



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

## TEACHERS' KIT

### Goodrich Castle

This kit will help teachers plan a visit to Goodrich Castle, which provides invaluable insight into life in a medieval castle. Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help students get the most out of their learning.

KS1-2

KS3

KS4+



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*Step into England's story*

# WELCOME

This Teachers' Kit for Goodrich Castle has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to the site. It includes a variety of materials suited to teaching a wide range of subjects and key stages, with practical information, activities for use on site and ideas to support follow-up learning.

We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated our resources into one kit allowing you to decide which materials are best suited to your needs. Please use the contents page, which has been colour-coded to help you easily locate what you need and view individual sections. All of our activities have clear guidance on the intended use for study so you can adapt them for your desired learning outcomes.

To further aid your planning, we have created Hazard Information guidance, which you can download from our **Schools page**. Here you can also find information on our expert-led Discovery Visits and an overview of what your class can experience. You can find more practical information about your booked visit to Goodrich Castle in the Education Visit Permit and the Site Information Pack which have been sent to you.

We hope you enjoy your visit and find this Teachers' Kit useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk) or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

## ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify the types of activities and information presented.



# CONTENTS

KS1-2

KS3

KS4+

## PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.

Site Plan	5
Historical Information	6–11
Glossary	12–14
Timeline	15–19
Perfect Castle Position? ■ ■	20–21
Make Your Own Documentary ■	22

## AT THE CASTLE

Activities for students to do at Goodrich Castle to help them get the most out of their learning.

Top Things to See ■	24–31
Inspect the Defences ■ ■	32–33
Draw and Discover ■ ■	34

## POST-VISIT

Activities and information to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

Sources	36–39
Making a Meal of It ■ ■	40–41



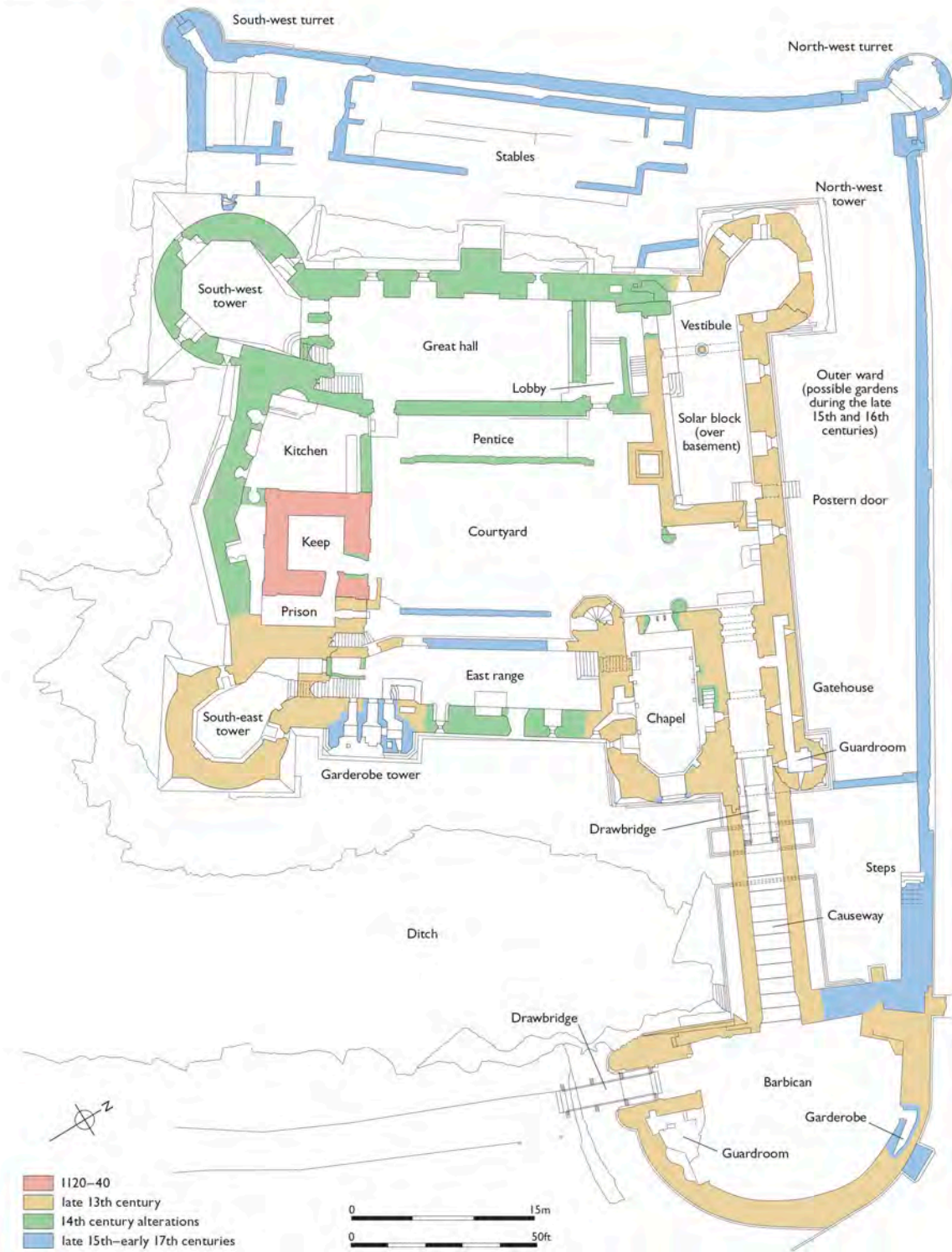
# PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.

# GOODRICH CASTLE

## SITE PLAN

GOODRICH CASTLE GROUND PLAN



# HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE STORY OF  
GOODRICH CASTLE

Below is a short history of Goodrich Castle. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You'll find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary

## NORMAN CONQUEST

Soon after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William of Normandy (now King of England, r.1066–87) ordered a **survey** of all the land in his kingdom. This survey showed who owned the land and what type of land it was. It was finished in 1086 and called **Domesday Book**. It has an entry that records land with a **fishery** in Hulla – which may be Howle, near Goodrich Castle, or simply mean ‘hill’ – belonging to Godric Mappeson. Godric was probably English rather than Norman. It's likely that he died around 1100 and his **estate** passed to **William fitz Baderon**, a Norman nobleman.

As the Normans conquered the country, castles were built along the border between England and Wales as symbols of the power and wealth of the new Norman **aristocracy**. The castles also defended against attacks by the Welsh, some of who rebelled against the new Norman rule.

By 1101/2, documents about the area mention ‘Godric’s Castle’. Nothing remains of this early castle today, but though the spelling has changed (Godric to Goodrich), this has been the castle’s name ever since. In the 1120s, the Goodrich estate was inherited by William fitz Baderon’s son, Baderon.

Discover more about castles by watching our short video (1 min 54 secs):  
<https://youtu.be/RXXDThkJ3Ew>



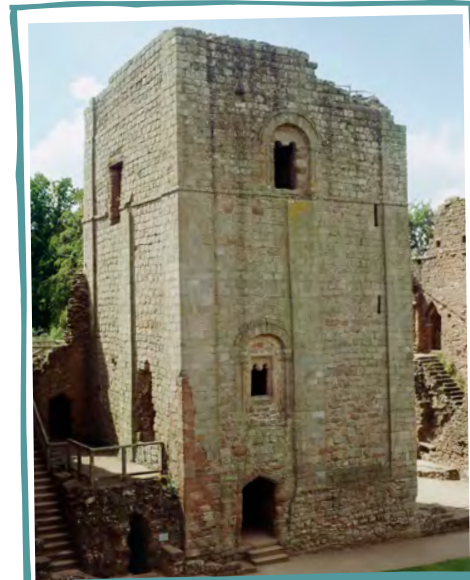
William the Conqueror's victory was the beginning of Norman rule in England.

