



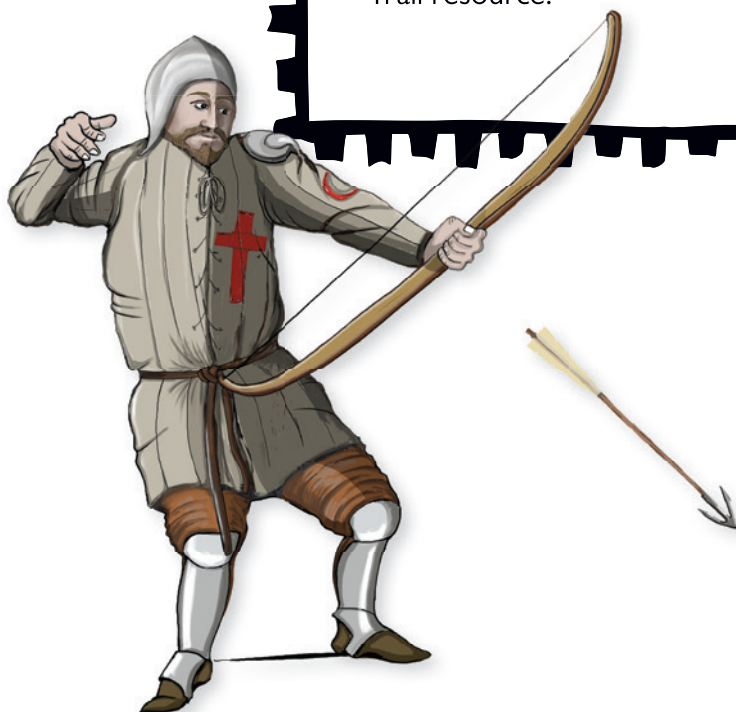
ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2 & KS3

ACTIVITY TRAIL

Warkworth Castle

This resource pack has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Warkworth Castle, which provides essential insight into medieval England. Use these resources before and during your visit to help students get the most out of the Activity Trail resource.



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
- 🌐 <https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education/>

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

Share your visit with us @EHEducation

Step into England's story

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

Curriculum Links

- History
- Geography
- English
- Art

Learning Objectives

WHAT

Observe key landscape and architectural features at Warkworth Castle and identify how the castle was used and developed by the Percy family.

HOW

Explore Warkworth Castle and apply skills of enquiry, observation and imagination.

OUTCOME

Students will understand how the medieval castle was built for defence and developed over time. Students will understand what life was like at Warkworth Castle in medieval times.

Time to Complete

45–60 minutes

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before you visit:

- Introduce students to the meaning of key words and phrases using the Glossary in our Teachers' Resource Pack.
- Use our Timeline resource to check students' chronological understanding.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

In the pre-visit activity, students can use Ordnance Survey maps to identify geographical features and choose the best defensive position for Warkworth Castle.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You may wish to read the Historical Information in the Teachers' Resource Pack before you visit. For extension activities, download and use our Teachers' Activity Ideas resource.

You will find the Activity Trail for students at the back of this pack. Please print it and complete the pre-visit activity with your class before visiting the site.

In order to create an A5 booklet, you will need to do the following in your Print settings:

1. Select size A4 and choose the landscape orientation.
2. Select a page range of 4-11 (to avoid printing multiple teachers' sheets).
3. Select 'Print on both sides of the paper' and 'Flip on short edge'.
4. Arrange the printed sheets in page order and fold into a booklet.

HELPFUL HINTS

If your students have questions during the Activity Trail, you can use the Teachers' Answer Sheet on the next page to help them.

CONTACT DETAILS

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TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY 2 – LION TOWER

AT THE
CASTLE

b) The impressive display on the Lion Tower tells us that Henry Percy was very proud of his family's wealth and connections with other important families. He wanted to display his power to everyone who came near the castle. The word 'esperaunce' (meaning hope) on the lion's collar is from the Percy family motto 'Esperaunce en Dieu' which means 'hope in God'. This suggests that Henry Percy was also a religious man.

ACTIVITY 3 – OLD HALL RANGE

AT THE
CASTLE

a) Earl (1), Servant (5), Butler (3), Steward (2), Cook (4).

ACTIVITY 4 – LITTLE STAIR TOWER

AT THE
CASTLE

b) The Lion Tower was the main entrance. It is not the tallest tower but it does have a more impressive name, more decoration on the front and the biggest door.

ACTIVITY 5 – COLLEGIATE CHURCH

AT THE
CASTLE

a) Length of nave = approx. 32 metre-long strides.

