



Situated in one of Scotland's most dramatic locations, the ruins of Urquhart Castle reflect the castle's turbulent past.

INVESTIGATING URQUHART CASTLE

Information for Teachers





Timeline

580 Pictish fort at site

1230s Castle built at south end by Sir Alan Durward

1296 –1308 Edward I invades Scotland and takes Urquhart; castle changes hands several times

1342 David II visits

1395 Lord of the Isles attacks and takes castle

1411 Crown retakes castle

1400s Buildings constructed to north of early castle

1437 –76 Further attacks by Lords of Isles

1509 Urquhart gifted to Grant family by James IV; Grant Tower built after this

1545 Castle looted by Lords of the Isles

1644 Attack by Covenanters; castle robbed and Grants driven out

1690 Besieged by Jacobites; defendants blow up castle on departure

1715 South wall of Grant Tower collapses in storm

1912 Castle taken into state care

Situated in one of Scotland's most dramatic locations, the ruins of Urquhart Castle reflect the castle's turbulent past. A lively visitor centre sheds further light on everyday life at the castle.

Historical background

According to records, St Columba visited Loch Ness around 580. He travelled through Glen Urquhart, pausing to banish a marauding 'water beast' and to baptise a Pictish nobleman as he lay dying in his fort. Although there is no concrete evidence to link this fort with the site at Urquhart, archaeological remains confirm that the highest part of the castle was a well-fortified site at this time.

The castle surfaces from obscurity more than five hundred years later, around 1230, when Alexander II granted the Urquhart estate to Sir Thomas le Durward. His son, Alan, constructed the first castle on the south of the promontory at Urquhart.

Holding a key strategic position in the glen, the castle suffered during the Wars of Independence. Captured by Edward I of England in 1296, it was surrendered to the Scots in 1298. The castle soon changed hands again when in 1308 Robert the Bruce took control of Urquhart for the Scottish Crown.

From the end of the 14th century, the focus of conflict shifted to the west. The new enemies were the MacDonald clan, the Lords of the Isles. In 1395 the MacDonalds seized the lands and castle of Urquhart and for the next hundred years the castle and glen were tussled over. In 1470 Sir Duncan Grant was appointed to try and control the situation. His grandson gradually restored order and as a reward was given the title to the estate and castle by James IV in 1509. The Grants built themselves new living accommodation at the north of the promontory.

The castle inmates could not yet relax, however. In 1545 the MacDonalds cleared out the castle in their final 'Great Raid' and in 1644 the castle was gutted once again and the Grants driven out, this time by a posse of Covenanters who objected to the Grants' support for Charles I. The final attack came in 1690 when after resisting a siege by Jacobites, soldiers garrisoned at the castle blew up some of the buildings as they left. The damage was never repaired and you can still see parts of the shattered walls in place where they fell.



Supporting learning and teaching

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

- The Middle Ages
- Castles
- The Wars of Independence

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 critical thinking.

Before the visit

- 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. This could be added to after the visit.
- Discuss the organisation of life in a castle. Pupils could investigate the roles of these key 'managers': **steward** (in charge of the household), **constable** (in charge of castle security), **marshal** (in charge of travel and communications). This is a key theme of the displays of the visitor centre and is an excellent route into discussing everyday castle life.
- Discuss with pupils all the different activities which would have gone on in a castle. Pupils could research different topics (e.g. food, travel, entertainment, weapons) to prepare them for the visit.
- Discuss the hierarchy of life in Scotland in the middle ages and the role taken by the lord of a castle on behalf of the sovereign.
- It is helpful if pupils have some of the architectural terminology of castles as this makes discussing on site easier. Useful words might include: **courtyard, chamber, archway, gun loop, turnpike stair, motte, privy, dovecot, drawbridge, portcullis, beam.** Pupils could produce a class illustrated dictionary to explain these terms
- Some children find it hard to imagine 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 deliberate changes that people choose to make to buildings.

