



Warkworth Castle was the home of the Percy family in the later Middle Ages. The Percys were Earls of Northumberland and one of the most powerful families in England. Warkworth's spectacular keep is a masterpiece of medieval architecture and a symbol of the family's wealth and status. A visit gives students the opportunity to investigate the life of a noble family in medieval and Tudor times and explore one of the biggest and most impressive fortresses in north-east England.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The Early Castle

The town of Warkworth dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The castle is first mentioned in documentary sources in the 12th-century, although it is not clear who was responsible for building the first castle. We do know that Henry II (r.1154–89) gave the castle and manor of Warkworth to his follower, Roger fitz Eustace, sometime between 1157 and 1164.

The first castle at Warkworth probably consisted of an earthen motte (mound) and wooden defences. When the Scottish king William the Lion invaded Northumberland in 1173, a Scottish chronicler described Warkworth's defences as 'feeble'.

It seems likely that Roger fitz Eustace's son Robert was responsible for founding the present castle between 1199 and 1214. Robert was a favourite of King John (r.1199–1216) and in 1203 he became sheriff of Northumberland, a powerful royal official. In 1213 King John visited him at Warkworth. The motte-and-bailey, gatehouse, Carrickfergus tower, postern gate and east curtain wall are likely to have been built by Robert and completed by his son.

The Anglo-Scottish Wars

The reign of English king Edward I (1272–1307) transformed life along the Scottish border. Edward was

invited to referee a dispute over the Scottish throne, and used the opportunity to claim control of the kingdom. The result was a long-running war between England and Scotland which continued long after Edward's death.

Castles near the border played an important role in the war. English kings provided funds to develop and maintain them. Successive owners of Warkworth were closely involved in the fighting. In 1319 a garrison of 24 soldiers held the castle against attack. The Scots besieged Warkworth twice, unsuccessfully, in 1327.

The Percys of Northumberland

In 1332 Edward III (r.1327–77) granted Warkworth Castle to Henry Percy, the 2nd Lord Percy. The Percy family was one of the most important in the north of England and already owned nearby Alnwick Castle. The 4th Lord Percy, also called Henry, was made the 1st Earl of Northumberland in 1377 and began an extensive building programme at Warkworth. He strengthened the castle's defences and began the impressive keep. The architecture has many similarities with Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire, owned by Edward III's son John of Gaunt, and the royal palace at Windsor Castle. Through their ambitious building programme the Percys showed off their wealth and royal connections.

However, the Percy family spent much of their time in rebellion against successive rulers. The 1st Earl and his son, Harry Hotspur (1364–1403), were involved in

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deposing Richard II in 1399. They then quarrelled with Henry IV (r.1399–1413), the king they had helped put on the throne in Richard's place. Hotspur was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury in rebellion against Henry IV. The Earl was arrested and his property seized by the King, although in 1404 Henry IV gave him back his estates.

Earl Henry then joined another rebellion led by the Archbishop of York. Henry IV amassed an army and marched north, while the Earl fled to Scotland. The King's army besieged Warkworth, where the garrison cried for mercy and sued for peace after the King had fired just seven cannon shots.

The Wars of the Roses

After the second rebellion the King took the Percy family's lands away. However, when Henry V came to the throne in 1413 he gave the son of Harry Hotspur, another Henry Percy, the family's former estates and made him the 2nd Earl of Northumberland.

The Percy family fought on the side of Henry VI (r.1422–61) in the Wars of the Roses. Henry Percy was killed at the Battle of St Albans in 1455, and his son the 3rd Earl was killed at the Battle of Towton in 1461. This battle brought about a change in kingship, with Edward IV displacing Henry VI.

Ten years after the 3rd Earl's death, Edward IV (r.1461–83) gave the 3rd Earl's eldest son his inheritance and made him 4th Earl of Northumberland, probably because of the widespread support the Percy family had in Northumberland.

Around 1472 the 4th Earl began a complete remodelling of the castle bailey. He heightened the entrance to the Great Hall and added the carved lion, the symbol of his family. His refusal to support Richard III (r.1483–85) at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 allowed

the Tudor king Henry VII to win the battle and take the throne, which he held until his death in 1509. The Earl was murdered in 1489 by a mob of rioters protesting against high taxation, although it has been suggested that he may have been killed in vengeance for Richard III.

