

Corporate Events

Place and History



When Henry VIII ascended to the throne in 1509, he could count some 24 royal palaces within his dominion. When he died in 1547 his palaces exceeded 65 in number. Like many Tudors, Henry VIII believed that the place reflected the person, that a courtier's property should reflect their status and magnificence. The combination of a King enthusiastic for building, coupled with the innate desire of the nobility to outdo each other, resulted in courtier after courtier following the royal example as they either re-modelled or re-built their homes.

Henry, first Lord Marney, was one such nobleman. He set out to build a palace that would surpass his contemporary Cardinal Wolsey's tour de force at Hampton Court. Lord Marney built a new dwelling appropriate to the status of a man who held positions such as Lord Privy Seal, Captain of the Bodyguard and Knight of the Garter. Built of soft red brick, with a delightful warm tone, Layer Marney Tower achieves an extraordinary synthesis of grandeur and intimacy, that has delighted visitors ever since the Marneys began construction in about 1515-1520. Henry VIII stayed at Layer Marney Tower for two nights in August 1522.

Henry Marney died in London in 1523, and the funeral cortège took three days to reach Layer Marney where his body was buried in the newly built church of St. Mary the Virgin. Nowadays Layer Marney Tower can be reached by train from the city of London in less than 60 minutes.

Wherever you start from, we very much hope that you will make the journey to visit Layer Marney Tower, discover the timeless qualities, and see how this unique place can benefit you and your business.



Above
The effigy of Henry,
1st Lord Marney, the builder
of Layer Marney Tower.

Below
This print of 1805 depicts
the house before the gardens
were created.