ACTIVITY 7 – GREAT TOWER

AT THE
CASTLE

a) The duke used to live on the top floor, as you can see from the more ornate windows and extra decorations on the outer walls.

ACTIVITY 8 – GREAT TOWER LOBBY

AT THE
CASTLE

a) Reached from the main staircase – for easy access. Fireplace – to keep guests warm.
Large windows – to let in lots of light. Stone benches – to give guests somewhere to sit.
Excellent views – to impress visitors.



ENGLISH HERITAGE
WARKWORTH CASTLE
& HERMITAGE

WELL DONE!

Congratulations on completing the trail!
We hope you've learnt loads about the story
of Warkworth Castle.

Feel free to explore the rest of the castle with
your group leaders. There's a lot more to discover
at Warkworth Castle.

WHAT NEXT?

Back at school, you could:

- write a letter to English Heritage about your visit to Warkworth Castle.
- create a piece of art or write a poem inspired by your trip.
- draw a comic strip or film a short documentary about Warkworth Castle.
- share photos of your visit with us on Twitter @EHEducation.

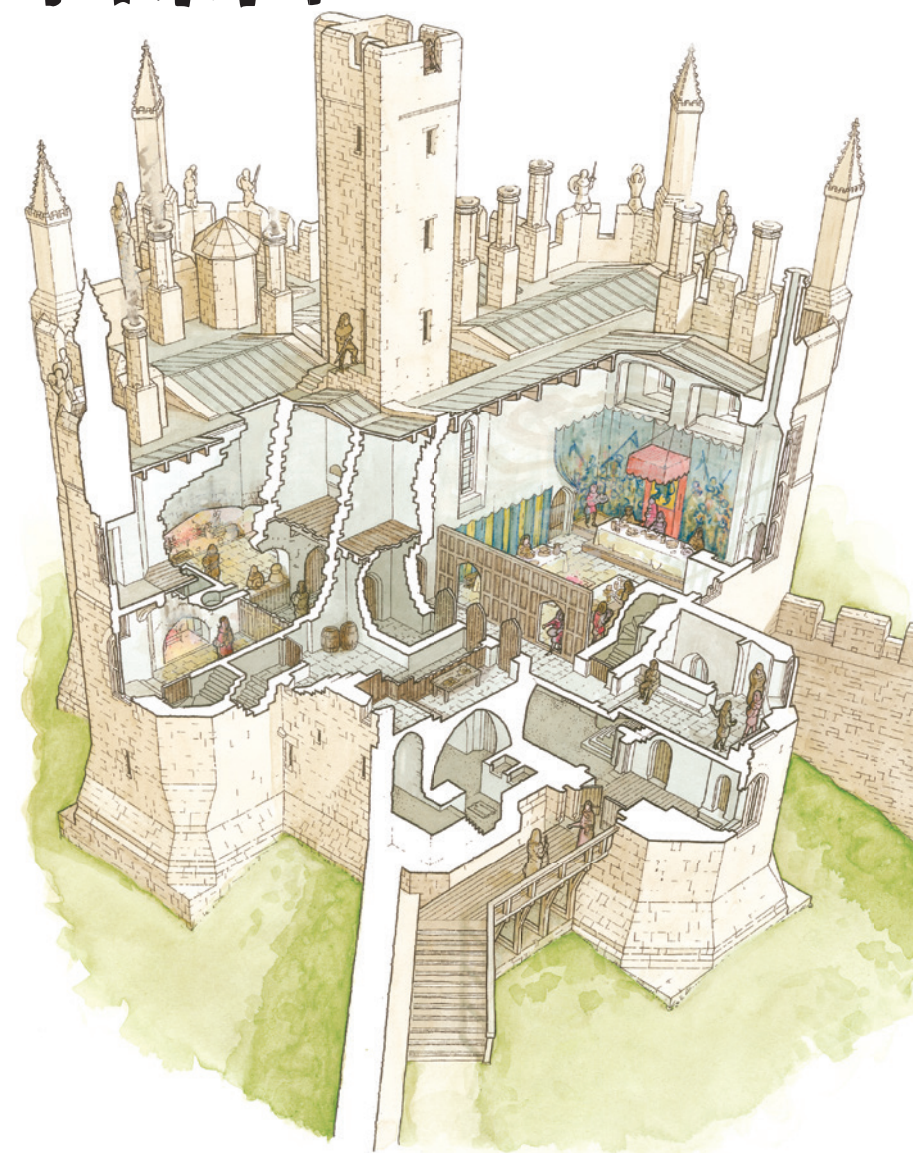
Step into England's story

ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2 & KS3

ACTIVITY TRAIL

DISCOVER
WARKWORTH CASTLE



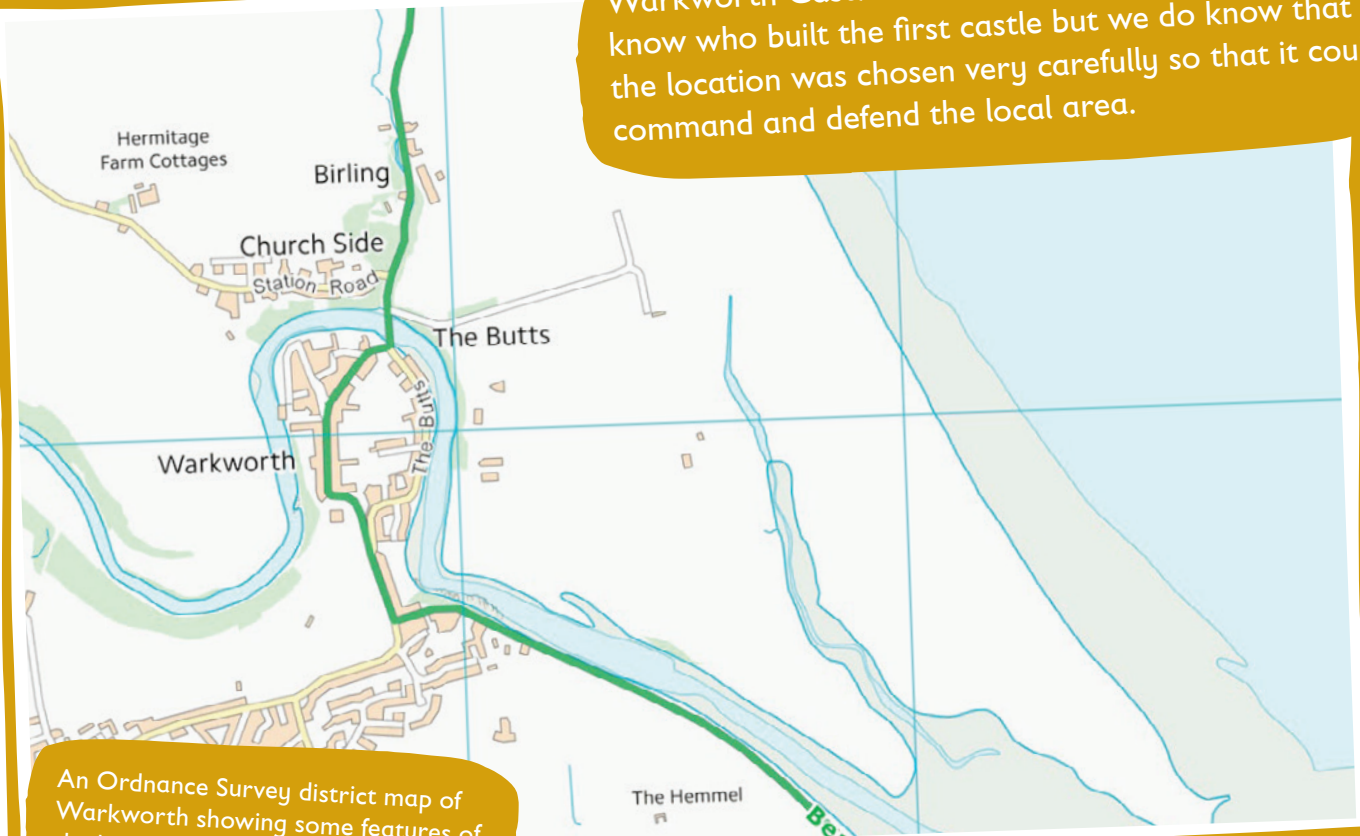
NAME:

CLASS:

SCHOOL:

WHERE WOULD YOU BUILD?

MAP A



Warkworth Castle is over 800 years old! We don't know who built the first castle but we do know that the location was chosen very carefully so that it could command and defend the local area.

An Ordnance Survey district map of Warkworth showing some features of the local area.

MAP B

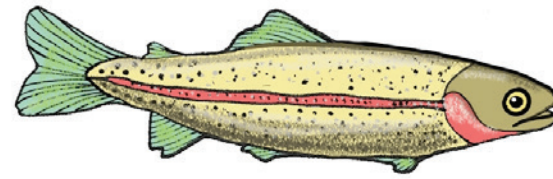


An Ordnance Survey contour map showing the landscape in and around Warkworth.

