



Manorial Services

A sale by private treaty

A private treaty sale of Lordships of the Manor

with

Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

and

Ellington, Huntingdonshire

All prices are subject to a 20% buyer's premium.

Please see "Conduct of sale" inside.

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LIST OF LOTS

<u>Lordships of the Manor</u>	<u>Asking price</u>	<u>Page number</u>
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Swanborough, Sussex	£8,000	p. 9
Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire	£8,500	p. 12
Broome, Sussex	£8,000	p. 14
White Hall, Lincolnshire	£7,000	p. 17
Great Stanmore, Middlesex	£8,500	p. 19
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Blackham, Sussex	£8,000	p. 32
Whiteoxen, Devon	£8,000	p. 34
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The Lordship of the Manor of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

The historic seaside resort



©Ian Brodie Photo

Towns and villages have prospered through history for many different reasons. Some find themselves in an advantageous place to trade, others have rich mineral wealth or are places where trade routes converge. A few however can be said to have expanded thanks to sudden need for leisure and pleasure. Weston-super-Mare is one such place that has earned fame beyond Britain by finding itself suddenly desired for its bracing air and bathing.

People have lived at Weston since at least the Iron age. For almost 2000 years it remained a quiet fishing village nestled beneath the Mendips on the Bristol Channel. Unlike many towns which grew in the 19th century and for whom the Lord of the Manor was a distant memory the Lords of the Weston-super-Mare played a central role in its meteoric rise.

Weston lies at the western end of a large out crop of rock known as Worlebury Hill. This was the site of an Iron Age fort known as Worlebury Camp which was excavated in the 19th century. The surrounding land is a largely flat and marks the limits of the Somerset Levels.

The Manor appears to have had just four familial owners in its 950 year history. At the time of Domesday Weston received the following entry

*William holds of the Bishop of Coutances, Westone
Algar held it in the time of King Edward and geld three hides
and one virgate of land.*

The arable is three carucates.

In demesne are two carucates and two servants and four villains and four cottagers.

There are seventeen acres of meadow and twelve acres of coppice wood

Pasture twelve furlongs long and two furlongs broad and six furlongs of moor

It was and is worth sixty shillings.

Weston was a wealthy and productive Manor with an ideal balance of arable, pasture, woods and meadows. William was a local tenant of the Bishop of Coustance. The Bishops' lordship appears to have been fleeting since by the early 11th century Weston had come into the possession of the Clapton family of Clapton-in-Gordano, a few miles to the north (and now famed as a service station on the M5). The first of the family was Wido who held his land, including Weston, as part of the honour of Gloucester. It is likely that Wido was a Saxon who managed to either retain his family lands after 1066 or had rendered some service to the Normans. His son, Arthur, is the first noted Lord of Weston, possibly as early as 1125. He was succeeded by his son Nigel Fitz-Arthur. There is some evidence that Nigel married Adeva, daughter of Robert Fitz-Harding, grandson of Sueno, 3rd King of Denmark, by Eva, niece of William the Conqueror and through which union he was granted another manor, that of Kingscote, in Gloucestershire. Weston passed to Nigel's unnamed younger son who took the surname of Arthur. The descent of the family is uncertain until the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) when William Arthur is recorded as Lord of Weston. He was followed by his son Sir Richard Arthur, then Sir William Arthur, who was deputy Constable of Bristol Castle.

In 1404 the Manor was held by Sir Thomas Arthur who was an intimate of the Lords Berkeley of Berkeley Castle. Although their estate was not a great one the family were certainly influential in Somerset and Gloucestershire and held various official posts. The family had established themselves at Clapton, and Weston, known at this period as Weston-juxta-Mare, formed a core part their estate. At this period it was a small fishing village and the Lord of the Manor assumed control of the sale of catch by the granting of fishing stalls. This was not always appreciated by the fishermen and in 1492 there was a protracted legal dispute between John Arthur, Lord of Weston and several locals over fishing at Birnbeck, site today of the famous pier. On 30th November Arthur and ten armed men raided the Birnbeck fisheries and are reported to have taken;

a hundred horse-loads of Barons (sprats)
four young tubbelyns (cod)
three hundred haddock
and two hundred whiting

The fisheries consisted of nets strung across the shore and presumably Arthur considered these to be his by manorial right. Later records show that the Lords of Weston continued to grant leases to fishing stalls which usually included a small building and a parcel of land. The leases were for three lives or 99 years depending on which was the shorter.

The Arthur family remained as Lords of Weston-super-Mare (or merely Weston as it was known between the 16th and 17th centuries) until the death of Edward in 1595. He had two daughters and the Manor then eventually passed to his son-in-law William Winter of Dyrham in Gloucestershire who had

Birnbeck Pier, ca. 1900



married the eldest daughter, Mary. The Winter family had something of a troubled existence at Weston during the 17th century. The family, who were based mainly at Lydney in Gloucestershire were ardent Royalists and during the early part of the Civil War, William Winter was arrested by Parliamentary forces despite his pleas that, unlike his kinsmen, he had not taken part in any action against Parliament. He was imprisoned and remained so for the the duration of the war, dying whilst still incarcerated in 1649. His two children, Henry and Grace were minors and their estate was left seemingly to the ravages of their guardians. On attaining his majority Henry Winter set about losing what he had left on the gaming tables of London. On his death in 1685 he had so little left that his memorial in the parish church went uncompleted. Henry's son and heir, also Henry, was faced with such large debt that he was forced to sell his estate and Weston-super-Mare was duly sold in 1696 to a local gentleman, John Piggot.

At the beginning of the 19th century Weston was still a small fishing village. The Smyth-Piggot family (as they had become) had a small cottage in the village which was used as a summer retreat from their main residence at Brockley Court. In the early years of the 19th century there was a vogue amongst the middle and upper classes for holidays to the coast for bathing and the Smyth-Piggots realised there was potential for development at Weston. In 1810 they secured a private Act of Enclosure of common land and it was divided into freehold lots. At the same time they built and opened a hotel. Although it was a slow start, in the 1820s Weston connected to Bristol by coach and since it could be reached in a couple of hours from the city it began to attract more visitors. John Hugh Smyth-Piggot planted trees on Worlebury Hill and its slopes were laid out with walks and private, speculative villas built below. The greatest boost to the fortunes of the town came in 1841 when the town was connected by rail. This led to a huge rise in the number of day-trippers, especially after a larger station was added in 1866. The growth of Weston was prodigious. In 1821 it had a population of just 738 yet twenty years later this had reached over 4000, by the 1880s it had reached nearer to 40,000.

In 1883 Cecil Hugh Smyth-Piggot sold land and the beach front to Weston-super-Mare Local District Board for the use of public recreation. Interestingly, the indenture, which is available online, reserved out the manorial rights including that of treasure trove. The family also sold land within the manor to the local council for the development of parks and amenities for holidaymakers. By this time Weston-super-Mare was the largest seaside resort in the West of England and it was popular with workers from Bristol and South Wales whilst retaining some of its earlier genteel charm. In 1904 the Grand Pier was opened adding a further attraction and in the 20th century the town became the most popular destination in the South West of England. The Smyth-Piggot family retains its connections to the town as Lords of the Manor.

Weston-super-Mare, ca. 1890s



Some famous names hail from Weston-super-Mare, including; John Cleese, Jeffrey Archer, Jill Dando and Roald Dahl.

There is a number of original documents associated with the Manor which form part of the conveyance.

We will accept offers for Weston-super-Mare until 30 June, 2021.

Offers starting at £20,000



Aerial view Weston-super-Mare

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1482-1482: rental, with other manors

1555-1559: court roll, with other manors

1690-1690: survey

1694-1694: particular

1852-1852: ownership of land in manor

Bristol Archives

Hampshire Archives

Somerset Heritage Centre

The Lordship of the Manor of Swanborough, Sussex

Once the possession of Thomas Cromwell

During the 1530s this Lordship of the Manor of Swanborough was desired by Thomas Cromwell so much that he pressured the then Lord, the Abbot of Lewis, into leasing it to him. The Abbot resisted but since Cromwell was in charge of the Dissolution of religious houses he ultimately got his way in the end and obtained the Manor in 1537. There is no room here to chart the career of Cromwell, one of the most famous figures of the Tudor period but his life as politician under Henry VIII is brilliantly drawn by Hilary Mantel in her Wolf Hall trilogy of novels.

This Manor is found in the parish of Iford and although it is not mentioned directly in Domesday Book there is record of two plough-lands of being granted to Cluny Priory the mother house of the Priory of St Pancras. It was later described as being five and half of hides but was then confirmed to the Priory of Lewes. The Abbots of Lewis were the Lords of Swanborough for 450 years. Although it lies with the parish of Iford, Swanborough (also



Portrait Of Thomas Cromwell, Hans Holbien

known as Swanbergh) gave its name to the hundred. It is a village two miles south of South Malling and several miles west of Brighton on the edge of beautiful downland. Swanborough Manor house still stands. Central parts of the house, forming the old hall, date back to the period when it was owned by Lewes Priory and were built around 1200. Additions were made in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Lewes Priory was one of the earliest houses to receive the attention of Cromwell. As early as 1535 Richard Layton sent a report noting that at Lewes he found *corruption of both sorts, and what is worse, treason, for the subprior hath confessed to me treason in his preaching. I have caused him to subscribe his name to it and to submit himself to the king's mercy. I made him confess that the prior knew of it, and I have declared the prior to be perjured. That done, I laid unto him concealment of treason, called him heinous traitor in the worst names I could devise, he all the time kneeling and making intercession unto me not to utter to you the premises for his undoing; whose words I smally regarded, and commanded him to appear before you at the court on All Hallows Day, wherever the king should happen to be, and bring with him his subprior. When I come to you I will declare this tragedy to you at large, so that it shall be in your power to do with him what you list*

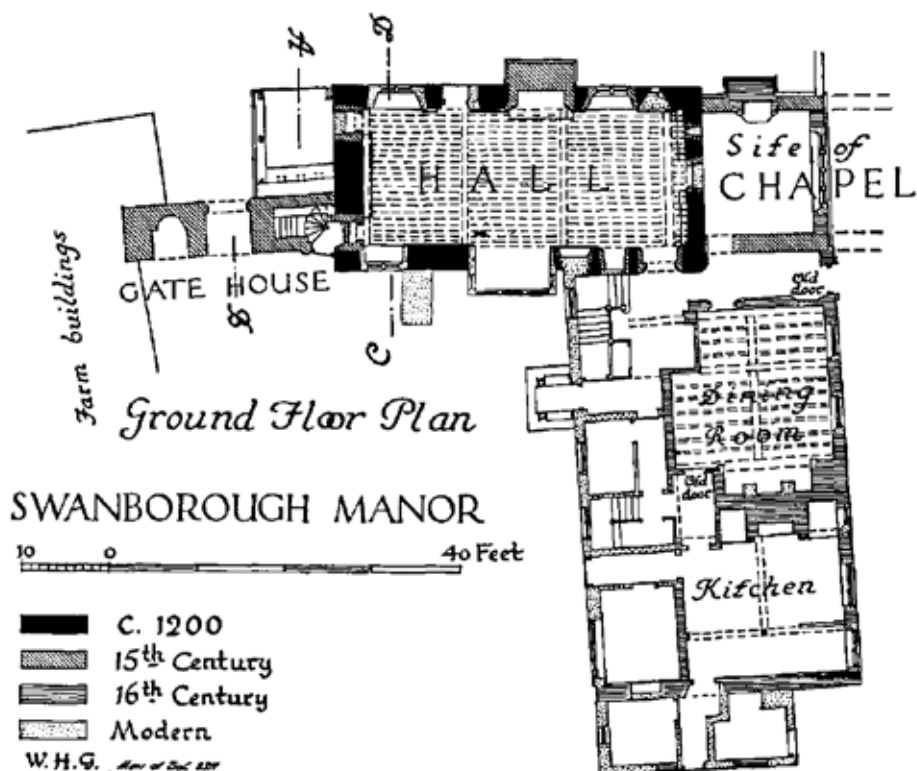
The Priory had much profitable land and Cromwell appears to have decided that he particularly liked the look of Swanborough. He wrote to the Prior, Robert Croham, asking if he would lease the Manor to him. Croham resisted. However, after the Priory was dissolved in 1537, Henry immediately granted Swanborough to his trusted man, probably at Cromwell's own urging. It appears that Cromwell had a purpose in mind for Swanborough as he sent his man, William Cholmeley to investigate it in the Spring of 1538. The plague was raging in London at the time and Cromwell had an eye on using the manor house as a safe haven for his son. On 24 May Cholmeley wrote to his boss from Lewes

I sent for the honest men of the parish of St. Anne at the town's end of Lewes, adjoining the parish which has been infected with the great plague, and declared to them your Lordship's pleasure as to the burial within their churchyard of those who die of the plague. After consulting together half a day and a night, they replied that their parish was free of infection, which they feared would be conveyed with the dead bodies, but Mr. Jeny persuaded

them to comply, so that henceforth none shall be buried in the church or churchyard within the precinct of your house here at Lewes. The other parish infected has granted the same. As to the removal of Master Gregory and my Lady his wife from Lewes, your Lordship has two houses, one called the Motte, four miles off, a pretty house within your park there, of which a description is given in a bill which the bearer carries, and victuals may be conveyed from your house at Lewes. Your bakehouse, brewhouse, slaughterhouse, and pullitrie may be continued. Mr. Gregory rode thither today to view it, and likes the house right well. The other house, called Swanborough, is a mile from Lewes but is thought too little for Mr. Gregory's company. None have died for eight days, and none are sick of the plague now within the town. I send you a bill of the number of persons to attend on Mr. Gregory on his removal, and of those appointed to be on board wages.

The Manor was Cromwell's for a mere two years. He fell from power in 1540 and although Henry had some doubt about his supposed crimes this did not save him from the axe. A year later Manor, together with 40 cartloads of wood to be gathered each year from Homewood, nearby, was granted to William, Earl of Arundel. In 1555 it returned to the Crown and was granted to Thomas Caryll who was Lord of Swanborough at the time of his death in 1566. It passed to his grandson John and in 1584 he sold the Manor to Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst. Swanborough descended with the Sackville family until the 1980s when it was sold by the 10th Earl De La Warr. The De La Warr name is now most famously associated with the art deco pavilion in Bexhill and this was named in honour of the 10th Earl's father, Hebrand Sackville, the 9th Earl. This member of the celebrated family was unusual in that although he went into politics, as many aristocrats did before the war, he was actually the first hereditary peer to join the Labour Party, becoming a Government minister under Ramsey Macdonald at the age of just 23 in 1924. He inherited the Earldom and estates, including Swanborough, in 1915 after the death of his father during the First World War. When Macdonald broke with the Labour Party and formed the National Government in 1931 De La Warr followed and served in the Ministry of Agriculture. From 1932 to 1934 he served as Mayor of Bexhill-on-Sea and when the famous pavilion was completed in 1935 it was therefore named in his honour. In 1937 he became Lord Privy Seal under Chamberlain but opposed the policies of Appeasement adopted by the Prime Minister. When Churchill came to power in 1940, De La Warr was dropped from Government office but returned as Postmaster General in 1951. The Earl died in 1972 and Swanborough passed to his son, William, the last member of the family to hold the title.

Swanborough manor house plan

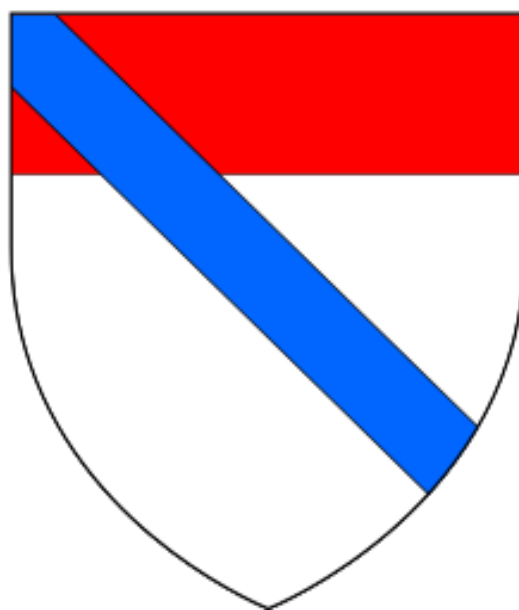


Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1539-1540: bailiff's account	British Library
1578-1583: court book	West Sussex Record Office
1613-1613: estreats	Kent History and Library Centre
1703-1703: estreats, with other manors	
1703-1788: extracts from court roll	1703-1788
1717-1720: estreats, with other manors	
1720-1730: minutes	
1732-1732: schedule of court books	
1618-1619: rental of demesne leases	East Sussex and Brighton and Hove
Record Office (ESBHRO)	
1638-1642: court book	
1640-1658: rental, with other manors	
1645-1662: court book, with other manors	
1654-1688: court book, with other manors	
1691-1716: court book, with other manors	
1720-1795: court book, with other manors	
1734-1742: court book, with Ringmer; indexed	
1734-1795: index to court books, with Ringmer	
1759-1891: court book, with index	
-1829: rental, with other manors	
1856-1861: account books, with other manors	
1837-1864: rental	
1840-1900: enfranchisement of copyhold land	The National Archives

The Lordships of the Manor of Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire

Alfred the Great is remembered for many reasons, not least of which was halting the advance of the Danes across England. One of the ways in which he was able to control them was by establishing fortified settlements across his realm which served to protect the local populations. These were known as Burgs or Burghs and the Manor of Burgh le Marsh was established by Alfred to protect this part of Lincolnshire. There is some evidence to suggest that the Saxons chose this site because it had previously been a Roman Castrum, or fortified camp, established to guard this part of the east coast. The settlement is situated on raised ground which the Romans themselves had made higher to provide a commanding view of the surrounding area. Today Burgh le Marsh is a small town which lies five miles from Skegness.



