

67.18 Selected transcriptions, 1461–1485, Edward IV¹

Edward IV 1461–1470, 1471–83

Henry VI 1422–61, 1470–71

Edward V 1483

Richard III 1483–85

1463–83 **Court Rolls Edward IV**

1463–75 38 courts for the Lady of Grovebury (Alice, duchess of Suffolk); see below, 1465

1475–9 19 courts for the Lord of Grovebury (John, duke of Suffolk, Alice's son)

1479–83 16 courts for the Dean and Canons of Windsor

Beds CRO: KK 622, Court Rolls

1465 **Patent Rolls, Edward IV**

[The Abbess of Fontevrault claims her rights in the manor, which are granted at the cost of 20s.]

'March 6. Exemplification, at the request of the king's kinswoman Alice, duchess of Suffolk, widow, the present tenant of the manor of Leyghtonbusard, of the tenor of a certificate of certain liberties allowed to the abbess of Fontevrault before Robert Ardern and his fellows, justices in eyre in the county of Bedford in the year 4 Edward III, sent into the Chancery of Henry IV by the treasurer and chamberlains and in the files of chancery as follows:

The abbess of Fontevrault was summoned to answer the king by what warrant she claims to have divers specified liberties in her manor of Leyghtonbusard, and she came by John Spakman, her attorney, and says that as regards view of frank-pledge, waif and stray and a market on Tuesdays, she and her predecessors have always been seised of the same, and that as regards a fair for three days at the feast of St Dunstan and free warren Henry III by a charter which she produces granted the same to Mabel, sometime abbess of Fontevrault, and the nuns there, and as regards the other liberties she produces a charter of Edward II reciting a charter of Edward I confirming a charter of John granting the same. And Richard de Aldeburgh, appearing for the king, says that the liberties of view, waif, stray and infangenthef were not claimed in the last eyre, and the abbess cannot deny it and seeks to be admitted to claim them, offering to the king 20s, and also to claim chattels of felons and fugitives and amercements of herself and her men by virtue of a clause in the charter of John. And the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer certified an entry on the roll of 6 Henry III in Warwick and Leicester ... And judgement was given for the abbess for chattels of felons and fugitives. And the said Richard does not deny that the said amercements and other liberties were allowed in the last eyre, and judgement was given for her accordingly, but he pleads for the king that enquiry should be made whether she has pillory, tumbrel and gallows within the said view by reason of her liberty of infangenthef, whether she and her predecessors have used the said liberties, view, stray, warren, market and fair, and whether they have held the market and fair on other days than those granted in the charters. And jurors say on oath that the abbess and her predecessors have used the said view, stray, warren, market and fair and other liberties, and the abbess has not failed in the use of any except that she levied fines and amercements from transgressors of the assize of bread and ale to the

¹ Editor's note: the transcriptions cover the period 1461–1485, but appear to date from the reigns of Edward IV only, rather than the second reign of Henry VI, and the brief reigns of Edward V and Richard III

sum of 1 mark in the case where they deserved to be punished by the pillory and the tumbrel. And judgement was given that the said view should be taken into the king's hands, but afterwards it was re-granted to the abbes by fine of 20s, and judgement was given to her for other liberties.'

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1461-67, 1897, 446-7

1465/66 Bailiff's Account, Edward IV

'Under rents and farms received on the Lordship of Grovebury, £24 for the farm of the Manor of Grovebury from Lord Wenlock; Wenlock and William Anable both have parts of the demesne.'

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 126

1467 Patent Rolls, Edward IV

[Alice is regranted the manor retrospectively; Thomas Chaucer esquire is dead.]

'Whereas the king understands by a supplication of Alice, duchess of Suffolk, that she held ... the manor and lordship of Grobury alias Leyghton Busard with all lands, portions, pensions, knights' fees and advowsons by pretext of a grant of Henry V to the said John (Philippe) and his heirs, and the said John enfeoffed William Philppes, knight, Thomas Chaucere, esquire, Thomas Dereham, John Throgmerton and John Wadde, all now deceased, who granted the same to him and Alice his wife and the heirs of their bodies ... and whereas all the premises came into the king's hands by virtue of an act of Parliament at Westminster, Edward IV, the king hereby grants all the premises to her, to hold severally from 4 March, I Edward IV in the manners specified above.'

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1467-77, 1900, 65

1467/68 Bailiff's Account, Edward IV

[Lord Wenlock and William Anable are farmers of the Grovebury demesne.]

Aerary, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, XV.61.42, Bailiff's Account

1468/69 Bailiff's Account, Edward IV

[Lord Wenlock farms the demesne.]

Aerary, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, XV.61.43, Bailiff's Account

1469 Court Roll, Edward IV

[Alice, Duchess of Suffolk mentioned as Lady of Grovebury.]

Beds CRO KK 622

1469/70 Bailiff's Account, Edward IV

[Lord Wenlock farms the demesne.]

Aerary, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, XV.61.44, Bailiff's Account

1472 Patent Rolls, Edward IV

'Grant to Alice, duchess of Suffolk, and her heirs and assigns, in recompense of 2,800 marks [*£1866.5s 7d*] due to her from the king, as appears at the receipt of the Exchequer, of the manor and lordship of Grobury alias Leyghton Busard with all lands and other things pertaining to it, lately granted to her for life by letters patent dated 6 July, 7 Ed. IV to hold by the service of a rose at Midsummer.'