## BUILDING THE NORMAN KEEP

During the civil war in the 1130s, local **barons** in Herefordshire were turning against King Stephen (r.1135–54) and supporting his rival to the throne, Empress Matilda. Stephen knew that whoever owned Goodrich Castle controlled the crossing point on the river Wye, and could stop rebel forces invading England. In 1138 he transferred the castle to his supporter **Gilbert fitz Gilbert de Clare**, making him Earl of Pembroke.

Gilbert's son, **Richard Strongbow de Clare**, inherited Goodrich in 1148. It is likely that the **keep** was built during this time (1138–76). It is a fine example of Norman architecture with its thick walls, **rounded arch** windows and **chevron** decoration. Apart from the keep, nothing else remains of the Norman castle.

Richard de Clare did not get on well with Henry II (r.1154–89), and defied the king by sailing to Ireland against royal instructions. He conquered Ireland and later died in Dublin. Goodrich Castle passed back to **the Crown**.



Castle keeps were built high up in the landscape as a symbol of Norman power and strength.

## A FAMOUS MEDIEVAL KNIGHT

Richard's daughter, Isabella, married **William Marshal**, a **knight of the royal household**. In 1204, King John (r.1199–1216) gave Goodrich Castle to William.

William was a very important figure in English politics during the medieval period. From 1216 he held the position of **regent** of the kingdom for Henry III (r.1216–72) while Henry was a minor. At Henry's **coronation** banquet, William received news that Goodrich Castle was under attack by the Welsh.

William owned other castles on the Welsh border, such as Chepstow and Usk. It is likely that he modernised the Norman buildings at Goodrich, as he had improved his other castles.

The castle passed to William's descendants until it was inherited by Joan de Munchensi in 1247. That year, King Henry arranged a marriage between Joan and Henry's half-brother, **William de Valence**, a young knight from Poitiers (in France).



An illustration of a medieval knight.

## 13TH & 14TH CENTURIES: IMPROVING THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE

Most of the buildings of Goodrich Castle you see today were improved or created by William de Valence and his family in the late 13th century. There is a royal record from 1261 of gifts of **timber** for building at 'Godric's Castle'. Typical medieval castle features include the **barbican**, high walls, higher towers on corners, narrow **arrow loops** through which crossbowmen could shoot, **battlements** and rock-cut ditches.

William died in 1296, but Joan de Valence continued to stay at the castle with her household of up to 200 people. Countess Joan's household accounts tell us much about life in a medieval aristocratic household.

Discover more about life in Countess Joan's household on our website:  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/medievalhousehold](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/medievalhousehold)

William and Joan's son, **Aymer de Valence**, inherited Goodrich Castle in 1307.



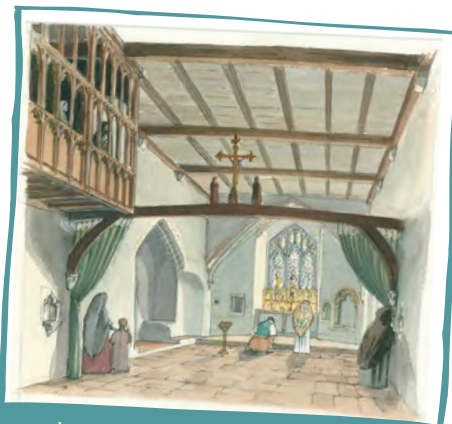
Goodrich's corner towers, battlements and arrow loops are typical features of medieval castles.

## KIDNAP AND RESCUE

When Aymer died in 1324, the castle passed to his young niece, Elizabeth Comyn. Edward II's (r.1307–27) new favourite **courtiers**, Hugh le Despenser and his son, also called Hugh, pressured Elizabeth to surrender her possessions, kidnapping her and holding her prisoner until she released Goodrich to Hugh le Despenser the younger in 1325.

However, Elizabeth soon married and, in 1326, her husband Richard Talbot, 2nd Lord Talbot, a courtier and a distinguished soldier, seized the castle in her name. Richard's sons inherited Goodrich after his death in 1356 and safeguarded the castle against attacks from the **Welsh rebellion** in the early 1400s.

Architectural evidence suggests that the Talbots built a new **gallery** in the **chapel** and extended the accommodation for servants and more important visitors. However, the Talbot family probably didn't spend much time at the castle as they were often involved in warfare and politics elsewhere.



A wooden gallery was added to the chapel for members of the household to attend services.



## TUDOR GOODRICH

The castle remained in the Talbot family (the Earls of Shrewsbury) throughout the Tudor period. As in the 15th century, many of the owners were absent or very young.

Goodrich continued to provide an income from **timber**, the Wye **fisheries** and **ironworking**. The Goodrich estate courts collected fines for the misdemeanours of its tenants and parts of the castle were used as a local prison. The castle ditch was occasionally used as a **pound** for confiscated cattle.

George Talbot, the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, spent much of his time away from Goodrich due to his role as keeper of **Mary, Queen of Scots**. In 1568, he married Elizabeth St Loe, or, as she is popularly known, **Bess of Hardwick** (owner of Hardwick Old Hall). Their two children, George's son Gilbert Talbot and Bess's daughter Mary Cavendish, also married and lived at Goodrich from 1575. Gilbert almost certainly modernised the castle and installed a piped water supply – traces of which can be seen in the kitchen.



Goodrich Castle earned money from fisheries on the river Wye.

## THE CASTLE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

In 1619, Goodrich was taken by the Crown as payment for debts owed by Mary. By now, the estate was managed and lived in by tenants.

In 1631, Richard Tyler became **constable** of the castle, living there with his family.

In 1642, a **Parliamentarian garrison** was stationed at Goodrich, probably helped by Richard Tyler. However, its allegiance soon changed. By 1643, the **Royalists** urgently needed to check a northward Parliamentarian advance and a Royalist garrison was billeted at Goodrich under the command of Sir Henry Lingen. The Royalist takeover was violent: the castle's farm buildings were burned and Richard Tyler was taken prisoner. By 1645, the nearby city of Hereford was taken by the Parliamentarians. Goodrich Castle became the centre of Royalist activity in the area.

On the night of 9/10th March, 1646, the local Parliamentarian commander, Colonel John Birch, secretly entered the stables at Goodrich with a detachment of men. They stole all the castle's horses and torched the stable buildings (the remains of which can still be seen today). The Parliamentarians then left the area to attend operations elsewhere.



In 1646, Parliamentarian soldiers dug a hole beneath the castle's curtain wall and broke into the stables.

## THE SIEGE OF 1646

On 1st June 1646, Colonel Birch returned to Goodrich, ordering new **trenches** to shelter his **mortars** under the castle walls. The Royalist commander Lingen refused to surrender and Birch found the castle too strong to break easily. He ordered the casting of a mortar able to fire a gunpowder-filled **shell** weighing 85kg. The new mortar was very effective and was nicknamed Roaring Meg. You can see Roaring Meg at Goodrich Castle today.



The mortar, Roaring Meg, was cast in a local forge. Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service.

Colonel Birch dug mines beneath the castle walls to 'undermine' its structure. The Royalists then dug a **counter-mine** underneath Birch's mine. During the night, Birch moved his mortar into close range, fired, and brought down the north-west tower which buried the counter-mine.

By the 31 July, Birch was ready to storm the castle when Lingen hauled down his **colours**, flying the white flag of surrender. Birch would not allow the Royalists to march out with their weapons, an honourable surrender. Instead they were treated as prisoners and left the castle to the tune of 'Harry Lingen's Folly'.

The **siege** left the castle in a ruinous condition, with 'noe whole room in it' according to Colonel Birch. Nevertheless, Parliament ordered that it be **slighted**, or made indefensible, by the removal of the **battlements** and damage to the main defences. These works were completed in 1648.

Apart from continuing to use the ditch as a cattle pound, Goodrich Castle survived purely as a historical curiosity. Its surrounding estate was exploited for forestry, stone quarrying, **ironworking** and as a **fishery**.



