

Step into the stories of MEDIEVAL CASTLE ACRE

Almost 1,000 years ago, a knight called William de Warenne built a castle here. William's son founded the Priory nearby and later his grandson replanned the village, surrounding Castle Acre with huge stone and earth defences.

I am William de Warenne. I fought for William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



WILLIAM DE WARRENNE was given lands across England to build castles, which helped the Normans hold on to power after their invasion from France.



My name is Gundrada, devoted wife to William. My lifelong mission is to save the souls of my dear husband and family.

GUNDRADA DE WARRENNE was very religious. The Warenne family hoped that their sins would be forgiven by doing good deeds like building the Priory.



5. Find the remains of the **CASTLE KEEP**. The Warenne family lived in this building and transformed it into a massive stone fortress. **Imagine** how impressive the castle would have looked in medieval times.

4. The enormous **BAILEY GATE** was one of two gateways into the medieval village. It once had a large wooden portcullis – a heavy gate, which could be lowered to block the entrance. **Spot** the grooves where the portcullis once hung.

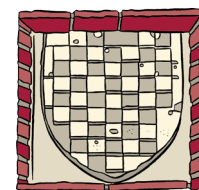
It's a bumper harvest this year!



3. **Picture** these **PRIORY FIELDS** in medieval times, when the monks grew all their own food. Local peasants from the village worked on the land.



2. Take a look at the **PRIORY WALL**.



1. Stop at the **GATEHOUSE**. Can you see the Warenne family coat-of-arms – a shield with a checker-board pattern?

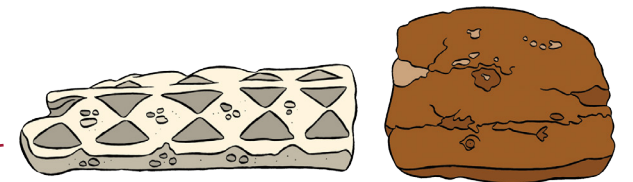
6. Explore the **OUTER BAILEY**.

There were stables, storehouses, kitchens and living quarters here. **Look for** the impressions in the ground where the buildings once stood. **How long** would it take a soldier on guard duty to patrol around the bailey?

8. **Marvel at** the massive **EARTHWORKS**. These deep ditches were built to defend the village in times of trouble.

GUIDE FOR SCHOOL WALKERS

- This route to the Castle from the Priory is a gentle 15-minute stroll through Castle Acre village, taking in the sights along the way.
- Watch out for traffic when walking along the lanes.
- Access to the Castle is along a rough track and grass paths, unsuitable for wheelchairs.
- Explore the Bailey Gate and Castle with care as historic sites can be dangerous. There are slip and trip hazards, as well as some steep slopes and stairs at the Castle.
- Students should be supervised at all times.



7. Examine the wall of a **HOUSE** on Bailey Street. **Can you spot** any carved stones from the Priory that have been reused in this building?



These stone blocks will come in handy!

Did you know? The Priory was abandoned and left in ruins, when King Henry VIII closed it down in 1537.

The monks were made homeless and we all had to leave Castle Acre.



I hope you have enjoyed exploring Castle Acre today!

