



HURST CASTLE

Welcome Pack

All the practical things you need to know to plan
your trip to Hurst Castle.



Site Information



HURST CASTLE SITE GUIDE

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|---|---|
| 1 Main entrance (page 4) | D Lighthouse keeper's cottage |
| 2 Tudor entrance (page 4) | E Commanding officer's house |
| 3 Gun tower (page 4) | F The Solent |
| 4 North-west bastion (page 11) | G Isle of Wight |
| 5 Caponier (page 12) | H Fort Albert |
| 6 North curtain wall (page 12) | J Cliff End Battery |
| 7 North-east bastion (page 12) | |
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| 9 Quick-firing battery (page 14) | FACILITIES |
| 10 West wing battery (page 16) | Tearoom (not run by English Heritage), shop and toilets. |
| 11 Low Light of 1860 (page 20) | Picnics welcome in the grounds. |
| 12 Low Light of 1911 (page 20) | |
| 13 Director Tower (page 20) | PARKING |
| 14 12-pounder gun emplacements (page 20) | Charged parking at Milford-on-Sea or Keyhaven. |
| 15 East wing battery (page 21) | |
| A 1850s west battery remains | ACCESS |
| B High Light of 1867 | 1.5 mile walk along shingle spit, or via ferry from Keyhaven. |
| C Acetylene gas generator | |

To help you plan your trip, we can offer a free advance visit for you and your team to familiarise yourself with the castle before bringing your class. Please request this at the time of booking.

For information about opening times for your familiarisation visit, please use the link below



Site Information

Location

Keyhaven Quay, Milford on Sea, Hampshire SO41 0TP

To reach Keyhaven, from Lymington, take the A337 to the B3058 signposted to Milford on Sea. At Milford, take the Keyhaven Road.

Parking

There is a council-run car park at Keyhaven (opposite The Gun Public House). It is then a very short walk to the ferry quay. Postcode to use for satellite navigation for the car park is: SO41 0TP.

Please note there are public toilets located here in the car park.

Drop-off

Please park coach in Keyhaven car park and walk to the ferry quay.

Turn left out of the car park and left again to the water's edge. The ferry point is up the gravel path on the left-hand side.

Getting there

By boat

A short 20-minute journey across the river to the castle via our regular ferry service from Keyhaven. Your crossing time will be confirmed at time of booking.

By foot

It is approximately a two mile walk along Hurst Spit to the castle from both Keyhaven and Milford on Sea car parks. Please note Hurst Castle is situated at the seaward end of the shingle spit and sturdy footwear is advised. It is not possible to reach Hurst Castle by car.

For Keyhaven pay and display car park, please use postcode SO41 0TP for satellite navigation.

For Milford on Sea pay and display car park, please use postcode SO41 0PY for satellite navigation.

Arrival at the Castle

Once you have arrived, please make your way up to the castle entrance over the drawbridge. Register your party's arrival with the Castle's Custodian located in the Ticket Office on the right.

Facilities

Shop

There is a shop on site selling souvenirs and snacks. We ask that you help our staff by supervising your students while in the shop. If you would like to order goody bags please confirm when you book.

Café

Refreshments can be purchased from the café, please liaise at time of booking if you wish your students to use this facility. There are outdoor picnic tables available.

Toilets

Located on your right past the Ticket Office (where you entered to the castle). There is currently no accessible toilet.

Water

Please note all water for the castle needs to be brought by tractor from Milford on Sea. There is no running water installed at the castle so please be aware we are unable to re-fill any water bottles and you cannot drink water from the taps.

Please be conservative with water usage in the toilets.

First Aid

Please see the Castle Custodian in the Ticket Office, located by the entrance to the castle.

Storage

Please take care not to leave bags unattended. For security reasons, there are no facilities for storing bags.

Wet Weather

In case of bad weather, there are several places where groups can shelter.

