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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 touching the porte of Bristoll & the ~
creekes’ belonging to the same/ [1] In primis 3 whether the ~
saied porte be comenly frequented & haunted 4 with trafique of ~
merchauntes & merchundizes bothe inwarde & outwarde and whether it be mete 5 to be contynued for the saide purpose/ [2] Item whether the saied porte be decayed & not so muche frequented & haunted with merchauntes & merchaundizes as some of the Creekes thereunto belonging nowe commonly are And howe longe the same hath been decayed & by what occasyon And if it be decayed whether it be necessarie the same to be repayred & what costes & chardges thereof 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 stondeth 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 Sheres 8 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 mete to be

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1 The National Archives: Public Record Office, E159/350 Recorda, Hil., rot. 348. 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, Gibble 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 inheritance of the same / And what yerely Rente her highnes stondes chargd with for the same house / And howe commodiouslye the same howse stondeth 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 stondeth more fytte & 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 & outwarde within tenne yeres ~ next before the first yere of her majesties Reigne / 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 dampne 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 victuall 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 defrawded 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.]

**Bristoll. The certificate** of Anthony Standbank maiour of the Citye of Bristow Richarde Barkeley

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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. supress.

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

David Harrys Alderman & Nicholas Wyllyams ~

Commyssyoners named & appointed by the quenes highnes Commission to them & others directed & to thies presents annexed compryshendyng the execucion of the same accordyng to tenour & purporte of the same Commyssyon & of the Articles of the same fixed aswell at there assemble at the saide Citie of Bristowe the viij daye of Aprell Anno Regni Regine Elizabeth etc / Septimo / As also at Bristowe & Lawffordes gate 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 merchauntes & ~ merchaundizes bothe inwarde and owtwarde and ys mete to have ~ contynuance 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 merchauntes and merchaundizes (as above saide) & no Creeke thereunto ~ belongingyng 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 heare a howse for that purpose of one Wyllyam Tucker of Bristowe Draper from yere to yere, whiche Wyllyam Tucker hathe a State for Tearme of yeares in the same / And the saide customers paye to hym for the same house xlvjs viijd a yere & that the inheritauce of the same apperteyneth to Rowlande Okever of London myllyn / And that the same howse stondeth 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 kayes and havens, whihc be in thies presents hereafter named with their distances from the saide porte & their distances

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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.


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

17 ‘tenour & purporate’: tenor & purpur – i.e. sense or meaning.

18 ‘assemblie’: 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 (1655).

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 ‘pyllers’: 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.
Com’ Glouc’

upon the Englyshe side

one from another together with names of the Shires in to the which they doo extende Videlicit\textsuperscript{26} / Comitatu Somerset\textsuperscript{27}, In Primis the keye of Bristowe\textsuperscript{28} ys three myles from St Katheryns pylle\textsuperscript{29} / From St Katheryns pylle to Crokarne pylle\textsuperscript{30} a quarter of a myle / From Crokarne pylle to the haven mowthe\textsuperscript{31} of the port of Brystowe two myles The haven of Bristowe / The haven mowthe, From the kaye of Bristowe to the Seamyll\textsuperscript{32} pille is two myles / From Seamyll pille to Brode pille\textsuperscript{33} a myle / From Brode pille to the haven mowthe of the porte of Bristowe three myles / From the haven mowthe to Skeys pille\textsuperscript{34} a quarter of a myle / From Skeys pille to mere pille\textsuperscript{35} a quarter of a myle / From mere pille to Battens pill\textsuperscript{36} a quarter of a myle / From Battens pill to Stope pille\textsuperscript{37} \textit{dimidium} \textsuperscript{38} mile / From Stope pille to Newpill\textsuperscript{39} \textit{dimidium} myle / From Newpill to ~ Chesell pill\textsuperscript{40} two myles / From Chesell pill to Awst pill\textsuperscript{41} three myles / From Awst pill to Littleton pill\textsuperscript{42} two myles / From Littleton pill to Cowhill pill\textsuperscript{43} one mile / From Cowhill pill to Oldbery pill\textsuperscript{44} \textit{dimidium} mile / From Oldbery pill to Shepperdylls pille\textsuperscript{45} two miles / From Shepperdylls pille to Newark pill\textsuperscript{46} a quarter of a mile / From Newark pille to Newthrough pyll\textsuperscript{47} a mile / From Newthrough pille to Connynger pill\textsuperscript{48} half a mile / From Connynger pill to Barkeley haven\textsuperscript{49} a quarter of a myle / From Barkelye haven to Hallow Hasyll pill\textsuperscript{50} half a mile / From

\textsuperscript{26}‘Videlicit’: that is to say.

