

Estate records

Records of individual estates make up a large number of the records relating to privately owned properties in Oxfordshire.

Deeds

Deeds feature extensively in both estate and manorial collections. They can be used in conjunction with other records for local history, house history and family history. Early deeds (sometimes as late as 1732) will be in Latin. The records may not provide a very precise description of the property - however, owners and occupiers, previous tenants, a property's previous name, boundaries and old street or field names are often given. 19th and 20th century deeds may have plans attached.

Terriers

A terrier is a description of property on a topographical basis. Details they give include field names, acreages and occupiers. There may be a map to accompany the text.

Household Records

At the centre of many large estates was the great house. The administration of this generated record series such as wage books, household accounts and bills for work on the house and gardens, as in the case of the Ditchley Estate [E36].

Maps

These arose out of the progress made in surveying techniques in the 16th century and the growing demand by landowners for plans of their estates. These maps are usually manuscript and show the land owned by a private individual, the church, crown etc. Many of these maps are accompanied by surveys, giving details of tenants, field names, land use and acreage. Two of the oldest maps in the office are for the Manor of Harpsden dated 1586 and Little Rollright c1690.

Interesting examples

Household records can often provide some interesting or unusual records. The records of Chastleton Estate include a book of recipes, and not just for food but also for remedies to common ailments (RefNo E24/9/MS/1)

Where are these records?

Whilst we hold records of a variety of estates, you may also find that other estate records for Oxfordshire are still held by the appropriate Oxford college or deposited at the Bodleian Library.

Where is the catalogue?

Many of the catalogues for Estate records are available online via [Heritage Search](#) or on The National Archives catalogue [Discovery](#). However, many catalogues are only available in our searchroom.