

= Peveril Castle =

Peveril Castle (also Castleton Castle or Peak Castle) is a ruined 11th @-@ century castle overlooking the village of Castleton in the English county of Derbyshire . It was the main settlement (or caput) of the feudal barony of William Peverel , known as the Honour of Peverel , and was founded some time between the Norman Conquest of 1066 and its first recorded mention in the Domesday Survey of 1086 , by Peverel , who held lands in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire as a tenant @-@ in @-@ chief of the king . The town became the economic centre of the barony . The castle has views across the Hope Valley and Cave Dale .

William Peveril the Younger inherited his father 's estates , but in 1155 they were confiscated by King Henry II . While in royal possession , Henry visited the castle in 1157 , 1158 , and 1164 , the first time hosting King Malcolm IV of Scotland . During the Revolt of 1173 ? 1174 , the castle 's garrison was increased from a porter and two watchmen to a force led by 20 knights shared with the castles of Bolsover and Nottingham . The Earls of Derby had a claim to the Peveril family 's estates through marriage , and in 1199 William de Ferrers , the fourth earl , paid 2 @,@ 000 marks for the Peak lordship , although the castle remained under royal control . The closest Peveril Castle came to seeing battle was in 1216 , when King John gave the castle to William de Ferrers , but the castellan refused to relinquish control . Although they were both John 's supporters , the king authorised the earl to use force to evict the castellan , who eventually capitulated , although there is no evidence that the castle was assaulted .

In 1223 the castle returned to the Crown . In the 13th century there were periods of building work at the castle , and by 1300 its final form had been established . Toward the end of the 14th century , the barony was granted to John of Gaunt , Duke of Lancaster . Having little use for the castle , he ordered some of its material to be stripped out for re @-@ use , marking the beginning of its decline . From the time of John of Gaunt to the present day , the castle has been owned and administered by the Duchy of Lancaster . Peveril Castle became less important administratively , and by 1609 it was " very ruinous and serveth for no use " . In the 19th century , Sir Walter Scott featured the castle in his novel Peveril of the Peak . The site is situated in a national park , and cared for by English Heritage . Peveril Castle is protected as a scheduled monument and a Grade I listed building .

= = History = =

Peveril Castle stands on a limestone outcrop overlooking the west end of Hope Valley , in the midst of an ancient landscape . Overlooking the head of the valley , 2 km to the west , is Mam Tor , a Bronze Age hill fort , and 2 miles (3 km) to the east at Brough @-@ on @-@ Noe is the Roman fort of Navio . The valley formed a natural line of communication and had extra importance due to valuable mineral resources in the area , particularly lead .

= = = From the Norman Conquest = = =

The small Hope Castle lay halfway along the valley . The castle 's founder , William Peveril , was a follower of William the Conqueror and was rewarded for supporting him during the Norman Conquest . The first mention of him in England records that in 1068 he was granted the new castle at Nottingham by William the Conqueror , who was in the process of subduing the Midlands and northern England . An unsubstantiated legend states that Peveril was William 's illegitimate son . By the Domesday Book of 1086 , Peveril had become a powerful landowner , with holdings in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire . The exact year he founded the castle is uncertain , although it must have been started by 1086 as it is recorded in the Domesday Book , one of 48 castles mentioned in the survey and the only one in Derbyshire . The castle was recorded as standing at Pechesers which has been translated as both " Peak 's Tail " and " Peak 's Arse " . Although the earliest Norman castles were usually built in timber , Peveril Castle seems to have been designed from outset to be built in stone .

William Peveril had custody of royal lands such as the district of Hope , and although he had his

own estates , he relied on continued royal favour to maintain power in this way . In 1100 the new king , Henry I , granted William " his demesne in the Peak " . Thus the Peak became an independent lordship under William Peveril 's control , and the castle became an important centre of administration for the area , allowing the collection of taxes . Castleton benefited from the castle 's new status and began to grow as the lordship 's economic heart . William Peveril died in 1114 and was succeeded by his son , William Peveril the Younger . In the civil war known as The Anarchy between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda , Peveril backed the losing side and his fortunes suffered after his capture at the Battle of Lincoln in 1141 . In 1153 Peveril was suspected of attempting to poison Ranulf de Gernon , 4th Earl of Chester . In 1153 the future King Henry II accused Peveril of " plundering and treachery " and threatened to confiscate his estates and hand them over to the Earl of Chester . Two years later Henry , now king , followed through his threat . The Earl of Chester was dead by this time , and the king kept the property for himself . Once under royal control , Peveril became the administrative centre of the Forest of High Peak .

