

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003398 • MANOR
ALDERTON WITH MEMBERS MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Alderton, Northamptonshire
Associated places: Alderton, Northamptonshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alderton with Members was the principal medieval and post-medieval manor of Alderton, Northamptonshire, associated with the settlement's castle or ringwork, later manor house, demesne, and customary lands. Domesday Book records two holdings at Alderton in 1086, both under Robert, Count of Mortain. The manor was later held through a succession of overlords and undertenants, including the Warenes, Brewers or Brueres, Maudits, Sauvages, Chaworths, and Combemartins. From the fourteenth century Alderton was treated as part of, or closely linked to, the manor of Stoke Bruerne. The estate came into Crown hands by 1539 and was annexed to the Honour of Grafton in 1542. The Crown subsequently granted leases or tenancy interests to Sir John Williams, Robert Stafford, William Gorges, and others. William Gorges built a substantial new mansion at Alderton in 1582. The property was associated with the Hesilrige family in the seventeenth century, and Sir Arthur Hesilrige was recorded as lord of the manor in 1655. By the early eighteenth century the manor house had been partly demolished; the site later became Manor Farm. Local estate history states that the lordship of Alderton remained with the Duke of Grafton, although the publicly available evidence reviewed here does not provide a complete modern conveyance chain.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely identified lordship is the pre-Conquest holding of Edmar and Edwin, followed in 1086 by Robert, Count of Mortain, who held two Alderton holdings as tenant-in-chief and lord. The descent between Domesday and the early thirteenth century is incompletely documented in the sources consulted. A local historical account states that the manor was assigned to William de Warenne in

1204 and then passed through the Brewer or Bruere, Maudit, Sauvage, Chaworth, and Combemartin interests. A charter of William de Warenne confirms land of his fee in Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger, and Alderton to William Briwerre; this is evidence of a feudal connection but does not by itself establish that William Briwerre held the whole manor as immediate lord. Thomas le Sauvage held the castle and lands of Alderton before Pagan de Chaworth acquired them during the reign of Edward I; Pagan was lord of the manor by 1278 and obtained market and fair rights there. After Pagan's death, the lordship passed to his brother Patrick de Chaworth, and then through Patrick's daughter Maud to Henry, Earl of Lancaster. In 1307 Henry granted Alderton, with its advowson and the advowson of Stoke Bruerne, to William de Combemartin. William de Combemartin died in 1318. The subsequent medieval descent is not fully established by the sources reviewed. By 1539 Alderton was in Crown hands, and in 1542 it was annexed to the Honour of Grafton. The later named occupants and lessees should not be treated uniformly as fee-simple lords: Sir John Williams, Robert Stafford, William Gorges, and Samuel Rolt are evidenced as Crown or estate lessees or tenants, while Sir Arthur Hesilrige is specifically described as lord of the manor in 1655. The Duke of Grafton is reported by local estate history as retaining the lordship in the modern period, but a complete chain of post-1542 legal conveyances was not located.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- before 1066 - 1066 | Edmar and Edwin | Pre-Conquest lordship; no specific transfer recorded in the sources consulted. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932, lines 12-15 as reproduced by Milton Keynes Heritage Association.
- 1086 - after 1086 | Robert, Count of Mortain | Norman post-Conquest reallocation; Domesday Book records the Alderton holdings under Robert, Count of Mortain. | | Domesday Book evidence for Alderton, summarized in the Northamptonshire place and heritage sources; see also the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record summary citing the Domesday and manor history.
- 1204 - 13th century | William de Warenne | The manor is stated in local estate history to have been assigned to William de Warenne in 1204; the exact instrument and subsequent date of disposition were not located. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; corroborating charter of William de Warenne confirming William Briwerre's land of the Warenne fee in Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger, and Alderton, published by the Northamptonshire Record Society.
- late 12th century - uncertain | William Briwerre or Brewer | Feudal confirmation by

William de Warenne of land of his fee in Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger, and Alderton. | | Northamptonshire Record Society, Book of Seals, charter of William de Warenne confirming the Warenne fee in Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger, and Alderton to William Briwerre.

