OCR HISTORY AROUND US
Site Proposal Form Example from English Heritage

The Criteria

The study of the selected site must focus on the relationship between the site, other historical sources and the aspects listed in a) to n) below. It is therefore essential that centres choose a site that allows learners to use its physical features, together with other historical sources as appropriate, to understand all of the following:

a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings

b) When and why people first created the site

c) The ways in which the site has changed over time

d) How the site has been used throughout its history

e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site

f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used

g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points

h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site

i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate

j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites

k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history

l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries

m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site

n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment

PORTCHESTER CASTLE

Created by: ENGLISH HERITAGE LEARNING TEAM

Please provide an explanation of how your site meets each of the following points and include the most appropriate visual images of your site. Refer to your images to justify your explanation of how the site meets the criteria.

Criteria	Specifics about the site in relation to this criteria	Sources that can be used with this criteria
a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings	**Roman Fort** - Built in AD 285–290, the fort at Portchester was one of the so-called 'forts of the Saxon shore' that were built around the southern coast of Britain to defend against Saxon raids. - First in a chain of ten Saxon forts around the south-east coast of England. - Situated strategically in a natural harbour with easy access to the English Channel and the continent. **Saxon Stronghold** - In AD 904, the Bishop of Winchester gave the fort to Edward, king of the West Saxons (r.AD 899–924). The site became a 'burh' – one of a series of Saxon strongholds which protected the kingdom from Viking attack. - Saxon burhs were located so that no place in England was more than 20 miles away from one. Many were on rivers to prevent the Viking raiders rowing up them to attack inland settlements. - Old fortifications were used when possible; Portchester is a good example of this repurposing of existing defences. **Royal Castle** - King Henry II (r.1154–89) owned lots of land in France so Portchester was a good place to set sail from when he needed to visit. - Due to its proximity to the European mainland, King Henry V (r.1413–22) launched an invasion of France from Portchester, which ended in a famous victory against the	Historic England, *Introduction to Saxon Shore Forts* (2011) content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-saxon-shore-forts/saxonshoreforts.pdf Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle Portchester Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/history-and-stories/history Objects on display in the exhibition at Portchester Castle

	French at the Battle of Agincourt (1415). - Portchester is close to Forest of Bere, and was therefore popular with successive kings for deer hunting. **Prisoner-of-War Camp** - During the wars of the 17th and 18th centuries, the government had to set up many camps to house prisoners of war in old castles like Portchester, and in old ships called 'hulks'. - Prisoners of war came to Portchester on ships from across the globe, including many from the Caribbean. - Portchester's close proximity to Portsmouth naval base made it an ideal location to house prisoners of war.	
b) When and why people first created the site	- Barbarian attacks along the south coast were a problem for the Roman occupiers in both England and France. To combat them, numerous forts were built along both sides of the English Channel. - The Roman fort at Portchester was built in AD 285–290, probably by order of Marcus Aurelius Carausius. - Carausius was the local naval commander, in charge of protecting the coast with a fleet of ships in the English Channel. He later used his position of authority to rebel and proclaim himself emperor of Britain and parts of France.	Image of Roman coin depicting Carausius in Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016), p.25 www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle
c) The ways in which the site has changed over time	**Roman Fort** - The Roman walls at Portchester are nearly 2,000 years old and remain almost complete, making it the most well-preserved Roman fort in northern Europe. **Saxon Stronghold** - Evidence of wooden buildings from the Saxon period was found within the fort's walls, suggesting its use as a burh. - In the tenth century a large hall, a courtyard and a stone tower were built within the Roman walls, suggesting an important man and his family lived here.	Portchester Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/visit/places-to-visit/history-research-plans/portchester-castle-phased-plan Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-

	Norman Castle - William Maudit, a Norman knight, created an inner bailey in one corner of the fort. He and his descendants built the courtyard and the first keep. - A Norman priory was founded in 1128. **Royal Castle** - The height of the keep was increased by successive kings as a symbol of power. - Between 1396 and 1399, Richard II (r.1377–99) added a royal palace, with a kitchen, great hall and private chambers. **Prisoner-of -War Camp** - During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars with France, prisoners of war came to Portchester from across the globe. - Overcrowding was a problem with the number of prisoners rising from 1,100 in 1746 to 2,500 in 1747 – almost a quarter of the prisoner-of-war population in England at the time. - In 1794, eleven new wooden houses were built inside the walls, with room for *c.*400–500 men in each.	media/guidebook-portchester-castle Portchester Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/history-and-stories/history *Calendar of the Patent Rolls* (5 June 1381) https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015009337612;view=1up;seq=29
d) How the site has been used throughout its history	**Roman Fort** - Built to protect the south coast of England from raids by Saxon pirates. **Saxon Stronghold** - After the Romans left Britain in AD 410, people continued to live within the walls at Portchester. - It became a burh, used by Anglo-Saxons as protection from Viking invasion. **Norman Castle** - Following the Norman Conquest of 1066, William the Conqueror gave Portchester to William Maudit, one of his loyal followers. - A community of priests lived together at the Norman priory, within the Roman walls, between 1128 and 1150. - The rest of the land within the fort walls was used for growing food and raising animals.	Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle Roman reconstruction drawing by Peter Dunn Saxon reconstruction drawing by Liam Wales 1390s reconstruction of Richard II's palace by Stephen Conlin

