

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003179 • MANOR
ABBOTS WOOTTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 14 October 2026 18:13 UTC

Location: Whitchurch Canonicorum, Dorset
Associated places: Whitchurch Canonicorum, Dorset

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbots Wootton Manor, also called Wotton Abbas, Wotton Abbots, Woddeton, or Abbots Wootton, was the manor centred on the Abbots Wootton settlement and manor-house site in Whitchurch Canonicorum, Dorset. The place is identified with 'Wideton' in the Domesday survey. Dorset Historic Environment records distinguish the former manor-house site at Lower Abbots Wootton Farm from the surviving medieval or post-medieval abbey grange at Higher Abbots Wootton Farm. The manor formed part of the lands of Abbotsbury Abbey before the Reformation. The Elizabethan manor-house associated with the Every family stood at Lower Abbots Wootton and was demolished in the nineteenth century, traditionally about 1858. The estate historically extended beyond the immediate settlement into parts of Whitchurch, Hawkchurch, Symondsbury, Wootton Fitzpaine, Berne, and Morecombelake, although the precise extent varied over time.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely identified ecclesiastical holder is Abbotsbury Abbey, which held the estate by the eleventh century and is associated with Wootton in a charter dated 1044; the manor appears as Wideton in Domesday. Following the Dissolution, the Crown granted the manor in the sixth year of Edward VI, 1553, to Sir William Cavendish, who in the same year obtained licence to alienate it to Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred Sackville, his wife. The manor descended to their son Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, later Earl of Dorset. In 1583 licence was granted for its sale to William Every. The surviving antiquarian account records further Every-family transactions involving

Alexander Every, William Every, and Thomas Every around 1589-1590, after which the manor remained in the Every family for several generations. John Every died without issue in 1679, after which the estate passed through the Every-Henley family connection to John Henley and subsequently to Robert Henley of Glanvilles Wootton. The Henley heirs sold it to Joseph Damer, Lord Milton, in 1768 or 1769. The estate was later held by Lady Caroline Damer and was sold to John Morse in 1814. After Morse's death in 1844 it passed to Edward Swan. A later local-history account states that Alfred Pass purchased the estate in 1895 and that it passed to his son Alfred Douglas Pass after Alfred's death in 1905. The estate was broken up and sold in lots in 1970; the identity of all purchasers and the precise legal descent after that sale have not been established from the sources reviewed.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1044 - 1553 | Abbotsbury Abbey | Held as part of the lands of Abbotsbury Abbey until the Crown grant after the Reformation. | | Dorset Heritage Explorer, MDO44873 and MDO44874, citing Shipp and Hodson, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264; Langscape, charter reference S1004.
- 1553 - 1553 | Sir William Cavendish | Granted by the Crown in the sixth year of Edward VI; in the same year he obtained licence to alienate the manor to Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred Sackville. | | John Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.
- 1553 - after 1553 | Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred Sackville | Sir William Cavendish obtained licence to alienate the manor to Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred Sackville, his wife. | | John Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.
- after 1553 - 1583 | Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, later Earl of Dorset | Inherited or otherwise received the manor from his parents, Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred Sackville; sold or conveyed it under licence in 1583. | | John Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.
- 1583 - by 1589 | William Every | Acquired the manor from the Sackville family under a licence to alienate granted in 1583. | | John Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account; Dorset Heritage Explorer MDO44874.
- by 1589 - 1590 | Alexander Every | The 31st year of Elizabeth I, 1589, licence was granted for Alexander Every to alienate the manor to William Every; in the 32nd year, 1590, Thomas Every, described as Alexander's brother and heir, held the manor. The precise legal sequence is unclear from the available summary. | | John Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.
- 1590 - after 1590 | Thomas Every | Held the manor in 1590 as brother and heir of Alexander

Every. | | John Hutchins, The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.

- before 1679 - 1679 | John Every | Died without issue in 1679; the manor passed to his sister Barbara Every. | | John Hutchins, The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.

- 1679 - after 1679 | Barbara Every Henley | Inherited from her brother John Every; she was the second wife of Sir Robert Henley of the Grange, Hampshire. | | John Hutchins, The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account.

- after 1679 - before 1732 | John Henley | Received the estate through his mother Barbara Every Henley; the precise date and instrument are not stated. | | John Hutchins, The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account; Freshford, Wootton Fitzpaine historical notes.

- before 1732 - before 1768 | Robert Henley of Glanvilles Wootton | Received the estate from his brother John Henley under John Henley's testamentary arrangements; the source describes Robert as John Henley's brother and the person to whom John entrusted the care of his children. | | John Hutchins, The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264, reproduced in the Abbots Wootton descent account; Freshford, Wootton Fitzpaine historical notes.

- 1768 - after 1769 | Joseph Damer, Lord Milton, later Earl of Dorchester | Purchased the Abbots Wootton estate from the Henley heirs in 1768 or 1769. A 1769 estate survey describes Abbots Wootton as Lord Milton's newly purchased estate. | | Dorset Council, Form A application T616, citing William Woodward's 1769 map and survey of Lord Milton's Abbots Wootton estate; John Hutchins, History and Antiquities of Dorset, 3rd ed., vol. 2, p. 264.

- after 1798 - 1814 | Lady Caroline Damer | inheritance followed by sale | Manor Property |

- 1814 - 1844 | John Morse | purchase | Manor Property |

- 1844 - 1895 | Edward Swan | inheritance or succession; precise instrument unstated | Manor Property |

- 1895 - 1905 | Alfred Pass | purchase | Manor Property |

- 1905 - 1970 | Alfred Douglas Pass | inheritance followed by subdivision sale | Manor Property |

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