corne be yeerly transported and landed in Cornewall Devonshire

\footnote{67 Illegible deleted word.}
wales from the creekes townes places and portes mencioned in the said viijth Interrogatory and declare the same at ____ 68 And of what state or quantity of corne or grayne hath the Cittie of Bristoll ben served with all from Cornewall duringe vj yeares paste / And wheather the cittie of Bristoll canne furnishe and serve the countreies of Cornewall wales and Ireland with corne and graynne better cheepe then the citty of Gloucester, or as good cheepe as the townes of Gloucester and Twexburie And wheather the provision thereof may be done at Gloucester and Twexburie with lesse chardge then at Bristoll. And declare your judgment & the reasons thereof.

15 Item doe yowe knowe of iudge wheather the Queene majestie’s provision of mawlte and wheate may be provided and furnished from the Cittie Countie and Porte of Gloucester and the creekes thereunto belonginge as good chep and with a small Chadges or better cheeper unto her majesty and the country of Irelande as it is or was or may have ben from Bristoll if there were noe custome howse in Gloucester / And declare the reasons and causes thereof.

16 Item do yowe knowe howe many Cittizens of Gloucester doe nowe use or late did use, and exercise husbandry grassinge and declare the names of those persons And wheather wee re they free houlders of inheritannce or indenture howlders thereof / and what quantites of ground are or were by them soe used and howe neere unto the saide Cittie And wheather the trade of Cappers 69 and Clothiers be not mouche decayed in Gloucester within twentie or thirtie yeeres paste And have yowe known or harde of any Cittizens in Gloucester to use the trade of marchanndizes by ventringe 70 to the partes beyonnde the sease or any other partes creekes or places and declare their names and all thinges concearninge this interrogatory./

17 Item do yowe knowe or can iudge that the small boates trowes and barckes uppon severnne have brede or can or doe breede or increase able and sufficient marrnyers apte for soundri service by sea & are too fitt for greather shippes / And wheather her majestie in soundri services hath not ben provided soundry good marrnyers from the townes uppon or nere adioyninge to the Ryver of severne and brede in those small barckes trowes and boates / when her highnes pleasure hath benne to require the

68 The manuscript has deteriorated here, obscuring this word.
69 ‘Cappers’: cap makers.
70 ‘ventringe’: venturing.
same yea or noe declare the reasons thereof / And doe yowe knowe wheather the small boates or barckes upon serverne be and have ben ympliede for her majestie’s service into Irelande yea or noe. / And sett downe youre Remembrance in all thinges for proove thereof/

18 Item doe you know wheather any barckes or boates uppon severne doe use or have used to traviell to Ireland or to any partes of Skottland or to any other places beyonde the sea / And what comodities are or have bynn therein Retorned in vii yeeres to youre Remembrannce and declare the same and all things for proove thereof.

19 Item do yowe knowe what stoare of fruite and syder by reasonable accompte is commonly every yeer transported in those barckes and boates from the countie and portes of Gloucester into Cornewall Devonshire Irelande wales and Bristoll / And wheather greate quanteties of hearings & fishes be not retorned from all those places excepte Bristoll back againe to service the countreyes of Glouc wigorn Herref Shropshire Stafforde warwick and other countreyes adioyning And declare your knowledge and remembrannce thereof/

20 Item wheather one hundred tonnes of small shippinge dothe not meynteyne and breede as many marryners as more then a great shippe of like burden and declare the reasons thereof and doe you know or have harde wheather any searcher or deputie or servuannte of souche a searcher hath used to attende & doth comonly attende aswell at Gloucester as at Gatcombe and newenham at every springe and other tymes for tryall searche and understandinge of the Queenes majestie’s benefitte commynge or passinge that way ~/

21 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather there is a custome howse of late yeeres errected in Gloucester and in what place of that Cittie and howe neere unto the Ryver of Severne standeth the same howse and wheather it standeth commodous and apte for her majestie’s officers there and to discrie barckes boates & trowes passinge that way / and tunderstande her majestie’s benefitte and prouffitte comminge uppon that Ryver / And wheather doe you knowe that there be any stoare howses or howse apte to make stroare howses or places and Roomes meete to errecte stoare howses uppon neere unto the said custome howse.

22 Item doe you not iudge that the greateste parte of all corne and grayne used to be transported to

71 ‘ympliede’: employed.
72 ‘Herref’: Herefordshire.
Bristoll Devonshire Cornewall and Irelande and wales hath not ben laden at the key of Gloucester and at Twexburie And wheather there hath ben any more corne or grayne carried commonly from those twoe townes within syx yeeres paste then commonly in the lite tyme within twenty or thirty yeeres before to youre knowledge and remembrannce /

23 Item wheather have yowe knowen or harde that any shippes barckes or boates have before the grant of the said custome howse in Gloucester commen or travelled from Irelande and other places with herrings or other commodities to the cittie of Gloucester, and were forced to turne back to Bristoll for lack of a custome howse in Gloucester yea or noe / and wheather have ye harde that any of the inhabitanntes of Bristoll / did at any tyme move or perswade marchanntes of Barnestaple and spannishe marchanntes or any other marchanntes that the saide Ryver of severne coulde not sere for boates of x tune or upwardes / And declare youre Remembrannces thereof.

24 Item doe yowe knowe or Remember of have harde whether thinhabitanntes of the said creekes or portes mentioned in the viijth interrogatory / or any of them did at any tyme carry and transporte their corne and grayne to Cornewall Devonshire Irelande and wales without havinge takinge or fetching of cockettes or makinge entries at Bristoll.

