

= Castle Rising ( castle ) =

Castle Rising is a ruined medieval fortification in the village of Castle Rising , Norfolk , England . It was built soon after 1138 by William d 'Aubigny II , who had risen through the ranks of the Anglo @-@ Norman nobility to become the Earl of Arundel . With his new wealth , he constructed Castle Rising and its surrounding deer park , a combination of fortress and palatial hunting lodge . It was inherited by William 's descendants before passing into the hands of the de Montalt family in 1243 . The Montalts later sold the castle to Queen Isabella , who lived there after her fall from power in 1330 . Isabella extended the castle buildings and enjoyed a regal lifestyle , entertaining her son , Edward III , on several occasions . After her death , it was granted to Edward , the Black Prince , to form part of the Duchy of Cornwall .

During the 15th century , the castle became increasingly valued for its hunting facilities rather than its military defences . It fell into disrepair and , despite the construction of new living quarters and service facilities , by the middle of the 16th century it was derelict . Henry VIII sold the property to Thomas Howard , the Duke of Norfolk , and most of the castle buildings were demolished . It was not until the 19th century , when Mary and Fulke Greville Howard inherited the property , that the castle was renovated and restored . Victorian scholars examined the site , and it was opened to the public . In 1958 the castle passed into the custody of the state , which carried out further stabilisation work and a programme of archaeological investigation . In 1998 English Heritage passed the management of the site back to its current owner , Baron Howard of Rising , who continues to operate the castle as a tourist attraction .

Castle Rising comprises three baileys , each defended by large earthworks , covering a total area of 5 hectares ( 12 acres ) , which historians Oliver Creighton and Robert Higham consider to be among the most impressive in Britain . In the inner bailey is the great keep , probably modelled on that of Norwich Castle . It features extensive Romanesque designs , including pilaster buttresses and arcading . Historians Beric Morley and David Gurney believe this to be " one of the finest of all Norman keeps " , and its military utility and political symbolism have been extensively discussed by academics . The castle was originally surrounded by a carefully managed landscape , from the planned town in front of the castle , to the deer park and rabbit warrens that stretched out behind it , intended to be viewed from the lord 's chamber in the great keep .

= = History = =

= = = 12th ? 13th centuries = = =

Castle Rising was built soon after 1138 by William d 'Aubigny II , an upwardly mobile Anglo @-@ Norman noble who owned the surrounding manor of Snettisham . William married Adeliza of Louvain , the widow of King Henry I in that year , and became the Earl of Arundel in 1139 . This transformed his social position , and one chronicler at Waltham Holy Cross complained how he " became intolerably puffed up ... and looked down upon every other eminence in the world except the King " . With his new wealth , William built Castle Rising and New Buckenham Castle in Norfolk , and expanded Arundel Castle in West Sussex .

The castle was located 5 miles ( 8 @.@ 0 km ) from the port of King 's Lynn . In the 12th century it would have typically have been reached by boat , through a channel in the marshy Babingley River that ran nearby . Following the Norman conquest of England , the land had been granted to Bishop Odo , the Earl of Kent , who may have used it as an administrative centre ; there were many Saxo @-@ Norman buildings on the site of the later castle . Although Norfolk was a prosperous region during this period , the location of the castle was not strategically important : its only military significance would have been as a regional muster point , and the surrounding lands were thinly populated , with poor , acidic agricultural soil . The attraction of the site to William is believed to have been that it was a relatively cheap and easy place in which to build a substantial new building and establish a large hunting park . Historian Richard Hulme argues that William essentially built " a

palatial hunting lodge " on the site .

Massive resources were required to construct Castle Rising , which included three baileys with large earthwork defences and a stone keep , with an adjacent deer park just behind the castle . As part of the project , the existing settlement was moved away to the north , where it became a planned settlement adjacent to the new castle . A pre -11th century existing Norman chapel on the site , built around 1100 , was encircled by the castle defences , and the new parish church of St Lawrence was built in the town instead , although it is possible that this church also pre -11th century dates the castle . William received permission from King Stephen to open a mint at the castle in 1145 and , probably linked to this development , settled a community of Jews in the town .

