



Peveril is a small castle with a substantial but unroofed keep and parts of the curtain wall remaining. Some of the other buildings can be traced in footings. The castle was built on the end of a high ridge, where a gorge cut off the tip and created a separate steep-sided, highly visible and practically impregnable location.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Peveril is mentioned in Domesday Book which was compiled in 1086. This means that the castle had been established before this date but after the Norman Conquest of 1066. It was originally granted to William Peveril, one of William I's most valued knights, but it was confiscated from his son later, and throughout its history it has periodically reverted to the Crown. It was strategically placed to guard important routeways, and also to protect the nearby royal hunting forest and rich lead deposits in the area.

The castle was built of stone from the beginning. Its first buildings were a hall, chapel and curtain wall. Only parts of the curtain wall remain from this period, and they can only be identified by their distinctive herringbone masonry. Access to the castle was from the escarpment to the west, via a wooden bridge over the deep gorge separating the ridge from the land on which the castle was built. The keep was built in 1176 to command this entrance, which is now inaccessible. The keep was entered at the first-floor level; the original stairs have disappeared and a modern stairway takes visitors into the interior.

The town was established to service the castle. To provide easier access for the townsfolk and guests, another entrance was made at the eastern corner. This is the point at which the castle is entered today. In the 13th-century a larger hall was built and towers were erected on the wall overlooking Cave Dale.

In 1369 the castle came into the hands of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and passed to his son, Henry IV. By this time it was obsolete as a fortification or residence, but it continued to be used as the Duchy of Lancaster's headquarters in the Peak District, with the keep being used as a courthouse. By the 17th-century the castle was ruinous, but with the growing interest in antiquities in the following century, the Duchy halted the decay by doing essential repair work.

## BOOKING AND SITE INFORMATION:

TEACHER'S KIT  
PEVERIL CASTLE



INFORMATION

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HISTORY  
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## LOCATION

Peveril Castle, Derbyshire S33 8WQ.

To the south of Castleton, 15 miles west of Sheffield on the A6187.

OS Map 110, OLI:SKI49826.

## HOW TO GET THERE

**Bus** First/TM Travel 272–4 Sheffield railway station to Castleton, then 1 mile.

**Train** Hope – 2.5 miles.

## FACILITIES

**Parking** In town.

**Shop** School parties are welcome and all proceeds contribute to the work of English Heritage. Please ensure your pupils are supervised in the shop.

**Exhibition** A small exhibition about Peveril Castle's history, which includes some genuine artefacts found at the site, can be seen on the first floor of the visitor centre.

**Refreshments** No restaurant or café but picnics are allowed.

**Toilets** On site, shared with all visitors.

## LEARNERS GO FREE

Educational visits are free to English Heritage properties and should be booked at least 14 days in advance via the Education Bookings Team:

**0370 333 0606**

**[bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk)**

**[www.english-heritage.org.uk/onlinebooking](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/onlinebooking)**

To make the most of your visit we strongly recommend that teachers make a preliminary planning visit. You will be sent a free entry permit when your booking is confirmed.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own risk assessment. Hazard information is available on the website when booking.

**Limit on party number 80.**

**Required teacher/adult helper to pupil ratio** 1:5 for KS1 and below, 1:8 for KS2, and 1:15 for KS3 and above. Pupils must be supervised at all times.