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ACTIVITY 8 – CONTINUED

Go through the next room and take the third door on the left, into the kitchens. Meals were served to members of the household, in order of importance.



The oven in the Great Tower kitchens at Warkworth Castle.

C Tick off these things as you find them in the kitchens:

- Drains
- Oven
- Fireplace
- Stairs to goods hall



D Imagine what you might have seen, heard and smelt in the kitchens during meal preparations.

	Description
I can see ... e.g. a bubbling cauldron	
I can hear ... e.g. the cook shouting	
I can smell ... e.g. smoke from the fire	

ACTIVITY 8 – INSIDE THE GREAT TOWER

Find the stone staircase in the entrance hall. Go to the area at the top of the stairs where the earl's guests would have waited. Access to the inner rooms would have been carefully controlled by an official who sat on a stone bench.



The staircase leading from the entrance hall to the lobby.

A The lobby has been designed to make it a good place for visitors to wait. Match each special feature with its main purpose:

Feature	Purpose
Reached from the main staircase	To let in lots of light
Fireplace	For easy access
Large windows	To give guests somewhere to sit
Stone benches	To keep guests warm
Excellent views	To impress visitors

B Look at the view through one of the windows in the lobby. Draw what you can see:



LOOK AT MAP A

It's a good idea to build a castle in the loop of a river, so that the water can act as a barrier to the enemy.

A Find the North Sea and the River Coquet and label them on Map A.

LOOK AT MAP B

Contours are lines drawn on maps that join places of the same height. They also show the gradient of hills – lines closer together mean the slopes are steeper.

B Find a small area of high ground, surrounded by steep slopes, near the River Coquet. On Map B, put an 'X' on the spot where you would build your castle.

Explain why you chose to build your castle on this spot:

.....

.....

LOOK AT MAP C

C Find these symbols on Map C and circle them all:

MAP C



An Ordnance Survey map of Warkworth, with symbols showing what's in the local area.



Castle/fort



Nature reserve



Other tourist attraction

WELCOME!

You are here to discover the incredible history of Warkworth Castle. It has an exciting past full of riches, royalty and rebellion.

You'll learn about:

- defensive features of the castle (natural and man-made).
- what life was like here in medieval times.
- how the castle developed over time.

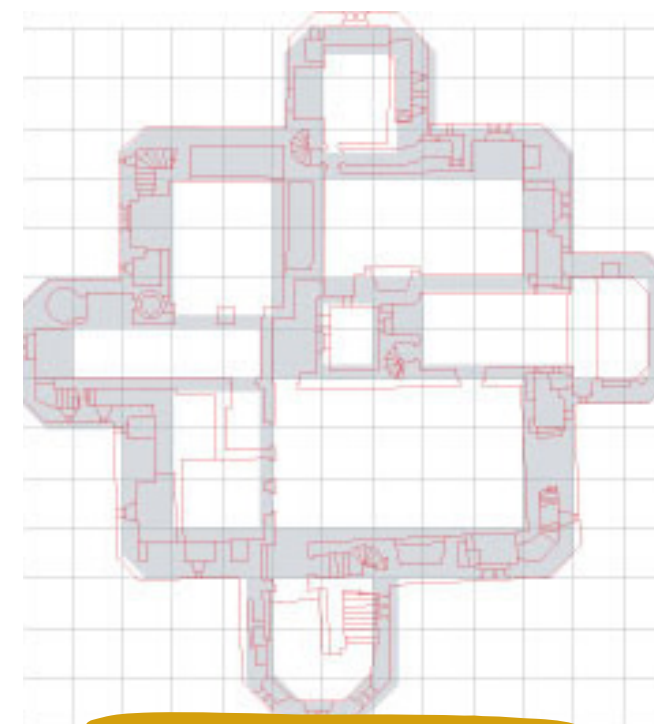
It should take you around one hour to complete this trail.



An aerial view of Warkworth Castle.

