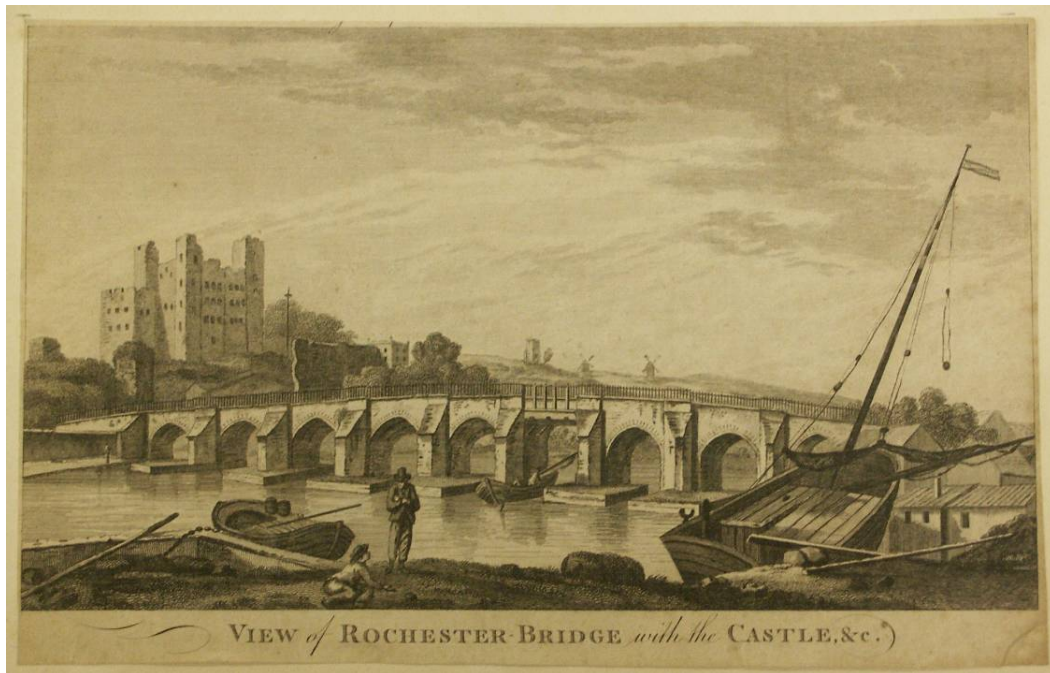


ROCHESTER CASTLE



CONSERVATION PLAN

PART 2

ISSUES AND POLICIES

The Paul Drury Partnership

October 2009

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ROCHESTER CASTLE CONSERVATION PLAN

ISSUES AND POLICIES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Rochester Castle is a highly valued part of the city, both by the citizens of Rochester and Medway Council who own and manage it on their behalf. The high level of statutory protection afforded to the Castle and its environs has resulted in minimal development pressure on the site. Issues therefore fall into three categories, general management, protecting the fabric, and enhancing public perceptions and experiences.
- 1.2 The freehold of the entire Castle site is owned by Medway Council. However, the standing medieval fabric is in the care and guardianship of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport by virtue of a Guardianship Deed dated 1st February 1965. The Secretary of State has directed that English Heritage manage the Property on his behalf under Section 34 of the National Heritage Act 1983. However, responsibility for the running of the Castle was assumed by the City of Rochester (now Medway Council) in 1995 under a Local Management Agreement. The current Local Management agreement commenced on the 1st April 2006 and endures for a period of five years.

2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

2.1 The adoption and use of the conservation plan

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to inform and guide the long term future management of the Castle. Any future management decisions should be informed by the assessment of significance and the policies set out in the plan. In order to achieve this, it is important that the plan is adopted by the two key stakeholders, Medway Council and English Heritage, and distributed to, and used by, all those involved in managing the site. It is essential that the plan is a living document, which is updated and amended as new information comes to light. In particular, further detail about the keep is likely to be uncovered in any future consolidation works. The most appropriate place for this new information is likely to be the gazetteer, which consequently will need updating most frequently. In order to ensure that the plan is updated regularly and systematically, an electronic master copy should be held by Medway Council and responsibility for holding and updating this document should be allocated to a specific person. The most appropriate person to bear this responsibility (though in practice the updating of the document would in reality be delegated to specialists) would be the Tourism and Heritage Manager (or their successor).

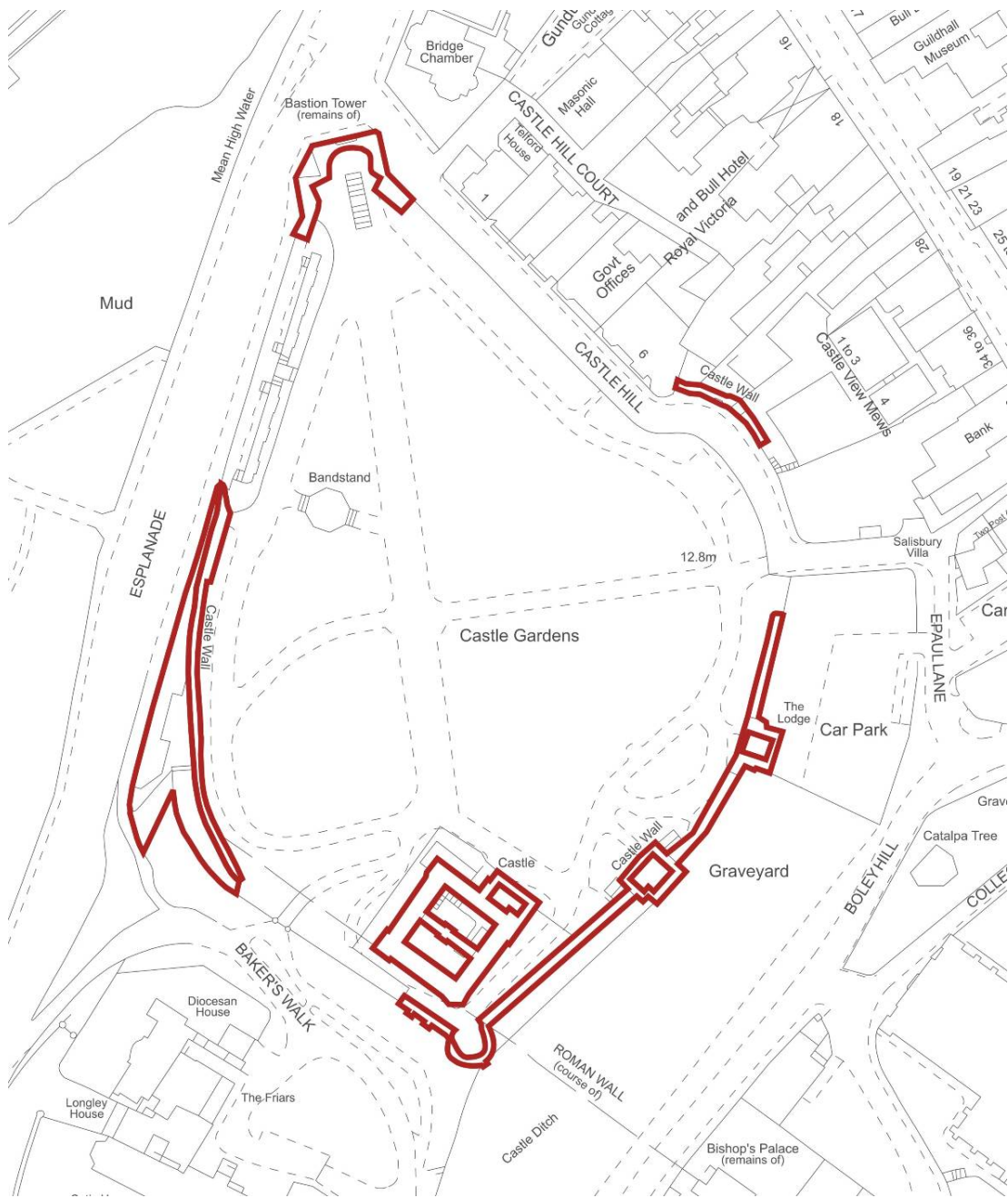


Fig.1 Plan of area under English Heritage guardianship (shown in red)

Policy 1: The conservation policies recommended in this Conservation Plan will be endorsed by Medway Council and English Heritage as a guide to the future management of Rochester Castle.

Policy 2: The assessments of significance set out in this Conservation Plan will be used to inform decisions about the future management of the site.

Policy 3: The Conservation Plan will be reviewed within five years of its adoption. Further reviews should take place in the same five yearly cycle as the quinquennial surveys.

Policy 4: Responsibility for updating the Conservation Plan will rest with the Tourism and Heritage manager at Medway Council, or his functional successor.

2.1.2 The Conservation Plan is intended to be a high level document setting out the long term strategy for the Castle. In order to deliver strategic change an implementation plan will be necessary. A management plan is required to ensure that the significance of the Castle is sustained on an ongoing basis.

Policy 5: English Heritage and Medway Council will, within three years, develop and adopt a Management Plan for the site based on the Conservation Plan.

2.2 Statutory protection

Listing and scheduling

2.2.1 The Castle is both a grade I listed building and a scheduled monument, but under current legislation scheduled monument controls over-ride the listed building consent regime. As a scheduled monument, the consent of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering up the monument. The scope of the control is both more extensive and more detailed than that applied to listed buildings. Consent can be granted only for detailed proposals.¹ When determining applications, the Secretary of State is advised by English Heritage.

2.2.2 The present designations (scheduling and listing) adequately reflect the importance of the Castle. However, the scheduling at present omits the Boley Hill earthwork, which is clearly an important, if imperfectly understood, part of the Castle. It is recommended that a more detailed survey of this area is carried out, with a view to reviewing and extending the extent of the

¹ PPG 16 Annex 3 para. 5

scheduled area. Due to the division of ownership, and the residential and educational use of this area, a different management strategy will need to be devised for it. If, in the future, any part of the Castle, for instance Tower Three, was used as a dwelling other than a caretaker's house, its scheduled status would become problematic, as scheduled monument consent would be necessary for very minor adaptations consistent with domestic use and may delay urgent repairs necessary to safeguard the fabric. In such circumstances it would be advisable to amend the schedule, excluding the above ground parts of the castle used as a dwelling house, which would then fall under the listing regime.

2.2.3 Consultation with the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments is advised before contemplating **any works** that may affect the Castle. Certain categories of limited works, including routine gardening, can proceed lawfully without an application for scheduled monument consent providing these meet the description in the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994. The English Heritage Inspector can advise about the applicability of this. It is also strongly recommended that the Conservation Officer's specialised knowledge is fully utilised by seeking advice before seeking consent for any significant repairs, including re-pointing or replacing joinery, and that the Conservation Officer should also be kept informed of any application for consent for below ground interventions.

2.2.4 The scheduled and listed status of the Castle does not supersede the need to apply for planning permission. Where works constituting development are proposed, planning permission must be sought in parallel with scheduled monument consent or listed building consent, as appropriate.

Policy 6: Scheduled monument consent will be obtained before any works, not covered by a class consent, are undertaken within the scheduled area of the Castle. English Heritage will be consulted as part of the planning of any such works. Where such works will take place on a regular basis (ie maintenance), they will be permitted in the context of a management agreement.²

Policy 7: Further research, including a detailed survey of the Boley Hill earthworks, should be commissioned with a view to extending the area of the scheduled monument to include the entirety of the medieval castle earthworks.

Policy 8: Planning permission will be sought where necessary.

² Class 8 of the Schedule to the Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 permits works for the maintenance of preservation of a monument as a result of an agreement made between the occupier of a monument and the Secretary of State or English Heritage.

The conservation area

- 2.2.5 The entire estate falls within the City of Rochester Conservation Area. The Council has a statutory duty to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of this area. Thus a prime material consideration in any planning application submitted will be its effect on the character of the surrounding area as well as on the character of the Castle itself. A character appraisal for the conservation area is currently in the process of being drafted.

The Heritage Protection Review

- 2.2.6 The statutory and non-statutory controls protecting the historic environment are currently subject to a review intended to simplify and streamline the process. A draft Heritage Protection Bill was published for consultation in April 2008. This proposed that the statutory list of buildings and schedule of monuments, and the non-statutory registers of historic parks and gardens and battlefields, be combined into a single national *List of Historic Sites and Buildings of England*, subject to a simplified and unified consent regime. It is also proposed to expand the existing concept of management agreements, as *Heritage Partnership Agreements*, to cover a wider range of planned changes and works without the need for individual applications. The new system was to have been implemented in 2010. This approach would have been advantageous to the management of the Castle, as it would encourage a holistic approach to the protection of the heritage asset, while minimising bureaucracy. However, the bill was omitted from the 2008-09 parliamentary session. It is not known whether an attempt will be made to introduce the bill in a future session.

2.3 Specialist skills

- 2.3.1 The medieval fabric of Rochester Castle is of exceptional importance. It is essential that any works are carried out in a sympathetic and sustainable way, normally using traditional materials and techniques. Furthermore, securing its ongoing structural stability will require the best technical knowledge available in the fields of building conservation and structural engineering. It is thus essential that the specification, execution and recording of any works to the medieval fabric, and any interventions that may affect the below ground archaeology, are undertaken, supervised and inspected by suitably qualified and experienced professionals and craftsmen. Normally this will take the form of appropriate conservation accreditation from the relevant professional institute or similar body. The responsibility for day to day supervision would rest with the contractor and a rigorous inspection of works completed would be expected from the supervising consultant. Briefs prepared for works to the Castle should make the consultant's responsibilities regarding inspection clear.

2.3.2 However, it is important that the managers of the Castle and their specialist advisers maintain an overview of the quality of works. This would be best achieved by monitoring by the Council, assisted by English Heritage, who have a statutory responsibility to ensure compliance with any scheduled monument consents that are granted. The personnel responsible for monitoring should be drawn as appropriate from English Heritage and the Council's Design and Conservation, and Design and Surveying, sections. The Castle Archaeologist will be responsible for overseeing any recording works and fully involved in the planning of any interventions to the historic fabric or below ground interventions in the scheduled area (the role of the Castle Archaeologist is outlined fully below in section 3.1).

Policy 9: Where works are proposed to the Castle's historic fabric, only consultants suitably qualified and experienced in working with the conservation of historic buildings and structures will be employed.

Policy 10: Contractors engaged to work on the Castle's historic fabric will be suitably qualified and experienced in conservation techniques.

Policy 11: To ensure a high standard of quality, works to the Castle will be monitored by English Heritage and/or the Council.

2.4 Maintenance and repair

2.4.1 The current maintenance regime is set out in the Local Management Agreement between Medway Council and English Heritage (commencing on 1 April 2006 and running for 5 years). Under the terms of this agreement the Council is responsible for minor regular maintenance and reports all activity undertaken to the English Heritage twice annually. The schedule for this general maintenance is set out in the agreement, and includes the fabric of the monument itself, the guardrails and barriers, and the paths, fencing and signage of the landscape. Any urgent or significant repairs are reported to English Heritage as the need for them becomes apparent. The Council also submits a forward programme for the planned maintenance of monument. Provided this is agreed by English Heritage, the costs of these works, including professional fees, are split equally between the two parties. A condition survey is carried out every 5 years.

2.4.2 Within the Council, the Design and Surveying team are responsible for implementing the maintenance schedule and do so using contracted labour. Minor ongoing works, such as the clearance of gutters and weed control, are paid for directly from the Tourism and Heritage Sector budget. Larger scale works, including redecoration, are capital funded, with a bid being made for works in the annual budget rounds of both parties. Maintenance specifications

for each individual building are in the process of being prepared by the Design and Surveying Team in collaboration with English Heritage.

- 2.4.3 More wide ranging works to the building, such as any repointing, stone replacement and consolidation identified as necessary in the quinquennial condition surveys are all capital funded, and thus a bid is made for these in the annual budget round. Funding has already been allocated for the consolidation of the keep in 2006-11. Specifications for works are either drawn up by a specialist conservation architect who is contracted for this purpose, or in house with specialist input with the Council's Conservation Officer. All specifications are approved by English Heritage prior to issue and there appears to be a good working relationship and free exchange of information between the Design and Surveying and Design and Conservation Sections of the Council, as well as with English Heritage.
- 2.4.4 In general this represents a satisfactory way of dealing with regular care and maintenance issues and of planning future works. However, it is essential that the existing programme of regular surveys and routine maintenance continues to prevent the condition of the Castle deteriorating. At present regular maintenance of some areas, particularly the keep, is extremely difficult due to the inaccessible nature of the building. Wherever possible access to these areas should be reinstated sufficient to enable maintenance to take place.
- 2.4.5 Responsibility for the maintenance of the Castle Gardens rests with the Green Spaces team of the Council. They undertake to mow the grounds regularly, attend to the maintenance of trees, clear vegetation and attend to the small amount of gardening associated with the site. Extra works are organised on an *ad hoc* basis at the request of the Tourism and Heritage Manager. Apart from the uncontrolled growth of vegetation around the south-west corner of the curtain, and the poor state of the railings on the north side, this appears to be effective in terms of ensuring adequate maintenance. There are wider issues concerning the presentation of the Castle Gardens as a whole, which will be tackled below (section 4.6).

Policy 12: The historic fabric of the site will be cared for through a regime of cyclical preventative maintenance and prompt repair, informed by a five yearly condition survey, with appropriate resources being made available by English Heritage and/or Medway Council.

Policy 13: Maintenance access to significant elements of the site is at present difficult. Wherever possible, it will be reinstated and maintenance resumed.

2.5 Restoration, reinstatement and alterations

- 2.5.1 The Castle is not a single period entity. It has been adapted and altered to suit the needs of successive generations and will continue to evolve. Nevertheless,

during the last 200 years of its life the emphasis has been on preserving and presenting the medieval fabric as fully as possible, and this should continue to be the case. Opportunities to reveal and enhance the significance of the Castle, particularly its medieval elements, should also be taken when they arise. This must stop short of speculative restoration, which as set out in English Heritage's draft *Conservation Principles*, cannot be acceptable. Thus it is appropriate to conserve some elements, for example the curtain walls, pretty much as found as their original form is not known. However, the reinstatement of lost elements where their precise form is known, or the reinstatement of elements in a consciously modern idiom where their general form is known, may be acceptable if this does not adversely affect elements of considerable or exceptional significance, and helps protect or reveal these elements. Where decorative medieval stone has to be replaced, if practicable the originals should be permanently retained.

Policy 14: Restoration should only be undertaken where it can be demonstrated to preserve or enhance an aspect of considerable or exceptional significance. Any restoration must be based on sound evidence and should be clearly discernible.

Policy 15: The removal of elements of considerable or exceptional significance will only take place when this is the only way in which to preserve the wider architectural and artistic significance or structural stability of the Castle, for instance, the necessary replacement of stone during repair and consolidation work. The removal of elements of some significance may be justified to reveal or reinforce aspects of considerable or exceptional significance, providing the benefit decisively outweighs the loss. Otherwise, removal should be restricted to intrusive elements or those of little or neutral significance.

Policy 16: Elements identified as intrusive in this Conservation Plan should be removed or modified when the opportunity arises.

Policy 17: Major adaptations, alterations and additions will only be permissible where they reveal and reinforce the significance of the Castle as a whole. Where such changes apply to elements of exceptional or considerable significance, they should be reversible.

2.6 Further research

2.6.1 At present the Castle is imperfectly understood, particularly with regard to the layout of the bailey buildings, the date and circumstances of the final loss of the roof and the date and form of the Boley Hill enclosure. These gaps in our knowledge are dealt with in more detail in section 13 of part 1 (Understanding and Significance) of this document. Future research should be targeted to addressing these issues.

