



WELL DONE!

Congratulations on completing the Activity Trail! We hope you enjoyed your visit. You can stick this Activity Trail into your book as a record of your visit.

Step into England's story



NAME:

CLASS:

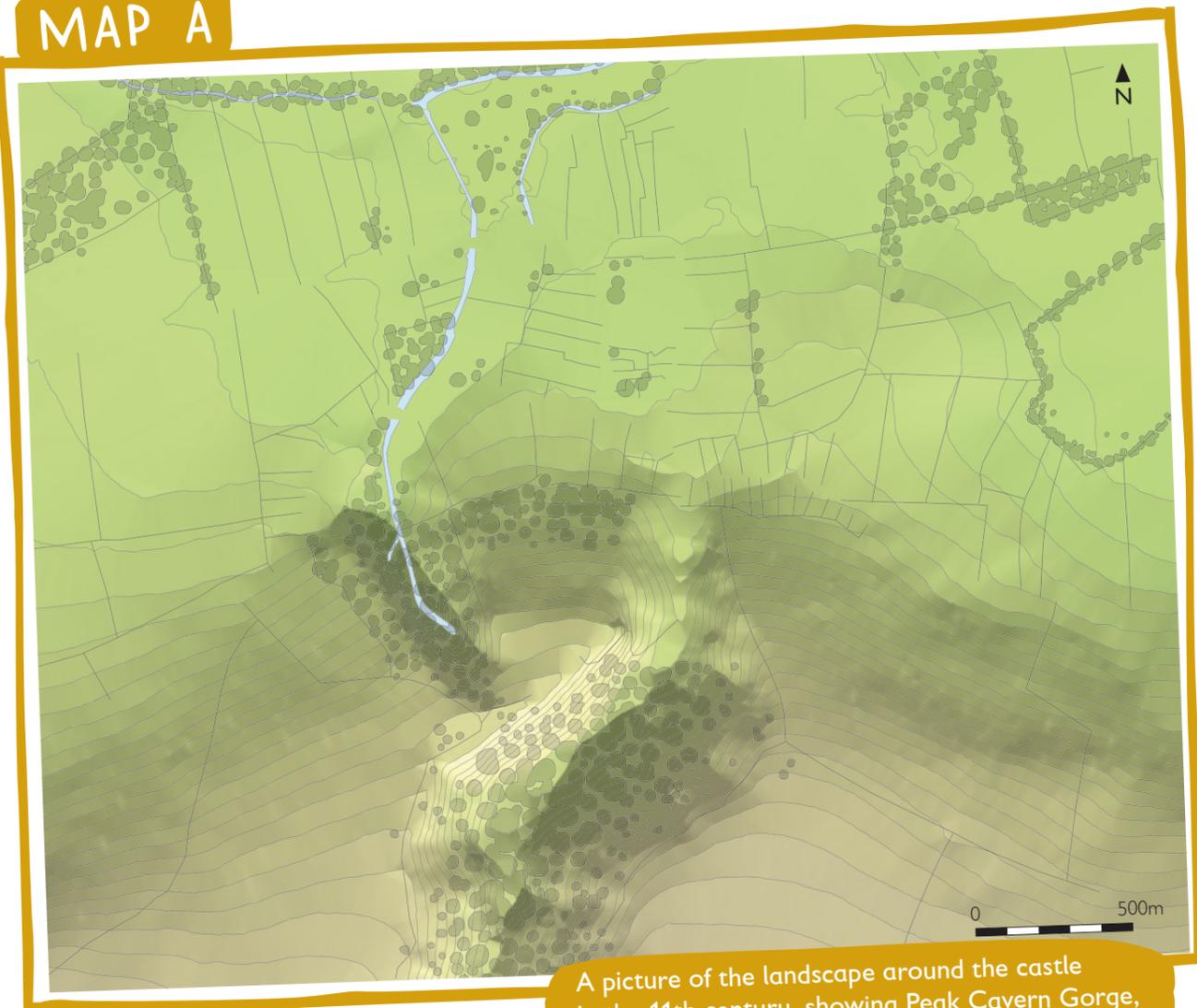
SCHOOL:

In 1068, King William I faced rebellions in the Midlands. To help defend his position as king, King William gave large areas of land to his loyal supporter, William Peveril. William Peveril built Peveril Castle between 1068 and 1086.