The north-west tower was severely damaged during the siege of 1646.

Learn more about the siege of Goodrich Castle on our website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/goodrichsiege](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/goodrichsiege) and discover artefacts discovered from the time here: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/lifeundersiege](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/lifeundersiege)

## 18TH and 19TH CENTURIES PICTURESQUE RUIN

As with nearby Tintern Abbey, Goodrich became a popular place to visit in the 18th and 19th centuries. People were drawn to the Wye valley by its historic monuments and untamed scenery. Writers such as the Reverend William Gilpin, whose *Observations on the River Wye* was published in 1782, popularised the idea of the **Picturesque** and inspired the growth of an early tourist industry. Goodrich was an ideal stopping point for visitors travelling down the Wye by boat.

By the early 19th century, the castle ruins were softened by ivy, wild roses and a famous ash tree in the courtyard. Visiting could be hazardous – tourists had to climb ladders to reach the stairs in the keep. The numbers of visitors increased from 1873, when a new railway line was built in the valley.



Painting by John Buckler showing ivy growing on the keep, 1827. Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service.

## THE CASTLE AS AN ANCIENT MONUMENT

At the beginning of the 20th century, the ruins of Goodrich Castle were in poor repair. In 1919, large sections of the north-west tower and west **curtain wall** collapsed into the ditch. The **Office of Works** took responsibility for the castle in 1920. Over the following decades the plants growing in between the ruins were cleared away and the castle's structure was secured.

On 7 June 1942, a fuel leak caused the war plane RAF Halifax V9977 to catch fire and crash 1.5km south of the castle. All 11 Radar Research Squadron personnel on board were killed.

During the 20th century, access around the site was improved. New walkways and staircases were built. Since 1984, English Heritage has cared for Goodrich Castle, carrying out **conservation** work and **archaeological** recording of the castle, and looking after the site for the public.



Today, Goodrich Castle is cared for by English Heritage.

# GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND  
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Goodrich Castle. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.



An arrow loop in the east range.

**archaeological** – something connected with the discovery of history through excavation (careful digging) and study of artefacts and other remains

**aristocracy** – the upper classes, who are usually rich, own large areas of land and often have titles like ‘Duke’ or ‘Earl’

**arrow loop** – a narrow vertical window slit in castle walls through which arrows could be fired

**Aymer de Valence** – (c.1275–1324) was one of the wealthiest and most powerful noblemen of his time. He played an important role in English politics. At the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, Aymer helped King Edward II to safety following his defeat by the Scots.

**barbican** – the outer defence of a castle or walled city, especially a double tower above a gate or drawbridge

**baron(s)** – a land-holding nobleman who was granted land by the king for honourable service

**battlements** – rectangular gaps in a defensive wall to allow for the discharge of arrows or other missiles

**Bess of Hardwick** – (c.1527–1608) a member of the Elizabethan aristocracy. She married four times. Bess was a successful businesswoman and became very wealthy.

**chapel** – a small building or room used for Christian worship within a larger building such as a castle or school

**chevron** – a V-shaped line or stripe

**colours** – the flag of a country, or of a regiment or ship

**conservation** – the looking-after and repairing of historical places and artefacts

**constable** – the governor of a castle

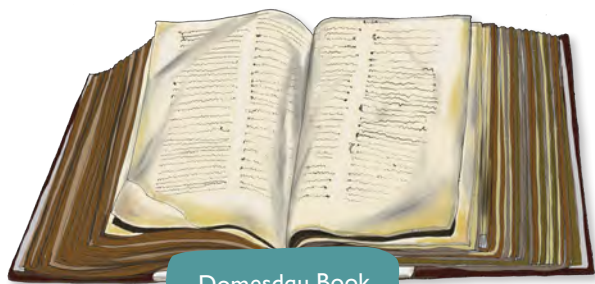
**coronation** – when a new king or queen is crowned

**counter-mine** – an excavation or tunnel dug to intercept another dug by an enemy

**courtier(s)** – a person who attends a royal court as a companion or adviser to the king or queen

**the Crown** – the monarchy; the ruling king and/or queen

**curtain wall** – a wall around a medieval castle, typically one linking towers together



Domesday Book.

**Domesday Book** – a record of the size, value and ownership of all land in England, made in 1086 by order of William I

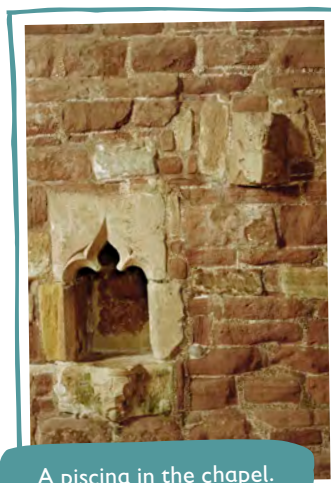
**drawbar** – a sliding wooden bar used across a door to bolt it closed

**estate** – an area of land or property

**fishery** – a place where fish are reared for selling

**gallery** – a balcony or upper floor projecting from an interior back or side wall

**garrison** – a group of troops stationed in a fortress or town to defend it



A piscina in the chapel.

**Gilbert fitz Gilbert de Clare** – (c. 1100–48), a wealthy nobleman and Earl of Pembroke from 1138. He was commonly known as Strongbow.

**ironworking** – making things out of iron

**keep** – the central tower of a castle, often used as a final refuge during a siege

**knight of the royal household** – a nobleman who served the monarch personally as a soldier

**Mary, Queen of Scots** – (1542–87), also known as Mary Stuart, daughter of James V, reigned over Scotland from 1542 to 1567. Many English Catholics believed Mary should be queen of England. Queen Elizabeth I imprisoned her in various castles and manor houses until 1586 when Mary was found guilty of plotting to assassinate Elizabeth. She was beheaded in 1587.

**mortar(s)** – a short gun (cannon) for firing shells at high angles

**Office of Works** – a department of the Royal Household from around 1378, which looked after the building of the royal castles and homes. Today, many of the places it cared for are looked after by English Heritage.

**Parliamentarian(s)** – a group of people who fought on the side of Parliament in the English Civil War (1642–51). They believed the king was corrupt, that he should be removed from the throne and that England should be ruled by Parliament instead.

**Picturesque** – a new way of seeing beauty and feeling wonder in landscapes and buildings in the 18th century

**piscina** – a stone basin near the altar in Catholic and pre-Reformation churches for draining water used in the Mass

**portcullis** – a heavy wooden or iron grille protecting the entrance to a castle

**pound** – a place where animals are taken and kept until claimed by their owners

**regent** – a person appointed to run a country or state because the monarch is too young, or is absent or incapacitated (ill or injured)

**Richard Strongbow de Clare** – (1130–76) Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke and Justiciar of Ireland. He was an Anglo-Norman nobleman who played a leading role in the invasion of Ireland. Like his father, he was known by the nickname Strongbow.

**rounded arch** – an arch formed in a continuous curve, especially in a semicircle

**Royalist(s)** – a group of people who fought on the side of the monarchy in the English Civil War. They believed the king, Charles I, should remain on the throne and keep his law-making powers.

**shell(s)** – hollow projectiles filled with explosive that explode on hitting their target, scattering jagged metal fragments

**siege** – a military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling those inside to surrender

**slighted** – destroy (a fortification)

**string course** – a raised horizontal band or course of bricks or stone on a building

**survey** – a general view examination, or description of someone or something; a study

**timber** – wood used for building or carpentry

**trench(es)** – a long, narrow ditch

**two-light window** – window of two lights (holes) separated by a vertical bar



The string course and two-light window on the Norman keep.

**Welsh rebellion** – also known as the Glyndŵr Rising, an uprising of the Welsh between 1400 and 1415, led by Owain Glyndŵr, against the kingdom of England. It was the last major attempt at Welsh independence.

**William de Valence** – (d.1296), the half-brother of Henry III and uncle to Edward I and one of the leading political figures of his time. He stayed loyal to the monarchy, fighting for his kings in several battles, including for Edward I against the Welsh in 1277–8.

