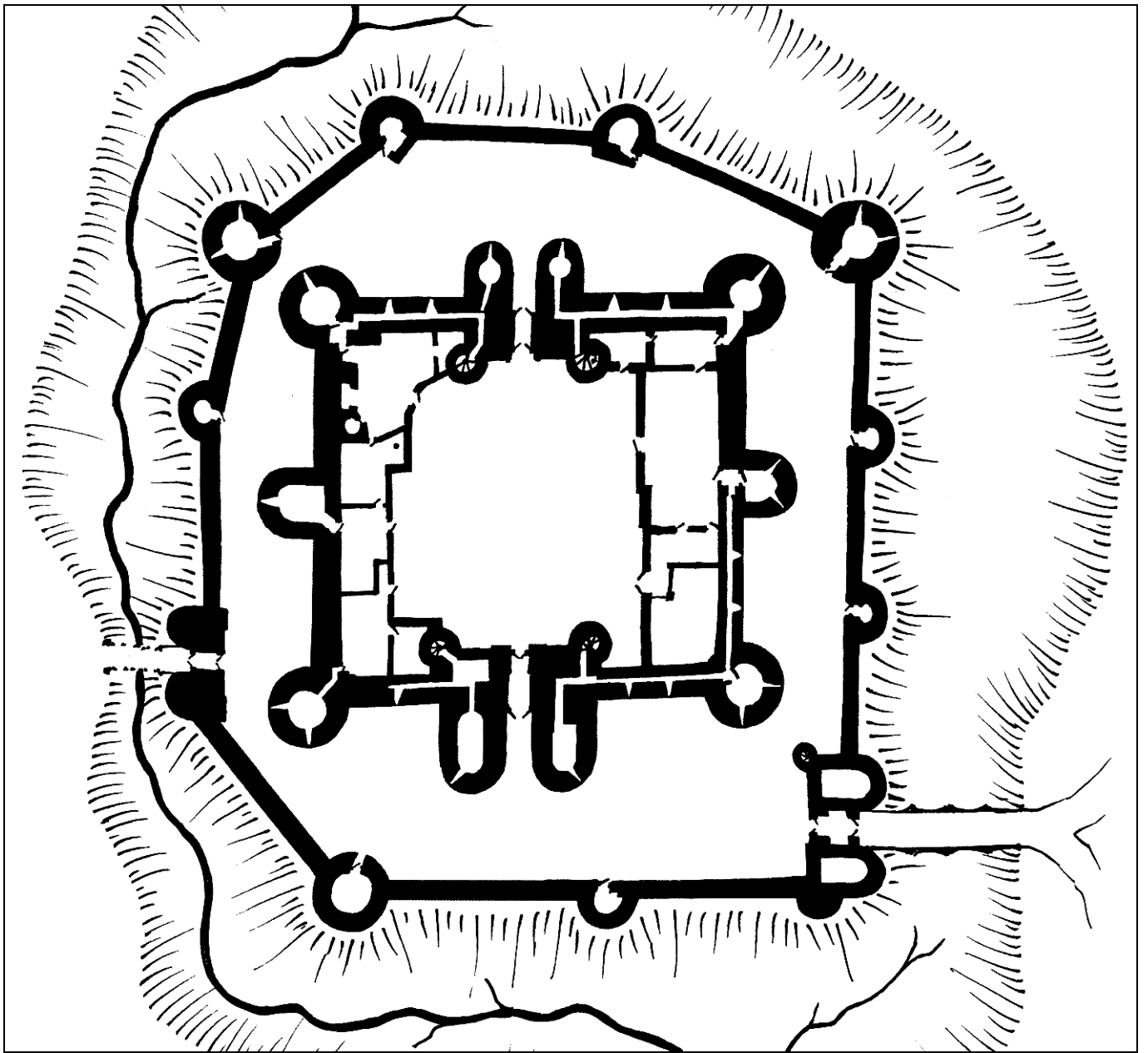


FANTASY FLOORPLANS

MEDIEVAL

CONCENTRIC CASTLE



CORNELIUS CLIFFORD

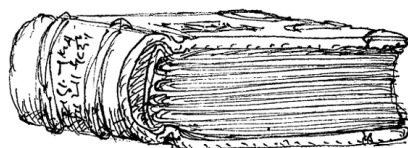
MEDIEVAL CONCENTRIC CASTLE

FANTASY FLOORPLANS

This pack contains floor plans and descriptions of a medieval concentric castle, which some would say were the ultimate form castles took before the castle building art declined as the use of canons increased. Probably built in the late thirteenth or fourteenth century. The plans are based upon historic ruins and real castles and have been drawn and described with role playing and war gaming in mind. Includes seven floor plans, room descriptions, defences and construction. Written and illustrated by Cornelius Clifford.

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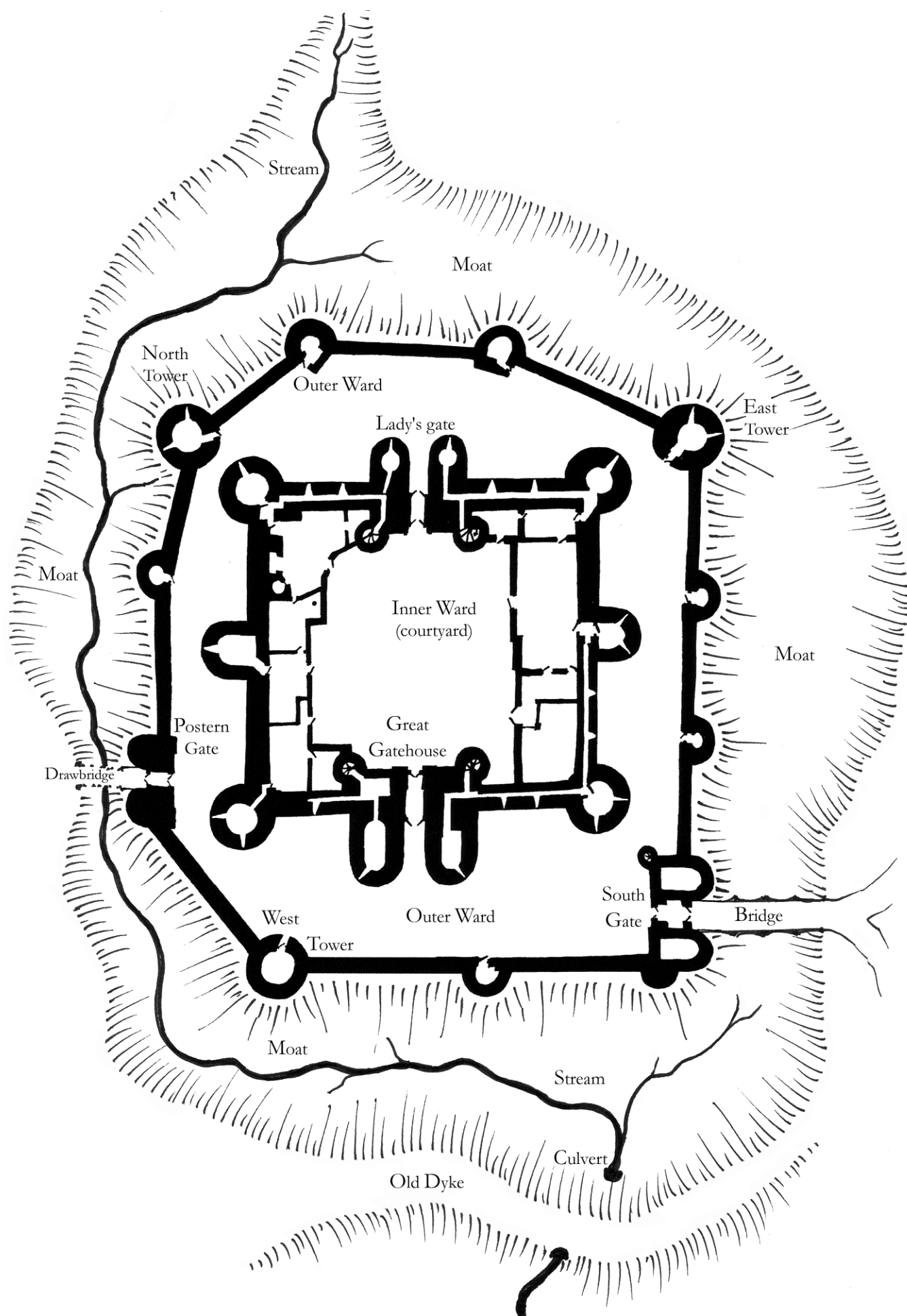


