

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

HOOK NORTON

Landownership

Hook Norton (as a 'royal vill') was almost certainly the focus of an important 10th-century royal estate stretching far beyond the modern parish, although its detailed composition can only be conjectured.¹ The estate was broken into smaller units before the Norman Conquest, but the reduced Hook Norton manor remained a large and valuable property, becoming the *caput* of the medieval d'Oilly barony, which included numerous Oxfordshire manors and overlordship of neighbouring Wigginton and Sibford. From the 12th century the manor was further reduced by large-scale grants to Osney abbey (creating an estate which later belonged to the bishop of Oxford), and by the emergence of a separate estate acquired by the Dimmock family, both of which became reputed manors with their own courts. By the 17th and 18th century there were numerous smaller freeholds, and both the Dimmock fee and Hook Norton manor were considerably shrunken, leaving the bishop's estate as the largest by far until its gradual break-up from the 1860s.

Hook Norton Manor

In 1086 the 30-hide Hook Norton estate was held from the king by Robert d'Oilly (d. c.1091/2), a leading Norman tenant-in-chief and sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire.² It was then held as 'three manors', reflecting its pre-Conquest division amongst three unnamed brothers who were presumably thegns or royal servants.³ Hook Norton subsequently gave its name to the d'Oilly barony, which included c.32½ knights' fees mainly in Oxfordshire.⁴ Robert was succeeded by his brother Nigel (d. c.1115), whose son and heir Robert (d. 1142) founded Osney abbey, endowing it with lands in Hook Norton and elsewhere.⁵ Robert's son Henry served as sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1155–60,⁶ and died in 1163, to be succeeded by his son (d. 1196) and grandson (d. 1232), both also called Henry.⁷

¹ Above, landscape etc. (settlement).

² Keats-Rohan, *Domesday People*, I, 378. The descent given in M. Dickins, *A History of Hook Norton* (1928) is unreliable.

³ DB, f. 158.

⁴ Dugdale, *Baronage*, 459; Sanders, *Eng. Baronies*, 54; D. Postles, *Osney Abbey Studies* (2008), 9; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XI, 353.

⁵ Below (Osney abbey estate); relig. hist.

⁶ Peters, *Sheriffs*, 31.

⁷ Keats-Rohan, *Domesday Descendants*, 620–1; *Excerpta e Rot. Finium* (Rec. Com.), I, 231.

After the last Henry d'Oilly died childless the barony passed to his nephew Thomas (d. 1242), earl of Warwick, who was succeeded by his sister Margaret (d. 1253).⁸ Margaret's second husband John de Plescy retained Hook Norton after her death,⁹ although dower portions were held by the last Henry d'Oilly's widow Maud (d. 1261) and Earl Thomas's widow Ela (d. 1298), countess of Warwick.¹⁰ When John died in 1263 the manor passed to Hugh de Plescy (d. 1292), his son by his first marriage, who in 1269 allowed Ela and her second husband Philip Basset (d. 1271) to hold the manor for their lives.¹¹ Hugh's son, another Hugh, died in 1301,¹² leaving a young son called Hugh, whose mother Margaret (d. 1311) successfully defended her dower portion against Hugh's guardian John de Segrave.¹³ Hugh obtained possession in 1318 and died in 1337, leaving a son of the same name, then a minor, who died in 1349.¹⁴ At that time the manor contained 505 a. in demesne, a park of unknown size, and c.49 tenant yardlands, possibly 2,000–2,500 a. in all excluding commons.¹⁵

