

Castle Acre

A rare, surviving Norman town

Castle Acre village boasts an intact group of buildings representing all the components of Norman life. With this map you can find the built remains of medieval Castle Acre. There are two routes – a village walk that includes the planned streets and the Bailey Gate, Castle Acre Castle, St James's parish church and parts of the Norman rampart and ditch which enclosed the town, and a circular walk around the Priory perimeter.

Castle Acre Priory circular walk 30mins

The route starts to the right of Castle Acre Priory gatehouse and circles around the visitor centre and the priory precinct wall.



The path leads along a track and across grass fields, returning to the parking area in front of the Castle Acre visitor centre. There are some good views of the priory complex on this walk.

Castle Acre village walk 1 hour 30 mins

From the parking area follow the road back to the village. When you get to the Bailey Gate at the far end of Stocks Green, turn right and pass underneath it into Bailey Street where you will approach the old, planned, walled Norman village. The fortified gate at the north end of Bailey Street was built in the first half of the 13th century as the entrance to the town of Castle Acre.



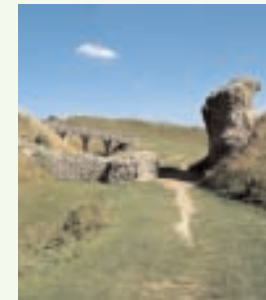
Medieval carved stones were reused as building material and can be seen in several houses in Bailey Street.

To visit the castle, turn left down a gravel track beside a house with Gothic windows, signposted with a brown Castle Acre Castle notice. Walk along this path until you see the castle gate where you can explore the castle.



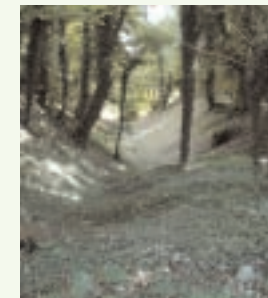
Track leading to Castle Acre Castle.

To continue, retrace your steps back to Bailey Street in the direction of the Bailey Gate, but take the first unmarked road to the left. This track leads past the ditch and bank towards St James's Parish Church.



First established in the late 11th century as a country residence for William de Warenne I, the castle was heavily fortified in the mid-12th century with the raising of huge earth banks.

With its tall 15th-century tower, St James's church is a typically large and impressive East Anglian parish church. Return to the priory along the churchyard path and turn left into Priory Road, which leads back to your starting point in the priory car park.






The planned town of Castle Acre was protected within an earth bank with a deep ditch outside. The bank was probably raised in the late 11th or early 12th century.


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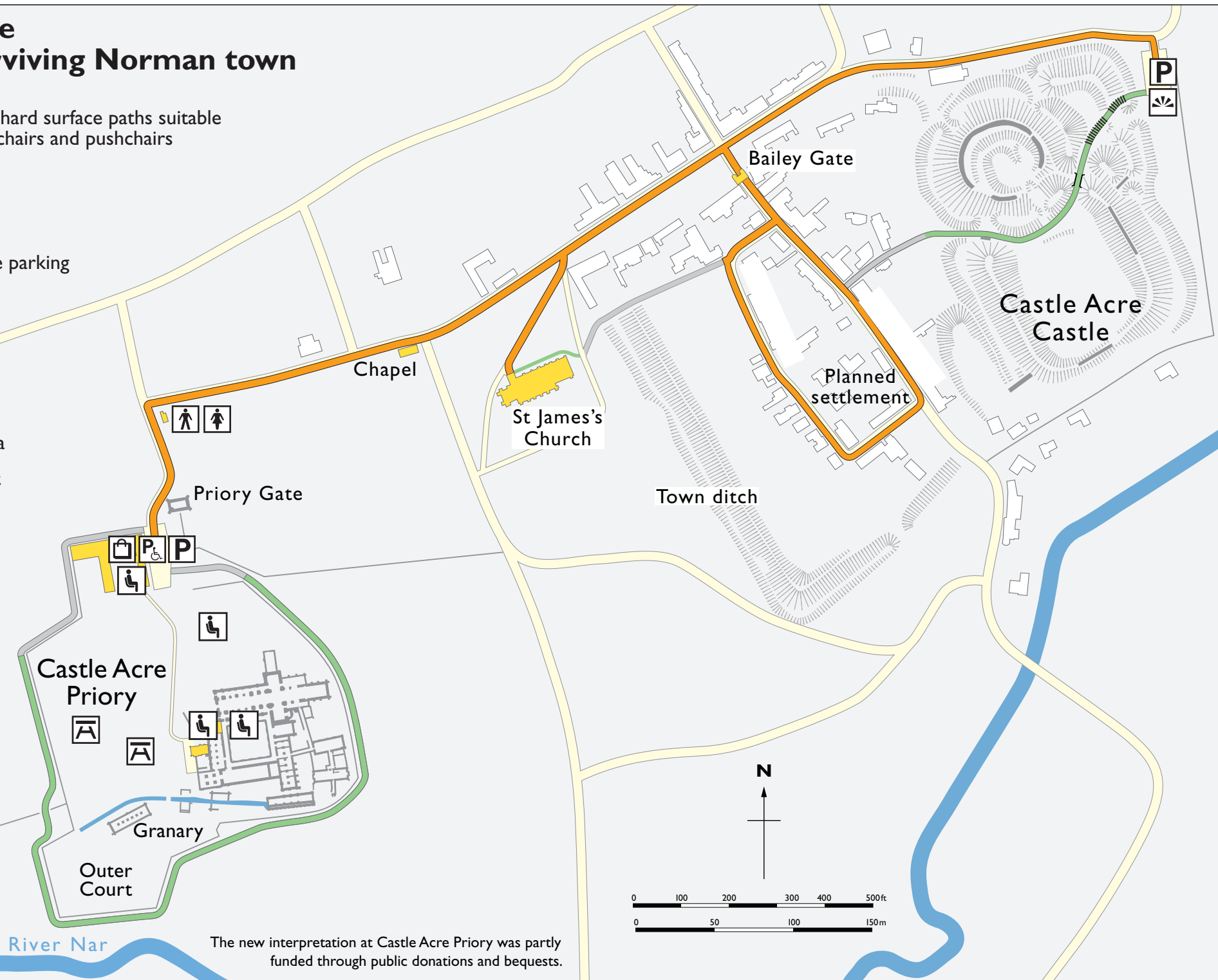
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Routes

-  Road and hard surface paths suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs
-  Track
-  Grass

Symbols

-  Accessible parking
-  Parking
-  Shop
-  Toilets
-  Rest area
-  Picnic area
-  Viewpoint
-  Bridge
-  Steps



This map should be used as a guideline only. English Heritage does not take any responsibility for any injury or accident incurred whilst using this map on site. Changing weather conditions can render a route safe in dry weather to a hazard in wet conditions.

The new interpretation at Castle Acre Priory was partly funded through public donations and bequests.

