

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the writ of privy seal by which King James restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of the Forest of Essex (also known as Waltham Forest) and of the King's park and houses of Havering. Reference is made in the first part of the grant to the rights held in the Forest by John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For an earlier plea made on 17 August 1489 concerning the 13th Earl's claim to rights in the Forest, see TNA DL 39/2/25. For the will of the 13th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/17, ff. 82-90.

For a letter dated 8 December 1558 from Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, to Sir William Cecil, advising the latter of the current state of the 16th Earl's claim to the office of the Lieutenancy of Waltham Forest, see TNA SP 12/1/22, f. 53. For mention by the 16th Earl of his right to 'the Lieutenantship of the Forest of Waltham with the keeping of the house and park of Havering', in his indenture of 2 June 1562, see TNA C 54/626.

Oxford's efforts to reclaim his rights in the Forest of Essex during Queen Elizabeth's lifetime were unsuccessful. For a memorandum in which the rights claimed by Oxford in the Forest are listed, together with the evidence he offered in support of his claim, see TNA SP 14/2/63, f. 160. For other letters and memoranda in which Oxford mentions his legal claim to rights in the Forest, see BL Lansdowne 68/6, ff. 12-13; BL Lansdowne 68/11, ff. 23, 28; BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 22; BL Harley 6996/22, ff. 42-3; Cecil Papers 35/84; Cecil Papers 172/81; Cecil Papers 99/161; and Cecil Papers 100/99. For a deposition by Oxford's former receiver-general, Edward Hubberd (d.1601/2), attributing to Oxford's servant, Israel Amyce, the suggestion that Leicester was behind the Queen's refusal to restore Oxford's rights in the Forest ('I pray God my Lord of Leicester have not gotten it and burned it because of my Lord's title to the stewardship of the Forest'), see TNA C 24/277/35.

For a letter written by Oxford to King James on 30 January 1604 complaining that Sir John Grey (d.1611) had killed deer in Havering park without the King's warrant, see ERO D/DMh C1.

Shortly before his death on 24 June 1604, Oxford transferred his rights in the Forest to his first cousin, Sir Francis Vere (1560/61-1609), and his son-in-law, Francis (1579-1622), Lord Norris (see Oxford's inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/286/165).

It should be noted that the copy begins on m. 30 and finishes on m. 29.

The King to all to whom etc., greeting. Be it known that, whereas John de Vere, late Earl of Oxford, in the fourth year [=1513] of the reign of Henry Eighth, late King of England, our predecessor, had & held to himself & his heirs forever the bailiwick of our whole Forest of Essex, to which certain bailiwick the keepership of our park & houses of Havering time out of mind then appertained & ought to appertain, and also the office of

keeper & steward of the whole Forest in & of Essex in the foresaid county of Essex, and the keepership & stewardship of the same Forest;

We, the premises considered, do restore & grant, and by these presents for us, our heirs & successors, do restore & grant to our well-beloved cousin Edward, now Earl of Oxford, cousin & heir male of the said John, late Earl of Oxford, all the foresaid bailiwick of the whole Forest of Essex aforesaid, and the keepership of our foresaid park & houses of Havering aforesaid, and the office of keeper & steward of the whole foresaid Forest of Essex, and the keepership & stewardship of the same Forest, with all fees & wages to the foresaid bailiwick, stewardship & keepership or any of them from of old appertaining;

To have & to hold the foresaid bailiwick of the whole Forest of Essex aforesaid, and the foresaid keepership of the foresaid park & houses of Havering aforesaid, and the foresaid offices of keeper & steward of the whole foresaid Forest, and the keepership & stewardship of the same Forest to the forenamed Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs & assigns, forever, with all fees & wages to the same bailiwick, stewardship & keepership & any of them from of old appertaining or belonging, as fully, freely & entirely as the foresaid John, late Earl of Oxford, or any other predecessor of the foresaid Earl earlier had or ought to have the same bailiwick, stewardship & keepership;