The Tudor Castle

The 4th Earl's son, Henry Algernon, inherited the castle and began building the Collegiate Church for a 'college of clergy' that he intended to establish at Warkworth. Their main role would have been to pray for the family's ancestors. Henry Algernon's son, the 5th Earl, abandoned this project but did maintain the buildings. The 6th Earl, another Henry Percy, made several repairs to the buildings, including the reconstruction of the wall between the gatehouse and the Montagu Tower.

When the 6th Earl died without heirs in 1537 the castle was given to a series of royal officials. None of them would pay for repairs, and by the time the 6th Earl's nephew, Thomas Percy, inherited the family estates in 1557 the castle was falling into disrepair.

Thomas Percy stopped the decline and a survey taken in 1567 shows Warkworth to have been in reasonable repair. In 1569, however, Thomas was involved in the unsuccessful Roman Catholic uprising against Elizabeth I (r.1558–1603). The Queen's forces commandeered both Warkworth and Alnwick Castles and her warden, Sir John Forster, was accused of pillaging both of them. Thomas was made a prisoner in Scotland and was executed in York in 1572.

In 1574 Elizabeth I allowed Thomas's brother Henry to take his title and control of his estates. His survey of the castle shows that parts of the building were now ruined.



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The Stuarts and the Civil War

Following the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, the 9th Earl of Northumberland was imprisoned for having links to one of the conspirators. He was fined £30,000 and held for 17 years in the Tower of London.

During the Civil War the Scots occupied Warkworth Castle in support of Parliament. They returned it to the 10th Earl, who also supported Parliament.

The 11th Earl's widow was the last of the Percy line and had no use for the castle. She let an estate official remove a large amount of timber and lead. By 1672 the castle was a mere shell.

Warkworth as a Tourist Attraction

The ruined castle passed by marriage to Sir Hugh Smithson in the 1750s. He took the family name Percy and was given the title Duke of Northumberland. For the next-century the family prevented the castle from deteriorating further by repairing walls and rebuilding the gatehouse. A custodian lived on site and showed Victorian tourists round the ruins. In 1922 the castle was placed under the guardianship of the Ministry of Works and is now in the care of English Heritage.

SITE TOUR

The Gatehouse

As you go into the castle, across the moat and through the gatehouse, imagine what it would have been like to visit (or even attack) the castle in 1200 when this gatehouse was built.

Features to look out for:

- Two strong towers, reinforced by buttresses at the front corners, with a series of arrow slits.

- Portcullis grooves on either side of the walls and a slit for the portcullis above.
- Holes at the top of the towers which supported a wooden structure. Defenders could drop missiles and fire arrows from here.
- Stone brackets above the gate-passage for a fighting platform.
- Murder-holes in the gate-passage for dropping missiles on attackers.

Lion Tower and Hall Range

The tower is on the left of the castle bailey, directly opposite the ticket office. It's recognisable by the huge carved Percy lion over the door, which would have been painted in bright colours. The 4th Earl of Northumberland had the tower built in about 1480.

The tower leads into the earl's Great Hall. The whole household would have eaten their meals in the hall. Everyone sat in strict order of rank, with the earl at the 'high' end (nearest the Little Stair Tower) on a raised dais, and junior members of the household nearest the service end. A staircase in the Little Stair Tower leads to private apartments above. See the reconstruction drawing on page 16 of the whole kit or page 3/6 in the Images section if you have downloaded this separately.

Features to look out for:

- Stone wall benches that could have been used by waiting visitors.
- Bases for arch columns from the earlier hall.
- Two square hearths in the centre of the hall.

Little Stair Tower

The tower led from the hall to the earl's private rooms on the levels above. At first floor level there was an ante-room and a great chamber, where guests would

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wait for an audience with the earl. On the second floor was another room with a fireplace. The tower was partly rebuilt in the 1920s.

Features to look out for:

- A cupboard and a fireplace built into the outer wall.
- Beam holes, doorways and fireplaces that show the level of the first floor.

