

BAUNTON

BAUNTON is a small parish straddling the Churn valley 3 km north of Cirencester.¹ Until 1935, when it gained a portion of Stratton parish,² it lay entirely east of the river Churn, which formed its western boundary with Stratton and Bagendon. Its eastern boundary follows the Roman Fosse Way, marching with Preston, Wiggold in Cirencester, and Ampney Crucis. The northern boundary with North Cerney, apart from a short stretch of a minor road, the Welsh Way, takes an irregular course following no natural features. Although a boundary with North Cerney had been established by 852, it apparently then took a straight course between the Fosse Way and Perrott's Brook,³ so the present irregularities reflect later field boundaries. The southern boundary, with Cirencester, is also irregular in places, but turns north to follow a stretch of the Whiteway, and defines what was probably the former northern limit of Hare Bushes. The land gained from Stratton in 1935 extended the civil parish westward across the Churn as far as the Roman Ermin Street, north to a dry valley descending from Peewits Hill, and south to Baunton Lane. The parish comprised 1,340 a. in 1849, 695 ha in 2019. This account relates to the ancient parish as it existed before 1935, and to the modern civil parish for its history subsequent to that date.

LANDSCAPE

Baunton village is ranged along a lane which follows the course of the Churn above its floodplain at around 120-130 m. above Ordnance Datum.⁴ Away from the river valley the parish presents an undulating Cotswold landscape slightly lower-lying towards the south, at 130-140 m., but rising to 175 m at its northern tip. The bedrock geology is White Limestone of the Great Oolite group, overlain in the centre of the parish by outcrops of Forest Marble on which compartments of mixed woodland thrive. The Oolitic Limestone is dramatically exposed on either side of the A417 road where it crosses the parish. The river has cut into older strata, so that Fuller's Earth and limestones of the Taynton and Hampen formations outcrop along the valley sides in the area of Baunton village. In the valley itself are superficial deposits of alluvium and gravels. Most of the higher ground of the parish drains not into the Churn, but by streams which trend south and south-eastwards into headwaters of the Ampney Brook, like the Churn a tributary of the Thames.

Most land in the parish in 2019 was under arable cultivation, as it had been c.1770 and in the 1840s.⁵ By the latter date sheep downland in the north of the parish had largely been converted to arable, and extensive areas of woodland planted, most of which survived in 2019. This gives the parish a well wooded appearance, especially in the south towards Hare Bushes, and on the former downland, where 50 a. previously devoted to sainfoin was planted with coppice woodland (The Sisters) after c.1800.⁶ Meadows, including former water meadows, fringe the Churn along the valley bottom, separated from the large arable fields by coppice plantations on the slopes, which in places mask former quarries. Since 1997 the valley has been dominated by the sight and sounds of the A417 viaduct, and the

¹This account was written in 2019.

²Youngs, *Admin. Units*, 164, 187.

³Grundy, *Saxon Charters*, 60; *VCH Glos.* vii, 150.

⁴This para: OS 1:25,000, sheet OL 45; Geol. Surv. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>.

⁵Rudder, *Glos*, 266; GDR T1/19.

⁶GA, D674b/P/10; GDR T1/19. 'The Sisters' refers presumably to Jane and Mary Anne Masters.

traffic using it.⁷



⁷below: roads and bridges

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Fosse Way, Baunton's eastern boundary, has been a major highway since its construction in the 1st century AD.⁸ It was turnpiked in 1755 and disturnpiked in 1877.⁹ A second Roman road, the White Way, runs north across the parish, and remained in use as a minor road in 2019.¹⁰ Known also as the Ridgeway, it was turnpiked from Cirencester as far as 'Baunton Gate' in Baunton in 1746/7 and disturnpiked in 1879.¹¹ A tollhouse stood at the parish boundary by the Dentice Bushes turning in 1858 but had been demolished before 1901.¹² Near the northern edge of the parish the White Way is crossed by another early route, the Welsh Way, part of a drovers' route from upland south Wales to the Home Counties.¹³ This climbs from a crossing of the Churn at Perrott's Brook on the northern parish boundary, where a ford (Bereford in 852) had been bridged by the 13th century.¹⁴ At the crossing of the White Way and Welsh Way a minor road leading across Baunton Downs towards Calmsden was made between 1768 and 1824.¹⁵ The valley road from Cirencester to North Cerney is presumably of medieval or earlier origin, since Baunton village is ranged along it. It was in use as a through route in 1751, but of less significance than its counterpart west of the river (in Bagendon parish), and fell out of use after that road became the Cirencester to Cheltenham turnpike in 1825.¹⁶ The Cirencester bypass dual carriageway road (A417) was constructed across the parish in 1996-7, and carried over the Churn valley by a viaduct some 16m above the valley floor. As part of the works a bridge was built to carry the White Way over the new road, but no direct access to the road from Baunton was provided.¹⁷