A **Look** at the map of the landscape below. Where would you build a castle? Mark it on the map.

B **Label** three natural features of the landscape.
Example: Peak Cavern Gorge and Cave Dale

MAP A



A picture of the landscape around the castle in the 11th century, showing Peak Cavern Gorge, Peakshole Water and the surrounding farmland.

The large room is the new hall, where the meals were served to the household. Beyond it is the kitchen, where the servants prepared the meals.



The large fireplace in the new hall is thought to be 13th century.

A **Find** the fireplace.

During a meal, the members of the household who were of the highest status sat at one end of the hall, and people of lower status sat at the other end.

- B** Which end is for people of high status?
- West end, towards the gorge
 - East end, towards the east gate entrance

C How do we know?

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The new hall as it may have looked in the 13th century with a small household sitting down to a meal. When King Henry III visited Peveril Castle in 1235, it was a grand occasion and the hall would have been full of people.

ACTIVITY 7 – WEST RANGE (INSIDE)

- A Find:**
- the garderobe
 - the corner window



The garderobe (a medieval toilet) built into the wall above the gorge.



The west range is a mixture of Norman and medieval masonry. The medieval updates tell us what these buildings were used for.

B Explain why the garderobe is built here.

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C The window is large and easy for an attacker to break through. Why was it built here?

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By the 1200s, windows may have had glass but it was very expensive. Large windows often had window seats below for people to sit and read in the light.

D What type of person in the castle had their own private toilet and large, expensive windows? Would they be high or low status? **Explain** your answer.

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LOOK AT MAP A

- C** Using Google maps, **find** out the location of Peveril Castle and **draw** a star on the map to show where it is.
- D** **List** four advantages and two disadvantages of the location chosen for the castle.

Explain how each landscape feature is an advantage or a disadvantage. You can list the same feature more than once.

Advantages	Explanation
High ground	No risk of flooding

Disadvantages	Explanation
High ground	Difficult to transport water from the river

E **List** any other advantages or disadvantages you can think of.

