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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 cowld 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 merchannts 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. Reconsctructions 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 ‘Pilotes’ – 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.
the Bridge of Gloucester./

2. Item do you know that circuyte by water that is called the welshe roade\(^6\) 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 Pills\(^7\) 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 shippes\(^9\) 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 Conuenient 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

\(^6\) 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. 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 Glocester and the people
of the countres ther aboute do vent and transporte from thence and wherwith or with
What trade be their small Barkes 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 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 Glocester 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
Glocester 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

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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.
11 ‘vent’: to sell.
12 ‘Barkes’ – a bark was a general term for any sailing vessels of a small size.
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 Majestie be better served if the said creekes upon Seaverne were under the serch survey and Controlment of the officers of the porte 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 buylded by any merchannte or merchanntes of Gloucester. yf you have knowne any suche, then whether were theye full buylded or fynished with mastes & yeardes or ells were theye brought downe from gloucester or from any creeke thereabout, hauilfe builded & unfurnished or in what state were they when they came downe Severne. And what water myght they drawe beinge so farr builded & 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 thereabout, with convenyent ladinge, yf not, then at what rode or place was she kepte & mayntyened afterwaerdes.

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

Thomas Hanam

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmorton

3r.
Interrogatories to be minisered to merchantes and owners of Shippes\textsuperscript{14}

\textit{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 & Tuexbury to be place of ladinge & discharginge of shippes & of a custome howse latly erected & sett upp at Gloucester ye or noe

Item Whether Will to you	extit{r} 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 preyudiciall 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 otherwise, or otherwise.\textsuperscript{15} 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. /

\textit{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 & Tuexbury to be places of ladinge and dischardginge of shippes & of a

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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 merchanntes of the same Citie uttered & vented the gretest parte of their merchanndize by and through the said Creekes. /

Item Whether did the said creekes belonge 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 theraboutes 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 their entries and take out their cockettes17 at the Custome howse of Bristowe priore then to make entries and take out cockettes at the Custome house of Gloucester. /

Item to your knowled or understandinge who or what persons be they that are benifited or eased by makeinge entries & takinge out of Cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. And whether is the same aldership18 allweis serviced comoditie to all the people theraboutes 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 sitthence 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 plentifull & without excaccions 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 prohibitedwares 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 betwene 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 profites comoditie or troble charges & discomoditie 20 by makinge your entrie & takinge our your cockette at Gloucester or What difference find you therein 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 Citie of Gloucester & in and about the Citie of Bristowe ye no. /

Tho

mas Hannam

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmorton

4r.

deposicions of wytnesses sworen and examined taken at Berckley in the countie of Gloc the xvij and xvij dayes of Januarie in the xxv\textsuperscript{th} yere\textsuperscript{22} of the raigne of our soveraine ladie Elizabeth th\textsuperscript{th} by the grace of god of England Frannce and Irelande Queene defendor of the fayeth betwene before Thomas Throckmarton Richard 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 quer\textsuperscript{23}

\textbf{Walter Stanfast} of the citie of Brystoll merchant borne at Arlingeham\textsuperscript{24} in the countie of Glouc of the aige of three skore years and upwardes sworen and examined to the fyrst Interrogatory 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 \textit{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 allso that there cannot any shypp of

\textsuperscript{22} ‘xxv\textsuperscript{th} yere’ – Elizabeth’s twenty-fifth regnal year ran from 17\textsuperscript{th} November 1582 to the 16\textsuperscript{th} November 1583.

\textsuperscript{23} ‘Ex part quer’: on one side.

\textsuperscript{24} ‘Arlingham’ – Arlingham is a village on the east bank of the Severn, approximately eleven miles downstream of Gloucester.
conveniente burthen\textsuperscript{25} Fleete and come to, safelie 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 mayntenance and contynewall keepinge of Shippes 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\textsuperscript{26} 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 shippes of convenient burthen cannot safelie come and goe unto that creeke and there ryde 
and abyde as in a sufficient porte to receive and mayneteyne shippes 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 vessels of x tonne or xij tonnes at the moste can passe to gatcombe at 
halfe springe tyde a vessell of xx tonnes 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 iiij 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 shoulde 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 cuntie there aboute doe vente are for the

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

To the seventh Interrogatory he sayeth that he thinketh that it is against the common welthe of the cuntrie that the said creekes shoulde be a porte or portes or a place of ladinge and discharginge.

