

**A History of
Lords of the Manor
Of Eastbourne Medsey
(formerly Medes, Meades or Meads)
Sussex**



Lords of the Manor of Eastbourne Medsey, formerly Meades, Sussex



1st Gilbert II, 4th Baron de l'Aigle (1120)

2nd Richer, 5th Baron de l'Aigle (1176)

3rd Richard, 6th Baron de l'Aigle (1186)

4th Gilbert 6th Baron de l'Aigle
and Lord of Pevensey (1231)

Who in 1229 founded and endowed

**5th The Augustinian Priory of the Holy
Trinity** Commonly called Michelham Priory,
Upper Dicker, Sussex

Which Monastery did hold the Manor until the
Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537.



6th Thomas Cromwell
(briefly, 1st Earl of Essex) (1540)

7th Anne of Cleves
(sometime Queen of England) (1537)

8th Thomas Sackville,
1st Baron Buckhurst, created 1st Earl of Dorset
(1608)

9th Robert Sackville,
2nd Earl of Dorset (1609)

10th Richard Sackville,
3rd Earl of Dorset (1624)



11th Edward Sackville,
4th Earl of Dorset (1652)

12th Richard Sackville,
5th Earl of Dorset (1677)

13th Charles Sackville,
6th Earl of Dorset (1706)

14th Lionel Cranfield Sackville,
7th Earl of Dorset, created 1st Duke of Dorset.
(1765)

15th Charles Sackville,
2nd Duke of Dorset (1769)

16th John Frederick Sackville,
3rd Duke of Dorset (1799)

17th George John Frederick Sackville,
4th Duke of Dorset (1815)

18th Elizabeth Sackville-West,
Countess De La Warr (1870)

19th Charles Richard Sackville-West,
6th Earl De La Warr (1873)

20th Reginald Windsor Sackville-West,
7th Earl De La Warr (1896)

**21st Gilbert George Reginald Sackville-
West**,
8th Earl De La Warr (1915)

**22nd Herbrand Edward Dundonald
Brassey Sackville**,
9th Earl De La Warr (1976)

23rd William Herbrand Sackville,
10th Earl De La Warr

Who did, on 18th August 1986, convey the Manor to

24th Jack Gardener, Esq (2000)

Whose Lordship was conveyed, via his executors,
to the **25th**, and Current Lord of the Manor, in
direct succession:

The Right Reverend
Damien Steven Robert Mead



Lords of the Manor of Eastbourne Medsey (formerly Medes or Meades), Sussex

Introduction

The Lordship of Eastbourne Medsey, also formerly known as *Meades, Meads, or Medes*, is an ancient manor forming a division of the parish of Eastbourne, (now in East Sussex) predating the Norman Conquest of 1066. Eastbourne Medsey lies in the area, of the town of Eastbourne, now known as the *Village of Meads*, which is south of the town centre between it and the famous cliffs of Beachy Head.

Medes / Meades/Meads has been referred to as the place "*Where the Downs meet the Sea*" and in this we might find a clue to the name 'Medsey'. However, one finds in 1296 that the surname *De Medese* appears connected to the area. locally. Whether the family name influenced the name of the Manor or the Manor the name is uncertain. Although given that Surnames became more common after the Norman conquest, particularly among the middle and upper classes, the Manor is more likely to have resulted in the adoption of the surname.

Until the middle of the 19th century this was open country with a few farms. Records show that the downlands known as Bullock Down and South Down (which is not to be confused by the geographical area which became the South Downs National Park in the early 1920's). Later this 'Meads Tenantry Down' was used by the tenants of Medsey to pasture their livestock. Until the town of Eastbourne was developed in the 19th century, this area was distinctly rural.

In a description for visitors written in 1858, Homely Herbert writes

"...the small village at the foot of the lofty hill through which we are passing in The Meads.; it consists, as you see, of a few scattered houses, inhabited chiefly by farmers and fishermen."

History

Stone Age to Iron Age

There is evidence of a substantial Stone Age settlement in the area which survived the transitions through the Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Roman History

Local Romans ruled from their sea view villa and developed the existing farm economy. Roman baths and pavements were exposed in 1712 and 1841 near the site of the Queens Hotel, Marine Parade, Eastbourne, slightly to the north of what became Meades.

Anglo Saxon Period

Eastbourne circa 500AD. There is reference in the Anglo-Saxon charter to Burne or Bourne. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery overlies the Iron Age settlement on St Anne's Hill where weapons, jewellery, glass and pottery were recovered.

