

THE BADDESLEY, MILFORD AND WOODCOTT ESTATES OF THE HAMPSHIRE HOSPITALLERS

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ABSTRACT

The military order of St John of Jerusalem possessed estates throughout western Christendom, including their preceptory of Godsfield and Baddesley. Earlier papers discussed their arrival in Hampshire and traced the creation of their estate at Godsfield as revealed by the surviving Godsfield cartulary. This paper examines the order's estates at Baddesley, Milford and Woodcott. A subsequent article will examine the activities of the Hospitallers in late-medieval Hampshire.

INTRODUCTION

'The Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in England', 'Brothers of St John', 'Hospitallers', and 'Knights of St John' are alternative names for the same religious order. They are also referred to as 'the brothers' within the context of this article. Earlier papers discussed their arrival in Hampshire and the development of the Hospitaller estate at Godsfield as revealed by the surviving Godsfield cartulary (Beard 2005, 2006). The cartulary has been edited and calendared and is scheduled for publication in the near future in the *Hampshire Record Series*. References to documents in the cartulary are cited as numbers in square brackets, and these refer to documents in the calendar. Thus [122] refers to the charter of Richard Labanc to the brothers of St John. In a subsequent article it is hoped to examine the activities of the Hospitallers in late medieval Hampshire.

THE BADDESLEY ESTATE

The Hospitaller estate was unquestionably at North Baddesley. However there are two Baddesley place-names in Hampshire, and this has led to confusion in the past. North Baddesley is c. 9.7 km north of Southampton at grid reference SU 40 20 while South Baddesley is c. 3.2 km east of Lymington at grid reference SU 35 96, and in the Middle Ages both places were known as Baddesley. There was, moreover, a confusing association between the Welles family and the Hospitallers. The Welles family held South Baddesley in the 14th century and also held land in South Welles in Romsey. John, son of Richard de Welles, granted the brothers land in South Welles c. 1245–50 [132]. A later member of the family, Henry de Welles, died on 25 February 1352 holding the manor of (South) Baddesley in the New Forest and land in Welles (*CIPM* 10, no.19). The manor must be South Baddesley, as in 1316, Henry de Welles held the vill of Baddesley in the hundred of the New Forest held by Margaret, queen of Edward I (*FA* 2, 317). In 1336–7, Henry de Welles had enfeofed John, chaplain of Baddesley, of the manor of Baddesley [South Baddesley] in the New Forest (*CIPM* 10 Edw III, 2, no.59 [2nd nos.]). John may, however, have been the same person as John de Welles, the chaplain of North Baddesley who was instituted as priest to the church at Baddesley on 13 March 1387–8. The patron was Robert Normantone, lieutenant of the prior of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (*Register Wykeham* 1, 167) as the Hospitallers had the appropriation of North Baddesley church.

Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that Tanner and others afterwards wrongly located the preceptory at South Baddesley (Tanner 1744, 162; Marsh 1808, 8; Duthy 1839, 363). They also erroneously supposed that the crusading order at Baddesley was the Templars (Tanner 1744, 162; Suckling 1919, 3).

The Godsfield Cartulary leaves no doubt that the preceptory was Hospitaller, and was actually located at North Baddesley. It states on folio 1 that it contains the charters and muniments of Godsfield, Baddesley and Rownhams, which lies adjacent to North Baddesley. Further verification can be found in some of the place-names in the Baddesley rentals and custumals in the cartulary (fos. 49v–51v; 53–54). Flexford at SU 41 21 and Newland, now Newlands Copse, at SU 40 21 are both located in North Baddesley. The *Nomina Villarum* of 1316 confirms that the prior of the hospital at Godsfield held the vill of Baddesley in Mansbridge Hundred (FA 2, 318). North Baddesley is in this Hundred. As for the Templars, there is no evidence in their Sandford cartulary that they held any land in South Baddesley, and in 1338 there was no record of any Templar preceptory in Hampshire having come into the hands of the Hospitallers (Larking and Kemble 1857). The nearest Templar estate, which was acquired by the Hospitallers, was at Milford 10–11 km west of South Baddesley. This came to be known as the manor of Milford Baddesley (VCHH V, 117), but is known only as Milford in the cartulary (fos. 46v–49). It may be that the Templar lands at Milford mistakenly gave rise to the belief that there were Templars at nearby South Baddesley. The Hospitallers were granted half an acre of land in Walhampton by Ralph Plumer c. 1235–40 [164] adjacent to South Baddesley in the same parish of Boldre in New Forest Hundred, but this hardly constituted an estate. The myth of the Templars residing at North Baddesley was perpetuated at the end of the 20th century, when a road through a housing development on what was actually former Hospitaller land east of Knightwood Farm was designated ‘Templars Way’, at grid reference SU 41 21.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Ralph

