

Task 2 – Abergavenny

1. To what order did your chosen monastery belong, and what do you understand by 'order'?
Abergavenny belonged to the Benedictine order. An order is made up of the followers of particular set of rules, beliefs and practices, in this case those set out by St. Benedict of Nursia.
2. Who founded it?
The priory was founded by Hamelin of Barham, with St. Vincent, Le Mans, in Normandy, the mother-house.
3. Are there any indications of why it was founded?
The priory would have had its roots in the Norman conquest of England and therefore Wales. Hamelin, its founder, being a Norman Baron and lord of Abergavenny.
4. What is the significance of its location?
Abergavenny is sited on the confluence of the rivers Usk and Gavenny and lies on the borders of England and Wales, as such it was an important strategic location, justifying the building of a castle to defend the local area.
5. What recorded events in are listed its history, and what is their significance?

c.1100	founded
1154/89	raised to conventional status
1224	seized by the Crown as an alien monastery at time of war
1320	visitation by Bishop Adam de Orleton of Hereford
1325	French monks replaced with English ones by John of Hastings
1339	prior fined £20 and an annual fee of £8 to retain priory
1343	rumours the prior had run away to France with the monastic jewels
1405	destruction by Owain Glyndwr
1417	reconstructed by Robert Eton, a monk from Canterbury Cathedral
1441	becomes a denizen priory
1536	surveyed on 7 th June and dissolved 5-6 th September