

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 20/97

WALL PAINTING CONDITION AUDIT,
CASTLE RISING CASTLE, NORFOLK

J Davies

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Summary

This condition audit of wall paintings at Castle Rising Castle includes a wall painting record, general audit information, documentation of original materials and execution of the painting, and deterioration and damage including previously used materials and treatment, as well as proposals for treatment and monitoring strategies.

Author's address :-

Ms J Davies
PAINTINGS CONSERVATION STUDIO
English Heritage
Inner Circle Regents Park
London
NW1 4PA



Castle Rising Castle Norfolk

The following report has been generated by the Wall Painting Section database. This archival system provides a computerised record of all wall paintings in English Heritage Historic Properties and is intended to comprehensively document the collection. Each report has been subdivided into four sections to present the data in a clear format. These include:

1 Wall Painting Record:

Includes a description of the site and paintings, as well as archival information, such as bibliographic references and photographic records.

2 General Audit Information:

Describes any monitoring undertaken and a synopsis of future conservation requirements.

3 Technique:

Documents the nature and condition of the original materials and execution of the painting which is described according to its stratigraphy and any related analysis.

4 Deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment:

Deterioration and damage lists the types of alterations which may have occurred, that is either deterioration (natural alterations such as cracking or delamination) or mechanical damage (such as graffiti).

Added Materials documents all non-original materials present on or within a painting. These may include naturally occurring substances (accretions, such as dirt and dust) or deliberately added materials (coatings, coverings and repairs).

Treatment documents previous interventions and proposed treatment and monitoring strategies.

Throughout each section, an area of painting is assigned a number between 1 and 4 which is intended as a general indication of present condition. These are: 1 good, 2 fair, 3 poor, 4 unacceptable.

This report is based on information gathered prior to March 1996 and does not include any changes in condition, further research or treatment undertaken after this date. Amended editions will be produced as necessary.

1 Wall Painting Record

Property name	CASTLE RISING CASTLE		
Region	Midlands	County	Norfolk
Location of painting	chapel		
Orientation	VAULT		
Century 12 th	Date	Height (cm)	Width (cm)
Subjects included			
Various decorative motifs			

Description

THE BUILDING

It is thought that the Castle dates from the early twelfth century, around 1138, and was built for William de Albini II, lord of Buckenham and later Earl of Sussex, alias of Arundel, alias of Chichester who had married Alice of Louvain, Dowager Queen of England, widow of Henry I in 1138. The house of Albini continued as Earls of Sussex and Lords of Arundel, Rising and Buckenham until 1243. At this date Castle Rising passed to Roger de Montalt as the inheritance of his wife Cecily, youngest of the co-heiresses to the Albini fortune.

There is structural evidence (corbels in the Hall etc., Allen Brown, 1992:17) that the Keep decayed in the thirteenth century and was restored during the fourteenth. The castle passed to the Crown in 1331, following a contract of 1327. The castle was occupied by Isabella, dowager Queen of Edward II. In 1358 the castle was given to her grandson, the Black Prince and his successors as Dukes of Cornwall.

In 1544 Henry VIII granted the Castle to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and Henry, Earl of Surrey, his son and heir, in exchange for Suffolk lands of theirs, formerly belonging to Felixstowe Priory. A survey of the castle taken in 1542-3 records the castle to be in a poor state of repair, saying "the Castell of Rysynge and dyvers houses and walls within and aboute the same bene at this daye in greate ruin and decaye" (Allen Brown, 1992:26). The castle remained in the Howard family, although it passed from the main branch in 1693 when Henry Howard, then Duke of Norfolk, sold it to his kinsman Thomas Howard. In the nineteenth century the castle was partially restored by the Honourable Fulke Greville Howard. The castle passed into the custody of the state in 1958. (Allen Brown, 1992:27.)

THE CHAPEL AND DECORATION

The Chapel is situated at first floor level at the eastern end of the Great Chamber, adjacent to the Great Hall. It is architecturally 'the most beautiful and ornate' room in the building. (Allen Brown, 1992:53) The chapel is divided into three sections, the largest section serving as a nave, the southern section housed a series of arcades, the centres of which were recessed to form alcoves, and those to east and west appear to contain fragments of painted decoration.