- before 1270 - 13th century, before acquisition by Pagan de Chaworth | Thomas le Sauvage | Sold or conveyed the castle and lands of Alderton to Pagan de Chaworth during the reign of Edward I. | | Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN1808, citing the medieval manor history; corroborated by the Alderton parish history and the 1932 Northampton County Magazine article.
- mid-13th century, no later than 1270 - late 13th century | Pagan de Chaworth | Acquired the castle and manor or lands of Alderton from Thomas le Sauvage during the reign of Edward I. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN1808; Archaeological Data Service, Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey, Appendix 2, Alderton market grant.
- late 13th century - before 1307 | Patrick de Chaworth | Succeeded his brother Pagan de Chaworth according to the local historical account. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932.
- late 13th century or early 14th century - 1307 | Maud de Chaworth and Henry, Earl of Lancaster | Maud de Chaworth is reported to have carried the lordship by marriage to Henry, Earl of Lancaster. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932.
- 1307 - 1318 | William de Combemartin | Henry, Earl of Lancaster, granted Alderton with the advowson of the church and manor, together with the advowson of Stoke Bruerne, to William de Combemartin. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932; the account also records the surviving effigy of Sir William de Combemartin at Alderton church.
- 1539 - 1542 | The Crown | Alderton came into Crown hands by 1539; in 1542 it was annexed to the Honour of Grafton. The precise Crown acquisition instrument was not located. | | Dorothy Macmillan, 'Our County Villages No. 46: Alderton', Northampton County Magazine, November 1932; Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN1808.
- 1542 - later period | Honour of Grafton | Alderton was annexed to the Honour of Grafton in 1542. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Monument MNN1808.
- 1548 - before 1567 | Sir John Williams | The Crown leased the manor or estate to Sir John Williams in 1548. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'.
- 1567 - before 1582 | Robert Stafford | Robert Stafford held the lease after Sir John Williams; by 1567 the property was reported to be in need of repair. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'.
- late 16th century, before 1582 - after 1582; exact end uncertain | William Gorges | Became the next lessee after Robert Stafford and substantially rebuilt or replaced the manor house in 1582. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, 'Site of Alderton Manor House', Monument 4745/4/1; Alderton, Northamptonshire parish history.
- late 16th century - Thomas Hesilrige died 1629; Frances's date uncertain | Thomas Hesilrige and Frances Gorges | Frances Gorges, daughter and heiress of William Gorges, married Thomas Hesilrige; local history states that the manor house passed to the Hesilrige family. | | Alderton, Northamptonshire parish history; Westminster Abbey registers,

biographical note identifying Frances Gorges as daughter and heiress of Sir William Gorges of Alderton and wife of Sir Thomas Hesilrige.

- 1655 - 1661 | Sir Arthur Hesilrige, 2nd Baronet | Recorded as lord of the manor of Alderton in 1655; the precise succession instrument from Thomas Hesilrige or another predecessor was not located. | | Alderton, Northamptonshire parish history; corroborating biographical sources identify Sir Arthur Hesilrige as the son and successor of Sir Thomas Hesilrige and as a major landholder.

- late 17th century or before 1722 - 1722 or shortly before | Samuel Rolt | Held the tenancy of the Alderton manorial demesnes; local estate history identifies him as the then lessee and states that he demolished part of the mansion. The date of the lease commencement was not located. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; Grafton Estate, 'The Manor at Alderton'.

- shortly after 1722, with earlier Honour of Grafton interest - presently reported; exact modern title chain not researched to completion | Duke of Grafton | The Duke of Grafton acquired Manor Farm shortly after Samuel Rolt's death, and local estate history states that the lordship of Alderton remains with the Duke of Grafton. The exact legal conveyance and date of acquisition of the superior manor were not located. | | Grafton Estate, 'Alderton History'; Grafton Estate, 'The Manor at Alderton'; late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century local descriptions also identify the Duke of Grafton as lord of the manor and principal landowner.

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