



The vision of one powerful man, the Duke of Albany, Doune Castle is an excellent place to investigate life in medieval Scotland.

# INVESTIGATING DOUNE CASTLE

Information for Teachers





## Timeline

c.1340 Birth of Robert Stewart, second son of Robert II

late 1300s Building of Doune Castle begins

1386 Stewart becomes Governor of Scotland

1398 Stewart created Duke of Albany

1402 Death of Albany's nephew, heir to throne

1420 Death of Albany, age 80

1424 Doune becomes Crown property; in use as royal hunting lodge

1567 Castle besieged following Mary Queen of Scots' abdication

1580 Doune visited by James VI

1746 Prisoners kept at Doune by Jacobites

1800s Castle becomes ruinous

1883 Repairs and restoration work carried out by Earl of Moray

1970 Castle leased to state; now cared for by Historic Scotland

**The castle at Doune is well-preserved and exciting, situated in a commanding riverside position. The vision of one powerful man, the Duke of Albany, the castle is an excellent place to investigate life in medieval Scotland.**

## Historical background

It is likely that there has been a fort of some kind on the site of Doune castle since early times. The name doune derives from the word 'dun', meaning an ancient stronghold. The Romans recognised the strategic importance of the site, situated on a promontory formed by the meeting of the River Teith and the Ardoch burn, and built a timber fort close by.

However, the castle we see today was constructed from around the end of the 14th century. It is unusual in Scotland in that it is largely the vision and work of one man, Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. The son of Robert II and the brother of the sickly Robert III, Albany is a key figure in 15th-century Scotland. King in everything but name, Albany ruled as governor of Scotland in place of his ailing brother and was at the heart of Scottish politics for around 50 years.

Albany is a colourful and controversial figure. He presided over events as diverse as the establishment of Scotland's first university at St Andrew's and the dubious death of the heir to the throne, his nephew the Duke

of Rothesay. A noted 'big spender', Albany's kingly ambitions are embodied in Doune Castle which is modelled closely on contemporary royal castles.

Soon after Albany's death in 1420, his son Murdoch fell out with the king, James I. James executed Murdoch and the castle became a royal residence, maintained by a series of royal keepers, many of them related to the royal family of Stewart. Doune became a popular hunting lodge and summer residence.

Its defences were put to the test for the first time in 1567 following the forced abdication of Mary Queen of Scots. The castle was besieged for three days by Mary's opponents and eventually the pro-Mary inmates surrendered, on the condition that the castle was not destroyed. In the civil war years which followed many political prisoners spent time within Doune's walls

Doune last saw active use during the Jacobite rising of 1745, when a number of government soldiers were imprisoned here by the Jacobites after the battle of Falkirk. Six escaped by knotting bedsheets and lowering themselves down the walls above the kitchen.

The castle gradually fell out of use. In 1883 it was inspected, repaired and substantially restored by the Earl of Moray. It was leased to the state in 1970 and is now cared for by Historic Scotland.



## Supporting learning and teaching

A visit to Doune Castle is particularly appropriate for teachers working on class study topics such as:

- The Middle Ages
- Castles
- The Stewarts

There are also links with **Mary Queen of Scots** and the **Jacobites**.

The **Curriculum for Excellence** aspires to motivate and challenge pupils through a wide range of varied learning experiences. Site visits have a particular role to play in joining up learning outcomes across the curriculum. A visit, and use of the supporting materials, will help to:

- **develop successful learners** by challenging pupils to consider how life has changed for people. It will help them to think critically about evidence and arrive at their own conclusions.
- **develop confident individuals**. Pupils will learn about aspects of their community's past, develop an understanding of social changes, establish some of their own values and communicate their views on different historical and social issues.
- **develop responsible citizens**. It will help to increase pupils' social and historical knowledge and understanding and encourage greater respect for their own historic and built environment.
- **develop effective contributors** by broadening pupils' knowledge and understanding through investigative, creative and

