



## **LO: I understand more about the earlier history of Slingsby Castle.**

We have found out a few things about Slingsby Castle...

- It dates to around 1630.
- It was built by Charles Cavendish, a nobleman.
- Historians are still unsure if it was ever finished. If it was finished, was it lived in? History can give us lots of questions
- Charles Cavendish supported Charles I in the English Civil War. When the war was won by the Parliamentarians, Charles fled to France. Slingsby Castle was abandoned.
- He stayed in France for a few years, then came back when Charles II became king, but did not return to Slingsby.
- Slingsby Castle was left empty and gradually became a ruin.

### **But there is more to the story of Slingsby Castle!**

Lots of historical sites have been used and reused in different ways over time. People change them to fit what they want or need, and fashions change, even in building styles. We think of historical sites as having layers of history: we peel back the layers to find out more and more.

Like many other castles, Slingsby Castle was built on the site of an earlier structure. We can trace the story of the castle back hundreds of years. The buildings changed over the years, so we are going to divide these in **phases**.

### **Phase 1: the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The manor house**

Around 1175, there was a **fortified manor house or hunting lodge** on the site. It belonged to **Roger de Mowbray**. When he was a teenager he fought in a battle against the Scots, at Northallerton. Later, he travelled thousands of miles to the Middle East to fight in the Crusades. These were holy wars, fought between Christians and Muslims.



**Stop and think:** imagine travelling thousands of miles to fight in a battle. It would have been a long and exhausting journey; no trains, planes or ferries. If you had to cross seas you would use boats, powered by sails or people rowing,



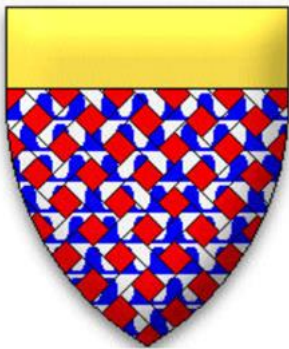
and on land you would use horses. You would have been away from home for months or years. You would have been able to send letters, but they would take weeks to reach home.



This is the coat of arms of the Mowbray family. A coat of arms is like the symbol of a family, and they would put it on shields if going into battle, or carve it in stone on their castles and other buildings. Anyone who saw it would know who it belonged to.

## Phase 2: the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The first castle.

By 1216, the lands around Slingsby, and the manor house were owned by a new family, the Wyvill family. They began work to turn the manor house into a **castle**. This involved making it stronger, so if there was an attack, they could be in a strong, safe place to fight back.



The Wyvill family coat of arms



**Stop and think:** why do you think people needed to turn houses into strong castles which they could defend? What was happening at that time?

Clue: people react to what is going on around them. What do you think might have been going on in the 13<sup>th</sup> century? Do you think it was a calm, stable, peaceful time? Or do you think it was a period of instability and unrest?



This is an effigy (statue) of William de Wyvill. It is in the church, so you will be able to go and look at it.

### **Phase 3: The 15<sup>th</sup> century. The second castle.**

The castle was now owned by the Hastings family. William, Lord Hastings, had an important job working for King Edward IV. He was Lord Chamberlain, which meant he managed the royal household. He also was in charge of the Royal Mint: this is where actual money was made.

In 1462-71 the castle was upgraded again. There are records from the time which tell us what was done. They say that William was allowed to '**enclose, crenelate, embattle and machiolate**'.



Let's look at what this means...

**Enclose** - a **wall** was built around the castle. The courtyard inside the walls was called a **bailey**.

**Crenelate**- **battlements** are added to the top of the castle walls.

**Embattle** – make things stronger so the castle is able to survive an attack. Walls were made thicker, and **arrow slits** were added.

**Machiolate** – this is a bit of the wall that sticks out, over an entrance. The people in the castle could drop heavy missiles or boiling liquid on the enemy attacking them. It is also called a **barbican**.

There was a **moat**, and inside the castle area a **chapel** was built.



The castle was abandoned around 1485, two years after William Hastings was beheaded. It became a ruin....until the Cavendish family turned up!

That is a lot of information about the different phases of Slingsby Castle!

