

Wednesday 27th January 2021

WALT understand the geographical reasons why ancient castles were located where they are.

First, let's look at some castles in the UK.

Windsor Castle, England



Edinburgh Castle, Scotland



Caernarfon Castle, Wales

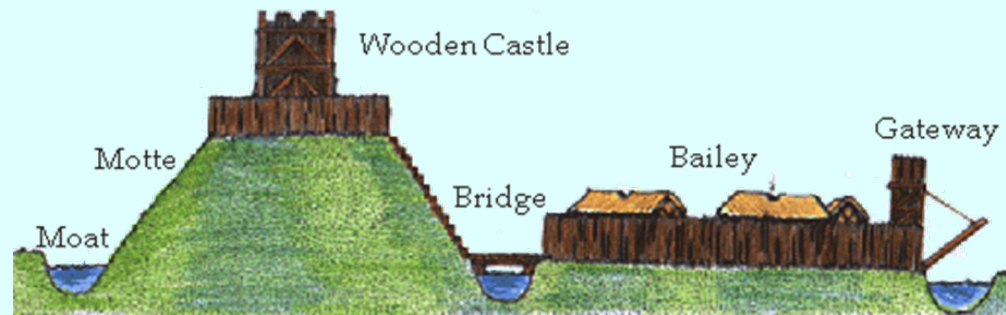


Belfast Castle, Northern Ireland



What did you notice about the location of those 4 castles?

The Norman's in Normandy, France were the first people to build castles during the Norman Conquest. They appeared sometime after 1066AD – known as the middle ages.



The Normans needed to build their castles quickly – sometimes in just a few days so at first they used earth and wood which was easily available and quick to use. Using this method they could build **Motte and Bailey** castles in **2 weeks**.

William the Conqueror was the first Norman King of England and during his reign over 60 of these castles were built all over England – their remains can still be seen.

Where's the best place to build a castle?



Habitation – you need to protect locals and use their labour



Woodland – Essential for wood supplies: Weapons, hoarding, drawbridges, fuel for fires, etc.



High Mountains – Protection from the weather; difficult for enemies to reach you; hard to see over and build upon.



Low Hills – Some protection from the weather; fairly easy to see enemy approaching; water will drain down into a basin.



Marshy Ground – Difficult to build on – poor foundations; can be a source of illness.

Location was very important when building a castle.

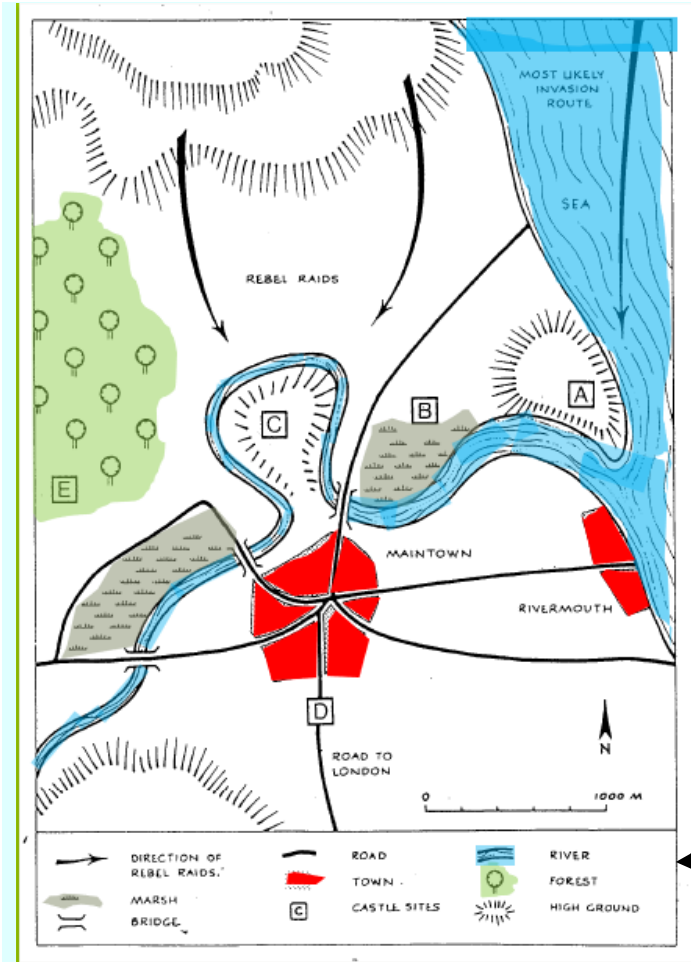
Other things to think about:

Main Roads bring in supplies and reinforcements; you need to protect main routes in your area.