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Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Earthworks



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Earthworks

Bridge

A solid stone bridge leading to the main entrance to the castle through the outer curtain wall ~ the South Gate. Originally there would have been a drawbridge at the gate end of the bridge. But for the sake of convenience the Lord, or one of his predecessors, has built over it in stone, thereby significantly weakening the defences of the castle.

Culvert

A large drainage pipe under the Old Dyke which, when plugged with a heavy stone, keeps water in the moat, at least for a while. This culvert is big enough for a man to squeeze through, although it is damp, muddy and pretty unpleasant.

Drawbridge

There is a good strong drawbridge bridging the moat and stream from the Postern Gate. Once the drawbridge has been raised, the portcullis lowered and the solid oak doors barred in the Postern Gatehouse, this becomes as impregnable as any other part of this well designed castle. With the drawbridge still lowered, it is, however, the most vulnerable point in the outer defences. The moat & ditch are shallow and narrow here, and the Postern Gatehouse is the smallest of the four gatehouses in this castle.

East Tower

A large and solid round tower on the East side of the castle, dominating the outer curtain wall and the widest section of the moat.

Great Gatehouse

The main entrance to the Inner Ward and performing the same role as a keep in some other types of castle. Here the Lord has his important chambers. As well as providing the main entrance to the Inner Ward, the Great Gatehouse is the tallest structure here, and dominates all other parts of the castle, including the Lady's Gate, the Inner Ward, as well as the battlements and towers of the inner curtain wall.

Inner Ward

The central courtyard around which the main buildings of the castle are built. Contained by the inner curtain wall, and the many buildings which have been built against its inner sides.

Lady's Gate

A secondary entrance and exit on the north east side of the central castle. This is still a very substantial and solid structure, but smaller (and one level shorter) than the massive Great Gatehouse.

Moat

A deep ditch surrounding the castle on all sides. The moat is usually dry, except for a small stream running down the north and west sides. However, the moat can easily be filled with water by simply plugging the culvert in the Old Dyke. This is done when the castle is threatened. But it takes a few days for the moat to fill, so it does not work in the event of a surprise attack. Ideally the moat would be full of water permanently, but the engineers who built the Old Dyke did not line it with clay properly. The water leaches away and nobody has put the effort or money into solving the problem. The moat ditch is, however, a very formidable obstacle to attackers in its own right, being some fifteen to twenty feet deep. The bottom of the moat tends to be wet and boggy in all seasons, which adds to the discomfort of any attacking force that might try a direct assault on any section of the curtain wall.

North Tower

A large, solid and robust round tower in the outer curtain wall on the north side of the castle.

Old Dyke

A man-made earthwork designed to retain water in the moat. It also provides a walkway for a sallying force of defenders to leave the castle via the Postern Gate and then attack any attackers (who might be storming the South Gate) in the flank or rear.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Earthworks

Outer Ward

The area enclosed by the outer curtain wall, within which the inner castle sits. The whole of the Outer Ward is easily covered and dominated by defenders on the battlements of the inner castle. The outer wall battlements face outwards only so if part of the outer curtain wall were taken by attackers they would themselves be vulnerable from arrows and other missiles hurled by defenders deeper (and higher) within the castle. This illustrates one of the fundamental defensive principles of a concentric castle: Every layer of defence is covered by another, inner, taller defence and there are many layers and levels of defence, one behind and above the other, right to the core of the castle.

Postern Gate

A small but very robust gatehouse at the back (North west) side of the castle

South Gate

The main entrance to the castle, approached by a strong stone bridge over the moat. Originally defended by a drawbridge, latterly this was replaced by the existing stone bridge.

