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1r.

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

2r.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 King Road – the bay and roadstead that stretches two miles west from Avonmouth to Portishead.
the Bridge of Gloucester./

2. Item do you know that circuyte by water that is called the welshe roade⁶ yf ye Then whether doth the same extende harde to the shore of the English side, yea or noe.

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

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

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

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

6. Item What be the Comodities or merchandize that the City of Gloucester and the people
of the countres ther aboute do vent\(^1\) and transporte from thence and wherewith or with
What trade be their small Barkes\(^2\) or Boates mainteyned and sent to the sea.

7. Item Whether doe you thinke or are perswaded (all things Considered) that it will
stand with or be against the Comon-Welth\(^3\) of that countrie that the said creekes shold
be a porte or portes, or a place of ladinge and discharinge yea or no

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

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

\(^{10}\) ‘full springe tide’ – this refers to the strong tides that occur twice-monthly, after a full moon and new moon. The high tides of a spring tide are very high whilst the low tides are very low.

\(^{11}\) ‘vent’: to sell.

\(^{12}\) ‘Barkes’ – a bark was a general term for any sailing vessels of a small size.

\(^{13}\) ‘Comon-Welth’: in this context, the common good.
10. Item What distance of place is ther by water betweene kingrode and the said Creeke called Gatcombe And What distance betwene Gatcombe and Gloucester.

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

12. Item what shipp or shipps of conveyent burden for servyce or for trade of merchandize have you known to be buylde by any merchannte or merchanntes of Gloucester. yf you have knowne any suche, then whether were theye full buylde or fynished with mastes & yeardes or ells were theye brought downe from gloucester or from any creeke thereabout, hauilfe builded & unfurnished or in what state were they when they came downe Severne, And what water myght they drawe beinge so farr builded & unfurnished as ~ afore saide, And of what burden was the saide shippe or shippes yf any were suche were. And whether did or could the saide shippe or shippes retourne agayine to Gloucester or to any the creekes thereabout, with conveyent ladinge, yf not, then at what rode or place was she kepe & maynteyned afterwards.

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

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmorton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Item What troble Charge or inconveniencie was ther for the Cittie of Gloucester, the Townes of Tuexbury bewlie\(^{16}\) worcescor and Sherewsburie to make theire entries and take out their cockettes\(^{17}\) at the Custome howse of Bristowe priore then to make entries and take out cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. /

Item to your knowled or understandinge who or what persons be they that are benifited or eased by makinge entries & takinge out of Cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. And whether is the same aldership\(^{18}\) allweis serviced commodtie to all the people theraboutes poore and rich or is it a private commodtie for farmors & Corne merchannts & a few suche other yea or no. /

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

\(^{16}\) `bewlie` – probably referring to Bewdley, a small town a few miles west of Kidderminster and on the banks of the River Severn.

\(^{17}\) `cockettes`; cockets. In this context, a customs certificate to allow prohibited wares to be sent coastwise.

\(^{18}\) `aldgership`: aldership. In this context, aldership refers to the authority of the head port of Gloucester.
howse as you might & could before yea or noe yf not Then wherof riseth the derth or grete
prices the scarsitie and the Charge that you are nowe putt unto, more then before to your
knowledge or what reasones can you yeld for the same. /

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas Hannam
Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmorton

4r.

deposicions of wytnesses sworen and examined taken at Berckley in the countie of Gloc the xvij and xviij dayes of Januarie in the xxv\(th\) yere\(^{22}\) of the raigne of our soveraine ladie Elizabeth th by the grace of god of England Francc and Irelande Queene defendor of the fayeth betwene before Thomas Throckmarton Richard Pate and Thomas hanam Esquire by vertue of the Queens majesties Comission out of her graces heigh courte of excheaquer unto Sir William Wynter knight and them addressed for the examinacion of wytnesses touchinge matters in controversie in the same same court dependinge betwene, the mayor and comunalte of the cytie of Brystoll and the compt and the mayor and Burgesses of the cytie of Glocester defendeth.

Ex parte quer\(^{23}\) Walter Stanfast of the citie of Brystoll merchant borne at Arlingeham\(^{24}\) in the countie of Glouc of the aige of three skore years and upwardes sworen and examined to the fyrst Interrogatory he sayeth That he knoweth the River of Seaverne verie well and the most parte of the Creekes and Pilles betwene kingerode and the bridge of Glocester

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

To the thyrde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creekes and Pilles called Barkley, Newnehaim and Glocester and sayeth also that there cannot any shypp of

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

\(^{23}\) ‘Ex part quer’: on one side.

