

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003367 • MANOR
ALDBOURNE MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Aldbourne, Wiltshire
Associated places: Aldbourne, Wiltshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldbourn Manor was a very large royal and later Lancastrian manor centred on Aldbourne in Wiltshire. Domesday evidence describes an estate assessed at 40 hides, with extensive demesne arable, meadow, pasture, woodland and four mills. In the medieval period the manor included a park, free chase, warren and a market. Its history is closely connected with the counts of Perche, the Longespee earls of Salisbury, the Lancaster inheritance and the Duchy of Lancaster. In the early seventeenth century the manor and its component rights and lands were divided by sales and settlements. The lordship of the manor continued separately from much of the former demesne land until the nineteenth century; the manor's court and lordship were abolished or became obsolete in the late nineteenth century.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The securely evidenced descent begins with Gytha, identified by the local historical source as holding Aldbourne in 1066. William I seized the manor in 1086 and it was granted to a count of Perche. By 1135 it was held by Rotrou, count of Perche, and descended through his son Rotrou and grandson Geoffrey. After Geoffrey's son Thomas, count of Perche, died at the battle of Lincoln, the manor was confiscated in 1217 and granted to William Longespee, earl of Salisbury. It passed to William's widow Ela, countess of Salisbury, and then to their son Sir William Longespee. Medieval title and possession thereafter involved the Salisbury inheritance, the Warenne and Montagu interests, and the Lancaster inheritance. In 1365 John of Gaunt received Aldbourne from William de Montagu, earl of Salisbury, following litigation and settlement concerning the former

Warrenne and

Lancaster lands. Aldbourne subsequently formed part of the Duchy of Lancaster and is documented as a

Duchy manor in the 1509 rental. In 1624 James I settled the manor on Prince Charles, and about 1626

Charles I sold it to the City of London. The City sold the lordship of the manor to Thomas Bond in

1632. The former demesne, warren and other component interests were separately disposed of, including sales recorded in 1631. Elizabeth Bond was described as Lady of the Manor in 1728.

H. D.

Francis was described as lord of the manor in nineteenth-century directories, and by 1892 William

Brown was described as Lord of the Manor; the transfer between the Francis and Brown interests is

not securely documented in the sources consulted. The lordship, copyhold land and East Leaze Farm

had been sold by 1875, and the court leet and office of lord of the manor were abolished or ceased

to operate in 1888.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1086 | Gytha, mother of King Harold | Held the Aldbourne estate before its seizure by William I | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entries for 1066 and 1086.

- 1086 - c.1086 | William I, King of England | Seizure of Aldbourne from Gytha, followed by grant to a count of Perche | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1086; Open Domesday, Aldbourne.

- c.1086 - 1135 | Count of Perche | Granted by William I; later descent to Rotrou, count of Perche | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entries for 1086 and 1135.

- 1135 - 1144 | Rotrou, count of Perche | Held as count of Perche; succeeded by his son Rotrou | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1135.

- 1144 - 1191 | Rotrou, count of Perche | Inherited from his father Rotrou, count of Perche; succeeded by his son Geoffrey | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1135.

- 1191 - 1202 | Geoffrey, count of Perche | Inherited from his father Rotrou; succeeded by his son Thomas | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1135.

- 1202 - 1217 | Thomas, count of Perche | Inherited from Geoffrey; manor confiscated after Thomas's death at the battle of Lincoln and granted to William Longespee | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1217.

- 1217 - 1226 | William Longespee, earl of Salisbury | Royal grant after confiscation from Thomas, count of Perche; succeeded after William's death by his widow Ela | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entry for 1217.

- 1226 - 1229 | Ela, countess of Salisbury | Passed to William Longespee's widow after his death; in 1229 it was granted to her son Sir William | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365, entries for 1226 and 1230.

- 1229 - after 1230 | Sir William Longespee | Granted by Henry III to William Longespee; Ela was ordered to release the manor to him in 1230 | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early

Medieval 1066-1365, entries for 1229 and 1230.

- 1365 - 1399 | John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster | Received Aldbourne from William de Montagu, earl of Salisbury, after litigation and settlement concerning the Warenne and Lancaster inheritances | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Lifting the Lid on Medieval Aldbourne; Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Medieval 1066-1365.
- 1399 - 1624 | Crown in right of the Duchy of Lancaster | Passed into the Lancastrian royal estate after the accession of John of Gaunt's son Henry IV; continued as a Duchy of Lancaster manor | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Lifting the Lid on Medieval Aldbourne; Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Historic Documents 1509 Rent Roll of the Manor of Aldbourne; Open Domesday, Aldbourne.
- 1624 - c.1626 | Trustees for Charles, prince of Wales | James I settled Aldbourne Manor on Prince Charles; the manor was held under a settlement for Charles | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Modern 1600-1837, entries for 1617 and 1624.
- c.1626 - 1632 | City of London | Charles I sold Aldbourne Manor to the City of London | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Modern 1600-1837, entry for c.1626.
- 1632 - by 1728 | Thomas Bond | City of London sold the lordship of the manor to Thomas Bond | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Modern 1600-1837, entry for 1632.
- by 1728 - after 1728 | Elizabeth Bond | Held or succeeded to the manorial lordship; the precise conveyance from Thomas Bond is not established | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Wills, Admons & Inventories, entry for BOND, Elizabeth of St Giles in the Fields, London, widow 1728; Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Early Modern 1600-1837, entry for 1713.
- by 1861 - by 1875 | H. D. Francis | Held the lordship of Aldbourne Manor; the source does not identify the acquisition or subsequent transfer | | Kelly's Directory of Wiltshire, 1861, Aldbourne entry; Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Modern 1838 onwards, entry for 1875.
- by 1892 - at least 1939 | William Brown | Held the title of Lord of the Manor after an undocumented transfer; by 1939 he was still described as lord of the manor | | Aldbourne Heritage Centre, Modern 1838 onwards, entries for 1875 and 1892; Kelly's Directory, 1939, Aldbourne entry.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Park: The medieval manor included a park.
- Free chase: The medieval manor included a free chase.
- Warren: The manor included warren rights, with the warren later treated as a separately disposed component interest.
- Market: The medieval manor included a market.
- Court leet: A court leet operated in connection with the lordship until it was abolished or ceased to operate in 1888.
- Copyhold: Copyhold land formed part of the later manorial interests and had been sold by 1875.

DISCLAIMER

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