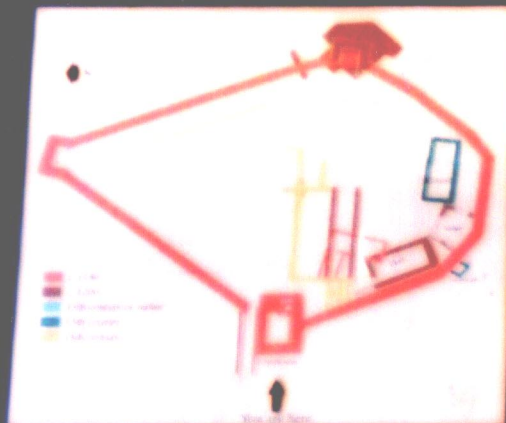


Deddington Castle

The earthen banks in front of you are all that is left of the inner bailey of the castle of Bishop Odo, and then of the De Chesney family, who lived here until the castle was demolished in the 14th century.

The large enclosure behind you, the outer bailey, belongs to the first castle built here. This was probably built shortly after the Norman Conquest of 1066, for Bishop Odo of Bayeux, the half brother of William, the Conqueror.



A plan of the castle, showing the main phases of construction and occupation.

Presented by the Deddington News, in celebration of its 25th Anniversary, to the Parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. (September 7th, 2001)

Two archaeological excavations have taken place at Deddington Castle, in 1947 and 1977. Along with some surviving documents, they have helped us to understand the complex development of this site.

Although some building evidence from the Saxon period was discovered, the main discoveries related to the period between the 11th and the 14th centuries. Bishop Odo, through to the De Chesney family.



Aerial photograph of the site as it appears today.



The pristine base of the castle uncovered during the 1977 excavations at the site.

In the castle's inner bailey evidence was found for a stone hall, a chapel and a solar. A gatehouse was built round about where you are standing, which would have given access to the large outer bailey behind this lectern.

By the 14th century the castle was no longer lived in and fell into disrepair. By 1377 stonework from the walls had been sold off and the castle gradually fell into the ruined state you see today.