Great Chamber and Carrickfergus Tower

The chamber block was a two-storey building at the south-west corner of the bailey, first built in about 1200. The ground floor room originally had a series of narrow windows overlooking the bailey. When the Little Stair Tower was built in about 1480 this wall was demolished and rebuilt.

Features to look out for:

- The thick foundation wall of the first chamber block, visible at ground level at the back of the Little Stair Tower.
- Stone bases for wooden roof supports running down the centre of the Great Chamber.
- Doorways that originally led through to the Carrickfergus Tower.

You can now only see the interior of the Carrickfergus Tower from outside the castle. It had two upper floors with toilets and a large fireplace.

South Range

This is the building to the left if you stand with your back to the gatehouse. Originally it stood two storeys high. Part of the ground floor level was probably a parlour or living room. The other half was a chapel.

Features to look out for:

- The ragged hole in the wall where a fireplace used to be.
- The piscina (basin) in the north wall indicating that the building was a chapel.

Montagu Tower

The Montagu Tower is in the south-east corner of the bailey, to the right if you stand with your back to the gatehouse, and was probably used as accommodation for senior household members. Between the Montagu Tower and the gatehouse are the foundations of two successive ranges of buildings. It's not certain what they were used for.

Features to look out for:

- Evidence of toilets and fireplaces on the upper floors of the tower.

Stable and Well House

The stable foundations are to the left of the Montagu Tower against the curtain wall. In the Middle Ages horses were bred and trained for many reasons, including war, hunting, and drawing carriages or carts. Above the stable was a granary for storing food.

Features to look out for:

- A small latrine tower immediately behind the stable in the curtain wall.
- The square foundation set with drains in front of the stable, which is all that remains of the main well house. A building over the well would have protected the castle's water supply.

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Collegiate Church

Historians think that the 4th Earl began building a church in the bailey as part of his reorganisation of the castle in the 1480s. His successor abandoned the project unfinished after the Earl was murdered in 1489. The church is squeezed into the bailey so that most of its elements are absurdly small.

Features to look out for:

- The passage under the choir, which was the only access route between the bailey and the Great Tower.
- The cruciform shape, which you can see best from the vantage point of the keep tower.

Grey Mare's Tail Tower

This is the polygonal tower in the curtain wall to the right of the Collegiate Church as you stand looking at the keep. We don't know where its name originates from. Carbon dating confirmed that the tower was built in the 1290s, at the time of Edward I's wars against the Scots.

Features to look out for:

- The arrowloops, which are unusual in rising the length of two storeys.
- Medieval graffiti showing the Crucifixion and a cluster of heads within the ground level grilled opening on the left-hand side.

Great Tower

The tower is an architectural masterpiece. Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland, commissioned it in 1377. It is arranged in the shape of a Greek cross, with four wings radiating from a central block. When it was built it had battlements and turrets (see the reconstruction drawing on page 3/6 in the Images section). To the north a giant Percy lion overlooks the town.

The ground floor entrance leads into a vaulted hall. Around the hall is a warren of service and storage rooms, including a beer cellar, wine cellar, porter's lodge and accounting room.

A staircase leads to a first floor lobby where the earl's visitors would wait to be shown through into the hall. The hall itself has two windows at the 'high' end, where the Earl would sit, and three doorways at the opposite 'low' end that lead to the kitchen, buttery and pantry. Today these look like one room but they would originally have been separated with wooden screens. A staircase in the wall leads down from the buttery to the beer cellar.

At the 'high' end of the hall, a door to the left leads to a chapel. Originally it would have been decorated with statues and stained glass in the ornate windows. A small door leads from the chapel to the Great Chamber. Another door leads into the chamber from the 'high' end of the hall. Its walls would have been covered with expensive tapestries and the ceiling was probably carved and painted.

Features to look out for:

- The different sizes and decoration of the windows, showing the importance of the rooms they light.
- The lightwell in the centre of the building, which provided natural light and had a tank at the bottom to collect rain water.
- A passage in the wall between the two hall windows which might have been a minstrel's gallery.
- Fireplaces above head height, wall sockets for timbers and stone corbels in the walls, which show where the original upper floor levels were.