Working on site

When exploring the castle, pupils should be encouraged to look critically at what they see, and to make and test theories based on physical evidence. Useful starting points are:

- Why do you think the castle was built here? What are its natural defences?
- What materials were used to build the castle? Where did the materials come from? Are there any materials which might have rotted or been stolen since then?
- What evidence is there for everyday life (eg eating, heating, toilets and washing)?
- What evidence is there to tell us about the owners of the castle?
- How has the castle changed over the years?

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 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. This could form the basis for a range of presentation activities, for example:

- A guide book or promotional leaflet for future visitors or another class.
- A slide show with commentary of their visit.
- Imaginative writing or role play based on the lives of the inhabitants of the castle.



Plan of Urquhart Castle

On the trail of the Urquhart castles

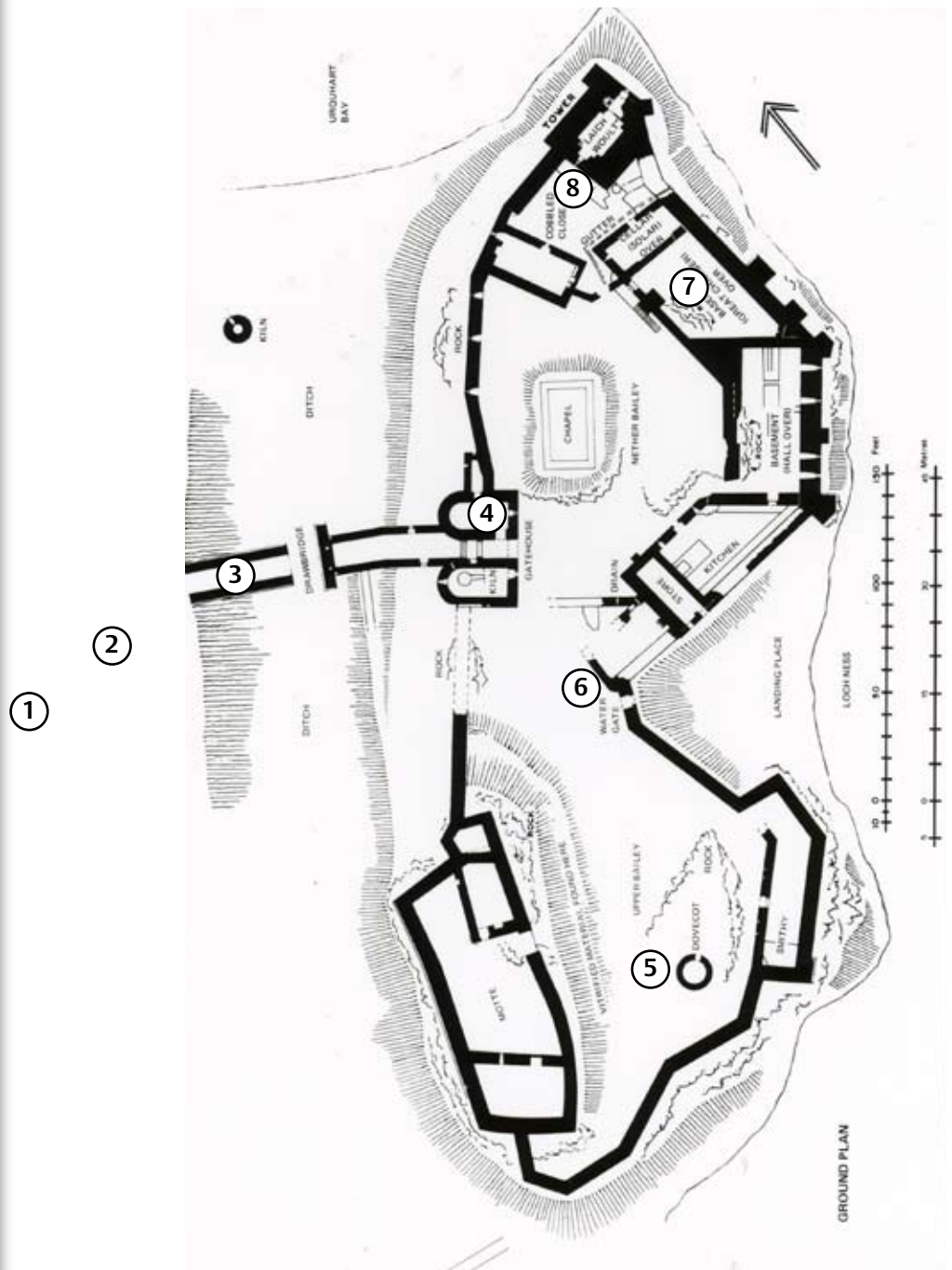
Our suggested tour route guides you and your pupils around the complex site at Urquhart and helps you to make sense of the different ruins remaining from different ages.

