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**STAR CHAMBER SUITS  
OF  
JOHN AND THOMAS WARNEFORD**

**EDITED BY  
F. E. WARNEFORD**

**TROWBRIDGE  
1993**

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## PREFACE

The society is grateful to the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office for permission to reproduce the contents of Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office. Mr. Warneford also wishes to record his thanks to Mr. Christopher Whittick of the East Sussex Record Office for his generous help with textual queries.

JANE FREEMAN

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

B.L.	British Library
<i>Cal. Pat.</i>	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
<i>Close R.</i>	<i>Close Rolls</i>
<i>L. &amp; P. Hen. VIII</i>	<i>Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII</i>
<i>O.E.D.</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
P.R.O.	Public Record Office
<i>V.C.H. Berks.</i>	<i>Victoria History of the County of Berkshire</i>
<i>V.C.H. Wilts.</i>	<i>Victoria History of the County of Wiltshire</i>
W.R.O.	Wiltshire Record Office
Wilts. Rec. Soc.	Wiltshire Record Society

## INTRODUCTION

### a. *The Documents*

The documents printed in this volume are preserved in the Public Record Office and arise from five suits in Star Chamber, four brought between 1539 and 1551 and the other in 1611.<sup>1</sup> In the first four John Warneford of Sevenhampton was plaintiff twice and defendant twice. In the fifth his grandson Thomas was plaintiff.

The order and decree books of the court of Star Chamber are missing. In the report of a committee of the House of Lords, made in 1705, it was stated that the last that was known of them was that they were in a house in St. Bartholomew's Close, London. It was presumed that they had been destroyed. Some judgements given in and fines imposed by the court are recorded in documents surviving in the Public Record Office and elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> but in only one of these five cases is anything known of the court's judgement.<sup>3</sup> In the other cases all we have are the bills of complaint, the defendants' answers, sometimes the complainants' replies to the answers, and the depositions of witnesses. As statements of fact all must be treated with caution. Both claim and counterclaim were of course partial, witnesses were privately produced;<sup>4</sup> it is reasonable, therefore, to suspect exaggeration.

For the most part the documents which are the subject of this volume are well preserved. Unfortunately a large section of the middle of the Replication of John Warneford to the Answer of Sir John Brydges<sup>5</sup> is not sufficiently legible to be coherent, and in the suit of Thomas Essex<sup>6</sup> passages towards the end of John Warneford's Rejoinder are, in part, illegible.

### b. *The earlier history of the Warnefords*

The events described in these documents took place, for the most part, in Sevenhampton, in Highworth parish. M. W. Farr, in his introduction to *Accounts and Surveys of the Wiltshire Lands of Adam de Stratton* (Wilts. Rec. Soc. xiv), traces the earlier history of Sevenhampton back to 1156 and forward to the present century.

1. P.R.O., STAC 2/2; STAC 2/14/148; STAC 3/4/9; STAC 3/5/77; STAC 5/W36/2.

2. J. A. Guy, *The Court of Star Chamber and its records to the reign of Elizabeth I* (P.R.O. Handbooks, no. 21), 19, 29.

3. Judgement in the suit between John Warneford and Sir John Brydges is recorded in B.L. Harl. MS. 2143: Star Chamber records not in the custody of the P.R.O. or the B.L. have not been searched.

4. Guy, *Star Chamber*, 26–9.

5. P.R.O., STAC 3/4/9.

6. *Ibid.* STAC 2/14/148.

By the time of the first of these suits the Warnefords had been settled at Sevenhampton for one hundred and sixty-nine years, holding land by various tenures there and elsewhere in Wiltshire and Berkshire. Before their migration to Wiltshire they were in Hampshire, taking their name from the village of Warnford, usually spelt Warneford in the medieval documents.

The earliest known document relating to the family is a charter, dated 28th November 1189, by which Richard I granted Robert de Warneford, a king's serjeant, three hides of land in Exton, a village next to Warnford, and a virgate of land in Alton.<sup>7</sup> By 1200 Robert had acquired another three hides in Exton.<sup>8</sup> No more is known about the tenure of this later acquisition, but Pipe Rolls show that Robert's son Richard and grandson Robert were heirs to the land held by the charter of 1189. Further, Richard held land in Alton from William de St. John.<sup>9</sup> The land held from the king was not in serjeanty; they paid an annual rent of thirty shillings. The nature of Robert's service is not known. His status, and that of his son Richard, are not known, but his grandson Robert was a knight.<sup>10</sup>

At this period in their history, the last trace of the family in Hampshire is in 1271, when Robert de Warneford was excused attendance at the shire court.<sup>11</sup> The name first appears in Wiltshire records in 1325, when Walter de Warneford was plaintiff in an action for possession of two acres of meadow in Ramsbury.<sup>12</sup> He was a taxpayer there in 1327.<sup>13</sup> In 1331 he was enfeoffed in two different estates in Ramsbury, but whether to his own use or as a trustee it is impossible to say.<sup>14</sup> In 1332 he was the only taxpayer of his name in the county.<sup>15</sup>

In 1370 John Warneford acquired land and mills in Sevenhampton from Thomas Hungerford.<sup>16</sup> Hungerford was a man of great landed wealth for whom John Warneford had frequently acted as feoffee and attorney. In 1376 John de Beckett conveyed an estate in Shrivenham, known as Fowers Mill, to John Warneford.<sup>17</sup> In 1387 Peter Hungerford conveyed to John Warneford land in Sevenhampton, which he held from his father Thomas.

When John Warneford died, in 1393, his son Richard was a minor, but he eventually inherited about nine hundred acres from his father. He added substantially to his estate, mostly land formerly held by Thomas Hungerford, perhaps doubling the acreage. His marriage to Agnes Bridgeman brought him a messuage, six tofts, six virgates, three hundred acres of pasture, twenty acres of meadow and

7. *Cartae Antiquae* (Pipe Roll Soc. N.S. 17), pp. 145–6.

8. *Pipe Roll, 2 John* (Pipe Roll Soc. N.S. 12), p. 206.

9. *Cal. Pat.* 1216–25, p. 41.

10. P.R.O., E 210/49.

11. *Close R.* 1268–72, p. 538.

12. *Feet of Fines, 1272–1327* (Wilts. Rec. Soc. i), p. 120.

13. *V.C.H. Wilts.* xii. 23.

14. *Ibid.* 23, 25.

15. *Tax List, 1332* (Wilts. Rec. Soc. xlv), 49.

16. B.L. Add. Chart. 40043.

17. *V.C.H. Berks.* iv. 536.



eighty acres of gorse and heather, in Westcott, Eastcott and Nethercott, near Swindon.<sup>18</sup>

In 1429 Richard was appointed receiver to Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Hampshire including the Isle of Wight, and in the cities of London and Southampton.<sup>19</sup> In 1468 Richard died. His son Richard, by his marriage to Agnes Hasard, acquired a considerable addition to his estate, at Cloatley, and the grant of a corody at Malmesbury Abbey.<sup>20</sup>

At some unknown date Richard junior was succeeded by his son Thomas. The jurors at Thomas's inquisition *post mortem*, dated 1539 and preserved in the Wiltshire Record Office, attributed to him the acquisition of property in and about Malmesbury, but as they do not seem to have been aware that at least part had been held by his father by marriage, it is possible that all of it was Thomas's by inheritance.<sup>20</sup> It is apparent that Thomas gained no landed property through his marriage to Katherine Reinolds. Whether or not he added to it himself, his accumulated estate was subject to a bitter dispute between his widow and his son and heir John and is the concern of the first of the ensuing suits.

c. *The suits*

i) Christopher and Katherine Ashton *v.* John Warneford and others (P.R.O., STAC 2/2)

Records of this suit comprise the following documents:

- a) The Bill of Complaint of Christopher Ashton and Katherine his wife.
- b) The Answer of John Warneford.
- c) The Answer of Thomas Yate of Hyworth, Henry Russheton, John Rycherdes, William Russheton, Walter Whyte, William Avenell, John Colley, Thomas Cockes, Henry Sparrow, John Alyc, Robert Smyth, Christopher Tayler, John Avenell, Paul Yate, and Thomas Pakker.
- d) The Answer of John Cheyny, Thomas Yate, and Thomas Sympson.
- e) The Answer of Simon Yate.

Within a year of Thomas Warneford's death his wife Katherine had married again. Her second husband was Christopher Ashton of Fifield, Berkshire, an usher to the chamber. Christopher's former wife was Lady Katherine Gordon; Ashton was her fourth husband. She was sister of the earl of Huntly and a kinswoman of James IV of Scotland, who had given her in marriage to Perkin Warbeck, the pretender to the English throne. After Warbeck's execution she first married James

18. W.R.O. 130/55.

19. P.R.O., E 326/10486.

20. *Feet of Fines, 1377-1509* (Wilt. Rec. Soc. xli), p. 159.

21. W.R.O. 130/55.

Strangeways, also an usher to the chamber, and afterwards Sir James Cradock, chancellor of Glamorgan and steward of Gower. In 1510 she had been granted Fifield, with other Berkshire manors. In 1512, when she married Strangeways, she resigned her grant and received another for the same property, to herself and her husband, on condition that she did not go to Scotland, or any other foreign country, without a licence. On her death the king granted Christopher Ashton the remainder of Fifield for thirty years.<sup>22</sup>

Star Chamber proceedings in the suit between John Warneford and his mother and stepfather began in 1539. A brief summary of the essence of dispute may assist the understanding of the documents. Thomas Warneford, on his marriage to Katherine, took steps to break the entail on his estates, enfeoffing William Bryll and others with the object of alienating the land by what was known as a discontinuance. Bryll and his co-feoffees then enfeoffed Thomas and Katherine and the heirs of Thomas's body lawfully begotten, thus postponing John Warneford's inheritance until after his mother's death. Thomas had second thoughts when John's marriage to Susan Yate was proposed. With his whole estate vested in Katherine for life he was unable to make a marriage settlement, so he sought to nullify the earlier enfeoffment by making another to Francis Chock and others, to the use of Thomas Warneford and his heirs. It appears that this ploy was legally void, and Katherine, for whom no other provision had been made, refused to relinquish her tenure. John was able to restore the entail by obtaining a writ of formedon. He was then granted a commission to recover the goods, deadstock and livestock which pertained to the estate.

Despite the acrimony displayed in the charges and countercharges submitted to the Privy Council, John Warneford eventually settled an estate on his mother and on Christopher Ashton, for the term of her life, of over eighteen hundred acres, for an annual rent of twenty-two pounds.<sup>23</sup>

ii) Thomas Essex *v.* John Warneford (P.R.O., STAC 2/14/148)

Records of this suit comprise the following documents:

- a) The Bill of Complaint of Thomas Essex.
- b) The Answer of John Warneford.
- c) The Replication of Thomas Essex.
- d) The Rejoinder of John Warneford.
- e) Interrogatories administered on behalf of Thomas Essex.
- f) Depositions of Witnesses.

All the above documents are catalogued at P.R.O., STAC 2/14/148 but nos. ii–vi are inscribed with, respectively, the references STAC 2/22/304, STAC 2/22/326, STAC 2/22/791, and STAC 2/30/331.

22. *V.C.H. Berks*, iv. 346.

23. P.R.O., WARD 7/10/1C/817.

This dispute over fishing rights, relating to events in 1545, might not have occurred if there had not already been bad blood between the parties. John Warneford was hemmed in by powerful neighbours who were not his friends. That he was aggressive and given to lurid invective is plain, but he may have been sorely goaded, and he was a man of his times. The Tudor gentry feuded individually and factionally.<sup>24</sup> They were litigious and sometimes violent. Bickering between families continued for generations. Whether or not the quarrel was of ancient origin, the fracas between John Warneford and Thomas Essex was preceded by simmering animosity.

iii) John Warneford *v.* Sir John Brydges (P.R.O., STAC 3/4/9)

Records of this suit comprise the following documents:

- a) The Bill of Complaint of John Warneford.
- b) The Answer of Sir John Brydges.
- c) The Replication of John Warneford.
- d) Depositions of Witnesses.

In 1538 John Warneford was appointed steward to Sir Thomas Seymour. This was a turning-point in his life. In 1542 he purchased from Sir Thomas the lordship of Sevenhampton and that part of the manor of which he was already tenant.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, in 1543 he purchased the manor of Cloatley from Sir Thomas's associate Sir William Sharington.<sup>26</sup> Seymour had been granted Sevenhampton in exchange for monastic property at Coggeshall in Essex.<sup>27</sup> Sharington had purchased Cloatley with other abbey lands of Malmesbury.<sup>28</sup> The rest of the land at Sevenhampton, known as the site of the manor, Seymour sold to the other sitting tenant, Sir John Brydges.<sup>29</sup> Here lay the seeds of much future trouble, but the differences within Sevenhampton were only part of the occasion of Sir John's malice, the bases of which are stated in his written Answer to the Bill of Complaint. Sir John Brydges was a man of considerably more power and influence than John Warneford. During the reign of Henry VIII he was occupied with court and military duties: he was knighted in 1513 during the French wars and in France, attended Henry as a groom to the privy chamber when the king received Anne of Cleves, and was appointed constable of Sudeley Castle in 1538 and deputy-governor of Boulogne in 1544. Sir John was not prominent during the reign of Edward VI, probably because he was an ardent catholic. His absence from public life may have given him time to pursue his vendetta against John Warneford. On the accession of Mary

24. For an example of a later conflict between Wiltshire gentry, see Alison Wall, 'Faction in local politics 1580–1620,' *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*, lxxii/lxxiii, 119–33.

25. W.R.O. 40/18.

26. P.R.O., WARD 7/10/1C/817.

27. *Ibid.* E 328/293.

28. *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, p. 631.

29. W.R.O. 40/18.

Tudor he was created Lord Chandos, and appointed lieutenant of the Tower of London. He was instrumental in the suppression of Wyatt's rebellion. Four days after the taking of Wyatt he attended Lady Jane Grey to the scaffold. He was briefly custodian of the Princess Elizabeth.<sup>30</sup>

The incidents of which Warneford complained took place in the years 1549–51 and involved damage to his lands, disruption of his manor courts, and the usurpation of his office of bailiff or steward of Highworth and Cricklade. The documents give an illuminating picture of agricultural turmoil. The number of labourers said to be late of Sevenhampton seems to indicate a rootlessness in a changing society. References to hedge or fence breaking suggest that enclosures may have played their part in creating local animosities. There is, however, no solid evidence that John Warneford was inequitable in his dealings with labourers and tenants either on his own behalf or as steward to Sir Thomas Seymour. On the contrary, what reliable evidence there is shows him enclosing land by agreement with tenants who were then properly compensated.

Factional feuding is not evident here. Warneford seems to have been engaged in a one man war against powerful neighbours. He would have been of some weight – a justice in Wiltshire, Berkshire, and Gloucestershire, and steward to the king's uncle – but once he was without the support of Thomas Seymour he was comparatively vulnerable. It will be seen how defenceless he was against Brydges's usurpation of the stewardship of the hundred of Highworth, Cricklade, and Staple. Although he appears to have had the ear of the Privy Council his complaint was unsuccessful. The only judgement to have been traced for any of the suits represented in this volume runs as follows:

'John Warneford submitting himself on his knees confessed hee had untruely slandered & accused Sir John Bridges in the matters he had exhibited against him and openly in Court asked him forgiveness . . .'

He was also required to pay costs and the hundred stewardship remained lost to him: a year before Warneford's death in 1558 it was granted to the second Lord Chandos, formerly Sir Edmund Brydges.<sup>31</sup>

iv) John Warneford *v.* Sir Anthony Hungerford (P.R.O., STAC 2/14/148)

Records of this suit comprise the following documents:

- a) Information laid by John Warneford.
- b) The Answer of Sir Anthony Hungerford.
- c) The Replication of John Warneford.
- d) Interrogatories administered to Sir Anthony Hungerford on behalf of John Warneford.
- e) The Answer of Sir Anthony Hungerford to Interrogatories.
- f) Depositions of Witnesses.

30. *Dictionary of National Biography*.

31. B.L. Harl. MS. 2143; *Cal. Pat.* 1555–7, p. 482.

John Warneford's complaint against Sir Anthony Hungerford is contained in an undated information referring to events in the winter of 1550-1. The commencement of the suit by an information is characteristic of cases where official misconduct was alleged.<sup>32</sup> The complaint is on two quite separate counts, but both cases arose out of Sir Anthony's supposed alliance with his cousin Sir John Brydges. The first relates to letters patent, dated 24th November 1550. By these, as part of the process of imposing a Protestant character on the Church of England, it was decreed that church altars should be destroyed and be replaced by communion tables set lengthways in the chancels, to symbolise the removal of the barrier between priest and laity.<sup>33</sup> When this order was being carried out in the church at Highworth, John Boller, who had the farm of the vicarage of Highworth, protested. William Wilcockson, one of the churchwardens, alleged that Boller's protest was to the pulling down of the altar, and that the words he used were treasonable. About these treasonable words Wilcockson informed the sheriff Sir Anthony Hungerford. It was John Warneford's case that Sir Anthony would not proceed against Boller because Boller was a friend of Sir John Brydges. Boller's defence of himself was plausible. He said that he did not object to the destruction of the altar, which he came prepared to carry out himself, but that he protested because he regarded the chancel as his property, and that therefore the stone from the altar, which the churchwardens were claiming for the parish, was rightfully his.

That John Warneford took up the case and informed the Privy Council looks more like opportunism than genuine concern for principle. There is an inescapable impression of trouble-making, of a desperate attempt to make something out of nothing. Boller's explanation of his words is more convincing than is their interpretation by Wilcockson. Even so, Hungerford's handling of the witnesses seems deplorable. Some of them were examined by John Blagrove, illegally appointed bailiff of the hundred of Highworth, Cricklade and Staple by Sir John Brydges: the bailiwick had been usurped from John Warneford, whose right it was by letters patent. Blagrove reported that three witnesses whom he examined varied in their evidence; their depositions were not forwarded to the Privy Council, although the verity of the evidence should have been adjudged by the court, not the bailiff. The circumstances surrounding the taking of the deposition of William Yate must be suspect. Hungerford said that he thought he was a witness brought by Wilcockson, but that, having literally had the fear of God put into him, he had been persuaded to tell the truth which confirmed Boller's version of events. John Warneford disclaimed Yate as a witness. If Warneford was being truthful, it looks as though Yate was party to collusive play-acting.

On the second count John Warneford claimed that Sir Anthony had been dilatory in the apprehension and prosecution of felons guilty of burglary in North Wiltshire, particularly of James Rede, whom he named as being in the service of

32. Guy, *Star Chamber*, 32.

33. J. R. Tanner, *Tudor Constitutional Documents* (2nd edn.), 116.

Sir John and Sir Edmund Brydges in his complaint against Sir John Brydges.<sup>34</sup> John Warneford may have been justified in bringing this to the notice of the Privy Council, but his interpretation of words spoken by Sir Anthony about the delay in acting against Rede seems threadbare.

v) Thomas Warneford *v.* Edward Bridges, John Ames, Kellam Bate, and others (P.R.O., STAC 5/W36/2)

Records of this suit comprise the following documents:

- a) The Bill of Complaint of Thomas Warneford.
- b) The Rejoinder and Answers of Edward Bridges, John Ames, and Kellam Bate.

This suit of 1611 reveals that disputed fishing rights were still the cause of violent friction in Sevenhampton. So too were differences between the Warnefords and the Brydges. In this case Thomas Warneford alleged that Edward Bridges<sup>35</sup> and his friends had poached his waters, caused a great deal of damage, and assaulted his servants. Thomas was the grandson of John Warneford of the previous suits. His father, John Warneford junior, was still alive, but chose to live at Cloately and had settled Sevenhampton and Shrivenham on Thomas and his bride Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Fettiplace of Childrey.<sup>36</sup> It has not been possible to establish the relationship of Edward, or of Francis and Giles Bridges mentioned in the suit, to Sir John Brydges. According to Edward, he and Francis were Giles's uncles. It appears that Francis Bridges lived in the neighbourhood, and that Edward and Giles were staying with him. Thomas may have exaggerated the damage and injury caused, and Edward and his friends may have acted in ignorance and may not have intended provocation, but it is evident from Edward Bridges's reference to controversy and pending suits that John Warneford junior and Francis Bridges were at loggerheads.

In none of these suits is the status of esquire adopted by John Warneford, although he was lord of two manors. Elsewhere he uses that rank,<sup>37</sup> as his successors invariably did although their situation was no different from his. Thomas was not entitled to the rank at the time of the last suit, because his father was still living.

d. *The later history of the Warnefords*

In 1558, at about the age of fifty-one, John Warneford died, leaving his wife Susan with four sons and four daughters, all minors. His son and heir John, like his father, read law at the Inner Temple. He was a justice of the peace until his death in 1620, and was sheriff of Wiltshire in 1589. He appears to have been a good public servant

34. See below, p. 30.

35. The form 'Bridges' was apparently used by members of the family involved in this suit.

36. W.R.O. 40/18.

37. e.g. *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, 202–3.

and a benign justice.<sup>38</sup> His son Thomas was, by 1624, steward of the hundred of Highworth, Cricklade and Staple.<sup>39</sup>

That part of Sevenhampton held by the Brydges family, known as the site of the manor, was sold by Grey, Lord Chandos, in 1606 to William Bennett of Marlborough, except for enclosed pasture of Billingsham, which was sold in 1609 to Sir Francis Englefield. In 1633 William Bennett the younger sold his estate in Sevenhampton to Edmund, son and heir of Thomas Warneford.<sup>40</sup> In 1685 Sir John Yate, then owner of Billingsham, sold it to Sir Edmund Warneford, son of Edmund. For the first time the whole of the manor belonged to the Warnefords. The estate at Sevenhampton continued in the family until 1903, when it was sold to Sir Frederick Banbury, Bt., later created Baron Banbury of Southam. A full account of the Warneford family has recently been published.<sup>41</sup>

### e. *Editorial method*

The documents have been transcribed in full, except for a few depositions which add no new information or are largely illegible; these omissions are indicated by footnotes. Original spellings have been retained throughout. Common abbreviations such as 'yr' for 'your' have been extended, suffixes in dates and to indicate pounds sterling have been aligned, and roman numerals are represented in lower case throughout although they vary in the original. Some full stops, initial capitals and, in the transcript of the third suit (P.R.O., STAC 3/4/9), paragraphs have been introduced to clarify the text. The often-repeated words 'said' and 'aforesaid' have been eliminated except where they are necessary to the sense of the text. Illegible words are indicated by dots; uncertain readings and material supplied by the editor appear in square brackets in italics.

38. F. H. Manley, 'The Disafforesting of Braden', *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*. xlv. 554.

39. W.R.O. 40.

40. *Ibid.* 40/18.

41. F. E. Warneford, *An English family through eight centuries: the Warnefords* (priv. print., 1991).

STAR CHAMBER SUITS  
OF JOHN AND THOMAS WARNEFORD

1. Christopher and Katherine Ashton *v.* John Warneford and  
others  
(P.R.O., STAC 2/2)

a) *Bill of Complaint of Christopher Ashton and Katherine his wife*

To the kynge our sovereyn lorde

In moste humble wise shewen unto youre highnes your dayly oratours Christoffer Asheton and Kateryn his wife late wyfe of Thomas Warnefforde of Sevynhampton in ye Countie of Wilts gent deceased That wher one William Bryll William Wykes William White Richard Yate Edmond Breynd and Thomas Hynton were amonge other landes and Tenementes seased in ther demesne as of ffee of and in on messuage x toftes dc acres of land cc acres of pasture cc acres of medo xij acres of wood with appurtenances in Sevynhampton Shrevynham Wescott Escott Okbourn Saynt George Hankyngton Cloteley & Crudwell in ye counties of Wylt and Berk to the use of Thomas Warnefford and his heyres. And they being so seasyd William Bryll William Wyke, William Whyte and other the cofeffees with the request and desyre of Thomas Warnefforde and for the assurance of the Joynture of Kateryn to her promysed by Thomas Warnefforde at and upon the mariage had betwen them by ther . . . sufficient in the lawe redy to be shewed gave and grannted the mesuage toftes lande pasture medowe and other the premisses withappurtenances by the name of all the landes tenementes and hereditamentes in Sevynhampton Shrevynham Wescott Escott and Okburn saynt George [*illegible insertion above the line*] unto Thomas Warnefforde and Kateryn his wife and to the heyres of the bodie of Thomas Warnefforde by fforce wherof Thomas and Kateryn were of the premisses seased accordng. And where also Thomas Warnefforde was in his life possessed of redy money plate Juelles beste catalles beddyng naperye stuffe of howsholde and other goodes and catalles as of his proper goodes and catalles to the value of iiij c marke sterling or thereabout. And so thereof possessed in the yere of our lorde god a thousand v c xxxvij made and declared his last wyll and Testament And by the same after the recytell of certeyn gyftes and legacies speccefied in the said last wyll ther was containyd this Article or clause hereafter ensuyng That ys to saye the resydue of my goodes and catalles not bequethed movable and unmovable I ffreely geve unto Kateryn my wyfe She to dysspose them for the welth of my sowle as she thynketh best as by the same last wyll and Testament more pleyntly appereth.



And after Thomas Warnefforde dyed after whose deth your sayd oratours enter married. So yt ys most gracous sovereyn lorde that one John Warnefforde being lernyd in the lawes of your Realm and son unto Thomas Warnefforde and Kateryn and bayring longtyme grudge and evyll wyll agayn his mother entending by craft and sublettie to defayte the Joynture of his mother in the landes and Tenementes before rehersed hath of late afore mariage had between your oratores persuyd a wrytt of fformedon<sup>1</sup> agaynste Kateryn and one John Samborne of all the landes and Tenementes att the comen lawe supposyng that Thomas his late ffather was Tennant in tayll of all the landes and Tenementes att the tyme of makyng of the said Joynture by meanes whereof the said Joynture and the assurance thereof shoulde be evycted. Whiche John Sambourn nothyng hath nor ever had in the landes and Tenementes but John Warnefforde menyng craft and ffalshed hath caused Samborn to be namyd in the said wrytt of fformedon to thentent that he shold att the wyll and pleasure of John Warnefforde and when he shoulde be required to confesse the action by that meanes to defeyte thentent and title of the moyete of the Joyntur of your oratour agaynst all right and conscense. And not with this contentyd nor satesfied John Warnefforde of his unnatural dyspocision and malyciose mynde that he bare against his mother came and repayred unto her at Sevynhampton and then and ther not only dyd manesse and thretyn her to leve her not worth a peny in goodes nor landes but also most unnaturally and malyciously dyd beate her and put her in Jeperdie of her lyfe saying unto his mother that rather then she shoulde have one pennyworthe of his ffathers landes and goodes he wold convaye the same to other places and sell the sayme and spende the money thereof in the lawe upon his mother and dryve her to goo a beggyng and then he wolde ffynde her of Almes with dyvers and many such opprobryous and shamefull wordes as hath not byn herde any Chylde to speyke to his ffather or mother. And nowe of late That is to saye the xxth daye of Maye this present xxxj yere of your moste noble Rayn John Warnefforde in accomplyshyng his malycious intent and purpose entending the undoing of your oratoures upon a ffalce and untrue premyse made unto on Doctor Peter offycer under the Right honorable the lorde Cromwell lorde privay seale and vyce gerent unto your maiestie of your causes Ecclesiasticall that Thomas Warnefforde dyed intestate whiche was false and untrue optayned letters of admynstracion of the goodes Catalles and dettes of his late father unto hym sylffe John Cheyney and unto one Thomas Yeate brother in lawe unto the sayd John Warnefforde and persons of as lyght behavioure as arre in the saide parties. After whiche letters of admynstracion thus had and optayned John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate the xxvijth daye of Maye last repayrd and restored unto a place called Hyghworthe in the Countie of Wyltes and then and there after a grett assemble of your graces Subiectes then and ther had by procurement of John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate they caused open proclomacon to be made in the Town of Hyghworth in your graces name That all persons there beyng present shoulde prepayre theym sylffes in redynes for to ayde and Assyst John Warnefforde John

1. A writ to recover alienated land.

Cheyney and Thomas Yeate for the convaying awaye of suche goodes catalles and Stuffe late of Thomas Warnefford as then Remayned in Sevynhampton and under the keypyng of your Oratores. By reason of the whiche proclomacion thus had and optayned ther were then and ther Assemblyd above the number cxx persons the names of some of the said persons hereafter ensuyth That is to say Simon Yeate Henry Rusheton and John Rycherdes John Sympson Wylliam Rusheton Walter Tryte Wyllyam Avenell John Cowley Thomas Cockes Henry Sparrow . . . Robert Smyth Christopher Taylor John Godard John Avenell Pawle Yeate William Lambe Thomas Packer and of whiche lxx were arrayed in compleete harnes called Alman Revettes<sup>1</sup> after the manner an fflashen of Warre with bowes and arrowys gleveys<sup>2</sup> speyres byllys swerdes buklers daggers Gonnes ordynance and other wepens both defencyble and Ynvasyve and so unlefefully and ryottesly assembled the xxiiijth daye of Maye by the commande of John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate repayred and came to Sevynhampton to the howse of Kateryn beyng parte and parcell of the Joynture of the gyft of her late housband and then and ther with bylles Axes and suche other Wepyns as the malyfactors then had in ther handes they violently forsybely and ryottesly brake the walles Doores and windoys of the howse. And upon one Wylliam Pygott and Richerd Lannden Servanntes to your Oratores then and ther beyng in goddes peace and youres sovereyn lorde made assaulte [on] theym beete wounded evyll entreatyd and put in Juperdie of ther lyves and xli pounds sterling and a Chalyce of Sylver and gylte then and ther beyng of the goodes and catalles of the late Testatore and appertaynyng unto your oratores fforribly and vyolently toke and bare awaye whiche John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate yet wrongfully detayn and kepe. And in the last daye of Maye then next ensuyng John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate caused certeyn waynes and cartes to the number of xxiiij to be brought unto the howse of your oratores at Sevynhampton and ther ladyd the same with goodes catalles stuffe and Ymplementes of howshold of your oratores and all thapparell of your oratore as Gownes Kyrtelles petycottes smockes Bonettes ffrontlettes letyce bonettes then and ther beyng to the value of iiijc markes and above whiche they not only caused to be caryed and convayed awaye at ther pleasure and whether they wold but also of a perverse fforwarde and malycious mynde have ffyshed two pondes or pooles of your oratores at Sevynhampton and takyn awaye in Carps Breames and other ffyses asmoche as was worth x li and above but also dyd turn and lett owte the water of the pondes and destroyed all the ffrye and yeonge ffyshe ther to the grett hurt of your oratores. Whiche goodes and catalles thus ryottesly and unlefefully by John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate and other by ther comanndement takyn dispoyled and convayde they wrongfully detayn and kepe from your oratores to ther utter undoyng for ever contrary to your lawes and Justice

1. Light armour of German origin made flexible by over-lapping plates sliding on rivets.

2. Gleve, obs. or dial. form of Glaive. A lance or spear. A weapon consisting of a blade fastened to a long handle; a kind of halbert. *O.E.D.*

and equyte and to the grett encoragyng and boldyng of suche lyke offenders yf due correccion be not had with spede in the premysses. Hyt may therefore please your grace the premisses consederyd to grannt your severall wryttes of Subpena to be dyrecteyd unto John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate and to the other ryottes persons before rehersyd commandyng them by vertue thereof personally to appere afore your grace and your most honorable counccyll att Westminster att a certayn daye to Answer to the premisses and ffurther to enjoyn John Warnefforde John Cheyney and Thomas Yeate and every of them upon a payn by your grace to be lymytte That they permytt and suffer your oratores peasably to occupye and enjoye the same landes Tenementes Goodes Catalles and all other the premisses accordyng to ther verey just interest and Tytle And also to sett suche an order and dyreccion theryn as by your highnes and your honorable counccyll shalbe thought moost expedyent and necessary in this behalfe. And your oratores shall dayly pray for the preservacion of your moost royall estate longe to endure.