## Before the visit

- It is helpful if pupils are familiar with some of the architectural terminology of castles as this makes discussion on site easier. Words particularly relevant to Doune might include: **courtyard, firebasket, yett, spiral stair chamber, latrine, battlements, dais**. Pupils could produce an illustrated class dictionary to explain these and other terms.
- Without going into too much detail, it is worth discussing the early years of the Stewart dynasty and the life and role of Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. It helps if pupils can understand his connection to the kings of Scotland – his father, brother and nephew.
- Help pupils gain a clearer grasp of the time scale by making a time line with them, counting back the centuries and then marking on key events in the history of the castle. This could be added to after the visit.
- Discuss the organisation of life in a castle. Pupils could investigate the roles of the key castle 'managers': **steward, constable or keeper, marshal and chaplain**. Further details of this can be found in the Historic Scotland publication *Investigating Medieval Castles in Scotland*.
- There is plenty of good evidence on site relating to defending and attacking castles. Discuss with pupils the range of ways that castles could be attacked and defended.
- Some children find it hard to grasp that a castle was ever anything other than a ruin. Discuss how wind and weather can affect the look of a building as well as the many deliberate changes that people choose to make to buildings as their use evolves.

## Working on site

When exploring the castle, in addition to our suggestions for discussion, pupils should be encouraged to look critically at what they see and to make and test theories based on physical evidence. Some general starting points could include:

- What materials were used to build the castle? Why were these materials chosen? Are there any materials which might have rotted away or been stolen since then?
- Do you think this room has always looked like this? Can you see anywhere it has been altered? Why might it have been changed?
- What evidence is there for everyday life?

Pupils can record evidence by taking notes, sketching, taking photographs, recording impressions into a tape recorder.

On the Historic Scotland website: [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/education\\_unit](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/education_unit) teachers can find additional resources to help with work on site. These include compiling an Evidence Record and a My Impressions Record.

## Suggestions for follow-up work

Following the visit pupils can pool their findings in groups to create a fuller record of the castle. This could form the basis for a range of presentation activities, for example:

A guide book or leaflet for future visitors.

A slide show with commentary.

Imaginative writing based on the lives of the people who lived or worked at the castle – even a prisoner.

A series of drama sketches showing snapshots of life in the castle through the ages.



## Plan of Doune Castle

### On the trail of the Duke of Albany

Our suggested tour route guides you and your pupils around the castle, in order to uncover as much as possible about the Duke of Albany and how he lived.

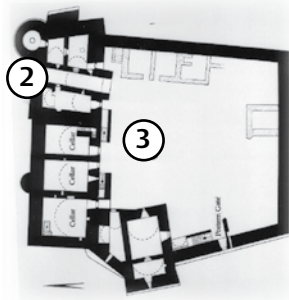
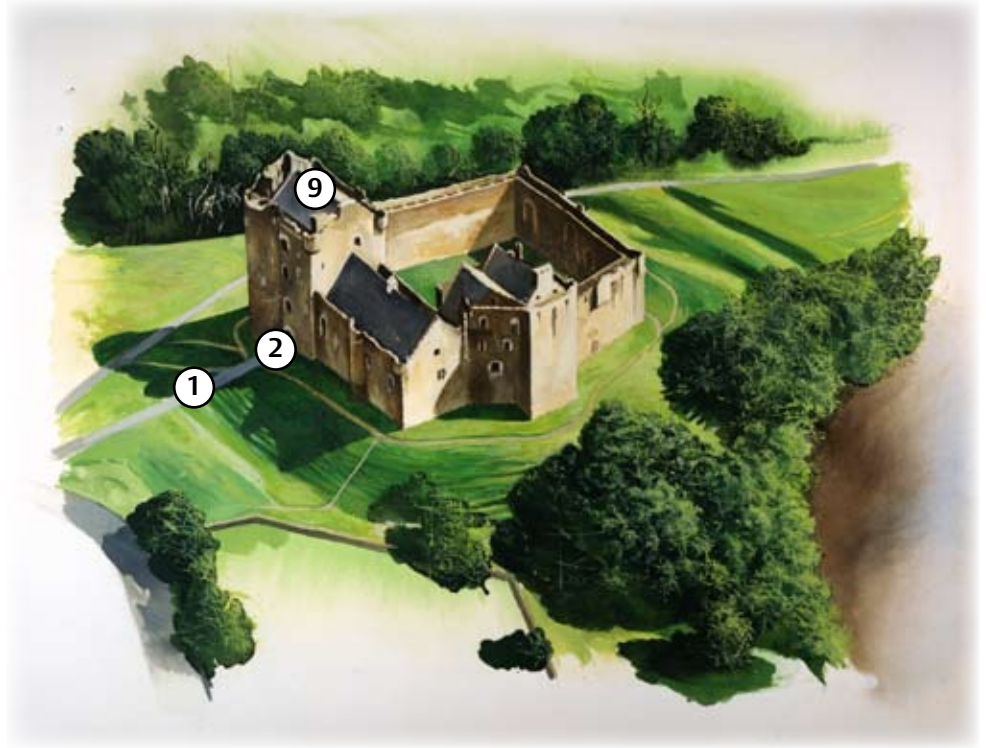
After the introduction, it doesn't really matter in which order you visit the locations, so you may prefer to split your class into groups, each with an adult leader and start them at different points.