Rivers for: drinking water; cleaning water; possible water defenses; streams running from it; natural barriers.





Let's look at the map.

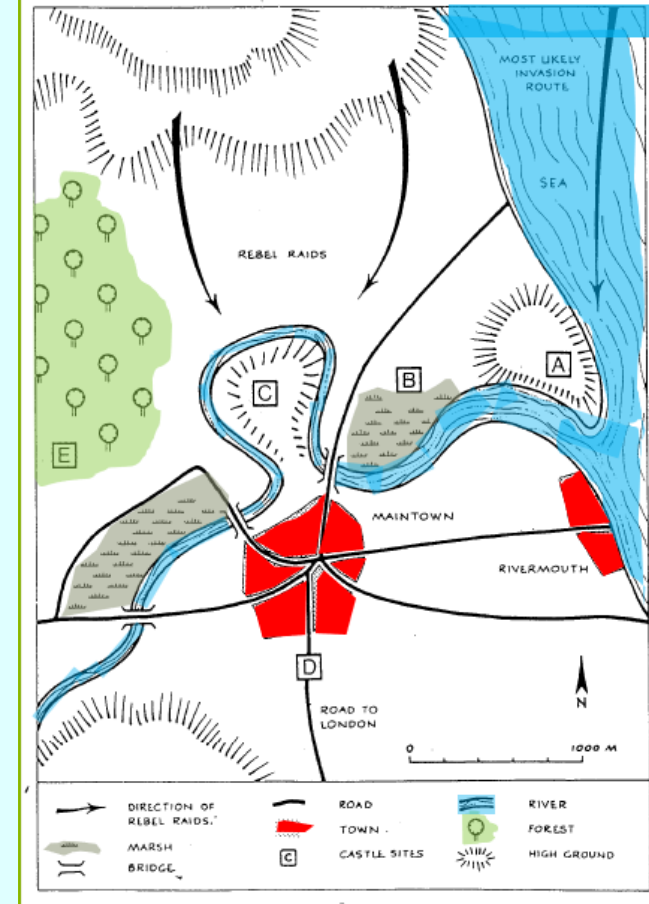
Where do you think would be best to build a castle?

A B C D or E?

Key - this tells us what the drawing on the map mean!

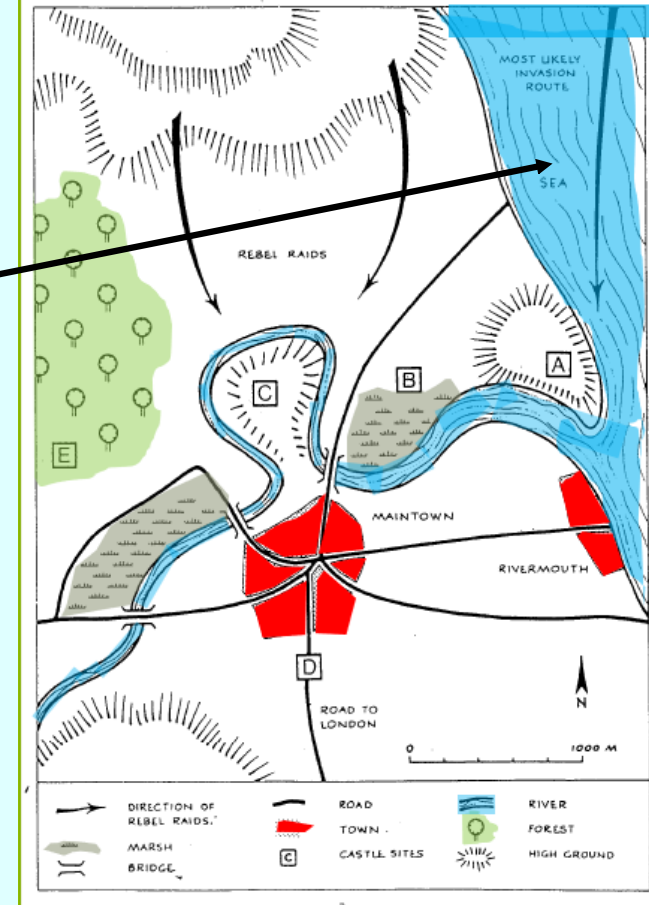
	Advantages	Disadvantages
Site A		
Site B		
Site C		
Site D		
Site E		

Which site did you choose?



Did you choose site A?

