

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003289 • MANOR
ADISHAM MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Adisham, Kent
Associated places: Adisham, Kent

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Adisham Manor was a substantial ecclesiastical manor in Adisham, Kent, known as Edesham in Domesday evidence. Its medieval administrative centre was the Court Lodge immediately west of the church of the Holy Innocents. The estate extended beyond the modern civil parish: medieval and early-modern evidence associates tenant land and quit rents of Adisham Manor with places including parts of Ickham, Staple, Chillenden, Goodnestone and neighbouring districts. Domesday evidence records the estate as held for the Canterbury ecclesiastical establishment, with the monks of Christ Church as subtenants or estate holders under the archbishop's superior lordship. After the Dissolution, the manor was settled on the newly established Dean and Chapter of Canterbury in the 33rd year of Henry VIII, conventionally AD 1541. A nineteenth-century gazetteer reports that it was then held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, but the precise legal transfer from the Dean and Chapter has not been established in the sources consulted.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest surviving historical tradition assigns Adisham Manor to the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury. Edward Hasted states that King Eadbald of Kent gave the manor to the monks in AD 616, free from secular services except the traditional *trinoda necessitas*. The Electronic Sawyer catalogue records the relevant Eadbald-to-Christ-Church charter tradition as S1609, while Hasted also records a royal confirmation of Christ Church's lands including Adisham in the late Anglo-Saxon period. Domesday evidence for 1066 identifies the unnamed monks of Christ Church as

holders at Adisham, while the superior lordship or tenant-in-chief position is associated with the Archbishop of Canterbury; in 1086 the estate was recorded under Archbishop Lanfranc with the monks of Christ Church as subtenants. Hasted explains this arrangement as the post-Conquest division of the Canterbury church's revenues by Archbishop Lanfranc, under which Adisham was allotted to the priory. The manor remained with Christ Church Priory until the Dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of Henry VIII. Hasted states that Henry VIII settled it on the new Dean and Chapter of Canterbury in the 33rd year of his reign, AD 1541. A seventeenth-century survey directly records Adisham Manor among the estates of the Dean and Chapter and identifies a named tenant, Mr Dancy; that tenancy is not treated as ownership. John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer, published in 1870, says that the manor was then held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The exact date and legal instrument of any transfer from the Dean and Chapter to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners remain unresolved. A modern local-history account instead states that ownership continues with the Dean and Chapter, so the nineteenth-century institutional position should be treated as requiring archival confirmation rather than as a fully documented conveyance.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- by 1870 | Ecclesiastical Commissioners | Later institutional holding reported by a nineteenth-century gazetteer; the precise conveyance or statutory transfer from the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury has not been established | | John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1870, entry for Adisham, Kent.

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