

Assessment One: Archival Exercise

Medieval Dover Castle

Methodology

The guidebook to Dover Castle¹ was used to inform my knowledge and search strategies. Searching Dover Castle and Constables refined by dates retrieved records mostly concerning expenditure and work required on the castle. Becoming more selective, I altered my strategy to research Dover castle's relationship to the county of Kent, the church and monarchy and broadened it to include other archives. I used secondary sources and archaeological records to try to establish provenance.

London

The National Archives

SC1/20/1 (Stephen De Pencestre, constable of Dover to Edward I: works required at Dover Castle, Early Edward I.)

Provenance – Stephen De Pencestre's tenure of office was checked from the list of Constables on the Dover website.² The document is noted as stained, but there is no note that this hinders legibility.

London

The National Archives

E/101/462/14 (Expenses of Stephen de Penecestre, constable of Dover castle, for making a windmill. 23 Edward I., 20 November 1294-19 November 1295)

Provenance - Historic Environment Record from Kent County Council identifies the possible site of the windmill.³

London

The National Archives

SC 1/2/45 (Henry III to the bailiffs of Colchester (Essex): timber for works at Dover castle, 1261 September 13)

Significance - The document shows the castle was being developed throughout the medieval period. The English Heritage website contained a record on tree ring analysis supporting the premise that some remodelling occurred during Henry III's reign.⁴

1 Steven Brindle, 'Dover Castle' (London:English Heritage, 2012), pp. 1-46.

2 Dover, *List of the Constables and Wardens*, <<https://www.dover.uk.com/history/1916/annals-of-dover/dover-castle/the-constables-and-wardens>> [accessed 13 November 2023].

3 Kent County Council, *Exploring Kent's Past*, (2023) <<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MKE7129>> [accessed 13 November 2023]

4 Robert Howard, R.R. Laxton and Cliff Lifton, *Tree Ring Analysis of Timbers from Dover Castle Keep*, Cfa Reports, 44/2001, <<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/5026/TREERINGANALYSISOFTIMBERSFROMDOVERCASTLEKEEPDOVERCASTLEDOVERKENT>>[accessed 14 November 2023]

Kent

Kent Archives

U269/0342 1391-c740 (Compilation of medieval texts, with illuminations, describing feudal obligations to Dover Castle, listing its wards, rations supplied to its garrison, and ship service owed by the Cinque Ports barons in time of war, transcribed from earlier sources, 1391; with an armorial of the constables of Dover Castle added by Sir Edward Dering, 1630, and annotations by John Sackville, c1740.)

Significance – The document was discovered in Knole Archives in 2005. It may support the body of evidence on the castle that I have discovered and could also provide additional information.

Provenance - Caroline Shenton, the archivist who catalogued the document provided a sound rationale for its provenance in her article.⁵ Using secondary sources I discovered that Edward Dering was an MP for Kent helping me to check that the provenance Caroline Shenton provides is sound.⁶

London

The National Archives

SC 8/312/E34 (Raymond Cauffepe, sergeant of Dover castle and keeper of dead stock in the castle)

Provenance - A note on the record suggests the date of the petition was the same as the other petitions in the collection.

London

The National Archives

SC 8/329/E907 (Petitioners: Robert de Bourghse' (Burghersh), constable of Dover Castle)

Provenance - The date is noted in the record as 1298-1306 when Robert de Burghesh was Constable.

Significance – A two part petition, the first part Burghese petitions for supplies of timber and carpenters to repair houses and bridges at the castle damaged by storm. In the second part he requests funds to pay the sergeants in preparation for the “coming of the Queen”. (Isabella of France).

London

The National Archives

SC 8/264/13199 (Petitioners: No petitioner named Nature of Request: The founding of the Castle)

Provenance – The catalogue record mentions it is about the founding of the castle and establishment of the monks of the house of St Martins Dover to the death of Prior Whitacre.

Significance – Despite being marked as illegible it would be useful in researching links between the priory and castle.

⁵ B.D. Henning, *Dering, Sir Edward, 2nd Bt. (1625-84), of Surrenden Dering, Kent and Bloomsbury, Mdx.*

<<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/dering-sir-edward-1625-84>> [accessed 15 November 2023].

⁶ Caroline Shenton, ‘Dover Castle's Ancient Keepers: an Antiquarian Manuscript at Knole’, *Apollo*, 163/ 530, (2006) pp. 62-66.

Canterbury

Canterbury Cathedral and Archives

CCA-DCc-ChAnt/Z/165 (From: Mgr Stephen [de Monte Luelli], archdeacon of Canterbury
To: the prior of Canterbury Cathedral Priory)

Provenance - A Warrant asking the Prior to pay Queen, Eleanor of Provence £100 to fortify Dover castle, dated 25th March but the year is illegible. A possible suggested date is 1266 as it ties in with Mgr de Monte Luelli's date as archdeacon.

Significance – It reveals one of the ways funding was provided to fortify the castle.

London

The National Archives

E 40/15768 (appointment by the king [Henry III] of Robert Walerand as warden of Dover Castle, 1261 - 1263)

Significance – Shows royal patronage as Robert de Walerand was a Justiciar and one of Henry III's advisors.

London

The National Archives

SC 8/215/10712 (Petitioners Simon de Burley, constable of Dover. Name (s) Burley, Simon
Addresses: King, 1386)

Significance – It highlights the wider role of the castle in sheltering local people during threats from abroad.

Summary

The task was broad and research was conducted in several different archives. Key findings included the illuminated custumal, information about the windmill and evidence to support that the castle was remodelled under Henry II. Additional research would involve visiting the relevant archives reading the documents (as most of the records retrieved were not digitised) and looking for pictorial and archaeological evidence. I would also suggest that if feasible modern technological techniques should be used to analyse the records to enhance legibility.

References

Brindle, Stephen, 'Dover Castle', London: English Heritage, (2012).

Henning, B. D., *Dering, Sir Edward, 2nd Bt. (1625-84), of Surrenden Dering, Kent and Bloomsbury, Mdx.* <<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/dering-sir-edward-1625-84>> [accessed 15 November 2023]

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<<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/5026/TREE-RINGANALYSISOFTIMBERSFROMDOVERCASTLEKEEPDOVERCASTLEDOVERKEN>> [accessed 14 November 2023]

List of the Constables and Wardens,

<<https://www.dover.uk.com/history/1916/annals-of-dover/dover-castle/the-constables-and-wardens>> [accessed 13 November 2023]

Kent County Council,

H E R/ TR 34 SW 220 Monument (Possible site of Windmill at Dover Castle)

<<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MKE7129>> [accessed 13 November 2023]

Shenton, Caroline, 'Dover Castle's Ancient Keepers: an Antiquarian Manuscript at Knole', *Apollo*, 163/530, (2006) pp. 62-66.

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