The manor was retained by Hugh (d. 1337)'s widow Millicent, who shortly after her husband's death married Richard de Stonelegh (d. 1357).¹⁶ In 1354, on the death of the younger Hugh's brother John, the reversion passed to their sister Eleanor, wife of John Lenveysy, both of whom were dead by 1360.¹⁷ Lenveysy settled the reversion on himself with remainder to his young son John, who inherited the manor on his grandmother Millicent's death in 1361,¹⁸ and assumed the surname Plescy, dying without heirs in 1379.¹⁹ Hook Norton then passed to his widow Elizabeth and her new husband Sir Philip de la Vache,²⁰ who granted the reversion to Thomas Chaucer (d. 1434).²¹ Chaucer obtained possession after Elizabeth's death in 1414,²² and the manor subsequently passed in turn to his widow Maud (d. 1437) and daughter Alice, wife of William de la Pole (d. 1450), earl (and later duke) of Suffolk.²³

⁸ *Oseney Cart.* IV, p. 266; *Complete Peerage*, XII (2), 364–6.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1247–58, 190; *Cal. Close*, 1253–4, 195–6, 287; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, 168; for family, *Complete Peerage*, X, 545–51. John was sheriff of Oxon. in 1239–40.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* I, 60; *Complete Peerage*, XII (2), 365; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 188.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, 41; *Rot. Hund.* II, 726; *Oxon. Fines*, 197.

¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* IV, 20–1.

¹³ *Parl. Rolls Med. England*, ed. C. Given-Wilson (2005), Edward I, roll 12, appendix, no. 21; *Cal. Close*, 1302–7, 302; TNA, E 210/8909.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, 69–70; IX, 183–4; *Complete Peerage*, X, 550–1.

¹⁵ TNA, C 133/101/7, m. 2 (dated 1301); *ibid.* C 135/163, no. 14 (common pasture).

¹⁶ *Cal. Close* 1337–9, 66; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 183; *Complete Peerage*, X, 550.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XI, p. 84; *Complete Peerage*, X, 551.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1358–61, 579; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XI, 156.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* 15, pp. 103–4; *Complete Peerage*, X, 551.

²⁰ *Cal. Close* 1377–81, 299, 492.

²¹ TNA, E 210/9871; E 212/79; *Cal. Pat.* 1429–36, 448–9; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 189.

²² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XX, 10.

²³ *Ibid.* XXIV, 257, 474; *Cal. Pat.* 1436–41, 166.

Alice was succeeded in 1475 by her son John de la Pole (d. 1492), duke of Suffolk,²⁴ who was followed by his younger son Edmund (d. 1513). He was demoted to the rank of earl in 1493 and fled abroad in 1501, prompting seizure of his estates.²⁵ Hook Norton was amongst the manors held by trustees for the life of his widow,²⁶ but was nevertheless administered directly by the Crown,²⁷ and in 1514 Henry VIII granted it to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk,²⁸ demanding its return in 1535 in exchange for lands elsewhere.²⁹ In 1549 Edward VI granted it to John, earl of Warwick (and later duke of Northumberland),³⁰ who sold it back to the king in 1551; two years later it was granted back to John, but reverted to the Crown soon after following his execution for treason.³¹ John Croker acquired a lease of the manor house and parts of the demesne (including, in 1534, Westburyfield and the warren), but his family's tenure apparently ceased either on his death or on that of his namesake and successor in 1568.³²

In 1554 Queen Mary sold Hook Norton manor for £1,358 8s. to her councillor Sir Thomas Pope (d. 1559), who also acquired neighbouring Swerford, Wigginton, and Tadmarton.³³ Thomas's widow (from 1560 styled Lady Paulet) retained it until her death in 1593,³⁴ when she was succeeded in turn by Sir Thomas's nephew William (d. 1631), created earl of Downe in 1628, by William's grandson Thomas (of Cogges, d. 1660), second earl of Downe (who was fined heavily by the Committee for Compounding in 1645), and by Thomas's uncle Thomas (of Wroxton, d. 1668), third earl of Downe.³⁵ On the sudden death of Thomas of Wroxton's only son in 1668 the family estates were contested by Thomas of Cogges' daughter Lady Elizabeth Lee and Thomas of Wroxton's three daughters, and an Act of Parliament of 1670 vested them in trustees to sell. A reduced Hook Norton manor (shorn of copyhold estates which were sold separately) was purchased in 1678 by Ralph Brideoake (d. 1678), bishop of Chichester.³⁶ Brideoake's indebted son Richard (d. 1712) of Ledwell (in Wootton) sold off various local estates (including land in Hook Norton) under an Act of

²⁴ For the family: *Complete Peerage*, XII (1), 443–53; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 203.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1494–1509, 265; *Complete Peerage*, XII (1), 451–2.

