

Mont Orgueil restoration



Aerial photograph of Mont Orgueil Castle and Gorey Harbour. (Robin Briault)

The £1 million refurbishment of Mont Orgueil Castle is now in full swing and on target for completion in March 2006. The project will restore parts of the ancient building that have fallen into disrepair and is being run in close consultation with the Société Jersiaise Archaeology Section and the Environment and Public Services Committee. Skilled local craftsmen, as well as experts from UK and France, are carrying out the work using traditional materials such as lead, wrought iron, lime mortar, granite and oak. This illustration shows the range of repairs being undertaken.



Carpenters restore the oak fascia on the North East Tower.



Repair work being carried out on the floor of the Medieval Great Hall.



Delicate restoration work is carried out on the undercroft.



An archaeologist investigates the floor in the Square Keep Tower.



The restoration of plasterwork in the lower level of Prynne's Tower by French stonemasons.



Laying the clay floor in the Medieval Great Hall.



A helicopter airlifts the oak floor beams into Mont Orgueil.



As the English Oak floor beams are airlifted in by helicopter, the workmen carefully put them into place in the Great Chamber.

1. Repair wall heads of Harliston Tower with lime mortar
2. New gates and repairs to pintles for the First Gate
3. Remove ivy and repair masonry of curtain wall
4. Create new public garden and access route from Gorey Pier
5. Create new ticket office within the old stable store
6. Old kiosk and railings in Lower Ward removed
7. New planting and steps aligned with Charles II coat-of-arms
8. Repairs to the south-east wall walk
9. Archaeological investigation and new public access to De Carteret's Rampart garden
10. Archaeological investigation and new public access to Sir John Peyton's Bulwark
11. Archaeological investigation and masonry consolidation of Southern flanking tower
12. Removal of modern features in the Middle Ward
13. Archaeological investigation and lowering of the Lower Grand Battery
14. Repairs to stonework of Bell Tower
15. Archaeological investigation within the Bell Tower associated with new services route
16. Removal of 20th century features from the Grand Battery
17. Lime repointing of Prynne's and Square Keep Towers
18. Repairs to World War II concrete cappings
19. New lead for Residential Apartment roofs
20. New pantile roof for Mediaeval Great Hall
21. Environmental monitoring of the Keep and re-roofing of open areas to control rainwater ingress
22. North-east Tower repaired and opened to the public, linking with the newly opened North-east Passage
23. New WC in old latrine
24. North-east outworks recorded and made safe
25. Wall head repairs, new railings and dolphin-watching platform in Caesar's Fort
26. Liaison with Environmental Department to ensure flora and fauna are preserved and habitats enhanced all round the castle

All photographs on this page by Gordon Collas