

SUMMARY: The document below is the copy on the patent rolls of the writ of privy seal dated 18 July 1603 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), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. For an earlier plea made on 17 August 1489 concerning the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl's claim to rights in the Forest, see TNA DL 39/2/25. For the will of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to Sir William Cecil, advising the latter of the current state of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl's claim to the office of the Lieutenancy of Waltham Forest, see TNA SP 12/1/22, f. 53. For mention by the 16<sup>th</sup> 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, with Oxford stating that the Queen 'flatly said whether it were mine or hers she would bestow it at her pleasure'. For an undated 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 an excerpt from a record of grants made by King James which includes the grant to Oxford, his heirs & assigns, on 18 July 1603 of 'the office of keeping the park & house of Havering & Steward of the same Forest with the Bailiwick of Essex', see TNA SP 14/60, f. 5.

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).

After Oxford's death it appears Sir John Grey encouraged Anthony Witherings to displace by force Henry Humberston, the keeper Oxford had placed in Chappell Hainault walk. For a petition dating from before 17 September 1604 from George Harpur and

Henry Humberston to King James requesting that Humberston be restored to his position until the right of Henry de Vere, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, then the King's ward, to place keepers could be tried in the Court of Wards, see CP Petitions 1377.

It should be noted that the copy of the writ of privy seal 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of July.

By writ of Privy Seal etc.

m. 30

LM: D' con' sibi & heredibus P{ro} Ed{wa}r{d}o Comite Oxon{ie}

1 Rex Om{n}ib{us} ad quos &c Sal{u}t{e}m Sciatis q{uo}d cum Ioh{ann}es de Vere nup{er} Comes

2 Oxon{ie} Anno regni Henrici Octavi nup{er} Regis Anglie Antecessoris n{ost}ri quarto

3 h{ab}uit & tenuit sibi & heredibus suis imp{er}p{etuu}m Balliuam tocius fforest{e} n{ost}r{e} Essex

4 ad quamquidem Balliuam Custod{iam} Parci & domor{um} n{ost}ror{um} de Havering a

5 tempore a quo contrar{ij}(?) memor{ia} hominu{m} adtunc non extitit p{er}tinuit & p{er}tinere

6 debuit Aceciam Offic{ium} Custod{is} & Scenescall{i} tocius fforest{e} in & de Essex

7 in p{re}dict{o} Com{itatu} Essex et Custod{iam} & Senescalciam eiusdem fforest{e} Nos

8 p{re}missa consideran{tes} restitim{us} & concessim{us} ac p{er} p{re}sentes p{ro} nob{is} heredib{us} &

9 successorib{us} n{ost}ris restitim{us} & concessim{us} p{re}dil{e}c{t}o Consanguineo n{ost}ro

10 Edwardo modo Comiti Oxon{ie} Consanguineo & hered{i} masculo d{i}c{t}i Ioh{ann}is

11 nup{er} Comitis Oxon{ie} Tot{am} p{re}dict{am} Balliuam totius fforest{e} de Essex p{re}dict{o}

12 ac Custod{iam} p{re}dict{i} Parci & domor{um} n{ost}ror{um} de Havering p{re}dict{o} ac offic{ium}

13 Custod{is} & Senescall{i} tocius p{re}dict{e} fforest{e} de Essex ac Custod{iam} &

14 Senescalc{iam} eiusdem fforest{e} cum om{n}ib{us} feod{is} & vadis ad p{re}dict{am} Balliuam

15 Seneschalc{iam} & Custod{iam} siue ear{um} aliquam ab antiquo p{er}tinen{tibus} h{ab}end{um} & tenend{um}

m. 29

1 p{re}dict{am} Balliuam tocius fforest{e} de Essex p{re}dict{o} ac p{re}dict{am} Custod{iam} p{re}d{i}c{t}i parc{i} & domor{um}

2 de Havering p{re}dict{o} ac p{re}dict{um} Offic{ia} Custod{is} & Seneschall{i} tocius p{re}dict{e} fforest{e}

3 ac Custod{iam} & Seneschalciam eiusdem fforest{e} p{re}fat{o} Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie}

4 heredib{us} & assign{atis} suis imp{er}p{etuu}m cum om{n}ib{us} feod{is} & vad{is} eisdem Balliue

5 seneschalc{ie} & Custodie & eor{um} cuil{ibe}t ab antiquo p{er}tinen{tibus} siue spectan{tibus} adeo

6 plene lib{er}e & integre sicut p{re}dict{us} Ioh{ann}es nup{er} Comes Oxon{ie} aut aliquis

7 Antecessor p{re}dict{i} Comit{is} Balliuam Senescalc{iam} & Custod{iam} ill{as} prius h{ab}uit aut h{ab}ere

8 debuit volum{us} tamen & p{er} p{re}sentis firmit{er} p{re}cipim{us} & mandam{us} p{re}fato

9 Edwardo Comiti Oxon{ie} heredib{us} & assign{atis} suis q{uo}d quel{ibe}t p{er}sona & p{er}sone

10 tempore confecc{i}o{n}is har{um} l{itte}rar{um} n{ost}rar{um} patenciu{m} h{ab}ens occupans vel ex{er}cens

11 h{ab}entes occupantes vel ex{er}cetes aliquod Offic{ium} Custod{iam} p{er}ambulac{i}o{n}em siue

12 locum aut aliqua Offic{ia} Custod{ias} p{er}ambulac{i}o{n}es siue loca in circa vel infra

