OCR HISTORY AROUND US
Site Proposal Form Example from English Heritage

The Criteria

The study of the selected site must focus on the relationship between the site, other historical sources and the aspects listed in a) to n) below. It is therefore essential that centres choose a site that allows learners to use its physical features, together with other historical sources as appropriate, to understand all of the following:

a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings

b) When and why people first created the site

c) The ways in which the site has changed over time

d) How the site has been used throughout its history

e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site

f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used

g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points

h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site

i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate

j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites

k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history

l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries

m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site

n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment

Site name: KENILWORTH CASTLE

Created by: ENGLISH HERITAGE LEARNING TEAM

Please provide an explanation of how your site meets each of the following points and include the most appropriate visual images of your site. Refer to your images to justify your explanation of how the site meets the criteria.

Criteria	Specifics about the site in relation to this criteria	Sources that can be used with this criteria
a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings	- The site upon which Kenilworth Castle sits today lies within the former royal manor of Stoneleigh. - Much of the parcel of land granted to Geoffrey de Clinton by King Henry I (r.1100–35) was given by Geoffrey to the priory of Kenilworth (which he founded around 1124), only keeping for himself enough land to build his castle and hunting park. - Geoffrey de Clinton chose to situate his castle on a low sandstone hill bordered by small streams to the south and west. This elevated position offered a good vantage point and the marshes, formed by the two streams, also provided some initial deterrent to attack. - In the wider landscape, the site's proximity to Warwick was politically important in the 1120s, and in the 1170s King Henry II (r.1154–89) took the site back into royal control for its strategic importance.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015), p.37 www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden Teachers' Kit www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-to-visit/kenilworth-castle/school-visits/kenilworth-castle-and-elizabethan-garden_teachers-kit_ks1-ks4.pdf
b) When and why people first created the site	- Henry de Beaumont, 1st Earl of Warwick, had been a loyal supporter of King Henry I but the king had concerns about the loyalty of his son Roger, who succeeded his father to become the 2nd Earl of Warwick in 1119. - As a result of his doubts, King Henry I promoted Geoffrey de Clinton's status within Warwickshire, including making him sheriff. - As part of his promotion, De Clinton was also granted land in Stoneleigh, a royal manor very close to Warwick.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015), p.37 www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Kenilworth Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories

	- In the early 1120s, Geoffrey de Clinton, with the favour and support of the king, built the first castle on this site, further advancing his power and influence against Roger de Beaumont.	
c) The ways in which the site has changed over time	**Early Medieval** - The initial structure built by Geoffrey de Clinton was probably a collection of simple wooden buildings situated on a rise; however, with the support and resources of King Henry I, this was soon joined by the stone keep, which still stands today. - Geoffrey de Clinton also built a causeway leading to the castle entrance. This structure had the additional purpose of damming the two streams and forming a small lake (mere) to the west of the castle. - De Clinton's son, Geoffrey II, is not thought to have made any significant changes to the site though, by the time of his death, the keep had several forebuildings and a small bailey. - In the 1170s, the castle returned to the Crown. King Henry II felt the site was of significant strategic importance and began a series of building works to develop and strengthen the defences. - There is evidence of both an inner and outer bailey, the latter having a gatehouse and probably defended by banks and a ditch. - With the improved outer defences, changes were made to the keep making it more of a living space and less of a defensive structure; these changes included the modification to large, round-arched windows to provide greater light. - When King John (r.1199–1216) took control of the castle, he heightened the dam, which vastly increased the size of the lake (mere) to the west of the castle. - King John also added greater stone defences, including towers, to the outer bailey and incorporated the existing gatehouse into a new entranceway structure with two D-shaped towers with battlements. - King John also added the second (top) floor to the keep, including a chamber at the top of the south-west turret. Most of King John's	Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden Teachers' Kit www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-to-visit/kenilworth-castle/school-visits/kenilworth-castle-and-elizabethan-garden_teachers-kit_ks1-ks4.pdf Kenilworth Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-to-visit/kenilworth-castle/history/kenilworth-castle-phased-plans.pdf Kenilworth Castle description website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories/history/description English Heritage YouTube Channel, *A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles* (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society website www.khas.co.uk Kenilworth Castle significance website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-