The Early Manorial System

From A History of Lordships of the Manor (The Manorial Society of Great Britain Website)

LORDSHIPS of the Manor are among the oldest titles in England and pre-date the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Historians are not agreed on how the word Manor originated. It has been suggested that it was an import, *manoir*, or perhaps even older, from the Latin, *manerium*. Nor are historians sure whether it was a purely Saxon concept, its origins perhaps lying in the need for self-defence down the east coast against succeeding incursions by Germanic tribes and later Vikings. There was a correspondingly similar development across Western Europe.

They are agreed, however, that the Manor was the pivot of the Feudal System, defined in the 11th century *“by certain ecclesiastics who propounded the theory that human society was divided into three orders, the oratores, the bellatores, and the laboratores: those who protected (the Kingdom) with their prayers and their swords, and those who tilled the earth to support the other two classes”* (Dr A P M Wright, Senior Assistant Editor, VCH writing in the Bulletin of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, 1981).

By the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-66), the Lords of the Manor, be they the local leaders, or some great suzerain, such as

Earl Godwinson of Wessex, were the most important person in village affairs, whether it be collecting taxes for the King or dispensing 'high justice', the power to inflict death in his courts.

The Domesday Book



Historians are also agreed that the Normans institutionalised the Manorial System in The Domesday Book, compiled for William the Conqueror in 1086 and listing 13,418 Manors and their owners.

It was an inventory of the wealth of the new kingdom and a 'list' of the principal landowners. It is still a government document, housed at the National Archives, Kew (formerly the Public Record Office), where it is known as Public Record No 1. The conquerors also introduced the word feudum, from feuum (the Latin form of the Old English feoh, cattle, money, possessions in general); either a landlord's holding, or lands held under the terms of a specific grant.

The Manorial History of Eastbourne, Sussex

The **Manor of Eastbourne Medsey**, was not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book, however, Eastbourne or East Bourne is mentioned and was divided into three manors at that time, each unhelpfully referred to by the same name.

The first two Manors of Eastbourne in 1086 had as The Tenant-in-Chief, (Robert) Count of Eu. They also had the same Lord, Reinbert (The Sheriff). The first was valued at 1 pound in 1086 and consisted of 4 households and ploughland (measured by 3 men's plough teams). The second was valued at 2 pounds 5 shillings in 1086 and consisted of 5 households, 3 Lord's plough teams and one fishery.

The **Third Manor of Eastbourne** belonged to **Count Robert of Mortain**, half-brother to William the Conqueror. It appears to have been the most sizeable having an annual value of 43 pounds 7 shillings in

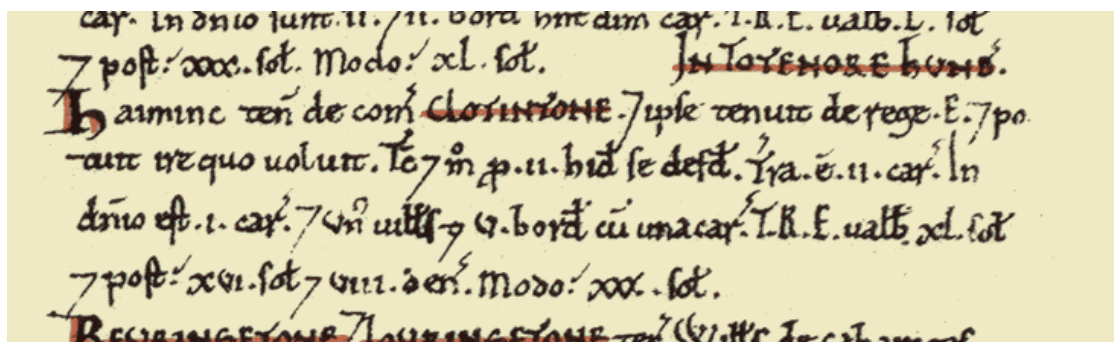
1086. 79 households, 5.5 Lord's plough teams, 23.5 men's plough teams, meadows running to 25 acres, 1 mill and 16 salt houses.

It is possible that this Manor was subdivided into 5 Sub Manors, because the Lords of this Manor in 1086 were listed as Alfred (the butler); the Castle Wardens; William (of Keynes); Roger the cleric and Count Robert himself.