ACTIVITY 7 – CONTINUED

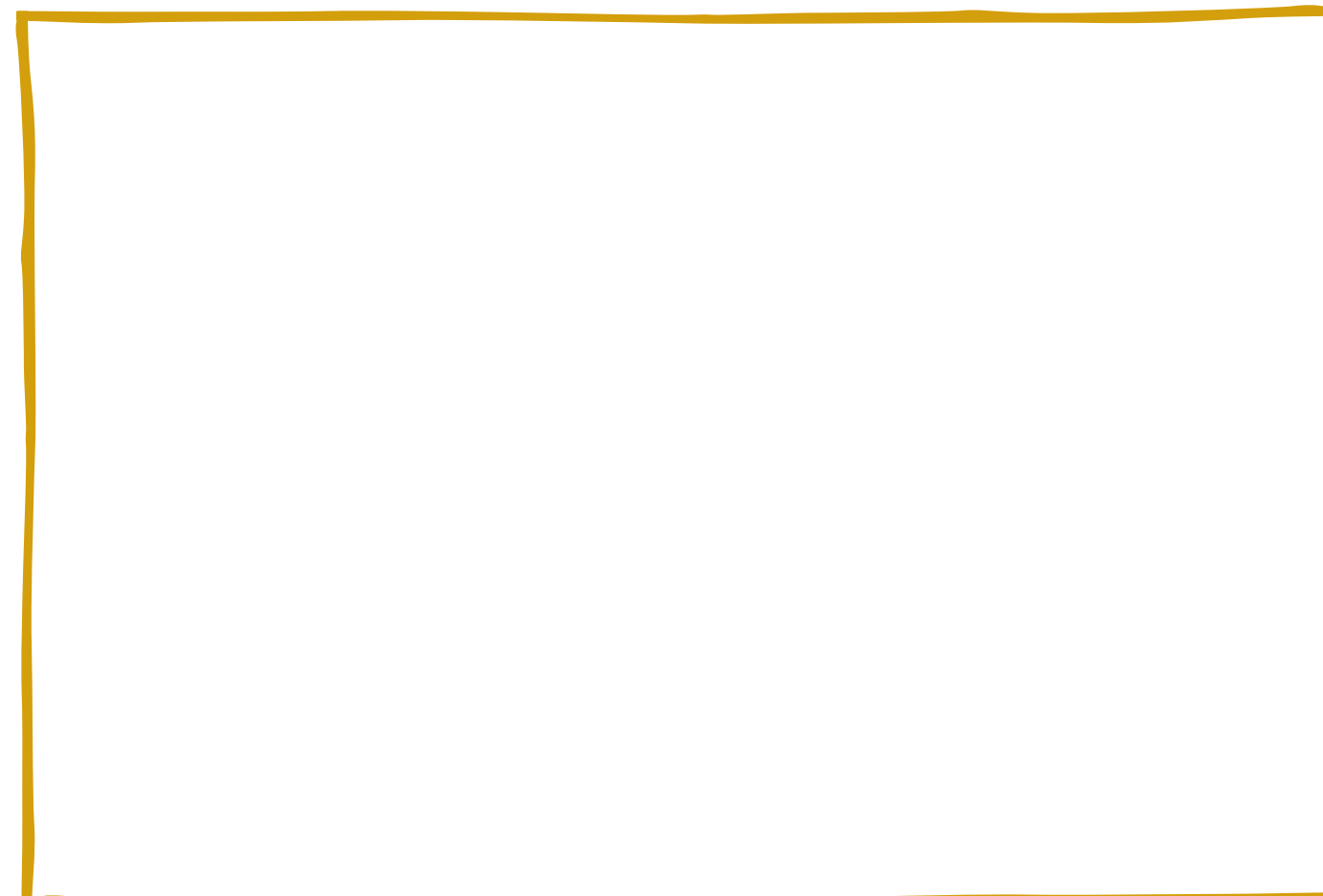
The Great Tower's brilliant design includes a light well at the centre of the building that brings in natural light and collects rainwater.



HINT: think about where you are going to put your rooms, staircases and windows.

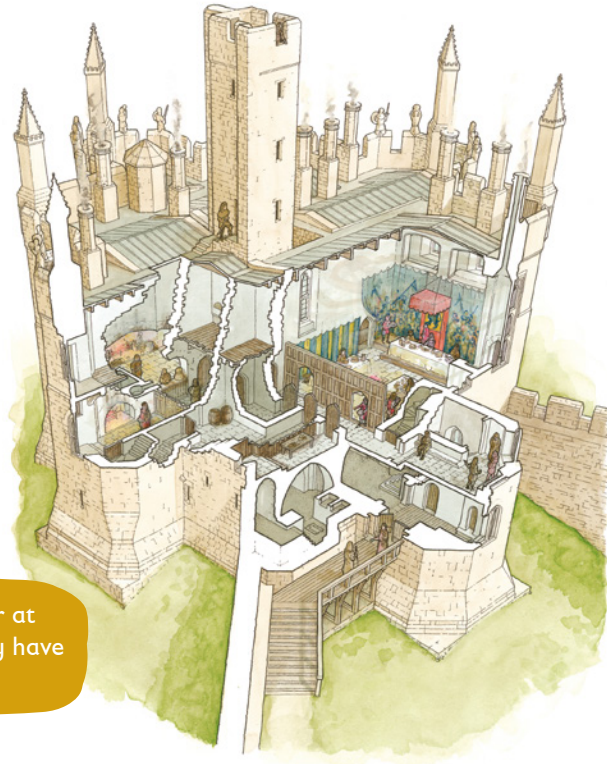
A plan of the Great Tower. Grey shading shows the planned outline and red lines show how the building has shifted over time.

