

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

CONISBROUGH CASTLE

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
<p>a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings</p>	<p>The castle sits south of the River Don and, while it is a strong defensive structure, its location is not very impressive topographically or strategically. Politically, however, the setting makes a powerful statement about the Anglo-Saxon power in the local area. Conisbrough Castle occupies a position on a large knoll at the north-east end of the historic town of Conisbrough. The castle's outer bailey is now roughly defined by Castle Hill to the west, and earthworks to the north, east and south. The knoll on which the castle stands falls away steeply east of the inner bailey.</p> <p>While maybe not the best defensive location for the Norman stronghold, the occupation of this prosperous town showed the local landholders that the Normans now held the Kings Borough and made a strong political statement.</p>	<p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015)www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Google Map of Conisbrough Castlewww.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=IKFxOo8QQLWBHTbr4twCC-xjT0qU&ll=53.48442%2C-1.2263810000000075&z=14</p>

<p>b) When and why people first created the site</p>	<p>Conisbrough Castle as seen today was constructed in the late 12th century with the walls and barbican being built subsequently. Little is known of the earlier fortification and what size and format it was built.</p> <p>We do know that people have been living in the area around Conisbrough since prehistoric times, and coins and pottery discovered around the town indicate that there was a Roman settlement there sometime between the first and fourth centuries. There is an account of Conisbrough's origins in Geoffrey of Monmouth's <i>Historia Regnum Britanniae</i> (History of the Kings of Britain).</p> <p>The name 'Conisbrough' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Cyningesburh', meaning 'the King's Borough'. Little is known of the site before the Norman Conquest, despite evidence of settlement, although the royal connection in the name speaks to local importance.</p> <p>The most significant structure predating the castle in the vicinity of Conisbrough is the church of Saint Peter. This building may have been commissioned in 635AD by King Oswy of Northumbria.</p> <p>The last Anglo-Saxon to own the land at Conisbrough was Earl Harold Godwinson, who became King of England in January 1066, after the death of Edward the Confessor. Later in the same year, King Harold was defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. It is not known whether the next owner, William de Warenne, occupied an Anglo-Saxon structure or constructed his own castle when he was awarded the Honour of Conisbrough after the Norman Conquest.</p> <p>William the Conqueror consulted William de Warenne about his plans to invade England and they fought alongside each other at the Battle of Hastings. William de Warenne was also one of the four men left in charge of England when William the Conqueror returned to Normandy in 1067.</p> <p>By 1086, William de Warenne had amassed so much wealth from the</p>	<p>Geoffrey of Monmouth <i>Historia Regum Britanniae</i>, Penguin Classics (1973)</p> <p>PF Ryder, <i>Saxon Churches in South Yorkshire</i>, South Yorkshire County Council Archaeology Monograph 2 (Barnsley, 1982), 45–61</p> <p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p>
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	<p>conquest that only the King and his two half-brothers, Odo of Bayeux, and Robert of Mortain, along with the King's close friend, Roger de Montgomery, were wealthier than de Warenne.</p> <p>Alongside amassing wealth, de Warenne also amassed control of a significant swathe of land sometimes lawfully, other times not. Conisbrough was acquired after he defeated rebels in York.</p> <p>Castles were used as a sign of Norman rule, and William de Warenne was appointed to help govern England in 1067 when William the Conqueror was in Normandy. William de Warenne was expected to uphold and support Norman rule, which he did.</p>	
<p>c) The ways in which the site has changed over time</p>	<p>The castle earthworks pre-date the 12th-century stone castle, although whether they formed part of the Anglo-Saxon 'Cyningesburh', or were built by William de Warenne shortly after the Norman Conquest, is not known.</p> <p>The earliest remaining stone feature on the site is the keep. The great tower was built by Hamelin de Warenne in the 1170s or 1180s. The circular tower has changed little over time.</p> <p>Modern floors were added during its restoration in the 1960s, along with a new roof, as the original floors and roof were missing, along with the tops of the buttresses and battlements. The present low-pitched roof does not match the appearance of the original. The only significant change to this structure is the reduced height of the buttresses and modern stairs providing access to the building.</p> <p>The imposing curtains walls were presumably built during the early 13th century and have solid semi-circular towers with no internal chambers. This design is believed to have been introduced by architects working for King John (r.1199–1216).</p> <p>The inner bailey was full of timber buildings during the 11th century. These</p>	<p>Conisbrough Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/visit/places-to-visit/history-research-plans/conisbrough-castle-phased-plan</p> <p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/history/description</p> <p>English Heritage YouTube Channel, <i>A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles Animated History</i> (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThk3Ew</p>

