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Evan T. Jones (ed.), 'Survey of the Port of Bristol, 1565' (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011)¹

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

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

Bristoll ~ Articles

to be enquired upon towchyng the porte of Bristoll & the ~ creekes² belongyng to the same/ [1] **In primis**³ whether the ~ saide porte be *commenly* frequented & haunted⁴ *with* trafique of ~ *merchauntes* & *merchundizes* bothe inwarde & owtwarde and whether it be mete⁵ to be contynued for the saide purpose/ [2] **Item** whether the saide porte be decayed & not so muche frequented & haunted with *merchauntes* & *merchaundizes* as some of the Creekes thereunto belongyng nowe *commonlye* are And howe longe the same hathe ben decayed & by what occasyon And if it be decayed whether it be necessarye the same to be repayred & what costes & chardges therof wolde be/ [3] **Item** what custome howse dothe belonge to the same porte & whose *inheritaunce*⁶ the same house ys and if it be anye other then her *majesties* what yerely Rente is paide for the same and howe commodious it stondesth for the *service* of her highnes there And in what good state it ys of *reparacions*⁷ [4] **Item** what nombre of Crekes do belonge to the saide porte & howe farre every of them ys distante from the saide porte / And howe farre every of them be distante from other / And into what Sheres⁸ every of the saide Creekes doo extende / [5] **Item** whiche of the saide Creekes be most frequented & haunted *with* the trafique of *merchauntes* & *merchaundizes* & are mete to be contynued for the same [6] **Item** whether any of the saide Creekes be decayed & not meete to be

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

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

³ 'in primis': firstly.

⁴ 'haunted' – i.e. frequented.

⁵ 'mete': meet – i.e. fitting or suitable.

⁶ 'inheritaunce': inheritance – i.e. ownership..

⁷ 'reparacions': reparations – i.e. repair or condition.

⁸ 'Sheres': shires.

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

[*dorse*]

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

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

Bristol. The certificate of Anthony Standbank maiour¹² of the Citye of Bristow Richarde Barkeley

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

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

¹¹ ‘dampne’ – i.e. suppress.

¹² Anthony Standbank, mayor of Bristol, 1564/5.

Esquier¹³ David Harrys Alderman¹⁴ & Nicholas Wyllyams¹⁵ ~
 Commyssyoners named & appoincted by the quenes highnes Commission
 to them & others directed & to thies *presentes*¹⁶ annexed comprehendyng
 the execucyon of the same accordyng to tenour & purporte¹⁷ of the
 same Commyssyon & of the Articles of the same fixed aswell at
 there assemble¹⁸ at the saide Citie of Bristowe the viijth daye of
 Aprell Anno Regni Regine Elizabeth etc / Septimo¹⁹ / As also at Bristowe
 & Lawffordes gate²⁰ in the Countie of Gloucester at diverse tymes after
 as hereafter ensueth /. [1] **In primis** to the first Article we the
 saide Commissioners saye that the saide porte of Bristowe is ~
 commenly frequented and haunted with traffique of *merchautes* & ~
merchaundizes bothe inwarde and owtwarde and ys mete to have ~
 contynuaunce for that purpose & ys one of the principall portes of
 thys Realme & a place where great traffique & trade of merchaundizes
 ys used / [2] **Item** to the seconde Article we saye that the same porte
 ys not decayed but in good state and well frequented and haunted with
merchautes and *merchaundizes* (as above saide) & no Creeke thereunto ~
 belongyngyng so frequented / [3] **Item** to the thirde Article, we saye ~
 that no custome house dothe belonge to the saide porte, but that
 the Customers do heare²¹ a howse for that purpose of one Wyllyam
 Tucker²² of Bristowe Draper from yere to yere, whiche Wyllyam ~
 Tucker hathe a State for Tearme of yeares²³ in the same / And the
 saide customers paye to hym for the same house xlvj^s viij^d a
 yere & that the inheritaunce of the same apperteyneth to Rowlande ~
 Okever of London myllyner / And that the same howse stondesth
 very aptelye for the service of the quenes highnes & ys in good
 reparacions, & that the same reparacions ys borne by the saide ~
 Wyllyam Tucker / [4] **Item** to the fourthe Article we also saye
 that to the saide porte doo belonge fiftie and nyne Creekes
 kayes²⁴ pylles²⁵ and havens, *which* be in thies *presentes* hereafter named
 with their distances from the saide porte & their distances