B Invent your own impressive design for a great tower and draw it here:



ACTIVITY 7 – OUTSIDE THE GREAT TOWER

The Great Tower was added to the castle in the late 1300s by Henry Percy, the 1st Earl of Northumberland. It was designed in the shape of a Greek cross with four arms of equal length, jutting out from the centre. Seven hundred years later, it is still a masterpiece!



Drawing of the Great Tower at Warkworth Castle as it may have looked in about 1400.

You can tell how important each of the rooms is by the amount of decoration on the windows.

A Look at the windows. Which floor do you think the rich and powerful Duke of Northumberland used to live on?

- Top
- Middle
- Bottom

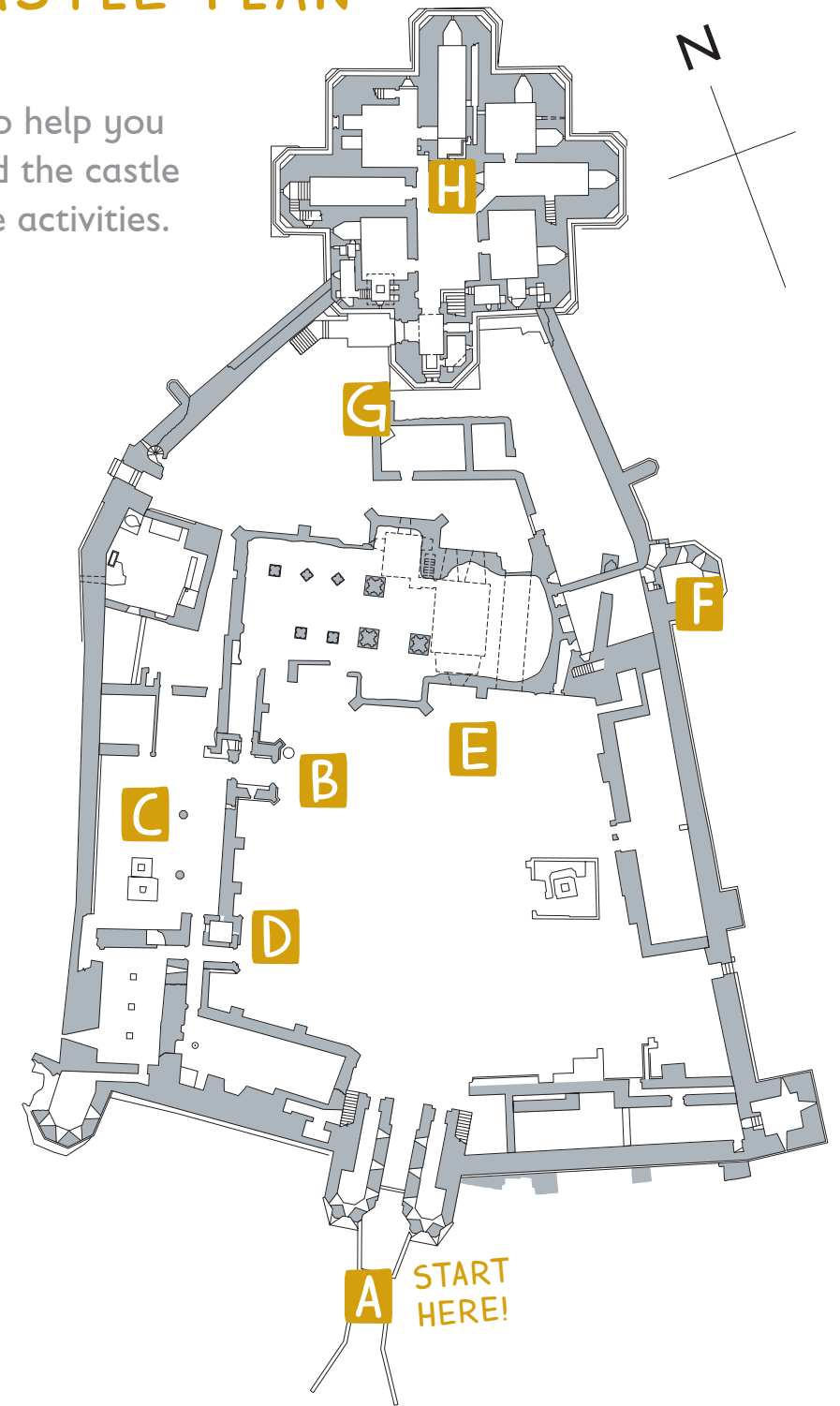


The Great Tower at Warkworth Castle, including the tunnel, as seen from the inner bailey.

CASTLE PLAN

Use the castle plan to help you find your way around the castle and keep track of the activities.

The trail begins at the **gatehouse**.



- | | |
|--|---|
| A Activity 1 – Gatehouse | E Activity 5 – Collegiate Church |
| B Activity 2 – Lion Tower | F Activity 6 – Grey Mare’s Tail Tower |
| C Activity 3 – Old Hall Range | G Activity 7 – Outside the Great Tower |
| D Activity 4 – Little Stair Tower | H Activity 8 – Inside the Great Tower |

ACTIVITY 1 – THE GATEHOUSE

The buildings inside the castle were protected by the gatehouse, four towers and a massive curtain wall. Archers fired down on the enemy from wall-top walkways called ramparts.

A Go to the upper level of the gatehouse and **tick** these things as you find them:

- Arrow loops** (slits in the walls for firing out at the enemy)
- Portcullis slot and grooves** (for dropping a gate from the upper floor)
- Murder hole** (for dropping objects on attackers from above)



A medieval archer.



The gatehouse at Warkworth Castle.

B **Imagine** you are trying to attack the castle; you are wearing really heavy armour and carrying weapons. You need to get past:

- arrow fire from the towers and ramparts.
- an outward-opening gate and a portcullis.
- missiles thrown down through murder holes.
- soldiers in the passageway.

HINT:
