

67.09 Selected transcriptions, John, 1199–1216

Disputes between the Prior of Leighton and other, c 1199 (45, 46, 47)

1199 **Curia Regis Rolls, John (49)**

'Prior de Lecton' point loco suo Johannem Angevin versus Simonem de Bello Campo de placito assise ad lucrandum ...'

Curia Regis Rolls, Vol I, Richard I–2 John, 1922, 134
Also pp.275, 311, 358

1198 **Curia Regis Rolls, John (50, 51, 52, 53)**

[Four attempts by the Sheriff of Bedford, after consultation with the county court, to enforce suit due from the Prior of Leighton Buzzard. The Prior complained that the Sheriff disregarded a writ from the justiciar prohibiting the levying of distress.]

Select Cases of Procedure without Writ under Henry III, Selden Society, Vol 60, 1941, pl.xxxiv

1203 **Pipe Roll, John (54)**

[Payments to the Exchequer]

'Et monialibus de Fonte Ebroldi xlviiij li et viijs. in Lethon'.
Ammerciaments Per S. de Pateshull' et socios suos Prior de Lethon' [] xxs. Pro dissaisim'

Pipe Roll – 5 John, Pipe Roll Society, Vol NS16, 1938, 89, 94–5

1212 **Curia Regis Rolls [Richard I] (55)**

'Homines de Lecton' queruntur quod prior de Lecton' deforciat eis terras et tenementa sua et communes pastures suas et ab eis exigit de tenementis que ipsi tenent alia'

[A dispute as to the services and payments due comes before the court in the form of a plaint by the men of Leighton Buzzard that the prior of Lecton is deforcing them of their lands and tenements and common pastures and demands undue services and customs; it would seem that their tenure was servile, but the land is ancient demesne. The Crown was an easy landlord when compared with monastic owners, and it seems that the monks were exploiting the manor to its utmost in order to send cash to the mother house. One of several cases was an enquiry into tenures in the manor of Leighton Buzzard where the tenants of the priory complained that they were compelled to do services other than those done to the Crown in former days before the manor was granted to the prior.]

Select cases of procedure without writ under Henry III, Selden Society Vol 60, 1941, cii

Introduction to the Curia Regis Rolls 1199–1230, Selden Society, Vol 62, 1943, 23
Curia Regis Rolls, Vol VI, 11–14 John, 1933, 326–7

1212 **Plea Rolls, John (56)**

'The men of Lecton complain that the prior of Lecton deforces them from their lands, tenements and pastures, and exacts from them for the tenements which

they hold other services and customs than they ought, and are accustomed, to do ... Touching the windmill – whereof they complain that he has set it up and takes more toll there than he ought to take, because he takes there the sixteenth part of a quarter, as is said – the prior answers that the vessel by which he takes the toll is lawful and that it was made by the assent of the men of the soke.'

Steele Elliott, J, 1931. *The Windmills of Bedfordshire: Past and Present, BHRS, Vol 14, 4, 5, 23-4*

[This is Bedfordshire's earliest record of a windmill, situated to the north-west of the excavated site and destroyed by early mineral extraction. Note the instrument of measuring the grain.]

1212 Curia Regis Rolls [John]

'The men of Lecton complain because the prior of Lecton' illegally occupies their lands and tenements and common pastures and exacts from them for the tenements which they hold other services and customary dues than those which they ought or were accustomed to do.

The prior came and said that no service or customary due was exacted from them except those which they ought and were accustomed to do, because King Henry the father gave the manor of Lecton' to the abbey of Fonte Evroud and when the abbey had taken seisin, the bailiffs of the abbey made an inquisition as to what land should be considered part of the lordship, and what should be held in villeinage by what services and customary dues, and the enquiry decided that no one of the vil of Lecton' could give either a daughter or a sister in marriage, nor could any of their children live outside the vil of Lecton' without the licence of the lord, and that the tenants of the manor of Lecton' owed and were accustomed to do three plough services without food each year, each plough service being half an acre, and they were bound and accustomed to lift the hay with their forks and rakes to cut and to *calcare* and carry the wheat and for one day to reap without food from the lord, and all the others from the hamlets should and are accustomed to plough and carry hay and to mow and reap without food of the lord.

Concerning a certain pasture where they claim to have common pasture the same prior says that they have nothing there nor ought to have nor ever have had unless leased from the same prior at an annual rent of one mark, because certain of them had brought an *Assize of novel disseisin* against the said prior concerning the aforesaid pasture before G. the son of Peter and Simon de Pateshull' and their fellows, and now they remain *in misericordia* for the false claim, and now they themselves have approached the same prior and have spoken with him so and that they themselves have taken that pasture on a lease each of them paying one mark annually, and that they themselves have always paid it up to this year, and that they do not wish to pay the mark, and so he has distrained them for the rent for the aforesaid pasture.

Concerning the wind mill about which they complain that he has taken more toll than he ought to take, because he took there ?a sixteenth part of a quarter, as they say, the prior replied that [?] the measure he took is the legal toll, and it was made with the assent of the men of the soke.