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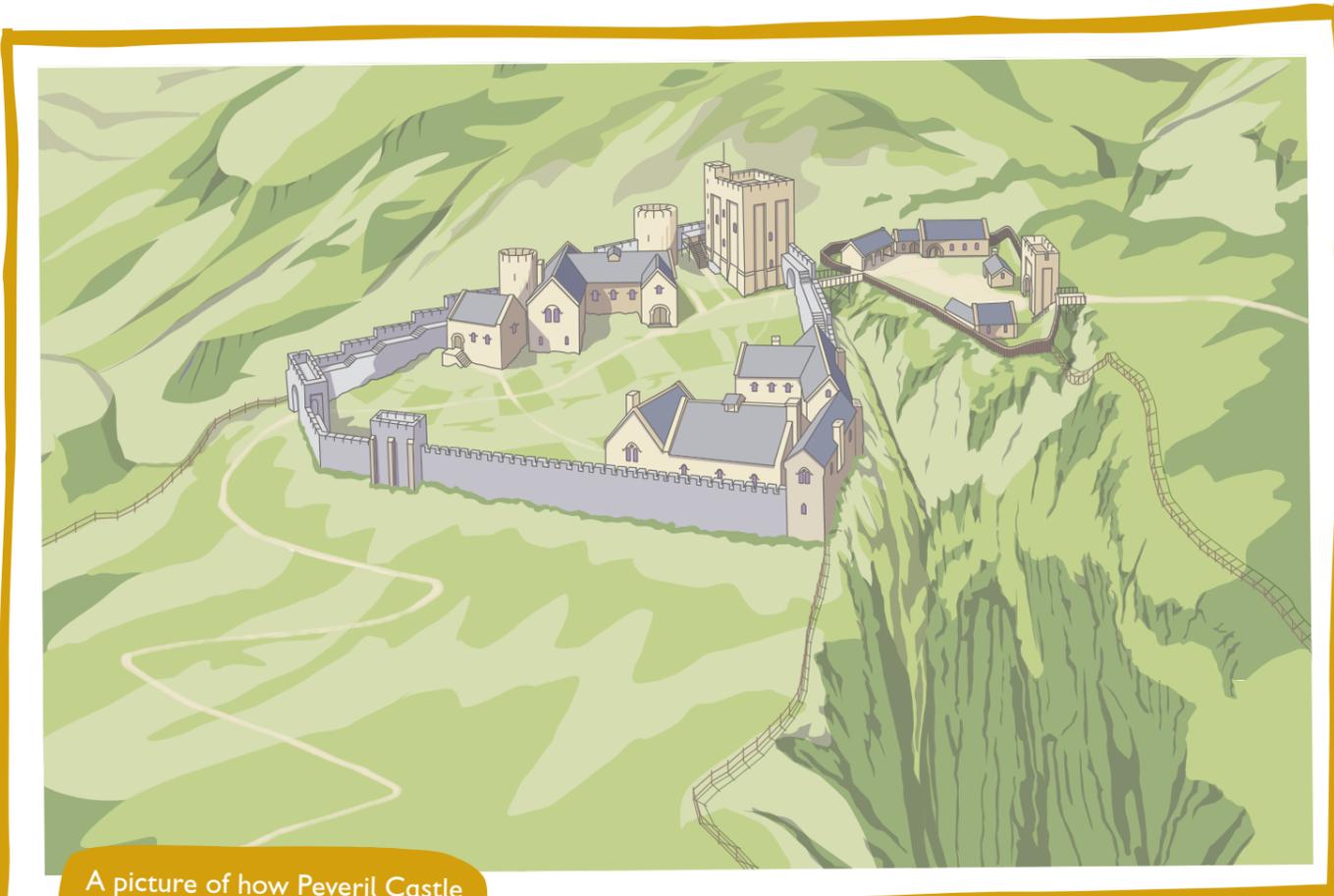
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Your task is to collect evidence to discover Peveril Castle's Norman and medieval history.

You'll learn about:

- why the castle was built here
- what life was like here
- key defensive and architectural features.

It should take you one hour to complete this Activity Trail.



A picture of how Peveril Castle would have looked from the north in c.1300.

Leave the keep, turn left and find the modern steel gate. This marks the spot of the west gate – the other entrance to the castle.



The outer and inner baileys were connected by a bridge over the gorge. At its highest point, the gorge is 230ft/73m deep. Seventeen double-decker buses could stand on top of each other from top to bottom.

- A** **Look** through the gate for the stone remains that held the wooden bridge.
- B** **Imagine** that you are a visitor to Peveril Castle in the 11th century. How is the west gate entrance designed to make visitors feel impressed and frightened?