*b) Answer of John Warneford to the Bill of Christopher and Katherine Ashton*

The said John Warneford saith that the bill of complaint is untruele sclannderously and craftely devised fayned & imagyned by Cristofer Assheton to the entent to vex trouble & unquyett John Warneford and others named in the bill of compleynt & to thentent to sclannder defame & dishonest John Warneford & to take from his good name & fame and for answer John Warneford saith that as to eny ryot rescue rowte unlawfull assemblie force or any other thing by him supposed to be done contrary to the peace of our soveraigne lord the King or by his comandment he is not thereof giltie. And further for declaracon of the truthe he saith that long tyme before William Bryll & other the surmised cofeoffes any thing had in the landes & tenementes in Sevenhampton menconed in the bill of compleynt one Richard Hanyngdon Clerk was thereof seased amongst other landes in his Demeane as of fee and so seased by his dede bering the date friday next after the feast of Saint Mychell tharchangell in the thirde yere of King henry the iiij did give and grannte all & singler the said mesuages landes & tenementes in Sevenhampton & Shrevenham aforsaid amongst . . . Richard Warneford son of John Warneford & to the hieres of his body lawfully begotten with diverse Remaynders even as by the same dede more playnely doth appere by force wherof Richard Warneford was therof seased in his demeane as of fee taile. And after Richard Warneford therof suche estate seased died . . . other the premisses discended to one Richard Warneford as son and heire of the body of Richard the father lawfully begotten by reason wherof Richard the son into the premisses entred and was therof seased in his demeane as of fee taile by force and form of the gyft aforsaid. And the said Richard the son . . . estate died seased. After whose death the premysses discended to Thomas Warneford named in the bill of compleynt father of John Warneford now defendant as son & heire of Richard the son of his body lawfully begotten by reason wherof Thomas into the

premysses entred & was therof seased in his demeane as of fee taile by force and forme of the said gyft. And Thomas Warneford so thereof seased made the feoffement & dyscontynnuance to the said William Bryll & other the cofeoffes in fee & toke estate ageyn to hym & to Kateryn mother of the defendannt then his wife & to the heires of the body of Thomas Warneford lawfully begotten & after the said Thomas so therof seased & having knowledge of the former gyfte in taile made to Richard Warneford his Anncestor & earnestly considering & pondering that by his dyscontynnuance he shulde do his son now defendannt grete losse & expresse wronge & considering also that there was no consideracon why any such dyscontynnuance shuld be made to the said Kateryn mother to the defendannt Thomas Warneford examynyng his consciens in the premysses & considered that he had no manor landes tenementes goodes or catelles in marriage with his wife mother of the Defendannt whiche myght be any preferment to his children & considering that the landes tenementes & other the premysses menconed in the dyscontynnuance & yoyniture were in effect all & the whole landes & tenementes whiche Thomas had in possession or in use & considering also that he never promysed any Joynture to her in consideracon of marriage to be had with her nor to her frendes & doubting lest after the death of Thomas Warneford as well the landes & tenementes as also such goodes & catelles as he shulde have at the tyme of his death might happen to come to thandes of a straungier whiche myght doo what in hym myght be to empoverissh the issue & children of Thomas Warneford upon good advice being gretly moved by his consciens & in consideracon of a mariege to be had & solemprised betwene the Defendannt & one Susan daughter of John Yate of Lyford & in performance of the covenantes of the marriage Thomas father of the Defendant by his ded bering date the vith Day of October in the xxvth yere of the soveraigne lord king Henry the viij the which nowe is did enfeoffe of & in all & singlar the premysses ffrances Chock Richard Hulls Thomas Yate of Hannoy Antony ffetyplace John Samborne & Thomas Yate of Highworth To have & to hold to them & to their heires in fee to the use of Thomas Warneford & the heires of his body lawfully begotten & for defaute of such issue to the right heires of Thomas Warneford forever by force wherof ffrances Chock & other his cofeoffees were therof seased in their demeane as of fee unto thusus above saide. And after by reason of a statute<sup>1</sup> made in the xxvij yere of our soveraigne lord the king that now is Thomas Warneford according to the use was sole seased of the premysses to him & to the heires of his body lawfully begotten & so died therof seased. After whose death the premysses discended & of right ought to discend & came unto John Warneford as son & heire of the said Thomas Warneford. And yet nevertheles John Warneford after the deathe of Thomas Warneford his father entending to doo what in hym myght reasonably lye for thobediencie whiche he ought towards his mother suffred his mother to receive perceive and take thissues & profittes of the landes tenementes & other premysses & diverse & sundry tymes by all meanes & wayes that he or his frendes myght reasonably devise by the space of iij quarters of a

1. Statute of Uses, 27 Henry VIII, c. 10.

yere & more humbly servyng labouring & obediently instanting his mother to have som reasonable order & direction to be devised & taken betwene Hym & his mother bothe for the landes tenementes & hereditamentes & also for the goodes & catalles whiche were his ffathers whiche to doo Kateryn his mother at all tymes refused & denied nor wolde by any meanes shewe the testament and last will of his ffather nor suffer or cause the same to be proved. And after this long sute labores & paynes taken in the premysses & before any act entre or sute in the lawe done or comenced for the premysses his mother devised & required him to comence his action & sute in the lawe & to recon his right by such meanes & not to entre or disturbe her by any other meanes. After whiche request John Warneford according to the same request & thereby entent to satisfy her appetite comenced & sued the writte of fformedone ayenst Kateryn his mother & ayenst John Samborne one of the feoffes as well & lawfull was for hym to doo for as moche as before that tyme he had made no entre into the premysses nor was thereof seased But suffered his mother to contynue her abatement into the premysses. And John saith that he never mente intended or purposed that Samborne shulde confesse the action nor by that meanes to defeate the interest & title of the moytie of the landes Tenementes & other the premysses in maner and forme as in the bill is untruely craftely & sclauderously alledged but onely for thexchewyng & avoiding of suche frustrate delays as myght els be used upon the writte of fformedone. And after the Compleynente entermaryed and John Warneford perceiving that he was remytted to the former Gyfte yn taile & that he myght lawfully entre into the premisses did lawfully and quietly entre into the same wherby he abated his writte & was thereof seased in his demeane as of fee taile as in his remytter by force of the said gifte in taile. And John Warneford further saithe that Thomas Warneford his ffather was possessed of divers goodes & catalles the certentie & value whereof John as yet knoweth not as of his owne propre goodes & catalles and so being possessed the xxixth Day of May in the xxxth yere of our soveraigne lorde King Henry the vijth made his testament & last will & by the same testament & last wille willed & bequethed diverse legacies & bequests & amongst other ther was one legacy of the effect hereafter ensuyng that is to say Also I bequethe to the mariage of every of my ffoure daughter fforty poundes & more if it may be spared And if any of them departe to god before the day of their mariage that her parte shall remayne to thother. And after the testament & last wille Thomas Warneford did make & ordeyn one John Yate of Lyford thelder & the said John Warneford nowe defendannt his executors & died. After whose death the Testament & last wille came to thandes and possession of Cristofer Assheton and Kateryn and because the Executors named in the testament coulede by no meanes gett the testament into their handes the testament remayneth yet not proved. And upon the iuste and true informacon of John Warneford that the goodes & catalles were daily wasted and consumed & spoiled by Assheton and because the executores named in the testament wolde be advised & take deliberacon upon the probate of the testament our soveraigne lord the King directed his graces comysion yeven under his seale of Supremytc the xxiiijth Day of May in the xxxj yere of his most gracious Reigne

unto his true and faithfull Subiectes John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate by the which comyssion our soveraigne lord reciting that where his well beloved Counsellor Thomas Cromwell of the order of the Garter knight lord Cromwell keeper of his graces prive seale and vice gerent to his grace for and concernyng all his jurisdiction ecclesiasticall within the Realme of his graces auctoritie as Supreme hed of the churche of England by William Peter Doctor of the lawe his Comyssory in that behalf sufficiently and lawfully deputed did comytte power and auctoritie to John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate to sequester and gather together all the goodes rightes and dettes which by any maner of meanes were the testatours in time of the life and death of the testator and to make a true and Lawfull Inventory of all and singler the goodes and dettes & to exhibite the Inventory before his said Counsellors or his Comyssary in that behalf the second day after the feast of saint ffaythe the virgin then next ensuyng and to make a true & plaine Accompt or Reconyng of the same and did ratifye and confirme the said Comyssion to them as before saide in his graces auctoritie made. And by the tenor of the Comyssion did give power and auctoritie to the said John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate to publisse the sequestracion so as before is said in his auctoritie in all places where the goodes were present at all tymes and to all persons as they shold think beste and to aske levye and gather together the goodes and dettes of the testator and the same safely & surely to kepe in sequestracion by his graces auctoritie to sell the goodes which shoulde perisse as in the comyssion and letters *ad colligend* nowe at large is conteyned. By force of whiche Comyssion to them directed John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate in the xxixth Day of May last past aboute the houre of three of the clok at after none repaired and came to Sevenhampton and there in the churche found diverse honest persons and the Kinges true & faithfull Subiectes being in goddes peace and the Kinges and there required and prayed all the said honest persons that as many of them as wolde take any paynes to see the indifferent ordering of the sequestration and view of the said goodes shold heare the said comyssion redde and bere witnes indifferently to the sequestracion and to what goodes & Catelles they founde in or upon the house landes and tenementes and other the premysses and that som of them wolde praise and value the goodes indifferently according to the true value of the same goodes and catelles. After whiche requestes & desires to them made som of the said honest persons declared for trouthe unto John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate that they had true and perfitte knowledge that Cristofer had bene there the same day before their comyng & that Cristofer and xj other persons by hym unlawfully assembled knowing of the comyssion & letters *ad colligend* and that they the comyssioners were comyng to execute the sequestracion Riotously had taken and sett from Sevenhampton thirty greate oxen fifty bullocks dcc shepe and ccx lambes & divers other goodes & Catalles of the said testatours to the value of ccc markes and above and that Cristofer in the same day unlawfully and riottously assembled thirty other riottous persons at a place called More in the Countie of Berks to maynteyn assiste & defende his unlawful & riottous purpose & quarell and to have unlawfully defended & maynteyned Cristofer and other Riottous persons if

so be they had mette the Defendannt. Wheruppon the Deffendannt knowing & perceiving the subtil wytte of Cristofer Assheton & doubting lest he wolde ley to their charge many thinges which they never sawe or founde desired the said honest persons that as many of them as wolde goe to the said house shulde thither & shulde use them self in peaseble & lawfull manner and there they shuld indifferently see what goodes were left in the house not spoyled wasted nor taken away. Wherupon John Cheyny Thomas Yate & other the kinges loving subiectes to the nombre of xx persons or thereabouts named in the bill of compleynt being in goddes peace & the kinges in lawfull & peaseble manner came to the house of John Warneford at Sevenhampton in the whiche house landes tenementes & other the premysses diverse goodes & catelles of the testator to the value of fforty poundes or therabout at the tyme of his death were remaynyng & being and then & there entered peasebly into parcell of the house & ther in presence of the true & faithfull subiectes of our soveraigne lord the king Thomas Yate declared & published to Richard Lewenden & William Pygott named in the bill of compleynt servanntes to Cristofer Assheton all the hole contentes of the comyssion & every worde of the same requiring them on the behalf of our soveraigne lord the king by all meanes & wayes they myght possible that they shuld obey the comyssion & auctoritie to them comytted & that they shulde suffer John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate to make a true & perfitte Inventory according to the comyssion. And after Richard Lewenden and William Pygott nothing fearing or estemyng the kinges highnes nor his comyssion did make an assaute upon John Cheyne Thomas Yate and others the kinges true subiectes there then being and them did beate & wound & evill entreate So that if Richard Lewenden & William Pygott any hurte then and ther had it was of their owne assawte and in defence Of John Cheyne Thomas Yate & other the kinges subiectes then & there lawfully being for thentent before specified. And the Defendant saith that Richard Lewenden & William Pygott incontinently did commande one Nicholas Hutte that the same Nicholas in all the haste possible shulde ride to ffyfelde in the countie of Berks where as the Compleynantes doo inhabite & there require Cristofer their master to come to Sevenhampton & there to fight with John Cheyny Thomas Yate & others to revenge their quarell & after aboute the houre of viij of the klok in the evening of the same day there was tidinges brought unto John Cheyny Thomas Yate & others then and there being contynually busyed and occupied aboute the making of the Inventory & being in goddes peace and the kinges that Assheton was comyng to the house with fforty persons arrayed and apparelled in manner of warre to thentent to have slayne & murdered John Cheyny & Thomas Yate. And because the peace of our soveraigne lord the king shuld be the more holy & entirely kept & conserved betwene the parties indifferently the Defendant required the bailiffes constables & tything men of the same Towne and bouroughe of Highworth & the Towne of Sevenhampton that they in the nyght ensuyng wolde the more diligently see the watches kept according to the statute of Wynchester<sup>1</sup> therof made & provided. After whiche request by the Defendannt

1. Enacted 1285 that armed guard was to be kept by any six or four men of the vill to keep the peace.

therof made one Thomas Yate of Highworth Bailyff of the towne of Highworth John Avenell and John Blagrove Constables of the towne of Highworth in the houre of nyne of the clok in the nyght of the same day after a proclomacion made at the crosse after the manner of the countrey caused Thomas Cocke John Godard Robert Wever John Cull & others to the nombre of viij or ix persons to be charged to watche in the towne of Highworth. Wherupon the Watche men knowing the myschevous & furious mynde & demeanor of Assheton aswell in the said matier as in other matiers did by the assent & consent of the Constables take suche weapons & parte of them suche harnes as they had in their keping for the preservacon of their bodies & to thentent to kepe the kinges peace the same nyght & in suche manner kept the watche until the sonne rising of the next day following after the manner of the Countrey there used as well & lawfull was for them to doo and according to the statute of Wynchester theryn provided. And in like manner one William Avenell tythingman of the towne of Sevenhampton charged Henry Sparrowe John Kolley Robert Russheton . . . Symon Mathew & others to the nombre in all of ten persons to watche in the towne of Sevenhampton. Wherupon the watchemen knowing the myschevous & furious mynde & demeanour of Assheton aswell in the said matier as in other matiers did by thassent & consent of the tything men take suche weapons & parte of them toke suche harnes as they had in their kepyng for the preservacon of their bodies & to thentent to kepe the kinges peace the same nyght & in suche manner kept the watche until sonne rising of the next day following after the manner of the cuntrey ther used & according to the statute of Wynchester theryn provided as well & lawfull was for them to doo. And after John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate made sequestracon of the goodes & Catalles to the value of xl li or theraboutes of the testators & caused certen waynes & cartes to the nombre of xvj to be brought to the house of John Warneford at Sevenhampton & there caused the waynes & cartes to be laded with the goodes & catelles so sequestered to the value of xl li or thereaboutes whiche goodes & Catelles so by virtue of the Comyssion taken & caryed away they deteigne & kepe by virtue of the Comyssion to them directed as lawfull is for them to doo. And as to the fisshing in the pondes supposed in the bill the Defendant saith that for asmoche as the freholde & inheritance of the said fisshing was in John Warneford and John Cheyny & Thomas Yate in the right & title of John Warneford unknowing to the Defendant did peasibly fische the pondes not above the value of iijjd as lawfull was for them to doo. And after upon the informacon of all the premysses given unto one John Erneley Esquier & other Justices of the peace next thereunto adjaycent & to Sir Anthony Hungerford Shiref of the Countie of Wiltes & after request to them made that enquiry of the premysses within a month according to the statute & lawes of this Realme shuld be made John Erneley & other justices next adjaycent & the Shiref repaired & came together for the premysses at Highworth and there satt in sessions & upon good sufficient & substantial evidence in the premysses given unto the enquest then and there being sworne & indifferently elected empannelled & chosen unto whiche Jurye Assheton was suffred by the discrecion of the Justices of Peace to shewe & declare



all his title to the premysses & his demeanor concernyng the premysses Cristofer Assheton William Pygott Richard Lewendon & other mysdoers & brekers of the Kinges peace of their riottes and other Mysdeades were & be lawfully endited with all the circumstances concernyng the same matiers. Withoute that William Bryll & other his cofcoffes made any astate or assurance of or in the landes tenementes or hereditamentes in Wescote named in the bill of compleynt to Thomas & Kateryn as in the bill is untruely alledged and withoute that William Brill & other his surmysed cofcoffes were so lawfully seased of the premysses in Escote in the parrishe of Swyndon in the Countie of Wiltes or in Shrevenham in the Countie of Berks wherby they had lawfull power to make any indefesible astate or assurance of & in the same premysses to Thomas & Kateryn or that William Bryll & other his surmysed cofcoffes did ever make any suche estate of the premysses or of eny parcell therof unto the said Thomas Warneford & Kateryn in eny suche maner & forme as by the bill is also untruely alledged. And withoute that John Warneford bearith any grudge or evill will ayenst his mother or that he ever intended to use any craft or subtiltie with his mother in maner and forme as by the bill sclanderously maliciously untruely ys feyned & surmysed by Cristofer Assheton or that John did ever meane that Samborne shuld confesse the accion of John Warneford or named Samborne in the writte for any other cause than John Warneford in this his answer hath before declared in maner & forme as in the bill is sclanderously alledged or that the Defendant is guilty of any riot rowt unlawfull assemblie force armes or other mysdemeanors supposed to be done the xxvijth Day of May last past or at eny other daye or tyme as by the bill is untruely surmytted and withoute that John Warneford did at eny tyme manasse or threaten his mother to leve her not worthe a penny in goodes or landes or that the same John maliciously did at eny tyme during his life think purpose or intend to beate his mother or ever leide any violent handes upon his mother at eny tyme during his life or that John at eny tyme did speke or say unto his mother any suche vile shamefull & abomynable wordes in maner & forme as is spitefully & untruely alledged in the bill and without that the Defendant ever intended the utter undoing of the compleynentes or that the Defendant made eny false or untrue surmyses unto Doctor Peter or that the testator died intestate or that John Cheyny & Thomas Yate be persons of any suche light behaveour in maner & forme as it is untruely alledged in the bill and withoute that John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate or any of them assembled unlawfully any nombre of the Kinges subiectes at Highworth in the Countie of Wiltes or that eny suche open proclomaicon was made by them or any other of their procurementes or to their knowledge in the towne of Highworth other wise then by the Constable above said for the keping of the watche of the towne in suche forme as is before confessed and withoute that there was any other number of persons then & there assembled then is before declared & justified withoute that there was above the nombre of xix persons in bothe of the townes in the night there assembled or that assemblie of them or any of them was had but onely for the watche or that the persons were assembled to any other purpose or intent then for thexecuting of the Kinges lawes & for the good indifferent keping of the Kinges peace or that the said persons had eny gonnnes

ordynanncce & other weapons invasive as it is untruely alledged in the bill & withoute that John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate repaired or came to any house of the compleyntes in Sevenhampton & at eny suche house of the Compleyntes caused cartes or waynes to be laden with eny apparell of Kateryn mother to the Defendant other then is before confessed & expressed in the Inventory therof made or that the goodes were of the value of cccc markes and withoute that they or any of them did torne & lett oute all the water of the pondes & destroyed the frye & yong fische of the same withoute that there was founde in the house xl li of redy money or eny peny therof in maner & forme as in the bill is untruely alledged & withoute that John Warneford or any other of his procurement or comandment did violently forcibly or riottously breke the walles wyndowes or doores of the same house or did eny other thing contrary to the Kinges Peace & withoute that eny other thing menconed or alledged in the bill materiall to be answered unto & not before in this answer confessed & avoided or traversed is true. All whiche the Defendant is redy to averre as this honorable courte will awarde & praieth to be dysmysed with his reasonable costes by hym wrongfully susteyned in this behalfe.

*c) Answer of Thomas Yate of Hyworth, Henry Russheton, John Rycherdes, William Russheton, Walter Wyte, William Avenell, John Colley, Thomas Cockes, Henry Sparrow, John Alye, Robert Smyth, Christopher Tayler, John Avenell, Paul Yate, and Thomas Pakker to Bill of Christopher and Katherine Assheton*

The deffendants sayen that the bill of Complaynnt ys untrew ymagynynd and faynynd untrewly by Assheton to the entent to defame the defendants and to put the defendants to grett cost charge & Expenses. And further as to any Ryot Rowt onlawful assemble force or eny other thyng contrary to the peace of our soverayne lord the King by them or any of them comyttyd or done they say that they be nott therof gylltye. And further for declaracon of the trewth and for plee they saye that the King our soverayne lord dyirected his gracyus comyssion yeven under his seale of Supremyte the xxiiij day of maye yn the xxxj yeare of his most gracious reygne unto his trew and faythfull subiectes John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate of Hannoy gent by which Commysson ower sovereyn lord amongst other things dyd geve powre and aucthoryte to John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate to sequestre axe levy and gather togyther all the goodes and dettes which eny maner of means wer . . . Thomas Warneford while he lyvyd at Sevenhampton yn the county of Wyltshere and the same safely and surely to kepe in sequestracon and by his graces aucthoryte to sell the goodes which shuld peryshe as yn the Comyssion and lettres *collygend* more at large conteynyd. By force of which comyssion to them dyrectyd John Cheyny John Warneford and Thomas Yate in the xxixth day of maye last past at abowt the howr of iij of the cloke att afternone yn the same day reparyd and cam to Sevenhampton and ther yn the churche fownd dyverse persons beyng in gods peace and the Kynges and ther they requyrd and prayd all the sayd persons that as

Anthony Hungerford Sheryff of the countye of Wylshere of the ryott & mysbehavior had & done by Cristofer Assheton & other ryotus persons & after requeste to them made thatt they shuld enquier of the premysses wyth yn a month accordyng to the statute and cause of the same John Ernley & other the Justices next adionyng and the Shyryffe repayrid and came to gether for the premysses at Hyghworth & ther satte in cessions. And upon suffycent and substancyall evydens yn the premysses geven unto the enquest then and ther beyng sworne indyfferently elect and empanellyd and chosen unto which Jury Assheton was sufferyd by the dyscreon of the Justices of peace to shew and declare all his tytle to the premysses and his demanore concernyng the premysses the sayd Cristofer Assheton William Pygott Rycherd Lewendon and other mysdoers & brekers of the kynges peace were and be of ther ryottes & ther mysdedes lawfully endyted. And further by the good discreon of the Justices the circumstances concernyng the same matter be all enquiryd & presentyd. Wyth out thatt the defendants ryotusly repayryd or came to any howse of the complanantes in Sevenhampton or then & ther brake the walles wyndows or dores of the howse or upon William Pygott & Rycherd Lewendon servanntes to the complaynantes dyd make assaut or that dyd bete wound or ill entret or put in jeopardy of ther lyffe. And withoute that any thyng materyall conteynyd in the bill not traversyd or confessed & avoyded sufficiently is trew. All which matters the defendants are redy to aver.

d) *Answer of John Cheyny, Thomas Yate, and Thomas Sympson to Bill of Christopher and Katherine Assheton*

The seide John Cheyny Thomas Yate & Thomas Sympson by atestacyon doe saye the seide byll of complaynte is untrewly & sclanderusly feynyde & Imagynyd by Cristofer Assheton to the intente to troble vexe & disquiet the defendants & to put the defendants & other the kynges trewe subiectes namyde in the bill to greate costes & charges [about twelve words are illegible here] that the kyng owr soveraigne lorde directed his gracios comyssion yeven under his sealle of Supremyte beryng date the xxiiijth day of may in the xxxj yere of his most gracios reigne unto the Defendants & to one John Warneford the which comyssion of owr soveraigne lorde the kyng conteynid this effecte that where as his welbelovyde chancelor Thomas Crumwell knyghte of the order of the garter lorde Crumwelle keper of his gracys privy sealle vyce gerente to his grace for & concernyng all his Jurisdyctyone ecclesiastical wythyn the realme by his graces aucthoryte as supreme hedd of the churche of Englande by William Peter doctor of the lawe comyssary in that behalf sufficyantly & lawfully deputed dydd comytte the power & aucthoryte to John Cheyny Warneford & Yate to sequester & gather together all the goodes rightes & dettes wich by eny maner of meanse were Thomas Warnefordes wyle he lyvyde of Sevenhampton & to make a trewe & fulle inventory of all & singular the goodes ryghtes & dettes & to exybyte the inventory before his chancellor or his comyssarye in that behalf the seconde day of the ffeaste of Seynte ffaythe the vyrgen the next

ensuyng & to make a trewe & playne accompte or rekyning of the same. Ower soveraygn lorde dydd ratyffy & conferme the comyssion to them as before is seide in his graces auctoryte made and by tenor of his graces comyssione dyde gyve power & authority to John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate to publyshe the sequestracyone so as before is seide in his aucthoryte in all places where the goodes were presente at all tyme & to all persons as they shulde thynke best & to axxe levy & gather together the goodes & dettes of the testator & the same saffely and suerly to kepe in sequestracyone & by his graces aucthoryte to selle the goodes wiche shulde peryshe as in the comyssione & letters *ad colligend* more at large is containyd. By force of wiche comyssion to them directyde John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate the xxix day of may last past aboute the hower of iij of the cloke at after none repayryde & came to Sevenhampton & ther in the Churche ffounde dyvers honest persons the kynges trewe & faythfulle subiectes beyng in godes peace & the kynges & ther they requyrde & prayde the seide honest persons that as many of them as wolde take any paynes to see the indifferent orderyng of the sequestracyon & vew of the goodes shulde heyer the comyssion rede & bare wytnes indyfferently of the sequestracone & to see what goodes & cattelles they ffounde in or apone the howse landes tenementes & other the premysses & that some of them wolde prayse & value the goodes indyfferently accordyng to the trewe value of the same goodes & cattelles. After wiche requestes & desyres to them made some of them declaryde for a trewthe unto John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate that they had trewe & perfytte knowledge that the saide Christofer hadde byne ther the same day before ther cumyng & that Christofer & xj other persons by hym unlawfully assemblyde knowyng of the comyssone & letters *ad colligend* & that they the comyssioners were cumyng to execute the sequestracone ryottusly hadde takyn & sette frome Sevenhampton xxx greate oxen ffyfty kyne & above ffifty bullockes vij hundrythe of shepe & ccx lanbes & dyvers other goodes & catelles of the testator to the value of iijc markes and above & that Christofer in the same day unlawfully ryotusly assemblyde xvj other ryotusse persons at a place callyd More in the Cowntie of Berkes to mayntene assyste & defende the unlawfull & ryotusse purpose & quarelle & to have assistide Cristofer & other ryotusse persons yff soe be they hadde mette wythe the defendantes. Where apone the defendants knowyng the subtylle wytte of Christofer Assheton & dowtyng leste he wolde laye to ther charge many thynges wich they never sawe & fownde desyride the same honest persons that as many of them as wolde goe to the howse shulde goo thether & shulde use them selff in peasable & lawfull manner & that they shuld indyfferently see what goodes was lefte in the howse notte spoylyd wastyde nor takyne a way. Whereapone John Cheyny John Warneford & Thomas Yate & other the kynges lovyng subiectes to the number of xx or ther abowte namyde in the bill of complaynte in godes peace & the kynges in lawfull peasable maner came to the howse of John Warneford at Sevenhampton in the whiche howse landes & tenementes & other the premysses dyvers goodes & cattelles of the testatore to the valwe of forty poundes or ther abowte as they suppose at the tyme of his dethe were remaynyng & being then & there came to the howse & ther in presens of all the

same persons Thomas Yate declaryd & publyshyde to Richarde Lewendone [and] William Pygote namyde in the bill of complayne & servanntes of Christofer Assheton all the holle contentes of the Comyssone & every worde of the same requyryng them in the behalff of ower soveraigne lorde the kyng by all the meanes & wayes that they myte possible that they shulde obey the comyssyon & aucthorete to them comyttide & that they shuld suffer John Cheyney John Warneforde & Thomas Yate to make a trewe & Perfytte inventory accordyng to the comyssone. And after Richard Luendon & William Pygote nothyng estemyng nor regarding the kinges heyghnes nor his comyssione dyde make assaute upon John Cheyney Thomas Yate & Thomas Sympson & other the kynges trewe subiectes there & then beyng & them dyde bete wounde & ill entreate so that if Richerd Lewendone & William Pygot had any hurte then & ther hadde it was of ther own assaute & in defense of John Cheyney & other the kynges trewe subiectes thene & ther lawfully beyng for the entent before specyffiede. And the defendants sayth that Richerd Lewendone & William Pygotte incontynently dyde comannde one Nycholas Hutte that the said Nicholas in all hast possyble shulde ryde to ffyilde yn the Cowntie of Berkes wher the complaynantes do inhabyte & ther requyer Christofer ther master to cum to Sevenhampton & ther to resyste the comissione & to revenge the quarrelle. And after abowte the hower of vj of the clocke in the evenyng of the said day ther was tydynges & worde browghte unto John Cheyney & Thomas Yate & others then & ther beyng contynually busydde & occupyede abowte the making of the inventory & beyng in godes peace & the kynges that Assheton was cumyng to the howse wyth ffortye persons arreyed & apparylede in maner of warre to the entent to have slayne and murtheryde John Cheyney & Thomas Yate & by cause that the peace of ower soveraign lorde the kyng shulde be the more suerly holy & entierly kepte & conservyde betwene the parties indyfferently the defendants requyrd the baylyff constables & tythingmen of the towne & burrowghe of Heyworth & of the towne of Sevenhampton that they the nyghte next ensuyng wolde the more dyligently see the watche kepte accordyng to the statute of Wyntchester therof made & provyded after wiche requeste by the defendants therof made one Thomas Yate of Heyghworthe baylyff of the towne of Hyghworthe John Avenelle & John Blagrove constables of the towne of Heyghworthe abowte the hower of ix of the clocke yn the nyghte of the same day after the proclomasyon made at the Crosse for dewe & convenient watche to be kepte after the manner of the Contrey causyde Thomas Cokkes John Godderde Rober Wever John Colly & others to the number in all of viij or ix persons to be chargyde to watche in the towne of Heyghworth. Wherepone the watchmen knowyng the lighte & accustomed ryotusse behavyer of Assheton as well in the seid matter as in other matters dyde by the assente & consente of the constabulles take such weapons & parte of them take such harnes as they hadde in ther kepyng for the preservacon of ther bodies to the entente to kepe the kynges peace the same nyghte & in suche maner kepte the watche untill sonne rysyng of the nexte day ffollowyng after the manner of the contrey ther usyde as well & lawfull was for them to do & in lyke manor one William Avenell tythyngeman at the towne of Sevenhampton chargide

Henry Sparrow John Colly Robert Rushton & Symon Mathewe & others to the number in all of vij or viij persons to watch in the towne of Sevenhampton. Ther upon the watchmen lykwyse knowyng the rashe & furyus mynde & demenor of Assheton aswell in the seid matter as in many other matters by the assente & consent of the tythyngmene toke such weapons & parte of them toke such harnes as they hadde in ther keypyng for the preservacon of ther bodies & to the entente to kepe the kynges peace the same nyghte & in such manor kepte the watche untill sonne rysing of the nexte day following after the mannor of the Contrey ther usyd & accordyng to the statute of Wynchester ther yn provydyde as well & lawfull was for them to do. And after John Cheyney John Warneforde & Thomas Yate made sequestracon of the goodes & cattelles to the valwe of xl li or ther abowte of the testatores & cawsid certen cartes & waynes to the number of xvj to be browghte to the howse of John Warneforde at Sevenhampton & ther cawsid the cartes & waynes to be ladide with the goodes & cattelles so sequestryde to the valwe of xl li or ther abowte wiche goodes & cattelles soo by vertue of the Comyssyon takyn & carreide away they deteyne & kepe by vertue of the Comysson to them dyrectyde as lawfull was for them to do. And as to the ffysshing the pondes supposid in the bill the defendants saythe that for as myche as the ffreholde & inherytance of the ffysshing was in John Warneforde the seid John Cheyney & Thomas Yate in the reight & tytyle of John Warneforde unknowyng to John Warneforde dyde peasable ffyshe the pondes & toke one carpe and one yelle & certen yong Roches notte beyng above the value of iij or iiijd as lawfull was for them to do. And after upon informasyon of all the premysses gyven unto one John Erneley esquire & other Justices of the peace nexte therto adioynyng & to Sir Anthony Hungerford Sheryff of the Countie of Wiltes & after requeste to them made that inqyre of the premisses wythyn a month according to the statutes & lawes of the realme shulde be made John Erneley & other Justyces nexte adyoyned repayryd & cam to gether for the premisses at Heyghworth & ther satte in Cessyons & upon good & suffycente & substancyall evydence in the premisses gyven unto the inqueste ther & then beyng sworne & indifferently elected inpanelid & chosyn unto the wich Jury Assheton was sufferyde by the disscressyone of the Justyces of peace to shew & declare all his tytyle to the premisses & his demeanor concernyng the premysses Christofer Asshton Richard Lowendon & William Pygotte and other myssedoers & brekerse of the kynges peace of the Ryottes & other mysse dedes were & be lawfully indyde & ffurther by the good dyscressyone of the Justyces all the circymstances concernyng the same matter be ffully enquyrid & ffownde. Wythout that Cheyney & Yate be persons of such light behavyer as in the bill hyt is untrewly & slanderussly & craftely allegid or that Cheyney Warneforde & Yate assemblyde any greate number of the kynges subiectes at Heyghworthe in the Cowntie of Wiltes or that any such open procloniacon was made by ther procuremente or to theyre knowl-edge in the towne of Heyghworthe other then for the keypyng of the lawfull watch in the towne of Heyghworth in suche forme as before ys confessid as is also untrewly allegid in the bill. And withoute that ther was eny other number of persons then & ther assemblyde then is before declaryd & confyssid & wythout that

the seid persons were assemblyd to eny purpose or entente then for executing the kynges lawse & for the good indyfferente keypyng of the kynges peace of that the seid persons or any of them hadde eny gunnes or ordynance or other weapons invasyve as is also in the bill untrewly allegid. And withoute that the defendants repared or cam to any howse of the compleynantes in Sevenhampton & at eny such howse cawsid eny cartes or waynes to be ladyde wythe eny of the apparell of Katheryn mother to John Warneford other then is before confessid & expresid in the inventory herof made or that the goodes were of the valewe of cccc markes or they or eny of them dyde turme & lette out the water of the pondes & [*The last four lines of the document are largely illegible.*]

e) *Answer of Simon Yate to Bill of Christopher and Katherine Assheton*

Symon Yate by protestation sayth that the byll of complayntt ys ymagynyd and faynyd untruely by Cristofer Assheton to the entent to dysquyett vexxe and troble the deffendant. And for plee he sayth that as to any ryott rowtt or onlawfull assemble force or any other thyng contrary to the kinges peace by him comytted and done he sayth he ys therof not gyltye. And ferther for plee and declaracon of the trewth he sayeth that wheras the king owr soveraign lord dyirected his Comysson yeven under his seale of supremacye the xxiiijth day of may yn the xxxj yere of his most gracious Reyne unto his subiectes John Cheyney John Warneford and Thomas Yate by whiche comysson owr soverayne lord reciting that wher his welbelovyd councelor Thomas Crumwell of the order of the garter knyghte lord Crumwell keper of his graces prevey seale and Vice-gerentt of his grace for and concernyng all his Jurisdiccon Ecclesiastycall wythyn the realme of his graces Authoryte as supreme hed of the church of England by Wyllm Peter Doctor of the law his comyssary yn that behalff suffycently and lawfully deputyd dyd comytt power & authoryte to John Cheyney John Warneford and Thomas Yate to sequester & gather together all the goodes & dettes of the testator and to make a trewe & full inventory of all and singular the sayd goodes & dettes & to exhybyte the inventory before the sayd cowncelor or his comyssary yn that behalff the secon day after the feast of seynt feyth the virgyn next ensuyng & to make a trewe and a playne accompt or reconyng of the same and dyd rettyfye & confyrme the Comysson to them as before ys sayd yn his graces aucthoryte made and by tenor of the Comysson dyd geve power and aucthoryte to John Cheyney John Warneford and Thomas Yate to publyshe the sequestracon so as before is sayd in his Auctoryte in all places wher the goodes wer presentt at all tyme & to all persons as they shuld thynke best. And to axxe levy and gather together the goodes & dettes of the Testator and the same safely and surely to kepe yn sequestracon & by his graces aucthoryte to sell the goodes which shold perish as yn the Comysson & letters *ad colligend* more at large yt ys conteynyed. By force of which comysson to them dyirected John Cheyney John Warneford and Thomas Yate repayred and came to Sevenhampton namyd in the byll of complayntt yn the xxix day of maye last past ther to doo and execute the contentes &

effectes of the comysson. And after John Cheyney John Warneford & Thomas Yate requyred & prayd the deffendant in the day next ensuyng to go to the howse of one John Warneford at Sevenhampton in the whiche howse dyvers goodes & cattelles which weer the Testatores were conteynyd & that he wold wytnes what they ther fownd yn the howse & to help to make the inventory & to be one of the prayers of the stuff indyfferently by force wherof the Deffendant in the xxxth day of Maye last past repayrd & came yn lawfull & peasible maner unto the howse at Sevenhampton & then & ther sawe the indyfferent makyng of the inventory & valuyng or praysyng of the goodes as lawfull was for hym to doo. Wythoutt that the deffendant ryottusly repayred or came to any howse att Sevenhampton and ther brake the walles wendowes or doores of the howse or upon William Pygott & Rychard Lewendon servantes of the complaynanntes dyd make assawtt or them dyd bett wondyd or ill entrete or put yn yepody of ther lyves or that Symon was arrayed yn harness or that Symon had any other wepon defensible or invasive other then he commonly used to were yn maner & forme as ys untrewly alledged yn the bill. And withoute that ther was fownd xl li of redy money or any other some of money to the knowledge of Symon in the howse. And without that any other thynges materiall conteynd yn the byll not traversed or confessed and suffyciently avoydyd ys trew. All which matter the deffendant ys redy to answer as this honorable court shall award and prayeth to be dysmissed forth of the same wyth his reasonable costes yn this behalff.



