

Sheldon at Law

Ralph Sheldon of Beoley and Weston (1537-1613) at Law

20 appearances on his own behalf in 14 cases; 37 appearances in 26 cases because prosecuted or ‘helping’; 40 separate cases

Year	Persons	Reference	Dates	Prosecuted, involved in, not prosecuting	Reference	Dates
1567	Sheldon v Boulter	STAC 5/S72/32	17 Feb 1567			
1567	Sheldon v Boulter	STAC 5/S20/11 interrogatories for Sheldon at Honington involving 17 people ¹	21 Sept 1567			
1567				Boulter v Sheldon’s men	STAC 5/B11/21	Interrogs; depositions 23-9-9 Eliz and on part of RS’s men; depositions for both
?? 1567	Sheldon v Boulter	STAC 2/24/388	Answers to the above ²			
1569	Sheldon vs Peniston	C 3/168/6	27 April 1569			
				Polsted v Sheldon	C 3/141/37	n.d. poss 1572
1572				Polsted v Brace	C 78/45/3	June 1572
1575				Powle v Sheldon Bill of C of Ralph Sheldon nd; Answer of Robert Powle nd. verso note Easter term 17 Eliz = 1575	C 2/Eliz/S18/11	Easter term 1575
1575				John Neville, 4th Baron Latimer v Sheldon	C 2/Eliz/L5/37	6 Nov 1575-19 Jan ‘76
1576				Regina v Sheldon	E 133/2/314 Repeated LR 14/816	15 May 1576; 21 Eliz
1579				Wyncott v Ashton Whichford	C 3/220/29	25 May, 23 June 1579
1580				Clerk v Boulter	C 2/Eliz/C17/27	18 Oct 1580
1584	Buckhurst+Sheldon v Gray	C 2/JasI/S7/27; C 4/108/32 – tatty; C 78/58/3, mm. xxx	25 June 1584			

¹ Further details in *Inspeximus* of November 1600, BAH MS 3061/1/644, (former 168044); interrogatories on behalf of Sheldon at Honington involving 17 people in June, STAC 5/S20/11.

² Boulter, supported by at least six very vocal inhabitants, pleaded their right to common of pasture in the adjacent ground called Southamcombe for an agreed number of cattle; they also claimed that the coney had bred ‘so abundantly’ that they destroyed the grass so that whereas the villagers had formerly been able to graze 200 great cattle no such numbers were now possible [STAC 2/24/388]; Examination of Sheldon’s servants in STAC 7/10/31 with a rejoinder at STAC 2/34/56; Boulter’s replication and rejoinder respectively are at STAC 2/22/263 and STAC 2/20/131, rejoinder of Crofte (RS man) STAC 2/34/56; none is dated. Resolution in BAH MS 3061/1/47, (former 167447), 22 June 1596.

Sheldon at Law

		Dormer refs: C 146/9453 and Counterpart of C 146/9451 & others				
1584	Sheldon v Ingram	STAC 5/S65/22	RS_Bill of C; Answer 8-3-1584; rejoinder of AI; replic'n of RS			
1585	Sheldon v Ingram	STAC 5/S83/10	Writ 8-2-1585; interogs on behalf of RS; Answers 15-4-85			
1584	Sheldon v Ingram	STAC 5/S8/4	Answers of Anker Brent ex parte RS; 16-5-1584 Copy of some interogs as STAC 5S83/10; 16-5-1584			
1584				Tomlyns v Sheldon	C 2/Eliz/T10/3	18 May
1585	Sheldon v Ingram	STAC 7/15/22	n.d. Interogs on behalf of Ant Ingram, 9 q; answers from 13 men; Answers for Def'd't from 12 men			
1585				Russell v Sheldon	STAC 5/R12/34	JR interogs to Sheldon 27 April 1585
1585				Russell v Sheldon	STAC 5/S15/38	RS interogs to JR, nd
				Russell v Sheldon	STAC 5/R41/32	Answer to JR's bill of complaint, 21 July 1585
1587				Hill v Hyckes, Sheldon et al	STAC 5/H31/35	Hill's Bill of Complaint; Sheldon's Answer 13 Feb 87; Answers of 7 others Feb & May 87
				Hill v Hyckes	STAC 7/12/39	Bridges' Answer 15 Feb 87
1587				Hill v Hyckes	STAC 5/H64/22 :Hill v Sheldon	Draft answers of Robert Finch, curate of Tredington, 29 May 1587
				Hill v Hyckes	STAC 5/H19/13	Hyckes Answer 23 May 1587; Interogs for Hill;
1587	Hyckes(proxy for Sheldon) v Hill	REQ 2/ 223/66	August-November 1587			
1587				Greenfield/Grevild/Grenfyld/Grenvile vs Sheldon	C 2/Eliz/G3/46	20 Nov '87-April 88, whole sequence