Policy 18: Where resources permit, research should be targeted to reduce gaps in the understanding of the date, role and significance of the site's elements.

2.7 Recording interventions

- 2.7.1 An ongoing problem is the poor quality of record keeping since the monument was taken into guardianship. This has made the history of recent interventions to the fabric difficult to trace; it is difficult to assess the rate of deterioration of the fabric over time, and the preservation and specification of archaeological surveys and watching briefs has been patchy.
- 2.7.2 Neither the Council nor English Heritage has a coherent strategy for recording and archiving works to the building. At English Heritage, old files are either destroyed or consigned to deep storage in various parts of the country. Consequently, much valuable information has been lost, including records of the works carried out to consolidate the keep in 1965, and the stereoscopic photographs of the keep taken in 1986 as a preliminary to the preparation of detailed photogrammetric elevational drawings.
- 2.7.3 The picture at the Council is similar. Detailed correspondence files up to the early 1980s have been deposited with the Medway Archives Office, as have detailed design drawings and survey plans associated with the works to the forebuilding in the early 1980s. However, little of this is catalogued in a meaningful way, and there is much irrelevant information. Items of relevance and pertinence, for example the plan and sections of the shaft uncovered during the works to the north-west bastion in 1956, are stored unnamed and undated.
- 2.7.4 The standard of current record keeping is particularly worrying. Here the lack of an organised archiving policy has been exacerbated by frequent office moves associated with the merging of Rochester and Gillingham Councils. An example of this is the record of the ROCASWA project. All the original copies of the final report appear to have been lost apart from a personal copy held by one of the people involved. The Council did not retain copyright over the survey data, nor did it ensure that it kept, and archived, original copies. Consequently the original copies of the rectified photographs taken as part of this project have been disposed of by the contractor who took them, without a copy being kept either by the Council or the NMR.
- 2.7.5 It is clear that a sensible archiving policy needs to be drawn up and adhered to. The logical depository for this would be the Medway Archives Office. This archive should be selective, with the aim of documenting all significant

interventions to the monument and any proposed works that did not come to fruition.

Policy 19: An archive documenting interventions at the Castle will be deposited with and maintained by the Medway Archives Office. This should include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- *Copies of any applications for scheduled monument consent.*
- *Copies of advice received from English Heritage in relation to any applications for scheduled monument consent.*
- *Copies of reports of any archaeological excavations, recording works or watching briefs relating to the monument.*
- *Copies of any investigative reports commissioned, including conservation plans and feasibility studies.*
- *Records of any repair and consolidation works to the fabric of the scheduled monument, including schedules of works and design/ repair drawings.*
- *Records of any structures erected or demolished within the area of the scheduled monument.*
- *Records of any photographic or drawn surveys of any part of the monument.*

2.7.6 There is also no set process for the preservation of objects recovered during excavations, which are currently being distributed to several centres and, in many cases, lost. Ideally the objects would be catalogued and stored locally, the best location being the Guildhall Museum, who would have both the space and expertise to look after them in an appropriate manner. English Heritage would only have responsibility as a last resort. A copy of excavation archives, together with the records concerning the built fabric of the Castle, should also be deposited in the Medway Archives. Collaborating with the Cathedral, and jointly archiving and curating excavated artefacts, would be of benefit to both sites. The possibility of closer cooperation should be further explored.

Policy 20: In the future, all excavation archives and significant excavated objects will be deposited at Medway Archives or the Guildhall Museum (both part of the Tourism and Heritage department) as appropriate, which will be responsible for properly cataloguing all items deposited. Should the Guildhall Museum not be in a position to take excavation objects, due to storage restrictions, English Heritage should take on responsibility for curating the objects on a loan basis. Significant objects previously recovered through excavation and existing excavation archives will be relocated to the Museum as the opportunity arises. Records concerning the built fabric of the Castle should be deposited with Medway Archives, which will also keep a duplicate copy of the excavation archives.

2.7.7 It is necessary that future archaeological recording works are designed to increase our understanding of the Castle, rather than merely record features in isolation. The understanding section of this conservation plan should provide the basis for this. This provides a summary of current knowledge and theories as to past forms and usage, and highlights the areas where further work would be beneficial. Excavation and recording should be fitted into this ‘model’, which can be corrected and expanded in accordance with the results obtained, to enhance the collective understanding of the Castle.

Policy 21: The Understanding section of the Conservation Plan will be used as a framework to guide and inform future archaeological and recording works.

2.7.8 A defined minimum standard is also necessary for archaeological works. This needs to ensure not only that the information and level of detail included in the reports is adequate, but that reports can be compared and integrated with each other to inform the wider picture of the significance of the below ground archaeology. There is also a need for consistent standards by which to assess when archaeological recording is necessary.

2.7.9 For the recording of standing buildings the ‘level four’ standards set out in English Heritage Guidance *Understanding Historic Buildings* and the associated conventions for drawings provide a good basis. These also would form a good basis for drawing up conventions for recording below ground interventions. General principles and standards for below ground excavation are set out in English Heritage MAP2 and the IFA Standards and Guidance. However, these are non-specific documents. A model brief is required, clearly and accessibly setting out the level of detail required, standardising the drawing conventions and scale at which information is presented, and relating features excavated to a common base plan. This should also include the requirement for a colour photographic record (both print and digital) to be made of the stratigraphy, to aid comparison with other excavations on the site.

Policy 22: A model brief will be prepared which will act as the basis for all future archaeological works. This should be prepared within six months of the appointment of the Castle Archaeologist.

3. PROTECTING THE FABRIC

3.1 Buried archaeological deposits

3.1.1 The status of the Castle as a scheduled monument recognises the importance of the buried archaeology present and offers a theoretically high level of protection. However, piecemeal damage is being caused by the frequent cutting of service trenches and other minor excavations. These not only are

damaging buried deposits, but are not always recorded archaeologically. When records are made, they generally involve a watching brief rather than a pre-emptive excavation. The areas recorded are generally so limited that it is impossible to sensibly interpret the results, and the quality of recording has not been sufficiently detailed to enable the results of different watching briefs to be compared. The cumulative impact of these trenches on the integrity of the archaeological deposits and thus their evidential value is unknown, but clearly adverse.

- 3.1.2 Examples of this are the records of works that took place in 1981 and 1985. In 1981 works were observed but the resulting reports consisted only of very rough sketch plans and a report stretching to half a side of A4, despite the fact that medieval masonry was found. In 1985, the footings and service trenches for a new lavatory block were dug and backfilled without any archaeological supervision. (Letter from A C Harrison to G M Murphy, 17 April 1981; Memo from F McAvoy to Mr Hinchliffe, 2 October 1985: EH file AA 050966/2 PT6 ROCHESTER CASTLE, KENT, WORKS).
- 3.1.3 In order effectively to protect the buried archaeology of the Castle it is necessary to gain a fuller understanding of the extent and nature of the deposits. A geophysical survey should be commissioned in the bailey. This could identify the location of former buildings and from this an agreement about the continued use of the bailey for events could seek to limit the potential for damage to archaeological deposits e.g. from tent stakes. Where the survey indicates the likely presence of a building, further archaeological evaluation, in the form of a limited excavation down to the topmost levels of archaeological significance, would be desirable. Current policy (as set out in PPG 16) seeks to preserve nationally significant archaeological remains in situ. However, given the threat to the archaeological significance of the site through incremental and unrecorded damage, there is a good case for controlled archaeological interventions in order to better understand the site and plan for its management.
- 3.1.4 Damage to the archaeological deposits should be minimised by careful planning of services. At present the services have not been completely mapped, though partial surveys of both electricity and drainage runs are available. The production of a full services map would greatly aid the long term management of the site. It is also known that the existing drainage system is reaching the end of its life and is in need of extensive repair. The opportunity to undertake a full refurbishment of the services should not be missed. This should probably take the form of a 'ring main' of ducting within a trench, with service points laid to all locations required. This would allow life-expired services to be removed and replaced, and extra services to be introduced in the future, without any further archaeological impact. Should it be necessary to introduce services that are not on the course of the ring main,

- a spur could be routed from a service point, minimising the disturbance to buried archaeology. Extensive consultation would be necessary with organisers of events, to ensure that such a system would effectively meet the needs of all users.
- 3.1.5 Where archaeological works are necessary, it is recommended that investigative excavation is carried out in advance of works, rather than the current arrangement of a watching brief, where the archaeologist is reliant on turning up at the same time as the contractor, and is to a great extent dependent on the vigilance of that contractor. This would also enable larger areas to be excavated, and therefore a more complete picture of the features uncovered to be built up.
- 3.1.6 A further issue is the use of substantial tent pegs, generally around 600mm long, to secure marquees in the bailey. These could be doing serious damage to buried deposits, for example they will split a medieval wall if driven into it. To minimise this damage, areas where medieval buildings are likely to have been situated (as indicated by the geophysical survey and any archaeological evaluation carried out) should be avoided. Additionally, the use of frame tents and smaller, 300mm, stakes should be introduced to minimise damage to archaeological levels. English Heritage is currently developing guidance on this issue with reference to its own sites. The general principles set out in that advice will be applicable to Rochester.
- 3.1.7 To ensure continuity and consistent standards, and the ability to interpret and interrogate the results of interventions and so develop and correct the ‘model’ of the evolution of the Castle put forward in this plan, it is suggested that a single archaeologist be responsible for oversight of works at the Castle, in much the same way as cathedrals all have resident archaeologists. Like a cathedral archaeologist, this would not be expected to be a full or part time position, but a consultancy role held by an archaeologist who specialises in medieval built structures. Often the role is assumed by a member of a university teaching department or a widely recognised expert in this sphere. Ideally, given the close relationship between the Castle and Cathedral, the Cathedral Archaeologist (currently Graham Keevill) should also take responsibility for the Castle.

Policy 23: A Castle Archaeologist, with responsibility for supervising, organising and archiving archaeological work, will be appointed by the end of 2009, as required, on a consultancy basis.

Policy 24: Proposals for development or repair will be preceded by an archaeological assessment and, if appropriate, an evaluation of the area to be affected. There should be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally

significant archaeological and architectural remains and their settings. Measures will be devised to minimise harm to below-ground remains. This will include:

- *Establishing a clearer picture of the archaeological potential of the site via geophysical survey and limited area excavation;*
- *Drawing up a long-term services plan, including the mapping of existing services and the introduction of a new services 'ring main'.*

Policy 25: A management agreement will be put in place to protect archaeological deposits during events. This will include:

- *Drawing up a plan for the erection of tents and marquees based on the results of the geophysical survey and archaeological investigations that avoids the areas of greatest archaeological potential;*
- *Limiting the stakes used to secure tents and marquees to 300mm in depth.*



Fairground and marquees in the bailey

3.2 The keep – analysis of defects

3.2.1 The recent (31 March 2006) report on the condition of the keep by GB Geotechnics has outlined a snapshot of the current state of the keep and highlighted the following serious defects:

- The presence of voids in the walls;
 - The deterioration of the mural gallery;
 - The deterioration of the exterior stonework;
 - The deterioration of the decorative stonework of the interior.
- 3.2.2 The precise mechanisms that are causing this deterioration are not certain; a more detailed forensic investigation and analysis will be necessary to fully understand the processes taking place and their interactions. However, in the interim it can be concluded that water penetration, wind action, and the use of hard, often cementitious, pointing appear to be the three main contributing factors. It is also clear that the decay of the exterior is being accelerated by the regular de-scaling activity. The condition of the individual elements and the likely pattern of decay are dealt with below.

The voiding of the wall cores through water penetration

- 3.2.3 The GB Geotechnics report confirms that ‘beyond a generally well bonded external skin of roughly coursed stonework, voiding and/or deconsolidation existed within the rubble core as a result of water filtration and subsequent washout of fine material and lime’. According to the report these problems tend to be concentrated within the upper half of the building, with large areas of voiding only occurring at lower levels in the lower half of the southern elevation. The four cores taken confirmed this picture, indicating that while mortar in the voided areas of core may not have been completely washed away, these areas have been significantly weakened.
- 3.2.4 This analysis appears to be correct, as clearly a large volume of water is entering the core through the wall heads. This is most obviously seen in the gallery on the east side of the third floor (off the NE stair), where the vault remains very damp for some time after heavy rain. By inference, it is likely that other areas of the wall tops are getting soaked in a similar way. This is also suggested by the pattern of plant growth at wall top level, which is particularly prevalent on the east and west sides, around the junctions of the former central valley between the roofs with the east and west walls. There is little evidence on the north side, while the plant growth on the southern side implies fairly even water penetration down to the historic abutment gutter level.
- 3.2.5 Much of this water must be entering through the wall tops. These were rebuilt by Payne in 1897 using a cementitious mortar, and appear to have been extensively resurfaced in the renovation works of 1965. There are several cracks in the cement-based capping separating the old and new work, particularly over the central drains. The surface is also uneven, with water pooling in depressions rather than draining via the central drains. The joint

between the parapet and the wall top is heavily overgrown and it is likely that water also enters the core at this point. Hence it is likely that much of the water falling on the wall tops subsequently enters the core.



Damaged wall top



Water ingress through north-east stair

- 3.2.6 Water falling on the north-east and north-west towers also enters the core, as it has nowhere else to go. This may explain the particularly bad state of decay of the north-west corner of the mural gallery and the gallery areas around the north-east tower. The c.1965 floor in the south-east tower is relatively sound and it is unlikely that a significant amount of water is entering at this point. The south-west tower is roofed. However, the downpipe from this roof discharges directly onto the west wall top, and from there much of this water is likely to reach the core.
- 3.2.7 A second source of water ingress will be the external walls. These not only receive water from driving rain, but water falling on the wall tops and not absorbed directly is channelled directly down the outer walls and thus reabsorbed. To a lesser extent the internal walls will also absorb water, both through rain and run off down the walls. The battlements, which are particularly exposed, are also likely to absorb a large amount of water, which is able to percolate directly into the core.
- 3.2.8 A further source of water ingress is likely to be the window openings. Driving rain enters both from the outside face, through the relatively large window openings at gallery and third floor levels, and again from the inside through

the larger arched embrasures behind these windows. Once inside it can pool on the floors, particularly those at third floor level which do not appear to have been consolidated to the same extent as the gallery passages, before entering the wall core.

The mural gallery

- 3.2.9 There is evidence of open spreading cracks, dropped voussoirs and severe loss of mortar in the mural gallery vaults. This phenomenon is most marked in the original section of the keep, particularly on the north and east sides. The plaster on the vaulting of post 1215 corner is generally in better condition, though behind a crust of atmospheric pollution this is very soft and friable, particularly when damp, and is also beginning to deteriorate.



Loss of mortar in the gallery vaults



Decay of Caen stone in the gallery

- 3.2.10 This is not a new problem. Some areas where mortar has been washed out from the vaults and cavernous deterioration of the Caen stone has taken place on the west side of the gallery are covered in a thick layer of black pollutant deposits, indicating that this form of damage has been going on since long before the passing of the first Clean Air Act in 1956. However, in the majority of cases the damage is fresh and involves the loss of medieval masonry and mortar that has hitherto not needed repairing, suggesting that the rate of deterioration has increased significantly in recent years.

- 3.2.11 Like the voiding, this pattern of damage suggests that water penetration is responsible. Mortar appears to be being washed out from existing cracks, often from behind later cementitious mortar repointing, rather than being eroded from the surface. Many of the surviving Caen stone voussoirs inside the gallery exhibit signs of cavernous decay resulting from the re-crystallisation of marine salts or magnesium sulphate. This is probably due to waterborne salts being carried through the saturated core to be deposited just below the surface.
- 3.2.12 Wind action is exacerbating this problem. Rapid air movement accelerates the evaporation of moisture and the deposition of salts around openings, so accelerating the process of decay. Mechanical erosion (primarily visitors brushing against the sides of the gallery) is also scouring away the delicate soft mortar of the vaulting. This can be seen by the contrast between the post-1215 sections of the gallery, which feature relatively small windows and vaulting that is largely intact, and the extensive erosion associated with the larger windows in other areas. The differential quality of the primary mortar is also likely to affect the process of decay. Where large areas of primary mortar have become dislodged, it often comes away in sections associated with the shuttering bays of the vaults. This is particularly noticeable in the staircase vault of the south-west tower, between second floor and gallery levels.



Preservation of plaster in sheltered area of mural gallery

- 3.2.13 The relationship between mechanical erosion, differential quality of primary workmanship and water penetration appears complex. The relatively good state of the mortar in the south east corner may also be due to better quality workmanship and less water ingress. The advanced state of decay of the vault

over the formerly-blocked window to the chapel, which appears fresh, is unlikely to have been substantially due to wind action, as since 1986 this window has been protected by the forebuilding roof. However, its position next to the stair tower suggests that a high level of water ingress is likely and that this is primarily responsible for the damage.

The external walls

- 3.2.14 The GB Geotechnics report has confirmed that the Kentish Ragstone that forms the majority of the exterior wall surface is exfoliating, shedding laminae between 1 and 3 mm thick. The Caen stone of the quoins and window reveals, particularly on the east face, was also noted as being in a poor condition. The west and north faces, which were de-scaled in 2004 and again early in 2006, allow some conclusions to be drawn about the rate of decay. On these sides, 21 and 6 stones respectively had to be removed, representing a significant deterioration in the course of about two years.
- 3.2.15 The high level of water penetration is likely to be responsible for the relatively high rate of deterioration of the exterior stonework, which appears to be progressing more quickly than would be expected from normal wet-dry cycles. Most of the evaporation is probably through the external walls, as the internal walls receive little direct sun, concentrating the decay process on the exterior.
- 3.2.16 The decay of the exterior is likely to be exacerbated by the use of cementitious mortars for re-pointing works. Although these were not found in the four mortar samples analysed by PAYE at ground level on the north and west elevations, there is evidence of a pink shelly cementitious mortar that post-dates the industrial soiling of the walls. This is probably associated with the consolidation works of 1965 and is likely to extend further up the keep. This form of mortar appears to have been applied in patches on the south and east elevations (from where the PAYE samples were taken), concentrating at the west and north ends respectively.
- 3.2.17 The regular descaling work is accelerating this process of decay, as the outer layer of delaminating stonework would otherwise to an extent act as a sacrificial barrier, protecting the stone behind it.

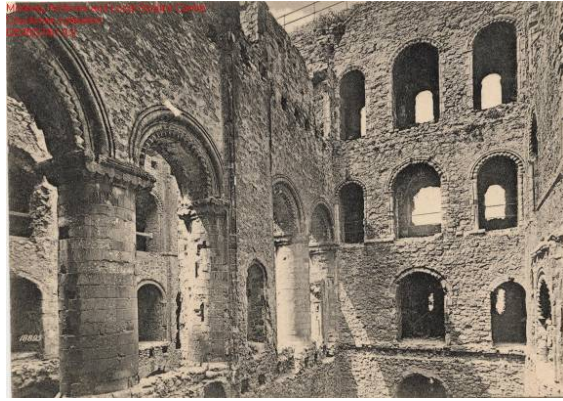
The internal walls

- 3.2.18 It is clear that the stonework of the interior is deteriorating. Photographs taken c.1930 show the interior stonework in relatively good condition. Extensive areas of plaster, presumably medieval, survived and the detailing on voussoirs remained crisp. The same view today shows a marked deterioration in the condition of the Caen stone dressings, with the loss of much of the original detail and most of the plaster. Unfortunately, due to the lack of photographic records, it is not possible to track the deterioration of the

stonework through the later 20th century (Memo from Austin Clegg to John Ashurst, 3 April 1987, notes the poor condition of interior stonework, also noted in a memo to J Coad from Alan Wright, 8 May 1985: EH file AA 050966/2 PT4 ROCHESTER CASTLE, KENT, WORKS).