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

¹⁴ David Harris was a Bristol apothecary / grocer, who had been mayor in 1550/1: Stanford, *The Ordinances of Bristol, 1506-1598* (Bristol Record Society, Vol. XLI, 1990), p. 20.

¹⁵ Nicholas Williams was a Bristol tailor who had progressed to become a draper / cloth merchant: E. Ralph and N. M. Hardwick (eds.), *Calendar of the Bristol Apprentice Book, 1532-1565*, Part II (Bristol Record Society Publications, Vol. XXXIII, 1980), nos. 695, 872, 1354, 1682; E. Ralph (ed.), *Calendar of the Bristol Apprentice Book, 1532-1565*, Part III (Bristol Record Society Publications, Vol. XLIII, 1992), no. 404. He was mayor of Bristol in 1563/4: Stanford, *Ordinances of Bristol*, p. 33.

¹⁶ ‘thies *presentes*’: this presence – i.e. the present writing / document.

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

¹⁸ ‘assemble’: assembly – i.e. the meeting of the commissioners.

¹⁹ ‘the viijth daye of Aprell Anno Regni Regine Elizabeth Septimo’ – i.e. the 8th day of April in the seventh year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1565).

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

²¹ ‘heare’: hire.

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

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

²⁴ ‘kayes’: quays.

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

one from another together *with* names of the Shires in to the which they doo extende *Videlicit*²⁶ / **Comitatu Somerset**²⁷, **In Primis** the keye of Bristowe²⁸ ys three myles from St Katheryns pylle²⁹ / From St Katheryns pylle to Crokarne pylle³⁰ a quarter of a myle/

Com' Glouc' } From Crokarne pylle to the haven mowthe³¹ of the porte of Brystowe two myles **The haven of Bristowe / The ~ haven mowthe**, From the kaye of Bristowe to the Seamyll³² pille is two myles / From Seamyll pille to Brode pille³³ a myle / From Brode pille to the haven mowthe of the porte of Bristowe thre myles / From the haven mowthe to Skeys pille³⁴ a quarter of a myle / From Skeys pille to mere pille³⁵ a quarter of a myle / From mere pille to Battens pill³⁶ a quarter of a myle / From Battens pill to Stope pill³⁷ *dimidium*³⁸ mile / From Stope pill to Newpill³⁹ *dimidium* myle / From Newpill to ~ Chesell pill⁴⁰ two myles / From Chesell pill to Awst pill⁴¹ thre myles / From Awst pill to Littleton pill⁴² two myles / From Littleton pill to Cowhill pill⁴³ one mile / From Cowhill pile to Oldebery pill⁴⁴ *dimidium* mile / From Oldebery pill to Shepperdys pille⁴⁵ two miles / From Shepperdys pille to Newark pill⁴⁶ a

[*new membrane, unnumbered*]

quarter of a mile / From Newark pille to Newthrough pyll⁴⁷ a mile / From Newthrough pyll to Connynger pill⁴⁸ half a mile / From Connynger pill to Barkeley haven⁴⁹ a quarter of a myle / From Barkelye haven to Hallow Hasyll pill⁵⁰ half a mile / From

²⁶ 'Videlicit': that is to say.

²⁷ 'Comitatu Somerset': the county of Somerset.

²⁸ 'keye of Bristowe': Bristol Quay, 51°26'57" N 2°35'52" W.