Learners go Free

Hurst Castle is managed on behalf of English Heritage by Hurst Marine. Educational visits are free to English Heritage properties and should be booked at least 14 days in advance. To book call 01590 642500, or email info@hurstcastle.co.uk

Ferry charges do apply.

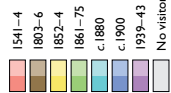
Please remember you are responsible for your own risk assessment.

The maximum group size allowed to enter at once is 94.



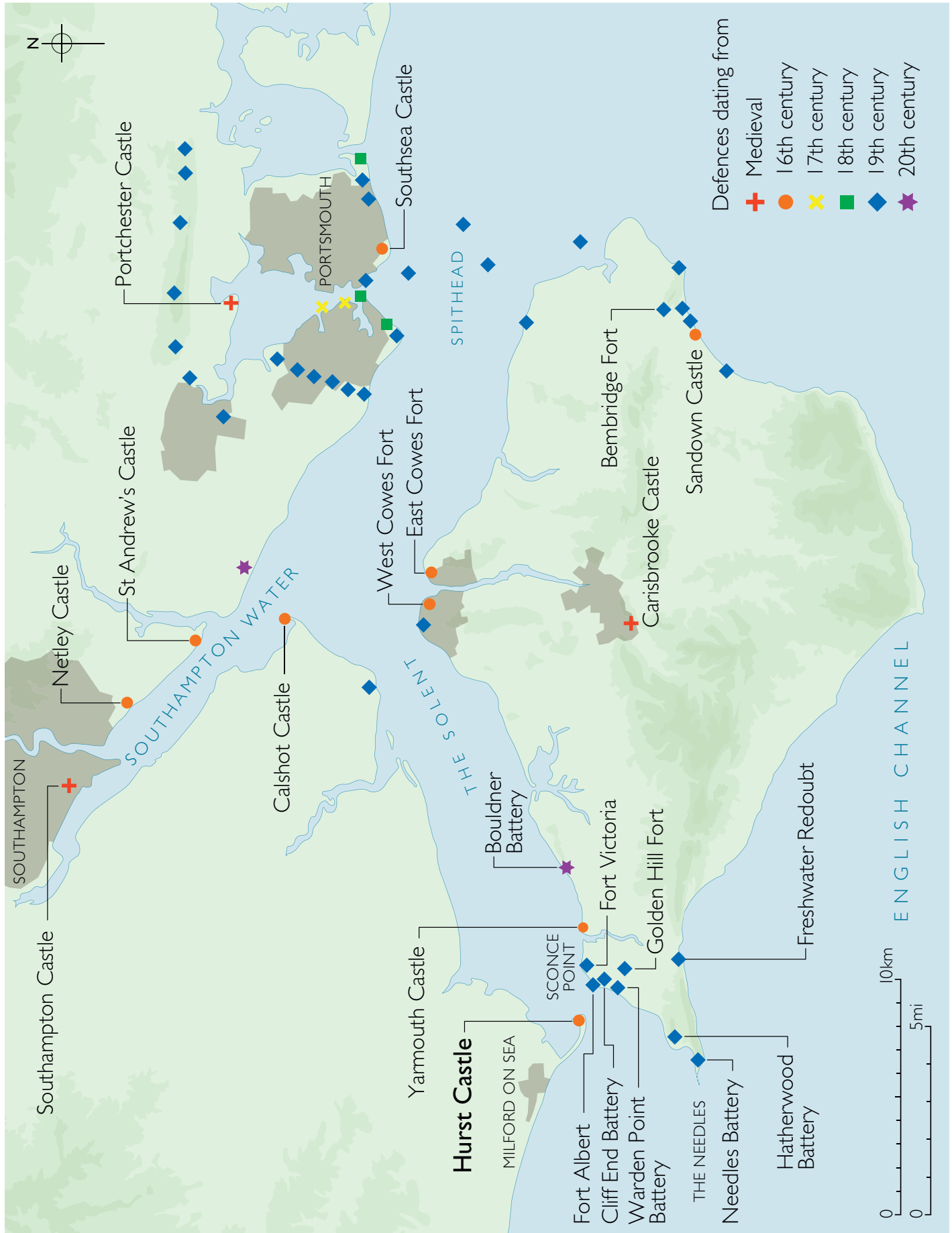
Hurst Castle - Floor Plans

HURST CASTLE FLOOR PLANS





Coastal Forts





Hazard Information

Ferry

The vessels are operated by Hurst Castle Ferries Ltd and are licensed and regulated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Access to the ferry

Care must be observed when boarding the ferry. Children must embark the ferry in single file and care must be taken as boats can move with the effect of the tide and wind.

All children and staff must listen to the instructions of the crew.

The pontoons at Keyhaven and Hurst are afloat so passengers must always use the handrails due to movement.

A safety notice will be broadcast on departure, all passengers must listen and be aware of the safety equipment location.

Onboard the ferry

Lifejackets are stored on board and you will be instructed on how to use them if required. Slight movement may occur during passage due to wave action so handrails must be held. All passengers must remain seated during passage and until the vessel stops. On landing, the boat may contact the pontoon, so it is essential that all passengers are seated and wait until the crew tell you that it is safe to disembark.

Disembarkation of the ferry

Care must be taken when leaving the vessel. The pontoon you will then step on to is afloat and can move with the effect of the tide and wind. Please also note water is either side of this pontoon. Once on land the ground is uneven and be aware of the remains of the railway line positioned here.

Access to admission point

Entry to the castle is across a drawbridge and care needs to be taken here, as the remains of the railway line, which transported ammunition around the castle, can be a hazard underfoot. Students will need to be ushered straight across the drawbridge and assemble in the passage outside the Ticket Office.

Teachers/group leaders must register their group's presence on site with the Castle Custodian, based in the Ticket Office, to your right as you enter the site.

