

Wingfield Manor

Historical Timeline

Wingfield Manor is close to the centre of Derbyshire. Between the early 12th and mid-14th centuries, the manor of Wingfield was held by the Heriz family and subsequently passed through the Belers and Swyllington families to John Swyllington.

Ralph, 3rd Baron Cromwell was designated her nearest heir but his claim was disputed by Margaret's husband and brother and, later, by Sir Henry Pierpoint. Cromwell won his claim against Gra in 1431 and, by 1439, had reached a settlement with Pierpoint whereby he was able to keep Wingfield

Building work on the Manor House was complete either by the time of Cromwell's death in 1456, or shortly afterwards, following the acquisition of the property by Sir John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury.

Sir John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury was slain, with his younger brother Christopher, fighting on the king's side in the Battle of Northampton on 10 July 1460. He was buried (with his mother) in the priory at Worksop



Mary, Queen of Scots arrived at Wingfield for the first time. She was being held under house arrest by The Earl of Shrewsbury.

Gilbert Talbot, the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury, inherited the manor and estate.

Wingfield Manor was partially demolished at the end of the Civil War.

In 1774 the Haltons built a new manor house half a mile away down the valley, using stone from Cromwells now crumbling palace. They stripped lead and timbers from the roof and floors.

The ruins are a Grade I Listed Building and they are managed by English Heritage.



12th to mid-14th century

1418-1428

1428-1439

1440

1456

1460

1560

1569

1590

1642-1644

1648

1678

1774

18th and 19th centuries

2015

Swyllinton's death in 1418 led to the Manor being inherited by his sister, Margaret Gra, who died without issue in 1428.

Building of the present (but ruinous) Manor House was begun about the year 1440, by Lord Cromwell, who was Treasurer of England. It is thought to have been built on the site of a 12th century castle.

Lord Cromwell, died at the Hall but was buried at his other seat at Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire. Tattershall Castle and estate were inherited by Lord Cromwell in 1417. He became Henry VI's treasurer and his marriage to the heiress Margaret Deincourt brought him further lands and wealth.

George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury inherited Wingfield Manor and several other estates.



During the English Civil War the manor, which at the time was located in a strategic position, was owned by John Talbot, 10th Earl of Shrewsbury, a supporter of Parliament.

The Manor was captured by Royalist forces under the Earl of Newcastle in 1643 and following a siege, was retaken by Parliament in 1644.

The Manor House was badly damaged during two sieges.

Immanuel Halton bought the manor and carried out repairs on the main buildings around the Great Hall. He inserted floors and windows, and occupying that area for the next hundred years, with the rest slowly deteriorated around them. The fabric of the building was later further damaged when stone was taken for building nearby Wingfield Hall.

The site was abandoned in the last quarter of the 18th century though a section of the cross range continued to be occupied as a farmhouse by the Critchlows, whose family purchased the site at the end of the 19th century.

