

A chronology of the Adbolton and Holme settlements, near Lady Bay in Nottinghamshire.

Sources are listed in the text. Text in brackets () are my own comments. (The two settlements were about a mile apart).

From <https://opendomesday.org>

Domesday 1086, Adbolton and All Saints' (All Hallows) church.

In Domesday, Adbolton had a recorded population of 7 households in 1086.

Value to lord in 1066 £0.5. Value to lord in 1086 £1.

Households: 6 villagers. 1 smallholder.

Ploughland: 1 ploughland (land for). 1 lord's plough team. 2 men's plough teams.

Other resources: Meadow 7 acres. 1 church.

Lord in 1066: [Godwin the priest](#)

Lord in 1086: [William Peverel](#)

(The name Godwin is Anglo-Saxon in origin. Generally a 1066 Saxon lord was replaced by a Norman by 1086. William Peverel was a favourite of William the Conqueror and held extensive lands across England).

Domesday 1086, Holme.

Households being 14 villagers and 2 smallholders.

Value to lord in 1066 and 1086 being 6 pounds.

Ploughland: 3 ploughlands. 2 lord's plough teams. 5 men's plough teams

Other resources: Meadow 80 acres. 1 mill, value 5 shillings.

Lord in 1066: [Thorth](#)

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: [Roger of Bully](#)

No church is mentioned.

(The name Holme is of Norse-Viking origin and means land by water or an island. The name Thorth is old Danish in origin. Roger de Busli (Bully) was a favourite of William the Conqueror and held extensive lands across England. Holme was the larger of the two settlements in 1086.)

From <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/doubleday/adbolton.htm>

From Notts Villages by WE Doubleday.

The name **Adbolton** comes from a Saxon named Ealdbeald, whose "ton" or farm it was, but the first "l" was gradually eliminated, and by the C14th century it was known as Adbolton. It had a church in Danish times, a building almost certainly of timber and consisting of a nave and chancel.

(In 1086, both settlements shared the same church at Adbolton. But Adbolton All Saints' (All Hallows) was demolished 1746 - 1830).

From the book ‘The Church History Project – Our Churches’, published in 2013 by Southwell & Nottingham Diocese.

(The entry for **St Edmund** at Holme Pierrepont with Adbolton reads (apart from the work of 1666 and the Victorian chancel)) “the rest of the church is C13th”.

From the Register of Listed Buildings <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1249315>

(The entry for the present church reads) K 63 3/66 **Church of St. Edmund at Holme (Pierrepont)** 1.12.65 G.V. I. Parish church. Built in C13th, C14th, C15th.

(Building includes) C14 tower with single large corner finials, remains of 3 gargoyles and topped with a C15 spire. Set on a moulded plinth. The west side has a single ogee arched light. (This small C13th ogee window may be the oldest dateable external architectural feature of the two settlements to survive down to the present day. Unfortunately it has been scenically compromised by a large heating system vent installed just next to it). On the (tower) south side a moulded arched doorway, 4 stair lights and a single larger rectangular light. The 4 bell chamber openings each have 2 arched and cusped lights under a triangular arch.

(Following these early periods of church building, **Holme Pierrepont Hall’s Tudor brick defensive gatehouse** was built around 1500 by Sir William Pierrepont. The main body of the Tudor house being demolished in the C18th).

(Inside **St Edmunds church**, the earliest Pierrepont tomb is that of Sir Henry Pierrepont, who died in 1499. There are several others dated later).

In 1666, **St Edmund’s church** nave, chancel and porch were largely rebuilt in the classical style by the Marquis of Dorchester. The church was restored 1878-81 by T. C. Hine, when the chancel was rebuilt, further restorations 1912 and 1960, spire restored c.1980.

From <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>. which includes an entry by Cornelius Brown 1896 as follows. In 1707 (Adbolton and Holme Pierrepont) were ecclesiastically united, and when **Adbolton Church** was pulled down in 1746, some of its material went for the repair of the church of Holme Pierrepont.

(The **Adbolton and Holme settlements** had suffered reductions from around 1500. The following references give some information).

From

http://www.holmepierrepontandgamstonpc.org.uk/HPGPC/Adbolton_25212.aspx “Many lost English villages can trace their decline to the Black Death (1348) and subsequent outbreaks of Plague, or to the turning of arable land into much less labour-intensive sheep runs in the 15th century. **Adbolton’s demise**, on the other hand,

seems to have originated in the 16th century, following **finances and confiscations** imposed by the authorities on farmers who refused to conform to the requirements of the newly reformed Church of England. Adbolton church was still standing and in use in the early 18th century and the tower was not taken down until 1830. Much of the church ashlar stone was then used to repair the neighbouring church of St. Edmund in Holme Pierrepont as well as being used in the construction of local buildings”.

