

yeomanry and spectators had retired to their beds. The authorities nevertheless requested the assistance of the military, and a detachment of the 14<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons was despatched to Banbury from Coventry.

On the same evening, Monday 29 November, there were disturbances directed against threshing machines at King's Sutton, and the following evening, Tuesday 30 November, another incident occurred on the edge of Banbury at Bodicote. This was a relatively small-scale event in which about 30 rioters put a mowing machine, from the farm of Zachariah Kilby, alongside a threshing machine belonging to John Wilson, and used straw from Barnes Austin's farmyard to set them alight. John Wilson, himself a special constable, attempted to make arrests, sent to Banbury for the Dragoons, but with help from some of Austin's workers put out the fire. As some of the crowd attempted to keep the fire going, they were dispersed by the dragoons. The same evening a hay-making machine was destroyed at King's Sutton.

Banburyshire remained in a disturbed state on the following day when rioters, about sixty in number and largely local men, visited the farms of John Painter, Joseph Bloxham, John Adkins and Thomas Wilkes at Tadmarton and Swalcliffe. One of the objects of their anger was Thomas Wilkes's draining plough, another implement whose use could materially reduce demand for manual labour. Threshing machines belonging to John Adkins and Thomas Bloxham were smashed as was John Painter's hay-making machine. William Thompson was sworn in as a special constable for the county and with six dragoons in the charge of a sergeant descended on Tadmarton in the early hours of the following morning, woke the whole village and arrested men wanted as ringleaders. One, Bill Cox, refused to leave his house, even when Thompson drew a pistol, and only did so when the sergeant threatened him with a drawn sabre. Another, Philip Green, a sweep, had gone to Kineton with a load of soot, which, according to the custom of 'sowing soot' he distributed across the fields of the farmer who had bought it. Thompson arrested him and took him with his cart and equipment back to Banbury.

There was a riot at Upper Boddington on 3 December, but those arrested, like those taken at King's Sutton on 30 November, were dealt with by the Northamptonshire authorities. Rioting continued throughout the week at no great distance, at Stony Stratford on 3 December, at Newport Pagnell on the 4<sup>th</sup>, at Fenny Stratford on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and at Flitwick on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but around Banbury itself agitation subsided, and the