

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003403 • MANOR
ALDHAM MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 16 October 2026 22:00 UTC

Location: Aldham , Suffolk
Associated places: Aldham , Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldham Manor was the principal manor of Aldham, Suffolk, and was historically associated with Aldham Hall beside St Mary's Church. Aldham Hall is a timber-framed and plastered house probably originating in the sixteenth or seventeenth century, extensively altered, and believed to occupy the site of the former manor house of a lost medieval village. The medieval manor was held as part of the de Vere estate cluster in south Suffolk and north Essex. The surviving evidence describes Aldham as a substantial medieval demesne manor with customary land, meadow, pasture, woodland, rents and a court baron. The manor should not be confused with the different Aldham Hall manor in Aldham, Essex.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

In 1066 the Suffolk manor of Aldham was recorded as held by Wulfwin. By the Domesday survey of 1086 it belonged to Aubrey de Vere, whose descendants and the earls of Oxford retained it through the later Middle Ages. Aldham is specifically recorded among the Suffolk possessions of Robert de Vere, 5th Earl of Oxford, in an inquisition post mortem of 1296, and modern scholarly work describes the manor as continuously held by the de Vere earls of Oxford during the later medieval period. Following the execution of John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, in 1462, the manor was forfeited and granted by Edward IV to his brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The Suffolk parish report records its return to the de Vere family circa 1539, but the precise instrument and date of that restoration have not been established in the sources consulted. By 1580 Aldham was held by Philip Tilney. It was held by Sir Edward Coke by 1609, by Sir Joshua Vanneck by 1764, and by Sir Thomas

Barrett-Lennard by

1909. The 1912 parish report still identifies Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard as the principal owner. The

precise conveyances between several of these dated ownership points remain undocumented in the

publicly accessible sources consulted.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1066 - 1086 | Wulfwin | Recorded as holding Aldham in 1066; by the Domesday survey of 1086 the manor was held by Aubrey de Vere. The precise nature of the transfer is not stated. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial; corroborated by the Domesday Book entry for Aldham in Suffolk.

- 1086 - 12th century | Aubrey de Vere | Held at the Domesday survey as tenant-in-chief or principal holder; the later descent was within the de Vere family. | | Domesday Book Online, Suffolk A-B, entry for Aldham; Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial.

- 12th century - 1462 | De Vere family and earls of Oxford | Dynastic succession and continued de Vere possession; no individual conveyances are asserted for the whole period. | | Mapping the Medieval Countryside, Inquisition Post Mortem of Robert de Vere, 5th Earl of Oxford, listing Aldham in Suffolk; Mark Bailey, The Decline of Serfdom in Late Medieval England, chapter 8, Aldham.

- 1462 - circa 1539 | Richard, Duke of Gloucester | Granted by Edward IV after the forfeiture of the de Vere estate following the execution of Sir John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, in 1462. The later return of Aldham to the de Vere family is dated only circa 1539 in the local manorial summary. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial; Richard III Society, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and the De Vere Estates, discussing the 1462 grant and listing Aldham among the Suffolk estates.

- circa 1539 - 1580 | De Vere family | Aldham is reported to have returned to the de Vere family circa 1539 after the period of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and the Crown. The precise restoration instrument and individual holder are not identified. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial.

- 1580 - 1609 | Philip Tilney | The Suffolk parish report records Philip Tilney as owning Aldham in 1580. The exact conveyance from the de Vere family, and the precise date of acquisition, have not been established. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial; Herbert Hurst's Calendar of Muniments, Aldham 2, agreement for an annuity granted by Philip Tilney from the manor of Aldham near Hadleigh, Suffolk.

- 1609 - 1764 | Sir Edward Coke | The Suffolk parish report records Sir Edward Coke as owning Aldham in 1609. The conveyance from Philip Tilney or any intervening holder has not been identified. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial.

- 1764 - 1909 | Sir Joshua Vanneck | The Suffolk parish report records Sir Joshua Vanneck as owning Aldham in 1764. The exact acquisition document and date are not established in the sources consulted. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, section 13, Manorial; Cambridge University Library, Vanneck papers collection description.

- 1909 - 1912 | Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard | The Suffolk parish report records Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard as owner in 1909 and identifies him as the principal owner in 1912. The exact acquisition instrument and the later history of the manor are not established here. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Aldham parish report, sections 13 and 16, recording Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard as owner in 1909 and principal owner in 1912; Essex Archives Online,

catalogue entry recording Aldham Hall Farm, Suffolk deeds, 1868-1920.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Court baron: The manor is described as having a court baron in its historic manorial evidence.
- Customary land: The medieval demesne manor is described as including customary land.
- Meadow, pasture and woodland: The historic manorial description includes meadow, pasture and woodland associated with the manor.
- Rents: The historic manorial description includes rents associated with the manor.

DISCLAIMER

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