



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS3

ACTIVITY TRAIL

Peveril Castle

This pack has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Peveril Castle, which provides essential insight into the Norman Conquest and life in a medieval castle. Use the Teachers' Guide and Teachers'

Answer Sheet before and during your visit to help students get the most out of the Activity Trail.

INCLUDED

- Teachers' Guide
- Teachers' Answer Sheet
- Student Activity Trail

Get in touch with our Education Booking Team

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

➡ bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

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Step into England's story

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

Curriculum Links

- History
- Geography
- Art
- Ordnance Survey maps

Learning Objectives

WHAT

Learn to identify key defensive features of a castle; understand why the Normans built Pevensey Castle in its particular location; and what life was like in the castle.

HOW

Exploring Pevensey Castle's geographical position and examining specific defensive and domestic features in detail.

OUTCOME

Students understand the functions of key castle features and the significance of Pevensey Castle's strategic position.

Time to complete

5–10 minutes per activity;
8 activities

BEFORE YOU VISIT

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful before you visit to discuss the Norman Conquest and how the Normans built castles to reinforce their domination of England. You might also explore key Norman castle architectural features such as rounded arches.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Students will identify geographical features that help them to understand the castle's defensive position. They will draw conclusions about what landscape features are conducive to a castle settlement and the purpose of building a castle in the area.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

Print the Activity Trail and complete the PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY with your class before visiting the site.

The Activity Trail booklet will print as four double-sided pages, which can be folded into a booklet and stapled.

1. Select size A4.
2. Select 'Print on both sides of the paper'.
3. Select: 'Flip on short edge'.
4. This will print four double-sided pages of PDF, which can be folded in half and arranged in page number order.

CONTACT DETAILS

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

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TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

CASTLE SITE

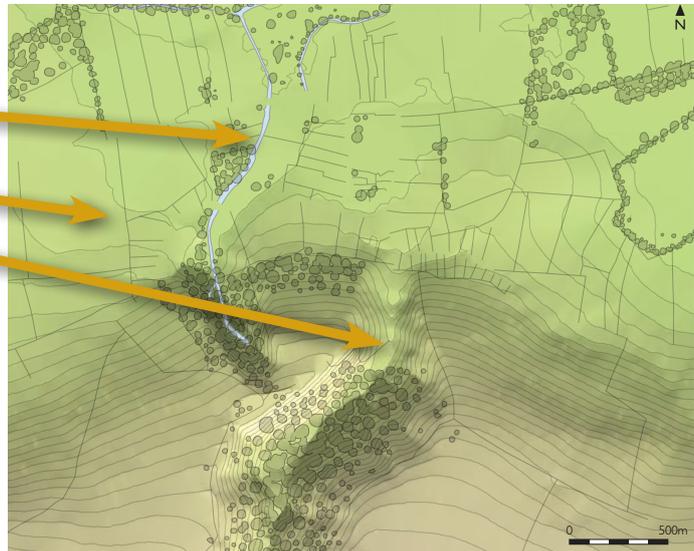
PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

b) Label three natural features of the land surrounding the site of the castle.

Example: Peak Cavern Gorge and Cave Dale

1. River
2. Farmland
3. Hills/limestone ridges

c) Peveril Castle is at the top of Peak Cavern:



d) List four advantages and two disadvantages of the site chosen for the castle. You can list the same feature more than once.

Advantages	Explanation	Disadvantages	Explanation
High ground	No risk of flooding	High ground	Difficult to transport water from the river
1. High ground	Protection – good views over valley to see the enemy	1. High ground	Lack of shelter
2. Farmland	Source of food and wealth	2. High ground	Difficult to bring building supplies uphill
3. River	Source of water		
4. Lead mines	Source of raw building material and wealth		

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY 1

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

CASTLE MODEL

a) How are the two entrances protected?

The gates guard the two possible routes into the castle.

- West Gate: the keep; the bridge could be burnt in an attack to prevent access
- East Gate: gatehouse; curtain wall; turret; wall-walk

b) Where would you instruct an army to attack from, and why?

As you'll have discovered, Peveril Castle is well protected from attack by its natural defences.

The sheer faces and dramatic drops of Cave Dale and Peak Cavern make it impossible to attack from the south or east, and it is only accessible from the west by the narrow bridge.

ACTIVITY 2

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

EAST GATE

b) The turret is built within the curtain wall. The remains of the turret can be seen to the right of the gatehouse. The curtain wall runs around the entire castle.

ACTIVITY 3

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

VIEW OF CASTLETON

e) What type of settlement is Castleton?

Nucleated – growing from a central point with several routes converging into the centre.

f) Why is the castle still important for the town's prosperity?

The castle ruins are a heritage attraction. It is still important for the economy of the town, as it encourages tourists to visit the area.

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY 4

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

THE KEEP (outside)

b) Why was the entrance to the keep on the first floor?

The steps up to the door helped to create a sense of the lord's importance (literally, high status), as well as making the keep more easily defended (the staircase could be destroyed in an attack to stop an enemy gaining access). Raising the hall up to a higher level also kept it drier and meant that it could have larger windows.

c)

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 5

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

THE KEEP (inside)

c) Label which room was used for guests. How do the windows tell us this?

The first floor was for receiving visitors. Large windows were expensive and would impress guests. More light made the room more pleasant.

The ground floor was used for storage. The windows are smaller because less light was needed as the room was not used very often. Being nearer the ground, these windows were at risk of enemies breaking in.

There isn't a large window on the south-west wall, because this wall is the most vulnerable to attack.

TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY 6

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

WEST GATE

b) How is the west gate entrance designed to make visitors feel impressed and frightened?

The keep protects this entrance. It intimidates attackers and demonstrates power and authority to visitors. People crossing the bridge were in range of the armed guards on the keep's wall-walk.

ACTIVITY 7

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

WEST RANGE

b) Why is the garderobe built here?

The latrine chute allows waste to drop out over the gorge.

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

The window allows a view over the Hope Valley without being a compromise to safety – the sheer drop above Peak Cavern means this window cannot be reached by projectiles or broken into by attackers.

d) What type of person in the castle do you think had their own private toilet and large, expensive windows? Would they be high or low status?

High-status members of the castle household: the lord and his family, their more important guests, the chaplain and the steward who ran their estates.

Large windows and a toilet (garderobe) suggest that these buildings were residential. They were probably private apartments for the lord and his family. Servants would not have had time to read, and they probably wouldn't be literate.

ACTIVITY 8

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

NEW HALL AND KITCHENS

b) Which end is for people of high status?

West end.

c) How do we know?

The most important people sat near the fireplace, so they were warm. The private apartments are immediately behind the west end, so the castle owner and his family could retire to their rooms after the meal.