A 10-hide estate probably covering the whole of the later parish was created before the late 10th century, having most likely been separated from a larger Anglo-Saxon estate focused on North Stoke.\(^1\) By the 13th century the manor formed part of the honor of Wallingford, which escheated to the Crown in 1300, and in 1540 was reconfigured as the honor of Ewelme. Mongewell tithingmen attended the honor’s frankpledge courts from the Middle Ages until the 19th century.\(^2\)

The manor’s medieval overlords subinfeudated it to minor local gentry who mostly resided, and similar families followed in the post-medieval period. Amongst later owners Shute Barrington (lord 1770–1826, and latterly bishop of Durham) created the landscaped Mongewell Park.\(^3\) In the 19th century the manor still covered more than three quarters of the parish, stretching from the Thames to the Chiltern ridge, and to the woodlands beyond: only on the dip slope bordering Stoke Row were neighbouring landowners a significant presence.\(^4\) The estate was broken up in 1918, and from 1953–97 the manor house and grounds were occupied by Carmel College.\(^5\)

**Mongewell Manor**

**Descent to 1493**

Between 966 and 975 the royal consort Ælfgifu (sometime wife of King Eadwig) willed Mongewell to Ælfgifu, Ælfgiffeard, and Ælfgiffear ‘in common for their lifetime’, with reversion to the Old Minster at Winchester.\(^6\) Ælfgiffeard was probably Ælfgifu’s brother, and may have been the ealdorman and chronicler who died c.998, while Ælfgifar was her sister.\(^7\) By 1066 the manor was held from the king by William FitzOsbern (d. 1071), earl of Hereford, and following his son Roger’s rebellion in 1075 it was granted to Walter de Lacy (d. 1085),

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1. Sawyer S.1484; *VCH Oxon.* I, 426; below, North Stoke, landownership.
4. OHC, tithe award and map; below (other estates).
5. Below (manor ho.); social hist. (educ.).
6. Sawyer S.1484; *ODNB*, s.v. Ælfgifu.
whose main estates lay in the Welsh marches. Walter’s son Roger also rebelled, and forfeited his estates in 1096; Mongewell was, however, among the manors recovered by Roger’s brother Hugh (d. c.1115),\(^8\) who in 1096 gave land and tithes there to Gloucester abbey.\(^9\)

By the 1150s the manor was probably held by William de Chesney, who was defeated at Wallingford in 1153 at the head of King Stephen’s army, but was subsequently reconciled with Henry II. Chesney died between 1172 and 1176,\(^10\) leaving a niece, Matilda, who was wife of the royal chamberlain Henry Fitzgerald (d. 1170 x 74). Their son Warin (d. 1215/16) married the heiress Alice de Courcy,\(^11\) and overlordship of Mongewell (which had by then been granted to local mesne lords)\(^12\) passed to their daughter Margaret (d. 1252), wife of Baldwin de Redvers (d. 1216), the son of the 5th earl of Devon. They were succeeded by their son Baldwin (d. 1245) and grandson Baldwin (d. 1262), the 6th and 7th earls, and by the younger Baldwin’s sister Isabella de Forz (d. 1293),\(^13\) one of whose heirs was Warin de Lisle (d. 1296). He evidently inherited Mongewell, which was amongst 86 knights’ fees which his great-grandson Robert de Lisle surrendered to the king in 1386.\(^14\) The last known overlords were the Montagu earls of Salisbury in the late 14th and early 15th centuries,\(^15\) and by the 1530s the manor was held directly from the honor of Wallingford.\(^16\)

An unnamed knight mentioned in 1086 may have held the manor from the Lacys,\(^17\) but otherwise the earliest known mesne lord is John FitzRalph (patron of Mongewell church in 1184),\(^18\) followed in the late 12th or early 13th century by William son of William de ‘Essedeford’, probably Ashford in Kent.\(^19\) Matilda de Essedeford may (c.1228) have married Bartholomew de Badlesmere, one of a prominent Kentish family, who in the 1240s–50s held two carucates in Mongewell from the Redverses for a knight’s fee.\(^20\) By the 1270s those had passed to another Kentish family, the Criolls,\(^21\) and in 1271 Matilda de Crioll subinfeudated