were replaced c. 1200, when the curtain walls were constructed. The majority of the building outlines still visible date from this period, however there are also some remnants of 14th century and later medieval buildings that can still be found in the inner bailey.

Significant building work was carried out during the 13th century with both a stone chapel and barbican added to the castle complex. Some of the chapel's remains have been recovered from the collapsed section of curtain wall. The barbican leads the way into the inner bailey and would have had a drawbridge to restrict access.

The medieval castle was most likely served by other buildings (like barns, brew houses and a smithy) in the outer bailey. This was probably located to the west of the main gate, where there is now a car park. There is no evidence to show the location of the outer bailey gatehouse; however, it is likely that it was located close to the custodian's lodge, which now hosts an English Heritage visitor centre. The lodge building and boundary wall were built by the Lane-Fox family in the late 19th century. The keep was re-roofed and floored in 1993–5 to protect it from the elements and improve public access to the tower.

Despite its royal status, the castle seems to have been abandoned sometime in the late 15th century. By 1538, when the castles of Conisbrough and Tickhill were surveyed for Henry VIII (r. 1509–47), the keep had lost its roof and floors, and the gatehouse and greater part of the south curtain wall had collapsed into the ditch.

When the antiquary, John Leland, visited at about this time he “saw no notable thing but the Castle standing on a rock of stone and ditched. The wall of it hath been strong and full of towers.”

In 1559 the castle was given by Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603) to her cousin Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon. By the end of the 17th century, the castle had passed to the Coke family, to the Dukes of Leeds in 1737 and in 1839 to the Conyers family and Earls of Yarborough.

English Heritage YouTube Channel, *How to Take a Medieval Castle / Animated History* (2017)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNeNPk4D_Ng

Tate, *Conisbrough Castle from the North, with a watermill in the foreground*, J.W.M. Turner (1797)
www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-conisborough-castle-from-the-north-with-a-watermill-in-the-foreground-d00909

	<p>Landscaping work was carried out in the 18th and 19th centuries, probably by the owners of the castle, to enhance its picturesque qualities, and the castle certainly achieved some fame as a romantic ruin. It was depicted by numerous artists, for example, J. M. W. Turner who sketched Conisbrough Castle in 1797.</p>	
<p>d) How the site has been used throughout its history</p>	<p>The site has been used for religious worship since its earliest known history. A major Anglian church, now the church of St Peter, stood on the site, probably as early as the 8th century, and is the oldest standing building in south Yorkshire. The castle contains chapels within it, which demonstrate the importance of religion to the people who lived on the site.</p> <p>Conisbrough has had royal connections since its creation, and the church of St Peter was likely commissioned by King Oswy (r.642–54). Conisbrough Castle was also owned by Harold Godwinson, King of England (r. January–October 1066). After the Norman Conquest, the site remained close to royal power, as Isabelle de Warenne married Hamelin, half-brother to Henry II (r.1154-89) and uncle to King John (r.1199–1216), and both of these kings would visit Conisbrough as part of their Royal Progress, a tour of their Kingdom by a monarch and their retinue. The castle came back under crown control until Elizabeth I gifted it to her cousin, Lord Hudson.</p> <p>After William I gifted Conisbrough Castle to the powerful William de Warenne as a token of appreciation for his loyalty before and during the Battle of Hastings, Conisbrough Castle became a very visible marker of Norman power. The de Warenne family built the keep and the curtain wall at the castle, which would have had a visible impact on the local landscape.</p> <p>The current stone keep was built in the late 12th century on the site of an earlier wood and earthen fortification. The castle retained its defensive function until it was virtually abandoned in the 16th century when it fell into ruin. The last recorded repairs were during the reign of Richard III (r.1483–5).</p>	<p>Conisbrough Castle website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle</p> <p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p>