After visiting the excellent displays at the Visitors Centre, we suggest you visit eight key locations, marked on the plan to the right:

1. Outside Urquhart Castle
2. The Trebuchet
3. The Drawbridge and Gatehouse
4. The Guardroom and Constable's Lodgings
5. The Summit and Dovecot
6. The Water gate and Service Close
7. The Great Hall
8. Grant's Tower

Background information is given in the pack for each location. It is written in simple language so that it can be read aloud to pupils if desired. Also included are suggested **questions for discussion**. The focus is on encouraging pupils to **interpret** the building and deduce what they can from clues they see around them.

Allow about an hour for the suggested tour.





Did you know...

The Visitors Centre was opened in 2001 and was designed to blend in with the landscape and not spoil any views. Do you think it works?



Visitors Centre from the castle

Tour notes: On the trail of the Urquhart Castles

The Visitors Centre

After registering with the Steward at reception, make your way down to the Visitors Centre. As there are no toilets actually on the castle site, it is a good idea to use the toilets here before you go to the castle. You can then proceed directly down the path to the castle; however, it is well worth spending even a short time in the Visitors Centre. Of particular interest are:

- Displays of original and replica objects found on the castle site.
- Displays about everyday life, organised around the key managerial jobs at the castle (the steward, the constable, the marshall and the chaplain).
- A model showing how the castle might have looked in about 1600. Have a look in particular at the drawbridge on the model.
- A video showing the replica *trebuchet* (giant catapult) in action, flinging giant stone balls at a target. You can also see original trebuchet balls.

You may also like to watch the **8-minute video** about the castle in the small auditorium. This gives a potted history of the castle, with atmospheric reconstructions and re-enactments of key events. Although it is not particularly aimed at children, it is dramatic and visual enough to hold their attention and does convey some of the key historic moments of the site.

Stand in front of the Visitors Centre looking down at the castle and the loch.



Castle showing hill and curtain wall

Location 1: Outside Urquhart Castle

Background information. This can be read to pupils.

- There has been a kind of fort or castle at this point for at least 1500 years. In the old days the easiest way to get about was to travel by boat. Loch Ness is a very long loch so it was an important long distance travel route – a bit like a motorway today. If you were in charge of the castle, you were in charge of the loch and could control everyone who wanted to travel past.
- Lots of different people have fought over this castle and it was always being attacked and then rebuilt. There were at least three different castles here. We can see a mixture of two of them today. It was once one of the largest and strongest castles in the whole of Scotland.

Teacher prompts

Look around you. Can you think of another reason why this was such a good place for a castle?

Can you see any ways that people tried to defend the castle?

Desired pupil responses

On a hill – good look out point in all directions.

Also at end of another glen heading west.

Remains of a wall around castle. Ditch.

Go down the path from the Visitor Centre towards the Castle and stop by the giant reconstructed catapult, the trebuchet.



Urquhart Castle as it may have looked in the early 17th century (model by Jim Masson on display in the Castle Visitor Centre)



Did you know...

The soldiers who used the trebuchets became very fond of them. They even gave them pet names!