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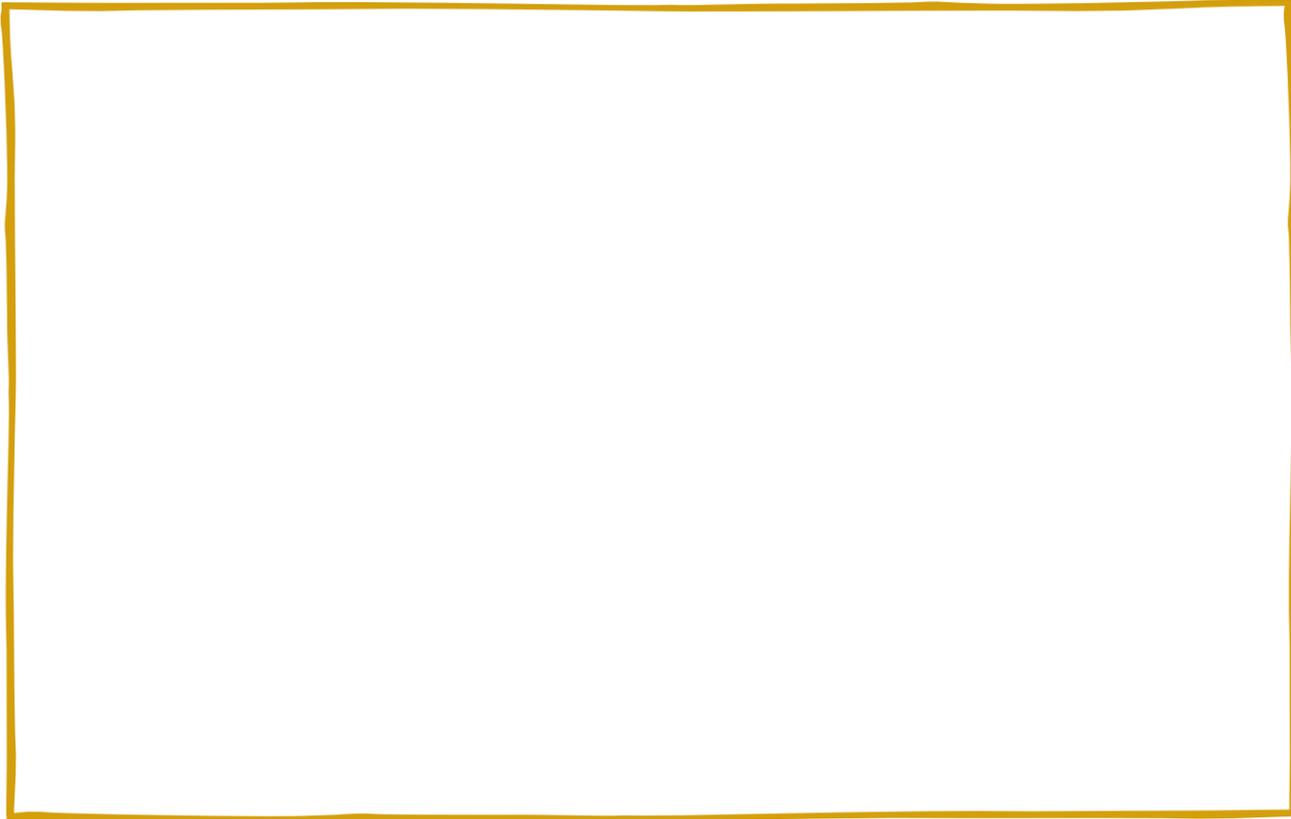
ACTIVITY 5 – KEEP (INSIDE)

A Look for evidence on the walls that shows where the upper floor was.



The window in the lower floor (pictured here) is smaller than the one in the upper floor. Both windows have splays (sloping walls) to let in light.

B Sketch the inside of the keep with the upper floor added. Add the windows in each room.



C One room was used for storage and the other was used for guests. Label which room was used for guests. How do the windows tell us this?

