

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003300 • MANOR
ADWELL MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Adwell, Oxfordshire
Associated places: Adwell, Oxfordshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Adwell Manor was the principal manor of Adwell parish, a small parish south of Thame in Oxfordshire.

Before the Norman Conquest it was held freely by Wulfstan. By 1086 it had passed to Miles Crispin, the Norman baron and castellan of Wallingford, and formed part of the Honour of Wallingford; after that honour escheated to the Crown in 1300, Adwell was associated with the Honour of Ewelme. The manor was historically held as a lay fee and was distinct from the superior lordship or overlordship represented by the honour. Adwell House is the surviving manor house. The earlier house was remodelled for William Newell about 1700 and substantially altered or rebuilt in the late eighteenth century. The present house is a listed early eighteenth-century or late eighteenth-century manor house with later alterations.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The medieval manor descended through the de Sulham family and their successors, including Richard de la Hyde and Hugh de St Philibert, before being divided among the co-heirs of Edmund Bereford in the mid-fourteenth century. It was subsequently consolidated through John Motte and John James of Wallingford, and then descended through the James and Rede families. In 1440 Edmund Rede and Agnes Rede conveyed Adwell to Richard Marmion, after which the manor remained with the Marmion family for roughly 150 years. John Marmion sold Adwell to Nicholas Betham in the sixteenth century, although John retained a lease of the mansion house, water-mill, and demesne lands. Christopher Betham and his wife sold the manor and advowson in 1580-1581 to John Franklin, who already held a lease. The

manor then descended through the Franklin family. Dame Elizabeth Franklin, widow of Sir John Franklin, sold it in 1658 to Henry Franklin. After Henry's death in 1663, the manor was held in shares by his three daughters; Anne Franklin and Mary Carter sold their two-thirds share to the Newell family in 1680, while Frances Franklin was the wife of William Newell. The Newells thereafter held the consolidated manor. It passed by William Newell's will to his son, the Reverend William Newell, and subsequently to Esther Newell for life and then to Elizabeth Newell, later the wife of James Jones. Elizabeth Jones's will directed that the estate should pass to Frances Webb and then to a person who assumed the name Newell. Frances Webb accordingly left Adwell to her kinsman John William Birch, who became John William Newell-Birch. In 1867 the manor passed to his nephew Henry Birch-Reynardson, and it subsequently descended to William John Birch-Reynardson, Henry Thomas Birch-Reynardson, William Robert Ashley Birch-Reynardson, and, after 1997, Thomas Henry Birch-Reynardson. Some medieval transitions are recorded as settlements, remainders, shared holdings, or transfers to feoffees rather than as straightforward outright sales; those distinctions are retained below.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - by 1086 | Wulfstan | Held Adwell freely before the Norman Conquest; by 1086 the manor had passed to Miles Crispin. The identification of Wulfstan with the holder of neighbouring Aston and Britwell Salome is reported as probable rather than certain. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; Domesday-related summary for Adwell.
- 1086 - after 1086 | Miles Crispin | Adwell was held by Miles Crispin by the time of the Domesday survey. It consequently formed part of the Honour of Wallingford. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; Domesday-related account of Adwell.
- circa 1104 - before 1130 | William de Sulham | The de Sulham family held Adwell as tenants of the Honour of Wallingford. William is identified with William de Sulham, lord of Sulham and other Berkshire and Buckinghamshire manors, who gave tithes to Abingdon Abbey in 1104. He was succeeded by Aumary, probably his son or son-in-law. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1130 - 1166 | Aumary de Sulham | Succeeded William de Sulham in the de Sulham holding. Aumary's possessions were divided between his sons Ralph and Robert; the elder son Ralph received the four fees including Adwell. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1130 - 1166 | Ralph de Sulham | Received the four fees including Adwell from his father Aumary de Sulham. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.