William Peveril the Younger died in 1155 , and as his only male heir had predeceased him , the family 's claim on the confiscated estates was taken up by the husband of William 's daughter , Margaret Peveril . Margaret had married Robert de Ferrers , 2nd Earl of Derby . King Henry II visited Peveril Castle three times during his reign . During the first visit , in 1157 , he hosted King Malcolm IV of Scotland who paid homage to Henry after ceding Cumberland and Westmorland to the English king . Henry II visited again in 1158 and 1164 . When a group of barons led by Henry 's sons Henry the Young King , Geoffrey , Duke of Brittany , and Prince Richard , later Richard the Lionheart , took part in the Revolt of 1173 ? 1174 against the king 's rule , the king spent £ 116 on building work at Peveril and Bolsover Castles in Derbyshire . The garrison was also increased . Previously Peveril was guarded by two watchmen and a porter , but this was expanded to a force led by 20 knights shared with Bolsover and Nottingham castles during the revolt . After the revolt ended in 1174 , further steps were taken to improve Peveril Castle , and the Pipe Rolls (records of royal expenditure) show that between 1175 and 1177 £ 184 was spent on building the keep . Building in stone was expensive , and though Peveril 's keep was small , moderately @-@ sized stone castles such as the contemporary Orford could cost thousands of pounds . Henry II 's average income during his reign has been estimated to be around £ 10 @,@ 000 per year . As few documents have survived , it is uncertain when parts of the castle were built , and archaeological investigations have been unsuccessful in dating the stonework . Henry II died in 1189 and was succeeded by his son , Richard the Lionheart . Soon after his coronation , Richard granted the lordship of the Peak , including the castle , to his brother John . While Richard was on crusade , John rebelled and on his return Richard confiscated the lordship .

John became king in 1199 after Richard 's death . William de Ferrers , 4th Earl of Derby maintained the claim of the Earls of Derby to the Peveril estates . He paid King John 2000 marks (£ 1333) for the lordship of the Peak , but the Crown retained possession of Peveril and Bolsover Castles . John finally gave Ferrers these castles in 1216 to secure his support in the face of country @-@ wide rebellion . However , the castellan Brian de Lisle refused to hand them over . Although de Lisle and Ferrers were both King John 's supporters , the king gave Ferrers permission to use force to retake the castles .

= = = Henry III = = =

The situation was still chaotic when King Henry III became king after his father 's death in 1216 . Although Bolsover fell to Ferrers ' forces in 1217 after a siege , there is no indication that Peveril was assaulted , and it is likely that Brian de Lisle negotiated his surrender . Ferrers only had possession of the lordship until King Henry III came of age . When the time came he was reluctant to hand over the property , and after an initial deadlock the Crown took control in 1223 . Although contemporary Pipe Roll records of expenditure at Peveril survive , they do not specify how the money was spent . As a result , it is unclear what constitutes maintenance and what marks substantial construction work ; however , Richard Eales , who wrote the 2006 English Heritage guidebook , suggests that there were two periods of building , when sums spent were larger than

usual : £ 54 in 1204 ? 1207 and £ 67 in 1210 ? 1212 . The medieval historian Sidney Painter estimated that in about 1200 there were only seven magnates in England whose annual income exceeded £ 400 and a knight could easily live on £ 10 to £ 20 per year .

The rest of the 13th century was relatively peaceful , and records show that Peveril Castle was maintained by the Crown . In 1235 , in preparation for the king 's visit , the north wall and bridge were repaired . After significant work in 1250 ? 52 (£ 60 spent) , 1272 ? 1275 (£ 40) and 1288 ? 1290 (£ 151) , it is likely that the castle buildings were complete by 1300 . King Henry gave Prince Edward (later King Edward I) Peveril Castle along with the County Palatine of Chester with the royal holdings in Wales and Ireland . Some of the lands , including Peveril , were made part of Eleanor of Castile 's dower , to come into her possession should her husband , Prince Edward , die . At this time , the Peak lordship was worth around £ 300 a year . At the outbreak of the Second Barons ' War in 1264 , Peveril Castle was occupied by Robert de Ferrers , 6th Earl of Derby . Simon de Montfort pressured King Henry III into giving him Peveril , although it was recovered by the Crown after De Montfort 's death in 1265 . The castle was returned to Eleanor 's dower , and as she predeceased her husband the lordship returned into royal hands . Its income was used to provide for members of the royal family such as King Edward II 's queen , Isabella of France , and their children , and royal favourites such as Piers Gaveston . In 1331 Edward III gave the lordship to his wife , Philippa of Hainault . It was given to John de Warenne , 7th Earl of Surrey , in 1345 . After its return to the Crown , the estate was given to John of Gaunt , Edward III 's third surviving son , partially in exchange for the Earldom of Richmond .

= = = The Lancastrians = = =

John of Gaunt 's ownership marked the start of Peveril Castle 's decline . He was the richest nobleman in England and held several castles . As Peveril Castle was relatively unimportant , John decided not to maintain it and in 1374 gave orders to strip the lead from the buildings for re @-@ use at Pontefract Castle . It was inherited by his son Henry Bolingbroke , later King Henry IV , and remained under royal control , administered by the Duchy of Lancaster . During the 15th century , Peveril became less important as administrative functions were moved elsewhere . Although other castles administered by the Duchy of Lancaster were repaired in 1480 , there is no indication that this happened at Peveril . A survey conducted for the Duchy in 1561 revealed that Peveril was in a state of decay , and as a result , along with Donnington , was one of two castles that were subsequently abandoned . The castle however hosted local courts until 1600 . A survey in 1609 found that Peveril was " very ruinous and serveth for no use " . At some point in the post @-@ medieval period the keep 's facing stone was removed from three sides . The steep slope prevented the removal of the stone from the fourth side . At one point , the castle was used to house animals .