Arms of Cromwell of Tattershall

In Domesday Book there were a number of manors recorded but the main estate was held by Earl Alan of Brittany and Richmond. It had been part of the extensive estate of the Saxon Earl Edwin. The Manor remained a possession of the Richmonds until the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) when it passed on the marriage of Constance, daughter and heiress of the last Earl, to Ranulph, Earl of Chester. On his death it reverted to Arthur, Duke of Richmond, Constance's son from her first marriage.

During the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) the Manor was forfeited to the King who granted it to Peter of Savoy, the uncle of Queen Eleanor. Peter, the 9th count of Savoy, and Marquis of Italy, was born in Susa in 1203. He had many connections in England, his brother, Boniface, was Archbishop of Canterbury and his niece, Eleanor, was the wife of Henry III. In 1240 Henry invited Peter to England and granted him large estates also making him the Earl of Richmond. Henry showered power and positions on a rather reluctant Earl and Peter was made Sheriff of Kent and a royal counsellor. In 1242 he sailed with Henry to Poitou in France before later having to travel to Italy to defend his family's estates from the Count of Geneva. Peter returned to England in 1247 having consolidated his Italian Estates, bringing with him a 'bevy' of foreign women anxious to marry English noblemen. This, and Peter's desire to obtain several lucrative wardships of young noblemen, began to create resentment with some English barons. In the early 1250s Peter developed a friendship with Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester but this did not seem to have interfered with his friendship with the King. As the dispute between the barons, led by de Montfort, and Henry escalated, Peter joined the party of the former in forcing the king to accept the committee of twentyfour, appointed to ensure the reforms. During 1259 as tensions heightened, Peter, who was at heart a moderate passed to the King's side and Montfort had him removed from the committee. A year later Peter was instrumental in the reconciliation of Henry with his son Edward. When civil war broke out in 1263 the hostility to foreigners was such that Peter was forced to return to Savoy. Peter remained abroad and took no part in the war until 1265 when he was present at Pevensey Castle, defending it from the younger Simon de Montfort. After the King's victory at Evesham Peter was restored to all his lands. He died in 1268 in France and is buried at the Abbey of Hautcombe. Peter was described as a *'prudent man, proud and hardy and terrible as a lion; who so held himself in his time that he put many folks in subjection under him and he was so valiant that men called him "le Petit Charlamagne"'*.

The descent of Burgh le Marsh from this point is rather obscure but later in the reign of Henry it was found that Robert, Lord Tateshull held the estate. It remained in this family and passed to his grandson, Robert, who died in 1302. He had no children and so his estate was divided between his three sisters. Burgh

le Marsh passed to Joan, who was married to Sir Robert Driby. They had a daughter, Alice, who was married to Sir William Bernake and it was from his family that the manor received its other name of Bernack Hall. On the death of Sir William's grandson, also William, the Manor descended to his sister Maud, wife of Ralph de Cromwell.

Ralph de Cromwell, who came from Tattershall in the county was made Baron Cromwell and summoned to Parliament in 1375. He died in 1398 and was succeeded by his son Ralph. In turn he was succeeded his son, Ralph, the 3rd Baron. He served in the household of Thomas, Duke of Clarence and later Henry V at Agincourt in 1415. He fought in France until the death of Henry and returned to England where he was appointed to the Regency Council to the infant Henry VI. Soon afterwards he was made Chamberlain of the Household. This was the senior position on the royal household and it was his job to organise the 'Chamber', the rooms in which the king would spend his time and receive visitors. Cromwell lost this job in 1432 during a bout of infighting between the Duke of Gloucester and Cardinal Beaufort. When power shifted towards the latter a year later he was made Lord Treasurer of England. Since England was embroiled in wars in France, Cromwell spend much of his time trying to raise money to continue the fight. His tenure however was marred by an economic depression brought on by a lack of precious metals in Europe. Known as the Great Slump, this eventually led to a large scale rebellion led by Jack Cade in 1450 and ultimately was a factor in the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses, a decade later. Although an adherent of the Yorkists, Cromwell died a few years before this war became serious.

On his death in 1456 the Manor of Burgh le Marsh passed to Maud, one of Cromwell's two nieces. She was married to Robert Willoughby, 6th Baron Willoughby de Eresby and through this union the Manor passed to this family who held it for over four centuries.

In 1907 the Manor was sold by Lord Willoughby to Willie Wray and it remained with the descendants of this family until recently when it was obtained by a private individual who is the present Vendor.

Burgh Le Marsh



The Lordship of the Manor of Broome, Sussex

Located in the large parish of Hartfield, the Manor of Broome formed part of the Sackville family's original estate centred on Bolebroke House. It lies on the Sussex/Kent borders a few miles from East Grinstead and part of the Manor lay in the Forest of Ashdown.

The early history of the Manor is fairly obscure. It is likely that after the Norman conquest it formed part of the larger manor of Hartfield, which was held by the Count Mortain. By the 13th century it appears to have been detached from the principal manor as a possession of the de Brom family, from whom it derived its name. The earliest holder was Matilda, who died in 1295 and was found seized of *a messuage and curtilage in Hartfield, holden of the honor of the Eagle, then in the King's hands*. She was required to do suit at the Honor court at Pevensey Castle. The Manor then passed to her son Robert who died in 1317. At his death it was found that the estate was held by a knight's service from the King. It then passed to his son John de Brom. From John the descent is much less clear but it is likely that it descended, or was purchased by, the Dallindridge family who had inherited another manor in Hartfield, that of Bolebroke. In 1425 Bolebroke, which was the site of a castle, passed through the marriage of Margaret Dallindridge to Sir Thomas Sackville and it is at this point that Broome was likely to have passed to this family. Bolebroke became the home estate and Broome likely passed with it.

The Sackville family built a house at Bolebroke which was one of the first brick built private houses in England and replaced the stone castle. Completed in 1480 it was a favourite hunting lodge of Henry VIII and it is said that he used it as a base when courting Anne Boleyn at nearby Hever Castle. Henry stayed at Bolebroke, ostensibly to hunt wild boar in the Ashdown Forest but really to pursue Anne who was playing a long game of seduction by retreating to Hever Castle, knowing that the king would follow. The house still stands and is now a private residence.

Whatever the precise method of transmission the Broome was certainly a part of the Sackville Estate by the end of the 16th century. A Survey of the Manor is found in the Buckhurst Terrier, a detailed account of the Sackville Estate in Sussex, produced in 1597. It gives details of all the freeholders and their properties. We therefore find that John Bridger held a messuage called Strode, in Hartfield village. The heirs of John Charlewood held a number of parcels around the church. The main demesne, Broome Place, was held by Henry Burgis, who is described as a yeoman and who paid £3 per year for his 40 year lease. Another considerable tenant was Thomas Bowyer, who farmed Knighton Hall. In total the Manor was worth £48 19s per year. The present day Anchor Inn was the manor house for Broome. Built in 1465 it was originally known as Broome Place.

The Manor of Broome remained in the hands of the Sackville for over 400 years and by the end of 19th century was in the hands of Gilbert George Reginald Sackville, 8th Earl De La Warr. In 1899 it is recorded as providing a rent charge of £3 13s 6d toward the income of Sackville College in nearby East Grinstead. The college was founded by an endowment made by Thomas Sackville, the 2nd Earl of Dorset, on his death in 1609. He gifted the sum of £1000 and yearly rent charges on his manors in Sussex of £300. A charge on lands in Broome was included in this behest. The college is actually a complex of Jacobean almshouses which are still in use today. It was intended to house twentyone poor men and ten poor women of the area. In 1624 it received a charter from Charles I. Philanthropy in the 17th century usually came with moralising provisions and this was the case at Sackville College. There were numerous 'statutes' which the residents were required to follow under in order to avoid being evicted. For instance, 'inmates' were not allowed to *lodge or receive any person in the house, or secretly entertain any stranger*. They were not allowed to be out of the house for more than twelve hours without the permission of the warden nor could they indulge in any dicing, carding or unlawful games for any money apart from at Christmas, and even then these games were not allowed *in noe sort of corners or private rooms*. Fines were often imposed on *secret feasting, excessive drinking, swearing and frequenting taverns*.

Despite some legal disputes with the heirs of Lord Dorset, the Sackville family continue their patronage to today and the building was restored under the auspices of Elizabeth, Countess De La Warr in the mid-19th century.



Sackville College

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1275-1300: survey
1552-1552: rental
1379-1379: court roll
1606-1622: court book

West Sussex Record Office

British Library
East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record

Office (ESBHRO)
1624-1652: court book
1664-1664: court book
1668-1689: court book
1686-1686: rental
1731-1743: court book
1691-1925: court books
1829-1829: rental
1856-1861: account books
1613-1613: estreats
1656-1656: list of tenants
1704-1704: estreats
1711-1720: estreats
1738-1738: minutes

Kent History and Library Centre

The Manor of Broome

fo. 83v.

The particular Survey, etc. (*wording as Buckhurst*).
[*there are no Juror's names.*]

Freeholders in the parish of Hartfeild

fo. 84.

John Bridger, holds by deed (*no date or term*) a messuage called Strode, in the town of Hartfeild. Rent 1d.

The heirs of John Charlwood hold by deed (*no date or term*) land called Huggetts, 7 ac.—Bounds: Headland, parcel of Chartnes Farm W., the river from Parrock towards Longbridge N., the land of the said heirs called Nashes S., Queens highway Hartfeild to Longbridge E. Rent 21d.

The same heirs hold by deed (*no date or term*) a parcel of ground adjoining Hartfeild Churchyard, 1 ac.—Bounds: Pellett Mead E., Hartfeild Grene N., Way from Hartfeild to Broome Manor House W., rent 4½d. Rent, *in all*, 2s. 1½d.

fo. 84v.

John Younge holds by deed (*no date or term*) a tenement and ½ ac. of land in Hartfeild Street Rent 1½d.

Sum total of the freeholders Rents in Hartfeild belonging to the manor of Broome aforesaid 2s. 4½d. (*sic*).

Demeanes in the parish of Hartfeild

fo. 85.

Henry Burgis, yeoman, holds by indenture of 2 Dec., 38 Eliz. for 40 years, Broome Place, 2 r., rent £3, and 2 fat capons alive (*date left blank*) and meadow called Pelletts Mead, rent 45s., 6 ac. 3 r. 6 da. 2 p.

Map 147, *ciphra* 86. (*xlix*) Rent, *in all*, £5 5s., and 2 fat capons.

folios 86, 86v.

Thomas Woodgate, gent, holds by indenture of 10 Mar., 40 Eliz. for 21 years, Broome mead and one other piece of meadow called The Neck of Castle feild, 2 ac., rent 16s., and the four acres, in all 24 ac. 1 r. 2 da. 2 p., all meadow, rent £10.

Map 147, *ciphra* 87. (*xviii*) Rent, *in all*, £10 16s.

folios 87, 87v.

Elizabeth Hartfeild, widow of Roger Hartfeild, holds by indenture of 4 Nov. 37 Eliz. for 21 years a messuage and a

The Lordship of the Manor of White Hall, Lincolnshire

History is never an even playing field, neither is information spread evenly and conveniently for scholars or laymen to discover. Even in a country as old and developed as England not everything can be easily found nor will facts always be available. This applies to the study of Lordships of the Manor as much as to any other branch of history. For some manors there are boundless sources of history with rich and colourful details, for others, not so much. The Manor of White Hall falls very much into this latter category. Of all the counties of England, Lincolnshire is one of the least written about. There are no great Victorian tomes on its history nor are there any parochial histories as part of the great Victoria County History series. Many parishes in the county have only the briefest of mentions and for more of the manors within their boundaries many fewer.



Frederick William John Hervey, 3rd Marquess of Bristol,
Arthur Stockdale Cope

What is known is that the Manor of White Hall principally lies in the parish of Kirkby le Thorpe or Kirkby Laythorpe, a couple of miles east of Sleaford in the flat fenlands of this part of the county. The Manor has belonged for several centuries to the Hervey family, the Marquesses of Bristol and it is included in several key documents in that family's descent. It passed to the family on the marriage of Isabella, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Carr and John Hervey, 1st Earl of Bristol. This wedding brought Bristol a large estate in Lincolnshire and a number of manors including White Hall. This had been in the Carr family since the early 16th century. A family document now belonging to the present Lord Bristol notes that in December 1637 Sir Robert Carr's father settled the Lincolnshire estate on his kinsmen Robert Carr, Lord Ancram and his sons in the event that either of the sons married Sir Robert's daughter. This settlement was, according to the record, *supposed to be the result of some transaction at the gaming table*. The contemporary title deeds listed the Carr manors and amongst them was the Manor of White Hall. The extent of the Lordship is not given, but its location in the parish of Kirkby La Thorpe is confirmed by a rental dating from the latter quarter of the same century, this records that *you have also wood in Evedon (the neighbouring parish) contents about tenne acres it belong to the Manor of Whitehall in Kirkbye, for yee timber thereof being olde very tall*.

Although this confirms that Whitehall, or White Hall, lies in Kirkby La Thorpe the location and extent of the manor house and land itself is not certain. A further record made in 1635 confirms this when it is described as a 'messuage'. This implies that it was likely a manor house or large farm house with a demesne farm attached. The record, which is a grant of tithes records an exchange of tithe between the two parish of Kirkby and Evedon between Sir Robert Carr and the rector of Kirkby. This concerns *the tithes of all corn and hay yearly growing on 140 acres of ground in the fields of Evedon belonging to a messuage in Kirkby Laythorpe called the White Hall, (which) have from time immemorial been taken as a portion of tithes due to the church*. This reference also obviously confirms where the White Hall was but also that part of the Manor lay in the parish of Evedon.

There is also perhaps an unwitting clue to the eventual fate of the manor house itself in this short record. The description notes that the manorial land of White Hall was found *in the fields of Evedon*. The implication is that it was part of the complicated pattern of strips which would have divided the large open fields of Evedon. This system was also prevalent in Kirkby. There is some evidence to suggest that the original settlement of Kirkby was further to the south of the modern village and it seems likely that the Carr family

enclosed the open fields of Kirkby in the 17th century which would have effectively combined the manorial land of the parochial manor and that of Whitehall. Since Whitehall was a reputed manor - it had no manorial tenants - there was no manorial administration. Clearly it was important to the Carr family who included it in the terrier of 1637 and in all subsequent transfers and descents of the Hervey estates well into the latter half of the 20th century; for instance it is included in an estate settlement made in 1802 in connection with the marriage of Charles Rose Ellis and Elizabeth Catherine Caroline Hervey (daughter of late Lord Hervey). It is included in a list of manors held by the 3rd Marquess of Bristol on his Inland Revenue return of 1907 and in a list of manors held by the estate collated in 1965. The Manor is currently held by the present Marquess.

you have in Durrington three pcells of wood being all great
timber; cont about 4 ^{res} acres which were pchased by y^r father of
Stardish, & by him not long before of my Lo: of Suffolk they
some tyme pte of the possession of the Duke of Norfolk ~ ~ ~

^{Evedon}
you have also wood in evedon; contents about ~
tenne acres; y^t belong to y^e manor of Whitehall
in kirkbye, for y^e timber thereof being olde very
tall & well harted I know y^t Sr Will^m Garne y^r
uncle was offered a thousand pounds ~ ~ ~

^{Converby}
you have also ^{wood} in this Towne cont about ⁴ four
acres, y^t was some tyme pcell of the possessions of Sr
Henry Lacksonham Knight ~ ~ ~

you have besides these in hedge rowes within
every of y^r aforesaid manor Townes, great
store of Ashes & Elmes

The Lordship of the Manor of Great Stanmore, Middlesex

Few English placenames can claim to be as ancient as that of Stanmore. It dates back to 793 when it was included in a grant of mansions made by Offa of Mercia to the Abbey of St Albans. Although some have thrown doubt on this charter, the Manor certainly formed part of the Abbey's landed estate in the centuries before the Norman invasion of 1066. In 957 for instance it is recorded as forming part of the boundary of the estate.

The Manor of Great Stanmore lies in the northeast extent of Greater London, between Wealdstone and Elstree and is a rather leafy suburb. It takes its name from the Old English for *stony mere*, likely used as fish stews or ponds, for the abbey kitchens. Until the railway arrived in the late 19th century this was a rural spot with a number of large estates and country houses.



Sir Thomas Wyatt,, Hans Holbein the Younger

At the time of Domesday in 1086 Stanmore had already been divided. The distraction of Great Stanmore and Little Stanmore is not formally recorded until 1274 but the process had been completed over 150 years before. Indeed, the name of Great Stanmore is not recorded in the abbey's own records until 1354. Before this date it was simply referred to as the Estate at Stanmore. In the 1240s the Abbey built a moated manor house, thought to have been situated between Old Church Lane on the east and the Stanburn on the west. The moat survived until the mid 19th century, when it was said to have enclosed a rick yard and traces remained until the area was redeveloped in the 1930s. A later manor house was constructed by John Burnell at the beginning of the 17th century.

During the 13th and 14th centuries the Manor was leased out by the Abbey. In 1274, Edward the Goldsmith is recorded as Lord after paying the Abbot 15 marks a year. Edward was one of the nascent members of a new class of none landed merchants who made fortunes in trade before seeking the traditional comfort of land in their later years. In 1307 the Manor was under lease to John de Shorne and this must have passed to his son, Walter, who divested himself of it in 1349 to Roger Wendout, an agent of the Francis family.

