

TIMELINE

11TH CENTURY

1066	William de Warenne fights in the Battle of Hastings and is given large estates as a reward for good service.
1070s	First house built and low earthworks constructed.
1080s	William de Warenne and his wife, Gundrada, bring Cluniac monks to establish Castle Acre Priory (on a different site to the present priory).
1085	Gundrada, wife of William de Warenne, dies in childbirth at the castle.
1088	William de Warenne dies after being hit by an arrow in battle.
1090-1100	Work at Castle Acre Priory is begun on its present site by Gundrada and William's son.

12TH CENTURY

1146-8	The church at Castle Acre Priory is consecrated but not yet complete.
1160s	The west end of the priory is completed.
1276	35 monks are in residence: the priory is heavily in debt.
1283	Prior William of Shoreham, helped by Warenne's men, fortifies the priory against orders from the mother house at Lewes to replace him. Eventually, the Abbot of Cluny asks Earl Warenne to stop supporting the disobedient prior and allow him to be deposed.

14TH CENTURY

1303	Abbot of Cluny upsets the king by failing to appoint the king's chaplain, Arnold, to the vacant post of prior.
1307	Levying of dues on English monasteries by Abbot of Cluny forbidden by law.

1324	Renewed hostilities with France cause the English government to inspect Castle Acre to ensure it is not an 'alien' monastery (with French allegiances).
15TH CENTURY	
1450	Community shrinking - 26 monks in residence.
16TH CENTURY	
1510-19	Prior John Winchelsea extends and decorates the prior's lodging as an elaborate country house.
1536	Inquisitors of Henry VIII claim 7 monks have 'confessed' to foul sins.
1537	Thomas Malling (last prior) and ten remaining monks surrender priory and manor of Castle Acre to Henry VIII, who gives it to the Duke of Norfolk.
1558-9	Castle and Priory sold to Sir Thomas Gresham.
1588	Sold to Sir Thomas Cecil.
17TH CENTURY	
1615	Sold to Sir Edward Coke.
20TH CENTURY	
1929	A descendant of Sir Edward Coke appoints the Department of the Environment guardians of the priory ruins.