The keep interior today



The keep interior c.1930

- 3.2.19 This deterioration is likely to be caused by the introduction of cementitious mortar *c.*1965, which will have forced water evaporation through the face of the stones, rather than through the mortar joints. This is the only factor that has changed in the interior during the period in which the deterioration of the Caen stone dressings has markedly accelerated, and is therefore likely to be largely responsible for this change. Their survival for around 300 years in the open in relatively good condition suggests that water penetration and ‘wind erosion’ was not a significant factor in the deterioration of the Caen stone in this part of the building prior to repointing.
- 3.2.20 It is conceivable that some of the decay may be the result of acid rain; further analysis would be necessary to determine this. However, rather than being the result of direct rainfall, the root cause behind this decay is likely to be the saturation of the core combined with the extensive hard pointing.
- 3.2.21 Further damage is also apparent in the inside faces of window openings. Where Caen stone dressings survive, they are frequently pitted and in some cases deep caverns have been formed. A similar pattern of decay is also noticeable on the voussoirs of internal arches in the second floor gallery. This pattern of decay is characteristic of that associated with the re-crystallisation of salts and is likely to be due to water penetration through these openings.



South-west tower: Damage to internal window openings

The condition of the forebuilding

- 3.2.22 By contrast the forebuilding is in a relatively good state, both structurally and in terms of the condition of the stonework. The tent roof appears to remain water tight, though it is reaching the end of its design life. The drying out of this part of the building has had no noticeable adverse effects on the stonework and the glazing in the chapel has halted wind erosion. Unfortunately its design is flawed in that it is impossible to clean the exterior face of the glass from the inside; it is now extremely dirty.
- 3.2.23 The glazing on the first floor is less successful. Here there is a small gap between the glazing and the window reveals where a compressible foam sealing strip has failed. Wind and driving rain are channelled through the gap, visibly increasing the rate of decay of the surrounding stonework by locally accelerating and intensifying the wet/dry cycle. The pile of stone dust on the floor tells all.

3.3 The keep – immediate action

- 3.3.1 It is clear that the keep needs extensive consolidation work to ensure its ongoing structural stability. The interior and exterior stonework will continue to decay if measures to reduce water penetration into the core are not introduced. Continued descaling on an annual basis, as recommended in the PAYE report, results not only in a loss of original fabric, but, as we have seen, is probably accelerating the process of decay (section 3.2.17). It is therefore vital that this practice stops. The recent construction of a stair canopy and security fence effectively addresses health and safety considerations by protecting the public from harm from falling stones. It is suggested that periodic inspections are made of the interior, and any loose large stones re-fixed or replaced. The risk to people from falling scales, as opposed to stones, is minimal. In the long-term, as part of a more general re-landscaping of the Castle Gardens (see section 4.7), it would be desirable to replace the security fence with a planting of thick spiny ground cover shrubs to deter the public from getting too close to the base of the keep.

Policy 26: The practice of descaling the keep at regular intervals will cease, as it is contributing to the ongoing decay of the stonework. Health and safety considerations will be addressed in the short term by maintaining the present physical barriers, and by re-fixing loose stones and patch repointing as necessary.

3.4 The keep – consolidation of the walls and the issue of roofing

- 3.4.1 During the preparation of the Conservation Plan, three possible approaches to tackling the structural problems of the keep were considered:
- consolidating the structure as is;
 - weatherproofing the wall tops and roofing the turrets; and
 - roofing the structure.

The key questions to address are which of these would represent the best way of slowing or halting the deterioration of the keep in both the long and short term; the extent to which the works associated with each solution would damage the significance of the keep; and whether this loss of significance is outweighed by the long term benefits. The advantages and disadvantages of all three options are summarised in the table overleaf:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><i>Consolidate structure as is:</i> This would address the structural problems of the keep by consolidating core voids and repointing areas where the pointing has failed. The wholesale removal of cementitious mortar is not considered to be feasible, due to the very high cost of this work and that danger that in many areas its removal would damage the surrounding stonework. However, the replacement of a limited amount of pointing around areas of decorative stone would be beneficial.</p>	<p>The immediate structural problems of the keep are addressed.</p> <p>There is no change to the significance of the building.</p>	<p>The underlying problems of water penetration are not addressed and the rapid deterioration of the medieval fabric would continue.</p> <p>The rate of deterioration of the interior stonework is unlikely to be slowed (as this is linked to the repointing works of c.1965).</p> <p>The external spalling may be slowed but will not be stopped as this is the only area where water can evaporate.</p> <p>Structural interventions would be necessary more frequently than in a roofed building.</p>
<p><i>Consolidation and improving the weatherproofing and drainage of the wall tops:</i> This would involve roofing the turrets, reconstructing the wall tops with a layer of asphalt capped with stone slabs laid to a fall with a drainage channel and introducing downpipes, probably internally.</p>	<p>The amount of water entering the core should be significantly reduced, slowing the rate of deterioration of the medieval fabric.</p> <p>Interventions would be confined to upper levels of the walls, which were reconstructed c.1896. There would consequently be no major change to significance.</p>	<p>Water will continue to enter the core of the keep walls via the internal faces of the walls and the floors of the window embrasures.</p> <p>The current pattern of wetting and drying would continue and the deterioration of the internal stonework would continue, albeit at a slower rate.</p> <p>The installation of down pipes would have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the building. However, this would be limited by good design.</p>
<p><i>Consolidation, improving the weatherproofing of the wall tops and roofing:</i> This would involve reinstating the spine wall to its full height and the medieval roof line.</p>	<p>This would represent the best opportunity to halt the deterioration of the interior stonework in the long term.</p>	<p>Some of the vertiginous quality of the keep interior would be lost.</p>

- 3.4.2 Clearly merely consolidating the structure would not represent an adequate response to the problem presented, as while it would safeguard the immediate future of the structure, it would do little to address the issue of the deterioration of the internal detailing.
- 3.4.3 Capping the wall tops and roofing the corner towers would address much of the problem, without any appreciable loss of significance. It therefore has to be seen as part of the minimum amount of work that is necessary.
- 3.4.4 Removing the cementitious pointing from the walls would be of great benefit to the long term survival of the fabric of the keep. Similar work is ongoing on the exterior of the White Tower. However, experience at the White Tower suggests the cost of such works at Rochester would be prohibitive. Despite this significant benefits could be gained from removing the cementitious pointing from the areas around decorative stonework and its replacement with a lime mortar. This would encourage moisture collecting in this area to evaporate from the joints rather than the face of the stones.
- 3.4.5 The roofing of the keep holds out the possibility of reducing water ingress and wind erosion, and therefore damage to the fabric, to the minimum. The interior would eventually become dry and deterioration of the internal wall faces through the effects of weather would be minimal. The volume of water absorbed by and evaporated through the outer wall face would be minimised.
- 3.4.6 Roofing the keep would nonetheless be highly controversial. It has been raised twice before, in 1973 and in the 1990s. On the latter occasion, a detailed scheme was prepared by Manning Clamp and an application for scheduled monument consent was made. A similar proposal, though with much less detail, was made as part of the Rochester and Upnor Castles development study by Terry Pawson Architects in 2004. These schemes are discussed in detail in Appendix 1. Although the Manning Clamp proposal was accepted in principle by the then Ancient Monuments Advisory Committee of English Heritage, there remained several outstanding technical issues that needed to be resolved. The scheme ultimately foundered due to the loss of funding that resulted from the merger of Rochester and Gillingham Councils and the creation of Medway unitary authority. The application for scheduled monument consent was withdrawn. The technical issues were considered as part of the conservation plan process and a solution that addressed them was proposed. This is also outlined in Appendix 1.
- 3.4.7 However, consultation both within English Heritage and with the relevant amenity societies (see appendix 2) revealed strong objections to roofing the keep. These were fourfold. Firstly, there was concern that that the roofing in and drying out of the keep would lead to conditions that could actually

accelerate the deterioration of the internal stonework. Experience where similar buildings have been re-roofed suggests that there is unlikely to be any long or short-term damage resulting from the drying out of the keep after roofing in a relatively traditional way, providing that this is allowed to take place slowly and naturally. There is a long history of re-roofing castle keeps, ranging from the re-roofing of Norwich in 1894, through to Colchester (roofed 1931-5) and Conisbrough (1995), as well as other medieval buildings like the refectory at Norwich Cathedral (2004). Deterioration of stonework has not been noted at any of these monuments. Environmental monitoring of the recent recovering of the central hall at Mont Orgueil Castle, Jersey, should make a quantitative contribution to our understanding of the process. In any event the possibility of further deterioration during the drying out process has to be weighed against the certainty of the ongoing process taking place under current conditions.

- 3.4.8 Secondly, there was concern about the negative effects on the significance entailed by flooring and using the keep generated by the introduction of services, and intrusive interpretation and presentation works. This appears to have been prompted largely by previous experience of roofing keeps, such as at Conisbrough. Here what appears to have been a technically successful roofing has been marred by a rather unfortunate presentation of the building, in which the main room is kept in near complete darkness. Roofed keeps are clearly not easy places to interpret. The most common solution appears to be leaving these spaces empty. This has been adopted at Guildford following a recent re-roofing (2004) and was until recently the case at Orford, which was roofed during the 1930s. This approach clearly does not adversely affect the significance of the building, though it fails to take the opportunity to enhance interpretation. That said, the displays recently introduced at Orford are not a great success, adding little to the interpretation of the building while detracting from the majesty of the spaces.
- 3.4.9 However, such problems with interpretation are not a valid argument against roofing, as strict control can be exercised over any internal works through the scheduled monument consent regime.
- 3.4.10 A more pertinent concern is that roofing will radically alter the way in which the keep is perceived and inevitably detract from the vertiginous character of the interior. While it would be possible to preserve this vertiginous character by roofing but not flooring the building, or only part flooring, views to the sky would be lost. This approach would make the drying out of the building more difficult to control, as conventional windows could not be fitted other than in the gallery (as it would be impossible to maintain and clean the windows without floors). Lack of windows would also mean that the accelerated

wetting and drying cycle that is speeding up the process of decay around the windows could not be effectively addressed.

- 3.4.11 The current position of English Heritage, which reflects the views of the majority of the amenity societies, is that the benefit of roofing the keep in terms of protection of the evidential and artistic value of the interior stonework does not outweigh the damage to the significance of the building as a ruin. As the majority of the water entering the keep does so through the wall tops, and that relatively little enters via the internal faces of the walls, it is possible that roofing would do relatively little to protect the interior beyond what would be achieved by capping the wall tops. However, this neglects the fact that the only way to protect the top of the spine wall, which includes the highly enriched arcade, the decorative high point of the building, is to introduce a roof, whether generally or locally to the wall head. Furthermore, since all external masonry deteriorates over time, the internal enrichment will inevitably eventually be lost unless the building is re-roofed.
- 3.4.12 There are also fears, stemming from experience with other projects, that the provision of a roof would be extremely expensive. However, no analysis has been carried out to ascertain why previous projects have cost so much or run over budget. A roof over the Keep would be a relatively small, simple structure and thus its cost should be readily quantifiable. The scaffolding necessary to build such a roof would have to be erected in any case in order to carry out the consolidation work to the walls, works which need to be undertaken for structural reasons regardless of roofing. Cost overruns are much more likely to be associated with the consolidation works, as the true condition of the walls will not be known until work is in progress.

Conclusions

- 3.4.13 While the view of The Paul Drury Partnership is, given that the medieval stonework is of considerably greater significance than the qualities of the keep as a roofless ruin, the most appropriate way of protecting the exceptional evidential, historical and artistic qualities of the keep would be roofing, English Heritage's position that roofing is unacceptable has not changed as a result of the conservation plan process. It is also clear that, whatever the theoretical benefits or drawbacks of roofing, in the short to medium term, funding is unlikely to be available for any works beyond essential repairs to the fabric of the keep.
- 3.4.14 The deteriorating condition of the masonry of the keep needs to be addressed as quickly as possible. There is broad agreement as to the minimum level of works for this to be achieved. The first step would be to consolidate core voids and repoint areas where the pointing has failed or is about to fail. The

complete removal of cementitious mortar is not considered feasible. In many areas its mechanical removal would cause immediate damage the surrounding stonework unless undertaken with great care, using labour-intensive conservation methods (like the work currently in hand on the White Tower within the Tower of London), for which funding is not likely to be forthcoming. This approach should, however, be considered for, and in zones around, the decorative stonework surviving inside the keep, to encourage evaporation of moisture through the joints rather than these particularly vulnerable stones.

- 3.4.15 It is also necessary to prevent as much water as possible from entering the wall heads and stairwells. This can be achieved by rebuilding the wall tops with a damp proof membrane underneath a new wall walk surface laid to a fall. Removing water collecting on the wall heads will be difficult. Projecting external spouts, as used recently in the roofing of the great tower at Guildford, would probably be a close reflection of the original solution. However, given the height of the Rochester keep, it is inevitable that some water would blow back and soak the surface of the walls. A better solution would be to use internal down pipes. If lead was used and these were fitted to the internal angles, their visual impact would be minimised. Roofing the corner towers, particularly the stair towers, where at present water can penetrate deep into the building, would also greatly reduce water ingress to the wall cores.
- 3.4.16 These measures would slow down the decay, but water would still enter the keep through the internal faces of the walls, the floors of the mural gallery and window embrasures. It would therefore vital to understand their effectiveness, and the processes involved at a detailed level, by a small amount of targeted investigation. A five year monitoring programme would establish the rate at which the fabric of the keep is decaying and aid our understanding of its underlying causes. It would also reveal the effects of consolidation works and inform future interventions. This should include the following activities:
1. The rate of erosion of the mortar in the mural gallery should be mapped and measured where structural repointing has not been carried out. In many places, it is so soft that an appreciable difference will be visible over a period of months. Accurate transits taken using a reflectorless EDM at approximately four sites at six month intervals would be a swift means of measuring the rate of decay.
 2. The nature and extent of stonework damage by salt attack needs to be assessed. This would be achieved by analysis of samples both of surface efflorescence and from wall cores. Again, a relatively small number of samples, say four wall cores and four surface samples, should be sufficient.

3. A more extensive visual monitoring of water penetration during prolonged periods of wet weather should be undertaken. This would be best achieved over a winter by Council staff, who would be on hand to visit the building when weather conditions were ideal for making observations.

3.4.17 If these works demonstrate that the internal stonework of the keep is continuing to deteriorate at a significant rate, then it must be accepted that roofing is necessary to protect the building in the long term. If it is decided not to roof the keep, then in the long term a programme for replacing the decorative stone will be necessary in order to retain the architectural and qualities of the keep.

Policy 27: The medieval fabric of the keep should be conserved and protected through consolidation, removal and replacement of cement pointing around decorative stonework, weatherproofing the wall tops, roofing the corner turrets and introducing drainage as soon as possible.

Policy 28: A five year monitoring programme will be undertaken to establish the rate at which the fabric of the keep is decaying, to fully understand the underlying causes, and the effects of repair interventions. This will include:

- *Visual monitoring of water ingress;*
- *Chemical analysis of selected stones to determine the precise mechanisms of erosion;*
- *Measuring the rate of decay of mortar in the galleries.*

Policy 29: This understanding of the building will inform the development of a long term conservation strategy for the repair and consolidation of the keep which gives priority to the protection of the medieval decorative stone of the interior, while paying due regard to the special interest of the building as a ruin. Any solution should deal with the underlying cause, as well as any consequential damage done to the visible fabric.

3.5 Other measures to protect the fabric

Slowing the rate of stonework decay with a shelter coat of lime wash

- 3.5.1 Lime washing the exterior would reduce water penetration through the vertical faces of the walls and provide protection from wet/dry cycle damage, thus slowing the rate of stonework decay. As the keep was coated with lime wash during the medieval period, there is historic precedent for this treatment. The most appropriate type would be a thin shelter coat. This has recently been used to protect stonework and statuary on the exterior of Canterbury and Exeter Cathedrals, with very little appreciable difference in the overall appearance of the building. Due to its ruined nature and the staining and

blackening of the exterior stonework, its effect would be likely to be more dramatic at Rochester, with the stonework gaining a more even and richer cream colour. The regular application of lime wash need not involve scaffolding the keep; instead the use of a mobile hoist, and where space restrictions preclude this, the use of a hoist roped access, could make the process both speedy and economical.

The selective replacement of stonework

- 3.5.3 The extent of the deterioration of the stonework, particularly the Caen stone dressings, has resulted in the loss of a large amount of detail from the building. Whilst the measures set out above would slow, and roofing might in the long term halt, internal deterioration, over time all external architectural detail will be lost.
- 3.5.4 This could be addressed by the selective replacement of decayed stonework. While protecting the architectural value of the building, the disadvantage of this strategy is that the substitution of new, crisply worked stone would have an adverse effect on the aesthetic qualities of the building, removing the patina of age and creating a jarring contrast with the existing. Secondly, this approach would destroy some of the evidential value of the Castle, though this is gradually being lost through weathering. At the same time it could be said to perpetuate other aspects of evidential value, as an exact copy *in situ* is more likely to survive than a drawn record, and the detail can continue to be appreciated in context. Any moulded stones removed from the building should be catalogued and stored, providing that they do not entirely disintegrate on removal.
- 3.5.5 On balance, given the rate of deterioration of the stonework, some external stone replacement is likely to be necessary in order to maintain what is still perceptible as the design value of the keep. This will have to be carefully planned on a stone by stone basis.

Policy 30: A programme of selective stonework repair, to replace the minimum number of stones in order to maintain the current appearance of the building, should be devised and instituted.

Policy 31: When it is necessary to replace medieval stonework, works should be preceded by appropriate recording and suitable arrangements made for the conservation and storage of significant items.

3.6 The curtain walls

- 3.6.1 The structural stability and condition of the stonework of the curtain walls has largely been addressed as part of the 1997-8 ROCASWA project. There are therefore no pressing structural issues associated with these walls. There is less

decorative stonework, though the ashlar window dressings in the mural towers have decayed to a great extent. This is particularly noticeable in Tower two. The problem would be best addressed by creating an archive recording the form and current condition of dressed stones, both as scale drawings and with photographic records, from which replacement stonework can be fashioned and stones gradually replaced as they decay to the extent that all detail is lost.

- 3.6.2 Tower three, while remaining structurally sound and watertight, is suffering from a lack of regular maintenance. Elements such as windows are in need of repainting and are rotten in places, and the internal decoration is shabby.
- 3.6.3 A further issue is the encroachment of vegetation at the southern end of the west curtain wall. This is gradually damaging the stonework in this area and a more robust approach to vegetation clearance is necessary.

Policy 32: A long-term programme of maintenance, particularly re-pointing and selective stonework replacement, shall be devised and implemented for the curtain walls.

Policy 33: The backlog of maintenance works to Tower three will be addressed.



Tower two: eroded window opening

4. ENHANCING PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- 4.0.1 The first priority when considering the future of the castle must be the conservation and consolidation of the medieval walls, followed by the preservation of the buried archaeological record. However, once these issues have been dealt with, or if funds become available from third parties that cannot be used for repair and conservation, there are several areas where visitors' perceptions of the castle could be improved. It would also be appropriate to consider measures to increase access to the keep as part of a package of conservation works, if a major bid was being made to the HLF and/or similar funding bodies.