	Royal Castle - Henry II took over the castle as a royal stronghold, using it as a safe place for his treasury and as a point of access to his continental territories which stretched to the Pyrenees. - Henry II imprisoned his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine at Portchester. - Used by monarchs as the muster point for soldiers travelling to France for the Battle of Crécy (1346) and the Battle of Agincourt (1415). - The castle remained an important coastal defence during the Tudor period. - In 1632, King Charles I (r.1625–49) sold the castle to Sir William Uvedale, whose descendants still own it. **Prisoner-of-War Camp** - Used to house prisoners of war during successive conflicts between 1664 and 1814, culminating in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars of *c*.1794–1814. - The prisoners were housed in barrack blocks, not cells, but lived in very cramped conditions. They were allowed outside the blocks (but not outside the walls) during the day, and were allowed to sell their craft goods in a market, and at one stage opened a theatre in the castle. - In October 1796, 2,080 black and mixed-race soldiers, 333 European soldiers and 99 women and children, all captured on the island of St Lucia in the Caribbean, arrived at Portchester. - The African-Caribbean prisoners had to be issued with extra clothes to protect them from the cold. - In 1811, French prisoners of war arrived at Portchester, including some who had formed themselves into a theatrical troupe while in captivity. They created a theatre on the ground floor of the keep where they put on performances for an audience of up to 300.	18th-century coloured engraving
e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site	**Activities** - Roman: burials of children within the walls from about AD 300 onwards suggest a mixed community lived there at the time. It is possible that the population was entirely civilian and included soldiers only at times of crisis. Alternatively, there may have been a permanent military presence. - Saxon: In the tenth century, a large hall, a courtyard and a stone tower were built	Objects on display in the exhibition at Portchester Castle Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016), p.25–38 www.english-

| | | within the Roman walls, suggesting an important man and his family lived here. Some parts of the land within the fort walls were ploughed and cultivated.
- Royal castle: used by various medieval kings as a treasury, a palace and a point of embarkation and return for their campaigns in France.
- Prison: housed prisoners of war from Holland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Italy, America and the Caribbean. Many prisoners practised crafts, such as carving combs and dominoes out of animal bone.
- Some captured officers were allowed to live outside the prisons, lodging with English families in certain designated 'parole towns', having promised not to try to escape.

People
- Marcus Aurelius Carausius was the commander of the Roman fleet in the English Channel and North Sea; he rebelled and proclaimed himself emperor in Britain and northern France.
- Edward, king of the West Saxons, received Porceastra from the Bishop of Winchester in 904.
- In 1216, Portchester surrendered to forces commanded by Louis, son of the French king. In the spring of 1217, it was retaken by forces loyal to the young king Henry III of England (r.1216–72).
- King Henry V used Portchester to gather his soldiers who would go on to win the Battle of Agincourt (1415).
- During a period of peace during the Hundred Years War with France, King Richard II (r.1377–99) built a small royal palace within the castle, so he could stay there while travelling to and from France.
- King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) and his then wife, Anne Boleyn, visited the castle.
- Queen Elizabeth I (r.1558–1603) was the last monarch to hold court there.
- The theatre troupe made up of prisoners was led by a M. Carré, who had worked behind the scenes in a famous theatre in Paris.
- Captain Louis Delgrès, a mixed-race soldier who was imprisoned at Portchester, returned to the Caribbean and became a key figure in the continued struggle against trans-Atlantic enslavement. | heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle |
| f) | The reasons for | - Originally built as a defence against Saxon pirate raids, then repurposed as a burh by | Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English |