²⁹ 'St Katheryns pylle': Chapel Pill, 51°28'57" N 2°40'03" W.

³⁰ 'Crokarne pyle': Pill, 51°28'54" N 2°41'03" W.

³¹ 'haven mowthe' – i.e. Avonmouth, 51°30'17" N 2°42'59" W.

³² 'Seamyll': Sea Mills, 51°28'48" N 2°39'03" W.

³³ 'Brode pille': Broad Pill, 51°29'38" N 2°41'52" W. The pill itself no longer exists, presumably as a result of drainage work during the development of the Avonmouth Docks.

³⁴ 'Skeys pille'. Described on the 1880 OS map as Elbury Gout, 51°30'55" N 2°42'10" W.

³⁵ 'mere pille'. Described on the 1880 OS map as the New Gout, being the outlet of 'Mere Bank Rhine', 51°31'23" N 2°41'40" W.

³⁶ 'Battens pill'. Described on the 1880 OS map as 'Mitchell's Gout', being the outlet of 'Salt Rhine', 51°31'47" N 2°41'14" W.

³⁷ 'Stope pill': Stup Pill, Crook's Marsh, 51°32'08" N 2°40'53" W.

³⁸ 'dimidium': half.

³⁹ 'Newpill': New Pill, Crook's Marsh, 51°32'44" N 2°40'21" W.

⁴⁰ 'Chesell pill': Chestle Pill, Redwick, 51°34'33" N 2°39'26" W.

⁴¹ 'Awst pill': Cake Pill Gout, Aust, 51°35'38" N 2°38'09" W.

⁴² 'Littleton pill': Littleton Pill, 51°37'05" N 2°35'55" W.

⁴³ 'Cowhill pill': Cowhill Pill, 51°37'41" N 2°35'04" W.

⁴⁴ 'Oldebery pill': Oldbury Pill, 51°38'00" N 2°34'48" W.

⁴⁵ 'Shepperdys pille': Shepperdine Pill. Possibly 51°39'44" N 2°33'41" W.

⁴⁶ 'Newark pill': Hill Pill, 51°40'26" N 2°32'33" W.

⁴⁷ 'Newthrough pyll': Probably Clapton Pill, 51°40'58" N 2°31'02" W.

⁴⁸ 'Connynger pill': Conygore Pill, 51°41'35" N 2°29'50" W.

⁴⁹ 'Barkeley haven': Berkeley Pill, 51°42'02" N 2°29'23" W.

⁵⁰ 'Hallow Hasyll pill': Holly Hazel pill, 51°43'09" N 2°28'59" W.

Com' Wigorn }
 upon the }
 Englyshside }

Hallowe Hasell pill to Dynmore pill⁵¹ a quarter of a mile / From
 Dynmore pyll to Framptons pill⁵² iij miles / From Framptons pill
 to Churche pill⁵³ *dimidium* quarter of a mile / From Churche pill to ~
 Gible gutters pill⁵⁴ a quarter of a mile / From Gible gutters pill
 to Hoke pill⁵⁵ half a mile / From Hooke pill to olde pill⁵⁶ a mile /
 From olde pill to Fromylode pill⁵⁷ thre miles *dimidium* / From Fromylode
 pill to Etneys pill⁵⁸ a quarter of a mile / From Etneys pill to
 the keye of the cite of Gloucester⁵⁹ five miles / From the key of
 Gloucester to the key of Tewxberye⁶⁰ seven miles / From Tewxbery
 kaye to the keye of Worciter⁶¹ in the Countie of Worciter⁶² xij
 myles. **The Ryver of Saverne.**⁶³ **Comitatu Gloucester**
upon the Welshe side / Innar pill⁶⁴ thre miles distant from
 the passage called Becheley⁶⁵ & to the haven mouthe of Bristowe
 sixe miles/ From Innar pill to Waldons pill⁶⁶ a mile / From Waldons
 pill to Horsepill⁶⁷ a quarter of mile / From Horsepill to Walke pill⁶⁸
 a mile / From Walke pill to Lee pill⁶⁹ a quarter of a mile / From Lee
 pill to Conpill⁷⁰ a quarter of a mile / From Conpill to Elberton
 pill xxⁱ paces / From Elbertons pill⁷¹ to Lydneys pill⁷² ii miles /
 From Lydney pill to Pirton pill⁷³ thre miles / From Pirton pill

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

⁵² 'Framptons pill': Frampton Pill, Frampton, 51°45'32" N 2°22'55" W.