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TIMELINE

12th-century	13th-century	14th-century	15th-century	16th-century
<p>1140s First castle built by Henry, Earl of Northumberland, son of David I of Scotland.</p> <p>1157 Henry II recaptures Northumberland from the Scots and gives it to Roger fitz Eustace the following year.</p> <p>1173 Castle captured by the Scots.</p> <p>1178 Robert fitz Roger inherits the castle from his father.</p>	<p>1200 Borough of Warkworth established.</p> <p>1214 John fitz Robert inherits the castle. Gatehouse, Carrickfergus Tower and other domestic buildings completed.</p> <p>1249 Robert fitz Robert inherits. Great Hall built.</p> <p>1290s Grey Mare's Tail Tower built.</p> <p>1292 King Edward I visits Warkworth.</p> <p>1296 Start of the Anglo-Scottish Wars. Edward I has a base at Carlisle.</p>	<p>1311 Agreement to transfer the castle to Crown ownership.</p> <p>1327 Scots attack the castle twice.</p> <p>1332 Edward II grants Warkworth to Henry Percy II.</p> <p>1368 Henry Percy IV inherits Warkworth and becomes Earl of Northumberland in 1377.</p> <p>1380s Castle keep first built.</p>	<p>1403 Percy family rebels against King Henry IV. Henry 'Hotspur' Percy, the Earl's son, killed at Shrewsbury.</p> <p>1405 Henry IV leads an attack on Warkworth and gives the castle to John, Duke of Bedford, his 16-year-old son.</p> <p>1455 2nd Earl killed at the Battle of St Albans, the first battle in the Wars of the Roses. Henry Percy, the 3rd Earl, inherits.</p> <p>1461 3rd Earl killed at the Battle of Towton, fighting on the Lancastrian side. His son is imprisoned.</p> <p>1464 John Neville becomes Earl of Northumberland. Montagu Tower built.</p> <p>1471 Henry Percy, 4th Earl of Northumberland, inherits Warkworth after swearing loyalty to Edward IV. Heightens the Lion Tower.</p> <p>1480s Collegiate Church probably built.</p> <p>1489 4th Earl killed in a riot against higher taxes. Henry Percy, 5th Earl, inherits the castle.</p>	<p>1527 Henry Percy, 6th Earl, inherits the castle.</p> <p>1537 6th Earl dies childless and his lands pass to the Crown.</p> <p>1557 The 6th Earl's nephew, Thomas Percy, inherits and becomes 7th Earl.</p> <p>1567 The 7th Earl co-leads the Rising of the North, a Catholic rebellion supporting Mary, Queen of Scots against Elizabeth I.</p> <p>1572 7th Earl beheaded for treason in York.</p> <p>1574 Warkworth estate passes to Thomas Percy's brother Henry, who becomes eighth Earl of Northumberland.</p> <p>1584 8th Earl imprisoned for the third time for supporting Mary, Queen of Scots.</p> <p>1585 8th Earl found dead in the Tower of London. Suicide verdict returned. Henry Percy, 9th Earl, inherits Warkworth estate.</p>



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TIMELINE

17th-century

1632

Algernon Percy, 10th Earl, inherits the castle but does not live there.

1642

English Civil War begins.

1644–45

Scots occupy Warkworth Castle on the side of Parliament.

1648

Parliamentary forces damage the castle.

1668

Jocelyn Percy, 11th Earl of Northumberland, inherits Warkworth.

1670

11th Earl dies. His widow allows castle steward to remove stone and timber for his own use.

Late 1600s

In the late 17th-century the Percy line died out, and their estates passed to the Seymour family, Dukes of Somerset.

18th-century

1750

Wall between the Montagu Tower and the gatehouse pulled down and rebuilt.

Mid 1700s

In the mid 18th-century the inheritance was divided: the estates in Northumberland passed to an heiress, Lady Elizabeth Seymour, who married a Yorkshire landowner, Sir Hugh Smithson. He changed his surname to Percy, because of the ancient lineage and grandeur of his wife's Percy ancestors, and was created 1st Duke of Northumberland.

19th-century

1850

Excavations in the castle bailey. Part of the keep re-roofed and stonework resurfaced by renowned architect Anthony Salvin.

20th-century

1922

Warkworth is given to the state and managed by the Ministry of Works, later English Heritage.