²⁶ *L&P Hen. VIII*, I (2), p. 934.

²⁷ TNA, SC 6/HENVIII/345, m. 12.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Lincs. RO, 2ANC3/B/5; TNA, E 211/498; SC 6/HENVIII/6900; *L&P Hen. VIII*, VIII, pp. 431, 443.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, 2–4.

³¹ *Ibid.* 1550–3, 117; 1553, 179.

³² TNA, SC 6/HENVIII/6900; LR 2/189, ff. 125v.–126v.; PROB 11/51/109. It is not mentioned in Sir Gerard Croker's will of 1578: TNA, PROB 11/60/91.

³³ *Cal. Pat.* 1553–4, 139–40; *VCH Oxon.* IX, 152, 162; below, Swerford.

³⁴ TNA, C 142/205, no. 191; Bodl. MS North Add. c 7; *ODNB*, s.v. Pope, Sir Thos., and Paulet, Sir Hugh.

³⁵ Bodl. MS North Add. c 2; Bodl. MS Ch. Oxon. 399; TNA, C 5/54/34; C 5/429/20. For the family: *Complete Peerage*, IV, 449–51; *ODNB*, s.v. Thos. Pope, second earl of Downe.

³⁶ Confirmation of Purchasers' Estates and Settling Differences between Lady Elizabeth Lee and the Daughters and Coheirs of Earl of Downe Act, 22 Chas. II, c. 5 (Private Act); TNA, C 5/164/25; C 5/164/25 (for similar copyhold sales in neighbouring Wigginton).

Parliament obtained in 1710, some of it apparently to the duke of Marlborough.³⁷ The rest of the reduced manor passed to his sons Richard (d. 1715) and Ralph (d. 1728).³⁸

Ralph Brideoake apparently sold the manor (along with Swerford and Wigginton manors) to John Campbell (d. 1743), duke of Argyll.³⁹ On the death of John's widow Jane in 1767 it passed to their daughter Caroline, who in 1770 settled it on Henry (d. 1812), duke of Buccleuch, her son by her first husband Francis (d. 1750), earl of Dalkeith.⁴⁰ In 1774 Henry held old enclosures in Hook Norton amounting to 227 a., including the Hook Norton part of Swerford park, and was allotted 6 a. for holding a fair and in lieu of common rights.⁴¹ He subsequently sold Hook Norton manor (by then comprising only 135 a.) to William Walford (d. 1812) of Banbury,⁴² and by 1817 it had passed (with Wigginton) to Sophia Wykeham (d. 1870), Baroness Wenman of Thame Park. Almost all the land was sold before 1834,⁴³ although her trustees retained the lordship in 1939.⁴⁴

Manor House

The d'Oilly manor house, called 'Court Place' in 1521, stood north of the church between Watery Lane and Garrett (later Queen's) Street.⁴⁵ In the 12th century part of the site was hived off to create a *curia* for the new Osney abbey estate, roadside tenant house plots being established along the north side of High Street possibly at the same time.⁴⁶ In 1301 the complex included a house, garden, and dovecot worth 4s. a year,⁴⁷ and in 1535 Charles Brandon claimed to have spent £1,500 on the house.⁴⁸ Though still standing in 1551⁴⁹ it was probably demolished soon after, perhaps as early as 1554, and certainly before 1662,⁵⁰ leaving an area of vacant closes now largely filled with modern housing.⁵¹

³⁷ *Statutes of the Realm*, IX, 508; Blenheim Mun., Shelf A2, bdlc 22, 'Oxfordshire Particular 1759', listing Lodge farm (163 a.) and Hook Norton mill (with 12 a.) among the duke's possessions.