The Origins of Eastbourne Medsey

There is another contender for the origin of what was to become known as Eastbourne Medsey. **The Manor of Chollington**, is thought to have occupied some of the area now known as Meads in Eastbourne. This Manor was also held by **Count Robert of Mortain** as Tenant-in-chief in 1086 and was adjacent to his Eastbourne lands.

The Lord of the Manor in 1086 was **Hemming of Branston**, a local Saxon Lord who had also held the Lordship when the Saxon King Edward was Overlord prior to the Conquest. Although Hemming of Branston is thought to have retained Chollington, he lost his 13 other Manors to the newly arrived Normans.



In The Domesday Book, Chollington was valued at 1 pound 10 shillings in 1086; 16 shillings and 7 pence when acquired by the 1086 owner; although 2 pounds in 1066. (The entry is reproduced above). It consisted of 1 villager (Householder), 5 smallholders, 1 Lord's plough team and 1 men's plough team.

It is with the arrival of the Normans that our history, and more clarity, is available.

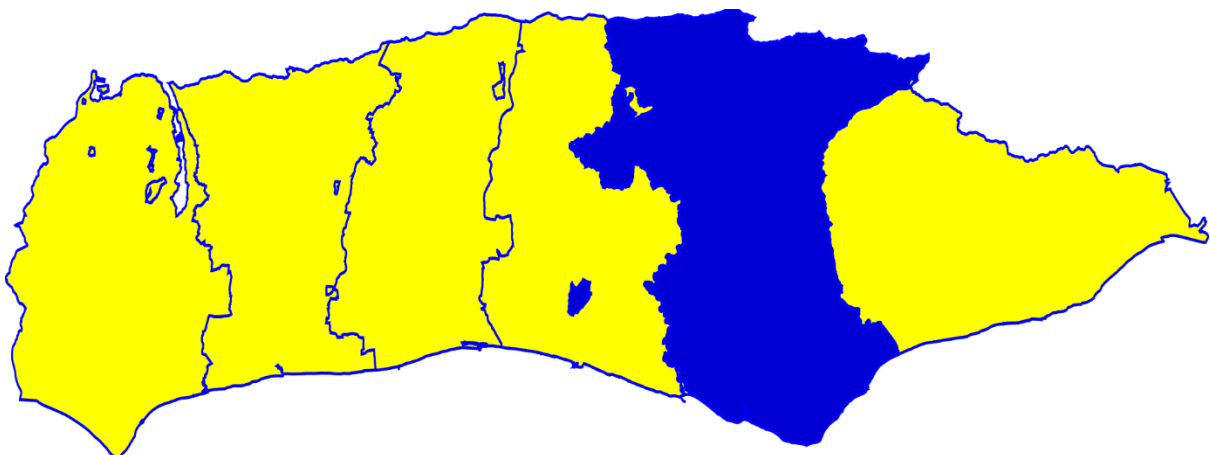
The Norman Barons de L'Aigle



Our story begins with **Engenulphe de l'Aigle (Circa 1010 – 1066)**, who had the unfortunate distinction of being the highest-ranking Norman noble to lose his life during the Battle of Hasting. He died chasing after fleeing Saxons.

Engenulphe's son, **Richard (Richer) de L'Aigle, Seigneur de l'Aigle (1050 – 1085)** lived and died in Normandy. His absences from the newly conquered Kingdom of England, is perhaps the reason that he was only awarded a couple of English Manors by the victorious William the Conqueror, despite his father's sacrifice.

Richer's son, **Gilbert de L'Aigle, II** (circa 1073 – circa 1120) ¹ (Hereafter superscript reference numbers in red denote succession of Lords of Eastbourne Medsey) Conde de Perche, Sieur, de Pevensey, was awarded considerable lands in England including the **Rape of Pevensey**, (**Rape** being the term for a County subdivision – marked blue in the illustration below) from King Henry I of England, as a reward for his loyalty to the King in his struggles with his brother, Robert of Normandy. Gilbert died in the infamous sinking of the White Ship off the coast of Barfleur on 25th November 1120 while travelling to England. This was one of the greatest disasters England has ever suffered. In one catastrophic night, the king's only heir William Ætheling (or Adelin) aged 17, and the flower of Anglo-Norman nobility were drowned, and the future of the crown was thrown violently off course.



