

SUMMARY: The document below is a statement of the 'possessions and hereditaments' of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. The document is undated, but it seems likely that it was compiled shortly after the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's inquisition post mortem was taken on 18 January 1563 (see (TNA C 142/136/12). It is thus one of the earliest of the three extant documents setting out Oxford's entire inheritance. In separate sections, it lists by county:

- (1) Lands which the Queen originally took as her thirds, i.e. her third part of Oxford's inheritance, as a result of Oxford's wardship (£647 9s 10d, minus £5 because the compiler's total is £5 over = £642 9s 10d);
- (2) Lands which descended to Oxford in tail, some of which were used for his maintenance during his wardship (£343 6s 5-1/4d, plus 1/4d because the compiler's total is 1/4d short = £343 6s 5-1/2d);
- (3) Lands which constituted Margery Golding's jointure (£471 19s 5-1/4, minus 3/4d because the compiler's total is 3/4d over, plus 1/2d because his total is 1/2d short = £471 19s 5d);
- (4) Lands which came to Oxford as purchaser by remainder, and were used for his maintenance during his wardship (£402 2s 1/2d, minus £5 because the compiler's total is £5 over = £397 2s 1/2);
- (5) Lands in which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's brother, Geoffrey Vere, held a life estate (£35);
- (6) Lands in which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's brother, Aubrey Vere, held a life estate (£47 16s 8d);
- (7) Lands in which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's brother, Robert Vere, held a life estate (£48);
- (8) Lands which had been set aside for 21 years for performance of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's will (£335 7s 4).

Adding his eight subtotals together, the compiler of the document arrived at a total of £2331 21s; however the actual sum of the eight subtotals is £2331 1s 9d. If the compiler's errors within the subtotals (see above) are also corrected, the total is £2321 1s 9d.

Another more substantial error made by the compiler of the document also requires correction. Of the more than 80 properties listed in this document, the net yearly revenues of almost half are identical to the figures given in TNA WARD 8/13. Of the remainder, only a few differ by more than £2. The latter group is comprised of Little Yeldham, Earls Colne, Waltons and Gobions, Colne Priory, Lavenham, Chesham Bury, Whitchurch, Aston Sandford, Christian Malford, Castle Camps, and six properties in the county of Chester. The most significant difference involves Colne Priory. King Henry VIII had granted Colne Priory to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his heirs by letters patent dated 22 July 1536 (see ERO D/DPr/631 and 'Henry VIII: July 1538, 26-31', *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII*, Volume 11: July-December 1536 (1888), p. 89, no. 45). The following properties listed in the document below were comprised in the original grant of Colne Priory, and remained in the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's hands unsold at his death: Colne Priory, Barwick Hall, Inglethorpe, the rectories of Belchamp and Bentley, Hedingham nunnery with the

demesne lands, all in Essex, the manor of Hinxton and the rectory of Wickham in Cambridgeshire, and three tenements in the city of London. When the yearly revenues given below for these properties are totaled, they amount to £221 13s 1-1/2d. It would appear, however, that the compiler of the document neglected to deduct the £66 yearly rent which was payable to the Crown under the terms of the grant (see TNA SP 15/13/5). When this rent is deducted, the net yearly revenue from the lands included in King Henry VIII's grant of Colne Priory is £155 13s 1-1/2d a figure which is much closer to the figure of £130 10s 4-3/4d for Colne Priory given in the inquisition post mortem and in TNA WARD 8/13. The fact that the yearly rent of £66 was not deducted also makes it necessary to reduce the final total above by £66, yielding a revised final total of £2255 1s 9d.

Thus, according to this document, the net yearly revenue left by the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl, including revenue from all his lands and from the hereditary office of Lord Great Chamberlain, was £2255 1s 9d. This total differs by less than £22 from the total of £2233 13s 7d in TNA WARD 8/13, and by less than £68 from the total of £2187 2s 7d in the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's inquisition post mortem.