POPULATION

Baunton's population probably never exceeded 100 until the late-18th century, nor 200 until the mid-20th. The two Domesday holdings taken together recorded in 1086 five villein and eight bordar households, with four slaves, suggesting a total population of c.70.¹⁸ In 1327 nine,¹⁹ in 1525 ten,²⁰ and in 1662 twelve householders were assessed for taxes.²¹ In 1381 a total of 35 named adults in Baunton and Wiggold paid the poll tax.²² A survey in 1650 recorded 16 families in the parish,²³ another of 1676 counted 56 adults,²⁴ and in c.1715 there were said to be 18 houses and 70 inhabitants.²⁵ An estimate c.1770 of 56

⁸I.D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (1973 edn.), 150.

⁹Glos. and Warws. Roads Act, 28 Geo. II, c. 47; [check title] 34-5 Vic., c. 115.

¹⁰Margary, *Roman Roads*, 145-6.

¹¹20 Geo. II, c. 23; 42-3 Vic., c. 46.

¹²Glos. HER 9813; OS 6", sheet 51NE (1903 edn.).

¹³K.J. Bonser, *The Drovers* (1970), 186-7 (map), 197.

¹⁴VCH Glos, 7, 150; *Cirencester Cartulary*, 3, 825-6.

¹⁵GA, D674b/P/10; Bryant, *Map of Glos* (1824).

¹⁶VCH Glos, 7, 150; GA, Q/SRh 1827 B/1.

¹⁷A.S. Hall, *Baunton* (1999), 69-70.

¹⁸*Domesday Book*, 465, 472.

¹⁹TNA, E 179/113/5, rot. 5.

²⁰*Bristol & Glos. Lay Subsidy*, 373

²¹TNA, E 179/116/554, rot. 101.

²²C.C. Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381*, pt. 1, 301.

²³*Trans. BGAS*, 83 (1964), 94.

²⁴*Compton Census*, [check page].

²⁵Atkyns, *Glos.*, 258.

inhabitants was perhaps too low,²⁶ as the 1801 census recorded nearly twice that total, 108.²⁷ Thereafter Baunton's population followed the rural west country trend, rising until mid-century (187 in 1841) and then falling back, to 135 in 1881, 100 in 1901, and 87 in 1931. The 1935 boundary change added a modest c.15 to this total, but the establishment of a Polish resettlement camp within the enlarged parish dramatically increased the post-war population, to 744 in 1951. By 1961, following the camp's closure, there were 164 inhabitants, and this total rose steadily as new houses were built in the parish, to 224 in 1981 and 299 in 2011.²⁸

SETTLEMENT

Neolithic activity in the north of Baunton parish is attested by a ploughed out chambered long barrow identified near the Sisters in 2006 and excavated in 2016-17; and by the earlier discovery of a flint scatter in the same area.²⁹ Further west on Baunton Downs near the Welsh Way's descent to Perrott's Brook evidence in the form of pottery and coins has been found of a Romano-British settlement,³⁰ and cropmarks of possible field systems and trackways seen near the southern boundary west of Hare Bushes and elsewhere may be of late prehistoric or Romano-British date.³¹ No indications of post-Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity have been found in what became Baunton parish.

Population totals suggest that until the 19th century Baunton never contained more than 20 dwellings, often fewer, and there is no evidence of medieval or later settlement away from the village nucleus, until inclosure in the 1760s. The village was in fact somewhat larger than these figures suggest, since the river was the parish boundary, and that part of the settlement on the further bank, including Baunton mill, lay in Stratton parish until 1935. Apart from the medieval chapel, later parish church, no building has been identified with surviving fabric earlier than the 17th century. Deductions about the topography of the medieval settlement must be based principally on the earliest extant detailed map (of 1768).³²

²⁶Rudder, *Glos.*, 267.

²⁷Census, 1801.

²⁸Census, 1801-2011.

²⁹Glos HER 28551, 9804; <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2016-09-26/bu-archaeologists-uncover-6000-year-old-long-barrow-cotswolds> (accessed 28 Aug 2019).

