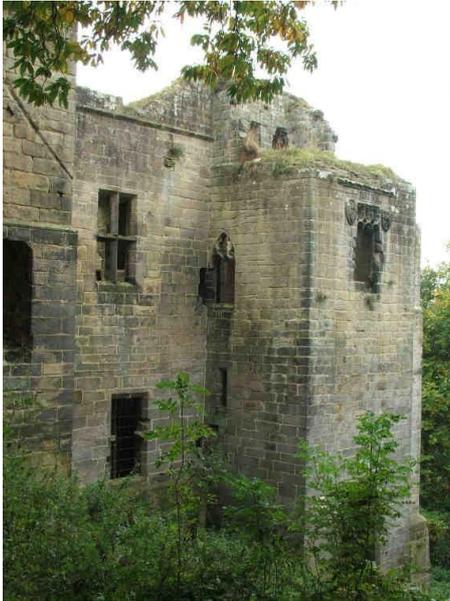
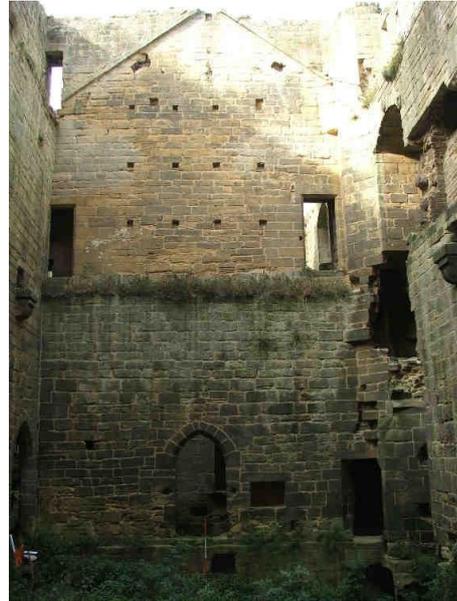


HAREWOOD CASTLE

A tourist's guide to interesting archaeological sites in West Yorkshire



[Exterior of entrance tower]



[Interior of lower hall]

History

The building of Harewood Castle was probably begun by Sir William de Aldeburgh who was given a licence to crenellate in 1366. Prior to that the administrative centre of the manor had been at Rougemont on the north side of the River Wharfe, where extensive earthworks still remain.

De Aldeburgh was an important figure in the politics of the time and served in the court of Edward Balliol, whom the English placed on the throne of Scotland in 1332. However Balliol could not hold onto power and was finally deposed in 1336. Eventually he dropped his claim to the Scottish throne in return for an English pension. Balliol died at Wheatley near Doncaster in 1364. It has been suggested that Balliol left money to de Aldeburgh which enabled him to build Harewood Castle. Certainly the Balliol coat of arms can be seen at several points in the castle.

Throughout much of the medieval period the manor of Harwood was owned jointly by two families, the Rythers and the Redmaynes. In the 1560s the Rythers bought out the Redmayne interest in the manor. The Rythers themselves sold Harewood in 1601 to clear family debts.

The new purchaser was Sir William Wentworth of Gawthorpe Hall which was situated to the south of the present Harewood House. It is not known what

happened to the castle at this time. It has been suggested that it was slighted during the English Civil War. However, it is more probable that successive owners removed stone for building work elsewhere. By the 18th century the castle had become a 'romantic ruin' and was to form one of the attractions in the grounds of the newly constructed Harewood House.

The Remains

The castle is basically a three story block with a tower at each corner and an extension on the north wall. Defence however was not the only consideration. The large mullioned windows in the upper stories suggest that the designers wished fully to exploit the panoramic views over the lower Wharfe valley

The area surrounding the castle was also developed for recreation as well as for more practical purposes. There are the remains of fishponds, foundations of what might be agricultural buildings and terracing for a formal garden.

This site is not directly publicly accessible but a public footpath passes to the west of the site.

This guide was written by Dave Weldrake (© WYAAS 2011)

External links

[Pastscape](#) features detailed information on the site from English Heritage.

Old photographs of the site can be found by searching the [Leodis](#) website.

Location

Harewood Castle is situated on the Harewood Estate at SE 3218 4564. For map [click here](#).

Access

There is currently no public access to Harewood Castle, although it can be seen from vantage points on the Harewood Estate and from other places in the Wharfe Valley.

NB: *There is more information about Harewood Castle and other historic sites in West Yorkshire held within the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Contact us via 01924 306797 or wyher@wyjs.org.uk. Alternatively search our records online via the Heritage Gateway website - www.heritagegateway.org.uk*