Mention is made in the document below of a 'fine levied to the use of the now Earl'. This is a reference to the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548 extorted by Somerset from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl (see TNA E 328/403). A clause in the private Act of Parliament of 22 or 23 January 1552 (see HL/PO/PB/1551/5E6n35) by which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands were restored to him after Somerset's attainder and execution deemed this fine to be to the use of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and his heirs. Also included in the Act were a saving clause which preserved the right of King Edward VI and his successors to wardship, and various other provisions which governed the distribution of the remainder of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's properties after his death. It would appear however, that the saving clause was not sufficient in and of itself to trigger a wardship. Before the saving clause in the Act could take effect, the basic condition underlying any wardship had to be present, namely that a tenant in chief had died holding land from the Crown by knight service. Thus, the Queen ultimately based her legal claim to Oxford's wardship not on the Act but on the statement that 'John, late Earl of Oxenford, held of us in chief by knight service on the day on which he died' (see TNA C 66/1090).

The document below suggests that the Queen had originally planned to base her legal claim to Oxford's wardship on the finding in the inquisition post mortem that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl had died holding Castle Hedingham as tenant in chief by knight service, despite the fact that Castle Hedingham had been included in the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548 which Somerset had extorted from the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl. Castle Hedingham is the first property listed under the heading below: 'Lands appointed to the Queen's Majesty for her Grace's third part out of the lands contained in the fine levied to the use of the now Earl'. At some point, this plan changed, as evidenced by the fact that the list of lands appointed to the Queen as her thirds in the document below differs from the list of lands in the indenture of 22 October 1563 by which the Queen granted her thirds to Leicester (see Part 25 of WARD 8/13). In particular, the valuable manor of Colne Priory was not included in the Queen's thirds in the document below, but on 22 October 1563 the Queen granted Colne Priory

to Leicester in place of several manors in Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Kent originally included as her thirds in the document below. It would appear that the Queen's desire to satisfy Leicester's ambition for a large power and land base in East Anglia was one of the principal reasons for her grant to him of Colne Priory in place of scattered manors in three other counties which had originally been included in her thirds. It is also possible that after the document below was compiled, it was brought to the Queen's attention that the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548 might have extinguished the tenures by which the lands comprised in it had originally been held, and that after the fine of 10 February and 15 April 1548 the only lands which the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl might have held as a tenant in chief by knight service, because they were the only lands exempted from the fine, were the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands in Chester, and the lands included in King Henry VIII's grant of Colne Priory to John de Vere (1482-1540), 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, and his heirs by letters patent dated 22 July 1536 (see ERO D/DPr/631). The jurors had found in the inquisition post mortem that the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's lands in Chester were not held of the Crown in chief by knight service. Thus, in order to establish a legal basis for her claim to Oxford's wardship, it might have been necessary for the Queen to establish that Colne Priory was held in chief from the Crown by knight-service, and to ground her claim to Oxford's wardship on Colne Priory.

Parcel of the possessions and hereditaments of the late John de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, in the counties following:

Lands appointed to the Queen's Majesty for her Grace's third part out of the lands contained in the fine levied to the use of the now Earl in the counties of:

Essex

Castle Hedingham	£8 8s 8-1/2d	}	
Maldon, Flanderswick,		}	
Bouches, and Flaxland	£35 3s 10-1/2d	}	
Stansted Mountfitchet	£92 4s 3-1/2d	}	
Grays	£12 11s 7d	}	
Prayors	£32 17s 4d	}	
Little Yeldham	£24 5s	}	}
Earls Colne	£14 13s 10d	}	
Warehills	41s 8d	}	

Parks in Gestingthorpe	£6	}	
Nether Yeldham and		}	
Great Yeldham	£43 6s 2-1/2d	}	
Sheriffs in Gaines Colne	£9 8s 9d	}	£369 9s 5d
Peppers	58s 8d	}	[sic = £364 9s 5d]
Pevers	53s 4d	}	
Vaux	£14 13s 4d	}	
Bumpsted Countesmead	£26 2s 8d	}	
		)	
Waltons in Purleigh		}	
Waltons in Mucking	£37 2d	}	
Gobions		}	

## Kent

Manor of Fleet			£38
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## Hertfordshire

Hormead	£32	}	
Barkway with Scales park	£27 15s 4d	}	£76 11s 4d
Newsells	£16 16s	}	

## Cambridgeshire

Swaffham			£23 2s 11-1/2d
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## Suffolk

Earls Hall	£25	}	
Lavenham	£14 23-1/2d	}	£94 11s 1-1/2d

East Bergholt	£55 9s 2d	}	
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## Leicestershire

Elmsthorpe with lands in Earl Shilton			£45 15s
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Total	£647 9s 10d
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## Lands descended to the now Earl in tail