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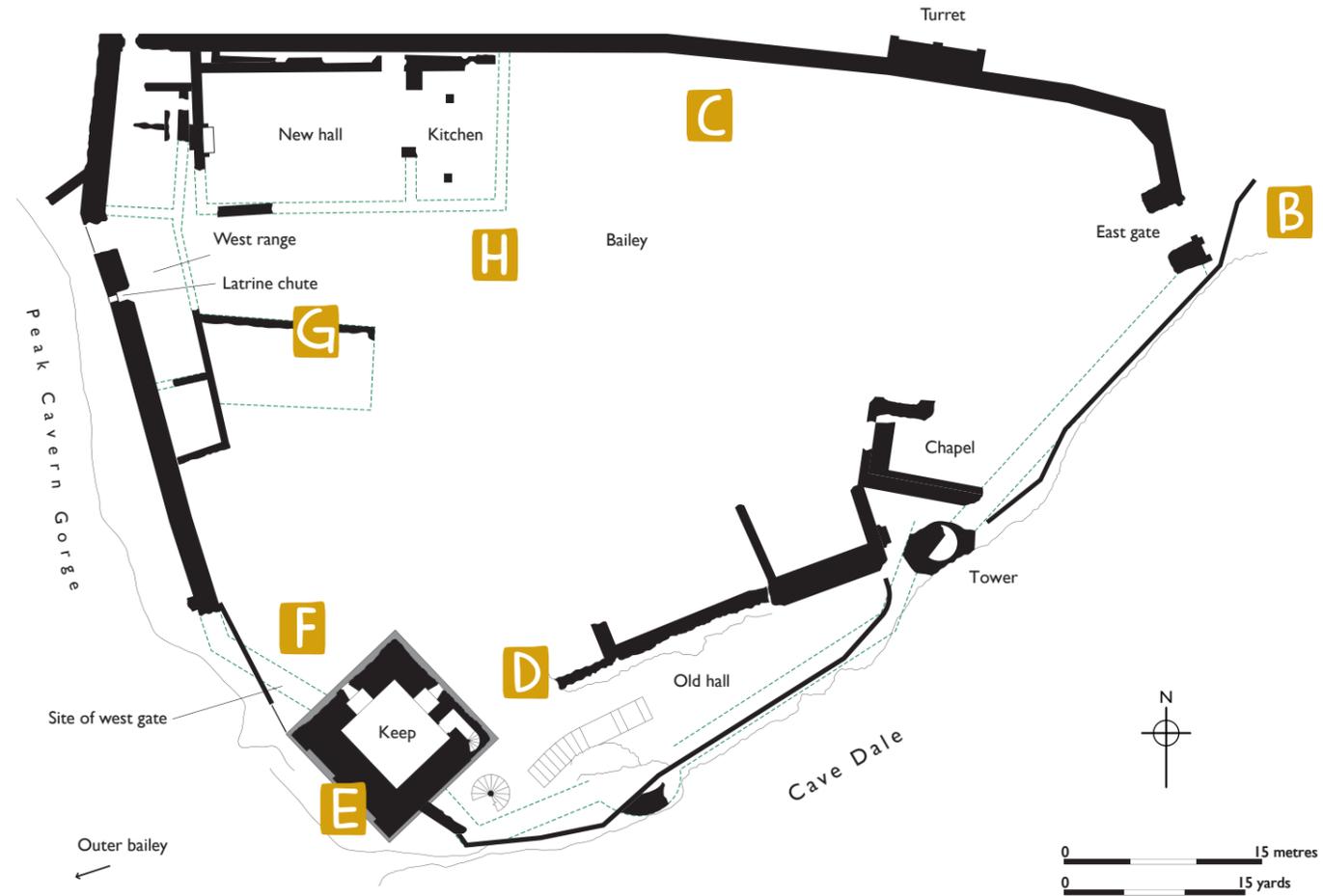
CASTLE PLAN

Use the castle plan below to help you find your way around. Complete each task as you move around the site.

The trail begins at the castle model.

Peveril Castle
Visitor Centre

START
HERE! **A**



- A** Activity 1 - Castle model
- B** Activity 2 - East gate
- C** Activity 3 - View of Castleton
- D** Activity 4 - Keep (outside)
- E** Activity 5 - Keep (inside)
- F** Activity 6 - West gate
- G** Activity 7 - West range
- H** Activity 8 - New hall and kitchen

ACTIVITY 1 – CASTLE MODEL

Domesday Book (1086) records 'William Peverel's castle at Pechesers'. 'Pechesers' probably means 'Peak's Tail', an earlier name for Peak Cavern.



The model shows the castle as it may have looked in 1300.

A Find the two entrances to the castle. How are they protected?