³⁸ *VCH Oxon.* IX, 162; *Par. Colln* II, 179; TNA, PROB 11/622/281.

³⁹ OHC, SL208/D/1–2.

⁴⁰ *VCH Oxon.* IX, 15, 162; *Complete Peerage*, I, 206–8; II, 368–9.

⁴¹ OHC, encl. award; below (other estates).

⁴² *Sale Cat., Adderbury and Other Manors* (1774), copy in OHC; TNA, PROB 11/1533/206; *VCH Oxon.* X, 12.

⁴³ *VCH Oxon.* IX, 162; OHC, QS1834/2/A10/1; *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852).

⁴⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1939 edn).

⁴⁵ TNA, CHAR 2/222, transcription of lost deed; Dickins, *Hook Norton*, 172.

⁴⁶ Below (Osney abbey estate); above, landscape etc. (settlement).

⁴⁷ TNA, C 133/101/7, m. 2.

⁴⁸ *L&P Hen. VIII*, VIII, p. 443.

⁴⁹ TNA, LR 2/189, f. 125v.

⁵⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1553–4, 139–40; TNA, C 2/Eliz/L5/45; *ibid.* E 179/255/3.

⁵¹ OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. VIII.12 (1881 and later edns). For building remains found at SP 3545 3325 possibly from the medieval house: Hackling file in village museum.

The Osney Abbey and Bishop of Oxford Estate

Robert d'Oilly II's endowment of Osney priory (later abbey) c.1129 included Hook Norton church with its tithes and other endowments, half a hide (c.60 a.) which had belonged to Hugh the Frank ('Hugonis Franci'), and a yardland previously held by Maurice the canon and later by his son Simon.⁵² Two thirds of the demesne tithes had already been given by Robert d'Oilly I to the chapel of St George in Oxford castle,⁵³ and passed to Osney abbey with an additional yardland when Henry d'Oilly gave the chapel to the monks in 1149.⁵⁴ Henry later confirmed their possession of a hide of land called Priestfield (near Nill Farm) 'which once pertained to the church of that vill', and of two further hides which the abbey had from his father, one of them at Butter Hill in the east of the parish, and the other held 'in villeinage' (presumably in the open fields), and carrying with it 'four men of the warland' (or tenants' land).⁵⁵ Numerous small grants of land and houses from other local landholders followed.⁵⁶

By 1279 the manor comprised two carucates (c.240 a.) in demesne and 8 1/3 yardlands in tenant hands,⁵⁷ and a further two yardlands were acquired in 1333.⁵⁸ The great tithes were then worth £11 13s. 4d. a year,⁵⁹ and in 1513 the abbey also acquired the vicarage, which included small tithes and presumably (as later) 2 yardlands of glebe.⁶⁰ By 1535 the combined estate was worth £61 11s. 3¼d. a year, including £37 10s. from the farm of the rectory, vicarage, and demesne (all let to John Croker), £11 4s. 7d. in tenant rents, £6 13s. 4d. from the lease of a close called Priestfield leys, £5 10s. in wool tithes, and £1 in meadow tithes.⁶¹ In 1538 Croker obtained a long lease of the entire manor with the rectory and vicarage, which his successors retained into the 17th century.⁶²

The abbey was suppressed in 1539,⁶³ and in 1542 the estate was granted to the newly created bishopric of Oxford, to which it was restored in 1547 after a brief surrender to the Crown.⁶⁴ The Crown again received the rents during the see's frequent vacancies up to

⁵² *Oseney Cart.* I, pp. 1–2; IV, pp. 11–12; *VCH Oxon.* II, 90.

