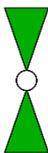


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| bncdoc.id | AE9 |
| bncdoc.author | Grant, Raymond |
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| <437/c> | <p>conceded in 1235 that that county should be put out of the forest with the exception of the manor of Withcote, which was ancient demesne of the Crown. To ensure freedom from the Forest law the inhabitants of the districts disafforested in Nottinghamshire paid 20 marks in 1228 for exemption from suit at the Forest courts. During the period of his personal government, however, Henry III was compelled by shortage of money to follow the practice of Richard I and John of selling charters of disafforestation. In May 1227 he granted such a charter for the greater part of Berkshire, and in June 1228 for most of the forest in Gloucestershire east of the Severn; in October 1229 for Ombersley and Horewell in Worcestershire; and in April 1230 for Kesteven in Lincolnshire. On 16 July 1232 the king confirmed a perambulation which substantially reduced the extent of Sherwood Forest, and in July 1234 he disafforested the forest ‘between Ouse and Derwent’, with the exception of the hay of Langwith. In November 1251 Henry III granted to the men of Archenfield in Herefordshire freedom from the Forest jurisdiction, and in the next year he ordered the sheriff: to distraint by their lands and chattels all those who shared in that liberty, and have lands within the bounds of the disafforested districts, to contribute towards the payment of the 200 marks to the King, in proportion to the lands they had in the said district, and the advantage they gained from the disafforestation. The extent of the royal forests was also diminished by Henry III’s grants to members of his family. In 1239 he gave the Forest of Dartmoor to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and his heirs, and in 1267 Amounderness and Lonsdale Forests in Lancashire and Pickering Forest in Yorkshire to his second son Edmund, Earl of Lancaster and his heirs. Edmund later received from Edward I the right to appoint Forest justices of his own whenever the King’s judges went on eyre in the royal forests, and to receive the fines and amercements therefrom. On the accession of Henry IV, these Lancastrian forests of course came once again into the hands of the Crown. Henry III was also ‘lavish in grants of liberties scarcely to be distinguished from complete disafforestments’, such as the grant of right of chase in all his lands, within and without the forest, to the Bishop of Winchester. Other districts were illegally withdrawn from the Forest jurisdiction by magnates to make their private chases - such as the Earl Marshal’s chase near Chepstow, carved out of the Forest of Dean early in Henry III’s reign; the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield’s chase of Cannock; and</p> |
|  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p> | <p><u>the Bishop of Ely</u></p> <p>'s chase of Somersham. The king’s foresters and verderers complained at the Huntingdon Forest Eyre in 1286 that they had gone to Benwick to make an inquest of the venison. <u>The Bishop of Ely</u> claimed Benwick as part of his chase: they had been met by <u>the bishop</u>’s bailiff, leading three priests in full vestments, with Bible, cross and candle, ‘so that they could make no inquest there that day’. Despite all these inroads into the royal forest, the hated system was enforced after 1227 over a large part of England. Henry III’s interpretation of the Charter of the Forest was rejected by his subjects, who thought him guilty of a flagrant breach of the promises</p> |

made by the Charter. The chronicler Roger of Wendover wrote that at the Council of Oxford in 1227, 'the King caused to be cancelled and annulled all the charters of liberties of the forest, although they had already been in force in the whole realm for two years': the earls who rebelled in July were said to have compelled the king to restore the charters by the threat of armed force. It was the policy of Henry III, moreover, to dislodge ecclesiastical and lay magnates from the great offices of state, and to replace them by Household officials who would make the central administration a more pliant instrument of his will. Poitevin favourites were appointed to key positions; the Household clerk, Peter des Rivaux, was in 1232 appointed for life to be Chief Justice of the Forests of England, and also warden of the Forests of Clarendon, Gillingham and Dean. Even after the fall of the hated Poitevins in 1234, 'Henry III in no wise gave up the policy of making his household the centre of the administration of the State'. Foreign dependants of the Court continued to be appointed to important Forest wardenships - such as Amaury de St Amand, Steward of the Household 1233-40, who was also warden of the Forest of Dean during the greater part of that time, and Peter Chaceporc, the able Poitevin Keeper of the Wardrobe 1241-54, who was appointed to the same wardenship in May 1248. But it was an English Household clerk who in 1244 persuaded his royal master that his financial difficulties would be solved by making rigorous inquiries into encroachments on the Forest rights of the Crown, and imposing heavy amercements on those who made them. Robert Passelewe was a Household clerk who after 1228 had been attached to the Poitevin party, shared in their downfall in 1234, and was restored to favour in 1236; his appointment in 1246 as justice of the Forests south of Trent therefore brings the administrative history of the