	<p>Due to the sites decline in military importance it was by-passed by the English Civil War which laid low so many other medieval strongholds such as Helmsley Castle and Scarborough Castle. As it slipped into disuse the site became a picturesque ruin and was the inspiration behind Sir Walter Scott's <i>Ivanhoe</i> in 1819.</p> <p>Conisbrough soon began to be appreciated as a tourist location and in 1912 King George V (r.1910–36) and Queen Mary visited Conisbrough Castle. In 1984 the property was put in to the care of English Heritage and now acts as a popular visitor attraction hosting historically themed family and educational events.</p>	
<p>e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site</p>	<p>Activities associated with the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anglo-Saxon royal seat: Conisbrough has had a long relationship with royalty, and its name ('Kings Borough') reflects this. The last Anglo-Saxon King to own Conisbrough was Harold Godwinson. - Site of Norman power: after the Norman invasion, installing a powerful Norman leader in the castle sent a powerful message. The close connections with the royal family, who would stay at Conisbrough as part of their procession, would underline this new status quo. - Conspiracy to commit high treason: the de Warennes were a powerful family, and although very close to the crown for a lot of their history; there were points where they clashed. William II de Warenne fought against Henry I (r.1100-35) and nearly lost Conisbrough, plus other land. Conisbrough was connected to another plot against the crown in 1415, when Richard of Conisbrough plotted to assassinate Henry V (r.1413-22). Richard was executed and his wife Maud gained control of Conisbrough until her death in 1446. - Siege warfare: Conisbrough has only experienced one instance of siege warfare in its long history. This siege happened in 1317 and lasted about 2 hours, after which the defenders relinquished the castle. They were later fined for 'drawing blood'. The castle took minimal damage, with the chapel needing minor repairs afterwards. The siege was a result of a feud between John, the VII Earl of Warenne, and Thomas of 	<p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Sir Walter Scott and Conisbrough web article www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/past-lives/sir-walter-scott</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/history</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle school visits website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/school-visits</p>

	<p>Lancaster. Thomas was blocking John from getting a divorce and so John captured Thomas' wife Alice. No harm came to Alice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literary inspiration: after Conisbrough stopped being a residence for noble families, it fell into disrepair and ruin. This ruin was romanticised and inspired artists and writers, notably Sir Walter Scott who wrote <i>Ivanhoe</i> in 1819. The novel is set in and around Sherwood Forest, and Scott was inspired by the experience of seeing Conisbrough while on a journey north along the Great North Road. The castle figures in the well-known novel. - Tourist attraction: Conisbrough has been a tourist attraction for some time. The castle's artistic connections would encourage visitors, with the castle being used for May Day celebrations and other events in the 20th century. - Site of archaeological interest: having such a long history, Conisbrough Castle became a site of archaeological interest. The first serious excavations were undertaken in 1967 and 1968, with further work done in 1973. - Educational visits location: Conisbrough is maintained by English Heritage who interpret the site for visitors, they also offer educational visits for school groups. <p>People associated with the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alongside the named people below, there would have been a significant amount of people who worked at the Castle who we have very little record of. - Earl Harold Godwinson: briefly King of England before being defeated by William the Conqueror, who gifted the castle to William de Warenne for his loyalty and service in the Battle of Hastings. - William I de Warenne (died 1088): one of William the Conqueror's key supporters. William de Warenne helped to secure and stabilise Norman rule, through controlling extensive lands and governing when William the Conqueror was in Normandy. - William II de Warenne (died 1138): despite his father being very close to the Crown, William II de Warenne had a difficult relationship with 	
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- the ruling family. He sided with Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy when Robert invaded England in 1101. Robert was defeated and William had to prove his loyalty to Henry I (r.1100-1135), which he did by fighting against Robert in the Battle of Tichnebray in 1106.
- William III de Warenne, who was killed on crusade at Laodicea in Turkey in 1148.
 - Isabel de Warenne (1137-1233); a powerful heiress. Upon inheriting Conisbrough, and other Warenne lands she became one of the richest people in England.
 - Hamelin of Anjou (1130-1202), Henry II's half-brother, who married Isabel de Warenne. She was so powerful that he took her name when they married.
 - John de Warenne (1231-1304), the last de Warenne owner of Conisbrough, who briefly lost the castle to Thomas of Lancaster.
 - Earl Thomas of Lancaster (1238-1322), who besieged and captured Conisbrough and seized John's Yorkshire estates. But in 1322 Thomas rebelled against Edward II, and was defeated and executed.
 - Edmund of Langley (1341-1402) was made Duke of York in 1385 and came to own Conisbrough, carrying out major refurbishments.
 - Richard of Conisbrough (1385-1415) and a number of other Yorkshire notables conspired to assassinate Henry V at Southampton on the eve of Henry's departure for France in 1415. But the plot was discovered, and Richard was executed.
 - Richard, Duke of York (1411-60), became the leader of the Yorkist cause and a claimant to the throne as the rivalry between Lancastrian and Yorkist factions culminated in open warfare, known as the Wars of the Roses. In 1460, he was declared a traitor and his estates were seized, but Conisbrough was garrisoned for him. Three months after his death, his son Edward was crowned King Edward IV (r.1461-71).
 - Commissioners Thomas Fairfax, Thomas Green and Francis Frobisher, who declared the castle a ruin in the 1530s.
 - Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, was gifted Conisbrough by Elizabeth I.
 - Sir Walter Scott was inspired by Conisbrough to write *Ivanhoe* (1819).