After checking in with the steward, we suggest you visit these locations, marked on the plan to the right:

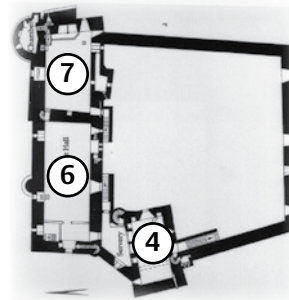
1. Outside the Castle
2. The Entrance
3. The Courtyard
4. The Kitchen
5. The Bedchamber
6. The Great Hall
7. The Duke's Hall
8. The Duchess's Hall
9. On the roof

Background information is given in the pack for each locations. It is written in simple language so that it can be read aloud to pupils if desired. Also included are suggested questions for discussion.

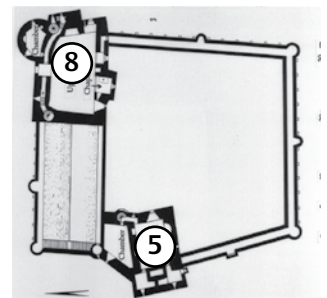
Allow about 45 minutes for the tour.



Ground floor



First floor



Second floor

**Did you know...**

King Robert II had twenty-one children!

# Tour notes: On the trail of the Duke of Albany

## Outside Doune Castle

### *Setting the scene*

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils in advance.**

- Let's go back in time more than 600 years. It's round about the year 1400. At this time Doune castle was new. It was one of the most impressive castles in Scotland.
- Inside the castle lived the Duke of Albany. His name was Robert Stewart. He was the brother of King Robert III. The king was often ill, so the Duke ruled instead of him, as Governor of Scotland.
- Robert, Duke of Albany wanted to be the real king and his castle was built to be like a royal palace. He spent a lot of money on making Doune castle an impressive place to be and was known as 'the big spender'.
- It must have been tough being the Duke of Albany. He was doing the hard work of being a king and making hard decisions – but he couldn't call himself king or actually sit on the throne.
- The castle was so well built and impressive, and the Duke of Albany was so scary and powerful that it was hardly ever attacked.
- After the Duke of Albany died in 1420, this castle became a kind of holiday home for the Scottish royal family. It was used as a place to go hunting from.
- In the 1700s it was used as a prison and 150 soldiers were kept here. Six of them escaped by tying bedsheets together and lowering themselves from the window!
- It gradually fell into ruins but parts of it were restored in the 1800s. Nowadays it's a popular tourist attraction – and is sometimes used in films. Although a ruin now, you can still feel what it must have been like 600 years ago. And it's probably much safer to visit these days...



*Doune Castle from the south*



### Did you know...

It was good to stay friends with the Duke of Albany – even after he died! After his death, one writer described him like this: Albany was the most patient of men, gentle enough and kind, talkative and friendly, a daily attender at feasts, a man who was a big spender and generous to strangers'. Do you think we can always trust descriptions like this?