To the eyghth Interrogatory 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 dyrth27 of the same aswell in the cuntries uppon Seaverne as in the cytie of Brystoll

To the ny nth Interrogatory he sayeth that yf the custome howse of Glocester co contynewe there and the said Creekes contynewe 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 Interrogatory he sayeth that there is Betwene the creek of Gatcombe and Glocester Kingeroa distance by water syxetene or seventene myles and betwene gatcombe and Glocester there is distance xij or xiiij myles.

To the eleventh h Interrogatory he sayeth that in his oppinion yf the custome howse were kept onlie at kingeroa and Brystoll the same woulde be more beneficiall to her majestie than yf the custome howse nowe newlie erected at Glocester should have his contynewance the same beinge soe far 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 diminishinge 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 cuntie28 all upp Severne with oyles Iron

27 ‘dyrth’: dearth.
28 ‘cuntie’: country.
trayne\textsuperscript{29} and spisons\textsuperscript{30} and suche lyke wares wherewith the great shippinge of Bristoll were woertie\textsuperscript{31} to be maynteyned and sett as worke. 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 porte 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 byylded at Glocester by one master Roberte Poole and there the Hull was in a manner full byylte and so was brought downe to Gatcombe 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\textsuperscript{32} begaine to be byllt at Fromeloude\textsuperscript{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

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

To the thyrtenth Interrogatory he sayeth that the roade at Gatcombe is verie dangerous and therefore he thincketh a Shipp cannot longe contynewe and indure there.

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 years or thereaboutes, of the aige of Fortie yeres or thereaboutes 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 duringe the terme aforesaid bin usinge in trowes boates and Barkes uppon Severne betwene Glocester and Brystoll and by meanes 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 Newnham and Glocester and sayeth that noe shipp of convenient burthen maye Fleete 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 convenyentlie 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 and xxv tonnes

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.
34 In this context, ‘roade’ refers to the river at Gatcombe.
35 ‘Fleete’: 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 \textit{with sufficiente} water.

To the fowreth \textit{Interrogatory} he sayeth that he knoweth the creeke called Gatcombe and sayeth that noe shipp \textit{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 shippes of convenient 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 \textit{v} fyve or syxe barkes of twentie tonnes apeare at one tyme and that more then that number of \textit{v} or \textit{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 \textit{Interrogatory} nor they all are meete to be a porte or portes of ladinge and discharringe of Shippes to and from the Sea for that none but such smale barkes as are aforesaide can come thither.

To the fiveth \textit{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 \textit{Majestie} shoulde be deceived in discharringe ladinge or transpassinge of victualls or prohibitid wares, but sayeth that in Gatcombe there are the howse of one \textit{master Baring} (whoe is verie seldome 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\[37\] and marreners which travaile abroad for their lyvinge and lyve elsewhere as those of gatcombe.

To the syxth he sayeth that the commodities or marchandizes that the cytie of Glocester and the people of the cuntres there abouts doe vent and tranceport from thence are omelie cheefelie aples\[38\] and corne and farther sayeth that if it be not a good apple apple and fruitefull yeare yere they of Glocester and the said other creekes maye moare upp the most part of their owne shippinge and boates\[39\] for any thinge they have to doe for them And farther sayeth that their smale boates and barks are maynetayned and sent to sea with such fruite as the cuntrie doth yeald and with apples and peares syder and corne and such lyke fruite.

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 discharge discharginge for he sayeth that he hath harde the people of that cuntries much to mislyke and speake against the havige of a porte there for that corne thereby is verie much conveyed awaye and the pryce of corne thereby much inhannsed\[40\] and little brought to the markette for that they which have corne to sell covet\[41\] to sell it in grosse quantities togetheter.

