

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Churchill

Landownership

In 1086 Churchill manor was assessed at 20 hides, and on later evidence probably included all or most of the present-day parish.¹ From the 12th to the 14th century it was held by minor (and probably resident) lay lords including the Nowers family, whose only other manor was at Wymington (Beds.);² their 15th- and 16th-century successors (the Barentins and Hattons) were non-resident, however, and seem to have sold much of the land to local yeomen and other landowners.³ The lordship was acquired in the 17th century by the Walter family of neighbouring Sarsden House, and thereafter Sarsden and Churchill manors descended together. Subsequent purchases by the Walters and their successors enlarged Churchill manor to 2,185 a. (three quarters of the parish) by the 1780s and to 2,640 a. by 1910,⁴ and it remained in single ownership until the estate's break-up in 1922, when most of the parish's farmland was sold to sitting tenants. Over 40 freehold yardlands were also recorded in the Middle Ages, Bruern abbey holding a sizeable estate which was absorbed into the manor after the Dissolution, whilst the four-yardland rectory estate was appropriated by St Frideswide's priory, Oxford, in 1340, later passing through various hands until added to the manor in 1804–5. Smaller institutional owners included (at various dates) Cold Norton priory, the Knights Hospitallers, the Crown, and some Oxford colleges.⁵

Churchill Manor

In 1066 Churchill was held by Earl (later King) Harold, killed that year at the battle of Hastings, and in 1086 by Hugh d'Avranches (d. 1101), earl of Chester, whose mesne tenant was Walter de Vernon.⁶ The overlordship descended with the earldom of Chester until 1232 when, on Earl Ranulph's death without heirs, it passed to William de Ferrers (d. 1247), earl

¹ DB, f. 157 (incl. land for 20 ploughteams, 170 a. of meadow, and 120 a. of pasture); below.

² *VCH Beds.* III, 118.

³ Below (other estates); econ. hist. (16th cent. to parl. enclo.); social hist. (1500–1800).

⁴ *A Particular of the Manors of Sarsden, Lyneham, etc.* (1786) (copy in BL, available online at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>); OHC, DV/X/41; below, Sarsden, landownership.

⁵ Below (other estates); econ. hist. (parl. enclo. and later); relig. hist.

⁶ DB, f. 157; *Complete Peerage*, III, 164–5; Farrer, *Honors*, II, 248.

of Derby.⁷ Following his grandson Robert's forfeiture in 1266 it passed to the earls and dukes of Lancaster, finally lapsing on Duke Henry's accession to the throne (as Henry IV) in 1399.⁸ In the 15th century the manor was held from the Crown by knight service.⁹

The mesne tenant Walter de Vernon (fl. 1086–1113) was succeeded by his son Richard and grandson Walter (fl. 1150s),¹⁰ and the Vernons retained an intermediate tenancy following the manor's subinfeudation to the Nowerses (below). In the 1170s Richard de Vernon confirmed the gift of Churchill's advowson to St Frideswide's priory, Oxford, and in 1220 his son William was remitted payment of 32s. for carucage. In 1298 a later Richard de Vernon received the relief and scutage of a knight's fee from the manor.¹¹

By the 1170s Churchill was subinfeudated to Henry de Chaldri, whose daughter and heiress Juliana married Henry Nowers (d. by 1192).¹² It passed to Juliana's second husband William de Mandeville and, by 1206, to her and Henry's son Nicholas Nowers, who married Eustachia, a daughter of his overlord Richard de Vernon, and who in 1216 was in royal service with William de Ferrers.¹³ The manor was reckoned in 1242 at two knights' fees, and by the 1250s had passed from Nicholas to his daughter (or possibly sister) Elizabeth, wife of Roger de Whelton.¹⁴ Their son William (d. 1266) settled it in 1257 on his own son Roger Nowers, who held it from his half-brother Roger de Whelton.¹⁵ In 1279 Whelton enfeoffed Robert Burnell (d. 1292), bishop of Bath and Wells, with the service of one knight's fee from the manor (worth ½d. per year or a pair of gloves), although relief and scutage remained payable to Richard de Vernon.¹⁶ Roger Nowers (d. by 1292) was succeeded by his son Roger (d. 1298) and grandson Roger (d. c.1340), a minor who came of age c.1316–17, and was granted free warren in the manor in 1318.¹⁷ He was followed by his son Richard (d. by 1352), whose widow Alice was assigned a third in dower, and by Richard's brother John

⁷ *Complete Peerage*, III, 167–9; IV, 194–6; *Book of Fees*, I, 448; II, 828, 839.

