

# MANORIAL TITLE REGISTER

## FULL TITLES AND POSSESSORY TITLES

### FULL TITLES

A full title is a title (manorial/feudal) which has a complete set of deeds of previous holders going back to when the title was issued, and in an unbroken chain. There has to be a current holder and proof of where the previous deeds of holders are archived is necessary if purchasing one of these titles.

The current holder of a full title officially owns all the manuscripts that are held in archives relating to their title. Registration of the holder's name is made with the applicable archives. Although, the manuscripts can never be removed from any archive as they are classed as documents of national importance, they can be viewed.

A full manorial title - Lord of the Manor of xxxxx fetch prices from £7,500 plus legal fees

A full Scottish feudal title - Feudal Barony of xxxxx fetch prices from £95,000 plus legal fees

A full English feudal title - Feudal Barony of xxxx - I do not have any current prices to go by. These are very rare and most are held by universities and families of nobility. One has come up for sale, via Manorial Services, and the guide price is £100,000

A Feudal Earldom (English or Scottish) with a complete set of deeds is very rare. One sold about 2 years ago for £2 million.

The primary vendor of full titles is the auction arm of the Manorial Society of Great Britain - Manorial Services

The primary vendor of Scottish Barony titles is [baronytitles.com](http://baronytitles.com) and [lindsays.co.uk](http://lindsays.co.uk)

## POSSESSORY TITLES

These are manorial and feudal titles where there has either been a break in the lineage of holders, so such a title cannot be sold as a full title or no records can be found since a last known holder, normally several hundred years ago or they have become extinct (but not returned to the Crown). These titles are not as common as one would think. In my extensive research of titles and their history, I find that many are held to this day by universities, families of nobility, county councils, the church, the Crown and privately in trusts. Therefore, a considerable amount of research has to be done on not only the history of a title but its lineage of holders and research into the family of the last known holder. I have large files of the history of manors from both Cambridge and Oxford universities and large files of holdings of manors by several families of nobility. Plus, large files on manors in other counties from national Archives, parish and county records etc. This is where a large part of the costing into the price of a possessory title come into play, as that research time can take several months.

When a title appears to be dormant and the historical research shows discrepancies in the lineage of holders and/or there are no records of holders after the last known holder, then I undertake in-depth research to see if there is a possible holder to this date. Often that research reveals a title being held by an institution or family of nobility, in which case I write to them for clarification of my research and to see if they do hold that title.

Dormant titles which look to be *not owned by anyone* are not that common. One would think that they are common by the number of titles for sale on some platforms? But they are not common.

For every 20 titles I research, I might find one which has the potential to be possessed.

Possession of such a title is done under the UK possession laws. For a possession to be legal, the research has to be done in order to find any potential current holder, and such research has to be cross-referenced for ease of checking by anyone. Once I complete my research into both the history of a title and its lineage together with research on the last known holder to see if there is still a family link or not, and I find that there is not any further links of holders, family or otherwise, I then post Legal Notices of an 'official claim' of that title name/style on several international social media platforms and in the local newspapers/periodicals to where that title was originally registered. These legal notices run for a two-month period. The legal notices are posted in order to give any potential legal holder a chance to challenge the claim. No challenges are ever received because of my research and only after I am 100% sure that the title does not have a current holder.

At the end of this two-month period of legal notices, I then email copies of my research and screenshots of the legal notices to my solicitor who instructs an independent researcher who checks over my research (hence why it has to be cross-referenced). Once cleared by this researcher (which I am billed for) my solicitor legalises the title in name/style and then I advertise it.

With a 'possessory title' the historical manuscripts held in archives relating to that title are not owned by the holder. However, having said that, it is possible to register a possessory title on the Official Gazette and when that happens, a

possessory title holder can then get their name detailed as the owner of the historical manuscripts with the relevant archives/s. This is a bit of a deception however, and I do not get involved with this.

It costs around £900 to register a possessory title on the Official Gazette. That is the overall cost inclusive of the Official Gazette fees and legal fees as only a solicitor can submit the application for registration.

Most general public would not know the difference between a full title and a possessory title. It is only researchers like myself who can spot the difference and that is only because of the huge file of historical documents that I have built up over the years.

However, this is why possessory titles are a considerably cheaper option to the purchase of a full title. Possessory titles are effectively in name only. It is possession of the title name.

### **Summary**

Sections of the possession laws are used to create an exclusive legal right to a LORDSHIP TITLE, they DO NOT create a legal right to the LORDSHIP, that is left dormant, lost to ownership and unaffected. This legal right is termed as the right of “quiet enjoyment” to a LORDSHIP TITLE. Quiet enjoyment means exercising a right without fear of being challenged by someone with a better legal right. The legal rights (two primary rights) allow LORDSHIP/FEUDAL TITLES that have not been used for centuries to be brought back into legal exclusive ownership. They can also be passed down through inheritance in the same way as a LORDSHIP owner would pass down their legal right. The USE of an historic LORDSHIP TITLE is identical whether ownership is justified by

ownership of the LORDSHIP (normally with 800+ years of consecutive deeds) or by the right of “quiet enjoyment”.

Not many people would know the difference.

Possessory and full titles are registered on the platforms of:

[www.officialmanorialtitleregister.co.uk](http://www.officialmanorialtitleregister.co.uk)

[www.manorialsocietyregister.com](http://www.manorialsocietyregister.com)

However, the platform of: [www.manorialsociety.co.uk](http://www.manorialsociety.co.uk)

only register FULL titles, you cannot register a possessory title on this platform

