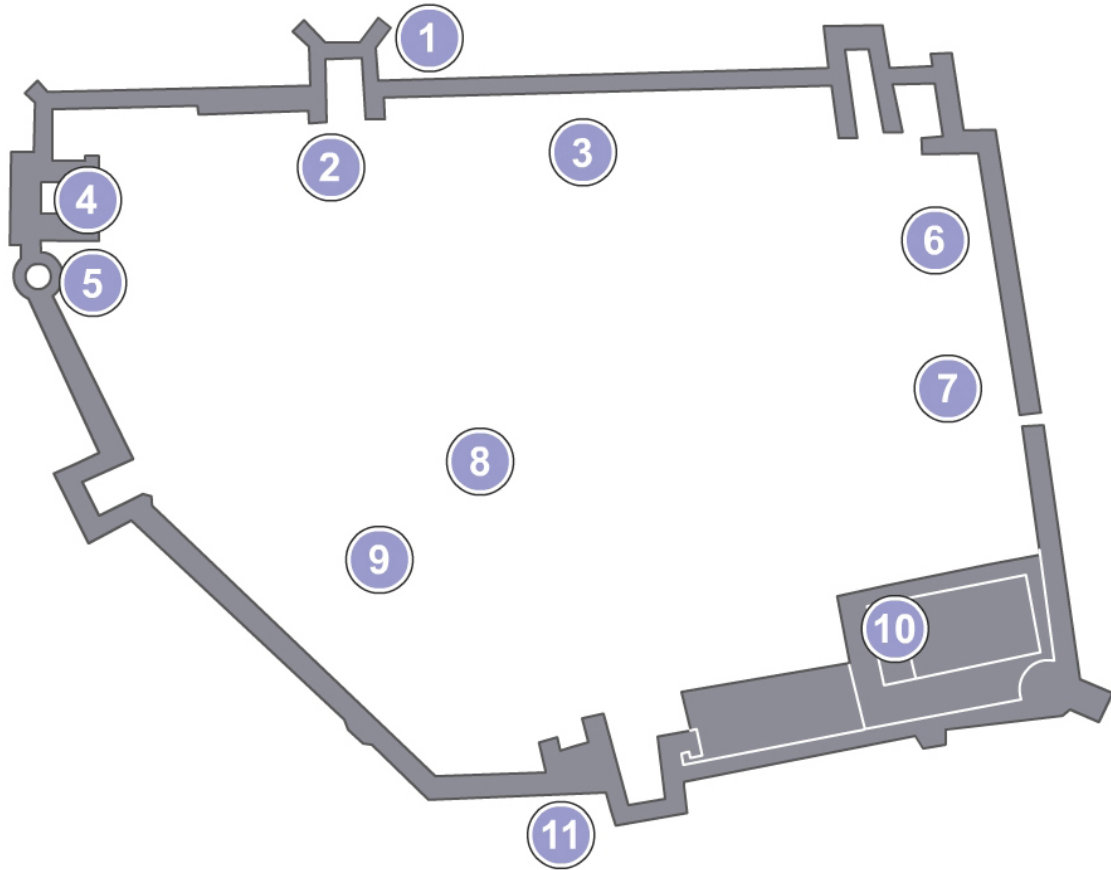


How does Weoley Castle look today?

A plan of Weoley Castle:



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① The Wall Tower | ⑦ The Great Hall |
| ② The Guesthouse and Stables | ⑧ The Well |
| ③ The Chapel | ⑨ The Brewhouse / Bakehouse |
| ④ The Gatehouse | ⑩ The Kitchen |
| ⑤ The Small Round Tower | ⑪ The Moat |
| ⑥ The Solar | |

1. The Wall Tower

These towers jutted out from the walls at regular intervals. You can see the bottom of one in the picture.

The towers probably had arrow slits. Archers firing through these could catch attackers in a crossfire.

Why do you think the corner of each tower had extra stone (a buttress) added?



2. The Guesthouse and Stables

A guesthouse and stables is mentioned in a description of the castle written in 1424. It is thought there were stables with guest rooms above in this part of the castle.

What is the evidence that the bottom part of this building could have stabled horses?



3. The Chapel

This part of the castle is thought to be the chapel. There is a place at the east end where the altar may have been placed. Archaeologists think the chapel was built about 1320, and once had painted glass windows and a decorated tile floor. The little building to the side may have been a small chantry chapel. A rich person would pay to have a special little side chapel built where priests could pray for his soul, or the soul of one of his family.

What does this tell you about the importance of religion to people in the Middle Ages?



4. The Gatehouse

This entrance probably had a portcullis and a heavy door.

A constable (or guard of the gate) would have lived in rooms above the entrance.

Can you see the grooves for the drawbridge?



5. The Small Round Tower

The bottom of what seems a strange little tower is to be found near the gatehouse.

It must have held a newel (spiral) stairway which has completely disappeared.

What do you suppose this stairway was made from?



6. The Solar

The solar consisted of private rooms for the lord and his lady, and family. It is thought to have been situated at the north end of the Great Hall.

The buildings in this north east corner of the castle site are all thought to be a bit of a mystery.

Can you spot the arch at basement level? Is it a dungeon? The bottom of a drawbridge pit for a second gate? Or a pit for a garde-robe (toilet with a wooden seat) built in to a room above?



7. The Great Hall

This picture looks south from the solar over the remains of the Great Hall, and towards the buttery, pantry and kitchen beyond.



This picture shows the hearth in the middle of the Hall. This is where the fire was made to warm the room. It must have been very smoky without a chimney to take the smoke out of the room.



8. The Well

It was very easy to recognise the well! It is a stone lined hole in the courtyard.

The hole was dug down until it reached a level of water. A bucket on a rope was used to bring the water up from the bottom of the well.

This well is thought to have been about 7 metres deep.

What do you think is missing from the top of the well?



9. The Brewhouse and Bakehouse

The bottom of one oven can be seen in the picture.

This oven was originally a beehive shape. It was heated by burning wood inside the oven to heat up the walls. Then bread was baked in the heat coming from the walls.

Archaeologists digging in the 1950s found lots of these ovens beneath this spot.



10. The Kitchen

The large hearth for the fire is shown in the middle of the picture. This is the evidence that this room must have been the kitchen.

Clay tiles were set on edge to make the hearth. These tiles could withstand a great deal of heat before they cracked.



11. The Moat

Part of the moat has been filled in just here to make the present day entrance close to the brewhouse and bakehouse.

The moat held water up until the 1930s.

