

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003304 • MANOR
AFFLINGTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Corfe Castle, Dorset
Associated places: Corfe Castle, Dorset

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Afflington Manor was the historic estate and settlement at Afflington in the parish of Corfe Castle, Dorset. The place is recorded in Domesday Book under forms including Alfrunetone, Alvretone and Alvrone tone, and later under forms such as Alfrington, Addlington and Afflington. The medieval settlement lay east of the present Afflington Farm and is now largely deserted, with surviving earthworks, trackways and building platforms. Afflington also gave its name to a tithing in the former Rowbarrow or Ailwood Hundred. The Domesday evidence indicates that the pre-Conquest estate associated with ʼlfrun was divided among several post-Conquest holdings rather than appearing as a single undivided lordship: Roger de Beaumont held one portion as tenant-in-chief, while other portions were associated with Walter de Claville, Walter from William de Braose, and Durand the Carpenter from the king. The commonly repeated claim that Henry III granted Afflington a market and fair in 1269-1270 is disputed by later local research, which argues that the grant was confused with another place and that Corfe Castle already possessed the relevant markets and fairs. The present Afflington farmhouse includes a surviving west wing probably built circa 1620, traditionally attributed to Giles Green; the remainder was rebuilt or enlarged in the nineteenth century.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The secure public evidence is discontinuous. Before the Norman Conquest, the principal Afflington holding was associated with ʼlfrun. Domesday Book in 1086 records the place under Alvrone tone and shows it divided into several holdings, including a portion held by Roger de Beaumont as tenant-in-chief and other portions held by Walter de Claville, Walter from William de

Braose, and Durand the Carpenter from the king. The surviving public evidence located for the intervening medieval centuries does not establish a continuous descent of the entire manor. By the sixteenth century Afflington was in Crown hands and was acquired by Sir Christopher Hatton, probably in 1574 according to local historical research. Francis Hawley leased the farm from Hatton in 1574; this was a tenancy and not a transfer of the lordship. In 1635 the Corfe Castle estate passed from the Hattons to Sir John Bankes, and Afflington is directly documented soon afterwards as being rented from Sir John Bankes by Giles Green. The evidence therefore supports Bankes ownership or superior estate control of Afflington by the 1630s, but does not establish every intermediate conveyance or prove that all Domesday portions were continuously reunited into one legal manor. Later references to Edward Balston's freehold estate called Afflington, and to nineteenth- and twentieth-century farmers at Afflington Farm, demonstrate occupation or ownership of an estate or farm at Afflington but do not by themselves prove lordship of the manor and have not been entered as manorial conveyances. The latest securely evidenced superior owner located in the public sources is the Bankes estate in the nineteenth century; later farmers and the modern White family are evidenced as occupiers, custodians or farm operators rather than conclusively as lords of the manor.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - 1066 | ~lfrun of Afflington | Pre-Conquest holding recorded by the Domesday comparison; no earlier conveyance is known from the cited evidence. | | Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England, Domesday entry for Afflington, Dorset: holder in 1066 ~lfrun of Afflington; tenant-in-chief in 1086 Roger de Beaumont.
- 1086 - after 1086; end date unknown | Roger de Beaumont | Post-Conquest reallocation of one Afflington holding to Roger de Beaumont; the precise mechanism and date are not recorded in the cited evidence. | | Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England, Domesday entry for Afflington, Dorset; Roger de Beaumont is identified as the 1086 tenant-in-chief.
- 1086 - after 1086; end date unknown | Walter de Claville | Post-Conquest allocation of another Afflington holding to Walter de Claville; the precise mechanism and date are not recorded in the cited evidence. | | The Domesday Book Online, Dorset A-G, entry for Afflington: Alfrunetone / Alvretone / Alvrone tone, with holdings attributed to Roger de Beaumont, Walter from William de Braose, Walter de Claville and Durand the Carpenter from the king.
- 1574 - 1635 | Sir Christopher Hatton | Acquired Afflington from the Crown in the reign of Elizabeth I, probably in or shortly before 1574; transferred with the Corfe Castle estate to Sir John Bankes in 1635. | | Corfe Valley News, 'Afflington Manor & Farm', September 2024,

stating that Francis Hawley leased the farm in 1574 just months after Hatton had bought it; South West Coast Path, Tom's Field to Corfe Castle, reporting the Elizabethan Crown-to-Hatton transfer.

- 1574 - date unknown; after 1574 | Francis Hawley | Lease of Afflington Farm from Sir Christopher Hatton; this was a tenancy and not a transfer of the manorial lordship. | | Corfe Valley News, 'Afflington Manor & Farm', September 2024, describing Francis Hawley as leasing the farm in 1574 after Hatton had bought it.

- 1635 - 1644 | Sir John Bankes | Purchased the Corfe Castle estate from the Hattons in 1635; Afflington is subsequently documented as being rented from him. | | Extract from John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, Corfe Castle entry, 1870-1872, stating that the estate passed in 1635 to Sir John Bankes; Corfe Valley News, November 2022, reporting a 1639 deed in which Gyles Grene rented Afflington from Sir John Bankes.

- 1620 - after 1639; end date unknown | Giles Green | Lease or tenancy of Afflington from the Bankes estate; the cited evidence refers to a 1620 lease and a 1639 deed. This was not a transfer of lordship. | | Corfe Valley News, November 2022, reporting the 1639 deed and earlier 1620 lease; Dorset Heritage Explorer, Afflington Farmhouse record, attributing the circa 1620 west wing to Giles Green.

- 1644 - nineteenth century; exact end date unknown | Bankes estate | Descended within the Bankes family after Sir John Bankes's death; the available sources continue to associate Afflington with the Bankes estate but do not identify every successor or conveyance. | | John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, Corfe Castle entry, 1870-1872, stating that the Corfe Castle estate belonged to the Bankeses of Kingston-Lacy; Corfe Valley News, November 2022, linking Afflington land to Bankes estate records and leases.

RECORDED RIGHTS

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