Please note that there isn't enough room for all the children to enter the Ticket Office at one time.

Moving around the site

When on site, please remember floor surfaces can be uneven after several centuries of wear. Any surfaces exposed to the weather may be wet and slippery. Stairs are of uneven tread and care must be exercised on external wooden staircases in wet conditions. Students should ascend/descend in single file and be advised to use handrails where provided.

Most concrete pathways are in fair condition but show signs of wear particularly at busy junctions.

The site presents climbing hazards. The exterior walls and viewing positions often have drops on the outside and on no account should visitors consider climbing on the walls or barriers.

Students should be warned of these dangers. It is always the responsibility of teachers or group leaders to bring to the attention of students the need to respect the castle as an ancient monument and observe the safety signs.

Ongoing conservation or maintenance work may be happening on site which may cause additional temporary hazards. The Castle Custodian will advise you if these are taking place when you make your planning visit and on the day of your group's visit.

Disabled access

Due to the age and nature of the building disabled access is extremely limited.

Clothing

Sensible footwear should be worn at Hurst Castle. Please bear in mind the location of the castle as the weather is always different here to inland.

Risk assessments

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete their own risk assessment prior to their visit. This is usually a requirement specified by local education authorities. Please do not ask our staff to fill in, check or sign any sections of your risk assessment, as they have no responsibility to do so. The information above is intended as a preparatory tool and does not replace a teacher's or group leader's own risk assessment. Please be aware that weather conditions at some historic sites may change rapidly and you will always need to remain alert during your visit.

Behaviour and Supervision

While at the site, please ensure that your students are always supervised. Please follow these leader to student ratios:

- Years 1 and 2 (ages 5 to 7), 1 leader for every 6 students (1:6).
- Years 3 to 5 (ages 7 to 10), 1 leader for every 8 students (1:8).
- Years 6 and over (ages 10 and over), 1 leader for every 15 students (1:15).
- For an adult learning group, there are no ratios but there must be an appointed leader.