

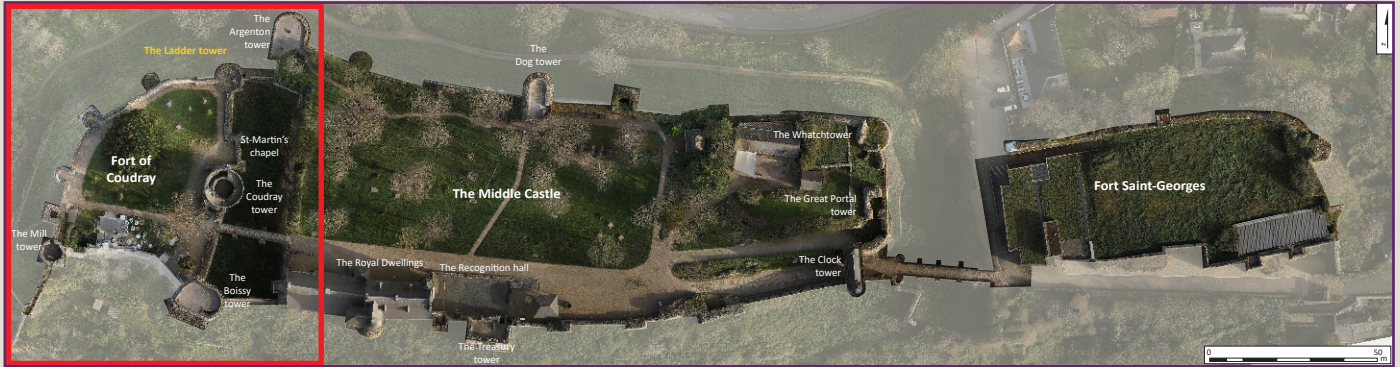
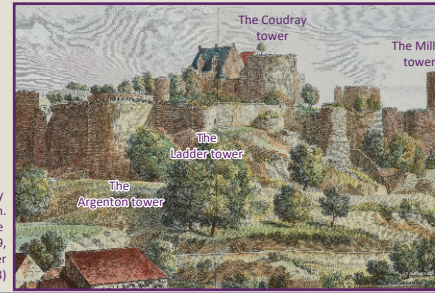
The Fort of Coudray

TOURAIN
LE DÉPARTEMENT



Archaeological excavations around the Ladder tower

View of Fort Coudray from the north.
Detail of « Vue du château de la ville de Chinon » print of 1819, Constant Bourgeois (Ed.), Piringer (AD.7F14-03)



Royal Fortress of Chinon - Orthophotography - Shooting by drone and processing by Axis Conseil

Intervention context

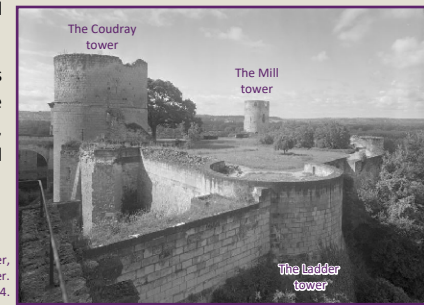


The Archaeology Department of the Indre-et-Loire Departmental Council is organizing an excavation campaign in September 2025 at the Royal Fortress of Chinon as part of a three-year research program.

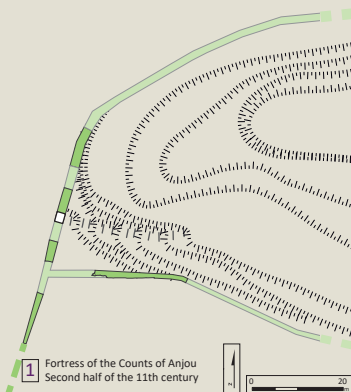
This campaign will provide a better understanding of the buildings partially uncovered in 2024 and their evolution until their destruction in the early 13th century. We also hope to reach earlier archaeological levels, corresponding to the era of the Counts of Blois (10th and 11th centuries) and the Gallo-Roman period.

Wall dating from before the 13th century discovered in 2024.
Photo SADIL

In the foreground, the demolished Ladder tower, in the background, the Coudray tower.
Photo taken between 1940 and 1944.

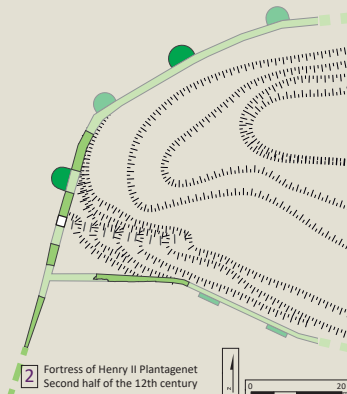


Evolution of Fort of Coudray



1 - At the western end, the Fortress of the Counts of Anjou, conquered in 1044 from the Counts of Blois, is known only from the sections of fortifications identified to the south and west.

2 - Under Henry II Plantagenet, the fortress became a major center of English royalty in 1156 and a key defensive point on the eastern front of the Plantagenet possessions. Few interior modifications were made, with efforts focusing mainly on the fortifications.

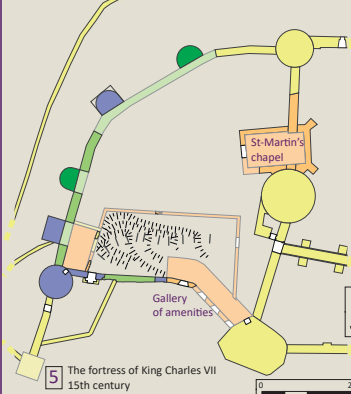


3 - The reigns of Richard I and John of England were a period of intense architectural activity. Towers were added, notably the Mill Tower, and a dry moat was dug to isolate the Coudray fort from the rest of the fortress. A stone building was constructed to the north of the fort, the function and precise layout of which are still unknown. This is one of the objectives of the excavation.

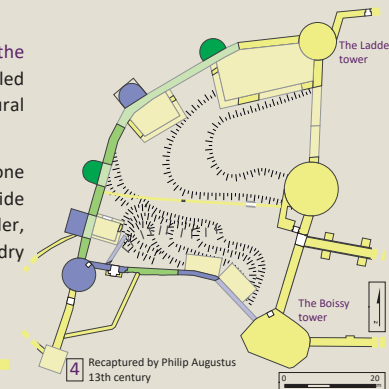
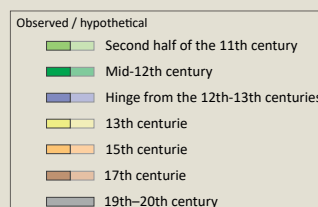


4 - The recapture of the fortress by the King of France, after the siege of 1205, led to a new major phase of architectural development.

The fort was densified with stone constructions along the curtain walls inside the fort and with the three towers, Ladder, Coudray and Boissey, in the scarp of the dry moat.



6 - The first restoration work on the fortress began in the mid-19th century, and the monument was opened to tourists during the 20th century.



5 - During the reign of Charles VII, the military fortress was transformed into an amenity residence. A gallery overlooking the Vienne River was built, as well as a new chapel: St. Martin's Chapel.

