

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the Queen's licence dated 2 December 1591 authorizing Oxford to alienate the 'manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield' to Lord Burghley and Oxford's daughters Elizabeth, Bridget and Susan Vere. For the earlier fine in the Court of Common Pleas dated 25 November 1591 by which Oxford transferred title to Castle Hedingham to Lord Burghley and his heirs, see TNA CP 25/2/135/1723/33/34ELIZIMICH, item 74. For the pardon of alienation dated 27 January 1592 by which the Queen pardoned Lord Burghley for his purchase of Castle Hedingham via the fine of 25 November 1591 with having obtained prior licence from the Queen, see TNA C 66/1387, mm. 18-19. For the fine dated 9 April 1592 by which Oxford and his second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, transferred title to the 'manors of Castle Hedingham and Gosfield' to Lord Burghley and his heirs and to Oxford's three daughters by his first marriage, see TNA CP 25/2/135/1725/34ELIZIEASTER, Item 44.

For Oxford's settlement of Castle Hedingham on his daughters by Anne Cecil, see also HL/PO/JO/10/1/329/136 and 136a.

For a summary of the complicated transactions between Oxford and the Queen involving Castle Hedingham, see TNA CP 25/2/135/1725/34ELIZIEASTER, Item 44.

#### Licence of alienation for William, Lord Burghley & others

The Queen to all to whom etc., greeting. Know ye that we of our especial grace have granted & given licence, and for us, our heirs & successors, by how much is in us by these presents do grant & give licence to our dearest cousin Edward, Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, that he might be able to give & grant, alienate or acknowledge by fine or by recovery in our court before our justices of the Common Pleas or by any other manner whatsoever at the pleasure of himself, the Earl, to our well-beloved & faithful counsellor, William Cecil, Knight of the Right Honourable Order of the Garter, Lord Burghley, our Great Treasurer of England, and to our beloved & faithful Elizabeth Vere, Bridget Vere & Susan Vere, the manors of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances and two hundred messuages, two hundred cottages, one hundred tofts, ten mills, forty dovecots, two hundred gardens, two hundred orchards, three thousand acres of land, one thousand acres of meadow, four thousand acres of pasture, one thousand acres of woods, four thousand acres of furze & heath, two hundred acres of moor, one thousand acres of fresh marsh, free fishery, free warren, common of pasture for all beasts, & ten pounds rent with the appurtenances in Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Little Yeldham, Finchingfield, Toppesfield, Tilbury juxta Clare, Stambourne, Pebmarsh, Foxearth, Hempstead, Bulmer, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Halstead, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter, Belchamp Otten, Belchamp St. Paul, Ridgewell, Sturmer, Havenell, Steeple Bumpstead, & Helions Bumpstead, and also the rectories & chapels of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield with the appurtenances, and all & all manner tithes, portions, pensions, oblations, mortuaries, & obventions whatsoever coming, growing or renewing of & in the parishes of Castle

Hedingham, Gosfield, Sible Hedingham, Great Yeldham, Little Yeldham, Finchingfield, Toppesfield, Tilbury juxta Clare, Stambourne, Pebmarsh, Foxearth, Hempstead, Bulmer, Great Maplestead, Little Maplestead, Halstead, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter, Belchamp Otten, Belchamp St. Paul, Ridgewell, Sturmer, Havenell, Steeple Bumpstead & Helions Bumpstead, and also knights' fees, wards, marriages, reliefs, goods & chattels of felons & fugitives, escheats, fairs, markets, tolls, liberties & franchises with the appurtenances, and views of frankpledge & whatever to view of frankpledge belongs with the appurtenances in Castle Hedingham, Sible Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham & Little Yeldham, and also the advowsons of the vicarages of the churches of Castle Hedingham & Gosfield in our county of Essex, which are held of us in chief, as it is said;

To have & to hold to the same William, Elizabeth, Bridget & Susan & their heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the services owed therefore, & of right customary;

And by the tenor of these presents we have similarly given, and for us, our heirs & successors aforesaid, we do give special licence to the same William, Elizabeth, Bridget & Susan that they might be able to receive from the forenamed Earl & hold to themselves and to their heirs & assigns forever of us, our heirs & successors, by the foresaid services, as is aforesaid, the foresaid manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, and the rest of all & singular the premises above expressed & specified with the appurtenances;

Not willing that the foresaid Earl or his heirs, or the forenamed William, Elizabeth, Bridget & Susan or their heirs by reason of the premises by us, our heirs or successors, or by our justices, escheators, sheriffs, bailiffs or other officers or ministers or [+those] of our said heirs or successors whatsoever might be troubled therefore, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything or oppressed, nor any of them might be troubled, molested, interfered with, vexed in anything or oppressed. In [+testimony] of which thing etc. Witness the Queen at Westminster on the second day of December.