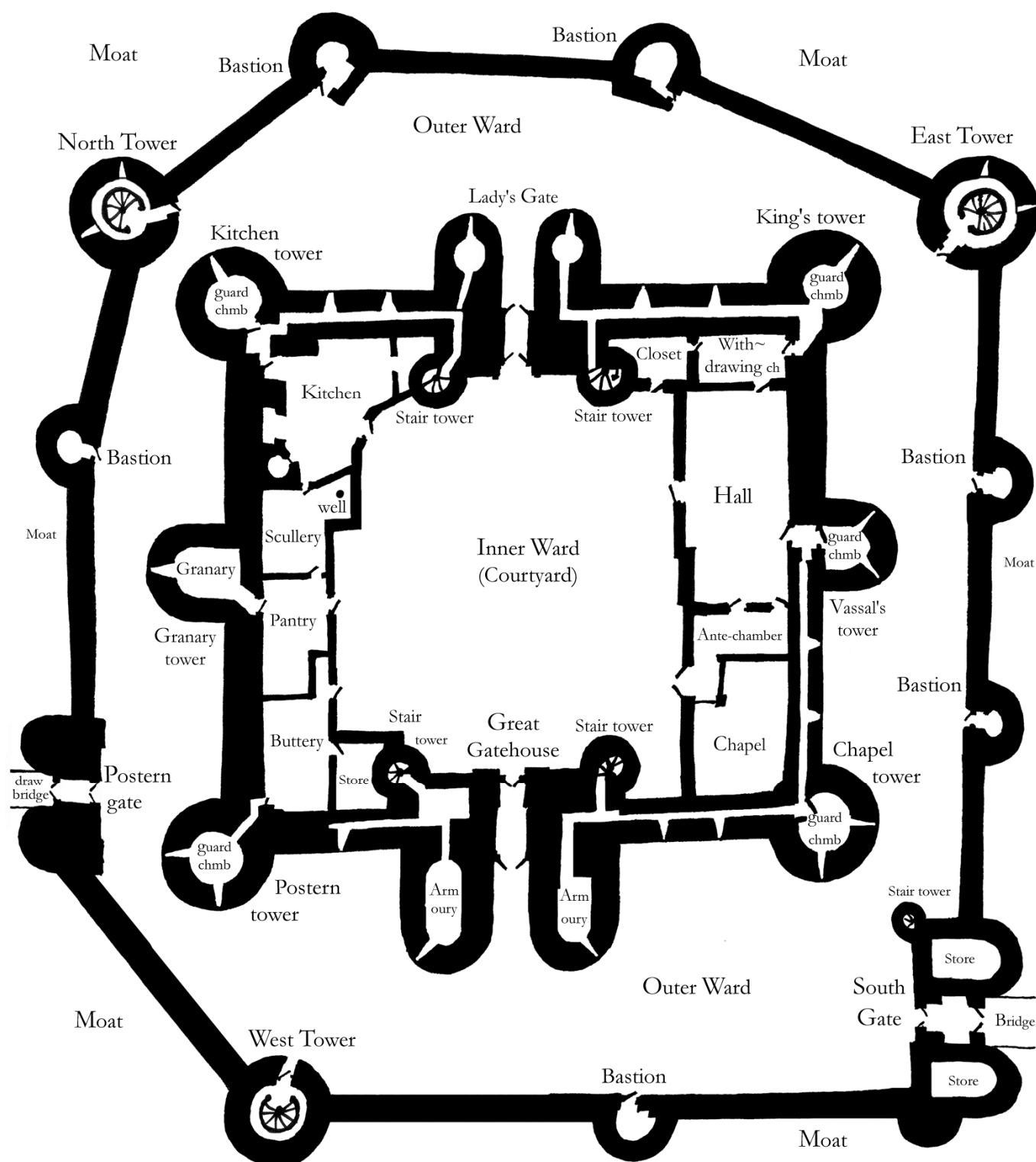
Stream

A small freshwater stream running from the north to south sides of the castle, in the bottom of the moat. This is a useful supply of (cleanish) water for the peasants and livestock associated with the castle.

West Tower

A strong round tower between the South and Postern Gates, on the outer curtain wall.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Ground Floor



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Ground Floor

Ante-chamber

A small chamber with access into the Chapel and Hall, positioned where the screens passage is more usually placed in a manor house. This room is little more than a corridor, furnished with sideboards (trestle tables) upon which food and plate are stored or laid out prior to being served in the Hall, at feasts banquets and the like.

Armoury x 2

Two small and oddly shaped chambers at the base of the Great Gatehouse. Pretty much inaccessible from the ground floor, these two chambers have enormously thick walls and are packed with all manner of weapons, armour, arrows, crossbow bolts and so on. Each has an arrow slit overlooking the Outer Ward and letting in a modest amount of daylight. The main route to the armouries is from above, via the two stair towers at the rear of the Great Gatehouse.

Bastions x 6

Positioned along the outer curtain wall at regular intervals are six bastions. These are almost solid stone structures designed to strengthen the walls and to provide fighting platforms at battlement level. Here catapults and stone throwing engines can be positioned to rain devastation down upon anyone foolish enough to attempt to attack this strong and powerful castle. Each bastion has a small chamber on the ground floor, which has no access to the level above. In these chambers various craftsmen have their workshops; the castle blacksmith, carpenter, stone mason, falconer and a variable number of grooms and stable hands. The bachelors of this group live and sleep in their workshops/chambers. Married men amongst their number would probably work in these chambers during the day and then go home to their families in the nearby village or hamlet at night time.

Bridge

The stone bridge give access to through the South Gate, the main entrance to the castle, and into the Outer Ward.

Buttery

Here barrels of beer (butts) and small casks of wine are stored and these drinks doled out by the Buteler (latterly called the Butler) to the people of castle and the Lord's household.

Chapel

A large and spacious chamber, rising over two floors, with lovely painted glass windows on the upper level, which flood the chapel with glorious light (from the Inner Ward) on sunny days. The chapel is presided over by the priest, who has a private chamber on the third floor of the nearby Chapel tower, there he sleeps and studies religious texts and the bible. The chapel is very important in the daily life of the castle, with several services a week and many of the more pious inhabitants praying here several times a day.

Chapel Tower

A large and strong round tower on the south corner of the inner castle, giving great strength to the inner curtain wall. On this, the ground level, the room at the base of the Chapel Tower is a simple guard chamber. Here one or two archers or crossbowmen can cover the entrance (South Gate) and much of the Outer Ward from two well positioned arrow slits.

Closet

A small room off of the Inner Ward and also accessible from the Withdrawing chamber. Here there is a small garderobe (WC or toilet) used by the Lord, his family and guests. They can also wash and 'take their ease' here. The lower orders do not use this closet but have to climb the Postern Tower to use the garderobes there, on the first floor and above. Or if they are uncouth and manner less, simply use the moat or midden (dung heap) beyond the moat.

Drawbridge

The Postern Gate still retains its original drawbridge, which is raised in such a way as to completely block the gateway from the outside. Constructed from three layers of thick oak planks, it would take a mighty siege engine to smash through this robust first defence.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Ground Floor

East Tower

A solidly built round tower on the east corner of the outer wall. There are two arrow slits here, dominating the surround, and a broad spiral stone staircase in the centre of the tower leads up to the first floor and the battlements on top of the outer wall.

Granary

A large, locked, chamber on the ground floor of the Granary Tower. Here a massive stock of grain (wheat, corn etc.) is stored in cloth sacks. In times of trouble and famine this valuable store might well be guarded. Ideally the Granary would hold enough grain to feed the household for up to a year.

Granary Tower

A half round tower on the north west side of the Inner Wall of the castle. The ground floor is taken up a Granary which has one arrow slit covering the Outer Ward.

Great Gatehouse

A very large and strongly built structure comprising two enormous half round towers, either side of a covered passageway leading into the Inner Ward. The passageway is well defended with two pairs of very thick oak doors (opening outwards and closing against stone cills to make breaking them down extremely difficult) plus a metal portcullis. There are murder holes above, which are accessed from under a rug in the Great Chamber on the first floor. The two front chambers of the twin towers are armouries. There are two narrow spiral stone staircases leading up to the first floor, plus a small antechamber and narrow passageways leading to arrow slits in the solid walls to either side. None of these ground floor rooms and passageways can be accessed directly from the Inner or Outer Ward. This makes it almost impossible for invaders to get into them without first taking the level above and controlling the whole of the Inner Ward.

Guard Chambers x 5

The ground floor rooms on all four corner towers of the inner castle, and the Vassal's tower on the south east side of the inner wall, are all guard chambers. Here archers and crossbowmen can be stationed behind arrow slits from which they can cover the Outer Ward pretty well.

Hall

The largest room in the castle, here there are banquets and feasts and entertainments, just as you would expect. All of the household would normally eat together in the Hall; the Lord, his family, retainers and servants, especially for dinner, which is normally the main meal of the day and served at noon. Perhaps as many as eighty people eat here at once. The Lord and his family and noble guests dine at the high table (above the salt) and everyone else at trestle tables down the sides. There is no chimney, so the fire is a longish pit down the centre of the hall. Entertainers, luteists, dancers, bards (storytellers and poets) perform in this central area, and servers cross over it to bring food to the tables. 'Courses' at a banquet in medieval times are generally all served at once, with the different dishes being placed on the tables and the diners helping themselves to whatever different courses take their fancy.

Inner Ward (Courtyard)

A central courtyard area, open to the sky and surrounded by the inner curtain wall. Against the inside of this wall run a number of domestic buildings, of all sorts of shapes and sizes, including the Hall, Kitchen, Chapel & etc.

King's Tower

A strong and massively built round tower on the north east corner of the inner curtain wall, occupied on the ground floor by a simple guard chamber. There is no access to the floors above but access into the narrow passageway which has arrow slits covering the Outer Ward and leads to the small chambers at the base of the Lady's Gate (where there is a spiral stair leading upwards.)