It is uncertain how often William actually stayed at his new castle . He and his wife probably preferred to reside in their estates around Arundel in the south of England , and both William and his descendants chose New Buckingham Castle , rather than Castle Rising , to serve as the caput , or main castle , for their Norfolk landholdings .

A prolonged civil war known as the Anarchy broke out in England from 1138 until 1154 , between the followers of King Stephen and the Empress Matilda , only ending when Matilda 's son , Henry II , finally inherited the kingdom . Despite William having backed Stephen during the war , after the end of the conflict he proved a loyal supporter of Henry and was allowed to retain his possessions . Henry clamped down on the operation of the regional mints , however , and closed the facility at Castle Rising ; the local Jews resettled in King 's Lynn . A second , rapid phase of construction work on the castle then occurred , probably in the 1170s in response to a major rebellion against Henry II . William supported the King , and fought against the rebels at the Battle of Fornham in neighbouring Suffolk . Around this time the height of the earth defences was doubled and the internal level of the west bailey raised to form a platform .

The castle was inherited by William d 'Albini III , and in turn by his son , William IV , and grandson , William V. William V died in 1224 , leaving it to his brother Hugh . Probably by this time the chapel inside the castle walls had fallen out of use as a religious building , and was instead employed for secular purposes . The top 3 -7 metres ( 12 ft ) of the keep 's walls are distinctively different from the rest of the building , and one theory to explain this is that the castle keep was not in fact completed during William II 's lifetime , and that the final work on walls was carried out between 1200 and 1230 by his descendants . Hugh died childless in 1243 , and the castle then passed to Roger de Montalt .

=== 14th century ===

The Montalts were a prominent baronial family , but they had few other estates in the region and their family fortunes declined . In 1327 , Roger de Montalt 's younger brother , Robert , who was childless , sold the reversion of his rights in the castle to the Crown in 1327 for 10 ,000 marks ? effectively selling it to the Crown with a life -time lease for him and his wife Emma . An alternative theory to explain the different style of stonework along the top of the keep is that the building was completed under William d 'Albini II , but had become dilapidated by the start of the 14th century , requiring extensive repairs by Robert . The forebuilding of the keep was raised in height at one end around this time and a new , peaked roof added to it , and an imposing , timber -framed , brick kitchen was built in the inner bailey .

At the time of Robert 's agreement with the Crown , the government of England was controlled by Roger Mortimer and Queen Isabella of France , who was ruling as regent in the name of her young son , Edward III . Isabella fell from power when Edward toppled Mortimer in a coup d'état in 1330 , but after a short period of house arrest she led a relatively normal life , enjoying considerable status as the King 's mother . Edward granted Isabella several royal castles in England , including Castle Rising . Robert had died in 1329 and in 1331 Emma sold her rights to the castle to Isabella for £ 400 .

From then on , Isabella used Castle Rising as one of her main residences until her death in 1358 . Isabella was a wealthy woman , as the King granted her a yearly income of £ 3 ,000 , which by 1337 had increased to £ 4 ,000 . She enjoyed a regal lifestyle in Norfolk , maintaining minstrels

, huntsmen and grooms , and received visits from Edward and the royal household on at least four occasions . Despite her large income , Isabella ran up long @-@ standing debts with the local merchants near the castle . Around the time that she took over the castle , a new set of buildings were constructed in the central bailey , including a west range containing a residential suite , a new private chapel , and a south range linking to various service buildings ; the existing kitchen was reused . The great hall was reroofed , although Isabella lived in the west range , using the keep only for formal occasions or as accommodation for very senior guests . A brick wall around the outside of the inner bailey may have been built around this time to provide additional security .