**William fitz Baderon** – (c.1060/65–1138) an Anglo-Norman nobleman, and lord of Monmouth. He was mentioned in the Domesday Book as being responsible for Monmouth Castle and ten other manors in the region. William married Hawise who is thought to be Godric's (of Godric's Castle) daughter.

**William Marshal** – (c.1146–1219), an Anglo-Norman soldier and statesman. He did not come from an aristocratic background but became important and powerful through serving princes and kings. As well as Goodrich, William had castles at Usk, Pembroke and Chepstow.

# MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

1066–c.1500

## NORMANS

1066–1154

EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

**1066**

William the Conqueror is victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest of England begins.

**1086**

Domesday Book is completed.



**1087**

William dies. His son, William Rufus, is crowned King William II.

**1135**

Stephen of Blois seizes the throne against his rival Empress Matilda. Civil War begins.

**1135–54**

Reign of King Stephen.

1000

**1086**

Land in Hulla belonging to Godric Mappeson is recorded in Domesday Book.



1100

**c.1100**

'Godric's Castle' passes to William fitz Baderon.

**c.1120**

Goodrich passes to William's son Baderon.

**1138**

King Stephen transfers the castle to Gilbert fitz Gilbert de Clare to secure the river Wye crossing.

**c.1140**

Goodrich is refortified by either Gilbert or his son Richard, including the building of the keep.

**1148**

Richard Strongbow de Clare succeeds to his father's title and estates, including Goodrich.

**11TH  
CENTURY**

**12TH  
CENTURY**

HISTORY OF GOODRICH CASTLE



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

1154–89

Reign of King Henry II.



1170

Richard Strongbow conquers Ireland for the English Crown, in defiance of royal instructions.

1189–99

Reign of King Richard I.

1100

1176

Richard Strongbow dies in Dublin. The Goodrich estate reverts to the Crown.

1189

King Richard I arranges the marriage of Isabella de Clare, Richard Strongbow's daughter, to William Marshal.



12TH CENTURY

1215

King John is forced to accept Magna Carta at Runnymede.

1216

King John dies. William Marshal is named by the king's council to serve as protector of the nine-year-old King Henry III, and as regent of the kingdom.

1217

William leads the king's army to victory against the French Prince Louis at the Battle of Lincoln. William re-issues Magna Carta.



1200

1204

William Marshal is granted Goodrich Castle.

1216

At Henry III's coronation, William is told that Goodrich Castle is under attack by the Welsh.

1247

The estate passes to William Marshal's granddaughter, Joan de Munchensi.

Henry III arranges Joan's marriage to a young knight (his half-brother), William de Valence.

c.1270s–90s

Goodrich Castle is renovated and rebuilt.

1296

William de Valence dies. Goodrich Castle passes to his widow Joan.

13TH CENTURY



# MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

1066–c.1500

## PLANTAGENETS

1154–1485

**1307–27**

Reign of King Edward II.

**1314**

The Battle of Bannockburn: Aymer de Valence helps Edward II to safety after the English defeat by the Scots.

**1327**

Edward II is forced to give up his crown. His son becomes King Edward III.

1300

**1307**

William de Valence's son, Aymer de Valence, inherits Goodrich.

**1324**

Aymer dies. The Goodrich estate passes to his young niece, Elizabeth Comyn. During her minority the castle is taken into Crown custody.

**1325**

The Despensers kidnap Elizabeth and force her to surrender Goodrich to the younger Hugh le Despenser.

**1326**

Elizabeth's new husband, Richard Talbot, 2nd Lord Talbot, seizes the castle in her name.

**14TH  
CENTURY**

**1400**

Owain Glyndŵr starts the Welsh rebellion against the rule of Henry IV.

**1485**

Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth.

1400

**1402**

Orders are issued to safeguard Goodrich against a Welsh attack.

**1404**

Gilbert, 4th Lord Talbot, helps repel an incursion in the Welsh Marches.

**1421**

At Gilbert's death, his brother John de Valence inherits Goodrich.

**1485**

George Talbot, 4th Earl of Shrewsbury, takes possession of his estates, including Goodrich. George serves as a local magistrate and some of the castle buildings are used as a prison.

**15TH  
CENTURY**

TUDORS  
1485–1603

STUARTS  
1603–1714

1533–1603

Reign of Queen Elizabeth I.



1568

George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, is selected as the keeper of Mary, Queen of Scots, has been imprisoned by Elizabeth I.

1642–49

The English Civil War between King Charles I (r.1625–51) and Parliament.



1649

Charles is tried, convicted and executed for high treason. The monarchy is abolished and the Commonwealth of England is declared.

1660

Restoration of the monarchy.

1500

1600

1568

George Talbot, owner of Goodrich Castle, marries Bess of Hardwick.

George's son Gilbert Talbot marries Bess's daughter Mary Cavendish.

1575

Gilbert and Mary move into Goodrich Castle where Gilbert serves as his father's steward.

Gilbert almost certainly modernises the castle, installing a piped water supply.

1590

The 6th earl dies. Gilbert becomes the 7th earl and leases Goodrich Castle and estate to tenants.

16TH  
CENTURY

1619

The Goodrich estate is claimed by the Crown as payment for debts.

1642

Goodrich is garrisoned by Parliamentary troops.

1643/4

A Royalist garrison takes over Goodrich under the command of Sir Henry Lingen.

The castle constable Richard Tyler is imprisoned.

1646

Parliamentarians led by Colonel John Birch steal the castle's horses and set fire to the stables. Goodrich comes under siege from Birch's forces. Following heavy fire, Lingen surrenders Goodrich Castle. The castle is left in a ruinous condition.

17TH  
CENTURY

GEORGIANS  
1714-1830

WW1  
1914-18

WW2  
1939-45

1727-60

Reign of King George II.

1760-1820

Reign of King George III.



1914-18

First World War.

1939-45

Second World War.

1700

1900

1755

The Goodrich estate is sold to Admiral Thomas Griffin.

1920

Goodrich Castle passes into State guardianship through the Office of Works. Overgrown plants are cleared from the site and repairs are made.

1782

Reverend William Gilpin publishes *Observations on the River Wye*, popularising the concept of the Picturesque. The ruins of Goodrich Castle become a popular tourist destination.

1942

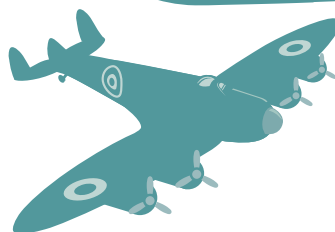
RAF Halifax V9977 catches fire and crashes 1.5km south of the castle, killing all 11 Radar Research Squadron personnel on board.

1984

Goodrich Castle passes from the control of the Ministry of Works to English Heritage.

1992

Radar Research Squadron memorial window is unveiled in the chapel.



18TH  
CENTURY

20TH  
CENTURY

# GOODRICH CASTLE TIMELINE

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## PERFECT CASTLE POSITION?



### Recommended for

KS2 & KS3  
(History, Geography)

### Learning objectives

- Investigate the geographical position of Goodrich Castle.
- Understand the strategic significance of the castle's position.
- Understand the significance of castles in the history of the local area.

### Time to complete

Approx. 20 minutes



An aerial view of Goodrich Castle.

### SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand the geographical and strategic location of Goodrich Castle. Use the activity sheet on page 21.