\textsuperscript{27}‘Comitatu Somerset’: the county of Somerset.

\textsuperscript{28}‘keye of Bristowe’: Bristol Quay, 51°26’57” N   2°35’52” W.

\textsuperscript{29}‘St Katheryns pylle’: Chapel Pill, 51°28’57” N   2°40’03” W.

\textsuperscript{30}‘Crokarne pylle’: Pill, 51°28’54” N   2°41’03” W.

\textsuperscript{31}‘haven mowthe’ – i.e. Avonmouth, 51°30’17” N   2°42’59” W.

\textsuperscript{32}‘Seamyll’: Sea Mills, 51°28’48” N   2°39’03” W.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{34}‘Skeys pille’. Described on the 1880 OS map as Elbury Gout, 51°30’55” N   2°42’10” W.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{37}‘Stope pille’: Stup Pill, Crook’s Marsh, 51°32’08” N   2°40’53” W.

\textsuperscript{38}‘dimidium’: half.

\textsuperscript{39}‘Newpill’: New Pill, Crook’s Marsh, 51°32’44” N   2°40’21” W.

\textsuperscript{40}‘Chestle pille’: Chestle Pill, Redwick, 51°34’33” N   2°39’26” W.

\textsuperscript{41}‘Awst pill’: Cake Pill Gout, Aust, 51°35’38” N   2°38’09” W.

\textsuperscript{42}‘Littleton pill’: Littleton Pill, 51°37’05” N   2°35’55” W.

\textsuperscript{43}‘Cowhill pill’: Cowhill Pill, 51°37’41” N   2°35’04” W.

\textsuperscript{44}‘Oldbery pill’: Oldbury Pill, 51°38’00” N   2°34’48” W.

\textsuperscript{45}‘Shepperdylls pille’: Shepperdine Pill. Possibly 51°39’44” N   2°33’41” W.

\textsuperscript{46}‘Newark pill’: Hill Pill, 51°40’26” N   2°32’33” W.

\textsuperscript{47}‘Newthrough pyll’: Probably Clapton Pill, 51°40’58” N   2°31’02” W.

\textsuperscript{48}‘Connynger pill’: Conygore Pill, 51°41’35” N   2°29’50” W.

\textsuperscript{49}‘Barkeley haven’: Berkeley Pill, 51°42’02” N   2°29’23” W.