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\(^8\) VCH Oxon. I, 388, 426; XII, 5; ODNB, s.v. Wal. de Lacy.
\(^12\) Below.
\(^13\) Complete Peerage, IV, 316–23; Farrer, Honors, I, 144; Abbrev. Plac. 160.
\(^14\) Complete Peerage, VIII, 71–7; Cal. Close 1364–8, 496.
\(^15\) Cal. Inq. p.m. XVII, p. 323; XIX, p. 229; Cal. Close 1405–9, 455–6; VCH Oxon. XVI, 275.
\(^16\) TNA, C 1/3130/27–30.
\(^17\) VCH Oxon. I, 426.
\(^18\) Oseney Cart. IV, 416; below, relig. hist. (paroch. organizn). Probably the Ralph FitzJohn of London (Lund) mentioned in Balliol Coll. MS 271, f. 72v.
\(^19\) TNA, E 212/68.
\(^20\) Cur. Reg. XIII, p. 115; Book of Fees, II, 830, 834; Rot. Hund. II, 42.
\(^21\) Rot. Hund. II, 774; Farrer, Honors, I, 144–5.
the manor for 300 marks (£200) to William Loveday, who held it from William de Crioll in 1279, and directly from Isabella de Forz in 1284–5.22

William Loveday was granted free warren at Mongewell in 1281, when Roger Loveday, possibly his father, released his rights in the manor to William and his heirs.23 In 1301 William retired to Applehanger (in Goring), granting Mongewell to his son Ralph in return for a generous annual allowance in cash and kind.24 Ralph was succeeded by his son John, the lord by 1329, whose heir (another John Loveday) held it jointly in 1346 with Gilbert Wace of Ewelme. Possibly it was one of the Waces to whom Ralph Loveday had earlier been in debt.25 John’s widow Cecily Loveday was given dower in the manor in 1362, but though the Lovedays’ lordship was remembered later in the decade it is unclear whether they retained it.26 Possibly it passed to Wace’s father-in-law John de Alveton (d. 1361), who presented to the church, and by the 1380s–90s the lord was another local landholder, Robert Worth.27 The later descent is uncertain, though by the 15th century it was held by members of the Restwold family of Crowmarsh Gifford and Hedsor (Bucks.). Thomas Restwold lived there in 1432, and a later Thomas Restwold in 1484.28

Descent from 1493

In 1493 Robert Coorte (d. 1509) of Mackney (Berks.) bought the manor for £300.29 Coorte’s daughter or sister married Richard Moleyns of Sandhill (Hants), whose son William (of Mackney) was prevented by his own son Humphrey in the late 1540s from committing wastes in Mongewell woods.30 The demesne and limited rights over the woodland were let to the resident Clacks by the Moleynses until the 1550s.31 William died c.1553, and was succeeded by Humphrey despite a challenge from the latter’s nephew Henry Moleyns, son of William’s eldest son John.32 Humphrey was followed by his widow Mary (d. 1590) and her

24 TNA, CP 25/1/188/12, no. 68.
29 TNA, CP 25/1/191/31, nos. 21, 33; ibid. E 150/784/1; VCH Berks. III, 467.
31 TNA, C 1/1310/27–30; below, econ. hist. (1500–1800).
32 TNA, C 1/1368/77; C 1/1370/69–71.
second husband Thomas Barton (d. 1569), and by Humphrey and Mary’s son William Moleyns (d. 1613).