Sheldon at Law

1588				Hill vs Hyckes (proxy for Sheldon)	Req 2/121/32 ³	January 1588
1588	Hyckes v Hill	REQ 1/15, f.22	April 1588			
1589-91				Jasper Dormer v Lyttleton, Sheldon & others	STAC 5/D35/27	11 June 1591
1594	Sheldon v Ryland, Bowker, Ladbrooke et al Seizure of hay at Marston Sicca	STAC 5/S22/18	Oct-Nov; Answer Ryland et al 6 Nov			
1594-97				Rotherham v Rotherham & Sheldon	C 78/91/7, mm 25-27	
1595				Hill v Bracebridge	C 3/241/13	6-17 Oct
1596				Ognell v Ashfield [Ashyld]	C 2/Eliz/O1/46	Bill of Complaint; Answer of Ralph & Edward Sheldon, 26 Nov 1596; Replication of Ognell n.d
1597				Andrews v Sheldon	C 2/Eliz/A8/55	30 May, 17 June
1597				Wyncott + inhabs of Whichford	C 2/Eliz/W20/59	28 April - 9 May
1597	Sheldon & Ashfield v Smyth, Corbett, Blynco	STAC 5/S58/35; 27-11-1597 Links C 2/Eliz/O1/46 Ognell v Ashfyld summarised in catalogue; Bill of Complaint; Answer of Ralph Sheldon and his son Edward 26 Nov 1596; Replication of Ognell n.d	Bill of C; RS, ES, John Ashfield of Heythrop, Oxon			
1598	Brereton + Sheldon v Grevill + Catesby (<i>Non-payment of debt for sheep bought by Catesby from RS</i>)	C 2/Eliz/B26/56	16-26 June; Bill of C 16 June 1598; Answer of Robert Catesby 18 June 1598; of Sir Edw Grevill 26 June 1598; of Dame Anne Catesby 28 June 1598			
1599				Bigerstaff v Sheldon Bill of C; answer of RS	C 2/Eliz/B9/34	10 & 17 Oct 1599

³ Transcripts available at https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa+/http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=REQ_2/121/32

Sheldon at Law

1599				Symons v Sheldon, tenurial changes	E 134/40Eliz/Hil17 ⁴	
1600				Ryley v Sheldon	STAC 5/R27/36	interrogatories for Ryley. Re claims to inheritance
1600				Wyncott v Berry Whichford	C 3/296/24	15-17 April 1600
				Ryley v Sheldon	STAC 5/R27/36	Interrogatories for Ryley
				Ryley v Sheldon	STAC 5/R36/36	Depositions on behalf of Ryley
1601				Ryley v Sheldon	STAC 5/R12/25	Sheldon's Answers, May 1601 ⁵
1600-01				Crown v Sheldon ⁶		
				Sturch/Stock/Clerk	REQ 2/33/39	3 July 1601
1601				Shuttleworth v Sheldon	C 78/110/11	9 May 1601
1602 ?				Humphreys & John Dormer v Ralph & Edw Sheldon et al; Bill of C	STAC 8/162/6	
1602				Ryley v Sheldon	STAC 5/36/36	Statement of John Boulton 13 Feb 1602
1604				Humphreys & Dormer reply to Bill of C of Edw Sheldon	C 2/Jas1/S12/32	26 June 2 July 1604
1605	Sheldon v Roper	C 3/291/89	10 June			
1605	Sheldon v Matt King & Edw. Williams	C 2/JasI/S22/55	5-13 June			
1605	Sheldon v Horde	C 2/JasI/S22/51 Bill of C; answers of Walter Gifford, Richard Brooke, Humfrey Gifford, Thomas Astley, four of the defendants; 20 November 1605;	Nov 1605-Feb 1606 Entire case + dates			