The castle then passed to Isabella 's grandson , Edward the Black Prince . Edward III had decreed in 1337 that his son would inherit the castle after Isabella 's death , complete with the surrounding manor and the right to part of the tolls from King 's Lynn , although these brought in only a relatively modest £ 100 a year . As part of this arrangement , the King declared the castle to be a permanent part of the Duchy of Cornwall , an estate traditionally assigned for the use of the Prince of Wales . The Prince undertook repairs to the castle during the 1360s , including spending £ 81 on repairing the " Nightegale Tower " in 1365 , although it is uncertain which part of the castle this refers to . The Prince died in 1376 , returning the Duchy of Cornwall to the control of the Crown , and during this time Castle Rising appears to have been maintained in good condition . It was ordered on several occasions during the 1380s to raise local forces to counter the threat of a French invasion , and may have been equipped with two cannons . If not built by Isabella , the brick wall around the inner bailey may have been constructed during this period .

Under Richard II , the rights to the castle changed hands several times , despite Edward 's charter having made it a permanent part of the Duchy . Richard 's government gave the castle to John , the Duke of Brittany , in 1378 , in exchange for the Château de Brest . Richard subsequently gave the reversion of the castle first to his uncle Thomas , Duke of Gloucester , in 1386 , and then to another uncle , Edmund , Duke of York in 1397 . Shortly after Richard was overthrown , the courts declared these grants to have been illegal , and returned the castle to the Duchy in 1403 , then in the possession of the future Henry V.

= = = 15th ? 18th centuries = = =

In the 15th and early 16th centuries , Castle Rising continued to be owned by the Duchy of Cornwall . Although the castle 's military defences were mobilised by Henry VI in 1461 during the Wars of the Roses , it became increasingly more prominent as a hunting facility . The role of the constable of the castle was often combined with that of the surveyor or ranger of Rising Chase , the parkland around the castle . The castle may have been a prestigious location during this period , although its facilities were not as extensive as those of other castles and manors known for their hunting . Senior visitors to the castle included Mary Tudor , Queen of France , and Charles Brandon , the Duke of Suffolk , and its constables included nobles such as Lord Ralph de Cromwell and John de Vere , the Earl of Oxford .

Minor repairs on the castle were carried out during the period , including to the castle bridge , but the state of the property gradually declined . The old kitchens were removed in the early 15th century , and a new , larger facility constructed in their place . Once built , however , the new kitchens , along with the rest of the buildings in the inner bailey , were left to deteriorate . Reports in 1482 stated that the buildings were no longer weatherproof , and a survey carried around between 1503 and 1506 described the castle as " evyll repayred " , and noted that the roof of the keep was rotten . This last survey urged that existing repair works on the buildings in the bailey be completed , but suggested that it might not be worth repairing the keep because of the excessive cost .

Despite these challenges , fresh construction work was carried out around this time . The southern range and the kitchen were pulled down , and replaced with a new set of lodgings for guests , complete with stables , although the resulting buildings were not particularly robust . Problems reappeared , and a survey between 1542 and 1543 noted that , with the exception of the new lodgings , the castle was in " greate ruin and decaye " . The roof of the keep had by now collapsed , as probably had the floors of the great hall and chamber . The survey costed the necessary repairs

to the crumbling walls around the inner bailey at £ 100 . At around this time , the forebuilding of the keep was adapted to form a separate , smaller , set of chambers , and at some point after this a passageway was dug out of the walls to link these to the kitchens in the keep , by @-@ passing the now floor @-@ less rooms of the keep .

In 1544 Henry VIII bequeathed the castle to Thomas Howard , the Duke of Norfolk , but the property continued to decline . By the 1570s the castle and its earthworks had been allowed to become infested with rabbits , whose warrens caused extensive damage ; a survey suggested that fully renovating the castle would cost £ 2 @,@ 000 , and that even if it were pulled down and sold for the value of its materials , it would only realise £ 66 . At the end of the century , the inner bailey was finally cleared of most of its buildings ; the new lodgings were pulled down , along with most of the west range and the old Norman chapel , leaving only the ruined keep , alongside the latrines and the newer chapel , although what these last two were then used for is uncertain . The foundations of the old chapel were slowly covered up by the earth defences .

