

WYVERN CITADEL - UNDERGROUND

MOST OF THE FIRST TWO SUBTERRANEAN LEVELS BELOW WYVERN CITADEL RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE ABOVE-GROUND CASTLE, DETAILED SEPARATELY IN THE COMMUNITY ATLAS. THEY ARE DESCRIBED BELOW. THE THIRD, MUCH DEEPER, LEVEL IS DESCRIBED SEPARATELY AS THE TOMB OF THE WYVERN LORDS.

THESE FIRST TWO UNDERGROUND LEVEL MAPS SHOW HOW THE VARIOUS PLACES ARE LOCATED IN RESPECT TO THE OUTLINE OF THE CASTLE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, AS WELL AS TO ONE ANOTHER. EACH LEVEL HERE IS AGAIN, LIKE THE OVERGROUND CASTLE LEVELS, ABOUT TEN FEET, THREE METRES, BELOW ITS NEIGHBOUR.

UNDERGROUND LEVEL TWO

1) GATEHOUSE PIT BASE: THE HEAVILY-SPIKED FLOOR OF THE CIRCA 20 FT DEEP (6 M) PIT BENEATH THE LARGE GATEHOUSE FLOOR TRAPDOOR (AREA 2 ON THE CITADEL'S GROUND LEVEL PLAN). THERE IS NO OTHER ACCESS TO IT THAN FROM GROUND LEVEL.

2) BLOCKED ANCIENT ACCESS: ALTHOUGH NO RECORDS SURVIVE TO TELL OF IT (BEYOND VAGUE HINTS IN SOME OLD FOLKTALES OF A TEMPLE HERE BEFORE THERE WAS A CASTLE), THIS PASSAGEWAY INDICATES THERE WAS ONCE A SURFACE ACCESSWAY INTO WHAT IS NOW CHAMBER 4 ON THIS LEVEL. THERE IS NO TRACE OF SUCH AN ENTRANCE ON THE SURFACE BY THE CITADEL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE WHATEVER STRUCTURE THERE WAS, WAS CLEARED AWAY TO LEVEL THE PLATFORM ON THE PINNACLE TOP WHEN THE CASTLE WAS FIRST BEING CONSTRUCTED. THE STONE DOORS AT ITS SOUTHEAST END OPEN INTO THIS PASSAGEWAY OUT FROM ROOM 4, BUT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY BLOCKED AND CONCEALED BY THE NEW WOODEN WALL IN THAT ROOM. THE DOORS STILL FUNCTIONED PERFECTLY WHEN FOUND BEFORE THIS WAS DONE, FOR ALL THEIR EXTREME AGE. LIKE THE PASSAGE ITSELF, THE DOORS APPEARED TO BE OF A STYLE AND TECHNIQUE THAT EXISTED IN THESE PARTS LAST SEVERAL MILLENNIA AGO. THE PASSAGE IS BROAD, WELL-MADE, AND AROUND NINE FEET HIGH (2.7 M). IT HAS A SERIES OF BROAD STEPS IN IT, EACH ROUGHLY 8.5 INCHES (20 CENTIMETRES) HIGH, AND EACH STEP SLOPES GENTLY DOWN AT AN ANGLE OF ABOUT 15 DEGREES. JUST A COUPLE OF STEPS CAN BE PARTLY MADE OUT AMONG THE RUBBLE BLOCKING THE PASSAGE NOT FAR NORTHWEST OF THE DOORS, HOWEVER. THE FLOOR, WALLS AND CEILING THAT CAN BE SEEN STILL ARE LINED WITH BEAUTIFUL WHITE MARBLE TILES. THE RUBBLE BLOCKAGE BECOMES COMPLETE, AS THE PLAN SUGGESTS, BARELY TWELVE FEET FROM THE STONE DOORS (3.7 M). THE BLOCKAGE IS EFFECTIVELY SOLID ROCK BEYOND THIS POINT, AND CANNOT BE CLEARED. SCARCELY ANYONE BELOW THE MORE SENIOR COMMANDERS AT THE CITADEL IS AWARE OF THE PASSAGE'S EXISTENCE.