= = = Modern era = = =

With the advent of the railways in the 19th century , the area became a tourist attraction . The Duchy of Lancaster undertook maintenance in the 19th century to ensure the castle 's condition did not deteriorate further , mostly by clearing rubble and adding mortar . Sir Walter Scott 's 1823 novel Peveril of the Peak , set in the mid 17th century , described the castle ruins .

In 1932 the Duchy gave custody of the castle to the Office of Works , while retaining ownership . The site is today cared for by English Heritage , the successor to the Office of Works . The surrounding landscape has been protected as a national park since 1951 . The castle is a scheduled monument , which means it is a " nationally important " historic building and archaeological site which has been given protection against unauthorised change . It is also a Grade I listed building (first listed in 1985) , and recognised as an internationally important structure . It has been described as " perhaps the finest medieval landmark of the Peak District " , and architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner remarked that it is " By far the most important castle in the county ? in fact the only one of importance " . Before Duffield Castle in the south of the county was destroyed in 1266 it had one of the largest keeps in England , though only the foundations survive .

= = Layout = =

Peveril Castle in Castleton is roughly triangular in shape , about 90 by 65 m (295 by 213 ft) , on top of a hill overlooking the Hope Valley . The land slopes steeply away from the castle 's perimeter , forming an almost sheer face to the south east , and the winding approach from the north is the most practical way to the castle . Not only was the site naturally defensible , but its prominence would have allowed the castle to be a highly visible symbol of the builder 's power . The town of Castleton provided supplies to the castle . It commands views of Hope Valley below and Treak Cliff , Mam Tor , Black Tor , and Lose Hill . The castle was entered through the gatehouse to the east . Its design was simple , 7 m (23 ft) wide with a gatepassage 2 @. @ 5 m (8 ft 2 in) across . Little survives , although earlier drawings contain details of mouldings that suggest the structure was built in the 12th century , perhaps by Henry II or King John .

The curtain walls enclosing the castle show the multiple phases of construction at Peveril , with stonework from the Norman period ? differentiated by the use of opus spicatum ? to modern repairs . The walls were surmounted by walkways , which next to the gatehouse would have stood about 5 m (16 ft) above the ground level immediately outside the castle . In the 12th century , a tower projecting less than 2 m (6 ft 7 in) was added to the north wall . In Eales ' opinion , it " would have been of limited military value , compared with the boldly projecting towers of later castles " which allowed defenders to deploy flanking fire along the base of the walls . The land within the castle slopes downwards from west to east . Water storage would have been a concern for the garrison of the castle , but how they procured water is uncertain .

The southern curtain wall is a modern replacement along the line of the medieval wall . There are the remains of two round or semi @-@ circular towers projecting from the wall . Enough of one tower survives that one can see the use of Roman tiles in the construction , probably from the fort of Navio 2 mi (3 km) away . It is uncertain when these towers were built , although it is thought they may date from the 13th century . Foundations mark the position of buildings abutting the south wall , probably the old hall and a chapel . A document from 1246 recorded a chapel at the castle ; the remains of the easternmost building against the south wall are assumed to mark the site of the chapel , as they are oriented roughly east ? west . Foundations at the west end of the north wall mark a large building : probably a hall where the lord of the castle would have eaten and entertained high @-@ status guests . It is unclear when the new hall was built , probably replacing the old hall in the south of the castle , although an " old hall " was mentioned in a document of 1251 , implying there was also a new hall by that time . The kitchen and food stores would have stood at the east end of the hall , although little remains of those structures . Buildings were also constructed against the west curtain wall , probably high @-@ status apartments . Although the main approach to Peveril Castle was from the north , there was also a gate in the west . A bridge spanned the gorge , linking the castle with an enclosure on the other side . As it has not been excavated , the exact form the enclosure took is uncertain . Its purpose is also a matter of speculation , whether it was an elaborate outer bailey for defence or used for storage and stabling .

The keep occupies the southern corner of Peveril Castle . Construction probably began in around 1176 , instigated by Henry II . Its plan is square , measuring less than 12 by 12 m (39 by 39 ft) , and the parapet is 15 m (49 ft) above the keep 's base ; as the ground is uneven , on the other side it rises 10 @. @ 5 m (34 ft) above ground level . It is smaller than contemporary royal keeps such as those at Dover and Scarborough Castles . Today the exterior is coarse , but originally the facing would have been smooth ; the south @-@ east side , where the steep natural slope prevented removal of the facing stone , gives an idea of how it may once have appeared . A projection in the south @-@ east face of the keep housed a garderobe . As was usual with Norman keeps , Peveril 's was entered through the first floor and was accessed by a staircase . This entrance level would have been a large public room and the basement used for storage . A narrow staircase in the east corner allowed access to the basement and the wall walk around the top of the keep .