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

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

⁵⁵ 'Hoke pill' / 'Hooke pill': Hock Pill / Ditch, 51°46'32" N 2°23'02" W.

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

⁵⁷ 'Fromylode pill': Framilode Pill, Upper Framilode, 51°47'34" N 2°21'41" W.

⁵⁸ 'Etneys pill': Epney Pill, 51°47'52" N 2°20'51" W.

⁵⁹ 'keye of Gloucester': The Quay, Gloucester, 51°51'57" N 2°15'09" W.

⁶⁰ 'key of Tewxberye': Tewksbury Quay, 51°59'44" N 2°09'31" W.

⁶¹ 'keye of Worciter'. Presumably South Quay, Worcester, 52°11'25" N 2°13'25" W.

⁶² 'Countie of Worciter': Worcestershire.

⁶³ 'Ryver of Saverne': River Severn, which, in contemporary usage would encompass what would today be called the Severn Estuary.

⁶⁴ 'Innar pill': Sturch Pill by Inward Rocks, 51°39'09" N 2°37'33" W.

⁶⁵ 'Becheley': Beachley, 51°36'52.56" N 2°38'52.01" W.

⁶⁶ 'Waldons pill': Walden's Pill, 51°40'12" N 2°36'42" W.

⁶⁷ 'Horsepill': Horse Pill, 51°40'21" N 2°36'32" W.

⁶⁸ 'Walke pill': Grange Pill, 51°40'50" N 2°35'29" W.

⁶⁹ 'Lee pill': Ley Pill, 51°40'58" N 2°34'58" W.

⁷⁰ 'Conpill': Cone Pill, 51°41'27" N 2°34'08" W.

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

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

⁷³ 'Pirton pill': Purton Pill, 51°44'22" N 2°28'38" W.

to Gatcombe Creke⁷⁴ half a mile / From Gatcombes Creeke to ~ Bromespill⁷⁵ one mile / From Bromespill to Oldlandes pill⁷⁶ a quarter of a mile / From Oldlandes pill to Throughpill⁷⁷ a quarter of a mile / From Throughpill to Stockwell pill⁷⁸ a mile / From Stockwell pill to Fulmede pill⁷⁹ a quarter of a mile / From Fulmede pill to Perry pill⁸⁰ a quarter of a mile / From perry pill to Bullowe pill⁸¹ half a quarter of a mile / From Bullowe pill to Callowe pill⁸² a quarter of a mile / From Callowe pill to Caporne pill⁸³ xx^{ti} paces / From Caporne pill to Newnam Creeke⁸⁴ a quarter of a myle / From Newnam Creeke to Hawkeybridge pill⁸⁵ a quarter of a mile / From Hawkeybridge to Brode Oke pill⁸⁶ a quarter of a myle / From Brode oke pill to Garnespill⁸⁷ a quarter of a myle / From Garnespill to the bridge or keye of Gloucester seven miles / From Gloucester bridge to Hanley Creke⁸⁸ xj miles in the Countie of Worcster / From Hanley Creeke to Worceter bridge⁸⁹ or key eight miles/ [5] **Item** to the vth Article we saye that the above saide keys of Worceter Teuxbery & Glociter, Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe key be most frequented & haunted with trafique of merchaunts & merchundizes & are all meete to be continued for the same purpose (savage ~ Gatcombe key) whiche key of Gatcombe liethe so covertlie⁹⁰ upon the same Ryver that great conveyance of grayne lether & other commodities *prohibited* to be transported beyond the Seas ys used there to the great hurte & discommoditie of the countrey thereabout & to the great advauncement of the prices of grayne lether & other commodities afore saide / [6] **Item** to the sixth Article we aunswer that none of the saide Creekes havens keys nor pilles is decayed /

