

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0028610 • MANOR
Heathfield

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 13 October 2026 17:12 UTC

Location: East Sussex
Associated places: Heathfield, East Sussex
Manor/site status: unknown

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Lord of the Manor of Heathfield | Associated | | Unverified

ABOUT THE MANOR

Heathfield The armiger is Lord of the Manor of Heathfield, a Market Town in East Sussex, and is a Member of the Manorial Society of Great Britain. He is American, with English ancestry on his maternal side which extends back into the East Sussex region, including Heathfield. He also has ties maternally to the Rutherford Clan of Scotland. It is these ancestral links that led to him acquiring the Lordship of the Manor of Heathfield. Documented medieval and early-modern manor Heathfield has a documented manorial record extending into the medieval episcopal estate of the Bishops of Chichester. The research workbook records a royal market grant in 1234, a customal/rental in the Bishop of Chichester records for 1253 1262, later rentals and court material, and continuing evidence for common, waste, copyhold and manorial administration. Crown and Sackville transition A Patent Roll calendar entry records the Crown taking the Manor of Heathfield on 12 July 1561 under the Act-of-Exchange machinery. The exact subsequent Crown-to-Sackville instrument remains an identified research gap. By 23 May 1592, however, a Sackville settlement is described as expressly involving Heathfield, providing the earliest currently located direct Sackville-era legal anchor in the compiled research. Sackville and De La Warr administration The surviving archive trail places Heathfield within the Sackville and later De La Warr estate context for centuries. A direct manor-specific anchor survives for 14 August 1873, when a Manor of Heathfield court was held in the name of Reginald Windsor, Earl De La Warr, Baron Buckhurst. The

research deliberately distinguishes peerage succession from proof of lordship or manor-title transmission.

Modern private chain

The Winter 2024 Manorial Services catalogue marked Heathfield as sold and stated that the Sackville

family had held the lordship until the very end of the twentieth century, when it was purchased by

the family of the then-current owners. The exact late-twentieth-century disposal instrument, purchaser family and intermediate chain remain unresolved in the research workbook.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Source assertion: Christopher Repetsky, MD, DABFM, FAAFP, FRSM Lord of the Manor of Heathfield.

Imported as an unregistered named current holder; identity is claimable subject to administrator approval.

The structured title/descent register below is imported from the workbook's Title & Ownership

Chain. Its evidence grades are preserved in the imported entries. The working chain runs from the

Bishops of Chichester, through Crown possession from 1561, into the Sackville/Dorset estate, the

Sackville-West/De La Warr branch, the late-twentieth-century private-owner gap, the Winter 2024

sale, and the documented 3 February 2025 endpoint.

Important: peerage succession is not treated as proof of manor-title succession. Where the exact

Heathfield instrument has not been located, the imported entry remains marked supported, provisional

or unverified rather than being promoted to a documented transfer.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1561 | Bishops of Chichester | other | Lordship Title | C 66/964; CCEd bishops chronology; U269/T108 109; later C66 Patent Rolls

- 1561 before 23 May 1592 | Crown -> Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst (exact transfer date unresolved) | other | Lordship Title | C 66/964; C 66/1011 no.1122; C 66/1091 no.3242; Kent U269/T108-9 (Heathfield deeds; also Cowding); U269/E50-E51 + Appendix I for old-press-mark crosswalk; 23 May 1592 counterpart

- 23 May 1592 | Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst | settlement | Lordship Title | Knole counterpart deed; target U269/E50-E51 + Appendix I + U269/T108-109

- 1608 | Robert Sackville, 2nd Earl of Dorset | inheritance | Lordship Title | DLW 1 113; DLW 436 453

- 1609 | Richard Sackville, 3rd Earl of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | DLW 1 113; DLW 436 453; ADA 1606 1622 court book

- 1624 | Edward Sackville, 4th Earl of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | DLW 1 113; DLW 436 453; ADA 1624 1652 court book

- 1652 | Richard Sackville, 5th Earl of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | DLW wills / probate target