23\textsuperscript{74} Item doe yowe knowe or iudge whether that / iii x x x iii x x x iii x be not very mouche money saved in all the countrey and townes above Gloucester by haveinge & obtieninge their cockettes at Gloucester / for the which they did before the said vj yeeres traveill withe greate chardge and traveill to Bristoll / And declare your judgment and reasons thereof. /

24 Item wheather any searcher his deputie or servaunt have dwelte or remayned or doth dwell or remayne betwene Bristoll and kingroade in any villadge howses or places for the discrying tryall and understandinge of souche shippes and barckes as doe or have commen and passed that way into the portes of Bristoll hungroade or kingroade or any of them / And declare the names of souche persons and the place or places of their habitacion /

\textsuperscript{73} Illegible deleted phrase.
\textsuperscript{74} The original 23\textsuperscript{73} and 24\textsuperscript{74} interrogatories are both crossed through. The report of the first commission found in the city of Gloucester’s records notes that there were originally twenty-six interrogatories before amendments were made to Gloucester’s set of interrogatories during the commission’s execution. These two deleted interrogatories are probably the two interrogatories that were omitted as part of this amendment process. See Appendix 5.
Item to declare your remembrance of all other thinges concerning the matters mencioned in all the former Interrogatories / and all Circumstannces touchinge the same or any parte thereof.

10r.

**deposition**s of witness(es) sworn and examyned taken
at Berckley, in the Countie of Glouc the xvijth & xvijth dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne
Ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of god of Englande Franne & Irelande Defendor of the faith he Before Thomasan
Thockmarton Richard Pale and Thomas Hannan
esquiere by vertue of the Queens majestie’s most honorable
commission owte of her graces highe Cowrte of Exchequer
unto Sir william wynter knighte and then addressed for the
examynacion of witness(es) touching matter in controersye
in the same Cowrte dependinge betwene the maior and
communaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll Compt and
the maior and Burgess(es) of the Cittie of Glouceserter

1 William Grasinge of mynsterworth in the Countie of Glouc marryner
of thadge of threskore yeeres or thereaboutes sworn and examyned to
the firste interrogatorie deposite and saieth that he hath benne
an owner and a master of severall boates or barckes uppon the ryver
of severne, but were never searcher, deputie searcher nor seruannte
to any searcher and hath benne a sailer veary neere those fortie
yeeres and hath used the trade of carriadge of wares and merchandizes

75 ‘Berckley’: Berkeley, a town on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately 20 miles from Bristol and 16 miles from Gloucester as the crow flies. It would seem that Berkeley was identified as a suitable venue for the sitting of the commission because it was almost equidistant from Bristol and Gloucester and thus the ‘moste convenyente and fitteste place’. The Bristol Corporation were also keen for the commission to proceed at a location with a ‘viewe of the Ryver’ – and thus rejected Gloucester’s attempts to move the commission to Wotton-under-Edge, a village five miles from Berkeley and five miles further away from the River Severn. See Appendix 4, fol. 106r.
76 ‘xvijth & xvijth’ dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Rainge of our soueraigne’ – the 17th and 18th January, 1583.
77 ‘Glouceserter’: Gloucester.
allwayes unto Bristoll Cornewall Devonshire and Ireland and into other partes beyonde the seases /

2 To the seconde Interrogatory the deponent saieth that the Cittie & porte of Gloucester, and the creekes there is frequented and haunted with marchanntes wares and marchanndizes booth to serue inwarde and outwarde, and thincketh the same meete to be contynued for the same purposes And that the same creeke is not decayed, but still frequented all the same have benne heretofore and that in his oppinyon it is moste convenient the same shoulde be soe contynued and aduanced, the reason is for that all the townes and countrey about, and above Gloucester are mouche eased because they have their cockettes at Gloucester, a place mouche neere unto them and their travell heretofore, unto Bristoll for the same were veary chardgable & paynefull unto them. /

3 To the thirde he saieth that he knoweth noe howse of custome or any searcher dwellinge uppon the river of severne / or Aven goeing under the bridgeof Bristoll betweene the citty of Bristoll and the Roade called Hungroade / But saieth that the towne of Sheerhamton is distant from Hungroade aboute a quarter of a mile and that the countie of Glouc extendeth to the towne wales of Bristoll but wheather kingroade and Hungroade be within the Countie of Glouc or not he knoweth not.

4 To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the portes creekes & places in the said interrogatory mentioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same hath well knowen those fortie yeeres And saieth that gatcombe is distant from kingeroade booth by water and lande twenty miles or thereaboutes and from Gatcombe to newnham by water fyve

78 ‘wales’: in this context, walls.
miles, and fower miles by lande / And from newnham to Gloucester by land
seven miles and tenne miles by water and from Gloucester to Tewxburie
by lande seven miles and tenne miles by water. And that kingroade
is distant as he thincketh by lande from Shrewisburie Fower skore and tenne
miles and by water one hundred miles And saieth that there are vj
or vij dwellinge howses standinge in Gatcombe / And in Blackney" a mile.