Trebuchet



Trebuchet balls

Location 2: The Trebuchet

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

- Urquhart Castle used to have a high wall all around it. You can still see some of the wall, on the left of the gatehouse. If you wanted to attack the castle, somehow you had to get through those walls. There were lots of ways you could try to do this.
- About eight hundred years ago, in 1296, Edward I of England invaded Scotland and attacked Urquhart Castle. He smashed down the castle walls using a machine a bit like this one. It's called a **trebuchet** (pronounced **tre-boo-shay**). It's a modern copy of one from France.
- It works like a giant catapult and hurls giant stones which weight 70 kg at the castle walls. They would pull the big beam down, with the stone sitting in a net at the end. When they let the beam go, the stone would fly off at the castle. It can throw the stones at least 200 metres! In the Visitor Centre you can see a video of people today trying this out. You can also see some of the stones.

Teacher prompts

Desired pupil responses

Can you see the net where the stone would sit? How do you think they would pull the beam down? What makes the beam swing down? Look at the other end.	Net at end of beam. Beam heavily weighted at other end with stones.
Why do you think it's on wheels?	To get it into the right position.
What do you think would happen after they had fired the stones at the walls?	If the walls began to fall down, the attackers could force their way into the castle.
Can you think of any disadvantages of using the trebuchet?	It would take a long time to make the stone balls. You couldn't aim very accurately. Very heavy to move about. You would be an easy target from the castle.
Can you think of any other ways that attackers might try to get into the castle?	Using a battering ram. Ladders to climb over the walls. Tunnels under the walls. Burning the walls down. Making a siege around the castle, not letting any food in or out, so that eventually the people would starve to death or surrender.

Continue along the path, and stop on the wooden bridge .



Did you know...

The gatehouse used to be much higher. The last people to defend the castle didn't want anyone ever to use the castle again. When they left, they blew up parts of the castle. You can see bits of the gatehouse lying around by the bridge. It worked – no one ever did take the castle again!



Drawbridge and gatehouse



Portcullis grooves at gatehouse

Location 3: The Drawbridge and Gatehouse

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

- **Can you see the gatehouse ahead of us?** This was the weakest part of the castle's defences. The defenders did everything they could to keep the gatehouse safe and stop people getting in.
- In the old days, this bridge used to be a drawbridge. The defenders would pull it up if they saw anyone coming. They would check who you were before it was lowered back down again. If you look down to the sides of the bridge, **can you see where the pillars for the drawbridge used to slot in?**

Teacher prompts

Before they got to the drawbridge, something else would have stopped the attackers. Can you see what it was?
How would it stop people?

Desired pupil responses

Deep and wide ditch.

Difficult to move across the ditch quickly without falling.

Might be muddy or boggy in wet weather.

Cross the bridge and go and stand just inside the gatehouse.

- The passage between the drawbridge and the gatehouse used to have high walls on either side.
- If you managed to get across the drawbridge, you would then have to deal with a huge metal grid, called a **portcullis**. You can see one on a penny. This gate slotted into grooves in the gatehouse. It would be hauled up and down from above. **Can you see these stone slits above you and to the sides?**
- There were two other wooden gates too.
- Above you there used to be a wooden platform. It had holes in it called **murder holes!** The guards would try and shoot you through these holes or pour boiling oil on top of you if you managed to get this far.

Teacher prompts

If you were attacking the castle, how many obstacles would you have to get through before you got into the castle?

Desired pupil responses

Wall all around the castle – people would shoot at you from the wall.

Deep ditch.

Drawbridge.

Portcullis.

Two wooden gates.

Murder holes.

In the gatehouse, turn left into a small room called the Guard Lodge.



Did you know...

The richer you were, the better your prison! Very rich criminals were often kept in very comfortable surroundings.



View across drawbridge



Bed recess in constable's lodgings

Location 4: The Guard Room and Constable's Lodgings

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

- This room was the guard room. The guard, or porter would work here, a bit like a modern day security guard. He would check who everybody was before they were allowed into the castle.
- One of the jobs of the lord of the castle was to keep order in the local area for the king or queen. Any criminals would be kept at the castle before their trial. **Can you see the prison here?**

Go up the modern steps to the Constable's lodgings.

- The Constable had a very important job in the castle. He was in charge of security. He was in charge of all the porters, the door keepers, the archers and gunners and other defenders of the castle. This was where he lived. This was his living room. He was often a noble person himself so had quite a comfortable place to live – you can tell he was quite grand because he had his own private toilets!
- Go through into the little **chamber** or bedroom. You will go past the place where the constable used to raise or lower the portcullis.

