

## Section 67 Chronological guide and selected transcriptions

### 67.01 A chronological guide to the documentary history of La Grava Priory and related matters, with an index to the documentary archive

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Cross-references to Digital Supplement in red  
Cross-references to Printed Synthesis in brown

#### 10th- and 11th-century documents

- 906 Peace conference with the Danes at *Yttingaford*
- 909 Treaty with the Danes at *Yttingaford*
- 911 Eadred bought nearby Chalgrave from the Danes
- 966 Edgar granted the royal estate at Linslade to Aelgifu
- 1011 First mention of Bedfordshire in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
- 1014 Knute king of all England
- 1070s Leighton church passes from Bishop of Dorchester to Bishop of Lincoln
- 1086 Royal manor of Leighton included in Domesday Book: then 47 hides but 30 before 1066. Church (belonging to Bishop of Lincoln with 4 hides) and market mentioned (DRS 1)
- 1099 Robert of Arbrissel founded the double Benedictine Order of Fontevrault

#### 12th-century documents

- c 1118 Stanbridge removed from royal manor of Leighton to form separate manor (given to wife Matilda by Henry I) (DRS 1a, 143)
- 1129 Henry I grants sums of money annually to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 2, 3)
- 1137 Stephen restores and confirms annual money grants to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 5)

1141	Matilda (daughter of Henry I) grants sum of money annually to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 6)
c 1155	Survey for Constable of England (following Civil War) describes run down complex of 78 buildings on royal manor of Leighton and proposed repairs. No useful locational details (DRS 7, 463)
1155-56	£69 12s 8d spent by the Crown restocking the royal manors in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire (DRS 470)
1164	Henry II grants the manor of Leighton and land in Radnage, Buckinghamshire, to Fontevrault Abbey in lieu of money owed to them annually. Grant confirmed at various dates later (DRS 8, 9, 10, 20, 26, 82, 82a, 90, 147) Fontevrault Abbey has possession of manor of Leighton and spends 112s 8d in restocking it (DRS 11)
1164-1203	Fontevrault Abbey makes annual payments into the Exchequer for possession of manor of Leighton (DRS 12-19, 21-4, 27, 42-3, 54)
1176	Henry II gains the pope's assent to Fontevrault Abbey's take over at Amesbury Priory in Wiltshire (DRS 25)
1177	Fontevrault Abbey takes possession of Amesbury Priory (DRS 433a)
1189	Richard I confirms Fontevrault Abbey's take over at Amesbury Priory and its enlargement (DRS 26)
1190	Richard I grants 35li annually to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 29)
1194	Earliest known references to Prior of Leighton – involved in various disputes re manorial services (with William the Clerk) (DRS 30, 45, 470), exemption from suit of county and hundred (DRS 32), lands in Linslade (with Simon de Beauchamp) (DRS 33, 470), and lands in Clipstone (DRS 34-5)
1196	Settlement of dispute re manorial services between Vitalis, Prior of Leighton, and William the Clerk (DRS 36-8, 470) Prior of Leighton involved in dispute with five tenants re manorial services (DRS 39-41, 46, 470)
1198-1200	Prior of Leighton involved in dispute with Simon de Beauchamp re common of pasture in Linslade (DRS 44, 47, 49-52, 470)
1199	Death of Queen Joan of Sicily (taking the veil of Fontevrault and buried there), sister of Richard I and King John. She left more than £3000 bequests, primarily to religious houses, largely from a deathbed gift from John so that she could make a will (Calendar of Documents in France, 918-1206, 392-3)

## 13th-century documents

- 1200      Dispute between the sheriff of Bedford and the Prior of Leighton re suit of court (DRS 53)
- 1212      Dispute between the men of Leighton and the Prior of Leighton re manorial services and dues (including toll for use of the windmill). It is claimed that the Prior is exacting more than he should (DRS 55-61, 128, 470)
- 1219-20      Dispute between Walter Spigurnel and the Prior of Leighton (DRS 62-3, 67)
- c 1220      Settlement of a dispute between the Bishop of Lincoln and Fontevrault Abbey, whereby the bishop grants a licence for the abbey to have an oratory, a cemetery and sepulture (the right of burial) within the bounds of its court at Grava in the parish of Leighton, saving the rights of the church of Leighton. [This could merely be the regularisation of something that had been going on for some time before!] (DRS 64-5)
- Other matters included a second *curia* at Hech', with residents having rights of burial at La Grava, the limitations imposed upon La Grava and compensation for the rector of Leighton [65]
- 1223-25      Dispute between the Prior of Leighton and William de Beauchamp, the Prior of Chicksands and others re common of pasture in Leighton (DRS 68, 74, 77-9)
- 1223-24      Dispute in Gloucestershire between the Prior of Leighton and others, including Walter de Beauchamp, re common of pasture (DRS 68-70, 73, 75-6)
- 1224      Dispute between William de Beauchamp and the Prior of Leighton re common of pasture in Leighton and Linslade, and a mill (DRS 71)  
Dispute between the Prior of Leighton and others re common of pasture in Leighton (DRS 72)
- 1227      Value of a dead man's horse and cart (3s) given (as a deodand) by the justices to the chapel of St John de Grava in Leighton (DRS 80)  
William, Prior of Letton, mentioned (DRS 470)
- 1227-29      Orders that Fontevrault Abbey to receive its usual annual gift of 70li from the king plus 50s annually for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault (DRS 81, 85, 87)
- 1228      The Prior of Leighton acting as the Abbess of Fontevrault's procurator in England re a Hampshire matter (DRS 83)
- 1228-29  
86)      The Prior of Leighton involved in a matter with his Radnage tenants (DRS 84, 86)
- 1230      William, Prior of Leighton, acting for the Abbess of Fontevrault in a Kent matter (DRS 88)