⁵³ *Oseney Cart.* IV, p. 7; *VCH Oxon.* II, 160.

⁵⁴ *VCH Oxon.* II, 90; *Oseney Cart.* IV, p. 7. Other (spurious) charters specify half a hide and a yardland: *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 2, 25.

⁵⁵ *Oseney Cart.* I, pp. 5–6; IV, pp. 29–30, 256; J. Blair, 'Hook Norton, *Regia Villa*', *Oxoniensia* 51 (1986), 66.

⁵⁶ e.g. *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 255–87; *ibid.* p. 115 (grant of hay tithes c.1220).

⁵⁷ *Rot. Hund.* II, 726, additionally listing 12 cottagers. Two villeins listed together presumably shared a yardland.

⁵⁸ *Oseney Cart.* IV, p. 59.

⁵⁹ *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 139.

⁶⁰ Lambeth Palace Library, COMM XIIa/14 (dated 1650); below, relig. hist. In 1341 the vicar's tithes and glebe were worth £8 13s. 4d.: *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 139.

⁶¹ *Valor Eccl.* II, 218.

⁶² OHC, MS Ch. Oxon. 2503.

⁶³ *VCH Oxon.* II, 92–3.

⁶⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1547–8, 151; *L&P Hen. VIII*, XXI (2), 337; Dickins, *Hook Norton*, 58.

1604.⁶⁵ Around 1650 the estate included the manor house, c.326 a. of demesne (then separately leased), Abbot's or Brown meadow (c.13 a.), the vicarial glebe (c.40 a.), sheep commons, copyholds comprising 14¾ yardlands and cottage holdings, and tithes worth £315 a year; over all the estate was valued at nearly £640, although the bishop received only £72 3s. 4d. in rents plus occasional entry fines.⁶⁶ Of the estate's lessees, the Crokers, long in debt, suffered sequestration during the Civil War, and despite compounding with Parliament in 1647 never fully recovered their interest, which by 1668 had passed to Thomas Wise.⁶⁷ Litigation over possession between the bishops, lessees, sub-lessees and others persisted into the early 18th century,⁶⁸ until William Talbot (bishop of Oxford 1699–1715) recovered the estate and granted a beneficial lease of both manor and rectory to Lady Anne Hollis. She was succeeded c.1728 by Talbot's son Charles (d. 1737), Baron Talbot of Hensol, whose family retained the lease until 1844.⁶⁹

At enclosure in 1774 the bishop received 892 a. in lieu of tithes and glebe, plus a modus for meadow and cow commons attached to the north side field. Of his land, 109 a. was transferred to his lessee in return for covering the bishop's enclosure expenses, and 158 a. (less 26 a. for costs) to the curate, the remaining 625 a. becoming the core of Rectory (or Nill) farm.⁷⁰ By 1808 Nill farm covered 646 a., Manor farm (the former demesne) 318 a., copyhold land 404 a., and leaseholds 28 a., the Talbots holding the farms and the modus for £61 8s. 8d. a year, and the copyhold fines and rents for £11 4s. 9d.⁷¹ Both farms were sold to the lessee (William Faulkner) in 1868, and in 1910 Thomas Faulkner, who redeemed the modus in 1905, retained c.1,155 a., including Manor farm (then 304 a.), Lodge farm (262 a.), Nill farm (284 a.), and Lower Nill farm (224 a.).⁷² The estate was broken up before c.1940, when the properties were in separate hands.⁷³ The rest of the bishop's estate was vested in 1869 in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners,⁷⁴ who by 1951 had sold it off piecemeal.⁷⁵

⁶⁵ BL, Lansdowne MS 106, no. 48; Dickins, *Hook Norton*, 165.

⁶⁶ OHC, Clayton 1/14; Lambeth Palace Library, COMM XIIa/14 (giving slightly different figs); cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2116, no. 7 (for demesne and copyholds in 1785); Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 229, ff. 57–8 (giving Abbot's meadow as 21 a.).