<p>f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used</p>	<p>The site has had multiple building phases as it developed as a defensive structure. Stone structures replaced the earlier wooden buildings and the remnants of several periods of construction can be seen in the inner bailey. The site was used to mark the shift from Saxon power to Norman power.</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle became the secondary residence for the powerful Edmund Langley, the Duke of York. Edmund was the fourth surviving son of Edward III (r. 1327-77) and Philippa of Hainault. Edmund was the founder of the House of York. Conisbrough underwent significant refurbishment while being the secondary residence for the House of York.</p> <p>When the castle became crown property in the 15th century, its importance lessened and it was no longer used as a residence. As a result of this, it quickly fell into disrepair because the Crown saw little need to maintain, considering members of the royal family did not live there.</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle was seen as a romantic ruin from the 15th century until the 1950s. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the grounds were landscaped to make the site more picturesque. As a romantic ruin, it was a popular site for artists to paint, such as J. M. W. Turner, amongst others. The site was taken into guardianship by the Ministry of Works in 1950 and major repairs were undertaken. Between 1967 and 1969 major archaeological investigation was carried out, but a full report was not written. In 1973 there were further excavations, where archaeologists uncovered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the profile of the original earth bank surrounding the bailey was observed - timber stake holes were found in the top of the earth bank, suggesting that the 11th century castle was surrounded by timber defences - pottery sherds from the fill helped to date the curtain walls to around 1200. <p>In 1984 the property was put in the care of English Heritage and now acts as a popular visitor attraction hosting historically themed family and educational</p>	<p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/visit/places-to-visit/history-research-plans/conisbrough-castle-phased-plan</p> <p>Tate, <i>Conisbrough Castle from the North, with a watermill in the foreground</i>, J.W. M. Turner (1797) www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-conisborough-castle-from-the-north-with-a-watermill-in-the-foreground-d00909</p>
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	<p>events. With the change from defensive use to tourism, the keep was re-roofed and floored between 1993 and 1995 to protect it from the elements and improve public access to the tower.</p>	
<p>g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points</p>	<p>While there is evidence of prehistoric and roman occupation in the region, the most significant structure predating the castle in the vicinity of Conisbrough is the church of Saint Peter. This building may have been commissioned in 635AD by King Oswy of Northumbria.</p> <p>This structure is evidence of the importance of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of 'Cyninges burh'.</p> <p>The area of Conisbrough had belonged to Harold Godwinson before his defeat in 1066 and was given to William de Warenne by William the Conqueror as a reward for his role in the Norman Conquest.</p> <p>The keep was constructed in the 1170s - 1180s by Hamlin de Warenne however it is unclear what form of earthen defences were present before the keep was built and whether these were built by the Anglo-Saxons or William de Warenne.</p> <p>Since its occupation by the Normans the site has had multiple building phases as it developed as a defensive structure, we can see building and repair phases in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries as well as the late medieval and modern periods. Stone structures replaced the earlier wooden buildings and the remnants of several periods of construction can be seen in the inner bailey.</p> <p>The de Warenne family maintained control of Conisbrough until John 8th Earl de Warenne (1286 - 1347) lost the castle to siege by Thomas of Lancaster in 1316. This was the only siege in Conisbrough's history and the conflict was the result of Earl John kidnapping Alice de Lacy 'The Countess of Lancaster,' wife of Thomas of Lancaster.</p>	<p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle phased site plan www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-to-visit/conisbrough-castle/history/conisbrough-castle-phased-plan.pdf</p>

