



Wolfhall

A mile and a quarter west of Crofton, south of the canal, is the former site of the Tudor manor Wolfhall.

Known originally as Wulfhall – wulf is the Old English spelling of wolf – the manor house was built for the Seymour family in the early 1530s and briefly became the home of Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife. Jane died following the birth of her second child, the future Edward VI.

After the death of Henry VIII, her brother Edward Seymour was one of the councillors appointed to act as regents for the young King Edward. He swiftly used the opportunity to advance his own status, creating himself Lord Protector of the Realm and Duke of Somerset.

He also planned to build a grander house at Bedwyn Brail to replace Wolfhall (**see Bedwyn and Wilton Brail**). This overweening ambition caused his downfall. Blamed for a series of armed riots in 1549, Edward Seymour was arrested for treason. He escaped with his life but later intrigued against his successor as Lord Protector, the Earl of Warwick, and was beheaded in 1552.

His new house was never built and Wolfhall fell into decay and was eventually demolished. In the 17th century the existing Wolfhall Manor was built and extended considerably in the following century; it is a private residence and is not open to the public.

The author Hilary Mantel used the title Wolf Hall for the first volume of her award-winning fictional biography of Thomas Cromwell.

