

Lullingstone Castle, Lullingstone Park, Eynsford, Dartford. DA4 0JA.
Examination of a beam from the side of the gatehouse. Surveyed 12 08 2016.



Page | 1

2015 Google earth showing the layout of Lullingstone Castle.



2015 Google earth showing the position of the Gatehouse to the west of the House.

Location

Lullingstone Castle, Lullingstone Park, Eynsford, Dartford. DA4 0JA. TQ5301264382.
The Gatehouse is 75m west of the House.

Listing



Page | 2

The western elevation of the Gate House. BJHC.

1.EYNSFORDLULLINGSTONE LANE5280LullingstoneThe Gatehouse toTQ 56 SW
5/641.6.67Lullingstone CastleI

The Gatehouse to TQ 56 SW 5/64 1.6.67 Lullingstone Castle I GV 2. C16. This was the outer Gatehouse of the house built by Sir Percyvall Hart between 1543 and 1580. (Of which parts remain in the later Lullingstone Castle) and was constructed sometime after the middle of the century. The inner Gatehouse was demolished in the mid C18. Red brick laid in English Bond, with traces of diaper pattern. In plan it consists of a rectangle with polygonal turrets attached to the outer face, and polygonal projections from the inner. In elevation it comprises a carriage archway with a room over flanked by turrets of 3 storeys. Machicolation and a castellated parapet to the whole. Casement windows with brick mullions. The outer side faces west and has a 4-centred brick carriage archway which retains its original ribbed double doors of 20 panels, and over it a cartouche and a single window of 2 tiers of 4 lights. Flanking this are hexagonal staircase turrets which rise higher than the remainder of the Gatehouse. These have quatrefoil loop lights and terracotta panels. Otherwise this side of the Gatehouse is blind. On the inner side is a similar moulded archway with brick dripstone and cartouche and similar window over and these are flanked by canted bays of 3 storeys which contain 4-centre pedestrian doorways with dripstones on the ground floor flanked by small rectangular single light windows and windows of 2 tiers of 3-lights on the first and second floors. AM

Scope of this Report

This report summarises an informal inspection of a timber removed from the north side of the Gate House as part of essential repair works. Historically there was a range of almshouses attached on this side.

Page | 3

Description



The segments of timber laid out for recording.



The timber laid out showing its upward camber.

The tie-beam was cut up into sections to allow its safe removal from the brickwork. It was laid out on the grass for recording.



Remains of a dovetail.



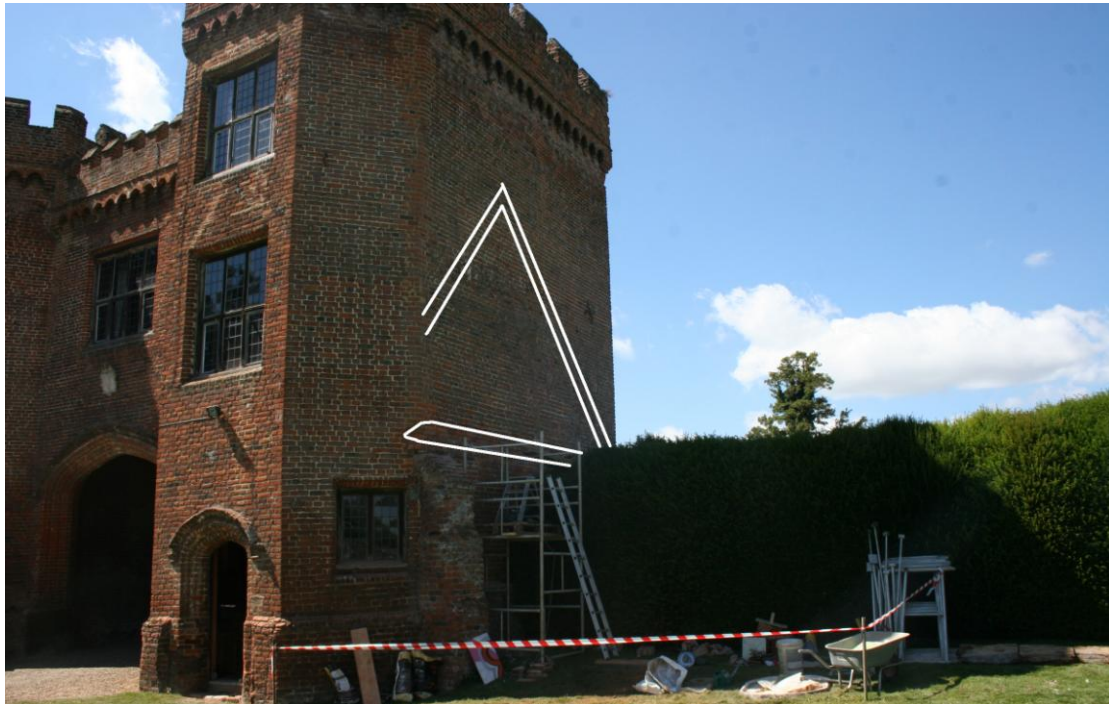
Detail of one of the squared sections of the timber. Note the single peghole.



Detail of the terminal indicating the general condition.



A series of knife strikes with a thin blade. Possibly apotropaic M or VV.



The outline of the removed roof seen in the brickwork of the tower.

The timber was a tie-beam made of axe finished oak and was set into the brickwork of the Gate House. This would imply it predated the Gate House or that the brickwork was hacked back to secure the timbers. Looking closely at the brickwork it can be seen that it is of two skins and that the outer skin was built around the timbers.

The tie-beam would have originally protruded beyond the eastern edge of the brickwork and the line of the principal rafters can also be seen such that an estimated of the width of the building can be made.

The 10x12in cambered beam measured approximately 18ft 6in long having been cut down from an estimated 23ft. The remaining terminal had a dovetail in the soffit. Only one peg hole was visible. There were a number of thin knife blade strikes on the soffit which for three lines and an M or VV. These are often interpreted as apotropaic marks invoking the Holy Trinity, Mary or the Virgin of Virgins. They were put on the timbers to bless the occupants and protect from witches.

The almshouses were built by Sir John Peche who bought Lullingstone in the EC16th and this timber dates stylistically to that period.

Sir John Peche was a man of great reputation at that time, being created a knight banneret, and made lord deputy of Calais. He was sheriff in the 10th year of king Henry VII. in which year, when the lord Audley and the Cornish men, who had risen in support of Perkin Warbeck, would have collected provisions and men in this county, he with other gentry of it, opposed them, and obliged them to turn towards London; soon after which they were vanquished on Blackheath. During his life-time he paid five hundred pounds into the hands of the wardens and masters of the Grocers company in London, of which he was free, for the performing of certain almsdeeds, and works of piety for his soul's health, as will be further mentioned hereafter. He died possessed of Lullingstone manor, leaving his wife, the lady Elizabeth surviving to whom king Henry VIII. of his special favour, in his 31st year, granted an annuity of ten marcs during her life.

Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Lullingstone', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 2* (Canterbury, 1797), pp. 539-552. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol2/pp539-552> [accessed 13 April 2017].

The timber did not have enough rings for tree dating to be considered.