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Ground Floor

Kitchen

A large room on the north corner of the Inner Ward. The kitchen has a very large fireplace (literally big enough to roast a wild boar whole) with massive chimney above and a bread oven to one side. There are stores, larders and cupboards a plenty, great solid tables and a host of servants cooking and preparing food here most of the daylight hours. This kitchen, and its' associated rooms, is quite capable of making enough bread and cooking sufficient food to feed eighty or more people for many months without any supplies from the outside. Which is, of course, an essential part of the castle's ability to survive a long siege. The Kitchen is open to the first floor, where there are a number of openable window and louvers, placed there to let the cooking fumes and sweltering heat generated by the fires escape.

Kitchen Tower

A solid and robust round tower at the north corner of the inner curtain wall. There is a guard chamber on the ground floor (with an arrow slit) but this is used as a kitchen store and larder in peaceful periods.

Lady's Gate

A large structure, not as big as the Great Gate, but still very substantial. It is made of two half round towers and a central covered passageway. This passage is defended by two pairs of very stout oak doors, a metal portcullis and murder holes accessed from under a rug in the 'Lady's Chamber' directly above. There are two small round chambers with arrow slit facing outwards, plus narrow passageways leading off to either side, also with arrow slits covering the Outer Ward. There are two narrow winding stair towers on the inner corners of the Lady's Gate which lead up to the first floor. Note that accessing the ground floor spaces of the Lady's Tower is only from above or via long narrow side passages.

Moat

A deep ditch surrounding the castle on all sides, which can be flooded with water in times of unrest or war. Crossable only via the South or Postern gates.

North Tower

A large and solid round tower on the North side of the outer curtain wall. This tower has arrow slits covering the surround, and a central winding stone stair leading up to the battlements level.

Outer Ward

The open space between the outer and inner curtain walls and their towers. Effectively a 'killing ground' for any invaders who manage to breach the outer defences. This area is mainly grass and is grazed by livestock, sheep and cattle, who might well make a 'larder on the hoof' in times of siege.

Pantry

A large chamber with access from the Inner Ward, and on into the Granary and the Scullery, and from there to the Kitchen. The pantry is used to store bread, which is the main staple food for most of the castle occupants. Bread would be doled out daily from the Pantry, with the best (the 'Upper Crust') going to the noble folk and more rough and gritty loaves going to the servants and soldiers. With beer from the buttery and bread from the pantry, a man can live well enough. Of course a bit of meat, or cheese, would be nice, and a dish of 'pottage' too. This is a stewy sort of dish, made in a cauldron over an open fire, which might contain anything from meat scraps to vegetables, peas and even oats or other grains.

Postern Gate

A small but solid gatehouse on the west side of the outer curtain wall. On this floor both of the half round towers are literally solid masonry. There is a narrow covered passageway giving access into the Outer Ward, and this is protected by a drawbridge, a portcullis and two pairs of very thick oak doors, opening outwards, of course.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Ground Floor

Postern Tower

A strong round tower on the west corner of the inner curtain wall which overlooks the Postern Gate. On the ground floor there is a guard chamber with arrow slits covering the Outer Ward.

Scullery

A largish chamber, next to the Kitchen. Here there is a good, stone-lined well, which is the main water supply for the castle. The scullery is used for washing food and vegetables before cooking, and also for washing dishes, salvers, servers and plate after a meal, as well as scrubbing the inevitably huge pile of cooking pots and pans generated constantly by the kitchen.

South Gate

There are two pairs of very stout, iron re-enforced doors, opening outwards and locked or barred in place by enormous timbers on the inside (these slide out from grooves cut through the stone wall.) Against each of these doors are two very heavy iron portcullises, which, when lowered, form an outer skin to the doors. Between the two pairs of doors is the main tunnel-like entrance, in the vaulted stone roof of which are a large number of murder holes. Defenders in the Gate Chamber above can drop boiling oil, heated stones, darts and other missiles on any trapped attackers caught in the passageway. There are two stores built into the pair of half round towers that make up the South gate, these are only accessible from above, via ladder and spiral stair.

Stair Towers x5

There are two round stair towers attached to the back corners of each of the main structures of this castle; the Great Gatehouse and the Lady's Gate. There is also a fifth (very small and narrow) stair tower attached to the back corner of the South Gate. Note that none of these spiral stone stairways give access to the Inner or Outer Wards directly or easily. This is a conscious defensive measure which adds to the castles ability to go on fighting even when parts of it have been taken by attackers.

Store

There is a good sized store, or dry larder, off the Buttery. Here various dry foodstuffs, such as barrels of apples, baskets of eggs and smoked hams, are stored in a cool, dark and windowless chamber.

Store x 2

The ground floor of the two half round towers that make up the South gate is taken up by two large stores. Only accessed from above, these dark chambers contain various bits of lumber; broken and unwanted furniture, old weapons and the like. Could be used as temporary prisons.

Vassal's Tower

A strong half round tower on the south east side of the inner curtain wall. On the ground floor there is a guard chamber, with arrow slits covering the Outer Ward. There is also access into the hall and to a narrow passageway which runs some distance within the solid walls.

Well

Situated under cover in the Scullery, the stone-lined well is the main source of fresh water for the castle.