## 2. Thomas Essex v. John Warneford (P.R.O., STAC 2/14/148)

### a) *Bill of Complaint of Thomas Essex*

To the Kyng our sovereigne lord

In most humble wise shewith & complaynyth unto your moste excellent highnes your true & faithfull subiect & daylly orator Thomas Essex esquire that where withyn the parisshe of Sennington in ye County of Wiltshire there is a water callyd Swannesnest which is & tyme out of mynde hath ben a comon water for all the Inhabytantes & tenantes of the parisshe to fysshe in & take fyshe there by them selfe ther servantes & ther assignes at ther pleasure, your oratour the xxvijth day of february in the xxxvjth yere of your majesties reigne beyng in godes peace & yours at Sennington in peasable maner by the lycence & assent of dyvers of the tenantes & Inhabytantes & of such as had auctoryte to fysshe in the seid water dyd fysshe in the same water to thentent for to take the same fysshe for Sir William Essex knight his father being then sicke as he might lawfully doo. Then & there cam unto your oratour beyng fysshing in godes peace & yours peasably in the seid water with his fathers herde & one of his owne servantes one John Warneford gent Thomas Bristowe Rauff Cawle Thomas Pakker John Richardes Henry ... Christofer ffysshher Thomas Richardes William Willyer Jefferey Hylton & Richard Westemorland & dyvers other riottous & mysruled persons unto your oratour unknowen to the nombre of eightene persons & above riottously & with force & armes that is to wytt swerdes buckelers billes staves & other defensyve & invasyve wepons & in maner of warre arraied by the abettement & procurement of the seid Warneford then & there riottously & with force & armys made assaulte & affraye upon your oratour & with greate force strength & violence stroke & cast hym downe to the grounde & then & there did not only pulle & drawe hym with greate crueltye by the space of one quarter of a myle but also dyd stryke beate & hurte hym cryeng & seyng that they wold in such unlawfull maner carry hym to pryson & so they then had don if they had not ben otherwise lawfully exorted & lettyd by reason of which unlawfull riotous & violent usyng of your oratour the same was then & there putt in greate feare & Jeopardie of his lyfe which was not only to his greate hurte & trouble but also an evell example to all such lyke offnders if that condigne punnysshment & redy remedye theryn be not by your highnes & your most honorable counsell shortly provyded & had in this behalfe. In consideracon wherof it may please your highnes the premysses tendrely considered to grant unto your oratour your most gracious severall wryttes of Subpena to be directed unto John Warneforde Thomas Bristowe & all the seid riottous & mysruled

persons Comandyng them & every one of them by the same personally to appere before your highnes & most your most honorable Counsell in your . . . Chambers at Westminster at a certen day & apou the paynes by your highnes to be lymyted then & there to make answer to the premysses & further to stand to such order & dyrecton concernyng the premysses as by your highnes & your Counsell shalbe theryn taken & made, And your oratour shall dayly pray to Jhesus for your most roiall estate longe in helthe to conynue,

b) *Answer of John Warneford to the Bill of Thomas Essex*

The Deffendant saithe that the bill of compleynt is uncerten and insufficient in the lawe to be answered unto and the substance and effect of the matier theryn conteyned is feyned and Imagyned onely of malice to thentent to color therby the propre ryott and mysdemecanor of the compleynante and other his adherentes. Nevertheles the Deffendantt for further declaracon of the truthe and for answer saithe that as to any Ryott Rowte unlawfull assenible or anny mysdemecanor of the Deffendantt or any other by his procurement or consent the Deffendantt is not therof gilte ffor the Deffendantt saithe that the said River and fisshing is the severall piscary and fisshing of this Deffendantt and is within a village or Towneship called Sevenhampton within the Countie of Wiltshire and that the freeholde and Inheritance aswell of the fisshing and Ryver as of the Soyle and grounde annexed unto bothe sides of the River or Water called Swannesnest is and at the tyme of the trespas supposed was and of every right ought to be to Warneford. And the Compleynente in wilfull and Riottous manner as he often tymes before that tyme unlawfully hath practised and done about the xxvijth of ffebruary last past Repaired unto the River and fisshing being accompanied with Humfrey Hashold Richard Povy Thomas Lyones [blank] Collesbourne [blank] Bartlett and Roger [blank] and others to the nombre in all of vi or vii persons. And the Compleynt and other his adherentes having upon every of them weapons purposely brought by them to maynteyn their wrongfull quarrell and entent thenne and there did fische or drawe the water of the said Warneford. And forasmoche as Warneford was thenne and there present and perceived by that the Compleynente and his adherentes had weapons aboute them that if the Defendannt had thenne come to have denyed the compleynente in the fisshing or that the defendannt had at that tyme demanded his very right the likelyhood was that the Compleynt and his adherentes wolde have fought with the Deffendantt and put him in ieopdy of his life or have dryven him to som other Inconvenience. And therefore exchewing of suche Inconvenience dangier or myschief the Defendannt thought it meate to send for Pakker whiche thenne was the tything man of Sevenhampton and for the other honest persons named in the bill of Compleynte To thentent they shulde here and see what shulde happen to be done and that they myght be true and indifferent witnesses to any deade or worde whiche shulde happen to rise betwene the Compleynente and the Deffendantte. And therupon the tithing man and others named in the bill of

Compleynte came unto the place as lawfull was for them to doo. And after the Deffendannte beganne to reason withe the Compleyent Wherefore he having moche more possessions thenne this Deffendannte and being not his frende so temariously entreprise to doo hym suche wrong. Wheruppon the compleyent after a certen accustomed light and unadvised disposicon of his owne Did make assaulte upon the Deffendannt and did offer to drawe his woodeknyfe<sup>1</sup> and to fight with the Deffendannt. And forasmoch as the Deffendannte is one of the Justices and in the comysson for keping of the peace of our soveraigne lord the king within the Countie of Wiltshire where the trespasse is alledged to be done and mynded in no wise to breke the same peace And for that the Compleyente was so wilfully disposed the Deffendannt did arreste and and comannde the Compleyente to fynde sureties to be bounde to kepe the peace ayenst the Deffendannt and all the kinges liege people. And notwithstanding diverse Requestes for the suretie of the peace to be founde and notwithstanding diverse admonyshmentes given by the Deffendannt unto the Compleyente of sundry folyes by him comytted the Compleyent not only refused to fynde suche suretie but eftsones made a new assawte upon the Deffendannt and offered to draw his woodknyfe and to fyght. And after that for as moche as the Deffendannt sawe none other good hope of reconsiliacion reformacon or discrecon in the Compleyente and for that the Compleyente would not be iustified the Deffendant mynded and saide that he wold sett the Compleyente in prisonne untill he wolde otherwise advise and reconcile hym self. And therupon the Deffendannt after the arrest did peasibly comytt the compleyente unto the custody of two of those honest persons whiche were thenne and there present as lawfull was for hym to doo. And after the arrest made the Deffendannte willed the Compleyente to be content to goe in peasible manner to a place convenient where a Recognisance for the keping of the peace myght be accordingly made and knowledged whiche to doo the Compleyente utterly refused and to his power did still resiste. And thenne the twoo honest persons did leade the Compleyent towards the place where the Recognisance shulde have ben made by the space thereby of one furlong when the Deffendannt by other lawfull meanes and weys of communycacon did eftsones perswade the Compleyente to be ruled and governed by reason. And after sundrie communycacons the compleyente at the last was moche more soberer and better reconciled thenne at the first. And therfor the deffendannt partely by sundry entreatise and partely in hope that with suche gentle usage the Compleyente wolde be better reformed in his demeanour in tyme comyng suffred the compleyente to be at large and did Release unto hym the suretie of the peace demanded whiche gentlenes shewed by this deffendannt the Compleyente at that tyme toke so thankfully that in token of veray frendship betwixt them the compleyente gladly toke the Deffendannte by the hande and so every of the parties departed in goddess peace and the kinges. Withoute that there is anny parisshe within the Countie of Wiltshire called Senyngton<sup>2</sup> or that the River

1. A dagger or short sword used by huntsmen for cutting up the game, or generally used as a weapon. *O.E.D.*

2. Sevenhampton is in the parish of Highworth.

called Swannesnest is or tyme out of mynde hath ben a comon Water for anny suche inhabitantes or tenantes to fische there by them self their servanntes or their assignes at their pleasure or that the Complaynente at the tyme of the fissing supposed to be done had anny grannte or assent of anny suche tenantes inhabitantes or anny other person whiche had anny lawfull Authoritie to fische in the water or that the Complaynente myght lawfully fische in the Ryver or that the Deffendannte came to the compleynente with anny Riottous or mysruled person or persons or that there was anny suche nombre of xvij persons in manner and forme as in the bill is untrewly surmysed. And withoute that they or any of them were arrayed in manner and forme of warre or that anny of them with force or armes did make any other affraye or assaulte upon the Complaynente thenne lawfull was for hym to do or with anny force strength or violence did strike or caste the Complaynente downe to the grounde or thenne and there did pull and draw hym with anny cruellty or hym did strike beate or hurte or that the Defendannte or anny of them did crye or that anny of them did saye or meane that they wolde in anny unlawfull manner carry the compleynente to prison or that the Defendannt ment or intended to enprison the Complaynente otherwise thenne for his iuste demerites or that they were in anny wise letted to carry the Complaynente to prison otherwise thenne is above declared or that the Complaynente was in fear or jeopardy of his life. And withoute that any other thing conteyned in the bill is materiall to be answered unto and not before in this answer confessed and avoided or traversed is true. All whiche matiers the Defendannt is redy to prove and aver as this honorable courte will awarde and praith to be dysmysed oute of the same with his reasonable costes for his wrongfull sute and troubling in this behalf susteyned.

*c) Replication of Thomas Essex to the Answer of John Warneford*

The scyd Thomas seyethe this his byll of compleynt ys certain and suffycient yn the law to be answered unto comprysing true matter and averethe every thyng yn his byll to be true And that the answer of Warneford is feyned and untruly demysed craftely to color the greate Ryott and outrages of Warneford and other deffendants named yn the bill of compleynt. And for further Replycacon to the Answer Thomas saythe that the water or ryver called Swannesnest ys and tyme out of mynde hath byn a comen water for all thenhabytantes and tenantes of the towneshyp or village of Sevyngton and for all the habytantes and tenantes of the towneshyp or village of Shrevenham and West myll yn the paryshe of Shrevenham to ffyshe yn and to take ffyshe there by them selffes there servanntes or assygnes at there plesure by reason whereof Thomas by licence and assent of dyvers of the Inhabytantes wythyn the towneshyp of Shrevenham and the ferm of West myll the day and yeare expressed yn the byll of compleynt yn reasonable and quyet maner havyng but ij persons wyth hem dyd ffyshe the seid water as lawfull was for them to do. And Warneford having knowledge before that Thomas Essex wold come to ffyshe there of hys malyscious mynde myndyng to pyke a quarell to Thomas

and to breake the kynges peace unlawfully assembled hem selffe Thomas Brystow and Raffe Caule under a bushe nere the water lyeing Yn a weyt there for the comyng of Thomas, Warneford Thomas Brystow and Raffe Caule havynge every of them about them a sworde and bukler and when Warneford percevyng Thomas Essex to be come to the warter accompanied with ij persons sent ymmedyatly Raffe Caule to the towneshyp or vyllage of Senyngton to feche more company to assyste Warneford yn hys malyscious pretence whyche Raffe Caule by the commandem [sic] and procurement of Warneford repered to the vyllage and there unlawfully and ryottously assembled the persons named yn the byll of compleynt and others to your oratour unknowen to the number of xvij beyng fforceably Arreyed yn suche manner and forme as yn the byll of compleynt ys alleged and so Arreyed brought them to Warneford. And thereupon accompanied with hys unlaefull complices and Adherentes then and there fforceably and Ryottously made Assaute Apon Thomas and by many vyle and opprobryus wordes provoked hym to anger as callyng hem woodcoke capon Idcott and suche other reprochefull language. And yet not therewith contented Warneford wyth fforce streyngh and vyolens stroke and caste downe to the grounde the compleynt and caused Raffe Cawle and one Richardes and other of the mysruled and Ryottos persons forceably to take the compleynt by the Armes and wyth fforce and vyolence pulled and drewe hem as he hade ben A theff or some other outragius offender by the space of one quarter of A myle seyng that they wolde lede hem to pryson to hys greate ffeare and Jeopdye of hys lyffe and dyd and comytted suche other offences and Iniuries as yn hys byll of compleynt ys Alledged. Wythout that the Ryver and ffyshing ys the severall piscarye and ffysshynge of Warneford or that the ffryholde and ynherytance of the Ryver and ffysshynge called Swannesnest and the soyle and grounde annexed unto both sydes of the Ryver ys or at the tyme of the Ryott comytted was or of Ryght owght to be to Warneford to the knowledge of the Deffendant or that the compleynt yn wylfull and Ryottos maner the sayd xxvijth of ffebruary or at any tyme before Repeyred to the Ryver or ffysshing or that the compleynt or Any of hys company brought wyth them Any wepons of purpose to meynteyn any unlawfull quarell or that Warneford dyd send for Pakker and other hys adherentes named in the byll of compleynt for any suche purpose as ys expressed yn the Answer or that Warneford dyd reason wythe the compleynt or used any suche sober wordes unto hem as yn hys Answer ys alleged or that the compleynt dyd make assaut upon the Deffendant or that he ys or ever was of any suche lyght or unadvysed Dysposycyon as yn the Answer ys ffalcely and slawnderusly alleged or that the Deffendant had any cause or Just occacyon to arrest the compleynt for any breche of the kynges peace that was lyke to be done or comytted of hys parte beyng wyth hem self and hys company but iij persons and Warneford beyng accompanied with xvij or that the compleynt refused to fynde surety to kepe the peace or that the Defendannt dyd peasably comytt hem to the custody of ij honest persons or that hyt was lawfull for the Defendannt havynge no occacyon to do. And wythout that any other thyng beyng materyall or effectuell yn the Answer alleged other then ys yn thys Replycacon sufficyently replied unto confessed and avoyded or traversed ys

truc. All whyche mater the playntyff ys redy to aver and prove and preythe as he yn hys byll hathe preyed.

d) *Rejoinder of John Warneford to the Replication of Thomas Essex*

The said Warneford saithe as he before in his Answer hath saide and avereyth all and every thing by hym alledged in the said Answer to be . . . and true. Withoute that the bill of compleynt is certen or sufficient in the lawe to be answered unto or that the bill of compleynt doth conteyne true matter. Or that the answer of Warneford is feyned or untruely devised craftely to color the great Ryott and outrage of Warneford and others named in the bill of Compleynt. And withoute that the water or river called Swannesnest is or any tyme oute of mynde hath ben the Comon water for all the inhabitantes and tenantes of the Towneship or village of Senington or of the inhabitantes and the tenantes of the Towneship or village of Shrevenham and West mylle in the parisshe of Shrevenham to fysshe in or to take fysshe there of them self there servantes or assignes at their pleasure. And withoute that it was lawfull unto the Compleynante or to anny of his servantes or complices by reason or colour of anny such licence or assent of any inhabitantes to fysshe the water. Or that Warneforde having knowledge before that Thomas Essex wolde come to fysshe there of his malicious mynde mynding to pike anny quarrell to Thomas or to breke the kinges peace unlawfully assembled hym self Thomas Bristowe and Rauf Cawley under a busshe near the water lying in awayte there for the comyng of Thomas. For the Defendannt saithe that he [*wolde?*] not lightly have thought . . . by sundry . . . that Thomas Essex had ben of so litle perseveraunce or discrecon to have practised to have done so manyfeste wrong and iniury to this deffendannt, or to have come to the water in such Riottous manner for anny suche purpose. And the Deffendannt further saithe that Bristowe the day and yere above said Repaired to Swannesnest for certen urgent and lawfull causes of the said Bristowes to the entent to have the advise and counsell of Warneford in his said lawfull causes. By reason wherof Bristowe accompanied with Warneford in comunyng and talkyng of the said matier and causes of the said Bristowes in Riding unto the place called Swannesnest with Warneford and with Colley thenne being servannte with Warneford. At whiche tyme and place Warneford and Bristowe (littell thinking Thomas Essex had ben so temarious) And riding and being in the open felde parcell of the propre landes tenementes and hereditamentes of Warneford dyd practise and devise together to make sondry lawful comodities pleasures and profites to the use of Warneford in and upon the landes tenementes and hereditamentes of Warneford as lawfull was for them to doo. And withoute that Warneford Bristowe and Colley had eny of them a Swerde & Buckler. And withoute that Warneford perceived that Thomas Essex was accompanied with so severall nombre as Two persons or that Warneford sente Colley or any other to fetch more company to assiste Warneford in any malicious pretence or that Colley by commandement or procurement of the Defendannt unlawfully and ryotously

assembled the saide persons named in the bille of complaynte or any other unknowen to the complaynannte or that they or any of them were forcibly arrayed in suche manner and forme as in the bill and Replicacon is falsely and untruely allegid or that Colley (the saide persons so beyng arrayed) brought them to Warneford or that Warneford being accompanied with any unlawfull complcyces or adherentes then and there forcybly and Riotiously dyd make assalte upon Thomas or by any untrewre or slaunderous vile or oprobrious wordes did provoke the complaynannte to anger in suche manner and forme as in the Replicacon is craftely allegid. Ffor the Defendannt saieyth that he repayed unto the Complaynante and his adherentes in lawfull quiet and peasible manner And then and ther did clayme and declare the very right and title of the Defendannte and his heirs in and to the fysshing and soyle called Swannesnest. And for asmoche as the Complaynannte was so obprobrius highe mynded obstynat and redy to wage Batayle and offer to fight with the Deffendant and did mysuse the Defendannte diverse and sondry other waies Warneford reproved Essex of his slite in suche manner of true lawfull and playne wordes as then did come to the mynde and knowledge of this Defendannte as lawfull was for him to doo. And withoute that Warneforde with force strength and violence did stryke or caste downe to the grounde the complaynannte. And withoute that the Defendannte caused Colley Richardes or any other mysruled or Royttus persons to take the complaynannte by the Armes or so with violens & force pulled and drew hym as the complaynannte had byn a thieff by the space of a quarter of a myle or that they or anny of them put the complaynannte in any feare or ioperdy of his life or did or comytted any other offences or Iniuries as in the bill and Replicacon is also untrewly alleged. And wythe that Warneford is redy to avere & prove that the River and ffishing is the severall piscary and ffishing of Warneford and that the ffrecholde and inheritance of the Ryver and ffishing called Swannesnest & of the soyle and ground annexed unto both sides of the Ryver is and at the tyme of the Trespas surmysed was and of very right ought to be unto Warneford. And withoute that the complaynannte or the inhabitanntes or any of them have used and accustomed or of right ought to fische in the River called Swannesnest otherwise or by any other right and tytyle then by the wyll the lycens assente permyssion or suffrans of Warneford and of his Ancestors or of those whose astate the Defendannt now hathe and at the tyme of trespas supposed then had. And also without that the Defendannt is redy to answer and prove that the complaynannte in wyfull and Ryottous manner the saide xxviiiij day of february and diverse and sundry other tymes before the xxviiiij day repared to the River and ffishing. And that the complaynannte and his Adherentes brought with them weapons of purpose to maynteyne ther unlawfull purpose. And that Warneforde did sende for Pakker and other namyd in the bille of complaynte for thonly entent and purpose expressed in the Answer. And that Warneford did reason with the complaynannte and used sobre and advised wordes unto hym as in the answer is allegid. And that the Complaynante did make assaulte upon the Defendannte and that the complaynannte is and of long tyme hathe byn of such unadvised disposicon whiche myght be right well amended as in the answer is also justly and truely alleged. And without that also the Deffendannte had just cause and

occasion to arrest the complaynannte for breache of the kinges peace whiche then was like to be done and . . . by the complaynannte and that the Complaynannte was accompanied upon both sides of the River with six persons at the least. And withoute that the deffendannte was accompanied by any other persons then be confessed in the Answer and the whiche now be and then were of lawful demeanour. And withoute that the Defendannte is [the next ten or so words are illegible] complaynannte refused to finde sueritie to keape the peace. And that the Defendannte did peasily arrest the complaynannte and [the next twelve or so words are illegible] Custody of two honest persons. And that it was lawfull for the Defendannte having good occasion so to doo. [The remaining two lines of the document are largely illegible.]

c) *Interrogatories administered on behalf of Thomas Essex*

- i Whether the defendannt John Warneford Thomas Bristowe Raffe Cawle and one other of them the xxvijth Day of ffebruary the xxvjth yeare of the Reyng of our sovereyng lord the kynges maiestye . . .<sup>1</sup> yn the paryche of Senyngton nexte unto the water here called Swainesnest lyeng yn a wayte for the pleyntyf or to what entent they had stode there. And howe long they stode there afore the . . . ffyshe the water.
- ij Item whether the Defendannt and Thomas Bristowe beyng with hym at the place aforeseyd . . . Whether the seyde Thomas hade his swerde and Bukler wyth hyn and what wepon the Defendant [had?]
- iiij Item whether the Deffendannte seyng the pleyntyff conie to ffyshe sent one Raffe cawle or one of [his adherentes to the] towne of Senyngton to ffiche more company or to what entent he sent hem ye or no.
- iiij Item whether the Deffendannte stode under the bushe and Thomas Brystowe wyth hym, the bothe g[oi]ng dyvers tymes to loke for the comyng of Raffe Cawle or suche other as he sent to the towne and for . . . he sholde bryng wyth hem to assaute the pleyntyff where he was ye or no.
- v Item whether Raffe Cawle or suche other person dyd bryng wyth hem to the Deffendannt Thomas Richerdes Crystofer ffysher Henry Reston Thomas Rycherdes Wyllly Jeffery Schylton and Rycherde [Westmerland] and dyverse othe unknowen to the number of xvij or to what othernumber ye or no.
- vj Item what company Thomas Essex brought wyth hem to the water syde and what wepons suche persons [brought].
- vij Item whether the Deffendannt after that company was come unto hem came to the water syde [where] Thomas Essex was and the number of xvij persons or there about Runnyng after hem ye or no.
- viiij Item whether the Deffendannt quarelled wyth Thomas and dyd caule hem ffoule woodcoke capon and suche other lycke approbryous wordes ye or no
- ix Item whether the Deffendannt dyd Arest the pleyntyff ye or no.
- x Item whether the Deffendannt caused Raffe Cawle to take the pleyntyff by

1. Throughout this document the ends of the lines are damaged.



- the one arme and the . . . to take hym by the other arme and soe to lede hym as Aprysoner ye or no.
- xj Item whether the Deffendannt came to the pleyntyff he beyng yn holde and warde seyng unto hem [*By the wyll*] of thy fathere I sett not Apoynt And for thy yll wyll I sett not A farte of myn arss ye or no suche . . . .
- xij Item whether the Deffendannt the pleyntyff beyng yn holde cam to hem wyth vyolens and th[*rew him to*] the grounde and fought wyth hym ye or no.
- xiiij Item whether the pleyntyffes wodknyff were taken a wey by the comanndement of the [*defendant*] ye or no & by whom hyt was taken.
- xiiij Item whether John Warneford Deffendannt at A Cessyons at Wallyngford the [*blank*] was Indyted and iiij or v wyth hym for makynge off An onlawfull Assembly at the seyde Water called swan[*nesnest*] at the time aforeseyd.
- xv Item whether thenhabytantes wythyn the towne and paryshe of Shrevenham and suche other as they have geven have used to ffyshe the sayd porcyon of water called Swannesnest tyme owt of mynde without Interrupcyon.
- xvj Item whether the seyde Thomas hade lycence to ffyshe there of John Rede one of thenhabytantes wythyn the p[*arische*] ye or no.

f) *Depositions of Witnesses*

*Deposition of Thomas Lyans*

Thomas Lyans servant to Thomas Essex Esquier of Shrevenham in the County of Berkes of thage of xx yeres sworne.

To the ffirst he sayeth that aboute the begynning of Lent last past this Deponent in wayting on his Master by the waters syde callyd Swannest sawe John Warneford and two persons with him walking up and downe behinde a busse therby and ther dyd so walke to this Deponents sighte almost halfe an howre before his Master dyd come to fyshe the water and saithe to his supposall that they walkyd ther to wayte for this dyponents Master when he shulde come to fyshe ther.

To the seconde he saithe that the Deffendant had at that tyme a skayne<sup>1</sup> and the persone namyd Thomas Bristowe had a swerde and buckeler.

To the iiijd iiijth & vth vj vij & viij he saithe that a none<sup>2</sup> after this Deponents Master was come to the water syde Warneforde sent one of his company awaye to the towne at Sevington and walkyd up and downe taryng his retorne who at his retorne broughte thither with him a great company of persons to the nomeber of xvij to this Deponent unknowen all wiche persones came wayting of Warneford downe to this Deponents Master being in fysshing and demandyd him yf he lackyd company to fyshe and so fell at altercation and the Deffendant callyd the plaintiff foole edyote and cokes combe and gave him many opprobriouse wordes. And saithe the plaintiff had no company with him but this deponent and one Collesborow his shepherd.

This Deponent having his dagger by his syde and his fysshing polle and the plaintiff had a woodknife.

1. A dagger.

2. i.e. anon – immediately, as soon as.

To the ixth & xth he saithe that then and ther upon multiplyeng of wordes Warneford dyd arrest his Master saying I am Justice of the peace on this side of the water as well as thow arte on the other side and so causyd his servantes to take him by the armes and so ledde him awaye as a prisoner by the space of a quarter of a myle. To the xj he saith that trew yt is that the Deffendant said to the plaintiff as he was so caryed by the armes thes wordes By the yvell wyll of thy father I sett not a poynt & by thy evill will I sett not a farte.

To the xij he saithe that as the said persones wer so carrying awaye of his Master he strugled with them and so the Deffendant came to him and threwe him to the grounde and ther lusted together.

To the xiiij he saith trew yt is that the deffendant causyd his servants to take awaye the woodknife from his Masters syde.

To the xiiij he cannot depose.

To the xv he cannot depose.

To the last he saithe he knoweth that his Master had license to fyshe ther of John Rede one of the Inhabitanes of Shryvenham.

*Deposition of James Gardiner*

James Gardiner, servant to Thomas Essex sworne.

To the ffirst he saithe that aboute the tyme articulated this Deponent being on the one syde of the water of Swannesnest sawe Warneford and ij persones with him walking up and downe behynde a busshe on the other syde of the water and saithe this Deponent was there redy with a note for his Master to fyshe with all, and after that this Deponents Master was come thither he saithe the Deffendant sent one of his company to the towne who within half an howre after retorned ageyne and broughte with him a greate number of persons to the number of xviiij persons wich this Deponent knewe not and so went & mett this Deponents Master on the other syde of the water and ther multyplied wordes together emongst the whiche he saithe he standing a farre of on the other syde of the water mighte scarsely here But saithe he herde the Deffendant call his Master fool and ydeote. And saithe his Master had no more company with him but the pre-examine and his shepherde. And the Deffendant had a skayne by his syde and one of his company had a swerde and buckler.

To the ix x xj & xij he saithe that Warneford causyd one Cawle and an other of his company to take this Deponents Master by the armes and lede him as a prisoner and so in ledyng him he saithe he sawe the Defendant and his Master downe together lustring on the grounde but how they came downe or the occasion therof he cannot tell for he stode a good space of from them as he saithe. And more of this interrogatory he knoweth not.

To the xij he saith he sawe one of the Deffendants company take awaye the wood knife from his Masters syde.

To the xiiij he cannot depose.

To the xv and xvj he saith he never knewe but that the inhabytantes of Shrevenham hath allwayes usyd to fyshe the said water. And this Deponents Master had license to fyshe ther of one John Rede one of the Inhabytantes of Shrevenham.