- 1677 | Charles Sackville, 6th Earl of Dorset | inheritance | Lordship Title | DLW 1 113; DLW 436 453; ADA 1668 1689
- 1706 | Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 7th Earl / later 1st Duke of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | DLW settlements/wills; ADA court books
- 1765 | Charles Sackville, 2nd Duke of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | DLW 1 113; DLW 436 453; ADA court books
- 1769 | John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset | other | Lordship Title | Target John Frederick's will / DLW settlement
- 1799 1815 | George John Frederick Sackville, 4th Duke; Arabella Duchess controls estate | inheritance | Lordship Title | John Frederick will / Sackville settlement
- 1815 1825 | Arabella, Duchess of Dorset / Countess Whitworth | inheritance | Lordship Title | DLW/U269 settlements; John Frederick will
- 1825 1829 | Elizabeth Sackville, Countess De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | U269/E50; U269/E51; Appendix I; U269/T108 109
- 1829 1869/70 | Elizabeth Sackville + George West, 5th Earl De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | ADA 1915 1925; HMC 5/6 8; 1960 deposit correspondence; ACC 11382
- 1829 1869/70 | George West, 5th Earl De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | ADA 1915 1925; HMC 5/6 8; 1960 deposit correspondence; ACC 11382
- 1870 1873 | Reginald Windsor Sackville, Baron Buckhurst; family settlement in transition | other | Lordship Title | DLW 391; DLW settlements; estate deed later litigated in 1873 76
- 14 Aug 1873 | Reginald Windsor Sackville, 7th Earl De La Warr, Baron Buckhurst | court_order | Lordship Title | ADA/U269 Heathfield courts; COR; CHR/13/12; SAS/RF/9/118 124; SAS/FB/116; ASH 4450 4451/4502
- 5 Jan 1896 | Gilbert George Reginald Sackville, 8th Earl De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | ADA court books 1896 1915; DLW 391 / later title papers
- 16 Dec 1915 | Herbrand Edward Dundonald Brassey Sackville, 9th Earl De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | ADA 1915 1925; 1960 deposit correspondence; ACC 11382
- 28 Jan 1976 | William Herbrand Sackville, 10th Earl De La Warr | other | Lordship Title | ACC 11382; later De La Warr estate papers; sale/title pack
- Very end of 20th century exact year unresolved | Unnamed purchaser family / intermediary private owners | other | Lordship Title | Highest-value modern records/actions: Newhall/Baxendale request for 3 Feb 2025 vendor recital/title abstract; Winter 2024 title pack/epitome; ACC 11382/9403/11018; HMC 5/6 8; HMLR SIF; Adams of Lewes/successor and executor files
- Winter 2024 | Unidentified vendor / then-current owner family | other | Lordship Title | Manorial Services Winter Catalogue 2024, Vol. 9; title pack / epitome
- 3 Feb 2025 | Christopher Repetsky and Agata Repetsky | conveyance | Lordship Title | Conveyance dated 3 Feb 2025; Gazette notice 4824580

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Land-use / taxation / extent 1341: Scholarly analysis of the Sussex Nonae return identifies substantial land at Heathfield as out of cultivation and notes that the printed Record Commission edition understates one Heathfield item: tenements of the Prior of Hastings should be valued at 6 marks rather than 4. Quantification / boundary: The analysis states 100 acres and other Heathfield lands with a total value of £9 were untitled; the exact composition should be checked against E 179/189/17 and the printed page. Scope: Heathfield parish / royal taxation return