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

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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 nynt Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh that yf the custome howse at Glocester have his continewance and the said creekes continewye 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 howse of Glocester beinge soe farr into the lande and behinde the trade shoulde have his continewance therefore he sayeth that he hath knowen a shipp called the Minion cominge 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 bylte 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 wale\textsuperscript{44} 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 suites\textsuperscript{45} but hath alwaysen 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 long\textsuperscript{46} and halfe a cables length brode rockes beinge a head and a sterne\textsuperscript{47} 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.

\textbf{John Barrett} marrener of dwellinge in Brystoll and borne at minsterwood\textsuperscript{48}

\textsuperscript{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.

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

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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
Newnehem 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
sufficiente 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
twentie fuye 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 Creek and there abyde and Ryde as in a sufficient
porte to mayneteyne shipps of Conveniente burthen for service and farther
sayeth as Patrick Carter before him hath sayed.

To the fvyeth 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 convenientlye have intelligence and make restraynte
yf her majestie should be dismissed deceaved in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge
of victualls and p[ro]hibited wares.

To the syxth Interrogatory he sayeth that the comodities 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 there with their smale barkes and boates be maynteyned
are corne apples and such lyke frui
tes.  

Thomas Hanam  

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmar

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 thyrtenth Interrogatory he cannot depose

**Thomas Foster** of Sherehampton in the countie of Gloe sayler of the
aige of fyftie yeres of thereaboutes one of the Pylottes of the Ryver of Severne
sworen and examined to the effecte 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 howe were owners
of the said Shipp noe pilott of the said Ryver would take the charge
upon 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
aboute fyve dayes to be brought to Gatcombe, and therefore was not brought

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 fyrst Interrogatory he sayeth that he hath harde of the erectinge of the custome howse in Glocester and hath lykewyse\(^{51}\) harde of certeyne portes betwene the welshe roade and Tewexk Tewexburie.

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth that the inhabitantes of Brystoll have bin vytled\(^{52}\) 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\(^{53}\) to be for he sayeth their cockettes brought from bristoll would not be allowed by the officers of Glocester but sayeth where they have demannded corne there by their trowe men annswered have bin made the cuntrie could not spare it, the reason of the skercitie\(^{54}\) 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 Bewdley 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.

\(^{52}\) ‘vyttled’ – 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 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 in his owne person and farther to the said Interrogatory he cannot depose....

Thomas Hanam

By pate richard Thomas Throkmorton

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55 ‘benefeite’: benefit.
56 ‘travailed’: travelled.
8r.

**Interrogatories** to be ministered unto witneses to be examynd 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 adge be yowe / and are yowe, or have yowe benne, owner, or master, of any shippe barcke, boate, or trowe, uppon 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 beyonnde 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 boote inwarde and outwarde, and whether it be meete to be contynued for the same purpose / and wheather the same be necessary to be meynteined & advannced 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 hungrode kingroade Gatcombe Berckley newenham and Gloucester, and the townes of Twexburie worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth, & Shrewisburie and howe longe tyme. And declare what distannce is betweene the said creekes of Berckley ~ Gatcombe and newenham kingroade hungroade and Bristoll. / everie one from thother, booth by water and lande / and what nomber of miles is from kingroade and Shrewisburie by water and lande as yowe iudge / And doe yowe iudge that the key of Gloucester and the creekes of Berckley Gatcombe and ~ newenham be meete and apte places for ladinge unladinge and dischardginge of wares merchandizes and comodities 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 nombre 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 grantt made, And wheather were the creekes of Gatcombe Backley and newenham vsed for places of ladinge and vnlandinge before the saied grantt made to Gloucester. And wheather the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that Come to Bristoll with any merchandizes doe lade and unlaide at hungroade of kingroade and wheather there is not good harboroughs 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 nombers 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 nombre of trowes or barckes within vj yeeres paste then there weere in other yeeres before upon the said River of severne betwene kingroade and Shrewisburie / And whether there have benne any greater trauffyque 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 nombre 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 duringe 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 grannt made of the custome howse to Gloucester /

10 Item wheather doe yowe not iudge that the said cttie 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 mawlte and other places commodities and wares from Twexburie to Gloucester for the relief of Bristoll then in times paste. And whether the said Inhabitantes 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\(^{60}\) of wales to Gloucester / otherwise than before that time.