	works were completed in 1210–15 and his defences are little changed today. - In 1234–5, a king's chamber, king's chapel and queen's chamber were recorded within the castle, almost certainly in the inner bailey. - Simon V de Montfort, 6th Earl of Leicester, created the Brays, a series of banks and ditches defended by a wooden palisade. These mid 13th-century outworks defended the dam and its water controls. **Late Medieval** - The House of Lancaster transformed the fortress into an extravagant palace, including building the large kitchen, great hall and a range of fine chambers around the inner ward. - In the early 14th century, Thomas of Lancaster created an 800-acre deer park and probably added further accommodation for his household in the form of the Water Tower. He also constructed a new chapel in the outer bailey. - In the 1370s, extensive work was carried out on the castle by John of Gaunt. - John of Gaunt's additions and changes were based on King Edwards III's (r.1327–77) lodgings at Windsor Castle and included remodelling the apartments, services and kitchens. At this time, a magnificent new great hall was also built. - At this point, the main structures of the castle were complete. All further additions throughout the 1400s and early 1500s, including a tennis court (location now unknown), were features of wealth and status, creating a venue for relaxation and pleasure. **Post Medieval** - When the Dudleys took possession of the castle in the second half of the 16th century, there were again great changes at Kenilworth. - John Dudley, 1st Duke of Northumberland, built the stables and enhanced the tiltyard.	castle/history-and-stories/history/significance Molyneux, ND, 'Kenilworth Castle in 1563', *English Heritage Historical Review*, 3 (2008), pp.46–61 www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/175201608797653120?src=recsys

	- John Dudley's son, Robert, Earl of Leicester, modelled a new gatehouse at the north entrance, built a new tower (Leicester's Building) and made significant improvements to the keep and state apartments. - The architecture and décor were the height of Elizabethan style; Robert also developed the privy garden. - After the Civil War, in 1650, the north side of the keep was broken down and the outer walls destroyed in sections. - The site became a farmstead and the buildings of the inner bailey became a source of salvage and building materials. - By the late 18th century, the site was ruinous.	
d) How the site has been used throughout its history	- The site had been used throughout its history as a symbol of status and power, starting with Geoffrey de Clinton who, supported by King Henry I, built the first castle on the site to maintain influence and control over Warwick. - Up until the mid 13th century, the castle continued to be used and developed as a defensive site of strategic importance. In 1266, Kenilworth Castle was besieged by King Henry III (r.1216–72), one of the most important engagements in war between the king and rebel barons. - When the House of Lancaster took control of the castle in the early 14th century, the purpose of the site changed. Moving from strategic importance to social importance, the site was used as a status symbol and display of wealth for the next 300 years. - During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (r.1558–1603), when the castle was owned by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the castle hosted four visits by the queen, outstanding for their lavishness. - Following the Civil War, Parliament used the destruction of all former Royalist strongholds, including Kenilworth Castle, as a demonstration of its power.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society website www.khas.co.uk
e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site	- Geoffrey de Clinton: close association with King Henry I and the church.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015)

	- King John: strategic importance and extensive development of defences. - Simon V de Montfort: probable use of the trebuchet in the 1266 Siege of Kenilworth. - House of Lancaster: development and use of the site for pleasure and entertaining. - John of Gaunt: building works to suit his self-styled title 'King of Castile and Leon'. - Robert Dudley: building for and entertaining Queen Elizabeth I. - Robert Langham: an official in Leicester's household who was allowed into the garden during the queen's absence on a hunt, and described it in great detail in his letters.	www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Simon de Montfort Society www.simondemontfort.org/montforts-life
f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used	- The castle changed hands many times throughout its history, moving in and out of royal control. - The major change in the purpose of this site came with the House of Lancaster, who developed the site from a defensive position into a residence for relaxation and enjoyment.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015), pp.41–5 www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle
g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points	- 1120s: first castle and defences built in response to potential threat from Warwick. - 1210–15: building by King John in response to the papal interdict of 1208. - 1266: Siege of Kenilworth. - 1300–50: castle changes from a fortress into a palace. - 1326: abdication of King Edward II (r.1307–27). - 1370s: building work by John of Gaunt. - 1450s: Wars of the Roses. - 1565–75: royal visits by Queen Elizabeth I. - 1640–50: Civil War and slighting of the castle buildings.	Dictum of Kenilworth, 1266 www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/%20resources/magna-carta/dictum-of-kenilworth Siege of Kenilworth Castle article www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories/siege-kenilworth-castle
h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site	- Mortimer's Tower is the 13th-century gatehouse, but also holds the remains of the original gatehouse built around 1120. - The gatehouse shows the progression of defences and technology,	Kenilworth Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-