\(^{24}\) ‘Arlingham’ – Arlingham is a village on the east bank of the Severn, approximately eleven miles downstream of Gloucester.
conveniente burthen\textsuperscript{25} Fleete and come to, safelie ryde, and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficient and meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge nor fytt for the mayntenance and contynewall keepinge of Shipps And he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or barke of above twentie or fyve and twentie tonnes be nor contynewe there, and he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or vessall drawinge myndfoole of water beinge noe trogh\textsuperscript{26} come and goe passe and repasse to y Glocester at all tydes and tymes though wynd and weather serve except onlie at a Springe tyde.

To the fowrth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creeke called Gatcombe and that noe serviceable Shyppe or any other of above fortie tonnes can at all tymes in safetie fleet and come to and from the said Creeke called Gatcombe and he farther sayeth that shipps of convenient burthen cannot safelie come and goe unto that creeke and there ryde and abyde as in a sufficient porte to receive and mayneteyne shippes of convenient burthen for service or defencible for the trade of marchandizes except onlie at springe tides and he farther sayeth that there cannot ride there at one tyme aboue vij or viij both in the pills and stande Creakes there which most all lie agrounde at loe water and he farther sayeth that noe shipp of any burthen can come and goe there at all tymes and tydes / at quarter springe tydes onlie vessells of x tonne or xij tonnes at the moste can passe to gatcombe at halfe springe tyde a vessell of xx\textsuperscript{26} tonnes may come thither yf she have a good wynde / at a full springe tyde a vessell of fortie tonnes and not aboue can come thither and he farther sayeth that neither Gatcome nor the other iiij creekes nor all they are meet to be a port or portes of ladinge and discharginge of Shipps.

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

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

\textsuperscript{25} ‘burthen’: burden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas Hanam
Rychard pate ~
Thomas Throckmorton

5r

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

\textsuperscript{29} ‘trayne’: this is probably a reference to trayne oil - now known as cod liver oil. This was used to light lamps.

\textsuperscript{30} ‘spisons’: spices.

\textsuperscript{31} ‘woertie’: worthy.

\textsuperscript{32} ‘Fromeloude’: Framilode – a small village on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles downstream of Gloucester.
which shippes did drawe\textsuperscript{33} as this deponent thincketh nyne or tenne foote water where they were brought downe Severne.

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

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

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

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

\textsuperscript{33} The amount of water that the ‘shippes did drawe’ refers to the depth of water that a particular vessel required in order to float.

\textsuperscript{34} In this context, ‘roade’ refers to the river at Gatcombe.

\textsuperscript{35} ‘Fleete’: float.
cannot ryde passe and repasse at all tydes and tymes though wynde and weather serve, but sayeth that they maye onlie passe at the springe tydes with sufficiente water.

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

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

36 ‘Nepe tydes’ – Nepe tides occur just after the first or third quarters of the moon, when the high-water level is lowest and there is the least difference between high and low water levels.
by verie poore people and the men inhabitinge there beinge verie fewe are all such
as twoe excepted are abrode from that place at woork for their lyvinge and the
Inhabitantes of Etlowe are all husbandmen\textsuperscript{37} and marreners which travaile abroad for
their lyvinge and lyve elsewhere as those of gatcombe.

To the syxth he sayeth that the comodities or marchandizes that the cytie of
Glocester and the people of the cuntries thare abouts doe vent and tranceport
from thence are onlie cheefelie aples\textsuperscript{38} and corne and farther sayeth that yf it be not a good
apple and fruitefull yere they of Glocester and the said other creekes
maye moare upp the most parte of their owne shippinge and boates\textsuperscript{39} for any thinge they
have to doe for them And farther sayeth that their smale boates and barkes are
maynetayned and sent to sea \textit{with} such fruites as the cuntrie doth yeald and
\textit{with} apples and peares syder and corne and such lyke fuites.

To the seventh Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh and is verelie perswaded that
it will stand and be against the common wealth of that cuntrie that the said
creekes should be a port or portes or a place or places of ladinge and discharge
discharginge for he sayeth that he hath harde the people of that cuntries much
to mislyke and speake against the havinge of a porte there for that corne thereby
is verie much conveyed awaye and the pryce of corne thereby much inhannsed\textsuperscript{40}
and little brought to the markette for that they which have corne to sell covett\textsuperscript{41}
to sell it in grosse quantities togeather.