During the 17th century , the ground floor of the keep ? made of hardened gravel ? was dug up , probably to reuse for surfacing roads or pathways . The apartments in the forebuilding were abandoned and this part of the keep fell into decay as well . In 1644 , the lands surrounding the castle were disparked , bringing an end to Castle Rising Chase . In 1705 stone was stripped from the castle to help repair a nearby sluice gate .

= = = 19th ? 21st centuries = = =

Castle Rising continued to be owned by the Howard family , and in the 19th century it was inherited by Mary Howard , and her husband Fulke Greville Howard . Fulke began to undertake restoration work , excavating the basement of the keep in 1822 and repairing some of the stonework . The ground level of the inner bailey , which had built up over the years , was lowered by about 1 metre ( 3 ft 3 in ) : according to the contemporary archaeologist Henry Harrod , this process required thousands of loads of earth to be dug out and removed . A great deal of medieval archaeological evidence was destroyed in the process , but the work uncovered the old Norman chapel and Harrod excavated the building in 1851 . Mary continued the excavation work on the castle site after Fulke 's death , and restored the stonework of the chapel .

Initially the chapel was believed to be of Anglo @-@ Saxon origin and to have been buried under the earthworks when they were first constructed . An argument then ensued between the antiquarian William Taylor , who championed the Anglo @-@ Saxon dating for the site , and Harrod , who insisted that the chapel was in fact Norman in origin ; the issue was not settled until later in the 20th century , when the Norman date was confirmed . By 1900 the castle was open to the public , overseen by a caretaker who lived in one corner of the keep , the section of which had been reroofed and turned into an apartment .

By 1958 the castle 's condition had deteriorated and the Ministry of Works took legal custody of the site , although it continued to be owned by the Howard family . Conservation work took place during the 1960s , stabilising the stonework of the keep . Archaeological investigations were then carried out , focusing on the keep in 1970 , the church and the earthwork defences during 1971 and 1972 , and the inner bailey from 1973 to 1976 . This research centred on archaeological excavations and the recording of remains ; as with similar castles investigated during this period , the site was then preserved as a monument , and grass lawns laid down around the remaining stonework and foundations . Further excavations were carried out in 1987 during the construction of the ticket office beside the castle .

English Heritage took over control of the castle in 1983 and continued to operate it as a tourist attraction . In the 21st century the castle is protected by UK law as an ancient monument and a grade I listed building . It remains in the custody of English Heritage , but since 1998 has been managed by its owner , Baron Howard of Rising .

= = Architecture and landscape = =

## == Landscape ==

The fortification of Castle Rising was constructed in a carefully designed landscape . In front of the castle was the town of Castle Rising , moved to its new site when the castle was built . The settlement appears to have been laid out to a grid @-@ plan design , possibly bounded by ditches ; with the castle positioned just behind it , in a similar fashion to that at New Buckenham and Malton Castle . A dovecot and a religious house were founded nearby ; both of these were important symbols of lordship at the time , and were considered essential parts of a properly established castle .

The castle 's deer park , which merged into the larger Rising Chase , was positioned behind the castle in a similar way to that at Devizes Castle . The castle effectively formed an interface between the town and the park ; the great hall in the keep faced the settlement , and the lord 's chamber overlooked the park , creating a symbolic divide between the public and private aspects of the building .

Rising Chase was around 16 miles ( 26 km ) in circumference , enclosing around 20 square miles ( 52 km<sup>2</sup> ) . It utilised marginal farm @-@ land , which may have contributed to its design ; the heathland and light woodland south of the castle would have been ideal for grazing deer . The park was also designed with aesthetics in mind , being shaped so that its boundaries stretched beyond the horizon when viewed from the keep , in a similar design to that at Framlingham , Ludgershall and Okehampton Castles . Indeed , while the park would originally have provided the castle venison and other products , it was probably more ornamental than practical in character , including a space of open grazing in the centre of the park , designed to be visible from the castle chamber . The castle also incorporated a large rabbit warren , an important source of food and fur in this period , which stretched 5 kilometres ( 3 @. @ 1 mi ) away south @-@ west from the castle .