³⁰RCHM, *Glos*, i, 13; Glos. HER 29224.

³¹Glos. HER 2128, 32844, 32845

³²GA, D674b/P/10.



The village street is part of a valley road running north from Cirencester to North Cerney and beyond, which atrophied north of Baunton after its counterpart west of the river (now A435) achieved prominence as the primary route towards Cheltenham.³³ A small triangular green, adjacent to a manor house (presumably successor to a medieval demesne complex)³⁴ was formed by the road's junction with a lane running south-west to a river crossing, which led to the mill. This continued north-eastward out of the valley to the fields. Closes and orchards associated with village houses ran in strips down to the river,³⁵ where earthworks of houses and barns have been identified;³⁶ and the regular continuous boundary up-slope from the village street suggests a planned settlement. The church lies at some distance from the surviving manorial complex, and since Baunton was divided between two manors until c.1700 it is likely that a second demesne house existed nearby.³⁷

After the open fields were inclosed c.1768 outlying farmsteads were established, subsequently known as Dillies Farm and Whiteway Farm,³⁸ but apart from these and Field Barn Cottage, no development had occurred beyond the earlier village limits by 1849, when the parish population had reached its apogee.³⁹ Almost no new building took place until Baunton House north of the church in 1934,⁴⁰ and five local authority houses (1-5 Mill View) 1946-8, but from the 1960s onwards many large detached houses were built, either infilling along the village street (Meadow View), or replacing or incorporating former farm complexes within the village (The Paddocks, Downs Way, Priors Court). A few new houses have also been built in secluded parts of the outlying parish.

The 1935 boundary change brought part of Stratton into Baunton parish, including the substantial 18th-century mill house, which was restored and enlarged in 1938.⁴¹

³³above: roads and bridges

³⁴below: landownership, Baunton manor

³⁵The name 'Brook Hay' implies an inclosed or hedged paddock.

³⁶Glos. HER 9859.

³⁷Suggested by the name 'Court Close' recorded in 1768 on three closes adjacent to the church. See below: landownership, Priors Court manor.

³⁸GA, D674b/P/10.

³⁹GDR T1/19.

⁴⁰Verey and Brooks, 1, 163.

⁴¹ibid.

Elsewhere the land acquired by Baunton was virtually unpopulated (apart from the 1940s Polish resettlement camp beside the Gloucester road) until the 1950s, when detached houses and bungalows in reconstituted stone began to line the northern side of Baunton lane.⁴²

BUILT CHARACTER

Limestone, probably quarried locally,⁴³ and stone slates for roofs, were the usual building materials until the 20th century. Baunton's buildings are therefore typical of vernacular Cotswold architecture. Apart from the church, of 11th- or 12th-century origin, the earliest buildings retain mid-17th century fabric, and are of rubble with dressed quoins, or of squared and coursed limestone. The Old Manor House and Downs farmhouse both retain substantial stonebuilt outbuildings, now converted to dwellings, and several 17th- and 18th-century cottages survive around the triangular green and opposite the church. The earliest buildings not in the vernacular tradition, but still using local materials, are the school with attached schoolhouse dated 1849, but thereafter little building took place in the parish until the substantial late arts and crafts Baunton House of 1934. Post-war local authority housing introduced brick as a building material, but most more recent housing, characterised by large detached houses, has been of reconstituted stone. Development along Baunton lane (until 1935 in Stratton) has been similar to that in Baunton village.

LANDOWNERSHIP

PATTERN OF LANDOWNERSHIP

The two Domesday estates in Baunton evolved into two manors, one of which remained in the same landowning family, the Georges, from before 1300 until c.1700. The other, Priors Court, belonged to religious foundations in Lechlade until 1508, and was purchased by the prominent Master family of Cirencester in 1569. Land in these manors was held at farm or leasehold by Cirencester abbey and Quenington preceptory, as well as by laymen. Thomas Master, by acquiring the Georges' interest c.1700, was able to combine the two manors, so that ownership of the whole parish continued in the Master family, from 1863 Chester-Master, into the 20th century.

MANORS AND PRINCIPAL ESTATES

BAUNTON MANOR

In 1086 there were two main landholders in Baunton who held of the king in chief. Geoffrey Orlateile held two hides and a virgate which had been in the possession of Bolli in 1066.⁴⁴ The descent of this estate through the late 11th and 12th centuries is obscure, but may be linked to the holding of the George family in Baunton, which can be traced from the late-13th century. The title to this land was granted for life before c.1300 by John de Milford to his ward, Robert de Pennington, with reversion to William de la Chaumbre, son

⁴²OS, 1:25,000 map, sheet SP00 (1959 edn.).

