

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003314 • MANOR
AGMERHURST MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 12:06 UTC

Location: Ashburnham, Sussex
Associated places: Ashburnham, Sussex

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Agmerhurst Manor was a manor in the parish of Ashburnham, Sussex, also recorded as Agmondhurst and Ashmereshurst. The manor should be distinguished from the later Agmerhurst House and Agmerhurst Farm, although those places preserve the manor's historical name. Agmerhurst is listed by The Keep, East Sussex's principal archive service, among the manors that controlled land in Ashburnham. From the sixteenth century it formed part of the wider Battle Abbey estate, which after the Dissolution was held by the Browne family, Viscounts Montagu, and subsequently by the Webster family. The surviving public evidence located for this backfill does not provide a complete medieval descent or prove that every later parcel bearing the Agmerhurst name remained within the manorial estate.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest documentary material located is medieval Battle Abbey evidence referring to rents and tenements in Agmerhurst in Ashburnham, but the surviving reference does not by itself establish that Battle Abbey held the manor as a whole. The secure manorial descent begins with the post-Dissolution Battle Abbey estate. Battle Abbey and substantial associated lands were granted or sold to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538, and the post-Dissolution estate descended in the Browne family, who became Viscounts Montagu. A later account of the 1721 transaction expressly identifies the Manor of Agmerhurst as one of the manors included in the Battle Abbey estate acquired from Viscount Montagu by Sir Thomas Webster. The Battle Abbey estate remained with the Webster family until its sale in 1857 to Lord Harry Vane, later 4th Duke of Cleveland. The estate was reacquired by Sir

Augustus

Webster in 1901 and remained in the Webster family until the estate's sale to the state in

1976. These estate-level successions are evidence for the manor only insofar as Agmerhurst is

explicitly identified as part of the Battle Abbey estate in the 1721 evidence; the public sources

located do not establish whether Agmerhurst Manor was retained intact through every later sale or

whether parts were separately disposed of. The post-1976 ownership of the specific manor, as distinct from Battle Abbey itself and from Agmerhurst House or Farm, was not established.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1538 - 1721 | Sir Anthony Browne and the Browne family, later Viscounts Montagu | Post-Dissolution grant or acquisition of Battle Abbey and its associated estate from the Crown, followed by descent in the Browne family and Viscounts Montagu | | Historic England, Battle Abbey, Battle, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830, collection description; Rose Fuller Whistler, The Annals of an English Family, Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 35 (1887), as summarized in the Battle estate history.

- 1721 - 1857 | Sir Thomas Webster, 1st Baronet, and the Webster family | Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from Viscount Montagu; the purchased estate expressly included the Manor of Agmerhurst | | Henry Whistler, Whistler, Henry, Epsom and Ewell History Explorer, citing Rose Fuller Whistler, The Annals of an English Family, Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 35 (1887); The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield.

- circa 1751 - 1857 | Webster family, including the successive Webster baronets | Descent within the Webster family after the death of Sir Thomas Webster; no separate manor-specific conveyance located | | The Huntington Library, Battle Abbey Archives, 1077-circa 1830, collection description; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Google Arts & Culture, The Webster Family and Battle Abbey; Friends of the National Libraries, Title deeds from Raper and Fovargue of Battle, solicitors.

- 1857 - 1901 | Harry Vane, later 4th Duke of Cleveland, and the Cleveland estate | Purchase of the Battle Abbey estate from the Webster family | | Historic England, Battle Abbey, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Battle History Society, Cleveland, the Duke and Duchess.

- 1901 - 1976 | Sir Augustus Webster and the Webster family | Reacquisition of the Battle Abbey estate after the death of the Duchess of Cleveland | | English Heritage, History of Battle Abbey and Battlefield; Historic England, Battle Abbey, National Heritage List for England entry 1000309; The Keep, Ashburnham parish and manorial records; Historic England, Agmerhurst House, National Heritage List for England entry 1278842.

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