

# Devizes Castle

DEVIZES • WILTSHIRE





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The principal part of a magnificent Grade I listed Castle set in an elevated position with far reaching views

Pewsey 12 miles (London Paddington from 59 minutes)  
Chippenham 12 miles (London Paddington from 68 minutes)  
Marlborough 14 miles • M4 Junction 15, 19 miles  
A303 16 miles  
(Distances and times approximate)

Reception Hall • Kitchen/breakfast room • Sitting room • Drawing room • Dining room • Library • Study  
Long Gallery • Fernery • Secondary kitchen • Utility room • Boot room • Large Cellar and storage rooms • WC

Two principal bedroom suites • Additional en-suite bedroom • Four further double bedrooms  
Two further bathrooms • Shower room • Three bedroom tower rooms

Double car port • Formal gardens and grounds • Dry moat

**In all about 2.4 acres**

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Your attention is drawn to the Important Notice on the last page of the text





## SITUATION

Devizes Castle is located on the edge of the picturesque and historic market town of Devizes, in Wiltshire. Situated in an elevated and secluded position, the Castle commands charming chimney pot views to the east and rolling countryside views to the west.

Devizes is home to an extensive range of everyday shops, including a Marks & Spencer food hall, recreational and educational facilities. The bustling market town of Marlborough is within a short drive whilst the fashionable cities of Bath (21 miles) and Salisbury (26 miles) provide further shops, social and cultural activities as well as famous historical sites and museums. The regional business centres of Bristol and Swindon are also within easy commuting distance, by road or rail. Communication links to the Castle are excellent with the stations at Pewsey (12 miles) offering a direct service to London Paddington (from 59 minutes) and at Chippenham (11 miles) also offering a direct service to London Paddington (from 68 minutes). The A303 is 16 miles to the South of the Castle, offering links to the South-West and East of England whilst the A361 provides fast access to the M4 (19 miles) and the national motorway network.

Sporting facilities in the area include racing at Barbury, Newbury, Bath and Salisbury, fishing on the nearby rivers Avon and Kennet, golf at North Wilts Golf Club and scenic walking and riding country, especially through the Vale of Pewsey and up onto the Marlborough Downs.

The Castle is well positioned for excellent local schooling including Marlborough College, Dauntsey's at West Lavington, St Mary's Calne, St Margaret's, Stonar and Pinewood.





## HISTORY

We are delighted to be offering such a rare opportunity to acquire the principal section of a property that has played such an important part in English history.

Devizes Castle took its name from the Medieval Latin *castrum ad divisas*, meaning 'the castle at the boundaries', because it stood at the central point of three Manors. Many records state that the first castle was built on the site by Bishop Osmund of Salisbury in approximately 1080. Burnt down and re-built in stone during the reign of King Henry I, it was from this point onwards that the Castle became a popular residence for the Monarchy and described as 'the most gorgeous in Christendom'.

The Castle played a significant part in the history of this country, particularly during the wars between King Stephen and Empress Matilda in the 12th century. Subsequently, a number of kings and notables stayed in the castle, including King John who often visited between 1204 and 1216 and later Henry III and Edward I. Until the 17th century, it remained in the hands of the Crown and became the property of the Queens of England, including Henry VIII's wives, amongst others.

It is said that the Castle gave Devizes its name, its existence and its street pattern, having prompted the Bishop of Salisbury to establish the satellite town on the Castle's eastern outskirts. By 1645 the Castle was held by the Royalists and was largely destroyed during the 17th Century Civil War between King and Parliament.

It was not until the 1830s that Devizes saw a castle again. Designed by H.E. Goodridge (celebrated architect of the Lansdown Tower, or 'Beckford's Tower' as it is more commonly known, outside Bath) the property sits high above the market town and provides an impressive and unique home.

## DESCRIPTION

Devizes Castle is an exceptional example of a Grade I listed property, predominantly built of attractive stone with alluring castellations and turrets. There are an array of period features throughout the Castle: generous stone mullioned windows, beautifully detailed stone archways, impressive fireplaces, oak floor boards, working shutters, high ceilings throughout, an unusual bowed Fernery with elegant wooden ceiling, a wide wooden central staircase, charming smaller stone spiral staircases and, in the Drawing Room and Study, ceilings richly decorated with carved and gilded bosses.

What makes Devizes Castle unique is not only its place in national history but also the marriage between its historical features and comfortable modern-day amenities. The formal reception rooms are grandly proportioned and flow seamlessly into more informal areas of the Castle making it ideal for family living and entertaining alike.