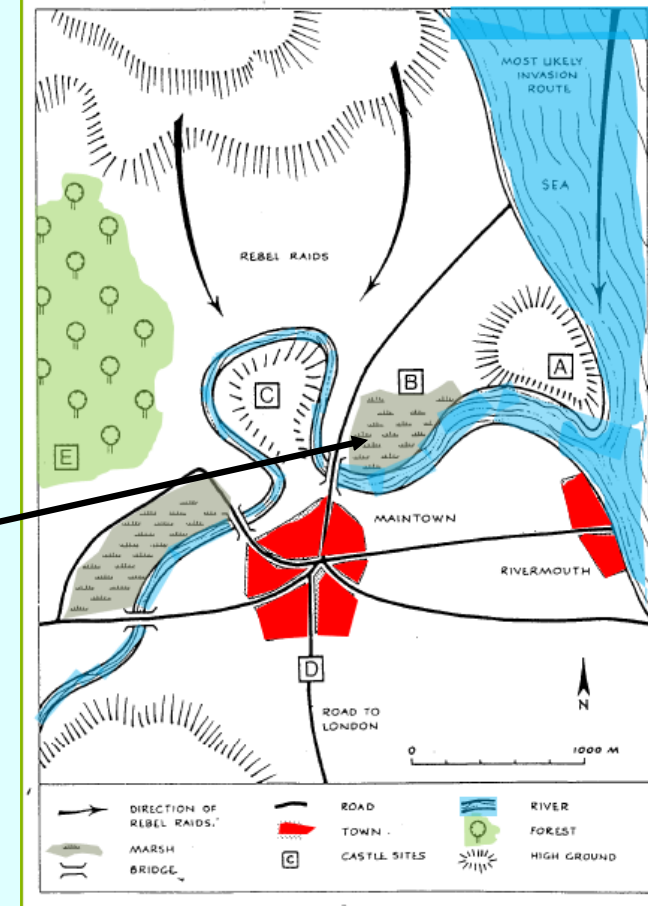
Oh dear!
 Scottish rebels joined forces with the Vikings and attacked from the sea. They cut off your supply lines and starved your people. You are dead!



Did you choose site B?

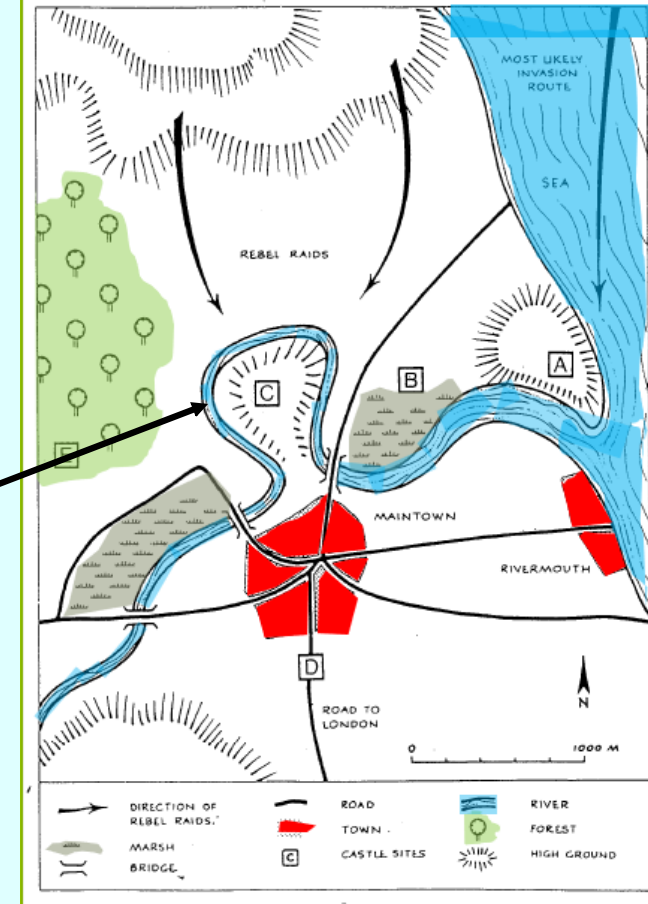
Your castle was too heavy and began to sink into the marshy land.

Disease from the marsh killed many of your people.
You are dead.