Thomas of Lancaster assaulted the castle unopposed and found just six men inside. Earl Thomas held Conisbrough until he rebelled against the Crown and was defeated at the battle of Boroughbridge. Edward II returned the castle to Earl John; however it reverted back to the crown on Earl John's death in 1347.

From 1347 the castle was kept by Edmund of Langley and his descendants of the House of York. Edmund's first born son Edward succeeded him as the Duke of York and his second (possibly illegitimate son) Richard of Conisbrough was left landless and resided at Conisbrough as a tenant.

In 1415 Richard of Conisbrough plotted with Sir Thomas Grey and Lord Scrope of Masham to overthrow Henry V. The plot was discovered and Richard was executed.

With Edward Duke of York's death in 1415 at Agincourt, Conisbrough castle passed to Richard of Conisbrough's infant son who succeeded his uncle as the Duke of York.

The War of the Roses saw civil war between the Yorkist rebels led by Richard of York and the Lancastrian supporters of the king, Henry VI. During this period Conisbrough was held against the Crown by Edmund Talbot who mounted canon taken from Sheffield Castle on the walls.

Following the death of Richard of York in the Battle of Wakefield, near to Sandal Castle, his son Edward Earl of March took ownership of his lands and avenged his death with a stunning victory over the Lancastrians at the battle of Towton in 1461.

The castle became crown property in the 15th century when Edward of March ascended the throne as Edward IV in 1461. Its importance lessened as it became just one of many royal castles and was no longer used as a residence. As a result of this it quickly fell into disrepair and was virtually abandoned by the 16th century when it fell into ruin. The last recorded repairs were recorded during the reign of Richard III (r.1483-1485).

	<p>In 1538 the site was surveyed for Henry VIII by three commissioners, Thomas Fairfax, Thomas Green, and Francis Frobisher. The castle was found to be in a general state of disrepair. The gates and bridges had collapsed along with the southern curtain wall. One floor of the keep was collapsed, the roof damaged and the well full of gravel.</p> <p>Significantly it is perhaps this state of decay that saved Conisbrough from further destruction during the English Civil War as it was seen as an indefensible ruin and while it changed hands several times it seems to never again have been occupied.</p> <p>In 1950, Conisbrough Castle underwent repair work overseen by the Ministry of Works.</p> <p>As it has such an extensive history, Conisbrough Castle was the site of archaeological investigations from 1967-1969.</p> <p>English Heritage began to care for Conisbrough Castle in 1984 and the castle became a place where the public could learn about its history, as well as being a visitor attraction for Conisbrough.</p>	
<p>h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site</p>	<p>The keep</p> <p>Historians at English Heritage have interpreted the keep as being a very secure and private space for Isabel de Warenne and her family, with the upper floors being a private space for her and her household. These private, secure spaces may have been for Isabel and her daughters and the daughters of gentry families on their estates who attended them.</p> <p>The cylindrical and buttressed great tower at Conisbrough is remarkable for its lack of English comparison. While similar in design to Henry II's polygonal keeps at Orford (1165–72), Chilham (1171–4) and Tickhill (c.1178–80), it bears more comparison to French cylindrical and polygonal donjons from the same period,</p>	<p>Goodall, J. A. A., <i>The English Castle</i>, Yale University Press (2011)</p> <p>Brindle, S, and Sadraei, A, <i>Conisbrough Castle</i>, English Heritage Guidebooks (2015) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/guidebook-conisbrough-castle-new</p> <p>Conisbrough Castle history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-</p>