### 3. John Warneford v. Sir John Brydges (P.R.O. STAC 3/4/9)

#### a) *Bill of Complaint of John Warneford*

In most humble wise piteouslic complaynyng shewithe unto your honorable lordshippes your dailie oratour John Warneford of Sevenhampton in the countie of Wiltes gent That where one Sir John Brydges late of Blundesdon Sainte Andrewe in the countie of Wiltes knight withoute any Juste or reasonable cause hath conceived a deadlie and despitous malice agenst your oratour chiefflye for that he perceived your oratour to beare faithfull and good harte (before the tyme of any offence comitted) towards the late lord Seymour of Sudeley atteinted of high treason. And where also your oratour sithens the death of the late lord Seymour hath not ben reteigned in service with the kinges highnes or any other honorable estate<sup>1</sup> but he beinge wearyd with the scourge of adversitie hath by all the space of thies two yeres last past and more determined and suffysed hym self to lyve quietlye and solitarylye upon the lytell lyvinge god hath provyded for him. And albeit your oratour hath endeavored hym self aswell by long sufferans as by all other meanes and waies to pacify the hatefull and dysdanous mynde of Sir John Brydges and hath not geven any maner of occasyon to Sir John (yet he beinge anymatyd & encouraged so moche the more as he hath perceived your oratour to be quitt, and to seke so slender defence for hym self) Sir John Brydges entenyng utterlye to trede your oratour under his ffeete, hath openlie slawnderously defamyd and untrulie reportyd your supplyannt in all honorable companies and conferences wheresoever he hath had access, and hath conspyred with sondrie his adherentes to doo the lyke in all places where thei shall come ymagynyng and entenyng thereby that yf he maie so dyscredytt your poor oratour Sir John Brydges maie assure hym self how to devise soche craftye waies as he can, falselye to worke & procure the death of your oratour.

So yt ys honorable lordes that Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde Brydges sonne and heire apparannt to Sir John by abettement procurement & encoragement of Sir John Bryges his ffather, the sooner to acheve their ungodlie purpose have gathered to them John Bradeley and Thomas Pyrrey latelic atteynted and putt in execucyon for dyvers robries and burglaries by them & others comitted John Pynson founde gyltye for the like robries and felonies and savyd by his clergie James Rede and Thomas Lucas atteynted also for like offensys & reprovved for further examinaccon to be hadd Richard Pyrrey, John Davys, John Edwardes, John Ayleworthey,

1. This is not true. He was for a time the Crown's steward of Eastrop and of the hundred of Highworth, Staple and Cricklade.

Thomas Coke, John Halfpennye, Robert Reve, John Hodync, Gyles Browne, George Chamberlayne, John Johnson, John Newarke, Richard Newman, John Browne and Anthonye of Prynkenashe and other soche a company of evell disposyd persons, whom thei have keppte and reteigned towardses them to the feare of your oratour & all the kinges trew & faithfull subiectes inhabitynge in the northe partes of Wiltes. And it is thought by most menne the persons so reteigned have nother wages nor lyvinge by reason wherof the moste parte of the servanntes of Sir Edinonde Brydges ben vehementlie suspectyd feloniouslie to have robbyd dyvers honest persons to the number of xxxvjti [*sic*] at the least in the northe parte of Wiltes of which offensys the moste parte of the servanntes and reteigned persons stande indicted atteinted appealid or ympeachyd at the present daye or ben sledde for the same. And Sir John Brydges with the saide evell persons and other their adherentes not herewith contentyd but usyng moste heddy & dispiteous wordes of occasyon agenst your oratour hathe thretenyd to breke the hows of your oratour and to kyl and destroye hym in place wheresover thei mai mete hym.

And Sir John Brydges for the performyng of his cruell thretenynges hath procured three evell disposyd persons whose names be yet unknowen to your oratour to lye in awaite with handegonnes abowte the dwellynge howse of your oratour in Sevenhampton to thintent to spye the tyme and place convenyent to slee and murder your oratour.

And abowte the xiiij day of ffebruary in ye third yere of our soveraigne the lorde kinges reigne Sir John Brydges ryotuslie assemblyd Thomas Hinton of Erdescott in ye countie of Wiltes yeoman and Rycharde Hynton of Netherburton in the countie of Barkes yeoman and v other persons to your oratour yet unkowen and dyd personally come into the grounde and conygre of your oratour in Sevenhampton and then and there with force and armes dyd beate one Thomas Richardes servannte to your oratour and dyd kill a ferrytt of your oratours. And came unto the dwellynge hows of your oratour in Sevenhampton and then and there thretenyd your oratour with cruell wordes and after the xxvth daie of Aprill in the thirde yere of the kynges most gracious reigne (in most perylous tyme of the late comocyon moved by rebells) The same Sir John Brydges with like force and armes dyd personally enter into a grownde of your oratours in Sevenhampton called the two peices at the lower end of pyllake And there dyd pull upp the hedges of your oratour, contrary to the late statutes in that behalf provided. And after that Sir John Brydges procured certen evell disposyed persons to the number of vij (as yet unknowen to your oratour) in ye night of the xiiij day of Julye in the fourthe yere of the kinges most gracious reigne to cutt downe and destroye the quyck mowndes and hedges of your oratour growinge aboute a grounde of your oratour called the Newleas nexte bacons in Esthroppe in the Countie of Wiltes conteynyng by estymacyon twoo hundred perches or lugges.

And after the xviiijth daie of the same monethe of Julye in the fourthe yere of the kinges reigne Sir John Brydges accompanyd with v other persons (unto your oratour as yet unknowen) withoute any maner of occasyon ryotuslye assemblyd at the gates of the dwellynge hows of your orator in Sevenhampton with a

handegonne and three glevs<sup>1</sup> & there enteryd into your oratours severall groundes in Sevenhampton entendinge to slee and murder your oratour

And after this Sir John Brydges the vjth of October then nexte ensuyng with like force and armes ryotuslie assemblyd one Thomas Jarrottes and Richard Kemble (and three other persons unknowne to your oratour) at Sevenhampton, and then and there dyd pull upp the hedges cutt downe and destroye one hundred the perches of the quyck ffrythe and mowndes of your oratour growyng aboute certen growndes of his called the knappe and longeaeres, contrary to sondrye statutes in that behalf provided.

And Sir John Brydges havinge no waie or other errande or occasyon aboute the hows of your oratour (accompanyd with vj persons at the leaste) by eight or nynce other sondrye tymes hathe personally and ryotuslie enteryd into the severall growndes of your oratour at his dwellyng hows at Sevenhampton within the tyme of this ij yeres last past and thenne and there hath thretenyd your oratour and his servantes in moste cruellwise entending to procure your oratour to cum owte of his hows to hym. Wherby he might cyther myschief your oratour orells that your oratour or some of his servantes or ffryndes wolde be so undyscret to do some bodyly harmes unto some of the servantes of Sir John, Wherupon he might conceive iuste cause of actyon agenst your oratour In so moche Sir John Brydges perceivng your oratour to kepe his courte at Sevenhampton the vjth of this instant moneth of Aprill in the vth yere of the most noble reigne of our soveraigne lorde the kinge which nowe ys then and there ryotuslie assemblyd eleven other evell dysposyd (yet unknowen to your oratour) and dyd personally come into the severall growndes of your oratour at Sevenhampton, withyn one arrowe shott of the dwellyng hows of your oratour in colour of huntynge havng with them ij bowes with arrowes wherof one had an arrowe nockyd in hys bowe bend and they had also vij bylls & vij staves, but no howndes or greyhoundes: verilie lyeinge in wayte and entending to fyghte, beate wounde slee & murder your poore oratour & other the kinges true and faithfull people.

And Sir John Brydges not thus satsyfcd, nor fyndng his pray hath procured Thomas Jarrottes late of Sevenhampton laborer Thomas Taylour late of Highworthe in the saide Countye laborer Robert Carter of Sevenhampton laborer Davy Welcheman late of Sevenhampton laborer Richard Shette late of Sevenhampton laborer John Pytte late of Sevenhampton laborer Lawrens Ballowe late of Sevenhampton laborer John Vyncent late of Sevenhampton laborer John Packer late of Sevenhampton laborer Symon Blagrove of Highworthe yeoman John Blagrove of Highworthe husbandman John Pole late of Crekelade in the saide Countye yeoman and John Sharpe late of Cowberleye in the countie of Glouc yeoman, at divers and sondrye tymes within one yere laste paste, to make sondrye assawltes and to pyke sondrye quarreles with Jeffrey Shylion Humphrey Prydye of Highworthe Richard Reynoldes John Brigges John Kyerton and other the servantes of your oratour so that they dare not goo nor ryde abowte the lawfull affaires and busynes of your suplyannte, and also but of late hath procured the saide

1. See p. 3.

evell dysposyd persons by a wayte and malice prepensyd to beate wownde and hurte the servantes of your suplyannte to the extreame dannger and peryll of their lyffes to his and their greate losse and hynderanns.

And Sir John hath quarrellyd with dyvers other honest persons fryndes to your oratour & hath thretenyd them, & delt evell with them, onlic because they bere love towards your oratour and hath also but of late procured or mayntaynd the saide evell dysposyd persons at dyvers and sondrye tymes aswell by day as by night riotuslye and forcybly to pull upp the hedges aboute the severall groundes of your oratour called bacons, Dycons, Newleas, Moresplottes, Wopulham, Wopulpece, Culverham, the knappe, Churchey furlonge and long acres in Esthroppe and Sevenhampton and by all the space of ij yeres last past dayly and nightly to hunte kyll take and destroye the coneyes of your oratour in the grounde called the conygre, and to fyshe his severall waters in Sevenhampton, to steale his wood, shepe lambes and other goodes and cattaes beinge fownde in sondrie places aswell in Sevenhampton as at Burybluntesdon in the said Countie and to dygge, tare upp & subverte the grounde of your oratour in Sevenhampton and then dyd there to pasture an fede his and their shepe and their cattell upon the severall groundes and soyle of your oratour & to caste downe cutt & hewe the yates of your oratour in Sevenhampton and Esthroppe and in Hankerton Cloteley and Burybluntesdon in the Countie of Wiltes to the damage of your oratour of one hundreth poundes & more.

And besydes this wheras the kinges highnes by his letters patentes datyd at Westminster the firste day of Apryll in the fourthe yere of hys moste gracyous reigne under the seale of Augmentacyons and Revenues of his Coroner, hath geven and grannted unto your supplyante the offyce of Baylyf and baylywyke of his graces hundredes borowghes and liberties of Highworthe and Creklade with the rightes membres and appurtenances in the Countie of Wiltes, where the most parte of the saide felons & evell dysposyd persons by all the space of ij yeres last past & more have ben maynteyned supported comforted lodged fedd or councelyd by Sir John Brydges Sir Edmonde Brydges or their adherentes To have and to holde the office to your oratour for terme of his naturall lyf, by force wherof your oratour enteryd into the offyce and was seasyd therof accordinglie. So it is most honorable lordes that Sir John Brydges neglectyng lawes statutes & good ordres (and wonderfully abusyng hymself agenst the kinges highnes) perceiving that the offyce shulde be dulia and Justelic ministred and executed by your oratour, and that then all the Juglyng and dyssymulacyon by Sir John Brydges and Sir Edmonde Brydges dailie used and practysed moste uniustely agenst the kinges Regalie, his Maiesties lawes crown and dignitie, heretofore . . . to the utter destrucyon and undoinge of a greate number of his graces faithfull subiectes inhabytyng in those partes, shulde from hensforthe be brought to light alteryd and stayed, hath procured one John Blagrove late of Highworthe in the countie of Wiltes husbandman, Symonde Mathews of Hyghworthe laborer, William Buck late of Highworthe laborer, Thomas fferinor late of Highworthe laborer, John Thomkyns late of Highworthe laborer Thomas Kynsman late of Highworthe laborer Thomas Slatter late of Crekelade in the said Countie husbandman John Sharpe late of Cowberley in the Countie of glouc

laborer and John Pole late of Crekelade yeoman so as thei gatheryng to them dyvers other ryotus persons with force & armes without any warrante of authoritye, have enteryd into the saide offyce and executyd the kinges graces wryttes and other warrantes and preceptes and have gathered upp taken & received the kinges highnes tolle, and other Yssues and profittes of the offyce the ixth daie of Aprill, the fyrst daie of August & the xxixth daie of September in the iiij yere of his gracious and victorious reigne & divers other daies and tymes the same and other ryottes and trespassys contynuyng allwaies from and after the first daie of Apryll in the fourthe yere unto the last daie of ffebruary in the vth yere of the kinges Maiesties prosperous reigne. And owte of the same offyce have expellyd and dysseasyd your oratour and yet dothe kepe hym owte of the same with like force and stronge hande to the grevous damage of your oratour and contrary to the kinges peace his crown and dignitie.

And Sir John Brydges and Sir Edmonde the more colorablye & comberouslye to contynue theis offensys doo make it their comon practyse to reiteine all the moste troblows and busy persons of lewde disposycyon whiche maie be fownde in the northe partes of Wiltes and the confynes therof, to be towards them and specyally soche persons as be not knowen and will not declare their name, whereby your poore oratour or any other cannot conceive any accyon agenst them by course of the common lawes of thys realme.

And Sir John Bryges and his servantes by his procurement at dyvers and sondry tymes within one yere last have torne upp and broken the quyck hedges of your oratour of an other grownd of your oratour called Burybluntesdon in the Countie of Wiltes and then and there have huntyd your oratours shepe and kyen to his grevous damages.

And Sir John Brydges not being with all the premisses contented nor satsyfied but further to extend his . . . dispyte towards your oratour, the xxij daie of ffebruarye last past gatheryng to hym one Gyles Payne, Benjamyn Cabott and vij others as yet unknowen to your oratour, dyd enter into your oratours severall pastures at Burybluntesdon & then and there dyd hunte with tenne cowple of howndes amongst seven hundreth yewes of your poore oratour beyng greate with eane or with lambes & hath chasyd the yewes so that many of them have cast and warped their lambes: to the damage of your oratour of xx li. And not thus satsyfied have then and there beatten woundyd and grevouslie hurte one John Bryges servant unto your oratour so that at this present he ys in despayre of his lyfe.

And also utterly to worye and ynpoveryshe your oratour Sir John Bryges dothe maynteyne William Collyer and Robert Russheton ryotuslie and forcible to enter into your orators landes and tenementes in Highworthe and Hankerton in the Countie of Wiltes: and of the same (by abettement & procurement of Sir John) William Collyer and Robert Russheton with force and armes sondrely disseasyd your oratour & yet doo kepe hym owte of the same landes and tenementes contrary to all right and contrary to divers statutes in that behalf provyded to the grevous damages of your oratour of fforty poundes at the leaste.

And Sir John Bryges moreover (partely by feare & partely by promes of advantage) hath allowyd & inveyglyd Henry Russheton John Richardes John Davys

Henry Bance and Thomas Pakker beyng your oratours tenantes in Sevenhampton to neglecte their dutye and fydeltie towardes your oratour, and moste uniustely to become hys enemyes and to fyshe his severall waters cutt downe his woodes, to pasture his severall growndes and medowes craftelye to devyse hys dysherison & to doo unto your oratour any other wronge and iniuries.

And Sir John Bryges dothe also uniustely abuse a pasture in Sevenhampton called Byllyngesham contrary to certen covenantes lately by hym made. And Sir John Bryges doth owe unto your oratour c li and above and will not pay any money to your oratour.

All whyche Matters as thei have ben putt yn bre your oratour by all the space of theis ij yeres laste paste and more hath pacyentlye sufferyd & borne & for some of the saide wronges your oratour hath comencyd accyons at the comon lawes & purposyd to procede thoroughly in the same accyons, for hys remedye without furder troublunge your lordeshyppes, yf he might otherwise have chosen. Nevertheless Sir John Bryges and divers his adherentes ben themselves put in Comysson to be Justyces & keepers of the kynges peace there, & be so Hyghly kynned and alyed in the Countye of Wiltes yt your oratour shall hardely gett the trewthe of the premisses to be found by verditt or enquest, or to gett the kynges wryttes by hym procuryd to be dulie servyd ffor your oratour saithe that he in trynitye last past did procure forthe of the kynges courte of Chawncerye dyvers wryttes for suretye of the kynges peace agenst Sir John Bryges and divers of his adherentes directyd to the late sherif of Wiltes and could not get them servyd. And after your oratour complayned to Sir Richarde Lyster knight Chyef Justyce of the kynges benche and desyred hym the suertye of the peace agenst Sir John & his complyces. Wherupon as yet Sir John standeth bounde but upon a suertye bonde of xlti markes, for whiche he careth litle in regard of thaccomplishment of his abhomynable malice. And the same bonde of xlti markes ys but for his owne handes only agenst your oratour hym self, and that but untill a day whiche shortelye shalbe expyred.

And thus your oratour remayneth styll in soche fear and dannger of hys lyf & burnyng of his howse by some myschevous practyse to be devised by Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde Brydges or their adherentes that he dare scarcely ryde to the kynges hyghnes courte to complayne or doo any other of his lawfull busyness. So that nowe your oratour ys now dryven and enforcyd to molest and most humbly to entercesse your honorable lordshyppes to encline your gracious and pitefull eares to provyde some remedye for your supplyannt in the premisses that he maic saffely dwell under the kynges proteccyon, as his moste humble and obedyent subiecte owght to doo.

May it therfore pleas your honorable lordshippes at the humble sute and petycon of your oratour to compell Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde hys sonne with suffycient suertie to be bounden unto the kynges Maiestie in soche a bonde & some of money as by your good lordshippes shalbe thought most expedyent for the observyng of the kynges peace by them and all other their servanntes and adherentes, towardes your oratour his servantes and other the kynges liege people. And furder to commande Sir John Bryges & Sir Edmonde Brydges personally to



appere before your honorable lordshippes at a certen day & place by your lordshippes to be lymited then and there to answer to the premisses and further therin to stande to soche order ende and direcccon as shalbe taken & had by your lordeshippes accordinge to right and equitie.

And Your Orator shall dailie prairie to allmightie god.

b) *Answer of Sir John Bridges to the Bill of John Warneford*

Sir John Bridges for answer sayeth as to the supposid manasses and threttenynge to breke the howse of John Warneforde and distroy and kill hym and as to the supposid procurement and mayntenance of the persons mentioned in the byll to steale the wodde shepe lambes and other goodes and catalles of the complaynant and as to all the other supposid felonyes and unlawfull assembles forcible entres, and all other mysdemeanors and thinges conteignyd in the byll and supposid to be contrary to the kynges maiesties peace crowne and dygnyte statute or lawes this deffendant sayeth that he is not therof nor of no parcell therof gyilty in maner and forme as the playntif hath the untruly alledged.

And as to the deadly dispitous malice whiche the complaynant supposithe by his byll this deffendant withoute cause to have conceavyd agaynste the complaynant, and as to the open sclannders and defamacons whiche the complaynant hath allegid this deffendant to report in honorable companye and conferences of and agaynste the complaynant, this deffendant for answeere therunto, and to further declaracon of the truthe to your honorable lordshyppes sayethe That at such tyme as the complaynant was younge and of tender yeres, and beinge borne and cumeng of base stocke and of poore kyndred and therefore wantinge lvyngge, this deffendant for that he perceyved the same complaynant to be of a ready and quicke wytte, and for that also the complaynant was borne nere unto hym and therefore this deffendant thinkinge to have had hym the complaynant to be the more assurid unto hym toke the complaynant into his servyce, gave hym liberall rewarde putt hym in great truste, and usid hym frendly and gently yea above the residue of his servanntes in so moche that this deffendant beinge highe sheriffe of Wilt made the complaynant his under shiriffe, and at lengthe this deffendant lykyngge the dexteryte and aptnes of the complaynantes wytte for learnynge advysed hym to contynewe a student of the lawes in the temple and had by the deffendant his chiefest Releiffe therunto trustinge to have hadde great comfort of hym and his learnynge he gote hym great acqyantance and brought hym in great credyte and estimacon wythe dyvers honorable and worshipfull persons and generally usid hym as a frende dothe his well belovyd, as a father dothe the sonne, and as a man dothe hym whome he delytithe to admire, and therby the complaynant was . . . unto optayned and gote a welthy lvyngge and great estimacon. After whiche so opteyned and had, and after the tyme the complaynant Percyved that he was able to lyve of hym selfe withoute the healde of the deffendant, then he began playnly to shew hym selfe what he was, and clerly forgote what he had byn before and shortle became so prowde dysdaynefull ans so insolent that it senyde a

wonder and a great mervell to all his former acquayntance to be holde and see it: that he that so lately had a beggars purse had then so lordly an Harte. And in conclusion he disdayned the deffendants service and frendship, and forsakynge his honestie he hauntyd promocon and he came one of the bende and retynue of Sir Thomas Seymour knight afterwarde Lord Seymour of Sudeley whome beinge the kynges uncle he perceyved as then to aspire to honor, and lyke to accheve the same, And by his sutyle and crafty insinuacons, and deceytfull flattery coloryd wythe simplicitie and respect of gayne & advanantage towarde Lord Seymour to be had (who was very attentiffe in hearinge his own proffitt) and by suche other meanes he the complaynant grewe in suche truste and favor with Lord Seymour, as no man dyd lyke and therupon was made stuarde and surveyor of his landes, and had the doinge (in maner) of all his affaires who by reason therof handled the tenantes of Lord Seymour in the Counties of Wilt and Glouc and els where withe suche extremyte and cruelte by enclosure of their comens from them by reysinge of their rentes, by expulsion of them out of their howses by suche exacons amercyamentes fynes and Ransomes, as the deffendant hathe never knowen the lyke eny where don, and usid hym selfe generally in all his doynge and affayres so extreme so cruell so dyshonest and so ungodly as fewe men els (althoughe they were very wycked) coulde devyse or imagyn to do, and thereby gote not only to hym selfe a most vyle name and reporte, but also to the late lorde Seymour greate hatred and evyll opynion of his tenantes and of the people in the cuntrey wheras hys landes leye.

And the complaynant beinge of the nature (as many suche evyll enclyned people be) not only to dysdayne their former masters and frendes by whome they have fyrste rysen, but also to do them althe hurte they can invegled and incensid Lorde Seymour to hurt and preiudice the deffendant by all the wayes and meanes he coulde and to be his mortall enemye, and therupon wheras lorde Seymour had promyse and grannt aswell of the late kyng of famousse memory Henry the eighth, lately deceasid as sythins his decease of the kynges maiestie that nowe is, to have gyven to hym towardes his promocon and advancement landes tenementes and heredytamentes to a certayne clere yerely value, the complaynant procuryd and caused lord Seymour to chose and desire castles howses parkes chases and offices wherof the same deffendant had the keyynge or wherin he had some certayne interest or medlynge, as the castle howses and parkes of Sudley Wynchercombe Hayles Horsleigh and Bisleigh in the Counte of Glouc and the office of the stuardeship and baylywike of the hundred of Heighworthe and Cricklade in the Countie of Wilt. And generally of all other howses parkes forestes chases offices maners lordships farmes and landes within the counties of Glouc and Wilt wherof he this deffendant had the keypyng or usinge or wherin he had eny fee or interest by the grannte of the late kyng of famous memory Henry the eighth to hym the same deffendant granntid and made in recompence and consideracon of his longe service to his grace don in tyme of warre and peace. After the optaynyng and comynge to of whiche castles howses maners & other the premisses by lord Seymour, he the same lorde Seymor by the provocacon and crafty procurement of this complaynant sought by all the wayes and means he could devise to disseas and expell this

deffendant then beinge in the kynges service at Bolleyn of and from the keypyng of the sayd castles howses parkes chases offices fees & interestes whatsoever and granntyd dyvers of the offices to this complaynant who occupied the same this deffendant beinge in the kynges maiesties service at Bolleyn Untyll the deathe of lorde Seymour, by all whiche tyme the fees due to this deffendant for the premisses have ben stayed and denyed, and yet a great parte of the same are steyed & kept from this deffendant to his great losse and damage, and all by the occacon malicious and crafty meanes of this complaynant.

And lord Seymour somewhat before his deathe attained to the true knowledge of all the evyll demeanor of the sayd Warneforde of his cruell expulsions, disseasons enclosures, oppressions extorcons exaccons wronges and iniuries perpetrated comyttyd and don agaynste the tenantes of lorde Seymour & others and generally of moche his leude wayckyd and vyle behavior & practises and howe he had procured greate infamy and sclannders to hym lord Seymour, and highely misusyd his honor, wherfore of all persons he most abhorryd hym and expelled hym owte of his service as a most vyle and abiect person, sayinge he wolde see his eares on the pyllery.

All whiche matters notwithstandinge, nor yet he the sayd Warneford takynge example therby desisted not from his lewdenes but further prosecutinge his malice agaynst this deffendant hathe disfamed hym this deffendant not only to the kynges maiesties Justices of his graces benche, but also to the right honorable lorde Chancellor of Englande that nowe is, and moste untruly declaryd the same deffendant to be a man of light conversacon and of a quarelynge behaviour and of an evyll & wylfull inclynacon, and therupon hathe optayned aswell oute of the honorable courte called the kynges benche proces to compell this deffendant to fynde suertye to kepe the kynges peace, as though the same deffendant were of the lightest & lewest sorte and conversacon. Whiche is to the great sclannder and disfamacon of this deffendant consideringe that he is a Justice of the peace in the Counties of Wilt & Glouc, and of the quorum in the Countie of Glouc, and also one of the kynges maiesties counsaile in the marches of Wales as this complaynant dothe right well knowe, and further consideringe his rowme estate and estimacon and sythens the tyme the deffendant hath byn bounde to the peace, the complaynant by dyvers and sondry wayes and meanes hathe attempted and gyven occacon to the deffendant to breke the peace entendinge therby to cause the deffendant to forfeit his bande. Theis and many lyke thinges don of greatist spite and presumpcion not only to this deffendant, but to dyvers other men of Worship gentlemen and poore men, and the frequent Iniuries inclosures dysseisons expulsions and imprisonmentes assaultes and other lyke offences and actes whiche he dayly practisithe to the great hurt dysquietinge and molestacon of his neighbors and many other the kynges subiectes dwellynge in the partes where the complaynant dwelleth have caused the complaynant to be evyll reported (and not without cause) in all honorable companyes and conferences where the deffendant comythe, which is great greife to this deffendant when he remembreth howe evyll the rewardes whiche he be stowid of hym was spent and caste awaye, and howe with the evyll expences therof he armyd and made

this complaynant so able to do so moche hurt. Whiche thing and many of the evyll demeners of the complaynant, this deffendant wyll not deny but dothe confesse that he hathe truly spoken and disclosid in dyvers honorable companyes & conferences wheras he hathe channed to be, and wheras he hathe thought it shoulde come to the complaynantes cares, to thentent that either the complaynant stryken with repentance myght amende, or els stryken with shame myght stey or at leaste mytygate his unlawfull enterprises and wycked affayres.

Wythout that that this deffendant without iuste or reasonable cause hathe conceyved a dedly and dispitouse malice agaynste the complaynant. And without that that he hathe conceyved agaynste the complaynant any malice other then suche as he that lonythe to extolle vertue and repress vice ought to beare to suche a dysturbor of the comen quyetnes and tranquillitie of the cuntrey wher he dwelleth. And wythout that that this deffendant hathe ever openly sclannderyd disfamyd or untruly reportyd the complaynant in eny honorable companyes and conferences as in the byll is untruly alledgid, or that he ever reportid of hym worse than his demerites required, or of or to eny other entent or purpose then as this deffendant hathe before confessid. And without that that John Bradely or eny of the persons whome the complaynant hathe supposid to be gatherid together by this deffendant and his sonne, and wherof many are supposid by his Byll to be endyted atteynted appeachid or appealid, were gatheryd together by this deffendant, or ever kepte or reteigned in service by this deffendant or by his procurement as the complaynant falslye and most sclannderouslye hathe allegid. And without that this deffendant ever thretenyd to breke the howse of the complaynant and to kyll & destroy hym in place where so ever he myght mete hym, or that he ever procured any person or persons to lye in awayte with handgonnes about the dwellinge howse of the complaynant to spye their tyme and place convenyent to slea and murder the complaynant or ever ment or thought eny such things agaynste the complaynant or eny other, as he maliciously and moste untruly by his byll hathe supposid. And without that that this deffendant the xiiijth day of february in the thirde yere of our sovereigne lorde the kynges maiesties raigne Riotously assemblyd Thomas Hynton & others namyd in the byll and came into the conyngre of this complaynant and dyd the other trespasses supposid in the byll. For this deffendant sayeth that at the xiiijth day of february and longe tyme before and after he was in the kynges maiesties sevice at Bolleyn.

But for further declaracon of the trouthe concernynge the same premisses this deffendant sayethe that in the cest fylde of Sevenhampton beinge a large fylde and a plentyfull soyle & layne for come in and upon the best parte therof about foure yeres paste and of suche tyme as this deffendant was in the kynges service in Bolleyn John Warneforde newly made a conyngre where never coneyes were before and in short tyme wonderfully replenysshid & furnysshed the same with coneyes entendinge therby (as the acte dyd declare) utterly to destroy the fertilitie & tillage of the moste plentiful felde whiche at all tymes before moste usually was sowen every seconde yere with corne preferringe his owne private advantage & comodyte above the generall proffit comodyte & Releife of a great number of persons to the great hurt and hindrance aswell of this deffendant havynge of free arable land as

moche as iij ploughes are well able to tyll lyinge in the felde adioynnge to the conynge, as of all other tenantes and Inhabitanes of Sevenhampton to the great decaye of plowes and of the hole tyllage of the same most large and plentifull felde. Whiche thinge this deffendant seinge at his retorne from Bolleyn almoste ij yeres paste, at his firste comynge into the contrey takyng occacon to goo from his owne howse of Blundesdon withe two of his servantes to se his corne and other thinges at his fearme at Sevenhampton met with Thomas Hynton and Richard Hynton whiche accompanyd this deffendant thether then and founde Thomas Richardes whome the plaintiff had made his warener there ferrytinge in the felde, toke the fyrret and threwe her to the grounde. Without that this deffendant dyd beate Thomas Richardes or kyll the fyrret or came to the dwellynge howse of Warneford or threatenyd hym with cruell wordes in maner and forme as in the byll is untruly alleged. And without that that the deffendant the xxvth daye of Apryll in the thirde yere of the kynges maiesties reigne dyd pull uppe the hedges of the grounde called two pondes in maner and forme as the plaintiff in his byll hathe allegid. ffor this deffendant sayethe that the xxvth day of Aprill & before & after he was & remayned at the Cite of London.

But for further declaracon of the truthe this deffendant sayethe that Warneford about iij or iij yeres past accordinge to his accustomed Iniuries unlawfully enclosid and made owte of the comen felde of Sevenhampton the grounde called two ponndes wherin he the deffendant in respect of a great quantyte of arable lande whiche he then had and yet hathe & dyvers other persons and tenantes of Sevenhampton to a great nomber had and oughte to have comen for all their cattell at suche tyme as the felde there were unsowen or after the corne was conveyed owte of the same to the great hurt and preiudice aswell of the tenantes of Sevenhampton as of this deffendant. And lykewise enclosid owte of the comen felde of Esthorpp the grounde whiche in his byll he callethe new lease whiche conteignethe by estimacon xxx acres to the great hurte of the kynges maiesties tenantes of Esthorppe and to the manyfeste disherison of oure soveraigne Lorde the kyng of whiche manyfeste Iniurie and open wronge the tenantes of Esthorpp and Sevenhampton dare not complayne for that Warneford is lorde of the tenantes in Sevenhampton and stuarde to the kynges maiesties landes at Esthorpp. Wherupon this deffendant after michaelmas was twelmonthe and at suche tyme as the corne was conveyed owte of the sayd felde perceyvynge the grounde inclosed called the ij ponndes whiche Warneforde styll kept enclosid to be a playn disseisin of his comen withe a fewe of his servantes in peasible maner brake dyvers partes of the hedge whiche inclosid the groundes called the two pondes, and put his catell in the same usyng his sayd comen as lawfull was for hym to do. And as it was reported to this deffendant dyvers persons to this deffendant unknowen in the nyght season brake downe the hedge whiche enclosid the grounde called newe lease.

Without that this deffendant withe force and armes brake the hedge inclosing ij pondes contrary to the late statutes in that case provyded, or that he usid hym selfe concernynge the breche of the hedge other wise then he myght lawfully doo. Or that this deffendant ever procuryd eny persons to breake downe the quycke mounds and

hedges of the plaintiff about the grounde called Newe lease in maner & forme as the complaynant hathe untrulye allegid. Without that this deffendant accompanyd withe fyve persons the xviiiith daye of the monethe of Julye ryotously assemblyd at the gates of the dwellinge howse of the complaynant entendinge to slea & murder the complaynant in maner & forme as in the byll is sclanderously alleged.