3) ANCIENT DESCENT TO LVL 3: CONSTRUCTED IN AN IDENTICAL FASHION TO, AND PRESUMABLY AT THE SAME TIME AS, THE BLOCKED ACCESSWAY OF AREA 2 ON THIS LEVEL, THESE STAIRS SPIRAL DOWN FROM THE STONE DOORS OPENING OUT OF ROOM 4 (AGAIN, BEYOND THAT CHAMBER'S NEW WOODEN WALL), TO REACH UNDERGROUND LEVEL THREE FAR BELOW. THE SPIRAL DESCENDS AROUND 100 FT FROM THIS LEVEL (30 M), SO LEVEL THREE IS SOME 120 FT (37 M) BELOW THE CITADEL'S GROUND LEVEL. THE SPIRAL RUNS FOR TWO AND A HALF COMPLETE CIRCUITS IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS, AS THE STEPS IN IT ARE OF IDENTICAL HEIGHT AND GENTLE SLOPE TO THOSE IN AREA 2. THE STAIRWAY IS IN EXCELLENT REPAIR, AND COMPLETELY OPEN, THROUGHOUT ITS DESCENT. AS WITH THE PASSAGE OF AREA 2, SCARCELY ANYONE BELOW THE RANK OF THE MORE SENIOR COMMANDERS HERE KNOWS ANYTHING OF THIS STAIR'S EXISTENCE.

4) OPERATIONS ROOM: THIS IS AN OCTAGONAL, HIGH-CEILINGED, FULLY WOOD PANELLED CHAMBER (FLOOR, WALLS, CEILING), DOMINATED BY A HUGE PLOTTING TABLE FOR SHOWING, WHEN REQUIRED, THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION REGARDING INCOMING RAIDERS, AND THE LOCATIONS OF THE DEFENDING WYVERN SQUADRONS, USUALLY ONLY WHEN AIRBORNE. WHEN THE OPERATIONS ROOM IS IN USE, PERSONNEL WILL BE HERE WEARING COMMUNICATIONS HELMETS THAT LET THEM SPEAK AND LISTEN, RECEIVE INFORMATION AND THEN PLACE, OR MOVE, APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL INFORMATION MARKERS ON THE TABLE TO SHOW THE PRESENT POSITIONS OF WHATEVER THE MARKERS REPRESENT, WHETHER FRIENDLY OR ENEMY, AND THUS THE OVERALL SITUATION, AT ANY GIVEN TIME. AS THE TABLE IS ABOUT 15 FT SQUARE (4.5 M), A SERIES OF EXTENSIBLE WOODEN POLES WITH CLAMPS AT ONE END WHICH CAN BE OPERATED FROM TOGGLES AT THE OTHER, ARE STORED IN A RACK BELOW IT. THESE PLOTTING POLES ARE USED BY THE STAFF TO PLACE AND MOVE MARKERS ON THE TABLE TOP. (A SEPARATE COMMUNITY ATLAS MAP IS AVAILABLE SHOWING JUST THE DESIGN ON THIS TABLE, TO ALLOW GMS TO SET UP THEIR OWN RAID MARKERS ON IT, SHOULD THEY WISH.)

TOWARDS THE CEILING ON THE LONG EASTERN WALL IS A SERIES OF LARGE WINDOWS THAT ALLOW STAFF AND COMMANDERS IN THE OBSERVATION DECK ON UNDERGROUND LEVEL ONE (ROOM 3 THERE; SHOWN AGAIN ON THIS LEVEL'S PLAN, BUT NOT LABELLED HERE) TO VIEW EVENTS AS THEY DEVELOP ON THE OPERATIONS ROOM TABLE, MAKE DECISIONS AND SEND OUT ORDERS. ON THE WALL FACING THESE WINDOWS IN THE OPERATIONS ROOM ARE TWELVE ILLUMINATED INFORMATION BOARDS WHOSE LIGHTS SHOW THE CURRENT STATUS FOR EVERY WYVERN SQUADRON, WHERE EACH BOARD REPRESENTS THE SQUADRONS

BASED AT A SPECIFIC, NAMED, DROME BASE. THE LIGHTS ARE CONTROLLED BY STAFF USING THE TWO COMMUNICATIONS PANELS ON THE ANGLED WALLS FLANKING THE SINGLE DOOR ACCESSWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROOM, TO WHICH BOARDS THE RELEVANT INFORMATION IS PASSED BY PERSONNEL IN THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM (S) AS THE REPORTS ARE RECEIVED.

