

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003299 • MANOR
ADSTON (ASHBY PRIORY) MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 15:50 UTC

Location: Adstone, Northamptonshire
Associated places: Adstone, Northamptonshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Adston, also recorded as Atteneston, was a medieval manor and estate in the township and later civil parish of Adstone, Northamptonshire. Domesday evidence records land at Atteneston held in separate portions by Geoffrey de Turville and the monks of Bee; that evidence should not be treated as proving that the whole later manor belonged to either holder. The component represented by this record is the Adston estate associated with Canons Ashby Priory, an Augustinian house founded in the mid-12th century. Medieval evidence records the Canons Ashby canons as landowners in Adstone, and a royal grant in the reign of Edward II gave them free warren over their demesne lands there. By the 19th century the historical account stated that the monastery appeared to have held the manor from that period until the Dissolution. The priory and its associated lands were dissolved in 1536 and passed through the Crown to Sir Francis Bryan, who sold the property to Sir John Cope in 1538. The post-Dissolution Canons Ashby estate subsequently came into the Dryden family, although the surviving sources distinguish between the former monastic estate, the priory site, and the wider manor and do not provide a continuous separate title record for every part of Adstone. In 1714 the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy purchased the Stowe estate, which included a separate Adstone unit; late-19th- and early-20th-century descriptions identify the Corporation as lords of the manor at Adstone. The combined Stowe and Adstone estates were offered for sale in 1916. The record should not be merged with Canons Ashby manor merely because Adstone was a chapelry of Canons Ashby: the secure connection is the explicitly documented inclusion of Adstone lands and manor within,

or
associated with, the Canons Ashby monastic estate.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest secure evidence relevant to this record is the statement that the monks of Canons Ashby owned land in Adstone during the reign of Henry III and that, following the grant of free warren in the reign of Edward II, the monastery appears to have held the manor until the Dissolution. The Victoria County History records earlier Domesday holdings at Atteneston, but those holdings were divided between Geoffrey de Turville and the monks of Bee and cannot safely be equated in their entirety with the later Adston (Ashby Priory) manor. At the Dissolution in 1536 the Canons Ashby priory and its property were acquired from the Crown by Sir Francis Bryan. Bryan sold the property to Sir John Cope in 1538. Historic England records that the Dryden family acquired the former monastic estate on the death of Sir John Cope in 1558, while the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record states that the Drydens held a considerable part of the manor from Cope during the following thirty years and acquired most of the manor in 1665. These sources establish the Dryden succession for the Canons Ashby predecessor estate, but do not document every intermediate conveyance of the distinct Adstone manor component. In 1714 the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy bought the Stowe estate, which included Adstone as a separate estate unit. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Corporation was expressly described as lord of the manor of Adstone. The estate was sold in 1916; the purchaser of the Adstone manor component has not been securely identified in the public sources reviewed.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- reign of Henry III (1216-1272) - 1536 | Canons Ashby Priory | Held the Adstone/Atteneston manor or the monastic estate from which the manor is identified | | Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, entry for Adstone, 1848; reproduced with the cited source attribution by Parishmouse.
- 1536 - 1538 | Sir Francis Bryan | Purchased the dissolved priory and its associated village and lands from the Crown | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, 600/3 Canons Ashby Priory, MNN11470, full description.
- 1538 - 1558 | Sir John Cope | Bought the Canons Ashby property from Sir Francis Bryan | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, 600/3 Canons Ashby Priory, MNN11470; Historic England, Canons Ashby scheduled monument entry 1015534.

- 1558 - 1665 | Dryden family | The former Canons Ashby monastic estate passed to the Dryden family after the death of Sir John Cope; the Drydens held a considerable part of the manor and subsequently acquired most of it | | Historic England, Canons Ashby scheduled monument entry 1015534, lines describing John Dryden's acquisition in 1558; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, 600/3 Canons Ashby Priory, MNN11470.
- 1714 - 1916 | Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy | Purchased the Stowe estate, which included Adstone as a separate estate unit | | Stowe Nine Churches, Friends from the Past, account of the Stowe estate and Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy; Kelly's Directory of Northamptonshire, Adstone entry, early 20th century.
- 2 June 1916 | Unknown purchaser or purchasers | The combined Stowe and Adstone estates were offered for sale; the purchaser of the Adstone manor component has not been securely identified | | Historic England Archive, Estate Sales Particulars collection, SC00802, Particulars of Sale of the Stowe and Adstone Estates, dated 2 June 1916.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Free warren over the demesne lands at Adstone: A royal grant in the reign of Edward II granted the Canons Ashby canons free warren over their demesne lands there.

DISCLAIMER

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