And as to the pullynge uppe and distroyinge of the hedges of the playntif about the grounde called the knappe and longacres this deffendant for answer therunto sayeth that the complaynant accordinge to his accustomed enterprise wrongfully enclosid out of the comen felde of Sevenhampton the groundes called knappe and longacres in whiche this deffendant in respect of vj or vij hundred acres of lande whiche he then had and yet hathe lyinge in Sevenhampton and all other the tenantes of Sevenhampton oughte and have usid to have comen withe all maner their cattell yerely from Michaelmas after the corne caryed owte of the same felde at all tymes untill the same felde were sowed agayne whiche inclosure was not onelye to the disherison of this deffendant but also to the great damage of all the tenantes of Sevenhampton wherupon the deffendant withe a small number of his servantes in peasible and quiet maner brake dyvers partes of the Inclosure aboute the vjth day of October laste paste, and putt his cattell on the same groundes in usinge his comen as lawfull was for hym to do. Without that that this deffendant assemblyd Thomas Jarrottes beinge baylif to this deffendant of his husbandrye there and other namyd in the byll or eny of them, or dyd eny thinge concernynge the same hedg contrary to sondry statutes in maner and forme as the plaintiff hathe untruly alleged.

And as to the supposid severall ryotous entres into the severall groundes of the complaynant, this deffendant for answer therunto sayeth that he the deffendant by Juste and lawfull conveyance in the lawe, is lawfully seaid in his demesne as of fee, of & in dyvers severall parcelles of lande lyinge in Sevenhampton, whereof dyvers parcelles lye nere to the dwellynge howse of the complaynant, and on every side of the howse. And further this deffendant saithe that there was of late a comen waye wherbye the deffendant usid and myght lawfully goo to every of the severall parcelles and whiche waye was a comen waye aswell for all other the kinges subiectes as to this deffendant and tenantes there to passe & repasse to dyvers places concernynge their affaires. And the complaynant neyther regardinge the ease nor comodyte that this deffendant and the people therabout had by reason of the waye, nor yet fearinge the danger of the kinges maiesties lawes nor the penaltye due for so great offence, but only respectinge his owne private profit and comodyte hathe of late by his inclosures utterly destroyed & dampned the waye to the great hurte & disquietnes of this deffendant and of dyvers & sundry of the kinges maiesties subiectes dwellinge therabout. By reason wherof this deffendant wantinge all other wayes to his groundes hathe ben forced to come over the groundes of this complaynant where is a comen heighe waye nere unto the complaynantes howse to his owne groundes, and by reason wherof the deffendant dyvers tymes sythens the waye was dampned & destroyed by the plaintiff hathe gon over the open & no [sic] severall groundes of this plaintiff in goinge to his owne growndes as he was forced to do by the unlawfull acte of the plaintiff. Without that this deffendant ever riotously entred

into the severall groundes of the plaintiff, or thretenyd hym or his servantes or procuryd the plaintiff to come owte of his howse to mischief hym or for eny suche other entent as in the byll is sclannderously & untruly alledgid.

And as to the supposid coloryd huntynge for the purpose to fight beate wonde slea and murder the plaintiff this deffendant for answere therunto sayeth that aboute the tyme specyfyed in the byll this deffendant wythe dyvers of his servantes havinge staves in their handes & two younge learners to shote havynge Bowes & arrowes as they are for the moste part accustomed wythe a number of howndes & greyhoundes came unto his fearme & groundes at Sevenhampton & in the comen feld there huntyd the hare only entendinge their game & pastyme & none other entent, as he myght lawfully doo. Without that that they came without houndes or greyhoundes or lynge in awayte or entendinge to fight beate wonde slea or mordre the complaynant & other the kynges true & faythfull people in maner & forme as the complaynant hath untruly alledgid.

And without that that this deffendant ever procurid Thomas Jarrottes baylyfe of his husbandrye there and the other persons namyd in the byll or eny of them to make eny assault or pike eny quarells wythe eny of the servantes of the complaynant but this deffendant sayeth that it was reportyd to hym that John Kyrton one of the servantes of the complaynant made an assault upon John Sharpe one of the servantes of this deffendant whiche Sharpe in his defence gave dyvers stripes & blowes to the sayd Kyrton as lawfull was for him to do, this deffendant not knowinge therof untyll the ded was don. Without that that this deffendant procurid Thomas Jarrottes & the other persons namyd in the byll to lye in awayte to wound & hurte the servantes of this complaynant to the extreme dannger & peryll of their lyves. Or that this deffendant hath quarrellyd wythe dyvers other honest persons frendes to the complaynant or hath thretenyd them or delt evyll wythe them, by cause they beare love to the complaynant. Or that he ever procuryd the sayd persons ryottously and forcyblye to pull up the hedges aboute the severall groundes of the complaynant other then suche as the plaintiff unlawfully enclosid and therby kepte this deffendant from his comen, and other then suche as are aforesayd as he lawfully myght or that he procurid eny persons dayly and nyghtlye to hunt kyll destroye or take the coneyes or fyshe of the complaynant, or to steale the goodes and catelles of the plaintiff or to tare and subvert the pasture or fede his groundes, or to cast downe and hewe his gates in maner and forme as the complaynant hath verye sclannderously & moste untruly alledgid.

And as concernynge the office of Highworthe & Ceryclande, this deffendant for answere therunto sayeth that he holdythe and enioyeth for tearme of his lyffe the office of the stuardship of the hundred of Highworth & Cricklade by vertue of the kynges maiesties letters patentes made to this deffendant at all tymes ready to be shewid. And by reason therof hath had tyme owte of mynde usyd & ought to have the eleccon & appoyntment of the baylyffe of Highworth & Cricklade. Whiche office this deffendant hath usid & occupied by the space of these xxxij yeres or theraboute and were firste grannted to hym to his great losse and hynderance by the Duke of Suffolk latlye deceasid in recompence of the stuardship and keyynge of the castle and parke of the kynges maiesties honour of Dunnyngton. By force of

whiche letters patentes & other the premisses the deffendant is lawfully seaisd as of free holde of the office and fees and profittes therof of whiche stuardes heretofore have accustomedly had to their owne uses he lawfully to his use Receyveth the perceyveth and taketh and the kynges proces within the office he servithe & other thinges appertaynyng & belonging to the office he dothe and executythe as lawfull ys for hym to do. And further this deffendant sayeth that whyles he was in the kynges maiesties service at Bolleyn he heard howe the plaintiff had made labor & sute to opteyne the office, & by craftye & sinistre informacon he craftely & subtylly optayned the same & put this deffendant then beinge in the kynges maiesties service from the exercise & occupyinge of the same & all his under officers there wherupon this deffendant at his retourne from Bolleyn prayed dyvers of your honorable Lordships to be good Lordes unto hym & that he myght still reteigne & inioy the same, whiche thinge divers of your honorable Lordships granntyd hym sayinge his service considered it was right mete he shoulde so do. And further this deffendant averrithe the letters patentes of grannt of office made to the plaintiff if eny suche be to be utterly voyde & of none effect in the lawe for dyvers causes whiche this deffendant at all tymes wyll approve before your honorable lordships. Without that that this deffendant withoute any authoryte hath entred into the office or wrongfully kepithe and reteignethe the same from the plaintiff in maner & forme as the plaintiff hath alledged. Or that the deffendant or eny of his servanntes by his procurement have broken eny of the quick hedges of this complaynant at Buryblondsdon as the plaintiff untruly allegid.

And as to the supposid huntinge & chasinge of the complaynantes sheepe & kyen & huntinge with houndes amongeste the ewes of the complaynant & wounding of John Bridges servannt to the complaynant this deffendant for answer sayeth that aboute the tyme menconid in the byll dyvers of this deffendants servanntes went on huntinge the hare withe his houndes accordinge as they accustomedly usid & founde the hare about a myle distant from the grounde of the plaintiff where his ewes went, and at the lengthe the hare came into the same grounde where the ewes were, and the houndes also & John Cole otherwise Bridges before named servannt to the plaintiff came thether wythe a mastife whiche he let slyppe at the hare, whiche mastiffe & the houndes together kylled the wery hare, and Cole took the hare from the houndes, and rane away withe the hare in his hande in the sighte of all the houndes to the great discouraginge of the houndes, whiche thinge one of the servantes of the deffendant who folowinge the houndes seinge, pursuyd Cole & toke the hare from hym, and cast hym to the houndes. And with a sticke whiche he had taken oute of the hedge gave a strype or two to Cole. Without that this deffendant dyd hunt or chace the kyen or sheepe of the plaintiff otherwise then is before alledgyd or that the ewes or eny of them were chassid, that they dyd caste their lambes, or toke eny hurte by the meanes of the huntyng or by this deffendant. Or that Cole otherwise Bridges was wondyd or grevously hurte that there by he was in despeir of his lyffe in maner & forme as this plaintiff hath alledged. And further this deffendant sayeth that after the tyme Cole came home from the huntinge the complaynant commanydyd Cole to kepe hym within his



in manner & forme as in the bill of complainte they are allegyd & conteyned. And furder your oratour being enforced to molest your honors with longer tedyous matters then he thought mete in the begynnyng to have bene recheryd before your honorable goodnes by the Complaynante for more ample & playne declaracon of the trewth & for openyng & explanacon of his honestie & reputacon under the good pacyens of your honors, and allwaies submittyng hym self to your honorable reformacons & convercons saythe trewth it is this Complainant never sawe John Brydges untill aboute Michellmas in the xvijth yere of the Reigne of the late Kyng of moste famous memory Kyng Henry the vijth at wyche tyme this Complainant was of thage of xvijen yeres & more and this Complainant had then also ben at Clyfford Ynne in London learynge the lawes of this Realme at least by all the space of xvijen yeres & a half. And this Complainant sayeth that before that tyme he never herde of Sir John Brydges by Worde or letters other then this reporte as followith, that is to saye That Sir John Brydges was then and long tyme afore had ben a spightfull covetous man & craftye extorcyoner & oppressor agenst the father & parentes of your supplicant & many other the kinges peacefull & quiet people inhabityng within the hundredes of Hyghworthe Crekelad & Staple in the Countie of Wiltes, and that Sir John Brydges was then a vengeable man & kepte manny lewde persons about hym to the feare & trouble of all the countrey there & soche like reporte cam dailie to the cares of this Complaynannt aswell by the letters of the parents of this Complaynannt as of many honest and faithfull people inhabytyng within the northe partes of Wiltes. And this Complaynannt sayeth also that this complaynant was all waies oute of childehood browght up to lernyng at thonlic and propre costes and charges of the father & mother of the Complaynant. And this Complaynant saieth that albeit Sir John Brydges (at those dayes being but a bare and poore gentillman not having in his handes above one hundred poundes of landes possessions or revenews to lyve by beryng a greater parte then he was able to mayntetne, & so beyng driven to sett his lyvyng) then with sundrey maner of unhonest shyftes dyd all that ever he coulede to opprese & pyke quarrelles agenst Thomas Warneforde Esquire<sup>1</sup> deceassyd father to the Complaynant, yet Thomas Warneforde was a man whose awncestors have lyvd & dwelt longer in that countrey then any of the name of Sir John Brydges & of awncyent contynuance were men of li or lx poundes in landes by yere of inherytanns & lyved honestlie and owte of dette or dannger[?] of this defendannt or any of his name, and Thomas Warneford made no great accompte of the Defendannt, in all his life, notwythstanding the highe mynde of Sir John Brydges. And Thomas Warneford (thankes be unto god) was ryght well able (to lyve of hym self) upon the same pore revenue of lx li by yere & dyd bringe up this Complaynant & vij other hys children (all thengs at those daies in some despight of and with Sir John Brydges) without the ayde of Sir John Brydges of whyche extorcyons oppressyons despightes damages & wronges doon to Thomas Warneforde deceassyd the Complaynante thought not to have troblyd your honors of this present but onlye beinge put in mynde therof & occasyoned by reason of matter conteyned in the answer of this defendannt so moche to degresse or devyate from the former matter conteyned in the bill. But now

1. Thomas was not an esquire. See Introduction, p. xviii.

forasmoch as this defendannt (by coloure of his office of stewardshipp of Highworthe) dyd most unustelye procure and maynteyn William Wrytter . . . Broughton and others decessyd . . . to extorte (as well by coercon of distres & manasses as other waies) from Thomas Warneford (father to your suplyannt) the some of fourtye poundes at the least. This Complaynant (beinge sole executor of the last will & testament of Thomas his father) prayeth that the Defendant maie by your godlie Wysdomes be orderyd & constraigned to yelde unto the Complaynant the saide dammages of fortye poundes as he in Lawe & conscyens ought to doo. And this complaynant furder sayeth that about Michellmas in the xvij yere of the late Kinges Raigne he fyrst sawe Sir John Brydges & then onlie at Blunntesdon & in none other place & then and there your oratour gentylyly & humblye assertheyned the Defendant what reporte he had herd of the Defenndant, & advertised hym to leve the sekyng to make any of his honest neighbors to become his enemies through any defaulte of the Defendant. And lovinglye (as appertayneth) this complaynant desyred the Defendannt that this complaynant myght never have just cawse to complayne agenst the Defendant, or anie of his reteignores or adherentes, for hym self or any of his parentes or fryndes, & namely in the case of the widowe of one Willyam ffermor of Swyndon, to whom the Defendant shewyd hym self then and there specyall sewtor & assystent agenst the parentes of your poore orator and open bearer and maynteynor & therupon the Defendant (at the saide fyrst metyng) dyd quarrell & fell owt with this complaynant & dyd then and there departe from this complaynant in great despight. And after within twoo monethes then next following Sir John Brydges dyd by chawnce mete this Complaynant at the Conduite in flete strete in London and then & there Sir John Brydges after his accustomyde maner of dyssymulacon with all men his neighbors without he cannot hurte his subiecte or frynde with rygor & terror, or whom he cannot by any ingenious craft devyse to comber (by coloure of his offyce) fearyng lest this Complaynant, yf he were lernyd, mighte justlye brynge the Defendant & his adherentes beyng iudge (amongst their poore neighbours) men moche unframyd towards any good order or civilitie, to confusyon and destruccon, embresyd your supplycann as though never any wordes of occasyon had passyd betwyxt them, and as though the defendant had in dede lovyd thys complaynant faythfullye. Of the whiche thing (as it was in dede soddeyn & unloked for) so was this Complaynant beyng then of small experyens and aboute the age of xvij yeres ravysht with the flatterye of the Defendant. Wheras Sir John Brydges dyd presentlye offer unto this Complaynant thoffyce of the understewardshipp of Highworthe Crekelade & Staple beinge a thying of littell value or reputacon entenyng thereby to have alluryd the complaynant from his lernyng, to have conveyde hym to lyve in all ygnorans & vyce in the countrey with Sir John Brydges, yet this Complaynant (more of the goodnes of god then of any foresyght or pollycy of his owne) dyd answer this defendannt, that he wolde not forsake his learnyng for a greater matter then the understewardshypp was worthe. Nevertheless your oratour then saide he wolde be right glad to exercyse the same by a deputye, & to doo this Defendant and all other men of worshipp what pleasure he coulede devyse. After wiche answer the Defendant never after offeryd the saide office or any other like to this Complaynant, But in out-

warde apparans of his wordes and countenance before this Complaynantes face (long tyme after) showed hym self very fryndly towards this Complaynant, whereas the sequell of the dede of the Defendant hath declaryd what collusyon he ment to this Complaynant in his hart by reason wherof albeit your oratour perceived somewhat the crafty worme of dyssymulacyon detraccon & collusyon to be hyd under the sugred coloure, yet your orator (as he hathe byn allwayes of nature gladly enclined to doo any fryndesipp or pleasure he can to any gentillman or others which beryth face of any honestye) so was he glad (beyng all waies then student in the temple) without any rewarde fee proffytt Offyce lyverye or comodyte to doo for Sir John Brydges any plesure service ffryndeshipp or benfytt he coulde devyse hopynge thereby (with long continuall paynes & costes) to have myned & graven in the sprytes of Sir John Brydges some good prynt of Inclynacon towards this complaynant, and to have alteryd & delayed the hard and stubborne nature of Yngratytude with so many ynnumerable examples of liberalitie daylic practysed & doon by John Warneforde for Sir John Brydges Untill about the fyrst day of November in the xxixth yere of the Reigne of our late soveraigne Lorde the kyng Henry the viiith duryng whiche tyme of fryndeshipp showed by this Complaynant towards Sir John Brydges by the space of ix yeres or therabouts, the Complaynant dyvers & sondry tymes hath geven unto this deffendant good & wholesome advertysment & Councell & specyally agens the ynsuciable vyces of claycon of mynde and ambycon and the unnaturall vyce of yngratytude assuryng hym that no honest man wyll gladlie be moche conversant where soche vyces doo abounde. Yet for all this your oratour could not perswade this deffendant in that bihalf.

And then your oratour beyng utterly fatygated & dispayred of any good redresse in the premisses it fortunod Sir John Brydges, in the saide xxixth yere, to be made high sheref of the Countie of Wiltes and Sir John being so well knowen abroad as fewe or none other honest man of any knowledge and good understandyng or lernyng wolde gladlie take the paynes for Sir John Brydges to be his undershreif, and therby unprovdyed, Sir John Brydges sent for the complaynant, beyng then student in the temple and dyd instantlye desyer this Complaynant to be his under sherif, with many faire promessys of liberall prefermentes & assuryd good hart of Sir John Brydges his heires & posterytic towards your poore Complaynant, and his posterytic. And therapon your oratour still loking & trustyng of reformacyon of the defaultes graffyde in the defendannt, tenderyng the credytt worshypp and reputacon of Sir John Brydges, and being lothe to have it appere to the worldes eye what an Yngrate & unthankfull man he was to deale with, veryly thinkyng that yf this Complaynant had not then taken the payne to serve the comen welth of that offyce for that yere, Sir John Brydges wold of lykelyhod have drawn to hym some lewde light & comberous person to have moche dysquiettyd the whole shyre of Wiltes, in perpetuall Ynfamy of Sir John Brydges, & to the utter discredytt of Sir John, the Complaynant therfor beyng then one of the fellowes of the Ynner temple of continuans x yeres, & havyng allwayes xx li at least, by yere of his parentes for his fyndyng (nothing of his owne credytt or estymacon) supplied for that yere thoffyce of undershreif of the Countie of Wiltes & in deade (though better left & not so

advysedly as might have byn usyd) the Complaynant dyd for that yere were the lyverye of Sir John Brydges, wherof all the fryndes of this Complaynant even at those dayes dyd marvell greatlie. Notwythstandyng this complaynant passyd pay fullie (to his costes & charges not yet were impencyd) in the execucyon of the office of undershreifwyck duryng that yere, And neither toke nor receyved any pennye wages ffee profytt or advanntage, other then his rydyng costes for the tyme in keypyng the tornes & execucyon of the offyce of undershreifwyke at the assyses Cessyons & gayle delyveryes. And your oratour abassheth and shameth that he be so cruelly and unkyndely constrayned by the deffendant to declare unto your honors all this trewth of this deffendant to his reproche.

And after Thomas Warneforde father to your poore oratour at Sevenhampton dyed, about the fyrst day of June in the xxxth yere of the reigne of our late soveraigne lorde the kyng seasyd of the inherytanns of lx li by yere. After whose decesse the inherytanns discendyd & came to your oratour as sonne & heyre of Thomas his father which inherytanns yete ys & allwayes hath byn of good parte of the lyvyng begynnyng & staie of your poore oratour.

And after your poore oratour was reteigned with the late lorde Seymour of Sudeley aboute Mychellmas in the xxxth yere of the reigne of Henry viij, whom the Complaynant (accordyng to his bounden dutie) in his best wyse by the space of viij or ix yere dyd ffaythfully love honor & serve to his small wytt knowledge & power & accordyng as then was expedyent for the worshyppe & honor of the late lorde Seymour in soche wyse as this deffendant (although he now shew hym an open detractor & malicious disklannderer) cannot Justely reprove the late lorde Seymour of Sudeley or this complaynant for anie manner of thyng inspecyall by name, wherunto this Complaynant was pryvy by all the space of viij or ix yeres. Duryng which tyme your oratour beyng so reteigned with the late lorde Seymour, Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde Brydges his sonne dyd many tymes use this Complaynantes fryndeshipp as an Instrument to satisfye their desyers & requestes wherby this complaynant hath benyfyted Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde notable somes of money above the some of three thousande poundes. And as this Complaynant doth in dede in his harte as moche as he may doo by the Lawe (the cases beyng as they be) rather desyeres & wyshes the reformacon & reconsiliacon of Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde rather than the destrucion & undoing to them or any of them, so in dede your oratour shuld thinke his labour & benefyttes better bestowed yf they the deffendants every of them could use them selves well with him now they have him.

Without that the Complaynant is come or descendyd of so base a stock & poore kyndred or at any tyme wantyd lyvyng, Or that ever the deffendant gave unto your oratour any liberall rewardes other then soche as men comonly call in our englyshe vulgare tonge adversyties despightes displesures harmes & ungentillness, Wherwith this complaynant cannot denye but the deffendant hath liberally rewardyd and enterteigned your poore oratour. And without that that the deffendant ever counceyled or advysed the Complaynant to contynue studye or lernyng by any meanes or that this complaynant had any maner of Relief therunto by this deffendant, Or ever the deffendant brought the Complaynant in any cridytt or estymacon, or that the

deffendant faithfully usyd this complaynant as a frynde at any tyme, Or that ever the deffendant delyed in this Complaynant, otherwyse then for the proper syngler comodytie & advanntage of Sir John Brydges, Or that ever Sir John Brydges ment to advance this complaynant, as yt hath hetherto apperyd by all the actes, or that therbye your oratour dyd gett any maner of lyvyng or estymacon in soche maner & forme as in the answer is subtely & untruly sayned. And without that the Complaynant ever handelyd or usyd the tenantes of the late lorde Seymour with any extremyte or cruelty or ever dyd unlawfully enclose any comon or raysed any rentes or expellyd any tenant unlawfully or by any meanes procuryd any exaccos amercyamentes fynes or rawnsomes to be levyed, or ever usyd hym self in his doinges or affayres extremely cruely dyshonestlye or ungodly or ever deservyd any name reporte hatred or evell opnyon of any of the kinges people, in soche maner and fourme as this deffendant being verylie prycked culpyd & towchyd with the remors of his owne consciens to the knowledge of his owne faltes, wolde most unustely . . . in the person of your poore Supplyannt colorably to excuse the propre insolences and wyckednes of Sir John Brydges . . . *[Here a central section of the document, approximately 18 1/2" x 9 1/2", is illegible: the illegible portions are indicated below by dots thus . . . ]* And wheras the deffendant wold colorably excuse hym self of his ryotes in kyllyng & destroying the coneyes of your poor oratour So it is most honorable lordes your poore oratour & his ancestors tyme out of mynde or remenibranns of . . . for provysyon of his & theyre howses in Sevenhampton have allwayes had & usyd to have kept & norrishe as many coneyes as your poore oratour in the . . . now at varyanns . . . & groundes . . . called the Roche & ffoxeberyes lyeng betwen the arable landes of the Deffendant & the dwellyng howse & orchard of your supplycann & by cawse the conyes shuld doo no harme to the corne of Sir John Brydges or to the orchard & garden of your supplycant & to thintent your oratour wold in all thinges kepe hym self out of dannger of Sir John Brydges your intercessor destroyed all the beryes & coneyes in every place where harme was like to growe towards Sir John Brydges. And your orator lawfully made other vij or eight severall beryes in Clappers upon xvj acres of lande & soyle of your orators in Estfelde of Sevenhampton adioynyng unto the Cowleas or severall pasture groundes of your orator callyd Culvyham & moresplot beyng good . . . fedyng groundes & beyng adioynyng to the other proper arable landes, medowes fedyng & pasture of your orator in every syde rounde about & being dystant from any landes or tenementes of the Defendant at least & most place by one furlonge. And after your orator storyd the new berries or Colapperty . . . other beries & hathe . . . kept replenished & norysht the same conyes only for the provisyon of his hows in Sevenhampton as well & lawfull it is & was for hym to doo. And your orator sayeth also averyth that the felde called Estfelde conteyns by estymacon fourtene *[sic]* hundred acres and that all the residew of . . . called Estfelde lyeth to tyllage & husbandrye in soche maner & forme as it hath allwayes been accustomedly to doo, by all the tyme wherof the remenibranns of man renneth not to the contrary . . . harme or Iniurye to the Defendant or to any other person, other then to John Warneford hym self. Without that the Defendant hath or ought to have above the number of two hundreth acres parcell of the felde called Estfeld. And without that any parcell of the

sayde cc acres or other inherytannes of Sir John Bridges adioyneth to the Conyngre. And without that this Complaynant ever ment or intendyd to destroye the fertylitie & tillage of the same felde called the Estfelde, or that the Defendant or any other person or persons had anie great hurt or hynderanns by any iniust or unlawfull meanes of this complaynant. Or yt this complaynant (notwithstanding he moche delyteth to lyve & contynue in honestye & to have wherewith to entertaigne his honest neighbores & loving fryndes) ever preserved his owne pryvate advantage or comoditie above the comon welth, in soch maner & forme as this defendant hath sermysed. And this complainant also sayeth that the Defendant the said xxvth day of Aprill namyd in the bill was at Sevenhampton & not in London, and dyd the trespass ryott & unlawfull assemble & forceble entre in maner & forme as in the bill of Complaynte ys also declaryd. And your orator also sayeth & averyth that the soyle where the ij pondes now be were gogmyers or marrys grounde, where no maner of cattell dyd ever use to fede or pasture. And without that this Defendant or any inhabitanntes in Sevenhampton ought to have any maner of comon or fedying of cattell in or upon the grounde called twoo pondes or that it was by anie meanes lawfull for the defendant or any other person to breke up the hedges & pasture there cattell, in soche maner & forme as in the answer is allegyd. And as to the grounde in Esthroppe called Newleas . . . by estymacon xxx acres So it is most honorable lordes that the late lorde Seymor of Sudeley longe tyme before the cause of his atteynder was seased in his demeane as of ffee . . . of & in the manor of Estropp & of & in all & singler landes & tenementes & hereditamentes beyng within the groundes called Newleas wich then was parcell of the Manor of Esthroppe & of certen dyvers other landes tenementes hereditamentes & possessions in Esthroppe by dyvers & sondry tytles & conveyances. And the late lorde Seymor so beyng therof seasyd, your orator did have (at the will of the late lorde Seymor) xxxvij acres of lande & iij acres of medowe with thappurtenances in sundry places of the medowes & pastures of Esthroppe. And after for & upon good & liberall recompences & satisfacions aswell the late lorde Seymor as your poore orator by suffycient wrytyng & conveyances redy to be showd, dyd exchange compennde & agree with all maner of persons having landes & other interest within the lymyttes & boundes of the grounde called Newleas & therupon after soch awarde & agrement lawfully taken executyd & had John Warneforde at his propre costes & charges enclosyd the grounde called Newleas, as well & lawfull was for hym to doo. By force wherof the late lorde Seymor was seased of the grounde callyd Newleas in his Demeane as of ffee, as of his proper severall pasture groundes & soyle, dyscharged of all tytles eassys comons & encombrances. And lorde Seymor so beinge seasyd of the saide grounde called Newleas long tyme before the cause of the atteynder by his wrytyng sufficient in law redy to be showed dyd therof infeoff the Complaynant to have & to hold to hym & to his heyres By force wherof your orator enteryd into the grounde callyd Newleas & was therof seasyd in his demeane as of ffee as of his propre severall groundes untill the tyme the Defendant of hygh mynde & dispyght to pyke a quarrell with this Complaynant (where the Defendant hath nought to doo, and where there is no righte law trewth honesty or concyens to maynteyne the same

doings of the Defendant) & untill the saide trespasse ryottes rowtes & unlawfull assembles & forcyble [*entries*] were most uniuistly practysed by the procurement & mayntenance of Sir John Brydges in maner & forme as in the bill of complaynt ys very trulic alleged. Without that the Defendannt or any suche tenantes or inhabitanntes in Sevenhampton ought of right to have comon or pasture in any of the feldes medowes or pastures in Esthroppe, or that your orator hath given to the kynges maiestie or any of his graces people any disheryson or Iniure in maner & forme as this Defendant in his answer hath also most subtilly & ungentilly allegyd. And your poore orator sayeth also that he trusteth to show & declare by good wrytinges & conveyances, before your honourable lordshipes (at all tymes & place when & where it shall pleas your good lordships to commande) matter ynough sufficyent in the lawe to discharge & extinguishe forever the title of comon which by any maner of meanes the Defendant or any of his tenantes of Sevenhampton may or ought to clayme in the groundes called the Knapp & long acres & of & in all other groundes in varyanns to all ententes respectes & purposes. Without that the Complaynant hath wrongfully enclosyd the groundes called the knap & long acres and without that the Defendant hath had or ought to have in the felde called Westfyld & southfeld of Sevenhampton above the number of foure hundreth acres of land medow & pasture and wythout that this complaynant (apon & after the whole matter dysclosyde) hath made any Inclosure to ye dysheryson of the defendant. And without that it was lawfull for the Defendant to assemble the persons nanyd in the bill of complaynt for any soch unlawfull purpose or interest or that it was lawfull for the defendant to put his cattell into ye groundes or to use any . . . in maner & forme as in the answer is also untruly allegyd.

And as to towching the way claymed by the Defendant your poore orator saith & averith that about vij yeres past [*he*] hath iusteley dampnyd one ould myry place between the severall groundes of your orator there called Dawes & Watery close at wich myry place some men have thought there hath byn a way in ould tyme many yeres past, but your oratour sayeth that any soche way hath not ben usyd nor . . . all the space & tyme wherof the remembranns of any tenantes, and there ys no soche way conveyent or necessary to be had either for this Defendant or any other the tenantes of Sevenhampton. But the saide place & way (yf eny soche ever were) now ys & then was very necessary and expedyent to be dampned & stopped bycause moche harme dyd grow often to the poore tenantes & inhabitanntes in Sevenhampton, as longe as the gapp or myry place dyd lye open & not stopped. And the place was never claymed to be anie comon highway for all the kinges liege people but onlie a gapp at the breache of the felde & in a dry somer when the myry place was or sholde happen to be drye to convey the cattell of the inhabitanntes in Sevenhampton from one felde to another, at that tyme of change of feldes, & none other tyme in no other maner. Wich thyng now nedeth not for that your oratour sayeth & avereth that there ys an other very good & better drye land adioynyng unto the same place called Catland and that there beyne other highways in Sevenhampton moche more comodyous & necessary for the defendant & other the inhabitanntes to & for all purposes & ententes. And more over for furdre explan-

acon of trewth this complaynant sayeth that trewth it is this Complaynant & his ancestors tyme out of mynde have byn seased in their demeane as of ffee of & in severell close or court lying wythin the utter gates at ye dwelling hows of your orator in Sevenhampton, & that parcell of the severall close or court hath byn a severall way to passe & to repasse in to & from the dwelling hows of your orator in Sevenhampton only for hym them self & his & their frendes & familie, & none other person or persons, And that the soyle & grounde of the severall way lyeth adioyneth within twoo foote of the yate & walles of the dwelling hows of your oratour & the garden therof & the way is the proper serverall soyle of this complaynant within & upon wich several soyle & grounde of your orator the Defendant at dyvers & sondry tymes hath ryotuslie forcibly enteryd, & then & there hath made sondry ryottes troubles & unlawfull assemblies in maner & forme as in the bill of Complaynt amonges other thinges is trewlie allegyd. Without that the Defendant hath any arable Land meadow or pasture lying upon the south syde of the dwelling hows of your oratour or in other place of the . . . Sowthfylde wythin the space of half a myle. And without that there was of late any soche comon waye lyeng nere unto the dwelling hows of your orator whereby the Defendant usyd or might lawfully goo to eny part of the sondry parcells of grounde or land of this Defendant. And that the way claymed lying between Dawes & Watery Close was or ought to be any comon way aswell for all other the kynges liege people as for this Defendant & other the tenantes of Sevenhampton, or that this Defendant or any other of the kynges people had ever any comoditie there, by reason of any soche way as the place called Dawes or that the Defendant or any of the kynges people by reason or occasyon of any soche Inclosures or stoppyng have susteyned anie hurt or any . . . And without this Defendant ever wantyd or lackyd other wayes to his groundes, or that ever the Defendant was forcyd to come by the groundes of this complaynant by anie maner of meanes or for any occasyon. Or that the Defendant the vth day of Aprill in the vth yere menconed in the bill of complaynte, at the tyme of the trespas then supposyd with a number of houndes or greyhoundes dyd hunt the hare or that the saide ij persons having ij bowes & arrowes were young lerners to shoote. And without that the said Kyrton dyd ever make any assaulte upon John Sharpe servant to the Defendant or that John Sharpe dyd stryke Kyrton in the defence of John Sharpe, or that the Defendant was ignorant of the quarrelle & assault . . . agenst John Kyrton, for your orator sayeth that John Kyrton havng suffycient warante was then going in service for the kynges maiestie & the comon welth, by commandement & appoyntment of this Complaynant, entending onlie to warn certein honest persons to appeare at the next assises & gaole delyvery then to be holden within the Countie of Wiltes, accordyng to precept dyverted to the Complaynant by & from the late sherif of the Countie of Wiltes. And the deffendant havng therof perfect understanding & being therof dysdaynefull & clayning the office craftely dyd procure John Sharpe & one Poole to lye in a wayt for Kyrton . . . beate wounde & cvell intreate hym in maner & form as in the bill of Complaynte is trulie allegid . . . [*Here is a line superimposed which is for the most part illegible.*]



And as concernyng the office of Baylyswyck of the hundredes borowghes & liberties of Highworthe & Creklade your oratour sayeth & averryth that long tyme before the makyng of the letters Patentes of our soveraigne lorde the kyng supposed to be made [*to the*] offyce of stewardshypp our soveraigne lorde the king by his most gracious letters patentes (good & suffycint in the lawe redy allwaies to be showne to your honours) dyd give & grannte unto your oratour for terme of his life the offyce of Baylyf & Baylyswyck & by the same letters patentes our soveraigne lorde the kinge dyd ordaine & constitute John Warneford now complaynant baylif of the hundred borowghes & liberties with all the rightes members & appurtenances in maner & forme as in the bill of complaynte ys also allegyd. Withoute this deffendant by reason of stewardshipp ought to have the allecon or appoyntement of the baylyffes of Highworthe & Crekelade or that the deffendant by any meanes is lawfully seasyd of the office of Baylyswyck, or that the deffendant tyme out of mynde hath usyd to have the elleccyon & nominacon of the baylyffes or any of them for your oratour sayeth that wythin the tyme of . . . [*some six words illegible*] Sir Edwarde Hungerforde knight & others sondrely & by sondry tytles & grantes ben officers there & have usyd occupyed & had by many and dyvers yeres the offices of stewardshypp & Bailiswyke of Highworthe Criklade and Staple in the saide Countie of Wiltes at soche tymes as Sir John Brydges had none interest or occupacon of or in anie of the offices. And without yt the letters patente . . . of the office . . . of the offices of Bailiswyke made to the Complaynant for anie maner of cause be voide & of none effecte in lawe in maner & forme as diletaryly in the answer is conteyned.

