

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003338 • MANOR
AKENHAM MANOR

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

Location: Akenham, Suffolk
Associated places: Akenham, Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Akenham Manor was the principal manor associated with Akenham, Suffolk, with its manor house at Akenham Hall. The history of Akenham Manor is closely entangled in older sources with that of Rous or Rice Hall, a separate or formerly associated estate in Akenham that was progressively absorbed or amalgamated with the main manor. The parish's Domesday land was divided among several holdings belonging to Roger de Rames, while the later Akenham Manor is securely associated with the Brewse family by the late thirteenth century. Akenham Hall, formerly the manor house, contains a fragmentary medieval core, a mid-seventeenth-century rear range and a late-eighteenth-century principal front. The public evidence establishes a substantially documented descent from the medieval Brewse interest through the Townsend and Aylmer families, followed by Thomas Arras, John Orford and George Frederick Beaumont, but does not establish every intervening conveyance or the exact legal relationship between all named holders.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

Akenham contained several Domesday holdings which had belonged before the Conquest to different freeholders and by 1086 belonged to Roger de Rames. The later consolidated Akenham Manor was anciently held by the Brewse family. Richard de Brewse is associated with the absorption of the Rous or Rice Hall interest, although the precise stages of that consolidation remain uncertain. The manor was specifically recorded in the 1482 inquisition post mortem of Sir Thomas Brewse. It subsequently passed in dower on the marriage of Amy Brewse, daughter of William Brewse, to Sir Roger Townsend. A descendant, Roger Townsend, sold the manor in 1586 to John Aylmer, Bishop of London. Aylmer's

Suffolk properties were subsequently settled, and an indenture octopartite made Samuel Aylmer sole possessor of Akenham and Claydon by 1594. Samuel Aylmer died in 1635, after which his son Edward Aylmer succeeded to the manors. The Aylmer estate became financially encumbered during and after the Civil War. Contemporary Chancery proceedings document an agreement dated 12 December 1650 for the sale of Akenham Manor by Edward Aylmer to an agent of Edward Arras, and other proceedings record Arras's possession or enjoyment of the manor under related financial arrangements. The precise completion date and legal form of the Aylmer-to-Arras transfer are not fully established. A later source records John Orford as owner in 1817, but the intervening conveyance is not identified in the consulted public sources. By 1900 George Frederick Beaumont was described as lord of the manor. The connection between the Orford family and Beaumont is not established as a conveyance in the sources consulted, so it is recorded as a documentary gap rather than an inferred succession.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 - after 1086 | Roger de Rames, also rendered Roger de Rheims or Roger of Rames | Domesday tenure; predecessor holdings rather than a demonstrably unified later Akenham Manor | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Akenham parish history, section 13 Manorial, citing Domesday material.
- by 1296 - late thirteenth or early fourteenth century; exact end date unknown | Richard de Brewse | Earlier Brewse family holding; the precise acquisition date is unknown | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Akenham parish history, section 13 Manorial; corroborated by the historical account in the Beaumont Collection catalogue summarising Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume II, page 227.
- fifteenth century; exact date unknown - before or by the marriage of his daughter Amy; exact date unknown | William Brewse | Descent within the Brewse family; the manor was later assigned in dower on the marriage of his daughter Amy | | Historical account of Akenham Manor in the Beaumont Collection catalogue, summarising Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume II, page 227; the same account notes the 1482 inquisition post mortem of Sir Thomas Brewse.
- late fifteenth century; exact date unknown - before 1586 | Sir Roger Townsend | Received Akenham Manor in dower on his marriage to Amy Brewse | | Historical account of Akenham Manor in the Beaumont Collection catalogue, summarising Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume II, page 227.
- before 1586 - 1586 | Roger Townsend | Sold Akenham Manor to John Aylmer, Bishop of London | | Historical account of Akenham Manor in the Beaumont Collection catalogue, summarising Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume II, page 227; corroborated by the Suffolk Heritage Explorer parish history.
- 1586 - 1594 | John Aylmer, Bishop of London | Purchased from Roger Townsend; subsequently settled the estate so that his son Samuel became sole possessor by 1594 | | Historical

account of Akenham Manor in the Beaumont Collection catalogue; W. P. Hills, Claydon and Mockbeggars Hall, Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, volume XXIII, 1937, pages 8-10.

- 1594 - 1635 | Samuel Aylmer | Became sole possessor of Akenham Manor under an indenture octopartite settling his father's Suffolk properties | | W. P. Hills, Claydon and Mockbeggars Hall, Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, volume XXIII, 1937, pages 8-10; Suffolk Heritage Explorer records Samuel Aylmer as resident at Akenham Hall and identifies him in the manorial history.

- 1635 - by 1650 | Edward Aylmer | Succeeded Samuel Aylmer to Akenham Manor and later agreed to sell the manor to an agent of Edward Arras; the exact completion date is uncertain | | W. P. Hills, Claydon and Mockbeggars Hall, Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, volume XXIII, 1937, pages 8-10, discussing Aylmer v. Arris and Aylmer v. Eldred.

- by 1650 - before 1817; exact end date unknown | Thomas Arras, also rendered Edward Arras or Edward Arris in the contemporary litigation | Acquired or contracted to acquire Akenham Manor from Edward Aylmer; the completion of the sale is not fully established | | W. P. Hills, Claydon and Mockbeggars Hall, Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, volume XXIII, 1937, pages 8-10; Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Akenham parish history.

- 1817 - after 1817; exact end date unknown | John Orford | Later owner; the intervening conveyance from the Arras or Arris interest is not identified | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Akenham parish history, section 13 Manorial.

- by 1900 - date unknown; after 1900 | George Frederick Beaumont | Later documented lordship; the conveyance from the Orford family or any intervening holder is not identified | | Kelly's Directory of Suffolk, 1900, parish description of Akenham, reproduced by Forebears.

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