Off the Hallway are: a comfortable and useful Sitting Room area, the fully fitted spacious Kitchen, Utility Rooms and access to the secondary staircase. The Kitchen and Hallway have easy access to the terrace and rear gardens.



From the Hallway, the wide central staircase leads to: The Library with fitted decoratively carved bookcases lining two walls, stone mullioned windows with far reaching views over the rooftops of Devizes and an impressive floor to ceiling stone canopied fireplace; The Dining Room, a wonderfully proportioned room suitable for lavish entertaining or family dining, with a wide bay stone mullioned window and ornately carved stone fireplace; The Long Gallery leads to the Drawing Room, a beautifully light and airy room with stone mullioned windows offering sweeping views of the gardens, open fire, a fine ceiling with ornate carved and gilded decoration, and easy access to the gardens via the adjoining Fernery. The Fernery features original encaustic tiled floor and interlaced stone arched windows and encircles a useful secondary kitchen.

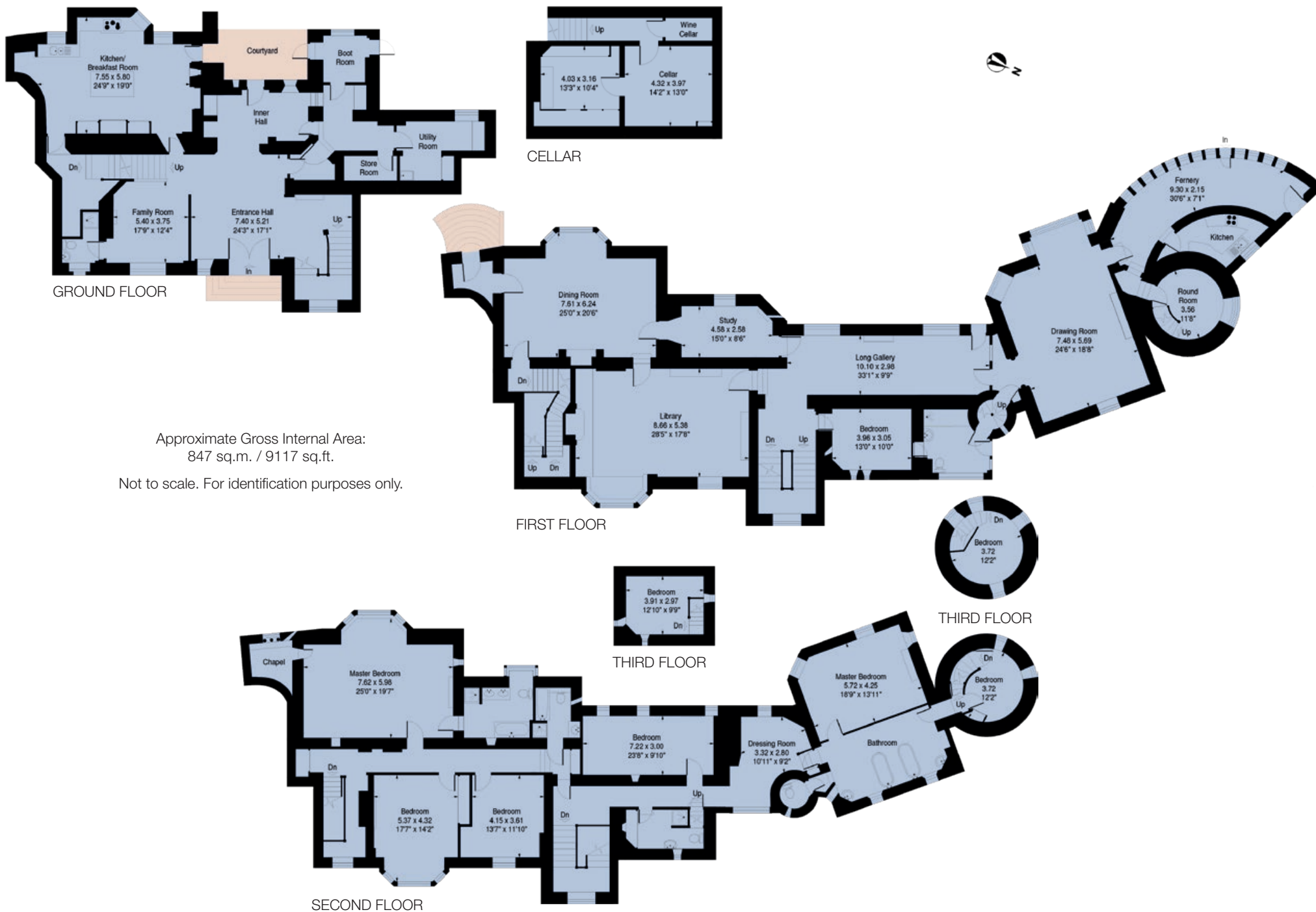




Upstairs, aside from the two impressive Principal Bedroom Suites offering views over the gardens and the countryside beyond, there is an additional en-suite bedroom and six further bedrooms.