These leases continued until 1362 when the Prior of another religious house, St Bartholomew's at Smithfield was allowed to acquire the lease from the Keeper of the Rolls, David of Wooler. In the dying days of the religious houses, in 1538, Geoffrey Chamber, the former chief steward of St Bartholomew's and then the surveyor and receiver-general in the Court of Augmentations and a former agent of Thomas Cromwell, was allowed to take the Manor on lease for 15 years and after the Dissolution was granted Great Stanmore in 1542. Chamber was heavily in debt to the Crown and was forced to sell land in Great Stanmore to Henry and then to a Spanish mercenary, Sir Pedro Gamboa. Eventually Gamboa was granted the Manor after it had been forfeited to the Crown on Geoffrey's death. Gamboa. In 1550 Gamboa was murdered by a fellow Spaniard and the Manor was forfeited once more. It was then leased to Sir George Blagge.

Blagge was one of the more interesting characters woven into Tudor history. He was the son of minor gentry and found a career as a companion, clerk and attendant to richer men. He rose as a companion to his cousin St Thomas Wyatt, an associate of Cromwell. In fact it was Cromwell who protected Wyatt when he was included in those suspected of having had a sexual relationship with Ann Boleyn. Cromwell arranged for him to become the resident ambassador to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V and Blagge followed him to Europe. Later, Blagge became attached to Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey and this led to him becoming a esquire of the body to Henry. The king, who had pet names for most of his courtiers, referred to Blagge as The Pig. In 1546 Blagge's personal Protestant faith led to a trial for heresy and he was found guilty and

sentenced to be burnt at the stake. However, once Henry found out about the case against The Pig he immediately issued a pardon. He was summoned to court where it is recorded:

ah my pygge, sayth the kyng to hym (for so hee was wont to call hym). Yea sayd hee, if your Maiestie had not bene better to me then your Byshops were, your pygge had bene rosted ere this tyme.

After Henry died and was succeeded by his Protestant son, Edward VI, Blagge's fortunes improved considerably and he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in Kent. He sat as a Member of Parliament for Westminster and in 1550 was granted the Manor of Great Stanmore, which became his home. After his death in 1551 he was succeeded by his only son, Henry. The Manor remained as leasehold from the Crown until as late as 1604 when it was sold to Sir Thomas Lake for £600. The Manor remained in the hands of the Lake family for much of the 17th century, although it was the subject of a lengthy and bitter dispute between the heiresses of Sir Thomas' son. The litigation is far too complicated to discuss in this short history save to remark that in around 1670 the whole manor was sold to a London embroiderer, Matthew Smith, who is noted as holding courts in 1680.

Great Stanmore was then subject to yet another lengthy dispute between Smith, who hoped to entail the Manor to his grandson. In 1685, John Powell, a vintner, is recorded as the sole Lord of the Manor until 1700. In 1714 it was purchased from John Rogers, who had in turn bought it from Powell, by James Brydges, Earl of Carnarvon. He was raised to the dukedom of Chandos in 1719 and the Manor at last found stable ownership. After the death of the third duke, in 1789 it passed to his widow Anne Eliza, who was, to use the terms of the day, a lunatic. Consequently the Manor was leased out once more. In 1795, the third duke's daughter married Richard Nugent Temple-Grenville, Earl Temple and he therefore became Lord of Great Stanmore by right of marriage. In 1813 he was created Marquess of Buckingham and nine years later raised once more to the dukedoms of Buckingham and Chandos. His son, the second duke, sold the Manor to the Marquess of Abercorn (later Duke) in 1840. In 1863 he in turn sold it to Sir John Kelk, one of the great railway and building engineers of the mid-Victorian era. Like many successful middle class men of his time he sought to convert himself into landed gentry, although by this time there was little in the way of land remaining with the title as London had encroached over the previous 100 years, nibbling away at the manorial extent through land sales.

In 1882, Kelk sold Great Stanmore to Thomas Clutterbuck in whose family it remained for the next 100 years before being sold to family of the present owners.



Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

265-1271: minister's account, with other manors	The National Archives
1276-1277: extent, with other manors	
1840-1900: evidence of enfranchisement of copyhold	
1840-1900: evidence of enfranchisement of copyhold	
1394-1399: court roll	Hertfordshire Archives
1587-1588: customs	London Metropolitan Archives
1679: customs	
1774-1812: court book (including view of frankpledge)	
1813-1936: court books	
1800-1850: statement of rights of copyholders	
1863-1892: minute book	
1666-1688: court roll extracts	Westminster Abbey Library

The Lordship of the Manor of Heathfield, Sussex

With historic rights to market and fair



In 1810 Joseph Mallord William Turner visited the area and produced his well known painting "Vale of Heathfield"

This Manor of Heathfield is found in the parish of the same name some 9 miles from Uckfield. The locals refer to Heathfield as Heffle. It is a rural manor which used to specialise in growing hops and lies on the southern slopes of the great upland area known as The Weald. The River Cuckmere has its source in Heathfield Park and flows south to the channel. In the 17th and 18th century the village was, for a time, a prosperous centre of the iron industry, due in part to the abundance of local iron ore. At the beginning of the 19th century it was said that over half the population of the parish were employed in ironmaking. The cannons made in Heathfield were supposed to be of the best quality in all England and regularly fetched the highest prices. There were three miles of ponds used in the manufacture, and some evidence of these remain to the west of the area known as Old Heathfield.

The Manor is perhaps most famous for its Cuckoo Fair which was held every year on 14 April. In 1315 the Lord of the Manor, the Bishop of Chichester, was granted a charter for a livestock market. The weekly market was held on a Thursday and this charter was actually a confirmation of an earlier grant made by Henry III in 1234. However a second fair began to be held yearly on April 14 which is known as the Cuckoo Fair. This was based on a folk tradition that every April, Dame Heffle would arrive at the fair and release the first cuckoos of the year. Whereas the charter market declined in the 19th century the Heffle Cuckoo Fair continues today and is held every April on Cade Street as a charitable event.

The early history of the Manor of Heathfield is rather obscure it was thought to have originally been a member of the Manor of Bishopstone. The earliest record dates from 1234 when a market charter was granted to Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester. When Heathfield became part of the estate of the bishopric is not recorded but it seems likely to have been in the mid 12th century when most of the land held by the Bishop was endowed.

In 1450 Heathfield was thought to be the site of conflict during the notorious rebellion led by Jack Cade. Cade was supposedly killed by Alexander Iden, sheriff of Kent at a spot in Heathfield. The event is remembered today at Cade Street which runs east of the village towards Chapel Cross.

The Manor remained a possession of the Bishops until 1559 when the government of Elizabeth passed a law enabling the Crown to seize possessions of vacant Bishoprics. Chichester became vacant in 1586 and at the time, 13 Manors were taken into the possession of the Crown, Heathfield amongst them and this was then granted to Thomas Sackville.

The areas known as Heathfield Down and Burwash Down formed the majority of the common land in the Sackville manor at the beginning of the 16th century. In 1595 these were surveyed for Thomas Sackville who claimed all rights over the downs. This caused an almost unceasing number of disputes between the Sackvilles and the lords of the various manors onto which the downs abutted.

The Sackville family held the Manor of Heathfield until the very end of the 20th century when it was purchased by the family of the current owners. The Sackvilles are one of the more celebrated families of England and their fortunes rose and fell across the centuries. Thomas Sackville was created earl of Dorset and this title descended with them. Perhaps one of the most unusual holders of the Manor was Charles, the sixth earl of Dorset, who was born in 1643. After stint as an MP for East Grinstead, Charles was imprisoned at Newgate in 1662 for manslaughter. This was an extremely rare occurrence for a member of the nobility. Charles was accused of killing an alleged highwayman with four of his friends. As Lord Buckhurst, he already had a reputation as a 'rake' and his rank did not prevent his arrest. When it was discovered that the supposed highwayman was in fact a tanner, the charges were raised to that of murder. The ruse of pretending that the tanner had attacked them worked and they escaped punishment. Perhaps in a bid to improve his reputation Charles joined the military in 1665 but never saw action. He is famed as a lover of Nell Gwynn but then 'surrendered' her to King Charles. He was something of a patron of the Arts and supported numerous poets and playwrights, championing Ben Jonson and writing poetry himself. In 1677 he succeeded to the earldom of Dorset and took his seat in the Lords. Although he was not known for the strength of his political views he did oppose the brief reign of James II (1685-1688). During the Revolution of 1688, Dorset personally helped Princess Anne in her escape from Whitehall palace after her brother-in-law, William of Orange landed his army in Devon. It is reported that during her flight, Anne lost one of her shoes and Dorset replaced it with one of his own white gloves. After James had fled and William and Mary assumed the throne, Dorset was made Lord Chamberlain and appointed as one of nine men who governed in the Queen's name whilst William was overseas. He died in Bath in 1706.



Heathfield Village

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1275-1300: survey
1552-1552: rental
1379-1379: court roll
1606-1622: court book

West Sussex Record Office

British Library
East Sussex and Brighton and
Hove Record

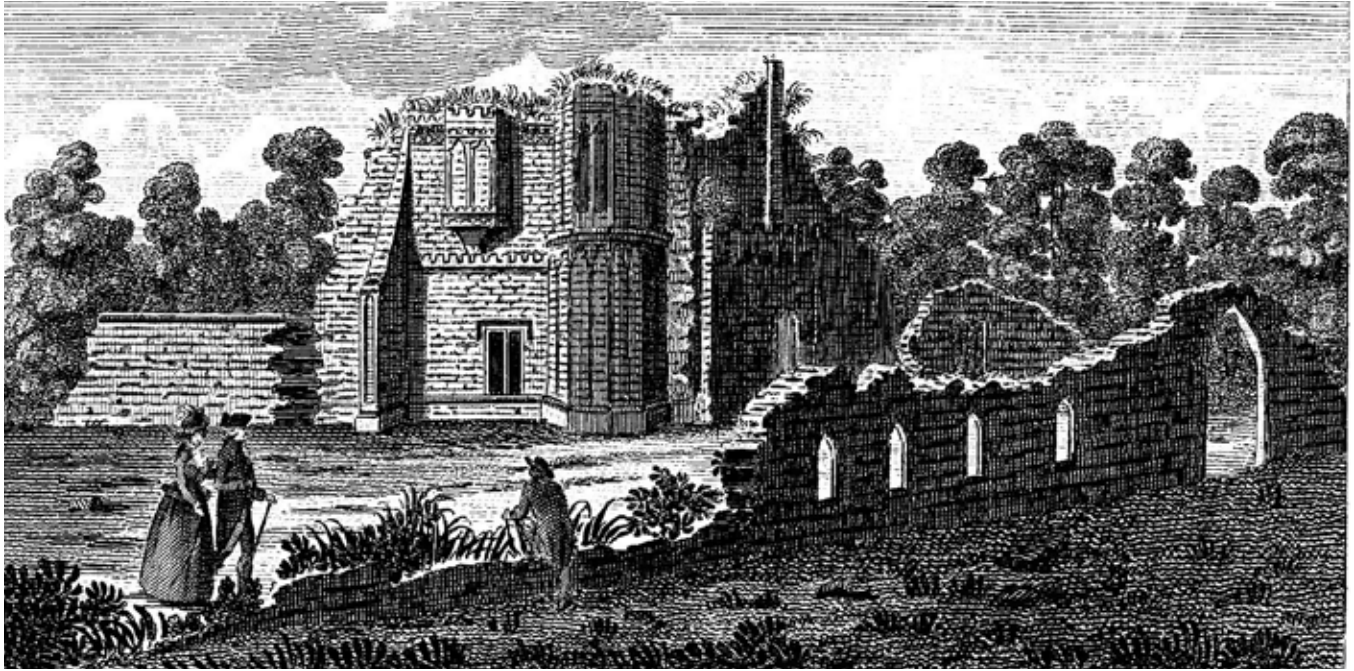
Office (ESBHRO)

1624-1652: court book
1664-1664: court book
1668-1689: court book
1686-1686: rental
1731-1743: court book
1691-1925: court books
1829-1829: rental
1856-1861: account books
1613-1613: estreats
1656-1656: list of tenants
1704-1704: estreats
1711-1720: estreats
1738-1738: minutes

Kent History and Library Centre

The Lordship of the Manor of Ellington, Huntingdonshire

This Lordship is sold together with several parcels of common land.



Ramsey Abbey in Huntingdonshire, Boswell, Henry: "The Antiquities of England and Wales" (1786)

Most manorial lordships are of an ancient lineage but few can definitively trace their history back to a time before William the Conqueror's great Domesday Book of 1086. The manor of Ellington however can claim this distinction since it is recorded as being part of the the estate of Ramsey Abbey when it was founded in 969. It formed part of a grant of land between Alfwold, brother of the abbey's founder, Oswald, Bishop of Worcester, and his wife Alfiled. This grant was later confirmed by King Edgar (953-975) and Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) last of the Saxon kings.

After the Norman conquest the manor remained in the hands of the abbey and was assessed in Domesday book as containing 10 hides, around 1,200 acres, which was a sizeable manor for the time and would have provided its monks with a handsome income. It remained part of the abbey's extensive estate for the entire medieval period. In 1379 it provided one of the Abbots, Edmund de Ellington who was therefore Lord of the Manor until his death in 1396. During one of the periodic assessments of the manor it was found to render to the abbey *40s yearly instead of 5 lbs. of cheese and 5 lbs. of lard and, like all the farm manors, gave 16d. to the poor from Maundy acre on Maundy Thursday.*

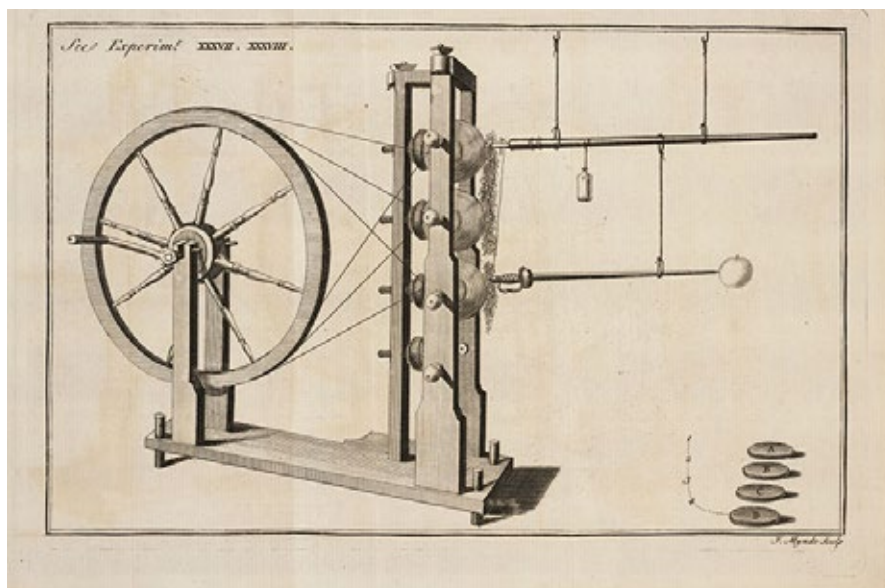
As Lord of the Manor the abbot had the right of gallows, tumbril (right to check the weight of coins), view of frankpledge and amendment of the assize of bread and ale, waif, warren, hidage from Ellington also the market rights of; tallage, merchet, leyrwyte and other rights such as setting and collecting a poll tax; wardship and marriage of his tenants. These were considerable rights and made the abbot literal lord and master over the villagers.

Ramsey Abbey was dissolved in 1539 and for a few years the Manor was retained by the Crown. In 1547 it was granted to Sir Walter Hende who died three years later. It was then purchased by Sir John Mason and his wife Elizabeth and included 1000 acres of wood land but was sold within a short time to Gabriel Throckmorton. It remained in the hands of this family until the 18th century. Robert Throckmorton, born in 1607, was close friends of the Cromwell family and invested heavily in the emerging American colonies, spending part of his life there. After his death and the proving of his will, Ellington passed to his oldest son Albion, who died childless in 1681. The family retained their America estates throughout this period and

these passed, along with Ellington, until 1720 when the latter was sold to Thomas Handasyd. He was a retired Governor of Jamaica and had spent a lifetime in the armed forces. Born in 1645 in Northumberland he fought in the Anglo-Dutch War of the early 1670s but achieved prominence in 1688 when he accompanied William of Orange to England to claim the throne from James II in what became known as the Glorious Revolution. A year later he commanded an expedition to retake the town of St John's, Newfoundland, which had been captured by the French. When he and his 300 men arrived at the town he discovered that the French had left and that the conditions there were so harsh that when he eventually arrived back in England only 80 men remained alive. In 1702 he was appointed Governor of Jamaica, remaining in post until his retirement in 1710. His purchase of Ellington was part of the expansion of his estate at Gaynes Hall in Cambridgeshire and he remained Lord of the Manor until 1729.

He was succeeded by his son, Roger who was also a military man. He took part in the resistance to the Jacobite Rebellion in 1715 but afterwards became involved in politics and was elected MP for Huntingdon in 1722. In 1745, during the last and greatest of the Jacobite rebellions, Handasyd was called into action once more and after taking part in the Battle of Prestonpans where the rebels were finally defeated, he was appointed Commander in Chief of Scotland and made lieutenant-general, a position he held for six months. He later returned to politics and made only his second yet final speech in the Commons in 1751. After his death in 1763 Ellington passed to his brother Clifford. In 1771 Ellington was sold to Sir William Watson, an early pioneer in the study of electricity, most famously conducting it through 12,000 feet of cable at Shooter's Hill in London in 1747. He later became a close ally of Benjamin Franklin in science and politics. Sir William died in 1787 and was succeeded by his son, another William, who was knighted in 1796 and died in 1825. The property passed to his sister Mary, widow of the Rev. Edward Beadon, and in the following year was held by the Rev. John Watson Beadon, apparently her son, who held it until 1835. It then descended to the Rev. Frederick Flemming Beadon, who died in 1880. Lieut.-Colonel Reginald Henry Beadon, his son, held it from 1880 to 1922, when his executors sold it to Mr. Kenneth Hunnybun before passing to the family of the present holders in 1950.