The Manor of East Bourne Medes / Meades / Meads / Medsey, which is on the coast, in the middle of the Rape of Pevensey's lands, just north of the promontory now known as Beachy Head, was one of the Manors he received.

Gilbert's son, **Richer de l'Aigle, 5th Baron de L'Aigle** (circa 1090 – 1176)² inherited his father's Norman and English possessions, although, initially, King Henry I had other plans for his Pevensey lands. Richer was to lose and regain his Norman lands several times due to war with the French King. It was presumably during a visit to administer his English lands that he stayed with Gilbert Becket, a prosperous London merchant, and became friends with the latter's son, Thomas Becket, the future Archbishop and Saint, who perhaps even served as Richer's notary.

During his lifetime, at various times, he fell in and out of favour with the King, notably when King Stephen took the throne, but was seriously threatened by his cousin and rival, the Empress Matilda, whose son Henry II succeeded Stephen on his death. He lost and regained his Sussex lands a number of times from the King.

Richard de l'Aigle (circa 1100 – circa 1186)³

Richer, (Richard) lord of L'Aigle, the son of Richer, would succeed his father, but he and his wife Odelina left little documentary record. He appears to have spent his time primarily in and around his Norman lands. He disappears from English scutage records (a tax levelled on knights for service to the King) in the mid-1180s, and is thought to have died around 1186

Richer's son, **Gilbert de L'Aigle** (1170 – 1231)⁴, Lord of Pevensey, inherited his father's lands. During his lifetime he had to make a decision as to whether he retained his Norman lands or his English possessions. He opted for England and abandoned his family's Norman lands, including L'Aigle. Gilbert was to die in 1231 having outlived all of his children and his only grandchild, at which time the L'Aigle properties in England reverted to the crown.

Michelham Priory, Upper Dicker, East Sussex⁵



Before his death, Gilbert supplied the land and endowments for the **Augustinian Priory of the Holy Trinity**, which was founded at Michelham, Sussex in 1229. These endowments of the Priory included **The Manor of Medsey, Sussex**. (Note: The Arms of Michelham Priory are lost to history, there is only a fragment of the Priory's Seal in existence. This Shield displays a generic image depicting the Doctrine of the Most Holy Trinity.)

NB: The Priory is the holder of the Lordship of the Manor, rather than the individual Priors.

The following priors are recorded at **Michelham Priory**

- 1229 Roger
- 1239 Peter
- 1248 Roger (II)
- 1273 William
- 1278 Nicholas
- 1287 Roger (III)
- 1290 Luke de la Gare
- 1302 John de Echingham
- c.1322 William de Shelvestrode
- c.1376 John Leem
- c.1434 William London
- 1438 Laurence Wynchelse
- c.1450 Edward Marley
- 1482 John West
- c.1518 Thomas Holbeme
- 1533 John (the last prior)

According to the book published in 1912 'Old Eastbourne - its Church, Its Clergy, Its People' by The Rev. Walter Budgen, MA. (Appendix A pp329-334) one finds in 1296 that the surname *De Medese* appears connected to the area. locally. One may conjecture if the family name influenced the name of the Manor or the Manor the name, but given that Surnames became more common after the Norman conquest, particularly among the middle and upper classes, the Manor is more likely to have resulted in the adoption of the surname. Regardless, although the De Medese's

may have been tenants of the Manor, Michelham Priory held the Lordship.

Dissolution under Henry VIII

In 1537, during the reign of Henry VIII, **Michelham Priory** was dissolved. The Priory's lands and property were confiscated to bolster the King's coffers.



When the house was dissolved in 1537 its lands and estates were granted to **Thomas Cromwell**⁶.

Upon Cromwell's fall from grace and execution in 1540 many of his possessions, including it is believed former Manors originally belonging to **Michelham Priory** reverted to the Crown (**Henry VIII**).

They were included in the Settlement made to **Anne of Cleves**⁷ upon the annulment of her marriage to Henry VIII.

Upon Anne of Cleves death in 1557 her possessions reverted to the Crown, briefly to **Mary I** and then, in 1558, **Elizabeth I**, which also included the Manor of Brighton Michelham.

This Brighton Michelham manor was granted to **Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst**,⁸ by Queen Elizabeth, so it seems that **Eastbourne Medsey** was granted to him at the same time. Still later Elizabeth granted him further formal property of Michelham Priory including the remaining buildings.



