

'Horseheath Hall'

by Sue Carter, 2010

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Horseheath Hall

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Moated Site - Horseheath Hall

Longitude: 0.3574868, Latitude: 52.09235, GridRef: TL 616 464

Medieval moat. Monument Number 376957

- * Medieval moat.
- 1199 Possibly held by Walter de Capeles.
- 1217 Walter's lands were restored to him following a rebellion.
- 1247 Held by Sir Peter of Melling, through his wife, Joan.
- 1259 Held by Sir James de Audley
- 1272 Sir James de Audley died and was succeeded by his son, James.
- 1273 James died and was succeeded by his son Henry.
- 1276 Henry died and William inherited. The widow of Robert de Beauchamp of Somerset, Alice, stated that James (Senior) had granted the manor to her.
- 1278 William released the manor to Alice and her son, James.
- 1282 Alice died.
- 1286 James died. He had taken the name Audley, and left his son, a minor, to inherit the hall.
- 1302-1305 Occupied by Hugh de Audley.
- 1313 The manor was handed back to Alice's grandson, James.
- 1335 James died.
- 1336-1362 James' widow, Margaret, held it for their son, William.
- 1365 William died and his brother, Thomas inherited.
- 1372 Thomas died leaving a young son, James, who died young.
- 1378 The manor passed to Thomas' daughter, Elizabeth.
- 1384 Elizabeth and her husband, John Rose held the manor.
- 1387 Elizabeth left it to her former guardian, John Sibill and his wife, Joan
- 1395 Held by Sir Philip Sinclair, great grandson of James Audley.
- 1397 Bought by William Allington
- 1398 Philip de Clare, Knight, Horseheath Hall.
- 14th C Late: Acquired by the Allington family.
- 1446 William Alington died and his son, William, inherited the Hall.
- 1448 William Alington was licenced to enclose 320 acres to form a park.
- 1459 William was succeeded by his son, John.
- 1480 John died and his son, William succeeded him.
- 1483 c: Sir Giles Alington was born at the old hall.
- 1485 Sir William Alington of Horseheath was appointed Commissioner of Array for Cambridgeshire by Richard III. William was killed at Bosworth Field. His son, Giles, was a minor aged two, so his widow (and later with her second husband, William Cheyne) held the Hall.
- 1513 Giles was knighted and held the Hall.
- 1521 Giles died and was succeeded by his son, Giles.
- 1530 Sir Giles Alington was knighted a Whitehall Palace by Henry VIII.
- 1541 Giles was Knighted.
- 1544 Sir Giles Alington had fought with Henry VIII at Boulogne-sur-mer and bought back a large clock as spoils, which he hung over his offices at the Hall.
- 1550 Sir Giles Alington was granted permission to enclose 400 acres and form a deer park.
- 1578 Sir Giles entertained Elizabeth I at the Hall on her way from London to Norwich.
- 1586 Sir Giles died and was succeeded by his (great) grandson Giles Alington.
- 1600 Sir William's eldest son died.
- 1603 Sir Giles was Knighted.
- 1638 Sir Giles Alington died and was succeeded by his son, William.
- 1642 William received and Irish Barony – Baron Alington of Killard.

- 1648 William died and his younger son, William inherited.
- 1662 Sir Roger Pratt started on the rebuilding of the Hall.
- 1663 13th June: The foundations of the new hall were laid.
- 1663-1665 Hall rebuilt on an earlier moated site for William, Baron Allington, by Sir Roger Pratt.
- 1682 William was created a Baron.
- 1685 William died and his son, Giles, a minor, succeeded him
- 1688 Enlarged.
- 1691 Giles died, as a minor, and without issue.
- 1700 The Hall was sold to cover bequeaths to William's daughters, Juliana, Diana and Katherine.
- 1704 Sold to John Bramley for £42,000 . He then spent £30,000 on the Hall.
- 1707 John Bromley died and his son, John, MP, succeeded him
- 1718 John Bromley, MP, died and his son, Henry, a minor, succeeded him.
- 1718-1725 Henry employed William Kent to refurbish the interior of the Hall and to landscape the gardens.
- 1725-1741 Henry was MP for Cambridgeshire.
- 1741 John Bromley's grandson was created Lord Montfort of Horseheath.
- 1755 Henry, Lord Montfort, committed suicide and his son, Thomas, succeeded him.
- 1762 Thomas added an orangery to the gardens.
- 1770 The park covered 740ha.
- 1773 Henry Bromley, Lord Montfort, was born.
- 1775 Lord Montfort stripped the Hall of pictures and furniture.
- 1776 Lord Montfort sold the estate. It was of four storeys, had an entrance hall which measured 40ft by 48ft, a withdrawing room measuring 40ft by 25ft, two staircases, a private chapel, five other rooms each measuring 21ft square including three bedrooms. The building measured 140ft by 76ft and the walls were 44ft high. The staircase measured 22ft wide and 44ft long.
- 1777 Thomas sold the Hall to Stanlake Batson. Mostly pulled down, only the shell was left. Wrought iron gates went to St. John's College and Trinity College, Cambridge. The park was disparked.
- 1792 The remains of the Hall were mostly demolished. Bricks from the Hall were used to build local houses, including part of Horseheath Lodge.
- 18th C Stood in a park of 870 acres.
- 1940 No visible remains.
- 1950 Field Investigation.
- 1977 Field Investigation.
- 1998-2000 Surveyed by J. Cawse, Haverhill and District Archaeological Group.