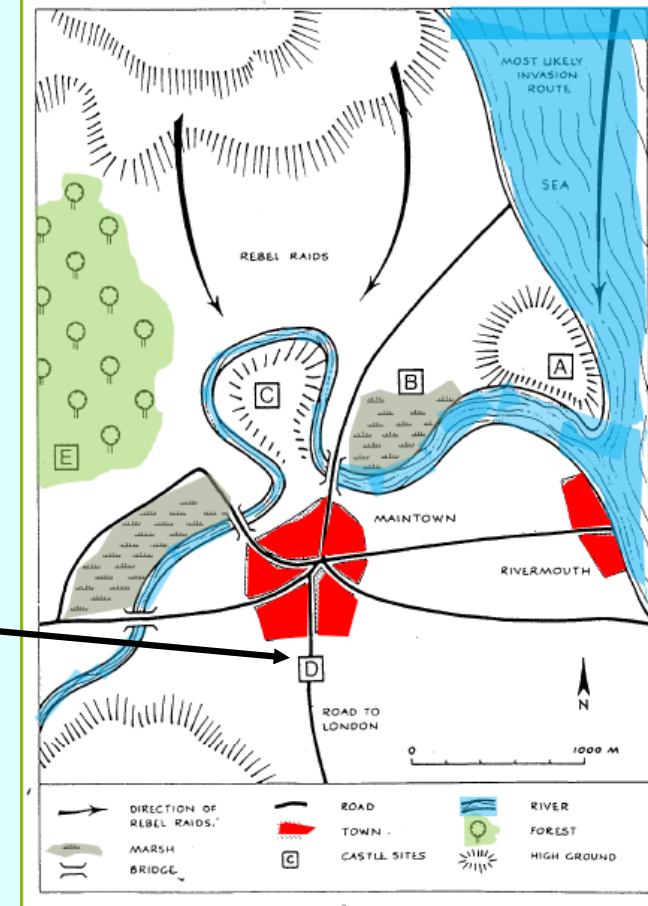
Did you choose site C?

Congratulations! Your excellent viewpoint on top of the hill gave you advanced warning of the attack. The river provided a natural moat to protect the routes to town. You win and are Lord of all you survey!



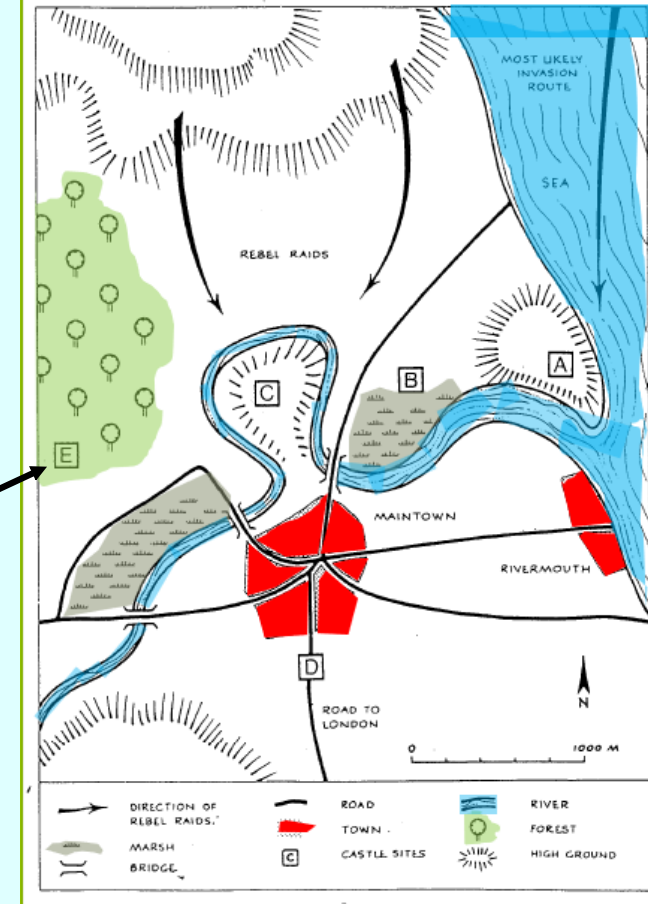
Did you choose site D?

Scottish rebels from the north reached Maintown and took control before you realised. The land you built on was too flat to see them coming. You are defeated.



Did you choose site E?

You could not see the Scottish rebels attacking because of the trees blocking your view to the north. They now have control of all the roads and you are trapped, defeated and forced to flee into the forest. Many of your men die.



Lets us now look at Ludlow Castle



Lets look at the reasons why Ludlow Castle was built where it was:

- High ground
- River Teme
- Market square
- Welsh border
- Trees for defence
- Open views for miles
- Travel links by road and water

Now you are going to draw a picture of a castle in the perfect location!

Remember your castle needs to:

- be on a hill
- be near a river
- be near a main road
- be near a woodland
- be near a village

Write a paragraph explaining your decisions as to why you have built it where you have.

