

## Bishop's Waltham Palace

From the 12th century until the Civil War in the 1640s this was a residence of the Bishops of Winchester. Its size and grandeur was comparable to many royal palaces. During the Civil War the palace was held for the king, but surrendered to parliamentary forces in 1644. Shortly afterwards it



was described as 'being in ashes'. The bishops recovered their property after the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, but they never lived here again. Instead, the building was robbed of materials to repair their Winchester residence - Wolvesey Palace. Parts of the palace were demolished and it sank into a state of picturesque decay, except for part of the north lodging range which was adapted into a farmhouse. In 1869 the property was transferred to the Church Commissioners, and in 1889 they sold it. In 1952, the palace ruins were placed in official guardianship, and today they are maintained by English Heritage.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham (1883-1963) was one of the most distinguished British naval commander of modern times. As Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet for most of the Second World War he won several major battles, including the relief of Malta. In 1935 Admiral Cunningham bought Palace House at Bishop's Waltham, together with the palace ruins. He lived here for the rest of his life. Lord Cunningham ensured the preservation of the ruins by placing them in the Ministry of