'The east side of the nave is given over to the handsome chancel arch, of 7ft 6in (2.3m) span, moulded and decorated with a lozenge or diamond pattern, with shafts with scalloped capitals in front of the piers. The small chancel beyond, constructed entirely within the thickness of the main east wall of the keep (where it is masked by the forebuilding beyond), is elaborate again, vaulted, groined and ribbed with traces of red-painted chevrons on the ribs, and with a sort of non-boss consisting of four opposed crowned heads at the intersecting of the ribs for the suspension of an altar lamp. There are also nook shafts with fluted capitals in its four corners, and an east window, evidently of three lights, with a string-course of chevron below it, looking over the forebuilding. To the right of the chancel and opening off it there is a small plain and vaulted closet, presumably the vestry, running south with a blocked loop in the south wall and a recess or aumbry in the east.' (Brown, 1992:54.)

Fragments of red pattern remain only in sheltered areas.

Photographic Record

29/6/94 EH 'current' contact photo files; no images of wall paintings.

Photograph search, DOE files, EH photo library (JD24/03/95)
Castle Rising Castle; no relevant DOE photographs found.

Bibliography

EH internal files; 40523/2 part 2, 40523/3 part 2.

Allen Brown, R., Castle Rising Norfolk, EH guide book, Crown copyright 1978, H.M.S.O. London, 1978, reprinted 1984, first published by EH 1987, reprinted 1988, 1990 and 1992.

Bradfer-Lawrence, H.L., Castle Rising A short history and description of the Castle with illustrations, 1954.

2 General Audit Information

Property name	CASTLE RISING CASTLE	County	Norfolk
Region	Midlands		
Location	chapel		
Orientation	VAULT		
Century 12 th	Date	Height (cm)	Width (cm)
Auditor(s)	JD	Start date 25/04/95	

Overall condition score **2**

Recommendations

Fragments of red pattern remain in sheltered areas. The Chapel is windowless and only partially walled and roofed, therefore the paint is relatively exposed. However it has survived to this date and appears fairly stable.

The decoration should be fully recorded and documented. Minor repairs are required [Timescale: 1 conservator, 1 week, within 3 years]. The condition of the paint should be monitored periodically. [Timescale: every 3 years].

3 Audit Information: Technique

Property name	CASTLE RISING CASTLE		
Region	Midlands	County	Norfolk
Location	chapel		
Orientation	VAULT		
Century 12 th	Date	Height (cm)	Width (cm)
Auditor(s)	JD	Start date 25/04/95	

Overall Condition Score **2**

Stratigraphy

Layer type	Support Layer	Specific condition Score	2
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Thickness 50 cm

Comments

The castle is partially ruined. However the remains of the stone fabric have been conserved and appear stable at present.

Layer type	Render Layer 1	Specific condition Score	3
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Thickness

Comments

Render is present only in the alcoves of the chapel. The red decoration of the chancel vault is applied directly to the stonework. The lime render contains coarse aggregate, up to c. 0.3 cm in size.

Layer type	Ground Layer 1	Specific condition Score	2
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Thickness

Comments

Very fragmentary remains of limewash are present and may form part of a ground layer.

Layer type	Paint Layer 1	Specific condition Score	2
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Thickness

Comments

The paint layer consists of thin and abraded red paint. The pigment appears to be red earth.

Identified pigments **Colours**

--- red

4 Audit Information: deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment

Property name	CASTLE RISING CASTLE		
Region	Midlands	County	Norfolk
Location	chapel		
Orientation	VAULT		
Century 12 th	Date	Height (cm)	Width (cm)

DETERIORATION AND DAMAGE

Deterioration phenomena

Type general erosion

Location Various.

Comments The castle has suffered much deterioration and has for several centuries been partially ruined. The paint layer has been exposed and suffered from erosion.

ADDED MATERIALS

Accretions

Type dirt

Location General.

Comments Not too disfiguring.

Type dust

Location General.

Comments Not too disfiguring.

