

# GLOSSARY

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

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

**Bar-hole** – the holes in a wall that held a timber bar across a door, used as a bolt

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

**Buttress** – a structure of stone or brick built against a wall to strengthen or support it

**Capons** – a cockerel

**Causeway** – a raised road or track across low or wet ground

**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

**Constable** – the governor of a royal castle

**Corbels** – a projection jutting out from a wall to support a structure above it

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

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

**Drawbridge** – a bridge, especially one over a castle's moat, which is hinged at one end so that it may be raised

**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

**Gatehouse** – a room over a city, castle or palace gate, some used as a prison or for living quarters

**Guard chamber** – a room for a guard

**Latrine chute** – a sloping channel built into a wall to allow waste from the toilet to escape into the moat or stream

**Mortars** – a short gun for firing shells at high angles

**Moulding** – a shaped strip of wood or other material fitted as a decorative architectural feature

**Murder holes** – holes in the roofs of passageways through which missiles and liquids were dropped onto attackers

**Pentice** – a narrow, sloping extension of a building's roof, providing cover to a porch or walkway below

**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 an entrance to the castle

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

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

**Sedile** – a stone seat for clergy in the south chancel wall of a church, often canopied and decorated

**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)

**Spur buttresses** – a triangular buttress used to strengthen the bottom of a round tower (giving it a square base)

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

**Turret** – a small tower

**Two-light windows** – window of two lights (holes) separated by a mullion

**Winch** – a lifting device consisting of a rope or chain winding round a horizontal rotating drum, turned by a crank