⁴³Elms Quarr is a fieldname in 1849 adjacent to the village: GDR T1/19.

⁴⁴ *Domesday Book*, p.465.

of Richard, formerly lord of Baunton.⁴⁵ William de la Chaumbre, in his turn, granted all right in that land which his father had held in Baunton to Robert de Pennington and his wife, Christina.⁴⁶ In 1325 William, son of Robert de Pennington was in possession, and his heirs were his siblings, Robert, Henry, Nicholas and Alice, who was married to William George.⁴⁷

By 1386 the title 'lord of Baunton' was being used of John George.⁴⁸ References to suit of court and heriots demonstrate that the land held by the George family had some of the characteristics of a manor. In 1398 seisin of the 'manor of Baunton' was delivered to another John George.⁴⁹ In 1403 the manor was granted to his son, John, and John's wife Elizabeth as a marriage settlement.⁵⁰ From this John the manor descended to Richard his son,⁵¹ and from Richard to his son, Thomas.⁵² The inquisition into Richard's lands at his death in 1508 recorded that the manor was held of the duke of Buckingham of the honour of Hertford.⁵³

The George family did not at this period reside in Baunton, as they later did, but leased their substantial lands to local men. In 1473 Thomas George leased his land in Baunton to Richard Compton of Cirencester, gentleman, for a period of 30 years.⁵⁴ In 1483 this was superseded by a grant of the same land to John Edelatt of Baunton for a period of 60 years.⁵⁵

The manor continued in the George family, father to son, until 1678. Thomas (d. 1517) was succeeded by John (d. 1556),⁵⁶ then Christopher (d. 1599),⁵⁷ Robert (d. 1623)⁵⁸ and John (1594-1678). This John George, a lawyer, represented Cirencester in parliament, 1626-46 and from 1661 until his death, having switched allegiance to the royalist cause in 1643.⁵⁹ He bequeathed the whole estate to his nephew, William George (d. 1707), who sold it in 1681 to his brother James.⁶⁰ James died in 1684 and it passed back to his heir William,⁶¹ who retained it despite family litigation,⁶² and sold it to Thomas Master between 1699 and 1702.⁶³

Thomas Master (d. 1710) was succeeded by his son Thomas (d. 1749), and Thomas's grandson, also Thomas.⁶⁴ When he died in 1823 Baunton passed to his daughter Jane

⁴⁵ GA P86/1/CH/1/32.

⁴⁶ GA P86/1/CH/1/33.

⁴⁷ *Glos. Feet of Fines 1300-1359*, 81 (no.457).

⁴⁸ GA P86/1/CH/1/38.

⁴⁹ GA P86/1/CH/1/39.

⁵⁰ GA P86/1/CH/1/2.

⁵¹ GA P86/1/CH/1/3.

⁵² GA P86/1/CH/1/41.

⁵³ *Cal. Inq. post mortem Hen VII*, vol. 3, 264. The traditional account given by Rudder (267) is that the manor was held by Cirencester Abbey and came into the possession of the George family, who had an estate there, after the Dissolution. See below, this section: other estates.

⁵⁴ GA P86/1/CH/1/41.

⁵⁵ GA P86/1/CH/1/42.

⁵⁶ *Visit. Glos. 1623*, 247-8; Bigland, *Glos.*, 1, 372. [death date of Thomas, 1517, is from IGI via Ancestry – not confirmed]

⁵⁷ *Visit. Glos. 1623*, 247-9

⁵⁸ *ibid.*

⁵⁹ *Hist. Parl. Commons, 1660-1690* (<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/george-john-1594-1678>, accessed 19 Aug. 2019)

⁶⁰ GA, P86/1 CH 1/4-5.

⁶¹ TNA, PROB 11/377/260.

⁶² TNA C 8/513/28, C 8/541/105, C 10/280/28, C 10/242/19; GA, P86/1 CH 1/56-7.

⁶³ GA, P86/1 CH 1/57.

⁶⁴ *Landed Gentry*, (1898 edn,) i, 1013.

