

The Sharington / Hinton Indenture of 1544

This Indenture was given to the Shrivenham Heritage Society Archives via the Swindon Library Service after numerous documents had been donated by a man from Wanborough. This is now stored as N1052 in our large document Chest1. It follows the descent of the Manor of Bucklands which disappeared towards the end of the 17th century, and presents yet another enigma along with the Manors of Cley Court and Rectory

Precis of the contents of the Indenture

The Indenture is dated 3rd February 1544 (35th year of the reign of Henry VIII) and is between William Sharington Esq, one of the Grooms of the King's grace most honourable chamber of the one part, and John Hinton of Stainswick in the parish of Shrivenham, Gent, and Richard Hinton of Netherborton (Lower Bourton) one of the sons of the above John, on the other part.

The first part of the Indenture explains that the Crown received advice from a Court Counsellor named Sir John Dance and John Hales, one of the Barons of the Exchequer and General Surveyor of Lands, to let the lands called Buckland set in Over Burton (Upper Bourton) that formerly belonged to Sir Francis Lovell of high treason notoriety, to Sir William Essex for the term of 21 years. So this implies that the Crown had seised the estate from Lovell somewhere around the end of the 16th century and then let it to William Essex.

Then by a transaction dated 28th April, 1529, the Crown agents decided to sell the property to William Sharington (details as above) for the sum of £2094.8.6. Then in 1544, he sells the estate to the Hintons (as above) for a much lower price of £216.2.6. It's this part of the document that then includes a list of what comes with it:

The following list may be better understood by noting: A Messuage referred to a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use. A Yardland is much more difficult to define. Its size very much depended upon the locality and could vary from 15 to 80 acres in size.

A Messuage, half Yardland and Meadow called Ashfield, formerly occupied by Rooke Wasonland, being in Shrivenham.

A Messuage and half a Yardland occupied by Edward Sutton also in Shrivenham

A Cottage and two acres of arable land and one acre of meadow occupied by John Mottard, in Shrivenham

A Messuage and two Yardlands occupied by Thomas Joyner in Shrivenham

A Messuage and half a Yardland occupied by Richard Chesterton in Shrivenham

A Messuage and two Yardlands called Brachetts in Nether Bourton (Lower Bourton) and one Yardland in Over Bourton occupied by John Hinton

Two Messuages and three Yardlands occupied by Richard Cheynye in Over Bourton

A Messuage and one Yardland occupied by Thomas Vicaryes in Nether Bourton

A Messuage and half a Yardland called Coles occupied by William Page in Nether Bourton

A Messuage and two Yardlands occupied by John Shilton in Over Bourton

Signed by William Sharington

and Witnesses John Warnford, Rowen Ward, Sampson Mitchell