## Essex

Colne Priory	}	}	
Barwick Hall	}	}	
Inglethorpe	}	}	
Colneford mill	}	}	£162 6s 5-1/4d
Rectory of Belchamp	}	}	
Rectory of Bentley	}	}	£177 6s 5-1/4d
Hedingham nunnery	}	}	
with the demesne	}	}	
lands	}	}	
Certain lands in	}	}	
Wennington	}	}	£15
Langdon Hills	}	}	

## Cambridgeshire

Manor of Hinxston	}	}	£44 12s 6-1/4d
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Rectory of Wickham } £6 } £50 12s 6-1/4d

County of Middlesex & City of London

Three tenements in the City of London	£8 14s 2d	}	
		}	
Office of Great Chamberlain of England	£106 13s 4d	}	£115 7s 6d
		}	

Total £343 6s 5-1/4d  
[sic = £343 6s 5-1/2d]

Total of the whole value of the foresaid lands £990 16s 3-1/4d  
[sic = £990 16s 3-1/2d;  
£985 16s 3-/12d allowing for  
compiler's earlier error]

Lands assigned to the now Countess of Oxford, viz.

By Act of Parliament

Essex

Manor of Tilbury	£32 9s 7d	}	
Downham	£30	}	
Easton Hall	£13 6s 8d	}	
Netherhall in Gestingthorpe	£12	}	£90 16s 3d
Garnons in Tendring	60s	}	



			£162 9s 6-1/2d	
Warmingham	}		}	
North Rode	}	£92 13s 4d	}	
				Total
				£471 19s 5-1/4d
				[sic = £471 19s 5-3/4;
				£471 19s 5d allowing for
				compiler's original error]

Lands contained in the fine and claimed to come to the now Earl as purchaser by way of remainder in the counties of:

Buckinghamshire

Chesham Higham	£37 2s 5-1/2d	}	
Chesham Bury	£37 15s 3d	}	
Whitchurch	£36 11s 4-1/2d qua di	}	£124 8s 7d qua di
Aston Sandford	£12 19s 6d	}	

Wiltshire

Christian Malford			£46 8s 2d di qua
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Devonshire

Colbrooke	£31 15s 10d	}	
Thornecombe	£62 20-1/2d	}	£93 17s 6-1/2d

Cornwall

Roseworthy	£17 15s 8-1/2d	}	
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Tregenna	£7 13s 6-1/2d	}	
Bejowan	£6 2s 1-1/2d	}	£45 9s 9d
Domellick	41s 10d	}	[sic = £40 9s 9d]
Tresithney	£4 5s 9d	}	
Tregorrick	50s 9-1/2d	}	

## Staffordshire

Acton Trussell			£28 10s 4d
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## Cambridgeshire

Abington	£24 10s 7-1/2d	}	
Castle Camps	£38 17s	}	£63 7s 7-1/2d

Total            £402 2s 1/2d

## Lands appointed and assigned by Act of Parliament to Geoffrey Vere

## Essex

Gutteridge	£11	}	
Crepping Hall	£24	}	£35

The total of the whole appears

## Lands assigned by Act of Parliament to Aubrey Vere

## Essex

Tendring Hall	£9	}	
Earls Fee	£9	}	
Battles Hall	£13 6s 8d	}	£47 16s 8d
Hayes in Stowe	£13 6s 8d	}	
Jackletts in Fambridge	63s 4d	}	

The total of the whole appears

Lands assigned by indenture to Robert Vere

Essex et Berkshire

Wennington		}	
Kennington		}	£48
Shottesbrook		}	
Bacons		}	

The total of the whole appears

Lands liable by Act of Parliament for the performance of the said late Earl's will

Essex

Wivenhoe	}		
Newers	}	£45 11s 3-1/2d	}
Battleswick	}		}
	}		}
Great Bentley		£68 9s 4-1/2d	}
Great Canfield		£35 4s 2d	} £235 4s

Doddinghurst	£24	}
Lamarsh	£31	}
Colne Wake	£30 19s 2d	}

## Suffolk

Tattingstone	£39 1d	}	
Aldham	£32 14s 6d	}	£71 14s 7d

## Norfolk

Weybourn			£28 8s 9d
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Total	£335 7s 4d
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Total of the whole value of all the lands and possessions of the late foresaid Earl	£2331 21d
	[sic = £2331 1s 9d]