- 1166 - 1186 | Aumary II de Sulham | Succeeded Ralph de Sulham in the four fees including Adwell. After Aumary's death, the Crown took custody during the minority of his heir; Thomas Basset acted as guardian in 1189 and 1190. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1186 - before 1211 | Robert Fitz Aumary de Sulham | Succeeded Aumary II de Sulham, apparently while under royal custody during his minority. Robert died before 1211 and was succeeded by his son Aumary III. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1211 - before 1241/2 | Aumary III Fitz Robert de Sulham | Succeeded his father Robert Fitz Aumary. By 1236 he was described as mentally incapable of making gifts or sales of his lands, and the sheriff was ordered to protect the inheritance. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1241/2 - by 1250 | William de Sulham | Probably succeeded Aumary III Fitz Robert. He was dead by 1250; in 1255 Adwell was in the custody of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, as guardian of William's heir. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1255 - by 1279 | John de Sulham | Inherited Adwell as William de Sulham's heir. He came of age in 1269 and received a grant of free warren in Adwell in 1277. By 1279 the four fees had been divided between Richard de la Hyde and Hugh de St Philibert, described as John's heir. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1279 - 1300 | Richard de la Hyde | Held one half of the four fees at Adwell in right of his wife Philippa, probably a daughter of John and Joan de Sulham. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1279 - 1304 | Hugh III de St Philibert | Held the other half of the four fees at Adwell. His claim is traced through his mother Euphemia, who held Sulham as her inheritance and was probably descended from John de Sulham. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1304 - 1333 | John de St Philibert | Succeeded his father Hugh III de St Philibert as holder of the St Philibert half of Adwell. He came of age in 1314 and received free warren at Adwell in 1317. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1333 - 1349 | John de St Philibert | Inherited the St Philibert half as a child and received seisin of Adwell in 1348. Before his death he apparently sold Adwell, together with the advowson, to Edmund Bereford, clerk, in 1349. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1349 - 1354 | Edmund Bereford | Apparently acquired Adwell and its advowson from John de St Philibert in 1349. On Edmund's death in 1354, his three sisters Joan, Margaret, and Agnes were co-heirs to the family estates. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; supporting discussion of Edmund Bereford's co-heirs.
- 1354 - 1359 | Joan de Elsfeld, Margaret de Audley, and Agnes de Mautravers | Inherited Adwell as three co-heirs of Edmund Bereford. The manor appears to have been divided equally among them; the Mautravers interest is documented as one third in 1358. By 1359 all three sisters had granted their portions to feoffees. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; corroborating

discussion of the Bereford co-heirs.

- 1359 - by 1372 | John Motte | The three Bereford co-heirs granted their portions of Adwell to feoffees, after which the manor was conveyed to John Motte. He was probably acting for John James of Wallingford. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1372 - 1396 | John James of Wallingford | The first definite evidence of John James's connection with Adwell is his presentation to the church in 1372. In 1378 he settled Adwell and other lands on himself, his wife Christine, and his son Robert. He died in 1396; in the same year Christine and Robert took possession. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1396 - 1397 | Christine James and Robert James | Took possession of Adwell after the death of John James. In 1397 Robert settled his own half on his wife Katherine and the reversion of the other half, after Christine's death, on Katherine. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1429 - 1435 | Christine James, wife of Edmund Rede | A 1429 settlement placed Adwell on Robert James's daughter Christine and her husband Edmund Rede and their heirs. Robert James died in 1432; Edmund Rede had died in 1430, and Christine obtained sole possession. On her death in 1435, her son Edmund succeeded. | | Inquisition post mortem of Robert James, 1432, TNA reference C 139/54/23 mm.1-2; Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10.
- 1435 - 1440 | Edmund Rede | Succeeded his mother Christine Rede in 1435. In 1440 Edmund Rede and Agnes Rede parted with Adwell to Richard Marmion. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1440 - by 1466 | Richard Marmion | Acquired Adwell from Edmund and Agnes Rede in 1440. The manor remained with the Marmion family thereafter. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- by 1466 - after 1478 | John Marmion | Succeeded Richard Marmion in the Marmion holding of Adwell. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- by 1494 - 1530 | William Marmion | Succeeded John Marmion in the Marmion holding. In 1513 he settled Adwell on himself and his wife Isabel. He died in 1530, leaving Anthony Marmion as his heir. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1530 - before 1557 | Anthony Marmion | Inherited Adwell from his father William Marmion. Before his death in 1549 he made three successive dispositions of the manor, producing disputes among beneficiaries. His younger son Arthur and daughter Elizabeth later disputed the elder son John's right. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1557 - before 1557 | John Marmion | John Marmion, heavily indebted to Nicholas Betham, sold the manor to Betham but retained a lease of the mansion house, water-mill, and demesne lands. The transfer occurred amid disputes concerning the dispositions of Anthony Marmion. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- before 1557 - before 1557 | Nicholas Betham | Acquired Adwell from John Marmion. Before his death he settled the manor on himself and his wife Sybil, with remainder to their son Christopher. The settlement was disputed by Edward Betham, Nicholas's heir. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; corroborating account of Christopher Betham's acquisition from the Marmions.