The Sackville Family



Born in 1536, Thomas Sackville was the son of Sir Richard Sackville, a first cousin of Anne Boleyn and a privy councillor to Edward VI. Thomas excelled in public finance but was also a poet of some repute. His play, *Gordoduc*, was first performed in 1560 and was a source of inspiration for Shakespeare's *King Lear*. His literary career went hand in hand with his political. He sat as an MP for Westmorland in the 1550s and was employed as a diplomat in

the 1560s. In 1566 he was appointed to negotiate a marriage between the Queen and Archduke Charles of Austria, but this came to nought. He remained a favourite of Elizabeth (often a perilous position) and she was said to enjoy his company, Thomas Sackville Earl of Dorset, was described by a contemporary as "*judicious but yet wittie and delightful*".

In 1567 he was knighted and then created Baron Buckhurst. He was rich, handsome, intelligent, and talented, all attributes which endeared him to the Queen. At this point he began to buy land in his native Sussex.

Like many courtiers his relationship with Elizabeth waxed and waned but he proved himself a steady hand in organising the defence of the vulnerable Sussex coast against the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Lord Buckhurst took his title from his estate at Buckhurst Park in Withyham, southeast of East Grinstead. By the end of the 16th century this had become too small for Sackville and when he was created **1st Earl of Dorset** in 1604 he had moved to Knole, near Sevenoaks, Kent.

The Earls of Dorset (1604 – 1720)

Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset (1527–1608)

Robert Sackville, 2nd Earl of Dorset (1561–1609)⁹

Richard Sackville, 3rd Earl of Dorset (1589–1624)¹⁰

Edward Sackville, 4th Earl of Dorset (1590–1652)¹¹

Richard Sackville, 5th Earl of Dorset (1622–1677)¹²

Charles Sackville, 6th Earl of Dorset (1638–1706)¹³

Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 7th Earl of Dorset (1688–1765)¹⁴

(created **Duke of Dorset** in 1720)

The Dukes of Dorset (1720 - 1815)



Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st Duke of Dorset (1688–1765)

Charles Sackville, 2nd Duke of Dorset (1711–1769) ¹⁵

John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset (1745–1799) ¹⁶

George John Frederick Sackville, 4th Duke of Dorset (1793–1815) ¹⁷

On the death of the fourth Duke in 1815, Much of his estate, including the **Manor of Eastbourne Medsey** was inherited by the late Duke's sister, **Lady Elizabeth Sackville** ¹⁸. (1795 – 1870) She was the wife of **George West, 5th Earl De La Warr**, who assumed the additional surname of Sackville.

The Earls De La Warr (1815 – 1986)



Charles Richard Sackville West, 6th Earl De La Warr (1815–1873) ¹⁹

Reginald Windsor Sackville, 7th Earl De La Warr (1817–1896) ²⁰

Gilbert George Reginald Sackville, 8th Earl De La Warr (1869–1915) ²¹



**Herbrand Edward Dundonald
Brassey Sackville, 9th Earl De La
Warr (1900–1976)**²²

There is a conveyance of the Manor dated the 31st December 1963 to the son of the 9th Earl de la Warr, **William Herbrand Sackville**, who was to become **10th Earl De La Warr (1921–1988)**²³

In a survey of the manors held by the 3rd Earl of Dorset in 1613, **Eastbourne Medsey** is included. It continues to be mentioned and

accounted for in the Sackville Estate papers into the 20th century. In 1699 for instance, it is recorded in the papers of Mr Medley, the Sackville's steward.

In 1906 it was included in a mortgage of the estate to raise £9,000 for the 8th Earl de la Warr, whose family had inherited the Sackville estate. His father had used **Medsey** in a similar arrangement in 1877.

Throughout the centuries the manor is included in court rolls, rentals, stewards accounts and surveys. A rental of the Duke of Dorset in 1720 noted several rents which emanated from the manor. These included an annual £2 8s 4d from the Bailiff for rents of Assize. Courts, continued to be held into the 19th century, but sporadically. At a court held for the manor in September 1740 "*Reiner Winter of Pevensey, a cordwainer, was admitted as the tenant of land at Yarborough furlong in **Medsey in Eastbourne** in 2 parcels, formerly Crundens.*"

Up to the Present day

The Manor of Eastbourne Medsey continued in the Sackville Family until the late 1980's. William Herbrand Sackville, 10th Earl De la Warr, who had inherited the Earldom on the death of his father on 28th January 1976, appears to have embarked on several attempts to liquidise some of the family assets, presumably to reinvest in other areas of the De La Warr Estate. For example, in the autumn of 1987, the earl offered to sell Ashdown Forest, the direct inspiration for the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, to the East Sussex County Council for £1.2 million for the 6,500 acres (2,600 ha). As young children, the future earl and Christopher Robin Milne had played together there. Milne himself joined conservationists to

prevent the forest from being sold piecemeal to private owners, and to oppose British Petroleum's plan to prospect and extract oil there. The sale to the council was concluded after the earl's death, making the forest public land.