Thomas Throkmarton    Rychard pate ~    Thomas Hanam

from Gatcombe, and in Etlowe a quarter of a mile from Gatcombe
the like nomber of howses, And iudgeth that the key of Gloucester and the
creekes of Gatcombe and newenham have benne alwaies apte places of
ladinge and dischardginge of wares marchanndizes and commodities and soe hath
ben allways used duringe the tyme of his remembrancce / And saieth
that he hath knowne diuers barckes builte and made betwene
Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, whereof he knoew one of them to be
made at Gloucester by master Robert Poole called the mary fortune of
fower skore tonnes or thereaboutes, and one other made at Frommilade,81
by william Bullock of the like burden / and all soe one other made at
mynsternorth by one John Hawkins of Gloucester of xxxvij tonnes or
thereaboutes. /

5 Item the fiveth that there are not more or greater nomber of ~
ladinge and unladinge places used upon the ryver of severne since
the queenes majestie’s grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester then
before and that the creekes of Gloucester newenham & Gatcombe
and Berckley are used nowe, as they have ben tyme owte of mynde

79 ‘Blackney’: Blakeney, the nearest settlement to Gatcombe. It lay approximately one mile northwest of Gatcombe.
80 ‘diuers’: diverse.
81 ‘Frommilade’: Framilode.
and noe otherwise / and that often tymes souch shippes or barckes as come from Bristoll doe lade and unlade at Hungroade which is fewer miles from Bristoll, and that there is good harboroughe\textsuperscript{82} in diuers places in the forreste side for shippes to be reste & freede in /

6 Item to the vj\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that the river of severne is in depth of water at Gatcombe, uppon a full sea aboute iiij fathom and that shippes or barckes of fower skore tonnes may fleete reste and lye in Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme / and that the same may come from kingroade to gatcombe uppon the springe or tyde in iiij howres and all soe that barckes boates and trowes of xvij tonnes may come and passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester in one tyde which is about iiij howres And that barckes of LX tonnes may passe from Gatcombe to Bristol and from Bristoll to Gatcombe.

7 To the seventh he saieth that the creekes of Gatcombe & newnham are sufficient places to discerne all the shippes and barckes passing the river of severne /

8 To the viij\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that there were aboute xx\textsuperscript{iie} boates & xi\textsuperscript{ie} trowes belonginge to thinhabitanntes of the places mencioned in the same interrogatory / before the said xvij\textsuperscript{th} yeere of the Quenes majestie’s Raigne and that there nowe are not any more barckes, or trowes belonginge to the said River of severne then were before the said xvij\textsuperscript{th} yeere of her said majestie’s Raigne to his knowledge and remembrannce /

9 To the ix\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that he knoweth not of any boates that came from the saide Cittie of Bristoll to the portes and places named in the said viij\textsuperscript{th} interrogatory / But saieth that there hathe benne made within the vj yeeres fower barckes, and loste within the same

\textsuperscript{82} ‘harborough’: harbour.
time vj barckes / And saith that the marchanntes of Bristoll
have as greate and free vent for all kindes of marchanndizes to the
portes and places aboue and beneth Gloucester bridge as they had
before the same grannte of the custome howse made to Gloucester for any thing
he knoweth to the contrarye /

To the tenthe eleventh twelfth and xiiij\th he cannot depose.

To the xiiiij\th he saieth that he knoweth that all the townes
about Gloucester and Tewxbury and the countries theraboutes can furnishe and seruice
the countries of Cornewall wales and Irelande with corne and
grayne better cheepe then the cittie of Bristoll and countries
thereaboutes can serue and furnishe the same /

Thomas Throkmarton     By pate richard     Thomas hanam

11r.

To the xv\th he saieth that the Quenes majestie may be provided
for mawlte and wheate from Gloucester and the creekes therunto
belonginge, for her majestie’s services into Ireland as good cheepe or
better then it is, was or might be from Bristoll if there weere
noe custome howse in Gloucester /

To the xvj and xvij interrogatory he cannot depose /

To the xviij\th he saieth that barckes and boates belonginge unto
the said river of seuerne have used and yet doe use to travelle into
Irelande and other places beyonnde the seaes and that there
hath benne there in Returned home back agayne herringe and
salte and diuers other wares merchandizes and commodities /
19 To the xixth he saieth that he thincketh this laste yeere
there hath benne transported from the countie and portes of
Gloucester into Cornewall devonshire and Irelande and diuers other
places at the laste xxxie boates loaded with aples and sider. /

20 To the twentieth he saieth that one hundred tonnes of small
shippinge doth breede and meyntine as many servicable marriners
as any great shipp of like burden / and that allwaies there is a
searcher at newenham and Gatcombe attendinge her majestie’s
comodities there /

21 To the xxjth he saieth There is a custome howse errected and
builde in Gloucester at the key harde by severne side and there
standeth commodiouslye for the Queens officers to discrie or
stay any boates passinge by the same River / and saieth that
there are sufficient stor howses, and veary fitt places to builde stor howses on.

22 To the xxijth he cannot depose /

23 To the xxiiijth he saieth that he well knoweth that mouche
money hath ben saued in the countrey and townes nere aboutes
Gloucester / by reason that the said custome howse is nearer unto them
in savinge of their cockettes by a daies iorney.83

24 To the xxiiijth and laste interrogatory he cannot depose /

1 Arthure Barrett of mynsterworth aforesaide in the said
Countie of Glou yoman of thade84 of lvij yeeres or therabotes
sworren and examyned to the firste interrogatory he saieth that he hath
frayted barckes with fruite and corre into Cornewall Ireland and wales

83 ‘iorney’: journey.
84 ‘yoman of thade’: yeoman of the age.
and other places, and used that trade for the space of xij or xiiij yeeres / and loste of the same trade xv or xvj yeeres paste /

2. To the seconde interrogatory he saieth that he hath knowen the Cittie & portes of Gloucester and the creekes there frequented and haunted with traffique of merchanntes and merchanndizes booth inwarde and ~ owtwarde, and thincketh it a meete place to be contynued for the same purpose for he saieth he hath knowne orrynges wynes, salte Iron oyles and reasons to have benne broughte to Gloucester and soulde there /

3. To the thirde he saieth that he knoweth noe more townes & portes and villadges betwene Bristoll hungroade & kingroade but only the towne of Shire Hampton / which towne is ~ distant from Hungroade aboute a quarter of a mile and from kingroade about ij miles.

