

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003430 • MANOR
ALFORD WITH WELL MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 17 October 2026 23:54 UTC

Location: Alford, Lincolnshire
Associated places: Alford, Lincolnshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Alford with Well Manor was a historic manor associated with Alford and the neighbouring parish of Well in Lincolnshire. The surviving historical evidence indicates that it was one of several distinct manors connected with Alford, rather than the same property as the building now known as Alford Manor House. The manor or estate was historically also styled Alford-Well, Well cum Alford, Alford cum Well, Alford cum Membris and Alford with Members. A source discussing Lincolnshire weights and measures identifies the Manor of Alford with Well Tothby and records Robert A. Christopher as lord of the manor before 1850. The secure descent currently established begins with the Well family in the Domesday period, continues through the Willoughby family and William Wolley, and can be followed through the Wellden, Bateman, Dashwood, Christopher Nisbet-Hamilton and Rawnsley interests into the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The exact medieval descent and the precise relationship between the manor as a legal unit and the larger Well estate require further archival investigation.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The estate at Well was held by the Well family at the time of Domesday and later passed to the Willoughby family. During the English Civil War or Parliamentary period in the 1640s, the Earl of Lindsey, representing the Willoughby interest, was compelled to sell the manor of Alford-Well to Colonel William Wolley. The Wolleys retained the property after the Restoration and sold it in 1695 to Anthony Wellden. His son, also Anthony Wellden, had succeeded to the estate by 1715. James Bateman acquired Well about 1720. In 1752 the property was given to Bateman's daughter

Anne and her husband Samuel Dashwood. Their son Francis Bateman Dashwood inherited in 1793. His debts and the financial position of his heirs led to the sale of the estate in 1836 to R. A. Christopher Nisbet-Hamilton, who purchased the manor and several other estates. The property passed to Christopher Nisbet-Hamilton's daughter, Mrs Hamilton Ogilvy, in 1876. She sold Well in 1914 to Major Walter H. Rawnsley, who had previously rented Well Hall. After the death of John Chaplin Rawnsley's widow in 1974, the estate passed to their nephew John Reeve. The later sale and any subsequent legal descent are not established by the sources reviewed. The chain is therefore partial, and the medieval transfers before the Willoughby period remain incompletely documented.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- Domesday period, 1086 - Medieval period; date uncertain | Well family | The estate at Well was held by the Well family at the time of Domesday and later passed to the Willoughby family. The date and legal form of the transfer are not established. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section; accessed through Parks & Gardens UK.
- After the Domesday period; date uncertain - 1640s | Willoughby family, represented by Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey | The estate at Well passed from the Well family to the Willoughby family at an uncertain medieval date. By the seventeenth century it was held by the Willoughby interest, represented by Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, who was compelled to sell the manor of Alford-Well during the Civil War or Parliamentary period. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section; Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Lincolnshire Past and Present, issue containing the discussion of the Alford Fight and the manor of Alford-Well.
- 1640s - 1695 | Colonel William Wolley | Sale of the manor of Alford-Well during the English Civil War or Parliamentary period by the Willoughby interest to Colonel William Wolley. | | Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Lincolnshire Past and Present, issue containing the discussion of the Alford Fight and the manor of Alford-Well; English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990.
- 1695 - By 1715 | Anthony Wellden | Purchase of the manor or Well estate from the Wolley family in 1695. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.
- By 1715 - About 1720 | Anthony Wellden, son of Anthony Wellden | Succession to the Well estate within the Wellden family; the Parks and Gardens Register states that Anthony Wellden's son had succeeded by 1715. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.
- About 1720 - 1752 | James Bateman | Acquisition of Well and its estate about 1720. The precise seller and legal form of the transaction are uncertain; the source suggests that the property may have been acquired from or through Sir Robert Chaplin, who had been financially ruined by the South Sea Bubble. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of

Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.

- 1752 - 1793 | Anne Dashwood and Samuel Dashwood | Well was given to James Bateman's only child Anne and her husband Samuel Dashwood in 1752. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.

- 1793 - 1825 | Francis Bateman Dashwood | Inheritance from his parents, Anne and Samuel Dashwood, in 1793. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.

- 1836 - 1876 | R. A. Christopher Nisbet-Hamilton | Purchase of the manor and several other estates from the heirs of Francis Bateman Dashwood in 1836, following the financial pressures caused by debts. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990; Carl Ricketts and John Douglas, Marks and Markings of Weights and Measures of the British Isles, East Anglia and Eastern England I, section 'Manor of Alford with Well Tothby'.

- 1876 - 1914 | Mary Hamilton Ogilvy, also styled Mrs Hamilton Ogilvy | Inheritance from her father, R. A. Christopher Nisbet-Hamilton, in 1876, followed by sale of Well in 1914. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990; Lincolnshire Archives, HIG 1/28, plan of the Parish of Well, 1880, as cited in the heritage register.

- 1914 - After 1914; later succession date uncertain | Major Walter H. Rawnsley | Purchase of Well in 1914 from Mary Hamilton Ogilvy. Walter H. Rawnsley had rented Well Hall for several years before buying it. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.

- After 1974 - Date of later sale unknown | John Reeve | The estate passed to John Reeve, nephew of John Chaplin Rawnsley, after the death of John Chaplin Rawnsley's widow in 1974. The later sale is mentioned but its date and purchaser are not identified. | | English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Well Hall, Alford, Register entry GD1990, historic development section.

RECORDED RIGHTS

DISCLAIMER

This is a historical registry extract generated from the Manorial Heritage Registry. It records the registry's documented research and assertions; it is not a Land Registry title document, legal certificate, or guarantee of ownership, lordship, rights, boundaries, or enforceability.