We will also & by these presents we do firmly enjoin & command the forenamed Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs & assigns, that any person & persons at the time of the making of these our letters patent having, occupying or exercising (s. & pl.) any office, keepership, walk or place or any offices, keeperships, walks or places in, about or within the bailiwick of our Forest aforesaid, or the keepership & stewardship of the same Forest, or the keepership of our park & houses aforesaid by virtue or colour of any letters patent or grants by us or by the Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England, or any other of our ancestors or predecessors to them or any of them under the Great Seal of England or under any other our seal or of any of our ancestors or predecessors to them or any of them formerly made or otherwise, henceforth shall be able & have power (s. & pl.) fully, quietly & peaceably to have, exercise & occupy the same offices, keeperships, walks or places to them or any of them granted, as is aforesaid, with all wages, fees, rewards, profits & emoluments to the same offices, keeperships, walks or places appertaining or belonging according to the tenor & effect of the same letters patents or grants to them or any of them thereof made, without any disturbance, molestation, disquieting or oppression of the foresaid Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs or assigns, anything in these presents to the contrary thereof notwithstanding, unless(?) it be by the assent of us or our heirs or successors in that respect formerly had;

And the foresaid Edward, Earl of Oxford, for himself, his heirs & assigns, agrees & grants to & with us, our heirs & successors [+by] these presents that he, the forenamed Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs & assigns, quietly & peaceably will permit any person & persons at the time of the making of these our letters patent having, occupying or exercising (s. & pl.) any office, keepership, walk or place or any offices, keeperships, walks or places in, about or within the bailiwick of our Forest aforesaid or the keepership & stewardship of the same Forest, or in, about or within the keepership of our park &

houses aforesaid by virtue or colour of any letters patent or grants by us or by the Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England, or any of our other ancestors to them or any of them under the Great Seal of England or under any other our seal or of any of our ancestors or predecessors to them or any of them formerly made or otherwise, henceforth fully, freely, quietly & peaceably to have, exercise & occupy the same offices, keeperships, walks or places to them or any of them granted, as is aforesaid, with all wages, fees, rewards, profits & emoluments whatsoever to the same offices, keeperships, walks or places appertaining or belonging according to the tenor & effect of the several letters patent or grants to them or any of them made thereof, without any disturbance, molestation, disquieting or oppression of the foresaid Edward, Earl of Oxford, his heirs & assigns, unless(?) they were by our assent, our heirs or successors, in that part formerly had;

Although express mention etc. In testimony [+of which thing] etc. Witness the King at Westminster the 18th day of July.

By writ of Privy Seal etc.

m. 30

LM: D' con' sibi & heredibus Pro Edwardo Comite Oxonie

1 Rex Omnibus ad quos &c Salutem Sciatis quod cum Iohannes de Vere nuper Comes

2 Oxonie Anno regni Henrici Octavi nuper Regis Anglie Antecessoris nostri quarto

3 habuit & tenuit sibi & heredibus suis imperpetuum Balliuam tocius fforeste nostre Essex

4 ad quamquidem Balliuam Custodiam Parci & domorum nostrorum de Havering a

5 tempore a quo contrarij(?) memoria hominum adtunc non extitit pertinuit & pertinere

6 debuit Aceciam Officium Custodis & Scenescalli tocius fforeste in & de Essex

7 in predicto Comitatu Essex et Custodiam & Senescalciam eiusdem fforeste Nos

8 premissa considerantes restitimus & concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus &

9 successoribus nostris restitimus & concessimus predilecto Consanguineo nostro

10 Edwardo modo Comiti Oxonie Consanguineo & heredi masculino dicti Iohannis

11 nuper Comitis Oxonie Totam predictam Balliuam totius fforeste de Essex predicto

12 ac Custodiam predicti Parci & domorum nostrorum de Havering predicto ac officium

13 Custodis & Senescalli tocius predicte fforeste de Essex ac Custodiam &

14 Senescalciam eiusdem fforeste cum omnibus feodis & vadis ad predictam Balliuam

15 Seneschalciam & Custodiam siue earum aliquam ab antiquo pertinentibus habendum & tenendum

m. 29

1 predictam Balliuam tocius fforeste de Essex predicto ac predictam Custodiam predicti parci & domorum

2 de Havering predicto ac predictum Officia Custodis & Seneschalli tocius predicte fforeste

3 ac Custodiam & Seneschalciam eiusdem fforeste prefato Edwardo Comiti Oxonie

4 heredibus & assignatis suis imperpetuum cum omnibus feodis & vadis eisdem Balliue

5 seneschalcie & Custodie & eorum cuilibet ab antiquo pertinentibus siue spectantibus adeo