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

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

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

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

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

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42 ‘avoydinge’: avoiding.
43 ‘lyter’ – a boat or vessel, usually a flat-bottomed barge, used in lightening or unloading (sometimes loading) larger ships that could not be discharged (or loaded) at a wharf.
three strakes above the wale\textsuperscript{44} which could hardelie be brought to brystoll from Glocester as she then was havinge three or fower whole springes to come from Glocester to Brystoll and yet was lyke to have, but cast awaye in comminge be meanes of the smale depeth of the water which shipp in that estate he thincketh did then drawe about eyght or nyne foote water which shipp beinge afterwardes full buyylte coulde never come aboue the suites\textsuperscript{45} but hath alwayes sythens bin kept and mayneteyned in the harbor and haven of brystoll.

To the thyrteenth Interrogatory he sayeth that the roade\textsuperscript{46} at Gatcombe is not passinge a cables length long\textsuperscript{46} and halfe a cables length brode rockes beinge a head and a sterne\textsuperscript{47} and dangerus groundes on the Seaberde syde soe that it is a place inconvenient for any shipp of service to be kepte in, for that there they are agrounde at three quarters flud yf it be a shipp of any burthen, and by reason of the badnes of the haven and the face of the tyde of the ryver of Severne she cannot be longe kept and maynteyned there. And he farther sayeth that yf they of Glocester happen to have any vessell of shipp of about fortie tonnes they keepe them for the most part and lade them and discharge from either in kingeroade hungeroade or the welsh roade or in some place belowe Gatcombe, for the said Ryver of Severne is so dangerus that they dare not adventure neither their ship nor goodes\textsuperscript{48} to Glocester nor the other said Creekes yf the shipp drawe above nyne foote of water except it be uppon a good rounde springe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

erewyth where with their smale barkes and boates be maynteyned 
are corne apples and such lyke fruities. 

Thomas Hanam

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Throkmarton

7r.

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

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

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

To the eleventh twelveth and thyrtenth Interrogatory he cannot depose

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

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

**Anthonye Phyllipes** of the cite of Brystoll Baker aiged fyftee
ower yeres to the fyrst Interrogatory he sayeth that he hath harde of the erectinge
of the custome howse in Glocester and hath lykewyse\footnote{‘lykewyse’: likewise.} harde of certeyne portes\footnote{‘vitted’: victualled.} betwene the welshe roade and Tewex. Tewexburie.

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth that the inhabitantes of Brystoll have
bin vtilted\footnote{‘vtilted’: victualled.} from Tewexburie and Glocester from Tewexburie especiallie with
corne victuall and other provision and from other the creekes of Glocester.

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

To the Fowerth Interrogatory he sayeth that they the bakers of Brystoll have not
bin served with graine from the cytie of Glocester in such sort as they were
wonte\footnote{‘wonte’: wont – accustomed.} to be for he sayeth their cockettes brought from bristol would not be
allowed by the officers of Glocester but sayeth where they have demandned
corne there by their trowe men annswered have bin made the cuntrie could not
spare it, the reason of the skercitie\footnote{‘skercitie’: scarcity} thereof this deponent knoweth not.

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

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

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

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

Thomas Hanam

By pate richard

Thomas Throkmorton

\(^{55}\) ‘benefeite’: benefit.

\(^{56}\) ‘travailed’: travelled.
8r.

**Interrogatories** to be ministered unto witnesses to be examynd on the
parte and behaullf of the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester
againste the maior and comunalte of the Cittie of Bristoll. /

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

2 Item wheather the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes there be frequented or haunted with
traffique of merchanntes and merchanndizes bothe inwarde and outwarde, and whether it be meete to
be contyynued for the same purpose / and wheather the same be necessary to be meynteined\(^{57}\) & advancend
in your judgment. /

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

4 Item do yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Berckley
newnham and Gloucester, and the townes of Twexburie worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth, & Shrewisburie
and howe longe tyme. And declare what distannce is betwene the said creekes of Berckley ~
Gatcombe and newenham kingroade hungroade and Bristoll. / everie one from thother, booth by water
and lande / and what number of miles is from kingroade and Shrewisburie by water and lande as yowe
judge\(^{58}\) / And doe yowe judge that the key of Gloucester and the creekes of Berckley Gatcombe and ~
newnham be meete and apte places for ladinge unladinge and dischardginge of wares merchandizes
and commodities and declare your knowledge of the key of Gloucester and the state thereof And have you

\(^{57}\) ‘meynteined’: maintained.

