

TOTNES CASTLE was first built after the Norman invasion by Judhael de Totnes and is one of the best preserved example of a **Norman motte and bailey castle**. It would have originally been constructed out of wood.

NORMAN INVASION - 1066

The Normans were led by William the Conqueror and invaded England from France. The most famous battle is the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

FEATURES OF A MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE



TIMELINE OF TOTNES CASTLE

907 AD - First record of Totnes, when it was fortified by the **Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Elder**. The name Totnes comes from the Old English name *Totta* and the word *ness* meaning headland.

1068 AD - The feudal Barony of Totnes was given to **Judhael of Brittany** by William the Conqueror and it is believed he built a wooden keep and palisade to overawe the Saxon town and protect the Priory that he also founded. He became known as Judhael (or Juhel) de Totnes.

1088 AD - The feudal Barony of Totnes was passed on to Roger de Nonant following the death of William I.

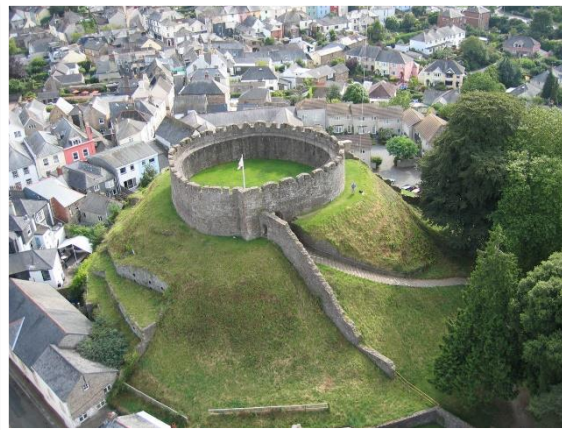
1206 AD - The castle went under the control of William I de Braose, the great grandson of Judhael.

1216 AD - The **first stone shell-keep** was constructed by his son, Reginald de Braose.

1326 AD - Castle passed into ownership of **Baron de la Zouche** and was rebuilt and extended by him using Devonian limestone and red sandstone.

1485 AD - The castle was passed to **Richard Edgcombe of Totnes** as he supported the new King, Henry VII.

16th Century - The castle was sold to the **Seymour family** and it remains in their ownership today (Duke of Somerset).



TOTNES CASTLE



KEY VOCABULARY

- Motte - French word for hill or mound
- Bailey - French word for flat or low yard
- Keep - a fortified tower within a castle
- Palisade - fence of wooden stakes
- Fortified - designed to protect and defend those inside it.

BRUTUS

Totnes plays a key role in the history of Britain, including the legend of the founding of Britain!

Legend has it that Brutus of Troy was exiled and sailed to Albion where he sailed up the River Dart. He is supposed to have first stepped foot on the stone we call The Brutus Stone and said: "Here I stand and here I rest, and this good town shall be called Totnes."

It was said that Brutus was the first King of Britain and gave the island its name.