LM: licencia alienando pro Willelmo domino Burghley & alijs

1 Regina Omnibus ad quos &c salutem sciatis quod nos de gratia nostra speciali concessimus & licenciam dedimus

2 ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est per presentes concedimus & licenciam damus

3 Carissimo consanguineo nostro Edwardo Comiti Oxonie magno Camerario Anglie quod ipse Maneria

4 de Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfield cum pertinentijs ac ducenta mesuagia ducenta Cotagia Centum

5 tofta decem molendina quadraginta Columbaria ducenta gardina ducenta pomaria tria Millia

6 acrarum terre mille acras prati quatuor Millia acrarum pasture Mille acras bosci quatuor Millia acrarum iampti

7 & bruere ducenta acras more Mille acras marisci frisci liberam piscariam liberam Warrennam

8 communiam pasture pro omnibus auerijs & decem libratas redditus cum pertinentijs in Hedingham ad Castrum

9 Hedingham Sible Gosfeld Yeldham magna Yeldham parua ffinchefeld Toppesfeld Tilbury

10 iuxta Clare Stamborne Pedmersh ffoxearth Hempsted Bulmer Maplested magna

11 Maplested parua Halsted Gestingthorpe Belcham Water Belcham Otten Belcham

12 sancti Pauli Rigewell Sturmer Havenell Bumsted ad Turrim & Bumsted Helyon aceciam

13 Rectorias & Capellas de Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfield cum pertinentijs ac omnes & omnimodas

14 decimas porciones penciones oblaciones mortuaria & obuenciones quascumque crescentes prouenientes

15 siue renouantes de & in parochias de Hedingham ad Castrum Gosfeild Hedingham Sible

16 Yeldham magna Yeldham parua ffinchefeld Toppesfield Tilburie iuxta Clare Stamborne

17 Pedmershe ffoxearth Hempsted Bulmer Maplested magna Maplested parua Halsted

18 Gestingthorp Belcham Water Belcham Otten Belcham sancti Pauli Rigewell Sturmer

19 Havenell Bumsted ad Turrim & Bumsted Helyon necnon feoda Militum Warda maritagia

20 releuia bona & catalla felonum & fugitiuorum Escaetas nundina Mercata tolmeta libertates & ffranchesias

21 cum pertinentijs ac visus franci plegij & quicquid ad visum franci plegij pertinet cum pertinentijs in Hedingham

22 ad Castrum Hedingham Sible Gosfeld Yeldham magna & Yeldham parua Aceciam aduocaciones

23 vicariarum(?) ecclesiarum de Hedingham ad Castrum & Gosfeld in Comitatu nostro Essex Que de nobis

24 tenentur in Capite vt dicitur dare possit & concedere alienare aut cognoscere per finem vel

25 per recuperacionem in Curia nostra coram Iusticiarijs nostris de Banco aut aliquo alio modo quocumque ad

26 libitum ipsius Comitis predilecto & fideli Consiliario nostro Willelmo Cecill prenobilis ordinis garterij

27 Militi Domino Burghley magno Thesaurario nostro Anglie ac dilectis & fidelibus nostris Elizabethhe Veere

28 Brigitte Veere & Susanne Veere habendum & tenendum eisdem Willelmo Elizabethhe Brigitte &

29 Susanne & heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia

30 inde debita & de iure consueta Et eisdem Willelmo Elizabethhe Brigitte & Susanne

31 quod ipsi predicta maneria mesuagia terras tenementa redditus ac cetera omnia & singula premissa superius

32 expressa & specificata cum pertinentijs a prefato Comite recipere possint & tenere sibi ac heredibus & assignatis

33 suis de nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris per seruicia predicta sicut predictum est imperpetuum tenore presencium

34 similiter licenciam dedimus ac pro nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris predictis damus specialem Nolentes quod predictus

35 Comes vel heredes sui aut prefati Willelmus Elizabetha Brigitta & Susanna vel heredes sui

36 ratione premissorum per nos heredes vel successores nostros aut per Iusticiarios Escaetores vicecomites

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37 Balliuos aut alios Officiarios seu Ministros nostros aut dictorum heredum vel  
successorum nostrorum quoscumque

38 inde occasionentur molestentur impetantur vexentur in aliquo seu grauentur nec eorum  
aliquis occasionetur

39 molestetur impetatur vexetur in aliquo seu grauetur In Cuius rei &c Teste Regine apud  
Westmonasterium secundo die

40 Decembris