think about how many people you'll need, what weapons and equipment you could use, and whether there are any weak spots to target.

Write your attack plan here:

.....

.....

.....

ACTIVITY 6 – GREY MARE'S TAIL TOWER

Turn right out of the tunnel and find the Grey Mare's Tail Tower. It was built in the 1290s, when England was fighting a bloody war with Scotland.



The Grey Mare's Tail Tower (foreground) and the Great Tower (background), as seen from the outer bailey at Warkworth Castle.

In 1319, England and Scotland were at war. Twenty-four English soldiers held the castle against attack from the Scots.

A **Stand inside** and list three sounds you might have heard in this tower during an attack on the castle.

1.
2.
3.

B Go up the steps and find the carved medieval graffiti in the opening on the left, covered by a grate. **Look** through the grate and tick off these carvings as you find them:

- Jesus on the cross**
- A cluster of heads**

ACTIVITY 5 – COLLEGIATE CHURCH

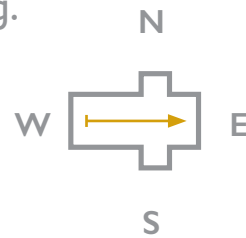
Find the remains of the Collegiate Church. The 4th Earl of Northumberland, Henry Percy, was murdered in 1489 before he had the chance to finish building it. He tried to squeeze it into the castle's inner bailey, so it's smaller than you'd expect.



The Collegiate Church at Warkworth Castle, with the crypt and tunnel underneath.

A Before going through the tunnel, **measure** the length of the nave (the long part of the cross shape). Travel from west to east and count your strides, which are about a metre long.

Length of nave: m



A tunnel was built to allow access between the bailey and the Great Tower. The stones in the tunnel still display some of the marks put there by stonemasons, e.g. ✕

B **Find** one other mason's mark in the tunnel and draw it, then create your own.

Medieval mason's mark

My mason's mark

HINT: you'd be scratching this into stone, so use straight lines and simple shapes.

ACTIVITY 2 – LION TOWER

The Lion Tower was built by the 4th Earl of Northumberland, Henry Percy, in about 1480. The symbols above the door are called heraldry, used as a display of wealth and power.