4.1 Experiencing the keep – improving access to the interior

- 4.1.1 At present the keep is not living up to its full potential both to educate and inform visitors about medieval life. Much of this is due to the fact that the keep is unroofed and un-floored, which makes it impossible to reach much of the building. The numbers of visitors currently experienced are not causing any demonstrable damage to the fabric, the main area of wear being the modern rubble treads in the north-east stair. Medway Council's wish to increase the numbers of visitors is unlikely to harm the fabric, instead the principal issue will be managing circulation through the building, which at present can on occasion become congested.
- 4.1.2 Following consolidation of the fabric, it would be desirable to improve circulation and access. The main way in which access could be opened up would be to reinstate the original ground floor (basement) level, allowing the nature of this part of the building to be appreciated. It was excavated to approximately 4m below the medieval level by Payne in the early 20th century, and while this work would detract slightly from the vertiginous appearance of the interior, the change would be marginal. Rather than simply backfilling this space, a lightweight deck could be fitted. This would be cheaper, easier and more easily reversible than back filling. It would also have the great advantage of improving disabled access to the keep interior (see section 4.3).
- 4.1.3 In addition, access could be opened up by the reinstatement of the south-west stair. This would enable more fluid circulation around the upper levels (second floor gallery, third floor and wall walk) of the keep. Given that the original treads of these stairs have been robbed, the most appropriate way of restoring the stairs would be to reinstate the Caen stone treads. Where fragments of the original treads survive in the walls these could be left in situ. This approach could also be used for the north-eastern stair, resulting in a much safer and more useable stair. The modern cement-set rubble over the original spiral vault of the stair is of no significance, and is often on the wrong line. If the sub-basement was infilled, it would also be possible, by means of a freestanding stair in the south-western corner of the keep to create one way traffic through the castle, entering via the forebuilding, proceeding up to the wall walk via the south-east stair and down to the basement via the south-west stair and proposed free-standing new stair. Exit could then be either up the south-east stair to the forebuilding or via the (post-medieval) ground floor door.



Current condition of north-east stair

- 4.1.4 It is also desirable to increase public access to the interior of the main part of the keep. The provision of steel galleries, as at Loches, could allow access to selected parts of the building. This would leave the vertiginous qualities of the building intact, but whilst opening up public access to a limited extent, would not greatly enhance movement through the building or enhance perceptions of the different spaces within the keep as they existed during the medieval period.
- 4.1.5 Should, at any point in the future the keep be roofed, it would of course be possible to reintroduce floors over all or part of the building. This is discussed in detail in Appendix 1.

Policy 34: The opportunity presented by works to consolidate and protect the keep to improve public access to the fabric will be taken. All such works would be incremental, reversible and modern in character.

The following possibilities will be explored:

- *The functional reinstatement of the south-west stair;*
- *The replacement of treads to both stairs;*
- *The reinstatement of original ground floor level.*

Policy 35: The architectural qualities of the keep will be preserved and where possible enhanced. Thus services, interpretive material or furnishings within the keep will be kept to an absolute minimum.

4.2 Disabled access

- 4.2.1 It is desirable to provide disabled access to all areas of the Castle to open to the public, not only to satisfy obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act, but also to open up the visitor offer of the Castle to as many people as possible. Two major barriers to full accessibility exist.

Access to the keep

- 4.2.2 At present access to the upper levels of the keep is via a spiral staircase in the north-east tower, with the possibility of opening up an existing second stair in the south-west tower. To ensure full disabled access, a lift would be necessary. This could not be achieved without seriously compromising the architectural significance of the building. An external lift would be unacceptable. There is nowhere that a lift shaft could be added to the keep without seriously damaging its silhouette and architectural value, as well as the evidential value of the fabric that would be removed to create access at all floors. If gantries were introduced, an internal lift would be technically possible. However, it would seriously compromise the special qualities of the building and therefore be unacceptable. The potential for accommodating a lift in a roofed and floored building is explored in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.3 The infilling of the basement has the potential to significantly improve disabled access, as it would be possible to create level access to the entire original basement floor, through the existing ground level opening.

Policy 36: Measures to increase public access, disabled access and intellectual access to the Castle should be taken, as resources permit, whilst ensuring that harm to its significance, character and visual amenity is minimised.

Access to the Castle bailey

- 4.2.4 A further barrier to disabled access is the steep slope up to the main Castle entrance. This is difficult to push a wheelchair up and treacherous to all but the most surefooted in icy weather. The southern entrance provides an alternative, at an easier grade, but this is a long way from the main entrance and the town, and did not form an historic entrance, being merely a connection to a second bailey. Therefore it does not provide a very desirable alternative.



Main entrance to the Castle

- 4.2.5 Regrading the entrance along Epaul Lane to the north-east would potentially enhance the way all visitors enter the Castle. However, practical difficulties and the impact that this would have on other aspects of the Castle's significance render this impossible. Later development on the High Street means that it would not be possible to follow the line of the original bridge. Therefore any new ramp would have to be situated slightly to the east of the original entrance and would make exposing the original bridge more difficult (see section 4.7 and 4.9 below). It would also entail closing Epaul Lane to all traffic and interfere with vehicular access to Salisbury House and the rear of 40 High Street.
- 4.2.6 A lift has recently been installed on the exterior of the motte at Norwich Castle in an attempt to overcome the same problem. This has not been successful, largely due to the visually intrusive effect of a lift shaft in the side of the bank, coupled with vandalism. However carefully a lift is designed, its visual intrusion is unlikely to be overcome: a similar approach is not recommended. The easiest way of dealing with the issue would be to introduce disabled parking bays, either just within the Castle Gardens or at the top end of Castle Hill.

Policy 37: Improved disabled access to the bailey should be pursued by improving the current Castle Hill entrance.

4.3 Enhancing the presentation of the bailey buildings

- 4.3.1 At present the interpretive material concerning the bailey buildings is limited to a number of display panels. While there is some scope to flesh out the detail of these, the limited nature of our current understanding of the buildings means that there are no opportunities to present this information in

a dramatically different way. While an extensive excavation of the bailey is not possible, given the current policy context regarding preservation of archaeological remains *in situ*, and indeed the cost, a geophysical survey of the Castle Bailey, and a limited excavation proceeding down as far as the first surviving significant archaeological levels (likely to be, but not necessarily exclusively, medieval in date), would enable the recovery of the plan of the buildings in their latest form. This would greatly enhance our understanding of the bailey buildings and, if the wall lines were delineated in some way, would be much more intelligible to visitors. Marking the outline of the buildings with setts or a planting scheme are two possible ways of achieving this.

Policy 38: Should the form of the bailey buildings become clearer, the opportunity will be taken to express the site and form of these structures as part of the landscaping in a manner that continues to enable the flexible use of this area for events.

4.4 The mural towers

4.4.1 At present tower two, which was consolidated and re-roofed in 1990 after a fire, is used as a store for equipment used in events. This represents an under-use of what is a fine space that could potentially be open to the public. Tower three has a long and continuous history as a residence, and is still fitted out in this form, though there is no mains drainage, and it is now used for low level storage and staff facilities. The ongoing care and maintenance of these towers, and thus the preservation of their fabric, would be best achieved by ensuring that they are fully utilised.

4.4.2 There are a number of potential uses for these buildings. The first is as a refreshment kiosk. This would be incorporated most easily into tower two, where it would be possible to reinstate the first floor at its original level and introduce a café in the upper part of the building. Alternatively, there is the potential for using either or both these spaces to provide a base for interpreting the castle as a whole. As well as providing a practical use for the building this would allow an appreciation of it by a wider section of the public. Use as a base for site-related management use, such as storage, would also be possible without damaging the significance of these buildings. Should it be considered desirable in operational terms it would also be possible to use either as dwellings. The small size of the buildings, their position in the Castle grounds and the lack of any private garden suggests that permanent occupation would not be practical. However, the current (and historic) fit-out of tower three suggests that use of either as a holiday let would be feasible, and there has been interest from organisations concerning such uses in the past. The provision of mains drainage will not present a significant threat to the archaeology if recorded properly. Transformation into a dwelling would mean that the listed building rather than scheduled monument regime would be applicable to the above ground parts of either building if so converted.

- 4.4.3 It would also be possible to reconstruct the wall walk between the two mural towers, greatly enhancing access to and the experience of these elements. Further work will be necessary to determine the impact that this would have on the historic fabric and the appearance of the curtain wall.

Policy 39: More creative use will be made of the roofed mural towers. This could include occasional use as holiday accommodation, educational or site-related management use. The reintroduction of floors into tower two may be necessary to achieve this.



Tower Two



Tower Three

4.5 Interpreting the Castle

- 4.5.1 At the start of the conservation plan process, a joint venture with the Cathedral to provide a visitor centre to promote and interpret city, castle and cathedral was one of the long-term aims of both Medway Council and the Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral. A suitable site was considered as part of the conservation process. This proposal has now been abandoned. While an attractive idea in principle, the concept posed problems for the operation of the Castle.
- 4.5.2 Firstly, staff costs would increase, as it would be necessary to staff not only the visitor centre but also separately to control entry to the keep. The divided site may be discouraging for visitors; those entering the Castle directly are unlikely to be willing to return to the visitor centre in order to use the interpretive material, café and shop. Where such split arrangements can work, they tend to be in country houses where there is a very clearly defined visitor route. The situation at Rochester is very different, with people entering from all directions. Furthermore, any site for a joint visitor centre would inevitably favour one monument, by virtue of its proximity to one at the expense of the other. All the available sites, the gap site (between 48 and 56 High Street), the wall site (in a section of the Castle ditch to the rear of 40 High Street) and the

car park in front of the Castle, are considerably closer to, and would therefore heavily favour, the Castle.

- 4.5.3 In terms of the Castle's operational requirements, a dedicated visitor facility within the castle itself would be a more practical option. The only existing space where this would be the interiors of towers two (if floored) and three. The space provided would be limited, and fall far short of the 400-550 square metres that were seen as necessary for a visitor centre in the Rochester and Upnor Castle Development study of 2004, but should be sufficient to provide basic facilities including office, display space and a café. However the current external toilets would have to be retained, storage space would be very limited and there would not be space for a classroom.

4.6 The character of the Castle Gardens

- 4.6.1 At present the Castle Gardens have a barren, municipal appearance. The walls are stripped of vegetation, the landscaping is almost totally made up of closely mown grass broken only by wide tarmac paths associated with the late 19th century landscaping scheme. The only features are a few surviving mature trees, the gaunt remains of the bandstand and an ugly modern octagonal refreshment kiosk. This compares unfavourably to the presentation of the Castle in the 19th century, with the rich public garden treatment of well-stocked flower beds and extensive planting.



The Castle Gardens N side



Temporary stage in the Castle gardens

- 4.6.2 The use of the Castle Gardens for events, particularly concerts, and as a site for fun fairs represents an important use of the Castle, attracting visitors that would not normally come to the monument and maintaining central Rochester's place at the heart of the cultural life of the Medway towns. The only conflict between these events and the protection of the significance of the site is that of the potential damage done to archaeological remains by tent pegs. This conflict can be managed by rigorous application of policies 24-25, intended to protect the archaeological remains of the bailey. To accommodate events, the majority of the Castle grounds need to be kept clear of

obstruction; so the 19th century landscaping could not be reinstated even if the cost of maintaining it could be contemplated.

- 4.6.3 Despite the need to keep the main space clear, it would be desirable to introduce some improvements in the future. These should form part of a co-ordinated design strategy, rather than a series of piecemeal alterations. The removal of the refreshment kiosk and its replacement with a better designed one (or simply its removal) would be advisable. Consultation has revealed strong public support for the rebuilding of the bandstand. This is possible, as it would not adversely affect events currently staged in the park beyond interfering with the placing of the stage for July concerts; but it is likely that this could be addressed by altering the position of the stage slightly. However, the costs of building and maintaining such a structure could only be justified if there was a programme of events to ensure that a restored bandstand was properly used. The existing bandstand at Chatham (Victoria Gardens) is very little used, and it is unlikely that one in the Castle Gardens would be used more extensively unless special efforts were made. It is therefore suggested that the base is retained for the time-being, and a local community group be given the opportunity to stage events using it. Such a group should aim to host a variety of cultural events, rather than limiting itself to the brass bands traditionally associated with band stands. If this programme was successful, the community group could then be responsible for raising the necessary funds for reinstating and maintaining the canopy. If no-one can be found to take on the running of the bandstand or fund its restoration, the base should be removed.
- 4.6.4 Improvements could also be made to the wide tarmac formal paths, which relate to the lost 19th century planting pattern, and so have now lost their context. Despite this, they remain of some practical use, as the path running northwest-southeast is on a clear desire line from the northwest entrance to the keep, and the path running northeast-southwest is used by vehicles when setting up for events, and thus highly valued by the local community. Removal of the paths is therefore unlikely to be acceptable. However, when the time comes for these paths to be renewed their visual impact could be mitigated by the use of ‘softer’ finishing material, such as bound gravel, and the removal of the very urban granite sett kerbs. These paths need to maintain a sufficiently robust construction and adequate width to carry vehicular traffic, and the surfacing should be sufficiently smooth to allow the easy passage of buggies and wheelchairs. There are several forms of bound gravel that would accomplish this.
- 4.6.5 While it would not be possible to reintroduce ornamental planting on a large scale, in specific areas this would greatly enhance the appearance of the Castle Gardens. The first area where this would be desirable is the Victorian terrace

overlooking the river. While there is some planting here, it is restricted to a single species of low-growing shrub. A more varied and luxurious planting scheme would increase the attractiveness of this area. The second area is on the north side of the bailey. Here the Castle grounds are planted with trees and border Castle Hill, with an ornate late Victorian residential terrace behind. This area has the character of a municipal park rather than a Castle. It could be greatly improved with ornamental planting without compromising the operational needs of the gardens. The Victorian railings to Castle Hill are also in need of repair.

- 4.6.6 During the 19th century, a large proportion of the Castle walls were covered in ivy and other creepers. This softened the building's outline and without a doubt greatly contributed to its attractive appearance as a romantic ruin. Allowing the limited growth of climbers of a species that did not cause damage to the walls could improve the appearance of the Castle.

Policy 40: A development plan will be prepared for the Castle Gardens. This will outline a coherent strategy for enhancing this space.



Victorian terrace



The car park

4.7 The setting of the Castle

- 4.7.1 There are several areas where the immediate setting of the Castle would benefit from improvement:

The car park

- 4.7.2 The car park in the Castle ditch has a serious negative impact on the setting of the Castle. Not only is it visibly highly unappealing, but it encourages traffic to use Castle Hill and the area in front of the Castle. The detrimental effect of the car park on the Castle was universally acknowledged during the consultation process. However, several respondents remained of the view that the car park was vital to the life of the city, despite the fact that the number of

car parking spaces it provides is small and there are several alternative sites close by, in particular the car park on Northgate Street and the parking facilities on the Esplanade. Most of those using the car park are visiting Rochester in general, rather than the Castle or Cathedral in particular. However, to properly justify this proposal, and allay public fears about the impact of its removal on parking provision throughout the city, the potential for alternative parking provision elsewhere should be investigated.

- 4.7.3 There is little to be gained from improving the landscaping of the car park and, given that it is not strictly necessary, the best way to improve this area in the long-term would be to remove the car park and grass this area, like the rest of the ditch. It would be possible to retain a small number of disabled car parking spaces with informal surfacing (such as bound gravel) and landscaping but (as discussed in 4.2.6) these could be more usefully accommodated at the top of Castle Hill. It is likely that the remains of the Castle bridge, last exposed in 1880, remain on the west side of the car park. If so, the opportunity should be taken to reveal this feature.

Policy 41: In the long term, improving the external appearance of the Castle by removing Boley Hill car park is desirable, if equivalent car parking can be secured in the vicinity and sufficient resources are available. Further study is necessary to define the effect that this would have on parking provision in the city as a whole.



Fig. 2: Rochester Castle – re-landscaping of the car park

The ditch

4.7.4 The Castle ditch in its current form dates from the 1960s, with the demolition of a group of 18th century houses and the levelling of St Nicholas’ burial ground. This has resulted in an open setting for the Castle that to some extent recreates its medieval setting, although the original profile of the ditch has not been reinstated. While the presentation of this space as a ditch is of great importance, as it enables something of the original setting of the Castle to be understood, at present it is barren and uninviting.

- 4.7.5 The restoration of the medieval ditch profile is not possible, as the current fill of the ditch includes a large number of bodies interred in the former graveyard. However, the reinstatement of the inner bank profile, where erosion and cutting has exposed the upper parts of the arches of the wall foundations, would to an extent improve the setting of the Castle by restoring the original setting of the curtain walls, as well as protecting them.
- 4.7.6 Otherwise the best way to improve the appearance of the ditch would be to vary the cutting regime, allowing grass to grow longer and wild flowers to flourish, with the aim of giving this area a meadow-like quality. This would also have the advantage of encouraging biodiversity.
- 4.7.7 There is a conflict between the use of the ditch as a run by youths on skateboards and BMXs, who often overrun the ditch and cross the pavement at speed, in conflict with pedestrians using Boley Hill. The presence of large numbers of youths who congregate in this area is also intimidating to many older residents.
- 4.7.8 Evicting youths from this area would be difficult, and is arguably not desirable, as they clearly appreciate the space and are the only group that use it. Instead, physical measures should be introduced to minimise the conflict with pedestrians. This could be achieved by planting a hedge of hardy (and prickly) plants such as hawthorn on the outer edge of the ditch and around the cross walls, which would form a barrier with the pavement while at the same time improving the appearance of this area. The height of this hedge would have to be carefully managed. It would have to be sufficiently large to be robust and look attractive, while low enough to preserve views of the Castle. The ideal height would be around 1 metre.

Policy 42: In the long term the external appearance of the Castle will be enhanced through improving the landscaping within the Castle ditch. This could include:

- *Reinstating the inner bank profile of the Castle ditch, against the curtain wall, by the addition of soil against exposed foundations;*
- *Revealing the remains of the original bridge to the north-east gate;*
- *Encouraging a more informal, meadow-like appearance of the Castle ditch, principally by relaxing the cutting regime;*
- *Planting a low-level hedge barrier at the back of the pavement of Boley Hill.*

The immediate setting of the Castle

- 4.7.9 The setting of the Castle has, until recently, been disfigured by a messy open area around Ye Arrow pub. This included tables and chairs, mobile catering outlets and general clutter. While an extension to this building has recently been completed, ostensibly to tidy this area up, it remains to be seen whether

this will result in a sustained improvement. In principle, the use of this area as outside seating is appropriate; it encourages a lively atmosphere around the entrance to the Castle. If, however, problems occur in the future in the vicinity of the Castle, the Council should consider the use of an amenity (section 215) notice and its planning enforcement powers as appropriate.

Policy 43: The Council will encourage the owners of nearby buildings to ensure that their properties contribute towards an appropriate setting for the Castle.

Views

4.7.10 The key views of the Castle are outlined in sections 14.5.14 and 14.5.15 of the Significance section of the plan. It is important that these views are protected. The Council's *Building Heights Policy* (adopted May 2006) identifies all the key views of the Castle as important. This policy makes clear that tall buildings are not appropriate in the historic City of Rochester, but identifies two sites, Rochester Riverside and Strood Centre, as suitable for tall buildings with the proviso that they respect views of the Castle. It is important that these policies are transferred to the emerging Local Development Framework and if necessary strengthened.

Policy 44: Existing key views into, from and within the Castle will be conserved. Opportunities will be sought to enhance key views towards and out of the site when they arise.