- c 1230      The Prior of Snelshall's new weekly market at Mursley is put down following complaints from the Prior of Leighton that it interfered with attendance at his own market at Leighton (DRS 89)
- 1231      The Prior of Leighton acting for the Abbess of Fontevrault in a Surrey matter (DRS 91)
- 1233      The Prior of Leighton acting as Fontevrault's Procurator in England re a Hampshire matter (DRS 92)
- 1236-37      Orders that the Prior of Leighton to receive the annual 70li for Fontevrault from the king and the annual 50s for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault [presumably as Procurator to pass on to Fontevrault Abbey] (DRS 93-5)
- 1239      Dispute between John, Parson of Leighton, and the Prior of Leighton re fishery rights at Leighton (DRS 96)  
The Prior of Leighton puts in his claim for fishery rights in Linslade (DRS 97)  
Order that Richard, Clerk of the Prior of Leighton, to receive the annual 70li from the king for Fontevrault and the annual 50s for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault [presumably to pass on to Fontevrault Abbey] (DRS 98)
- 1240      Order that the Prior of Leighton to receive the annual 70li from the king for Fontevrault and the annual 50s for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault [presumably to pass on to Fontevrault Abbey] (DRS 99)
- 1241      Order that William, sub-Prior of Fontevrault, to receive the annual 70li from the king for Fontevrault and the annual 50s for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault [presumably to pass on] (DRS 100)
- 1242      Order that the Prior of La Grave (first mention of the change of name) to receive the annual 70li from the king for Fontevrault and the annual 50s for the maintenance of a chaplain at Fontevrault [presumably to pass on to Fontevrault Abbey] (DRS 101)  
Resolution of a dispute between John of Saint Giles, Rector of Leighton, and Fontevrault Abbey re tithes and the chapel, cemetery and right of burial at La Grava. The rector believed the chapel to be prejudicial to his parochial interests and to those of Leighton church. He complained that the Abbess of Fontevrault had built a chapel 'in her court at Grava in the parish of Leighton ... which chapel should be demolished'. The rector also claimed that Fontevrault owed him 'the tithes of corn from that land which was called the old assart near to Billington and from that land at Cockelake and from that land which was called Newestubbinge near to Kingeswode'. Other tithe matters were also brought up. The rector failed in all his claims and in effect the licence of c 1220 (see above) was confirmed (DRS 102)
- 1244      Order that the Prior of La Grave to receive the annual monies for Fontevrault Abbey from the king - 70li and 50s (see above) - plus 10li and 25li (the latter to the abbess for life) annually (DRS 103)
- 1244-53      Nicholas, Prior of Grava, witnesses a grant of uncertain date (DRS 105)

- 1245 Manor of Leighton and Manor of Mapledurham (Oxon) in the king's hands due to the death of the Abbess of Fontevrault. Custody given to the Prior of La Grave, Procurator for Fontevrault in England (DRS 106-7)
- c 1245 Confirmation by the Bishop of Lincoln for Fontevrault to have a chapel, cemetery and right of burial at La Grava with the consent of John of Saint Giles, Rector of Leighton (DRS 108)
- 1246 Orders that the Prior of La Grave to receive the annual monies for Fontevrault Abbey from the king – 70li, 50s, 25li, 10li – for 1245 (arrears) and for 1246 (DRS 109-10)
- 1247 A writ of mort d'ancestor brought against the Prior of La Grave re Clipstone lands (DRS 112)  
The prior and his bailiffs refuse to allow the king's bailiffs to enter the liberty of Leighton Buzzard and distraint for dues which were owing to the Crown (DRS 454)
- 1249 Note that the annual monies due to the Prior of La Grave for Fontevrault Abbey from the king – 70li, 50s, 10li and 25li per year – are still outstanding for the previous three years. Part payment to be raised from fines owed to the king in Gloucestershire (DRS 113)
- 1250 Order that the Prior of La Grave to receive the annual monies for Fontevrault Abbey from the king – 70li, 10li and 50s<sup>1</sup> (DRS 114)  
Grant of land in Studham to La Grava Priory (DRS 114a, 483)
- ?C13 Lands in Northall granted to 'the brethren of St Mary's, Fontevrault, dwelling at Grove in the parish of Leighton' (DRS 477)
- ?mid C13 Lands etc in Studham, Barwythe and Slapton granted to 'the brethren of the order of St Mary, Fontevrault, dwelling at Grovebury in the parish of Letton' (DRS 475)  
Several grants of small amounts of land and rents in Studham to La Grava Priory from a number of individuals; also one grant of land in Stanbridge and of a messuage in Northall (DRS 483)
- 1252 Order that the justice and treasurers of Ireland pay Fontevrault Abbey 295li which is the arrears for four years of the annual monies paid by the king to the abbey and the arrears for three years of the annual sum paid by the king to Alice de Blesis, former abbess of the abbey, for life (DRS 115)
- 1253 Order that the justice and treasurer of Ireland pay Fontevrault Abbey annual monies owed by the king for two years – 70li, 10li and 50s for each year (DRS 117)
- 1254 The Prior of La Grava acting for the pope in a Wiltshire matter (DRS 119)  
Fontevrault Abbey granted 'a yearly fair at Leycton within their manor of La Grave ... on the eve, the day and the morrow of St Dunstan; and free warren in the demesne lands of the said manor' (DRS 120)

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: not clear whether these figures should match those in the 1249 document, and include 25li.

- 1255      Order that Fontevrault Abbey to receive its annual monies from the king for two years – 80li 50s in each year – (DRS 121)
- 1256      The right of Nicholas, Prior of La Grave, and his Priory to a meadow in Grove parish, Buckinghamshire, is acknowledged (DRS 122)
- 1257      Confirmation that Nicholas, Prior of La Grave, and his Priory have the gift of some land and a messuage in Studham (DRS 123)  
Order that Fontevrault Abbey to receive its annual monies from the king for two years – 80li 50s in each year – (DRS 124)
- 1257/58    Nicholas, Prior de Grava, exchanges land in Studham (DRS 125)
- 1259      The Prior de Grava's men murder Brother Ralph of Dunstable Priory near Studham (DRS 126)  
Order that Fontevrault Abbey to receive their arrears of annual monies from the king (DRS 127)
- 1260      Mention of 'brethren of the order of Fontevrault dwelling at la Grave' (DRS 129)  
  
Same document: Prior Nicholas was made an outlaw for the murder of Philip Leschawe. Bailiffs seized all priory property in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire; this was returned to the brethren on application by the abbeys
- 1262      Order that Fontevrault Abbey to receive its annual monies from the king for two years – 80li 50s in each year – (DRS 131)
- 1263      'Sir Nicholas the prior, and the brethren, of the church of Fontevrault, dwelling at Gravam in the parish of Lecton' mentioned re property in Studham (DRS 132)  
This was another Nicholas, since the outlaw presumably left the country
- 1264      Letters patent dated at Leighton Buzzard on 26 November [ie king there] (DRS 133)
- 1267      Order that 513li, being the arrears of annual monies from the king to Fontevrault Abbey, be paid to the abbey from the chattels of one of the king's debtors (DRS 134)
- 1268      William de Verny, Prior of La Grave, acting as the Abbess of Fontevrault's attorney (DRS 135)  
Orders to the sheriffs of Suffolk and Gloucester to each receive 254li 15s from the justices on eyre at Ipswich and Gloucester respectively and to deliver this to Fontevrault Abbey as payment of the king's debt of 509li 10s for arrears of the annual monies owed (DRS 136)
- 1271      Order to the sheriff of Warwick and Leicester to deliver 254li 15s less 111li 3s 4d (paid by the sheriff of Gloucester) to Fontevrault Abbey from the issues of the last eyre in Leicester. Order to the sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk to deliver 254li 15s less 40li (paid by the late sheriff) to Fontevrault Abbey – the king's arrears (DRS 139)

