

Lordship of Bridgwater

(or Bridgwater Castle or Haygrove)

Parish/ County	Bridgwater Somerset	Principle source	Victoria County Histories
Date	History of Lordship		Monarchs
871	Creation of the English Monarchy		Alfred the Great 871-899
Unknown	Alfred the Great organised his guerrilla army to fight back the Viking invaders from land in and around Bridgwater.		Edward Elder 899-924 Athelstan 924-939 Edmund I 939-946 Edred 946-955 Edwy 955-959 Edgar 959-975 Edward the Martyr 975-978 Ethelred 978-1016 Edmund II 1016 Canute 1016-1035 Harold I 1035-1040 Harthacnut 1040-1042
1066	Bridgwater is held by Merleswein the sheriff of Lincolnshire.		Edward the Confessor 1042-1066
1066	Norman Conquest- Battle of Hastings		Harold II 1066
1086	Domesday		William I 1066-1087
1086	William the Conqueror took Bridgwater from the sheriff and gave it to one of his follows, Walter of Douai as part of a group of manors on the side of the Parrett river. The name Bridgwater seems to be a corruption of “Brugge Walter”, meaning “bridge of Walter”.		
1107	Walter is succeeded by his son Robert.		William II 1087-1100 Henry I 1100-35
1136	Robert rebels against the Crown and his daughter, Gillian takes over the lordship and manor. She carries the manor to her two husbands, in order, Fulk Pagnell and then Warin de Aule.		Stephen 1135-54
1166	Warin is confirmed as holding the honor of Bampton.		Henry II 1154-89
1177	Bridgwater is in the hands of the Crown.		
Unknown	Bridgwater has not remained long with the Crown and is now passed to another of Gillian’s sons, Fulk Pagnell.		

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1185	Fulk flees the country (it is not known why). The sheriff takes responsibility for the manor and lordship.	
Late 12 th Century	Bridgwater was held as part of the honor of Bampton, Devon.	Richard I 1189-99
1199	Fulk recovers his lands, including Bridgwater. Fulk grants Bridgwater to William de Briwere (Brewer) as part of an exchange of land and rights. The grant is confirmed by the Crown and Fulk's son William.	John 1199-1216
1200/2	William builds a stately and magnificent castle and starts to rebuild the bridge over the Parrett. Bridgwater is also granted a borough charter and charter for a market (essential for the town to grow). The charter includes pontage and lastage (bridge and quay tolls).	
1215	Magna Carta	
1215-1217	First Barons War	Henry III 1216-72
1226	William Brewer dies leaving the manor and lordship to his son and heir of the same name.	
1233	William dies and as there is no direct heir Bridgwater comes back into the hands of the Crown.	
1234	The manors of Bower, Horsey and Pawlett have become subordinate to Bridgwater showing its importance in the area and possible that it was the demesne manor of Walter.	
1248	The Crown grants Bridgwater to two great-granddaughters of William Brewer senior called Maud and Eve de Braose.	
1264-1267	Second Barons War	
1282	Maud first marries Roger de Mortimer who dies this year.	Edward I 1272-1307
1283	The lordship and manor are being called Haygrove.	
1297	Maud survives her second husband William Mortimer who dies this year. Her share of Bridgwater is confirmed as the castle, one third of the borough and one third of the manor. This estate is later referred to as Bridgwater Castle Manor.	

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1301	Maud dies leaving her son and heir Edmund, Baron Mortimer, by her first husband. Edmund holds the Bridgwater fee jointly with his wife Margaret.	
1304	Edmund dies leaving Margaret in sole ownership.	
1312	Bridgwater had grown to such importance in Somerset that it commanded a greater assessment than Bath, Wells or Taunton.	Edward II 1307-27
1334	On Margaret's death her great-grandson Roger Mortimer, Lord Mortimer and Earl of March inherits.	Edward III 1327-77
1360	Roger dies leaving the manor and lordship in dower to his widow Philippe.	
1381	Bridgwater was the centre of the Peasants revolt in the West of England. The peasants destroyed their feudal bond papers and executed the tax collectors leaving their heads on the town bridge.	Richard II 1377-1399
1382	Philippe dies and her grandson Roger inherits the manor and lordship.	
1398	Roger dies leaving his wealth to his widow Eleanor.	
1405	Eleanor dies leaving a son and heir Edmund.	Henry IV 1399-1413
1425	Edmund dies leaving the manor and lordship to his widow, Anne.	Henry V 1413-22 Henry VI 1422-61 1470-71
1432	Anne dies leaving the lordship and manor to Edmund's nephew, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.	
1460	Richard dies leaving the castle and third of the manor and borough to his widow, Cecily.	
1455-1487	War of the Roses	Edward IV 1461-70 1471-83 Edward V 1483 Richard III 1483-5
1495	On Cecily's death the estate is merged with the Crown.	Henry VII 1485-1509
Unknown	Henry VII grants the reversion to his wife Queen Elizabeth.	

