

MANORS

In 1086 Brixton Deverill was divided into two manors, Brixton Deverill manor and the smaller manor of Whitecliff. A tenth part of Brixton Deverill manor lands was allocated for use as the Rectory estate.

Brixton Deverill Manor

A 10-hide estate was held by Brictric in 1066, probably the son of the noble Alfgar. William the Conqueror granted Brictric's estates to Maud, his queen, who gave the manor to the abbey of St Mary of Bec-Hellouin in Normandy before her death in 1083.⁵⁰ Her gift was confirmed by Henry I.⁵¹ In the 13th century the abbey's administrators bought additional parcels of land to add to their estate in Brixton Deverill.⁵² The properties of the abbey of Bec were frequently in Royal hands during the Hundred Years' war and by Richard II's reign the Crown was leasing them out to lay farmers.⁵³ In 1404 the manor of Brixton Deverill was one of Bec's properties granted to John, Duke of Bedford (d. 1436), who held it until his death.⁵⁴ Afterwards the abbey petitioned unsuccessfully for the manor to be restored to its ownership, but instead it was leased to a succession of lay farmers including Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (d. 1447).⁵⁵ In 1443 Henry VI granted Brixton Deverill manor to his new foundation of St Nicholas, later King's College, Cambridge: its ownership was disputed by John Stourton, Baron Stourton (d. 1462) in 1451, but had been resolved in favour of the college by 1462.⁵⁶

⁵⁰ *VCH Wilts.* II, 132, 167; Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 4, 5.

⁵¹ *Cal. Doc. France*, 124; Dugdale, *Mon.*, VI, 1068

⁵² TNA: PRO, CP/25/1/250/8 Fry (ed.), *Feet of Fines* 1195–1272, f. 19; Pugh (ed.) *Feet of Fines* 1272–1327, p. 16.

⁵³ M. Morgan, *The English Lands of the Abbey of Bec* (1946), 119–32.

⁵⁴ TNA: PRO, C 139/77/36]; *Feud. Aids*, V, 258; Morgan, *Abbey of Bec*, 128.

⁵⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1436–1441, pp. 162, 188–89; Morgan, *Abbey of Bec*, 131.

⁵⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1441–1446, p. 181; 1446–1452, p. 475; 1461–1467, p. 74; Morgan, *Abbey of Bec*, 131–32.

In 1648 the farm, or lease, of Brixton Deverill manor was taxed at 9s. 9d. per month.⁵⁷ In 1714 John Frowd of Rollestone (d. 1718) bought the lease of Brixton Deverill manor, which passed to his son Edward (d. 1776), and to his sons Revd Isaac Frowd (d. 1834),⁵⁸ Richard Frowd (d. 1805), and other children.⁵⁹ The manor continued as the property of King's College, in 1910 consisting of c. 1,920 a.⁶⁰ The College sold Lower Pertwood farm in 1921 (735 a.) to the lessee, John Maurice Stratton, who sold it 20 years later to his nephew Jack Houghton Brown (d. 1982),⁶¹ whose grandson Mark Houghton Brown sold it to Wilfred Mole c. 2007. In 1957, the College sold its remaining property in the parish: the Manor House and 195 a. to Maurice Lister, 542 a. to Jack Houghton-Brown, 489 a. to the Allards, and 80 a. to the Longleat Estate.⁶² In 1971, Maurice Lister sold the Manor House to the National Trust, 53 a. to the Allards and 137 a., including the farmyard, to Whitecliff farm.⁶³

Brixton Deverill Manor House is first recorded in 1294, when it had a dovecote.⁶⁴ The present building has a 15th-century hall and cross wing, refronted in the mid 17th century and with late 18th-century windows and additions.⁶⁵ Unlike Whitecliff farmhouse, its construction of rubblestone with a tiled roof and brick stacks was never upgraded with dressed stone, presumably because it was a tenanted farmhouse. Consequently the two-storeyed four-windowed front remains rustic in appearance. Inside the hall has deeply chamfered beams and a 15th-century Tudor-arched stone doorway with carved spandrels and an oak door leading to the cross

⁵⁷ T.H. Baker, 'The Monthly Assessments for the Relief of Ireland Raised in the Division of Warminster, 1648', *WAM*, 37 (1911–12), 373.