- 1272 Order to the sheriff of Warwick and Leicester to deliver 50li to Fontevrault Abbey, part of the king's arrears not paid by the late sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk (DRS 142)
- 1275 Letters Patent and Close dated at Leighton Buzzard on 4 October [ie king there] (DRS 144-5, 479)
- 1277 The Prior of La Grave granted protection by the king (DRS 146)
- 1278 Mary of Woodstock (daughter of Edward I) born (DRS 433a, 478, 485)
- 1280 Letters Patent and a writ in Fine Rolls dated at Leighton Buzzard on 23 July [ie king there] (DRS 148-9, 480)
- ?late C13 William, Prior de Grava, witnesses a land grant (DRS 476)
- 1281 Land in Edlesborough granted to 'the church of St Mary, Fontevrault, and to the brethren of that church dwelling at Grave in the parish of Lecton' (DRS 153)
- 1282-83 Order to the sheriff of Oxford to permit the Prior of La Grave to hold the manor of Cheping Norton which was in the king's hands by reason of the tenant in chief's death (DRS 155-7)
- 1283 The manor of Cheping Norton committed into the custody of William, Prior of La Grave, and William de Hamelton, king's clerk, during the minority of the heir (DRS 158-9)
- 1285 Mary of Woodstock, aged seven, enters Amesbury Priory as a nun with the queen mother, Eleanor of Provence (DRS 433a, 478, 485)
- 1286-89 Several payments of fees by the queen to her daughter, Mary of Woodstock (DRS 485)
- 1287 William, Prior of La Grave, 'going beyond seas' so appoints attorneys to act for him in England (DRS 164)
- 1289 William, Prior of La Grave, and William de Hamelton excused payment of annual rental for their custody of the manor of Cheping Norton (DRS 166)
- 1290 Bishop of Bath and Wells, the chancellor, present at La Grave on 31 July (DRS 168)  
Letters Patent and a writ for an Inquisition dated at Leighton on 1 and 2 August; the Court of the King's Bench held at Leighton on 2 August [ie king present there] (DRS 169-71, 481)
- 1291 Payment by the Prior of Grave and Fontevrault Abbey of Pope Nicholas IV's ecclesiastical taxation on their properties in Bedfordshire (DRS 173)  
Licence from the king for Fontevrault Abbey to obtain property in France to provide an income 'as it appears that divers persons have been moved to pity because their possessions are so meagre that they have only the blackest

bread to eat on Fridays'. Also exempted from paying customs dues at English ports (DRS 174)

- 1292 Grant by the king of firewood (40 oaks) and wine (20 tuns) annually to his daughter, Mary of Woodstock, for her use at Amesbury Priory (DRS 175, 433a)  
Henry III's heart taken to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 433a)
- 1293 Mary of Woodstock and Peter, Prior of Amesbury, represent the Abbess of Fontevrault against the Prioress of Amesbury in a dispute concerning the latter's promotion and other matters (DRS 176-7, 433a)  
The Abbot of Stoneleigh appointed by the king as custodian of the temporalities of Amesbury Priory which had been taken into the king's hands because of its impoverishment (DRS 178)  
Mary of Woodstock, acting as the Abbess of Fontevrault's attorney in England, requests that the king return the manor of Leighton and of La Grave to Fontevrault as it had been taken into his hands following the death of its guardian (DRS 179, 433a)  
The king orders the manors of Loghton and La Grave to be returned to the Abbess of Fontevrault through her attorney (DRS 180)
- 1294 The king orders all the Fontevrault houses and priories which had been taken into his hands to be returned so that the priories and their keepers can act unhindered (DRS 181)  
Order that 40 oaks and 20 tuns of wine be delivered annually to Mary of Woodstock for her use at Amesbury Priory (DRS 182)
- 1295 Fontevrault Abbey receives 240li from 'frere Guillaume de Liencort, gardien de la maison de la Grave en Angleterre' (DRS 184)  
John de Lyencurt (or Lyencote) from Grovebury Priory ordained as a subdeacon by the bishop of Lincoln (DRS 185)  
King grants two months protection to the Prior of La Grave whilst 'going beyond seas on the king's service' (DRS 186)
- 1297 King grants protection to Brother William de Lyencurt, Prior of La Grave, proctor-general in England of the Abbess of Fontevrault. Brother William also proctor of the Prioress de Claro Rivo, of the Order of Fontevrault (DRS 187-8)

## 14th-century documents

- 1300 King present in Leighton on 25 and 26 January (DRS 482)
- 1302 Confirmation that Mary of Woodstock to receive 20 tuns of wine yearly at Amesbury Priory (DRS 191)  
Confirmation that Mary to receive 40 oaks yearly at Amesbury. However, she is granted property to the value of 266li 13s 4d in lieu of 200li annually from the Exchequer for the maintenance of her chamber at Amesbury Priory and in lieu of 20 tuns of wine annually (DRS 192, 433a). Later confirmations also (DRS 195, 199, 233)
- 1305 Mary of Woodstock is granted 20 additional oaks yearly for her hearth at Amesbury Priory (DRS 194, 196)



The manor of La Grave in Mary of Woodstock's hands by demise from the Abbess of Fontevrault (DRS 197-8)

