

Warwick Castle



Rampart – A large wall around a castle or city.

Motte – A large mound or hill.

Bailey – A large courtyard inside the castle walls.

Warwick Castle is a castle in Warwickshire that is over 1,100 years old. Older than some countries, it began as a wooden rampart built in 914AD by Ethelfleda, daughter of King Alfred the Great. William the Conqueror replaced the rampart with a motte and bailey castle in 1068. This was replaced with the stone castle in the 12th century.

On the east side of the castle is the river Avon. The castle had a trench around the outside, like a moat, but without water. This would protect the castle walls against attack from battering rams and other weapons.

The castle has had 36 owners in over 1,000 years. It had 3 female owners in this time. The youngest owner was two-year-old Anne de Beauchamp, who owned it for three years.

The Green Drawing room has a secret stairway and passage that leads down to the river below.

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The Towers and Curtain Walls

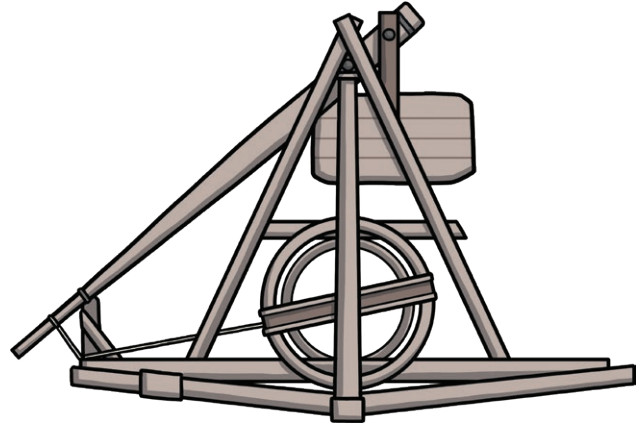
Caesar's Tower – The tallest tower, King Edward IV was held prisoner here in 1469.

Guy's Tower – Built in the 14th Century, important guests would stay here. The most important people would stay at the top of the tower while less important people stayed lower down.

Bear Tower and Clarence Tower – Built by Richard III in the 15th century. He planned to build 4 larger towers but was killed at the battle of Bosworth so building stopped.

The curtain walls – These are the walls that connect the towers. Pathways were built along the wall so archers and crossbowmen

could move to different parts of the castle quickly during an attack.



The Trebuchet

The castle is home to the world's tallest trebuchet (catapult). It was built in 2005 and based on drawings from the 13th century. As tall as three houses, the catapult gained the world record as the most powerful in the world after launching a 13kg boulder as far as two and a half football fields!