- Extent / park / rent / tenure 1376: Katherine, late wife of Sir Andrew Peverell, held in dower at Hethfeld a third of 100 acres called Saperton, a third of a park there, and 4d rent of assize. Quantification / boundary: 1/3 of 100 acres; 1/3 of park; 4d rent of assize Scope: Sapperton in Heathfield parish
- Tenure / overlordship / value 1406: Sapperton lands in Heathfield held in free socage of Bishop of Chichester, Lord Poynings and heir of John Benfeld. Quantification / boundary: Annual value 100s Scope: Associated Sapperton holding
- Extent / land use / tenure 1416: Sapperton in Heathfield quantified as pasture and formerly enclosed land, held in socage of Prior of Lewes and Robert de Poynings. Quantification / boundary: 100a pasture at 1d/a; 150a formerly enclosed at 2d/a Scope: Associated Sapperton holding
- Enclosure / park licence 1447: Licence cited in scholarship to enclose land in Heathfield and Bishopstone. Quantification / boundary: 2,000 acres licensed; implementation questioned by the scholar Scope: Heathfield/Bishopstone
- Common / boundary survey 1595: BL Maps MT.6.1 (13) documents the Heathfield and Burwash Downs common-land boundary. A local study of the map says Henry Allen drew it for Sir Thomas Pelham, who had recently acquired ownership of the land; this is strengthened by separate Pelham land/jurisdiction evidence but the exact mapped legal estate has not yet been matched deed-by-deed. Quantification / boundary: Boundary shown graphically Scope: Heathfield/Burwash Downs
- Licence to impark 1610: In 1610 the Dacre family were granted a licence to enclose/impark at Heathfield the area known as Bayley Park; Historic England independently states 600 acres (243ha). Quantification / boundary: 600 acres = 242.811385344 hectares; private park enclosure, not total manor acreage Scope: Heathfield park/land
- Reserved water rights 1721: Bayley Park sale reportedly reserved to John Fuller the liberty to draw water from estate ponds for furnaces, limited by sluice levels. Quantification / boundary: Estate stated as c.227 acres in secondary account Scope: Heathfield Park/Bayley Park industrial estate
- Manorial waste 1819: The Keep states that the Round/National School opened in November 1819 on former waste of the Manor of Heathfield. Quantification / boundary: Specific school site; acreage not stated Scope: Manor of Heathfield
- Copyhold parcel / waste / quitrents 1826: Thomas Nailard's will identifies c.6 acres called Common Field, near the turnpike road from Burwash to Lewes, in Nailard's own occupation and copyhold of the Manor of Heathfield; it was devised to Thomas Nailard Akehurst. Separately, it describes a cottage and c.10a 3r waste near Swiss Corner on Heathfield Down, late occupied by William Reeves and then by Samuel Thomson and Nailard, purchased from William Daw the Younger. The will gives an interim interest to William Akehurst until Thomas Nailard Akehurst reached 15. Quantification / boundary: Common Field c.6 acres; separate Swiss Corner cottage/waste c.10 acres 3 roods Scope: Manor of Heathfield / Heathfield Down
- Market franchise 6 Apr 1234: Thursday market granted to the Bishop of Chichester to be held at the manor. Quantification / boundary: Weekly Thursday market Scope: Manor of Heathfield
- Customary services 1253 1262: Published scholarship using the episcopal custumal notes light Wealden labour/woodland services by Heathfield tenants connected with Bishopstone. Quantification / boundary: See published custumal pp.96 98; wording should be read in edition Scope: Manor/episcopal tenancy
- Administrative extent / episcopal outlier 1253 14th century: Medieval scholarship

treats Heathfield as a Wealden outlier of the Bishop of Chichester's Bishopstone estate and notes that the Heathfield lands could not always be cleanly separated from the coastal Bishopstone material in the surviving rolls. Quantification / boundary: The outlying-land references include Heathfield and Tottingworth among other Wealden holdings; no single acreage is asserted here. Scope: Episcopal Bishopstone/Heathfield estate

