

## The Court Post Office 1990-2004 Part 2: arrangements at other English residences

by Glenn Morgan FRPSL



WINDSOR CASTLE, WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen, and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal palace and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace to this day. Mail from this residence is franked with the blue-coloured first or second class meter franking marking and forwarded to Royal Mail's local Mail Office. As with the Buckingham Palace post, items intended for transmission to Britain and Commonwealth countries additionally bears a machine-applied Royal monogram certifying stamp.

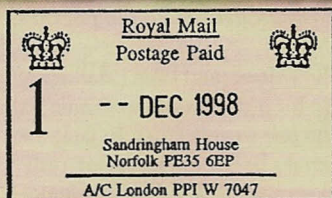
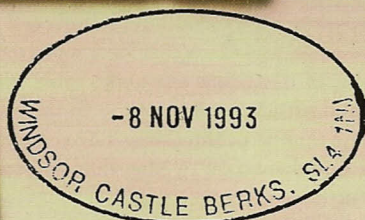
SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK Built in 1870 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, Sandringham was once described as 'The most comfortable house in England'. It has been passed down as a private home through four generations of British monarchs and is now the country retreat of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. Following the removal of counter services at Sandringham that had been provided when the Royal Family was in residence, Royal Household mail is now cancelled with one of two Sandringham House postage paid handstamps – either inland or overseas versions. Mail from The Royal Studs and The Estate Office is cancelled with a Pitney Bowes commercial franking machine marking numbered PB712545 and PB307139 respectively.

HIGHGROVE HOUSE, TETBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE This house was built between 1796 and 1798 for a local landowner, and remodelled a century later. The Duchy of Cornwall bought Highgrove House on behalf of The Prince of Wales in 1980. The house had been the home of Maurice Macmillan, son of the former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, for 14 years. When Prince Charles is in residence, mail is franked with a Highgrove House postage paid handstamp, introduced into service on 11 January 2002. There appears to be only an inland version of this handstamp, unlike the other residences where an overseas version also exists. Prior to the introduction of this marking, there had been no means of truly identifying this mail, other than perhaps when the Prince of Wales's feathers design appeared on the rear of an envelope flap and bore a local postmark.

It is hoped that this survey will assist collectors to identify items that they may be unaware of, and therefore are probably missing from their collections. However, it must be stated that the Royal Mail and Royal Household members employed at the Royal residences are extremely busy and cannot, therefore, respond to specific requests for copies of any of the postal cachets or markings recorded here. As a refusal to comply with your request could offend, please approach one of the many dealers in British postal history or ephemera if you wish to own this type of material •

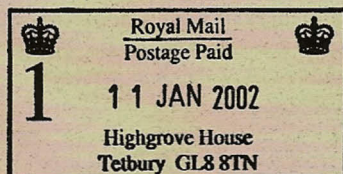
In his next article, Mr Morgan looks at postal arrangements at the Royal residences in Scotland.





If undelivered please return to:

**THE ESTATE OFFICE,  
SANDRINGHAM,  
NORFOLK PE35 6EN**



Above: a selection of postmarks used at the Royal residences of Windsor Castle, Sandringham House and Highgrove House.  
Opposite: postmarks used at Windsor Castle.