⁸ *Complete Peerage*, IV, 200; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, p. 300; XI, p. 109; XVI, p. 102.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, I, pp. 82, 187.

¹⁰ Keats-Rohan, *Domesday People*, I, 454; II, 768.

¹¹ *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, p. 257; *Rot. Litt. Claus.* I, 430; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, pp. 364–6; for the family, Farrer, *Honors*, II, 276–9.

¹² *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, pp. 255–6; Farrer, *Honors*, II, 248; E. St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', *Beds. Hist. Rec. Soc.* 14 (1931), 52, 74.

¹³ *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, pp. 256–7, 265; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, p. 366; *Rot. Litt. Claus.* I, 246; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 52–3.

¹⁴ *Book of Fees*, II, 828; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 53–6.

¹⁵ *Oxon. Fines*, p. 173; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 55–9. Nowers took his grandmother's surname.

¹⁶ *Rot. Hund.* II, 745; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, pp. 364–6; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 59–61.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, pp. 364–6; *Cal. Close 1296–1302*, 170; *Cal. Fine 1272–1307*, 402; *Cal. Chart.* 1300–26, 375; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 60–7.

Nowers (d. 1386), to whom Alice granted her dower in 1354 in return for an annual payment of £10.¹⁸ Even so she was still said to be holding her third for life at John's death.¹⁹

John had latterly held Churchill jointly with his second wife Alice,²⁰ who subsequently settled the reversion on Sir John Drayton (d. 1417), in possession by 1401–2.²¹ George Nowers (d. 1425), John's son and heir by his first wife Sibyl, consequently never inherited, and in 1448 his son John Nowers finally gave up any remaining claim.²² Drayton was succeeded by his daughter and co-heiress Joan, wife of Drew Barentin (d. 1453) of Chalgrove and Little Haseley, from whom Churchill descended in the direct male line to John (d. 1474), John (d. 1485), and William Barentin (d. 1549), during whose minority custody was granted to John de Vere, earl of Oxford.²³ In 1544 William (by then Sir William) acquired Bruern abbey's estate in Churchill, which he left to his son Charles;²⁴ the manor itself, however, passed to Sir William's son Francis (d. 1559) and to Francis's daughter Mary, followed by descendants of Francis's sisters Margaret (wife of Sir John Harcourt) and Mary (wife of Sir Anthony Huddleston).²⁵ By the 1580s Churchill seems (like Warpsgrove) to have been divided between the Barentins, Harcourts, and Huddlestons,²⁶ but was reunited by Sir Christopher Hatton (d. 1591). His successors were his nephew Sir William Hatton (d. 1597) and William's second cousin Sir Christopher Hatton (d. 1619).²⁷

In 1618 Hatton sold the manor to John Walter (d. 1630), who was knighted the following year, and who also acquired the neighbouring Sarsden and Lyneham manors.²⁸ Sir John's successors granted copyholds and occasionally intervened in other matters,²⁹ although land sales by the Hattons had by then created a proliferation of freeholds,³⁰ the Morecrofts (who occupied a substantial estate and 'mansion house') being later mistakenly identified as former lords.³¹ The Walters subsequently bought back several of the freeholds,

¹⁸ TNA, CP 25/1/190/20, no. 78; St John Brooks, 'Nowers of Wymington', 68–72.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XVI, p. 102.

²⁰ *Ibid.*; *Cal. Close* 1377–81, 138; 1381–5, 624–5; 1385–9, 171–2, 224, 669–70.

²¹ *Feudal Aids*, VI, 626; TNA, CP 40/881, m. 452 and d.

²² TNA, CP 40/881, m. 451d. Cf. L. Rose, *The History of Churchill* (1934), 27, and N. Bromwich, *A Guide to the Old Sarsden Estate* (1988), 4, mistakenly suggesting Nowers sold the manor.

²³ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 188; TNA, C 1/39/246; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Com.), IV, 256, 368; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, I, pp. 82, 187; *Cal. Pat.* 1485–94, 260; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 129, 244–5.

