



Norman Castle Components

Motte & Bailey	The castle was set upon a raised earthwork (motte) surrounded by an inclosed courtyard (bailey) and then surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade (fence).
The Keep	The central fortified building within a castle was typically the residence of the lord, and used as a refuge of last resort if the castle was attacked.
Towers	Used for defense, long views across the countryside, storage, and/or imprisonment, towers were typically built on or in the curtain walls in various shapes, though most were either round or square.
Curtain Wall	The outer wall surrounding the motte & bailey protected the interior of the castle. Some included arrow slits and may added crenellations (battlements). Walls were built between 6'-20' thick and were bases of other structures including towers, stables, and living quarters.
Great Hall	Some castles had an additional building beyond the keep called a great hall used for feasts, weddings, receiving guests, large festivities.
Gatehouse	The main, and many times only, entrance into the castle included structures built around the entrance gate sometimes including traps and murder holes for defense.
Gate(s)	Entrance(s) within the walls to grant access to the castle grounds
Water Gate	Some castles built walls and towers right on the river which included a waterway entrance for trade.
Courtyard	Open area within the castle walls
Kitchens	Very large rooms within the castle with at least one if not multiple fireplaces, kitchens were typically on an outside wall for ease in reaching gardens and accessing livestock.
Bakehouse & Brewery	Most castles had their own brewery to distill highly polluted water making it safe to drink.
Chapel	Religion was very important and most all castles included a chapel along with the religious leaders.
Stables	Horses were very valuable for transport, communications, and battle. Most stables included space for grooms to live in.
Solar	As primary residence for the lord of the castle, solars were typically high up within the castle keep. In peace time some castles added a solar to an out building.