William’s son William (d. 1650) was a recusant who, having fallen into debt with the Reading MP John Saunders (d. 1638), subsequently sold the manor to Saunders’ son Thomas (d. 1670), also an MP. Thomas was succeeded by his son John (d. 1690) and grandson John (d. 1731), whose sister and heir Jane (d. 1763) married Sir John Guise (d. 1769), Bt. His son William died unmarried in 1783, Mongewell having meanwhile passed to his sister Jane on her marriage in 1770 to Shute Barrington (d. 1826), bishop of Durham from 1791. Barrington’s heir was his great-nephew Uvedale Thomas Shudd Price (d. 1844), whose successor, his sister Mary Anne Elizabeth (d. 1878), married her first cousin Robert Price (d. 1857), Bt. The manor then covered c.1,292 acres.

Unlike their predecessors the Prices let the mansion house and park, by the 1870s to the Scottish broker John Mathison Fraser (d. 1885). His son Alexander Caspar Fraser (d. 1916) bought the estate in 1888 on the death of Uvedale Price’s nephew Edward, and rebuilt

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33 OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 184, f. 372; ibid. 3/2/77.
34 TNA, C 142/360/93; ibid. PROB 11/122/366.
37 Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714, IV, 1315; Complete Baronetage, III, 219; TNA, PROB 11/949/80.
38 OHC, SL140/D/1; Hist. Parl. s.v. Wm Guise; ODNB, s.v. Shute Barrington.
40 OHC, tithe award and map.
41 Below, social hist. (since 1800).
the mansion house two years later.\textsuperscript{42} In 1910 Fraser owned 1,300 a.,\textsuperscript{43} but before the end of the First World War (when the mansion house served as a military hospital) the estate was broken up, the house, grounds, and manorial rights being bought in 1918 by the American financier Howard Gould.\textsuperscript{44} In 1930 his estate covered 378 a., but failed to sell, and was eventually purchased ten years later by commercial land agents.\textsuperscript{45} The manor’s outlying parts, including Sheepcote, Woodhouse, and Upper House (now Ridgeway) farms, were all separately owned from 1918.\textsuperscript{46}

Following Gould’s departure the mansion house and grounds were briefly occupied by the Asiatic Petroleum Co. Ltd, before being requisitioned for the rest of the Second World War by the Royal Air Force, which in 1945 opened a rehabilitation centre there.\textsuperscript{47} That closed in 1950,\textsuperscript{48} and in 1953 Rabbi Kopul Rosen (d. 1962) moved his Jewish boarding school, Carmel College, to Mongewell, having bought the mansion house and 28 a. of grounds from their owner since 1943, John Hopwood of Sunningdale (Surrey).\textsuperscript{49} The school closed in 1997,\textsuperscript{50} and in 2017 a private development company (Comer Homes) was redeveloping the site for luxury housing.\textsuperscript{51}

\textbf{Manor House and Mongewell Park}

\textbf{Before 1890} The manor house probably occupied its later site near the river by the mid 12th century, the date of the closely associated neighbouring church.\textsuperscript{52} The curtilage apparently extended eastwards to Watery Lane, which ran below ‘Mongewell Court’ in 1479,\textsuperscript{53} and successive lords from John FitzRalph probably lived there at least occasionally. Nothing is known of the buildings before 1662 when Thomas Saunders was assessed on twelve hearths, and on his death eight years later the house contained two dozen rooms

