

Dunstable Priory – Webster

In the abstract of the article, the author refers to the recent publication of the first English translation of the Annals of Dunstable Priory, of which she was the editor. The availability of this source, and her familiarity with it, may have prompted the author to carry out a further detailed analysis of the Annals which had not previously been possible.

The author accessed the original manuscript, held in the British Library, a Latin transcription and the English translation as well as other translations and transcriptions of annals contemporaneous with the Annals of Dunstable. In addition to these primary sources, the author referred to 14 secondary sources.

The manuscript does not appear on the British Library's list of digitised manuscripts¹, so it is probable that the author accessed it by visiting the British Library archive in person. This may have been necessary for the research even if the document had been available digitally because a section of the document focusses on the process of authorship and the analysis of different hands, pens and ink which may have required access to the physical resource.

The author may have accessed the primary and secondary sources in hard copy or in digital versions as these would be referenced in the same way, providing that the page numbering is consistent between the two types of resource. There is no reference to online collections or databases.

The author uses the primary sources to support her arguments about the purpose of the Annals, how it was authored and how it has been used. She uses three versions of the Annals, the physical manuscript held in the British Library, Luard's Latin edition and Preest's English translation. She cross references the Latin and English texts, using linked quotations from each book to illustrate the main points she is making. She also carries out a detailed physical examination of the manuscript to describe the way in which, and by whom, the document was authored and provides examples of later alterations and deletions. She adds to the historiographical debate by using secondary sources to support her arguments (eg Given-Wilson) and by referring to similar features in other medieval manuscripts. The author draws conclusions from her research to refute previous interpretations of the Annals (eg Cheney).

¹ British Library, *Digitised manuscripts and archives*, 2025 < <https://www.bl.uk/collection/digitised-manuscripts-archives> > [Accessed 11/10/2025].

Strata Florida – Burton

It is likely that the author came up with the idea for the research project based on her knowledge of recent research in a similar area, particularly Heale's work on abbeys in late Medieval England, and there was an opportunity to fill a gap in knowledge of the subject in Wales and also to provide more detail about what was already known in Wales. The project is part of two funded research streams which facilitated the undertaking of the work which led to this article.

The author lists the primary sources she used which include:

- Records generated by the General Chapter of the Cistercian Order
- Records generated by the abbey of Strata Florida
- Petitions to the English crown and the responses to these
- Government records
- Episcopal registers

The author chose these primary sources because she wanted to piece together detailed timelines of three incidents which occurred at Strata Florida. The events had not been described in detail in any secondary sources, so it was essential to access the primary sources. The author accessed these documents in The National Archives in London.

The article contributes to the historiographical debates concerning life in Cistercian abbeys in Wales in the late Medieval period by describing the three incidences of conflict at Stata Florida. The detailed examination of the primary sources enables the author to dispute the previously accepted date of one of the periods of conflict.

The author refers to a wide range of secondary sources to inform and support her arguments and to highlight where her research has brought new information to light.