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INFORMATION

ALSO AVAILABLE
TO DOWNLOAD

HISTORY
ACTIVITIES
IMAGES

LOCATION

Castle Terrace, Warkworth, Northumberland NE65 0UJ.
In Warkworth, 7.5 miles south-east of Alnwick on the A1068.

OS Map 81, 332: NU247058.

HOW TO GET THERE

Bus Arriva 518 Newcastle to Alnwick.

Rail Alnmouth station, 3.5 miles.

FACILITIES

Parking The car park is 30m from the castle entrance via a gravel path, bridge slats and a step. Free coach parking is available for groups. Please call the site in advance so they can reserve a space for you.

Shop There is a shop on site selling souvenirs and resources which can help further learning back in the classroom. We welcome all groups and all sales contribute towards the continuing work of English Heritage. Space in the shop is limited, so to ensure that your visit runs smoothly we ask that group leaders liaise with site staff on arrival.

Refreshments Hot and cold drinks are available in the shop and picnics are welcome in the grounds.

Toilets Toilets, baby changing and a disabled toilet are available in the toilet block located outside the castle entrance, across the car park.

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

www.english-heritage.org.uk/onlinebooking

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

Limit on party number Groups are limited to 200 visitors in total (children plus teachers and adult helpers).

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.

ENGLISH HERITAGE EDUCATION

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PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

If you can, it is best to make a preliminary planning visit, particularly if you have not visited Warkworth Castle before. Teachers can make planning visits free of charge by contacting the Education Bookings Team on **0370 333 0606** or emailing **bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk**

Students will get the most out of their visit if they have done some preparatory work beforehand. Depending on the age of your group, you could:

- Research who built the first castles and why.
- Find out about medieval warfare and research the different ways of attacking and defending a castle.
- Use maps and photographs to think about why the castle was built in that location and the relationship between the castle and the town of Warkworth.
- Research medieval life and find out about the kinds of people who would have lived in Warkworth in the past.
- Find out about the Percy family and the role they played in different periods of history.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

A visit to the castle is ideal for cross-curricular work. The activity suggestions below have been arranged by subject area, but there is plenty of crossover between activities in different subject areas. Activities can be combined with cross-curricular topics at Key Stages 1 and 2 or used to address specific curriculum goals with older students.

HISTORY

Attack and Defence

A role-play game is an effective way of motivating students to research information and builds skills such as teamwork and tactical decision-making.

- Split students into groups. Task half of the groups with planning the attack and the other half with the defence of Warkworth Castle. Walk round the outside of the castle as well as exploring the interior. If your time is limited, allocate individual groups to specific areas of the castle. Back in the classroom, put attack and defence groups together to pool information and put together their plan for either the attack or defence of the castle.
- The task can be made more complex by developing a scenario and giving students a specific set of resources, for example a fixed number of soldiers, siege engines and arrows for the attack force, or a fixed supply of soldiers, food and water for the defenders. Students could play a tactical game back in the classroom where 'attackers' and 'defenders' take turns to make a move. You can also introduce other considerations, such as whether defenders would need to protect the civilian population and the effects of weather and time of year, and ask students to make tactical decisions as a group.
- You could add a role-play element to this task. The 'attack' groups could be spies for the king of Scotland, on a secret mission to assess the castle's defences. The 'defence' group are the king of England's best knights.

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Power, Symbolism and Religion

Warkworth Castle is a symbol of political and military power. KS3 groups in particular can explore the symbolism within the castle building and its relationship with the town.

- Look for imagery within and outside the castle. Where can you see the Percy lion, and why? What are the other symbols on the Lion Tower? Why did the Percys use a lion as their emblem? Pupils could do work in class on heraldic symbols.
- Look at the relationship between 'high' and 'low' status areas of the castle, particularly obvious in the Great Tower and Hall Range. How does the geography of the building keep high and low status people separate? You can also use the dietary regulations from the 5th Earl's household (page 5/5 in the Activities section) to explore differences of rank and status within a noble household.
- Look for evidence of religious buildings in the castle. Why was there a chapel in the keep, as well as one in the bailey, when the town of Warkworth already had a church? Why would the 4th Earl, who had been involved in political unrest, start building the Collegiate Church right across the middle of the bailey?