Thomas Throkmarton Rychard Pate ~ Thomas hanam

4. To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the townes and portes as thinterrogatory mencioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same hath well knowne for those xliij yeeres paste, and saieth that Gatcombe is distant from kingroade by water aboute xxiij miles & by lande as mouche / or thereaboutes, / and from Gatcombe unto newnham bothe by lande and water aboute iij or v miles and from newenham to gloucester by water aboute x or xj miles and by lande aboute viij miles / And from kingroade to Shrewisbury by water aboute C miles / and by lande iijcx and viij miles or

85 ‘reasons’: in this context, raisins.
thereaboutes / And thincketh that all the Creekes and portes in thinterrogatory mentioned are veary fitt and meete places to lade unlade and dischardge wares and and merchanndizes threin\(^{86}\) and soe hath ben used durnge all the tym of his remembrannce and many yeer es before, but howe many he knoweth not And thincketh that the key of Gloucester is nowe in better state than at any tym the same was or hath benne heretofore for and durnge all the tym of his remembrannce / And allsoe saieth that in Poole buihte and made a shipp in Gloucester of aboute iiiijxx tonnes, and master Clutterbuck buihte and made a barck of in Gloucester of aboute xxx tonnes and allsoe John Hawkins of Gloucester built one other barck of the like burden & william Bullock of Ellmore buihte one shippe at Framilade of aboute iiiijxx tonnes. And twoe men of Bristoll whose names he well rememberth not buihte twoe shippes nere unto Bewdley aboue Gloucester of iij xx and tenne tonnes at the leaste /

5 To the v\(^{th}\) he saieth that there are noe more places of ladinge and dischardginge in the ryver of severne since the quenes majestie’s grannt made to Gloucester then were before that grannt / made / And saieth that the creekes of Barkley & newnham weere places of ladinge and Dischardginge before the same grannt made of the custome howse in Gloucester / as he thincketh / And that shippes and barckes of Bristoll and those that come to Bristoll with wares or merchanndizes Doe lade and unlade at Hungroade moste comonly and that there are diuers good harboroughes for shippes to lye in the forreste side in tyme of necessitie /

6 To the vij\(^{th}\) he saieth that the water is in depthe at Gatcombe uppon every springe aboute xv or xvij foutes, and at some other

\(^{86}\) ‘threin’: therein.
springes xx or xxiiijth footes as he thincketh / And that shippes of iiiij xx tonnes may fleete, & reste in Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme, and that the same at one tyde in the beste of the springe may come from kingroade to Gatcombe haveinge the healpe of the wynde / And that barckes or troves of xxth
or xxiiij tonnes haveinge the wynde and tyde with them may come
to Gloucester at one springe tyde /

Thomas Throkmarton

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

12r.

7 To the viijth he saieth that the Creekes of Gatcombe and
newnham are sufficient and convenient places to discouer all shippes
and barckes passinge the said river of severne / And thincketh
that there are a sufficient nomber of dwellinge howses & people
there, or veary nere unto the same place for fitt service to her majestie
and that the said River of Seuerne, is aboute a quarter of a mile in breadth at
newnham, and at Gatcombe aboute iiij quarters of a mile /

8 To the viijh he saieth he knoweth not of any greater nomber
of boates since the said grant of the custome howse in Gloucester
then were before within the river of severne / and saieth that
there hath benne as greate of greater traffique uppon the said
river of severne betwene kingrode & Shrewisbrurie since the
saiame grantt, as in any time before the saide grantt made
And that the merchannts of Brystoll have had as free and
greate vent for all kindes of wares & merchanndizes to all townes
and places aboue Gloucster bridge as they had before the said grantt made of
the custome howse in Gloucster for any thinge he knoweth or
ever saide to the contrary. /
To the ix\textsuperscript{th} he cannot depose. / 

To the tenthe he saieth that the cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell serued and provided \textit{with} wares & comodities from Gloucester Twexburie and other places within the said vj yeeres laste paste as before in elder time / as he thincketh / 

To the xj xij xiiij \textit{th} \textit{Interrogatories} he cannot depose 

To the xv\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that the Queenes \textit{majestie’s} provision of wheate and wares may be provided and furnished from the Cittie and Countie of Glouces as good cheepe and better then from Bristoll if there weere noe custome howse in Gloucester / the cause is for that comonly the said Cittie of Bristoll have their provision, and are partlie serued of their provision from Gloucester and the countieis nere adioyninge, \textsuperscript{87} as this deponent verely\textsuperscript{88} thincketh / 

To the xvij\textsuperscript{th} he cannot depose. / 

To the xvij\textsuperscript{th} he iudgeth that the small boates barckes or trowe uppon seuerne haue brede and doth brede & increase / able and sufficient marriners apte and fitt for the sea & soundry services of her majestie / and fitt for greate shippes / And that her majesty in tyme of service have benne provided of ~ soundry good marryners from the same townes and places nowe adioyninge to the said River of seuerne \textit{which} haue ben bred and trayned upp in those small boates or barckes &

\textsuperscript{87} The deponent suggests that using Bristol as a central point from which to provision Ireland with wheat added an additional stage to the distribution process because Bristol obtained much of its grain supplies from Gloucester and its hinterland anyway. 