- 1306      The king grants 200li to Mary of Woodstock to relieve her debts (DRS 433a)
- 1307      Order (in June) that two tuns of wine (out of 37) be sent to Leghton Busard for the use of Queen Margaret, the king's consort. Others to be sent to nearby places on her itinerary (DRS 200)  
Court and household at Leighton Buzzard on 19 October (DRS 484)
- 1308      Wardrobe at Leighton Buzzard on 4 August (DRS 484)  
Letters Patent dated at Leighton Buzzard on 5 August [ie king there] (DRS 201)  
Orders that Mary of Woodstock to receive her annual firewood supplies at Amesbury Priory (DRS 202)  
A Letter Close dated at The Grove on 14 December [ie king there] (DRS 203)
- 1309      Privy Seal at Grovebury on 7-8 April, Wardrobe at Kings Langley (DRS 484)  
A writ in the Fine Rolls dated at La Grave on 8 April [ie king there] (DRS 204)  
King at Leighton Buzzard on 18 June (DRS 205)  
Privy Seal and Wardrobe at Leighton Buzzard on 18 June (DRS 484)  
A writ in the Fine Rolls dated at Leighton Buzzard on 12 August (DRS 206)  
Privy Seal and Court and Household at Leighton Buzzard on 12 August (DRS 484)  
Letters Close, Letters Patent, writs in the Fine Rolls and entries in the Chancery Warrants dated at La Grove on 4 and 6-9 October [ie king there] (DRS 207-12)  
Privy Seal and Court and Household at Grovebury on 6-9 October (DRS 484)  
On 7 October are mentioned 'letters ... which were shown before the king in the chancellor's presence at La Grove' (DRS 210)  
A Letter Patent dated at La Grove on 9 October notifies that 'Philip de Wavendon, whilst on the King's service guarding one of his horses, lost an ear by its bite' (DRS 212)  
Privy Seal and Court and Household at Grovebury on 28-30 November (DRS 484)  
Letters Close, Letters Patent, writs in the Fine Rolls and entries in the Chancery Warrants dated at La Grove on 28-30 November [ie king there] (DRS 214-19)  
Letters Patent, Letters Close and a writ in the Fine Rolls dated at La Grove on 1-4 December [ie king there] (DRS 220-3, 304)  
Privy Seal and Court and Household at Grovebury on 1-4 December (DRS 484)  
Court and Household at Grovebury on 22-23 December (DRS 484)  
A Letter Close dated at The Grove on 23 December [ie king there] (DRS 224)  
Edward II spends Christmas at Kings Langley with Piers Gaveston (DRS 224a)
- 1310      Entries in the Chancery Warrants, writs in the Fine Rolls, Letters Patent, Letters Close and an Inquisition writ dated at La Grove on 3-18 and 20 January [ie king there]. Others dated on 23, 25 and 29 January [but alternative sources suggest the king was elsewhere] (DRS 225-32)  
Privy Seal and Court and Household at Grovebury on 3-20 January (DRS 484)
- 1314      Privy Seal and Wardrobe at Leighton Buzzard on 3 December (DRS 484)

- 1316      Wardrobe at Leighton Buzzard on 18 March, Privy Seal at Hanslope (DRS 484)  
A Letter Patent, a writ in the Fine Rolls and an entry in the Chancery Warrants dated at Leighton Buzzard on 19 March [ie king there] (DRS 234-6)  
Privy Seal at Leighton Buzzard on 19 March, Wardrobe at Kings Langley (DRS 484)  
Leythone Busard vill recorded as within Fontevrault's lordship but currently in the hands of Mary of Woodstock (DRS 237)
- 1317      Edward II concerned at the delay re his request to the Abbess of Fontevrault for her to commission Mary of Woodstock to carry out visitations of all Fontevrault's houses in England and to make corrections as necessary (DRS 238)
- c 1318      A brief manorial Extent records the Manor of La Grava as in the hands of Mary of Woodstock (DRS 239, 463)
- 1318      Supply of firewood for Mary of Woodstock at Amesbury Priory (DRS 240)
- c 1319      The pope requests the new Abbess of Fontevrault to renew Mary of Woodstock's commission to carry out visitations of Fontevrault's houses in England; renewal previously refused after death of former abbess (DRS 241)
- 1324-27      An account of the issues of alien religious houses records the manor of La Grove as not taken into the king's hands but that Fontevrault Abbey had granted it for life to Mary of Woodstock during the reign of Edward I (DRS 243)
- 1327      Orders for the usual annual supply of firewood and carriage of wine to Mary of Woodstock at Amesbury Priory (DRS 244-5)
- 1332      Mary of Woodstock dead. The king's escheators had taken the lands she held of Fontevrault Abbey for life into his hands but he orders them and their issues to be returned to Fontevrault at the request of the abbess (DRS 247, 433a)
- 1333      One year's protection granted to Richard de Greneburgh, Prior of Grave (DRS 248)
- 1334      Dispute between Fontevrault Abbey and John, vicar of Leyghton Busard, with 17 others re fishery rights in Leyghton Busard (DRS 250)
- 1337      Protection granted to Richard de Grenburgh, Proctor of the Abbess of Fontevrault (DRS 252)  
Letters Patent and Letters Close dated at Leighton Buzzard on 3 and 5-11 November [ie king there] (DRS 253-4)
- 1338      Fontevrault Abbey's lands in the king's hands but in the custody of Fontevrault's proctor in England (DRS 255, 257, 259)  
Matilda de Burgo, Countess of Ulster, appointed to the custody of the manor of Grove and other Fontevrault lands (yearly value 77li 15s) in the king's hands due to the war with France. Fontevrault's proctor to release these lands to her as part payment of 200li granted to her annually by the king but subject to 50li payable annually to the bishop of Karditza (DRS 256-9)

- 1339 Matilda de Burgo, on her petition, released from paying 50li annually to the bishop of Karditza from the farm of Fontevrault lands in her custody (DRS 260-1, 263)
- 1339-40 On account of the unseasonable weather resulting in massive loss of crops and following their petition, Matilda, Countess of Ulster, and Henry de la Dale are given licence to cut down and sell wood from the groves in their custody to help pay their farm (DRS 264, 266)
- 1340 The major English victory at Sluys
- 1341-42 Bailiff's accounts for the manor of Grove mention Lady Maud, Countess of Ulster, as lady of the manor, Sir Richard the chaplain, wax bought for the light in the chapel and a functioning pigeoncote amongst the usual details of crops, stock, wages etc on the demesne. Also mentioned are a cow-house and 'hakhous' or 'hackynhous' (woodshed) built anew in timber with wattle and daub walls and thatched roofs, repairs to the thatch over 'the Prior's stable' over the dairy-house and over the hay and oats barn, and pointing and repairs carried out by a tiler on the hall, chamber, chapel and house beyond the gate where necessary. Goods bought for the work include lath-nails and lime (DRS 271, 463)
- 1344 Confirmation that the Countess of Ulster has custody of the manor of La Grava etc for the duration of the war with France; she has now married Ralph de Ufford (DRS 273)  
The pope confirms the possessions of Fontevrault Abbey in England, including the Manor of Lecton, to the abbess (DRS 274-5)
- 1347-48 Maud, Countess of Ulster, intends becoming a nun but is to retain custody of the Fontevrault lands until Michaelmas 1348, whereupon her six executors or attorneys will take over custody until the king's substantial debts owed to Ralph de Ufford, her deceased husband, are cleared (DRS 277-8)
- 1349 The pope requests Edward III to return possession of the 'house of La Grave' and an annual money grant of 80 marks from the Exchequer to Fontevrault Abbey (DRS 279)
- 1356 The king commits custody of Fontevrault Abbey lands in England to his clerk, Henry de Walton, archdeacon of Richmond, and John de Holt, prior of Amesbury and proctor in England of the Abbess of Fontevrault, during the war with France (DRS 280)  
The major English victory at Crecy
- 1357 The king grants custody of Fontevrault Abbey lands in England to Isabel, his daughter, during the war with France (DRS 281)
- 1361 Lands in England restored to Fontevrault Abbey 'to be held as before the war' (DRS 283)
- 1362/63 Fontevrault Abbey agrees terms to grant 'la maison de la Gravebury' to John Bele alias Fletcher and Joan Duylle his wife. Two chaplains serving in the chapel mentioned (DRS 284)