Parcella possessionu{m} et hereditament{orum} nup{er} Ioh{an}nis de Veer Comitibus Oxon{ie} in Com{itatibus} sequen{tibus}

Landes appointed to the Quenes Ma{jess}tie for her graces thirde parte oute of the Landes conteigned in the ffyne levied to the vse of the nowe Earle in Com{itatu}

## Essex{e}

Hedningh{a}m ad		
Castr{u}m	viiijli viijs viijd ob	}
Maldon fflaunderswike		}
Bonches et fflaxlande	xxxvli iijs xd ob	}
Stansted Monfichett	iiijxx xijli iiijjs iijd ob	}

Graies	xijli xjs vijd	}	
Prayo{rs}	xxxijli xvijs iiijd	}	
Geldham p{ar}ua	xxiiijli vs	}	
Colne Comitis	xiiijli xiijs xd	}	
Warehilles	xljs viijd	}	
Parkes in Gestingthorpe	vjli	}	
Nether Yeldham et		}	
magna Yeldham	xliijli vjs ijd ob	}	
Shrevis in Gaines Colne	ixli viijs ixd	}	CCClixli ixv vd
Pepers	lviijs viijd	}	
Pevers	liijs iiijd	}	
Vaunce	xiiijli xiijs iiijd	}	
Bumsted Countesmede	xxvjli ijs viijd	}	
		}	
Waltons in Purley }		}	
Waltons in Mockinge }	xxxvijli ijd	}	
Gobions }		}	

## Kanc{ie}

Man{er}ium de ffleete xxxvijli

## Hertf{ordie}

Hornemeade	xxxijli	}	
Barkewaie c{um}		}	
Scales p{ar}ke	xxvijli xvvs iiijd	}	lxxvjli xjs iiijd
Newcelle	xvjli xvjs	}	

## Cantabr{igie}

Swafhame

xxiiijli ijs xjd ob

Suff{olicie}

Earles hall

xxvli

}

Lavenhame

xiiijli xxiijd ob

}

iiijxx xiiijli xjs jd ob

Estbergeholte

lvli ixs ijd

}

Leicestr'

Elmesthorpe

}

c{um} terr{is}

}

xlvli xvs

in Earleshilton

}

S{u}m{ma} DCxlvijli ixs xd

Landes descended to the nowe Earle in taile

Essex{a}

Colne Priorat{us}

}

Barwikehall

}

Englesthorne

}

Colneforde myll

}

R{e}c{t}oria de

}

Belcham

}

R{e}c{t}oria de

}

Clxijli vjs vd q{ua}

}

Bentley

}

Priorat{us}

}

}

monal{ium} de	}	}	Clxxvijli vjs vd q{ua}
Hedningham	}	}	
cu{m} terr{is}	}	}	
D{o}m{ini}cal{ibus}	}	}	
	}	}	
Cert{e} terr{e} in	}	}	
Winington	}	xvli	}
Langdon hilles	}	}	}

## Cant{abrigia}

Maner{ium} de	}	}	
Hengeston	}	xliiiijli xijs vjd q{ua}	}
R{e}c{t}oria de	}	}	lli xijs vjd q{ua}
Wikehame	}	vjli	}

## Comitat{us} Midd{lesexie} &amp; Ciuit{as} London{ie}

Tria ten{emen}t{a} in	}	}	
Ciuitat{e}	}	}	
London{ie}	}	viiijli xiiijs ijd	}
Officiu{m} magni	}	}	Cxvli vijs vjd
Camerar{ij} Anglie	}	Cvjli xiijs iiijd	}

S{u}m{ma} CCCxliijli vjs vd q{ua}

S{u}m{ma} Tot{a}lis valor{is} terr{arum} p{re}dict{arum} DCCCC iiijxx xli xvjs iijd q{ua}

Landes assigned to the now Counties of Oxforde viz

## By acte of Parliament

## Essex {a}

Man {er} ium de Tilburie	xxxijli ixs vijd	}	
Downeham	xxxli	}	
Estonhall	xijli vjs viijd	}	
Netherhall in Gestingethorpe	xijli	}	iiijxx xli xvjs iijd
Garnons in Tendringe	lxs	}	
Toppesfelde	n {ihi} l	}	