On 9 February 1988, at age 66, Lord De La Warr tragically died after falling under a train at the St James's Park station of the London Underground. An inquest ruled the death to be a suicide, with a jury finding that the earl had been "anxious and upset" over the Great Storm of October 1987, which had caused considerable damage to his estate and which required significant financial investment to put right.

Shortly before the Great Storm, **William Herbrand Sackville, 10th Earl De La Warr²³** conveyed The Manor by Private Treaty on 18th August 1986, to **Jack Gardener, Esq.** The **24th** Lord of The Manor of Eastbourne Medsey (Formerly Medes, Meades or Meads). In 2000 Mr Gardener died, and his estate passed, via his executors, to the current Lord:



**The Current, and
25th Lord of the
Manor of
Eastbourne
Medsey, (formerly
Medes, Meades or
Meads), Sussex**



The Right Reverend Dr

Damien Steven Robert Mead

KStG, GCTH, DipTh, Hon.DD, FVCM(Th). HonFDipRS, MSGB, MloD.

+ 2nd Bishop Ordinary of the Anglican Catholic Church, Diocese of the United Kingdom, + Member of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, + Freeman of the City of London, + Member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, + Honorary Kentucky Colonel & Aide de Camp to the Governor of Kentucky, USA., + Knight of The Order of St George, + Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Tiger and Hawk (Kingdom of New Sawewso-Seinuah, Ghana). +Cross of Merit from the Internationale Pestalozzi Gesellschaft in Switzerland + Honorary Doctor of Divinity, + Honorary Fellowship in Theology of the Victoria College of Music, London + Honorary Fellowship in Religious Studies from The National College of Music and Arts, London + Chairman of The Crown Society. + Member of the Institute of Directors. +

The Heir Presumptive to the title of The Lord of the Manor of Eastbourne Medsey, is the present Lord's niece, Miss Rosie Elizabeth Laura Young.

1926 – End of an Era - *An Incorporeal Hereditament*

The **Eastbourne Downland Estate** is an area of downland at the easternmost end of the South Downs National Park in East Sussex, England. It was bought by the public, following threats to the beauty spots of Beachy Head and the surrounding farmland, which led to a public campaign and Act of Parliament in 1926.¹ It is currently owned and managed, on behalf of the public, by Eastbourne Borough Council.

Notwithstanding the **1922 Law of Property Act** (See *Appendix A*) which effectively severed the tie between Land and title for Manorial Lordships, the compulsory purchase of the historic Manorial Lands effectively reinforced the title of Lord of the Manor of Eastbourne Medsey becoming an **Incorporeal Hereditament**. (See *Appendix B*)

The Eastbourne Corporation Act of 1926 was passed in both Houses of Parliament. The new law empowered the local authority in the area of the Eastbourne Downland Estate, to increase local taxation to fund a compulsory purchase of the land comprising the Estate.^[1]

The purchase was completed in 1929, with tax money being transferred to two major local aristocratic landowning families for the land, sold at market rates. The amount paid was £91,291, 1s, 7d.

Select Committee Hearing

Here are notable extracts from the detailed minutes of evidence given before a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1926:

Mr J Abady, Learned Counsel for Eastbourne Corporation, giving evidence: *"The Corporation's desire, and I do not know that anybody questions it, is to preserve that beauty spot, to preserve it in its existing condition without being fenced in or ploughed up or built upon or dealt with in any way which would affect the general amenities. I do not think there is any question about that. The land in question consists of 4,100 acres. We want to ensure that the character of the land is preserved as it is at present."*

Examination of the Mayor, Alderman Charles Knight, before the same Select Committee: *"It is the deliberate intention of the Corporation, in promoting this clause, to secure the public the free and open use of the Downs in perpetuity?"* The Mayor replied: *"Absolutely."*

APPENDIX A

Ancient Manors in the Modern World

From the Manorial Society Website: "In 1922, the Government of the day enacted the most thoroughgoing legislation touching property in England and Wales. So far as the Lord of the Manor was concerned, the Law of Property Act abolished copyhold tenure, taking away his right to be Lord of the soil save that which he owned directly. He was compensated and the copyholds were converted on 1 January 1926 into freehold, or 999-year leasehold.