\textsuperscript{88} ‘verely’: verily, ie. truthfully.
may be imployed for her majestie’s service into Ireland

Thomas Throkmorton Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throckmorton

12v.

18 To the xvijth he saieth that barckes and boates uppon severne doe use, and have used to traveill into Ireland and some times into Frannce & Rochell. /

19 To the xixth he saieth that comonly every yeer xij or xvij barckes or boates within the saide river of severne doe transport fruit and sider from the Countie of Glouc into Cornwall Devonshire Ireland wales and Bristoll / And that great quantities of herringe are yeerely retorned from all those costes savinge Bristoll to searue the same Counties in thinterrogatory mentioned. /

20 To the xxth he saieth that one hundred tonnes of smalle shippinge doth and will meinteyne more marryners than a greater shipp of the like burden /

21 To the xxjth he affirmeth the Fact of all the Interrogatory ./

22,23 To the xxij xxij & xxiiijth he cannot depose /

24

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmorton

13r.
Henrie Browne of the Cittey of Gloucester sayler of thage of lx or therabouts sworn and examined to the first Interrogatory saith that he hath been owner of a boate of abowte xv tonne called the George aboute fyve yeres past and is now owner of a parte of a boate / and hath been a purser in a shippe called the Marie fortune belonging to Roberte Poole of the Cittie of Gloucester aboute xxxvijtie yeres agoe / and saith that during the tyme that he hath used to travell upon the said River (which to his remembrance is aboute xlij yeres) he used to carrie such comodities as the Countie of Glouc did yelde, to Cornewall / Devonshire / Bristoll / and wales / bringing backe with him hearring and other fishe for the same / and likewise had accesse into Ireland for herring fishing / somtime for himself and somtime as an hired servante and served the said Robert Poole as an apprentice. /  

2 To the seconde he saith that the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes there hath been frequented with traffique of merchandizes, and that he himself during the time of his service under the said Roberte Poole transported ~ clothe, leade and other laufull merchandizes to Galisia Andolazia Portuigall and Lushborne, at which place he hath been at the leaste Tenne tymes for his said ~ master and for merchantes of Bristoll, which said shippe was laden one time at ~ Gatcombe, sometime at Hungerode and somtime at Chepstowe / and iudgeth the same porte of Gloucester meete to be continued for the trade of merchandizes and do thinke it verie necessarie to be mainteyned and advancned for thencrease of more marriners therby to be more reddie for the princes services /  

3 To the third Interrogatory he saith that there are no villages betwene Bristoll Hungerode upon the Ryver side, but here and there a howse or two at the most together and saith that Sherehampton is aboute halfe a myle distante  

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89 Duncan Taylor identifies a number of occasions in 1592 when this ship is recorded to have departed for Bristol from Gloucester carrying malt and wheat but the arrival of the ship is then not recorded in Bristol. Taylor suggests that on these occasions, these commodities may have been illegally shipped overseas under the colour of a coastal cocket. Taylor, ‘Maritime Trade’, 108-115.  
90 'purser' - an officer on board a ship responsible for provisions and for keeping accounts, or for various other administrative matters.  
91 'Lushborne': Lisbon.
from Hungeroade, and thinketh that there be in Sherehampton aboute xx\textsuperscript{e} houses / 

4 To the fourthe he saith that he will knowethe all the portes Townes and ~ places menciond in the said Interrogatory, savinge Shrewsburie, and hath knowen the most parte of them since the time he hath used the trade of the said river of Severne / and further saithe that Glouc\textit{ester} is x miles distant from ~ Gatcombe by lande / and aboute xiiiij miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and kingerode is aboute xx miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and hungerode is aboute xxij\textsuperscript{e} miles by water / and betwene hungerode and bristol aboute iiiij\textsuperscript{e} miles by water / and betwene newnham and Glouc\textit{ester} is aboute vij miles by lande / and doth judge that Glouc\textit{ester} / Barkleie / Gatcombe / and newnham are meete and apte ~ places for lading and unlading of wares and merchandizes / And saith that ~ the key of Glouc\textit{ester} is well builte and prepared and that he knewe it in so good state as it is nowe and saith that he doth verie well remember his said master Robert poole builte a shippe of lxxx\textsuperscript{e} tonne at Glouc\textit{ester} called the marie fortune / And also that one master Clutterbuck of Glouc\textit{ester} builte a barke of aboute xxx\textsuperscript{e} tonne aboute xl\textsuperscript{e} yeres past within two miles of Glouc\textit{ester} / and that one John Haukins and John Hoskins aboute the same tyme with iij \textsuperscript{e} miles of Glouc\textit{ester} builte one other barke able to travle to Bysky and francne in the companie of which barke he this deponent did travell to Burdeux and that one Bullocke of Ellmore builte a barke of aboute lxxx\textsuperscript{e} tonne called the mathew at Fromelade. / 

5 To the fyfte he saith that there are no more places of lading and unladinge now used upon the Ryver of Severne, then there were before the grannte of the Custome house to Glouc\textit{ester} / and saith that Barkleie Gatcombe newnham during all his remembrancne were used for places of ladinge and unlading / And saith that the shippes of Bristoll do most comonlie ~ lade and unlade at Hungerode. / 