\(^{58}\) ‘iudge’: judge.
knowne any shippes or barckes made and builte there, or about Gloucester by whome and of what burdens. /

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

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

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

8 Item doe yowe knowe or iudge wheather there have bynne any greater or small number of trowes or barckes within vj yeeres paste\(^{59}\) then there weere in other yeeres before uppon the said River of severne betweene kingroade and Shrewisburie / And whether there have benne any greater trafyque from Gatcombe to Gloucester, and the portes there adioyninge within that tyme then were used before /

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

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

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

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

12 Item doe yowe iudge that any greater of quantitie of leather butter or cheese hath ben commonly
before vj yeeres paste transported and broughte from the portes and costes\(^60\) of wales to Gloucester /
otherwise than before that time.

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

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

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

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

8v.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Item wheather any searcher his deputie or seruannt haue dwelte or remayned or both dwell or
remayne betweene Bristoll and Hungroade or kingroade or any of them and declare the names
of souche persons and the place or places of their habitacion.
Interrogatories to be ministered unto witneses to be examyned on the parte
and behalff of the maiour and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester againste the maiour
and communaltie of the cittie of X X X X Bristoll . . ht 64

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

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

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

64 This set of interrogatories is very similar in content to the previous set of interrogatories. In general, these interrogatories are much wordier and sometimes a little confusing. It would appear from a report of the first commission found in the records of the city of Gloucester, that this set of interrogatories was the original set that was used at the start of the commission. However, at the end of the first day of the commission, Gloucester’s interrogatories ‘at nighte were abridg’ in order to simplify and clarify the questions being put to deponents. Although this set of interrogatories may therefore have been used when questioning the first Gloucester deponent, all deponents after this would have been questioned against the set of interrogatories inscribed on folios 8r. and 8v. See Appendix 5.
Item doe yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Barkley newenham and Gloucester, and the townes of Tewkeisbury worcester Bewdeley Bridgnorth and Shrewisbury standinge upon, or neere to the ryver of Seuerne yea, or noe. And howe longe tyme to your rememberance and declare what distance is betweene the said creekes of newenham Gatcombe Barkley kingroade hungrode and Bristoll every one from thother butothe by water and by lande and what number of myles is from kingroad to Shrewisburie by water and by lande, as you iudge. And what number of dwellinge houes are builte and standinge in gatcombe or within hawlf a myle of Gatcombe, and doe you iudge that the key of Gloucester, and the creekes of newnham and gatcombe be meete & apte places for landinge ladinge unladinge & dischardginge of wares merchanndizes & commodities. And declare your knowledge of the buildinge & makinge of the key of Gloucester, and have you knowen any shippes or barckes made and builte betweene Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, and by whome & of what burdens / And whether there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places used uppon the Ryver of severne synce the Queene majestie’s grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester made to the towne of Gloucester then there were used before that grannt made. And whether the ladinge and unladinge at Gloucester newenham and Gatcombe be now more hurtfull to her majesty than before / And whether weree the creekes of Gatcombe Berckley & newenham used for places of ladinge and unladinge before the said grannte made to Gloucester of the custome howse there / And whether the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that come to Bristoll with any merchandizes wares or commodities doe lade and unlade at hungroade or in any other place and declare the manner of that doeinge / And whether the shippes and barckes of burden may passe from Gatcombe to Bristoll and from Bristoll to gatcombe. / Item wheather are the saide creekes of Gatcombe & newenham sufficient & convenyent places whereby to discry65 and discover all shippes barckes and boates passinge the saide ryver of severne or have sufficient numbers of dwellinge houes and people there or veary neere unto the same places to that or any other

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65 ‘discry’ – to perceive from a distance.
meet service for her majesty / and how broad is the same River of severne at Gatcombe and ~
newenham / and declare your knowledge and judgment thereof /