View from the west

4.8 The gap site

4.8.1 The gap site between 48 and 56 High Street is currently used as a disabled car park. Although attempts have been made to improve the appearance of this area with some hard landscaping, it has a negative effect on the setting of the Castle and, perhaps more seriously, represents a jarring discontinuity in what is

generally a tightly-grained historic streetscape. In the long term, the development of this site, informed by a development brief issued by the Council, would fill the gap in townscape of the High Street. Any scheme would need to have a rear elevation that actively addresses the Castle. As the loss of disabled parking spaces could be mitigated by placing them nearby, either in Castle Hill or on the re-landscaped site of the Boley Hill car park. While some of the plots surrounding the Castle purely face the High Street and do not attempt to address the Castle, the majority, for example the late Victorian block of 1-6 Castle Hill (including the Castle Club) and Salisbury Villa, provide a strong lead for frontages that directly address the Castle in a variety of architectural styles.

- 4.8.2 Although, as it is situated on a historic building plot, there would be archaeological implications in building here, this should be seen as an opportunity to understand more of Medieval and Roman Rochester rather than as a constraint. Although probably cellared in the post-medieval period, similar cellared sites, such as 44 High Street, have yielded significant Roman remains. The site is large enough to stand on its own as a mixed use commercial development.

Policy 45: When the property market improves, consideration will be given to releasing the gap site (between 48 and 56 High Street) for development informed by an agreed brief in order to restore the historic urban grain of the High Street in front of the Castle. Any building on this site must effectively address the Castle as well as the High Street and its design must contribute to wider proposals to increase connectivity between the Castle and city. Loss of disabled parking spaces may be mitigated by including them in the revised landscaping scheme for the Boley Hill car park or at the top of Castle Hill.

4.9 The connection of the Castle with the town

- 4.9.1 At present, while there is good visual connectivity between the Castle and the Cathedral, the Castle is rather cut off from the town. This is largely due to the urban form of Rochester, where the properties on the south side of the High Street back on to the north side of the Castle, effectively cutting it off from the town centre.
- 4.9.2 The historic link between the Castle and the town was via the Cathedral precincts and College gate. This gives dramatic views of the keep and the east curtain wall up Boley Hill. However, the replacement of the Castle gatehouse and its approach bridge by the steep climb up Castle Hill and a rather nondescript entrance via a steel gate has weakened the approach to the Castle. The presence of vehicular traffic on Castle Hill further reduces its attractiveness.

4.9.3 The only way substantially to improve the link between Castle and town would be to take a radical approach, pedestrianising Castle Hill to the east of the main entrance. This would probably have little impact in terms of general traffic movement, as the entrance to the castle forms a natural turning head for small vehicles. It would also provide an opportunity to place disabled parking spaces close to the main entrance, rather than at the bottom of a steep slope. However, it would have serious implications for access to the Castle. At present large vehicles gain access by approaching from Epaul Lane, the wrong way up the one way system. It would also pose problems for large vehicles making deliveries to Castle Hill, which would have problems turning. The route is also apparently popular with cyclists. These issues could be dealt with relatively easily by creating the cul-de-sac using rising bollards rather than a more comprehensive engineered scheme. This would still allow occasional access for delivery vehicles and would not impede cyclists. If a more permanent solution was required, it would be possible to realign the entrance to the Castle in order to allow sharp right hand turns into it to be made from the north-west, and to provide for a turning head. Such possibilities should be borne in mind in the long term.



Entrance gate and railings – these would need to be realigned if the entrance was to be altered

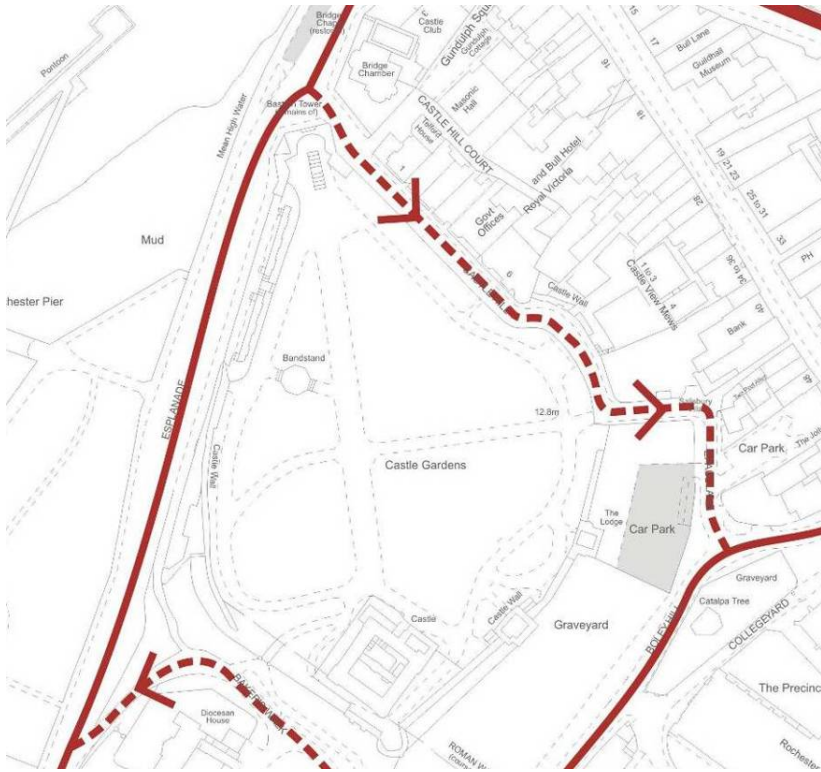


Fig. 3: Castle Hill – current circulation



Fig. 4: Castle Hill – possible circulation

4.10 The relationship with the Cathedral: traffic management

- 4.10.1 The setting of the Castle, and its relationship with the Cathedral, is seriously impaired by the fact that Boley Hill is open to vehicular traffic. This severs the link between the two and, as those using the road often travel quite fast, results in an uninviting space between the two buildings, despite the recent upgrading of surface materials.
- 4.10.2 The ideal solution would be to close Boley Hill to all but essential deliveries to the Cathedral and King's School, to enable a pleasant precinct to be created between Castle and Cathedral. Entry to essential vehicles could be restricted by rising bollards and deliveries to the Castle could be via Castle Hill (see above).
- 4.10.3 Consultation has suggested that this would be unpopular with local residents (who use it for access), the wider population of the Medway towns (who use the road as a cut through) and with King's School (both coaches and parents driving their children to school make extensive use of this route). It is thus unlikely to receive the political support necessary to carry it through.
- 4.10.4 Despite this, the concept need not be abandoned completely. Occasional closure, for instance during events, already takes place and is regarded as successful. This could be extended when there are a large number of visitors to the Castle and Cathedral, managed in a similar way to current Saturday closures of the High Street. The reduction of the speed limit on Boley Hill to 20mph would also greatly enhance the area, while still permitting traffic to pass.
- 4.10.5 Further investigative work will be necessary to assess the full impact of these ideas on traffic flow. First impressions are that they would not be significant and that Boley Hill functions primarily as short cut, with people using it to avoid the junction between Corporation Street and Maidstone Road when travelling from the west (from Strood) to the north (towards Maidstone) or *vice versa*.

Policy 46: Opportunities will be sought to create a more pedestrian friendly environment around the Castle.

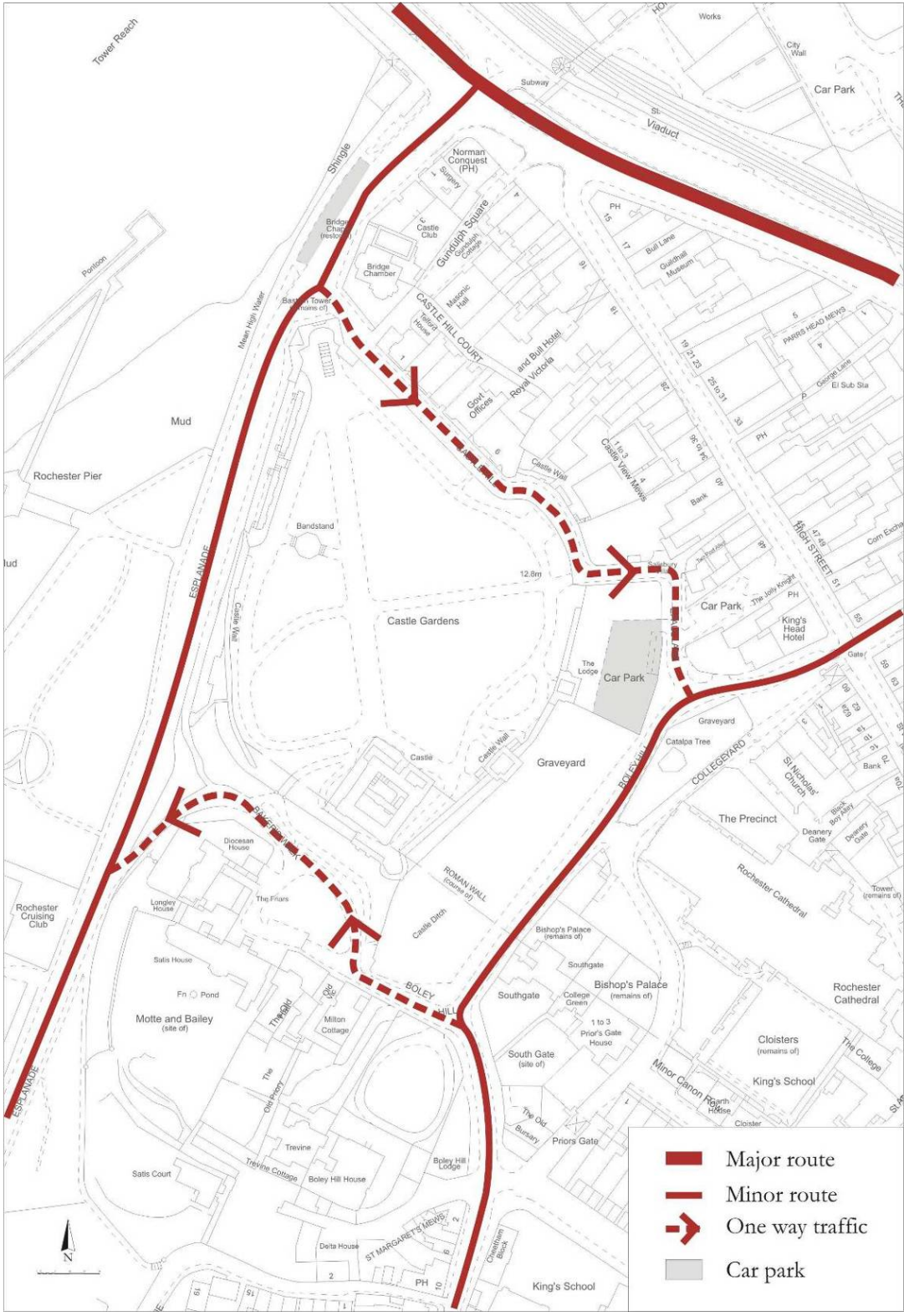


Fig.5: Boley Hill - current circulation

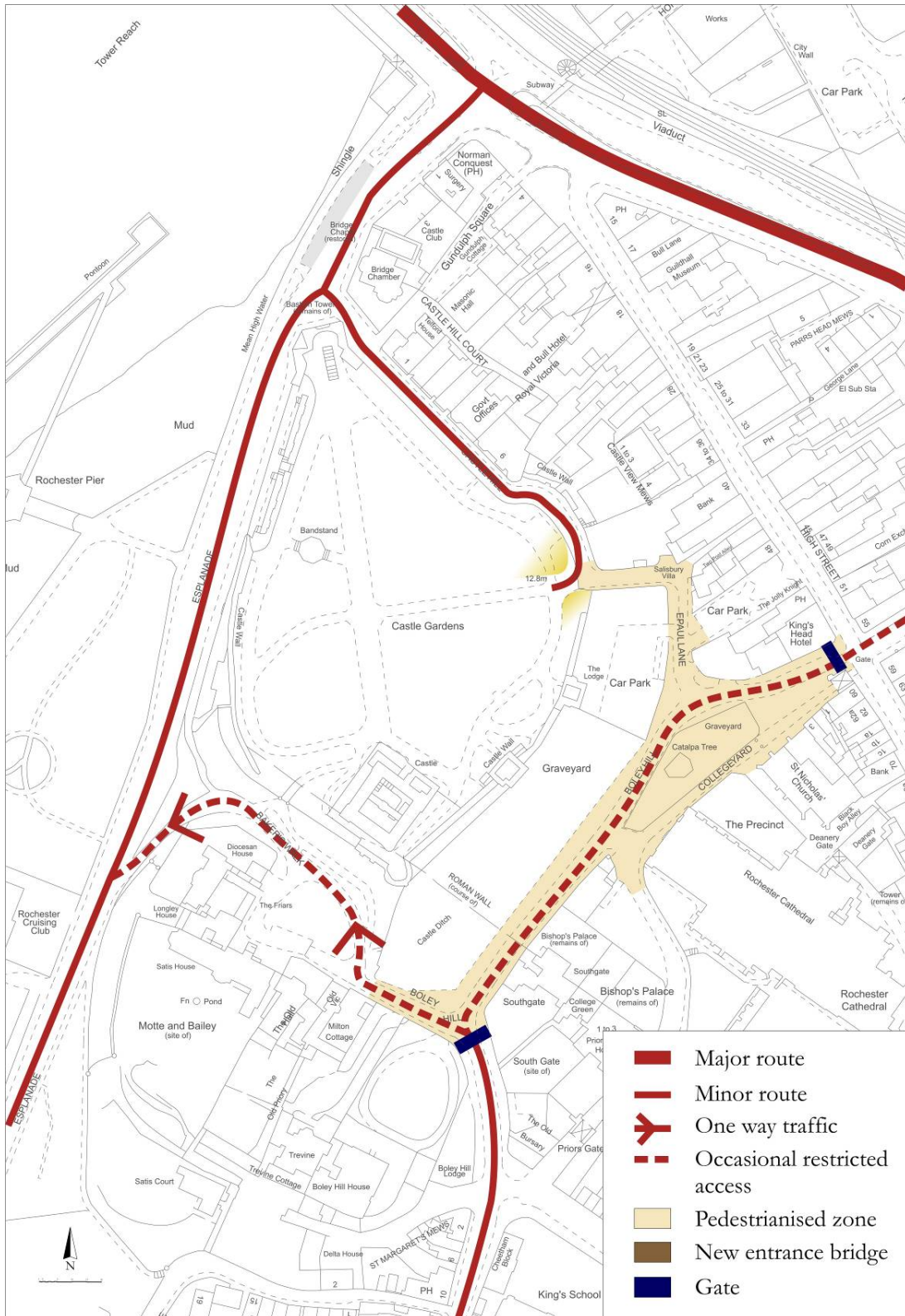


Fig. 6: Boley Hill - possible occasional circulation

5 CONCLUSION: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- 5.0.1 Clearly the first priority for the Castle in terms of funding must be to secure the future of the keep by ending the process of descaling, consolidating its fabric and setting up a monitoring programme (as set out in sections 3.4 and 3.5, policies 26-29)
- 5.0.2 Priority should be given to protecting the archaeological remains. The limiting of the length of stakes used to secure tents and marquees to 300mm in depth (policy 25) has no cost implications and can and should take place immediately. It is also imperative that a Castle Archaeologist (policy 23) is appointed and a model brief for archaeological interventions prepared (policy 22) as soon as possible. Again the cost implications of these actions are very limited, and there is no reason why they should not be implemented immediately.
- 5.0.3 Another urgent piece of work is the commissioning of a geophysical survey to evaluate the archaeological potential of the bailey and the drafting of a management agreement to protect archaeological deposits following this (policies 24 and 25). After the consolidation of the keep, this should be viewed as a priority.
- 5.0.4 The next urgent issue to be addressed is the backlog of maintenance to tower three. This work is essential if more substantial works to the structure are to be prevented. The preparation and implementation of a long term maintenance programme for the curtain walls (Policies 32 and 33) also needs to be achieved within a year of the adoption of the conservation plan
- 5.0.5 The issues of archiving records of interventions to the Castle and housing excavated objects also need to be dealt with as soon as possible (policies 19 and 20). As these are relatively inexpensive and easy to deal with, provided there is the will to address these problems, there seems to be no reason why the relevant procedures cannot be set up within a year of the adoption of the conservation plan.
- 5.0.6 Other recommendations set out in this plan, while desirable, are not urgent, in that while they would enhance the Castle, there is no immediate threat to the fabric if they are not implemented. They should therefore be addressed as and when the opportunity arises, following the completion of urgent works.

6. APPENDIX 1: ROOFING AND FLOORING THE KEEP

6.0.1 One of the options discussed during the development of this Conservation Plan was to roof the keep. The immediate actions suggested above (3.4) do not address the underlying problems of water penetration and the comparatively rapid deterioration of the medieval fabric. The proposed 5 year monitoring programme is intended to seek further information on this deterioration. If it finds that the rate of deterioration of the interior stonework has not slowed significantly, roofing remains the only way of protecting the interior of the building.

6.1 Previous roofing schemes

6.1.1 The possibility of roofing the keep has been raised twice before, in 1973 and in the 1990s. On this last occasion a detailed scheme was prepared by Manning Clamp and an application for scheduled monument consent was made. This scheme would have involved the fitting of a low pitched glazed roof, reinstating the medieval basement floor level with a concrete planked floor and the insertion of a first floor in the existing joist pockets. A steel spiral stair was to have been fitted over the remains of the existing in the south-west tower. Two alternative methods of glazing were explored, large glass panels filling entire voids or the building up of the surrounding stonework in dissimilar materials to reinstate the outline of the original windows. The large panel option was investigated in detail, and consisted of an internal frame of horizontal members attached to the stonework onto which lightly-etched tripartite glass panes were attached with central openings to allow the windows to be cleaned. These were to be recessed slightly. A trial panel was set up on this basis in 1992. Two alternative drainage plans were also suggested: firstly, drainage via the existing chutes, and secondly, run off from the wall walks draining via the existing chutes and from the roof via the central well shaft.

6.1.2 This scheme ultimately foundered due to a loss of funding resulting from the merge of Rochester and Gillingham Councils and the creation of the Medway unitary authority. The application for scheduled monument consent was withdrawn. Although the proposal to roof the keep was accepted in principle by the Ancient Monuments Advisory Committee of English Heritage, there remained several outstanding issues that needed to be resolved. The first was the environmental implications of roofing the keep in glass. It was feared by English Heritage that such a roof would lead to an overheating of the interior in sunny conditions. While a study by Bickerdike Allen and Partners looked at this in some detail, details of the nature of the ventilation system to be installed were not resolved and agreement had yet to be reached regarding the likelihood of condensation being a problem. A second issue, which was not

fully resolved, was the form of glazing. English Heritage felt this was visually unsatisfactory, with the reflections off the glass giving the keep the appearance of an 'eyeless skull'. The form of the windows, particularly the irregular pattern of the glazed sections, was held to break the symmetry of the Norman elevations and detract from its fortress character. Internally, the lightly etched finish to the glass was thought to be an irritant, as it obscured views from the keep. Concerns were also expressed about the strength and durability of the design (EH file: AA 050986/2-1 Rochester Castle 24349 SMC Applications: letter from C Hancock, Bickerdike Allen Partners to J. Rowland, Manning Clamp, 27.2.95, letter from J. Roebuck to J. Rowland, of Manning Clamp, 15.8.95, memo from J. Coad to J. Roebuck, 8.5.92).