²⁴ *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIX (1), p. 640; TNA, PROB 11/33/106; below (other estates).

²⁵ TNA, C 142/121/142; Rose, *Hist. of Churchill*, 62.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1587–8, pp. 103–4; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 425.

²⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1594–5, p. 217; 1598–9, p. 32; TNA, C 142/232/82; C 142/249/61; C 142/249/63; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Chris. Hatton (1581–1619).

²⁸ TNA, CP 25/2/340/16 Jas. I Easter; *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 170–1; below, Sarsden, landownership.

²⁹ TNA, C 8/311/152 (copyhold dispute of 1659); *Cal. SP Dom.* 1639–40, 112, and *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposits* 1629–34, p. 69 (interventions with tenants over church repair).

³⁰ Below (other estates).

³¹ *Par. Colln.*, I, 94; Rose, *Hist. of Churchill*, 59–60; *N&Q*, 12th ser. VII, 47; below (other estates). The error may (given the Morecrofts' local importance) reflect contemporary confusion, reinforced,

the Morecrofts' estate being acquired for £2,750, and by the 1670s the re-expanded manor totalled 72 yardlands.³² By the late 19th century, following further purchases by the Walters and Langstons, it covered almost the whole parish.³³

Both Churchill and Sarsden passed from Sir William Walter (d. 1675), a baronet from 1641, to his son Sir William (d. 1694) and grandson Sir John (d. 1722), the 3rd baronet, who served as MP for Oxford.³⁴ Sir John's heir was his half-brother Sir Robert Walter (d. 1731), followed by the 2nd baronet's grandson John Rolle Walter (d. 1779), a Devon MP, and by Rolle Walter's brother Denys Rolle (d. 1797).³⁵ In 1791–2 Rolle sold both manors to the London banker James Langston (d. 1795), who was succeeded by his son John (d. 1812) and grandson James (d. 1863).³⁶ James's daughter and heir Julia married her cousin Henry Reynolds-Moreton, 3rd earl of Ducie, whose death in 1921 prompted the combined estate's break-up the following year.³⁷ The lordship of Churchill manor was sold to Lt Col. Roland Hermon-Hodge (d. 1942) with Sarsden House, with which it subsequently passed, though without any house or land in Churchill itself.³⁸

perhaps, by an ambiguously phrased statement in Sir William Walter's will of 1692 regarding his purchase of the Morecrofts' estate from Edm. Copland: TNA, PROB 11/444/79.

³² TNA, PROB 11/444/79; OHC, Fi. I/2; Fi. I/37.

³³ For purchases, OHC, Fi. III, passim; for the acreage in 1910, *ibid.* DV/X/41 (with maps).

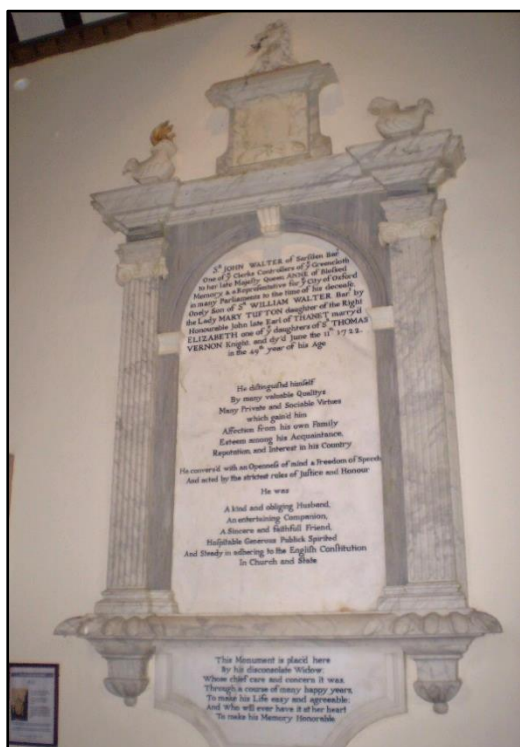
³⁴ *Complete Baronetage*, II, 142; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Wm Walter, John Walter; below, Sarsden, landownership.

³⁵ *Hist. Parl.* s.v. John Walter, Denys Rolle.

³⁶ OHC, Fi. I/35–6; Fi. I/38; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. John Langston, Jas Langston.