⁶⁷ *Cal. Cttee for Compounding*, III, 1639–40; TNA, C 5/429/20; C 5/56/33; *ibid.* PROB 11/229/370; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 13/4/38; below, social hist. (1535–1800).

⁶⁸ e.g. Lambeth Palace Library, COMM V/2, p. 180; COMM V/4, p. 318; COMM V/7, p. 16; TNA, C 9/14/58; C 10/75/15; C 7/372/52; C 5/74/31; BL, Harley MS 7006.

⁶⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 2116; c 2117; c 2119; *ibid.* Shrew. VII/iii/1; *Complete Peerage*, XII (1), 621–5; Dickins, *Hook Norton*, 64.

⁷⁰ OHC, encl. award.

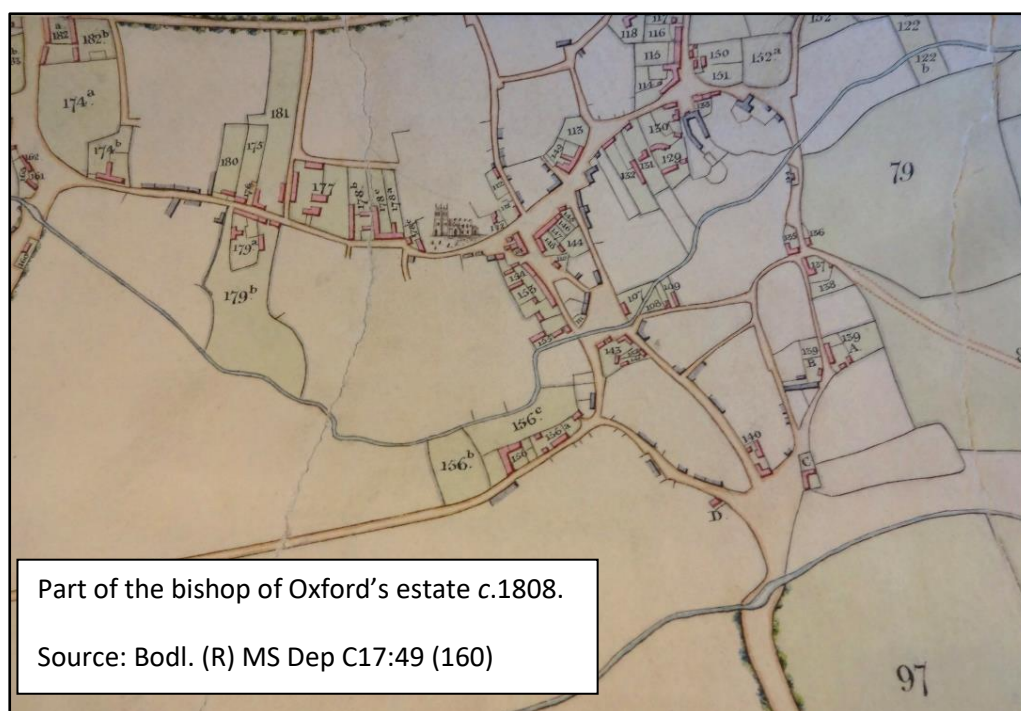
⁷¹ Bodl. (R) MS Dep C17:49 (160); OHC, Shrew. VII/i/1; Shrew. VII/iii/1; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2116.

⁷² CERC, ECE/6/1/74; *ibid.* QAB/7/4/1/7108; OHC, DV/10/64–5.

⁷³ TNA, MAF 32/914/90; below (other estates).

⁷⁴ CERC, CC/OF/NB27/258C; *ibid.* ECE/6/1/74; ECE/11/1/15037/1–2 (map dated 1877).

⁷⁵ OHC, DV/X/64, pp. 11, 14, 27; CERC, ECE/11/1/22257.



