WHY IS AN OLD CASTLE LOSING ITS BATTLE AGAINST THE SEA?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Hurst Castle stands on England's south coast, guarding the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour. King Henry VIII built it in 1544 to defend England against attacks from France and other enemies. Over the centuries, the castle was changed to keep up with new weapons. Victorian soldiers added heavy stone wings, and during the Second World War anti-aircraft guns were placed on the roof. The castle survived wars, but it is now threatened by the sea. Waves and rising tides have washed away the beach beneath its foundations. In 2021, part of the eastern wall collapsed, taking a 38-ton cannon with it. Engineers believe large rocks could protect the castle for a few more decades, but the work could cost more than £6 million. English Heritage must now decide whether to spend the money, allow parts of the castle to become ruins, or record its history before it disappears.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Hurst Castle shows how historic buildings can face dangers that their builders never imagined. It was designed to resist armies, cannons and ships, but not rising seas and stronger storms. The debate also raises a difficult question: should every historic building be saved at any cost, or should some places be allowed to change and disappear?

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Should people spend millions to save Hurst Castle?"

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-16th-castle-in-england-is-falling-into-the-ocean-sparking-a-debate-over-whether-it-should-be-saved-or-allowed-to-disinte