

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 to find 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.

Catalogue

The Diocesan catalogue is unfortunately not on the History Centre's Heritage Search online catalogue, but an overview catalogue exists on [A2A](#). You will need to visit the History Centre to look at the full catalogue in printed form.

[Visiting and contacting the Oxfordshire History Centre.](#)