13 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather thinhabitanntes of the cttie of Bristoll duringe vj yeeres paste have not had cockettes grannted to them at Gloucester whensoeuer they have soughfte 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 Cttie of Bristoll can furnishe and searue the countrey of Cornewall wales or Irelande with Corne & grayne better cheape than the cttie of Gloucester or as good cheape as the townes of Gloucester and Twexburie and other places adioyninge. /

\(^{60}\) ‘costes’: coasts.
Item doe yowe knowe wheather the Queens 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 were noe custome howse in Gloucester.

Item doe yowe knowe 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 iudge 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 seruice by sea, and fitte for greater shippes. And wheather her majestie in tyme of seruice hath not ben prouided of sonndry good marryners from the townes or places neer adiyninge 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 retornado from all those places (excephte Bristol ) back agayne to serve the countreyes of Glouc wigorn62 Salopshire63 Staffordshire warwick & other countreis ajoyninge.

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

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61 ‘sonndry’: sundry.
62 ‘wigorn’: Worcester.
63 ‘Salopshire’: Shropshire.
and more marrynere then a greate shipp of like burden / And Declare the reason thereof
And doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather any searcher or deputie or servant of souche
searcher hathe used to attende, and doth commonly attende aswell at Gloucester as at ~
Gatcombe and newenham / at everie spring 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 Queens Majesty’s officers and service there. / And what
stoare howses or places be there fitt to place wares in. /

22 Item do yowe judge 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 traueill to Bristoll.

24 Item wheather any searcher his deputie or servant 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.
Interrogatories to be ministered unto witneses to be examyned on the parte
and behaule of the maiour and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester againste the maiour
and communaltie of the cittie of X X X X Bristoll . . ht/ 64

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

2 Item wheather the cittie 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 meete to be contynewed
for the same purposses. / Or wheather the creeke there be decayed and not soe mouche frequented with merchants
and merchandizes as the same hathe bynne heretofore, or mighte be convenyently / 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 cittie 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 villedge 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.
Item doe yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Barkley newenham and Gloucester, and the townes of Tewkeisbury wourcester 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 betwene 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 judge. / And what number of dwellinge howses are builte and standinge in gatcombe or within hawlf a myle of Gatcombe / and doe you judge that the key of Gloucester, and the creekes of newnham and gatcombe be meete & apte places for landinge ladinge unladinge & dischardinginge of wares merchanndizes & commodities And declare your knowledge of the buildinge & makinge of the key of Gloucester / and have you knownen any shippes or barckes made and builte betweene Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, and by whome & of what burdens /

Item wheather there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places used uppon the Ryver of severne synce the Queens 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 weeere 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 merchandizes 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 /

Item what deppthe 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 knownen 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. /

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

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

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 thihabitanttes 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 Shrewisburi or any of them or to thinhabitanttes of any other townes or places uppon or neere severne / and of what burdens the same were commonlye accompted or adiudged to be / And doe yowe knowe or remember or have yowe harde what number or boates barckes or trowes commonly within vj yeeres past are or weere belonginge to thinhabitanttes 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 xiij Portes creekes or townes and of what burdens / And what number of shippes barckes boates or trowes commonly within vj yeeres laste paste have yowe knoen to come from Ireland Devonshire Cornewall wales or any other places beyonnde the seases to any of the said portes Creekes or townes and of what burdens the same were /

Item doe yowe knowe or remember what number of boates barckes or trowes have bynne belonginge to thinhabitantts of Bristoll commonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the saide xviiith yeere of the Queene majestie’s Raigne did come from Bristoll 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 Bristoll 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 marchanntes of Bristoll 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 comodities 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 Queene majestie’s Raigne / And wheather doe yowe not iudge that the saide Cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell serued and Provided with comodities and wares from the said townes creekes portes and places within vi yeeres laste past as duringe the like tyme those twentie yeeres before and declare youe iudgment and reasons therein /

Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather nowe or of late yeeres there be any lesse usuall and ordinary passadge and carriadge of mawlte and other grayne comodities and wares from Twexburie and Gloucester for the reliefe of Bristoll then in times paste And wheather the saide inhabitanttes in Gloucester Twexburie and other places neere adioyninge are not aswell able sufficiently to furnishe the wantes and needs which the City of Bristoll shall have for mawlte 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 comodities 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 past 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 past within and sithence those vj yeeres And what quantities have yowe knowne comonly to have come within twentie yeeres past and shewe the same.