6 To the syxte he saith that the river of Severne at Gatcombe doth flowe three faddome at full sea and springe time and in his iudgement that there maie lie
and fleete at Gatcombe at full sea a shippe betwene lx & lxxx tonne / and
saith that a shippe of his said masters called the Iulian of aboute lx tonne /
did reste and lie at Gatcombe and Brimspill\(^{92}\) when she came home from the sea. / and

Thomas Throkmarton / Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

13v.

and further saith that a shippe of lx tonne laden maie come at one tyme
from kingrode to Gatcombe and further saith that a barke of xvj\(^{en}\) or xx\(^{tie}\) tonne
within a tyde or two maie passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester, of winde and
wether serve / and that he himself hath comen with a troe from kingroade
to Gloucester at one tide /

7 To the seventhe he saieth that the Creekes of newnham and Gatcombe by ~
reason of their standing upon the River of Severne are apte and meete
and sufficiente places for to descrie the boates barkes and trowes that passe by
by that Ryver / and hath sufficient people dwelling there to that ende / .
and iudgeth that the River of Severne at Gatcombe is aboute iiij\(^e\) quartere of
a myle in breddith over at full sea / and not a quarter of a mile in breddith
at newnham at full sea.

8 To the eighte he saieth that he thinkethe that there be as manie or more
barkes and trowes in the River of Severne then have been of elder time / the
certen nombre wherof he knoweth not /

9 To the nynthe Interrogatory he saith that he dothe not certainlie knowe ~
what nombere of barkes have been builte upon seaverne / And further saith
that in his judgemen\(t\) the merchantes of Bristoll have or maie have (if they

\(^{92}\) Brim’s Pill: a tidal inlet etched into the Severn's west bank between Awre and Poulton.
will) as free and greate vente for all kinde of merchandizes to the townes and places mentionned in that Interrogatory, as theie had or used to have before the grannte of the Custome house to Gloucester /

10 To the tenth he saithe that in his judgement the Cittie of Bristoll hath been as plentifullie served and provided with such comodities as the Countie of glouc woulde yeilde within those vj yeres as ub elder tymes /

11 To the eleventh he saith that thinhabitatantes of Tewxburie and Gloucester be ~ reddie at all tymes to serve the Cittie of Bristoll, with malt and other ~ graine, having a convenient gaine for their venter and travell.

14 To the xiiijth he saith that by reson of the greate plentie of Corne in ~ Gloucester and therabouts, he thinketh that the said Countie of Glouc and the Contrey therabouts maie better cheape furnishe and provide for Cornewall Devonshire Ireland and wales, then the same may be donne at Bristoll /

15 To the xvth he saith that the Cittie and Countie of Glouc and the places therabowtes can make provision for her majestie's service of malte and Corne ~ into Irelande better cheape then the Cittie of Bristoll can do / in his judgement /

17 To the seventeenth he saith that the small boates and barkes upon seaverne have bredde and do breede verie able and sufficient marinere for their labour to serve for sundrie service by sea and fitt for greate shippes / and that such marinere bredd in the said boates upon the river of seaverne in tymes of service by sea haue served in the raigne of king Henry theighte and ever synce as occasion did serve / and that the said boates and barkes have and do serve and at sundrie times have been employed for carriage of her majestie's provision into Irelande / and that he this deponent hath served ~ for the carriage of her highnes said provision into Irelande in his owne shippinge /
To the xvii\textsuperscript{th} he saith that he doth verie well remember that there have and do diverse boates and barkes travell into Ireland for hearreng fishinge and somtimes xij, xvj, xx, or more boates and barkes have travelled thither in one yere / and to other places beyonde the seas in trade of merchandizes as he this deponent hath allreddy named in his deposicion to the second Interrogatory /

To the xix\textsuperscript{th} he saith that comonlie everie yere there have been laden out of the Countie of Glouc and Contrei theraboutes xx, xxx. or xl, ~ boates lading (according to the plentifulnes of the yere) with fruite and sider into Cornewall wales and other places / and that there is comonly returned in the said boates greate quantities of fishe in the contreys there /

Thomas Throkmarton \hspace{1cm} Rychard pate \hspace{1cm} Thomas Hanam

To the xx\textsuperscript{th} he saith that there are more maryners bredd in small shipping ~ of one hundred tonnes then in a grete shipp of like burden having therin but ordinary companie / and for reson therof he doth saie that a shipp of C tonne wilbe well ledd and guided with xx marrinere / and v barkes of xx. tonne apece\textsuperscript{93} doth require the necessarie service of v or vj men apece / and likewise x boates of x tonne apece do ~ requiere everie of them three mariners apece at the least which is in a C tonne / xxx men / abes

To the xxi\textsuperscript{th} he saith that there is a custome house allreddy builte in Gloucester harde adioyning both to the key and river of Severne, the standing wherof is apte and commodious for the service and purposes mentionned in that Interrogatory /

To the xxiiij\textsuperscript{th} he saith that in his judgement there must needes be greate chardges saved for the Contreies aboue Gloucester in having their Cockettes at Gloucester, then if

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{93} apece: apiece, ie. each.}
they shold be driven to fetch the same at Bristoll by reson of the distance of ye place

24 To the xxiiiijth he saith that he never knewe during all his time that ever anie sercher his deputie of servante did or now doth dwell or remayne betwene Bristoll and Hungerode in anie place nere to the River side there / And more to anie of the said Interrogatoryes this deponent cannot depose.