⁴ Other inquiries for the same case at TNA E 133/8/1317, E 134/39Eliz/Easter26; for others running in parallel see below.

⁵ Associated with STAC 5/R27/36 and STAC 5/36/36.

⁶ In progress in TNA E 134/43&44Eliz/Mich 6; E 134/43&44Eliz/Mich 24, both 1601; conclusion in E 123/28 Hilary 44 Eliz 1602, p. 85. Lengthy investigation of Sheldon's behaviour on the Crown estate he leased appear in E 134/40Eliz/Hil17; E134/39&40Eliz/Mich31, E 134/39Eliz/Easter2. Progress of the cases through the court can be traced in TNA E 123-128, see below

Sheldon at Law

		further answers of TH; replication of RS; Rejoinder of TH; Writ to RS witnesses 12 February 1606				
1606				Attorney-General v Sheldon & Horde et al ⁷	E 124/3, p.120; E 126/1 ff 41, 46, E 124/2; E 124/5 and more	Feb – June
1607				Cope of Hanwell v Bridges, Sheldon	C 2/JasI/C9/1	11-20 Nov
1607				Brailes men, poaching	STAC 8/146/5	9 Feb 1607
1608				Hobart v Hill (Bracebridge)	STAC 8/10/6	13 June-6 July 1608

Brailes cases passing through the Exchequer Court 1597/98 – 1602/03

The tenants of Brailes against Ralph Sheldon; common land rights

E 123/24, p.10 4 Feb 1597/98; p. 23 16 February 1597/98; p.103 witness Edward Croft examined by the Barons of the Exchequer, p.185 28 October 1598, date for hearing; p.201 25 Nov 1598, date re-set for Hilary term next.

Ryley & Davies vs Ralph Sheldon and Walker re a house (“intrusion”)

E 123/24, p. 201, 24 Nov 1598, date for hearing 1st Thursday Hilary; p.237 25 April 1599; E 123/25, p.13;E 123/27, p.127. 29 April 1601, Case Walker (+ Sheldon et al vs Ryley moved from KB to Exchequer re warren et al)

The Warren

E 123/25, p. 164v, 6 Feb 1599, Sheldon to deliver records; p.219, 13 Nov 1599; ordered a second time + alleged assault on tenants en route to London; E 123/27, p.127, 29 April 1601, (see also above Ryley & Davies); p.140 13 May 1601, case to be heard today; p. 162v, Sheldon to put

⁷ Available at <http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=Sheldon>

Sheldon at Law

in his case otherwise dismissal; p. 192, 6 Nov 1601, case to be heard 2nd sitting next Hilary term; p. 283, 22 June 1602, Sheldon & Edward Walker to stay their KB case vs Ryley (above) till Excheq hearing; E 123/28, p. 85, 28 Jan 1602/03, proceed.

Associated proceedings are in TNA E 133/9/1368, 39/40 Eliz. Mich. & 40 Eliz. Hil.

The tenants' actions marked the start of a long case which dragged on for many years (examination of Sheldon's servants in STAC 7/10/31 with a rejoinder at STAC 2/34/56; Boulter's replication and rejoinder respectively are at STAC 2/22/263 and STAC 2/20/131, none is dated. Philip Tennant, 'A Brailes Hill Excursion', *Brailes History*, vol. 17, Spring 2012, pp. 3-8, gives a lively account.); Ralph received compensation and the re-statement of his rights (TNA STAC 5/S72/32; BAH MS 3061/1/644, (former 168044); BAH MS 3061/1/47, (former 167447)).