## == Architecture ==

### == Baileys ==

Castle Rising is made up of two rectangular baileys to the west and east , and an oval inner bailey in the middle , each with their own substantial earthwork defences and ditches . The earthworks of Castle Rising cover a total area of 5 hectares ( 12 acres ) , and are considered by historians Oliver Creighton and Robert Higham to be among the most impressive in Britain . The interior of the western bailey has been levelled up to form a platform , and is no longer directly connected to the rest of the castle . The eastern bailey is 82 metres ( 269 ft ) by 59 metres ( 194 ft ) across , and formed a protective buffer , covering the entrance way to the inner bailey .

A stone bridge connects the eastern bailey to the inner bailey , and is 24 metres ( 79 ft ) across , still retaining some of its original stonework at its base , although the remainder of it has since been rebuilt many times . The bridge leads onto a stone gatehouse , dating from around 1138 ; when it was first built it was substantially taller and longer than today . It was originally equipped with a portcullis , and a stone barbican was later built outside it for additional protection .

Beyond the gatehouse is the inner bailey , which forms a ringwork 73 metres ( 240 ft ) by 60 metres ( 200 ft ) in size , with a circumference of 320 metres ( 1 @, @ 050 ft ) ; the banks are now 18 metres ( 59 ft ) high from the bottom of the defensive ditch , although they were originally only half this height . It is uncertain what was placed around the top of this bank when it first built ; there may have been a wooden palisade , or possibly a timber revetment . Some of the remains of the 14th @-@ century brick wall , built on an additional 1 metre ( 3 ft 3 in ) layer of limed sand for stability , have survived along part of the bank . There were three towers built along the walls during the medieval period , two of which have left their mark in the earth banks ; the location of the third is uncertain .

The main architectural focus of the inner bailey was the great keep , but it also contained a Norman

chapel and , from at least the 14th century onwards , a complex of smaller residential and service buildings . The visible stone foundations on the north side of the keep belong to the chapel and range built for Queen Isabella around 1330 . The bailey well can also still be seen .

On the north side of the bailey are the remains of the Norman chapel , which comprised a nave , a square tower and an apsidal chancel , 12 @.@ 7 metres by 6 metres ( 42 ft by 20 ft ) , 4 metres square ( 13 ft square ) and 4 @.@ 6 metres by 4 metres ( 15 ft by 13 ft ) respectively . It was built from local grey sandstone , and Roman tiles from one of the nearby villas were used to construct its roof and incorporated into the walls . Originally the tower would have had a church bell , and the casting pit for this is buried under the floor of the nave . A stone bench runs around the base of the walls , and in the 19th century there was also a stone base for a font in the nave , but this has since been lost . A piece of early medieval graffiti , possibly depicting a Norman soldier , has survived on the south exterior wall . A fireplace was added to the chapel during the Tudor period , although this was only in use for a few years before being abandoned .

= = = = Keep = = = =

Historians Beric Morley and David Gurney consider Castle Rising to have " one of the finest of all Norman keeps " . It is an early example of the longer , oblong form of these buildings , called a hall @-@ keep , and would have taken huge resources to erect . Externally , it resembles Henry I 's keeps at Norwich and Falaise , although Norwich appears to have inspired the latter design , and Rising 's internal layout was probably based on that at Norwich as well . In imitating Norwich , which was then the only royal castle in the county , Castle Rising may have been intended to symbolise D 'Albini 's loyalty to the Crown during the troubled years of the Anarchy .

The keep is built from courses of local , brown carrstone rubble with oolite ashlar facings , and is strengthened with intramural timbers , laid down within the stone walls to reinforce the structure . Its main body is 24 metres ( 79 ft ) by 21 metres ( 69 ft ) wide , with walls approximately 15 metres ( 49 ft ) high , with a forebuilding running along the east side . It has prominent pilaster buttresses , giving the keep what Sidney Toy describes as an " impression of strength and dignity " ; the corners have clasping buttresses , forming four turrets . There is extensive Romanesque detail on the outside of the keep , including arcading along the west side and decorative stonework on the forebuilding .