Ellington is described as *a curiously shaped parish* containing around 2,700 acres of mainly arable land.



Watson's electricity machine

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1253-1254	Ministers Accounts
1415-1416	Valor of Manor
1443-1446	Court Rolls
1427-1428	Court Rolls
1454	Court Roll
1513	Court Roll
1290	Court Rolls
1294-1407	Court Rolls
1425-1469	Court Rolls
1300-1350	Extent
1311-1319	Reeves Accounts
1418-1421	Rental
1441-1448	Rental
1461-1483	Schedule of Rents
1486-1509	Court Rolls
1514-1537	Court Rolls
1590-1710	Rent Roll
1591	Book of Customs
1600	Terrier
1672-1889	Admissions
1755-1824	Court Books
1763-1907	Minute Books
1806-1852	Quit Rents
1868-1925	Court Books
1806-1852	Quit Rents
1868-1925	Court Books

British Library

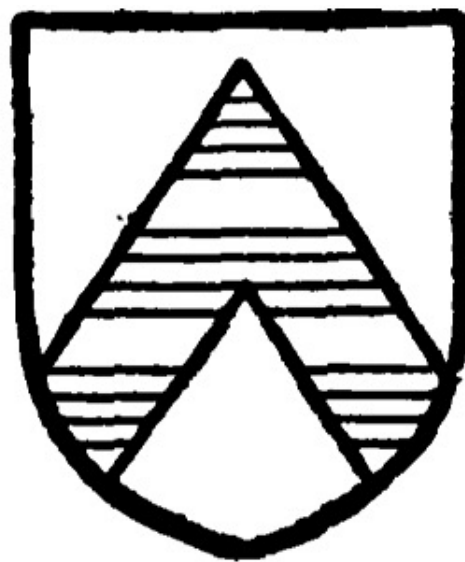
National Archives

Huntingdonshire Archives

Ramsey Abbey



Throckmorton. Gules a cheveron argent with three gimel bars sable thereon.



Waste in the Manor of Ellington, Huntingdonshire

The title to the Lordship of the Manor of Ellington is being sold together with a number of plots of land within the village. These include the village green and all of the extents are registered common land under the 1965 Commons Registration Act. The total area measures approximately 6 acres.

The extents which are registered as common land are as follows;

The Village Green (VG22 on the plan)

The Pond (CL36 on the plan)

The Pound (CL37 on the plan)

Thorpe Road Common (CL38 on the plan)

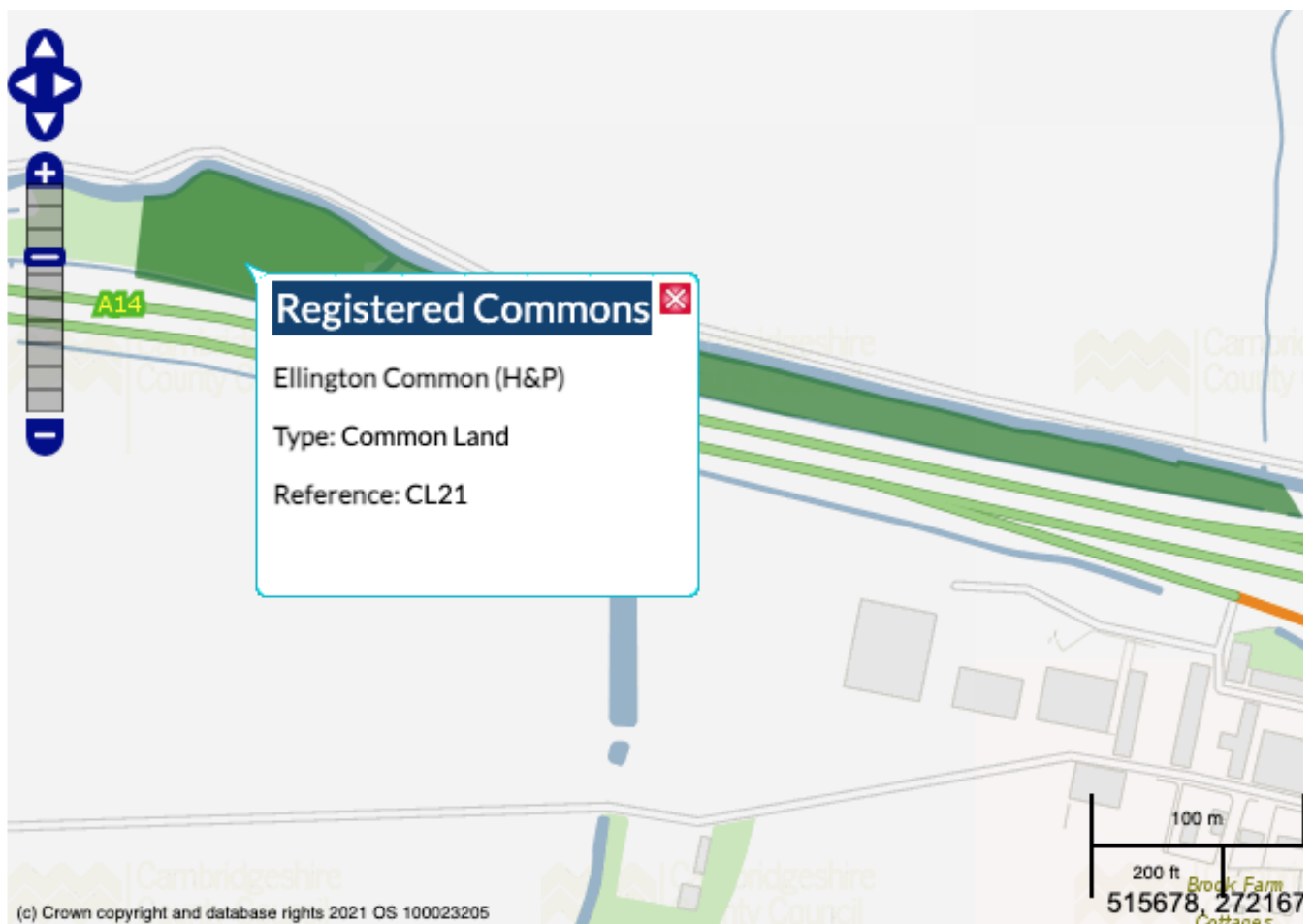
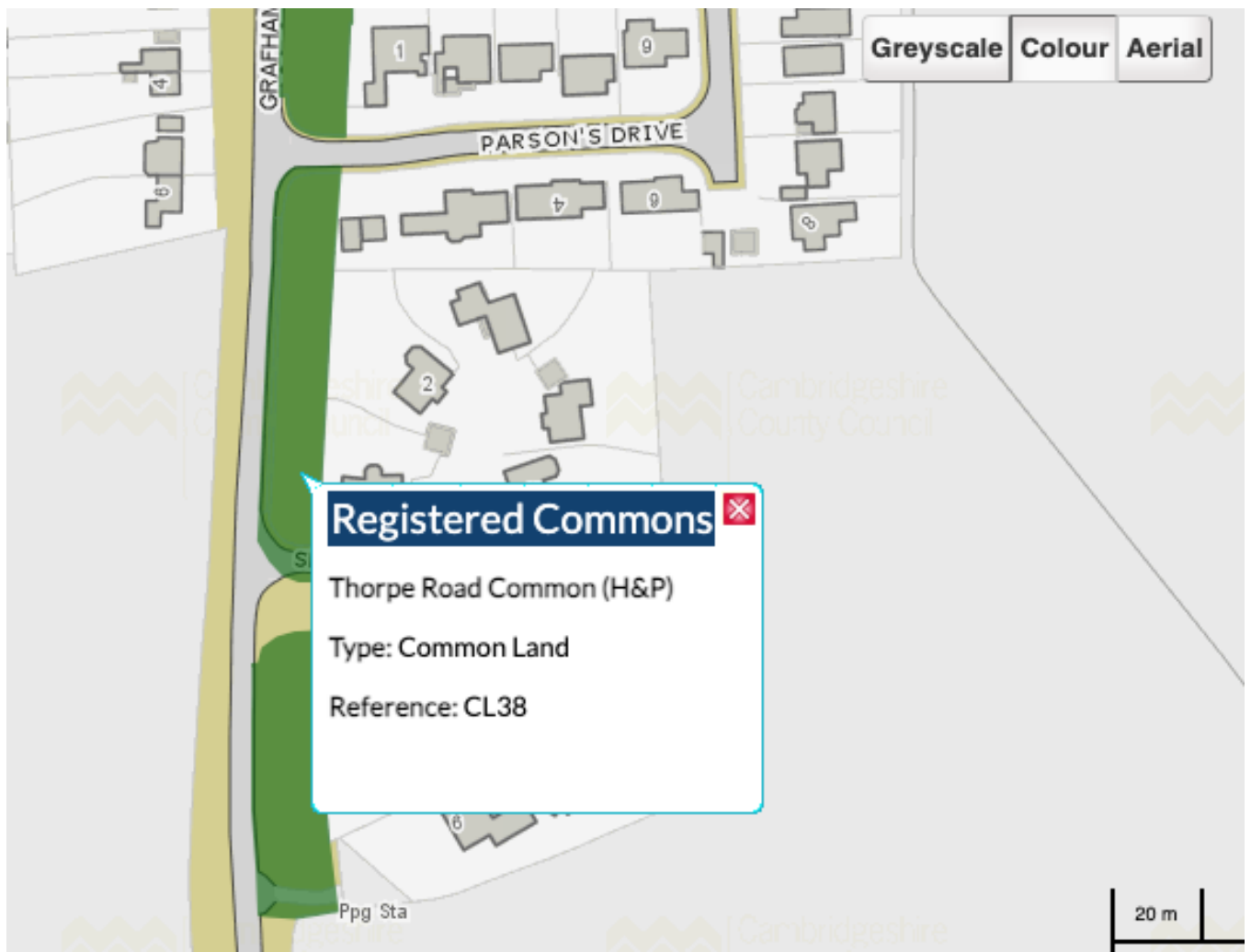
Ellington Common (CL21 on the plan)

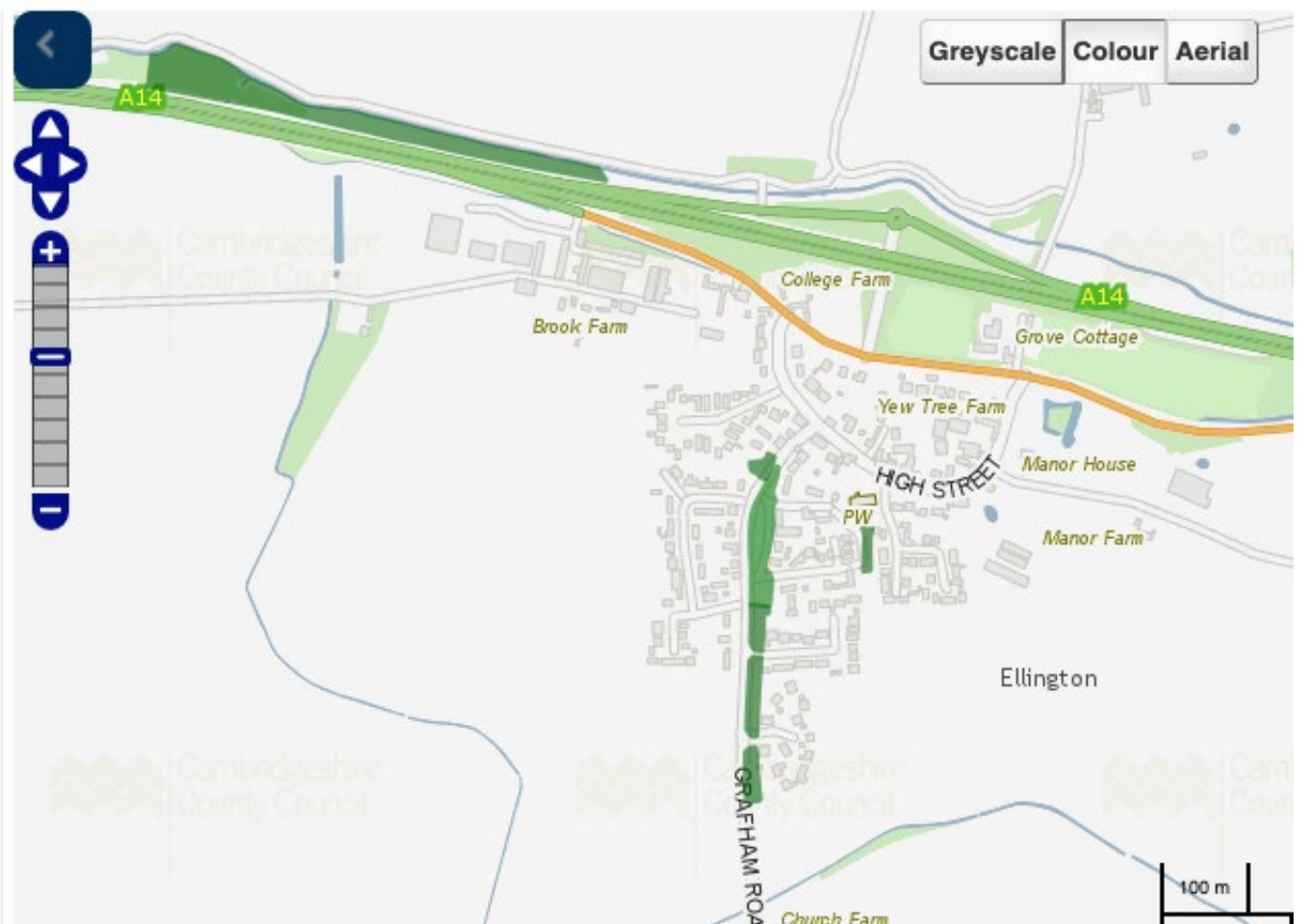
Since these plots are registered under the 1965 Act they are classed and protected as recreation areas. The Vendor is not aware of any liabilities or encumbrances on the extents.

The plots of waste are shown on the accompanying plans.









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 just a couple of miles south of Blackham and, as has already been noted, he added the manor to this estate in 1592. 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. Blackham however remained as part of the family estate, eventually passing to the Earls De La Warr who held it until the end of the 20th century.



Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1440-1440: rental, with Muncklow	King's College Archive Centre
1659-1659: particular of Lodgefield Land	Kent History and Library Centre
1704-1704: list of heriots, with other manors	
1732-1732: schedule of court books, with other manors	
1524-1570: court book, with other manors	East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office
(ESBHRO)	
1597-1598: survey, with other manors	
1613-1613: list of tenants (in court book)	
1618-1619: rental of demesne leases, with other manors	
1620-1620: book of heriots, with other manors	
1621-1639: court book, with other manors	
1640-1660: rental, with other manors	
1640-1640: rental, with other manors	
1680-1680: rental, with other manors	
1687-1687: court book, with other manors	
1690-1888: index to court books, with other manors	
1700-1700: court book, with other manors	
1715-1715: rental, with other manors	
1827-1902: court book, with other manors (indexed)	
1829-1829: rental, with other manors	
1843-1857: custumal, with other manors	
1843-1857: rental, with other manors	
1856-1861: account books, with other manors (5)	

The Lordship of the Manor of Whiteoxen, Devon

The Manor of Whiteoxen straddles the parishes of Dean Prior and Rattery, lying a mile north of the Great Western Railway which runs between London and Penzance. It formed part of the Marley Estate which was a property of the Carew Baronets until broken up in the 1920s. Whiteoxen or Whiteoaken as it was also known, was one of a number of manors held by the Carews in the area.

At the time of Domesday Book in 1086 Whiteoxen was part of the Manor of Rattery, which was held by William de Falaise. The entry reads:

*Roger holds this of William (de Falaise) of it
Roger has a demesne for half a plough.
There Roger has two bordars and one serf and
a hundred sheep and three acres
of meadow and one length of pasture.*



Sir Thomas Carew, Drawn by G. Clint and engraved by E. Smith after a painting by Sir Anthony Van Dyke

The descent from this period is rather obscure but in the following century the Manor was granted or gifted to the Abbey of St Dogmaels in Pembrokeshire, Wales by Robert FitzMartin. In 1242 it is recorded as "Whittekedean", in 1285 as "Wittekedon" and in 1305 as "Whyttokedon". These variations of a spelling are entirely normal in the Medieval period when there was no standard form of written English. The name itself derives from the Anglo-Saxon for Hwitiuc's Hill. During the 13th century the Abbey is recorded as holding *a fourth part of a knight's fee in Wittokedone, of Nicholas Fitzmartin, of his Barony of Dartington.*

The Manor remained as a possession of St Dogmael's Abbey until its Dissolution in 1536. The Abbey had been founded between 1113 and 1115 by Ralph FitzMartin, and followed the Tironesian Order whose founding abbey was at Tiron in France.