Mortimer held [North] Baddesley which was assessed at 2 hides, and there was land for 4 ploughs. There was a church; woodland at 10 pigs and grazing valued at 10s. The value before 1066 was £10; later 100s. and in 1086 only 60s. The population included four villagers, seven smallholders with 2 ploughs, and seven slaves (Morris 29, 7). The boundaries of the manor and the parish, comprising 2,584 acres (c. 1046 ha), were apparently coterminous. The population figure in 1086 suggests that it was underdeveloped and thinly populated. The Mortimers were principally a Welsh marcher family, for which North Baddesley was an outlying estate. It is not, therefore, surprising that they apparently subinfeudated the whole property for service of half a knight's fee directly or indirectly to the Labanc family by c. 1150.

The grant of Richard Labanc to the brothers of all his land and wood of [North] Baddesley [122] is undated, but was after 1153 and before 1180, as Richard and his heirs acquitted the brothers for all the land and wood of all service to the king and Hugh Mortimer, and Hugh had succeeded his brother Roger Mortimer by 1153 (Cokayne 4, IX, 269–70). In 1166–7, the brothers were assessed at a quarter of a knight's fee for the land they held in [North] Baddesley and paid half a mark to the exchequer towards the dowry of the king's eldest daughter (*Pipe Roll* 13 Hen II, 179). The Mortimers held the lordship of the manor as half a knight's fee until 1425, and subsequently their heir Richard Duke of York held it. Thus Edmund Mortimer (d. 1304, inquest 3 January 1305), held half a knight's fee in [North] Baddesley, held by the master of the hospital of [North] Baddesley (CIPM 4, no.235). The fourth Earl of March, died July 1398 (inquest 11 September 1398), held half a knight's fee in [North] Baddesley formerly held by the master of the hospital of [North] Baddesley (CIPM 17, no.1225). However the Mortimers seem to have had no demesne there after 1153.

The Hospitallers held the whole of North Baddesley from the 12th century, and charters were dated there from 1280 [211]. However 1332 is the first date that the brothers are recorded as explicitly holding the manor,

when Joan, the widow of John de Brompton, was in receipt of 50s. rent from the brothers as part of her dower [125]. This she gave to her attorney Richard de Longdon, rector of Steeple Mordon [126]. The Bromptons were eventually the successors of Richard Labanc; possibly an heiress of the Labancs had married into the Brompton family. The Bromptons originated from Brompton in Shropshire (grid ref. SJ 54 08), and had feudal ties with the Mortimer family. Joan's late husband, John de Brompton, died before 7 June 1300 seised of the manor of Murival, Herefordshire, which he held with Joan of the heir of Brian de Brompton (*CIPM* 3, no.625). Brian de Brompton held land in Shropshire of the Mortimers in Kinlet (*Testa de Nevill* 45, 48, 50) and Easton (*Testa de Nevill* 62). Brian died after John in 1308 seised of the manors of Brompton and Kinlet (*CIPM* 5, no.130). In 1343, the brothers were released from the payment of their rent of 50s. by Richard de Longdon, acting as attorney of Joan de Brompton [129]. They had either purchased his rights or received the rent as a gift. Unfortunately this is the only document to indicate that either of these options had occurred. Long before 1343, the services which the brothers had owed to the Mortimers after 1153 were obsolete.