	<p>and these examples are, however, not exact parallels. Mortemer castle on the de Warenne estates in Normandy is recorded as being one such example.</p> <p>The influence for the keep at Conisbrough is likely to have come from the time Hamelin de Warenne spent in the Duchy of Anjou and was brought to England in 1153 when he travelled with the court of his half-brother Henry II.</p> <p>The curtain wall</p> <p>In comparison to the stonework of the keep, the curtain wall is poorly built. The wall is constructed of roughly dressed coursed stone with ashlar cornerstones containing a packed rubble core. The way in which the curtain wall abuts the great tower confirms that it was built shortly after the keep in a second phase of stone construction. The uncommon solid semi-circular towers on the wall help to date its construction as this design was introduced by architects working for King John (r. 1199-1216) on early 13th century castles such as Knaresborough and Scarborough.</p> <p>The barbican</p> <p>The barbican at Conisbrough would have connected the inner and outer baileys with a drawbridge spanning the ditch. This is now filled in and provides a flat causeway. The structure itself was designed to control access and hinder attack and appears to have been constructed in the mid-13th century after the curtain walls had been completed. In many castles the barbican was framed by towers however there is no evidence of these at Conisbrough. Similar barbicans can be found at the de Warenne castle at Sandal and also at Royal residences such as the Tower of London and Newcastle Castle.</p>	<p>castle/history/significance</p> <p>English Heritage YouTube Channel, <i>A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles Animated History</i> (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew</p> <p>A reconstruction drawing of Conisbrough Castle: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/#gallery-item-2c3c27b69f7247458d23fb131d9c85b05</p>
<p>i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate</p>	<p>As a unique Norman castle, Conisbrough castle was built as much for its political statement as its strategic location. It played a role in demonstrating Norman dominance in England to the local populace.</p> <p>Conisbrough castle stayed in the ownership of powerful families - particularly the Warennes - until 1347. These families had close ties to the royal court.</p>	<p>Scott, Walter <i>Ivanhoe</i> Wordsworth Editions; New edition (5 Feb. 1995)</p> <p>Tate, <i>Conisbrough Castle from the North, with a watermill in the foreground</i>, J.W. M. Turner (1797) www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-conisborough-castle-from-the-north-with-a-</p>

	<p>Conisbrough became a royal castle from 1461, when Edward of March ascended the throne as Edward IV. It was abandoned sometime in the 15th century. By 1538, the keep had lost both its roof and floors.</p> <p>Conisbrough castle's importance goes beyond the study of history as it provided inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's <i>Ivanhoe</i> 1819 as well as being a popular subject for painters, like Turner, throughout the 1700s and 1800s.</p> <p>Due to its importance both locally and nationally, Conisbrough castle has become an iconic landmark of the south Yorkshire country side</p>	<p>watermill-in-the-foreground-d00909</p>
<p>j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites</p>	<p>The cylindrical and buttressed great tower at Conisbrough is anything but typical in the tradition of Norman castle building in England. While similar in design to Henry II's polygonal keeps, it holds more in common with cylindrical and polygonal donjons from the same period in France.</p> <p>The de Warennes had two major castles on their Norman estates in France, Bellencombre and Mortemer. While these are both in ruin today, investigations were carried out by archaeologist Hugh Braun in 1934 who records that the keep at Mortemer was a cylindrical keep with six semi-circular buttresses. This appears to be a smaller, simpler, yet strikingly similar version of Conisbrough.</p> <p>Elsewhere on the Warenne lands, at Thorne Castle (which no longer exists) in South Yorkshire, the antiquary John Leland noted the existence of a stone tower in 1534. The antiquarian William Casson was still able to note during his visit to the site in the 19th century that from its foundations it would have appeared to have been a cylindrical tower with three massive projecting buttresses, another French donjon in spirit, similar to Henry II's circular keeps and Conisbrough.</p> <p>The Curtain walls and Barbican structures, while by no means unique, are uncommon. The solid towers are not typical of curtain walls yet can also be found at Knaresborough and Scarborough Castles. Similarly the lack of towers</p>	<p>Goodall, J. A. A., <i>The English Castle</i>, Yale University Press (2011)</p> <p>Sands, H, and Braun, H, 'Conisbrough and Mortemer', <i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i>, 32 (1934–6)</p> <p>English Heritage YouTube Channel, <i>A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles Animated History</i> (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThk3Ew</p> <p>English Heritage YouTube Channel, <i>History at Home: Castles!</i> (2020) https://youtu.be/DucGdZUgu2k</p>

