

## Medieval source documents

Below is a list of the main medieval sources that have been trawled for references to Sutton Poyntz and the owners of Sutton Manor. It also identifies those sources that have not yet been searched.

For a much better explanation, and wider material, on medieval sources, go to Chris Phillips's outstanding website at <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk>, and in particular the pages <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/public.shtml> (for its fuller explanation of the sources) and <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/rolls.shtml> (for a list of documents available to download).

Many of the documents listed here can be read or downloaded from <https://archive.org> or from <https://www.hathitrust.org/>.

**Saxon Deeds** - A reference known as Sawyer (after Peter Sawyer, the author of the definitive *Anglo-Saxon Charters: an Annotated List and Bibliography*). This is available on the web (<https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/about/index.html>). Only one charter relates to Sutton Poyntz.

**Domesday Book** - The survey conducted for William I in 1086. It is currently available at <https://opendomesday.org/>. The entry for Sutton Manor is not very useful as it combines several Royal manors in Dorset.

**Red Book of the Exchequer (*Liber Rubeus*)** - An early compilation of medieval sources, including two tax registers (*Cartae Baronum* of 1166 and *Liber Feodorum* (otherwise known as Testa de Nevill - Nevill's Head) with records from 1198 to 1293) which are among the earliest lists of ownerships after Domesday Book. An edition published officially in 3 volumes from 1897 received severe criticism academically, but this does not affect the simple tax and ownership lists. We have done a complete search of these tax records.

**Book of Aids** - Another early compilation of tax registers, for 1284 to 1431. The first was known as Kirby's Quest after the name of the Treasury officer who compiled the records. Published as "Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids", in 6 volumes between 1899 and 1920. We have done a complete search of this source.

**Close Rolls** - These were copies of letters sent by the Crown under seal, often containing orders to people like County Sheriffs. The series of records starts in 1204, and extends to 1533 after which they are of less value. Most Close Rolls for up to 1509 have been published, in various forms (facsimile, complete, or summary). We have searched Close Roll entries for the period 1227 to 1468. A supplementary volume "Calendar of various Chancery Rolls" for 1277 to 1326 has also been searched. We have not attempted to transcribe the Latin text of the Rolls for 1204 to 1227, and have not yet searched the Rolls for 1485 to 1509.

**Patent Rolls** - These were copies of letters sent by the Crown without seal, with openly available information. The series of Patent Rolls starts in 1201, and continues to this day. Patent Rolls up to 1625 have all been published in some form. We have searched Patent Roll entries for the period 1232 to 1461, from 1467 to 1509 and from 1547 to 1558. Periods that have been published but that we have not yet searched are 1201-1232 and 1558-1572.

**Fine Rolls** - These were records of 'fines', which were payments made to the Crown for a concession, agreement or service by the Crown. An example is a payment made to Henry III for a Royal Charter allowing an annual fair in the village of Laugharne, South Wales. This record starts in 1199, and continues, with gaps, to 1648. We have searched Fine Roll entries for the periods 1216 to 1248, 1272 to 1461. Other periods that have been published, but that we have not yet searched, are 1248 to 1272, 1461 to 1509, and 1547 to 1553.

**Inquisitions post mortem** - These record enquiries held after landholders' deaths, to establish the land they held and the name and age of the heir. In some cases they include valuable (even though not always entirely accurate) records of individual parcels of land. These enquiries were recorded between 1236 and 1640; published versions are available for the periods 1236-1447 and 1485-1509, with short extracts only available for 1447-1485. We have searched all of those I.P.M. entries.

**Ancient Deeds** - Some of the medieval charters held in the National Archive have been published, first as a brief catalogue and later in fuller Calendar form. We have done a complete search of the brief catalogue (six volumes titled "A descriptive catalogue of ancient deeds in the Public Record Office).

**Chancery Miscellanea** - We have conducted a partial search (for Dorset entries only) of a publication by the List & Index Society containing transcriptions of some records held in the National Archive in a category called Chancery Miscellanea.

Charter Rolls - These were records of Royal Charters, used to grant titles, rights, privileges, and sometimes land. The record dates from 1199 to 1517, and has all been published apart from 1417-1427. Only the volume covering 1341-1417 has been searched.

Inquisitions Miscellaneous - Records of official enquiries, many into rebellions and treasonable activities. This series dates from 1218 to 1485, all of which has been published, in 8 volumes, all of which we have searched.

Here are some other sources that we have NOT yet searched. There are numerous other categories of medieval records but these are probably the most important.

- Feet of Fines - A Fine (as in Final Concord) was a legal agreement between parties, often transferring property. From 1195 until as late as 1830, the custom was that three copies of the agreement were written on the same parchment, and then cut using a wavy line. Each party was given one part and the court retained the third (the foot of the parchment). This gave protection against loss of the document or attempts at forgery. A percentage of this large resource has been published, County by County. For Dorset, abstracts are available for 1195 to 1485.
- Inquisition ad quod damnum - Enquiries were held to investigate what harm might be caused (particularly to the Crown) before agreeing to some proposal, such as to hold a fair or to dispose of some land. These have been published for 1243 to 1484.
- Court records - These would probably be fascinating and important, but are not easily accessible. In our case, we know the result of one court hearing, in 1447, that heard a dispute between John Newburgh and James & Amicia, duke and duchess of Ormonde, over the ownership of Sutton Manor. The court ruled that it was owned by James & Amicia, but would come to John Newburgh if James and Amicia were both to die without issue (as indeed happened). The record does not include any explanation, leaving it completely unclear why it was thought John Newburgh had any right. I suspect this would quite often be the case.