### KEY FEATURES:

- The river Wye and Wye valley area are close to the border between England and Wales. Throughout much of the 10th to 13th centuries, successive English monarchs faced Welsh rebellion against English rule. The borderland was called the Welsh Marches and several castles were built along the border to defend each territory from raids and invasion.
- Goodrich Castle is built high on a ridge overlooking a crossing point on the Wye. The crossing near Goodrich Castle could be used all year round and was on one of the main routes between England and Wales. Boatmen took people across the river here in ferries (small wooden boats, not the large vessels that we know today).
- River crossings were key places. Whoever managed the crossing could control who moved through the landscape, collect tolls from people crossing and could use it to move men in the case of organising a defence of the area.
- The river is also an important source of fish and water-powered mills for food production.
- Guards from the top of the stone towers had a good view of enemies approaching from all directions. The castle could also be seen from miles around, a clear symbol of Norman dominance, power and strength in the landscape.
- The site was protected on two sides by steep slopes. The river also acted as a defensive barrier against invaders.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students could research other castles along the English-Welsh border and collect images of their design and position. These will be useful for drawing comparisons with Goodrich Castle.

# WHERE IS GOODRICH CASTLE?



- 1** **Circle** Goodrich Castle on the OS map and the Welsh border map.
- 2** **Why** were so many castles built along the Welsh border?
- 3** **Why** was the castle built on high ground?
- 4** **Label** the river Wye on the OS map.
- 5** **Why** was protecting the crossing over the river Wye so important?

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## MAKE YOUR OWN DOCUMENTARY



### Recommended for

KS3 (History, English)

### Learning objectives

- Understand how historians use evidence to make claims about history.
- Interrogate historical sources to draw conclusions.
- Explain the differences between society in medieval times and today.

### Time to complete

60 minutes (plus 60 minutes at the castle)



A window seat in the east range.

### SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand key aspects of medieval society, technology and culture. It will encourage them to think like a medieval historian, investigating evidence, drawing conclusions and presenting their findings.

Students spend the first half of the activity in the classroom, researching who lived and worked at Goodrich Castle during Joan de Valence's era, the late 13th century. They investigate a documentary source to understand a typical medieval society/castle community. The second half of the activity takes place at the castle, where students explore its features, looking for physical evidence of how people lived. They should film themselves exploring the castle, or take photos, to use in their documentary.

Imagine you are a historian doing research for a TV documentary about life in a medieval castle. Use **Source 3** in this kit to find out about life in Goodrich Castle in the 13th century. What does the information in this source tell you about:

- society and different people's roles
- daily life for servants and nobles
- the role of the Church
- the work people did and what skills they had
- technology and methods of travel.

As for any historian, it is important that you make clear how reliable you think the source of information is and why.

### AT THE CASTLE:

Architectural ruins provide evidence of how people lived. Explore Goodrich Castle and take photos or film any features that you think are evidence of life in the castle, what society was like, and how different it is to how we live today.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back at school, the students can edit their research into a documentary, either in a film or PowerPoint presentation, and present it to another class who haven't visited the castle, or even to a school assembly. Send us your presentations or films to [@EHEducation](#) or post on our [Facebook page](#).



# AT THE CASTLE

Activities for students to do at Goodrich Castle to help them get the most out of their learning.

# TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE GOODRICH CASTLE

See if you can find all of these things and complete each challenge. KS1 students can use the tick list at the back while their teacher guides them around. KS2 students may want to lead their own learning in small groups, supervised by an adult.

**Can't find your way?**  
Use the map at the back to help.



## 1 PORTCULLIS CHAMBER

From this chamber (room), two portcullises (metal or wooden grilles) were lowered to block the entrance to the gate passage below. The cylindrical holes were carved to hold spindles (rods). Guards used a handle to turn the spindles to wind up the chains that lifted or dropped the portcullis.



**WHERE IS IT?**  
In the gatehouse, on the first floor.

DID YOU FIND IT?

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Portcullises were very heavy. They could literally weigh a tonne. That's the same as a small car! How would you feel lifting one?



**CHALLENGE TIME!**  
Find the rectangular gaps in the walls nearby. Why do you think gaps are needed here? Act out turning the spindles to help you.







## 2 WALL-WALK

The wall-walk joined the upper rooms of the gatehouse with the south-east tower. The wall-walk has very good views of the landscape. Here, guards patrolled up and down, watching who approached the castle and ready to fire their arrows down at invaders.

**WHERE IS IT?**  
From the portcullis chamber, walk back to the top of the stairs and take the passage on your left.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Medieval longbows could be up to 6ft high and could shoot an arrow over 300 metres.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

**Find** one of the cross-shaped arrow slits. Aim your arrow at invaders below! Why do you think it is this shape?



## 3 SOUTH-EAST TOWER

This huge tower was built in the late 13th century. It had three floors – there are square sockets (holes) in the walls where the floor beams would have been. The fine stonework tells us that these rooms were probably for important guests.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Taps hadn't been invented yet; water was poured into stone basins for washing. There was no central heating; wood fires kept rooms warm.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

**Look** for remains of fireplaces and washbasins in the walls. **Imagine** being a servant carrying water and wood up and down to these floors.



**WHERE IS IT?**  
Along the wall-walk, keeping the arrow slits to your left.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**



## 4 GARDEROBE TOWER

'Garderobe' or 'latrine' are words for a toilet. This is a rare example of a medieval communal toilet; several members of the household could go to the loo at once. There were three doors into three chambers inside the tower; there may have been more than one seat inside each chamber.

### WHERE IS IT?

Next to the south-east tower.

### DID YOU FIND IT?

### DID YOU KNOW?

Toilet flushes didn't exist in medieval times; waste dropped into a stinking pit. Then someone shovelled the waste into the ditch!



### CHALLENGE TIME!



Behind the toilets, **look** for two vertical chutes in the wall. These came up from the pit. What do you think these chutes might be for?

## 5 PRISON

The floor of the prison is lower than ground level, and often floods. There are sockets (holes) in the walls by the doorway. These sockets held a draw-bar that locked the door from the outside. There were no windows, so it would have been pitch black with the door closed.



### DID YOU KNOW?


This prison was used for keeping local criminals such as cattle thieves. The stolen cows were kept in the ditch.



### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Step** inside the prison, one at a time. **Imagine** yourself locked in here with no light (and no toilet). What do you **feel** and **smell**?

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
Next to the keep.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**



## 6 THE KEEP

The keep was built in the 12th century, when the Normans had conquered much of England. Keeps were built as defensive towers but the rooms inside were also used for living in and storage. The keep at Goodrich is quite small, but it sits high in the landscape. It was a symbol of the Norman lord's authority, used as a look-out, a secure storage place and rooms for the lord to greet his visitors.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In the courtyard.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**

### DID YOU KNOW?



The entrance to the keep used to be where the lower window is. You can see where the door was filled in around the window.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



The keep needed to be secure. **Search** inside the bottom level of the keep for evidence of how thick the walls are.

## 7 NORTH RANGE

It is difficult to understand exactly what the north range was used for, as much of the building has been lost. It was built in the 13th century and was used by the lord or lady and their family. The upper floors of the range (now gone) used to be connected to the chapel by a door you can still see high up in the chapel wall.



### DID YOU KNOW?



The basin in the basement of the range was fed water through pipes directly down from the well in the courtyard.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Explore** the ruins and **decide** what clues there are that tell us that this room was for high status people, and not servants.



**WHERE IS IT?**  
Off the courtyard, go past the well and down the stairs.



**DID YOU FIND IT?**

## 8 OUTER WARD

This area was the castle's outer layer of defence. You can see the remains of a curtain wall. These walls were very high, but were damaged in the siege of 1646, then knocked down more to make the castle indefensible. The north-west tower was also badly damaged during the siege.



### WHERE IS IT?

Down the steps through the postern gate.

### DID YOU FIND IT?

### DID YOU KNOW?

A mortar (cannon) called Roaring Meg was used to fire shells at the walls and north-west tower. Roaring Meg is in the castle courtyard.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

The postern (back/side) gate defended the north range against invaders. **Look** in the walls for evidence of the gate's defences.



## 9 STABLES

There are only rubble footprints of where the stables used to be in the outer ward. Horses would be led here from the barbican. Three months before the siege of the castle in 1646, the Parliamentarian army climbed over the castle's curtain walls at night, stole all the horses and set fire to the stables.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The stables held up to 60 horses. Before cars and trains were invented, horses were the only fast way to travel.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

**Imagine** you were the groom looking after the horses at the castle: how would you **feel** if all your horses were stolen?