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{42} \textit{PO Dir. Oxon.} (1877); OHC, SL162/2/D/9; below (manor ho.).
\bibitem{43} OHC, DV XII/18.
\bibitem{44} \textit{Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.} (1920–39 edns); OHC, MS Oxl. Dioc. c 1916, pps re advowson; \textit{The Times}, 13 July 1918 (sale notice); Pedgley, \textit{Crowmarsh}, 50; below (manor ho.); social hist. (since 1800).
\bibitem{45} \textit{The Times}, 18 Dec. 1930, 27 June, 1 July 1940; \textit{Country Life}, 12 Apr. 1930 (sale notices); OHC, RDC8/3/F9/9.
\bibitem{46} \textit{Reading Mercury}, 24 Aug. 1918; \textit{Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.} (1920–39 edns); below, econ. hist. (since 1800).
\bibitem{48} \textit{Banbury Guardian}, 9 Nov. 1950.
\bibitem{49} Carmel College Arch., CCarchives040101.pdf (accessed online); \textit{ODNB}, s.v. Kopul Rosen; \textit{The Times}, 4 Nov. 1943 (sale notice).
\bibitem{50} \textit{Oxon. Atlas}, p. 162; below, social hist. (educ.).
\bibitem{52} The church was immediately adjoining, and in the lord’s patronage: below, relig. hist.
\bibitem{53} Cooke, \textit{Mapledurham}, 56; above, landscape etc. (communic).\end{thebibliography}
including a hall, two parlours, and nine chambers. It was probably rebuilt or remodelled and extended by Shute Barrington in the late 18th century, and shortly before its demolition in 1890 comprised a large double-pile block facing the river, and an abutting single-pile entrance front to the rear. The latter (approached by a sweeping drive and large carriage turn) had a colonnaded central portico, a row of nine first-floor sash windows in moulded surrounds under a balustraded parapet, and a full-height bay window in the end wall, while the plainer (and higher) two-storeyed main block, also with sash windows, had a hipped roof with attic dormers and tall chimney stacks, and a projecting ground-floor bay window towards the river. The whole was broadly classical in style, built probably of dressed stone or rendered brick, and when leased in 1865 contained more than fifty rooms including those in the attics and basement, among them half a dozen reception rooms, a dozen bedrooms, and a large servants’ quarter. A service court adjoined the main buildings on the south, and a detached stable and coach house lay to the north-east.

Creation of the surrounding Mongewell Park is also attributed to Shute Barrington, influenced probably by the picturesque movement championed by his nephew Sir Uvedale Price (d. 1829). Shute’s brother Daines Barrington and Uvedale’s brother Major William Price (who landscaped Frogmore Park in Windsor) may have also had a hand in its design. The park itself covered an area of some 120 a. between the river and the Goring road,
incorporating mixed plantations, a flower garden, and (north of the house) an avenue of elms focused on a commemorative stone monument set on a surviving plinth.\textsuperscript{60} The long and serpentine millpond lake largely predates the scheme,\textsuperscript{61} but formed an important part of the design, and a classically-fronted summerhouse with a colonnaded central pediment was erected on its south side.\textsuperscript{62} The ‘gothic’ remodelling of the church (immediately south of the house) in 1791 was presumably also conceived as part of the landscaping.\textsuperscript{63} Twin entrance lodges (later replaced) were erected alongside the Reading road, and an icehouse (demolished in 1974) was built a little further south, reportedly in 1783.\textsuperscript{64}

\textbf{1890–1953} The new house built for Alexander Fraser in 1890 occupied a virgin site south of the church and stream,\textsuperscript{65} and was designed in an irregular William-and-Mary style by the London architect R.S. Wornum. As first built it was dominated by a central lead-covered dome (since removed) towering above a complex roofline of tall brick stacks, triangular- and semi-circular-headed attic dormers, and other pedimented and gabled windows, the whole clad in red brickwork and tiles. The main range was twelve-bayed and two-storeyed, its asymmetric fronts featuring projecting cross-wings and (on the north side) a square portico, reflected on the south by a colonnaded terrace.\textsuperscript{66} Wornum replaced the existing entrance lodges with a new one echoing the house’s style, its gabled porch containing a cartouche inscribed ‘ACF 1889’. He may have also been responsible for a new boathouse on the Thames and for the new house’s garden layout, which included pleasure grounds threaded with sinuous paths and, close to the house, a formal parterre closed off on the east side by a brick screen wall, incorporating an ornamental brick dovecot.\textsuperscript{67} The old house was demolished save for its southern courtyard, in which two gasometers were installed for heating adjoining greenhouses.\textsuperscript{68}

Howard Gould removed the new house’s dome and stripped both main fronts of many of their decorative features. The boathouse was rebuilt on a new site adjoining the stream, and by 1924 a sports pavilion had been added on the grounds’ eastern edge,