Teacher prompts	Desired pupil responses
Can you see where the Constable would sleep? He wouldn't sleep on bare stone – he might have had a mattress made from heather or a sack stuffed with straw. Probably he would have wrapped himself in a blanket.	In the bed recess on the right of the room.
There is an alcove with a little grid in the floor. Look down it. You can see the ground. What do you think this is?	A toilet!
What else can you find in the room which would have made him more comfortable?	Fireplace to keep him warm.
What can you see from his window?	View of the drawbridge and castle walls.
Why do you think he had this view?	To keep an eye on who was coming into the castle.

Go down the stairs again and out into the gatehouse. Turn right and walk along a path and then up modern steps to the highest part of the castle. At the top of the steps turn right to view a panel with a drawing of how the castle might have looked in 1600. Turn left to go along to the furthest end of the castle.



Did you know...

St Columba may have visited here in 580 AD. He stopped at a fort on Loch Ness and baptised a Pictish nobleman. The fort might have been where we are now! St Columba was also the first recorded person to see the Loch Ness monster....



View from summit looking north



Pigeon holes in dovecot

Location 5: The Summit and Dovecot

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

- This is the oldest part of the castle. Archaeologists have discovered clues which tell us that there used to be an Pictish fort here more than 1500 years ago. We can't see any of this fort left now – it's all rotted away.
- Much later, in about the year 1230, King Alexander asked one of his noblemen, Sir Alan Durward to build a castle here. He hoped that Sir Alan would be able to keep order in this wild part of Scotland!
- Not much of Sir Alan's castle is left. It's hard to work out what the buildings were used for. What do you think this room might have been?

Teacher prompts

Why do you think this has always been such a good place for a castle?

Desired pupil responses

High up, good view point.
Able to control the loch.

Can you see a round stone building below you? Go down to it.

Teacher prompts

This building is a ruin now. It used to be a tall tower called a **dovecot**. Does anyone know what a dovecot is?

Desired pupil responses

A place for keeping pigeons ('doos').

Why do you think they wanted to keep pigeons?

Fresh meat and eggs – specially important in winter time.

The pigeons used to sleep in little boxes or pigeon holes. How many can you see now?

There are only four pigeon holes left.

What other food do you think they would have eaten?

Deer, boar – hunted in woods.

Where would they get it from?

Sheep and cows – farmed outside castle walls.
Vegetables and fruit – grown outside castle walls.
Fish from loch or rivers.
Rabbits.
Chickens, ducks, geese.

- Further below are the remains of another building. It is thought that this was once part of Sir Alan's castle, a grand four-storey structure with high-class accommodation. It might have been linked to the courtyard by timber walkways.

Go back down the hill and turn right to have a closer look at these ruins if you wish; otherwise turn left to stop at a gateway in the wall known as the Water Gate.



Did you know...

Loch Ness has grown! It used to be quite a bit shallower. When they built the Caledonian Canal in the eighteen hundreds, the water level of the loch rose by three metres!



Water Gate



View north from the summit

Location 6: Water Gate and Service Close

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

- This gate is called the Water Gate – *can you guess why?* In the old days long distance travel was easiest by water. Supplies were delivered to the castle from boats on the loch. They were loaded on to a beach and then brought up to the castle.
- Unfortunately, it was also a good way for your enemies to get in and out. In the 14-1500s the castle was often attacked by the MacDonal Clan, who were powerful lords from the west. When they left, they took everything they could – sheep, cattle, furniture, tools – even servants from the castle. They sailed away with all of this down the loch.

Teacher prompts

Why do you think it was good to have stuff brought in by boat?

Desired pupil responses

Quicker than bringing it overland – no hills or difficult roads.
Even if an enemy was surrounding the castle on the land, food supplies could still get into the castle.

Can you think of any disadvantages of travelling by boat?

Dangerous if stormy.

People could see you coming – could attack you as you came to shore.

You would need boats which could be expensive.