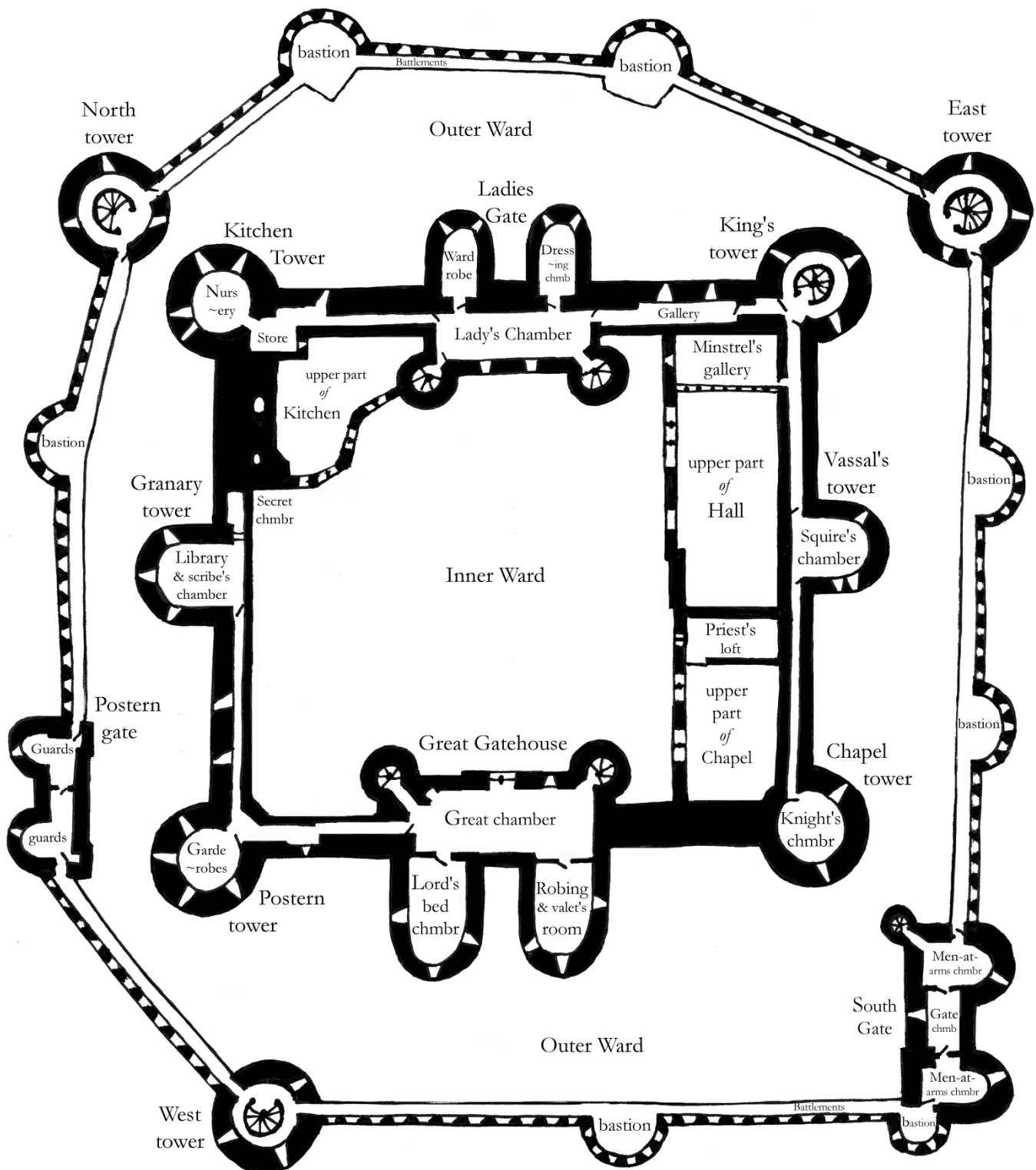
West Tower

A strongly built round tower on the west side of the outer curtain wall. There is a winding stone stair leading up to the battlement level.

Withdrawing Chamber

A comfortable chamber at the dais (high table) end of the Hall, where the Lord and his family can 'withdraw' from the hustle and bustle of the Hall. Perhaps to sup fine wine and talk, play games, embroider, or spend time with their children. Note the access (via a passage within the walls) to the Lady's Gate where any children of the Lord might well sleep and play.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ First Floor



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ First Floor

Bastions x 6

On this, the battlements level, the six bastions form wide platforms along the outer curtain wall. On these bastions war engines, or even companies of archers, can be positioned to rain missiles down upon any attackers or besiegers.

Battlements

On this level (the first floor) the outer curtain wall is topped with substantial stone battlements. There is a walkway all around the castle, passing through towers and gatehouses as necessary, to allow for quick movement and concentration of defenders. The battlements are really a high wall (over six foot) with arrow slits every few feet at regular intervals. Thus the defenders are hardly in sight of any attackers and can fire at their enemies with little risk to themselves.

Chapel Tower

A large round tower at the southern corner of the inner curtain wall. On this level here is a comfortable room called the Knight's Chamber.

Dressing Room

The Lady's dressing room, in one of the half-round towers of the Ladies Gate. Here the Lady's maids dress her and tend to her every need. There would be comfortable and relatively soft furnishings here, perhaps a polished metal mirror and so forth.

East Tower

A strong round tower on the east side of the outer curtain wall. There are winding stone stairs leading up and down, plus arrow slits covering several directions.

Gallery

A long passageway from the Ladies Gate towards the King's tower, within the inner curtain wall. Here her Ladyship has some pictures and sketches hung on the wall, as well as tapestries and needlepoint works.

Garderobes

Several garderobes (toilets) round around the outside of the chamber at this level of the Postern Tower. Here the more common members of the household can take their ease.

Gate Chamber

A small room above the South Gate. Here there are the winding mechanisms for pulling up the two portcullises. Also a large number of murder holes in the floor, through which unpleasant things can be dropped on any invader below!

Granary Tower

A half round tower on the north west side of the inner curtain wall. At this level it is occupied by the Library and scribe's chamber.

Great Chamber

The Lord's chamber where he entertains guests and vassals in private, carries out the business of his estates and also relaxes. There are two narrow winding stairs, leading both up and down, in two corners of this large and comfortable chamber.

Great Gatehouse

The largest structure in the castle, and in many senses the Keep. It comprises two half round towers at the front, a rectangular block in the centre and two small stair towers on the innermost corners.

Guards Chamber x 2

Two half round rooms over the postern gate. Here guards stand watch and sleep.

Inner Ward

The central courtyard of this castle, open to the sky and enclosed by the inner curtain wall.

King's Tower

A substantial round tower on the eastern corner of the inner curtain wall. Here there are winding stone stairs up to the second floor, plus arrow slits overlooking the Outer Ward.

Kitchen Tower

A substantial round stone tower, on the north corner of the inner curtain wall, near the kitchen. On this level the chamber in this tower is the Nursery.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ First Floor

Knight's Chamber

A comfortable chamber in the Chapel Tower. This used to house senior retainers of the Lord when they are visiting or fulfilling their feudal duties, these are almost the rank of 'knight' hence the name of this room. It is well furnished with a four poster bed, chests, rugs, fur skins and the like.

Ladies Gate

A big and solid structure at the rear of the Inner Ward. This is the domain of the Lady of the house and is occupied by her children and servants.

Lady's Chamber

The main room on this level in the 'Ladies Gate' here her ladyship might pass her time gossiping with other ladies, playing with her children, doing needlework or even reading!

Library and Scribe's chamber

A goodly room in the Granary Tower. Here the Lord's considerable library (for the period) of several hundred books and scrolls are kept. It is also the working and sleeping space for his Scribe, who spends his days writing correspondence, keeping accounts and rent books for his Lord and so forth.

Lord's Bedchamber

A comfortable room in the Great Gatehouse, with a sumptuous great bed, feather filled mattresses and bolsters. Decorated with hunting trophies (such as stag's heads) and weapons or armour hung on the wall. Rugs, chests, chairs and so on fill this room.

Men-at-Arms Chamber x 2

Two rooms above the South gate, occupied by retained men-at-arms who are always on guard in this castle, whether or not the Lord and his court are present. These chambers are filled with rough beds, personal belongings, chests and so on belonging to the men-at-arms who live here.

Minstrel's Gallery

A gallery over one end of the Hall, here musicians or minstrels can play or sing for the entertainment of the diners below. Also a favourite place for watching!

North Tower

A strong round tower in the outer curtain wall, there is a wide stone winding stair giving access down to the ground floor.

Nursery

A round chamber in the Kitchen Tower. Here a nurse maid sleeps with (and cares for) the smaller children of the Lord. Lots of wooden cribs, blankets, children's toys and the like, fill this space.

Outer Ward

The open space between the outer and inner curtain walls. On this level amply covered from every direction by the battlements and towers all around.

Priest's Loft

A tiny chamber above the Hall Ante-chamber and next to the Chapel (accessed by a small wooden ladder.) Here a junior priest sleeps in modest and frugal surroundings, as is fit for a man of God.

Postern Gate

The subsidiary entrance to this castle, on this level occupied by guards who have easy access to the outer curtain wall battlements.

Postern Tower

A thick round tower on the west corner of the inner curtain wall, overlooking the Postern Gate. On this level occupied by a number of garderobes.

Robing and valet's room

A half round chamber in the Great Gatehouse. Here the Lord's valet, or dresser, sleeps as well as working. He cleans and maintains his Lordship's expensive and sumptuous clothing and helps his master dress here.