1 William Tyler alias Horsley of the Cittie of Gloucester sayler of thage of lxiiij or yeres or theraboutes sworne and examined to the first Interrogatorie saith that he hath been owner of a boate of x tonne / of a barke of almost xx tonne / and of another barke betwene xxiiij and xxvj tonne / and owner of the half parte of one other boate called the Jesus of aboute xvij or xviiij tonnes. / And hath used to ~ trade by water since the Raigne of Queene Mary / and hath used to carrie fruite and malte to the places mentionned in the Interrogatory /

2 To the seconde he saith that the porte in Gloucester hath been used with the ~ traffique of merchandizes and that he himself hath within this xvij yere brought thither wine trayne oyle and hearring from the coaste of Irelands spaine frannce and wales and thinketh it verie convenient that the same sholde be so used & frequented

3 To the third he saieth that there are aboute ix. or x. howses at diverce places betwene Bristoll and hungerode / But no villadge other then sherehampton which standeth distant aboute halfe a mile from hungerode /

4 To the fourth he saith that he knoweth all the Creekes and portes mentionned in that Interrogatory, and the most of them hath knownen ever since the tyme he used the water / and saith that in his judgemment there is aboute C myles by water betwene kingeroade and Shrewisburie / and aboute lxxxvij myles by lande / And towching the distance betwene the places mentionned in this Interrogorie he agreeith with Henry ~

94 ‘trayne oil’: cod liver oil.
Browne the former deponent / and further saith that the Creekes of Barkley Gatcombe and newnham are meete places for lading and unlading of such wares as doe or can come thither andouching the building of the key of Gloucester he agreeeth with the said former deponent Henry Browne / And further saieth that Henry Horne of Gloucester builded and made a Barke there abowte xx tonnes / And Richard Swanley builte one other of aboute xvij or xviij tonnes / And also remembreth of the making and building of Roberte Pooles shippe & of diverce other barkes ~ and boates /

5

To the fyfte he agreeth with the said Henry Browne / and further saith That ye place aboute Chepstowe called poole merricke, and the entrannce into the Ryver of wye, and Lydney pill are wry meete and convenient places to save a shipp in the tyme of necessitie.

6

To the syxte he saith that the River of Severne at Gatcombe at some springe tymes doth flowe above xx foots of water and the most parte of the springe do flowe at the best of the spring xvij foot of water / and it continueth not so highe more then two daies after the heigth of the spring / And that a shipp of lx tonnes in his opinion may verei well rest and lye allwaies at Gatcombe and that such a shipp may within iij or iiij houres come from kingrode to gatcombe assome as the like may come from kingroade to Bristoll / And that a barke of xxx or xl tonnes according as the same shall drane water may come and past from Gatcombe to Gloucester in ye tyde or lesse / if wind & wether serve / .

Thomas Throkmarton By pate r

Richard

Thomas Hanam

I4v.

7

To the vijth he saith that the Creekes of newnham / and Gatcombe are as convenient places for the descrying of anie boate or barke passing by

95 'poole merricke' – refers to a creek on the west bank of the River Severn that lay within a mile of the mouth of the River Wye and stretched as far inland as Mathern.
96 ‘Lydney pill’ – a creek located on the west bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles upstream of the mouth of the River Wye.
the said Ryver as the bankes or keyes of Gloucester or Bristoll are / and saith that newnham is a mayor and markett towne having in it aboute xltie houses / and Gatcombe hath in it v or vj houses / and that newnham is distant from Gatcombe iij miles / and saith that Etloe is distant from Gatcombe half a myle having in it aboute x. or xij. howses at the least and the village of Blakney is aboute a mile from Gatcombe having ~ therin aboute xx. or xxx. howsholdes. /

8 To the viijth he saith in every pointe and article as the former deponent Henry Browne hath before deposed /

9 To the ixth he saith that in his judgement there hath not been builte any greter number of boates or barkes upon Severne within vj yeres past, then there were in vj yeres before / And to the rest of the said Interrogatories he agreeth with Henry Browne / and that there is no alteracion therof unlesse it be by the Queenes service / .

11 To the eleventhe he saithe that it is comonlie reported that the Cittie of Bristoll have been aswell served and provided with corne & graine from the County of glouc within vj yeres past, as it hath been before /

12 To the xijth he saith that one Master white of glouester and ij° or iijie more haue a certen trade for butter and cheese out of wales and then the said trade hath been no more used nor so much within those vj. yeres then it hath been before /

14 To the xiiiith he saith that such grete quantities of corne and graine have passed from the Countrie of Glouc and places therunto adioyning to Cornewall devonshire and wales / that the same doth passe the reson & judgement of this deponent by the gretnes therof / And further saith that it cannot stand with reson that the Cittie of Bristoll can provide Corne and graine so plentifull or as good cheepe as the Countie of ~
Glouc can /.

To the xvth he agreeeth in all thinges with the former deponent ~
Henry Browne /

To the xvjth he saith that in his iudgement fewe or none of the ~
Cittizens of Gloucester have made anie gaine of benefit by husbandrie for
they are all Indenture holders97 thereof / and in his iudgment there is none
that hath above lx acres of grownde, and for feedinge he knoweth of none /
and doth further affirme that the trade of Cappers and clothiers is
utterlie now so much decayed within the said Cittie, that wheras before
Sir Thomas Bell98 and one master Falkoner99 kepte grete nombers of people
at worke on spynning and knitting of cappes, that nowe there are very
fewe set to worke in that trade and that there is the like decay of
clothing within the same Citty /

To the xvijth he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath before
deposed / & saith that he himself hath been pressed and employed
to serve in Ireland with his boates in the tyme of the Raigne of
Quene Mary. /

To the xviijth he saith that he himself with his owne boate hath
travelled to Burdens for wynes and have fraughted his barke with
clothes & northen cottons & so hath divers men within his remembrannce /

97 ‘Indenture holders’ – an indenture was the contract by which an apprentice was bound to their master. The deponent is therefore disagreeing with the Bristol Corporation’s claims that the vast majority of Gloucester men were employed as arable and pastoral farmers – see references to ‘grasinge and husbandrye’ in Jones (ed.), ‘Bristol’s petition, 1582’, fol. 68r.

