



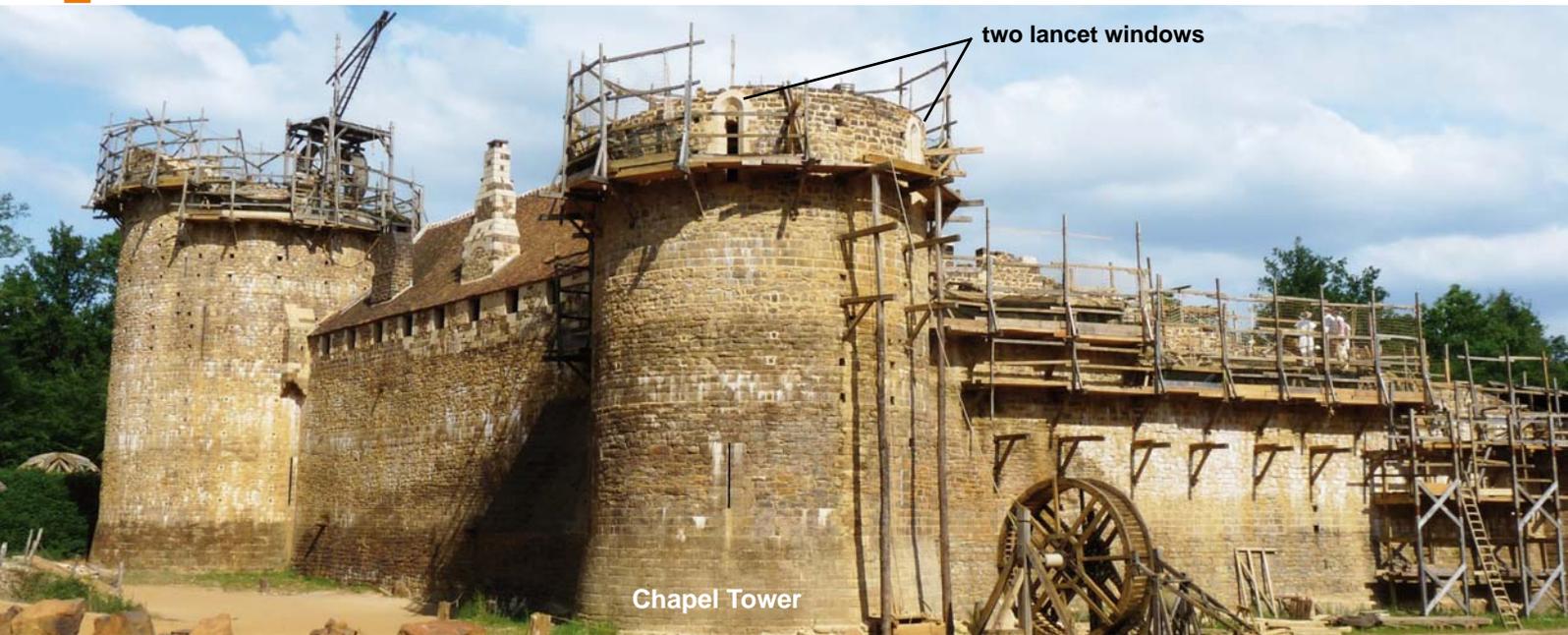
# a castle in the making...

## guédelon on arte Saturday 20th June at 20h50

The 6th National Archaeology Days, organised throughout France by Inrap (National Institute for Preventative Archaeology) will be marked on a Franco/German television channel ARTE by a series of broadcasts about the work of archaeologists and the results of their research.

**GUEDELON, RENAISSANCE D'UN CHATEAU MEDIEVAL** - 90" documentary by Lindsay Hill

### Work on the Chapel Tower



two lancet windows

Chapel Tower

### the chapel's cross-rib vault is taking shape

The vault's **4 sculpted corbels**, the **4 abacuses** as well as the **4 springers** and **counter-springers** have been transported and fixed.



These stones make up the beginning of the vault's ribs. Next will come the **40 voussoirs** which form the ribs, followed by the building of the **webbing** and finally the bringing under load of the vault at the end of the season.

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Photos: Clément Guérard, Guédelon.



The final corbel was hoisted on to the tower by the treadwheel winch. It was then moved into position on wooden rollers. This was a difficult operation due to the weight of the stone and the delicate floral sculpture on the corbel's outer face. The corbel weighed in the region of 150 kg.



Before work on building the vault can really get underway, the masons must first build the three large **lancet windows** on the tower's outer walls.

The banker masons have dressed, and the fixer masons have fixed, additional steps for the **spiral staircase**.

To date, 50 steps now lead up from the courtyard to the masonry post on the Chapel Tower.



## one of the three lancet windows is complete

This may not be the first window to be built at Guédelon, but, in terms of its construction, this particular bay nevertheless represented a new challenge for the masons as **the vault** above the inner embrasure is **conical**.

One window is now complete, the second is underway and the third will be started at the end of June.



the lancet window before the building of the two archs and vault



Each of these lancet windows is made up of:

- a **pointed arch** on the inner facing walls of the round tower
- a embrasure with a **conical vault**
- a **chamfered pointed arch** on the outer walls

Each window is **210-cm-wide**, they are built into the thickness of the wall itself.

### step 1



The pointed arch on the exterior walls. The centring is still supporting the voussoirs. This arch is crowned by a double key.

### step 2



The masons have positioned the 4 formers: wooden supports in the shape of the vault. On these formers, they will then lay wooden shuttering. This forms the wooden structure which will support the masonry of the vault.

### step 3



The first 4 limestone voussoirs, on each side of the pointed arch have been fixed. The masons then install the shuttering, followed by edge-bedded sandstone flagstones.

### step 4



All that remains is to fix the two counter-keys, the keystone, and the last of the vault's webbing.

### step 5



The pointed arch and the conical vault are now complete. Next week, the masons will start work on building the 2nd lancet window.

### A new film to watch on site

As the castle grows ever higher, certain masonry posts are becoming increasingly difficult for visitors to access. In order to be able to share each new stage of construction with you, we have filmed key stages and these will be screened in a newly constructed building behind the castle. Each screening will be commented by one of the site's stonemasons.

Opens early July

## a first crenel for the western curtain wall & wall-walk

The second team of masons is busy working on the western curtain wall. Next to the Chapel Tower, the curtain wall has now reached its final height of 6 m above the courtyard. This summer, this post will be once again accessible to our visitors. You will be able to take the wooden gallery which skirts around the Chapel Tower, walk along a section of the ramparts before returning to courtyard-level.