- Market and fair franchises 7 Feb 1316: Edward II grant/confirmation of market and annual fair to John, Bishop of Chichester. Quantification / boundary: Market + annual fair Scope: Manor of Heathfield
- Land assessment / assart rent 1329 1330: Gardiner's analysis of the Heathfield rental states that, in addition to four customary yardlands, it lists 'Rudland' (cleared land) held at a uniform rent of 2d per acre. This is evidence for acre-based assessment of cleared/assart land within the medieval Heathfield tenancy structure. Quantification / boundary: Uniform 2d per acre for Rudland; four customary yardlands also noted; total Rudland acreage not extracted Scope: Medieval Heathfield / Bishopstone outlier tenure
- Common boundary + tenure services 2 Feb 1337: Lewes Priory grant uses Horeapeltre Common as a boundary and reserves rent, suit of court, heriot and relief. Quantification / boundary: 4% acres + 1% roods; 14d annual rent; court suit; 14d heriot; 14d relief Scope: Heathfield parish / Newick / common boundary
- Common/waste and woodland 1379 / 1552: Scholarship states Southwood common in Heathfield was described as waste in 1379 and by 1552 was wooded with oak and beech of about 100 years' growth. Quantification / boundary: No acreage supplied in extracted passage Scope: Heathfield common; exact primary-date mapping unresolved
- Rape waste / claimed jurisdiction 1465 1595 context: Academic research states that the Pelhams' possession of Crowhurst, Burwash and Bivelham supported a claim to jurisdiction over the waste of the Rape of Hastings, including land in Warbleton and Heathfield. This offers a legal-geographical context for their later Heathfield/Burwash Downs activity. Quantification / boundary: No single acreage stated for the claimed Rape waste; separate SAS-PN/735 deed gives 480a of named Heathfield/Warbleton holdings in 1585. Scope: Hastings Rape waste / Heathfield & Warbleton
- Manorial quitrent / property bounds 1751 / 1764: The ESRO catalogue-derived description of Priors in Heathfield records manorial quitrent payments by Ann Howell in 1751 and Thomas Howell in 1764. The same bundle gives 1733 bounds for Priors: road from Heathfield church to Bishops Wood on the east, land late Taylor's on the south, land of Elizabeth White on the west, and the high street on the north. Quantification / boundary: Property described in 1733 as messuage, barn, stable, orchard, garden and close of % acre; quitrent amounts are not stated in the extracted catalogue text. Scope: Heathfield property; specific manor to which the quitrent was payable is not stated in the extracted text
- Customary inheritance / lord's rent 1763 1839: Trash v Wood records and judicially applies the Heathfield copyhold custom that, on intestacy of a tenant seised of an estate of inheritance, the younger/youngest son was the customary heir. The reported devise also expressly deducts lord's rent. Quantification / boundary: Customary descent to younger/youngest son; lord's rent named among outgoing Scope: Manor of Heathfield
- Estate boundary / enclosure 1833 1836: Historic England states Heathfield Park was enclosed by a sandstone wall built for Sir Charles Richard Blunt. Quantification / boundary: Registered park c.130ha today; wall c.5.6 km; this is park-estate extent, not manor extent Scope: Heathfield Park estate only
- Parish-scale ownership and land-use extent 1841 1842: Tithe map and apportionment

locate plots, owners, occupiers and land use across Heathfield.

- Customary inheritance / copyhold devise 1871 1873: The 1873 court-admission account describes Harriett Davey as the 'customary heiress' of Thomas Crismas and says the premises were conveyed in 1871 to Edward Davey junior to prevent doubt whether the copyhold had been effectively devised. Quantification / boundary: No acreage in the surviving online abstract Scope: Manor of Heathfield

- Manorial building control / fines late 14th 15th century: Heathfield court material records permission/fines associated with removing or converting buildings: one tenant removed a kitchen to another tenement and another dismantled a barn to construct two privies. Quantification / boundary: No acreage; evidence concerns tenement buildings and court fines/permissions. Scope: Heathfield tenants within Bishopstone/Heathfield administration

- Common / upland grazing mid-14th century: A scholarly synthesis of medieval records states that the commons of Heathfield manor included East Down, the largest at 100 acres, together with Hawksborough Down. Quantification / boundary: East Down: 100 acres; Hawksborough Down also named Scope: Manor of Heathfield

- Village green / common registration post-1965; exact decision date unresolved: Commons Commissioner index lists the Village Green, Cade Street, Heathfield as VG.6. Quantification / boundary: Register unit VG.6; acreage/details require reading the decision PDF Scope: Cade Street, Heathfield

- Parish landownership pattern / tithe-era acreage comparator 1842: Brian Short's scholarly synthesis reports that Sir Charles Blunt held more than 1,000 acres in Heathfield parish, Augustus Fuller held 800 acres, and the remainder was divided among more than 130 separate landowners. Quantification / boundary: Blunt: >1,000 acres; Fuller: 800 acres; remainder: >130 separate landowners Scope: Heathfield parish landownership NOT the legal extent of the Manor of Heathfield