### WHERE IS IT?

Walk past the north-west tower and turn left.



### DID YOU FIND IT?



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

KSI

# TOP THINGS TO SEE

EXPLORE  
GOODRICH CASTLE

See if you can find all of these things.  
Tick each one off as you find it.



## 1 PORTCULLIS ROOM

Spindle holes  Portcullis slot



## 2 WALL WALK

Arrow slits  View of land



## 3 SOUTH-EAST TOWER

Fireplaces  Floor beam holes



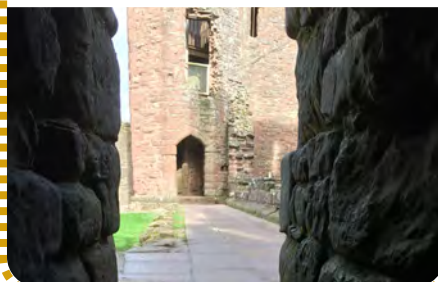
## 4 TOILET TOWER

Arch doorways  Toilet chutes



## 5 PRISON

Door bar holes



## 6 KEEP

Door changed to a window



## 7 NORTH RANGE

High arches  Stone basin



## 8 OUTER WARD

Damaged north-west tower



## 9 STABLES

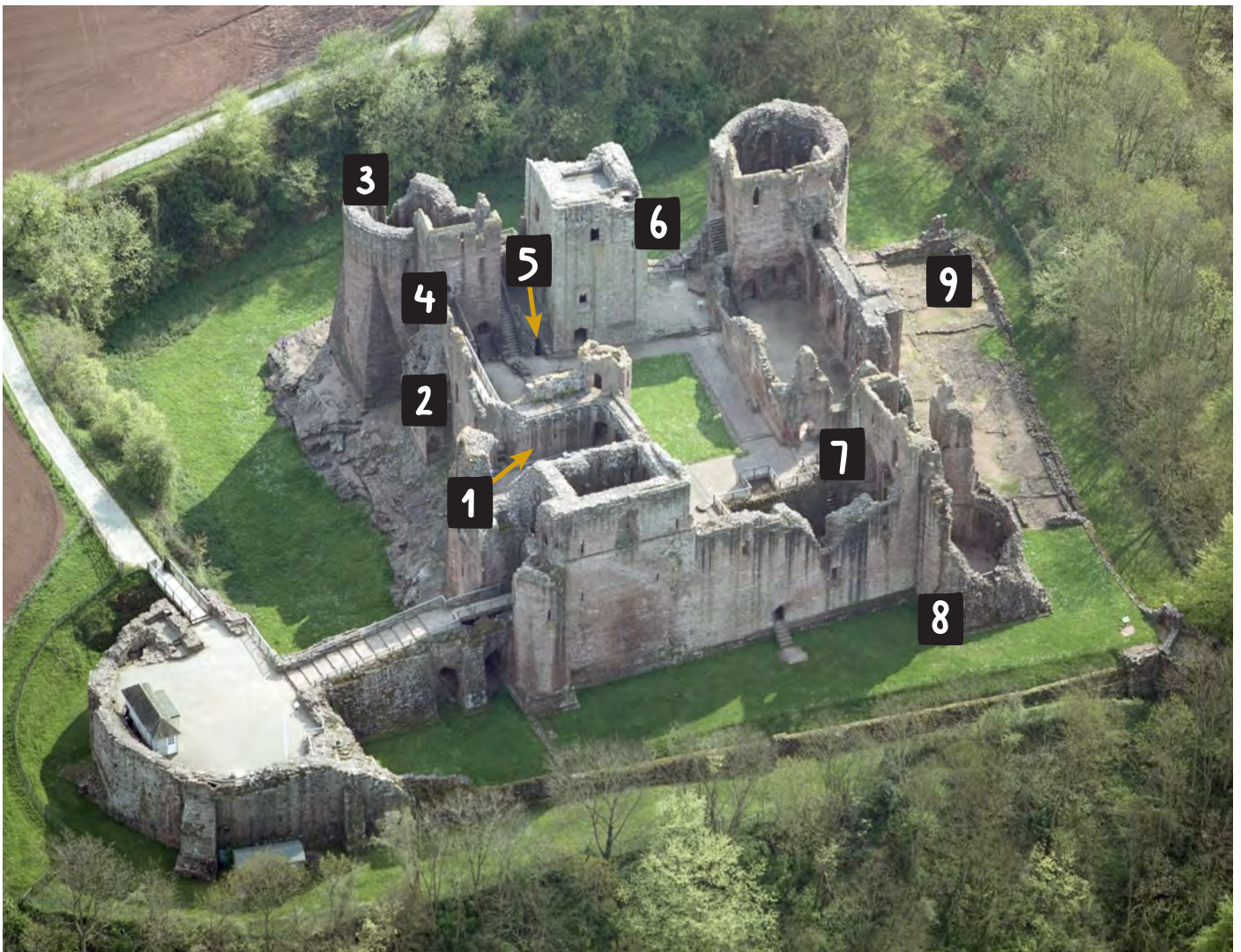
Stable ruins



# TOP THINGS TO SEE MAP



Use this map to help you  
find our top things to see.



**1** PORTCULLIS CHAMBER

**2** WALL WALK

**3** SOUTH-EAST TOWER

**4** GARDEROBE TOWER

**5** PRISON

**6** KEEP

**7** NORTH RANGE

**8** OUTER WARD

**9** STABLES

# WHAT I'VE LEARNT

I think the best thing to see at Goodrich Castle is:

.....

.....

The most interesting thing I've learnt is:

.....

.....

I want to know more about:

.....

.....

Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Goodrich Castle:



# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## INSPECT THE DEFENCES



### Recommended for

KS2 & KS3 (History)

### Learning objectives

- To understand medieval siege weapon technology.
- To recognise defensive features of the castle and how they worked.

### Time to complete

30–40 minutes



The keep, south-east tower and the ditch at Goodrich Castle.

### SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand how the defensive features of Goodrich Castle are designed to withstand an attack from typical medieval siege weapons.

On your visit to the castle, students can pretend that they are the constable of the 13th century castle, owned by William Marshal. William is worried about an attack by the Welsh and has commanded his constable to report on the state of the castle's defences. In role, the students need to inspect the key defensive features and judge whether they could hold out in an attack using the type of medieval weapons listed on the next page. They can take photos, make sketches or write notes on the worksheet provided.

Show your students our YouTube video on medieval castles to get them started:

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/medieval-castles](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/medieval-castles)

### KEY DEFENSIVE FEATURES:

- barbican
- gatehouse
- keep
- towers
- ditch

As well as the design of the castle buildings, the site and position of the castle are also important when thinking about what medieval weapons could be used in an attack.


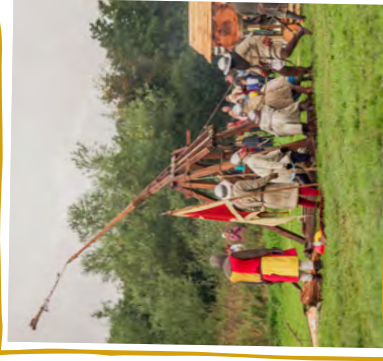

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back in the classroom, students can use their notes and photos to make their report to William Marshal. You could take this activity further by asking your students to design their own siege weapon to combat the defences of the castle.