³⁷ *Complete Peerage*, IV, 477; *Sale Cat., Sarsden Est.* (1922): copy in OHC, Fi. XIV/ii/2.

³⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1924–39 edns); OHC, P409/10/D/1; below, Sarsden, landownership; info. from Christopher Stockwell (June 2023).



Manor House



Memorials to Sir John Walter (d. 1722) (left) in Churchill's Heritage Centre (the former church); and to the Langstons (right) in Sarsden church.

The Nowerses' manor house (mentioned in 1298) lay within a walled enclosure, surrounded by farm buildings, gardens, and fishponds.³⁹ Roger Nowers was the parish's highest taxpayer in the 1310s–20s,⁴⁰ and the house was evidently maintained by the non-resident Barentins, both the lord and his steward visiting in 1443 when expenses included 4s. 8d. to rebuild a wall at the gate of the *curia*, 6s. 4d. for a slater's wages and food, and smaller sums for building materials.⁴¹ The house was probably the venue of the manor courts held in the 15th and 16th centuries, and by the early 18th was known as the 'court house', although by then it was reportedly used as a dairy.⁴² In 1518 it was excluded from a lease of the manorial site,⁴³ and possibly it was the 'mansion' later sold to the Morecrofts with their freehold, which was taxed on six hearths in 1662, and which was bought later by Sir William Walter (d. 1694), bringing it back within the manor.⁴⁴ The Walters lived at Sarsden, however, and its later use as a dairy suggests subsequent neglect, perhaps following damage in the village fire of 1684. Its site remains uncertain, one possible candidate being Dovehouse close immediately north of the medieval church: in 1299 several of the manor's farm

³⁹ TNA, C 133/85/1; *Cal. Close* 1296–1302, 311–12.

⁴⁰ TNA, E 179/161/8–9.

⁴¹ Northants. Archives, FH 361.

⁴² *Par. Colln*, I, 94; below, local govt (manor cts).

⁴³ Northants. Archives, FH 363.

⁴⁴ TNA, E 179/255/4; *ibid.* PROB 11/444/79; below (other estates).

buildings lay close to the church's belfry, and the Hattons retained a dovecot in the 1590s, while Dovehouse close itself was acquired by the Morecrofts, although no buildings existed there by 1788.⁴⁵ Another possible site is a farmhouse (since removed) which at that date abutted the churchyard's south-west corner.⁴⁶ Modern identifications of the manor house with the late 17th-century Warren Hastings House (on Hastings Hill) lack evidence, and were probably influenced by the re-use there of medieval building fragments.⁴⁷

Other Estates

By 1279 there were numerous freeholds, of which the largest was Bruern abbey's nine-yardland estate held in free alms, with a further four yardlands (one carucate) held for 2s. annual rent.⁴⁸ Early donors included Juliana de Chaldri (who gave extensive grazing rights in the late 12th century), and her son Nicholas Nowers gave four yardlands or a hide, increased later to 1½ hides.⁴⁹ In 1230 the abbot held an additional yardland of William Goldsmith (*Aurifaber*) and his wife Matilda for rents totalling 5s., and in 1366 the abbey was granted free warren in Churchill.⁵⁰ By the 1240s it maintained a grange (possibly on the site of the present-day Grange Farm),⁵¹ and in the early 16th century leased its lands (without the grange) to William Salcombe and his wife Alice for an annual rent of £6 13s. 4d.⁵² After the abbey's suppression the Crown sold the estate to Sir Thomas Pope, who in 1544 sold it to the lord Sir William Barentin (d. 1549). Though he left it to his son Charles it was later reabsorbed into the manor by Charles's brother Francis, and was leased first to William Clerk (d. 1553) and then to the gentleman farmer Thomas Rickardes (d. 1579), who in 1576 took out a 70-year lease on a ten-yardland holding.⁵³ It remained part of Churchill manor until 1922.⁵⁴

A smaller monastic holding, comprising a yardland, 1 a. of wood, and the yardland's bond tenant and his family, was given to St Frideswide's priory in Oxford by Baldwin and Juliana de Parles of Great Rollright c.1180–90. In 1248 the priory leased the yardland and

⁴⁵ *Cal. Close* 1296–1302, 311; OHC, Lo. VII/1; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 44/4/14; TNA, C 142/249/63.