9v.

Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather thinhabitance of the Cittie of Gloucester duringe vj yeeres past have not had cockettes granneted to them at Gloucester whensoeuer 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 ____

And of what state or quantity of corne or grayne hath the Cittie of Bristoll been served with all from Cornewall durninge vj yeares paste / And wheather the citty of Bristoll canne furnishe and serve the countreies of Cornewall wales and Ireland with corne and grayne 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 do ye knowe if judge 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 chepe 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 ye knowe howe many Cittizens of Gloucester doe nowe use or late did use, and exercise husbandry grasinge and declare the names of those persons And wheather wee are 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 and Clothiers be not mouche decayed in Gloucester within twentie or thirtie yeeres paste And have ye knowen or harde of any Cittizens in Gloucester to use the trade of marchanndizes by ventringe to the partes beyonnde the seaes or any other partes creekes or places and declare their names and all thinges concearninge this interrogatory./

17 Item do ye 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 marryners apte for soundri seruice by sea & are too fitt for greather shippes / And wheather her majestie in soundri seruices hath not ben provided soundry good marryners 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

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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 uppon serverne be and have ben ymploiede71 for her majestie’s service into
Irelande yea or noe. / And sett downe youre Remembrance in all thinges for proofe 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 beyonnde the sea / And what comodities are or
have bynn therein Retorned in vii yeeres to youre Remembrance and declare the same and all
things for proofe 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 Heref72 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 servuant 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 commyng 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
upon 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 ‘ymploiede’: employed.
72 ‘Heref’: 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 remembrancne /

23 Item wheather have yowe knowne or harde that any shippes barckes or boates have before the grannt of the said custome howse in Gloucester commen or travellled from Irelande and other places with herringers 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 inheritanntes of Bristoll / did at any tympe move or perswade marchanntes of Barnestaple and spannishe manchantes or any other manchantes that the saide Ryver of severne coulde not serve 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 mencioned in the viijth interrogatory. / or any of them did at any tympe 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 x iii x be not very mouche money saved in all the country and townes above Gloucester by havinge & obtieninge their cockettes at Gloucester / for the which they did before the said vj yeeres travelle with greate chardge and travelle to Bristoll / And declare your judgment and reasons thereof. /

24 Item wheether any searcher his deputie or seruannt 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 theire habitacion / ~

\textsuperscript{73} Illegible deleted phrase.

\textsuperscript{74} The original 23\textsuperscript{th} and 24\textsuperscript{th} 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.
It is to declare your remembrance of all other thinges concerninge the matters mencioned in all the former Interrogatories / and all Circumstannces touchinge the same or any parte thereof.

10r.

**deposicions** of witnesse sworn and examyned taken at Berckley,75 in the Countie of Glouc the xvijth & xviiith dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth76 by the grace of god of Englande Franence & Irelande Defendor of the faieth he Before Thomasan Thockmarton Richard Pale and Thomas Hannan esquiere by vertue of the Queenes 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 witnesse touching matter in controuersye in the same Cowrte dependinge betwene the maior and communaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll Compt and the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucedeserter77

1 William Grasinge of mynsterworth in the Countie of Glouc maryner 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

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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 & xviiith’ dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne – the 17th and 18th January, 1583.

77 ‘Gloucedeserter’: Gloucester.
allways unto Bristoll Cornewall Devonshire and Ireland and into other partes beyonnde the seaes /

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 shoule be soe contynued ~ and aduannced, 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 goinge 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 78 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 knoen those fortie yeeres And saieth that gatcombe is distant from kingeroade both 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 lande
seven miles and tenne miles by water and from Gloucester to Tewxbury
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 vij
or vij dwellinge howses standinge in Gatcombe / And in Blackney \(^{79}\) a mile.