Com Wigorn' }
upon the }
Welshside }

⁷⁴ 'Gatcombe Creke': Gatcombe, 51°44'47" N 2°27'55" W.

⁷⁵ 'Bromespill': Brimspill, 51°45'33" N 2°26'14" W.

⁷⁶ 'Oldlandes pill': Possibly a pill marked on the 1880 OS map as discharging at 51°45'48" N 2°25'40" W.

⁷⁷ 'Throughpill'. Possibly the stream that discharges one mile upriver from Brimspill, 51°46'00" N 2°25'01" W.

⁷⁸ 'Stockwell pill'. A c.1795 map shows a 'Stockwell Spring' just southeast of Northington Farm at about 51°46'37" N 2°25'51" W: Gloucestershire Archives, D3270/348. The original outlet into the Severn would have been at about 51°46'54" N 2°25'34" W.

⁷⁹ 'Fulmede pill'. In the Awre tithe award and apportionment 'Full Meadow pasture' adjoins the pill which enters the Severn at 51°46'55" N 2°26'28" W: Gloucestershire Archives, GDR/T1/T12.

⁸⁰ 'Perry pill'. Presumably the name for the stream that, at least at the time of the 1880 OS map, ran parallel to Bullo Pill and discharged a quarter of a mile downstream from it at 51°47'02" N 2°26'49" W. On the other hand, it may be noted that the parish boundary between Awre and Newnham-on-Severn follows this stream for almost its entire course. Yet, seventy-five yards short of the river, the stream diverted to the south-east in what appears to be an artificial cut, while the parish boundary goes straight to the river. If the parish boundary marks the line of the original stream, the pill would have discharged at 51°47'06" N 2°26'55" W.

⁸¹ 'Bullowe pill': Bullo Pill, 51°47'12" N 2°27'00" W.

⁸² 'Callowe pill': Collow Pill, 51°47'54" N 2°27'07" W.

⁸³ 'Caporne pill'. Given that this is described as being twenty paces upriver from Callowe Pill, it is presumably the pill marked on the 1880 OS map as discharging c.60 yards upriver at 51°47'56" N 2°27'05" W.

⁸⁴ 'Newnam Creeke': Newnham, 51°48'20" N 2°26'45" W.

⁸⁵ 'Hawkeybridge pill': Hawkins Pill, 51°48'42" N 2°26'29" W.

⁸⁶ 'Brode Oke pill': Broadoak Pill. According to the 1880 OS map, the pill running through Broadoak discharged at 51°48'56" N 2°26'07" W.

⁸⁷ 'Garnespill': Garden Pill, 51°49'05" N 2°25'00" W.

⁸⁸ 'Hanley Creke'. This was presumably close to Hanley Quay, 52°04'33" N 2°13'38" W.

⁸⁹ 'Worceter bridge': Severn Bridge, Worcester, 52°11'28" N 2°13'34" W.

⁹⁰ 'covertlie': covertly – i.e. concealed / hidden. Gatcombe lies in a small, steep-sided wooded valley. This would presumably have made it difficult for those passing along the river to see what was happening on the quay.