| changes to the site and to the way it was used | the Saxons who settled there.
- The number of people living within the Roman walls fluctuated but it is unlikely that it was ever completely abandoned. The development of the buildings was irregular during this period.
- In the aftermath of the Norman Conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror granted Portchester to one of his loyal followers, William Maudit. This was designed to symbolise power and establish control over the newly conquered England.
- When Henry II came to the throne in 1154, he took over the castle as a great royal stronghold, a role in which it continued throughout the medieval period.
- This castle was used as an embarkation point for soldiers headed towards the continent to protect the king's French lands. It was also used as a safe haven for shipping the treasury to France and as a prison for important captives.
- From the early 15th century, Portchester was increasingly overshadowed in both economic and military terms by the developing town of Portsmouth, though it was far from forgotten.
- In 1632, a local landowner, Sir William Uvedale, purchased the castle from King Charles I. Ownership of the castle has descended ever since through his heirs, the Thistlethwaite family.
- Due to its close proximity to Portsmouth naval base, Portchester was pressed into service as a prison during all the major conflicts of the 18th century.
- After the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Portchester was emptied of prisoners. However, in 1794 work began to make it ready for prisoners once more as Britain was stirred into war in the aftermath of the French Revolution. | Heritage Guidebooks (2016), p.25–38
www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle

Portchester Castle history website
www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/history-and-stories/history |
| g)   Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points | - AD 285–290: Roman fort built by Carausius.
- 410: Romans left Britain.
- 904: Edward, king of the West Saxons, received Porceastra from the Bishop of Winchester. Portchester was turned into a burh.
- 1066: Portchester granted to William Maudit by William the Conqueror after the Norman Conquest.
- 1148: castle redeveloped in stone, probably by William Pont de l'Arche.
- 1154: Henry II took over the castle as a royal stronghold.
- 1396–99: Richard II built a royal palace within the inner bailey. | Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016)
www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle |

	- 1415: Henry V prepared his troops at Portchester for the campaign against the French at Agincourt. - 1583: the castle's fortifications were made ready for a Spanish invasion. - 1603: Queen Elizabeth I was the last monarch to hold court at the castle. - 1632: local landowner Sir William Uvedale purchased the castle from Charles I. - 1665: the castle was used to house about 500 prisoners during the Second Dutch War. - 1702–12: used again as a prison during the War of the Spanish Succession. - 1740–63: used as a prisoner-of-war camp. - 1794–1814: used as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. - 1926: the Thislethwaite family gave the castle to the Ministry of Works. - 1984: the castle was passed on to the possession of English Heritage.	
h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site	- Roman defences: the walls still stand to what was probably their original height (6.1 metres) – this makes Portchester the most well-preserved Roman fort in northern Europe. - Medieval defences: along the north side of the fort, the Roman wall, with its bastions, has been incorporated seamlessly into the medieval defences. This stretch of wall features a mid 14th-century cannon fortification, one of the earliest known examples in English architecture. - Great tower: the great tower was remodelled and raised to its present height in the 14th century. The line of the original roof is still visible inside the second-floor level, where there are also timber beams used as racking for prisoners' hammocks during the Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815). - Richard II's palace: the lodgings (1396–9) created by Richard II in the inner bailey are the most complete series of royal apartments to survive from the late 14th century. Evidence of their once splendid interiors are features such as the fragments of a carved stone frieze, which may depict heraldic beasts, along the inner south wall. - Parish Church of St Mary: the church in the outer bailey (not in the care of English Heritage) was originally part of an Augustinian priory which moved to nearby	Portchester Castle significance website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/portchester-castle/history-and-stories/significance

	Southwick in 1150. It is a fine example of a complete, unaltered, simple 12th-century Romanesque-style building, with its rounded arches and windows and decorated doorway. - Tudor storehouse: a large storehouse was built within the outer bailey at Portchester during the early Tudor period; this was demolished at an unknown date, and its functions probably moved to Portsmouth. Today, parch marks (marks in the grass) reveal where it was.	
i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate	**Locally** - Portchester has been a local landmark for 1,700 years. - Gives context to the development of Portsmouth town and historic dockyard. **Nationally/internationally** - The most complete Roman walls in northern Europe. - The collections on display in the exhibition (and seen in the guidebook) are nationally significant. - It has the joint sixth-tallest keep in the UK.	Portsmouth Historic Dockyard www.historicdockyard.co.uk Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle
j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites	**Saxon Shore Forts** - The Saxon shore forts at Richborough and Reculver in Kent guard the two ends of the Wantsum Channel, while Caister and Burgh castles in Norfolk flank the Great Estuary in the Great Yarmouth area. This is similar to Portchester's role on the coast in Hampshire. - Brancaster and Caister in Norfolk, and Reculver in Kent, are in the 'early group' of Saxon shore forts, virtually square with rounded corners (the so-called 'playing card shape' common in Roman military architecture). They have thinner walls than Portchester. - Richborough Castle in Kent, and Pevensey Castle in East Sussex, have thick walls (up to 3.5 m) and semi-circular bastions on the outer faces of the fort walls, like Portchester. **Medieval Castles** - Similarities with other medieval castles in English Heritage's collection include: large	Historic England, *Introduction to Saxon Shore Forts* (2011) content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-saxon-shore-forts/saxonshoreforts.pdf English Heritage YouTube Channel, *A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles* (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew Medieval castles website www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/medieval-castles