Item whether do you know or remember or have youe harde what number of boates trowes or
barckes commonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the xviiith yeere of the Queenes majestie’s Raigne
were belonginge to thihabitantnes of Gatcombe / Barkley, newenham and to the townes & villages
about newenham / That is to say minsterworth Longney Ellmore Gloucester, Twexbury uppon severne worcester Bewdley Bridgnorth and Shrewisburie or any of them or to thihabitantnes of
any other townes or places uppon or neere severne / and of what burdens the same were commonlye
accompted or adjudged to be / And do you knowe or remember or have youe harde what number or boates
barckes or trowes commonly within vij yeeres past are or weree belonginge to thihabitantnes of the
townes portes and creekes before Recited and of what burdens / And do you knowe or have harde
what number of boates barckes or shippes commonly within twenty or fortie yeeres nexte before the said
xviiith yeere did come from Irelande DevonshireCornewall wales, or any other places beyonde kingroade
with any wares or marchandizes to any of theforesaid xij Portes creekes or townes and of what burdens / And
what number of shippes barckes boates or trowes commonly within vij yeeres laste past have youe knowen to
come from Ireland Devonshire Cornewall wales or any other places beyonnd the seas to any of the said portes
Creekes or townes and of what burdens the same were /

Item do you know or remember what number of boates barckes or trowes have bynne belonginge to thihabitants
of Bristoll commonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the saide xviijth yeere of the Queene majestie’s
Raigne66 did come from Bristoll unto the saide Portes townes, or places names in the viijth Interrogatory and of what
burdens / And what number of boates trowes and barckes have come from Bristoll commonly within vij yeeres
laste past to any of those places, and of what burdens / And do you knowe or have harde whether any
more or greater number of shippes boates barckes or trowes within vij yeeres past have bynne made or
built, in any of the creekes or trowes betweene Gatcombe and Shrewisburie then weree before in the same
places duringe the like tyme before those vij yeeres / And declare your knowledge herein and whither the
marchantnes of Bristoll have not nowe as free and great vente for all kynds of merchandizes wares and
Comodities to all townes and places above and beneath Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grannte
made of the custome howse to Gloucester /

66 ‘xviiith yeere of the Queene majestie’s Raigne’ – Elizabeth I’s eighteen regnal year ran from the 17th November 1575 to the 16th November 1576.
Item what kyndes or quantities of comodities have yowe knowne to be comonly transported or conveyed from the said portes Creekes townes or places mentioned in the said viij\textsuperscript{th} Interrogatory vnto Bristoll within twentie yeeres neste before the said xvij\textsuperscript{th} yeere of the Queene majestie’s Raigne / And wheather doe yowe not iudge that the saide Cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell servued and Provided with comodities and wares from the said townes creekes portes and places within vi yeeres laste paste as duringe the like tyme 62 those twentie yeeres before and declare yowe judgment and reasons therein /

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

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

9v.

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

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

67 Illegible deleted word.
wales from the creekes townes places and portes mencioned in the said viijth Interrogatory and declare the same at ____

And of what state or quantity of corne or grayne hathe the Cittie of Bristoll ben served with all from Cornewall duringe vj yeares paste / And wheather the citty of Bristoll canne furnishe and serve the countreies of Cornewall wales and Ireland with corne and grayyne better cheepe then the citty of Gloucester, or as good cheepe as the townes of Gloucester and Twexburie And wheather the provision thereof may be done at Gloucester and Twexburie with lesse chardege then at Bristoll. And declare your judgment & the reasons thereof.

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

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

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

68 The manuscript has deteriorated here, obscuring this word.
69 ‘Cappers’: cap makers.
70 ‘ventringle’: venturing.
same yea or noe declare the reasons thereof / And doe yowe knowe wheather the small boates or barckes uppon serverne be and have ben ympleiede\textsuperscript{71} for her majestie's service into Irelande yea or noe. / And sett downe youre Remembrance in all thinges for prooфе thereof/

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

19 Item do yowe knowe what stoare of fruit[e] and syder by reasonable accompte is commonly every yeer transported in those barckes and boates from the countie and portes of Gloucester into Cornewall Devonshire Irelande wales and Bristoll / And wheather greate quanteties of hearings & fishes be not retorned from all those places excepte Bristoll back againe to service the countreyes of Glouc wigorn Heref\textsuperscript{72} Shropshire Stafforde warwick and other countreyes adioyning And declare your knowledge and remembrannce thereof/

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\textsuperscript{73} Illegible deleted phrase.