At Godsfield, the land inside the 1858 parish boundary consisted of tithe-free demesne land. However, at North Baddesley it is not possible to calculate the area of the demesne. There is no tithe award in the Diocesan Record Office (HRO) or the National Archives. The absence of any tithe award suggests that the whole estate was tithe-free, or so much so as to make an award useless. Alternatively a composition had already been agreed. In 1826, a survey was carried out for Thomas Chamberlayne, but there is no reference to any of the land being free of tithes (HRO 89 M81/E/P1). The parish is a peculiar (HRO Map Hampshire/14). In 1901, a tithe map was said to be in the hands of the lord of the manor, Tankerville Chamberlayne, who collected the tithes in North Baddesley and Rownhams (VCHH III, 463). As copies of this map are not held in the Hampshire Record Office or the National Archives, it could not

have been part of the national survey. North Baddesley is a much larger parish than Godsfield consisting of nearly 2,584 acres (1045 ha), and included Rownhams until 1897 (VCHH III, 463). Before parish boundaries were changed and new parishes created in the 19th and 20th centuries, the parish of Hursley lay to the north, North Stoneham to the east, Chilworth and Nursling to the south and Romsey to the west.

The charters for North Baddesley are devoid of any topographical content. However the two rentals with custumals of 1404 and 1517 (fos. 49v-53v) allow the identification of two place-names, Newland and Flexford, which can be located on later maps. The two rentals do not refer to the same properties since the place-names are not consistent, Newland being the only place-name common to both rentals. An estate map of the Bishop of Winchester's estate of Merdon in 1588 (HRO Copy /390/1-2) shows Newland sharing a boundary with that estate.

The church and the site of the preceptory are more or less in the centre of the parish. To the west of the preceptory lay Baddesley Common and in the northeast was the brothers' assart of Newland. Today there is a wood called Great Covert east of the common and south of the site of the preceptory, which suggests that this area may not have been cultivated in the Middle Ages.

The place-name Baddesley derives from *Baedesleah* (Baeddi's wood/clearing), presumably a settlement in a stretch of ancient woodland (Coates 1989, 27). That the estate was wooded is confirmed by an entry in the account of 1338, when there were 100 acres (c. 40.5 ha) of large timbers, held in common, reserved for the repair of the preceptory and the preceptories of Ansty and Templecombe (Larking and Kemble, 22). The cultivated land lay to the north and east of the preceptory, as this was outside the common. There was at least one open field, recorded in a lease of 1494 when the prior, John Kendal, granted a tenement, lately held by John Silvester, including rights in the open field (*campo*) to William Braytoft, Beatrice, his wife, and their daughter, Margaret Turgys for the term of their lives (BL Lansd.

200, fo. 24). The same tenement, including the rights in the open field, was later let to farm in 1531 to John Waterton and his wife Margaret for 24 years. There is no specific reference to open fields in the rental and custumals of 1404 and 1517.

That all of the cultivated and tenanted land was not included in the brothers' tithe-free demesne is confirmed by the entry made at the time of the Inquisition of the Ninth in 1341 when [North] Baddesley was assessed at 9 marks 12s., or £6 12s. (*Nonarum Inquisitiones* 113, 126). Godsfield, consisting of tithe-free demesne land, is not recorded. Two families who were on the manor in 1341 were still there in 1404. William atte Crouche and William Gervays were jurors for the parish of [North] Baddesley in 1341 (*Nonarum Inquisitiones* 113, 126) and their successors, John atte Crouche and John Gervays, each held a messuage in 1404 (fos. 50–1). It has been suggested that the 4 villagers in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morris 29,7) were the predecessors of the 4 jurors who represented the parish in 1341 and that they held the 4 manorial farms known much later as Zionshill, Knightwood, Castle Hill and Manor Farm (Suckling 1919, 6). However, the names of the four farms appear to post-date the rental and custumals and probably also the Hospitallers' occupancy of the land. Housing development has encroached over the boundary into North Baddesley from Chandlers Ford, and this enabled archaeological surveys to be carried out at Knightwood Farm and Zionshill Farm before the site was developed. However no finds relating to medieval occupation were discovered (HCC, *Archaeology in Hampshire Ann. Rep.* 1995–6, 24, 45).