It is considered that 12 of the county of Buk' and 12 from the county of Bedef' both knights as well as etc, shall come before the king on the day of St John in 3 weeks to reconsider what services and what customs the men of the manor of Lecton' with appurtenances ought to do and were accustomed to do in the time of King Henry the father and of King Richard and King John.

From the prior of Lecton' for having a record of the Justiciary concerning the same pasture, 1 mark.'

[Curia Regis Rolls vol VI, 11-14 John, 1933, 326-7](#)

1212 Plea Rolls

'The men of Lecton complained that the prior of Lecton illegally occupied their lands and tenements and common pastures and exacted from them for their tenements other services and customs ?more than they ought and were accustomed to do. And the prior said that when the lord king Henry the father gave the manor of Lecton to the abbey of Fonte Ever ... etc there was an enquiry and that none of the vill of Lecton could marry off a daughter or a sister, and none of their progeny could go outside the vil of Lecton' except they redeemed them, or with the licence of the lord, and that those of the manor of Lecton owed and were accustomed to do three plough services without food each year , and that each plough service ought and was accustomed to be half an acre with their forks and rakes to lift the hay and [?] to *calcare* and collect and hoe the wheat and to reap for one day without food from the lord , and all the others of the hamlets ought and were accustomed to plough and to cut and lift the hay and cut and reap without the food of the lord.

Concerning a certain pasture where they claimed to have common rights the same prior said that they had nothing there nor ought to have unless it was leased from the same prior at an annual rent of one mark etc thus that they themselves had paid the same until that year and that as they themselves did not wish to pay that mark he distrained them for payment for the said pasture.

Then concerning the wind mill about which they complain that he levied there more toll than he ought to take because he himself took a sixteenth part of a quarter as they said. The prior replied that the measure of flour for which he took toll is legal and was decided with the assent of the men of the soke.

It was considered that 12 from the county of Buckinghamshire and 12 from the county of Bedfordshire both knights as well as, etc, should come before the king to give recognizances etc.'

[Placitorum Abbreviatio Richard I-Edward II, 1811, 861](#)

1212 Placitorum Abbreviatio Richard I-Edward II

'The men of the manor Lecton were asked what the prior of Lecton exacted from them both as services and other customary dues than they ought and were accustomed to do in the time of King Henry the father and in the time of King Richard and King John. The jurors said that never in the times of the aforesaid kings could they or were they accustomed to ... their daughters or sisters or others ... except with the licence of the lord, thus that after he had the licence of the lord, if a daughter should have married outside the vil he should give 4d or [*lanceam* ? a light spear] to the servant of the same prior for his daughter. They say also that those of the manor of Lecton should and were accustomed to do three plough works each year when they should provide their own food that is to say each plough work was of half an acre. They say also that the men of the manor of Lecton ought and were accustomed to do with their forks and rakes, to rake and lift the hay and *calcare* make it into a hayrick and to cut wheat for one day and to do one boonwork in autumn for one day providing their own food. They say also that the men of the hamlets ought and are accustomed to plough and mow and carry hay and to lift and hoe and carry providing their own food. They say also that concerning common pasture where the men claim to

have pasture they have previously produced no view but at Bedford by the same assize it fell into the hands of the lord King.

It was decided that the plaintiffs are attainted and are to do those things of which both sides placed themselves in that jurisdiction and thus the whole vill is amerced.'

1212 Curia Regis Rolls [John]

'The jury came and were to acknowledge what services and what customs the men of the manor of Lecton' with its appurtenances ought and were accustomed to do in the time of King Henry the father, and in the time of King Richard and in the time of King John for the tenements which they held in that same manor of Lecton' with appurtenances, whence the men of the manor of Lecton' were asked what other services and customary works the prior of Lecton' exacted from them, and what other customs they ought to perform and were accustomed to do in the time of King Henry the father and in the time of King Richard and of King John.

The jurors said that never in the time of the aforesaid kings could they or were they accustomed to put their daughters or their sisters or any other outside the vil except with the licence of the lord, so that, after he had the licence of the lord, if his daughter should have married outside the vil, he shall give to the servant of the same prior for his daughter four pence or a certain *lanceam* [? a light spear].

They said also that those of the manor of Lecton ought and were accustomed to do three ploughworks each year providing their own food, that is to say each ploughwork being half an acre. They say also that the men of the manor of Lecton ought and were accustomed with their forks and rakes to rake and lift the hay and *calcare* [?] and make the hay rick and to cut the corn for one day and to do one boonwork in the autumn for one day providing their own food.

They say also that the men of the hamlets ought and were accustomed to plough and mow and carry hay and to lift and to reap while providing their own food.

They say also concerning the common pasture where those men claim to have right of pasture, they have come to no opinion; but they know truly that those men had carried a certain assize against the same prior at Bedford and from that assize had fallen into the hand of the lord king.

It is decreed that the plaintiffs are attainted to perform those things [?] about which both sides put themselves before that jury. And therefore the whole vil is amerced.'

Curia Regis Rolls vol VI, 11-14 John, 1933, 374