

DUDLEY CASTLE

1. The Keep

The strong point of the Castle defences is called the Keep. The one you see today is probably the third to be built at Dudley.

2. The Motte

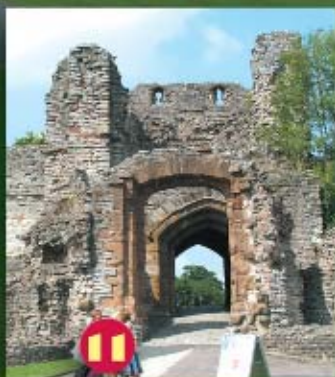
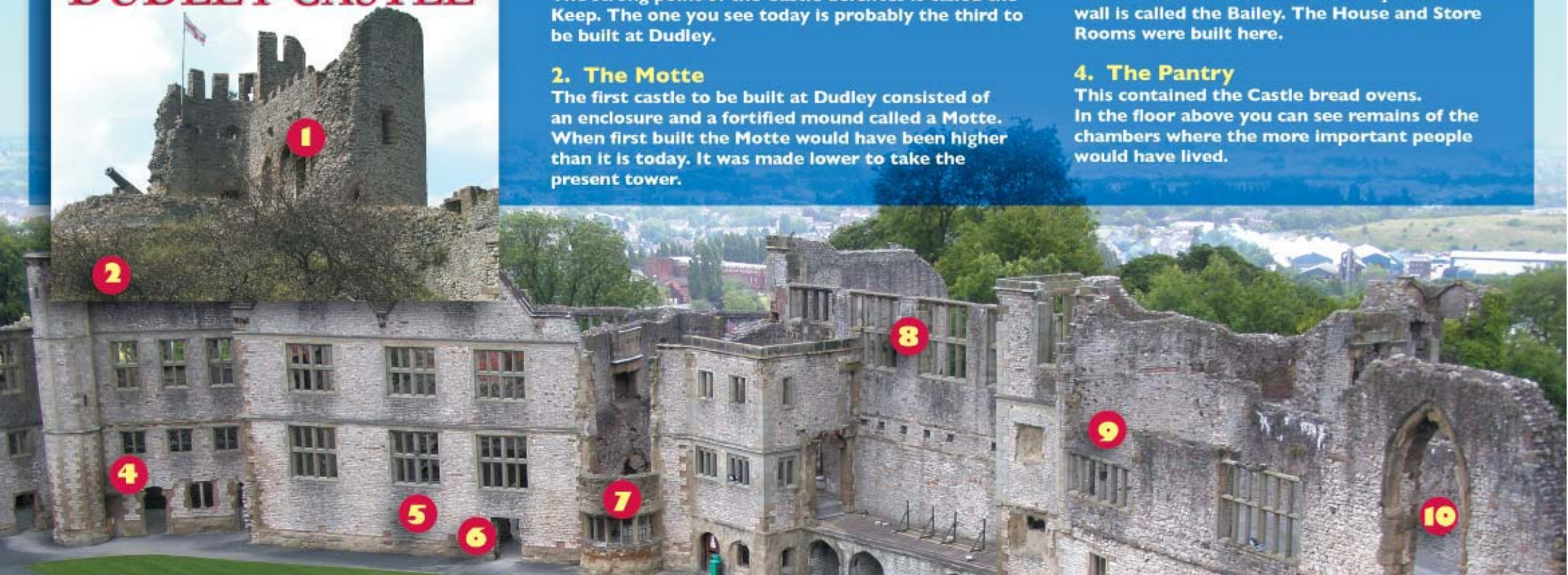
The first castle to be built at Dudley consisted of an enclosure and a fortified mound called a Motte. When first built the Motte would have been higher than it is today. It was made lower to take the present tower.

3. The Bailey

The area of flat land surrounded by the Castle wall is called the Bailey. The House and Store Rooms were built here.

4. The Pantry

This contained the Castle bread ovens. In the floor above you can see remains of the chambers where the more important people would have lived.



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5. The Kitchen

This can be recognised by the two huge fireplaces which were used to cook food. In the third wall the large arch is the remains of a serving hatch.

6. The Servery

Food would have been collected from the kitchen serving hatch by finely-dressed servants and carried to the Great Hall via the staircase behind the wooden barrier.

7. The Buttery

Here the butts or barrels of wine and beer would be stored. Note the remains of a semi-circular arch in the wall which date from the second Castle (1135).

8. The Great Hall

The most important room in the house where the lord entertained visitors. The current hall is Tudor in date (1533-53) but probably stands on or near the site of a medieval original.

9. The Solar

The area where the medieval lords would have had their private chambers.

10. The Chapel

This was used for private worship by the lord and his household. During archaeological excavation, traces of original stained glass from the great window were found. These date the building of the Chapel to around 1350.

11. The Triple Gate

This was built around 1309 and contains space for two doors and two portcullises. In the ceiling arch can be seen evidence of a murder hole.

A journey through time