⁴⁶ OHC, Lo. VI/4, p. 14 (let in 1787 to Thos Boulter); cf. below, relig. hist. (rectory and vicarage hos).

⁴⁷ Rose, *Hist. of Churchill*, 27–8; Bromwich, *Guide to the Old Sarsden Estate*, 6, 8; cf. above, landscape etc. (built character). The ho. appears to have been owned by the freeholding Watts family rather than by the manor.

⁴⁸ *Rot. Hund.* II, 746. The abbot was the parish's highest taxpayer in 1306: TNA, E 179/161/10.

⁴⁹ *Oxon. Fines*, p. 107; *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, pp. 266–9, 271.

⁵⁰ *Oxon. Fines*, p. 86; *Cal. Chart.* 1341–1417, 196.

⁵¹ *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, p. 271; above, landscape etc. (built character).

⁵² *Valor Eccl.* II, 202, 266.

⁵³ *L&P Hen.* VIII, XII (1), pp. 251–2; XIX (1), p. 640; XX (1), pp. 216–17; TNA, PROB 11/33/106; PROB 11/36/256; PROB 11/62/83.

⁵⁴ For later leases, below, econ. hist.

additional land at Great Rollright, for 27s. 6d. a year, to Cold Norton priory, which at its dissolution in 1507 still held land in Churchill. Its properties passed soon afterwards to Brasenose College, Oxford,⁵⁵ which in the 16th and 17th centuries let a house and land at Churchill to two tenants for annual quitrents of 2s. each, one of the tenants (Thomas Shirley) leaving the college 6d. in his will in 1585. By the 18th century both quitrents were lost.⁵⁶

Of the other freeholders in 1279, Roger Nowers's son John (who died during his father's lifetime) held five yardlands and three cottages for an annual rent of 7 marks (£4 13s. 4d.). A further 27½ yardlands were divided amongst 21 separate holdings of between a half and two yardlands, and eight free tenants held an additional 39 a., the manor's free rents totalling £7 9s. 3d. in all.⁵⁷ Later free tenants included (by 1505) the Knights Hospitallers, whose tiny holding passed by 1520 to Magdalen College, Oxford, which sold 1¾ a. to the lord of Churchill in 1887.⁵⁸

Other 16th-century free tenants (all mentioned under the Barentins) included the Bridgeses, Hackers, Medcrofts, and Sessionses,⁵⁹ who later benefited from the manor's temporary break-up under the Hattons. Higher-status purchasers included Sir William Hatton's son-in-law Sir Robert Rich (d. 1658), who in 1616 obtained a share of the Hatton estates including Churchill mill. Some of Rich's Churchill lands were subsequently acquired by George Morecroft (d. 1649), rector of Kingham, who by 1633 held land worth £90, and who was succeeded by his son George (d. 1661) and granddaughter Anne, wife of Edmund Copland of Charlbury.⁶⁰ The family's 'mansion' (possibly the former manor house) was one of the largest in the village.⁶¹ Another beneficiary of the Hattons' sales was George Dodford (d. 1639), whose lands were worth £130 in 1633 and £140–£160 in 1636,⁶² while the city of Oxford, too, held an estate in the parish in the 1660s–80s.⁶³ Most of the freeholds were reabsorbed into the manor between the late 17th century and the late 19th, and after its final break-up in 1922 no single landowner predominated.⁶⁴ A later institutional landowner was University College, Oxford, which owned Rynehill farm from 1938 to 1961.⁶⁵

⁵⁵ *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, pp. 239–40, 262–4; *Cal. Pat.* 1494–1509, 544; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 264.

⁵⁶ BNC, Churchill 1–9; *ibid.* Cold Norton 32; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 58/1/57.

⁵⁷ *Rot. Hund.* II, 746.

⁵⁸ Northants. Archives, FH 362–366; Magd. Coll. EL/6, f. 236; OHC, Fi. III/xxxv/1–3.

⁵⁹ Northants. Archives, FH 363; FH 366; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 43/2/39; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

⁶⁰ Northants. Archives, FH/D/D/A/3105; TNA, CP 25/2/340/14 Jas. I Mich.; *ibid.* PROB 11/444/79; OHC, Burton II/iv/2; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 44/4/14; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1629–34*, p. 69; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Rob. Rich.

