

Object 1

Lead plumb-bob



Date: 13th to 15th century

Use: This is a lead weight or 'plumb-bob'. This was tied on the end of a length of string through the hole visible in the weight. The weight was suspended from string to establish a straight vertical line, which was used as a reference point whilst building.

Material: This is made from lead, recycled from some reused lead pipe.

Extra information: This lead weight is recycled from a piece of lead piping that has been hammered flat. Where the pipe has been flattened at the top and bottom of the weight is still visible.



Key question

What do builders use today to make sure walls are built straight?



Where in the castle?

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What can an object tell us?



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Hint: Expensive objects are usually made from expensive materials and have more decoration than cheaper objects.

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Object 2

Medieval floor tile



Date: 13th to 15th century

Use: These decorated 'encaustic' or inlaid tiles were used to decorate the floors of wealthy churches, monasteries or castles. It's not known where this floor tile was situated, but it may have been in the great hall or in the earlier (12th to 15th century) church.

Material: This is made from ceramic, which is fired clay, also known as earthenware. The yellow/white design is made from white clay inlay or slip. The design would have been stamped onto the tile and the white clay used to fill this recess. These were then glazed (adding the shiny coating) using lead.

Extra information: The exact design isn't known as it doesn't match other known designs at the castle or locally. However, designs could be quite elaborate, sometimes showing battle scenes, or in one example from nearby Lacock Abbey, a scorpion!

Key question

What design would you choose to decorate tiles in your home?



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Object 3

Stained-glass replica



Date: This is a modern replica of 17th to 18th century stained glass

Use: The chapel at Farleigh Hungerford Castle has stained glass, and most of this was installed in the 19th century although the glass itself is of 17th to 18th century. There is a stained-glass portrait of Sir Thomas Hungerford, who built Farleigh Hungerford Castle, in Farleigh Hungerford parish church dating to about 1400. Coloured glass has been used in religious buildings in England since at least the 7th century.

Material: This is made from coloured glass and soldered with tin and copper. Medieval stained-glass was made by adding powdered metals during the glass making process to produce different colours and was held together with lead.

Extra information: Window glass was often painted in the medieval period; the glass itself was coloured as above and a design was painted onto the surface. The pieces of glass were joined by lead 'comes' (which are strips of lead). These are often found during excavations, including at Farleigh Hungerford Castle.

Key question

Would you like to be portrayed in a stained-glass window? If so, what would you be doing?



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Object 4

Rotary key



Date: 14th to 16th century

Use: This is a medieval rotary door key. The key is made up of different elements: the bow (the loop on the end), the shaft and the bit (the teeth that trigger the locking mechanism).

Material: This key is a door key made from iron. Keys from the medieval period were usually made from iron, this continued until the 19th century. Most keys today are made from a copper alloy (brass).

Extra information: This type of key was popular in this period and later because the symmetrical bit enabled you to lock/unlock the door from either side.

Key question



Why might a key that can lock or unlock a door from either side be helpful?

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Object 5

Replica coins



Date: 15th century (although made today)

Use: Set of four pewter coins (Richard Groat, Edward Groat, Edward Halfgroat, Richard Penny) dating from the reign of Edward IV (1461–70) and Richard III (1483–5). The translation of the Latin motto on the reverse, *Posui Deum Adivtum Meum* is ‘I have made the Lord my helper’, while *Civitas Eboraci* means ‘Made in York’. Edward and Richard were Yorkists, hence the coins were minted in York. Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later King Richard III), owned the castle between 1462 and 1483. The castle was confiscated from the Hungerford family because they were Lancastrians, who fought the Yorkists in the Wars of the Roses. When Richard was crowned king in 1483 he gave the castle to his supporter, the Duke of Norfolk. King Richard III died in 1485. The next year the new king, Henry VII returned the castle to the Hungerford family.

Material: These replicas are made of pewter; however, the original coins were made of silver.

Extra information: These are known as ‘hammered’ coins, referring to how the coins were made. A blank piece of metal was placed between two ‘dies’ (pieces of metal with the coin design on them). The upper die was hit with a hammer, imprinting the design onto both sides of the metal, making a coin. The blank piece of metal is now a coin with design on both sides. Because these coins were handmade by the minters, they are often irregular shapes.

Key question

Do you know what the words printed on modern coins say?



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Object 6

Bellarmino jug fragment



Date: 15th to 17th century

Use: This is the neck of a Bellarmino jug. These are round-bodied jugs, often with faces on, used for storage and serving of liquids such as water, oil or wine. Early versions of these jugs were imported from Germany, but England began producing their own from the 17th century.

Material: This jug is made from stoneware, a very dense form of ceramic that is fired at high temperatures to make it non-porous. It is salt-glazed which gives it that speckled effect on the exterior. To salt-glaze ceramic salt was thrown into the flames whilst firing the ceramics to cause a chemical reaction on the item's surface.

Extra information: The name 'Bellarmino' comes from Cardinal Bellarmine, a 17th-century cardinal who was furiously anti-Protestant. It is possible that associating the faces on the jugs with the cardinal was to ridicule him.

Key question



Which figure in history would you want to put on a jug? Pull a face to show how you would like them to be represented.

