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Whittlewood Forest inquests, 1363-76

*m.2*

Inquest made at Towcester on Thursday 31 March 1373 before John de Foxle, keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest in Northamptonshire. Hugh Spryngfeld took a buck with his dog in Notwod before Michaelmas 1369, and felled in the same year in the hay of Shrob 6 trees called maples worth 6d each. The same Hugh felled 1 oak there in the same year worth 3s 4d. The same Hugh took the king's lead in the manor of Moor End under the pretext of his office and made for his own use 6 lead utensils worth 3s 4d each in 1368. Alan servant of the said Hugh fished in the king's water at Moor End in the same year and took fish there, viz. pike, bream and roach, worth 10s for the table of Hugh. The same Hugh took 7 gallons of honey found in the forest for his own use which ought to have belonged to the king, worth 4s in all. The same Hugh took and imprisoned Nicholas Clerk of Pury at Moor End under pretext of his office until he made fine of 2s. The same Hugh with his dog took a buck at Apeltrowerode in the bailiwick of Wakefield before the Purification 1369 for his own use. The same Hugh encountered a certain stranger passing along Watling Street in the said forest, whose name is not known, whom he took and imprisoned in 1369 at Moor End until he willingly made fine with him under pretext of his office, but the amount is not known. Alan de Aete lord of Shalstone in Buckinghamshire took the king's game beside the bounds of the forest at night and in the morning, besetting the woods (*stabileam*) at various times year after year from 1366 until now to the nuisance of the king's forest.

*m.3*

Inquest made at Towcester on Monday 15 December 1376 before John de Foxle, keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest and Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. Geoffrey Swon on 18 October 1374 killed a doe in Whittlewood Forest at Fernyleye and carried it away. The same Geoffrey on the same day and year killed a doe within the same forest in Norton wood and carried it away with him. He is a common malefactor of the king's game in the said forest. Geoffrey Vigorous on Sunday 13 May 1375 at Potters riding within the same forest killed a pricket and carried it away. He is a common malefactor of the king's game in the said forest. William Tournour of Syresham on Wednesday 7 February 1375 in Hazelborough at Fernyleye within the same forest came at night with kindling fuel and there took a beehive worth 3s 4d against the assize of the forest. On the said day and year, by placing the fuel, he burned in the said place an oak worth 3s 4d.

*m.4*

Inquest made at Towcester on Sunday 18 June 1363 before William Wykeham, chief keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest and Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. The abbess of Burnham sold in the wood of Silverstone 10 acres of underwood, felled against the assize of the forest in 1359. Henry Grene knight felled 1 acre in his wood of Norton in 1361 against the assize of the forest. Thomas de Hethe knight has 6 goats at Silverstone in the forest against the assize worth in all 4s. The same Thomas has in the same forest in the hay of Handley against the assize 2 sows 3 piglets worth in all 6s 8d. The same Thomas has 2 mares 1 foal against the assize in the said hay worth in all 5s. The earl of Warwick has 15 goats in the same forest worth in all 10s. John Piers chaplain of Stony Stratford is a common malefactor at night in the said forest and took in the hay of Shrob 2 does in 1362 before 21 September.

The villis of Grafton, Alderton, Paulerspury, Plumpton Pury, Heathencote, Towcester, Slapton, Norton with members, Wappenham with members, Syresham, Potterspury, Wick Dive in Northamptonshire, Lillingstone Dayrell in Buckinghamshire, and Lillingstone Lovell in Oxfordshire, claim common in Whittlewood Forest, which are outside the forest, but what fallow common they ought to have is not known.

*m.5*

Inquest made at Towcester on Saturday 21 September 1364 before Peter atte Wode in place of the keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest and Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. John atte Grange holds at farm from the master of the Hospital of St John, Northampton, an assart called Flexle which is enclosed with a live hedge against the assize of the forest. Gilbert Caysho and Philip his brother hold an assart called Shrynton assart which is enclosed with a live hedge against the assize. Andrew Brown holds an assart called Lutrynton assart which is enclosed with a live hedge against the assize.

*m.6*

Inquest made at Towcester on Sunday 20 August 1368 before John de Foxle, keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest and Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. Thomas atte Welle has a croft beside Bladehangre enclosed with a live hedge against the assize of the forest to the nuisance of the king's deer. Likewise, Robert Clerk has hedges around Bateresleghstokkyng. Likewise, William Noreys has hedges around Newestokkyng. Likewise, John Hokere has hedges around his assart. Likewise, Peter Gybons has hedges around his assart at Milborneoke. Likewise, John Shepherd has hedges around his assart at Stonybrokhegh'. Likewise, John Hayward has hedges around his assart towards le Cros. Likewise, the abbess of Burnham has hedges around Welilondhegge to the nuisance of the king's deer and against the assize of the forest. The earl of Warwick has two deer-leaps into his park of Pury close to the forest where the king's deer are able to enter and not escape to the nuisance of the king's forest.

*m.7*

Inquest made at Towcester on Thursday 25 November 1372 before John de Foxle, keeper of the king's forest this side Trent, into the state of Whittlewood Forest and Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. Geoffrey Vigerous, formerly a forester, has a foal worth 2s 10d for his own use in the said forest, in 1370 under pretext of his office by extortion. The same Geoffrey received from the vill of Whittlebury by extortion under pretext of his office 2s in the said year.