And without that this Complaynant reysed any untrew noise or fame that Sir John Brydges was grevouslie hurt. Or that the Complaynant hath caused anie soche rentes in Highworth Hankerton or Cloteley or wrongfully hath expellyd any poore man there or anie that were within the Realme of England, or that Collyer or Rusheton at the tyme of the sondrye dysseysons forcible entrees & trespasses by them or any of them doon had anie lawfull interest or tytle in the landes tenementes & other the premisses or any parcel thereof, or that the Complaynant dyd wrongfully ynpryson Collyer. For your orator saieth William Collyer his sonnes & childres long tyme before the trespas ryot dyssysyon & maytenance doon & comytted, aswell by good wrytynges & redy to be showed as by other matter sufficient in Law & consciens dyd surrender releas & extyngyshe unto John Warneforde all his & ther right title & interest wich by any meanes they might have or then had of & in the premisses and that the Deffendant (more to offende this complaynant then for anie good charitie in his parte) wrote the saide letters to Sir William Wroughton, to color his maytenance, therby to gett Collyer out of a hows in Hankerton wich Collyer by Just tytle dyd then in dede possesse & he with the saide Thomas Walton dyd wrongfully then clayme from Collyer & therof dyd expell and to bryng this complaynant thereby in some trouble.

And your orator sayeth that at the last specyall gayle delyvery holden at Sarum your orator entenyng to geve evydens agenst John Lye, Symonde Blagrove, Thomas Jarrotte Henry Bance William Bowes Thomas Packer Harry Russeton & others apou a bill of endytement of trespas and therfor your orator sent for Harry

Russheton<sup>1</sup> & John Richardes to have geven evydens apou the same bill because your orator knew they had the best knowledge of the trewyth of the mysbehavors of the offenders. And after the Infidelitie & untrewth of Richardes & Russheton your orator dyd then in his best wyse peasibly & charytably reprove Richardes & Russheton of their Insolence & negligence & not otherwise and after apou good & trew evydens the offenders namyd in the bill of complaint were all endyted. Whereupon they & every of them have knowledged their offences by assent of the deffendant, & have made their fynes to our soveraigne lorde the kyng for their contempte agenst the kinges peace, partely at the [cost] of this deffendant.

Without that this complaynant (albeit he hath had many Just causes so to doo) dyd ever as yet attempt to endyte Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmonde Brydges or anie of them, or that the Complaynant wyllid Russheton or Richardes to have geven any false evydens or to have doon any other unlawfull or dishonest actes.

And your orator sayeth that wheras by covenant reall in wrytting redy to be showed it is agreed covenantyd & bargayned that Sir John Brydges beyng feoffee & assigne unto the late lorde Seymor by conveyances under & after the assurance made to your orator should & ought not to have any shepe in the saide pasture called Billingsham between the feastes of thanuncyacon of our lady & Sainte Michel tharchangele, yet the Defendant (gredely covetyng & preferring his owne pryvate lucre) kepith & fedyth uniuistlie allmost one thousande shepe yerelie & comonly in the pasture called Byllingsham, by fourtene or xv daies after the feast of the annuncyacon of our lady, wherby there ys no grasse lefte at holly rede in May wher the rother beastes of ye poore tenantes of your orator there ought to enter fyrst yerly into the pasture to the grevous destrucion of twelve poore men and their familie: inhabyting in Sevenhampton for lack of pasture to fede their kyne & oxen to maynteyn theyre howsholdes & ploughes. And besydes that Sir John Brydges hath overchargyd & yet doth overcharge the pasture with vij or viij more beastes & wyth other kynde of cattell then he ought to doo, and Sir John Brydges doth not suffyciently from tyme to tyme enclose & fence the pasture betwene the arable feldes yn Esthropp called Reddowne & the pasture as he ought to doo wherby the cattell of the Defendant & others the inhabytantes doo then breke out of the pasture & destroy the corne of the Kinges poore tenantes in Estroppe to their grevous damages, wherof they have often complayned to your orator by cause he ys the kinges stewarde there & ought to help & forsee that they be not exiled oppressyd or Ympoverished so that the king may be dulia answeryd of his rents and revenue: there. And also your orator sayeth that he hath many tymes herd of great Boastes & avauntes which the Deffendant hath made that no tenant havyng interest for or by the grannt of your orator sythens the deathe of the late lorde Seymour shall enjoye any comon fedyng or pasture called Byllyngesham, and that the Deffendant wolc therof dissease & expell your orator & his tenantes contynually & from tyme to tyme as the owlde estates & interests of your poor oratoures tenantes now beyng in Sevenhampton might happen to expyre & determyn.

1. How the two Harry Russhetons were related is not known. In this close community several of the accused were kin to John Warneford's tenants.

And your Supplyannt sayeth & averyth that your orator by the desyre & at the request of the Defendannt & to his use hath paide layde out and dysbursyd the some of fyfty poundes sterling as shall appere to your honors apon and by good bylls of the . . . therof, wiche some of l li the Defendant . . . unto your orator . . . your orator had & lawfully dyd holde for then and duryng the term of tenne yeres & more . . . tymes past, all the tythe of the vycarage of Hyghworth risyng and growing within the pasture called Byllyngesham within the tything of Sevenhampton and yerely . . . & rent for the same tythe by reason wherof your orator ought of right & conscyens to be answeryd payde or contentyd by this Defendant for the tythes parcell of the vycarage of & for the wolle of the thowsande shepe of this Defendant pasturyng yerely in the saide pasture called Byllingsham between the feast of Mychellmas & our Lady day in lent by all the space of tenne yeres about the valew of fyfty poundes and for the tythe of the wolle of fyve hundreth other shepe & wethers of this Defendant pasturing in the demeanes in the feldes and medowes of Sevenhampton by the space of iij yeres at least xx li.

Without that that any other thyng materyall or traversable allegyd or conteyned in the answeres & not . . . in this replicacon suffycently replied unto confessyd & avoyded traversyd or denyed ys trew. All wiche matter this Complaynant ys redy to avere & prove before your honorable lordshipes . . . where as it shall pleas your honores to award.

And forasmoche as Sir John Brydges now deffendant hath not & cannot well excuse hym self of many of the offences actes & dedes agenst hym allegyd & conteyned wythin the bill of complaynte or in this present replicacon, & in effect hath not denyed and by entendymnt hath confessed allredy playnly ynough many of the same offences your orator prayeth that the deffendant may be in judgement of your honorable lordships condempnyd. And wheras the deffendant wantyng matter of trewth to maynteyne & warrant his diceit & quarrell as by the answer apperyth & therin fallyth & dygressyth from the effectuall matters now in varyanns by Synistre untrewthe to deface discountenance & dyscredyt your poore orator before your honorable lordships by reason of wordes supposed to be spoken by this complaynant and amongst other thinges the deffendant wryteth certein wordes by hym allegyd & surmysed to be untuly spoken and daclaryd by this complaynant to the Ynfanmye & dysclannder of the deffendant: your humble orator therunto sayeth that the deffendant the xvjth day of May last past sythens the proclomacion for the adiornment of this next trynity terme and sythens the answer made before your honorable lordships, by the deffendant onlie for vexacon of the Complaynant, hath procuryd forth a wrytt owt of the kynges benche, & therapon a warrant from the sheryf of Mydd [*lessex*] dyrected to the bayly of the libertye of the Duchy of Lancaster ther, & evenso hath cawsed your orator therapon to be arrestyd in contempt of the proclomacion and to the costes & charges of your orator, upon pretens & color of an accon apon the case, for the sayd wordes. Your humble orator therfor prayeth that the contempt in Sir John Brydges by your goodnes may be consideryd and that your orator may still remayne at liberty what answer he will make therunto quindena<sup>1</sup>

1. Period of fifteen days.

which is next ansuyng, chiefly for that the now deffendant for lack of declaracon in the acon in the courte of kinges benche ys yet & untill that day shall remayne at libertye what & how much he shall burdeyn your orator wyth & by his acyon at comon Law. And nonetheless yf your honors yt shall be thought expedient that your poore orator shall presently answer both before your worships & in the court of common Lawes to all wordes by hym spoken agenst Sir John Brydges by or concernyng the . . . of Sir John Brydges your orator with good and sufficyent substancyall wytnessys & . . . by good sufficyent wytnessys & otherwyse before your honors that your orator at any tyme hath iniured spoken or . . . to be spoken to be in dede very . . . by the reason of the uniust desertes & unlawfull doings of Sir John Brydges . . . [*the last line and a half are for the most part illegible*].

d) *Depositions of Witnesses*

*Deposition of Roger Wikes*

Roger Wikes of Ashebury Berk gent of thage of l yeres or ther aboute sworne and examined the day and year above written<sup>1</sup> depositth and sayth he heard the said Warneford say to Thomas Stevyns and to the deponent talking then of Sir John Bridges Mary said Warneford shyte upon his croked nose. At which tyme Warneford Rayled ungodly uppon Sir John calling him knave. And that he wold one day shake a halter at the father and the sonne.

Sayeth to the iijrd that he never herd Warneford say or report that Sir John Bridges shuld be a cowardly knave and that he was so proved at Bullaigne. Or that he was a theiff But remembereth well that at Senyngton about a twell monyth ago he herd Warneford say in his howse in the presence of this Deponent and Thomas Stevyns the younger that in his conscience Sir John Bridges was attorney to his seven servants that were arreyed of felony.

To the last he sayeth that he hath not herd Warneford speke any other opprobrious wordes of Sir John Bridges or Rayling wordes of Sir John Bridges more than he hath now declared uppon his examination to his now remembrances.

*Deposition of Thomas Stevyns*

Thomas Stevyns of Chiseldon in the Countie of Wilts gent of thage of xxv yeres or ther aboutes sworne and examined the day and yere above depositth and sayeth to the first article That he herd Warneford saye that if he had iust cause he durst set Sir John Bridges by the heles and wold do it. Which wordes the deponent hath herd hym speke about half year ago he being in his howse at Sevnyngton. Otherwise he denyeth this article.

To th ijth he confesseth that he herd Warneford speke dyvers tymes many Rayling wordes of the said Sir John Bridges and that he was a croked nosed knave and shite upon his Croked nose.

To the iijth he sayeth that he doth not remember that he ever herd the same

1. No date is given on the document.

Warneford speke any soche words or eny such like as be menconed in the article but this deponent doth remember Warneford saye of Sir John Bridges that he thought in his consens that Sir John Bridges did . . . with his seven servanntes that were arreyned of felony.

To the last he sayeth that he dyvers and sondrey tymes being in company with Warneford hath herd hym speke dyvers evill & opprobrius wordes of Sir John Bridges Rayling also uppon hym and that he trusted one day to shake a halter at hym which he spake about a tewell moneth in his howse in the presence of dyvers persones whose names he doth not remember. And sayeth Warneford is a great Taylor uppon Sir John for the which this deponent hath ben dyvers tyme sorry and yet is. And more nowe at this tyme he doth not Remember.

*Deposition of William Garrard*

William Garrard of Glebepepper in the County of Wiltes of lx yerces or ther about sworne & examined.

To the first article he sayeth that he never herd Warneford saye that he wold set Sir John Bridges by his heles but he remembereth well that syns Estr last he herd Warneford saye in his howse that he trusted to have a good matter to set the same Sir John by the heles and that if he had he durst do it as well as to eny other meane person. Which wordes were spoken in the presence of dyvers persons at the same daye that he kept his Court at Sevington after Ester last.

To the ijth he sayeth he herd not Warneford say that he was a croked nose knave but this deponent doth well remember that at the same Court day after Ester last he herd Warneford saye in the garden in the presence of dyvers persons that Sir John Brydges was a very knave And that with many other Rayling wordes which he doth not remember. At whiche time this deponent said he was to blame so to speke of any man of worshipp. And then Warneford said I wolde he wolde give me no cause so to speke of hym.

To the iijrd he denyeth the hole contentes of the same Article And that he said no suche thing.

To the last he sayeth he never herd Warneford speke any other opprobrius wordes or Rayling uppon Sir John but only at the same tyme at the said Court Day ffor the deponent sayeth he hath not ben moche in his company syns. And more therin he knoweth not.

*Deposition of William Hamshire*

William Hamshire of Coverleigh co Clos gent sworne and examined uppon . . . concernynge the killing of the fferytt Deposith and sayeth that he was present when Sir John Bridges came to Thomas Richardes waryner to Mr Warneford and sayeth ther was three other persons . . . this deponent at the tyme whose names be Richard Hynton Thomas Hynton and Richard Madison. And funder sayeth that Sir John Brydges meting with the waryner amongst the Conyberes of the said Warneford said to him these wordes or like in effect Sir if I take youre kepyng any coneyes hereafter here . . . shaking then uppon the waryner a littel whisking wannnd that Sir John had

then in his hand and therewith toke the ferytt from the waryner and cast it to the ground and left it not ded. And therewith Sir John and his company departed. More herin this deponent knoweth not.

*Deposition of Thomas Hynton*

Thomas Hynton of the parysh of Wanborough in the county of Wilts gent sworne & depositth was present with Sir John when he came to Richarde long waryner to Warneford. And sayeth to his now remembrance ther was not in his company above iiij or v persons. And sayeth Sir John did not at that tyme eny harme or hurt to Richardes but toke from hym a ferytt whiche he then hurled downe to the ground And so ther uppon departed. Without eny other thing don to Richardes at that tyme & more he knoweth not herin.

*Deposition of Danyell Plederwell*

Danyell Plederwell of Hyworth in the county of Wilts of thage of xxxii yerres sworne and examyned the xxj daye of June of the vjth yere of the reygne of our Soveryne lord King Edward the vjth concerning certen opprobrious wordes spoken by Mr Warneford of Sir John Brydges knight that aboute the xth daye of Maye last past Mr Warneford came to this Deponent he being in the felde with his ploughe and ther toke this Deponent and bound his handes behind him with a sursingle And from thence carryed him home to his howse at Sevenhampton. And when he came ther to the same Mr Warneford caused him to be sett in the stockes and Dyd hange a locke upon his fette by the space of thre dayes and thre nightes. And then Warneford came to him and said Danyell I will . . . the . . . then go off home And I will have . . . that croked nose knave that vylleyny knave Sir John Brydges and he is a strong a thefe as any in England For I will hange him or ever I . . . with him. And further this Deponent sayeth that Warneford said that he would have Sir Anthony Hungerford ther or ever it were longe. And he sayeth Sir John also in his capping role meanynge his stockes or alls he wold . . . in th . . . of Sir John Bridges.

*Further Deposition of Thomas Hynton*

The same Thomas Hynton depositth funder that he fortunod to be with Sir John Bridges at Sevington at suche tyme as he caused certen hedges being made by Mr Warneford to be picked up for that he said Warneford had enclosed certen ground Sir John Bridges clamed comon for his cattell & shepe. And how many persons were ther at that tyme he dothe not now remember but supposith ther was not past fyve persons at the plucking up of the same hedges wiche was don in quiett and pesable maner to the number of xij or xiiij Rood in all to this . . .

*Deposition of Richard Madyson*

Richard Madyson servant to Sir John Bridges knight sworne depositth and sayeth that he was present with his M[aste]r at that tyme that he came to Richardes waryner to Warneford. And sayeth to his knowledge ther was ther with his M[aste]r at that tyme three other persons & no more. And sayeth Richardes had no harme don to hym ther or any stroke given hym ther. And sayeth his M[aste]r toke awaye

from hym ther his feritt and threw it to the ground but whether the fferytt died ther or not he cannot tell. And more ther was not don.

*Deposition of William Clio*

William Clio of Highworth viteler sworne and examined upon the elecion of the baylife of Highworth and of the hundred of hyworth depositth and sayeth that he is of thage of lx yeres and was borne within the town of highworth and hath for the most p[ar]t contynued & inhabited within the said town and knoweth that the bayly of the said town & hundred hath allways to his knowledge bim chosen under this sort Viz: Upon a Lawday wich is allwayes the day after Michaelmas if it be not Sunday. Upon the wiche law day ther be xij honest men of the same town sworne and the same xij men put with iij names of thenhabitantes of the same town in writing Wherof the old bayly is allwayes one And the same iij names the said xij men do present to the steward and so ther uppon the steward dothe chose & name one of those there to bee bayly that yeare. And sayeth furder that allwayes the Steward of Highworth doth chose and name the bayly for the hundred of Highworth and Creklad.

*Deposition of John Rose*

John Rose of Highworth shomaker sworne and examined sayeth that he dwelth in the same town of Highworth about xxij yeres Annd to his knowledge never knew the contrary but that the bayly of the town of Highworth was allwayes elected and chosen in manner & forme as William Clio . . . hath deposed and said And in like manner that the bayly of that hundred of Highworth & Crekland is allwayes chosen and named by the Steward of the town of Highworth.

*Deposition of William Pleydell*

William Pleydell of mygheall<sup>1</sup> in the county of Wilts gent of age of lxx yeres sworne and examined depositth and sayeth that he doth know that Mr Warneford hath of late enclosed ground lying in the Lordship of Sevenhampton in the county aforesaid Afore wiche enclosure the tenantes and the farmers of the lordshipp now belonging to Sir John Brydges had comon in the groundes at such tyme as the same lay falow & unsowen. And sayeth that the same Mr Warneford hath of late made a conygre in the said felde which non was afore to his knowledge for these lx yeres.

And furder this deponent sayeth that he dothe know that Warneford hath taken in a comen high way adioynyng nere to his house wiche of old tyme was a redy horse . . . for the Inhabitantes of the townes & villages ner to the said way. And furder this deponent examined touching thoffice of baylywike of highworth deposithe he sayeth to his knowldge for the lx yeres that all waye the steward of Highworth for the tyme being had the elecion and nomination according to the ellection had and made at this daye.

*Deposition of Richard Kemble*

Richard Kemble of Blunsdon in the Countie of Wilts yeoman sworne and examined depositth and sayeth that he dothe well knowe that Mr Warneford hath

1. Midgehall.

about ij or iij yeres passed inclosed with quick set and diches certen ground wherin Sir John Bridges knight ought to have his comon. Wheruppon Sir John Bridges between Michaelmas and All halowtyd was twell moneth caused the said quicke set & diches in pesable maner to be . . . upon making therin but gappes to thintent the cattell of Sir John Bridges mighte comme in and use and have comon grazing. And sayeth he was present at the making of the same ij gappes at the desire & request of Mr Bridges. And sayeth ther was not past iij persons besides this deponent having no wepons but iche nian a staff as they usually go with all. And furder sayeth that Mr Warneford dyd afterwards make up the same gapps ageyne wiche when this deponent had perceyved he and one littell boye with hym went ageyn unto the same inclosure And ther made onc gappe to thentent the cattell of Mr Bridges might go to the same ground wiche thing the deponent did by the comandement of Mr Bridges. And more herin this deponent knoweth not.

And sayeth furder that uppon an inclosure ageyn made by Mr Warneford this deponent a thirde tyme made a gappe in thes closes wiche now fensed and inclosed by Mr Warneford. And more this deponent knoweth not.

*Deposition of John Leather*

John Leather servante to Sir Anthony Hungerford knight sworne and examined uppon . . . deposithe and sayeth that in somer last he fortunited to go to Warnefordes house by reason that certen of his horses were in Mr Warnefordes pound At wiche tyme ther was compencacon between this deponent and Warneford for the same distres. And then and ther Warneford said unto the deponent these wordes or suche like in effect Sir John Bridges doth saye I called hym knave but if I did call hym knave go then knave and tell hym that I saye he is a . . . villeyknave And I truste to have hym and thy Master as fast as I have the. At wiche tyme Warneford kept the deponent in his Court and caused fetters to be put uppon the legges of this deponent. And sayeth ther was present at the speking of the said wordes wiche Warneford spake Mr Bridges & Richard Egerly and dyvers other of Mr Warnefordes servantes. Now touching the wordes to be spoken by Mr Warneford he doth not know of his every hering.<sup>1</sup>

*Deposition of Richard Egeley*

Richard Egeley of Westroppe in the parish of Highworth husbandman sworne and examined deposithe and sayeth he doth well remember that this somer he was at Mr Warnefordes and then and ther Warneford walking in his groundes wher certen tymes dyd he in the company of his father in lawe Mr Ashton and dyvers other persones dyd openly speke and say that Sir John Bridges was a coward And a preest of Mr Ashtons being ther at that tyme said immediately uppon those words spoken by Warneford yt was so proved at Bulleyn. And this deponent sayeth furder that Warneford sayd at that tyme that Sir John Bridges was suche a mayntenor of the vys that no poore man could dwell in Rest by his howse. Other opprobrius words to be spoken by Warneford this deponent hath not herd to his now remembrance.

1. Leather's evidence concerning the election of the bailiff of Highworth and Cricklade repeats that given by other witnesses and is omitted here.



*Deposition of John Davis*

John Davis of Sevington in the Countie of Wilts husbandman sworne and examined deponeth to the first and ijnd Articles he sayeth about two yeres passed Warneford made a conygre in the said Estfeld And sayeth the same ground wiche the same conygre now is hath ben accustomedly sowen till Warneford did purches part of it wiche was the Late Seymors. And sayeth that the most part of the ground of the same where the conygre is made is the inheritance of Warneford. And sayeth that ther was no conygre made in the same ground afore now. To the iijrd he sayeth the tenantes had two or three acres & not past to his judgement of arable ground lying within the same conygre ffor the wiche the said tenantes have allowed them as moche land & ground in other places by ther agreement. To the iiijth he sayeth Sir John hath a gret quantitie of land in the same Estfeld but how moche is therof he cannot tell. And sayeth the same land is comonly sowen every seconde yere.

To the vth he sayeth ther was two ponndes so made in the same felde and supposeth it is two yeres syng they were made. And sayeth they be very small ponndes. Sayeth to the vijth confesseth that the ground where the said ponndes were made was comon and hath been used as comon for all the tenantes of Sevenhampton and the farmers also at suche tymes as the feldes there were unsowen.

To the vij he sayeth that the late farmers of the same manor have had & used comon for ther cattell in the said feldes untill the tyme of the inclosure had and made by Warneford. But what agreement is now had betweene Sir John Bridges & Warneford he knoweth not.

To the viijth he sayeth that the late farmers of the same demeanes have had used to breke the feldes ther before the tennantes ther But the farmers therof and Mr Warneford and tennante to gether all at onc day have used to breke the same feldes. To the ixth sayeth ther is a certen ground called New leas enclosed by Warneford about two yeres passed but how many acres it doth conteyn he cannot tell.

To the xjth he sayeth about ij yeres passed the same twoo peces of ground called the Knap and Long acres were inclosed by Warneford out of the comen feldes ther And by estimation they both conteyn vj or vij acres.

To the xij he sayeth it is about cc acres that Sir John Bridges hath ther.

To the xijj he sayeth the howse so set up and the yard so inclosed is the fre ground of Warneford to his knowledge.

To the xiiij he confesseth that in tyme past till Warneford agreed with the tenantes ther the same groundes so inclosed were comon & so used untill the same feldes were sowen ageyn.

To the xvth he sayeth Warneford hath trenched ditched about the comen ther wiche doth moche good to the ground. And sayeth there is two small holes made ther but no fyssh ponds.

To the xvj he sayeth ther was a way of easement but now the same felde wiche was but smally used. And that Warneford by licens of the tennantes made a dicke ther not past ten foote even to his knowledge wiche was so ditched about ij yeres ago.

To the xvij he confesseth that Sir John Bridges hath land ner to Warnefordes house.

To the xvij and xix he sayeth that the same waye so ditched now by Warneford was

never to his knowledge no gret high way used nor yet no gret comon way And sayeth he never remembreth any cart go that way.

*Deposition of Thomas Parkes*

Thomas Parkes of Sevenhampton husbandman sworne deposeth and sayeth to the first ijnd iijrd he sayeth Mr Warneford hath about vj & vij yeres passed made a conygre in the Estfeld where there was never eny afore And that the ground where the same conygre is now hath accustomedly been sowen. And sayeth ther was arable land where the same conygre is that did belong to the tenantes for the wiche they be recompensed and have ground in other place for it.

To the iiijth confesseth that Mr Bridges hath land in the Estfeld. And that the Estfeld is comonly sowen every ijnd yere.

To the vth he sayeth there be twoo littel holes made ther by Warneford and sayeth it is about ij or iij yeres syns they were made.

To the vijth confesseth that Sir John Bridges and other the tennantes ther ought to have the comon in the same place.

To the vij he confesseth that the fermers ther of the manor ought to have ther comon ther in the same place but how it is agreed upon the deponent knoweth not.

To the viijth he sayeth the fermers ther and the tennantes hath allwayes used to breke at one day.

To the ixth he sayeth the ground called New leas is inclosed by Warneford about v or vj yeres ago & cannot tell how many acres it doth conteyn.

To the xth he sayeth that in tyme past the same ground was comon for the tennantes ther at suche tyme as the ffeldes were unsowen.

To the xi he sayeth ther is suche two parcelles of ground called the knap and long acres so enclosed by agrement but how moche the same doth perteyn he knoweth not. And sayeth it is about iij yeres syns the said inclosure.

To the xij he sayeth he thinketh ther is about lx acres of Mr Bridges ther.

To the xij he knoweth ther is a hous put up but whether it standeth upon the comon he knoweth not.

To the xiiij he confesseth that the tennantes of Sevenhampton and the fermers of the said land which Sir John Bridges now hath have all wayes had & enjoyed their comen in the same feldes accordingly.

To the xv he denyeth any such enclosure but sayeth ther is a dich made there that doth moch good to the ground.

To the xvj he sayeth there is a dyche made ther by the same way And he sayeth the same was never eny right way or eny comon way but a way that did moche harme to the sowen ther.

To the xvij he sayeth he never knew the said way used for eny right waye nor yet for eny maner of horse and cart . . . for the same was so [*?myry*] and so fowle.

To the last he sayeth that the same way is damned with the consente of the tenantes ther.<sup>1</sup>

1. Depositions of William Lans of Sevenhampton and of Henry Banffe, differing very slightly from that of Thomas Parkes, are omitted here.

*Deposition of John Richards*

John Richards of Sevenhampton sworne and examined sayeth that he hath herd Warneford saye and speke very rayling and unfitting wordes of Sir John Bridges whiche wordes were suche as folowithe to his remembrance That Sir John Bridges was a Croked nose knave and a villeyne knave and that he was a coward and so proved at bulayn and that he was a thief and a maynteynor of theves and trusted to have him by the heles. Whiche wordes were spoken after Easter at suche tyme as the deponent was at Mr Warnefordes howse at the Court kept ther by Mr Warneford in the presence of William Webbe Thomas Brende and Henry Rushton and dyvers other persons. And further sayeth that on . . . some day was twelvemonth Mr Warneford sent for this deponent and Henry Rushton to come to him at Salisbury. And so this deponent and Rushton dyd. And there Warneford declaryd to them how his hedges and gates were broken downe and his coneyes stolen by Sir John Bridges and his servants And theruppon wolde have pressed them to have testyfyed so and to have taken a othe uppon a boke and to have sworne theruppon to the whiche mater this deponent and Rushton made answer that they knew no such matter and that they wolde not testyfy nor take any othe to dampe their soules otherwise than according to the truth. And so they desyryd him to be good M[aste]r to them saying they wolde venter their lyves with him but they wold not be soe sworne for him. And with that Warneford sayd to them Well yf ye wyll not doo this your throtes wylbe cut and . . . in your boddys where you lie And I shalbe bayly of the hundred at my comynghome And yf ye will not do this which . . . I will . . . Session to Session.

*Further Deposition of John Richards*

John Richards of Sevenhampton husbandman of thage of I yeres or ther aboute deposeyh & sayeth to the first ijnd and thirde article That Mr Warneford hath newly made a Conygre of late in the same fylde wher ther was never none afor that . . . Sayeth the same landes wher the conygre is made was accustomedly went to be sowed And sayeth that the tenantes ther had landes lying within the same conygre and hath allowed them as much landes for the same but sayeth the tenantes have lost & . . . thereby . . .

To the ijrd he thinketh Sir John hath in the same felde about xiiij c acres and that the same . . . felde is commonly . . . sowed.

To the vth sayeth ther be twoo such pondes made ther [*?in the*] same comon felde above four yeres passed.

To the vjth he confesseth that the same grounds wher the pondes be made ther hath ben used as comon for the tenantes ther and for the fermers of the Lordship which Sir John Bridges now holdeth at suche tymes as the same groundes have laye unsowed.

To the vij he sayeth the same persones & . . . have all wayes had sowed in the same felde till the same inclosure was made.

To the viij he sayeth that of custom Sir John Bridges and the fermers of the lordshipp wiche he hath were wont to breke the same felde first and next after Mr Warneford and thirdly the tenantes.

To the ixth he sayeth the same ground called New leas is inclosed by Warneford and

hath ben so inclosed about iiij yeres but how many acres it doth conteyn he knoweth not.

To the xth he confesseth they had . . . in the same ground afore the same inclosure. To the xj he confesseth that the same ij parcelles of land called Knapp and long acres be so inclosed by Warneford and hath been about v or vj yeres ago and they conteyn by his estimacon about xij acres.

To the xij he thinketh that Sir John Bridges hath in the same felde about ij c acres. To the xij he sayeth part of the same pale [?] standeth upon the . . . feldes but no part of the house.

To the xvth confesseth the dicing and inclosure made by Warneford in the same place.

To the xvjth he sayeth ther is a certen . . . way but now the same feldes in the wiche way Warneford hath made a poole.

To the xvijth he confesseth that Sir John Bridges hath land that lyeth ner the Dwelling house of the same Warneford.

To the xvij confesseth that the same waye is a waye but no gret waye but for bestes and cattell to Dryve threw & ffrow.

To the xix confesseth the same way is now dammed that nether hors nor man can pass that way.

*Deposition of Thomas Yate examined for John Warneford*

Thomas Yate of Hannoie in the co[unt]y of Barks gent of thage of xxxvij yeres sworne.

Examyned on the behalf of Warneford Deponent sayeth that that the xij daye of Maye in the ijrd yere of the kinges maiesties Reign this deponent chanced to be at Warnefords hows at Sevynghampton to make mery with him. At what tyme he sayeth that this deponent and Wylliam Hill [?] being walkynge upon Warnefordes groundes callyd the Roche . . . John [Bridges] accompanied with Thomas Hinton Richard Hinton and ij other persones to this deponent unknowen came to the same grounde and ther fell in conversation with this deponent of sundry matters and after moche conversation the same Sir John Bridges burst owte in thes wordes following . . . There was never man hamblyd as I am by yonder knave Warneford. I have [been] yonder in his new conygre and have kylded his ferret. By godes . . . yf he playe the knave with nie in this fashion I wyll make him smarte in his bodye. And so being in great rage and anger spake many other threatening wordes agaynst Warneford whliche he now remembereth not. And so departed from this Deponent and went forthe of the grounde callyd the roche into the Courte yarde of Warnefordes being a . . . and so passed through the Courte yarde and walked into the feldes therby and so passyd his waye out of syghte but whether or to what intente he so walked through the Warnefordes Courte Yard he knoweth not. And sayeth that his frendes and company had . . . And more therof he cannot Dypose.