13 Balliuam fforest{e} n{ost}r{e} p{re}dict{e} aut custod{iam} & Seneschalc{iam} eiusdem fforest{e} aut

14 Custod{iam} Parc{is} & domor{um} n{ost}ror{um} p{re}dict{orum} virtute seu collore aliquar{um} l{itte}rar{um}

15 patenciu{m} siue concession{um} p{er} nos aut p{er} D{omi}nam Elizabeth{am} nup{er} Reginam Angl{ie}

16 aut aliquem al{iorum} Progenitor{um} siue Antecessor{um} n{ost}ror{um} eis aut eor{um} al{icui} sub

17 magno sigillo Anglie aut sub aliquo alio sigillo n{ost}ro aut aliquor{um} Progenitor{um}

18 siue Antecessor{um} n{ost}ror{um} eis aut eor{um} alicui antehac fact{arum} aut alit{er} de cet{er}o plene

- 19 quiete & pacifice h{ab}ere ex{er}cere & occupare possit & valeat possint & valeant
- 20 eadem Offic{ia} Custod{ias} p{er}ambulac{iones} siue loc{a} eis aut eor{um} alicui sic vt p{re}fert{ur} concess{a}
- 21 cum om{n}ib{us} vad{is} feod{is} regard{is} p{ro}ficuis & emolumentis eisdem Offic{iis} Custod{ijs}
- 22 p{er}ambulac{ionibus} siue loc{is} p{er}tinen{tibus} siue spectan{tibus} S{e}c{un}d{u}m tenorem & effec{tu}m ear{un}dem
- 23 l{itte}rar{um} patenciu{m} siue concession{um} eis aut eor{um} alicui inde fact{arum} absq{ue} aliqua
- 24 p{er}turbac{i}o{n}e molestac{i}o{n}e inquietac{i}o{n}e siue g{ra}uamine p{re}dict{i} Edwardi Comitis
- 25 Oxon{ie} heredum vel assignator{um} suor{um} Aliquo in p{re}sentib{us} in contr{ariu}m inde non
- 26 obstan{te} Nisi sit p{er} assensum n{ost}r{u}m aut heredum vel successor{um} n{ost}ror{um} in ea parte
- 27 prius h{ab}it{um} Et p{re}d{i}c{t}us Edwardus Comes Oxon{ie} p{ro} se heredib{us} & assign{atis} suis
- 28 conuenit & concedit ad & cum nob{is} heredib{us} & successorib{us} n{ost}ris p{re}sentibus q{uo}d ip{s}e
- 29 p{re}fatus Edwardus Comes Oxon{ie} heredes & assign{ati} sui quiete & pacifice
- 30 p{er}mittent quamlibet p{er}sonam & quamlibet p{er}sonas tempore confec{t}io{n}is har{um} l{itter}ar{um} n{ost}rar{um}
- 31 patenciu{m} h{ab}en{s} occupan{s} vel ex{er}cens h{ab}entes occupantes vel ex{er}cetes aliquod
- 32 Offic{ium} Custod{iam} p{er}ambulac{ionem} siue loc{um} aut aliqua Offic{ia} Custod{ias} p{er}ambulac{iones} siue
- 33 loc{a} in circa vel infra Balliuam fforest{e} n{ost}r{e} p{re}dict{e} aut custod{iam} & Seneschalc{iam}
- 34 eiusdem fforest{e} aut in circa vel infra Custod{iam} Parci & Domor{um} n{ost}ror{um} p{re}dict{orum}

35 virtute seu colore aliquar{um} l{itte}rar{um} patenciu{m} seu concession{um} p{er} nos aut p{er}

36 D{omi}nam Elizabeth{am} nup{er} Reginam Anglie aut aliquem al{iorum} p{re}decessor{um} n{ost}ror{um} eis aut

37 eor{um} alicui sub magno sigillo Anglie aut sub aliquo alio sigillo n{ost}ro aut aliqu{orum}

38 Progenitor{um} siue Antecessor{um} n{ost}ror{um} eis aut eor{um} alicui antehac fact{arum} aut

39 alit{er} de ceter{o} plene lib{er}e quiete & pacifice h{ab}ere ex{er}cere & occupare eadem

40 Offic{ia} Custod{ias} p{er}ambulac{iones} siue loc{a} eis aut eor{um} alicui sicut p{re}fert{ur} concess{a}

41 cum om{n}ib{us} vad{is} feod{is} regard{is} p{ro}ficuis & emolumentis quibuscunq{ue} eisdem

42 Offic{ijs} Custod{ijs} p{er}ambulac{ionibus} siue loc{is} p{er}tinen{tibus} siue spectan{tibus} S{e}c{un}d{u}m tenor{em} &

43 effect{um} Sep{ar}aliu{m} l{itte}rar{um} Patenciu{m} siue concess{ionum} eis aut eor{um} alicui inde fact{arum}

44 absq{ue} aliqua p{er}turbac{i}o{n}e molestac{i}o{n}e inquietac{i}o{n}e siue g{ra}uamine p{re}dict{i}

45 Edwardi Comitis Oxon{ie} heredum & assignator{um} suor{um} Nisi fuer{unt} p{er}

46 assensum n{ost}r{u}m heredum aut successor{um} n{ost}ror{um} in ea parte prius h{ab}it{um} Eo q{uo}d

47 exp{re}ssa mencio &c In cuius rei &c T{este} R{egis} apud West{monasteriu}m xvij die Iulij

p{er} br{eu}e de priuato sigillo &c