[7] **Item** to the vijth Article we aunswere that no Custome House doth belonge to any of the saide Creekes havens keys or pilles for that the Customes & other duties due to the queens highnes for any merchundize or Wares taken in or dischargd in any of the saide places be aunswere at the Custome House of Bristowe & there the *merchauntes* receive there Cockettes & Certificates for the same upon there entries & not elles where / [8] **Item** to the viijth Article we saye that there is no other house or place either where the porte ys, or where any of the places afore saide be, that stondest more fitte & commodious than the Customehouse scitua⁹¹ at the saide porte of Bristowe, for that we suppose her Customes & duties groweng within the saide Creekes & other places will not be able to aunswere suche chardges as the prince shalbe at in the erectinge & maynteyning of any other Custome Howse or howses / [9] **Item** to the ixth article we Aunswere that the Customers of the saide porte have had no Deputies or *servauntes* that have taken entries Inwardes & owtwardes within tenne yeres next before the said first yere of her *majesties* Reigne / [10] **Item** to the xth Article we saye that Stopepill Chesell pill Awstpill Oldbery pill Litleton pill Cowhill pill Sheperdynes pill Newark pill Connynger pill Newthrough pill Hallowhasell pill Dymore pill Framptons pill Oldpole Hockpill Hanley key Garnespill Bromespill Pirtins pill Lyndeys pill Aileberton pill Conpill Leepole Wawk pill, Horsepill & Inner pill Parcell⁹² of the keys pillles & Creekes ~ above recyted are places where wares & *merchaundizes* ~~to be taken in~~ have of longe tyme & yet be used to be taken in & dischargd ~ And notwithstanding be not onye of the places appointed for that purpose for the accustomed places lymyted for wares & *merchaundizes* to be taken in & dischargd be Worceter key, Tewxbery key Gloceter

[*dorse*]

key Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe Creeke And so by meanes of takyng in and dischargyng of wares & merchundizes in the saide places not lymyted for that purpose, great conveyance of ~ grayne lether & other commodities is used to the great ympoverishment of the Countrey thereabout & therefore the saide places are not mete to have contynuaunce, but some devise & meanes to be used to lett⁹³ the comyng in of vesselles & botes thither, And notwithstanding the same places not to be dammed because they be places by the *which* the water avoideth owt of the lowe Countreys thereaboutes & be places to lande wood & other thynges that the *inhabitauntes* there aboutes carye & recarye from place to place / [11] **Item** to the xjth Article we Aunswere that diverse persons do with their plowes⁹⁴ bringe Corne grayne lether Calfe Skynnes Victualles & other commodities of this Realme to Botes Barckes & vesselles lyeng at the bankes of the saide River of Severne at full Sea / And there doo lade the same in to the saide botes & Vesselles secretlye in the night & from thense doo transporte the same into diverse partes beyonde the Seas & to other portes and Crekes within the Realme without licence or aunsweryng of the quenes ~ dueties / [12] **Item** to the xijth article we saye that at Conpill ~

⁹¹ 'scitua': situate – i.e. located.

⁹² 'Parcel' – i.e. part of / included among.

⁹³ 'lett': let – i.e. hinder or stop.

⁹⁴ 'plowes': ploughs. This is a West country term for teams of draught animals harnessed to carts or wagons.

Gatcombe Creeke & Brodeoke pill be diverse store howses & Sellers⁹⁵ by the whiche secrett conveyance of grayne lether & other commodities is used, whiche storehouses & Sellers ware verie expedient to be subverted & taken awaye, for that bothe the quenes *majestie* ys thereby deceived of her Custome & duties & the Countreys thereabowtes muche dampnyfied & hurte. / **All which premysses** we the above Commyssyoners have to the uttermoste of *our* knowledge examyned *perused* & viewed aswell by conference with thinhabitauntes inhabityng in the saide porte & aboute the Creekes & other places above saide as also by our personall repaire & accesse⁹⁶ to the saide porte & to all the Creekes & places above saide & by the veredictes⁹⁷ of juries ~ sworne in that behalf ./.

⁹⁵ ‘Sellers’: cellars.

⁹⁶ ‘repaire & accesse’: repair & access. They thus claim to have actually visited all the places mentioned.

⁹⁷ ‘veredictes’: verdicts.