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

10r.

deposiciones of witnesses sworn and examyned taken at Berckley\(^{75}\) in the Countie of Glouc the xvij\(^{th}\) & xviij\(^{th}\) dayes of January in the xxv\(^{th}\) yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth\(^{76}\) by the grace of god of Englande Francke & Irelande Defender of the faith he Before Thosan

Thockmarton Richard Pale and Thomas Hannan esquiere by vertue of the Queenes majestie’s most honorable conmission owte of her graces highe Cowrte of Exchequer unto Sir william wynter knighte and then addressed for the examynacion of witnesses touching matter in controuersye in the same Cowrte dependinge betwene the maior and communaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll Compt and the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucedeserter\(^77\)

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

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\(^{75}\) ‘Berckley’: Berkeley, a town on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately 20 miles from Bristol and 16 miles from Gloucester as the crow flies. It would seem that Berkeley was identified as a suitable venue for the sitting of the commission because it was almost equidistant from Bristol and Gloucester and thus the ‘moste conveyente and fitteste place’. The Bristol Corporation were also keen for the commission to proceed at a location with a ‘viewe of the Ryver’ – and thus rejected Gloucester’s attempts to move the commission to Wotton-under-Edge, a village five miles from Berkeley and five miles further away from the River Severn. See Appendix 4, fol. 106r.

\(^{76}\) ‘xvij\(^{th}\) & xviij\(^{th}\) dayes of January in the xxv\(^{th}\) yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne’ – the 17\(^{th}\) and 18\(^{th}\) January, 1583.

\(^{77}\) ‘Gloucedeserter’: Gloucester.
allways unto Bristoll Cornewall Devonshire and Ireland and into other partes beyonnde the seaes / 

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

3 To the thirde he saieth that he knoweth noe howse of custome or any searcher dwellinge upon the river of severne / or Aven goeinge under the bridgeof Bristoll betweene the cittie of Bristoll and the Roade called Hungroade / But saieth that the towne of Sheerhamton is distant from Hungroade aboute a quarter of a mile and that the countie of Glouc extendeth to the towne wales 78 of Bristoll but wheather kingroade and Hungroade be within the Countie of Glouc or not he knoweth not.

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

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

Thomas Throkmarton       Rychard pate ~       Thomas Hanam

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

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

79 ‘Blackney’: Blakeney, the nearest settlement to Gatcombe. It lay approximately one mile northwest of Gatcombe.
80 ‘diuers’: diverse.
81 ‘Frommilade’: Framilode.
and noe otherwise / and that often times such ships or barckes as come from Bristoll doe lade and unlade at Hungroade which is fouruer miles from Bristoll, and that there is good harborouge\(^{82}\) in diuers places in the forrest side for ships to be reste & freede in /

6 Item to the vi\(^{th}\) he saieth that the river of severne is in depth of water at Gatcombe, upon a full sea aboute iij fathom and that ships or barckes of fouruer skore tonnes may flete reste and lye in Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme / and that the same may come from kingroade to gatcombe upon the springe or tyde in iij howres and all soe that barckes boates and trowes of xvij tonnes may come and passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester in one tyde which is about iij howres And that barckes of LX tonnes may passe from Gatcombe to Bristol and from Bristoll to Gatcombe.

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

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

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

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

10 To the tenthe eleventh twelfth and xiiijth he cannot depose.

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

Thomas Throkmarton By pate r ichard Thomas hanam

11r.

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

16 To the xvj and xvij interrogatory he cannot depose /

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

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

21 To the xxjth he saieth There is a custome howse errected and
builte in Gloucester at the key harde by severne side and there
standeth comodiouslye for the Queenes officers to discr1e or
stay any boates passinge by the same River / and saieth that
there are sufficient stow howses, and veary fitt places to builde store howses on.

22 To the xxijth he cannot depose /

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

24 To the xxiiijth and laste interrogatory he cannot depose /

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

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

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

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

Thomas Throkmarton Rychard Pate ~ Thomas hanam

11v.

4 To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the townes and portes as thinterrogatory mencioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same hath well knowen for those xliij yeeres paste, and saieth that Gatcombe is distant from kingroade by water about xx liij miles & by lande as mouche / or thereabouts, / and from Gatcombe unto newnham boothe by lande and water aboute iiiij or v miles and from newenham to gloucester by water aboute x or xj miles and by lande aboute viij miles / And from kingroade to Shrewisbury by water aboute C miles / and by lande iiiijc and viij miles or

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

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

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

\textsuperscript{86} ‘threin’: therein.
springes xx or xxiiij th footes as he thincketh / And that shippes
of iij xx tonnes may fleete, & reste in Gatcombe at full sea or
springe tyme, and that the same at one tyde in the beste of the
springe may come from kingroade to Gatcombe havinge the
healpe of the wynde / And that barckes or trowes of xxe or xxiiij tonnes havinge the wynde and tyde with them may come
to Gloucester at one springe tyde /

Thomas Throkmarton

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

12r.