Thomas Throkmarton  Rychard pate ~  Thomas Hanam

\(^{10v.}\)

from Gatcombe, and in Etlowe a quarter of a mile from Gatcombe
the like number 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 allwayes used duringe the tyme of his remembrannce / And saieth
that he hath knowne diuers \(^{80}\) barckes builte and made betwene
Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, whereof he knowe one of them to be
made at Gloucester by master Robert Poole called the mary fortune of
fower skore tonnes or thereaboutex, 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 number of ~
ladinge and unladdinge 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 fourer miles from Bristoll, and that there is good harborouge in diuers places in the forreste side for shippes to be rest & freede in /

6 Item to the vijth he saieth that the river of severne is in depth of water at Gatcombe, uppon a full sea aboute iij 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 iij howres and all soe that barckes boates and trowes of xvj tonnes may come and passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester in one tyde which is about iij 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 discearne all the shippes and barckes passing the river of severne /

8 To the viijth he saieth that there were aboute xxie boates & xi trowes belonging to thinhabitanntes of the places mencioned in the same interrogatory / before the said xvijth 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 xvijth yeere of her said majestie’s Raigne to his knowledge and remembranance /

9 To the ixth 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 viijth interrogatory / But saieth that there hath benne made within the vj yeeres fower barckes, and loste within the same

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 /

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

14 To the xiiiij th he saieth that he knoweth that all the townes
about Gloucester and Tewxbury and the countries therabouts can furnishe and service
the countries of Cornewall wales and Irelande with corne and
grayne better cheepe then the citty of Bristoll and countries
thereabouts can serue and furnishe the same /

Thomas Throkmarton By pate richard Thomas hanam

11r.

15 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 /

16 To the xvij and xvj interrogatory he cannot depose /

18 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 last 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 builte in Gloucester at the key harde by severne side and there standeth comodiouslye for the Queenes 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.

24 To the xxiiijth and laste interrogatory he cannot depose /

1 Arthure Barrett of mynsterworth aforesaide in the said Countie of Glou yoman of thade of lvij yeeres or therabotes sworren and examyned to the firste interrogatory he saieth that he hath frayted barckes with fruite and corne 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 xij 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 known oorrynges 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

11v.

4 To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the townes and portes as thinterrogatory mencioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same hath well knowen for those xliie yeeres paste, and saieth that Gatcombe is distant from kingroade by water about xx xiiie miles & by lande as mouche / or thereaboutes, / and from Gatcombe unto newnham boothe by lande and water aboute iij" or v miles and from newenham to gloucster by water aboue x or xj miles and by lande aboute viij miles / And from kingroade to Shrewisbury by water aboue C miles / and by lande iiijcix 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 merchandizes threin\textsuperscript{86} and soe hathe
ben used duringe all the tyme of his remembrannce and many
yeeres before, but howe many he knoweth not And thincketh that the
key of Gloucester is nowe in better state than at any tyme the
same was or hath benne heretofore for and duringe all
the tyme of his remembrannce / And allsoe saieth that in
Poole builte and made a shipp in Gloucester of aboute iiiijxx
tonnes, and master Clutterbuck builte 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 builte one shippe at Framilade of aboute
iiijxx tonnes. And twoe men of Bristoll whose names he
well rememberth not builte twoe shippes nere unto Bewdley
aboue Gloucester of iij xx and tenne tonnes at the leaste /

\textsuperscript{5} To the v\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that there are noe more places of
ladinge and dischardginge in the ryver of severne since the quenes
majestie's grant made to Gloucester then were before that grantt /
made / And saieth that the creekes of Barkley & newnham
weere places of ladinge and Dischardginge before the same grantt
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 merchandizes 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 . /

\textsuperscript{6} To the vj\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that the water is in depthe at Gatcombe
upon every springe aboute xv or xvj foutes, and at some other

\textsuperscript{86} ‘threin’: therein.
springes xx or xxiiiijth footes as he thinketh / 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 havinge the
healpe of the wynde / And that barckes or trowes of xxte
or xxiiiij tonnes havinge the wynde and tyde with them may come
to Gloucester at one springe tyde /

Thomas Throkmarton

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

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 viijj 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 upon the said
river of severne betwene kingrode & Shrewisbury since the
sai me grantt, as in any time before the sai de grantt made
And that the merchannts of Bristoll have had as free and
greate vent for all kindes of wares & merchanndizes to all townes
and places aboue Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grantt made of
the custome howse in Gloucester for any thinge he knoweth or
ever saide to the contrary. /
To the ixth he cannot depose.