It is likely that the Crown held onto the Manor for some time after the Dissolution as there is little evidence that it was disposed of in the immediate aftermath of the seizure. By the 17th century it had passed to the Palk family. The Palks were local gentry and first recorded in the person of Henry, who was Lord of the Manor of Ambroke during the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509). On the marriage of Elizabeth Palk, heiress of her father, Walter, to Sir Henry Carew, the Manor of Whiteoxen, with the rest of the Marley Estate, passed to this ancient family who could claim to trace their ancestry back to the Anglo-Saxon, Ortho, a thegn of Edward the Confessor. The family were established at Ottery Mohun, in Devon by the time of the birth of Sir Peter Carew in 1514. Sir Peter was an independently minded man. He was educated at Exeter Grammar school, but angered his tutors through frequent truancy. On one occasion he escaped lessons by climbing a turret of the city wall and threatening to jump down if his master followed. For this he was punished by being led back to the school on a leash *like a dog*. At sixteen his prowess in riding and other exercises led him to be noticed by Henry VIII and he was taken to Hampden to be a gentleman on the court. He spent time travelling with the King, and was sent by him to fetch Anne of Cleves, the King's fourth wife from Germany in 1539. In the war with France, which began in 1544, he joined Henry's forces with one hundred foot soldiers dressed in black, at his own expense. A year later his brother, Sir George Carew was captain of the Mary Rose, Henry's flag ship, which floundered in Portsmouth harbour on its way to attack the French fleet. In the last year of Henry's reign, 1547, Sir Peter was made sheriff of Devonshire, and on the death of Henry's son,

Edward in 1553 was publicly opposed to the installation of Lady Jane Grey as monarch, instead proclaiming Mary, as Queen. His loyalty was vexed with Mary's proposed marriage to Philip of Spain and he conspired to stop it. His intrigue was discovered and he fled to Italy, before being arrested and returned to England to be confined in the Tower. On the accession of Elizabeth in 1558, he returned to royal favour and retired to his Irish estates. Later members of the family included Sir Thomas Carew, who was made a baronet in 1661 and Sir Henry Carew, Bart, who was Lord of the Manor in 1822. The last member of the family to hold Whiteoxen was Sir Rivers Carew.

Whiteoxen remained a part of the Marley Estate until 1925 when the farm was sold with the rest of the freehold land but the manorial titles were retained. The manor house of Whiteoxen, still stands today and although not included in this sale can be visited as a bed and breakfast destination. It had a number of tenant occupiers but the Palk family themselves did not live there but instead shared their time between their main residence at Haccombe and nearby Marley House. In 1839 it is noted in an estate terrier that the occupier was James Easterbrook. At the end of the 19th century it was tenanted by Richard Andrews.

White Oxen Manor House



The Lordship of the Manor of Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire

With historic rights to market and fair

Perhaps unwittingly the name of this manor has entered into mainstream western culture. It is widely thought to have provided Sir Walter Scott with the name for his most famous book - Ivanhoe. It is reported that he was much taken with a local rhyme which commemorated the loss of this and other manors in the 14th century when a member of the Hampden family supposedly struck Edward, the Black Prince during a game of tennis;

*Tring Wing and Ivinghoe
For striking of a blow
Hampden did forgo
And glad he could escape so*



Painting of Sir John Mason attributed to Sampson Strong, 1607. From the collection of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon

Scott took the name for the eponymous hero but sadly, for such an interesting story the rhyme is entirely erroneous since neither Ivinghoe, Tring or Wing for that matter ever belonged to a member of the Hampden family, or even the Black Prince.

Ivinghoe lies in a parish of the same name in the east of the county, four miles from Tring. It gives its name to the Ivinghoe Hills in the south of the parish which are flanked by the ancient Icknield Way, the pre-Roman road which runs for over 170 miles roughly from Berkshire to Hampshire. Beacon Hill was the site of a Medieval warning beacon.

The history of the Manor can be traced to before the Norman Conquest when it was part of the estate of the Church of St Peter in Winchester. Some sources note that Ivinghoe was granted to the church by Queen Emma, the wife of Ethelred in 1042, in commemoration of her son Harthacanute who had ruled as king of England for just two years before his death. After the Norman conquest 24 years later the Manor remained as part of the church's lands and is recorded in Domesday Book as being assessed for 20 hides and being valued at £18. The land in Ivinghoe was very fertile and provided the Bishops with an abundance of produce as well as timber from their considerable woodlands. Wheat crops, barley, oats, peas and beans were all grown here and in 1318 the Bishop received protection for the corn which was being sent from the Manor to London. In the same year he was granted a charter of a weekly market to be held every Thursday.

St Peters held Ivinghoe until 1551 when it was surrendered to Edward VI by Bishop John Poynt. Within a few weeks the young king had granted the Manor to Sir John Mason and his wife Elizabeth. Mason was one of a number of men who had been born into relatively humble families but who succeeded in achieving great wealth and eminence during the Tudor period. Perhaps the most famous of these men was Thomas Cromwell. Mason was born at Abingdon in 1503, the son of a cowherd. He was lucky to have an uncle who was a monk and who educated the young boy. In 1518 Henry VIII stayed in the small town for a number of weeks in a bid to escape an outbreak of disease in London and it seems likely that this was when Mason came to the king's attention. He was admitted first to Oxford and then as a scholar of the king at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1532 he entered the diplomatic service and represented the king throughout France, Spain and Italy. In 1537 he entered the service of Sir Thomas Wyatt, the English envoy in Spain. In 1542 he returned to England and took up the post of Clerk to the Privy Counsel and after the death of Henry in

1547 served the young King Edward VI, being rewarded with several manors including that of Ivinghoe. After Edward's death, Mason initially supported Jane Grey as queen but he luckily failed to sign the Duke of Northumberland's proclamation and so evaded arrest and execution after Mary claimed the throne a few days later. Mason made a quick reverse and proclaimed Mary. Despite being a Protestant he remained in the Queen's favour throughout her reign but his Manor of Ivinghoe was returned to the Crown which then returned it to the Bishop of Winchester.

When Elizabeth became queen in 1558 Ivinghoe was almost immediately retrieved by the Crown and regranted to Mason. After his death a year later it passed to his son Anthony, who is still recorded as Lord of the Manor in 1582. Four years later it was alienated, or sold, to Charles Glenham. His tenure was very short and within the year he had sold it to Lady Jane Cheyne, the widow of Henry, Lord Cheyne. In 1603 she sold Ivinghoe to the trustees of Sir Thomas Egerton who received the estate in 1604. In 1617 Egerton was created Earl of Bridgewater. The fourth Earl, Scroop Egerton was raised to the Dukedom of Bridgewater in 1720. Ivinghoe remained in the Egerton family until 1829. Under the will of the seventh and final earl (the Dukedom having become extinct) the Manor was left in the hands of his widow, Charlotte until her death in 1849 when it descended to her great-nephew John Home Cust, Viscount Alford, father of the second Earl Brownlow. The Manor remained in the hands of the Earls Brownlow until the end of the 20th century.

Ivinghoe Beacon seen from The Ridgeway



Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1200-1300: Register of inquisitions of customs	British Library
1403-1404: account roll	Buckinghamshire Archives
1551-1680: stewards papers	
1559-1586: court rolls (draft)	
1600-1700: court rolls	
1607-1612: rentals	
1613-1613: toll book of Ivinghoe fair	
1622-1666: court rolls	
1659-1668: court rolls (draft)	
1582-1582: customs of the manor	
1669-1804: court rolls (draft) with related papers	
1514-1515: court rolls, with other manors	Warwickshire Record Office
1533-1534: court rolls	Hampshire Archives
1540-1549: court book	
1548-1549: survey, with other manors	The National Archives
1668-1673: court rolls	Hertfordshire Archives
1682-1704: court book	
1683-1807: list of tenants (alphabetical)	
1700-1900: notes on customs	
1705-1722: court rolls	
1757-1949: court books	

The Lordship of the Manor of Stoborough, Dorset

With a historic court leet

As the saying goes, *with great power comes great responsibility* and one of the features of the English feudal system was that a Lord of the Manor could reap the rewards in wealth from his lands but he also had a duty to uphold the law. Many manors were overseen and controlled by the court leet of the lords of the manor. There was a jury made up of tenants, and local laws were enforced and fines levied against those who transgressed them. Court leets also appointed men to act as manorial officials; constable, ale-taster for instance. The court leet for the Manor of Stoborough, or Stowborough, was unusual in that the court chose the mayor of the borough. This function was carried out until the 18th century for reasons explained below but this is an interesting tradition which any new Lord of the manor could revive, albeit in a more ceremonial way. The mayor was chosen by the Lord's court leet every Michaelmas (29 September) and the tradition continued until the beginning of the 18th century when the last mayor was chosen at the court of Mr Pitt, whose family were lords of the manor until 1850 when they sold Stoborough to the Earl of Eldon. Even at this date the court still chose a bailiff to serve the village. The practise only ceased because the tenants and villagers of Stoborough had become dissenters. In order to take part they were required to take the oath of the Church of England and they all refused.

Stoborough is a village a mile or two south of Wareham and there is some historical thought that it perhaps predates that town and was its original settlement although many doubt this since Wareham was important in the 10th century. Much like Old Sarum and Salisbury, the relationship eventually became one of main town and semi-suburb. The fact that Stoborough is named as a borough, gives some indication of its antiquity. It is possible that it was established by Alfred as one of his Wessex *boroughs*. The fact that it also had a serving mayor would lend some credence to it formally being a settlement of more consequence. It may have been that Wareham superseded Stoborough before the Norman invasion.

The descent of the Manor before the 15th century is rather obscure but it likely formed part of the lands of the Wareham Priory and this in turn formed the eastern part of the *vill*. After the Dissolution of the priory in 1538, the Stoborough was seized by the Crown and seems to have remained as one of its many manors until 1591 when it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Richard Swayne and Thomas Freake. Swayne was born in Blandford Forum and sat as an MP for Weymouth and Melcombe. He was a trained lawyer and the son of a merchant, one of the rising number of men in the Tudor period who could perhaps be viewed as 'middle-class'. In his practise as a Dorset lawyer he became involved in land speculation, with Thomas Freake his cousin and partner. The latter was knighted at the Coronation of James I in 1603. Records indicate that they purchased land worth £64 per year from the Crown in 1590, which must have included Stoborough. Within a few years Swayne had either sold or gifted the Manor of Stoborough to his nephew, Sir William Pitt.

Pitt was a notable man for the Wareham area. His father John served Elizabeth as her Clerk of the Exchequer until his death in 1602. Pitt became comptroller of the household of James I and sat as MP for Wareham from 1614. He acquired a number of estates as well as Stoborough, his main residence being Stratfield Saye in Hampshire. His descendants include William Pitt, the Elder, and William Pitt the younger, both, of course, eminent Prime Ministers. Stoborough however did not descend to this cadet branch. On Sir William's death in 1636 the Manor passed to his eldest son Edward. He sat in Parliament for Poole in 1624 and was a teller in the Exchequer. His life is most notable for its end. During the early period of the Civil War in 1643 he was seized by Parliamentary forces at Stratfield Saye and imprisoned at Windsor castle. Although he pleaded neutrality, his eldest son joined the Royalist army. Pitt was arrested and his mansion ransacked. His son died a few months later as did both he and his wife. His estate was eventually passed to his younger son who was an infant at the time of his father's death.

The manor remained in the hands of the Pitt family until sold in 1850 by George, Lord Rivers, to the Trustees of the Earl of Eldon, John Scott. It remained in the hands of the Scott family until the beginning of the present century.

Stoborough was the site of a large barrow discovered as such in 1757. It was said to be 100 feet in diameter. In the centre was found a large, hollowed oak and within this the remains of a number of people and various items which suggest that it may have been a Danish burial mound.

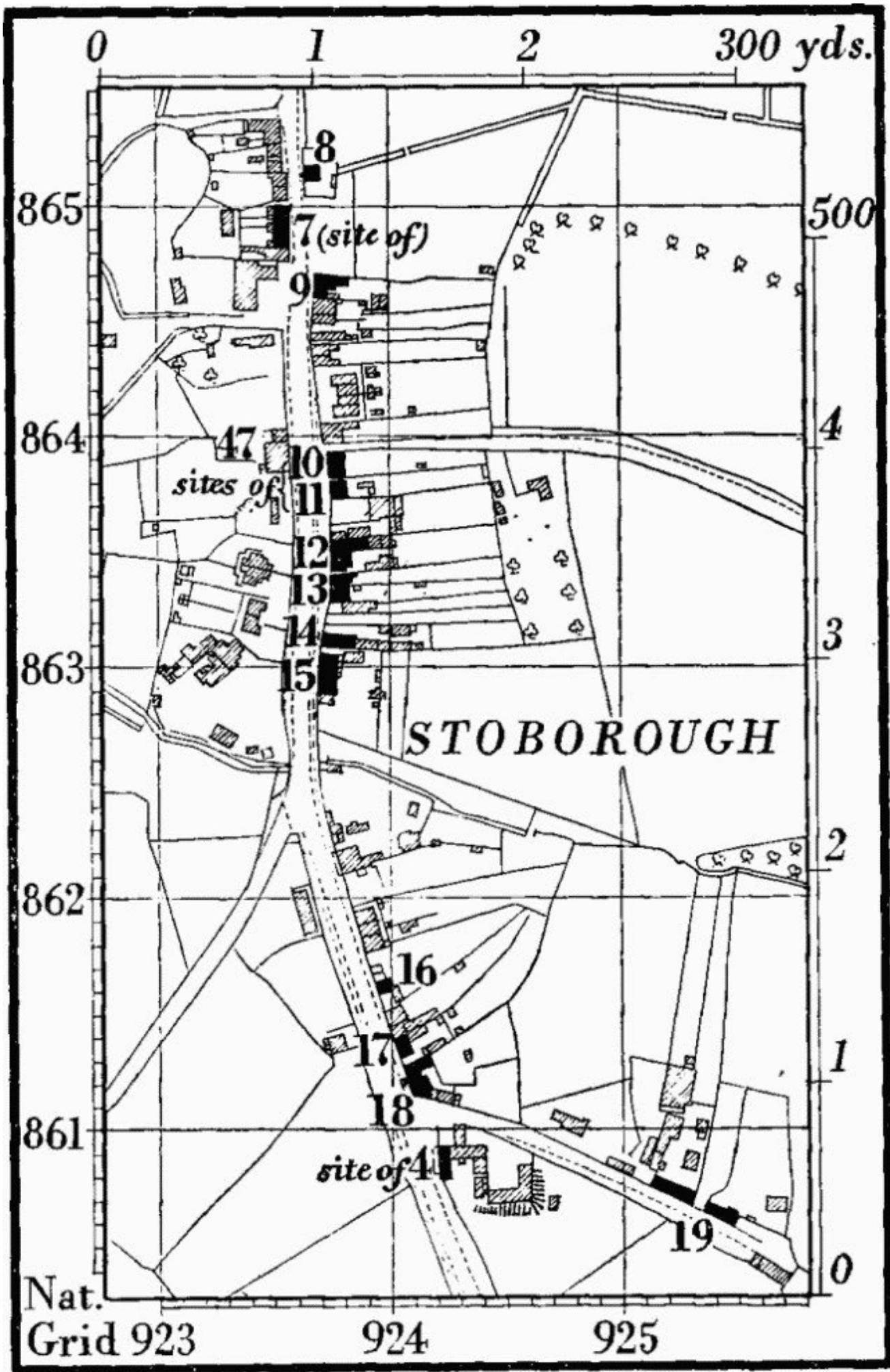


Looking towards Wareham and the South Causeway with the town's Lady St Mary church visible next to the pub sign, Clive Hannay

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1663-1664: court papers
1671-1671: court book, with other manors
1702-1769: court book, with other manors
1735-1856: court books (2)
1750-1850: survey
1757-1757: rent book, with other manors
1762-1805: rentals
1800-1800: survey, with other manors
1800-1850: valuation (3 copies)
1802-1802: list of jurors
1804-1804: map
1806-1827: rent book
1810-1816: rental, with other manors
1849-1850: valuation, with other manors
1868-1868: map
1869-1869: rental
1869-1869: minutes

Dorset History Centre



Stoborough plan

The Lordship of the Manor of Aldenham, Hertfordshire

The course of the feudal system did not always run smooth. In the case of the Manor of Aldenham, its early history was riven by an acrimonious dispute between two rivals owners. The Manor itself is of great age. The earliest mention of it purports to be from 785 when it was granted by King Offa of Mercia to Westminster Abbey (or Thorney Abbey according to some). The grant included almost the whole of the western part of the present parish and the Roman road, Watling Street forms one of its boundaries.

A further charter of 959, from the English King Edgar, seems to reaffirm the early charter and by the time of Domesday in 1086 the Manor is recorded as belonging to the church of St Peter at Westminster. The monks of the Abbey of St Albans claimed that Aldenham was in fact granted to them by Offa in 793 on the foundation of their Abbey. In the words of the author of the Victoria County History *the whole of the early evidence regarding Aldenham appears to be exceedingly unsatisfactory.*



Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland (c. 1610-1643),
Circle of Anthony van Dyck

The case for St Albans rested on a claim that they had leased the Manor to Westminster in 1064 for 20 years and that at the end of that period the Abbot of the latter had refused to give it back. This dispute then ensued for 200 years. The authenticity of the various grants was called into question and it led to a number of legal cases. In 1202 for instance a jury found in favour of St Albans despite no evidence being found that Aldenham was mentioned in any of their own charters. In 1256 another action was brought by Westminster to the King's court and this time an agreement was reached which tried to pacify both sides but which led to a fairly novel manorial compromise. Once a year the bailiff of the Abbot of St Albans would be allowed to hold a view of frankpledge and that suit of court for the manor would be divided between the Hundred of Cashio, which fell under Westminster's control and the liberty of St Albans. The power to hang criminals (infangthief) would also be shared.

Even this very English settlement didn't extinguish the dispute since as late of 1437 the Abbot of St Albans entered into a dispute about his rights in Aldenham which was abandoned through lack of money. The Dissolution of the religious houses in 1538 rendered these disputes academic and the Manor of Aldenham was surrendered to the Crown. In 1546 Aldenham was granted in total to Ralph Stepneth for £980. Little is recorded of Stepneth, he is described as a gentleman and was probably a London merchant since he is also known as Ralph Stepney, or Ralph of Stepney. The Stepneth family retained Aldenham until 1589 when it was sold to Edward Cary; master and treasurer of Queen Elizabeth's jewels. Cary's family were stalwart supporters of the Tudors, his father had been groom of the Privy Chamber of Henry VIII, and Cary was well rewarded for his service. In addition to Aldenham he was granted Berkhamsted Castle.