A **Label** the photo of the Lion Tower with the correct description:

1. The Percy family symbol – a lion
2. The word 'esperaunce' (meaning hope) on the lion's collar
3. The old Percy family symbol – diamonds in a row on a shield
4. The Lucy family symbol – three fish on a shield – the Percys inherited land, buildings and money from the Lucy family in the 1380s



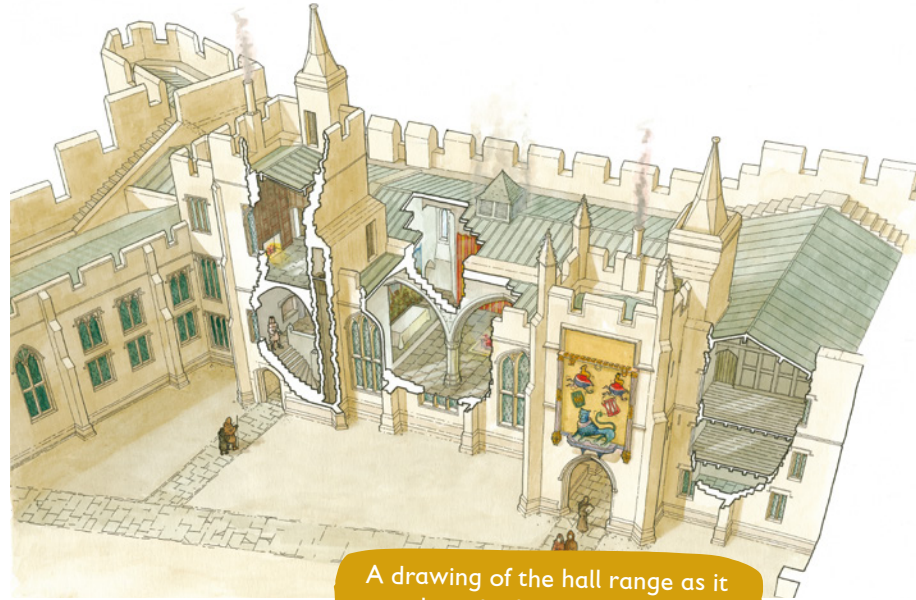
B What does the Lion Tower tell you about Henry Percy, the man who created it?



A drawing of the carvings on the Lion Tower as they may have looked in about 1480.

ACTIVITY 3 – OLD HALL RANGE

Go through the Lion Tower into the Great Hall, where members of the medieval household ate their meals. Servants prepared food in the rooms connected to the hall.



A drawing of the hall range as it may have looked in about 1480.

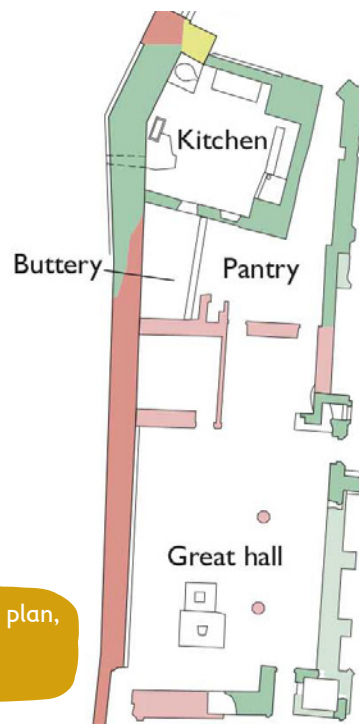
A In the Great Hall, everyone was seated and served in order of importance. Put these people in order from most to least important (1 = most, 5 = least).

Household Role	Description	Rank
Earl	Owens the castle and is the head of the household	
Servant	Serves the other members of the household	
Butler	In charge of the buttery and kitchen staff	3
Steward	In charge of the castle when the earl is away	
Cook	In charge of meal-making in the kitchen	

The earl, his wife and his eldest son (heir) would have been served first at the 'high' table.

B Where would you put the high table? Draw it on the plan below.

HINT: they would want to sit furthest from the service rooms.



Part of the castle plan, zoomed in on the Old Hall Range.

ACTIVITY 4 – LITTLE STAIR TOWER

The Little Stair Tower is the one with a spire. It led from the Great Hall to the earl's private rooms upstairs. Guests would enter through this tower and then wait to meet the earl.

A Stand inside the Little Stair Tower and touch one of the walls. Write down three words to describe the texture, colour and material of the wall, e.g. soft, green, moss.

-
-
-



The Little Stair Tower (left) and Lion Tower (right) at Warkworth Castle.

B There were two entrances to the Great Hall: the Little Stair Tower and the Lion Tower. Answer the questions to work out which tower was the main entrance.

	Lion Tower	Little Stair Tower
Which tower has more decoration on the front?		
Which tower has the biggest door?		
Which tower is tallest?		
Which tower has a more impressive name?		

I think the Tower was the main entrance because