👁️👁️ Watch this video, which tells us about a woman living in a different medieval castle (**Youtube – parental supervision required**).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k-LhWB4QaA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k-LhWB4QaA&feature=emb_logo)

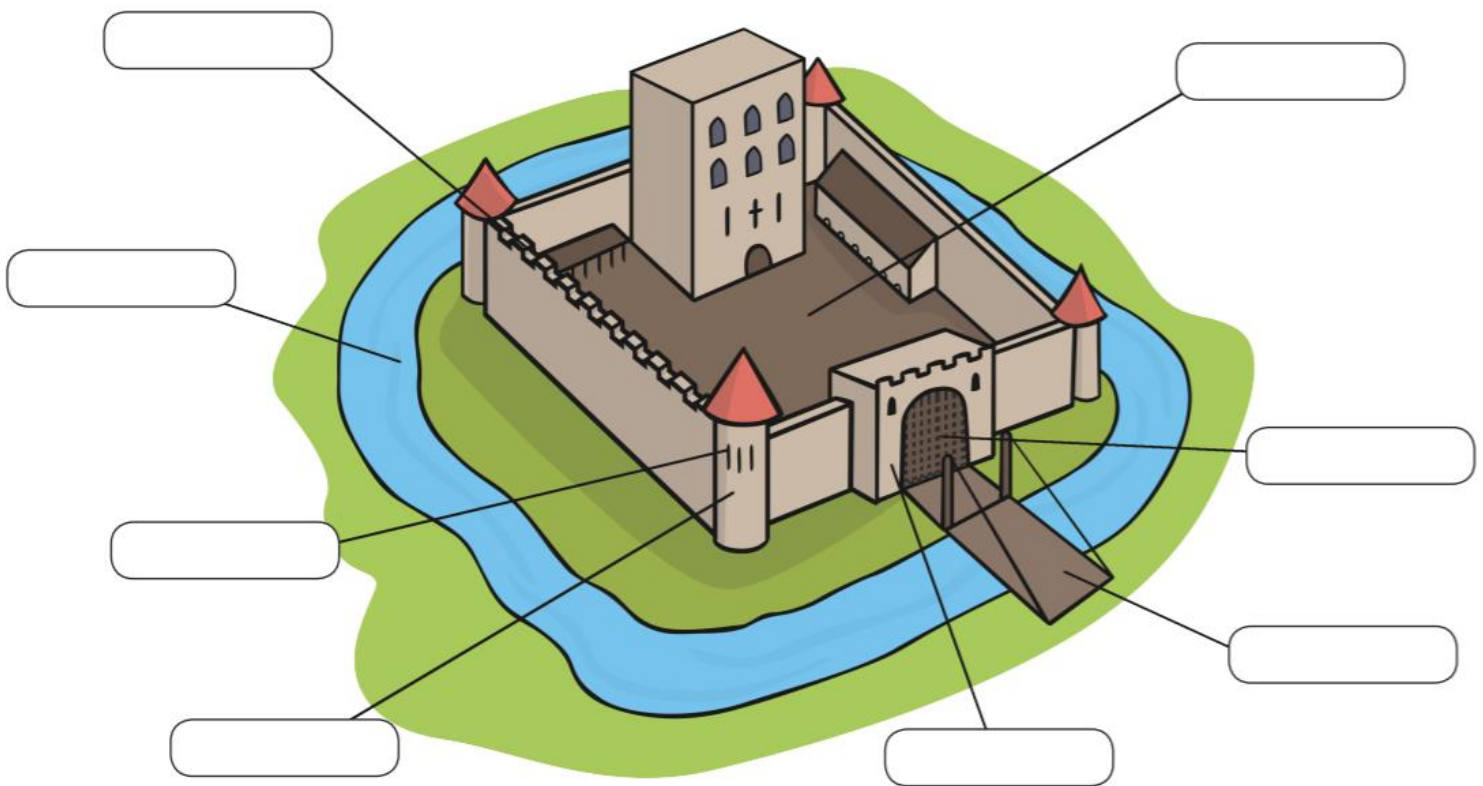


## ☺ Activity

This castle is to give you an idea of that castles at that time looked like. Slingsby Castle would have been **similar**, but **not identical** to this. For example, there would not have been red roofs on the four towers (they would have been grey, made of stone or slate).

Can you label the parts of the castle: use the words and descriptions in **Phase 3** to help you.

## Parts of a Castle



Now... can you draw a picture of the castle? It would have been a busy place, with lots of people, dogs, horses and other animals. Use the picture above as guide. Are there other sources you can use? Books? Or have you visited a castle?