- 1363-64 For 200li paid by John Bele alias Fletcher the king grants a licence for Fontevrault Abbey to grant the 'Manor of Grovesbury' to John and Joan, his wife, for life, on condition that they find and support 'two chaplains to celebrate divine service daily in the manor for the good estate of the king and Queen Philippa and their children, for their souls when they departed this life' (DRS 285-8)
- 1373 John Bele, alias Fletcher, dead; his wife Joan has married Walter Walsh. The king grants that Walter and Joan shall have 'the house of La Grave ... in Leghton Busard' for her life provided they 'find two chaplains in the chapel of the said house' (DRS 289)  
Walter Walsh pays Fontevrault Abbey 700 francs for the right to hold the 'manoir de Gravebury' on the same terms as John Bele had (DRS 290-1)
- 1374 The king confirms Fontevrault Abbey's extending of all rights etc to Walter Walsh in the 'house or manor of Gravebury' (DRS 291)
- 1381 The Peasants' Revolt
- 1387 Walter Walsh dies; his wife Joan, 'lady of Grovebury', is granted special protection throughout England (DRS 294-5)
- 1389-90 Bailiff's account made for John Wischepe, lord of Grovebury, mentions the building of a hogscote and repairs to a pinfold, the walls of the bakehouse and a 'gate next to the water' at Grovebury. Also a window made for the stone cutter. Also mentioned are a gate into the garden, a gate next to the granary, a 'longehous' and a kiln. Details of goods bought for these works given - hinges, hooks of hinges, a lock or bolt, lime, laths, ridge tiles, tiles, lath-nails, 'spykenails' - besides details of wages and annual returns of crops, stock, etc on the demesne (DRS 295a)
- 1390 The king grants a licence for John Worship or Nicholas, his chaplain and proctor, to go to Fontevrault Abbey to argue for and obtain the manor of Grovebury etc for life or a term of years without interference from the king (DRS 296)  
Fontevrault Abbey grant a lease for their lives to John Worship (paying 800 francs) and Dame Joan Duylle, his wife, 'of all such right in the house of Gravebery' as John Fletcher and Walter Walsh had (DRS 297)
- 1390-2 Clerical Subsidies received from Leighton Buzzard parish include payment by 14 clerics/priests of whom two were chaplains at Grovebury - John and Nicholas (DRS 298)
- 1391 King confirms the grant by Fontevrault Abbey in 1390 of 'the house of Gravebery' to John Worship and Joan Duylle (DRS 299)

## 15th-century documents

- c 1400 Fontevrault Abbey refuses to sell 'le manoir de la Grave' (DRS 303)

- 1409 Ralph de Grovebury and John Clerke of Grovebury otherwise called John Vowe mentioned in a writ to the sheriff of Bedford and Buckingham (DRS 305)
- 1411 The king grants a licence to John Worship to travel to Fontevrault Abbey to negotiate for the purchase of 'the manor and lordship of Grovebury alias Leghton Busard' from them (DRS 307)
- 1413 John Worship dies; the manor of Grovebury to be disposed of by his three executors (DRS 308)  
The king grants custody of the 'manor of Grovebury alias Lecton alias Leighton Busard' etc to Sir John Phelip to hold for life during the war with France; also grant of licence for Phelip to travel to and negotiate with Fontevrault Abbey for the purchase of the property (DRS 309, 311)
- 1414 The king confirms his grant to Sir John Phelip of 'the house, manor or lordship of Grovebury alias Leghton Busard' etc DRS 314)
- 1415 Sir John Phelip dies; on the king's orders Lady Alice Phelip, his wife, succeeds to 'the house or lordship of Grovebury ... otherwise called the manor house or lordship of Leghton Busarde' etc (DRS 313, 318)
- 1415-16 Bailiff's account made for Dame Alice Philyp, lady of the manor, mentions a stable next to the kitchen, a granary, the chapel, the dovecote and fishing rights at Grovebury. Wages paid include a carpenter and tiler, and goods bought for repairs include laths, lath-nails, 'bordnayls' and 'tylpynes'. No annual return of crops or stock. [Demesne leased out.] John Hewet has part or all of Grovebury demesne at lease? Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 318a)
- 1435 John Marham leases 'one garden within the great Poole of the Manor [of Grovebury] and the pools within the manor aforesaid with all the Fishery of the said Manor' (DRS 320)
- 1438 Lady Alice Phelip had by now married again, to William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk; they grant the reversion of the manor of Grovebury to Eton College (DRS 470)
- 1439-40 Bailiff's account indicates that Walter Blount is leasing the Grovebury demesne - all pasture or meadow. The dovecote is not standing and there are no doves. John Marham has a 20-year lease (which began in 1435) of the manorial warren and of a garden within the site of the manor, together with the right of fishery on the manor. Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 320a)
- 1446 William de la Pole, Marquis and Earl of Suffolk, and Alice, his wife, convey 'their manor or domain of Grovebury otherwise called their manor or domain of Leghton Busard' etc to Eton College for the term of Alice's life (with reversion to the college on the death of Alice) at an annual rental of 220li The college agrees that if payment of the rental be in arrears for a whole year then they will pay to the Marquis and Alice the value of the wood fit to be employed *pro edificacione* in the manor house of Grovebury (DRS 323-5)  
It seems that this is the means by which Structure 63, the later manor house, was built. Possibly the demesne was split from the main manor at this date