You might be seasick.

- All of this area would have looked very different 500 years ago. It was called the service close, and was where the servants would have been busy doing their jobs. 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 and hammering from the blacksmiths.
- You can see the remains of the stable block.

Teacher prompts

There were probably more than a hundred people who worked at the castle when the lord was in residence.

How many different castle jobs can you think of?

Desired pupil responses

Porter, guard, cook, baker, miller, blacksmith, poulterer, gardener, builder, piper, servant, carpenter, messenger, boatman etc

Look for clues for these people as you're going round the castle.

Go back to the Gatehouse. Take the path in the other direction and turn right just before some steps leading up.



The Great Hall



Window in store room

Location 7: The Great Hall

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

- This ruin was once the most important part of the castle. It used to be the Great Hall. This was where there were banquets and celebrations, but also where trials took place. This was where the lord of the castle or the king showed off his power. **Can you see the remains of four big windows which must have been down one side of hall?**
- Underneath the hall were store rooms. You can still see the shapes of the rooms. They probably kept food and barrels of wine in these cellars.
- Nearby there would have been kitchens to cook the foods for the banquets. You can imagine how busy they would have been when there were important guests staying!

Teacher prompts

The hall would have been a huge room. Can you work out roughly how many metres long and wide it would have been? How many people do you think you could have fitted inside it? Stand in a group and see if you can work it out!

What kinds of entertainment do you think they might have had at the banquets?

Have a look at the windows in the store rooms. Can you see any clues which tell you they were well guarded?

What do you think happened to all the stone that used to be part of the walls?

Desired pupil responses

Maybe 15 metres long and five wide.

Perhaps 300 people could fit in here.

Musicians – pipers, harpists, singers.
Story telling.
Performances.
Dancing.

Holes by window showing that there used to be bars there.

Taken away to be used for other buildings.

Make your way back along the path, right up the steps and towards Grant's Tower at the north of the promontory, passing the site of the old chapel on your left. Stop at the door to the tower.



Did you know...

In 1644 when Lady Mary Grant was alone in the castle it was attacked. She was robbed and then driven out of the castle. The attackers took so much that she later was heard to wail that “*there is not left with me one serviette to eat my meat on*”. The Grants never returned to the castle to live after that.



Entrance to Grant's Tower



Outer Chamber

Location 8: Grant's Tower

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

- Almost 500 years ago Sir John Grant was made Lord of Urquhart. He was given the castle by King James IV as a reward for bringing order to the area. The castle was his headquarters. He built this tower as new accommodation for himself and his family. It's still known as Grant's Tower.
- This was where the Grants were able to relax. It was a private area for them. Only their closest friends or people they really trusted would be allowed in.
- In 1715 a huge storm battered the castle. A great chunk of the tower wall came crashing down.

Teacher prompts

The Grants still had to be careful of security. How was the entrance to their tower protected?

There would also have been a gate at the entrance to the courtyard area where we are now standing – you can still see the low remains of this.

Desired pupil responses

Ditch with removable bridge.
Iron gate at door.
Guards would keep watch from wall to left and at top of tower.

Go into the castle and go up the stairs on to the second floor.

- This was probably a room called the Private Chamber. It was a kind of living and dining room for the Grants, where they could relax and entertain close friends.
- In the old days it would have felt much cosier than now. It would have had all its walls, of course! The walls would have had wooden panels or wall hangings on them to keep it warm.
- The Grants would have travelled around a lot, and they would have taken their furniture with them! When they weren't here, there would be very little furniture left in the castle.
- The rooms above, which we can see part of, were private chambers, where Lord and Lady Urquhart would have entertained guests and slept. **Can you see the old fireplace?**

Teacher prompts

On the south wall, look down to the floor below to where the fireplace used to be. Where do you think the fireplace on *this* floor was?

The ceiling would have been much lower. Can you see any clues where the ceiling used to be?

The Grants were always guarded. If you look up to the next floor, try and spot the gun holes where guards would have fired out of.

Desired pupil responses

Above the one below.

You can see the holes where beams used to slot in.