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1467-77, 1900, 362

1472/3 **Patent Rolls, Edward IV**
[As above, but puts the site in Buckinghamshire.]

Calendarium Rotlorum Patentium, John-Edward IV, 1802, 317

1472/3 **Bailiff's Accounts, Edward IV**
[Rogation Day in the fields of Grovebury; Thomas Fowkes and Richard Smyth are leaseholders of the Grovebury block (since 25 March 1471; possible break up of the manor.)]

Aerary, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, XV.61.45, 46, Bailiff's Accounts

1473 **Patent Rolls, Edward IV**
'Licence for the king's kinsfolk Alice, duchess of Suffolk, and John, duke of Suffolk, her son, and Richard Fowler, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and John Broughton, esquire, to found a fraternity or gild of two guardians and brethren and sisters of the parishioners of the parish of Leighton Bosard, co. Bedford, and others who may wish to be of the gild in the parish church of Leighton Bosard ... they ... shall be called the 'fraternity of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ in the parish church of Leighton Bosard ...'

[Alice was responsible for the magnificent angel roof in the church.]

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1467-77, 1900, 417

1476 **Ancient Deeds, Edward IV**
'Letter of attorney ... to Edward Grymston, and William Kene, to receive seisin from John, duke of Suffolk ... of the ... manors of Grovebury and Leighton Busard ...'

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, Vol V, 1906, 69

1476 **Close Rolls, Edward IV**
'Demise and confirmation by charter of the manors of Grovebury and Leyghton Busard cos. Buckingham and Bedford to be held by the said duke (of Suffolk) for term of his life and after to the said duchess and the right heirs of the said duke.'

[Both counties, two manors.]

Calendar of Close Rolls, Edward IV-Edward V-Richard III, 1476-85, 1954, 84

1476/77 **Bailiff's Account, Edward IV**
[Smyth and Fowkes farm the demesne.]

Aerary, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, XV.61.49, Bailiff's Account

1477 Ancient Deeds, Edward IV

'Grant by Thomas Lee and William Marten, clerks, to John, Duke of Suffolk of the manor of Grovebury and Leighton Busard with appurtenances ... for his life, without impeachment of waste; with remainders to Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk ... to give the Duke full possession of the premises.'

[One manor.]

Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, Vol I, 1890, 65;

1478 Carta, Edward IV

[Suffolk assigns the Manor of Grovebury to Richard of Gloucester and others; Christopher Wase and William Lye are his attorneys.]

Denton Black Book, Vol II, at Windsor

1479 Indenture, Edward IV

[The king forces the duke of Suffolk to give up the manor for a considerable amount of cash.]

'This bille ... between Ed IV & John that at the K's pleasure the said John shall departyn from the Maner of LB and the King's said grace shall pay ... to the duc on delivery of the maner £1000 and at the feast of midsummer next following a thousand marks and within a year fully complete after the delivery of the said estate £1000 for the which two last payments at the day aforesaid the said duke shall sufficient & agreeable seurte of men of London the which payment of the first £1000 and the seurtees of the other Ilm li and V c mark in maner & form as is beforesaid fundyn and soon the said duc shall make delivery and after of the said maner in due maner & ferme.'

Denton Black Book, Vol II, at Windsor

[Also a license for the de la Poles to give the manor of Leighton and for Windsor to receive it.]

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor*, 16

1480 Patent Rolls, Edward IV

'29 June. Licence for the alienation in mortmain by the king's kinsman John, duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, the king's sister, to the dean and canons of the king's free chapel of St George within the castle of Wyndsore of the house, manor or lordship of Grovebury alias Leighton Busard, co. Bedford ...'

[One manor using alias]

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1476-85, 1901, 219

[5 October. Final concord made in Westminster.]

'And this agreement was made by order of the King.'

Denton Black Book, Vol II, at Windsor

1481 Patent Rolls, Edward IV

'6 December. ... licence for the king's kinsman John, duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, the king's sister, to grant to them (Windsor) in mortmain the manor or lordship of Grobury, alias Grovebury alias Leighton Bosard, co. Bedford, held in chief ...'

Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward IV, 1476-85, 1901, 172

1482 Lease, Edward IV

[Grovebury demesne, a portion of the original manor of Leighton, rented to the king's mother Princess Cecille, Duchess of York.]

'13 May. Lease from the Dean and Canons of the College of Saint George, within the Castle of Windsor, to the princess Cecilie, Mother unto our Soveragne lord King Edward IV. Of lands etc. called Grovebury, parcel of the manor of Leyghton Busarde, in the county of Bedford, for her life at a rental of twenty-four pounds.'

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 368

[p.128 mentions Billington and Grovebury Closes, possibly an intimation that the boundary between Grovebury and Billington has changed.]

1483 Indenture, Edward IV

[The king forces Suffolk to grant the manor of Grovebury and Leighton to the Dean and Canons of Windsor for cash as above, and the lucrative wardship and marriage of Henry, the son and heir of the late Lord Morley.]

'18 June. It is agreed that John at K's desire will make a sure estate of Grovebury & appurts. To the Dean of St. George's ... for which the king shall be content and pay the duke of ready money £1000 and over ... at the sealing of the demise [transfer] of the manor of LB. And at All Saints next coming the duke shall deliver all the muniments relating to LB and he & his wife Eliz. shall give up all their rights.'

Denton Black Book, Vol II, at Windsor