

From: Alastair Deighton [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 November 2021 10:15
To: James Neave [REDACTED]
Subject: Incinerator at Ford - effect on Arundel Castle archives

Dear Councillor Neave,

I apologise for the direct e-mail but I am aware that time is of the essence for consideration of the planning application for the new incinerator at Ford. Having been alerted to the potential effect of exhaust fumes on the nationally significant archives held at Arundel Castle, I had a conversation with Dr John Martin Robinson. He has written the attached note, which I believe to be a material consideration for the application.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair

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18·Nov·2021

The Duke of Norfolk's Archives at Arundel Castle

Statement by John Martin Robinson, MA, D.Phil, D.Litt, F.S.A., Librarian & Archivist to The Duke of Norfolk

The Archives at Arundel Castle are one of the most important private archive collections in England, containing historic documents relating to the past and present estates spread over the whole country; family papers including correspondence and wills, religion, patronage of art, literature, music, architecture; official state papers especially the archive of the Earl Marshal of England (one of the Great Offices of State, responsible for ceremonial, Coronations, and the Sovereign's funeral).

The Archives comprise hundreds of thousands of unique documents dating from the 12th century to the present day. The medieval charters and deeds begin circa 1200. The correspondence begins in the 16th century (the earliest letter is signed by Henry VIII). The wills begin in the 14th century (the earliest is Sir Robert Howard's will, dated 1387), and include many historical figures including Bess of Hardwick. The maps begin in the 17th century and include magnificent specimens of cartography. The modern estate management records are comprehensive from the 18th century and are the most complete for a Sussex estate.

Apart from the public records (National Archives, British Library, etc.), the Norfolk Archives at Arundel have the largest collections of Medieval and pre-1700 documents in England. The Manorial Rolls cover more than a dozen counties; and the castle Muniments Tower is recognised as a Manorial Repository. (Manorial records are of great public interest as they are the only source of ordinary family history before the reign of Elizabeth I). The medieval deeds cover property in over 20 counties, and form one of the unique early antiquarian collections (comparable to those in the British Library). The Earl Marshal's papers are also of special national importance throwing light on the history of the monarchy over 7 centuries.

The Norfolk archives now at Arundel, are a historical resource open to researchers, and have been used by scholars since the 17th century. They are designated by the government as being of *Pre-Eminent Historical Interest*. So though privately owned, the archive collection at Arundel is of national importance, and subject to statutory government requirements concerning its care and conservation. It is open to the public and used by scholars from all over the world.

The archives are housed in 10 muniment rooms contained in the Muniments tower. The 7-staged tower was built of Douling Stone in 1895 and forms a prominent architectural feature of the west front and skyline of the castle which is both a Grade I listed building and a designated Ancient Monument. Because of its location, height, and stone construction with tiers of narrow arched windows, it is exposed to the full impact of the prevailing winds from the south-west. It is in direct line from any exhalations and pollution blowing north-eastwards from the Ford area.

Considerable effort has been invested over the years, with dehumidifiers, thermo-hydrographs, ultraviolet-light exclusion, and rolling conservation work, to maintain suitable and stable conditions for the preservation of ancient parchments and hand-made paper. The archives are preserved in a managed natural environment, not by air-conditioning or a mechanical environment. The fresh, unpolluted air, away from industrial development and large-scale cities, in the Sussex Downs and close to the seaside, is of key importance to the preservation of the castle archives, and maintaining optimum environmental conditions in the muniment rooms.

The construction of the proposed waste-facility near Ford would cause pollution, and because of the setting, scale and architecture of the Muniments Tower, pose a significant environmental threat to the preservation of the historic archive at Arundel Castle which is a unique assemblage of pre-eminent national importance.