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SCOTLAND'S BUILDING CONSERVATION CENTRE

STIRLING CASTLE

BLACKSMITH

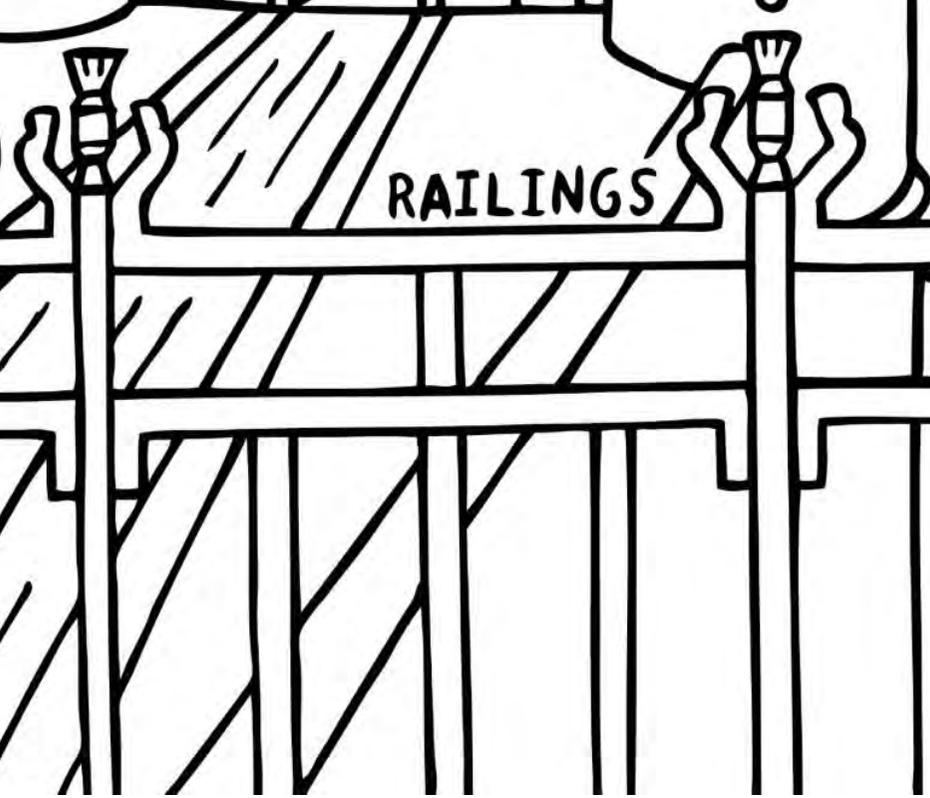


HAMMER

ANVIL



HEARTH



RAILINGS

STIRLING CASTLE



Who was Stirling Castle built for?

Stirling Castle sits on top of an ancient volcano above the city of Stirling and the River Forth. There has been a castle on this site since the early 1200s. It was once home to Scottish royalty and its purpose changed much throughout its history, from a fortified garrison during the Scottish Wars of Independence to a Renaissance 'pleasure palace'.

The castle we know today is made up of stone buildings constructed over many years by those who lived there. The impressive buildings like the Royal Palace, Chapel Royal, and Great Hall were built for the kings living in the castle in the 1400s and 1500s.

Traditional skills and materials at Stirling Castle

Traditional skills and materials are still used at Stirling Castle to protect and maintain the building. New decorative railings were made by a blacksmith by heating steel in a hearth until it glowed cherry-red and then skilfully hammering at the hot metal on an anvil to shape it.

The bright yellow colour of the Great Hall is because of a limewash put on the hall by stonemasons working there today to protect the stone underneath. The colour, known as King's Gold, was discovered by conservationists doing work on the Great Hall. Repainting the Great Hall shows us how it would have looked when Scotland's kings still lived at Stirling Castle.

The Engine Shed

The Engine Shed is Scotland's dedicated building conservation centre based in Stirling, Scotland. It is run by Historic Environment Scotland, the lead public body set up to investigate, care for and protect promote Scotland's historic environment. We are passionate about our built heritage and have an extensive outreach and education programme to enthuse and engage people of all ages.

We hope you enjoy using this resource! If you have any feedback for us, please e-mail us at technicaleducation@hes.scot.