But the Act went on to confirm many of the historic rights, general and special, long enjoyed by the Lord of the Manor: the right to market and fair, mineral excavation (subject to the enfranchisement of the copyhold, the subsoil still belongs to the Lord of the Manor), fishing rights, sporting rights, manorial waste (principally the verges of the road and those areas in rural Manors which do not appear to belong to anyone), common land rights (subject to the Common Land Registration Act 1965), the village green.

Some Lords today can receive substantial sums (known as wayleaves) for the footings of windmills on wind farms, since these 300 or 400ft machines require footings considerably deeper than the topsoil (3ft) owned by the landowner. Other Lords operate markets or grant the right to a market operating company for a fee. Still other Lords, where they do not own the land – although needing the cooperation of the freeholder, can employ mineral excavation companies to take out gravel, sand, limestone, granite if the subsoil contains a commercially exploitable deposit.

The operable historic rights associated with their Manor must be legally established by each Lord or an intending purchaser. To recapitulate, those relating to Manors in the past included:

The right to hold market and fairs

The right to common land and manorial waste

The right to all the usual manorial incidents such as merchets, heriots, wardships, tolls, and escheats, pickage, stallage, turbary, and pannage

The rights to mines and quarries within the Manor

Fishing rights

Rights of free warren, free chase, and free forest

Timber rights

Rights over rivers and foreshore."

APPENDIX B

Legal Position

UNDER the laws of real property in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Republic, Lordships of the manor are known as 'estates in land' and in Courts, where they may crop up in cases to do with real property, they are often simply called 'land'.

They are '*incorporeal hereditaments*' (literally, property without body) and are defined from the English and Welsh point of view in Halsbury's Laws of England, vol viii, title Copyholds, which is available in most solicitors' offices or central reference library.

It is perhaps obvious to state, but for the avoidance of doubt, *real* property is property capable of physical possession, such as a house, a field, a forest, a painting, furniture, and so forth.

Incorporeal property is incapable of physical possession. As already noted, Lordships of the Manor are incorporeal property ('incorporeal hereditaments' - literally property without body). Other forms of incorporeal property, with which readers might be more familiar, are copyright, patents, and intellectual property rights."

Changes in 2013

Certain rights over land, such as sporting rights and rights to mines or minerals forming part of the lordship title - known as manorial rights – had to be registered before 13 October 2013 or they would be lost on a subsequent sale of the land to which they relate. Manorial rights are a type of "overriding interest", that is, an interest in land which, until now, has not usually required registration against the title at the Land Registry but has been protected by law, so as to be binding on purchasers of the land, even if they do not know of their existence. However, on and after 13 October 2013, certain types of overriding interest, including manorial rights, must to have actually been registered at the Land Registry, otherwise they were lost when the relevant land was next sold.

Lords of the Manor and Manorial Rights

Manorial rights are those which belonged to, and were usually exercised by, the Lord of the Manor. Importantly, manorial rights might have been kept even when the Lord disposed of manorial land. The main manorial rights which a Lord of the Manor can exercise are:

- Sporting rights;
- Rights to mines or minerals;
- Rights to hold fairs or markets; and
- Rights of common (grazing).

However, manorial rights will generally only exist in respect of land that was formerly "copyhold" of the manor, or land that was enclosed following an Enclosure Award. Copyhold was an old form of land tenure that was abolished only in 1922.