⁵⁸ 'Isaac Frowde (CCEd Person ID 27809)', *The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540–1835*, <http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk>, accessed 25 Jan., 2012.

⁵⁹ WSA, 628/4/5; 1180/4, f. 1; Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 5.

⁶⁰ WSA, L 8/1/134.

⁶¹ J. Houghton Brown, 'Farmer-Soldier' (unpublished transcript, 1945), 41; idem., 'The Agricultural History of Pertwood Farms' (unpublished transcript, [n.d.]), 27–28 (copies in WSHC, Local Studies Colln.).

⁶² WSA, 662/49, *Brixton Deverill 2000 A.D.* (unpublished transcript, 2000), p. 19.

⁶³ WBR, B9034, *Country Life*, 18th Feb., 1971; WSA, 662/49, *Brixton Deverill 2000 A.D.*, p. 20.

⁶⁴ Pierrepont, 'Manor of Brixton Deverill', 59.

⁶⁵ DOE, 'Bldgs List', Brixton Deverill, 28.

range, probably the former solar to the south. In an extension to the rear, the late 18th-century open well stairs have two turned balustrades per tread, shaped cheeks and turned newels. The unlisted boundary wall between the gardens and the church may be of the 18th century and incorporates a reset single-light chamfered stone window frame, perhaps used to distribute alms or to communicate directly with the churchyard through what is a long wall. In 1820 the buildings consisted of the house, two barns, two stables and other outbuildings.⁶⁶ Manor Farm Barn, of English bond brick, is the west range of an E-shaped open-ended double courtyard arrangement to the north of the house.⁶⁷ It has a tall brick lateral stack facing the lane. At one end is a two-storey brick and weatherboard extension in reclaimed brick and weatherboard named Church End. The extension returns in the same manner and joins with a two-storey slated range with inserted dormer windows and a two-storey added brick and weatherboard porch. The eastern range was once a cow shed, converted c. 2000 to bungalows and garages.

Whitecliff Manor

A 2-hide estate at Whitecliff was held by Alwi in 1066, and in 1087 by Gunduin, keeper of the King's granaries.⁶⁸ The manor subsequently became divided into a number of small freehold estates.

By 1252 Great Whitecliff was apparently the estate of one William de Whiteclive,⁶⁹ and was later held by his descendant, also William (b. c. 1260). Little Whitecliff was the tenement of Godfrey de Belefille, whose son Robert granted it to William of Whitecliff (b. c. 1260). William's estate passed to his son Robert (b. c. 1285),⁷⁰ and to Robert's son William (d. c. 1358). His estate in Whitecliff included

⁶⁶ WSA, 212A/27/18.

⁶⁷ OS Map, 1:2,500, Wilts. LVII 8 (1887); 6", Wilts. LVII NE (1887).

⁶⁸ *VCH Wilts. II*, p. 167.

⁶⁹ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, p. 14.

⁷⁰ WSA, 335/1–2; 'The Society's MSS', WAM, 36 (1909–10), 439–441; 37 (1911–12), 1–41; Crowley (ed.), *Tax List 1332*, pp. 72–73.

Bottes, a parcel of land he acquired on his marriage to Agnes, widow of John de Vernon.⁷¹ His heirs were his daughters, Margaret, Lettice, wife of Thomas Ward, and possibly a third sister, wife of Robert Mussell of Hindon. In 1386 Margaret gave her share to Agnes, wife of William Lyveden (d. by 1432), probably her niece, and in 1390 Lettice gave her share to her son John Ward. William Lyveden was lord of Whitecliff by 1402,⁷² while the Mussell family held $\frac{1}{5}$ of a knight's fee from Henry Hussey in 1428.⁷³ William Lyveden's estate passed to his son Robert (d. by 1445),⁷⁴ and to his son John Lyveden (*fl.* 1445–77), whose daughter Margaret was his sole heir.⁷⁵