Doune Castle from the north



Latrine on west wall

## Location 1: Outside the castle

**Stand facing the castle, on the path from the car park.**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- We're now approaching the Duke of Albany's castle. There are lots of clues that this is the castle of a very rich and powerful man. We're going to try and find these clues and work out what they tell us about him.

Teacher prompts	Desired pupil responses
<p>In the old days, very few buildings were built higher than one storey.</p> <p>How many floors high is the castle?</p> <p>How would ordinary people feel if they walked up to the castle in the old days?</p>	<p>Three floors plus rooftop level</p> <p>Very small; maybe frightened.</p>
<p>The Duke of Albany and his family lived in the main tower. Can you work out which their rooms were?</p> <p>Why do you think there aren't more big windows in this wall?</p>	<p>Big windows show where their rooms were.</p> <p>Windows make the room colder and also make the wall weaker.</p>
<p>The Duke of Albany was very modern. His castle had lots of toilets in it – unusual in those days. They were known as latrine closets.</p> <p>Look at the tower to the left of the door. Can you work out which are the windows to the rooms with closets?</p> <p>In the round tower on the corner, you can see the remains of the Duke of Albany's closet sticking out of the wall!</p>	<p>Very small windows on the tower.</p>
<p>The Duke of Albany chose carefully when he built his castle. He designed it so that it would be very difficult to attack and easy to defend.</p> <p>How many ways can you see that would make it easy to defend and hard to attack?</p>	<p>On a high point – good look out point. You could see the enemy coming.</p> <p>Ditch surrounding the castle. Would be hard for the enemy to cross this.</p> <p>High battlements all around the castle. Look outs could see the enemy coming and could fire down on top of them.</p>
<p>How would you attack the castle?</p>	<p>High, solid stone walls. Hard to break these down and hard to climb them.</p>

**Go and stand inside the gateway.**



### Did you know...

The Keeper was just one of the Duke's important castle managers. Others were the Steward, who ran the household and servants; the Marshall who was in charge of communication and transport and the Chaplain, who looked after religious matters in the castle. There might have been well over 200 servants working here when the Duke was at home.



The yett and doorway

## Location 2: The Entrance

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- The entrance to a castle is always its weakest point. It would be much stronger if there wasn't a door at all – but then, how would you get inside? As we go in, look out for all the different ways that the Duke of Albany and his guards defended the entrance.
- As you're coming up to the doorway, there would have been lots of guards watching you get closer. **Look for all the places they might have been standing.**
- The wooden doorway you can see now is modern, but it's like the one that used to be here. The metal gateway behind it is from the Duke of Albany's time. It's called a **yett**.
- The guards' room used to be where the shop is now. **Can you find the little window which they would have used to check you out?**
- The **Keeper** of the castle might have lived in this tower. He was in charge of the security of the castle.

### Teacher prompts

Look at the yett. It's an unusual shape. Why do you think it has the gap in it? Why do you think the yett is made of metal?

Look up just before you go through the yett. Can you see a slit above you? What do you think this was for?

The ground here slopes upwards. Why do you think they didn't make it flat?

How many doors or gates would have to open to let you in? Look for evidence in the passage way.

Why do you think there are so many?

Why do you think the Duke of Albany was so keen to keep people out of his castle?

### Desired pupil responses

Possibly for a smaller doorway within the yett.  
To make it stronger; couldn't be burnt down or hacked to bits so easily.

Defenders would stand in the room above, ready to fire down on you.

It's easier to defend if you're at the top of the hill.

At least 3 – the wooden gate, the yett and a third, probably another yett at the entrance to the courtyard – you can see the remains of the hinges.

For security.

He was very powerful – and some people might have been jealous of this. They might have wanted to kill him and become powerful themselves.