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B Look at the landscape around the castle. Where would you instruct an army to attack from, and why?

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ACTIVITY 4 – CONTINUED

WALL-WALK

TURRET

This picture shows the keep in the 1100s. The original staircase was made from wood so it could be burnt during an attack.



B Explain why the entrance to the keep was on the first floor, rather than at ground level.

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C Match these key defensive features to how they worked:

- THICK WALLS (2.4m)
- SMALL WINDOW OPENINGS
- WALL-WALK
- TURRET

The highest point, where watchmen had the best view of approaching attackers

A platform where armed guards could shoot missiles down on attackers

Difficult to break through

Difficult to aim arrows through a small, narrow space

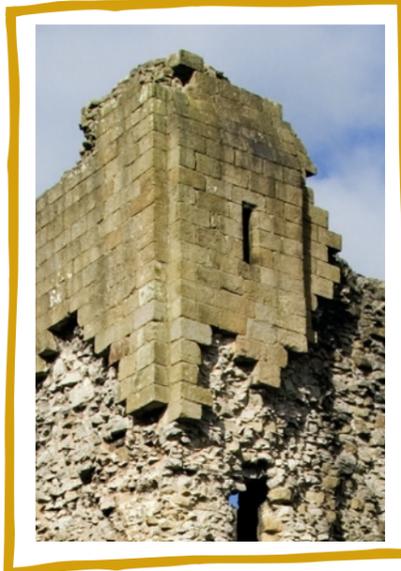
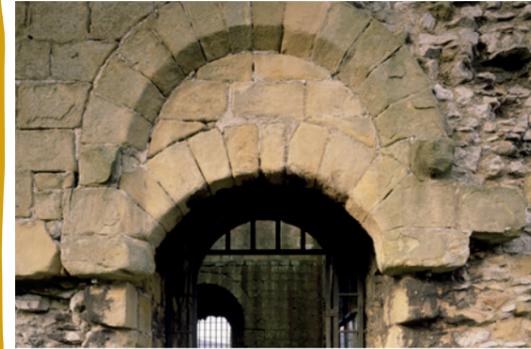
ACTIVITY 4 – KEEP (OUTSIDE)

- A** Look for these key Norman features:
- A:** rounded arch – very strong and holds up the heavy stone above it
 - B:** buttresses – these support the thick walls of the keep
 - C:** circular column – for decoration
 - D:** figurehead stops – for decoration



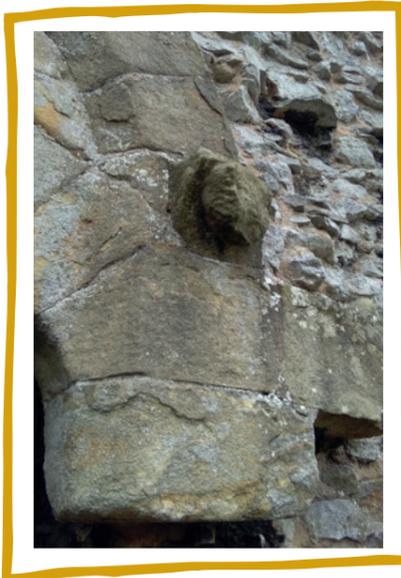
The Normans built keeps as a symbol of power and to be the strongest and most secure place to retreat to in an attack. It was also used for meeting guests and for storage.

A



B

C



D

ACTIVITY 2 – EAST GATE

Walk up the slope to the east gate.

- A** How do you feel after climbing the hill?

Norman soldiers moved on foot or on horseback. Imagine carrying weapons and armour up this steep hill. In the 1100s, chain mail weighed around 11kg – that's as heavy as four house bricks.



A school group walking up the hill to the east gate.

- B** Look for the two defensive features that protect the east gate:

- Curtain wall** – a barrier around the castle
- Turret** – armed guards in here could see who came up the slope



The east gate was built in the 1100s. It was 7m wide and designed to impress and intimidate people as they arrived at the castle.

