

# Our heritage

## 950 - 1500s

### First historical reference to Marwell

Marwell is first mentioned by name when lands around the area were granted by King Eadgar (mid 10th century) to the new monastery in Winchester, which later became known as Hyde Abbey.



Hyde Abbey gatehouse © John Armagh

### "Licence to enclose" granted

In 1310 Walter Woodlock is granted a 'licence to enclose', and shortly after this the hall is constructed on the land granted to him by the bishop of Winchester (Henry Woodlock - who was almost certainly a relative).



As with many estates, the time around the Black Death of 1348 recorded history is scarce, and so far we have little more until the 1500s



### Hall occupied as a college for secular priests

During the time that Henry de Bials was bishop of Winchester (1129-1171) a college of secular priests was set up at Marwell (today this is Marwell Manor). This also served as one of the occasional residences for the bishop. In addition to the buildings, a substantial deer park (about 4 miles round) was set up, along with a series of fishponds, which can still be traced today, now believed to have been the largest complex of medieval fishponds in Europe.



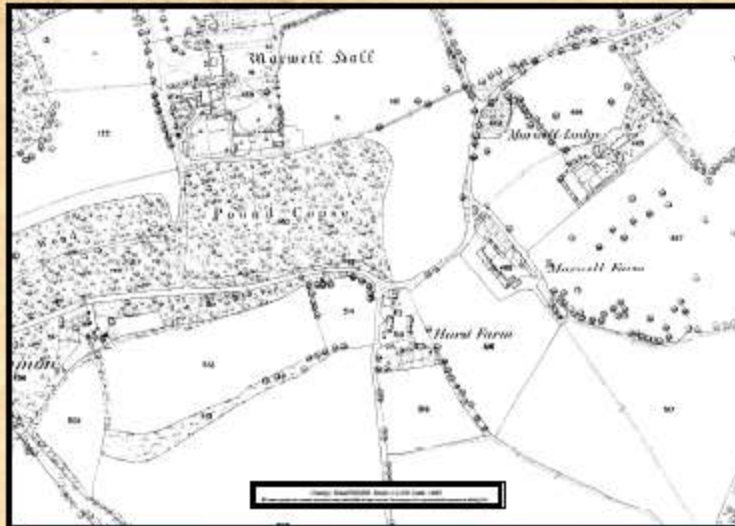
Plaque of 'Henry of Bials' in the British Museum © Faldgyth



# The lease of Marwell Hall & demesne

## 1520 – 1771

The tenancy was described as "The Scite of the Manor Hall of Marwell Woodlocks in the County of Southampton with all the edifices to the said scite belonging situate lying and being in the said County of Southampton with all the demesne lands, closes, meadows, pastures, waters, warrens of conies, pannage of swine and all other the commodities of the demesnes to the said scite belonging.



