

P341 Sale of Barrogill Castle 1952 (Castle of Mey)

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	P341
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Sale of Barrogill Castle 1952 (Castle of Mey)
Dates of creation:	1952
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	4 items
Format:	Paper

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:	Shepherd and Wedderburn Solicitors
Administrative history:	<p>The lands of Mey belonged to the Bishops of Caithness. The Castle of Mey was built between 1566 and 1572, possibly on the site of an earlier fortification] by George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness. Originally a Z-plan tower house of three storeys, it had a projecting wing at the south-east, and a square tower at the north-west. The Castle passed to George Sinclair's younger son William, founder of the Sinclairs of Mey, although it later became the seat of the Earls. The Castle's name was changed to Barrogill, and it was extended several times, in the 17th and 18th centuries, and again in 1821 when Tudor Gothic style alterations were made, to designs by William Burn. Barrogill passed out of the Sinclair family in 1889, on the death of the 15th Earl, and in 1928 it was purchased by Captain Imbert-Terry. The Castle was used as an officers' rest home during the Second World War, and in 1950 the estate farms were sold off.</p> <p>The castle was in a semi-derelict state when, in 1952, it and its policies (attached lands) were purchased by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the widow of King George VI who had died earlier in the year. The Queen Mother set</p>

about restoring the castle for use as a holiday home, removing some of the 19th-century additions, and reinstating the Castle's original name. She regularly visited it in August and October from 1955 until her death in March 2002, the last visit being in October 2001.

Custodial history:

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description: Disposition and Minute of Sale

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: May 2012

Ref.	Description	Dates
P341	Sale of Barrogill Castle 1952 (Castle of Mey)	1952
P341/1	Minute of Sale between Captain F. B. Imbert Terry and (this part is blank) Barrogill Castle and Others in the County of Caithness [4 sheets]	1952
P341/2	Disposition by Captain F. B. Imbert Terry in favour of (this is blank), Subjects – Barrogill Castle and Policies (the Castle of Mey)	1952

P341/3	Handwritten and typed note titled 'Paper Apart' regarding boundaries and roads on the estate [2 sheets]	c.1952
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