**Step into the courtyard. Go and stand by the well.**



### Did you know...

In the old days everyone drank beer - even the children! The brewer in the castle would brew a kind of weak ale, which everyone would drink. It was safer than drinking water straight from the well, which might be polluted. The Duke of Albany and his friends would drink wine from abroad with their meals.



Carved water spout



The well

### Location 3: The Courtyard

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- We are now inside the courtyard of Doune Castle. In the old days this would have been a very busy place. There would have been workshops against the walls and stables for horses. There would have been servants carrying things to and from the kitchens, people carrying water and probably chickens and dogs running around here too. There would have been the smell of baking bread and the sound of horses hooves on the cobble stones.
- Most of the buildings and rooms are on one side of the courtyard only, because the Duke died before the castle was finished. He might have planned to build another block of rooms, or possibly a chapel in the wall opposite the door. What do you think?

Teacher prompts	Desired pupil responses
Look down the well. It's about 20 m deep. Can you see the water? Where does it come from?	Water probably comes from the level of the river.
Why do you think it was important for the castle to have its own water supply?	If the castle was surrounded, the people inside would still have water.
Can you see any evidence for buildings that used to be inside the courtyard? What do you think these were used for?	Low stone foundations to left of gate. Maybe a stable block, a workshop; perhaps a brewery.
Look at the tower close by the well. Can you see some stones sticking out of the tower wall here? What do you think they might be?	Maybe the start of another building inside the wall which was never finished.
Look up above the stairs leading to the tower. Can you see some carved animal heads? What animals can you see? What do you think these are for?	Carved stone lions, pigs etc. Water spouts for draining the roof.

**Look into the cellars. Here you can see some displays about the castle and the Duke of Albany.**

- These are the castle cellars and store rooms. In the days before fridges and freezers, people had to find ways of making food last throughout the winter without going off. Meat and fish could be dried or salted, some fruits and vegetables could be pickled and herbs could be hung from the ceilings and dried. Rich people like the the Duke of Albany used spices from abroad to try and hide the taste of food that was past its best!
- The Duke owned a lot of land in the area. He would rent out the land for farmers to use. Instead of paying the rent in money, the farmers might pay their rent in sacks of oats or other crops, or even animals.
- He would also have kept bottles and barrels of wine imported from France.

**Come out of the cellars. Turn right up the steps to go into the kitchen tower.**



### Did you know...

A young boy would have the job of standing in the fireplace, turning the metal spit that the meat was roasting on. He was called the 'turnbrochie'. Hot work!



Fireplace in the kitchen



Serving hatches in the kitchen



Drawing of kitchen tower

## Location 4: The Kitchen and Servery

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- What room do you think we are in now? It's the kitchen. You will have to rebuild it in your imagination.
- It would have been very hot and full of smoke and steam. What sounds might you hear? What smells? The cook and all his servants would have been busy chopping vegetables and preparing food on big trestle tables. The room would be lit by burning torches attached to the wall or by candles on the tables. The baker might have been baking bread in the bread ovens and young boys and girls would be busy carrying buckets of water up the steps from the well.
- In the old days there would have been a huge fire burning in the fireplace when the Duke was at home. Stand in the fireplace. Think how much wood you would need to build a huge fire here. This was where the food was cooked. They might also have had racks in the chimney for smoking food like bacon or fish. Look on the ground to find where they would tip away waste water.
- Opposite the fireplace you can see the stone remains on the floor of ovens which were used to bake bread, puddings and pies.

### Teacher prompts

This kitchen feels very different from kitchens today – but some basic things are the same. What things can you find that are the same? What is different?

Can you think of at least three ways that the cooks would have cooked the food over the fire?

Look by the big window. Can you find where the cook would sharpen his knives?

There are two big stone shelves between the kitchen and the hall. What do you think these might have been for?

The kitchen would have got really smokey and hot when it was busy. Apart from the chimney, can you find out where the smoke would have gone?

Can you think of some jobs which people used to have to do in the kitchen which we don't have to do any more?

### Desired pupil responses

Same: place for cooking, place for washing, place for keeping and preparing food.

