

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003287 • MANOR
ADFORTON

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 12:00 UTC

Location: Leintwardine, Herefordshire
Associated places: Leintwardine, Herefordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Adforton was a medieval manor and settlement in the former Leintwardine area, historically associated with Wigmore and the Mortimer lordship. Domesday evidence places the estate in the hundred of Leintwardine, in the part of modern Herefordshire then recorded under Shropshire, with Ralph de Mortimer as tenant-in-chief in 1086. The manor was held in demesne by the Mortimers and formed part of the wider Wigmore estate or honour. The place is about 2 kilometres north of Wigmore Castle, the principal Mortimer seat, and a possible medieval motte has been identified on a ridge east of the village. Later records associate Adforton with the Wigmore Honour, the Wigmore Castle estate and the Harley estate. The documentary descent is incomplete, especially between the later medieval Mortimer period, Crown control and the acquisition of the Wigmore estate by the Harleys.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Before the Norman Conquest, the Domesday material records Adforton under Eadric, described in the relevant PASE entry as the pre-Conquest holder. In 1086 it was held by Ralph de Mortimer and was a demesne manor of the Mortimers. Adforton remained connected with the Mortimer lordship centred on Wigmore; the Wigmore estate continued in Mortimer hands until the death of Edmund Mortimer, fifth earl of March, in 1425, after which the estate descended through Richard, duke of York, to the Crown. The Crown later granted the Wigmore property to Henry Linley and Gelly Meyrick in the reign of Elizabeth I. In 1601 Henry Linley sold the Wigmore Castle estate to Thomas Harley of Brampton Bryan for £2,600, and the estate acquired in that transaction explicitly included lands in

Adforton. A later seventeenth-century account states that, following the dissolution of Wigmore Abbey, the Harleys also acquired former abbey lands in Adforton and neighbouring places. By the eighteenth century Edward Harley, earl of Oxford and earl Mortimer, is documented as lord of the manor of Wigmore; this is relevant to Adforton because Adforton is expressly included among the lands of the Wigmore Castle and Harley estates, but the surviving public evidence does not establish every intervening conveyance of the distinct Adforton manor. A nineteenth-century directory records Robert William Dacre Harley and Andrew Johnes Rouse-Boughton-Knight as lords of the manors in the Leintwardine parish, but it does not identify which individual manor each held.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1086 | Eadric, described in PASE as Eadric the Wild | Pre-Conquest tenure; Adforton was reassigned into the post-Conquest tenurial structure before the Domesday assessment. | | PASE, Domesday person record for Eadric, entry for Adforton, Herefordshire/Shropshire, Phil. ref. 6,13; Domesday Book database.
- 1086 - after 1086 | Ralph de Mortimer | Post-Conquest tenure recorded in Domesday Book; the estate was held by Ralph de Mortimer as tenant-in-chief and in demesne. | | Herefordshire Through Time, Adforton possible motte, Historic Environment Record no. 10099; PASE Domesday database, Adforton entry.
- 1086 - 1425 | The Mortimer lords of Wigmore | Continuing Mortimer lordship of the Wigmore estate; no separate conveyance of Adforton has been located for this period. | | Herefordshire Through Time, Adforton possible motte; Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Herefordshire News Sheet no. 60, discussion of Adforton as a Mortimer demesne manor; Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Wigmore Fairs 1669-1710, historical summary of the Wigmore estate.
- 1425 - reign of Elizabeth I | The Crown, following the extinction of the direct Mortimer earldom of March | The Wigmore estate descended through Richard, duke of York, to the Crown after the death of Edmund Mortimer, fifth earl of March, in 1425; the precise treatment of Adforton during this period is not separately documented in the sources consulted. | | Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Wigmore Fairs 1669-1710, historical summary of the Wigmore Castle estate and its descent after 1425.
- reign of Elizabeth I - 1601 | Henry Linley and Gelly Meyrick | Granted the Wigmore property by Elizabeth I; the exact date and terms of the grant have not been established in the sources consulted. | | Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Wigmore Fairs 1669-1710, historical summary of the Wigmore Castle estate.
- 1601 - after 1601 | Thomas Harley of Brampton Bryan | Purchased the Wigmore Castle estate from Henry Linley for £2,600; the estate acquired in the transaction explicitly included lands in Adforton. | | Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Wigmore Fairs 1669-1710, historical summary of the 1601 purchase of the Wigmore Castle estate.
- 1772 - after 1772 | Edward Harley, earl of Oxford and earl Mortimer | Later appearance as lord of the manor of Wigmore in the 1772 enclosure award; no direct intervening conveyance of Adforton has been located. | | Muriel Tonkin, The Wigmore Enclosure Act and Award

1772-74, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club Transactions, vol. XLI, 1975, especially the award naming Edward, earl of Oxford and earl Mortimer as lord of the manor of Wigmore.

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