

= Hay Castle =

Hay Castle is a medieval fortification and 17th @-@ century mansion house in the small town of Hay @-@ on @-@ Wye in Powys , Wales . Originally constructed as part of the Norman invasion of Wales , the castle was designed as a ringwork overlooking the town in either the late @-@ 11th or early @-@ 12th centuries . It was rebuilt in stone around 1200 by the de Braose family and then had a turbulent history , being attacked and burnt several times during the First and Second Barons ' Wars , the wars with the Welsh princes , the rebellion of Owain Glyndŵr and the Wars of the Roses . In the 17th century a Jacobean mansion house was built alongside the medieval keep and the property became a private home . Serious fires in 1939 and 1977 gutted the castle and , despite repairs in the 1980s , by the 21st century much of the building was derelict and unstable . Since 2011 it has been owned by the Hay Castle Trust who plan to renovate the property to form an arts and education centre .

= = History = =

= = = 11th ? 16th centuries = = =

The Normans began to make incursions into South Wales from the late @-@ 1060s onwards , pushing westwards from their bases in recently occupied England . Their advance was marked by the construction of castles and the creation of regional lordships . The Norman adventurer Bernard de Neufmarché conquered Brecknock in 1091 and assigned the manor of Hay to one of his followers , Philip Walwyn . The first castle in Hay , later abandoned , was built by St Mary 's church outside the main settlement , where a motte known as Hay Tump still survives . The English lordship of Hay , known as Hay Anglicana , became a wealthy walled town and the lands passed by marriage to Miles of Gloucester and then into the de Braose family . In the late 11th or early 12th century , a new fortification was built inside Hay @-@ on @-@ Wye itself , on high ground around 200 metres (660 ft) from the old motte , taking the form of an earth ringwork with a stone gate @-@ tower .

The de Braose dynasty expanded Hay Castle in stone around 1200 with a curtain wall reinforced by intramural timbers , turning the gate @-@ tower into a keep . The castle tenants used the chapel of St John in the town for their worship . During the First Barons ' War , Reginald de Braose joined the alliance against King John who successfully attacked the castle in 1215 . The Welsh prince Llewelyn the Great attacked and burnt the town and castle in 1231 and the castle was then rebuilt by Henry III in 1233 . During the Second Barons ' War , Prince Edward captured the castle in 1263 but it was recaptured and burnt by Simon de Montfort and Llywelyn ap Gruffudd the following year . It was further damaged by the Welsh rebellion led by Owain Glyndŵr around 1401 and in 1460 during the Wars of the Roses . By the time the antiquarian John Leland visited in the 16th century , the town of Hay was " wonderfully decayed " although the castle was described as having once " bene right stately " .

= = = 17th ? 19th centuries = = =

Hay Castle was substantially expanded in the 17th century , creating a Jacobean mansion . Two explanations have been offered by historians for this redevelopment . One option is that during the first half of the 17th century , Howell Gwynne built a manor house to the west of the old keep , which was replaced by a new mansion in 1660 by James Boyle of Hereford . Another reverses this sequence , suggesting that James Boyle left the castle to Howell Gwynne in 1603 , and that the mansion was built at the beginning of the century . In either case , the Jacobean building was two storeys tall , three with its facade included , and featured seven dormer gables in a Dutch style and a large staircase . It was built from stone and incorporated the upper floors of the old keep into its design . Formal gardens were constructed outside the keep either around the start of the 17th century or after 1660 . In 1702 , the house was divided up among different tenants , and passed into

the hands of the local Wellington family . Until 1812 , the basement of the keep was used to supplement the town gaol .

In 1809 , the industrialist Sir Joseph Bailey leased the castle , going on to purchase it outright in 1844 , and established a walled kitchen garden known as Castle Gardens to the south @-@ west of the main castle . It was used as a vicarage from 1825 onwards , including by Archdeacon William Bevan . The terraced gardens were maintained during the 19th century , with various trees planted behind the castle in the 1860s and 1870s , and a stable block was built within the grounds .

= = = 20th ? 21st centuries = = =

Between 1904 and 1906 the castle was rented by the Morell family , after which it was occupied by the Dowager Lady Glanusk . The architect W. D. Caroe was employed to restore the house in 1910 and it was sold to the banker Benjamin Guinness in 1937 . A major fire then destroyed the interior of the eastern side of the castle in 1939 . Around 1961 , the castle was acquired by Richard Booth who used it as a bookstore and as a location for parties , with a holiday cottage in the grounds . Much of the walled garden was sold for development in 1975 , and another fire in 1977 destroyed the interior of the western half of the castle : repairs were carried out from the 1980s onwards .

In 2011 the castle was sold for around £ 2 million to the Hay Castle Trust , who intended to turn it into an arts and education centre . The firm of Rick Mather Architects were taken on in 2015 to manage the work at a projected cost of £ 4 @.@ 35 million , to include a new art gallery and a viewing point at the top of the keep . A grant of £ 528 @,@ 600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014 supported initial planning , and further grants were given by the Country Houses Foundation and the Headley Trust .

The castle site is now approximately 110 by 100 metres (360 by 330 ft) across . As of 2015 , the derelict , roofless parts of the castle are in a poor structural condition and infested with ivy , with other parts suffering from death watch beetle . None of the earthworks or curtain wall survive , except for a small portion next to the gateway ; this fragment of wall is 6 feet (1 @.@ 8 m) thick and shows the original bank to have been as much as 25 feet (7 @.@ 6 m) high when viewed from the outside , but is now in danger of collapse . The wooden door on the left side of the gateway probably dates from around 1300 , and the right door from the early @-@ 17th century , but they are currently unusable . There are some limited remains of the old walled garden interspersed in the modern housing estate . The main castle site is protected under law as a Grade I listed building .