Secret chamber

A tiny chamber off of the Library. Here there is large chest of important deeds and papers (land grants from the king, for example) called a Muniments chest. There are also a number of small, iron bound, treasure chests, filled mostly with silver pennies, although there are a few leather money bags containing a modest number of gold coins and gems. The stone door to this secret 'treasury' is always locked, and is hidden behind a bookcase, which needs to be slid to one side to gain access.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ First Floor

South Gate

The main entrance to the castle in the outer curtain wall, on this level occupied by men-at-arms.

Squire's Chamber

A goodly chamber in the Vassal's Tower. Here the Lord's Squire (usually the son of a friendly or neighbouring Lord) sleeps and relaxes. A squire is a knight in training who spends his time serving at table, waiting on his Lord's command and training for battle. Occasionally there might be two or three squires in this room, although one is more usual.

Store

A small chamber off the Kitchen tower, here the paraphernalia involved in raising small children is stored; chests of children's clothes, toys, linen etc.

Upper part of Chapel

An open space above the chapel, lit by two very large stained glass windows.

Upper Part of Hall

The open space above the main hall, lit by several windows, one of which is very large and ornate, letting light in from the Inner Ward.

Upper part of Kitchen

An open space above the Kitchen, here there are a number of windows overlooking the Inner Ward, these both let in light to the kitchen and allow fumes and heat to escape.

Vassal's Tower

A strong, half round tower, on the south east side of the Inner Ward. On this level occupied by the Squire's chamber.

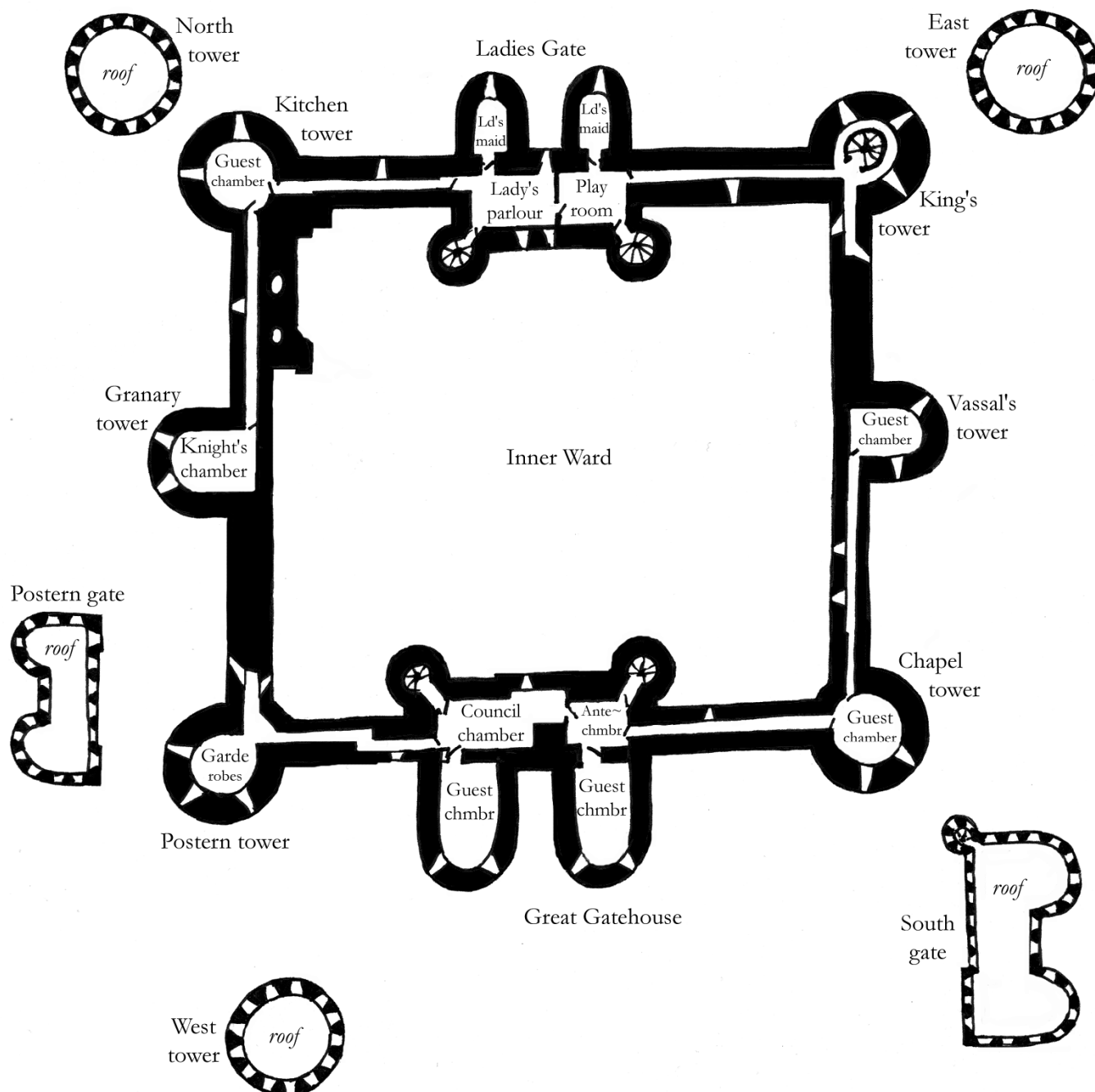
Wardrobe

A half round room in Ladies Gate. Here the Lady's considerable collection of gowns, dresses and capes are stored and hung.

West Tower

A thickly built round stone tower in the outer curtain wall, with winding stairs leading down to the ground floor.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Second Floor



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Second Floor

Antechamber

A small chamber in the Great Gatehouse, with access upwards and downwards in the adjacent stair tower and to the narrow passage in the main wall leading towards the Chapel Tower. This is really a kind of waiting room for anybody waiting on the Council Chamber, servants and supplicants awaiting their Lord's pleasure, perhaps.

Chapel Tower

A strong round stone tower on the south corner of the inner curtain wall. On this level there is a Guest chamber with narrow passages in the curtain wall leading off in two directions.

Council Chamber

Effectively a place where the Lord can hold councils ~ meetings with his vassals, tenants, allies and so forth. Access to a small stair tower (leading up and down) as well as adjacent rooms and passageway.

East Tower Roof

A flat battlemented roof, from which the surrounding moat and outer curtain wall can be covered with arrow or bolt.

Garderobes

A chamber in the Postern Tower with several garderobes around the wall where castle occupants can take their ease.

Granary Tower

A half round tower on the north west side of the inner curtain wall, on this level used as a Knight's Chamber.

Great Gatehouse

The main building of the castle, on this level is the Council Chamber, Anteroom and a couple of Guest Chambers.

Guest Chamber x 5

The Guest Chambers, scattered around the towers of the inner curtain wall on this level, are used for accommodating important guests of rank. Relatives of the Lord and His lady, visiting gentry or nobility and so on. Each is well furnished and appointed.

Inner Ward

The open space above the central courtyard, defined by the inner curtain wall.

King's Tower

A round stone tower on the east corner of the inner curtain wall, housing a broad winding stone stair going upwards and downwards, plus a number of arrow slits dominating the Outer Ward.

Kitchen Tower

Round tower on the north side of the inner curtain wall, on this level there is a Guest Chamber.

Knight's Chamber

A Chamber in the Granary Tower put aside for guests and vassals who have the rank of Knight. These knights are either visiting as guests, or fulfilling their feudal military obligations to their Lord.