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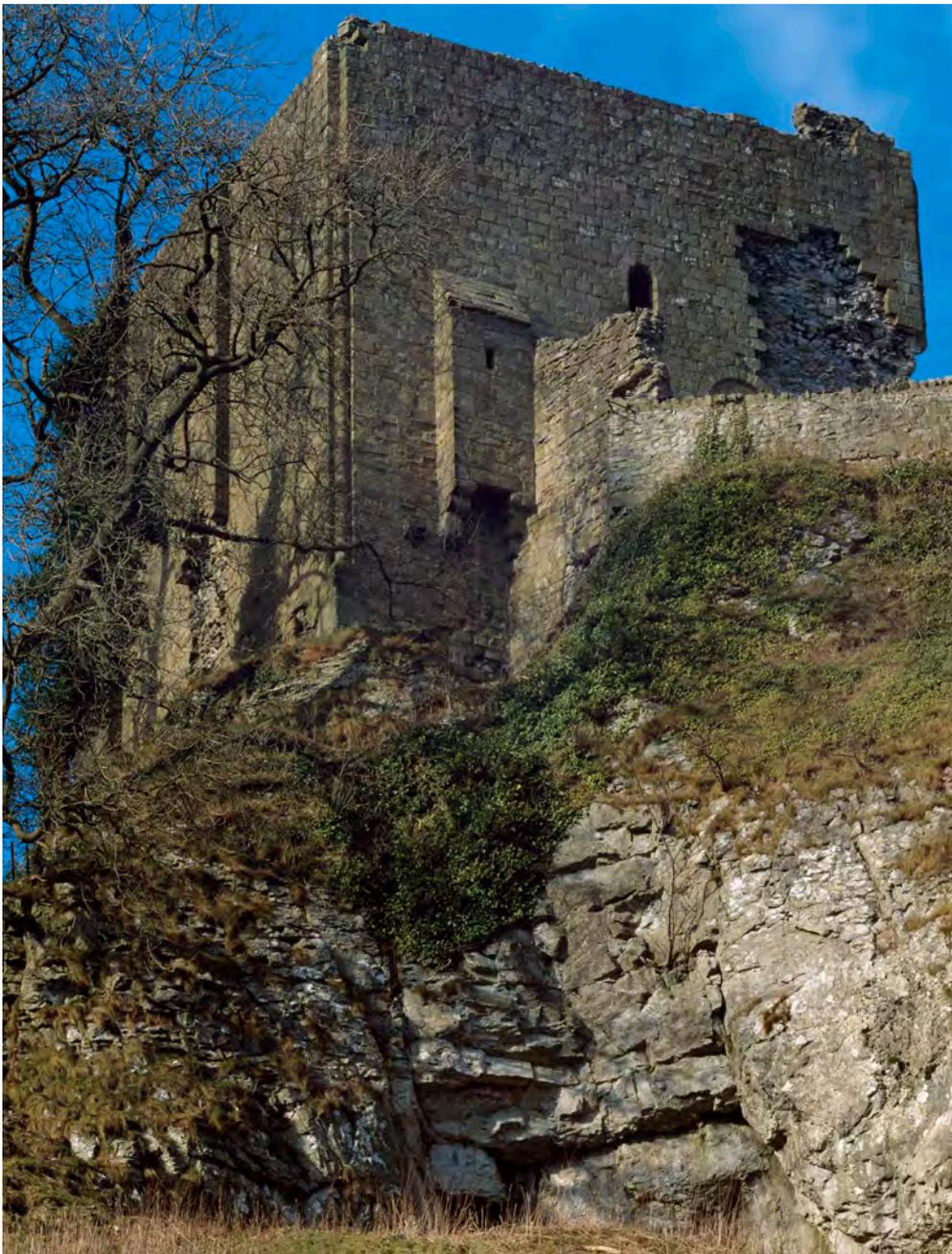


IMAGES

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HISTORY  
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View from the south looking up towards the keep from Cave Dale.



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PEVERIL CASTLE

General exterior view of Peveril Castle.



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TEACHER'S KIT  
PEVERIL CASTLE

Aerial reconstruction by Urmston.



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TEACHER'S KIT  
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View of the interior of the keep from the south-east.



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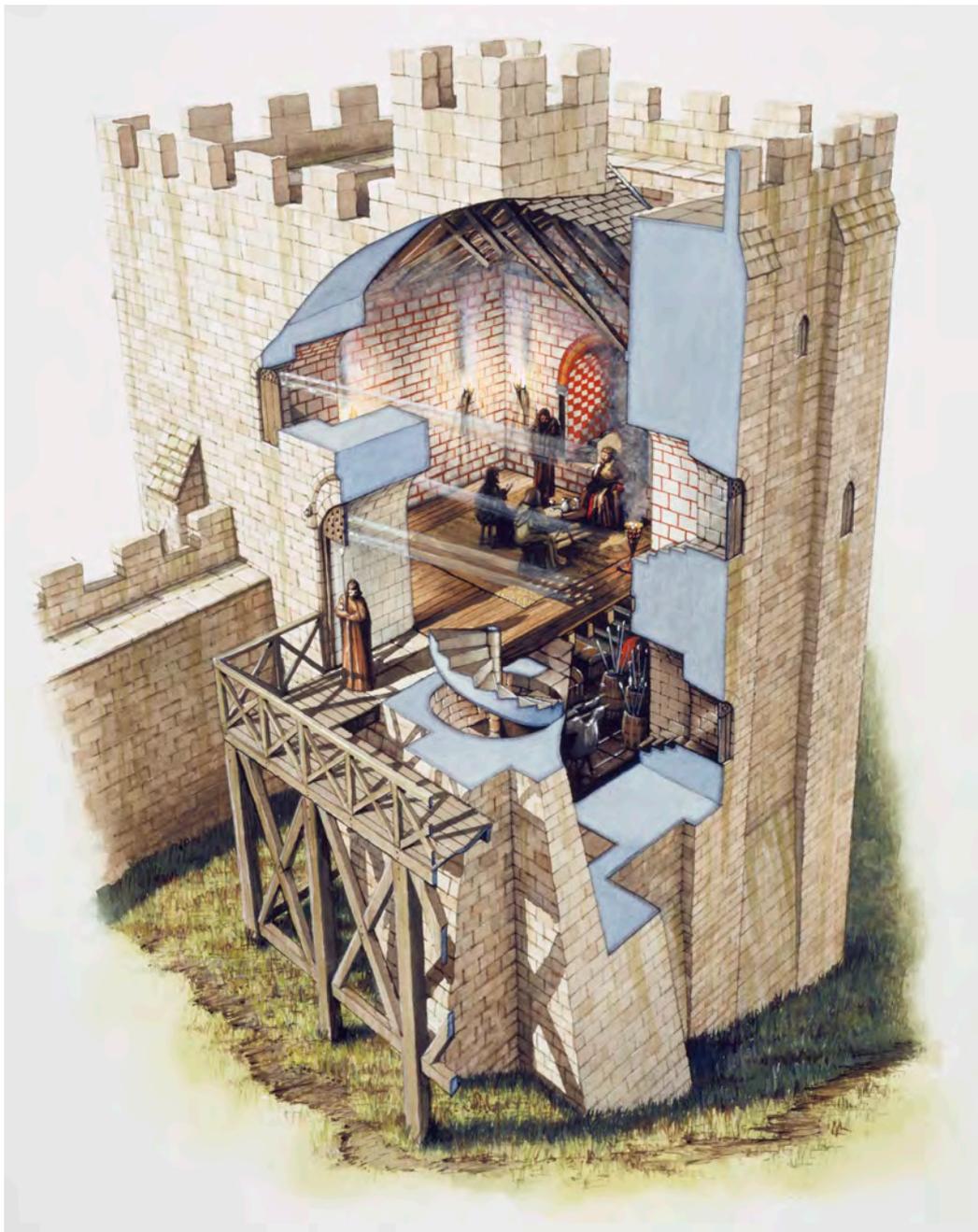
View of the garderobe in the west curtain wall.