6 plene libere & integre sicut predictus Iohannes nuper Comes Oxonie aut aliquis

7 Antecessor predicti Comitis Balliuam Senescalciam & Custodiam illas prius habuit aut habere

8 debuit volumus tamen & per presentes firmiter precipimus & mandamus prefato

9 Edwardo Comiti Oxonie heredibus & assignatis suis quod quelibet persona & persone

10 tempore confeccionis harum litterarum nostrarum patencium habens occupans vel exercens

11 habentes occupantes vel exercentes aliquod Officium Custodiam perambulacionem siue

12 locum aut aliqua Officia Custodias perambulaciones siue loca in circa vel infra

13 Balliuam fforeste nostre predicte aut custodiam & Seneschalciam eiusdem fforeste aut

14 Custodiam Parci & domorum nostrorum predictorum virtute seu collore aliquarum litterarum

15 patencium siue concessionum per nos aut per Dominam Elizabetham nuper Reginam Anglie

16 aut aliquem aliorum Progenitorum siue Antecessorum nostrorum eis aut eorum alicui sub

17 magno sigillo Anglie aut sub aliquo alio sigillo nostro aut aliquorum Progenitorum

18 siue Antecessorum nostrorum eis aut eorum alicui antehac factarum aut aliter de cetero plene

19 quiete & pacifice habere exercere & occupare possit & valeat possint & valeant

20 eadem Officia Custodias perambulaciones siue loca eis aut eorum alicui sic vt prefertur concessa

21 cum omnibus vadis feodis regardis proficuis & emolumentis eisdem Officiis Custodijs

22 perambulacionibus siue locis pertinentibus siue spectantibus Secundum tenorem & effectum earundem

23 litterarum patencium siue concessionum eis aut eorum alicui inde factarum absque aliqua

24 perturbacione molestacione inquietacione siue grauamine predicti Edwardi Comitis

25 Oxonie heredum vel assignatorum suorum Aliquo in presentibus in contrarium inde non

26 obstante Nisi sit per assensum nostrum aut heredum vel successorum nostrorum in ea parte

27 prius habitum Et predictus Edwardus Comes Oxonie pro se heredibus & assignatis suis

28 conuenit & concedit ad & cum nobis heredibus & successoribus nostris presentes quod ipse

29 prefatus Edwardus Comes Oxonie heredes & assignati sui quiete & pacifice

30 permittent quamlibet personam & quaslibet personas tempore confeccionis harum litterarum nostrarum

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- 31 patencium habens occupans vel exercens habentes occupantes vel exercentes aliquod
- 32 Officium Custodiam perambulacionem siue locum aut aliqua Officia Custodias perambulaciones siue
- 33 loca in circa vel infra Balliuam fforeste nostre predicte aut custodiam & Seneschalciam
- 34 eiusdem fforeste aut in circa vel infra Custodiam Parcī & Domorum nostrorum predictorum
- 35 virtute seu colore aliquarum litterarum patencium seu concessionum per nos aut per
- 36 Dominam Elizabetham nuper Reginam Anglie aut aliquem aliorum predecessorum nostrorum eis aut
- 37 eorum alicui sub magno sigillo Anglie aut sub aliquo alio sigillo nostro aut aliquorum
- 38 Progenitorum siue Antecessorum nostrorum eis aut eorum alicui antehac factarum aut
- 39 aliter de cetero plene libere quiete & pacifice habere exercere & occupare eadem
- 40 Officia Custodias perambulaciones siue loca eis aut eorum alicui sicut prefertur concessa
- 41 cum omnibus vadis feodis regardis proficuis & emolumentis quibuscunque eisdem
- 42 Officijs Custodijs perambulacionibus siue locis pertinentibus siue spectantibus Secundum tenorem &
- 43 effectum Separalium litterarum Patencium siue concessionum eis aut eorum alicui inde factarum
- 44 absque aliqua perturbacione molestacione inquietacione siue grauamine predicti
- 45 Edwardi Comitis Oxonie heredum & assignatorum suorum Nisi fuerunt per
- 46 assensum nostrum heredum aut successorum nostrorum in ea parte prius habitum Eo quod
- 47 expressa mencio &c In cuius rei &c Teste Regis apud Westmonasterium xviiij die Iulij per breue de priuato sigillo &c