

## Property records

Oxford Diocese was established in 1542 with the properties formerly belonging to Osney Abbey and Thame Priory. At its revised foundation in 1545 it surrendered these to the Crown and received a different endowment, which in turn was largely exchanged in 1589. This left the Diocese with:

### **Acquired in 1545**

Hook Norton manor and rectory  
Bray rectory  
Orton with Twycross rectory  
Sibbertoft rectory  
Welford rectory  
Stewkley rectory  
Oatlands (Le Hurst) Meadow in St Thomas' Oxford

### **Acquired in 1589**

Banbury and Cropredy prebends and rectories, with portions of tithes formerly belonging to Eynsham Abbey  
Ambrosden, Burford, Cuddesdon, Culham and Stanton Harcourt rectories

Very little changed until all the properties except the Bishop's Palace at Cuddesdon were handed over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners after Bishop Wilberforce had left the Diocese. In 1877, they handed new properties to the Diocese from which the Bishop was to have an annual income of £5,000.

The following property records exist:

**Registers of deeds** covering 1606 to 1869

**Original deeds** and supporting papers for the properties above. This section contains a significant number of records relating to the Bishop's Palace at Cuddesdon.

**Surveys, rentals and accounts** from 1607 to 1870.

**Legal proceedings**, particularly concerning a lawsuit over Cuddesdon rectory 1607 to 1632, but with other suits over the Bishop's properties.

**Estate correspondence:** survival is erratic between 1679 and 1878.

There are also some papers relating to the private properties of the Bishops.

## Where are these records?

The Diocesan records are all with the Oxfordshire History Centre, including those after 1836 relating to Berkshire and those after 1845 relating to Buckinghamshire. The records themselves are not online.

## Where is the catalogue?

The Diocesan catalogue is unfortunately not on the History Centre's Heritage Search online catalogue. However, a catalogue exists on [Discovery](#), search 'DIOC Oxford'. You will need to visit the History Centre to look at the full catalogue in printed form.

## What do I do now?

To find out how to visit Oxfordshire History Centre to see the Diocesan records [CLICK HERE](#)

To contact Oxfordshire History Centre to make an enquiry about the Diocesan records [CLICK HERE](#)