

## Transcript: Kirkcaldy High School on Defending Ravenscraig Castle

Eight speakers:

Jessica, Daanish, Darci, Logan, Isla, Charlie, Ross and Ramiza, students at Kirkcaldy High School.

Jessica

Hi I'm Jessica.

Daanish

and I'm Daanish and we're from Kirkcaldy High School.

Jessica

We're here at Ravenscraig Castle to talk to you about the history and conservation of the site.

Jessica

Ravenscraig Castle is almost 600 years old. The making of the castle commenced in 1460 when King James the Second obtained the land of Dysert.

Daanish

He then made the decision to pass the land on to his wife Queen Mary of Guelders who then ordered the construction of Ravenscraig Castle but sadly passed away in 1463 before the castle was fully built.

Jessica

Her son James the Third then made the decision to pass the uncompleted castle on to William Sinclair.

Daanish

The castle was then used as a secure fort, where it was considered to be more of an artillery fort than a castle with its front walls being 3.5 metres thick and it containing a rock-cut ditch surrounding three sides and several gun holes.

Jessica

Its excessive appearance sprouted from the many changes to the castle over a long period of time. It's believed to have protected the Firth of Forth from English invasion.

The castle was fully built towards the end of the 15th century by the Sinclair family, who moved out in the 18th century

Daanish

The castle was no longer owned by the Sinclair family from 1878 as they sold it off to someone new.

The castle was soon abandoned during the 19th century and the stone was taken by the public to develop new buildings.

Darci

As well as the challenges the castle faced throughout its history, it is currently facing new problems today.

Logan

We're going to take a look at some of the conservation issues that Ravenscraig Castle faces.

## Darci

One way in which the castle is impacted by climate change is its location.

It is located on a hill in Ravenscraig beach.

This is a risk due to rising sea levels due to climate change.

Increased rainfall causes damage to the stonework and parts of the structure are starting to crumble, causing them to be fenced off by the public.

## Isla

Ravenscraig Castle is in a coastal area and it is a beautiful location for people to visit.

However, because of erosion and ground instability, it's sometimes dangerous for visitors to view the fantastic castle and learn about its history.

The more dangerous the castle becomes, less people will visit and forget its importance.

## Logan

Conservation doesn't only involve repairing the castles, it also covers areas such as developing new techniques to protect the castles.

One of these ways is growing living plants on top of the walls to protect the stonework from extreme temperatures and rainfall.

## Charlie

It is no secret that Krikcaldy is often subjected to heavy rainfall and high winds.

Over time, this extreme weather can cause erosion and damage the castles such as Ravenscraig.

Therefore, it is important for the castles conservation that it is regularly surveyed.

This helps discover any damage that needs repaired and also helps us learn how best we can protect the castle from weather in the future, to ensure its long-term preservation.

## Ross

Ravenscraig Castle is conserved via ongoing maintenance and repair.

This important job means that the castle will survive for longer and people can enjoy its history for many years to come.

## Ramiza

Keeping the area clean and litter free is an important part on the conservation work that takes place at Ravenscraig Castle.

A big part of this is promoting responsible tourism. By encouraging visitors to be mindful of the impact on the site, we can make sure that the natural beauty of Ravenscraig is maintained for all to enjoy.

## Ross

Thank you for watching our video. We hope you've learned something about our local castle. And who knows! You might come and visit yourself one day.