To the tenthe he saieth that the cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell serued and provided 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 xiiiij & xiiijth Interrogatories he cannot depose

To the xvth he saieth that the Queenes 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,87 as this deponent verely88 thincketh /

To the xvijth he cannot depose. /

To the xvijth he iudgeth that the small boates barckes or trowe uppon severne 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 severne which haue ben bred and trayned upp in those small boates or barckes &

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.
88 'verely': verily, ie. truthfully.
may be employed for her majesty’s service into Ireland

Thomas Throckmorton Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throckmorton

12v.

18 To the xvii\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that barckes and boates
upon severne doe use, and have used to traveill into
Ireland and some times into Franne & Rochell. /

19 To the xix\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that commonly 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 xx\textsuperscript{th} he saieth that one hundred tonnes of
smalle shippinge doth and will meinteyne more marrynrs
than a greater shipp of the like burden /

21 To the xxj\textsuperscript{th} he affirmeth the Fact of all the
Interrogatory ./

22,23 To the xxij xxij & xxiiij\textsuperscript{th} he cannot deposite /
24

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throckmarton

13r.
Henrie Browne of the Cittey of Gloucester sayler of thage of lx⁰ yeres or ~ theraboutes sworen and examined to the first Interrogatory saith that he ~ hath been owner of a boate of abowte xv⁰ tonne called the George aboute fyve yeres past and is now owner of a parte of a boate / and hath been ~ a purser⁹⁰ in a shippe called the Marie fortune belonging to Roberte Poole of the Cittie of Gloucester aboute xxxviiie 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 / Bristol / and wales / bringing backe with him herring and other fishe for the same / and likewise had accesse into Ireland for herring fishing / somtime for himself and somtime as an hired servannte 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 mercandizes, and that he himself during the time of his service under the said Roberte Poole transported ~ clothe, leade and other laufull mercandizes to Galisia Andolazia Portuigall and Lushborne,⁹¹ at which place he hath been at the leaste Tenne tymes for his said ~ master and for merchants of Bristol, 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 advanced for the increase 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 Bristol 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 tie houses /
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 Brimspliill92 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 xvjen or xxtie 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 seventh he saieth that the Creekes of newncombe and Gatcombe by ~ 
reason of their standing upon the River of Severne are apte and meete 
and sufficienete 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 judgeth that the River of Severne at Gatcombe is aboute ijji quarte of 
a myle in breddith over at full sea / and not a quarter of a mile in breddith 
at newncombe at full sea.

8 To the eighth he saith that he thinketh that there be as manie or more 
barkes and trowes in the River of Severne then have been of elder time / the 
certn nomber wherof he knoweth not /

9 To the nyntne Interrogatory he saith that he dothe not certenlie knowe ~
what nombere of barkes have been builte upon seaverne / And further saith 
that in his judgement 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 mencionned in that Interrogatory, as theie had or used to have before
the grannte of the Custome house to Gloucester /

10 To the tenthe 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 yele 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 theraboutes, he thinketh that the said Countie of Glouc and the
Contrey theraboutes 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 iudgement /

17 To the seventeenthe he saith that the small boates and barkes upon seaverne
have bredde and do breede verie able and sufficient marinere for their labour
to servre 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 xviiith he saith that he doth verie well remember that there have and do divers boates and barkes travell into Ireland for hearring fishinge and somtimes xij, xvij, 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 allready named in his deposicion to the second Interrogatory /

To the xixth he saith that comonlie everie yere there have been laden out of the Countie of Glouc and Contreie theraboutes xx, xxx. or xl, ~ boates lading (according to the plentifullnes of the yere) with fruite and sider into Cornewall wales and other places / and that there is comonly retorned in the said boates greate quantities of fishe in the contreys there /

Thomas Throkmarton        Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

14r.