#### 4. John Warneford v. Sir Anthony Hungerford (P.R.O., STAC 3/5/77)

a) *Information laid by John Warneford*

To our sovereigne lord the kyng In most humblewyse shewyth unto your highnes your humble and obedyent subiecte & dayly orator John Warneforde of Sevenhampton in ye Countie of Wiltes gent That wheras your highnes by the advyse of your most gracus derest uncle the Lordes grace Duke of Somersett Tharche byshopp of Canterbury my lordes the Marques of North[ampton] therles of Warwyck Wiltes & Bedforde the lordes Clynton Wentworthe & other of your highnes most honorable pryvy Councell addressyd your highnes letters under your graces Signett at Westminster the xxiiijth of November in the fourthe yere of your most victorious reigne for dyvers godly and most iust causes and consideracons [by your] order and comannment that through out all the dyocesse of Sarum all the altars in everye Churche or chappell aswell in places exempte as not exempted within the sayde dyocesse shulde be taken downe and in lieu of them a table sett upp in some convenyent parte of the Chawncell within every soche churche or chappell, to serve for the aministracon of the blessyd comunyon. And to thintent the same myght be doon without thoffence of soche your lovyng subiectes as wer not then so well perswadyd in that behalf (as your grace wold wyshe) your highnes sent therewythall certen consideracons and enstruccons gatheryd and collectyd wiche enforce and make for that purpose the wiche your highnes willed to be expowndyd and declaryd to enfourme the weake conscyences of the ygnorant. So it is most redowbtyd soveraigne lorde that by vertu of your highnes godly order and comannment William Willcockson and William Edwardes Churchwardens of the paryshe chirche of Highworthe in the Countie of Wiltes in the dyoces of Sarum came unto the same paryshe churche of Highworthe the xijth day of December in the forth yere of your most gracious reigne and then and there lawfully peasybly and wyth quyett meanes dyd take downe all the altars being in the saide paryshe churche of Hyghworth and dyd sett up a table accordyng to the [sense] and effecte of the saide orders & comandement, In the doyng wherof one John Boller of Esthrop in the Countie of Wiltes yeoman (havyng full understanding and perfett knowledge of the same comannement consideracons and enstruccons by the declaracon of William Willcockson and William Edwardes & by other your graces true & faythfull subiectes) in contempt of your highnes vytuperatyng & resystyng your graces holly procedynges ordynances and decrees, at the paryshe churche of Highworthe in the Countye of Wiltes the sayd xijth of December in the fourthe yere of your most victorious reigne dyd

furyeusly maliciously and trayterously openly publyshe declare & saye unto William Willcockson theis opprobrious detestable & despyghteous wordes following: that is to saye wherfor doo you pull downe theis aultars A dog comandyd the to doo this & thou hast no more auctorytie to doo this then hath a dogge & other like wordes not mete to be rehersed to before your highnes. And John Boller therof often reprovyd and admonished by William Wylcockson, dyd more vyly and naughtely reyteate maynteyne & defend the same his lewde sedycious & pernycious wordes to the most perylous example and styryng of the lyke evell dysposyd persons contrary to your graces crowne and dygnitie. After which offensys so comytted and doon the xiiijth day of December then nexy ensuyng John Boller was freshly accusyd therof by William Wylcockson to Sir Anthony Hungerford knight whom your highnes by your graces comission hath appoynted amongst others to be one of the Justyces for the preservacon of the peace within your graces Countye of Wiltes. And the sayde offensys contemptes and despyghteous wordes were within . . . manyfested duly proved and declaryd before Sir Anthony Hungerford. Non the lesse Sir Anthony forgetting his duty towards god & your highnes for the blynde affecyon he bare to Sir John Brydges a man moche addycted in the oulde ignorans of relygyon and little favouryng your Maiesties most godly procedings openyd his mynde to Wylcockson and sayde that forasmoche as Boller was frynde unto his cosen Sir John Brydges & for that he had rather spend a c li then any dysplesure shulde growe to Sir John Brydges or to any his fryndes & adherentes yf he myght help the matter by any meanes. Sir Anthony Hungerford therfor requyred William Willcockson to speke no furder in the premisses but that his Cosen Sir John and he myght make an ende of the matter. And therapon Sir Anthony ever syns the xiiijth of December last past concelyd coloured & cloked the offensys wythout any maner of reproche or ponyshment of Boller to the most pernycious example of all other obstynate persons of lewde dysposycyon and contrary to your Maiesties peace crowne and dygnitye. And where also the right honorable my lordes William Marques of North[ampton] Therles of Warwyck and Bedford the Lords Clynton and Darcy Sir William Herbert knight and others of your most honorable pryvie counsell being credibly enformed that a great number of notable felonyes burglaryes and robberyes hath byn comytted in the north partes of Wiltes and in your Countye of glouc wherin your highnes and the comon welth were not duly servyd nor the offenders duly punyshed accordyng to their desertes, being also enfourmed that Sir Anthony Hungerford had moche trobelyd about the examynacon of one Jame Rede late of Pyrton in the Countye of Wiltes bowcher one of the felons pryvy to the most parte of the sayed robberyes burglaryes and felonyes your honorable Counsaylors of tender Zeale & pure affecon towards the good service of your highnes and preservacon of your graces people Realmes & domynions . . . their letters datyd at grenwyche the ffirst day of January last past dyrectyd to Sir Anthony Hungerford moche comendyng his trusty dilligens wherin yt semyd he had faythfully labored, requyryng & in you highnes name comandyng Sir Anthony that forthwyth upon the receipt of their letters Sir Anthony shuld sende your honorable Cowncell the examinacon of James Rede

signed and sealed under his handes, with faythfull letters of enstruccions what he furder perceyved or suspectyd in the premisses by word or wrytyng concernyng any maner of person or persons, and furder required hym to kepe their ententes secrett until he shuld be furder advertysed by your honorable Councell of your Maicties most gracyous soveraigne lorde that after the receipt of the letters, Sir Anthony Hungerford Knight sayde he wold wryte unto your honorable Councell letters like unto a shipmans hose, meanyng that the wordes & effectes therof shuld be so doubtfull & uncerten that they shuld serve to dyvers construccions and entendymentes, and after wrote his letters unto your honorable Councell in what forme your orator knoweth not, but Sir Anthony incontynent revelyd your highnes secretts contrary to the comaimdement to hym geven. And not herewithall satysfyed, but in despight & deryson of your honorable Councell, at Grampounde nighe unto Oxforde the xvjth day of ffebruary now last past onreverently & ondiscretely Sir Anthony Hungerford Knight declaryd unto your orator in presens of John Wynchecombe the younger gent Thomas Davys gent & Thomas Yate gent & other your graces faythfull subiectes, that he had wrytten unto your honorable Councell letters like unto a shypmans hose. And furder the sayd day and yere in Oxford in worshipfull presens Sir Anthony made a lyke Jest & vayne glorious rejoysyng of his sayd unhoneest and unfaythfull demeanore towardses your highnes and your honorable councell wherby and by the rest of his doyns, it vehemently semeth that he hath cloked coloured & unlawfully favored dyvers of the sayd offences contrary to his duty of allegyans, & contrary to your graces peace, your Maicties crowne & dignitie.

[*signed*] Your graces humble & obedient subiect John Warneford.

b) *Answer of Sir Anthony Hungerford*

Sir Anthony for answere sayethe that as to the supposid concelement coloringe and clokyng of the supposid offence of John Boller namyd in the informacon contrary to the kinges maiesties peace crowne and dignitie & also as to the clokyng and lawfull [*sic*] favoringe of the felownous persons and other the supposid offences contrary to his dutie of alleageance and contrary to the kinges maiesties peace crowne & dignitie, and as to all other supposid mysdemanours and thinges menconid in the informacon supposed to be contrary to the kinges maiesties peace crowne and dignitie that he is not thereof nor of eny parcell gyltye in maner and forme as in the informacon is allegid. And concerninge the supposid wordes whiche the Deffendant is supposid by the informacon to have spoken to Wilcockson namyd in the informacon & as concernyng the supposid requeste to hym made by this Deffendant no further to speke in the premysses, and as to the supposid mysdemaynors of this Deffendant concernyng Boller & Wylcockson & the matter concernyng them this Deffendant for answer therin to & for further declaracon of the truthe concernyng the premysses unto your honorable Lordshipps sayethe that true it is that the kinges maiestie by thadvyce of suche of your honorable

Lordshippes as are menconid in the Informacon addressid his highnes letters to the Bissshop of Sarum then and yet beinge commandinge hym therby through all the Diocesse of Sarum that all the aulters in every churche shoulde be taken downe in maner and forme as in the Informacon is declaryd whiche Bissshop of Sarum gave comandement as well to the Church wardens of the Church of Highworthe menconid in the informacon as to all other Churches within the sayd Diocesse of Sarum to take downe all the alters in their severall Churches accordinge to the tenor and effect of the kinges highnes letters.

And further this Deffendant sayeth that aboute or upon the xxth daye of December laste paste beinge the Sater daye nexte before the feaste of the nativite of oure Lorde god laste past, Wylkocson came to this Deffendant then & yet beinge one of the Kinges maicsties Justice of peace in the Countie of Wiltes the Deffendant then beinge at the howse called Downe amney in the Countie of Glouc, and at suche tyme as this Deffendant was ready to take his horsse to ryde upon certayne his necessarye affaires to Syr Thomas Essex Knight to the howse of Syr Thomas called Becket and Wilkocson at his comynge to this Deffendant delyveryd unto the Deffendant a byll wherin was conteigned that Boller should speake to Wilkocson the same or lyke wordes as are expressid in the Informacon and as is supposid in the same the sayd Boller to speake, and by cause this Deffendant was as then ready to ryde as is afore sayd, and bycause also the nyghte as then approched fast on therfore this Deffendant wylyd Wylkocson to come the nexte day to hym to Becket whiche was more nere unto the house of Wylkocson then Downe amney was & whiche was also within two myles of Highworthe, and willyd hym also to speake to Boller and to commande hym in this Deffendants name & behalfe to come to the Deffendant to Becket the nexte daye then followinge and wylyd hym also to bringe with hym two or three wytnesses to prove his allegacon contaynyd in his bill agaynste Boller to be true, and as then this Deffendant sayed he wolde here the matter & take order therin accordinge to the whiche appoyntment Wilkocson and Boller came and also one William Yate whome Deffendant supposid and toke to be a wytnes brought on the parte & behalf of Wylkocson to prove his bill agaynste Boller to be true. And therfore toke hym a syde from the two other, and before Syr Thomas Essex axid hym what he wold saye concernyng the wordes whiche Boller spake to Wylkocson at the tyme aforesayd who sayed he wolde wyllingly report the same, but nevertheles this Deffendant wyllynge to have the truthe apper and therfore thinkinge best to gyve monicon to Yate to remember the charge of his othe to thentent he myght be the better advysid dyd openly and manifestly declare unto him the danger of his othe, and shewid to hym that if he were wyllingly periured he shoulde not only Comytt a great and detestable offence to the kinge maiestie wherby he shoulde worthyly deserve and have great punyshement and correccion here of his body, but also shoulde comit suche high offence to god that therby he shoulde most assurydly optayne perpetuall dampnacoon to his sowle: who advysinge hym self throughely restreyned the othe, and deposed upon his examinacon as here after followithe or to the lyke effect that is to saye that at or about the day menconid in the informacon he was in the Church of



Higheworthe wheras he sawe Wylcokson & Edwardes namyd in the informacon & dyvers others pullinge downe the alter in the Channcell there & Yate departing thens in the Churche Yarde mett Boller withe a barre of Iren on his necke & axid Boller whether he went, who answeyrd that he went to pull downe the highe alter & Yate tolde hym the alter was then downe already, & Boller sayd then so moche labor was sayd & therupon Yate & Boller came to the Churche & Boller axid Wylcokeson & others why & to what purpose they caryed awaye the stones of the alter, and they answeyrd & sayd to the use of the parishe, And Boller sayd that if the parishe ought to have them then they shoulde have them, But if they belonge to the parsonage or vicarage then they belonge to he that hath the parsonage & vicarage in farme, & then thowe haste no more to do therein then a dogge whiche were all the wordes Boller sayd to Wilcokson as then in the herringe of the same Yate. And after this, this Deffendant redde unto Yate the byll whiche Wilcokson derlyverid to hym & whiche conteignyd the supposid wordes menconid in the informacon or of lyke effecte, and Yate utterly denyed the wordes containgyd in the bill to be by Boller before Wilcokson & dyvers others. Wherupon this Deffendant percevyng the wites whome he toke to be broughte in on Wylcokson's behalfe to depose agaynste Wylcokson had therby the greater mistruste that the matter was untrue, but yet never theles he redelyveryd the byll to Wylcokson & for the further tryell of the truthe comandyd hym to bringe other witnesses yf he had eny to prove his allegacon to be true, who afterwarde came to this Deffendant to his howse at Shefford in the Countie of Berkes & broughte withe hym a byll contayngnyng the sayinges of William Brownynge Richard Tysinge Rafe Warrykson & dyvers others in profe of his allegacon, but for that, that John Blagrove baylyffe of Higheworthe who was one of the examiners of the deponentes affirmyd presently to this Deffendant that the deponentes varyed in their testimonies & for that also that Thomas Yate one other of the examyners of the Deponentes and Boller were at great varyence & therefore his certifficat of their sayinges agaynste Boller were of smale aucthoryte or credence in this Deffendants conscience, and for that also that this Deffendant as then perceyved this Informor who bare great malice to Boller to be a great setter forth & furtherer of the matter, & for that the same Informor was before that well & thoroughly knowen to this Deffendant to be a man of lewde conversacon of sutyll demaynor of envyous practices of corrupte conscience & of no credence nor faithe & therefore for that he nedlyd ther in it semyd and was a sufficient aucthoryte to the conscience of the Deffendant that the report agaynst Boller was the lesse to be credytyt, therfore this Deffendant at that tyme dyd no further procede but sayd to Wylcokson for that the matter chanced within the office of Sir John Brydges who was a Justice of the peace in the Countie of Wiltes & dwellyd nere to the towne of Higheworthe that the Deffendant wolde imedyatly at after Christmas repayre to his howse called Downe Anney beinge nere to the towne of Higheworthe And also nere to the howse of Blonnsdon were Sir John Brydges wolde as then lye, and as then Sir John Brydges and this Deffendant wolde thoroughly examyne this matter & take order accordingly, & therupon dyfferd the same untill then and at the sessions holden at Sarum the twesdaye next after the

feast of Epyphaney of our lorde last past this Deffendant aswell for that he harde that this Informor made a secret murmerynge agaynste hym as also for the true tryall of the matter called forthe the complainant before the right worshipfull Sir Richard Lyster Knyght Lord chief Justice of England then beinge present at Sarum & caused hym openly to open & declare to hym the lorde chief Justice the hole matter concerninge the premysses, who dyd the same accordingly before the lorde chief Justice. Upon the hearinge whereof & the hole doynge of this Deffendant concerninge the premysses there declaryd to the lord Justice for that there wantyd due profe of the sayinge of the sayd Warneforde, and for that it apperyd to the lorde chief Justice his doinges therin to be grounded on malice therfor the lorde chief Justice estemyd the matter lytle as that, whiche by thys Informors medlynge therin wantyd credence & faythe gyven therunto by the lorde chief Justice. Wythout that Boller was detected to this Deffendant otherwise then is afore sayd. Or the sayd offences contemptes & dyspituouse wordes were ever duly provyd before the Deffendant, that the Deffendant forgote his dutie towarde god & the kinges maies- tie for the blynde affecon he bare to Syr John Brydges or for eny other cause, or that he sayd he had rather spende an hundryd ponde then eny dyspleasure shoulde growe to Sir John Brydges or to eny of his fryndes or adherentes if he myght helpe it or that he ever requiryd Wylcokson to speake no further in the premysses. Or that he required Wylcokson that his cosyn Syr John Brydges myghte make an ende of the matter or that this Deffendant ever sythens the xiiijth day of December concealyd colloryd or clokyd the offences in maner and forme as the plaintiff in his bill hathe sclanderously alledged, for he sayethe he caused & enforced the same Informor openly to utter & declare the same at the sessions before the lorde chief Justice. And as to the wordes supposid in the informacon whiche this Deffendant shoulde saye that is to saye that he wolde write unto your honorable lordships letters lke unto a shipman's hoose, And as to all the other supposid mysdamaynors of this Deffendant by the Informacon . . . for answer therunto & for further declaracon of the truthe unto your honorable Lordshipes sayeth that this Deffendant beinge a Justice of peace in the Countie of Wiltshire havinge knowledge of dyvers burglaryes felonies & Robberyes don by unknowen persons in the Countie of Wiltes rememberinge his bounden office & dutie towarde god our sovereigne Lorde the kinge & . . . lawes & the quietnes of his graces subiectes dyd cause James Reade to be arestyd for suspeccon of the sayd fellonyes whome he knewe to be a man of light conversacon & lewde demaynor & whome he greatly suspect to be privey to the sayd fellonyes & caused Rede to be brought to hym this Deffendant to his howse & there kepte & detayned hym a great space, And dyvers & many tymes examyned hym concernyng the felonies. And some tymes this Deffendant handlyd hym with gentlenes, some tymes wythe thretnyng, some tymes withe payne to make him confesse the fellonnyes but he beinge a secrete & close thefe wolde confesse nothinge & therupon at the lengthe this Deffendant & one Harye Clyfford esquier an other Justice of peace in the Counte of Wiltshire bayled Rede. But afterwarde this Deffendant yet ever thinkyng in his hart Rede to be privey to the felloneys dyschargid his suerities & sent Rede to the gaole, & afterwarde when he shoulde

have byn delyvryd at the sessions yet this Deffendant havynge a full mystruste in his harte that Rede shoulde be an arrant theffe caused hym to be . . . & remayne in the gaole. And for asmoche as Rede wolde by no means confesse eny matter of . . . this Deffendant determynge to use other polyces & circumstanes to trye what persons comyttid the felonyes & caused one John Bradleyghe beinge a light suspect person to be apprehendyd for suspeccon of felonye. And this Deffendant and Syr John Brydges & Syr Edmunde Brydges his sonne examyned Bradleghe most certenly affermynge & beryng hym in hande that Rede had accused & impechid hym of dyvers of the felonyes . . . & Bradleghe by the pollyce of Syr John Syr Edmunde & this Deffendant brought in beleiffe & fully persuadyd that Rede had of trouthe accusyd hym, and disclosid all the secretes of the felonyes & that if he wolde confesse the trouthe he should have great favor at their handes, dyd therupon accuse Rede & truly disclosid the felonyes of Rede & dyvers others had comytted & dysclosid the secretes of dyvers other fellons. Therupon afterwarde Rede was arrayned & atteynted before the Kinges maiesties Justices of Assise in the Countie of Wiltshire and then he before the same Justices accused Bradleghe who afterwarde was atteynted & put in execution & Rede utteryd & disclosid dyvers other fellons, and by this meanes the moste of the fellons their confederacions & practises were disclosid & came to lyghte by the handlinge & pollycy of this Deffendant, wyche this Deffendant remembreinge his dutie to god & the kinges maiestic, & the good service that he should do to his neighbors & contrey where he dwellyd therby dyd practise & devise in discharge of his conscience dutie & office towarde god & the kinges maiestic & the welth & quietnes of the contrey whiche thinge dyvers of your honorable lordships . . . percevyng & knowing & . . . & diligence of this Deffendant in the premysses by . . . dyd gyve to the Deffendant great thanks by the same letters ready to be shewd dothe playnly appere. And further this Deffendant saithe that after the tyme that this Deffendant had apprehendyd Rede & before the veryte concernyng the felonyes came to light the Informor beinge a man very desirouse to knowe secretes & to have to do in great & weightie causes (although he be very wunmete therto) desired the Deffendant to dysclose to hym Redes confession, at suche tyme as the Deffendant was in the sessions at Sarum whiche thinge this Deffendant utterly refusid to do, knowing right well the complainant beinge a man of no honest credence nor trust, coulde not kepe secreat eny matters of weight or importance & therefore to be a man most unmete to have knowledge of eny suche matter, wherupon the complainant takynge dysdayne & thinkinge this Deffendant to have knowen more secrettes concernyng the premysses then he as then dyd in dede opened the matter to the right honorable Lordes the Marques of North[ampton] the crles of Warwick & Bedford & dyvers others of your honorable Lordships, & therupon opteyned the letter to the Deffendant accordinge to the tenor & effect expressed in the Informacon sent the samie letter by Wyllyam Brydges & one Yate his servanntes unto this Deffendant whiche letter had byn openyd, as it apperyd to this Deffendant & not unlyke, but by Warneford. And when this Deffendant had redde the letters whiche comandyd this Deffendant forthe withe upon the receyte of the same to sende to the same your honorable Lordships the

true cōpye of the examinacon of Rede whiche at that tyme had confessed very litle this Deffendant sayd to Brydges & Yate servanntes to the Informor that he perceyved that the Informor thought that this Deffendant hadd more knowledge concernyng the Robberyes then he had tolde hym at Sarum, & that he perceyved that Warneford had informyd the kinge maiesties honorable counsayle that this Deffendant as then knewe moche concernyng the felonyes wherin dede as then he knewe lytle by Rede & sayd further to Warnefordes servanntes that where he was comandyd to sende the cōpye of Reades examinacon forthwith to the counsayle that he shoulde as then wryte a matter to the kinges maiesties counsayle lyke a shippemans hose meanyng therby that by cause the matter was then begynnynge & not cum to eny perfect knowledge that he shoulde wryte an unperfect matter to the counsayle & lytle to the purpose or effect in consideracon of the kowledge that he was lyke afterwarde to have. And therupon dyd wryte unto your honorable Lordshippes furthwith as full & as certaynely as he coulede of Reades confession & others & further sent to your honorable Lordshippes the names of suche others whome Bradley had impeachid whiche of trouthe for that the hoole veryte & circumstances of the matter was not then come to lighte, nor all suche the examynacons as had ben taken were not as then in the handes of the Deffendant but of Sir John Brydges therfore the certificat of this Deffendant to your honorable Lordshippes was unperfect & not full evyne accordinge as he ment when he sayde he shoulde wryte lyke a shippman's hose. And afterward this Deffendant metyng wythe the Informor at Grand pont menconid in the Informacon sayd to hym in the presence of John Wynchecombe & the others namyd in the Informacon & also an other tyme the sayd daye sayd to Warneford alone that he by his hast had made hym wryte to the kinges honorable counsayle lyke a Shippemans hose, meaninge therby as this Deffendant hathe declaryd & utteryd the same after suche phrase & sette that wythe indifferent iudgement it coulede sownde no otherwise in the eares of the hearers. After whiche so spoken Warneford neither regarding his honsetie nor the feare of god nor of the kinges maiesties lawes desyred & prayed John Wynchecombe to beare wytnes wythe hym that the Deffendant had sayed that he had wryten to the counsayle lyke a shippmans hose meanyng that the wordes & sentences therof shoulde be doubtfull & taken two wayes, and that the same Deffendant should meane to illude the counsayle thereby, as Wynchecombe tolde to this Deffendant whiche John Winchecombe beinge an honest gentyelman utterly refusyd to do. Wythout that that this Deffendant ever sayd he wolde wryte or had wryten his letter to the counsayle lyke unto a shippemans hose, meanyng that the wordes & effectes thereof shoulde be so doubtfull & uncertayne that they shoulde serve to dyvers construccions and entenementes, or that he ever spake the wordes in despite & derision of your honorable lordshippes, or that he ever made eny iceste or vayne gloriouse reiōysinge thereof or that his demaynor was dishonest & unfaythefull towards the kinges maiestie or your honorable lordshippes in maner & forme as in the informacon is untruly & sclannderously allegid. Or that the Deffendant either reveled the kinges secretes contrary to the comandement to hym gyven or that he hathe cloked colloryd or unlawfully faveryd dyvers of the sayd offences contrary to

his dutie & allegiance or contrary to the kinges maiesties peace crowne & dignite as Warneford hath falsely & slannderously alledgid. And further this Deffendant saithe that the sequle of the matter provyd that this Deffendant neither concealed clokyd nor coloryd the offences for that Reade Bradleight & dyvers others were atteynted by the meanes & furtherannc of this Deffendant accordinge to his office & dutie. And without that eny other thinge materyall alledgid in the Informacon & not before sufficyently answeryd unto confessyd & avoyded traversid or denyed is true all whiche matter this Deffendant is ready to aver as this honorable courte shall awarde and prayethe not only to be dinyssid & discharged by your honorable Lordships of this untrue matters and slannderouse vexacon, But (this present answer & matters therin conteignyd beinge true as in dede they be) that the malicieuse informor be worthyly punysheyd for his malicious & untrue informacon & the wrongfull vexacon of the Deffendant accordinge as your honorable lordships herin shall thinke mete & convenyent.

*c) Replication of John Warneford*

John Warneford for Replicacon saithe as he before in his bill of complaynt & ynformacon hath saide, and averrith all & every thing & thinges therin conteyned to be good and true in maner & forme as in the bill of complaynt & ynformacon they byn allegyd & conteyned. And with that Warneford will averre that Bowler was detectyd otherwyse then as fraudulentlye ymagyned in the answer of this Deffendant. And that the dyspighteous wordes were putt in wrytyng & tenderyd to this Deffendant and by good & sufficyent wytnessys alwayes often & many tymes redy to be dulye proved. And that the Deffendant dyd forgett his dutye to god & the kinges maiestie when he forgate in proper person to examyn the wytnessys tenderyd by Wilcokson & in credytyng John Blagrove usurpor upon John Warneford in the office of Highworthe and that the Deffendant then dyd & yet doth bere unlawfull affecon towards Sir John Brydges and his adherentes. And that Sir Anthony hath concealyd colored & cloked thoffence of Boller ever sythens the xiiijth daie of December last past in maner & forme as in the bill of Complaynt ys trulie affyrmed. And that also the Deffendant intendyd and ment in wordes signyfycacons sence and effectes as dowbtefully & uncertenly & in despight & deryson of the honorable lordes of the kinges highnes moste honorable pryvie Councell. And that the Deffendant made a Jest & vayne gloryous rejoysyng therof. And that the demeanor of the Deffendant is & hath byn therin dyshonest & unfathfull towards the kinges maiestie & the honorable Lordes. And that the Deffendant revelyd and disclosyd the kinges maiesties secrettes contrary to the comannement to hym geven. And that it is vehemently to be suspected he hath cloked coloured & unlawfully favoured dyvers of the ffelons & their felonyes contrary to his duty and allegeaons and contrary to the kynges maiesties peace his Crowne & dygnytie, in maner & forme as in the bill of Complaynt & ynformacon ys truly affyrmed. Without that Sir Anthony Hungerforde dyd mystake William Yate

brought to hym as a wytnes upon the behalfe of Boller. And wythout that Warneforde was in any wyse cawsed or constraigned to open or declare the sedycious wordes affyrmed in the informacon, or that the lorde Chyef Justice gave as then no faythe or credence to Warneforde, for Warneforde sayeth that the lorde Chyef Justice was as otherwyse occupied in the admynistracon of Justyce about delyvery of the gaole in Sarum & of the prysoners in the same gaole being. And that Warneforde moved the lorde Chyef Justice in the premisses most willingly wythout any constraunte or mocyon. And without that Henry Clyfforde was present with Sir Anthonye at the tyme of takyng of anye recognysanns or lettynge to bayle of James Reade. Or that Henry Clyfforde was pryvy or of knowledge to the takyng of any soche recognysanns or bayle, of or for James Rede at or before the surmysed tyme of takyng therof. Or that James Rede at any tyme was lawfully lett to bayle by Sir Anthonye, And wythout that James Rede shuld have ben delyveryd at any cessions to be holden wythin the Countie of Wilts. Or that Sir Anthony at any soche Cessions cawsed James Rede to be repyred or remayne in gaole. And without that the nest of the fellons their confederacons & practyses were dysclosyd or came to lyght by any wylling or faythfull handelyng or pollycy of the Defendannt. Or that the defendannt dyd faithfully practyse or devise any soche thyng or truly remembered his dutye to god the kinges maiestie the good servyce of his cuntrye the discharge of his conscyens or the dutye of his office towards the kinges highnes & the comon welthe. And without that the honorable lordes of the kynges maiesties most honorable pryvy councell dyd ever allowe or comende the doinges of this defendannt for any thyng doon in the premisses by this defendannt after or sythens the delyverye of the letters to Sir Anthony datyd the ffyrst day of January last past or that the sayde letters were openyd by Warneforde or by any other person to his knowledge meane [sic] between the sealyng of them from the handes of the Councell unto the tyme of delyvery of them to the handes of Sir Anthonye. And wythout that Sir Anthonie spake of the sedycious wordes unto Warneforde being alone at Grampounde the sayde day. Or that any maner by the comon phrase & sorte of speche, to any indyfferent Judgement cowlde sounde or interpretate the sedycious wordes to any good purpose or intent. And without that Warneforde at any tyme required John Wynchecombe to bere any other wordes of wytnes then was true & lawfull. Or that Wynchecombe at any tyme have refused so to doo. Or that the sequele of any of the matter by any meanes can prove the defendannt to be innocent of colouryng & concealyng the offences. Or that Rede & Bradley or any others of the felons were attaynted by faythfull meanes or furtherans of this defendannt accordyng to his offyce or dutye in maner & fourme as in the answer is untruly allegyd. And without that that any other thyng materyall allegyd in the answer & not before suffyciently replied unto confessyd & avoyded traversyd or denyed ys true. All wiche matters Warneforde ys redy to averte & prove as this honorable corte shall award. And prayeth that offences of Sir Anthony may be duly punyshed, and that Sir Anthony may be constraigned by this honorable corte to yelde unto this Complaynant his reasonable costes charges & expences in proffe & tyrrall of the premisses by hym susteyned & to be disbursyd.

- were not the letters delyveryd to Sir Anthonye at Downcampney the iijth day of february then next ensuyng.
- 6 Item wherfor dyd Sir Anthonye Hungerford after all the examinacon & ym-  
prysonment suffer James Rede & John Bradley to goo at large untill after the  
delyvery of the letters from the Kinges Councell viz untill the vijth day of  
february Anno quarto [*?Regni Regis*] yf he ment truly. Item what day & yere  
was the gaole delyvery holden at Sarum wher James Rede & Bradley were  
atteyntyd.
  - 7 Item dyd not Sir Anthony Hungerford say to William Brydges & William Yate  
servanntes to John Warneford that the letters wer procured from the Councell  
by Warneford and that Warneford shuld be never the more of his purpose for  
that he wold certefy the Councell letters of answer like a shipmans hose & was  
not the Communication of Sir Anthony with Warneford in the parlor wher the  
Justices were the next day in the morning after the Assises endyd at Gram-  
pownd. And what answer dyd Warneford make.
  - 8 Item what cetenty of certyfycat was there comprysed in the letter by hym  
retornyd to the Councell.
  - 9 Item was not Sir Anthonie comanddyd by the Councelles letters to kepe their  
intent secrett untill he shoulde be further advertysed from them of the kinges  
plesure.
  - 10 Item dyd not Sir Anthony (ymedyatlie upon the receipt of the letters) open &  
disclose theeffectes of the letters to Sir John Brydges & Sir Edmond Brydges and  
after the xvijth day of february last past at Grampounde dyd not Sir Anthony  
Hungerford confesse & rehearse unto Warneforde the saide undiscrete &  
unreverent wordes, declaring his answer comprysed in his letter dyrectyd to  
the councell to be uncertein & unfaythfully ment.
  - 11 Item wherfor dyd not Sir Anthony Hungerford appere personally at the assises  
at Sarum in lent last past orels have certefyed theexamynacons signed with his  
hand or some letters or thing of credytt to have byn geven in evydens agenst the  
theves at such tyme as they stode upon ther delyverans.
  - 12 Item wherfor dyd not Sir Anthony Hungerford (by all this space) help to  
apprehende Thomas Lucas John Ayleworthe John Halfpenny John Davys  
Giles Browne George Chamberlayne & others the sayde felons appechyd &  
eseryed knowing them to have comytted sondry of the robryes.
  - 13 Item ys not Robert a Wood knowen to have byn an errant thyef and doth not  
Sir Anthony kepe hym styll in his hows. To what intent doth he so kepe hym  
and why dyd Sir Anthony suffer soche suspecte person to be privy to all  
thexamynacons of the theves.
  - 14 Item how fortuneted it that Sir Anthony Hungerfordes ... was taken at  
Myntyte upon Michelmas even last past wyth viij halters & brydels in stealng  
of horses & mares and after lett to bayle by the unlawfull favor of Sir  
Anthony.
  - 15 Item wherfor hath Sir Anthony Hungerford permitted Richard & George  
Kechyn being ij of the saide theves to make an Ale all this last somer to

maynteyn them in ther suytes & why dyd Brothers & other his fellow servannte unto Sir Anthony . . . [*The rest of this final item is largely illegible*].

e) *Answer of Sir Anthony Hungerford to Interrogatories*

Anthony Hungerford of Downampney in the County of Glos Knight sworne.

