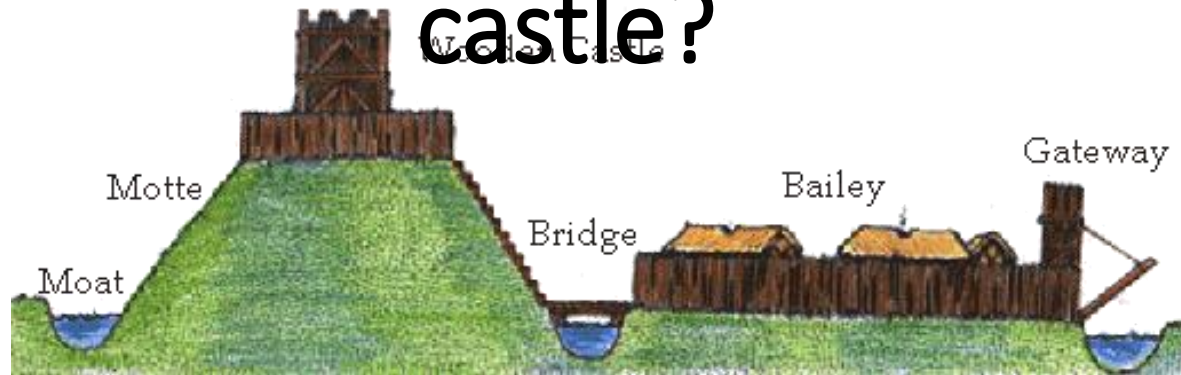


# Where's the best place to build a castle?



The Normans needed to build their castles quickly – sometimes in just a few days so at first they used earth and wood which was easily available and quick to use. Using this method they could build **Motte and Bailey** castles in **2 weeks**.

During William's reign over 60 of these castles were built all over England – their remains can still be seen.



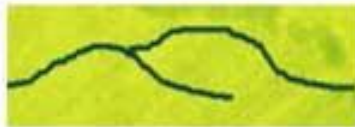
**Habitation** – you need to protect locals and use their labour



**Woodland** – Essential for wood supplies: Weapons, hoarding, drawbridges, fuel for fires, etc.



**High Mountains** – Protection from the weather; difficult for enemies to reach you; hard to see over and build upon.



**Low Hills** – Some protection from the weather; fairly easy to see enemy approaching; water will drain down into a basin.



**Marshy Ground** – Difficult to build on – poor foundations; can be a source of illness.

**Main Road** - brings in supplies and reinforcements; you need to protect main routes in your area.



**River/Coast** - Drinking water and water for cooking and washing (river); Food such as fish; natural barriers.



Look at this imaginary map. Here are some facts about it:

- It is the most important centre in England.
- It produces large amounts of woollen cloth, leather, armour and swords.
- Goods can be sent by road and sea to London.
- Maintown houses a number of rich merchants.
- 1000 people live in Maintown with several smaller towns and villages within walking distance.

**Task:** Work through your table to decide which of the 5 sites (A,B,C,D or E) is the best place to build your castle. Think about the useful features of each.

