

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003306 • MANOR
AFTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Freshwater, Isle of Wight
Associated places: Freshwater, Isle of Wight

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Afton, recorded as Affetune in the eleventh century and Affintone in the thirteenth century, is the historic manor and settlement at Afton in the parish of Freshwater, Isle of Wight. It was one of the Domesday estates of the island. The manor house now known as Afton Manor is a substantial house of approximately 1725, with earlier eighteenth-century fabric and later alterations, and is listed Grade II*. The associated medieval settlement was partly deserted and later resettled; the medieval manor site itself has not been securely identified archaeologically. Afton also had a water-mill from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries and a windmill recorded in 1342. The name Afton Manor should not be conflated with the distinct manor of West Afton or with Priors Freshwater and Kings Freshwater.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Before the Norman Conquest, Afton was held by Earl Tostig. In 1086 it was held by King William. The manor's medieval overlordship subsequently followed Carisbrooke Castle, while named tenants and local holders are recorded intermittently. A surviving feet-of-fines abstract records that on 24 June 1302 John de Droxford granted Richard de Afton the manor for Richard's life, after which it was to revert to John and his heirs; this was a life interest rather than an unrestricted fee-simple conveyance. The later descent is incompletely documented in the readily available public sources. A local-authority conservation appraisal states that Afton was purchased by David Urry in 1591 and remained with the Urry family until the death of David Urry of Afton in 1779, when he died

without sons and left his property to his daughters, who were married to Sir John Oglander and Charles Holmes. The exact division of the manor between the daughters and their husbands is not established by the source consulted. By 1878 Benjamin Cotton was explicitly listed as lord of the manor of Afton in a contemporary directory. A 1889 directory instead identifies George Fletcher Jones as lord of the distinct manor of West Afton; that entry has not been merged into the present Afton Manor descent. No securely sourced later conveyance of the Afton Manor lordship was identified.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - 1066 | Earl Tostig | Held before the Norman Conquest; the precise commencement of Tostig's tenure is unknown. | | Historic England Research Record for Afton, Hob Uid 459467, citing M. Beresford, *Lost Villages of England* (1954), p. 355, and Victoria County History, Hampshire, volume 5 (1912), p. 242.
- 1066 - 1086 | King William I | Afton passed into royal possession after the Norman Conquest; the exact legal mechanism and date are not stated in the source. | | Historic England Research Record for Afton, Hob Uid 459467, citing Victoria County History, Hampshire, volume 5 (1912), p. 242; corroborated by the Domesday entry for Afton.
- 24 June 1302 - for life; exact end date unknown | Richard de Afton | John de Droxford granted Richard de Afton the manor for Richard's life by a plea of covenant enrolled at York one week from Holy Trinity, 30 Edward I, dated 24 June 1302. The manor was to revert to John de Droxford and his heirs after Richard's death. | | Feet of Fines, CP 25/1/205/15, number 25, abstracted from the record dated one week from Holy Trinity, 30 Edward I, 24 June 1302; persons and place identified as Richard de Afton, John de Droxford and Afton in Freshwater.
- 1591 - unknown; later Urry family tenure continued until 1779 | David Urry | Purchased Afton in 1591. The seller and the precise conveyance instrument are not identified in the public source consulted. | | Isle of Wight Council, Church Place Conservation Area Character Appraisal, section 16.5, stating that Afton Manor came into the Urry family in 1591 when purchased by David Urry.
- 1779 - unknown | The daughters of David Urry of Afton, including the marital interests of Sir John Oglander and Charles Holmes | On the death of David Urry of Afton in 1779, he died without sons and left everything to his daughters, who were married to Sir John Oglander and Charles Holmes. The exact allocation of Afton Manor between the daughters and their husbands is not stated. | | Isle of Wight Council, Church Place Conservation Area Character Appraisal, section 16.5.
- by 1878 - unknown | Benjamin Cotton | By 1878 he was recorded as lord of the manor of Afton. The preceding conveyance and date of acquisition are not established by the source consulted. | | Post Office Directory and Gazetteer entry for Freshwater, 1878, listing the manors and their lords: Afton, Benjamin Cotton, Esq.; corroborated by the directory's description of Benjamin Cotton at Afton House.

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