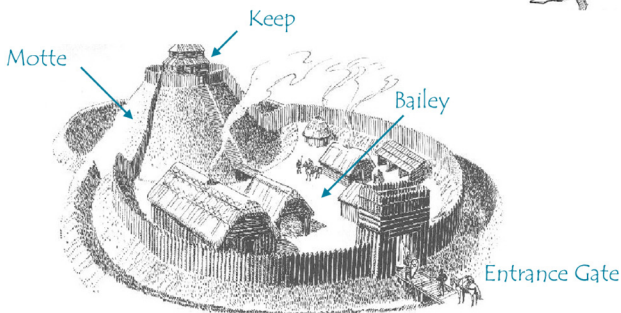


Who built them?

In 1177 John de Courcy led an army of Anglo-Norman knights and soldiers from Dublin. After a victory in Downpatrick, he took over a large part of counties Down and Antrim. To keep control of the land and its people, he built two stone fortresses in Carrickfergus and Dundrum.

He gave land to his knights to reward them for their military service. They erected "motte and bailey" castles from earth and timber to defend their lands; Belvoir was one of these private mottes.




The motte was an artificial mound of earth and the bailey was a flat courtyard. Around both the top of the motte and the bailey was a wooden fence or palisade. Around each there was also a ditch, sometimes but not always filled with water. The ditch was crossed by a moveable bridge. On top of the motte was a wooden fort and in the bailey were stables and stores.



Ways to attack a motte and bailey castle

In groups study the picture of the motte and bailey castle, think about what it is made of, how it is made and how many people could live there. Discuss the best ways to attack it, look at the good and bad points then rate each method; 1 – 10 (10 being the best). Compare your answers with the rest of the class and your reasons for picking the one most likely to succeed.

	Fire arrows 	Battering ram 	Ladders 	Belfry tower 	Catapult 	Tunnelling 	Siege 
How it works							
Good points							
Bad points							
Most likely to succeed? rate between 1-10							