



The Blenheim Estate



Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace is the home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough and was the birthplace of Winston Churchill. The palace is named after the military victory of John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, on the banks of the Danube in 1704.

Situated eight miles from Oxford, it was designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. The palace and its parks and gardens are open to the public.

Peter Davis of law firm Withers LLP, solicitors to the estate, says Land Registry's Gloucester Office handled the registration of more than 3,000 hectares at Blenheim with "pace and efficiency".

"With many estates some of the land is registered and some is not and it makes conveyancing difficult," says Mr Davis. "We wanted to register the whole estate for ease of administration.

"The Gloucester office was given a fairly short order to get thousands of acres and hundreds of cottages all registered and it did a grand job. It was sent to them with a timetable and it was completed within that time. They worked hammer and tongs on it, doing a great job as part of an all-round team effort."

Property Director Roger File adds: "We have been very pleased with the process. We have been pleased with the proactive nature of it. The hands-on assistance we received was excellent – far better than we expected."

Gloucester Office set up a project strategy team when the first part of the estate was lodged for registration in October 2005. A further part was lodged in November 2005.

A good working relationship was established between Alistair Brown and Malcolm Holyhead in Gloucester Office and Peter Davis at Withers. This was a key to the successful completion of the application, with many problems being resolved quickly over the telephone.

The registration was completed in March 2006, with a letter of thanks received from Chief Executive John Hoy.

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