	<p>adjoining the barbican is not typically common, but comparisons can be found at Sandal Castle, Newcastle Castle and the Tower of London.</p>	
<p>k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history</p>	<p>Everyday life Although many of the people associated with Conisbrough are anything but 'everyday' being nobility, we do see some aspects of the site that speak to the everyday. In the kitchen, with its pantry and buttery, we see how food was stored.</p> <p>There are several buildings of worship connected to Conisbrough, including the onsite chapel and the Church of St Peter, which both speak to the importance of religion.</p> <p>Defensive fortification Politically, the site makes a poignant statement to the Anglo-Saxons in the local area. 'Cyningesburh' was associated with Anglo-Saxon kings; its last owner, Harold Godwinson, led the Anglo-Saxon armies to their defeat at the Battle of Hastings. After the battle, William de Warenne, one of William the Conqueror's companions was given Conisbrough for his contribution in the conquest. William de Warenne's occupation of this prosperous town showed the local landholders that the Normans were now in control.</p> <p>Romanticism Like many ruined historical sites Conisbrough has served its time as a romantic ruin. Sir Walter Scott's <i>Ivanhoe</i> was based at the site but named it incorrectly as 'Coningsburgh' and attributed its construction to the Anglo-Saxons.</p> <p>As early as the 12th century Conisbrough had a mythical history, as Geoffrey of Monmouth had created an alternate history for the site featuring Britons and Saxons and while there is no evidence to support his story, it was taken as fact until the 18th century.</p> <p>Tourism English Heritage began to care for the castle in 1984 and it was used as a tourist and visitor attraction. This change of use led to changes to the building, with the</p>	<p>Sir Walter Scott and Conisbrough Castle web article www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/past-lives/sir-walter-scott</p> <p>Google Map of Conisbrough Castle: www.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=1KFxOo8QQLWBHTbr4twCC-xJT0qU&ll=53.48442%2C-1.2263810000000075&z=14</p>

	Keep being re-roofed and re-floored from 1993-1995 to improve public access to the tower.	
l) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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? - 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? 	<p>Conisbrough Castle research website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/history/research</p> <p>Visit to Conisbrough Castle</p>
m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site	<p>The interpretation panels on site and within the exhibition space have images of the different people who have occupied the site from different social levels and could be used as inspiration to populate reconstructions and interpretations of the site.</p> <p>The artefacts on display in the exhibition area can inspire interpretation of the material culture owned and used by the individuals who have lived and worked in Conisbrough castle.</p> <p>The physical remains of the site themselves are in excellent condition. They have barely been augmented and have limited modern repairs. As such, they are an incredible inspiration for artistic reconstructions and interpretations.</p> <p>Detailed reconstructions of the site have been produced in multiple forms and can be found throughout the historic building and visitors centre.</p>	<p>Visit to Conisbrough Castle</p> <p>A reconstruction drawing of Conisbrough Castle: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle/#gallery-item-2c3c27b69f7247458d23fb131d9c85b05</p>
n) The challenges	Benefits	Visit to Conisbrough Castle

<p>and benefits of studying the historic environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gives a sense of place, well-being and cultural identity.- Defines and enhances a connection of people to a place, such as regional and local distinctiveness.- Stimulating and life-enhancing way to engage with history. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Difficult to interpret the physical remains of the inner bailey as they have been augmented and developed in multiple building phases with limited existing remains left on site.- Limited knowledge about the site and its gradual ruination from the 15th century.- Although there is significant knowledge and documentation of some people connected to Conisbrough, such as the de Warenne family, this depth of knowledge does not extend to the significant number of people who would have worked at the Castle.- Separating historical fact from ancient and modern fictitious works created by such as Geoffrey of Monmouth and Sir Walter Scott.	
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