- C** Go through the east gate and to your right. Find the Norman herringbone masonry on the inside of the curtain wall.



Most Norman castles were built quickly from earth and wood and rebuilt in stone later. Peveril Castle is unusual as it was built in stone first. The stones make a pattern called herringbone, as it looks like the bones of a fish.

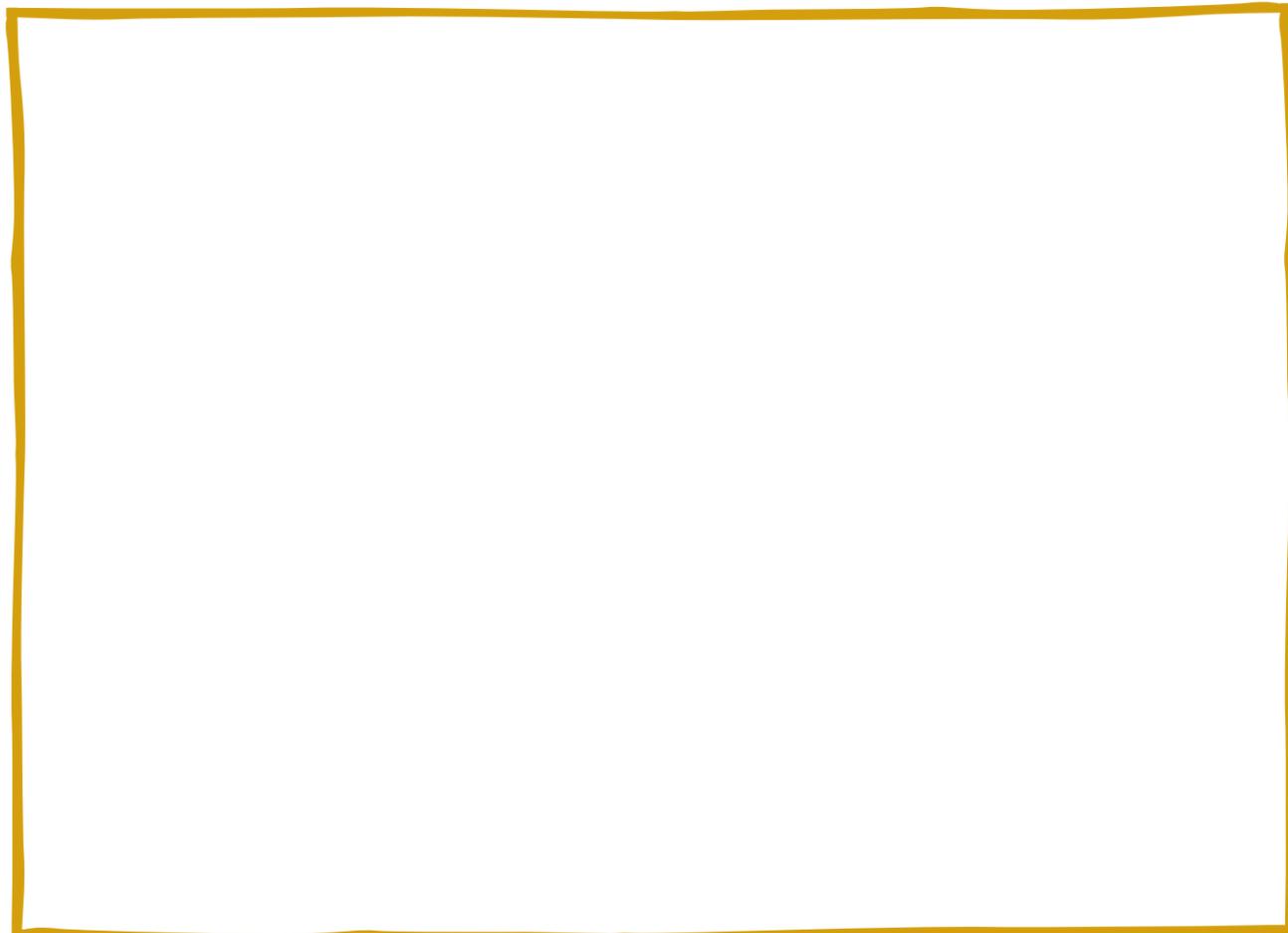
ACTIVITY 3 – VIEW OF CASTLETON

The first record of Castleton – ‘Castle town’ – is in 1196. The settlement developed because the castle needed supplies of food, craftsmen and servants. People also wanted to live near the castle because they would be protected by the castle garrison (soldiers).