1447	The king grants two fairs to Eton College on their manor of Leghton Busard (DRS 327)
1448	Entry in the court rolls states 'the Lord of this Manor hath and ... always had a several water <sup>2</sup> under Groveburye and under the demesne lands of the same Manor unto the Conynger Gate and for ever shall have' (DRS 326)
1448-49	The pope confirms Henry VI's grant of the possessions of alien priories to Eton College and also confirms his grant in 1447 of two fairs at Leighton Buzzard (DRS 327)
1450	William, 1st Duke of Suffolk, murdered (DRS 470)
1455-56	Bailiff's account indicates that William Anable is leasing the Grovebury demesne and the warren. Dovecote ruined, no doves. Also mentions a garden within the site of the manor and the right of fishery (DRS 328a)
1456	Grovebury demesne and warren let to William Anable (DRS 473)
1457-58	William Anable leasing the Grovebury demesne and warren (DRS 330a)
1461	By an Act of Parliament Edward IV removes the lands of alien priories from Eton College (DRS 333)
1463	Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, is Lady of Grovebury again (DRS 331)
1465	Alice, Duchess of Suffolk and tenant of the 'manor of Leyghtonbusard' obtains clarification of her rights and liberties on her manor (DRS 332)
1465-66	William Anable and Lord Wenlock each leasing parts of the Grovebury demesne (DRS 332a)
1466	Grovebury demesne and warren let to John, Lord Wenlock (DRS 473)
1467	The king grants 'the manor and lordship of Grobury alias Leyghton Busard' etc to Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, as she held them before. Grant backdated to 1461 when the king recovered these lands from Eton College by an Act of Parliament (DRS 333)
1467-68	William Anable and Lord Wenlock each leasing parts of the Grovebury demesne. Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 333a)
1468-70	Lord Wenlock leasing the Grovebury demesne (DRS 333b, 334a)
1471	Grovebury demesne and warren let to Thomas Fowkes and Richard Smith (DRS 473)
1472-73	Thomas Fowkes and Richard Smyth leasing the Grovebury demesne. Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 336a, 336b)

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<sup>2</sup> Editor's note: not clear whether this is an accurate transcription or not.

- 1473 The king grants a licence for Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, her son John, Duke of Suffolk, Richard Fowler and John Broughton to found a fraternity of Corpus Christi in the parish church of Leighton Bosard (DRS 337)
- 1473-75 Thomas Fowkes and Richard Smyth leasing the Grovebury demesne (DRS 337a, 337b)
- 1475 Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, dies; her son, John, Duke of Suffolk, succeeds (DRS 331)
- 1476 John, Duke of Suffolk, grants the manor of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard to Thomas Lee and William Marten (both clerks) who then grant it back to John for life and after to his wife Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk and the king's sister (DRS 338-40)
- 1476-77 Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 340a)
- 1479 John, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth, his wife, are given licence by Edward IV to grant the 'manor or lordship of Grobury alias Grovebury alias Leighton Bosard' etc to the Dean and Canons of the king's free chapel of St George within the castle of Windsor. [This in fact was a grant enforced by the king] (DRS 341-3, 346)
- 1480 The Dean and Canons of the College of St George, Windsor Castle, lease to the Princess Cecylle, Edward IV's mother, 'lands etc called Grovebury, parcel of the manor of Leyghton Busarde ... for her life at a rental of twenty-four pounds' (DRS 344)
- 1479-80 Princess Cecylle, mother of Edward IV, leasing Grovebury demesne. Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 344a)
- 1485-87 Cecylle, Duchess of York, leasing Grovebury demesne (DRS 347a, 349a)
- 1489 Entry in the court rolls - 'The Keeper of the Lordship of Grovebury presents that [names] did ... break and enter into the free warren of the Lord of Grovebury at Grovebury ... and the rabbits there ... did take and carry away and other wrongs to him did to the grievous damage of the Lord the Dean' (DRS 350)
- 1489-91 Duchess of York leasing Grovebury demesne. Payments for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 350a, 350b)
- 1491-92 Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 350c)
- 1492 Entry in the court rolls - 'The Keeper of Grovebury presents that [names] did ... break and enter into the free warren of the Dean of the College of St George ... at Grovebury ... and ... have hunted in the warren of the Lord there without licence ... None of them ... except the tenants in their several tenures to enter or hunt or fish in the warren or Fishery of the Lordship of Leighton or Grovebury' (DRS 351)

- 1492–95 Annual payments for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 351a, 351b, 351c)
- 1495 31 May Cecylle died
- 1496–98 Annual payments for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 351d, 351e)

## 16th-century documents

- 1505 The Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel, Windsor, lease 'lands etc called Grovebury in the manor of Leighton Buzzard ... for thirty years at a rental of twenty six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence' to Master Thomas Rowthale, Secretary to Henry VII, Master Thomas Hobbes, clerk, and Richard Rowthale, gent (DRS 352)
- 1506 Edmund, Duke of Suffolk (son of John), attempts to retrieve Leighton Buzzard which Edward IV had forced John to give to the Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel, Windsor (DRS 353)
- 1506–07 Payment for Rogation Day custom at Grovebury (DRS 353a)
- 1519 James Turney, in his will, refers to his 'terme of Grovebury', the remainder of which he leaves to his wife and son (DRS 354)
- 1538 Joanne Doncombe, in her will (proved 1539), bequeaths sheep and pigs from Grovebury to various individuals, then: 'Also I wille that all my Cattall and shepe in Grovebury what so ever they be over and above the nombre above bequeathed shalbe solde and bestowed aboute my buryall ... And the residue of all other my goodes and Cattalles in Grovebury or els where in any other place not here gevyn willed nor bequeathed ... to John Doncombe, my sonne to his owne use'. Joanne was the wife of Thomas Doncombe of Barley End, Ivinghoe, and had another son, William (DRS 356)
- 1558 William Johnson, in his will, refers to the pasture at Grovebury, and the chapel (DRS 470)
- 1566 The Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel, Windsor, lease the manor of Grovebury to Robert Christmas 'And all manner of landes leasures pastures Feedings and all other ... unto the same manor belongynge ... nowe or late in the occupacion of Willelmus Duncombe or William Johnson and the rent and reversions of the same' [ie Grovebury demesne block] and also the manor of Leighton Bussard etc (DRS 362–3)
- 1571 Robert Christmas mortgages the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to George and John Barne (DRS 363)
- 1575 George and John Barne lease the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc for one year to Robert Christmas (DRS 364)
- 1576 The Dean and Canons of St George's Chapel, Windsor, lease the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to Francis Barneham, and George and



John Barne for 99 years; they then assign the lease to Sir Rowlande Haywarde who assigns it back to them (DRS 365–6)