# INSPECT THE DEFENCES

Weapon name		How is Goodrich Castle protected?	
How it worked		Pros and cons	
<b>siege tower</b>	The tower was built high enough so that when it approached a castle wall or tower, it could drop a platform down that crossed over the top.	The tower protected the attackers inside as they approached the enemy castle, but it had to be on level ground and didn't work if there was a moat.	
<b>battering ram</b>	This was usually a huge felled tree that was pushed on wheels into a castle door or wall to break it down.	The ram could break down a strong gatehouse door but needed to get to it before the drawbridge was pulled up.	
<b>mangonel</b>	Like a catapult, the mangonel could fling a stone weighing up to 25kg. The stone sat in a cup, held down by a rope – when the rope was released, the cup threw the stone into the air.	The mangonel could launch projectiles over a moat but had to be aimed carefully so the projectile hit its target.	
<b>mantlet</b>	This was a sloping board that covered attacking archers on the ground as they aimed arrows at a castle.	Good cover for archers but it did need holes to let the archers see where to aim.	
<b>mining</b>	Miners, or 'sappers' would have crept up to the base of the walls under the cover of a hurdle (frame) and dug into the foundations.	This was a skilled operation that needed trained miners to carry out. Square towers were easier to undermine than round ones.	

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## DRAW AND DISCOVER



### Recommended for

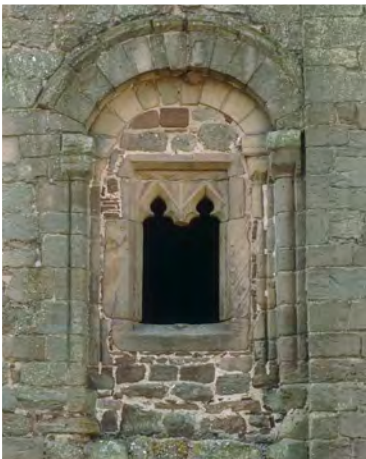
KS2 & KS3 (History,  
Art & Design)

### Learning objectives

- Investigate and record key architectural features of Goodrich Castle.
- Explain some ways in which the castle has changed over time.

### Time to complete

30 minutes



The window of the keep has been altered over time.

### SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand how the castle has changed over time by closely observing its architectural fabric. By examining the key features listed below, students can identify clues that suggest how the castle has altered and think about why this might have happened. They can sketch and annotate what they observe or take photos and make notes. It will be helpful to look at the Historical Information and Timeline with your students before starting this activity, to get a sense of what was happening in history that might have impacted on changes at the castle. Changes might be the result of warfare, expansion, a change in owner or usage, or the result of disuse and neglect.

### KEY ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

- the keep: its altered window and different coloured stone
- the damaged north-west tower
- the destroyed curtain wall in the outer ward
- the 'floating' door in the wall of the chapel
- remains of pitched roof levels in the east range
- the huge arches in the north range with no walls
- the stained-glass window in the chapel
- the remains of the stables

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Students can use the sketches and photos that they collect at the castle and compare them with events in the castle's history. Once they have discovered the reasons for some of the changes, they can make their own visual timeline of how the castle has changed over time and why.



# POST-VISIT

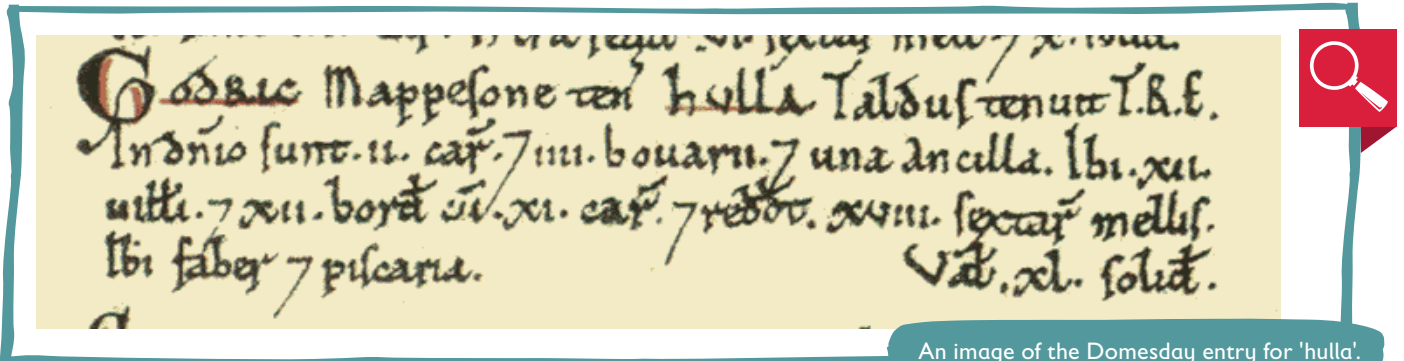
Activities and information to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

# SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Our experts have chosen these sources to help you learn about Goodrich Castle's history.

## SOURCE 1



An image of the Domesday entry for 'hulla'.

Details of entry: Place: Howle [Hill] Hundred: Archenfield County: Herefordshire  
 Total population: 30 households Head of manor: Archenfield. Households: 12 villagers.  
 12 smallholders. 1 female slave. 4 other population. 1 smiths. Ploughland: 2 lord's plough  
 teams. 11 men's plough teams. Other resources: 1 fishery. Lord in 1066: Taldus. Lord in  
 1086: Godric Mapson. Tenant-in-chief in 1086: King William.

Domesday Book was a survey of all landowners' property in England and parts of Wales, created by order of William the Conqueror in 1086.

This is the entry for 'hulla', belonging to Godric Mappeson. Hulla is possibly Howle, which is 5km away from Goodrich Castle. There is no mention in Domesday Book of a castle, but by 1101/2 other documents refer to 'Godric's Castle'.

## SOURCE 2

### MEDIEVAL STONE WINDOW TRACERY

This fragment of window tracery (ornamental stonework) is made from sandstone. It filled the space over an arch. It is kept in our archaeological store at Wrest Park.

This dragon carving is probably from the 13th century. William de Valence took ownership of Goodrich Castle in 1247, on his marriage to Joan, the heiress of William Marshal 1st earl of Pembroke. The coat of arms of the Earls of Pembroke was the red dragon.



## SOURCE 3

'Item 10 shillings 6 pence in procuring 3 carts to transport the mistress's property by road. Item 6 pence for a horse to carry the mistress's money by road. Item 2 shillings, 5 pence for 8 horses and 4 carters, loaned by abbot of Gloucester and the abbot of Nutley for transporting the mistress's property by road, staying a night across the river Wye, unable to get across. Item 3 shillings and 6 pence for the 4-horse cart of the abbot of Nutley, taking 3 days to return from Goodrich Castle to Nutley... Item 16 pence to John the baker for 8 days travelling from Exning to Goodrich Castle to bake bread there before the mistress's arrival... 1 penny for a lock for the door of the building where the horses' feed is kept. 6 pence for buying a storm lantern for the kitchen window. 4 pounds, 5 shillings and 6 pence for 114 pounds of wax bought at Monmouth... 8 pence for making surplices for the mistress's chapel, 18 pence to the chaplain for making wax tapers for the chapel. A halfpenny for mending the door to the chapel where oats are kept.'

William de Valence died in 1296. His wife, Countess Joan, lived in the castle for many years after his death. This source is taken from the manuscripts of her household accounts kept in The National Archives. The manuscripts provide a rare insight into a great castle household at the end of the 13th century. This source is made up of extracts from 18 November, the day of the arrival of the Countess at Goodrich.