For more detailed information on room sizes and layout, please consult the floorplans.







## GARDENS AND GROUNDS

The gardens surrounding Devizes Castle are an important ingredient to its charm and approached via imposing gates. To the front lies an abundance of mature trees whilst to the rear the garden is encircled by the ramparts, offering seclusion. The rear garden provides for sheltered walks through important and interesting specimen trees and has been landscaped with herbaceous borders, water features and lawn areas, whilst stone archways and gateways offer picturesque focal points around the garden. The roses are a particular highlight.

## GARAGE

Double carport in the grounds.

## SERVICES

Mains water, electricity and drainage. Gas and Central heating.

## FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Only those mentioned in these sales particulars are included in the sale. All others, such as fitted carpets, curtains, light fittings and garden ornaments are specifically excluded but may be available by separate negotiation.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY

Wiltshire Council.

## DIRECTIONS

Leaving the M4 at Junction 14 head towards Hungerford then on to Marlborough. Continue through Marlborough, following signs west to the A4 and Calne. Continue until you reach a roundabout where you take the first left signed Devizes A361. Continue until you reach

the town. From the Market Square in Devizes, head south and immediately after the zebra crossing turn right into Castle Road (which is Private). Ahead you will see the tall double gates of the Castle Gatehouse. Enter through the gates, bear left and follow the drive round the moat, over the bridge and along the Castle wall until you reach the large double entrance doors to the left.

## LISTING

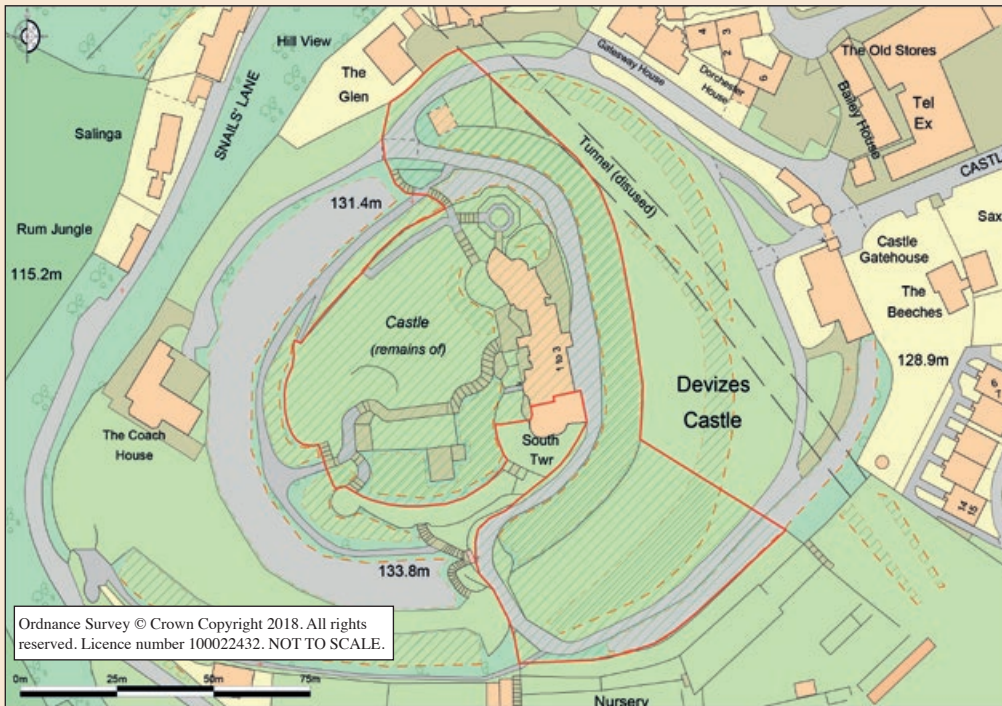
The Castle is listed Grade I as being of exceptional architectural or historic interest.

## POSTCODE

SN10 1HL

## VIEWINGS

All viewings must be made strictly by appointment only through the vendor's agents.



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