

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003227 • MANOR
ABLINGTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Bibury, Gloucestershire
Associated places: Bibury, Gloucestershire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Ablington Manor was an ancient manor in the hamlet of Ablington, within the parish of Bibury, Gloucestershire, approximately one mile upstream from Bibury on the River Coln. Medieval evidence identifies Ablington, also recorded as Ablyngton, as an established manor and as a member of the wider Bibury manorial complex. The manor was originally held by Gloucester Abbey. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was leased to the Howse family and was acquired by John Coxwell in 1574. Coxwell constructed the surviving principal manor house, dated 1590, on or beside the earlier manor site. The house is a substantial limestone Elizabethan building with later seventeenth-, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century alterations and is listed at Grade I. The estate remained associated with the Coxwell and later Coxwell-Rogers family for several centuries. In the early twentieth century the estate was broken up: Richard Hugh Coxwell Rogers began the break-up in 1914, and the estate was sold and divided in 1918. The surviving manor house and associated land subsequently passed through separate ownerships. The present architectural building should not be treated as identical in date to the origin of the manor, which is medieval.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The secure public-source descent is incomplete. Ablington was originally a possession of Gloucester Abbey, but the precise medieval descent and the identities of all lords recorded before the sixteenth century require consultation of the relevant medieval deeds, inquisitions, fines, court rolls and the detailed manorial material cited by the Victoria County History. A late medieval feet-of-fines abstract records a sixth part of the manor of Ablyngton in 1413, but that fractional interest belongs to a larger transaction involving William Palton and Elizabeth his wife and

should not be treated as the whole manor without further investigation. A local historical account also states that in the time of King John a moiety of Ablington was purchased by Ralph de Willington and Olympia, his wife; this is useful evidence that interests in the manor existed in the early thirteenth century, but it does not establish a complete descent of the whole manor. After the Dissolution, the Howse family held the property by lease rather than as proven freehold lords. John Coxwell acquired the manor in 1574. Directly documented later Coxwell-family associations include John Coxwell as lord in 1727, Charles Coxwell as lord around 1780, and Richard Rogers Coxwell/Coxwell-Rogers in the nineteenth century. The Coxwell-Rogers family remained associated with the estate until Richard Hugh Coxwell Rogers initiated its break-up in 1914; the estate was sold and divided in 1918. The intervening transfers and the precise legal descent between the named Coxwell holders remain insufficiently documented in the sources located.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- Medieval period; exact commencement not established - 1539 or 1540 | Gloucester Abbey, also known as the Abbey of St Peter at Gloucester | Original institutional holding; the manor later passed out of monastic possession in the course of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The precise date and instrument by which Ablington itself was transferred are not established by the sources located. | | Parks & Gardens, Ablington Manor, citing N. M. Herbert, Victoria County History: Gloucester, Volume 7, 1981, p. 30; corroborated by the historical account of Gloucester Abbey's dissolution in 1539 1540.
- Beginning of the sixteenth century, exact date not established - 1574 | Howse family | Leasehold occupation or tenure after the Dissolution; the exact lease, term and legal grant have not been located. | | Parks & Gardens, Ablington Manor ; Historic England, List Entry 1341833; Acanthus Clews Architects and Richard K. Morriss, Ablington Manor Heritage Assessment.
- 1574 - 1618 or later; precise termination of his holding not established | John Coxwell of Ablington | Acquired Ablington Manor from the preceding interest; the precise deed or Crown grant has not been located in the sources searched. | | Historic England, List Entry 1341833, Ablington Manor ; Acanthus Clews Architects and Richard K. Morriss, Ablington Manor Heritage Assessment; Corinium Museum, John Coxwell 1516 1618.
- 1727 - After 1727; exact termination not established | John Coxwell of Ablington | No conveyance identified. The date stone 1727 JC at the Ablington Manor barn is interpreted by historical and heritage sources as identifying John Coxwell as lord of the manor at that time. | | Historic England, List Entry 1341835, Manor Farmhouse ; Wikishire, Ablington Manor, citing the dated barn and local historical material.
- Circa 1780 - 1829 | Charles Coxwell of Ablington | No conveyance identified. His lordship is evidenced by the 1780 datestone at Manor Farmhouse and by a Gloucestershire historical account stating that he was lord of Ablington Manor's house and estate. | | Historic England, List Entry 1341835, Manor Farmhouse ; Marjorie Joy, Charles Coxwell of

Ablington, Gloucestershire Historical Studies, reprinted from Gloucestershire in the 18th Century, 1966.

- By 1860 - 31 December 1895 | Richard Rogers Coxwell, later Coxwell-Rogers | No conveyance identified. His direct association is evidenced by the 1860 datestone R.R.C. on the Ablington Manor stables and by biographical sources recording that he lived at Ablington Manor. | | Historic England, List Entry 1155109, Stables at Ablington Manor ; The Peerage, person entry for Richard Rogers Coxwell-Rogers, citing Burke s Irish Family Records, 1976; Stirnet, Coxwell family of Ablington pedigree.

- 1914 - 1918 or shortly thereafter | Richard Hugh Coxwell Rogers | Initiated the break-up and sale of the Ablington estate. The available heritage assessment records estate sales beginning in 1914 and states that the estate was sold and divided in 1918; individual purchasers and the legal details of each sale are not established. | | Acanthus Clews Architects and Richard K. Morriss, Ablington Manor Heritage Assessment, section discussing the 1914 estate sale and 1918 subdivision.

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