

High status sites in the Whittlewood Project area

1. Akeley parish

The present-day MANOR FARM (SP 711 375) may be on the site of the demesne farmstead of Longueville Priory and/or New College Oxford.

STOCKHOLT FARM (SP 701 384) was a sub-manor created by assarting in the 13th century.

In the 19th century the RECTORY lay on the south-western edge of the village (SP 706 374).

2. Furtho parish

The present-day MANOR FARM (SP 773 430) is almost certainly on the site of the demesne farmstead of the medieval de Furtho family. A 15th-century dovecote survives in what was once the front garden (*VCH Northants*, V, 132).

There is no evidence for a medieval parsonage near the church. In the 17th century Furtho Rectory Farm (SP 777 414) lay on Watling Street, on the site of a former hermitage, which appears always to have been a farmhouse, rather than a parsonage (*VCH Northants*, V, 140).

3. Leckhampstead parish

The present-day MANOR FARM (SP 725 378) probably lies to the south of the site of the demesne farmstead of the medieval de Chastilun family of Great Leckhampstead. According to Browne Willis, the medieval manor house stood to the west of the church and was pulled down in the 18th century (*VCH Bucks*, IV, 181).

The present-day WEATHERHEAD FARM (SP 735 374) may be on the site of the demesne farmstead of the medieval de Leaume family of Little Leckhampstead.

The location of the medieval sub-manor known in the 17th century as NAST END may have been close to the present-day Middle End (SP 727 376) (Chadburn, 53).

Other high status sites may have existed in the Middle Ages, e.g. the sub-manor belonging to Adam le Vavasour in 1279, but their location has not been identified.

In the 19th century the RECTORY lay about a quarter of a mile north-east of the church (SP 729 383).

4. Lillingstone Dayrell parish

The present-day MANOR FARM (SP 705 398) is probably on the site of the demesne farmstead of the medieval Dayrell family (*VCH Bucks*, IV, 187).

Other high status sites may have existed in the Middle Ages, e.g. the sub-manor belonging to Richard Grusset in 1279, but their location has not been identified.

CHAPEL GREEN (SP 682 419), a 15th-century chapel dedicated to the memory of Thomas Becket was destroyed in 1941.

In the 19th century the RECTORY lay to the north-west of the church (SP 700 400).

5. Lillingstone Lovell parish

The present-day LILLINGSTONE HALL (SP 713 399) may lie on the site of one of the medieval manor houses, perhaps that belonging to the families of St Martin, Dansey and Lovell (*VCH Bucks*, IV, 192-3).

The earthworks in CHURCH CLOSE (named on the title map of 1839; SP 713 403) probably belonged to a medieval sub-manor, perhaps Overend or Netherend, into which the Dansey estate was divided in the 14th century.

Other high status sites may have existed in the Middle Ages, e.g. the manors belonging to James Barber and John de Olney in 1279, but their location has not been identified.

The medieval manor of HEYBARNE (SP 714 423), formerly part of Lillingstone Dayrell parish, was created by assarting in the 13th century and was held by the Green family in the 14th century.

In the 19th century the RECTORY lay adjacent to the church (SP 712 404).

6. Luffield Abbey parish

The present-day LUFFIELD ABBEY FARM (SP 673 421), now subsumed within the Silverstone motor racing circuit, lies on the site of the medieval priory.

7. Passenham parish

The medieval MANOR HOUSE of Passenham probably lay to the east of the present one (rebuilt in the 17th century), on the opposite side of the road (SP 782 394).

In Deanshanger the largest house marked on the map of c.1608 is the present-day DOVEHOUSE FARM (built in the 17th century; SP 761 395). It is not known whether this was also the site of the medieval manor house of John de Haustede (granted Deanshanger in 1307) and his successors.

The existence and location of any high status sites in Puxley is uncertain.

The keepers' lodges of HANGER and SHROB walks may have been medieval in origin (SP 757 410 and 771 413 respectively).

In the 19th century the RECTORY of Passenham lay adjacent to the church (SP 780 394). This appears to have been the manor house in the 17th century (*VCH Northants*, V, 216). The location of the medieval parsonage is uncertain but probably lay close to the church.

8. Potterspurty parish

The earl of Derby possessed a hall at Potterspurty in 1235, but there appear to be no other references to a MANOR HOUSE on the estate, which in general lacked a resident lord, both in the Middle Ages and later (*VCH Northants*, V, 291-2).

The official residence of the keeper of Whittlewood Forest in the 16th century, WAKEFIELD LODGE (SP 737 425) was rebuilt by the dukes of Grafton in the 18th century.

On the southern side of Watling Street, in a detached portion of Cosgrove parish, lay a MOATED SITE (SP 763 423), associated with medieval pottery, which was probably built by a medieval freeholder, of which there were several in Potterspurty in the Middle Ages.

In the post-medieval period the largest house in Potterspurty may have been the capital messuage near the church belonging to the RECTORY (SP 762 432) (*VCH Northants*, V, 292).

9. Silverstone parish

In the Middle Ages the ROYAL HUNTING LODGE (SP 668 443), associated with the fishponds lying to the north of the church, presumably took the place of a manor house, at least until it fell out of use in the 14th century. Manor houses appear not to have been built for the later medieval manors belonging to Burnham Abbey and Luffield Priory.

There is a MOATED SITE on the boundary between Silverstone and Abthorpe (SP 661 443). This may have belonged to the manor of Hugh de Kaynes, which was later acquired by the crown and then granted to Luffield Priory (*LPC*, I, xv-xvi).

10. Stowe parish

There may have been a MANOR HOUSE belonging to Oseney Abbey at Stowe in the Middle Ages, immediately to the west of the church, and south of the present house (SP 676 374).

The location of any MANOR HOUSE belonging to Biddlesden Abbey at Boycott is uncertain, although the site of Boycott Farm (SP 664 360) is a possibility.

Evidence of a MANOR HOUSE at Dadford, which belonged to Biddlesden Abbey in the Middle Ages, has not been forthcoming.

There were two manors in medieval Lamport, one held by Oseney Abbey and the other by Ralph de Langport in 1279. No documentary evidence has been found of any high status sites.

In the 17th century the VICARAGE lay to the north of the church, although it appears later to have been moved to the south.

11. Whittlebury parish

There was probably no manor house in the village. A moated site called LORDSFIELDS FARM lay half a mile north of the church (SP 688 451).

Luffield Priory possessed a grange at MONKSBARN, to the north-east of the village (SP 700 452).

It is unclear whether the enclosures known as LADY NETHER END in c.1608 included a building of high status.

The keepers' lodge at SHOLEBROKE may have been medieval in origin (SP 696 444).

12. Wicken

The medieval MANOR HOUSE belonging to Wick Dive stood to the south-west of Wick Dive churchyard, on the site of the modern Manor Farm (SP 744 395) (*VCH Northants*, V, 422).

There appears to be no tradition of a capital messuage at Wick Hamon, presumably because it was held by a family seated close by at Wolverton until 1367 (*VCH Northants*, V, 423).

The moated site at ELM GREEN (SP 749 376) formed part of a deserted medieval settlement. Its precise status is unclear but it may have belonged to one of several medieval freeholders in the parish.

First recorded in the 14th century, DAGNALL FARM (SP 758 391) appears to have been a medieval grange, its ownership uncertain.

The origins of MOUNT MILL FARM (SP 764 377) were also 14th-century; again, evidence of ownership is lacking.

In the 19th century the RECTORY lay to the west of the church (SP 743 394).

The parsonage house belonging to Wick Hamon has not survived (*VCH Northants*, V, 433).