

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003155 • MANOR
ABBAY DORE

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Abbey Dore, Herefordshire
Associated places: Abbey Dore, Herefordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbey Dore, also historically called Dore or Dour, was the manor and principal estate associated with Dore Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded at Abbey Dore in 1147 by Robert de Ewyas. The abbey accumulated lands in the parish and surrounding area, including an important royal grant of land between the River Dore and Trivel Brook, confirmed by Henry III in 1233. The monastic manor and estate remained in the possession of the Cistercian community until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. After the abbey's suppression in September 1536, the estate was temporarily held by the Crown and the site and demesne lands were granted on 30 March 1540 to John Scudamore of Holme Lacy. The estate subsequently descended through the Scudamore family and its co-heirs. In 1821, following a partition of the Scudamore estates, 1,434 acres in Abbey Dore were assigned to John Parsons, who took the name Higford. The property was later bequeathed to his kinsman Thomas Freke Lewis, who was explicitly described as lord of the manor and chief landowner in nineteenth-century directories. The surviving evidence establishes the descent to Thomas Freke Lewis, but does not securely establish a later legal holder of the manor itself. Later owners of Abbey Dore Court should not automatically be treated as holders of the manor, because the available sources describe the country-house estate and its sales rather than the legal title to the manor.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Dore Abbey and its manor were held by the Cistercian Abbey of Dore from its foundation in 1147 until the abbey was dissolved in September 1536. The estate then came into Crown hands until the grant of

the site and demesne lands to John Scudamore of Holme Lacy on 30 March 1540. By the early seventeenth century the estate had passed to John Scudamore's grandson, later 1st Viscount Scudamore. The estate remained with the Viscount's descendants until a partition of the Scudamore estates in 1821, when 1,434 acres in Abbey Dore were assigned to John Parsons, who assumed the surname Higford. John Higford's property was bequeathed to his kinsman and godson Thomas Freke Lewis. Thomas Freke Lewis was recorded as lord of the manor and chief landowner in 1876 and again in a directory relating to the 1891 parish statistics. The evidence after Lewis's death in 1908 concerns sales and succession of the Abbey Dore Court estate, not necessarily the manor title, so no later manor conveyance is entered.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1147 - September 1536 | Abbey of Dore, Cistercian monastery | Foundation of Dore Abbey by Robert de Ewyas, followed by possession and accumulation of the manor and associated lands by the Cistercian community until the Dissolution. | | C. J. Robinson, *The Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire*, 1873, Abbey Dore section; corroborated by the 1876-77 Abbeydore parish directory.
- September 1536 - 30 March 1540 | The Crown | The Abbey of Dore was dissolved under the Act of Suppression in September 1536, after which the Dore Abbey estate remained in Crown hands until its grant in 1540. | | Michael Neville, *Dore Abbey, Herefordshire, 1536-1912*, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, volume XLI, 1975, pp. 312-313.
- 30 March 1540 - by the early 17th century | John Scudamore of Holme Lacy | Grant by Henry VIII of the site and demesne lands of Dore Abbey to John Scudamore of Holme Lacy on 30 March 1540. | | Michael Neville, *Dore Abbey, Herefordshire, 1536-1912*, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, volume XLI, 1975, pp. 312-313; corroborated by the 1876-77 Abbeydore parish directory.
- by the early 17th century - 1671 | John Scudamore, later 1st Viscount Scudamore | Descent within the Scudamore family from the 1540 grantee to his grandson, John Scudamore, who was created 1st Viscount Scudamore in 1628. | | Michael Neville, *Dore Abbey, Herefordshire, 1536-1912*, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, volume XLI, 1975, pp. 313-314; John Scudamore biography in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.
- 1671 - 1821 | Descendants and co-heirs of John, 1st Viscount Scudamore | Descent through the Scudamore family after the death of John, 1st Viscount Scudamore; the available source does not identify every intervening holder or every legal conveyance. | | C. J. Robinson, *The Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire*, 1873, Abbey Dore section.
- 1821 - 1852 | John Parsons, later John Higford | Partition of the Scudamore estates in 1821 assigned 1,434 acres in Abbey Dore to John Parsons, who took the name Higford. | | C. J. Robinson, *The Mansions and Manors of Herefordshire*, 1873, Abbey Dore section; corroborated by the Abbey Dore Court historical summary.
- 1852 - at least 1891 | Captain Thomas Freke Lewis | Bequest of the Abbey Dore property by John Higford to his kinsman and godson Thomas Freke Lewis after Higford's death in 1852. | | Littlebury's *Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire*, 1876-77, Abbeydore entry; directory entry for Abbeydore using 1891 parish statistics; C. J. Robinson, *The Mansions and Manors of*

Herefordshire, 1873.

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