Castle Life

Younger children, particularly those at KSI, can compare and contrast the features of the castle with buildings they are familiar with, such as their home or school. As you tour the castle with your group, ask them the following questions:

- What kinds of building materials is the castle made of, and why?
- How thick are the walls compared with other buildings they know?

Children can also look for clues about the function of different buildings.

- How was the castle lit and heated?
- Where is the water supply?
- Where are the kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and toilets?

Ask the group to think about the kinds of evidence that are missing.

- Would people have lived with bare walls, or might the castle have been decorated?
- What furniture might people living here have used?
- Would living conditions be the same for the constable of the castle as they would have been for a servant or a prisoner?

Students could use these observations for further work back in school, such as the creative writing activities described in this pack. Pupils can compare the food the Tudor household ate (page 5/5 in the Activities section) with their breakfast menu today.

Changes Through Time

- In the classroom, give students a basic map of Warkworth Castle and its environs. You could add other resources, such as the aerial photographs in this pack. Ask students to work out which landscape features would have been there when Warkworth Castle was built and which came later. What has changed since the castle was first built? Use these observations to chart the changing way of life of people in Warkworth throughout the castle's history.

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GEOGRAPHY

Warkworth Castle's location is important, and as students approach the castle by coach or by foot they will see how it commands the surrounding area. Work in geography can support students' study of history and vice versa. Work using maps particularly lends itself to preparatory and follow-up work in school. Students could:

- Locate Warkworth Castle on a map and work out the distance between Warkworth and various natural and man-made landscape features such as rivers, seas, high and low ground, roads, major towns, the border with Scotland. Which would have been the most important features when deciding where to build a castle? Ask students to imagine they are a medieval castle-builder commissioned by the king to decide where to build a castle. Ask them to write a report and draw a map for the king explaining why they have chosen this location. Students could then decide how to build the castle to make the most of natural defences.
- If students will be travelling by coach, they could plot their route on a map and describe what they expect to see on their journey. Students could compare the length of their journey by coach with how long it would take to make the same journey by a medieval method of transport, such as on foot or horseback.

NUMERACY AND MATHEMATICS

The castle is full of mathematical shapes and structures. Investigating the maths of the castle can help with other subjects, such as historical interpretation. Students can record information on site that they could then use back in school for practical problem-solving. Students could:

- Look for mathematical shapes and patterns such as right angles, circles, semi-circles, triangles, arches, types of symmetry.

- Plot the area of different rooms in the castle and record the features each room has, such as the number of windows and fireplaces. Students can use this data to make a chart back in school to compare the sizes and features of the different spaces and use it to infer how they might have been used. This could be related to the history activities, such as comparing the 'high' and 'low' areas of the castle. Students could work out how much storage space there is for beer, wine and food in the Great Tower and calculate (for example) how many barrels of a specified size could have been stored, or how much grain, or how many barrels of salt fish. From this they could work out how long the castle could last out in a siege.
- Make calculations based on the construction of the castle. For example, they could take measurements to enable them to work out the volume of stone that would have been needed to build the keep or a part of the curtain wall.

LITERACY AND ENGLISH

Word Bank

A word bank is a great way to encourage students to broaden their vocabulary and use the correct terminology to describe buildings, historical features and time periods. Ask students to compile lists of words they either encounter while they are exploring the castle or they think of themselves. You could give different groups of children the task of finding words in different categories, or ask them to stop in a specific part of the castle and use their imaginations and their senses to think of as many words as they can. Back in school, use these exercises as a basis for creative writing tasks. Words could include:

- Historical terms: words that relate to the study of the past, e.g. medieval, Tudor, century.

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- Castle words: terms specific to the castle itself, e.g. keep, constable, gatehouse, turret.
- Descriptive words: ones based on what students can touch, see, taste, smell and hear. For a more structured task, ask students to choose a room in the castle and imagine a person who might have sat here in the past. Ask them to write down who might have sat here and when. What would they have seen then? What could they hear, touch, taste and smell? What were they going to do next?

