

Richmond Palace

Richmond Palace was built by Henry VII, and was a magnificent palace that quickly became the king's favourite. It was completed in 1501 after the royal residence that had been on the site, Sheen Palace, burnt down during Christmas celebrations in 1497.

Q.1. Can you find the person who gets a reward for recovering things from the site of the fire [here](#)?

The new palace was called 'Richmond' as Henry VII had been earl of Richmond before he took the throne from Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485.



Building works

The king's palaces and other residences constantly needed repair or were extended.

Q.2. Can you find evidence of building at any of the king's properties?

Key words: Oking (Woking), Greenwich, Baynard Castle, Westminster, Windsor.

- Which places were the most important, do you think? How can you tell?

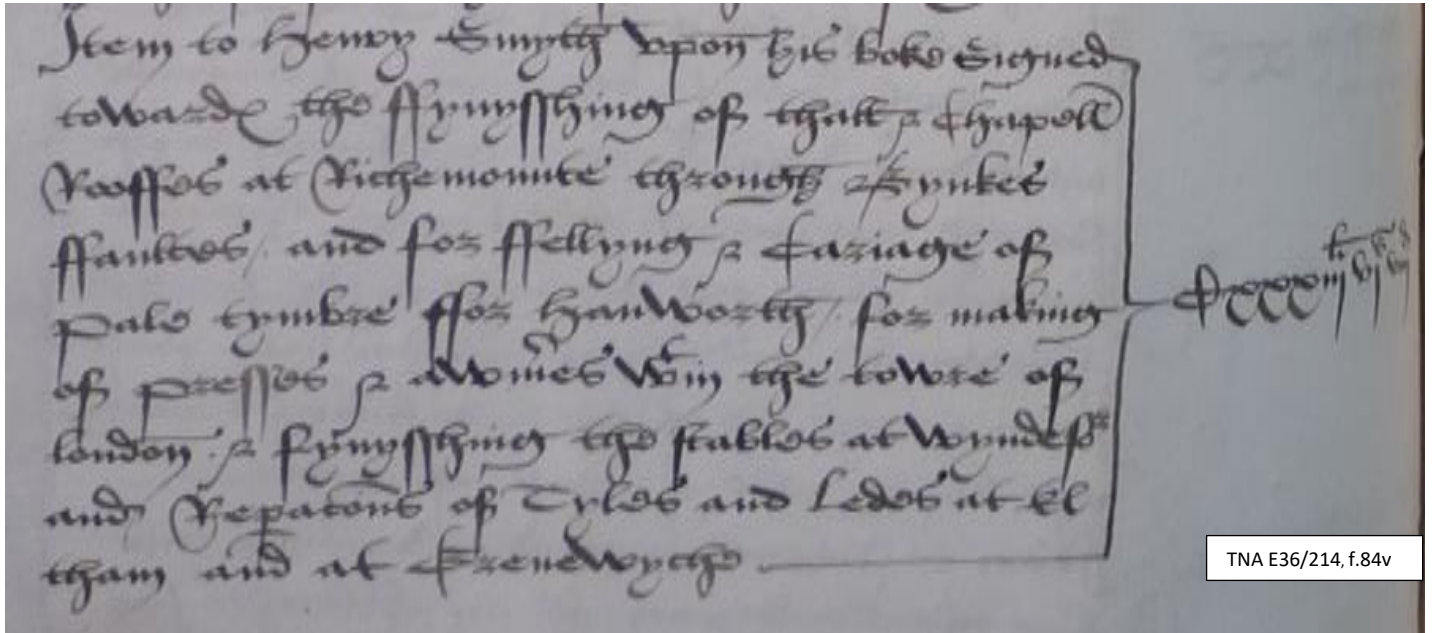


An unlucky place? When Sheen burnt to the ground in 1499, it was the second time the palace had been destroyed. The first time was when the palace had been raised to the ground by Richard II, a hundred years before, in 1395, after his beloved queen, Anne, had died there.



Ooops –

The gallery between the chapel and the main residence at Richmond was built by a carpenter called Thomas Benkes. Unfortunately, the gallery collapsed one day in 1507 just after the king and his son, Henry, had walked across it! The king was very cross and imprisoned Benkes, and in future payments to repair the chapel and gallery, Benkes was named as being to blame!

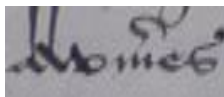
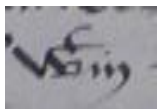


Q.3. In this passage, Henry Smyth is paid for various works, including repairs at Richmond. Can you transcribe the first 4 lines (up until the first full stop)?

Abbreviations –



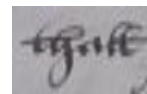
- es (a): 'W' was written quite differently to now, with a loop, rather than a stroke, at the end. This word starts with 'W', has a superscript 't' and two missing letters – can you guess what it is?



The loop above the 'm' means 'er', so the word is 'Awm[er]es (often referred to as an Awner)– this was a device for removing bits from grain.

Lazy scribes?

Note that instead of writing 'the hall', sometimes scribes ran the two words together



Odd Letters

'W' wasn't the only letter written a bit differently - 's' looked like 'f' and 'v' (which was often used where we might use a 'u') also had a loop instead of an upward stroke.