The Manor of Aldenham passed to Henry Cary on the death of his father in 1617 and he was subsequently created Viscount Falkland. On his death in 1633 it descended to his son Lucius, 2nd Viscount. He was a staunch supporter of Charles I and fought on the Royalist side at the battle of Edgehill in October 1642 and at the following siege of Gloucester. Despite the national crisis, and possibly as a way of raising funds to continue the fight, Falkland sold Aldenham in later 1642 to Sir John Harby. A few months later Falkland was killed at the Battle of Newbury. The Manor remained in the Harby family until 1664 when it was sold once more to Denzil Holles, first Baron Holles. It remained in this family, eventually passing to John Holles, Duke of Newcastle. In 1754 it was sold to Samuel Vanderwall an extremely wealthy London merchant from Lincoln's Inn. On his death it was willed to Vanderwall's stepson, Thomas Neate.

In 1799 Aldenham was sold to George Woodford Thellusson. This family were considered rather exotic by Eighteenth century standards. George's father, Peter, had come to England in 1757 to complete his education, his father being a minister at the French court. He found England to his liking and in 1761 married Ann Woodford and established a merchant bank. He traded his way to a fortune and established himself as a landed English gentleman at Plaistow in Kent, after becoming a naturalised citizen by Act of Parliament. His son George continued in the family business after his father's death in 1797 and invested his money in land, such as Aldenham. Thellusson also entered the political world. Unfortunately he made something of a false start. On standing for election to the seat of Southwark in 1796 he was elected but the result was challenged by his rival and it was found that Thellusson had been guilty of the offence of Treating; that is giving voters too much by way of an incentive to vote for him. Within months the contest was held again and this time Thellusson won but, remarkably, was unseated several weeks later after yet another contest when the result of the second ballot was successfully challenged.

In 1805, Thellusson sold Aldenham to the trustees of his own father's will and it duly passed to his brother Peter who, a year later, was created Lord Rendlesham. The Manor remained in the hands of the Lords Rendlesham until the end of the 20th century when it was purchased by the family of the present owners.

Aldenham is a large parish of some 6000 acres in the south of the county and is the neighbour of Elstree and Watford. Although within the bounds of the M25 it has remained almost entirely rural. As noted above it is bounded on the East by Watling Street, one of the few features of English parochial boundaries which is a straight line.

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1200-1225: custumal, with other manors	British Library
1278-1507: reeve's account rolls	Westminster Abbey Library
1511-1515: rent collector's accounts	
1532-1532: court roll	
1314-1315: extent, with other manors	Cambridge University Library
1384-1394 account rolls, with other manors	Essex Record Office
1394-1398: court roll, with other manors	Hertfordshire Archives
1779-1780: map	
1515-1540: minister's accounts	The National Archives
1539-1541: estreats, with other manors	
1600-1700: valuation, with Wall Hall	Hatfield House Library and Archives
1585-1800: terriers (various)	Suffolk Record Office
1655-1790: steward's papers	
1622-1637: rental	
1681-1875: rentals	
1699-1699: list of surrenders	
1708-1714: court roll	
1708-1763: minutes	
1754-1937: court books (5 vols)	
1806-1806: valuation	
1864-1877: steward's accounts (1 bundle)	
1875-1900: rental	
1917-1917: maps (with lists of copyhold tenants and admissions)	



Aldenham Frederick Thellusson, Lord Rendlesham

The Lordship of the Manor of Grittenham, Wiltshire

This manor is registered with the Land Registry

Until the creation of the Ordnance Survey in the mid 19th century many place names remained uncertain and varied. They often depended on local use and how they might have been written in various documents over time. Take the Lordship of the Manor of Grittenham for instance. It can alternatively be known as Grettenham, Gruttenham or even Grottenham, although the former is the least likely to be used. The settlement of Grittenham had its name fixed on the map with this spelling but a new Lord of the Manor might choose their own.

Grittenham is found a few miles west of Royal Wootton Bassett in the parish of Brinkworth. It was, and remains a rural area, once formed by large open fields, divided into a myriad of smaller areas known as strips. It seems likely that at an earlier time Grittenham was a much larger village than now and this was likely a result of the inclosure of the open land in the 16th century. This will be explained in due course.



Grittenham Henry Fox, st Baron Holland by John Giles Eccardt

The Manor is thought to predate the Norman Conquest and was claimed as a possession of Malmesbury Abbey as part of a larger estate known as Brokenborough. The Abbey was already an old institution in 1066, having been founded in the late 7th century. The date at which it was endowed with the land at Grittenham is not known for certain but it is likely that it was made during the reign of King Eadwig (955-959) as part of a large gift of fifty hides of land he granted to the Abbey. A charter made in 1065 notes that *Grutenham counts for one hide* and by the time of Domesday this land had been granted to an unnamed knight. It was soon returned to the Abbey, which retained Grittenham for the next 450 years.

At the time of the Dissolution in 1538, the Manor was seized by the Crown and held by Henry until 1541 when it was granted to John Ayliffe. It is described at the time to consist of *demesne land divided into five portions and a number of copyholds* and measured around 1500 acres. Ayliffe was a resident of London who had served as sheriff of the city and knighted in 1549. He was one of the emerging middle classes who prospered under the Tudors. His profession was that of barber surgeon to Henry VIII and is featured in a painting of Henry by Holbein known as "King Henry VIII and the Barber Surgeons". This was a profession midway between a barber who cut hair and shaved mens chins, and doctor who would be allowed to undertake various medical procedures such as amputating limbs and blood-letting. Ayliffe was known to have successfully treated the king for a fistula and for which the grant of Grittenham was the direct reward as was 100 marks, left in Henry's will, specifically for Ayliffe. On his death in 1556 the Manor passed to his son John and then to his son, also John.

It was under the stewardship of the latter members of the family that a drastic change was made to the physical shape of the Manor. Whereas until the end of the 16th century, Grittenham had remained largely unchanged for centuries, the new lords of the manor decided to follow an economic trend of the day and enclosed the open field, ploughed up the intricate strips of land and created large fields of grass and pasture land for sheep. The manorial copyholders, and many of the villagers were ejected from the village and their homes pulled down. Many of them moved to nearby Brinkworth. The Ayliffe family built a manor house, known as Grittenham House and it became something like a small landed estate. This was a common pattern amongst landowners but caused much distress amongst the labouring poor who lost their land and their livelihoods at the same time. By 1680 there were over 400 acres of grassland, 250 of meadow and 180

of pasture, whereas before 1550 almost all of the land would have been arable or fallow on rotation.

The Manor remained in the hands of the Ayliffe family until 1737 when it passed from the last surviving member, Judith, daughter of George Ayliffe to her cousin Susanna Strangeways. Although she was married she alone was lady of the Manor, until her death in 1758 when it was passed to her daughter's brother-in-law, Henry Fox. Fox was one of the leading politicians of the 18th century and served various Whig administrations as Secretary at War, Southern Secretary and Paymaster of the Forces. He achieved notoriety in 1744 when he eloped with the daughter of the Duke of Richmond, Caroline Lennox, which was one of the major social scandals of the 1740s. This didn't appear to harm his political prospects and two years later he was appointed Secretary at War under the Duke of Newcastle. During the decade he became a close friend and confidant of George II and although he was tipped to be Prime Minister the position always remained just out of reach. He was an ally of Newcastle but was considered too ambitious and 'grasping' by his colleague and when William Pitt became Prime Minister in 1757, Fox was left out of the cabinet. He was appointed as Paymaster and remained in this post until his resignation in 1765. He was created the first Baron Holland in 1763.

On his death in 1774, Grittenham passed to his son Stephen, the 2nd Baron but he died a few months later in the same year and so the Manor passed to his son, Henry, 3rd Baron. Henry, was another prominent politician of the early 19th century who, served as the Lord Privy Seal in the Ministry of the Talents led by Lord Grenville in 1807. From him it passed to his son Henry, 4th Baron in 1840 and on his death in 1859 it passed to his wife Mary, Lady Holland. From her it came to Leopold Fox-Powys and in 1895 it was sold by Thomas Powys, Baron Lilford to George Llewellyn Palmer who served as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry during the First World War. Grittenham remained in the Palmer family until the end of the 20th century.

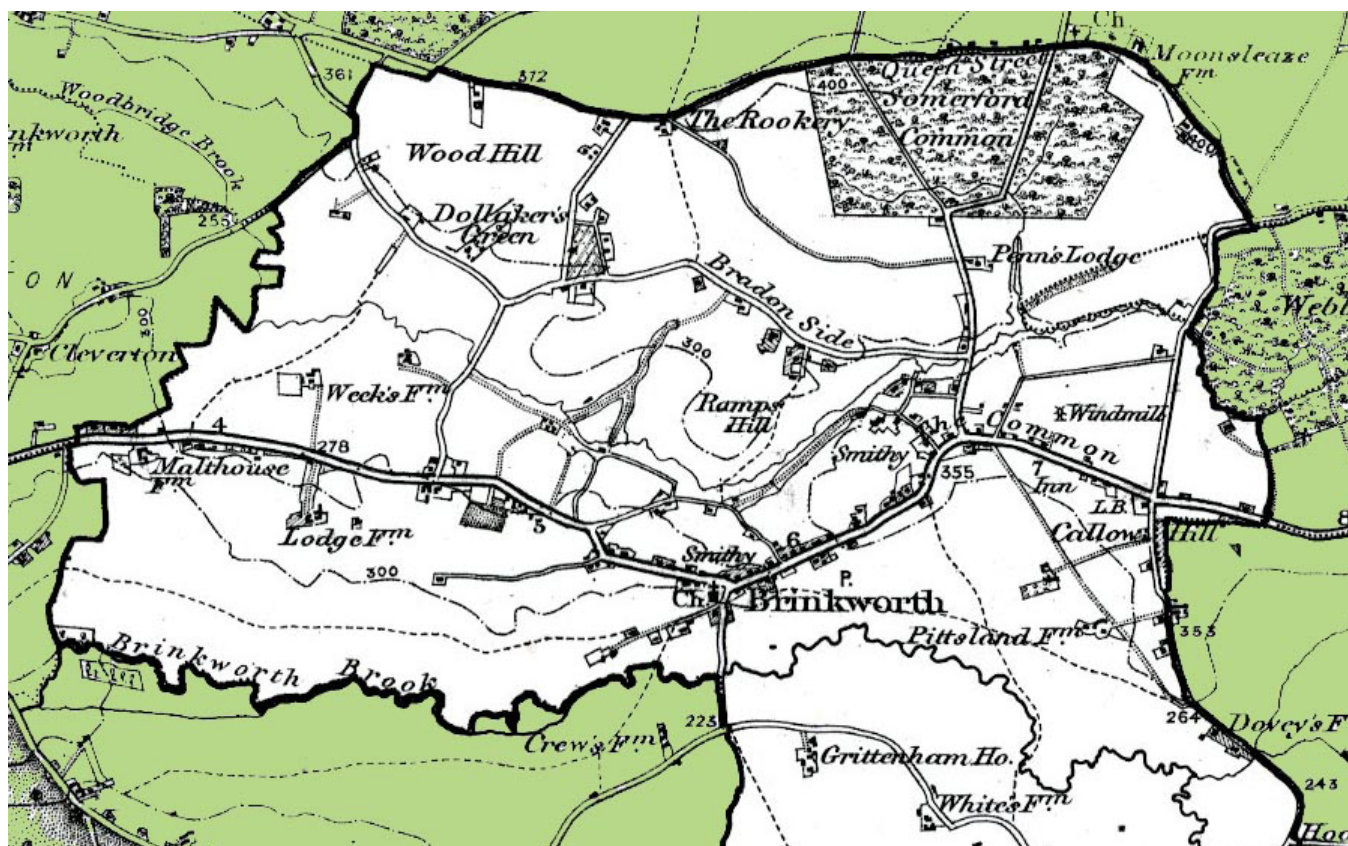


Hans Holbein, *Henry VIII and the Barber Surgeons*

Documents associated with this manor in the public domain

1541 Grant of the Manor
1722 Map of the Manor
1760 Map of the Manor

Wiltshire History Centre



1890s Map of the Brinkworth. Does not show the Manor. Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

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9. Bespoke researches for customers

This is a FREE service; however, we reserve the right to refuse unreasonable requests. We also trust that all searches are requested by individuals who understand our service and wish to purchase a title through ourselves.

If substantial research is required, we may require a fee.

10. Research and intellectual property

10.1 The purchaser shall not be entitled to copy or publish or sell or make available to any third parties any documentation in connection with the sale and transfer of the rights without the written permission of Manorial Services Limited, nor shall the purchaser allow either through acts or omissions anyone else to do so.

10.2 The intellectual property rights to any written contract, conveyance, report, research, Manorial Services Limited methodology and any other documentation associated with the sale and transfer of the rights, whether or not provided to the purchaser by Manorial Services Limited, in performing its services, shall belong to Manorial Services Limited.

What is a Manorial Lordship?

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1: Introduction

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 well glossed 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.

Manors cover an immutable area of land and may include rights over and under that land, such as rights to exploit minerals under the soil, manorial waste, commons and greens. While it has always been the case that manorial rights can sometimes have a high value, this is rare because the rights are frequently unknown and unresearched (or are just not commercial). There is no value in owning mineral rights if there are no commercially exploitable minerals, such as granite or aggregate, and purchasers should not expect a manorial Eldorado. If such benefits were routine, then asking prices by agents would be considerably higher to reflect this.

We are sometimes asked whether Lordships are a 'good investment' to which the answer is, 'what goes up can also come down.' The average price of a Manor was about £300 in 1955; about £600 in 1976; about £2,500 in 1981; about £10,000 in 1989; about £7,000 in 1992, during the last recession; about £12,000 in 1998, and about £7,000 now. Some Lordships command a premium price because of their names: Stratford Upon Avon and Wimbledon, sold respectively in 1993 and 1996 for £110,000 and £171,000. These are exceptional. At sales, some Manors will go higher or lower than the average, depending on the current financial climate. If you should enjoy a capital gain, then treat it as serendipity.

2: Importance of solicitors

Like any other real property (known as real estate in the United States), Manorial Lordships belong to some one and are conveyed in precisely the same way as you would convey a house. Just as you would not contemplate the purchase of a house without legal advice, so you would be unwise to contemplate the purchase of a Manor without legal advice and you should appoint an independent solicitor/attorney. Agents Manorial Services and Strutt & Parker have panels of solicitors who are well versed in this arcane area of property law and will advise, but an intending purchaser is free to appoint any solicitor of his or her choice.

Solicitors will be looking principally for one thing: whether the person or company selling is the legal owner. 'Legal owner' is an important expression in law, and is quite different from a similar expression in law 'beneficial owner' (eg such as a beneficiary under a Will where the legal owner is the Executor or Trustee). The solicitor will also make inquiries with the seller's solicitors about any rights that may be passed. He will also make Land Searches at HM Land Registry.

Once you have made your offer and it is accepted, your solicitor will ask the vendor's solicitor for what is

known as an Epitome of Title: ie proof of ownership over not less than 15 years (20 years in Ireland). With Lordships, in practice in the Civil Law, title is generally traced back 50 or more years. Proof of ownership is sometimes found in family or estate documents: viz Assents, Probates, Wills, Mortgages, Settlements. Statutory Declarations are common, the latter supported by persuasive exhibits from secondary sources. In effect, they are similar to the authentication of an unsigned painting, unmarked porcelain or furniture. They are as good as the person making the Declaration and the evidence adduced in exhibits. The legal expression that will appear in a Conveyance or wording very similar, in such Conveyances is 'All and Singular that Manor or Lordship or Reputed Manor or Lordship of X, in the parish of Y, in the County of Z...'

A purchaser's solicitor will check also by Searches that the seller is not a bankrupt or (if a company) where it is incorporated and not struck off or in receivership.

A solicitor will also check that the Manor is purchased 'unencumbered' (ie that there are no unexpected costs, such as the duty to repair the chancel of the local church, known as the 'lay rectorship', or 'lay impropriatorship' or to maintain the village green).

3: Taxation

It is not a very complicated job, but it is worth spending about £400 with a solicitor who will ask the right questions of the seller's solicitor and to get the correct paperwork. We mentioned commercial rights and capital gains on the asset: do not forget that if by chance there were potentially valuable rights on the Manor, the first thing you need to prove any legal entitlement to them is good title and conveyancing.

Value Added Tax (VAT) does not apply to the Lordship or Barony/Honour itself, but VAT on commissions paid to the agents will attract VAT at the prevailing rate (presently 20% in the UK) to all purchasers within the European Union. All other purchasers are exempt, as they are if they buy most goods in the UK. Those non-EU visitors who know the large London shops, such as Fortnum & Mason, will have seen signs about 'tax free shopping.'

Other taxes, such as Capital Gains or any income from a Lordship (eg mines and minerals, manorial waste) may well apply in the national jurisdiction of the owner. Owners should consult a tax accountant if need be.

4: British and overseas owners and death

A Lordship has a value and for all Lords of Manors, it will count as an asset at death, unless a lifetime arrangement has already been made. If you are domiciled outside the UK and your Lordship is your only UK asset, you will still need a Probate Certificate, even though the value is very likely to be well below the threshold for Inheritance Tax. This is usually a formality - an important one - and the solicitor who helped you to acquire the Lordship can do this for a deceased estate inexpensively. A Probate Certificate is important where the beneficiary wishes to sell the Lordship for a cash amount, as a purchaser's solicitor will want evidence that it was transferred lawfully: ie that no tax was due on the death of the Testator. The Probate Certificate confirms that tax was not due, or if it formed part of a larger portfolio of assets in the UK, that took the value of the estate above the Inheritance Tax threshold, that it was included as part of the entire deceased estate in the UK.