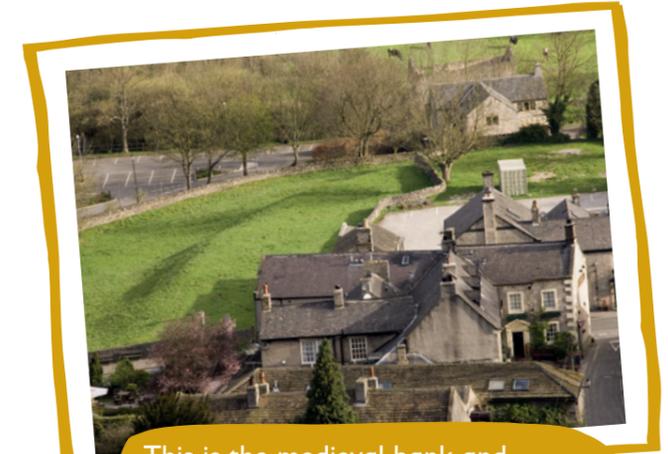
In the 12th century, the lord of Peveril encouraged people to live near to the castle so that they would become his tenants (people paying him to live on his land).

A Sketch the view of Castleton below.



ACTIVITY 3 – CONTINUED

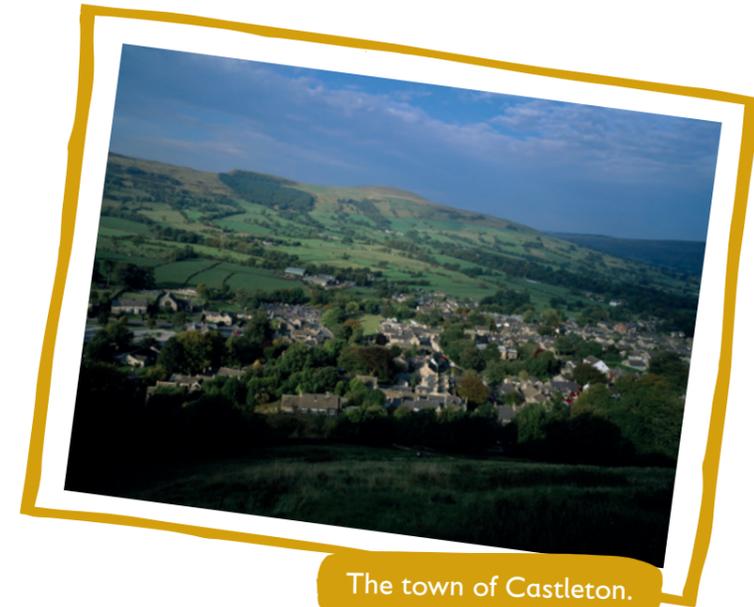
- B** Find the main town car park – to the right, you will see a green space with a mound. Label it on the photograph.
- C** On your sketch, draw and label these medieval features:
- medieval bank and ditch
 - long, narrow farming fields
 - St Edmund’s Church spire



This is the medieval bank and ditch that once protected the town. It also probably controlled people coming and going.

- D** Draw and label these modern features:
- car parks
 - Tourist Information Centre
 - telegraph poles

- E** What type of settlement is Castleton?
- Dispersed – spread out
- Linear – along a line
- Nucleated – growing from the centre



The town of Castleton.

- F** Why is the castle still important for the town’s prosperity?