	including grooves for a medieval portcullis. - The keep, built in 1120, has been added to and altered numerous times. These alterations demonstrate the progression of defences, weaponry and also the use and importance of the site over time. The large openings at ground level demonstrate the change in function from a defendable military structure to a building for leisure and show. - John of Gaunt's works are an excellent demonstration of the organisation of a medieval aristocratic household. - The great hall built by Gaunt was a grand display of status and shows the most up-to-date architectural fashions of the time. - Although there is no evidence of the original structures of the 12th and 13th centuries, the presence of an enlarged hall for dining, a suite of grand chambers and extensive kitchens marks a change in purpose for the site, from a defendable fortress to a luxurious palace. - The building works by Robert Dudley (Leicester's Building and Leicester's Gatehouse) illustrate his devotion to Queen Elizabeth I, but also highlight her wish to promote him, as she funded all the work. - In addition to the buildings, the reconstructed Elizabethan garden is highly symbolic in its use of flowers, colours and sculpture.	to-visit/kenilworth-castle/history/kenilworth-castle-phased-plans.pdf Kenilworth Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories/history Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Interactive map of Elizabethan garden www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories/elizabethan-garden
i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate	**Locally** - Important in relation to the development of the town. - Political and historical significance in the local area. - English Civil War: the 'slighting' by Colonel Hawksworth. **Nationally** - King Henry II: Revolt of 1173–4. - King John: Magna Carta. - 1266 Siege of Kenilworth: one of the most violent and protracted sieges of the Middle Ages, bringing to a close a long and exhausting war between the king and barons.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Siege of Kenilworth Castle article www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories/siege-kenilworth-castle

	- Thomas of Lancaster: Battle of Boroughbridge. - King Henry V: the mocking gift of tennis balls from the French was an incentive to launch an invasion of France, now sometimes called the Agincourt campaign.	
j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites	- Brandon Castle, Warwickshire – keep. - Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire –14th-century chapel. - Caerphilly Castle, Gwent – water defences. - Windsor Castle, Berkshire – great hall and apartments. - Outer defences comparable with many other medieval castles in English Heritage's care, especially Dover (outer and inner curtain walls).	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle English Heritage YouTube Channel, *A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles* (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew
k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history	- The castle had two clearly defined periods of use in its history: the first as a defendable site, the second as a place for leisure and comfort. This illustrates the changing attitudes towards castle buildings and how they should be used. - During both periods of use, the castle reveals much about the role of wealth and status, displayed through buildings and architecture. - After its initial destruction in 1650, the site entered a third period where the poor treatment of the site is more revealing of social attitudes than the actual site itself. - Excavations in the 20th century illustrate the changing attitudes towards understanding and conserving historic buildings.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle
l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries	- What is it? What changes has it seen? What was it used for? What stories does it tell about the past? What do we still need to know? - Where was it built? Where was it changed? Where did the people come from who used it? - Who built it? Who changed it? Who used it? Who was the last person to live here? - When did people first live here? When was it built? When was it changed? When was it used? When did it stop being used?	Visit to Kenilworth Castle

	- Why was it built? Why was it changed? Why was it used? Why was this location chosen? Why should we protect it? - How was it built? How was it changed? How was it used? How much did it cost to build/change? How can it tell us about the past?	
m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site	- Remaining structures can give a good idea of shapes, and sometimes relative sizes, and architectural characters of the buildings. - The use of other comparative sites is highly beneficial in understanding the missing architecture and décor from the site. - Identifying features and formations in the stone can indicate where certain structures would have been located (e.g. fireplaces, slots for the portcullis, corbels for floor/ceiling beams). - The Elizabethan fireplace and wood fittings in Leicester's Gatehouse were originally located elsewhere on the site (in Leicester's Building). Working out where such relocated items were once positioned on the site, using size, shape, decorative style and wall markings, can help develop a picture of a room. - Sketches, engravings and paintings, along with written descriptions and recorded expenditures, of the castle in different time periods can be used to piece together what the site might have looked like in the past. - The site is highly valued for its picturesque qualities and has been painted by such notable artists as JMW Turner. - The castle achieved international fame with the publication in 1821 of Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*, a tragic novel revolving around Queen Elizabeth, Robert Dudley and his wife, Amy.	Morris, RK, *Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-kenilworth-castle Interpretation panels at Kenilworth Castle Reconstruction drawings on Kenilworth Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/history-and-stories Turner, JMW, *Kenilworth* (*c*.1830) www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-kenilworth-castle-tw1295
n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment	**Benefits** - Important source of primary information. - Gives a sense of place, well-being and cultural identity. - Allows visitors to connect people from the past to the place where they lived and worked.	Visit to Kenilworth Castle

| | - Stimulating way to engage with history in the place where it happened.

Challenges
- Difficult to interpret due to lack of written sources and physical evidence.
- Different interpretations of the same site and evidence. | |