There are references to others besides the Hospitallers holding land in Baddesley. The vassals of Ralph of Baddesley, the king's forester, were assessed at a quarter of a knight's fee in 1166–7 (*Pipe Roll* 13 Hen II, 183). However, it is more likely that Ralph and his vassals held land in South Baddesley, in the New Forest, given his occupation as forester. Robert de Limesei granted the land of Betheslega, which Blake locates at North Baddesley, to the priory of St Denys and his grant was confirmed by King

Stephen at Winchester 1139–1154 (*Cartulary of the Priory of St Denys*, 2, Appendix 1, 4). If Blake is correct, nothing is known of the later letting of this property.

THE BADDESLEY PRECEPTORY

A preceptory is first recorded at North Baddesley in 1332 [126], although one may have existed in the 13th century since charters were dated there from 1280 [211]. It is possible that the Hospitallers moved from North Baddesley to Godsfield, where they were by c. 1270. Charters were being issued at Godsfield and at North Baddesley in the 13th century, and continued to be issued from both locations at the weekly chapter up to 1332. Alternatively, the preceptor and his household stayed for a few months at each of his two manors of Godsfield and North Baddesley, an itinerant way of life being normal for many secular landowners. This would explain why the weekly chapter, at which charters were issued by the custodian or preceptor of Godsfield, was held at either Godsfield or North Baddesley between 1280 and 1332. There is only a small sample of charters in the cartulary which give the date and place of their issue, but these do show that in four different years (1280, 1282, 1305 and 1314), the preceptor was at North Baddesley during the months of December and January. North Baddesley is situated about 32 km south of Godsfield in the valley of the River Test in the Hampshire Basin, and is therefore less exposed to the elements than Godsfield, high up on the downs. The household may have moved to the less exposed site during the winter months. However in February 1312 the preceptor, Robert de Cosgrove, issued a charter at Godsfield which makes this theory somewhat suspect, unless there had been an early spring.

Various later commentators have stated that the Hospitallers' preceptory was moved permanently from Godsfield to North Baddesley in the 14th century. This may have occurred some time after 1338, when the Hospitallers had to re-organise their system of preceptories to

integrate the Templar lands. North Baddesley may have been redefined as a preceptory at this time, while Godsfield ceased to be an administrative unit (King 1967, 45) and was leased out. The Templar manor of Milford, together with land in Warnford and the Isle of Wight, were acquired. Arguably these could just as easily have been administered from Godsfield, as the Templar commander had controlled them from a greater distance at his centre at Sandford in Oxfordshire. The definitive date of 1355 has been given for the move using a charter of prior John Pavely. He granted land in Ibsley to Thomas Purchas on 18 November 1355 and the rent was to be paid to the preceptor or custodian of Baddesley [160] (VCHH II, 187; Knowles 1971, 300, citing VCHH).

In fact the evidence from the cartulary supporting a move at any given time is inconclusive. The last charter known to be issued by a preceptor at Godsfield was in 1325 when William de Basing as keeper of Godsfield, with the consent of his chapter, granted 2 acres (0.8 ha) in North Shorwell to Thomas de Vaux [185]. The last charter issued by a preceptor at Baddesley was only seven years later in 1332, when Joan, the widow of John de Brompton, was in receipt of the 50s. rent from the brothers as part of her dower [125]. Charters ceased to be issued at the preceptory of Little Maplestead after 1365, which is taken as evidence by Gervers (1982, lxii) that this may then have been let to farm. Applying this method to Godsfield and Baddesley is not feasible, as only a few out grants are recorded in the cartulary. The leasing of either Godsfield, Baddesley or Little Maplestead may have been recorded in registers or lease books, but unfortunately none have survived for the 14th century.

In 1338, the Grand Master Elyan de Villanova commissioned Prior Philip de Thame to report on the English preceptories. The report comprises a series of accounts or valuations showing the income and outlay for each preceptory in order to enable its net value to be ascertained. In 1338 Godsfield appears to be the senior establishment, as Baddesley is given as a member of Godsfield (*membrum de Godesfeld*) and was being administered from

there by William Multon. The income from fixed rents including those in Portsmouth and Southampton are entered under Godsfield (Larking and Kemble, 21–3). Two charters of Prior John Pavely, one granting land in Ibsley to Thomas Purchas, dated 18 November 1355 [160], and the other granting land to Robert Sewer, dated 20 February 1357 [161], state that the rent should be paid to the preceptor or custodian of Baddesley. This may have been William Moulton, preceptor of Godsfield in 1338 (Larking and Kemble, 23). In 1388 William Hulle called himself the preceptor of Godsfield and Baddesley when he granted a curtilage in Carisbrooke to Walter Pideford [188]. In 1397 he is given as the preceptor of Baddesley alone in the introduction to the cartulary [fo. 1]. However, as the preceptor was both preceptor of North Baddesley and of Godsfield, and resided at both locations, he may have used the title 'of Godsfield' when at Godsfield and 'of Baddesley' when at Baddesley. These dates may not therefore be significant.

