

Castle Acre

'The Past is All Around Us'

The Site of the Castle

Secondary

Why is there a castle on this site ?

What connection did William de Warenne have to William the Conqueror ?

Who built the castle that survives today ?

How much did it cost to build ?

Where did the building materials come from ?

How did the building materials and everyday supplies reach the site?

How long has the site been occupied ?

How many people lived here and what did they do ?

What job did a porter do / an ostler / a cooper / a steward / a marshal / a chamberlain

What do these finds from the Castle tell us:

- Bones of deer, rabbit, duck, geese, partridge, fish, swan.
- Seeds of oats, barley, wheat and rye.
- Pendants, rings, brooches;
- bagpipes;
- Nine Men's Morris (a board game)

When was the castle last inhabited ?

When and how did it become disused ?

What happened to the stone ?

What was Castle Acre called before the castle was built ?

On a map of Norfolk, mark sites of the castles. Why were their locations chosen ?

List the names of some of those who lived here.

Can you find out:

Who hunted down Hereward the Wake, who had killed his brother-in-law Frederick the year before ?

Who died in childbirth at Castle Acre on 27 May 1085 ?

Who was killed by an arrow at the Siege of Pevensey Castle on 24 June 1088 ?

Who visited Castle Acre between 22 -24 Sept 1289 and then died the following year?

Others ?

Who told the people of Castle Acre to stop taking stone from the castle ?

Your Visit

How does the design of the castle exploit its location ?

Was there ever a moat ?

Why is there such an elaborate system of ditches and banks ?

Name these features on the plan of the castle: Motte; Keep; Inner Bailey; Outer Bailey; Well; Curtain Wall; West Gate; East Gate; Workshops.

What buildings were in the Outer Bailey?

Where is the well; how deep is it and why is it positioned as it is ?

How were the walls constructed and held together?

Estimate the thickness of the walls.

What are put-log holes and where can you see them ?

Who looks after the site now ?

How is the site of the castle managed for wildlife ?

Why is it important that the site of the castle is undisturbed chalk grassland ?

What species (birds, plants, butterflies, insects) can you see during your visit.
Make a list.