To the fyrst second and iijrd he saith he knoweth not of the date of the two letters sent from the Kinge and his counsell for the reformation of the altars nore of the executing therof by the churchwardenes of Hyghworthe nor what understanding John Boller had of the same letters he saith he knoweth not.

To the iiijth vth and vjth he saith that touchinge the wordes spoken by Boller mencyoned in these Interogatories that trew yt is that Wylliam Wylkockson came to this Deponent to Downampney in December last past on an after none the certen daye he canot expresse and broughte to this Deponent being then redy to ryde to Beckett to Sir Thomas Essex a byll conteyning certen wordes spoken by Boller whiche byll this Deponent Hath redye to be shewyd. And so this Deponent saithe that he redde the byll incontynant[ly] and so toke his horse & rode toward Beckett. And by the way this Deponent wyllyd Wylkockson to bring unto him to Beckett ij myles distant from Hyghworth on the nexte morning Boller the offender and the persones namyd for wytnes in the same byll. And so departyd for that tyme. To the vij he confesseth that on the nexte morowe Wylkockson the accuser John Boller thoffender and oone Wylliam Yate as a wytnes upon the byll came to this Deponent to Beckett at what tyme he saithe he fyrst callyd into the parlour ther the same Wylliam Yate and examyned him of the contentes of the byll and afterward called Wylkockson with whome he conferryd ther. And so at the last callyd in John Boller. And he denyeth that he usyd any frendly or secrete comm[un]ication with Boller otherwise then he dyd with the others. And otherwise denyeth this Interogatory to be trewe.

To the viij he saith the waye frome this Deponents howse to Beckett lyeth a myle of frome Hyghworth and the cause whie he went not throughe Hyghworth was for that yt was then late in the evening and very colde and that he coulede not then have tyme for the executing therof. And he saith ther wer no wytnes broughte to this Deponent for the profc of the byll nor this Deponent dyd gyve any more credyte to the oone then to the other. And further saith that aboute a thre dayes after to his now remembrance ther came to this Deponents howse at Shefford by this Deponents appoyntment the aforenamyd Wylkockson Boller who broughte with him oone Blakegrove and no mo persones. Notwithstanding that this Deponent comandyd Wylkockson to bring with him at that tyme the iiij wytnes namyd in the byll so exhibited to this deponent. And saith he dyd not examyn them bycause they were not broughte to this deponent.

To the ix he confesseth that forasmuche as yt apperyd to this Deponent that this matter was sett forthe of malice and no dewe profc therof agenst Boller this



Deponent sayde he wolde be lothe to hurte the man. And otherwise denyeth the contentes of this Interogatory to be trewe.

To the xj xij xiiij & xiiij he confesseth that after ward at Sarum at a Sessions and gaole delyvery ther holden this Deponent causyd Henry Clifford his sone in lawe to be in hande with Warneford then ther present for certen acres of lande whiche he helde from this Deponent. And so saith that within a while after he then demandyd his saide sonne in lawe whether he had so comonyd with Warneford therin who made answer that he had so done and that Warneford fell frome that matter and was in hande with him of a question touching the concelement of treason petytreason and myspryson. And therupon this Deponent callyd unto him the saide Warneford And said I perceve Warneford thow hast a toye in thy halle [*sic*] I praye the open thy mynde to my Lorde chiefe Justice here whiche he dyd as this Deponent hath at large declaryd in his answer to the byll of complaynt. And this Deponent saith that he hath not procedyd any further in this matter agenst Boller bycause the same hath byn openid to the Lorde chiefe Justice being of hygher powre then this Deponent.

To the xv & xvj saith that of all the persones namyd in this Interogatory he knew no mo to be robbed but Martyn of Shawe Edith Sawnders wydowe and Cusse of Pyrton stoke. And saith the robbryes done to the saide Martyn and Edith apperyd to this Deponent by the confession of oone Bradley and James Rede. The whiche Bradley hath sufferyd and Rede is condepmed and oone Pynching is saved by his boke.

To the xvij he saithe that the xxviiij daye of January last past this Deponent with Sir John and Sir Edmonde Bridges dyd examyn Bradley in the vicaradge of Pyrton And so dyd apprehende him therupon the sundaye before thassises then nexte folowyng at whiche assises holden aboute the begyning of Lent then following and now last past he was cast and sufferyd for his offences. And saithe that now it is that Warneford requyred of this Deponent the copie of James Redes confession whiche this Deponent refusyd to delyver bycause that ther was no matter of effecte in that fyrst examination.

To the xvij he denyeth that he dyd understande or here by any reporte that any of the same theves were inhabyting within the howse of Sir Edmond Bridges or that Sir Edmond was so suspectyd therof but upon the only reporte of Warneford. And saith that James Rede as yt apperyd afterward was oone of the same felons but whether he was of the retynewe of Sir Edmond Bridges he knoweth not. And he confesseth that he dyd lett to bayle James Rede but not Bradley and saithe that then aboute an vij dayes after this Deponent having a vehement suspition of James Rede upon furder knowledg of his behavior dyd then send for him ageyne and sent him to gaole. And so then reteynid styll the Recognizance of his baylement uncertifyed when the persone was forth comyng.

To the xix he saith he dyd deteyne James Rede in prison and in examination by the space of vij dayes or therabout and kepte him so long in examination to thetente to fynde more matter dayly ageynst him bycause ther were dyvers that reported dayly to this Deponent with new information ageynst him.

To the xx he saith he doth not perfectly remember the date of the Kinges letters sent unto this Deponent concerning the premisses but saith the same wer to this Deponent delyveryd the vth daye of february last past.

To the xxj he saith he sente James Rede to prison within the xij dayes of Cristmas last past and sent Bradley to prison the sondaye before thassises then next folowyng and saithe he sufferyd Bradley so to be at large to thintent he wolde gather more matter by him ageynst thother theves bycause the same felony was fyrst dysclosyd by him. And saith the same assises wer holden at Sarum after candelmas last past but what daye he now remembereth not.

To the xxij he confesseth that he saide to the servantes of Warneforde that the same letters were procuryd forthe by theyre Master and that the certificate all redy sent to the Councell concerning James Rede by vertue of the same letters was but of small valew to that that this Deponent and Sir John Bridges wer then in hand with all. And therefore when bothe these confessions shulde be layde together yt wolde appere lyke a shypmans howse bycause the last confession taken was of more weichte then the fyrst. And further saithe that the morowe after the same assises this Deponent being in the parlor where the Justices wer callyd Warneforde asyde and tolde him that he was no honest man bycause he wolde have John Wynstombe to testyfy that this Deponent shulde saye he had wryten a letter to the counsell lyke a shipmans hose. And therupon Warneford departyd and made no answer. And saith this conversation was betwene the two above alone and no persones within hering therof to his knowledge.

To the xxij he saith he sent suche certentye in his letters of certyficate as he had then gatheryd upon the confession of Bradley with the confession of Rede as apperyth by the same his said letters.

To the xxijj & xxv he confesseth that he was comandyd by the Councells letters to kepe theyre intente secrete therin whiche this Deponent dyd accordingly and dyd not disclose the same untyll unto Sir John and Sir Edmond Bridges. And saith touchinge the wordes betwene Warneford and him at Grampounde as he hathe deposyd to the xxij Interogatory. And otherwise he denyeth the same to be trewe. To the xxvj he saith at the tyme of the same assises holden at Sarum this Deponent was at thassises holden at Oxford for the knowledgyng of a fyne. And bycause Sir John Bridges was then ther at the same assises who was also present with this Deponent at the takyng of the same cofessions this Deponent dyd not certyfy but comitted all to the same Sir John Bridges.

To the xxvij he saith that of the persones namyd in this Interogatory he knoweth no mo to be theves & suspectyd of felony but Thomas Lucas and John Davys wherof the oone ys imprisoned and the other lett to bayle before this Deponent knewe therof.

To the xxvij he confesseth that he kepeth in his howse the same Robert Wood whome he knoweth not now but to be an honest trewe man and is a neighbors child therby and at the request of his frendes dothe kepe him trustyng that he wyll contynew as hitherto he hathe founde him. And denyeth that he made him pryve to any examinations of the theves.

To the xxix he saith that trew yt is that this Deponentes Warener was so taken suspect upon suspicion of steling of horses whome this Deponent upon knowing therof and so imprisoned therupon [sic]. And he denyeth that he was baylyd by this Deponent or by his meanes as he saithe.

To the xxx he saith he knoweth not of the makyng or keyping of any suche ale by the persones namyd in this Interogatory nor of any spent therof by any of this Deponents servanttes.

To the last he saith he doth not knowe that James Rede after his fyrst apprehension dyd go at liberty for this Deponent put him in keping to his servanttes and was not pryve of any libertye that he had.

f) *Depositions of Witnesses*

*Deposition of William Yate*

William Yate of highworthe in the coy of Wiltes viteler of thage of xxxij yeres.

To the ffirst second vijth and viijth he sayeth that he was present in the church of Highworthe at suche tyme as the highe aluter ther was pullyd downe and sayth that after that this deponent had by a lytell space beholded the doying therof he departyd and went forthe of the church homeward and in the church yarde he mett with John Boller having a barre of yron on his sholder to whome this deponent sayde whither go you neighbor boller. He answeryd mary to church to pull downe the high aluter ther. This Deponent saying agayne mary yt is now in doying. Well answered Boller then I have the lese to do And so went into the church and this deponent . . . . And saith that at theyr comyng into the church Boller spake to Wylliam Willcockson and William Edwardes the church wardens then there present saying What have ye done. Wylcockson answeryd we have done that yf yt to do shalbe done agayne. The said boller saying agayne whie have ye carryed a waye the stones ye have nothing to do with them wherunto Wylcockson answeryd that he had carryed them to the use of the parishe. And then answeryd boller If they be the parishe then the parishe must have them and yf they be myn then shall not the parishe have them and thou hast then no corse to do with them than a dogge. And then sayd Wilcockson no more to do than a dogge . . . what he saithe that I have no more to do in the chancell than a dogge. Then answeryd boller I pray yo Master . . . I say that yf the stones be myn that then he hath no more to do therewith than a dogge. And so therupon they parted in the church in an anger and went theyr waye and other . . . to whiche the . . . to whiche the . . . he saith he herde not. Present there besyde the . . . above nanyd John We . . . Trysyng labourers aboute the pullyng downe of the said aluter And in the belfrye ther was workyng in makyng of a table carpenter Raife. And more of this he cannot depose.

To the v & vi he saith that then yt is that the saide Sir Anthony Hungerford dyd saie to this Deponent at Becket the byll layde in by Wylcokson against boller concernyng the said . . . and wordes said in the church of Hyghworth as he hath deposyd. Wherunto this deponent then by vertue of an othe . . . by Mr Hungerford dyd saye

that the same byll was untrue And that it was not accordyng to the . . . that this deponent herde as he hath deposed. And so Sir Anthony wyllid Wylcockson to bring unto him suche wytneses as were namyd in the byll to averse the same to be true.

To the vij & viij he saith that he was not present at lytell Shefford nore can depose to the contrary of this Int[errogatory].

*Deposition of John Blakegrove*

John Blakegrove of highworthe husbandman of thage of xl yeres or therabout sworne.

To the ffyrst second and vith and . . . he saith that Wyllm Wylcockson named in the Int[errogatory] sent for this deponent being bayly of highworthe to come and speke with him at his howse. And so this deponent came thither and before this deponent was come to the saide Wylcockson was gone to Sir Anthony Hungerford. And so this deponent being in the backsyde of Wylcocksons howse sawe Richard Tyffyn thressing in the barne ther and so was went to him and askyd hym what comotion was betweene Wylcockson and boller at suche tyme as he labored in the churche at the pullyng downe of the hyghe aulter wherunto he answered and sayde Marye Boller told Wylliam Wylcockson that yf the channcell was his that then Wylcockson had no corse to do ther then a dogge. And this deponent tolde him that he dyd well to tell the trewth and so departed. And more of this Int[errogatory] he cannot dypose.

To the v & vj he cannot dypose.

To the vij & viij he saithe that this deponent was present at the the executing of the said matter at Lytell Sheford be fore Sir Anthony Hungerford and there tolde Sir Anthony that the persons broughte by Wylcockson agaynst Boller dyd varye in theyre tales. And then Sir Anthony sayde well when my cosyn Sir John Brisges cometh here we wyll father carry the matter. And more he cannot dypose.

*Deposition of William Allys*

William Allys of highworth baker of thage of lvij yeres swerythe.

To the ffyrst second vjth he sayth that on the controversie in the churche at Highworthe betwene Boller and Wylcockson this deponent on the nighte wereon . . . of Wylliam Edwardes one of the churche wardens who was present ther at what the same comotion was who answered that the said boller came into the churche with a barre of yron to have pulled downe the hyghe aulter and for by cause that Wylliam Wylcockson the other churche warden had . . . the aulter he askyd him what he had to do ther who answered that he was churche warden and wolde have to do ther. And then Boller shulde saye agayne Marye yf the stones of the aulter be the paryshes then they shall have them And yf they be myn then shall have no more to do therwith then a dogge and so they gave eche other oprobriouse wordes. And more therof he cannot depose.

To the rest of this Int[errogatory] he sayethe he can nother dypose.

*Deposition of Thomas Kyngesman*

Thomas Kyngesman of Highworth husbandman of thage of xxx yeres swereth. To the contents of this Int[e]r[rogatory] he saith he was present at the howse of John Boller at suche tyme as Wyllyam Edwardes one of the churchwardens of Highworthe was then ther standing by the fyre stryking of his legge when this deponent herde spoken thes wordes . . . neighbor boller I have had a sore legge this seven-nighte daye and yet as farre as I know I must go tomorrow before the Justice to testyfy the trewth with you Mr Boller for in good fayth Mr Boller I wold not have sayde so moche by you as Wylcokson dyd for xx li and yet I trust he shalbe the fowlest lyer that ever was in highworth. And more of this Int[e]r[rogatory] he canot dypose.

*Deposition of John Rose*

John Rose of Highworth shomaker of thage of lx yeres swereth. To the ffyrst and all the rest of this Int[e]r[rogatory] he sayth that in the evening followyng after the wordes of contention betwene Wylcockson and Boller this deponent was in the howse of Wylcokson being then . . . in highworthe and ther askyd him of the contention and of the begynning ther off who answeyrd that Boller came to the churche with a barre of yron on his necke and askyd him the said Wylcokson what he had ther to do so to carry any stones thens. And then Wylcockson shulde answer that he carryed them to the use of the paryshe and that therupon Boller shulde saye that Wylcokson had no more to do ther than a dogge. And then Wylcockson shulde answer that had the kinges auctoryte so to do. And Boller shulde replye therto agayne and saye that yf the aulter was his the saide Bollers that then Wylcokson had no more ther to do then a dogge. And more therof he knowyth not. Present therat Richard Egerley Michell Eles John Tasker George Hales and Thomas Yate.<sup>1</sup>

*Depositions of witnesses brought by John Warneford*

Witnesses sworne the xxvijth of October Anno R[egis] Ed[wardi] sexti quinto brought in by Warneford agenst Sir Anthony Hungerford knight.

*Deposition of William Wilcokson*

William Wilcokson of Highworth in the county of Wiltes wollen draper of thage of xl yeres and more sworne and examyned the daye and yere above written deposythe and sayeth that he was present at the tyme menyoned in the Inter[rogatory] when the alters of the same churche were pullyd downe for he sayth he was one of the churchwardens ther at the tyme and one of the kinges constables of the Towne ther. And sayth to his nowe remembrance ther were present ther at that tyme viij persons. To the ijnd this deponent sayth the kinges Maiesties authoritye of comandymnt was well knowen therto then and to the same John Boller also for this deponent sayth that Sir William Watkins being curat ther dyd bring the same commandymnt with the . . . and this deponent gave the . . .

1. Depositions by Richard Egerley and Richard Kemble contain no new information and are omitted here.

To the iijrd he sayth he cannot tell whether the same William Yate was ther present or not for this Deponent sayeth he sawe him not ther at the same . . .

To the iiijth he sayeth that John Boller dyd at dyvers and sondrye tymes speke and rehearse the wordes mentyoned in the Inter[rogatory] but howe often he cannot tell but twice or thrice this deponent doth well remember that he spake the wordes And that Boller was very angry with this deponent and said this deponent was a busye fellowe.

To the vth this deponent sayth that nathengst [?] those wordes so spoken by Boller were treason And therappon this deponent the morowe after caused the wordes to be written And brought to Sir Anthony Hungerford Knight he being ther at Downampney.

To the vijth he saith he went alone the same tyme to Sir Anthony and delyveryd him in writing the same lewde wordes spoken by Boller. And sayeth he tarried ther about an howre and that Boller was not ther at that tyme. And this deponent sath he was but ons with Sir Anthony at Downampney. And this deponent saith he was ons at Becket with Sir Anthony by his comandymment when Sir Anthony dyd sweare one William Yate a laborer. And then Sir Anthony dyd substyle the byll of Bollers wordes which this deponent brought him to Downampney and delyveryd the same bill to this deponent And theruppon willed him to goo home and to take foure honest men of the Towne to examyne the same byll. And so on the Tewsdays after this Deponent and certen honest men of the Towne dyd examyne the same byll which examinacons was brought to Shefford uppon the Thursday after to Sir Anthony at whiche tyme Sir Anthony dyd reade over the same examinacons and said he wolde send the same to the Councell to knowe theyr pleasures therin.

To the vijth he sayth Sir Anthony tarried not at Downampney but rode the same daye to Becket. And sayth he cannot tell howe Boller was entertayned or used with Sir Anthony. And further this deponent sayth he had no witnesses ther for that he was not commandyd to bring in any by Sir Anthony.

To the last he sayth he hath declaryd in this examinacon to his remembrance all that was done in the matter at eny of the said places.

Rauff Hans . . . confermed the words spoken by Boller in the article.

So also William Edwards the churchwarden.

So also Robert Plumme.

*Deposition of William Yate the younger*

William Yate the younger of the parish of Highworth husbandman sworne and examined the daye and yere above . . . deposeth and sayeth that he doth well remember that after Christmas last one William Bridges of Highworth parishe came to this deponent and sayed to hym that he had letters from the Councell to be delyvred to Sir Anthony Hungerford And that Mr Warneford desired this deponent to go with hym in company to Sir Anthony Hungerford. Wheruppon this deponent so did And fownd Sir Anthony at his place at Downampney were Bridges delyvered the same letters to hym he being in his parlor no body beinge ther but certen of his own servantes. And uppon the taking of the letters he said Well this is

Warnefordes doing And so then redd over the letters. He said I must reterne a shipmans hose. And what he ment therby this deponent knoweth not But marveled at those wordes. And so then Sir Anthony desired this deponent and Bridges to tary dynner ther and so they did And after toke their leve & departed & more he knoweth not.

*Deposition of Thomas Yate*

Thomas Yate of Hyworthe mercer sworne and examined.

To the matter that concerynthe knowledge of this deponent he sayeth that at last Assises holden in lent last past this deponent being ther And standyng behynd Mr Warnefordes backe he sawe Sir Anthony Hungerford sitting at the benche bekonyng uppon the same Mr Warneford and said to hym Sir said to Warneford I have sent the Counsell a Shipmans hose. And with that Warneford asked this deponent if he herd Sir Anthony. Yes said this deponent. Mary ... And as touching James Rede this deponent sayeth that Sir Anthony did at the first tyme of apprehension suffer Rede to go abrode And that after he sent hym to the gaol & how this deponent knoweth not.

*Deposition of William Bridges*

William Bridges of Burybluntesdon in the Countie of Wiltes yeoman.

William Bridges sworne & examined deposed and sayeth that he being at London about Candlemas laste about this busynes Mr Warneford desired hym to cary down letters with hym from the most honorable Councell unto Sir Anthony Hungerford knight at whoes desire this deponent did so. And went having with hym William Yate J[unio]r to Sir Anthony he being then at his place in Downampney. And after in the hall delivered hym the letters Who uppon the receipt of them went into the parlor. And this deponent and William Yate followed hym to the parlor And ther at the ... Sir Anthony redd over the letters And then said This is Warnefordes doying thy master for that he coud not have it at my handes at Sarum but he shalbe none the nerer of his purpose for that that I shall send up shalbe a shipmans hose for that I have not perfectly examined the matter. And said also ther is hast made of this matter because I shuld seke no counsell in the ... therof but to take me in a tripp. Moche other comunicacon touching Redes imprisonment Sir Anthony had whiche this deponent doth not perfectly remember.

*Deposition of John Wells*

John Wells of Highworth fuller sworne deposeth and sayeth that he was present at the convercacon betwene Wilcokson and John Boller in the churche at the pulling down of the high alter when he herd Boller say these wordes or suche like. Thow sayeth thow hast the kinges commandment to pull down the Alter but a dog commandes thee wiche wordes Boller to his remembrance did speke and wher so iiij or v tymes. And ther with Wilcokson did requier this deponent

and dyvers that wer ther to ber witnes of Bollers wordes. And more this deponent knoweth not.

*Deposition of John Wynchecombe*

John Wynchecombe the younger of burghulburyn in the Countie of Berks esquier sworne deposeth and sayeth that he being at the last Assises saving one at grannpound fortun'd to her certen wordes spoken between Sir Anthony Hungerford and Mr Warneford they being also at the same Assises. At wiche tyme after wordes . . . Sir Anthony and Warneford this deponent herd Sir Anthony saye to Warneford you have caused me to wright to the Councell like a shipmans hose but I knowe more of the matter now. And then shortly after Warneford desired this deponent to ber witnes of the said wordes so spoken by Sir Anthony Hungerford Wherunto this deponent made answer I will report that I have but I know not the matter. And furder this deponent sayeth that Warneford did never requier or invegill this deponent to say other wise then the truthe.

The same John Wynchecombe sworne and examined uppon inter[rogatories] of the parte and behalf of Sir Anthony Hungerford deposeth and sayeth that he being at the assises holden at Grannpound as he declared after sayeth he herd wordes between Sir Anthony and Mr Warneford but in the . . . of the conversacon this deponent sayeth he herd Sir Anthony saye to Warneford you have caused me to wright to the counsell like a shippmans hose but now I know more of the matter. And therewith this deponent was desired of Warneford to ber witnes of these wordes. And theruppon this deponent said he wold report that he herd for this deponent sayeth he toke litell hed to the convercacon. And furder this deponent sayeth within three or fower howres after the same convercacon between Sir Anthony & Warneford this deponent went to Sir Anthony seing hym in the streete of the towne of Oxford and tolde hym Sir I am desired by Mr Warneford to be a witnes of wordes spoken by youe And I do not well like to ber witnes of wordes I know not. And then Sir Anthony said to this deponent I will tell youe the hole matter. And so declared to this deponent that ther was certen felons within his precinct whome he had caused to be attached And for that had travayled in examinacons of them And as the matter was brewyng I receyved by a man of Warnefordes a letter from the Kinges Counsell to send up forthwith further examinacons as I had all redy taken concernyng those men wiche thing I did not of hand. And after I had further knowledge of their examinacons whiche they . . . [*The rest of the deposition is largely illegible.*]



5. Thomas Warneford v. Edward Bridges, John Ames, Kellam  
Bate and others  
(P.R.O. STAC 5/W36/2)

a) *Bill of Complaint of Thomas Warneford*

To the Kinges most Excellent Majestye

Most humbly complaininge sheweth unto your highnes your true and faithfull subiecte Thomas Warneford of Sevenhampton in the parish of Highworth in your highnes County of Wiltes gentleman That whereas your subiecte was in or aboute the moneth of Marche in the ninth yeare of your highnes Raigne of this your highnes Realme of England quietly lawfully and Rightfully seised in his demeasne as of fee taylor and in the manor of Sevenhampton together with divers acres of pasture groundes medowes severall fishinges & piscaries lying neare unto the mansion howse of your subiecte for the provisione of his howse & likewise verie delightful for his recreation. Now so it is if it may please your moste excellent Majesty that divers lewde riotous & disordered persons to the number of twenty at the leaste namely Edward Bridges John Ames Thomas Weaver alias Edwardes Kellam Bate Henry Wadley Robert Carter & divers others whose names as yet your subiecte knoweth not but doth humbly pray that they may be inserted into the bill as soon as they shall be discovered did on the ninth day of Marche about the nighte time of the ninth yeare of your Majestys Raigne of this Realme of England in most unlawfull riotous and tumultous manner assemble & gather themselves together in the meadowes & pasture groundes of your subiecte neare adjoining & neare the severall fishinges of your subiecte your subiecte beinge then in his Mansion howse & his wife lying very sicke and nothinge expectinge to be affrighted with so lewde a company. And then & there being in most [*?riotouse*] manner armed & arrayed with swords daggers pitchforkes long poles staves & divers other unlawfull weapons aswell invasive as defensive to the greate terror and affrightment of your subiecte & his wife lying very sick & most unlawfully disorderly riotously and tumultously breake downe the willowes tread & fowle the meadowes disquiett the swannes & fowle of your subiecte & with two tramells three stewartettes & divers other nettes did fish the waters of your subiecte & destroyed the whole fishinge of your subiecte to the great damage and prejudice of youre subiecte carryinge away above the number of one hundred carpes two hundred pikes besides other fishe to the value of Tenne poundes at the least. And moreover beinge in most gentle manner and by faire persuasions desired by the servants of your subiecte to surcease & forbear theyre fishinges & to departe in peaceable manner they utterly denied and refused it & with opprobrious speeches threatenings swearinges and blaspheming

replied & said they cared not for them nor the master & there with all most outrageously and violently they strucked & beate the servantes of your subiecte and hurte them in that dangerous manner that some of them are like to loose not onely the use of theire limmes but have ever since been distracted & bemused of theire senses & are in danger to lose theyre lives by reason of the blowes they then received to the great greif and discomfite of your subiecte & to his greate preiudice together with the losse of theyre service. In consideracon wherof & for that those Ryottes routes unlawfull assemblies offences and misdemeanoures are contarie to the lawes and statutes of this your Majestys Realme of England in the case made & provided and that if the said Riotous persons shold escape unpunished it wold not onely be a greate incoragement unto them but alsoe unto others to attempte & comitte the like to the greate terror of your Majestys lovinge subiectes & disquiet of your highnes peaceable government. May it please your Majesty the premisses considered to grannte your Majestys moste gracious writte of subpeona unto Edward Bridges John Ames Thomas Weaver alias Edwardes Kellam Bate Henry Wadley and Robert Carter comanndeinge them & everie of them thereby at a certaine day and under a certen paine therin to be . . . personally to appere in your highnes Courte of Starchamber.

b) *Rejoinder and Answers of Edward Bridges, John Ames, and Kellam Bate*

The Defendantes sayen and every of them for himself sayth that the byll of Complaynt against them exhibited unto this honorable Courte is verie untrue uncertaine and insuffyicient in the lawe to be answered unto for divers apparent causes and imperfecons therein contayned. Nevertheless theis defendants savinge and reservinge unto them selves now and att all tymes hereafter the advantages of excepcon to the uncertaintie and insufficiencye of the bill of Complaynt for full and . . . therunto . . . declaracon of the truthe touchinge the materyall matter therein contayned saiethe That to all and every the unlawfull Riotouse and tumultuous assembles and other misdemeanors determinable in this honorable Courte wherewith they are charged by the byll they nor anye of them are guyltye in suche manner and forme as in the Byll is moste untruly surmysed. And further Edward Bridges for himself sayth That true it is he verily beleaveth That the Complaynant was aboute the tyme menconed in the Byll and still is seised of and in parte or parcell of the Manor of Sevenhampton and of divers and severall meadowes pastures and ffys-hinges unto the same belonginge. And that Sir John Bennett Knight as theis defendants hathe creadable heard is lickewise seised of the other parte of the same Manor. And that he accompanied with the rest of the defendants aboute the tyme menconed in the byll did goe unto a brooke or river about half a myle distant from the plaintiffs dwellinge house where the river doth devyde the sheeres<sup>1</sup> and aioineth to the comon fieldes of the mannor of Seavenhampton on the north and

1. Shires, i.e. Wiltshire and Berkshire.

the comon fieldes of the mannor of Shrivenham in the countie of Berks on the south side whiche Sir William Essex knight and Barronett is likewise lawfully seised of as he verily beleeveth. And at their goinge theither was upon the information from one Gylles Bridges: gent: kinsman and nephewe unto the defendant fallinge and continueing dangerously sicke for the space of five monethes or thereabouts and beinge alwayes for the most part of his sickness attended by foure of the defendants named in the byll upon the wordes and amendment of Gylles Bridges only for their recreacon after their longe and toylsome atendance dwelling manye miles distant one from the other and resolvinge upon their partinge to have a friendly meetinge were desirouse with nettes to endeavour the takinge of some ffyses which goinge of thens beinge knowen unto one Pytman of Highworth beinge a comon ffysherie and willinge to accompany the defendants which the defendants would not admit, whereupon as this defendant hath byn credable informed, Pitman by himself or one Rose acquaintinge the Complainant of the defendants goinge to the river he accompanied with his servantes and others to the number of about sixteen and armed & provided with long pickes staves pitchforkes Bylls and other weapons came towards the river which the defendants Edward Bridges Robert Carter and John Ames perceavinge beinge on that side of the river havinge only two polles to beat the water, but armed with noe weapons att all, and willinge to avoyde any ffurther offence or dainger that might ensue, not havinge taken ffyshe to the value of sixe pounds did drawe up their nettes, and departing whonwards aboute a furlonge or more from the river intendinge to shun the complainant and his companye, which the Complainant with his company termed as aforesaid perceavinge violentlie persued Edward Bridges and Robert Carter and assaulted and wounded Carter through the hand, and did strike Bridges, tooke away their nettes and putt their lives in great dainger. Without that the defendants or anie of them were then and there armed with swordes daggers pitchforkes or pick staves or any other weapon then as aforesaid unles Robert Carter had a short hanger which beinge a strainger in that Cuntrey he did usually weare, but did not att that tyme offer to use or draw the same. Or did then or their breake down any willowes tread or soyle the meadowes distroy or cary awaye carpes Pickes or ffyshe to any such value as in the byll of complaint is most untruly alleaged or to any other value then as is aforesaid and further that theis defendants nor any of them dyd violently or willingly strike hurt or beate the complainantes servanttes or any of them, but if any blowe or hurt was geven or done unto them or any of them by any of the defendants the same was donne only in the defence and safgard of them selves and not otherwise. And theis defendants and every of them doe denye that to their knowledge the place where the ffyshinge is supposed to be made is the severall or only ffyshinge of the Complainant; but yf yt maye be proved to be the severall ffyshinge of the Complainant or that the defendantes have done any trespasse unto the Complainant therin theis defendantes wilbe ready to yeald such recompence to the Complainant for the trespasse as the value therof extendeth unto. And theis defendants further saye that sythens the exhibitinge of this byll unto this most honorable Courte the Complainant as theis defendants have byn credible informed and verylie

beleeveth shall make iust proffe hath released and made composicion with some of the defendantes named in the same byll. And alsoe for further vexacon and troble of this defendantes: about the moneth of September last procured a warrant for the good behaviour to be granted against the defendants named in the byll and caused them this defendants Bridges and Ames for the matters containyd in the same byll to be arrested and bound unto the last quarter Sessions holden at Marlborough for the countie of Wiltes where upon open hearinge of the truth and the manner of the matter and controvercie in question this defendants were discharged. And further this defendants saye that as they have bynn credablie informed and doe verylie beleve the Complainant and divers his servantes and houshold have geven forth that the cheif and only cause of this vexacon and troblinge them this defendantes in this most honorable Courte is for some private discontentment touchinge some controversies and suytes heretofore dependyng betweene the Complainantes ffather and one ffrancis Bridges Uncle to the said Gylles Bridges And with whome Gylles al the tyme of his sicknes and the defendants for the most part did continue and abyde, And without that that any other matter or thinge therein containyd or effectuall for these defendants or any of them to answer unto and not herin suffycientlie answered unto Confessed or avoyded traversed or denyed is true in such manner and forme as is in the byll of Complaynt is . . . untruly surmised all whiche thinges these defendants are readie to avere and prove as this honorable Courte shall award and praye and every of them prayeth to be discharged with their reasonable costes and charges in this . . . most wrongfully sustayned.

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