

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003418 • MANOR
ALDWICK MANOR

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

Location: Pagham, Sussex
Associated places: Pagham, Sussex

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Aldwick Manor was the manor associated with Aldwick, a tithing of the ancient parish of Pagham in Sussex and the settlement from which the Hundred of Aldwick took its name. The manor was connected with the Canterbury estates and, by 1397, was recorded as containing 152 acres of arable land and 158 acres of pasture, excluding the manor-house site; its courts were held every three weeks. A property called Malemayns, associated with Nicholas de Malemayn in 1292, was later described as the manor of Aldwick, although the surviving evidence does not establish an uninterrupted descent from that holding to the later manor. The manor and the courts of the Hundred of Aldwick were separated administratively from Pagham by the late fourteenth century. The archiepiscopal holding continued until Archbishop Cranmer exchanged Aldwick to Henry VIII in June 1542. Queen Elizabeth I restored it to Cardinal Archbishop Reginald Pole; after Pole's death in 1558 it reverted to the Crown, which granted the manor to Sir Richard Sakevyle in 1559. The later descent is incompletely documented in the readily available online sources. Local historical accounts state that the manor subsequently passed through the Dingley, Comber and Miller interests, apparently in divided or successive shares, before Sir Richard Hotham acquired the remaining second half in 1789. The manor then passed through later owners and was acquired by John Ballett Fletcher in 1835; his son William Holland Ballett Fletcher was lord of the manor by 1899 and is explicitly recorded in that capacity in 1930. The residential building later called Aldwick Manor was originally Chapel House and then Bersted Lodge; Historic England notes that the building's use of the name Aldwick Manor

was

confusing and should not be treated as proof that the building itself was identical with the historic manor estate.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest secure institutional holder in the available evidence is the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose Canterbury estates included Pagham and Aldwick. A 1397 description confirms the existence and extent of Aldwick Manor but does not name an individual lord. In June 1542 Archbishop Cranmer exchanged the manor to Henry VIII. It was restored by Queen Elizabeth I to Cardinal Archbishop Reginald Pole and reverted to the Crown on Pole's death in 1558. The Crown granted the manor to Sir Richard Sakevyle in 1559. There is then a substantial documentary gap in the online evidence. A local historical account describes a later descent through John Dingley and his family, John Comber and the Miller family, but does not provide a complete deed-by-deed chain. A separate family-history compilation reports a 1675 quitclaim involving the manor of Aldwick and a 1677 sale by John Dingley to John Coomber; these details are retained only as low-strength evidence. Canon Miller is explicitly associated with the second half of the manor in the account of Sir Richard Hotham's 1789 acquisition. John Ballett Fletcher is reported to have bought the manor in 1835, while the surviving house and estate were acquired by him in 1857 according to a separate local heritage account; these are treated as distinct transactions. William Holland Ballett Fletcher inherited or acquired the lordship by 1899 and was recorded as lord of the manor in 1930. No reliable online source located in this research establishes a later transfer of the manorial lordship after the Fletcher period. The 1946 acquisition of Hotham Park by Bognor Regis Urban District Council concerns the house, grounds and neighbouring land and is not treated as a proven transfer of the lordship of Aldwick Manor.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- June 1542 - 1556 | Henry VIII, King of England | Exchange by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer to Henry VIII. | | Aldwick Parish Council, Aldwick History, recording Cranmer's June 1542 exchange of Aldwick to Henry VIII and its later restoration to Cardinal Pole.
- 1558 - 1559 | The Crown | Reversion on the death of Cardinal Reginald Pole. | | Aldwick Parish Council, Aldwick History.

- 1559 | Sir Richard Sakevyle | Grant by the Crown in 1559. | | Aldwick Parish Council, Aldwick History.
- - 1789 | Canon Miller | Held the second half of Aldwick Manor until Sir Richard Hotham purchased it in 1789. | | Bognor Regis Town Council, History, section on Sir Richard Hotham and the Manor of Aldwick.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Manorial courts held every three weeks: A 1397 description records that Aldwick Manor held courts every three weeks.

DISCLAIMER

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