

# Pilsbury Castle

SHEET 1

## Pupil Activities

### Why Build a Castle at Pilsbury?

Be a detective and find out why there was a castle at Pilsbury. You can look for clues in the information on the following pages or look at the files in the 'REFERENCES FOR THIS FACT SHEET' scroll below, these can be found on the website in the 'Project documents' section, visit the web site at [www.pilsburycastle.org.uk](http://www.pilsburycastle.org.uk) to find out more.

#### References for this fact sheet

(hd\_1) Domesday Survey-Glossary  
(hd\_23) Normans and Hunting  
(hd\_8) Henry de Ferrers  
(hd\_18) Castles - Norman  
(m\_8) Great Britain and Pilsbury  
360° Panorama



Knights out Hawking

### A letter to your master at Tutbury

I want you to imagine that you are **Simon de Ville**, one of **Henry de Ferrers'** knights. Henry, your master, wants to build another castle somewhere in the north western part of his lands. You have been out hunting in the **Upper Dove Valley**, north of **Hartington**, with your servants and have seen the very place for this castle to be built.

Write a very persuasive letter to **Henry de Ferrers** putting forward your arguments for this **new motte and bailey castle** to be built at **Pilsbury** and include one reason of your own.

*(You can write it in English even though it would have been written in Norman French!)*

When you have written your letter you can read it out to the rest of the class and see if they can be persuaded to build a castle at Pilsbury.

**Here are some pointers to help you write the letter.**

### Some more information about Pilsbury Castle

#### Think about:

- how you would address **Henry de Ferrers** - your master and one of the most important barons in the land
- how you would sign **yourself** at the bottom of the letter
- what **address** you would use to send the letter to Henry de Ferrers and **your address too**.
- the **date** you are writing the letter
- the **sort of phrases** you would use to show respect to your master
- the **persuasive words** you are going to use

# Pilsbury Castle

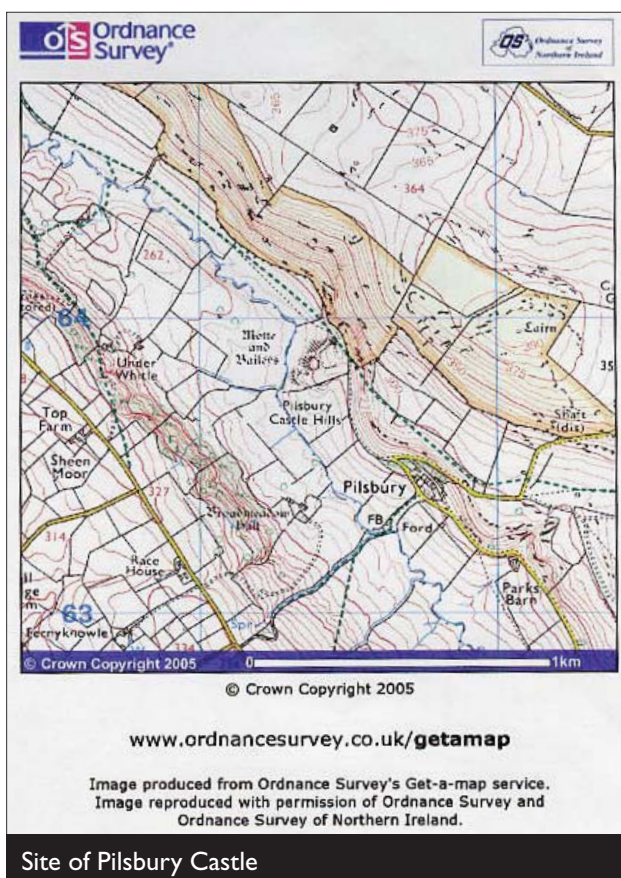


SHEET 2

**Henry de Ferrers** built his main castle at **Tutbury** and a second at **Duffield**. Why do you think he built a third castle at **Pilsbury**?

**Be a detective and look at some of the clues...**

Look at the map of **Pilsbury** and try to decide why you think **Henry de Ferrers** built a **motte and bailey castle** at this particular place?



**Was it because?**

- It was in the north western part of his lands and Henry de Ferrers wanted to protect the boundaries from people on the other side of the River Dove who might be unfriendly?
- There is a hill that overlooks the River Dove that could quite easily be developed into a motte and bailey castle.
- From this hill you can see where people might be crossing the river Dove both to the north and to the south and so the castle could guard these routes.
- It was at the heart of Henry's north western estates and a good place to control/administer them from.
- Invent your own reason!