- 6.1.3 A similar proposal, though with much less detail, was made as part of the Rochester and Upnor Castles development study, by Terry Pawson Architects in 2004. This suggested a roofing of the keep with a lightweight transparent cover of ETFE foil, the introduction of ticketing and interpretation facilities in the northern half of the basement and the flooring of the northern half of the keep. An internal glass lift was also suggested.

6.2 A suggested architectural solution for the roof

- 6.2.1 A fully glazed roof as suggested by the Manning Clamp proposal is not considered to be the best option for the keep. Not only are there the issues of solar gain, raised at the time, but it would be difficult to clean, would not reflect the character of the original interior and would probably, in aesthetic terms, be difficult to achieve successfully. Other modern materials, such as fabric, are likely to prove problematic due to their poor weathering qualities. The fabric roof at Falaise (in Normandy) is already showing signs of discolouration and the roof over Rochester's own forebuilding is reaching the end of its design life after 20 years. Neither would a full attempt to recreate the medieval roof be appropriate, as the precise form of this is not known. Thus, following in the precept of the Venice Charter that restoration should end where conjecture begins, it seems appropriate to suggest that whilst the profile and covering of any new roof should follow the evidence for the latest medieval roofs, its structure should be clearly discernible as a modern intervention.



Falaise fabric roof

- 6.2.2 To achieve this, a roof structure with a modern frame either of timber or steel, covered with lead on boards, following the visible evidence of the former rooflines, would be appropriate. The recent roofs at Conisbrough Castle and Norwich Cathedral refectory feature skylights allowing extra light into the upper floor. While this is a possibility, it is not a necessity. It may be more appropriate to restrict light to the existing windows, therefore reflecting the original natural lighting levels and allowing visitors to gain a more authentic experience of the character of a medieval building. Where roofs and floors have been reinstated on this premise, such as at Orford, light levels are surprisingly high. This approach has been used at the recent, albeit small scale restoration of the donjon at Bazoges in the Vendée, France. Here, while the reconstruction of the pentice roof over the battlements without reconstructing the merlons has not been an unqualified success, as it fails to make clear that the merlons are missing, the main roof has successfully been reinstated without giving the appearance of pseudo-medieval work.



Re-roofed donjon at Bazoges

- 6.2.3 It would be necessary to build up the cross wall in the centre of the keep to support the roof. It is suggested that this is achieved in stone of a different type set on a slightly recessed wall plane, so that old and new work is clearly differentiated. This technique has recently been employed successfully at Norwich Cathedral refectory. The alternative, a lightweight timber or steel structure, while making a clear distinction between old and new work, and superficially being a reversible intervention that would touch the historic structure only lightly, may in actual fact have a greater impact on the structural fabric of the keep. Such a structure is likely to impose high point loads on the existing masonry, necessitating extensive localised rebuilding and reinforcement. It is therefore not considered a suitable solution. By contrast a traditionally built stone wall would spread the load of the roof more evenly, and could be supported by the existing wall. A third solution would be to build up the wall sufficiently to take a cill beam which would carry a load-bearing frame. This, however, would result in a somewhat over complex structure, both physically and visually.



Norwich refectory

6.3 Floors

- 6.3.1 Should the building be roofed, the possibility of increasing public access to the interior of the main part of the keep with flooring presents itself. There is a sliding scale of intervention by which this could be achieved. At a minimum level the provision of steel galleries, as at Loches, could allow access to selected parts of the building. Should the keep be roofed, partial flooring of one half of the building, or the flooring the entire building, would be possible.

- 6.3.2 The introduction of modern galleries at original floor levels would leave the vertiginous qualities of the building intact, and whilst opening up public access to a limited extent, would not greatly enhance movement through the building or enhance perceptions of the different spaces within the keep as they existed during the medieval period. Flooring the keep would greatly enhance visitor perceptions of the building, facilitating the imaginative leap between the current state of the building and its original form. It would also increase the attractiveness of the Castle to visitors, and therefore visitor numbers, there being more to see on a visit. The evidential and illustrative value of the keep would be enhanced through being more accessible; the relationship and hierarchy of spaces, including the way that this is reinforced by the varying light levels in these spaces, would become more intelligible and it would once again be possible fully to experience what would have been one of the most architecturally powerful of 12th century secular interiors. However, the vertiginous character of the interior would be lost completely. In many respects a compromise, flooring the north side, where the 12th century fabric survives undisturbed, and leaving the south side open, with a gallery to provide access to the south-west stair, represents the best solution, allowing both aspects of the building to be appreciated.
- 6.3.3 The best way to proceed would therefore be by incremental change, experimentation and evaluation. It is suggested that flooring is first investigated on a trial basis, using scaffolding to create galleries or partial floor areas. The ideal opportunity to carry out these experiments would be during the consolidation works to the keep.
- 6.3.4 Architecturally, the addition of flooring does not present a great challenge. The existing joist holes would be the most convenient, and least intrusive, base from which to support the floors. A precise recreation of the floor structures would be difficult, not least because oak beams of the necessary dimensions would be costly to obtain in the quantities needed. Laminate timber, or composite steel and timber beams, would represent a consciously modern, yet sympathetic approach to flooring the keep. This approach has been used successfully at Bazoges, where machine saw marks on the oak joists remain visible, clearly indicating that this is a modern intervention.
- 6.3.5 Further detailed work at the design stage would be necessary to ensure that any permanent flooring proposal would meet current safety requirements. Although as a scheduled monument, the keep is exempt from building regulations, there is an obligation on the Council to ensure public safety. Assessing the implications of flooring and maximum visitor numbers in these terms requires specialist analysis and is beyond the scope of this conservation plan. However, the provision of a second stair, and the possibility of re-

opening access through the postern in the east wall of the northern chamber at first floor level, would significantly improve circulation in the building.

- 6.3.6 If the keep was roofed it would also be possible to fill the sub-basement, which was excavated to approximately 4m below the medieval level by Payne in the early 20th century, with a freestanding structure, heated and serviced to modern standards. This would allow access to the basement to be opened up while creating space for any plant necessary and interpretation. This could take place independently of any other flooring works and while it would detract slightly from the vertiginous appearance of the interior, the change would be marginal.



Fig. 7: Possible sections of a re-roofed and floored keep

6.4 Windows

- 6.4.1 Should the keep be roofed and floored, then the opportunity to insert windows or baffles presents itself. There is a sound conservation reason for doing this, as windows or baffles would stop the slow deterioration of the

building from a wind-accelerated wetting and drying cycle that is particularly marked on the upper levels, where the windows are larger. Windows are only an option if the building is floored, as access is necessary to clean them. If the keep is roofed but not floored a system of baffles or mesh to prevent pigeons entering should be considered.

- 6.4.2 The design of any windows should be approached in a spirit of reversibility and experiment, involving the trial of individual designs to assess their performance, both practically and aesthetically, before a single solution is settled upon.
- 6.4.3 The addition of windows presents two problems, firstly the effect that large areas of glazing would have on the appearance of the keep, and secondly the difficulty in creating a window design that will account for the current irregular shape of the openings, neither of which were satisfactorily resolved as part of the 1995 application. It is also necessary to ensure that windows can easily be cleaned from the inside, which is a problem with the current windows in the forebuilding.
- 6.4.4 Enough evidence exists concerning the original openings to reconstruct them without recourse to conjecture. Given this evidence, there would be a valid argument for their restoration, providing that the new work was clearly distinguishable from the old. However, this would dramatically change the character of the keep, and would necessitate the restoration of the battlements and turrets to complete the effect. Given the dramatic nature of this change, its cost, and the inevitable controversy that it would cause, it is suggested that a full restoration is only pursued for windows that are nearly complete.



South elevation: complete window opening



East elevation: incomplete window opening

6.4.5 Instead, it is suggested that windows are fitted in existing openings and that the frames are designed to replicate the outline of the original window opening. This would both reduce the amount of glazing, and suggest the original rhythm and architectural qualities of the keep, whilst making a clear distinction between original fabric and new work. To achieve this, it is suggested that glazing is set in modern timber casements immediately behind the line of the medieval stone frames of the openings. Casements would open inwards, as medieval ones probably did, to facilitate cleaning and aid ventilation. Generally the masonry behind the window openings is in better condition than the openings themselves, and presents a more regular face onto which to site a window. The projecting remains of the medieval window opening would protect the joint between the casement and the masonry. Mastic or compressible gaskets could be used to form a more or less weather-tight seal between the window frame and the internal face of the window opening. Where a window opening has broken down completely, a small protective projection could be built up out of a differing stone. The external rubble sill of the window opening could be protected and weathered by a layer of lime mortar. Bar a few fixing holes, the intervention would be completely reversible. Again, this approach has recently been successfully adopted at Bazoges.

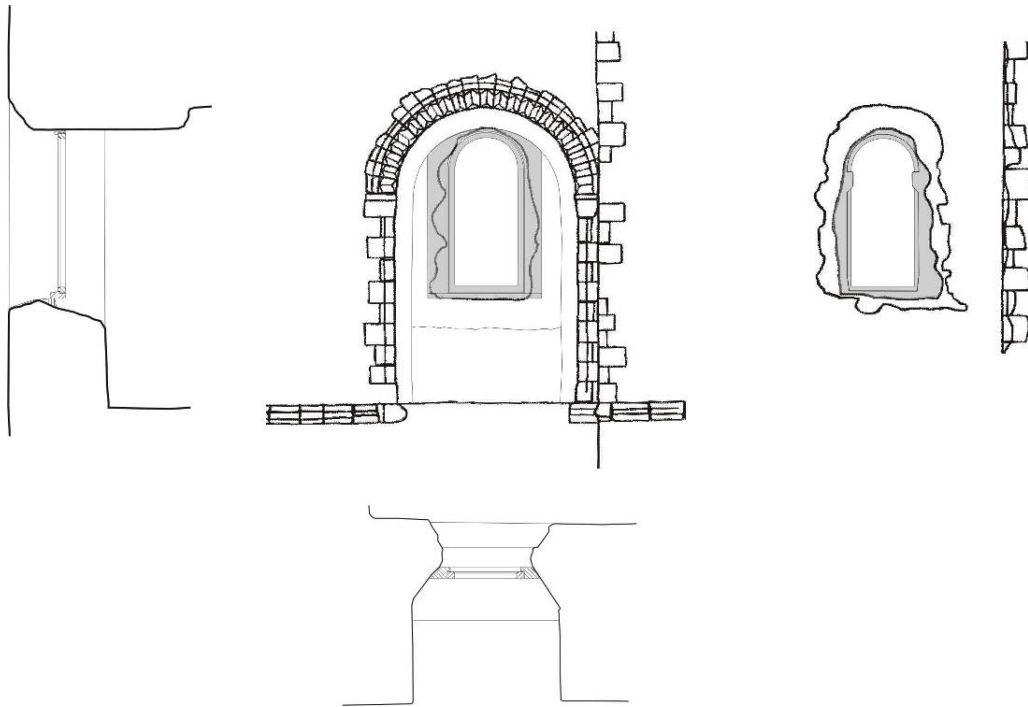


Fig. 8: Possible approach to reinstatement of windows

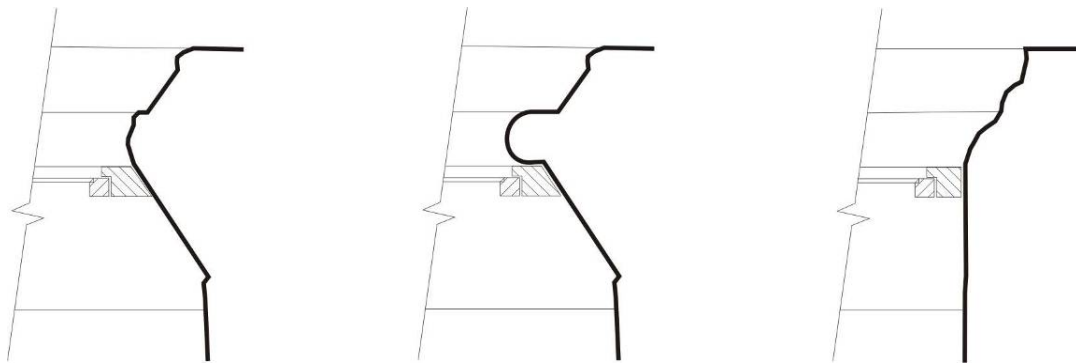


Fig. 9: Alternative detailing for window openings



Bazoges, reinstated window opening

- 4.2.5 To further reduce reflective glare from the windows, anti-reflective glass could be used. Alternatively etched glass is a possibility, though it would be necessary to open the windows to obtain views out. It would also be possible, though less desirable aesthetically, to break up the windows into smaller panes set in lead comes or glazing bars. This could be successful if a consciously modern rather than a pseudo-medieval design was used.

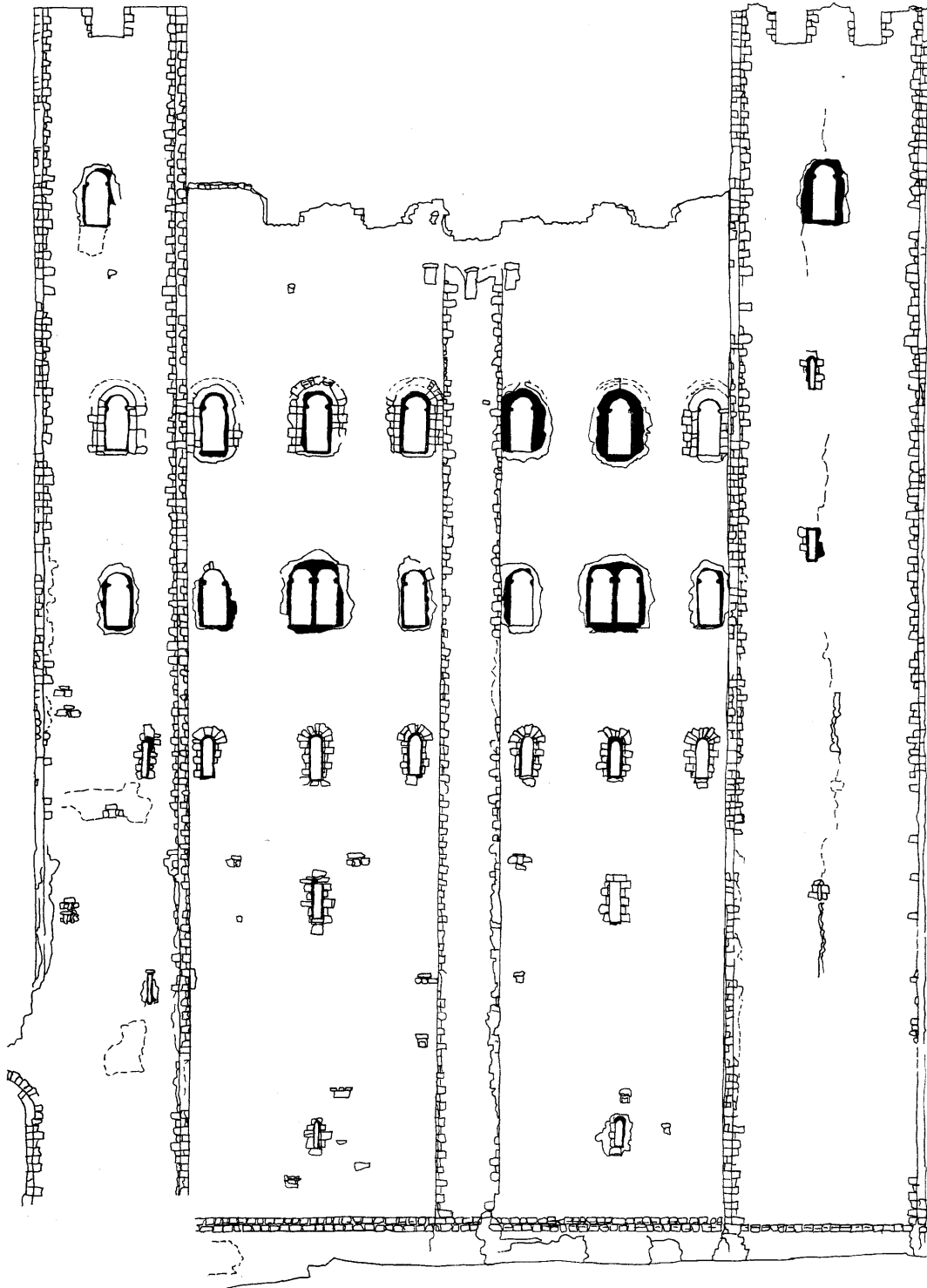


Fig. 10: Reconstruction of the west elevation with window outlines reinstated

6.5 The use of a roofed and floored building

- 6.5.1 In order to preserve the visual power of a floored or partially floored interior, it is necessary to let the architecture of the building speak for itself, with the barest minimum of fitting out or interpretive material. The very simple treatment of the keep at Guildford would be a good example to follow. There is, however, some potential for the spaces created to be used to illustrate and explain what is known about the Castle and its history in greater detail, and in a more exciting way, than at present. This could not, and should not, lead to an attempt to restore the appearance of the medieval interior. There is not the evidence to achieve this, and the plastering of walls would obscure much important evidential detail; but there would be more for people's imagination to build on.
- 6.5.2 It is also important that the interior remains uncluttered by either an excessive amount of interpretive material or by services. This is particularly true of the second and third floors, where the principal architectural statement of the building is made. Likewise, the importance of being able to see the first floor as part of a processional route from the fore-building suggests that it should be kept relatively clear. However, there would be more of an opportunity to use the less architecturally dramatic basement as a site for interpretative material.
- 6.5.3 Clearly the keep could not be used as a modern building, with full facilities and services. Heating the interior, particularly in the early stages before the building has dried out, may cause rapid deterioration of the stonework. A Electrical circuits for a limited number of power points and emergency lighting could be incorporated without harm to the significance of the building if carefully sited. However, the provision of permanent lighting, a large number of power points, water supplies and drainage throughout the building would have a seriously detrimental effect on its internal character.
- 6.5.4 Appropriate uses of the keep, beyond its current use as a day time visitor attraction, would therefore be limited. Functions and receptions out of hours could be possible in the summer months, when heating would not be necessary. Likewise events, such as concerts, that would not demand an intensive level of servicing or present a safety issue in terms of evacuating the building in an emergency, would also be possible during the summer.

6.6 Disabled access to the keep

- 5.3.1 If the keep were to be roofed and floored, the least intrusive way of serving all levels would be a free-standing internal lift, sited in the south-east corner, which would not damage the medieval fabric and would minimise the visual

impact of the works (option 1). However, it would still break up the proportions of the interior to such an extent that it would have a significantly detrimental effect on the architectural and aesthetic qualities of the keep. This is considered too high a price for gaining disabled access.

- 5.3.2 An alternative would be to provide access via a platform lift as far as the second floor, again in the south-east corner (option 2). At basement and first floor level, this would not interfere with the grand architectural spaces of the keep. At second floor level, a 1.5m high cabinet could ensure the safe operation of a lift while minimising the effect on the architecture. A platform lift would dispense with any high level machinery and ensure that nothing was visible beyond the second floor cabinet.
- 5.3.3 Given the detrimental effect that a lift would have on the interior, the installation of one should not be pursued unless absolutely necessary (for instance if required as a condition of an HLF grant), in which case option 2 represents the least damaging option. It is suggested that alternative methods of allowing people to experience the keep, such as directable CCTV cameras or a video walk through, preferably linked to a broader presentation about the history and development of the building, are pursued.

