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# The Impact of Motte-and-Bailey on English Society



Motte-and-bailey castles played a pivotal role in the \_\_\_\_\_ conquest of England. These structures, introduced by the Normans after 1066, represented a significant shift in \_\_\_\_\_ architecture. A motte-and-bailey castle typically consisted of a motte, a large \_\_\_\_\_, and a bailey, an enclosed courtyard. The hill was often artificial, created by piling up earth, and was topped with a \_\_\_\_\_ or stone keep. The bailey, surrounded by a wooden fence or stone wall, contained living quarters, workshops, and sometimes a chapel.

The motte-and-bailey design was crucial in establishing \_\_\_\_\_ control. It allowed for rapid \_\_\_\_\_, easy to build even in hostile environments. The elevated motte provided a strategic vantage point, making the castles hard to attack. These castles were not only \_\_\_\_\_ fortifications but also symbols of \_\_\_\_\_ authority, helping to assert their dominance over the English landscape.

The widespread construction of these castles had a profound impact on medieval \_\_\_\_\_ society. They facilitated the Normans' control over the land and its people, often leading to changes in local governance and land ownership. The castles also influenced \_\_\_\_\_ patterns, as towns often grew around them for protection and economic opportunities.

Over time, the motte-and-bailey castles evolved. The wooden keeps were gradually replaced with more durable \_\_\_\_\_ structures. This evolution marked the beginning of the era of stone \_\_\_\_\_, which would dominate medieval European landscapes. The motte-and-bailey castles are thus seen as an important step in the development of \_\_\_\_\_ architecture and a testament to the lasting influence of the \_\_\_\_\_ on English culture.

wooden hill Norman Normans military construction English castle  
Norman Norman settlement military stone castles