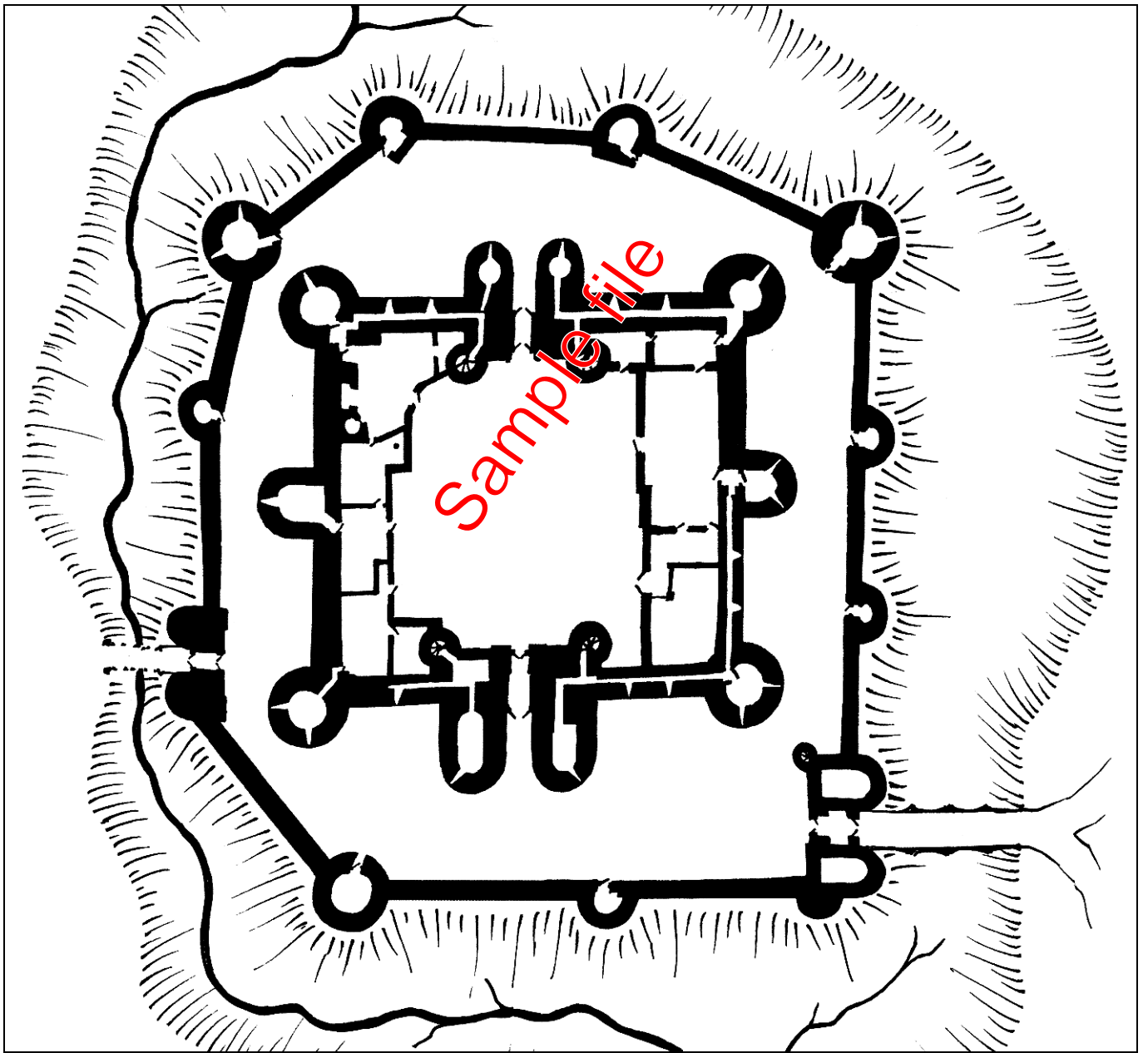


FANTASY FLOORPLANS

MEDIEVAL

CONCENTRIC CASTLE



CORNELIUS CLIFFORD

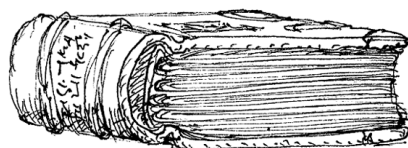
MEDIEVAL CONCENTRIC CASTLE

FANTASY FLOORPLANS

This pack contains floor plans and descriptions of a medieval concentric castle, which some would say were the ultimate form castles took before the castle building art declined as the use of canons increased. Probably built in the late thirteenth or fourteenth century. The plans are based upon historic ruins and real castles and have been drawn and described with role playing and war gaming in mind. Includes seven floor plans, room descriptions, defences and construction. Written and illustrated by Cornelius Clifford.