The Marwell Estate



Marwell Hall 1500s – artist's impression



Marwell Hall 1700s – artist's impression

Date	Reference	Document	Tenant	Rent
14 Jan 1520	Ch 14/3	Draft of Indenture	Lionel Nares (Narre)	£13 6s 8d
20 Sep 1527	Lb 1/38	20 year lease	Henry Seymour	ditto
<i>(Note: A document of 1555 (Mc 5/1) shows that Henry Seymour held his lease for 20 years with renewals in 20 years to 20 years up to 80 years 'sex precepto Henrici octavi')</i>				
20 Jan 1557	Lb 2/27	20 year lease	Sr Henry Seymour	ditto
6 June 1566	182/117	See note	John Griffiths	ditto
<i>(Note: The lease was due to commence upon the expiry of Sr Henry Seymour's lease of 1557, but was never effected – see next entry)</i>				
10 June 1575	183/68	Licence to assign	John Griffiths	
See note				
6 Sep 1575	183/69	See note	Sr Henry Seymour	ditto
<i>(Note: The term of the lease was given as for 20 years and at the end thereof for 20 other years.) There have been an agreement in the 29 of Henry VIII (1537/8) that he shall have it from 20 years to 20 years to the end of 80 years.</i>				
6 Sep 1594	184/35	20 year lease	Sr John Seymour	58 17s 8 1/2d + 8 Qrs wheat + 7 Qrs 1 bsh malt
18 June 1607	Lb 5/32	20 year lease	Sr John Seymour	ditto
30 Oct 1616	Lb 6/46	20 year lease	Sr John Seymour	ditto
13 Jan 1624/5	Lb 7/30	20 year lease	Edward Seymour	ditto
13 Dec 1633	Lb 7/199	20 year lease	Edward Seymour	ditto
3 Dec 1638	Lb 8/49	20 year lease	Sr Edward Richards of Marwell	ditto
13 Dec 1649	Lb 9/17	20 year lease	Francis Usdell	ditto
6 Sept 1651	Lb 9/105	20 year lease	Edward Trussell, citizen of London and clothworker	ditto
11 June 1654	Lb 10/36	20 year lease	Edward Trussell, citizen of London and clothworker	ditto
29 Sep 1662	Lb 11/66	20 year lease	Edward Trussell, citizen of London and clothworker	ditto
15 Jul 1674	Lb 12/102	20 year lease	Sr George Erel of the city of London	ditto
9 Feb 1679/80	Lb 13/63	20 year lease	Richard Brett of Richmond, Surrey	ditto
11 Feb 1683/4	Lb 13/111	20 year lease	Richard Brett of Richmond, Surrey	ditto
26 Apr 1691	Lb 14/68	20 year lease	Elizabeth Kee, alias Brett & Samuel Somerset	ditto
26 Oct 1699	Lb 14/190	20 year lease	Elizabeth Kee, alias Brett & Samuel Somerset	ditto
2 Jan 1707/8	Lb 15/28	20 year lease	Daniel Vivian & Jeremiah Chaplin	ditto
17 Dec 1715	Lb 16/11	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres	ditto
24 Nov 1721	Lb 16/138	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres and his wife Elizabeth	ditto
2 Jan 1728/9	Lb 17/89	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres and his wife Elizabeth	ditto
7 Nov 1735	Lb 18/104	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres and his wife Elizabeth	ditto
4 Mar 1741/2	Lb 19/115	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres and his wife Elizabeth	ditto
7 Mar 1748/9	Lb 20/101	20 year lease	Thomas Dacres and his wife Elizabeth	ditto
18 Mar 1757	Lb 21	20 year lease	Elizabeth Dacres	ditto
Page torn				
26 Mar 1764	Lb 22/112	20 year lease	George Dacres	58 17s 8 1/2d + 8 Qrs wheat + 7 Qrs 1 bsh malt
5 Apr 1771	Lb 24/23	20 year lease	George Dacres	ditto

# Our heritage

1520 - 1644



Jane Seymour

## Henry Seymour, brother of Jane, acquires the Hall.

Sir Henry Seymour, brother of Jane Seymour acquired the Hall, probably in the 1520s, but was certainly living there by 1551. His son, then his grandson inherited the estate, but this branch of the family were ultimately left penniless.

The estate at this time was owned by Corpus Christi College, Oxford and leased to tenants, Sir Henry Seymour was one of the first of these, and while he would have owned the Hall and grounds, he would have paid, much as a leasehold owner today, a ground rent to the college.

## Impact of the Civil War

In 1644 the Hall was the scene of a skirmish between Cavaliers and Roundheads. A contemporary newsletter says that around March 2<sup>nd</sup> of that year, a party of Cavaliers had 'a great drinking day at Winchester, and being elevated in their minds' rode out two hundred strong, to engage a troop of sixty belonging to Waller at Marwell Hall.

The Cavaliers marched so furiously, 'divers being in their cups' that several of the party were left behind on the road. On reaching Marwell Hall there was a flourish of trumpets, and a trooper riding forth from the Hall was killed by one of the king's soldiers.

Challenges and defiances were freely exchanged and several single combats took place, in one of which the Cavalier Sir Thomas Phillips of Stoke Charity was shot through the head by one of Wallers' troops. The Cavaliers at length fled in confusion towards Winchester, losing a lieutenant-colonel and some men. Colonel Gardiner and others were captured, as well as horses and arms.



# Our heritage

## 1700s

### Hall extended by Dacre family

The Hall passed to the Dacre family in the early 1700s and stayed in their ownership until the early nineteenth century. During this time George Dacre added a wing to the south side of the Hall. We believe this was in order to give the front of the building a symmetrical outline, but unfortunately before the wing was completed there was a fire at the north end of the building that destroyed much of the medieval north wing reducing it to a single storey.