Different: No gas or electricity; no running water; much bigger than normal kitchens;

Roasted big lumps of meat on a metal spit  
Boiled food in huge pans hung over the fire – stews and soups.  
Fried in pans held over the fire.  
Baked in oven heated by fire.

Big slash marks on the stones by the window.

They are serving shelves. Food that was cooked was set out here, ready to be taken through to the hall.

Five small holes in the ceiling leading outside to draw out smoke, smells and heat.

Fetch water, fetch firewood, bake bread, skin animals.

**Go out into the servery area. Go up the steps as far as you can to the bedchamber at the top .**



### Did you know...

Mary Queen of Scots never visited Doune Castle. After she was forced to give up the throne, there was a war in Scotland. The keeper of the castle, Lord Doune was suspected of still secretly supporting Mary, so the castle was surrounded – the first siege in its history. After a siege of three days, eventually Lord Doune surrendered, on the condition that the castle was not destroyed. Luckily for us today, it wasn't!

## Location 5: The Bedchamber

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This room is known as Mary Queen of Scots' bedchamber – but it seems that she never visited Doune! This was probably a spare apartment for the Duke of Albany's visitors.
- It's bare now, but in those days many grand visitors would bring their own furniture with them when they visited!

### Teacher prompts

There are lots of things to look for in this room. Can you find:

a place for visitors to store their things

a ledge for a lamp

a latrine closet

a separate sleeping room

Do you think you would have been comfortable staying here?

This room is above the kitchens. Do you think this would have been a good thing or a bad thing?

### Desired pupil responses

two alcoves in the wall opposite the fire

to the right of the fire

the small room on the left

the small room on the right

Perhaps - Plenty of space, good views, your own facilities, a big fireplace.

Good – warmth would probably come up from the huge kitchen chimney (between the two small rooms here)

Bad – might be noisy and smelly!



Bedchamber



Lamp alcove

**Go back down the stairs and come out into the servery again.**

### Teacher prompts

Look up. Can you see some stones sticking out of the wall?

What do you think these were used for?

What do these tell us about this tower?

### Desired pupil responses

Supports for beams.

Used to be two more floors above the servery area – maybe more guest accommodation.

**Go through into the hall. Stand close to the fire basket in the middle of the hall.**



### Did you know...

The duke and his guests were always served first. They were given far more food than they needed. When they had had enough of one dish, the remains would be passed on to the next most important guests. When they had eaten what they wanted, the scraps would be passed on to the next table, and so on. In the end the servants would pass on the bones to the castle dogs!



The Great Hall



Restored minstrels' gallery

## Location 6: The Great Hall

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This is the grandest room in the whole castle. This is the Great Hall. This was where the Duke of Albany would really show off. Here he would have feasts, entertainment and great meetings with important people.
- It has been restored a bit, but you will have to restore it some more in your heads. In the old days there would have been tapestries and wall hangings on the walls, to keep it warm and to decorate the room. There would have been rushes and mats on the floor. During feasts there would have been long trestle tables with benches for the guests. The Duke and important guests would eat off silver plates; others would eat from metal or wooden plates, and scraps would be thrown to the dogs.
- Musicians called minstrels would play during feasts from a special gallery. Can you see this gallery? (wooden platform at west end of hall). It has been rebuilt since the time of the Duke of Albany.

<b>Teacher prompts</b>	<b>Desired pupil responses</b>
In the middle of the room you can see a big metal basket. What do you think this was used for? What would be its disadvantages? Can you see what would happen to the smoke?	For a fire – used to give heat and light.  Could be very smokey. Smoke would drift upwards through the smoke hole in the roof.
Where do you think the Duke of Albany would sit? Why was this the best place?	On the little platform at the far end of the room. Would be able to see everyone and have a good view of the musicians too. Well lit from the window.
Below the musicians' gallery was a special screened off area where the servants would serve wine and beer. Look at this area carefully. Can you see where they would get the wine from?	Hatch in floor which would lead down into the cellar area off the courtyard.
Look very carefully at the roof supports. Can you see anyone looking at you?	Carved faces on ends of roof beams.