	stone keep, thick walls and ashlar masonry, arrowloops for shooting arrows, moat and drawbridge, and gatehouse. - Differences include: no motte at Portchester as added to an existing Roman fort; parts of it built as a royal palace so it has a different layout to usual Norman castles; and set within Roman walls with the remains of an Augustinian priory founded in 1128 which is now the parish church. **Prisons** - Prison ships known as 'hulks' were anchored at sea; some were moored in Portchester Lake. - Dartmoor Prison: specially built as a prisoner-of-war camp after it was decided that land prisons offered better conditions than the redundant warships used previously. Building started in 1806, first prisoners arrived on 22 May 1809. Had problems with overcrowding, like Portchester. - Parole villages housed the officers, who had given their word that they would not try to escape. Locally these included Hambledon, Bishop's Waltham and Alresford.	
k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history	- Despite its military origin, Roman domestic artefacts have also been found at Portchester that shed light on everyday life for Roman people living here. - Roman objects and building remains tell a story about the attitudes and values brought to Britain between AD 43 and AD 410. - Portchester's strong defensive location made it ideal for keeping the peace and administering the king's rule in the south. Establishing and maintaining rule was a crucial part of medieval kingship. - The geography of the site highlights the Crown's need for physical defence against both national and international threats. - The keep was constructed and heightened as much for its defensive function as it was for its political statement of power and control. - The castle's use as a prison reveals much about the treatment of prisoners of war during global conflicts in the 17th and 18th centuries. The prisoners slept on shared beds in cold, cramped conditions. - The prisoners at Portchester had an airing ground, a market and a theatre. Many	Images of Roman finds in Goodall, J, *Portchester Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2016), p.25–26 www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-portchester-castle Visit to Portchester Castle

	- prisoners practised crafts, such as carving combs and dominoes out of animal bone. - Some captured officers were allowed to live outside prisons, lodging with English families in parole towns, having promised not to try to escape. Standards of treatment of prisoners in 18th-century Britain were a lot more humane than is sometimes realised. - In October 1796, 2,080 black and mixed-race soldiers, 333 European soldiers and 99 women and children arrived at Portchester. The Caribbean prisoners were given extra clothes and a special diet to protect them from the cold British winter, but the European prisoners often stole their clothing and belongings. This is an example of the racial tensions present at the time. - Captain Louis Delgrès, a mixed-race soldier who was imprisoned at Portchester, returned to the Caribbean and became a key figure in the continued struggle against trans-Atlantic enslavement. This illustrates the different attitudes towards slavery during this time. - Excavations in the 20th century signal the changing attitudes towards understanding and conserving historic buildings.	
l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries	- What is it? What changes has it seen? What was it used for? What stories does it tell about the past? What do we still need to know? - Where was it built? Where was it changed? Where did the people come from who used it? Where did the prisoners go after they were released? - Who built it? Who changed it? Who used it? Who was the last person to live here? - When did people first live here? When was it built? When was it changed? When was it used? When did it stop being used? - Why was it built? Why was it changed? Why was it used? Why was this location chosen? Why should we protect it? - How was it built? How was it changed? How was it used? How much did it cost to build/change? How can it tell us about the past? How were prisoners of war treated?	Visit to Portchester Castle
m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions	- The buildings, while in varying states of ruin, are a credible primary source from which to create artistic reconstructions.	Roman reconstruction drawing by Peter Dunn

and other interpretations of the site	- Remaining structures can give a good idea of shapes, and sometimes relative sizes, of the buildings. - The use of other comparative sites is highly beneficial in understanding the missing architecture and décor from the site. - Identifying features and formations in the stone can indicate where certain structures would have been located (e.g. fireplaces, slots for the portcullis, corbels for floor/ceiling beams). - The site is highly valued for its picturesque qualities and has inspired such notable artists as JMW Turner.	Saxon reconstruction drawing by Liam Wales 1390s reconstruction of Richard II's palace by Stephen Conlin 18th-century coloured engraving
n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment	**Benefits** - Important source of primary information. - Gives a sense of place, well-being and cultural identity. - Allows visitors to connect people from the past to the place where they lived and worked. - Stimulating way to engage with history in the place where it happened. **Challenges** - Difficult to interpret due to lack of written sources and physical evidence. - Different interpretations of the same site and evidence.	Visit to Portchester Castle