

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003362 • MANOR
ALCONBURY WITH WESTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 16 October 2026 18:18 UTC

Location: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire
Associated places: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alconbury with Weston Manor was the principal secular manor associated with Alconbury Weston and the adjoining Alconbury estate in Huntingdonshire, historically also styled Alconbury cum Weston or Wood Weston. The estate has medieval origins. The Domesday evidence for the Alconbury Weston component records the place as Westune in 1086, with Eustace the sheriff as tenant-in-chief and Wulfbert as the local lord; the pre-Conquest lord was King Edward. A later local historical account states that the manor remained with the Crown until the twelfth century, passed through the Segrave, Pecche and de Grey connections, was sold in 1600 to Sir John Spencer of Althorp, and was conveyed to John Bedell in 1655. It subsequently passed through several incompletely identified private owners before reaching James Rust in 1840. The Rust family's tenure ended in 1922. The manor should not be confused with the Rectory Manor, which included Weybridge Forest and was held ecclesiastically by Merton Priory and later the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. No physical medieval manor house remains in Alconbury Weston according to the modern parish heritage statement.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The secure public-source descent is necessarily incomplete. The earliest directly documented predecessor estate is the Domesday estate at Alconbury Weston, held in 1086 by Eustace the sheriff of Huntingdon, with Wulfbert as lord. A local authority historical account then describes Crown ownership until the twelfth century, a grant or association with John Lupus, a grant of land at Alconbury by King John to David, Earl of Huntingdon, and the later emergence of the Segrave family.

The same account records a temporary seizure by Sir Reginald de Grey in 1264, restoration to Ida and Hugh Pecche by 1285, inheritance by John de Segrave in 1325, succession within the Segrave line during the fourteenth century, and a return to the de Grey family by marriage in 1428. After the death of John de Grey in 1476, the account associates the lordship with his heiress Anne and then with Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, but the precise legal descent is not fully established by the sources located. The manor was sold in 1600 to Sir John Spencer of Althorp, passed to his daughter Elizabeth and then to a male Spencer descendant who died at Hopton Heath in 1643, and was conveyed to John Bedell in 1655. The intervening private owners between John Bedell and James Rust are not identified in the available public sources and have not been invented here. James Rust is reported as holder from 1840, while George John Rust is explicitly described as lord of the manor in Kelly's Directory in 1898. The Rust tenure is reported to have ended in 1922, but the later conveyance is not identified.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 - after 1086 | Eustace the sheriff of Huntingdon | Domesday tenure; no later transfer identified in the source used. | | The National Archives, Great Domesday Book, E 31/2/2/77, Place name: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, folio 206r, dated 1086; corroborated by the Open Domesday entry for Alconbury Weston.
- after 1086 - 12th century | Crown | The local historical account states that the manor remained with the Crown until the twelfth century; the precise date and instrument of transfer are not supplied. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.6, historical account of the manorial succession.
- 12th century - before 1203-1204 | John Lupus | Grant from the Crown according to the local historical account; the exact date, grantor's instrument and scope of the estate are not stated. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.6.
- 1230-1233 - 1241 | Stephen de Segrave | The local historical account states that the overlordship was granted to Stephen de Segrave. This is recorded as overlordship rather than direct demesne possession. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.7.
- 1241 - after 1241 | Ida | The local historical account states that after Stephen de Segrave's death the manor was granted to his second wife Ida, who later married Sir Hugh Pecche. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.7.
- after 1241 - 1264 | Ida and Sir Hugh Pecche | Ida later married Sir Hugh Pecche. The source associates the manor with them before its seizure by Sir Reginald de Grey in 1264; no separate deed of transfer to Hugh has been located. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, sections 3.7-3.8; corroborative contextual

evidence for Hugh Pecche and Ida appears in medieval fine material concerning other estates but does not independently establish this manor.

- 1264 - 1285 | Sir Reginald de Grey | Seizure of the manor, according to the local historical account; the source characterizes this as an interruption of possession rather than a completed conveyance. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.8.
- 1325 - 1368 | John de Segrave | Inheritance within the Segrave family. The local source states that the manor was inherited by John de Segrave in 1325. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.8; British Library, Add MS 37671, Feodary of the manors and lands of John de Segrave, 1338-1353, including the rental of Alconbury Weston.
- 1368 - 1377 | John de Segrave, later Earl of Nottingham | Succession from the preceding John de Segrave within the Segrave family; the local account states that his son succeeded in 1368. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.8; British Library, Add MS 37671, for the earlier Segrave connection to Alconbury Weston.
- 1377 - 1400 | Thomas de Segrave | The local account states that the Segrave titles passed to the younger brother Thomas, who died in 1400. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.8.
- 1428 - 1476 | de Grey family | The lordship returned to the de Grey family by marriage in 1428, according to the local historical account. The specific marriage instrument and exact holder are not identified there. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.9.
- 1428 - 1476 | John de Grey | The local account identifies John de Grey as the later holder of the lordship and states that he died in 1476, leaving his daughter Anne as heir. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.9.
- 1476 - after 1476 | Anne de Grey | Inheritance as daughter and heir of John de Grey, who died in 1476; the source states that Anne was aged four. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.9.
- 1600 - after 1600 | Sir John Spencer of Althorp | Purchase at the sale of the manor for £4,000, according to the local historical account. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.10.
- after 1600 - before 1643 | Elizabeth Spencer | The local account states that the manor passed from Sir John Spencer to his daughter Elizabeth. No date or instrument is supplied. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.10.
- before 1643 - 1643 | Spencer descendant of Elizabeth Spencer | The local account states that the manor then passed to Elizabeth's son, identified only by the surname Spencer, who was killed fighting for the King at Hopton Heath in 1643. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.10.
- 1655 - after 1655 | John Bedell | Conveyance of the manor to John Bedell in 1655, according to the local historical account. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.11; supplementary archival context from the National Archives indexed Chancery proceedings involving payments due from lands in Alconbury, Weston and Woolley in 1663.
- after 1655 - 1840 | Private individuals, names not identified | The local historical account states only that the manor passed through a series of private individuals before

reaching James Rust in 1840. No secure intervening names or dates were located. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.11.

- 1840 - after 1840 | James Rust | The local historical account states that the manor eventually passed to James Rust in 1840. The transferor and instrument are not identified. | | Huntingdonshire District Council, Alconbury Conservation Area Character Statement, section 3.11.

- 1898 - after 1898 | George John Rust | Later holder explicitly described as lord of the manor in Kelly's Directory in 1898; the transfer from James Rust or another Rust family member is not identified. | | Kelly's Directory of Huntingdonshire, 1898, entry for Alconbury; reproduced in the Forebears transcription of the directory entry.

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