⁶¹ Above (manor ho.).

⁶² *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1629–34*, p. 69; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1635–6, 308.

⁶³ *VCH Oxon.* IV, 143.

⁶⁴ Above (manor).

⁶⁵ Univ. Coll., EB7/71/C1/1; OHC, RDC9/3/F6/2 (mistakenly giving Christ Church, Oxford); *Country Life*, 9 Nov. 1961.

Rectory Estate

The medieval rectory estate included a hide of land held at first of Churchill manor, the rectory as a whole being valued at 10 marks (£6 13s. 4d.) in 1254 and £14 in 1291.⁶⁶ Between 1330 and 1340 it was appropriated by St Frideswide's priory, Oxford, which already owned the advowson, specified tithes, and an annual pension, and which in the 1220s maintained a grange or barn.⁶⁷ In 1525, after the priory's suppression, the estate passed to Cardinal Wolsey, who gave it to his new Oxford foundation of Cardinal College.⁶⁸ The college's lessee, John Hacker, agreed a new 42-year term in 1529, although the lease was later acquired (apparently with Thomas Cromwell's help) by the lord of Churchill Sir William Barentin (d. 1549),⁶⁹ who left it to his servant, the gentlewoman Alice Whittell (d. 1554), for a seven-year term at an annual rent of 20 marks (£13 6s. 8d.).⁷⁰ Following Wolsey's fall, Henry VIII granted the estate (valued at £10 13s. 4d. a year) to Cardinal College's successor King Henry VIII College, but retained it when the college was again re-founded as Christ Church in 1546. The Crown finally sold it in 1563 (for almost £300) to William Barentin (d. 1572) of Brenchley (Kent).⁷¹

Later lay impropiators, either as tenants or owners, included John Gostwick (d. 1618),⁷² Augustine Skinner (d. 1672), Thomas Mullington (d. 1681) and his son Compton,⁷³ and William Rollinson, whose estate was valued at nearly £200 a year in the early 18th century.⁷⁴ Mary Rollinson was awarded 431 a. in lieu of glebe and tithes at enclosure in 1788, and in 1804–5 sold the estate for £18,000 to John Langston, who incorporated it into Churchill manor.⁷⁵ A house for the estate, taxed on seven hearths in 1662, stood apparently near the church, and was probably damaged or destroyed in the village fire of 1684.⁷⁶ The

⁶⁶ Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 311; *Tax. Eccl.* 32; below, relig. hist. (glebe).

⁶⁷ Below, relig. hist. (paroch. organizn); for grange, *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, pp. 269–70.

⁶⁸ *L&P Hen. VIII*, IV, pp. 655, 971; *VCH Oxon.* II, 100. The college (now Christ Church) was erected on the site of the priory.

⁶⁹ *L&P Hen. VIII*, IV, p. 2730. For Hacker, below, social hist. (1500–1800).

⁷⁰ TNA, PROB 11/33/106; PROB 11/37/136.

⁷¹ *L&P Hen. VIII*, V, p. 587; XXI (2), p. 434; *Valor Eccl.* II, 181, 250; *Cal. Pat.* 1560–3, 503.

⁷² *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1609–16*, pp. 39–40; below, social hist. (1500–1800). Gostwick may have been lessee only.

⁷³ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 29, f. 123 and v.; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 141/2/6; *ibid.* C 5/369/37–8; C 5/620/163; C 6/196/118; C 7/476/70; C 8/112/154; *N&Q*, 12th ser. XI, 527–8.

⁷⁴ *Par. Colln*, I, 94.

⁷⁵ OHC, QSD/A book 110; *ibid.* Lo. VII/3; *ibid.* Fi. III/i/15; Fi. III/i/17–18; TNA, IR 18/7653.

⁷⁶ TNA, E 179/255/4; below, relig. hist. (rectory and vicarage hos).

estate was focused by the 18th century on a farmhouse in the village, which included a dovecot,⁷⁷ while the outlying Churchill Heath Farm was added after enclosure.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ OHC, Fi. III/i/13; *ibid.* Lo. VII/1–3 (Home Fm, on the site of the present-day Four Bays).

⁷⁸ *Ibid.* Lo. VII/3–4; below, econ. hist. (parl. enclo. and later).