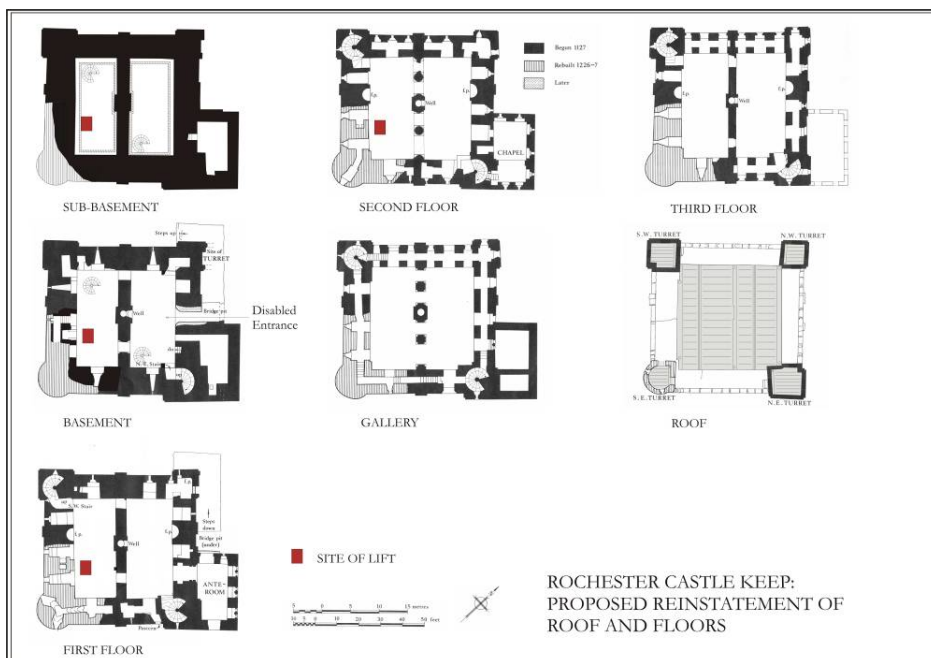


Fig. 11: Insertion of a lift - option 1

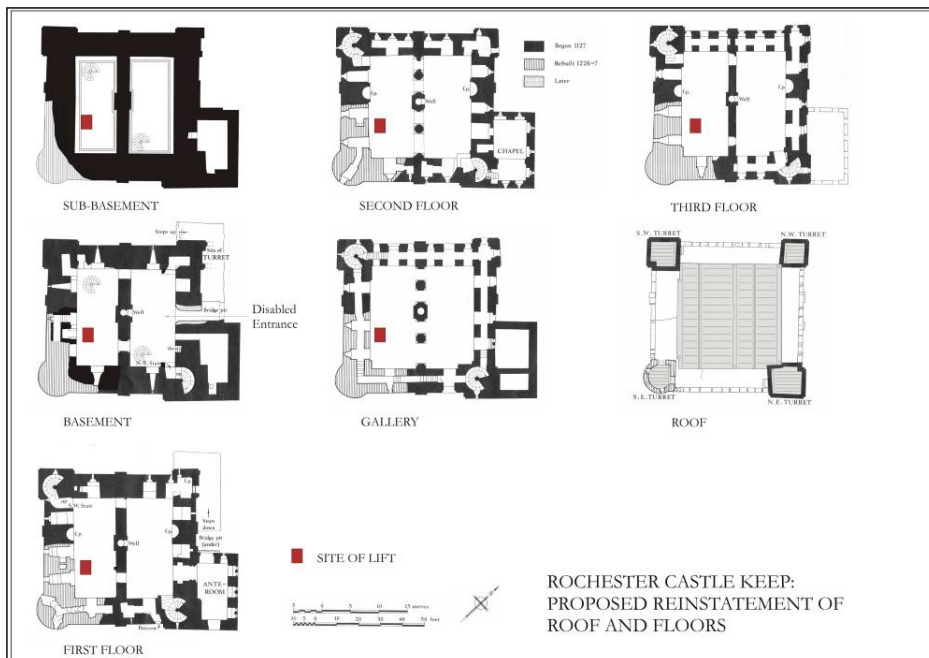


Fig. 12: Insertion of a lift - option 2...

7. APPENDIX 2: Report on the consultation process

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Paul Drury Partnership was appointed in January 2006 to produce a Conservation Plan for Rochester Castle by English Heritage and Medway Council. The Plan is intended to form the strategic conservation framework for a future development and management plan, and had the following objectives:
 - Understand the development of the site;
 - Assess the cultural significance of the site;
 - Identify issues affecting the cultural significance of the site; and
 - Recommend conservation policies to guide the future management of the site.
- 1.2 The Plan was specifically intended to address the issue of whether the keep was an appropriate candidate for re-roofing and/or re-flooring.
- 1.3 A first draft was produced in June 2006. Consultation within English Heritage and Medway Council then took place in the form of three seminars held on 12 July, 3 October and 12 October 2006. A second draft was issued in January 2007. Following further consideration and amendment, a consultation draft was issued in January 2009.
- 1.4 The principal substantive change made as a result of consultation within the Council and English Heritage concerned the issue of the roofing of the Keep. The initial view of the consultants was that roofing was the most appropriate long term solution to address the physical decay suffered by the Keep, as all other solutions would only at best slow, rather than halt, the deterioration of the decorative stonework of the interior. However, the majority view within English Heritage was that the qualities of the Keep as a ruin were of such significance that roofing could only be considered as a last resort, after it had been proved beyond all doubt that the rate of decay of stonework within the building was rapid and could not be addressed by any other means. Further research would be needed to establish this.
- 1.5 Other substantial alterations included the removal (from the Plan) of the following proposals; to permanently pedestrianise Boley Hill; a proposal for ramped access to the Castle Gardens on the site of Epaul Lane; and consideration of a new visitor centre shared with the Cathedral.
- 1.6 In order to be treated as a recognised policy document by Medway Council, the Plan now needs to be adopted by means of a resolution made by Cabinet.

As a prerequisite to this it is important that the document reflects the views of all who have an interest in the Castle, including local residents and local and national amenity societies. Consultation has therefore been undertaken with these groups.

- 1.7 Such a document cannot hope to represent a consensus on all issues and feedback will inevitably be contradictory in some areas. The purpose of this report is therefore to outline the consultation process, summarise the responses received and outline the proposed alterations to the report. Where comment has been received and it is not considered appropriate to amend the plan, appropriate reasons are given.

2. The Consultation Process

- 2.1 The public consultation process was based around two seminars, consisting of a presentation summarising the contents of the plan. The first of these, held on the 26 March 2009, was pitched at local residents and ward councillors. The second, held on 02 April 2009, was intended for local and national amenity societies and other organisations with an interest in castles. In total, approximately 40 people attended the two seminars. The attendance from those organisations who received a direct invite was as follows:

Invitees	Attended
Christopher Proudfoot, Mike Clinch, Ted Bates - The Kent Archaeological Society Historic Buildings Committee	
Frank Kelsall – Ancient Monuments Society	√
Richard Eales – The Castles Study Group	√
Peter Boreham, Jeremy Clarke, Steve Nye – Guildhall Museum	√ √ √
Richard Dunn – Director – Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive	√
Alan Moss – City of Rochester Society	√
Tim Tatton-Brown – Former Cathedral Archaeologist	
Alan Ward – local archaeologist	√
Jonathan Coad- Royal Archaeological Institute	
Jackie Heath – Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings	
Jane Wade – Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	√
Robert Tucker – Restoration House	√
Graham Keevil – Cathedral Archaeologist	√
Adrian Newman – Dean of Rochester	√
Dave Bassett – Fortress Study Group	√
Liz Dyson, Heritage Conservation Manager, Kent County Council	

2.2 Notes of the discussions that took place during the seminar were taken by the consultants and attendees were also invited to respond in writing before the 22 May 2009. A single page questionnaire was distributed to help guide responses. A summary of the plan was also placed on the Medway Council website between 19 March and 22 May. This included a link allowing the executive summary or the full plan to be downloaded. An exhibition outlining the contents of the plan was also staged at the Council's Visitor Information Centre in Rochester High Street between 26 March and 1st May And at Eastgate House between 2 May and 22 May, during which time the House was open for a variety of art and archive exhibitions. Again visitors were invited to submit written comments.

2.3 Written comments were received from the following bodies and individuals:

- The Society of for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
- The Ancient Monuments Society (AMS)
- The Royal Archaeological Institute (RAI)
- The City of Rochester Society (CRS)
- The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral
- Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)
- The Royal Engineers Museum (REM)
- The Guildhall Museum (GM)
- Alan Ward (local archaeologist)
- Norman Munn (former Castle custodian)
- Sharon Pallent (Castle custodian)
- Dr Derek Brighton (local resident)
- Ruth Chapman (local resident)
- David Gutteridge (local resident)

A number of anonymous questionnaires were also returned.

3. The substance of responses received

3.1 Opinion was divided on the main issue, that of roofing the Keep. Of the learned societies, SPAB, the RAI and KAS came out strongly against such a proposal, while the AMS, CRS and REM supported roofing as necessary for the protection of the building. Opinion was also divided among local residents. Most objections appear to have been on the grounds of the perceived costs of roofing; however a number of respondents, including custodian and former custodian Sharon Pellant and Norman Munn, were of the view that roofing would be damaging to the qualities of the keep as an impressive vertiginous space. The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral stressed the importance of the visual contrast between the ruined Castle and

- intact Cathedral and suggested that monitoring the fabric for five years is unlikely to produce conclusive results, therefore longer term monitoring should be considered.
- 3.2 Richard Dunn of the REM made some detailed comments on the survival of large medieval towers (see para. 4.1).
 - 3.3 There was general support for the measures to increase the protection of archaeology, further investigation of the remains of the palace in the bailey and the physical expression of any remains found in the landscaping of the Castle Gardens. There was also general support for bringing mural towers 2 and 3 back into use. Norman Munn suggested the interesting idea of reinstating the wall walk between towers 2 and 3.
 - 3.4 At the residents' meeting on the 26 March, there was general support for the reinstatement of the band stand and the retention of the straight path from the north-west bastion to the keep. The usefulness of the second straight path across the Castle Gardens for large vehicles visiting events was also pointed out. There were also concerns that resurfacing paths using gravel would make access for wheelchair users difficult. There was a call for more seats in the Castle Gardens and improved landscaping. David Gutteridge suggested improving disabled access from the esplanade by fitting a stair lift to the stair in the northwest bastion. There was also general agreement that the landscaping of the Castle Gardens should remain as simple as possible, rather than moving back towards its former appearance as a municipal park. The city of Rochester Society suggested that repairs to the fabric should take precedent over landscaping measures.
 - 3.5 While it is generally recognised that the car park located in the moat damages the setting of the castle, its removal was unpopular at the meeting held on the 26 March. Fears were expressed that there was not enough parking in the City centre and the loss of spaces would damage trade and reduce visitor numbers to Castle and Cathedral. This view was also echoed in strong terms by the Kent Archaeological Society and, less strongly, by the City of Rochester Society. Concerns were also expressed that pedestrianisation of Epaul Lane would make access to the Castle Gardens by large vehicles difficult and access to properties in Castle Hill would become more difficult. The Dean and Chapter were broadly supportive of removal of the car park and alterations to traffic management providing that there was no transplanting of vehicular movement to the environs of the Cathedral and wished to be consulted on any developing proposals for Epaul Lane.
 - 3.6 It was generally recognised that the speed of traffic on Boley Hill was a problem. There was support for occasional pedestrianisation, on the basis that

this already takes place and is considered as success, but the general view was that Boley Hill should remain a through route. There was also some disquiet at the meeting on the 26 March as to how the space would be used if pedestrianised. There was general support for imposing a 20mph speed limit on the area. David Gutteridge suggested a 15mph limit, one way traffic and the possibility of treating Boley Hill as a 'shared space' where vehicles do not have priority.

- 3.7 The need to address the problem of youths playing on skateboards and bicycles in the Castle ditch was highlighted at the meeting on the 26 March, and also brought up in the written comments from the CRS. The lone voice of dissent was David Gutteridge, who strongly objected to placing a thorny hedge and suggested that there was nothing wrong with youths using this space as a play area.
- 3.8 The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral supported the proposal for the Cathedral Archaeologist also taking on the role of Castle Archaeologist. They also expressed an interest in working with English Heritage and the Council in co-ordinating the curation of the archaeological and documentary archive of both sites and the review process for both Castle and Cathedral conservation plans.

4. Amendments to the plan

- 4.1 The paragraphs on context within the Understanding Section of the plan regarding the survival of medieval keeps and the use of mining in siege situations have been amended in the light of comments received from Richard Dunn (REM).
- 4.2 No change has been made to the plan regarding the roofing of the keep. There is still no consensus either for or against roofing the keep, therefore the proposal to repair and cap the walls and monitor their condition, currently set out in the plan, probably reflects the majority of scholarly and public opinion as to the best way forward.
- 4.3 Reference has been made of the desirability of co-ordinating the curation of the archaeological archive with the Cathedral where possible.
- 4.4 The suggestion of a walkway on the curtain wall linking towers 2 and 3 (which survives to wall-walk height) has been mentioned. The most serious drawback would be the effect of the walkway and guard rails on the appearance of the wall when viewed from the Cathedral. Nonetheless, the idea

merits further thought and investigation in the context of future planning of major works to these towers.

- 4.5 The calls for the return of the bandstand have been noted. This would interfere with the placing of the stage for July concerts but it is likely that this could be addressed by altering the position of the stage slightly. However, it is pointed out that the costs of building and maintaining such a structure could only be justified if there was a programme of events to ensure that a restored bandstand was properly used. The existing bandstand at Chatham (Victoria Gardens) is very little used and it is unlikely that one in the Castle Gardens would be used more heavily unless special efforts were made. It is therefore suggested that the base is retained for the time-being and a local community group be given the opportunity to stage events using it. Such a group should aim to host a variety of cultural events, rather than limiting itself to the brass bands traditionally associated with band stands. If this programme was successful the community group could then be responsible for raising the necessary funds for reinstating and maintaining the canopy. If no-one can be found to take on the running of the bandstand or fund its restoration, the base should be removed.
- 4.6 The plan has been amended slightly to make clear that paths will only be resurfaced when the current surface needs replacing, and that it will be using bound gravel rather than simply a scattering of loose gravel on top of the existing surface, as has been done in the past. Given the strength of feeling about the path from the north-west bastion, it is suggested that this is retained, though narrowing it and resurfacing to reduce its visual impact should be considered. Likewise the practical benefits of the other cross path for use by lorries setting up for events is also recognised. Again it is suggested that this path should be retained and measures undertaken to reduce its visual impact. The section on improving public perceptions has been prefaced to make it clear that securing the preservation of the medieval fabric should take precedence over landscaping improvements (though it is recognised that opportunities to take advantage of external funding streams for landscaping that would not require match funding from the Council should be taken if they arise).
- 4.7 Despite concerns over the loss of parking spaces, it is still considered that the removal of the Boley Hill car park is desirable. However, concerns about loss of car parking are recognised as valid and its removal should be considered as part of a more general review of car parking in the town, which compares need with current provision. Attempts to improve the landscaping of the car park would not address the real issue, namely the presence of cars, and should therefore not be pursued. The plan recommends further study of this issue by the Highways Maintenance and Parking sections of the Council.

- 4.8 Similarly, the pedestrianisation of Epaul Lane remains a recommendation. However, it is made clear that this would only involve very limited physical change, in the form of the introduction of two rising bollards, allowing access to the Castle Gardens for large vehicles (by entering Epaul Lane the wrong way) and acting as a through route for large vehicles delivering to properties in Castle Hill on an occasional basis. A turning head that would have to be provided at the end of Castle Hill for small vehicles. Access by bicycle need not be affected. Again the Highways Maintenance section of the Council need to investigate the impact of this change in more detail.
- 4.9 The suggestion of a 20 miles per hour limit for Boley Hill, made by several respondents, is most sensible and has been included within the plan. Designation as a 'shared space' will also be investigated further to fully understand its implications, particularly regarding the extra signage involved. The suggestion that traffic should be one way has not been pursued, on the ground that this is probably counterproductive, as it may encourage users to travel even faster, safe in the knowledge that they will not meet another car.
- 4.10 Given that a number of respondents raised the issue of the ditch, the proposal for prickly planting should remain. However, the plan makes it clear that this is to be a good thick hedge, properly maintained at a low level, rather than a rather sparse arrangement of spiky plants. It also makes clear that a hedge would need protection while it was establishing itself.

Richard Peats
The Paul Drury Partnership
30 June 2009

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Additional Manuscripts:

- BL Add. MS 6735 fol. 141: Sketch of the north-west gate of Rochester Castle, Rev. Thomas Kerrich, c.1775-1820.
- BL Add. MS 6746 fol. 22: Notes on Rochester Keep, Rev. Thomas Kerrich, c.1775-1820.
- BL Add. MS 32,370 fol.183: 18th century drawing of the east face of the chamber block
- BL Add. MS 32,370 fol.204
No.1: View of the north-east gate in 1785, showing squinch
- BL Add. MS 32,370 fol.213: 18th century drawing of the castle from the north-west, view from across the river Medway
- BL Add. MS 34,115: Topographical Drawings of Places in Kent, including general views of the keep by dated 1791 (by E. Dayes) and 1807 (anonymous).
- BL Add. MS 36,268: Buckler Collection. Includes several accurate sketches of the exterior of the keep dated to the mid 19th century.

Maps Collection:

1240(73) Copy of the Alnwick map (dated 1633)

King's Topographical Collection:

- Maps.K.top.17.10k: South-east view of Rochester Castle, Place, c.1670
- Maps.K.top.17.10n: North-east view of Rochester Castle, N. Buck, 1735
- Maps.K.top.17.10m: North-west view of Rochester Castle, N. Buck, 1735
- Maps.K.top.17.10w: Rochester Castle, Interior of keep, engraved by Landseer, 1794

Centre for Kentish Studies

- CKS-U274/01: Letter from the Duke of Lennox 1621, recommending the castle as a site for the next session of the local assizes

Records Held by English Heritage

AA050986/2PT6 PC1 Works Common 3: Includes 1990s drawings for the proposed roof and floor by Manning Clamp
Works Papers AA05985/2 PT4: Correspondence dated 1978-1998

Photographic collection (held at Guildford Regional Office)

Undated: Photographs of Victorian gates to the basement and forebuilding doors of the keep
Nov. 1965: Shows keep, east curtain wall and tower 2 under scaffold
24 Feb 1976: Internal and external repairs to tower 3. This shows that the first floor was completely stripped of plaster.
20 May 1979: Shows works to the keep.
22 Oct. 1982: Shows east curtain wall, drum tower and tower 2 under scaffold
Aug. 1985: Shows north end of tower 2 supported by props
Aug. 1989: West curtain wall under scaffold
May 1990: Shows tower 2 gutted

Library of the Society of Antiquaries of London

Kent Red Book Part IV, p.1c: Interior of the keep viewed from the north-west at 2nd floor level. Undated, probably early 19th century.
Kent Red Book Part IV, p.3a: Engraving of the Dutch raid on the Medway in 1667 by Nicolae Viffcher after a painting by Van de Stadt
Kent Red Book Part IV, p.3b: Drawing of the castle from the south-east by W Stukeley 4. Oct 1722
Top Room Centre Shelf B: Elevations and details of the exterior and interior of the keep, Rochester Castle. Sketches dated June 11th 1850.

Medway Archives

07/M/Series/M002: Photograph dated 1928 of a WWI tank in the grounds of Rochester Castle. The Castle Club is in the background.
CEN/AD/01/PR/1: Post guardianship (1965) files on Rochester castle. Deals with minor issues such as the control of pigeons.

