

Taunton Castle Timeline

c.710	Ine, King of Wessex, builds a fortification and at Taunton. No trace of this has been found, but it is thought to have been on the site of the later castle.
c.730	The Bishop of Winchester is given land next to the River Tone on which to build a minster.
1138	The first documentary evidence of the Norman castle (in the Winchester Annals).
1242-1250	Bishop William Raleigh builds a new hall, chamber block, chapel and kitchen around the inner bailey.
1493-1501	Bishop William Langton rebuilds the south range of the inner bailey.
1521-2	Bishop Richard Fox builds a grammar school along the southern edge of the outer bailey
1536	The first documentary evidence of Taunton Castle being used for the Assize courts.
1642-1645	Taunton Castle becomes the scene of intense fighting during the English Civil War.
1685	'The Bloody Assizes' – following the Monmouth Rebellion, 145 prisoners are sentenced to death at the castle by Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys.
1780s	Benjamin Hammet, MP for Taunton, restores the buildings around the inner bailey, inserting many new windows and doors.
1788	The weekly livestock market begins.
1816	Joseph Easton builds the Castle Hotel and the Winchester Arms.
1857	The Assize courts move to the new Shire Hall in Taunton.
1874	The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society buys Taunton Castle.
1887	The grammar school buildings become the headquarters of Taunton Borough Council.
1900	Somerset County Museum opens.
1931	William Wyndham funds a new museum entrance and the Wyndham Galleries.
1958	Administration of Taunton Castle is passed to Somerset County Council and the Wyndham Galleries are extended.
2011	The new Museum of Somerset opens.