

LANCASTER
CASTLE



PARANORMAL GROUP VISITS AND GHOST HUNTS

*Lancaster Castle has a rich
and bloody history.
For almost 1000 years it
has been a symbol of the
majestic and the macabre.*

**NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE HIRE, IT IS THE
PERFECT VENUE FOR GHOST HUNTS AND
PARANORMAL GROUP ACTIVITY.**

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

In 1612, several Lancashire men and women were incarcerated in the Well Tower after being accused of witchcraft. When tried here, no fewer than 10 (including the famous Pendle Witches) were found guilty and hanged on the nearby moors. The most famous of these, Old Demdyke, died in the Well Tower before being brought to trial.

In the early 19th century, many of those caught up in the industrial unrest across Lancashire were held and tried here. And during the 18th and 19th centuries, large numbers of prisoners were tried in the Castle's Crown Court and sent from here for transportation to Australia. Many had committed only minor misdemeanours and petty crimes.

Lancaster Castle Assizes sentenced more people to death than anywhere else outside London.

More than 260 people were hanged here between 1800 and 1910.

The various buildings within the Castle have housed thousands of prisoners through the ages. These have included those awaiting trial and those found guilty of crimes, prisoners of conscience, debtors, prisoners of war and even those who had committed no crime but who were regarded as 'lunatics'.

THE LAST EXECUTION TOOK PLACE HERE IN 1910.



**UNTIL 2011 LANCASTER CASTLE
WAS STILL A WORKING PRISON.**

*It is currently under
restoration and the secrets
it has kept within the
walls for almost 1000
years are finally
being revealed.*

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE CASTLE.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!**

WWW.LANCASTERCASTLE.COM

Lancaster Castle, Castle Parade, Lancaster LA1 1YJ

General Enquiries: 01524 848 525 **Tours:** 01524 64998

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**LANCASTER
CASTLE**



DO'S AND DON'TS

- A maximum number of 35 persons is allowed for any one paranormal group.
- All members of your party must be 18 years of age and over.
- Some of the areas that you may wish to visit are not generally open to the public. All groups are accompanied by an experienced member of staff.
- Groups must stay within the parameters of the designated and agreed areas.
- There are uneven surfaces, steep stairs, potholes and some areas of dim lighting around the Castle at night. Visitors are advised to take extra care and to proceed at their own risk.
- Your party must include at least one qualified First Aider.
- Anyone visiting the pit in the Witches Well Tower must wear the hard hat provided.
- Once the visit has started guests will be expected to remain within the Castle until the agreed finish time.
- The use of Ouija boards /holding of séances, Tarot reading or any form of pagan/Wicca ritual is strictly prohibited.
- There is no smoking allowed in any area of the Castle.



**ALL GROUPS MUST COMPLETE AN
APPLICATION FORM AND HAVE
RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR THE VISIT AT
LEAST ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE VISIT.**

9. EXECUTIONER’S YARD



‘THE HANGING CORNER’.

Between 1800 and 1865, a total of 213 people were executed at Lancaster Castle. Visit the ‘drop room’ to learn more.



10. NORMAN KEEP



ALSO KNOWN AS THE LUNGESS TOWER.

With 3m thick walls, this medieval or Norman keep is the heart of the Castle. The upper storey was rebuilt by Elizabeth I.

11. CHAPEL COURTYARD



A PLACE OF PRAYER.

The Chapel originally occupied the ground floor of the Keep. It was later used as a gymnasium for prisoners.



12. CROWN COURT



STILL SITTING TODAY.

An oak-panelled courtroom which still sits today and in which the original 18th century branding iron is still on display.

13. SHIRE HALL

JOSEPH GANDY’S MASTERPIECE.

Completed in 1801, this magnificent ten-sided room is the centrepiece of one of the UK’s finest displays of chivalric heraldry.



14. HADRIAN’S TOWER



CHAINS, MANACLES AND ARTEFACTS.

In 1796, the hall of the castle was redesigned. Its basement cells built in 1784 survive together with the cylindrical Hadrian’s Tower (built 1210).

8. MALE PENITENTIARY



ALSO KNOWN AS ‘A WING’.

A ‘Pentonville-style’ prison wing added to the Castle in the 19th century. A-Wing has 18 cells per floor and extends over 3 floors.