- Neighbouring manorial rental / jurisdiction comparator 1850: National Trust records identify an Ashburnham Rental of the Manor of Burwash & Burghurst (SAG435). Its proximity to the 1867 1899 'three lords'; wording makes it a direct source to test whether Burwash/Burghurst rents, waste/common or boundary rights extended into the Heathfield parish landscape. Quantification / boundary: No acreage extracted; search for Heathfield-border parcels/tenants and Forest Ridge / downs rights. Scope: Burwash/Burghurst neighbouring manorial jurisdiction; NOT proved Manor of Heathfield title

- Multi-manor estate share / Heathfield parish land interest Trinity Term 1755: CHR/13/12 separates a quarter-share of numerous named manors from extensive categories of land across many parishes. Heathfield is expressly one of the parishes containing the lands, but it is not named among the quarter-manor interests. Quantification / boundary: Whole concord: 1700a land; 640a meadow; 250a pasture; 2240a wood; 260a furze/heath across the full multi-parish estate. No acreage is allocated specifically to Heathfield in the transcription. Scope: Pelham/Watson-connected multi-parish estate; direct Heathfield parish land evidence; NOT proof of a share in the Manor of Heathfield

- Pelham estate lands versus named manors 2 Jan 1569: Patent Roll evidence separates Pelham's named manors of Burwash, Crowhurst and Bivelham from Pelham lands situated in Heathfield and neighbouring parishes. Quantification / boundary: No Heathfield acreage stated in the patent. Scope: Pelham lands in Heathfield parish / Rape-of-Hastings estate context; NOT Manor of Heathfield title

RESEARCH GAPS / WANTED EVIDENCE

- [OPEN] Crown -> Sackville transfer of the Manor of Heathfield, 1561 1592 | Wanted: Property-specific Crown->Sackville Manor of Heathfield instrument or recital.
- [OPEN] Exact modern U269 reference/image for the 23 May 1592 Heathfield settlement | Wanted: Exact T108/T109/T110 sub-item, recitals, endorsements, press marks and readable images.
- [OPEN] 1920s ownership check TNA HMC 5/6 8 | Wanted: Exact Heathfield entry or documented exhaustive negative search.
- [OPEN] HM Land Registry manor-title search SIF, East Sussex | Wanted: Official East Sussex MANORS index search result and any resulting title/register history.
- [OPEN] Post-De-La-Warr / late-20th-century purchaser and 2024 25 vendor chain | Wanted: Original disposal deed, purchaser family, 2024 vendor/title epitome and immediate pre-2025 chain.
- [OPEN] 1825 1829 Heathfield partition into the De La Warr branch | Wanted: Heathfield/Hethfield entry in E50/E51/Appendix I tying it to Elizabeth's allotted share.
- [OPEN] Exact Heathfield court-book proof for Gilbert (8th Earl) and Herbrand (9th Earl) | Wanted: One dated Heathfield-specific heading/admission naming Gilbert and one naming Herbrand, with page/folio/image.
- [OPEN] 1595 Heathfield/Burwash Downs boundary | Wanted: High-resolution BL Maps MT.6.1(13), full Fletcher/Mackenzie evidence/control points, reproducible polygon.
- [OPEN] 1841 42 tithe map TDE16/1 2 Common Field and Swiss Corner parcels | Wanted: Exact parcel numbers and apportionment entries for Common Field and Swiss Corner waste.
- [OPEN] Actual manor-acreage reconstruction from rentals/court books | Wanted: Line-by-line rental/court transcription with stable holding IDs and period-specific non-overlap rules.
- [OPEN] Mylkeherst identity/overlap problem | Wanted: Abuttals, occupiers, title recitals and relationship of 80a to 200a.
- [OPEN] Heathfield Park historical geometry | Wanted: Vendor authority, purchaser name, house/park lot, acreage/bounds, completion date and 1895 recited title.
- [OPEN] Three-lords problem Ashburnham + Chichester + De La Warr | Wanted: Heathfield-specific parcel/right continuity from Pelham/Watson material into Ashburnham records and connection to Victorian plural-lord wording.

DISCLAIMER

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