5: Land Registration Act (LRA) (2002)

Lords of the Manor in England and Wales have been given until 13 October 2013 to register any rights they may have in the Manor. The LRA does not oblige owners to register their rights, and non-registration does not mean that the Lordship or its rights are lost. It just means that the traditional paper conveyancing continues, as opposed to electronic conveyancing today.

An advantage of registration, however - especially if an owner does not live on the spot, enabling him or her to see what is going on - is that a solicitor to a landowner, developer, or house owner, mineral excavation company, wind farm operator, and so forth, where manorial rights might apply, will make a search of the Land Registry as a matter of course. Your name and address, or the address of your solicitor, will be available on

the Certificate and one of you will receive a letter from a solicitor acting for some one who may need to come to an arrangement on manorial rights with the Lord. This is known as First Registration.

NB: not being registered does not affect your ownership of title and rights, but it is better to be registered as anyone seeking changes of use of land where the Lord of the Manor may be involved will come to you. You do not need to find the developer or other individual or company if your Lordship is registered.

You should also note that claims to manorial rights are not retrospective. For example, if you discover that a developer has used a route across the manorial waste or Common, known as a ransom strip, to gain access to a number of houses he has built, and the houses have been built, the Civil Courts of England will not entertain a 'late claim.' The Courts will take what is known as the 'balance of convenience:' ie if you did nothing about a ransom strip before building, or other activity, took place (regardless of whether you knew about it or not), you are most unlikely succeed in such a claim.



6: Scottish Baronies

Scottish Baronies are essentially what in England are called 'manors', but are called 'baronies'. Indeed, Scottish Dispositions (Conveyances) routinely refer to the 'manor place' in barony documents going back centuries. Some land was still held feudally in Scotland until reforming legislation in the Scottish Parliament was enacted and came into force in November 2004. Purchasers should engage a Scottish solicitor (Scotland being a separate legal jurisdiction from England and Wales), and a seller will provide what is called an 'Opinion' or an 'Advice' from a lawyer or other land historian, who has made such things a speciality, as to the existence of a barony and the seller's entitlement to sell. Its effect is the same as an English Statutory Declaration.

It should also be noted that Scottish baronies were stripped of all interests in land in November 2004. Rights, therefore, in superiorities, reversions, mines, minerals, solum (common and waste) were abolished, and the shell title 'barony' is all that remains. In England, a Lordship stripped of all its rights exists as a 'Lordship in Gross.' There is no comparable term in Scottish Law of which we are aware.

Conveyances in Scotland tend to be called 'Dispositions' and some legal words differ, but one acquires a barony in much the same way as a Lordship in England. It should be noted that Scottish solicitors are very much more expensive in these matters than English or Irish solicitors. It is wise to get a written quotation from a solicitor before committing.

7: Property: real and incorporeal

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 wood, a painting, furniture, and so forth.

Incorporeal property is incapable of physical possession. As already noted, Lordships of the Manor (and Honours or Baronies) (all from now on in this advice called 'Lordships') are incorporeal property ('incorporeal hereditaments' - literally property without body). Other forms of incorporeal property, with which readers might be more familiar, are copyright, patents, intellectual property. The important aspect of both forms of property ownership is that property belongs to some one come what may. The vast majority of Lordships

belong to some individual or to trustees or might be held in a limited company, or a 'corporation sole,' such as the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London, who are Lords of the King's Manor, Southwark, an Oxford College, a hospital charity, as Residuary Estate, and so forth.

Statute and recent Case Law is clear that incorporeal hereditaments (here meaning Lordships) cannot be claimed or prescribed: the Limitations Act (1980) and the Land Registration Act (2002), and Case Law in 2009.

8:Treasury solicitor (BV)

However, one institution can lay claim to Lordships and other property.

It sometimes happens that there are no heirs to all sorts of property, including Lordships, or property is in a dissolved limited company or other defunct body. In cases such as these, this property passes to the British Treasury, in the person of the Treasury Solicitor BV (BV stands for bona vacantia, literally 'good vacancy') when the British Treasury becomes the owner. Since it was not the intention of Parliament to deny property to lost heirs or assigns, who may live at the other side of the world and be hard to locate, the Treasury does not normally seek to make sales of unclaimed property for 50 years, but maintains a friendly protective ownership in case an heir turns up within that period. Thereafter, the Treasury comes to market with the property. Lordships are no different, in this instance, from any other property and periodically Treasury (BV) Lordships come up for sale 'on the instructions of the Crown.'

The conception of the Treasury Solicitor (BV) derives from an ancient word, 'escheat.' Escheat came into being in English from the French word 'eschete' from the verb 'eschoir' which itself originates from the Latin 'escadere' 'to fall to the lot of So and So.' Some members may find, in their conveyance, that they are said to have the right to escheat within their manor. In fact, the private ownership of escheat was done away with in reforming legislation many years ago, and transferred to the Crown (ie the British State), which had always enjoyed the right of escheat where there was no heir, or a family had been forfeited and their property escheated. That 'escheat' sometimes appears in conveyances of Lordships today is a legal solecism, usually included because it appears in earlier documents connected with the Lordship, and solicitors, quite rightly, add it to a modern conveyance because 'you never know.' There may be some loophole not yet tested in the Courts, unlikely to succeed as that must be.

Lordships, therefore, always belong to some one and cannot legally be 'claimed' by third parties as being somehow left vacant or unused. Since they are property we strongly recommend that a potential buyer should always use their own solicitor.

The Manorial Society of Great Britain

Manorial rights

The essence of a manorial Lordship, other than the title itself, is its relationship to the land which falls within its geographical extent. While today, and in many cases in the past as well, the great majority of land will be freehold, there might be some areas which remain under manorial ownership, as well as a range of historic rights held by the manorial Lord. Before the reform of the manorial system which took effect on 31st December 1925 the manorial Lord had greater authority, included over the land remaining under the jurisdiction of the manor court, together with any rights that could be exercised over it or within the manor more broadly. From 1st January 1926 these rights were generally retained with the title, but the interests in the land were largely abolished (but see below, in the section on manorial waste). The rights may remain as part of the Lordship today, but it is important to appreciate that this will depend on the particular history and circumstances of the manor in question.

When a vendor offers a Lordship for sale, any manorial rights of which they are aware may be included in the particulars. However, in many cases the vendor does not know which specific rights remain, because it is almost a century since they were considered to have had value and were recorded. Furthermore, the vendor may retain all of some of the rights, so that the sale is of the title only. If a purchaser is interested in manorial rights, research must be undertaken to ascertain what, if any, rights remain. This can be a challenging task, though always an interesting one, and it requires expert input. Although in principle there may be potential commercial benefit to the owner in identifying rights we would not recommend that this should be a motive for purchase: any returns are likely to be nominal and indeed exercising the rights may be controversial in the 21st century. Instead, we see it as a means of breathing new life into a manor and protecting its heritage.

The legal basis of manorial rights, and likewise the procedures for the administering the practical business of a manor, were highly complex and very technical. Manorial law evolved piecemeal over a period of six centuries, and often remained operative long after the original rationale for its development had disappeared—as we discuss below, not until the early 1920s was a serious effort made to reform the law. Crucially, although there were common frameworks and general procedures which applied to most manors, how these worked in practice and in detail varied very widely—no two manors were exactly the same, so it is vital to research each case in depth and to avoid making assumptions.

There are three major categories of manorial rights: (a) franchise and administrative rights which had been granted by the Crown to the Lord of the manor, such as the right to have a market or to hold manorial courts; (b) rights relating to the former existence of copyhold land (see below for an explanation), such as the potential ownership of mines and minerals; and (c) rights to any residual areas of non-freehold land in the manor, generally known as manorial waste. As already noted, although the history and administration of manors are broadly similar across England and Wales, each manor has its own individual history, descent, tradition and topography which means that general observations can only serve as a guideline. Each manor must be researched individually, and those general historical characteristics are only a framework.

Some rights may potentially be formally registered if sufficient evidence can be found to satisfy the rigorous requirements of the Land Registry. These include franchise rights, such as the right to hold a market; reservations of mines and minerals under land which is not registered or has not been reregistered since October 2013; in some circumstances, reservations of general manorial rights (for which only a caution can be registered) on former copyhold land; and areas of manorial waste which can be shown to have existed within the bounds of the manor and have not been made freehold or sold off.

Manorial Lords generally held courts, with a jurisdiction relating to the administration and governance of the manor. Manorial courts were absolutely standard in almost all manor until the early 18th century, but thereafter they often became infrequent or occasional, or even ceased to be held at all. There were two main types of court. The court leet dealt with the day-to-day administration of the manor and the regulation of communal interests, such as the management of grazing animals and the scouring or cleaning of drainage

ditches. The court baron dealt with manorial tenancies, the admission of new tenants, and administrative and financial regulations relating to tenanted land. As already noted, by the 19th century manor courts were rarely held or had fallen into disuse. Others, though, still functioned, and there the Lord of the manor or his steward exercised his authority. Eventually, the Law of Property Act 1922 compulsorily abolished feudal or manorial tenancies and with it ended the legal jurisdiction of manorial courts, taking effect on 1st January 1926. Nevertheless, since then a few manorial courts have continued to operate, without legal powers but held as ceremonial community occasions—several still sit on a regular basis.

Franchise rights

Some manorial rights were granted or gifted to the Lord of the manor by the Crown, allowing him to exploit the economic and commercial potential of his land. For instance, if a Lord sought to obtain a grant giving him the right to hold a market, he anticipated that—assuming the venture was a success—he would have a lucrative asset. He could charge tolls, fines and stall-rents, and would have the power to exclude others from holding competing markets in the surrounding area, giving him a local monopoly. Other franchises, such as the right to enclose land or to authorize others to do so, and to keep certain types of game could also be granted by the Crown. The latter was known as the right of Free Warren. These grants and charters can usually be traced using the medieval government records held at The National Archives in London, or from published sources. Changes more recently might well mean that the commercial benefit of such rights has ceased: thus, since the deregulation of markets in the 1990s the original charters no longer guarantee exclusivity—but they remain a key part of the historical character of a manor.

Enfranchised copyhold

Copyhold was an ancient form of land tenure, which goes back to the early medieval period and survived for over eight centuries. It was abolished under the Law of Property Act 1922, effective from 1st January 1926. Land which was defined as copyhold was in practical terms owned by the copyhold tenant, who was given a written copy of the entry from the manorial court roll confirming his right to the tenancy and land (hence the name). This copy document could be used as legal evidence in disputes, or when the tenancy was transferred. A copyholder could sell his land, lease it out to a third party, or bequeath or gift it to whomsoever they wished, so it was theirs to dispose of as they saw fit. Crucially, though, any such change had to be recorded at the next session of the manor court, being written up in the court roll or court book.

This indicates that it was not held as an outright simple freehold property. There were residual duties, fees and customs owed as obligations or encumbrances to the Lord of the manor. Copyholders could, for example, be summoned to appear as jurors at the court leet—where administrative business was dealt with, ranging from the appointment of officials such as the constable to orders to clear ditches—and they admitted to their tenure at the court baron.

Copyholders who wanted to sell their land surrendered their copyhold tenancy to the Lord of the manor, who would then 'present' it to the purchaser, who was the next tenant. Likewise, if a copyhold tenant died his tenancy was surrendered and then his heir would be 'admitted' as the next tenant. On these occasions details of the extent of the copyhold were recorded and the customary rent was noted. In most cases the rent was very small, because had been fixed in perpetuity centuries before, and could not be altered to allow for inflation of increasing land values. Remaining largely unchanged and unaffected by market forces for centuries, these rents of a few pence or a few shillings often carried on well into the 20th century.

As we have seen, the agricultural and industrial revolutions propelled England into a very different world and the institution of manorial courts, and the associated feudal tenancies, were increasingly viewed as outdated and cumbersome. Court leets were very often abandoned through a combined lack of interest and refusal to comply, while new structures of local government created in the 19th century took over the quasi-judicial role of Lords of the manor. Given the relatively small amount of rent income received by the Lord of the manor the courts, and the ancient copyhold tenure, were a real anachronism.

And another factor had seriously undermined their role: from the late 17th century there had been a steadily

growing practice of enfranchising copyhold—that is, a procedure whereby the tenant, in return for paying a one-off lump sum to the Lord of the manor—was granted freehold ownership over his land, severing the connection between the property and the manor. This process was extremely uneven and spasmodic: in some manors all the copyhold land was enfranchised in one fell swoop whereas in others the manorial Lord steadfastly refused to allow the change. Agitation by copyholders eventually led to legislation granting them the right to seek enfranchisement where the Lord of the manor may have been reluctant or refused to undertake the process. Legislation in 1852 required the Lord to grant enfranchisement if a tenant demanded it, and an Act in 1894 obliged the Lord to offer enfranchisement to all copyhold tenants. It was, therefore, clear that the system was dwindling away, and in 1922 the whole edifice was finally abolished and the link between the manorial title and the land was broken.

The detailed process of enfranchisement was very similar to that of a conveyance. The tenant and the Lord would negotiate an agreement, whereby the tenant consented to pay the Lord a certain sum of money and he in return agreed to sever the link with the manor, releasing the tenant from the feudal relationship. The tenant's fee was in compensation for the Lord's loss of the residual rights, duties and customs which the tenant owed. Very often however, and as in some conveyances, the Lord could reserve to himself (with the tenant's agreement) certain continuing rights and privileges, or rights would be reserved if either the 1852 or 1894 Acts were invoked.

The most widely reserved right was that which gave the Lord the mines and minerals in and under the former copyhold land. In areas such as the northern and western counties of England which had mineral wealth, and where there was a long tradition of the exploitation of mineral resources (which might include not only coal and the ores of iron, copper, lead and tin, but also stone, clay, sand and gravel) such reservations were generally made, so that the manorial Lord retained these valuable assets. They were less common, but by no means unknown, in other areas, such as the southern and eastern counties. There could have been other reservations, such as rights of escheat or easements or sporting rights, but these are much less common. Many of these rights are connected to the manorial title itself, and will be transmitted to new owners unless the vendor or a predecessor has specifically excluded and reserved them. The unreserved rights, if they can be reliably established by documentary research, can potentially be registered as overriding rights on land which is unregistered, or which has not been sold and re-registered since 13th October 2013.

The Land Registry understandably requires very detailed, accurate and certifiable evidence in order to make a registration. Suitable records can be investigated by a competent and qualified researcher. However, remember that not all manors had copyholders and many enfranchisements did not include any reservations. Research can take time and patience, and success is not guaranteed!

Manorial waste

The majority of land in England is freehold, and at some point has been bought and sold, or alternatively it might be registered commonland. However, there are often small parcels of land, such as village greens and roadside verges, which historically belonged to the Lord of the manor as part of the manorial extent, but which have never been sold off or converted into freehold. These areas are known as manorial waste. These, too, can be investigated but nothing can be done unless the legal extent of the manor, and its boundary, is first established—which is often a considerable challenge. For some Lordships there are full maps but these are certainly not common. The boundary can potentially be reconstructed by a skilled researcher using archival evidence. If, however, a Lordship is being sold with manorial waste which is reliably identified, this should be included in the particulars for that manor.

Stephen Johnson and Alan Crosby

Glossary

Abbey: Monastery or Nunnery

Ancient Demesne: MANORS held by the King in 1086, the VILLAGERS of which later successfully asserted the right to special protection and privileges. Arrayer: royal official responsible in later medieval and early modern England for assembling military forces.

Baron: a Lord, especially in the 11th and 12th centuries, a TENANT-IN-CHIEF holding an HONOR or capital manor in return for military service, later a peer called to Parliament by a WRIT OF SUMMONS. Bastard feudalism: later medieval version of the FEUDAL SYSTEM in which the Lord rewarded his VASSAL with a money payment rather than a grant of land.

Bend: broad diagonal line in HERALDRY

Boldon Book: compiled in 1183 for the Bishop of Durham.

Bordar: SMALLHOLDER, usually holding between five and fifteen acres in a MANOR, but sometimes identical with a COTTAGER.

Borough English: succession by the youngest (son)

Bovate: same as yardland.

Breviate: a 13th-century summary of DOMESDAY BOOK, usually containing only the names of the landholder and his tenant (if any) for each MANOR, and its assessment to the DANGELD in terms of a CARUCATE, HIDE or SULONG.

Byzantine: relating to the Byzantine (earlier the Eastern Roman) Empire ruled from Byzantium (Istanbul).

Cadet Line: junior branch of a family.

Canon Law: law of medieval Catholic Church.

Capital Manor: one held direct of the King with no mesne Lord

Carolingian: relating to the Empire ruled by Charlemagne and his successors.

Carolingian Renaissance: intellectual and cultural revival of the CAROLINGIAN period.

Carucate: the equivalent of the HIDE, both as a unit of 120 acres for assessing DANGELD in DOMESDAY BOOK and as a real land measure, in the DANELAW; also used elsewhere in ENGLAND in DOMESDAY BOOK as a real measure of land exempt from DANEGELD

Chancery: royal secretariat of late Anglo-Saxon and subsequent medieval kings.

Charter: a formal document witnessing the grant of land or of special privileges by a Lord, especially the King to a VASSAL.

Chausses: legging made of MAIL

Chief point: a location in the upper third of a shield of HERALDRY.

Circuit: a group of three to six counties surveyed

by one set of COMMISSIONERS in the DOMESDAY INQUEST.

Coats armour, coats of arms: insignia in HERALDRY, relating to a specific family or branch of a family, borne on shields or standards.

Coif: cap or under-helmet made of MAIL

Colibert: West Country: freeman

Commot: A Welsh landholding, a division of a cantrefi (hundred), implying a superiority, but less institutionalised than those Manors or Lordships along the southern coast of Wales which were occupied by the Normans at an early date.

Commendation: the act by which a VASSAL acknowledged the superiority of his Lord in **Anglo-Saxon times**; the equivalent of FEALTY in Norman times.