The question remains, why would the Hospitallers have moved the preceptory to North Baddesley and leased out Godsfield? Were there any particular circumstances which may have prompted the move? The economy of the region was changing. In the 13th century, the pressure from a growing population may have caused the land to be overworked which led to lower crop yields during the last quarter of the 13th and the first quarter of the 14th century. The climate deteriorated between 1315 and 1322, causing harvests to fail and sheep and cattle to succumb to disease. Yields fell on the bishop of Winchester's manors on the Hampshire downs (Titow 1972, 29) and the Godsfield manor may have suffered the same fate. The only surviving record to show a falling economy for the Godsfield manor is in the account for 1338, which shows a reduction in the fixed rents from £20 3s. 4d. to £14 10s. paid by freeholders because of the poverty of the land (Larking and Kemble, 21). In 1348 the Black Death arrived in Hampshire with subsequent epidemics in the 1360s and 1370s, and the brothers' tenants probably suffered a high

mortality rate as a result of the epidemics. This may have caused problems in cultivating the land at North Baddesley as well as at Godsfield, as it did everywhere, and the area of arable on the demesne could have contracted. However, it is not improbable that on the downs of Godsfield the brothers increased their flock of sheep on land that reverted to pasture. This was the practice among other lords holding land on the downs in Hampshire, enabling them to hold onto their demesne until the 15th century (Hare 1994, 164). But eventually all seigneurial demesne, even in Hampshire, was leased.

Economic considerations may have encouraged the leasing of Godsfield after 1373, when Pope Gregory XI commanded his bishops to carry out an inquest of Hospitaller land. He gave instructions that the land was to be rented out at a fixed annual rent (Gervers 1982, lxii). There is no evidence, however, that his decree had any practical effect. North Baddesley may simply have become a more suitable site for the preceptory. The Hospitallers had appropriated the church by 1304 and from 1343, as we have seen, they no longer had to pay the quit rent of 50s. for the manor [129].

Any of the above conditions may have been reason enough for the preceptor and his household to move permanently to North Baddesley and to let to farm the Godsfield manor, but the reasons for any move and the date when this may have occurred cannot be known. The earliest record for Godsfield being leased is as late as 1493, when John Touny, Katherine, his wife, and George, their son, were granted an annuity on the manor in return for collecting the rent of 40s. twice a year (BL Lansd. 200, fo. 13v).

That the preceptor resided at Baddesley or Godsfield throughout the year is doubtful, although the chapter general in 1283 had decreed that no brother could hold a preceptory unless he resided there (King 1934, 86). William Hules was also preceptor of the former Templar preceptory of Templecombe in Somerset in 1397–8 (Davis 1958, 952). The initial unions of office were a sign of the small number of Hospitallers and the modest size

of the estates they managed, and were initially informal, personal pluralism. Two preceptors saw service abroad. William Weston was at the siege of Rhodes in 1522 (King 1967, 90–1), and Thomas Dingley was granted a licence in 1531 to make ‘caravan’ (Sicluna 1949, 18) presumably in order to participate in the conquest of Malta. A ‘caravan’ was the term used for a brother’s campaign in the East, and is first found in 1263 denoting a campaign or raid (Riley-Smith 1967, 322).