By 1495 the estate had passed to John Westley (d. by 1521), whose property included both Great and Little Whitecliff and an estate called Bores, part of which lay in Monkton Deverill parish.⁷⁶ His estate passed to his son Thomas Westley (d. 1561),⁷⁷ on whose death the manor of Great Whitecliff consisted of a house with dovecote, *c.* 600 a. of land, and pasture for over 100 sheep.⁷⁸ Great Whitecliff manor passed to Thomas' son Leonard (d. 1562), in whose time it was assessed as $\frac{1}{4}$ of a knight's fee,⁷⁹ to Leonard's grandson Thomas (d. 1621),⁸⁰ and then in direct line to Thomas, to Jasper (*fl.* 1646–7), and to Ephraim (*fl.* 1663–73).⁸¹ The manor apparently belonged to one Revd Rogers *c.* 1780–1831,⁸² and to Revd Edward Edgell *c.* 1838–54.⁸³ In 1824 the manor consisted of *c.* 300 a. land, of which *c.* 30 a. lay in Monkton

⁷¹ WSA, 335/14–15; 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 5–7, pedigree opp. p. 10; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1242–1326, p. 14; *Non. Inq.*, 156.

⁷² WSA, 335/17–20; 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 7–11.

⁷³ 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 7–11; *Feud. Aids*, V, 259, transcribes the family name as Bussell.

⁷⁴ *Cal. Fine* 1430–1437, p. 195.

⁷⁵ WSA, 335/21–29; 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 8, 12–16; *Tropenell Cart.* II, pp. 46–7, 51.

⁷⁶ WSA, 335/30–56; 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 16–36; *L&P Hen.* VIII, I, 233.

⁷⁷ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/65/5/6EDWVIHIL or CP 25/2/65/6/7EDWVIHIL; WSA, 335/35, 40–43, 46–50, 51; Ramsay (ed.), *Taxation Lists 1545 & 1576*, p. 144.

⁷⁸ 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 30–31; see below, economic history.

⁷⁹ 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 31–3.

⁸⁰ TNA: PRO, CP 25/2/239/17ELIZIHIL.

⁸¹ 'The Society's MSS', 37, pp. 33–36, pedigree opp. p. 36.

⁸² WSA, A 1/345/136.

⁸³ WSA, TA/Brixton Deverill; 628/48/24.

Deverill parish.⁸⁴ In 1875 the estate was bought by John Alexander Thynne, 4th marquess of Bath (d. 1896), who sold it that year to Daniel Peploe of Weobley (Herefs.), but in 1877 it was acquired again by Lord Bath in exchange for lands in Weobley.⁸⁵ Whitecliff farm, then totalling 437 a., was sold to Wilfred Long in 1920, who later sold it to Herbert Cary; it was bought in 1946 by Stanley Reeves, who sold it in 1964 to Michael and Eileen Godwin. In 1994 a farming company in Wylve purchased the farm; they sold it in 2000 to The Wilson Group, and the farmhouse to one Mrs May.⁸⁶

Whitecliff Manor House. A new dovecote stood on the lands of William de Whiteclive in 1333, but it is not recorded where.⁸⁷ There was a dovecote adjacent to the manor house of Great Whitecliff in the 16th century.⁸⁸ Whitecliff manor house was rebuilt as a farmhouse c. 1780 from the ruins of what was ‘a respectable mansion and residence of the proprietor’.⁸⁹ The present two-storeyed three-windowed building was altered in the 19th century and is of dressed limestone with a tiled two-span roof and gable end brick stacks.⁹⁰

Rectory Estate

By 1086 the abbey of Bec had endowed Brixton Deverill church with one hide of land.⁹¹ In 1291 the rectory was valued at £5, whilst the bishop of Salisbury also drew an annual pension of £1.⁹² In 1341 the estate consisted of 62 a. of arable, with pasture and meadow, tithes of hay, small tithes and oblations, and a 3s. rent.⁹³ The buildings

⁸⁴ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 7.

⁸⁵ WSA, TA/Brixton Deverill; L 8/1/134; WSA, 662/49, *Brixton Deverill 2000 A.D.*, p. 50.

