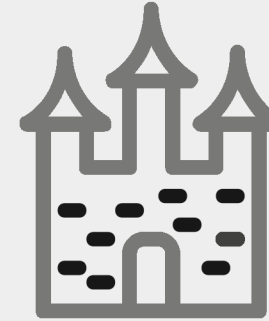


# ELCHO CASTLE



## INTRODUCTION

Elcho castle is a beautifully preserved 16th century tower house, attractively positioned on the south shores of the Tay below Perth. It was built as a country retreat for the Wemyss family, who lived mainly at Wemyss Castle in Fife. It has changed surprisingly little since it was built, apart from a new roof and new window glazing added in the 1830s. It is a particularly good place to study the theme of the castle as a home, as it has well-preserved kitchens, toilets, an orchard and a doo'cot.

The castle is in the care of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and all visits by school groups should be booked:  
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/>

HES also run events for schools at the castle; see here for details:  
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/schools/learning-programmes/?p=2542>

## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

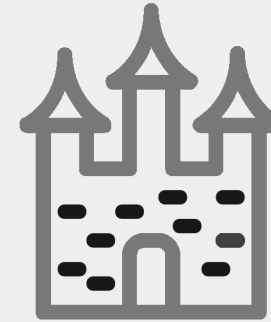
### RESOURCES BY HES

**Elcho Castle: the Official Souvenir Guide**  
by Ann McSween  
can be bought from the HES  
online shop  
(<https://shop.historic-scotland.gov.uk/books>)

**Investigating Castles in Scotland**  
a downloadable resource for  
teachers with background  
information and many suggestions  
for onsite activities  
(<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=82999a27-fcfc-4823-8036-a58500ea9845>)



# ELCHO CASTLE



## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies:  
People, Past Events  
and Societies

### EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

By exploring places, investigating artefacts and locating them in time, I have developed an awareness of the ways we remember and preserve Scotland's history.  
SOC 1-02a

I can use evidence to recreate the story of a place or individual of local historical interest.  
SOC 1-03a

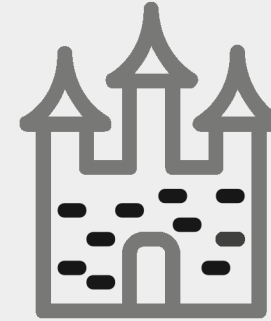
### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

While visiting the castle, pupils look for answers to their questions, and record evidence through taking photographs or sketching.

After their visit they can share their information.

All material could be collated into a class guidebook.

# ELCHO CASTLE



## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CURRICULAR AREA

Social Studies:  
People, Past Events  
and Societies

### EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

I can compare aspects of people's daily lives in the past with my own by using historical evidence or the experience of recreating an historical setting.  
SOC 1-04a

I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology.  
SOC 2-02a

I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.  
SOC 2-04a

### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

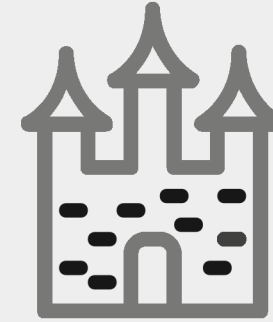
Other outcomes could include:

Designing a poster to promote the castle, incorporating photographs.

Writing diary entries for members of the laird's family or for a servant who worked at the castle.

Pupils could make models of the castle in the classroom, using boxes, Lego, or construction kits – or online using Minecraft or similar.

# ELCHO CASTLE



## PUPIL RESOURCES



AERIAL IMAGE OF ELCHO CASTLE

Why do you think the castle was built in this place?

Modern aerial photograph.

canmore\_image\_DP00135859 canmore\_image\_DP0008292



ELCHO CASTLE IN 1807

Compare this picture with modern pictures. What has changed? What has stayed the same?

Engraving of Elcho castle and Kinnoull rock, from the north side of the river.



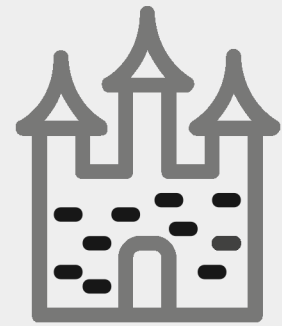
ELCHO CASTLE WITH WATER MILL, 1756

What can you see in front of the castle? What do you think it was used for?

<http://digital.nls.uk/scotia-dpicta/pageturner.cfm?id=74582384&mode=fullsize>



# ELCHO CASTLE



This castle is nearly **450** years old!

It used to have its own **HARBOUR** on the River Tay – the motorway of the time.

You get a great **VIEW** from the rooftop.

There is just **ONE DOOR** – and it's defended by **17 GUN 'LOOPS'**.

This was the holiday home of the well-connected **WEMYSS** ('weems') family.

People say that there used to be a **PASSAGE** which led under the river between **ELCHO AND SEGGIEDEN** on the north side of the Tay.



D. Junor. Delin!

D. Lixars. Sculp!

KINNOUL-ROCK

& ELCHO CASTLE

*To the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Earl of Kinnoul*  
*This View is most respectfully dedicated by his Lordship's most obed<sup>t</sup> & every hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>*



1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1807

James Morison.









ELCHO CASTLE.

Engraved from a drawing by J. Fisher. 1736. - Edinburgh: Wm. Forrest & Co. 1840.