William Doncombe of Ivinghoe Aston, in his will, divides his lease of Grovebury (part-occupied by William Johnson) between three of his five sons: Edmund, Giles and Clement – closes named. Another part of the lease of Grovebury bought of William Johnson and bequeathed to Edmund to go to his wife Alice and Clement – closes named, including Wyndmyll Close and ‘Chappell Cloase wherein the Chappell standethe’ (DRS 367)

- 1581      The Dean and Canons of St George’s Chapel, Windsor, grant a licence to Clement Duncombe to erect a dwelling house at Grovebury to be his there for 42 years (DRS 368)
- 1582      Alice and Benjamin Barneham (executors of Francis Barneham) assign the lease of his moiety of the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to Christopher Hoddesdon (DRS 369)
- 1583      Release of Actions between John Barne and Christopher Hoddesdon re the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc (DRS 370)
- 1588/89    Thomas Leigh *et al* assign the lease (as a marriage settlement) of the ‘mannor and pastures of Groveburye’ (£27 16s 8d payable annually for the lease) and the manor of Leighton Buzzard etc to his son, John, and Ursula, the daughter of Christopher Hoddesdon (DRS 371)
- 1589      Thomas Leigh *et al* lease the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to Christopher Hoddesdon for 50 years. Annual payments due for the lease include ‘for the said meadowe and pastures of Groveburie ... L27 16s 8d’. Thomas Leigh (in a covenant) leases to Alice, wife of Christopher Hoddesdon, ‘all those pastures and Demesne groundes whatsoever called the Groveburie in the parrishe of Leighton Bussard nowe or late in the severall occupacions of Clement Duncombe and Gyles Duncombe gent., and Edwarde Karville’ (DRS 372)

## 17th-century documents

- 1610      Sir Christopher Hoddesdon dies; manorial leases pass to Sir Thomas Leigh, son of Sir John Leigh and Ursula Hoddesdon (DRS 470)
- 1611–14    ‘Mr Duncumbe’ (in one case more specifically ‘Gyles Duncumbe’ (DRS 379)) paying £15 6s 8d (1611–12) or £15 3s 4d (1613–14) half yearly for rent of ‘Groveburye’ or ‘Groveburye pastures’ (DRS 377–86)
- 1620      Robert Coxe of Grove parish, Buckinghamshire, in his will, leaves the residue of his estate to ‘wellbeloved frend John Houghton the elder of Grove Burie’ (DRS 387)
- 1649      Deans and Chapters abolished [due to Civil War] – trustees sell Grovebury lands to William Haveningham and others (DRS 454)

- C17 A survey of the manor of Grovebury (whole estate) includes 'All that messuage or farm house called or knowne by the name of Grovebury Manor ... L240-00' and 'Meadows adjoining house ... L60-00' (DRS 375)
- Mid-C17 A survey includes 'All that messuage or farmhouse with the appurtenents called or knowne by the name of Grovebury Manor' and 'All those three pasture grounds comonly called Chappell grounde and Windmill hill' (DRS 376)
- 1656/57 Lease of Leighton Buzzard and Grovebury estate sold by Thomas Leigh to Richard Mead, Colonel Okey and two others [due to Civil War] (DRS 393-4)
- 1660 Thomas, Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh, petitions the king in an attempt to retrieve his lease; the king recommends to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor that Leigh should have the lease renewed in his favour rather than in Richard Mead's (DRS 394)
- 1661 The Dean and Canons of Windsor lease the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to Thomas, Lord Leigh, for 21 years and appoint him to sue Richard Mead for any infraction of his lease which still has 3 years to run (DRS 395-396)
- 1663 The Dean and Canons of Windsor lease the manors of Grovebury and Leighton Buzzard etc to Thomas, Lord Leigh, for 21 years, which he then mortgages (DRS 397-8)
- 1668 The Dean and Canons of Windsor give licence to Thomas, Lord Leigh, to sell his interest in the lease of the manor of Grovebury only to George Bates at a yearly rent of £28 5s 8d. Leigh assigns the lease of Grovebury to George Bates (the king's physician) with 'all those severall Closes or grounds peeces or parcellis of meadow and pasture ground ... being parte or parcell of the said Manor of Grovebury or thereunto belonging. That is to say the House pasture and meadow ground called the Middle ground (139ac 2r 33p), Hill Ground (121ac 3r 22p), Ollisses and Windmill Hill (157ac 27p), Pasture and meadow called Collett (65ac 10p), house, pasture and meadow called Chappell Close and Mantell meadow (29ac 3r 26p); at a yearly rent of £28 6s 8d'. Each close had a different occupier (DRS 399-400). [This marks the end of the Leighs association with Grovebury though they maintained their interest in the manor proper; the two were to remain separate from this time on]  
George Bates dies and the Dean and Canons of Windsor lease Grovebury to his three executors for 21 years at £28 6s 8d, including the closes mentioned above. However, the house in Middle Ground is described as Grovebury manor house and no house is mentioned in Chapel Close (DRS 401)
- 1670 Thomas, Lord Leigh, surrenders his old lease (1663) of the manor of Leighton Buzzard for a new one for 21 years which states that it excludes the manor of Grovebury (DRS 402-4)
- 1673 Grovebury leased to Edward Bates and then to Sir Peter Tirrell, Robert Lovett, Matthew Wilks and Lawrence Lovett (DRS 405a, 405b)
- 1680 & 1687 Renewals of lease of Grovebury to Tirrell, Lovett, Wilks and Lovett as above (DRS 405c, 405d)

1690–1707 Thomas Fox(e) of Grovebury, keeper of the great pastures at Grovebury (DRS 406–8, 411)

1694 Renewal of lease of Grovebury to Tirrell, Lovett and Lovett as above (DRS 406a)

### 18th-century documents

1701 Grovebury leased to Sir Peter Tyrell (DRS 407a)

1708 Grovebury leased to Matthew Disney and Thomas Atterbury (DRS 411a)

1709 Mention of ‘certaine lands called Grovebury-grounds’ (DRS 413)

1715 Grovebury leased to Edward Bates (DRS 413a)

1717 The tithes of Grovebury included in the prebendal estate (DRS 414)

1722 & 1729 Grovebury leased to Henshaw Halsey in trust for and as executor of Edward Bates’ will and renewed (DRS 414a, 414b)

1744 Brief history of Grove Priory by T Tanner with references (DRS 415)

1750 Frank Yeoman, Benjamin Fox and John Fox paying land tax for various parts of Grovebury; former occupiers also given (DRS 416)