⁸⁶ WSA, 662/49, *Brixton Deverill 2000 A.D.*, p. 50; WSA, H 15/132/7.

⁸⁷ WSA, 335/15–16.

⁸⁸ ‘The Society’s MSS’, 37, pp. 30–31.

⁸⁹ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 7.

⁹⁰ OS Map, 1:2500, Wilts. LVII 8 (1887); DOE, ‘Bldgs List’, Brixton Deverill, 24.

⁹¹ *VCH Wilts. II*, 132.

⁹² *Tax. Eccl.* 181.

⁹³ *Non. Inq.*, 156.

were in a ruinous condition in 1394.⁹⁴ In 1529 the estate was said to be worth £10,⁹⁵ although it was valued at £19 0s. 11*d.* in 1535.⁹⁶ It was valued at £140 in the Church Survey of 1650.⁹⁷ The glebe remained approximately the same size, *c.* 62 a. in 1788, and had common pasture for up to ten cows and horses and 120 sheep.⁹⁸ In 1802, the rector's net income was estimated to be £226 6s. 6*d.*⁹⁹ The glebe measured *c.* 70 a. in 1824,¹⁰⁰ and *c.* 77 a. in 1838 when the rector's tithes were commuted to a rent charge of £385.¹⁰¹ The glebe land was sold off some time in the earlier 20th century.¹⁰²

The Old Rectory, built of coursed rubblestone, dates from the 17th century with 18th-century alterations. It was part of a farmstead which included a barn, stable and outhouses in 1705.¹⁰³ The parsonage house was described as small in 1824.¹⁰⁴ A grant from Queen Anne's Bounty allowed the dilapidated thatched complex to be rebuilt in 1877,¹⁰⁵ by architect William Jarvis of Warminster.¹⁰⁶ The house was enlarged by adding a porch and bay windows to the front and an attic floor with dormer windows. The walls of the kitchen, outhouses and school house to the north were raised to a uniform height and re-roofed with tiles; the stable and coach house to the south were also re-roofed. A 150-foot wall was built along the west side of the garden and a large barn, stables and cow house were rebuilt as a cottage, barn, cow house and pigsty in an L-shaped range of largely brick-dressed rubble under clay tiled roofs.¹⁰⁷ Rectory Cottage, now known as Armidale, is two-storey with half-

⁹⁴ *Reg. Waltham*, 137.

⁹⁵ *L&P Hen. VIII*, IV, 2501.

⁹⁶ *Valor Eccl.*, II, 101.

⁹⁷ E.J. Bodington, 'The Church Survey in Wilts., 1649–50', *WAM*, 40 (1917–19), 257.

⁹⁸ WSA, D 1/24/69/1–4; 1180/4; 1961/46; Hobbs (ed.), *Glebe Terriers*, 135–36.

⁹⁹ WSA, 1961/47.

¹⁰⁰ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 5.

¹⁰¹ This, however, included £15 for the glebe; Sandell (ed.), *Tithe Apportionments*, 45.

¹⁰² WSA, 1961/48, letter, 23 Jan., 1951.

¹⁰³ WSA, D 1/24/69/4; Hobbs (ed.), *Glebe Terriers*, 135–36; DOE, 'Bldgs List', Brixton Deverill, 25.

¹⁰⁴ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.* Heytesbury, 5.

¹⁰⁵ WSA, 1961/50.

¹⁰⁶ Pam Slocombe (ed.), *Architects and Buildings Craftsmen with Work in Wiltshire, Part 1* (Trowbridge, 1996), 50.

¹⁰⁷ WSA, D 1/11/239.

hipped end and gable end brick stack, sprocketed eaves and fish scale tiles to south elevation. The main front has altered fenestration including gabled dormer windows. Part of the barn is incorporated into the living accommodation with modern alterations of large patio windows and gabled dormers. In 1965 the parsonage was again dilapidated,¹⁰⁸ and it ceased to be a rectory in the 1970s.

¹⁰⁸ WSA, D 365/3/17.