

# HISTORICAL SOURCES

Situated within a castle, the church is subject to such inconvenience that the clergy cannot stay there without danger to their persons. The church is exposed to such winds that those celebrating the divine offices can hardly hear each other speak. The fabric is so ruinous that it is a constant danger to the congregation which has dwindled to the extent that it is hardly able to provide for the repair of the roofs, which are constantly damaged by the winds. Water is so scarce that it has to be bought at a high price, and access to it is not to be had without the governor's permission. People wishing to enter the cathedral are often prevented by guards from the garrison. Housing is insufficient for the clergy who are therefore forced to buy houses from laymen. The whiteness of the chalk causes blindness.

Extract from the *Papal Bull*, 1219.

The pope's permission was required for the removal of the cathedral to a new site. The grounds for removal are summarised in this Bull of Pope Honorius III.

Extract from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, in modern English.

Written by English monks, the Chronicle was an account of the history of England started in AD890. Known as the 'Salisbury Gemot', this was the act in 1086 which first established feudalism in England.

... his council came to him, and all the landholding men of any account throughout England, whosoever's men they were, and they all bowed down to him and became his men, and swore oaths of fealty to him that they would be faithful to him against all other men.

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March 1st, Croydon.

Gift to R. Bishop of Salisbury, and to the Dean and Chapter of the church of St Mary, Salisbury of stones of the old cathedral church at Old Sarum and of the houses within the King's castle there which the Bishop and Canons of that church formerly occupied, for the repair of their church and for the enclosure of the precinct thereof.

Extract from *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1331.

This document is evidence that stones from the cathedral at Old Sarum were transported and used at the new cathedral in Salisbury.

Extract from *A Shepherd's Life* by WH Hudson, 1910.

Hudson was a noted naturalist and writer. His views about Old Sarum can be seen as a hangover from the 19th-century view of romantic ruins.

Nature had made it a sweet and beautiful spot; the earth over the old buried ruins was covered with an elastic turf, jewelled with the bright little flowers of the chalk ... Once during the last five or six centuries some excavations were made when, in 1834, as a result of an excessively dry summer, the lines of the cathedral foundations were discernible on the surface. But it will no longer be the place it was, the Society of Antiquaries having received permission from the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury to work their sweet will on the site. That ancient beautiful carcass, which had long made their mouths water, on which they have now fallen like a pack of hungry hyenas to tear off the old hide of green turf and burrow down to open to the light or drag out the deep, stony framework. The beautiful surrounding thickets, too, must go, they tell me, since you cannot turn the hill inside out without destroying the trees and bushes that crown it.