

SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

An historical source is something that tells us about life in the past such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Experts at English Heritage have chosen these sources to help you learn about the history of Pendennis Castle and St Mawes Castle.

SOURCE 1

‘SEMPER HONOS HENRICE TUUS LAUDESQUE MANEBUNT’

(Henry, your honour and praises will last forever)

‘SEMPER VIVET ANIMA REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI QUI ANNO 34 SUI REGNI HOC FECIT FIERI’

(May the soul of Henry VIII, who had this made, in the 34th year of his reign, live for ever)

‘GAUDEAT EDUARDO NUNC DUCE CORNUBIA FELIX’

(Let Lucky Cornwall rejoice that Edward is now her Duke)

‘HONORA HENRICA OCTAVUM ANGLIE FRANCIE ET HIBERNIE REGNUM EXCELLENTISSIMUM’

(Honour Henry VIII most excellent king of England, France and Ireland)

‘EDWARDUS FAMA REFERAT FACTISQUE PARENTUM’

(May Edward resemble his father in fame and deeds)

This source is a translation of some of the Latin inscriptions on the outside of the Tudor Gun Tower at St Mawes Castle.



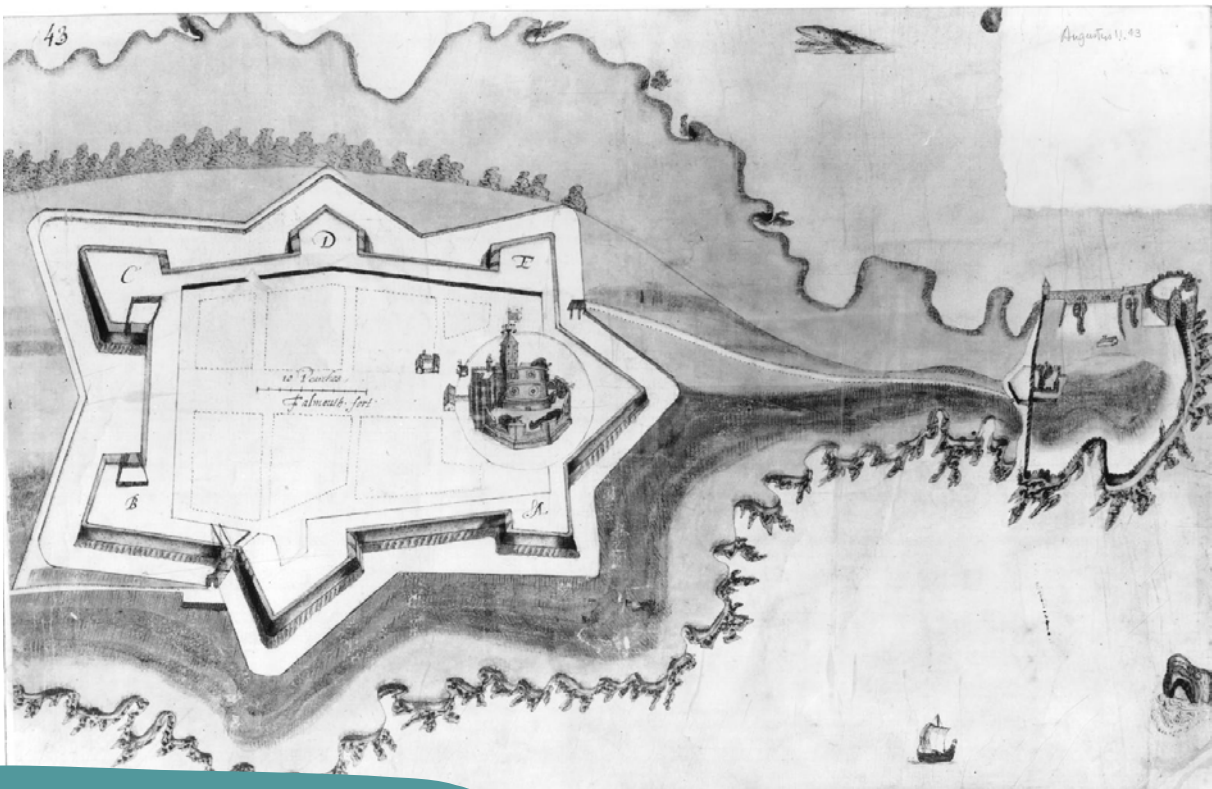
The Royal Arms of England on St Mawes Castle.

SOURCE 2

‘Since the beginnings of our works here, I have followed Paul Ivey’s directions to compass the ground to see how it will prove, and we find it somewhat rocky, which is likely to be chargeable. You will perceive by the engineer’s draft enclosed, that he has clean altered his plot, as he was mistaken in the ground, and for easing of the charge has made it less than Sir Fras Godolphin and myself thought necessary. There are 400 workmen employed here, and the weekly charge is 80L., besides emptions (purchases) so that I have very little money left, having received but 200L., to employ these... My duty binds me to acquaint you of the weaknesses and insufficiency of all things necessary for the defence of the castle.’

This source is a letter from Sir Nicholas Parker, captain of Pendennis to Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I’s chief minister, advising him that changes were being made to the plans of the new angle bastion defences at Pendennis and that money was running out. The letter is dated 27 February 1597.

SOURCE 3



A plan of the Elizabethan improvements to the defences at Pendennis Castle, c.1597–1600.

SOURCE 4



A reconstruction illustration of Pendennis Castle as it may have looked during the siege of 1646.

SOURCE 5



A map of the Carrick Roads estuary from 1725.

SOURCE 6

COASTLINE PAINTING

Detail of a painting of the coastline above the Battery Observation Post window, showing the area commanded by guns.



SOURCE 7



A reconstruction of the Half Moon Battery during the Second World War. Drawing by Peter Urmston
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