Creative Writing

A visit to Warkworth Castle can inspire a wide range of creative writing tasks for students of all ages and abilities. Students could write:

- A description of how the castle might have looked in the past.
- A letter from a besieged inhabitant living in the castle to someone outside.
- A diary entry by someone living in the castle: a soldier on duty; a servant working in the kitchen; a lady's maid; a member of the Percy family waiting to hear the outcome of an important battle.
- A promotional leaflet for the castle for a specific target audience.
- A script of a conversation between two people who lived in the castle, either at the same time or at different periods in history.
- A contemporary-style report based on past events at the castle, for example a TV or radio interview with someone who witnessed an attack on the castle.

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Warkworth Castle combines design features from different periods of history, and could also provide inspiration for students' own challenge activities in design and construction. There are many ways in which a visit can support learning in art, design and technology, either on site or back in school. Students could:

- Research weight-bearing structures before visiting the castle. Students could experiment using card or balsa wood to construct features they might see in the castle, such as a tall tower or an arch support. How do modifications to the design affect the strength of their structures?
- Find out how water was used in the castle. What water sources were available? How was it transported from place to place? Look for evidence of water storage, water usage (such as drainage channels) and places where it would have been needed. Similarly, students could investigate heat or light sources in different areas of the castle.
- Make observational drawings of architectural features on site, such as the windows of the Great Tower, to use as part of further work back in the classroom.
- Make imaginative drawings based on observation and historical research, such as a drawing of what the inside of the keep might have looked like in the past, or the design of a heraldic shield or insignia like the Percy lion.
- Compare design and construction features from different periods of the castle's history.
- Build their own siege engine and use it to knock down a wall made of small cardboard boxes. Students could research siege engines such as the ballista and trebuchet and conduct experiments to



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see which is the most effective way of powering a missile. You could hold your own catapult challenge in which teams compete to see whose catapult is the best.

ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM

Warkworth Castle is a major tourist attraction. The challenge of preserving the historic building, at the same time as enabling safe access and interpreting the site for thousands of people a year, offers many learning opportunities for students. You could:

- Plan an interpretive trail round the castle for different target groups, e.g. families, primary schools.
- Take photographs on site and make a promotional slideshow or digital story using audio and images back in school.
- Make an advertising poster for the castle.
- Write and record an audio trail for visitors to the castle. This could include role-play conversations between characters from different points in the castle history.
- Plan and design souvenir products for the castle shop.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Regulations for diet in the 5th Earl of Northumberland's household in the early 16th-century

Breakfast for my Lord and my Lady

First a loaf of bread in trenchers (thick slices used as plates), 2 manchets (small loaves or rolls of fine wheaten bread), a quart (1 litre) of beer, a quart of wine, 2 pieces of salt fish, 6 baconed herrings, 4 white herrings or a dish of sprats.

Breakfast for my Lord Percy and Master Percy

Item half a loaf of household bread, a manchet, a pottel of beer (about 4 litres), a dish of butter, a piece of saltfish, a dish of sprats or 3 white herrings.

Breakfast for the Nursery for my Lady Margaret and Master Ingram Percy

Item a manchet, a quart of beer, a dish of butter, a piece of saltfish, a dish of sprats or 3 white herrings.

Breakfast for my Lady's Gentlewomen

Item a loaf of bread, a pottel of beer, a piece of saltfish or 3 white herrings.

Breakfast for my Lord's Brothers and Head Officers of Household

Item 2 loaves of bread, a manchet, a gallon of beer, 2 pieces of saltfish and 4 white herrings.

Breakfast for Yeomen Officers of Household, Yeomen of the Chamber and Yeomen waiters

Item 2 loaves of bread, a gallon of beer and 2 pieces of saltfish.

Drinkings for the Porter Lodge

Item a quarter of a loaf of bread and a quart of beer.

Drinkings for the Stable

Item a quarter of a loaf of bread and a quart of beer.

This allocation of food and drink was for the period of Lent, before Easter, when people were expected to fast. Children had breakfast every day but the adults were expected to have the breakfasts listed on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

WARKWORTH CASTLE

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IMAGES

ALSO AVAILABLE
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HISTORY
INFORMATION
ACTIVITIES

Warkworth Castle gatehouse viewed from across the moat.