\textsuperscript{50}‘Hallow Hasyll pill’: Holly Hazel pill, 51°43’09” N   2°28’59” W.
Hallowe Hasell pill to Dynmore pill a quarter of a mile / From Dynmore pill to Framptons pill iiij miles / From Framptons pill to Churche pill dimidium quarter of a mile / From Churche pill to Gible gutters pill a quarter of a mile / From Gible gutters pill to Hoke pill half a mile / From Hoke pill to olde pill a mile / From olde pill to Fromylode pill three miles dimidium / From Fromylode pill to Etneyes pill a quarter of a mile / From Etneyes pill to the keye of the citie of Gloucester five miles / From the key of Gloucester to the key of Tewxbery seven miles / From Tewxbery kaye to the keye of Worciter in the Countie of Worciter xij myles. The Ryver of Saverne. Comitatu Gloucester upon the Welshe side / Innar pill three miles distant from the passage called Becheley & to the haven mouthe of Bristowe sixe miles/ From Innar pill to Waldons pill a mile / From Waldons pill to Horsepill a quarter of mile / From Horsepill to Walke pill a mile / From Walke pill to Lee pill a quarter of a mile / From Lee pill to Conpill a quarter of a mile / From Conpill to Elberton pill xxvi paces / From Elbertons pill to Lydneys pill ii miles / From Lydney pill to Pirton pill three 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 ‘Etneyes 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 Tewxbereye’: 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″ 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 Conepill 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 Creke\(^{74}\) half a mile / From Gatcombe Creke to ~
Bromespill\(^{75}\) one mile / From Bromespill to Oldlandes pill\(^{76}\) a quarter
of a mile / From Oldlandes pill to Throughpill\(^{77}\) a quarter of a mile
From Throughpill to Stockwell pill\(^{78}\) a mile / From Stockwell
pill to Fulmede pill\(^{79}\) a quarter of a mile / From Fulmede pill to
Perry pill\(^{80}\) a quarter of a mile / From perry pill to Bullowe pill\(^{81}\)
half a quarter of a mile / From Bullowe pill to Callowe pill\(^{82}\)
a quarter of a mile / From Callowe pill to Caporne pill\(^{83}\) xx\(^{3}\) paces / From Caporne pill to Newnam Creke\(^{84}\) a quarter of a
myle / From Newnam Creke to Hawkeybridge pill\(^{85}\) a quarter of a
myle / From Hawkeybridge to Brode Oke pill\(^{86}\) a quarter of a
myle / From Brode oke pill to Gardenpill\(^{87}\) a quarter of a mile / From
Gardenpill to the bridge or keye of Glocestere seven miles / From
Glocestere bridge to Hanley Creke\(^{88}\) xj miles in the Countie of Worcster
From Hanley Creke to Worceter bridge\(^{89}\) or key eight miles/ [5] \textbf{Item}
to the vth Article we saye that the above saide keys of Worcster
Teuxbery & Glocitier, Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe
key be most frequented & haunted with trafique of merchzants & 
merchundizes &
are all meete to be continued for the same purpose (savinge ~
Gatcombe key) whiche key of Gatcombe liethe so covertlie\(^{90}\) 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 & discomoditie of the countrey thereabout &
to the great advauncement of the prices of grayne lether &
other commodities afore saide / [6] \textbf{Item} to the sixth Article we aunswer
that none of the saide Creekes havens keys nor pilles is decayed /

\(^{74}\) ‘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°25’34” 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 Awe thetit 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 Awe 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’: Colow 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 Creke’. Newham, 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 viijth Article we aunswere that no Custome House doth belonge to any of the saide Creekes havens keys or pilles for that the Customs & other duties due to the queenes highnes for any merchundize or Wares taken in or dischardged in any of the saide places be aunswered 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 stondeth more fitte & commodious than the Customehouse scituat\(^{91}\) at the saide porte of Bristowe, for that we suppose her Customs & 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 Custom\(\text{e}s\) of the saide porte have had no Deputies or servauntes that have taken entries Inwardes & outwardes 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 Littleton pill Cowhill pill Sheperdynes pill Newark pill Connynger pill Newthrough pill Hallowhasell pill Dymore pill Framptons pill Oldpole Hockpill Hanley key Gamespill Bromespill Pirtins pill Lyndeys pill Aiabezton pill Conpill Leepole Wawk pill, Horsepill & Inner pill Parcell\(^{92}\) of the keys pill kes & Creekes ~ above recyted are places where wares & merchaundizes to be taken in have of longe tyme & yet be used to be taken in & dischardged ~ And notwithstanding be not onye of the places appoincted for that purpose for the accustomed places lymyted for wares & merchaundizes to be taken in & dischardged be Worceter key, Tewxbery key Gloceter key Barkeley Haven Newnam key & Gatcombe Creeke And so by means of takynge in and dischardgyng of wares & merchaundizes in the saide places not lymyted for that purpose, great conveyaunce of ~ grayne lether & other commodities is used to the great ympoverishment of the Countrey thereaboute & therefore the saide places are not mete to have contynuaunce, but some devise & meanes to be used to lett\(^{93}\) the commynge 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 Countrys theareaboutes & be places to lande wood & other thynges that the inhabitauntes there aboutes carye & recarye from place to place / [11] **Item** to the xijth Article we Awnswere that diverse persons do with their plowes\(^{94}\) bringe Corne grayne lether Calfe Skynnes Victuall & 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 ~ duties / [12] **Item** to the xijth article we saye that at Conpill ~

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\(^{91}\) ‘scituat’: 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 conveyaunce 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 & access⁹⁶ 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.