

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003394 • MANOR
ALDERTON MANOR

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

Location: Alderton, Gloucestershire
Associated places: Alderton, Gloucestershire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alderton Manor was a medieval manor in Alderton parish, Gloucestershire, historically associated with the adjoining manor of Dixon and often documented within the combined Alderton-and-Dixon estate. The estate comprised land in Alderton and Dixon and was held after the Norman Conquest of the Crown, apparently through the honour of Gloucester. In the early fifteenth century Dixon was said to be held as of the earl's manor of Tewkesbury; a 1505 description distinguished the two manors, with Dixon held in chief and Alderton held of Barton by Tewkesbury, but a 1519 judicial decision held that both were held as of Tewkesbury manor. The principal surviving manorial residence is Dixon Manor, a substantial stone house rebuilt or extended by John Higford in 1555. The historical lordship should not be confused with the later ownership of the manor house alone: in the early nineteenth century the estate was divided and sold, while later records separately describe ownership of Dixon Manor and its surrounding land.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely described estate comprised 12 hides in Alderton and Dixon, held before the Conquest by Dunning and an unnamed thegn and after the Conquest of the king by Humphrey. The estate appears to have become the manor of Dixon, while the medieval sources also record Alderton as a separate but closely associated manor. Richard of Dixon held the relevant knight's fees in 1202 and 1211, and William of Dixon and his successors held the manor during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. John Dixon held the manor at his death in 1410; his widow Margaret held

jointly with him and their son Thomas was a minor heir who died in 1413. The inheritance then descended through Thomas's sisters, including Maud, whose rights were represented by John Higford in 1438. The manor thereafter belonged to the Higford family until the death of Henry Higford in 1795. After Henry's death it passed to descendants of his brother James Higford, including John Parsons of Dixon and members of the Davis family of Chepstow. In the early nineteenth century the estate was divided and sold. Samuel Gist had acquired more than 500 acres in Dixon and the manor house and was lord of the manor in 1807. The lordship and estate interests subsequently passed through Samuel Gist and his nephew Samuel Gist, with H. W. Gist described as lord of the manor in the early twentieth century. A 1911 sale separated Dixon Manor and land around the house from much of the farm land. Later purchases of the house, including those by Colonel C. H. Leveson, Mrs Wallace and Sir Charles Hambro, should not automatically be treated as conveyances of the historical lordship unless a source expressly says so.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- after the Norman Conquest - before 1202 | Humphrey | Held after the Conquest of the king; the precise grant or transfer is not identified in the source. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1202 - 1221 | Richard of Dixon | Recorded holding 2.5 knights' fees of the honour of Gloucester in 1202 and again in 1211; in 1221 the fees were conceded to William of Dixon and his heirs. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1221 - 1261 | William of Dixon | The 2.5 knights' fees were conceded to William of Dixon and his heirs in 1221 by Robert son of Hugh of Dixon. William was recorded holding the manor in 1261 and 1263. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1303 - 1316 | William of Dixon | Succeeded the preceding William of Dixon; the precise legal mechanism is not stated. He was recorded holding in 1303 and 1307 and was dead by 1316. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1316 - 1327 | John of Dixon | Held the manor by 1316 after the death of William of Dixon; he died between 1327 and 1337. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1346 - 1347 | William of Dixon | Succeeded John of Dixon; he held the manor in 1346 and