THE ROOM'S WOOD PANELLING IS NECESSARY TO HELP ISOLATE THE CHAMBER AND THE OBSERVATION DECK FROM ELECTRICKAL AND OTHER MAGICAL INTERFERENCE, AND TO HELP WITH SOUNDPROOFING AGAINST EXTRANEIOUS DISTRACTIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE OPERATIONS ROOM STAFF USING THE COMMUNICATIONS HELMETS. THE PANELLING ALSO TOTALLY CONCEALS THE TWO PAIRS OF STONE DOORS ON THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN WALLS, LEADING OUT TO AREAS 2 AND 3 HERE, AND THE FACT THE LOWER NINE FEET (2.7 M) OF THE WALLS AND FLOOR IN THIS CHAMBER ARE ALSO PAVED COMPLETELY WITH THE SAME WHITE MARBLE TILES AS ARE FOUND IN BOTH THOSE CONNECTED, HIDDEN PASSAGES. THE FORMER CEILING TILES, REMOVED WHEN THE OPS ROOM'S HEIGHT WAS INCREASED TO ITS CURRENT LEVEL (ALMOST 20 FT, 6 M), WERE TAKEN TO MONSEIGNOR AND REUSED TO DECORATE PART OF ITS RECONSTRUCTED FORUM. IT IS LIKELY THE CHAMBER WAS ORIGINALLY USED AS A PREPARATORY ANTECHAMBER OF SOME SORT, BEFORE THE BODIES OF THE DECEASED WYVERN LORDS WERE CARRIED DOWN TO THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACES IN THE TOMB FAR BELOW. ONLY THE SINGLE, NEW, DOORWAY ON THE SOUTHERN WALL HAS BEEN CUT THROUGH THE ANCIENT TILING, TO CONNECT THE ROOM WITH THE REST OF THIS LEVEL. COMMONLY EITHER UNOCCUPIED OR EXTREMELY BUSY, DEPENDING ON THE CURRENT RAID OR TRAINING SITUATION IN THE DEFENCE ZONE.

S) COMMUNICATIONS ROOM: INFORMATION FROM THE SCRYING DETECTION FINDERS, THE WYVERN DROMES AND SQUADRONS, AND STAFF AT THE CITADEL PASSES INTO AND OUT FROM HERE USING THE SUBTERRANEAN WYVERNITE VEINS AND THE MAGICAL COMMUNICATIONS HELMETS USED BY CITADEL STAFF AND THE WYVERN RIDERS. DETAILS ARRIVING ARE PASSED ON BY STAFF TO WHEREVER THEY MAY BE NEEDED - TO THE CITADEL'S DUTY COMMANDER (NORMALLY IN CHAMBER 6 OF THE OVERGROUND SECOND LEVEL, OR 5 OF THE THIRD LEVEL), OR STAFF IN THE OPERATIONS ROOM AND OBSERVATION DECK, AS APPROPRIATE. MESSAGES OUT ARE ROUTED TO THE RELEVANT PLACES AWAY FROM THE CITADEL SIMILARLY. THE ROOM IS ALWAYS OCCUPIED, GIVEN IT IS THE PRIMARY LINK FOR ALL NON-PHYSICAL COMMUNICATIONS AT THE CITADEL.

6) STAFF ROOM: REST, SNACKING AND WC FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STAFF WORKING ON THIS LEVEL. ITS BUSYNESS REFLECTS THAT OF THIS LEVEL GENERALLY FROM "VERY" TO "VERY LITTLE".

7) STAIRS UP TO LVL 1: THIS STAIRWELL IS THE SOLE ACCESS POINT INTO THE REST OF THE CASTLE FROM MOST OF THIS LEVEL, CONNECTING WITH THE SAME STAIRS AT AREA 7 ON UNDERGROUND LEVEL ONE. THERE IS NORMALLY AT LEAST ONE GUARD ON DUTY BY THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS HERE.

8) ICE HOUSE: AN OCTAGONAL ROOM THAT CONNECTS ONLY WITH THE KITCHEN STORES (S ON UNDERGROUND LEVEL ONE) BY A SNAKING PASSAGE AND STAIRS UP. WHILE ELECTRICKAL DEVICES NOW PROVIDE MUCH OF THE COOLING OF FOOD AND DRINK, THIS REMNANT FROM EARLIER TIMES REMAINS IN USE STILL. ORIGINALLY, ICE WOULD BE BROUGHT IN FOR STORAGE HERE FROM ANY PLACES THAT HAD ATTRACTED WINTER SNOWFALL RELATIVELY NEARBY, OR SOMETIMES CREATED MAGICALLY WHEN NATURE DID NOT PROVIDE. AFTER THE LATEST SEVERE WINTER SPELL, WHEN A LOT OF SNOW AND ICE WAS SUDDENLY AVAILABLE VERY LOCALLY, THE ICE HOUSE WAS AGAIN FILLED, AND MUCH OF THAT STILL REMAINS, ALLOWING FOR NATURAL COOLING OF ITEMS ONCE MORE. THE CHAMBER IS DEEPLY BURIED AND ISOLATED BY MUCH ROCK TO HELP IT RETAIN ITS TEMPERATURE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. SUCH NATURALLY-CHILLED FOOD AND DRINK TENDS TO BE USED ONLY ON SPECIAL CELEBRATORY OCCASIONS.