1765 Buildings at ‘Grove Berry’ marked on map [site of Old Grovebury Farmhouse] (DRS 417)

c 1776 Grovebury leased to Villiers family (DRS 421)

1783 Records of land tax payments include Mrs Procter, James Partridge and Lewis Esq as proprietors of various parts of Grovebury, with John Procter, John Fox and Ann Fenman as the respective occupiers (DRS 418)

1787 Large-scale estate map of Grovebury area (502a 3r 23p), the property of V W Lewis but occupied by James Procter (254a 1r 0p), John Fox (183a 1r 28p) and Messrs. Walker and Hopkins (65a 0r 35p). Buildings shown, including Old Grovebury Farm, and all closes named and listed (DRS 418a)

### 19th-century documents

1802 Villiers William Villiers leases 152 acres (closes named) at Grovebury, which he holds of the Dean and Canons of Windsor, to John Buttfield for 12 years (DRS 420)

1806 Brief historical details by D and S Lysons (DRS 421)

**Increase in rent for the Great Tithes of Grovebury let to Villiers William Villiers (DRS 422)**

- 1810** Grovebury described as 502 acres 2 roods 29 perches of titheable sward in old enclosures in sale particulars for the Great Tithes then belonging to the prebendal estate in Leighton Buzzard (DRS 423).  
The Dean and Canons of Windsor lease the tithes of Grovebury to Villiers William Villiers (DRS 424)
- c 1812** Buildings of Old Grovebury Farm and fishponds earthworks apparent in painting by Thomas Fisher entitled 'Site of Groveberry Convent, Leighton Busard, Bedfordshire' (DRS 425)
- 1814** Villiers William Villiers leases: (a) farmhouse at Grovebury and 437 acres of meadow, pasture and sward in old enclosures, the major part of Grovebury Fields (late in the tenures of James and John Buttfield), to James Procter, dairyman, for 14 years and (b) 65 acres of pasture in two enclosures, part of Grovebury Fields [the remainder], to Benjamin Hopkins and Thomas Walker for 14 years (DRS 426-7)
- 1826** Buildings shown at Grove Bury [site of Old Grovebury Farmhouse] on county map by Bryant (DRS 428)
- 1832** The Dean and Canons of Windsor lease the manor of Grovebury and closes belonging to George William Villiers Villiers (DRS 430). Villiers William Villiers leases farmhouse at Grovebury and 437 acres, part of old enclosures called Grovebury Fields, to Cotchin, dairyman, for 14 years (DRS 431)
- 1840** Grovebury Farm consists of farmstead and 514 acres 2 roods 14 perches in 25 closes (named and mapped, including Chapel Ground) of which 491 acres 1 rood 25 perches are meadow or pasture and 23 acres 29 perches arable. Lease owned by George William Villiers Villiers of Bath who also leased that part of the prebendal tithes arising from these lands, now commuted to an annual rent charge of £75 (DRS 433)
- 1850** Biography of Mary of Woodstock (DRS 433a)
- 1851** Book on Leighton Buzzard states that 'the outline of the chapel is still visible' at Grovebury (DRS 434)
- 1854** William Villiers Villiers holds the lease of the tithes of Grovebury (commuted to a rent charge), part of the prebendal estate (DRS 439)
- 1866** The Dean and Canons of Windsor lease Grovebury to WG Villiers Villiers for 21 years (details given) (DRS 440-440a)
- 1868** Report on Grovebury Farm includes sketch of ground plan of Old Grovebury Farmhouse with description of its rooms, outbuildings and their uses. Also - 'This farm is nearly all grass ... The Buildings are in bad repair except the new portion of the House and some small portions of the farmstead. The Lessee is likely to sell his interest. In that case we advise the purchase of the property and of his interest in the Tithe Rent Charge upon it'. Also included is a rough map of the Grovebury Farm lands: in Chapel Ground is marked a rectangle

annotated 'Site of Chapel' and elsewhere a new house site has been added in pencil [the present Grovebury Farm] (DRS 440).

The leasehold interest in 'The Grovebury Estate', including the manor of Grovebury, Old Grovebury Farmhouse and its lands (all described and mapped), put up for sale by WG Villiers Villiers. Farmhouse and lands – a dairy and grazing farm – occupied by Samuel Hopkins under a lease expiring 1874 (DRS 440a). The Ecclesiastical Commissioners buy the leasehold interest in Grovebury and in the Tithe Rent Charge payable on the estate (DRS 440b, 440c, 440d)

- 1874 Samuel Hopkins, farmer of Grovebury, dies leaving his lease from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and occupation of the farm to his son Benjamin (DRS 441–4)
- 1875 Amongst documents relating to Benjamin Hopkins is sketch map marking 'Road from Leighton to Grovebury/Home Ground where new House Built' (DRS 445)

## 20th-century documents

- 1904 Brief historical summary of Grove Priory in VCH Beds (DRS 450–1)
- 1910 Robert Richmond refers to traceable foundations at Grovebury and old stonework, including a fireplace, surviving in Old Grovebury Farmhouse which was tenanted by Mr Hopkins (DRS 470)
- c 1911–12 F G Gurney states 'In Chapel Field' on the Bedfordshire side of the brook near Grove church are confused traces of ditches and high embankments difficult to fit into any reasonable plan, which are said to be the site of the alien Priory of Grovebury, or according to the labourers, of 'Old Leighton Buzzard' (DRS 453)
- 1912 Brief historical summary of manors of Leighton and Grovebury in VCH Beds (DRS 454)
- 1919 F G Gurney visits Grovebury on several occasions and makes notes and sketches, recording oral history and archaeological finds and earthworks there, including a -late 16th- or early 17th-century stone fireplace in Old Grovebury Farmhouse (DRS 456–9)  
F G Gurney, Robert Richmond and the Leighton Buzzard Field Club carry out minimal 'excavations' at Grovebury in September (6th) and October (4th) – Gurney reports findings (DRS 460, 462)
- 1920 F G Gurney comments on fishponds at Grovebury (DRS 461)
- 1924 Brief description of features surviving at Grovebury and brief historical summary by Robert Richmond accompanying publication of three original documents in *BHRS* (DRS 463)
- 1926 Mr J B Hopkins is tenant of Grovebury Farm (DRS 468)

- 1928      History of manor of Leighton, Grove Priory, Grovebury etc by Robert Richmond (DRS 470)
- 1975      Details of the manor of Leighton, its estate and historic landscape, and of Grovebury included in thesis by A C Jones (DRS 473)
- 1986      Brief notes on the life of Mary of Woodstock in publication dealing with the records of the Royal Wardrobe and Household (DRS 485)