



GREAT BEDWYN - WEXCOMBE

GAOL DELIVERY AND TRAILBASTON TRIALS 1275-1306 Public Record Office - Justices Itinerant 3/71 rot. 1

Trailbaston was a special type of itinerant judicial commission first created during the reign of Edward I of England and used many times thereafter during the reigns of Edward II and Edward III, primarily to punish felonies and trespass at the king's suit. The first trailbaston commissions date back to 1305, when Edward I directed several teams of justices to visit each English county and seek presentments for felonies (homicide, theft, arson, and rape) and certain trespasses (premeditated assault, extortion, and violent disseising).

Edward I added conspiracy to the list of presentments in late 1305. In 1307 Edward I issued a revamped trailbaston commission that directed the justices to try assizes and deliver all prisoners in the counties they visited, not just those charged in previous trailbaston sessions. The 1307 trailbaston commission also directed justices to audit local compliance with the Statute of Winchester and to investigate local efforts to arrest felons.

The declared intention of the trailbaston commissions was to combat increasing levels of violence and public disorder, but an added bonus for the crown was the revenues brought by forfeiture, which was the punishment for conspiracy.

Kinwardstone. **Nicholas Issak**, indicted before the sheriff by inquest and imprisoned at Wexcumbe (Wexecombe) which prison he broke and escaped therefrom, William atte Stock (atte Stokke, Attestok), taken at Bedewinde (Bedewynde) for burgling the house of Helewise la Daye, of Chippingbedewinde (Cupingbedewinde), and Emme daughter of William Edward of Forstesbur' (Forstebur'), taken at Chut for burgling a house, namely Adam Sculard's grange. 12 of Kenewereston hundred say not guilty So 3 quit.

Information courtesy of the Wiltshire Record Society