

## **History of Oldbury Court Estate**

Oldbury Court Estate was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1066 when a riding man is shown as holding a carucate of land.

By 1485, one third of Oldbury was in the hand of the Kemys family that had originated from South Monmouthshire. Last descendent of the Kemys family, Isabella Collett, sold 74.5 acres of land at Oldbury, including the house, to Robert Winstone in 1667. He embarked on a programme of building up his estate and by 1715 he bought the land on both sides of the River Frome which still belongs to the park today.

In October 1799 Thomas Graeme bought the estate and called in Humphrey Repton, the famous landscape designer, who made substantial changes to the character of the grounds around the house.

Graeme died in 1820 and the property eventually passed to the Vassall family, relatives to Graeme's sister. The Vassalls held the estate until 1936 and with no male heir, the last descendent of the Vassall family sold the estate to Bristol Corporation (today Bristol City Council).

A fire in 1948 severely damaged the coach house and burnt down the stables. An architect's report revealed the poor condition of the main house and unfortunately it could not be saved. By February 1949 the house had been demolished.

Today, Oldbury Court Estate is an important leisure and recreational area for the city of Bristol.