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Object 7

Replica pewter spoon



Date: Modern replica of a 15th-century design

Use: In the Middle Ages owning pewter spoons and tableware was a sign of wealth, as only high-status or rich households could afford pewter. By the 17th century pewter lost its high-status value as most households could afford objects made from pewter. Records of wills from the Hungerford family tell us that they owned valuable altar vessels in the castle chapel and precious tableware for the great hall made from pewter.

Material: Pewter is a metal made from a mixture of tin, lead and copper. It is a soft metal but can be polished easily.

Extra information: The acorn knob (the decorative piece on the end of the spoon) was a common design of spoons from the 1300s to the 1500s. The acorn was a traditional symbol of immortality and was also regarded as a talisman and as a remedy against cholera and fluxes (excessive bodily flowing, such as blood, pus or excrement).

Key question

What household item found in kitchens today do you think is a sign of wealth?



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Object 8 and 9

Musket ball and impacted musket ball fragment



Date: 17th century

Use: Muskets, a type of firearm, and musket balls, the shots fired from them, were in use between the 16th and 19th centuries. However, in England we tend to associate them with the 17th century due to their use during the English civil wars. At the time of the civil wars, Farleigh Hungerford Castle was owned by Sir Edward Hungerford who was a Puritan and Parliamentarian. In 1643 the castle was captured by Royalists but reclaimed by Sir Edward in 1645. The whole musket ball has markings on it, one is from the removal of the 'sprue' during manufacture in moulds, and the other could be an impact mark indicating that it was fired. The flat fragment is from an impacted musket ball; it seems to have hit a flat surface at high speed and been flattened/fragmented.

Material: Lead. Musket balls are common finds and often very well preserved due to lead's resistance to corrosion.

Extra information: These musket balls don't come from Farleigh Hungerford Castle but were excavated at Sherborne Old Castle in Dorset about 35 miles away. However, whilst Farleigh Hungerford Castle was taken over by Royalist troops, Sherborne Old Castle was captured by Parliamentarians.

Key question

Compare and contrast the two musket balls. What can you interpret about the English civil wars from this archaeological evidence?



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Object 10

Tracery



Date: 14th century

Use: This delicate piece of carved limestone was probably part of a screen within the chapel in the 14th century. The screen would have separated the chancel – the most sacred end of the church where the altar was – from the nave, where the congregation sat or stood.

Material: This is made from limestone, a sedimentary rock which is found locally to Farleigh Hungerford Castle.

Extra information: The small size of the moulding (the shaped bit) shows it was meant for indoor use. The screen would have looked a bit like a stained-glass window without the glass.

Key question

The limestone in this area is very famous. Do you know what it is often known as? (Clue: think of a name of the nearby city built from this stone)



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Object 11

Roof tile



Date: 13th to 15th century

Use: This roof tile is made of local stone and has a hole in it where an iron or wooden peg would have secured it to the roof. Stone roof tiles were used as far back as the Roman period. However, in the medieval period tile roofing was a more popular option due to it being more cost effective and the ability to mould the clay into the exact shape required. The use of stone shows that this was a high-status building.

Material: Limestone, available locally and an incredibly durable material for roofing.

Extra information: This roof tile was found in 1974 whilst excavating a trench in the south-west of the curtain wall, near the car park. This tile may have come from the south-west Tower near that area.



Key question

What are most roof tiles are made of today?



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Object 12

Trowel



Date: Modern

Use: Pointing trowels have been in use by archaeologists since the 19th century. The small hand-held tool, usually with a blade of four to five inches, allows for precision when excavating. Precision is important in archaeology as it's important to identify subtle differences in the soil, as well as artefacts, to understand the layers of history.

Material: This is made from wood and steel.

Extra information: Trowels like this are known as the archaeologists, 'best friend'; how well worn your trowel is can be a point of pride.

Key question

What one item that you use all of the time are you particularly proud of?



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Object 13

Brush



Date: Modern

Use: Brushes are used on excavations and in museums by archaeologists and conservators. They are used to dry brush objects. They are really useful and come in different sizes. For particularly fragile or fine objects, brushes with bristles can be bought made from pony hair; these are even more delicate.

Material: Hog hair and wood. The bristles are made from hog hair. The soft bristles allow archaeologists to clean objects without damaging them.

Extra information: Archaeologists started to develop specific tools for their work, including starting to use brushes, from the mid-19th century.



Key question

What is the softest thing you can think of that archaeologists might be able to make a brush from?



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Object 14

Horseshoe



Date: 13th to 15th century to more modern

Use: Nailed iron horseshoes may have been in use since the Roman period but were certainly in use by the Early Middle Ages, from the 9th to 10th century.

Material: Iron.

Extra information: This horseshoe was found during Wilcox excavations in 1965, when archaeologists excavated the priest house to learn more about the building's history and how it has been used over time.

Key question

Horseshoes are sometimes used for luck. Do you have a lucky tradition?



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Object 15

Bucket handle



Date: 20th century

Use: This handle is from a relatively modern galvanised bucket, manufactured in the early 20th century. It dates to the time when the castle was a farm. It is missing half the handle; the loop on the end is where it would have attached to the bucket. There may have been a wooden handle in the middle.

Material: This is made from galvanised iron, which means that the iron has had a zinc coating applied to prevent rusting.

Extra information: The castle was still in use as a farm up until 1959.

Key question

Buckets can be used for lots of different things. What are the five funniest you can think of?



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