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

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

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

11 To the xj xij xiiij \& xiiiij\textsuperscript{th} Interrogatories he cannot depose

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas Throkmarton
Rychard pate ~
Thomas Throkmorton

12v.

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

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

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

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

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

24

Rychard pate ~
Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmorton

13r.
Henrie Browne of the Cittey of Gloucester sayler of thage of lx\textsuperscript{th} yeres or ~ therabouts sworen and examined to the first Interrogatory saith that he ~ hath been owner of a boate of abowte xv\textsuperscript{th} tonne called the George\textsuperscript{89} aboute fyve yeres past and is now owner of a parte of a boate / and hath been ~ a purser\textsuperscript{90} in a shippe called the Marie fortune belonging to Roberte Poole of the Cittie of Gloucester aboute xxxvij\textsuperscript{th} yeres agoe / and saith that during the tyme that he hath used to travell upon the said River (which to his remembrance is aboute xlij yeres) he used to carrie such comodities as the Countie of Glouc did yelde, to Cornewall / Devonshire / Bristoll / and wales / bringing backe with him hearring and other fishe for the same / and likewise had accesse into Ireland for herring fishing / somtime for himself and somtime as an hired servannte and served the said Robert Poole as an apprentice. /

2 To the seconde he saith that the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes there hath been frequented with traffique of merchandizes, and that he himself during the time of his service under the said Roberte Poole transported ~ clothe, leade and other laufull merchandizes to Galisia Andolazia Portuigall and Lushborne,\textsuperscript{91} at which place he hath been at the leaste Tenne tymes for his said ~ master and for merchantes of Bristoll, which said shippe was laden one time at ~ Gatcombe, sometime at Hungerode and somtime at Chepstowe / and iudgeth the same porte of Gloucester meete to be continued for the trade of merchandizes and do thinke it verie necessarie to be mainteyned and advanced for the increase of more marriners therby to be more reddie for the princes services /

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

\textsuperscript{89} Duncan Taylor identifies a number of occasions in 1592 when this ship is recorded to have departed for Bristol from Gloucester carrying malt and wheat but the arrival of the ship is then not recorded in Bristol. Taylor suggests that on these occasions, these commodities may have been illegally shipped overseas under the colour of a coastal cocket. Taylor, ‘Maritime Trade’, 108-115.
\textsuperscript{90} ‘purser’ - an officer on board a ship responsible for provisions and for keeping accounts, or for various other administrative matters.
\textsuperscript{91} ‘Lushborne’: Lisbon.
To the fourth he saith that he will knowethe all the portes Townes and places mentioned in the said Interrogatory, savinge Shrewsburie, and hath knowen the most parte of them since the time he hath used the trade of the said river of Severne / and further saith that Gloucester is x miles distant from ~ Gatcombe by lande / and aboute xijij miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and kingerode is aboute xx miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and hungerode is aboute xxijij miles by water / and betwene newnham and Gloucester is aboute vij miles by lande / and doth judge that Gloucester / Barkleie / Gatcombe / and newnham are meete and apte ~ places for lading and unlading of wares and merchandizes / And saith that ~ the key of Gloucester is well builte and prepared and that he knewe it in so good state as it is nowe and saith that he doth verie well remember his said master Robert poole builte a shippe of lxxxij tonne at Gloucester called the marie fortune / And also that one master Clutterbuck of Gloucester builte a barke of aboute xxxij tonne aboute xl yeres past within two miles of Gloucester / and that one John Haukins and John Hoskins aboute the same tyme with iiij er miles of Gloucester builte one other barke able to travle to Bysky and frannce in the companie of which barke he this deponent did travell to Burdeux and that one Bullocke of Ellmore builte a barke of aboute lxxxij tonne called the mathew at Fromelade. /

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

To the syxte he saith that the river of Severne at Gatcombe doth flowe three faddome at full sea and springe time and in his judgement that there maie lie
and fleete at Gatcombe at full sea a shippe betwene lx & lxxx tonne / and saith that a shippe of his said masters called the Iulian of aboute lx tonne / did reste and lie at Gatcombe and Brimspill92 when she came home from the sea. / and

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

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

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

9 To the nynte Interrogatory he saith that he dothe not certenlie knowe ~ what nombere of barkes have been builte upon seaverne / And further saith that in his iudgement the merchantes of Bristoll have or maie have (if they

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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14r.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 To the fyfte he agreeeth with the said Henry Browne / and further saith That ye place aboute Chepstowe called poole merricke,\(^5\) and the entrannce into the Ryver of wye, and Lydney pill\(^6\) are wry meete and convenient places to save a shipp in the tyme of necessitie.

