

## Transcript: Castlebrae High School on Craigmillar Castle

Three speakers:

Matthew, Chloe and Vanessa, students at Castlebrae High School.

Matthew

Hello I'm Matthew

Chloe

and I'm Chloe

Vanessa

and I'm Vanessa.

Chloe

and we're students at Castlebrae High School.

Matthew

Today we are at Craigmillar Castle where we will be discussing the history, the effect of climate change and decay on the building, and what we can do about it.

Chloe

The castle is looked after and protected by Historic Environment Scotland.

It's over 600 years old and a big part of Scottish heritage.

The land where the castle was built was originally rented from the king by the Preston family for one penny a year in return for their loyalty and providing an archer.

Craigmillar Castle has witnessed to a lot of changes over the years.

It was sacked by Henry VIII during the so-called "rough wooing" of Scotland.

Later, Mary Queen of Scots famously stayed at the castle on two occasions and may have plotted together with local noblemen to get rid of her husband Lord Darnley.

Matthew

The threat of climate change is very relevant to castles and other historic places and Craigmillar Castle is no different.

Structures like the castle need to be maintained and repaired over time due to wear and tear.

Also, the natural processes of decay can be accelerated by climate change, so it is happening much faster than it should be.

Craigmillar Castle struggles mainly with flooding due to climate change and this is happening for a number of reasons.

There is more water underground rising up to the ground level and seeping through to the surface and more rainfall which can overwhelm the drainage systems.

Increased and extreme rainfall is also causing water to seep through the stonework.

The is because the lime mortar pointing between the outside stone on the castle is being washed away and this would normally help water evaporate rather than soak into the walls.

The protection is gone.

Chloe

Sustainability is an important issue at Craigmillar Castle.

This means we can meet our own needs without having a negative impact on our planet and the castle can host future generations.

To do this we need to think carefully about how we live our lives and the choices we make.

Craigmillar Castle are trying to ensure sustainable tourism by replacing plastic carrier bags with paper bags, discouraging the use of plastic bottles by offering free refills of tap water and providing bike racks so people can travel in an eco-friendly way.

Through this they are helping protect both the castle and the planet.

Vanessa

It's so important that we protect and conserve this environment for future generations.

At Craigmillar Castle this is being done by repairing and replacing parts of the castle that have become damaged or worn and most importantly checking if it's safe for visitors.

It's also really important to explore new ways to protect our castle for example using live plants on top of walls, protecting stonework from extreme temperatures and rain.

If we make sure that we have enough people with the right skills we can continue repairing and managing the castle to make sure we can still enjoy it in the future.

Chloe

Thank you for watching and we hope that you learnt something new today about Craigmillar Castle.