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PEVERIL CASTLE

Cutaway reconstruction of Peveril Castle showing the 12th-century keep, by Urmston.

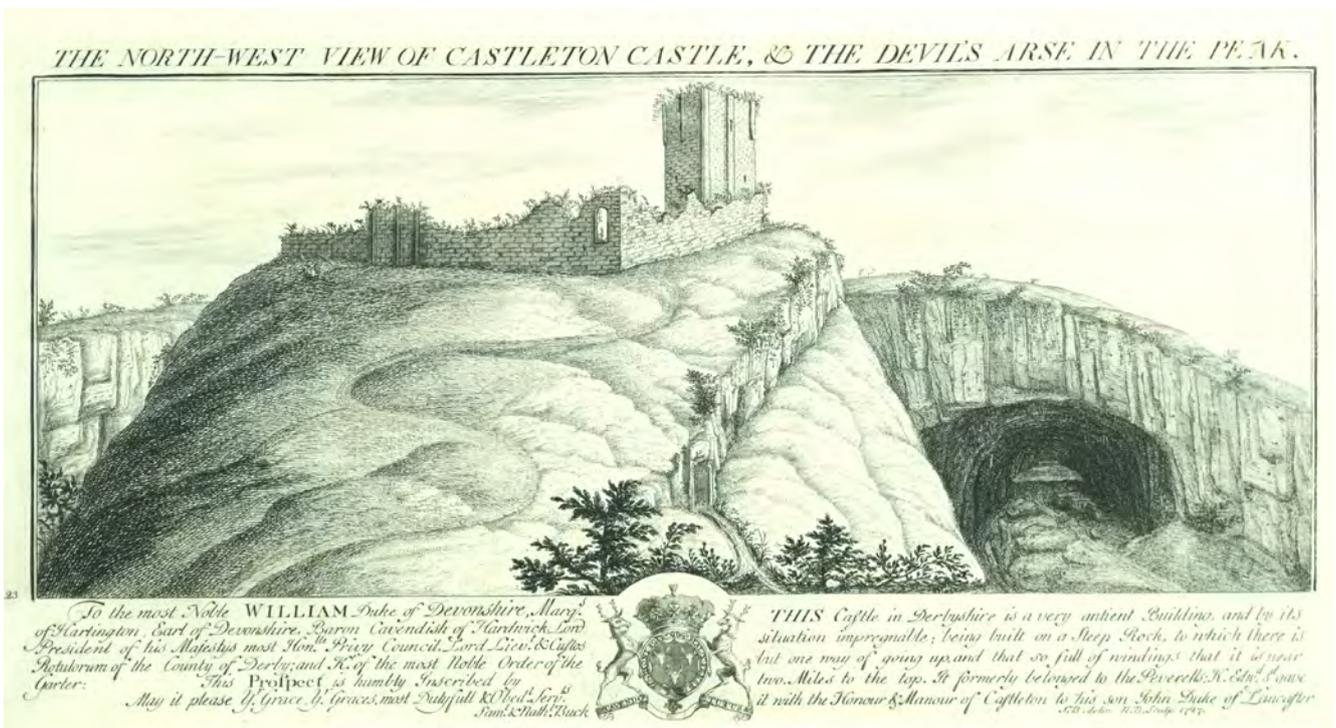


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North West view of Castleton Castle and the Devils Arse in the peak.

By Samuel and Nathaniel Buck.



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