APPENDIX C

Documents associated with The Manor of Eastbourne Medsey in the public domain

1571-1668: survey, annotated to 1668 British Library

1613: estreats, with other manors (1 vol) Kent History and Library Centre

1618: rental, with 17th cent copy

1654-1656: rental

1656: list of quit rents

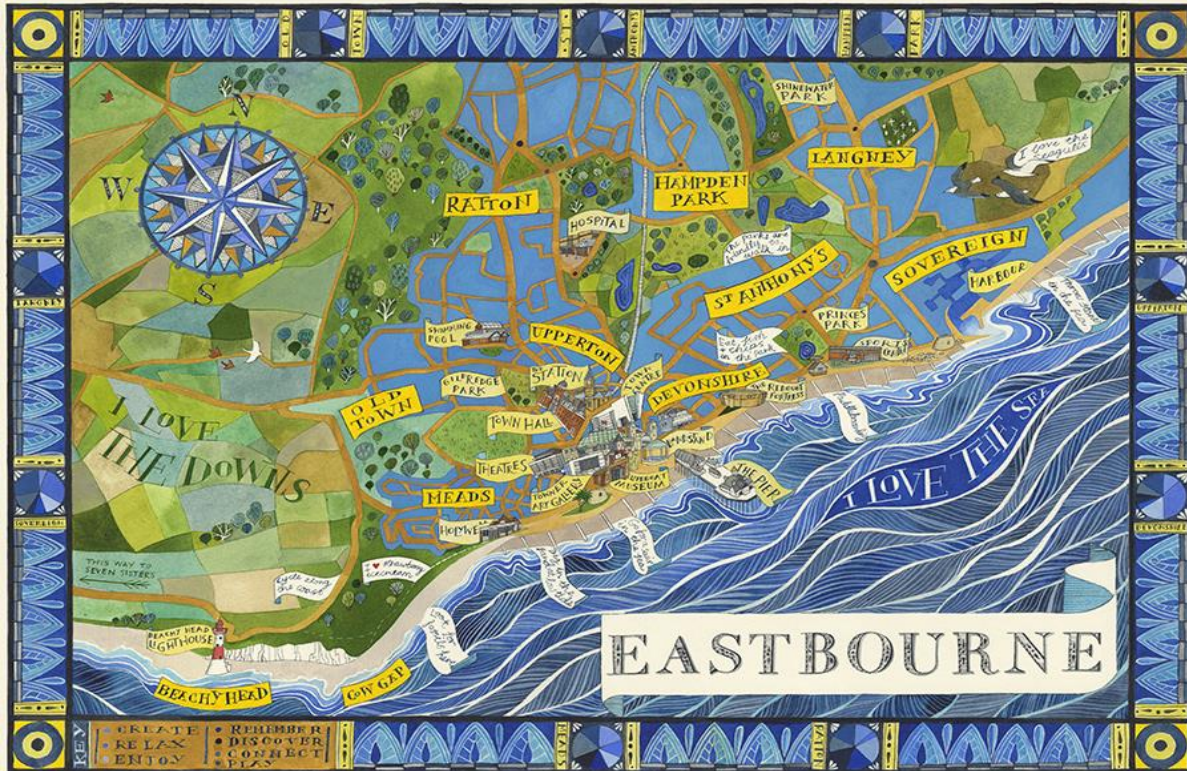
1618-1619: rental of demesne leases, with other manors East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office (ESBHRO)

1682: rental

1751: minutes

1829: rental, with other manors

The documents above are referenced as "*Eastbourne Medsey Sackville Manor*" in the records to avoid confusion with the Duke of Devonshire's Manor of the similar name which are referenced "*Eastbourne Medsey Burton Manor (Cavendish)*" or "*Eastbourne Medsey otherwise Lamport, Clapham otherwise Chambers, Meads otherwise Brode and Sessingham otherwise Sands. Devonshire Manors*"



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Notes:

As the reader will see from the history above, Eastbourne has at various times been divided, and possibly subdivided, into different Manors. The history of the Manor of Eastbourne Medsey, before it came into the hands of Lord Buckhurst (Thomas Sackville) in the 16th century is complicated by the existence of a second Manor in the area also sometimes also referred to as Meads, which belonged to the Cavendish family, the Dukes of Devonshire, who were the power behind the expansion and development of Eastbourne as a holiday resort in the 19th century. However, an estate rental held at East Sussex Record Office (AMS/ 7072/3/1/5) notes payments of heriots made by freeholders in the manor, including one from the Duke of Devonshire, who paid 6s on presentment of three freehold tenements at the court of 1860. This clearly indicates that the Duke was a free hold tenant of this (Sackville) manor as well as owning his own Manor(s) in the same district.

Many of the manors held in the area by the Sackville family were granted to them after the estates of the Bishops of Chichester were seized by Queen Elizabeth I, but Eastbourne Medsey appears to have formed part of the estate of Michelham Priory and became separated from the Priory at the Dissolution.



**Compiled by the current
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