was dead by 1347. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1347 - 1387 | John of Dixon | Held the manor after the death of William of Dixon and was dead by 1387. He was patron of Alderton rectory in 1379. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- before 1410 - 1412 | John Dixon | Held the manor at his death in 1410; his widow Margaret held jointly with him and died in 1412. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- before 1410 - 1412 | Margaret Dixon | Joint holder with her husband John Dixon; she died in 1412. Their son Thomas inherited as a minor after John's death. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1410 - 1413 | Thomas Dixon | Inherited as the son and heir of John and Margaret Dixon; he was a minor and died in 1413. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1413 - 1438 | Elizabeth Harwell, Maud Harwell and Margery Harwell | Inherited as the sisters and heirs of Thomas Dixon. Maud and Margery married Richard Harwell and William Harwell respectively between 1419 and 1422. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1438 - late 15th century | John Higford | Acquired or represented the Dixon inheritance through his wife Maud; in 1438 he exercised the advowson of Alderton in her right, and the manor subsequently belonged to the Higford family. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1505 - 1509 | Thomas Higford | Held the manor in 1505 and was followed in succession by his sons John, Anthony and William; the precise inheritance instrument is not identified. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1505 - 1509 | John Higford | Succeeded his father Thomas Higford in the Higford succession and died in 1509. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1509 - 1513 | Anthony Higford | Succeeded his brother John Higford and died in 1513. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1513 - 1545 | William Higford | Succeeded his brother Anthony Higford; he was the only one of the three brothers to survive his nonage and was succeeded in 1545 by his son John. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1545 - 1607 | Sir John Higford | Inherited the manor from his father William Higford in 1545. He rebuilt or extended Dixon Manor, including the 1555 porch, and was knighted by Elizabeth I in 1592. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Historic England, Dixon Manor,

list entry 1091732.

- 1607 - 1612 | John Higford | Succeeded his father Sir John Higford and died in 1612. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1612 - 1657 | William Higford | Succeeded his father John Higford and held the manor until his death in 1657. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- 1657 - 1703 | John Higford | Succeeded his grandfather William Higford in 1657 and held the lordship until his death in 1703. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Gloucestershire History, 'The Dixon Manor paintings', reprinted from Gloucestershire History no. 6.
- 1703 - 1712 | James Higford | Apparently succeeded his father John Higford as one of the sons who held the manor in turn; described in 1712 as the present proprietor of Dixon. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Gloucestershire History, 'The Dixon Manor paintings', reprinted from Gloucestershire History no. 6.
- 1712 - 1717 | Henry Higford | Apparently followed James Higford in the sequence of brothers holding the manor; he presented to Alderton rectory in 1717. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Gloucestershire History, 'The Dixon Manor paintings', reprinted from Gloucestershire History no. 6.
- 1715 - 1733 | William Higford | Apparently succeeded his brothers James and Henry in the post-1703 Higford succession. He died in 1733 and was succeeded by his son William. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Gloucestershire History, 'The Dixon Manor paintings', reprinted from Gloucestershire History no. 6.
- 1733 - 1770 | William Higford | Succeeded his father William Higford in 1733 and was succeeded in 1770 by his half-brother Henry. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197.
- 1770 - 1795 | Henry Higford | Succeeded his half-brother William Higford in 1770. He died without children in 1795, ending the male-line Higford tenure. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire, 1897, entry for Alderton.
- 1795 - early 19th century | John Parsons of Dixon and members of the Davis family of Chepstow | Inherited after the death of Henry Higford through descendants of his brother James Higford, namely James's daughter Agnes's son John Parsons of Dixon and descendants of James's daughter Anne in the Davis family of Chepstow. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.
- early 19th century - before 1845 | Samuel Gist | Acquired more than 500 acres in Dixon and the manor house during the early-nineteenth-century break-up and sale of the estate; described as lord of the manor in 1807. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire, 1897, historical note on the later Gist lordship.
- 1845 - late 19th century | Samuel Gist | Succeeded his predecessor Samuel Gist, described as his father or uncle's predecessor in the Gist succession; he died in 1845 and was followed by his son Samuel Gist. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of

Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

- 1845 - late 19th century | Samuel Gist | Succeeded his father Samuel Gist Gist in 1845. He was described as being of unsound mind in 1883 and 1898. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197; Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire, 1897, entry for Alderton.

- early 20th century - 1911 | H. W. Gist | Succeeded or represented the Gist manorial interest; he was described as lord of the manor in the early twentieth century. The precise transfer from Samuel Gist is not stated. | | Victoria County History, A History of the County of Gloucester, volume 6, 'Parishes: Alderton with Dixon', pp. 189-197, as reproduced in the historical account of Dixon Manor.

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