### Further extension and restoration by William Long

George Dacre sold the Hall in 1799 for £16,000. It was purchased by William Long, an eminent surgeon of the time. He and his wife didn't move into the Hall immediately, however, and the Dacres seem to have stayed there for another ten years, the Longs not moving in until 1810.

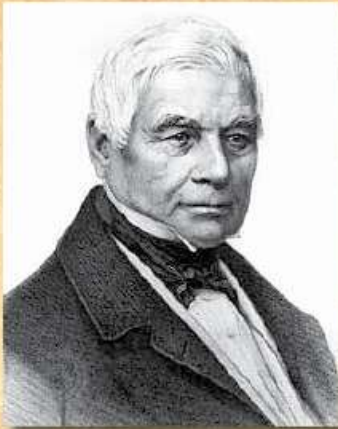
It was William Long who completed the interior of the extension built by George Dacre and he also did a considerable amount of repairs to the building, and adding the projecting wing at the back of the house along with the turrets at each side of it.

William and Alice had no children of their own, so the Hall passed to their nephew, Walter Long, who allowed Alice to continue living in it until her death in 1841.



# Our heritage

## 1799 - 1972



### John Gully - entrepreneur, horse lover and boxer - arrives

Walter Jervis Long, son of Walter Long lived a short distance away in a fairly substantial house called 'The Hall', so was obviously not in need of a residence of his own, but he seems to have let the hall out to various people over the next 25 years or so.

One of these was John Gully, one of our most interesting characters. Born in Bath, son of a butcher and inheriting his father's business, he was imprisoned for debt, but turned to prize-fighting in order to try and buy his way out.

He is known to have fought (but lost) a 64 round boxing match (before the days of the Queensberry Rules), become a racehorse trainer, (though didn't keep any of his horses at Marwell), and won/lost thousands of pounds on the horses.

He had two wives, 24 children, and eventually became MP for Pontefract (though this was after he had left Marwell, having lived there for ten years).

### Rowland Standish acquires the Marwell Estate

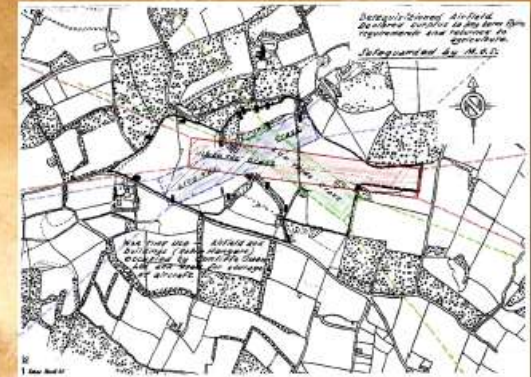
In 1868 the Hall was occupied by Rowland Standish and his wife Caroline, and when Corpus Christi College were disposing of their Hampshire estates in the early 1880s Standish bought the estate from them.

### Tragic end to Standish ownership

Once again, Marwell, on the death of its owner, was to pass to a nephew, this time to William Standish.

The last of this branch of the Standish family was killed in a car accident in November 1933 and the estate was sold at auction in 1934.

The hall and its grounds sold for £5,750 - barely a third of what it cost the Dacres to buy it 135 years earlier.



### Marwell airfield created during WWII

Moving on to the 1940s, the Managing Director of the Cunliffe-Owen Aircraft Company in Swaythling (Southampton) moved out to the Hall and a dispersal airfield was set up.

One of the reasons for this was that it was becoming increasingly difficult to fly into Atlantic Park (now Southampton Airport).

Pilots would have to land first at either Middle Wallop or Worthy Down in order to find out which of the barrage balloon lanes into the city were open and to get clearance to fly in - all of which took too much time.

Apart from planes being flown out to other parts of the country as replacements for pilots who had been shot down, Marwell was used for converting Spitfires into Seafires, and a little later, having had to lengthen the grass runways, for adapting Halifaxes to take the new H2S radar.



### John Knowles takes up residence and soon after opens Marwell Zoological Park

The Hall had several owners after WWII, and John Knowles eventually bought it in 1968 in order to create the zoological park. In spite of much local opposition to the scheme, the zoo finally opened in 1972.