Manor House

The abbey's manor house or *curia* (used presumably for estate administration) existed by 1185, and evidently adjoined the d'Oillys' *curia*, since c.1200 Henry d'Oilly granted the monks a way (*iter*) running between the two sites.⁷⁶ By the early 14th century the complex included a 'great grange' or barn and two other granges,⁷⁷ and in 1568, when the house was occupied (as later) by the Crokers, there was a 'counting house' and a 'wool house'.⁷⁸ In 1650 (when occupied by Henry Croker) the c.4-a. site included a large garden, orchard, and pasture ground, while the house itself (taxed on 13 hearths in 1662) was 'fair' and 'stone built', with 'many fair and useful rooms'.⁷⁹ Later it appears to have been occupied as farmhouse, and it was demolished between c.1794 and 1801.⁸⁰ Other chief houses for parts of the estate were Manor Farmhouse, built as a farmhouse for the demesne farm in the 17th century but perhaps with earlier origins, and Nill Farm, the post-enclosure farmhouse for the bishop's rectory estate.⁸¹

⁷⁶ *Oseney Cart*. IV, 259, 285.

⁷⁷ D. Postles, *Oseney Abbey Studies* (2008), 78–9.

⁷⁸ TNA, PROB 11/51/109; below, social hist. (1535–1800).

⁷⁹ Lambeth Palace Library, COMM XIIa/14, f. 19; OHC, Clayton 1/14; TNA, E 179/255/3.

⁸⁰ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 229, f. 57; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2116, nos. 11 and 14; Bodl. (R) MS Dep C17:49 (160).

⁸¹ Above, landscape (bldgs.); below, econ. hist.

Dimmocks Fee

A separate small estate, which acquired its own manor court, emerged in the 13th century, held by the Heronville (or *de Herevill*) family and later by the Dimmocks.⁸² In 1225–6 Peter Heronville claimed 10½ yardlands in Hook Norton and 5 yardlands in Rollright from William Heronville by inheritance from his mother,⁸³ and in 1242–3 Simon de Heronville held ½ knight's fee of the d'Oillys,⁸⁴ a holding later specified as 6 yardlands.⁸⁵ Around the 1290s John Heronville, lord of Wednesbury (Staffs.), granted his nephew John Dimmock a capital messuage and 2 yardlands for life,⁸⁶ later adding 5 yardlands, 30 a. of meadow, and 4 marks rent in Hook Norton and Rollright;⁸⁷ Dimmock's father Henry had been Hugh de Plescy's seneschal in 1280,⁸⁸ and by 1292 John Dimmock and his wife Felice already held a house and half hide given them by Christina, widow of John Charlton.⁸⁹ Then as later, the land presumably lay mainly in the parish's southern part.⁹⁰

By 1370 Sir John Dimmock, son of Sir John Dimmock of Lincolnshire, held the estate as a manor worth £8 1s. 10d. a year, including a house with garden and dovecot, 40 a. of arable, 22 a. of meadow, £5 14s. in free and servile rents, mowing works, and pleas of court.⁹¹ In 1422 the manor included 12 houses and 10 yardlands held by tenants-at-will, 18s. in free rents, and a demesne comprising 84 a. of arable, 40 a. of pasture, and 24 a. of meadow.⁹² In 1568 it was held by Lady Anne Dimmock, widow,⁹³ but before 1572 it was acquired by Sir Gerard Croker (d. 1578),⁹⁴ succeeded by his son John (d. 1610) and grandson Gerrard (d. 1621).⁹⁵ Gerrard's son Gerrard (d. 1647), who lived mainly in Steeple Barton, was succeeded by his brother Henry (d. 1651), but in 1650 the manor was sequestrated by Parliament, and was discharged the following year to Henry's uncle and heir, William Croker of Hailey (in Witney).⁹⁶ Nothing further is known until the 18th century, when Dimmocks manor or farm was acquired by naval officer Thomas Christian

⁸² For the court, TNA, C 131/19/6; below, local govt.