Commissioners: groups of BARONS and royal officials sent to survey the CIRCUITS and to check the returns made by manorial officials and the juries of each HUNDRED or WAPENTAKE.

Common Land Act: Act of Parliament, 1965, under which all those with an interest in Common Land, mainly Lords, should register

Compti: accounts

Consanguinity: close family relationship forming the "forbidden degrees" within which marriage was forbidden without special permission from the Pope.

Copyhold: holding land by title of copy of COURT ROLL

Cotise: a narrow diagonal line in HERALDRY.

Cottager: person normally holding a cottage and four acres or less in a MANOR.

Counties of the Empire: provinces of the CAROLINGIAN Empire, usually larger than many English counties.

Court Books, or Rolls: lists of the proceedings at the Manorial Court

Courts: LEET and BARON, CUSTOMARY COURTS: Courts of the Manor presided over by the Steward or Bailiff. The Leet was the determination of minor crimes and civil affairs within the Manor. The Court Baron was the Court of the freeholders of the Manor. Many Courts are still held for traditional purposes today: eg Henley-in-Arden, Altrincham, Heaton, Alcester, Bromsgrove, Langport, Warwick.

Crucks: curved vertical roof-timbers joining at the ridge of a roof.

Curia Regis: Royal Court; the royal household in its capacity as the administrative and especially judicial machinery of Anglo-Norman central government.

Custom, customary: traditional landholdings, rights, and rents on a MANOR which were invariable

Danegeld: a land tax levied on the CARUCATE, HIDE or SULONG, originally to buy off Danish attacks on late Anglo-Saxon England; in Norman times a normal peace-time tax raised almost every year.

Danelaw: East Anglia, the East, North Midland, Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Lancashire: the areas settled by Danes or Norsemen and under Danish law rather than the laws of Wessex or Mercia.

Demesne: the land in a MANOR held by its Lord and worked by his men for his benefit, or held on lease from him: the later "home farm".

Dissolution: Henry VIII's abolition of Roman Catholicism and the taking of Church land into the Crown.

Domesday Book: strictly speaking, only the EXCHEQUER DOMESDAY OR GREAT DOMESDAY, but this is often termed Volume I, LITTLE DOMESDAY being Volume II; the final product of the DOMESDAY INQUEST.

Domesday inquest: the inquiry started in January 1086, in which England was divided into CIRCUITS surveyed by sets of COMMISSIONERS whose returns, after checking and at least two stages of abbreviation, became the EXCHEQUER DOMESDAY.

Ealdom: A governorship of an Anglo-Saxon area, held by appointment by an Ealdorman; this may be a root of the Norman EARLDOM as may also be derived from Danish Jarl (pron Yar!); not an hereditary office originally, but becoming so in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

Earldom: the territory administered by an earl, normally comprising several counties, often previously an ancient kingdom, eg Mercia, Northumbria or Wessex.

Enfeoffment: a grant of land, forming a FIEF or HONOR according to its size by a Lord to his VASSAL to be held in return for FEUDAL SERVICE.

Engrailed: with an indented edge in HERALDRY.

Entail: system of fixed succession to land which cannot be altered by a will.

Escallop: scallop-shell ornament in HERALDRY.

Escheator: a royal official administering the lands of any TENANT-IN-CHIEF which were in royal custody because he was a minor.

Estreat: an exact copy.

Exchequer: financial accounting department of Anglo-Norman central government from Henry I's reign.

Exchequer Domesday (also GREAT DOMESDAY or DOMESDAY BOOK, Volume I): the final summary of the results of the DOMESDAY INQUEST, compiled at Winchester probably under the direction of Samson, later Bishop of Worcester, probably in 1086-7.

Exemplification: an official copy or extract by royal officials of another document, eg DOMESDAY BOOK.

Fealty: oath of loyalty sworn by a VASSAL to his Lord

after the Lord had accepted the VASSAL's HOMAGE.

Feudalization: the process by which the personal links of LordSHIP became the territorial links of the FEUDAL SYSTEM and TENURE.

Feudal service: duties rendered by a VASSAL to his Lord in return for the land granted by means of ENFEOFFMENT, which could be military (knight service), administrative (serjeanty) or **ecclesiastical (frankalmoign or free alms)**.

Feudal system: the reconstruction by historians of the links between Lord and VASSAL, begun by HOMAGE and FEALTY, followed by ENFEOFFMENT, continued by FEUDAL SERVICE subject to the INCIDENTS of TENURE; expression first coined in C18th

Fief: a MANOR or Manors granted to a VASSAL by his Lord by means of ENFEOFFMENT to be held in return for FEUDAL SERVICE.

Folio: a sheet of parchment, folded in two or four before being sewn into a GATHERING.

Franklin: a freeman or yeoman in later medieval England.

Frankpledge, View of: Assembly of the tenants of the Manor at which they swore to uphold the custom of the Manor

Freeman: before the Norman Conquest, a man who could transfer himself and his land from one Lord to another by

Commendation: after the Norman Conquest, a man holding lands within a MANOR in return for rent and very light services, unlike the VILLAGER who owed regular labour services on the DEMESNE, with access to the protection of the royal courts.

Free warren: charter of sporting rights.

Frenchmen: superior manorial tenants of French origin in DOMESDAY BOOK.

Gathering: a group of FOLIOS sewn together before binding.

Geld: see DANEGELD.

Gonfalon: banner or standard.

Gothic Revival: the period of fashionable building in REVIVAL GOTHIC, mainly in the 19th century.

Great Domesday: see EXCHEQUER DOMESDAY.

Gules: red in HERALDRY.

Halley's Comet: a COMET named after Edmond Halley, d. 1742, who observed it in 1682 and calculated its orbit round the Sun to be approximately every 76 years: illustrated in the Bayeux Tapestry

Hauberk: knee-length tunic made of MAIL.

Heraldry: system of personal identification of knights by means of insignia (COAT ARMOUR, COATS OF ARMS) on shields or standards.

Heriot: due to Lord on death of a tenant - usually his best beast.

Hide: originally a unit, varying between 40 and 1000 acres, thought sufficient to support one family. In DOMESDAY BOOK a fiscal unit on which

DANEGELD was levied, and generally assumed to contain 120 acres.

High Justice: power to inflict death.

Homage: act of submission by a new VASSAL to his Lord.

Honor: land, normally comprising MANORs in several counties, held by a BARON or TENANT-IN-CHIEF.

Housecarl: a member of an élite 'Guards' infantry unit serving a King or Earl in Anglo-Saxon England.

Hundred: a unit of fiscal assessment and local government outside the DANELAW, originally containing 100 HIDES, intermediate between the county and the MANOR, roughly equivalent in size to the modern District; cantrefi in Wales

Incidents: the payments and services to be rendered by a VASSAL to his Lord in addition to regular rent and FEUDAL SERVICE: these usually included an inheritance tax (relief) and a death duty (heriot).

Infangenthef: the power of a Lord to inflict capital punishment on his tenants, OUTFANGENTHEF

Keep: central tower of a Norman castle.

Letters patent: royal letters conferring a privilege on an individual or corporate body, sent open with a visible seal.

Lineage: authenticated genealogy or pedigree.

Lion rampant: a lion standing on its hind-quarters with its front legs in the air, in HERALDRY.

Little Domesday (also DOMESDAY BOOK, Volume II): the final CIRCUIT return for East Anglia (Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk), never summarized for inclusion in the EXCHEQUER DOMESDAY.

Lord: feudal superior of a VASSAL: always a Manorial Lord

Lordship: the mutual loyalty and support joining Lord and VASSAL.

Mail: flexible armour made of interlocking iron rings.

Manor: a landed estate, usually comprising a DEMESNE and lands held by VILLAGERS, BORDARS, or COTTAGERS and sometimes also FREE MEN, FRENCHMEN, RIDING MEN etc, which could vary in size from part of one village to several villages over a wide area; power over men (and women), ranging from civil to criminal jurisdiction; an estate in land giving authority and prestige; a land title giving superiority and gentility

Mesne tenant: a VASSAL of a TENANT-IN-CHIEF.

Minster: originally a monastery but by late Anglo-Saxon times often simply a large and important church.

Missus Dominicus (plural Missi Dominici): a Minster of the CAROLINGIAN Empire.

Nasal: metal nose-piece attached to a helmet.

Open fields: the major divisions, normally two or three, of the cultivated arable area of a medieval village outside the Highland Zone of England and Wales, in which one field each year in succession

was left in rotation-fallow, the other one or two being communally ploughed and sown with winter and spring grains.

Or: gold or yellow in HERALDRY.

Outfangenthef: power to inflict capital punishment within the MANOR on non-tenants without recourse to Royal justice

Palisade: fence of pointed stakes firmly fixed in the ground.

Pannage: right to pasture swine.

Pennon: long narrow flag carried on the end of a spear or lance.

Perambulation: a survey made by walking the boundary of the Manor. Still continued in some Manors

Perpendicular: style of Gothic architecture in vogue from the mid-14th to the 16th century.

Piscaries: fishing rights.

Plain: blank, uncoloured space in HERALDRY.

Plough (team): a team of six to twelve oxen, yoked in pairs, pulling a plough; in DOMESDAY BOOK usually eight oxen.

Presentment: to introduce into court.

Priory: a monastery or nunnery dependent on an ABBEY or Cathedral.

Proper: natural colours in HERALDRY

Property Act: 1922-5, a series of legislative measures regulating the ownership of land, including MANORS

Quota: the number of knights required to serve a Lord on behalf of a VASSAL, especially to serve the King.

Rape: An area of jurisdiction in Sussex

Reformation: the period 1529-59 in which England first rejected the religious authority of the Pope and then changed from Catholic to Protestant doctrine and beliefs.

Revival Gothic: Gothic architecture as revived from the late 18th century onwards.

Revival Norman: Norman architecture as revived in the 19th century.

Riding men: Anglo-Saxon free tenants rendering escort-duty and messenger-service to their Lord.

Rolls of Arms: records of the COATS OF ARMS borne by different families, especially those made by an authority in HERALDRY.

Sable: black in HERALDRY.

Saracenic: relating to the Arabs of Syria or Palestine.

Satellites: records preserving copies of parts of the earlier stages of the DOMESDAY INQUEST.

Scutage: a tax levied in place of personal military service by VASSALS - a cash payment

Secular arm: the Royal criminal jurisdiction to which a heretic or other person guilty of a serious offence under CANON LAW was transferred for serious punishment, especially execution.

Sheriff: principal official administering a shire or county in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods for

the Crown

Smallholder: see BORDAR.

Soc and Sac: similar to the French oyer and terminer, to hear and decide in OE, usually in the Court of the Lord

Sokemen: free tenants subject to the jurisdiction of the MANOR but owing little or no service to its Lord.

Sub-tenants: tenants holding land from a TENANT-IN-CHIEF or a Manorial Lord

Sulong: the Kentish equivalent of the CARUCATE or HIDE, both as a fiscal unit and as a land measure, but usually double the size of the HIDE.

Survey: a written description of the boundaries of a Manor and the fields and properties within the Manor. It is not a map.

Teamland ('land for one plough'): a Norman-French term for the English

Carucate or hide: used as a measure of land area of no fixed acreage.

Tenant-in-chief: a Lord holding his land directly from the King.

Tenure: the conditions upon which land was held under the FEUDAL SYSTEM by a VASSAL from a Lord who was a MESNE TENANT, a TENANT-IN-CHIEF or the King.

Terrier: register of landed estate.

Testamentary causes: cases concerning the probate of wills or the administration of the effects of those who died without making a will.

Thegn: a VASSAL, usually a manorial Lord, holding land by military or administrative services in Anglo-Saxon and early Norman England.

Treasury: the main financial department of late Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman government, located at Winchester.

Turbary: Manorial right to cut turf.

Valor: valuation

Vassal: a feudal inferior of tenant or a MESNE TENANT, of a TENANT-IN-CHIEF or of the King.

Vert: green in HERALDRY.

Villager: the normal peasant farmer of Anglo-Norman England, usually holding between 1 and 3 YARDLANDS from the Lord of a MANOR in 1086.

Wapentake: the equivalent of the HUNDRED in parts of the DANELAW.

Wergild: money-payment in compensation for death, injury or loss, graduated according to the social standing of the victim.

Witan: Anglo-Saxon and early Norman Royal Council.

Writ: royal letter conveying orders and information in a summary form.

Writ of summons: WRIT addressed to a named recipient to attend Parliament; as such, generally held to confer peerage status.

Yardland: a quarter of a HIDE.

Yoke: Kentish and East Anglia - same as plough.

ABBREVIATIONS

NA: National Archives formerly Public Record Office

BL Cat: Catalogue of the British Library

BExtP: Burke's Extinct Peerage

BLG: Burke's Landed Gentry

Bod: Bodleian Library

BP: Burke's Peerage

BRS: British Record Society

Bull IHR: Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research

Bull MSGB: Bulletin of the Manorial Society of Great Britain

C: century

c: circa

Close R: Letters from the Close Rolls

CR: Charter Rolls

d: died

dau: daughter

dsp: died without issue

dvp: died in life of father

ex: executed

HA: Historical Association

infra: below

k: killed

kn: knighted

m: murdered

NLI: National Library of Ireland

NRA: National Register of Archives

PR: Patent Rolls

PRO: Public Record Office, see NA

qv: which see

Rec Com: Record Commission

Rec Soc: Record Society

RO: Record Office

Rot Parl: Rolls of Parliament

RS: Rolls Series

SQE: Statute Quia Emptores (1290)

SR: Statutes of the Realm

supra: above

temp: in the time of

TRHistS: Transactions of the Royal Historical Society

vide: see

The Manorial Society of Great Britain

The Society was founded in 1906 and included among its committee the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Master of the Rolls. It was based in Mitre Court, Temple, London, and in origin sought to locate and to protect manorial records which - with the exception of institutions, such as the Ecclesiastical (now Church) Commissioners, the Crown in its several forms, Oxford and Cambridge colleges - were in private hands.

By 1906, the lands of the majority of Manors had been enfranchised and the need to maintain and keep manorial records (such as court rolls) for estate purposes disappeared. We can judge how many of these must have been left lying around an estate office and almost certainly thrown away from the date gaps in the records of some Manors in this catalogue. Even where copyhold continued into the 20th century, it must have been the case that many medieval and Tudor records, mostly in Latin were discarded as being of no further use.

The 19th century, however, saw the blossoming of county histories, often in multi-volume sets, many editions of which are at the Society today. These were written by highly educated men, often clergymen with leisure. Men, like Blomefield and Lipscomb (1810 and 1850), then Copping (1904-11) produced remarkable histories by Hundreds, then the Manors within each Hundred, using records in private ownership. We can only be amazed at their determination and grasp of palaeography and topography, knowledge of genealogy and national history.

Such records are not only of use in understanding the management of landed estates, but are also records of the names of ten-ants, many of whom succeeded one another. It became law to register births, marriages, and deaths in England and Wales in 1538, and this was done by the Church. But what of the many people who were never married - there were far more than the modern mind might expect? What of those generations of ordinary folk who were born before 1538? There may be some kind of record in a gravestone, but these are fewer the longer you go back. But there are, in some cases, medieval and early Tudor Court Rolls, listing tenants which can take a family back to the Middle Ages. The growth of interest in family history has grown enormously in the last 40 years, with television programmes tracing celebrities descended from 'ordinary folk'. In fact, these do not seem to go back beyond the reign of Queen Victoria, and in that sense the impression may be gained that this is far as can be attempted. This is not so in many cases. The Society began to publish list of Manors and their documents from such diverse sources as individuals in Surrey or the Manors of New College, Oxford, producing 16 publications. Unsurprisingly, the Great War disrupted this work, but with peace in 1918 the Prime minister of the day, David Lloyd-George, began to look at the many Acts affecting Manors, copyhold, and real property generally, and it was decided to consolidate them and abolish copyhold in several Property Acts in the 1920s. The important one, so far as records are concerned, was the 1922 Act, subsection (7) of Section 144A(7), which sought to define manorial documents and place them under the protection of the Master of the Rolls. 'Manorial documents', in the meaning of the Act as affected by several Statutory Instruments, have come to be Court Rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and books of every description relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs, and courts of a Manor, whether in being on 1 January 1926 or obsolete.

County Record Offices were charged with maintaining such documents as these that were donated, and as Manors ceased to enjoy Copyhold income so solicitors, who had often acted as Stewards and kept records at their offices, handed documents over to the local CRO. The British Record Society was formed in 1931 and the publications part of the Society was taken over by this body.

The Society was headed in the late 1920s, until his death in 1945, by Hubert Knocker, a solicitor in Guildford, Surrey, who was Steward to many Manorial Lords in the county, and he was summoning Courts for as late as 1935. The Society has notices of Courts at Otford, for example, which were pinned up on church and other

noticeboards. Mr Beaumont, an East Anglia solicitor, did much the same in his area.

Mr Knocker was succeeded by Hubert Hughes, whose committee gave evidence in 1955 to the Common Land Committee of the House of Commons, which translated into the Commons Registration Act of 1965. He was succeeded by his wife, Constance, on his death in 1967, and she handed over to Robert Smith in 1980.

The Society's public face is its social functions and publications, some of the latter of which are given below. But we regularly receive inquiries from government, local authorities, quangos, solicitors, historians, genealogists, and the general public on some manorial aspect, all of which are answered as fully as we can .

The Society has members who pay a subscription of £70 a year, or £500 for life, and for this they can ask for advice and assistance on manorial matters. They also receive information about social events, the last of which was the Annual Reception at the House of Lords. The annual carol service in December, are held at the Church of Most Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market, London.

Visit the website: www.manorialsociety.co.uk

Further reading about Lordships of the Manor is available on the Manorial Society website.





Manorial Services

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