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1503	Queen Elizabeth dies and the lordship and estate returns to the Crown.	
1509	As part of her jointure (lands given on marriage) Catherine Aragon, Princess of Wales, receives the Crowns assets in Bridgwater.	Henry VIII 1509-47
1511	Bridgwater manor and lordship was given to two daughters of Edward IV, Katherine (recently widowed and Countess of Devon) and Anne (wife of Sir Thomas Howard).	
1512	Anne dies and her portion of Bridgwater returns to the Crown.	
1527	Katherine dies and her portion of Bridgwater returns to the Crown.	
1533	Bridgwater forms part of the jointure of Anne Boleyn.	
1534	The Act of Supremacy – Church of England	
1536	Anne is executed and Bridgwater is once again used as a jointure for Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour.	
1537	Jane dies of complications after giving birth to their son, who was to become, Edward VI.	
1540	Henry's fourth wife, Anne of Cleves also is given Bridgwater however the estate and lordship returns to the Crown even though Anne is provided with a large settlement, and is referred to as the King's Beloved Sister, outliving the rest of Henry's wives.	
1540	Almost immediately after Henry's annulment to Anne of Cleves he marries Catherine Howard and once again Bridgwater is included in the jointure.	
1542	Catherine is beheaded on the grounds of treason for committing adultery, and Bridgwater returns to the Crown.	
1543	Catherine Parr, Henry's last wife also receives Bridgwater under jointure.	
1548	On Catherine's death Bridgwater returns to the Crown once more and is let out.	Edward VI 1547-53

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1626	Sir William and Sir George Whitmore, who had been lessees, are granted the lordship and manor of Bridgwater (including the castle).	Mary I 1553-58 Elizabeth I 1558-1603 James I 1603-25 Charles I 1625-49
1627	Sir George conveys the manor and lordship (excluding the castle) to Sir Richard Grobham (husband of his sister Margaret).	
1629	Sir Richard dies leaving his widow Margaret in possession with the remainder to go to his nephew, George Grobham of Broomfield.	
1642-1651	English Civil War	
1645	In the Civil War the citizens of Bridgwater were supporters of Charles and manned the castle under Colonel Francis Wyndham (a personal acquaintance of the King). The castle was besieged by parliamentary forces led by General Fairfax. It is claimed that the Colonel's wife, Lady Crystabella shot a musket at Cromwell nearly missing him but killed his aide de camp. The castle eventually fell and was ordered to be dismantled.	
1646	George Grobham dies.	
1652	George's successors are confirmed as John Howe the elder (husband of Sir Richard's sister and heir Jane) and Richard Grobham.	
Unknown	John and Jane Howe leave the lordship and manor to their son, John.	Charles II 1660-85 James II 1685-88 William III 1688-1702
Unknown	On John's death the lordship and manor pass to Sir Richard Grubham Howe.	
1703	Sir Richard dies leaving a son and heir of the same name.	Anne 1702-14
1705	Richard Grubham Howe is recorded as owner of the lordship and manor but this is the last reference recorded with no further trace being found.	

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Date	History of Lordship	Monarchs
1750-1850	Industrial Revolution	George I 1714/27 George II 1727/60 George III 1760-1820 George IV 1820-30 William IV 1830-7 Victoria 1837-1901 Edward VII 1901-10 George V 1910-36 Edward VIII 1936 George VI 1936-52 Elizabeth II 1952-
2014	The title appears not to have been used for 309 years.	