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

Thomas Throkmarton By pate richard Thomas Hanam

14v.

7 To the vij\(^7\) he saith that the Creekes of newneham / and Gatcombe are as convenient places for the descrying of anie boate or barke passing by

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\(^5\) ‘poole merricke’ – refers to a creek on the west bank of the River Severn that lay within a mile of the mouth of the River Wye and stretched as far inland as Mathern.

\(^6\) ‘Lydney pill’ – a creek located on the west bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles upstream of the mouth of the River Wye.
the said Ryver as the bankes or keyes of Gloucester or Bristoll are / and saith
that newneham is a mayor and markett towne having in it aboue xl tie
houses / and Gatcombe hath in it v or vj houses / and that newneham is
distant from Gatcombe iij miles / and saith that Etloe is distant from
Gatcombe half a myle having in it aboute x. or xij. howses at the least
and the village of Blakney is aboute a mile from Gatcombe having ~
therin aboute xx. or xxx. howsholdes. /

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

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

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

12    To the xijth he saith that one Master white of gloucster and ij0 or iije
more haue a certen trade for butter and cheese out of wales and then
the said trade hath been no more used nor so much within those vj.
yeres then it hath been before /

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

15 To the xv\textsuperscript{th} he agreeth in all thing\textit{e}s with the former deponent ~ Henry Browne /

16 To the xvj\textsuperscript{th} he saith that in his iudgement fewe or none of the ~ Cittizens of Gloucester have made anie gaine of benefit by husbandrie for they are all Indenture holders\textsuperscript{97} thereof / and in his iudgment there is none that hath above lx acres of grownde, and for feedinge he knoweth of none / and doth further affirme that the trade of Cappers and clothiers is utterlie now so much decayed within the said Cittie, that wheras before Sir Thomas Bell\textsuperscript{98} and one master Falkoner\textsuperscript{99} kepte grete nombers of people at worke on spynning and knitting of cappes, that nowe there are very fewe set to worke in that trade and that there is the like decay of clothing within the same Citty /

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

18 To the xviij\textsuperscript{th} he saith that he himself with his owne boate hath travelled to Burdens for wynes and have fraughted his barke with clothes & northen cottons & so hath divers men within his remembranace /

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

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

\textsuperscript{99}John Falkoner was also a significant Gloucester alderman who served as the mayor of Gloucester on a number of occasions and was a capper by trade.
To the xix\textsuperscript{th} he agreeeth with the former deponent Henry Browne and saith further that he thinketh there be at the leaste \(ij\) CC boats ladinge of fruite and sider \textit{which} do passe to Bristoll besides in a yere /

To the xx\textsuperscript{th}, xx\textsuperscript{ith} and xx\textsuperscript{iiith} he agreeeth in every pointe with the former deponent Henry Browne /
And more he cannot depose. /

\textit{15r.}

John Lewes of Longney\textsuperscript{100} in the County of Glouc sayler of thage of x\textsuperscript{tie} yeres or theraboutes sworne and examind to the first Interrogatorie saith that within those xx\textsuperscript{tie} yeres he hath been owner of nyne barkes and that he hath served in the same barkes himself into Ireland Cornewall wales and other places since the said tyme / And his owne shipping hath gone into Spaine with his owne goodes where he lost a shipp worth CC\textsuperscript{th} / And since michellmas last hath lost a barke of xxvij\textsuperscript{tie} tonne in Irelande.

To the second Interrogatory he saith that he hath knownen barkes to passe with marchandise from Gatcombe newnecanm and Gloucester to Ireland and other places beyonde the seae / And that Thomas Smith of Purton had a boate of fifty tonne / upon the said River / And that ii\textsuperscript{e} or iii\textsuperscript{ro} men of Gloucester had a barke of aboute L\textsuperscript{tie} tonne within these ij\textsuperscript{ro} yeres wherein they travelled into the par tes beyonde the seae /

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas Throkmarton By pate Richard Thomas Hanam

15v.

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

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

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

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmarton

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