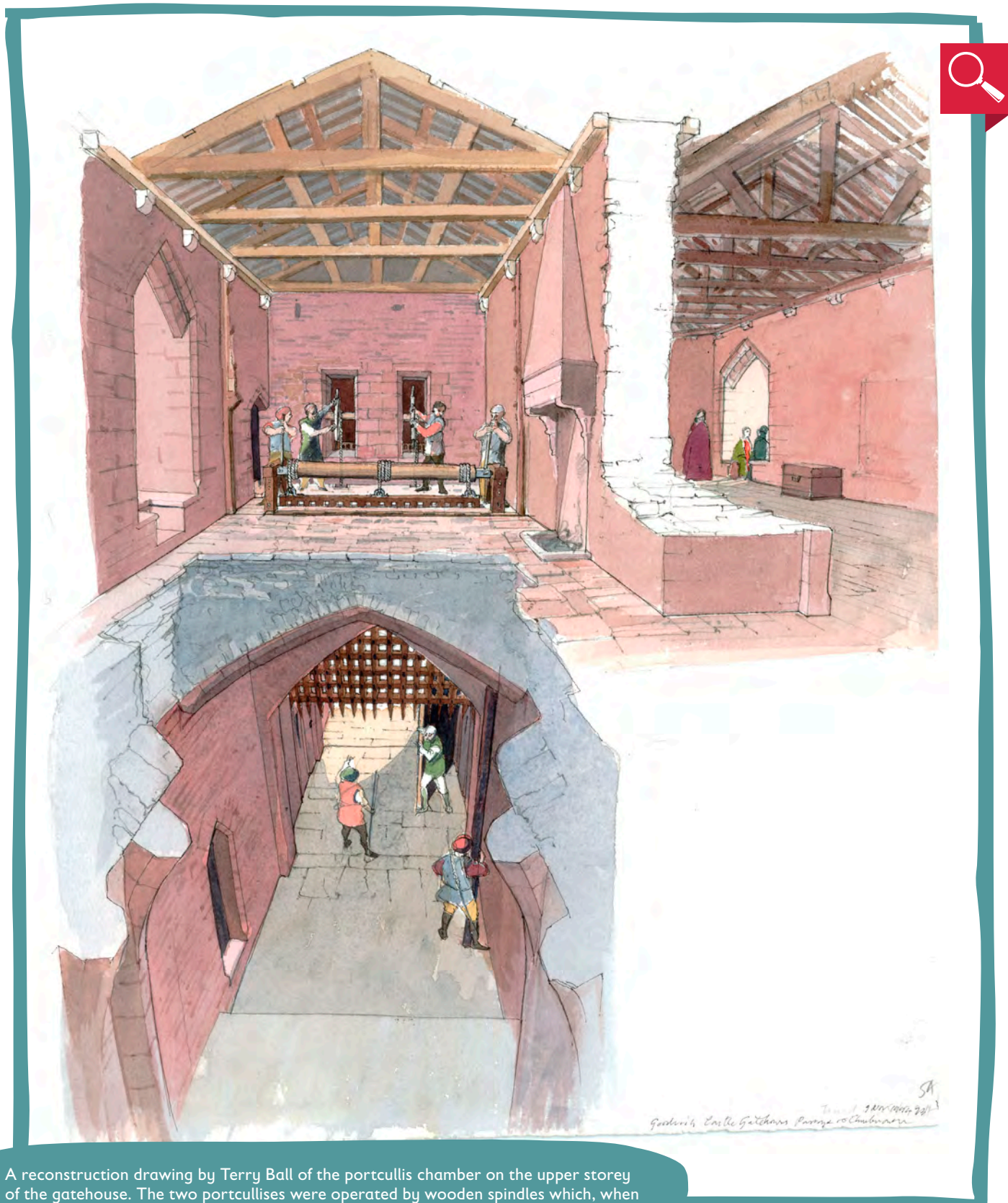
## SOURCE 4

'3 quarters of beef and 1 ½ bacons, 1 ½ unsalted pigs, half a boar, half a salmon, all from the castle's store, half a carcass of beef costing 10 shillings, mutton at 15 pence, 9 kid at 3s 8d, 17 capons and hens at 2s 7d, 2 veal calves at 2s 6d, 600 eggs at 2 shillings, pigeons at 2 pence with 24 pigeons from stores in Shrivenham, cheese at 4 pence and a halfpenny for transport by boat, all told, 22s 6d halfpenny.'

Provision for Easter Sunday in Countess Joan's household expenses, 1297.



## SOURCE 5



A reconstruction drawing by Terry Ball of the portcullis chamber on the upper storey of the gatehouse. The two portcullises were operated by wooden spindles which, when their handles were turned, raised or lowered the chains connected to the portcullis grills. The portcullises were probably made from wood, and could weigh up to a tonne.

## SOURCE 6

### 17TH-CENTURY GILDED SPUR

This spur (attached to a rider's boot to encourage the horse to move forward) is made from copper alloy with gilding, which means gold leaf has been added to the surface. It was discovered in the well at Goodrich Castle in the 1920s.

In the 17th century, horsemanship was an important activity among the rich and powerful. The decoration of this spur shows how expensive and well crafted riding equipment could be.



## SOURCE 7

'Honoured Sir, No time hath been neglected by me in the prosecution of this service, but as the ground will admit I have carried on my Approaches, Batteries, and Mynes; And after I had very much torne the Castle with my Mortar piece, that no whole roome was left in it (that not doing the worke) I resolved to go on with the mines, and Battery (where I could not myne) both of which went on so successfully, that in a few howres I intended to entre by Storme And to that end drew my horse and foot together, which the Enemy perceiving, rather than they would run the hazard, took down their Cullers, and put up white (without which I denyed them any Treaty) their desires were honourable terms, which I thought not fit to grant, neither to give them any thing beyond mercy for their lives, their Persons to be wholly at my dispose; when the Parliament shall please to command Sir Henry Lingen to waite upon them, I shall carefully bring up to attend their pleasure. In the mean time I desire that the Parliament will be please to signify their pleasure concerning the demolishing or keeping this Castle. Your most humble and real Servant, JOHN BIRCH Gotheridge the 31 of July 1646'



This source is a letter from Colonel Birch to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Colonel Birch was the Parliamentarian commander who conducted the siege of Goodrich Castle. The Royalist garrison who held the castle surrendered on 31 July 1646, after holding out for three months against the siege. The source is taken from *Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire* by John Webb, 1879.

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## MAKING A MEAL OF IT



### Recommended for

KS2 & KS3 (History, Maths, English)

### Learning objectives

- Understand dining, food and drink in a medieval castle.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the strict hierarchy in medieval society.
- Draw comparisons between how food was prepared and served and what was eaten in medieval times to today.

### Time to complete

30–40 minutes



An illustration of a meal held in the great hall at Goodrich Castle.



The remains of the great hall at the castle today.

### SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand the preparation required for a medieval feast, what different roles people had and the types of food that were available. The great hall at Goodrich Castle would have sometimes been used to host important guests and feasts.

Through a whole-class discussion, explore what these different roles tell us about medieval feasts. What clues do the roles give us about what technologies were available, the materials and ingredients they used and their etiquette?

Next ask your students to look at Source 4 and/or carry out their own research on what type of meals were eaten in medieval times and how they were cooked. *Food and Cooking in Medieval Britain* by Maggie Black, *Food and Feast in Medieval England* by Peter Hammond and *Cooking and Dining in Medieval England* by Peter Brears are good source books that include recipe ideas. There is also a timeline of food in Britain on our website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/history/food-and-feasting-at-stonehenge/food-timeline](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/history/food-and-feasting-at-stonehenge/food-timeline)

Working in small groups, the students should use their research to design their own recipes for a feast at Goodrich Castle.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Once students have written their recipes, they can start to plan their meals. They should write a menu ready to place on the tables. They might also like to take on the role of the castle steward and plan their orders to give to all the servants on the day of the feast. They could write these as part of a role play to perform with the class.



# MAKING A MEAL OF IT



Role	Description
cook	directing the assistants
cook's assistants	stirring sauces over the fire, chopping vegetables, mixing, basting the meat, whisking (with twigs!)
carver	carving the meat at the table
steward	directing the waiting servants
spit boy/girl	turning the spit in the kitchen
scullion	cleaning the spit
sewer	head waiter and official taster of the food
cup-bearer	bringing the king's cup to the table
pot boys/girls	collecting empty glasses from the table; serving drinks
washer boys/girls	washing up (scouring with twigs and sand)
musicians	entertaining the guests and the lord or lady
jester	entertaining the guests and the lord or lady

## RECIPE FOR A FEAST



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