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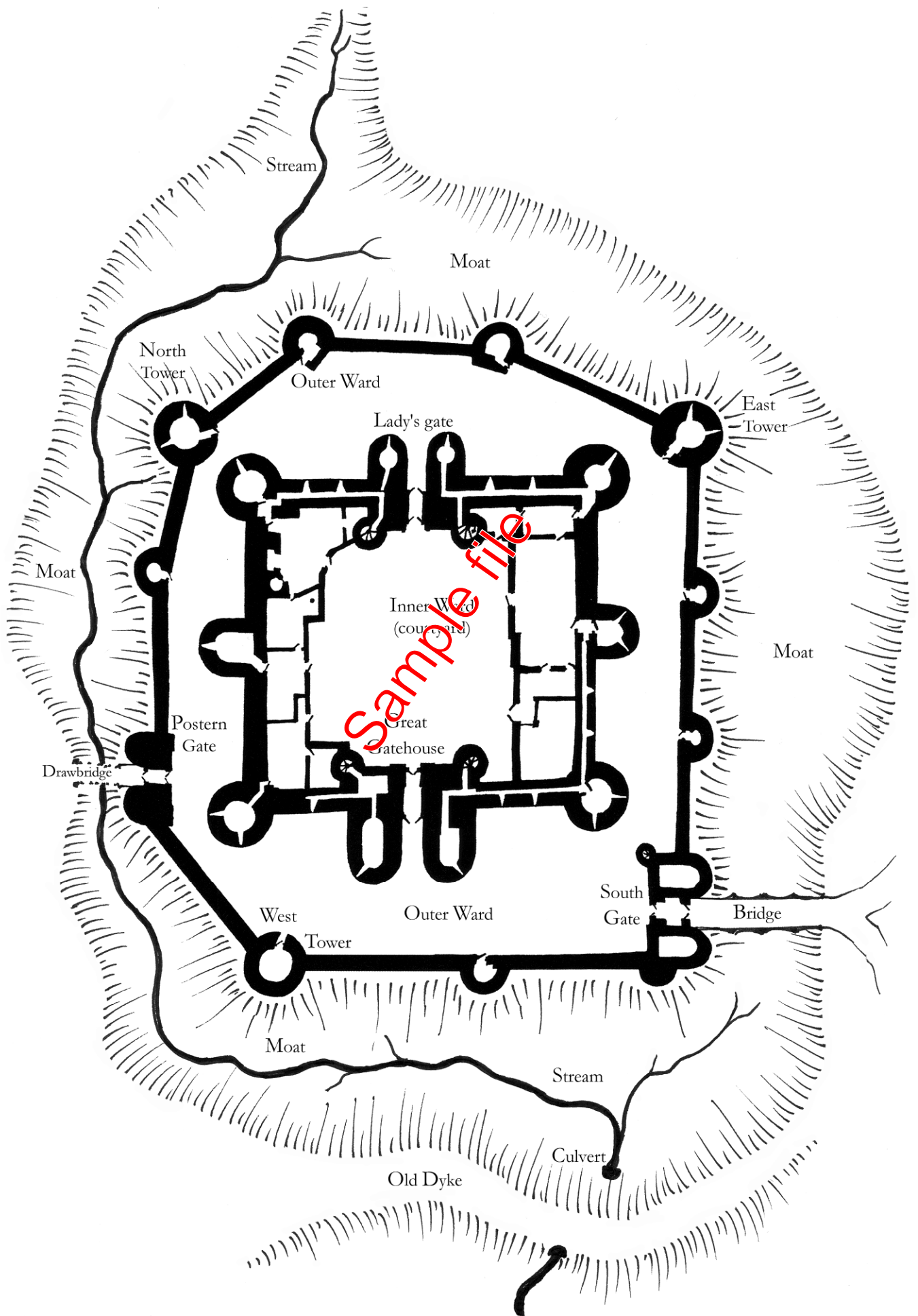
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Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Earthworks



Medieval Concentric Castle ~ Earthworks

Bridge

A solid stone bridge leading to the main entrance to the castle through the outer curtain wall ~ the South Gate. Originally there would have been a drawbridge at the gate end of the bridge. But for the sake of convenience the Lord, or one of his predecessors, has built over it in stone, thereby significantly weakening the defences of the castle.

Culvert

A large drainage pipe under the Old Dyke which, when plugged with a heavy stone, keeps water in the moat, at least for a while. This culvert is big enough for a man to squeeze through, although it is damp, muddy and pretty unpleasant.

Drawbridge

There is a good strong drawbridge bridging the moat and stream from the Postern Gate. Once the drawbridge has been raised, the portcullis lowered and the solid oak doors barred in the Postern Gatehouse, this becomes as impregnable as any other part of this well designed castle. With the drawbridge still lowered, it is, however, the most vulnerable point in the outer defences. The moat & ditch are shallow and narrow here, and the Postern Gatehouse is the smallest of the four gatehouses in this castle.

East Tower

A large and solid round tower on the East side of the castle, dominating the outer curtain wall and the widest section of the moat.

Great Gatehouse

The main entrance to the Inner Ward and performing the same role as a keep in some other types of castle. Here the Lord has his important chambers. As well as providing the main entrance to the Inner Ward, the Great Gatehouse is the tallest structure here, and dominates all other parts of the castle, including the Lady's Gate, the Inner Ward, as well as the battlements and towers of the inner curtain wall.

Inner Ward

The central courtyard around which the main buildings of the castle are built. Contained by the inner curtain wall, and the many buildings which have been built against its inner sides.

Lady's Gate

A secondary entrance and exit on the north east side of the central castle. This is still a very substantial and solid structure, but smaller (and one level shorter) than the massive Great Gatehouse.

Moat

A deep ditch surrounding the castle on all sides. The moat is usually dry, except for a small stream running down the north and west sides. However, the moat can easily be filled with water by simply plugging the culvert in the Old Dyke. This is done when the castle is threatened. But it takes a few days for the moat to fill, so it does not work in the event of a surprise attack. Ideally the moat would be full of water permanently, but the engineers who built the Old Dyke did not line it with clay properly. The water leaches away and nobody has put the effort or money into solving the problem. The moat ditch is, however, a very formidable obstacle to attackers in its own right, being some fifteen to twenty feet deep. The bottom of the moat tends to be wet and boggy in all seasons, which adds to the discomfort of any attacking force that might try a direct assault on any section of the curtain wall.

North Tower

A large, solid and robust round tower in the outer curtain wall on the north side of the castle.

Old Dyke

A man-made earthwork designed to retain water in the moat. It also provides a walkway for a sallying force of defenders to leave the castle via the Postern Gate and then attack any attackers (who might be storming the South Gate) in the flank or rear.