Master, who retained it until her death in 1862; her sister Mary Anne, widow of John, Lord Carteret, inherited, but she died the following year.⁶⁵ Her heir was William Chester-Master, her cousin, who already owned the Chester estates in Gloucestershire, and who died in 1868.⁶⁶ Baunton then passed with the Chester-Master estates, to William's eldest son, Thomas William (d. 1899), to his son, also Thomas William, who was killed in action in 1914, and then to Richard Chester Chester-Master, his eldest son.⁶⁷ Richard, who had been chief constable for Gloucestershire, was also killed in the war, in 1917, leaving a son William Alfred Chester Chester-Martin, who inherited upon coming of age in 1924.⁶⁸ William died in 1963 and was succeeded by his son, Mr Richard T Chester-Master (b. 1927).⁶⁹

Only one householder in Baunton in 1662 was assessed on more than two hearths. This was John George, who had ten hearths,⁷⁰ and so it is likely that he occupied the house (in 2019 the Old Manor House and subdivided), a largely mid-17th century long rectangular building of two storeys and attic, built of local rubble limestone with dressed stone quoins.⁷¹ If the date, on architectural evidence, is correct, it was John George, owner 1623-78, who built or rebuilt the existing house.

PRIOR'S COURT MANOR

The second major landholder in Baunton in 1086 was Eadric, son of Ketil, who inherited three hides and three virgates of land from his father, a thegn of King Edward.⁷² Eadric also inherited his father's lands in Alkerton in Gloucestershire.⁷³ In 1123 the lands which had been held by Eadric were granted to Walter of Gloucester by King Henry I.⁷⁴ King Stephen confirmed the lands to Miles of Gloucester in 1136 or 1137.⁷⁵ As Miles was made first earl of Hereford by the Empress Matilda in 1141, these lands descended to the later de Bohun earls.

The Hospital of St John the Baptist, Lechlade (founded 1228) was a landowner in Baunton by 1251.⁷⁶ The hospital held land jointly with Cirencester abbey until 1301 when they agreed to divide this land for their singular use.⁷⁷ The land the hospital held of the earl of Hereford and Essex was reckoned as half a knight's fee in the late fourteenth century.⁷⁸ An inquisition post mortem into the lands held by Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford (d. 1373), revealed that his tenants in Baunton were the prior of Lechlade, the abbot of Cirencester and Henry de Pennington.⁷⁹ In a partition of the de Bohun lands in 1384, overlordship of the prior of Lechlade's holding in Baunton passed to the earl of Derby.⁸⁰

When the hospital was dissolved in 1476, its possessions passed to the chantry of St

⁶⁵ibid.

⁶⁶*Landed Gentry*, (1898 edn,) i, 1013-14.

⁶⁷*Landed Gentry*, (1937 edn,) i, 1554-5.

⁶⁸Fox-Davies, *Armorial Families* (1929), i, 357.

⁶⁹<http://www.thepeerage.com/p60014.htm#i600138>)

⁷⁰TNA E 179/116/554 rot 101.

⁷¹Nat. Heritage List 1090241; Verey and Brooks, 1, 163.

⁷² *Domesday Book*, p.472.

⁷³ Cf. *VCH Gloucestershire* vol 10, pp.123-127.

⁷⁴ *Charters of the Earldom of Hereford, 1095-1201* ed. D.M. Walker (RHS Camden 4th Series, 1, (1964), p.?

⁷⁵ *Charters of the Earldom of Hereford, 1095-1201*, p.?

⁷⁶ *VCH Glos*, vol 7, 106; *Close Rolls, 1247-1251*, p.562.

⁷⁷ *Cirencester Cartulary*, vol iii, pp.825-6.

⁷⁸ *Cal. Inq. Post Mortem*, vol 13, p.141; *Cal. Close Rolls, 1381-1385*, pp.512-13.

⁷⁹ *Cal. Inq. post mortem* vol 13, p.141. The de Bohuns still held the lands in Alkerton as well.

⁸⁰ *Cal Close Rolls 1381-1385*, pp.512-13.