On north wall below window you can see a pair of pistol holes.

Go up the stair to the very top.



Did you know...

A list of what was stolen from the castle in 1545 gives us a good idea of what must have been there:

12 feather beds with bolsters, blankets and sheets; brewing vats, roasting spits, pots and pans; a chest containing £300; 20 guns; gunpowder, suits of armour; iron gates; tables and other items of furniture and, to take it all away, three great boats.

- This would have been the guard tower. There would have been small rooms up here for junior members of the family and important servants. Can you see the remains of a fireplace?
- There used to be four sticking out turrets at each corner. They were called '*belvederes*', meaning 'beautiful viewpoint'. They provided fine views and brilliant look out positions, all up and down the loch. It would also have been a good place to attack people from above.
- In the old days the hills would have been covered with trees. This part of Scotland was famous for hunting deer. King David II came in the summer of 1342 and stayed at the castle specially to go hunting.

Teacher prompts

At the top of the stair, below the first window can you see some holes at floor level?

What do you think these could have been used for?

Can you see any of the woods where King David used to hunt?

What other sports do you think the Grants would have enjoyed?

Desired pupil responses

For shooting down on attackers from the loch, or pouring hot oil or sand on top of them.

Woods can be seen in many directions.

Archery.

Hawking (using birds of prey).

- If you go all the way down to the basement of the castle, there is a store room. You can also stand outside the castle and look up at the high walls of the tower.



View South from Tower

Teacher prompts

Why do you think there are so few windows on this wall?

Can you see the holes at the battlements where people might attack from above?

Why do you think they are exactly in that place?

Desired pupil responses

For security – a stronger wall.

Right above the door – a weak point which might be attacked.

Go back up the stairs to the ground floor and then out into the courtyard again.

Our suggested tour is now finished. If you have time, you could have a look at the kiln area to the left of the gatehouse.



Looking up Tower from East



FAQ

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

A 1 adult to 10 pupils.

Q Is there disabled access?

A Wheelchair users can gain access to the Visitors Centre, but some areas of the castle are only accessible by steps. There is an accessible toilet.

Q Are there lunch facilities?

A Pupils can picnic on site. In poor weather they can shelter in the castle

Q Where are the toilets?

A Toilets are available in the Visitors Centre – some distance from the castle. Go before you visit the ruins!

Q Do you carry out risk assessments on behalf of the 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 large shop that sells postcards, guidebooks and souvenirs. There is also a cafe in the Visitor Centre.

Q Do you offer guided tours for school groups?

A If staff are available it may be possible to organise a tour.

Visiting Urquhart 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 **01456 450551**

to book a visit, discuss your needs and confirm opening times with the Steward.

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: Urquhart Castle is on the A82, on the banks of Loch Ness, just south of Drumnadrochit.

Parking: There is a large car park by the visitor centre, with plenty of space for coaches.

Health and safety: Please note the following:

- Pupils should take care going up narrow turnpike stairs.
- Pupils should not run around unsupervised and should not climb on the walls.
- Pupils should not attempt to scramble down the steep banks to the loch.
- In wet weather, take extra care on slippery stones and grass.
- As part of our commitment to Green Tourism, we ask that all litter is disposed of back at school.

Historic Scotland Education Unit:

For further information about school visits, activities and resources for teachers linked to **Urquhart Castle**, visit: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Additional resources

For teachers:

Chris Tabraham *Urquhart Castle* Historic Scotland 2002. The official guidebook to the site which includes detailed information, maps and lots of photographs. Particularly good on life in the castle household with links to exhibits in the Visitor Centre.

Historic Scotland Education *Investigating Medieval Castles in Scotland* Historic Scotland 2005. An excellent booklet designed for teachers with lots of suggestions for class activities.

www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/urquhartcastle A good overview of the history of the castle, with some good photographs.

www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishhistory An useful library of resources on scottish history, many suitable for upper primary.

www.scran.ac.uk An excellent source of photographs and images.

For pupils:

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

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

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 Activities based on Nottingham Castle.

www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/as/burghlife/ Explore 16th century burgh life in Scotland.

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