The interior of the keep is divided by an internal wall to improve its structural strength , the division running north @-@ south through the building . The basement of the keep has two main sections , the north room 18 metres ( 59 ft ) by 8 metres ( 26 ft ) , with pillars supporting the great hall above , and the south chamber 18 metres ( 59 ft ) by 5 metres ( 16 ft ) in size . The forebuilding leads from the ground to the first floor , up a passageway 2 @.@ 4 metres ( 7 ft 10 in ) wide with 34 steps and through three arched doorways . At the top is a waiting room ; the glazed windows are a mixture of Tudor and more modern insertions .

On the first floor is the great hall , 14 metres ( 46 ft ) by 7 metres ( 23 ft ) , now floorless and open to the sky . Its original entrance way was blocked up by a chimney when the forebuilding was converted into a separate apartment in the Tudor period , and an additional entrance way inserted into the castle wall . The fireplace itself was later filled in with Tudor tiles around 1840 . A mural passageway , dug out in the Tudor period , leads through to the kitchen and service quarters . On the southern side is the great chamber with a large , original 12th @-@ century fireplace , and a mixture of original tri @-@ lobed windows and 19th @-@ century additions . At the far end of the great chamber is an ornate chapel , with Norman arcading and arching . The keep was originally built to have been relatively self @-@ contained , and would not have needed many additional outbuildings to function as a residence .

The second floor of the keep is limited in space , and contains only one small room above the chapel which was possibly used the chaplain or by castle guards . The forebuilding was later equipped with an additional room on this level , 4 @.@ 8 metres ( 16 ft ) by 4 @.@ 8 metres ( 16 ft ) , which remained inhabited longer than the rest of the castle keep , and which contains a 19th @-@ century fireplace . The upper 3 @.@ 7 metres ( 12 ft ) of the keep 's walls are different in design to the main body of the building ; as described above , this may be the result of either a final phase of

construction between 1200 and 1230 , or a period of repair and renovation shortly after 1300 .

= = = Utility and symbolism = = =

Many 20th @-@ century historians have stressed the potential military strength of Castle Rising ; R. Allen Brown , for example , concluded that " defence ... was the overwhelming consideration in [ its ] design and construction " , and argued that the keep would have been used as a final refuge in the case of attack during a siege . Beric Morley and David Gurney believe that the military strength of the castle could not have failed to impress contemporaries . Sidney Toy suggested that the forebuilding would have made an effective defensive feature , enabling the defenders to attack intruders as they made their way up the stairs , with Morley and Gurney describing it as " a deadly and near impregnable approach to the castle 's interior " .

Despite this , the defensive qualities of Castle Rising have since been extensively debated . The historian Robert Liddiard argues that the large windows at Castle Rising would have been a significant weakness , as it would have been easy to fire arrows through them from the bailey , and George Garnett has questioned the utility of the defensive arrow slits , which he suggests were not well positioned or designed . The whole site was also overlooked by higher ground , which Liddiard considers would have been a key defensive weakness .

Great keeps such as Castle Rising 's were also important ceremonially and symbolically in the 12th century , however , and historian Thomas Heslop has described Castle Rising as " a fortress palace " , with the keep forming the palace , and the surrounding earthworks the more practical defences . They reflected lordly status : typically their owners had recently advanced up the social scale , as with William d 'Aubigny , and were keen to impress others with their new authority .

With this in mind , the positioning of Castle Rising may have exposed it to higher ground , but it also made it strikingly prominent across the valley . The whole entrance to the castle was also designed to communicate to a visitor the status of the castle lord . As they came through the gatehouse and past the earthworks into the bailey , the south side of the forebuilding - deliberately facing the entrance - would have been revealed , covered in fashionable carving and decorative features . Visitors would then have walked up the stairs of the forebuilding , have paused in a waiting room , originally largely open to the elements , before being allowed through a decorative entrance door . The doorway led into the great hall , from where the lord , possibly sat in a throne alcove to the left , would have met the visitor .

= = = Ceremonial entrance = = =