7. MALE FELONS TOWER

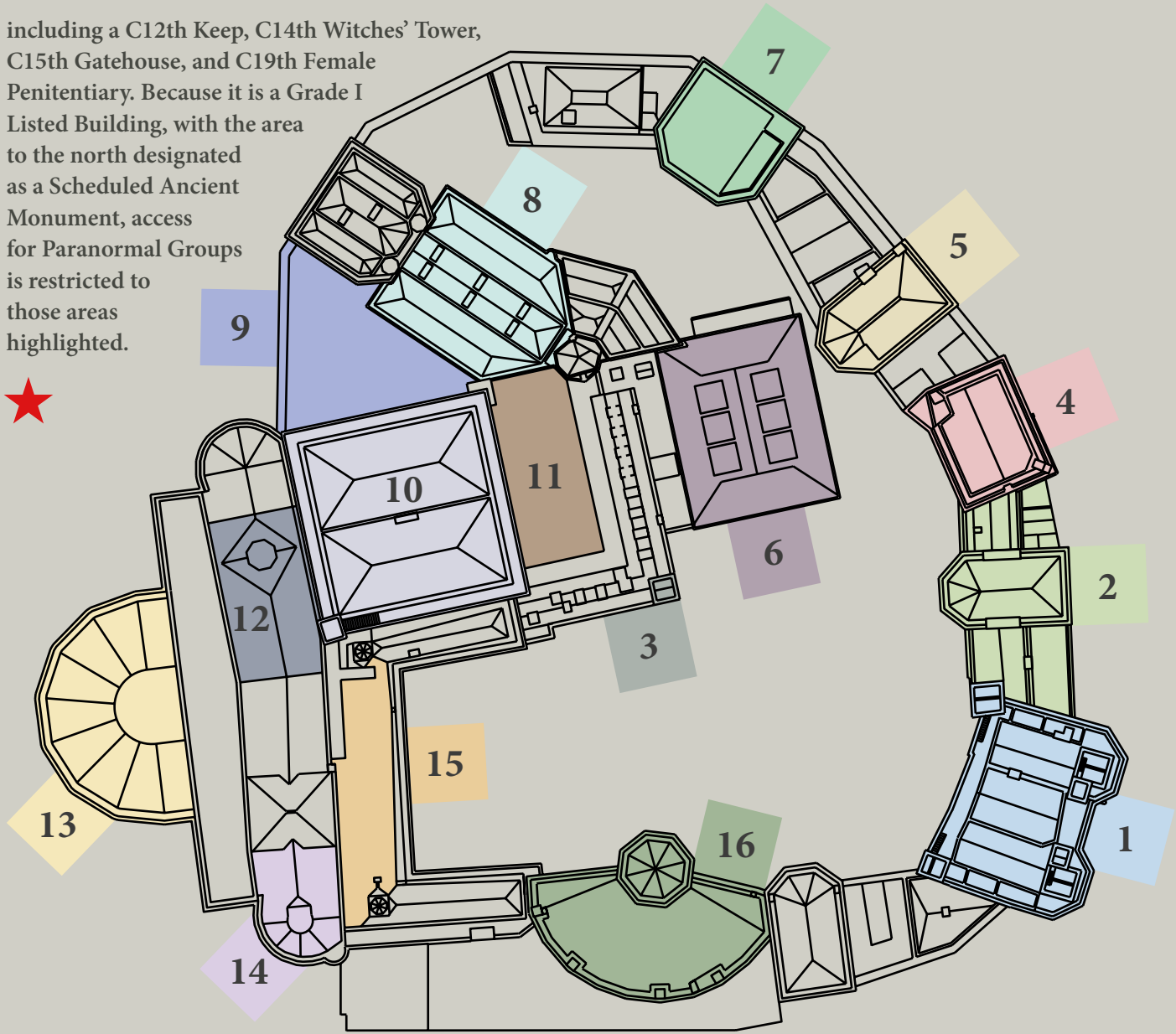


BUILT IN 1796.

The former Male Felons’ prison is built on a radial plan, with 2 cell blocks of 5 storeys linked by a rebuilt curtain wall.

The Castle consists of a group of historic structures -

including a C12th Keep, C14th Witches’ Tower, C15th Gatehouse, and C19th Female Penitentiary. Because it is a Grade I Listed Building, with the area to the north designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, access for Paranormal Groups is restricted to those areas highlighted.



15. DEBTORS’ PRISON



HANSBROW’S HOTEL.

By the mid-19th century, this was the largest debtors’ prison outside of London. Conditions were so good it was nick-named Hansbrow’s Hotel.

16. FEMALE PENITENTIARY



A PRACTICAL PANOPTICAN DESIGN.

The last major extension, built in 1821. A panoptican designed by Joseph Gandy it was still used for prisoners until 2011.



6. PRISONERS VISITORS CENTRE



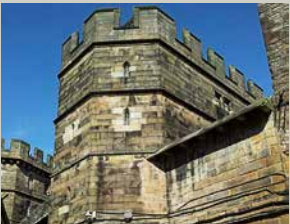
A GOOD PLACE TO START.

Home to our fully licensed café/restaurant, the gift shop and ticket office. The starting point for your tour.

5. KING’S EVIDENCE TOWER

ADDED TO THE CASTLE IN 1822.

The King’s Evidence Tower was built to house – and to protect - male prisoners giving prosecution testimony.



4. THE WELL TOWER



ALSO KNOWN AS ‘THE WITCHES TOWER’.

Said to have held the Pendle witches in its dungeons, this part of the Castle dates back to c.1325.

3. CLOCKTOWER (DEBTORS’ WORKSHOPS)

EARLY 19TH CENTURY CONSTRUCTION.

The ground floor was an ‘open’ arcade with workshops where debtors made goods to trade and sell. They held fairs, concerts and even mock elections here.



2. GOVERNOR’S HOUSE



BUILT BY THOMAS HARRISON, 1788.

Situated between the Gatehouse and the Well Tower, the Governor’s House was later converted to offices by the Prison Service.

1. JOHN O’GAUNT GATE



ONE OF ENGLAND’S GREATEST GATEHOUSES.

Built around 1405, the arms of Henry V as Prince of Wales appear on a shield above the gateway.

