

Description of the Gaol in 1845: 'The County Gaol and House of Correction, commenced in 1824, on the site of the old prison, on the east side of the castle, were completed in 1828, at the cost of £50,000. The governor's house contains, besides the family apartments, a chapel and committee room. Branching from it are three radiating wings, each containing a double row of cells on the ground floor, with a day room next the governor's house, and double rows of cells on the upper floor. The number of cells in these wings is 240, and there are 36 in the old Keep. The diagonals, crossing the radiating wings at right angles, contain only a single row of cells, each having an arcade for the use of the prisoners when the weather will not permit their walking in the yard. Behind these are three other diagonal wings, of larger dimensions, with arcades below, and double rows of cells on the upper floor. The mill-house is on the right-hand side of the entrance, and has a machine for raising water (worked by the prisoners) for the use of the establishment. The governor's house being octagonal, and placed in the centre, commands a view of all the wings, day rooms, and yards.....The number [of prisoners] in 1835 was 801, and in 1843, 813.' (William White, *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Norfolk* (Sheffield, 1845) pp. 90-91).

Records:

- Norfolk Quarter Sessions books, 1565-1955 (with gaps), sometimes include lists of prisoners (both Sessions and Assizes) and record the sentence of people appearing before the Norfolk Sessions (C/S 1, on microfilm MF 653-661 to 1852).
- Quarter Sessions files, 1532-1807 (with gaps), can include depositions of accused and of witnesses (C/S 3). The destruction of the post-1800 Sessions files was authorised by an order of the Court in 1879 (see C/S 4/16 p. 326).
- Quarter Sessions files, including depositions, 1922-71 (C/S 15).
- Registers of convictions (night poaching), 1829-1954 (C/S 6/1-2).
- Register of convictions (juvenile), 1847-81 (C/S 6/3).
- Registers of convictions (Petty Sessions), 1855-1915 (C/S 6/4-5).
- Registers of convictions (general at Quarter Sessions), 1855-1955 (C/S 6/6-12).
- Visiting Justices of the County Gaol minute books, 1809-14, 1825-56, 1864-72, sometimes name individual prisoners (C/S 5/1 and on loan from Castle Museum, available on microfilm MF 879-881).
- Gaol Chapel books, 1816-39, give names of prisoners and other details (available on microfilm MF 881-882).
- Keeper's daily journal, 1822-35 (available on microfilm MF/RO 576).
- Surgeon's journals, 1843-6, 1848-50 (available on microfilm MF/RO 576).
- Diet record book, 1831-2 (available on microfilm MF/RO 576).
- Committee minutes, accounts, correspondence, plans etc, relating to maintenance and restoration of Castle, eighteenth-nineteenth century (C/Saa 1- 2, and microfilm MF/RO 581).