

The Story of Hackenbroich Castle ... for little knights and damsels

Dear children,

at this place, where you stand, there used to be a moated castle. Over the moat in front of you a bridge led directly to the gate tower of the castle. Take a good look around between the forest and the meadow. Between the elementary school and the so-called "Schützenplatz" you may discover further moats and the former castle hill.

Actually, in our region many moated castles were built. There was a good reason for that because there were no high mountains nearby to retreat to in the case of defense. The moats were supposed to make it difficult for the enemies to conquer a castle.

The water for Hackenbroich Castle mainly came from the Pletschbach. The creek wandered from Knechtsteden to Delhoven, then via Hackenbroich and Hackhausen all the way to Worringen where the Pletschbach merged into the Rhine. Today, unfortunately, there is no more water in the creek because its source has dried up. The water got pumped out due to the brown coal opencast mine. The former creek bed can still be seen in many places. When you know such things you walk through your home environment with much more open eyes.

The pictures and maps on this info board show what Hackenbroich Castle used to look like. You can also see where the different buildings used to be. Unfortunately, in 1953 the castle was knocked down. That decision many people in our town nowadays regret. This is why with this information board we would like to remind people of the beautiful old castle.

Also, you may find it exciting that the remains of the castle still are slumbering belowground. Because the castle still is "there" the area now is an archaeological monument. Therefore this area is particularly protected, so the remaining foundations of the castle can be preserved.

Today, on part of the castle grounds, you find the elementary school (German: Grundschule) and the school yard. The school was named "Grundschule Burg Hackenbroich" to commemorate the exciting history of this place.

Can you imagine what the Hackenbroich Castle looked like?

Close your eyes and give it a try!