Dowry Castle Timeline - Before John Gartside

8,000 years ago - Between 8th and 4th millennia BC hunter-gatherers cross the area

2,000 years ago - The Roman army establishes a fort at nearby Castleshaw

Post 1066 - Manor of Saddleworth is acquired by the de Lacy family and then granted to the de Stapletons - who were among their principal tenants

12th/13th century - Land is granted by the de Stapletons to the Cistercian Abbey of Roche. The area is known as Friarmere. Monks establish a grange, perhaps at Grange, run by lay brothers from the abbey

14th/15th century - Friarmere is probably leased to tenants

1538 - Roche Abbey is dissolved and land becomes possession of the crown

1543 - Friarmere is sold to Arthur Assheton of Rochdale. Friarmere estate consists of eight parts, one part being 'Denshawe'. Assheton sells half of the Friarmere estate to Roger Gartside, also of Rochdale

1543-4 - Denshaw contains farmsteads and other buildings including one or more mill sites, along with meadows, feedings and pasture. Denshaw comprises three or four tenements, leased by six individuals, Ralph Chetham, Christopher Chetham, Henry Garside, William Garside, Richard Garside and John Garside

1553 - Assheton and Gartside partition the Friarmere estate. Gartside receives the northern half of the division, including Denshaw, while Assheton’s share includes Castleshaw

1640s - Denshaw comprises eight tenements, each having a right to an eighth of the common land of Denshaw Moor

Pre 1767-70 - Higher Dowry, with Lower Dowry, Dowry and Crooked Gate, make up four farmsteads in the area which sit in close proximity to the Dowry road

1808-12 - Maps in connection with the enclosure of Denshaw Moor shows that each of the farmsteads is in separate ownership. Crooked Gate belongs to Benjamin Gartside, Dowry to Thomas Milne, Lower Dowry to Benjamin Buckley, and Higher Dowry to Jonah Harrop. The whole area is known as Dowry Land or Dowry Green
Dowry Castle Timeline continued - Enter John Gartside

1848  -  John Gartside runs his successful brewing business from Brookside Brewery in the west end of Ashton-under-Lyne

1850s  -  Of the four tenements at Dowry Green, three are now owned by John Gartside

1853-1862  -  John Gartside’s estate grows around Higher Dowry farm

1861  -  John Gartside is described in the census as brewer, cotton manufacturer and farmer

1867  -  **John Gartside begins to build the Dowry Castle mansion**

1868  -  John Gartside dies 4 January, never to see his mansion completed. John’s son Benjamin takes over the estate and goes on to use Dowry Castle mansion as a second residence

1870  -  **The Dowry Castle mansion is completed**

1871  -  A housekeeper, domestic servant, cowman and farm bailiff are residents at Dowry Castle

1875  -  James Seville, executor of John Gartside’s will, petitions against the construction of Dowry reservoirs. He is unsuccessful. Oldham Corporation obtain an Act of Parliament to construct reservoirs at Denshaw

1876  -  Construction of Denshaw reservoirs begins 26 July

1878  -  Oldham Corporation purchases the bulk of Dowry Castle estate. Benjamin Gartside dies on 16 August

1883  -  Denshaw reservoirs, also known as Denshaw waterworks, are completed

1894  -  On 30 October Roger Arthure Gartside, John’s surviving younger son, and John Edmund Gartside, the eldest son of Benjamin, sell the remaining part of the estate to Oldham Corporation

1897  -  **Contents of Dowry Castle mansion are auctioned and the buildings dismantled**