Mary, Lechlade,⁸¹ which was itself dissolved in 1508, and then to St Nicholas's college in Wallingford castle (Berks. now Oxon.).⁸² In 1529 the college sold its manor of Baunton, valued at £6 13s. 4d. in 1522,⁸³ to Thomas Stour and William Young of Lechlade, from whom it passed to Denis Toppes of Lechlade by Dorothy his wife, Stour's daughter.⁸⁴ Toppes sold it in 1569 to Richard Master, and it descended to his son George and his son William, who was in possession in 1650.⁸⁵ It continued in the ownership of the Master family, and was subsumed within their Baunton manor after 1700. The manor was known as Priors Court by 1529,⁸⁶ and in 1685 was stated to comprise 500 a. of arable land and 15 a. of meadow, with three messuages; it lay partly in North Cerney.⁸⁷ Portions of the manor, including the capital messuage of Priors Court, were leased to tenants during the 17th and 18th centuries.⁸⁸

'Court Close' occurs as the name of three closes adjacent to Baunton church on a map of 1768, although no major building was then depicted on them.⁸⁹ The demesne complex of Priors Court manor may therefore have stood in this area, but no substantial house survived by 1662 to pay the hearth tax.⁹⁰ Downs farmhouse nearby, which retains 17th-century fabric,⁹¹ may have been associated with this manor.

OTHER ESTATES

Cirencester Abbey

Cirencester Abbey held land in Baunton from the late twelfth century when Richard Murdac made a gift of 5 acres to the canons and a further gift of 4 acres for the chapel of St Mary Magdalene.⁹² Further small bequests were made in the early-13th century,⁹³ and substantial pasture was acquired in the mid-13th century.⁹⁴ In the mid- to late-13th century, Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford confirmed Henry of Farley's gift of all his land in Baunton to the canons of Cirencester abbey.⁹⁵ In the later-15th century and at the time of the dissolution, the abbot and canons held the George family lands, referred to as 'the manor of Bruges', in Baunton at farm.⁹⁶

*Hospital of Quenington*⁹⁷

In 1535 the preceptory of Quenington farmed the site of the manor. They also derived

⁸¹ *Monasticon Anglicanum*

⁸² VCH *Glos*, vol 7, 119.

⁸³ *Military Survey*, 106, where it was still assigned to the chantry.

⁸⁴ GA, D674b/ T62.

⁸⁵ GA, D674b/ T2; D674b/ E67, ff.7-8.

⁸⁶ GA, D2762/T7. Thus it relates to the prior of Lechlade, not the prior of Cirencester, as has been assumed (e.g. A.S. Hall, *Baunton: a Cotswold village history* (1999), 44).

⁸⁷ GA, D674b/T/27.

⁸⁸ GA, D674b/E/67; D182/III/36.

⁸⁹ GA, D674b/P/10.

⁹⁰ TNA E 179/116/554 rot 101. House platforms north of the churchyard may denote its site.

⁹¹ Nat. Heritage List 1090239. No evidence has been found to associate Priors Court manor with the modern Priory Court development of outbuildings associated with the Old Manor House.

⁹² *Cirencester Cartulary*, vol I, pp.228-9.

⁹³ *Cirencester Cartulary*, vol I, pp.229-30, 233-4, 250-2.

⁹⁴ *Cirencester Cartulary*, vol I, pp.237-8; *Cirencester Cartulary*, vol iii, pp.823-5.

⁹⁵ *Cirencester Cartulary*, iii, no.333, p.824.

⁹⁶ GA P86/1/CH/1/41; *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol ii, p.469.

⁹⁷ cf. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol2/p113a>.

income from free and customary tenants.⁹⁸ After the preceptory's dissolution their Baunton property was sold in 1554 to John Waters and Thomas Carpenter.⁹⁹ Its later history has not been traced.

Jordan of Cirencester/Jordan Scotmodi

Jordan Scotmodi was a servant of the abbey of Cirencester who ran affairs there to his own advantage in the early thirteenth century.¹⁰⁰ In the late-13th century his land was in the hand of his daughter, Margery, who granted it to Thomas de Cavenham;¹⁰¹ he in turn granted it after c.1300 to Thomas and Roger de Mattishall.¹⁰² It may have belonged in the 16th century to the Damsell family.¹⁰³

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⁹⁸ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, ii, p.462.

⁹⁹ *Cal. Pat. 1553-1554*, 347-8.

¹⁰⁰ cf. VCH Cirencester Abbey account.

¹⁰¹ *Glos. Feet of Fines 1199-1299*, 19 (no.100), 71 (no. 349); GA P86/1/CH/1/34.

¹⁰² GA P86/1/CH/1/35.

¹⁰³ An endorsement on GA P86/1/CH/1/35 describes the deed as relating to 'Damselles house'. Robert Damselle was a Baunton taxpayer in 1525: *Bristol & Glos. Lay Subsidy*, 373. William Damsell was involved in litigation over sheep pasturage in 1551-3: TNA, C 1/1303/3-5.