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{60} Davis, \textit{Oxon. Map} (1797); OS Maps 1", sheet 13 (1830); 1:2500, Oxon. XLIX.15 (1877 edn); Crouch, ‘Assessment’; cf. \textit{Saturday Mag.}, 14 Jan. 1837, 13; Allnatt, \textit{Rambles}, 4–5; Pedgley, \textit{Crowmarsh}, 54.
\item \textsuperscript{61} Jefferys, \textit{Oxon. Map} (1767); a slight difference in shape may reflect only the map’s sketchiness.
\item \textsuperscript{62} OHC, tithe award and map, no. 21; ibid. POX0065431; above, landscape etc. (built character).
\item \textsuperscript{63} Below, relig. hist.
\item \textsuperscript{64} OHC, tithe map; HER, PRN D462; \textit{Crowmarsh Chron.}, 98 (July 1974): copy in OHC; Pedgley, \textit{Crowmarsh}, 142–3.
\item \textsuperscript{65} OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XLIX.15 (1898 edn).
\item \textsuperscript{66} Pevsner, \textit{Oxon.}, 712; SODC online planning docs, P11/W2357, design and access statement; illust. in \textit{HEA}, 4803_001, 4803_009, etc.; OHC, POX018350, POX018352–3.
\item \textsuperscript{67} NHLE, no. 1258010; Crouch, ‘Assessment’; \textit{HEA}, 4803_003, 4803_005; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XLIX.15 (1877–1912 edns); C. Sheriff, \textit{Boathouses} (2008), 97.
\item \textsuperscript{68} OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XLIX.15 (1898 edn); SODC online planning docs, P11/W2357, design and access statement; \textit{Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.} (1891).
\end{itemize}
designed by the Oxford architect J.E. Thorpe. Its central single-storeyed range was flanked by half-timbered projecting wings, accommodating a swimming pool, stické court, bowling alley, and other facilities. During the Second World War both that and the house were requisitioned and the surrounding lawns cluttered with temporary wooden huts, most of which remained after the RAF’s departure in 1950. Concrete pillboxes were built along the Thames.

Since 1953 Carmel College converted existing buildings to educational use, including former RAF huts. The mansion house’s parkland setting was gradually obscured by the addition of several new structures, among them (by 1960) two dormitory blocks by Yorke, Rosenberg & Mardall, and a sanatorium and preparatory school (the latter incorporating parts of the mansion house’s stable block) by Erdi & Rabson. A master plan drawn up by Thomas Hancock in the early 1960s attempted to give coherence to earlier piecemeal developments, but was only partially followed. Particularly prominent was a second lake created by damming the stream which ran between the mansion house and church, for which Hancock collaborated with the landscape architect Michael Browne to reduce the risk of flooding on the site. During the 1960s most of the new school buildings were designed by Hancock or his associate John Toovey, of the firm Morton Lupton of Wallingford. Gould’s sports pavilion was replaced by a glass-walled swimming pool and sports hall featuring a red-brick tower, but otherwise the buildings all occupied formerly vacant sites.

