

Bargate roof and upper floor graffiti survey summary. 21st June 2023

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Graffiti Summary

This survey supplements an earlier survey of the Bargate's ground floor. Very little graffiti is visible on the roof, probably due to weathering and replacement of stone. All that was found are the initials GA (Fig 1) and a possible arrow shape on the south face of one of the merlons of the inner battlement, on the north side of the Bargate. This graffiti was made on blocks of Portland stone, so was made later than 1912.



1 Initials GA on roof merlon

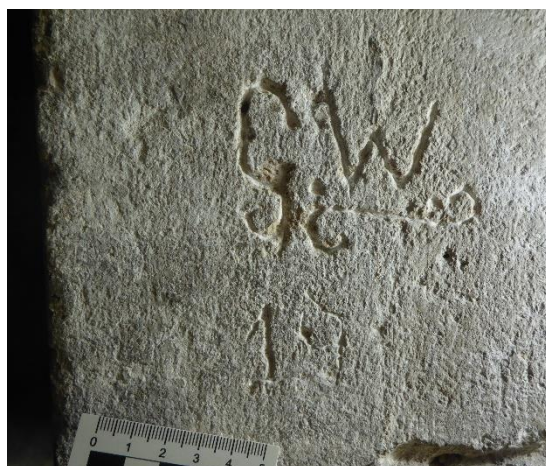
Inside the Bargate, the top floor was fully accessible due to the recent removal of modern partitions. Disappointingly, little graffiti was found, probably due to weathering and possible removal of later layers of limewash, plaster and possibly panelling.

Two sets of initials were found next to windows on the south side. The initials HC, and a date which could be 1667 or 1662, are carved within a flamboyant frame on the west side of the most westerly of the windows (Fig 2).



2 Dated and framed initials HC by window on upper floor

On the east side of the 2nd window from the east are the initials GW, carved with a flourish. The numbers 19 are beneath it, probably an unfinished date (Fig 3).



3 Initials GW next to window

Modern graffiti is scratched into one of the concrete pillars next to the stage area, and more modern scratched initials, one set dating from the 1960s, are on the landing outside, around the window at the top of the stairs. Also in this area, deeply carved into the south side of the door frame, are the initials CR (Fig 4).



4 Initials CR on door frame at top of stairs

Acknowledgements

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Karen Wardley

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