### Did you know...

The furniture you can see was all made in the 1800s, so it wouldn't have been around when the Duke of Albany was alive. There is a good story about where it came from though. There used to be a huge tree growing outside the castle. In the old days, criminals would be hanged on the tree, so it was known as the Hanging Tree. Two hundred years ago the tree blew down – and this furniture was made out of the wood.



Double fireplace in Duke's Hall

## Location 7: The Duke's Hall

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This is another very grand room. It was done up in the 1800s and today we are not really sure if it would have looked exactly like this in the time of the Duke of Albany.
- This was a more private room for the Duke. He would have had meetings or smaller parties here. He also might have slept in here – so you will have to imagine a giant four-poster bed. He would take this with him on his travels so he always had somewhere comfortable to sleep. He might even have had meetings while lying in his bed!
- Look at all the shields on the wall. These were the symbols of all the important families in Scotland. These were added in the 1800s, but the Duke would have known all the families and which ones were his friends and allies, and which ones were his enemies.

### Teacher prompts

The fireplace here is very unusual – it's a double one. Why do you think there are two fireplaces next to each other?

How do you think the historians in the 1800s and historians today know how to restore buildings?

We still use shields today. Can you think of some places where you might see a shield?

Why do you think they were particularly useful in the old days, when not so many people could read?

### Desired pupil responses

Maybe a way of controlling the heat – you could 'turn' the fire up or down by having one or two fires laid.

Look at other buildings from the time; look at pictures, books and letters from the time; look at furniture and other objects from the time. Often they don't know – they have to work it out, based on clues or evidence from the past.

School badge.

They were like team badges so that everyone could tell who the important people and their supporters were.



Drawing of Duke's hall

**Upstairs is the Duke's chamber – his proper sleeping room. Carry on up another flight of stairs to reach the Duchess's Hall.**



### Did you know...

Margaret Graham was a rich woman in her own right. She married four times and was divorced once - unusual in those days. She married her first husband at the age of 14. The Duke of Albany was her fourth and final husband.



Remains of chapel

## Location 8: The Duchess's Hall

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- The Duke of Albany's wife was known as the Duchess of Albany. Her name was Margaret Graham and she was also very rich and owned a lot of the land round about. Sadly, she died before the castle was built, but future ladies would have used this hall and the small bedrooms around it.
- This is the Duchess's Hall. It's the same size as the hall below us and would have been beautifully decorated too.
- Women were expected to be very religious in those days, so the Duchess had her own private chapel in her hall. Her servants, or ladies-in-waiting would have been allowed to watch the church services. **Can you find this area?** (middle window alcove)

### Teacher prompts

Look for where the private chapel used to be.  
Can you find the special sink for rinsing the silver plates and cups used in church services?

Look for where these silver things would have been kept when not in use.

Can you find any evidence that the ceiling was not always where it is now?

Who do you think slept in the floor up above?

### Desired pupil responses

Small projecting sink on courtyard wall.

Triangular alcove above it for keeping silver plate.

Stones sticking out of the walls probably supported another floor.

Servants – probably just slept on the floor.



### Did you know...

Castles like Doune often had a dovecot – pronounced doocot. This was a special building for keeping pigeons in. The pigeons were a source of fresh meat and eggs in winter months.



View west from rooftop



View to kitchen tower from rooftop

## Location 9: On the roof

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- From here the Duke of Albany could have looked out over all his lands. He could see who was coming, who was doing what and most importantly, they could see him. Everyone around would be able to see Doune Castle, and would remember the powerful man who built it and lived there.
- Can you see the Historic Scotland flag at the top of the tower? In the old days there used to be a kind of fireplace here called a 'beacon basket'. In an emergency, a fire would be lit here to send a signal far and wide.