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70 OHC, MC MONG/358.4 (map of Mongewell Park for Air Ministry, 1943).
71 www.pastscape.org.uk, nos. 1426217–18; SMA 20 (1990), 89.
72 SODC online planning docs, P53/H0006; P53/H0097; P53/H0281, etc.
73 Pevsner, Oxon. 712; SODC online planning docs, P57/H0332; P57/H0598; P59/H0798; P60/H0180; The Times, 7 Feb. 1961.
74 Pevsner, Oxon. 712; SODC online planning docs, P11/W2357, design and access statement.
75 Oxford Mail, 5 Apr. 1963; cutting in OHC.
76 Pevsner, Oxon. 712; SODC online planning docs, P61/H0667; P62/H0658; P63/H0142; P63/H0143.
Hancock’s ‘most spectacular and successful building’ was the wedge-shaped synagogue of 1963, with glass walls on three sides and a sweeping timber roof. Its curved east wall (of concrete) contains stained glass by Nechemiah Azaz, who also created a timber-and-bronze sculpture of the burning bush (since removed). 77 Behind the synagogue Hancock added a fan-shaped open-air amphitheatre with a central circular raised dais, completed in 1965, 78 while next to the mansion house he built an octagonal brick music block lit by slit windows. 79 Hancock also designed the monument to the school’s founder Kopul Rosen, 80 along with several ancillary buildings built mostly of brick with flat felt-covered roofs, 81 while his junior school (completed in 1967) lay just over the parish boundary in Newnham Murren. 82 An exhibition hall and boathouse designed by Sir Basil Spence was built alongside the Thames in 1969–70, featuring a 14-m.-high reinforced concrete pyramid with triangular openings. The building was intended as a memorial to Julius Gottlieb, whose bust (by the sculptor Gertrude Hermes) dominated the interior. 83 Other buildings added in the 1970s–80s were architecturally undistinguished, 84 and in 2017 most post-1953 buildings save for the synagogue, amphitheatre, and Gottlieb gallery were scheduled for demolition as part of the site’s redevelopment. 85 Buildings around the millpond lake lay outside the Carmel College site, and are discussed above. 86

Other Estates

In 1840 the three largest freeholds (all in the Chilterns) belonged to Thomas Deane of English Farm in Newnham Murren (147 a.), Thomas Stonor (d. 1881) of Stonor Park (Lord Camoys) (89 a.), and the trustees of Atkins Edwin Martin-Atkins (d. 1825) of Kingston Lisle (63 a.). 87 All three estates may have had medieval origins. The Stonors certainly owned Greyhone Wood (in the far south-east near Rotherfield Greys and Peppard) by the 16th

78 Pevsner, Oxon. 712; NHLE, no. 1379944.
79 Pevsner, Oxon. 713; SODC online planning docs, P64/H0871.
80 SODC online planning docs, P63/H0655.
81 Ibid. P62/H0263; P62/H0557; P63/H0521; P66/H0123, etc.
82 Pevsner, Oxon. 713; SODC online planning docs, P64/H0511; Architects’ Jnl, 14 May 1969, 1307–20; below, Newnham Murren, landscape etc. (settlement).
84 SODC online planning docs, P71/H0113; P72/H0188; P84/W0376, etc.
85 Ibid. P11/W2357, design and access statement.
86 Above, landscape etc. (built character).
87 OHC, tithe award.
century,\textsuperscript{88} and their estate may have included a yardland at Greyhone held freely from the Lovedays by Walter de Esthall in the 1270s.\textsuperscript{89} By the 1720s they also owned Old Place and Rose Cottage in the same vicinity.\textsuperscript{90} Their holdings were sold as part of the wider Stonor estate in 1894, and again in 1913 by the Stonors’ successor, Robert Fleming of Nettlebed.\textsuperscript{91} English farm, too, extended into Mongewell by the 1270s, when Geoffrey English held a yardland there freely from the Lovedays, and the Mongewell land remained part of English manor until the 20th century.\textsuperscript{92}

The descent of Martin-Atkins’s estate is more obscure. From the 18th century it was attached to the later Church farm in Stoke Row (which belonged to the Martin-Atkinses by the 1780s),\textsuperscript{93} but earlier in the 18th century it was held by the Blackalls of Britwell Prior, and may have derived from another of the Lovedays’ 13th-century freeholds.\textsuperscript{94} Whitcalls Farm replaced a former field barn on the estate in the 19th century, and by 1910 (when the farm covered 62 a.) it belonged to John Omer Cooper (d. 1912) of Boscombe (Hants).\textsuperscript{95}

Lesser freeholds in the 1780s–1840s included a 12-a. wood also held by the Blackalls, while the much-reduced glebe covered 6 a. near the church.\textsuperscript{96} Around 110 a. formerly belonging to the Chaucers of Ewelme was taken into the main manor in 1497.\textsuperscript{97}