(The dissolution of the monasteries was carried out between 1536 and 1541. So it appears that **Adbolton** village also suffered around this time).

From <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>, which quotes **Cornelius Brown 1896**.

“When the Church of England was established in 1559, it was found that **All Saints’ Adbolton church** was closed and there had been no worship there for two years. (likely following the fines and confiscations above). In 1598 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor house and lands to Sir Henry Pierrepont, with whose descendants they have ever since remained. The known list of its clergy ends with 1691, when Samuel Birch was instituted to the cure. That the parish was not overcrowded is clear from the church return of 1672 that there were then not more than thirteen inhabitants of age (16) to take the Sacrament, as prescribed by law”.

(The English Civil War was from 1642 to 1651. Fewer inhabitants remained at the settlements following the 16th confiscations and the English Civil War. About a hundred and fifty years later, another **clearance of the settlements** was carried out).

From <https://www4.uwsp.edu/english/rsirabia/notes/212/enclosureActs.pdf>

“**Enclosure of land** through the mutual agreement of landowners began during the 16th century. During the 18th century, **enclosures** were regulated by Parliament; a separate Act of Enclosure was required for each village that wished to enclose its land. In 1801, Parliament passed a General Enclosure Act, which enabled any village, where three-quarters of the owners (actually the wishes of the owner(s) of three quarters of the land) agreed, to enclose its land”. (Enclosure caused the) “eviction of farmers (known as customary tenants) who failed to prove legal entitlement to land their families had worked for generations. (Also) the eviction of villagers who owned no land and had kept animals on common pasture” (common land was allocated to other farmers through enclosure).

From <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. “**Enclosure** awards are legal documents created to record redistribution or reorganisation of land, providing legal proof of historical ownership and the boundaries of landholdings. They may include details of roads, rights of way, waterways, drainage and so on, as well as details of the landowners, whether people or institutions. Enclosure awards are usually accompanied by maps depicting the reorganised land and the features which distinguish it, including buildings, roads and of course the lines of the new boundaries. The enclosure awards we hold are only comprehensive for dates after 1845. Most of the enclosure maps we hold date from after 1800 and few survive from before 1770”.

(It is surprising that such important legal property documents have so often been lost).

Cornelius Brown 1896 wrote “By the early part of the 18th century the inhabitants and possessors of this town, being sensible of the convenience and safety of **inclosures** as well as of the profit of them, separated their lands from the common field and fenced them in, and the physical appearance of **Adbolton** was changed to its modern form". (Brown’s description of the **extinction of a population’s** ancient rights, households, livelihoods and traditions for the profits of a more powerful landowner and his sheep, is curious).

Brown continued “The **Adbolton parish** had been annexed to Holme Pierrepont in 1707; its church was in ruins, and in 1743 the parson reported that "there is now no house or parishioner belonging to it." Its plate was removed to the new mother church, and its material was scattered, some going to repair Holme Pierrepont church and some was incorporated in farmhouses here and at Gamston. In 1746 came a further change, for then the **church was pulled down.**”

Brown again “In 1834, when the site was levelled, various human remains and coins were unearthed; some of the gravestones went to make a pavement for an adjoining farm, and so the last traces of All Saints' Church were obliterated. A few years ago a fine pear tree marked its position: no plan or illustration remains to indicate what it was like.”

(On the **1st edition Ordnance Survey map**, surveyed between 1818 and 1838, **Adbolton** appears only in the shape of a single farm. The **Holme Pierrepont** settlement appears only as several scattered residences. Nucleated villages, as at West Bridgford then, no longer existed. They had been cleared).

(So the **Adbolton** Anglo-Saxons and **Holme** Danes were dispossessed, displaced and dispersed three times through history and their memory largely erased. Firstly by the Norman conquest, then the Tudor period confiscations, and then the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. There are two lost villages. This is not the usual ‘received narrative’ about Anglo-Saxons. More often, clearance has been done to others.)

In 1940 the Holme Pierrepont Estate was itself broken up and sold. Today there is no public access to most of the site of Adbolton lost village, it is farmland. There is only public access to St Edmund’s churchyard at Holme Pierrepont. On Wednesdays currently there is ticketed access to Holme Pierrepont Hall gardens and part of the private park.

Written in memory of those with no voice.

Nick Sparrow

West Bridgford

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