Teacher prompts	Desired pupil responses
You can imagine the look outs up here. Where would they stand?	By battlements; in 'pepperpot' tower at the end
Can you find any evidence that they might have had weapons with them?	Stone 'slits' for shooting through
Why do you think this was a good place to build a castle?	Close to a river – useful for transport. Surrounded by good land for farming. On a high point – good views all around so you could see who was coming .
The Duke owned a lot of the land round about the castle. What things can you still see today that he would have been able use from the land?	Trees – useful for timber for building work; also for burning Crops growing in the fields – useful for food and for making ale Straw from crops and rushes from river – useful as floor coverings Animals in the fields – meat for food; skins for leather; wool for spinning into thread to make clothes Fish from river for food Birds flying around – could be trapped and eaten
The landscape has changed quite a lot since then. What things can you see now which the Duke would not have seen?	Wind farm on the hills Tarmac roads and cars. Signs of electricity Modern housing etc. etc.

**Make your way down the stairs and back into the courtyard. The guided tour is now over.**

If time permits, it's nice to wander down by the river along the path to the south of the castle, or simply to walk all the way round the castle.



## FAQ

**Q** What is the minimum number of adults required for supervision?

**A** 1 adult to 10 pupils

**Q** Is it possible to have a guided tour?

**A** Ask about this when booking.

**Q** Is there disabled access?

**A** There is wheelchair access into the courtyard and cellars. Other areas of the castle are accessibly only via stone steps.

**Q** Are there lunch facilities?

**A** Pupils can picnic outside or in poor weather can shelter in the castle.

**Q** Where are the toilets?

**A** There are toilets by the car park before entering the castle.

**Q** Do you carry out risk assessments on behalf of schools?

**A** Risk assessment of the site is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the group. Hazard information sheets available on the Historic Scotland website provide information that can help teachers prepare their risk assessments.

**Q** Is there a shop?

**A** There is a shop in the castle that sells postcards, guidebooks and souvenirs.

## Visiting Doune Castle

**Pre visits:** We strongly recommend that teachers make a free visit to the castle to familiarise themselves with the site and to make a risk assessment before bringing school parties.

**Booking a visit:** Phone **01786 841742** to book a visit, discuss your needs and confirm opening times with the Steward. The castle is open all year.

**Doune Castle Junior Guides:** In a unique scheme, P7 pupils from Doune Primary School are trained to act as Junior Guides are trained to act as Junior Guides for school groups. Ask for details when you book.

**Cost:** Admission is **free** to a range of educational groups including school parties. More information about who qualifies for free visits can be found on the Historic Scotland Education Unit website (see below).

**Location:** In Doune, ten miles north-west of Stirling off the A84.

**Parking:** There is a car park close to the castle.

**Health and safety:** Please note the following:

- Pupils should be supervised at all times. Some of the banks are steep and the castle is close to the river.
- Pupils should not climb on the walls.
- As part of our commitment to Green Tourism, we ask that all litter be disposed of back at school.

**Historic Scotland Education Unit:**

For further information about school visits, activities and resources for teachers linked to Doune Castle, visit: [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

## Additional resources

### For teachers

Doreen Grove *Doune Castle* Historic Scotland 2003 The official guidebook, giving further details on the architecture and history of the site.

Historic Scotland Education *Investigating Medieval Castles in Scotland* Historic Scotland 2005. An useful booklet designed for teachers with lots of background on castle life and suggestions for class activities.

Chris Tabraham *Scottish Castles and Fortifications* Historic Scotland 2000

[www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/doune/dounecastle/html](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/doune/dounecastle/html) This site has some lovely photographs and a good historical overview.

### For pupils

Deary, *Horrible Histories: Bloody Scotland*, Scholastic 1998.

Phil Roxbee Cox *What were Castles For?* Usborne Publishing Ltd 2002.

[www.nationalgeographic.com/castles/enter.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/castles/enter.html) Explore a virtual castle.

<http://home.freeuk.net/elloughton13/castle1.htm> A good source of pictures of castle life which can be downloaded.

[http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle/castl\\_fm.html](http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle/castl_fm.html) Online activities based on Nottingham Castle.

[www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/as/burghlife/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/as/burghlife/) Explore 16th-century burgh life in Scotland.

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