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BOOKING AND SITE INFORMATION:

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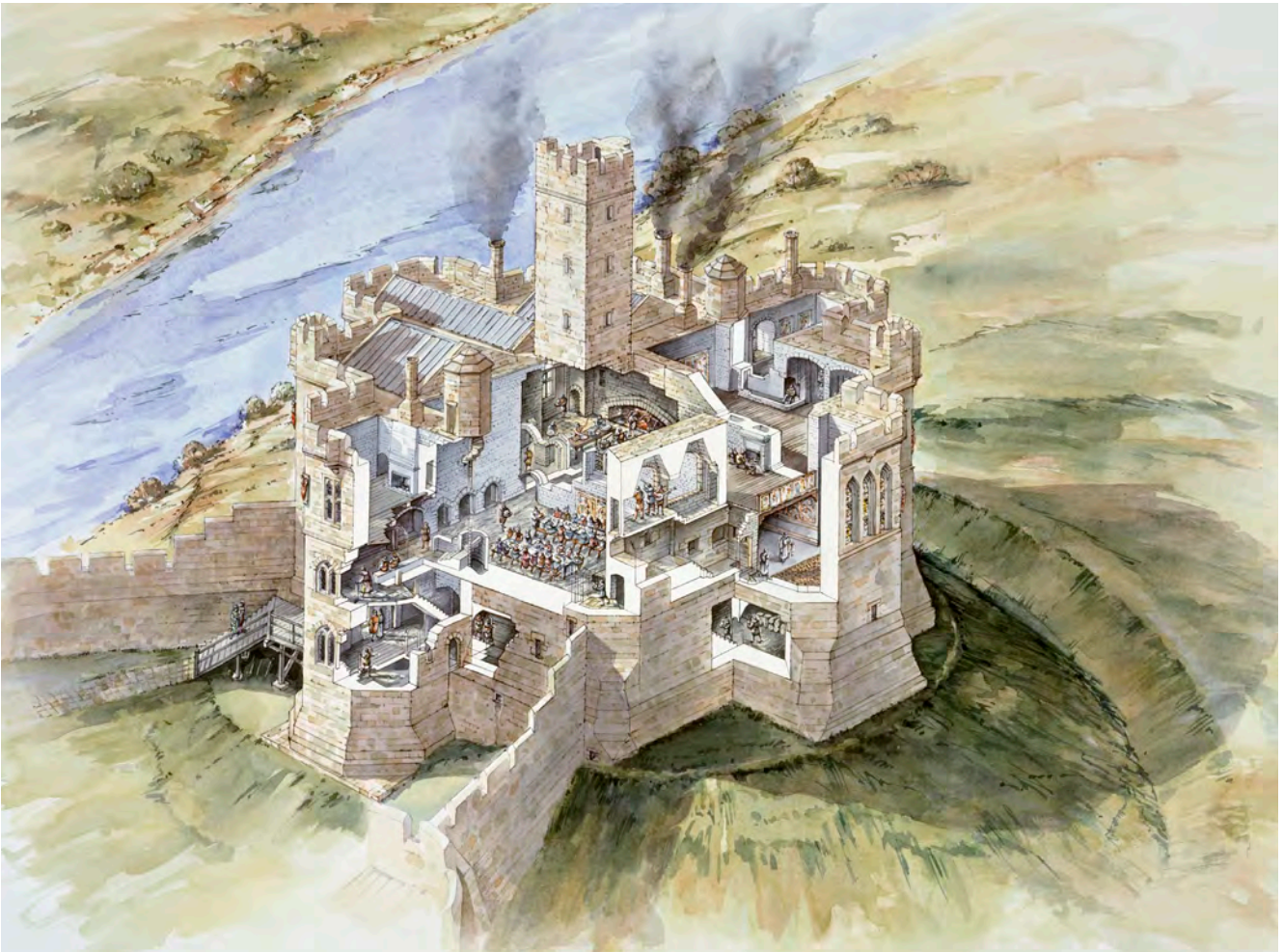
 www.english-heritage.org.uk/onlinebooking

View of the east face of the Lion Tower with the Percy lion and shields above the entrance.



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Reconstruction drawing showing the keep as it might have looked in about 1400.



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View of the Grey Mare's Tail Tower and the keep from the south-east.



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Aerial view of the castle showing its location in relation to the river, village and church.



Aerial view of the castle and village showing the medieval layout of the main street.