## North {amptonia}

Eston mawdite	xxjli vjs vijd ob q {ua} }	
Thorpe Malforde	xiiijli xs viijd }	lvli xjs ijd ob q {ua}
Marston Trussell	xixli xiijs xjd }	

## Warr'

Bilton	}	xvli xs ob
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## By Indent {ure} and other Conveiaunces

## Essex {a}

Paines in Pentlowe	lxs	}	
Iebrick	xxxli xjs jd	}	
Barwikes Scotneis	xxxijli iijs vd q {ua} }		Cvijli xiijs ixd
ffyngrithe	xljli xixs ijd	}	

Cant{abrigia}

ffulmer

xxxixli xvijs viijd

Cestr{ia}

Blacon }

Assheton }

Wollastone }

Porte orr{iente} }

Ixixli xvjs ijd ob }

Clxijli ixv vjd ob

Warmingham }

Northerode }

iiijxx xijli xiijs iiijd }

S{u}m{ma} CCCClxxjli xixs vd q{ua}

Landes conteigned in the ffyne and claimed to come to the nowe Earle as purchaser by waie of remainder in Com{itatibus}

Buck'

Cheshame high{a}m

xxxvijli ijs vd ob }

Cheshame burie

xxxvijli xvs iijd }

Whitechurche

xxxvjli xjs iiijd ob q{ua} di} Cxxiiijli viijs vijd q{ua} di

Aston Sampforde

xijli xixs vjd }

Wiltesh'

Cristenmalforde

xlvjli viijs ijd di q{ua}

## Devon{ie}

Colbroke	xxxjli xvs xd	}	
Thornecombe	lxijli xxd ob	}	iiijxx xiiijli xvijs vjd ob

## Cornub{ie}

Roseworrey	xvijli xvs viijd ob	}	
Tregennowe	vijli xiijs vjd ob	}	
Bosenney	vjli ijs jd ob	}	xlvli ixs ixd
Dymiliock	xljs xd	}	
Tresithney	iiijli vs ixd	}	
Tregoricke	ls ixd ob	}	

## Staff{ordie}

Acton Trussell			xxviiijli xs iiijd
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## Cant{abrigie}

Abingdon	xxiiijli xs vijd ob	}	
Campes ad Castru{m}	xxxviiijli xvijs	}	lxiiijli vijs vijd ob

S{u}m{ma} CCCCijli ijs ob

Landes appointed and assigned by acte of p{ar}liament to Geofferie Veere

## Essex{a}

Crustwiche	xjli	}	
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Crepinghall           xxiiijli                            }           xxxvli

S{u}m{ma} o{mnis} p{atet}

Landes assigned by acte of p{ar}liament to Awberie Veere

Essex{a}

Tendringhall	ixli	}	
Earlesfee	ixli	}	
Battishall	xiiijli vjs viijd	}	xlviijli xvjs viijd
Haies in Stowe	xiiijli vjs viijd	}	
Iacklettes in ffambridge	lxiijs iiijd	}	

S{u}m{ma} o{mnis} p{atet}

Landes assigned by Indenture to Rob{er}te Veere

Essex{a} et Berk{eria}

Wen{n}ington	}	
Ken{n}ington	}	xlviijli
Shotisbroke	}	
Bacheons	}	

S{u}m{ma} o{mnis} p{atet}

Landes lyable by acte of p{ar}liament for the p{er}formaunce of the saide late Earles will

## Essex {a}

Wyvenhowe	}		}	
Newers	}	xlvi xjs iijd ob	}	
Batleswike	}		}	
			}	
Bentley magna		lxvijli ixs iiijd ob	}	
Canfelde magna		xxxvli iiijs ijd	}	CCxxxvli iiijs
Dodinghurste		xxiiijli	}	
Lamm {ar} she		xxxjli	}	
Colnewake		xxxli xixs ijd	}	

## Suff{olicia}

Taddingestone		xxxixli jd	}	
Aldhame		xxxijli xiiijs vjd	}	lxxjli xiiijs vijd

Norff<sup>r</sup>

Walborne				xxvijli viijs ixd
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S {u}m {ma} CCCxxxvli vijs iiijd

S {u}m {ma} Tot {a} lis valor {is} om {n} i {um} terr {arum} et possessionu {m} nup {er} p {re} d {i} c {t} i Comitib<sup>us</sup> MMCCCxxxjli xxjd