

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003189 • MANOR
ABBOTTS MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Denham St Mary (nr Newmarket), Suffolk
Associated places: Denham St Mary (nr Newmarket), Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Manor of Abbots in Denham alias Denham Abbots | Historically associated | late 12th or early 13th century - about 1580 as a separately held manor | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbotts Manor was the separate manor historically known as the manor of Abbots in Denham or Denham Abbots, in the West Suffolk parish of Denham St Mary. It originated as land in Denham given by Alice de Vere and her son Aubrey de Vere to the Augustinian priory of St Osyth in Essex. A confirmation deed records 40 shillings' worth of land in Denham, and the local parish history identifies this holding as the origin of Denham Abbots as a separate manor. The manor included, or was associated with, the rectory and advowson of Denham church. After the dissolution of St Osyth in 1539, the property passed through Thomas Audley and his daughter Margaret Audley, then to the Howard family. It was sold in 1586 by Thomas Howard, later first Earl of Suffolk, to Thomas Stuteville and subsequently came into the hands of Martha Heigham and Edward Lewkenor. By the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century Denham Abbots had been reunited in ownership with the principal manor of Denham, although the name continued in use for the site and estate. The physical site is represented by Denham Abbots or Abbot's Farm, including a mid-sixteenth-century farmhouse and an early-seventeenth-century barn.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely documented holder was the Augustinian priory of St Osyth, which received land in Denham from Alice de Vere and Aubrey de Vere. The relevant confirmation evidence is undated in one deed but is associated by the parish historian with Archbishop Hubert Walter's tenure, approximately 1193-1205; a further confirmation is dated 11 September 52 Henry III,

interpreted by
 the editor as 1268 because the printed reference to Henry II is impossible. St Osyth's
 ownership is also directly evidenced by a 1273 reference to the abbot's manor of Denham
 and by
 a 1279 agreement concerning lands in Denham held of the abbot. In 1538 the abbot received
 licence to
 alienate the Suffolk manors including Denham to Thomas Audley; following the surrender of St
 Osyth
 in July 1539, Denham Abbots was treated as belonging to Audley. It descended to his daughter
 Margaret Audley in 1544, and through her family to her son Thomas Howard. Thomas Howard sold
 Denham
 Abbots to Thomas Stuteville by an indenture of 1586. The subsequent acquisition by Martha
 Heigham is
 reported by the 1904 parish history but the precise conveyance has not been located. By 1605
 Edward
 Lewkenor was seised of the site of the manor of Abbots in Denham alias Denham Abbots, with
 its
 mansion house, lands, rectory and advowson. The 1618 and 1634 inquisitions confirm the
 continued
 possession of the manor site and associated property by successive Edward Lewkenors. The
 separate
 descent is not followed securely beyond the early seventeenth century because the manor had
 by about
 1580 been reunited with the principal manor of Denham.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- undated; probably late 12th or early 13th century - 1539 | The Priory of St Osyth, Essex | Gift and confirmation of land in Denham by Alice de Vere and Aubrey de Vere to the priory of St Osyth; the property was later treated as the separate manor of Denham Abbots. | | S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, historical chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 172-174, citing Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum, VI, p. 310.
- 1538 - 1544 | Thomas Audley, Baron Audley of Walden | Alienation of the former St Osyth estate to Thomas Audley under royal licence; after the surrender of St Osyth in July 1539, Denham Abbots was treated as belonging to Audley. | | S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, historical chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 175-176, citing the Calendars of State Papers.
- 1544 - after 1558 | Margaret Audley, later Margaret Dudley and Margaret Howard | Inherited Denham Abbots and the surrounding Denham manors from her father, Thomas Audley, on his death. | | S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, historical chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 176-177.
- 1572 or later - 1586 | Thomas Howard, later Baron Howard of Walden and Earl of Suffolk | The Audley property passed through Margaret Audley to her son Thomas Howard after the execution of his father, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, in 1572. | | S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, historical chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 176-177.
- 1586 - shortly after 1586 | Thomas Stuteville of Dalham | Sale by indenture from Thomas Howard to Thomas Stuteville of Dalham in the 28th year of Elizabeth I, 1586. | | S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, historical chapter "Denham Abbots," p. 177, citing Page's supplement to the Suffolk Traveller.

- by 1605 - 1 May 1618 | Edward Lewkenor | Transfer from Martha Heigham is not established. Edward Lewkenor was seised of the manor site by the 1605 inquisition; the parish historian says it appears to have passed from Martha Heigham to him, possibly in connection with his marriage to her daughter, but expressly treats that explanation as probable rather than proved. | | Inquisition post mortem of Edward Lewkenor, reproduced in S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, pp. 128-129 and discussed in the chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 177-178.
- 1 May 1618 - December 1634 | Edward Lewkenor, esquire, son and heir of Sir Edward Lewkenor | Inherited the manor site and associated property from his father, Sir Edward Lewkenor, who died on 1 May 1618. | | Inquisition post mortem of Sir Edward Lewkenor, held at Ipswich on 4 June 1618, reproduced in S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, pp. 132-134.
- December 1634 - after January 1635 | Edward Lewkenor, son and heir of Edward Lewkenor | Inherited the manor site and associated Denham property from his father, Edward Lewkenor, who died in December 1634. | | Inquisition post mortem of Edward Lewkenor, taken at Ipswich on 22 January 1635, reproduced in S. H. A. Hervey, Denham Parish Registers, 1539-1850, pp. 134-138; see also the chapter "Denham Abbots," pp. 177-178.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Rectory of Denham: The manor was associated with the rectory of Denham by the early seventeenth century.
- Advowson of Denham church: The advowson of Denham church was associated with the manor site and property by the early seventeenth century.

DISCLAIMER

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