Coatings/Coverings

Type limewash

Location Upper edge, western alcove.

Comments A small amount of limewash is present apparently overlying coloured decoration.

Repairs

Type unidentified

Location Various edge repairs.

Comments Grey cement-type, with very coarse aggregate, upto 1 cm in diameter. These repairs appear to be related to remedial building repairs rather than formal conservation.

TREATMENT

Past Treatment

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 01/01/62

Person A.M.

Comments Grey cement-type edge repairs, with very coarse aggregate, upto 1 cm in diameter. These repairs appear to be related to remedial building repairs rather than formal conservation. There is an inscription 'A.M. 1962' in the Chancel step, which may indicate when repairs to the Chapel area were undertaken. The edge repairs themselves appear to be fairly solid, but losses of earlier render seem to post-date the repairs and so indicate that they are not providing appropriate support. Therefore further more suitable repairs are required.

Proposed Treatment

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 25/04/95

Person JD

Comments Minor repairs are required to the render layer in the alcoves.

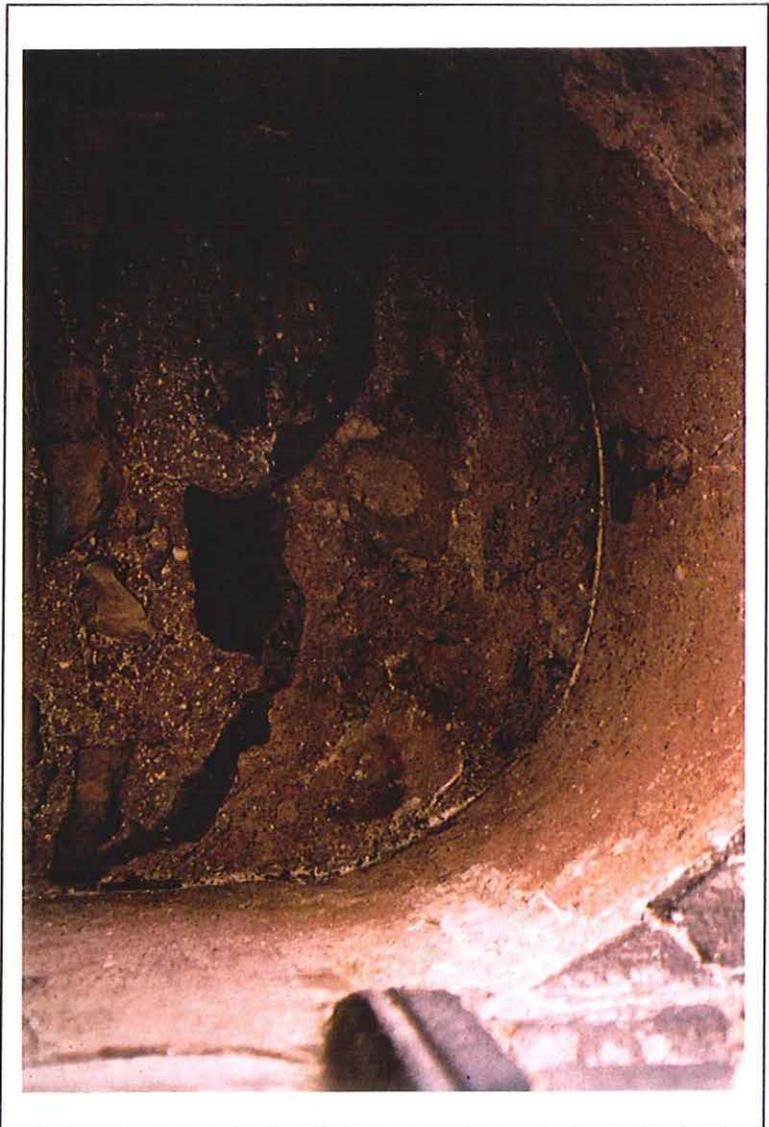
Type MONITORING CONDITION **Date** 25/04/95

Person JD

Comments Full recording, documentation and periodic monitoring of the condition of the paintings is required.



Chapel, west wall, south side, detail upper area



Chapel, east wall, south side, detail