- by 1566 - 1580/1581 | Christopher Betham | Obtained possession of Adwell after the disputed settlement made by his father Nicholas Betham. In 1580 and 1581 Christopher and his wife sold the manor and advowson to John Franklin for £1,500; John Franklin already held a lease of both. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10; Stephen Dugdale, discussion citing VCH Oxfordshire VIII and Betham-related records.
- 1580/1581 - 1597 | John Franklin | Purchased the manor and advowson from Christopher Betham and Margaret Betham for £1,500. He already held a lease of the manor and advowson. In 1591 John Rolles and his wife Dorothy, daughter of Anthony Marmion, sold to Franklin their claimed leasehold rights in the manor. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1597 - 1615 | Richard Franklin | Succeeded his brother John Franklin in the manor. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1615 - 1647 | Sir John Franklin | Succeeded his father Richard Franklin in the manor. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1647 - 1658 | Dame Elizabeth Franklin | Held Adwell as dower after the death of her husband Sir John Franklin. In 1658, by agreement with her sons Sir Richard Franklin and George Franklin, she sold the manor and advowson to Henry Franklin for £5,000. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1658 - 1663 | Henry Franklin | Purchased the manor and advowson from Dame Elizabeth Franklin and her sons for £5,000. He died in 1663, leaving three daughters as heirs. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1663 - 1680 | Anne Franklin, Mary Carter, and Frances Newell | Inherited Adwell as the three daughters and heirs of Henry Franklin. Anne Franklin and Mary Carter sold their two-thirds share to the Newell family in 1680 for £1,400. Frances was the wife of William Newell, who acquired or represented the remaining share. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1680 - by 1698 | William Newell | Acquired the two-thirds share sold by Anne Franklin and Mary Carter in 1680 and held or represented the remaining share through his wife Frances, daughter of Henry Franklin. He was dead by 1698 and had devised the manor to his second son William. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- by 1698 - circa 1729 | William Newell | Inherited or received Adwell under the devise of his father, William Newell. He was a High Sheriff of Oxfordshire and devised the manor by his will, proved in 1729, to his eldest son, the Reverend William Newell. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- circa 1729 - 1747 | Reverend William Newell | Received Adwell under his father's will. He was rector of Adwell and Ickford and left Adwell and other lands to his wife Esther for life, with remainder to their daughter Elizabeth. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1747 - after 1785 | Esther Newell | Received a life interest in Adwell under the will of her husband, the Reverend William Newell; the remainder was limited to their daughter Elizabeth. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.

- by 1785 - 1818 | Elizabeth Newell, later Elizabeth Jones | Held the remainder after the life interest of her mother Esther Newell. She married James Jones of Stadhampton in 1787 and was in possession by 1785. On her death in 1818, her property passed by will to her friend Frances Webb. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- 1818 - 1846 | Frances Webb | Received Adwell and other property under the will of Elizabeth Jones. Elizabeth directed that Frances should leave the property to one person who would assume the name Newell. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- by 1846 - 1867 | John William Newell-Birch | Received Adwell from Frances Webb in accordance with Elizabeth Jones's testamentary direction and assumed the name Newell Birch. He was Frances Webb's kinsman. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; family descent of Adwell House.
- 1867 - 1884 | Henry Birch-Reynardson | Inherited Adwell from his maternal or collateral uncle John William Newell-Birch. He assumed the surname Birch-Reynardson and rebuilt Adwell parish church in the 1860s. | | Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history; Adwell House family history.
- 1884 - circa 1935 | William John Birch-Reynardson | Succeeded his father Henry Birch-Reynardson as lord of Adwell Manor and sole landowner by the late nineteenth century. | | Kelly's Directory of Oxfordshire, 1907, entry for Adwell; Victoria County History, Oxfordshire, volume VIII (1964), pp. 7-10, as reproduced in the Adwell parish history.
- circa 1935 - 1959 | Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Thomas Birch-Reynardson | Adwell was handed on by William John Birch-Reynardson to his son Henry Thomas Birch-Reynardson by about 1935. Henry Thomas was lord of the manor until 1959. | | Family descent of Adwell House; The London Gazette, 15 November 1955, issue 40632, p. 6436.
- 1959 - after 1997 | William Robert Ashley Birch-Reynardson, known as Bill Birch-Reynardson | Succeeded his father Henry Thomas Birch-Reynardson in 1959. The family descent records that Adwell was subsequently handed on after 1997 to Thomas Henry Birch-Reynardson. | | Family descent of Adwell House; The London Gazette, 28 March 1974, issue 46249, p. 4007; obituary and family-history sources.
- after 1997 | Thomas Henry Birch-Reynardson | The family descent records that Adwell was handed on after 1997 from William Robert Ashley Birch-Reynardson to his son Thomas Henry Birch-Reynardson. | | Landed Families of Britain and Ireland, 'Reynardson and Birch-Reynardson of Holywell Hall and Adwell House', Adwell House descent.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Free warren in Adwell: John de Sulham received a grant of free warren in Adwell in 1277; John de St Philibert received free warren there in 1317.
- Advowson of Adwell: The advowson was held with or conveyed alongside the manor in several recorded transactions, including the 1349 transfer to Edmund Bereford and the 1580/1581 sale to John Franklin.

DISCLAIMER

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