A reorganisation of the Hampshire preceptory occurred after 1458–9, when William Tournay was preceptor of Baddesley [fo. 52v], and before 1503 when Robert Pecke was preceptor of Baddesley and Mayne. The preceptory came to be amalgamated with the Dorset preceptory of Friar Mayne under one preceptor. The brothers preferred to lease out their Dorset preceptory, and in 1503 the preceptory of Mayne was leased for the term of three years to William Martin, a knight in the county of Dorset (BL Cotton Claudius E VI, fo. 6). The penultimate document to be transcribed into the cartulary concerns an undated agreement which may be dated c. 1170–1213 between brother Gilbert de Wyse, preceptor of Friar Mayne, and brother Adam, prior of East Holme, Dorset, a cell of the Cluniac priory of Montacute, regarding the small tithes of Watercombe (*Watercumbe*) in Dorset. North Baddesley continued as the preceptory until let to farm in 1516 when the preceptor, William Weston, leased the preceptory and a chapel at Baddesley to his brother, Richard Weston, for the term of three years (BL Cotton Claudius E VI, fo. 158v). The income from the preceptory was granted to Thomas Dingley in 1531 to finance his military expedition (Sicluna 1949, 18).

The preceptory at North Baddesley lay to the south of the church. None of the buildings have survived. An Elizabethan manor house was built on the site (Suckling 1919, 13), probably for John Foster who held the manor after 1551 (CPR 1550–3, 104–5). There would have been a chapel on the site when the preceptory was first established, although the earliest reference to a chapel is in the lease of 1516 (BL Cotton

Claudius E VI, fo. 158v). The one building at North Baddesley to retain any evidence of the brothers' occupation of the manor is the church of All Saints. The rectory was appropriated to the prior and brethren on 17 July 1304 (*Register Pontissara*, 1, 170) and the church was re-dedicated to St John the Baptist. The brothers were responsible for repairing the church. The chancel roof has been mistakenly attributed to the longest serving rector, Geoffrey de Tothale, a relative of prior William de Tothale, who was instituted rector on 11 November 1317 and died in 1367. However the chancel was rebuilt after 1400 (Suckling 1919, 11) and other sources also date it to the 15th century (HRO 51M67/PW10). The rebuilding of the chancel in the 15th century may have coincided with the rebuilding of the chapel roof at Godsfield. It may be that the Hospitallers embarked on a major building project in England in the late 14th and early 15th centuries, but the evidence is too tenuous to be conclusive.

Geoffrey de Tothale (d. 1397) is said to be buried in the church in the Hospitaller tomb which is against the north wall of the chancel. The tomb, however, can be dated to the first half of the 15th century (VCHH III, 464–5). A coat of arms, which cannot be identified, appears on the tomb, together with the letter T and both are also to be found in the east window. This may therefore be the tomb of Thomas Launcelyn, appointed Turcopolier (conventual bailiff and third dignity in the Convent) in 1421 at Rhodes. Launcelyn was thus in charge of the English contingent of knights, known as the 'English tongue'. He died in 1442 (Suckling 1919, 11).

THE MILFORD ESTATE

The Hospitallers held land in Milford before they received the Templar estate sometime after 1313, and before 1338 (Leys 1934, 160–3). In 1282, Brother Hilary, the preceptor of Godsfield, granted all the land the brothers held of Alfred Fael in Milford to Robert Calveir [168]. The land comprised arable, meadow and pasture. The acquisition of the Templar

manor gave the brothers valuable salt pans. The former Templar manor was administered by the preceptor at Godsfield and Baddesley as a 1403 rental and custumal for Milford is included in the cartulary [fo. 46v–49]. That this was a manor is confirmed in the rental and custumal since the first named tenant, William Weneford, owed suit of court at the manor court [fo. 46v]. The Templars received this land in perpetual alms from William Makerell before c. 1194, when his brother Ralph Makerell confirmed the grant (*Sandford Cartulary*, fo. 72v, 286). That the grant included salt pans at Sturt, on the east side of Milford at grid reference SU 29 91, is confirmed by the quitclaim of Richard de Aston to the Templars c. 1200–20. Twenty measures of the salt (*schipambras*) were paid in lieu of tithes to Quarr Abbey (*Sandford Cartulary*, fo. 71c, 279, 280).