Ladies Gate

The second gate leading into the inner castle, on the north east side of the inner curtain wall. Here her Ladyship has her apartments.

Lady's Maid x 2

Two chambers occupied by maids serving the Lady of the castle, here they sleep and relax in between duties.

Lady's parlour

A comfortable and cosy private room for her Ladyship to retire to and relax away from the hustle and bustle of the lower rooms. This would be called a 'boudoir' in later times.

North Tower Roof

The top of the round north tower, protected by tall battlements and overlooking the Outer Ward and the surround beyond.

Play Room

A chamber in the Ladies Gate block put aside for the younger noble children of the castle.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Second Floor

Postern Gate Roof

A double 'D' shaped gatehouse roof, with battlements on all sides covering that entry and the Outer Ward.

Postern Tower

A strong round tower on the west corner of the Inner Ward, occupied on this level by a number of garderobes (W.C.s.)

South Gate Roof

Another double 'D' shaped gatehouse roof, with battlements on all sides covering the main entry point to the castle and the Outer Ward within.

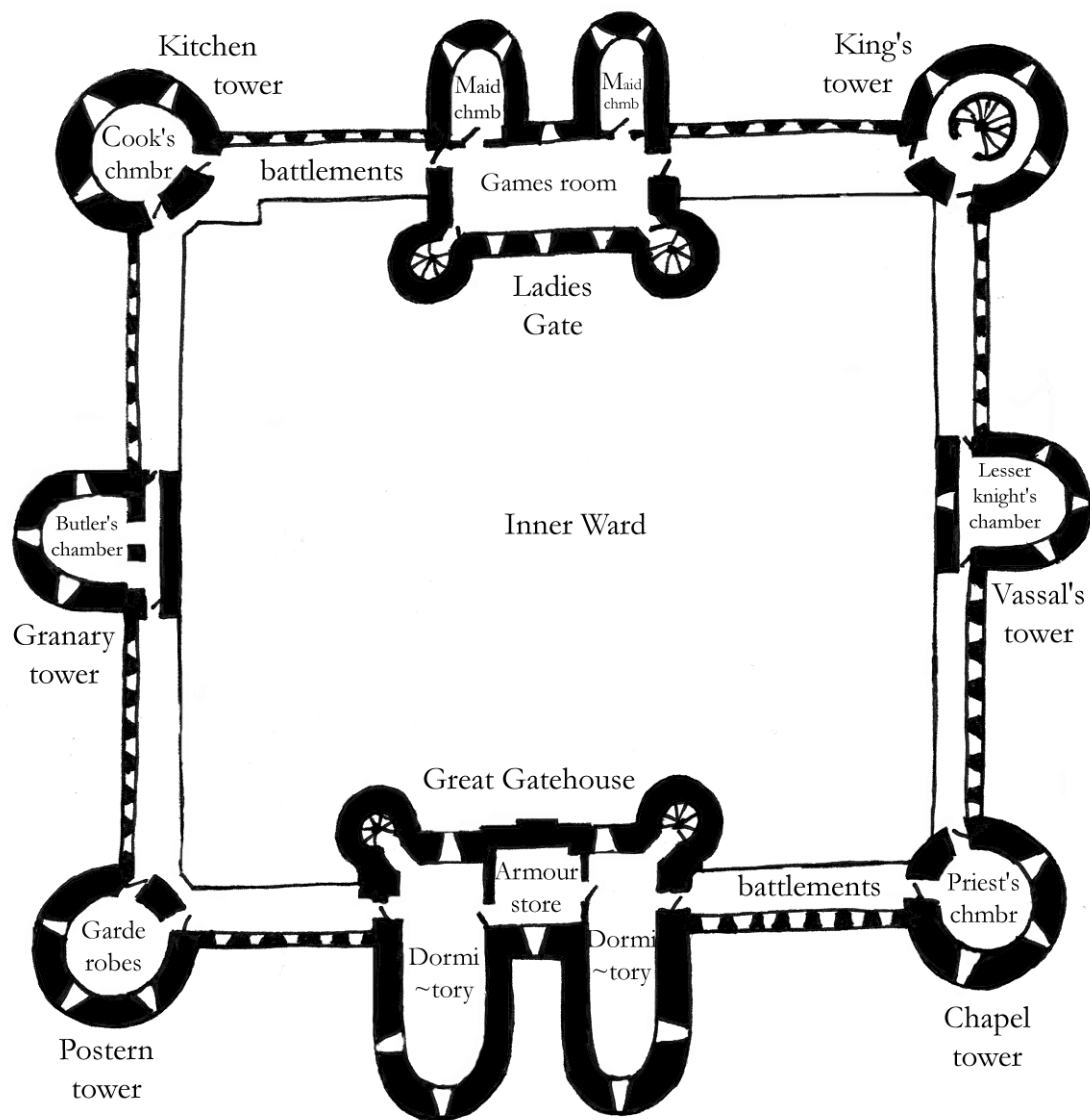
Vassal's Tower

A half round stone tower on the south east side of the inner curtain wall, it has a Guest Chamber on this level, with access through narrow passages in the curtain wall.

West Tower Roof

A round tower roof, with battlements all around, on the west side of the outer curtain wall.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Third Floor



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Third Floor

Armour Store

A small room in the Great Gatehouse where spare pieces of armour (breast plates, greaves etc.) are kept.

Battlements

Tall battlements (a little taller than a man) cover all sides of the inner curtain wall. These are easily accessible through all of the towers and chambers at this level.

Butler's Chamber

A comfortable room in the Granary Tower, here the most important servant in the household lives.

Chapel Tower

A round tower on the south corner of the inner curtain wall, on this level occupied by a senior priest.

Cook's Chamber

A round a fairly comfortable room in the Kitchen Tower, here the chief cook lives and sleeps.

Dormitory x 2

Two large chambers in the Great Gatehouse, here a goodly number of soldier, guards and retainers can sleep, especially when the castle is on a war footing or during a siege. The more junior military troops need to sleep and relax near the battlements or gates!

Games Room

A large and spacious room in Ladies Gate at battlement level. This chamber or hall is used for all sorts of entertainments and games, and most of the household would make use of it on rainy days and holy days when they have free time.

Garderobes

A round chamber in the Postern Tower housing several garderobes (toilets) for general use.

Granary Tower

A half round tower on the north west side of the inner curtain wall, the Butler sleeps here on this level.

Great Gatehouse

The main structure of the castle, on this level there are dormitories for guards and soldiery.

Inner Ward

The open central courtyard of the castle, contained by the inner curtain wall.

King's Tower

A round tower on the east corner of the inner curtain wall, on this level there is a wide winding stone stair giving access both up and down.

Kitchen Tower

Tower on the north corner of the inner curtain wall, occupied on this level by the Cook.

Ladies Gate

The secondary block in the inner castle, used at this level for a games room and maid's bedchambers.

Lesser Knight's Chamber

A comfortable room in the Vassal's Tower, here junior Knight's and squires might sleep and store their belongings whilst serving their military service in the castle.

Maid's Chamber x 2

Two small chambers in the Ladies gate block, here three or four maids (whose main duties would be cleaning, making up beds and mending sheets etc.) sleep and relax in between duties. Maids, by definition, are unmarried women, usually young and hopefully pretty!

Postern Tower

A round tower on the west corner of the inner curtain wall, occupied by garderobes at this level.