⁸³ *Cur. Reg.* XII, 358.

⁸⁴ *Book of Fees*, II, 827.

⁸⁵ *Rot. Hund.* II, 726; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 160 (showing the ½ fee still held by John de Heronville in 1301–2).

⁸⁶ Bodl. Dodsworth MS 49, f. 82v.; below, econ. hist.

⁸⁷ TNA, CP 25/1/189/14, no. 118 (dated 1314).

⁸⁸ Bodl. Dodsworth MS 49, f. 82.

⁸⁹ TNA, CP 25/1/188/11, no. 110.

⁹⁰ OHC, QS/D/A/book99 (F15).

⁹¹ TNA, C 131/19/6.

⁹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXI, 327; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 188.

⁹³ Bodl. MS Ch. Oxon. 386 (court roll).

⁹⁴ *Ibid.* MS Ch. Oxon. 387–90; TNA, PROB 11/60/91.

⁹⁵ TNA, PROB 11/116/477; PROB 11/137/19.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.* PROB 11/202/426; PROB 11/229/370; Bodl. MS Ch. Oxon. 2503; *Cal. Cttee for Compounding*, III, 1639–40.

(1716–1751), passing to his son Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Cloberry Christian (1747–1798).⁹⁷ Hugh's eldest son Hood (d. 1849), also a rear-admiral, owned only 126 a., however, no longer with manorial rights.⁹⁸

Other Estates

Parts of Swerford manor (including its park) extended into Hook Norton's southern part from the Middle Ages,⁹⁹ attached holdings in Southrop in 1540 including c.16 1/3 yardlands of customary land and a 1-yardland freehold.¹⁰⁰ Those were apparently known later as 'Southrop manor', having been detached from Swerford manor in the 1670s but then following the same descent.¹⁰¹ Other medieval estates included 6 yardlands held as 1/6 of a knight's fee by the Walecote family in the 13th century, which passed to Master John Trivet by 1301, but cannot be traced later.¹⁰²

Small freeholds were common in the 17th century, including copyholds of Hook Norton manor enfranchised in the 1670s.¹⁰³ At enclosure in 1774 substantial landowners included Nathaniel Austin Appletree (allotted 214 a.) and the Revd Lionel Lampett (allotted 180 a.).¹⁰⁴ John Horwood owned 290 a. in 1834, and ten others (including Anthony Lampett) over 100 a. each.¹⁰⁵ By the 1940s E. Richardson owned the 302-a. Manor farm, Aubrey Cane the 291-a. Hill farm, Brymbo Steel Company Ltd c.284 a. of ironstone quarry land, University College, Oxford, the 219-a. Oatley Hill farm (which it purchased in 1941 and sold in 1973), and C.W. Griffith-Jones the 210-a. Lodge farm.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁷ OHC, QS/D/A/book99 (F15), allotting him 77 a. at enclosure; *ibid.* SL 191/2D/1; *ODNB*, s.v. Anne Penny and Hugh Christian.

⁹⁸ OHC, QS1834/2/A10/1; *ibid.* SL 191/2D/3; below, local govt.

⁹⁹ Below, Swerford, landownership; econ. hist.

¹⁰⁰ OHC, M110/E/1; cf. *Oseney Cart.* IV, 275; *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, II, A. 3202.

¹⁰¹ TNA, C 8/532/110; C 5/164/25; OHC, M1/5/CR; below, local govt.

¹⁰² *Book of Fees*, II, 827; *Rot. Hund.* II, 726; TNA, C 133/101/7, m. 2; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 160.

¹⁰³ Above, Hook Norton manor; below, econ. hist.

¹⁰⁴ OHC, QS/D/A/book99 (F15). For earlier owners of Appletree's estate: *ibid.* P II.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.* QS1834/2/A10/1.

¹⁰⁶ TNA, MAF 32/914/90; info. from Robin Darwall-Smith, 2021.