

The following entry is inserted in the series of Court Rolls after that for the Court of 12th September, 22 Elizabeth, 1580, but it clearly belongs earlier. The reference to the Abbess of Burnham indicates a pro-Reformation date, and there was trouble with her in 1526: see roll 2. Richard Hyll died on the 7th June, 1540: see l.p.m. [Inquisitions Post Mortem] attached. The entry, which is in English, is therefore inserted here.

Injuries and wrongs sustained by Richard. Hill of the Abbess of Burnham.

First the said Richard saith that the said Abbess and her predecessors wrongfully withholdeth and by the space of twenty years past and more have wrongfully withholden and occupied 3 rods of arable land being of the value of 9d. by the year luing at the town end of Burnham in a field called Bury Field abutting upon a close called Rokesby, and have felled, topped and lopped divers trees growing upon the said 3 rods at divers sundry times, which 3 rods be parcel of his manor in Burnham called Rokesby manor and which 3 rods by many of the inhabitants of Burnham have been known, taken and reouted to be parcel of the said manor time out of of any man now living, and the said Abbess and her predecessors have wrongfully taken all the issues and profits of the said 3 rods by the said time.

Also the said Richard Hill saith that where the predecessors of the said now Abbess many years past have made and builded one water—mill called Aye mill, at which time the Abbess & Convent of the same Abbey obtained licence of the lord and owner of the manor of Dorney then being, to have the stream or watercourse which drove the said mill to descend through the precinct and limits of the said manor of Dorney, that is to say to Lake end and from thence through the rough moor to Dorney green, and at the said time the Abbess & Convent bound them and their successors for ever under their Convent seal to the said lord and owner of the said manor of Dorney, that they and their said successors should always yearly from time to time as oft as made should require at their own proper costs and charges cause the said water-course to be thoroughly scoured and cleansed, so that the said lord of Dorney his heirs nor his farmers or tenants at any time after the said bond should not in any vise be harmed hurted or annoyed by reason of the said watercourse.

And now by the space of 20 years past and more the said now Abbess and her predecessors have not nor would cause the said watercourse to be thoroughly

scoured or cleansed as they ought to do according to their bond, by reason whereof the water intime of all winter and many times in summer season surroundeth and overfloweth the meads and pastures of the said Richard Hill being parcel of his said manor of Dorney, at the Lake end.

Rowmore, and Dorney green, whereby the said Richard Hill, his tenants and farmers at Dorney aforesaid be and by all the said time have been commonly yearly hurst and damaged many ways to the value of L4 or 100s.

Also the said Richard saith that whereas the said Abbess and her predecessors have been possessed and seized in the right of their said Abbey of and in a parcel of meadow ground lying within the precinct of the manor of Boveney in a meadow called Mowsam, in which mead the said Abbess and her predecessors should and of right ought yearly to sever, cut down or mow the first grass or crop growing upon the said meadow, and after the first crop or grass severed, cut down and made in hay I carried away from the meadow aforesaid, the said Abbess or any other person or persons of right should have no manner feeding in the said mead with any cattle or beasts but only the owner or possessor of the manor of Boveney, his tenants and farmers and the inhabitants there.

And that notwithstanding the said Abbess and her predecessors by the space of 20 years past yearly as soon as the first crop of grass growing in the said meadow is severed or out down or made in hay and carried away, have over-charged the said meadow yearly with their cattle and fed them daily there unto the feast of St. Peter advincula and cause the said meadow yearly at the said feast to be left so bare so that neither the said Richard now being owner of the said manor of Boveney nor his tenants nor farmers, nor the inhabitants there yearly long after the said feast can have any of feeding for their cattle upon the said meadow as they ought to have, to the great hurt of the said Richard and of all his said tenants and farmers and the inhabitants of Boveney aforesaid, contrary to all good right and conscience.

Also the said Richard saith that after the said first crop of grass growing in the said meadow called Mowsams is yearly made in hay and ready to be carried, the said Abbess of her own wilful mind without right or conscience every year maketh a way at her own pleasure and causeth all the said hay to be carried with her carts out of the said meadow over and through a great quantity of meadow ground of the said Richard lying in Boveney aforesaid.

By reason of which way the said Richard his tenants and farmers for the saving of their grass growing where the said way is yearly commonly made, every year mow and out down their grass there before it be grown, and some time much of the said grass is not grown to be mown at such time as the said Abbess maketh the said way.

So that the said Richard, his tenants and farmers sustain not only loss of their first grass yearly by reason of the said way but also they lose all the profits of the ground where the said way is yearly made a long; time or season after the making and using of the same way, to the great hurt and loss of the said Richard his tenants and farmers.

Also the said Abbess by all the space of winter season last past at her pleasure have caused all her wood provided for her fuel for the last winter to be carried from her wood or park called the Abbey park to the said Abbey of Burnham through a several close of the said Richard lying in Burnham aforesaid called Horse Harnes where the said Abbess or any of her predesscrs never had way in times past, nor can of right claim to have any such way &c.

And also the said Abbess hath caused the hedges of Dorney wood co be broken and the dikes there to be cast open in sundry places of the said wood being the several ground of the said Richard Hill, and hath made divers sundry ways through the said wood to be made for the carriage of her wood from the said park to the said Abbey to the great hurt and damage of the said Richard Hill, &c.