CEN/AD/01/DC/16:	Post guardianship (1965) files on Rochester castle. Deals with minor issues such as the control of pigeons.
CT/ENG/219/16:	Rochester Council Technical Services Department. Design drawings for the services introduced in association with the roofing of the forebuilding.
CT/ENG/219/143	Survey drawings dated 1979 produced by the Ministry of Works. Including schematic drawings of internal window openings in the keep, stone by stone drawings of the window openings in the forebuilding and detailed sections of the turrets.
CT/ENG/219/145:	English Heritage survey design drawings dated 1986 connected with the roofing of the forebuilding.
CT/ENG/219/146:	1964 plan and (outline) elevation of the west curtain wall and revetment wall. 1985 plan of stair to tower 2.
DE349:	Town Clerk's file concerning Rochester Castle. Concerns the lease of the land to the south of the castle to the Council from James Foord to the Mayor and Citizens of Rochester 1905-6.
MP/B/6/2:	Untitled and undated document showing plan and sections of shaft in Northwest bastion revealed during consolidation works of 1956.
MPB/06/01:	Section through the well, Rochester Castle keep. Drawn by William Banks, City Surveyor, 1900.
MTC/EL/LEI/LIM/EM/1/93:	1905 Plan of the drum tower showing foundation of the Roman wall.
MTC/EL/LEI/LIM/GM/1/104:	Aerial view of Rochester by an unknown French artist c.1650. Completely fantastic.
RCA Box 120:	Rochester Castle correspondence file 1968-70
RCA Box 251:	Rochester Castle correspondence file 1938-59
RCA/TI/006/01:	Lease of a part of the castle ditch dated 5 th April 1577
RCA/TI/006/02:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 24 th November 1576
RCA/TI/006/04:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 10 th September 1572
RCA/TI/006/05:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 15 th May 1564
RCA/TI/006/06:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 20 th January 1577

RCA/TI/006/07:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 20 th January 1577
RCA/TI/006/08:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 31 st August 1597
RCA/TI/006/13:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 7 th September 1643
RCA/TI/008:	Lease of land in the castle ditch dated 23 rd September 1584
U1502/Z1/1:	18 th century print of the castle and bridge from the north-west
U1502/Z1/2:	18 th century print of Rochester Castle from the west

Images from the Couchman Collection:

DE402/3/11:	Copy of photograph Rochester Esplanade viewed from Rochester road Bridge, looking diagonally across Bridge Reach, showing from left to right part of the Castle Club, cathedral, Bridge Chamber, Queen's Arms (formerly Waterman's Arms), the entrance to Castle Hill, castle curtain wall, gazebos on the curtain wall and Castle keep. The curtain walls are overhung with bushes and trees and the keep is partly covered in ivy or other creepers and the northern pinnacle on the cathedral west front is in disrepair. 6" x 4 1/2" (155mm x 115mm) c.1859 x c.1871.
DE402/7/13(U)	Postcard photograph entitled <i>Esplanade and castle wall, Rochester</i> looking diagonally across the Esplanade from a point opposite the entrance to Castle Hill, showing pavement beneath curtain wall, curtain wall overhung with trees and bushes, gazebos above the wall, foot passengers on the pavement including women and child with perambulator standing alongside street furniture and top of castle keep in the background. c.1900.
DE402/7/1(L):	Print from engraving entitled <i>Rochester Castle</i> comprising view of Rochester Castle curtain wall and keep viewed from Strood Intra, looking across River Medway, showing rowing boat on river in foreground and Rochester Cathedral in distance. From <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> December 1772.
DE402/7/1(U):	Print from engraving entitled <i>Rochester Castle</i> comprising view of Rochester Castle keep in right middle ground and Rochester Cathedral in left distance, looking from north-west, showing two onlookers with backs to artist in foreground, rough ground between artist and keep and wooden fence leading from keep towards castle curtain wall in middle distance. Publication from which removed not stated. Engraved by Metcalf. c.1760

- DE402/7/4: Print from engraving entitled *Rochester Castle, Kent Plate 1* comprising view of Rochester Castle curtain wall and keep viewed from Strood Intra, looking across River Medway, showing buildings at junction of West Gate and High Street, Rochester in left distance, Rochester Bridge in left middle ground, Rochester Cathedral in distance, Satis House and Ladbury's Cottage in right distance and rowing boats, one laden with cargo, on river in foreground. Published by S. Hooper 25 August 1784.
- DE402/7/06(U) Print from engraving entitled *Rochester Castle, Kent* comprising view looking south-west from Castle Ditch, showing yard, wagons and outbuildings in foreground, castle curtain wall and mural towers in middle ground and castle keep in distance. Drawn by S. Prout, engraved by S. Greig and published by W. Clarke, New Bond Street and J. Carpenter, Old Bond Street, for *Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet* 1 January 1811.
- DE402/7/06(L): Print from engraving entitled *sally-port in the north-west angle of Rochester Castle, Kent* comprising view looking south-east from point near junction of Castle Hill and West Gate, showing north-west bastion of castle curtain wall in middle ground, remains of water tower in foreground and steps to castle bailey or grounds in left middle ground, with two miniaturised onlookers in right foreground. Drawn by T. Fisher, engraved by S. Rawle and published by I. Asperne, 32 Cornhill, London 1 April 1811.
- DE402/7/13(L): Print from engraving entitled *Rochester Castle: the keep with its entrance tower* comprising view of keep looking from north-west, showing sight-seers entering keep, fore-building and trees and bushes in foreground. c.1850
- DE402/7/14: Copy of photograph of Rochester looking from Strood Intra, showing from left to right castle curtain wall, Rochester Cathedral, gazebos above castle curtain wall, castle keep, Rochester Bathing Establishment and Satis House. From an original at the Guildhall Museum, High Street, Rochester. c.1850 x c.1856
- DE402/7/15: Print from engraving entitled *Rochester Castle and the new public gardens* comprising view looking south across castle gardens towards keep, showing crowds gathering around bandstand in right middle ground and banner flying from north-west corner tower of keep, on occasion of opening of castle gardens to public on 3 July 1872. From *Supplement to Illustrated London News* 13 July 1872 p.41.
- DE402/7/17(U): Photograph of Rochester Castle gardens and keep looking along south along the long walk towards the keep in right distance and

- showing Rochester Cathedral in left distance, bushes and trees lining walk and gardener's wheelbarrow in left foreground. 3 1/2" x 2" (87mm x 42mm) Before November 1897.
- DE402/7/17(M): Photograph of Quaker houses, castle ditch, rear of King's Head public hotel and St. Nicholas' burial ground, viewed from tower of St. Nicholas' Church, also showing Rochester Castle curtain wall and keep in background. 2 1/2" x 2 1/4" (73mm x 56mm) c.1861
- DE402/7/19 Cutting from a London periodical comprising reproduction of photograph captioned *the keep, Rochester Castle* comprising view of keep looking south along long walk, showing benches, bushes and trees alongside walk and part of bandstand in right foreground. Photographer: Meisenbach. Before 1897.
- DE402/7/23: Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle* comprising three-quarters view Crimean War cannon and iron carriage mounted on plinth at end of long walk in castle gardens, seen from front and to the right, showing trees, bushes and benches in background. Couchman's notes relate to the origin, movements and custody of the cannon. The text on the plaque mounted on the front of the carriage is clearly visible. After 1897.
- DE402/7/26(L) Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle and grounds* looking south from north-west corner of castle curtain wall towards castle keep along long walk, showing trees, bushes and benches on either side of walk and part of bandstand in right middle ground. Also showing left to right Rochester Cathedral, eastern castle curtain wall, Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee memorial, long walk, Crimean War cannon, castle keep and bandstand. Numerous strollers and visitors are present in the scene, many sitting on benches. Message on rear from Michael Rothney to his father G.A.J. Rothney esq., Pembury, 1 Tudor Road, Upper Norwood, London SE, discussing night drapery, visit to Strood (Stroud) and Rochester and relations. Valentine's series. Postmarked Gillingham 14 May 1917.
- DE402/7/31(U) Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle and grounds* comprising view of castle grounds looking from position to right of north-east staircase, looking south along long walk towards castle keep, showing in distance from left to right, Liberal Club, Rochester Cathedral and castle curtain wall, in middle ground from left to right trees, shrubs, bushes, long walk lined with benches and visitors, Crimean War cannon and roof of bandstand and in foreground left to right group of three attendants or groundsmen in coats and badged caps looking at camera, Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee memorial (minus finial) and iron railings, waste basket, child on scooter and German

- First World War light field gun mounted on round concrete or stone plinth. c.1919 x c.1931.
- DE402/7/31(L): Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Cathedral, Castle and gardens* comprising view of castle grounds looking south east from point opposite junction of long walk and path leading to north-east corner of curtain wall, showing in distance from left to right Rochester Cathedral, castle curtain wall and keep, trees, bushes and shrubs, long walk, benches and Crimean War canon, in middle ground and in foreground left to right, benches, group of three children looking at camera, Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee memorial (minus finial and upper stage), iron railings and waste basket. Published by Kingsway. c.1919 x c.1931
- DE402/7/32 (L): Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester, Castle grounds* comprising view of castle grounds looking south east along long walk towards castle keep, showing in distance castle keep with Union Flag or Jack flying from north-west angle tower, in middle ground from left to right tree, long walk lined with benches and chairs, several strollers and visitors present, some standing or crouching among feral pigeons, and bandstand and in foreground remnant of Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee memorial (minus railings), waste basket and base of First World War German light field gun (missing). Photocrom Ltd., Graphic Studios, Tunbridge Wells. c.1950
- DE402/7/45 (L): Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle* comprising view of castle keep and grounds looking south-south-west towards castle keep and bandstand, showing from left to right long walk lined with benches, strollers visitors and feral pigeons, Crimean War cannon at far end and at camera end First World War German light field gun mounted on concrete plinth, trees, bushes, shrubs and bandstand, walkway between bandstand and western curtain wall with benches and sitting visitor and terrace gardens. On rear, message from Winifred (Winnie) [-] about learning French [cf. France] and German [cf. Germany]. Published by Valentine. Couchman's accompanying notes pertain to the German gun, stated to have been captured in Goulet Wood, Vimy Ridge, Artois/Pas-de-Calais, France on 9 April 1917, given a naval deck mounting and used by the Merchant Navy against submarines c.1917-c.1918 before being erected in Rochester Castle Gardens in 1919. c.1931 x c.1939.
- Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle* comprising view of castle keep and grounds looking south-south-west towards castle keep and bandstand, showing from left to right long walk lined with benches, strollers visitors and feral pigeons, Crimean

- War cannon at far end and at camera end First World War German light field gun mounted on concrete plinth, trees, bushes, shrubs and bandstand, walkway between bandstand and western curtain wall with benches and sitting visitor and terrace gardens. On rear, message from Winifred (Winnie) [-] about learning French [cf. France] and German [cf. Germany]. Published by Valentine. Couchman's accompanying notes pertain to the German gun, stated to have been captured in Goulet Wood, Vimy Ridge, Artois/Pas-de-Calais, France on 9 April 1917, given a naval deck mounting and used by the Merchant Navy against submarines c.1917-c.1918 before being erected in Rochester Castle Gardens in 1919. c.1931 x c.1939.
- DE402/7/46 (U): Reproduction of pen and ink drawing of Rochester Castle gardens viewed from Castle keep, looking north-west towards bandstand in middle ground, entrance staircase leading up from Esplanade and Rochester Bridge in middle distance, showing in far distance commercial buildings in Strood Intra and windmills on Frindsbury Hill, namely The Great Mill and The Little Mill. Also visible in castle gardens are sections of northern and western castle curtain walls and shrubberies, trees, long walk, strollers and benches. Couchman's accompanying notes pertain to demolition of bandstand in 1961.
- DE402/7/51(U): Print from engraving entitled *part of the interior of the keep, Rochester Castle, Kent* comprising view of interior of keep at second i.e. principal floor level, looking west at 45 degree angle across northern portion of keep towards cross-wall and opposite (west) wall, showing Norman arcading in cross-wall. Engraved by W. Deeble from drawing by H. Gastineau for *Excursions through Kent* published by Longman and Co., Paternoster Row, London 1 February 1820.
- DE402/7/51(L) Postcard photograph entitled *interior, Rochester Castle* comprising view of interior of keep at second i.e. principal floor level, looking west (i.e. at 45 degree angle) across northern portion of keep towards cross-wall and opposite (west) wall of keep, showing Norman arcading in cross-wall. On rear, message from Louise and Annie [-] [?] to Miss L. Miller, Law Cottage, Upper Largo, Fife, Scotland (North Britain) mentioning outing to Chatham. Postmarked Rochester 17 July 1905.
- DE402/7/53: Print from engraving entitled *interior of the remains of the upper story of Rochester Castle* comprising view looking west towards cross-wall and opposite (west) wall of keep beyond. c.1860
- DE402/7/58(U) Postcard photograph entitled *interior, Rochester Castle* comprising view of interior of keep at second i.e. principal floor level looking west across northern portion of keep at 45 degree angle

- towards cross-wall and opposite (west) wall of keep, showing Norman arcading in cross-wall. On rear, message from Glanvill W. Mason to Miss Dot (L.) Moss, c/o Mrs. Connor, 15 Bath Road, Dartford, concerning travel arrangements. Published by Baldwin and Son, 6a. High Street, Chatham. Postmarked Rochester 30 April 1915.
- DE402/7/59(U): Photograph of north-east angle turret and eastern battlement parapet of Rochester Castle keep, looking east from point on western wall-walk near south-west angle tower, showing interior of third stage of keep, two youths in formal dress on wall-walk and in distance tower of Rochester Cathedral. Note on rear to effect cathedral tower as appears was re-modelled by the architect Cottingham. 3 7/8" x 2 3/4" (100mm x 72mm) Before 1904
- DE402/7/59(L): Photograph of interior of Rochester Castle keep, looking west across northern portion of keep at second or principal floor level at 45 degree angle towards cross-wall and opposite (west) wall of keep, showing three bays of Norman arcading in cross-wall and part of interior of eastern wall. 6" x 4 1/4" (150mm x 115mm) c.1900
- DE402/7/60 Photograph of interior of Rochester Castle keep at second or principal floor level, looking west across northern portion of keep at 45 degree angle towards cross-wall, showing two bays of Norman arcading in cross-wall and three feral pigeons or doves perched at different points. Mason Collection. 6 3/8" 4 3/4" (160mm x 120mm) c.1930
- DE402/7/61(U) Postcard photograph entitled *Norman keep, Rochester Castle* comprising view of interior of Rochester Castle keep at second or principal floor level, looking west across northern portion of keep at 45 degree angle, showing four bays of Norman arcading in cross-wall in middle-ground, northern portion of west wall directly ahead, part of south wall in left background and iron railing on parapet of west wall. Published by Valentine. c.1930
- DE402/7/61(L) Photograph of northern portion of interior of Rochester Castle keep at third level looking north-west, showing part of cross-wall at left, north wall at right and west wall directly ahead. Photographer W. Glanvill Mason. Mason Collection. 6 3/8" x 4 5/8" (160mm x 117mm) c.1930
- DE402/7/63 Photograph of Rochester Castle eastern curtain wall and northern mural tower or keeper's lodge, looking south-east from point between centre of outer bailey or castle gardens and curtain wall, showing lodge covered in ivy, trees, bushes and shrubs in middle ground, bench and walkway in foreground and

- please keep off the grass* in right middle ground. Embossed *Frith Series*. 8 1/8" x 6 3/8" (205mm x 160mm) c.1890
- DE402/7/68(U) Postcard photograph entitled *bridge and castle grounds, Rochester* comprising view of northern part of castle gardens looking north-north-west from upper level of keep towards north-west bastion, showing in distance left to right, Strood Intra, Frindsbury Intra and warehouses, Rochester Bridge railway Station (High Street, Strood), Frindsbury Hill and Church and large four-masted sailing vessel alongside Anchor Wharf in Bridge Reach, in middle distance Rochester road bridge, range of buildings on Castle Hill comprising Moat House, Saye House, Sele House, Castleleigh House, Rochester and County Club and Castle Moat House, boundary wall and railing alongside Castle Hill and First World War Mk IV Female Tank on plinth and in foreground bandstand, trees, lawns, First World War German War light field gun mounted on round concrete or stone plinth, steps at north-west bastion, Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee memorial, long walk and other pathways, strollers and visitors, benches and Crimean War cannon. Published by Valentine. Couchman's accompanying notes pertain to gift of tank to Rochester by Major General Sir Herbert Mullaly on behalf of National War Savings Committee in 1919. c.1931 x c.1939
- DE402/7/70(U)(1) Postcard photograph entitled *Rochester Castle from Boley Hill* comprising view of castle keep in background and southern section of curtain wall and drum tower, trees and external staircase in foreground, looking north, showing entrance from southern section of Castle Ditch into eastern section of inner bailey through curtain wall to right of drum tower, also showing cylindrical south-east angle tower of keep, both curtain wall and keep partly covered in ivy. On rear, message from John (Jack) Foxall to his mother Mrs. Foxall, 86 Bow Road, London E., describing travelling arrangements, weather and possibly military training (Small Arms School (S.A.S)). Published by Ive and Lowe Ltd., Chatham. Dated 14 February 1916 and postmarked Chatham 15 February 1916.
- DE402/7/70(L) Postcard colour photograph entitled *Rochester Castle, Kent, Keep, from south-east*, comprising view of Castle keep, curtain wall and drum tower from point in St. Margaret's Street about 20 yards (about 20 metres) from junction with Boley Hill and Bakers Walk, showing in foreground walls in St. Margaret's Street overhung with trees and ivy and in left middle distance trees in Castle Ditch. A banner is flying from the keep at half-mast.

Published and printed by Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) 1983.

DE402/7/71

Postcard colour photograph entitled *Rochester Castle, Kent, aerial view from the south*, comprising view of area contained within castle outer bailey and curtain wall and surrounding area, *viz.*: Rochester Esplanade and road and railway bridges to west, Castle Hill, Rochester High Street, Bridge House, Conservancy Board offices, Guildhall, Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel and Acorn Wharf to north, Castle Ditch and Boley Hill to east and Castle Ditch, Boley Hill, Satis House, Vicarage and Old Hall to south. Features visible inside outer bailey include plinth of bandstand, plinth of First World War tank, staircase at north-east bastion, walkways, trees and benches. Published by the Department of the Environment 1975 and subject to Crown Copyright and printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) by The Campfield Press, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. Exposed before 1969.

DE402/8/1:

Rochester Historical Pageant. Photograph of Rochester Castle keep, gardens and curtain walls looking south-west across gardens or outer bailey from path alongside Castle Hill, showing in background left to right, eastern curtain wall and southern mural tower, parked bicycle, keep with City of Rochester banner from north-east angle tower and western curtain wall, in middle ground left to right walkways, benches and visitors, last comprising three Royal Navy ratings (two junior ratings in square rig and one senior rating in fore-and-aft rig), children and adult sitting or standing in western walkway and in foreground feral pigeons, *please keep of the grass* sign and scaffolding bars. Believed exposed prior to erection of Rochester Historical Pageant grand-stands. 8" x 6" (205mm x 155mm) 1931

Ordnance Survey Maps

1st edition 50" map sheets XIX.2.25 and 6.5 1866

2nd edition (1898) 25" OS MAP XIX sheets 2 and 6

2nd edition of (revision of 1913) 25" OS map XIX sheets 2 and 6

National Archives

NA SP 78/228: Letter from Anthony Thompson (British Ambassador in Paris) to Andrew Stone, 25 September 1743

NA Works 14/791: Ministry of Works file for Rochester Castle