To the xxth 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 thereof he doth saie that a shipp of C tonne wilbe well ledd and guided with xx marrinere / and v barkes of xx. tonne apece93 doth require the necessarie service of v or vj men apece / and likewise x boates of x tonne apece do ~ require everie of them three mariners apece at the least which is in a C tonne / xxx men / abes

To the xxiith he saith that there is a custome house allready builte in Gloucester harde adiowning 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 xxiiith he saith that in his judgement there must needs be greate chardges saved for the Contreies aboue Gloucester in having their Cockettes at Gloucester, then if

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93 apece: apiece, i.e. each.
they shold be driven to fetch the same at Bristoll / by reson of the distance of ye place /

24 To the xxiiijth he saith that he never knewe during all his time that ever anie sercher his deputie of servante did or now doth dwell or remaine 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 lxiiijor 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 xxiij and xxvj tonne / and owner of the half parte of one other boate called the Jesus of aboute xvj or xvij 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 mencionned 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 oyle94 and hearring from the coaste of Irelande 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 diverse 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 mencionned in that Interrogatory, and the most of them hath knoven ever since the tyme he used the water / and saith that in his judgem ent there is aboute C myles by water betwene kingeroade and Shrewisburie / and aboute lxviiij yeres by lande / And touching the distance betwene the places mencionned in this Interrogatorie he agreeeth with Henry ~

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

5 To the fyfte he agreeeth with the said Henry Browne / and further saith That ye place aboute Chepstowe called poole merricke,95 and the entrannce into the Ryver of wye, and Lydney pill96 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 verie well rest and lye allwaiies at Gatcombe and that such a shipp may within iij or iiij houres come from kingroade 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 richard Thomas Hanam

14v.

7 To the vijth he saith that the Creekes of newneham / and Gatcombe are as convenient places for the descryng 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 aboue xl\(^1\)\(^ie\),
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 aboue 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 viij\(^1\) he saith in every pointe and article as the former deponent
Henry Browne hath before deposed /

9 To the ix\(^th\) he saith that in his iudgement 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 saith 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 xij\(^th\) he saith that one Master white of gloucester and ij\(^0\) or iij\(^ie\)
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 xiiiij\(^th\) he saith that such grete quantities of corne and graine
have passed from the Countrie of Glouc and places therunto adiowyning
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 /.

15 To the xv\textsuperscript{th} he agreeeth in all thing	extemdashs with the former deponent ~ Henry Browne /

16 To the xvj\textsuperscript{th} he saith that in his iudgement fewe or none of the ~ Citizens of Gloucester have made anie gaine of benefitt by husbandrie for they are all Indenture holders\textsuperscript{97} thereof / and in his iudgment there is none that hath above lx acres of grownde, and for feeding 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 Bell\textsuperscript{98} and one master Falkoner\textsuperscript{99} 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 /

17 To the xvij\textsuperscript{th} 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. /

18 To the xviij\textsuperscript{th} 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 /

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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.
19 To the xix\(^{th}\) he agreeeth with the former deponent Henry Browne and saith further that he thincketh 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 xx\(^{th}\) xx\(^{th}\) xxiiij\(^{th}\) and xxiiij\(^{th}\) he agreeeth in every pointe with the
former deponent Henry Browne /
And more he cannot depose. /

15r.

1 John Lewes of Longney\(^{100}\) in the County of Glouc sayler of thage of xl tie yeres or theraboutes sworne and examined to the first Interrogatorie saith that within those xx tie 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 CC\(^{th}\) / And since michellmas last hath lost a barke of xxviiij tie 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 iiij or iiiij men of Gloucester had a barke of aboute L tie tonne within these ij\(^{o}\) 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.
4 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 accesse unto / he doth therfore iudge them places ~ meeete for lading and unlading /

5 To the fyte Interrogatory he agreeeth with the said Henry Browne /

6 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 xxviijtie tonne apec, which have sondrie tymes come from Gatcombe to Gloucester within two tydes. /

7 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.

8 To the viij'h he saith that in his judgemement there hath not been anie ~ difference of the number of the boates barkes and trowes upon Severne for the space of those xij yeres. /

9 To the ix' th he saith that in his judgement the merchandizes of Bristoll have as free and grete vente for merchandizes to the County of Glouc and the places theraboutes as thay have had heretofore.

10 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 xv th he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath said.

17 To the xvij th 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.]