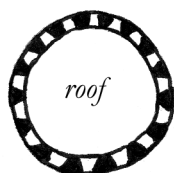
Priest's Chamber

A goodly chamber in the round Chapel Tower, here senior clerics can sleep, relax and pray in private.

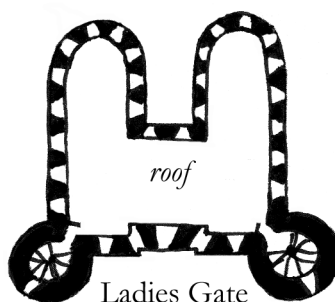
Vassal's Tower

A half round tower on the south east side of the inner curtain wall, here there is a 'Lesser Knight's chamber' on this level.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Fourth Floor



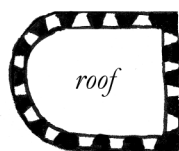
North tower



Ladies Gate



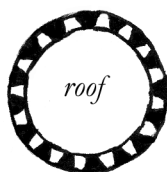
King's tower



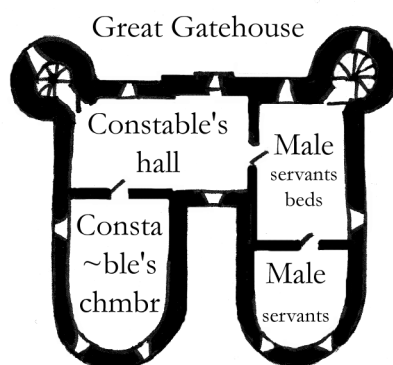
Granary tower



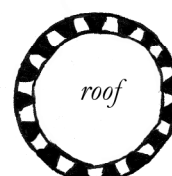
Vassal's tower



Postern tower



Great Gatehouse



Chapel tower

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Fourth Floor

Chapel Tower Roof

A round, flat roofed tower, with battlements all around, covering both the Inner and Outer Wards, as well as the South Gate.

Constable's Chamber

The Constable's private sleeping chamber, found on the fourth floor of the Great Gatehouse.

Constable's Hall

A good sized chamber where the Constable works, eats and relaxes. The Constable is a very important member of the household, in all likelihood of knightly rank or higher, who is in charge of the castle in the Lord's absence. This could be for months or even years at a time. Whilst the Lord is away his constable would be responsible for the smooth running and defence of the castle. He is also effectively the Captain of the permanent garrison, which would fluctuate from six to sixty men, and would look to maintain the castle as effectively as possible.

Granary Tower Roof

A half-round, flat roofed tower, battlemented all around, covering both the Inner and Outer Wards.

Great Gatehouse

The main structure, the 'keep' if you like, of the castle. On this level occupied by the constable and some of the male servants.

King's Tower Roof

A round, flat roofed tower, with stone winding stairs leading down and battlements all around, covering the Inner and Outer Wards.

Ladies Gate Roof

A large roof, with stair towers in the two innermost corners and battlements on all sides. Allowing for good cover of the wards.

Male Servants Bedchamber x 2

Two fair sized rooms, on this floor of the Great Gatehouse, are home to up to a dozen junior male staff. Footmen, pot boys, grooms and so on.

North Tower Roof

A round, flat roofed tower, with battlements all around, covering both the Inner and Outer Wards.

Postern Tower Roof

A round, flat roofed tower, with battlements all around, covering both the Inner and Outer Wards, as well as the Postern Gate.

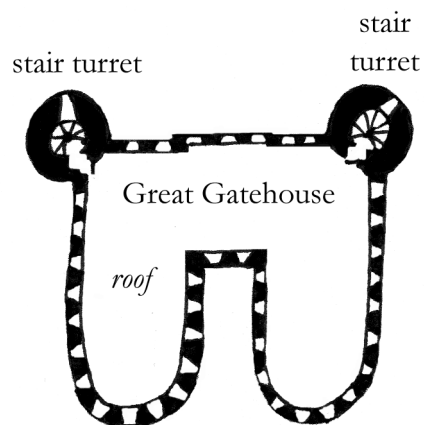
Vassal's Tower Roof

A half-round, flat roofed tower, battlemented all around, covering both Inner and Outer Wards.

Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Fifth Floor



Ladies Gate ~ Stair turrets



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Fifth Floor

Ladies Gate ~ Stair Turrets x 2

Two small, round, battlemented roofs of the stair towers on the innermost side of the Ladies Gate structure. These are used as the highest point of defence in this building and can cover not just the Inner and Outer Wards, but also the roof of Ladies Gate itself, and all of the other tower roofs at this end of the castle.

Great Gatehouse Roof

A large, double 'D' shaped roof, with battlements on all sides, comfortably covering both entries to the castle (South Gate and Postern Gate) as well as both Wards and all of the towers at this end of the castle.

Great Gatehouse ~ Stair Turrets x 2

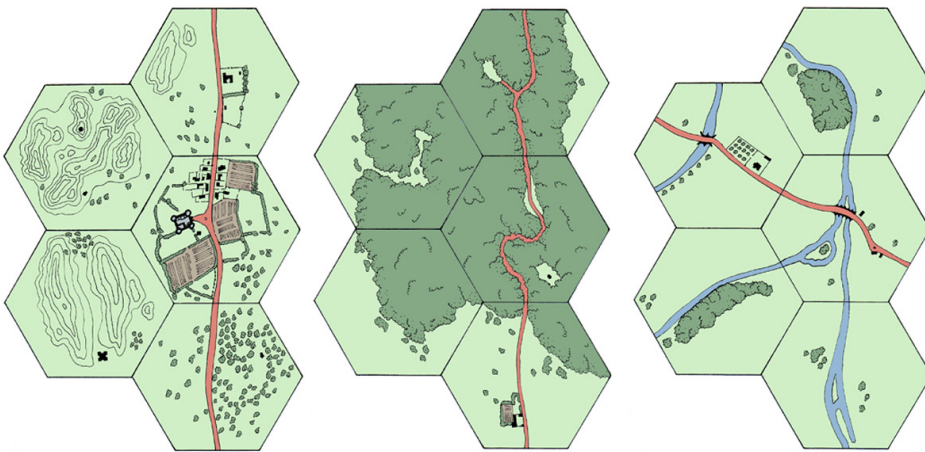
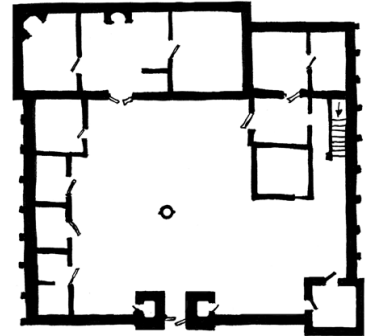
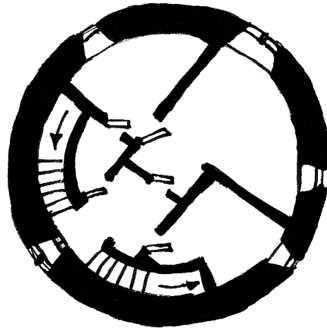
The two small round towers on the inner side of this roof enclose narrow winding stairs leading down. They, like the Ladies Gate Turrets, are topped with battlements which are the highest and ultimate refuge in the entire castle. A bowman positioned on one of these can cover the main roof of the Great Gatehouse, and over top (and therefore dominate) the Turrets in the Ladies Gate block, plus almost every other place in the castle. A single crossbowman positioned up here could cause havoc to any attacking force, and hold out up here for a very long time indeed!

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Thank you!