THE WOODCOTT ESTATE

The Hospitaller estate of Woodcott was known as a *camera*. This was a preceptory that was held in absentia as the personal possession of a high official, and was administered by an agent. As it was not the responsibility of the preceptors of Godsfield and Baddesley, there are no documents relating to the estate in the cartulary. The parish of Woodcott is 15 km northeast of Andover at grid reference SU 43 54 in Pastrow Hundred. The Hospitallers acquired one of the two manors in Woodcott after the Statute of Mortmain of 1279. In 1303, the prior, William de Tothale, paid a fine for a licence for the alienation in mortmain by Richard de Cardeville to the prior and brothers of the manor of Woodcott with the advowson of the church and the hamlet of Litchfield (*CPR 1301–7*, 150). The overlordship of Litchfield was in the hands of the St John family whose ancestor Adam de Port in 1207 gave land of his fee of Godsfield to the Hospitallers [1]. Thus Hugh St John died 1336 holding Litchfield as one knight's fee held by the Hospital of St John (*CIPM* 8, 82). In 1428, the prior of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in England held in Woodcott a third part of a knight's fee which

was Richard de Cardeville's [sic. Gardevill] (*FA* 2, 345).

An inspeximus of the appropriation of the church was made by the bishop of Winchester, Henry Woodlock, in 1306. It records that the previous bishop, John de Pontoise, made the appropriation in 1304 upon the cession or decease of Roland the Rector (*Reister Woodlock*, 142). In 1312, the archdeacon of Winchester was ordered to inquire into the proposed appropriation of the church to the Hospitallers (*Register Woodlock*, 583) and by 1313, the prior and brethren were presenting to benefices (*Register Woodlock*, 739). The prior was among the aliens holding benefices in 1346–66 when the living of Woodcott church was valued at 6.5 marks, £4 6s. 8d. (*Register Edington* 2, 609).

The manor was leased out in order to provide the brothers with an income. This realised 20 marks in 1338, when the manor was described as being one messuage with one carucate [80–120 acres (32–48 ha)] of sterile land and one appropriated chantry (Larking and Kemble, 107). In 1509 the manor, with profits of the court, and the rectory were leased to William Rombold, a yeoman, for the term of 40 years. Rombold paid £11. 13s. 4d. per annum to the prior, Thomas Docwra, at Clerkenwell (BL Cotton Claudius E VI, fo. 72). The income from the estate had therefore decreased since 1338. The chief tenement was leased in 1518 to Richard Cardemaker for the term of his life. Richard paid £6 each year at the church of Woodcott (BL Cotton Claudius E VI, fo. 181). A copy from a court roll of 1538 of the court with view of frankpledge of Prior William Weston of the manor of Woodcott reveals the admission of Thomas Taylor to the reversion of 3 messuages and 1.5 virgates of land to hold for his life on the death of his father by customary rents and services. The entry fine was £3 (HRO 19M61/608). Two years later the order was dissolved and the estate was in the hands of the Court of Augmentations.

CONCLUSION

There are documents in the Godsfield cartulary that can be utilised to construct the Hospitallers'

estate at Godsfield (Beard 2006). The grant of Richard Labanc to the brothers of all his land and wood of [North] Baddesley after 1153 and before 1180 [122] is the only evidence in the cartulary of a gift comprising the Baddesley estate. It is reasonable therefore to suggest that Richard's gift included the whole of the parish of North Baddesley. Confusion had arisen since the 18th century concerning the location of the Baddesley estate and preceptory. However, place-name evidence from the cartulary clearly indicates that it is at North Baddesley, and not at South Baddesley where the brothers held their estate. Adding to this confusion was the belief that the Templars held an estate at either North or South Baddesley. There are no documents in the Templar cartulary, compiled at Sandford in Oxfordshire, to support this theory. The Godsfield cartulary contains a rental and custumal of the former Templar estate of Milford [fo. 46v–49] 10–11 km west of South Baddesley, and the brothers' possession of this estate may have contributed to the supposition that there was a Templar estate at North or South Baddesley. There is inconclusive evidence in the Godsfield cartulary to support a permanent move of the preceptory from Godsfield to Baddesley during the 14th century. Unfortunately no other sources such registers or lease books have survived for the 14th century and so it is not possible to determine whether the Godsfield estate was being leased during this period. The estates located at Godsfield and North Baddesley were also preceptories from where the brothers administered their Hampshire lands. By 1338 an annual payment, known as the responsion, generated from the surplus revenues from these lands, was paid to the Hospitaller treasury at Clerkenwell.

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