98 ‘Sir Thomas Bell’ – Bell held office as the mayor of Gloucester on three occasions and was returned as a Gloucester M.P on up to five occasions. He is described as a ‘prosperous clothier’ who set up a manufactory that specialised in cap production. This industry blossomed in the earlier sixteenth century and Bell’s manufactory became one of Gloucester’s largest employers of the period: A.D.K. Hawkyard, ‘Bell, Thomas (1485/6-1566), of Gloucester’ in S. T. Bindoff (ed.), The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1509-1558 (London, 1982), i. 413-4.

99 John Falkoner was also a significant Gloucester alderman who served as the mayor of Gloucester on a number of occasions and was a capper by trade.
Thomas Throkmarton     Rychard pate ~     Thomas Hanam

19 To the xixth he agreeeth with the former deponent Henry Browne and saith further that he thinketh there be at the leaste ij CC boats ladinge of fruite and sider which do passe to Bristoll besides in a yere /

20 21 To the xxth xxith xxiiith and xxiiiith he agreeith in every pointe with the former deponent Henry Browne /

And more he cannot depose. /

15r.

1 John Lewes of Longney100 in the County of Glouc sayler of thage of xtlie yeres or theraboutes sworne and examined to the first Interrogatorie saith that within those xxtlie yeres he hath been owner of nyne barkes and that he hath served in the same barkes himself into Ireland Cornewall wales and other places since the said tyme / And his owne shipping hath gone into Spaine with his owne goodes where he lost a shipp worth CCth / And since michellmas last hath lost a barke of xxvijtlie tonne in Irelande.

2 To the second Interrogatory he saith that he hath knownen barkes to passe with marchandise from Gatcombe newnham and Gloucester to Ireland and other places beyonde the seae / And that Thomas Smith of Purton had a boate of fifty tonne / upon the said River / And that iij or iiiij men of Gloucester had a barke of aboute Ltlie tonne within these ij th yeres wherein they travelled into the par tes beyonde the seae /

3 To the third Interrogatory he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath said /

100 ‘Longney’ – a village on the east bank of the River Severn approximately six miles south-west of Gloucester.
To the fourthe he saith that he doth verie well knowe all the Creekes and places betwene kingerode and Gloucester mentionned in the said Interrogatory and touching the distance of the said place he agreath with the said Henry Browne / and saith in resperte that the places mentionned in the said Interrogatory are reasonable faire to have accessse unto / he doth therfore iudge them places ~ meete for lading and unlading /

To the fyfte Interrogatory he agreeeth with the said Henry Browne /

To the syxte he saith that at the highest tyde of the lowest springe in all the yere the river of seaverne at Gatcombe is in depth xviij foote of water and saith that a shipp betwene l and lx tonne may come from kingrode to Gatcombe at one tyde having a convenient wynde / and saith that he himself hath had ij" barkes of xxviiij tonne apec, which have sondrie tymes come from Gatcombe to Gloucester within two tydes. /

To the seventh he saith that he knoweth there are in Gatcombe vij dwelling howses with people in them / and that Etloe is adioyning to Gatcombe aboute half a quarter of a myle from Gatcombe having therin aboute xij or xiiiij howses.

To the viijth he saith that in his iudgement there hath not been anie ~ difference of the nomber of the boates barkes and trowes upon Severne for the space of those xij yeres. /

To the ixth he saith that in his judgement the merchantes of Bristoll have as free and grete vente for merchandizes to the County of Glouc and the places theraboutes as sthey have had heretofore.

To the tenthe he saithe that the Cittie of Bristoll may be aswell s furnished and myght be aswell furnished with Corne and graine out of
the said County of Glouc and the places theraboutes (if they wolde define the same) as they have been hertofore.

11 To the elevenh he saith that in his iudgement there is not now, nor hath of late been lesse caringe of malt and corne to Bristoll from Tewxbury and Gloucester then hath been used in tymes past.

Thomas Throkmarton By pate richard Thomas Hanam

15v.

14 To the fourteenth he can saie no more then in his Iudgment the Cittie of Bristoll cannot provide and furnishe malte and Corne for Ireland so good cheape and so plentifully as the County of Glouc can.

15 To the xvth he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath said.

17 To the xvijth he saieth that the small boates and barkes of the River of Severne can and doth breed up sufficient and able marryners fitt for greate shippes / and that he himselfbeing bredd up in the small boates and barkes upon Severne hath served the Quenes majesty in the golden Lion at Hamborough. /

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmarton

[On the last page of depositions, there is a Latin phrase called the ‘liberatur’. This ‘liberatur’ recorded the receipt of the document into the Exchequer. It notes that the documents were received on the 5th February 1583 and were delivered by Robert Smyth – a gentleman who was an active commissioner in the second commission that sat in April 1583. It is interesting to note that the commission documents were delivered to the Exchequer after the return date referred to in the writ – which was the 20th January 1583. It is not entirely clear if there were any consequences for this lateness.]